



16 April 2019



SENT TO LSU AGCENTER/LOUISIANA FOREST PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT CENTER - FOREST SECTOR / FORESTY PRODUCTS INTEREST GROUP



Global Timber and Wood Products Market Update

Hakan Ekstrom

A news brief from Wood Resources International LLC

Log imports to China reached another record high in 2018, with New Zealand supplying 44% of the volume, reports the WRQ

Seattle, USA. China had another record year of softwood log imports in 2018, when over 40 million m³ of logs landed at Chinese ports. This was the third consecutive year of year-over-year increases, with 2018 volumes being up 37% from 2015. Although import volumes fell slightly from the 3Q/18 to the 4Q/18, the December numbers were the second highest monthly imports on record.

Over the past five years, import volumes have declined from the key supplying regions of Russia and Canada, while they have increased from New Zealand and Australia. New Zealand continues to expand its market share, supplying 44% of the total import volume in the 4Q/18, up from 30% just three years earlier, according to the Wood Resource Quarterly (WRQ). The biggest decline in market share has been that of Russia, which has fallen from 36% to 18% in the past three years.

The only other major change the past few years has been an increase in pine log shipments from Uruguay. These have increased from just a few thousand m³ in 2016 to almost 2.5 million m³ in 2018, making the country the fifth largest log supplier to China last year. The average log import price fell three percent from the 3Q/18 to the 4Q/18, mainly because of lower costs for logs originating from New Zealand and the US. The total average import price has gone up for three consecutive years.

Although the prices have trended upward over the past few years, they are still lower than import prices in 2013 and 2014, when high-cost suppliers in the US and Canada had a larger market share. Another interesting development is that Japan, the sixth largest softwood log importer in the world, has almost tripled log exports to China over the past few years, from just over 300,000 m³ in 2014 to almost a million m³ in 2018. Other smaller log supplying countries that have increased shipments to China in 2018 include Poland, Chile, South Africa and Germany.

Content Provider: Wood Resources International LLC

Business Address
21427 Crystal Lake Road
Woodinville, WA 98077
425-402-8809

SENT TO LSU AGCENTER/LOUISIANA FOREST PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT CENTER - FOREST SECTOR / FORESTY PRODUCTS INTEREST GROUP

Wood Prices, Market Trends, & More!



AVAILABLE NOW!
**Future Suppliers of Softwood
Lumber to the US Market –
Supply and Demand Outlook
2017-2030**

A Multi-Client Study
by
**ForestEdge LLC and
Wood Resources International LLC**

Richard P. Vlosky, Ph.D.

Director, Louisiana Forest Products Development Center

Crosby Land & Resources Endowed Professor of Forest Sector Business Development

Room 227, School of Renewable Natural Resources

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Phone (office): (225) 578-4527; Fax: (225) 578-4251; Mobile Phone: (225) 223-1931

Web Site: www.LFPDC.lsu.edu

President, Forest Products Society; President, WoodEMA i.a.