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Coverage

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Theme

Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry

UK Wood Production and Trade (provisional figures)

This publication contains provisional statistics for 2006 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 2006 indicate:

- Harvesting of UK roundwood:
 - 8.6 million green tonnes of softwood; a 1% increase from 2005
 - 0.4 million green tonnes of hardwood; a 27% fall from 2005
- UK roundwood deliveries to industries and others:
 - Total: 8.8 million tonnes of roundwood (softwood and hardwood); a 1% fall from 2005;
 - Sawmills: 5.3 million green tonnes; a 5% increase;
 - Woodbased panels: 1.4 million green tonnes; a 9% decrease;
 - Integrated pulp and paper mills: 0.5 million green tonnes; a 25% fall;
 - Other uses, including round fencing, woodfuel, shavings and exports of roundwood: 1.5 million green tonnes; unchanged from 2005.
- UK production of wood products in 2006 included:
 - 3.0 million cubic metres of sawnwood (an increase of 4% from 2005);
 - 3.5 million cubic metres of woodbased panels (a 3% increase from 2005);
 - 5.6 million tonnes of paper and paperboard (a 7% fall from 2005).
- Trade:
 - UK imports in 2006 included 7.7 million cubic metres of sawnwood, 3.4 million cubic metres of woodbased panels and 9.3 million tonnes of pulp and paper.
 - The total value of wood product imports in 2006 was £6.1 billion, of which £4.1 billion was pulp and paper. Pulp and paper also accounted for the majority of exports, generating £1.3 billion in 2006 out of a total of £1.5 billion for all wood product exports.

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All figures in this publication are provisional

REMOVALS OF ROUNDWOOD

It is estimated that a total of 9.0 million green tonnes of roundwood was removed from UK woodlands in 2006. This represented a 1% fall from the 2005 figure of 9.1 million green tonnes.

Coniferous wood (softwood) accounted for the majority of removals (95%). Softwood removals from UK woodland totalled 8.6 million green tonnes in 2006, a 1% 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	
2002	4,650	2,998	7,648	118	503	621	8,269
2003	4,817	3,518	8,334	117	446	563	8,898
2004	4,894	3,647	8,542	113	400	514	9,055
2005	4,579	3,931	8,510	101	493	594	9,104
2006	4,582	3,995	8,577	45	386	432	9,009

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 2006, deliveries of UK roundwood totalled 8.8 million green tonnes, a 1% fall from the 2005 figure.

Most UK roundwood deliveries (95%) were softwood, a total of 8.3 million green tonnes in 2006. 63% 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	
2002	4,656	696	1,456	298	100	29	133	7,369
2003	4,784	704	1,486	275	100	45	307	7,701
2004	4,893	483	1,525	282	100	79	610	7,972
2005	5,008	500	1,502	342	100	95	705	8,251
2006	5,259	481	1,365	311	100	114	705	8,335

Note:

(1) The estimates for woodfuel are by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics. They include forest residues.

(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)

There was a total of 0.4 million green tonnes of UK hardwood deliveries in 2006. The majority of UK hardwood deliveries (58%) were used for woodfuel.

Table 3: UK Hardwood Deliveries

Year	Thousand green tonnes					Total
	Sawmills	Pulpmills	Woodbased panels	Woodfuel ¹	Other ²	
2002	163	210	43	150	55	621
2003	139	215	4	150	55	563
2004	93	214	2	150	55	514
2005	73	214	2	250	55	594
2006	65	54	1	250	63	432

Note:

(1) The estimates for woodfuel are by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics. They include woodfuel from short rotation coppice (SRC), forest residues and arboriculture. 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 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 2006, UK sawmills consumed a total of 5.5 million green tonnes of softwood, a 5% increase from 2005. A further 86 thousand green tonnes of hardwood were consumed by UK sawmills in 2006, a 19% drop from the previous year.

Table 4: Consumption of Roundwood by Sawmills

Year	Softwood			Hardwood		
	UK grown	Imported	Total	UK grown	Imported	Total
2002	4,656	235	4,891	163	18	181
2003	4,784	225	5,009	139	18	158
2004	4,893	226	5,119	93	28	120
2005	5,008	272	5,280	73	34	107
2006	5,259	266	5,525	65	22	86

Source:

Forestry Commission & Forest Service: Sawmill Survey

Table 5 provides statistics for the sawnwood output of UK sawmills that mainly use UK sawlogs. This includes sawnwood produced at these mills from imported logs. 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. A total of 3.0 million cubic metres of sawnwood was produced in the UK in 2006, a 4% increase from 2005.

Table 5: Production of Sawnwood

Year	Softwood		Hardwood	Total
	UK grown	Imported		
2002	2,614	91		2,705
2003	2,661	81		2,742
2004	2,698	61		2,758
2005	2,789	53		2,842
2006	2,906	45		2,951

Source:

Forestry Commission & Forest Service: Sawmill Survey

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WOODBASSED PANEL PRODUCTS

Table 6 shows the inputs to UK mills that produce woodbased panels. The woodbased panel mills used a total of 4.3 million tonnes of material in 2006, a 1% increase on the 2005 total. The inputs in 2006 comprised 1.4 million tonnes of roundwood (31%), 1.8 million tonnes of sawmill products (41%) and 1.2 million tonnes of recycled wood fibre (27%).

Table 6: Inputs to Woodbased Panel Products

Year	UK roundwood ¹		Sawmill products ²		Imports ³		Recycled wood fibre ⁴	Total
	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood		
2002	1,456	43	1,669	0	13	0	932	4,113
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

Source:

Wood Panel Industries Federation

Table 7 shows the output of UK mills that produce woodbased panels. A total production of 3.5 million cubic metres of woodbased panels is estimated for 2006, an increase of 3% from the 2005 total of 3.4 million cubic metres.

Table 7: Production of Woodbased Panels

Year	Thousand cubic metres		Total woodbased panels
	Particleboard ¹	Fibreboard (MDF)	
2002	2,446	771	3,217
2003	2,526	835	3,361
2004	2,653	880	3,533
2005	2,557	841	3,398
2006	2,626	872	3,498

Note:

(1) Includes Oriented Strand Board (OSB).

Source:

Wood Panel Industries Federation

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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 (mainly softwood) in 2006, a 20% fall from the total of 0.9 million tonnes in 2005.

Table 8: Inputs to integrated pulp & paper mills ¹

Year	Thousand green tonnes					
	UK roundwood ¹		Sawmill products ²		Total	
	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood
2002	696	210	307	0	1,003	210
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

Note:

- (1) This table excludes inputs of recycled paper and cardboard.
- (2) UK roundwood includes all materials from forest operations.
- (3) Sawmill products include peeled and unpeeled chips, sawdust, slabwood, shavings, postplant chips and peelings.

Source:

UK Forest Products Association

Most UK paper production uses recovered waste paper or imported pulp. The figures shown below for pulp are for wood pulp as an intermediate product in integrated pulp & paper mills. Pulp is also produced from non-wood fibres. A total of 287 thousand tonnes of wood pulp were produced in the UK in 2006, a 16% decrease from the 2005 total of 341 thousand tonnes.

Table 9: Production of Wood Pulp

Year	Thousand tonnes		
	Mechanical	Semi-Chemical	Total
2002	444	80	524
2003	413	91	504
2004	258	86	344
2005	341	0	341
2006	287	0	287

Note:

- (1) These figures for wood pulp measure the intermediate product in integrated mills.

Source:

Confederation of Paper Industries.

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A total of 5.6 million tonnes of paper and paperboard were produced in the UK in 2006, a 7% drop from the previous year. Graphic papers (including newsprint) accounted for 44% of the total UK paper production, packaging materials for 31%, and sanitary and household papers for 14%.

Table 10: Production of Paper

Year	Thousand tonnes				Total
	Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	Sanitary & household papers	Packaging materials	Other	
2002	2,526	823	2,207	662	6,218
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	2,484	806	1,755	544	5,589

Source:

Confederation of Paper Industries.

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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 11 to 14 are based on the published UK overseas trade statistics. The main imports are paper, sawnwood and pulp. A total of 7.6 million tonnes of paper was imported into the UK in 2006. Total wood imports in 2006 comprised 7.7 million cubic metres of sawnwood, 3.4 million cubic metres of woodbased panels and 1.3 million cubic metres of roundwood.

Table 11: UK Import Quantities

Year	Thousand m ³			Thousand tonnes			
	Round-wood	Wood Sawn-wood	Wood-based panels	Paper	Pulp and Paper Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2002	1,020	8,201	3,782	7,072	1,623	76	8,771
2003	1,253	8,714	3,492	7,490	1,522	100	9,112
2004	1,235	8,653	3,813	7,528	1,636	87	9,251
2005	1,539	8,223	3,552	7,358	1,694	78	9,130
2006	1,329	7,748	3,384	7,557	1,605	139	9,302

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

A total of 5.4 million tonnes of pulp and paper (including recovered paper) was imported into the UK in 2006. The quantity of recovered paper imports has more than trebled over the last 5 years, whilst there has been a four-fold increase in roundwood exports.

Table 12: UK Export Quantities

Year	Thousand m ³			Thousand tonnes			
	Round-wood	Wood Sawn-wood	Wood-based panels	Paper	Pulp and Paper Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2002	198	293	424	1,546	21	1,227	2,794
2003	631	356	531	1,697	10	2,005	3,713
2004	847	371	519	1,557	29	3,127	4,714
2005	897	358	520	1,509	25	3,329	4,864
2006	881	365	539	1,349	23	3,997	5,370

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

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Table 13 shows the value of wood product imports into the UK. Wood product imports in 2006 were valued at a total of £6.1 billion. This comprised 67% pulp and paper (mainly paper), 19% sawnwood, 12% woodbased panels and 2% roundwood.

Table 13: UK Import Values

Year	Round-wood	Wood Sawn-wood	Wood-based panels	Paper	Pulp and Paper			Total
					Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper	
2002	68	1,107	781	3,237	484	9	3,730	5,686
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	808	3,432	517	5	3,954	5,980
2006	96	1,144	764	3,559	546	9	4,114	6,117

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 14 shows the value of wood product exports into the UK. Wood product exports were valued at a total of £1.5 billion in 2006. This comprised 86% pulp and paper (mainly paper), 9% woodbased panels, 3% sawnwood and 2% roundwood.

Table 14: UK Export Values

Year	Round-wood	Wood Sawn-wood	Wood-based panels	Paper	Pulp and Paper			Total
					Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper	
2002	12	39	82	982	9	98	1,088	1,221
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	33	49	127	942	8	328	1,278	1,488

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

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Background

The figures in this publication are provisional. Final figures will be published in summary form in "Forestry Facts and Figures 2007" on 27 September 2007. More detailed results will be available in "Forestry Statistics 2007", to be released on 25 October 2007.

Most of these statistics are used to compile data which are sent to international organisations in joint 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 2007; previous data were included in UK Timber Statistics 2006 and in Forestry Statistics 2006.

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).

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 2005 and earlier years have been revised from those reported to international organisations and published in Forestry Statistics 2006 and previous publications.

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