

timbertrends

Avenida del Pino, 270
Pinar de Campoverde
Pilar de la Horadada
03191, Alicante, Spain

Phone/Fax: 00 34 966 762 988
E-mail: nick@timbertrends.net

Improved Timber Utilisation Statistics 2009

Consumption of Sawn Softwood in Main End-User Markets in the United Kingdom

**A Series of Tables & Charts,
Updated from the Timber Utilisation Database**

**for the
Forestry Commission**

**by Nicholas Moore
*timbertrends***

October 2010

Contract No: CFS 03-09

Contents:	Page:
INTRODUCTION	3
TABLES AND CHARTS	
Table 1: Softwood Utilisation by Main Market by Volume, 2008 & 2009	3
Table 2: Softwood Utilisation by Main Market and Construction Sector by Volume, 2008 & 2009	3
Chart 1: Softwood Utilisation in Main Markets in the UK, 2005-2009	4
Table 3: Share of Softwood Utilisation by Main Market, 2008 & 2009	4
Chart 2: Softwood Utilisation in Main Markets by Volume, 2008 & 2009	5
Table 4: Share of Softwood Utilisation within Main Market, 2008 & 2009	5
Table 5: Share of Softwood Utilisation within Construction Sector & Other Main Market, 2008 & 2009	6
Chart 3: UK Domestic Producers' Share of UK Softwood Consumption 2002-2009	6
Chart 4: Total Softwood Consumption and All Construction Output, 1970-2009	7
Chart 5: Index of Softwood Imports & UK Housing Starts, 1967-2009	7
Chart 6: Softwood Consumption in New Housing Starts, 2002-2009	8
Chart 7: The Changing Mix of Dwelling Types Built in the UK New Housing Market, 2005-2009	8
Chart 8: Estimated Softwood Consumption in the All RMI Activity & Volume of Housing RMI, 1988-2009	9
Chart 9: Estimated Softwood Consumption in all Non-New Housing & Construction Output of all Non-New Housing, 1988-2009	9
Chart 10: Softwood Consumption in all Non-New Housing & Construction Output of all Non-New Housing, 2005-2009	10

Introduction

The following tables and charts are part of the programme of work aimed at quantifying the volume of softwood consumed by the main end-use markets in the UK. A full report on timber utilisation is produced every few years and for intervening years, these tables and charts and now, additionally, a brief commentary, are supplied to provide updated information from the previous report or previous tables and charts.

The forecasts for the UK provided for 2009 in the publication "Improved Timber Utilisation Statistics 2008 & Initial Data 2009" were based on housing starts data from the government department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) in June 2010 that did not contain data for the whole of the UK. However, final numbers for the whole of the UK for 2009 were made available in August 2010. This provision of housing starts data contained significant revisions back to 2002 and for this reason, some of the data shown in this publication, "Improved Timber Utilisation Statistics 2009", dated October 2010, differ from that in previous publications. It should also be noted that in previous publications, construction output data (including housing data) were measured output at constant 2000 prices. More recent data from the Office for National Statistics have been changed to measure output at 2005 constant prices. Consequently, some of the construction output data in this publication differs from previous publications.

This October 2010 update contains tables and charts for the whole of 2009 and has quantified main markets from 2002, but before this time, information on main markets is estimated.

NB: Data referring to utilisation or consumption for UK producers are calculated by deducting exports from production.

Tables and Charts

Table 1: Softwood Utilisation by Main Market by Volume, 2008 & 2009

000s m3	UK Producers		Imports		Total	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Construction	834	794	4,352	4,094	5,186	4,888
Pallets & Packaging	744	919	781	467	1,525	1,386
Fencing & Outdoor	962	906	180	150	1,142	1,056
Other Markets	26	26	174	149	200	175
TOTAL	2,566	2,646	5,487	4,859	8,053	7,505

Source: Forestry Commission Forestry Statistics 2010; Timber Trade Federation Import & Export Statistics; TIMCON Wood Packaging Data; Office for National Statistics; Industry Sources.

Key Change: Total softwood consumption falls by 7% in 2009.

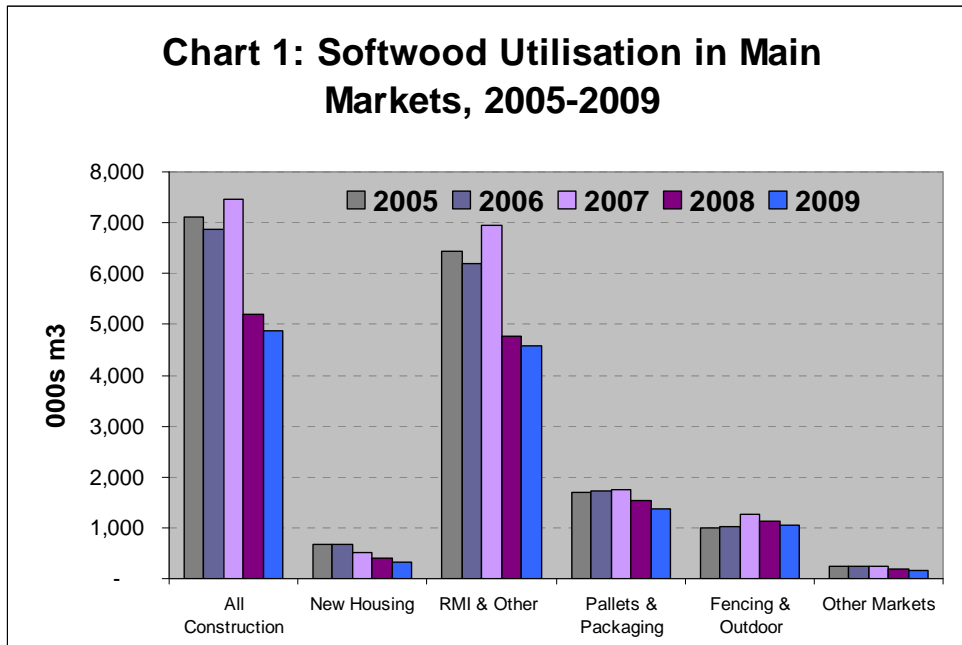
Table 2: Softwood Utilisation by Main Market and Construction Sector by Volume, 2008 & 2009

000s m3	UK Producers		Imports		Total	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Construction	834	794	4,352	4,094	5,186	4,888
New Housing	63	60	343	251	406	311
RMI & Other	771	734	4,009	3,843	4,781	4,577
Pallets & Packaging	744	919	781	467	1,525	1,386
Fencing & Outdoor	962	906	180	150	1,142	1,056
Other Markets	26	26	174	149	200	175
TOTAL	2,566	2,646	5,487	4,859	8,053	7,505

Source: Forestry Commission Forestry Statistics 2010; Timber Trade Federation Import & Export Statistics; TIMCON Wood Packaging Data; Office for National Statistics; Industry Sources

Key Change: Softwood consumption in New Housing falls by 23% in 2009.

Chart 1: Softwood Utilisation in Main Markets in the UK, 2005-2009



Source: Forestry Commission Forestry Statistics 2010; Timber Trade Federation Import & Export Statistics; TIMCON Wood Packaging Data; Office for National Statistics; Industry Sources

Key Change: Softwood consumption falls in all markets once again, in 2009.

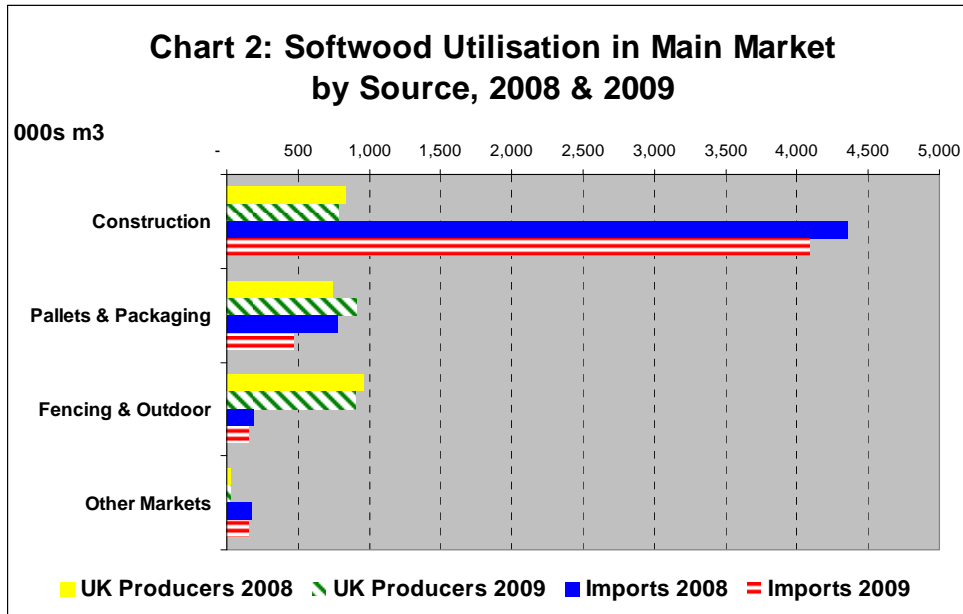
Table 3: Share of Softwood Utilisation by Main Market, 2008 & 2009

Share of Volume	UK Producers		Imports		Total	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Construction	32.5%	30.0%	79.3%	84.3%	64.4%	65.1%
Pallets & Packaging	29.0%	34.8%	14.2%	9.6%	18.9%	18.5%
Fencing & Outdoor	37.5%	34.3%	3.3%	3.1%	14.2%	14.1%
Other Markets	1.0%	1.0%	3.2%	3.1%	2.5%	2.3%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Forestry Commission Forestry Statistics 2010; Timber Trade Federation Import & Export Statistics; TIMCON Wood Packaging Data; Office for National Statistics; Industry Sources.

Key Change: The share of imported softwood used in pallets, packaging and fencing fell sharply in 2009. Despite higher volumes of UK produced softwood consumed in the pallets and packaging market (table 2) overall softwood usage in this market fell in 2009 as a greater proportion of recycled pallets was consumed compared to newly manufactured pallets.

Chart 2: Softwood Utilisation in Main Markets by Volume, 2008 & 2009



Source: Forestry Commission Forestry Statistics 2010; Timber Trade Federation Import & Export Statistics; TIMCON Wood Packaging Data; Office for National Statistics; Industry Sources

Key Change: Imports remain dominant in construction markets in 2009.

Table 4: Share of Softwood Utilisation within Main Market, 2008 & 2009

Share of Volume	UK Producers		Imports		Total	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Construction	16.1%	16.2%	83.9%	83.8%	100.0%	100.0%
Pallets & Packaging	48.8%	66.3%	51.2%	33.7%	100.0%	100.0%
Fencing & Outdoor	84.2%	85.8%	15.8%	14.2%	100.0%	100.0%
Other Markets	12.8%	15.1%	87.2%	84.9%	100.0%	100.0%
TOTAL	31.9%	35.3%	68.1%	64.7%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Forestry Commission Forestry Statistics 2010; Timber Trade Federation Import & Export Statistics; TIMCON Wood Packaging Data; Office for National Statistics; Industry Sources.

Key Change: UK producers' share of total consumption rises once again, to 35% in 2009.

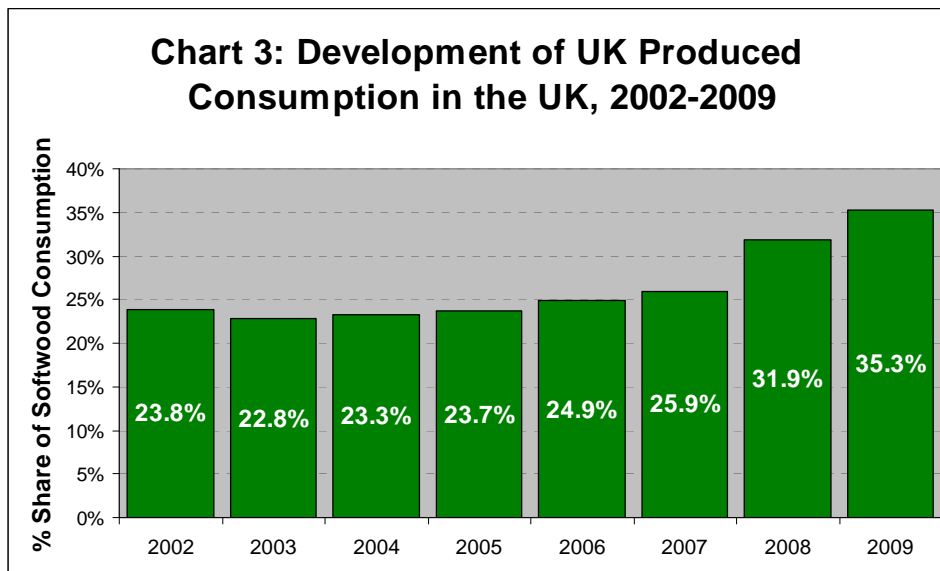
Table 5: Share of Softwood Utilisation within Construction Sector & Other Main Market, 2008 & 2009

Share of Volume	UK Producers		Imports	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Construction	16.1%	16.2%	83.9%	83.8%
New Housing	15.5%	19.2%	84.5%	80.8%
RMI & Other	16.1%	16.0%	83.9%	84.0%
Pallets & Packaging	48.8%	66.3%	51.2%	33.7%
Fencing & Outdoor	84.2%	85.8%	15.8%	14.2%
Other Markets	12.8%	15.1%	87.2%	84.9%

Source: Forestry Commission Forestry Statistics 2010; Timber Trade Federation Import & Export Statistics; TIMCON Wood Packaging Data; Office for National Statistics; Industry Sources.

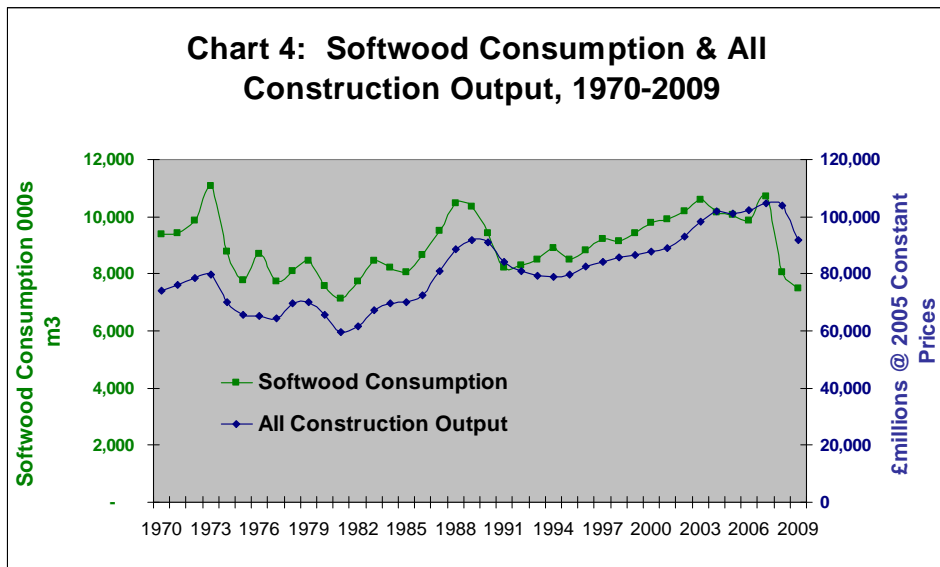
Key Change: The fall in softwood imports in 2009 of 11.5% has resulted in a reduced imported share of consumption in new housing and pallets and packaging.

Chart 3: UK Domestic Producers' Share of UK Softwood Consumption 2002-2009



Key Change: Marginally higher UK sawmill output and a continued fall in imports in 2009 raises the share of UK produced consumption significantly, to over 35%.

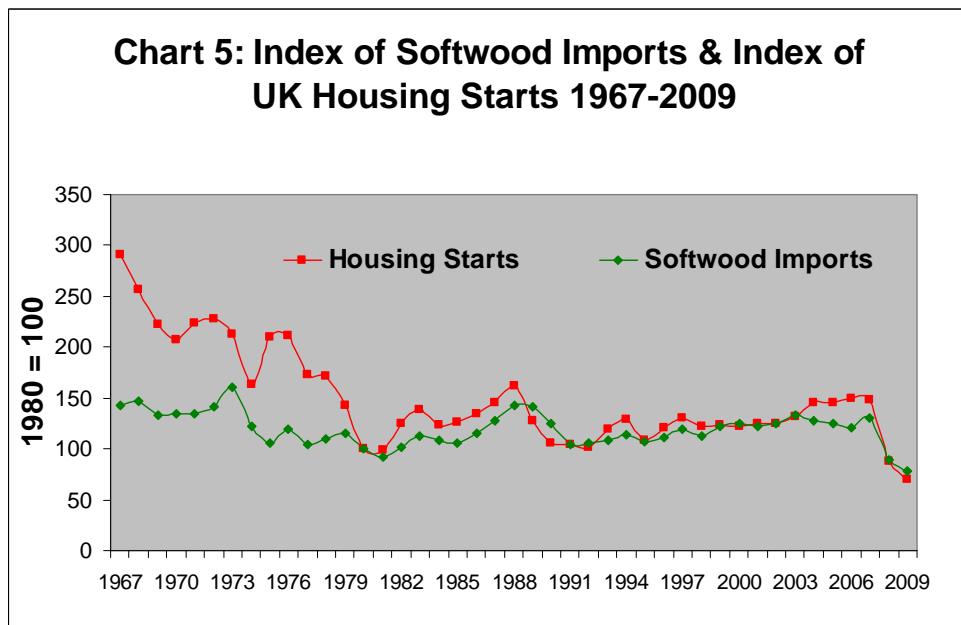
Chart 4: Total Softwood Consumption and All Construction Output, 1970-2009



Source: Forestry Commission; Timber Trade Federation; Office for National Statistics; Industry Sources.

Key Change: Construction output fell by 11.5% in 2009 as (all) softwood consumption fell by 7.5%. In 2008, total construction output fell by 1% and softwood consumption fell by 25%.

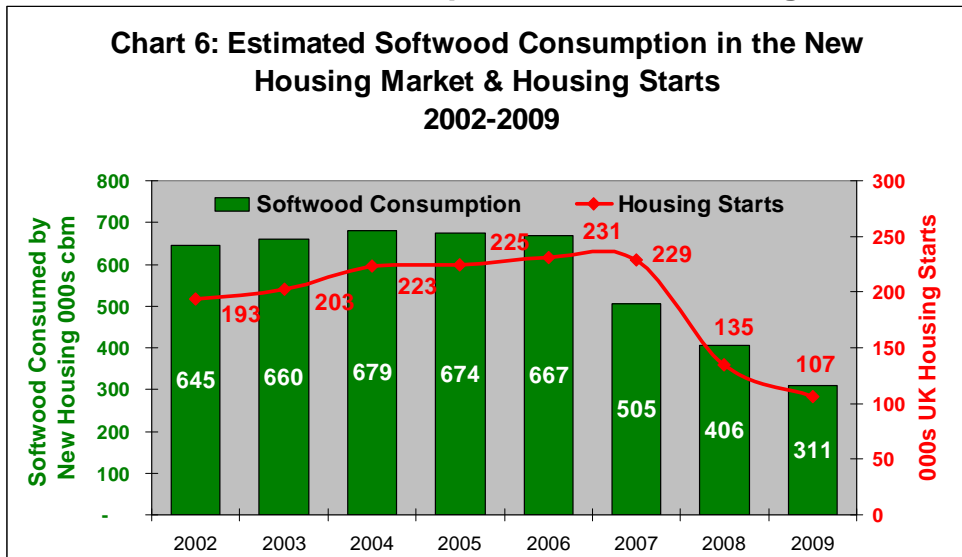
Chart 5: Index of Softwood Imports & UK Housing Starts, 1967-2009



Source: Forestry Commission; Timber Trade Federation; Office for National Statistics; Industry Sources.

Key Change: Housing Starts in 2009 fell by 20.7%; softwood imports down by 11.5%.

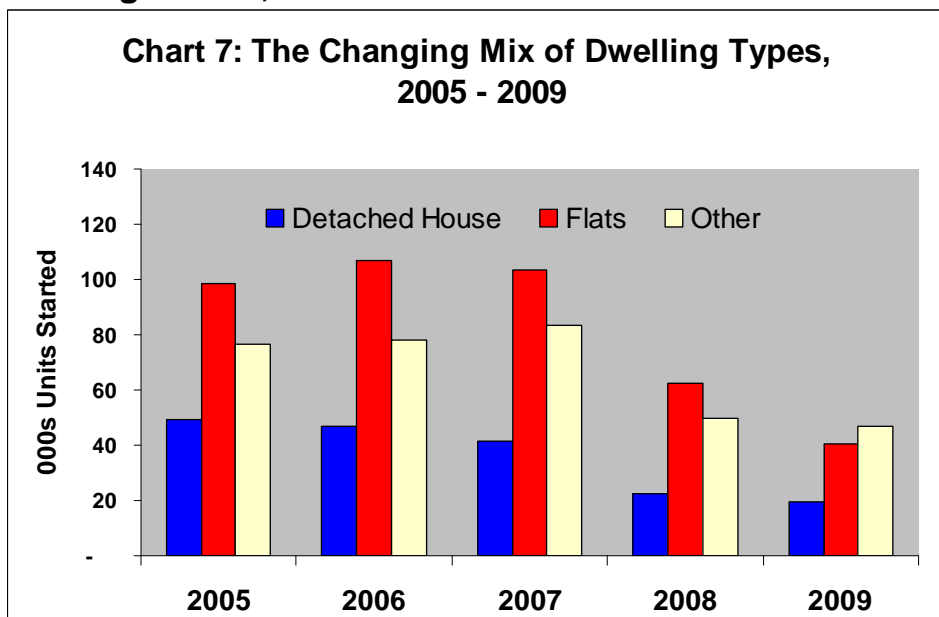
Chart 6: Softwood Consumption in New Housing Starts, 2002-2009



Source: Forestry Commission; Timber Trade Federation; Office for National Statistics; Industry Sources.

Key Change: Volume of softwood consumed in new housing falls 23.7% as housing starts fall 20.7% in 2009.

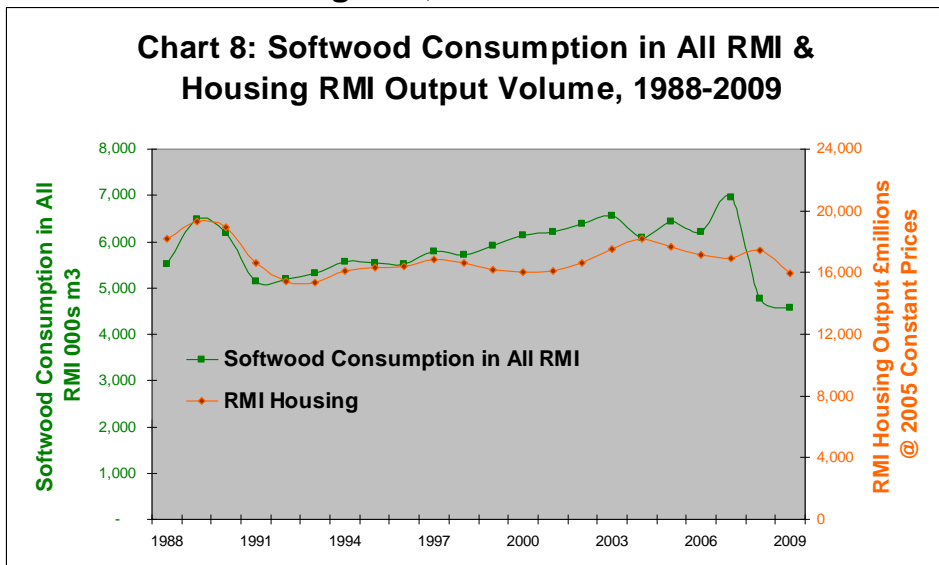
Chart 7: The Changing Mix of Dwelling Types Built in the UK New Housing Market, 2005-2009



Source: Office for National Statistics; NHBC; Industry Sources.

Key Change: All housing types experienced lower volume again in 2009, however, the combined total of semi-detached and terraced dwellings started in 2009 exceeded that of flats or detached dwellings.

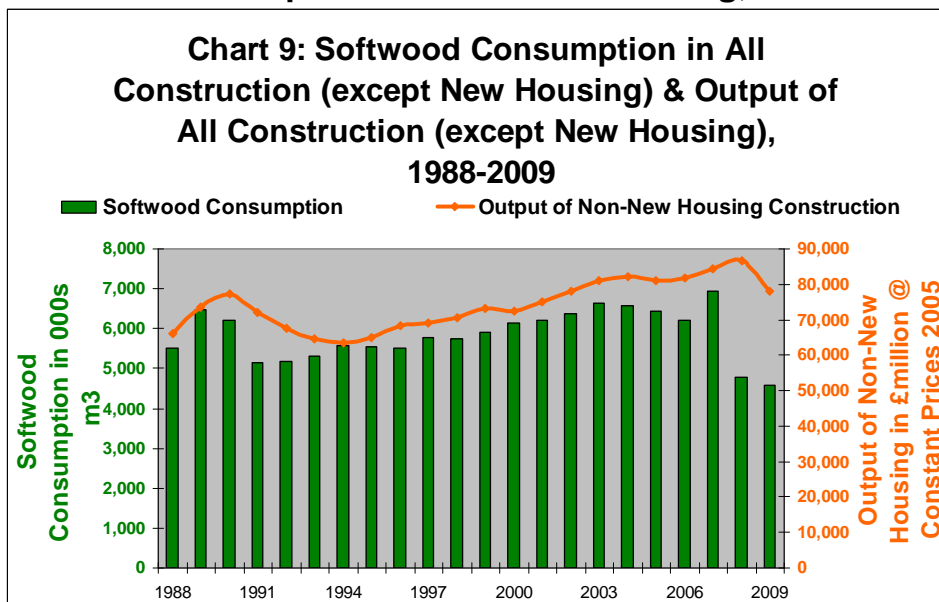
Chart 8: Estimated Softwood Consumption in the All RMI Activity & Volume of Housing RMI, 1988-2009



Source: Forestry Commission; Timber Trade Federation; Office for National Statistics; Industry Sources.

Key Change: Softwood consumed in all RMI falls 4.3% as housing RMI output falls 8.8% in 2009.

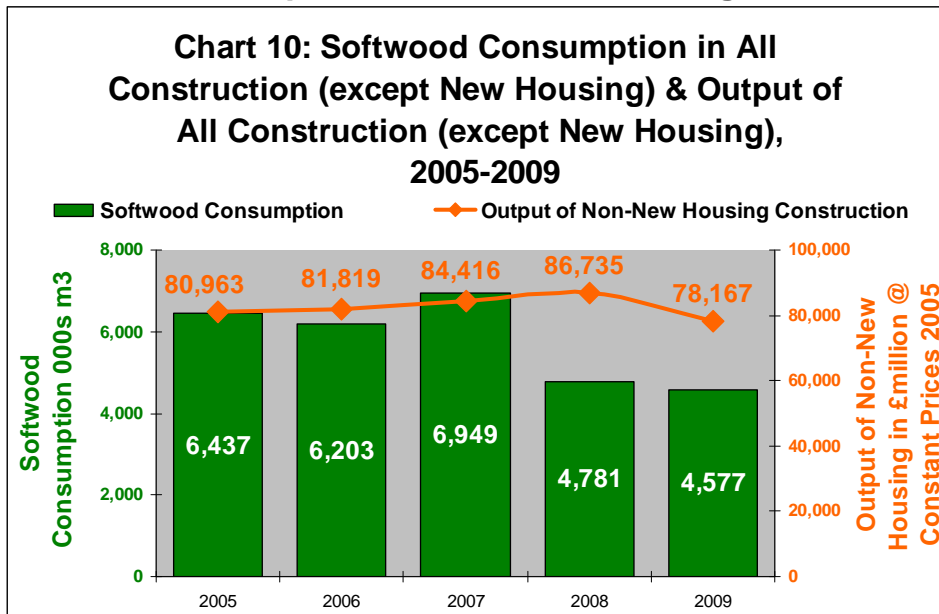
Chart 9: Estimated Softwood Consumption in all Non-New Housing & Construction Output of all Non-New Housing, 1988-2009



Source: Forestry Commission; Timber Trade Federation; Office for National Statistics; Industry Sources.

Key Change: Softwood consumption in construction (except new housing) has fallen more in the 2008/2009 recession than in the 1990/1991 recession. In 2008, softwood consumption in construction (except new housing) fell by 31% and by 17% in 1991.

Chart 10: Softwood Consumption in all Non-New Housing & Construction Output of all Non-New Housing, 2005-2009



Source: Forestry Commission; Timber Trade Federation; Office for National Statistics; Industry Sources.

Key Change: Non-new housing construction output falls by 9.9% in 2009 while non-new housing softwood consumption in construction falls by 4.3%.