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Coverage

United Kingdom

Theme

Agriculture, Fishing and
Forestry

UK Wood Production and Trade

This publication contains provisional statistics for 2003 on UK wood production and trade, which will be used for reporting to international organisations for publication in their compendia.

Statistics are published here for three topics:

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

The main findings are:

- **Removals:**
 - In 2003, removals of UK roundwood totalled 7.6 million cubic metres underbark, an increase of 3% from 2002.
- **UK production of wood products in 2003 included:**
 - 2.6 million cubic metres of sawnwood (up 2% from 2002);
 - 3.4 million cubic metres of woodbased panels (up 4% from 2002);
 - and 6.2 million tonnes of paper and paperboard (no change from 2002).
- **Trade:**
 - UK imports in 2003 included 8.7 million cubic metres of sawnwood, 3.3 million cubic metres of woodbased panels and 8.7 million tonnes of pulp and paper.
 - The total value of wood product imports in 2003 was £6.0 billion, of which £3.9 billion was pulp and paper. Pulp and paper also accounted for the majority of exports, generating a total of £1.1 billion in 2003.

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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 2003, removals of UK roundwood totalled 7.6 million cubic metres underbark, an increase of 3% from the 2002 figure. Coniferous wood accounted for the majority of removals (over 90%).

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

	Coniferous		Non-coniferous		Total	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
Sawlogs	4,113	4,264	142	122	4,255	4,386
Pulpwood	2,306	2,425	221	192	2,527	2,617
Other roundwood ⁽¹⁾	297	282	48	48	345	330
Wood fuel ^{(1) (2)}	101	101	132	132	233	233
TOTAL	6,817	7,072	543	494	7,360	7,566

Note:

(1) Figures for wood fuel and non-coniferous other roundwood are mostly obtained from advisory 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 m³ of wood.

Sources:

Forestry Commission: Sawmill Survey, Survey of Round Fencing Manufacturers

UK Forest Products Association

Wood Panel Industries Federation

Northern Ireland Forest Service

PRODUCTION OF WOOD PRODUCTS

Table 2 provides statistics for the sawnwood output of UK sawmills, which mainly use UK sawlogs. In addition to producing sawnwood, sawmills also produce other products, including chips and sawdust, which mostly go to woodbased panel and pulp/paper mills. A total of 2.6 million cubic metres of sawnwood was produced in the UK in 2003, a 2% increase from 2002.

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

	2002	2003
Coniferous	2,459	2,525
Non-coniferous	81	71
Total sawnwood	2,540	2,596

Source:

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

Table 3 shows the output of UK mills that produce woodbased panels. In addition to UK pulpwood, they can use other products (e.g. chips and sawdust) from sawmills, recycled wood and imported wood. A total of 3.4 million cubic metres of woodbased panels were produced in 2003, an increase of 4% from the previous year.

Table 3: UK Production of Woodbased Panels **Thousand cubic metres**

	2002	2003
Particle board	2,446	2,526
- OSB (Oriented Strand Board)	280	280
- Other	2,166	2,246
Fibreboard	771	835
- MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard)	771	835
- Other	0	0
Plywood	0	0
Veneer sheets	0	0
Total woodbased panels	3,217	3,361

Source:
Wood Panel Industries Federation

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. A total of 6.2 million tonnes of paper and paperboard and 504 thousand tonnes of wood pulp were produced in the UK in 2003.

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

	2002	2003
Paper & Paperboard	6,218	6,226
- Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	2,526	2,532
- Sanitary & household papers	823	808
- Packaging materials	2,207	2,240
- Other	662	646
Wood Pulp	524	504
- Mechanical	444	413
- Semi-Chemical	80	91
- Chemical	0	0
- Dissolving Grades	0	0

Source:
Paper Federation of Great Britain.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Statistics on imports and exports are compiled by HM Customs & Excise from trade declarations. Tables 5 and 6 are based on the published UK 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	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
Roundwood, Sawnwood etc				
	Thousand cubic metres			
Roundwood	496	712	233	481
- Industrial Roundwood (conifer)	370	557	32	92
- Industrial Roundwood (non-conifer)	123	152	89	44
- Wood Fuel	3	3	112	345
Sawnwood	8,266	8,705	300	358
- conifer	7,586	7,968	289	344
- non-conifer	680	737	11	14
Wood Charcoal	262	328	8	51
Wood Chips, Particles & Residues	270	220	34	137
Total Roundwood, Sawnwood, etc	9,294	9,965	575	1,027
Woodbased Panels				
	Thousand cubic metres			
Particle board	1,445	1,250	228	268
- OSB (Oriented Strand Board)	116	118	142	166
- Other	1,329	1,132	86	102
Fibreboard	1,075	998	156	214
- MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard)	497	425	115	171
- Other	578	573	41	43
Plywood	1,139	1,056	59	68
Veneer sheets	34	28	6	5
Total Woodbased Panels	3,693	3,332	449	555
Pulp and Paper				
	Thousand tonnes			
Paper & Paperboard	7,091	7,085	1,360	1,416
- Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	4,275	4,890	627	780
- Sanitary & household papers	125	133	41	24
- Packaging materials	1,827	1,561	616	559
- Other	864	501	76	53
Wood Pulp	1,579	1,466	9	1
- Mechanical	65	70	8	1
- Semi-Chemical	35	11	0	0
- Chemical	1,473	1,377	1	0
- Dissolving Grades	6	8	0	0
Other Pulp	44	54	13	8
Recovered Paper	76	99	1,234	1,950
Total Pulp and Paper	8,790	8,704	2,616	3,375

Note:

(1) There are concerns about the reliability of some of these figures, particularly for individual products.

Source:

HM Customs & Excise: UK overseas trade statistics

Table 6: UK Import and Export Values

£ million

	Imports		Exports	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
Roundwood, Sawnwood etc				
Roundwood	59	75	10	15
- Industrial Roundwood (conifer)	30	38	4	9
- Industrial Roundwood (non-conifer)	29	37	4	3
- Wood Fuel	0	0	2	3
Sawnwood	1,116	1,228	40	47
- conifer	901	1,012	31	37
- non-conifer	215	216	9	10
Wood Charcoal	11	14	1	5
Wood Chips, Particles & Residues	10	9	3	5
Total Roundwood, Sawnwood, etc	1,196	1,326	54	72
Woodbased Panels				
Particle board	179	164	32	38
- OSB (Oriented Strand Board)	16	16	15	20
- Other	163	148	17	18
Fibreboard	275	301	23	26
- MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard)	83	67	14	16
- Other	192	234	9	10
Plywood	302	275	19	21
Veneer sheets	38	39	12	9
Total Woodbased Panels	794	779	86	94
Pulp and Paper				
Paper & Paperboard	3,305	3,360	934	937
- Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	1,942	2,178	430	494
- Sanitary & household papers	96	95	29	18
- Packaging materials	792	792	360	328
- Other	475	295	115	97
Wood Pulp	454	452	2	0
- Mechanical	24	25	2	0
- Semi-Chemical	9	5	0	0
- Chemical	419	420	0	0
- Dissolving Grades	2	2	0	0
Other Pulp	30	30	6	5
Recovered Paper	9	10	98	171
Total Pulp and Paper	3,798	3,852	1,040	1,113

Note:

(1) There are concerns about the reliability of some of these figures, particularly for individual products.

Source:

HM Customs & Excise: UK overseas trade statistics

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. 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 for intra-EC trade and extra-EC trade produced by HM Customs & Excise and available at www.uktradeinfo.com. 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 differ from those required on the international return. They may also be adjusted where an apparent inconsistency in the UK trade 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.

This is a National Statistics publication. For more information about National Statistics visit www.statistics.gov.uk.