ESG Databook

2024

Contents

DS Smith ESG Databook 2024

This report has been prepared for stakeholders who require a greater level of quantitative detail about the non-financial performance and statistics of DS Smith.

An explanation of performance, including progress against our Now & Next Sustainability Strategy can be found in DS Smith Sustainability Report 2024.

A detailed look at the steps we are taking to deliver our 1.5°C science-based target can be found in our Net Zero Transition Plan.

A Basis of Preparation summary can be found on page 18 and readers are encouraged to consult our full Basis of Preparation for technical detail relating to selected metrics disclosed.

Our 2024 reporting suite

Annual Report 2024

Sustainability Report 2024

Net Zero Transition Plan

EU Taxonomy supplementary report

Independent Assurance Statement

Deloitte have provided independent third-party limited assurance in accordance with the International Standard for Assurance Engagements 3000 (ISAE 3000) and Assurance Engagements on Greenhouse Gas Statements (ISAE 3410) issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) over the selected information, identified with * in the above table, and other selected information relating to carbon, energy, water, waste, production and employee diversity identified with * within DS Smith Annual Report 2024, DS Smith Sustainability Report 2024, DS Smith Net Zero Transition Plan 2024 and DS Smith ESG Databook 2024.

Deloitte's full unqualified assurance opinions, which include details of the selected information assured in 2023/24, 2022/23 and 2021/22, can be found on our ESG Reporting Hub, at https://www.dssmith.com/sustainability/reporting-hub.

Independent third-party limited assurance of selected information for the 2019/20 base year was provided by Bureau Veritas.

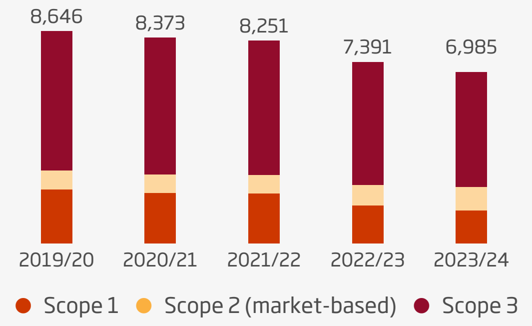
Obtain the full assurance report from our ESG Reporting Hub on the DS Smith website https://www.dssmith.com/sustainability/reporting-hub.

Environmental metrics

In this section

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

Group greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions split by Scope (Kt CO_2e)



Group greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

Metric	Unit of measure	**2023/24**	2022/23	2019/20 (base year)	Compared to last year	Compared to base year
Direct (Scope 1) GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	**1,340,272***	1,542,250*	2,181,890	-13%	-39%
Indirect (Scope 2 market-based) GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	**944,921***	833,759*	792,275	13%	19%
Indirect (Scope 2 location-based) GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	**922,923***	891,267*	875,544	4%	5%
Indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	**4,700,076**	5,015,409	5,671,528	-6%	-17%
Total GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	**6,985,269**	7,391,418	8,645,693	-5%	-19%
Gross Scope 1 and 2 (market-based) GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	**2,285,193***	2,376,009*	2,974,165	-4%	-23%
GHG emissions from energy export	tonnes CO_2e	**488,604***	529,699*	791,810	-8%	-38%
Net Scope 1 and 2 (market-based) GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	**1,796,589***	1,846,310*	2,182,355	-3%	-18%
Energy consumption	MWh	**14,058,435***	14,407,601*	15,707,667	-2%	-10%
Energy exported	MWh	**1,525,376***	1,739,186*	1,977,616	-12%	-23%
Total production	tonnes	**9,874,853***	10,164,657*	10,222,065	-3%	-3%
GHG emissions per tonne of production	kg CO_2e/t nsp	**182***	182*	213	0%	-15%
Out of Scope GHG emission	tonnes CO_2e	**1,022,400***	1,018,232*	911,659	0%	12%

Methodology

Greenhouse gas emissions are reported in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (Revised), under a financial control boundary.

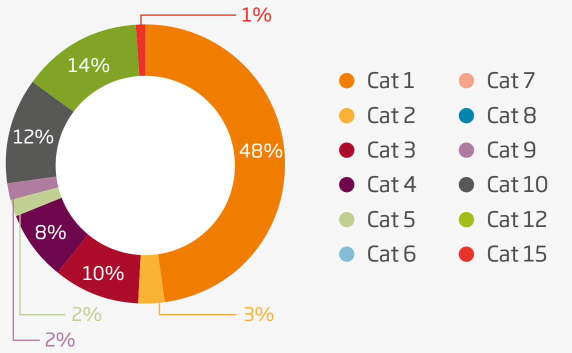
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) 2022 emission factors are applied, unless emission factors from other sources are deemed more appropriate.

For more information, see our Basis of Preparation, available from our ESG Reporting Hub.

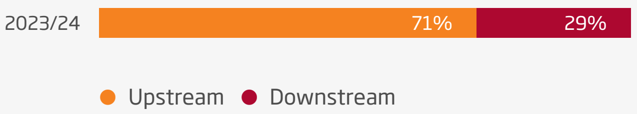
* Independent Assurance has been obtained for metrics marked '*', see the summary statement on page 2.
Independent third-party limited assurance of selected information for the 2019/20 base year was provided by Bureau Veritas.
All full assurance statements can be found on our ESG Reporting Hub, at https://www.dssmith.com/sustainability/reporting-hub.

Scope 3 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

Scope 3 GHG emissions breakdown by category (2023/24) (%)



Upstream and downstream Scope 3 GHG emissions (2023/24) (%)



Scope 3 GHG emissions

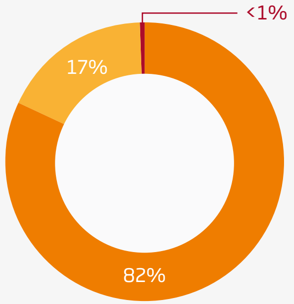
Scope 3 category	Unit of measure	**2023/24**	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Category 1: Purchased goods and services	tonnes CO_2e	**2,233,164**	2,341,614	2,477,300	2,480,272	2,562,626
Category 2: Capital goods	tonnes CO_2e	**141,634**	161,217	86,304	90,017	96,891
Category 3: Fuel- and energy-related activities	tonnes CO_2e	**480,239***	471,063	500,446	494,324	425,243
Category 4: Upstream transportation and distribution	tonnes CO_2e	**363,900**	377,052	425,362	474,224	407,883
Category 5: Waste generated in operations	tonnes CO_2e	**101,192***	119,671*	218,444	231,287	252,834
Category 6: Business travel	tonnes CO_2e	**3,102**	3,912	1,487	381	4,173
Category 7: Employee commuting	tonnes CO_2e	**4,903**	5,390	6,062	4,880	7,992
Category 8: Upstream leased assets	tonnes CO_2e	**4,037**	4,110	4,558	2,009	4,507
Category 9: Downstream transportation and distribution	tonnes CO_2e	**104,621**	109,260	118,392	112,632	109,381
Category 10: Processing of sold products	tonnes CO_2e	**581,463***	693,418	725,649	789,587	943,600
Category 12: End of life treatment of sold products	tonnes CO_2e	**654,726***	693,027	827,855	806,397	780,090
Category 15: Investments	tonnes CO_2e	**27,095**	35,675	76,308	76,308	76,308
Total Indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions	**tonnes CO_2e**	**4,700,076**	**5,015,409**	**5,468,167**	**5,562,318**	**5,671,528**
Upstream indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	3,332,171	3,484,029	3,719,963	3,777,394	3,762,149
Downstream indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	1,367,905	1,531,380	1,748,204	1,784,924	1,909,379

Scope 3 categories 11, 13 and 14 are excluded on the basis of relevance or materiality – see Basis of Preparation.

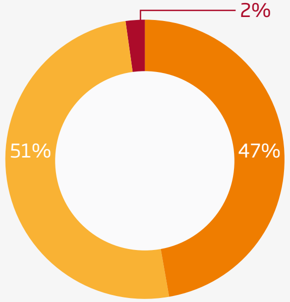
* Independent Assurance has been obtained for metrics marked '*', see the summary statement on page 2.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions split by business activity

Split of Scope 1 and 2 (market-based) by business activity (2023/24) (%)



Split of Total GHG emissions by business activity (2023/24) (%)



Packaging plants GHG emissions

Metric	Unit	**2023/24**	2022/23	2019/20 base year	Compared to last year	Compared to base year
Direct (Scope 1) GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	**261,207**	276,545	289,147	-6%	-10%
Indirect (Scope 2 market-based) GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	**178,382**	140,174	233,012	27%	-23%
Indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	**2,962,900**	3,031,211		-2%	
Total GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	**3,402,490**	3,447,930		-1%	
Total production	tonnes	**4,990,300**	5,042,277	4,962,370	-1%	1%

Paper mills GHG emissions

Metric	Unit	**2023/24**	2022/23	2019/20 base year	Compared to last year	Compared to base year
Direct (Scope 1) GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	**1,072,352**	1,257,126	1,881,417	-15%	-43%
Indirect (Scope 2 market-based) GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	**765,641**	692,637	557,729	11%	37%
Indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	**1,076,368**	1,259,932		-15%	
Total GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	**2,914,361**	3,209,694		-9%	
Total production	tonnes	**4,123,287**	4,096,111	4,210,858	1%	-2%

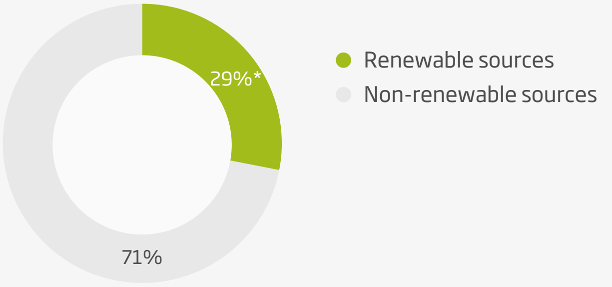
Recycling depots GHG emissions

Metric	Unit	**2023/24**	2022/23	2019/20 base year	Compared to last year	Compared to base year
Direct (Scope 1) GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	**6,712**	8,579	11,326	-22%	-41%
Indirect (Scope 2 market-based) GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	**898**	948	1,534	-5%	-41%
Indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	**79,908**	126,998		-37%	
Total GHG emissions	tonnes CO_2e	**87,518**	136,525		-36%	
Total production	tonnes	**761,266**	1,026,269	1,048,837	-26%	-27%

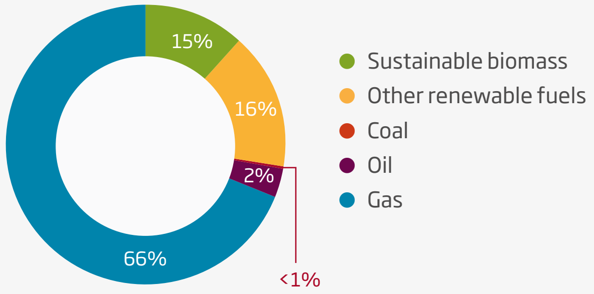
The breakdown of Indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions by operation is provided for stakeholders who wish to estimate the emissions generated by operation (e.g. a tonne of paper or a tonne of packaging). Note that there is a remaining balance of 580,900 tonnes CO_2e Indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions that, whilst included in the Group total, are not easily allocated to manufacturing sites within the above Packaging, Paper or Recycling operations. This includes infrastructure and non-production-related costs (Categories 1 and 2, Purchased Goods & Services and Capital Goods), processing of external recycling sales to other papermakers that does not physically pass through our recycling depots ('traded waste', accounted for in Category 10: Processing of sold products), employee commuting and business travel for employees based at non-manufacturing sites (Category 6: Business travel and Category 7: Employee commuting), non-manufacturing upstream leased assets (Category 8: Upstream leased assets) and principal equity accounted investments (Category 15: Investments). Until 2022/23, Indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions were reported on a consolidated basis only. Therefore no breakdown of this figure and Total GHG emissions was provided by operation in prior years.

Energy and fuel

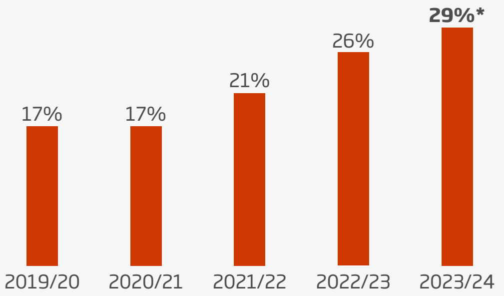
Energy split (renewable and non-renewable) (2023/24) (%)



Fuel mix (2023/24) (%)



Energy consumption from renewable sources (%)



Energy (2023/24)

Metric	Unit	Renewable sources	Non-renewable sources	Total energy consumed
Consumption of fuel (excluding feedstock)	MWh	2,953,132	6,369,598	9,322,730
Consumption of purchased or acquired electricity	MWh	186,600	2,046,380	2,232,980
Consumption of purchased or acquired steam	MWh	893,976	1,602,660	2,496,636
Consumption of self-generated non-fuel renewable energy	MWh	6,089	0	6,089
Total energy consumption	**MWh**	**4,039,797**	**10,018,638**	**14,058,435***

Fuel (2023/24)

Metric	Unit	For self-generation of electricity	For self-generation of heat	For self-generation of steam	For self-cogeneration or trigeneration	Total fuel consumed
Sustainable biomass	MWh	–	–	–	1,416,592	1,416,592
Other renewable fuels	MWh	–	–	–	1,536,540	1,536,540
Coal	MWh	–	34,921	–	–	34,921
Oil	MWh	–	216,690	–	–	216,690
Gas	MWh	–	14,091	1,012,910	5,090,986	6,117,987
Total fuel consumption	**MWh**	**–**	**265,702**	**1,012,910**	**8,044,118**	**9,322,730**

Renewables

Metric	Unit	**2023/24**	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Energy consumption from a renewable source	Percentage	**29***	26	21	17	17
Electricity from a renewable source	Percentage	**11***	15	13	12	11

Energy generation (2023/24)

Metric	Unit	Total gross generation	Generation that is consumed by DS Smith	Gross generation from renewable sources	Generation from renewable sources that is consumed by DS Smith
Generation of electricity	MWh	1,556,962	370,906	491,190	118,925
Generation of heat	MWh	14,091	14,091	–	–
Generation of steam	MWh	4,098,013	4,098,013	2,038,579	2,038,579

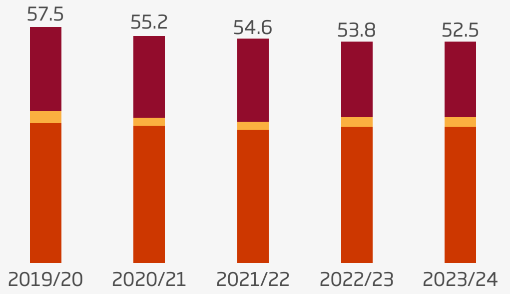
Energy consumption

Metric	Unit	**2023/24**	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Energy consumption	MWh	**14,058,435***	14,407,601*	15,324,120*	15,446,225	15,707,667
Energy exported	MWh	**1,525,376***	1,739,186*	1,774,539*	1,739,114	1,977,616
Energy consumption (net)	MWh	**12,533,059***	12,668,415*	13,549,581*	13,707,111	13,730,051

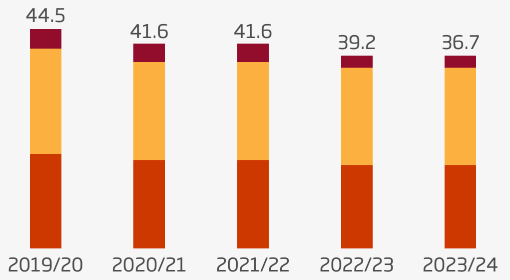
* Independent Assurance has been obtained for metrics marked '*', see the summary statement on page 2.

Water

Water withdrawals by source (million m³)



Water discharges by destination (million m³)



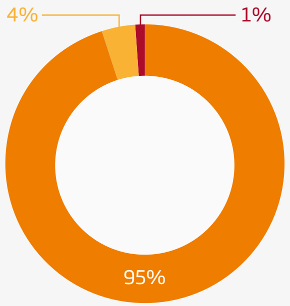
Water withdrawals and discharges

Metric	Unit	**2023/24**	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Water withdrawals	m³	**52,477,496***	53,802,571*	54,644,995*	55,237,583	57,451,994
Borehole water	m³	**31,799,921**	33,202,877	32,359,020	33,417,463	33,997,180
Municipal water	m³	**2,200,842**	2,270,500	2,062,697	1,950,460	2,858,967
Surface water	m³	**18,476,733**	18,329,194	20,223,278	19,869,660	20,595,838
Water recirculated for reuse	m³	**111,558**	146,383	543,325	473,832	-
Water discharges	m³	**36,737,703***	39,159,644*	41,584,291*	41,560,885	44,543,734
Fresh surface (river)	m³	**16,038,527**	16,858,349	17,881,245	17,871,181	19,153,806
Brackish surface (sea)	m³	**18,225,897**	19,791,514	19,960,460	19,949,225	21,380,992
Third-party or municipal	m³	**2,473,279**	2,509,781	3,742,586	3,740,480	4,008,936
Total water consumption	m³	**15,851,351***	14,789,310*	13,604,030*	14,150,530	12,908,260
Water withdrawals in areas at risk of water stress	Percentage	**29***	38	31	36	36

* Independent Assurance has been obtained for metrics marked '*', see the summary statement on page 2.

Water *continued*

Water withdrawals by business activity (%)



29%*

of total water withdrawn from areas at risk of high or extremely high water stress

* Independent Assurance has been obtained for metrics marked '*', see the summary statement on page 2.

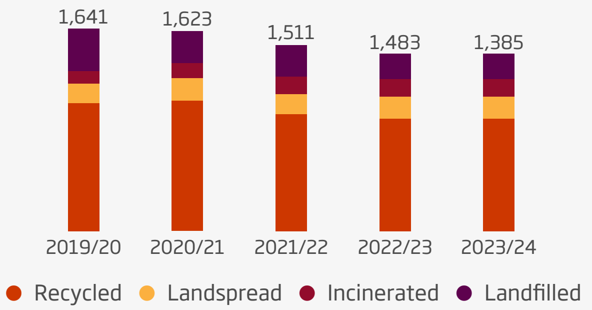
Country-level water split (2023/24)

Country	Withdrawal from borehole (m³)	Withdrawal from municipal (m³)	Withdrawal from surface (m³)	Total water withdrawals (m³)	Water recirculated for reuse (m³)	Total water discharges (m³)	Total water consumption (m³)	Percentage of total water withdrawals that is in areas at risk of water stress (%)
Austria	33,349	1,470	0	34,819	0	17,905	16,914	0
Belgium	0	14,211	4,175	18,386	0	7,135	11,251	100
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	119	0	119	0	0	119	0
Bulgaria	982,435	54,763	0	1,037,198	0	399,485	637,713	100
Croatia	16,700	34,659	3,994,300	4,045,659	0	2,555,615	1,490,044	0
Czechia	9,413	11,879	0	21,292	0	16,041	5,251	0
Denmark	0	33,194	0	33,194	0	32,158	1,036	0
Estonia	0	6,798	0	6,798	0	6,803	-5	0
Finland	0	21,105	0	21,105	0	17,491	3,614	0
France	3,772,064	372,419	1,914,440	6,058,923	0	5,038,919	1,020,004	10
Germany	701,268	328,625	3,125,385	4,155,278	32,312	2,662,754	1,524,836	53
Greece	9,920	47,472	0	57,392	0	43,466	13,926	100
Hungary	11,058	27,088	0	38,146	0	15,022	23,124	0
Italy	1,488,789	66,221	555,699	2,110,709	79,246	1,709,343	480,612	91
Lithuania	0	11,589	0	11,589	0	5,132	6,457	100
Morocco	0	831	0	831	0	411	420	100
Netherlands	0	46,928	0	46,928	0	12,702	34,226	32
North Macedonia	28,644	4,750	0	33,394	0	0	33,394	100
Poland	361	76,483	0	76,844	0	59,088	17,756	15
Portugal	27,580	22,336	5,276,441	5,326,357	0	3,640,468	1,685,889	100
Romania	1,620,407	72,845	0	1,693,252	0	1,708,424	-15,172	0
Serbia	0	10,324	0	10,324	0	10,324	0	0
Slovakia	25,073	2,739	3,749	31,561	0	11,147	20,414	0
Slovenia	1,979	14,612	0	16,591	0	0	16,591	0
Spain	389,009	90,420	3,602,543	4,081,972	0	3,371,863	710,109	99
Sweden	0	37,856	0	37,856	0	16,830	21,026	0
Switzerland	8,266	2,990	0	11,256	0	2,076	9,180	0
Turkey	17,530	0	0	17,530	0	0	17,530	100
United Kingdom	6,660,073	172,803	0	6,832,876	0	6,312,768	520,108	0
United States of America	15,996,003	613,314	0	16,609,317	0	9,064,333	7,544,984	0
Total	**31,799,921**	**2,200,843**	**18,476,732**	**52,477,496***	**111,558**	**36,737,703***	**15,851,351***	29*

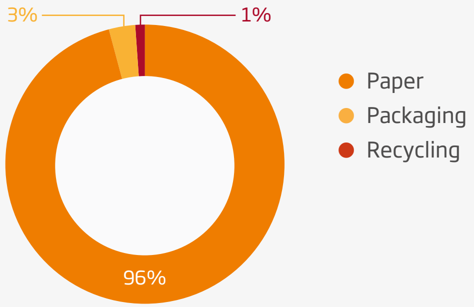
A negative water value indicates a greater volume of water leaving the site boundary compared to entering it, which is typically owed to rainfall or water that is stored across reporting periods.

Waste

Waste by destination (thousand tonne)



Waste sent to landfill by business activity (%)



51%
reduction in waste sent to landfill since 2019/20

Waste destinations

Metric	Unit	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Total waste	tonnes	**1,385,247***	1,438,424*	1,510,728	1,623,229	1,641,493
Recycled	tonnes	**895,810***	912,649*	949,442	1,056,831	1,038,275
Landspread	tonnes	**179,901***	176,206*	162,455	184,679	156,123
Incinerated	tonnes	**143,696***	144,932*	142,911	123,494	105,168
Landfilled	tonnes	**165,840***	204,637*	255,920*	258,225	341,927
Recycling rate	Percentage	**65**	63	63	65	63
Hazardous waste	tonnes	**3,958**	3,683	3,424	3,120	3,940

Waste *continued*

Country-level waste split (2023/24)

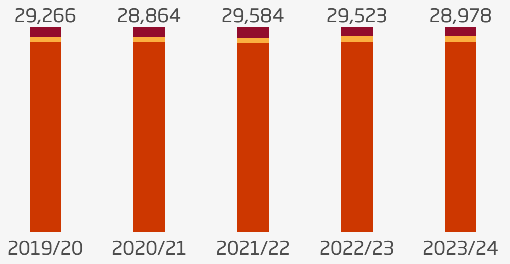
Country	Recycled (tonnes)	Incinerated (tonnes)	Landspread (tonnes)	Landfilled (tonnes)	Total waste (tonnes)
Austria	16,020	200	0	30	16,250
Belgium	12,735	130	0	0	12,865
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	0	0	0	0
Bulgaria	4,782	539	0	100	5,421
Croatia	20,870	12	0	20,170	41,052
Czechia	13,162	0	0	282	13,444
Denmark	19,610	386	0	6	20,002
Estonia	28	0	0	42	70
Finland	7,019	115	0	21	7,155
France	138,654	26,381	33,679	7,422	206,136
Germany	109,145	44,299	147	61	153,652
Greece	15,585	0	0	54	15,639
Hungary	20,918	169	0	303	21,390
Italy	155,843	14,319	5,334	530	176,026
Lithuania	6,133	69	0	12	6,214
Morocco	388	0	0	0	388
Netherlands	15,765	324	0	0	16,089
North Macedonia	2,102	0	0	0	2,102
Poland	36,237	0	0	456	36,693
Portugal	23,953	25,105	9,083	8,957	67,098
Romania	44,044	107	0	364	44,515
Serbia	5,105	0	0	116	5,221
Slovakia	6,276	0	0	52	6,328
Slovenia	10,024	29	0	1	10,054
Spain	56,526	1	15,385	37,468	109,380
Sweden	18,214	506	0	1	18,721
Switzerland	7,784	80	0	0	7,864
Turkey	5,025	55	0	0	5,080
United Kingdom	87,670	30,854	91,568	65,236	275,328
United States of America	36,193	16	24,705	24,156	85,070
Total	**895,810***	**143,696***	**179,901***	**165,840***	**1,385,247***

Independent Assurance has been obtained for metrics marked '*', see the summary statement on page 2

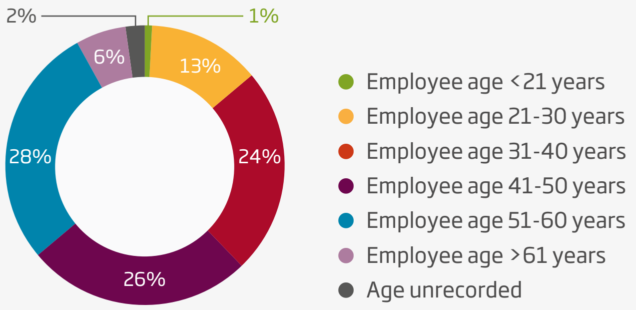
Social metrics

Employees

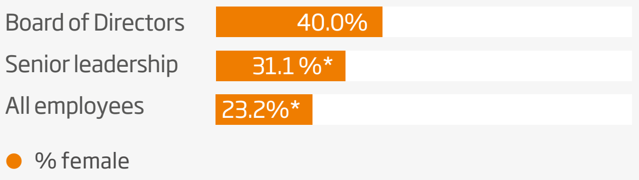
Total number of employees split by contract type



Employees split by age range (2023/24)



Gender diversity (2023/24) (%)



Employee demographics

Metric	Unit	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Total number of employees	Number	**28,978**	29,523	29,584	28,864	29,266
Full-time contract	Percentage	**92.7**	92.4	92.3	92.4	92.4
Part-time contract	Percentage	**3.0**	3.0	2.3	2.7	2.7
Temporary contract	Percentage	**4.3**	4.6	5.5	4.9	4.9
Employees joining	Number	**4,069**	5,658	6,667	4,298	4,537
Employees leaving	Number	**4,599**	5,034	4,711	3,896	4,435
Resignation/retirement	Percentage	**54**	58	63	50	57
Employee turnover	Percentage	**15.72**	16.99	16.09	13.39	14.64
Voluntary	Percentage	**8.56**	9.83	10.32	6.88	9.03
Length of service > 10 years	Percentage	**41.6**	42.3	42.6	44.8	45.0
Employee age <21 years	Percentage	**1**	1	1	1	1
Employee age 21-30 years	Percentage	**13**	14	14	14	14
Employee age 31-40 years	Percentage	**24**	23	23	22	22
Employee age 41-50 years	Percentage	**26**	26	26	26	26
Employee age 51-60 years	Percentage	**28**	28	27	27	27
Employee age >61 years	Percentage	**6**	6	5	5	5
Age unrecorded	Percentage	**2**	2	4	5	5
Employees under collective bargaining agreements	Percentage	**85**	85	85	85	-

Gender diversity

Metric	Unit	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Board of Directors	% female	**40**	37.5	37.5	37.5	33.3
Senior leadership	% female	**31.1***	34.5	31.8	32.4	27.9
All employees	% female	**23.2***	22.9*	22.5	21.9	21.7
Graduate recruitment	% female	**35**	50	64	66.7	25
UK gender pay reporting						
Average (mean) gender pay gap	Percentage	**-3.8**	-2.9	2.2	3.5	4.7
Average (median) gender pay gap	Percentage	**-0.2**	1.5	6.6	6.2	6.7

Training and career progression

Metric	Unit	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Average hours of training and development	Hours per FTE	**33**	32	26	24	-
Promotions (positions filled by internal candidates)	Number	**665**	696	626	388	427

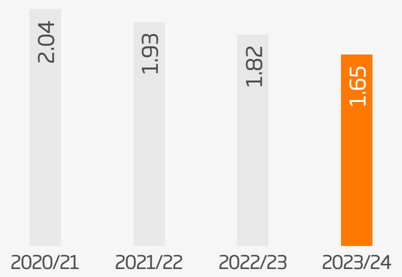
* Independent Assurance has been obtained for metrics marked '*', see the summary statement on page 2.

Some historic data may not be given owing to limited coverage.

Health and Safety

Accident frequency rate (AFR)

The Accident Frequency Rate (AFR) is the number of lost time accidents (LTAs) per million hours worked.



12%

reduction in employee lost time accidents compared to last year, an all-time low

Health and Safety

Metric	Unit	**2023/24**	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Lost time Accidents (LTAs)	Number	**94**	103	110	113	138
Employees	Number	**80**	91	96	101	119
Contractors	Number	**14**	12	14	12	19
Accident Frequency Rate (AFR)	Number	**1.65**	1.82	1.93	2.04	2.4
Fatalities	Number	**0**	0	0	0	0
Total Recordable Injury Rate (TRIR)[1]	Number	**1.28**	1.46	1.42	1.42	1.96
Lost Time Injury (LTI) Severity Rate	Number	**0.11**	0.12	0.11	0.13	0.13

1. This figure for 2022/23 has been restated (previously disclosed 1.08 in DS Smith ESG Databook 2023).

Governance and other metrics

In this section

Business ethics

Sedex SMETA (Supplier Members Ethical Trade Audit) non-conformances

Metric	Unit	**2023/24[1]**	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Entitlement to work	Number	**4**	0	2	1	4	3
Environment	Number	**4**	2	3	3	3	4
Health, safety and hygiene	Number	**50**	13	15	30	32	48
Management systems	Number	**13**	2	3	16	4	3
Regular employment and wages	Number	**12**	4	4	4	8	10
Working hours	Number	**16**	4	8	3	4	6
Other	Number	**12**	4	3	1	1	2

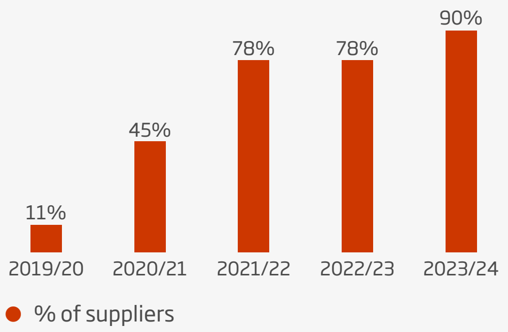
Management system certifications

Metric	Unit	**2023/24**	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
ISO 9001	% of sites	**71**	72	74	75
ISO 14001	% of sites	**54**	55	56	56
ISO 50001	% of sites[2]	**100**	100	100	100
ISO 45001	% of sites	**33**	33	33	34
FSC®	% of sites[3]	**100**	100	100	100
PEFC	% of sites	**2**	2	3	2
SFI	% of sites	**2**	2	2	2

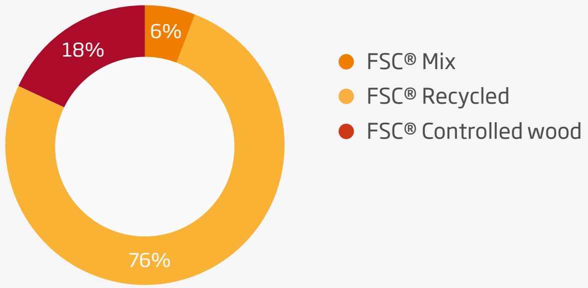
1. In 2023/24, there was a significant increase in the number of Sedex SMETA undertaken on behalf of our customers as part of the ongoing commitment to improve human rights due diligence each year in our supply chains. This is reflected by the increased number of non-conformances identified in 2023/24, for which corrective actions have already been implemented or are underway.
2. Scope: Sites accounting for at least 90 per cent of overall Group energy consumption.
3. Scope: Packaging, Paper and Paper Sourcing sites that trade or manufacture products derived from timber.

Responsible sourcing

Suppliers agreed to our Global Supplier Standard (GSS) (%)



Paper certifications split by certification type (2023/24) (%)



90%

of our suppliers agreed to our Global Supplier Standard (GSS)

Responsible sourcing

In this table, 'assessed on sustainability' refers to undertaking the EcoVadis sustainability ratings assessment, or via other means. Improvement plans, initiated actions and completed actions refer to those issued within the EcoVadis platform. We define 'strategic suppliers' as companies with whom we have a long-term, mutually cooperative relationship with mutual commitment where significant and ongoing value is accrued to both parties through operational capabilities. In 2023/24, we categorised 110 of our suppliers as strategic.

Metric	Unit	**2023/24**	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Suppliers agreed to our Global Supplier Standard (GSS)	% of suppliers	**90**	78	78	45	11
Strategic suppliers agreed to our Global Supplier Standard (GSS)	% of suppliers	**100**	100	100	100	74
Strategic suppliers assessed on sustainability	Number	**100**	100	100	100	74
Suppliers engaged in improvement plans	Number	**31**	63	68	46	18
Initiated actions to improve performance	Number	**99**	444	330	389	239
Completed actions to improve performance	Number	**31**	222	167	180	139

Paper certifications

In this table, the statistics reflect papers purchased through our centralised Paper Sourcing platform.

Metric	Unit	**2023/24**	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
FSC® Mix	% of papers	**6**	6	7	7
FSC® Recycled	% of papers	**76**	75	73	73
FSC® Controlled Wood	% of papers	**18**	19	20	20

Normalisation metrics

Metric	Unit	**2023/24**	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Total revenue	GBP £ million	**6,822**	8,221	7,241	5,976	6,043
Total production	tonnes	**9,874,853***	10,164,657*	11,014,256*	10,445,145	10,222,065
Total employees	FTEs	**28,978**	29,523	29,584	28,864	29,266

* Independent Assurance has been obtained for metrics marked '*', see the summary statement on page 2.

Basis of Preparation summary

Our Basis of Preparation sets out how selected ESG information is prepared and reported in our suite of 2024 ESG reports.

It is our vision that ESG reporting follows the core accounting principles of relevance, completeness, consistency, transparency and accuracy.

Unlike financial accounting, practices for reporting non-financial information are still evolving and therefore it is important to transparently explain the approach we have taken for reporting ESG information. DS Smith Sustainability Report 2024 includes a glossary (pages 72-75), which may be consulted alongside our Basis of Preparation.

Our complete Basis of Preparation can be obtained from the DS Smith ESG Reporting Hub, on the DS Smith website: https://www.dssmith.com/sustainability/reporting-hub

Reporting period and scope

This report covers our 2023/24 period, which is from 1 May 2023 – 30 April 2024. All of our packaging plants, paper mills and recycling depots are part of Now & Next, our Group-wide Sustainability Strategy. Some Now & Next targets include specific exclusions of certain businesses, and these exclusions are noted where relevant. For environmental metrics, we include all of our manufacturing sites (238 sites), comprising:

- 184 Packaging Plants,
- 29 Recycling Depots,
- 16 Paper Mills,
- four Logistics Depots,
- four Warehouses and
- one Lumber Mill.

No new sites entered the scope during the period.

The emissions for non-manufacturing properties, e.g. sales offices, are captured as Scope 3 Category 8 emissions (upstream leased assets).

Reporting standards

GHG reporting is prepared in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard, Revised Ed., and Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard for emissions reporting. DS Smith Sustainability Report 2024 is prepared following the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standard: Core option and a table is disclosed to present the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) Containers & Packaging standard. We have developed selected disclosures with reference to the IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards and the UK Transition Plan Taskforce framework, as indicated in DS Smith Annual Report 2024.

Restatement in 2023/24

It may be necessary to recalculate historic performance to adjust for changes to meaningfully measure progress. This may result in a restatement if the base year and historic years are recalculated. There has been no recalculation and restatement as a result of structural changes in this reporting period. The discontinuation of operations at Pazardzhik (Trakia) Paper Mill from August 2023 is estimated c. 2 per cent of Gross Scope 1 and 2 (market) GHG emissions (tonnes CO_2e) and less than c. 1 per cent of Gross Scope 1 and 2 (market) GHG emissions (tonnes CO_2e) for other sites leaving the scope and therefore does not meet the threshold of 5 per cent for recalculation and restatement.

The 'Outside of scopes GHG emissions' metric for 2019/20 was previously reported without the emissions that arise from the release of biologically sequestered carbon (e.g. from the combustion of biomass in the virgin papermaking process). This has been updated from 522,789 tonnes CO_2e to 911,659 tonnes CO_2e to enable a more consistent like-for-like comparison with recent years. The 'Total Recordable Injury Rate (TRIR)' metric for 2022/23 was erroneously calculated as 1.08 for Sustainability Report 2023, corrected to 1.46 for Sustainability Report 2024.

Environmental metrics

For all of the environmental metrics based on information that is collected from sites, our Data Providers are encouraged to observe the following data quality hierarchy:

1. Primary information
(e.g., information obtained from meters preferably or if unavailable, invoices),
2. Secondary information
(e.g. calculated values from a known, written and replicable methodology),
3. Secondary information created using estimated amounts
(e.g. based on historic performance or averages).

It is reasonable to use estimates where primary information is unavailable, incomplete or of poor quality, for example, for newly acquired sites. Where there are significant uncertainties relating to the quality of information, this is noted in reporting.

Environmental metrics are calculated using information collected monthly from sites in scope and held within a central database. This information is taken from meter readings, invoices, and other sources. The data is converted from the unit of measure it is entered and stored in a default base unit of measure for each input. It is then summarised and aggregated at various levels.

GHG emissions

We apply a financial control boundary. The emission factors applied are obtained from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) 'Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors' (2022) for all fuels. Where available, we use the emissions factor for purchased energy from the supplier (Scope 2 market-based value). If this figure is unavailable, the AIB (Association of Issuing Bodies) (2022) emission factors are applied and if this figure is unavailable, the IEA (International Energy Agency) (2022) emission factors are applied. For all sources, the BEIS emission conversion factors or supplier-specific 'bespoke' factors are the preferred emission factors for consistency and accuracy. The base year for this period is 2019/20. This was selected in accordance with the Science-Based Targets initiative requirements.

Scope 3 GHG emissions

The majority of our greenhouse gas emissions occur in the value chain. We use The Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard to assess our entire value chain emissions impact and identify where to focus reduction activities. See our complete Basis of Preparation for a detailed description of the methodology used to calculate indirect value chain emissions, including significant improvements in methodology compared to the prior year.

Social and governance metrics

Data for social and governance metrics is obtained from a range of systems, such as our HR system. See our complete Basis of Preparation for a detailed description of the methodology used to calculate selected social metrics.

DS Smith Plc
Level 3
1 Paddington Square
London
W2 1DL

Telephone
+44 (0) 20 7756 1800

Registered in England.
Company number: 01377658

Keep in touch

@dssmithgroup DS Smith dssmithgroup
@dssmith.group DS Smith

DS Smith