

UK Wood Production and Trade

(provisional figures)

14 May 2009

This publication contains provisional statistics for 2008 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 2008 indicate:

- Harvesting of UK roundwood:
 - 8.4 million green tonnes of softwood; a 7% decrease from 2007, but similar to the level in 2006;
 - 0.4 million green tonnes of hardwood; a 2% decrease from 2007.

- UK roundwood deliveries to industries and others:
 - Total: 8.6 million tonnes of roundwood (softwood and hardwood); a 7% decrease from 2007, but similar to the level in 2006; of which:
 - Sawmills: 5.0 million green tonnes; an 11% decrease from 2007;
 - Woodbased panels: 1.2 million green tonnes; an 11% decrease from 2007;
 - Integrated pulp and paper mills: 0.5 million green tonnes; a 9% increase from 2007;
 - Other uses, including round fencing, woodfuel, shavings and exports of roundwood: 1.9 million green tonnes; a 7% increase from 2007.

- UK production of wood products in 2008 included:
 - 2.8 million cubic metres of sawnwood (a decrease of 11% from 2007);
 - 2.6 million cubic metres of woodbased panels (a 28% decrease from 2007);
 - 5.0 million tonnes of paper and paperboard (a 5% decrease from 2007).

- Trade:
 - UK imports in 2008 included 5.9 million cubic metres of sawnwood, 3.4 million cubic metres of woodbased panels and 8.4 million tonnes of pulp and paper.
 - The total value of wood product imports in 2008 was £6.3 billion, of which £4.3 billion was pulp and paper. Pulp and paper also accounted for most exports, generating £1.6 billion in 2008 out of a total of £1.8 billion for all wood product exports.

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Removals of roundwood

It is estimated that a total of 8.9 million green tonnes of roundwood was removed from UK woodlands in 2008. This represented a 6% decrease from the 2007 figure of 9.5 million green tonnes.

Coniferous wood (softwood) accounted for most removals (95%). Softwood removals from UK woodland totalled 8.4 million green tonnes in 2008, a 7% decrease 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	
2004	4,894	3,629	8,524	113	399	513	9,036
2005	4,579	3,906	8,485	101	492	593	9,078
2006	4,582	3,929	8,511	45	392	438	8,949
2007	4,653	4,363	9,016	40	400	440	9,457
2008	4,415	4,004	8,419	43	389	432	8,851

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

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Deliveries of roundwood

In 2008, deliveries of UK roundwood (softwood and hardwood) totalled 8.6 million green tonnes, a 7% decrease from the previous year.

Most UK roundwood deliveries (95%) were softwood, a total of 8.2 million green tonnes in 2008. 61% 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 ¹	Other ²	Softwood exports	
2004	4,953	483	1,525	272	100	79	610	8,022
2005	4,924	500	1,502	320	100	95	705	8,146
2006	5,210	481	1,365	275	100	114	643	8,188
2007	5,591	472	1,362	296	200	113	759	8,793
2008	4,948	515	1,219	341	300	116	733	8,172

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, 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, softwood exports)
Wood Panel Industries Federation (woodbased panels)

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There was a total of 0.4 million green tonnes of UK hardwood deliveries in 2008. The majority of UK hardwood deliveries (69%) were used for woodfuel.

Table 3: UK Hardwood Deliveries

Year	Sawmills	Pulpmills	Woodbased panels	Thousand green tonnes		Total
				Woodfuel ¹	Other ²	
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
2008	67	0	2	300	63	432

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. 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)

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Sawmills

In 2008, UK sawmills consumed a total of 5.1 million green tonnes of softwood, a 13% decrease from 2007. A further 0.1 million green tonnes of hardwood were consumed by UK sawmills in 2008. Most of the logs, 4.9 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
2004	4,953	226	5,178	92	28	120
2005	4,924	272	5,196	72	34	106
2006	5,210	266	5,477	64	22	85
2007	5,591	263	5,854	66	21	87
2008	4,948	174	5,122	67	21	88

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 2.8 million cubic metres of sawnwood was produced in the UK in 2008, an 11% decrease from 2007.

Table 5: Production of Sawnwood

Year	Softwood		Hardwood	Total
	Thousand cubic metres sawnwood			
2004	2,722	60	2,783	
2005	2,728	53	2,780	
2006	2,860	45	2,904	
2007	3,100	45	3,145	
2008	2,766	45	2,812	

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 3.9 million tonnes of material in 2008, a 13% decrease from the 2007 total. The inputs in 2008 comprised 1.2 million tonnes of roundwood (31%), 1.6 million tonnes of sawmill products (40%) and 1.1 million tonnes of recycled wood fibre (28%).

Table 6: Inputs to Woodbased Panel Mills

Year	Thousand green tonnes							
	UK roundwood ¹		Sawmill products		Imports ²		Recycled wood fibre ³	Total
	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood		
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
2008	1,219	2	1,591	0	0	0	1,119	3,931

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 2008 was 2.6 million cubic metres, a decrease of 28% from the 2007 total.

Table 7: Production of Woodbased Panels

Year	Thousand cubic metres		
	Particleboard ¹	Fibreboard (MDF)	Total woodbased panels
2004	2,653	880	3,533
2005	2,557	841	3,398
2006	2,626	872	3,498
2007	2,684	865	3,549
2008	2,015	550	2,565

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 0.7 million tonnes of material (all softwood) in 2008, a 5% increase from the total of 0.6 million tonnes in 2007.

Table 8: Inputs to Integrated Pulp & Paper Mills¹

Year	UK roundwood ²		Sawmill products		Total	
	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood
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
2008	515	0	152	0	667	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 5.0 million tonnes of paper and paperboard were produced in the UK in 2008, a 5% decrease from the previous year. Graphic papers (including newsprint) accounted for 41% of the total UK paper production, packaging materials for 37%, 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
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
2008	2,063	783	1,838	299	4,983

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. A total of 7.0 million tonnes of paper was imported into the UK in 2008, a decrease of 11% from 2007. Over the same period, imports of sawnwood fell by 31% to 5.9 million m³ and imports of woodbased panels fell by 12% to 3.4 million m³.

Table 10: UK Import Quantities ¹

Year	Thousand m ³			Thousand tonnes			
	Wood			Pulp and Paper			
	Sawnwood	Woodbased panels	Other wood ²	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2004	8,653	3,813	1,048	7,528	1,636	87	9,251
2005	8,223	3,552	1,325	7,663	1,694	78	9,434
2006	7,963	3,685	1,133	7,741	1,452	140	9,332
2007	8,469	3,848	1,602	7,884	1,427	88	9,399
2008	5,859	3,398	1,958	7,001	1,336	74	8,410

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 6.3 million tonnes of pulp and paper (including recovered paper) was exported by the UK in 2008. This represented an increase of 10% from 2007; wood exports fell by 12% over the same period.

Table 11: UK Export Quantities ¹

Year	Thousand m ³			Thousand tonnes			
	Wood			Pulp and Paper			
	Sawnwood	Woodbased panels	Other wood ²	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2004	371	519	1,294	1,557	29	3,127	4,714
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	516	1,289	1,418	9	4,891	6,318

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

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Table 12 shows the value of wood product imports into the UK. Wood product imports in 2008 were valued at a total of £6.3 billion, a decrease of 7% from the 2007 total. This comprised 67% pulp and paper (mainly paper), 17% sawnwood, 13% woodbased panels and 3% other wood.

Table 12: UK Import Values¹

Year	Wood			Pulp and Paper				Total
	Sawnwood	Woodbased panels	Other wood ²	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper	
2004	1,190	885	95	3,520	476	7	4,003	6,173
2005	1,120	796	114	3,432	517	5	3,954	5,984
2006	1,144	748	112	3,599	548	9	4,156	6,160
2007	1,517	905	146	3,741	526	7	4,275	6,842
2008	1,081	817	173	3,655	608	10	4,273	6,344

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 £1.8 billion in 2008, an increase of 9% from the previous year. This comprised 89% pulp and paper (mainly paper), 6% woodbased panels, 3% sawnwood and 3% other wood.

Table 13: UK Export Values¹

Year	Wood			Pulp and Paper				Total
	Sawnwood	Woodbased panels	Other wood ²	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper	
2004	50	95	34	992	7	235	1,234	1,412
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	1,644
2008	50	104	48	1,114	3	472	1,590	1,792

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 2009", with a summary in "Forestry Facts and Figures 2009", both to be released on 24 September 2009.

Revisions: Figures shown for 2007 and earlier years have been revised from those reported to international organisations and published in Forestry Statistics 2008 and previous publications.

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 (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).

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. 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 2009; previous data were included in Forestry Statistics 2008.

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).

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.

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

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