

2024 figures show steady growth for pallet sector



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Association of Pallet Networks (APN) statistics for the first half of 2024 show steady growth of 1.5% in pallet volumes, and 3.5% growth in Q2 against the same period last year.

Key year-to-date insights include:

- Next-day services account for 61.5% of the total volume, and economy services for 39.0%, reflecting a slight increase in the use of economy services from the full year 2023.
- In the first half of 2024 all pallet sizes have seen growth compared to volumes for the same period in 2023, with full pallets increasing by 1%, half pallets by +0.9% and quarter pallets by +3.7%.
- 48.9% of all volume comprised full pallets, 28.9% half pallets, and 22.2% quarter pallets.
- Home deliveries comprised 15.9% of all pallets, a 0.4% reduction from volumes seen in the same period in 2023.
- More than half of all B2C pallets were delivered on a next-day service.
- 58.2% of B2C quarter pallets are delivered on a next-day service.
- The number of consignments grew by almost 2% across the six month period and 3.3% in Q2.

APN chairman Paul Sanders says: “These figures show excellent prospects for the pallet network sector, with steady growth but no unmanageable spikes in volumes.

“The Q2 statistics are particularly encouraging, with a 3.5% increase in pallet volumes compared to last year despite an early Easter, which fell within Q1, as opposed to Easter 2023 which was in April.”

The networks’ have continued to make significant gains in both safety and sustainability despite this background of increased operational activity.

Safety incidents at UK Hubs have fallen by 16.7% so far in 2024, against the same period last year, continuing a six year-trend in safety improvements. Incidents for the six-month period stand at 0.43 per 100,000 pallets delivered.

Notes to Editors

The **Association of Pallet Networks** has a membership of eight pallet networks in the UK: Fortec, Pall-Ex, Pallet-Track, Palletforce, Palletline, Palletways, THE Pallet Network and United Pallet Network. These in turn represent 800 hauliers, more than 24,000 vehicles and over 13 million sq ft of warehouse space collectively.

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