



Forestry Commission

Forestry Statistics 2016

A compendium of statistics about woodland, forestry and primary wood processing in the United Kingdom



Chapter 8: Finance and Prices

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8 Finance & Prices

Introduction

This chapter contains statistics on:

- timber prices;
- financial returns from forestry investment;
- gross value added (GVA);
- Government expenditure on forestry; and
- grant schemes.

Estimates for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are included, where possible, in addition to UK or GB totals. Further information on the data sources and methodology used to compile the figures is provided in the Sources chapter.

Most of the statistics presented in this chapter have been previously released. Some of the figures on prices (Tables 8.1 and 8.2, Figures 8.1 and 8.2) and on gross value added (Table 8.3) have been revised since Forestry Statistics 2015. For further details on revisions, see the Finance & Prices section of the Sources chapter.

A copy of all Finance & Prices tables is available to download as an Excel spreadsheet from the [Tables for Download page](#).

Key findings

The main findings are:

- The Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index for Great Britain was 9.7% lower in real terms in the year to March 2016, compared with the previous year.
- The Softwood Sawlog Price Index was 16.7% lower in real terms in the 6 months to March 2016, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.
- The Investment Property Databank (IPD) UK Forestry Index shows a total return of 14.7% per annum for the three year period 2013 to 2015, and an annual return of 10.8% for 2015.
- Gross value added (GVA) in primary wood processing (sawmilling, panels and pulp & paper) was £1.39 billion in the UK in 2014. GVA in forestry was £0.58 billion.
- Net expenditure on public forests by the Forestry Commission totalled £44 million in 2015-16. A further £94 million was spent by the Forestry Commission on other activities.
- A total of £52.4 million was paid in grants by the Forestry Commission and Natural Resources Wales in 2015-16.

8.1 Timber prices

Timber Price Indices are based on sales of softwood (conifers) by the Forestry Commission and Natural Resources Wales and are released every 6 months. They cover:

- Sales in England and Scotland by the Forestry Commission; and
- Sales in Wales by the Forestry Commission to 31 March 2013 and by Natural Resources Wales from 1 April 2013.

The Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index monitors changes in the average price received per cubic metre for timber that the Forestry Commission/ Natural Resources Wales sold standing, where the purchaser is responsible for harvesting.

The Softwood Sawlog Price Index monitors changes in the average price received per cubic metre of sawlogs (roundwood with a top diameter of 14 cm or more, destined to be sawn into planks or boards) sold at roadside by the Forestry Commission/ Natural Resources Wales.

Standing timber and sawlogs are distinct markets, and may show different price movements. The data are averages for historic periods, so may be slow to show any turning points.

These indices are used to monitor trends in timber prices and to provide information on the state of the UK timber industry. They are also used by the UK timber industry, alongside other economic indicators, in contract reviews.

There is little other information currently available on wood prices before primary processing and no price index is available for broadleaves. Prices for outputs of primary wood processing are collected by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in the Producer Price Indices (PPIs), and these are available in the MM22 Business Monitor which gives detailed PPIs monthly.

Table 8.1 presents the coniferous standing sales and sawlog price indices for Great Britain to March 2016.

The coniferous standing sales price index for Great Britain was 9.7% lower in real terms in the year to March 2016, compared with the previous year (Table 8.1). The softwood sawlog price index was 16.7% lower in real terms in the 6 months to March 2016, compared with the corresponding period in the previous year.

Table 8.1 Coniferous standing sales and sawlog price indices¹ for Great Britain, 2007-2016

Period ending March	Standing sales ²		Sawlogs	
	Nominal terms ³	Real terms ⁴	Nominal terms ³	Real terms ⁴
2007	57.2	64.2	78.1	87.2
2008	89.6	97.8	91.5	99.2
2009	64.0	68.1	67.5	71.4
2010	67.5	70.1	83.3	85.8
2011	93.5	94.3	85.7	85.8
2012	97.5	96.9	91.7	90.6
2013	91.3	89.1	93.7	91.0
2014	105.5	100.8	110.3	105.0
2015	126.4	119.0	120.3	113.5
2016	114.4	107.5	100.3	94.5

Source: *Timber Price Indices: data to March 2016*

Notes:

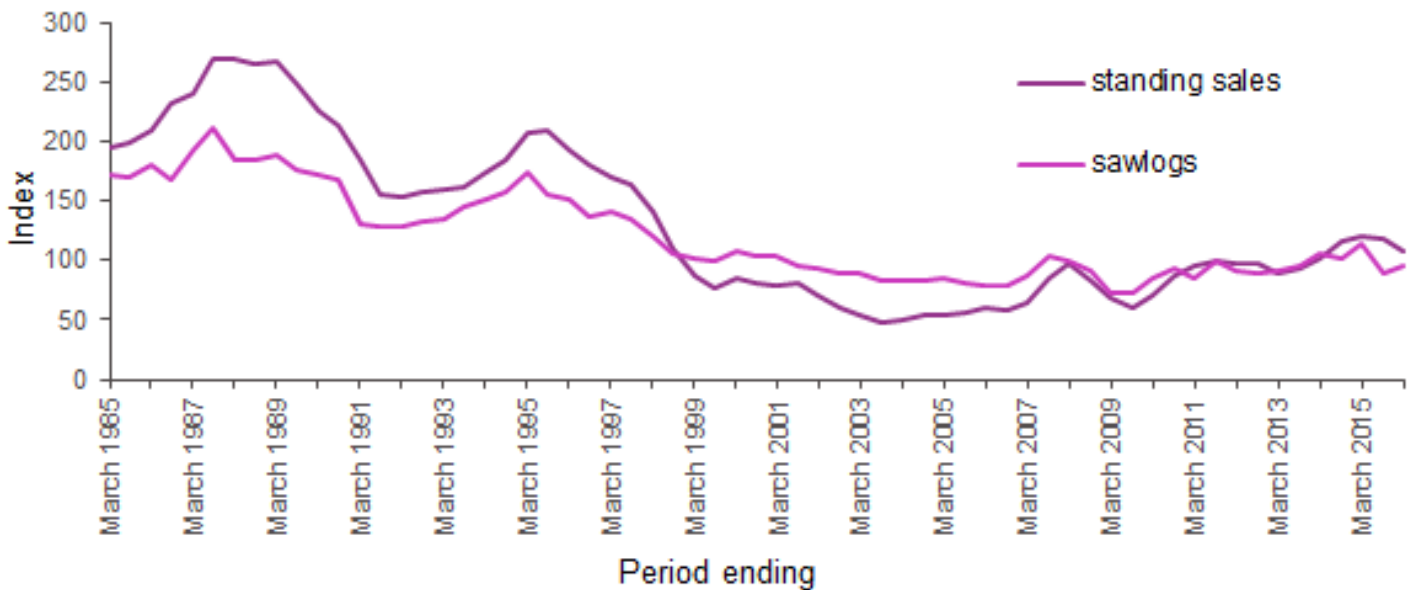
1. The price indices are constructed from information on sales by the Forestry Commission/ Natural Resources Wales only.

2. Until November 2008 the Laspeyres method was used to calculate the standing sales index to take account of the size mix. Since then the Fisher method with 5 year chain linking has been adopted and has superseded the Laspeyres method, following a period of transition. The figures shown here are from the Fisher chain-linked index.

3. Nominal prices are the actual prices at that point in time.

4. Real terms values are obtained by using the GDP deflator to convert to "constant prices" (in this case prices in 2011). This allows trends in timber prices to be tracked without the influence of inflation.

Figure 8.1 Coniferous standing sales and sawlog price indices^{1,2} in real terms³, 1985-2016



Source: *Timber Price Indices: data to March 2016*

Notes:

1. The price indices are constructed from information on sales by the Forestry Commission/ Natural Resources Wales only.
2. Until November 2008 the Laspeyres method was used to calculate the standing sales index to take account of the size mix. Since then the Fisher method with 5 year chain linking has been adopted and has superseded the Laspeyres method, following a period of transition. The figures shown here are from the Fisher chain-linked index.
3. Real terms values are obtained by using the GDP deflator to convert to "constant prices" (in this case prices in 2011). This allows trends in timber prices to be tracked without the influence of inflation.

8.2 Financial return from forestry investment

Returns to investors in forestry are made up of sales of timber (standing or felled), sales of other goods and services, increases in the value of the woodland (from annual increment or market factors), and the net income from subsidies (e.g. planting grants) less taxes. The investors' costs are made up of employment costs and other purchases.

Estimates of the overall return from commercial forestry are produced annually in the Investment Property Databank (IPD) UK Forestry Index, available at www.msci.com/www/ipd-factsheets/ipd-uk-annual-forestry-index/0163322597. The index is calculated from a sample of around 150 private sector coniferous plantations of predominantly Sitka spruce in mainland Britain. The IPD UK Forestry Index is outside the scope of National Statistics.

The index shows a total return of 14.7% per annum for the three year period 2013 to 2015, and an annual return of 10.8% for 2015 (Table 8.2).

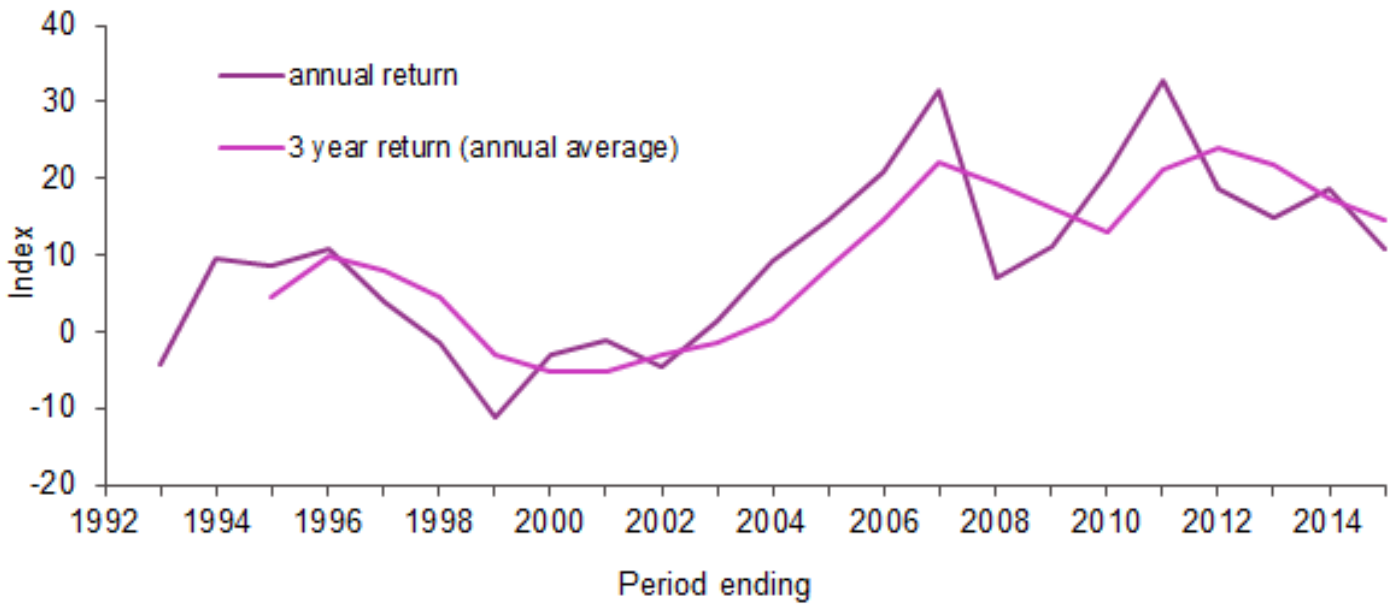
Table 8.2 IPD UK Forestry Index: Returns from forestry, 2006-2015

Period ending	Index (1992=100)	Annual % return	3 year return (annual average %)
2006	160.8	20.7	14.7
2007	211.5	31.6	22.0
2008	226.5	7.1	19.3
2009	251.9	11.2	16.1
2010	304.2	20.8	12.9
2011	404.3	32.9	21.3
2012	479.7	18.6	24.0
2013	551.3	14.9	21.9
2014	653.8	18.6	17.4
2015	724.5	10.8	14.7

Source: IPD UK Forestry Index

These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics

Figure 8.2 IPD UK Forestry Index: Returns from forestry



Source: IPD UK Forestry Index

Note:

1. Data collected for the IPD UK Forestry Index started in 1992

These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics

8.3 Gross value added

Gross value added (GVA) measures the contribution to the economy of each individual producer, industry or sector in the United Kingdom. It is the difference between the value of outputs and the value of intermediate consumption, so mainly comprises employment costs and profits.

The Annual Business Survey (ABS) carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) includes statistics on gross value added for different industries, classified using the UK Standard Industrial Classification (SIC 2007). Further information on the ABS is available from the [ONS website](#).

Table 8.3 shows that, in 2014, GVA in primary wood processing (sawmilling, panels and pulp & paper) was reported to be £1.39 billion and GVA in forestry was £0.58 billion.

Table 8.3 Gross value added in forestry and wood processing³, 2010-2014

Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)¹	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
£ million					
Forestry	329	416	307	504	582
Wood products					
Sawmilling	415	435	586	518	355
Panels ²	327	197	226	267	437
Secondary products	1 630	1 822	1 861	1 797	1 971
Total	2 372	2 454	2 673	2 582	2 763
Pulp, paper & paper products					
Pulp & paper	628	888	776	578	596
Articles of paper & paperboard	2 912	3 160	3 083	3 115	3 200
Total	3 541	4 049	3 859	3 693	3 796
Total wood processing	5 913	6 503	6 532	6 275	6 559
Total primary wood processing	1 370	1 520	1 588	1 363	1 388

Source: Annual Business Survey (Office for National Statistics, June 2016)

Notes:

1. Categories are based on the [UK Standard Industrial Classification \(SIC 2007\)](#) categories.

Further details on the SIC codes used are provided in the Sources: Employment and businesses page.

2. The 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014 figures for panels have been suppressed in the figures released by ONS, so the figures here cover both panels and the manufacture of assembled parquet floors (SIC 16.22) for those years. Panels accounted for 98% of the total of SIC codes 16.21 (panels) and 16.22 in 2012.

3. Excludes other wood-using industries.

8.4 Government expenditure on public forests

Table 8.4 provides information on net expenditure on public forests by the Forestry Commission in Great Britain. This covers expenditure less income for land that is owned or managed by the Forestry Commission. Other expenditure by the Forestry Commission is covered in Table 8.5.

The Forestry Commission's functions in Wales transferred to a new organisation, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), on 1 April 2013. Figures for Wales in Tables 8.4 and 8.5 relate to expenditure to 31 March 2013 that was incurred by Forestry Commission Wales. Expenditure in Wales from 1 April 2013 is excluded from the tables. Net expenditure on public forests by the Forestry Commission in 2015-16 totalled £44 million. This comprised £27 million in Scotland and £18 million in England.

Recreation, conservation & heritage accounted for £68 million of the total expenditure in 2015-16, harvesting & haulage for £38 million and other expenditure on public forests for £89 million.

Timber sales generated a total income of £99 million in 2015-16. Recreation, conservation & heritage accounted for a further £25 million and other income from public forests for £27 million.

Table 8.4 Funding public forests - net expenditure^{1,2,3}, 2011-12 - 2015-16

		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
£ million						
GB						
Harvesting & haulage	Expenditure	43.8	43.5	35.1	36.6	37.9
Recreation, etc ⁴	Expenditure	72.6	66.4	63.3	70.2	67.8
Other	Expenditure	92.3	97.9	89.7	81.9	89.2
Timber	Income	-105.7	-101.9	-100.7	-103.1	-99.1
Recreation, etc ⁴	Income	-21.8	-20.0	-21.3	-24.3	-24.8
Other	Income	-25.2	-29.9	-25.8	-25.1	-26.8
Net expenditure		56.0	56.0	40.3	36.2	44.2
England						
Harvesting & haulage	Expenditure	12.0	10.4	10.9	9.8	10.6
Recreation, etc ⁴	Expenditure	42.1	37.9	39.0	41.8	45.0
Other	Expenditure	25.7	23.3	29.1	24.5	29.2
Timber	Income	-33.4	-31.3	-35.5	-37.3	-36.7
Recreation, etc ⁴	Income	-15.0	-14.9	-15.8	-18.3	-21.1
Other	Income	-12.2	-11.1	-12.9	-11.1	-9.3
Net expenditure		19.2	14.3	14.8	9.4	17.7

Table 8.4 continues on the next page

Chapter 8: Finance and Prices
Government Expenditure on Public Forests

Table 8.4 Funding public forests - net expenditure^{1,2,3}, 2011-12 - 2015-16

		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Wales						
Harvesting & haulage	Expenditure	9.5	9.9	..	..	..
Recreation, etc ⁴	Expenditure	3.7	4.0	..	..	..
Other	Expenditure	12.5	12.1	..	..	..
Timber	Income	-13.4	-13.5	..	..	..
Recreation, etc ⁴	Income	-2.0	-0.9	..	..	..
Other	Income	-3.4	-8.1	..	..	..
Net expenditure		6.9	3.5	..	..	..
Scotland						
Harvesting & haulage	Expenditure	22.3	23.2	24.2	26.8	27.3
Recreation, etc ⁴	Expenditure	26.8	24.5	24.3	28.4	22.8
Other	Expenditure	54.1	62.5	60.6	57.4	60.0
Timber	Income	-58.9	-57.1	-65.2	-65.8	-62.4
Recreation, etc ⁴	Income	-4.8	-4.2	-5.5	-6.0	-3.7
Other	Income	-9.6	-10.7	-12.9	-14.0	-17.5
Net expenditure		29.9	38.2	25.5	26.8	26.5

Source: Forestry Commission

Notes:

1. Forestry Commission expenditure only. Excludes expenditure incurred by other departments.

2. Excludes notional cost of capital and any surplus/deficit on sale of properties.

3. Excludes gain on revaluation of biological assets and value of timber felled.

4. Recreation, etc includes conservation and heritage.

.. Denotes data not available; responsibility for forestry in Wales transferred to Natural Resources Wales on 1 April 2013.

8.5 Other government expenditure on forestry

Table 8.5 provides information on other expenditure (excluding public forests) by the Forestry Commission. It includes expenditure by National Offices in England, Wales (until 2012-13) and Scotland as well as expenditure on GB level functions. Expenditure on land that is owned or managed by the Forestry Commission is covered in Table 8.4.

In addition to expenditure on public forests, the Forestry Commission spent a total of £94 million on other activities in 2015-16 (Table 8.5).

£57 million was used by the national offices in England and Scotland for grants and partnership funding and a further £13 million for policy, regulation & administration in 2015-16. At a GB level, £32 million was used for international & GB support services and £13 million for research.

Table 8.5 Other government expenditure on forestry^{1,2}, 2011-12 -2015-16

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
£ million					
GB					
Grants and partnership funding ³	82.3	83.3	87.2	82.0	57.2
Policy, regulation & administration	25.7	26.6	11.5	11.9	13.1
Research - GB funded	15.2	12.7	13.3	12.8	12.7
International & GB support services	33.6	34.3	36.0	32.5	32.1
Less recovery of support service costs from countries	-23.9	-22.0	-22.4	-20.3	-20.7
Total	132.9	134.9	125.6	118.9	94.4
England					
Grants and partnership funding ³	32.6	35.8	40.2	37.4	24.8
Policy, regulation & administration ⁴	1.9	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.8
Total	34.5	38.2	42.4	39.4	26.6
Wales					
Grants and partnership funding ³	4.9	5.5	..	..	..
Policy, regulation & administration ⁴	14.7	15.4	..	..	..
Total	19.6	20.9	..	..	..

Table 8.5 is continued on the next page.

Chapter 8: Finance and Prices
Other Government expenditure on Forestry

Table 8.5 Other government expenditure on forestry^{1,2}, 2011-12 -2015-16

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Scotland					
Grants and partnership funding ³	44.8	42.0	47.0	44.6	32.4
Policy, regulation & administration ⁴	9.1	8.8	9.3	9.9	11.3
Total	53.9	50.8	56.3	54.5	43.7

Source: Forestry Commission

Notes:

1. Forestry Commission expenditure only. Excludes expenditure incurred by other departments.

2. Excludes miscellaneous income.

3. EU co-financing not subtracted from grant expenditure. In Wales, includes "Objective 1" expenditure. In England authority for the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) grant scheme rests with Defra.

4. Country costs for "policy, regulation & administration" include shares of GB support service costs.

.. Denotes data not available; responsibility for forestry in Wales transferred to Natural Resources Wales on 1 April 2013.

8.6 Grant schemes

Private sector woodland in Great Britain is supported by a range of grants for creating new woodland and managing existing woodland. The Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) was introduced in 1988, at the same time as tax relief was phased out. In Scotland, WGS was replaced by the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme (SFGS) in 2003, by Rural Development Contracts in 2006 and has now been replaced by the Forestry Grant Scheme. The English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) was launched in July 2005 and has now been replaced by Countryside Stewardship. Better Woodlands for Wales (BWW) was launched in December 2005 and has now been replaced by Glastir (administered by the Welsh Government).

Because of the differences between these schemes, it is increasingly difficult to provide comparable statistics across the three countries. The following tables provide useful information relating to planting and grants:

- Table 1.14 for total areas of new planting and restocking;
- Table 8.5 for expenditure by the Forestry Commission on grants and partnership funding;
- Table 8.6 (below) for grant expenditure by the Forestry Commission (including grant expenditure managed by the Forestry Commission on behalf of Defra) and by Natural Resources Wales.

Table 8.6 presents information on grant money paid in 2006-07 to 2015-16. A total of £52.4 million was paid in grants in 2015-16, a 29% decrease from the total for the previous year, but similar to the level in 2010-11.

At a country level, £27.5 million was paid in grants in Scotland in 2015-16 (a decrease of 30% from the previous year), £23.0 million was paid in England (a 29% decrease) and £1.9 million in Wales (an increase of 5%).

Table 8.6 Grant money paid, 2006-07 to 2015-16

	England ¹	Wales ²	Scotland ³	GB
£ million				
2006-07	15.9	3.1	32.6	51.6
2007-08	41.7	2.6	26.9	71.1
2008-09	24.1	3.7	10.9	38.7
2009-10	24.4	2.9	5.7	33.0
2010-11	28.7	3.8	18.9	51.4
2011-12	32.5	5.4	34.2	72.1
2012-13	32.8	5.0	32.3	70.1
2013-14	33.9	4.1	35.5	73.5
2014-15	32.4	1.8	39.2	73.4
2015-16	23.0	1.9	27.5	52.4

Source: Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales. See also the notes below.

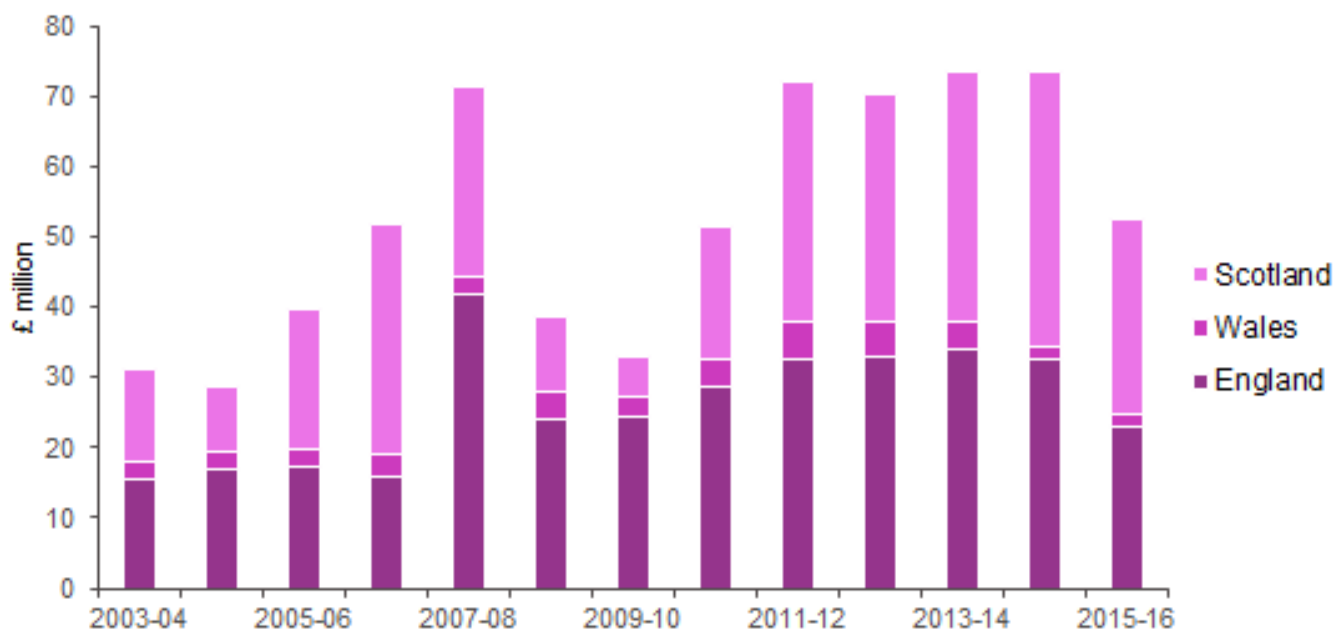
Chapter 8: Finance and Prices Grant Schemes

Notes:

1. England includes grant scheme expenditure managed by the Forestry Commission on behalf of Defra.
2. Wales includes grant paid under the Nature Fund programme for woodland creation in 2015-16.
3. Scotland includes grants paid under the Forestry Grant Scheme and legacy schemes (including Rural Development Contracts).

The total grant money paid in Great Britain has fluctuated over recent years, with levels often dipping around the times that new grant schemes are introduced, followed by a sharp recovery.

Figure 8.3 Grant money paid, 2003-04 to 2015-16



Source: Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales

Notes:

1. England includes grant scheme expenditure managed by the Forestry Commission on behalf of Defra.
2. Wales includes grant paid under the Nature Fund programme for woodland creation in 2015-16.
3. Scotland includes grants paid under the Forestry Grant Scheme and legacy schemes (including Rural Development Contracts)

Sources: Finance & prices

Introduction

The statistics presented in the Finance and Prices chapter of this release cover:

- timber prices;
- financial returns from forestry investment;
- gross value added (GVA);
- government expenditure on forestry; and
- grant schemes.

Figures on financial returns from forestry are produced by another organisation; they are not designated as National Statistics, but are provided to give additional context.

Data Sources and Methodology

Timber Price Indices: Data sources

The Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index and the Softwood Sawlog Price Index are both based on sales of softwood (conifers) by the Forestry Commission and Natural Resources Wales; they do not include any private sector data. They only cover roundwood from woodland; they do not cover sawmill products or other end products.

The Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index (CSSPI) is based on administrative data for standing sales of conifers (softwood) by the Forestry Commission/ Natural Resources Wales. Around 60% of Forestry Commission/ Natural Resources Wales softwood is sold standing, with the purchaser responsible for harvesting. The standing sales cover a full range of sizes, as they include thinning and removal of trees for environmental reasons, as well as harvesting of mature trees. The data used to compile the index covers volumes sold and values by average tree size.

The Softwood Sawlog Price Index (SSPI) is based on administrative data for sales of softwood sawlogs by the Forestry Commission/ Natural Resources Wales. The data used to compile the index covers volumes and values. Direct production by the Forestry Commission/ Natural Resources Wales (where the softwood is sold after harvesting) also covers a range of sizes, but the price statistics reported are limited to sales of logs (over 14 cm diameter).

Both the Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index and the Softwood Sawlog Price Index include sales by long term contract, where the volume of roundwood covered by the contract is sold over a period of more than one year. To take account of changes in price over the term of the contract, price adjustments are made periodically, as part of the contract. The Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index and Softwood Sawlog Price Index include roundwood sales by long term contract but, at present, price adjustments are not included in the indices.

Further information on the administrative data is provided in the Statement of Administrative Sources on the FC Sales Recording Package, available at www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infid-832ey5.

Methodology for Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index

The Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index (CSSPI) is an index of the average prices per cubic metre overbark standing achieved for standing sales of conifers by the Forestry Commission/ Natural Resources Wales. It covers all conifer standing sales (open market and negotiated) by the Forestry Commission/ Natural Resources Wales over the twelve month period. All thinning and clearfell data is combined within the index. It includes all species, tree sizes, working practices and conditions. It does not include any private sector data.

The Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index (CSSPI) is calculated using a Fisher index with 5-yearly chain linking. By using a Fisher index to produce the index, distortions in the average price caused by variations in the average tree size over time are corrected. Applying chain linking at regular intervals (in this case, every 5 years) ensures that the index remains relevant over time. Other factors that may affect price (e.g. working conditions, timber quality or species) are not taken into account when constructing the index.

The methodology used to calculate the Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index was reviewed in 2008, with the Fisher index with 5-yearly chain linking introduced from the November 2008 publication of "Timber Price Indices". Further information on the methodology used to calculate the Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index is provided in the paper "Methodology for the Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index", available from the Statistical Methodology and Outputs page of the Forestry Commission website at www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/ahen-589ddl.

The average prices and the index are expressed in nominal terms (i.e. the actual prices at the time of sale) and in real terms (i.e. the prices converted to 2011). The GDP (Gross Domestic Product at market prices) deflator, produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), is applied to the nominal figures to derive real average prices and the index in real terms. The GDP deflator data can be downloaded from the ONS Quarterly National Accounts dataset at www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossdomesticproductgdp/timeseries/ybgb.

Methodology for Softwood Sawlog Price Index

The Softwood Sawlog Price Index is calculated from data covering separate 6-month periods to September and March. This means that the changes reported are not covering the same periods as the Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index.

The index measures the average price per cubic metre overbark of sawlog sales, with no adjustment for any change in size mix, as it covers a more limited range of sizes than the Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index.

The index is expressed in nominal terms (i.e. based on the actual prices at the time of sale) and in real terms (i.e. based on the prices converted to 2011

prices, by removing the effects of general inflation). As for the Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index, the GDP (Gross Domestic Product at market prices) deflator is used to convert from nominal to real terms.

For consistency with the Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index, the Softwood Sawlog Price Index is rebased every 5 years; in this release, the period to September 2011 = 100.

Financial returns

Estimates of financial returns from commercial Sitka spruce plantations are compiled and published by Investment Property Databank Limited (IPD), www.msci.com/www/upd-factsheets/ipd-uk-annual-forestry-index/0163322597. The returns include changes in the value of forestry estates, as well as timber price changes.

Gross Value Added

Gross value added (GVA) measures the contribution to the economy of each individual producer, industry or sector in the United Kingdom.

Statistics on gross value added are obtained from the Annual Business Survey, formerly the Annual Business Inquiry, (Office for National Statistics), an annual survey of UK businesses. Further information on the Annual Business Survey is available at www.ons.gov.uk/surveys/informationforbusinesses/businesssurveys/annualbusinesssurvey

The Annual Business Survey uses the UK Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) to classify businesses to industries according to their main activity. Detailed information on the SIC is available at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/ukstandardindustrialclassificationofeconomicactivities/uksic2007>. For further information on the SIC codes used in this release, see the previous page (Sources: Employment and businesses).

Government expenditure

Information about government expenditure on forestry is obtained from administrative records held by the Forestry Commission. Expenditure by Natural Resources Wales, Defra and other government departments/ Devolved Administrations is excluded.

Further information is available in the Statement of Administrative Sources on FC financial accounts, available at www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-832ey5. More detailed financial data for the Forestry Commission are published annually in the Annual Report & Accounts produced by National Offices.

Data on grant expenditure are obtained from administrative records for woodland grant schemes across GB. Further information is available in the

Statement of Administrative Sources on FC grant schemes data, available at www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-832ey5.

Quality

The Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index and the Softwood Sawlog Price Index are the only official statistics published for roundwood prices in the UK. So, although they are limited to sales by the Forestry Commission and Natural Resources Wales, they are sometimes used as indicators of price trends for other UK softwood. In recent years, softwood has accounted for more than 90% of all timber harvested in Great Britain, and the Forestry Commission/ Natural Resources Wales has accounted for around 40% to 50% of all softwood sold.

For the Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index, data cover a 12 month period (i.e. data for the year to March and data for the year to September). As these periods overlap, comparisons of values should be made with the same period a year earlier.

Unlike the Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index, the Softwood Sawlog Price Index covers 6 month periods (i.e. data for the period October to March and data for the period April to September), so there is no overlapping.

Detailed information on the quality of the statistics presented in this publication is available in the "Quality Report: Timber Price Indices" at [www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/tpiqrpt.pdf/\\$FILE/tpiqrpt.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/tpiqrpt.pdf/$FILE/tpiqrpt.pdf).

Revisions

Most of the statistics presented in the Finance & Prices chapter have been previously released. The latest year figures for Government expenditure on forestry are published in this format for the first time in this release.

Timber price indices are unchanged from the figures provided in "Timber Price Indices: data to March 2016".

Data on financial returns from forestry are not normally revised. Figures for earlier years have been revised from the figures included in "Forestry Statistics 2015" to reflect changes to the historic data released by IPD.

Data on Gross Value Added (GVA) are subject to revision whenever Annual Business Survey data are revised by the Office for National Statistics. Figures for 2013 have been revised from those shown in "Forestry Statistics 2015" to reflect revisions made to ABS results by ONS.

Data on Government expenditure are not normally revised, but may be subject to revision if revisions are made to the Forestry Commission's financial accounts.

The Forestry Commission's revisions policy sets out how revisions and errors are dealt with and can be found at [www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCrevisions.pdf/\\$FILE/FCrevisions.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCrevisions.pdf/$FILE/FCrevisions.pdf).

Further information

Tables providing longer time series of the Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index and the Softwood Sawlog Price Index and the underlying data used to produce them, are available at www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-7m2djr

Release schedule

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

Timber Price Indices are published every six months, in May for data to end March and in November for data to end September. The next editions will be released on the following dates:

"Timber Price Indices: Data to September 2016" will be released on 10 November 2016;

"Timber Price Indices: Data to March 2017" will be released on 18 May 2017.

"Forestry Statistics 2017" and "Forestry Facts & Figures 2017" will be released on 28 September 2017.