

Revisions policy

Introduction

Revisions to statistics can occur when further data become available or errors are corrected. The Forestry Commission will normally revise statistics when the figures next appear in any publication. However, if the revision is significant (i.e. resulting in a major change to the published figures), a note showing the revisions will be published as soon as possible on our website (www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics) and distributed to all known recipients of the original publication/ data. In addition, the web versions of any current publications affected will be revised.

This note sets out the Forestry Commission's policy on revisions for each of the data series in our Official Statistics outputs. Further details, including any significant revisions and exceptions, are provided in our quality reports.

Woodland area and planting

Statistics on woodland area and planting are subject to revision between provisional figures (published in the first release "Woodland Area, Planting and Restocking") and final figures (published in other Official Statistics outputs, including in Forestry Facts & Figures and Forestry Statistics). They are also subject to revision whenever new estimates are available from National Forest Inventories.

In the past, statistics taken directly from National Forest Inventories have not been subject to revision, but in the future they are expected to be revised as provisional and final statistics are published and then updated in a regular cycle.

Statistics on farm woodland areas may be subject to revision if the Agricultural Census figures published by Defra and Devolved Administrations are revised.

Timber

Timber and woodfuel statistics are subject to revision between provisional figures (published in the first release "UK Wood Production and Trade (provisional figures)") and final figures (published in other Official Statistics outputs, including in Forestry Facts & Figures and Forestry Statistics).

The statistics on timber and woodfuel are also subject to annual revision, as new data become available.

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Trade

UK statistics on imports, exports (and apparent consumption) are derived from Overseas Trade Statistics published by HM Revenue & Customs (formerly HM Customs & Excise), either directly or through international data compiled by FAO, and from estimates provided by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics. They are subject to revision if the Overseas Trade Statistics are revised. As for timber statistics, trade figures may also be revised between provisional figures (published in the first release “UK Wood Production and Trade (provisional figures)”) and final figures (published in other Official Statistics outputs, including in Forestry Facts & Figures and Forestry Statistics).

Climate Change

Data on carbon sequestration, produced by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology for LULUCF (land use, land use change and forestry) are subject to revision annually, to reflect changes to models and data. Data on forest carbon stock are reassessed at 5-year intervals for the Global Forest Resources Assessment, but may be revised at other times if better source data become available.

Environment

Statistics on UK populations of wild birds are subject to revision annually, using indices published by Defra. Statistics on woodland vegetation are subject to revision at intervals of around 8 years, when new data are available from the Countryside Survey conducted by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. Other environmental forestry statistics are not normally revised, but may be revised if new information on ancient woodland or protected areas is available from country systems, and are expected to be revised from 2012 to make use of the new National Forest Inventory digital map.

Public Opinion of Forestry

Data from Public Opinion of Forestry surveys are not normally revised.

Recreation

Statistics on recreation are not normally revised. Statistics from the Scottish Recreation Survey and Woods for People have been revised in the past to implement improvements in analysis methodology.

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Employment and businesses

Statistics on employment and businesses that are based on data published by others are subject to revision whenever the source data are revised. Statistics from the Forestry Commission's annual surveys and data requests to the UK timber industry are subject to revision whenever the timber statistics are revised (see above).

Finance and prices

In the release "Timber Price Indices", nominal timber prices and index values in nominal terms are not normally revised. All real timber prices and index values in real terms are subject to revision when the GDP deflator is revised by the Office for National Statistics. Further details are provided in the quality report for timber price indices.

Data on financial returns from forestry are not normally revised.

Data on Gross Value Added (GVA) are subject to revision whenever Annual Business Survey (previously Annual Business Inquiry) data are revised by the Office for National Statistics.

Data on Government expenditure are not normally revised, but may be subject to revision if revisions are made to the Forestry Commission's Annual Report & Accounts.

Economic accounts for forestry data, submitted to Eurostat for the Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting for Forestry (IEEAF) are subject to revision annually.

International forestry

International statistics compiled from the Global Forest Resources Assessment (produced by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation) are not normally revised after publication.

International statistics on timber production and trade, compiled by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, may be subject to revision after publication if revisions are made to the data produced by individual countries.

Other data

The UK reports for the Global Forest Resources Assessment and State of Europe's Forests at intervals of 4-5 years. In cases where the same indicator appears in both enquiries, the same data will normally be used. For each report, one or more drafts may be submitted to international organisations and published on the FC website, before the final UK report is published on the website. There may be substantial changes between draft and final reports, in response to comments and suggestions of alternative methodologies to estimate UK data. Successive reports request data for a fixed series of years (currently 1990, 2000, 2005, 2010). All historic and forecast figures are subject to revision if better data become available.

These reports include some topics that are covered by annual official statistics described above, and others for which data are compiled or estimated specially for the international report. These other topics include forest damage, non-wood goods and services, forests under management plans, threatened forest species, forest holdings and forest sector workforce (from Labour Force Survey).

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