

Denmark: A deforestation exposure assessment

Headlines

950 ha

Denmark's average annual deforestation exposure in 2021–2023, from **direct trade**

1,730 ha

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

-50.3%

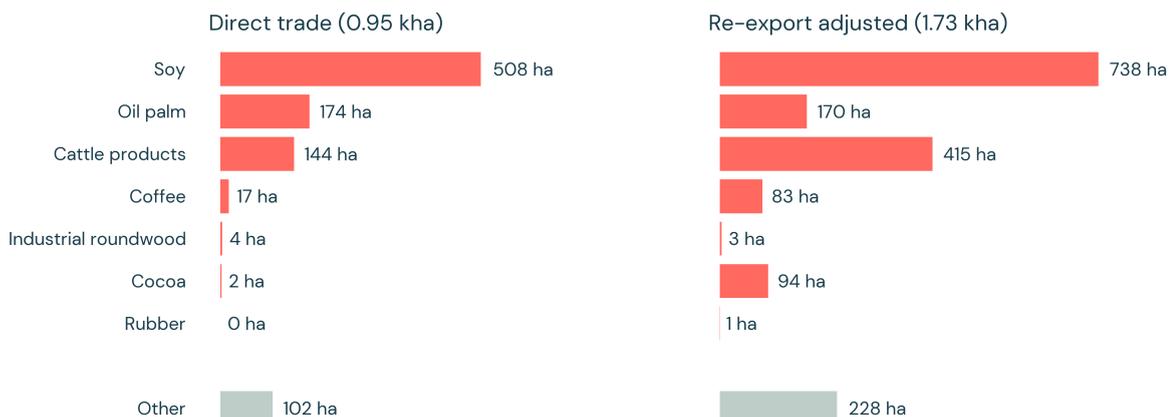
change in total deforestation exposure from 2014–2023, **adjusted for re-exports**

Methods note

This factsheet provides an estimate of the deforestation footprint of Denmark'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.

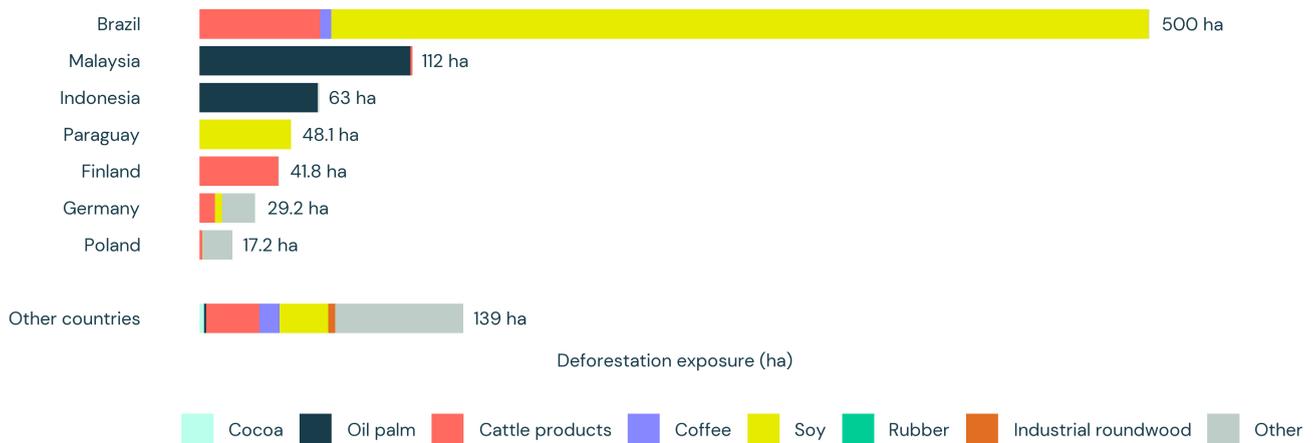
Deforestation exposure by commodity and trade perspective

Denmark's total deforestation exposure was larger from the re-export adjusted perspective (1,730 ha per year) and smaller from the direct trade perspective (950 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.



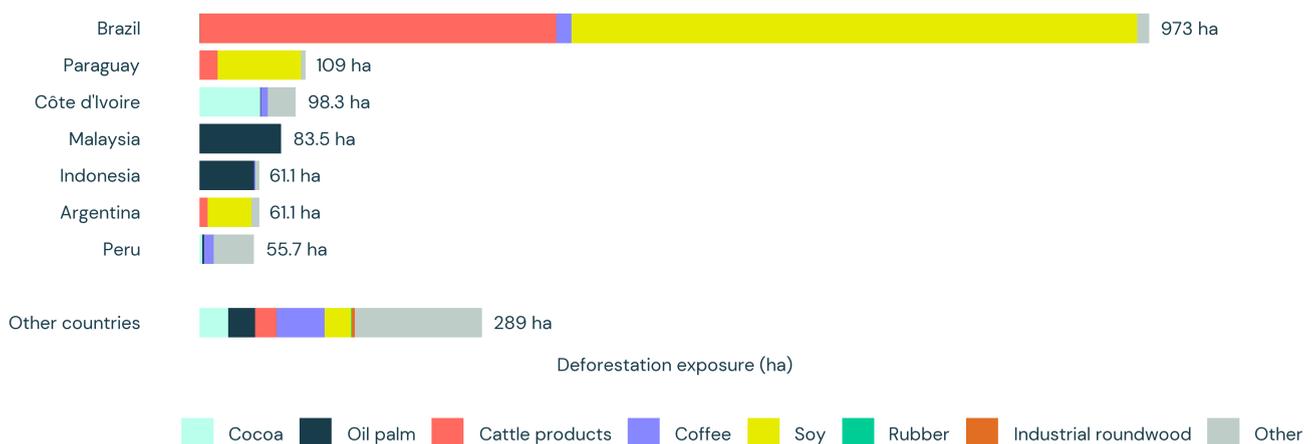
Direct trade deforestation exposure by origin country and commodity

From a direct trade perspective, on average between 2021 and 2023, Denmark was most exposed to deforestation in Brazil (500 ha, 52.6%), followed by Malaysia (112 ha, 11.8%) and Indonesia (63 ha, 6.6%). Across all origin countries, the most important commodities were soy (508 ha, 53.4%), oil palm (174 ha, 18.3%) and cattle products (144 ha, 15.1%). In Brazil, the most important commodity for Denmark's deforestation exposure was soy (430 ha, 86%), followed by cattle products (63.4 ha, 12.7%). In Malaysia, the most important commodity was oil palm (111 ha, 98.9%), followed by cattle products (1.22 ha, 1.1%).



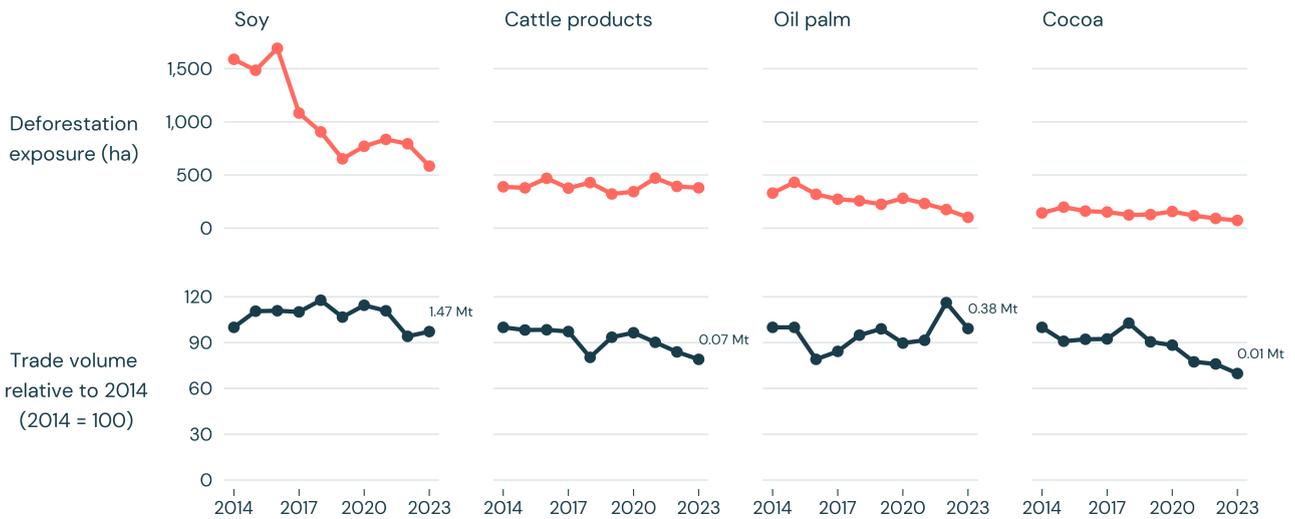
Re-export adjusted deforestation exposure by origin country and commodity

After adjusting for re-exports, on average between 2021 and 2023, Denmark was most exposed to deforestation in Brazil (973 ha, 56.2%), followed by Paraguay (109 ha, 6.3%) and Côte d'Ivoire (98.3 ha, 5.7%). Across all origin countries, the most important commodities were soy (738 ha, 42.6%), cattle products (415 ha, 24%) and oil palm (170 ha, 9.8%). In Brazil, the most important commodity for Denmark's deforestation exposure was soy (580 ha, 59.6%), followed by cattle products (366 ha, 37.6%). In Paraguay, the most important commodity was soy (85.6 ha, 78.9%), followed by cattle products (18.4 ha, 17%).



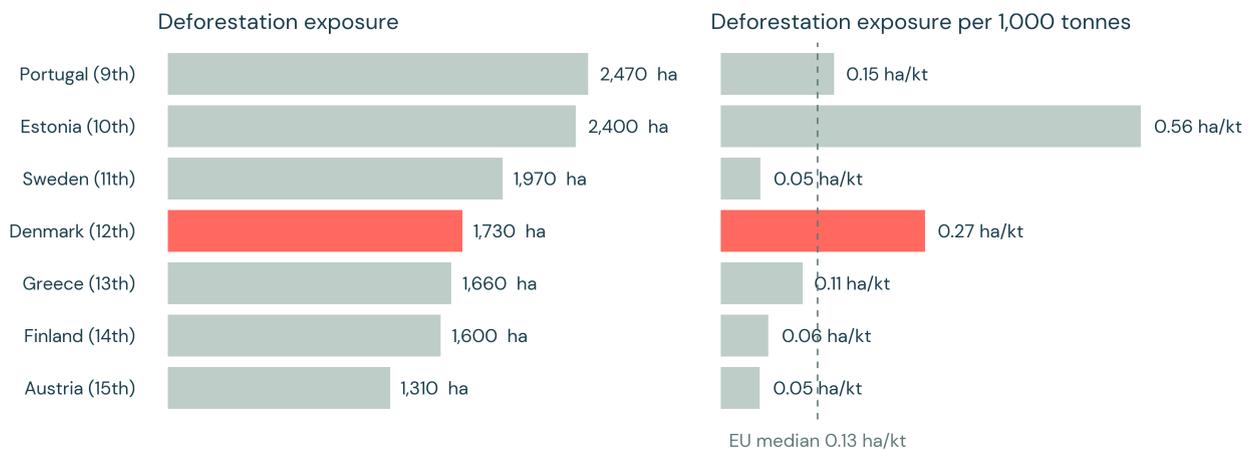
Trends in deforestation exposure and trade volume for top commodities

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, Denmark's total exposure decreased between 2014 and 2023 by 1,430 ha, a change of -50.3%. Of the top seven commodities, the biggest change in absolute terms was for soy, which saw a decrease of -1,000 ha over the time series (-63.2%). The biggest change in relative terms was for oil palm, which saw a decrease of -69.1% (-228 ha) over the time series.



Comparison with deforestation exposure of other EU countries

After adjusting for re-exports, Denmark ranks 12th among EU countries for deforestation exposure, accounting for 1.6% of the EU27 total. Looking at the deforestation per 1,000 tonnes of imported material, Denmark ranks 6th at 0.27 ha/kt, higher than the EU median of 0.13 ha/kt.



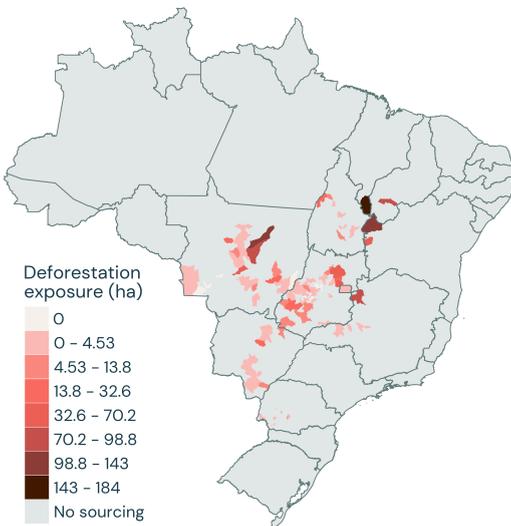
Subnational deforestation exposure

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 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.

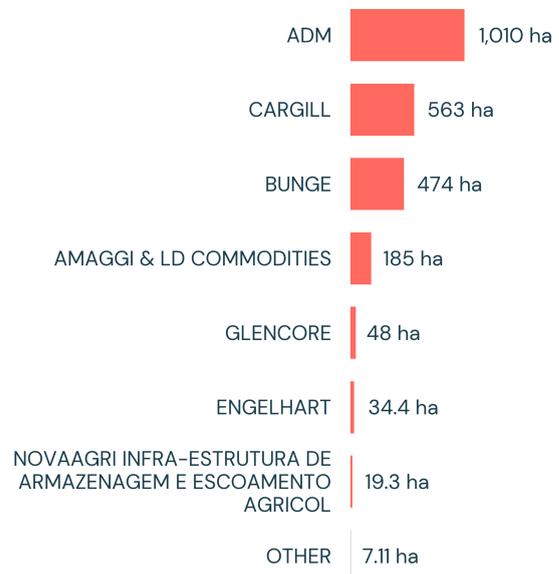
Brazil soy: Subnational detail

Trase data estimates that Denmark was exposed to 2,340 ha of deforestation from its direct imports of Brazil soy in 2022, the most recent year with subnational data available. Denmark's deforestation exposure was highest in the states of Mato Grosso (362 ha, 15.5%), Goias (281 ha, 12%) and Bahia (194 ha, 8.3%). For 42.1% of Denmark's imports (984 ha), the production location was unknown. In total, Denmark imported Brazil soy from 8 exporters in 2022. The exporter groups most exposed to deforestation were ADM, CARGILL and BUNGE, which together accounted for 87.4% of Denmark's deforestation exposure. To explore the data in more detail, visit trase.earth

Deforestation hotspots for exports to Denmark



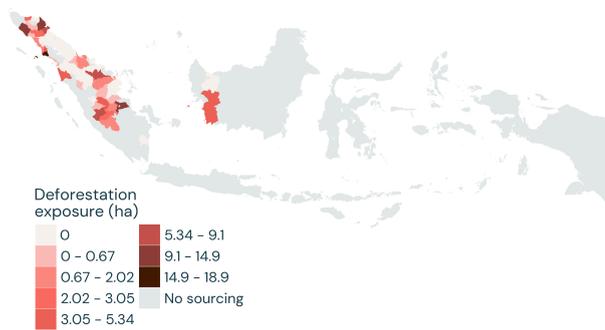
Exporter exposure for exports to Denmark



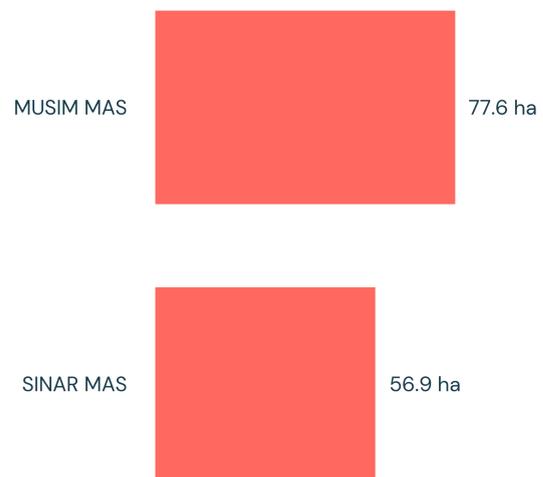
Indonesia palm oil: Subnational detail

Trase data estimates that Denmark was exposed to 134 ha of deforestation from its direct imports of Indonesia palm oil in 2022, the most recent year with subnational data available. Denmark's deforestation exposure was highest in the provinces of Aceh (82.5 ha, 61.4%), Jambi (29 ha, 21.6%) and Riau (10.6 ha, 7.9%). Zooming in to a finer spatial scale, Denmark sourced Indonesia palm oil from 61 kabupaten, while 80% of Denmark's exposure was spread across 11 kabupaten. In total, Denmark imported Indonesia palm oil from 2 exporters in 2022. Two exporter groups were exposed to deforestation: MUSIM MAS and SINAR MAS. To explore the data in more detail, visit trase.earth

Deforestation hotspots for exports to Denmark



Exporter exposure for exports to Denmark



Interpreting this factsheet

To identify the most important commodities and countries globally for Denmark'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.

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

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