



TTF Timber Statistics

Industry Facts & Figures, January 2019



Timber Trade Federation
growing the use of wood



Contents

Highlights

UK Imports of the main timber and panel products in the ten months to October 2018 were around 3% below the same period in 2017. Construction output rose in October on higher new housing numbers.

Import Trade Comparisons

In the ten months of 2018 solid wood imports by volume were around 4% lower than in the same period in 2017 and imports of panel products marginally higher at 0.5% above the level in 2017.

Inside this Issue

Import and export data and trends for the main timber and panel products consumed in the UK:

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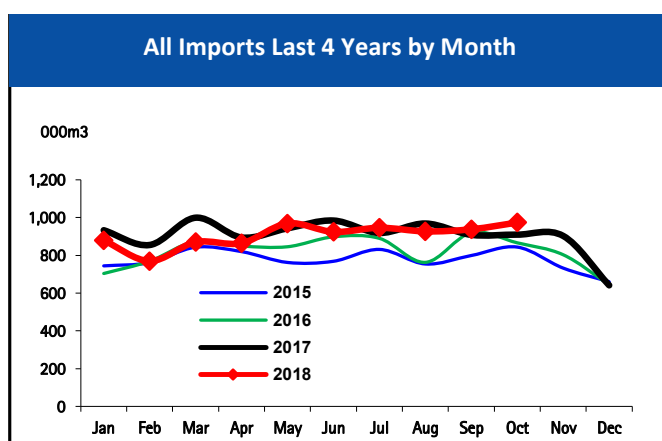
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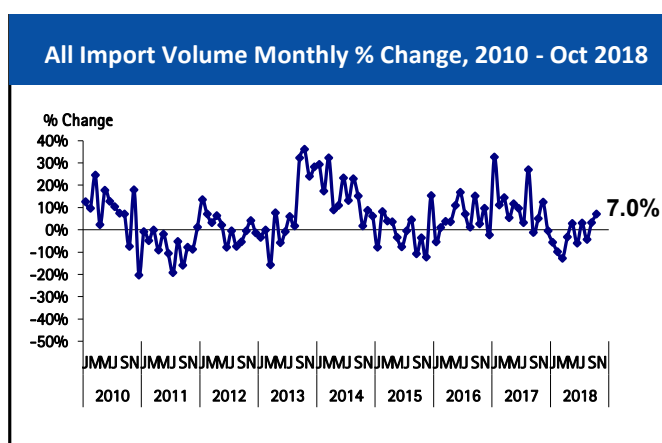


The Bigger Picture



Import volume in the ten months January to October 2018 was below the level of the same period in 2017 by a little over 250,000m³.

This represents a drop in volume in 2018 to date of 2.7%.



In round terms, the volume of the UK timber and panel products featured in this bulletin amounted 9.1 million m3 in the ten months to October 2018 compared to 9.3 million m3 over the same period in 2017.

In the month of October 2018, import volume was 7% higher than in October 2017, the highest monthly growth to date over the corresponding month of 2017.

Softwood Imports & Exports

Softwood imports cumulative % change
January to October year-on-year comparison:

2018/2017 = - 5.1%
2017/2016 = + 9.4%
2016/2015 = + 5.4%

Cumulative volume to January to October - 000m³

2018 = 5,484
2017 = 5,781

Annual volume in 000m³
2017 = 6,753

Latvia and Germany continue to consolidate their improvement in 2018 with Latvia higher by nearly 2% and Germany by 8% for the ten months to October 2018. Each of the other leading countries of supply have exported less to the UK in 2018 to date with Sweden lower by around 6%, Finland lower by 5%, the Republic of Ireland have exported around 15% less in 2018 and volume from Russia was lower by around 3%.

The value of softwood imports in the first ten months of 2018 was around 7% higher than in the same period in 2017.

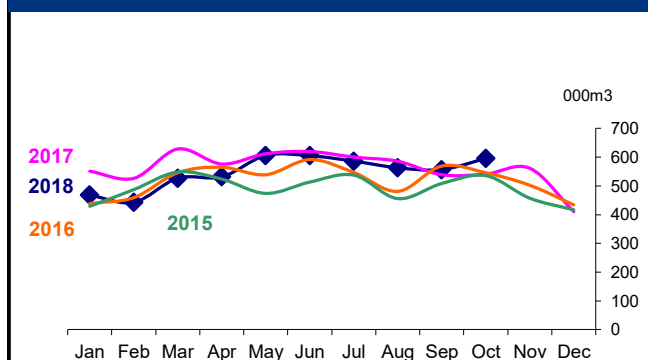
The value of sawn goods increased over this period by 4% and the value of planed goods rose by nearly 12%.

The value of whitewood imported to the UK in the first ten months of 2018 was higher than over the same period in 2017 by 3%.

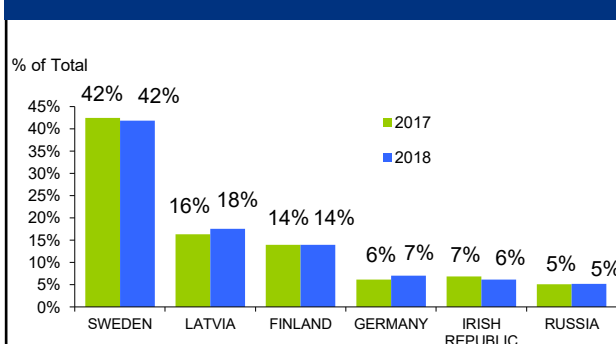
The value of redwood imports was also higher, by just over 1% in the same period. The value of mixed species, although of much smaller scale, was higher by around 41%.

The overall increase in value of 7% was generated by higher prices. As shown above, volume in the first nine months of 2018 was lower by around 5%, but average prices rose by 13% compared to the same period in 2017.

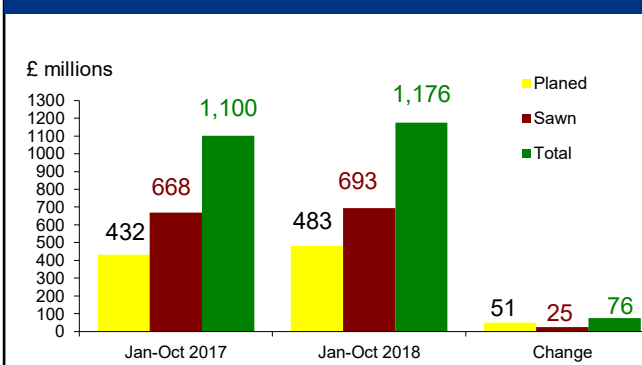
Softwood Import Volume Last 4 Years by Month



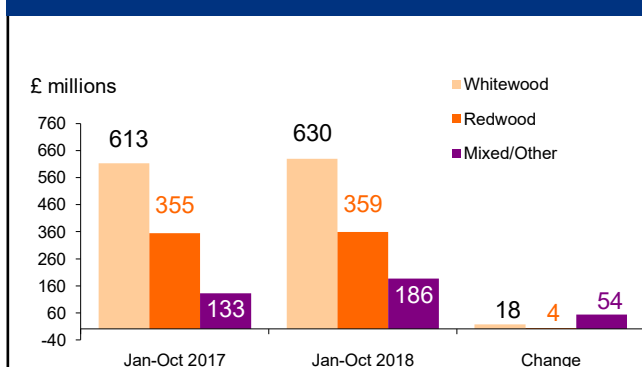
Softwood Import Volume Share by Country, Jan-Oct



Softwood Imports by Type, by Value, Jan-Oct 2018/2017



Softwood Imports, Species by Value, Jan-Oct 2018/2017



Hardwood Imports & Exports

Hardwood imports cumulative % change
January to October year-on-year comparison:

2018/2017 = + 6.5%* (see below)
2017/2016 = + 17.8%
2016/2015 = - 0.6%

Cumulative volume to January to October - 000m³

2018 = 457
2017 = 429

Annual volume in 000m³
2017 = 501

The USA, France and Latvia have supplied higher volumes of hardwoods to the UK in 2018 to October while volumes from Estonia, Italy and the Cameroon are lower

*NB: Information is still awaited from HMRC concerning volume from Norway, It is likely that volumes will be removed from the total for hardwood. This would reduce substantially the total volume of hardwood imported and converting the 6.5% growth shown above into a small decline.

The apparent growth shown for Europe, below, is also affected by the likely mis-recording of volume from Norway. Changes in volume and share of supply by region in 2018 to date, compared to 2017 were:

	% Growth	Share of Supply	
	2018/2017	2018	2017
Europe	17%	65%	59%
North America	1%	21%	22%
Africa	-21%	9%	12%
Asia	-25%	3%	5%
Cent & S America	16%	2%	2%
Oceania			

Hardwood exports cumulative % change
January to October year-on-year comparison:

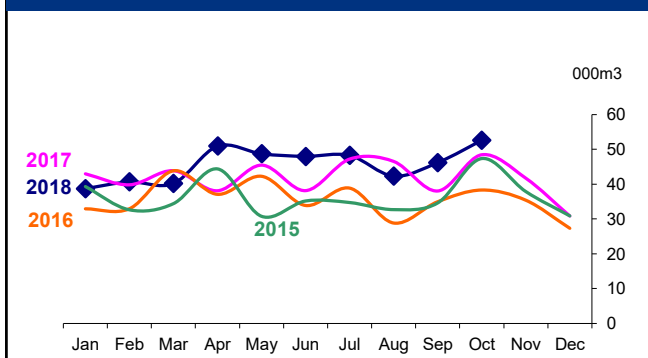
2018/2017 = - 6.8%
2017/2016 = - 14.3%
2016/2015 = + 27.1%

Cumulative volume to January to October - 000m³

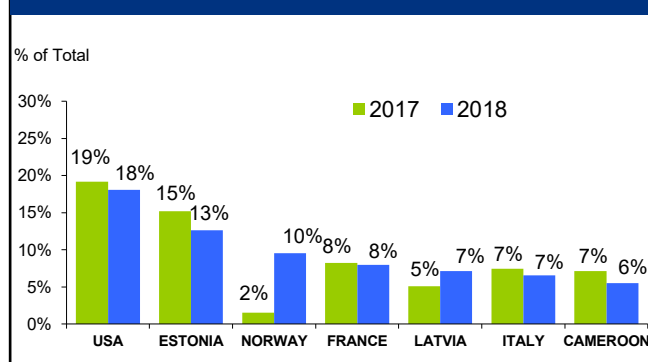
2018 = 16.0
2017 = 17.0

Annual volume in 000m³
2017 = 21

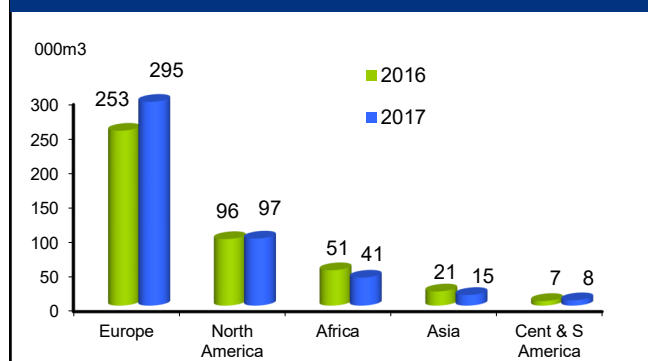
Hardwood Imports Last 4 Years by Month



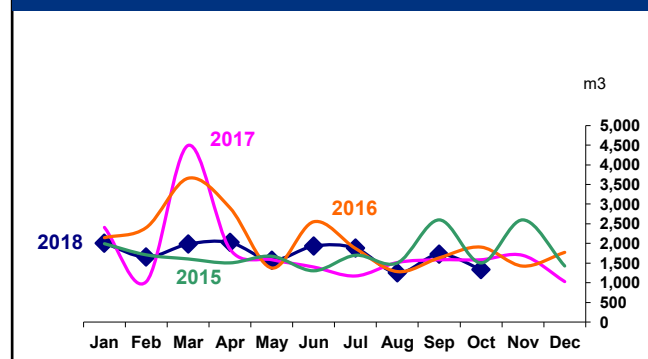
Hardwood Import Volume Share by Country, Jan-Oct



Hardwood Imports by World Region, 2018/2017



Hardwood Exports Last 4 Years by Month



Plywood Imports & Exports

All Plywood imports cumulative % change
January to October year-on-year comparison:

2018/2017 = + 3.5%
2017/2016 = + 1.9%
2016/2015 = + 3.9%

Cumulative volume to January to October - 000m³

2018 = 1,382
2017 = 1,336

Annual volume in 000m³

2017 = 1,537

Hardwood plywood imports cumulative % change
January to October year-on-year comparison:

2018/2017 = - 0.6%
2017/2016 = + 0.1%
2016/2015 = + 7.0%

Cumulative volume to January to October - 000m³

2018 = 894
2017 = 899

Annual volume in 000m³

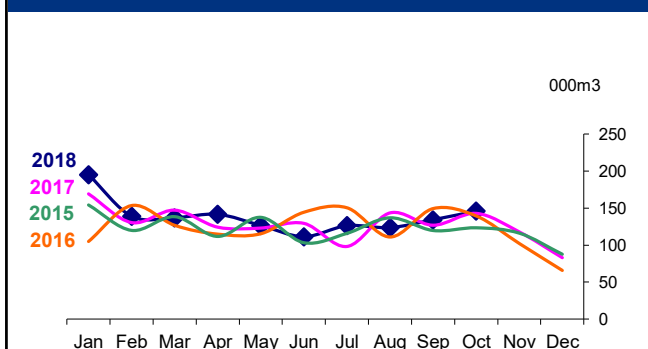
2017 = 1,041

Volumes of hardwood plywood imported by the UK have continued to improve since the poor first quarter with volume virtually identical to the ten months of 2017. Russia and Indonesia have contributed to the improvement with increased volumes along with substantial increases from Latvia, Austria and Sweden. Countering these increases, falls in volume have been experienced from China, Malaysia and Finland.

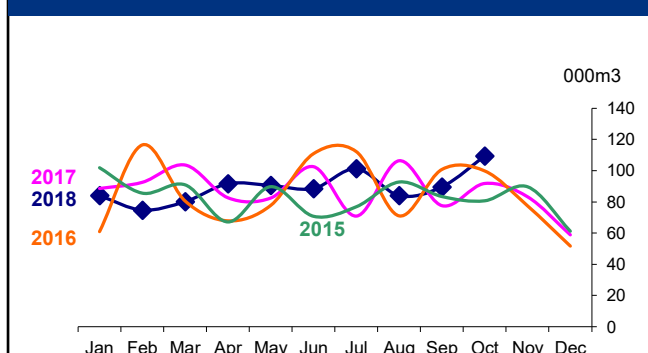
Import volumes in the month of October were nearly 20% higher than in October 2017. Each of the countries of supply shown in the chart opposite raised volumes for the month. The 5% increase in the month from China, being much lower the average of around 20% for the month, resulted in a reduction in share.

The arrival of Austria as a leading country of supply for the month is probably due to quantities of engineered wood products exported to the UK.

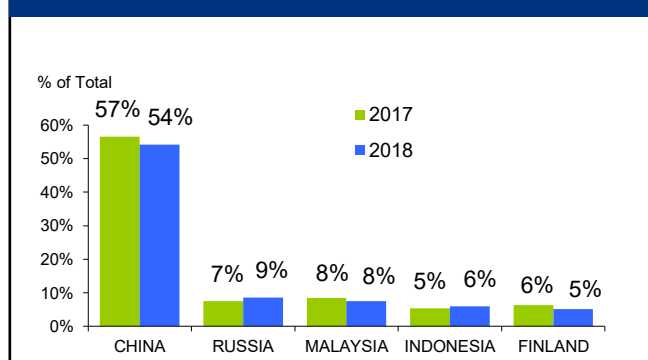
All Plywood Imports Last 4 Years by Month



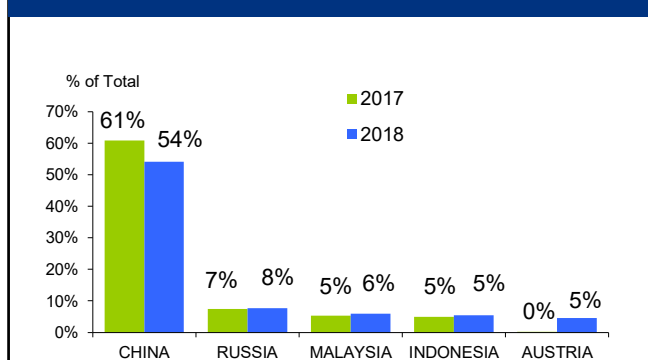
Hardwood Plywood Imports Last 4 Years by Month



Hardwood Plywood by Major Country, Jan - Oct



Hardwood Plywood by Major Country, Oct



Plywood Imports & Exports

Softwood plywood imports cumulative % change
January to October year-on-year comparison:

2018/2017 = + 11.8%

2017/2016 = + 5.9%

2016/2015 = - 2.3%

Cumulative volume to January to October - 000m³

2018 = 488

2017 = 437

Annual volume in 000m³

2017 = 495

Growth of 45% in the volume of softwood plywood imported from China in the ten months of 2018 to October has grown market share to a level of 11%. A 23% uplift in volume from Finland has also produced an increase in share. The market of Brazil has fallen despite a small increase in volume. The 2% rise from Brazil was outpaced by each of the other leading countries of supply.

Volumes of softwood plywood in the month of October were around 30% lower than in October 2017 with virtually all of this loss accounted for by lower volumes from Brazil. This resulted in a sharp drop in share for the month for Brazil. Increases in volume for the other leading countries has raised their market shares accordingly.

All Plywood exports cumulative % change
January to October year-on-year comparison:

2018/2017 = - 13.3%

2017/2016 = + 38.3%

2016/2015 = + 44.6%

Cumulative volume to January to October - 000m³

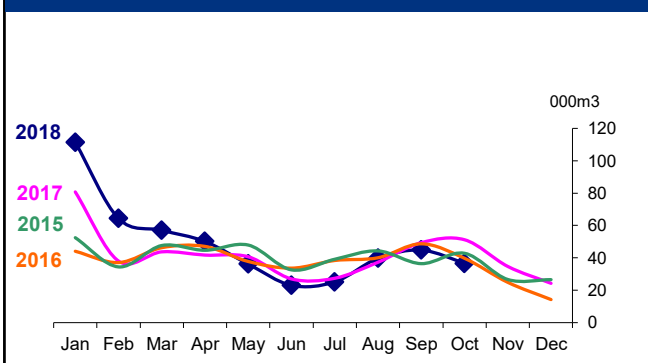
2018 = 69

2017 = 79

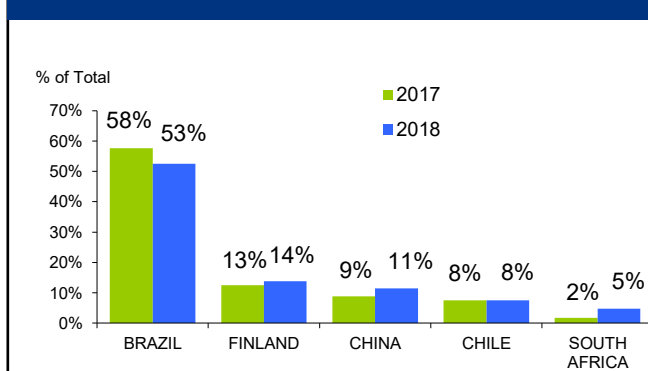
Annual volume in 000m³

2017 = 92

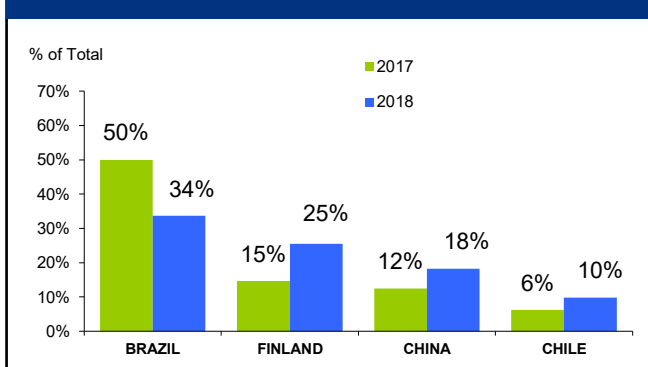
Softwood Plywood Imports Last 4 Years by Month



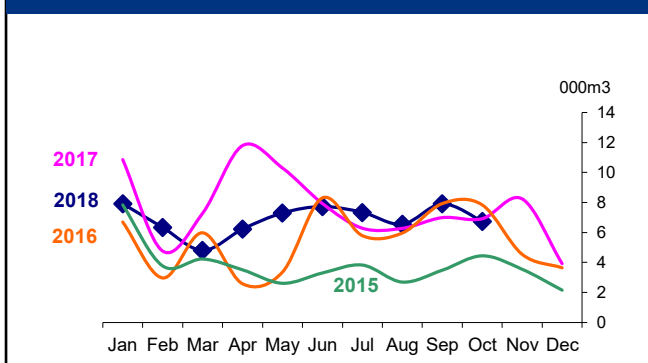
Softwood Plywood Imports by Major Country, Jan-Oct



Softwood Plywood Imports by Major Country, Oct



All Plywood Exports Last 4 Years by Month



Particleboard Imports & Exports

Particleboard imports cumulative % change
January to October year-on-year comparison:

2018/2017 = + 5.6%
2017/2016 = + 10.5%
2016/2015 = + 27.0%

Cumulative volume to January to October - 000m³

2018 = 823
2017 = 780

Annual volume in 000m³
2017 = 915

Germany, the Republic of Ireland and Spain have each exported greater volumes of particleboard to the UK in the ten months of 2018. Only Belgium of the leading countries of supply has lost volume in 2018. Latvia, Italy and Romania have also raised the volume of shipments in 2018, contributing to the overall continued growth of particleboard imports over the last three years.

Imports in the month of October 2018 were 12% higher than in October 2017 with all of the leading countries increasing the level of shipments with the exception of Germany and Belgium. Notable improvement in the month was recorded by Latvia and Spain with both countries more than doubling volumes compared to the same month in 2017.

Particleboard exports cumulative % change
January to October year-on-year comparison:

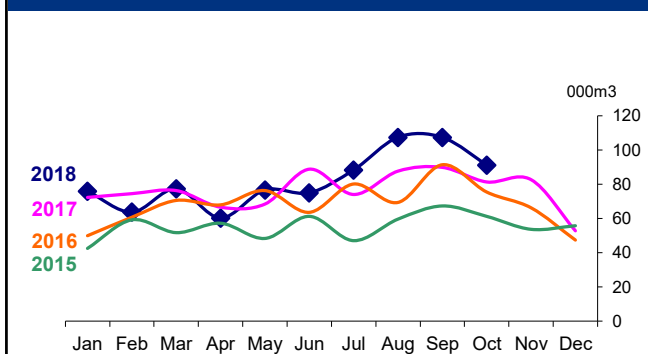
2018/2017 = - 41.3%
2017/2016 = + 106.3%
2016/2015 = + 6.1%

Cumulative volume to January to October - 000m³

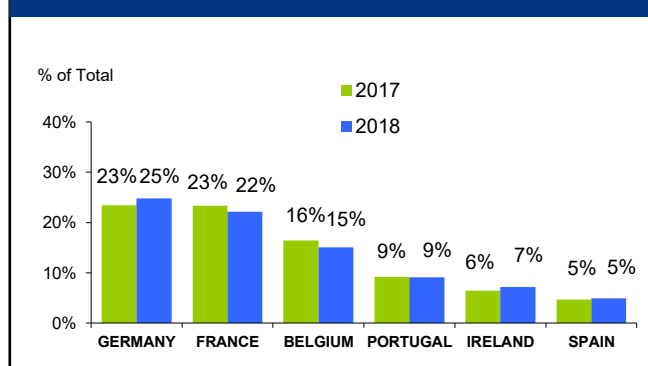
2018 = 60
2017 = 102

Annual volume in 000m³
2017 = 114

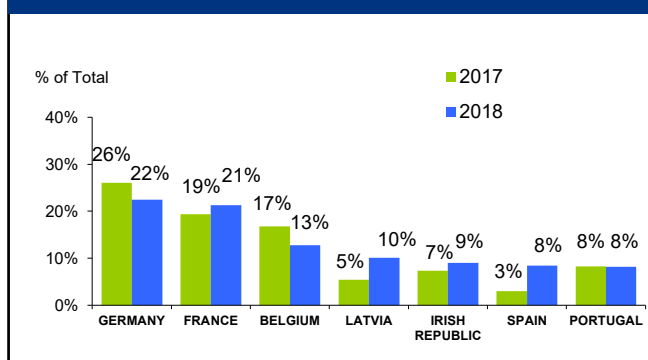
Particleboard Imports Last 4 Years by Month



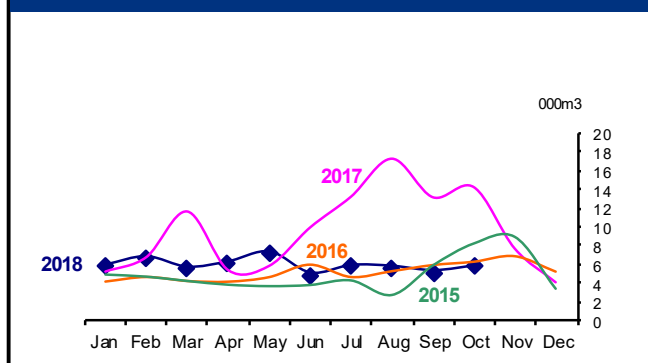
Particleboard Imports by Major Country, Jan - Oct



Particleboard Imports by Major Country, Oct



Particleboard Exports Last 4 Years by Month



OSB & MDF Imports & Exports

OSB imports cumulative % change

January to October year-on-year comparison:

2018/2017 = - 3.3%

2017/2016 = + 30.3%

2016/2015 = - 2.5%

Cumulative volume to January to October - 000m³

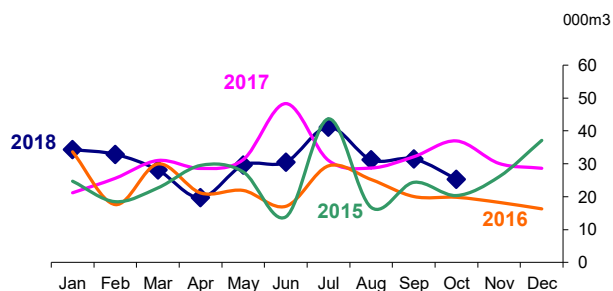
2018 = 304

2017 = 315

Annual volume in 000m³

2017 = 373

OSB Imports Last 4 Years by Month



OSB exports cumulative % change

January to October year-on-year comparison:

2018/2017 = - 10.2%

2017/2016 = - 17.8%

2016/2015 = + 20.7%

Cumulative volume to January to October - 000m³

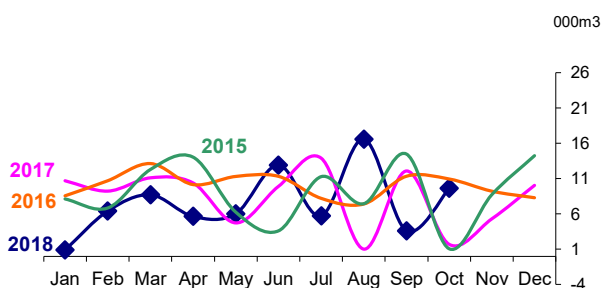
2018 = 76

2017 = 85

Annual volume in 000m³

2017 = 100

OSB Exports Last 4 Years by Month



MDF imports cumulative % change

January to October year-on-year comparison:

2018/2017 = - 9.4%

2017/2016 = + 40.4%

2016/2015 = - 1.7%

Cumulative volume to January to October - 000m³

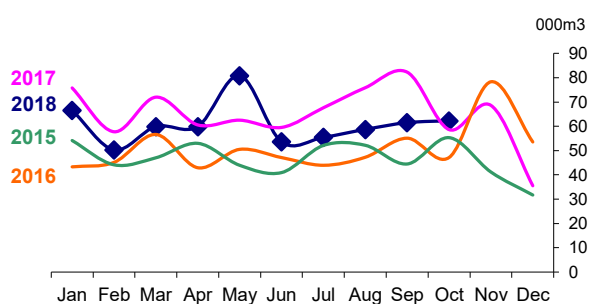
2018 = 609

2017 = 673

Annual volume in 000m³

2017 = 777

MDF Imports Last 4 Years by Month



MDF exports cumulative % change

January to October year-on-year comparison:

2018/2017 = - 11.0%

2017/2016 = + 2.4%

2016/2015 = - 15.2%

Cumulative volume to January to October - 000m³

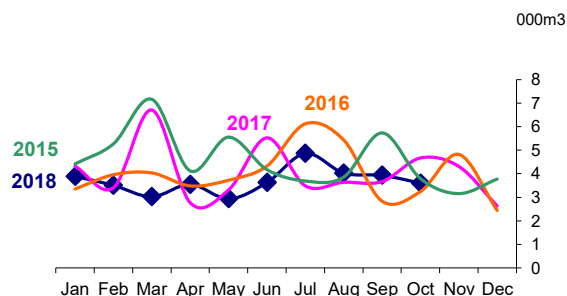
2018 = 37

2017 = 41

Annual volume in 000m³

2017 = 48

MDF Exports Last 4 Years by Month



Key Data

Statistical Tables

	Softwood		Hardwood		Plywood		Particleboard		OSB		MDF	
000s cbm	Imports	Exports & Re-Exports	Imports	Exports & Re-Exports	Imports	Exports & Re-Exports	Imports	Exports & Re-Exports	Imports	Exports & Re-Exports	Imports	Exports & Re-Exports
Oct-18	596	21	53	1.3	146	7	91	6	25	10	62	4
Sep-18	557	20	46	1.7	134	8	107	5	31	4	62	4
Aug-18	563	18	42	1.2	124	7	107	6	31	17	59	4
Jul-18	586	22	48	1.9	126	7	88	6	41	6	55	5
Jun-18	605	16	48	1.9	111	8	75	5	31	13	53	4
May-18	606	19	49	1.6	127	7	77	7	30	6	81	3
Apr-18	532	19	51	2.0	142	6	60	6	20	6	60	4
Mar-18	527	21	40	2.0	137	5	77	6	28	9	60	3
Feb-18	443	15	41	1.7	139	6	64	7	33	6	50	4
Jan-18	468	13	39	2.0	195	8	76	6	34	1	67	4
Dec-17	410	12	31	1.0	83	4	53	4	29	10	36	3
Nov-17	562	17	42	1.7	118	8	83	8	30	5	69	4
Oct-17	541	15	48	1.6	143	7	81	14	37	2	59	5
Sep-17	539	18	38	1.6	127	7	90	13	32	12	82	4
Aug-17	586	14	47	1.5	144	6	88	17	29	1	76	4
Jul-17	600	19	47	1.2	98	6	74	13	31	14	68	3
Jun-17	620	17	38	1.4	129	8	89	10	48	10	60	6
May-17	612	16	45	1.6	123	10	68	6	31	5	63	3

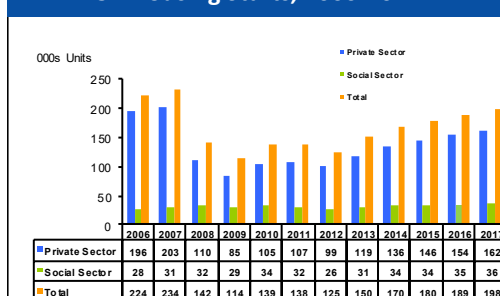
Economic Indicators & Currencies

Economic Indicator	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18
Annual GDP (Q this yr/ Q last yr)		1.5%			
UK Interest Rates	0.75%	0.75%	0.75%	0.75%	0.75%
CPIH (inc Housing) Index %	+ 2.4%	+ 2.2%	+ 2.2%	+ 2.2%	n/a
Consumer Price Index % (CPI)	+ 2.7%	+ 2.4%	+ 2.4%	+ 2.3%	n/a
UK All Manufacturing Price Index	+ 2.9%	+ 3.1%	+ 3.3%	+ 3.1%	n/a
Industrial Production (2013 = 100)	103.1	103.0	102.4	n/a	n/a
Claimant Unemployment 000s	924.3	947.5	970.7	992.6	n/a
Average Earnings (inc bonuses)	+ 2.8%	+ 3.1%	3.3%	n/a	n/a
Annual Construction Output (NSA) Volume - Qtr/Qtr ty/ty		+ 1.8%			
- Month ty/ty	- 0.2%	+ 1.4%	+ 5.3%	n/a	n/a

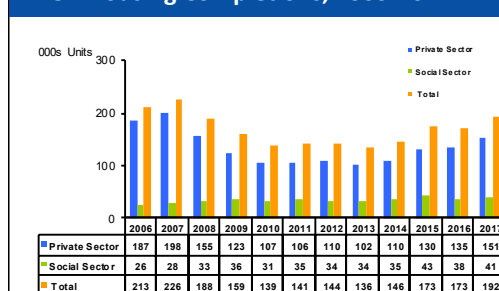
Currency	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18
Pound vs Dollar	1.31	1.28	1.28	1.28
Pound vs Euro	1.12	1.13	1.13	1.11
Pound vs Malaysian Ringgit	5.41	5.35	5.33	5.27
Dollar vs Malaysian Ringgit	4.14	4.18	4.18	4.13
Pound vs Indonesian Rupiah	19,476	19,455	18,294	18,358
Dollar vs Indonesian Rupiah	14,917	15,207	14,310	14,387
Pound vs Krona	11.59	11.70	11.62	11.32
Dollar vs Brazilian Real	4.00	3.71	3.86	3.88
Pound vs Russian Rouble	85.42	84.15	85.32	88.51
Dollar vs Chinese Yuan	6.87	6.98	6.96	6.88

Housing Statistics

UK Housing Starts, 2006-2017

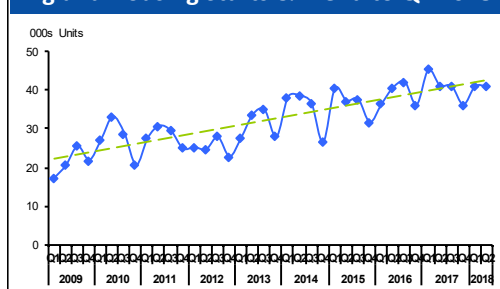


UK Housing Completions, 2003-2017

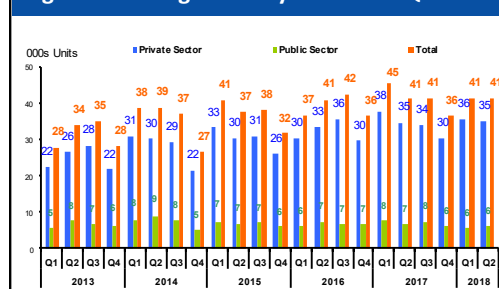


UK housing starts in 2017 were 4.7% higher than in 2016, rising to a level of 197,670. This was the fifth year in a row that housing starts in the UK have risen. DCLG will publish 2018 data in mid-2019.

England Housing Starts & Trend to Q2 2018



England Housing Starts by Tenure to Q2 2018



Housing starts in England in Q2 2018 were 0.5% down on Q2 2017. Private sector housing was higher by 1% while public new housing starts declined by 9%. Starts in England in the first half of 2018 were 5.2% lower than the first half of 2017.

Changing Partners

As one of the largest importers of timber and panel products globally, it would be expected that the UK trades with a great many countries around the world. The high demand for wood products in the UK, served by an intensely competitive industry, means the choice of trading partners is an important factor in meeting this demand.

In 2018 a number of changes in the source of many wood products has led to some countries benefitting and others losing ground in terms of volume supplied. The analysis shown here is a measure of the changes that have taken place in 2018 and not necessarily a measure of size. Sweden maintains a +40% share of softwood imports but the greatest changes in 2018 have come from some of the other leading countries of supply as shown in chart 1.

In the ten months to October 2018, all softwood imports are lower by 5%, but Germany and Latvia have increased volume supplied.

A number of changes in the supply of hardwood have also taken place in 2018 to date. While overall volume has fallen slightly (2% after making allowance for likely incorrect recording of some goods from Norway), hardwood from Latvia has increased significantly. Volume from Estonia has moved in the opposite direction and tropical varieties from the Cameroon and Malaysia are sharply lower.

Softwood plywood imports in 2018 have been running well ahead of 2017 and the 12% growth by October 2018 has been generated by large volume increases from China and Finland and, from a very low base, volume from South Africa has risen steeply to claim (page 7 of this bulletin) a 5% share of the market.

Imports of hardwood plywood in 2018 are at a similar level as in 2017 but the composition of this volume has changed with Russia and Indonesia exporting higher volumes and Malaysia and Finland supplying substantially less.

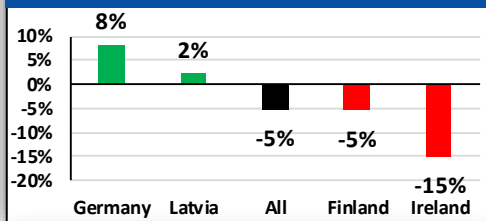
The overall 6% growth in particleboard imports in 2018 to date (excluding OSB) has been fueled by higher volume from the market leader, Germany, but significantly more volume has arrived in the UK from Latvia and Spain. The greatest loser has been Poland where virtually all of the unworked varieties of particleboard exported to the UK have disappeared in 2018.

MDF imports in the ten months to October are lower by 9% due to many of the leading countries supplying less in 2018. It is probable that that the changing patterns of supply of MDF in 2018 have favoured UK domestic production. The only major success in volume terms has been the 32% growth year-to-date from Belgium.

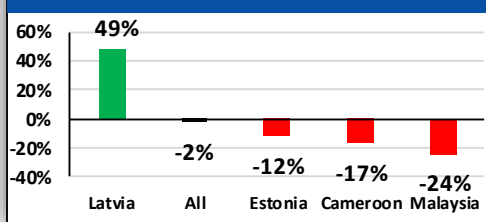
In summary, the overall (All) growth or declines for the main products as depicted by the black bars on the charts opposite conceal the wide differences by country brought about the changes of trading patterns.

Looking across the board for all products imported in 2018, the countries that have benefitted most are Latvia, Germany and Russia. Volume from Latvia is higher for all products shown here; Germany too has raised volume across the board, except for MDF, and Russia has increased volumes of hardwood plywood, OSB and MDF in 2018.

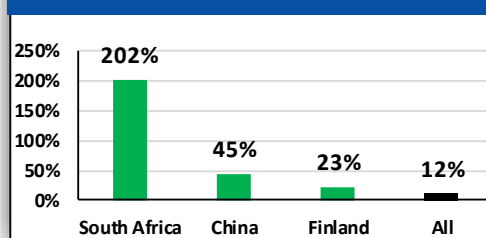
1. Main Softwood Import Changes 2018



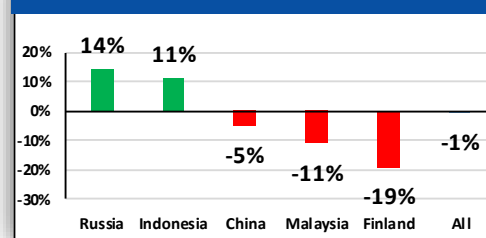
2. Main Hardwood Import Changes 2018



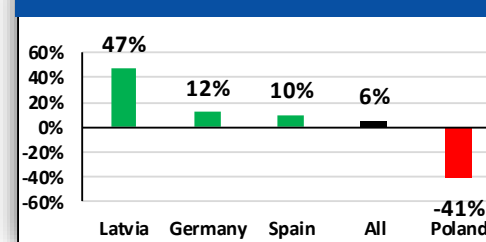
3. Main Softwood Plywood Changes 2018



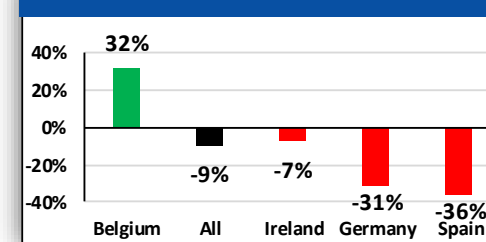
4. Main Hardwood Plywood Changes 2018



5. Main Particleboard Import Changes 2018



6. Main MDF Import Changes 2018





Timber Trade Federation
The Building Centre
26, Store Street
London WC1E 7BT

Tel: 020 7 291 5378
Fax: 020 7 291 5379
Web: www.ttf.co.uk
E-mail Contact: nboulton@ttf.co.uk

Registered in England No. 2515034 at the above office.