

Forestry Commission

Forestry Statistics 2006

Imports, exports & apparent consumption of wood products

This section contains information about international trade in wood products, and about the level of apparent consumption estimated from data for trade and UK production.

A large proportion of the wood and wood products consumed in the United Kingdom are imported from a range of different countries.

Information on imports and exports comes from the Overseas Trade Statistics compiled by HM Revenue & Customs. The two sources are surveys of European Union (EU) internal trade (Intrastat) and customs data for trade with non-EU countries.

Quantities are given as wood raw material equivalent underbark, that is the amount of timber (underbark) required to produce these products. The factors used for this chapter differ from those in the section on [Conversion factors](#).

Apparent consumption is the amount of timber (measured as raw wood material equivalent underbark) used as wood and wood products by people and industries in the United Kingdom. It is calculated as total United Kingdom production plus imports, minus exports. This total does not include any allowance for recycled wood and paper that is recovered for use within the United Kingdom, but is reduced by the substantial net exports of recovered paper (see Table 3.3). Apparent consumption also differs from actual consumption by the extent of changes in the level of stocks. It is not practical to collect information on actual consumption.

UK production of roundwood totalled 8.6 million m³ WRME underbark in 2005. A further 52.5 million m³ WRME underbark of wood and wood products were imported to the UK and 16.5 million m³ WRME underbark were exported, giving apparent consumption of 44.7 million m³ WRME underbark.

Table 3.1 Apparent consumption of wood in the UK

million m ³ WRME underbark				
Year	UK production ¹	Imports	Exports	Apparent Consumption
1996	7.5	45.1	5.4	47.2
1997	7.8	47.7	6.8	48.8
1998	7.6	46.8	7.0	47.4
1999	7.8	45.8	7.3	46.3
2000	7.8	47.8	7.4	48.2
2001	7.9	49.4	7.9	49.5
2002	7.8	48.8	9.3	47.3
2003	8.1	49.5	12.7	44.9
2004	8.3	52.0	15.6	44.7
2005	8.6	52.5	16.5	44.7

Source: UK Overseas Trade Statistics and conversion factors to WRME.

1. UK production of roundwood is estimated from deliveries to wood processing industries, as in Table 2.3

UK production accounted for around one quarter of the UK sawnwood market, and around one half of the UK woodbased panel and paper markets.

Table 3.2 Apparent consumption of wood products^{1, 2} in the UK - 2005

Product	Unit	UK production	Imports	Exports	Apparent Consumption
Sawnwood		2 862	8 227	434	10 655
Coniferous	1000 m ³	2 808	7 559	412	9 955
Non-coniferous		54	668	21	700
Woodbased panels		3 398	3 531	520	6 409
Veneer sheets		0	33	5	29
Plywood	1000 m ³	0	1 417	115	1 302
Particleboard		2 557	1 138	183	3 513
Fibreboard		841	942	217	1 566
Paper & paperboard		6 033	7 265	1 495	11 803
Newsprint		1 136	1 427	165	2 399
Other graphic papers		1 518	3 705	541	4 681
Sanitary and household papers	1000 mt	795	168	35	928
Packaging materials		1 989	1 900	724	3 164
Other paper & paperboard		595	66	30	631

Source: UK Overseas Trade Statistics and UK Timber Statistics 2006.

1. Excludes other wood products, e.g. wood fuel and round fencing.
2. Excludes roundwood and intermediate products (e.g. pulp and sawmill products), to avoid double counting.

'Wood and wood products' in Table 3.3 make up most of the following divisions of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC).

- 24 (cork and wood)
- 25 (pulp and waste paper)
- 63 (cork and wood manufacturers (excluding furniture))
- 64 (paper, paperboard, and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard)

Around one third of the wood products imported to the UK in 2005 were imported as softwood (round and sawn). A further one third were imported as paper, 15% were imported as woodbased panels and 13% as pulp. Paper (20%) and recovered paper (57%) accounted for the majority of exports of wood products from the UK in 2005.

Table 3.3 UK imports and exports (WRME volumes)¹

thousand m ³ WRME underbark							
	Wood (round and sawn)			Paper and paperboard			Total wood and wood products
	Softwood	Hardwood	Wood-based panels	Paper	Pulp	Recovered Paper	
Imports							
1996	13 335	1 659	5 372	16 564	7 929	250	45 107
1997	13 977	1 614	5 970	17 803	8 171	211	47 746
1998	14 070	1 514	6 312	17 244	7 542	161	46 843
1999	13 479	1 417	6 369	16 992	7 370	171	45 797
2000	14 934	1 738	7 000	16 068	7 706	382	47 829
2001	15 028	1 844	7 294	18 211	6 928	141	49 446
2002	15 991	2 007	8 207	15 410	6 950	212	48 778
2003	17 212	2 428	7 965	15 101	6 512	280	49 499
2004	16 154	2 291	8 045	18 435	6 879	242	52 047
2005	17 860	2 127	7 720	17 645	6 978	218	52 549
Exports							
1996	201	82	756	3 407	55	912	5 414
1997	203	93	985	4 193	22	1 341	6 838
1998	300	367	956	4 004	98	1 240	6 964
1999	379	183	1 328	4 001	123	1 265	7 278
2000	474	261	1 180	3 834	32	1 653	7 434
2001	863	201	1 425	3 494	12	1 944	7 939
2002	914	163	1 507	3 339	22	3 435	9 381
2003	1 307	444	1 874	3 645	8	5 615	12 893
2004	1 613	294	1 536	3 765	10	8 690	15 907
2005	1 787	317	1 625	3 318	20	9 341	16 409

Source: UK Overseas Trade Statistics and conversion factors to WRME.

1. Figures for 2001 to 2004 softwood exports have been revised from Forestry Statistics 2005 to reflect revisions to export data.

In table 3.4 'associated products' are made up of the following SITC sub divisions which are excluded from wood and wood products in Table 3.3;

- 244 (cork, natural, raw and waste (including natural cork in blocks or sheets))
- 251.92 (pulp of other fibrous cellulosic material)
- 633 (cork manufacturers)
- 641.7 (paper, paperboard, cellulose wadding/webs of fibre, coated, impregnated, painted etc, excluding group 892, in rolls or sheets, not elsewhere specified)
- 641.9 (converted paper and paperboard not elsewhere specified)
- 642 (paper and paperboard cut to size or shape, and articles of paper or paperboard).

The value of wood and wood product imports (including associated products) in 2005 was £8.7 billion. Exports were valued at £2.7 billion.

Table 3.4 UK imports and exports (current prices)

£million						
	Imports			Exports		
	Wood and wood products	Associated products	Total (Divs 24,25,63,64)	Wood and wood products	Associated products	Total (Divs 24,25,63,64)
1999	5 549	1 753	7 303	1 198	1 215	2 414
2000	5 998	1 880	7 878	1 238	1 252	2 491
2001	6 351	1 939	8 290	1 198	1 296	2 494
2002	5 718	1 949	7 667	1 145	1 267	2 412
2003	5 696	2 019	7 715	1 308	1 269	2 577
2004	6 701	2 114	8 815	1 447	1 218	2 665
2005	6 542	2 172	8 714	1 441	1 309	2 750

Source: UK Overseas Trade Statistics.

1. Figures for 2004 have been revised from Forestry Statistics 2005 to reflect revisions to import and export data.

Sweden, Latvia and Finland provided the majority of imports of sawn softwood to the UK in 2005. Sawn hardwood was most commonly imported from Latvia and the USA. UK imports of plywood commonly came from countries outwith the EU, such as Brazil and China, although of the EU trade, the majority came from Finland. Most particleboard and fibreboard imports came from within the EU. Canada, Brazil, the USA and Sweden were amongst the principal sources of wood pulp for the UK, whilst the majority of paper and paperboard imports originated in Finland, Sweden and Germany.

Table 3.5 Country of origin of wood imports to the UK 2005

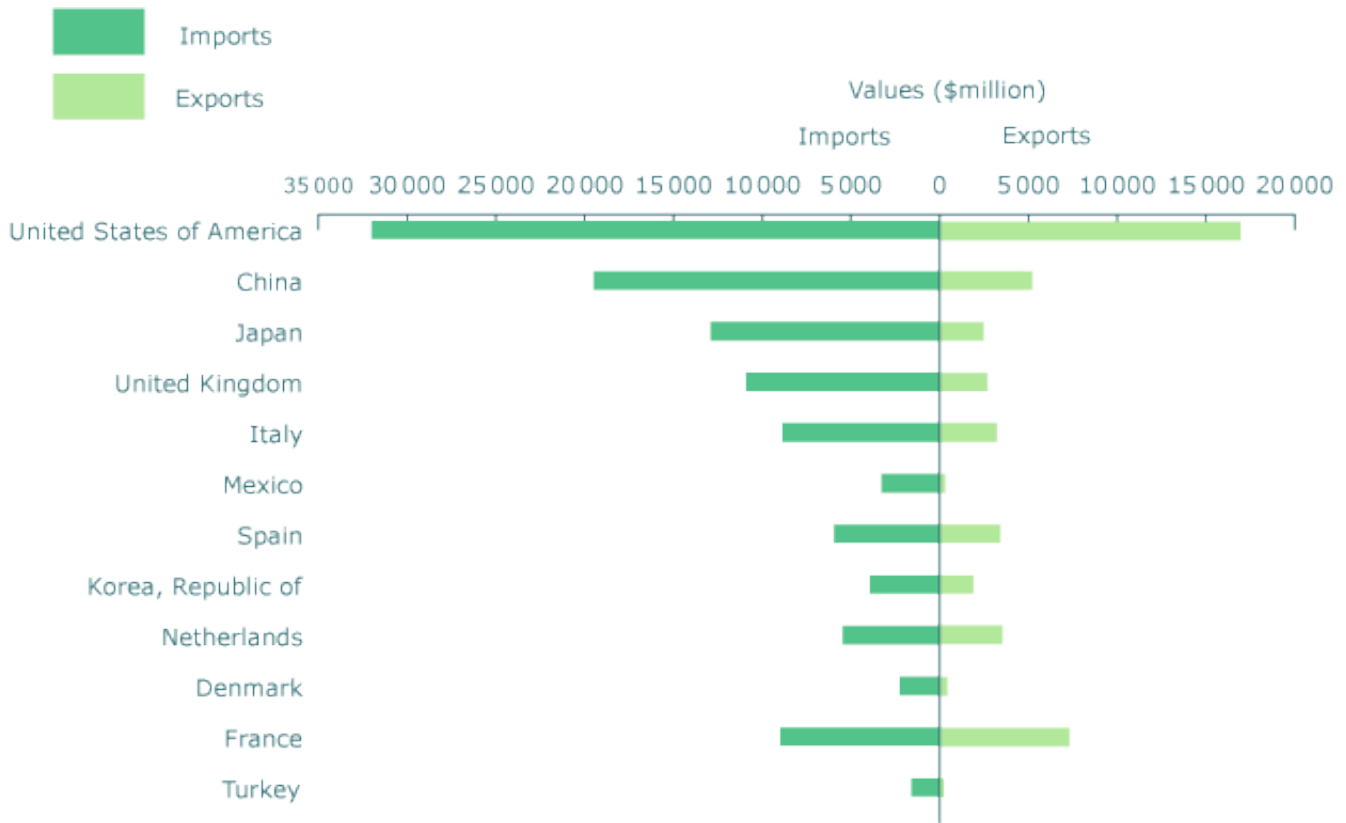
% of total UK imports (volume) in each category							
	Sawn softwood	Sawn hardwood	Plywood	Particleboard	Fibreboard	Wood pulp	Paper and paperboard
Sweden	33	2	1	0	1	13	18
Finland	15	1	15	9	2	4	19
Germany	3	7	1	31	19	1	17
France	0	7	1	21	6	2	9
Austria	1	1	0	2	1	0	5
Netherlands	0	2	0	2	1	2	4
Belgium	0	2	1	18	12	0	2
Latvia	19	23	3	0	0	0	0
Spain	0	0	1	1	14	8	2
Irish Republic	3	0	0	13	27	4	0
Other EU-25	9	11	2	3	13	3	6
Total EU-25	84	56	25	100	95	38	82
USA	1	14	1	0	1	17	2
Canada	1	4	1	0	0	16	4
Norway	1	0	0	0	1	3	6
Brazil	0	1	30	0	0	15	1
Russia	12	1	5	0	0	1	1
China	0	1	15	0	0	0	0
Other non-EU	1	23	24	0	3	10	3
Total non-EU	16	44	75	0	5	62	18

Source: FAO and UK Overseas Trade Statistics.

1. Categories used above are those used by FAO in 'Forest Products Trade Flow Data', and are not fully consistent with those used in Tables 3.3-3.4.

The UK was the fourth largest net importer of forest products in 2005, behind USA, China¹ and Japan.

Figure 3.1 World trade in forest products: largest net importers, 2005

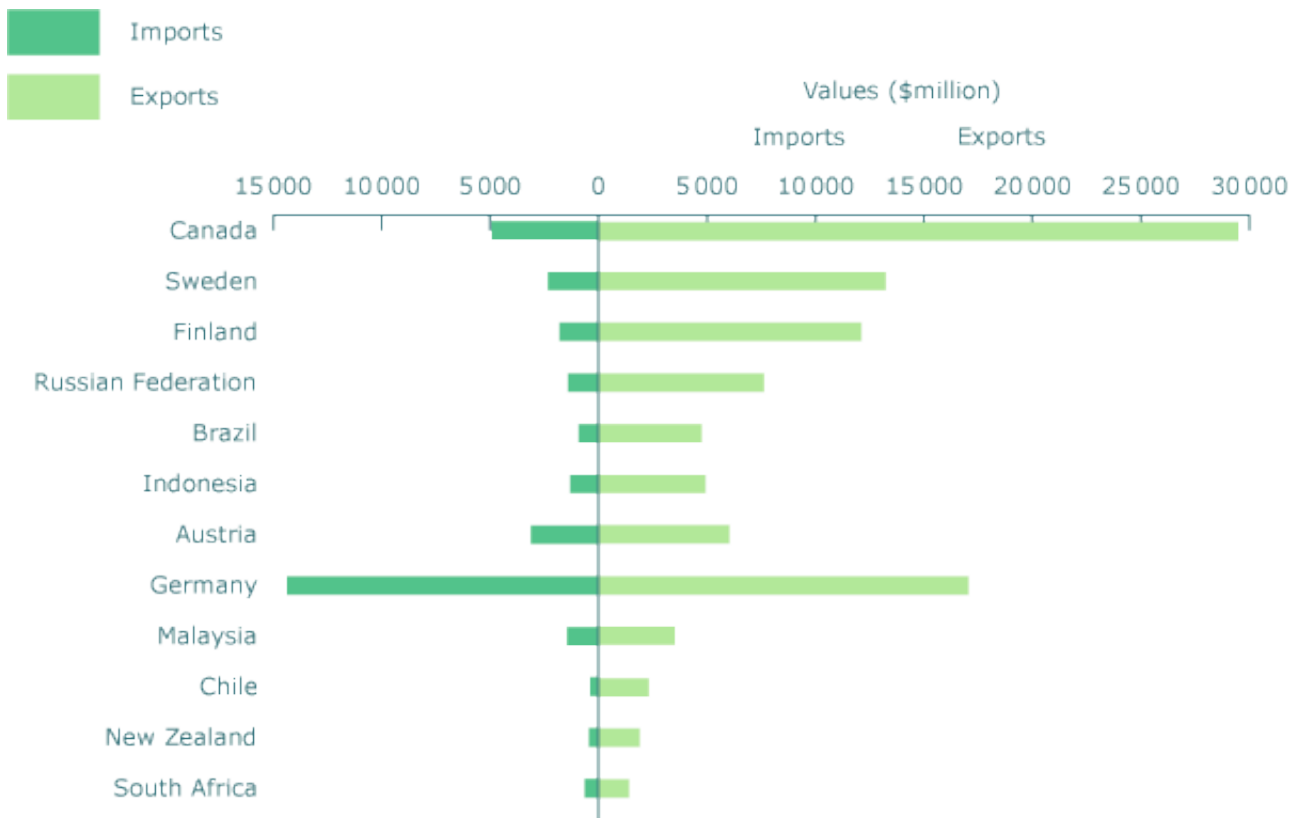


Source: FAO.

1. Figure 3.1 presents the 2005 data for all countries except China (for which 2004 data are shown). The full data set for all countries (including China) will be updated to the FAO website in December 2006.

The largest net exporters of forest products in 2005 were Canada, Finland and Sweden.

Figure 3.2 World trade in forest products: largest net exporters, 2005



Source: FAO.