

UK Wood Production and Trade

2018 Provisional Figures

Release date: 16 May 2019

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/

Issued by: Forest Research
231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT

Enquiries: Robert Stagg 0300 067 5238
statistics@forestresearch.gov.uk

Statistician: Penelope Donohue 0300 067 5558

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



Contents

Introduction	3
Key findings	4
Removals of roundwood	5
Deliveries of roundwood	6
Sawmills	8
Wood-based panel mills	9
Pulp & paper industry	10
Wood pellets and briquettes	11
Imports and exports	12
Annex	14

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 2018 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* 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These provisional statistics will be superseded on 26 September 2019 with the publication of final and more detailed results in *Forestry Statistics 2019*, available at: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 2018 indicate (with percentage changes from 2017):

- **Removals** (harvesting) of UK roundwood:
 - 11.4 million green tonnes of softwood (+4%);
 - 0.6 million green tonnes of hardwood (-1%).
- **Deliveries** of UK roundwood to wood processors and others:
 - Total: 11.5 million green tonnes of roundwood (softwood and hardwood) (+2%), of which:
 - Sawmills: 6.5 million green tonnes (-2%);
 - Wood-based panels: 1.2 million green tonnes (+14%);
 - Integrated pulp and paper mills: 0.5 million green tonnes (+10%);
 - Other uses, including round fencing, wood fuel, shavings and exports of roundwood: 3.3 million green tonnes (+7%);
- **Production** of wood products in the UK included:
 - 3.7 million cubic metres of sawnwood (-1%);
 - 3.1 million cubic metres of wood-based panels (-3%);
 - 3.9 million tonnes of paper and paperboard (+1%);
 - 0.3 million tonnes of wood pellets and briquettes (+10%).
- **UK imports:**
 - 6.9 million cubic metres of sawnwood (-13%);
 - 3.2 million cubic metres of wood-based panels (-6%);
 - 7.0 million tonnes of wood pellets (+2%);
 - 6.2 million tonnes of pulp and paper (-8%);
 - The total **value** of wood product imports was £8.0 billion (+3%).
- **UK exports:**
 - The total **value** of wood product exports was £1.8 billion (-2%).

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 12.1 million green tonnes of roundwood was removed from UK woodlands in 2018 (Table 1), a 4% increase from the level in 2017.

Softwood accounted for the majority (94%) of removals from UK woodland and totalled 11.4 million green tonnes in 2018, up 4% from 2017. Hardwood removals totalled 0.7 million green tonnes in 2018, a 1% decrease from 2017.

Table 1: Removals of UK roundwood

Year	Softwood ⁵			Hardwood ³			UK Total
	FC/NRW/ FS ¹	Private sector ²	Total Softwood	FC/NRW/ FS ¹	Private sector ^{2,4}	Total Hardwood	
2014	4,900	6,627	11,527	71	466	537	12,064
2015	4,691	5,968	10,659	73	493	566	11,225
2016	5,011	5,734	10,745	68	529	597	11,343
2017	4,862	6,075	10,938	83	655	738	11,675
2018	4,523	6,827	11,351	86	646	734	12,084

Source: Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales, Forest Service, industry surveys, industry associations.

Note:

1. FC: Forestry Commission (England and 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. The figure is currently under review.
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 2018, deliveries of UK roundwood totalled 11.5 million green tonnes (Tables 2 and 3), a 2% increase from the previous year. Most roundwood deliveries (94%) were softwood.

Softwood deliveries totalled 10.7 million green tonnes in 2018 (Table 2). Sawmills used a total of 6.4 million green tonnes (60%) of UK softwood deliveries. A further 1.9 million green tonnes were used for wood fuel, 1.2 million green tonnes to produce wood-based panels, 0.5 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

Year	Thousand green tonnes							Total
	Sawmills	Pulp mills	Wood-based panels	Fencing	Woodfuel ^{1,2}	Other ³	Softwood exports	
2014	6,725	465	1,283	317	1,500	176	437	10,903
2015	6,168	435	1,334	288	1,600	164	276	10,265
2016	6,511	423	1,248	277	1,550	178	231	10,419
2017	6,572	442	1,059	295	1,600	170	331	10,468
2018	6,434	486	1,210	273	1,900	174	264	10,741

Source: industry surveys, industry associations.

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 and other sources.
2. The 2018 figure includes an estimate of woodfuel use by other processors that has not previously been included. The estimate for 2018 is therefore not directly comparable to earlier years.
3. Includes shavings and poles. Quantities for some uses are estimates by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics.

UK Wood Production and Trade: 2018 provisional figures

There was a total of 0.7 million green tonnes of UK hardwood deliveries in 2018 (Table 3), a 1% decrease from 2017. The majority of UK hardwood deliveries (82%) were used for wood fuel in 2018.

Table 3: UK hardwood deliveries¹

Thousand green tonnes

Year	Sawmills	Woodbased Panels	Woodfuel ^{2,3}	Other ⁴	Total
2014	77	0	400	60	537
2015	76	0	400	91	566
2016	75	0	400	122	597
2017	66	0	600	71	738
2018	67	1	600	66	734

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. This figure is currently under review.
4. Other includes round fencing and roundwood exports.

Sawmills

In 2018, the 157 active sawmills in the UK consumed a total of 6.8 million green tonnes of softwood, a 1% decrease from 2017 (Table 4). A further 0.1 million green tonnes of hardwood were consumed by UK sawmills in 2018. Most of the logs, 6.4 million green tonnes softwood and 0.1 million green tonnes hardwood, were UK-grown.

Table 4: Consumption of roundwood by sawmills

Year	Softwood			Hardwood		
	UK grown	Imported	Total	UK grown	Imported	Total
2014	6,725	159	6,884	77	14	91
2015	6,168	182	6,350	76	14	89
2016	6,511	209	6,720	75	17	92
2017	6,572	267	6,838	66	13	80
2018	6,434	325	6,759	67	13	80

Source: Sawmill Survey

Table 5 provides statistics for the sawnwood output of UK sawmills, including sawnwood produced at these mills from imported logs. A total of 3.7 million cubic metres of sawnwood was produced in the UK in 2018, a 1% decrease from 2017 (Table 5).

Table 5: Production of sawnwood

Year	Softwood		Hardwood	Total
	UK grown	Imported		
2014	3,716	47	3,764	
2015	3,451	46	3,497	
2016	3,624	47	3,671	
2017	3,721	42	3,763	
2018	3,678	41	3,719	

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 2018. These wood-based panel mills used a total of 3.8 million tonnes of material in 2018 (Table 6). The inputs in 2018 comprised 1.2 million tonnes of roundwood (32%), 1.6 million tonnes of sawmill products (42%), 0.9 million tonnes of recycled wood fibre (23%) and 0.1 million tonnes of imported wood and wood products (3%).

Table 6: Inputs to wood-based panel mills

Thousand green tonnes

Year	UK roundwood ¹		Sawmill products		Imports ²		Recycled wood fibre _{3,4}	Total
	Soft-wood	Hard-wood	Soft-wood	Hard-wood	Soft-wood	Hard-wood		
2014	1,283	0	1,809	0	0	0	812	3,904
2015	1,334	0	1,687	0	12	5	852	3,890
2016	1,248	0	1,749	0	10	29	838	3,874
2017	1,059	0	1,726	0	0	22	923	3,730
2018	1,210	1	1,566	0	30	74	877	3,758

Source: Wood Panel Industries Federation

Note:

1. UK roundwood derived from stemwood.
2. Imports include roundwood, wood products and products from imported wood.
3. Recycled wood fibre is wood fibre recovered from pre- and post-consumer wood waste for use in wood-based panel production.
4. 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 2018 was 3.1 million cubic metres, a 3% decrease from 2017 (Table 7). Production of fibreboard increased by 7% between 2017 and 2018 while production of particleboard decreased by 6%.

Table 7: Production of wood-based panels

Thousand cubic metres

Year	Particleboard ¹	Fibreboard ²	Total woodbased panels
2014	2,319	749	3,068
2015	2,324	756	3,080
2016	2,349	684	3,033
2017	2,501	675	3,176
2018	2,355	724	3,079

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 2018, an 8% increase from the 2017 total.

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

Thousand green tonnes			
Year	UK roundwood ³	Sawmill products	Total
2014	465	97	562
2015	435	101	536
2016	423	82	505
2017	442	61	503
2018	486	55	541

Source: UK Forest Products Association

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 2018, an increase of 1% from the previous year. In 2018, packaging materials accounted for 49% of the total UK paper production, graphic papers (including newsprint) for 25%, and sanitary and household papers for 19%.

Table 9: Production of paper

Thousand tonnes					
Year	Graphic papers (inc newsprint)	Sanitary & household papers	Packaging materials	Other	Total
2014	1,544	768	1,801	284	4,397
2015	1,053	772	1,894	251	3,970
2016	897	730	1,800	250	3,677
2017	918	734	1,935	270	3,857
2018	962	738	1,904	291	3,895

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 316 thousand tonnes of wood pellets and briquettes are estimated to have been made in the UK in 2018 (Table 10). This represents an increase of 10% from the 2017 production level, but remains below the level reported for previous years.

Table 10: Wood pellets and briquettes production

Thousand tonnes	
Year	Wood pellets and briquettes production
2014	354
2015	343
2016	329
2017	287
2018	316

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 2018 (Table 11), an 8% decrease from 2017. Over the same period, imports of sawnwood decreased by 13% to 6.9 million m³, imports of wood-based panels decreased by 6% to 3.2 million m³ and imports of wood pellets increased by 2% to 7.0 million tonnes.

Table 11: UK import quantities¹

Year	Thousand m ³			Thousand tonnes				
	Sawn wood ⁴	Wood-based panels ²	Other wood ³	Wood pellets	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2014	6,425	3,260	1,329	4,773	5,949	1,234	136	7,319
2015	6,323	3,215	1,378	6,573	6,032	1,223	305	7,560
2016	6,794	3,410	1,121	6,782	5,876	1,092	125	7,092
2017	7,883	3,443	1,135	6,885	5,604	1,081	107	6,792
2018	6,876	3,223	1,723	7,047	5,075	1,041	120	6,236

Wood product imports in 2018 were valued at a total of £8.0 billion, an increase of 3% from the 2017 total (Table 12). This comprised 51% pulp and paper (mainly paper), 21% sawnwood, 14% wood-based panels, 12% wood pellets and 2% other wood.

Table 12: UK import values¹

Year	Wood				Pulp and Paper				Total
	Sawn wood ⁴	Wood-based panels ³	Other wood ²	Wood pellets	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper	
2014	1,420	936	80	547	3,667	509	19	4,196	7,180
2015	1,311	957	88	780	3,711	642	23	4,375	7,510
2016	1,423	1,010	93	915	3,434	557	13	4,003	7,444
2017	1,636	1,083	90	961	3,418	572	14	4,004	7,773
2018	1,692	1,112	140	987	3,415	639	21	4,075	8,006

Source (Tables 11 and 12): UK overseas trade statistics (HM Revenue & Customs), industry associations

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, residues and from 2017, includes recovered wood.
3. Includes veneer sheets.
4. Sawnwood includes sleepers from 2017.

Exports

A total of 5.5 million tonnes of pulp and paper (including recovered paper) was exported by the UK in 2018 (Table 12), almost unchanged from the level in 2017.

Table 13: UK export quantities¹

Year	Thousand m ³			Thousand tonnes				
	Sawn wood ⁴	Wood-based panels ³	Other wood ²	Wood pellets	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper
2014	175	404	1,083	98	1,010	21	4,436	5,467
2015	187	286	1,018	88	807	24	4,881	5,712
2016	193	314	810	21	760	7	4,932	5,700
2017	218	379	732	126	788	7	4,733	5,528
2018	195	286	750	63	984	15	4,540	5,539

Wood product exports were valued at a total of £1.8 billion in 2018, a decrease of 2% from the previous year (Table 14). The total value of wood product exports in 2018 comprised 88% pulp and paper (mainly paper), 6% wood-based panels, 4% sawnwood and 2% other wood.

Table 14: UK export values¹

Year	Wood				Pulp and Paper				Total
	Sawn wood ⁴	Wood-based panels ³	Other wood ²	Wood pellets	Paper	Pulp	Recovered paper	Total Pulp & Paper	
2014	43	107	39	2	997	7	476	1,480	1,672
2015	44	75	35	1	901	7	534	1,441	1,597
2016	50	91	26	0	838	4	465	1,307	1,473
2017	55	109	36	6	997	5	649	1,651	1,856
2018	64	101	45	5	1,022	5	570	1,597	1,812

Source (Tables 13 and 14): UK overseas trade statistics (HM Revenue & Customs), industry associations

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, residues and from 2017, includes recovered wood.
3. Includes veneer sheets.
4. Sawnwood includes sleepers from 2017.

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) An Executive 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 (until March 2019) and Wales (until March 2013). The Forestry Commission's functions in Wales transferred to the Welsh Government and 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.

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.

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

www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/about-our-statistics/code-of-practice/administrative-sources/

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:

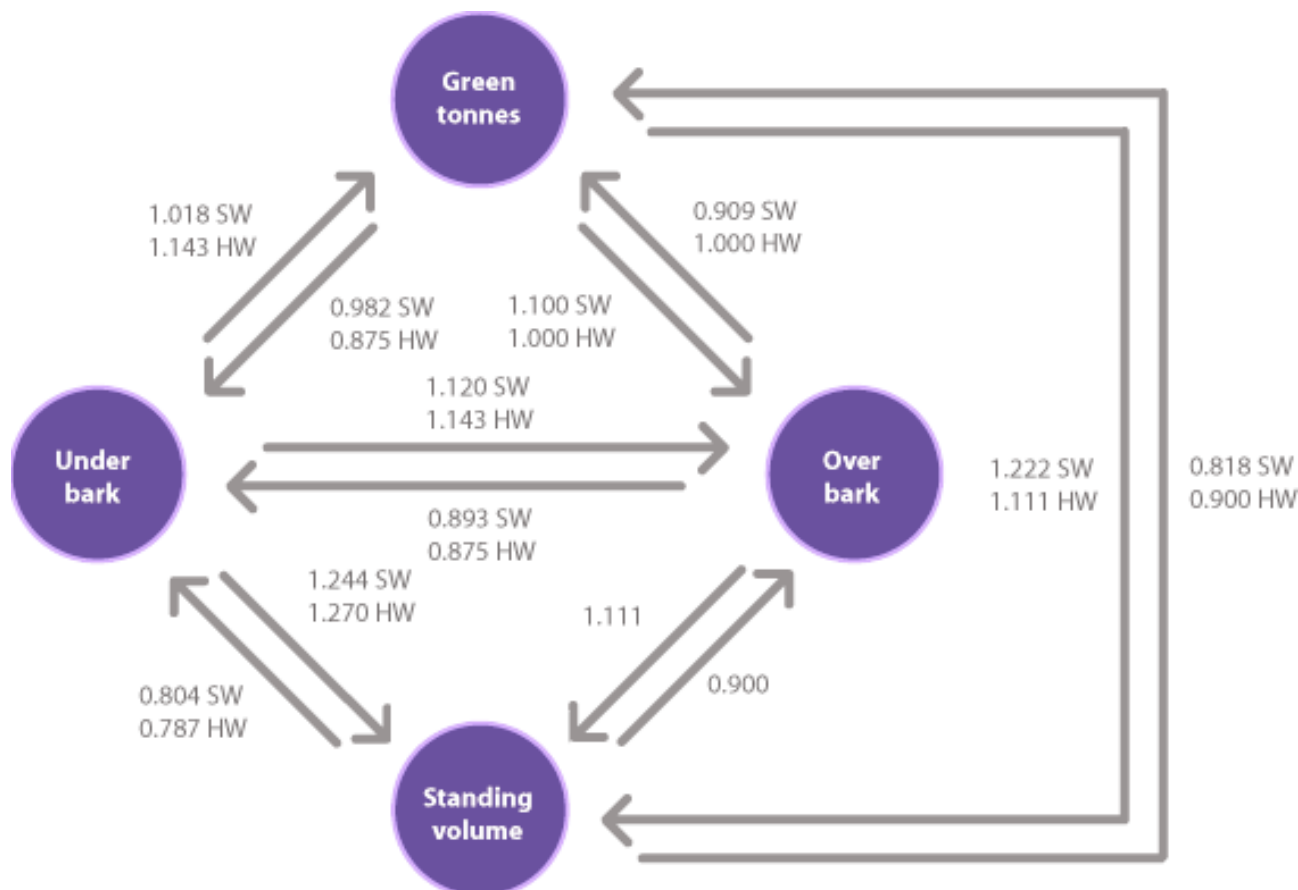
- The Wood Panel Industries Federation (for wood-based panels);
- Confederation of forest industries (previously UK Forest Products Association) (for integrated pulp and paper mills);
- The Confederation of Paper Industries (for paper production).

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 the Sources section of *Forestry Statistics 2018*:

www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/forestry-statistics/forestry-statistics-2018/sources/

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 2018*:

www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/forestry-statistics/forestry-statistics-2018/sources/

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 2018*:

www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/forestry-statistics/forestry-statistics-2018/sources/

Statistics on international trade flows (by country of source and country of destination) are available from the FAOSTAT website (www.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 available at: www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/forestry-statistics/forestry-statistics-2018/sources/timber/wood-production/

Quality

The figures in this publication are provisional. Final figures will be published in *Forestry Statistics 2019*, with a summary in *Forestry Facts and Figures 2019*.

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 FC 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 2018 are published for the first time in this release.

Figures shown for 2017 and earlier years have been previously published. They are, however, subject to revisions from those published in *Forestry Statistics 2018* and previous publications, to reflect late updates to administrative or survey data.

The following revisions have been made to the wood production data for 2014 to 2017 since they were previously published:

- Table 1: Private sector softwood removals – there have been upward revisions of no more than 0.5% to the 2017 estimates;
- Table 4: Consumption of UK-grown roundwood by sawmills in 2017 has been revised down from 6,581 thousand green tonnes to 6,572 thousand green tonnes;
- Table 5: Sawnwood production figures for 2017 has also been revised down, by 0.7 thousand m³ for softwood;
- Table 9: Production of sanitary and household papers in 2017 has been revised up, from 731 thousand tonnes to 734 thousand tonnes and packaging has been revised down from 1,936 thousand tonnes to 1,904 thousand tonnes.

In addition, a number of amendments have been made to the trade data for 2014 to 2017, to take account of additional information and further checks. These include the following revisions to the “other wood” category (tables 11 to 14):

- 2017 imports: Downward revisions of 0.2% (quantities) and 7.3% (values);
- 2017 exports: Downward revision of 3.2% (quantities) and 6.3% (values).
- 2016 exports: Downward revision of 0.5% (quantities).

The Forestry Commission’s 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 (faostat3.fao.org/faostat-gateway/go/to/home/E).

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 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 2018 will be released in *Forestry Statistics 2019* and *Forestry Facts and Figures 2019* on 26 September 2019.

Provisional figures for 2019 will be released in *UK Wood Production and Trade: 2019 provisional figures* on 14 May 2020.