

Agriculture, livestock and fishing

Use of forests

Forestry statistics are some of the oldest records available. Their evolution is described in detail in the section on [Environment and Territory](#), while here we will simply note that when the responsibility for agriculture and forestry statistics passed to the Central Statistical Institute, the survey on felling areas and survey on wood and non-wood removals defined forests as areas of land covered in woody forest plants, either trees or bushes, with a density of more than 50 per cent and with a production higher than that of uncultivated areas.

To improve forestry statistics, from 1947 the range of information collected has been increased along with the types of forest. The advantages of more detailed surveys were most noteworthy regarding the use and production of timber, with more details on both tree species and timber assortment.

Before 1947 all industrial roundwood was recorded under one of 16 species, while wood fuel was divided into conifers and hardwoods species. On the other hand, regarding timber assortment or economic uses for timber wood, an initial division into 22 grades was gradually reduced first to 13 and then more recently to 7, accordingly with international definitions. Wood fuel was divided into firewood, brushwood, carbon and charcoal. Recently, however, all woods for energy use has been classed into a single category. Modifications during the Post-war period to the survey technique for timber use adopted the “felling area” as unit of measurement, classified by several parameters: the type of forest, the category of felling, the rotation, the felling areas and the climate region (agricultural region) associated with the name of the municipality.

Regarding the general and administrative structure of the surveys, the municipality became the territorial survey unit, included in the relevant agricultural area. Forestry authorities were named “Collection and correspondence body”, due to their specific competence in the area and local organisation. These authorities provided collaboration through their provincial offices and dependant local branches (Forest station commands).

In the last decade forestry statistics have been revised several times following the transfer of responsibilities from State to Regions, and also to adapt them to the new information requirements demanded both at national and at international level. The body currently responsible for collecting and submitting data is the Regional government with its local offices, where established. The Region performs this task in collaboration with the State Forestry Department and Regional forestry authorities where specific conventions apply.

For the statistics, the use of fellings is recorded by the volume of timber separated from the soil, even if not hauled from the forest, as long as it is ultimately destined for hauling. The unit of measurement is formed by the volume of haulable timber from a felling, or the area of forest in which the soil has been totally or partially used, in a seamless manner. With reference to each felling performed within the district of individual municipalities, the survey attempts to determine the volume of fellings, divided by tree species, timber assortment, type of forest and category of ownership.

Warnings for time series comparisons

- When drafting the data for this publication, timber assortment of industrial roundwood reclassified into macro-aggregates in order to make them comparable over time. For the same reason, the data relating to wood fuel and carbon were all been shown in tons.

- Up until 2004, the definition of forest area required a minimum coverage of 50 per cent. In 2005, however, the coverage requirement was lowered to 10 per cent in compliance with recent international definition, implemented by the “National forest and forest carbon stock inventory” (INFC) conducted by the State Forestry Department.