

Forest Resources of the Russian Federation

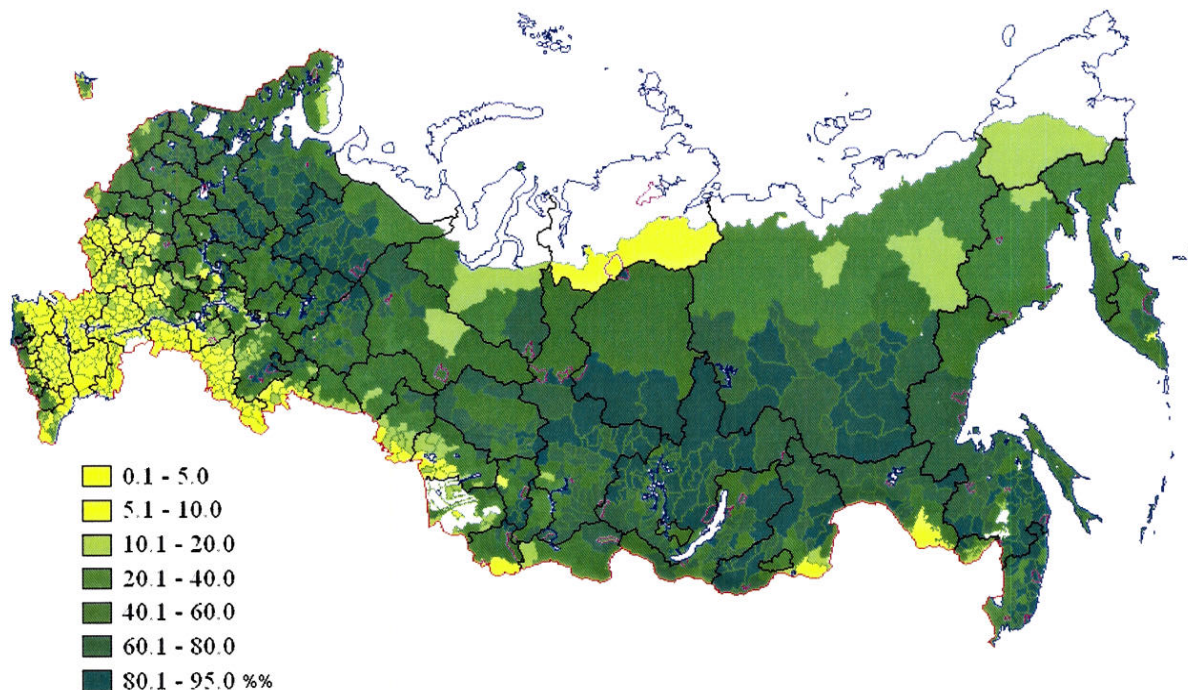
Forest fund of the country is a part of state property presenting totality of forests, forest and non-forest lands within the boundaries determined by forest and land legislation. To Forest fund are related all forests except forests on lands of Defense Ministry of the RF and populated areas (city forests). Total area of forests in Russia as for January 1, 2007 was 1180.6 million hectares, including Forest fund of 1174.7 million hectares (estimate). Ministry for Natural Resources (MNR) of the Russian Federation has under its authority 1133.9 million hectares. Total area of forests outside the Forest fund is 5.9 million hectares (Table 1).

Table 1. Forest fund and forests outside it on the territory of the Russian Federation as for January 1, 2007

Organ, managing Forest fund and forests outside it	Lands of Forest fund and lands outside it (total area, thousand hectares)					Timber volume, mln m ³		
	Total area	Forest lands	Lands covered by forests			Aggregate	Including mature & over mature stands	
			Total	Including mature & over mature stands			Total	Incl coniferous
				Total	Incl coniferous			
Forest fund – in all	1174675,1	880232,6	777173,7	334343,9	254719,7	82473,7	44716,6	33987,4
<i>Including:</i> Ministry for Natural Resources of Russia	1133868,3	840219,5	738560,9	326337,0	252301,6	76995,6	43244,2	33486,3
Ministry of Agriculture*	40466,1	39695,1	38335,5	7927,0	2376,0	5421,4	1453,2	490,0
Ministry of Education*	340,7	318,0	277,3	79,9	42,1	56,7	19,2	11,1
Forests outside Forest fund – in all*	5912,9	4837,7	4381,8	1485,2	1063,3	591,8	266,2	187,0
<i>Including:</i> Ministry of Defense	4736,4	3821,6	3434,0	1351,7	984,8	466,0	237,7	168,6
City forests	1176,5	1016,1	947,8	133,5	78,5	125,9	28,5	18,4
Total	1180588,0	885070,3	781555,5	335829,1	255783,0	83065,5	44982,8	34174,4

* As for January 1, 2003

Average percentage of forest lands for Russia as a whole is 45.4%. The most wooded lands (more than 80%) are located in sub-zone of middle taiga (Permsky Krai, Komi Republic and Central Siberia); the least wooded lands (less than 1%) are located in arid zone of European part of Russia (Republic of Kalmykiya, parts of Stavropolsky Krai, Astrkhanskaya Oblast, Rostovskaya Oblast and Volgogradskaya Oblast) (see Picture 1).



Picture. 1. Forest Lands in the Russian Federation, %%

In accordance with the Forest Code 2006 of the Russian Federation, forests located on lands of Forest fund regarding their purpose are divided into protective, merchantable and reserved forests. Forest lands compose 75% of total Forest fund's area.

Principal forest forming tree species are larch, pine, spruce, cedar, oak, beech, birch, aspen (Table 2), they occupy more than 90% of lands covered with forest vegetation. Stand areas of principal species remain stable enough for the recent decades. In age structure dominate mature and over mature stands (coniferous – 49.1%, broadleaved – 53.4%, microphyllous – 37,6%).

Table 2. Area Dynamics of Principal Forest Forming Species, thousand hectares

Principal forest forming species	Area, year of accounting							
	1988 ^{*)}	1993 ^{*)}	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Coniferous								
Pine	113564	114326	116740	117473	117205	117295,0	117016,8	116614,5
Spruce	78810	75866,3	77658	77198,4	76737,4	76417,7	75966,4	75748,8
Larch	277898	263348	265719	264287	263986	264269,9	264996,1	265074,1
Cedar	40166	39797,6	41033,2	40852	41054,6	41171,6	41075,8	41047,3
Broadleaved								
Oak, long-boled	3761	3808	3719	3633,7	3650,2	3611,9	3610,6	3703,2
Oak, short-stemmed	3198,7	2971,3	3110,3	3200	3169,6	3161,0	3137,0	3062,0
Beech	698,5	701,3	786	789,6	790,1	793,1	792,2	789,8
	1988 ^{*)}	1993 ^{*)}	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Birch	85531	87732,5	94170,5	97950	98824,8	99683,7	100716,8	101761,1
Aspen	17711,4	18907,9	20035	20573,4	20682	20802,0	20943,3	20995,0

^{*)} Data, State Accounting of Forest fund (without reserved forests).

More than half of all Russian forests grow on permafrost soils (Siberia and Far East) under severe climate conditions, what determines their low productivity and fragmentariness. Only 45% of forest areas are accessible for operation, but predominant part of them is

exhausted as a result of intensive utilization. The share of productive (I – III categories of quality) mature and over mature coniferous stands doesn't exceed 16%.

Total volume of wood in forests of the Russian Federation is about 82 billion m³, including 77 billion m³ in the Forest fund of MNR, including 43.2 billion m³ in mature and over mature stands. For the country as a whole, average volume of wood for 1 hectare in mature and over mature stands (without brushes) is 132 m³, and 166 m³ in forests accessible for operation. Annual average growth of wood stock in Russian forests is 943.2 million m³, or 1.23 m³ per 1 hectare of lands covered with forest vegetation.

Annual prescribed cut is 532 million m³. In recent years it has been used only on 22-24%. Forest resources of Russia allow securing not only current and future domestic needs in timber and products of its processing, but also considerably increasing export of timber products to foreign countries.

Production volumes regarding main kinds of forestry products in the Russian Federation

Name	1990	1998	2000	2005	2006	2007	2007 in % to 1990
Logging, mln m ³	303,8	130,2	167,9	185,0	185,3	187,0	61,6
Sawn timber, mln m ³	75,0	18,6	20,0	22,0	22,1	23,2	30,9
Plywood, mln m ³	1,6	1,1	1,5	2,6	2,6	2,8	175,0
Chipboard, mln m ³	5,6	1,6	2,3	3,8	4,7	5,3	94,6
Fiberboard, mln m ³	1,5	0,6	0,9	1,3	1,5	1,6	106,7
Wood pulp, mln tons	7,5	3,2	5,0	6,0	6,0	6,0	80,0
Paper and paperboard, mln tons	8,3	3,6	5,3	7,1	7,4	7,6	91,6

Export volumes regarding forestry products of the Russian Federation for 2005-2007

Наименование	2005	2006	2007
Industrial roundwood, mln m ³	47,9	51,1	49,3
Sawn timber, млн. т	9,0	9,7	10,7
Plywood, mln m ³	1,5	1,6	1,5
Wood pulp, mln tons	1,9	1,9	1,9
Newsprint, mln tons	1,3	1,3	1,2

Demand for forestry products on domestic market of the Russian Federation, innovatory scenario

Forestry products	2020	
	Volume	Billion rubles
Sawn timber, mln m ³	29,3	129
Plywood, mln m ³	2,8	48
Chipboard, mln m ³	13,4	110
Fiberboard, mln m ³	5,0	195
Paper and paperboard, mln tons	15,4	469
Furniture, billion rubles	-	730

Preliminary evaluation of production volumes by main kinds of forestry products for the period to 2020 (inertial/innovatory scenarios)

	2007	2012	2017	2020	2020 in % to 2007
Industrial wood, mln m ³	142	149	201	242	170
	142	211	260	294	207
Sawn timber, mln m ³	23,2	33	41	45	194
	23,2	37	47,5	55	237
Plywood, mln m ³	2,8	3,4	4,0	4,5	161
	2,8	3,8	4,6	4,9	175
Chipboard, mln m ³	5,3	6,9	9,4	11,5	217
	5,3	8,0	11,3	14,3	270
Fiberboard, mln m ³	1,6	2,5	3,6	4,5	281
	1,6	3,0	4,4	5,7	356
Wood pulp, mln tons	6,0	7,5	8,8	9,3	155
	6,0	8,3	11,7	13,4	223
Paper and paperboard, mln tons	7,6	8,7	11,5	15,8	208
	7,6	9,9	13,5	15,8	208