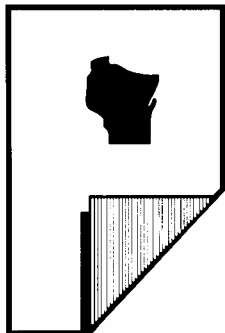


WISCONSIN PAPER COUNCIL

250 N. GREEN BAY ROAD
P.O. BOX 718
NEENAH, WI 54957-0718
PHONE: 920-722-1500
FAX: 920-722-7541
www.wipapercouncil.org



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 19, 2004

For More Information Contact: Pat Schillinger, President
920-722-1500 (work)
920-419-7030 (cell)

Wisconsin Paper Exports Rise in 2003

Neenah – The Wisconsin Paper Council announced that paper exports from Wisconsin rose in 2003 to \$585 million and paper exports now are the fifth largest export category of Wisconsin products.

“In this era of globalization, we are pleased to see that exports of paper from Wisconsin are now worth over half a billion dollars,” said Patrick Schillinger, President of the Wisconsin Paper Council. “We have some of the best paper companies in the world in Wisconsin and when given a level playing field, we can compete with anyone. This shows the strength of Wisconsin’s paper industry.”

Wisconsin has been the number one papermaking state in the country the last 50 years. Exports of Wisconsin paper products rose to \$585 million in 2003 from \$556 million in 2002 and \$525 million in 2001. All figures were compiled by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce.

“These figures also represent the fact that business has changed and that if Wisconsin’s paper mills are to remain viable, they will need to compete against world-wide competitors,” Schillinger said. “That’s why it’s so important that the State of Wisconsin continue its very positive steps toward reforming our tax structure, streamlining our regulatory processes and improving our business climate,” he said.

The Wisconsin Paper Council is the trade association of the pulp and paper industry in Wisconsin.

###