

Forestry Statistics 2023

Sources: Trade

Release date:

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Coverage:

United Kingdom

Geographical breakdown:

None

Issued by: Forest Research, Northern Research Station,
Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9SY

Enquiries: statistics@forestresearch.gov.uk

Statistician: Dan Braby, 0300 067 5997

Website: www.forestresearch.gov.uk/statistics/



The Research Agency of the
Forestry Commission

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, data, technical support and consultancy services.

11.3 Sources: Trade

Introduction

Statistics on imports and exports are based on the published overseas trade statistics are produced by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and available through their [UK Trade Info platform](#).

Data on apparent consumption is derived as UK production plus imports less exports.

Data Sources and Methodology

The data obtained from HMRC cover quantities (weights and volumes) and values of wood and wood products imported to and exported from the UK. Data are compiled for the following products:

- roundwood - woodfuel, industrial roundwood;
- wood charcoal;
- wood pellets;
- wood chips, particles and residues;
- sawnwood;
- wood-based panels - veneer sheets, plywood, particleboard, fibreboard;
- pulp - wood pulp, other pulp;
- recovered paper;
- recovered wood;
- paper & paperboard - graphic papers (including newsprint), sanitary & household papers, packaging materials, other paper & paperboard.

For roundwood, sawnwood and wood-based panels, a softwood/hardwood breakdown is available.

The HMRC data are also available by country of origin (for imports) and destination country (for exports).

For consistency with timber deliveries data, softwood roundwood and wood chip exports figures are replaced by those compiled from companies believed to export roundwood and/or chips. For Northern Ireland, figures are provided by the Forest Service.

Where the HMRC reporting units for quantity differ from those shown in this publication, figures are adjusted using standard FAO/ECE conversion factors, which are listed in the Timber section of the Sources chapter.

The figures may also be adjusted where an apparent inconsistency in the UK trade figures cannot be resolved before the international return is required.

Historically, HMRC wood trade figures have often necessitated adjustments, following liaison with practitioners in the trade (including the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics, [Wood Panel Industries Federation](#) (WPIF) and [Confederation of Paper Industries](#) (CPI).

The "[Methodology note: UK wood imports and exports](#)" sets out the data analysis methods used to produce annual estimates of UK wood imports and exports.

Quality

Detailed information on the quality of the trade statistics presented in this publication is provided in the "[Quality Report: UK Wood Production and Trade](#)".

Further quality information on our Official Statistics is available in [our code of practice](#).

Revisions

Statistics on imports and exports are subject to revision after publication if revisions are made to the overseas trade statistics produced by HMRC. Figures may also be refined to take account of expert advice from the Expert Group on Timber & Trade Statistics and trade associations on the trade in specific products.

Figures for 2022 are final; provisional figures were previously released in "UK Wood Production and Trade: 2022 provisional figures". The following figures have been revised since "UK Wood Production and Trade: 2022 provisional figures":

- Import quantities in 2022 have been revised upwards by around 509 thousand m³ for sawnwood 208 thousand m³ for woodbased panels and 294 thousand tonnes for pulp and paper, and downwards by around 516 thousand m³ for 'other wood';
- Import quantities in 2021 have been revised downwards by around 424 thousand tonnes for pulp and paper;
- Export quantities in 2022 have been revised downwards by around 11 thousand m³ for sawnwood, around 538 thousand m³ for 'other wood' and upwards by around 29 thousand m³ woodbased panels by around 93 thousand tonnes for pulp and paper;
- Export quantities in 2021 have been revised upwards by around 301 thousand tonnes for pulp and paper;
- Import values in 2022 have been revised downwards by around £759 million overall, comprising reductions of around £12 million for sawnwood, £24 million for woodbased panels, £7 million for 'other wood' and £715 million for pulp and paper.
- Export values in 2022 have been revised downwards by around £10 million overall, comprising reductions of £6 million for sawnwood, £2 million for

wood-based panels, £3 million for 'other wood' and £1 million for pulp and paper.

Information on revisions made since "Forestry Statistics 2022" are provided in "UK Wood Production and Trade: 2022 provisional figures".

Information on significant revisions to published statistics is provided in the ["Quality Report: UK Wood Production and Trade"](#) at.

Our [revisions policy](#) sets out how revisions and errors to these statistics are handled.

Further information

Most of these statistics are used to compile data that are sent to international organisations in the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaires, 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](#).

A summary of the international statistics available from the FAOSTAT website are presented in the chapter on International Forestry. For more information, please refer to the International Forestry section of the Sources chapter.

The definitions used in this publication are consistent with the international definitions, as given in the [Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire definitions](#).

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry also collects, on an annual basis, estimates for the current year and projections for the following year of wood production, imports and exports. Results are available on [the UNECE's Timber Committee webpage](#). [Copies of UK returns for the UNECE Timber Forecast Questionnaire](#) are available online.

Figures for UK imports and exports 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](#).

Release schedule

Provisional trade figures for 2023 will be released on 16 May 2024 in "UK Wood Production and Trade: 2023 provisional figures".

Final trade figures for 2023 will be released on 26 September 2024 in "Forestry Statistics 2024" and "Forestry Facts & Figures 2024".

Alice Holt Lodge

Farnham
Surrey, GU10 4LH, UK
Tel: **0300 067 5600**

**Northern Research
Station**

Roslin
Midlothian, EH25 9SY, UK
Tel: **0300 067 5900**

**Forest Research in
Wales**

Environment Centre
Wales
Deiniol Road, Bangor
Gwynedd, LL57 2UW,
UK
Tel: **0300 067 5774**

info@forestresearch.gov.uk
www.forestresearch.gov.uk

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