

## The HPE price index for sawn timber and wood-based products for wooden packaging and pallets

The price index for sawn timber and wood-based materials for wood packaging and pallets will be determined monthly from now on (as of April 2021) by the **Bundesverband Holzpackmittel - Paletten - Exportverpackung (HPE) e.V. in cooperation with the Rheinische Friedrich - Wilhelms - Universität Bonn**, due to the permanently increasing volatility and constant dynamization of price developments for several years.

The individual indices show the evolution of purchasing prices for sawn timber and wood-based products as used in the sector. They cover native supplies and those from abroad. Other additional cost factors, such as for quality sorting, are not included. The price indices and their evolution look as follows:

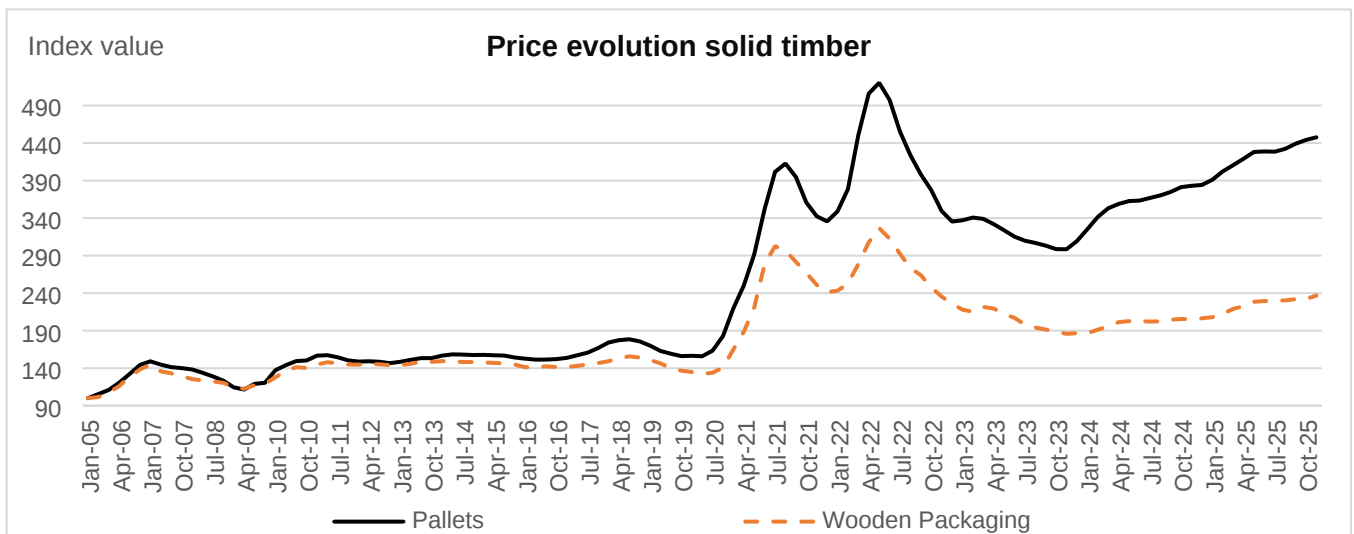
### Price index: solid timber for wooden pallets

Quarter (Q) / Month (M)	M04/2025	M05/2025	M06/2025	M07/2025	M08/2025	M09/2025	M10/2025	M11/2025
Index value	419.09	428.13	428.84	428.54	432.32	439.10	444.16	447.70
Price changes since last quarter/month	2.1%	2.2%	0.2%	-0.1%	0.9%	1.6%	1.2%	0.8%
Price changes since last year	16.8%	18.0%	18.0%	16.8%	16.8%	17.1%	16.5%	16.9%

### Price index: solid timber for wooden packaging

Quarter (Q) / Month (M)	M04/2025	M05/2025	M06/2025	M07/2025	M08/2025	M09/2025	M10/2025	M11/2025
Index value	222.59	228.50	229.44	229.83	230.30	231.99	232.28	236.80
Price changes since last quarter/month	1.7%	2.7%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.7%	0.1%	1.9%
Price changes since last year	10.5%	12.7%	13.1%	13.7%	13.7%	13.4%	13.0%	15.2%

1/2005 = 100



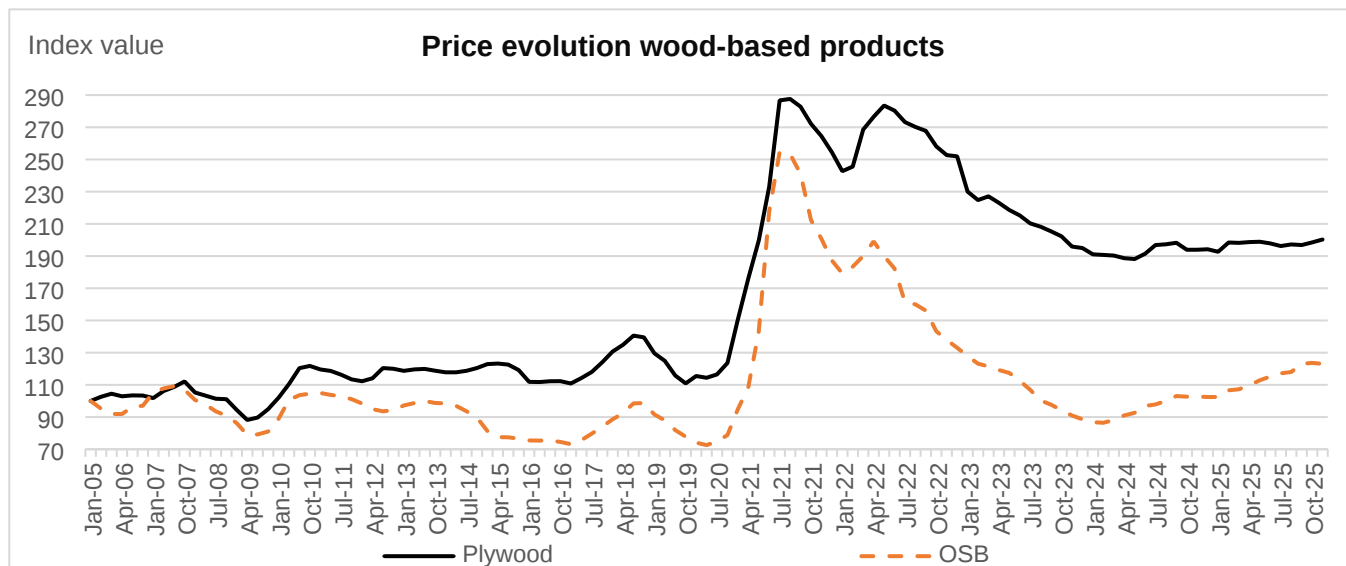
### Price index: plywood for packaging

Quarter (Q) / Month (M)	M04/2025	M05/2025	M06/2025	M07/2025	M08/2025	M09/2025	M10/2025	M11/2025
Index value	198.69	198.89	197.86	196.23	197.23	196.85	198.48	200.29
Price changes since last quarter/month	0.3%	0.1%	-0.5%	-0.8%	0.5%	-0.2%	0.8%	0.9%
Price changes since last year	5.3%	5.7%	3.4%	-0.3%	-0.1%	-0.7%	2.4%	3.3%

### Price index: OSB for packaging

Quarter (Q) / Month (M)	M04/2025	M05/2025	M06/2025	M07/2025	M08/2025	M09/2025	M10/2025	M11/2025
Index value	109.80	112.85	115.22	117.14	117.99	123.06	123.64	123.06
Price changes since last quarter/month	2.4%	2.8%	2.1%	1.7%	0.7%	4.3%	0.5%	-0.5%
Price changes since last year	20.7%	21.8%	18.9%	19.7%	17.9%	19.4%	20.4%	19.8%

1/2005 = 100



The analysis is carried out at the end of each month. It is based on a representative sample of HPE member firms that provide information on prices and price changes. The individual indicators cover prices and price developments for supply loads of the following material. All material is weighted equally within the index.

1. Price index : solid timber for pallets
  - Softwood boards 18 x 80 mm cut lengths (green)
  - Softwood boards 22 x 100 mm cut lengths (green)
  - Square soft wood lengths 80 x 80 mm (green)
  - Cut pallet lengths 22 mm (green)
  - Cut pallet lengths 18 mm (green)
2. Price index: solid timber for wooden packaging (crates and export packaging)
  - Softwood boards 18 mm narrow (dried)
  - Softwood boards 24 mm wide (dried)
  - Softwood boards 24 x 100 mm long (dried)
  - Softwood planks 40 mm long (green)
  - Square softwood lengths 100 x 120 mm long (green)
  - Square softwood lengths 140 x 160 mm long (green)
3. Price index: plywood for packaging uses
  - 5-ply 9,5 mm, CCX
  - 5-ply 12,5 mm, CCX
  - 7-ply 15 mm, CCX
4. Price index: OSB for packaging uses
  - OSB/3 12 mm

The calculation of these indices is supervised and audited by the Department of Statistics of the Institute of Finance and Statistics of Bonn University. Detailed information on the calculation of the price indices can be found in the annex.

*Alois Kneip*

Prof. Dr. Alois Kneip  
Department of Statistics, Institute of Finance and Statistics,  
Rheinischen Friedrich – Wilhelms – Universität, Bonn

*Marcus Kirschner*

Marcus Kirschner  
Managing Director  
Bundesverband Holzpackmittel, Paletten, Exportverpackung  
(HPE) e.V. (German Federal Association for wooden  
packaging, pallets, and export packaging)

## **Comments on the construction of price indices:**

### **Sawn timber and wood-based products - size and product selection**

Price indices for sawn timber and wood-based products for wooden packaging and pallets are established by Bundesverband Holzpackmittel – Paletten – Exportverpackung (HPE) e.V. (German Federal Association for wooden packaging, pallets and export packaging) in collaboration with Rheinische Friedrich – Wilhelms – Universität, Bonn, (Bonn University). The purpose of these price indices is to reflect in a representative manner the purchasing price trends for sawn timber and wood-based products as used in the wooden packaging, pallets and export packaging industry. All Member firms of HPE are asked once a month to fill in a written questionnaire. Information is requested about prices of 5 solid timber products for pallets and 6 solid timber products for wooden packaging and of 3 plywood products as well as 1 OSB quality. The sawn timber and wooden material products are standard supplies as purchased by the companies in the survey. The following products are part of the survey:

#### **1. Price index: solid timber for pallets**

- softwood boards 18 x 80 mm cut lengths (green)
- softwood boards 22 x 100 mm cut lengths (green)
- square soft wood lengths 80 x 80 mm (green)
- cut pallet lengths 22 mm (green)
- cut pallet lengths 18 mm (green)

#### **2. Price index: solid timber for wooden packaging (crates and export packaging)**

- softwood boards 18 mm narrow (dried)
- softwood boards 24 mm wide (dried)
- softwood boards 24 x 100 mm long (dried)
- softwood planks 40 mm long (green)
- square softwood lengths 100 x 120 mm long (green)
- square softwood lengths 140 x 160 mm long (green)

#### **3. Price index: plywood for packaging uses**

- 5-ply 12,5 mm, CCX
- 5-ply 9,5 mm, CCX
- 7-ply 15 mm, CCX

#### **4. Price index: OSB for packaging uses**

- OSB/3 12 mm

### **Quantity categories**

Any index includes both national and import supplies. In order to avoid possible biases, prices paid by individual member firms have to be weighted by the corresponding quantities purchased of the respective product. Each index is based on 7 quantity categories which correspond to typical order sizes within the sector. Please note that these are not producer price indices.

### **Calculation**

A simple price index is established for each of the four categories (solid timber for pallets, solid timber for crates and export packaging, plywood and OSB) based on the following formula:

**Price index = (arithmetic mean of prices during the month under survey)/(arithmetic mean prices for the base month)**

The arithmetic mean is calculated by adding all the prices (weighted by the supply quantities) and dividing them by the total sum of all quantities. Individual quantities are approximated by the relevant mean value for each quantity category. The fact that supply quantities are not requested at their exact value but via preset intervals has improved our members' participation in the survey and enables an up-to-date evaluation. To obtain a homogeneous index series, the current price index is concatenated with the previous one.

### **Systematic Bias**

A representative number of member firms participate in the survey. They purchase supplies from both national and international saw mills. An analysis of our member companies shows that the structure of the subset of firms answering the questionnaire also adequately represents our overall membership structure. There is thus reason to exclude any systematic non-response bias.