



Department for Transport

# Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation statistics: period 10 2017/18, report 1

## About this release

This quarterly release covers the supply of renewable fuels from 15 April 2017 to 14 April 2018, based on data available as of 15th September 2017.

This is the first report for period 10 (2017/18).

Data can be supplied up to 7 months after the end of the obligation period. The final report for period 10 will be published in February 2019.

The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations (RTFO) Order requires transport fuel suppliers to ensure that a proportion of the fuel they supply comes from renewable sources (biofuels).

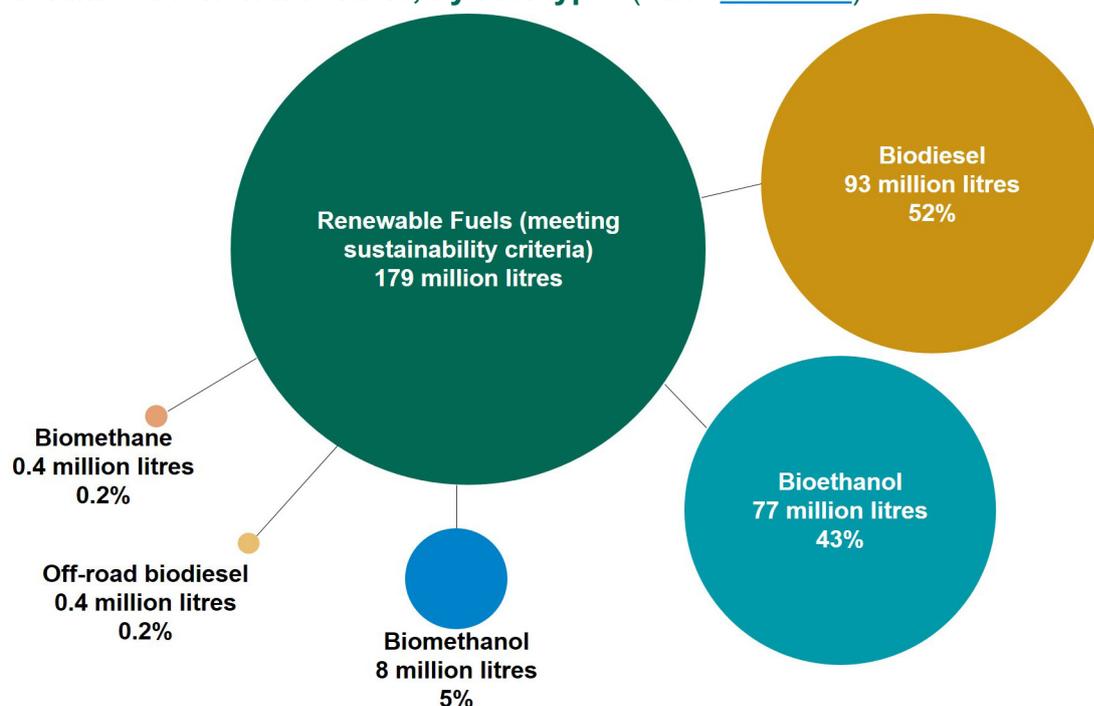
The legislation is of key importance in our efforts to deliver reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from fuels used for transport purposes and non-road mobile machinery.

**Current returns show 419 million litres of renewable fuel have been supplied in period 10 (2017/18), which is 3% of total road and non-road mobile machinery fuel.**

**179 million litres (43%)** of this fuel has so far been demonstrated to meet the sustainability requirements.

Of this 179 million litres, **bioethanol** comprises **43%** of the supply, **biodiesel 52%** and **biomethanol 5%**. There was also a small volume of off-road biodiesel and biomethane.

## Volume of renewable fuels, by fuel type\* (table [RTFO 05](#))



\* Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

## In this publication

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## Renewable Transport Fuel Certificates

Renewable Transport Fuel Certificates<sup>1</sup> (RTFCs) are awarded to transport fuel suppliers that meet sustainability criteria.

- In period 10, **304 million** RTFCs have so far been issued for fuel meeting the sustainability requirements.
- This includes **248 million certificates** which have been issued to “double counting” feedstocks.

## Carbon and Sustainability Characteristics

Certain carbon and sustainability characteristics have to be met by suppliers in order for them to receive RTFCs.

### Double - counted feedstock

- Of the 179 million litres renewable fuels meeting the sustainability criteria, **69%** of biofuel was made from a waste/residue (double counting) feedstock.

### Country of origin

- UK feedstock account for **33%** of the biofuel.
- The most widely reported source for biodiesel (by feedstock and country of origin) was **used cooking oil** from the UK (36 million litres, 20% of total fuel, 38% of biodiesel).
- The most widely reported source for bioethanol (by feedstock and country of origin) was **corn** from Ukraine (18 million litres, 10% of total fuel, 23% of bioethanol).

### Contribution to greenhouse gas savings

- An aggregated greenhouse gas saving of **80%** compared to fossil fuels was achieved this period. Including emissions from indirect land-use change (ILUC) reduces this to **76%**.

### Schemes for certification and traceability

- The majority of biofuel (**97%**) that has met the sustainability criteria has been supplied by a voluntary scheme.
- From the current voluntary schemes listed, the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification Scheme (ISCC) accounts for **94%** of biofuel.

#### What is a voluntary scheme?

Voluntary schemes verify compliance with the EU's biofuel sustainability criteria based on which RTFCs can be issued.

#### Sustainability Criteria

To receive Renewable Transport Fuel Certificates, fuels supplied must meet the sustainability criteria set out in the [Renewable Energy Directive](#) and the [Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007](#).

#### Feedstock

Any renewable, biological material that can be used directly as a fuel, or converted to another form of fuel or energy product is defined as feedstock.

#### What is double counting?

To encourage the use of fuels that represent environmental advantages some biofuels, such as waste-based biofuels and residues, are double counted and issued with two RTFCs instead of one.

#### Statistical Tables

Tables for this release are available on [GOV.UK](#).

<sup>1</sup>The deadline for applying for RTFCs is 12 August following the obligation period.

## Background Information

### Sources of data in this report

Data on volumes of fuel, Renewable Transport Fuel Certificates (RTFCs) (issues, redemptions, surrenders, transfers) and Carbon & Sustainability (C&S) are held by the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) Administrator on the RTFO Operating System (ROS).

Fuel volume data is submitted on a monthly basis by fuel suppliers to the RTFO Administrator and validated against HMRC duty payment data.

C&S data is submitted as part of a supplier's RTFC application. As suppliers may choose when to apply for RTFCs, and if the application is not approved the renewable fuel is not regarded as sustainable, C&S data is only reported on once RTFCs have been issued. There will therefore be a difference between the volume of biofuel supplied and the number of RTFCs issued/ C&S data available. This difference will decrease over time until the final deadline for issuing RTFCs has passed (15 November following the obligation period). The final report for an obligation period will show the final position.

Data on RTFCs (issues, redemptions, surrenders, transfers) is recorded in ROS as all are issued, traded and tracked electronically.

### Strengths and weaknesses of the data

The Administrator validates volume data submitted by fuel suppliers against that held by HMRC regarding fuel duty liabilities. This data may change over time even after validation against HMRC data as suppliers make amendments to the volumes of fuel they have supplied (and duty liabilities).

C&S data is verified by independent verifiers and is also checked against the RTFO Guidance by the Administrator.

Whilst the Administrator validates volume data against HMRC data at a company level, there is not an exact match between the volume of fuel reported in this report and the volume of fuel reported in HMRC's Hydrocarbon Oils bulletin. Reasons for this include:

- Road duty is paid on fuel that is later proven to be for non-road use;
- Differences between how fuel is categorised under the RTFO and by HMRC, in particular, the RTFO requires recording of fuels on the basis of their renewability but this is different than the categories HMRC use for duty coding (e.g. petrol used as denaturant in ethanol is recorded as ethanol by HMRC and petrol under the RTFO);
- Accidental recording of fuel against the incorrect duty codes by suppliers;

### Further Details

Further information on the data can be found in the [Notes and Definitions](#).

### Next Update

The next publication, which will be based on data up to 15th December 2017, will be released on 1st February 2018.

Data are published quarterly.

Carbon and Sustainability data on biofuel supplied by fuel suppliers are published annually.

### Related Information

Previously published reports can be found on the DfT website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/series/biofuels-statistics>.

The publication timetable can be found at Annex A.

## Background Information (continued)

- Calendar month and quarterly duty payments being recorded against different supply periods under the RTFO and by HMRC (these are typically a month different);
- Differences in when adjustments in duty payments are recorded. HMRC record these in the month the adjustment occurs: whilst this practice is usually followed under the RTFO there are exceptions around the change in obligation period.

### Official Statistics

Official Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs.

Details of ministers and officials who received pre-release access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release can be found in the pre-release access list.

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## Annex A: RTFO statistics reporting timescales and contents

Reports are published quarterly.

The last report for the obligation period (number six) will report on the carbon and sustainability performance of individual suppliers. These reports are available online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/series/biofuels-statistics>

Table 1 – content of RTFO reports

| Table    | Description   | Report |     |       |      |      |     |
|----------|---|--------|-----|-------|------|------|-----|
|          |   | One    | Two | Three | Four | Five | Six |
| RTFO 01  | Volume of fuel supplied   | Yes    | Yes | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes |
| RTFO 02  | Volume of fuel to which RTFCs issued and number of RTFCs issued | Yes    | Yes | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes |
| RTFO 03  | RTFC balances by obligation period                              | Yes    | Yes | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes |
| RTFO 04  | RTFC trades to date by company type                             | Yes    | Yes | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes |
| RTFO 05  | RTFO wide carbon and sustainability data                        | Yes    | Yes | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes |
| RTFO 06  | RTFO wide voluntary scheme data                                 | Yes    | Yes | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes |
| RTFO 07  | Performance against obligation by supplier                      | No     | No  | No    | No   | No   | Yes |
| RTFO 08a | Feedstock by supplier as a percentage of their supply           | No     | No  | No    | No   | No   | Yes |
| RTFO 08b | Country of origin by supplier as a percentage of their supply   | No     | No  | No    | No   | No   | Yes |
| RTFO 09  | Percentage of renewable fuel that was sustainable by supplier   | No     | No  | No    | No   | No   | Yes |
| RTFO 10  | Carbon and sustainability data by supplier                      | No     | No  | No    | No   | No   | Yes |
| RTFO 11  | RTFO wide fuel supply by volume and energy                      | No     | No  | No    | No   | No   | Yes |
| RTFO 12  | Civil penalties and other non-compliance                        | No     | No  | No    | No   | No   | Yes |
| RTFO 13  | Performance against GHG reporting Requirements                  | No     | No  | No    | No   | No   | Yes |

Table 2 – Publication dates and contents of each report

|                                 |           | Publication Date |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                                 |           | 2-Feb-17         | 4-May-17 | 3-Aug-17 | 2-Nov-17 | 1-Feb-18 | 3-May-18 | 2-Aug-18 | 1-Nov-18 | 7-Feb-19 | 7-May-19 |
| Obligation period 9<br>2016/17  | Quarter 1 | Report 2         | Report 3 | Report 4 | Report 5 | Report 6 |          |          |          |          |          |
|                                 | Quarter 2 | Report 2         | Report 3 | Report 4 | Report 5 | Report 6 |          |          |          |          |          |
|                                 | Quarter 3 |                  | Report 3 | Report 4 | Report 5 | Report 6 |          |          |          |          |          |
|                                 | Quarter 4 |                  |          | Report 4 | Report 5 | Report 6 |          |          |          |          |          |
| Obligation period 10<br>2017/18 | Quarter 1 |                  |          |          | Report 1 | Report 2 | Report 3 | Report 4 | Report 5 | Report 6 |          |
|                                 | Quarter 2 |                  |          |          |          | Report 2 | Report 3 | Report 4 | Report 5 | Report 6 |          |
|                                 | Quarter 3 |                  |          |          |          |          | Report 3 | Report 4 | Report 5 | Report 6 |          |
|                                 | Quarter 4 |                  |          |          |          |          |          | Report 4 | Report 5 | Report 6 |          |
| Obligation period 11<br>2018/19 | Quarter 1 |                  |          |          |          |          |          |          | Report 1 | Report 2 | Report 3 |
|                                 | Quarter 2 |                  |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | Report 2 | Report 3 |
|                                 | Quarter 3 |                  |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | Report 3 |
|                                 | Quarter 4 |                  |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |