

Quality report:

Survey of UK Pellet & Briquette Production

Last updated:

September 2021

Next update due:

May 2022

Introduction

The survey of UK pellet & briquette production (or pellet survey) is one of a series of annual surveys and data requests used to produce statistics on the UK timber industry. The survey is run by Forest Research (in association with the Northern Ireland Forest Service) to collect data from wood pellet and briquette manufacturers in the UK.

The survey comprises a short questionnaire that is sent to around 10-15 pellet mills. The list of mills covered by the survey is maintained by Forest Research and is updated regularly, following consultations with the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics and others, to add new mills and remove those that have closed or that do not manufacture pellets.

Relevance

The pellet survey requests data annually from around 10-15 companies in the UK that are believed to produce wood pellets or briquettes. It asks for data relating to the most recent calendar year on the quantity of pellets produced, the source of

fibres used, the origin of wood used and product markets for pellets, and (since 2014) certification.

The main uses of the pellet survey include:

- Trends in the volume of pellets & briquettes produced in the UK are monitored by the Forestry Commission, Devolved Administrations, the UK timber industry and others;
- Data on UK pellet production are provided to international organisations (UN Economic Commission for Europe, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and others) as part of the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (covering wood production and trade).

The Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics (EGTTS), comprising representatives from the UK timber industry, the Forestry Commission, Scottish Forestry, Natural Resources Wales and Northern Ireland Forest Service are consulted regularly to ensure that UK wood production and trade statistics remain relevant to users. Further information on the EGTTS is available at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/about-our-statistics/expert-group-on-timber-and-trade-statistics/.

Accuracy

As the survey approaches all relevant businesses, there are no sampling errors. The overall response rate to the survey of UK pellet and briquette production in 2020 was 33% (i.e. 5 of the 15 pellet mills approached). The weighted response rate (taking account of the estimated pellet & briquette production by each pellet mill covered by the survey) was 100%.

Timeliness and punctuality

Provisional results from the survey of round fencing manufacturers are released in UK Wood Production and Trade: provisional figures in mid-May, 4.5 months after the end of the reference period (calendar year).

Final results are published in Forestry Statistics at end September, 9 months after the end of the reference period (calendar year).

Accessibility and clarity

The annual Forestry Statistics publication, available on the Forest Research website at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/statistics provides the most comprehensive results from the fencing survey, including background information on the data collected, response rates, methodology, revisions and reporting. Forestry Statistics is published in line with Forest Research's website accessibility statement.

Excel and ODS versions of all tables in UK Wood Production and Trade: provisional figures and Forestry Statistics are available to download from the Forest Research website.

Comparability

The survey of UK pellet & briquette production was run for the first time in 2010 to collect data for the year ending December 2009.

The survey was refined for the collection of 2010 data, in response to consultation with the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics and suggestions/issues raised by users and data providers, to collect additional detail on source of fibres used.

Coherence

There are no other known sources of data on UK pellet and briquette production, although estimates of pellet production in Scotland are provided in the annual Woodfuel Demand and Usage in Scotland reports produced by Scottish Forestry.

Revisions

Our Revisions Policy, available at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/about-our-statistics/code-of-practice/quality-of-official-statistics/, outlines our general approach to revisions.

The statistics for pellet and briquette production are subject to annual revision, as information becomes available about mills opening or closing, or new information becomes available for previous non-respondents.