

FORESTRY FACTS & FIGURES 2003

**A summary of statistics about woodland
and forestry in Great Britain**

**ECONOMICS AND
STATISTICS**
Forestry Commission



Forestry Commission

© Crown Copyright 2003

ISBN: 0 85538 606 1

FCFS203/FG(KMA)/NMMS-3K/SEP03

Prepared by:

Economics & Statistics
Forestry Group
Forestry Commission
231 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh
EH12 7AT
United Kingdom

Enquiries:

Alister Henderson
+44 (0)131 314 6337
statistics@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Statistician:

Sheila Ward
+44 (0)131 314 6475
sheila.ward@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics

A National Statistics publication

Official statistics bearing the National Statistics logo are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from political interference. You can also find National Statistics on the internet at: www.statistics.gov.uk.

Forestry Commission's statistical release practices

The Forestry Commission aims to release statistics as soon as they are available. All of our National Statistics publications are available on our website www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics and as printed copies. Release dates are published on our website for the year ahead at six monthly intervals (in June and December) and publications are made available at 12.30 on the day of release. Further details on FC statistical release practices are available in our [compliance statement](#), available on our website.

Contents

Table 1	Area of woodland
Table 2	Forestry Commission land use
Table 3	Planting
Table 4	New planting
Table 5	Restocking
Table 6	Annual management grants
Table 7	Wood production
Table 8	Timber deliveries
Table 9	UK imports/exports and consumption
Table 10	Forest employment
Table 11	Forest Enterprise recreation facilities and activities
Table 12	Forest cover: international comparisons – 2000

Please note that the figures in the tables are individually rounded, so the constituent items may not sum to the total given.

Table 1 Area of woodland

thousands of hectares

	Conifers	Broadleaves	Total Woodland
--	----------	-------------	----------------

Forestry Commission

England	156	51	207
Wales	99	11	110
Scotland	445	25	470
Great Britain	699	87	787

Non-FC

England	216	687	904
Wales	64	112	176
Scotland	607	250	857
Great Britain	887	1 049	1 936

All woodland

England	372	739	1 110
Wales	163	123	285
Scotland	1 052	275	1 327
Great Britain	1 586	1 136	2 722

Notes:

1. Areas as at 31 March 2003.
2. Figures for non-FC woodland are based on data obtained from the 1995–1999 National Inventory of Woodlands and Trees and adjusted for new planting and sales of Forestry Commission woodland, but at present no adjustment is made for woodland converted to another land use. They include non-FC publicly owned woodland.
3. Broadleaves include coppice and coppice with standards.

Table 2 Forestry Commission land use

thousands of hectares

Land use	England	Wales	Scotland	GB
Woodland	206.5	109.7	470.1	786.3
Arboreta	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.4
Open land within the forest	36.3	10.9	136.0	183.2
Total forest land	243.1	120.6	606.1	969.9
Agricultural and grazing	6.4	1.7	31.5	39.6
Other non-forest land	9.8	3.3	22.5	35.6
Total other land	16.2	5.1	54.0	75.2
Total land area	259.3	125.7	660.1	1 045.0

Notes:

1. Areas as at 31 March 2003.

Table 3 Planting

	hectares			
	England	Wales	Scotland	GB
Forestry Commission				
Conifers	2 137	1 076	4 677	7 890
Broadleaves	157	108	405	670
Total	2 294	1 184	5 082	8 560
Non-FC – all grant schemes				
Conifers	641	568	5 672	6 881
Broadleaves	4 916	474	4 451	9 841
Total	5 557	1 042	10 123	16 722
All planting				
Conifers	2 778	1 644	10 349	14 771
Broadleaves	5 073	582	4 856	10 511
Total	7 851	2 226	15 205	25 282

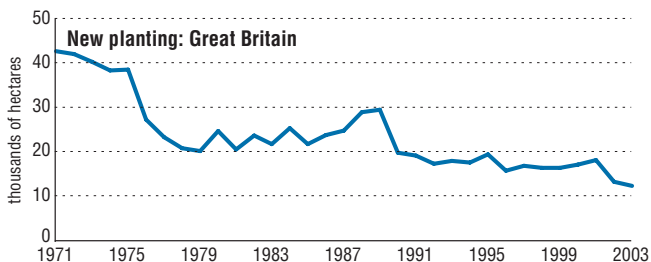
Notes:

1. Figures shown are for the areas of planting (new planting and restocking) in the year ending 31 March 2003.
2. The areas of new planting and restocking include areas of natural regeneration for which the second instalment of grant has been paid.
3. The table excludes areas planted on non-FC woodland without grant aid, estimated to total 713 hectares in the year (703 in England and 10 in Scotland).

Table 4 New planting

thousands of hectares

Year (to 31/3)	England		Wales		Scotland		Great Britain		
	FC	Non-FC	FC	Non-FC	FC	Non-FC	FC	Non-FC	Total
1999	0.0	5.1	0.0	0.6	0.1	10.4	0.1	16.2	16.3
2000	0.1	5.9	0.0	0.7	0.0	10.4	0.1	17.0	17.1
2001	0.1	5.7	0.0	0.4	0.1	11.6	0.2	17.8	18.1
2002	0.1	4.7	0.0	0.3	0.1	7.9	0.2	12.9	13.2
2003	0.0	5.2	0.0	0.3	0.1	6.6	0.1	12.1	12.3



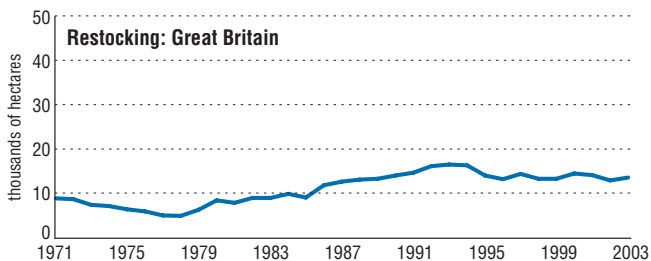
Notes:

1. FC = Forestry Commission; Non-FC = All other woodland, including some other publicly owned woodland.
2. Figures for non-FC woodland are based on areas for which grants were paid during the year, as in Table 3, together with an estimate of areas planted without grant aid.
3. The planting season lies both sides of 31 March, and the weather can cause planting to be advanced or delayed.
4. Includes woodland formed by natural regeneration.

Table 5 Restocking

thousands of hectares

Year (to 31/3)	England		Wales		Scotland		Great Britain		
	FC	Non-FC	FC	Non-FC	FC	Non-FC	FC	Non-FC	Total
1999	2.3	1.8	2.2	0.8	3.4	3.0	7.9	5.5	13.4
2000	2.2	1.7	1.8	0.8	4.3	3.8	8.2	6.3	14.6
2001	2.1	1.8	1.4	0.8	4.4	3.6	8.0	6.2	14.2
2002	2.3	1.1	1.1	0.8	4.9	2.9	8.3	4.7	13.0
2003	2.3	1.1	1.2	0.7	5.0	3.5	8.4	5.3	13.7



Notes:

1. FC = Forestry Commission; Non-FC = All other woodland, including some other publicly owned woodland.
2. Figures for non-FC woodland are based on areas for which grants were paid during the year, as in Table 3, together with an estimate of areas planted without grant aid.
3. The planting season lies both sides of 31 March, and the weather can cause planting to be advanced or delayed.
4. Includes woodland formed by natural regeneration.

Table 6 Annual management grants

thousands of hectares

Year (to 31/3)	England	Wales	Scotland	GB
1999				
Conifers	6.2	0.8	6.6	13.6
Broadleaves	24.6	1.5	3.6	29.6
Total	30.8	2.3	10.1	43.3
2000				
Conifers	8.6	0.9	5.4	14.9
Broadleaves	24.9	1.0	4.3	30.3
Total	33.5	1.9	9.7	45.1
2001				
Conifers	4.9	0.4	6.3	11.7
Broadleaves	18.5	1.4	2.6	22.5
Total	23.4	1.9	8.9	34.2
2002				
Conifers	4.6	0.5	3.0	8.1
Broadleaves	15.4	1.0	2.1	18.5
Total	20.0	1.5	5.1	26.6
2003				
Conifers	3.5	0.5	2.8	6.8
Broadleaves	15.7	0.8	3.2	19.7
Total	19.2	1.3	6.0	26.5

Notes:

1. These figures are for areas approved for Standard, Special and Annual Management Grant under the Woodland Grant Scheme. Excludes Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG).

Table 7 Wood production

thousands of cubic metres overbark standing

Year	Conifers			Broadleaves	Total
	FC	Non-FC	Total		
1994	4 320	3 030	7 350	930	8 280
1995	4 130	3 480	7 600	970	8 580
1996	4 290	3 320	7 610	870	8 480
1997	4 570	3 420	7 990	890	8 880
1998	4 830	3 170	8 000	790	8 780
1999	5 440	3 070	8 510	740	9 260
2000	5 530	3 100	8 630	720	9 350
2001	5 140	3 480	8 630	710	9 340
2002	5 210	3 630	8 840	690	9 530
2002–2006	5 130	5 750	10 870	1 000	11 870
2007–2011	5 980	7 080	13 060	1 000	14 060
2012–2016	6 240	8 200	14 450	1 000	15 450
2017–2021	6 850	8 630	15 480	1 000	16 480

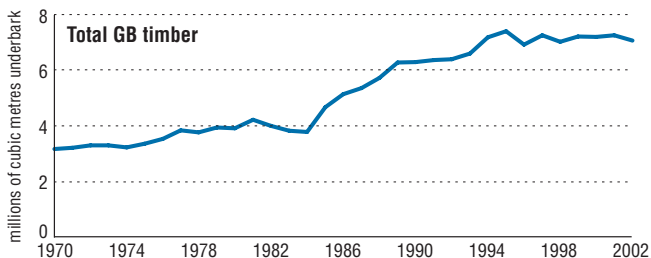
Notes:

1. One m³ overbark standing equals approximately 0.80 m³ underbark, and weighs approximately 0.82 tonnes (softwood) or 0.90 tonnes (hardwood) when freshly felled.
2. Most broadleaved production comes from private estates; the figures shown for broadleaves are estimates based on reported deliveries to wood processing industries.
3. The forecasts of future production are annual averages for the five-year periods. Conifer forecasts are taken from the forecast of softwood availability, published in *Forestry & British Timber*, April 2001 (these forecasts are not part of National Statistics).
4. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10 000 m³.
5. FC = Forestry Commission; Non-FC = All other woodland, including some other publicly owned woodland.

Table 8 Timber deliveries

thousands of cubic metres underbark

Year	Soft-wood logs	Hard-wood logs	Wood-based panels	Paper products	Other	Total GB use	Direct exports	Total GB timber
1998	3 580	220	1 570	990	660	7 010	0	7 010
1999	3 870	190	1 630	820	660	7 170	20	7 200
2000	3 850	170	1 700	860	600	7 180	20	7 190
2001	3 900	170	1 680	840	600	7 180	60	7 240
2002	3 900	140	1 470	840	540	6 890	160	7 050



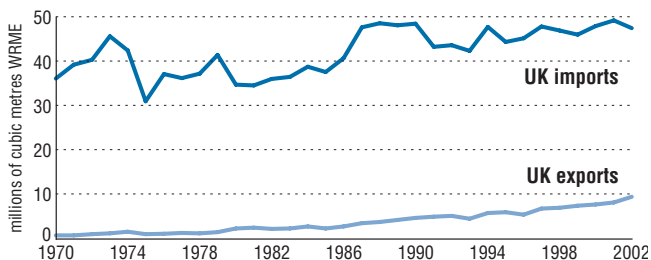
Notes:

1. All figures are based on processing industries' estimates of purchases of timber grown in GB.
2. Woodbased panels are particleboard and fibreboard.
3. Paper products include paperboard.
4. Other includes timber for fencing and fuelwood.
5. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10 000 m³.

Table 9 UK imports/exports and consumption

millions of cubic metres WRME

Year	Imports					Exports	UK production	Apparent consumption
	Wood	Pulp	Panels	Paper	Total	Total		
1998	15.6	7.7	6.3	17.2	46.8	7.0	7.2	47.0
1999	15.2	7.7	5.6	17.4	45.9	7.4	7.5	46.0
2000	17.0	8.3	6.0	16.5	47.8	7.7	7.5	47.6
2001	17.1	7.1	6.2	18.6	49.1	8.2	7.6	48.5
2002	18.1	7.2	6.7	15.4	47.4	9.4	7.4	45.3



Notes:

1. Source: UK Overseas Trade Statistics (includes revised figures for 1999 to 2001) and conversion factors.
2. WRME = wood raw material equivalent, softwood + hardwood, underbark. These are equivalent to the underbark volumes in Table 8.
3. Wood = roundwood and sawnwood.
4. Panels = particleboard, fibreboard, plywood and veneers.
5. Paper includes paperboard.
6. UK production estimated from deliveries for Great Britain + Northern Ireland.
7. Apparent consumption = imports – exports + UK production; it excludes recycled wood and waste-paper of UK origin.

Table 10 Forest employment

Activity	full-time equivalent numbers			
	England	Wales	Scotland	GB
Forest nurseries	421	2	201	624
Establishment	1 088	252	1 189	2 529
Maintenance	1 680	380	1 304	3 364
Harvesting	2 330	493	1 947	4 770
Road construction	181	47	179	407
Other forest	466	144	372	982
Total forest	6 166	1 318	5 192	12 676
Haulage	326	142	593	1 061
Processing	5 952	2 192	3 083	11 227
Other non-forest	2 295	447	1 826	4 568
Total non-forest	8 573	2 781	5 502	16 856
Total	14 739	4 099	10 694	29 532

Notes:

1. All figures are from the Forest Employment Survey 1998/99, published in January 2001 (not a National Statistics publication).
2. Other non-forest includes employment in local authorities, forestry education and training and other sectors not covered by previous Forest Employment Surveys.

Notes for Table 11:

1. Number of sites where a given facility or activity is present. These data are not directly comparable to previous years.
2. Facilities and activities on the Forestry Commission website in August 2003.
3. A small number of facilities or activities are double counted as they appear on more than one web page.

Table 11 Forest Enterprise recreation facilities and activities

	England	Wales	Scotland	GB	
Total sites on FC website	194	94	261	549	
Facilities	Parking: free	155	58	214	427
	Parking: paid	33	12	13	58
	Information	99	17	103	219
	Easy access	78	18	43	139
	Toilets	62	16	58	136
	Refreshments	45	6	25	76
	Visitor centre	22	5	21	48
	Shop	18	5	13	36
	Activities	Walking	157	59	208
Picnic		89	33	90	212
Cycling		87	17	97	201
Horse riding		60	7	40	107
Wildlife activities		51	6	32	89
Educational		48	13	25	86
Heritage		19	4	30	53
View point		12	1	39	52
Play area		28	7	15	50
Orienteering		28	6	15	49
Fishing		11	13	18	42
Barbecue		22	13	6	41
Forest drive		13	1	10	24
Camping		10	2	11	23
Arts		11	0	5	16
Arboretum		8	3	4	15
Watersports		3	1	3	7
Skiing		0	0	3	3

Table 12 Forest cover: international comparisons – 2000

Country	Forest area (000 ha)	Total land area (000 ha)	Forest as % of land area
Europe			
United Kingdom	2 794	24 160	11.6
Austria	3 886	8 273	47.0
Belgium/Luxembourg	728	3 282	22.2
Denmark	455	4 243	10.7
Estonia	2 060	4 227	48.7
Finland	21 935	30 459	72.0
France	15 341	55 010	27.9
Germany	10 740	34 927	30.7
Greece	3 599	12 890	27.9
Ireland	659	6 889	9.6
Italy	10 003	29 406	34.0
Latvia	2 923	6 205	47.1
Lithuania	1 994	6 258	31.9
Netherlands	375	3 392	11.1
Norway	8 868	30 683	28.9
Portugal	3 666	9 150	40.1
Russian Federation	851 392	1 688 851	50.4
Spain	14 370	49 945	28.8
Sweden	27 134	41 162	65.9
Switzerland	1 199	3 955	30.3
Other Europe	55 130	206 590	26.7
Total Europe	1 039 251	2 259 957	46.0

Source:

FAO State of the World's Forests 2001 (not a National Statistics publication).

Table 12 (Continued)

Country	Forest area (000 ha)	Total land area (000 ha)	Forest as % of land area
Asia			
China	163 480	932 743	17.5
Japan	24 081	37 652	64.0
Other Asia	360 232	2 114 351	17.0
Total Asia	547 793	3 084 746	17.8
North and Central America			
USA	225 993	915 895	24.7
Canada	244 571	922 097	26.5
Other N./Central America	78 740	298 974	26.3
Total N./Central America	549 304	2 136 966	25.7
South America			
Brazil	543 905	845 651	64.3
Other South America	341 713	909 090	37.6
Total South America	885 618	1 754 741	50.5
Africa			
Total Africa	649 866	2 978 394	21.8
Oceania			
Australia	154 539	768 230	20.1
New Zealand	7 946	26 799	29.7
Other Oceania	35 138	54 067	65.0
Total Oceania	197 623	849 096	23.3
Total World	3 869 455	13 063 900	29.6

Forestry Commission's statistical revisions policy

Revisions to statistics can occur when further data become available or errors are corrected. The Forestry Commission will normally revise statistics when the figures next appear in any publication. However, if the revision is significant (i.e. resulting in a major change to the published figures), a note showing the revisions will be published as soon as possible on the Forestry Commission website and distributed to all known recipients. In addition, the web versions of any current publications affected will be revised.



Forestry Commission

**231 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh
EH12 7AT**

www.forestry.gov.uk