

# UK Wood Production and Trade

## 2016 Provisional Figures

**Release date:** 18 May 2017

**Coverage:** United Kingdom

**Geographical breakdown:** some statistics are available by country and English region in the additional online tables at:

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7aql5b](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7aql5b)

**Issued by:** IFOS-Statistics, Forest Research,  
231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT

**Enquiries:** Jackie Watson 0300 067 5238  
statistics@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

**Statistician:** Penelope Donohue 0300 067 5061

**Website:** [www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics)



## Contents

Introduction	3
Key findings	4
Removals of roundwood	5
Softwood removals required by plant health legislation	6
Deliveries of roundwood	7
Sawmills	9
Wood-based panel mills	10
Pulp & paper industry	11
Wood pellets and briquettes	12
Imports and exports	13
Annex	15

## Introduction

This publication contains provisional statistics for 2016 on UK wood production and trade. They are based on surveys of the forest sector, administrative records from the Forestry Commission, 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* at: [www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ukwptqrpt.pdf/\\$FILE/ukwptqrpt.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ukwptqrpt.pdf/$FILE/ukwptqrpt.pdf)

These provisional statistics will be superseded on 28 September 2017 with the publication of final and more detailed results in *Forestry Statistics 2017*, available at: [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-7aqqdgc](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-7aqqdgc)

The Forestry Commission's functions in Wales transferred to a new organisation, Natural Resources Wales, on 1 April 2013. As a result, data for FC/NRW/FS in Wales relates to Forestry Commission Wales until March 2013 and to Natural Resources Wales from April 2013.

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

## Key findings

The provisional figures for 2016 indicate (with percentage changes from 2015):

- **Removals** (harvesting) of UK roundwood:
  - 10.8 million green tonnes of softwood (no change);
  - 0.5 million green tonnes of hardwood (no change);
  - 0.4 million green tonnes of softwood under plant health legislation (-59%).
- **Deliveries** of UK roundwood to wood processors and others:
  - Total: 10.8 million green tonnes of roundwood (softwood and hardwood) (unchanged), of which:
    - Sawmills: 6.4 million green tonnes (+3%);
    - Wood-based panels: 1.2 million green tonnes (-6%);
    - Integrated pulp and paper mills: 0.4 million green tonnes (-3%);
    - Other uses, including round fencing, wood fuel, shavings and exports of roundwood: 2.7 million green tonnes (-3%).
- **Production** of wood products in the UK included:
  - 3.6 million cubic metres of sawnwood (+3%);
  - 3.0 million cubic metres of wood-based panels (-2%);
  - 3.7 million tonnes of paper and paperboard (-7%);
  - 0.4 million tonnes of wood pellets and briquettes (+4%).
- **UK imports:**
  - 6.6 million cubic metres of sawnwood (+5%);
  - 3.4 million cubic metres of wood-based panels (+7%);
  - 7.1 million tonnes of wood pellets (+9%);
  - 7.2 million tonnes of pulp and paper (-4%);
  - The total **value** of wood product imports was £7.6 billion (+1%).
- **UK exports:**
  - The total **value** of wood product exports was £1.5 billion (-8%).

## 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 11.3 million green tonnes of roundwood was removed from UK woodlands in 2016 (Table 1), similar to the level in 2015.

Softwood accounted for the majority (95%) of removals from UK woodland and totalled 10.8 million green tonnes in 2016, no change from 2015. Hardwood removals totalled 0.5 million green tonnes in 2016, unchanged from 2015.

**Table 1: Removals of UK roundwood**

Year	Softwood			Hardwood <sup>3</sup>			UK Total
	FC/NRW /FS <sup>1</sup>	Private sector <sup>2</sup>	Total Softwood	FC/NRW /FS <sup>1</sup>	Private sector <sup>2</sup>	Total Hardwood	
2012	4,836	5,259	10,095	55	478	532	<b>10,628</b>
2013	5,084	5,852	10,936	78	451	529	<b>11,465</b>
2014	4,900	6,531	11,431	71	461	532	<b>11,963</b>
2015	4,724	6,028	10,751	73	454	527	<b>11,278</b>
2016	5,035	5,732	10,767	68	461	529	<b>11,296</b>

Note:

- (1) FC: Forestry Commission (England, Scotland, and until March 2013, Wales), NRW: Natural Resources Wales (from April 2013), 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 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).

Sources:

Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales & Forest Service:  
 Administrative records (FC/NRW/FS removals),  
 Private Sector Softwood Removals Survey (private sector softwood removals)  
 Hardwood deliveries as Table 3

### Softwood removals required by plant health legislation

Within the 10.8 million green tonnes of softwood removed from UK woodland in 2016, approximately 360 thousand green tonnes were removed as required by plant health legislation. This comprised around 300 thousand green tonnes from FC/NRW/FS woodland and around 60 thousand green tonnes from private sector woodland. This is a 59% decrease from the 2015 estimate of approximately 860 thousand green tonnes.

Softwood removals required by plant health legislation are expected to consist mainly of Japanese larch that is suspected to be infected by *Phytophthora ramorum*. However a small volume of species other than larch is also included in these figures.

## 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 2016, deliveries of UK roundwood totalled 10.8 million green tonnes (Tables 2 and 3), unchanged from the previous year. Most roundwood deliveries (95%) were softwood.

Softwood deliveries totalled 10.3 million green tonnes in 2016 (Table 2). Sawmills used a total of 6.3 million green tonnes (62%) of UK softwood deliveries. A further 1.6 million green tonnes were used for wood fuel, 1.2 million green tonnes to produce wood-based panels, 0.4 million green tonnes by integrated pulp and paper mills, and 0.7 million green tonnes for all other uses (including round fencing, shavings and softwood exports).

**Table 2: UK softwood deliveries**

								Thousand green tonnes
Year	Sawmills	Pulp mills	Wood-based panels	Fencing	Wood fuel <sup>1</sup>	Other <sup>2</sup>	Softwood exports	<b>Total</b>
2012	6,073	461	1,269	339	1,000	154	535	9,831
2013	6,407	465	1,263	332	1,250	191	640	10,548
2014	6,725	465	1,283	317	1,500	176	437	10,903
2015	6,165	435	1,334	299	1,600	164	276	10,274
2016	6,339	423	1,248	289	1,550	169	248	10,267

Note:

- (1) Wood fuel 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.

Sources:

Forestry Commission & Forest Service: Sawmill Survey,  
Survey of Round Fencing Manufacturers,  
Private Sector Softwood Removals Survey (wood fuel)

UK Forest Products Association (pulp mills)

Wood Panel Industries Federation (wood-based panels)

## UK Wood Production and Trade: 2016 provisional figures

There was a total of 0.5 million green tonnes of UK hardwood deliveries in 2016 (Table 3), no change from 2015. The majority of UK hardwood deliveries (76%) were used for wood fuel in 2016.

**Table 3: UK hardwood deliveries**

Year	Thousand green tonnes					<b>Total</b>
	Sawmills	Pulp mills	Wood-based panels	Wood fuel <sup>1</sup>	Other <sup>2</sup>	
2012	75	0	2	400	55	<b>532</b>
2013	74	0	0	400	55	<b>529</b>
2014	77	0	0	400	55	<b>532</b>
2015	72	0	0	400	55	<b>527</b>
2016	73	0	0	400	56	<b>529</b>

Note:

- (1) Wood fuel derived from stemwood, includes estimated roundwood use for biomass energy. The figures are estimated by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics. 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 hardwood 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 (pulp mills)  
 Wood Panel Industries Federation (wood-based panels)



## Sawmills

In 2016, the 168 active sawmills in the UK consumed a total of 6.5 million green tonnes of softwood, a 3% increase from 2015 (Table 4). A further 0.1 million green tonnes of hardwood were consumed by UK sawmills in 2016. Most of the logs, 6.3 million green tonnes softwood and 0.1 million green tonnes hardwood, were UK-grown.

**Table 4: Consumption of roundwood by sawmills**

Thousand green tonnes

Year	Softwood			Hardwood		
	UK-grown	Imported	Total	UK-grown	Imported	Total
2012	6,073	124	<b>6,198</b>	75	17	<b>93</b>
2013	6,407	126	<b>6,532</b>	74	13	<b>88</b>
2014	6,725	159	<b>6,884</b>	77	14	<b>91</b>
2015	6,165	182	<b>6,347</b>	72	13	<b>85</b>
2016	6,339	209	<b>6,549</b>	73	17	<b>90</b>

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 3.6 million cubic metres of sawnwood was produced in the UK in 2016, a 3% increase from 2015 (Table 5).

**Table 5: Production of sawnwood**

Thousand cubic metres

Year	Softwood	Hardwood	Total
2012	3,361	48	<b>3,409</b>
2013	3,536	46	<b>3,581</b>
2014	3,716	47	<b>3,764</b>
2015	3,449	44	<b>3,493</b>
2016	3,557	46	<b>3,603</b>

Source:

Forestry Commission & Forest Service: 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 2016. These wood-based panel mills used a total of 3.9 million tonnes of material in 2016 (Table 6). The inputs in 2016 comprised 1.2 million tonnes of roundwood (32%), 1.7 million tonnes of sawmill products (45%) and 0.8 million tonnes of recycled wood fibre (22%).

**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</sup>	Total
	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood	Softwood	Hardwood		
2012	1,269	2	1,851	0	0	0	909	<b>4,031</b>
2013	1,263	0	1,709	0	0	0	853	<b>3,825</b>
2014	1,283	0	1,809	0	0	0	812	<b>3,904</b>
2015	1,334	0	1,687	0	12	5	852	<b>3,890</b>
2016	1,248	0	1,749	0	10	29	838	<b>3,874</b>

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. Quantities are as delivered.

Source:

Wood Panel Industries Federation

Total production of wood-based panels in 2016 was 3.0 million cubic metres, a 2% decrease from 2015 (Table 7).

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

Thousand cubic metres

Year	Particleboard <sup>1</sup>	Fibreboard (MDF)	Total wood-based panels
2012	2,215	788	<b>3,003</b>
2013	2,276	756	<b>3,032</b>
2014	2,319	749	<b>3,068</b>
2015	2,324	756	<b>3,080</b>
2016	2,349	684	<b>3,033</b>

Note:

(1) Includes Oriented Strand Board (OSB).

Source:

Wood Panel Industries Federation

## 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 2016, a 6% decrease from the 2015 total.

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

Thousand green tonnes			
Year	UK roundwood <sup>3</sup>	Sawmill products	<b>Total</b>
2012	461	79	<b>540</b>
2013	465	83	<b>548</b>
2014	465	97	<b>562</b>
2015	435	101	<b>536</b>
2016	423	82	<b>505</b>

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.

Source:

UK Forest Products Association

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 3.7 million tonnes of paper and paperboard were produced in the UK in 2016, a decrease of 7% from the previous year. In 2016, packaging materials accounted for 49% of the total UK paper production, graphic papers (including newsprint) for 24%, and sanitary and household papers for 20%.

**Table 9: Production of paper**

Thousand tonnes					
Year	Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	Sanitary & household papers	Packaging materials	Other	<b>Total</b>
2012	1,616	795	1,798	271	<b>4,480</b>
2013	1,636	802	1,851	272	<b>4,561</b>
2014	1,544	768	1,801	284	<b>4,397</b>
2015	1,053	772	1,894	251	<b>3,970</b>
2016	897	728	1,800	250	<b>3,675</b>

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 wood fuel, but pellets may also be used for other purposes (such as horse bedding or cat litter).

A total of 357 thousand tonnes of wood pellets and briquettes are estimated to have been made in the UK in 2016 (Table 10). This represents an increase of 4% from the 2015 production level.

**Table 10: Wood pellets and briquettes production**

Thousand tonnes

Year	Wood pellets and briquettes production
2012	278
2013	301
2014	354
2015	343
2016	357

Source:

Forestry Commission: 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 7.2 million tonnes of pulp and paper was imported into the UK in 2016 (Table 11), a 4% decrease from 2015. Over the same period, imports of sawnwood increased by 5% to 6.6 million m<sup>3</sup> and imports of wood-based panels rose by 7% to 3.4 million m<sup>3</sup>. Imports of wood pellets increased by 9% to 7.1 million tonnes in 2016.

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

Year	Thousand m <sup>3</sup>			Thousand tonnes				
	Sawn-wood	Wood-based panels	Other wood <sup>2</sup>	Wood Pellets	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2012	5,179	2,650	965	1,487	6,631	1,021	160	7,812
2013	5,488	2,964	1,267	3,432	5,929	1,100	184	7,213
2014	6,425	3,260	1,329	4,773	5,949	1,234	136	7,319
2015	6,323	3,215	1,385	6,573	6,032	1,223	305	7,560
2016	6,617	3,438	1,200	7,136	5,946	1,156	125	7,227

Wood product imports in 2016 were valued at a total of £7.6 billion, an increase of 1% from the 2015 total (Table 12). This comprised 53% pulp and paper (mainly paper), 19% sawnwood, 15% wood-based panels, 12% wood pellets and 1% other wood.

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

Year	Sawn-wood	Wood-based panels	Other wood <sup>2</sup>	Wood pellets	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper	£ million
									Total
2012	1,084	791	75	185	3,727	519	21	4,266	6,402
2013	1,180	882	88	412	3,644	500	21	4,165	6,727
2014	1,420	936	80	547	3,667	509	19	4,196	7,180
2015	1,311	958	88	780	3,711	642	23	4,375	7,512
2016	1,414	1,124	86	921	3,434	608	13	4,054	7,599

Note (Tables 11 and 12):

- (1) There are reliability concerns for some of these figures, particularly for individual products (see Annex).
- (2) Includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles and residues, excludes pellets.

Source:

HM Revenue & Customs: UK overseas trade statistics

Estimates by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics

## Exports

A total of 5.7 million tonnes of pulp and paper (including recovered paper) was exported by the UK in 2016 (Table 12), similar to the level in 2015.

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

Year	Thousand m <sup>3</sup>			Thousand tonnes				
	Sawn-wood	Wood-based panels	Other wood <sup>2</sup>	Wood pellets	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2012	141	597	1,778	54	1,102	36	4,447	5,585
2013	167	432	1,265	106	1,119	23	4,248	5,390
2014	175	404	1,079	98	1,010	21	4,436	5,467
2015	188	286	992	85	807	24	4,881	5,712
2016	190	318	804	21	760	8	4,932	5,700

Wood product exports were valued at a total of £1.5 billion in 2016, a decrease of 8% from the previous year (Table 14). The total value of wood product exports in 2016 comprised 89% pulp and paper (mainly paper), 6% wood-based panels, 3% sawnwood and 2% other wood.

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

Year	Sawn-wood	Wood-based panels	Other wood <sup>2</sup>	Wood pellets	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper	£ million
									Total
2012	34	130	51	4	1,048	10	531	1,589	1,807
2013	37	109	47	5	1,017	8	494	1,519	1,717
2014	43	107	40	2	997	7	476	1,480	1,672
2015	44	75	35	1	901	7	534	1,441	1,598
2016	49	87	29	0	838	4	465	1,307	1,471

Note (Tables 13 and 14):

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

(2) Includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles and residues, excludes pellets.

Source:

HM Revenue & Customs: UK overseas trade statistics

Estimates by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics

## 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.

**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 Service (FS)** The agency of the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs responsible for forestry matters in Northern Ireland.

**Forestry Commission (FC)** The government department responsible for forestry matters in England, Scotland and (until March 2013) Wales. The Forestry Commission's functions in Wales transferred to a new organisation, Natural Resources Wales, on 1 April 2013. The responsibility for forestry is devolved.

**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.

**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.

**Movement License** Any movement of *Phytophthora*-affected wood from a forest site (or subsequent move of affected material from a mill or processing site) requires a Movement Licence to be issued by the Forestry Commission.

**Natural Resources Wales (NRW)** The organisation responsible for advising the Welsh Government on the environment, created on 1 April 2013. NRW is responsible for the functions previously carried out by the Environment Agency in Wales, the Countryside Council for Wales and Forestry Commission Wales.

**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.

**Phytophthora ramorum** Fungus-like pathogen of plants which causes extensive damage and mortality to trees (including Japanese larch) and other plants.

**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.



**Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN)** Statutory Plant Health Notices, requiring the felling of infected trees, are issued by the Forestry Commission/Natural Resources Wales/Forest Service to prevent the spread of pests and diseases. They are currently being issued to control the movement of material infected with of *Phytophthora ramorum*.

**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 the Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales, or the Forest Service (in Northern Ireland). Further information on administrative sources can be found at:

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-832ey5](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-832ey5)

### 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.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6tzkzq](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6tzkzq)

Other sources of industry data include:

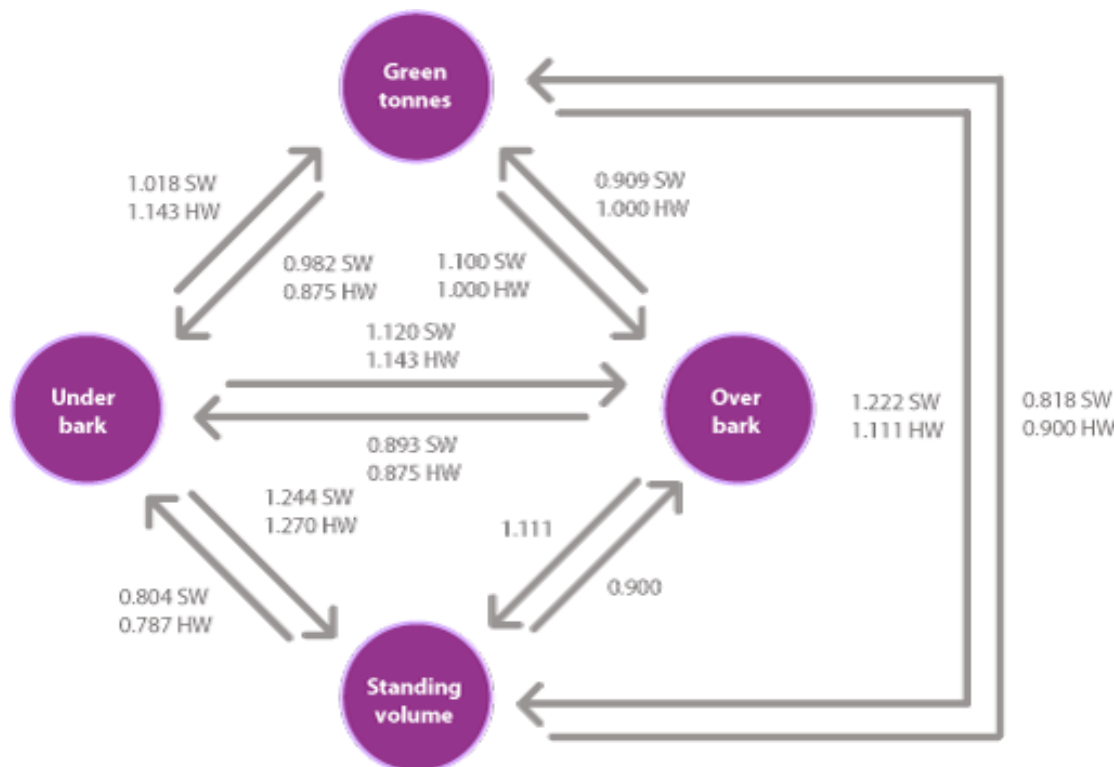
- The Wood Panel Industries Federation (for wood-based panels);
- The UK Forest Products Association (for integrated pulp and paper mills);
- The Confederation of Paper Industries (for paper production).

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

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-5rabj3](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-5rabj3)

## Conversion factors

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



Further information on conversion factors is available in the Sources section of *Forestry Statistics 2016*:

<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forstats2016.nsf/LUContents/00CEB7C418F56FC880257FE0004B2D05>.

## 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 2016*:

<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forstats2016.nsf/LUContents/00CEB7C418F56FC880257FE0004B2D05>.

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 2016*:

<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forstats2016.nsf/LUContents/AABE7A8C8544168F80257FE0004B2CC3>.

Statistics on international trade flows (by country of source and country of destination) are available from the FAOSTAT website (<http://faostat3.fao.org/faostat-gateway/go/to/home/E>).

### Softwood removals methodology change

The methodology used to estimate the quantity of UK softwood removals from woodland that is not owned or managed by the Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales or the Forest Service of Northern Ireland was changed in 2012. More details can be found in the *Methodology Review of Softwood Removals from Non-FC/ FS Woodland* paper at:

[www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/rem\\_methodology\\_rev2011-12.pdf/\\$FILE/rem\\_methodology\\_rev2011-12.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/rem_methodology_rev2011-12.pdf/$FILE/rem_methodology_rev2011-12.pdf)

### Quality

The figures in this publication are provisional. Final figures will be published in *Forestry Statistics 2017*, with a summary in *Forestry Facts and Figures 2017*.

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

[www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ukwptqrpt.pdf/\\$FILE/ukwptqrpt.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ukwptqrpt.pdf/$FILE/ukwptqrpt.pdf)

Further quality information on FC Official Statistics, including separate reports for each of the industry surveys used in this release, is available at:

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7zhk85](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7zhk85)

## Revisions

Figures for 2016 are published for the first time in this release.

Figures shown for 2015 and earlier years have been previously published. They are, however, subject to revisions from those published in *Forestry Statistics 2016* and previous publications, to reflect late updates to administrative or survey data.

The following revisions have been made to the wood production data for 2012 to 2015 since they were previously published:

- Table 1: FC/ NRW/ FS removals – there has been a downward revision to the 2015 estimates, from 4,746 thousand green tonnes to 4,724 thousand green tonnes for softwood and from 74 thousand green tonnes to 73 thousand green tonnes for hardwood;
- Tables 2 and 4: UK-grown softwood deliveries to (consumption by) sawmills in 2015 have been revised down, from 6,166 thousand green tonnes to 6,165 thousand green tonnes;
- Table 2: Softwood deliveries to round fencing manufacturers have been revised up by up to 0.6 thousand green tonnes in 2012 and 2015;
- Table 2: Softwood deliveries to others have been revised down by 12 thousand green tonnes for 2014;
- Tables 3 and 4: UK-grown hardwood deliveries to (consumption by) sawmills in 2015 have been revised down by less than 1 thousand green tonnes; hardwood imports by sawmills (Table 4) have also been revised down by less than 1 thousand green tonnes;

In addition, a number of amendments have been made to the trade data for 2012 to 2015, to take account of additional information and further checks. These include the following revisions to quantities (tables 11 and 13):

- Wood pellets: Upward revisions of up to 1% in imports and minor revisions to exports;
- Other wood: Downward revisions of up to 6% in imports and upward revisions of up to 10% in exports;
- Recovered paper: Upward revision of 28% in 2015 imports;
- Paper: Upward revision of 2% in 2015 imports and minor downward revisions to exports in 2014 and 2015 .

The Forestry Commission's revisions policy sets out how revisions and errors to these statistics are dealt with, and can be found at:

[www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCrevisions.pdf/\\$FILE/FCrevisions.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCrevisions.pdf/$FILE/FCrevisions.pdf).

### 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 FC website; provisional figures in May and final figures in September/ October. The statistics are used by Eurostat Forestry Statistics, UNECE Timber Bulletins, and UN/FAO Forest Product Statistics and are published on the FAOSTAT database (<http://faostat3.fao.org/faostat-gateway/go/to/home/E>).

The definitions used in this release are consistent with the international definitions, as given in Eurostat's *Forestry in the EU and the World 2011*:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3217494/5733109/KS-31-11-137-EN.PDF>

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.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/beeH-a9zjnu](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/beeH-a9zjnu), 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.

Further information on *Phytophthora ramorum* is available on the FC website at [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INF8-8XLE56](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INF8-8XLE56).

Figures for UK production and trade of sawn softwood are 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.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf8-7fgkh4](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf8-7fgkh4).

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 2016 will be released in *Forestry Statistics 2017* and *Forestry Facts and Figures 2017* on 28 September 2017.

Provisional figures for 2017 will be released in *UK Wood Production and Trade: 2017 provisional figures* on 17 May 2018.

## National Statistics

The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics, it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

For more information about National Statistics and the UK Statistics Authority visit [www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk).