



Foreign Agricultural Service

**GAIN Report**

Global Agriculture Information Network

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## **Japan**

### **Solid Wood Products**

#### **Particleboard & M.D.F. Products in Japan**

#### **- Penetrating Construction and Furniture Markets**

**2001**

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#### **Report Highlights:**

**The Japanese market for particleboards and MDF (Medium Density Fiberboards) grew by volume 5.3 % and 3.5 % in 2000 from the previous year including domestic production and imports. The products penetrated construction and furniture/interiors markets at the expense of traditional materials such as lumber and plywood. Hardboard and insulation board sales, on the other hand, remain weak.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Tokyo [JA1], JA

During 2000, Japanese fiberboard industry shipments of 4 key products, consisting of Hardboard, MDF (Medium Density Fiberboard), Insulation Board and Particleboard, grew 2.5 % from the previous year for the second year of consecutive year-on-year growth. Due to strong demand from residential housing markets in general and booming condominium construction, particleboard and MDF sectors led the growth in sales, while hardboards and insulation boards continued to suffer a setback in the chronically depressed automotive and Tatami-underlayment sectors.

Following is distribution statistics on Japanese fiberboard products covering production, imports, and shipments as well as a report of the industry shipments in 2000 by product and market sector.

### Distribution Statistics in 2000

Japanese Wooden Fiberboard Distribution Table 1/							
Product	Source 2/	Area	% change	Volume 3/	% change	Weight 4/	% change
Hardboard	Domestic	25,094	- 3.8 %	79,402	- 5.6 %	79,400	- 5.6 %
	Imports	-	-	28,888	- 21.2 %	24,555	- 21.2 %
	<b>Total :</b>	25,094	- 3.8 %	108,290	- 10.3 %	103,955	- 0.8 %
M D F ( Medium Density Fiberboard)	Domestic	61,830	+ 2.0 %	446,890	+ 3.6 %	306,520	+ 3.6 %
	Imports	-	-	454,127	+ 3.3 %	317,889	+ 3.3 %
	<b>Total :</b>	61,830	+ 2.0 %	901,017	+ 3.5 %	624,409	+ 3.5 %
Insulation Bd.	Domestic	46,930	- 2.4 %	472,032	- 0.4 %	141,610	- 0.4 %
	Imports	-	-	1,343	+ 51.4 %	403	+ 51.4 %
	<b>Total :</b>	46,930	- 2.4 %	473,375	- 0.3 %	142,013	- 0.3 %
Particleboard	Domestic	83,476	+ 4.7 %	1,261,316	+ 6.7 %	882,920	+ 6.7 %
	Imports	-	-	384,268	+ 1.1 %	244,820	+ 1.7 %
	<b>Total :</b>	83,476	+ 4.7 %	1,645,584	+ 5.3 %	1,127,740	+ 5.6 %
Total:	Domestic	217,330	+ 1.3 %	2,259,640	+ 4.1 %	1,410,450	+ 4.5 %
	Imports	-	-	868,626	+ 1.3 %	587,667	+ 1.3 %
	<b>Total:</b>	217,330	+ 1.3 %	3,128,266	+ 3.3 %	1,998,117	+ 3.6 %

( Source: Japan Fiberboard Industry Association / Based on Japanese government & customs data )

Notes: 1/ Units of measurement: Area - 000 square meters ; Volume - cubic meters ; % change - Per cent changes from previous year.

2/ Source of supply : "Domestic" - Japanese industry production ; "Imports" - Japanese imports.

3/ Converted from metric tons in Japanese import customs data for imports at the following densities; Hardboard-1, MDF-0.686, Insulation Board-0.3, Particleboard-0.7.

4/ Converted from volume at the same densities of wood fiber as imports.

## Industry Shipments in 2000

- By Product

Product	Volume (000 m2)	% Change (00/99)
Hardboard	24,900	- 3.6 %
M.D.F.	57,240	+ 6.4 %
Insulation board	44,674	- 2.8 %
Particleboard	76,880	+ 6.9 %
Total :	203,694 1/	+ 2.5 %

( Source: Japan Fiberboard Industry Association )

1/ Volume sold on the market, excluding volume produced but retained for the manufacturers's uses.

- By Market Sector

Particleboard Shipments			
Market Sector	Volume (000 m2)	% Change (00/99)	% share by sector
Construction / housing	27,738	+11.6 %	36.1 %
Furniture / interiors	46,198	+4.7 %	60.1 %
Electronics / appliances	2,360	-4.5 %	3.1 %
Musical instruments	313	+ 3.6 %	0.4 %
Misc. merchandise.	271	+54.0 %	0.3%
Total:	76,880	+6.9 %	100.0 %
M.D.F. Shipments			
Furniture / woodworking	7,995	-18.3 %	14.0 %
Construction / housing	37,125	+ 31.7 %	64.8 %
System kitchen / cabinets	8,371	-24.6 %	14.6 %
Electronics / appliances	1,008	+73.2 %	1.8 %
Misc. merchandise	2,741	-33.8 %	4.8 %
Total:	57,240	+6.4 %	100.0 %

Hardboard Shipments			
Market Sector	Volume (000 m2)	% Change (00/99)	% share by sector
Construction / housing	4,977	+ 16.5 %	20.0 %
Furniture / interiors	5,017	- 10.5 %	20.1 %
Electronics / appliances	269	- 45.4 %	1.1 %
Automobiles	6,906	- 17.8 %	27.7 %
Material handling	6,714	+ 12.1 %	27.0 %
Misc. merchandise	1,017	- 5.6 %	4.1 %
Total	24,900	- 3.6 %	100.0 %
Insulation Board Shipments			
Ceiling board	1,785	- 7.9 %	4.0 %
Underlayment /floor-wall	7,911	- 2.8 %	17.7 %
Tatami-underlayment	31,197	- 2.9 %	69. 8 %
Misc. applications	3,781	+ 0.9 %	8.5 %
Total	44,674	- 2.8 %	100.0 %

*End of report*