

USE OF WOOD IN FINLAND

June 2025



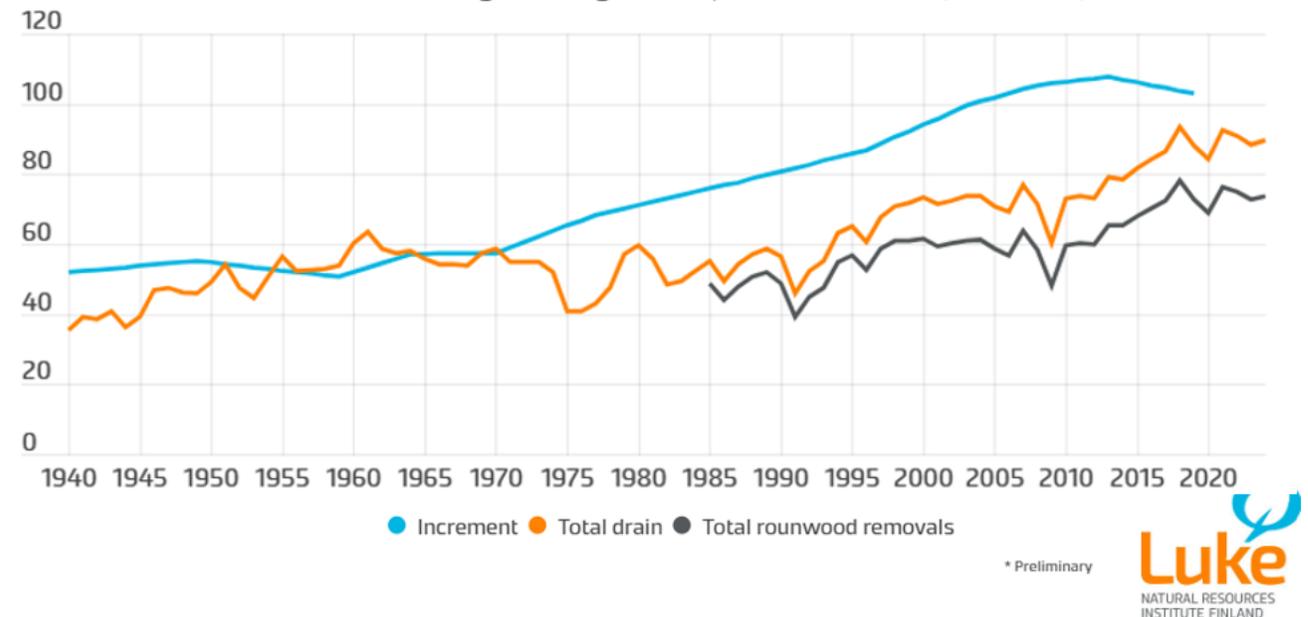
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland

FOREST GROWTH EXCEEDS HARVESTINGS

Finland's annual increment of growing stock is 103 million cubic metres each year.

In 2024, roundwood harvest totalled around 73 million cubic metres.

Total roundwood removals, increment and drain of growing stock, 1940 - 2024 (mill. m³)



Annual increment of growing stock, roundwood removals, total drain of roundwood 1940-2024 (preliminary), million m³.

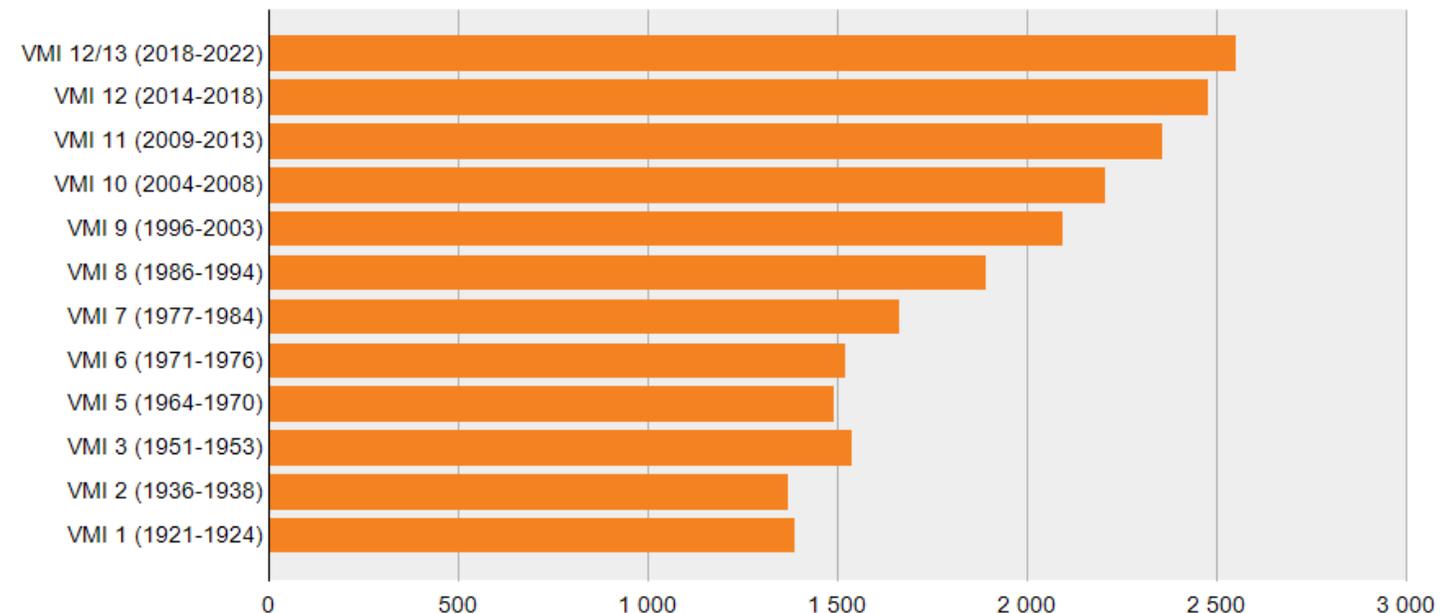
Source: Natural Resource Institute Finland

GROWING STOCK IN FINLAND'S FORESTS HAS INCREASED OVER THE LAST 50 YEARS

Sustainable forest management ensures that the increasing trend will continue also in the future

The volume of growing stock and the state of forests have been monitored in Finland since the 1920s.

The growing stock volume in Finland's forests totals 2.55 billion cubic metres. This is 1.8 times the volume recorded in the 1920s.



Total volume of growing stock by inventory period, million m³

Source: Natural Resources Institute Finland



LONG HISTORY OF WOOD PROCESSING

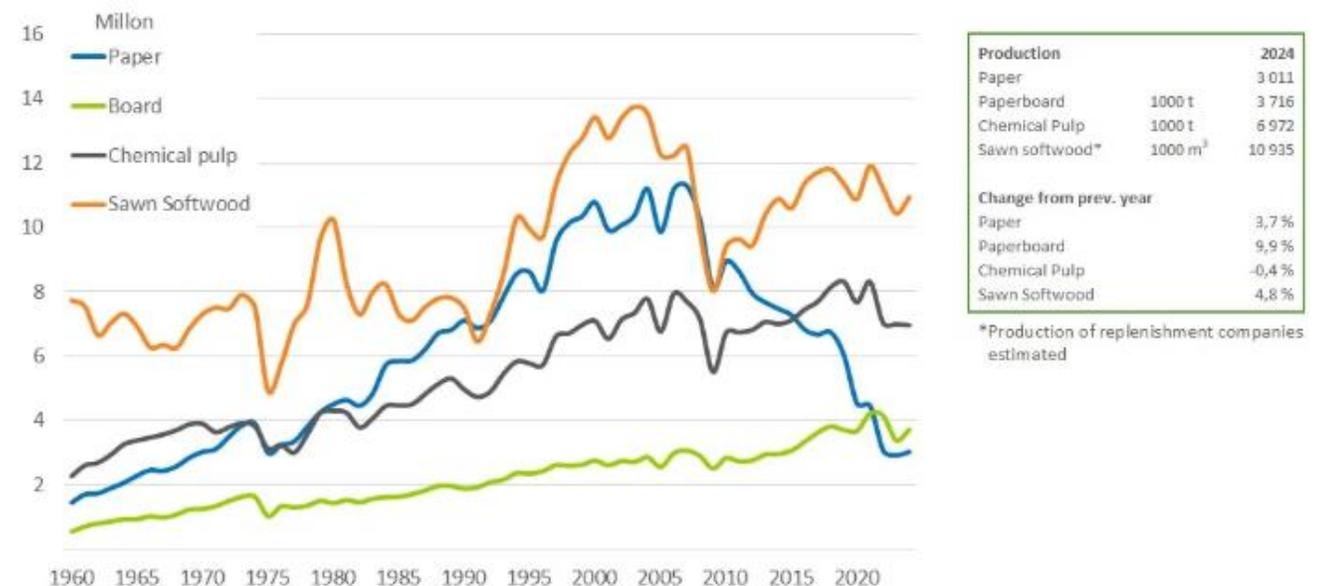
Finland has long traditions in the use of wood for manufacturing printing and writing papers and packaging materials, and as construction and interior design material.

Wood processing remains an important sector of industry in Finland. In 2024, the export value of Finland's forest industry was €12 billion, accounting for 17% of the country's total industrial exports. (Source: [Natural Resource institute Finland](#))

Wood raw materials contain ingredients that have only recently been detected and developed for novel uses e.g. in chemical and medical industry.

Wood, wood fibers, biopolymers and molecules can replace synthetic, unsustainable or diminishing materials in many products.

Forest industry production volumes since 1960



 Finnish Forest Industries SOURCE: FFIF

Forest industry production volumes 1960-2024.

Source: The Finnish Forest Industries Federation (March 2024)

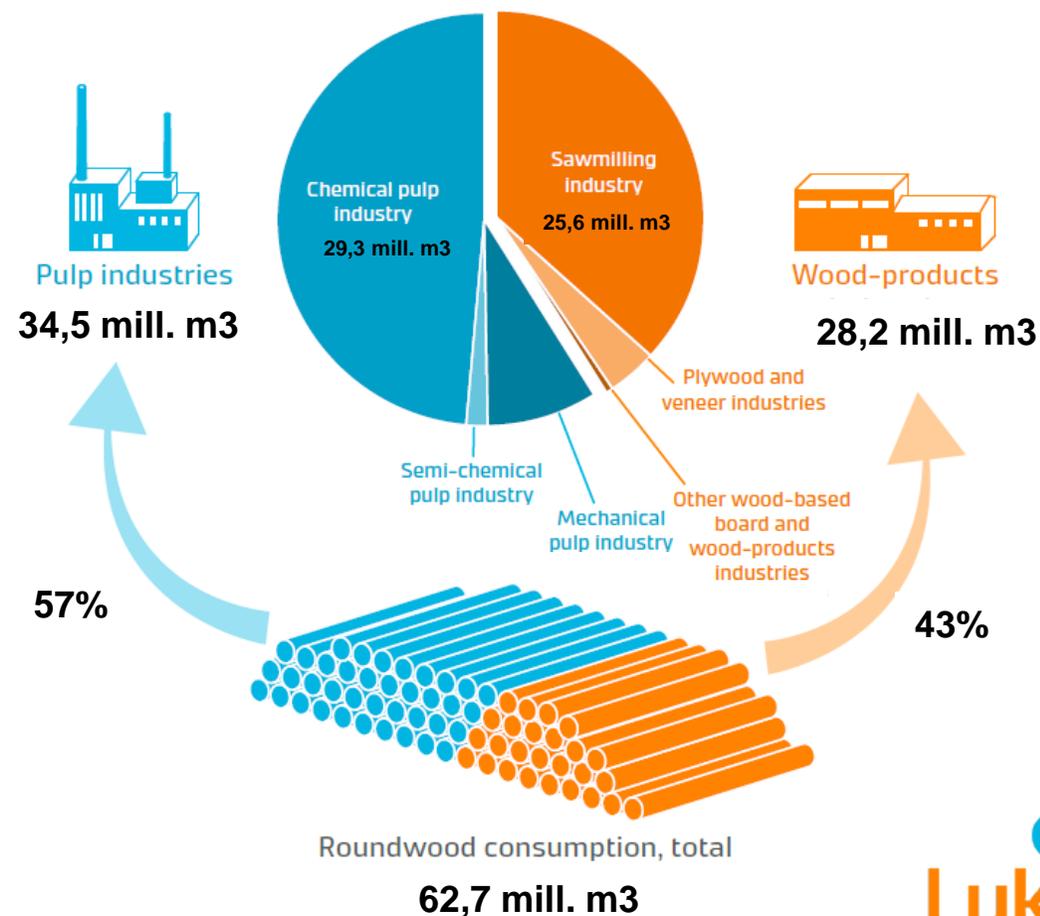
Read more: [Statistics](#)

EFFICIENT USE OF WOOD BY FOREST INDUSTRIES IN VARIOUS APPLICATIONS

The largest users of wood in Finland are pulp and sawmill industry

Most roundwood in Finland is consumed by chemical pulp and sawmilling industries.

Most important roundwood assortments are pine pulpwood and spruce logs.



Total consumption of roundwood in Finland in 2024

Source: Natural Resources Institute Finland

THREE OF FINLAND'S TEN MOST IMPORTANT EXPORT PRODUCTS ARE BASED ON WOOD

Nearly one fifth of the value of Finland's goods exports comes from the forest sector.

Forest industry is one of the most important industry sectors in Finland.

Finland's most significant export product is paper and paperboard. In 2024, paper and paperboard accounted for EUR 5.9 billion of exports. In the same year, the value of sawn timber and plywood was 3,2 billion EUR. The value of pulp was 2.6 billion EUR.

The majority of forest industry exports in 2024 were directed to Germany (11 %), China (10 %) and the USA (9%). (Source: [Natural Resource institute Finland](#))





WOOD-BASED PRODUCTS

WOOD IS USED IN MANY EVERYDAY ITEMS



Building and living



Packaging



Medicine and wellbeing



Material combinations



Energy, bio fuels and chemicals

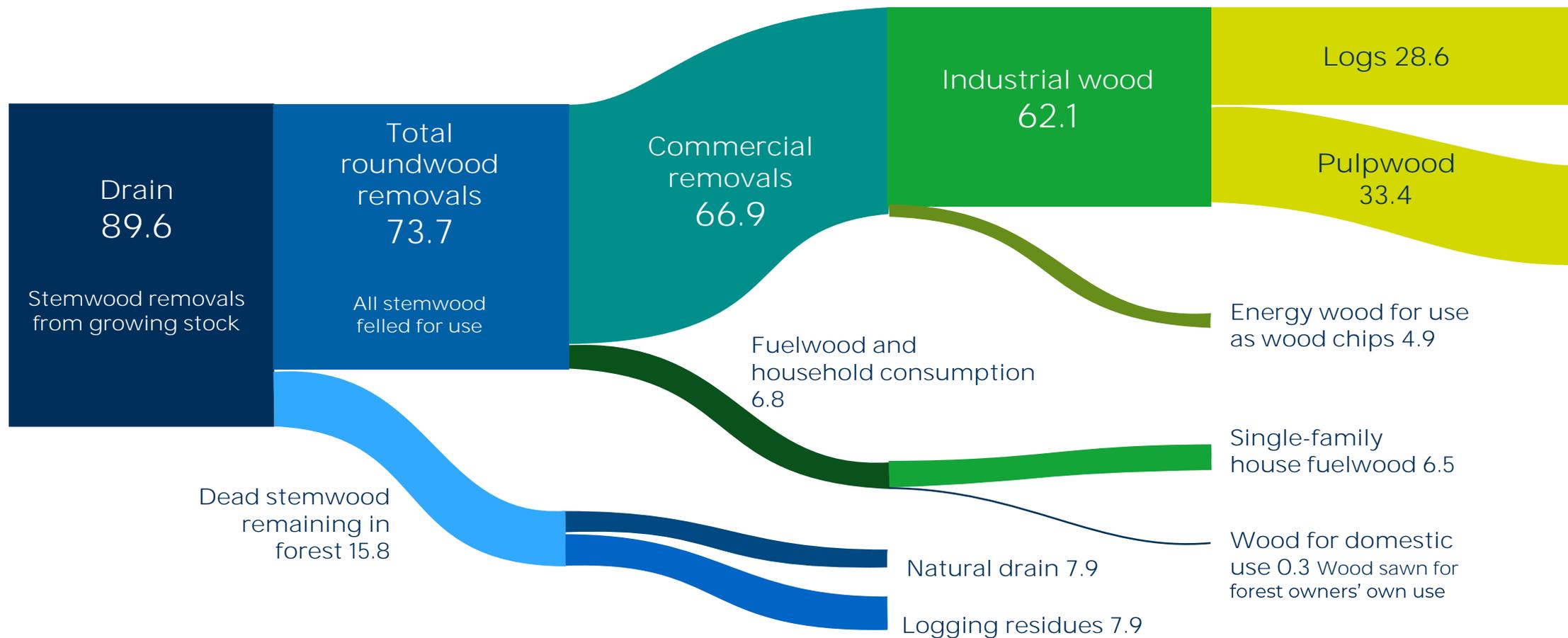


Bio-polymers and bio-plastics



Pulp and paper

A DIAGRAM OF REMOVALS AND USE OF WOOD IN FINLAND IN 2024



(Source: [Natural Resources Institute Finland](#))

PULP, PAPER AND PAPERBOARD ARE IMPORTANT EXPORT PRODUCTS

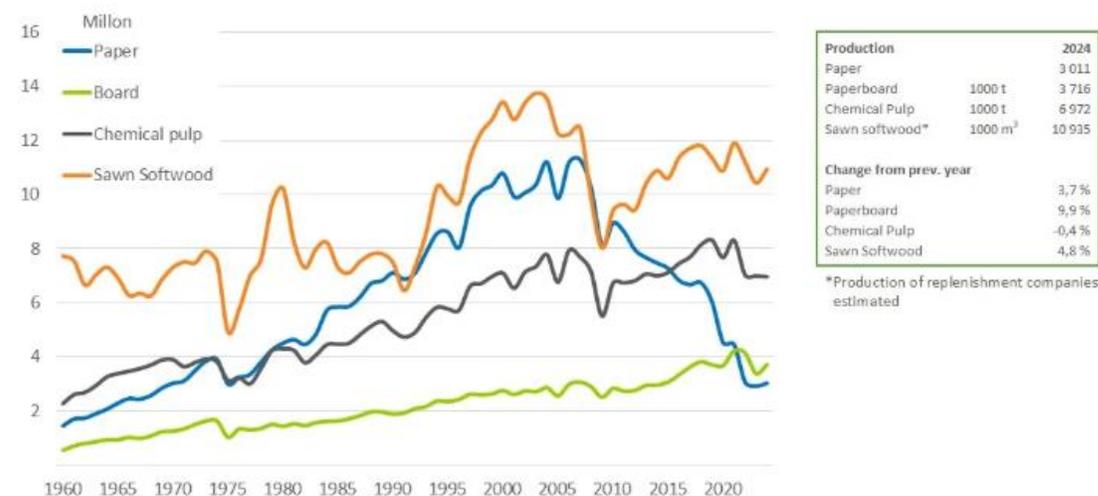
Forest industry refers to industry that converts timber into products. It is often divided into the pulp and paper industry (chemical forest industry) and the wood products industry (mechanical forest industry).

The pulp and paper industry manufactures chemical and mechanical pulp from wood. Chemical pulp is the result of boiling wood chips with chemicals, while mechanical pulp is manufactured by grinding wood chips. Both chemical and mechanical pulp are intermediate products. Traditionally, they have been converted into paper or cardboard.

Harvestings are carried out in forests at certain ages, which means that the remaining trees grow into the dimensions of sawlogs. The raw material of the pulp and paper industry consists of small-diameter timber, which is often called pulpwood or fibrewood.

In 2024, production of paper and board was 6.7 million tonnes and chemical pulp 6.9 million tonnes.

Forest industry production volumes since 1960



 Finnish Forest Industries SOURCE: FFIIF

Forest industry production volumes since 1960, million tonnes/m³

Source: [The Finnish Forest Industries Federation](#) (March 2025)

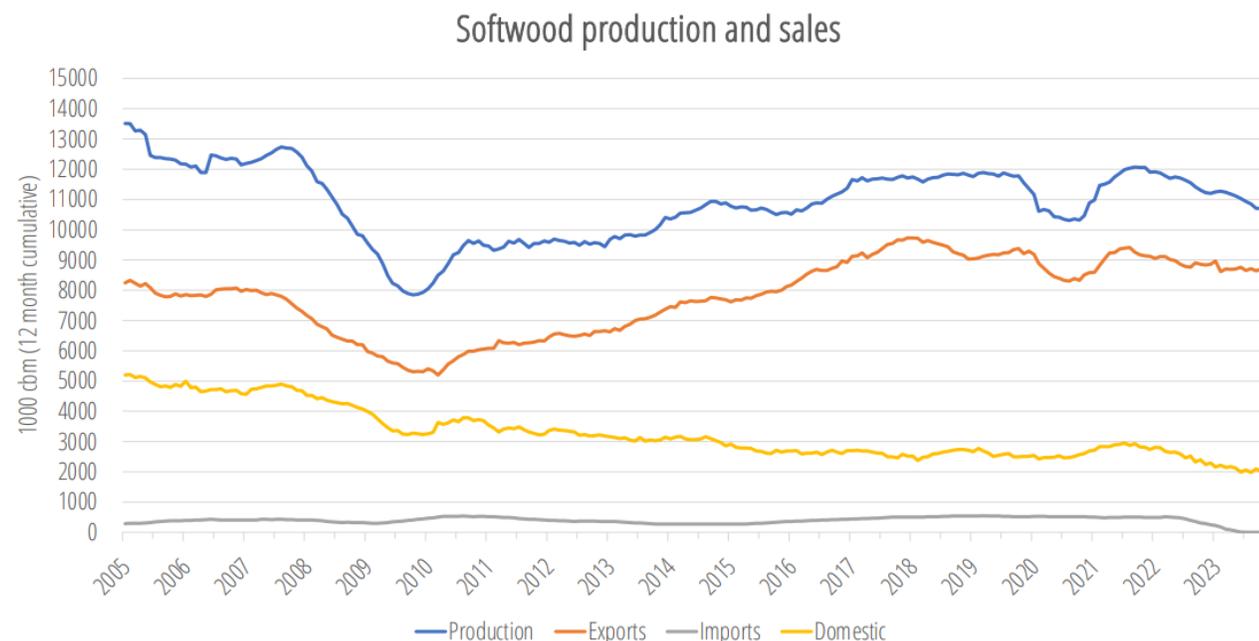
THE SAWMILL INDUSTRY IS LARGEST PRODUCTION SECTOR IN THE WOOD PRODUCT INDUSTRY

Mechanical forest industry i.e. wood products industry includes sawmill, plywood, chipboard, fibreboard, wood construction products and construction industries.

In the mechanical forest industry wood is mechanically modified by sawing, turning and bending. The main products are sawn timber, plywood and other wood-based boards. Sawn wood is also processed further into windows, construction components or furniture.

In 2024, the production of sawn goods was 10.94 million cubic metres.

The most important use of sawn timber in Finland is construction. In recent years, the sawmill industry products have increased their popularity as renewable, carbon-binding and versatile construction material.



WOOD-BASED MATERIALS CAN REPLACE PLASTIC

In recent years, a great deal of new products based on wood raw materials have been developed in Finland. Wood-based materials can be utilised to substitute plastics made of fossil raw materials. Bio-based and biodegradable plastics are made from cellulose or side streams of forest industry.

Approximately 80 million tonnes of plastic packaging is produced worldwide each year. Up to 30 per cent of plastic packaging ends up in nature, untreated. Wood-based packaging material, like cardboard, can replace plastic packages.



Photos by: Kotkamills, VTT, DS Smith

TEXTILES ARE MANUFACTURED FROM WOOD AND RECYCLED MATERIALS

By-products of the forest industry and recovered paper can also be utilised in the manufacturing of textiles.

In the last few years, several innovations have been made in Finland on textiles produced from wood fibres. Textiles based on wood fibres can substitute, e.g., cotton.



Ioncell is a technology that turns used textiles, pulp or even old newspapers into new textile fibers

WOODEN BUILDINGS ARE CARBON STORAGE

New solutions for using wood as building material

Wood as a material for construction and interior decoration has long traditions in Finland, but new innovations are gaining ground also in wood construction.

In Finland, wood accounts for about 40 per cent of all building materials. Nearly 80 per cent of detached houses have a wooden frame. Wood is also used in structures, windows, doors and finished surfaces.

There are new solutions for using wood as the main building material in e.g. multi-storey housing buildings and office buildings. The development of fire resistant structural elements of timber and prefabrication of wooden blocks of flats enable the breakthrough of multi-storey wooden buildings.

A wooden building acts as a carbon storage throughout its life – even hundreds of years.

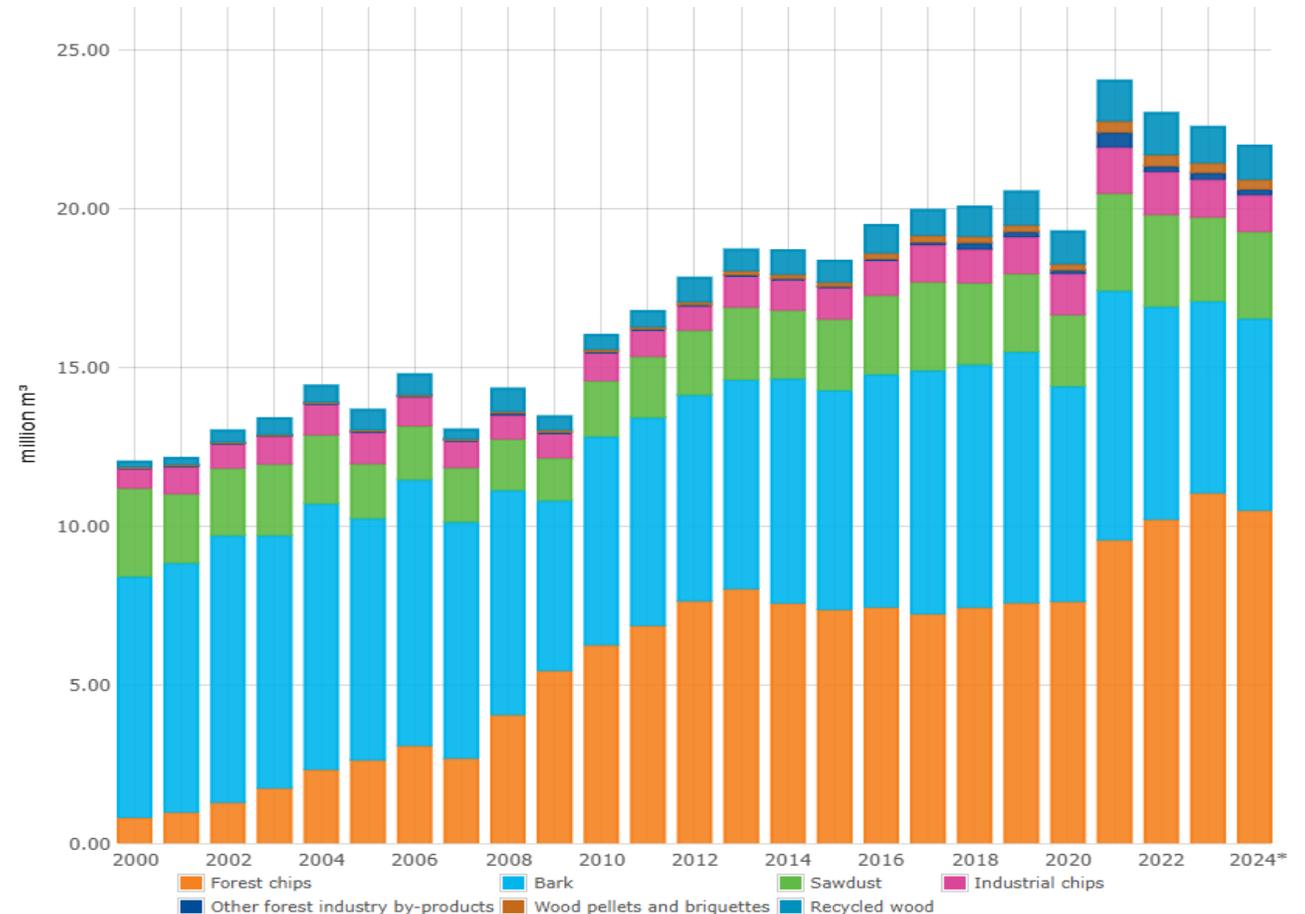
Photo: Erkki Oksanen

ELECTRICITY AND HEAT FROM WOODY BIOMASS

In Finland wood fuels are derived from sidestreams and residues of the forest industry and forest management

In Finland bioenergy has a key role in the production of renewable energy. Bioenergy production is largely integrated into forestry and forest industry. Various wood processing residues are utilised as energy, including bark, sawdust, industrial wood residue chips and black liquor from pulp manufacturing. Moreover, treetops, branches and small-sized stems and stumps collected in connection with forest management work and felling can be chipped and used as energy sources.

In 2024, heating and power plants consumed a total of 22.0 million solid cubic metres of solid wood fuels. Solid wood fuels are obtained from several different sources.



Source: OSF: Natural Resources Institute Finland, Wood in energy generation.

Wood fuels in energy generation 2000-2024 (preliminary).

Source: [Natural Resource Institute Finland](#)

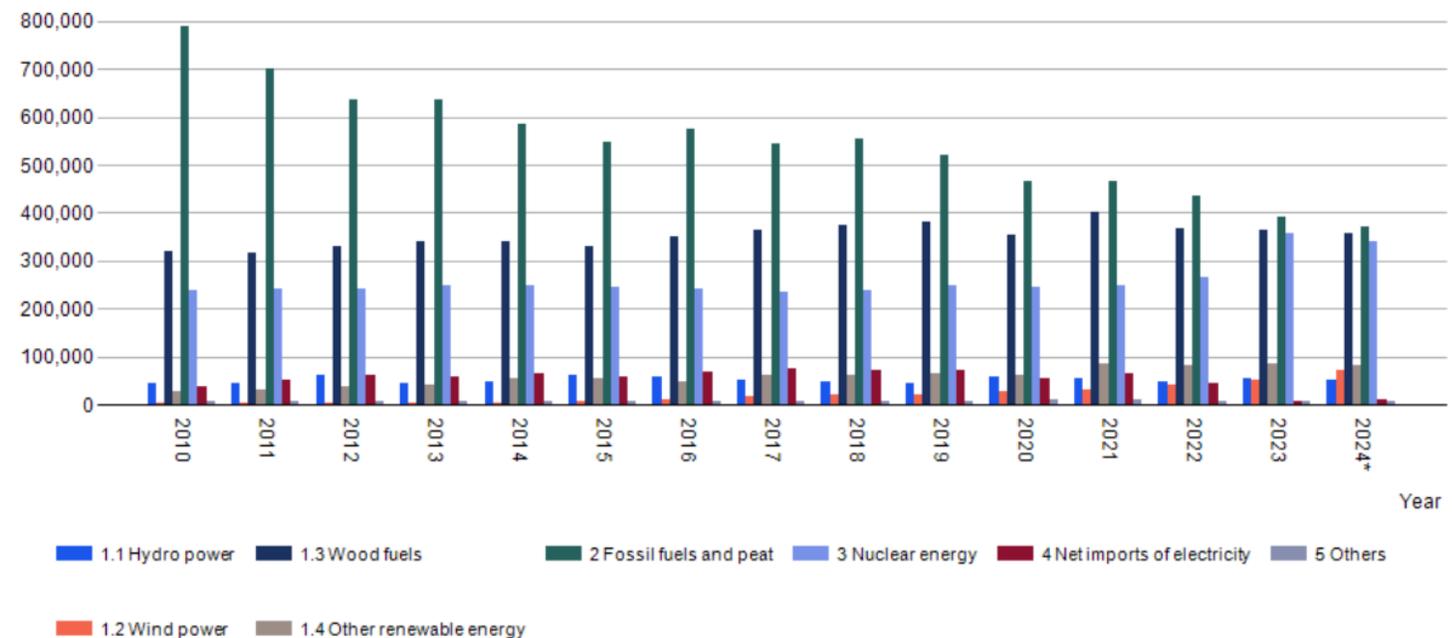
IN 2024 WOOD FUELS ACCOUNTED FOR 28% OF FINLAND'S TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Wood fuels are main source of renewable energy in Finland.

Wood fuels are the main source of renewable energy in Finland. In recent years, the growth in the consumption of wood fuels has been based especially on increased use of forest industry by-products and wood residues.

In Finland, the goal of wood production is not the production of bioenergy, but the utilisation of wood material for higher value products.

Total energy consumption by energy source (all categories) by Energy source and Year. Quantity (TJ).



Total energy consumption 2010 – 2024 (TJ, preliminary)
(Source: Statistics Finland)



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