Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Animal & Plant Health Agency

Forestry Commission

Plant Health – international trade and controlled consignments, 2021-2025

These statistics present an analysis of international trade in plants and plant commodities[1] (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 2021 to 2025 (Forestry Commission data cover 2021/22-2025/26). Geographical coverage is specified at the start of each section.

Key findings



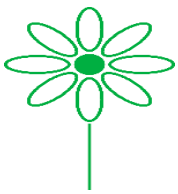
In 2025, the value of trade in plants and plant commodities stood at £20.4bn with an associated net mass of 23,832 thousand tonnes. This was an increase of 29.3% in value and 10.8% in net mass since 2021.



Although both export value and net mass increased from 2021 to 2025, the percentage increase was higher for import value and net mass. Across all five years, exports accounted for a higher percentage of overall trade net mass than trade value. For example, 7.7% of all trade value in 2025 was exports, compared to 12.6% of all net mass.



In 2025, trade with the EU accounted for 56% of the total trade value in plants and plant commodities, and 62% of overall net mass.



There were 355,324 consignments notified to the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI) in 2025, an increase from 274,158 in 2024, but lower than the number of notifications in 2023 and 2022. These changes were driven by the phasing in of plant health controls and easements on imports from the EU.



In 2025/26, just over 3,400 consignments of controlled material were notified to the Forestry Commission. Consignments of softwood decreased by 61.3% over the time period whilst consignments of hardwood increased by 19.2%.

[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 wellbeing[2].

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 disease[3]. Plant health legislation[4] 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.

[2] NHS Forest Evidence
[3] Plant biosecurity strategy for Great Britain (2023 to 2028)
[4] Plant Health legislation for forestry and Plant Health Legislation

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, Scotland[5].

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.

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

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

In 2025, UK government and the European Union (EU) agreed to pursue a new Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement: UK-EU SPS Agreement. Negotiations are ongoing but will impact the movement of plants and plant products. The current timeline is for the agreement to take effect in mid-2027: Food production, plants, animals and associated sectors: preparing your business.

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 threshold[6].

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.

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

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.

Table 1: Value of trade in plants and plant commodities, 2021 to 2025, £ million

	2021	2022(b)	2023	2024(r)	2025(p)	Value change 2021-2025	Percentage change 2021-2025
Imports							
Plants and planting material	1,164	1,643	1,562	1,576	1,674	509	43.8
Food and crops	10,194	12,094	12,147	13,326	14,317	4,123	40.5
Forestry	3,152	3,245	2,604	2,712	2,868	-284	-9.0
Total	14,510	16,982	16,313	17,614	18,859	4,349	30.0
Exports							
Plants and planting material	72	64	74	66	79	7	9.7
Food and crops	869	1,372	1,308	1,003	1,043	174	20.0
Forestry	348	392	379	386	448	100	28.7
Total	1,289	1,829	1,761	1,455	1,570	281	21.8
All trade							
Plants and planting material	1,236	1,708	1,635	1,641	1,753	516	41.8
Food and crops	11,063	13,467	13,456	14,329	15,360	4,297	38.8
Forestry	3,500	3,637	2,983	3,098	3,316	-184	-5.2
Total	15,799	18,811	18,074	19,068	20,429	4,630	29.3

Notes:
1. Data are calendar year.
2. More information on sectors can be found in the glossary at the end of this document.
3. (b) indicates a break in the time series relating to changes in the recording of imports from 2022.
4. (r) indicates revised data.
5. (p) indicates provisional data.
6. 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 2021 and 2025.

- Overall, the value of trade increased by 29.3% (£4.6 billion) between 2021 and 2025.
- Total import and export values both increased over the five-year period. The percentage increase in imports was higher (30.0%) than exports (21.8%) which increased the total share of trade that was imports from 91.8% to 92.3%.
- Since 2023, imports have seen a steady increase in value (£2.5bn), whereas the picture for exports is more variable however both exports of plants and planting material and forestry were at the highest value of the time period in 2025.
- Imports of plants and planting material increased in value by 43.8% between 2021 and 2025, however, most of this increase was between 2021 and 2022 and values have remained fairly stable since.
- After three years of relatively stable export value, forestry saw a large increase in export value between 2024 and 2025 (an increase of 16.1%). However, due to a decrease in import value, trade in forestry decreased by 5.2% overall.

Table 2: Net mass of trade in plants and plant commodities, 2021 to 2025, '000 tonnes

	2021	2022(b)	2023	2024(r)	2025(p)	Value change 2021-2025	Percentage change 2021-2025
Imports							
Plants and planting material	356	488	454	453	483	127	35.8
Food and crops	13,166	13,365	12,971	15,820	15,699	2,533	19.2
Forestry	5,121	4,595	4,297	5,019	4,653	-468	-9.1
Total	18,643	18,448	17,723	21,291	20,835	2,192	11.8
Exports							
Plants and planting material	25	22	21	19	17	-7	-29.0
Food and crops	1,960	3,134	3,280	1,739	1,953	-7	-0.3
Forestry	873	1,074	1,181	1,103	1,026	153	17.5
Total	2,858	4,231	4,483	2,860	2,997	139	4.9
All trade							
Plants and planting material	380	510	476	471	501	120	31.6
Food and crops	15,126	16,499	16,251	17,559	17,652	2,527	16.7
Forestry	5,994	5,669	5,478	6,121	5,679	-315	-5.3
Total	21,501	22,678	22,205	24,151	23,832	2,331	10.8

Notes:
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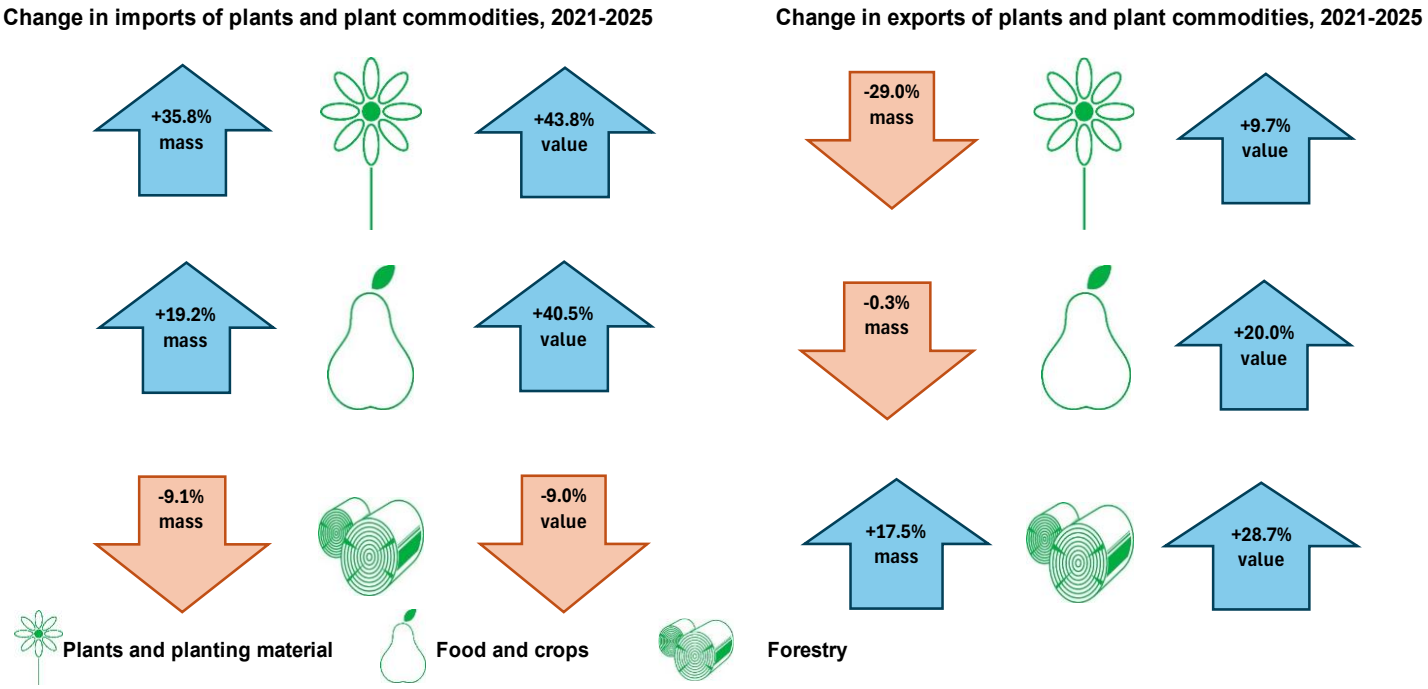
Source: Overseas Trade Data, HMRC

Table 2 shows the total net mass of trade in plants and plant commodities, by sector, between 2021 and 2025.

- There was an increase of 2.3 million tonnes of trade net mass between 2021 and 2025. This was a percentage increase of 10.8%, which was 18.5 percentage points less than the increase in value (Table 1) over the same time period.
- Each sector saw either an increase in import net mass, or an increase in export net mass but not both.
- The export net mass of plants and planting material saw a year-on-year decrease, in contrast to its export value (Table 1) which varied across the time period. In 2025 the value of plants and planting material exports was at its highest whilst the associated net mass was at its lowest level.

- While the net mass of food and crop imports increased over the five-year period, and export net mass slightly decreased, between 2024 and 2025 the import net mass decreased by 0.8% and the export net mass increased by 12.3%.
- Although the total value of trade increased by 7.1% between 2024 and 2025 (Table 1), the total net mass decreased by 1.3%.

Figure 1: Changes in international trade of plants and plant commodities, 2021 to 2025



Source: Overseas Trade Data, HMRC

Table 3: Value of UK and EU trade in plants and plant commodities, 2021 to 2025, £ million

	2021	2022(b)	2023	2024(r)	2025(p)	Value change 2021-2025	Percentage change 2021-2025
EU Imports							
Plants and planting material	884	1,334	1,265	1,254	1,330	446	50.5
Food and crops	4,453	5,650	5,918	6,418	6,420	1,967	44.2
Forestry	2,579	2,764	2,186	2,232	2,427	-152	-5.9
Total	7,916	9,747	9,368	9,903	10,177	2,261	28.6
EU Exports							
Plants and planting material	54	46	56	43	47	-6	-11.9
Food and crops	666	1,131	1,083	772	817	151	22.7
Forestry	311	344	326	330	382	71	23.0
Total	1,030	1,521	1,465	1,145	1,247	216	21.0
All EU trade							
Plants and planting material	937	1,380	1,320	1,296	1,377	440	47.0
Food and crops	5,119	6,781	7,001	7,190	7,237	2,118	41.4
Forestry	2,890	3,108	2,511	2,562	2,809	-81	-2.8
Total	8,946	11,268	10,833	11,048	11,424	2,477	27.7

Notes:
1. Data are calendar year.
2. More information on sectors can be found in the glossary at the end of this document.
3. (b) indicates a break in the time series relating to changes in the recording of imports from 2022.
4. (r) indicates revised data.
5. (p) indicates provisional data.
6. 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 2021 and 2025, by sector.

- Over the five years, the value of UK-EU trade increased by 27.7%. This was 1.6 percentage points less than the value increase of all trade (Table 1), but still a large increase of £2.4 billion.
- Import value accounted for 89.1% of the total UK-EU trade value compared to 88.5% in 2021.
- The value of UK-EU trade in forestry commodities decreased by 2.8% over the time period, driven by a 5.9% decrease in the value of imports which was not offset by a 23.0% increase in the value of exports.
- All sectors saw an increase in both the import and export value of UK-EU trade between 2024 and 2025. The largest percentage increase between 2024 to 2025 was the value of forestry exports to the EU (15.6%).
- The value of imports of plants and planting material from the EU increased by over half (50.5%) but the value of exports decreased by 11.9%, despite increases in both since 2024.

Table 4: Net mass of UK and EU trade in plants and plant commodities, 2021 to 2025, '000 tonnes

	2021	2022(b)	2023	2024(r)	2025(p)	Value change 2021-2025	Percentage change 2021-2025
EU Imports							
Plants and planting material	287	418	384	383	412	125	43.6
Food and crops	5,888	6,335	6,277	8,347	7,316	1,427	24.2
Forestry	4,415	4,247	3,993	4,689	4,334	-81	-1.8
Total	10,590	10,999	10,654	13,419	12,062	1,471	13.9
EU Exports							
Plants and planting material	21	20	19	16	14	-7	-32.4
Food and crops	1,631	2,777	2,959	1,499	1,670	40	2.4
Forestry	808	1,017	1,127	1,013	935	127	15.7
Total	2,460	3,813	4,106	2,527	2,620	160	6.5
All EU trade							
Plants and planting material	308	438	403	399	426	118	38.4
Food and crops	7,519	9,112	9,236	9,846	8,986	1,467	19.5
Forestry	5,224	5,263	5,120	5,701	5,269	46	0.9
Total	13,050	14,813	14,760	15,946	14,682	1,631	12.5

Notes:
1. Data are calendar year.
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4. (r) indicates revised data.
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6. Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: Overseas Trade Data, HMRC

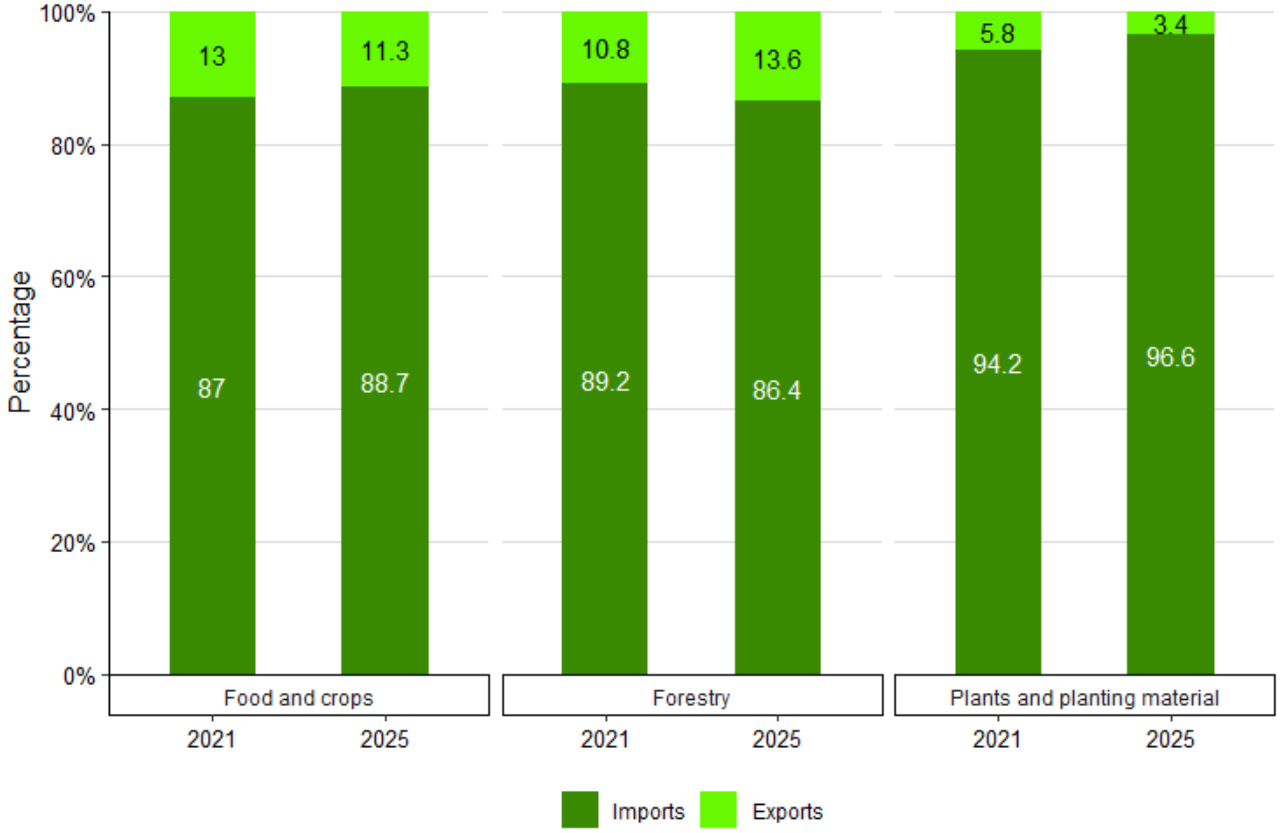
Table 4 shows the net mass of commodities that were imported into the UK from the EU and commodities exported from the UK to the EU between 2021 and 2025, by sector.

- There was a 12.5% increase in the net mass of UK-EU trade. This was 1.7 percentage points higher than the increase in overall trade net mass (10.8%, Table 2).
- The percentage decrease in forestry imports from the EU was smaller for net mass than for value (1.8% compared to 5.9% decrease in value, Table 3). In contrast, the percentage decrease in plants and planting material exports was larger for net mass than for value (32.4% compared to 11.9% decrease in value).
- The net mass of all UK-EU trade in forestry commodities increased by 45,000 tonnes overall, but between 2024 and 2025 there was a decrease of over 430,000 tonnes.

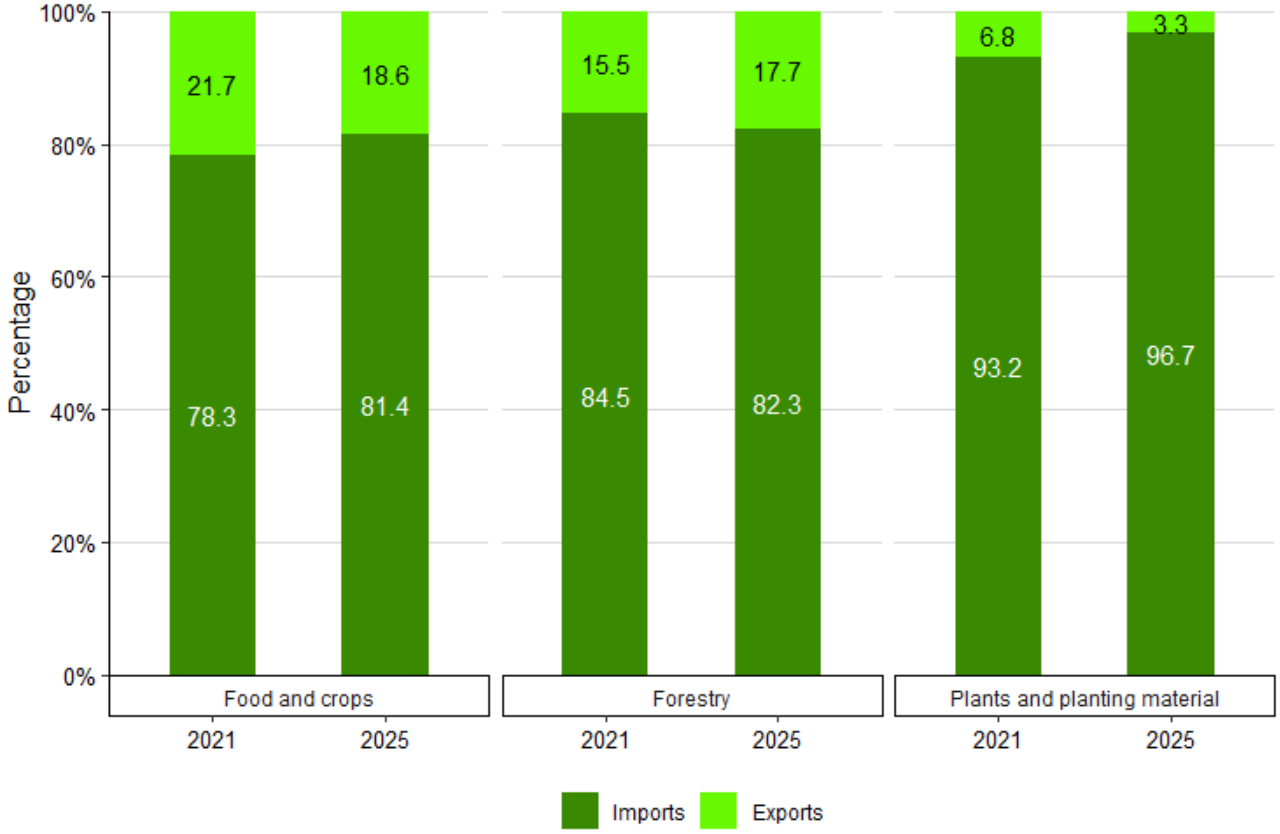
- Both the total net mass and the import of plants and planting material were higher than for other sectors (38.3% and 43.6% respectively) however this remains the smallest sector and exports saw a year-on-year decline in net mass.

Chart 1a and 1b: Distribution of UK and EU trade in plants and plant commodities, 2021 to 2025.

1a. Value



1b. Net mass



Data are calendar year.
(p) indicates data are provisional.
There was a break in the recording of imports in 2022 meaning figures are not directly comparable.
Source: Overseas Trade Data, HMRC

- Comparing 2021 to 2025, the share of both the value and net mass of forestry commodities that was exports increased by 2.8 percentage points for value and 2.2 percentage points for net mass.

- The largest percentage point change was for the net mass of trade in plants and planting material, where the share of import net mass increased by 3.5 percentage points. In 2025, the distribution of import value and net mass for this sector were almost identical, with imports accounting for 96.6% of the value of UK-EU trade (Chart 1a).

- The percentage share of imports for UK-EU trade of food and crops was considerably lower for net mass than value, accounting for 88.7% of value (Chart 1a) in 2025 but only 81.4% of net mass. However, there was a larger disparity between value and net mass in 2021 (imports accounting for 87.0% and 78.3% respectively).

Table 5: Value of UK and non-EU trade in plants and plant commodities, 2021 to 2025, £ million

	2021	2022	2023	2024(r)	2025(p)	Value change 2021-2025	Percentage change 2021-2025
Non-EU Imports							
Plants and planting material	281	309	297	322	344	63	22.4
Food and crops	5,741	6,445	6,230	6,909	7,897	2,156	37.6
Forestry	573	481	418	480	441	-131	-23.0
Total	6,594	7,235	6,945	7,710	8,682	2,088	31.7
Non-EU Exports							
Plants and planting material	18	18	18	23	32	13	73.1
Food and crops	203	241	225	231	225	23	11.1
Forestry	38	48	53	56	66	29	76.7
Total	259	308	297	310	323	65	25.0
All Non-EU trade							
Plants and planting material	299	328	315	345	375	76	25.5
Food and crops	5,944	6,686	6,455	7,140	8,122	2,179	36.6
Forestry	610	529	471	535	508	-103	-16.8
Total	6,853	7,543	7,241	8,020	9,005	2,152	31.4

Notes:
1. Data are calendar year.
2. More information on sectors can be found in the glossary at the end of this document.
3. (r) indicates revised data.
4. (p) indicates provisional data.
5. 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 2021 and 2025, by sector.

- Although exports of forestry commodities to non-EU countries had the highest percentage increase in value (76.7%), overall non-EU trade for the forestry sector dropped by 16.8% due to decreases in imports from non-EU countries since 2021. While forestry exports increased year-on-year, imports showed more variability.
- The value of trade in plants and planting material with non-EU countries increased by £30 million between 2023 and 2024 and by the same value again between 2024 and 2025.
- The increase in total non-EU trade value (31.4%) was 3.7 percentage points higher than the increase in total EU trade value (27.7%, Table 3).
- In 2025, exports made up 3.6% of trade value with non-EU countries, whereas they made up 10.9% of trade value with EU countries (Table 3).

- Trade with non-EU countries was 44.1% of total trade value in 2025 (Table 1), compared to 42.1% in 2024. Of the £1.36 billion increase in total trade value (Table 1) between 2024 and 2025, almost £1 billion (72.4%) of this was from increases in non-EU trade.

Table 6: Net mass of UK and non-EU trade in plants and plant commodities, 2021 to 2025, '000 tonnes

	2021	2022	2023	2024(r)	2025(p)	Value change 2021-2025	Percentage change 2021-2025
Non-EU Imports							
Plants and planting material	69	70	70	70	72	2	3.3
Food and crops	7,278	7,030	6,694	7,473	8,383	1,106	15.2
Forestry	706	348	304	330	319	-387	-54.9
Total	8,053	7,448	7,069	7,873	8,774	721	8.9
Non-EU Exports							
Plants and planting material	3	2	2	3	3	0	-5.6
Food and crops	329	357	321	240	283	-46	-14.1
Forestry	65	57	54	90	91	26	39.9
Total	397	417	377	333	377	-21	-5.2
All Non-EU trade							
Plants and planting material	72	72	72	72	75	2	2.9
Food and crops	7,607	7,387	7,015	7,713	8,666	1,059	13.9
Forestry	771	406	358	420	410	-361	-46.9
Total	8,450	7,866	7,446	8,205	9,150	700	8.3

Notes:
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5. Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding.

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 2021 and 2025, by sector.

- Overall, the net mass of trade with non-EU countries increased by 8.3% from 2021 to 2025, despite a large decrease in the net mass of forestry (46.9%).

- The net mass of non-EU forestry imports more than halved over the five-year period, while the value only decreased by 23.0% (Table 5). After a large drop between 2021 and 2022, the net mass of forestry imports remained relatively stable for the remainder of the time period.

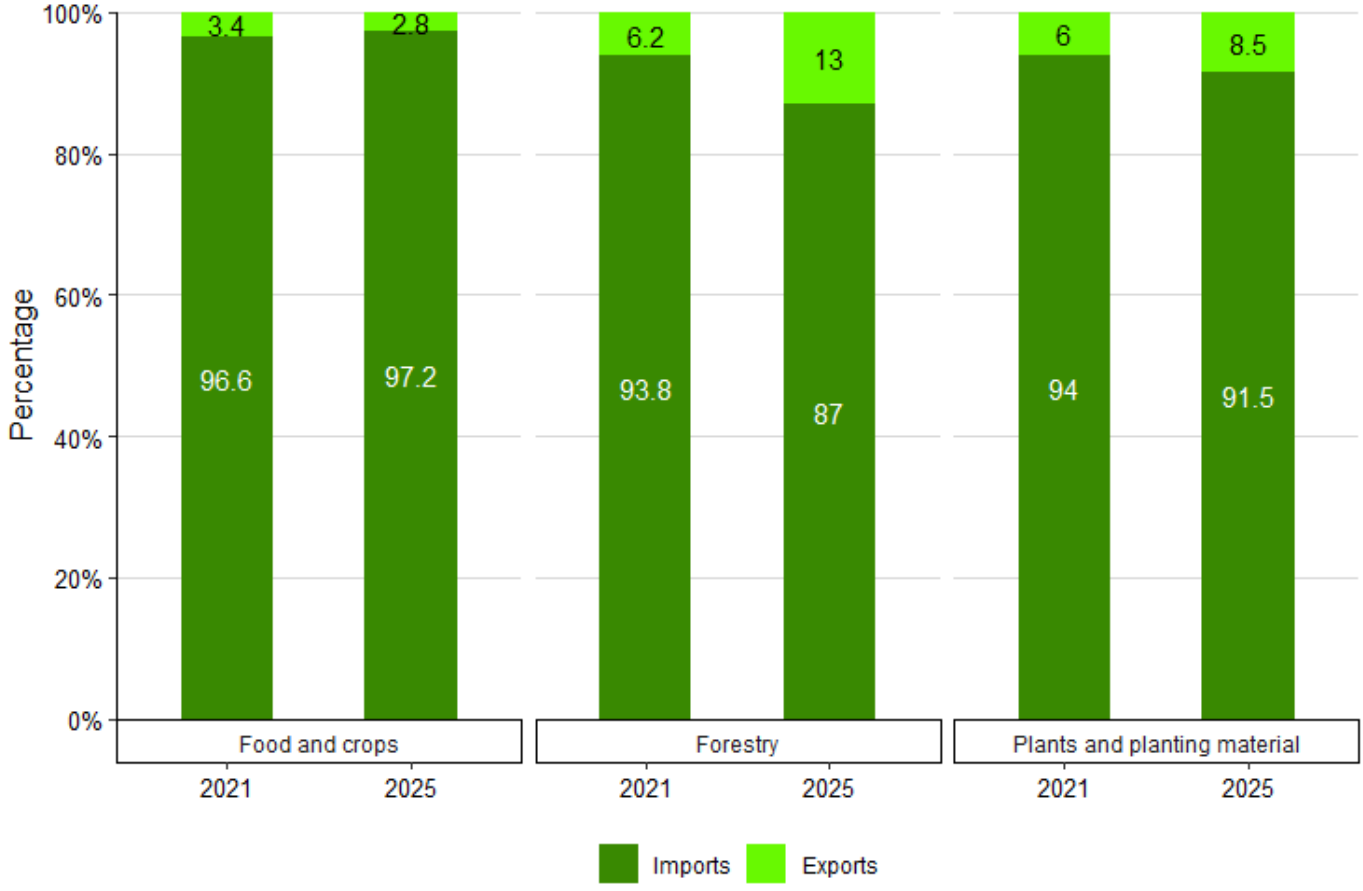
- The total net mass of non-EU exports was the only total across all trade flow totals (Tables 1 to 5) where there was a decrease between 2021 and 2025. Export net

mass decreased by 5.2%, driven by the decrease in food and crops export net mass to non-EU countries.

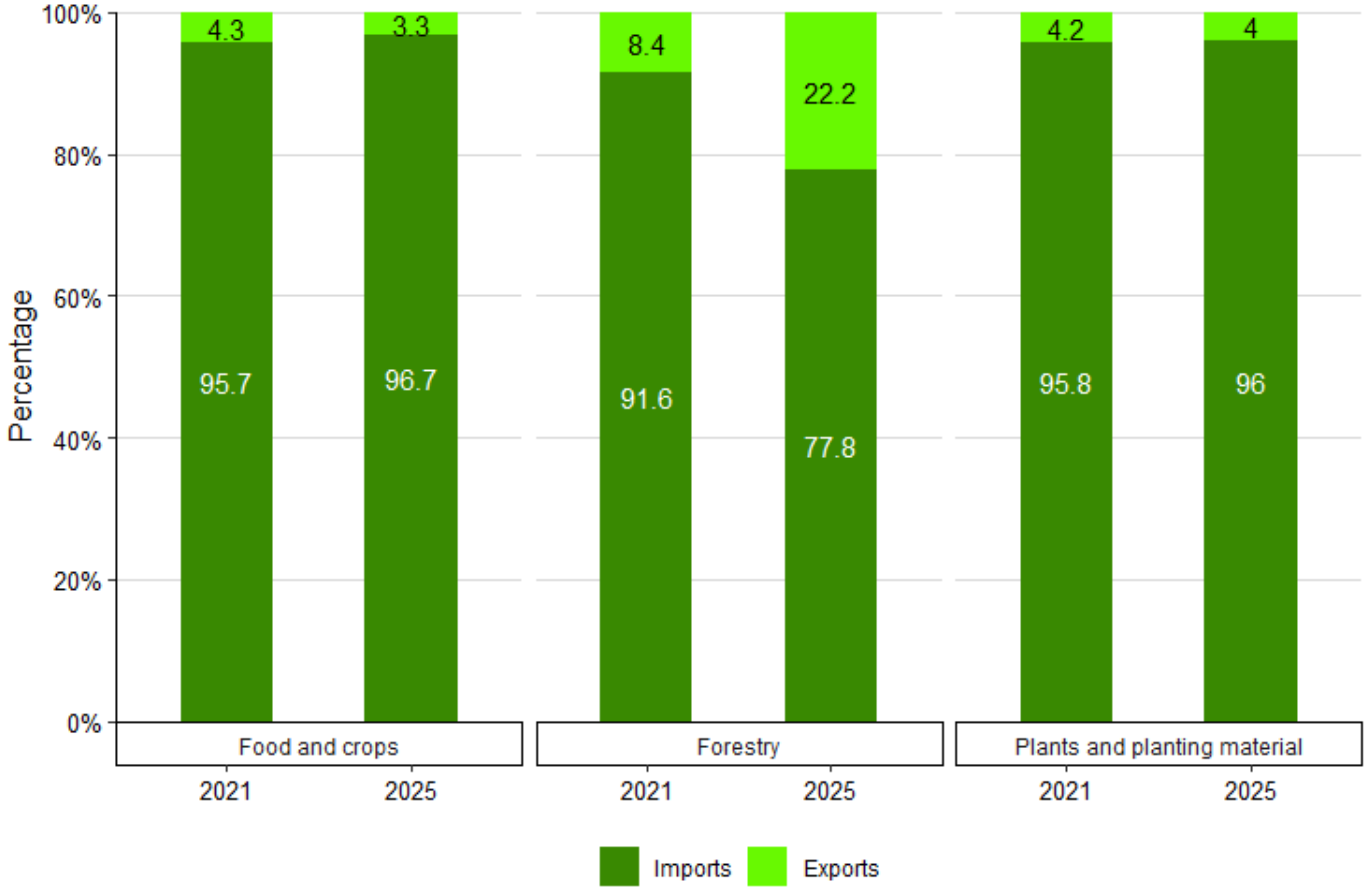
- Since 2023, food and crops non-EU import net mass had increased by almost 1.7 million tonnes (an increase of 25.2%), while the export net mass had fallen by just under 38,000 tonnes (a decrease of 11.8%).
- The net mass of non-EU trade accounted for 38.4% of total trade net mass (Table 2) in 2025, over 5 percentage points lower than the percentage share of total trade value for non-EU trade value (Tables 5 and 1).

Chart 2a and 2b: Distribution of UK and non-EU trade in plants and plant commodities, 2021-2025.

2a. Value



2b. Net mass



Data are calendar year.
(p) indicates data are provisional.
Source: Overseas Trade Data, HMRC

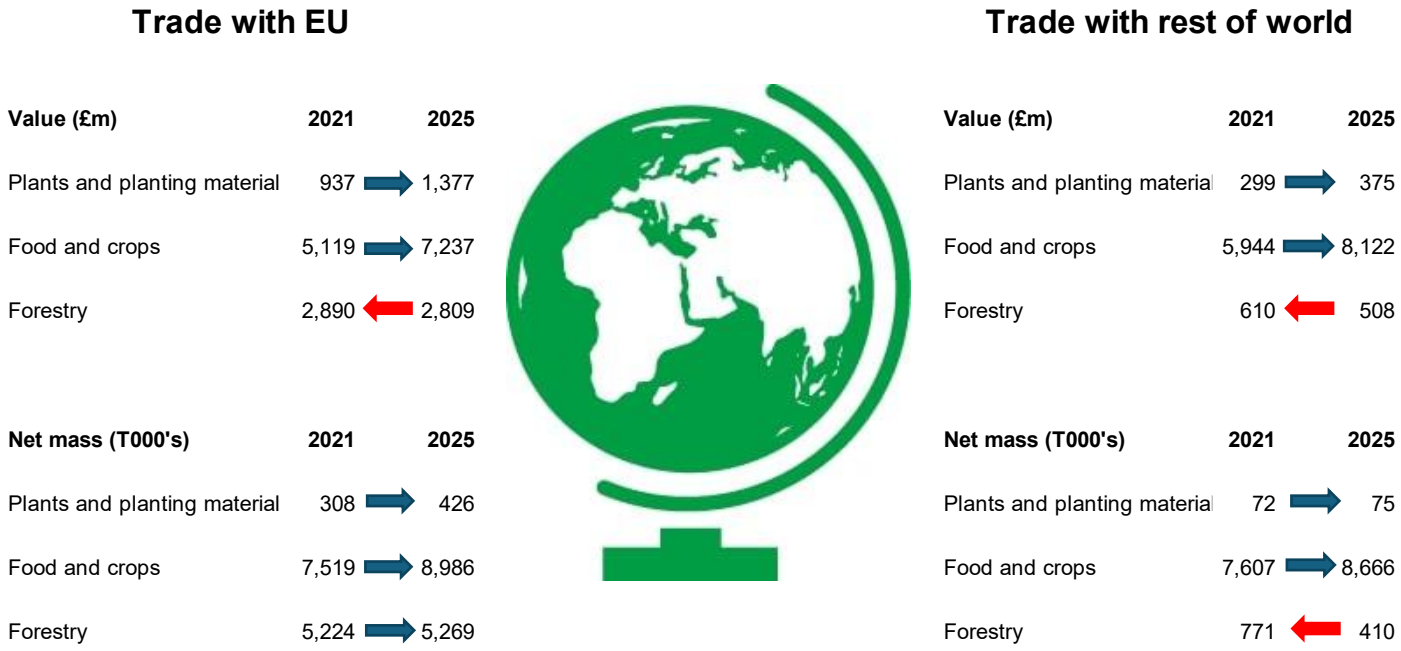
- Both plants and planting material and forestry saw an increase in the percentage share of exports in UK-non-EU trade value. This was largest for forestry, where the percentage share for exports more than doubled, from 6.2% of trade value with non-EU countries in 2021 to 13% in 2025.

- While the percentage share of import value of plants and planting material for trade with EU and non-EU countries was similar in 2021 (Chart 1a), by 2025 import value had increased by 2.4 percentage points for UK-EU trade but decreased by 2.5 percentage points for UK-non-EU trade.

- While there were small decreases in the export share of non-EU trade net mass for plants and planting material and food and crops (0.2 and 1 percentage points respectively), there was a large increase in the export share of net mass for forestry, which went from 8.4% in 2021 to 22.2% in 2025. This was the largest percentage point change across both UK-EU and UK-non-EU trade flows, reflecting the decrease in imports net mass and the increase in export net mass seen in Table 6.

- The net mass of food and crops exports to non-EU countries showed a similar distribution to value for this trade pathway (Chart 2a) although this percentage was higher than the value (3.3% of non-EU net mass was exports in 2025, compared to 2.8% of value).

Figure 2: Changes in trade of plants and plant commodities between 2021 and 2025, 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 reports[7].

In 2020 the Plant Health (Phytosanitary Conditions) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 was laid, covering Great Britain: Plant Health (Phytosanitary Conditions) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020

A requirement of the legislation was the introduction of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) checks for imports from the EU. The EU also imposed SPS checks on exports from GB to the EU.

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

[7] Multi-Annual National Control Plan reports

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 any further phasing has now been suspended whilst negotiations on the SPS agreement take place (see section: Impact of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) and the effect of EU exit on trade in plants and plant products). Currently the following phases have been implemented:

- 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.
- 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 31 January 2027.[8]
- Since 31 January 2024 medium risk goods have required a phytosanitary certificate.
- Reviews of Annex 11 led to the deregulation of some commodities at two points, May and September 2024.

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

[8] BTOM update, Plant Health Portal

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 (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.

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 measures[9] 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

[9] EU emergency control measures by species

(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.

Table 7: Number of controlled consignments, by commodity type, England and Wales, 2021 to 2025

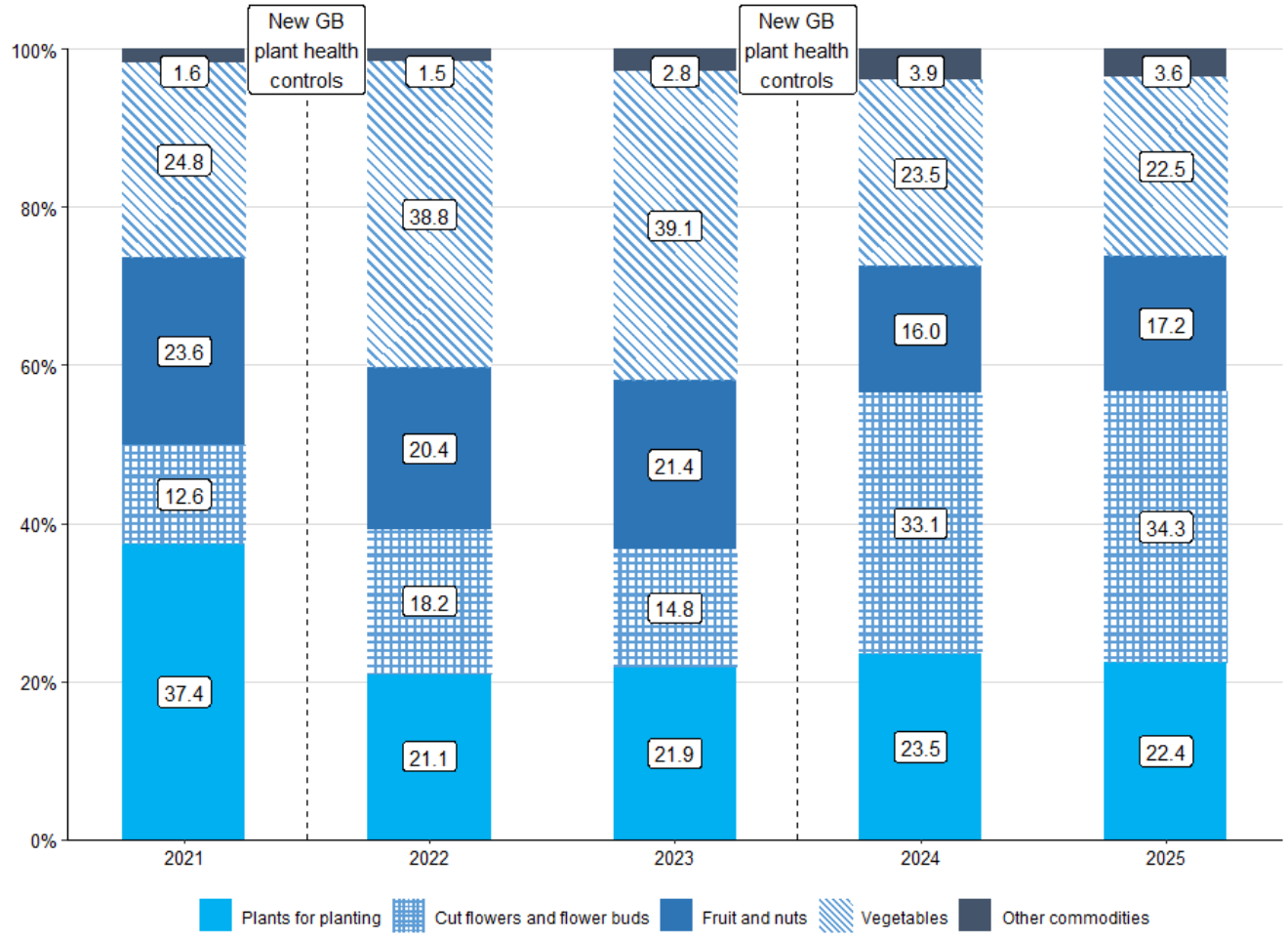
	Plants for Planting	Cut flowers and flower buds	Foliage, branches and other parts of plants	Seed and tissue culture	Fruit and nuts	Vegetables	Other	Total
2021(b)	92,151	31,028	360	1,876	58,139	61,032	1,816	246,402
2022(b)	101,099	87,125	1,398	2,202	97,789	186,048	3,652	479,313
2023(r)	129,996	88,066	8,178	2,253	126,867	232,303	6,111	593,774
2024(b)(r)	64,415	90,619	3,133	3,357	43,762	64,545	4,327	274,158
2025	79,646	121,801	2,858	4,247	61,095	80,026	5,651	355,324
Value Change 2021-2025	-12,505	90,773	2,498	2,371	2,956	18,994	3,835	108,922
Percentage Change 2021-2025	-13.6	292.6	693.9	126.4	5.1	31.1	211.2	44.2

Notes:
1. Data are calendar year.
2. See glossary for information on commodity types.
3. b: 2021 - Following the UKs 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.
4. 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.
5. b: 2024 From 30th April 2024, pre-notification requirements for Medium A imports were introduced.
6. r: Information on revisions can be found in the accompanying Quality and Methodology report. In summary, 2023 revisions were due to a change in IPAFFS commodity groups, and revisions in 2024 were due to concerns about accuracy following multiple changes in reporting.
Source: Plant Health and Seed Inspectorate

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

- The total number of controlled consignments increased by 44.2% over the time period, from 246,402 consignments in 2021 to 355,324 consignments in 2025, however the number of consignments notified in 2025 was considerably lower than in 2022 and 2023 following phasing in of the Border Target Operating Model (BTOM).
- From 2024 to 2025, there was an increase of just over 81,000 controlled consignments (a 29.6% increase). This was mostly driven by increases in consignments of cut flowers and flower buds and fruit and nuts.
- Over the five-year period, only the number of consignments of plants for planting decreased (by 13.6%). Between 2024 and 2025, the number of consignments increased by 23.6%.
- Seed and tissue culture and cut flowers and flower buds were the only commodity types to see a year-on-year increase in controlled consignments (126.4% and 292.6% overall increase respectively). The other five commodity types saw their highest number of consignments in 2023.

Chart 3: Controlled consignments by commodity type, England and Wales, 2021 to 2025



Data are calendar year.
See glossary for information on commodity types.
Source: Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate

- Between 2021 and 2025 all commodity types except other commodities and cut flowers and flower buds saw a decrease in their percentage share, reflecting the variability of imports in the plants and plant products sector and changes in pre-notification requirements.
- Between 2023 and 2025, the share of total consignments that were cut flowers and flower buds increased by 19.5 percentage points, to 34.3% of all consignments. This was almost treble the percentage share for cut flowers and flower buds in 2021 (when it made up 12.6% of consignments).
- Although consignments of both fruit and nuts and vegetables increased between 2024 and 2025, the larger increase in fruit and nuts meant that its share increased to 17.2% of total consignments, whereas vegetables dropped to 22.5% of all consignments in 2025, its lowest share across the five years.
- While plants for planting held the largest share of total consignments in 2021, the following four years were dominated by vegetables and cut flowers.

Table 8: Number of controlled consignments, by region of origin, England and Wales, 2021 to 2025

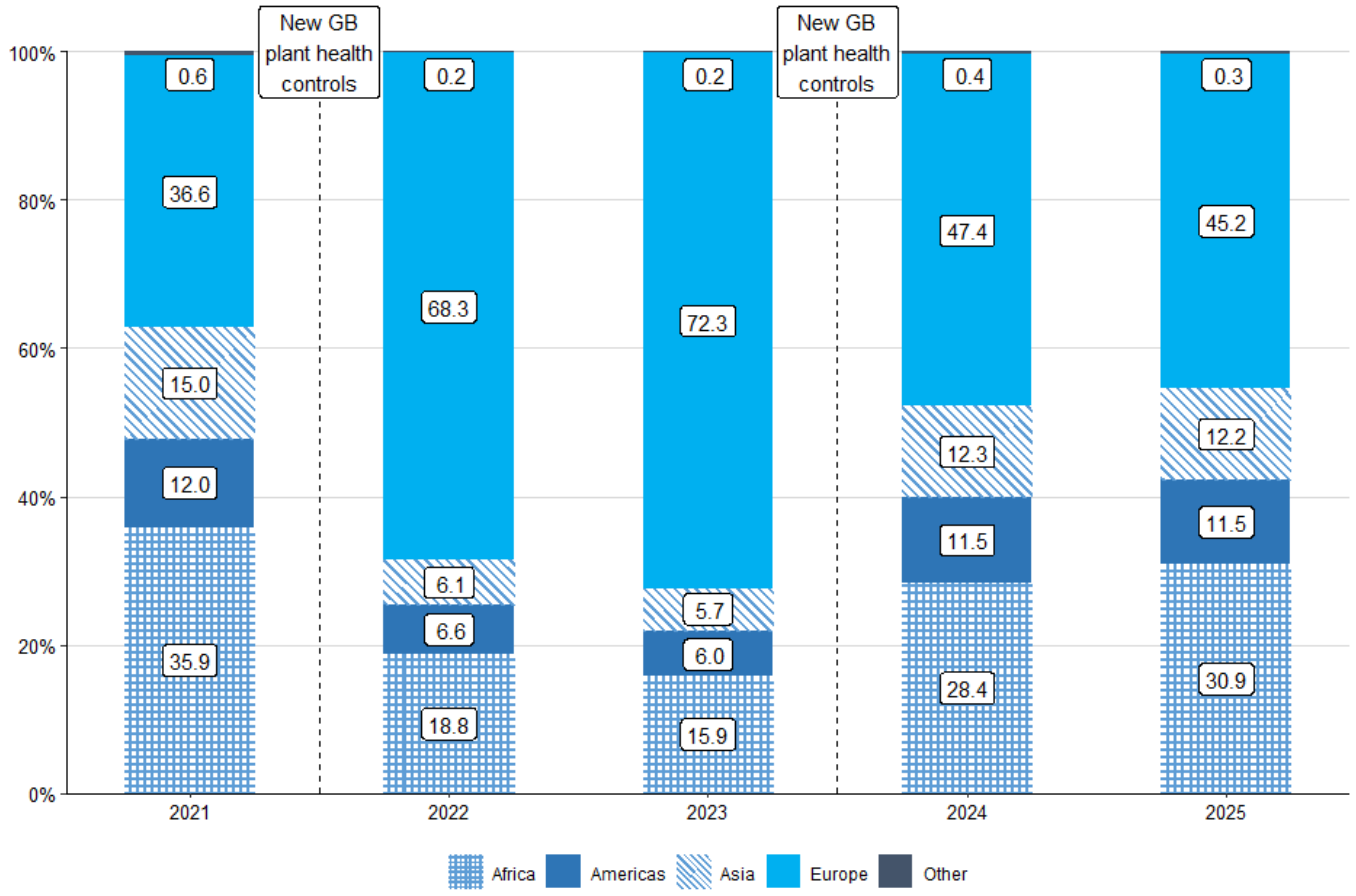
	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	Other[3]	Total
2021(b)	88,423	29,453	36,910	90,133	1,473	10	246,402
2022(b)	90,184	31,495	29,101	327,433	1,098	2	479,313
2023(r)	94,385	35,442	33,740	429,276	922	9	593,774
2024(b)(r)	77,863	31,557	33,732	129,844	999	163	274,158
2025	109,642	40,742	43,317	160,666	821	136	355,324
Value Change 2021-2025	21,219	11,289	6,407	70,533	-652	126	108,922
Percentage Change 2021-2025	24.0	38.3	17.4	78.3	-44.3	1,260.0	44.2

Notes:
1. Data are calendar year.
2. Table uses UNSD geographies
3. Includes records where the origin is unknown or the entry is ambiguous.
4. b: 2021 - Following the UKs 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.
5. 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.
6. b: 2024 From 30th April 2024, pre-notification requirements for Medium A imports were introduced.
7. r: Information on revisions can be found in the accompanying Quality and Methodology report. In summary, 2023 revisions were due to a change in IPAFFS commodity groups, and revisions in 2024 were due to concerns about accuracy following multiple changes in reporting.
8. z indicates data are not applicable.
Source: Plant Health and Seed Inspectorate

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

- Between 2021 and 2025, there were increases in controlled consignments from all regions of origin except Oceania (which decreased by 44.3% but made up only 0.6% of consignments in 2021 and 0.2% in 2025).
- While there were similar numbers of controlled consignments from Africa and Europe in 2021 (88,423 and 90,133), over the five years the number of controlled consignments from Europe increased far more (78.3% increase) as a result of the Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) which introduced controls on some commodities from Europe.
- In 2025, Africa, the Americas and Asia had their highest number of controlled consignments of the time period. Consignments from Europe peaked in 2022 following the introduction of the BTOM whilst the number of controlled consignments imported from Oceania had decreased year-on-year since 2021.
- The largest percentage increase between 2024 and 2025 was in controlled consignments from Africa (40.8%), followed by the Americas (29.1%) and Asia (28.4%).

Chart 4: Controlled consignments by region of origin, 2021 to 2025



1. *Data are calendar year.*
2. *Chart uses UNSD geographies.*

Source: Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate.

- The largest change in percentage share between 2021 and 2025 was in consignments imported from Europe which increased from 36.6% to 45.2% of all consignments (8.6 percentage points) reflecting the introduction of the Border Target Operating Model (BTOM).
- Across all five years, the region with the largest number of consignments was Europe. However, from 2021, there was considerable variation in the number of controlled consignments from Europe, which influenced the shares for other regions, in particular Africa, where although there were increases in the number of consignments in most years, the percentage change was smaller than it was for Europe, leading to a drop from 35.9% of all consignments in 2021 to 30.9% of consignments in 2025.
- Although the number of consignments from Europe increased by over 30,000 from 2024 to 2025, it accounted for 2.2 percentage points less of all consignments in 2025, due to the increase in consignments from other regions.
- Between 2024 and 2025, the largest percentage change was in consignments imported from Africa, which rose by 2.5 percentage points. The share for the Americas, Asia and Other remained stable.

Forestry Commission

The Forestry Commission (FC) are responsible for inspections of timber, including sawn timber, wood shavings, wood chips, sawdust, controlled firewood[10] and prefabricated buildings made of wood being imported to England, Scotland and Wales. The Forestry Commission are also responsible for inspections of wood packaging[11] 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.

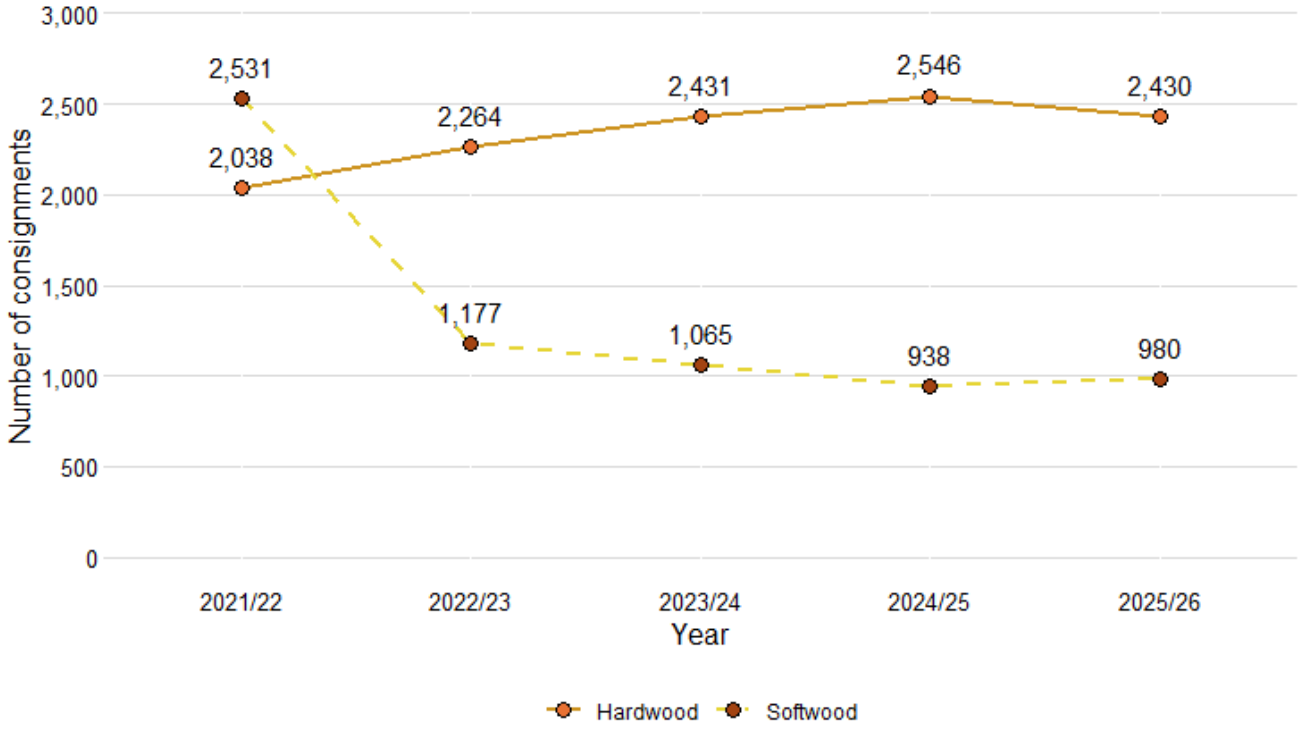
The war in Ukraine had a major impact on bulk imports of sawn conifer timber from Russia. In the last few months of the 2021/22 financial year these imports were replaced by uncontrolled imports from the EU however in 2022/23 substitution for Russian sawn timber was less of an issue.

Wood shavings, wood chips, sawdust and ‘other’ (mainly oak barrel imports) are measured in kilograms rather than cubic metres. These data have not been included in the charts below but are included in the tables.

[10] Guidance on importing firewood
[11] Guidance on importing or exporting wood packaging material

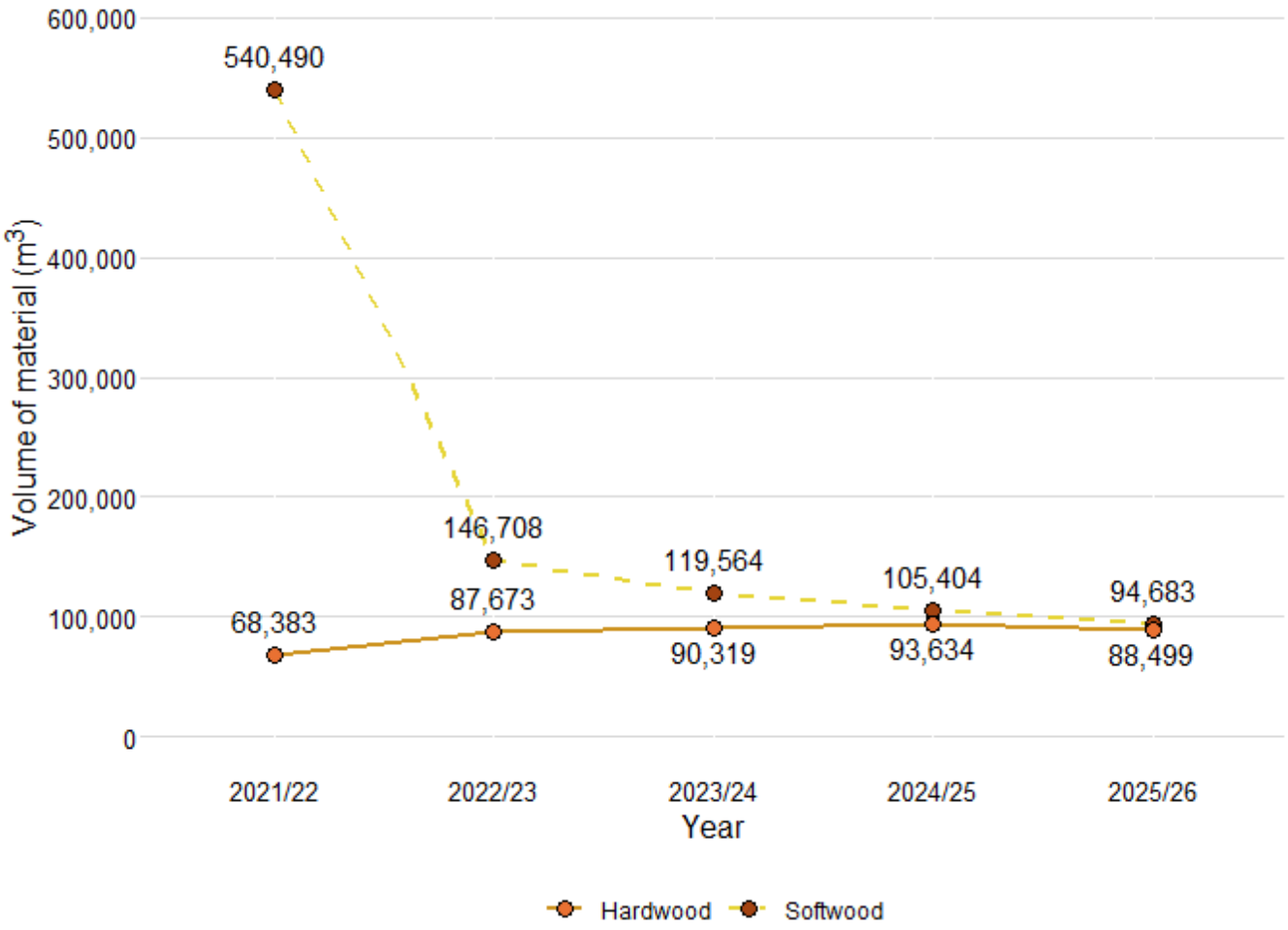
Chart 5a and 5b: Number of controlled consignments by timber type, 2021/22 to 2025/26.

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

- Following year-on-year declines in the number of softwood consignments, 2025/26 was the first year to see an increase (+42 consignments in 2025/26 compared to 2024/25), conversely, year-on-year increases in the number of hardwood consignments came to an end in 2025/26 with a decrease of 116 consignments.
- There were 493 more consignments of softwood than hardwood in 2021/22. This was the only year where softwood consignments outnumbered hardwood consignments in the following years there were more consignments of hardwood than softwood, with a difference of 1,450 consignments in 2025/26.
- In 2021/22 the volume of softwood was 472,107m^3 higher than for hardwood. This difference decreased each year of the time frame, driven by larger decreases in softwood than hardwood volume, and stood at only 6,184m^3 in 2025/26.

Table 9: Controlled consignments of softwood, by region of origin, 2021/25 to 2025/26[1,2]

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Value change 2021/22-2025/26	Percentage change 2021/22-2025/26
Number of consignments							
Africa	7	26	c	14	53	46	657.1
Asia	4	c	9	10	18	14	350.0
Oceania	27	35	78	37	14	-13	-48.1
Central and South America	39	44	29	20	22	-17	-43.6
North America	1,043	541	509	529	563	-480	-46.0
Europe	1,411	531	440	328	310	-1,101	-78.0
Total	2,531	1,177	1,065	938	980	-1,551	-61.3
Volume of notified product (m^3)							
Africa	341	1,410	c	150	96	-245	-71.8
Asia	241	c	13,455	357	491	250	103.7
Oceania	1,156	1,697	2,994	1,392	593	-563	-48.7
Central and South America	3,216	3,900	1,616	1,933	1,051	-2,165	-67.3
North America	64,637	28,962	25,397	25,823	27,721	-36,916	-57.1
Europe	470,899	110,739	76,102	75,749	64,731	-406,168	-86.3
Total	540,490	146,708	119,564	105,404	94,683	-445,807	-82.5
Mass of notified product (kg)							
Africa	c	82,980	0	329,898	999,441	z	z
North America/Europe	1,617,932	5,748,830	8,221,486	5,664,145	5,319,704	3,701,772	228.8
Asia/Oceania/Central and South America	x	x	9,525	97	9,065	z	z
Total	1,617,932	5,831,810	8,231,011	5,994,140	6,328,210	4,710,278	291.1

Notes:
1. Table uses UNSD geographies.
2. Data are financial year.
3. x indicates data are not available.
4. z indicates data are not applicable.
5. 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.

- Over the five-year period, only the number of consignments from Africa and Asia increased, and only the volume of notified product from Asia increased. However, the majority of softwood was imported from North America and Europe with these regions combined accounting for around 89% to 97% of imported consignments and 85% and 99% of all imported softwood material.

- There was a year-on-year decrease in the volume of notified product (m^3), from 540,490m^3 in 2021/22 to 94,683m^3 in 2025/26 a drop of 82.4% overall. Most of this decrease occurred in 2022/23 and was driven by a reduction in material from Europe.

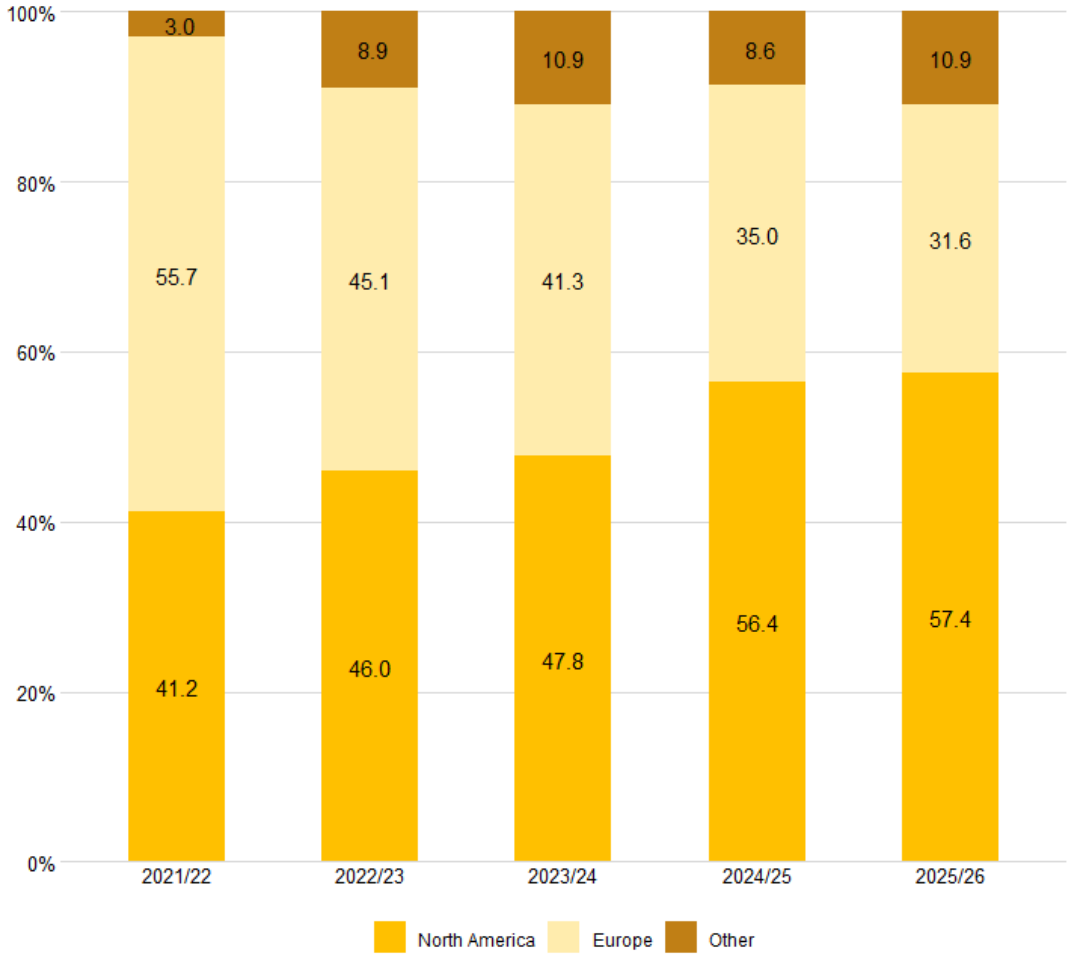
- In 2021/22, over half of all controlled consignments of softwood were imported from Europe but by 2025/26, over half of all controlled consignments were imported from North America, with Europe accounting for less than a third (31.6%). Europe had the largest decrease in both the number and volume of controlled consignments over this period (-78.0% and -86.3%, respectively).

- From 2024/25 to 2025/26, the number of consignments from Africa increased from 14 to 53 (378.6%) while the corresponding volume of notified product reduced by 64% and the mass

of notified product increased by 303%, suggesting a change in the types of commodity imported.

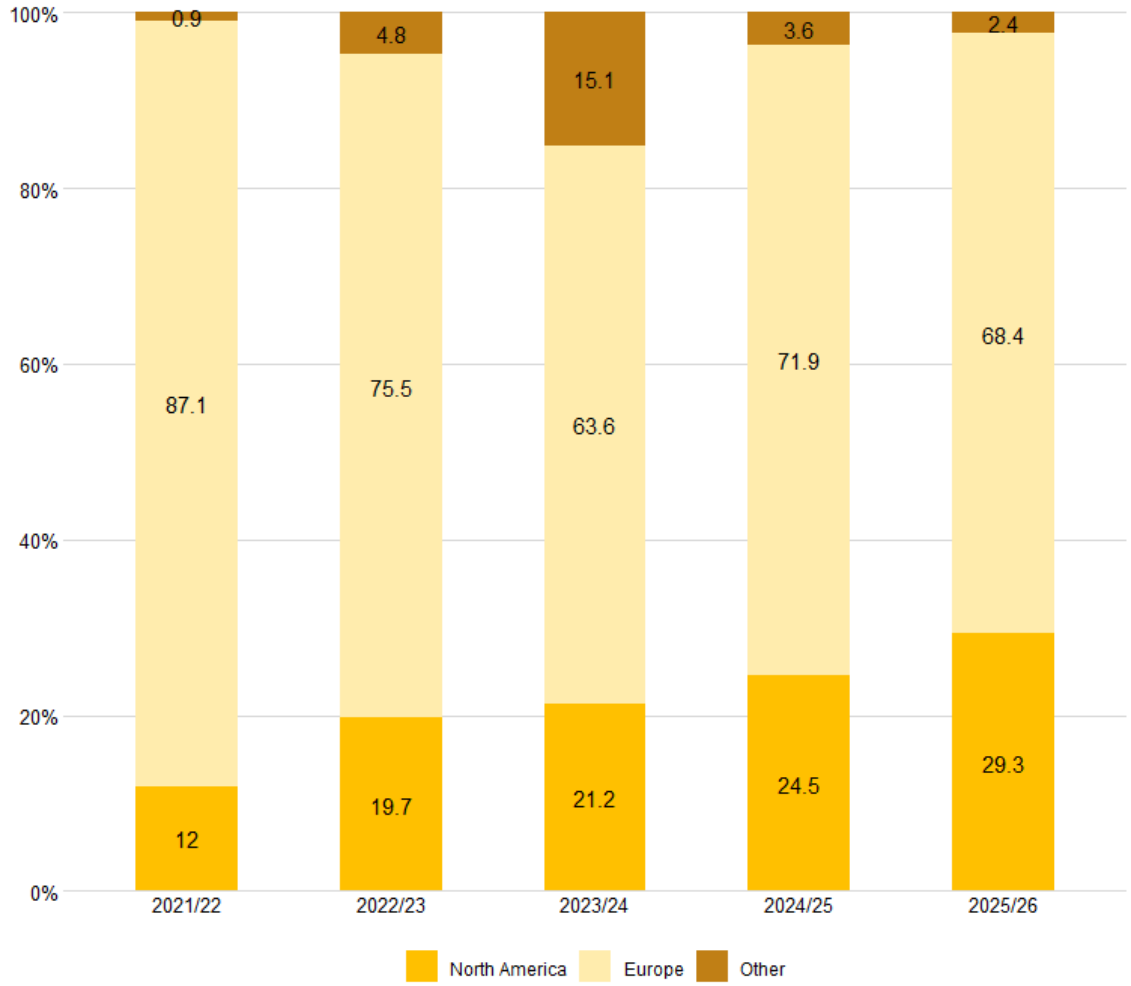
Chart 6a and 6b: Softwood consignments and volume, by region of origin, 2021/22 to 2025/26.

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.
Source: Forestry Commission

- With the exception of 2021/22, North America had the highest proportion of softwood consignments while Europe had the highest proportion of volume.
- From 2022/23 onwards, the gap between imported consignments from North America and Europe has increased from 0.8 percentage points to 25.8 percentage points. Conversely the gap between North America and Europe for volume has reduced from 75.2 percentage points to 39.1 percentage points.
- Between 2024/25 and 2025/26, Europe accounted for around one third of all softwood consignments and 68.4% of the volume of notified material.
- Countries in the Other category accounted for 10.9% of the number of consignments of softwood in 2025/26 but only 2.4% of softwood volume.

Table 10: Controlled consignments of hardwood, by region of origin, England, Scotland and Wales, 2021/22 to 2025/26[1,2]

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Value change 2021/22-2025/26	Percentage change 2021/22-2025/26
Number of consignments							
North America	1,822	1,461	1,408	1,452	1,353	-469	-25.7
Europe/Asia	216	803	1,023	1,094	1,077	861	398.6
Total	2,038	2,264	2,431	2,546	2,430	392	19.2
Volume of notified product (m^3)							
North America	58,670	50,520	47,252	49,339	46,205	-12,465	-21.2
Europe/Asia	9,713	37,153	43,067	44,295	42,294	32,581	335.4
Total	68,383	87,673	90,319	93,634	88,499	20,116	29.4
Mass of notified product (kg)							
North America	30,973	41,584	41,669	221,820	78,892	47,919	154.7
Europe/Asia	0	15,206	236,320	172,364	73,528	73,528	z
Total	30,973	56,790	277,989	394,184	152,420	121,447	392.1

Notes:
1. Table uses UNSD geographies.
2. Data are financial year.
3. 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.

- Overall, there were increases in the number, volume and mass of hardwood consignments from 2021/22 to 2025/26.
- Similar to softwood consignments, the number of controlled consignments of hardwood from North America decreased over the time period. However, hardwood consignments from Europe and Asia increased by 398.6% and the volume of these consignments by 335.4%.
- While consignments from North America made up 89.4% of the number of hardwood consignments in 2021/22, increases in the number of hardwood consignments from Europe and Asia, meant that North American hardwood consignments represented 55.7% of all consignments in 2025/26.
- From 2024/25 to 2025/26 the number, volume and mass of hardwood consignments from all regions reduced. While the number and volume of consignments saw small decreases, the mass of notified hardwood dropped by 57.3% for Europe/Asia and 64.4% for North America.

Table 11: Controlled consignments of oak and ash timber, England, Scotland, and Wales, 2021/22 to 2025/26[1]

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Value change 2021/22-2025/26	Percentage change 2021/22-2025/26
Number of consignments							
Ash	302	736	870	918	873	571	189.1
Oak	1,246	963	875	895	853	-393	-31.5
Total	1,548	1,699	1,745	1,813	1,726	178	11.5
Volume of notified product (m^3)							
Ash	12,405	34,921	39,433	39,337	37,203	24,798	199.9
Oak	38,087	31,543	27,851	29,021	27,352	-10,735	-28.2
Total	50,492	66,464	67,284	68,358	64,555	14,063	27.9
Mass of notified product (kg)							
Ash	0	0	0	31	87	87	z
Oak	5,663	c	c	c	143	-5,520	-97.5
Total	5,663	c	c	c	230	-5,433	-95.9

Notes:
1. Data are financial year.
2. z indicates data are not applicable.
3. 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, Türkiye, USA and Vietnam is controlled.

- The total number and volume of ash and oak consignments increased between 2021/22 and 2025/26, by 11.5% and 27.9% respectively, whilst the total net mass decreased by 95.9%.
- The number and volume of controlled consignments of ash increased over the five-year period, while the number and volume of oak consignments decreased. This meant that while Oak accounted for 80.5% of consignments and 75.4% of volume in 2021/22, this had reduced to 49.4% of consignments and 42.4% of volume in 2025/26.
- Between 2024/25 and 2025/26, the number and volume of consignments for both ash and oak decreased. These decreases were very similar, with the number and volume of consignments for ash and oak each decreasing by between 94-96%.
- While there was only a difference of 20 consignments between ash and oak in 2025/26, there was a volume difference of 9,851m^3 and a mass difference of 56kg. Ash had a larger volume of notified product while oak had a larger mass of notified product.

Glossary[12]

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)[13].

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

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.

[12] Some definitions are taken from ISPM 5 Glossary of phytosanitary terms

[13] Union Customs Code

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 Europe[14].

‘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 International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures; ISPM No. 32; Categorisation of commodities according to their pest risk (2009)[15].

Softwood: Timber from coniferous trees.

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

[14] List of non-EU countries
[15] International standards for phytosanitary measures. ISPM No. 32