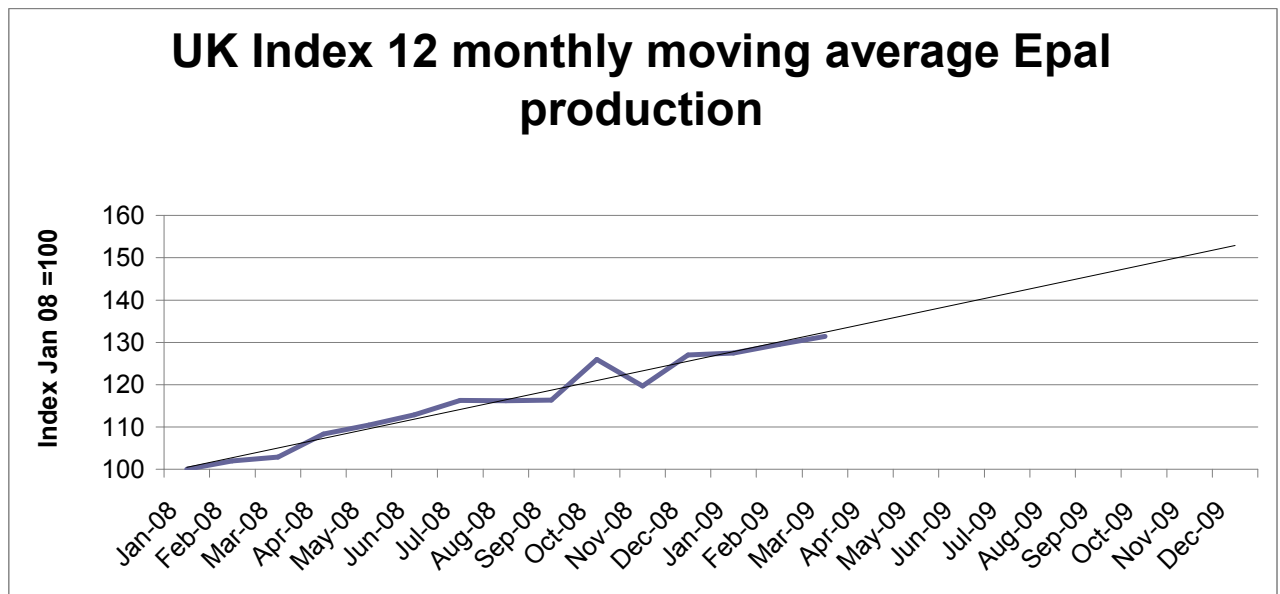


## BREPAL on course to achieve 50% growth in 2 years

During the first three months of this year, EPAL within the UK saw demand for its Euro size pallet grow by 16%, in addition to the growth of 22% seen last year.



With so many economic indicators predicting gloom for at least another year, the largest global pallet pool seems to be bucking the trend. Paul Davidson, CEO of EPAL in the UK states:-

‘There are many reasons why EPAL pallets are becoming increasingly popular in the UK – particularly for companies exporting to continental Europe.

The weak pound in relation to the Euro has certainly helped UK food and drink exports, and EPAL has benefited as a result

The new online partner database for EPAL users across Europe will improve exchangeability of pallets with Europe - making EPAL a very cost effective solution, with research indicating long term savings of up to 25%..

The increasing trend to review the environmental cost of distribution has also helped EPAL. Its wooden pallets are heat treated and kiln dried – which means that an EPAL Euro pallet carries a negative carbon footprint of –27.54kgCO<sub>2</sub>/pallet in contrast to the +70kgCO<sub>2</sub>/pallet of an average plastic pallet (source ECCM Feb 2008).

The environmental cost also considers pallet longevity and lifetime usage. The well-documented quality control aspect of EPAL production – where all approved partners undergo regular unannounced spot checks means that approved EPAL pallets can be twice as robust as non-approved pallets, and therefore last longer. This was highlighted in the recent EPAL laboratory test results (The Epal Twice as Good video is available online at <http://www.brepal.org.uk/brepal/Videos/default.asp>)

Of course, increased availability in the UK has provided more access to EPAL pallets - with more suppliers offering new EPAL pallets, and three new suppliers offering approved repaired EPAL pallets. Details of suppliers can be found on the website.

Davidson added 'We expect growth to continue throughout 2009 as more new initiatives start to filter through.

EPAL has traditionally been known for its 800 x 1200mm Euro pallet size common in continental Europe. Customer feedback has prompted the development of a 1200 x 1000mm pallet compatible with UK standard distribution, and a half pallet size useful for in-store merchandising – all with the same quality standards expected from EPAL, and all available from all EPAL partners.

Another important development is that from January 2010 all new EPAL pallets worldwide will be ISPM15 compliant – meeting export standards around the globe. Epal will be the only pooling option offering this as standard and it reinforces Epal's position as the premier pallet platform for international trade.

For more information about EPAL's new initiatives, call Paul Davidson on 01223 479594, email [davidsonpaulj@gmail.com](mailto:davidsonpaulj@gmail.com) or visit [www.brepal.org.uk](http://www.brepal.org.uk)

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