



An
Phríomh-Oifig
Staidrimh

Central
Statistics
Office

Standard SIMS Report:

Afforestation Area



Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) Report

For

Afforestation Area

This documentation applies to the reporting period:

2023

Last edited: 17/06/2024



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2. Introduction

This release contains an analysis of the area afforested under Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) afforestation schemes during the period 2007 to 2023. The Afforestation Schemes provide financial support to encourage the planting of trees on land not previously under forest.

The primary purpose of the Departments afforestation schemes are to make progress towards the achievement of the following objectives:

- increase Ireland's forest cover to 18%; establishment of 8,000 ha of new diverse, multifunctional and climate resilient forests per annum (subject to the availability of funding and land);
- provide at least 50% of the national area afforested with broadleaved species. Broadleaves must make up at least 20% by area of new conifer forests being established;
- encourage forest management practices in newly planted forests that result in continuous cover forest (CCF) management and forest retention, enhancing and supporting natural systems by linking existing habitats and new, dedicated forest biodiversity areas within established forests;
- expand and encourage appropriate management of new emergent native scrub forest with attendant biodiversity, habitat and ecosystem service enhancements, encourage the establishment of small native trees areas up to 2 ha on farms;
- increase the area of new forest area used by members of the public for forest recreation, amenity, health and wellbeing by providing dedicated "open forests" and specific forest recreational and amenity facilities;
- increase the uptake of agroforestry systems for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, animal welfare and the production of high quality hardwood timber; develop forest-based biomass resources to support the circular and green economy in commercial and domestic markets;
- support carbon sequestration, climate change mitigation and forest resilience through appropriate species selection and sustainable forest management; and
- provide a forest resource to support economic viability and sustainability of rural communities through increased use of wood and wood products in construction and energy production.

This release contains an analysis of the area afforested under Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine afforestation schemes during the period 2007 to 2023. Afforestation of levels can be impacted by a number of factors. The new programme was launched in November 2023 with significant increases in grants and premiums. For more details on the new scheme see [Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027](#). For more details on the 2014-2020 scheme see <https://assets.gov.ie/69781/6f6dc37d067d4e7a813605acadd6b77e.pdf>

3. Contact

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4. Metadata Update

4.1. Metadata last certified

25th June 2024

4.2. Metadata last posted

17th April 2024

4.3. Metadata last update

25th June 2024



5. Statistical Presentation

5.1. Data Description

The release is based on afforestation area data and contributes to national and international needs on forestry statistics. The data shows the area afforested between 2007 and 2023, the number of parcels of afforested land, the species of tree planted in afforested land, and the afforested land applicant split between farmer, non-farmer and public sector. The afforestation area is expressed in hectares.

5.2. Classification System

Categories and species are described under 'Statistical Concepts and Definitions.'

5.3. Sector Coverage

All area afforested under DAFM afforestation schemes during 2007 – 2023.

5.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions

Species categories:

- Broadleaves
 - Alder
 - Ash
 - Beech
 - Birch
 - Downy birch
 - Hazel
 - Norway maple
 - Red oak
 - Silver birch
 - Sessile oak
 - Sycamore
 - Other broadleaves
- Conifers
 - Douglas fir
 - European larch
 - Hybrid larch
 - Japanese larch
 - Lodgepole pine
 - Norway spruce
 - Serbian spruce
 - Scots pine
 - Sitka spruce
 - Western red cedar
 - Other conifers

Applicant type categories:

- Farmer
- Non-Farmer
- Public Sector



5.5. Statistical Unit

The statistical unit is the parcel of afforested land.

5.6. Statistical Population

The statistical population is all afforested land under Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine schemes between 2007 and 2023.

5.7. Reference Area

The results are reported on a county and national level.

5.8. Time Coverage

Yearly, 2007 – 2023.

5.9. Base period

Not applicable.

6. Unit of Measure

Afforested area is reported in hectares and number of land parcels.

7. Reference Period

2007 – 2023.

8. Institutional Mandate

8.1. Legal Acts and other agreements

Participation in afforestation schemes is voluntary. Funding for the schemes is governed under the following legal framework:

The Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 is 100% Exchequer funded under the following legal framework:

- European Union guidelines for State aid in the agriculture and forestry sector and in rural areas;
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 on the application of article 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid (Official Journal reference number L:2013:352).

All afforestation projects (whether availing of grant aid or not) must obtain prior written approval from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, in accordance with European Communities (Forest Consent and Assessment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 558 of 2010), as amended by S.I. No. 442 of 2012.

Land afforested under the schemes must remain under forest cover and the felling of trees is subject to the provisions of the Forestry Act 2014.



8.2. Data Sharing

Not applicable.

9. Confidentiality

9.1. Confidentiality – policy

All information supplied to the CSO is treated as strictly confidential. The Statistics Act, 1993 sets stringent confidentiality standards: Information collected may be used only for statistical purposes, and no details that might be related to an identifiable person or business undertaking may be divulged to any other government department or body.

These national statistical confidentiality provisions are reinforced by the following EU legislation: Council Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics for data collected for EU statistical purposes. Further details are outlined in the CSO's Code of Practice on Statistical Confidentiality.

For more information on the CSO confidentiality policy please visit:
<https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/statisticalconfidentiality/>

9.2. Confidentiality – data treatment

All confidential data are treated in accordance with Part V of the Statistics Act, 1993.

10. Release Policy

10.1. Release Calendar

The date of dissemination of all statistics released by CSO can be found in the Release Calendar published in CSO.ie. This calendar is regularly updated.

10.2. Release calendar access

The release calendar can be accessed via the CSO website, www.cso.ie, or directly from this link:
<https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/releasecalendar/>

10.3. User access

In accordance with Principle 6 of the European Statistics Code of Practice all users of CSO statistics have equal access via the CSO website at the same time of 11 am. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality.

The CSO recognises that in very limited circumstances a business need for pre-release access may be substantiated. Any form of pre-release access is a privilege and a strict CSO pre-release access policy is adhered to for these special requests. The full pre-release access policy can be accessed at
<https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/cspolicyonpre-releaseaccess/>

The various results are published nationally in statistical release format as well as on the CSO website (www.cso.ie). Selected extracts from the results are posted on the CSO's data dissemination database, PxStat.



11. Frequency of Dissemination

Afforestation area will be published annually by the CSO.

12. Accessibility and clarity

12.1. News release

Not applicable.

12.2. Publications

The electronic release can be found via the following link:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/forestry/afforestationarea/>

12.3. On-line database

The information is published in tabular format via the CSO's dissemination database PxStat. The tables can be accessed directly from this link: <https://data.cso.ie/table/AFA01>

12.3.1. AC 1. Data tables -consultations

Not available.

12.4. Micro-data Access

Not applicable.

12.5. Other

Not applicable.

12.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not available.

12.6. Documentation on Methodology

Further documentation on the methodology used to compile this output can be accessed from the Methods page on cso.ie or directly from this link:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/environment/afforestationarea/>

12.6.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate

Not calculated.

12.7. Quality Documentation

Further documentation on the quality aspects of this output can be accessed from the Methods page on cso.ie or directly from this link:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/environment/afforestationarea/>



13. Quality Management

13.1. Quality Assurance

Quality Management Framework

The CSO avails of an office wide Quality Management Framework (QMF). This framework allows all CSO processes and outputs to meet the required standard as set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCOP). The QMF foundations are based on establishing the UNECE's Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) as the operating statistical production model to achieve a standardised approach to Quality Management. All and any changes implemented to CSO processes and outputs require adherence to the QMF.

13.2. Quality Assessment

Not assessed.

14. Relevance

14.1. User Needs

The data from this release will be used to provide data for the European Forest Accounts.

14.1.1. Main National Users

Eurostat and the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine.

14.1.2. Principal External Users

National and international users of statistics on afforestation area include the government, the media, and the public.

14.2. User Satisfaction

Not measured.

14.3. Data Completeness

All reporting traders have been included.

14.3.1. Data Completeness rate

All afforestation area data received from DAFM has been included.

15. Accuracy and reliability

15.1. Overall accuracy

The microdata were received from the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The data are considered to be reliable.

15.2. Sampling Error

Not applicable.



15.2.1. A1.Sampling error indicator

Not applicable.

15.3. Non-sampling Error

Not applicable.

15.3.1. Coverage error

Not applicable.

15.3.1.1. A2. Over coverage rate

Not applicable.

15.3.1.2. A3. Common units – proportion

Not applicable.

15.3.2. Measurement error

Not applicable.

15.3.3. Non-Response Error

Not applicable.

15.3.3.1. Unit non response rate

Not applicable.

15.3.3.2. Item non response rate

Not applicable.

15.3.4. Processing error

Not applicable.

15.3.5. Model assumption error

Not applicable.

16. Timeliness and punctuality

16.1.Timeliness

The results have a target timeliness of around seven months after the end of a year.

16.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results

Not applicable.

16.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results

6 months.



16.2. Punctuality

The results are published on time in line with the indications given in the CSO's release calendar.

16.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication

0 days.

17. Comparability

17.1. Comparability – Geographical

Not applicable.

17.1.1. CC1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics

Not calculated.

17.2. Comparability over time

There have been no breaks in the time series.

17.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series

2007 – 2023.

17.3. Coherence – cross domain

Not applicable.

17.3.1. Coherence – Sub annual and annual statistics

Not applicable.

17.3.2. Coherence with National Accounts

Not applicable.

17.4. Coherence – internal

Not applicable.

18. Cost and Burden

Estimates of Cost and Burden can be obtained from the Response Burden Barometer

<https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/enterprisestatistics/responseburdenbarometer/>

specific information is available via CSO's dissemination database PxStat. <https://data.cso.ie/product/RBB>



19. Data Revision

19.1. Data Revision Policy

Revisions refer to changes made to published statistical data when the information used in its production has been updated or corrected. This information includes all data used in compiling the statistic e.g. respondent data, administrative data, weights and factors, methodology, classifications, definitions, modifications to survey questionnaires, survey scope and data collection methods.

The data revision policy that CSO statistics adheres to can be found via the following link:
<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/quality/treatmentofrevisions/>

19.2. Data Revision Practice

Data for all years are subject to revision.

19.2.1. Data Revision – Average size

Not calculated.

20. Statistical processing

20.1. Source Data

The CSO received the data from the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under Section 30 of the Statistics Act, 1993.

20.1.1. Population and sampling frame

Not applicable.

20.1.2. Sampling design

Not applicable.

20.1.3. Survey size

Not applicable.

20.1.4. Survey technique

Not applicable.

20.2. Frequency of data collection

Annual.

20.3. Data Collection

20.3.1. Type of Survey/Process

Administrative data.

20.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)

Not applicable.



20.3.3. Survey Participation

Not applicable.

20.3.4. Data Capture

The data is captured by DAFM. Applicants to DAFM's afforestation schemes submit their data in an application form to DAFM to obtain technical approval to plant under the Afforestation Scheme. Applicants with technical approval may then apply to DAFM for financial approval when planting is imminent.

20.4. Data Validation

The aggregated data was compared to and is in line with afforestation statistics previously published by DAFM.

20.5. Data Compilation

Individual afforestation parcel data was aggregated to applicant type, county, species and national level for this release.

20.5.1. Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)

Not applicable.

20.5.1.1. A7. Imputation rate

Not applicable.

20.5.2. Grossing and Weighting

Not applicable.

20.6. Adjustment

Not applicable.

20.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment

Not applicable.

21. Comment