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Southern Exports of Wood Products 1967-80

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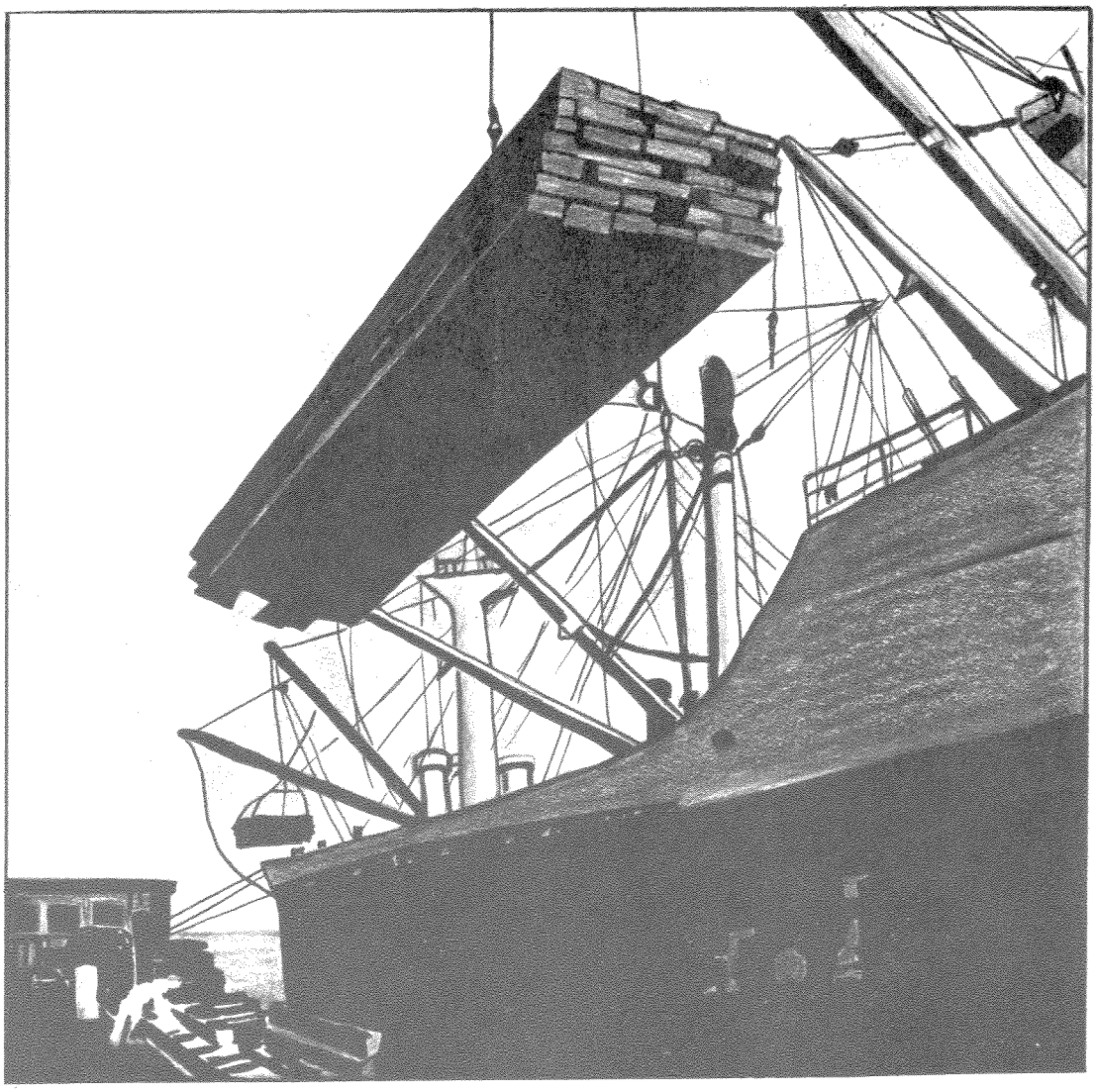

SUMMARY

Exports of wood products from the South have risen sharply since the mid 1970's. Lumber shipments are the largest export group, while panel products have exhibited the fastest growth. Hardwood logs, wood chips, and prefabricated wooden structures have been the primary contributors to the growth of roundwood and miscellaneous wood product exports. Western Europe and the Caribbean are the two major overseas markets for southern wood products.

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INTRODUCTION

Instability of domestic markets for wood products during the 1970's and forecasts of modest growth in these markets have stimulated an unprecedented interest in export markets among southern wood manufacturers. Part of this awakening interest stems from the nation's growing concern with international trade. The escalation of oil prices has dramatically illustrated a widening trade deficit and the need to promote the sale of products abroad.

The role the South might play in international trade in wood products has been largely ignored until recently. Southern exports have been overshadowed by log and chip exports from the Pacific Northwest. Only with an initial shipment of wood chips to Scandinavia in 1975 did the South suddenly attract attention to its foreign sales. With this development came the realization that the South is one of the world's major timber surplus regions, with an increasing potential to supply forest products in the international economy.

However, a major difficulty hindering the assessment of export opportunities for wood products from the South is a lack of information on the current levels of foreign sales from the region and recent trends. While the Bureau of the Census reports statistics on forest products exports, it does not publish a regional breakdown of the data. National statistics are of limited usefulness to southern forest product companies interested in developing international markets. The statistics are strongly influenced by wood exports from other regions and therefore can be misleading to southern exporters. Interested parties can purchase individual customs district data, either on tape or microfiche, and construct regional export statistics tailored to the user's needs. But this is both time-consuming and costly, and is feasible only for large organizations with market research units.

It is essential to have a description of the pattern of exports over time to investigate the potential for southern wood products in foreign trade. This report presents statistics on solid wood product exports from the South for the years 1967 through 1980. Southern exports and recent trends are briefly described, and statistical tables on exports of major wood products for the 1967–80 period are contained in the appendix. The source of the data is Bureau of the Census records of U.S. exports by customs district of exportation and country of destination (U.S. Dept. Commerce 1968–1981). The data can serve to develop more effective international marketing programs by southern forest product companies and lead to new and expanded export markets for southern wood products.

SOUTHERN WOOD EXPORTS

Foreign sales of southern wood products—roundwood, lumber, wood-based panels, and miscellaneous products—were valued at $500 million in 1980. This total was almost nine times above the level of shipments in 1967, and up from $99 million as recently as 1975.

The strong upturn in overseas shipments reflects a resurgence of southern wood exports after decades of moribund foreign sales. Prior to World War II, the export of wood products from the South was a thriving business. When the lumber industry was near its peak in the early part of this century, southern pine comprised nearly half of the 3 billion board feet of lumber and logs exported annually from the United States (USDA 1920). Shipments of lumber, flooring, staves, and vehicle and agricultural implement stock from the South also constituted a large portion of hardwood exports. However, with the depletion of the old-growth timber, southern wood exports gradually declined until World War II interrupted international trade.

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Southern wood exports failed to gain momentum following the war. Except for a surge of shipments under the Marshall Plan, exports languished for the next three decades. Southern pine lumber sales abroad hovered in a range between 65 and 100 million board feet annually, and shipments of hardwood products were only about half the pre-war trade (Row 1961, Siegel 1965).

Several reasons explain the failure of exports to revive. Availability of foreign exchange was one important factor. Most nations had large dollar deficits in the immediate post-war years, and various financial controls and trade restrictions were imposed to limit the purchase of dollar-based goods. At the same time, wood product producers were kept busy by a strong domestic market, which meant there was little interest in exporting. Foreign buyers also found other sources of virgin timber to offset the declining supply from the United States. Southern pine and hardwoods were replaced by Caribbean pine from Central America and tropical hardwoods from Africa and Southeast Asia. Another setback for southern exports occurred in 1960, when trade was discontinued with Cuba.

During the 1970's, however, wood exports from the South experienced a turnaround. There has been a steady increase in the value of shipments since 1971 (fig. 1). Although part of the rise reflects inflation, the real or constant value of southern exports has more than tripled since 1975.

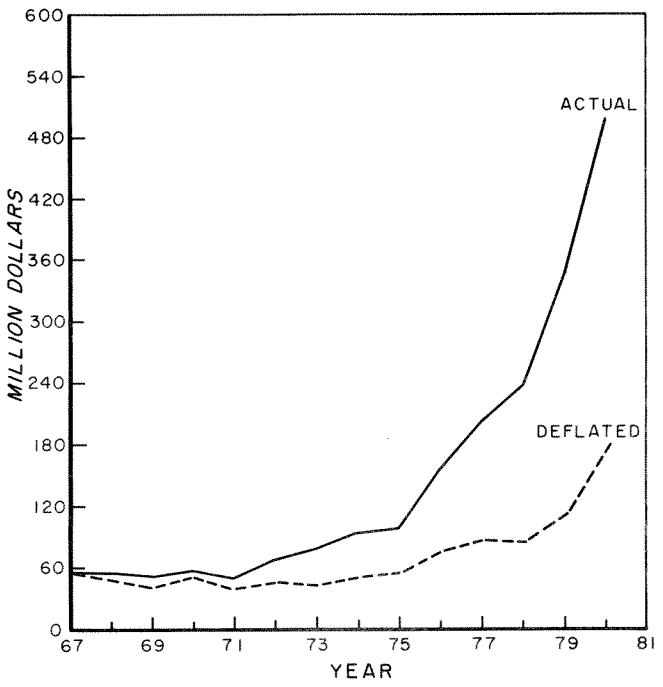

Figure 1.—*Total value of southern wood exports, actual and deflated, 1967–80.*

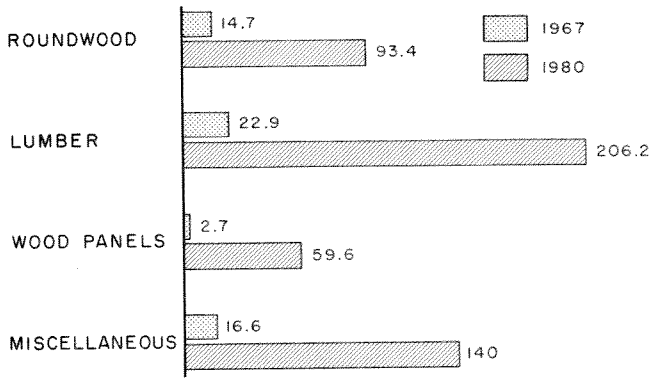

Figure 2.—*Value of southern wood exports by product group, 1967 and 1980, in millions of dollars.*

An important factor helping the export recovery was the decline in the value of the dollar, which made U.S. products more competitive in foreign markets. Formal devaluations were made in 1971 and 1973, and further weakening occurred in the late 1970's. In effect, the price of U.S. goods in terms of foreign currencies was reduced, which was significant for price sensitive items such as wood product exports.

Other factors played a role in the turnaround as well. An improving timber supply situation provided a base from which additional exports could be supported, while rising demand overseas furnished opportunities for expansion. Foreign buyers shifted their attention back to the U.S. and the South as other overseas supply areas became constrained by resource availability and/or government policies discouraging raw material shipments. Then too, the severe recession in 1974–75 may have forced recognition among southern wood producers of the importance of diversifying their market structure, and the 1975 sale of wood chips to Scandinavia fostered a greater awareness of the market potential abroad.

The composition of southern wood exports by major commodity groups is shown in figure 2. Lumber is the largest export, amounting to $206 million or 41 percent of total shipments in 1980. Miscellaneous wood products, including items such as builders' woodwork, prefabricated wood structures, cooperage, and charcoal and fuelwood, accounted for almost one-third of the total value of sales abroad. Wood panel products—veneer, plywood, and particleboard —have exhibited the fastest growth among the major export groups, while roundwood products have experienced the slowest.

Traditionally, Western Europe and the Caribbean Basin have been the two major overseas markets for southern wood products (fig. 3). Most important overall, and within the western European market, are the nations in the European Economic Community (EEC or Common Market). All EEC countries have

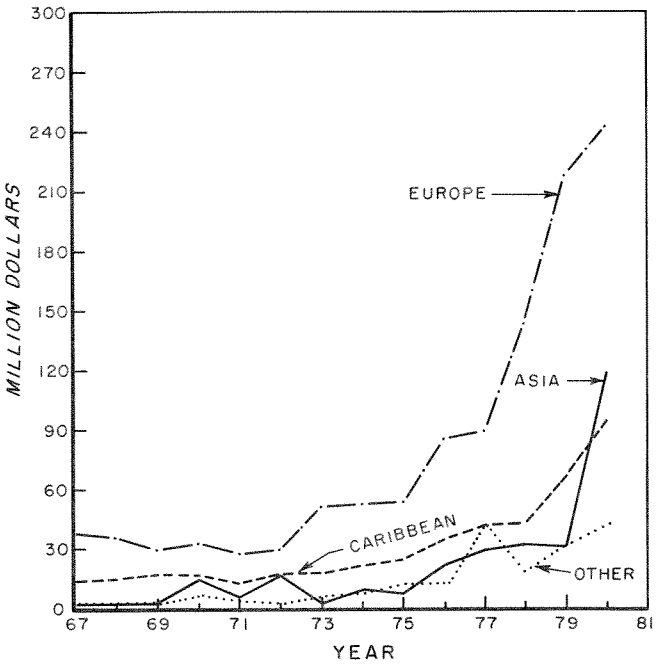

Figure 3.—*Major markets for southern wood exports, 1967–80.*

Table 1.—*Southern customs districts and principal ports*

Custom district	Ports
Norfolk	Norfolk, VA Newport News, VA Portsmouth, VA
Wilmington	Wilmington, NC Morehead City, NC
Charleston	Charleston, SC Georgetown, SC
Savannah	Savannah, GA Brunswick, GA
Tampa	Tampa, FL Jacksonville, FL
Miami	Miami, FL Port Everglades, FL
Mobile	Mobile, AL Pensacola, FL Gulfport, MS
New Orleans	New Orleans, LA Baton Rouge, LA
Port Arthur	Port Arthur, TX Beaumont, TX Lake Charles, LA
Houston	Houston, TX
Galveston	Galveston, TX Corpus Christi, TX

substantial wood deficits and are net importers of forest products. The Caribbean market includes the Caribbean island nations, Mexico, and Central America. Africa and the Near East are also significant markets for certain products.

Generally speaking, the markets are served from different exporting points (table 1). The South Atlantic ports of Norfolk, Wilmington, and Charleston are important exporters to western Europe, while Savannah, Miami, and Tampa primarily serve the Caribbean. Owing to its leading role in international trade, however, New Orleans is a supplier to all markets, and Mobile also exports to most major markets. Because of contacts stemming from the oil trade, the Near East has been a significant destination of wood exports from the Texas ports.

Overall, the New Orleans customs district is the largest exporter of southern wood products, with Mobile generally second or third. Norfolk led in wood product shipments from 1968 through 1974, but declined in rank with the rise in exports since 1975. Wilmington and Savannah have shown impressive growth in the wood products trade, and Port Arthur experienced a spectacular jump in exports in 1980. However, the latter rise was due to a large shipment of prefabricated housing to Syria, and may be a one-time occurrence rather than part of a continuing trend. Also, as noted in the following discussion of product groupings, different ports lead in the export of specific products.

ROUNDWOOD PRODUCTS

The South exported $93 million in roundwood products in 1980, compared to $15 million in 1967. Major roundwood exports for 1967 and 1980 are indicated in table 2. Hardwood logs and wood chips have been the primary contributors to the growth of roundwood exports since 1967.

Logs

Log exports by major species groups are shown in figure 4. Prior to 1973, oak logs were included in a general category with other hardwood log exports. Since then, oaks have been identified separately due to their growing importance. Oaks now account for 70 percent of all log exports, and have replaced walnut as the major log export from the South. Walnut dropped from 46 percent of the total volume in 1967 to only 6 percent in 1980. The change in the composition of log exports from high-valued walnut to less expensive oak explains in part the slow relative growth of roundwood shipments on a value basis compared to a strong increase in the quantity of logs exported.

Table 2.—*Southern exports of roundwood, by product, 1967 and 1980*

Product	1967	1980
Saw logs (million bd. ft., Scribner)	13.6	50.6
Softwood	5.3	6.5
Hardwood	8.3	44.1
Piling (thousand linear ft.)	44.0	*
Poles (thousands)	130.0	152.0
Pulpwood (thousand cords)	.1	.2
Wood chips (thousand tons, oven-dry)	.3	424.6
Posts (thousands)	**	1404.2

*Piling over 15 feet included under poles; poles and piling not over 15 feet included under posts.
**Quantity not recorded.

Most hardwood log exports are veneer log shipments to western Europe, primarily the EEC nations. European interest in U.S. and southern hardwoods has been growing because of restrictions on log exports from west Africa, Europe's major overseas source of hardwood logs. However, a concern regarding the European market has been proposed EEC regulations relating to oak wilt disease. Some of the increase in oak log shipments in 1979 and 1980 may have been in anticipation of import restrictions that were scheduled to take effect during 1980.

Only a small amount of softwood logs is exported from the South. Southern pine shipments have been identified by species only since 1978, and accounted for 76 percent of the 6.5 million board feet of softwood saw logs exported in 1980. Most of the southern pine logs go to the Caribbean.

Pulpwood

The South exports a negligible amount of pulpwood in roundwood form. Because of high handling and shipping costs, roundwood sales are mostly for trial or research purposes. In contrast, wood chips have become one of the south's fastest-growing wood export items. While wood chips have a low value per unit of volume or weight, they are easy to handle. In addition, development of specialized ships and port facilities have helped to reduce per unit costs of shipping.

In the mid 1970's, the European pulp industry began to seek overseas sources of raw material. Western European nations have traditionally relied on the Scandinavian countries to supplement domestic supplies of papermaking fiber, but booming markets and capacity expansion in papermaking in the early 1970's caused Scandinavian pulp industry requirements to exceed pulpwood supplies. At the same time, a wood chip surplus developed in the South as pulp industry requirements lagged behind rising

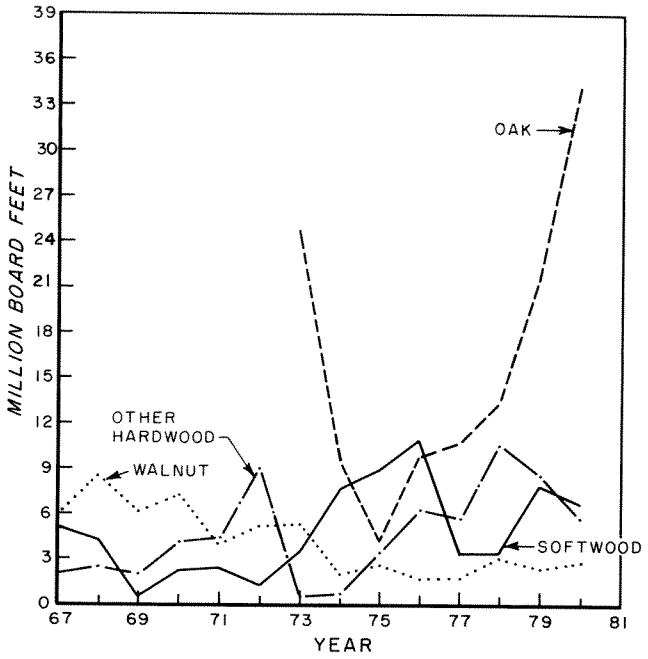

Figure 4.—*Southern exports of saw logs, 1967–80.*

lumber sales following the 1974–75 recession. Trial deliveries of wood chips to four European countries in 1975 and 1976 culminated in long-term chip supply agreements with Sweden; and chip handling facilities were constructed at Lake Charles, Louisiana, and Savannah, Georgia, to serve the overseas market on a continuing basis.

Chip exports surged in 1977 as the new chip terminals began to operate. However, shipments were curtailed in 1978 because of depressed European markets. Shipments picked up again in 1979, and spot sales to Japan helped boost shipments in 1980.

Miscellaneous Roundwood

The South exports several miscellaneous roundwood products, including poles, piling, posts, and other roundwood. Prior to 1978, poles, piling, and posts were identified in separate categories and by different measurement units. A revision of the export commodity classification code in 1978 regrouped these products according to length and whether treated or untreated. Subsequent statistics reveal treated poles over 15 feet in length account for the largest portion of the value of these shipments—85 percent in 1980—although treated posts not over 15 feet are exported in greater quantity.

The Caribbean and the Near East are the primary markets for treated poles and posts. Mobile is the most important customs district for the export of these products.

LUMBER

Total exports of lumber from the South have almost tripled since 1967, increasing from 137 million board feet to 365 million board feet in 1980. Softwoods account for two-thirds of all lumber exports, and shipments have been rising steadily since 1975, except for a slight downturn in 1978 when strong domestic demand overshadowed depressed foreign markets (fig. 5). Hardwood sales abroad have been gaining strength since 1977.

Softwood

Softwood exports consist mainly of southern pine lumber, although limited quantities of non-southern species are exported out of southern ports. Softwood lumber goes to two major overseas markets—western Europe and the Caribbean (fig. 6). Modest quantities are also shipped to Africa and Asia.

Southern pine lumber shipped to Europe is primarily clear material, which is used for joinery, paneling, and furniture parts. Most of the southern pine exported to this market is shipped rough for remanufacture to metric sizes and also because of the EEC tariff on dressed lumber.

On the other hand, most of the pine shipped to the Caribbean is for structural purposes, with a majority as dressed lumber. Even though masonry housing construction is popular in the Caribbean, southern pine is used extensively in roof structures.

In addition to southern pine, 30 million board feet of other softwood lumber was exported from southern ports in 1980. About two-thirds goes to the Caribbean countries, largely due to the proximity of the region to southern ports and lumber dealers.

Overall, the largest center for southern pine exports is the Mobile customs district, which includes the ports of Pensacola and Gulfport as well as Mobile. Shipments of other softwood lumber to the Caribbean are largely from Miami.

Hardwood

The South exported 73 million board feet of hardwood lumber and flooring in 1980, up from 25 million in 1967. The primary reason for the increase has been the rise in hardwood lumber shipments to the EEC countries, which accounted for 72 percent of the exports of southern hardwood lumber in 1980.

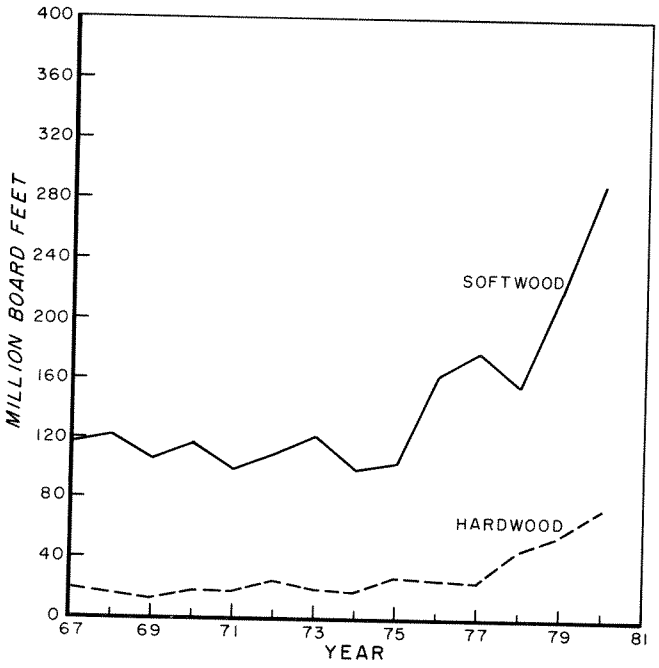

Figure 5.—*Southern exports of lumber, 1967–80.*

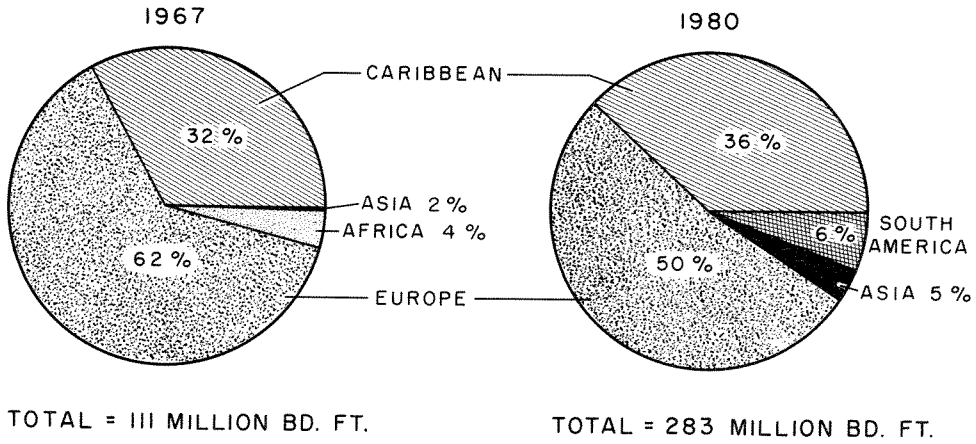

Figure 6.—*Major markets for southern softwood lumber exports, 1967 and 1980.*

As noted previously, European interest in U.S. hardwoods has grown as traditional sources of tropical hardwoods have become restricted. In addition, oak has become the fashion in European furniture in recent years (Ascherman 1980). Almost the entire increase in hardwood sales since 1977 has been oak lumber (fig. 7).

Because of the requirements of the European market and tariffs on dressed lumber, most of the hardwood lumber is shipped rough for remanufacturing. Table 3 provides a breakdown of 1980 hardwood lumber exports by extent of manufacture and species. Eighty-nine percent was rough lumber. White oak made up the largest portion of oak exports.

Southern exports of hardwood flooring have been modest, generally around 1 million board feet annually, except for a rise in the early 1970's and another surge in 1980. The increase in 1971–72 was due to shipments to Japan. The jump in 1980 shipments resulted from increased sales to Scandinavia, particularly Sweden.

The largest centers for hardwood lumber exports in 1980 were Mobile, Wilmington, and New Orleans, in that order. More than one-half of the flooring was shipped from New Orleans.

Treated Lumber

In 1978, a separate classification was created for treated lumber exports. Previously, treated lumber was included in the export statistics for softwood and hardwood lumber. Table 4 shows southern shipments of treated lumber, by market, since 1978.

The greater Caribbean area is the primary market for treated lumber, and the market in this region is growing. South American shipments in 1980 went to Venezuela, which is on the southern rim of the Caribbean Basin. Sales to all other destinations have been stable.

Table 3.—*Southern exports of hardwood lumber, by extent of manufacture and species, 1980*

Condition/species	Volume	
	thousand board feet	
Rough:		
Oak, red	18,298	
Oak, white	28,996	
Total oak		47,294
Walnut		769
Other		11,786
Total rough		59,849
Dressed:		
Oak, red	1,172	
Oak, white	1,775	
Total oak		2,947
Walnut		1,862
Other		2,789
Total dressed		7,598
Total, rough and dressed		67,447

Table 4.—*Southern exports of treated lumber, 1978–80*

Area	1978	1979	1980
	thousand board feet		
Central America	756	2,348	4,390
South America	19	67	2,703
Other	669	673	665
Total	1,444	3,088	7,758

Crossties

Exports of crossties from the South have fluctuated widely, ranging from a high of almost 18 million board feet in 1975 to just under 1 million feet in 1977. Shipments were up again in 1980 to 14.6 million board feet.

Central and South America have been the most consistent buyers of southern crossties. The market for crossties among the Caribbean islands is small, since only Jamaica has a significant railway system. Venezuela and Peru have been the largest South American importers. Other significant but inconsistent markets have been Canada, Africa, and the Near East. Canada is the largest buyer of U.S. crossties, but it imports mostly from the North.

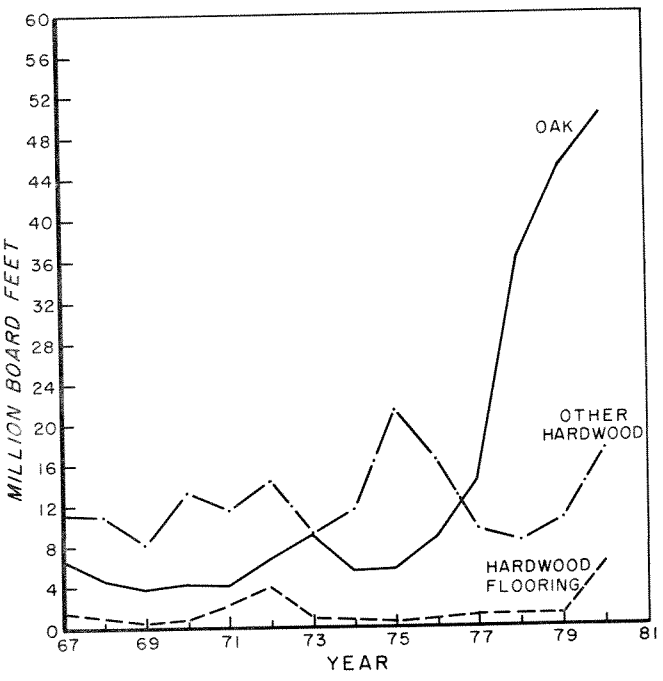

Figure 7.—*Southern exports of hardwood lumber and flooring, 1967–80.*

Although softwood shipments were notable in the early and mid-1970's, treated hardwood crossties have dominated exports in the most recent years. More than half of all crosstie shipments since 1967 have been exported from the Mobile customs district.

WOOD-BASED PANELS

Wood-based panels are the most rapidly growing southern wood export. The total value of wood-based panel exports increased from $3 million in 1967 to $60 million in 1980. Nominally, this represents a 27 percent average annual rate of growth. But even when the effect of inflation is removed, the growth rate in real terms remains an impressive 19 percent per annum. Wood veneer was the most important panel export in 1980, accounting for 60 percent of the total value; plywood made up 36 percent of the total. Particleboard and other reconstituted wood products made up only 4 percent.

Veneer

Veneer shipments have been the driving force behind the rapid growth in wood-based panel exports, and hardwoods dominate veneer exports (fig. 8). Veneer exports increased from 13 million square feet in 1967 to 382 million square feet in 1980. This represents a 30 percent annual increase, on the average. Hardwood veneers comprise 88 percent of total veneer exports. Although softwoods represent only a modest share of total veneer exports, softwood exports have been growing rapidly since 1974, reflecting the expansion of softwood veneer production in the South during the 1970's.

The EEC absorbs four-fifths of southern veneer exports, with West Germany the major single market, accounting for over half of all exports. Italy is the second largest market, accounting for 18 percent of the total.

The rapid expansion of veneer exports to Europe can be attributed to many of the same factors affecting lumber exports to Europe, namely the growth in European housing and furniture construction, the decline in the availability of tropical hardwoods, and the expansion of the European plywood industry. Whereas Europe has ample corestock and backs to meet its needs, there is a scarcity of high quality domestic hardwood face veneer, and traditional sources from West Africa are becoming increasingly scarce.

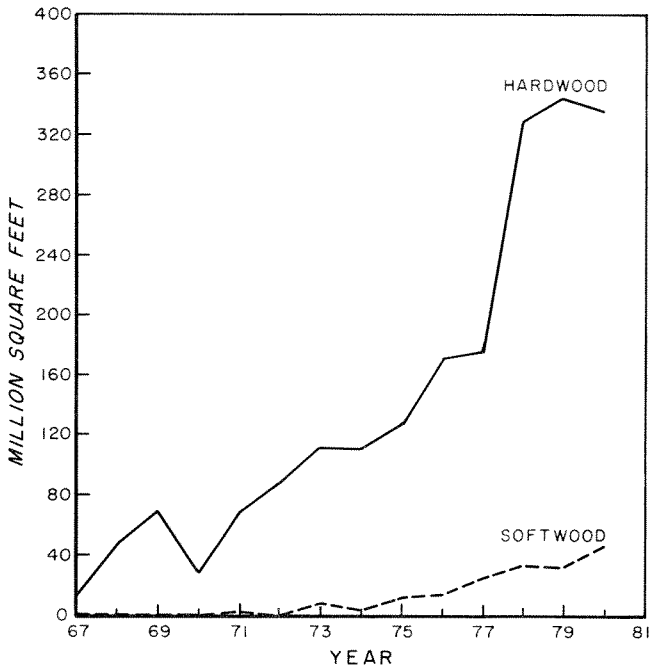

Figure 8.—*Southern exports of wood veneer, 1967–80.*

Plywood

In contrast to veneer shipments, southern plywood exports are primarily softwood (fig. 9). Hardwood plywood exports are small, since domestic production of hardwood plywood is low relative to consumption, a majority of which is supplied by imports.

Softwood plywood production in the South was initiated in the mid 1960's. Exports were small during the industry's early growth in the late 1960's and early 1970's, and shipments went primarily to the Caribbean. But in 1973 and 1974, exports jumped as southern producers began selling to western Europe during the recession. As domestic markets subsequently improved, however, these shipments declined. But since 1978, softwood exports have been rising again, with most of the increase going to western Europe.

In 1980, the EEC imported over half of the South's plywood exports, and was followed by the Caribbean, which imported a third of the total. The Netherlands, West Germany, and the United Kingdom are the major buyers in the EEC, while the Bahama Islands, Dominican Republic, and Cayman Islands are important in the Caribbean market.

Recent acceptance of U.S. plywood grades in European building codes for use in structural applications is a factor in the growth of that market. Previously, most shipments to Europe were used for concrete forms and industrial packaging. In the Caribbean, primary uses are for concrete forming and roof sheathing.

Particleboard

Southern exports of particleboard were insignificant until the mid 1970's; since then, they have risen to the 11 million square feet level. In the U.S., par-

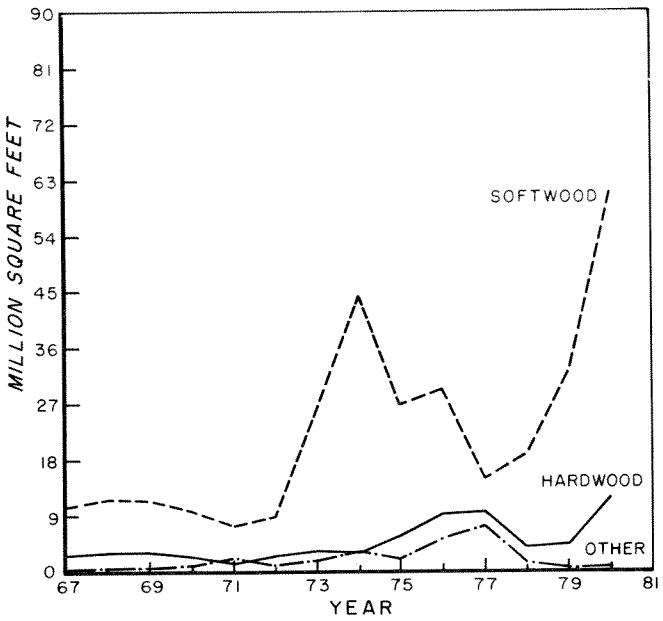

Figure 9.—*Southern exports of plywood, 1967–80.*

ticleboard is a fairly recent phenomenon and exports have been modest thus far. Because Europe has a long history of particleboard use and a well developed industry to serve its needs, southern particleboard exports are concentrated in the Caribbean area. The Dominican Republic and Venezuela absorb about two-thirds of the South's exports. Furniture and nonresidential construction are the primary uses.

MISCELLANEOUS WOOD PRODUCTS

In addition to the major wood products, the South exports a wide variety of miscellaneous products (table 5). The total value of miscellaneous product exports increased from $17 million in 1967 to $140 million in 1980, representing an 18 percent annual rate of growth. After removing the effect of inflation, miscellaneous products grew at a real rate of 10 percent per year. However, the almost tripling of exports from $55 million in 1979 to $140 million in 1980 was due almost entirely to a large shipment of prefabricated houses to Syria. If the influence of that unusually large shipment is excluded, the long-term growth in miscellaneous wood exports is reduced to 11 percent and a real rate of 3 percent.

As would be expected from a group composed of a wide variety of products, exports of miscellaneous wood products have fluctuated widely since 1967. Exports declined sharply during the 1967–73 period and only began to exhibit a steady growth since 1975. Cooperage products, once the largest category of miscellaneous products, were largely responsible for the erratic behavior of the group. Cooperage products declined sharply after 1967, and had only partially recovered to their 1967 level by 1980. On the other hand, builder's woodwork and prefabricated wooden structures have exhibited relatively strong growth since 1975.

Asia is the major market for miscellaneous wood products, accounting for about two-thirds of all southern exports in 1980. Although the unusually large shipment of prefabricated wood structures to Syria in 1980 has the effect of exaggerating the importance of the Asian market, the region remains the dominant market area even after eliminating that shipment. The most important export districts are Miami, Houston, New Orleans, and Norfolk, in descending order of importance.

THE FUTURE

Future trends in southern exports are dependent not only upon the activities of southern producers and the behavior of the domestic market, but also upon the actions of competitive suppliers to overseas markets. In the long term, the growth of southern wood exports will be determined primarily by comparative cost considerations and the marketing efforts of exporters. Major cost considerations include trends in the cost of production in the South relative to other suppliers, ocean transportation costs, changes in exchange rates, and tariff and nontariff barriers to trade.

In the past, trends in production costs, especially labor, have tended to favor the South over competitive sources of supply to the European and Caribbean markets. It is likely that these favorable trends will continue into the future, although perhaps to a lesser degree. However, if Central American countries are successful in expanding their lumber, veneer, and plywood production, their lower labor costs could make them strong competitors in the Caribbean markets. The advantage the South holds in the European market is its favorable location relative to exporting regions such as the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia. Rising energy costs would make ocean transportation more costly for these regions.

Competition in overseas markets will be affected by developments in the domestic market for wood products. For example, rising rail and truck transportation costs are reducing western U.S. shipments to eastern markets. As a result, western producers are concentrating more on foreign markets. In the face of an aggressive overseas marketing campaign by western producers, southern producers must mount an equally aggressive marketing program to retain, much less increase, their share of the overseas market. Also, should the housing market improve and southern producers direct their attention away from exporting to serve the domestic market, southern exports almost surely will decline.

Table 5.—*Southern exports of miscellaneous wood products, 1967 and 1978–80*

Product	Actual value				Deflated value†
	1967	1978	1979	1980	1980
	millions of dollars				
Fuel & Charcoal	*	1.5	2.5	3.1	1.2
Cooperage Products	10.6	4.4	7.2	9.2	3.8
Builder's Woodwork	2.3	10.2	11.6	17.3	7.1
Prefab. Wood Structures	.5	9.0	11.5	78.2**	32.3**
Other Products	3.2	17.3	22.4	32.2	13.4
Total all products	16.6	42.4	55.2	140.0	57.8

†Deflated using Products Price Indexes for Wood Products, 1967 = 100.
*Less than $500,000.
**Includes a large one-time shipment to Syria.

A factor over which southern wood exporters have no control, but which may have a significant impact upon the competitiveness of southern products in foreign markets, is the foreign exchange rate. During the 1970's, the U.S. dollar declined relative to many foreign currencies. The depreciation of the dollar had the effect of reducing the cost of U.S. goods in our major foreign markets, thereby improving our competitiveness abroad. However, recently the dollar has either held its own or appreciated in value in the major world markets. Should the dollar continue to appreciate relative to other currency, the effect will be to increase the foreign exchange cost of U.S. products. Unless U.S. production and marketing cost advantages offset the negative foreign exchange cost trend or the dollar again weakens, U.S. goods will become less competitive in foreign markets.

However, it is the rate of exchange between the U.S. dollar and the currency of the countries with which we export wood products that matters, not the rate of exchange between U.S. currency and the average of all U.S. overseas markets. It is noteworthy that in many important wood markets, e.g., Italy and United Kingdom, the dollar strengthened rather than declined during the 1970's. Conversely, the dollar weakened in the key wood markets of West Germany, Spain, and Venezuela. In many Caribbean nations, e.g., the Bahamas, Panama, and the Dominican Republic, the local currency is pegged to the dollar; thus, the exchange rate remained unchanged.

Although there has been a lessening of trade restrictions overall for wood products since World War II, significant tariff and nontariff barriers still remain. Most important for southern wood exports are those existing in the European and Latin American markets. Significant EEC restrictions are a tariff on dressed lumber, a duty-free quota limit for softwood plywood, and restrictions on oak logs and lumber relating to oak wilt disease. While some progress was made in reducing EEC barriers in the latest round of negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), tariffs in some Latin American countries remain high. In general, nontariff barriers are becoming of more concern due to a rise of protectionism in world trade stemming from recent recessionary economic conditions.

Barring further deterioration of world trading conditions, however, lower production and marketing costs should provide southern producers with a competitive advantage in Europe and the Caribbean. But southern producers will need to pursue a vigorous program of overseas market promotion if they are to be successful in exploiting their advantage in the face of aggressive marketing by competing supply regions. The establishment of an international trade office in the Southern Forest Products Association, in cooperation with the National Forest Products Association and the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, is an encouraging development. Such efforts are necessary to promote southern wood products in key overseas markets and to familiarize southern wood producers with export opportunities and procedures.

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APPENDIX Statistics on Wood Exports from the Southern United States: 1967–80

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Table A1.—*Southern exports of solid wood products, 1967–80*

Commodity	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
	thousand dollars													
Roundwood														
Softwood logs	521	462	89	360	336	296	844	2,849	3,466	4,224	1,870	2,207	4,849	3,421
Hardwood logs	10,234	14,081	10,635	12,477	7,720	11,777	14,945	10,858	12,717	21,421	22,771	36,129	55,309	48,374
Piling & poles	3,725	1,934	1,235	1,991	742	2,156	1,994	4,027	5,742	8,462	8,428	14,842	10,255	13,221
Other roundwood	213	154	84	340	284	32	84	15	387	145	123	854	1,117	1,544
Wood chips	7	0	0	180	0	0	1	663	4,627	1,600	7,540	3,829	11,280	26,805
Total roundwood	14,700	16,631	12,043	15,348	9,082	14,261	17,868	18,412	26,939	35,852	40,732	57,861	82,810	93,365
Lumber														
Softwood	17,024	18,228	17,704	20,375	18,140	26,175	28,605	25,484	25,574	48,459	62,421	62,331	103,840	136,775
Hardwood	5,876	5,133	4,134	6,212	5,826	9,959	8,534	9,277	11,450	14,618	17,456	42,048	60,148	69,191
Total lumber	22,900	23,361	21,838	26,587	23,966	36,134	37,139	34,761	37,024	63,077	79,877	104,379	163,988	205,966
Wood Panel Products														
Hardwood veneer	708	1,951	3,706	1,139	4,024	5,776	7,599	7,447	9,409	10,794	12,159	21,472	28,880	30,924
Softwood veneer	9	18	39	25	64	32	389	307	638	1,281	1,996	2,612	2,718	4,658
Total veneer	717	1,969	3,745	1,164	4,088	5,808	7,988	7,754	10,047	12,075	14,155	24,084	31,598	35,582
Hardwood plywood	390	513	478	302	153	388	622	545	1,167	3,503	3,485	1,321	1,403	3,663
Softwood plywood	1,385	1,790	2,025	1,514	1,264	1,562	4,685	6,668	5,817	7,311	3,976	5,410	10,452	17,668
Other plywood	214	163	166	276	150	276	1,029	970	677	1,932	2,528	721	302	468
Total plywood	1,989	2,466	2,669	2,092	1,567	2,226	6,336	8,183	7,661	12,746	9,989	7,452	12,157	21,799
Particleboard	26	18	18	11	60	130	94	140	525	515	2,361	1,772	2,102	2,262
Total panel products	2,732	4,453	6,432	3,267	5,715	8,164	14,418	16,077	18,233	25,336	26,505	33,308	45,857	59,643
Miscellaneous Wood Products Total	16,592	11,198	12,023	13,083	12,302	10,354	10,308	25,902	16,377	33,420	56,737	42,430	55,220	139,963
Total Solid Wood Products	56,924	55,643	52,336	58,285	51,065	68,913	79,733	95,152	98,573	157,685	203,851	237,978	347,875	498,937

Table A2.—*Southern exports of wood products, by market, 1967–80*

Market	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
	thousand dollars													
Canada	.....	305	250	226	642	2,267	1,504	1,570	2,614	1,838	456	522	1,149	1,808
Caribbean	13,514	13,522	15,745	14,021	9,930	11,334	13,130	16,982	17,746	26,976	31,237	31,273	51,323	72,792
South America	776	926	940	3,246	2,826	4,672	4,977	3,719	4,786	6,572	10,454	11,091	14,468	20,892
European Econ. Comm.	30,390	29,344	24,501	26,459	23,650	26,123	45,657	44,684	45,964	75,737	77,989	128,199	194,060	208,156
Other Europe	8,251	7,903	6,957	8,307	5,341	6,623	9,092	13,174	14,428	18,431	29,752	24,572	41,354	62,026
Africa	929	1,061	938	1,657	1,700	699	2,565	4,186	3,853	5,430	23,351	10,019	13,000	11,586
Near East Asia	371	434	142	271	631	278	401	7,335	6,479	17,883	26,486	27,510	18,787	101,249
Japan	1,416	1,312	2,327	3,050	5,568	16,260	2,095	1,730	772	3,230	3,103	3,188	7,988	13,434
Other Asia	716	350	148	430	193	190	674	1,216	1,035	772	351	1,031	4,256	4,542
Oceania	561	486	388	618	584	467	639	556	896	818	673	573	1,490	2,452
Total	56,924	55,643	52,336	58,285	51,065	68,913	79,733	95,152	98,573	157,685	203,851	237,978	347,875	498,937

Table A3.—*Value of southern wood exports, by customs districts, 1967–80*

Year	Norfolk	Wilmington	Charleston	Savannah	Miami	Tampa	Mobile	New Orleans	Port Arthur	Galveston	Houston
	thousand dollars										
1967	12,924	2,429	1,602	1,974	7,755	2,338	12,888	13,286	760	87	881
1968	13,668	4,601	2,069	1,470	8,894	2,143	10,324	10,220	703	214	1,337
1969	13,645	3,419	1,389	1,142	11,244	2,798	8,882	8,550	231	92	943
1970	13,979	3,722	1,416	1,891	8,351	2,933	10,699	12,763	704	158	1,618
1971	14,464	2,140	2,800	1,457	6,690	2,066	7,785	10,422	1,395	133	1,714
1972	19,081	6,329	3,159	2,306	7,058	2,073	9,045	14,811	3,344	78	1,630
1973	18,426	10,267	3,938	3,100	8,600	2,210	12,240	14,875	3,950	214	1,636
1974	24,415	6,363	5,216	6,999	10,394	2,451	15,456	16,237	3,050	181	4,388
1975	19,377	14,916	4,340	4,895	9,290	2,345	15,906	21,408	1,247	103	4,746
1976	28,058	17,480	11,890	7,843	13,807	3,948	25,063	36,740	3,443	1,141	8,273
1977	26,708	24,824	20,175	11,674	17,063	2,872	32,298	36,925	6,671	4,619	20,022
1978	31,107	31,917	24,062	9,425	20,288	4,792	45,600	51,018	3,538	4,645	11,412
1979	45,605	50,657	31,175	28,171	27,564	6,038	47,046	79,446	4,980	4,433	22,602
1980	45,012	57,452	30,220	54,129	40,930	6,995	67,738	89,777	84,595	3,868	18,223

Table A4.—*Southern exports of saw logs, 1967–80*

Year	All saw logs	Softwood	Hardwood			
			Total	Walnut	Oak	Other
	thousand board feet					
1967	13,563	5,286	8,277	6,187	*	2,090
1968	15,708	4,364	11,344	8,798	*	2,546
1969	8,916	510	8,406	6,387	*	2,019
1970	13,974	2,302	11,672	7,491	*	4,181
1971	11,052	2,450	8,602	4,075	*	4,527
1972	15,990	1,310	14,680	5,368	*	9,312
1973	34,943	3,562	31,381	5,486	25,412	483
1974	20,385	7,910	12,475	2,098	9,726	651
1975	24,644	14,246	10,398	2,672	4,176	3,550
1976	29,563	10,689	18,874	1,783	10,548	6,543
1977	22,144	3,476	18,668	1,781	10,961	5,926
1978	31,543	3,934	27,604	3,072	13,660	10,872
1979	41,508	8,127	33,381	2,377	22,206	8,798
1980	50,635	6,516	44,119	2,830	35,213	6,076

*Included in "other hardwood"

Table A5.—*Southern exports of softwood saw logs, by market, 1967–80*

Year	All regions total	Caribbean	South America	European Econ. Comm.	Asia	Other markets
	thousand board feet					
1967	5,286	44	0	303	4,916	23
1968	4,364	1,100	0	303	2,664	297
1969	510	28	32	277	0	173
1970	2,302	5	23	1,520	613	141
1971	2,450	203	57	467	705	1,018
1972	1,310	258	96	851	20	85
1973	3,562	385	145	2,797	61	174
1974	7,910	804	118	6,172	403	413
1975	14,246	1,346	160	11,203	542	994
1976	10,689	1,207	414	4,395	3,722	951
1977	3,476	373	1,787	1,265	307	244
1978	3,934	2,127	80	975	312	440
1979	8,127	4,309	290	1,350	2,099	79
1980	6,516	4,222	110	778	1,128	278

Table A6.—*Southern exports of hardwood saw logs, by market, 1967–80*

Year	All regions total	South America	Europe		Other markets
			ECC	Other	
	thousand board feet				
1967	8,277	0	6,865	1,117	295
1968	11,344	0	9,684	1,341	319
1969	8,406	0	6,094	1,522	790
1970	11,672	1,473	6,800	1,234	2,165
1971	8,602	1,234	4,250	537	2,581
1972	14,680	2,613	10,270	726	1,071
1973	31,381	3,384	25,564	1,342	1,091
1974	12,475	1,877	7,574	2,579	445
1975	10,398	906	7,318	1,542	632
1976	18,874	2,291	13,109	2,303	1,171
1977	18,668	2,150	13,015	1,721	1,782
1978	27,604	2,695	18,558	3,416	2,935
1979	33,381	3,334	22,852	3,857	3,338
1980	44,119	3,146	35,476	3,832	1,665

Table A7.—*Southern exports of poles, by market, 1967–80*†

Year	All regions total	Caribbean	South America	Europe	Asia	Africa
	thousands					
1967	130	66	8	51	4	1
1968	71	32	*	39	*	0
1969	40	33	3	2	1	1
1970	59	47	2	0	10	0
1971	17	14	3	0	*	0
1972	57	56	*	*	0	1
1973	43	39	1	*	*	2
1974	59	55	*	0	2	2
1975	81	66	2	1	11	*
1976	215	80	2	47	52	34
1977	138	58	3	4	24	51
1978	195	45	3	3	78	66
1979	135	50	34	4	42	5
1980	152	46	22	4	61	19

†Beginning in 1978, includes all piling 15′ or larger.
*Less than 500.

Table A 8.—*Southern exports of piling, by market, 1967–77*†

Year	All regions total	Caribbean	South America	Asia	Other markets
	thousand linear feet				
1967	44	32	10	2	0
1968	19	19	0	0	0
1969	44	40	2	0	2
1970	160	150	7	0	3
1971	34	16	17	0	*
1972	42	16	6	19	0
1973	103	34	4	66	0
1974	49	39	9	1	0
1975	58	28	30	0	0
1976	68	63	0	5	0
1977	210	28	27	155	0

†Since 1978, piling 15 feet in length or over is grouped under poles; piling less than 15 feet is grouped under other roundwood.
*Less than 500 linear feet.

Table A9.—*Southern exports of roundwood pulpwood and wood chips, by market, 1967–80*

Year	Roundwood total	Wood chips			
		Japan	Sweden	Other	Total
	cords	*oven-dry tons*			
1967	51	....	....	290	290
1968	937	....	....	....	....
1969	....	....	....	....	....
1970	....	9,900	....	....	9,900
1971	....	....	....	....	....
1972	....	....	....	....	....
1973	....	....	....	22	22
1974	46	16,212	....	....	16,212
1975	2,950	....	77,283	16,026	93,309
1976	1,215	....	37,430	48,209	85,639
1977	245	....	231,358	32,532	263,890
1978	1,141	....	83,431	7,003	90,434
1979	14	....	222,975	....	222,975
1980	181	109,246	315,043	332	424,621

Table A10.—*Southern exports of southern pine lumber, by market, 1967–80*

Year	All regions total	Caribbean	South America	Europe		Asia	Africa	Oceania
				EEC	Other			
	thousand board feet							
1967	80,885	22,138	127	46,108	8,194	1,558	2,760	0
1968	87,030	22,381	601	51,681	8,384	2,314	2,106	4
1969	70,432	19,517	78	37,654	7,692	2,693	2,781	17
1970	74,112	18,340	64	39,541	7,118	6,037	2,834	117
1971	57,382	13,249	13	28,796	3,278	6,915	5,131	2
1972	55,645	9,932	2	35,373	3,283	6,251	794	0
1973	84,089	8,107	5	68,017	4,770	670	2,478	0
1974	62,178	14,427	507	30,311	4,627	822	11,474	10
1975	55,921	15,439	691	34,974	2,162	362	2,293	0
1976	122,699	38,660	4,601	55,507	8,665	3,023	12,243	0
1977	147,723	38,709	5,753	58,637	11,981	1,030	31,597	16
1978	120,937	28,532	2,819	69,292	9,393	4,495	6,406	0
1979	183,243	70,009	1,644	93,170	11,459	5,352	1,592	17
1980	244,359	79,048	10,934	106,840	28,072	11,578	7,887	0

Table A11.—*Southern exports of other softwood lumber, by market, 1967–80*[†]

Year	All regions total	Canada	Caribbean	South America	Europe		Asia	Africa	Oceania
					EEC	Other			
	thousand board feet								
1967	29,977	0	13,369	144	12,229	2,738	314	1,170	13
1968	31,382	0	14,979	781	11,475	2,762	423	907	55
1969	30,743	0	16,314	217	10,165	2,916	894	210	27
1970	38,792	0	14,185	395	15,840	4,313	1,767	2,267	25
1971	34,952	1,125	8,886	2	10,152	2,240	8,018	4,529	0
1972	45,912	4,277	9,652	42	5,864	1,782	24,117	161	17
1973	27,699	1,941	7,669	420	9,502	2,451	1,089	4,627	0
1974	23,765	0	8,209	452	7,264	3,527	2,523	1,790	0
1975	34,039	9,226	11,727	442	5,401	1,261	4,954	1,028	0
1976	23,330	1,492	7,048	662	3,532	799	9,541	188	68
1977	21,164	0	11,424	929	3,260	666	2,656	2,229	0
1978	27,150	0	13,471	725	3,700	836	8,356	62	0
1979	28,096	49	14,780	826	4,125	800	7,393	105	18
1980	38,310	0	24,179	4,536	5,599	1,013	1,780	1,112	91

[†]Includes treated softwood lumber and softwood railroad crossties.

Table A12.—*Southern exports of hardwood lumber, by species, 1967–80*

Year	All hardwood total	Oak	Walnut	Other
	thousand board feet			
1967	16,501	6,812	645	9,044
1968	12,645	4,718	1,280	6,647
1969	10,871	3,759	703	6,415
1970	13,263	4,288	904	8,071
1971	10,759	4,258	196	6,305
1972	14,117	6,636	441	7,044
1973	16,413	8,978	319	7,116
1974	13,841	5,529	364	7,948
1975	19,167	5,591	161	13,415
1976	21,454	8,709	693	12,052
1977	23,261	14,381	317	8,563
1978	44,471	36,207	472	7,792
1979	56,336	45,354	1,757	9,225
1980	67,477	50,241	2,631	14,575

Table A13.—*Southern exports of hardwood lumber, by market, 1967–80*

Year	All regions total	Europe		South America	Asia	Other markets
		EEC	Other			
	thousand board feet					
1967	16,501	8,357	1,389	166	1,096	5,493
1968	12,645	6,733	1,982	128	763	3,039
1969	10,877	6,250	1,635	448	628	1,916
1970	13,263	7,384	1,800	151	522	3,406
1971	10,759	4,569	1,218	185	1,264	3,523
1972	14,121	5,910	1,957	128	1,665	4,461
1973	16,413	7,500	2,806	73	1,671	4,363
1974	13,841	5,372	3,149	33	1,799	3,488
1975	19,167	6,921	1,951	50	5,888	4,357
1976	21,454	10,771	2,066	13	1,891	6,713
1977	23,261	15,120	2,237	307	2,045	3,552
1978	44,471	36,147	1,655	1,265	1,044	4,360
1979	56,336	43,759	2,247	858	977	8,495
1980	67,447	48,442	3,114	601	6,234	9,056

Table A14.—*Southern exports of railroad crossties, by species group, 1967–80*

Year	Total	Softwood	Hardwood
	thousand board feet		
1967	3,080	1,433	1,647
1968	3,833	855	2,978
1969	1,143	96	1,047
1970	4,527	181	4,346
1971	6,248	1,157	5,091
1972	11,186	4,262	6,924
1973	4,144	2,364	1,780
1974	3,154	11	3,143
1975	17,918	9,296	8,622
1976	5,705	2,070	3,635
1977	994	465	529
1978	5,375	51	5,324
1979	4,668	42	4,616
1980	14,565	23	14,542

Table A15.—*Southern exports of railroad crossties, by market, 1967–80*

Year	All regions total	Canada	Caribbean	South America	Europe	Asia	Africa
	thousand board feet						
1967	3,080	0	468	211	668	774	1,041
1968	3,833	889	1,291	637	0	1,003	1,054
1969	1,143	0	22	589	0	0	532
1970	4,527	0	1,219	1,915	0	0	1,354
1971	6,248	1,125	1,037	3,566	0	11	509
1972	11,186	8,170	394	2,034	0	0	588
1973	4.144	2,485	262	1,121	0	27	249
1974	3,154	667	48	2,144	0	19	276
1975	17,918	9,968	268	7,677	5	0	0
1976	5,705	4,432	551	620	27	0	0
1977	994	0	81	420	0	38	455
1978	5,375	963	142	4,231	0	39	0
1979	4,668	1,758	496	903	0	1,511	0
1980	14,565	2,579	2,997	1,071	45	3,676	4,197

Table A16.—*Southern exports of hardwood flooring, by species, 1967–80*

Year	All hardwoods total	Oak	Other
	thousand board feet		
1967	1,562	1,557	5
1968	967	961	6
1969	533	504	29
1970	791	673	118
1971	2,200	1,204	996
1972	4,007	692	3,315
1973	862	638	224
1974	730	340	390
1975	467	423	44
1976	707	476	231
1977	1,102	855	247
1978	1,065	606	459
1979	1,051	605	446
1980	6,225	4,872	1,353

Table A17.—*Southern exports of hardwood flooring, by market, 1967–80*

Year	All regions total	Central & So. America	Western Europe	Other markets
	thousand board feet			
1967	1,562	40	1,154	368
1968	967	93	644	230
1969	533	93	283	157
1970	791	62	718	11
1971	2,200	333	1,041	826
1972	4,007	49	595	3,363
1973	862	36	689	137
1974	730	7	592	131
1975	467	4	405	58
1976	707	109	442	156
1977	1,102	24	872	206
1978	1,065	157	718	33
1979	1,051	165	396	490
1980	6,225	702	1,176	4,347

Table A18.—*Southern exports of wood panel products, 1967–80*

Year	Veneer			Plywood				Particleboard
	Total	Softwood	Hardwood	Total	Softwood	Hardwood	Other†	
	thousand square feet							
1967	13,124	140	12,984	13,542	10,592	2,579	371	128
1968	47,770	517	47,253	15,324	11,755	3,019	559	99
1969	69,814	788	69,026	15,165	11,566	3,077	522	85
1970	27,711	227	27,484	13,273	9,934	2,370	969	47
1971	71,491	2,453	69,038	10,771	7,432	1,261	2,078	174
1972	87,950	393	87,557	12,261	8,931	2,405	925	455
1973	119,895	8,436	111,459	31,356	26,616	3,154	1,586	223
1974	114,888	3,718	111,170	51,076	44,890	2,956	3,180	562
1975	139,290	12,257	127,033	34,642	27,017	5,652	1,973	1,472
1976	189,545	13,743	175,802	44,284	29,680	9,280	5,324	3,158
1977	201,350	24,568	176,782	32,063	14,976	9,750	7,337	12,232
1978	362,146	32,914	329,232	24,052	19,062	3,774	1,216	5,528*
1979	375,943	31,654	344,289	36,994	32,357	4,200	437	11,189
1980	382,038	45,735	336,303	47,197	61,498	12,091	608	11,033

†Includes cellular wood panels and non-wood faced plywood.
*Estimate. Bureau of Census figures contain reporting errors, due to a change in measurement units in 1978.

Table A19.—*Southern exports of veneer, by market, 1967–80*

Year	All regions total	Europe			Other markets
		EEC	Nordic†	Other	
	thousand square feet				
1967	13,124	10,927	823	280	1,094
1968	47,770	28,188	822	3,141	15,279
1969	69,814	63,090	3,649	497	2,578
1970	27,711	26,172	273	431	835
1971	71,491	67,278	1,402	2,430	381
1972	87,950	73,225	2,206	10,909	1,610
1973	119,895	100,927	7,285	9,161	2,522
1974	114,888	98,032	4,868	5,922	6,066
1975	139,290	108,403	9,670	8,206	13,011
1976	189,545	160,265	14,411	11,739	3,130
1977	201,350	166,682	12,073	17,546	5,049
1978	362,146	296,404	13,609	24,430	27,704
1979	375,943	328,237	13,590	14,016	20,100
1980	382,038	333,949	10,069	15,055	22,965

†Norway, Sweden, and Finland.

Table A20.—*Southern exports of plywood, by market, 1967–80*

Year	All regions total	Caribbean	South America	Europe		Asia	Other markets
				EEC	Other		
	thousand square feet						
1967	13,542	11,040	80	2,113	12	18	279
1968	15,324	13,430	88	1,561	51	7	187
1969	15,165	12,693	118	1,697	149	76	432
1970	13,273	10,683	17	1,454	166	48	905
1971	10,771	10,227	23	227	37	48	209
1972	12,261	8,493	49	2,708	143	370	507
1973	31,356	11,286	290	17,346	258	1,610	566
1974	51,026	15,885	21	33,555	60	1,005	500
1975	34,642	12,948	511	16,124	146	2,683	2,230
1976	44,284	13,252	380	26,844	859	2,308	641
1977	32,063	14,741	445	14,410	750	1,498	219
1978	24,052	16,569	981	2,680	68	3,616	138
1979	36,994	17,615	1,384	16,085	509	1,296	105
1980	74,197	25,496	3,994	42,966	198	989	554

Table A21.—*Southern exports of particleboard and other reconstituted wood panel products, by market, 1967–80*

Year	All regions total	Caribbean	South America	Asia	Other markets
	thousand square feet				
1967	128	111	0	0	17
1968	99	97	0	0	2
1969	85	85	0	0	0
1970	49	42	0	0	7
1971	174	75	0	0	99
1972	455	417	0	0	38
1973	223	222	1	0	0
1974	562	517	1	13	31
1975	1,472	409	119	328	616
1976	3,158	875	1,890	393	0
1977	12,232	1,516	10,311	405	0
1978	5,528†	2,635†	1,915†	871	107
1979	11,189	4,921	5,446	650	172
1980	11,033	4,323	4,911	1,172	672

†Estimate.

Table A22.—*Southern exports of miscellaneous wood products, 1967–80*

Year	All products	Fuelwood & charcoal	Cooperage products	Builder's woodwork	Prefab. structures	Other products
	thousand dollars					
1967	16,592	15	10,587	2,261	459	3,270
1968	11,198	33	4,828	2,976	387	2,974
1969	12,023	39	3,975	3,680	1,059	3,270
1970	13,083	151	5,762	2,812	615	3,743
1971	12,302	308	6,371	1,834	276	3,513
1972	10,354	164	4,225	1,688	978	3,299
1973	10,308	94	3,234	2,774	936	3,270
1974	25,902	203	6,947	2,656	7,945	8,151
1975	16,377	384	3,323	3,475	3,296	5,899
1976	33,420	665	3,052	6,038	8,034	15,631
1977	56,737	994	2,354	6,988	29,903	16,498
1978	42,430	1,466	4,440	10,199	8,986	17,339
1979	55,220	2,509	7,232	11,594	11,524	22,361
1980	139,963	3,078	9,210	17,274	78,182†	32,319

†A single large shipment to Syria valued at $74 million accounts for the unusually large value for prefabricated structures in 1980.

Wisdom, Harold W.; Granskog, James E.; Peeler, R. J., III. Southern exports of wood products 1967–80. Res. Pap. SO-193. New Orleans, LA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Forest Experiment Station; 1983. 20 p.

Statistics for southern exports of solid wood products—roundwood, lumber, wood-based panels, and miscellaneous wood products—are presented for the years 1967 through 1980. Overall, wood exports from the South have increased sharply since the mid 1970's.

Additional keywords: Foreign trade, hardwood exports, softwood exports.

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