



International forestry

Employment

Imports & exports

Wood production

New planting & restocking

Woodland area

A summary of statistics about woodland and forestry in the UK

# Forestry Facts & Figures 2015



Forest cover: international comparisons 2015

Country	Forest area (million ha)	Total land area (million ha)	Forest as % of land area
United Kingdom	3	24	13
Finland	22	30	73
France	17	55	31
Germany	11	35	33
Italy	9	29	32
Spain	18	50	37
Sweden	28	41	68
Other EU	52	159	32
<b>Total EU-28</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>38</b>
Russian Federation	815	1638	50
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>1015</b>	<b>2214</b>	<b>46</b>
Africa	624	2987	21
Asia	593	3118	19
North & Central America	751	2134	35
Oceania	174	850	20
South America	842	1747	48
<b>World</b>	<b>3999</b>	<b>13049</b>	<b>31</b>

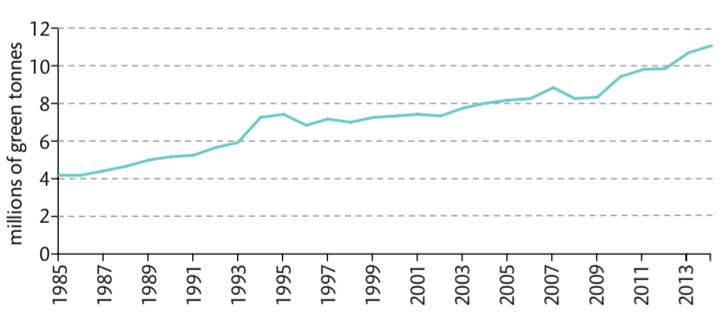
Source: FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015. These figures are not National Statistics. Cyprus is included in EU-28 total but is part of FAO's Asia region.

Softwood deliveries (thousands of green tonnes)

Year	Sawmills	Pulpmills	Woodbased panels	Fencing	Woodfuel	Other	Roundwood exports	Total
2010	5616	428	1375	349	900	135	467	<b>9269</b>
2011	5859	453	1417	363	900	145	585	<b>9722</b>
2012	6073	461	1269	338	1000	154	535	<b>9831</b>
2013	6407	465	1263	332	1250	191	640	<b>10547</b>
2014	6725	465	1283	317	1500	188	437	<b>10915</b>

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

Softwood deliveries



Forest area changes: international comparisons (annual change)

Region	2000-2010		2010-2015	
	(000 ha)	(%)	(000 ha)	(%)
UK	11	0.3	17	0.5
EU-28	450	0.3	369	0.2
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>1127</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Africa	-3209	-0.5	-2836	-0.4
Asia	2349	0.4	791	0.1
North & Central America	172	0.0	75	0.0
Oceania	-564	-0.3	304	0.2
South America	-3868	-0.4	-2024	-0.2
<b>World</b>	<b>-3993</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-3308</b>	<b>-0.1</b>

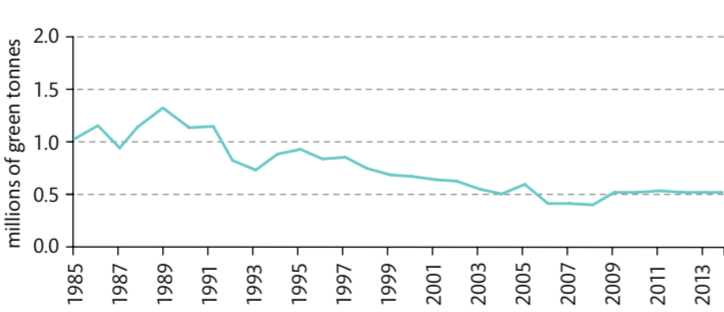
Source: FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015. These figures are not National Statistics. Cyprus is included in EU-28 total but is part of FAO's Asia region.

Hardwood deliveries (thousands of green tonnes)

Year	Sawmills	Pulpmills	Woodbased panels	Woodfuel	Other	Total
2010	75	0	1	400	59	<b>535</b>
2011	81	0	1	400	59	<b>541</b>
2012	75	0	2	400	55	<b>532</b>
2013	74	0	0	400	55	<b>529</b>
2014	77	0	0	400	55	<b>532</b>

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

Hardwood deliveries



Area of woodland 2015 (thousands of hectares)

	FC/NRW/FS	Private sector	Total woodland
England	151	64	<b>215</b>
Wales	98	19	<b>117</b>
Scotland	438	40	<b>478</b>
Northern Ireland	56	6	<b>62</b>
<b>UK</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>871</b>

Private sector

England	188	901	<b>1090</b>
Wales	53	136	<b>189</b>
Scotland	619	335	<b>954</b>
Northern Ireland	11	39	<b>50</b>
<b>UK</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>1412</b>	<b>2283</b>

All woodland

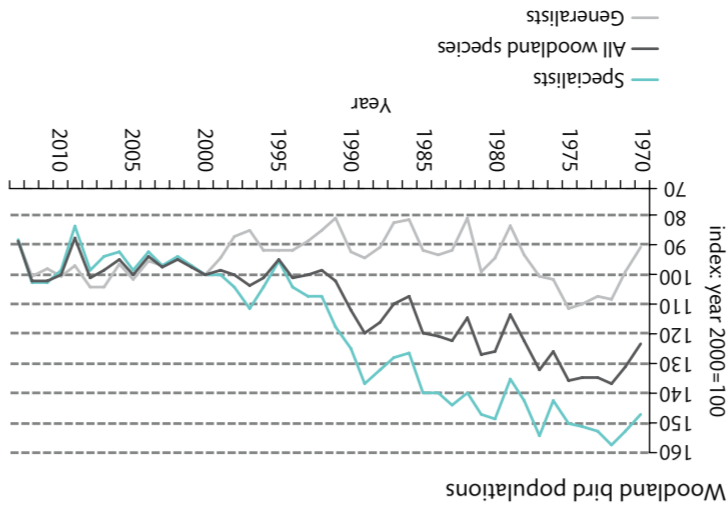
England	339	965	<b>1304</b>
Wales	150	156	<b>306</b>
Scotland	1057	375	<b>1432</b>
Northern Ireland	67	45	<b>112</b>
<b>UK</b>	<b>1614</b>	<b>1540</b>	<b>3154</b>

Areas as of 31 March, 2015.

Area of certified woodland 2015 (thousands of hectares)

	FC/NRW/FS	Private sector	Total woodland area certified
England	215	141	<b>356</b>
Wales	117	24	<b>141</b>
Scotland	478	335	<b>813</b>
Northern Ireland	62	3	<b>65</b>
<b>UK</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>1376</b>

All certified woodland in 2015 is under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) scheme. Some woodland is also certified under the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) Scheme.



Based on data in Wild Bird Populations in the UK statistical release (Defra, October 2014).

Year	All woodland species	Woodland generalists	Woodland specialists
2009	87.7	97.3	83.8
2010	100.0	100.9	98.5
2011	102.5	98.2	102.9
2012	102.5	100.9	102.9
2013	88.9	89.1	88.2

Woodland bird populations (index: year 2000=100)

Wood removals: international comparisons 2013

Region	Industrial roundwood (million m³)		Woodfuel (million m³)		Total roundwood (million m³)	
	Production	Apparent consumption	Production	Apparent consumption	Production	Apparent consumption
UK	9	2	630	7	639	9
EU-27	330	97	630	10	967	107
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>124</b>
Africa	69	2	630	1	699	3
Asia	382	1	743	1	1126	2
North & Central America	450	1	128	1	578	2
Oceania	60	1	11	1	70	2
South America	226	1	178	1	403	2
<b>World</b>	<b>1736</b>	<b>1835</b>	<b>1835</b>	<b>3571</b>	<b>3571</b>	<b>3571</b>

Source: FAO These figures are not National Statistics. Cyprus is included in EU-27 total but is part of FAO's Asia region.

Largest net importers and exporters of forest products, 2013



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 m³)				(000 t)		
2010	5699	1886	2701	8462	1313	509	5349
2011	4936	2487	2827	8073	1649	546	5485
2012	5179	3166	2650	7812	1998	597	5585
2013	5488	6283	2964	7213	1543	432	5390
2014	6425	8391	3260	7319	1304	404	5472

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
2010	1199	179	781	4607	89	113	1610
2011	1080	208	838	4696	95	128	1650
2012	1084	260	791	4266	89	130	1589
2013	1180	499	882	4165	89	109	1519
2014	1420	627	936	4196	85	107	1480

'Other wood' includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles, residues and wood pellets. 'Pulp & paper' includes paperboard and recovered waste paper.

New planting (thousands of hectares)

Year	England		Wales		Scotland		N Ireland		UK		
	(to 31/3)	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	Total	
2011	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.3	1.8	4.2	0.0	0.2	1.8	7.3	<b>9.1</b>
2012	0.0	2.7	0.1	0.6	3.3	5.7	0.0	0.3	3.5	9.3	<b>12.8</b>
2013	0.0	2.6	0.1	0.8	1.7	5.3	0.0	0.2	1.9	8.9	<b>10.8</b>
2014	0.0	3.3	0.1	0.8	2.0	6.3	0.0	0.3	2.2	10.7	<b>12.9</b>
2015	0.1	2.3	0.0	0.1	2.5	5.1	0.0	0.2	2.6	7.7	<b>10.3</b>

Restocking (thousands of hectares)

Year	England		Wales		Scotland		N Ireland		UK		
	(to 31/3)	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	Total	
2011	2.3	1.7	1.3	0.8	5.6	1.3	1.0	0.0	10.3	3.8	<b>14.0</b>
2012	2.0	1.6	1.4	0.6	4.6	1.1	0.9	0.1	9.0	3.3	<b>12.3</b>
2013	2.2	1.8	1.4	0.6	5.1	0.9	1.1	0.1	9.7	3.4	<b>13.1</b>
2014	2.6	1.9	1.4	0.8	6.5	1.4	1.0	0.1	11.6	4.2	<b>15.8</b>
2015	2.0	4.4	1.3	0.6	6.6	1.9	0.8	0.0	10.7	6.9	<b>17.6</b>

Notes on Forestry Facts & Figures:  
 • FC/NRW/FS = Forestry Commission/Natural Resources Wales/  
 other publicly-owned woodland.  
 † Confirers = Broadleaves  
 • Figures in the tables are individually rounded, so the constituent items may not sum to the total given.  
 • One green tonne is equivalent to approximately 0.98 m³ underbark softwood or 0.88 m³ underbark hardwood, and to approximately 1.22 m³ overbark standing softwood or 1.1 m³ overbark standing hardwood.  
 Statistician: Sheila Ward. Enquiries relating to this publication should be addressed to: statistics@forestry.gov.uk  
 If you need this publication in an alternative format, for example in large print or another language, please telephone us on 0300 067 5197 or send an email to: diversity@forestry.gov.uk  
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Wood products: international comparisons 2013

Region	Sawnwood (million m³)		Woodbased panels (million m³)		Paper & paperboard (million tonnes)	
	Production	Apparent consumption	Production	Apparent consumption	Production	Apparent consumption
UK	4	9	3	6	5	9
EU-27	99	83	57	53	92	81
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>92</b>
Africa	9	18	3	5	4	7
Asia	114	158	213	209	180	188
North & Central America	116	106	47	52	91	87
Oceania	9	7	4	3	4	5
South America	31	27	17	15	15	17
<b>World</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>395</b>

Source: FAO. These figures are not National Statistics. Cyprus is included in EU-27 total but is part of FAO's Asia region.

Employment in forestry and primary wood processing (thousands)

Year	Forestry	Saw-milling	Panels	Pulp & paper	Total
2009	14	9	4	13	<b>40</b>
2010	14	9	5	13	<b>41</b>
2011	14	8	4	13	<b>39</b>
2012	15	8	5	13	<b>41</b>
2013	14	8	5	13	<b>40</b>

Excludes secondary wood processing and other wood-using industries. Source: Annual Business Survey (Office for National Statistics).

Gross value added in forestry and primary wood processing (£ million)

Year	Forestry	Saw-milling	Panels	Pulp & paper	Total
2009	382	299	169	658	<b>1508</b>
2010	329	415	327	628	<b>1699</b>
2011	416	435	197	888	<b>1936</b>
2012	307	586	226	776	<b>1895</b>
2013	504	545	280	578	<b>1907</b>

Excludes secondary wood processing and other wood-using industries. Source: Annual Business Survey (Office for National Statistics).

Wood production (thousands of green tonnes)

Year	Softwood			Hardwood		
	FC/NRW/FS	Private sector	Total	FC/NRW/FS	Private sector	Total
2010	4625	4633	<b>9258</b>	70	465	<b>535</b>
2011	4870	5186	<b>10056</b>	75	465	<b>541</b>
2012	4836	5259	<b>10095</b>	55	478	<b>532</b>
2013	5084	5852	<b>10936</b>	78	451	<b>529</b>
2014	4900	6531	<b>11431</b>	71	461	<b>532</b>

Production of wood products

Year	Sawnwood		Woodbased panels		Paper & paperboard	
	(000 m³)	(000 tonnes)	(000 m³)	(000 tonnes)	(000 tonnes)	(000 tonnes)
2010	3101	3101	3370	3370	4300	4300
2011	3279	3279	3384	3384	4342	4342
2012						

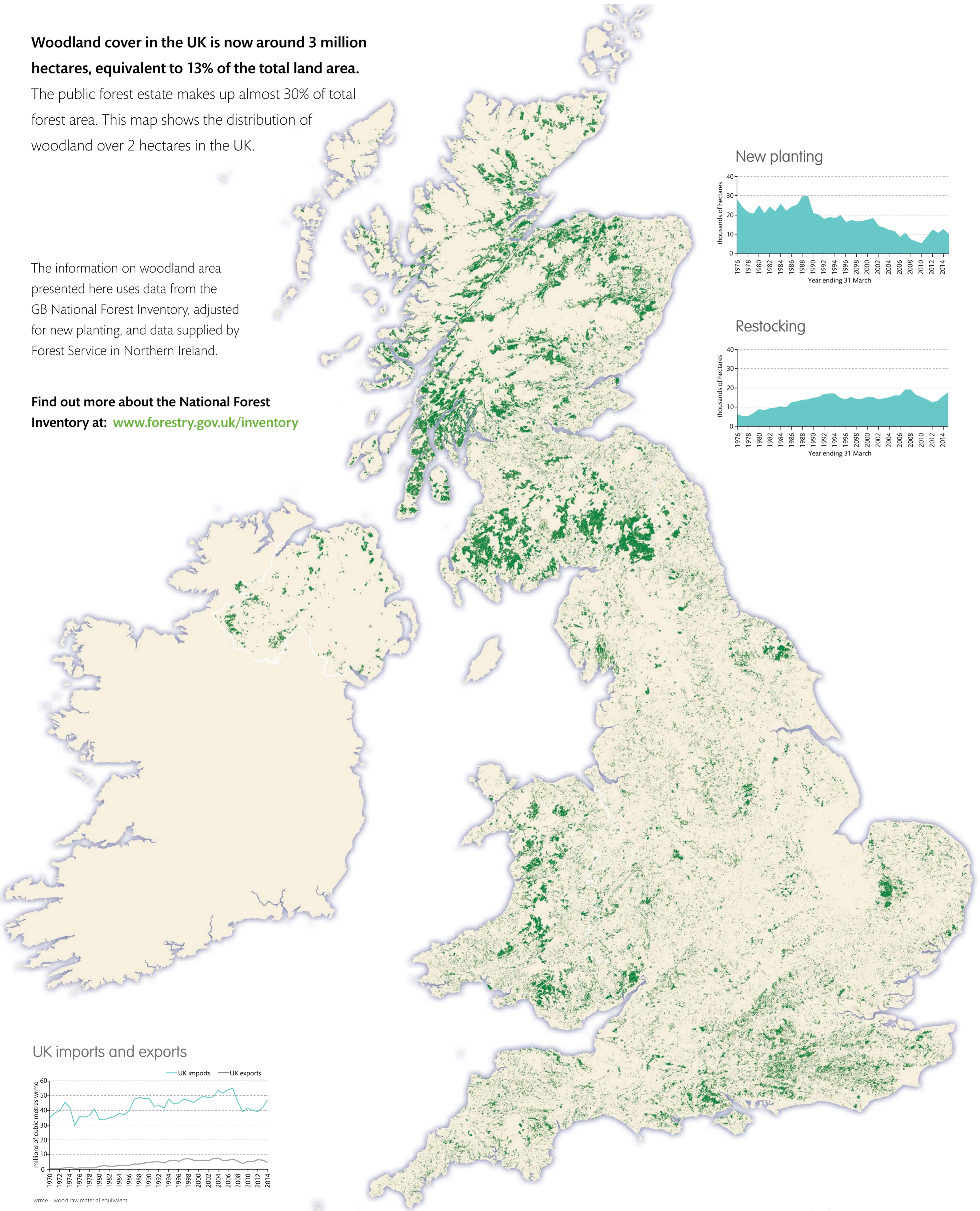
# Distribution of woodland in the UK

**Woodland cover in the UK is now around 3 million hectares, equivalent to 13% of the total land area.**

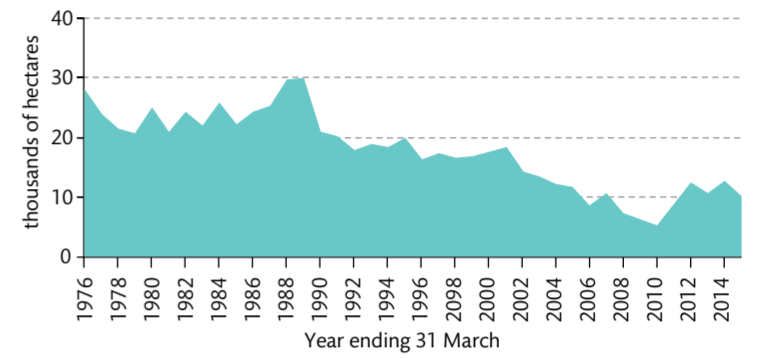
The public forest estate makes up almost 30% of total forest area. This map shows the distribution of woodland over 2 hectares in the UK.

The information on woodland area presented here uses data from the GB National Forest Inventory, adjusted for new planting, and data supplied by Forest Service in Northern Ireland.

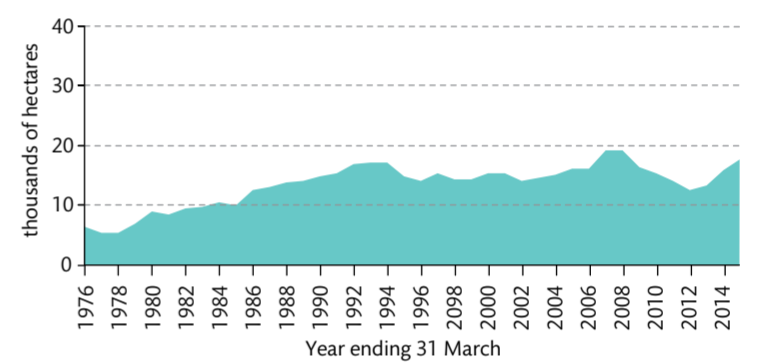
Find out more about the National Forest Inventory at: [www.forestry.gov.uk/inventory](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/inventory)



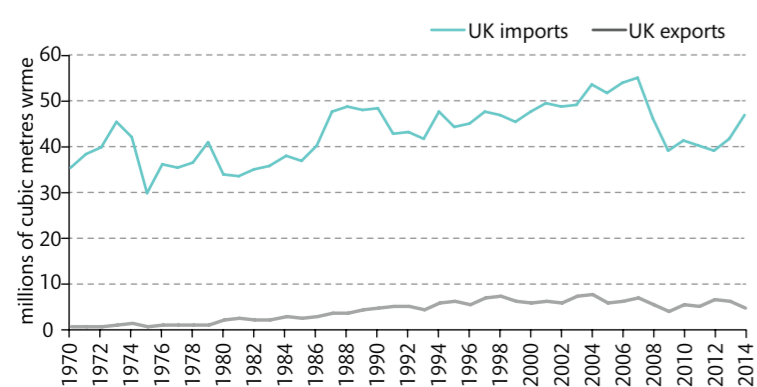
New planting



Restocking



UK imports and exports



w.r.m.e = wood raw material equivalent