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Coverage

United Kingdom

Theme

Agriculture, Fishing and
Forestry

UK Wood Production and Trade

This publication contains provisional statistics for 2005 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), estimated from deliveries;
- Production of wood products by primary wood processing industries;
- Imports and exports of wood products

The main findings are:

- **Removals:**
 - In 2005, removals of UK roundwood totalled 8.4 million cubic metres underbark, an increase of 2% from 2004.
- **UK production of wood products in 2005 included:**
 - 2.8 million cubic metres of sawnwood (an increase of 2% from 2004);
 - 3.5 million cubic metres of woodbased panels (estimated, no change from 2004)
 - and 6.0 million tonnes of paper and paperboard (a 3% fall from 2004).
- **Trade:**
 - UK imports in 2005 included 8.2 million cubic metres of sawnwood, 3.5 million cubic metres of woodbased panels and 9.0 million tonnes of pulp and paper.
 - The total value of wood product imports in 2005 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 £1.3 billion in 2005.

Issued by:

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

Enquiries:

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

Statistician:

Simon Gillam 0131 314 6280

Website:

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 2005, removals of UK roundwood totalled 8.4 million cubic metres underbark, a slight increase from the 2004 figure. Coniferous wood accounted for the majority of removals (94%).

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

	Coniferous		Non-coniferous		Total	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
Sawlogs	4,949	4,994	81	65	5,030	5,059
Pulpwood	2,428	2,445	189	189	2,617	2,634
Other roundwood ⁽¹⁾	347	374	48	48	395	422
Wood fuel ⁽²⁾	99	99	131	220	229	319
TOTAL	7,823	7,912	449	522	8,271	8,434

Note:

(1) The main uses of other roundwood are round fencing and shavings. Quantities for non-coniferous fencing and some other uses are estimates by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics.

(2) The estimates for wood fuel are by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics. Non-coniferous wood fuel has been revised with effect from 2005, but this should not be interpreted as an increase in a single year. Wood fuel includes wood for charcoal; charcoal production in UK is estimated to be about 5,000 tonnes, with about 7.8 m³ 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 2005.

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

	2004	2005
Coniferous	2,722	2,782
Non-coniferous	61	54
Total sawnwood	2,783	2,836

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 production of 3.5 million cubic metres of woodbased panels is estimated for 2005.

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

	2004	2005
Particle board	2,653	2,653
Fibreboard (MDF)	880	880
Total wood-based panels	3,533	3,533

Source:
Wood Panel Industries Federation

Note:
Data for woodbased panels in 2005 are not yet available. This information will be published on the Forestry Commission website on 29th September 2006 within the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire 2006. Within this first release, the 2004 data for woodbased panels have been carried over to 2005.

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 6.0 million tonnes of paper and paperboard and 341 thousand tonnes of wood pulp were produced in the UK in 2005.

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

	2004	2005
Paper & Paperboard	6,240	6033
- Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	2,632	2654
- Sanitary & household papers	806	795
- Packaging materials	2,230	1989
- Other	572	595
Wood Pulp ⁽¹⁾	344	341
- Mechanical	258	341
- Semi-Chemical	86	0
- 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	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
Roundwood, Sawnwood etc				
	Thousand cubic metres			
Roundwood	632	658	759	957
- Industrial Roundwood (conifer)	495	561	600	754
- Industrial Roundwood (non-conifer)	130	93	8	8
- Wood Fuel	7	4	151	195
Sawnwood	8,653	8,227	371	433
- conifer	7,871	7,559	356	412
- non-conifer	782	668	15	21
Wood Charcoal	342	318	48	36
Wood Chips, Particles & Residues	261	550	190	141
Total Roundwood, Sawnwood, etc	9,888	9,753	1,368	1,567
Wood-based Panels				
	Thousand cubic metres			
Particle board	1,261	1,138	244	183
- OSB (Oriented Strand Board)	184	189	149	91
- Other	1,077	949	95	92
Fibreboard	1,042	942	180	217
- MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard)	445	458	138	137
- Other	597	484	42	80
Plywood	1,474	1,417	91	115
Veneer sheets	30	33	5	5
Total Wood-based Panels	3,807	3,530	520	520
Pulp and Paper				
	Thousand tonnes			
Paper & Paperboard	7,528	7,266	1,557	1,495
- Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	5,469	5,132	766	706
- Sanitary & household papers	160	168	31	35
- Packaging materials	1,821	1,900	734	724
- Other	78	66	26	30
Wood Pulp	1,566	1,624	4	5
- Mechanical	72	62	2	1
- Semi-Chemical	11	11	0	0
- Chemical	1,475	1,435	1	4
- Dissolving Grades	8	116	1	0
Other Pulp	71	66	26	21
Recovered Paper	87	78	3,127	3,336
Total Pulp and Paper	9,252	9,034	4,714	4,857

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	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
Roundwood, Sawnwood etc				
Roundwood	68	65	22	26
- Industrial Roundwood (conifer)	32	33	17	20
- Industrial Roundwood (non-conifer)	35	31	2	3
- Wood Fuel	1	1	3	3
Sawnwood	1,190	1,149	50	61
- conifer	973	926	38	46
- non-conifer	217	223	12	15
Wood Charcoal	16	16	3	2
Wood Chips, Particles & Residues	10	31	8	6
Total Roundwood, Sawnwood, etc	1,284	1,261	83	95
Wood-based Panels				
Particle board	176	171	37	32
- OSB (Oriented Strand Board)	21	26	20	13
- Other	155	145	17	19
Fibreboard	332	296	23	27
- MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard)	81	83	14	15
- Other	251	213	9	12
Plywood	341	334	27	33
Veneer sheets	36	36	8	10
Total Wood-based Panels	885	837	95	102
Pulp and Paper				
Paper & Paperboard	3,521	3,376	992	995
- Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	2,470	2,346	514	500
- Sanitary & household papers	104	124	29	30
- Packaging materials	857	830	387	402
- Other	90	76	62	63
Wood Pulp	442	479	1	1
- Mechanical	24	19	0	0
- Semi-Chemical	3	3	0	0
- Chemical	413	408	0	1
- Dissolving Grades	2	49	1	0
Other Pulp	34	35	5	4
Recovered Paper	7	5	235	278
Total Pulp and Paper	4,004	3,895	1,233	1,278

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

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. 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. The industrial roundwood export figure for 2004 has been adjusted, but there is still an unresolved difference between these figures and the estimates compiled by forest industry for UK Timber Statistics.

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 2004 have been revised from those reported to international organisations and published in Forestry Statistics 2005 and previous publications.

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