
Country Forestry Report

Estonia

1. Brief Country Profile

Land area	45,336 km ²
Population	1.316 million
Population density	30 inhabitants per km ²
Ethnic groups	69% Estonians, 25% Russians, 2% Ukrainians, 4% others
Capital city	Tallinn
Official language	Estonian
National currency	Euro
GDP in 2016	20.9 billion Euro
Member of the European Union since 2004	

Location Northern Europe

REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA



Natural environment:

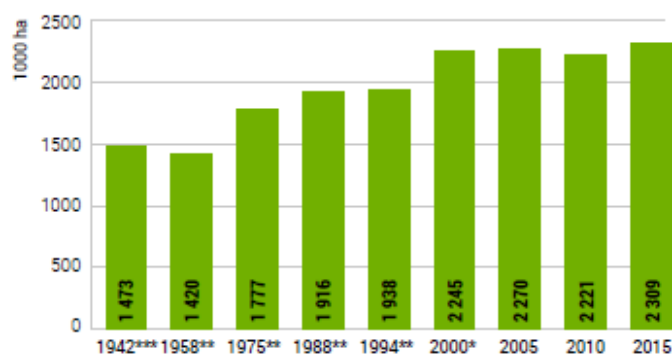
Coastline	3,800 km (2,361 mi)
Number of islands	2,222
Largest islands	Saaremaa (2,671 km ² / 1,031 sq mi), Hiiumaa (989 km ² / 382 sq mi), Muhu (198 km ² / 76 sq mi)
Longest rivers	Võhandu (162 km / 101 mi), Pärnu (144 km / 89 mi), Põltsamaa (135 km / 84 mi)
Largest lakes	Peipsi (3,555 km ² / 1,373 sq mi, with 1,529 km ² / 590 sq mi belonging to Estonia), Võrtsjärv (271 km ² / 105 sq mi)
Highest point	Suur Munamägi (317.2 m / 1,040 ft)
National parks	Lahemaa (730 km ² / 282 sq mi), Matsalu (490 km ² / 189 sq mi), Soomaa (400 km ² / 154 sq mi), Vilsandi (240 km ² / 93 sq mi), Karula (124 km ² / 48 sq mi)
Average daily temperature	Annual mean +6.7 °C / 44.1 °F, in January -7.7 °C / 18.1 °F, in July +17.8 °C / 64.0 °F (2016)

(Source for section 1: Statistics Estonia 2017)

2. Forestry and Forest

Forest area in 2016	2,312,548 ha
Forest area in 1942	1,473,051 ha
Forest area increase since 1942	57%

Figure 1.4.1.1 Changing of forest land area



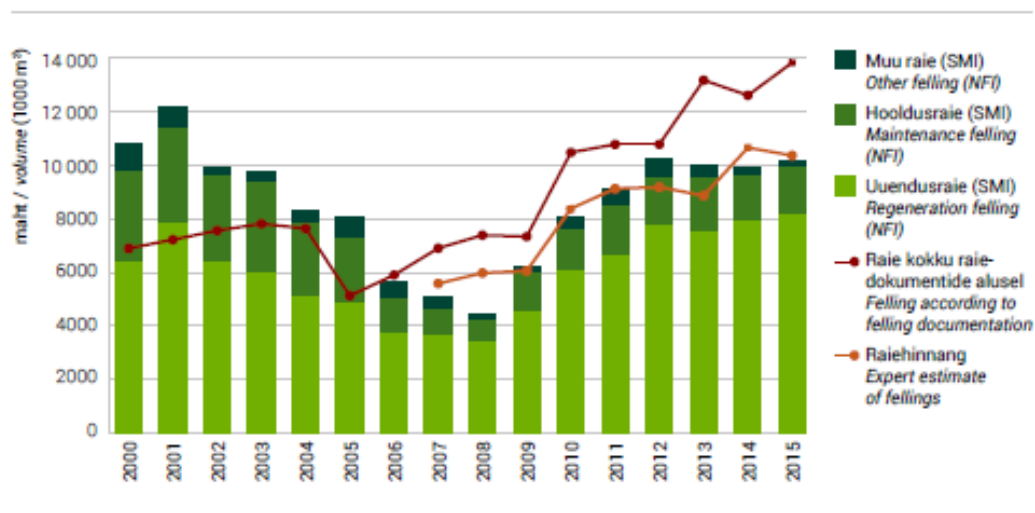
Forest coverage in 2016	53%
Forest coverage in 1942	34%

Forest classification: 35% primary forests, 56% modified natural forests, 9% semi-natural forests, 0.2% productive plantations.

Forest tree species structure and dynamics:

Tree species	Area		Volume		Increment mill. m ³ /year	Felling volume in 2015 mill. m ³ /year
	1000 ha	%	mill. m ³	%		
Scots pine	736.0	32	137.3	29	4.9	1.9
Norway spruce	428.4	18	117.4	24	3.6	3.5
Silver and downy birch	681.3	29	103.5	22	4.2	2.2
European aspen	138.2	6	38.9	8	1.2	0.4
Black alder	82.8	4	23.1	5	0.6	0.6
Grey alder	208.3	9	36.7	8	1.3	0.5
Others	37.5	2	21.1	3	0.2	0.9
Total	2312.5	100	478.0	100	16.0	10,1

Figure 3.2.2.1 Felling volume by different data sources in 2000–2015

**Felling operation:**

The total volume of timber felled in recent 10 years (2007-2016) 85.5 million m³

The planned felling volume in the next 10 years 10-15 million m³/year

(Source for section 2: Yearbook Forest 2016, Environment Agency 2017)

3. Forest Management

Institutions associated with forestry

Governmental organizations:

Ministry of Environment	http://www.envir.ee/en
Environmental Board	https://www.keskkonnaamet.ee/en
Environmental Inspectorate	https://www.kki.ee/en
Environment Agency	http://www.keskkonnaagentuur.ee/en
State Forest Management Centre	https://www.rmk.ee/en
Foundation Private Forest Centre	http://www.eramets.ee/eng/

Non-governmental organizations:

Estonian Private Forest Owners Association	http://www.erametsaliit.ee
Estonian Forest and Wood Industries Association	http://www.estoniantimber.ee
Estonian Forest Society	http://www.metsaselts.ee
Estonian Fund for Nature	http://elfond.ee/en
Foundation for Forest Conservation	http://www.metsahoiu.ee

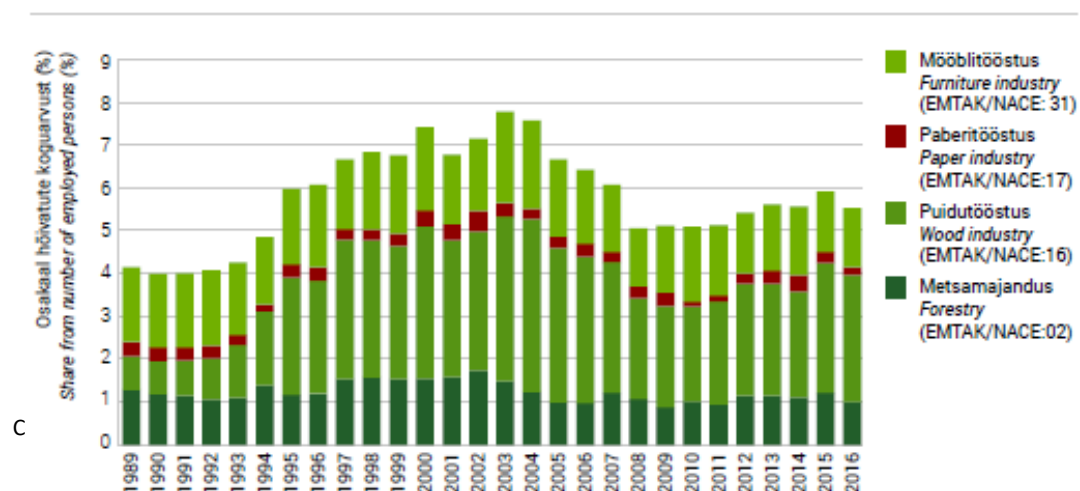
Forestry employment

Number of employees in forest sector in 2016

- in forestry	6,500
- in wood industry	19,100
- in pulp and paper industry	1,200
- in furniture industry	8,900
TOTAL in forest sector	35,700 (5.5% from employed people)

The dynamics of the number of employees in forest sector

Figure 10.6.3.1 Share of forest sector from total number of employed persons in 1989–2016



Forest ownership

The area and percentage of the forest ownership in 2016

- state forests	1,171,600 ha	(51%)
o State Forest Management Centre	1,056,300 ha	(46%)
o other state forests	115,300 ha	(5%)
- private forests	1,094,600 ha	(47%)
o private persons	664,300 ha	(29%)
o legal entities	430,300 ha	(18%)
- forest area subject to privatization	46,300 ha	(2%)

The dynamic change in the proportion of the forest ownership

After the Soviet Union occupation ended in Estonia, the private ownership was restituted in 1991. Land reform is still ongoing.

Forestry policy

Estonia has quite liberal forest policy aiming at efficient forest management and sustainable use of forest resources. 14% of forests are strictly protected and 13% of forests have other restrictions on forest management.

Investigation and monitoring of forestry resources

Monitoring of forest resources is done by the National Forest Inventory and the Environmental Board. Public forest register is accessible at <https://mets-ave.envir.ee>.

(Source for section 3: Yearbook Forest 2016, Environment Agency 2017)

4. Forestry Research and Education

Forestry Research

Institute of Forestry and Rural Engineering, Estonian University of Life Sciences located in Tartu is the only institution directly involved in forestry research in Estonia (<http://mi.emu.ee/en/>). Other universities (University of Tartu, Tallinn University of Technology, Tallinn University) are also dealing with several specific aspects in forest research.

Forestry Education

Institute of Forestry and Rural Engineering, Estonian University of Life Sciences is the only institution in forest education on BSc, MSc and PhD levels in Estonia (<http://mi.emu.ee/en/>). Currently, there are 342 students studying forestry, wood processing and nature resource management at the Estonian University of Life Sciences, from them 6 students are foreign students.

(Source for section 4: Estonian University of Life Sciences 2017)

5. Forest economics

Forest contribution to GDP

Added value of forest sector to the country's GDP in 2016 was 4.6%.

Forest products import and export trade

Total export value of wood-based products from Estonia in 2016 was 1.91 billion euros (16% of export from Estonia).

Figure 10.3.7 Export and import of wood and articles of wood, paper and articles of paper, wooden buildings and furniture in 1995–2016

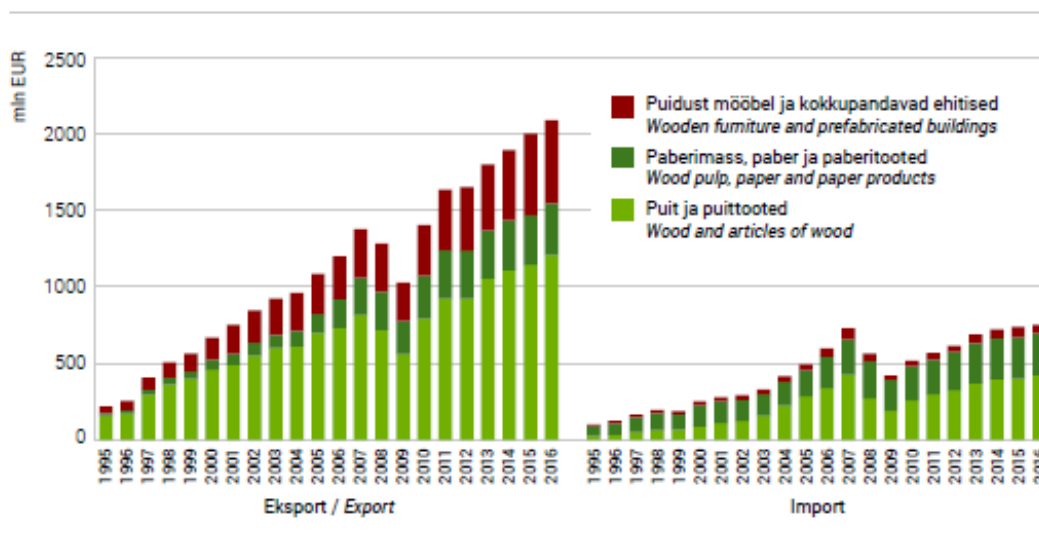
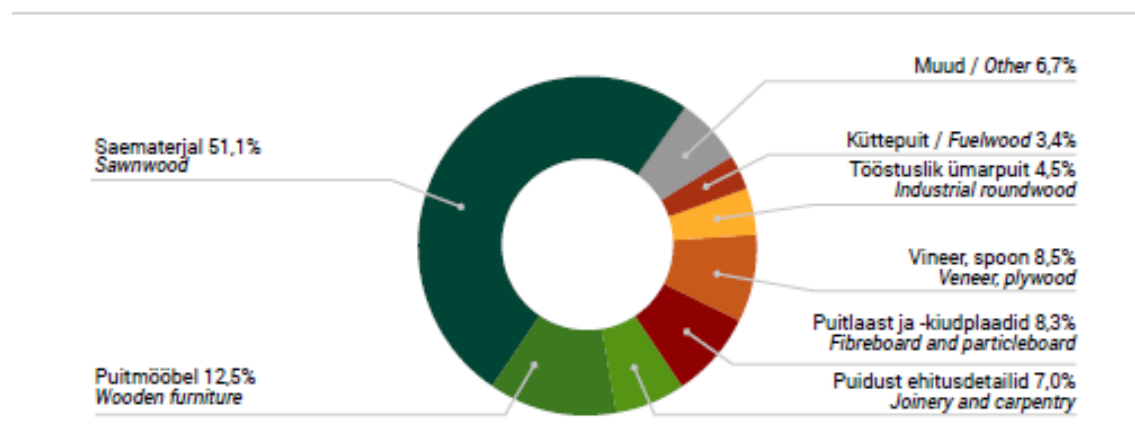


Figure 10.3.1.3.1 Distribution of revenues (EUR) from export of wood and wooden articles in 2016



Figure 10.3.1.3.2 Distribution of value (EUR) of import of wood and wooden articles in 2016



(Source for section 5: Yearbook Forest 2016, Environment Agency 2017; Statistics Estonia 2017)