

FOREST LAND FUND AND THE QUALITY OF THE TRADE OF WOOD PRODUCTS

Emilian MERCE¹, Cristian C. MERCE¹, Diana E. DUMITRAȘ¹

¹ University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Cluj-Napoca

Abstract

Maintenance and extension of forest area represent a major objective of the general strategy of environmental protection. In the same time, a rational exploitation of wood production is an essential component of the economic development of any country. In this context, the paper analyzes the evolution of forest areas in Romania and in other representative European countries. The economic contribution of wood products is comparatively analyzed in terms of the quality of the trade of such products, thus analyzing the ratio between the value of one imported tone and one exported tone wood product for several countries.

Key words: forest area, wood products, value of one tone of exported wood product, value of one tone of imported wood product.

The increase of forest areas and wood mass production represents major goal of the development strategy of the economy of all countries worldwide. Hence, it is unanimous accepted the primary role of forested areas as strategies for preserving the environmental equilibrium. In the same time, the wood mass production represents an essential component of the economic development.

The manner of valuing wood production on the market depends in a great measure on the labor associated with the process of obtaining wood products, which represent the object of the transaction. Thus, an important barometer that measures the degree of economic capitalization of the wood mass is represented by the ratio between the value of one exported tone and the value of one imported tone for several countries.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Bibliographic and webographic sources of data collection regarding the forest areas and trade of such products are mainly extracted from FAOSTAT and EUROSTAT. Primary data collected are presented in Tables 1, representing the evolution of forested areas in Romania over time. The research was conducted for several countries. Table 2 and 3 indicate the volume of wood products imported for Austria, as well as the value of imports. In the case of Austria, the volume of wood products exported and the value of imports are shown in *table 4* and 5.

The same webographic sources were consulted to collect data necessary for comparative analyses between Romania, Finland, Sweden, Poland and Hungary.

Table 1

Evolution of forested areas in Romania for two specific periods of time

Year	1938	1950	1965	1975	1980	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Forested area - thousand ha -	6476.4	6446.3	6378.4	6315.8	6337.0	6339.1	6342.0	6353.0	6361.0	6372.0
Year	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	2007
Forested area - thousand ha -	6371.0	6368.0	6369.0	6366.0	6367.0	6366.0	6388.0	6382.0	6427.0	6584.0

Source: Statistic Yearbook for Romania

Table 2

Austria - import of wood products (tones)

Year	1961	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1989
Imported volume	521400	860280	2084920	2551200	4442680	5682160	6201500
Year	1990	1995	1997	2000	2002	2005	2007
Imported volume	5867718.2	8763960	10401807	14619175	17025342	21060310	23416596

Source: FAOSTAT | © FAO Statistics Division 2009 | 10 December 2009

Table 3

Austria – value of imports (thousand \$)

Year	1961	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1989
Value	16778	28222	101622	283746	730565	667670	1351813
Year	1990	1995	1997	2000	2002	2005	2007
Value	1415634	2086198	2016214	2608680	2231703	3135428	4240500

Source: FAOSTAT | © FAO Statistics Division 2009 | 10 December 2009

Table 4

Austria - export of wood products (tones)

Year	1961	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1989
Exported volume	3079060	2880940	3994021.6	3996449,6	6050700	5915680	8048860
Year	1990	1995	1997	2000	2002	2005	2007
Exported volume	8172792	10260700	9577300	12310400	12839200	14269400	16007271

Source: FAOSTAT | © FAO Statistics Division 2009 | 10 December 2009

Table 5

Austria – value of exports (thousand \$)

Year	1961	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1989
Value	182420	182831	342962	680408	1882685	1322523	2877976
Year	1990	1995	1997	2000	2002	2005	2007
Value	3125433	4156605	3834619	4298193	4622568	6018569	8383536

Source: FAOSTAT | © FAO Statistics Division 2009 | 10 December 2009

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The evolution of forested areas in Romania, for the two analyzed periods of time, is suggestively represented in *fig. 1*.

The period 1961-1989 is characterized by a decrease of forested areas in the 7th decade, followed by stability with a relative increase until 1989. After 1990, it can be observed a relative constant trend of forested areas with a significant increase after 2002.

A fundamental side of researches regarding the forest land fund of a country is represented by the quality of wood products export. Particularly,

the quantity of wood mass exported for one tone of wood mass imported (I/E). Data summarized for this indicator are presented in *table 6* as comparison for the six analyzed countries.

Numerically, the volume of wood mass exported at one tone of wood product imported shows a significant advantage for the developed countries. This fact is noteworthy in the case of Sweden and Finland, which are well known for their rich forest patrimony. The situation is relatively similar for the two analyzed periods of time. That is, there are no significant differences between the period 1961-1989 and the period 1990-2007.

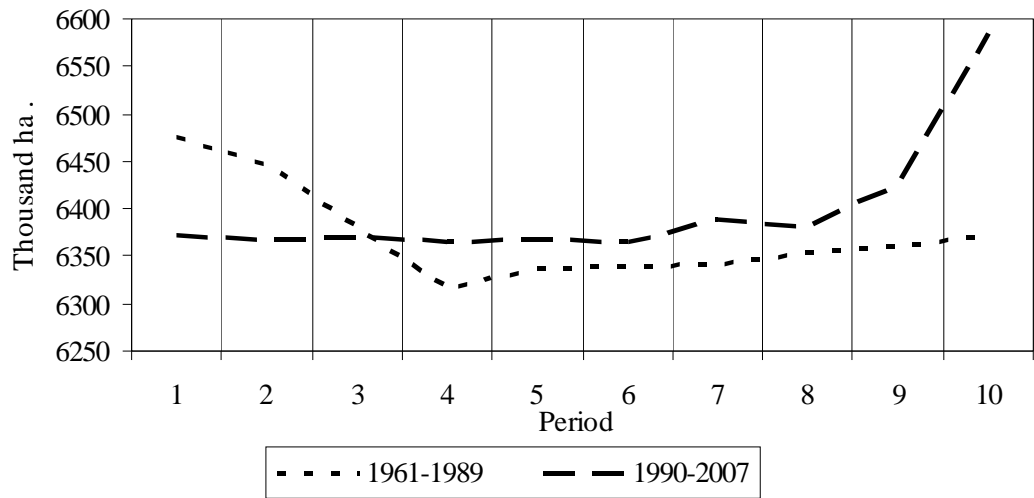


Figure 1 Evolution of forested areas in Romania

Table 6

Comparative situation of the ratio between the value of one tone of wood product exported and the value of one tone of wood product imported (1961-1989)

Country	Import			Export			Ratio (I/E)
	Tone	Thousand \$	\$/t	Tone	Thousand \$	\$/t	
Romania	1569742	383524	244.3	12983669	1652823	127.3	1/1.92
Poland	5490380	1046238	190.6	10721770	982072	91.6	1/2.08
Hungary	17417220	1839805	105.6	5268080	433299	82.2	1/1.28
Austria	22344140	3180416	142.34	33965711	7471805	219.98	1/0.65
Finland	24090948	1423253	59.1	80180860	23470878	292.7	1/0.20
Sweden	23625720	3035971	128.5	92550367	25702500	277.7	1/0.46

Table 7

Comparative situation of the ratio between the value of one tone of wood product exported and the value of one tone of wood product imported (1990-2007)

Country	Import			Export			Ratio (I/E)
	Tone	Thousand \$	\$/t	Tone	Thousand \$	\$/t	
Romania	4717446	2417256	512.4	13344993	3896707	292.0	1/1.75
Poland	23944217	11946680	498.9	22625508	9103762	402.4	1/1.24
Hungary	14177062	5197294	366.6	11666443	3038738	260.5	1/1.41
Austria	101154908	17734357	175.32	83437063	34439523	412.76	1/0.42
Finland	73129448	8440785	115.4	140481180	81262219	578.5	1/0.20
Sweden	71249290	13024999	182.8	158795347	80794518	508.8	1/0.36

The difference between developed and emergent countries, as regard to the market of wood products, is clear and it is maintained during the whole analyzed period of time. It is eloquent, thus, the fact that Romania should export

approximately two tones of wood mass for each tone of wood product exported. In the same time, Finland numerically compensates one tone of wood mass imported with only 0.2 tones of wood products exported. This is certainly due to the

different degree of processing raw materials and implicitly the major differences in the value-added process of such goods that are the object of the trade.

CONCLUSIONS

Forest areas and wood products are of major interest due to the environmental protection, but to the economic dimension of wood mass exploitation and capitalization as well.

The analysis of the evolution of forest areas in Romania emphasizes a concern to maintain and extend forested areas in the last period of time. As regard to the capitalization of wood mass, data analysis for the two periods of time emphasizes significant differences between the developed and

the emerged countries. Differences are generated by diverse processing capacities of raw wood material and by the value-added process for obtaining one tone of goods, which is the object of the export. In other words, the developed countries (Austria, Sweden, Finland) export mainly wood products of a high degree of processing while the emergent countries (Romania, Poland, Hungary) ordinarily export raw materials.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Merce, E., Merce, C. C., 2009 - *Statistică , paradigme consacrate și paradigme întregitoare*; Editura AcademicPres, Cluj-Napoca.

***, **2008** - *Anuarul statistic al României*.

***, **2009** - *FAOSTAT* | © *FAO Statistics Division 2009 - 10 December*.