

# UK Wood Production and Trade (provisional figures)

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This publication contains provisional statistics for 2009 on UK wood production and trade. They are based on surveys of the forest sector and trade data from HM Revenue & Customs. Data from these sources will also be used for reporting to international organisations for publication in their databases and compendia.

The provisional figures for 2009 indicate:

- Harvesting of UK roundwood:
  - 8.8 million green tonnes of softwood; a 4% increase from 2008;
  - 0.5 million green tonnes of hardwood; a 24% increase from 2008.
- UK roundwood deliveries to industries and others:
  - Total: 8.6 million tonnes of roundwood (softwood and hardwood); no change from 2008; of which:
    - Sawmills: 5.2 million green tonnes; a 4% increase from 2008;
    - Woodbased panels: 1.0 million green tonnes; a 17% decrease from 2008;
    - Integrated pulp and paper mills: 0.5 million green tonnes; a 1% decrease from 2008;
    - Other uses, including round fencing, woodfuel, shavings and exports of roundwood: 1.9 million green tonnes; a 3% increase from 2008.
- UK production of wood products in 2009 included:
  - 2.9 million cubic metres of sawnwood (an increase of 2% from 2008);
  - 3.0 million cubic metres of woodbased panels (a 4% decrease from 2008);
  - 4.3 million tonnes of paper and paperboard (a 14% decrease from 2008).
- Trade:
  - UK imports in 2009 included 5.2 million cubic metres of sawnwood, 2.5 million cubic metres of woodbased panels and 8.5 million tonnes of pulp and paper.
  - The total value of wood product imports in 2009 was £5.8 billion, of which £4.1 billion was pulp and paper. Pulp and paper also accounted for most exports, generating £1.4 billion in 2009 out of a total of £1.5 billion for all wood product exports.

**Issued by:** Economics & Statistics, Forestry Commission,  
231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT

**Enquiries:** Jackie Watson 0131 314 6171  
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

It is estimated that a total of 9.3 million green tonnes of roundwood was removed from UK woodlands in 2009. This represented a 5% increase from the 2008 figure of 8.9 million green tonnes.

Coniferous wood (softwood) accounted for most removals (94%). Softwood removals from UK woodland totalled 8.8 million green tonnes in 2009, a 4% increase on the previous year's figure.

**Table 1: Removals of UK Roundwood**

Year	Softwood			Hardwood			UK Total
	FC/ FS	Non-FC/ FS	Total Softwood	FC/ FS	Non-FC/ FS	Total Hardwood	
2005	4,579	3,894	8,473	101	492	593	9,066
2006	4,582	3,917	8,499	45	392	438	8,936
2007	4,653	4,369	9,022	40	400	440	9,462
2008	4,415	4,016	8,432	43	388	431	8,862
2009	5,126	3,647	8,773	87	446	533	9,306

Note:

(1) The difference between reported softwood removals and deliveries (table 2) can be caused by variations in the level of stocks between harvesting and delivery to the wood processor. However, a large or persistent difference indicates that the statistics for removals and/ or deliveries may be unreliable. The difference between softwood removals and deliveries in 2009 (0.7 million green tonnes) is larger than usual.

Sources:

Forestry Commission & Forest Service: Administrative records (FC/ FS removals),  
Private Sector Softwood Removals Survey (non-FC/ FS softwood removals)

Hardwood deliveries as table 3

In addition to the 9.3 million green tonnes of UK roundwood reported in table 1, above, a further 0.1 million green tonnes of softwood brush and stumps were removed from UK woodlands in 2009.

## Deliveries of roundwood

In 2009, deliveries of UK roundwood (softwood and hardwood) totalled 8.6 million green tonnes, unchanged from the previous year.

Most UK roundwood deliveries (94%) were softwood, a total of 8.1 million green tonnes in 2009. 63% of UK softwood deliveries were used by sawmills.

**Table 2: UK Softwood Deliveries**

Year	Thousand green tonnes							Total
	Sawmills	Pulpmills	Wood-based panels	Fencing	Woodfuel <sup>1</sup>	Other <sup>2</sup>	Softwood exports	
2005	4,924	500	1,502	317	100	95	705	8,143
2006	5,210	481	1,365	274	100	114	643	8,187
2007	5,590	472	1,362	294	200	113	759	8,790
2008	4,954	515	1,219	339	300	128	733	8,187
2009	5,130	511	1,009	349	600	167	347	8,114

Note:

- (1) Woodfuel derived from stemwood. From 2007 includes estimates of roundwood use for biomass energy. The figures are estimated by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics, and from 2008 made use of woodfuel data reported in the Private Sector Softwood Removals Survey.
- (2) Includes shavings and poles. Quantities for some uses are estimates by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics.

Sources:

Forestry Commission & Forest Service: Sawmill Survey,  
Survey of Round Fencing Manufacturers  
Private Sector Softwood Removals Survey (woodfuel)

UK Forest Products Association (pulpmills)  
Wood Panel Industries Federation (woodbased panels)

## UK Wood Production and Trade (provisional figures)

There was a total of 0.5 million green tonnes of UK hardwood deliveries in 2009. The majority of UK hardwood deliveries (75%) were used for woodfuel.

**Table 3: UK Hardwood Deliveries**

Year	Sawmills	Pulpmills	Woodbased panels	Thousand green tonnes		Total
				Woodfuel <sup>1</sup>	Other <sup>2</sup>	
2005	72	214	2	250	55	593
2006	64	54	1	250	70	438
2007	66	0	5	300	69	440
2008	66	0	2	300	63	431
2009	73	0	1	400	59	533

Note:

- (1) Woodfuel derived from stemwood, and from 2007 include estimated roundwood use for biomass energy. The figures are estimated by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics. Wood fuel includes wood for charcoal; charcoal production in UK is estimated to be about 5,000 tonnes, with about 7 green tonnes of wood required to make one tonne of charcoal.
- (2) Includes round fencing and roundwood exports. Quantities for non-coniferous fencing and some other uses are estimates by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics.

Sources:

Forestry Commission & Forest Service: Sawmill Survey  
 UK Forest Products Association (pulpmills)  
 Wood Panel Industries Federation (woodbased panels)

## Sawmills

In 2009, UK sawmills consumed a total of 5.3 million green tonnes of softwood, a 3% increase from 2008. A further 0.1 million green tonnes of hardwood were consumed by UK sawmills in 2009. Most of the logs, 5.1 million green tonnes softwood and 0.1 million green tonnes hardwood, were UK grown.

**Table 4: Consumption of Roundwood by Sawmills**

Year	Softwood			Hardwood		
	UK grown	Imported	Total	UK grown	Imported	Total
2005	4,924	272	5,196	72	34	106
2006	5,210	266	5,476	64	22	85
2007	5,590	263	5,853	66	19	85
2008	4,954	174	5,127	66	20	86
2009	5,130	158	5,288	73	19	92

Source:  
Forestry Commission & Forest Service: Sawmill Survey

Table 5 provides statistics for the sawnwood output of UK sawmills, including sawnwood produced at these mills from imported logs. A total of 2.9 million cubic metres of sawnwood was produced in the UK in 2009, a 2% increase from 2008.

**Table 5: Production of Sawnwood**

Year	Softwood		Hardwood	Total
	UK grown	Imported		
2005	2,727	53		2,780
2006	2,859	45		2,904
2007	3,099	44		3,143
2008	2,771	44		2,815
2009	2,825	48		2,872

Source:  
Forestry Commission & Forest Service: Sawmill Survey

In addition to producing sawnwood, sawmills also produce other products, including chips and sawdust, which mostly went to woodbased panel and pulp/paper mills in the years reported.

## Woodbased Panel Mills

Table 6 shows the inputs to UK mills that produce woodbased panels. The woodbased panel mills used a total of 3.2 million tonnes of material in 2009, a 17% decrease from the 2008 total. The inputs in 2009 comprised 1.0 million tonnes of roundwood (31%), 1.2 million tonnes of sawmill products (36%) and 1.1 million tonnes of recycled wood fibre (33%).

**Table 6: Inputs to Woodbased Panel Mills**

Year	Thousand green tonnes							
	UK roundwood <sup>1</sup>		Sawmill products		Imports <sup>2</sup>		Recycled wood fibre <sup>3</sup>	Total
	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood		
2005	1,502	2	1,732	2	6	0	1,043	4,287
2006	1,365	1	1,794	0	3	0	1,173	4,336
2007	1,362	5	1,940	0	2	0	1,230	4,539
2008	1,219	2	1,591	0	0	0	1,119	3,932
2009	1,009	1	1,169	0	0	0	1,065	3,244

Note:

(1) UK roundwood derived from stemwood.

(2) Imports include roundwood, wood products and products from imported wood.

(3) Recycled wood fibre is wood fibre recovered from pre- and post-consumer wood waste for use in woodbased panel production.

Source:

Wood Panel Industries Federation

Table 7 shows the output of UK mills that produce woodbased panels. Total production of woodbased panels in 2009 was 3.0 million cubic metres, a decrease of 4% from the 2008 total.

**Table 7: Production of Woodbased Panels**

Year	Thousand cubic metres		
	Particleboard <sup>1</sup>	Fibreboard (MDF)	Total woodbased panels
2005	2,557	841	3,398
2006	2,626	872	3,498
2007	2,684	865	3,549
2008	2,431	709	3,140
2009	2,370	660	3,030

Note:

(1) Includes Oriented Strand Board (OSB).

Source:

Wood Panel Industries Federation

## Pulp & Paper Industry

Table 8 shows the inputs to the integrated pulp and paper mills in the UK. These mills used a total of 0.6 million tonnes of material (all softwood) in 2009, a 5% decrease from the 2008 total.

**Table 8: Inputs to Integrated Pulp & Paper Mills<sup>1</sup>**

Year	UK roundwood <sup>2</sup>		Sawmill products		Total	
	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood
2005	500	214	138	0	638	214
2006	481	54	145	0	626	54
2007	472	0	161	0	633	0
2008	515	0	152	0	667	0
2009	511	0	120	0	631	0

Note:

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

(2) UK roundwood derived from stemwood.

Source:

UK Forest Products Association

Most UK paper production uses recovered waste paper or imported pulp. The figures shown below cover production by all mills in the UK, not just the integrated pulp & paper mills. A total of 4.3 million tonnes of paper and paperboard were produced in the UK in 2009, a 14% decrease from the previous year. Packaging materials accounted for 40% of the total UK paper production, graphic papers (including newsprint) for 37%, and sanitary and household papers for 17%.

**Table 9: Production of Paper**

Year	Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	Sanitary & household papers	Packaging materials	Other	Total
					Thousand tonnes
2005	2,654	801	1,989	595	6,039
2006	2,483	805	1,999	301	5,588
2007	2,229	834	1,852	313	5,228
2008	2,063	783	1,838	299	4,983
2009	1,609	736	1,702	246	4,293

Source:

Confederation of Paper Industries.

## Wood Pellets and Briquettes

A new survey of UK wood pellet and briquette manufacturers collected data for 2009. A total of 118 thousand tonnes of wood pellets and briquettes are estimated to have been made in the UK in 2009.

## Imports and Exports

Statistics on imports and exports are compiled by HM Revenue & Customs from trade declarations and Intrastat reporting for intra-EC trade. Tables 10 to 13 are based on the published UK overseas trade statistics. A total of 7.0 million tonnes of paper was imported into the UK in 2009, a decrease of 5% from 2008. Over the same period, imports of sawnwood fell by 12% to 5.2 million m<sup>3</sup> and imports of woodbased panels fell by 26% to 2.5 million m<sup>3</sup>.

**Table 10: UK Import Quantities**<sup>1</sup>

Year	Thousand m <sup>3</sup>			Thousand tonnes			
	Sawnwood	Wood based panels	Other wood <sup>2</sup>	Paper	Pulp and Paper Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2005	8,341	3,939	1,325	7,663	1,694	78	9,434
2006	7,963	3,959	1,133	7,741	1,452	140	9,332
2007	8,469	3,859	1,621	7,890	1,427	88	9,405
2008	5,886	3,390	1,921	7,403	1,336	74	8,812
2009	5,172	2,500	1,017	7,018	1,418	94	8,530

Note:

- (1) There are concerns about the reliability of some of these figures, particularly for individual products.
- (2) Includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles and residues.

Source:

HM Revenue & Customs: UK overseas trade statistics  
Estimates by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics

A total of 5.4 million tonnes of pulp and paper (including recovered paper) was exported by the UK in 2009. This represented a decrease of 10% from 2008; wood exports fell by 35% over the same period.

**Table 11: UK Export Quantities**<sup>1</sup>

Year	Thousand m <sup>3</sup>			Thousand tonnes			
	Sawnwood	Wood based panels	Other wood <sup>2</sup>	Paper	Pulp and Paper Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2005	358	520	1,186	1,164	25	3,329	4,518
2006	415	510	1,214	1,002	24	3,996	5,022
2007	346	599	1,353	971	24	4,749	5,743
2008	222	520	1,289	1,031	9	4,891	5,931
2009	203	451	674	896	22	4,444	5,361

Note:

- (1) There are concerns about the reliability of some of these figures, particularly for individual products.
- (2) Includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles and residues.

Source:

HM Revenue & Customs: UK overseas trade statistics  
Estimates by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics

## UK Wood Production and Trade (provisional figures)

Table 12 shows the value of wood product imports into the UK. Wood product imports in 2009 were valued at a total of £5.8 billion, a decrease of 9% from the 2008 total. This comprised 70% pulp and paper (mainly paper), 16% sawnwood, 12% woodbased panels and 2% other wood.

**Table 12: UK Import Values<sup>1</sup>**

Year	Wood			Pulp and Paper			Total Pulp & Paper	Total
	Sawnwood	Woodbase d panels	Other wood <sup>2</sup>	Paper	Pulp	Recovere d paper		
2005	1,120	918	114	3,432	517	5	3,954	6,106
2006	1,144	926	112	3,599	548	9	4,156	6,338
2007	1,516	910	128	3,741	526	7	4,275	6,829
2008	1,085	866	158	3,655	608	10	4,273	6,382
2009	937	676	110	3,635	461	11	4,107	5,830

Note:

- (1) There are concerns about the reliability of some of these figures, particularly for individual products.  
 (2) Includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles and residues.

Source:

HM Revenue & Customs: UK overseas trade statistics  
 Estimates by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics

Table 13 shows the value of wood product exports from the UK. Wood product exports were valued at a total of £1.5 billion in 2009, a decrease of 15% from the previous year. This comprised 89% pulp and paper (mainly paper), 7% woodbased panels, 3% sawnwood and 1% other wood.

**Table 13: UK Export Values<sup>1</sup>**

Year	Wood			Pulp and Paper			Total Pulp & Paper	Total
	Sawnwood	Woodbased panels	Other wood <sup>2</sup>	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper		
2005	52	102	35	1,002	6	278	1,286	1,475
2006	61	128	37	947	8	329	1,284	1,510
2007	70	107	40	1,013	7	407	1,427	1,645
2008	50	104	48	1,114	3	472	1,590	1,792
2009	41	104	21	1,010	10	342	1,362	1,530

Note:

- (1) There are concerns about the reliability of some of these figures, particularly for individual products.  
 (2) Includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles and residues.

Source:

HM Revenue & Customs: UK overseas trade statistics  
 Estimates by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics

## Background

The figures in this publication are provisional. Final figures will be published in "Forestry Statistics 2010", with a summary in "Forestry Facts and Figures 2010", both to be released on 30 September 2010.

## Quality

Figures shown for 2008 and earlier years have been revised from those reported to international organisations and published in Forestry Statistics 2009 and previous publications.

Further quality information is available from our quality webpage at [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7zhk85](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7zhk85)

## Definitions

Softwood is wood from conifer trees such as spruce, pine and larch. Hardwood is wood from non-conifer species such as oak, birch and beech.

Deliveries are the quantities of roundwood delivered to the processors (or other users). Deliveries can differ from consumption if the level of input stocks at the processor varies. For sawmills and round fencing mills, the roundwood volumes collected are consumption figures; for most other processors and users of roundwood, the input figures shown relate to all roundwood delivered.

## Trade 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 Revenue & Customs 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.

Wood pellets are included within the "wood residues" category in trade statistics, but are separately identifiable from 2009. A total of 45 thousand tonnes of wood pellets were imported into the UK in 2009 at a value of £6.6 million. Exports totalled 12 thousand tonnes, with a value of £1.6 million in 2009. These figures are included within the "other wood" category in tables 10 to 13 of this publication.

Statistics on international trade flows (by country of source and country of destination) are available from the FAOSTAT website ([www.fao.org/forestry/site/29420/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/29420/en)).

# UK Wood Production and Trade (provisional figures)

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## Further information

Most of these statistics are used to compile data that are sent to international organisations in the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaires (JQ1 and JQ2), in some cases giving more detail than in this statistical release. These returns are published as Official Statistics on the Forestry Commission website; provisional figures in May and final figures in September. The statistics are used by Eurostat Forestry Statistics, UNECE Timber Bulletins, and UN/FAO Forest Product Statistics and are published on the FAOSTAT database ([www.fao.org/forestry/site/29420/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/29420/en)).

Most of the statistics in this release and in the international returns are only available as UK totals, but some statistics can also be broken down by country (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland). Accompanying tables to this release, available at [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7aql5b](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7aql5b), provide longer time series data and show additional breakdowns for wood production (roundwood removals), sawmills and round fencing manufacturers.

Additional analyses are available on request (subject to disclosure constraints).

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

This is a National Statistics publication. For more information about National Statistics and the UK Statistics Authority visit [www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/).