

Plant Health – international trade and controlled consignments, 2020-2024

These statistics present an analysis of international trade in plants and plant commodities¹ (including live plants, fruit, vegetables, and cereals) – covering both the financial value and the physical scale (mass) of this trade. The release also presents an analysis of the notifications of controlled commodities – i.e., where imports are declared to plant health authorities in order for checks to be undertaken to ensure that traded goods meet required standards. Data cover the period 2020 to 2024 (Forestry Commission data cover 2020/21-2024/25). Geographical coverage is specified at the start of each section.

Key findings



In 2024, the value of trade in plants and plant commodities stood at £19bn with an associated net mass of 23,952 thousand tonnes. This was an increase of 26.0% in value and 4.7% in net mass since 2020.



Despite large increases in forestry export value and net mass, there was a decrease in overall exports value of £90 million and net mass of 1 million tonnes. In 2024, exports only made up 7.7% of all trade value, a decrease from 10.2% in 2020.



In 2024, trade with the EU accounted for 58% of the total trade value in plants and plant commodities, and 66% of overall net mass.



There were over 266,700 consignments notified to the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI) in 2024, a decrease from over 593,700 in 2023, and similar to the number of notifications in 2021. These changes were driven by the phasing in of plant health controls and easements on imports from the EU.



In 2024/25, just under 3,500 consignments of controlled material were notified to the Forestry Commission. Consignments of softwood were at the lowest level of the time period in this year whilst consignments of hardwood were at the highest level.

¹ Includes raw products and those that can be defined as 'simply processed'. Please see the glossary at the end of this document and the associated quality and methodology report for more information.

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Introduction

Plants are environmentally, economically, and socially important, providing a vital contribution to our food and timber supply and to the rural economy. Plants also perform an essential ecosystem service in shaping the landscape and supporting biodiversity and they have been linked to improved health and wellbeing².

The globalisation of trade has facilitated an increase in the volume and diversity of plants and plant commodities which enter the UK. This trade generates economic value but also needs to be regulated (controlled) due to the risk of pest and disease³. Plant health legislation⁴ controls the import and movement of certain plants, trees, seeds, and organic matter - such as soil - and certain plant products, including fruit, potatoes, vegetables, cut flowers, timber, foliage, and grain.

The analysis below explores both the overall UK trade in plants and plant commodities, and also the trade in controlled plant health and forestry commodities which informs the inspections undertaken by the Plant Health and Seed Inspectorate (PHSI) and the Forestry Commission (FC) to prevent plant pests and diseases from entering England and Wales, and, for Forestry Commission, Scotland⁵.

² [NHS Forest Evidence](#)

³ [Plant biosecurity strategy for Great Britain \(2023 to 2028\)](#)

⁴ [Plant Health legislation for forestry](#) and [Plant Health Legislation](#)

⁵ Plant Health is devolved thus Scotland conducts its own plant health inspections.

Please note that the three datasets explored in this publication are not directly comparable. There are key differences in how each dataset is compiled and these are outlined further in the accompanying quality and methodology report.

What you need to know about this release

This statistical release is intended as a contribution to increase the wider understanding about trade in these commodities and about plant health. It is designed to provide stakeholders, internal and external to government, with information on the patterns of trade over time for a specific set of commodities. The primary aim is to facilitate discussion and aid decision making around biosecurity. The release is not intended for the purpose of drawing inferences as to the effectiveness of plant health and forestry inspectorates.

Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). OSR sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) that all producers of official statistics should adhere to. You can read about how Official Statistics in Defra comply with these standards on the [Defra Statistics](#) website.

You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards using the contact details sam.grant@defra.gov.uk. Sam Grant, Plant Health Statistics, Horizon House, Deanery Rd, Bristol BS1 5TL. Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing regulation@statistics.gov.uk or via the OSR website.

Impact of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) and the effect of EU exit on trade in plants and plant products

It is not possible to ascertain what the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and EU exit has been on trade in plants and plant products. This is because trade in plants and plant products is often volatile, due to climate and other factors, but also because changes are still ongoing, for example, changes to data systems and the full implementation of the [Border Target Operating Model](#).

The Office for National Statistics have published a report looking at the impacts of EU exit and the coronavirus on UK trade in goods: [The impacts of EU exit and the coronavirus on UK trade in goods](#).

For plants and plant products which require regulatory control the impact of EU exit, particularly imports from the EU to GB, will be ongoing as the UK phases in its checking regime: [Imports of plants and plant products from the EU to GB](#)

Trade in plants and plant products

His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) compiles statistics on commodities physically leaving and entering the UK, traded with both European Union (EU) Member States and non-EU countries. Non-EU trade is collected from customs declarations. Until 31 December 2020 EU trade

data was collected via Intrastat which covered VAT-registered businesses whose annual value of arrivals and/or dispatches exceeded a given exemption threshold⁶.

For goods moving from 1 January 2021, statistics covering exports from Great Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales) to the EU have been compiled directly from customs export declarations made according to the requirements of the Taxation (Cross Border Trade) Act. Intrastat survey returns, however, continue to be collected for goods exported from Northern Ireland to the EU, under the terms of the Northern Ireland Protocol. Both the GB to EU customs export declaration data and Northern Ireland (NI) Intrastat export (dispatch) data are incorporated into the overall UK to EU export dataset. As a result of the changes and differences outlined above, there was a break in the timeseries for published UK to EU export statistics from January 2021.

During 2021 the Intrastat survey continued to operate for all UK (GB and NI) imports from the EU, to mitigate the effects of staging customs controls, and to comply with the Northern Ireland Protocol. From 1 January 2022 imports into Great Britain (GB) (England, Scotland, and Wales) from the EU are no longer covered by Intrastat. Customs declarations are used for imports of goods into GB from the EU and this information is used in combination with Intrastat data on imports into Northern Ireland from the EU, to create the overall UK's imports dataset.

Throughout 2021, the introduction of temporary Staged Customs Controls (SCC) allowed GB importers of non-controlled EU goods the opportunity to defer submission of the full customs declaration for up to 175 days after the movement of goods. This had a reducing effect on the number of received customs declarations for EU imports in 2021, most notably in the first few months of the year. It is not possible to distinguish which customs declarations are associated with SCC and therefore remove or adjust the trade statistics.

The Office for National Statistics has produced a paper looking at investigating the impact of changes to HM Revenue and Customs data collection: [Impact of trade in goods data collection changes on UK trade statistics: summary of adjustments and the structural break from 2021](#)

Although not collected for plant health purposes the HMRC data does allow us to examine the patterns of trade for a sub-section of commodities, i.e., raw, and simply processed plants and plant commodities, and to group these into categories. The categories covered in this release are:

- Plants and planting material. This category includes bulbs, plants for planting, forest tree seed and cut flowers.
- Food and crops. This category includes fruit, vegetables, cereals, nuts, herbs, and spices.
- Forestry: This category includes timber (unprocessed or simply processed: sliced, planed, or chipped), packing cases, casks, and barrels.

⁶ Information on methodology and quality for HMRC overseas trade data can be accessed at: [Overseas trade in goods statistics methodology and quality report](#)

Table 1: Value of trade in plants and plant commodities, 2020 to 2024, £ million

Sector ^b	Year ^a					Value change 2020 to 2024	Percentage change 2020 to 2024
	2020	2021(b)	2022(b)	2023(r)	2024(p)		
Imports							
Plants and planting material	1,012	1,164	1,643	1,562	1,576	563	55.7
Food and crops	10,572	10,194	12,094	12,147	13,326	2,754	26.1
Forestry	1,945	3,152	3,245	2,604	2,631	686	35.3
Total	13,529	14,510	16,982	16,313	17,533	4,004	29.6
Exports							
Plants and planting material	96	72	64	74	66	-30	-31.3
Food and crops	1,272	869	1,372	1,308	1,003	-269	-21.1
Forestry	175	348	392	379	384	209	118.9
Total	1,543	1,289	1,829	1,761	1,453	-90	-5.8
All trade							
Plants and planting material	1,108	1,236	1,708	1,635	1,641	533	48.1
Food and crops	11,844	11,063	13,467	13,456	14,329	2,485	21.0
Forestry	2,120	3,500	3,637	2,983	3,015	895	42.2
Total	15,072	15,799	18,811	18,074	18,986	3,914	26.0

a. data are calendar year.

b. more information on sectors can be found in the glossary at the end of this document.

(b) indicates a break in the time series. In 2021 the break related to changes in the recording of exports, in 2022 the break related to changes in the recording of imports.

(r) indicates revised data

(p) indicates provisional data

Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: Overseas Trade Data, HMRC

Table 1 shows the total value of trade in plants and plant commodities, by sector, between 2020 and 2024.

- Overall, the value of all trade in 2024 was the highest that it had been for the past five years (£18.9bn).
- Compared to 2023, import value in 2024 was up by 7.5% and export value was down by 17.5%. Exports accounted for 7.7% of all trade value compared to 9.7% in 2023.
- For import value, plants and planting material had seen the highest percentage increase (55.7%) since 2020, but the smallest increase since 2023 (0.9%), whilst food and crops had the lowest percentage increase (26.1%) since 2020, but the highest since 2023 (9.7%). All three sectors had been relatively stable in the last two years.
- For export value, over the five-year period, both plants and planting material and food and crops decreased, while export value for forestry had more than doubled in the period (118.9% increase).

Table 2: Net mass of trade in plants and plant commodities, 2020 to 2024, '000 tonnes

Sector ^b	Year ^a					Value change 2020 to 2024	Percentage change 2020 to 2024
	2020	2021(b)	2022(b)	2023(r)	2024(p)		
Imports							
Plants and planting material	310	356	488	454	453	143	46.0
Food and crops	13,974	13,166	13,365	12,971	15,820	1,846	13.2
Forestry	4,642	5,121	4,595	4,297	4,826	184	4.0
Total	18,926	18,643	18,448	17,723	21,099	2,173	11.5
Exports							
Plants and planting material	34	25	22	21	19	-15	-44.3
Food and crops	3,426	1,960	3,134	3,280	1,739	-1,687	-49.2
Forestry	484	873	1,074	1,181	1,095	611	126.1
Total	3,944	2,858	4,231	4,483	2,853	-1,091	-27.7
All trade							
Plants and planting material	344	380	510	476	471	128	37.1
Food and crops	17,400	15,126	16,499	16,251	17,559	159	0.9
Forestry	5,126	5,994	5,669	5,478	5,922	795	15.5
Total	22,869	21,501	22,678	22,205	23,952	1,082	4.7

a. data are calendar year.

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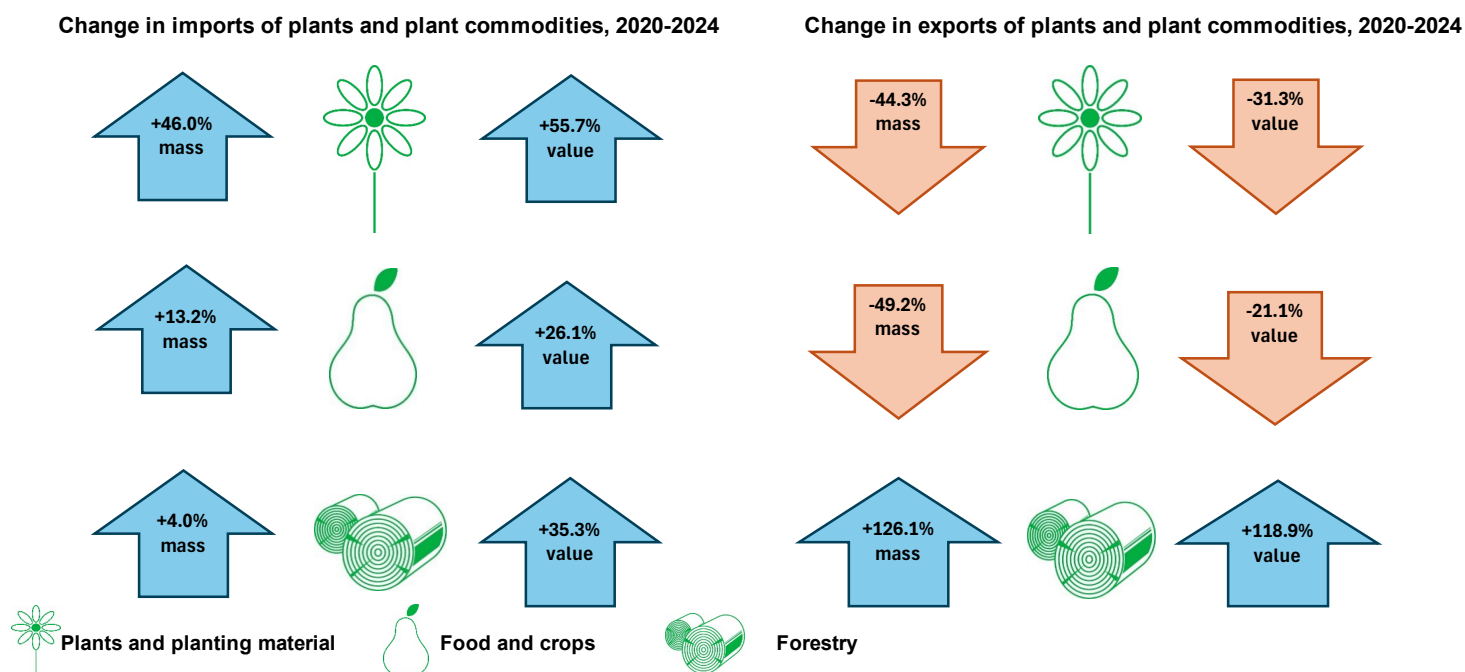
Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: Overseas Trade Data, HMRC

Table 2 shows the total net mass of trade in plants and plant commodities, by sector, between 2020 and 2024.

- Net mass of all trade was at its highest level of the time period in 2024 (23,952 thousand tonnes). There was a small percentage increase in total net mass of all trade between 2023 and 2024 (7.9%), namely due to the increase in imports being over twice the size of the decrease in exports (3,376 thousand tonnes increase, 1,630 thousand tonnes decrease respectively).
- Between 2023 and 2024, there was a 22.0% increase in food and crops import net mass, but a corresponding decrease of 47.0% in exports, resulting in a larger increase in all food and crops trade (8.0%) between these two years than over five years (0.9% increase since 2020).
- Similar to the value of forestry exports, forestry net mass had more than doubled since 2020. Imports in this sector had seen a larger increase in value (35.3%) than in net mass (12.3%) since 2020, but a larger increase in net mass (12.3%) than value (1.1%) since 2023.
- Overall trade in plants and planting material saw a 37.1% increase in net mass since 2020, the largest increase of the three sectors, despite the percentage decrease in exports being similar to the percentage increase in imports (44.3% decrease for exports, 46.0% increase for imports). However, since 2023, both imports and exports for plants and planting material had seen small decreases in net mass (-0.4% for imports, -11.7% for exports).

Figure 1: Changes in international trade of plants and plant commodities, 2020 to 2024



Source: Overseas Trade Data, HMRC

Table 3: Value of UK and EU trade in plants and plant commodities, 2020 to 2024, £ million

Sector ^b	Year ^a					Value change 2020 to 2024	Percentage change 2020 to 2024
	2020	2021(b)	2022(b)	2023(r)	2024(p)		
EU Imports							
Plants and planting material	849	884	1,334	1,265	1,254	404	47.6
Food and crops	5,107	4,453	5,650	5,918	6,418	1,311	25.7
Forestry	1,546	2,579	2,764	2,186	2,152	605	39.2
Total	7,503	7,916	9,747	9,368	9,823	2,320	30.9
EU Exports							
Plants and planting material	77	54	46	56	43	-34	-44.4
Food and crops	994	666	1,131	1,083	772	-222	-22.4
Forestry	140	311	344	326	328	188	133.9
Total	1,212	1,030	1,521	1,465	1,143	-69	-5.7
All EU trade							
Plants and planting material	926	937	1,380	1,320	1,296	370	39.9
Food and crops	6,101	5,119	6,781	7,001	7,190	1,089	17.8
Forestry	1,687	2,890	3,108	2,511	2,480	793	47.0
Total	8,714	8,946	11,268	10,833	10,966	2,252	25.8

a. data are calendar year.

b. more information on sectors can be found in the glossary at the end of this document.

(b) indicates a break in the time series. In 2021 the break related to changes in the recording of exports, in 2022 the break related to changes in the recording of imports.

(r) indicates revised data

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Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: Overseas Trade Data, HMRC

Table 3 shows the value of commodities that were imported into the UK from the EU and commodities exported from the UK to the EU between 2020 and 2024, by sector.

- Total EU trade value increased by 25.8% since 2020. Although there was a small decrease in export value (-5.7%), there was a 30.9% increase in import trade value. However, between 2023 and 2024, the increase in total EU trade value was minimal (1.2%), namely due to a large decrease in EU export value (-22.0%).
- Since 2020, forestry was the only sector to see increases in both EU import and export value resulting in the largest percentage increase in all EU trade value (47%). However, there had been a small decrease in EU forestry import value (-1.6%) since 2023, and only a small increase in export value (0.8%), resulting in a net decrease of 1.2% between 2023 and 2024.
- In 2024, export value for plants and planting material was at its lowest over the five-year period whilst imports experienced a gradual decrease from a high of £1,334m in 2022.
- Food and crops was the only sector that saw increases in EU import value from 2023 to 2024 (8.4% increase) although there was a 28.8% decrease in EU export value.

Table 4: Net mass of UK and EU trade in plants and plant commodities, 2020 to 2024, '000 tonnes

Sector ^b	Year ^a					Value change 2020 to 2024	Percentage change 2020 to 2024
	2020	2021(b)	2022(b)	2023(r)	2024(p)		
EU Imports							
Plants and planting material	266	287	418	384	383	117	44.0
Food and crops	6,472	5,888	6,335	6,277	8,347	1,875	29.0
Forestry	4,060	4,415	4,247	3,993	4,496	437	10.8
Total	10,798	10,590	10,999	10,654	13,226	2,428	22.5
EU Exports							
Plants and planting material	30	21	20	19	16	-14	-47.2
Food and crops	2,584	1,631	2,777	2,959	1,499	-1,085	-42.0
Forestry	436	808	1,017	1,127	1,005	570	130.7
Total	3,050	2,460	3,813	4,106	2,520	-530	-17.4
All EU trade							
Plants and planting material	296	308	438	403	399	103	34.7
Food and crops	9,056	7,519	9,112	9,236	9,846	789	8.7
Forestry	4,496	5,224	5,263	5,120	5,502	1,006	22.4
Total	13,848	13,050	14,813	14,760	15,746	1,898	13.7

a. data are calendar year.

b. more information on sectors can be found in the glossary at the end of this document.

(b) indicates a break in the time series. In 2021 the break related to changes in the recording of exports, in 2022 the break related to changes in the recording of imports.

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Source: Overseas Trade Data, HMRC

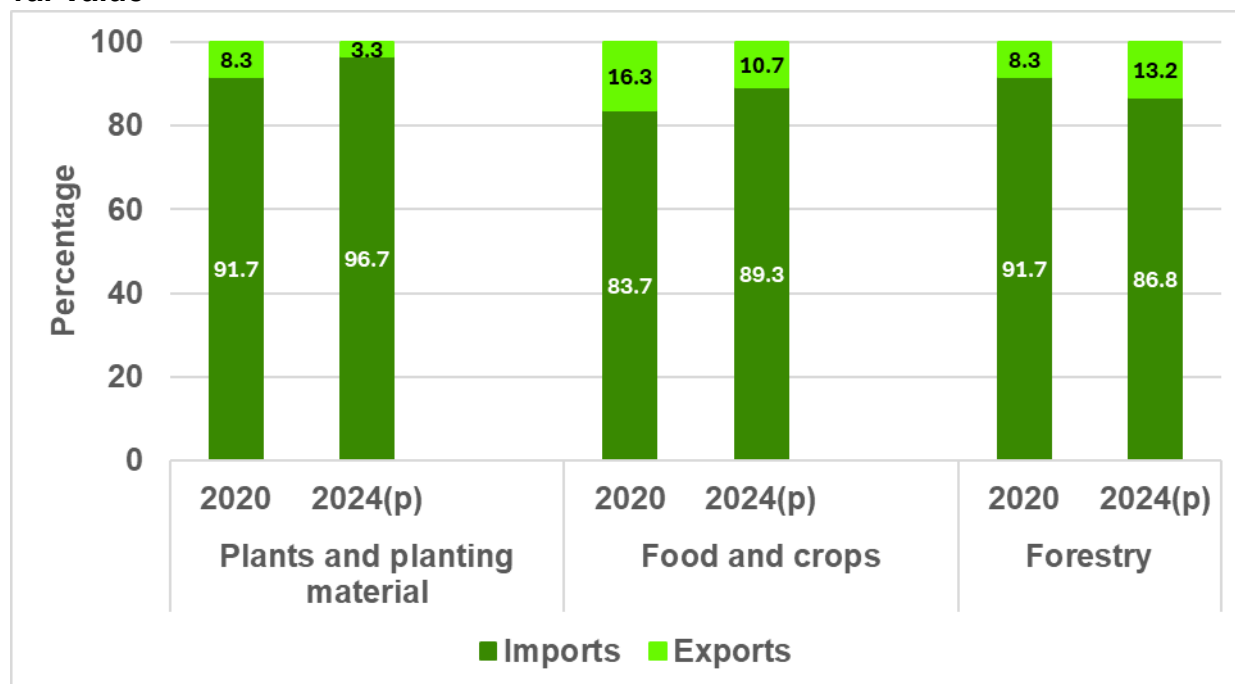
Table 4 shows the net mass of commodities that were imported into the UK from the EU and commodities exported from the UK to the EU between 2020 and 2024, by sector.

- The total net mass of UK – EU trade in plants and plant products was at its highest level of the period in 2024 (15,746 thousand tonnes). Exports represented 16% of total net mass.
- Between 2023 and 2024, there was a 24.1% increase in the net mass of EU imports, but a 38.6% decrease in the net mass of exports to the EU.

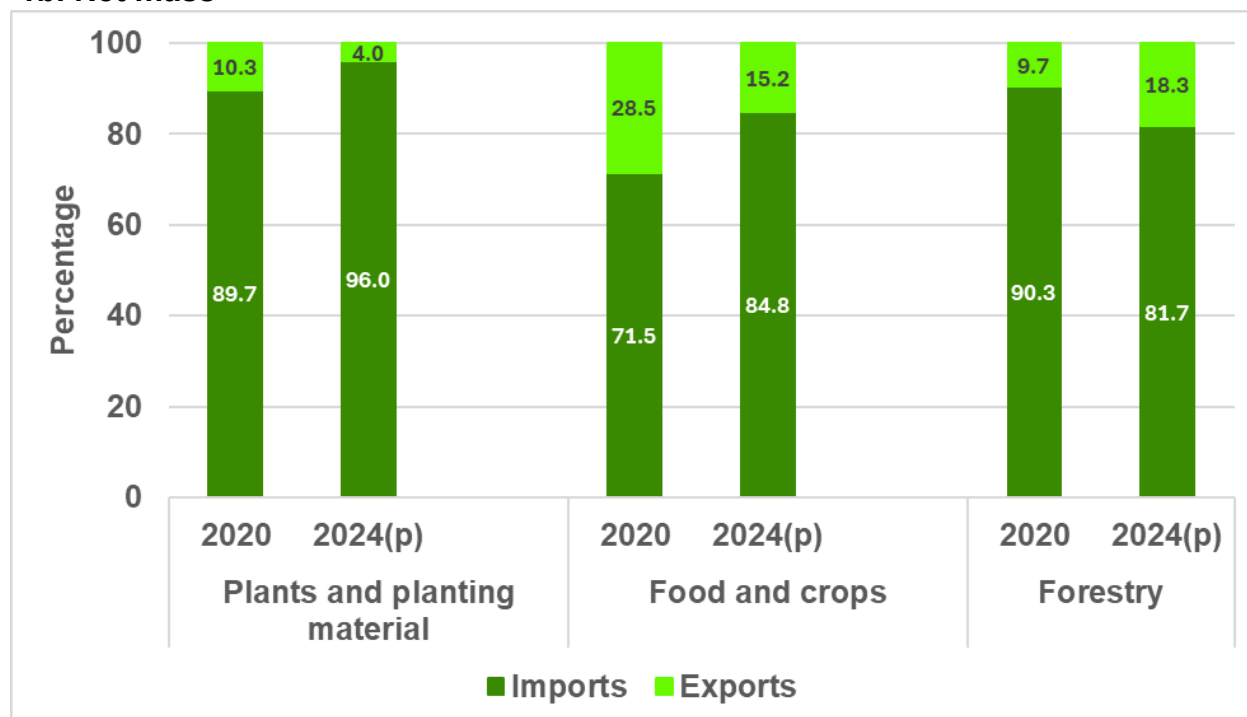
- For EU exports, between 2023 and 2024, the net mass of plants and planting material saw a decrease of only 14.4%, while the net mass of food and crops nearly halved (-49.4%).
- Both forestry and food and crops saw an increase in the net mass of EU imports from 2023 to 2024, but plants and planting material remained fairly stable, decreasing by around 1,600 tonnes.

Chart 1a and 1b: Distribution of UK and EU trade in plants and plant commodities, 2020 to 2024.

1a. Value



1b. Net mass



Data are calendar year.

(p) indicates data are provisional.

There were breaks in the recording of exports in 2021 and imports in 2022 meaning figures are not directly comparable.

Source: Overseas Trade Data, HMRC

- Forestry was the only sector where the proportion of trade that was export value and net mass increased from 2020 to 2024.
- While plants and planting material and forestry had a very similar split between EU import and export value in 2020, there was nearly a ten-percentage point difference between the two sectors in 2024.
- Plants and planting material saw a slightly larger increase in the proportion of import net mass (6.3 percentage points) compared to the increase in value (5.0 percentage points), but there was a notably larger increase in the percentage share of food and crops import net mass (13.3 percentage point increase, compared to 5.6 percentage point increase for import value).

Table 5: Value of UK and non-EU trade in plants and plant commodities, 2020 to 2024, £ million

Sector ^b	Year ^a					Value change 2020 to 2024	Percentage change 2020 to 2024
	2020	2021	2022	2023(r)	2024(p)		
Non-EU Imports							
Plants and planting material	163	281	309	297	322	159	97.8
Food and crops	5,465	5,741	6,445	6,230	6,909	1,443	26.4
Forestry	399	573	481	418	480	81	20.3
Total	6,027	6,594	7,235	6,945	7,710	1,683	27.9
Non-EU Exports							
Plants and planting material	19	18	18	18	23	4	23.0
Food and crops	277	203	241	225	231	-46	-16.7
Forestry	35	38	48	53	55	21	58.9
Total	331	259	308	297	310	-21	-6.5
All non-EU trade							
Plants and planting material	182	299	328	315	345	164	90.1
Food and crops	5,743	5,944	6,686	6,455	7,140	1,397	24.3
Forestry	434	610	529	471	535	102	23.4
Total	6,358	6,853	7,543	7,241	8,020	1,662	26.1

a. Data are calendar year.

b. more information on sectors can be found in the glossary at the end of this document.

(r) indicates revised data

(p) indicates provisional data

Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: Overseas Trade Data, HMRC

Table 5 shows the value of commodities that were imported into the UK from countries outside of the EU and commodities exported from the UK to countries outside of the EU between 2020 and 2024, by sector.

- The increases and decreases seen in EU trade were not always reflected in non-EU trade. From 2023 to 2024, the value of EU exports for plants and planting material decreased by 23.0%, while the value of non-EU exports increased by 26.8%.
- From 2020 to 2024, only the value of non-EU exports for food and crops decreased, falling by 16.7%, which, as the largest sector, resulted in a net decrease in the value of non-EU exports.

- Between 2023 and 2024 all sectors and trade flows saw increases in value. Forestry had the highest percentage increase for non-EU imports (14.7%) whilst plants and planting material had the highest percentage increase for non-EU exports (26.8%).
- Trade with non-EU countries made up 42% of the value of all trade in 2024, an increase from 40% of the value of overall trade in 2023. The percentage share has remained between 40-44% over the five-year period.

Table 6: Net mass of UK and non-EU trade in plants and plant commodities, 2020 to 2024, '000 tonnes

Sector ^b	Year ^a					Value change 2020 to 2024	Percentage change 2020 to 2024
	2020	2021	2022	2023(r)	2024(p)		
Non-EU Imports							
Plants and planting material	44	69	70	70	70	26	57.6
Food and crops	7,501	7,278	7,030	6,694	7,473	-29	-0.4
Forestry	582	706	348	304	330	-252	-43.3
Total	8,128	8,053	7,448	7,069	7,872	-255	-3.1
Non-EU Exports							
Plants and planting material	3	3	2	2	3	-1	-16.1
Food and crops	842	329	357	321	240	-602	-71.5
Forestry	49	65	57	54	90	41	85.3
Total	894	397	417	377	333	-561	-62.8
All non-EU trade							
Plants and planting material	47	72	72	72	72	25	52.7
Food and crops	8,343	7,607	7,387	7,015	7,713	-630	-7.6
Forestry	631	771	406	358	420	-211	-33.4
Total	9,021	8,450	7,866	7,446	8,205	-816	-9.0

(a) Data are calendar year

(b) more information on sectors can be found in the glossary at the end of this document.

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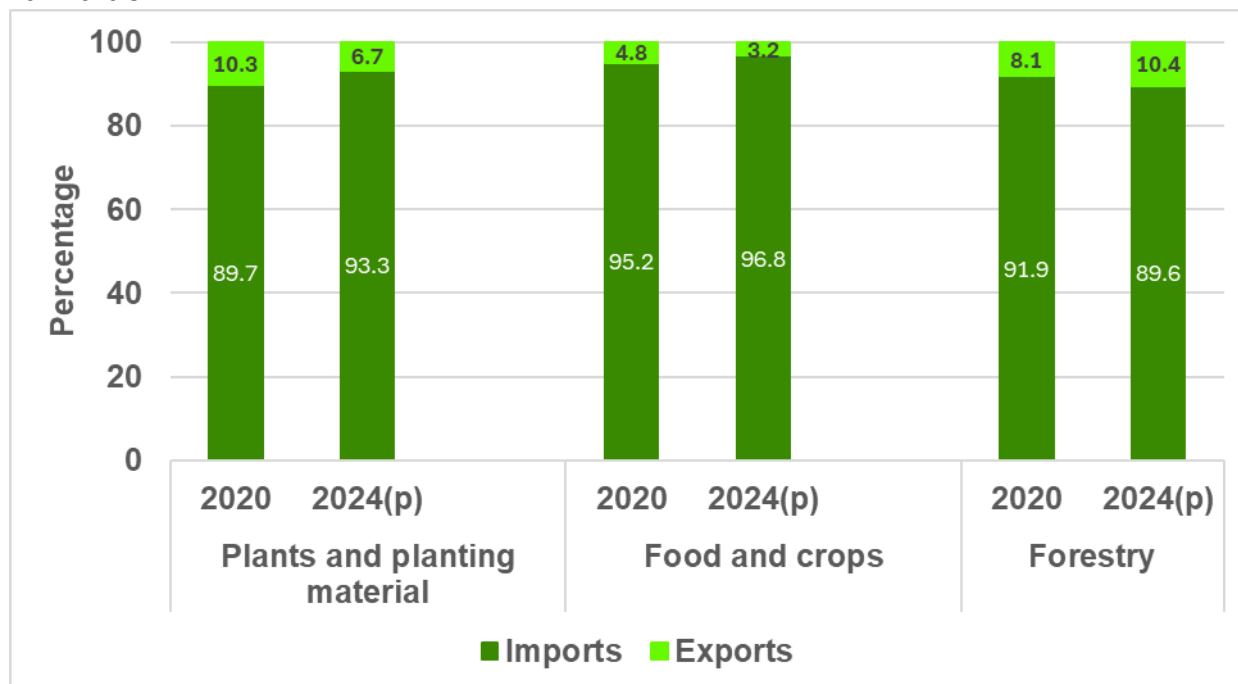
Source: Overseas Trade Data, HMRC

Table 6 shows the net mass of commodities that were imported into the UK from countries outside of the EU and commodities exported from the UK to countries outside of the EU between 2020 and 2024, by sector.

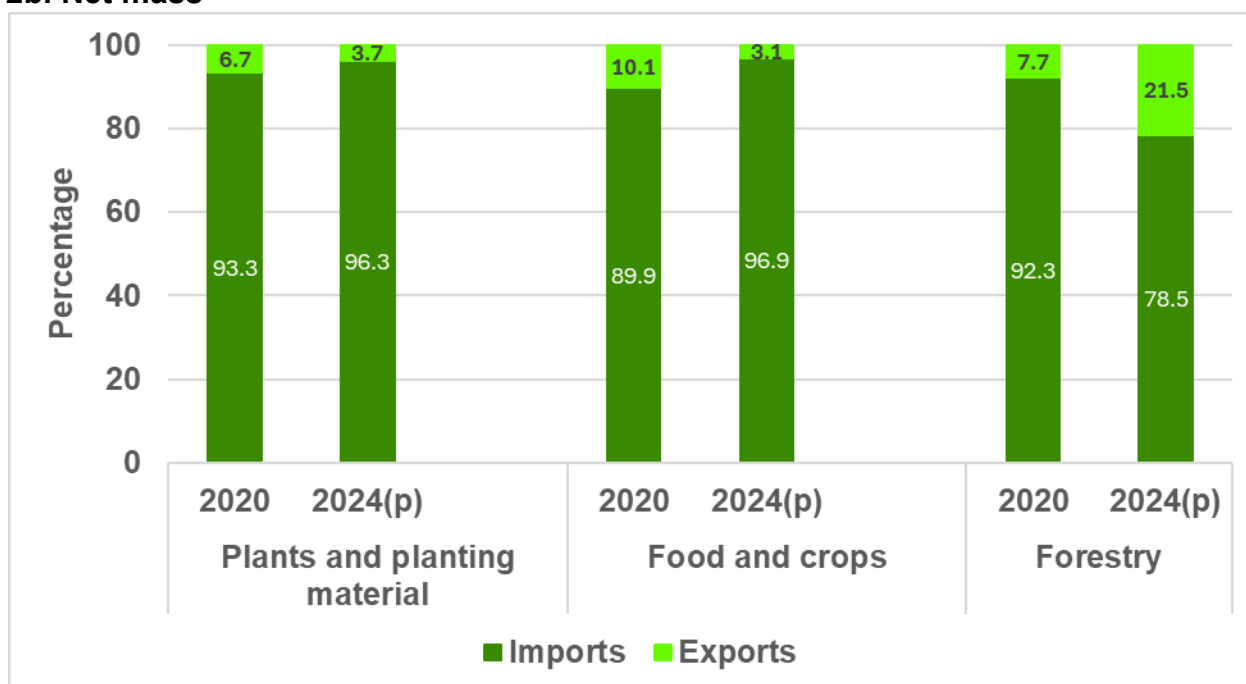
- While the value of non-EU trade increased by 26.1% between 2020 and 2024, the net mass decreased by 9.0% overall. This has been driven by decreases in the net mass of trade in food and crops and forestry. The only increases in non-EU net mass were imports of plants and planting material and exports of forestry.
- Despite many sectors and flows of non-EU trade seeing a decrease in net mass over the five-year period, all bar the exports of food and crops have seen an increase or remained stable since 2023.
- Overall, plants and planting material was the only sector to see an increase in net mass since 2019 (19.6%) but remains the smallest sector. Forestry experienced the largest decrease at 42.3% in total, comprising a decrease of 42.7% in import net mass and 39.6% in export net mass.
- There were decreases in the net mass of non-EU imports of food and crops and forestry over the five-year period however between 2023 to 2024 both sectors saw similar increases in net mass of non-EU imports (11.6% and 8.4%, respectively).

Chart 2a and 2b: Distribution of UK and non-EU trade in plants and plant commodities, 2020-2024.

2a. Value



2b. Net mass



Data are calendar year.

(p) indicates data are provisional.

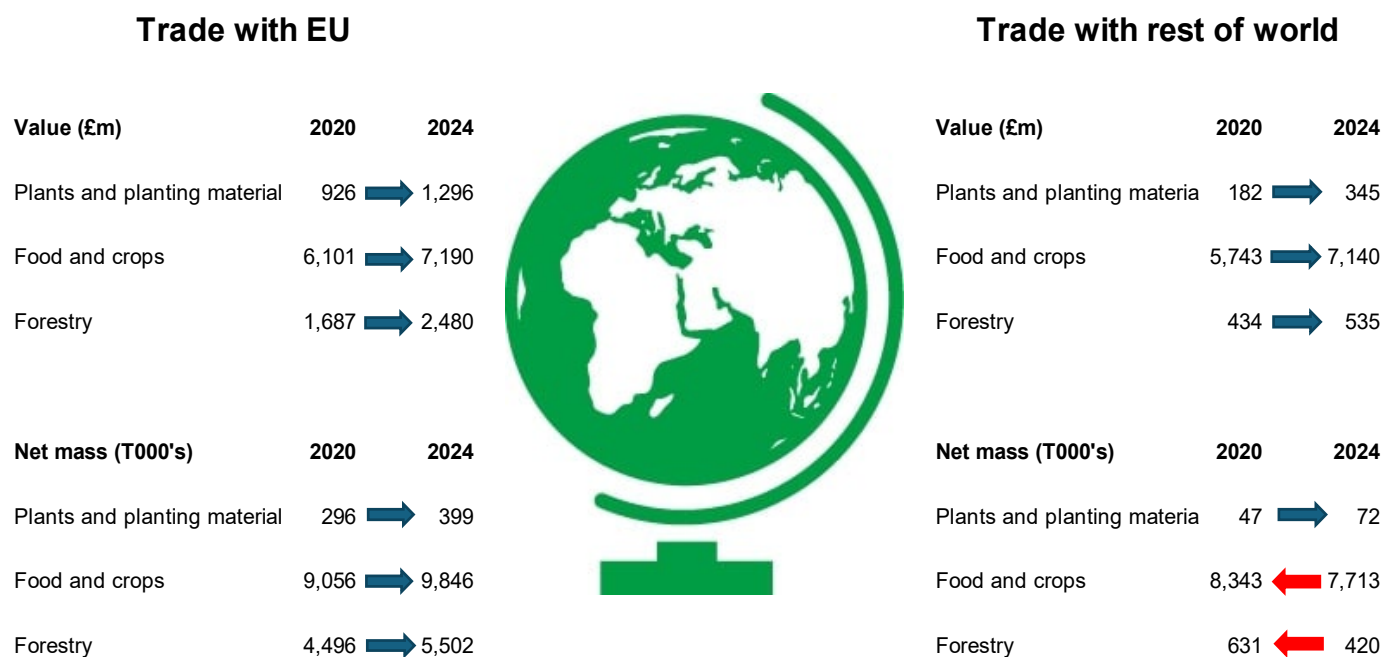
There were breaks in the recording of exports in 2021 and imports in 2022 meaning figures are not directly comparable.

Source: Overseas Trade Data, HMRC

- The proportion of non-EU trade value that was imports remained high. In particular, imports went from making up 95.2% of food and crops non-EU trade value in 2020, to 96.8% in 2024.

- The share of import net mass of food and crops increased by 7.0 percentage points, compared to only 1.6 percentage point increase for import value. Similarly, the share of import net mass for forestry decreased by a large 13.8 percentage points, whereas the import value for forestry only decreased by 2.2 percentage points.
- For all categories except forestry net mass, there was less variation in percentage share for non-EU trade, than for EU trade.

Figure 2: Changes in trade of plants and plant commodities between 2020 and 2024, by broad region of trade



Source: Overseas Trade Data, HMRC

Controlled Commodities

The Plant Health and Seed Inspectorate (PHSI) implements and enforces plant health policy in England and in Wales (on behalf of the Welsh Government). The Forestry Commission (FC) implements and enforces plant health policy in England and Scotland, and in Wales via Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

PHSI and FC conduct inspections of controlled plant materials, including plants for planting. The controls of such materials differ according to the species - and what quarantine organisms they may carry – but may include phytosanitary certificates, plant passports and/or physical inspection. More detailed information covering the activities of the inspection services is available in the Multi Annual National Control Plan reports⁷.

Under EU legislation plants, fruit, vegetables, and plant material from outside the EU fall into three categories: 'unrestricted', 'controlled', and 'prohibited' material. Plant passports facilitate the

⁷ [Food Standards Agency - Multi-Annual National Control Plan](#)

movement of controlled commodities within the EU area whilst inspections of relevant businesses are conducted 'in field', generally between 2 and 4 times per year. Commodities imported from outside of the EU area need to be declared on entry to the EU and can then move freely across the EU area. In December 2019 the EU introduced new legislation pertaining to plants and plant products. Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 and its Annexes replaced the Annexes of Directive 2000/29/EC⁸. Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 covers more plants and plant commodities than the previous legislation.

Now that the UK has left the EU new legislation is in place⁹ and, following the end of the transition period (31 December 2020), there are new processes for importing plants and plant products, including wood and wood products, from the EU. These are detailed in the [Guidance on importing and exporting plants and plant products from 1 January 2021](#).

Under the new UK legislation plants, fruit, vegetables, cut flowers, soil and other regulated objects (for example, machinery) fall into five categories of phytosanitary control:

1. 'Prohibited' - Can only bring into Great Britain if a scientific research license or derogation is obtained.
2. 'Prohibited (pending risk assessment)' – material you can only bring into Great Britain if risk assessed by Defra. (Exclusions apply).
3. 'Regulated and notifiable' – material you can only bring into Great Britain if accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate and advanced notification of landing.
4. 'Regulated' – material you can only bring into Great Britain if accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate. After applicants complete a customs entry, a small number of these consignments may need advanced notification on CHIEF (Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight).
5. 'Unregulated' – material you can bring into Great Britain without a phytosanitary certificate or advanced notification.

Great Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales) has adopted a phased approach to plant health controls for plants and plant products imported from the European Union (EU). This phased approach started in January 2021 and is proposed to be completed in 2025 however discussions on SPS trade are ongoing.

- Since 1 January 2021, high-priority plants and plant products have required pre-notification and a phytosanitary certificate (PC) when being imported from the EU, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland. These include all plants for planting, ware potatoes, some seed for sowing and other plant or forest reproductive material, some wood and wood products and used agricultural or forestry machinery.
- Since 1 January 2022, notification of import has been required for some other regulated and notifiable plants and plant products imported from the EU (except the Republic of Ireland) including growing medium attached to plants, root and tubercle vegetables, some leafy vegetables, some fresh produce (fruit and vegetables), some seeds (in addition to those on the high-priority list) and some cut flowers.

⁸ [New Plant Health rules](#)

⁹ [The Plant Health \(Phytosanitary Conditions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)

- Since November 2023 an easement has been applied to fruit and vegetables imported from the EU. Products included in the easement do not need to provide an import notification and are not subject to import checks at the GB border until the easement ends on 1 July 2025.¹⁰
- Since 31 January 2024 medium risk goods have required a phytosanitary certificate.
- Reviews of Annex XI led to the deregulation of some commodities at two points, May and September 2024.

The analysis below focuses on consignments of commodities classed as controlled and arriving at points of entry in Great Britain (England and Wales for PHSI, England, Wales, and Scotland for FC). These consignments are subject to inspection activities ranging from document checks to physical inspections. The level of checks required for different types of commodities varies but the highest risk commodities are subject to full checks (100%). In addition, emergency measures¹¹ can be introduced which may restrict trade due to changes in import requirements.

Controlled commodities are a subset of the trade analysis shown above (which also includes unrestricted commodities); however, data are not comparable to that provided by HMRC due to differences in measurement units, geographies, and purpose. More information can be found in the accompanying quality and methodology report.

Plant Health and Seed Inspectorate

The Plant Health and Seed Inspectorate (PHSI) is part of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and implements and enforces plant health policy in England, and in Wales on behalf of the Welsh Government. PHSI conduct inspections of plants, seeds, bulbs, cut flowers, planting materials, fruits, vegetables and some used agricultural machinery.

It is important to note that changes in the number of consignments may be influenced by changes in trade patterns as well as by legislative changes. Factors which can contribute to changes in trade patterns include climate events, changes in market demand, social unrest or change, pest outbreaks etc. Controls may be applied to any number of countries where there is a pest risk but additionally countries may apply self-prohibition if they are aware of a pest issue in their country. Where self-prohibition is applied there are no formal reporting routes and often information cannot be confirmed:

- Following the departure from the EU, the Plant Health (Phytosanitary Conditions) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 implemented on 1 January 2021, amended the Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072 to deregulate fruits of *Actinidia*, *Fortunella*, *Poncirus*, *Diospyros*, *Gossypium*, *Mangifera*, *Passiflora*, *Psidium* and fruit and leaves of *Citrus* and leaves of *Murraya*.
- Subsequent amendments to 2019/2072 include the additional controls on plants for planting of *Coffea*, *Polygala myrtifolia*, *Lavandula*, *Nerium oleander*, *Salvia rosmarinus*, *Olea europaea* and *Prunus dulcis* (the Official Controls and Phytosanitary Conditions (Amendment) Regulations 2021). Controls have been strengthened on plants of *Cedrus* and *Pinus* (The Phytosanitary Conditions (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2022) and new controls have been added on plants for planting of *Capsicum* and *Solanum lycopersicum* (The Official Controls (Plant Health) (Prior Notification) and Phytosanitary Conditions

¹⁰ [BTOM update, Plant Health Portal](#)

¹¹ [EU emergency control measures by species](#)

(Amendment) Regulations 2023). The Official Controls (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2024 deregulated a number of plant materials, including fruit of *Fragaria*, *Malus*, *Persea americana*, *Pyrus*, *Vaccinium*, and root and tubercle vegetables (not including ware or seed potatoes) from the EU and Switzerland.

- Bans have been imposed on plants of *Polymnia sonchifolia* from any third country (by the Phytosanitary Conditions (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2021) and on plants of *Abies*, *Pinus*, *Picea*, *Larix*, and *Tsuga* from Russia (by the Phytosanitary Conditions (Amendment) Regulations 2022). There have been self-imposed bans from Bangladesh (which is ongoing), and Peru (which has now ended following a Defra/SENASA agreement). These can be very limited (for example to one exporter) or more general.

Table 7: Number of controlled consignments, by commodity type, England and Wales, 2020 to 2024

Year	Plants for Planting	Cut flowers and flower buds	Foliage, branches and other parts of plants	Seed and tissue culture	Fruit and nuts	Vegetables	Other	Total
2020	3,173	18,933	141	576	73,055	48,559	1,674	146,111
2021(b)	92,151	31,028	360	1,876	58,139	61,032	1,816	246,402
2022(b)	101,099	87,125	1,398	2,202	97,789	186,048	3,652	479,313
2023(r)	129,996	88,066	8,178	2,253	126,867	232,303	6,111	593,774
2024	81,996	56,635	6,826	2,894	56,583	56,785	5,016	266,735
Value change 2020-2024	78,823	37,702	6,685	2,318	-16472	8,226	3,342	120,624
Percentage change 2020-2024	2,484	199	4,726	403	-22.5	17	200	83

1. Data are calendar year.

2. See glossary for information on commodity types.

b. 2021 - Following the UK's exit from the EU, GB specific legislation has been introduced and a phasing in of plant health controls is currently in progress. From January 2021 all regulated and notifiable high priority plants and plant products imported from the EU have been subject to plant health controls. Additionally, some commodities have been deregulated.

b. 2022 - From January 2022 notification of import has been required for some other regulated and notifiable plants and plant products imported from the EU. More information is provided in the Controlled Commodities section above.

r. 2023 - Commodity categories have been revised to reflect new IPAFFS commodity groups. A small number of products recorded in PEACH could potentially be mapped to more than one category, so these commodities have been proportionally assigned to categories based on 2023 IPAFFS data. This issue affects circa 13,200 consignments recorded in PEACH during 2023 and more information can be found in the accompanying Quality and Methodology report.

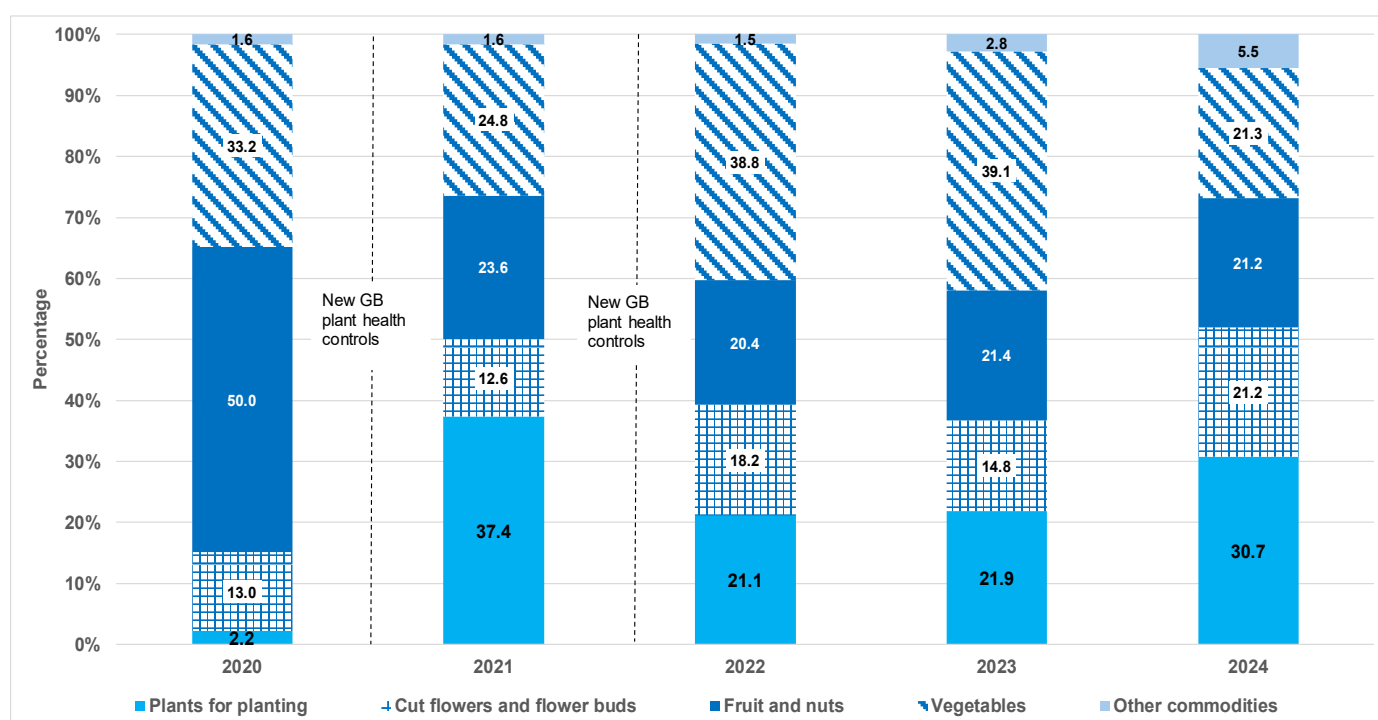
Source: Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate.

Table 7 shows the number of controlled consignments notified to PHSI, by commodity type.

- The majority of increases in notified consignments have followed key legislative changes; with changes relating to the UK exiting the EU and the phasing in of plant health controls having an impact from 2021.
- The highest level of imported consignments was seen in 2023 (593,774) however the number of consignments pre-notified decreased by 55% in 2024 (266,735). There are several factors which are or may be influencing the decrease in import consignments between 2023 and 2024:
 - The introduction of the fruit and vegetable easement in January 2024 means that importers do not need to notify PHSI of medium-risk fresh fruit and vegetable imports from the EU.
 - The impacts of recent deregulations (see bullet points above).

- Changes in the way goods are imported, for example, larger and fewer consignments to minimise costs or the cessation of imports following the introduction of controls.
- Stockpiling of imported commodities prior to the introduction of phased controls.
- Non-compliance with plant health regulations.
- As expected, due to the fruit and vegetable easement, the largest decreases in numbers of pre-notified consignments between 2023 and 2024 were vegetables (-76%) and fruit and nuts (-55%). Other commodity groups had decreases of between 17% and 37%.

Chart 3: Controlled consignments by commodity type, England and Wales, 2020 to 2024



Data are calendar year.

See glossary for information on commodity types.

Source: Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate

- In 2020 consignments of plant for planting represented only 2.2% of notified consignments but following EU exit imports of plants for planting from the EU were required to be pre-notified to PHSI resulting in these imports representing a much larger proportion of all notified consignments in the years since 2020.
- Since 2022 fruit and nuts have accounted for around one fifth of all pre-notified consignments.
- The proportion of notified consignments that were vegetables stood at around 39% in 2022 and 2023 but decreased to 21.3% in 2024. Although this may reflect the impact of the fruit and vegetable easement, the same picture was not seen for fruit reflecting that a large amount of fruit is imported from non-EU countries.

Table 8: Number of controlled consignments, by region of origin, England and Wales, 2020 to 2024

Year	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe ³	Oceania	Other ⁴	Total
2020	77,825	32,592	32,581	1,186	1,927	-	146,111
2021(b)	88,423	29,453	36,910	90,133	1,473	10	246,402
2022(b)	90,184	31,495	29,101	327,433	1,098	2	479,313
2023(r)	94,385	35,442	33,740	429,276	922	9	593,774
2024	80,577	34,617	25,936	124,468	990	147	266,735
Value change 2020-2024	2,752	2,025	-6645	123,282	-937	z	120,624
Percentage change 2020-2024	4	6	-20.4	10,395	-48.6	z	83

1. Data are calendar year.

2. Table uses UNSD geographies.

3. Prior to 2021, Europe only included non-EU countries.

4. Includes records where the origin is unknown, or the entry is ambiguous.

b. 2021 - Following the UK's exit from the EU, GB specific legislation has been introduced and a phasing in of plant health controls is currently in progress. From January 2021 all regulated and notifiable high priority plants and plant products imported from the EU have been subject to plant health controls. Additionally, some commodities have been deregulated.

b. 2022 From January 2022 notification of import has been required for some other regulated and notifiable plants and plant products imported from the EU. More information is provided in the Controlled Commodities section above.

r. 2023 data has been revised following improved reporting relating to IPAFFS commodity groups.

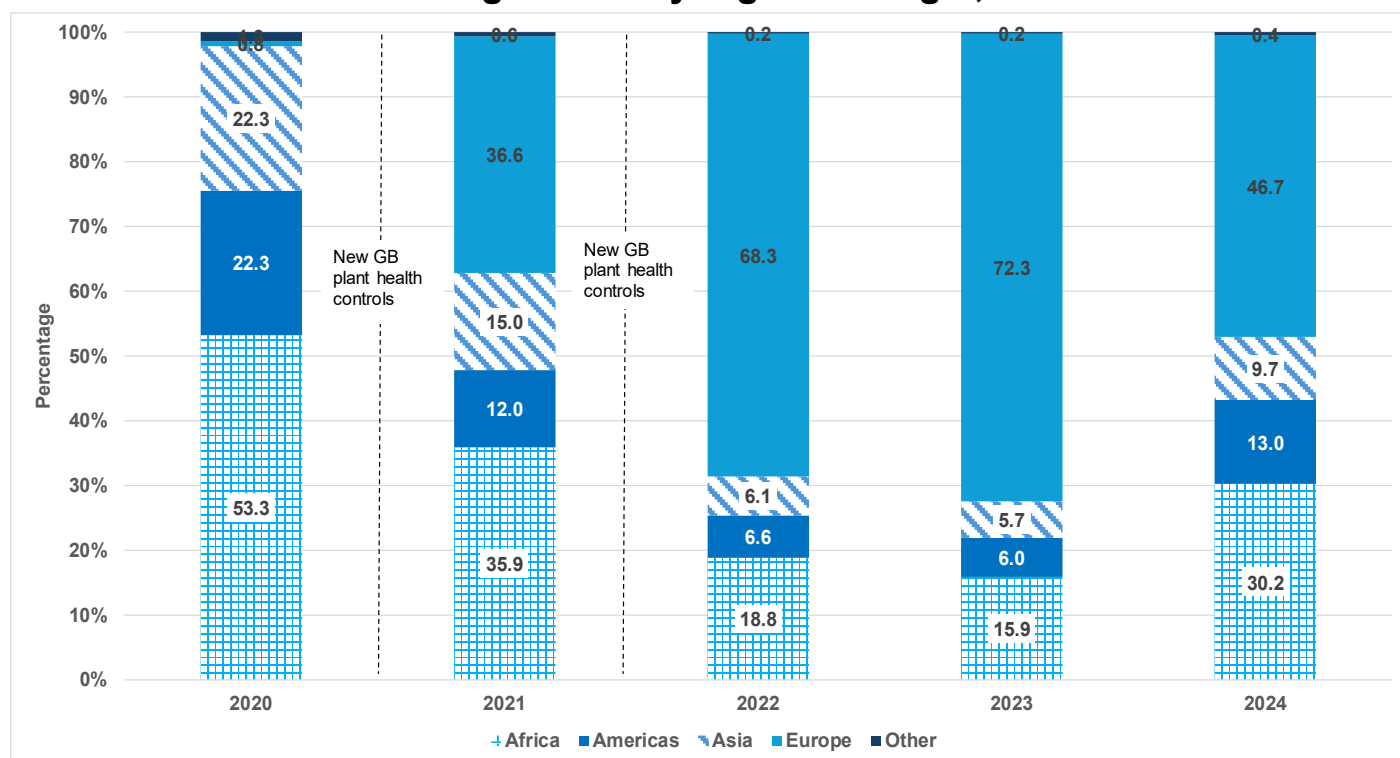
z indicates data are not applicable.

Source: Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate

Table 8 shows the number of controlled consignments notified to PHSI, by region of origin.

- The number of controlled consignments from Europe has significantly increased since 2021, with each stage of the Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) being implemented resulting in more European imports needing to be pre-notified. The largest increase was seen between 2021 and 2022 (237,300 more notified consignments). This has led to an unnaturally high percentage change in both European and total consignments which is more reflective of regulation change than of changes in trade.
- Between 2023 and 2024 the number of notified consignments from Europe decreased by 71%. The potential reasons for this decrease are outlined in the bullet points for Table 7.
- There was a continual decrease in consignments from Oceania between 2020 and 2023 however a small increase, of 68 consignments, was seen in 2024.
- Although consignments from Africa, Asia and the Americas showed a general trend of increases between 2020 and 2023 all of these regions had a decline in consignment numbers between 2023 and 2024.

Chart 4: Controlled consignments by region of origin, 2020 to 2024



1. Data are calendar year.

2. Chart uses UNSD geographies.

Source: Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate.

- Europe has proportionally had the largest share of imports since 2021 when the UK exited Europe and requirements to notify imported consignments were introduced.
- In 2024, the proportion of consignments from Europe decreased by 25.6 percentage points.
- The changes in proportions of consignments from non-EU countries are likely driven by the changes in EU consignments however Africa remains the second largest source of notified consignments in every year since 2021.

Forestry Commission

The Forestry Commission (FC) are responsible for inspections of timber, including sawn timber, wood shavings, wood chips, sawdust, controlled firewood¹² and prefabricated buildings made of wood being imported to England, Scotland and Wales. The Forestry Commission are also responsible for inspections of wood packaging¹³ however this trade is not covered by this release.

It is important to note that changes in the number of consignments may be influenced by changes in trade patterns as well as by legislative changes. Factors which can contribute to changes in trade patterns include climate events, changes in market demand, social unrest or change, pest outbreaks etc. Controls may be applied to any number of countries where there is a pest risk but additionally countries may apply self-prohibition if they are aware of a pest issue in their country.

¹² [Guidance on importing firewood](#)

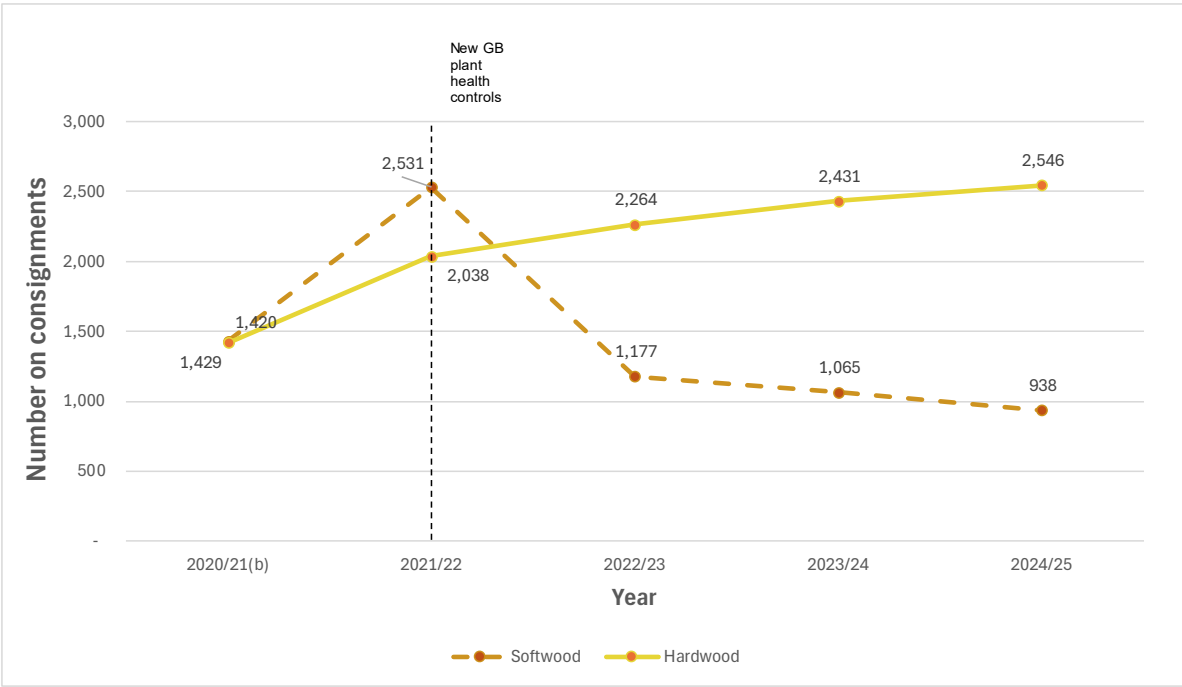
¹³ [Guidance on importing or exporting wood packaging material](#)

The war in Ukraine had a major impact on bulk imports of sawn conifer timber from Russia. In the last few months of the 2021/22 financial year these imports were replaced by uncontrolled imports from the EU however in 2022/23 substitution for Russian sawn timber was less of an issue.

An additional group of commodities are included in the data from 2021/22 onwards. These are wood shavings, wood chips, sawdust and 'other' (mainly oak barrel imports) and the measurement unit is kilograms rather than cubic metres. These data have not been included in the charts below but are included in the tables.

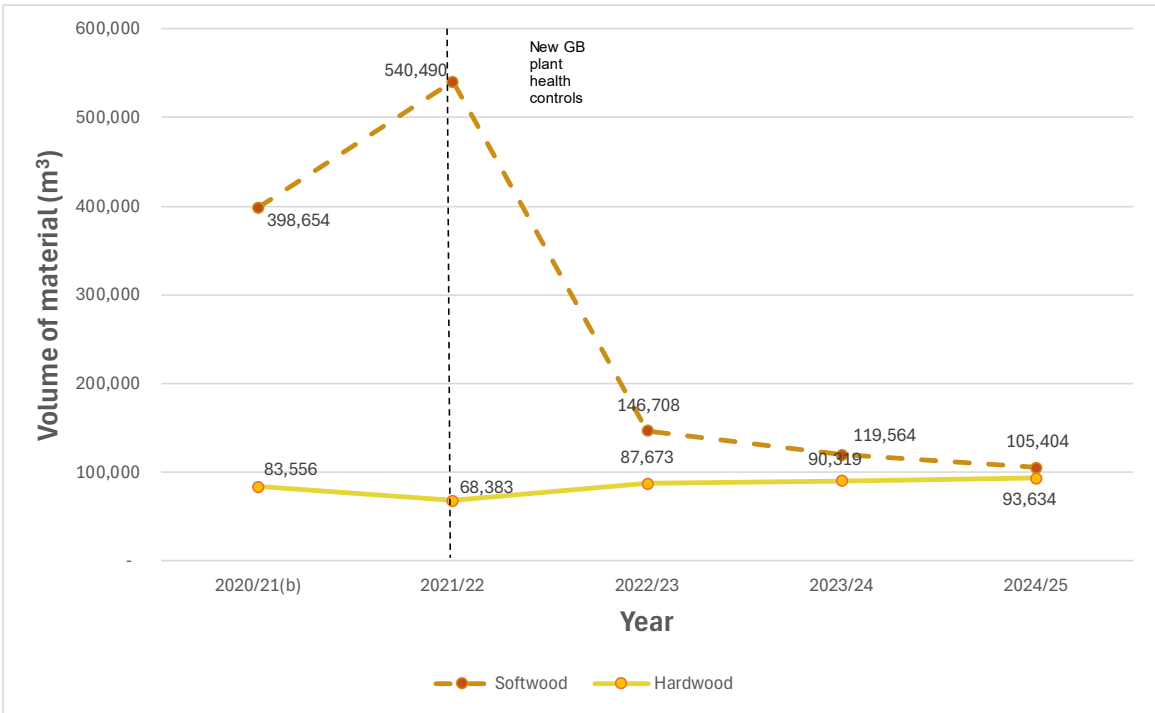
Chart 5a and 5b: Number of controlled consignments by timber type, 2020/21 to 2024/25.

5a Number of consignments



Please note that chart 5b only contains volumes of commodities recorded in cubic metres. From 2021/22, import data also contained entries of new commodities which are recorded in kilograms. These new commodities' masses are included in the tables below but will not be considered for inclusion in chart 5b until a full set of datapoints are available.

5b. Volume of material



Data are financial year.

Source: Forestry Commission

- While the number of hardwood consignments increased year on year, from 1,429 consignments in 2021/22 to 2,546 consignments in 2024/25, softwood consignments peaked in 2021/22 at 2,531 consignments, and then more than halved in the following year (1,177 consignments) before continuing to decrease, reaching a low of 938 consignments in 2024/25.
- Despite the number of hardwood consignments in 2024/25 being almost three times higher than the number of softwood consignments, the volume of softwood consignments (105,404 m³) remained higher than the volume of hardwood consignments (93,634 m³). However, in this year, the volume was the closest it had been over the five-year period with a difference of only 11,770 m³.
- The total number of consignments (softwood and hardwood combined) was highest in 2021/22, as requirements to pre-notify EU imports were introduced, standing at 4,569 consignments. Imports remained stable between 2022/23 and 2024/25 (between 3,441 and 3,496 consignments).

Table 9: Controlled consignments of softwood, by region of origin, 2020/21 to 2024/25¹

	Year ²					Value change 2020/21-2024/25	Percentage change 2020/21-2024/25
	2020/21(b)	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25		
Number of consignments							
Africa	4	7	26	c	14	10	250
Asia	13	4	c	9	10	-3	-23
Oceania	27	27	35	78	37	10	37.0
Central and South America	28	39	44	29	20	-8	-28.6
North America	815	1,043	541	509	529	-286	-35.1
Europe ³	542	1,411	531	440	328	-214	-39.5
Total	1,429	2,531	1,177	1,065	938	-491	-34.4
Volume of notified product (m ³)							
Africa	159	341	1,410	c	150	-9	-6
Asia	986	241	c	13,455	357	-629	-64
Oceania	1,266	1,156	1,697	2,994	1,392	126	10.0
Central and South America	2,634	3,216	3,900	1,616	1,933	-701	-26.6
North America	42,484	64,637	28,962	25,397	25,823	-16,661	-39.2
Europe ³	351,125	470,899	110,739	76,102	75,749	-275,376	-78.4
Total	398,654	540,490	146,708	119,564	105,404	-293,250	-73.6
Mass of notified product (kg)							
Africa	x	c	82,980	0	329,898	z	z
North America/Europe	x	1,617,932	5,748,830	8,221,486	5,664,145	z	z
Asia/Oceania/Central and South America	x	x	x	9,525	97	z	z
Total	x	1,617,932	5,831,810	8,231,011	5,994,140	z	z

1. Table uses UNSD geographies.

Data are financial year.

Prior to 2021, Europe only included non-EU countries.

b. 2020/21 -Following the UKs exit from the EU, GB specific legislation has been introduced and there has been a phasing in of plant health controls. From January 2021 all regulated and notifiable high priority plants and plant products imported from the EU have been subject to plant health controls. Additionally, some commodities have been deregulated.

x indicates data are not available.

z indicates data are not applicable.

c indicates data are confidential and have been suppressed.

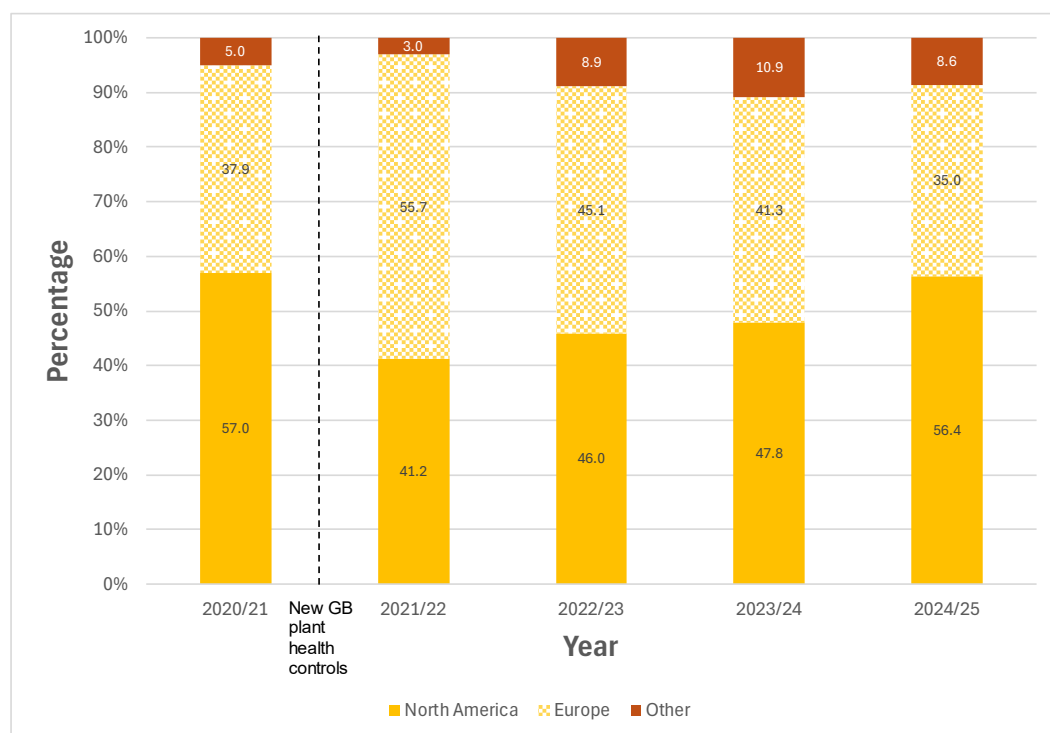
Source: Forestry Commission

Table 9 shows the number of controlled consignments of softwood and the associated volume of material notified to FC, by region of origin.

- Only Africa and Oceania saw an increase in the number of consignments from 2020/21 to 2024/25, and only Oceania saw an increase in the volume. Both the number and volume of consignments from Oceania peaked in 2023/24 but then more than halved in 2024/25.
- Over half the pre-notified consignments in 2024/25 were from North America (56.4%), which was an increase from 2023/24 (47.8%), but a slight decrease from 2020/21 (57%).
- Europe had the largest decreases of any region in both number and volume of consignments, -39.5% in consignments and -78.4% in volume when comparing 2020/21 to 2024/25.
- While the change in mass of notified product couldn't be calculated, the total mass in 2024/25 returned to a similar level as 2022/23, after a peak of 8,231,011kg in 2023/24. This change was mainly driven by a decrease in the mass of notified product from North America and Europe.

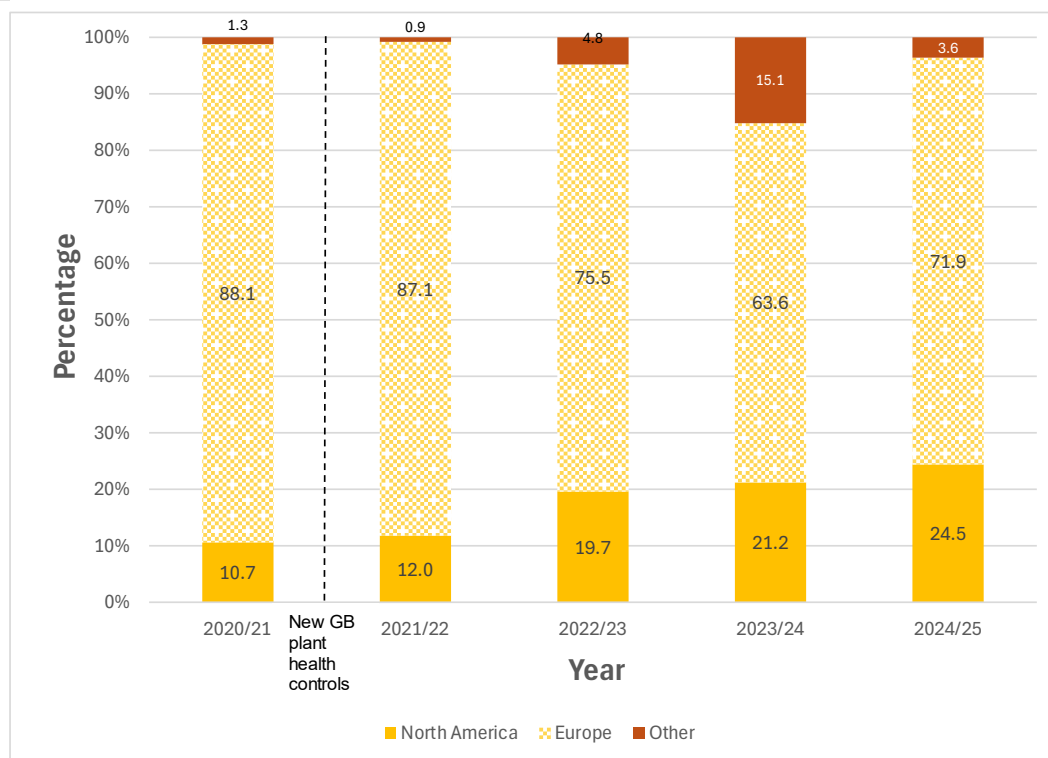
Chart 6a and 6b: Softwood consignments and volume, by region of origin, 2020/21 to 2024/25.

6a. Softwood consignments



Please note that chart 6b only contains volumes of commodities recorded in cubic metres. From 2021/22 import data also contained entries of new commodities which are recorded in kilograms. These new commodities' masses are included in the tables below but not in charts as only two data points are available.

6b. Softwood volume



Data are financial year.

Chart uses [UNSD geographies](#).

Prior to 2021, Europe only included non-EU countries.

Source: Forestry Commission

- The proportion of softwood consignments imported from Europe was at its lowest in 2024/25, accounting for 35% of all softwood consignments compared to 55.7% in 2021/22.
- Despite North America accounting for the most consignments in four out of the five years since 2020/21, Europe accounted for the most volume of notified product in all five years.
- Between 2023/24 and 2024/25, the “Other” region decreased by 2.3 percentage points for the number of consignments (from 10.9% to 8.6%) and 11.5 percentage points for softwood volume (from 15.1% to 3.6%). This was driven by a peak in the volume of Asian consignments in 2023/24.

Table 10: Controlled consignments of hardwood, by region of origin, England, Scotland and Wales, 2020/21 to 2024/25¹

	Year ²					Value change 2020/21-2024/25	Percentage change 2020/21-2024/25
	2020/21(b)	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25		
Number of consignments							
North America	1,411	1,822	1,461	1,408	1,452	41	2.9
Europe/Asia ³	9	216	803	1,023	1,094	1,085	12,055.6
Total	1,420	2,038	2,264	2,431	2,546	1,126	79.3
Volume of notified product (m³)							
North America	83,113	58,670	50,520	47,252	49,339	-33,774	-40.6
Europe/Asia ³	443	9,713	37,153	43,067	44,295	43,852	9,898.9
Total	83,556	68,383	87,673	90,319	93,634	10,078	12.1
Mass of notified product (kg)							
North America	x	30,973	41,584	41,669	221,820	z	z
Europe ³	x	0	15,206	236,320	172,364	z	z
Total	x	30,973	56,790	277,989	394,184	z	z

1. Table uses [UNSD geographies](#).

2. Data are financial year.

3. Prior to 2021, Europe only included non-EU countries.

b. 2020/21 - Following the UK's exit from the EU, GB specific legislation has been introduced and there has been a phasing in of plant health controls. From January 2021 all regulated and notifiable high priority plants and plant products imported from the EU have been subject to plant health controls. Additionally, some commodities have been deregulated.

x indicates data are not available.

z indicates data are not applicable.

Source: Forestry Commission

Table 10 shows the number of controlled consignments of hardwood and the volume of material, notified to FC, by region of origin.

- There has been a yearly increase in the total number of hardwood consignments since 2020/21. This increase was driven by increased consignment numbers from Europe and Asia whilst consignments from North America remained fairly stable across the time period.
- The volume of notified timber from North America was the only trade flow to show a decrease over the time period (from 83,113 m³ in 2020/21 to 49,339 m³). In contrast the mass of notified product from North America increased yearly from 2021/22.
- While hardwood from Europe made up a large percentage of the total mass of notified product in 2023/24 (85%), it was only 43% of total mass in 2024/25, due to both an increase in mass of notified product from North America and a decrease in mass from Europe.
- Both the number and volume of hardwood consignments from Asia and Europe increased year on year for the last five years. Europe/Asia made up 43% of all hardwood consignments and 47.3% of volume in 2024/25, having only accounted for 10.6% of consignments and 14.2% of volume in 2021/22.

Table 11: Controlled consignments of oak and ash timber, England, Scotland, and Wales, 2020/21 to 2024/25

	Year ²					Value change 2020/21-2024/25	Percentage change 2020/21-2024/25
	2020/21(b)	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25		
Number of consignments							
Ash	131	302	736	870	918	787	600.8
Oak	1,003	1,246	963	875	895	-108	-10.8
Total	1,134	1,548	1,699	1,745	1,813	679	59.9
Volume of notified product (m ³)							
Ash	4,589	12,405	34,921	39,433	39,337	34,748	757.2
Oak	68,310	38,087	31,543	27,851	29,021	-39,289	-57.5
Total	72,899	50,492	66,464	67,284	68,358	-4,541	-6.2
Mass of notified product (kg)							
Ash	x	0	0	0	31	z	z
Oak	x	5,663	c	c	c	z	z
Total	x	5,663	c	c	c	z	z

Data are financial year.

b. 2020/21 - Following the UK's exit from the EU, GB specific legislation has been introduced and there has been a phasing in of plant health controls. From January 2021 all regulated and notifiable high priority plants and plant products imported from the EU have been subject to plant health controls. Additionally, some commodities have been deregulated.

x indicates data are not available.

z indicates data are not applicable.

c indicates data are confidential and have been suppressed.

Source: Forestry Commission

Ash from all third countries became controlled in 2021, prior to this, ash originating in Canada, China, Japan, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, Russia, Taiwan, Europe, and the USA was controlled. Oak originating in Canada, China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia, Taiwan, Turkey, USA and Vietnam is controlled.

- The number of controlled consignments of ash and oak timber showed a 59.9% increase from 2020/21 to 2024/25. Throughout the time period the number of ash consignments increased whilst the number of oak consignments decreased and 2024/25 was the first year with more consignments of ash than oak.
- The volume of ash also increased from 2020/21 to 2023/24, from 4,589 m³ to 39,433 m³ and remained stable in 2024/25. The volume of oak showed the reverse pattern, decreasing from 1,003 m³ in 2020/21 to 875 m³ in 2023/24 but remaining fairly stable in 2024/25.
- Oak and ash timber accounted for a similar proportion of the number and volume of total hardwood timber in 2024/25 (71.2% and 73% respectively). This was a small decrease from 76% of the number of consignments and 73.8% of the volume of total hardwood timber in 2021/22.

Glossary¹⁴

Commodity: A type of plant, plant product, or other article being moved for trade or other purpose [FAO, 1990; revised ICPM, 2001]

Consignment: A quantity of plants, plant products or other articles being moved from one country to another and covered, when required, by a single phytosanitary certificate (a consignment may be composed of one or more commodities or lots) [FAO, 1990; revised ICPM, 2001]. For PHSI data a consignment is a commodity type declared on a phytosanitary certificate. Some phytosanitary certificates will cover more than one commodity type and so the number of consignments declared will be more than the number of phytosanitary certificates.

Controlled plant products: Plants and plant commodities which are required to undergo checks for pest and disease on crossing a customs border. For countries within the European Union (EU) this means upon entry to the EU, and this applied to GB trade until the UK exited the EU on 31 December 2020.

Country of origin: Country where the plants were grown [FAO, 1990; revised CEPM, 1996; CEPM, 1999]

Customs declaration: An official document that lists and gives details of goods that are being imported or exported. In legal terms, a customs declaration is the act whereby a person indicates the wish to place goods under a given customs procedure. This legal procedure is described in the Union Customs Code (UCC) (Articles 5 (12) and 158 to 187)¹⁵.

Cut flowers and flower buds: Cut flowers used for bouquets and decorative purposes.

¹⁴ Some definitions are taken from [ISPM 5 Glossary of phytosanitary terms](#)

¹⁵ [Union Customs Code](#)

Exports (HMRC trade data): The country of destination as declared at the time of export. However, where goods can be traded while in transit (e.g., grain and crude oil), this may not necessarily be the final destination of the goods.

Foliage, branches and other parts of plants: Branches, leaves and other parts of plants used mainly for decorative purposes.

Food and crops: Commodities traded for the primary purpose of human consumption.

Forestry: Timber and wood commodities but not live trees.

Fruit and nuts: The sweet and fleshy product of a tree or other plant that contains seed and can be eaten as food or a fruit consisting of a hard or tough shell around an edible kernel.

Hardwood: Timber from broadleaved trees.

Imports (HMRC trade data): The country from which the goods were originally dispatched to the UK without any commercial transaction in any intermediate country (either with or without breaking bulk in the course of transport). This is not necessarily the country of origin, manufacture, or the last country from which the goods were shipped to the UK.

Inspection: Official visual examination of plants, plant products or other regulated articles to determine if pests are present or to determine compliance with phytosanitary regulations [FAO, 1990; revised FAO, 1995; formerly “inspect”].

Non-EU European countries: Countries outside of the European Union but geographically part of Europe¹⁶.

‘Other’ commodities: Grain, other vegetable products (such as herbs), machinery and vehicles which have been operated for agricultural or forestry purposes.

Phytosanitary certificate: An official paper document or its official electronic equivalent, consistent with the model certificates of the IPPC, attesting that a consignment meets phytosanitary import requirements [FAO, 1990; revised CPM, 2012]

Plants and plant commodities: Goods including plants, trees, bulbs, seeds, fruit, vegetables, and timber. Commodities are included if they are (1) raw plant products or (2) simply processed, i.e., processed in a manner that would not, in theory, remove the pest and disease risk.

Plants for planting: Live or dormant plants, bulbs or tubers of plants and trees.

Seed and tissue culture: Seeds for sowing and plant tissue for propagation.

Simple processing: Simple processing can include peeling, grinding, chopping, and debarking but excludes cooking, fermenting and preservation in liquid. For further information please see

¹⁶ [List of non-EU countries](#)

International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures; ISPM No. 32; Categorisation of commodities according to their pest risk (2009)¹⁷.

Softwood: Timber from coniferous trees.

Vegetable: A plant or part of a plant used as food, such as a cabbage, potato, turnip, or bean.

¹⁷ [International standards for phytosanitary measures. ISPM No. 32](#)