

# Forestry Facts & Figures 2008

A summary of statistics about  
woodland and forestry



© Crown Copyright 2008

ISBN: 978-0-85538-775-4

FCFS208/FC-GB(CLM)/ALDR-3K/SEP08

Prepared by:

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

Enquiries:  
Jackie Watson  
+44 (0)131 314 6171  
statistics@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Statistician:  
Sheila Ward  
+44 (0)131 314 6475

**[www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics)**



Includes Northern Ireland data provided by Forest Service, an agency of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

## Contents

Table 1	Area of woodland, 2008
Table 2	Area of certified woodland, 2008
Table 3	New planting
Table 4	Restocking
Table 5	Wood production
Table 6a	Softwood deliveries
Table 6b	Hardwood deliveries
Table 7	Production of wood products
Table 8	Import and export volumes
Table 9	Import and export values
Table 10	Woodland bird populations
Table 11	Woodland visits
Table 12	Employment in forestry and primary wood processing
Table 13	Gross value added in forestry and primary wood processing
Table 14	Forest cover: international comparisons - 2005

Throughout this publication, the following symbols have been used:



= conifers



= broadleaves

Figures in the tables are individually rounded, so the constituent items may not sum to the total given.

**Table 1 Area of woodland, 2008**

thousands of hectares

			Total woodland
--	---	---	----------------

**FC/FS**

England	147	55	202
Scotland	424	28	452
Wales	92	14	106
Northern Ireland	56	5	61
<b>UK</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>821</b>

**Non-FC/FS**

England	219	706	925
Scotland	621	269	890
Wales	65	114	179
Northern Ireland	10	16	26
<b>UK</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>1 105</b>	<b>2 020</b>

**All woodland**

England	366	761	1 127
Scotland	1 045	297	1 342
Wales	157	128	285
Northern Ireland	66	21	87
<b>UK</b>	<b>1 635</b>	<b>1 207</b>	<b>2 841</b>

Notes:

1. Areas as at 31 March 2008.
2. FC/FS = Forestry Commission/ Forest Service; Non-FC/FS = all other woodland, including some other publicly owned woodland.
3. Figures for non-FC woodland in Great Britain are based on data obtained from the 1995–1999 National Inventory of Woodland and Trees and adjusted for new planting and sales of FC woodland, but at present no adjustment is made for woodland converted to another land use.
4. Broadleaves include coppice and coppice with standards.

**Table 2 Area of certified woodland, 2008**

thousands of hectares











	FC/FS	Non-FC/FS	Total woodland area certified
England	202	139	341
Scotland	452	288	740
Wales	106	15	121
Northern Ireland	61	3	64
<b>UK</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>1 266</b>

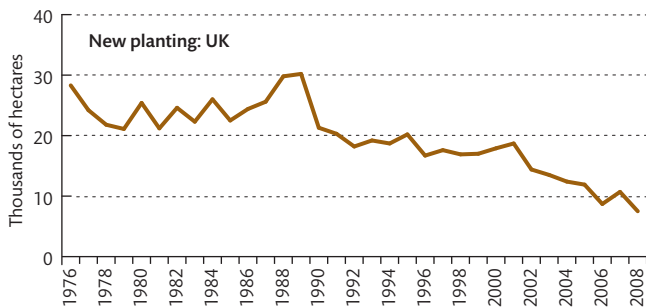
## Notes:

1. Areas as at 31 March 2008.
2. FC/FS = Forestry Commission/ Forest Service; Non-FC/FS = all other woodland, including some other publicly owned woodland.
3. All certified woodland is under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) scheme.
4. The estimates are based on UK data published by FSC, supplemented by data from individual certificates and other sources. Where possible, figures are for the woodland area certified, rather than the land area certified.
5. The Forestry Commission and Forest Service areas are the latest areas, as shown in Table 1, rather than the areas shown on the certificates.

**Table 3 New planting**

thousands of hectares

Year (to 31/3)	England		Scotland		Wales		Northern Ireland		UK		Total
											
2004	0.2	4.4	2.6	4.2	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.4	2.9	9.5	12.4
2005	0.2	5.1	1.9	3.8	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.3	2.1	9.8	11.9
2006	0.1	3.6	1.0	3.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.6	1.1	7.6	8.7
2007	0.1	3.1	2.0	4.6	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.5	2.1	8.5	10.7
2008	0.1	2.5	0.7	3.4	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.9	6.7	7.5













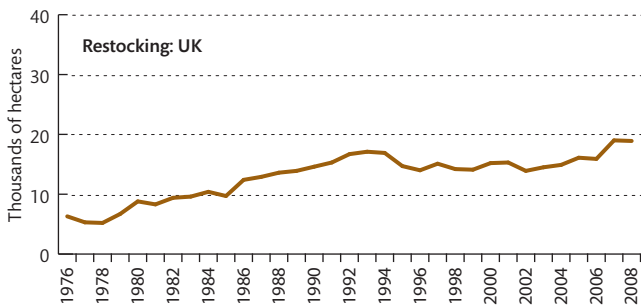
**Notes:**

1. New planting figures come from Forestry Commission and Forest Service administrative systems.
2. Areas receiving grant aid are allocated to years by date of payment.
3. Figures include an estimate of areas planted without grant aid.
4. Includes woodland formed by natural colonisation.

**Table 4 Restocking**

thousands of hectares

Year (to 31/3)	England		Scotland		Wales		Northern Ireland		UK		Total
											
2004	2.3	0.9	7.6	1.3	1.4	0.5	0.9	0.2	12.1	2.8	14.9
2005	2.0	0.9	8.8	1.6	1.3	0.5	0.9	0.1	13.0	3.0	16.1
2006	2.1	1.1	7.8	1.2	1.8	1.0	0.8	0.2	12.5	3.4	15.9
2007	1.8	0.9	10.6	1.8	2.1	0.9	0.7	0.1	15.3	3.6	19.0
2008	2.0	1.5	10.8	1.8	1.5	0.8	0.5	0.0	14.8	4.1	18.9



Notes:

1. Restocking figures come from Forestry Commission and Forest Service administrative systems.
2. Areas receiving grant aid are allocated to years by date of payment.
3. Figures include an estimate of areas planted without grant aid.
4. Includes woodland formed by natural regeneration.
5. Natural regeneration of broadleaves in non-clearfell systems is likely to be under-reported in this table.

**Table 5 Wood production**

thousands of green tonnes

Year	Softwood			Hardwood		
	FC/FS	Non-FC/FS	Total	FC/FS	Non-FC/FS	Total
2003	4 817	3 497	<b>8 314</b>	117	445	<b>562</b>
2004	4 894	3 625	<b>8 519</b>	113	399	<b>513</b>
2005	4 579	3 900	<b>8 479</b>	101	492	<b>593</b>
2006	4 582	3 984	<b>8 566</b>	45	392	<b>438</b>
2007	4 653	4 424	<b>9 077</b>	40	400	<b>440</b>
2007–2011	4 778	5 078	<b>9 856</b>	..	..	..
2012–2016	5 447	5 847	<b>11 294</b>	..	..	..
2017–2021	5 620	6 361	<b>11 980</b>	..	..	..
2022–2026	5 048	6 522	<b>11 570</b>	..	..	..

Notes:

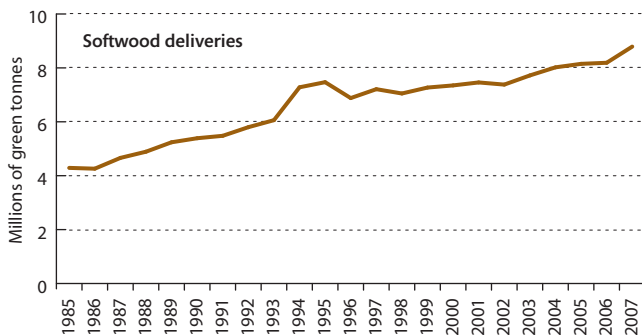
1. FC/FS = Forestry Commission and Forest Service; Non-FC/FS = All other woodland, including other publicly owned woodland.
2. One green tonne is equivalent to approximately 0.98 m<sup>3</sup> underbark softwood or 0.88 m<sup>3</sup> underbark hardwood, and to approximately 1.22 m<sup>3</sup> overbark standing softwood or 1.11 m<sup>3</sup> overbark standing hardwood.
3. The figures for softwood (conifers) production are based on FC/ FS administrative records and on trends reported by the largest harvesting companies. In any year, they may differ from the estimates of deliveries given in Tables 6a because of variations in the level of stocks between harvesting and delivery to the wood processor. However a persistent difference indicates that statistics for wood production and/ or deliveries may be unreliable.
4. The figures shown for hardwood (broadleaved) production are estimates, based on reported deliveries to wood processing industries and FC/ FS administrative records.
5. The forecasts of future production are annual averages for the five year periods and are taken from the 2005 UK Forecast of Softwood Availability (FC, 2006) (not part of National Statistics).



**Table 6a Softwood deliveries**

thousands of green tonnes

Year	Saw-mills	Pulp-mills	Wood-based panels	Fencing	Wood-fuel	Other	Round-wood exports	Total
2003	4812	704	1486	265	100	45	307	<b>7719</b>
2004	4953	483	1525	273	100	79	610	<b>8022</b>
2005	4929	500	1502	321	100	95	705	<b>8152</b>
2006	5215	481	1365	275	100	114	643	<b>8194</b>
2007	5590	472	1362	294	200	113	759	<b>8791</b>



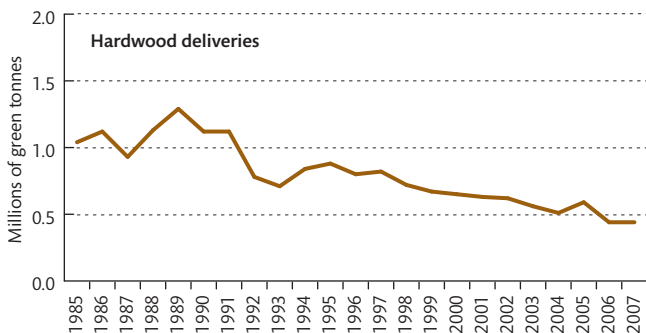
Notes:

1. Figures are based on processing industries' purchases of softwood grown in the UK and estimates for woodfuel.
2. Woodfuel is derived from stemwood, and for 2007 includes estimated roundwood use for biomass energy.
3. Other includes shavings and poles.
4. Softwood exports exclude Northern Ireland before 2004.

**Table 6b Hardwood deliveries**

thousands of green tonnes

Year	Saw-mills	Pulp-mills	Wood-based panels	Wood-fuel	Other	Total
2003	138	215	4	150	55	562
2004	92	214	2	150	55	513
2005	72	214	2	250	55	593
2006	64	54	1	250	70	438
2007	66	0	5	300	69	440



Notes:

1. Figures are based on processing industries' purchases of hardwood grown in the UK and estimates for woodfuel and other uses.
2. Woodfuel is derived from stemwood, and for 2007 includes estimated roundwood use for biomass energy.
3. Other includes round fencing and roundwood exports.

**Table 7 Production of wood products**

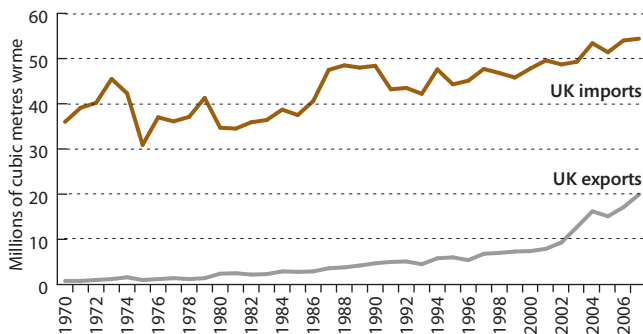
Year	Sawnwood	Wood-based panels	Paper and paperboard
	(000 m <sup>3</sup> )	(000 m <sup>3</sup> )	(000 tonnes)
2003	2 750	3 361	6 226
2004	2 783	3 533	6 240
2005	2 783	3 398	6 039
2006	2 907	3 498	5 588
2007	3 146	3 549	5 228

## Notes:

1. Excludes other wood products (e.g. fuelwood and round fencing), roundwood and intermediate products (e.g. sawmill products, pulp and recovered paper).

**Table 8 Import and export volumes**

Year	Imports				Exports		
	Round-wood	Sawn-wood	Wood-based panels	Pulp & paper	Wood (round & sawn)	Wood-based panels	Pulp & paper
	(000 m <sup>3</sup> )			(000 t)	(000 m <sup>3</sup> )		(000 t)
2003	1 045	8 714	3 492	9 112	987	531	3 713
2004	1 048	8 653	3 813	9 251	1 651	519	4 714
2005	1 325	8 223	3 552	9 434	1 532	520	4 518
2006	1 133	7 963	3 685	9 332	1 593	510	5 022
2007	1 222	8 402	3 891	9 396	1 658	513	5 722



Notes:

1. Source: UK overseas trade statistics (HM Revenue & Customs), industry associations and conversion factors.
2. Pulp & paper includes paperboard and recovered waste paper.

**Table 9 Import and export values**

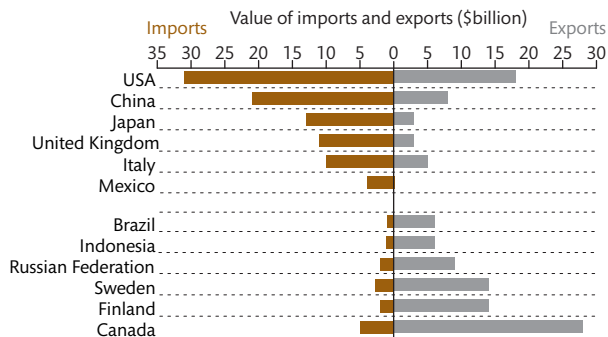
£ million

Year	Imports				Exports		
	Round-wood	Sawn-wood	Wood-based panels	Pulp & paper	Wood (round & sawn)	Wood-based panels	Pulp & paper
2003	98	1 225	767	4 003	72	91	1 181
2004	95	1 190	885	4 003	83	95	1 234
2005	114	1 120	796	3 954	87	102	1 286
2006	112	1 144	748	4 156	98	128	1 284
2007	142	1 520	920	4 222	110	115	1 410

Notes:

1. Source: UK overseas trade statistics (HM Revenue & Customs), industry associations and conversion factors.
2. Pulp & paper includes paperboard and recovered waste paper.

### Largest net importers and exporters of forest products, 2006



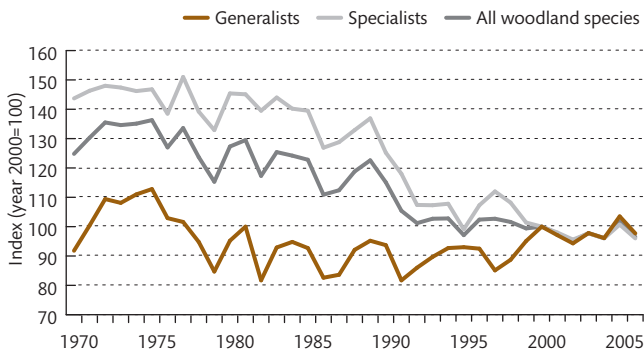
Notes:

1. Source: FAO

**Table 10 Woodland bird populations**

index (year 2000=100)

Year	All woodland species	Woodland generalists	Woodland specialists
2002	95	94	96
2003	98	98	98
2004	96	96	96
2005	102	103	101
2006	97	98	96



Notes:

1. Based on data from 'Index of the UK population of wild birds - individual species data' (Defra, October 2007).

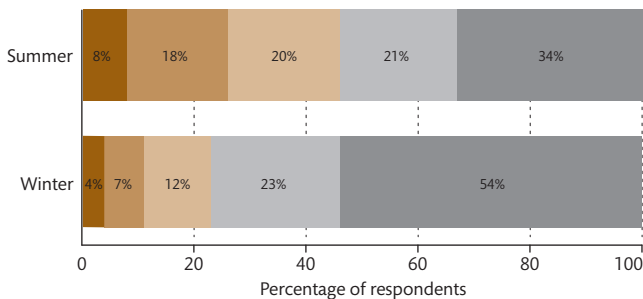
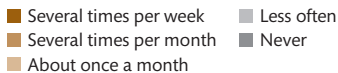
**Table 11 Woodland visits**

Year	percent of population			
	Aged 16-34	Aged 35-54	Aged 55 and over	Total
1999	73	74	55	67
2001	75	77	63	72
2003	71	72	60	67
2005	66	74	56	65
2007	78	83	70	77

Notes:

1. Source: UK and GB Public Opinion of Forestry (not National Statistics).
2. Percent of population visiting woodland in last few years.

## Frequency of visitors in summer and winter



**Table 12 Employment in forestry and primary wood processing**

thousands

Year	SIC 02 Forestry	SIC 20.1 Saw- milling	SIC 20.2 Panels	SIC 21.1 Pulp & paper	Total forestry & primary wood processing
2002	14	13	7	17	51
2003	12	11	6	17	46
2004	13	11	6	17	47
2005	12	10	6	14	42
2006	11	13	5	14	43

Notes:

1. Source: Annual Business Inquiry – average employment in year (Office for National Statistics, June 2008).
2. Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) categories are: 02 (forestry, logging & related services); 20.1 (sawmilling and planing of wood, impregnation of wood); 20.2 (manufacture of veneer sheets, manufacture of plywood, laminboard, particleboard and other panels and boards); and 21.1 (manufacture of pulp, paper and paperboard).
3. Excludes secondary wood processing (other SIC 20 & 21) and other wood-using industries.



**Table 13 Gross value added in forestry and primary wood processing**

£ million

Year	SIC 02 Forestry	SIC 20.1 Saw-milling	SIC 20.2 Panels	SIC 21.1 Pulp & paper	Total forestry & primary wood processing
2002	292	346	232	1022	1 892
2003	316	354	245	879	1 794
2004	321	356	275	788	1 740
2005	323	424	255	728	1 730
2006	286	460	274	612	1 632

Notes:

1. Source: Annual Business Inquiry – average employment in year (Office for National Statistics, June 2008).
2. Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) categories are: 02 (forestry, logging & related services); 20.1 (sawmilling and planing of wood, impregnation of wood); 20.2 (manufacture of veneer sheets, manufacture of plywood, laminboard, particleboard and other panels and boards); and 21.1 (manufacture of pulp, paper and paperboard).
3. Excludes secondary wood processing (other SIC 20 & 21) and other wood-using industries.

**Table 14 Forest cover: international comparisons – 2005**

Country	Forest area (million ha)	Total land area (million ha)	Forest as % of land area
United Kingdom	3	24	12
Finland	23	30	74
France	16	55	28
Germany	11	35	32
Italy	10	29	34
Spain	18	50	36
Sweden	28	41	67
Other EU	48	154	31
<b>Total EU-27</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>37</b>
Non-EU	37	152	24
Russian Federation	809	1 689	48
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>1 002</b>	<b>2 261</b>	<b>44</b>
Asia	571	3 087	19
North & Central America	706	2 144	33
South America	832	1 743	48
Africa	635	2 968	21
Oceania	206	849	24
<b>World</b>	<b>3 952</b>	<b>13 053</b>	<b>30</b>

Source:

FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005 - Annex 3 Global tables (not National Statistics).

## **A National Statistics publication**

This is a National Statistics publication. For more information about National Statistics and the UK Statistics Authority visit: [www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk](http://www.statisticsauthority.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](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics). Release dates are published on our website for the year ahead. Publications are made available at 9.30 am on the day of release. Further details on Forestry Commission statistical release practices are available in our compliance statement, available on our website.

## **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**

Silvan House  
231 Corstorphine Road  
Edinburgh  
EH12 7AT

[www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)