



PRESS RELEASE

Timber Mart - South

Center for Forest Business, Warnell School of Forest Resources • The University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602-2152

1st Quarter 2004

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Sawtimber Prices Strong

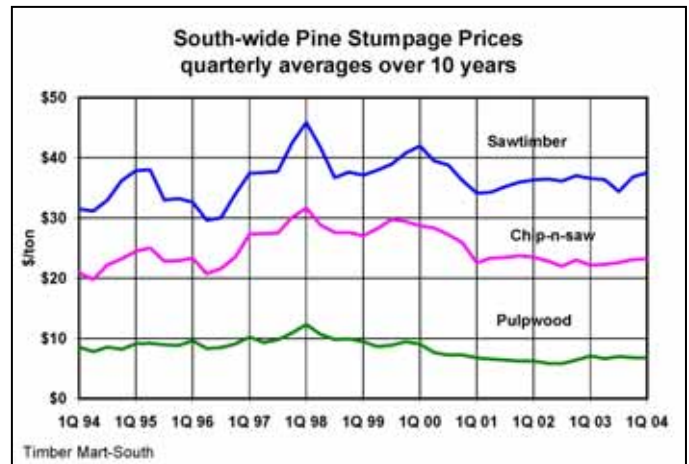
Stumpage prices for the three major southern sawtimber products were up again in the 1st Quarter after strong 4th Quarter prices. (See comparison table.) High quality logs sold for "good prices." Smaller log markets were more complex. Drier weather improved logging conditions in most areas, salvage wood created over-supply in the others, and industry decisions such as International Paper's import of hardwood chips from Brazil for its pulp mill in Cantonment FL affected demand.

South-wide Average Stumpage Prices \$/ton					
	one quarter			year ago	
	1Q 04	4Q 03	%Δ	1Q 03	%Δ
Pine Sawtimber	\$37.51	\$36.83	+1.9%	\$36.56	+2.6%
Pine Chip-n-saw	\$23.33	\$23.08	+1.1%	\$22.16	+5.3%
Pine Pulpwood	\$6.76	\$6.80	-0.6%	\$7.06	-4.3%
Hardwood Sawtimber	\$21.67	\$21.33	+1.6%	\$19.58	+10.7%
Hardwood Pulpwood	\$6.92	\$7.32	-5.5%	\$6.76	+2.4%

Pine Timber

The south-wide average pine sawtimber price was up almost 2 percent for the quarter and up 2.6 percent from the 1st Quarter 2003. Pine chip-n-saw had a similar profile, up for both the quarter and the year. Reporters said that prices were strong but as the weather dried out in March, inventories filled up and prices moderated.

Pine pulpwood prices weakened slightly this quarter but were down over 4 percent from prices a year ago. Dry weather markets were oversupplied, with Georgia and South Carolina having their driest March on record.



Hardwood Timber

Hardwood sawtimber stumpage prices increased again in the 1st Quarter, up 2.6 percent over last quarter and more than 10 percent over the 1st Quarter 2003. Hardwood pulpwood dropped off this quarter. While hardwood pulpwood retained its premium over pine, the decline of more than 5 percent put prices much closer to those at the beginning of 2003. The average price masked steeper declines in some markets.

For more information, please contact TMS at 706-542-4756 or visit our web site at www.TimberMart-South.com

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