

Grade Timber Launches White Oak & Walnut Index New Benchmark Report Brings Transparency to Premium U.S. Hardwood Markets

"Transparency, pricing benchmarks, global demand insights & proprietary scoring for premium U.S. White Oak & Black Walnut."

SPRINGFIELD, IL, UNITED STATES, June 11, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Grade Timber, a family-owned leader in sustainable selective-harvest logging and value-added hardwood processing, today launched the [White Oak & Walnut](#) Index™ (WOWI) Baseline Edition 2026 — the premiere edition of its new independent, data-driven market intelligence series.



Exclusively focused on premium U.S. Inland White Oak (*Quercus alba*) and Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*), the WOWI establishes a standardized, transparent benchmark for pricing, product specifications, global demand trends, and market attractiveness scoring. Designed for buyers, sellers, processors, exporters, and importers, the report brings much-needed clarity to a cyclical global hardwood market impacted by supply disruptions, currency volatility, shifting demand for architectural and luxury applications, and competition from alternative sources.

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The White Oak & Walnut Index was created to reduce pricing opacity, highlight opportunities in architectural veneer & other high-margin segments, & support strategic decision-making for producers.”

Beau Shymansky

“In a cyclical global market shaped by supply disruptions, currency shifts, and evolving demand for value-added products, reliable benchmarks have never been more important,” said Beau Shymansky, Owner of Grade Timber.

“The White Oak & Walnut Index™ was created to reduce pricing opacity, highlight opportunities

in architectural veneer and other high-margin segments, and support strategic decision-making for producers and international partners alike. We're proud to contribute this level of transparency as part of our commitment to elevating American hardwoods."

Key Highlights from the Baseline Edition

Product Specifications (Index Grade): Detailed standards for high-grade veneer logs (16"+ DBH, clear faces, sustainably harvested) and sliced architectural veneer (0.5–3 mm thickness), aligned with NHLA grading rules and emphasizing traceability, sustainability, straight grain, ray fleck, figure, and consistency.

2026 Pricing Benchmarks: Approximate export/reference prices as of mid-2026 —

White Oak: Veneer Logs \$800–\$1,500+/m³ (\$565–\$1,450/MBF); Sliced Veneer \$2.50–\$5.00+/m².

Black Walnut: Veneer Logs \$900–\$2,000+/m³ (premium material significantly higher); Sliced Veneer \$5.00–\$12.00+/m².

Global Demand & Export Trends: Strong international interest from top importers including Vietnam (furniture manufacturing & re-export), China, India (record growth), United Kingdom/Europe, and Japan. U.S. material stands out for superior quality, aesthetics, and supply reliability.

WOWI Market Scoring Methodology: A proprietary 0–100 scoring system (weighted across Export Demand Momentum 35%, Price Environment 25%, Market Stability & Volatility 20%, and Logistics & Access Risk 20%) to help prioritize high-margin opportunities rather than pure volume.

Strategic Implications: Strong encouragement for producers to shift toward value-added veneer and specialty products, leverage U.S. advantages in sustainability and quality, diversify export markets, and use the index for long-term positioning amid recovering demand.

The report notes that White Oak remains a volume leader in veneer and stave segments, while Black Walnut maintains its premium luxury positioning. Value-added products consistently outperform raw logs in margin capture and resilience.

The full interactive White Oak & Walnut Index™ – Baseline Edition 2026 is available now for free download at:

White Oak & Walnut Index™ – Baseline Edition | 2026 U.S. Inland Hardwood Market Report

Future quarterly editions will track trends, refresh pricing and scores, and deliver deeper species-specific analysis. Industry professionals are invited to subscribe for updates directly on the Grade Timber website.

About Grade Timber

Grade Timber is a family-owned, sustainable hardwood logging and processing company based in Springfield, Illinois. Specializing in premium White Oak and Black Walnut, the company manages thousands of acres using selective harvest practices, maintains rigorous quality control, and provides efficient export logistics. Services include logging, sawmilling, and value-added preparation for domestic and international markets. Visit www.gradetimber.com for current inventory, custom sourcing, partnership opportunities, or to join the WOWI mailing list.

Media Contact:
Beau Shymansky
Grade Timber
Phone: 309-472-7867
Email: info@gradetimber.com
Website: www.gradetimber.com

Beau
Grade Timber
+1 309-472-7867
[email us here](#)
Visit us on social media:
[Instagram](#)
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