

UK Wood Production and Trade

2019 Provisional Figures

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Coverage:

United Kingdom

Geographical breakdown:

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/

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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 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.



Introduction

This publication contains provisional statistics for 2019 on UK wood production and trade. They are based on surveys of the forest sector, administrative records from the 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/

These provisional statistics will be superseded on 24 September 2020 with the publication of final and more detailed results in Forestry Statistics 2020, available at: 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 2019 indicate (with percentage changes from 2018):

- Removals (harvesting) of UK roundwood:
 - 9.8 million green tonnes of softwood (-14%);
 - 0.9 million green tonnes of hardwood (+4%).
- Deliveries of UK roundwood to wood processors and others:
 - Total: 11.1 million green tonnes of roundwood (softwood and hardwood) (-3%), of which:
 - Sawmills: 6.0 million green tonnes (-7%);
 - Wood-based panels: 1.3 million green tonnes (+9%);
 - Integrated pulp and paper mills: 0.5 million green tonnes (-5%);
 - Other uses, including round fencing, wood fuel, shavings and exports of roundwood: 3.3 million green tonnes (-1%);
- Production of wood products in the UK included:
 - 3.5 million cubic metres of sawnwood (-6%);
 - 3.2 million cubic metres of wood-based panels (+5%);
 - 3.9 million tonnes of paper and paperboard (-1%);
 - 0.3 million tonnes of wood pellets and briquettes (+7%).
- UK imports:
 - 7.0 million cubic metres of sawnwood (-2%);
 - 3.7 million cubic metres of wood-based panels (-6%);
 - 8.9 million tonnes of wood pellets (+11%);
 - 6.2 million tonnes of pulp and paper (-7%);
 - The total value of wood product imports was £8.3 billion (unchanged).
- UK exports:
 - The total value of wood product exports was £1.7 billion (-5%).

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 10.7 million green tonnes of roundwood was removed from UK woodlands in 2019 (Table 1), a 13% decrease from the level in 2018.

Softwood accounted for the majority (92%) of removals from UK woodland and totalled 9.8 million green tonnes in 2019, a 14% reduction from 2018. Hardwood removals totalled 0.9 million green tonnes in 2019, a 3% increase from 2018.

Table 1 Removals of UK roundwood

thousand green tonnes

Year	Softwood FE/FLS/ NRW/FS ¹	Softwood Private sector ²	Hardwood FE/FLS/ NRW/FS ¹	Hardwood Private sector ²
2015	4,691	5,968	73	492
2016	5,011	5,734	68	528
2017	4,761	6,075	85	652
2018	4,522	6,827	88	746
2019	3,937	5,864	68	801

Table 1a Total removals of UK roundwood

thousand green tonnes

Year	Total Softwood	Total Hardwood	UK Total
2015	10,659	565	11,224
2016	10,745	596	11,342
2017	10,836	737	11,573
2018	11,349	835	12,184
2019	9,801	869	10,670

Source (table 1 & 1a): 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 2019, deliveries of UK roundwood totalled 11.1 million green tonnes (Tables 2 and 3), a 3% decrease from the previous year. Most roundwood deliveries (92%) were softwood.

Softwood deliveries totalled 10.2 million green tonnes in 2019 (Table 2). Sawmills used a total of 5.9 million green tonnes (58%) of UK softwood deliveries. A further 1.9 million green tonnes were used for woodfuel, 1.3 million green tonnes to produce wood-based panels, 0.5 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 ¹	Other ²	Soft-wood exports	Total
2015	6,164	435	1,334	288	1,600	164	276	10,261
2016	6,507	423	1,248	277	1,550	178	231	10,415
2017	6,571	442	1,059	283	1,600	170	331	10,456
2018	6,322	486	1,210	255	1,900	174	264	10,611
2019	5,883	464	1,316	258	1,900	183	201	10,205

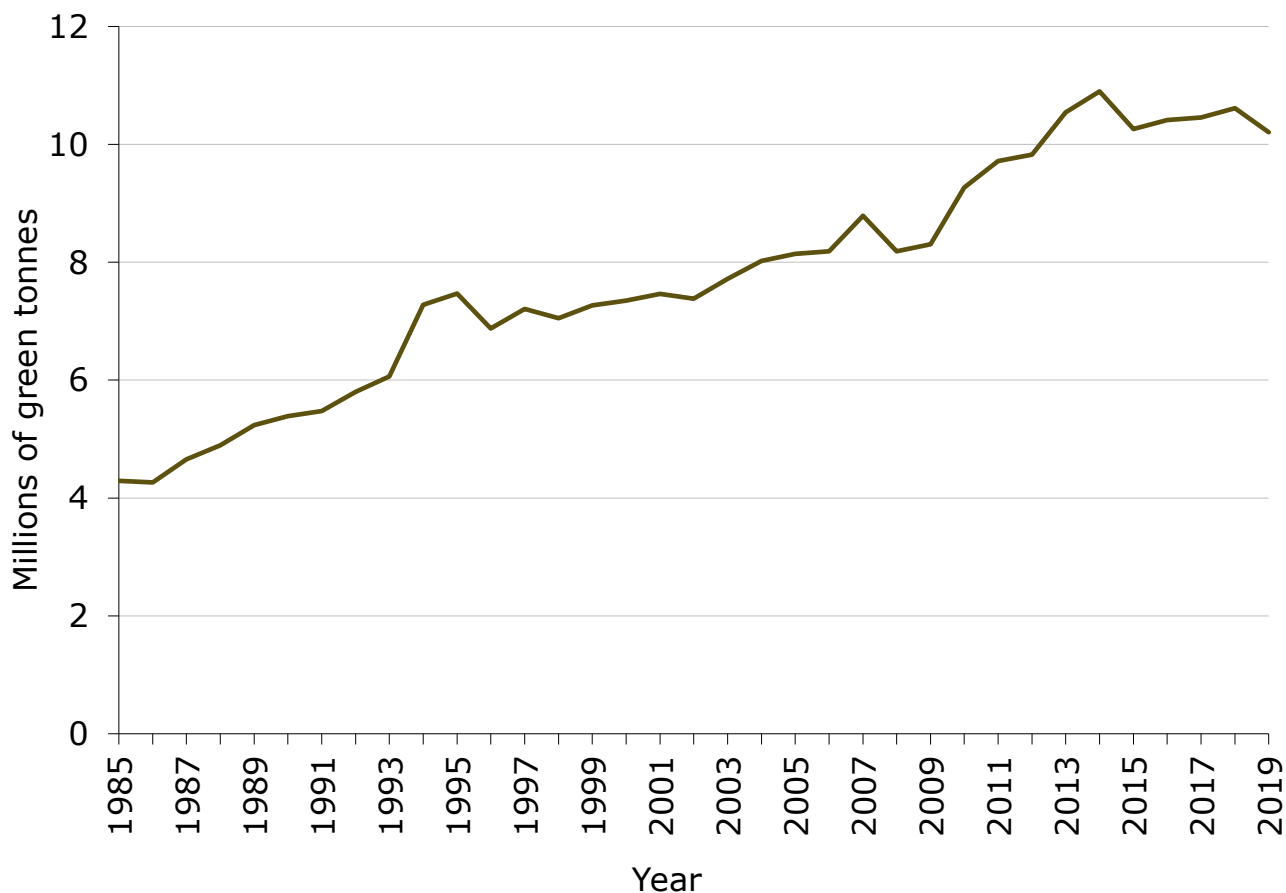
Source: industry surveys, industry associations.

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 2019 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

Forest Research: Statistics

There was a total of 0.9 million green tonnes of UK hardwood deliveries in 2019 (Table 3), a 3% increase from 2018. The majority of UK hardwood deliveries (82%) were used for wood fuel in 2019.

Table 3 UK hardwood deliveries¹

thousand green tonnes

Year	Sawmills	Woodbased panels	Woodfuel ^{2,3}	Other ⁴	Total
2015	75	0	400	91	565
2016	74	0	400	122	596
2017	65	0	600	71	737
2018	67	1	700	68	835
2019	76	0	700	93	869

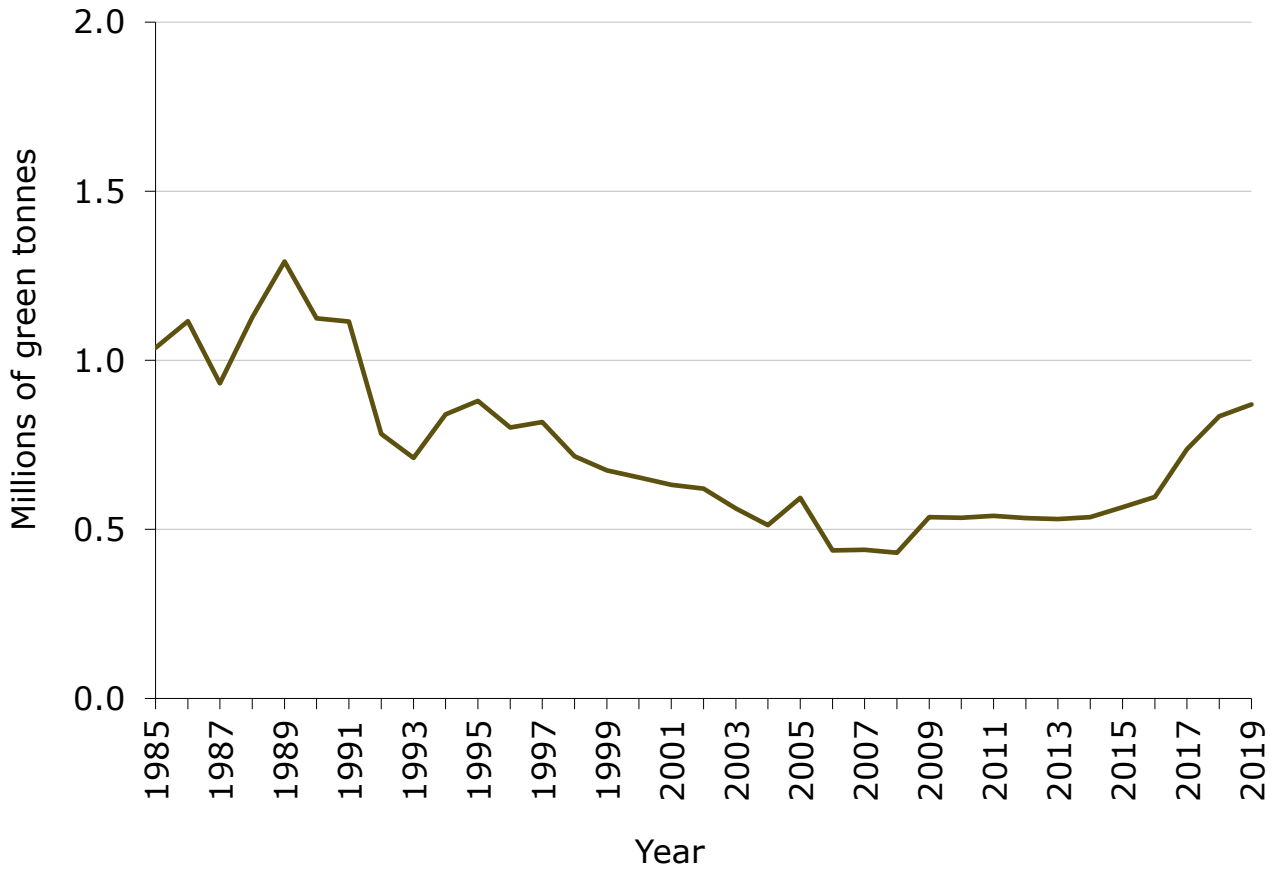
Source: industry surveys, industry associations.

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 2019, the 150 active sawmills in the UK consumed a total of 6.2 million green tonnes of softwood, a 6% decrease from 2018 (Table 4a). A further 0.1 million green tonnes of hardwood were consumed by UK sawmills in 2019 (Table 4b). Most of the logs, 5.9 million green tonnes softwood and 0.1 million green tonnes hardwood, were UK-grown.

Table 4 Consumption of softwood by sawmills

thousand green tonnes

Year	UK grown	Imported	Total
2015	6,164	182	6,345
2016	6,507	209	6,716
2017	6,571	267	6,837
2018	6,322	325	6,647
2019	5,883	343	6,227

Table 4a Consumption of hardwood by sawmills

thousand green tonnes

Year	UK grown	Imported	Total
2015	75	14	89
2016	74	17	91
2017	65	13	79
2018	67	13	80
2019	76	13	89

Source (table 4 & 4a): 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 3.5 million cubic metres of sawnwood was produced in the UK in 2019, a 6% decrease from 2018 (Table 5).

Table 5 Production of sawnwood

thousand cubic metres

Year	Softwood	Hardwood	Total
2015	3,447	46	3,493
2016	3,621	47	3,667
2017	3,720	41	3,761
2018	3,618	41	3,659
2019	3,410	47	3,456

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 2019. These wood-based panel mills used a total of 3.9 million tonnes of material in 2019 (Table 6). The inputs in 2019 comprised 1.3 million tonnes of roundwood (34%), 1.5 million tonnes of sawmill products (38%), 1.0 million tonnes of recycled wood fibre (25%) and 0.1 million tonnes of imported wood and wood products (3%).

Table 6 Softwood inputs to wood-based panel mills

thousand green tonnes

Year	UK roundwood ¹	Sawmill products	Imports ²
2015	1,334	1,687	12
2016	1,248	1,749	10
2017	1,059	1,726	0
2018	1,210	1,566	30
2019	1,316	1,468	43

Table 6a Hardwood inputs to wood-based panel mills

thousand green tonnes

Year	UK roundwood ¹	Sawmill products	Imports ²
2015	0	0	5
2016	0	0	29
2017	0	0	22
2018	1	0	74
2019	0	0	78

Table 6b Total inputs to wood-based panel mills

thousand green tonnes

Year	Softwood	Hardwood	Recycled wood fibre ^{1,2}	Total
2015	3,033	5	852	3,890
2016	3,007	29	838	3,874
2017	2,785	22	923	3,730
2018	2,806	75	877	3,758
2019	2,827	78	984	3,889

Source (Table 6, 6a & 6b): 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. 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 2019 was 3.2 million cubic metres, a 5% increase from 2018 (Table 7). This comprised a 6% increase in production of particleboard and a 4% increase in production of fibreboard.

Table 7 Production of wood-based panels

thousand cubic metres

Year	Particleboard¹	Fibreboard (MDF)²	Total woodbased panels
2015	2,324	756	3,080
2016	2,349	684	3,033
2017	2,501	675	3,176
2018	2,355	724	3,079
2019	2,495	751	3,246

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 2019, a 3% decrease from the 2018 total.

Table 8 Inputs to integrated pulp & paper mills^{1,2}

thousand green tonnes

Year	UK roundwood ³	Sawmill products	Total
2015	435	101	536
2016	423	82	505
2017	442	61	503
2018	486	55	541
2019	464	61	525

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 3.9 million tonnes of paper and paperboard were produced in the UK in 2019, a 1% decrease from the previous year. In 2019, 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	Total
2015	1,053	772	1,894	251	3,970
2016	897	730	1,800	250	3,677
2017	918	734	1,935	270	3,858
2018	962	738	1,904	291	3,894
2019	918	762	1,884	287	3,851

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 298 thousand tonnes of wood pellets and briquettes are estimated to have been made in the UK in 2019 (Table 10). This represents an increase of 7% from the 2018 production level.

Table 10 Wood pellets and briquettes production
thousand tonnes

Year	Wood pellets and briquettes production
2015	343
2016	329
2017	287
2018	279
2019	298

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 6.2 million tonnes of pulp and paper was imported into the UK in 2019 (Table 11), a 7% decrease from 2018. Over the same period, imports of sawnwood decreased by 2% to 7.0 million m³, imports of wood-based panels decreased by 6% to 3.7 million m³ and imports of wood pellets increased by 11% to 8.9 million tonnes.

Table 11 UK import quantities¹

Year	Sawn wood ² (thousand m ³)	Wood-based panels ³ (thousand m ³)	Other wood ⁴ (thousand m ³)	Wood pellets (thousand tonnes)	Pulp & paper ⁵ (thousand tonnes)
2015	6,323	3,215	1,378	6,573	7,560
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	6,658
2019	7,037	3,650	2,229	8,878	6,168

Table 11a UK import quantities¹: Pulp and paper

thousand tonnes

Year	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2015	6,032	1,223	305	7,560
2016	5,876	1,092	125	7,092
2017	5,610	1,081	107	6,798
2018	5,478	1,060	120	6,658
2019	5,188	897	83	6,168

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.

Forest Research: Statistics

Wood product imports in 2019 were valued at a total of £8.3 billion, almost unchanged from the 2018 total (Table 12). This comprised 49% pulp and paper (mainly paper), 19% sawnwood, 13% wood-based panels, 16% wood pellets and 2% other wood.

Table 12 UK import values¹

£ million

Year	Sawn wood ²	Wood-based panels ³	Other wood ⁴	Wood pellets	Pulp & Paper ⁵	Total
2015	1,311	957	88	780	4,375	7,510
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	1,601	1,115	184	1,309	4,076	8,284

Table 12a UK import values: Pulp and paper¹

£ million

Year	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2015	3,711	642	23	4,375
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

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 5.2 million tonnes of pulp and paper (including recovered paper) was exported by the UK in 2019 (Table 12), a 3% decrease from the level in 2018.

Table 13 UK export quantities¹

Year	Sawn wood ² (thousand m ³)	Wood-based panels ³ (thousand m ³)	Other wood ⁴ (thousand m ³)	Wood pellets (thousand tonnes)	Pulp & paper ⁵ (thousand tonnes)
2015	187	286	1,018	88	5,712
2016	193	314	810	21	5,700
2017	218	374	638	126	5,528
2018	238	295	595	63	5,318
2019	214	393	604	33	5,160

Table 13a UK export quantities¹: Pulp and paper

Year	thousand tonnes			
	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2015	807	24	4,881	5,712
2016	760	7	4,932	5,700
2017	788	7	4,733	5,528
2018	773	15	4,530	5,318
2019	824	9	4,327	5,160

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. Sawntwood includes sleepers from 2017.
3. Includes veneer sheets.
4. Includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles, residues and from 2017, includes recovered wood.

Forest Research: Statistics

Wood product exports were valued at a total of £1.7 billion in 2019, a decrease of 5% from the previous year (Table 14). The total value of wood product exports in 2019 comprised 87% pulp and paper (mainly paper), 7% wood-based panels, 3% sawnwood and 2% other wood.

Table 14 UK export values¹

£ million

Year	Sawn wood ²	Wood-based panels ³	Other wood ⁴	Wood pellets	Pulp & Paper ⁵	Total
2015	44	75	35	1	1,441	1,597
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	59	122	41	2	1,491	1,714

Table 14a UK export values¹: Pulp and paper

£ million

Year	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2015	901	7	534	1,441
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

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.

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 national 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/

Other sources of industry data include:

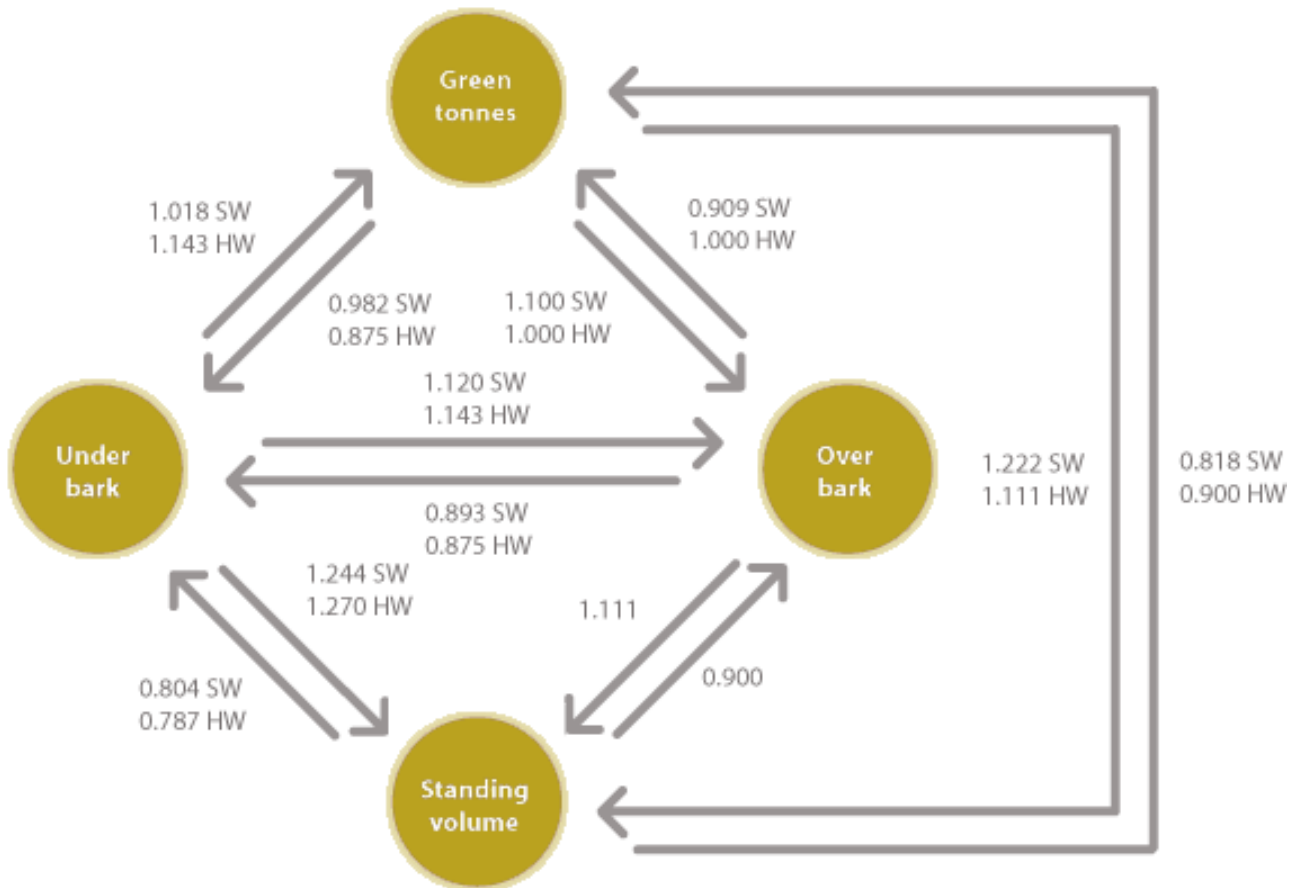
- The Wood Panel Industries Federation (for wood-based panels);
- Confederation of forest industries (previously UK Forest Products Association) (for integrated pulp and paper mills);
- The Confederation of Paper Industries (for paper production).

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

Statistics: www.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 (m³) and green tonnes:



HW = Hardwood, SW = Softwood.

Further information on conversion factors is available in Forestry Statistics 2019 at: www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/forestry-statistics/forestry-statistics-2019/sources/timber/conversion-factors/

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. 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 2019: www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/forestry-statistics/forestry-statistics-2019/sources/timber/conversion-factors/

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.

More details on trade statistics sources can be found in the Sources section of Forestry Statistics 2019: www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/forestry-statistics/forestry-statistics-2019/sources/trade/.

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 2020, with a summary in Forestry Facts and Figures 2020.

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/.

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/.

Revisions

Figures for 2019 are published for the first time in this release.

Figures shown for 2018 and earlier years have been previously published. They are, however, subject to revisions from those published in Forestry Statistics 2019 and previous publications, to reflect late updates to administrative or survey data.

The following revisions have been made to the data for 2015 to 2018 since they were previously published (in Forestry Statistics 2019):

- Table 1: Removals – there has been a downward revision of 101 thousand green tonnes (2%) in FE/FLS/NRW/FS softwood removals in 2017. Revisions have also been made to FE/FLS/NRW/FS softwood removals in 2018 and to the breakdown of hardwood removals in both 2017 and 2018, with each of these revisions resulting in changes of no more than 3 thousand green tonnes;
- Table 2: Softwood deliveries - Consumption of UK-grown softwood roundwood by sawmills in 2018 has been revised down by around 100,000 green tonnes (2%) in 2018 and by smaller amounts (under 5 thousand green tonnes per year) in earlier years; consumption of UK-grown softwood roundwood by round fencing mills has been revised down by 12 thousand green tonnes in 2017 (4%) and by 18 thousand green tonnes in 2018 (6%).
- Table 3: Hardwood deliveries - Consumption of UK-grown hardwood roundwood by sawmills in 2015 to 2017 has been revised down by around 1 thousand green tonnes per year; consumption of UK-grown hardwood roundwood for 'other' uses has been revised up by 1 thousand green tonnes in 2018.
- Table 4: Consumption of UK-grown roundwood by sawmills has been revised as noted for tables 2 (softwood) and 3 (hardwood), above;
- Table 5: Sawnwood production figures has been revised down to reflect the revisions to consumption figures noted for tables 2 to 4. This has resulted in reductions of 56 thousand m³ for softwood in 2018 and up to 4 thousand m³ for softwood and hardwood estimates in earlier years.
- Table 11: Estimated quantities of paper and pulp imports in 2018 have been revised down by around 50 thousand tonnes in total.
- Table 13: small revisions to 2018 estimates of export quantities have resulted in a net downwards revision (by 8 thousand tonnes) in total pulp and paper exports.

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/.

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 Eurostat Forestry Statistics, UNECE Timber Bulletins, and 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/.

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/, 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/.

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). 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 2019 will be released in Forestry Statistics 2020 and Forestry Facts and Figures 2020 on 24 September 2020.

Provisional figures for 2020 will be released in UK Wood Production and Trade: 2020 provisional figures on 13 May 2021.