

# Forest sector

Investment and Development Agency of Latvia

[www.investinlatvia.org](http://www.investinlatvia.org)

2022









# Forest sector

Latvia is one of the greenest country in Europe

**#5**

most forested country in  
Europe (FAO, 2020)

**51%**

of country's territory is  
covered by forests

**22%**

forest sector's contribution to  
Latvia's exports  
(2021)

**6.5%**

share in GDP (2021)

**46%**

of forests are owned by the  
state & certified

**#1**

wood pellet exporter  
in the Baltics (2021)



# Sustainability

- Latvian forests take 3.600 million hectares and cover 51% of the total territory.
- The forest area keeps expanding – it occurs both naturally and through afforestation. The accumulated wood stock grows 3x faster than the forest area. Each year around 13 million m<sup>3</sup> of wood are obtained; therefore, it is considered to be sustainable.



---

## Wood processing

- Forest industry is one of the country's main economic cornerstones, accounting for 6.5% of total GDP. In 2021 exports of forest industry products amounted to 3.6 billion EUR – 22% of country's total export.



Source: zm.gov.lv (2022)



# Biological diversity

- Latvia's forest biodiversity has been created and maintained by the Latvian forestry.
- Protected areas are 28.2% of the total forest area. Some of the territories are included in the single Natura 2000 network of protected areas of European importance.



---

## Forest and society

- About half of Latvia's forests belong to the state, while the largest part is owned by private landowners, the total number is 135 thousand.
- Every year, recreational facilities in the forests increases, and areas for recreation occupy 5% of total state forest area.

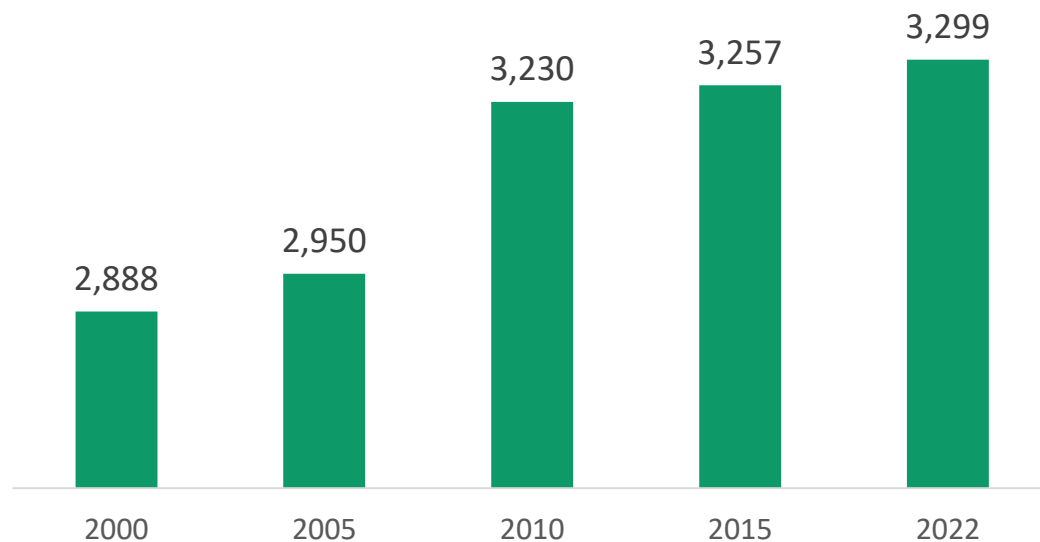


Source: [zm.gov.lv](http://zm.gov.lv) (2021)



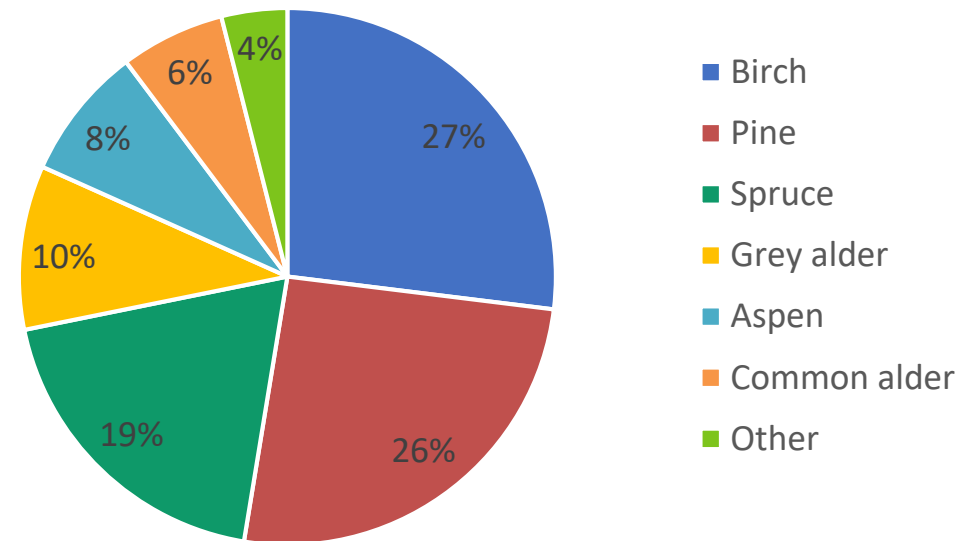
# Forest sector in figures: Resources

Forest area, thsd ha



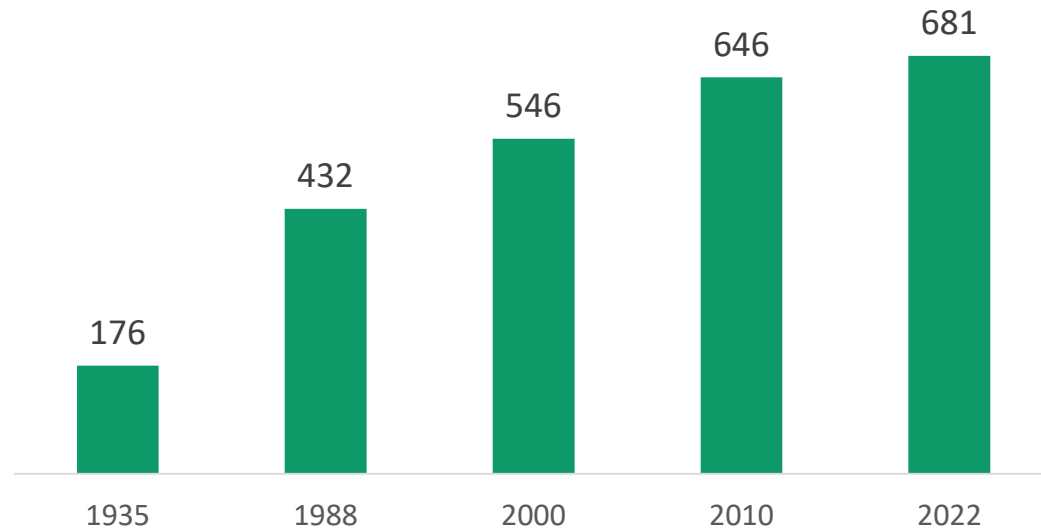
Source: zm.gov.lv (2022)

Forest area by tree species in 2022, %



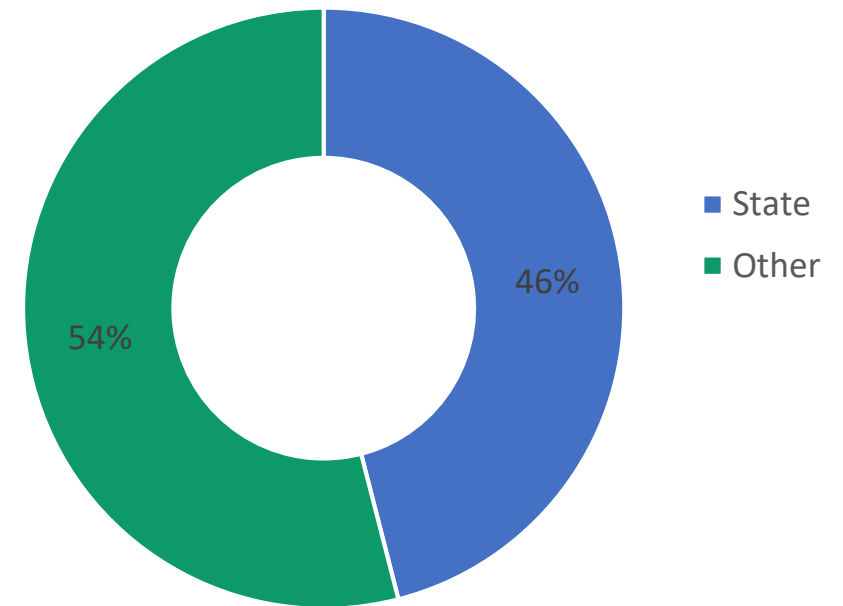
# Forest sector in figures: Resources

Total growing stock, million m3



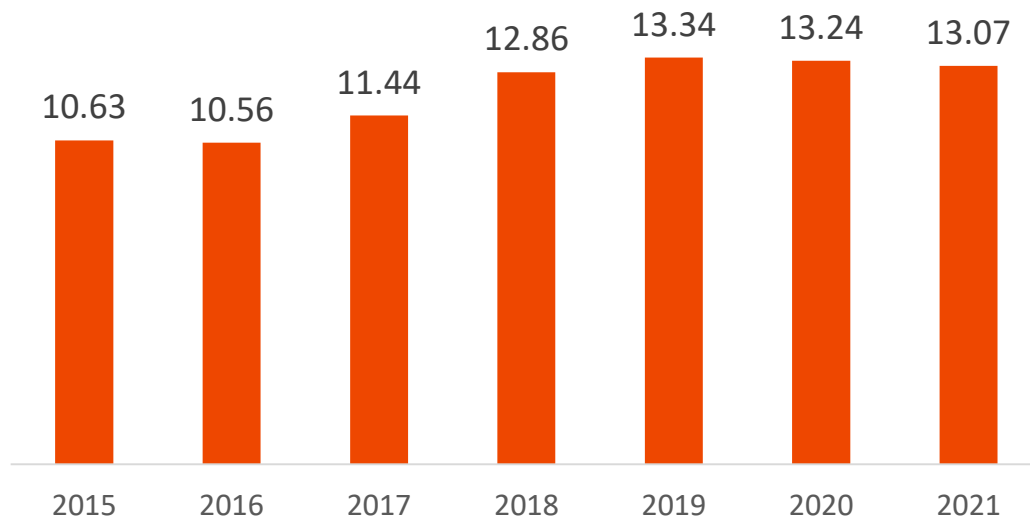
Source: zm.gov.lv (2022)

Forest ownership in 2022, %

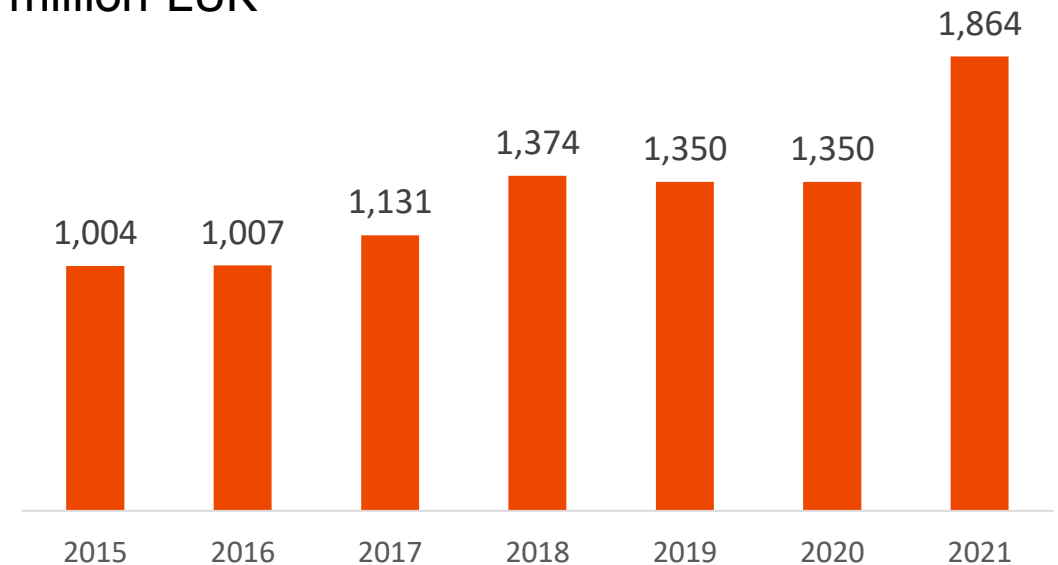


# Forest sector in figures: Business

Timber production, million m3



Value added in forestry and wood processing, million EUR



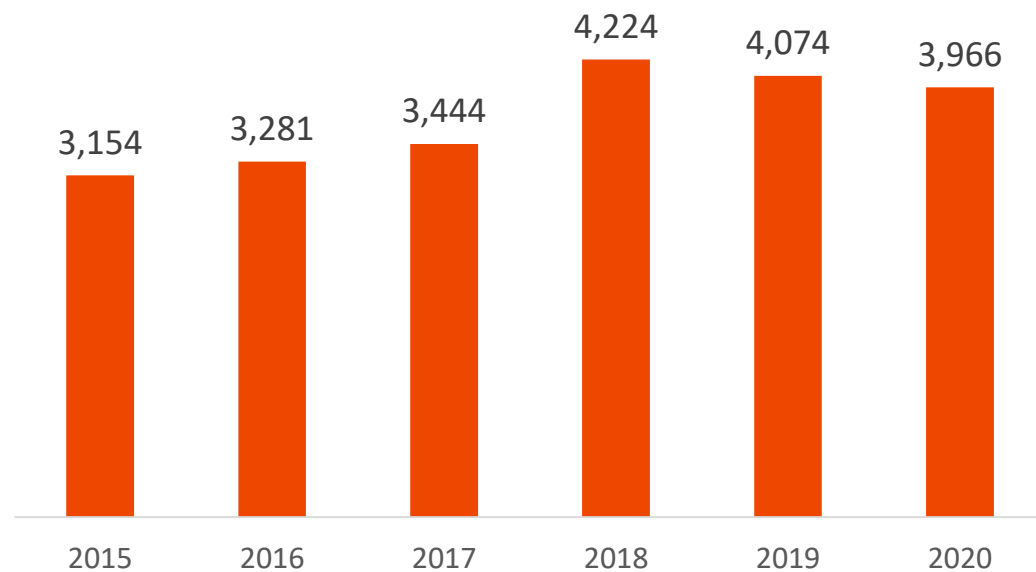
Source: zm.gov.lv (2022)



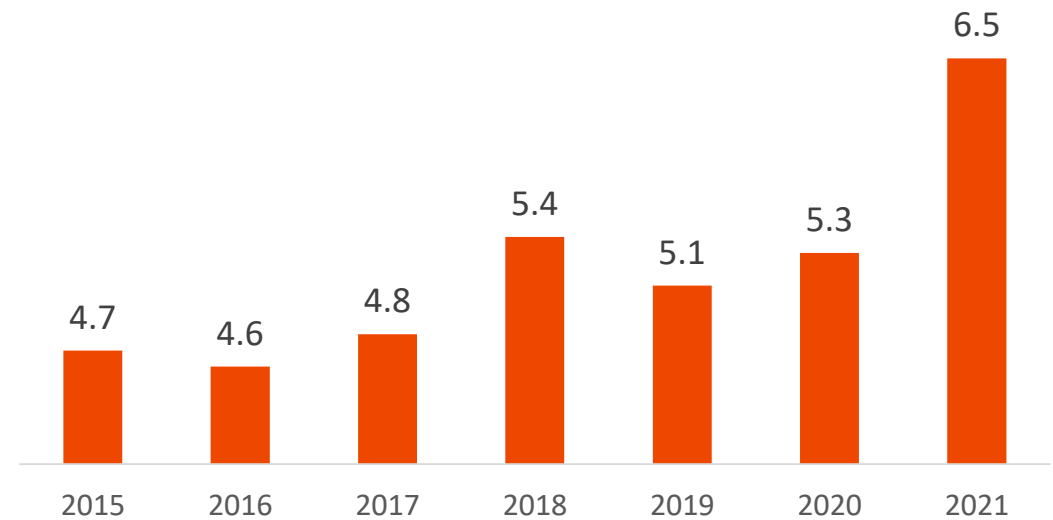


# Forest sector in figures: Business

Turnover, million EUR



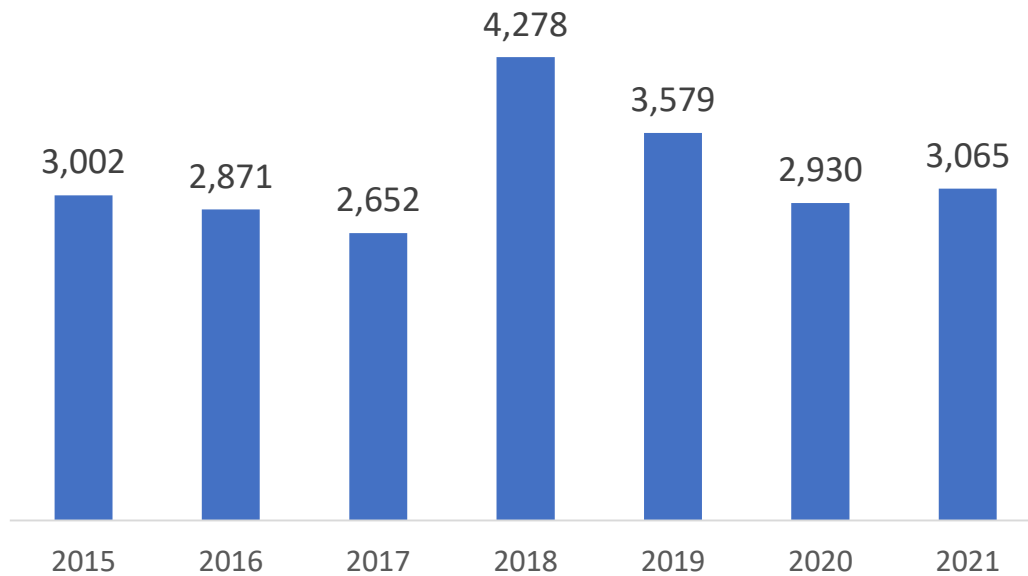
% of GDP



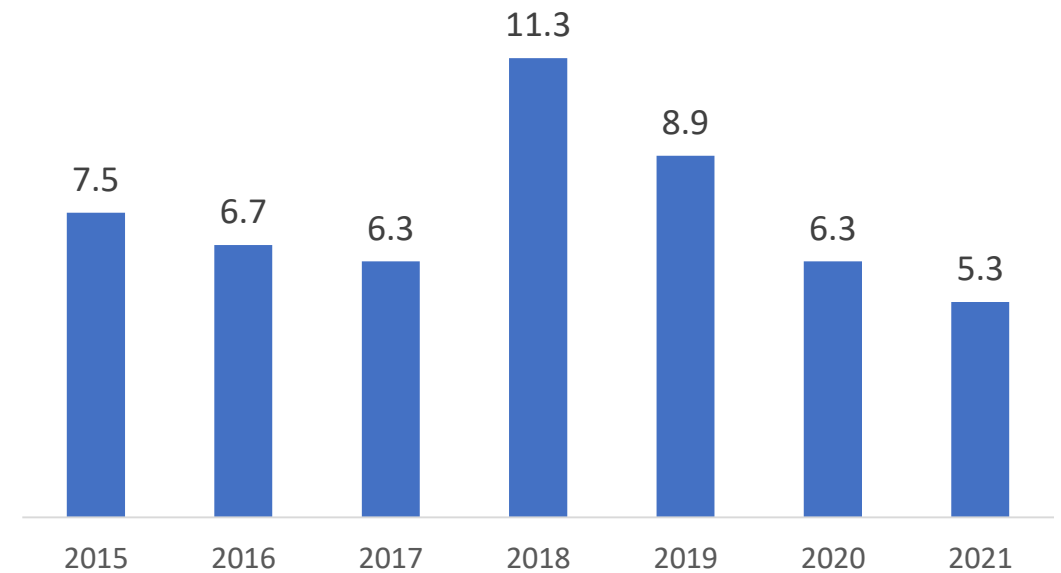
Source: zm.gov.lv (2022)

# Forest sector in figures: Export

Roundwood export, thousand m3



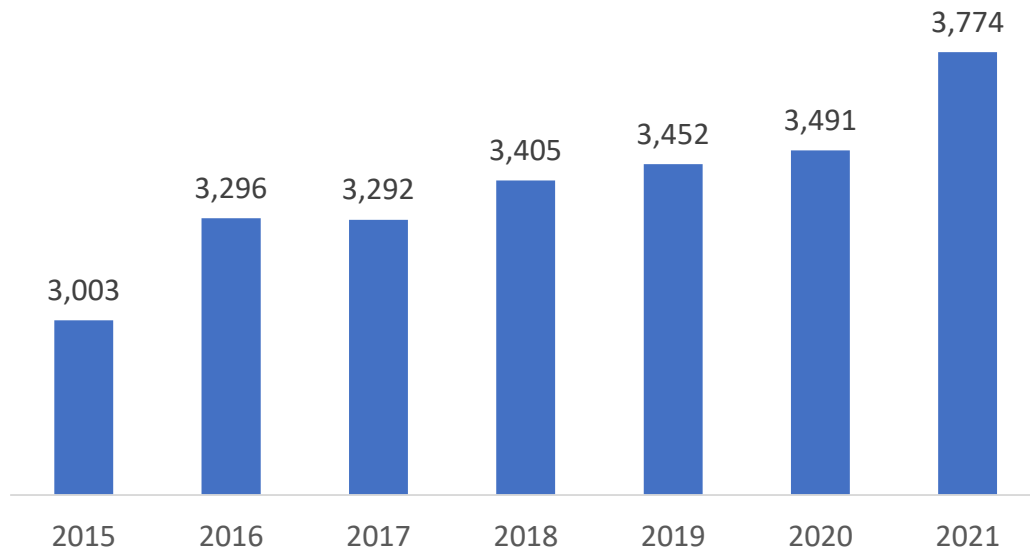
Roundwood proportion in wood export, %



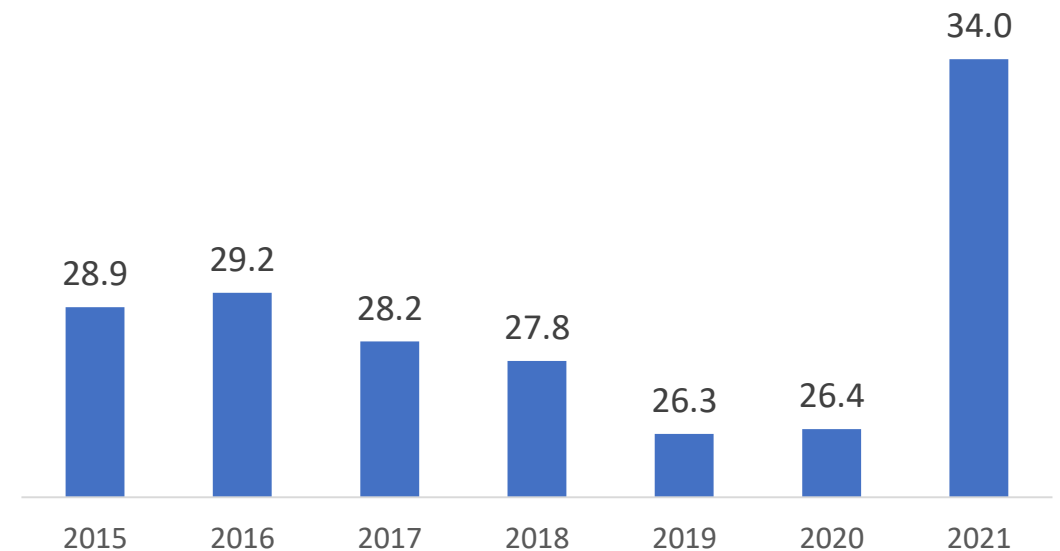
Source: zm.gov.lv (2022)

# Forest sector in figures: Export

Sawnwood export, thousand m3



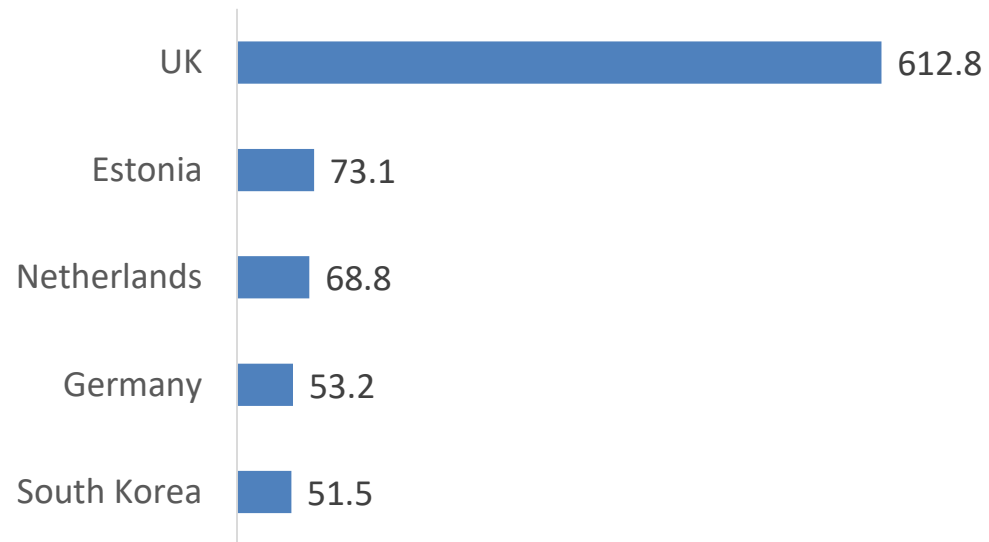
Sawnwood proportion in wood export, %



Source: zm.gov.lv (2022)

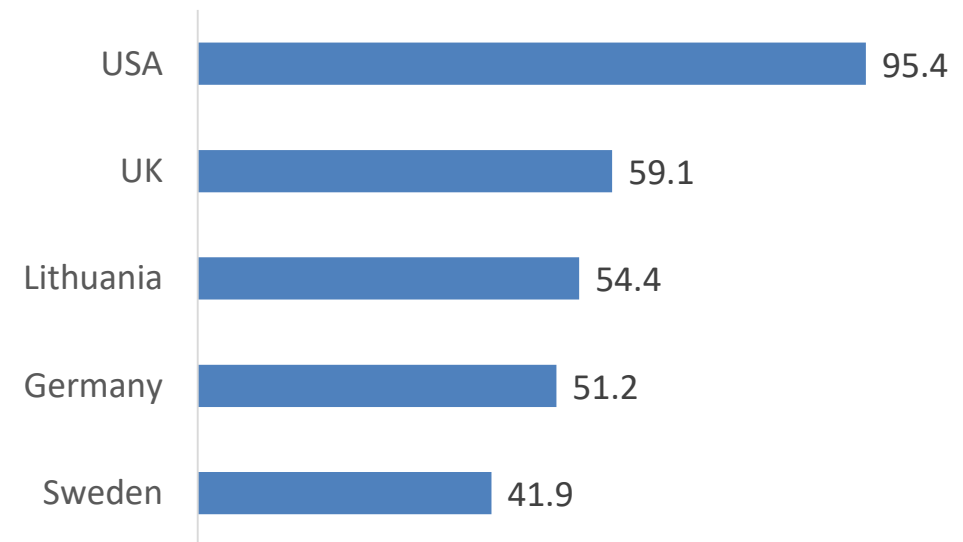
# Forest sector in figures: Export

TOP export markets for sawnwood in 2021,  
million EUR



Source: zm.gov.lv (2022)

TOP export markets for boards (plywood, veneer,  
particle board, fibreboard) in 2021, million EUR





# Key players in woodworking

Businesses using Latvia as playground for their ideas



Production of birch plywood  
Export countries: 60+  
[www.finieris.lv](http://www.finieris.lv)



Cross laminated timber technology  
[www.crosstimbersystems.com](http://www.crosstimbersystems.com)



Pursuit of state interests in forestry and sustainability  
Number of employees: 1000+  
[www.lvm.lv](http://www.lvm.lv)



One of the largest sawmills in Latvia  
[www.akz.v](http://www.akz.v)



Latvia-based producer of wood pellets  
Number of employees: 100  
[www.latgran.com](http://www.latgran.com)



Sustainable forest resource management  
[www.vikawoodlv](http://www.vikawoodlv)



One of the world leaders in wood and biomass solutions.  
Number of employees: 26 000 globally  
[www.storaenso.com](http://www.storaenso.com)



Wood manufacturing logistics and trade company  
[www.pata.lv](http://www.pata.lv)



World leader in wood panel manufacturing.  
Number of employees: 14 000 globally  
[www.Kronospan-express.com](http://www.Kronospan-express.com)



Wood furniture and pellets  
[www.avoti.lv](http://www.avoti.lv)



# Education in forestry and woodworking

Internationally recognized education to match the demand of the industry

**17** professional educational institutions

**3** universities

**41K** people employed in the forest industry

**584** students (+ **947** pupils in vocational education institutions)



**Latvian State Institute of Wood Chemistry** is the main centre of wood science in Latvia



**Latvian State Forest Research Institute 'Silava'** promotes sustainable development of forest sector



**Forest Faculty of the Latvian Agricultural University (LLU)**

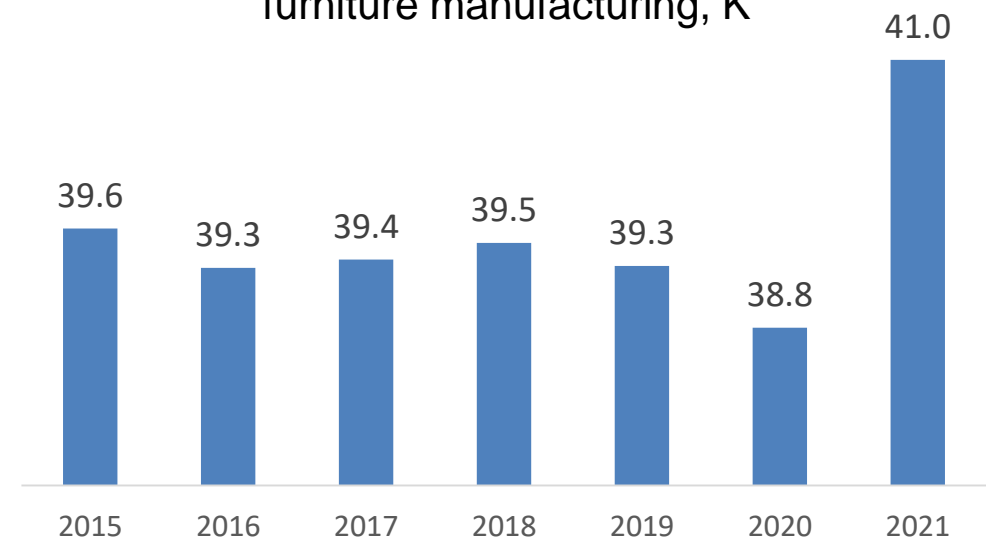


**Textile Technology and Design Institute of Riga Technical University, Material Science and Applied Chemistry**



**The Latvian Chamber of Crafts** - informal wood processing training sessions taught by experienced professionals

Number of employees in forestry, woodworking and furniture manufacturing, K



# Partnership of Latvian Constructors

“

*Wood is in the right place at the right time, climate change is promoting people-friendly building materials. There is a need to promote the wider use of CLT and GLT panels. The main direction of development must be the industrial production and use of wood to achieve the goals of the EU and provide more sustainable construction and insulation of buildings.*

Gints Mīkelsons, Head of Partnership of Latvian Constructors

”







**15<sup>th</sup>** by **EPI\***

**51%** of Latvia covered by forests

**20 min** away from the nature

**500 km** of sandy beaches

\*Environmental Performance Index for 180 countries





**LOW COMPETITION**

**EASY TO ENTER & SCALE**

**TRAINING INCENTIVES**

**FAST-TRACK PROCEDURES**

**EXCELLENT VALUE FOR MONEY**

**SUPERIOR ACCESSIBILITY**

**MODERN ICT INFRASTRUCTURE**

# Welcome on board

[invest@liaa.gov.lv](mailto:invest@liaa.gov.lv)  
[+371 67039473](tel:+37167039473)  
[www.investinlatvia.org](http://www.investinlatvia.org)  
[www.liaa.gov.lv](http://www.liaa.gov.lv)

# Investment and Development Agency of Latvia

Government agency with global presence

~**300** employees

**18** representative offices around the world (4 more offices planned)

**4** key departments



**Investment**



**Trade**



**Innovation**



**Tourism**

# Investment and Development Agency of Latvia

Your personal guide for setting up business operations in Latvia



Assistance with investment location selection & implementation of investment projects.



Provision of all relevant information on business opportunities & business incentives.



Identification of the best property options for manufacturing facilities, offices, & greenfield development.



Assistance in establishing contacts with Latvian business partners, municipalities, & associations.



# Successful LIAA FDI Cases

