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## **France**

### **Forest Products**

# **Forest Products update on particle board and hardwood veneer 1999**

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**Report Highlights:** French particle board production grew in CY1997, driven by booming exports, mostly to other EU countries. Estimates for 1998 and 1999 are also for a growth in both production and exports. Data for hardwood veneer are difficult to analyse due to huge discrepancies between sources. However, the general trend is towards a growth in both production and trade, driven by a growth in the furniture and construction sectors in France.

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Includes PSD changes: Yes  
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes  
Unscheduled Report  
, FR

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## Particle board production, consumption and trade

Production of particle board increased by 5 percent in 1997, driven by booming exports (up 10 percent) while consumption declined by 6 percent, unlike the consumption of wood panels which grew in 1997. Imports declined by 7 percent, after three consecutive years of growth. Belgium remains France's largest supplier while Germany remained its largest customer. Nota that an unaccounted part of imports from Belgium are in fact imports from non EU countries (including the United States) which are unloaded and Customs-cleared at the port of Antwerp. Expectations for 1998 and 1999 are for continuing growth in production and exports and a surge in domestic consumption driven by the recent economic rebound and the growth in the building and furniture sectors in France.

### Particle board (including OSB) PS&D table and trade matrices

Year	1997	1998	1999	Units
Production	1,942	2,030	2,120	'000 Cubic Meters
Imports	637	720	780	'000 Cubic Meters
Total Supply	2,579	2,750	2,900	'000 Cubic Meters
Export	1,130	1250	1,370	'000 Cubic Meters
Dom. Consumption	1,449	1,500	1,530	'000 Cubic Meters
Total Uses	2,579	2,750	2,900	'000 Cubic Meters

OSB/Particle board imports	Units: MT
97	
country	
USA	1069
Others countries:	
Belgium	197992
Netherlands	4755
Germany	115700
Italy	11260
UK	3232
Portugal	960
Spain	12161

Austria	20753
Swiss	22404
Poland	2417
Canada	167
Total of others countries	391805
Others not listed	5296
Total	398171

OSB/Particle board exports 98	Units: MT
country	
USA	7845
Others countries	
Belgium	53144
Netherlands	48628
Germany	217192
Italy	85708
UK	156671
Portugal	584
Spain	109677
Austria	3969
Swiss	59729
Poland	4339
Canada	621
Total of others countries	740266
Others not listed	64807
Total	812919

## Hardwood veneer, production, consumption and trade

Data for hardwood veneer should be regarded cautiously as it seems that many veneer producers, importers and exporters either are too small to be polled by the Ministry of Industry (thus are not included in official statistics) or mix their veneer data with other wood products data when they send their data to the Ministry. Moreover,

conversion factors from MT to cubic meters and from square meters to cubic meters vary from one source to another. Post has chosen to use the following conversion factors

From MT to cubic meters : 3.2

From square meters to cubic meters: 1.6

Also note that, when calculated in value and not in volume, there are fewer differences between production and trade figures. Such discrepancies must be caused by biased conversion factors (see table below).

1997 hardwood veneer figures (in million USD, conversion factor: one USD for 5.84 FF)

Production:	105.8
Imports:	90.7
Exports:	118.7
Consumption:	77.8

(Source CTBA)

Due to the huge discrepancies in production and trade figures, it is difficult to assess properly the hardwood veneer sector. However, some trends show a surge in imports, exports and consumption, driven by the recent growth in the furniture sector. Such growth is forecast to continue through 1998 and into 1999.

#### Hardwood veneer PS&D and trade matrices

PSD Table						
Country:	France					
Commodity:	Hardwood Veneer					
		1997		1998		1999
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1997		01/1998		01/1999
Production	0	145000	0	159000	0	165000
Imports	0	14048	0	15000	0	16000
TOTAL SUPPLY	0	159048	0	174000	0	181000
Exports	0	3225	0	5000	0	7000
Domestic Consumption	0	155823	0	169000	0	174000
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	0	159048	0	174000	0	181000

Import Trade Matrix			
Country:		Units:	MT
Commodity:			
Time period:	Jan-Dec		
Imports for	1997		1998
U.S.	8	U.S.	
Others		Others	
Congo	1959		
Gabon	1139		
Germany	543		
Italy	247		
Spain	173		
Belgium	141		
Netherlands	34		
Cote d'Ivoire	25		
Portugal	24		
Total for Others	4285		0
Others not listed	97		
Grand Total	4390		0

Export Trade Matrix			
Country:		Units:	MT
Commodity:			
Time period:	Jan-Dec		
Exports for	1997		1998
U.S.	42	U.S.	
Others		Others	
Belgium	352		
Germany	226		
United Kingdom	86		
Portugal	80		
Spain	60		
Italy	55		
Switzerland	23		

Total for Others	882		0
Others not listed	84		
Grand Total	1008		0