# Forestry Statistics 2020

## Sources: International forestry

#### Release date:

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## 11.10 Sources: International forestry

#### Introduction

The statistics presented in the International Forestry chapter of this release cover:

* woodland area;
* carbon stocks;
* wood removals;
* production and apparent consumption of wood products; and
* trade in forest products.

#### Data sources and methodology

International data on forest area and carbon stocks are obtained from the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020 ([www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/en/](http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/en/)), compiled by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The information in Table 9.1 uses forest area from FRA 2020, excluding "other wooded land"; for the UK, this is very similar to the definition of "woodland" used in other tables.

International data on production, imports and exports are obtained from the FAO. Data are collected via the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire for FAO and other international organisations and published on the FAOSTAT database (<http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#home>). Data on apparent consumption is derived as production plus imports less exports.

Data for the European Union (EU) presented in this edition of Forestry Statistics relate to the countries that were EU members at September 2020 so, unlike in previous editions, the UK is now excluded from the EU figures for all years.

#### Quality

The UK data on forest area and carbon stocks are as submitted by the Forestry Commission to FAO in early 2019. More recent estimates of UK woodland area are provided in the Chapter on Woodland Area and Planting. A copy of the full UK return for the 2020 Forest Resources Assessment is available at [www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/en/](http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/en/).

The UK data on production, imports and exports are as submitted by the Forest Research to the UN Economic Commission for Europe in May 2020. More recent UK estimates are provided in the Chapters on UK-grown Timber and Trade. Copies of all UK returns for the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire are available at [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/international-returns/joint-forest-sector-questionnaire/](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/international-returns/joint-forest-sector-questionnaire/).

#### Revisions

International statistics compiled from FRA are subject to revision every five years, when a new collection is undertaken.

Revisions to historical data have been made following the release of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020. This has resulted in:

* Increases in forest area reported for 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2015 of up to 3% globally (mainly in Africa, Asia and South America); and
* Increases in the carbon stock in forests of up to 3% globally (for 1990, 2000 and 2010) and 18% for 2015.

International statistics compiled from FAOSTAT may be subject to revision after publication if revisions are made to the data produced by individual countries.

Revisions to historical data have been made in the FAOSTAT database since the publication of "Forestry Statistics 2019" (Tables 9.4 to 9.6). At a global level, such revisions have been relatively minor (no more than 1% difference).

Our revisions policy sets out how revisions and errors to these statistics are dealt with, and can be found at: [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/documents/4355/FCrevisions.pdf](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/documents/4355/FCrevisions.pdf).

#### Further information

Statistics on international forestry are reported here at a regional level. Further data (including figures for individual countries) are also available from the original sources (see above).

Statistics on forest resources are also collected every 4-5 years at a European level by Forest Europe. The State of Europe's Forests 2015 was released in October 2015 and is available at [www.foresteurope.org/](http://www.foresteurope.org/).

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry also collects, on an annual basis, estimates for the current year and projections for the following year of wood production, imports and exports. Results are available on the UNECE website ([www.unece.org/forests/fpm/timbercommittee.html](http://www.unece.org/forests/fpm/timbercommittee.html)). Copies of UK returns for the UNECE Timber Forecast Questionnaire are available at [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/international-returns/unece-timber-forecast-questionnaire/](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/international-returns/unece-timber-forecast-questionnaire/).

#### Release schedule

For information on the release schedules of statistics produced by others, see relevant websites (above).

International data on wood production and trade in 2019 will be released on 30 September 2021 in "Forestry Statistics 2021" and "Forestry Facts & Figures 2021".