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**Coverage**  
Great Britain  
**Theme**  
Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry

## Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index

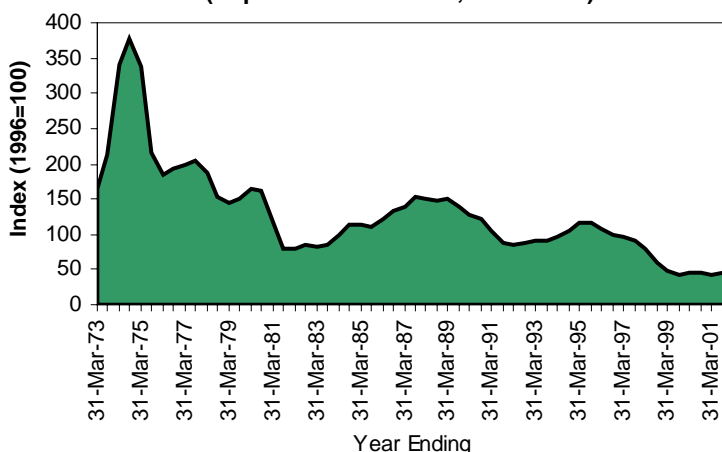
Data for the year to March 2002

This release contains the latest figures for the Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index for Great Britain. The Index measures the average price received per cubic metre of standing sales timber from Forest Enterprise sales. The Index is expressed in real terms (1996 prices), and is adjusted for timber size mix using Laspeyres' method (see below).

The main findings are:

- Coniferous standing sales prices in Great Britain were 12 per cent lower in real terms in the year to March 2002, compared with the previous year.
- This is an increase in the decline in timber prices. (Prices were 7.7 per cent lower in real terms in the year to March 2001, compared with the previous year.)
- The average price per cubic metre overbark standing was £7.34 in nominal terms (£6.38 in 1996 prices) in the year to March 2002.

**Standing Sales Price Index for Great Britain  
(September 1996=100, real terms)**



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	Percentage change	
	Nominal terms	Real terms (1996=100)
Year to March 2002	-9.5%	-12.0%
Year to March 2001	-4.0%	-7.7%

## **Background**

The Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index is calculated on the basis of Forestry Commission sales by Forest Enterprise and has been published biannually since the 1950s.

Price is defined as the average price received per cubic metre overbark standing. The Index is expressed in real terms (1996 prices) and is deflated using the GDP deflator, which is published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The base year of the Index is September 1996 (1996=100). A constant size mix of timber has been used to calculate the Standing Sales Index in order to avoid distortions from changes in the size mix of timber sales. For example, greater volumes of larger size, and thus more expensive, timber have been sold in recent years. This in itself has moved the average price of coniferous standing sales upwards, thus distorting any comparison of timber prices over time. The technique whereby the Index reflects the price, in other years, of a particular size mix sold in the base year, is known as the Laspeyres' method. This technique is commonly used to calculate price indices on a consistent basis.

Standing sales timber price data are published every six months on an annual basis, i.e. data for the year to March are published in May, while data for the year to September are published in November. Given the overlapping nature of the data, comparisons of timber prices should be made with the same period a year ago.

Previous real terms standing sales figures may be subject to minor changes depending on revisions to the GDP deflator by ONS.

Table 1: Coniferous Standing Sales Prices for Great Britain

(Per cubic metre overbark)

Year to:	Average Price £	Real Average Price £1996	Laspeyres Index in Nominal Terms September 1996=100	Laspeyres Index in Real Terms (1996 Prices) September 1996=100
31-Mar-73	3.11	21.57	23.76	164.65
30-Sep-73	3.83	25.72	31.48	211.70
31-Mar-74	6.31	40.74	52.75	340.76
30-Sep-74	8.25	49.46	62.88	377.12
31-Mar-75	7.86	42.45	62.32	336.35
30-Sep-75	5.92	28.20	45.33	215.94
31-Mar-76	5.79	24.96	42.75	184.22
30-Sep-76	6.33	25.55	47.84	192.95
31-Mar-77	6.96	26.39	52.22	197.96
30-Sep-77	7.56	26.79	57.35	203.33
31-Mar-78	7.25	24.22	56.32	188.12
30-Sep-78	6.31	19.97	48.35	153.05
31-Mar-79	6.48	19.46	48.40	145.43
30-Sep-79	6.70	18.83	53.71	151.01
31-Mar-80	8.07	20.76	64.22	165.16
30-Sep-80	8.87	20.83	69.34	162.82
31-Mar-81	6.44	14.01	52.95	115.23
30-Sep-81	4.61	9.54	37.72	78.02
31-Mar-82	5.37	10.68	40.01	79.52
30-Sep-82	6.86	13.15	43.87	84.17
31-Mar-83	7.06	13.13	44.63	82.96
30-Sep-83	7.34	13.29	47.21	85.45
31-Mar-84	8.94	15.88	56.25	99.89
30-Sep-84	10.37	17.95	64.98	112.51
31-Mar-85	10.26	17.32	66.70	112.54
30-Sep-85	10.36	17.01	68.13	111.88
31-Mar-86	11.26	18.04	75.40	120.81
30-Sep-86	12.19	19.26	83.97	132.74
31-Mar-87	12.62	19.60	88.70	137.82
30-Sep-87	14.59	22.09	101.76	154.09
31-Mar-88	15.36	22.67	102.71	151.61
30-Sep-88	15.29	21.93	103.14	147.93
31-Mar-89	15.80	21.84	109.08	150.75
30-Sep-89	15.57	20.76	104.10	138.83
31-Mar-90	15.14	19.51	99.38	128.11
30-Sep-90	15.48	19.17	97.98	121.32
31-Mar-91	13.75	16.37	87.33	103.99
30-Sep-91	11.06	12.78	75.30	87.00
31-Mar-92	11.22	12.59	76.41	85.78
30-Sep-92	11.99	13.19	80.00	87.97
31-Mar-93	12.33	13.40	82.23	89.40
30-Sep-93	12.68	13.62	84.88	91.22
31-Mar-94	13.87	14.72	91.51	97.12
30-Sep-94	15.25	16.10	98.23	103.74
31-Mar-95	17.28	18.09	110.85	116.05
30-Sep-95	17.74	18.31	112.88	116.51
31-Mar-96	16.59	16.90	104.60	106.52
30-Sep-96	15.97	15.97	100.00	100.00
31-Mar-97	15.92	15.71	96.77	95.51
30-Sep-97	15.52	15.12	94.53	92.08
31-Mar-98	13.35	12.78	82.33	78.84
30-Sep-98	10.32	9.74	64.11	60.53
31-Mar-99	8.44	7.86	51.13	47.63
30-Sep-99	7.65	7.03	46.20	42.47
31-Mar-00	8.13	7.40	49.75	45.26
30-Sep-00	8.02	7.23	48.84	44.03
31-Mar-01	7.77	6.95	47.77	42.67
30-Sep-01	8.32	7.34	49.94	44.08
31-Mar-02	7.34	6.38	43.22	37.56