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American Hardwood Export Council - Southeast Asia & Greater China

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US Hardwood Exports
to SEA & Greater China market Hits New Peak, Up 18.1%

The eleven months of 2016 showed another record for US hardwood exports to SEA & Greater China, cumulative increased 18.1% compared to the same period of 2015. The uptick mainly was driven by Mainland China. US hardwood exports (Jan-Nov 2016) to Greater China up 22.9% (YoY), to nearly US\$1.56 billion, the figure was ahead of the 2014 level by 10% (YoY) and was exceed 1.8% to the whole year of 2014. SEA market has been declining from May 2016, -3.3% (YoY) to US\$272 million.

The world value of global exports of US hardwood was US\$3.28 billion, up 6.8% (YoY). Greater China & Southeast Asia contributed 47.4% & 8.3% to the global exports respectively. The total US hardwood exports to SEA & GRCH region was US\$1.83 billion, which is 55.7% of all global exports, and a 3.8% higher than 2014 (51.9%).

Mainland China market keeps up the growing pace and breaks the record made in 2014. The 11-month import valued boosted at 24.7% (YoY) to US\$1.53 billion which was 3.8% higher than the whole year of 2014. The value of imported hardwood lumber was US\$1.14 billion, increased 23% and contributed 53.5% to the global exports of US hardwood lumber (US\$2.13 billion). Top three species were red oak, ash and white oak, increased 26%, 15% and 28% respectively and generated nearly US\$742 million exports. They contributed over 65% of the total hardwood lumber exports to China. China absorbed over 70% of several species of the global lumber exports, including Red Oak at 76.5%; Ash at 73.2%; Cherry at 80.1% and Alder at 76.6%. Cherry and Walnut continued to boost significantly by 47% and 72% (YoY) to US\$88.5 million and US 8.2 million respectively. Hardwood logs exported to China was also grew at 30% to US\$375 million, which was 56.3% of the total exports of hardwood logs (US\$665 million).

Southeast Asia market was still weak but some of the countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand were gradually picking up in Q4 2016. SEA market fell 3.3% (YoY) to US\$272 million in which 69.4% was contributed by Vietnam market. Vietnam markets continued declined at 4.3% (YoY) to US\$189 million. Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand showed slightly grew at 1.6%, 1.4% and 1.5% respectively. The rest of SEA markets – Singapore and Philippines declined at 35.4% to nearly US\$3.3 million and 11.4% to US\$1.7 million respectively.

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