

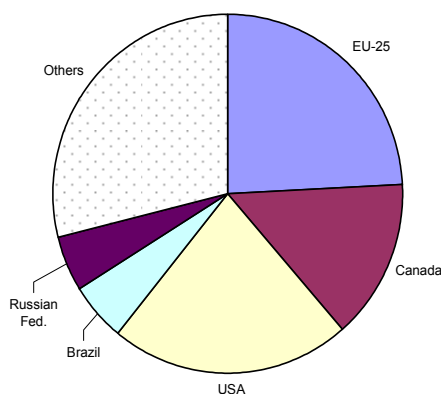
The production of wood and forest industry products in EU-25

The EU is the world number one producer of sawnwood, wood-based panels and paper and paperboard.

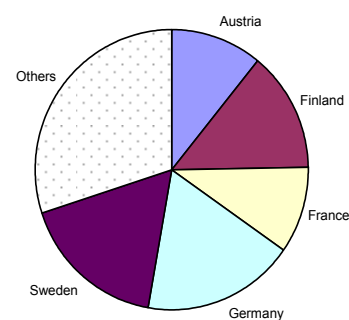
The European Union (EU-25) has a total area of forests and other wooded land of 160 million hectares, covering 42% of its land area. Among the many functions of forests, one of the most important is the raw material function: whilst offering a renewable source of wood and other products, forests have a great role in creating economic welfare and employment. But besides their economic aspects, forests offer many other benefits which are highly valued but not easy to measure in monetary terms.

The enlargement of the Union in May 2004 increased the Community's forest and other wooded land area by 20%, from 136 up to 160 million hectares. The volume of growing stock rose by one-third, to 17.9 billion cubic metres. This represents a remarkable expansion of the EU's forestry sector, and has given the EU, among other things, a greater importance as a producer and trader of wood and wood-based products. The EU now produces about 20% of the world's industrial roundwood, being the second biggest producer after the USA.

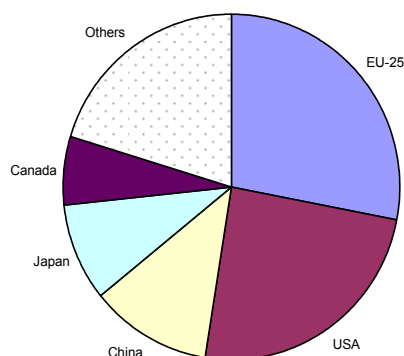
Sawnwood producers 2003



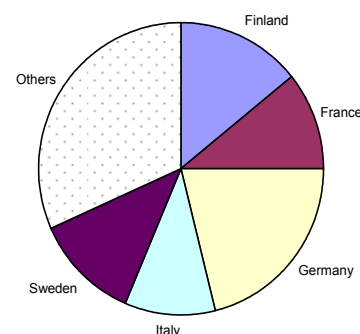
Main producers of sawnwood in EU-25

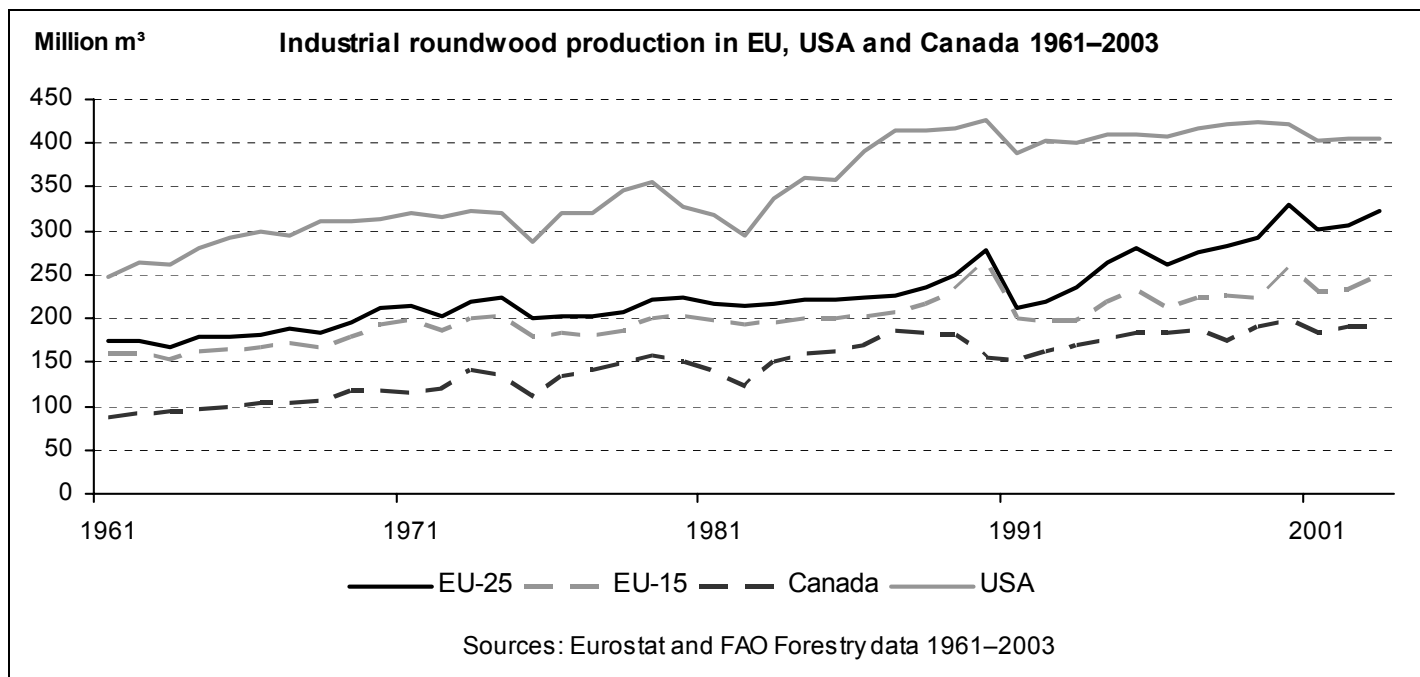


Paper and paperboard producers 2003



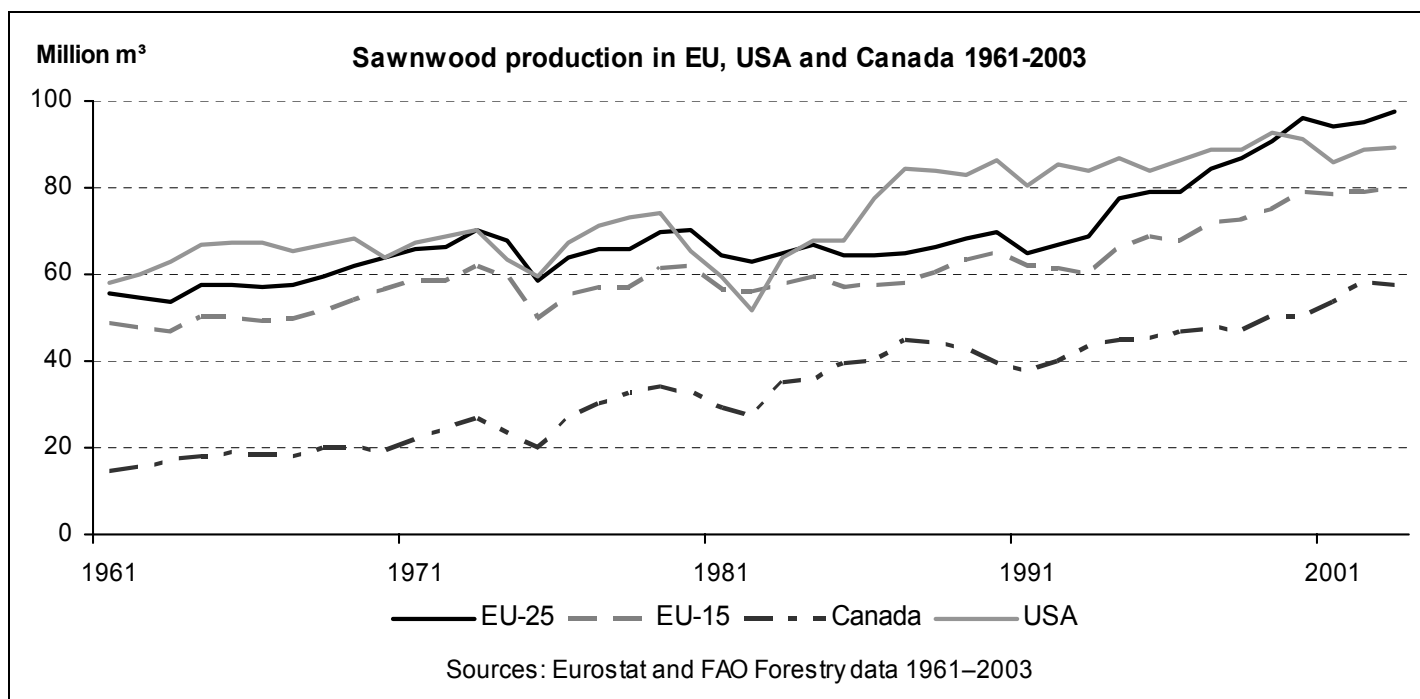
Main producers of paper and paperboard in EU-25





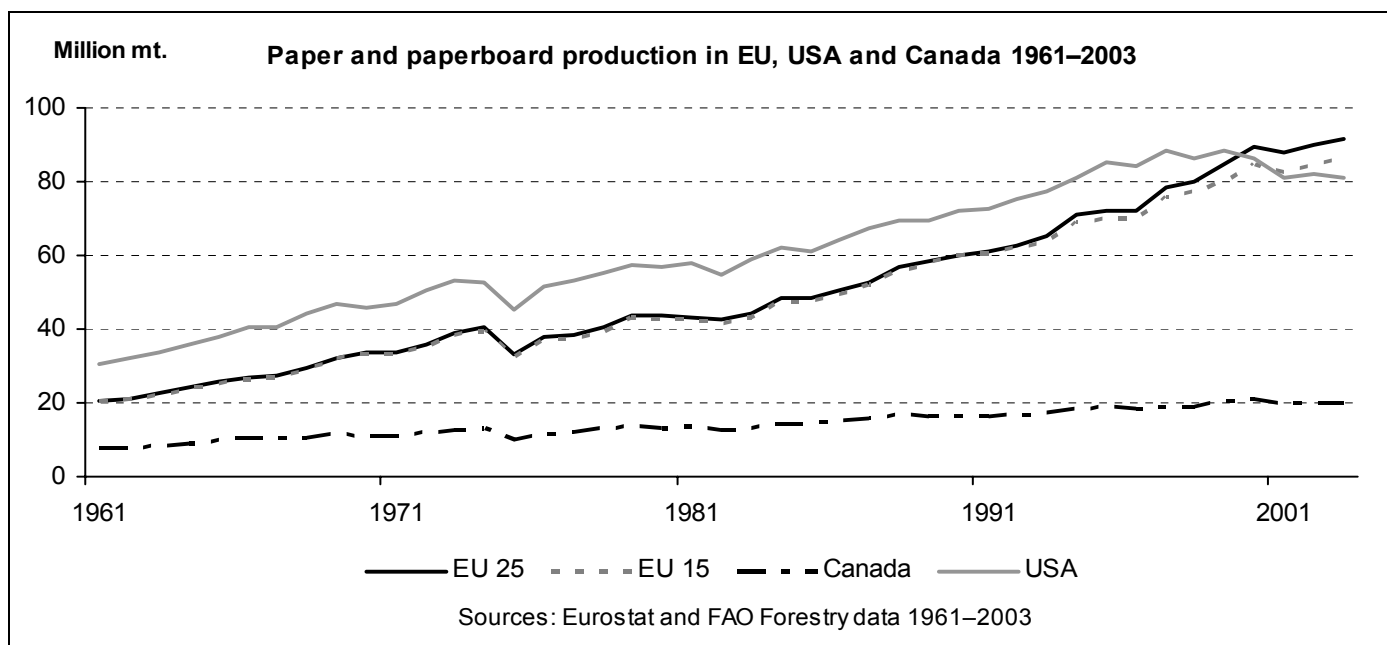
In 2003 the production of industrial roundwood of the EU-25 was 323.2 million m³, which was 14% higher than the average of the ten preceding years (1993–2002). This makes the EU the second biggest producer of industrial roundwood in the world, after the USA. Within the EU the main producers of industrial roundwood were Sweden (61.4 million m³), Finland (49.2 million m³), Germany (45.4

million m³) and France (33.9 million m³). The production from these four countries comprised 60% of the total EU-25 industrial roundwood. Since 1961 industrial roundwood production in the EU-25 Member States has increased by 85%. In the USA the corresponding growth was 63% and in Canada 121%. In 2003 the EU-25 produced 20% and the USA 26% of the total world industrial roundwood.



The sawnwood production of the EU-25 amounted to 97.5 million m³ in 2003, which was 14% more than the average of the preceding ten-year period. The EU is now the world's biggest sawnwood producer. The main producers of sawnwood in the EU-25 were Germany (17.6 million m³), Sweden (16.8 million m³), Finland (13.7 million m³), Austria (10.5 million m³) and France (9.6 million m³).

The production of these five countries constitutes 70% of the EU's sawnwood. Since 1961 sawnwood production has increased by 75% in the EU-25 Member States. In Canada production has quadrupled and in the USA production has increased by half. In 2003, the EU produced 24% and the USA 22% of the world's sawnwood.



In 2003, the production of paper and paperboard in the EU-25 amounted to 91.6 million metric tonnes, which was 16% higher than the average over the years 1993–2002. The main producers of paper and paperboard are Germany, Finland, Sweden, France and Italy. These countries were responsible for 69% of the EU's total

production. Since 1961 total paper and paperboard production has quadrupled in the EU-25 Member States. In the USA and Canada production has increased by 163% and 152% respectively. The EU-25 produced 28% and the USA 24% of the world's total paper and paperboard in 2003.

Production of industrial roundwood and forest industry products in EU, Canada, USA and Russian Federation, 2001–2003

	Industrial roundwood			Sawnwood			Wood-based panels			Paper and paperboard		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
	1000 m ³			1000 m ³			1000 m ³			1000 mt		
EU-25	301 447	307 392	323 198	94 183	94 957	97 483	52 244	52 723	54 939	87 462	89 775	91 586
EU-15	229 921	232 201	246 279	78 551	78 833	80 641	44 076	43 998	45 316	82 233	84 446	86 288
Canada	184 689	191 522	191 714	53 708	58 481	57 546	15 472	16 194	16 476	19 834	20 226	20 100
Russian Federation	117 800	118 600	121 800	19 600	19 240	20 155	5 150	5 684	6 284	5 625	5 978	6 349
United States	403 212	404 958	405 159	86 015	88 643	89 043	40 296	41 050	41 173	81 249	81 879	80 800

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Sources: The Joint ECE/EUROSTAT/FAO/ITTO forest sector questionnaire and FAO (FAOSTAT, Forestry data 1961–2003).

INDUSTRIAL ROUNDWOOD: The commodities included in Industrial roundwood are logs, pulpwood and other industrial roundwood. Logs are used for the production of sawnwood (including sleepers) and veneer sheets. Pulpwood is wood in the rough other than logs, for the manufacture of pulp, particleboard and fibreboard.

SAWNWOOD: Wood that has been produced either by sawing lengthways or by a profile-chipping process and that exceeds 6 mm in thickness. It includes planks, beams, joists, boards, rafters, scantlings, laths, boxboards and "lumber", etc., in the following forms: unplaned, planed, end-jointed, etc.

PAPER AND PAPERBOARD: The paper and paperboard category is an aggregate category. It represents the sum of graphic papers; sanitary and household papers; packaging materials and other paper and paperboard. It excludes manufactured paper products such as boxes, cartons, books and magazines, etc.

Further information:

Databases:

see page 3 –METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

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Tel. (352) 4301 33408
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