



- Japan Fir Export
- China Fir Export
- - - Hemlock Export
- Alder 12\" Sawlog

The very strong demand for lumber has continued to drive up log prices. Also, several domestic mills have a low log supply going into winter. With that, we see continued high competition for domestic logs and good prospects for high prices into the 1st Quarter.

Domestic prices have been surpassing Japanese export prices in many cases. The prices as shown above reflect what the domestic mills are paying. Although the legend says "Export", these are actually current prices from local domestic mills. Willamette valley mills are paying the best, with reports of up to \$1000 per mbf for good quality Douglas-fir logs.

No doubt the large Oregon fires will have some significant impact on log prices and logger availability in the future. Much of the private lands that were burned are owned by large timber companies....Weyerhaeuser, Port Blakely, Freres Lumber and others. Loggers have lost equipment in the fire and already-cut timber has been burned up. Assessments are still being made, but we expect to see a bit of a lag before salvage operations are in full swing, perhaps, sometime after winter. We hear the loggers may be in short supply particularly in those areas that were badly burned. Although most of the big fires were in Oregon, it will certainly affect the overall log markets in SW Washington.

Cedar prices jumped back up to the \$1600 per m range due to the very high demand for lumber.

Hemlock and Grand fir has edged up a little but not much. Those species just don't seem to be sought after since the Chinese demand went away. The same with hardwood logs.

The bottom line: now is a very good time to log Doug-fir and cedar. Note that forest seedling will be in short supply for the next few years as the burned areas will need to be reforested.