

## **FORESTRY FACTS & FIGURES 2004**



**A summary of statistics about woodland  
and forestry in Great Britain**

**ECONOMICS AND  
STATISTICS**  
Forestry Commission



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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) and as printed copies. Release dates are published on our website for the year ahead at six monthly intervals (in June and December) and publications are made available at 12.30 on the day of release. Further details on FC statistical release practices are available in our compliance statement, available on our website.

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Please note that the figures in the tables are individually rounded, so the constituent items may not sum to the total given.

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**Table 1 Area of woodland**

thousands of hectares

	Conifers	Broadleaves	Total woodland
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**Forestry Commission**

England	154	52	<b>205</b>
Wales	98	11	<b>110</b>
Scotland	440	25	<b>465</b>
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>780</b>

**Non-FC**

England	217	693	<b>910</b>
Wales	64	112	<b>176</b>
Scotland	611	254	<b>865</b>
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>1 060</b>	<b>1 951</b>

**All woodland**

England	370	745	<b>1 115</b>
Wales	162	123	<b>286</b>
Scotland	1 051	280	<b>1 330</b>
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>1 583</b>	<b>1 148</b>	<b>2 731</b>

## Notes:

1. Areas as at 31 March 2004.
2. Figures for non-FC woodland are based on data obtained from the 1995–1999 National Inventory of Woodland and Trees and adjusted for new planting and sales of Forestry Commission woodland, but at present no adjustment is made for woodland converted to another land use. They include non-FC publicly owned woodland.
3. Broadleaves include coppice and coppice with standards.

**Table 2 Forestry Commission land use**

thousands of hectares

Land use	England	Wales	Scotland	GB
Woodland	205.1	109.5	465.1	<b>779.8</b>
Other land	53.4	15.8	191.1	<b>260.2</b>
<b>Total land area</b>	<b>258.5</b>	<b>125.3</b>	<b>656.2</b>	<b>1 040.0</b>

Notes:

1. Areas as at 31 March 2004.
-

**Table 3 Planting**

	hectares			
	England	Wales	Scotland	GB
<b>Forestry Commission</b>				
Conifers	1 970	1 133	4 923	<b>8 026</b>
Broadleaves	348	262	445	<b>1 055</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 318</b>	<b>1 395</b>	<b>5 368</b>	<b>9 081</b>
<b>Non-FC – all grant schemes</b>				
Conifers	526	248	5 301	<b>6 075</b>
Broadleaves	5 359	641	5 020	<b>11 020</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 885</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>10 321</b>	<b>17 095</b>
<b>All planting</b>				
Conifers	2 496	1 381	10 224	<b>14 101</b>
Broadleaves	5 707	903	5 465	<b>12 075</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 203</b>	<b>2 284</b>	<b>15 689</b>	<b>26 176</b>

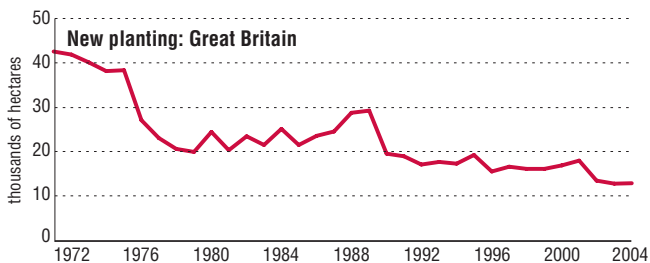
**Notes:**

1. Figures shown are for the areas of planting (new planting and restocking) in the year ending 31 March 2004.
2. Areas receiving grant aid are allocated to years by date of payment, except for England which are by date of claim.
3. The areas of new planting and restocking include areas of natural colonisation and regeneration for which the second instalment of grant has been paid.
4. The table excludes areas planted on non-FC woodland without grant aid, estimated to total 728 hectares in the year (all in England).

**Table 4 New planting**

thousands of hectares

Year (to 31/3)	England		Wales		Scotland		Great Britain		
	FC	Non-FC	FC	Non-FC	FC	Non-FC	FC	Non-FC	Total
2000	0.1	5.9	0.0	0.7	0.0	10.4	0.1	17.0	17.1
2001	0.1	5.7	0.0	0.4	0.1	11.6	0.2	17.8	18.1
2002	0.6	4.7	0.0	0.3	0.1	7.9	0.7	12.9	13.7
2003	0.7	5.2	0.0	0.3	0.1	6.6	0.8	12.1	13.0
2004	0.1	5.8	0.0	0.5	0.1	6.7	0.2	12.9	13.1



Notes:

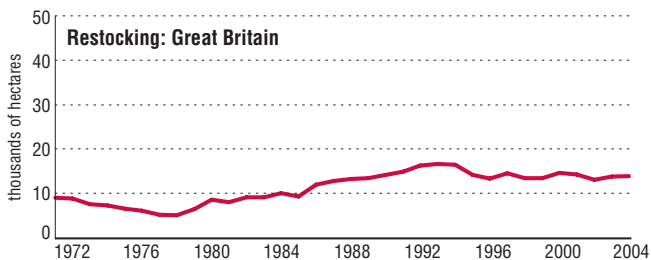
1. FC = Forestry Commission; Non-FC = All other woodland, including some other publicly owned woodland.
2. Areas receiving grant aid are allocated to years by date of payment, except for England in 2003–04, which are by date of claim. A further 1478 hectares of new planting, claimed in 2002–03 and paid in 2003–04, is excluded from the table.
3. Figures for non-FC woodland include an estimate of areas planted without grant aid.
4. Includes woodland formed by natural colonisation.



**Table 5 Restocking**

thousands of hectares

Year (to 31/3)	England		Wales		Scotland		Great Britain		
	FC	Non-FC	FC	Non-FC	FC	Non-FC	FC	Non-FC	Total
2000	2.2	1.7	1.8	0.8	4.3	3.8	8.2	6.3	14.6
2001	2.1	1.8	1.4	0.8	4.4	3.6	8.0	6.2	14.2
2002	2.3	1.1	1.1	0.8	4.9	2.9	8.3	4.7	13.0
2003	2.3	1.1	1.2	0.7	5.0	3.5	8.4	5.3	13.7
2004	2.2	0.9	1.4	0.4	5.3	3.6	8.9	4.9	13.8



Notes:

1. FC = Forestry Commission; Non-FC = All other woodland, including some other publicly owned woodland.
2. Areas receiving grant aid are allocated to years by date of payment, except for England in 2003–04, which are by date of claim. A further 131 hectares of restocking, claimed in 2002–03 and paid in 2003–04, is excluded from the table.
3. Figures for non-FC woodland include an estimate of areas planted without grant aid.
4. Includes woodland formed by natural regeneration.

**Table 6 Annual management grants**

thousands of hectares

Year (to 31/3)	England	Wales	Scotland	GB
<b>2000</b>				
Conifers	8.6	0.9	5.4	14.9
Broadleaves	24.9	1.0	4.3	30.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>45.1</b>
<b>2001</b>				
Conifers	4.9	0.4	6.3	11.7
Broadleaves	18.5	1.4	2.6	22.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>34.2</b>
<b>2002</b>				
Conifers	4.6	0.5	3.0	8.1
Broadleaves	15.4	1.0	2.1	18.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>26.6</b>
<b>2003</b>				
Conifers	3.5	0.5	2.8	6.8
Broadleaves	15.7	0.8	3.2	19.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>26.5</b>
<b>2004</b>				
Conifers	8.3	0.4	3.0	11.7
Broadleaves	30.2	0.7	1.3	32.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>43.9</b>

Notes:

1. These figures are for areas approved for Standard, Special and Annual Management Grant under the Woodland Grant Scheme. Excludes Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG).

**Table 7 Wood production**

thousands of cubic metres overbark standing

Year	Conifers			Broadleaves	Total
	FC	Non-FC	Total		
1999	5 440	3 070	8 510	740	<b>9 260</b>
2000	5 530	3 100	8 630	720	<b>9 350</b>
2001	5 140	3 480	8 630	710	<b>9 340</b>
2002	5 210	3 630	8 840	690	<b>9 530</b>
2003	5 370	4 670	10 040	620	<b>10 670</b>
2002–2006	5 130	5 750	10 870	1 000	<b>11 870</b>
2007–2011	5 980	7 080	13 060	1 000	<b>14 060</b>
2012–2016	6 240	8 200	14 450	1 000	<b>15 450</b>
2017–2021	6 850	8 630	15 480	1 000	<b>16 480</b>

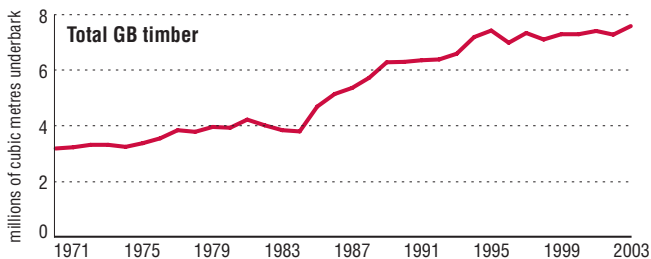
## Notes:

1. One m<sup>3</sup> overbark standing equals approximately 0.80 m<sup>3</sup> underbark, and weighs approximately 0.82 tonnes (softwood) or 0.90 tonnes (hardwood) when freshly felled.
2. Most broadleaved production comes from private estates; the figures shown for broadleaves are estimates based on reported deliveries to wood processing industries.
3. The forecasts of future production are annual averages for the five-year periods. Conifer forecasts are taken from the forecast of softwood availability, published in *Forestry & British Timber*, April 2001 (these forecasts are not part of National Statistics).
4. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10 000 m<sup>3</sup>.
5. FC = Forestry Commission; Non-FC = All other woodland, including some other publicly owned woodland.

**Table 8 Timber deliveries**

thousands of cubic metres underbark

Year	Soft-wood logs	Hard-wood logs	Wood-based panels	Paper products	Other	Total GB use	Direct exports	Total GB timber
1999	3 960	190	1 630	820	660	7 250	20	7 280
2000	3 940	170	1 700	860	600	7 270	20	7 280
2001	4 050	170	1 680	840	600	7 340	60	7 400
2002	4 120	140	1 470	870	540	7 140	130	7 270
2003	4 240	120	1 460	880	530	7 240	340	7 570



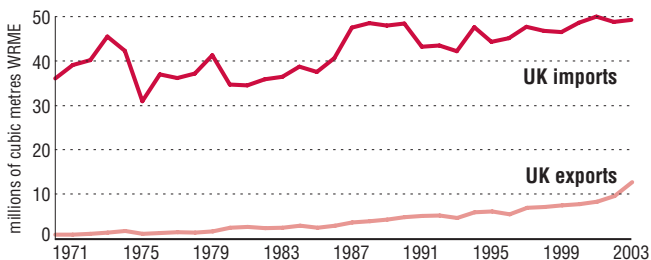
Notes:

1. All figures are based on processing industries' estimates of purchases of timber grown in GB.
2. Woodbased panels are particleboard and fibreboard.
3. Paper products include paperboard.
4. Other includes timber for fencing and fuelwood.
5. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10 000 m<sup>3</sup>.

**Table 9 UK imports/exports and consumption**

millions of cubic metres WRME

Year	Imports					Exports	UK production	Apparent consumption
	Wood	Pulp	Panels	Paper	Total	Total		
1999	15.2	7.7	6.4	17.4	46.8	7.4	7.6	46.9
2000	17.0	8.3	7.1	16.5	48.9	7.7	7.6	48.8
2001	17.1	7.1	7.4	18.6	50.2	8.2	7.7	49.8
2002	18.1	7.2	8.3	15.5	49.1	9.5	7.6	47.2
2003	19.7	6.8	8.0	15.2	49.7	12.6	7.9	45.0



Notes:

1. Source: UK Overseas Trade Statistics (includes revised figures for 1999 to 2001) and conversion factors.
2. WRME = wood raw material equivalent, softwood + hardwood, underbark. These are equivalent to the underbark volumes in Table 8.
3. Wood = roundwood and sawnwood.
4. Panels = particleboard, fibreboard, plywood and veneers.
5. Paper includes paperboard.
6. UK production estimated from deliveries for Great Britain + Northern Ireland.
7. Apparent consumption = imports – exports + UK production; it excludes recycled wood and waste-paper of UK origin.

**Table 10 Forest employment**

Activity	full-time equivalent numbers			
	England	Wales	Scotland	GB
Forest nurseries	421	2	201	<b>624</b>
Establishment	1 088	252	1 189	<b>2 529</b>
Maintenance	1 680	380	1 304	<b>3 364</b>
Harvesting	2 330	493	1 947	<b>4 770</b>
Road construction	181	47	179	<b>407</b>
Other forest	466	144	372	<b>982</b>
<b>Total forest</b>	<b>6 166</b>	<b>1 318</b>	<b>5 192</b>	<b>12 676</b>
Haulage	326	142	593	<b>1 061</b>
Processing	5 952	2 192	3 083	<b>11 227</b>
Other non-forest	2 295	447	1 826	<b>4 568</b>
<b>Total non-forest</b>	<b>8 573</b>	<b>2 781</b>	<b>5 502</b>	<b>16 856</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 739</b>	<b>4 099</b>	<b>10 694</b>	<b>29 532</b>

**Notes:**

1. All figures are from the Forest Employment Survey 1998/99, published in January 2001 (not a National Statistics publication).
2. Other non-forest includes employment in local authorities, forestry education and training and other sectors not covered by previous Forest Employment Surveys.

**Notes for Table 11:**

1. Number of sites where a given facility or activity is present. These data are not directly comparable to previous years.
2. Facilities and activities on the Forestry Commission website in August 2004.

**Table 11 Forest Enterprise recreation facilities and activities**

	<b>England</b>	<b>Wales</b>	<b>Scotland</b>	<b>GB</b>	
<b>Total sites on FC website</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>588</b>	
<b>Facilities</b>	Parking: free	165	72	218	<b>455</b>
	Parking: paid	34	12	12	<b>58</b>
	Information	101	17	106	<b>224</b>
	Easy access	82	19	42	<b>143</b>
	Toilets	66	15	56	<b>137</b>
	Refreshments	46	5	23	<b>74</b>
	Visitor centre	24	5	20	<b>49</b>
	Shop	18	5	11	<b>34</b>
	<b>Activities</b>	Walking	172	70	228
Cycling		98	27	104	<b>229</b>
Picnic		94	37	93	<b>224</b>
Horse riding		61	20	43	<b>124</b>
Wildlife activities		51	6	34	<b>91</b>
Educational		47	14	28	<b>89</b>
View point		16	3	46	<b>65</b>
Heritage		19	4	33	<b>56</b>
Play area		28	7	16	<b>51</b>
Orienteering		28	6	15	<b>49</b>
Fishing		12	12	21	<b>45</b>
Barbecue		24	13	6	<b>43</b>
Forest drive		13	1	10	<b>24</b>
Camping		10	2	12	<b>24</b>
Arts		14	0	8	<b>22</b>
Arboretum		7	4	3	<b>14</b>
Watersports		2	1	3	<b>6</b>
Skiing	0	0	2	<b>2</b>	

**Table 12 Forest cover: international comparisons – 2000**

Country	Forest area (000 ha)	Total land area (000 ha)	Forest as % of land area
<b>Europe</b>			
United Kingdom	2 794	24 160	11.6
Austria	3 886	8 273	47.0
Belgium/Luxembourg	728	3 282	22.2
Denmark	455	4 243	10.7
Estonia	2 060	4 227	48.7
Finland	21 935	30 459	72.0
France	15 341	55 010	27.9
Germany	10 740	34 927	30.7
Greece	3 599	12 890	27.9
Ireland	659	6 889	9.6
Italy	10 003	29 406	34.0
Latvia	2 923	6 205	47.1
Lithuania	1 994	6 258	31.9
Netherlands	375	3 392	11.1
Norway	8 868	30 683	28.9
Portugal	3 666	9 150	40.1
Russian Federation	851 392	1 688 851	50.4
Spain	14 370	49 945	28.8
Sweden	27 134	41 162	65.9
Switzerland	1 199	3 955	30.3
Other Europe	55 130	206 590	26.7
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>1 039 251</b>	<b>2 259 957</b>	<b>46.0</b>

Source:

FAO State of the World's Forests 2003 (not a National Statistics publication).



**Table 12 (Continued)**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Forest area (000 ha)</b>	<b>Total land area (000 ha)</b>	<b>Forest as % of land area</b>
<b>Asia</b>			
China	163 480	932 743	17.5
Japan	24 081	37 652	64.0
Other Asia	360 232	2 114 351	17.0
<b>Total Asia</b>	<b>547 793</b>	<b>3 084 746</b>	<b>17.8</b>
<b>North and Central America</b>			
USA	225 993	915 895	24.7
Canada	244 571	922 097	26.5
Other N./Central America	78 740	298 974	26.3
<b>Total N./Central America</b>	<b>549 304</b>	<b>2 136 966</b>	<b>25.7</b>
<b>South America</b>			
Brazil	543 905	845 651	64.3
Other South America	341 713	909 090	37.6
<b>Total South America</b>	<b>885 618</b>	<b>1 754 741</b>	<b>50.5</b>
<b>Africa</b>			
<b>Total Africa</b>	<b>649 866</b>	<b>2 978 394</b>	<b>21.8</b>
<b>Oceania</b>			
Australia	154 539	768 230	20.1
New Zealand	7 946	26 799	29.7
Other Oceania	35 138	54 067	65.0
<b>Total Oceania</b>	<b>197 623</b>	<b>849 096</b>	<b>23.3</b>
<b>Total World</b>	<b>3 869 455</b>	<b>13 063 900</b>	<b>29.6</b>

## **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.





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