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## Taiwan

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### U.S. Wood Highlights Award Winning Tourist Spot

**Report Categories:**

Export Accomplishments - Other

Market Development Reports

Wood Products

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**Report Highlights:**

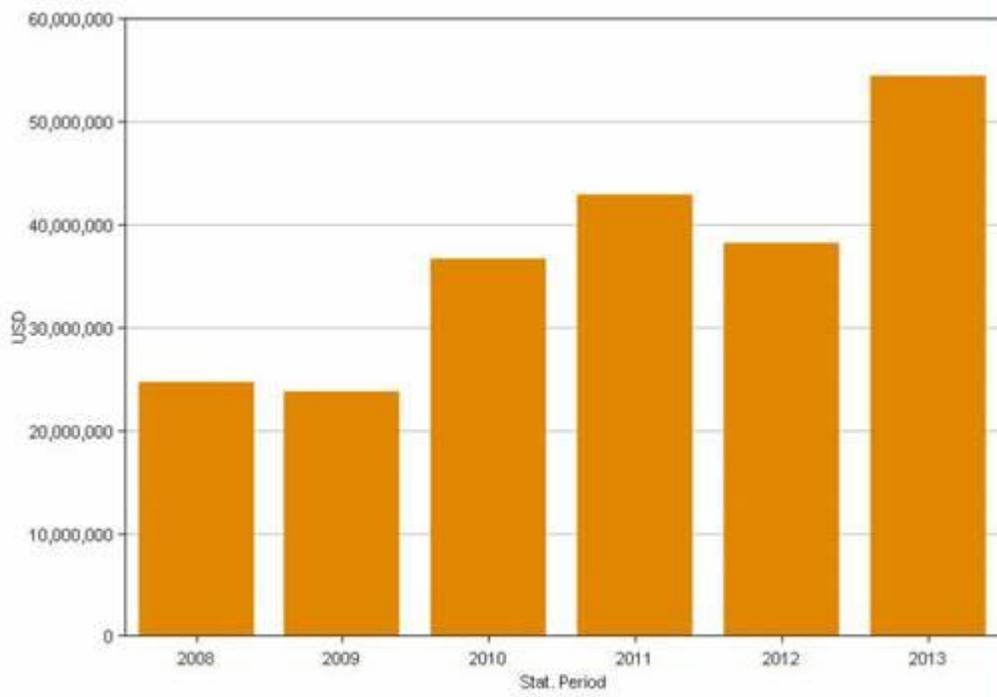
Recently, the Zhao-Ping Train Station in Alisan won a Public Works Gold Medal Award for its unique design using wood from the United States. Since its opening on April 21, 2013, the train station has been a top destination for tourists and has been recognized as the “perfect” wood-frame construction.

The Agricultural Trade Office (ATO) Taiwan along with APA – The Engineered Wood Association – assisted Taiwan officials throughout the development process. Designers imported Alaskan Yellow Cedar and pressure-treated Douglas-Fir glulam (glued-laminated lumber) beams from the United States as a result of these efforts. In 2013, the United States exported **\$87 million** of wood and wood products to Taiwan. As seen by the number of wood structures that have recently been constructed in Taiwan, the future of U.S. wood products for use in Taiwan is promising.

### General Information:

Unlike consumer-oriented products such as food and beverages, the entry barriers of wood products are typically more technical in nature; especially, since wood frame construction has been under-developed in Taiwan for decades. The ATO Taiwan has been working closely with USDA cooperators and U.S. state representative offices to address a range of technical barriers in order to promote the attributes of U.S. softwood and treated lumber products. Sales of these two product categories reached a record high of \$54 million in 2013, a 42% and 120% increase from 2012 and 2008 levels respectively.

**Taiwan Import Statistics**  
**Commodity: Softwood and Treated Lumber, Group 12 (2012)**  
**Annual Series: 2008 - 2013**



Source: Global Trade Atlas

During the three-year construction period, ATO Taiwan and APA staff met with the Taiwan Chiayi Forestry Bureau officials on several occasions to explain the benefit of U.S. wood product standards and certifications. After several years of working through designs, the Zhao-Ping Station in Alisan, one of the most famous tourist attractions in Taiwan, finally opened on April 21, 2013. Situated 7,580 feet above sea level, the Zhao-Ping Train Station is located in one of the major timber lands in Taiwan. Before building the station, the Chiayi Forestry Bureau requested the architecture design a “perfect” wood-frame construction in honor of the Taiwan forestry industry. Taiwan officials soon recognized that U.S. wood should be the foundation for the Zhao-Ping Train Station.

Over the past decade, there has been a sizable increase in wood frame construction projects completed in Taiwan. Most of these wood buildings are public buildings (community centers, religious structures, bridges, libraries, schools, etc.). However, regarding home constructions, high-income consumers have

become increasingly interested in private villas and residences constructed with wood.



Although several U.S. wood trade organizations have organized programs to educate buyers and users in Taiwan, the importation of the U.S. wood products has been obstructed, at times, by the slow development of building codes and the general lack of knowledge from the public regarding wood products.

In order to overcome this barrier, ATO Taiwan has organized several technical trade missions to educate major Taiwan officials on U.S. wood codes and standards. After years' of promotion and education in Taiwan, U.S. glulam, laminated veneer lumber (LVL) and oriented strand board (OSB) products are now used in both structural and non-structural design projects in Taiwan. Feedback from Taiwan officials and importers has been encouraging. As seen by the number of wood structures that have been constructed in Taiwan over the past few years, the future of U.S. wood products for use in Taiwan is promising.

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