

WEIGHTS OF VARIOUS WOODS GROWN
IN THE UNITED STATES

Calculated values of weights are necessarily approximate values owing to variations in moisture content, density, sapwood thickness, and the like that occur in different parts of the same timber. The calculated average weights obtained by the methods given here are not 100 percent accurate but are more accurate than the weight tables commonly given in grading rules as a basis for estimating timber transportation costs or other exacting transactions. The methods are also useful in roughly determining truck capacity needed to haul a given lot of timbers or the possibility of driving or towing logs.

There is enough difference between the weights of sawed and round timbers to require separate methods for estimating their average weights.

PART I. SAWED TIMBERS

Table 1 gives for various woods grown in the United States the average weights per cubic foot of sawed timbers at moisture content values of 8 and 15 percent, and the average weight of 1,000 board-feet when air-dry (15 percent moisture content). Factors for adjusting values for each 1 percent change in moisture content are given.

Table 1 is based on the weights and volumes of 2- by 2-inch, clear specimens from the top 4 feet of 16-foot butt logs of typical trees.

In any lot of lumber of a given species in the air-dry condition at 15 percent moisture content, the weight per cubic foot will rarely vary more than 10 percent from the figure given in table 1. The greatest changes in weight are those that occur in the early stages of drying of green wood. Changes in the moisture content of air-dry wood are attended by only

relatively small changes in weight per cubic foot, owing to the counter effect of change in volume as a result of accompanying shrinkage and swelling.

The values given in table 1 for weight per 1,000 board-feet at 15 percent moisture content were determined by multiplying the values per cubic foot at 15 percent by 83.3. The weights per 1,000 feet given in column 5 apply to theoretical board-foot measure (1,000 linear feet actually 1 inch thick and 12 inches wide, or equivalent) and not to a 1,000 board-feet lumber scale. Rough lumber is sometimes oversized and dressed lumber usually undersized with respect to nominal sizes. The values given in column 5 of table 1 will generally, therefore, need to be adjusted for actual shipments of lumber. The adjustment for 1- by 8-inch boards dressed to 25/32 inch in thickness and 7-1/2 inches in width is as follows:

$$\frac{25/32 \times 7-1/2}{1 \times 8} = 0.7324.$$

The value given in column 5 of table 1 (actual board-feet 15 percent moisture content) multiplied by this adjustment factor, gives the weight of the dressed lumber. The adjustment for rough oversized lumber is made in similar fashion, that is, actual size divided by nominal size. In like manner constants for any dressed size may be worked out and the weight per 1,000 board-feet computed.

Column (6) is an example of the weight per 1,000 board-feet of 1- by 8-inch boards dressed to 25/32 inch in thickness and 7-1/2 inches in width for various species. It has been computed by multiplying the values in column 5 by the foregoing constant 0.7324.

PART II. ROUND TIMBERS

The weight per unit volume of green round timbers, such as logs, pulpwood, posts, poles, and piling, may be estimated by means of tables 2, 3, and 4. Table 2 gives the average specific gravity and moisture content of sapwood and heartwood of various species in the green condition. Table 3 gives the percentage of sapwood in round timbers for various thicknesses, and diameters. Table 4 gives the weight per cubic foot of green wood at various specific gravities and moisture content values.

All three tables are necessary for estimating the weight per cubic foot of round timbers because in round timbers the proportions of sapwood and heartwood in the total volume often differ widely. Furthermore, the sapwood generally contains more water than the heartwood and both the sapwood and heartwood contain more moisture in the butt logs than in the top logs.

The following example illustrates how to determine the approximate weight per cubic foot of green round timber using tables 2, 3, and 4:

Example:

Given a species, say, black tupelo. The average specific gravity for the species is found from table 2 to be 0.46. The moisture content of the sapwood can be determined by actual measurement or estimated from table 2 as 115 percent. The moisture content of the heartwood can be determined by actual measurement or estimated from table 2 as 87 percent.

Next measure the average diameter of the timber and average width of sapwood. If the average diameter is, say, 10 inches and average sapwood thickness is 1-3/4 inches, then from table 3 the percentage of the volume of the round timber occupied by the sapwood is found to be 58 percent. The percentage of the volume occupied by the heartwood will therefore be, 100 percent minus 58 percent, or 42 percent.

Turning to table 4, and looking under a specific gravity of 0.46 for a sapwood moisture content of 115 percent, the weight per cubic foot is found to be 61.7 pounds per cubic foot. Under the same specific gravity value and a moisture content of 87 percent the weight of the heartwood is estimated to be half way between that given for moisture content values of 86 percent and 88 percent, or 53.7 pounds per cubic foot. (Moisture content values in the left column may be applied to either sapwood or heartwood.)

To find the weight in pounds per cubic foot of the round timber it is necessary to multiply the weight of sapwood by the percentage of sapwood divided by 100. Similarly for heartwood. Their sum gives the weight of the round timber in pounds per cubic foot.

Thus; $61.7 \times 58/100 = 35.8$ pounds

$53.7 \times 42/100 = 22.6$ pounds

Total weight of round timber per cubic foot = $35.8 + 22.6 = 58.4$ pounds.

Table 1.--Weights of saved wood of various trees grown in the United States, under different conditions of moisture, and accompanying adjusting factors

Species	Weight in pounds per cubic foot	Weight per 1,000 board-feet air-dry (15 percent moisture)	Weight per 1,000 board-feet air-dry (15 percent moisture)	Weight per 1,000 board-feet air-dry (15 percent moisture)	Species	Weight in pounds per cubic foot	Weight per 1,000 board-feet air-dry (15 percent moisture)	Weight per 1,000 board-feet air-dry (15 percent moisture)	Weight per 1,000 board-feet air-dry (15 percent moisture)
HARDWOODS					DOUGLAS-FIR				
Alder, red	28.8	0.112	2,400; 1,760	0.162	Coast type	34.3	0.170	2,860; 2,090	
Apple	48.5	0.133	4,040; 2,960	0.241	Intermediate	31.8	0.137	2,690; 1,940	
Ash	35.3	0.142	2,940; 2,150	0.145	Rocky Mountain	30.5	0.179	2,540; 1,860	
Basswood	40.7	0.208	3,390; 2,480	0.195	Fir	22.5	0.167	1,870; 1,370	
Birch	40.7	0.179	3,390; 2,480	0.154	Alpine	26.9	0.071	2,240; 1,640	
Birch, white	42.7	0.175	3,560; 2,610	0.154	California	28.3	0.158	2,360; 1,730	
Birch, yellow	27.3	0.104	2,270; 1,660	0.158	Grand	28.3	0.145	2,360; 1,730	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	27.0	0.129	2,250; 1,650	0.150	Noble	27.1	0.129	2,260; 1,660	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	26.0	0.075	2,170; 1,590	0.150	Pacific	28.1	0.117	2,340; 1,710	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	44.3	0.162	3,690; 2,700	0.200	White	26.7	0.129	2,220; 1,650	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	38.8	0.117	3,230; 2,370	0.187	Western	29.0	0.150	2,420; 1,770	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	38.9	0.095	3,240; 2,370	0.142	Juniper	36.7	0.179	3,060; 2,240	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	47.2	0.175	3,940; 2,880	0.120	Alligator	39.4	0.170	3,280; 2,400	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	43.4	0.142	3,680; 2,650	0.112	Western	35.4	0.167	2,180; 1,550	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	25.5	0.104	2,120; 1,550	0.208	White	25.4	0.158	2,320; 1,680	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	27.4	0.145	2,280; 1,670	0.120	Jack	30.3	0.142	2,430; 1,780	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	39.5	0.185	3,290; 2,410	0.087	Lodgepole	29.2	0.150	2,910; 2,130	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	36.1	0.185	3,010; 2,200	0.167	Pitch	34.9	0.162	2,580; 1,740	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	30.5	0.145	2,540; 1,860	0.337	Ponderosa	28.6	0.142	2,620; 1,920	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	32.3	0.145	2,690; 1,970	0.087	Red	31.4	0.154	2,300; 1,710	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	24.5	0.104	2,040; 1,490	0.158	Yellow	36.3	0.179	3,470; 2,540	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	28.9	0.125	2,410; 1,770	0.100	Longleaf	44.6	0.154	3,660; 2,680	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	34.3	0.142	2,860; 2,090	0.133	Shortleaf	35.7	0.162	2,170; 1,590	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	51.5	0.120	4,290; 3,140	0.137	Sugar	26.0	0.129	2,330; 1,710	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	45.9	0.142	3,820; 2,800	0.129	White	28.0	0.175	2,380; 1,740	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	36.3	0.117	3,020; 2,210	0.129	Redwood (old)	28.6	0.142	2,400; 1,760	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	45.9	0.187	3,820; 2,800	0.129	Spur	28.1	0.129	2,010; 1,470	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	44.2	0.208	3,680; 2,700	0.162	Black	24.1	0.175	2,570; 1,740	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	37.8	0.154	3,150; 2,310	0.233	Engelmann	28.4	0.145	2,540; 1,710	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	37.4	0.175	3,120; 2,290	0.104	Red	26.1	0.104	2,490; 1,790	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	51.4	0.145	4,280; 3,130	0.150	Sitka	29.4	0.187	3,130; 2,290	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	45.9	0.212	3,870; 2,850	0.167	White	37.6	0.250	3,810; 2,790	
Birch, yellow, Alaska	53.4	0.129	4,450; 3,260	0.170	Yellow	45.7			
Birch, yellow, Alaska	51.2	0.170	4,270; 3,130	0.170	Redwood (old)				
Birch, yellow, Alaska	49.0	0.170	4,080; 2,990	0.170	Spur				
Birch, yellow, Alaska	44.6	0.329	3,720; 2,720	0.120	Black				
Birch, yellow, Alaska	39.8	0.133	3,220; 2,430	0.120	Engelmann				
Birch, yellow, Alaska	45.3	0.250	3,770; 2,760	0.187	Red				
Birch, yellow, Alaska	50.0	0.167	4,170; 3,050	0.185	Engelmann				
Birch, yellow, Alaska	49.0	0.324	4,080; 2,990	0.145	Red				
Birch, yellow, Alaska	45.6	0.150	3,800; 2,780	0.175	White				
Birch, yellow, Alaska				0.137	Yellow				

To adjust values to any desired moisture content, add factor to value to be adjusted for each 1 percent increase in moisture content; subtract factor from value to be adjusted for each 1 percent decrease in moisture content. These factors take shrinkage or swelling with moisture changes into consideration.

Table 2.—Average moisture content and specific gravity of green wood

Species	Moisture content		Species	Moisture content		Average specific gravity
	Heartwood	Sapwood		Heartwood	Sapwood	
	Percent	Percent		Percent	Percent	
SOFTWOODS						
Baldcypress.....	121	171	Blackwood, American.....	81	133	0.32
Cedar.....	32	166	Black, American.....	59	72	.36
Alaska.....	32	166	Birch.....	89	72	.48
Atlantic white cedar.....	32	166	Beech.....	17	70	.60
Black spruce.....	40	213	Birch, yellow.....	14	72	.52
Incense.....	40	213	Birch, yellow.....	14	72	.52
Northern white.....	50	98	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Port-Jefferson.....	50	98	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Douglas fir.....	50	98	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Coast type.....	37	115	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Intermediate type.....	34	124	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Rocky Mountain type.....	50	112	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Fir.....	47	117	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Alaska.....	47	117	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
California red.....	108	136	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Grand.....	91	136	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Roble.....	34	125	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Roble, white.....	34	125	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
White.....	34	125	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Emlock.....	97	119	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Eastern.....	97	119	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Western.....	97	119	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Yew, western.....	97	119	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Pine.....	97	119	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Eastern white.....	41	120	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Lodgepole.....	40	146	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Ponderosa.....	32	134	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Yellow pine.....	32	134	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Loblolly.....	33	110	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Longleaf.....	31	106	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Shortleaf.....	32	122	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Wedge white.....	32	143	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Wedge white.....	32	143	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Redwood (old-growth).....	86	210	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Spruce.....	34	126	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Barren.....	34	126	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Sierra.....	31	115	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Sierra.....	31	115	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Tamarack.....	49	117	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
HARDWOODS						
Alder, red.....	91	97	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Apple.....	61	74	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Ash.....	95	113	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Buck.....	40	110	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Green.....	40	110	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
White.....	40	110	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60
Aspen.....	95	113	Bitternut.....	80	84	.60

Based on weight when oven-dry.

Based on weight when oven-dry and volume when green.

Table 3.--Sapwood, in percent of volume, of round timbers

Sapwood : thickness :	Average diameter of timber in inches															
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
Inches																
1/4	23	19	16	14	12	11	10	9	8	8	7	7	6			
1 1/2	44	36	31	27	23	21	19	17	16	15	14	13	12			
3/4	61	51	44	38	34	31	28	25	23	22	20	19	18			
1	75	64	56	49	44	40	36	33	31	28	27	25	23			
1-1/4	86	75	66	59	53	48	44	40	37	35	33	31	29			
1-1/2	94	84	75	67	61	56	51	47	44	41	38	36	34			
1-3/4	98	91	83	75	68	63	58	54	50	47	44	41	39			
2	100	96	89	82	75	69	64	60	56	52	49	46	44			
2-1/4	...	99	94	87	81	75	70	65	61	57	54	51	48			
2-1/2	...	100	97	92	86	80	75	70	66	62	59	56	53			
2-3/4	...	...	99	95	90	85	80	75	71	67	63	60	57			
3	...	...	100	98	94	89	84	79	75	71	67	64	61			
3-1/4	...	...	...	99	96	92	88	83	79	75	71	68	65			
3-1/2	...	...	...	100	98	95	91	87	83	79	75	72	68			
3-3/4	...	...	...	...	100	97	94	90	86	82	78	75	72			
4	...	...	...	...	100	99	96	93	89	85	82	78	75			
4-1/4	...	...	...	...	...	100	98	95	91	88	85	81	78			
4-1/2	...	...	...	...	...	100	99	97	94	91	87	84	81			
4-3/4	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	98	96	93	90	87	83			
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	99	97	95	92	89	86			

Table 4.--Weight in pounds per cubic foot of green wood at various specific gravities and moisture contents

Moisture content, Percent	Specific gravity, based on oven-dry weight and green volume															
	0.30	0.32	0.34	0.36	0.38	0.40	0.42	0.44	0.46	0.48	0.50	0.52	0.54	0.56	0.58	0.60
30	24.3	26.0	27.6	29.2	30.8	32.4	34.1	35.7	37.3	38.9	40.6	42.2	43.8	45.4	47.0	48.7
32	24.7	26.4	28.0	29.7	31.3	32.9	34.6	36.2	37.9	39.5	41.2	42.8	44.5	46.1	47.8	49.4
34	25.1	26.8	28.4	30.1	31.8	33.4	35.1	36.8	38.5	40.1	41.8	43.5	45.2	46.8	48.5	50.2
36	25.6	27.2	28.8	30.5	32.2	33.9	35.6	37.3	39.0	40.7	42.4	44.1	45.8	47.5	49.2	50.9
38	26.1	27.7	29.3	31.0	32.7	34.4	36.2	37.9	39.6	41.3	43.1	44.8	46.5	48.2	49.9	51.6
40	26.6	28.0	29.7	31.4	33.2	34.9	36.7	38.4	40.2	41.9	43.7	45.4	47.2	48.9	50.7	52.4
42	26.6	28.4	30.1	31.8	33.7	35.4	37.2	39.0	40.8	42.5	44.3	46.1	47.8	49.6	51.4	53.2
44	27.0	28.8	30.6	32.3	34.1	35.9	37.7	39.5	41.3	43.1	44.9	46.7	48.5	50.3	52.1	53.9
46	27.3	29.2	31.0	32.8	34.6	36.4	38.3	40.1	41.9	43.7	45.6	47.4	49.2	51.0	52.8	54.7
48	27.7	29.6	31.4	33.2	35.1	36.9	38.8	40.6	42.5	44.3	46.2	48.0	49.9	51.7	53.6	55.4
50	28.1	30.0	31.8	33.7	35.6	37.4	39.3	41.2	43.1	44.9	46.8	48.7	50.6	52.4	54.3	56.2
52	28.6	30.4	32.2	34.1	36.0	37.9	39.8	41.7	43.6	45.5	47.4	49.3	51.2	53.1	55.0	56.9
54	28.6	30.8	32.7	34.6	36.5	38.4	40.4	42.3	44.2	46.1	48.0	50.0	51.9	53.8	55.7	57.7
56	29.2	31.2	33.1	35.0	37.0	38.9	40.9	42.8	44.8	46.7	48.7	50.6	52.6	54.5	56.4	58.4
58	29.6	31.5	33.5	35.5	37.5	39.4	41.4	43.4	45.4	47.3	49.3	51.3	53.2	55.2	57.2	59.2
60	30.0	31.9	33.9	35.9	37.9	39.9	41.9	43.9	45.9	47.9	49.9	51.9	53.9	55.9	57.9	59.9
62	30.3	32.3	34.3	36.3	38.3	40.3	42.3	44.3	46.3	48.3	50.3	52.3	54.3	56.3	58.3	60.3
64	30.7	32.7	34.7	36.7	38.7	40.7	42.7	44.7	46.7	48.7	50.7	52.7	54.7	56.7	58.7	60.7
66	31.1	33.1	35.1	37.1	39.1	41.1	43.1	45.1	47.1	49.1	51.1	53.1	55.1	57.1	59.1	61.1
68	31.4	33.5	35.6	37.7	39.8	41.9	44.0	46.1	48.2	50.3	52.4	54.5	56.6	58.7	60.8	62.9
70	31.8	33.9	36.1	38.2	40.3	42.4	44.6	46.7	48.8	50.9	53.0	55.2	57.3	59.4	61.5	63.6
72	32.2	34.3	36.5	38.6	40.8	42.9	45.1	47.2	49.4	51.5	53.7	55.8	58.0	60.1	62.3	64.4
74	32.6	34.7	36.9	39.1	41.3	43.4	45.6	47.8	49.9	52.1	54.3	56.5	58.6	60.8	63.0	65.1
76	32.9	35.1	37.3	39.5	41.7	43.9	46.1	48.3	50.5	52.7	54.9	57.1	59.3	61.5	63.7	65.9
78	33.3	35.5	37.8	40.0	42.2	44.4	46.7	48.9	51.1	53.3	55.5	57.8	60.0	62.2	64.4	66.6
80	33.7	35.9	38.2	40.4	42.7	44.9	47.2	49.4	51.7	53.9	56.2	58.4	60.7	62.9	65.1	67.4
82	34.1	36.3	38.6	40.9	43.2	45.4	47.7	50.0	52.2	54.5	56.8	59.1	61.3	63.6	65.9	68.2
84	34.4	36.7	39.0	41.3	43.6	45.9	48.2	50.5	52.8	55.1	57.4	59.7	62.0	64.3	66.6	68.9
86	34.8	37.1	39.5	41.8	44.1	46.4	48.7	51.1	53.4	55.7	58.0	60.4	62.7	65.0	67.3	69.6
88	35.2	37.5	39.9	42.2	44.6	46.9	49.3	51.6	54.0	56.3	58.7	61.0	63.3	65.7	68.0	70.4
90	35.6	37.9	40.3	42.7	45.1	47.4	49.8	52.2	54.5	56.9	59.3	61.7	64.0	66.4	68.8	71.1
92	36.0	38.3	40.7	43.1	45.5	47.9	50.3	52.7	55.1	57.5	59.9	62.3	64.7	67.1	69.5	71.9
94	36.3	38.7	41.1	43.5	46.0	48.4	50.8	53.2	55.6	58.0	60.4	62.8	65.2	67.6	70.0	72.4
96	36.7	39.1	41.5	43.9	46.3	48.7	51.1	53.5	55.9	58.3	60.7	63.1	65.5	67.9	70.3	72.7
100	37.4	39.9	42.4	44.9	47.4	49.9	52.4	54.9	57.4	59.9	62.4	64.9	67.4	69.9	72.4	74.9
105	38.4	40.9	43.4	45.9	48.4	50.9	53.4	55.9	58.4	60.9	63.4	65.9	68.4	70.9	73.4	75.9
110	39.3	41.9	44.5	47.1	49.6	52.2	54.8	57.4	59.9	62.5	65.1	67.6	70.2	72.7	75.3	77.8
115	40.2	42.9	45.6	48.3	51.0	53.7	56.3	59.0	61.7	64.4	67.1	69.8	72.4	75.1	77.8	80.5
120	41.2	43.9	46.7	49.4	52.2	54.9	57.7	60.4	63.1	65.9	68.6	71.4	74.1	76.9	79.6	82.4
125	42.1	44.9	47.7	50.5	53.4	56.2	59.0	61.8	64.6	67.4	70.2	73.0	75.8	78.6	81.4	84.2
130	43.1	45.9	48.8	51.7	54.5	57.4	60.3	63.1	66.0	68.9	71.8	74.6	77.5	80.4	83.2	86.1
135	44.0	46.9	49.8	52.8	55.7	58.6	61.6	64.5	67.5	70.4	73.3	76.3	79.2	82.1	85.1	88.0
140	44.9	47.9	50.9	53.9	56.9	59.9	62.9	65.9	68.9	71.9	74.9	77.9	80.9	83.9	86.9	89.9
145	45.9	48.9	52.0	55.0	58.1	61.2	64.2	67.3	70.3	73.4	76.4	79.5	82.5	85.6	88.7	91.8
150	46.8	49.9	53.0	56.2	59.3	62.4	65.5	68.6	71.8	74.9	78.0	81.1	84.2	87.4	90.5	93.6