

Myanmar - Wooden Flooring & Decking

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Abstracts

Social and economic reforms instituted by the government are driving the growth of the wooden flooring and decking industry in Myanmar. Although exports remain low, suppliers generally forecast outbound shipments to surge in the next few years as trade restrictions imposed locally and overseas are lifted.

Foreign sales have been steadily increasing over the past three years because of demand from neighboring countries in South and Southeast Asia. Once completely opened up to markets in the West in the coming years, the sector is expected to enjoy further expansion and rapid development.

Although various difficulties hamper its improvement, the industry benefits from a number of strengths. Myanmar is indigenous to hardwood suitable for flooring and decking. Labor cost is also lower compared with other supply zones in Asia.

This report focuses on the main types of wooden flooring & decking from Myanmar – solid hardwood flooring, engineered flooring, decking tiles and decking boards.

This Myanmar Sourcing Report is part of the Developing Country Sourcing Report series designed to provide buyers with information on new products from export manufacturers in Southeast Asia that specialize in handmade merchandise.

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Details of the primary production centers

An update of the latest trends in design, R&D, materials and components

A review of the key factors that influence the price and quality of low-end, midrange and high-end products

Comprehensive pricing tables featuring export price ranges

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About

Wooden flooring and decking suppliers in Myanmar enjoy a positive outlook amid the series of economic and political reforms implemented by the national government.

Makers anticipate more orders from major markets in the West as the EU and the US lifted sanctions on the country after it shifted to a civilian democracy. This development is expected to have a significant impact on the sector, which suffered from low profitability during the junta's rule.

Statistics from the Myanmar Timber Merchants Association indicate that wooden flooring exports grew 5 percent to \$30 million last year.

Decking shipments, on the other hand, totaled \$1.5 million in 2012, up 5 percent from the previous period.

As the country continues to resume international trade, experts predict overseas revenue to climb up to 50 percent in the year ahead, barring any unforeseen developments.

Those who remained in business circumvented the restrictions by sending their items to a third-party country such as China, India and Singapore. Their contacts abroad will then forward the commodities to clients in the US and the EU. Some of the top destinations in the latter are France, Italy, Belgium, the UK and Germany. Other manufacturers turned their attention to the local market. The shift, however, resulted in sharp decline in earnings.

Despite the improving political and economic situation in Myanmar, the sector is still confronted by a number of difficulties. Chief of these is the lack of capital, particularly among small suppliers. Steep interest rates set by several banks also add to this problem.

To assist SMEs, the government, in cooperation with foreign lenders, is extending loans with lower interest rates to help them prop up businesses or resume operations.

Strict timber policies are also identified as a major concern. Because the government controls the sale and distribution of wood in Myanmar.

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