

# Forestry Statistics 2006

## UK grown timber and wood products

**This section covers the production of timber from woodland, and the primary processing of harvested wood to give basic wood products.**

Timber originating from conifers is known as softwood and that from broadleaves is known as hardwood.

Information in Tables 2.1-2.9 and 2.11-2.12 is taken from the National Statistics publication *UK Timber Statistics 2006*.

Information on employment within the forestry and primary wood processors sectors is given in section 6.

## Wood production

Figures for production are expressed in green tonnes (i.e. weight when freshly felled). See [conversion factors](#) for information on converting between cubic metres and green tonnes.

A total of 9.4 million green tonnes was produced in the UK in 2005. This represented an increase of 2.1% from the 2004 total of 9.2 million green tonnes.

**Table 2.1 Wood production<sup>1</sup>**

Calendar year	Softwood			Hardwood <sup>2</sup>	UK Total
	FC/FS woodland	Non-FC/FS woodland	Total softwood		
1996	3 720	2 760	6 480	800	7 280
1997	3 950	2 850	6 790	820	7 610
1998	4 190	2 640	6 830	720	7 540
1999	4 730	2 550	7 280	680	7 960
2000	4 850	2 580	7 430	660	8 090
2001	4 600	2 900	7 500	640	8 150
2002	4 650	3 030	7 680	620	8 300
2003	4 820	3 590	8 410	560	8 970
2004	4 890	3 800	8 700	510	9 210
2005	4 580	4 220	8 800	600	9 400

Source: *UK Timber Statistics 2006*.

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 thousand green tonnes.
2. Most hardwood production in the UK comes from non-FC/FS woodland; the figures are estimates based on reported deliveries to wood processing industries.

Softwood availability forecasts (not National Statistics) are taken from a forecast published in September 2006. They are forecasts of availability rather than production, as they do not take account of financial factors or the state of markets, which may cause production to be delayed or brought forward. More information and detailed breakdowns are available in a report on the Forestry Commission website and in the November 2006 edition of

Softwood production in the UK is projected to peak at an annual average of almost 15 million m<sup>3</sup> overbark standing over the five year period 2017 to 2021. The majority of this softwood is projected to come from non-FC/FS woodland.

**Table 2.2 Softwood availability forecasts**

thousand m <sup>3</sup> overbark standing			
<b>Annual average in the five years:</b>	<b>FC/FS woodland</b>	<b>Non-FC/FS woodland</b>	<b>Total softwood</b>
2007-2011	5 840	6 210	12 050
2012-2016	6 660	7 150	13 810
2017-2021	6 870	7 780	14 650
2022-2026	6 170	7 970	14 140

Source: UK: New forecast of softwood availability (2006).

Longer term softwood forecasts are expected to be published in 2007. No forecasts are published for hardwood.

## Timber deliveries

Most figures for timber deliveries (inputs to wood processing) are expressed in green tonnes. See [Conversion factors](#) for information on converting from green tonnes to underbark volumes.

A total of 8.2 million green tonnes of UK grown softwood and 0.6 million green tonnes of UK grown hardwood were delivered to wood processing industries in the UK in 2005. Sawmills accounted for the majority of softwood deliveries (61%) but just 12% of hardwood deliveries. A further 18% of softwood was delivered to woodbased panel mills and 6% to integrated pulp and paper mills. Roundwood exports in 2005 accounted for 9% of all softwood deliveries.

**Table 2.3 Deliveries of UK grown roundwood to the wood processing industries<sup>1</sup>**

thousand green tonnes						
Year	Sawmills	Pulp mills	Woodbased panel mills	Miscellaneous <sup>2</sup>	Exports <sup>3</sup>	Total
<b>Softwood</b>						
1996	4 006	853	1 500	520	0	6 879
1997	4 081	940	1 690	505	0	7 216
1998	4 156	844	1 527	535	0	7 063
1999	4 454	660	1 613	557	24	7 309
2000	4 473	695	1 685	510	16	7 379
2001	4 590	668	1 680	508	61	7 507
2002	4 661	696	1 456	453	133	7 399
2003	4 788	704	1 486	445	307	7 730
2004	4 894	483	1 525	462	610	7 974
2005	4 982	500	1 502	527	705	8 216
<b>Hardwood</b>						
1996	304	202	91	206	0	803
1997	297	198	118	206	0	819
1998	255	180	77	206	0	718
1999	228	191	52	206	0	677
2000	200	200	50	206	0	656
2001	192	209	35	206	0	642
2002	163	210	43	206	0	622
2003	139	215	4	206	0	564
2004	93	214	2	206	0	515
2005	73	214	2	306	0	595
<b>Total</b>						
1996	4 310	1 055	1 591	726	0	7 682
1997	4 378	1 138	1 808	711	0	8 035
1998	4 412	1 024	1 604	741	0	7 781
1999	4 682	851	1 665	763	24	7 986
2000	4 673	895	1 735	716	16	8 034
2001	4 782	877	1 715	714	61	8 150
2002	4 824	906	1 499	659	133	8 021
2003	4 927	919	1 490	651	307	8 294
2004	4 987	697	1 527	668	610	8 489
2005	5 055	714	1 504	833	705	8 811

Source: UK Timber Statistics 2006.

1. Figures have been revised from Forestry Statistics 2005 in light of additional information received.
2. These figures were estimated by, or partly composed of estimates made by, the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics.
3. Exports here are the quantities of wood exported without going to a wood processing industry in the UK. Data for exports from Northern Ireland before 2004 are not available.

## Sawmills

Data are collected by the Forestry Commission in an annual Sawmill Survey. For more details, see UK Timber Statistics 2006.

Consumption units are given in green tonnes. For production, the units used are m<sup>3</sup> sawnwood - see [Conversion factors](#).

In 2005 UK sawmills consumed a total of 5.3 million green tonnes of softwood, producing 2.8 million m<sup>3</sup> sawnwood. A further 107 thousand green tonnes of hardwood was consumed, producing 54 thousand m<sup>3</sup> sawnwood.

**Table 2.4 Consumption and production of UK timber by sawmills**

	Consumption of roundwood (thousand green tonnes)		Production of sawn timber (thousand m <sup>3</sup> )	
	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood
1996	4 269	344	2 323	176
1997	4 335	303	2 388	147
1998	4 403	263	2 394	128
1999	4 681	235	2 538	120
2000	4 708	211	2 521	108
2001	4 829	263	2 598	130
2002	4 896	181	2 640	91
2003	5 014	158	2 687	81
2004	5 120	121	2 722	61
2005	5 254	107	2 808	54

Source: UK Timber Statistics 2006.

A total of 228 sawmills processed UK roundwood in 2005. The majority of these sawmills (120) were in England, 73 were in Scotland, 20 in Wales and 15 in Northern Ireland. 70% of sawmills produced less than five thousand m<sup>3</sup> sawnwood (softwood and hardwood).

**Table 2.5 Number of sawmills in the United Kingdom**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Number of active mills	280	259	251	235	228
<b>Production<sup>1</sup></b>					
<1 000m <sup>3</sup>	104	96	96	92	93
1 000-4 999m <sup>3</sup>	96	87	82	73	67
5 000-9 999m <sup>3</sup>	28	26	22	20	20
10 000-24 999m <sup>3</sup>	24	24	23	22	19
25 000-49 999m <sup>3</sup>	13	10	12	10	9
≥50 000m <sup>3</sup>	15	16	16	18	20
<b>Country</b>					
Scotland	86	82	80	76	73
England	152	139	134	123	120
Wales	27	23	22	21	20
N Ireland	15	15	15	15	15

Source: UK Timber Statistics 2006.

1. Categories are based on m<sup>3</sup> total (softwood and hardwood) sawnwood production.

## Pulp and paper mills

The information in Tables 2.6 and 2.7 relates only to mills that use UK grown roundwood in the production of paper (integrated pulp and paper mills). These mills also use recycled paper and recycled cardboard, and in the past have used some imported roundwood/chips.

In 2005 integrated pulp and paper mills in the UK consumed 0.7 million green tonnes of UK roundwood (mainly softwood) and 0.1 million green tonnes of sawmill products.

**Table 2.6 Inputs to integrated pulp and paper mills<sup>1</sup>**

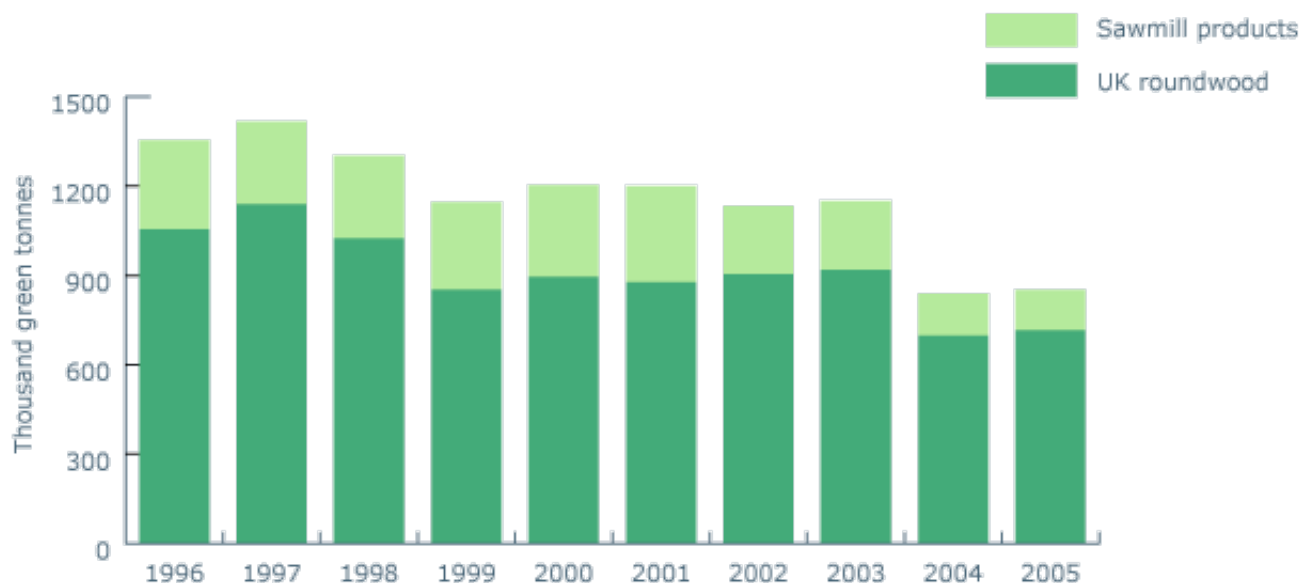
Year	thousand green tonnes					
	UK roundwood <sup>2</sup>		Sawmill products <sup>3</sup>		Total <sup>4</sup>	
	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood
1996	853	202	305	0	1 158	202
1997	940	198	279	0	1 239	198
1998	844	180	277	0	1 136	180
1999	660	191	295	0	964	191
2000	695	200	308	0	1 004	218
2001	668	209	323	0	991	209
2002	696	210	307	0	1 003	210
2003	704	215	234	0	938	215
2004	483	214	143	0	626	214
2005	500	214	138	0	638	214

Source: UK Timber Statistics 2006.

1. This table excludes inputs of recycled paper and cardboard.

2. UK roundwood includes all materials from forest operations.
3. Sawmill products include peeled and unpeeled chips, sawdust, slabwood, shavings, postplant chips and peelings.
4. Includes inputs from imported roundwood and chips.

**Figure 2.1 Inputs to integrated pulp and paper mills**



1. This chart excludes inputs of recycled paper and cardboard, and also excludes any imported roundwood/chips.

Table 2.7 gives information on the country of origin of the UK grown roundwood for all integrated pulp and paper mills in the UK. Figures are not available for the quantity broken down by the country in which the mill is located, which could disclose data for individual mills.

Over one half (59%) of UK grown roundwood used in integrated pulp and paper mills in 2005 was obtained from Scotland, 39% was obtained from England and 2% from Wales.

**Table 2.7 UK grown roundwood used in integrated pulp and paper mills**

thousand green tonnes										
Year	UK		England		Scotland		Wales		N Ireland	
	Hardwood (HW)	Softwood (SW)	HW	SW	HW	SW	HW	SW	HW	SW
1996	202	853	194	175	0	478	8	200	0	0
1997	198	940	190	161	0	598	8	181	0	0
1998	180	844	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
1999	191	660	177	107	0	383	14	170	0	0
2000	200	695	188	86	0	479	12	130	0	0
2001	209	668	200	86	0	454	9	128	0	0
2002	210	696	200	98	0	448	10	150	0	0
2003	215	704	196	87	0	466	19	151	0	0
2004	214	483	200	67	0	416	14	0	0	0
2005	214	500	200	77	0	423	14	0	0	0

Source: UK Timber Statistics 2006.

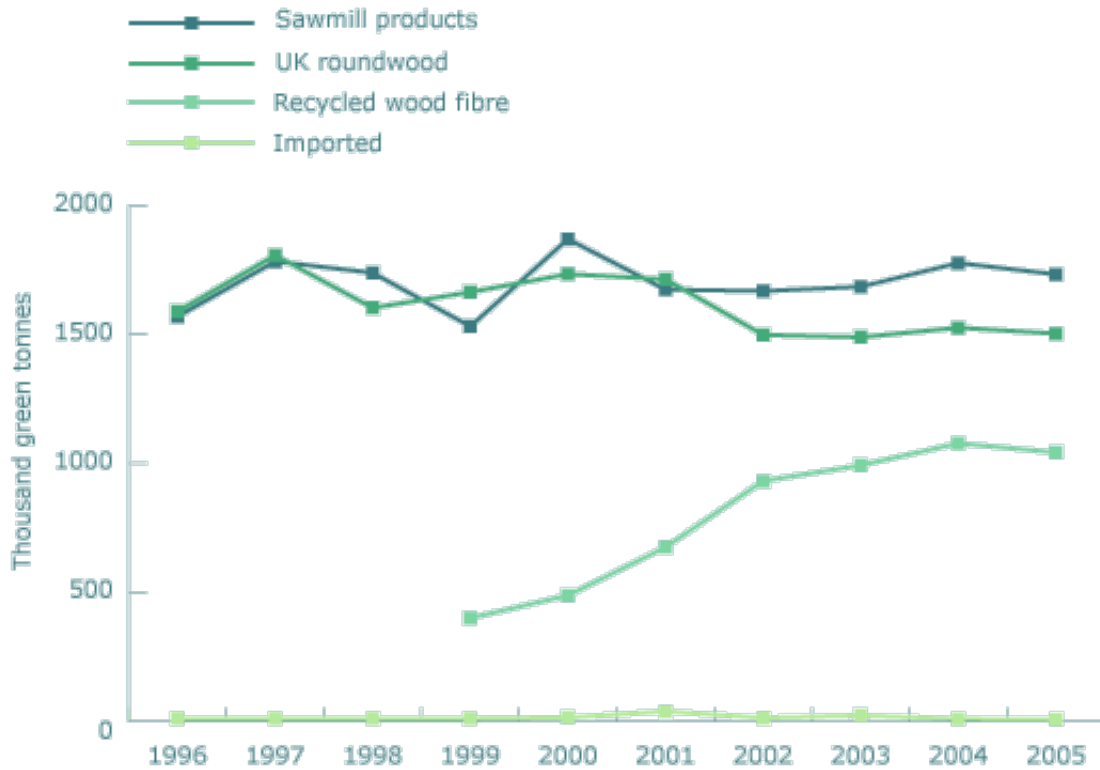
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## Woodbased panel products

Woodbased panels are oriented strand board (OSB), wood chipboard and cement bonded particleboard (which are all types of particleboard), and medium density fibreboard (MDF) and other fibreboard (which are both types of fibreboard).

Sawmill products accounted for 40% of all inputs to woodbased panel mills in 2005. A further 35% was obtained from UK roundwood and 24% from recycled wood fibre.

**Figure 2.2 Inputs to woodbased panel mills**



Source: UK Timber Statistics 2006.

Table 2.8 shows the inputs used in the production of all types of woodbased panels in the United Kingdom.

**Table 2.8 Inputs to woodbased panel production**

thousand green tonnes									
Year	UK roundwood <sup>1</sup>		Sawmill products <sup>2</sup>		Imported <sup>3</sup>		Total		
	Hardwood (HW)	Softwood (SW)	HW	SW	HW	SW	HW	SW	Recycled wood fibre <sup>4</sup>
1996	91	1 500	28	1 542	0	10	119	3 052	..
1997	118	1 690	40	1 744	0	10	158	3 444	..
1998	77	1 527	29	1 711	0	10	106	3 248	..
1999	52	1 613	10	1 522	0	10	62	3 145	400
2000	50	1 685	0	1 871	0	14	50	3 570	488
2001	35	1 680	0	1 675	25	13	60	3 368	675
2002	43	1 456	0	1 669	0	13	43	3 138	932
2003	4	1 486	4	1 682	0	22	8	3 190	993
2004	2	1 525	0	1 778	0	9	2	3 312	1 078
2005	2	1 502	2	1 732	0	6	4	3 240	1 043

Source: UK Timber Statistics 2006.

1. UK roundwood includes all material from forest operations.
2. Sawmill products include peeled and unpeeled chips, sawdust, slabwood, shavings, postplant chips and peelings.
3. Imports include roundwood, wood products and products from imported wood.
4. Recycled wood fibre is wood fibre recovered from both pre- and post-consumer wood waste for use in woodbased panel production.

.. denotes data not available

## Miscellaneous uses of UK wood

Data for softwood fencing are collected by the Forestry Commission in an annual survey of round fencing manufacturers. Many of the other uses are not covered by survey or administrative sources, and the values are estimates made by representatives of the wood processing industries.

A total of 342 thousand green tonnes of UK softwood and an estimated 30 thousand green tonnes of UK hardwood were consumed by round fencing manufactures in 2005. Other miscellaneous uses accounted for a further 461 thousand green tonnes of roundwood (softwood and hardwood ).

**Table 2.9 Miscellaneous uses of UK roundwood<sup>1</sup>**

thousand green tonnes						
Year	Fencing		Other <sup>2,3</sup>		Total	
	Hardwood (HW)	Softwood (SW)	HW	SW	HW	SW
1996	30	385	176	135	206	520
1997	30	371	176	134	206	505
1998	30	401	176	134	206	535
1999	30	424	176	133	206	557
2000	30	357	176	153	206	510
2001	30	354	176	154	206	508
2002	30	298	176	155	206	453
2003	30	275	176	170	206	445
2004	30	282	176	180	206	462
2005	30	342	276	185	306	527

Source: UK Timber Statistics 2006.

1. Figures have been revised from Forestry Statistics 2005 in light of additional information received.
2. Includes fuelwood, shavings, poles and woodwool.
3. These figures are estimated by, or partly composed of estimates made by, the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics.

## Certification

Forest certification assesses forest management practices against an agreed standard and awards a label to those forest products that meet the standard. In order for products to achieve certification, both forest management practices and the Chain of Custody, which tracks timber from forest to retail outlet, must be assessed.

1.2 million hectares of woodland in the UK were certified in March 2006, mostly under the Forest Stewardship Council. This represented 44% of the total UK woodland area, varying from 31% in England to 75% in Northern Ireland.

**Table 2.10 Woodland area certified in March 2006**

thousand hectares					
	UK	England	Scotland	Wales	N Ireland
Total woodland area	2 829	1 121	1 337	285	86
<b>Total certified area</b>	<b>1 233</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>65</b>
Forestry Commission / Forest Service	832	204	460	108	61
Non-FC/FS certified area	401	144	238	16	3

Source: Forest Stewardship Council, Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), Forestry Commission.

1. Where possible, Table 2.10 uses the total woodland certified, rather than the total land certified. The Forestry Commission areas included in the totals are the latest areas, as shown in Table 1.1, rather than the areas shown on certificates.

Respondents to Forestry Commission surveys were asked to report on volumes certified. Almost three quarters of non-FC/FS softwood removals in 2005 were from certified sources. Over three quarters of sawmills' roundwood consumption and almost three quarters of sawnwood production by sawmills in 2005 was certified. For round fencing manufacturers, under one half of total softwood consumption in 2005 was certified.

**Table 2.11 Percentage of volume certified<sup>1</sup>**

	% certified volume			
	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Removals<sup>2</sup></b>				
Softwood from non-FC/FS woodland	40	54	70	73
<b>Sawmills</b>				
Consumption (softwood and hardwood)	67	68	83	78
Production (softwood and hardwood)	66	52	66	74
<b>Round fencing manufacturers</b>				
Consumption (softwood)	14	36	58	44

Source: UK Timber Statistics 2006.

1. Figures have been revised from Forestry Statistics 2005 in light of additional information received.
2. For all removals from FC/FS woodland, the source is certified.

Sawmills and round fencing manufacturers were also asked whether they held a Chain of Custody certificate. Around 40% of sawmills who provided data in 2005 reported that they held a Chain of Custody certificate. This proportion varied with size of mill, from 25% of mills producing less than 5 thousand m<sup>3</sup> sawnwood to 95% of those producing 25 thousand m<sup>3</sup> sawnwood or more. Around one quarter of round fencing manufacturers reported holding a Chain of Custody certificate.

**Table 2.12 Chain of Custody certificates<sup>1</sup> - 2005**

	Mill holding certificate	Mills without certificate	Certification status not reported	Total
<b>Sawmills</b>				
Production <sup>2</sup>				
<5 000m <sup>3</sup>	19	52	5	76
5 000-24 999 m <sup>3</sup>	11	14	0	25
≥25 000 m <sup>3</sup>	20	1	0	21
<b>All mills</b>	50	67	5	122
<b>Round fencing manufacturers</b>				
All mills	12	31	2	45

Source: UK Timber Statistics 2006.

1. Mills responding for 2005. Accounts for around three quarters of total production for sawmills and almost 60% of total consumption by round fencing manufacturers.
2. Production categories are based on total sawnwood production.

Certification was also a topic in the 2005 Public Opinion of Forestry, a survey of 4000 adults across Great Britain (see chapter 5 for further details on this survey). Respondents were first asked if they had been shopping for wood products in the last few years. Those who had (44%), were then asked if they recognised either the FSC or PEFC symbols. Over one third (38%) of those who had been shopping for wood products in the last few years said that they recognised the FSC symbol and 8% said that they recognised the PEFC symbol. 56% of respondents did not recollect seeing either symbol.

**Table 2.13 Public Opinion of Forestry: Respondents who had seen the FSC or PEFC logos on wood products**

	percent of base	
	2003	2005
FSC logo	31	38
PEFC logo	8	8
None	61	56
Don't know	4	3

Base: Respondents who had been shopping for wood products: 1930 in 2003 (UK), 1752 in 2005 (GB).

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry 2003, GB Public Opinion of Forestry 2005 (not National Statistics).

1. Includes multiple responses.

## Number of establishments in the primary wood processing industries

Table 2.14 shows the number of primary wood processors, according to the sampling frames used for Forestry Commission surveys of establishments using UK timber. The figures in Table 2.14 do not correspond with the VAT registration information given in Figures 2.3-2.6. They count establishments (sites) rather than businesses and include those that do not need to register for VAT. They also have a different basis for classification, so some businesses which are excluded from Figs 2.3-2.6 because of their VAT classification are included in this table (typically businesses where primary wood processing is a small part of their total activity), and some businesses included in Figs 2.3-2.6 are excluded here (usually because they do not use UK-grown timber).

**Table 2.14 Number of establishments in the primary wood processing industries using UK grown roundwood<sup>1</sup>**

Year	Sawmills	Pulp and paper mills	Woodbased panel mills	Round fencing manufacturers	UK total <sup>2</sup>
1996	409	4	11	128	552
1997	381	4	11	112	508
1998	348	4	11	108	471
1999	326	4	10	100	440
2000	304	4	10	95	413
2001	280	4	10	90	384
2002	259	4	10	77	350
2003	251	3	8	72	334
2004	235	3	8	72	318
2005	228	3	8	73	312

1. Figures have been revised from Forestry Statistics 2005 in light of additional information received.
2. A single mill may be recorded twice, as a sawmill and a round fencing manufacturer.

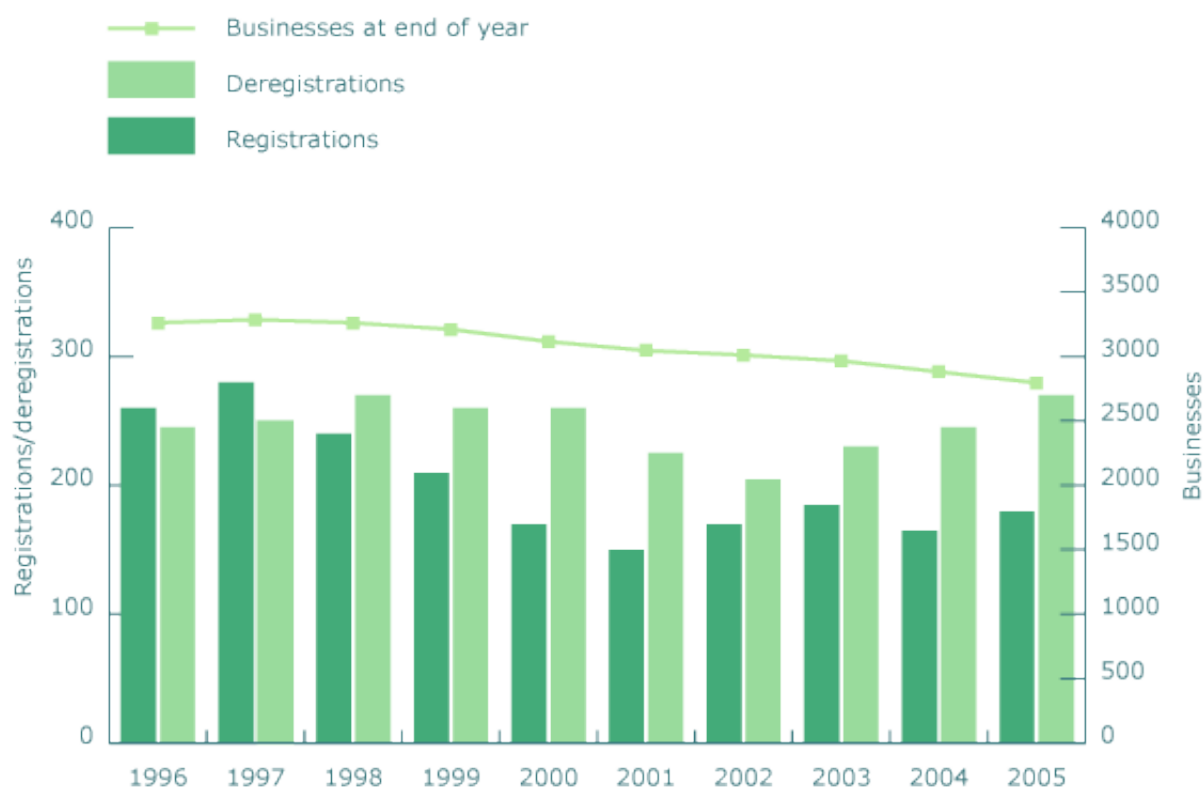
## VAT-registered businesses involved in forestry and primary wood processing

The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) is the United Kingdom's classification of business activities. The main heading including forestry businesses is 020: Forestry, logging and related services. The main headings for primary wood processing are 201: Sawmilling and planing of wood, impregnation of wood; 202: Manufacture of

vener sheets; manufacture of plywood, laminboard, particleboard, fibreboard and other panels and boards; and part of 211: Manufacture of pulp, paper and paperboard. All these headings potentially include businesses not traditionally regarded as forestry or primary wood processing, and some businesses which are traditionally included in forestry or primary wood processing are excluded as they are classified to other headings of the SIC.

Figures 2.3-2.6 (using data from Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and deregistrations 1994-2005 published by the Small Business Service of the Department for Trade and Industry) show start-ups and closures and the size of the business population in these classifications. Because businesses with turnover below the VAT threshold are not required to register, many of the smallest businesses are not included in these figures. The figures are also not restricted to businesses using domestically produced timber but include businesses wholly using imports.

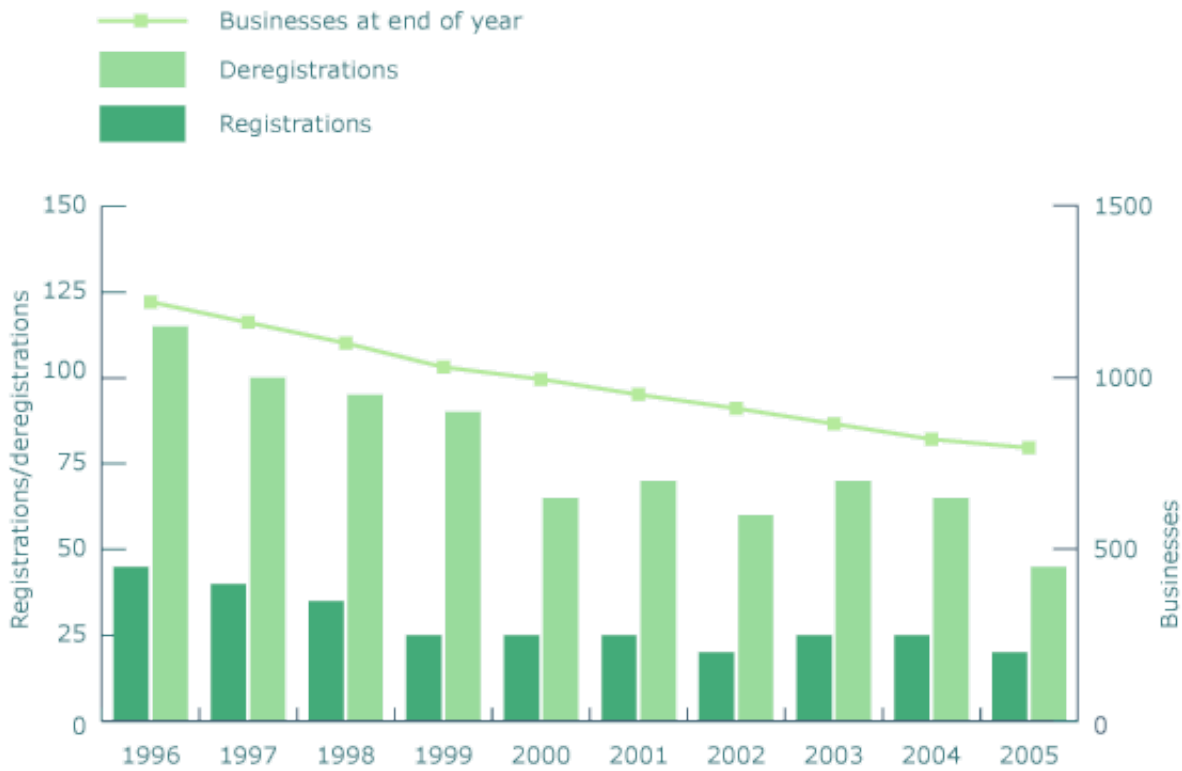
**Figure 2.3 Total number of businesses and VAT registrations and deregistrations of businesses classified to SIC 020: Forestry, logging and related services**



Source: Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and deregistrations 1994-2005.

1. All figures are rounded by DTI to the nearest multiple of 5.
2. Figures have been revised from Forestry Statistics 2005 to reflect revised data published by DTI.

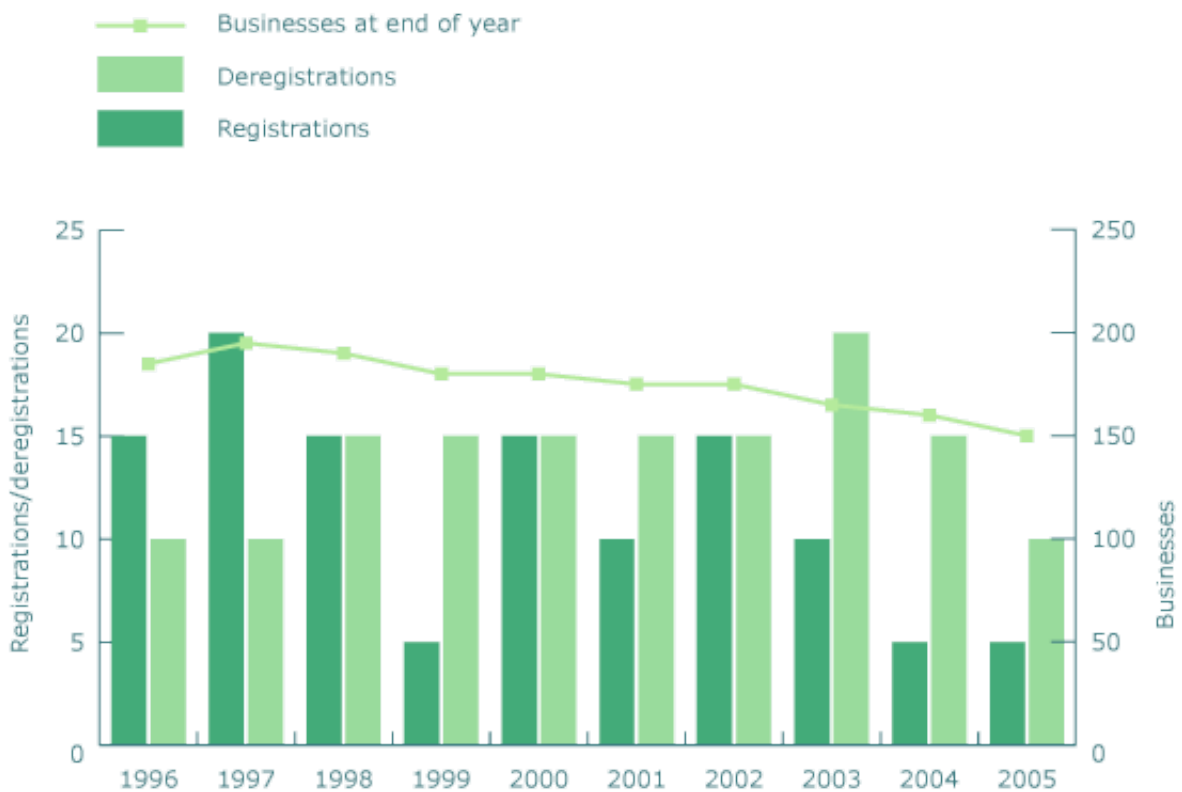
**Figure 2.4 Total number of businesses and VAT registrations and deregistrations of businesses classified to SIC 201: Sawmilling and planing of wood, impregnation of wood**



Source: Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and deregistrations 1994-2005.

1. All figures are rounded by DTI to the nearest multiple of 5.
2. Figures have been revised from Forestry Statistics 2005 to reflect revised data published by DTI.

**Figure 2.5 Total number of businesses and VAT registrations and deregistrations of businesses classified to SIC 202: Manufacture of veneer sheets; manufacture of plywood, laminboard, particleboard, fibreboard and other panels and boards**



Source: Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and deregistrations 1994-2005.

1. All figures are rounded by DTI to the nearest multiple of 5.
2. Figures have been revised from Forestry Statistics 2005 to reflect revised data published by DTI.

**Figure 2.6 Total number of businesses and VAT registrations and deregistrations of businesses classified to SIC 211: Manufacture of pulp, paper and paperboard**



Source: *Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and deregistrations 1994-2005.*

1. All figures are rounded by DTI to the nearest multiple of 5.
2. Figures have been revised from Forestry Statistics 2005 to reflect revised data published by DTI.