

Quality report: Forestry Statistics and Forestry Facts & Figures

Last updated:

September 2021

Next update due:

September 2022

Introduction

Forestry Statistics is a web-based compendium statistical release produced annually by Forest Research on behalf of the forestry authorities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It provides detailed statistics on the following topics :

- Woodland area and planting;
- UK grown timber;
- Trade of wood and wood products;
- Carbon;
- Environment;
- Social;
- Employment and businesses;
- Finance and prices;
- International forestry.

Forestry Facts & Figures provides a brief extract of the statistics in Forestry Statistics.

Separate quality reports, providing more detailed information, are available for:

- Woodland Statistics;
- UK Wood Production and Trade; and
- Timber Price Indices.

Quality reports are also available for individual surveys run by the Forest Research.

Relevance

The main uses of Forestry Statistics and Forestry Facts & Figures include:

- Providing information on the economy/ society/ environment;
- Informing policy and programme development;
- For policy/ programme evaluation and monitoring;
- Promoting the benefits of forestry;
- Informing marketing campaigns;
- Assessing the performance of government/ public bodies;
- Facilitating academic research;
- Informing investment decisions; and
- Allocating resources.

Users are consulted regularly to ensure that the publications remain relevant to them. This includes consultation with key stakeholders on our annual work plan.

Accuracy

A number of checks are performed on the data to ensure accuracy. These include checks against data for previous years, corrections of apparently incorrect data and quality assurance of data with experts (e.g. through the Expert Group on Timber & Trade Statistics).

Timeliness and punctuality

Results are published in Forestry Statistics and Forestry Facts & Figures at the end of September, 9 months after the end of the reference period for most calendar year data and 6 months after the end of the reference period for financial year data. Many of the statistics are published earlier than this (often as provisional figures), in other statistical outputs such as:

- UK Wood Production and Trade: provisional figures – May;
- Provisional Woodland Statistics – June;
- Timber Price Indices – May and November.

Accessibility and clarity

The annual Forestry Statistics publication, available on the Forest Research website at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/statistics provides the most comprehensive results, including background information on the sources, data collected, response rates, methodology, revisions and reporting. Spreadsheet versions of all tables are also available to download from our data downloads page at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/data-downloads/.

Summary results are also published in Forestry Facts & Figures, available as a hard copy leaflet and on the Forest Research website at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/statistics.

Longer time series data, providing additional breakdowns for some statistics, are published in accompanying tables. These tables are available to download from the Forest Research website in spreadsheet and ODS formats.

Comparability

General information, for each topic, on the comparability of our statistics is provided in the Sources chapter of Forestry Statistics. The quality reports for specific topics (UK Wood Production and Trade; Timber Price Indices; Woodland Statistics) and for individual surveys provide more detailed information.

Coherence

General information, for each topic, on the coherence of our statistics is provided in the Sources chapter of Forestry Statistics. The quality reports for specific topics (UK Wood Production and Trade; Timber Price Indices; Woodland Statistics) and for individual surveys provide more detailed information.

Revisions

Our Revisions Policy, available at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/about-our-statistics/code-of-practice/quality-of-official-statistics/, outlines our general approach to revisions. Information on significant revisions to specific data series are provided in the quality reports for specific topics and for individual surveys, and in the Sources chapter of Forestry Statistics.

Other issues related to quality

The sources chapter of Forestry Statistics provides more detailed information on the sources used, including information on methodologies and assumptions.