

United Kingdom: A deforestation exposure assessment

Headlines

10,800 ha

The United Kingdom's average annual deforestation exposure in 2021–2023, from **direct trade**

12,000 ha

The United Kingdom's average annual deforestation exposure in 2021–2023, **adjusted for re-exports**

–40.8%

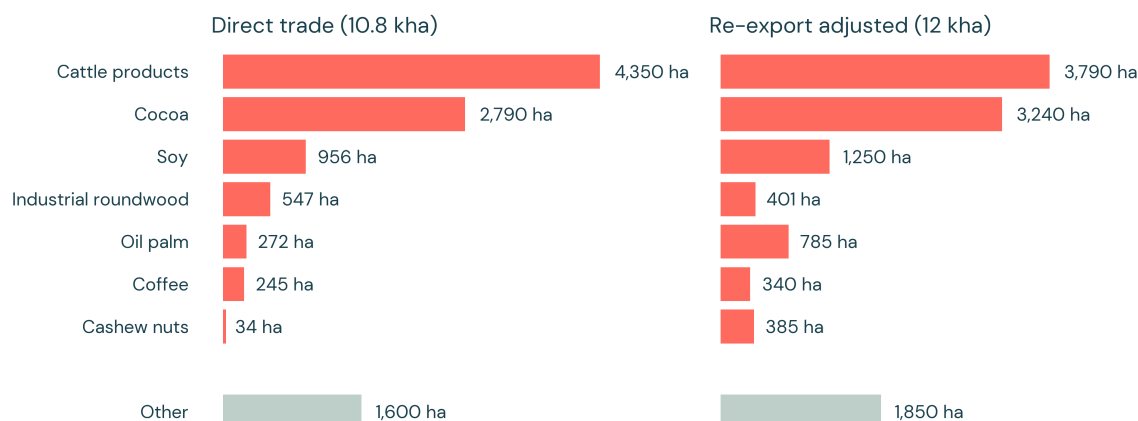
change in total deforestation exposure from 2014–2023, **adjusted for re-exports**

Methods note

This factsheet provides an estimate of the deforestation footprint of the United Kingdom's imports, combining data on global bilateral trade and the deforestation associated with 160+ different agricultural commodities. It is intended to help identify the most likely sources, trends and hotspots in global deforestation exposure. Deforestation exposure is likely to be underestimated for commodities that are often imported in more processed forms, particularly wood and rubber products. Please refer to the end of the factsheet for some key considerations, or read the full [methods note](#) for more detail on data sources and limitations.

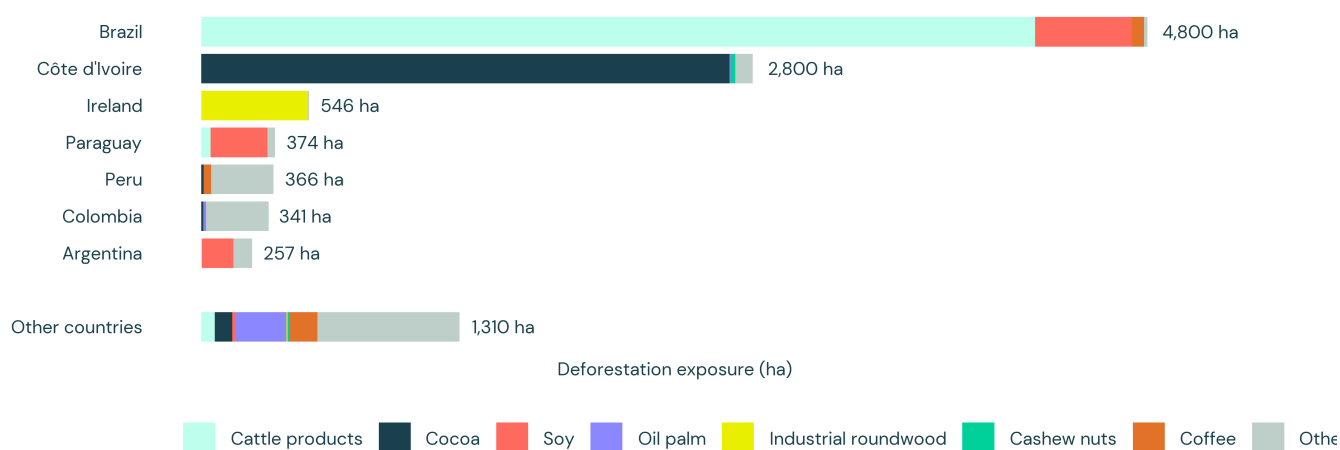
Deforestation exposure by commodity and trade perspective

The United Kingdom's total deforestation exposure was larger from the re-export adjusted perspective (12,000 ha per year) and smaller from the direct trade perspective (10,800 ha per year). The re-export adjustment process uses a mass-balance approach to estimate the likely true origins and destinations of products where supply chains involve multiple trade steps. For more information, see the accompanying [methods note](#). Numbers are average annual exposure from 2021 to 2023.



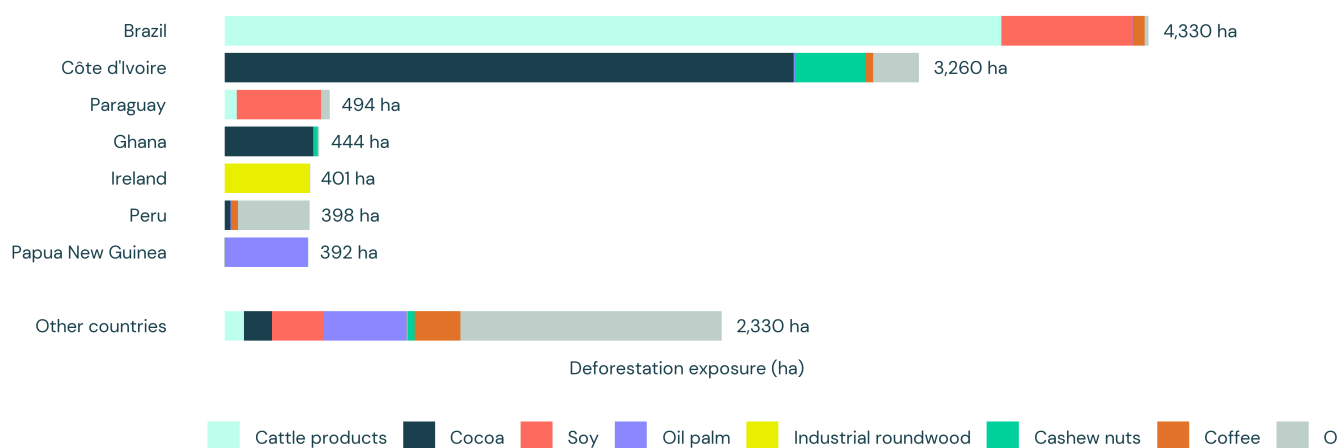
Direct trade deforestation exposure by origin country and commodity

From a direct trade perspective, on average between 2021 and 2023, the United Kingdom was most exposed to deforestation in Brazil (4,800 ha, 44.5%), followed by Côte d'Ivoire (2,800 ha, 25.9%) and Ireland (546 ha, 5.1%). Across all origin countries, the most important commodities were cattle products (4,350 ha, 40.3%), cocoa (2,790 ha, 25.9%) and soy (956 ha, 8.9%). In Brazil, the most important commodity for the United Kingdom's deforestation exposure was cattle products (4,230 ha, 88.1%), followed by soy (490 ha, 10.2%). In Côte d'Ivoire, the most important commodity was cocoa (2,680 ha, 95.8%), followed by mangoes (84.2 ha, 3%).



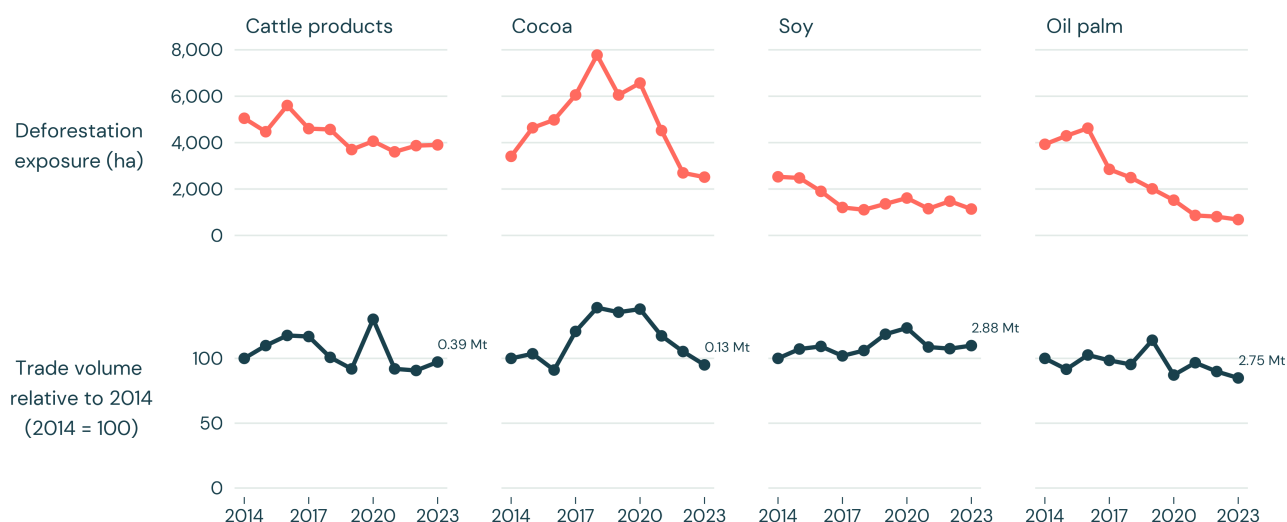
Re-export adjusted deforestation exposure by origin country and commodity

After adjusting for re-exports, on average between 2021 and 2023, the United Kingdom was most exposed to deforestation in Brazil (4,330 ha, 36%), followed by Côte d'Ivoire (3,260 ha, 27%) and Paraguay (494 ha, 4.1%). Across all origin countries, the most important commodities were cattle products (3,790 ha, 31.5%), cocoa (3,240 ha, 26.9%) and soy (1,250 ha, 10.4%). In Brazil, the most important commodity for the United Kingdom's deforestation exposure was cattle products (3,640 ha, 84.1%), followed by soy (616 ha, 14.2%). In Côte d'Ivoire, the most important commodity was cocoa (2,670 ha, 81.9%), followed by cashew nuts (331 ha, 10.2%).



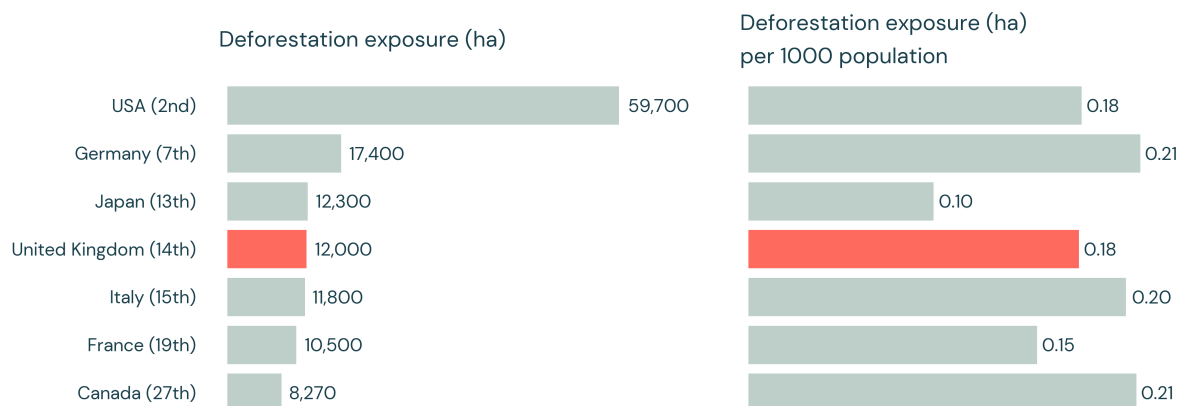
Trends in deforestation exposure and trade volume for top commodities

The following charts show trends in re-export adjusted deforestation exposure and trade volume for the top four commodities (selected based on total deforestation exposure over the last three years of the time series). Overall, the United Kingdom's total exposure decreased between 2014 and 2023 by 7,490 ha, a change of -40.8% . Of the top seven commodities, oil palm saw the biggest change over the time series in both absolute and relative terms, with a decrease of $-3,250$ ha (-82.6%).



Comparison with deforestation exposure of selected other countries

The following chart compares the deforestation exposure and per-capita deforestation exposure of United Kingdom to a selection of other countries. Values are annual averages for the period 2021–2023. After adjusting for re-exports, United Kingdom ranked 14th globally for deforestation exposure out of 214 jurisdictions with available data. From a direct trade perspective, not illustrated here, United Kingdom ranked 27th.



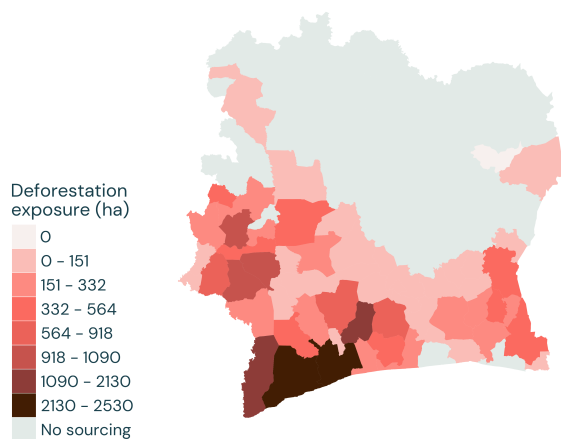
Subnational deforestation exposure

Estimates of subnational deforestation exposure presented in this section will differ from the national-level estimates presented earlier in the factsheet and are not directly comparable. This reflects different definitions of deforestation (in Brazil, for example, the subnational data includes the conversion of any native vegetation, including ecosystems such as the Cerrado), and other methodological differences (e.g. the time periods used to attribute deforestation to commodities can vary substantially between Trase's subnational data and the global dataset used for this factsheet, and can lead to large differences in estimates). See the [methods note](#) accompanying the factsheet for more information.

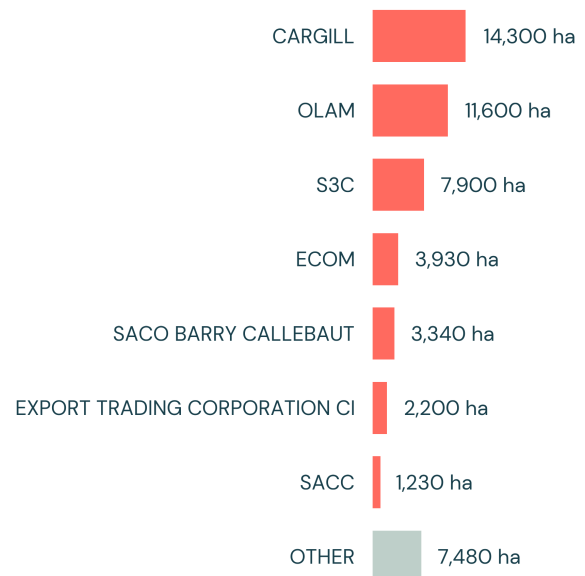
Côte d'Ivoire cocoa: Subnational detail

Trase data estimates that the United Kingdom was exposed to 52,000 ha of deforestation from its direct imports of Côte d'Ivoire cocoa in 2021, the most recent year with subnational data available. The United Kingdom's deforestation exposure was highest in the departments of San-Pedro (2,530 ha, 4.9%), Sassandra (2,480 ha, 4.8%) and Lakota (2,130 ha, 4.1%). Indirect sourcing accounted for 54.4% (28,200 ha) of the United Kingdom's deforestation exposure, where it was not possible to determine the department of production. In total, the United Kingdom imported Côte d'Ivoire cocoa from 21 exporters in 2021. The exporter groups most exposed to deforestation were CARGILL, OLAM and S3C, which together accounted for 65% of the United Kingdom's deforestation exposure. To explore the data in more detail, visit trase.earth

Deforestation hotspots for exports to the United Kingdom



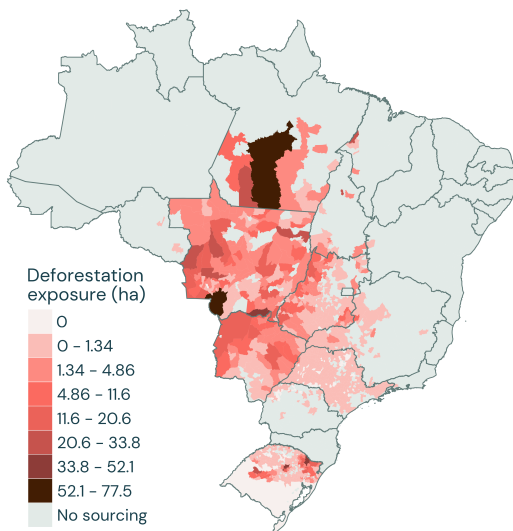
Exporter exposure for exports to the United Kingdom



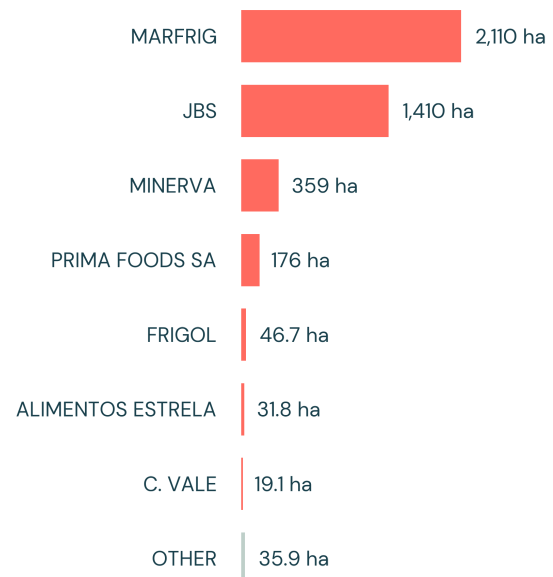
Brazil beef: Subnational detail

Trase data estimates that the United Kingdom was exposed to 4,190 ha of deforestation from its direct imports of Brazil beef in 2023, the most recent year with subnational data available. The United Kingdom's deforestation exposure was highest in the states of Mato Grosso (641 ha, 15.3%), Rio Grande Do Sul (404 ha, 9.6%) and Goias (203 ha, 4.8%). For 60.1% of the United Kingdom's imports (2,520 ha), the production location was unknown. In total, the United Kingdom imported Brazil beef from 11 exporters in 2023. The exporter groups most exposed to deforestation were MARFRIG, JBS and MINERVA, which together accounted for 92.6% of the United Kingdom's deforestation exposure. To explore the data in more detail, visit trase.earth

Deforestation hotspots for exports to the United Kingdom



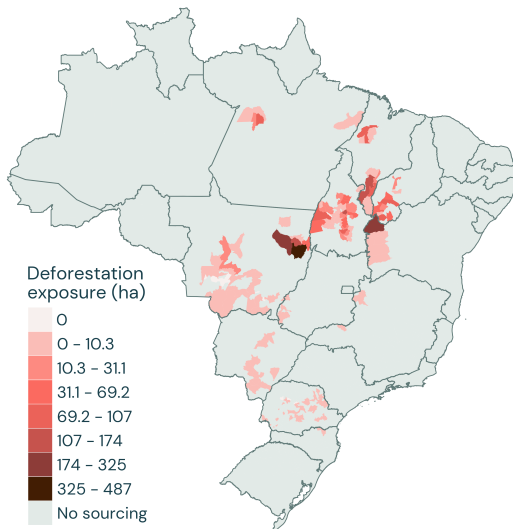
Exporter exposure for exports to the United Kingdom



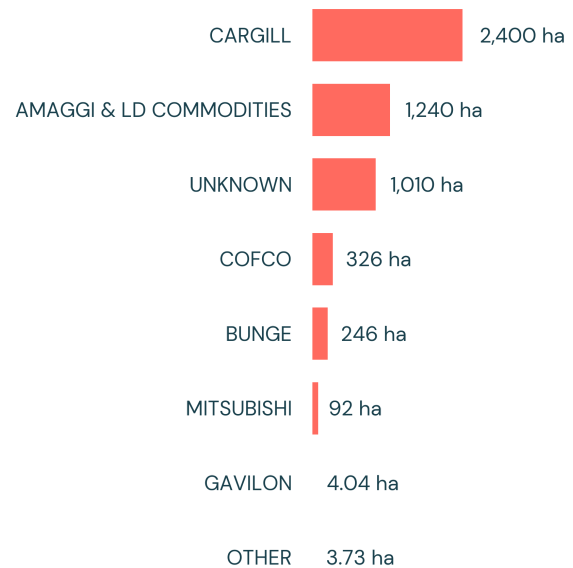
Brazil soy: Subnational detail

Trase data estimates that the United Kingdom was exposed to 5,320 ha of deforestation from its direct imports of Brazil soy in 2022, the most recent year with subnational data available. The United Kingdom's deforestation exposure was highest in the states of Mato Grosso (1,100 ha, 20.7%), Tocantins (938 ha, 17.6%) and Maranhao (470 ha, 8.8%). For 36.3% of the United Kingdom's imports (1,930 ha), the production location was unknown. In total, the United Kingdom imported Brazil soy from 9 exporters in 2022. The exporter groups most exposed to deforestation were CARGILL, AMAGGI & LD COMMODITIES and COFCO, which together accounted for 81% of the United Kingdom's deforestation exposure. To explore the data in more detail, visit trase.earth

Deforestation hotspots for exports to the United Kingdom



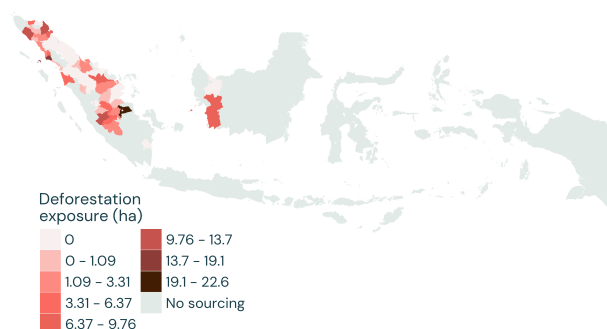
Exporter exposure for exports to the United Kingdom



Indonesia palm oil: Subnational detail

Trase data estimates that the United Kingdom was exposed to 164 ha of deforestation from its direct imports of Indonesia palm oil in 2022, the most recent year with subnational data available. The United Kingdom's deforestation exposure was highest in the provinces of Aceh (84.5 ha, 51.5%), Jambi (47.4 ha, 28.9%) and Riau (14.8 ha, 9%). Zooming in to a finer spatial scale, the United Kingdom sourced Indonesia palm oil from 61 kabupaten, while 80% of the United Kingdom's exposure was spread across 11 kabupaten. In total, the United Kingdom imported Indonesia palm oil from 2 exporters in 2022. Two exporter groups were exposed to deforestation: SINAR MAS and MUSIM MAS. To explore the data in more detail, visit trase.earth

Deforestation hotspots for exports to the United Kingdom



Exporter exposure for exports to the United Kingdom

SINAR MAS



93 ha

MUSIM MAS



71.1 ha

Interpreting this factsheet

To identify the most important commodities and countries globally for the United Kingdom's deforestation exposure, this factsheet uses the best available data [linking commodities to deforestation at the global scale](#), based on conversion of natural forests with canopy cover of at least 25%. Due to data availability limitations, we are currently unable to include deforestation exposure estimates for the imports of more processed materials, meaning that deforestation exposure is likely to be underestimated for commodities typically imported in more processed forms – particularly affecting wood and rubber products. We refer you to our [methods note](#) for further details.

Contact us

Mark Titley, Senior Research Associate, Trase / Global Canopy, m.titley@globalcanopy.org.

Chris West, Co-Director, Trase, chris.west@york.ac.uk.

For methods information, data sources, and frequently asked questions, please refer to the [accompanying methods note](#).

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