



Forest cover: international comparisons 2015

Country	Forest area (million ha)	Total land area (million ha)	Forest as % of land area
Europe			
United Kingdom	3	24	13
Finland	22	30	73
France	17	55	31
Germany	11	35	33
Italy	9	29	32
Spain	18	50	37
Sweden	28	41	68
Other EU	52	159	32
Total EU-28	161	424	38
Russian Federation	815	1 638	50
Total Europe	1 015	2 214	46
Africa	624	2 987	21
Asia	593	3 118	19
North & Central America	751	2 134	35
Oceania	174	850	20
South America	842	1 747	48
World	3 999	13 049	31

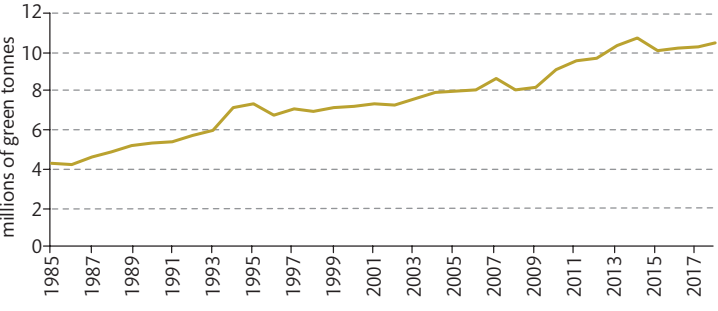
Source: FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015. Cyprus is included in EU-28 total but is part of FAO's Asia region. These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics.

Softwood deliveries (thousands of green tonnes)

Year	Sawmills	Pulpmills	Woodbased panels	Fencing	Woodfuel	Other	Roundwood exports	Total
2014	6 725	465	1 283	317	1 500	176	437	10 903
2015	6 168	435	1 334	288	1 600	164	276	10 265
2016	6 511	423	1 248	277	1 550	178	231	10 419
2017	6 572	442	1 059	295	1 600	170	331	10 468
2018	6 434	486	1 210	273	1 900	174	264	10 741

Figures are based on processing industries' purchases of softwood grown in the UK and estimates for woodfuel. Woodfuel reported here is derived from stemwood and includes estimated roundwood use for biomass energy. Other includes shavings and poles.

Softwood deliveries



Area of woodland 2019 (thousands of hectares)

			Total woodland
FE/FLS/NRW/FS			
England	151	64	215
Wales	98	19	117
Scotland	428	41	469
Northern Ireland	56	7	62
UK	732	131	863

Private sector

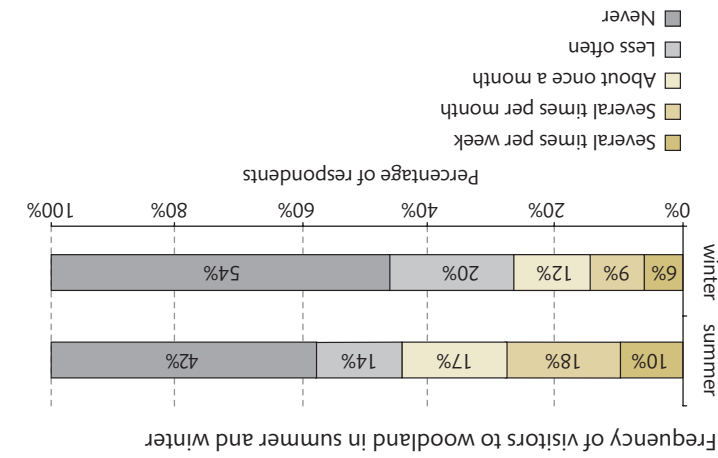
England	189	904	1 093
Wales	54	138	192
Scotland	645	343	988
Northern Ireland	11	40	51
UK	899	1 426	2 325

All woodland

England	340	968	1 308
Wales	152	158	309
Scotland	1 072	385	1 457
Northern Ireland	67	46	113
UK	1 631	1 557	3 187

Areas as of 31 March, 2019.

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry surveys. Average visit frequencies from last 3 surveys.



Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry surveys. These figures are not National Statistics. Per cent of population aged 16 and over visiting woodland in last few years.

Year	Aged 16-34	Aged 35-54	Aged 55 and over	Total
2019	61	71	56	63
2017	60	68	55	61
2015	54	62	53	56
2013	62	75	60	66
2011	65	74	63	67
Total	16-34	35-54	Aged 55 and over	Total

Visiting woodland (per cent of population)

Annual changes in forest area: international comparisons

Region	1990-2000		2000-2010		2010-2015	
	(000 ha)	(%)	(000 ha)	(%)	(000 ha)	(%)
UK	18	0.6	11	0.3	17	0.5
EU-28	681	0.5	450	0.3	369	0.2
Total Europe	803	0.1	1 127	0.1	382	0.0
Africa	-3 537	-0.5	-3 209	-0.5	-2 836	-0.4
Asia	-221	0.0	2 349	0.4	791	0.1
North & Central America	-394	-0.1	172	0.0	75	0.0
Oceania	82	0.0	-564	-0.3	304	0.2
South America	-4 000	-0.4	-3 868	-0.4	-2 024	-0.2
World	-7 267	-0.2	-3 663	-0.1	-3 308	-0.1

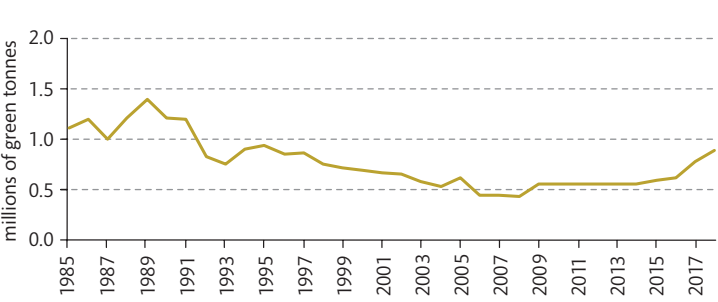
Source: FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015. Cyprus is included in EU-28 total but is part of FAO's Asia region. These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics.

Hardwood deliveries (thousands of green tonnes)

Year	Sawmills	Pulpmills	Woodbased panels	Woodfuel	Other	Total
2014	77	0	0	400	60	537
2015	76	0	0	400	91	566
2016	75	0	0	400	122	597
2017	66	0	0	600	71	738
2018	67	0	1	700	66	834

Figures are based on processing industries' purchases of hardwood grown in the UK and estimates for woodfuel and other uses. Woodfuel reported here is derived from stemwood and includes estimated roundwood use for biomass energy. Other includes round fencing and roundwood exports.

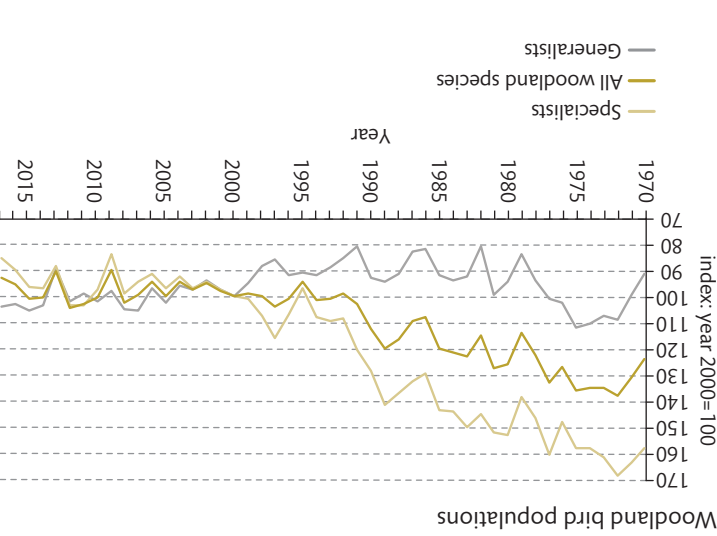
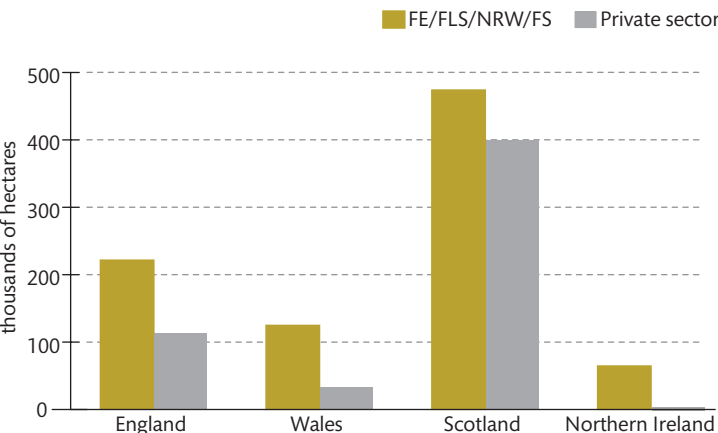
Hardwood deliveries



The apparent increase in woodfuel from 2016 to 2017 reflects a new estimate of the level of hardwood deliveries for woodfuel and should not be interpreted as an increase in a single year.

Area of certified woodland 2019 (thousands of hectares)

	FE/FLS/NRW/FS	Private sector	Total woodland area certified
England	215	110	325
Wales	117	29	146
Scotland	469	395	864
Northern Ireland	62	3	66
UK	863	538	1 400



Source: British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). Based on data in Wild Bird Populations in the UK statistical release (Defra, November 2018).

Year	All woodland species	Woodland generalists	Woodland specialists
2017	92.8	104.0	85.7
2016	95.5	102.8	90.2
2015	100.9	105.3	96.6
2014	100.4	103.3	96.9
2013	90.5	89.7	88.6
Total	All woodland species	Woodland generalists	Woodland specialists

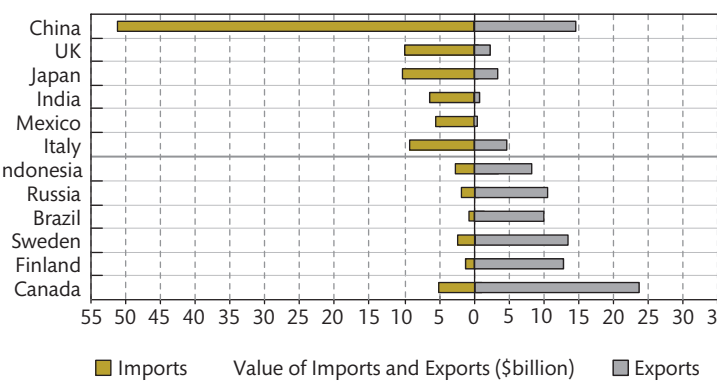
Woodland bird populations (index: year 2000=100)

Wood removals: international comparisons 2017

Region	Industrial roundwood (million m³)	Woodfuel (million m³)	Total roundwood (million m³)
UK	9	2	11
EU-28	362	119	481
Total Europe	599	170	769
Africa	74	693	767
Asia	405	725	1 130
North & Central America	523	153	676
Oceania	70	10	80
South America	231	169	400
World	1 903	1 920	3 823

Source: FAO. Cyprus is included in EU-28 total but is part of FAO's Asia region. These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics.

Largest net importers and exporters of forest products 2017



Import and export volumes

Year	Imports				Exports		
	Sawn-wood	Other wood	Wood-based panels	Pulp & paper	Wood (sawn & other)	Wood-based panels	Pulp & paper
	(000 m³)			(000 t)	(000 m³)		(000 t)
2014	6 425	8 393	3 260	7 319	1 403	404	5 467
2015	6 323	11 107	3 215	7 560	1 335	286	5 712
2016	6 794	11 158	3 410	7 092	1 034	314	5 700
2017	7 663	11 569	3 800	6 798	1 044	374	5 528
2018	7 213	13 595	3 878	6 711	925	295	5 326

Import and export values (£ million)

Year	Imports				Exports		
	Sawn-wood	Other wood	Wood-based panels	Pulp & paper	Wood (sawn & other)	Wood-based panels	Pulp & paper
2014	1 420	627	936	4 196	84	107	1 480
2015	1 311	868	957	4 375	80	75	1 441
2016	1 423	1 000	1 010	4 003	76	91	1 307
2017	1 636	1 051	1 155	4 004	102	109	1 651
2018	1 743	1 239	1 201	4 075	110	103	1 597

'Other wood' includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles, residues and wood pellets. 'Pulp & paper' includes paperboard and recovered waste paper. Woodbased panels include veneer sheets. Sawnwood includes sleepers from 2017.

New planting (thousands of hectares)

Year	England	Wales	Scotland	N Ireland	UK	
(to 31/3)						
2015	0.1	2.3	0.0	0.1	2.5	5.1
2016	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.1	1.9	2.7
2017	0.1	1.0	0.2	0.2	3.2	1.5
2018	0.2	1.3	0.1	0.1	4.7	2.5
2019	0.4	1.0	0.3	0.3	7.3	3.9

Restocking (thousands of hectares)

Year	England	Wales	Scotland	N Ireland	UK	
(to 31/3)						
2015	2.0	4.4	1.3	0.6	6.6	1.9
2016	2.2	1.1	1.2	0.6	6.0	1.8
2017	2.0	1.0	1.1	0.5	9.1	2.0
2018	1.6	0.5	1.0	0.7	8.1	1.5
2019	1.3	0.4	0.9	0.5	9.1	2.1

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overbank standing hardwood.  
approximately 1.22 m³ overbank standing softwood or 1.11 m³ underbank softwood or 0.88 m³ underbank hardwood, and to One green home is equivalent to approximately 0.98 m³ items may not sum to the total given.  
Figures in the tables are individually rounded, so the constituent = Conifers = Broadleaves  
woodland, including some other publicly-owned woodland.  
Natural Resources Wales/Forest Service. Private sector = all other  
FE/FLS/NRW/FS = Forestry England/Forestry and Land Scotland/  
National Resources Wales/Forest Service. Private sector = all other

Notes on Forestry Facts & Figures:  
Information is provided in Forestry Statistics 2019.

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards. Further information is provided in Forestry Statistics 2019.

www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/statistics  
and downloadable spreadsheets of data, can be found online at:  
Statistics 2019 publication, including full details of the sources used  
in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The full Forestry  
compiled by Forest Research on behalf of the forestry authorities  
Forestry Facts & Figures is an annual summary of forestry statistics

Wood products: international comparisons 2017

Region	Sawnwood (million m³)		Woodbased panels (million m³)		Paper & paperboard (million tonnes)	
	Production	Apparent consumption	Production	Apparent consumption	Production	Apparent consumption
UK	4	11	3	6	4	9
EU-28	111	95	64	63	93	81
Total Europe	165	114	88	81	106	92
Africa	10	17	3	5	3	8
Asia	137	192	243	237	197	206
North & Central America	133	126	50	60	88	87
Oceania	10	9	3	3	4	4
South America	30	24	17	13	16	16
World	486	481	404	398	414	413

Source: FAO. Cyprus is included in EU-28 total but is part of FAO's Asia region. These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics.

Employment in forestry and primary wood processing (thousands)

Year	Forestry	Saw-milling	Panels	Pulp & paper	Total
2013	14	8	5	13	40
2014	16	9	5	13	43
2015	17	8	5	13	43
2016	17	9	5	13	44
2017	16	9	5	13	43

Excludes secondary wood processing and other wood-using industries. Source: Annual Business Survey (Office for National Statistics).

Gross value added in forestry and primary wood processing (£ million)

Year	Forestry	Saw-milling	Panels	Pulp & paper	Total
2013	504	518	267	578	1 867
2014	540	356	436	596	1 928
2015	658	474	323	738	2 193
2016	596	413	316	610	1 935
2017	701	437	363	682	2 183

Excludes secondary wood processing and other wood-using industries. Source: Annual Business Survey (Office for National Statistics).

Wood production (thousands of green tonnes)

Year	Softwood			Hardwood		
	FE/FLS/NRW/FS	Private sector	Total	FE/FLS/NRW/FS	Private sector	Total
2014	4 900	6 627	11 527	71	466	537
2015	4 691	5 968	10 659	73	493	566
2016	5 011	5 734	10 745	68	529	597
2017	4 862	6 075	10 938	83	655	738
2018	4 523	6 827	11 351	86	747	834

Production of wood products

Year	Sawnwood	Woodbased panels	Paper & paperboard
	(000 m³)	(000 m³)	(000 tonnes)
2014	3 764	3 068	4 397
2015	3 497	3 080	3 970
2016	3 671	3 033	3 677
2017	3 763	3 176	3 858
2018	3 715	3 079	3 894

Total production from UK mills, including products using imported material. Excludes other wood products (e.g. fuelwood and round fencing), roundwood and intermediate products (e.g. sawmill products, pulp and recovered paper).

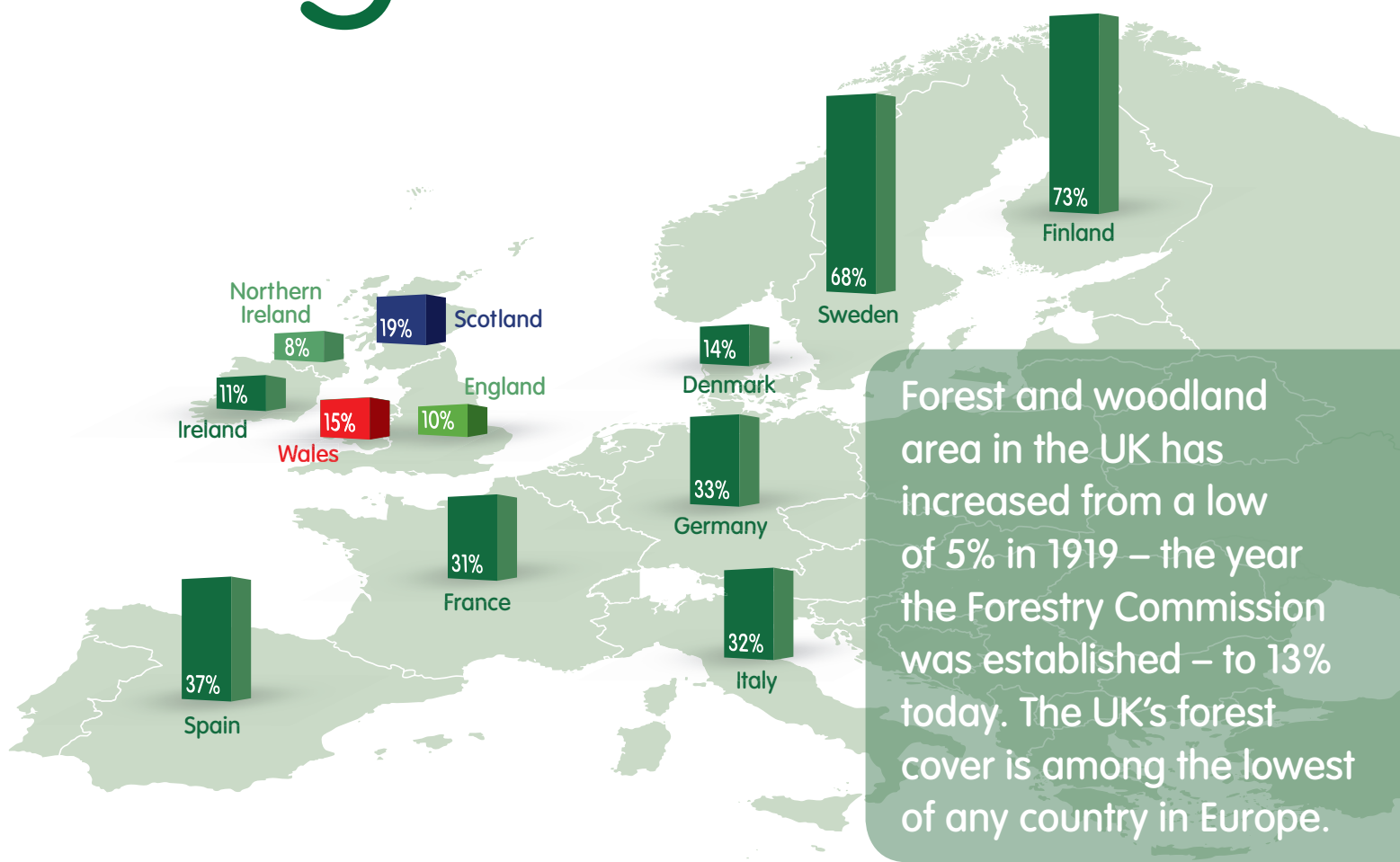
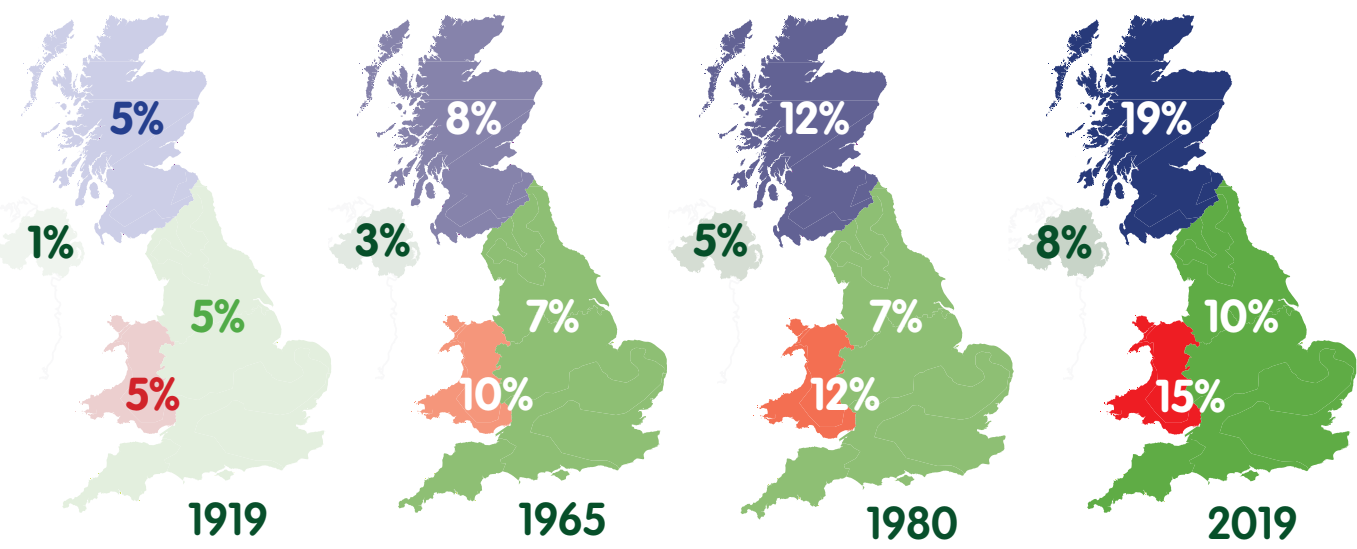


# Forestry Facts & Figures 2019

## Woodland area

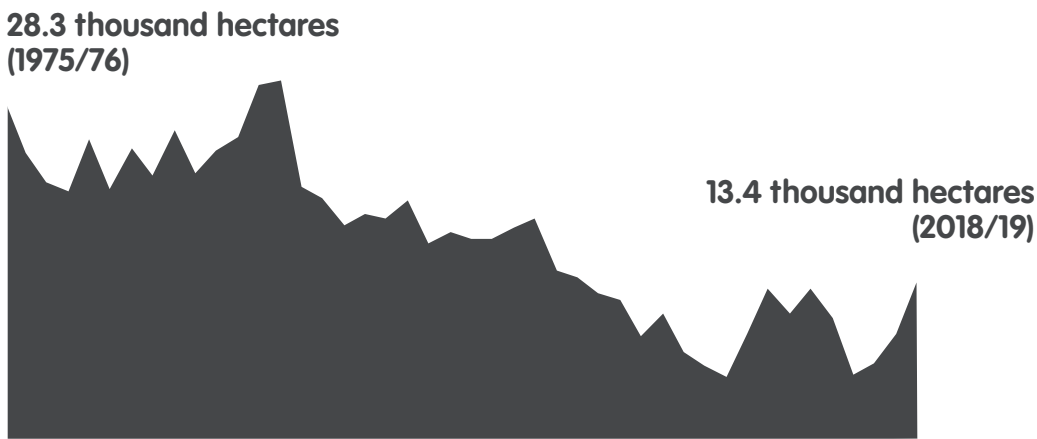
The area of woodland in the UK now stands at 3.17 million hectares. This represents 10% of the land area in England, 19% in Scotland, 15% in Wales and 8% in Northern Ireland.

## Changes in woodland area in the UK over time



Forest and woodland area in the UK has increased from a low of 5% in 1919 – the year the Forestry Commission was established – to 13% today. The UK's forest cover is among the lowest of any country in Europe.

## New planting in the UK



## Conifers and broadleaves

The overall proportion of conifers and broadleaves is half and half across the UK, but these proportions vary in each country.



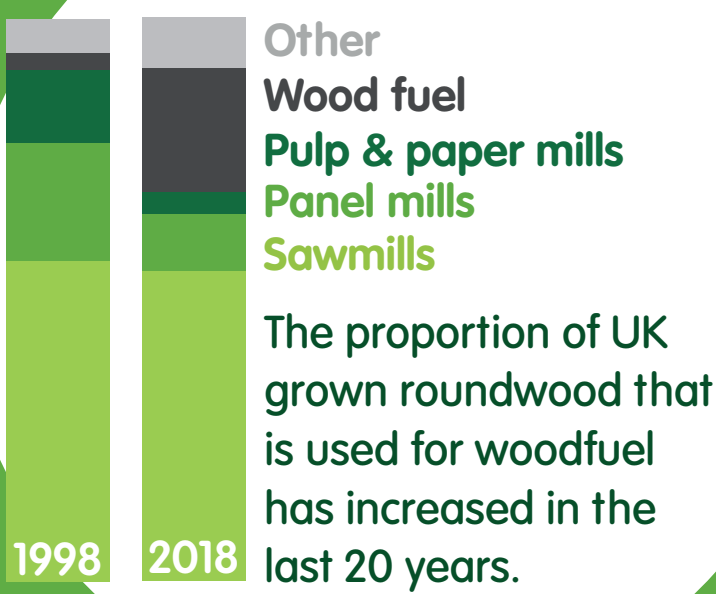
## Forest and woodland certification

44% of forests and woodland in the UK are certified by the international sustainability standards FSC and PEFC. The majority of certified woodland is in public ownership.

## Wood production



Private sector woodlands accounted for 60% of softwood production in 2018 (11.4 million green tonnes) and 90% of hardwood production (0.7 million green tonnes).

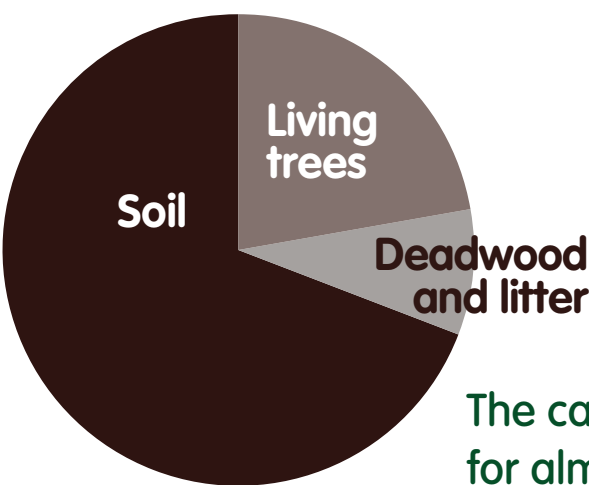


## UK-grown softwood and hardwood

Quantities of UK-grown roundwood for timber processing and other uses.



## Carbon



The carbon stored in forest soils accounts for almost 70% of total forest carbon stock.

## Employment in forestry & wood processing in the UK



## Imports and exports

The UK is the second largest net importer of forest products in the world.

