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WOOD FOR THE FUTURE: INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY ACROSS INDUSTRIES

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THE STATE OF EXPORT AND IMPORT OF WOOD PRODUCTS AND FURNITURE IN THE REPUBLIC OF
NORTH MACEDONIA: TRENDS AND STRATEGIES FOR GROWTH

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1. Introduction

- The wood processing and furniture manufacturing industries represent significant segments of the industrial production in the Republic of North Macedonia. The country's rich forest resources and the availability of raw material provide favorable conditions for the development of a competitive wood processing industry, as well as the production of furniture and wood products for both domestic and foreign markets.
- The wood industry consists of three main subsectors: primary wood processing (sawmill processing and hydrothermal treatment of the wood), production of wood semi-finished products (mainly solid wood panels and parquet blanks), and the industry for manufacturing furniture and wood products.
- Over the past decade, international trade in furniture and wood products has experienced continuous growth. A significant factor contributing to this growth has been the country's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the signing of the free trade agreement with the European Union (CEFTA).



2. Methodology

- The methodological approach employed in this paper is entirely analytical. The research was conducted using a fully quantitative approach, based on the analysis of official data on the foreign trade of wood and furniture products in the Republic of North Macedonia for a period of ten years, from 2014 to 2023.
- The data were obtained from the State Statistical Office and the Economic Chamber of North Macedonia, as the primary institutions responsible for monitoring trade flows and economic indicators in the country.
- The objective of the analysis was to determine the dynamics of import and export, their annual value, and the changes occurring over the analyzed time period. The data are expressed in euros (€) and is classified according to the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC).



3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Import of wood products and furniture

Table 1. Imports in the period from 2014 to 2023

Year	Wood and wood products		Furniture		Total	
	Value (€)	Share (%)	Value (€)	Share (%)	Value (€)	Total (%)
2014	55698	61.43	34965	38.57	90663	100.00
2015	62966	62.59	37628	37.41	100594	100.00
2016	67663	58.16	48674	41.84	116337	100.00
2017	77424	57.31	57666	42.69	135090	100.00
2018	81009	56.21	63110	43.79	144119	100.00
2019	83039	51.29	78868	48.71	161907	100.00
2020	85511	51.82	79510	48.18	165021	100.00
2021	98137	49.54	99940	50.46	198077	100.00
2022	112788	52.61	101601	47.39	214389	100.00
2023	104449	49.60	106142	50.40	210591	100.00
Avg.	82868	55.06	70810	44.94	153679	100.00
AAGR	7.24	/	13.13	/	9.82	/

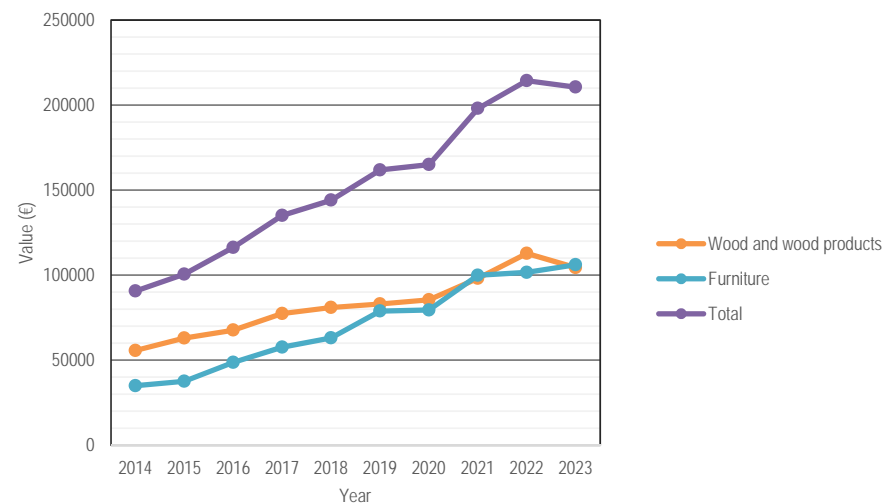


Figure 1. Import dynamics from 2014 to 2023



3.2. Export of wood products and furniture

Table 2. Exports in the period from 2014 to 2023

Year	Wood and wood products		Furniture		Total	
	Value (€)	Share (%)	Value (€)	Share (%)	Value (€)	Share (%)
2014	4570	6.64	64261	93.36	68831	100.00
2015	5655	5.12	104721	94.88	110376	100.00
2016	7178	5.05	135080	94.95	142258	100.00
2017	6866	3.70	178629	96.30	185495	100.00
2018	8386	3.72	216880	96.28	225266	100.00
2019	10286	3.98	247919	96.02	258205	100.00
2020	6608	2.95	217070	97.05	223678	100.00
2021	7414	3.11	231224	96.89	238638	100.00
2022	13232	4.77	264157	95.23	277389	100.00
2023	12329	3.48	342458	96.52	354787	100.00
Avg.	8252	4.25	200240	95.75	208492	100.00
AAGR	11.66	/	20.43	/	19.99	/

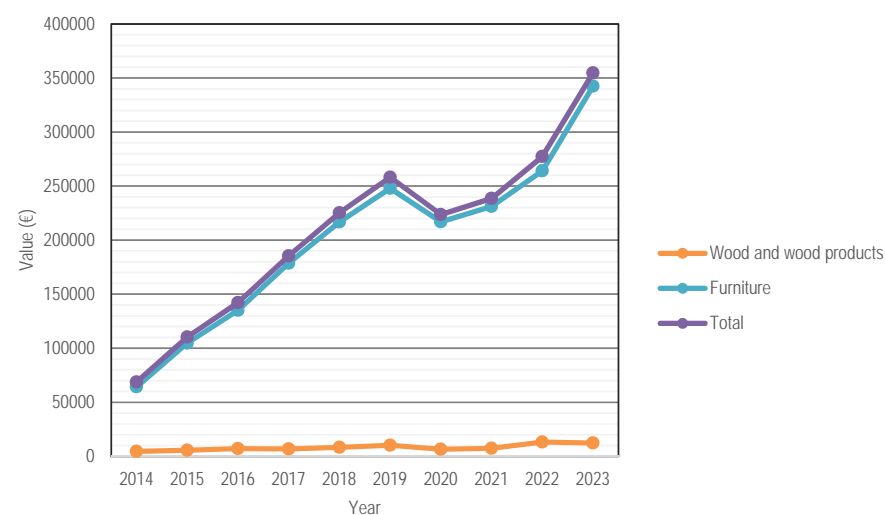


Figure 2. Export dynamics from 2014 to 2023



3.3. Trade balance of wood products and furniture

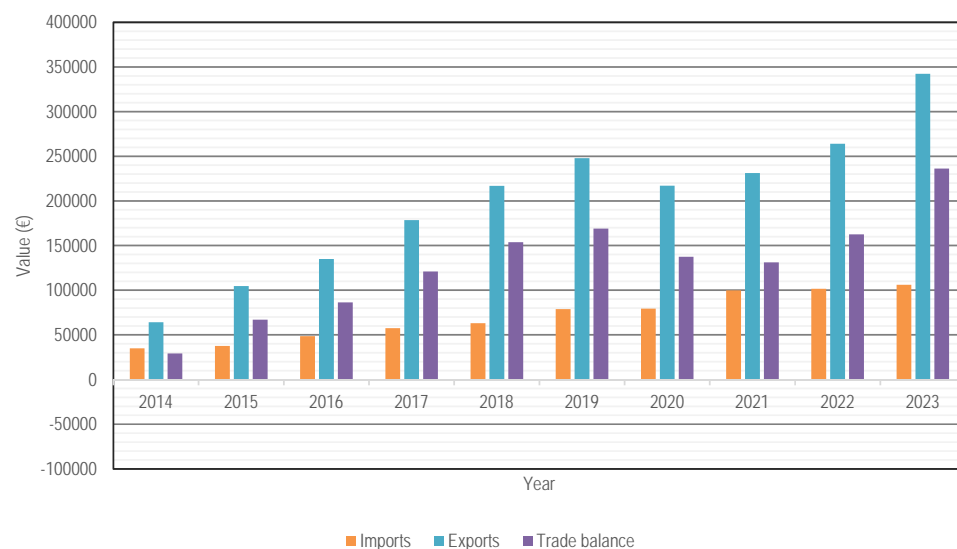


Figure 3. Trade balance of wood and wood products from 2014 to 2023

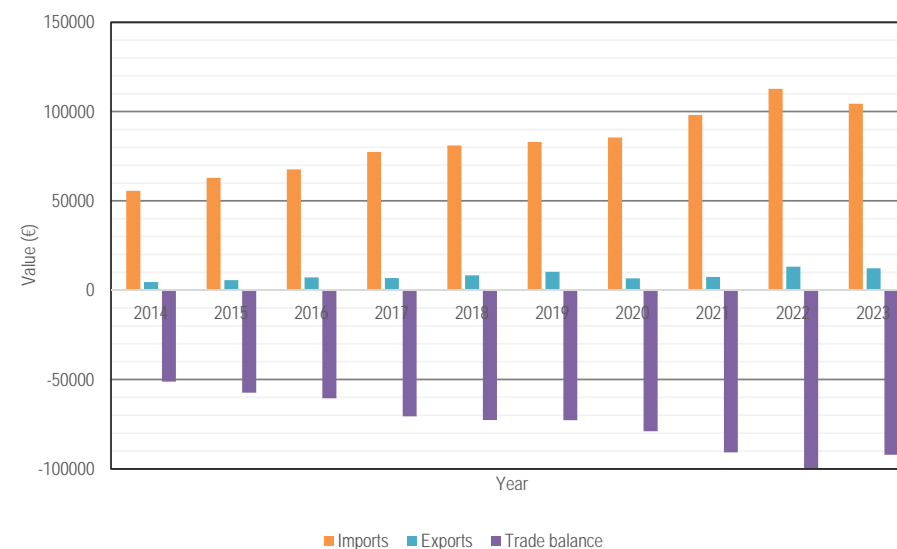


Figure 4. Trade balance of furniture from 2014 to 2023



4. Conclusions

- The analysis of import and export data for wood, wood products, and furniture in the Republic of North Macedonia for the period from 2014 to 2023 reveals a positive growth trend, particularly in the export of furniture, which increased more than five times.
- The furniture manufacturing sector has achieved significant export results, which can be attributed to the continuous development and enhancement of production capacities, as well as improved product designs that align with global trends and demonstrate competitiveness on the international market. The high average annual growth rate (20.43%) confirms that domestically produced furniture is successfully positioned in global markets.
- In contrast, the wood and wood products sector records a negative trade balance. Despite the country's rich forest potential, there is an insufficient level of domestic production and processing of raw materials to reduce import dependency. This represents an underutilization of the country's resource potential, especially considering that 35% of its territory is covered by forests.
- The country possesses a realistic potential to strengthen its position in the trade of wood, wood products, and furniture. Systematic support is needed to reinforce production capacities and improve forest management.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

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