

16 May 2002

**Coverage**

United Kingdom

**Theme**

Agriculture, Fishing and  
Forestry

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## UK Wood Production and Trade

This publication contains provisional statistics for 2001 on UK wood production and trade, that will be reported to international organisations for publication in their compendia. In previous years, the corresponding UK series were not published in a UK Statistical Release, but statistics on similar topics are available in “British Timber Statistics” and “Forestry Statistics”.

Statistics are published here for three topics:

- Removals of roundwood (i.e. harvesting of wood from UK forests),
- Production of wood products from primary wood processing industries,
- Imports and exports of wood products

The main findings are:

- In 2001, removals of UK roundwood totalled 7.2 million cubic metres underbark.
- A total of 2.5 million cubic metres of sawnwood was produced in the UK in 2001.
- A total of 8.8 million tonnes of pulp and paper, with an estimated value of £4,329 million was imported to the UK in 2001.
- Pulp and paper also accounted for the majority of exports, generating a total of £1,289 million in 2001.

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## REMOVALS OF ROUNDWOOD

Statistics on the amount of wood harvested from UK forests are mainly estimated from reported inputs to primary wood processing industries. In 2001, removals of UK roundwood totalled 7.2 million cubic metres underbark. Coniferous wood accounted for the majority of removals (over 90%).

**Table 1: Removals of UK Roundwood**                      **Thousand cubic metres underbark**

	<b>Coniferous</b>		<b>Non-coniferous</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
Sawlogs	4,031	4,107	173	169	4,204	4,276
Pulpwood	2,228	2,033	221	242	2,449	2,275
Other roundwood <sup>(1)</sup>	350	354	48	48	398	402
Wood fuel <sup>(1) (2)</sup>	101	101	133	133	234	234
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,710</b>	<b>6,595</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>7,285</b>	<b>7,187</b>

Note:

(1) Figures for wood fuel and non-coniferous other roundwood are mostly obtained from advisory sub-committee estimates.

(2) Wood fuel includes wood for charcoal; charcoal production in UK is estimated to be about 5,000 tonnes, using around 30,000 m<sup>3</sup> of wood.

Source:

Forestry Commission: Sawmill Survey, Survey of Round Fencing Manufacturers  
UK Forest Products Association

## PRODUCTION OF WOOD PRODUCTS

Table 2 provides statistics for the sawnwood output of UK sawmills, which mainly use UK sawlogs, but can also use imported logs. Sawmills also produce co-products (chips, particles and residues), mostly going to wood-based panel and pulp/paper mills, but comprehensive statistics are not currently compiled in a suitable form for the international return. A total of 2.5 million cubic metres of sawnwood was produced in the UK in 2001.

**Table 2: UK Production of Sawnwood**                      **Thousand cubic metres sawnwood**

	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>
Coniferous	2,380	2,446
Non-coniferous	102	94
<b>Total sawnwood</b>	<b>2,482</b>	<b>2,540</b>

Source:

Forestry Commission: Sawmill Survey, supplemented by estimates from other sources.

Table 3 shows the output of UK mills that produce wood-based panels. In addition to UK pulpwood, they can use co-products (chips, particles and residues) from sawmills, recycled wood and imported wood. A total of 3.3 million cubic metres of wood-based panels were produced in 2000.

**Table 3: UK Production of Wood-based Panels** **Thousand cubic metres**

	<b>2000</b>
<b>Particle board</b>	<b>2,570</b>
- OSB (Oriented Strand Board)	230
- Other	2,340
<b>Fibreboard</b>	<b>705</b>
- MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard)	700
- Other	5
<b>Plywood</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Veneer sheets</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total wood-based panels</b>	<b>3,280</b>

Note:

Data for 2001 are currently unavailable.

Source:

UK Forest Products Association

Most UK paper production uses imported pulp. The figures shown below for pulp are principally for wood pulp as an intermediate product in integrated pulp & paper mills. Pulp is also produced from non-wood fibres and recovered fibres, but comprehensive statistics are not currently compiled in a suitable form for the international return. A total of 6.6 million tonnes of paper and paperboard, and 474 thousand tonnes of wood pulp were produced in the UK in 2000.

**Table 4: UK Production of Pulp & Paper** **Thousand tonnes**

	<b>2000</b>
<b>Paper &amp; Paperboard</b>	<b>6,605</b>
- Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	2,847
- Sanitary & household papers	724
- Packaging materials	2,554
- Other	480
<b>Wood Pulp</b>	<b>474</b>
- Mechanical	411
- Semi-Chemical	63
- Chemical	0
- Dissolving Grades	0

Note:

Data for 2001 are currently unavailable.

Source:

Paper Federation of Great Britain.

## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Statistics on imports and exports are based on the published Overseas Trade Statistics. The main imports are paper, sawnwood and pulp. Apart from paper, exported quantities are small.

**Table 5: UK Import and Export Quantities**

	Imports		Exports	
	2000	2001	2000	2001

### Roundwood, Sawnwood etc Thousand cubic metres

<b>Roundwood</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>267</b>
- Industrial Roundwood (conifer)	188	255	35	14
- Industrial Roundwood (non-conifer)	101	92	94	90
- Wood Fuel	20	10	233	163
<b>Sawnwood</b>	<b>7,963</b>	<b>7,876</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>215</b>
- conifer	7,308	7,180	185	203
- non-conifer	655	696	10	12
<b>Wood Charcoal</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Wood Chips, Particles &amp; Residues</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total Roundwood, Sawnwood, etc</b>	<b>8,495</b>	<b>8,559</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>494</b>

### Wood-based Panels Thousand cubic metres

<b>Particle board</b>	<b>1,164</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>217</b>
- OSB (Oriented Strand Board)	72	94	115	134
- Other	1,092	1,170	76	83
<b>Fibreboard</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>96</b>
- MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard)	421	386	76	70
- Other	446	602	34	26
<b>Plywood</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Veneer sheets</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total Wood-based Panels</b>	<b>3,111</b>	<b>3,429</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>368</b>

### Pulp and Paper Thousand tonnes

<b>Paper &amp; Paperboard</b>	<b>6,420</b>	<b>7,028</b>	<b>1,794</b>	<b>1,633</b>
- Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	4,449	5,161	824	593
- Sanitary & household papers	145	148	37	29
- Packaging materials	1,525	1,457	603	630
- Other	301	262	329	381
<b>Wood Pulp</b>	<b>1,908</b>	<b>1,706</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>
- Mechanical	69	97	3	0
- Semi-Chemical	17	15	0	0
- Chemical	1,694	1,484	5	3
- Dissolving Grades	127	110	0	0
<b>Other Pulp</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Recovered Paper</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>711</b>
<b>Total Pulp and Paper</b>	<b>8,514</b>	<b>8,831</b>	<b>2,425</b>	<b>2,359</b>

Table 6: UK Import and Export Values

£ million

	Imports		Exports	
	2000	2001	2000	2001
<b>Roundwood, Sawnwood etc</b>				
<b>Roundwood</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>
- Industrial Roundwood (conifer)	22	32	5	2
- Industrial Roundwood (non-conifer)	24	21	7	5
- Wood Fuel	1	0	2	2
<b>Sawnwood</b>	<b>1,121</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>32</b>
- conifer	910	851	23	24
- non-conifer	211	217	6	8
<b>Wood Charcoal</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Wood Chips, Particles &amp; Residues</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Roundwood, Sawnwood, etc</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>1,140</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Wood-based Panels</b>				
<b>Particle board</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
- OSB (Oriented Strand Board)	12	15	15	13
- Other	156	171	14	17
<b>Fibreboard</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>
- MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard)	64	65	9	8
- Other	122	122	11	7
<b>Plywood</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Veneer sheets</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total Wood-based Panels</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Pulp and Paper</b>				
<b>Paper &amp; Paperboard</b>	<b>3,223</b>	<b>3,657</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>1,208</b>
- Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	2,108	2,510	563	462
- Sanitary & household papers	117	113	32	21
- Packaging materials	712	740	358	390
- Other	286	293	297	335
<b>Wood Pulp</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
- Mechanical	24	34	1	0
- Semi-Chemical	8	5	0	0
- Chemical	696	532	2	1
- Dissolving Grades	66	59	0	0
<b>Other Pulp</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Recovered Paper</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Total Pulp and Paper</b>	<b>4,065</b>	<b>4,329</b>	<b>1,326</b>	<b>1,289</b>

## **Background**

These statistics are sent to international organisations in joint questionnaires (JQ1 and JQ2), in some cases giving more detail than in this statistical release. These detailed figures are available on the Forestry Commission website, along with the formal definitions used. The statistics are used by Eurostat Forestry Statistics, UNECE Timber Bulletins, and UN/FAO Forest Product Statistics).

Statistics on imports and exports are based on the published Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS) for intra-EC trade (OTS Q) and extra-EC trade (OTS 1). Intra-EC trade is rated up using the year's published estimates for non-response for that Division. Figures are also adjusted using standard FAO/ECE conversion factors, where the reporting units for quantity in OTS differ from those required on the international return. They may also be adjusted where an apparent inconsistency in the OTS figures cannot be resolved before the international return is required.

Coniferous wood is wood from trees such as spruce, pine and larch, and is also called softwood. Non-coniferous wood is wood from species such as oak, birch and beech, and is also called hardwood.

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