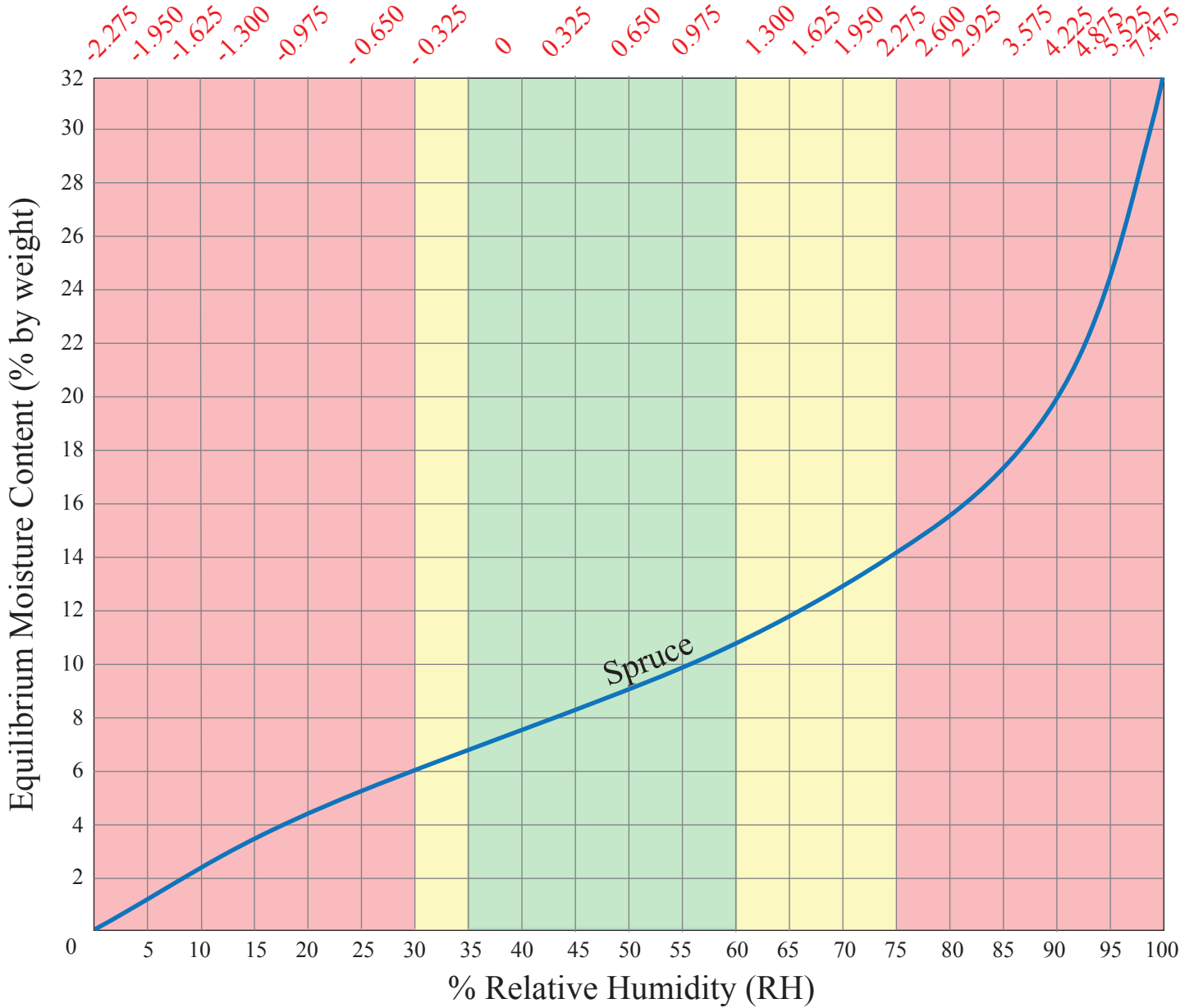




Actual Dimensional Change in mm. Across a Spruce Mandolin Top



The amount of bound water in wood is determined by the relative humidity (RH) of the surrounding atmosphere. When a balance is established between the RH and the moisture content of the wood, it is said to be at its "Equilibrium moisture content". When the surrounding RH changes the moisture content (MC) of the wood will, also change until a new equilibrium is arrived at. Changes in MC, up or down, will cause a corresponding dimensional change in the wood. Typical quartersawn spruce will change dimensionally by a factor of .0013 per 1% change in MC

Compiled using data from "Understanding Wood" by Prof. Bruce Hoadley and the "Wood Movement Reference Guide" by Lee Valley Tools.