

UK Wood Production and Trade

2023 Provisional Figures

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United Kingdom

Geographical breakdown:

Some statistics are available by country and English region in the [additional online tables](#)

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The Research Agency of the
Forestry Commission

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Accredited Official Statistics

Accredited Official Statistics are called National Statistics in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. An explanation can be found on the [Office for Statistics Regulation website](#).

Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). OSR sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics that all producers of official statistics should adhere to.

These accredited official statistics were assessed by the Office for Statistics Regulation in 2012. They comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) and should be labelled 'accredited official statistics'.

You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards by emailing us at statistics@forestresearch.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing regulation@statistics.gov.uk or via the OSR website.

Since the latest review by the Office for Statistics Regulation, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- Introducing a new quality assurance of administrative data report to provide further details on the data sources used in this release.
- Enhancing trustworthiness by reducing pre-release access.
- Including last update/review dates in supporting documents and indicating expected dates of next updates/review, to provide reassurance to users that documents remain relevant.

Introduction

This publication contains provisional statistics for 2023 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 relevant section of the [Quality Report: UK Wood Production and Trade](#).

These provisional statistics will be superseded on 26 September 2024 with the publication of final and more detailed results in [Forestry Statistics 2024](#).

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

Key findings

The provisional figures for 2023 indicate (with percentage changes from 2022):

- Removals (harvesting) of UK roundwood:
 - 9.1 million green tonnes of softwood (-1%)
 - 0.8 million green tonnes of hardwood (-2%)

- Deliveries of UK roundwood to wood processors and others:
 - Total: 9.8 million green tonnes of roundwood (softwood and hardwood) (-3%), of which:
 - Sawmills: 4.9 million green tonnes (-10%)
 - Wood-based panels: 1.4 million green tonnes (+12%)
 - Integrated pulp and paper mills: 0.4 million green tonnes (+3%)
 - Other uses, including round fencing, wood fuel, shavings and exports of roundwood: 3.1 million green tonnes (+5%)

- Production of wood products in the UK included:
 - 2.9 million cubic metres of sawnwood (-8%)
 - 3.0 million cubic metres of wood-based panels (-4%)
 - 3.2 million tonnes of paper and paperboard (-7%)
 - 0.3 million tonnes of wood pellets and briquettes (-4%)

- UK imports:
 - 5.8 million cubic metres of sawnwood (-11%)
 - 2.9 million cubic metres of wood-based panels (-10%)
 - 6.4 million tonnes of wood pellets (-15%)
 - 4.9 million tonnes of pulp and paper (-18%)
 - The total value of wood product imports was £9 billion (-16%)

- UK exports:
 - The total value of wood product exports was £1.7 billion (-22%)

- Apparent consumption of wood products in the UK included:
 - 8.5 million cubic metres of sawnwood (-10%)
 - 5.6 million cubic metres of wood-based panels (-6%)
 - 6.7 million tonnes of wood pellets (-15%)
 - 6.4 million tonnes of paper (-13%)

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 9.9 million green tonnes of roundwood was removed from UK woodlands in 2023 (Table 1a), a 1% decrease from the level in 2022.

Softwood accounted for the majority (92%) of removals from UK woodland and totalled 9.1 million green tonnes in 2023, a 1% decrease from 2022. Hardwood removals totalled 0.8 million green tonnes in 2023, a 2% decrease from 2022.

Table 1a Removals of roundwood, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

thousand green tonnes

Year	Softwood FE/FLS/ NRW/FS ¹	Softwood Private sector ²	Hardwood FE/FLS/ NRW/FS ¹	Hardwood Private sector ²
2019	3,948	5,884	67	800
2020	4,626	5,437	87	742
2021	4,019	6,407	96	727
2022	3,709	5,484	90	745
2023	3,932	5,168	63	753

Table 1b Total removals of roundwood, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

thousand green tonnes

Year	Total Softwood	Total Hardwood	UK Total
2019	9,832	868	10,700
2020	10,062	829	10,891
2021	10,426	823	11,249
2022	9,193	834	10,027
2023	9,100	816	9,916

Source (table 1a & 1b: 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 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 2023, deliveries of UK roundwood totalled 9.8 million green tonnes (Tables 2 and 3), a 3% decrease from the previous year. Most roundwood deliveries (92%) were softwood.

Softwood deliveries totalled 9.0 million green tonnes in 2023 (Table 2). Sawmills used a total of 4.8 million green tonnes (54%) of UK softwood deliveries. A further 1.7 million green tonnes were used for woodfuel, 1.4 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 Softwood Deliveries, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

thousand green tonnes

Year	Saw-mills	Pulp mills	Wood-based panels	Fencing	Wood-fuel ¹	Other ²	Soft-wood exports	Total
2019	5,898	464	1,316	262	1,900	183	201	10,225
2020	5,837	383	1,248	258	1,850	188	140	9,904
2021	6,268	399	1,508	247	1,600	176	168	10,366
2022	5,452	403	1,229	232	1,600	176	132	9,224
2023	4,845	413	1,389	224	1,700	176	207	8,954

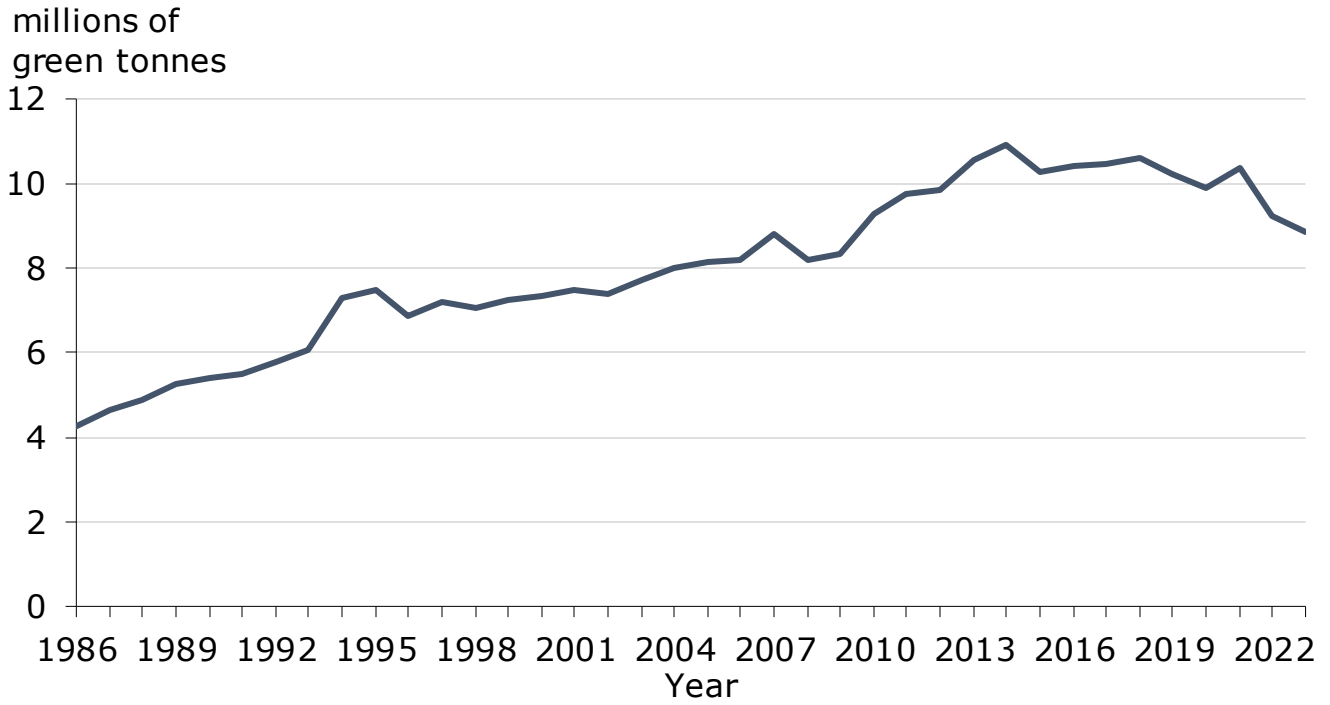
Source: industry surveys, industry associations.

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.

Figure 1 Softwood deliveries, United Kingdom, 1986 to 2023



Sources: industry survey, industry associations

There was a total of 0.8 million green tonnes of UK hardwood deliveries in 2023 (Table 3), a 1% decrease from 2022. The majority of UK hardwood deliveries (85%) were used for woodfuel in 2023.

Table 3 Hardwood deliveries¹, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

thousand green tonnes

Year	Sawmills	Wood-based panels	Woodfuel ²	Other ³	Total
2019	75	0	700	93	868
2020	62	2	700	66	829
2021	60	3	700	60	823
2022	59	5	700	70	834
2023	53	0	700	70	823

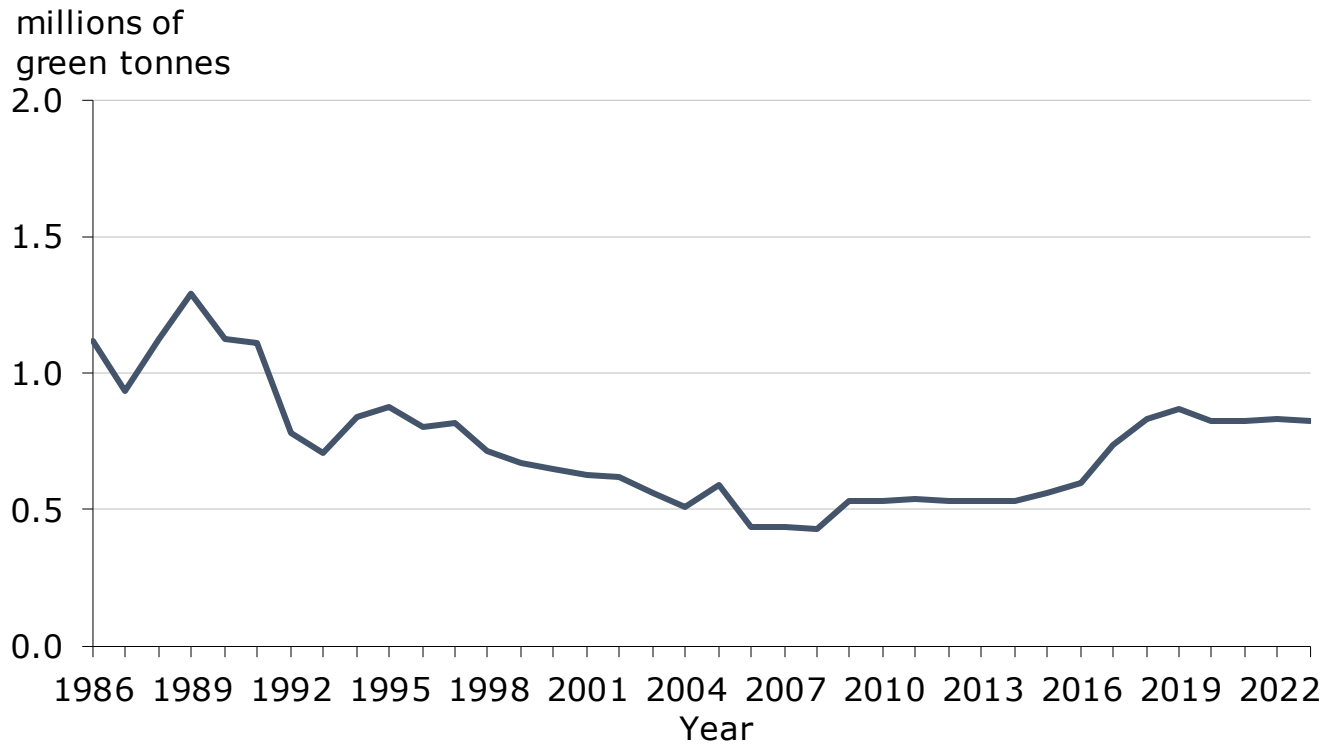
Source: industry surveys, industry associations.

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. Other includes round fencing and roundwood exports.

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

Figure 2 Hardwood deliveries, United Kingdom, 1986 to 2023



Sources: industry survey, industry associations

Sawmills

In 2023, the 139 active sawmills in the UK consumed a total of 5.1 million green tonnes of softwood, an 11% decrease from 2022 (Table 4a). A further 0.1 million green tonnes of hardwood were consumed by UK sawmills in 2023 (Table 4b). Most of the logs, 4.9 million green tonnes softwood and 0.1 million green tonnes hardwood, were UK-grown.

Table 4a Consumption of softwood by sawmills, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

thousand green tonnes			
Year	UK grown	Imported	Total
2019	5,898	343	6,242
2020	5,837	263	6,100
2021	6,268	321	6,590
2022	5,452	285	5,737
2023	4,845	266	5,110

Table 4b Consumption of hardwood by sawmills, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

thousand green tonnes			
Year	UK grown	Imported	Total
2019	75	13	88
2020	62	12	73
2021	60	12	72
2022	59	12	71
2023	53	12	65

Source (table 4a & 4b): 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 2.9 million cubic metres of sawnwood was produced in the UK in 2023, an 8% decrease from 2022 (Table 5).

Table 5 Production of sawnwood, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

thousand cubic metres

Year	Softwood	Hardwood	Total
2019	3,416	46	3,463
2020	3,311	37	3,348
2021	3,574	37	3,611
2022	3,108	37	3,145
2023	2,873	35	2,908

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 2023. These wood-based panel mills used a total of 3.5 million tonnes of material in 2023 (Table 6c). The inputs in 2023 comprised 1.4 million green tonnes of roundwood (40%), 1.1 million green tonnes of sawmill products (31%), 1.0 million tonnes of recycled wood fibre (27%) and 0.1 million green tonnes of imported wood and wood products (2%).

Table 6a Softwood inputs to wood-based panel mills, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

Year	thousand green tonnes		
	UK roundwood ¹	Sawmill products	Imports ²
2019	1,316	1,468	43
2020	1,248	1,535	22
2021	1,508	1,516	33
2022	1,229	1,198	93
2023	1,389	1,097	65

Table 6b Hardwood inputs to wood-based panel mills, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

Year	thousand green tonnes		
	UK roundwood ¹	Sawmill products	Imports ²
2019	0	0	78
2020	2	0	39
2021	3	0	0
2022	5	0	0
2023	0	0	0

Table 6c Total inputs to wood-based panel mills, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

thousand green tonnes

Year	Softwood	Hardwood	Recycled wood fibre ^{1,2}	Total
2019	2,827	78	984	3,889
2020	2,805	41	982	3,828
2021	3,057	3	1,085	4,145
2022	2,520	5	1,041	3,566
2023	2,551	0	965	3,516

Source (Table 6a, 6b & 6c): 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 2023 was 3.0 million cubic metres, a 4% decrease from 2022 (Table 7). This comprised a 3% decrease in production of particleboard and a 7% decrease in production of fibreboard.

Table 7 Production of wood-based panels, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

thousand cubic metres

Year	Particleboard ¹	Fibreboard (MDF) ²	Total wood-based panels
2019	2,495	751	3,246
2020	2,296	656	2,952
2021	2,688	798	3,486
2022	2,459	651	3,110
2023	2,378	606	2,984

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 2023, a 7% increase from the 2022 total.

Table 8 Inputs to integrated pulp & paper mills^{1,2}, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

thousand green tonnes

Year	UK roundwood ³	Sawmill products	Total
2019	464	61	525
2020	383	87	470
2021	399	83	482
2022	403	70	473
2023	413	95	508

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 wastepaper or imported pulp. The figures shown in Table 9, include production by all mills in the UK, not just the integrated pulp and paper mills.

UK Wood Production and Trade: 2023 Provisional Figures

A total of 3.2 million tonnes of paper and paperboard were produced in the UK in 2023, representing a 7% decrease compared to 2022. In 2023, packaging materials accounted for 53% of the total UK paper production, sanitary and household papers for 23% and other (including graphic papers) for 24%.

Table 9 Production of paper, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

thousand tonnes

Year	Sanitary & household papers	Packaging materials	Other (including graphic papers)	Total
2019	762	1,884	1,205	3,851
2020	742	1,917	972	3,631
2021	690	1,898	1,054	3,642
2022	737	1,842	883	3,462
2023	734	1,721	770	3,225

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 313 thousand tonnes of wood pellets and briquettes are estimated to have been made in the UK in 2023 (Table 10). This represents a decrease of 4% from the 2022 production level.

Table 10 Wood pellets and briquettes production, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

thousand tonnes	
Year	Wood pellets and briquettes production
2019	298
2020	298
2021	304
2022	327
2023	313

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

Almost 5 million tonnes of pulp and paper was imported into the UK in 2023 (Table 11), an 18% decrease from 2022. Over the same period, imports of sawnwood decreased by 11% to 5.8 million m³, imports of wood-based panels decreased by 10% to almost 3 million m³ and imports of wood pellets decreased by 15% to 6.4 million tonnes.

Table 11a Import quantities¹, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

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 (thousand tonnes)
2019	7,040	3,650	2,112	8,895	6,130
2020	7,218	3,267	2,136	9,124	5,329
2021	8,159	3,794	1,602	9,161	5,114
2022	6,506	3,235	1,811	7,585	6,042
2023	5,804	2,926	1,688	6,426	4,946

Table 11b Pulp and paper import quantities¹, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

thousand tonnes

Year	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2019	5,150	897	83	6,130
2020	4,555	644	130	5,329
2021	4,206	778	130	5,114
2022	5,015	859	168	6,042
2023	4,064	785	97	4,946

Source (table 11a & 11b): 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.
3. Includes veneer sheets.
4. Includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles, residues and recovered wood.

UK Wood Production and Trade: 2023 Provisional Figures

Wood product imports in 2023 were valued at a total of £9 billion, a 16% decrease from the 2022 total (Table 12). This was mainly driven by a 22% decrease in the value of sawn wood imports.

Table 12a Import values¹, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

£ million

Year	Sawn wood ²	Wood-based panels ³	Other wood ⁴	Wood pellets	Pulp & Paper	Total
2019	1,598	1,134	97	1,312	4,076	8,217
2020	1,587	970	198	1,346	3,388	7,489
2021	2,668	1,313	173	1,301	3,088	8,544
2022	2,346	1,549	283	1,352	5,209	10,738
2023	1,820	1,373	273	1,262	4,322	9,050

Table 12b Pulp and paper import values¹, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

£ million

Year	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2019	3,538	520	17	4,076
2020	2,903	451	35	3,388
2021	2,666	396	26	3,088
2022	4,574	596	39	5,209
2023	3,839	464	19	4,322

Source (table 12a & 12b): 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.
3. Includes veneer sheets.
4. Includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles, residues and recovered wood.

Exports

A total of 4.9 million tonnes of pulp and paper (including recovered paper) was exported by the UK in 2023 (Table 13), a 6% decrease from the level in 2022.

Table 13a Export quantities¹, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

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 (thousand tonnes)
2019	215	384	604	72	5,160
2020	231	389	301	15	4,617
2021	277	321	302	13	5,352
2022	182	371	289	44	5,144
2023	178	288	586	36	4,854

Table 13b Pulp and paper export quantities¹, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

Year	thousand tonnes			
	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2019	825	9	4,327	5,160
2020	749	26	3,842	4,617
2021	1,048	5	4,299	5,352
2022	1,055	7	4,082	5,144
2023	868	31	3,955	4,854

Source (table 13a & 13b): 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.
3. Includes veneer sheets.
4. Includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles, residues and recovered wood.

UK Wood Production and Trade: 2023 Provisional Figures

Wood product exports were valued at a total of £1.7 billion in 2023, a 22% decrease from the previous year (Table 14). The total value of wood product exports in 2022 comprised 84% pulp and paper (mainly paper), 8% wood-based panels, 5% sawnwood, 3% other wood and a small amount of wood pellets.

Table 14a Export values¹, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

£ million

Year	Sawn wood ²	Wood-based panels ³	Other wood ⁴	Wood pellets	Pulp & Paper	Total
2019	58	123	22	4	1,491	1,698
2020	63	114	36	3	1,336	1,551
2021	96	158	44	2	1,674	1,974
2022	85	171	45	13	1,923	2,237
2023	83	138	59	5	1,460	1,745

Table 14b Pulp and paper export values¹, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

£ million

Year	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2019	1,049	4	437	1,491
2020	931	11	394	1,336
2021	940	3	731	1,674
2022	1,171	4	749	1,923
2023	931	8	521	1,460

Source (table 14a & 14b): 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.
3. Includes veneer sheets.
4. Includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles, residues and 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 UK 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 8.5 million cubic metres of sawnwood (a 10% decrease compared to the previous year), 5.6 million cubic metres of wood-based panels (a decrease of 6%), 6.7 million tonnes of wood pellets (a decrease of 15%) and 6.4 million tonnes of paper (a decrease of 13%) were consumed in the UK in 2023.

Table 15 Apparent consumption, United Kingdom, 2019 to 2023

Year	Sawnwood (thousand m ³)	Wood-based panels (thousand m ³)	Wood Pellets (thousand tonnes)	Paper (thousand tonnes)
2019	10,288	6,512	9,121	8,176
2020	10,335	5,830	9,406	7,437
2021	11,493	6,959	9,452	6,800
2022	9,506	5,975	7,868	7,416
2023	8,534	5,622	6,702	6,422

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 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 the [About Our Statistics: Survey page](#).

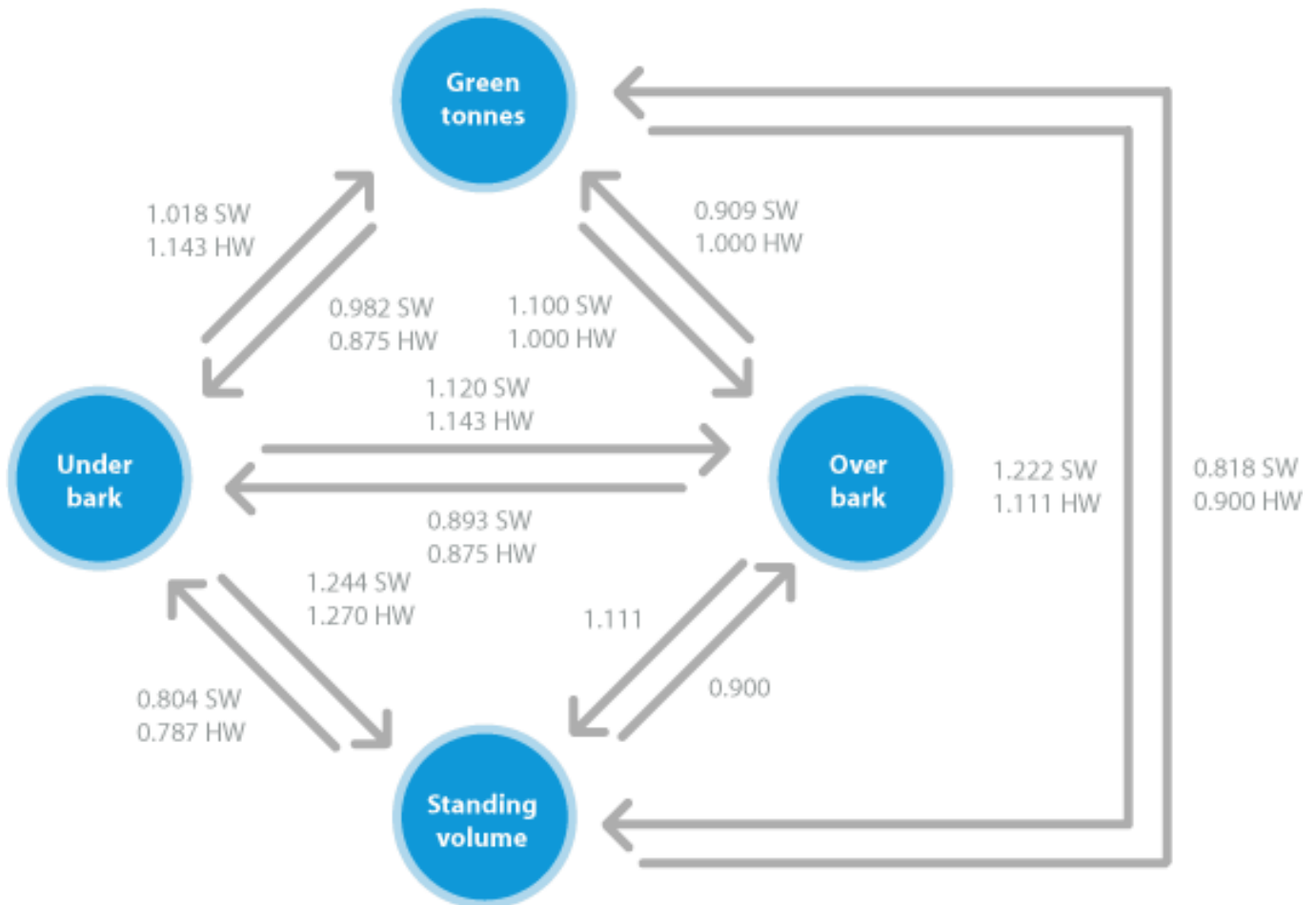
Other sources of industry data include:

- 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](#).

Conversion factors

The following factors have been used in this release to convert between cubic metres (m³) and green tonnes:



HW = Hardwood, SW = Softwood.

The diagram shows separate conversion factors to use when converting softwood (SW) and hardwood (HW) with arrows to indicate the direction of conversion. For example, to convert 1,000 green tonnes of SW into an underbark volume, the 1,000 green tonnes should be multiplied by the conversion factor of 0.982 to give 982m³ underbark. There is no difference between the softwood and hardwood conversion factors for converting between standing volume and overbark volumes.

Further information on conversion factors is available in [Forestry Statistics 2023](#).

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](#). 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 2023](#).

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 the [UK Trade Info website](#).

More details on trade statistics sources can be found in the Sources section of [Forestry Statistics 2023](#).

Statistics on international trade flows (by country of source and country of destination) are available from the [FAOSTAT website](#).

Quality

The figures in this publication are provisional. Final figures will be published in Forestry Statistics 2024, with a summary in Forestry Facts and Figures 2024.

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

Further quality information on our Official Statistics, are provided as separate [reports for each of the industry surveys used in this release](#).

Revisions

Figures for 2023 are published for the first time in this release.

Figures shown for 2022 and earlier years have been previously published. They are, however, subject to revisions from those published in Forestry Statistics 2023 and previous publications, to reflect late updates to administrative or survey data.

The following revisions have been made to the data for 2019 to 2022 since they were previously published (in Forestry Statistics 2023):

- Tables 1a and 1b: Removals – revisions to FE/FLS/NRW/FS removals for softwood and hardwood for 2019-2021 have resulted in changes of up to 3%.
- Table 7: Production of Wood-based Panels - for 2022 there has been a downward revision of 151 thousand cubic metres for particleboard and 205 thousand cubic metres for fibreboard (MDF), leading to a reduction of 356 thousand cubic metres in total.
- Table 9: Paper production – for 2022 there has been a small downward revision of 6 thousand tonnes applied to other (including graphic) papers.
- Table 11: UK Import Quantities - Estimated quantity for wood pellets imports for 2022 has been revised up by 69 thousand tonnes, with previous years also having smaller revisions that increased the quantities. Increases of 33 thousand tonnes for 2021, 46 thousand tonnes for 2020 and 17 thousand tonnes for 2019. Other wood, which includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles and residues, has been revised up by 540 thousand cubic metres for 2022.
- Table 12: UK Import Values - Estimated values for 2022 UK imports of wood pellets and other wood have been revised up by £29 million and £4 million respectively, leading to a revision of £33 million for the total.
- Table 13: UK Export Quantities - Estimated quantity for UK exports of other wood 2022 has been revised up by 33 thousand cubic metres. Estimated

quantity for wood pellets for 2022 has been revised up by 21 thousand tonnes, with previous years also having revisions that increased the quantities. Increases of 11 thousand tonnes for 2021, 11 thousand tonnes for 2020 and 39 thousand tonnes for 2019.

- Table 14: UK Export Values - Estimated values for 2022 UK exports of wood pellets and other wood have been revised up by £1 million each, and the earlier years for wood pellets have also been slightly revised upwards by £2 million.

Our [Revisions Policy](#) sets out how revisions and errors to these statistics are dealt with.

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, and UN/FAO Forest Product Statistics and are published on the [FAOSTAT database](#).

The definitions used in this release are consistent with the [FAO International Definitions](#).

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](#) 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](#).

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy publishes [an annual Digest of UK Energy Statistics](#). 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 2023 will be released in Forestry Statistics 2024 and Forestry Facts and Figures 2024 on 26 September 2024.

Provisional figures for 2024 will be released in UK Wood Production and Trade: 2024 provisional figures on 22 May 2025.

UK Wood Production and Trade: 2023 Provisional Figures

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