

Statistics Work Plan 2014-15 - Outturn

This note reports on the activities of the Forestry Commission's Statistics team in 2014-15.

The work plan for 2014-15 was based on a total expected staff resource of 3.0 full-time equivalents (1 Statistician, 1 Assistant Statistician and 1 Administrative Support Officer); this corresponded with the actual staff resource over the year. A copy of the work plan is available at www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-7R4JSR.

The following pages show the work plan for 2014-15 (including any amendments to take account of changes in requirements), along with a summary of progress achieved during the year.

The Statistics Work Plan for 2015-16 has now been produced and is available at www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-7R4JSR.

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1. UK Official Statistics publications

Task	Action in 2014-15
Carry out surveys and data collection to cover UK timber industries (February to April), as agreed with Expert Group on Timber & Trade Statistics.	Administration of 2013 surveys completed in April 2014. Response rates were generally similar to the previous year. 2014 surveys issued in January 2015.
UK Wood Production and Trade (provisional figures) first release (May), as in 2013, based on UK industry statistics and surveys and Overseas Trade Statistics.	Published on due date.
Timber Price Indices first release (May and November), as in 2013.	Published on due dates.
Woodland Area, Planting and Restocking first release (June), as in 2013.	Published on due date.
Nursery Survey (September), as in 2013.	Published on due date.
Forestry Facts & Figures (September), as in 2013.	Published on due date.
Forestry Statistics (September), as in 2013.	Published on due date.
Produce quarterly releases on Woodland Carbon Code Statistics, in April, July, October and January, as in 2013.	Published on due dates.
Analyse and report on 2014 Public Opinion of Forestry survey in Northern Ireland.	Report released in July 2014.
Methodology developments, including the production of annual fire statistics and the development of statistics on plant health.	Fire statistics included in Forestry Statistics 2014. Defra leading on the development of plant health statistics (to cover plant and tree health).
Maintenance of Statistics pages on FC website.	Completed, as required.

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2. Official Statistics for international organisations

Task	Action in 2014-15
Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (provisional May, final September) for timber production and trade, as in 2013.	Data were submitted to Eurostat on time, with a minor revision in October 2014.
Timber Committee Questionnaire (September) for timber production and trade forecasts, as in 2013.	Data were submitted to UNECE on time, with a minor revision in October 2014.
Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounts for Forestry (July) – annual economic data, as in 2013.	Eurostat deadline amended to September. Extension to deadline negotiated and return submitted in October.
Joint Wood Energy Enquiry – biennial, as in 2012.	Initial return submitted in February 2015; final data due by May 2015.
Forest Resources Assessment and the State of Europe's Forests – 4-5 yearly.	FRA return finalised in August 2014. SOEF return submitted in May 2014 and finalised in October.
Participate in international meetings on forestry statistics.	Meetings attended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO/ UNECE Working Party on Statistics, Economics & Management (June 2014, March 2015); • FAO/ UNECE Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics (June 2014, March 2015); • FAO/ UNECE Team of Specialists on Wood Energy (June 2014); • Eurostat Task Force on IEEAF (December 2014); and • Eurostat Working Group on Forestry Statistics (February 2015).

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3. Compliance with standards

Task	Action in 2014-15
Develop and maintain statistics documentation to meet the requirements of UK Statistics Authority and GSS guidance.	Additional documentation produced on the fencing survey and on UK wood imports and exports statistics, following completion of quality reviews in 2013-14. Ongoing documentation (e.g. quality reports) updated as required.
Provide advice to others in FC to assist them to identify and develop other official statistics and to comply with the Code of Practice (includes National Forest Inventory, climate change, FC National Offices, Forest Research).	Advice provided, as required, on Official Statistics and the Code of Practice.
Undertake annual statistical quality reviews, covering one survey and one output, similar to those undertaken in 2013.	Quality reviews on pellet survey and on woodland area statistics completed February 2015; to be published in 2015-16.
Undertake Survey Control duties on behalf of the FC, providing advice to all parts of the FC and reporting on statistical survey activity.	Advice provided as required and input provided to Government Statistical Service annual report on statistical surveys.
Liaise with other Government Departments on statistical issues.	Liaised with other Government Departments, as required, on a range of statistical issues (including statistical quality & international reporting requirements).

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4. Statistical services

Task	Action in 2014-15
Support development and reporting of indicators for country forestry strategies (England, Scotland, Wales).	Support provided to FC National Offices on request, including provision of data for selected indicators.
Consult on requirements for and commission Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys, to run in England/ UK, Scotland and Wales.	Three surveys commissioned on behalf of Forestry Commission England, Forestry Commission Scotland and Natural Resources Wales/ Welsh Government in early 2015.
Participate in and advise on collaborative household surveys on recreation in Scotland, England and Wales.	Participated in steering group for Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (England).
Support on-site visitor monitoring, including All Forests Survey (Scotland), FE England/Sport England monitoring and local surveys.	Visitor Survey Summary Reports for 2012 and 2013 published.
Support Human Resources Division on diversity monitoring reporting.	Consultation on diversity data requirements for 2015 Public Opinion of Forestry Survey.
Support other parts of the FC and Natural Resources Wales/ Welsh Government by providing statistical advice and analysis (including Native Woodland Survey of Scotland).	Advice provided to National Offices and other parts of FC on a range of issues, including statistics on employment, Gross Value Added (GVA) and planting.
Advise on environmental monitoring and social and economic research (including work to improve statistics on wood energy).	Participated in Countryside Observations Review Steering Group (with Defra, JNCC and Devolved Administrations).
Provide statistics for other government publications, PQs, researchers, public enquiries.	All requests completed.
Provide statistical advice and support for emerging issues (not yet identified).	Input provided, as required.