

# Forestry Facts & Figures 2009

A summary of statistics about  
woodland and forestry



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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.

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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, 2009**

thousands of hectares

			Total woodland
<b>FC/FS</b>			
England	146	55	201
Wales	91	14	105
Scotland	418	29	447
Northern Ireland	56	6	61
<b>UK</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>814</b>

**Non-FC/FS**

England	219	709	928
Wales	65	114	179
Scotland	624	271	894
Northern Ireland	10	16	26
<b>UK</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>1 110</b>	<b>2 027</b>

**All woodland**

England	365	764	1 128
Wales	156	128	284
Scotland	1 042	300	1 341
Northern Ireland	66	22	88
<b>UK</b>	<b>1 628</b>	<b>1 213</b>	<b>2 841</b>

Notes:

1. Areas as at 31 March 2009.
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, 2009**

thousands of hectares











	FC/FS	Non-FC/FS	Total woodland area certified
England	201	146	347
Wales	105	19	124
Scotland	447	300	746
Northern Ireland	61	4	65
<b>UK</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>1 283</b>

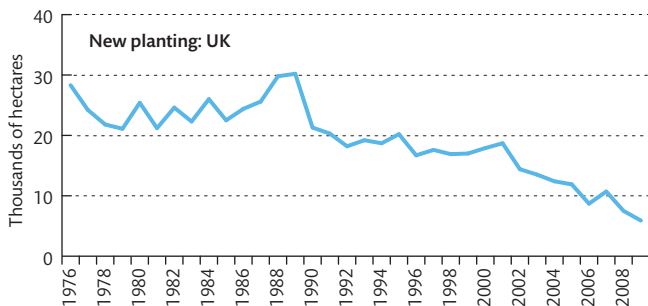
## Notes:

1. Areas as at 31 March 2009.
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		Wales		Scotland		Northern Ireland		UK		Total
											
2005	0.2	5.1	0.0	0.5	1.9	3.8	0.0	0.3	2.1	9.8	<b>11.9</b>
2006	0.1	3.6	0.0	0.5	1.0	3.0	0.0	0.6	1.1	7.6	<b>8.7</b>
2007	0.1	3.1	0.0	0.4	2.0	4.6	0.0	0.5	2.1	8.5	<b>10.7</b>
2008	0.1	2.5	0.0	0.2	0.7	3.4	0.1	0.5	0.9	6.7	<b>7.5</b>
2009	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.1	1.2	2.3	0.0	0.3	1.2	4.7	<b>5.9</b>













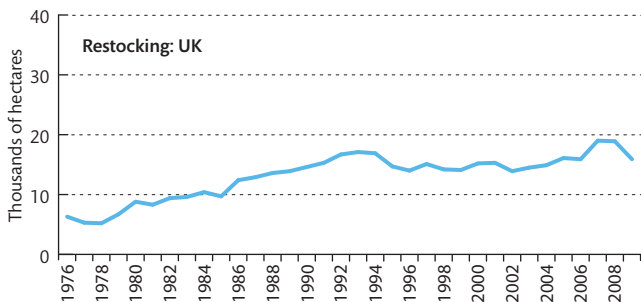
Notes:

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		Wales		Scotland		Northern Ireland		UK		Total
											
2005	2.0	0.9	1.3	0.5	8.8	1.6	0.9	0.1	13.0	3.0	16.1
2006	2.1	1.1	1.8	1.0	7.8	1.2	0.8	0.2	12.5	3.4	15.9
2007	1.8	0.9	2.1	0.9	10.6	1.8	0.7	0.1	15.3	3.6	19.0
2008	2.0	1.5	1.5	0.8	10.8	1.8	0.5	0.0	14.8	4.1	18.9
2009	1.7	1.5	1.4	0.8	8.2	1.4	0.8	0.1	12.1	3.8	15.9



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
2004	4 894	3 629	<b>8 524</b>	113	399	<b>513</b>
2005	4 579	3 906	<b>8 485</b>	101	492	<b>593</b>
2006	4 582	3 929	<b>8 511</b>	45	392	<b>438</b>
2007	4 653	4 363	<b>9 016</b>	40	400	<b>440</b>
2008	4 415	4 005	<b>8 420</b>	43	389	<b>432</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:

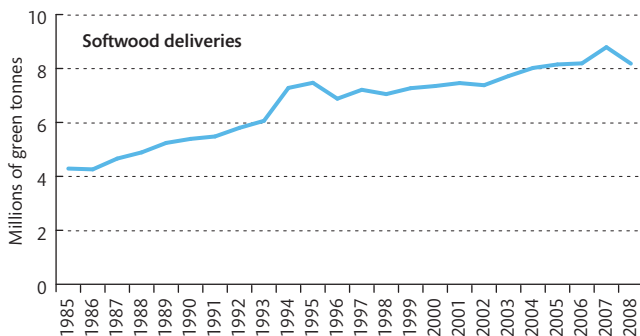
1. FC/FS = Forestry Commission and Forest Service; Non-FC/FS = All other woodland, including other publicly owned woodland.
2. One green tonne is equivalent to approximately 0.98 m<sup>3</sup> underbark softwood or 0.88 m<sup>3</sup> underbark hardwood, and to approximately 1.22 m<sup>3</sup> overbark 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 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
2004	4953	483	1 525	272	100	79	610	<b>8022</b>
2005	4924	500	1 502	320	100	95	705	<b>8146</b>
2006	5210	481	1 365	275	100	114	643	<b>8188</b>
2007	5591	472	1 362	296	200	113	759	<b>8793</b>
2008	4955	515	1 219	341	300	116	733	<b>8179</b>



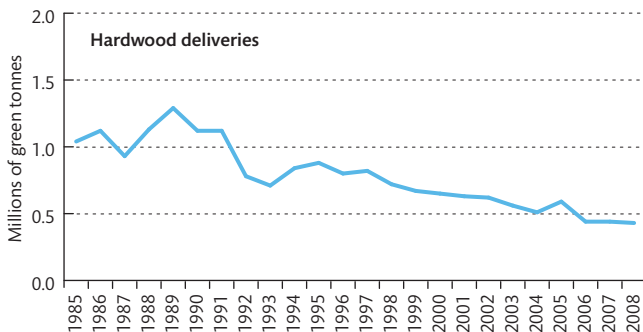
Notes:

1. Figures are based on processing industries' purchases of softwood grown in the UK and estimates for woodfuel.
2. Woodfuel reported here is derived from stemwood, and from 2007 includes estimated roundwood use for biomass energy.
3. Other includes shavings and poles.

**Table 6b Hardwood deliveries**

thousands of green tonnes

Year	Saw-mills	Pulp-mills	Wood-based panels	Wood-fuel	Other	Total
2004	92	214	2	150	55	<b>513</b>
2005	72	214	2	250	55	<b>593</b>
2006	64	54	1	250	70	<b>438</b>
2007	66	0	5	300	69	<b>440</b>
2008	67	0	2	300	63	<b>432</b>



Notes:

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

**Table 7 Production of wood products**

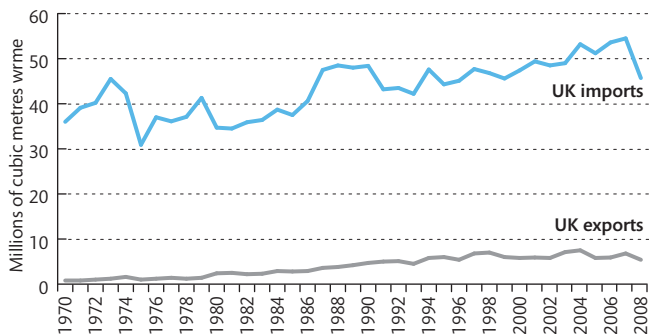
Year	Sawnwood	Wood-based panels	Paper & paperboard
	(000 m <sup>3</sup> )	(000 m <sup>3</sup> )	(000 tonnes)
2004	2 783	3 533	6 240
2005	2 780	3 398	6 039
2006	2 904	3 498	5 588
2007	3 145	3 549	5 228
2008	2 818	2 565	4 983

**Notes:**

1. Total production from UK mills, including products using imported material.
2. 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		
	Sawn-wood	Other wood	Wood-based panels	Pulp & paper	Wood (sawn & other)	Wood-based panels	Pulp & paper
	(000 m <sup>3</sup> )			(000 t)	(000 m <sup>3</sup> )		(000 t)
2004	8583	1048	3813	9251	1606	519	4714
2005	8341	1325	3552	9434	1544	520	4518
2006	7963	1133	3685	9332	1630	510	5022
2007	8469	1637	3847	9405	1698	599	5743
2008	5886	1935	3398	8831	1510	519	5930



**Notes:**

1. Source: UK overseas trade statistics (HM Revenue & Customs), industry associations and conversion factors.
2. Other wood includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles and residues.
3. Pulp & paper includes paperboard and recovered waste paper.

**Table 9 Import and export values****£ million**

Year	Imports				Exports		
	Sawn-wood	Other wood	Wood-based panels	Pulp & paper	Wood (sawn & other)	Wood-based panels	Pulp & paper
2004	1 190	95	885	4003	83	95	1 234
2005	1 120	114	796	3954	87	102	1 286
2006	1 144	112	748	4156	98	128	1 284
2007	1 516	128	898	4 275	110	107	1 427
2008	1 085	158	832	4 273	98	104	1 590

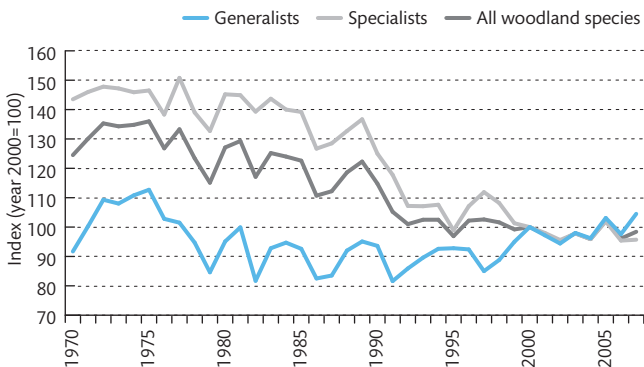
**Notes:**

1. Source: UK overseas trade statistics (HM Revenue & Customs), industry associations.
2. Other wood includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles and residues.
3. Pulp & paper includes paperboard and recovered waste paper.

**Table 10 Woodland bird populations**

index (year 2000=100)

Year	All woodland species	Woodland generalists	Woodland specialists
2003	98	98	98
2004	96	96	96
2005	102	103	102
2006	96	98	95
2007	98	104	96



Notes:

1. Based on data in Wild Bird Populations Statistics release (Defra, October 2008).

**Table 11 Visiting woodland**

per cent of population

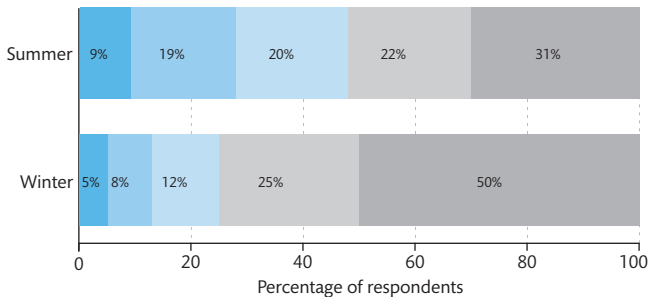
Year	Aged 16-34	Aged 35-54	Aged 55 and over	Total
2001	75	77	63	72
2003	71	72	60	67
2005	66	74	56	65
2007	79	82	69	77
2009	78	84	69	77

Notes:

1. Source: UK and GB Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys (not National Statistics).
2. Per cent of population aged 16 and over visiting woodland in last few years.

## Frequency of visitors in summer and winter

- Several times per week
- Several times per month
- About once a month
- Less often
- Never



**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
2003	12	11	6	17	<b>46</b>
2004	13	11	6	17	<b>47</b>
2005	12	10	6	14	<b>42</b>
2006	11	13	5	14	<b>43</b>
2007	13	12	5	12	<b>42</b>

Notes:

1. Source: Annual Business Inquiry – average employment in year (Office for National Statistics, June 2009).
2. UK Standard Industrial Classification (SIC 2003) 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
2003	316	354	245	879	<b>1 794</b>
2004	321	356	275	788	<b>1 740</b>
2005	323	424	255	762	<b>1 764</b>
2006	286	441	298	612	<b>1 637</b>
2007	384	498	344	825	<b>2 051</b>

Notes:

1. Source: Annual Business Inquiry (Office for National Statistics, June 2009).
2. UK Standard Industrial Classification (SIC 2003) 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>
Russian Federation	809	1 689	48
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>1 001</b>	<b>2 260</b>	<b>44</b>
Africa	635	2 968	21
Asia	572	3 088	19
North & Central America	706	2 144	33
Oceania	206	849	24
South America	832	1 743	48
<b>World</b>	<b>3 952</b>	<b>13 053</b>	<b>30</b>

Notes:

1. Source: FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005 (not National Statistics).
2. Cyprus is included in EU-27 total but is part of FAO's Asia region.

**Table 15 Forest cover changes: international comparisons**

Region	annual change			
	1990-2000		2000-2005	
	(thousand ha)	(%)	(thousand ha)	(%)
UK	18	0.70	10	0.40
<b>EU-27</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>0.52</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>0.46</b>
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>0.09</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>0.07</b>
Africa	-4375	-0.64	-4040	-0.62
Asia	-792	-0.14	1 003	0.18
North & Central America	-328	-0.05	-333	-0.05
Oceania	-448	-0.21	-356	-0.17
South America	-3 802	-0.44	-4 251	-0.50
<b>World</b>	<b>-8 868</b>	<b>-0.22</b>	<b>-7 317</b>	<b>-0.18</b>

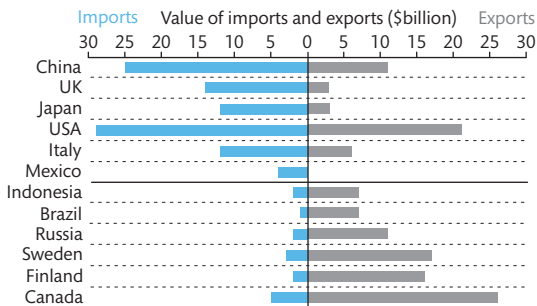
Notes:

1. Source: FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005 (not National Statistics).
2. Cyprus is included in EU-27 total but is part of FAO's Asia region.

**Table 16 Wood removals: international comparisons, 2007**

million m <sup>3</sup>			
Region	Industrial roundwood	Woodfuel	Total roundwood
UK	9	0	9
<b>EU-27</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>467</b>
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>729</b>
Africa	69	603	672
Asia	240	787	1027
North & Central America	597	138	736
Oceania	51	11	62
South America	172	194	366
<b>World</b>	<b>1705</b>	<b>1886</b>	<b>3591</b>

**Largest net importers and exporters of forest products, 2007**



**Table 17 Wood products: international comparisons, 2007**

Region	Sawnwood		Woodbased panels		Paper & paperboard	
	Production	Apparent consumption	Production	Apparent consumption	Production	Apparent consumption
	(million m <sup>3</sup> )		(million m <sup>3</sup> )		(million tonnes)	
UK	3	11	4	7	5	12
<b>EU-27</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>105</b>
Africa	9	13	3	3	4	7
Asia	82	102	105	95	142	148
North & Central America	142	144	57	64	108	106
Oceania	10	8	4	3	4	5
South America	40	33	15	10	11	11
<b>World</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>383</b>

Notes for Tables 16 and 17:

1. Source: FAO (not National Statistics).
2. Cyprus is included in EU-27 total but is part of FAO's Asia region.

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**Forestry Commission**

Silvan House  
231 Corstorphine Road  
Edinburgh  
EH12 7AT

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