

## **THE UK TISSUE SECTOR**

### **Summary:**

The UK has a tissue market of about 1.25 million tonnes. Of this, 1.1 million tonnes are imported, either in the form of raw materials (woodpulp or parent reels) or directly as tissue products; about 60% of these materials come from the EU and about 2.25% from China. Further, it is estimated that 50 – 55% of UK tissue demand is for toilet papers.

The tissue industry may be divided into three segments: 1. Manufacturers of parent reels of tissue from fibrous raw materials ready for conversion ('Integrated tissue'); 2. Converters of tissue parent reels either manufactured in the UK or imported from abroad ('Converted tissue'); 3. Importers of finished tissue products ('Imported tissue').

### **1. Integrated Tissue**

The UK manufactures 762 kTonnes of tissue parent reels, of which 560 kTonnes are for toilet papers. These reels are manufactured using 550 kTonnes of imported woodpulp and 379 kTonnes of recovered papers. Whilst the source of woodpulp imported by tissue parent reel manufacturers in particular is unknown, the paper and board industry as a whole uses just over 1 million tonnes of woodpulp, including 800,000 tonnes of imported woodpulp, 60% of which come from the EU. There is no reason to believe this ratio does not apply to the tissue sector as well.

Of the 762 kTonnes of parent reels manufactured in the UK, 758 kTonnes (99%) are converted in the UK and the remaining 1% exported abroad for conversion.

The UK's integrated tissue sector consists of six companies operating 25 sites, of which 17 are paper mills manufacturing parent reels of tissue.

### **2. Converted Tissue**

UK tissue converters consume 1,067 kTonnes of parent reels, of which 741 kTonnes are for toilet papers:

(kTonnes)	Toilet Tissue	Other Tissue	TOTAL
Domestic reels	558	200	758
Imported reels	183	126	309
(of which from EU	96	51	147)
<b>Total consumption</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>1,067</b>

Assuming 10% losses in conversion, this will manufacture approximately **960,000 tonnes** of tissue products.

The UK's tissue converter sector consists of eight integrated sites (converter on the same site as the paper mill), a further eight standalone converters operated by the integrated companies and an unknown number of independent converters.

### 3. Imported Tissue

The UK imports 405 kTonnes of finished tissue products and exports 112 kTonnes giving a net import of 293 kTonnes. Of this, 258 net kTonnes (88%) was imported from the EU:

(kTonnes)	Household tissue	Sanitary and other	TOTAL
Total IMPORTS	177	228	405
(of which from EU	148	215	363)
Total EXPORTS	90	22	112
(of which to EU	83	22	105)
<b>Net TRADE</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>293</b>
(of which with EU	65	193	258)

*Sources for all data: CPI, HM Revenue & Customs; data given is for 2019.*

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