

3.2 Roundwood

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■ 70% of roundwood is sold as stemwood to sawmills. 20% is used as fuel, and a further 10% is sold as raw material to paper mills as well as to the cellulose and plywood industries.

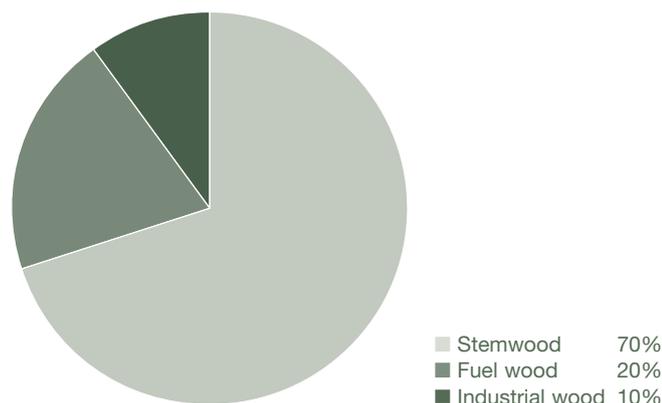
Source of income

The sale of timber is the main source of income for forest enterprises. Timber is usually processed and marketed as roundwood, i.e. as trimmed stems of harvested trees. Forest owners sell this raw product to buyers for further processing. However, not all harvested roundwood is sold; private forest owners often use it themselves, e.g. as fuel wood. Statistics only partially take into account this private use of timber.

We do, however, have the figures for the roundwood that reaches the market: Swiss forest enterprises sell 4 to 5 million cubic metres each year. This is an average of 3.5 to 4.5 m³/ha, which temporarily increased following storms like Vivian and Lothar. Roughly 70% of the roundwood sold is so-called stemwood processed mainly by sawmills. 20% is used as fuel, and a further 10% is so-called industrial wood, sold as raw material to papermills, as well as to the cellulose and plywood industries. Of these, stemwood sells for the highest prices, making up almost 80% of the revenue. In contrast fuel wood makes up just 13% and industrial wood 8%. In 2002 total revenues from sales of roundwood were just under CHF 200 million.

3.2.1 Use of roundwood

Proportion of volume of roundwood according to type of use.



As conifers produce more than twice as much stemwood (80%) as broadleaf trees, they are of greater commercial interest in forestry. Almost half the timber from broadleaf trees is used as fuel, and only 30% as higher-grade stemwood. This is another reason why, until the 1970s, conifers were the preferred trees in the Central Plateau.

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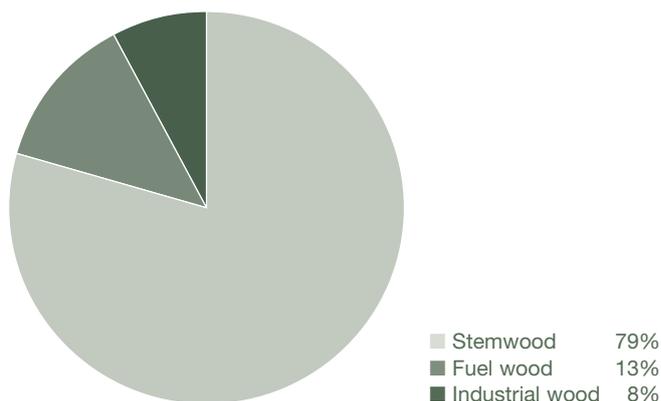
3.2.2 Timber use according to type of use

Number of cubic metres of timber used in public forests and distribution according to type of use.

| | <i>Coniferous wood m³</i> | <i>Broadleaf wood m³</i> | <i>% Coniferous wood</i> | <i>% Broadleaf wood</i> |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Stemwood | 1 857 117 | 238 898 | 80% | 30% |
| Fuel wood | 210 507 | 384 144 | 9% | 49% |
| Industrial wood | 267 396 | 162 626 | 11% | 21% |

3.2.3 Roundwood sales values

Percentage of roundwood sales values according to type of use. Average values for the years 1997-2002.



FURTHER INFORMATIONEN

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