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Italian Wood Pellets Overview

Report Categories:

Biofuels

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Report Highlights:

Italy is a leading European consumer of wood pellets (approximately 3 million metric tons per year), with domestic consumption representing 96 percent of total use. According to the Italian heating market, growth expectations and the national Renewable Energy Action Plan, Italy's use of wood pellets is forecast to reach 5million metric tons (MMT) in 2020. Italy is a net importer of wood pellets, with 1.6 MMT imported in 2016, mainly from Austria, Croatia, Germany, Slovenia, France, and Czech Republic.

Italian Wood Pellets Overview

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In Italy, wood pellets are mainly used in small-scale private residential and industrial boilers for heating. According to the Italian Association of Wood Energy Chain (AIEL), bagged pellet (15 kilograms) represents almost the total consumption. Bulk pellet transported with silo trucks is no more than 20,000 metric tons (MT). Wood pellets are mainly distributed through retail shops (i.e. hardware stores) and fossil fuel retailers. On-line sales account for only 6 percent of all retail sales.

Italy is a net importer of wood pellets, with 1.6 MMT imported in 2016, mainly from Austria, Croatia, Germany, Slovenia, France, and Czech Republic.

Table 1: Italy's leading wood pellet imports

Partner Country	Unit	2014		2015		2016	
		USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity
World	T	494,105,218	1,956,277	330,741,838	1,653,604	316,955,417	1,663,820
Austria	T	118,649,530	400,299	91,398,420	406,808	95,442,746	458,810
Croatia	T	24,690,134	111,801	22,160,743	128,115	23,788,941	150,035
Germany	T	33,260,290	113,045	24,432,103	108,882	22,996,378	107,445
Slovenia	T	25,707,319	99,426	19,847,788	99,571	19,952,450	99,322
France	T	18,623,560	62,350	19,592,018	88,391	18,422,748	82,237
Czech Republic	T	10,361,975	39,263	14,987,235	70,047	18,197,033	85,603
Poland	T	24,034,500	100,336	14,133,429	75,737	13,171,657	73,302
Lithuania	T						

		23,527,28 0	93,105	16,663,13 8	82,543	13,005,99 1	68,362
Canada	T	48,426,18 3	229,180	14,507,90 0	85,349	10,753,24 1	62,710
Bosnia & Herzegovina	T	25,887,47 2	112,863	15,527,07 7	86,699	10,590,26 1	63,057
Romania	T	21,412,94 5	86,539	10,873,95 7	63,820	10,292,86 8	53,676
Latvia	T	5,855,181	21,427	4,481,549	23,959	9,267,275	47,141
Russia	T	12,579,43 7	55,434	9,981,482	58,253	8,624,319	50,275
Slovakia	T	10,546,14 3	40,367	8,589,898	41,736	8,014,152	38,962
Brazil	T	952,728	3,938	4,832,389	23,105	6,078,795	32,791

Source: Global Trade Atlas (GTA)

Table 2: Italy's leading wood pellet exports

Partner Country	Unit	2014		2015		2016	
		USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity
World	T	4,186,02 0	8,394	3,721,28 6	9,548	5,028,05 2	13,732
Romania	T	62,273	130	77,926	274	916,356	2,311
Bulgaria	T	473,019	701	374,551	1,353	558,564	1,965
Spain	T	635,197	1,561	486,996	1,781	535,292	2,055
Hungary	T	8,985	24	635	1	501,215	2,365
Brazil	T	359,936	35	591,163	65	484,159	52
Slovenia	T	422,672	1,665	1,019,60 3	3,923	402,734	1,779
Korea South	T	192,570	7	235,765	8	402,019	15
Switzerland	T	239,802	608	89,344	335	184,655	709
Portugal	T						

		12,588	23	6,523	12	174,081	517
France	T	254,407	630	82,314	172	157,711	371
Austria	T	589,872	1,888	202,609	810	126,671	593
Pakistan	T	107,937	8	104,778	9	97,790	10
South Africa	T	51,105	1	37,579	1	63,459	2
Slovakia	T	1,174	2	2,134	7	57,558	249
Latvia	T	144,570	443	74,399	338	51,496	149

Source: GTA

Abbreviations and definitions used in this report:

Wood pellets HS Code: 440131

Calendar Year: January/December

AIEL = Italian Association of Wood Energy Chain

MT Metric ton = 1,000 kg

MMT = Million metric tons