



UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

FORESTRY AND TIMBER SECTION

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I enclose for your attention the 2022 Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ), requesting forest products data for 2021 and 2022, for use by four international organizations: the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Eurostat and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). Together these four organizations collaborate in the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics (IWG). I would be grateful if you would send us the data for «Represented_country» by **19 May 2023**.

The basic principle of the JFSQ is that data are collected from only one correspondent in each country, by one of the four organizations. The information received is then distributed to all the organizations, each of which will use it according to its own mandate.

An electronic spreadsheet of the JFSQ questionnaire (Microsoft Excel 2007 format) is attached, and you are invited to **send completed questionnaires to UNECE via e-mail to stats.timber@un.org**. The questionnaire is also available on our web site at <https://unece.org/forests/jfsq>. Please use the same e-mail should you encounter difficulties in opening the files, or if you have any other questions. We ask that your complete contact details (or those of the statistical correspondent responsible for that part of the questionnaire) be indicated on your response, so that we may undertake follow-up queries with a minimum of delay.

The JFSQ contains three production and trade questionnaires common to all countries and organizations (JQ1, JQ2 and JQ3), and other questionnaires for the specific needs of individual organizations. All the terms and definitions have been harmonised and are internally consistent. You are kindly requested to fill in the questionnaires attached, as listed below:

JQ 1, 2 and 3

ECE/EU

ITTO 1, 2 and 3

If you have completed the JFSQ in the past, please note that it has been updated this year, including new products (Glulam, Cross-Laminated Timber, I-Beams, Laminated Veneer Lumber and Sawdust) and updated correspondence tables with the Harmonized System 2022. Please be mindful of this change in structure should you have automated the data processing and transfer. An annex below contains more information on the definitions and procedures for completing the questionnaires.

The deadline for responses to the JFSQ for 2022 data by UNECE countries is **19 May 2023**. You are kindly requested to confirm that you have received this letter and the questionnaires; we will subsequently confirm receipt of questionnaires you return to us. Please ensure that your completed

JFSQ questionnaires reach us in time to allow processing and distribution of responses to all partners, and timely preparation of analytical products, such as the *Forest Products Annual Market Review*. It is particularly important that the core data requested in JQ1 and JQ2 arrive promptly, as they are essential for preparation of the above publication. Any comments that you have regarding market developments, as indicated by changes in trends in your statistics, would be most welcome by the secretariat in preparation of analytical products.

Aside from these publications, the data supplied by «Represented_country» is made available on the FAO database. I encourage you to check your data on this site as thousands of users access the site weekly. The address is <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/FO>. The ECE also makes these data available through its website at <https://unece.org/forests/onlineidata>. For ITTO members the data supplied are used in publications such as the *Review and Assessment of the World Tropical Timber Situation* and for Eurostat publishes data for its member countries. The IWG members may also use the data for other purposes or publish it in other formats.

The partner organizations seek input from member States on all aspects of the JFSQ (questionnaire format, terms and definitions, process). They are constantly reviewing progress in this endeavor within their own fora and in the IWG. Details on the activities of the IWG are available at <https://unece.org/forests/iwg>. You may also wish to participate in the activities of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics – the website for the team is at <https://unece.org/forests/team-specialists-forest-products-and-wood-energy-statistics>. Please attach any comments or suggestions you may wish to make to your return, and we will share them with the other organizations.

Thank you for working with us to improve global forest sector statistics.

Yours sincerely,



Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab
Chief, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section
Forests, Land and Housing Division

Annex

General definitions, with cross-references to the Harmonised System (HS), including the HS 2017, HS 2022 and Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) version 4, are attached. The questionnaire seeks to cover all of the wood product industries and thus, for example, all wood removals, including from non-forest land, should be accounted for, as should all primary use of wood.

Changes to the HS classification introduce a number of “ex” codes, codes that only partially apply to a specific JFSQ item. The IWG suggests that HS “ex” codes be divided amongst JFSQ items by one of the following procedures (listed in order of preference):

1. The preferred solution is to use a more-detailed national classification system (where this exists) to assign subcodes of the “ex” codes into the correct JFSQ item;
2. Use expert judgement to assign the volume and value of trade in the “ex” codes to the correct JFSQ item;
3. Divide the data for volume and value of trade of the “ex” codes amongst the JFSQ items to which they apply.

The attached User Manual contains basic explanations on which questionnaires should be completed, the structure of JFSQ items, symbol usage, conversion factors, and product group diagrams, as well as listing all changes in definitions and the questionnaires. Kindly indicate whenever the unit for data on the questionnaire is different from that requested. Please also note that some changes have been made this year to the definitions to include the newly added products (Glulam, Cross-Laminated Timber, I-Beams, Laminated Veneer Lumber and Sawdust) and update the definition of Builder’s Joinery and Carpentry of Wood (item 13.4).

Kindly note the following:

- Please fill in **all** cells of the questionnaire, either with data (however small, even less than half a unit) or with zero (if no production/trade occurred) or with three dots (...) to indicate data for the item/year are not (yet) available.
- **Blank cells are problematic**, as it is not clear if they mean that there is no information available (which should be reported as three dots “...”) or if they mean that the value should be zero.
- Well-founded and timely estimates (e.g. based on industry publications) are preferable to reporting that data is not available. You will have the possibility to correct your data later when final official figures are available.
- Please do not delay returning the questionnaire if a few data are missing, as this means we have no data at all for your country. Send in the questionnaire by the deadline and any missing data later.
- Ensure the data you supply are consistent with those we have for earlier years. If the basis for reporting has changed, please provide a long-term series for earlier years, so that no misleading series breaks appear.
- A number of data checks are incorporated in the questionnaire. These are located to the right of the questionnaire itself in each Excel sheet. Kindly review these data checks prior to sending in the questionnaire.

The IWG would like to draw your attention to the portions of JQ2 marked "of which tropical", to which responses from non-tropical countries have traditionally been poor. Correspondents are requested, when completing JQ2, to cross-check the data classified by HS code in national trade statistics as "tropical" with the data classified by actual country of origin. Both ITTO and the European Forest Institute (in an independent study carried out for Eurostat in 2002) have found significant instances of misclassification as well as substantial quantities of tropical timber included in trade classification "Others" categories (e.g. 440799).

Many countries also have difficulty completing the tropical portions of JQ1 (removals of roundwood or production from imported tropical logs). Please attempt to at least provide estimates for such production or an indication of what proportion of imported tropical logs goes to sawn, veneer- and/or plywood- mills. Such estimates or more detailed production statistics may be available from relevant industry associations.