

1. RATIO OF FOREST LAND AND PERSONS ENGAGED IN FORESTRY  
2. AREA OF FORESTS OPERATED  
PRODUCTION OF TIMBER

1. Ratio of Forest Land and Persons Engaged in Forestry

In 1985 there were 25,105,234 hectares of forest covering 66.5% of the total land area. The ratio of forest land is the percentage of forest to the total land area. Prefecture by prefecture, Kōti, whose ratio was 83.5%, ranked highest, followed by Yamanashi with 82.9%. The ratio was lowest, namely 31.8%, in Ōsaka.

The wooded area, which is calculated by subtracting the area of grassland from the area of forest, was 24,717,566 hectares. As for the ownership of this area, 29.7% was owned by the nation, 1.6% by the Forest Development Corp., 12.2% was public forest and 56.5% was private forest.

The area of trees, which is calculated by subtracting the area of bamboo groves, felled area and forest gaps from the wooded area (planned wooded area), was 23,828,570 hectares. Of this, 42.1% was artificial forest and 57.9% natural forest. As for the type of forest cover, 51.5% was composed of needle-leaved forest and 48.5% of broad-leaved.

Among those who engaged in forestry labor, 1,186,030 were farm household members and only 55,391 were forestry household members. It can be seen from these figures that forestry is largely dependent on farm household members engaged

in forestry as side work. Of the farm household members who engaged in forestry labor, 90% worked in their own forests.

As a result of stagnation of the industry, the number of persons engaged in forestry has been declining and their average age increasing.

[Salient Points of the Legend and Map Compilation]

The ratio of forest land refers to the area of forest land (as of January 1, 1985) to the total land area (as of October 1, 1984).

Persons engaged in forestry are those who worked in their own forests or worked as employees in the year preceding the survey date (February 1, 1980; December 1, 1979 in the case of Okinawa). On the map, the following are classed as persons engaged in forestry: in the case of farm household members, those who engaged in forestry for 1 day or more; in the case of others, those whose household owned forests of 1 hectare or more and who engaged in forestry work for 1 day or more.

2. Area of Forests Operated

In 1985, 1,709,033 farm households (39.1% of the total) kept 4,495,655 hectares of forest. Of these, 999,752 farm households kept artificial forests, which totaled 2,057,592 hectares in area. On average, forests of 1.0 hectares were kept per farm household.

As for the size of forests kept by farm households, 87.4% of households kept forests of less than 5 hectares, 10.6% kept those of 5-20 hectares, while 2.0% kept those of 20 hectares or more. Thus most households kept very small forests of less than 5 hectares.

During the 2 decades from 1965 to 1985, the number of farm households which kept forests decreased by 634,000 and the area of forests decreased by 926,000 hectares.

2. Production of Timber

The amount of timber produced in Japan in 1985 was 32,944,000 m<sup>3</sup>. By prefecture, Hokkaidō produced the most with 8,338,000 m<sup>3</sup>, followed by Iwate with 1,768,000 m<sup>3</sup> and Hukushima with 1,323,000 m<sup>3</sup>.

Needle-leaved species accounted for 62.4% of production (Japanese cedars 23.7%, Japanese red and black pines 11.7% and Japanese cypresses 9.9% etc.), and broadleaved trees accounted for 37.6% (beeches 2.5%, Japanese oaks 2.0% and other trees 33.1%). As for the ownership, 30.0% was timber from national forests, 5.8%

was from public forests and 64.2% was from private forests. Usability and species are as follows: the majority, 57.1%, was used for sawlogs (needle-leaved trees 87.1% and broad-leaved trees 12.9%), 33.2% was used for wood chips (needle-leaved trees 18.1% and broad-leaved trees 81.9%), 5.4% was used for pulp (needle-leaved trees 82.2% and broad-leaved trees 17.8%), and 4.3% was used for plywoods and others (needle-leaved trees 51.0% and broad-leaved trees 49.0%).

The percentage of domestic timber contained in the total amount of timber has gradually increased since 1979 after reaching its lowest percentage, 40%, in 1978, while in 1985 it accounted for 50%.

[Salient Points of the Legend and Map Compilation]

The materials referred to here are logs or square timber with a length of more than 180 cm, which can be used as building materials.

[Sources]

1. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, *Statistics on Forest Land Area*, 1985
2. Geographical survey institutes, *Survey on Area of Si, Mati and Mura of Each Prefecture* 1984
3. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, *World Census of Agriculture and Forestry*, 1980
4. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, *Census of Agriculture*, 1985
5. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, *Report on Supply and Demand of Timber*, 1985 and 1987





