



# MCES Timber Price Report

Extension Agricultural Economics Department  
Extension Forestry Department

P. O. Box 5446  
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April/May 1989

## MCES TIMBER PRICE REPORT

### 1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT?

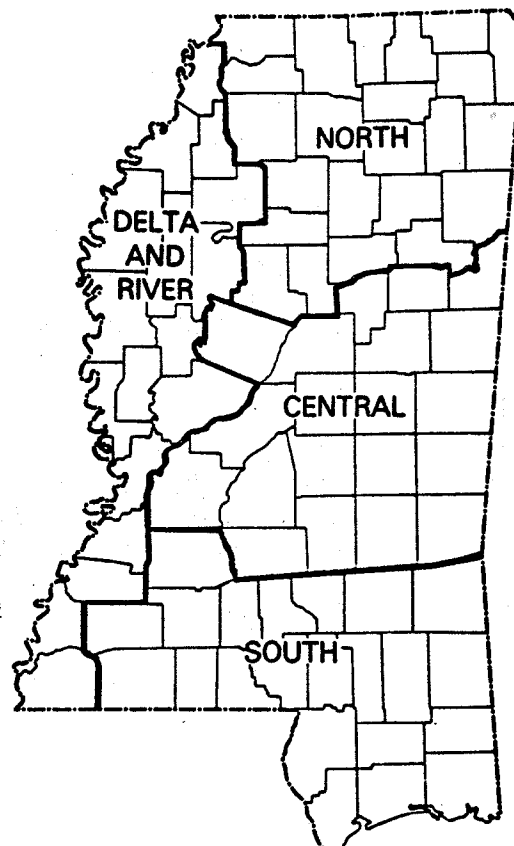
The MCES Timber Price Report is a monthly survey of stumpage and delivered timber prices in Mississippi. It is developed through the cooperation of public and private members of the forestry sector with MCES to provide an accurate picture of timber market activity. Mississippi is divided into four market regions that reflect distinct timber markets within the state (see map) and average prices for common forest products are listed. These values are compiled by polling cooperators from forest industry, public agencies, consulting foresters and landowners.

### 2. HOW TO USE THIS REPORT.

This report is intended to give a profile of timber prices in Mississippi.

Values given are offered as a guide to help individuals assess the fair-market value of their timber. The average price for a region should NOT be applied as the exact value for a particular timber tract. The best way for private landowners to obtain the highest price for a particular tract is to use competitive bidding. These prices, however, do reflect current timber market activity in each region.

Certain factors may cause a particular tract of timber to be valued higher or lower. For example, a tract that has a high timber volume per acre and can be logged during wet weather may bring a price per unit higher than the average reported here. On the other hand, a tract with less volume at great distance from the buyer's mill may bring less. Additional factors that affect timber values are timber quality, tract size, type of product to be made from the timber, access to the tract and many others. These values are a good price reference for landowners who wish to market timber, but individuals are advised to have their timber evaluated by a professional forester before making a timber sale.



### 3. TIMBER MARKET COMMENTS

#### Sawtimber

Weather continued to be the most important factor in the timber market in April/May. A wet spring has left many areas too wet to log. Most mills are running on lower than normal inventory. One reporter commented that at a time when he's normally banking logs he hasn't been able to accumulate enough to keep a good mill inventory. Other reporters commented that it's almost like its still winter logging conditions. Some pine mills have cut all their winter logging tracts and are looking for tracts that can be cut immediately. Hardwood mills report that the bottomlands are still too wet to get into. One mill reported that some hardwood tracts are in so much water they're difficult to cruise. This difficult logging comes at a time when lumber markets are steady but prices are at a low level. For this reason, timber buyers are cautious about paying high prices for stumpage when they anticipate that dry weather and good logging conditions are near.

Sawtimber stumpage prices generally moved up a bit compared to March averages. A wide spread in stumpage prices continued to show that individual tracts can bring very different prices depending on buyer needs and market conditions. The range of sawtimber prices varied from 80 to \$150 per MBF in some areas of the state. In the Southwest reported delivered pine sawtimber prices averaged 222/MBF,D. and in the Southeast delivered prices averaged 268/MBF,D.

#### Pulpwood

Hardwood pulpwood demand remains good and pine is steady though scheduled downtime at some pulp mills has slowed pine demand. Hardwood pulpwood markets in north Mississippi have opened with the development of chipping facilities on the Tenn-Tom waterway. Buyers report that landowners can sell hardwood pulpwood most anywhere in north Mississippi with much of it going toward the waterway. It's noteworthy that the average stumpage price for hardwood pulpwood in the Central region rose in April/May. One reporter in the South region commented that he was looking for hardwood pulpwood but had pine pulpwood "out his ears". Several buyers in the south had placed quotas on pine pulpwood.

#### Poles

Pole prices are strong and the pole business was generally described as "improving". One mill reported that "the problem is not selling but finding enough pole timber". Timber producers who have some timber that would qualify as pole timber should think poles when making a sale.

#### Other Comments

Very little pine beetle activity has been reported recently. If we hear of any increase activity we will report this to you.

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APRIL/MAY 1989

STANDING TIMBER

	North		Central		South		Delta and River	
	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average
Pine sawtimber	105-239	151	142-210	178	141-266	194**	-	-
Chip-n-saw pine	26-35	31*	-	35	30-35	32	-	-
Poles (pine)	-	-	-	-	310-420	367	-	-
Mixed hardwood sawtimber <sup>2</sup>	60-170	95	60-165	94	60-90	75	54-83	67
Oak sawtimber	125-135	130	95-180	125	100-130	113	155-200	177**
Soft hardwood sawtimber <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	-	110-120	113	70-80	75
Rare hardwood sawtimber <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine pulpwood	5-18	10	8-18	9.50	10-20	12.75	-	-
Hardwood pulpwood	2-8	5	2.50-12	7	5-14	8.50	5-7	6.25

DELIVERED PRICES<sup>5</sup>

	North		Central		South		Delta and River	
	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average	Low-High	Average
Pine sawtimber	200-240	218	200-265	236	180-275	243**	-	-
Chip-n-saw pine	-	51	60-62	61	64-76	69.00	-	-
Poles (pine)	-	-	-	-	32-45/T	38/T	-	-
Mixed hardwood sawtimber <sup>2</sup>	160-175	170	150-200	168	140-173	155	128-180	149
Oak sawtimber	-	200*	200-250	225	-	-	200-250	234
Other hardwood sawtimber	-	-	-	-	-	-	135-300	-
Pine pulpwood	34-41	36.75	33-45	36.50	34-37	34.75	39-41	40.00
Hardwood pulpwood	30-38	34	31-42	35.75	27-33	29.75	31.75-33	32.00

<sup>1</sup>Prices reported are for timber market transactions during the previous 30-day period, sawtimber prices in \$/MBF Doyle, chip-n-saw and pulpwood prices in \$/cord, pine poles in \$/ton.

<sup>2</sup>"Mixed Hardwoods" are mostly: Low-grade oak, Beech, Cottonwood, Willow, Elm, Gums, Locust, Hackberry, Magnolia, Pecan, Hickory, Sycamore, Tupelo and Birch.

<sup>3</sup>"Soft Hardwoods" are mostly: Cottonwood, Willow, Poplar and Gum.

<sup>4</sup>"Rare Hardwoods" are mostly: Walnut, Cherry, Royal Paulownia, Persimmon, some species and grades of Cypress, certain prime grades of Cherrybark and White Oaks.

<sup>5</sup>Delivered prices are values given at the sawmill or pulpwood yard gate.

\*Only one price reported.

\*\*See Timber Market comments.

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