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American Hardwood Export Council - Southeast Asia & Greater China

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U.S. Hardwood Exports to SE Asia & Greater China In 2016 Shows Stabilization But The Market Still Faces Challenges

Export of US hardwoods to Greater China & Southeast Asia in 2015 were down 13% and 10% respectively in comparison to 2014 but the combined total still add up to US\$1.63billion, accounted for over 50% of the global US hardwood exports of US\$3billion in 2015, according to the FAS US Department of Agriculture.

Total US hardwood products exports to Greater China in the first two months of 2016 up 11% in comparison to the same period last year to US\$262 million while exports to Southeast Asia up 8% to US\$51 million. Greater China & Southeast Asia accounted for 46% & 8% of global exports respectively.

The U.S. hardwood industry reached the annual global export target of lumber valued at US\$2.06 billion in 2015 despite global economy has been slowing down. China has been facing a small economic crisis including its PMI registered below 50, reserve has been down from \$4 trillion to \$3.4 trillion and its currency and stock market seem a bit shaky since august 2015.

Chinese government is taking austerity measure to stabilize its financial market and commit in financial reform and encourage domestic consumption. The One Belt One Road coping the establishment of the Asian Investment and Development Bank the Chinese claims “working according to target”.

US hardwood lumber exports to Greater China (China, Hong Kong and Taiwan) from January to February 2016 totaled \$205.7 million, increased 18% from the same period of 2015. Logs totaled \$54.2 million, decreased 8%. Veneer totaled \$1.46 million, down 35%.

US hardwood lumber exports to Southeast Asia totaled \$35.2 million from January – February 2016, increased by 1% contributed mainly by the 9% increase to Vietnam. Export to Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines recorded mild to significant decrease in the first 2 months of 2016.

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