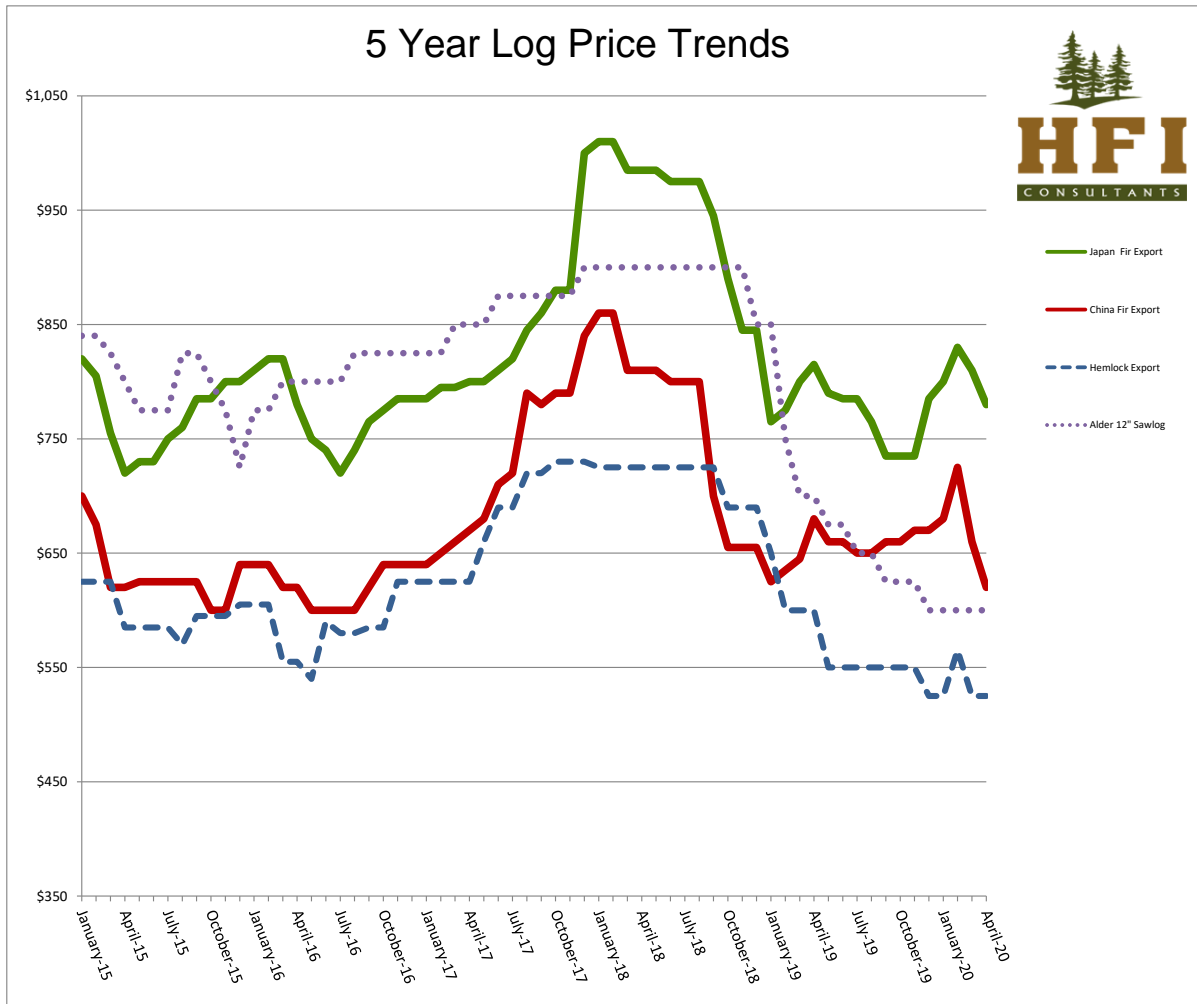


April 2020



After a sharp rise in log prices at the start of the year, all species and sorts of logs declined sharply due to the uncertainty from the Covid-19 crisis. Export prices are down the least as export orders still need to be filled to Japan. Domestic prices are down the most, especially in the Willamette valley, as lumber orders are drying up and building curtails.

The situation seems to be changing daily but some mills are going to quotas on log deliveries and others are not issuing new purchase orders at all.

The plus side is pulp is rising to meet paper demand and it may really rise if logging and sawmilling curtails soon as most pulp is generated by the sawmill industry. As only a small percent of any logging job is pulp it is likely we may see very good prices. It may be time to think about thinning those marginal stands.

Poles are still priced well but the pole buyers are getting as much as they need as sellers are looking for every opportunity to make money. New PO's are difficult to get.

Now is a good time to hold tight on the logging and get permits ready in case we have a rapid turn around. Everyone is in the same boat this time.