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Coverage

United Kingdom

Theme

Agriculture, Fishing and
Forestry

UK Wood Production and Trade

This publication contains provisional statistics for 2002 on UK wood production and trade, that 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 from primary wood processing industries,
- Imports and exports of wood products

The main findings are:

- In 2002, removals of UK roundwood totalled 7.6 million cubic metres underbark.
- A total of 2.5 million cubic metres of sawnwood was produced in the UK in 2002.
- A total of 8.8 million tonnes of pulp and paper, with an estimated value of £3,778 million was imported to the UK in 2002.
- Pulp and paper also accounted for the majority of exports, generating a total of £1,021 million in 2002.

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

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

	Coniferous		Non-coniferous		Total	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
Sawlogs	4,117	4,126	167	139	4,284	4,265
Pulpwood	2,424	2,522	214	214	2,638	2,736
Other roundwood ⁽¹⁾	355	294	48	48	403	342
Wood fuel ^{(1) (2)}	101	101	133	133	234	234
TOTAL	6,997	7,043	562	534	7,559	7,577

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 m³ 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 2002.

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

	2001	2002
Coniferous	2,450	2,460
Non-coniferous	93	79
Total sawnwood	2,543	2,539

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 2001.

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

	2001
Particle board	2,498
- OSB (Oriented Strand Board)	260
- Other	2,238
Fibreboard	757
- MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard)	757
- Other	0
Plywood	5
Veneer sheets	0
Total wood-based panels	3,260

Note:

Data for 2002 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 6.2 million tonnes of paper and paperboard were produced in the UK in 2002. 492 thousand tonnes of wood pulp were produced in the UK in 2001.

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

	2001	2002
Paper & Paperboard	6,204	6,218
- Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	2,627	2,526
- Sanitary & household papers	738	823
- Packaging materials	2,190	2,207
- Other	649	662
Wood Pulp	492	
- Mechanical	429	
- Semi-Chemical	63	
- Chemical	0	
- Dissolving Grades	0	

Note:

Wood pulp data for 2002 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	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
Roundwood, Sawnwood etc				
Thousand cubic metres				
Roundwood	363	490	267	202
- Industrial Roundwood (conifer)	256	366	14	32
- Industrial Roundwood (non-conifer)	97	121	90	58
- Wood Fuel	10	3	163	112
Sawnwood	7,920	8,263	214	294
- conifer	7,221	7,585	202	283
- non-conifer	699	678	12	11
Wood Charcoal	250	262	7	8
Wood Chips, Particles & Residues	284	255	11	34
Total Roundwood, Sawnwood, etc	8,817	9,270	499	538
Wood-based Panels				
Thousand cubic metres				
Particle board	662	681	219	219
- OSB (Oriented Strand Board)	93	115	134	142
- Other	569	566	85	77
Fibreboard	996	1,042	97	153
- MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard)	389	482	71	115
- Other	607	560	26	38
Plywood	1,145	1,139	50	57
Veneer sheets	34	34	6	6
Total Wood-based Panels	2,837	2,896	372	435
Pulp and Paper				
Thousand tonnes				
Paper & Paperboard	7,429	7,061	1,581	1,325
- Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	5,269	4,990	603	669
- Sanitary & household papers	148	125	29	41
- Packaging materials	1,802	1,747	627	350
- Other	210	199	322	265
Wood Pulp	1,600	1,577	3	9
- Mechanical	97	65	0	8
- Semi-Chemical	15	35	0	0
- Chemical	1,474	1,471	3	1
- Dissolving Grades	14	6	0	0
Other Pulp	46	44	12	13
Recovered Paper	51	75	726	1,230
Total Pulp and Paper	9,126	8,757	2,322	2,577

Table 6: UK Import and Export Values

£ million

	Imports		Exports	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
Roundwood, Sawnwood etc				
Roundwood	54	56	9	10
- Industrial Roundwood (conifer)	33	29	2	4
- Industrial Roundwood (non-conifer)	21	27	5	4
- Wood Fuel	0	0	2	2
Sawnwood	1,074	1,115	32	40
- conifer	856	900	24	31
- non-conifer	218	215	8	9
Wood Charcoal	11	11	1	1
Wood Chips, Particles & Residues	8	10	2	3
Total Roundwood, Sawnwood, etc	1,147	1,192	44	54
Wood-based Panels				
Particle board	190	178	31	29
- OSB (Oriented Strand Board)	15	16	13	15
- Other	175	162	18	14
Fibreboard	190	268	15	23
- MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard)	66	80	8	14
- Other	124	188	7	9
Plywood	319	302	17	18
Veneer sheets	46	38	11	12
Total Wood-based Panels	745	786	74	82
Pulp and Paper				
Paper & Paperboard	3,773	3,285	1,108	915
- Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	2,551	2,301	466	468
- Sanitary & household papers	113	96	21	29
- Packaging materials	906	757	384	265
- Other	203	131	237	153
Wood Pulp	574	454	1	2
- Mechanical	34	24	0	2
- Semi-Chemical	5	9	0	0
- Chemical	529	419	1	0
- Dissolving Grades	6	2	0	0
Other Pulp	31	30	3	6
Recovered Paper	12	9	78	98
Total Pulp and Paper	4,390	3,778	1,190	1,021

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 (OTS) for intra-EC trade and extra-EC trade. 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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