

# Private Sector Softwood Removals Survey Questionnaire

## Introduction

The Private Sector Softwood Removals Survey (or removals survey) is an annual survey conducted by Forest Research (on behalf of the Forestry Commission and in association with the Forest Service) of a sample of harvesting companies in the UK. Results from the survey are published in statistical releases produced by the Forestry Commission and are used by a range of others.

More information on the survey, including copies of the questionnaires sent to businesses in recent years is available at [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-94ujw2](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-94ujw2).

This paper explains the purpose of each question included in the survey.

## Questionnaire

The need for and wording of each question used in the survey for the year ending December 2015 was last reviewed at the November 2015 meeting of the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics (information on the group can be found at [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-5rabj3](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-5rabj3)). No changes were made following this review.

Information on why each question is included in the survey is provided below. Links to the releases listed are provided in the Annex to this paper.

### 1. Quantity of softwood timber your company harvested from Private Sector estates

Data on the quantity of softwood roundwood harvested from Private Sector estates are used (together with data from the Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales and the Forest Service) to estimate the total quantity of softwood roundwood harvested each year in the UK and in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The data are used by the Forestry Commission, the UK timber industry and others to monitor trends in the supply of, and demand for, UK grown timber.

Results from the survey are reported in the following Forestry Commission statistical releases:

- Forestry Statistics (tables 2.1 and 2.2);
- Forestry Facts & Figures (tables on wood production); and
- UK Wood Production & Trade: provisional figures (table 1, for early, provisional results).

## 2. UK volume harvested as required by plant health legislation

Data on the quantity of softwood harvested, as required by plant health legislation are used (together with data from the Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales and the Forest Service) to estimate the total quantity of softwood roundwood removed each year in the UK in compliance with plant health requirements. The data are used by the Forestry Commission, the UK timber industry and others to monitor trends in removals for plant health reasons.

Results from the survey are reported in the following Forestry Commission statistical releases:

- Forestry Statistics (section 2.1.1); and
- UK Wood Production & Trade: provisional figures (for early, provisional results).

## 3. Woodfuel

Data on the quantity of softwood harvested that is sold for bioenergy are used (together with data from woodfuel suppliers and estimates by the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics) to estimate the total quantity of softwood roundwood that is used directly for woodfuel in the UK (without further processing). The data are used by the Forestry Commission, the UK timber industry and others to monitor trends in the supply of, and demand for, UK grown timber.

Results from the survey are reported in the following Forestry Commission statistical releases:

- Forestry Statistics (tables 2.5 and 2.24); and
- UK Wood Production & Trade: provisional figures (table 2, for early, provisional results).

The results are also provided to international organisations:

- to Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Commission), the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation through the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire, and to the UN Economic Commission for Europe through the Timber Forecast Questionnaire (Woodfuel production), for use in international statistics on wood production and trade; and
- to the UN Economic Commission for Europe through the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry, for use in international statistics on wood energy.

#### 4. Certification

Data on the quantity of softwood harvested from certified woodlands are used (together with data from the Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales and the Forest Service) to estimate the percentage of softwood roundwood removed each year in the UK that is from certified woodlands. The data are used by the Forestry Commission, the UK timber industry and others to monitor trends in certified timber.

Results from the survey are reported in Forestry Statistics (Table 2.28).

### Your views

In order to improve the statistics that we produce and to ensure that they remain relevant, we are interested in hearing from users of our statistics and respondents to our surveys.

If you wish to provide comments or suggestions for the removals survey questionnaire, please contact us at any time:

- by e-mail - [statistics@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)
- by telephone - 0300 067 5238

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## Glossary

**Bioenergy** Energy from any fuel that is derived from biomass.

**Biomass** Material that is derived from living, or recently living, biological organisms.

**Forest Service (FS)** The agency of the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs responsible for forestry matters in Northern Ireland.

**Forestry Commission (FC)** The government department responsible for forestry matters in England, Scotland and (until March 2013) Wales. The Forestry Commission's functions in Wales transferred to a new organisation, Natural Resources Wales, on 1 April 2013. The responsibility for forestry is devolved.

**Great Britain (GB)** England, Wales and Scotland.

**Natural Resources Wales (NRW)** The organisation responsible for advising the Welsh Government on the environment, created on 1 April 2013. NRW is responsible for the functions previously carried out by the Environment Agency in Wales, the Countryside Council for Wales and Forestry Commission Wales.

**Roundwood** Trunk or branch wood, generally with a top diameter of 7 cm or more. Can be in the form of logs (14 cm top diameter or more) or small roundwood (7 to 14 cm).

**Softwood** The wood of coniferous trees, such as spruce, pine and larch; a term sometimes used for the coniferous trees themselves.

**United Kingdom (UK)** Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

## Annex: Links to releases

Copies of the releases referred to in this paper are available at the following links:

Forestry Statistics – [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7aqdgc](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7aqdgc)

Forestry Facts & Figures - [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7aqdgc](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7aqdgc)

UK Wood Production & Trade: provisional figures - [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/beeh-a9zjnu](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/beeh-a9zjnu)

Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire - [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7aqhzh](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7aqhzh)

UNECE Timber Committee Questionnaire and UK Timber Market Statement – [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7aqjql](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7aqjql)

Joint Wood Energy Enquiry - [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-8ekjqc](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-8ekjqc)