



Forest accounts: update from Eurostat

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Joint OECD/UNECE seminar 13-15 March 2023

Background

- Forests – historically important in most European countries
- Existing data collections:
 - National: national forest inventories – not harmonized in definitions, scope, frequency
 - By international agencies:
 - FAO and Forest Europe – **5-yearly**; most countries report; rather comprehensive in scope;
 - Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire – annual; most countries report; **limited to industry**-related aspects;
 - UNFCCC – annual; all countries report; **limited to climate**-related aspects;
 - At EU level: forest accounts since 1990s; current version is European Forest Accounts (EFA) – annual; **circa half of EU countries report** since 2014; rather comprehensive in scope
- Now Eurostat seeks to make European forest accounts mandatory in the European Union under the same regulation as the other SEEA

Specifications forest accounts

- Forest accounts in sense of SEEA Central Framework
- Record the stocks and flows of forest resources (wooded land and timber) and economic activity in the forestry and logging industry
- 4 mandatory tables:

Forest resources	Area of wooded land in physical units; stocks and flows Volume of timber resources in physical units; stocks and flows Volume of timber resources in monetary units; stocks and flows
Economic activity of forestry and logging	Economic aggregates of forestry and logging industry

- Also 5 voluntary tables and some voluntary variables in mandatory tables

Specifications of forest accounts

- Definition of wooded land based on FAO

Breakdowns in asset accounts by:

- forest available for wood supply;
 - forest not available for wood supply;
 - other wooded land.
 - voluntary – other land with tree cover available for wood supply
- Annual reporting, deadline by September (t+21 months)

Specifications: area of wooded land

Area of wooded land, distinguishing:

- opening area at the beginning of the reference year;
- afforestation and other increases;
- deforestation and other decreases;
- statistical reclassification;
- closing area at the end of the reference year.

Specifications: volume of timber

Breakdowns for **forest available** for wood supply:

- opening stock at the beginning of the reference year;
- net increment;
- removals;
- irretrievable losses;
- statistical reclassification;
- balancing item;
- closing stock at the end of the reference year.

Breakdowns for **forest not available** for wood supply and **other wooded land**:

- opening stock at the beginning of the reference year;
- removals;
- other changes (between opening and closing stocks);
- closing stock at the end of the reference year. – closing area at the end of the reference year.

Specifications: value of timber

Breakdowns for **forest available** for wood supply:

- opening stock at the beginning of the reference year;
- net increment;
- removals (defined as in JFSQ);
- irretrievable losses;
- revaluation;
- statistical reclassification;
- balancing item;
- closing stock at the end of the reference year.

Breakdowns for **forest not available** for wood supply and other wooded land:

- opening stock at the beginning of the reference year;
- removals (defined as in JFSQ);
- other changes (between opening and closing stocks);
- closing stock at the end of the reference year.

Specifications: economic variables

Economic variables of the forestry and logging industry:

- output;
 - of which: output for own final use
- intermediate consumption;
- gross value added;
- consumption of fixed capital;
- other taxes on production;
- other subsidies on production;
- compensation of employees;
- gross fixed capital formation and acquisitions less disposals of non-financial non-produced assets;
- changes in inventories;
- capital transfers.

New Eurostat handbook forest accounts

Outline

1. Introduction
2. Overview of Forest accounts
3. Asset Accounts for wooded land
4. Asset Accounts for timber stocks
5. Economic Accounts for the forestry and logging industry
6. Supply and Use Tables for Wood in the rough
7. Connections to related forest accounting and measurement
8. Annexes

Handbook will be drafted by June 2024

To know more

- Eurostat online database:
<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/forestry/data/database>
- Online articles:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Forests,_forestry_and_logging
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Wood_products_-_production_and_trade

The screenshot displays the Eurostat website interface. At the top, the Eurostat logo is accompanied by the European Union flag, a 'Log in' button, and a language selector set to 'EN English'. A search bar is located to the right of the language selector. Below the header is a dark blue navigation bar with links for Home, Data, News, Publications, About us, Contact us, and Help. The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail: Home > Forestry > Data > Database. On the left, a sidebar menu lists 'FORESTRY' with sub-items: Overview, Data, Main tables, DATABASE (highlighted in red), Publications, Methodology, Policy context, and Links. The main content area is titled 'DATABASE' and shows a tree view of the 'Forestry (for)' category. It includes sub-categories like 'Timber removals, wood products and trade (for_rpt)' and 'Economics (for_eaf)'. Under 'Economics', several data series are listed, such as 'Economic aggregates of forestry (for_eco_cp)', 'Supply and use of products within forestry (for_sup_cp)', 'Monetary supply and use of wood in the rough (for_emsuw)', 'Physical supply and use of wood in the rough over bark (for_epsuw)', and 'Output of forestry by type (for_eoutput)'. Other categories include 'Employment (for_emp)' and 'Forest resources (for_sfm)', each with their respective data series.

Thank you

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