

# UK Wood Production and Trade

## 2020 Provisional Figures

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Coverage:

United Kingdom

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some statistics are available by country and English region in the additional online tables at: [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/timber-statistics/uk-wood-production-and-trade-provisional-figures/](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/timber-statistics/uk-wood-production-and-trade-provisional-figures/)

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Forest Research is the Research Agency of the Forestry Commission and is the leading UK organisation engaged in forestry and tree related research.

The Agency aims to support and enhance forestry and its role in sustainable development by providing innovative, high quality scientific research, technical support and consultancy services.

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## National Statistics status

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

The continued designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in March 2012 following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority (now the Office for Statistics Regulation) against the Code of Practice for Statistics.

Since the latest assessment of these statistics in 2012, we have made improvements including:

- Internal reviews of the surveys used in this release and of the methodology, resulting in the production of more detailed methodology notes to explain how the figures are compiled.
- Expansion of the annex to provide further information, including the addition of information on conversion factors used.
- Inclusion of pellets as a separate category in imports and exports tables.
- Inclusion of a new table to provide estimates of consumption of wood products in the UK.



## Introduction

This publication contains provisional statistics for 2020 on UK wood production and trade. They are based on surveys of the forest sector, administrative records from Forestry England, Forestry and Land Scotland, Natural Resources Wales and the Forest Service of Northern Ireland, and trade data from HM Revenue & Customs.

These statistics are used primarily to monitor the state of the UK timber industry, and for reporting to international organisations. For more details please refer to the Relevance section of the Quality Report: UK Wood Production and Trade available at [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/timber-statistics/uk-wood-production-and-trade-provisional-figures/](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/timber-statistics/uk-wood-production-and-trade-provisional-figures/).

These provisional statistics will be superseded on 30 September 2021 with the publication of final and more detailed results in Forestry Statistics 2021, available at [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/forestry-statistics/](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/forestry-statistics/).

Please refer to the Annex for a glossary of terms used in this release.

## Key findings

The provisional figures for 2020 indicate (with percentage changes from 2019):

Removals (harvesting) of UK roundwood:

- 10.0 million green tonnes of softwood (+2%);
- 0.8 million green tonnes of hardwood (-5%).

Deliveries of UK roundwood to wood processors and others:

- Total: 10.8 million green tonnes of roundwood (softwood and hardwood) (-2%), of which:
- Sawmills: 6.0 million green tonnes (unchanged);
- Wood-based panels: 1.2 million green tonnes (-5%);
- Integrated pulp and paper mills: 0.4 million green tonnes (-17%);
- Other uses, including round fencing, wood fuel, shavings and exports of roundwood: 3.2 million green tonnes (-4%).

Production of wood products in the UK included:

- 3.4 million cubic metres of sawnwood (-2%);
- 3.0 million cubic metres of wood-based panels (-9%);
- 3.6 million tonnes of paper and paperboard (-6%);
- 0.3 million tonnes of wood pellets and briquettes (+1%).

UK imports:

- 7.2 million cubic metres of sawnwood (3%);
- 3.3 million cubic metres of wood-based panels (-10%);
- 9.1 million tonnes of wood pellets (+2%);
- 5.3 million tonnes of pulp and paper (-10%);

- The total value of wood product imports was £7.5 billion (-10%).

UK exports:

- The total value of wood product exports was £1.5 billion (-10%).

Apparent consumption of wood products in the UK included:

- 10.4 million cubic metres of sawnwood (+1%);
- 5.8 million cubic metres of wood-based panels (-10%);
- 9.4 million tonnes of wood pellets (+3%);
- 7.2 million tonnes of paper (-10%).

## Removals of roundwood

Removals refers to the harvesting of roundwood (trunk and branch wood) from coniferous (softwood) and non-coniferous (hardwood) trees. The figures on removals of UK roundwood are used to monitor trends in the UK forest sector. The data is also used alongside figures for standing volume (the volume of standing trees) and increment (the growth rate of standing trees) to compile natural capital accounts for inclusion in the UK Environmental Accounts.

It is estimated that a total of 10.9 million green tonnes of roundwood was removed from UK woodlands in 2020 (Table 1), a 2% increase from the level in 2019.

Softwood accounted for the majority (92%) of removals from UK woodland and totalled 10.0 million green tonnes in 2020, a 2% increase from 2019. Hardwood removals totalled 0.8 million green tonnes in 2020, a 5% decrease from 2019.



Table 1 Removals of UK roundwood

thousand green tonnes

Year	Softwood FE/FLS/ NRW/FS <sup>1</sup>	Softwood Private sector <sup>2</sup>	Total Softwood	Hardwood FE/FLS/ NRW/FS <sup>1</sup>	Hardwood Private sector <sup>2</sup>	Total Hardwood
2016	5,011	5,734	10,745	68	528	596
2017	4,761	6,075	10,836	85	652	737
2018	4,522	6,827	11,349	88	746	835
2019	3,937	5,890	9,828	68	801	869
2020	4,616	5,434	10,050	87	743	830

Source: Forestry England, Forestry and Land Scotland, Natural Resources Wales, Forest Service, industry surveys, industry associations.

Note:

1. FE: Forestry England, FLS: Forestry and Land Scotland, NRW: Natural Resources Wales, FS: Forest Service (Northern Ireland).
2. Private sector: removals from all other woodland (including some publicly owned woodland).
3. Most hardwood production in the UK comes from private sector woodland; the figures are estimates based on reported deliveries to wood processing industries and others.
4. The increase in hardwood removals from private sector woodland between 2016 and 2017 is largely attributed to the increase in the estimate for deliveries of UK grown hardwood used for woodfuel (Table 3). This should not be interpreted as an increase in a single year.
5. 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, and/or by the differences in data sources and methodologies used to compile removals and deliveries statistics (see Annex).

## Deliveries of roundwood

Figures for deliveries relate to the quantity of UK-grown roundwood that is delivered to wood processors and other users. Statistics on roundwood deliveries are used to monitor trends in the supply of, and demand for, UK-grown wood.

In 2020, deliveries of UK roundwood totalled 10.8 million green tonnes (Tables 2 and 3), a 2% decrease from the previous year. Most roundwood deliveries (92%) were softwood.

Softwood deliveries totalled 10.0 million green tonnes in 2020 (Table 2). Sawmills used a total of 5.9 million green tonnes (59%) of UK softwood deliveries. A further 1.9 million green tonnes were used for woodfuel, 1.2 million green tonnes to produce wood-based panels, 0.4 million green tonnes by integrated pulp and paper mills, and 0.6 million green tonnes for all other uses (including round fencing, shavings and softwood exports).

Table 2 UK softwood deliveries

thousand green tonnes

Year	Saw-mills	Pulp mills	Wood-based panels	Fencing	Wood-fuel <sup>1</sup>	Other <sup>2</sup>	Soft-wood exports	Total
2016	6,504	423	1,248	277	1,550	178	231	10,412
2017	6,568	442	1,059	283	1,600	170	331	10,453
2018	6,319	486	1,210	255	1,900	174	264	10,608
2019	5,880	464	1,316	262	1,900	183	201	10,207
2020	5,922	383	1,248	257	1,850	188	140	9,987

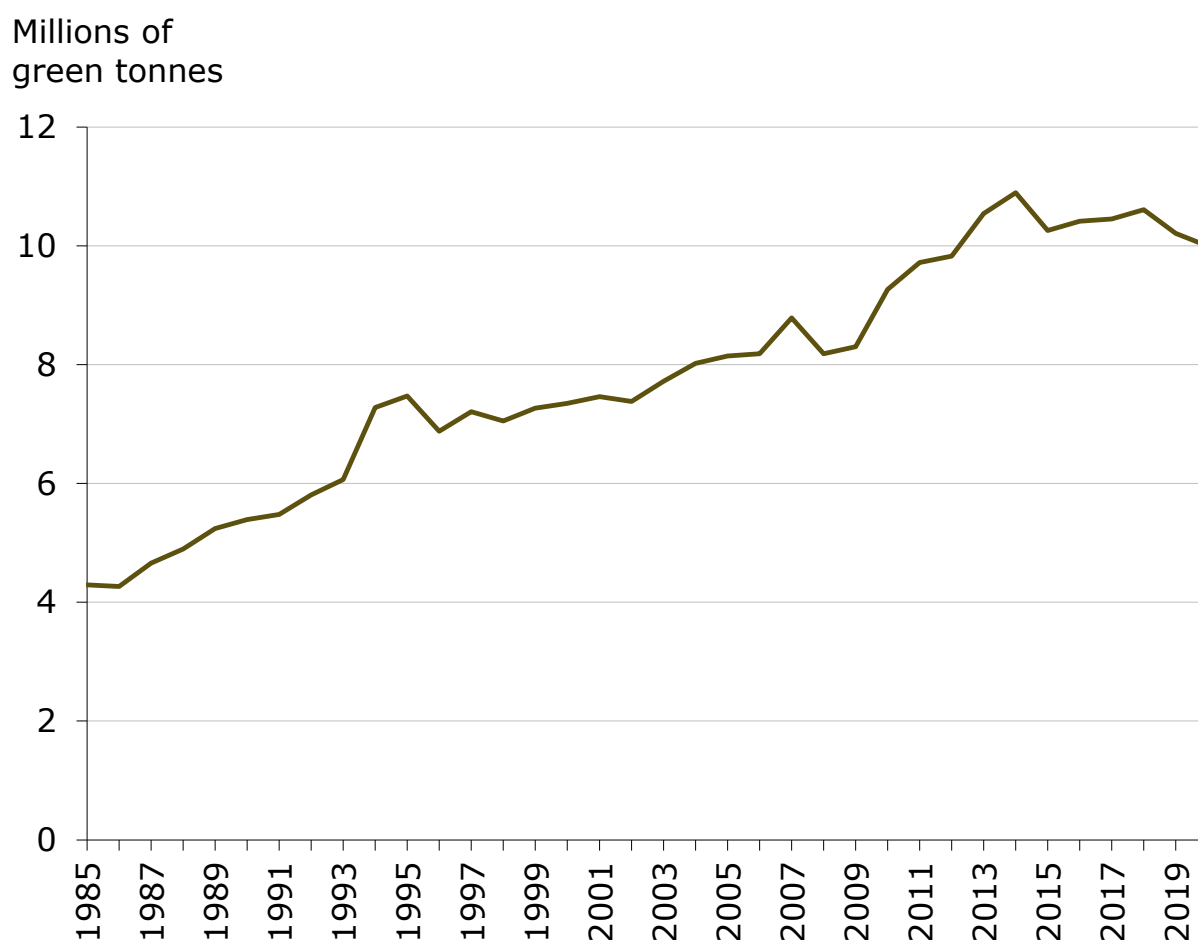
Source: industry surveys, industry associations.

Note:

1. Woodfuel derived from stemwood. Includes estimates of roundwood use for biomass energy. The figures are estimated by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics and make use of wood fuel 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.

Figure 1 provides the longer-term trend in softwood deliveries. It shows that, although the 2020 estimate is below the level of softwood deliveries in recent years, it is considerably higher than earlier years.

**Figure 1 UK softwood deliveries**



Sources: industry survey, industry associations

There was a total of 0.8 million green tonnes of UK hardwood deliveries in 2020 (Table 3), a 5% decrease from 2019. The majority of UK hardwood deliveries (84%) were used for wood fuel in 2020.

**Table 3 UK hardwood deliveries<sup>1</sup>**

thousand green tonnes					
<b>Year</b>	<b>Sawmills</b>	<b>Wood-based panels</b>	<b>Woodfuel<sup>2,3</sup></b>	<b>Other<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
2016	74	0	400	122	596
2017	65	0	600	71	737
2018	66	1	700	68	835
2019	76	0	700	93	869
2020	62	2	700	66	830

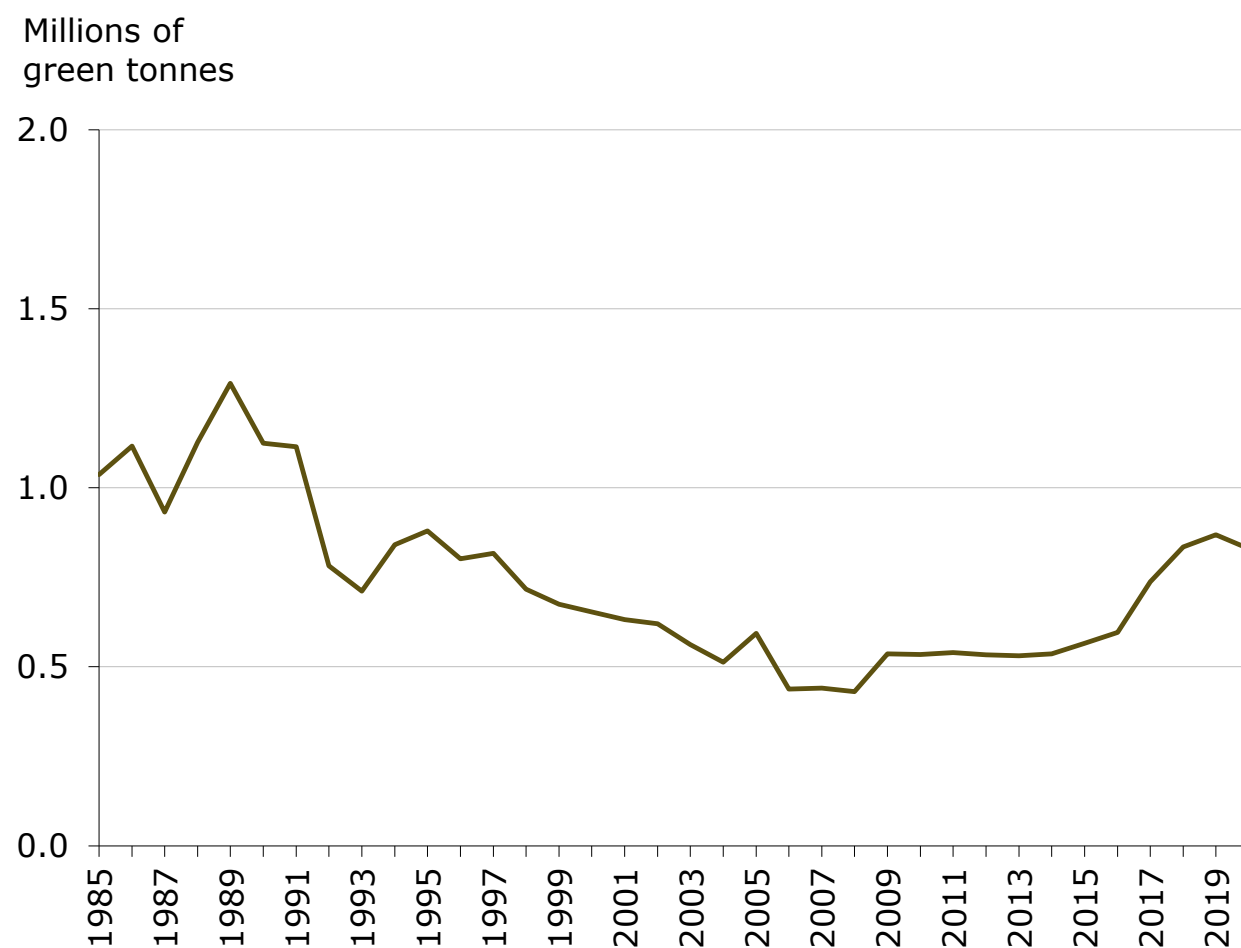
Source: industry surveys, industry associations.

Note:

1. Figures are based on processing industries' purchases of hardwood grown in the UK and estimates for woodfuel and other uses.
2. Woodfuel reported here is derived from stemwood and includes estimated roundwood use for biomass energy.
3. The apparent increase in woodfuel from 2016 to 2017 reflects a new estimate of the level of hardwood deliveries for woodfuel and should not be interpreted as an increase in a single year.
4. Other includes round fencing and roundwood exports.

Figure 2 provides the longer-term trend in hardwood deliveries.

Figure 2 UK hardwood deliveries



Sources: industry survey, industry associations

## Sawmills

In 2020, the 147 active sawmills in the UK consumed a total of 6.2 million green tonnes of softwood, a 1% decrease from 2019 (Table 4). A further 0.1 million green tonnes of hardwood were consumed by UK sawmills in 2020. Most of the logs, 5.9 million green tonnes of softwood and 0.1 million green tonnes of hardwood, were UK-grown.

**Table 4 Consumption of softwood by sawmills**

thousand green tonnes

<b>Year</b>	<b>UK grown Softwood</b>	<b>Imported Softwood</b>	<b>Total Softwood</b>	<b>UK grown Hardwood</b>	<b>Imported Hardwood</b>	<b>Total Hardwood</b>
2016	6,504	209	6,713	74	17	91
2017	6,568	267	6,835	65	13	78
2018	6,319	325	6,643	66	13	79
2019	5,880	343	6,223	76	13	88
2020	5,922	263	6,184	62	12	74

Source: 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 3.4 million cubic metres of sawnwood was produced in the UK in 2020, a 2% decrease from 2019.

**Table 5 Production of sawnwood**

thousand cubic metres			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Softwood</b>	<b>Hardwood</b>	<b>Total</b>
2016	3,619	46	3,665
2017	3,719	41	3,760
2018	3,617	41	3,658
2019	3,408	46	3,455
2020	3,340	37	3,378

Source: Sawmill Survey

In addition to producing sawnwood, sawmills also generate other products, including chips and sawdust, which are mainly used by wood processors and for woodfuel.



## Wood-based panel mills

Six UK wood-based panel mills were operating in 2020. These wood-based panel mills used a total of 3.8 million tonnes of material in 2020 (Table 6). The inputs in 2020 comprised 1.2 million tonnes of roundwood (33%), 1.5 million tonnes of sawmill products (40%), 1.0 million tonnes of recycled wood fibre (26%) and 0.1 million tonnes of imported wood and wood products (2%).

**Table 6 Inputs to wood-based panel mills**

thousand green tonnes

Year	UK roundwood <sup>1</sup>	Sawmill products	Imports <sup>2</sup>	Recycled wood fibre <sup>3,5</sup>	Total
2016	1,248	1,749	39	838	3,874
2017	1,059	1,726	22	923	3,730
2018	1,211	1,566	104	877	3,758
2019	1,316	1,468	121	984	3,889
2020	1,250	1,535	61	982	3,828

Source: Wood Panel Industries Federation

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 wood-based panel production.
4. A more detailed breakdown of inputs, showing softwood and hardwood separately is available in the accompanying tables.
5. Quantities are as delivered, with an assumed average moisture content of 25%. To convert to green tonnes (assuming moisture content of 52%), multiply by 1.56.

Total production of wood-based panels in 2020 was 3.0 million cubic metres, a 9% decrease from 2019 (Table 7). This comprised an 8% decrease in production of particleboard and a 13% decrease in production of fibreboard.

**Table 7 Production of wood-based panels**

thousand cubic metres			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Particleboard<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Fibreboard (MDF)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Total wood-based panels</b>
2016	2,349	684	3,033
2017	2,501	675	3,176
2018	2,355	724	3,079
2019	2,495	751	3,246
2020	2,296	656	2,952

Source: Wood Panel Industries Federation

Note:

1. Includes Oriented Strand Board (OSB).
2. Includes Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF).
3. Changes in the mix of materials used and type of product produced can result in apparent discrepancies between the trends for inputs (Table 6) and production.

## Pulp & paper industry

Table 8 shows the inputs to the two integrated pulp and paper mills in the UK. These mills used a total of 0.5 million tonnes of material (all softwood) in 2020, a 10% decrease from the 2019 total.

Table 8 Inputs to integrated pulp & paper mills<sup>1,2</sup>

thousand green tonnes			
Year	UK roundwood <sup>3</sup>	Sawmill products	Total
2016	423	82	505
2017	442	61	503
2018	486	55	541
2019	464	61	525
2020	383	87	470

Source: Confor

Note:

1. All wood inputs to integrated pulp & paper mills are softwood for the years shown.
2. This table excludes inputs of recycled paper and cardboard.
3. UK roundwood derived from stemwood.

Most UK paper production uses recovered waste paper or imported pulp. The figures shown in Table 9, below, include production by all mills in the UK, not just the integrated pulp and paper mills.

A total of 3.6 million tonnes of paper and paperboard were produced in the UK in 2020, a 6% decrease from the previous year. In 2020, packaging materials accounted for 53% of the total UK paper production, sanitary and household papers for 20% and other (including graphic papers) for 27%.

**Table 9 Production of paper**

thousand tonnes

<b>Year</b>	<b>Sanitary &amp; household papers</b>	<b>Packaging materials</b>	<b>Other (including graphic papers)</b>	<b>Total</b>
2016	730	1,800	1,147	3,677
2017	734	1,935	1,188	3,858
2018	738	1,904	1,253	3,894
2019	762	1,884	1,205	3,851
2020	742	1,915	971	3,628

Source: Confederation of Paper Industries.

## Wood pellets and briquettes

Wood pellets and briquettes are processed wood products that can be made from roundwood, sawmill products and/ or recycled wood. Some of the wood used to make wood pellets and briquettes will be accounted for elsewhere in this release. Wood pellets and briquettes are often used for woodfuel, but pellets may also be used for other purposes (such as horse bedding or cat litter).

A total of 301 thousand tonnes of wood pellets and briquettes are estimated to have been made in the UK in 2020 (Table 10). This represents an increase of 1% from the 2019 production level.

**Table 10 Wood pellets and briquettes production**

thousand tonnes

<b>Year</b>	<b>Wood pellets and briquettes production</b>
2016	329
2017	287
2018	279
2019	298
2020	301

Source: Survey of UK Pellet and Briquette Production

## Imports and exports

Statistics on imports and exports are compiled by HM Revenue & Customs from trade declarations and Intrastat reporting for intra-EU trade. The figures below (Tables 11 to 14) are based on the published UK overseas trade statistics.

### Imports

A total of 5.3 million tonnes of pulp and paper was imported into the UK in 2020 (Table 11), a 10% decrease from 2019. Over the same period, imports of sawnwood increased by 3% to 7.2 million cubic metres, imports of wood-based panels decreased by 10% to 3.3 million cubic metres and imports of wood pellets increased by 2% to 9.1 million tonnes.

**Table 11 UK import quantities<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Sawn wood<sup>2</sup></b> (thousand m <sup>3</sup> )	<b>Wood-based panels<sup>3</sup></b> (thousand m <sup>3</sup> )	<b>Other wood<sup>4</sup></b> (thousand m <sup>3</sup> )	<b>Wood pellets</b> (thousand tonnes)	<b>Pulp &amp; paper</b> (thousand tonnes)
2016	6,794	3,410	1,121	6,782	7,092
2017	7,663	3,800	1,379	6,885	6,798
2018	7,213	3,878	1,766	7,992	6,663
2019	7,040	3,650	2,229	8,878	5,861
2020	7,218	3,267	2,136	9,078	5,281

Table 11a UK import quantities<sup>1</sup>: Pulp and paper

thousand tonnes

Year	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2016	5,876	1,092	125	7,092
2017	5,610	1,081	107	6,798
2018	5,477	1,066	120	6,663
2019	5,024	754	83	5,861
2020	4,334	788	159	5,281

Source (table 11 & 11a): UK overseas trade statistics (HM Revenue & Customs), industry associations

Note:

1. There are reliability concerns for some of these figures, particularly for individual products (see Annex).
2. Sawnwood includes sleepers from 2017.
3. Includes veneer sheets.
4. Includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles, residues and from 2017, includes recovered wood.

Wood product imports in 2020 were valued at a total of £7.5 billion, a 10% decrease from the 2019 total (Table 12). This comprised 45% pulp and paper (mainly paper), 21% sawnwood, 18% wood pellets, 13% wood-based panels and 3% other wood.

Table 12 UK import values<sup>1</sup>

£ million

Year	Sawn wood <sup>2</sup>	Wood-based panels <sup>3</sup>	Other wood <sup>4</sup>	Wood pellets	Pulp & Paper	Total
2016	1,423	1,010	85	915	4,003	7,436
2017	1,636	1,155	90	961	4,004	7,845
2018	1,743	1,201	122	1,117	4,075	8,257
2019	1,598	1,134	184	1,309	4,076	8,301
2020	1,587	969	198	1,339	3,385	7,478

Table 12a UK import values: Pulp and paper<sup>1</sup>

£ million

Year	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2016	3,434	557	13	4,003
2017	3,418	572	14	4,004
2018	3,415	639	21	4,075
2019	3,538	520	17	4,076
2020	2,903	448	35	3,385

Source (table 12 & 12a): UK overseas trade statistics (HM Revenue & Customs), industry associations.

Note:

1. There are reliability concerns for some of these figures, particularly for individual products (see Annex).
2. Sawnwood includes sleepers from 2017.
3. Includes veneer sheets.
4. Includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles, residues and from 2017, includes recovered wood.



## Exports

A total of 4.6 million tonnes of pulp and paper (including recovered paper) was exported by the UK in 2020 (Table 13), an 11% decrease from the level in 2019.

**Table 13 UK export quantities<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Sawn wood<sup>2</sup></b> (thousand m <sup>3</sup> )	<b>Wood-based panels<sup>3</sup></b> (thousand m <sup>3</sup> )	<b>Other wood<sup>4</sup></b> (thousand m <sup>3</sup> )	<b>Wood pellets</b> (thousand tonnes)	<b>Pulp &amp; paper</b> (thousand tonnes)
2016	193	314	810	21	5,700
2017	218	374	638	126	5,528
2018	238	295	595	63	5,317
2019	215	384	604	33	5,160
2020	231	389	293	4	4,617

**Table 13a UK export quantities<sup>1</sup>: Pulp and paper**

<b>Year</b>	thousand tonnes			
	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Pulp</b>	<b>Recovered paper</b>	<b>Total Pulp &amp; Paper</b>
2016	760	7	4,932	5,700
2017	788	7	4,733	5,528
2018	772	15	4,530	5,317
2019	825	9	4,327	5,160
2020	749	26	3,842	4,617

Source (table 13 & 13a): UK overseas trade statistics (HM Revenue & Customs), industry associations

Note:

1. There are reliability concerns for some of these figures, particularly for individual products (see Annex).
2. Sawnwood includes sleepers from 2017.
3. Includes veneer sheets.
4. Includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles, residues and from 2017, includes recovered wood.

Wood product exports were valued at a total of £1.5 billion in 2020, a decrease of 10% from the previous year (Table 14). The total value of wood product exports in 2020 comprised 86% pulp and paper (mainly paper), 7% wood-based panels, 4% sawnwood and 2% other wood.

Table 14 UK export values<sup>1</sup>

£ million

Year	Sawn wood <sup>2</sup>	Wood-based panels <sup>3</sup>	Other wood <sup>4</sup>	Wood pellets	Pulp & Paper	Total
2016	50	91	26	0	1,307	1,473
2017	55	109	41	6	1,651	1,861
2018	64	103	41	5	1,597	1,810
2019	58	123	41	2	1,491	1,714
2020	63	114	36	1	1,336	1,549

Table 14a UK export values<sup>1</sup>: Pulp and paper

£ million

Year	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2016	838	4	465	1,307
2017	997	5	649	1,651
2018	1,022	5	570	1,597
2019	1,049	4	437	1,491
2020	931	11	394	1,336

Source (table 14 & 14a): UK overseas trade statistics (HM Revenue & Customs), industry associations

Note:

1. There are reliability concerns for some of these figures, particularly for individual products (see Annex).
2. Sawnwood includes sleepers from 2017.
3. Includes veneer sheets.
4. Includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles, residues and from 2017, includes recovered wood.

## Consumption of wood products

Apparent consumption is the amount of timber used as wood and wood products by people and industries in the United Kingdom. It is calculated as total United Kingdom production plus imports, minus exports. Apparent consumption differs from actual consumption by the extent of changes in the level of stocks. It is not practical to collect information on actual consumption.

Table 15 presents estimates of apparent consumption for sawnwood, wood-based panels, wood pellets and paper in the last 5 years, derived from the production figures in tables 5, 7, 9 and 10, data on imports (table 11) and data on exports (table 13).

A total of 10.4 million cubic metres of sawnwood (an increase of 1% from 2019), 5.8 million cubic metres of wood-based panels (a decrease of 10%), 9.4 million tonnes of wood pellets (a 3% increase) and 7.2 million tonnes of paper (a 10% decrease) were consumed in the UK in 2020.

**Table 15 Apparent consumption in the UK**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Sawnwood</b> (thousand m <sup>3</sup> )	<b>Wood-based panels</b> (thousand m <sup>3</sup> )	<b>Wood Pellets</b> (thousand tonnes)	<b>Paper</b> (thousand tonnes)
2016	10,266	6,129	7,090	8,792
2017	11,204	6,602	7,045	8,679
2018	10,633	6,662	8,209	8,599
2019	10,279	6,512	9,144	8,050
2020	10,365	5,830	9,375	7,213

Source: industry surveys, industry associations, HM Revenue and Customs

Note:

1. Apparent consumption is defined as production + imports – exports.

# Annex

## Introduction

This annex provides background information on the UK wood production and trade statistics presented in this publication. It covers the data sources and methodology used to produce the statistics, information on quality measures and on any revisions to historic data and links to further information.

## Glossary

### Brash

Branch wood and leaf material that is generally too small in diameter to be considered part of the timber product from a harvesting site.

### Briquettes

Similar to wood pellets (see below) but larger, briquettes are made from compressed wood fibres and used for heating.

### Confor

Confederation of Forest Industries.

### Deliveries

The quantities of UK-grown roundwood that is delivered to processors (mills) or for other uses (such as wood fuel and exports). Note that for sawmills and round fencing mills, the deliveries figure reported is actually the quantity of roundwood consumed by the mill, which may differ from the true deliveries figure if the levels of input stocks vary.

### Fibreboard

Panel material with thickness equal to or greater than 1.5 mm, manufactured from lignocellulosic fibres with application of heat and/or pressure. The bond is derived

either from the felting of the fibres and their inherent adhesive properties or from a synthetic binder added to the fibres.

### Forest Research (FR)

The Forestry Commission agency responsible for forestry and tree related research (including statistics).

### Forest Service (FS)

An executive agency of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). Forest Service fulfils DAERA's legal obligations for forestry in Northern Ireland.

### Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS)

The Scottish Government agency responsible for managing the national forests and lands in Scotland, created on 1 April 2019.

### Forestry Commission (FC)

The government department responsible for forestry matters in England. The Forestry Commission's functions in Wales transferred to the Welsh Government and to Natural Resources Wales on 1 April 2013. The Forestry Commission's functions in Scotland transferred to Scottish Forestry and to Forestry and Land Scotland on 1 April 2019. The Forestry Commission is supported by two agencies; Forestry England and Forest Research.

### Forestry England (FE)

The Forestry Commission agency responsible for managing the nation's forests in England. Prior to April 2019, Forestry England was known as Forest Enterprise England.

### Great Britain (GB)

England, Wales and Scotland.

### Green tonne

The weight measurement of timber freshly felled before any natural or artificial drying has occurred.

### Hardwood

The wood of broadleaved trees, such as oak, birch and beech; a term sometimes used for the broadleaved trees themselves.

### HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC)

The United Kingdom's tax, payments and customs authority.

### Increment

The growth rate of standing trees.

### Medium-density fibreboard (MDF)

Wood fibreboard made by a dry process in which the primary bond is derived from a bonding agent, and having a density usually exceeding 600 kg per cubic metre.

### Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

The organisation responsible for advising the Welsh Government on the environment, created on 1 April 2013.

### Particleboard

Panel material manufactured under pressure and heat from particles of wood (wood and chipboard flakes, chips, shavings, sawdust), with the addition of an adhesive.

### Pulp

Fibrous material produced by mechanically or chemically reducing wood into its component parts from which pulp, paper and paperboard sheets are formed after proper slushing and treatment or used for dissolving purposes (dissolving pulp or chemical cellulose) to make rayon, plastics, and other synthetic products.

Sometimes called wood pulp.

## Roundwood

Trunk or branch wood, generally with a top diameter of 7 cm or more. Can be in the form of logs (14 cm top diameter or more) or small roundwood (7 to 14 cm).

## Sawlogs

Material of at least 14 cm top diameter that is destined to be sawn into planks or boards.

## Softwood

The wood of coniferous trees, such as spruce, pine and larch; a term sometimes used for the coniferous trees themselves.

## Standing volume

Measurement of quantity before trees are felled. Usually expressed as cubic metres overbark standing.

## Stemwood

Wood from the stem and main branches of a tree, excluding the stump and small branches.

## Stump

The above-ground base part of a tree that would usually remain after felling.

## Wood pellets

Sawdust or wood shavings compressed into uniform diameter pellets. They are often burned for heat or energy, but may also be used for other purposes (such as horse bedding or cat litter).

## Data sources and methodology

### Administrative sources

Administrative records are used to compile the roundwood removals figures from woodland owned or managed by Forestry England, Forestry and Land Scotland, Natural Resources Wales, or the Forest Service (in Northern Ireland).

### Industry surveys

Data for softwood removals from other woodland and for wood processing is collected through several industry surveys:

- The Private Sector Softwood Removals Survey;
- The Sawmill Survey;
- The Survey of Round Fencing Manufacturers;
- The Pellet and Briquette Production Survey.

Details on each survey and methodology can be found at

[www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/about-our-statistics/surveys/](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/about-our-statistics/surveys/)

Other sources of industry data include:

- The Wood Panel Industries Federation (for wood-based panels);
- Confederation of forest industries (for integrated pulp and paper mills);
- The Confederation of Paper Industries (for paper production).

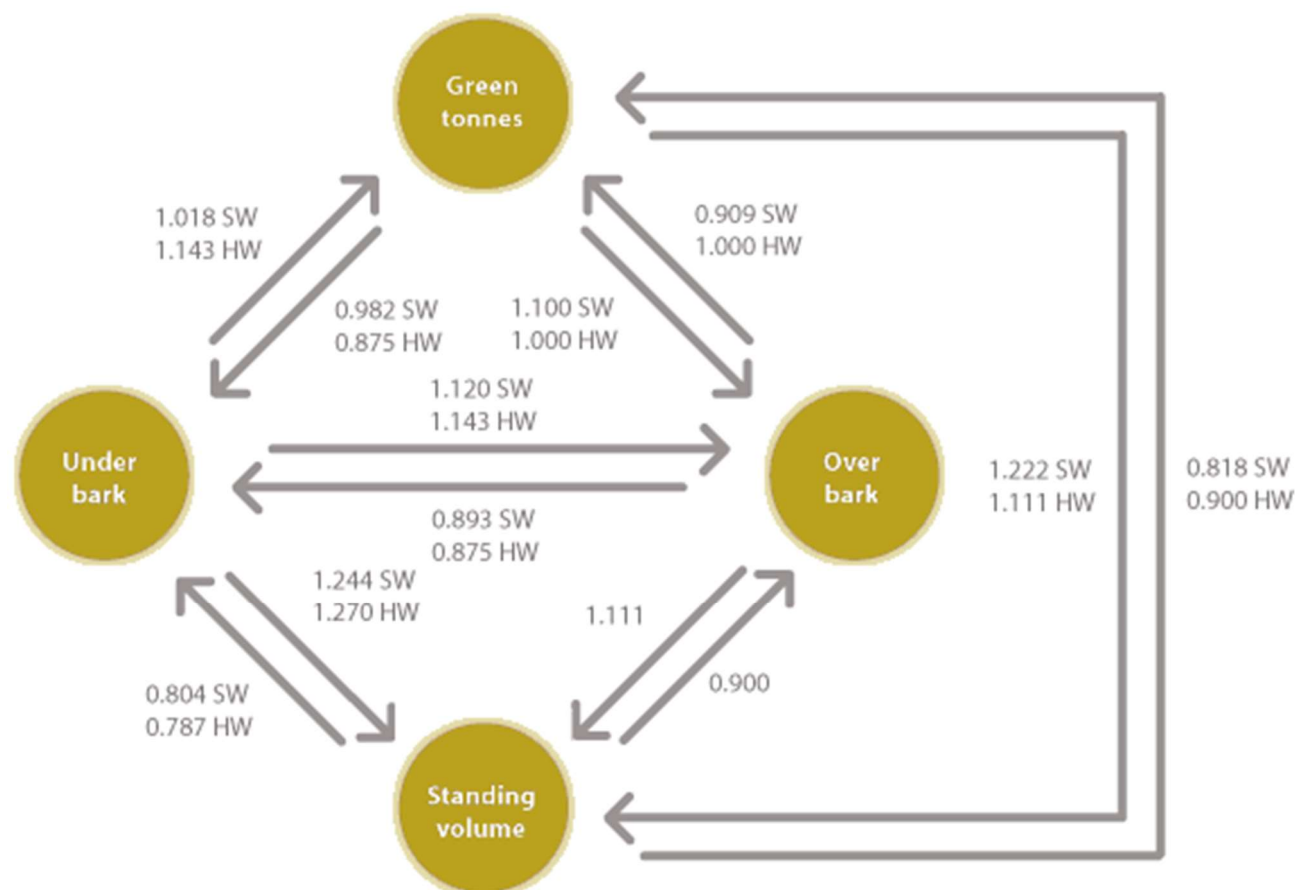
Estimates are also provided by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics:

[www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/about-our-statistics/expert-group-on-timber-and-trade-statistics/](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/about-our-statistics/expert-group-on-timber-and-trade-statistics/)



## Conversion factors

The following factors have been used in this release to convert between cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) and green tonnes:



*HW = Hardwood, SW = Softwood.*

Further information on conversion factors is available in Forestry Statistics 2020 at [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/forestry-statistics/forestry-statistics-2020/](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/forestry-statistics/forestry-statistics-2020/)

## Trade statistics

Statistics on imports and exports are based on the published overseas trade statistics for intra-EU trade and extra-EU trade produced by HM Revenue & Customs and available at [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com). Where the reporting units for quantity differ from those shown in this release, figures are adjusted using standard FAO/ECE conversion factors, which are listed in the Sources section of Forestry Statistics 2020, available at: [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/forestry-statistics/forestry-statistics-2020/](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/forestry-statistics/forestry-statistics-2020/)

Historically, HM Revenue & Customs wood trade figures have often necessitated adjustments, following liaison with practitioners in the trade. This is partly because detailed intra-EU wood trade data is obtained through a survey of businesses which trade above a particular value threshold. Businesses which trade below this threshold are only required to report the total value of their imports and exports. Therefore the trade data reported in this publication for individual products is based on a potentially biased survey. More information on HMRC statistics can be found at [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com).

More details on trade statistics sources can be found in the Sources section of Forestry Statistics 2020, available at: [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/forestry-statistics/forestry-statistics-2020/](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/forestry-statistics/forestry-statistics-2020/).

Statistics on international trade flows (by country of source and country of destination) are available from the FAOSTAT website (<http://www.fao.org/home/en/>).

## Quality

The figures in this publication are provisional. Final figures will be published in Forestry Statistics 2021, with a summary in Forestry Facts and Figures 2021.

Detailed information on the quality of the statistics presented in this publication is available in the Quality Report: UK Wood Production and Trade available at

[www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/about-our-statistics/code-of-practice/quality-of-official-statistics/](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/about-our-statistics/code-of-practice/quality-of-official-statistics/).

Further quality information on our Official Statistics, including separate reports for each of the industry surveys used in this release, is also available at [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/about-our-statistics/code-of-practice/quality-of-official-statistics/](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/about-our-statistics/code-of-practice/quality-of-official-statistics/).

## Revisions

Figures for 2020 are published for the first time in this release.

Figures shown for 2019 and earlier years have been previously published. They are, however, subject to revisions from those published in Forestry Statistics 2020 and previous publications, to reflect late updates to administrative or survey data.

The following revisions have been made to the data for 2016 to 2019 since they were previously published (in Forestry Statistics 2020):

- Table 1: Removals – there has been an upward revision of 27 thousand green tonnes (0.5%) in private sector softwood removals in 2019;
- Table 2: Softwood deliveries - Consumption of UK-grown softwood roundwood by sawmills in 2016-2019 has been revised down by up to 4 thousand green per year.
- Table 4: Consumption of UK-grown roundwood by sawmills has been revised as noted for table 2 (softwood), above;
- Table 5: Sawnwood production figures has been revised down to reflect the revisions to consumption figures noted for tables 2 and 4. This has resulted in reductions of 2 thousand cubic metres for softwood per year.
- Table 11: Estimated quantities of paper and pulp imports in 2019 have been revised down by around 300 thousand tonnes in total.

Our revisions policy sets out how revisions and errors to these statistics are dealt with, and can be found at: [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/about-our-statistics/code-of-practice/quality-of-official-statistics/](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/about-our-statistics/code-of-practice/quality-of-official-statistics/).

### Further information

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 release. These returns are published as Official Statistics on the Forest Research website; provisional figures in May and final figures in September/ October. The statistics are used by UNECE Timber Bulletins, UN/FAO Forest Product Statistics and are published on the FAOSTAT database (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/statistics/84922/en/>).

The definitions used in this release are consistent with the international definitions, available at [www.fao.org/forestry/statistics/80572/en/](http://www.fao.org/forestry/statistics/80572/en/).

Most of the statistics in this release and in the international returns are only available as UK totals, but some statistics can also be broken down by country (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland). Accompanying tables to this release, available at [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/timber-statistics/uk-wood-production-and-trade-provisional-figures/](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/timber-statistics/uk-wood-production-and-trade-provisional-figures/), provide longer time series data for wood production (roundwood removals), UK roundwood deliveries, sawmills and round fencing manufacturers, showing additional breakdowns where possible.

Additional analyses are available on request (subject to disclosure constraints).

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

Figures for UK production and trade of sawn softwood have previously been used alongside data from other sources to assess consumption of sawn softwood in the

main end-user markets in the UK. Reports are available at [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/timber-statistics/timber-utilisation-statistics/](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/timber-statistics/timber-utilisation-statistics/).

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy publishes an annual Digest of UK Energy Statistics ([www.gov.uk/government/collections/digest-of-uk-energy-statistics-dukes](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/digest-of-uk-energy-statistics-dukes)). Chapter 7 of this digest covers renewable sources of energy including wood. Figures for wood use in renewable energy statistics take into account wood from all sources (including processed wood, recycled wood and imports), not just UK-grown roundwood.

### Release schedule

Final figures for 2020 will be released in Forestry Statistics 2021 and Forestry Facts and Figures 2021 on 30 September 2021.

Provisional figures for 2021 will be released in UK Wood Production and Trade: 2021 provisional figures on 19 May 2022.

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