

# UK Wood Production and Trade (provisional figures)

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This publication contains provisional statistics for 2007 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 be used for reporting to international organisations for publication in their databases and compendia.

The provisional figures for 2007 indicate:

- Harvesting of UK roundwood:
  - 9.1 million green tonnes of softwood; a 6% increase from 2006
  - 0.4 million green tonnes of hardwood; a 1% increase from 2006
  
- UK roundwood deliveries to industries and others:
  - Total: 9.2 million tonnes of roundwood (softwood and hardwood); a 6% increase from 2006;
  - Sawmills: 5.6 million green tonnes; a 7% increase;
  - Woodbased panels: 1.4 million green tonnes; no change from 2006;
  - Integrated pulp and paper mills: 0.5 million green tonnes; a 12% fall;
  - Other uses, including round fencing, woodfuel, shavings and exports of roundwood: 1.7 million green tonnes; a 16% increase.
  
- UK production of wood products in 2007 included:
  - 3.1 million cubic metres of sawnwood (an increase of 8% from 2006);
  - 3.5 million cubic metres of woodbased panels (a 1% increase from 2006);
  - 5.2 million tonnes of paper and paperboard (a 6% fall from 2006).
  
- Trade:
  - UK imports in 2007 included 8.4 million cubic metres of sawnwood, 3.9 million cubic metres of woodbased panels and 9.1 million tonnes of pulp and paper.
  - The total value of wood product imports in 2007 was £6.8 billion, of which £4.2 billion was pulp and paper. Pulp and paper also accounted for the majority of exports, generating £1.4 billion in 2007 out of a total of £1.6 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 9.5 million green tonnes of roundwood was removed from UK woodlands in 2007. This represented a 6% increase from the 2006 figure of 9.0 million green tonnes.

Coniferous wood (softwood) accounted for the majority of removals (95%). Softwood removals from UK woodland totalled 9.1 million green tonnes in 2007, a 6% 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	
2003	4,817	3,497	8,314	117	445	562	8,876
2004	4,894	3,625	8,519	113	399	513	9,032
2005	4,579	3,900	8,479	101	492	593	9,072
2006	4,582	3,984	8,566	45	392	438	9,004
2007	4,653	4,424	9,077	40	400	440	9,518

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 persistent difference indicates that the statistics for removals and/ or deliveries may be unreliable.

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

# UK Wood Production and Trade (provisional figures)

## Deliveries of roundwood

In 2007, deliveries of UK roundwood totalled 9.2 million green tonnes, a 6% increase from the previous year.

Most UK roundwood deliveries (95%) were softwood, a total of 8.7 million green tonnes in 2007. 64% 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	
2003	4,804	704	1,486	265	100	45	307	7,711
2004	4,943	483	1,525	273	100	79	610	8,012
2005	4,917	500	1,502	321	100	95	705	8,140
2006	5,202	481	1,365	275	100	114	643	8,181
2007	5,580	472	1,362	294	200	113	713	8,734

Note:

(1) Woodfuel derived from stemwood, and for 2007 include estimated roundwood use for biomass energy. The figures are estimated by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics.

(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

UK Forest Products Association (pulpmills, softwood exports)

Wood Panel Industries Federation (woodbased panels)

## UK Wood Production and Trade (provisional figures)

There was a total of 0.4 million green tonnes of UK hardwood deliveries in 2007. The majority of UK hardwood deliveries (68%) were used for woodfuel.

**Table 3: UK Hardwood Deliveries**

Year	Thousand green tonnes					Total
	Sawmills	Pulpmills	Woodbased panels	Woodfuel <sup>1</sup>	Other <sup>2</sup>	
2003	138	215	4	150	55	562
2004	92	214	2	150	55	513
2005	72	214	2	250	55	593
2006	64	54	1	250	70	438
2007	66	0	5	300	69	440

Note:

- (1) Woodfuel derived from stemwood, and for 2007 include estimated roundwood use for biomass energy. The figures are estimated by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics. The apparent increase in woodfuel from 2004 to 2005 reflects a new estimate of the level of hardwood deliveries for woodfuel and 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 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)

# UK Wood Production and Trade (provisional figures)

## Sawmills

In 2007, UK sawmills consumed a total of 5.8 million green tonnes of softwood, a 7% increase from 2006. A further 0.1 million green tonnes of hardwood were consumed by UK sawmills in 2007. Most of the logs, 5.6 million green tonnes softwood and 0.1 million green tonnes hardwood, are UK grown.

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

Year	Softwood			Hardwood		
	UK grown	Imported	Total	UK grown	Imported	Total
2003	4,804	225	5,029	138	18	157
2004	4,943	226	5,168	92	28	120
2005	4,917	272	5,189	72	34	106
2006	5,202	266	5,468	64	22	85
2007	5,580	263	5,843	66	21	87

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 3.1 million cubic metres of sawnwood was produced in the UK in 2007, an 8% increase from 2006.

**Table 5: Production of Sawnwood**

Year	Softwood		Hardwood	Total
	Thousand cubic metres sawnwood			
2003	2,666	81	2,747	
2004	2,719	60	2,779	
2005	2,726	53	2,779	
2006	2,857	45	2,902	
2007	3,097	45	3,142	

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 4.5 million tonnes of material in 2007, a 5% increase on the 2006 total. The inputs in 2007 comprised 1.4 million tonnes of roundwood (30%), 1.9 million tonnes of sawmill products (43%) and 1.2 million tonnes of recycled wood fibre (27%).

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

Year	UK roundwood <sup>1</sup>		Sawmill products		Imports <sup>2</sup>		Recycled wood fibre <sup>3</sup>	Total
	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood		
	Thousand green tonnes							
2003	1,486	4	1,682	4	22	0	993	4,191
2004	1,525	2	1,778	0	9	0	1,078	4,392
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

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 2007 was 3.5 million cubic metres, an increase of 1% from the 2006 total.

**Table 7: Production of Woodbased Panels**

Year	Thousand cubic metres		Total woodbased panels
	Particleboard <sup>1</sup>	Fibreboard (MDF)	
2003	2,526	835	3,361
2004	2,653	880	3,533
2005	2,557	841	3,398
2006	2,626	872	3,498
2007	2,684	865	3,549

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 2007, a 7% fall from the total of 0.7 million tonnes in 2006.

**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
2003	704	215	234	0	938	215
2004	483	214	143	0	626	214
2005	500	214	138	0	638	214
2006	481	54	145	0	626	54
2007	472	0	161	0	633	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 5.2 million tonnes of paper and paperboard were produced in the UK in 2007, a 6% drop from the previous year. Graphic papers (including newsprint) accounted for 43% of the total UK paper production, packaging materials for 35%, and sanitary and household papers for 16%.

**Table 9: Production of Paper**

Year	Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	Sanitary & household papers	Packaging materials	Other	Total
					Thousand tonnes
2003	2,532	808	2,240	646	6,226
2004	2,632	806	2,230	572	6,240
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

Source:

Confederation of Paper Industries.

## 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. The main imports are paper and sawnwood. A total of 7.6 million tonnes of paper was imported into the UK in 2007. Total wood imports in 2007 comprised 8.4 million cubic metres of sawnwood, 3.9 million cubic metres of woodbased panels and 1.2 million cubic metres of roundwood.

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

Year	Thousand m <sup>3</sup>			Thousand tonnes			
	Roundwood <sup>2</sup>	Wood Sawnwood	Woodbased panels	Paper	Pulp and Paper Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2003	1,045	8,714	3,492	7,490	1,522	100	9,112
2004	1,048	8,653	3,813	7,528	1,636	87	9,251
2005	1,325	8,223	3,552	7,663	1,694	78	9,434
2006	1,133	7,963	3,685	7,756	1,452	140	9,347
2007	1,184	8,373	3,891	7,581	1,425	88	9,093

Note:

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

(2) Includes 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 6.1 million tonnes of pulp and paper (including recovered paper) was exported by the UK in 2007. The quantity of recovered paper exports has increased rapidly in recent years.

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

Year	Thousand m <sup>3</sup>			Thousand tonnes			
	Roundwood <sup>2</sup>	Wood Sawnwood	Woodbased panels	Paper	Pulp and Paper Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2003	631	356	531	1,697	10	2,005	3,713
2004	998	371	519	1,557	29	3,127	4,714
2005	1,093	358	520	1,164	25	3,329	4,518
2006	984	415	510	1,001	24	3,996	5,021
2007	996	338	513	1,320	24	4,728	6,071

Note:

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

(2) Includes 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 2007 were valued at a total of £6.8 billion. This comprised 62% pulp and paper (mainly paper), 22% sawnwood, 14% woodbased panels and 2% roundwood.

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

Year	Wood			Paper	Pulp and Paper		Total Pulp & Paper	Total
	Roundwood <sup>2</sup>	Sawnwood	Woodbased panels		Pulp	Recovered paper		
2003	84	1,225	767	3,509	484	10	4,003	6,079
2004	79	1,190	885	3,520	476	7	4,003	6,157
2005	98	1,120	796	3,432	517	5	3,954	5,968
2006	96	1,144	748	3,599	548	9	4,156	6,144
2007	125	1,520	920	3,689	525	7	4,222	6,787

Note:

- (1) There are concerns about the reliability of some of these figures, particularly for individual products.
- (2) Includes 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 £1.6 billion in 2007. This comprised 86% pulp and paper (mainly paper), 7% woodbased panels, 4% sawnwood and 2% roundwood.

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

Year	Wood			Paper	Pulp and Paper		Total Pulp & Paper	Total
	Roundwood <sup>2</sup>	Sawnwood	Woodbased panels		Pulp	Recovered paper		
2003	21	47	91	1,002	5	173	1,181	1,340
2004	30	50	95	992	7	235	1,234	1,409
2005	32	52	102	1,002	6	278	1,286	1,472
2006	34	61	128	947	8	329	1,284	1,507
2007	38	70	115	998	7	405	1,410	1,633

Note:

- (1) There are concerns about the reliability of some of these figures, particularly for individual products.
- (2) Includes 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 2008", with a summary in "Forestry Facts and Figures 2008", both to be released on 25 September 2008.

Revisions: Figures shown for 2006 and earlier years have been revised from those reported to international organisations and published in Forestry Statistics 2007 and previous publications.

Most of these statistics are used to compile data which 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 (not National Statistics) are published 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)).

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.

The statistics in this release and in the international returns are only available as UK totals. Some statistics on wood production are available broken down by country (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland). These will be published with Forestry Statistics 2008; previous data were included in Forestry Statistics 2007.

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)).

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.

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/).