



Trade Overview 2019

Bamboo and Rattan Commodities
in the International Market



International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation

The International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation

The International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation, INBAR, is an intergovernmental organisation dedicated to the promotion of bamboo and rattan for sustainable development.

About this report

This report can be cited as: INBAR (2021) *Trade Overview 2019: Bamboo and Rattan Commodities in the International Market*. INBAR: Beijing, China.

Editors

Charlotte King, Wu JunQi

Copyright and Fair Use

This publication is licensed for use under Creative Commons Attribution-Non-commercial-Share Alike 3.0 Unported Licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0).

To view this licence visit: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

You are free to:

Share: Copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format; and

Adapt: Remix, transform, and build upon the material.

The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the licence terms.

Under the following terms:

Attribution: You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the licence, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.

Non-commercial: You may not use the material for commercial purposes.

Share Alike: If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same licence as the original.

No Additional Restrictions: You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the licence permits.

International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation

P.O. Box 100102-86, Beijing 100102, China

Tel: +86 10 64706161; Fax: +86 10 64702166

Email: info@inbar.int

www.inbar.int

© 2021 International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
1. World Trade of Bamboo and Rattan	2
2. World Trade of Bamboo Commodities in 2019.....	3
3. World Trade of Rattan Commodities in 2019.....	6
4. HS Codes for Bamboo and Rattan Commodities.....	8
Annex 1: Main Types of Bamboo Exports by Region	10
Annex 2: Main Types of Bamboo Imports by Region	11
Annex 3: Main Types of Bamboo Exports by Country.....	12
Annex 4: Main Types of Bamboo Imports by Country.....	13
Annex 5: Main Types of Rattan Exports by Region.....	14
Annex 6: Main Types of Rattan Imports by Region.....	14
Annex 7: Main Types of Rattan Exports by Country	15
Annex 8: Main Types of Rattan Imports by Country.....	15

Introduction

This report provides an overview of world trade for bamboo and rattan products in 2019,¹ using statistics from the United Nations Comtrade database. It was compiled by the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR), in its role as the International Commodity Body for bamboo and rattan under the Common Fund for Commodities.

Bamboo, the fast-growing grass plant, and rattan, the spiky climbing palm, are two of the world's most valuable non-wood forest products. They support millions of people across the tropics and subtropics as a source of food, fibre and fuel. Understanding international trade of bamboo and rattan products is an important first step towards supporting the continued development of this sector.

The key messages from this report are:

- In 2019, international trade of bamboo and rattan products reached over USD 3.417 billion. Of this, bamboo trade comprised the majority, with around USD 3.054 billion; rattan trade was USD 363 million.
- Asia continues to dominate the international markets for bamboo and rattan product trade. North America (specifically Canada and the United States of America) and Europe (specifically countries of the European Union) are also becoming increasingly important trade regions. Together, these three regions make up the bulk of international trade.
- China is the largest exporter of bamboo products; Indonesia is the largest exporter of rattan products.
- 2018 data shows an apparent bump in the international trade value of bamboo and rattan compared to estimates from previous years. This is due to the newly expanded range of Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding Systems (HS) codes for bamboo and rattan products, which allow countries to report more accurately on trade.
- Although these new codes are an important step towards a more comprehensive picture of international bamboo and rattan trade, it is likely that the figures given are still underestimates and that many products continue to be misclassified as timber.

¹ 2019 is the latest year for which full data is available from the United Nations Comtrade database.

1. World Trade of Bamboo and Rattan

According to data from the United Nations Comtrade database, in 2019, exports of bamboo and rattan commodities reached USD 3.417 billion. (See Figure 1.) Of this, bamboo exports made up USD 3.054 billion; rattan exports were USD 363 million.

The 2019 total of USD 3.417 billion is an increase of 5% on 2018 (USD 3.252 billion) and an apparently dramatic increase from the years leading up to 2017. The 'jump' in figures from 2018 is due to more accurate reporting, as a result of newly introduced HS subheadings for bamboo and rattan commodities. More information about HS codes is provided in section 4.

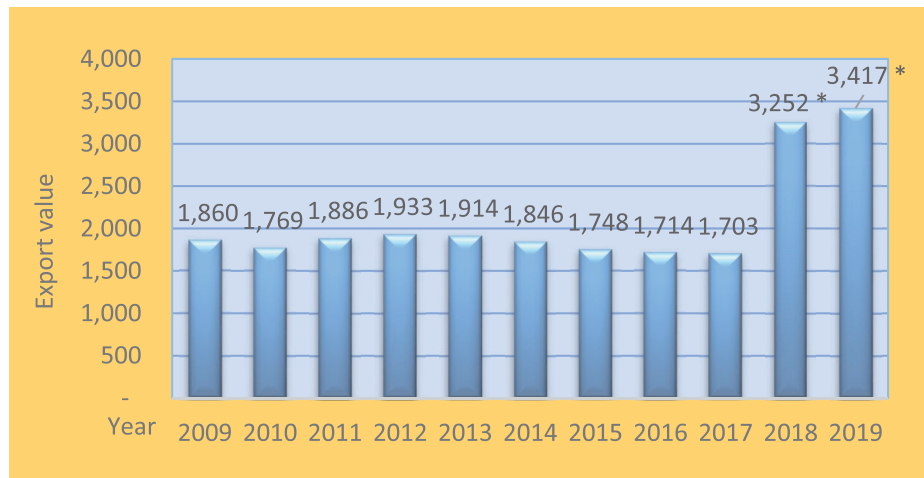


Figure 1. Exports of bamboo and rattan products between 2009 and 2019 (USD million).

*Increased figures are due to new HS codes introduced in 2017, and effective from 2018.

2. World Trade of Bamboo Commodities in 2019

Main regions for bamboo trade in 2019

In 2019, three regions—the Asia-Pacific, Europe and North America—comprised the main trading areas for bamboo commodities. In particular, the Asia-Pacific region dominated the export of both traditional and new bamboo products. Europe and North America were the main importers for bamboo products. Regional bamboo exports and imports in 2019 are shown in Figure 2.

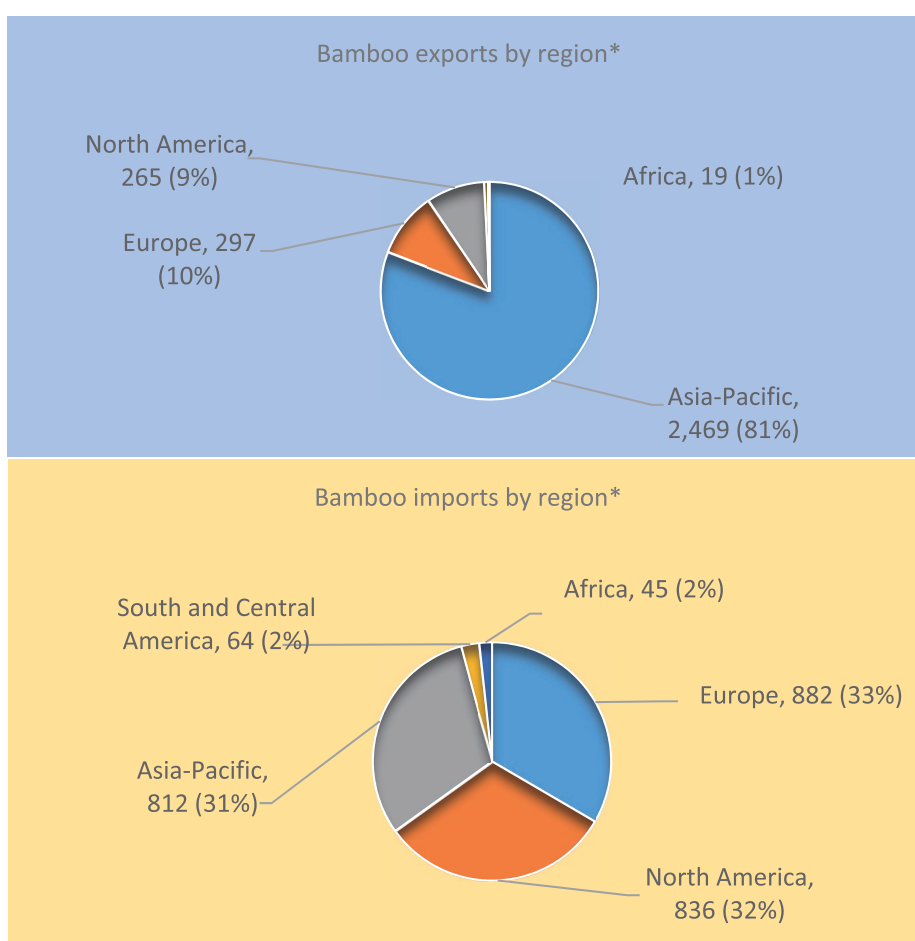


Figure 2. (a) Exports and (b) Imports of bamboo products by region in 2019 (USD million, % of total).

**Figures are rounded up and so may not equal 100%.*

In 2019, the Asia-Pacific remained the largest exporting area of bamboo products by far, selling USD 2.469 billion-worth of bamboo products. Asia-Pacific exports comprised 81% of the world total. Europe exported USD 297 million-worth of bamboo products, accounting for 10% of total exports; the countries of North America exported USD 265 million, or 9%. Despite its natural abundance

of bamboo, Africa exported only USD 19 million-worth of products, or less than 1%. Other regions of the world, including South and Central America, exported less still.

Europe was the largest importing area of bamboo products, buying USD 882 million-worth from abroad in 2019, or 33% of the world total.² North America imported USD 836 million (32%), the Asia-Pacific USD 812 million (31%) and South and Central America USD 64 million (2%).

Main countries for bamboo trade in 2019

Figure 3 shows the major exporters of bamboo products in 2019.

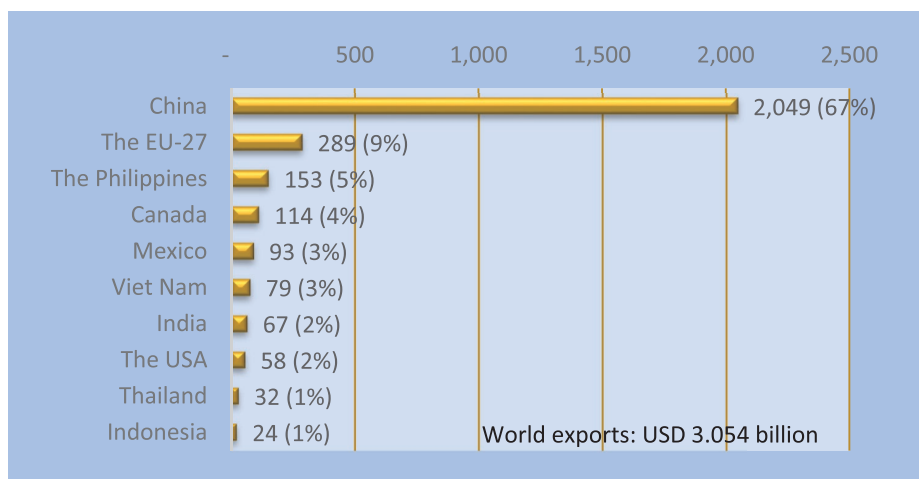


Figure 3. Major exporters of bamboo products in 2019 (USD million, % of total).

Unsurprisingly, given that the majority of international bamboo trade occurred in the Asia-Pacific, the key exporters of bamboo products were mostly traditional bamboo-producing countries in Asia, including China, the Philippines, Viet Nam, and Indonesia. Countries or blocs with advanced processing technologies, mainly in Europe and North America, also exported a number of bamboo products.

Globally, China remains the world's largest producer and exporter of bamboo products, exporting USD 2.049 billion in 2019. It made up 67% of all world exports. By contrast, the next biggest exporter, the European Union (EU-27), only exported USD 289 million, or 9% of the world total.

² A country can be both a big importer and a big exporter of bamboo products. This is because countries, particularly those with high-value processing technologies or capacity, often import raw or semi-processed products and then use these to create value-added or more internationally marketable products for export.

Key importers were mainly from countries which do not grow bamboo, but which consume or produce a lot of bamboo products.³ (See Figure 4.)

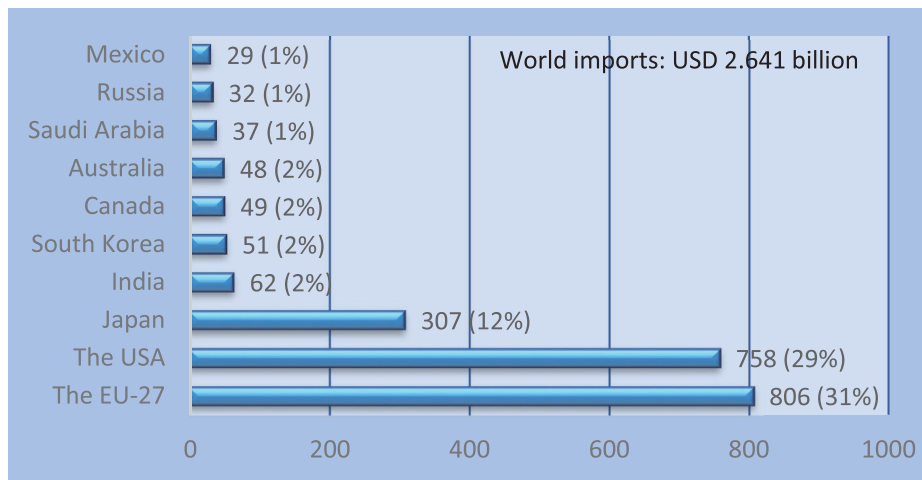


Figure 4. Major importers of bamboo products in 2019 (USD million, % of total).

The EU-27 was the largest importer of bamboo products in 2019 (USD 806 million, or 31% of the world's total bamboo imports). It was closely followed by the United States of America (USA), which imported USD 758 million (29%).

The types of product which were traded by each country vary widely, and include bamboo kitchenware and tableware, articles of daily use, woven bamboo products, shoots, furniture, construction materials and more. A complete list of the main products exported and imported by each region and country can be found in Annexes 1 to 4.

³ There are several reasons for asymmetries in import-export data (where the total value of imported goods is different to the number of exported goods). In some cases, inconsistent attributions, added 'costs' for transportation and insurance, and differences in tax systems and customs regimes can result in import data which is very different to export data for the same products.

3. World Trade of Rattan Commodities in 2019

Main regions for rattan trade in 2019

In 2019, the Asia-Pacific and Europe were the main trading regions for rattan commodities. Countries across the Asia-Pacific sold both traditional and modern products, while Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific made up the bulk of imports. Regional rattan exports and imports are shown in Figure 5:

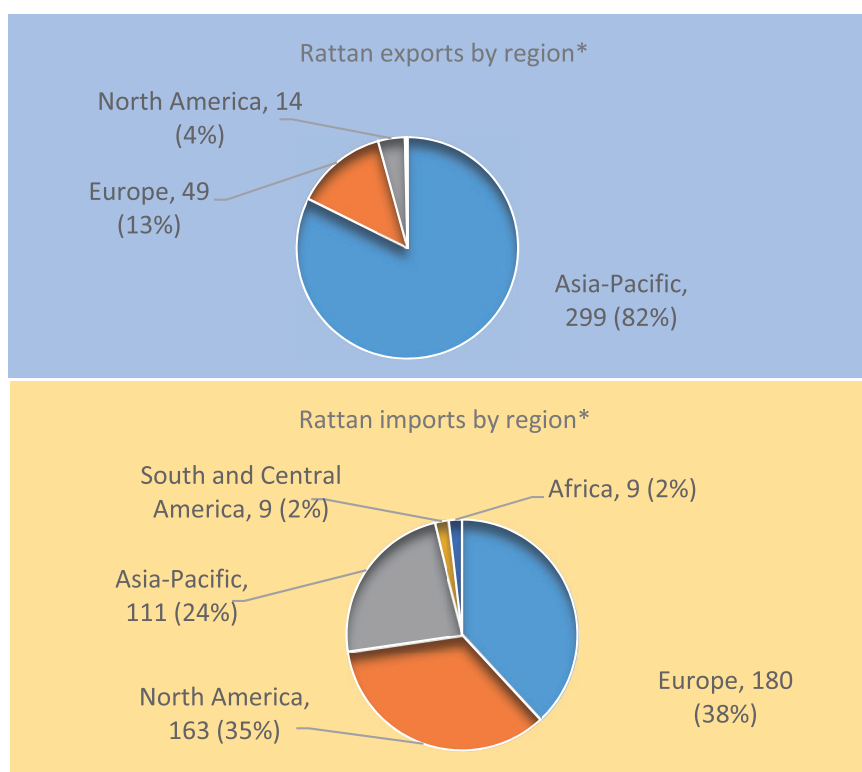


Figure 5. (a) Exports and (b) Imports of rattan products by region (USD million, % of total).

**Figures are rounded up and so may not equal 100%.*

In 2019, the Asia-Pacific region remained the largest exporting area of rattan products, exporting USD 299 million-worth of rattan products, or 82% of the world total. Europe exported USD 49 million-worth of rattan products, accounting for 13% total exports; North America exported USD 14 million, or 4%. Other regions exported negligible amounts of around USD 1 million or less.

In terms of imports, Europe was the largest importing area of rattan products, buying USD 180 million from abroad in 2019, or 38% of the world total.⁴ North America imported USD 163 million (35%) and the Asia-Pacific USD 111 million (24%).

⁴ As above, a country can be both a big importer and a big exporter of bamboo products. See footnote 2 for more detail.

Main countries for rattan trade in 2019

In 2019, as with bamboo, the key exporters of rattan products are mainly traditional rattan-producing countries in Asia, including Indonesia, China, Viet Nam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Myanmar, as well as areas with little natural rattan but large ports: Singapore and Hong Kong (China). Indonesia and China have long been key exporters of rattan products, together making up more than half of all exports (38% and 26% of all exported goods respectively).

Figure 6 shows the major exporters of bamboo products in 2019.

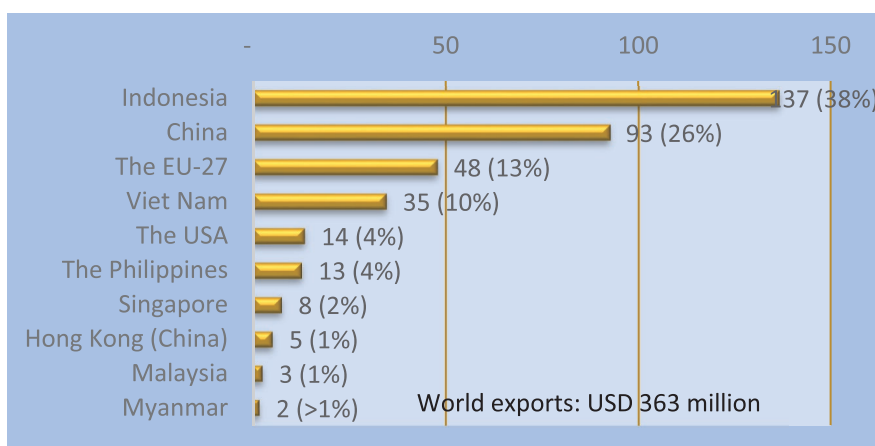


Figure 6. Major exporters of rattan products in 2019 (USD million, % of total).

Figure 7 shows the major exporters of bamboo products in 2019. The EU-27 was the largest importer of rattan products, importing USD 162 million in 2019. The second largest importer, the USA, imported USD 144 million. Japan, the third largest importer, bought significantly less: in 2019 it imported USD 27 million in total.

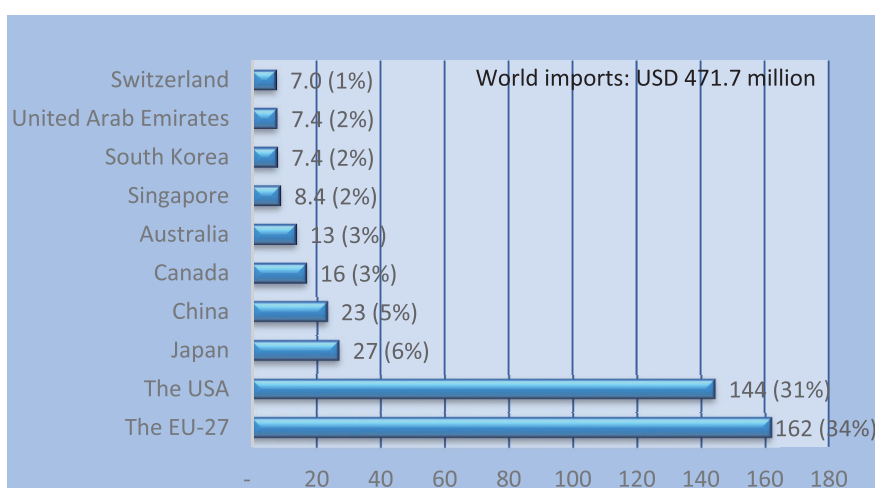


Figure 7. Major importers of rattan products in 2019 (USD million, % of total).

There are three types of rattan product defined under current HS codes: rattan raw materials, woven rattan products and rattan furniture. A complete list of the main products exported and imported by each region and country can be found in Annexes 5 to 8.

4. HS Codes for Bamboo and Rattan Commodities

2018 data shows an apparent bump in the world trade value of bamboo and rattan compared to estimates from previous years. This is due to the newly expanded range of Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding Systems (HS) codes for bamboo products effective from 2018, which allows countries to report more accurately on trade.

The HS is an international nomenclature for the classification of products, which allows participating countries to classify traded goods on a common basis for customs purposes. The HS is maintained by the World Customs Organization, and used by more than 200 countries and economies when trading goods.

Historically, there has been a lack of specific HS codes to describe non-timber forest products, including bamboo and rattan. This has led to bamboo and rattan products being misclassified or mixed with timber products and other materials.

With cooperation between INBAR, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and China's General Administration of Customs, a series of individual HS codes for bamboo and rattan commodities have been approved by the World Customs Organization over the last few decades, previously in 2007 and most recently in 2017 (effective from 2018).

Currently, there are 24 HS codes—18 for bamboo and 6 for rattan—reflecting a much broader range of commonly traded bamboo and rattan commodities. This new ability to classify products has resulted in a significant 'increase' in the total global trade of bamboo and rattan commodities since 2018. While it is likely that the figures in this report still do not capture all world trade of bamboo and rattan products, they present a much more accurate picture than previously seen.

A full list for all bamboo and rattan HS codes, and their share of overall bamboo and rattan exports in 2019, is given in Figure 8.

HS codes	Products	Category	Export value in 2019	% of total exports in 2019
140110	Bamboo raw materials	Bamboo raw materials	87	2.5%
200591	Bamboo shoots	Bamboo shoots	295	8.6%
440210	Bamboo charcoal	Bamboo charcoal	112	3.3%
440921	Bamboo flooring	Bamboo-based panels	116	3.4%
441210	Bamboo plywood		122	3.6%
441873	Assembled bamboo flooring panels used for construction	Bamboo panels for construction	51	1.5%
441891	Other bamboo panels used for construction		203	5.9%

HS codes	Products	Category	Export value in 2019	% of total exports in 2019
441911	Bamboo chopping boards	Bamboo tableware and kitchenware	145	4.2%
441912	Bamboo chopsticks		273	8.0%
441919	Small bamboo sticks		262	7.7%
442191	Bamboo articles of daily use	Bamboo articles of daily use	798	23.3%
460121	Bamboo mats/screens	Woven bamboo products	107	3.1%
460192	Semi-finished bamboo plaits & plaiting articles		39	1.2%
460211	Bamboo basketwork/wickerwork products		234	6.9%
470630	Bamboo pulp	Bamboo pulp and paper articles	5	0.2%
482361	Bamboo paper based articles		34	1.0%
940152	Bamboo seats	Bamboo furniture	26	0.8%
940382	Bamboo furniture		146	4.3%
Total bamboo exports			3,054	89.4%
140120	Rattan raw materials	Rattan raw materials	19	0.6%
460122	Rattan mats/screens	Woven rattan products	5	0.1%
460212	Rattan basketwork/wickerwork products		211	6.2%
460193	Semi-finished rattan plaits & plaiting articles		7	0.2%
940153	Rattan seats	Rattan furniture	81	2.4%
940383	Rattan furniture		40	1.2%
Total rattan exports			363	10.6%
Total			3,417	100.0%

Figure 8. HS codes for bamboo and rattan products, and their share of overall exports in 2019.

Annex 1: Main Types of Bamboo Exports by Region

Figures given are in USD million.

Product	Asia- Pacific	Europe	North America	Africa	South and Central America	Others
Bamboo tableware and kitchenware	583.7	83.3	11.3	0.9	0.7	0.3
Bamboo articles of daily use	569.4	41.4	184.3	1.0	0.9	0.6
Woven bamboo products	337.5	26.4	15.2	1.2	0.1	0.0
Bamboo shoots	280.0	13.4	1.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
Bamboo based panels	197.0	16.9	16.1	6.0	0.2	1.1
Bamboo panels for construction	169.2	58.6	25.6	0.2	0.1	0.1
Bamboo furniture	132.2	32.9	6.8	0.3	0.2	0.0
Bamboo charcoal	97.5	2.9	2.5	9.4	0.2	0.0
Bamboo raw materials	75.6	10.0	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.0
Bamboo pulp and paper articles	26.8	10.9	1.5	0.1	0.0	
Total exports by region	2,468.9	296.6	265.1	19.2	2.7	2.1

Annex 2: Main Types of Bamboo Imports by Region

Figures given are in USD million.

Products	Europe	North America	Asia-Pacific	South and Central America	Africa	Others
Bamboo tableware and kitchenware	247.8	145.8	197.9	20.2	5.5	0.1
Bamboo shoots	40.3	29.4	149.5	1.6	0.4	0.2
Bamboo articles of daily use	138.1	355.2	117.6	20.1	14.9	0.3
Bamboo based panels	57.1	56.2	84.3	12.1	15.7	0.2
Woven bamboo products	96.2	60.3	80.9	3.9	2.4	0.0
Bamboo raw materials	59.9	21.8	74.6	0.5	0.8	0.0
Bamboo charcoal	8.1	6.9	50.2	0.5	1.5	0.0
Bamboo furniture	87.9	39.4	26.0	1.8	0.9	0.0
Bamboo panels for construction	111.2	115.1	21.2	2.5	1.9	0.1
Bamboo pulp and paper articles	35.4	6.0	9.8	0.9	1.4	0.0
Main imports by region	882.0	836.1	812.0	64.3	45.2	1.0

Annex 3: Main Types of Bamboo Exports by Country

Figures given are in USD million.

Products	China	The EU-27	The Philippines	Canada	Mexico	Viet Nam	India	The USA	Thailand	Indonesia
Bamboo tableware and kitchenware	539	81	7	2	1	7	9	9	10	1
Bamboo articles of daily use	494	40	4	93	75	2	56	17	4	0
Woven bamboo products	269	26	0	0	13	53	1	2	1	9
Bamboo shoots	259	13	0	0	0	0	0	1	13	0
Bamboo-based panels	188	15	0	1	0	0	0	16	1	0
Bamboo furniture	117	33	3	1	0	8	0	6	0	1
Bamboo charcoal	84	3		0	2	0	0	0	0	11
Bamboo raw materials	61	10	0	0		7	0	0	3	1
Bamboo panels for construction	28	57	139	18	2	1	0	6	0	
Bamboo pulp and paper articles	11	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total exports by country	2,049	289	153	114	93	79	67	58	32	24

Annex 4: Main Types of Bamboo Imports by Country

Figures given are in USD million.

Products	The EU-27	The USA	Japan	India	South Korea	Canada	Australia	Saudi Arabia	Russia	Mexico
Bamboo tableware and kitchenware	217	123	100	2	13	18	15	5	17	5
Bamboo articles of daily use	125	332	29	9	8	10	6	4	7	13
Bamboo panels for construction	104	112	2	0	0	2	5	0	0	1
Woven bamboo products	87	53	21	2	11	5	4	2	4	3
Bamboo furniture	83	34	4	0	4	4	6	2	1	1
Bamboo raw materials	57	20	5	47	3	2	2	0	1	0
Bamboo-based panels	53	48	6	1	3	4	5	1	0	4
Bamboo shoots	38	24	132	0	5	3	3	0	1	2
Bamboo pulp and paper articles	34	5	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Bamboo charcoal	8	6	9	0	4	0	0	24	0	0
Total imports by country	806	758	307	62	51	49	48	37	32	29

Annex 5: Main Types of Rattan Exports by Region

Figures given are in USD million.

Products	Asia-Pacific	Europe	North America	Africa	South and Central America	Others
Woven rattan products	191.4	28.2	2.6	0.3	0.0	0.0
Rattan furniture	89.7	19.4	11.5	0.5	0.2	0.0
Rattan raw materials	17.6	1.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0
Total exports by region	298.8	48.6	14.2	1.1	0.2	0.0

Annex 6: Main Types of Rattan Imports by Region

Figures given are in USD million.

Products	Europe	North America	Asia-Pacific	South and Central America	Africa	Others
Woven rattan products	95.7	46.7	42.1	2.5	1.2	0.1
Rattan furniture	72.9	113.5	39.7	5.5	4.8	0.1
Rattan raw materials	11.2	2.8	29.3	1.1	2.6	0.0
Total imports by region	179.8	163.0	111.1	9.1	8.6	0.1

Annex 7: Main Types of Rattan Exports by Country

Figures given are in USD million.

	Indonesia	China	The EU-27	Viet Nam	The USA
Woven rattan products	56.0	86.6	28.0	30.3	2.2
Rattan raw materials	-	3.5	1.0	2.0	0.1
Rattan furniture	80.7	2.6	19.0	2.5	11.2
Total exports by country	136.7	92.7	47.9	34.7	13.5

Note: The number of rattan-trading countries is less diverse than for bamboo; as such, only the top five exporters are shown here.

Annex 8: Main Types of Rattan Imports by Country

Figures given are in USD million.

	The EU-27	The USA	Japan	China	Canada
Woven rattan products	88.6	40.5	13.5	4.5	4.7
Rattan raw materials	10.9	2.5	1.4	15.9	0.1
Rattan furniture	62.2	101.1	11.7	2.5	11.6
Total imports by country	161.7	144.1	26.6	22.9	16.4

Note: The number of rattan-trading countries is less diverse than for bamboo; as such, only the top five exporters are shown here.



Established in 1997, the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) is an intergovernmental development organisation that promotes environmentally sustainable development using bamboo and rattan. It is currently made up of 48 Member States. In addition to its Secretariat Headquarters in China, INBAR has five Regional Offices in Cameroon, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana and India.