

Wood Products

Roundwood harvest in the Republic is currently running at around 3 million cubic metres per annum. Net roundwood imports provide a further 0.2 million cubic metres for processing. Sawn softwood and board products account for almost all processing. COFORD compiles wood harvest and trade data on behalf of EUROSTAT on an annual basis and has recently published the data in its COFORD Connects series (see Services and Technology Transfer).

R&D investment in wood products is funded in the main through company investment and R&D grant aid administered by Enterprise Ireland (EI). Most of the major sawmills and board mills are engaged in EI-funded R&D, and all are involved in process and product innovation and related R&D.

COFORD's involvement in wood product development has involved supporting the development of generic standards for wood products such as fencing, and in examining developing trends in wood product treatment and new applications.

COFORD is currently examining the need for further work in areas such as wood resource quality, the use of wood in medium and multi-rise construction, and the availability of wood testing facilities at a national level.

The projects in this thematic area are:

- **EWP:** Engineered wood products – opportunities and threats for Ireland.
- **HEATTREAT:** Heat treatment of fast-grown softwood.