

FORESTRY FACTS & FIGURES 2005

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

**ECONOMICS AND
STATISTICS**
Forestry Commission



Forestry Commission

© Crown Copyright 2005

ISBN: 0 85538 668 1

FCFS205/FC-GB(CLM)/IA-2.5K/SEP05

Prepared by:

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

Enquiries:
Alister Henderson
+44 (0)131 314 6337
statistics@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

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

www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics

A National Statistics publication

Official statistics bearing the National Statistics logo are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from political interference. You can also find National Statistics on the internet at: www.statistics.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 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.

Contents

Table 1	Area of woodland
Table 2	Forestry Commission land use
Table 3	Planting
Table 4	New planting
Table 5	Restocking
Table 6	Annual management grants
Table 7	Wood production
Table 8	Timber deliveries
Table 9	UK imports/exports and consumption
Table 10	Forest employment
Table 11	Forest Enterprise recreation facilities and activities
Table 12	Forest cover: international comparisons – 2000

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

Table 1 Area of woodland

thousands of hectares

	Conifers	Broadleaves	Total Woodland
--	----------	-------------	----------------

Forestry Commission

England	153	52	205
Wales	97	12	109
Scotland	437	26	463
Great Britain	687	91	778

Non-FC

England	217	697	914
Wales	64	113	177
Scotland	613	258	871
Great Britain	894	1 068	1 962

All woodland

England	370	750	1 119
Wales	161	125	286
Scotland	1 050	284	1 334
Great Britain	1 581	1 158	2 740

Notes:

1. Areas as at 31 March 2005.
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	205.3	109.2	463.1	777.5
Other land	53.8	17.0	204.9	275.7
Total land area	259.0	126.2	668.0	1 053.3

Notes:

1. Areas as at 31 March 2005.
-

Table 3 Planting

hectares

	England	Wales	Scotland	GB
--	---------	-------	----------	----

Forestry Commission

Conifers	1 385	1 009	4 686	7 080
Broadleaves	265	333	632	1 230
Total	1 650	1 342	5 318	8 310

Non-FC – all grant schemes

Conifers	513	171	5 187	5 871
Broadleaves	4 986	633	4 653	10 272
Total	5 499	804	9 840	16 143

All planting

Conifers	1 898	1 180	9 873	12 951
Broadleaves	5 251	966	5 285	11 302
Total	7 149	2 146	15 158	24 453

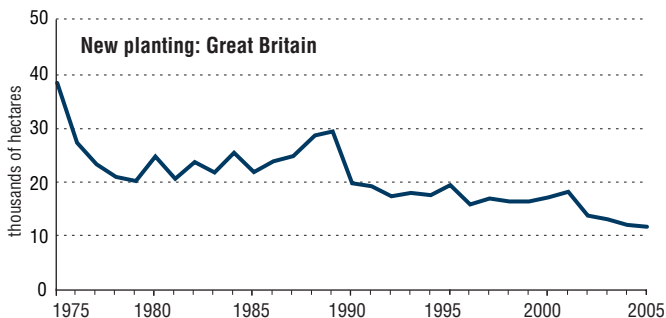
Notes:

1. Figures shown are for the areas of planting (new planting and restocking) in the year ending 31 March 2005.
2. Areas receiving grant aid are allocated to years by date of payment.
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 717 hectares in the year (all in England).
5. The use of natural regeneration in non-clearfell systems is increasing substantially – particularly with regard to broadleaves in England. These systems are not satisfactorily represented by measuring 'restocking area' within any given year, so broadleaf planting is likely to be under-reported in this table.

Table 4 New planting

thousands of hectares

Year	England		Wales		Scotland		Great Britain			
	(to 31/3)	FC	Non-FC	FC	Non-FC	FC	Non-FC	FC	Non-FC	Total
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	4.6	0.0	0.5	0.1	6.7	0.2	11.7	11.9
2005		0.0	5.3	0.0	0.5	0.0	5.6	0.1	11.5	11.5



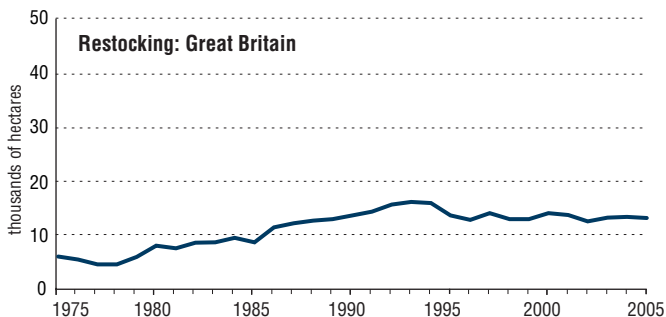
Notes:

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.
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
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	5.0	13.9
2005	1.6	0.9	1.3	0.3	5.3	4.2	8.2	5.4	13.6



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.
3. Figures for non-FC woodland include an estimate of areas planted without grant aid.
4. Includes woodland formed by natural regeneration.
5. The use of natural regeneration in non-clearfell systems is increasing substantially – particularly with regard to broadleaves in England. These systems are not satisfactorily represented by measuring 'restocking area' within any given year, so broadleaf planting is likely to be under-reported in this table.

Table 6 Annual management grants

thousands of hectares

Year (to 31/3)	England	Wales	Scotland	GB
2001				
Conifers	4.9	0.4	6.3	11.7
Broadleaves	18.5	1.4	2.6	22.5
Total	23.4	1.9	8.9	34.2
2002				
Conifers	4.6	0.5	3.0	8.1
Broadleaves	15.4	1.0	2.1	18.5
Total	20.0	1.5	5.1	26.6
2003				
Conifers	3.5	0.5	2.8	6.8
Broadleaves	15.7	0.8	3.2	19.7
Total	19.2	1.3	6.0	26.5
2004				
Conifers	8.3	0.4	3.0	11.7
Broadleaves	30.2	0.7	1.3	32.2
Total	38.5	1.0	4.3	43.9
2005				
Conifers	5.9	0.1	0.8	6.8
Broadleaves	24.5	0.1	0.2	24.9
Total	30.4	0.2	1.0	31.7

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		
2000	5 530	3 100	8 630	720	9 350
2001	5 140	3 480	8 630	710	9 340
2002	5 210	3 640	8 850	690	9 540
2003	5 370	4 320	9 690	620	10 320
2004	5 520	4960	10 480	570	11 050
2002–2006	5 130	5 750	10 870	1 000	11 870
2007–2011	5 980	7 080	13 060	1 000	14 060
2012–2016	6 240	8 200	14 450	1 000	15 450
2017–2021	6 850	8 630	15 480	1 000	16 480

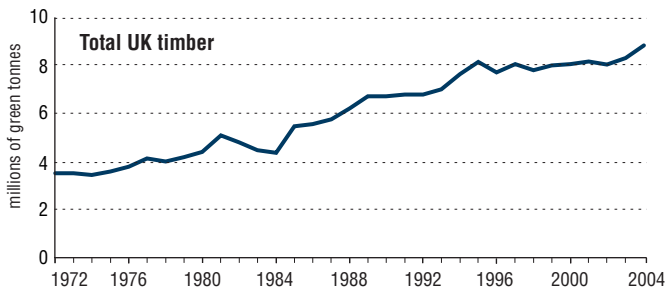
Notes:

1. One m³ overbark standing equals approximately 0.80 m³ 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 m³.
5. FC = Forestry Commission; Non-FC = All other woodland, including some other publicly owned woodland.

Table 8 Timber deliveries

thousands of green tonnes

Year	Soft-wood logs	Hard-wood logs	Wood-based panels	Paper products	Other	Total UK use	Direct exports	Total UK timber
2000	4 470	200	1 740	900	710	8 010	20	8 030
2001	4 590	190	1 720	880	710	8 080	60	8 140
2002	4 660	160	1 500	910	650	7 880	130	8 010
2003	4 790	140	1 490	920	640	7 980	310	8 290
2004	4 890	90	1 530	700	660	7 870	930	8 800

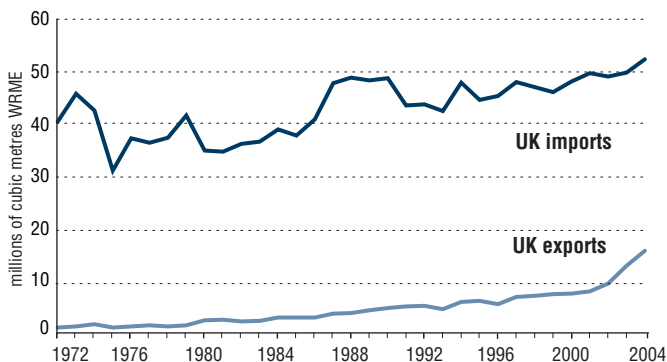


Notes:

1. All figures are based on processing industries' estimates of purchases of timber grown in the UK.
2. Woodbased panels are particleboard and fibreboard.
3. Paper products include paperboard.
4. Other includes timber for fencing and fuelwood.
5. Data for exports from Northern Ireland between 2000 and 2003 are not available.
6. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10 000 green tonnes.

Table 9 UK imports/exports and consumption

						millions of cubic metres WRME		
Imports					Exports	UK production	Apparent consumption	
Year	Wood	Pulp	Panels	Paper	Total			
2000	16.7	8.1	7.0	16.1	47.8	7.4	7.8	48.2
2001	16.9	7.1	7.3	18.2	49.4	7.9	7.9	49.4
2002	18.0	7.2	8.2	15.4	48.8	9.3	7.8	47.3
2003	19.6	6.8	8.0	15.1	49.5	12.7	8.1	44.9
2004	18.4	7.1	8.0	18.4	52.0	15.6	8.6	45.0



Notes:

1. Source: UK Overseas Trade Statistics and conversion factors.
2. WRME = wood raw material equivalent, softwood + hardwood, underbark.
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	624
Establishment	1 088	252	1 189	2 529
Maintenance	1 680	380	1 304	3 364
Harvesting	2 330	493	1 947	4 770
Road construction	181	47	179	407
Other forest	466	144	372	982
Total forest	6 166	1 318	5 192	12 676
Haulage	326	142	593	1 061
Processing	5 952	2 192	3 083	11 227
Other non-forest	2 295	447	1 826	4 568
Total non-forest	8 573	2 781	5 502	16 856
Total	14 739	4 099	10 694	29 532

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.
2. Facilities and activities on the Forestry Commission website in August 2005.

Table 11 Forest Enterprise recreation facilities and activities

	England	Wales	Scotland	GB	
Total sites on FC website	219	114	279	612	
Facilities	Parking: free	167	77	227	471
	Parking: paid	31	12	12	55
	Information	106	21	107	234
	Easy access	87	21	43	151
	Toilets	66	17	56	139
	Refreshments	47	8	24	79
	Visitor centre	25	6	20	51
	Shop	19	5	11	35
Activities	Walking	181	81	232	494
	Cycling	98	35	102	235
	Picnic	94	36	93	223
	Horse riding	62	36	45	143
	Education	46	14	40	100
	Wildlife activities	54	5	38	97
	View point	17	4	47	68
	Heritage	19	4	34	57
	Play area	27	7	16	50
	Orienteering	27	6	15	48
	Fishing	14	13	20	45
	Barbecue	24	13	6	43
	Camping	10	3	12	25
	Arts	15	0	9	24
	Forest drive	13	1	9	23
	Arboretum	7	4	3	14
	Watersports	2	1	3	6
Skiing	0	0	2	2	

Table 12 Forest cover: international comparisons – 2000

Country	Forest area (000 ha)	Total land area (000 ha)	Forest as % of land area
Europe			
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
Total Europe	1 039 251	2 259 957	46.0

Source:

FAO State of the World's Forests 2005 (not a National Statistics publication).

Table 12 (Continued)

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

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

231 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh
EH12 7AT

www.forestry.gov.uk