



1964

U.S. FOREST SERVICE RESEARCH NOTE

SO-9

Forest Service, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture

T-10210 FEDERAL BLDG.

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PULPWOOD PRICE TRENDS IN THE MIDSOUTH, 1937-1963

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In 1963, Midsouth mills paid an average price of \$15.77 per cord for delivered pine bolts. Hardwood bolts sold for \$13.10 per cord. The price for pine has increased nearly fivefold since 1937, when the rapid growth of the southern pulp industry began. Hardwood prices have increased some \$3.00 per cord since 1947, the earliest year for which data are available.

Open-market values of green chips have remained stable from 1957 to the present (table 1). Average prices in 1963 declined slightly from the 1962 prices; output of chips increased about 12 percent.

Data in this note are based on reports from firms that pulp about three-fourths of the wood received by all mills in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. Average prices for rough bolts trucked to rail sidings, woodyards, and millyards are given in table 2. Table 3 shows the proportion of roundwood delivered at the various pricing points during the past 7 years.

These prices somewhat understate wood costs to pulp mills. They do not, for example, include rail freight, costs of mechanized woodyards, and overhead. Nor do they reflect expenses incurred in establishing and maintaining an efficient wood procurement system.

TABLE 1.—Average open-market prices per ton for green chips in the Midsouth, 1957-1963

Year	Pine	Hardwood
-- Dollars --		
1957	6.19	4.31
1958	6.22	4.10
1959	6.21	4.97
1960	6.26	4.54
1961	6.30	4.98
1962	6.33	4.84
1963	6.26	4.71

TABLE 2.—Average prices per cord for rough pulpwood bolts in the Midsouth, 1937-1963

Year	Pine				Hardwood			
	Rail sidings	Wood-yards	Mill-yards	All wood	Rail sidings	Wood-yards	Mill-yards	All wood
----- Dollars ¹ -----								
1937	3.15	...	3.75	3.30	...	...	...	...
1938	3.31	...	4.29	3.63	...	...	...	...
1939	3.52	...	4.43	3.76	...	...	...	...
1940	3.81	...	4.67	3.99	...	...	...	...
1941	4.61	...	5.52	4.88	...	...	...	...
1942	5.96	...	6.78	6.10	...	...	...	...
1943	7.21	...	7.92	7.39	...	...	...	...
1944	8.40	...	9.06	8.55	...	...	...	...
1945	8.81	...	9.40	9.00	...	...	...	...
1946	9.84	...	10.89	10.03	...	...	...	...
1947	10.91	...	12.05	11.20	10.14	...	10.66	10.15
1948	11.65	...	12.64	11.91	9.94	...	10.84	10.05
1949	11.26	...	12.20	11.55	9.15	...	10.37	9.34
1950	11.87	...	13.10	12.16	10.41	...	11.56	10.66
1951	13.98	...	15.23	14.24	12.62	...	14.16	13.00
1952	14.03	...	15.41	14.30	12.40	...	14.17	12.91
1953	14.02	...	15.36	14.27	12.31	...	14.18	12.80
1954	14.08	...	15.23	14.31	12.39	...	14.17	12.86
1955	14.32	...	15.41	14.60	12.55	...	14.27	12.88
1956	15.39	...	16.40	15.65	13.23	...	15.04	13.49
1957	15.10	15.30	15.83	15.29	13.21	12.79	14.30	13.35
1958	15.15	15.11	16.17	15.32	12.82	12.57	13.97	13.10
1959	15.37	15.51	16.46	15.69	12.80	12.69	13.84	13.08
1960	15.57	15.85	16.91	16.07	12.57	12.83	13.93	13.12
1961	15.65	15.37	16.69	15.87	12.58	12.66	13.81	13.05
1962	15.66	15.20	16.60	15.79	12.74	13.03	13.74	13.18
1963	15.68	15.17	16.46	15.77	12.76	12.69	13.81	13.10

¹ Three dots indicate data are not available.

TABLE 3.—Trends in delivery patterns for rough bolts in the Midsouth, 1957-1963

Year	Pine				Hardwood			
	Rail sidings	Wood-yards	Mill-yards	All wood	Rail sidings	Wood-yards	Mill-yards	All wood
----- Percent -----								
1957	52	31	17	100	54	24	22	100
1958	49	33	18	100	49	22	29	100
1959	33	43	24	100	37	33	30	100
1960	27	45	28	100	33	33	34	100
1961	31	38	31	100	32	32	36	100
1962	24	42	34	100	32	34	34	100
1963	21	41	38	100	27	38	35	100