

Forestry Facts & Figures 2020

A summary of statistics
about woodland and
forestry in the UK



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- FE/FLS/NRW/FS = Forestry England/Forestry and Land Scotland/
Natural Resources Wales/Forest Service. Private sector = all other
woodland, including some other publicly-owned woodland.

 = Conifers  = Broadleaves

- Figures in the tables are individually rounded, so the constituent
items may not sum to the total given.
- One green tonne is equivalent to approximately 0.98 m³ underbark
softwood or 0.88 m³ underbark hardwood, and to approximately 1.22 m³
overbark standing softwood or 1.11 m³ overbark standing hardwood.

Woodland area

3,206,000 hectares of UK woodland

FE/FLS/NRW/FS (000 ha)



England	151	64	215
Wales	98	19	117
Scotland	426	41	467
Northern Ireland	55	7	62
UK	730	131	861

Private sector (000 ha)

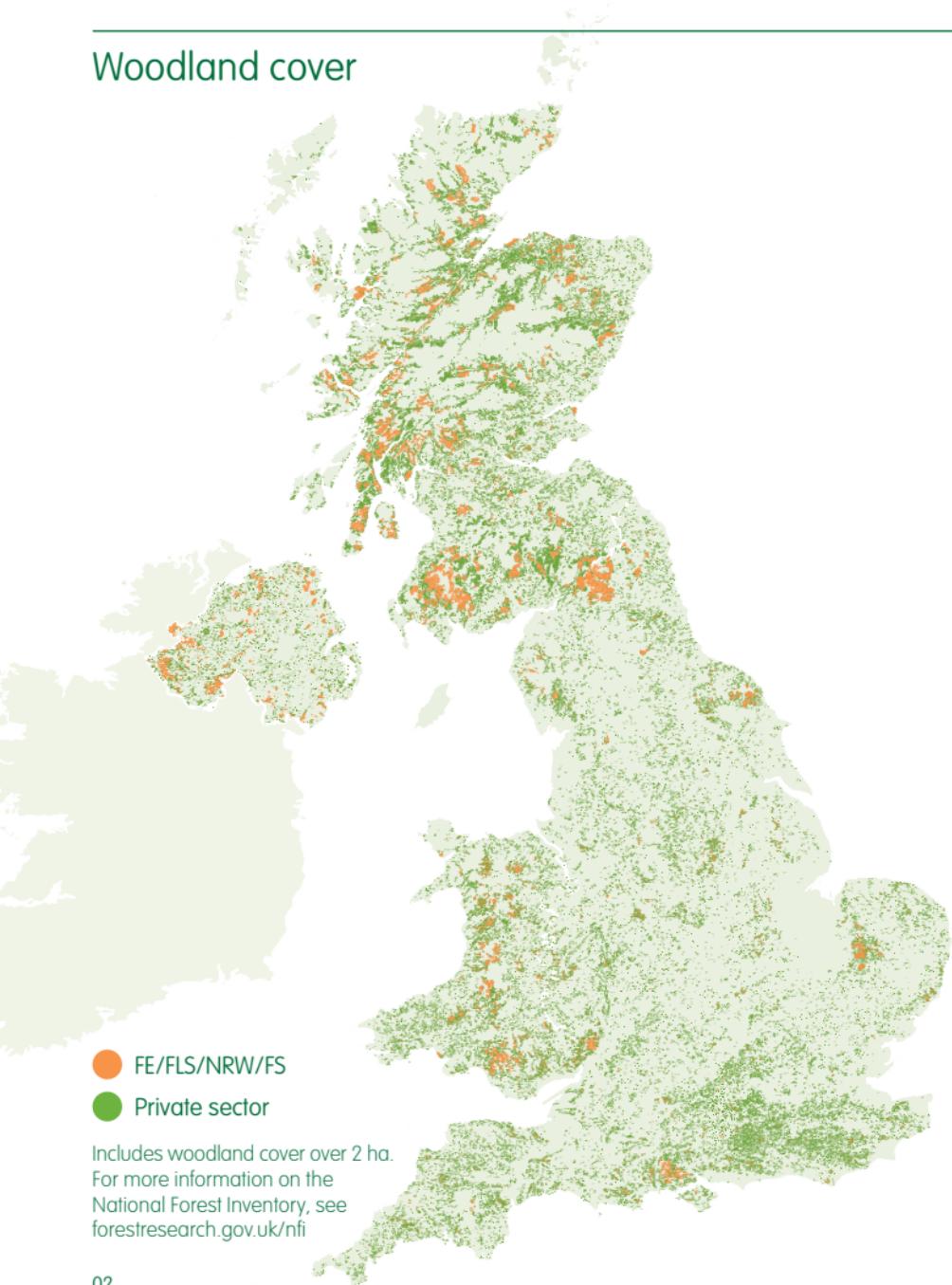
England	190	907	1097
Wales	54	138	192
Scotland	653	347	1000
Northern Ireland	8	48	56
UK	905	1440	2 345

All woodland (000 ha)

England	340	971	1311
Wales	152	158	309
Scotland	1079	388	1467
Northern Ireland	64	55	118
UK	1635	1571	3 206

Areas as of 31 March 2020.

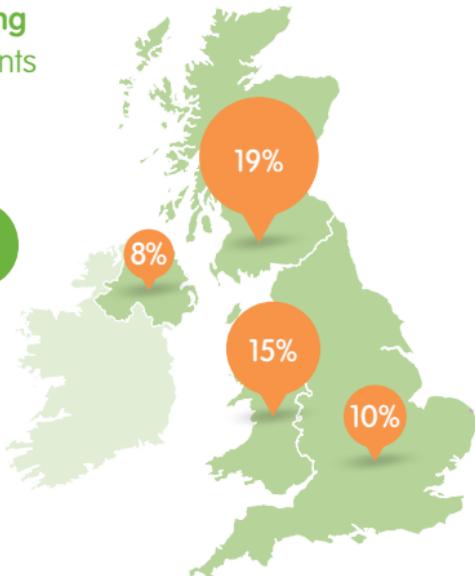
Woodland cover



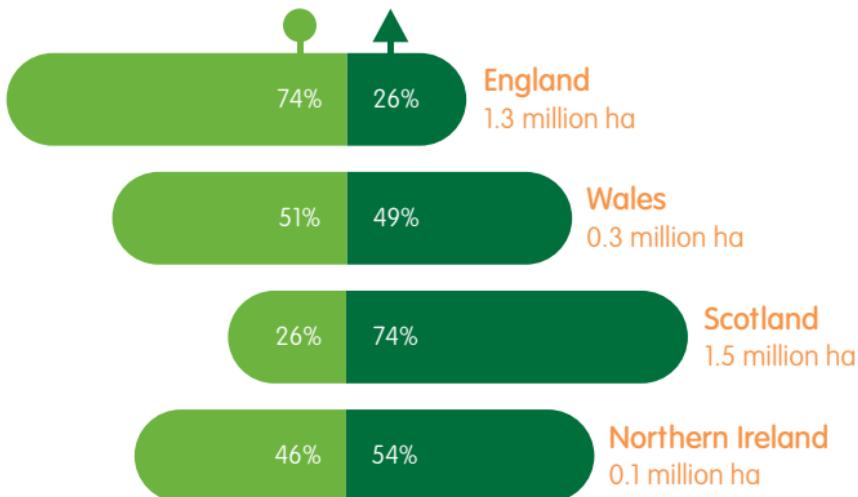
Woodland area is **increasing** in the UK and now represents

13%

of total land area



Conifers account for around **one half** of the woodland area in the UK overall, but the proportion varies in each country.





FSC/PEFC-certified woodland in the UK
has been independently audited against
the **UK Woodland Assurance Standard**

ukwas.org.uk

Certified woodland

43%

UK woodland area certified

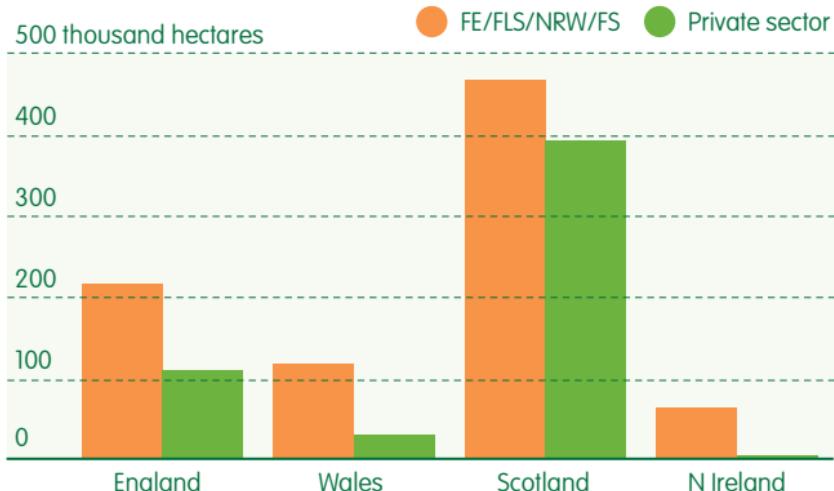
to FSC/PEFC schemes*

100%

Public sector

23%

Private sector



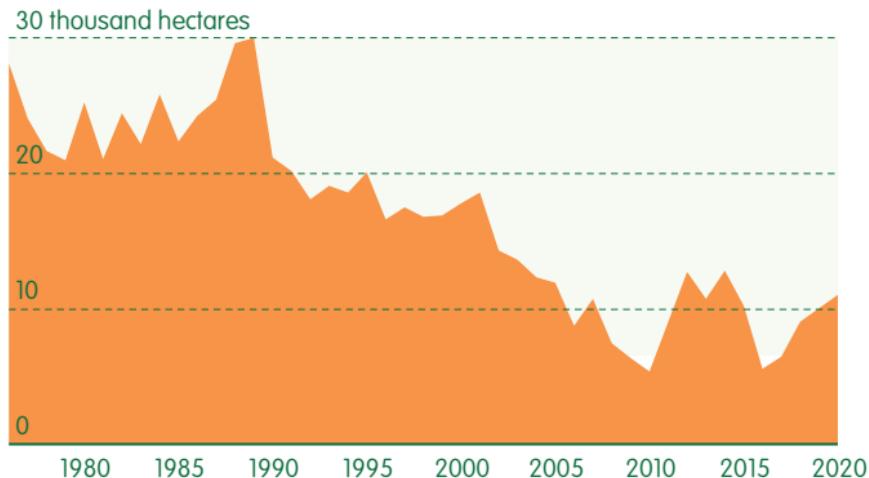
FSC = Forest Stewardship Council; PEFC = Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification.

New planting

13,700

hectares of new woodland
were created in the UK
in 2019–20

New planting (000 ha)



	England	Wales	Scotland	N Ireland	UK	Total			
2016	0.0	0.8	1.9	2.7	1.9	3.7	5.6		
2017	0.1	1.0	3.2	1.5	0.1	0.1	3.6	3.0	6.5
2018	0.2	1.3	4.7	2.5	0.1	0.1	5.1	3.9	9.0
2019	0.4	1.0	7.3	3.9	0.1	0.1	8.1	5.4	13.5
2020	0.2	2.1	7.4	3.6	0.1	0.1	7.8	5.9	13.7

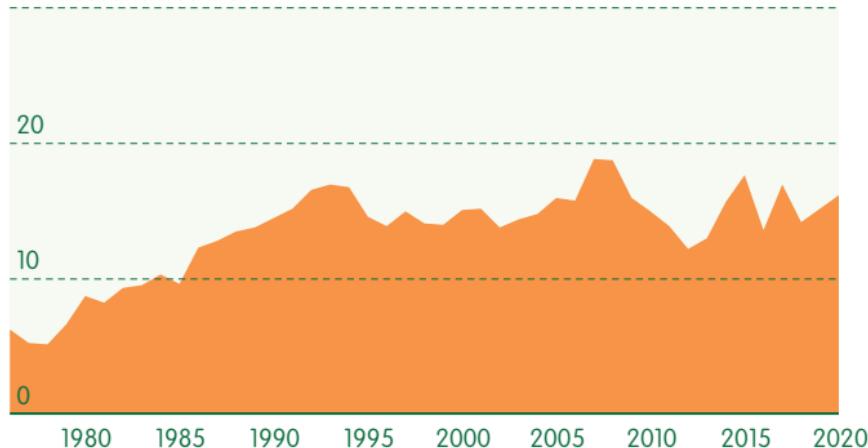
Restocking

14,800

hectares of publicly funded
restocking were reported
in the UK in 2019–20

Restocking (000 ha)

30 thousand hectares



	England	Wales	Scotland	N Ireland	UK	Total			
2016	2.2	1.1	6.0	1.8	0.7	10.1	3.6	13.7	
2017	2.0	1.0	9.1	2.0	1.1	0.2	13.4	3.7	17.1
2018	1.6	0.5	8.1	1.5	0.9	0.1	11.5	2.8	14.3
2019	1.3	0.4	9.1	2.1	0.7	0.1	12.1	3.2	15.4
2020	2.1	0.6	8.2	1.7	0.7	0.0	11.9	2.9	14.8

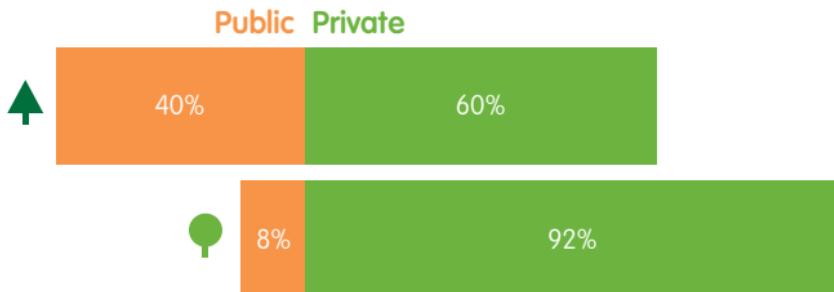
A large yellow forest harvester is shown in a dense forest. It is equipped with a grapple arm and a saw blade at its base, which is currently engaged with a log. A significant amount of sawdust and wood shavings are visible in the air around the cutting area. The harvester is positioned on a path or clearing. In the background, tall trees stand in a misty environment.

Around 82% of UK softwood production
is from **certified woodlands**

Timber and wood products

UK wood production

60% of the softwood produced in 2019 came from **private sector** forests



Wood production (000 of green tonnes)

Softwood	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
FE/FLS/NRW/FS	4 691	5 011	4 761	4 522	3 937
Private sector	5 968	5 734	6 075	6 827	5 864
Total	10 659	10 745	10 836	11 349	9 801

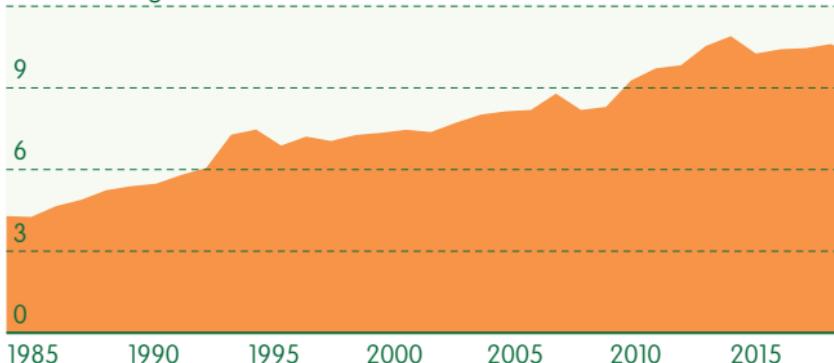
Hardwood

FE/FLS/NRW/FS	73	68	85	88	68
Private sector	492	528	652	746	801
Total	565	596	737	835	869

UK deliveries

Softwood

12 million of green tonnes

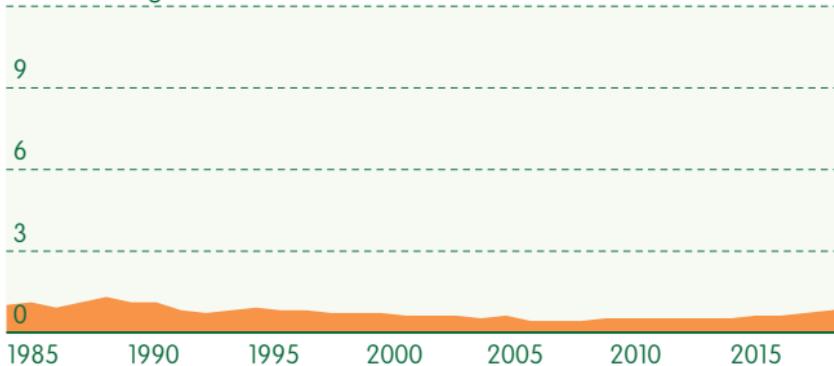


('000 of green tonnes)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Sawmills	6 164	6 507	6 571	6 322	5 883
Pulpmills	435	423	442	486	464
Wood-based panels	1 334	1 248	1 059	1 210	1 316
Fencing	288	277	283	255	262
Woodfuel	1 600	1 550	1 600	1 900	1 900
Other	164	178	170	174	183
Roundwood exports	276	231	331	264	201
Total	10 261	10 415	10 456	10 611	10 210

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.

Hardwood

12 million of green tonnes



(000 of green tonnes)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Sawmills	75	74	65	67	76
Pulpmills	0	0	0	0	0
Wood-based panels	0	0	0	1	0
Woodfuel	400	400	600	700	700
Other	91	122	71	68	93
Total	565	596	737	835	869

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.

UK production of wood products

Sawnwood

3.5 million m³



Paper & paperboard

3.9 million tonnes



Wood-based panels

3.2 million m³



	Sawnwood (000 m ³)	Wood-based panels (000 m ³)	Paper & paperboard (000 tonnes)
2015	3 493	3 080	3 970
2016	3 667	3 033	3 677
2017	3 761	3 176	3 858
2018	3 659	3 079	3 894
2019	3 456	3 246	3 851

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).



There was a **6% reduction**
in sawnwood, a **5% increase**
in wood-based panels and a
1% decrease in paper and paperboard
between 2018 and 2019

Imports and exports

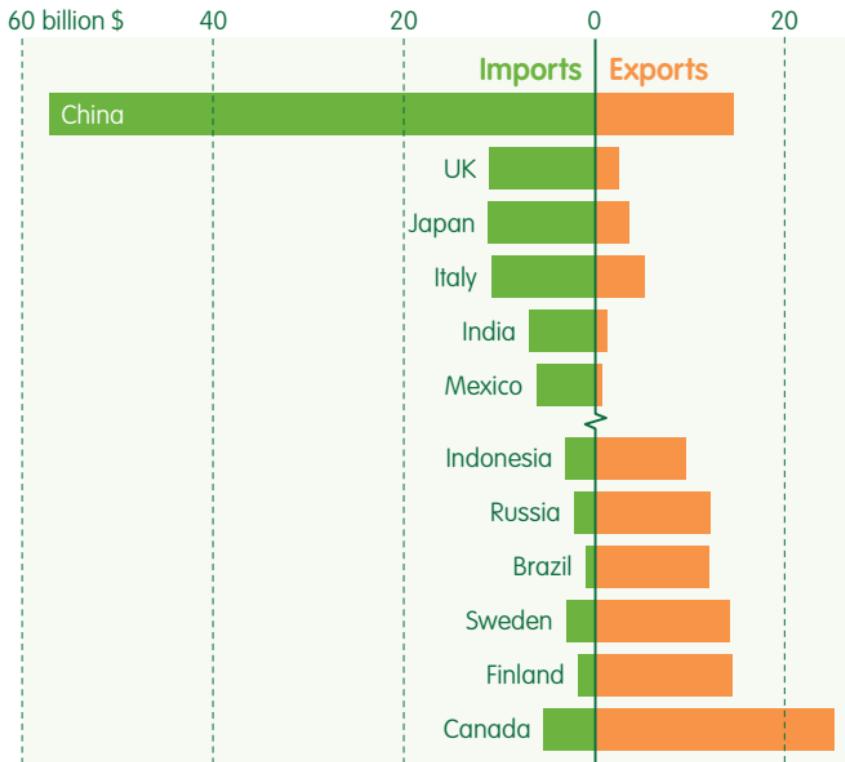


£8.3 billion
imported to UK

£1.7 billion
exported from UK



Largest net importers and exporters of forest products in 2018



2nd

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

Volumes (000 m³)

Imports	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Sawnwood	6 323	6 794	7 663	7 213	7 040
Other wood	11 107	11 158	11 569	13 595	15 368
Wood-based panels	3 215	3 410	3 800	3 878	3 650
Pulp & paper (000 t)	7 560	7 092	6 798	6 663	6 168
Exports					
Wood (sawn & other)	1 335	1 034	1 044	925	867
Wood-based panels	286	314	374	295	384
Pulp & paper (000 t)	5 712	5 700	5 528	5 317	5 160

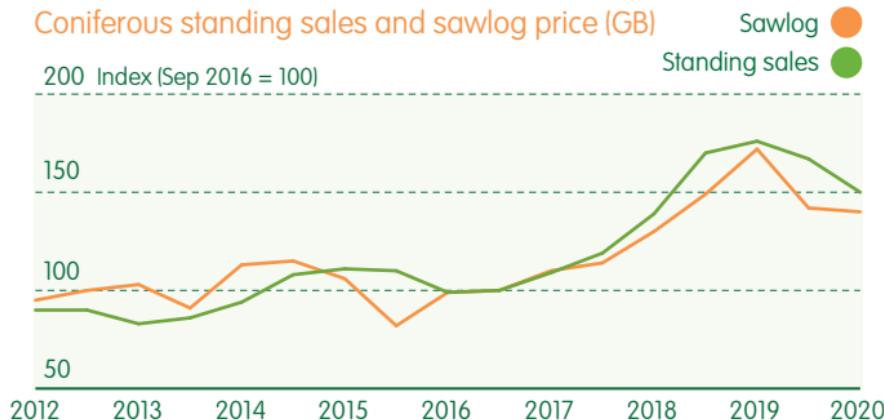
Values (£ million)

Imports	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Sawnwood	1 311	1 423	1 636	1 743	1 598
Other wood	868	1 000	1 051	1 239	1 492
Wood-based panels	957	1 010	1 155	1 201	1 134
Pulp & paper	4 375	4 003	4 004	4 075	4 076
Exports					
Wood (sawn & other)	80	76	102	110	100
Wood-based panels	75	91	109	103	123
Pulp & paper	1 441	1 307	1 651	1 597	1 491

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

Economics

Coniferous standing sales and sawlog price (GB)



Index in real terms. Source: Timber Price Indices: Data to March 2020.

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



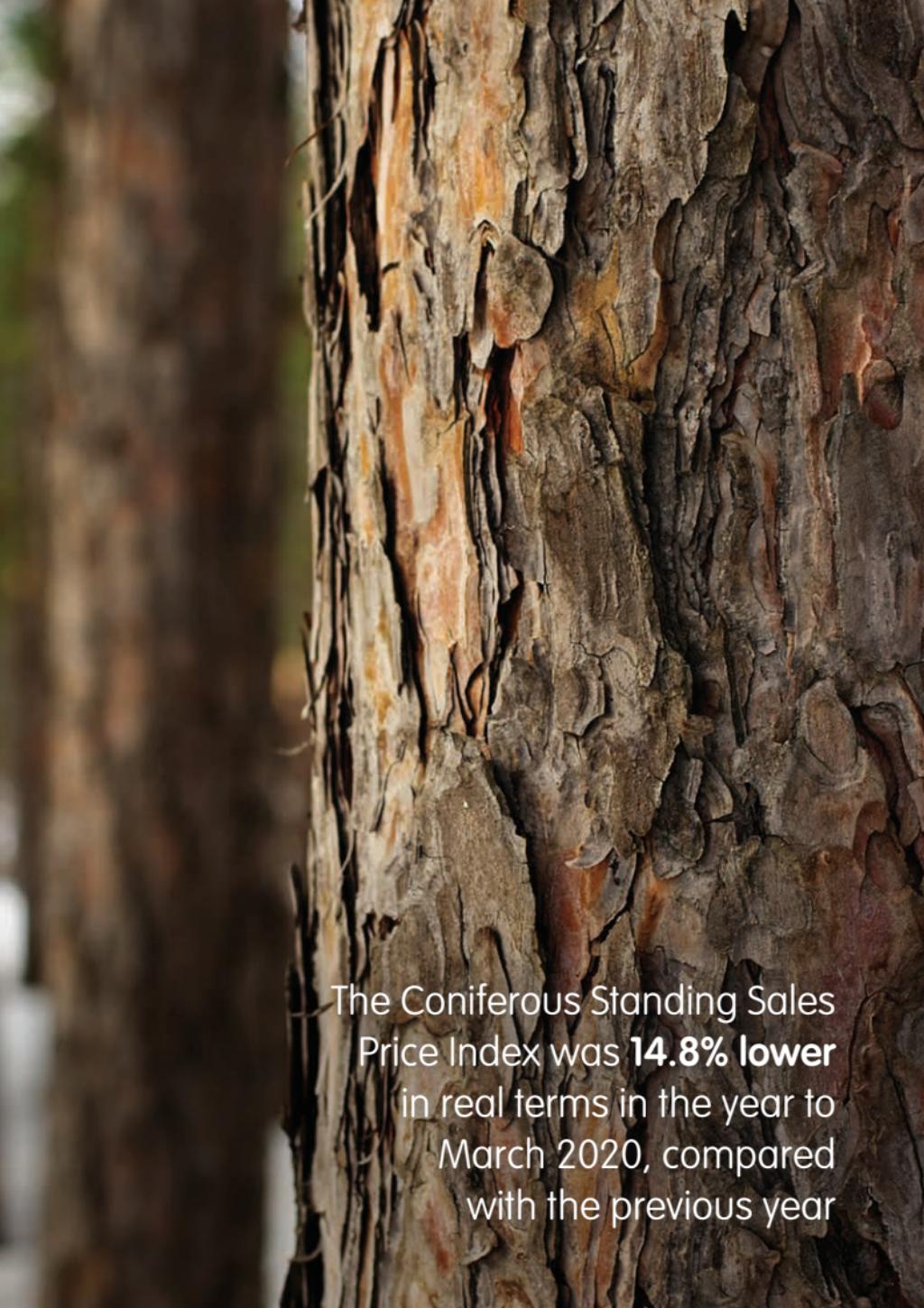
£0.67 billion
Forestry

£1.88 billion
Primary wood
processing



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Forestry	540	658	596	698	673
Sawmilling	356	474	413	420	579
Panels	436	323	316	363	453
Pulp & paper	596	738	610	707	845
Total	1 928	2 193	1 935	2 188	2 550

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

A close-up photograph of a tree trunk, showing dark, textured bark with vertical fissures and some orange-brown lichen or resin. The background is blurred.

The Coniferous Standing Sales
Price Index was **14.8% lower**
in real terms in the year to
March 2020, compared
with the previous year



Employment in forestry
covers a range of activities
from **planting** to **harvesting**

Employment



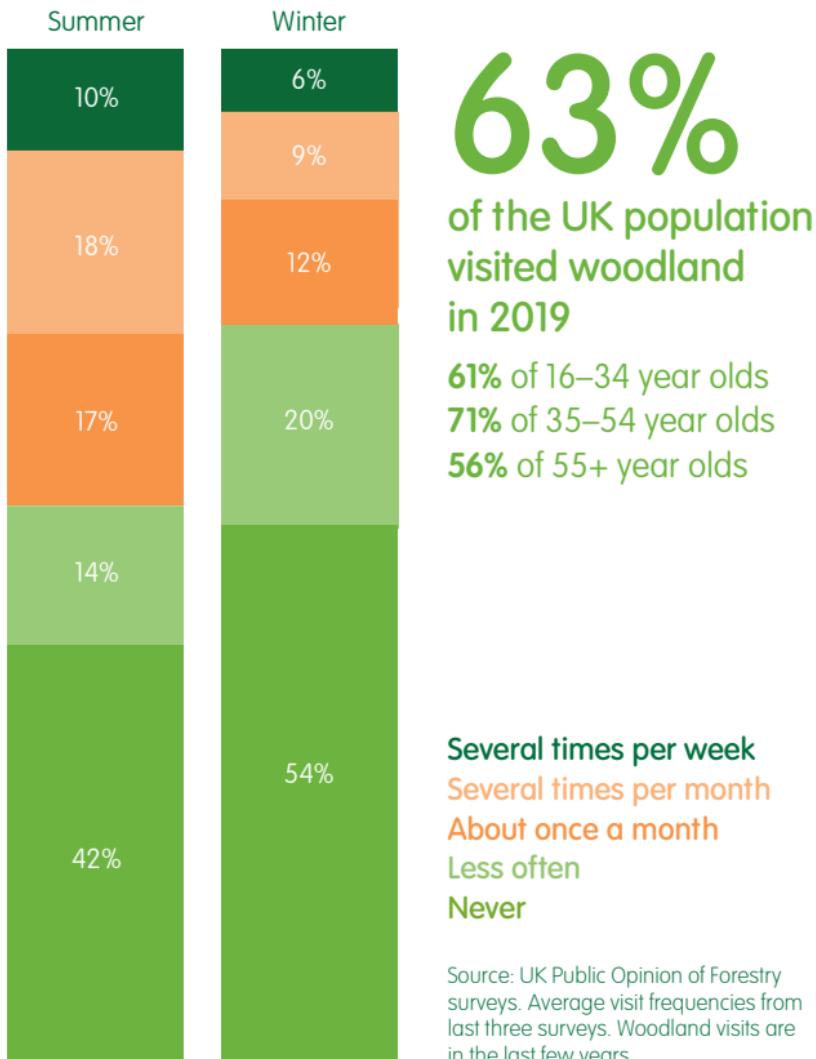
Employment in UK forestry and wood processing

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Forestry	16 000	17 000	17 000	16 000	16 000
Sawmilling	9 000	8 000	9 000	9 000	10 000
Panels	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	6 000

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

Woodland visits

Frequency of visitors to UK woodland





Health and exercise and
fresh air were important reasons
for people visiting woodlands

International comparisons

International forest area

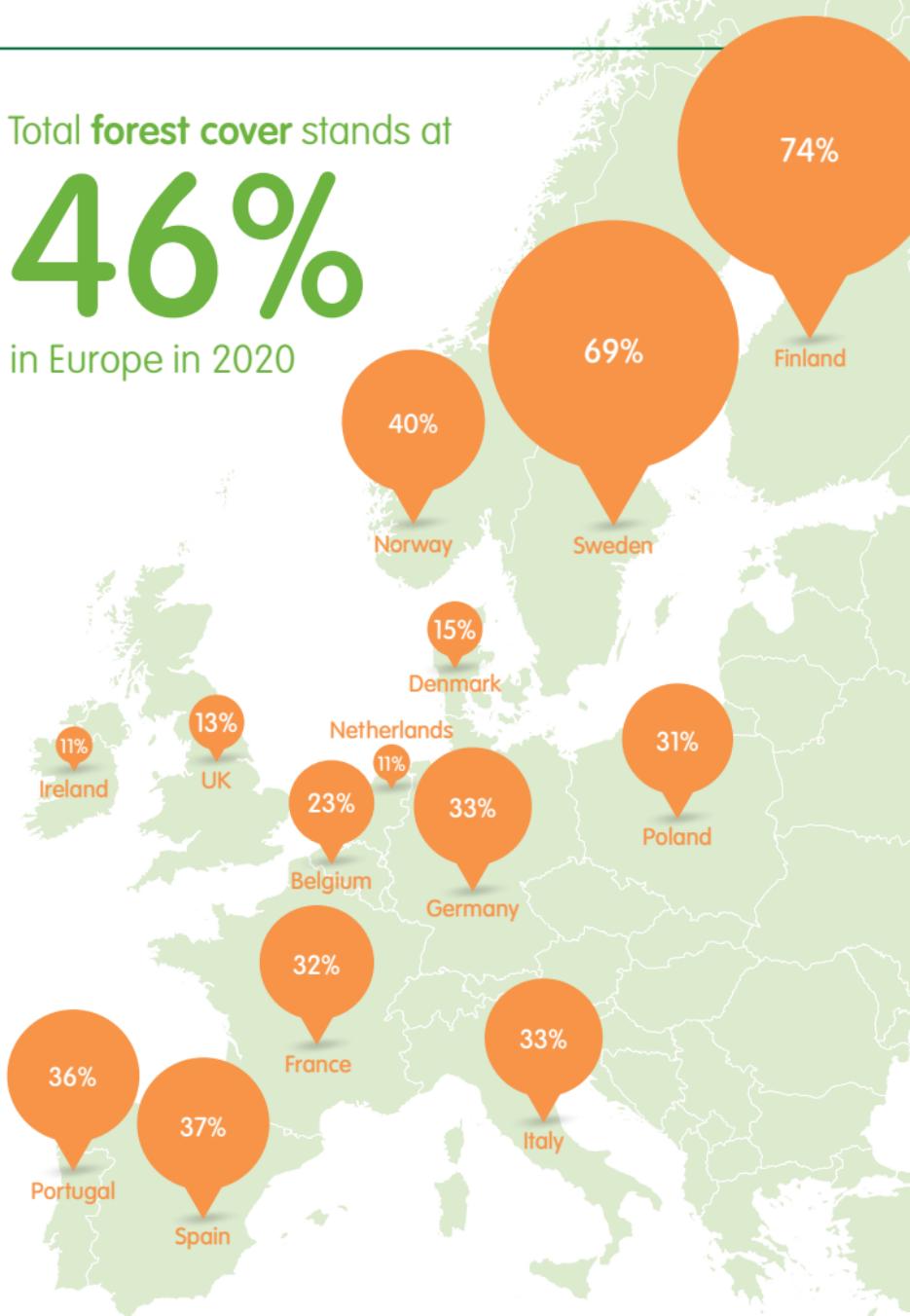
	Forest area (million ha)	Total land area (million ha)	Forest as % of land area
Europe	1017	2 213	46
UK	3	24	13
Finland	22	30	74
France	17	55	32
Germany	11	35	33
Italy	10	29	33
Spain	19	50	37
Sweden	28	41	69
Other EU	52	159	33
Total EU	159	400	40
Russian Federation	815	1 638	50
Africa	637	2 989	21
Asia	623	3 109	20
North & Central America	753	2 133	35
Oceania	185	849	22
South America	844	1 746	48
World	4 059	13 039	31

Source: FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020. EU excludes the UK. Cyprus is included in EU total but is part of FAO's Asia region. These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics.

Total forest cover stands at

46%

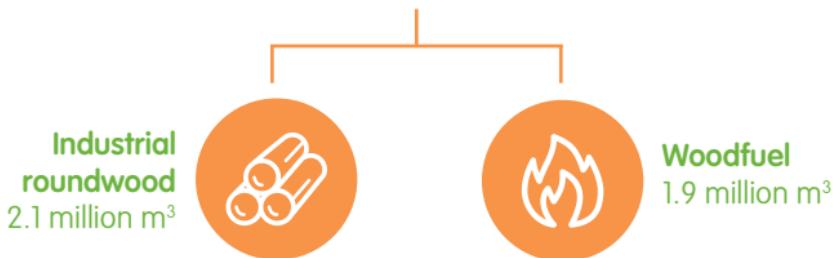
in Europe in 2020



International wood removals

4 billion m³

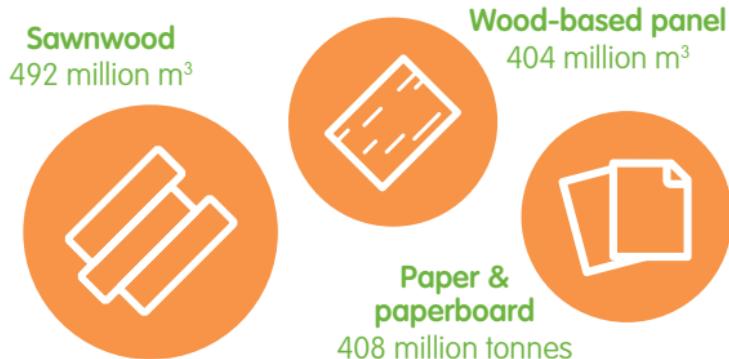
of wood was removed from forests in the world in 2018



(million m ³)	Industrial roundwood	Woodfuel	Total roundwood
Europe	650	180	830
EU	378	122	500
UK	9	2	11
Africa	79	700	779
Asia	442	719	1160
North & Central America	561	160	721
Oceania	77	10	87
South America	248	180	428
World	2057	1948	4005

Source: FAO. Data relates to calendar year 2018. EU excludes the UK. Cyprus is included in EU total but is part of FAO's Asia region. These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics.

International production of wood products



	Production million m ³	Apparent consumption million m ³	Production million m ³	Apparent consumption million m ³	Production million t	Apparent consumption million t
Europe	169	115	90	86	106	93
EU	108	87	60	58	89	73
UK	4	11	3	7	4	9
Africa	12	17	3	5	3	8
Asia	141	197	241	238	192	200
North & Central America	135	128	48	58	88	87
Oceania	9	8	3	3	4	4
South America	27	19	18	13	16	17
World	492	486	404	404	408	408

Source: FAO. Data relates to calendar year 2018. EU excludes the UK. Cyprus is included in EU total but is part of FAO's Asia region. These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics.



In 2019, 85% of the UK public agreed that
action should be taken to protect trees
from damaging pests and diseases

Environment

Woodland type

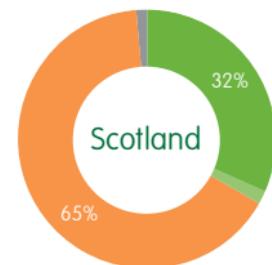
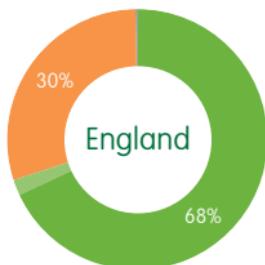
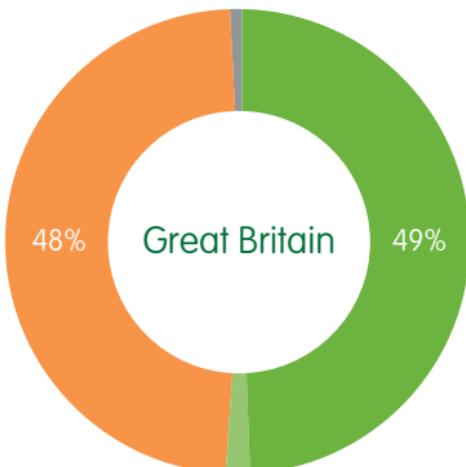
Native trees account for around **one half** of total woodland area in Great Britain, but this varies in each country.

Native

Near native & fragments

Non-native

Not determinable



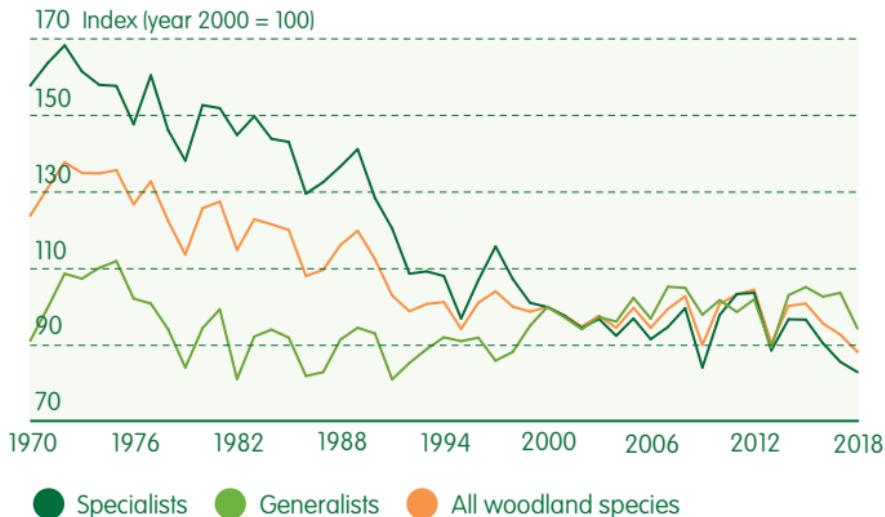
The total area of native woodland in Great Britain is estimated to be around

1.5 million hectares

Source: National Forest Inventory.

Woodland bird populations

Specialist bird populations have almost halved in the past 50 years



Carbon

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

Soil
Living trees
Deadwood & litter



Carbon stock in UK forests is estimated to have increased, from around **3.2 billion tonnes** of carbon dioxide equivalent in 1990 to **4.0 billion tonnes** of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2020.



In 2019, 88% of the UK public agreed with the statement '**a lot more trees should be planted**' in response to the threat from climate change

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

The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics. For more information visit www.statistics.gov.uk

Statistician: Sheila Ward. Enquiries relating to this publication should be addressed to: statistics@forestryresearch.gov.uk

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