

Forestry Statistics 2021

Sources: International Forestry

Release date:

30 September 2021

Coverage:

United Kingdom

Geographical breakdown:

None

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The Research Agency of the
Forestry Commission

Forest Research is the Research Agency of the Forestry Commission and is the leading UK organisation engaged in forestry and tree related research.

The Agency aims to support and enhance forestry and its role in sustainable development by providing innovative, high quality scientific research, technical support and consultancy services.

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/), 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. The UK is therefore excluded from the EU figures for all years.

Quality

The UK data on forest area and carbon stocks are as submitted by Forest Research 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/.

The UK data on production, imports and exports are as submitted by 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/.

Revisions

International statistics compiled from FRA are subject to revision every five years, when a new collection is undertaken. Information on revisions to historical data have been made following the release of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 is available in Forestry Statistics 2020.

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 2020" (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 is available at <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/about-our-statistics/code-of-practice/quality-of-official-statistics/>.

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/.

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). 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/.

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 2020 will be released on 29 September 2022 in "Forestry Statistics 2022" and "Forestry Facts & Figures 2022".

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