

International Year of Forests 2011

Forests cover around 40% of the EU27 land area

Half the EU27 consumption of renewable energy comes from wood

In 2010, forest and other wooded land¹ covered 178 million hectares in the **EU27**, or around 40% of its land area. The **EU27** accounted for about 4% of the world's total forest area. In the **EU27**, three quarters of forest area was available for wood supply in 2010. In forests available for wood supply, the volume of increment (new growth) exceeded the volume of fellings by more than one third in 2010.

In 2009, renewable sources of energy² provided 9% of total gross inland energy consumption² in the **EU27**. Wood and wood waste² was the leading renewable source of energy, with almost half of the **EU27**'s consumption of renewables coming from wood and wood waste.

This information comes from the publication **Forestry in the EU and the world**³, issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union** in connection with the **International Year of Forests 2011**. The International Year of Forests offers an opportunity to raise public awareness of the significant environmental and economic contributions of forests to making this planet livable, to highlight challenges the world's forests are facing and what is being done to manage forests sustainably.

Highest proportion of land covered by forests in Finland, Sweden and Slovenia

Six Member States had more than half of their land area covered by forest and other wooded land in 2010: **Finland** (77%), **Sweden** (76%), **Slovenia** (63%), **Latvia** (56%), **Spain** (55%) and **Estonia** (54%). The lowest shares were found in **Malta** (less than 0.5%), the **Netherlands** (11%), **Ireland** and the **United Kingdom** (both 12%) and **Denmark** (14%).

Among the Member States, the share of forests available for wood supply in 2010 varied from 11% in **Cyprus** and 50% in **Portugal** to 98% in **Denmark** and **Luxembourg**.

Forest available for wood supply is managed sustainably in the Member States

The growing stock within forests available for wood supply indicates the available wood resources. In 2010, the total growing stock in the **EU27** amounted to 21 750 mn m³. **Germany** (3 466 mn m³) had the largest growing stock, followed by **Sweden** (2 651 mn m³) and **France** (2 453 mn m³).

The volume of increment compared with fellings gives an indication of the sustainable use of forests and wood. In the **EU27** in 2010, the increment of the total growing stock available for wood supply amounted to 770 mn m³, while the volume felled amounted to 480 mn m³, which means that the increment exceeded fellings by more than one third. In all Member States, the volume of fellings was less than the volume of increment in 2010, except in the **Netherlands**, where they were equal.

Forest area & forest available for wood supply, 2010

	Land area*	Forest & other wooded land		Forest available for wood supply			
				% of total forest area**	of which (in million m ³ over bark):		
	1 000 ha	% of land area	1000 ha		Growing stock	Increment	Fellings
EU27	429 860	41	177 757	75	21 750	768	484
Belgium	3 033	23	706	95	164	5	4
Bulgaria	11 100	35	3 927	73	435	15	8
Czech Republic	7 724	34	2 657	88	738	23	18
Denmark	4 310	14	591	98	112	6	2
Germany	35 711	31	11 076	95	3 466	107	60
Estonia	4 343	54	2 350	86	398	11	6
Ireland	6 839	12	789	:	74	4	3
Greece***	13 082	50	6 539	55	170	5	2
Spain	50 176	55	27 747	54	784	46	17
France	63 283	28	17 572	86	2 453	94	64
Italy	29 511	37	10 916	74	1 285	33	13
Cyprus	925	42	387	11	3	0	0
Latvia	6 220	56	3 467	91	584	18	12
Lithuania	6 268	36	2 240	84	408	11	9
Luxembourg	259	34	88	98	0	1	0
Hungary	9 303	22	2 029	85	259	11	7
Malta	32	:	0	:	0	0	0
Netherlands	3 376	11	365	81	56	2	2
Austria	8 243	49	4 006	83	1 107	25	24
Poland***	31 269	30	9 337	91	2 092	68	41
Portugal***	9 209	39	3 611	50	154	19	14
Romania	22 989	29	6 733	77	0	34	17
Slovenia	2 014	63	1 274	92	390	9	3
Slovakia	4 904	39	1 933	92	478	13	10
Finland	30 390	77	23 269	85	2 024	91	59
Sweden	41 034	76	31 247	66	2 651	96	81
United Kingdom	24 315	12	2 901	83	340	21	11

* 2009 data, except for Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania and United Kingdom: 2008 data. Total area instead of land area for Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, France, Cyprus, Poland and Portugal. EU27 estimated value.

** EU27 aggregate excluding Ireland and Malta.

*** Greece: 2005 data for fellings, Poland: 2005 data for increment, Portugal: 2005 data for increment and fellings.

: Data not available

0 = less than 500 hectares or 0.5 million m³

Share of wood & wood waste in renewable energy consumption ranges from 16% in Cyprus to 97% in Estonia

In the majority of Member States, wood and wood waste was the main renewable energy resource. Wood and wood waste accounted for more than three quarters of gross inland energy consumption from renewables in 2009 in **Estonia** (97%), **Lithuania** (87%), **Poland** (83%), **Finland** (82%), **Latvia** (80%) and **Hungary** (78%). The lowest shares in 2009 were recorded in **Cyprus** (16%), **Italy** (23%), the **United Kingdom** (27%) and **Luxembourg** (28%).

Wood-based manufacturing most significant in Latvia, Estonia and Finland

Wood-based manufacturing in the **EU27** accounted for nearly 7% of total value added in manufacturing in 2008, of which manufacturing of paper and paper products generated 2.4%, printing and services related to printing 2.3% and manufacturing of wood and wood products⁴ 2.1%.

The share of the value added of wood-based manufacturing in total manufacturing ranged from 2.4% in **Ireland** and 4.4% in **Hungary** to 14.6% in **Finland**, 16.5% in **Estonia** and 21.5% in **Latvia**.

In 2008, the highest shares of value added from the manufacturing of wood and wood products in total manufacturing were found in the three Baltic Member States **Latvia** (16.1%), **Estonia** (11.5%) and **Lithuania** (7.4%). **Finland** (8.9%) and **Sweden** (6.9%) recorded the largest shares of value added from manufacturing of paper and paper products, and **Cyprus** (4.3%) and the **United Kingdom** (4.0%) from printing and service activities related to printing.

Wood-based manufacturing & wood as a source of energy

	Value added of wood-based manufacturing, % of total manufacturing, 2008			Gross inland energy consumption of wood & wood waste as % of renewables, 2009
	Wood & wood products ⁴	Paper & paper products	Printing & related service activities	
EU27	2.1	2.4	2.3	49.1
Belgium	1.9	2.6	2.5	58.5
Bulgaria	2.2	1.6	2.1	67.9
Czech Republic	3.2	1.9	u	74.3
Denmark	2.5	1.5	2.2	61.2
Germany	1.2	2.1	1.8	40.5
Estonia	11.5	1.9	3.0	96.9
Ireland	0.8	0.6	1.0	29.3
Greece	:	:	:	42.8
Spain	2.3	2.7	2.9	35.7
France	1.8	2.1	2.1	49.4
Italy	2.3	2.1	2.1	22.7
Cyprus	7.3	2.1	4.3	16.3
Latvia	16.1	1.6	3.8	80.2
Lithuania	7.4	2.0	2.2	87.2
Luxembourg	0.7	c	c	28.1
Hungary	1.3	1.7	1.5	77.8
Malta	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	1.7	2.5	3.2	39.7
Austria	4.3	3.4	2.1	46.7
Poland	3.5	2.8	1.6	82.8
Portugal	4.0	3.6	2.8	59.2
Romania	3.7	c	1.9	71.0
Slovenia	3.2	2.7	2.2	48.4
Slovakia	1.9	3.4	1.4	51.1
Finland	3.7	8.9	2.1	81.6
Sweden	3.8	6.9	2.0	54.5
United Kingdom	2.0	1.8	4.0	26.6

u unreliable due to small sample size

c confidential

: Data not available

1. **Forests** are defined as land with a tree canopy cover of more than 10% and an area of more than 0.5 hectares. **Other wooded land** is land of more than 0.5 hectares with a tree canopy cover of 5-10% which is not classified as forests. The term "forest" in this News Release refers to "Forests and other wooded land".
2. **Renewable sources of energy** cover hydro power, wind energy, solar energy, biomass and wastes and geothermal energy. Wood and wood waste is part of the category "biomass and wastes". **Gross inland energy consumption** is defined as primary production plus imports, recovered products and stock change, less exports and fuel supply to maritime bunkers (for seagoing ships of all flags). It therefore reflects the energy necessary to satisfy inland consumption within the limits of national territory. **Wood & wood waste** covers purpose-grown energy crops (poplar, willow, etc.), a multitude of woody materials generated by industrial processes or provided directly by forestry and agriculture (firewood, wood chips, bark, sawdust, shavings, chips, black liquor, etc.) as well as wastes such as straw, rice husks, nut shells, poultry litter, crushed grape dregs, etc.
3. Eurostat, "**Forestry in the EU and the world**". Available free of charge in pdf format on the Eurostat website. For more information about the International Year of Forests 2011 please visit: <http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/>
4. Manufacturing of wood and wood products also includes the manufacture of products of cork and articles of straw and plaiting materials.

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