



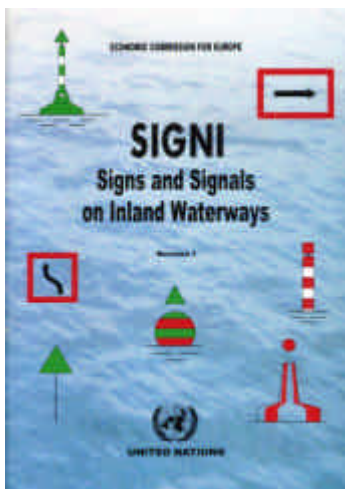
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Off the press ...

SIGNI – Signs and Signals on Inland Waterways



In 1957 the UNECE Working Party on Inland Water Transport adopted its very first resolution, on the *Standardization of Signalling Systems on Inland Waterways*. The provisions of the Annex, describing a signalling system applicable to all inland waterways (SIGNI), were revised in 1975, and again in 1982 to harmonize it with the new maritime buoyage system adopted by the International Association for Lighthouse Authorities (IALA).

The latest version of SIGNI has just been issued, as amended by later resolutions of the Working Party, bringing it in line with the revised European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI). CEVNI is a United Nations instrument serving as a model for national legislation relating to rules of the road and signalling on inland waterways, night and day time marking of vessels as well as waterway signs and marking.

SIGNI (Sales No. E/F/R.05.II.E.15) is available in English, French and Russian from the UN Publications Sales and Marketing Section, Palais des Nations, Geneva, e-mail: unpubli@unog.ch
For more information contact Viatcheslav Novikov (viatcheslav.novikov@unece.org)

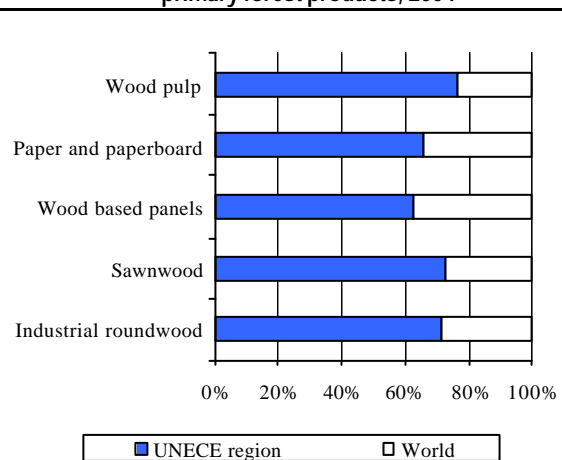
UNECE region forest products markets respond positively to globalization

Just issued is the UNECE/FAO *Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2004-2005*, covering forest products market and policy developments in the UNECE region of Europe, North America and the CIS countries.

The Review begins with an overview of forest products markets and policies, followed by a chapter focusing on policy issues related to forest products markets. These are followed by analyses of the economic factors affecting the forest and forest industries sector. Statistics-based chapters are included for markets of sawn softwood, sawn hardwood, wood-based panels, paper, paperboard and woodpulp, wood raw materials and tropical timber. Other chapters highlight the rapid developments in forest products certification, as well as value-added wood products, e.g. furniture.

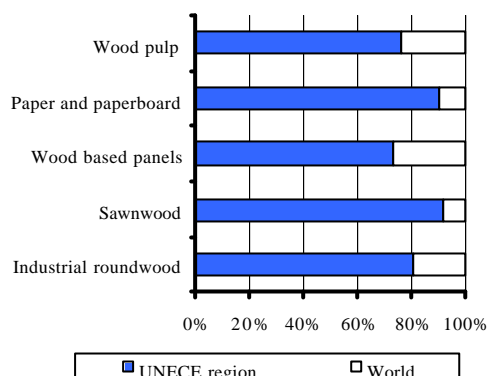
Depending on the product, the region's share of global production of primary forest products ranges from 73% to 82% and the share of world exports ranges from 75% to 90% (see graphs).

UNECE region's share of world production of primary forest products, 2004



Notes: UNECE region in 2004, world in 2003 (most current statistics).
Sources: UNECE/FAO TIMBER database, FAO statistics, 2005.

UNECE region's share of world primary forest products exports, 2004



Notes: UNECE region in 2004, world in 2003 (most current statistics).

Sources: UNECE/FAO TIMBER database, FAO statistics, 2005.

Among its findings are that strong economic conditions, combined with effective industry and government promotion policies, drove forest products markets to record levels in 2004 for the UNECE region as a whole. Illegal logging is less than 1% of legal fellings for most countries in the UNECE region; however it is greater for a few countries, with substantial environmental, social and economic costs to governments, and with negative ramifications throughout the sector. Concerns that wood products are legally and sustainably produced drove governments, industry and retailers to implement purchasing policies requiring certified forest products, thereby influencing all market sectors.

Copies of the Review may be obtained from the website homepage of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission (<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber>). For more information contact Ed Pepke (info.timber@unece.org).

Facts and figures:

Current account balance, per cent of GDP Selected UNECE economies

	2002	2003	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Cyprus	-4.5	-3.0	-5.8	-8.7	-5.4	3.9	-12.9
Czech Republic	-5.6	-6.3	-5.2	-2.1	-5.4	-7.8	-5.2
Estonia	-10.2	-12.2	-12.7	-11.2	-18.2	-5.9	-13.8
Hungary	-7.1	-8.8	-8.8	-7.3	-11.4	-8.9	-7.7
Latvia	-6.8	-8.3	-12.3	-9.4	-19.0	-13.6	-7.7
Lithuania	-5.2	-7.0	-7.1	-7.5	-9.8	-6.7	-4.9
Malta	0.3	-5.8	-8.3	-5.6	-4.5	-9.6	-19.3
Poland	-2.6	-2.2	-1.5	-1.5	-3.3	-1.8	0.2
Slovakia	-7.9	-0.8	-3.5	1.3	-6.9	-4.0	-4.1
Slovenia	1.5	-0.4	-0.4	0.6	-3.1	2.5	-1.3
EU new members-10	-4.3	-4.4	-4.3	-3.1	-6.3	-4.5	-3.5
Albania	-9.4	-7.1	-4.7	-2.6	-6.2	-1.6	-8.1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-23.0	-25.2	-24.2	-14.6	-27.7	-27.5	-27.0
Bulgaria	-5.3	-9.3	-7.5	-12.2	-10.2	7.4	-16.1
Croatia	-8.4	-7.2	-4.9	-19.0	-14.2	25.9	-16.3
Romania	-3.3	-6.0	-7.5	-4.8	-9.7	-5.1	-9.2
Serbia and Montenegro	-9.1	-8.9	-12.8	-13.4	-11.6	-5.5	-20.4
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	-9.4	-3.2	-7.9	-8.2	-13.7	-0.4	-9.3
Turkey	-0.8	-3.4	-5.1	-8.8	-6.9	-0.7	-5.9
South-east Europe-8	-3.1	-5.1	-6.3	-9.5	-8.7	0.3	-8.8
Armenia	-6.2	-6.8	-4.7	-19.3	-7.1	-2.2	-1.2
Azerbaijan	-12.3	-27.8	-30.4	-37.2	-26.2	-31.2	-27.5
Belarus	-2.1	-2.4	-4.6	3.7	-4.1	-1.9	-13.4
Georgia	-5.8	-9.3	-6.7	-9.7	-4.7	-7.3	-5.7
Kazakhstan	-4.2	-0.9	1.3	3.6	-2.7	0.8	3.8
Kyrgyzstan	-2.8	-4.1	-3.8	-5.8	-6.6	-1.8	-3.3
Republic of Moldova	-4.0	-6.6	-4.4	-0.2	-10.1	-1.9	-4.9
Russian Federation	8.4	8.2	10.3	10.5	10.0	9.7	11.2
Tajikistan	-1.4	-0.3	-3.0	-4.9	-6.3	-0.1	-0.8
Turkmenistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ukraine	7.5	5.8	10.5	11.0	14.4	10.1	6.8
Uzbekistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CIS-12	6.4	6.1	8.3	8.7	8.1	7.8	8.6

Source: UNECE Statistical Database, compiled from national sources.

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