

found in some form in nearly every home, office and factory, being used in the furniture and millwork industries, in construction and remodeling, and in the merchandising and display, transportation, education, recreation, electronics and manufacturing industries. This uniquely versatile material, ranging in size up to five feet in width and 16 feet in length, and in thicknesses from $\frac{1}{12}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, is made with one or both surfaces smooth, striated, grooved, tiled, embossed or ribbed. Hardboard is also perforated, prefinished, prime-coated and other finish patterns are or can be applied, for use in either indoor or outdoor applications.

During World War II, hardboard became essential to the War Effort, and literally went to war. Wherever our Armed Forces went, they slept under, walked on, ate upon, rode in, used, handled or otherwise came in contact with hardboard. It not only replaced other critical materials but became essential for its own features in tanks, trailers, aircraft, boats, trucks, hospitals, dispensaries and laboratories.

Hardboard production uses wood in practically any form for raw material. Not only are timber logs and round wood utilized but also sound wood material in odd-shaped chunks, slabs and other logging residues. Extensive use is also made of wood residues from sawmills and plywood plants, thus contributing significantly to the more effective utilization of trees and to improved conservation of forest resources.

DISPROPORTIONATE GROWTH OF IMPORTS AS COMPARED WITH DOMESTIC SHIPMENTS

The presentation herein is based upon comparisons between 1952 and 1965. The year 1952 was the first year in which the American Hardwood Industry became acutely aware of dumping practices by foreign producers. The year 1965 is the last year covered in the U.S. Tariff Commission's Summaries of Trade and Tariff Information, Volume 1, entitled "Wood and Related Products", released in April of 1967, and in developing this statement, we have used materials from the Tariff Commission's Summary as a basis for observation and comparisons, where applicable.

The hardwood industry in the United States enjoyed a healthy growth from 1952 to 1965 of 160%, but the 2,755% increase in imports was far more dramatic. The relative increase in total shipments over the 15-year span is illustrated by the following schedule:¹

	U.S. Industry	Imports
1952-----	1, 056, 988, 000	20, 834, 393
1965-----	2, 921, 103, 000	571, 161, 191

Significantly, by 1965 imports had grown to where they were more than 50% of domestic manufacturers' shipments in 1952.

The two major foreign producers who enjoy the highest volume of imports into the United States are Sweden and Finland. Both of these nations have had not only unusually sharp volume increases since 1952, but the ratio of their imports to domestic manufacturers' sales has had a radical growth.

In 1952, 5,515,765 square feet were imported from Sweden, which was equal to approximately .005 per cent of domestic manufacturers' shipments. By 1965, Swedish imports totaled 215,209,711 square feet, equal to 7.3 per cent of domestic manufacturers' shipments.

Hardboard imported from Finland totaled 4,149,451 square feet in 1952, equal to .004 per cent of domestic manufacturers' shipments. By 1965, Finnish imports totaled 117,408,066, equal to 4 per cent of domestic manufacturers' shipments.

Imports from all countries in 1952 totaled 20,834,393, or 1.9% of domestic manufacturers' shipments. As listed in the previous table, this had developed to 571,161,191 in 1965, or 19% of domestic manufacturers' shipments.

The tariff reductions negotiated in the Kennedy Round (discussed in the next section) appear to have accelerated significantly the volume of hardboard imports entering this country. The total for the first four months of 1968, 203,814,000 represents a 65% increase over the total during the comparable period in 1967.

¹ The numbers shown are square feet, on a $\frac{1}{8}$ " thickness basis. All square footages given throughout this statement are taken from figures published by the Bureau of Census, except where otherwise indicated.