



**An  
Phríomh-Oifig  
Staidrimh**

Central  
Statistics  
Office

# **Standard SIMS Report: Forest Wood Removals 2021**



# Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) Report

**For**

**Forest Wood Removals**

This documentation applies to the reporting period:

**2021**

Last edited: 28/06/2022



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## 2. Introduction

The Forest Wood Removals release provides annual statistics on roundwood removals from Irish forests. The release is based on data collected from the CSO's Roundwood Removals Survey and contributes to meeting EU, industry and national needs on forestry statistics.

## 3. Contact

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## 4. Metadata Update

### 4.1. Metadata last certified

28/06/2022

### 4.2. Metadata last posted

30/06/2022

### 4.3. Metadata last update

28/06/2022



## 5. Statistical Presentation

### 5.1. Data Description

The release shows annual tonnage, volume and value of roundwood removals from Irish forests. The data are broken down into species and product categories. Tonnage and volume data are also available by publicly-owned or privately-owned forests.

### 5.2. Classification System

Species and product categories are described under 'Statistical Concepts and Definitions'.

### 5.3. Sector Coverage

Forest owners, forestry consultants, management companies, harvesting contractors and sawmills in NACE Rev. 2 Sectors A-U.

### 5.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions

Removals include all harvesting including thinnings and storm damage.

Species categories:

- Coniferous
- Non-coniferous

Product categories:

- Large sawlog
- Small sawlog
- Stakewood
- Pulpwood
- Fuelwood
- Roundwood for use as biomass
- Woodchip

### 5.5. Statistical Unit

The statistical unit for the Roundwood Removals Survey is the enterprise.

### 5.6. Statistical Population

The CSO Business Register was the sampling frame for the Roundwood Removals Survey. The target population were forest owners, forestry consultants, management companies, harvesting contractors and sawmills in NACE Rev. 2 Sectors A-U.

### 5.7. Reference Area

The statistics compiled and published are at national level.

### 5.8. Time Coverage

2015-2021

### 5.9. Base period

Not applicable.



## 6. Unit of Measure

Removals are provided in thousand tonnes, thousand cubic metres and thousand euro.

## 7. Reference Period

2021

## 8. Institutional Mandate

### 8.1. Legal Acts and other agreements

The Roundwood Removals Survey is a statutory survey conducted under the Statistics (Roundwood Removals Survey) Order 2021 (S.I. No. 112 of 2021).

### 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

Data are aggregated and published at a national level.

The Data Protection Transparency Notice for the Roundwood Removals Survey is available at the following link: <https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/tn/roundwoodremovalssurvey/>

## 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](http://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/lqdp/csodatapolicies/csopolicyonpre-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

Annual.

## 12. Accessibility and clarity

### 12.1. News release

List any regular or ad-hoc press releases linked to the data over the past year.

### 12.2. Publications

The Forest Wood Removals release can be found in the CSO website and from this link: <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/environmentstatistics/forestwoodremovals/>

### 12.3. On-line database

PxStat tables available from the CSO website and directly from this link: <https://data.cso.ie/table/FMR01>

#### 12.3.1. AC 1. Data tables -consultations

Not calculated.

### 12.4. Micro-data Access

Micro-data not available.

### 12.5. Other

Roundwood removals data is published by Eurostat at EU level. The tables are available from this link: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/forestry/data/database>

#### 12.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not calculated.





## 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/forestwoodremovals/>

### 12.6.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate

Not calculated.

## 12.7. Quality Documentation

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

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

# 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 applicable.

# 14. Relevance

## 14.1. User Needs

The data from this release will be used to provide data for Eurostat's Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire and the European Forest Accounts.

### 14.1.1. Main National Users

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine: data from the release provide statistics on the forestry sector which can assist with decision-making and policy planning.

### 14.1.2. Principal External Users

Eurostat: data from the release assist in fulfilling the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire and European Forest Accounts.

## 14.2. User Satisfaction

Responses to the release will be monitored.



### **14.3. Data Completeness**

User needs on forestry statistics vary widely. This release specifically meets user needs on removals of roundwood from Irish forests for 2015-2021.

#### **14.3.1. Data Completeness rate**

Not calculated.

## **15. Accuracy and reliability**

### **15.1. Overall accuracy**

Errors can occur if terms and concepts are misinterpreted. Hence respondents were provided with instructions and relevant definitions within the survey to maximise the accuracy of the data provided. A CSO helpdesk phone number and email were also available for queries.

### **15.2. Sampling Error**

The CSO Business Register was the sampling frame for the Roundwood Removals Survey. All enterprises identified as forest owners, forestry consultants, management companies, harvesting contractors and sawmills in NACE Rev. 2 Sectors A-U were selected. Information from the Forest Service and from industry experts was used to ensure that all relevant enterprises were selected.

Enterprises which indicated the survey was not relevant to their business submitted nil returns or the CSO submitted a nil return on their behalf.

#### **15.2.1. A1. Sampling error indicator**

Not calculated.

### **15.3. Non-sampling Error**

The sampling methodology selected all enterprises identified as forest owners, forestry consultants, management companies, harvesting contractors and sawmills in NACE Rev. 2 Sectors A-U. Some enterprises indicated in their response that the survey was not relevant to their business (e.g. tree growers not harvesters). These enterprises will be excluded in future surveys.

It is possible that some relevant smaller enterprises may not have been included, however, this would likely have minimal impact on overall results.

#### **15.3.1. Coverage error**

The CSO Business Register is a register of all active enterprises in the State. More information on the Business Register available from this link: [https://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/aboutus-new/dataforresearchers/Instructions\\_on\\_the\\_use\\_of\\_Business\\_Register\\_data\\_for\\_Researchers.pdf](https://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/aboutus-new/dataforresearchers/Instructions_on_the_use_of_Business_Register_data_for_Researchers.pdf).

##### **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**

The response data file was regularly read into SAS and visually inspected for any odd data. If required, respondents were contacted for clarification.

### **15.3.3. Non-Response Error**

Possible reasons for unit non-response include:

- (a) Survey was not relevant.
- (b) Failed email addresses for enterprise and therefore the survey never reached the enterprise.
- (c) Company had ceased trading.
- (d) Company encountered difficulties in providing the data or refused to respond.

To minimise unit non-response, several reminders were sent out following initial issue by email and phone calls. A helpdesk email and phone were also available for queries. Any enterprises for which the survey was not relevant or had ceased trading will be excluded from future surveys.

As this is a new survey, item non-response is difficult to assess. Feedback from respondents were monitored and there was no indication of issues with any particular question(s).

#### **15.3.3.1. Unit non response rate**

The response rate was approximately 73% for the 2021 Roundwood Removals Survey.

#### **15.3.3.2. Item non response rate**

Not calculated.

### **15.3.4. Processing error**

Prior to survey launch, the eQ system was tested to ensure that data were recorded correctly. After survey launch, the response data file was regularly read into SAS and visually inspected for any odd data. Respondents were contacted with any queries.

### **15.3.5. Model assumption error**

Not applicable.

## **16. Timeliness and punctuality**

### **16.1. Timeliness**

The time between the publication of this release and the end of 2021 was 7 months.

The target timeliness for releases is 8 months from the end of the reference period.

#### **16.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results**

Not applicable.

#### **16.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results**

7 months.

### **16.2. Punctuality**

The release is published on time in accordance with the date indicated in the release calendar.



#### **16.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication**

0 days, the release was published within the timeframe indicated.

## **17. Comparability**

### **17.1. Comparability – Geographical**

Not applicable.

#### **17.1.1. CCI. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics**

Not applicable.

### **17.2. Comparability over time**

The provision of 2019-2021 data was statutory while voluntary for 2015-2018. Hence there is a higher level of accuracy in 2019-2021 data as more responses were received for these years.

#### **17.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series**

Not applicable.

### **17.3. Coherence – cross domain**

Aggregated data from the Roundwood Removals Survey were compared to previous years' data published by Eurostat (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/forestry/data/database>). Comparisons showed broad consistency for 2015-2018. Some discrepancies may arise as the CSO estimated 2015-2018 data based on 2019 if no data were available, whereas Eurostat's 2015-2018 removals data were compiled by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

#### **17.3.1. Coherence – Sub annual and annual statistics**

Not applicable.

#### **17.3.2. Coherence with National Accounts**

Consultation with National Accounts indicated no data available for direct comparison.

### **17.4. Coherence – internal**

Outputs within the release were checked for and indicated internal consistency.

## **18. Cost and Burden**

Estimates of Cost and Burden can be obtained from the Response Burden Barometer <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/multisectoral/responseburdenbarometer/>

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

To support respondents with any queries, a dedicated Roundwood Removals Survey helpdesk phone number and email were available.



## 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

All data are subject to revision. The revisions will mainly arise from replacing CSO estimates with actual data or from enterprises that are not included in these results subsequently providing figures. Any revisions will be included in the next release.

#### 19.2.1. Data Revision – Average size

Not applicable.

## 20. Statistical processing

### 20.1. Source Data

The data source for this release is the CSO's Roundwood Removals Survey.

#### 20.1.1. Population and sampling frame

The CSO Business Register was used as the sampling frame for the Roundwood Removals Survey.

#### 20.1.2. Sampling design

NACE Rev. 2 Division 02 enterprises with an email address were drawn from the CSO Business Register. Large sawmills included in the CSO Wood Inputs Survey were also included in the sample.

For information on the CSO Wood Inputs Survey:

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

#### 20.1.3. Survey size

52

#### 20.1.4. Survey technique

The survey was conducted as an online questionnaire using the CSO eQ system.

### 20.2. Frequency of data collection

Annual.

### 20.3. Data Collection

Enterprises were contacted through an email post out with instructions to complete the survey online. Data was collected electronically through the CSO eQ system.



### **20.3.1. Type of Survey/Process**

Online survey using the CSO eQ system.

### **20.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)**

The Roundwood Removals Survey collects information on tonnage, volume and value of removals of roundwood and roundwood biomass from privately-owned forests in Ireland.

Roundwood Removals Survey form available at:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/surveyforms/forestwoodremovals/>

### **20.3.3. Survey Participation**

The Roundwood Removals Survey 2021 was statutory.

### **20.3.4. Data Capture**

Online survey using the CSO eQ system. Any inappropriate entries (e.g. incorrect data format) were flagged by the system and required the respondent to revise input data.

## **20.4. Data Validation**

As indicated in 'Coherence – Cross domain', aggregated data from the Roundwood Removals Survey were compared to data published by Eurostat.

Additionally, time series data were evaluated for enterprises which voluntarily submitted previous years' (2015-2018) data.

## **20.5. Data Compilation**

Data at enterprise level were aggregated to national level for the release.

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

The survey statutory instrument obliged enterprises in the sample to provide a return in respect of 2021. There were some enterprises that did not provide 2021 figures to the CSO but that were thought to be active. For these enterprises, the CSO used an actual return from a previous year to estimate data for 2021.

Enterprises were asked to provide figures in tonnes, cubic metres, and the standing timber value of removals. Most enterprises provided tonnes and the larger enterprises provided cubic metres and standing timber value. The CSO estimated any missing data using completed data from privately-owned forests. The CSO allowed a range from 1.0 to 1.21 cubic metres per tonne. Returns below or above these ratios were corrected to the lower or upper limit.

#### **20.5.1.1. A7. Imputation rate**

Not calculated.

### **20.5.2. Grossing and Weighting**

The returns were not weighted. It is possible that some relevant enterprises may not have been included in the survey sample, however, this would likely have minimal impact on overall results.



## **20.6. Adjustment**

Not applicable.

### **20.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment**

Not applicable.

## **21. Comment**