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Forest Sector Development Division
Department of Agriculture, Food and the
Marine
Agriculture House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Ireland
Tel: +353 - 1 - 6072000
Email: info@coford.ie
Web: www.coford.ie

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Newsletter compiled and edited by Orla Cashen, Pat Farrington
and Eugene Hendrick, Forest Sector Development Division (FSD),
DAFM.

For further information please contact orla.cashen@agriculture.gov.ie

Information and support services

Wood harvest and trade stats

A synopsis of roundwood harvest, timber trade and wood-biomass use in 2012

This article is a synopsis of information on roundwood production and wood product trade contained in the COFORD 2012 Woodflow.

Overall the level of harvest and consequent output of wood products in 2012 were broadly similar compared with 2011. Private sector harvest fell back marginally in 2012, mainly due to a weakening in demand and prices; current indications are that prices are moving back to 2011 levels. As in previous years, both sawn wood and wood-based panels had very strong export performances.

In 2012, 2.84 million m³ of roundwood was harvested in the Republic of Ireland (Table 1), almost the same as in 2010 and 2011.

Table 1: Roundwood harvest (including firewood) in the Republic of Ireland (2010-2012).

	2010	2011	2012
	<i>000 m³ overbark</i>		
<i>Coillte harvest</i>	<i>2,262</i>	<i>2,352</i>	<i>2,348</i>
<i>Private harvest</i>	<i>618</i>	<i>547</i>	<i>490</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>2,880</i>	<i>2,899</i>	<i>2,838</i>

Industrial roundwood available for processing (which excludes firewood and nets out imports and exports) totalled 2.60 million m³ in 2012 (Table 2). Commercial hardwood harvest reached just 2,000 m³, a reflection of the much longer lead-in time taken to produce commercial roundwood in broadleaved stands.

Table 2: Roundwood available for processing in the Republic of Ireland (2008-2012).

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	<i>000 m³ overbark</i>				
<i>Commercial softwood</i>					
<i>Imports less exports</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>-63</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>-18</i>
<i>Coillte harvest</i>	<i>2,279</i>	<i>2,354</i>	<i>2,217</i>	<i>2,299</i>	<i>2,269</i>
<i>Private sector harvest</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>463</i>	<i>386</i>	<i>343</i>
<i>Commercial hardwood</i>					
<i>Coillte harvest</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Private sector</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>

<i>harvest</i>					
TOTAL	2,504	2,424	2,708	2,742	2,596

In 2012, 704,000 m³ of wood-based panels (WBP) were produced from an intake of 1.28 million m³ of wood fibre¹, a 4.4% reduction over 2011 (Table 3). This can be traced to Finsa Forest Products ceasing manufacture in January 2011. A very high proportion (89%) of WBP manufacture was exported (630,000 m³), to a value of €179 million (Table 4). WBP exports were mainly oriented strand board (OSB), door panels and medium density fibreboard (MDF), manufactured by SmartPly, Masonite and Medite. The main export markets were the UK and the Benelux countries.

In 2012, sawmill roundwood intake was 1.75 million m³, which was converted to 0.78 million m³ of sawn timber² (Table 3). In 2012, it is estimated that 68% of the market for sawn softwood timber in the Republic of Ireland was supplied from domestic production, with the balance being imported (Table 5).

In 2012, overall exports of forest products from the Republic of Ireland were valued at €303 million, a 2% reduction on 2011. Wood based panels accounted for €179 million, the balance comprising paper and sawn timber exports (Table 4).

In 2012, 35.6% of the roundwood harvested in the Republic of Ireland was used for energy generation, mainly within the forest products sector. Over this period, 225,000 m³ of firewood was used in the Republic of Ireland to a value of €33million, showing that it is providing a steady and a growing market for first thinnings.

TABLE 3: PRODUCTION OF SAWN WOOD AND WOOD-BASED PANELS (2008-2012)³.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	000 m³				
<i>Construction timber</i>	267	294	293	289	297
<i>Pallet/packaging</i>	232	255	255	251	258
<i>Square edge fencing</i>	190	209	209	206	211
<i>Other</i>	13	14	15	15	15
TOTAL sawn wood	702	772	772	761	781
TOTAL wood-based panels	779	709	758	736	704

Table 4: Timber and paper products trade, volume and value (2008-2012)⁴.

	Imports									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	000 m³					€ million				
<i>Sawn timber</i>	412	232	242	201	145	141	66	74	64	54

¹ Includes pulpwood, wood chips, sawdust and post-consumer recovered wood (PCRW).

² Includes the production of round stake.

³ EUROSTAT Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (2009-2013).

⁴ Includes import/export figures for sawn timber, wood-based panels and pulp/paper products only. Data are taken from Ireland's EUROSTAT Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) returns (2009-2013). Roundwood, sawmill residues and secondary processed timber products are not included. Trade data for the JFSQ is provided by the Central Statistics Office (CSO); www.cso.ie

<i>Wood-based panels</i>	264	181	166	195	204	108	68	65	68	75
<i>Pulp products</i>	000 tonnes									
	29	32	41	54	47	20	22	31	45	45
<i>Paper and paper-board products</i>	526	379	370	383	415	520	308	313	333	339
TOTAL						789	464	483	510	513
	Exports									
	000 m³					€ million				
<i>Sawn timber</i>	389	564	658	619	534	54	51	85	83	73
<i>Wood-based panels</i>	614	580	660	616	630	195	147	179	173	179
<i>Pulp products</i>	000 tonnes									
	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Paper and paper-board products</i>	77	45	33	59	68	69	45	44	52	51
TOTAL						318	243	308	308	303

TABLE 5: SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN SAWNWOOD (2008-2012)^{5,6}.

	Sawn softwood					Sawn hardwood				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	000 m3 UB									
<i>Domestic production</i>	696	772	772	760	782	1	3	0	1	1
<i>Exports⁷</i>	387	563	658	619	534	2	1	1	1	0
<i>Imports</i>	346	191	205	169	116	65	41	37	32	28
<i>TOTAL consumption⁸</i>	655	400	319	310	364	64	43	36	32	29
<i>% of sawn timber consumption</i>	47	52	36	45	68	2	7	0	3	3

⁵ Central Statistics Office; www.cso.ie & EUROSTAT Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (2009-2013).

⁶ Due to rounding, there are slight differences between the values shown in Table 5 and Table 7.

⁷ Sawn timber export data for 2010 has been revised. This is based on up-dated data provided by the CSO; www.cso.ie.

⁸ Total consumption is calculated as follows: domestic production + (imports-exports).

<i>supplied by domestic production</i>										
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Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the data presented here and in the COFORD Woodflow, but we always welcome feedback and comments.

Eoin O'Driscoll⁹ and Gordon Knaggs¹⁰

COFORD Council - update

Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Tom Hayes T.D has appointed Fred Tottenham as a new member to the COFORD Council. Fred Tottenham is President of IrBEA. IrBEA's role is to promote the bio-energy industry and to develop this important sector on the Island of Ireland. The organisation is a self-governing association of voluntary members and is affiliated to AEBIOM, the European Biomass Association.

The COFORD Council had convened groups in the following areas:

Land Availability
Forest Management Planning
Wood Mobilisation
Forest Research

These Groups have made some progress as follows:

The Forest Research Working Group had its final meeting. The final editing phase of their report had begun and they were aiming for completion by the end of August.

The Forest Management Planning Working Group has developed a draft forest management plan template. The intention is to agree the template which would then be sent to the Forest Service to consider.

The Land Availability Working Group is preparing a final report. They are still awaiting the outcome of the work on the identification and definition of unenclosed land. It is expected that this work would be completed by early autumn. It is hoped to have the final report available by the end of 2013.

]The Wood Mobilisation Working Group had identified three main Objectives,

1. To identify and make recommendations on issues impacting on access to and mobilisation of wood resources at the national level, taking into account cost effectiveness and related issues, with due reference to the work of the Forest Policy Review Group, and relevant reports

⁹ eoin@drima.com

¹⁰ gordonknaggs@eircom.net

2. Further understand and assess ways to address projected shortfalls in wood fibre supply on the island.
3. Update information on wood harvest v forecast contained in Table 1 in the All Ireland Roundwood Production Forecast 2011.

In regard to the first objective the recommendation on developing a code of practice for timber haulage is being taken on board by the Forest Industry Transport Group with funding from DAFM, and there had been progress on the planning permission system for forest road entrances. There was also progress in developing a national roundwood price information system.

The group is also making some progress on updating information on wood harvest v forecast contained in Table 1 in the All Ireland Roundwood Production Forecast 2011. This very important work to ensure accurate forecasts will facilitate forward planning and investment. It was expected that reports on Objectives 1 and 3 would be completed by the end of October, and on Objective 2 by year end.

A Guide to the Valuation of Commercial Forest Plantations

COFORD has published a very useful book - **A Guide to the Valuation of Commercial Forest Plantations**: Authors: Henry Phillips, Daragh Little, Tom McDonald and John Phelan. Anybody involved in forest management or in the transaction of forest properties will find the book a clear and authoritative source of up-to-date information and guidance on forest valuation. Copies of the book can be ordered from orla.cashen@agriculture.gov.ie at a price of €20. Alternatively copies can be ordered from the COFORD website.

Follow the link to the COFORD Website

[A Guide to the Valuation of Commercial Forest Plantations](#)

Events

GROWFOR Workshop

GROWFOR, the user interface for Irish Dynamic Yield Models, has been upgraded for use on a range of operating systems. The upgrade includes new models for Ash (thinned) and Japanese larch (Thinned and No-Thin). There are also some additional upgrades such as an “undo” function and “hover notes” for different fields. The new version is available to registered users from Paddy Purser (ptr@eircom.net) from 22nd July. There is a new user manual in preparation and this will be made available in September. A workshop is planned for September 12th in Roscrea. Some places have been

pre-booked for this workshop but there are a small number of places available. To book a place, please email Paddy Purser on ptr@eircom.net after 22nd July.

Wood Matters

Update to Woodspec

Student wood awards

Report on 2013 Third Level Student Wood Awards

An estimated 50 projects were entered for this year's Third Level Student Wood Awards and 20 were chosen by their colleges to go forward for adjudication in Cork Institute of Technology and University College Dublin. One of the more encouraging developments taking place in third level colleges in recent years has been the increase in design and construction projects in timber and this is reflected in the awards.

Mark Pringle and Philip Ryan, representing Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) won the architecture section of the 2013 Third Level Student Wood Awards. The design award also went to Dublin with the UCD student Donal Groarke emerging as the winner for a project based in Dolphin House, Dublin's second largest public housing estate.

Nick Bailey, Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) won the engineering award for the innovative use of wood – solid and laminated – in designing a footbridge for a forest setting.

These fought off stiff competition, especially from traditional high achieving colleges in wood design including Queen's University, NUI Galway, GMIT Letterfrack and University of Ulster.

Tom Hayes, Minister of State with responsibility for forestry presented the awards to the three winning students as well as special commendations to Genevieve Doonan, NUI Galway, Andras Dankhazi, UCD and Anthony O'Neill, Letterfrack College.

The winning engineering project by Nick Bailey is a 14-metre bridge with an oak deck structure. The deck plate is a softwood glulam system and the judges agreed that the design should be spectacular in a recreational forest setting. "The overall form is a cable stayed type, inspired by Santiago Callatrava's 'Samuel Beckett Bridge' in Dublin," said a jubilant Nick Bailey who thanked Brian O'Rourke, lecturer and course co-ordinator at CIT.

The DIT winning architecture project entitled 'Design for disassembly' is for a five-storey development, constructed mainly in wood including the primary structure of solid load bearing panels – laminated without using chemical fixing – prefabricated external cladding and the internal furniture, based on Japanese wood joinery techniques. The project was overseen by Sima Rouholamin whose DIT students have performed consistently well since the awards began in 2006.

Design winner Donal Groarke emphasised the importance of community partnership in his Dolphin's House community project. "In collaboration with residents, community groups, procurement bodies and manufacturers, I am exploring the potential for digital fabrication as part of the regeneration process of existing housing estates," he said. "The structure will provide a space for performance, community games, creative work groups, community organisations and activists to project their voice."

The objective of the awards is to encourage students to explore functional, aesthetic and design aspects of wood and wood products.

The awards are judged by top professionals in the fields of architecture, engineering and design. In addition to Duncan Stewart, the adjudicating panel comprised Simon O'Driscoll, O'Driscoll Furniture and Des O'Toole, engineer with Coillte while Paddy Bowes of Wood-ni acted as facilitator.

Over 50 projects were prepared for the awards throughout Ireland this year, with 20 making it to the finals, adjudicated on over two days in CIT and UCD. "This is a sign that colleges are taking wood design more seriously," said Paul Harvey, chairman WMF. However he agreed with Duncan Stewart, chairman of the judging panel that Ireland has a long way to go before we have a wood culture. "We must continue to work with the colleges to achieve this," he said.

"We need to articulate in a positive manner the need and urgency for more third level courses in wood to address the apparent deficiencies in the knowledge of these topics by professionals and graduates in some of our colleges," said Duncan Stewart. The architect and television producer praised the students and lecturers but stressed the importance of wood and impressed on colleges to make timber mainstream in courses because of it is renewable, sustainable and functional.

Coillte is the main sponsor of the awards while continued support has been provided by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and the Society of Irish Foresters.

THE AWARDS ARE ORGANISED BY THE WOOD MARKETING FEDERATION, IN ASSOCIATION WITH WOOD-NI.



Tom Hayes, Minister of State with responsibility for forestry (second from right) who presented the Third Level Student Wood Award at the Botanic Gardens Dublin with Karen Woods, Coillte and awards' co-ordinator, Mark Pringle and Philip Ryan, DIT, winners of the architectural section, Donal Magner, Wood Marketing Federation and Nick Bailey, Cork Institute of Technology who the engineering award.

Garden of Plenty



National and international news

Update on the Forest Policy Review

Notice of Public Consultation - Forest Policy Review

In accordance with EU Directive [2001/42/EC](#) and the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programme) Regulations 2004 ([SI 435 of 2004](#)), the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine is carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Draft Forest Policy Review Report. Information on the SEA process, together with the Draft Forest Policy Review Report and the accompanying Environmental Report is available at www.agriculture.gov.ie. A copy of the Draft report and the associated Environmental Report may also be inspected at the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, between the hours of 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday for a period of eight weeks from the date of the Notice - Friday 28 June 2013

Written submissions or observations with respect to the draft report and associated environmental report made to the competent authority (the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine), within the period a period of eight weeks from the date of publication of the Notice will be taken into consideration before the finalisation of the draft report.

Submissions are invited from members of the public and interested organisations by 12 noon Friday 23 August 2013. Submissions should be forwarded to: Ms Orla Cashen, Forest Sector Development Division, Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine, 3 West, Agriculture House, Kildare Street Dublin 2.

Progress on the United Nations Forum on Forests

Tenth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF10), Istanbul, April 2013.

The tenth session of United Nations Forum on Forests took place in Istanbul, Turkey from 8-20 April 2013.

Some 46 Ministers together with almost 1300 delegates took part in the session.

UNFF10 addressed a range of important issues relating to forestry policy and sustainable forest management. A multi-stakeholder dialogue and a high level Ministerial segment also featured.

The primary outcome of UNFF10 was agreement on two action-oriented draft Resolutions which will now go before the UN Economic and Social Council for formal adoption later this year. The [first Resolution](#) addresses emerging issues, means of implementation and the UNFF trust fund; meanwhile the [second Resolution](#) covers implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, the four global objectives on forests, regional inputs, forests and economic development and enhanced co-operation.

As part of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, officials from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine played a major role in leading negotiations for the European Union and its Member States. This involved the development of co-ordinated EU positions and leading for the EU at negotiation level with other UN regional groups and countries in long and detailed bargaining sessions.

The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) is an intergovernmental policy forum which promotes management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and which aims to strengthen political commitment to this end. UNFF was established in October 2000 by the UN Economic and Social Council as a subsidiary body of ECOSOC. The Forum has universal membership and is composed of all Member States of the United Nations. The Forum will convene again in 2015.

Progress on the legally binding agreement

Fourth Session of the International Negotiating Committee (INC4) to agree a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe, Warsaw, June 2013.

The fourth session of the International Negotiating Committee took place in Warsaw, Poland from 10th to 14th June 2013.

Good progress was made on the draft text of the convention which aims to ensure that Europe's forests are sustainably managed throughout the pan-European region and which recognises the multiple economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits which forests provide.

A limited number of issues remain to be resolved before the final text of the draft convention will be presented to a Ministerial Conference in Spain later in 2013.

Parties agreed to meet again after the summer for a short negotiating session in order to take decisions on institutional arrangements, right to vote, observer admission and a number of related outstanding issues.

Aimed at ensuring the continued protection and sustainable management of Europe's forests and also to provide for a stable and efficient platform for coherent policy development and implementation, in June 2011 European ministers with responsibility for forests launched negotiations for a legally binding agreement on forests based on the [Oslo mandate](#).

Update on UNFCCC climate change issues

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Bonn Climate Change Conference, 3-14 June 2013

The meeting comprised the 38th sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). Approximately 1480 government delegates, 900 observers and 30 media representatives attended the meeting.

Methodological guidance on REDD+

The negotiations on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in developing countries (REDD+) under SBSTA resulted in three draft decisions that will be proposed for adoption at the next Conference of the Parties in Warsaw this coming November.

A draft decision on national forest monitoring systems represents an important step forward on how best to monitor, report and verify reductions in emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, which is essential for enabling any funding for verified emission reductions. There was also agreement on a draft decision text on guidance information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected, recognising that the social and environmental impacts of REDD+ activities are important. Thirdly, a draft decision was reached on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

SBSTA 38 had a busy agenda and achieved what many saw as good progress, inter alia, on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries and the role of conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+), and several other methodological issues. Under the Irish Presidency of the EU, two submissions to the UNFCCC on REDD+ were agreed: on REDD+ finance (means of implementation), the other a voluntary submission, which gave an overview of the outstanding REDD+ agenda items, re-iterated EU views and prioritised actions. This contributed to a better work flow for the REDD+ agenda items at Bonn and to the substantial progress outlined. The Irish Presidency, along with EU Issue Leads and focal point, engaged informal bilateral with Norway, Brazil, Australia and the US.

Methodological guidance on LULUCF (Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry)

Issues discussed in informals included:

the need for more comprehensive accounting of anthropogenic emissions in the LULUCF sector, possible additional LULUCF activities under the clean development mechanism (CDM) and modalities and procedures for applying the concept of additionality.

Parties agreed on the need to continue consideration of these issues at SBSTA 39 in Warsaw.

Other developments

A new EU AFOLU (agriculture, forestry and other land uses) technical expert group was formed to consider cross-cutting issues between agriculture, LULUCF and REDD+

Pat Farrington