Malta: A deforestation exposure assessment

Headlines

0.1% of EU’s total deforestation exposure is linked to Malta’s imports, after adjusting for re-exports

197 ha Malta’s average deforestation exposure in 2019-2021, after adjusting for re-exports

Cattle products made up 83.2% of Malta’s total deforestation exposure in 2019-2021, after adjusting for re-exports

Methodological note

This analysis provides the deforestation footprint of Malta’s imports and is useful for highlighting hotspots and trends in deforestation exposure from a global perspective. Results should be interpreted against the methods used and their associated limitations. Please refer to the end of the factsheet for some key considerations, or read the full methods note for more detail.

Direct trade deforestation exposure by origin country and commodity

From a direct trade perspective, on average between 2019 and 2021, Malta was most exposed to deforestation in Brazil (72 ha, 76.1%), followed by Croatia (3.1 ha, 3.3%) and Italy (2.58 ha, 2.7%). Across all origin countries, the most important commodities were cattle products (78.8 ha, 83.4%), rice, paddy (3.13 ha, 3.3%) and maize (2.95 ha, 3.1%). In Brazil, the most important commodity for Malta’s deforestation exposure was cattle products (71.6 ha, 99.5%), followed by olives (0.091 ha, 0.1%). In Croatia, the most important commodity was maize (2.69 ha, 86.7%), followed by barley (0.392 ha, 12.7%).
Re-export adjusted deforestation exposure by origin country and commodity

After adjusting for re-exports, on average between 2019 and 2021, Malta was most exposed to deforestation in Brazil (155 ha, 78.7%), followed by Paraguay (8.3 ha, 4.2%) and Côte d’Ivoire (5.75 ha, 2.9%). Across all origin countries, the most important commodities were cattle products (164 ha, 83.2%), soy (6.67 ha, 3.4%) and coffee (4.93 ha, 2.5%). In Brazil, the most important commodity for Malta’s deforestation exposure was cattle products (148 ha, 95.8%), followed by soy (5.39 ha, 3.5%). In Paraguay, the most important commodity was cattle products (7.95 ha, 95.7%), followed by soy (0.336 ha, 4%).

Deforestation exposure by commodity and perspective

Malta’s total deforestation exposure was larger from the re-export adjusted perspective (197.0 ha), and smaller from the direct trade perspective (94.5 ha). For more information about these different perspectives, see the accompanying methods note. Numbers are average annual exposure from 2019 to 2021.
Deforestation exposure by commodity over time

The following charts show trends over time in re-export adjusted deforestation exposure, for each commodity. Overall, Malta’s total exposure decreased between 2014 and 2021 by 2.94 ha, a change of -1.7%. Of the seven EUDR commodities, the biggest change in absolute terms was for soy, which saw a decrease of -9.44 ha over the time series (-58.7%). The biggest change in relative terms was for coffee, which saw an increase of 189.7% (2.71 ha) over the time series. The commodities are shown in decreasing order of deforestation exposure over the time series. Note that there is lower confidence in the last data point in the time series (2021) due to data limitations.

Comparison with deforestation exposure of other EU countries

After adjusting for re-exports, Malta ranks 26th among EU countries for deforestation exposure, accounting for 0.1% of the EU total. Looking instead at the deforestation per 1,000 tonnes of imported material, Malta ranks 2nd, with its deforestation exposure per 1,000 tonnes (0.51 ha/kt) higher than the EU median of 0.14 ha/kt.
**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 particular commodities). See the [methods note](#) accompanying the factsheet for more information.

**Brazil beef: Subnational detail**

Trase data shows that Malta was exposed to 150 ha of deforestation from its direct imports of Brazil beef in 2020, the most recent year with subnational data available. Malta’s deforestation exposure was highest in the states of Sao Paulo (0.5 ha, 0.3%), Rio Grande Do Sul (0.4 ha, 0.2%), and Unknown State (149 ha, 99.4%). For 99.4% of Malta’s imports (149 ha), the production location was unknown. In total, Malta imported Brazil beef from 2 exporters in 2020. Two exporter groups were exposed to deforestation: JBS and MARFRIG. To explore the data in more detail, visit [trase.earth](#)

**Deforestation hotspots for exports to Malta**

![Deforestation exposure map](image)

**Exporter exposure for exports to Malta**

- **JBS**: 126 ha
- **MARFRIG**: 24.3 ha
Interpreting this factsheet

To identify the most important commodities and countries globally for Malta’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 unable to extend deforestation estimates robustly to some more processed materials, particularly affecting rubber and wood-based estimates in our results. Deforestation definitions used and commodity coverage is therefore not in full alignment with EUDR definitions and scope. For these reasons, estimates presented in these factsheets should be interpreted with caution and as likely underestimates of the true deforestation footprint associated with commodity use. We refer you to our methods note for further details.

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For methods information, data sources, and frequently asked questions, please refer to the accompanying methods note.

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