



**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:

**2021**

Last edited: 21/04/2022



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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 2021. The Afforestation Schemes provide financial support to encourage the planting of trees on land not previously under forest.

The objectives of the schemes are to make progress towards the achievement of the following: increase Ireland's forest cover to 18%; establish 8,000 ha of new forests and woodlands per annum to 2030; to provide at least 30% of the area afforested annually with broadleaved species during the programme period; increase the average area of forests, with greater access to the public road network; encourage forest management practices that restore, preserve and enhance forest biodiversity and provide specific areas of biodiversity; develop a forest-based biomass resource and generally encourage its use in domestic and commercial markets; foster carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation; and provide a resource which will contribute to long-term sustainable development in the rural economy.

For more details on the 2014-2020 scheme see <https://assets.gov.ie/69781/6f6dc37d067d4e7a813605acadd6b77e.pdf>

## 3. Contact

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Contact Organisation:</b>      | Central Statistics Office  |
| <b>Contact Organisation Unit:</b> | Environment and Climate  |
| <b>Contact Name:</b>              | Niamh Shanahan   |
| <b>Contact person function:</b>   | Statistician   |
| <b>Contact Mail address:</b>      | Central Statistics Office, Ardee Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6, D06 FX52 |
| <b>Contact email address:</b>     | environment@cso.ie   |
| <b>Contact Phone Number:</b>      | +353 01 4984282  |
| <b>Contact Fax Number:</b>        |  |

## 4. Metadata Update

### 4.1. Metadata last certified

26<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### 4.2. Metadata last posted

26<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### 4.3. Metadata last update

21<sup>st</sup> April 2022



## 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 2021, 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 – 2021.

### 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 2021.

## 5.7. Reference Area

The results are reported on a county and national level.

## 5.8. Time Coverage

Yearly, 2007 – 2021.

## 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 – 2021.

## 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:

- European Union guidelines for State aid in the agriculture and forestry sector and in rural areas 2014-2020;
- 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](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/lgdp/csodatapolicies/csopolicyonpre-releaseaccess/>

The various results are published nationally in statistical release format as well as on the CSO website ([www.cso.ie](http://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/environmentstatistics/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. AC1. Data tables -consultations

Not available. This is a new release.

### 12.4. Micro-data Access

Not applicable.

### 12.5. Other

Not applicable.

#### 12.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not available. This is a new release.

### 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/environmentstatistics/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/environmentstatistics/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**

4 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. CCI. 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 – 2021.

### 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/multisectoral/responseburdenbarometer/>.

Survey 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 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**