

22 December 2025
 FOREST ACCOUNTS
 2015-2023

IN 2023, FORESTRY AND LOGGING INDUSTRY GVA DECREASED BY 1.4% IN VOLUME AND INCREASED BY 5.7% IN VALUE. TIMBER REMOVALS ACCOUNTED FOR 87% OF NET INCREMENT OF TIMBER IN THE FOREST

In 2023, the Gross Value Added (GVA) of forestry and logging industry decreased again in volume (-1.4%, comparing to -1.0% in 2022), having increased by 5.7% in nominal terms. The relative importance in the national economy remained stable at 0.5%.

Timber stocks in the national forest are estimated at 169.98 million m³ in 2023, having decreased by 10.0% compared to 2015, largely due to the fires of 2017.

Statistics Portugal discloses in this press release, for the first time, the Forest Accounts (FA) for 2015-2023. This project is one of the European environmental economic accounts, corresponding to the asset accounts for forest resources, which include wooded land and timber from wooded land, as well as the economic activity accounts for forestry and logging industry. They thus combine physical data on forest resources with economic and employment data, expanding the scope and set of information previously available in the Economic Accounts for Forestry (EAF). In addition to the traditional production of wood, cork and other forest-related products, forests are increasingly valued for their environmental role and as a public good.

On the Statistics Portugal website, in the National Accounts area ([Satellite Accounts section](#)), tables with detailed information are available. In this press release, the main physical and economic variables are synthetically analysed: Wooded land areas, Timber volumes and Gross Value Added (GVA).

FOREST AREA

In 2023, Portugal had an estimated area of 3.35 million hectares (ha) of forest, having increased by 1.2% compared to 2015. Approximately 67% is forest available for wood supply.

In relative terms, the forest covers about 36% of the national area. In the European Union (EU), in 2022, the forest area represented approximately 39% of the territory.

VOLUME OF TIMBER

Timber stocks in the national forest are estimated at 169.98 million m³ in 2023, having decreased by 10.0% compared to 2015. This decrease can be explained by removals above net increment of timber in the 2017-2019 triennium, following the major fires of 2017. Indeed, between 2020-2023, about 87% of net increment of timber in Portugal was removed to industry, but in the period 2017-2019, removals exceeded net increment of timber by approximately 26%. It is estimated that, in 2022, the average ratio in the European Union was 66%.

In 2023, the net increment of timber represented 11.1% of the opening stocks of timber in the forest.

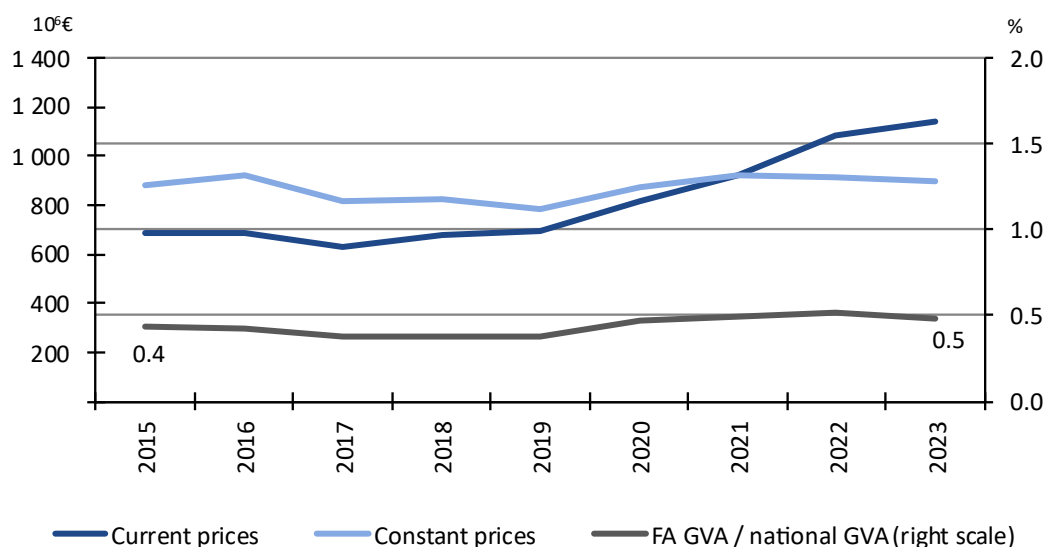
GROSS VALUE ADDED OF FORESTRY AND LOGGING INDUSTRY

In 2023, the GVA of forestry and logging industry reached 1,142 million euros, reflecting a nominal growth of 5.7% compared to the previous year. Discounting the price effect, it recorded a reduction in GVA volume (-1.4%), for the second consecutive year. This evolution in real terms was determined by the combined effect of a decrease in Output (-1.4%) close to that of Intermediate Consumption (-1.5%).

The relative weight of GVA from forestry and logging industry in the national economy remained at 0.5%, as has been the case since 2020.

Chart 1

GVA OF FORESTRY AND LOGGING INDUSTRY



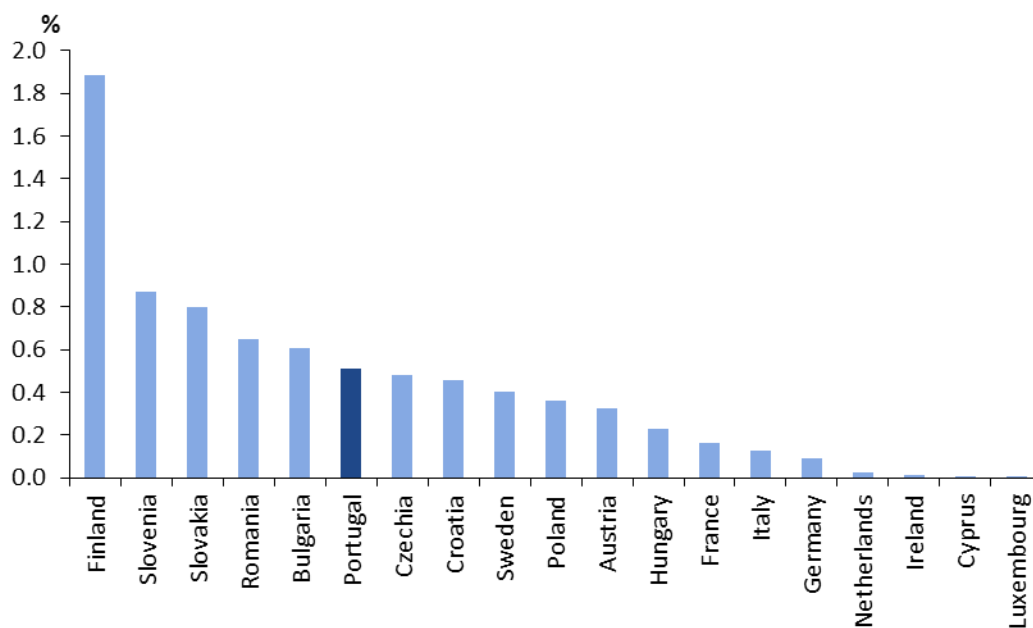
INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

Compared to other Member States (MS) of the European Union with available data, in 2022¹ Portugal ranked 6th in terms of relative weight of the GVA of forestry and logging industry in the national GVA (0.5%), surpassing countries with Mediterranean characteristics such as Italy (0.1%) or France (0.2%). The countries with the highest relative importance of forestry and logging industry in the economy this year were Finland (1.9%), Slovenia (0.9%), and Slovakia (0.8%).

¹ Last year for which information is available for the EU. Data extracted from Eurostat database on 16 December 2025.

Chart 2

FORESTRY GVA/NATIONAL GVA, BY MS (2022)



Analysing the GVA of forestry and logging industry by unit of forest area, in 2022 Portugal ranked 6th, with a value (€323/ha) much higher than countries where the forest area is large, such as Finland (€195/ha) or Sweden (€70/ha).

Chart 3

FORESTRY GVA/FORESTRY AREA, BY MS (2022)

