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**Coverage**

United Kingdom

**Theme**

Agriculture, Fishing and  
Forestry

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## 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**

	<b>Coniferous</b>		<b>Non-coniferous</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	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 <sup>(1)</sup>	355	294	48	48	403	342
Wood fuel <sup>(1) (2)</sup>	101	101	133	133	234	234
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,997</b>	<b>7,043</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>7,559</b>	<b>7,577</b>

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 m<sup>3</sup> 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**

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

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**

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

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**

	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Paper &amp; Paperboard</b>	<b>6,204</b>	<b>6,218</b>
- Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	2,627	2,526
- Sanitary & household papers	738	823
- Packaging materials	2,190	2,207
- Other	649	662
<b>Wood Pulp</b>	<b>492</b>	
- 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
<b>Roundwood, Sawnwood etc</b>				
	<b>Thousand cubic metres</b>			
<b>Roundwood</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>202</b>
- Industrial Roundwood (conifer)	256	366	14	32
- Industrial Roundwood (non-conifer)	97	121	90	58
- Wood Fuel	10	3	163	112
<b>Sawnwood</b>	<b>7,920</b>	<b>8,263</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>294</b>
- conifer	7,221	7,585	202	283
- non-conifer	699	678	12	11
<b>Wood Charcoal</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Wood Chips, Particles &amp; Residues</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Total Roundwood, Sawnwood, etc</b>	<b>8,817</b>	<b>9,270</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>538</b>
<b>Wood-based Panels</b>				
	<b>Thousand cubic metres</b>			
<b>Particle board</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>219</b>
- OSB (Oriented Strand Board)	93	115	134	142
- Other	569	566	85	77
<b>Fibreboard</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>153</b>
- MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard)	389	482	71	115
- Other	607	560	26	38
<b>Plywood</b>	<b>1,145</b>	<b>1,139</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Veneer sheets</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total Wood-based Panels</b>	<b>2,837</b>	<b>2,896</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>435</b>
<b>Pulp and Paper</b>				
	<b>Thousand tonnes</b>			
<b>Paper &amp; Paperboard</b>	<b>7,429</b>	<b>7,061</b>	<b>1,581</b>	<b>1,325</b>
- 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
<b>Wood Pulp</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,577</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>
- Mechanical	97	65	0	8
- Semi-Chemical	15	35	0	0
- Chemical	1,474	1,471	3	1
- Dissolving Grades	14	6	0	0
<b>Other Pulp</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Recovered Paper</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>1,230</b>
<b>Total Pulp and Paper</b>	<b>9,126</b>	<b>8,757</b>	<b>2,322</b>	<b>2,577</b>

Table 6: UK Import and Export Values

£ million

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

## **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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