

Revisions policy

Last updated:

March 2021

Next update due:

March 2026

Introduction

Revisions to statistics can occur when further data become available or errors are corrected. We 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.forestresearch.gov.uk/statistics) and the web versions of any current publications affected will be revised.

This note sets out our policy on revisions for our Official Statistics outputs. Further details, including any significant revisions and exceptions, are provided in the annex to each output and in our quality reports.

Statistics produced by Forest Research/ the Forestry Commission

Woodland, environment and carbon data

Statistics on woodland area and planting are subject to revision between provisional figures (published in the first release “Provisional Woodland Statistics”) 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.

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.

Statistics on felling licences, on Statutory Plant Health Notices and on the Woodland Carbon Code are subject to revision annually, if administrative data are revised.

Timber and trade data

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) as a result of late data returns and/ or additional data quality checks.

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

UK statistics on imports, exports (and apparent consumption) are derived from Overseas Trade Statistics published by HM Revenue & Customs 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. 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) as a result of additional data quality checks.

Other economic data

Statistics on employment and businesses from our annual surveys and data requests to the UK timber industry are subject to revision whenever the timber statistics are revised (see above).

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 Government expenditure may be subject to revision annually, to reflect revisions to the financial accounts of Forest Research and forestry authorities.

Social data

Data from Public Opinion of Forestry surveys are not normally revised. Statistics on other social aspects of forestry are not normally revised.

Data originally produced by others

Some of our outputs include statistics that are based on data produced by others (e.g. farm woodland areas, woodland bird index, international forestry statistics). These statistics may be subject to revision if the original sources are revised.

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