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**Coverage**

United Kingdom

**Theme**

Agriculture, Fishing and  
Forestry

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## UK Wood Production and Trade

This publication contains provisional statistics for 2004 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 2004, removals of UK roundwood totalled 8.1 million cubic metres underbark, a slight increase from 2003.
- **UK production of wood products in 2004 included:**
  - 2.8 million cubic metres of sawnwood (unchanged from 2004);
  - 3.5 million cubic metres of woodbased panels (up 5% from 2003);
  - and 6.2 million tonnes of paper and paperboard (no change from 2003).
- **Trade:**
  - UK imports in 2004 included 8.6 million cubic metres of sawnwood, 3.8 million cubic metres of woodbased panels and 9.2 million tonnes of pulp and paper.
  - The total value of wood product imports in 2004 was £6.1 billion, of which £4.0 billion was pulp and paper. Pulp and paper also accounted for the majority of exports, generating a total of £1.2 billion in 2004.

**Issued by:**

Economics & Statistics  
Forestry Commission  
231 Corstorphine Road  
Edinburgh, EH12 7AT

**Enquiries:**

Alister Henderson 0131 314 6337  
statistics@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

**Statistician:**

Sheila Ward 0131 314 6475

**Website:**

[www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics)

## 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 2004, removals of UK roundwood totalled 8.1 million cubic metres underbark, a slight increase from the 2003 figure. Coniferous wood accounted for the majority of removals (94%).

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

	<b>Coniferous</b>		<b>Non-coniferous</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Sawlogs	4,792	4,847	122	81	4,914	4,928
Pulpwood	2,363	2,411	192	189	2,555	2,600
Other roundwood <sup>(1)</sup>	290	295	48	48	338	343
Wood fuel <sup>(1) (2)</sup>	98	98	131	131	229	229
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,543</b>	<b>7,651</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>8,036</b>	<b>8,100</b>

Note:

(1) Figures for wood fuel and non-coniferous other roundwood are mostly obtained from estimates by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics.

(2) Wood fuel includes wood for charcoal; charcoal production in UK is estimated to be about 5,000 tonnes, with about 7.8 m<sup>3</sup> of wood required to make one tonne of charcoal.

Sources:

Forestry Commission & Forest Service: Sawmill Survey,  
Survey of Round Fencing Manufacturers

UK Forest Products Association  
Wood Panel Industries Federation

## 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 2.8 million cubic metres of sawnwood was produced in the UK in 2004.

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

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Coniferous	2,679	2,702
Non-coniferous	80	61
<b>Total sawnwood</b>	<b>2,759</b>	<b>2,763</b>

Source:

Forestry Commission & Forest Service: Sawmill Survey

Table 3 shows the output of UK mills that produce woodbased panels. In addition to UK roundwood, they can use other products (e.g. chips and sawdust) from sawmills, recycled wood and imported wood. A total of 3.5 million cubic metres of woodbased panels were produced in 2004, an increase of 5% from the previous year.

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

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Particle board	2,526	2,653
Fibreboard (MDF)	835	880
<b>Total wood-based panels</b>	<b>3,361</b>	<b>3,533</b>

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 344 thousand tonnes of wood pulp were produced in the UK in 2004.

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

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Paper &amp; Paperboard</b>	<b>6,226</b>	<b>6,240</b>
- Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	2,532	2,632
- Sanitary & household papers	808	806
- Packaging materials	2,240	2,230
- Other	646	572
<b>Wood Pulp <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>504</b>	<b>344</b>
- Mechanical	413	258
- Semi-Chemical	91	86
- Chemical	0	0
- Dissolving Grades	0	0

Note:  
(1) These figures for wood pulp measure the intermediate product in integrated mills.

Source:  
Confederation of Paper Industries.

## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Statistics on imports and exports are compiled by HM Revenue & Customs 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	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
<b>Roundwood, Sawnwood etc</b>				
	<b>Thousand cubic metres</b>			
<b>Roundwood</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>473</b>
- Industrial Roundwood (conifer)	550	489	93	314
- Industrial Roundwood (non-conifer)	151	129	11	8
- Wood Fuel	3	7	336	151
<b>Sawnwood</b>	<b>8,714</b>	<b>8,647</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>370</b>
- conifer	7,944	7,871	342	356
- non-conifer	770	776	14	15
<b>Wood Charcoal</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Wood Chips, Particles &amp; Residues</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>Total Roundwood, Sawnwood, etc</b>	<b>9,967</b>	<b>9,871</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>1,083</b>
<b>Wood-based Panels</b>				
	<b>Thousand cubic metres</b>			
<b>Particle board</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>1,255</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>238</b>
- OSB (Oriented Strand Board)	116	183	157	149
- Other	1,103	1,072	98	89
<b>Fibreboard</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>179</b>
- MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard)	417	445	162	138
- Other	565	582	42	41
<b>Plywood</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>1,474</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Veneer sheets</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total Wood-based Panels</b>	<b>3,482</b>	<b>3,786</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>511</b>
<b>Pulp and Paper</b>				
	<b>Thousand tonnes</b>			
<b>Paper &amp; Paperboard</b>	<b>7,490</b>	<b>7,442</b>	<b>1,697</b>	<b>1,547</b>
- Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	5,443	5,400	832	762
- Sanitary & household papers	135	156	25	28
- Packaging materials	1,825	1,809	810	731
- Other	86	78	30	26
<b>Wood Pulp</b>	<b>1,468</b>	<b>1,557</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
- Mechanical	69	72	2	2
- Semi-Chemical	11	11	0	0
- Chemical	1,379	1,466	0	1
- Dissolving Grades	8	8	0	1
<b>Other Pulp</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Recovered Paper</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>3,104</b>
<b>Total Pulp and Paper</b>	<b>9,112</b>	<b>9,155</b>	<b>3,713</b>	<b>4,680</b>

Note:

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

Source:

HM Revenue & Customs: UK overseas trade statistics

Table 6: UK Import and Export Values

£ million

	Imports		Exports	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
<b>Roundwood, Sawnwood etc</b>				
<b>Roundwood</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>
- Industrial Roundwood (conifer)	38	32	9	17
- Industrial Roundwood (non-conifer)	37	35	3	2
- Wood Fuel	0	1	3	3
<b>Sawnwood</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>50</b>
- conifer	1,010	973	37	38
- non-conifer	216	215	10	12
<b>Wood Charcoal</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Wood Chips, Particles &amp; Residues</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total Roundwood, Sawnwood, etc</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>1,281</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Wood-based Panels</b>				
<b>Particle board</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>36</b>
- OSB (Oriented Strand Board)	15	21	19	20
- Other	144	154	18	17
<b>Fibreboard</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>
- MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard)	66	81	15	14
- Other	229	240	10	9
<b>Plywood</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Veneer sheets</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total Wood-based Panels</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Pulp and Paper</b>				
<b>Paper &amp; Paperboard</b>	<b>3,509</b>	<b>3,475</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>986</b>
- Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	2,462	2,435	532	513
- Sanitary & household papers	97	102	19	26
- Packaging materials	861	850	376	385
- Other	90	88	75	62
<b>Wood Pulp</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
- Mechanical	25	24	1	0
- Semi-Chemical	5	3	0	0
- Chemical	420	411	0	0
- Dissolving Grades	2	2	0	1
<b>Other Pulp</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Recovered Paper</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>234</b>
<b>Total Pulp and Paper</b>	<b>4,003</b>	<b>3,955</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>1,228</b>

Note:

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

Source:

HM Revenue &amp; Customs: 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](http://www.uktradeinfo.com). Figures are 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.

Figures in tables have been independently rounded, so may not add to the totals shown.

Revisions: Figures shown for 2003 have been revised from those reported to international organisations and published in Forestry Statistics 2004 and previous publications.

This is a National Statistics publication. For more information about National Statistics visit [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk).