



Prepared for the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya

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Executive Summary

The UK recognises the need to accelerate progress towards a secure, resilient supply of sustainable soya to the UK. In order to achieve this, the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya was established in 2018, and since then UK industry has been working on increasing the proportion of soya imported into the UK that has not been produced in a way that resulted in deforestation and/or the conversion of natural ecosystems such as the Cerrado in Brazil and the Gran Chaco in Argentina.

Since its inception, the Roundtable has been a convening space for UK industry to share lessons across the supply chain, as well as an opportunity for collaboration between private and public sectors, thanks to the involvement and endorsement of UK Government representatives.

This report summarises progress towards the creation of resilient, sustainable soya supply chains to the UK. In 2022, the UK imported 3.46 million tonnes of soybean equivalents, a slight (3%) decrease compared to 2021. While there are significant year-to-year fluctuations in some sourcing areas, such as China for example, there is overall a high level of consistency, with Argentina as the main producing country of soya imported by the UK over the reporting period, followed by Brazil.

As well as direct soya imports, this report also analyses the UK's imports of "embedded" soya, where the UK imports goods that may have been produced (or reared in the case of meat or dairy products) using soy. This year the UK's imports of embedded soya grew by 8% to over 850,000 tonnes. While some sectors, such as dairy, have seen a decline in imports, other sectors, such as poultry, have seen a considerable increase (+22%) in 2022 compared to 2021.

Using both industry and UN Comtrade data, this analysis shows that approximately 22% of the UK's soya used in animal feed is deforestation and conversion free, and a further 46% is covered by a sustainability standard with criteria preventing deforestation and conversion driven by soya production. Of the soya covered by a sustainability standard, nearly two thirds were linked to a chain of custody model providing some level of assurance that sustainable soya was physically linked to UK supply chains. The remaining just over a third was linked to credit purchases supporting sustainable soya production around the world. This clearly demonstrates the UK's progressive transition towards more physically assured options of certified soya since this figure shows a very significant, almost four-fold increase from 7% in 2021 to 27% in 2022.

The UK's soya supply chain actors continue to learn more about where the UK's soya originates, and to engage suppliers and move beyond purchases of credit-based certification towards gathering greater assurance of the soya physically entering the UK. While challenges remain, UK companies are working on collaborative solutions to achieve physically verified deforestation and conversion free soya supply chains.

1 Introduction

The UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya was established in 2018 with funding from the UK Government through the Partnerships for Forests (P4F) programme, following the success of the UK Roundtable on Sourcing Sustainable Palm Oil (created in 2012).

Since 2022 both Roundtables have continued operating under the newly launched UK Sustainable Commodities Initiative (UK SCI), a broader programme of work which brings together both Roundtables, as well as working groups, technical assistance services for companies, and outreach and engagement activities to other markets. The initiative continues to focus on palm oil and soya, while increasingly covering additional commodities and thematic areas including reducing land use related emissions and addressing human rights within commodity supply chains.

Each year, Efeca, as secretariat of the Roundtable, produces this Annual Progress Report (APR) summarising the UK's progress towards the goal of the Roundtable (i.e., uptake of legal, deforestation and conversion free soya). This report relates to the UK's use of soya in 2022 and is the sixth report in the series.

1.1 The UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya and its goal

The UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya was established in 2018, following concerns from UK industry regarding the risk that soya imported into the UK may have been produced in a way that resulted in deforestation and the conversion of natural ecosystems such as the Cerrado in Brazil and the Gran Chaco in Argentina.

Roundtable members acknowledge that soya production is not the only driver of deforestation, with activities such as timber harvesting and cattle ranching also being significant contributors, but they are mindful of the anticipated future increase in global demand for soya, as well as its land use change related impacts on indirect (scope 3) greenhouse gas emissions.

Furthermore, due diligence regulations to tackle deforestation linked to the consumption of forest risk commodities (FRCs) have also been developed both in the UK, where primary legislation has been set out within Schedule 17 of the Environment Act 2021¹ and secondary legislation for its implementation will be forthcoming, and in Europe, where the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)² entered into force on 29th June 2023 and will become mandatory from 30th December 2024.³

In addition, Roundtable members are aware that sustainable soya credentials should go beyond deforestation and conversion free, also considering further environmental, economic and social

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/schedule/17>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32023R1115&qid=1687867231461>

³ The EUDR prohibits placing or exporting products in/from the EU market that do not comply with its legality and sustainability requirements and will require companies to conduct due diligence to ensure that the products they source are legal and are not linked to land that has been deforested or degraded after 31st December 2020. https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/forests/deforestation/regulation-deforestation-free-products_en

factors and aspects beyond land use change. However, this forum decided to focus on deforestation and land conversion since its inception, thus prioritising these pressing issues.

Through private-public collaboration, the Roundtable aims to support long term sustainability of agricultural supply chains, and a mass market transition towards a secure, resilient supply of sustainable soya to the UK, which is deforestation and conversion free, and has been produced in compliance with local laws in the country of production.

The Roundtable goal was agreed by Roundtable members in 2018, following several working group meetings, and was then reviewed and updated in November 2020 as follows.

The UK recognises the need to accelerate progress towards a secure, resilient supply of sustainable soya to the UK.

The UK Government supports Roundtable signatories' commitment to:

- *sustainable resilient supplies of soya for the UK which are legal and cultivated in a way that protects against conversion of forests and valuable native vegetation; and*
- *help drive global mass market transition to sustainable supply chains.*

Roundtable signatories commit to publishing their own policies and timebound plans for achieving this goal within 6 months of joining the Roundtable and to publicly update on progress annually.

1.2 This report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress towards meeting the Roundtable goal. This is the sixth Annual Progress Report (APR) of the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya and sets out our current understanding of the UK soya footprint in terms of volumes, sources, and sustainability credentials at a national level. This report uses the latest national publicly available data (calendar year 2022) as well as data confidentially gathered by the UK Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) from traders, importers and shippers. For further information on the methodology behind this report, please see the Annex.

Compared to previous reports, this sixth edition of the Annual Progress Report (APR) is a more rapid review of the UK's soya consumption, as well as progress towards deforestation and conversion free soya supply chains. As a result, members of the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya were not asked to feed into this report; instead, industry data has been gathered using existing industry reporting such as the AIC Soy Supply Group and the UK Soy Manifesto.

2 Overview of soya imports to the UK in a global context

When describing the UK's consumption of soya, it is important to consider this within the context of global production and use.

2.1 Global soya production and use

Soybean production has increased 15 times over since the 1950s,⁴ and more than doubled worldwide over the past 20 years, largely driven by growing global demand for soya used in animal feed for livestock production (76% of global soya production).⁵ Soybeans can also be used for direct human consumption, including as cooking oil (13%), and as protein source in meat and dairy alternatives such as tofu, soya milk, edamame beans and tempeh, but these uses only cover approximately 7% of global soya production.⁶ The remaining 4% tends to be used by industry for biodiesel, lubricants and other industrial uses.⁷

According to FAOSTAT data, **in 2021, global soya production reached 372 million tonnes and Brazil was the largest soybean producer globally (36%), followed by the United States (33%), Argentina (12%), China, India, Paraguay and Canada.⁸** All these major soya producing countries are part of the top 10 countries the UK imports soybeans from (see Table 1 below for further details).

2.2 Direct imports of soya to the UK

It is estimated that 90% of all soya imported by the UK is either used as animal feed or embedded within imported meat, eggs, or dairy products.⁹ Imports and/or uses of soya can be reported in two forms. "Soybean meal equivalent" reflects that when a soybean is crushed only a proportion of that weight is soya meal (approximately 72.5% of the whole bean), most commonly used in animal feed, while a "soybean equivalent" reflects the volume of whole soybeans required to produce the meal and oil used. The latter can be more helpful to identify the impact in producer countries as it relates more closely to land used for soya production, but may result in an overestimated volume, as this approach does not reflect that one soybean could be used by different industries – e.g., as soybean meal for animal feed and soya lecithin in a chocolate bar. Both figures are presented within this report.

Table 1 below summarises the UK's imports of soya based on publicly available trade data. Where soya has been exported to the UK from a country that is unlikely to be a soya producer (e.g., Ireland and the Netherlands), it is possible to reallocate that soya to the original producer countries by analysing those countries' own imports – for example, in 2022, Ireland imported soybean meal primarily from Argentina (68%), while the Netherlands imported it mainly from Brazil (56%). Within Table 1 below, soya imported by the UK from the Netherlands and Ireland

⁴ <https://www.worldwildlife.org/industries/soy>

⁵ <https://ourworldindata.org/soy>

⁶ <https://ourworldindata.org/soy>

⁷ <https://ourworldindata.org/soy>

⁸ <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data>

⁹ https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/RiskierBusiness_July2020_V7_0.pdf

has been reallocated to likely producer countries based on their own import data as the volumes reported were deemed significant (over 5% of UK imports).

Table 1: UK soya imports, based on HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) statistics and UN Comtrade data

	2019 Soybean meal equivalents (Tonnes)	2020 Soybean meal equivalents (Tonnes)	2021 Soybean meal equivalents (Tonnes)	2022 Soybean meal equivalents (Tonnes)	2022 Share of UK imports	Year on year change
Argentina	1,093,703	1,248,614	1,104,612	946,934	38%	-14%
Brazil	702,878	657,808	672,778	786,140	31%	17%
USA	244,565	147,176	182,301	274,707	11%	51%
Paraguay	202,610	201,409	292,605	204,145	8%	-30%
Europe	57,628	113,780	86,758	127,929	5%	47%
Canada	118,608	254,468	175,735	80,907	3%	-54%
China	62,621	32,623	10,587	46,780	2%	342%
India	17,474	36,374	48,329	26,693	1%	-45%
Other countries	80,736	50,375	5,650	17,865	1%	216%
Total Soybean meal equivalents (Tonnes)	2,580,823	2,742,627	2,579,355	2,512,100		-3%
Total Soybean equivalents (Tonnes)	3,559,756	3,782,934	3,557,731	3,464,965		-3%

In 2022, the UK imported 2.5 million tonnes of soybean meal equivalents, a slight (-3%) decrease compared to 2021. Overall, **the UK continues to source soya primarily from Argentina (38%) and Brazil (31%),** followed by the USA, Paraguay, Europe, Canada, China and India. **Compared to 2021, the UK imported considerably more soya from the USA (+51%) and Europe (+47%),** and volumes imported from Brazil also increased by 17%. Interestingly, UK soya imports from China grew more than four times over (year on year change). Conversely, 2022 UK soya (direct) imports from Argentina (-14%), Paraguay (-30%), Canada (-54%) and India (-45%) all decreased compared to 2021.

Although these changes may appear significant, when looking at imports over the last few years, **these are only small fluctuations, and there is overall a high level of consistency, with Argentina as the main producing country of soya imported by the UK over the reporting period, followed by Brazil.** There is a greater level of variation between the USA, Paraguay, Europe and Canada, but the UK typically only imported between 3% and 11% of its overall soya volumes (yearly) from any of these countries over the reporting period.

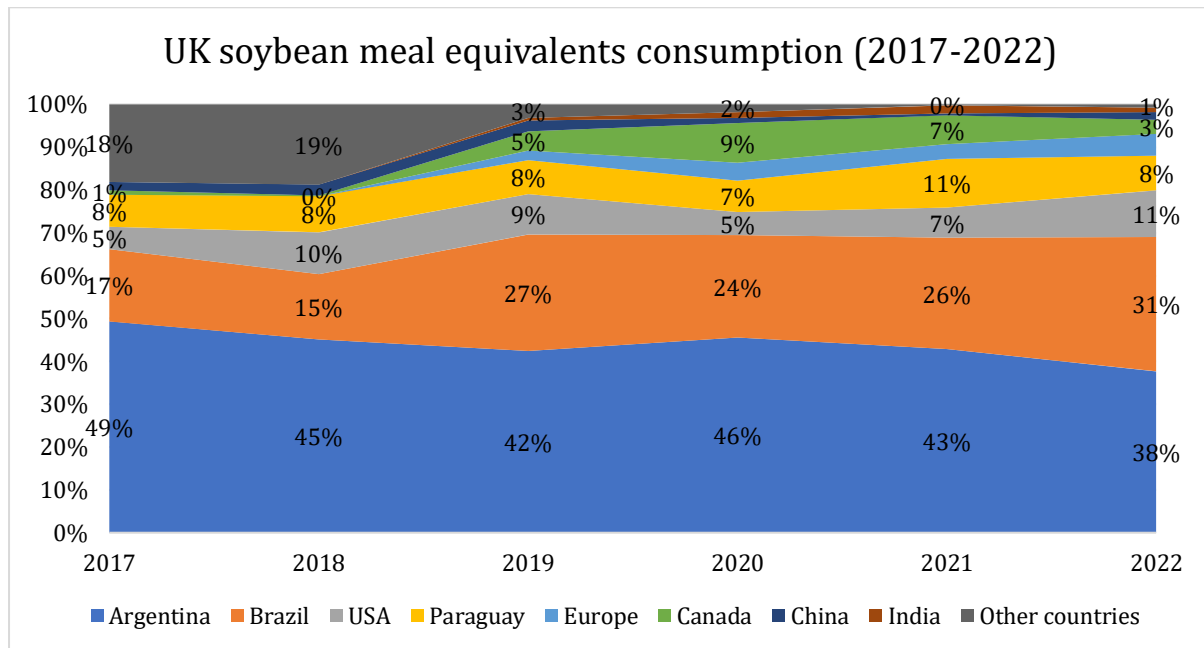


Figure 1: Graph to show UK soya imports (2017-2022), based on UN Comtrade data

2.3 Indirect imports of soya to the UK

In addition to importing soya directly from producer countries as soybean meal, oil and whole beans, the UK also imports a significant volume of soya “embedded” within products. For example, pigs reared in Denmark will have been fed soya as part of their feed rations before being exported to the UK as bacon.

Each country has its own agricultural systems and ways of working, which have an impact on the proportion of soya used within animal feed and/or the use of alternatives. For example, the UK and Ireland rear cattle in a more grass-based feed system in comparison to other markets. This increases complexities when estimating volumes of soya embedded within UK’s imports of meat and dairy products.

To address this, companies as well as academics often use “conversion factors” as proxy figures or estimates for those volumes of embedded soya. These conversion factors are generally based on global averages, but they can vary significantly across different sources, hence the authors’ choice of using an average of three sources, namely the Dutch Soy Barometer (2014), the RTRS Soy Calculator (2020) and WWF Riskier Business (2020). The volumes of imported products that may contain soya can be tracked using HS codes, as part of the internationally standardised system to classify traded products. For further information on the methodology used, please see the Annex of this report.

In 2020, the UK’s average volume of embedded soya imports was approximately 750,000 tonnes, while it almost reached 800,000 tonnes in 2021. **In 2022, there was a further growth to over 850,000 tonnes, thus showing an 8% increase compared to 2021, and a 15% increase compared to 2020.** Pork and poultry products remain the main source of embedded soya imports, although, in the last year, the proportion of embedded soya imported within poultry products increased by 4%, surpassing the proportion of embedded soya imported

within pork products, which instead remained almost constant at 34% in 2022. Similarly, the proportion of embedded soya imported within beef, cheese, eggs and dairy products remained consistent, with all these products' volume variations remaining within 3% compared to the previous reporting year.

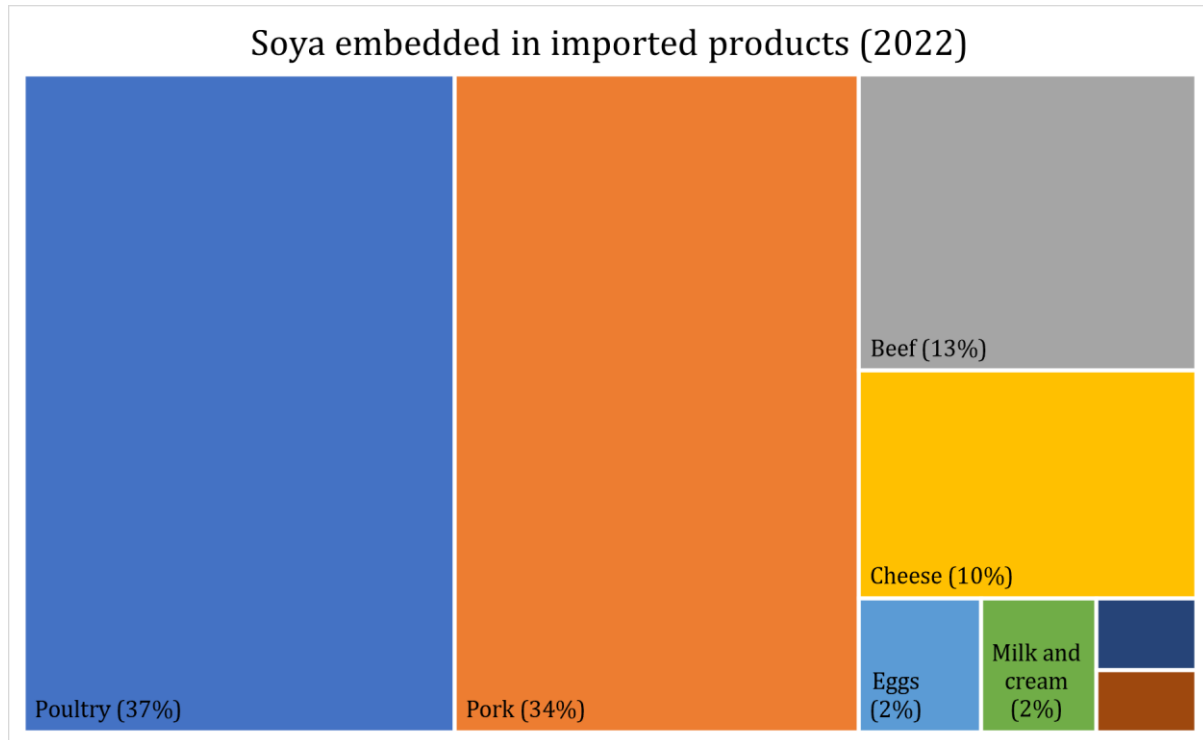


Figure 2: Graph to show the proportion of embedded soya per import category, based on UN Comtrade data – Note: the dark blue and brown shown here represent butter and soya sauce respectively (each representing 1% of imports in 2022, as previously in 2021)

The 2022 increase in embedded soya imported to the UK is somewhat consistent with the similar increase seen in 2021, and likely to be a consequence of hospitality businesses reopening and operating at full capacity following the Coronavirus pandemic. However, while trade increased overall, as illustrated above, imports of dairy products such as milk and cheese slightly decreased in 2022. This trend is consistent with the previous year, as it follows an earlier 11% decrease in 2021 (compared to 2020). On the other hand, imports of poultry considerably increased (+22%) in 2022 compared to 2021. Similarly, imports of pork products also increased in 2022, but are still lower than in 2020.

3 Measuring deforestation and conversion free soya sourcing

Members of the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya commit to create public commitments that support the key principles of the goal of the Roundtable, namely ensuring **legality and protection against the conversion of forests and valuable native vegetation for soya cultivation**. This is in line with the definitions developed by the Accountability Framework initiative (AFi).

For the purposes of this report, soya volumes are considered in compliance with the goal of the UK Roundtable (i.e., supporting the production of soya that is legal and protect forests and valuable native vegetation) through either:

- Being linked to purchases of certified soya volumes from standards that require legal compliance, prohibit legal deforestation, and prohibit legal conversion of other valuable native vegetation.
- Provision of alternative, equivalent evidence that soya can be verified as legally produced and without deforestation and conversion. This may include (but not be limited to) the following:
 - Soya sourced from countries agreed by Roundtable members to be at lower risk of deforestation or conversion. Currently Roundtable members have agreed these to be the USA, Canada and Europe.
 - Contracted purchases of soya from the Amazon in compliance with the Amazon Soy Moratorium (ASM). However, it is recognised that information on these purchases is currently only available at a trader level and not routinely passed down the supply chain.
 - Soya that is verified as produced legally and free from deforestation and conversion of other valuable native vegetation – for example, as part of a regional, jurisdictional or landscape approach, satellite mapping, or on the ground auditing. It is recognised that this is not currently widely available across the soya supply chain but work in this space is ongoing.

3.1 Measuring progress towards the goal of the UK Roundtable

This year's figures have been calculated based on data provided by the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC), the trade association representing soya importers and feed mills (as presented in Table 2 below) and UK soya imports (as illustrated in Table 1 above), which are based on HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) statistics and UN Comtrade data. AIC's membership does not reflect all soya imports and, as a result, there is a 9% difference in volumes (238,005 tonnes) between the two. This may lead to discrepancies in exact figures, but overall trends are not affected.

3.1.1 Comparison between 2021 and 2022 AIC data

Due to a delay in finalising reporting, AIC data for 2021 only became available in 2023 and, as a result, 2021 and 2022 data will be analysed together here.

Table 2: AIC Soya Supply Group Import Data Reports – 2021 & 2022

UK soya imports – based on 2021 & 2022 import data		2021		2022	
		Metric tonnes	% of total	Metric tonnes	% of total
1	Total soybean meal imports ¹⁰	2,159,258	100	2,274,095	100
2	Soybean meal imported from territories with a lower risk of deforestation and conversion ¹¹	438,272	20.3	371,476	16.3
3	Soybean meal imported compliant with deforestation and conversion free (DCF) schemes and standards (and not included under row 2) ¹²	736,748	34.1	1,170,431	51.5
4	Soybean meal imported compliant with ASM contracts (and not included under row 3)	164,124	7.6	180,231	7.9
5	Balance of soybean meal imports not linked to any DCF sourcing schemes or standards	820,114	38.0	551,957	24.3

According to the AIC data illustrated in Table 2 above, 2022 soya imports saw a decrease in soybean meal imported from territories carrying a lower deforestation risk, namely, the USA, Canada and Europe (from 20% to 16%), and a significant increase in imported soybean meal compliant with deforestation free schemes and standards, including various certification options and chain of custody models,¹³ as this proportion grew from 736,748 tonnes in 2021 (34%) to 1,170,431 tonnes in 2022 (52%). Consequently, since imported soybean meal compliant with ASM contracts remained almost constant, the proportion of UK soybean meal imports not carrying any deforestation free credentials decreased considerably from 820,114 tonnes in 2021 (38%) to 551,957 tonnes in 2022 (24%).

3.1.2 Analysis and commentary of 2022 AIC data

According to the AIC data presented above, it is possible to estimate that **at least 24% of the UK's soya used in animal feed was physically deforestation and conversion free in 2022**, as it was either sourced from countries agreed by Roundtable members to be at a lower risk of illegality, and lower risk of deforestation and conversion, namely, the USA, Canada and Europe¹⁴ (16%), or purchased from the Amazon in compliance with the Amazon Soy Moratorium (8%).

¹⁰ Where beans are supplied to the UK market, the soybean meal equivalent is used to express import volumes – calculated at 72.5% yield.

¹¹ Where beans or meal are supplied to the UK market from territories with a lower deforestation risk, namely, from the USA, Canada and Europe.

¹² Where beans or meal are supplied to the UK market from territories where there is a deforestation risk, but where the deforestation risk is mitigated by sourcing from schemes compliant with FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines, or where the soya is traceable to the producer and audited by a recognised 3rd party certification/inspection company, where the supplier has an existing soya policy for the country or region referring to a zero-deforestation standard. These include ADM Responsible Soybean Standard version 2; Cargill 'Triple S'; Cefetra Responsible Soy (CRS); Donau Soja/European Soya (would qualify under row 2); ISCC+; Proterra; RTRS; The US Sustainability Assurance Protocol (would qualify under row 2); Viterro Certification; and 2BS.

¹³ Please see the Annex for further information on different chain of custody models in sustainable soya standards.

¹⁴ Please note that this refers to soya that has been produced in Europe – i.e., soya imported via the Netherlands would be considered in the context of the Netherlands' own soya imports.

In addition to these volumes, UK industry has also continued to purchase soya linked to certification standards to cover the volumes of soya used within their individual supply chains. Thus, in addition to the 24% reported above, **a further 52% of the UK's soya imports were covered by a sustainability standard with criteria preventing deforestation and conversion in 2022.**

3.2 Summary of the UK's progress towards deforestation and conversion free soya supply chains

Through the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya, industry has made significant progress since its launch in 2018, learning more about where soya in the UK supply chain is sourced from, and taking steps to ensure that soya has not had a negative impact on people or the environment.

Figure 3 below summarises the UK's total imports of soya each year since the 2017 baseline report, utilising information gathered from Roundtable members' matrix of progress updates, data provided by AIC, as well as data collected from UK Soy Manifesto Signatories, since 2021, to set out what is known about the UK's soya sourcing.

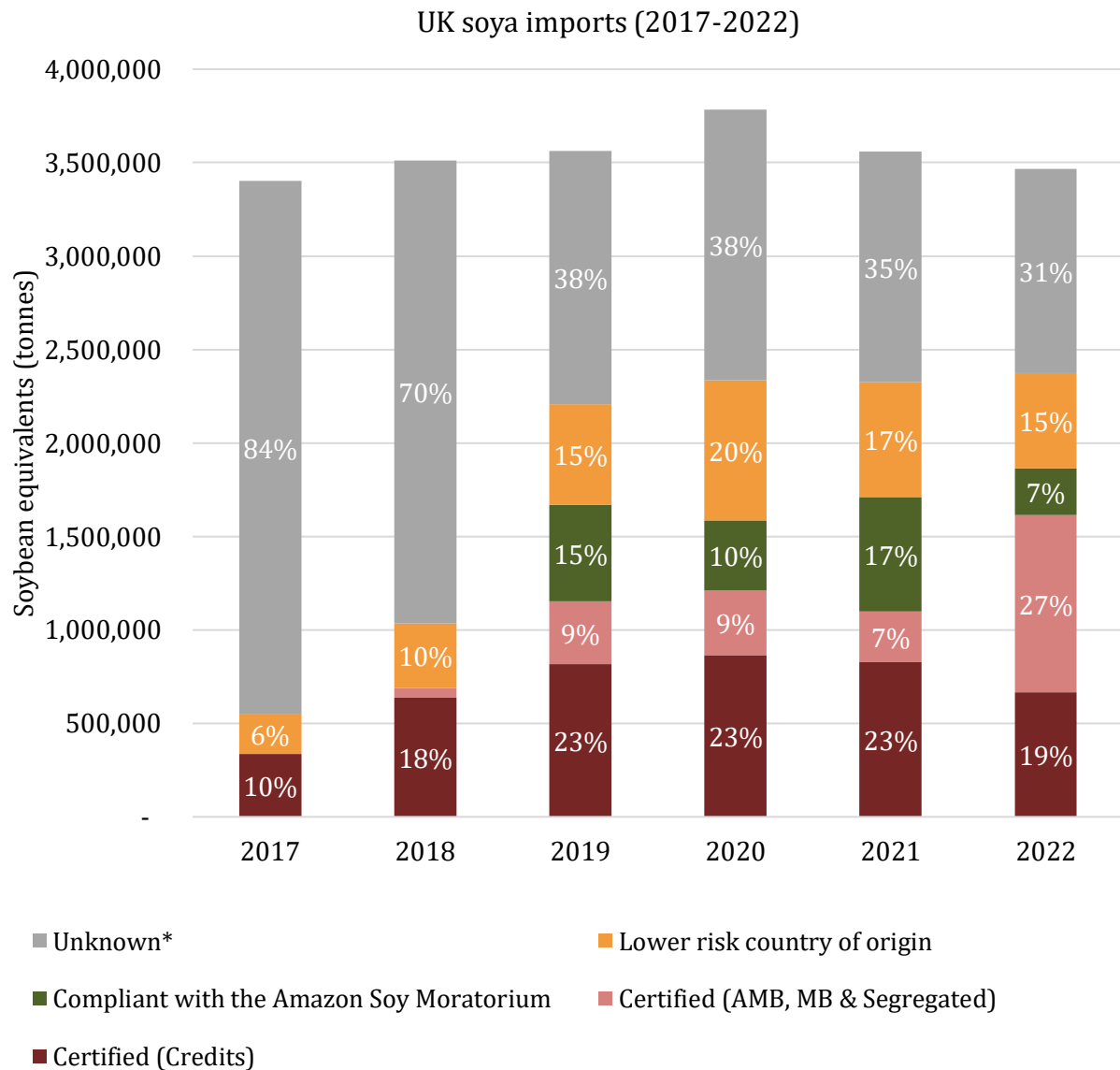


Figure 3: Overall UK progress towards the goal of the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya

**Volumes of direct imports remaining not verified as DCF, nor linked to a DCF certification scheme.*

Using the volumes reported as from a lower risk country of origin (15%) or predicted to be compliant with the Amazon Soy Moratorium (7%), **approximately 22% of all direct soybean and soybean meal imports to the UK are verified as deforestation and conversion free.**

Compared to 2021 data, in 2022 the proportion of soya purchased against a certification scheme has considerably increased, with **27% of direct import volumes linked to a chain of custody model providing some level of physical assurance, and an additional 19% linked to a credit purchase.**¹⁵ Actual credit purchases have slightly decreased from 23% in 2021 to 19% in 2022, but, based on reporting from industry, is likely due to companies adopting other

¹⁵ As previously mentioned above, please see the Annex for further information on different chain of custody models in sustainable soya standards.

chain of custody models with greater levels of assurance, clearly demonstrating the UK's **progressive transition towards more physically assured options of certified soya** since this figure shows a very significant, almost four-fold increase from 7% in 2021 to 27% in 2022.

Similar to last year, the “unknown” proportion of soya (where there is insufficient evidence to make a claim) has decreased slightly from 35% in 2021 to 31% in 2022. This figure is expected to improve further as developments are made in passing assurance of the physical, verified deforestation and conversion free status of soya along the supply chain, and as traders’ own commitments are delivered, since many traders shipping soya to the UK have their own commitments to transparency, traceability, and deforestation and conversion free soya sourcing.

3.3 Looking forward

Recognising the wide variety of certification schemes available, it is important to distinguish those that meet the principles of legality and the avoidance of deforestation and conversion of native vegetation within their criteria.

3.3.1 2023 FEFAC update

The European Feed Manufacturers’ Federation (FEFAC) launched an updated version of their FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines (FEFAC SSGs) in July 2023.¹⁶ First published in 2015, then revised in 2021, and subsequently updated in 2023, these FEFAC guidelines act as a “professional recommendation” for feed operators and others, with essential and desirable criteria across six pillars on Legal compliance, Responsible working conditions, Environmental responsibility, Good agricultural practice, Respect legal land use, and Protection of community relations. The main reason for a mid-term review of the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines was to turn the desired criterion on the non-conversion of natural eco-systems into an essential one.¹⁷

“By moving the desired criterion on conversion-free soy to an essential one, FEFAC [also] moves beyond the scope of the incoming regulatory framework on deforestation-free supply chains, the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).”¹⁸ For further details on the FEFAC-developed qualification mechanism for conversion-free soya, and its corresponding transparency tool, which will be updated to distinguish between the benchmarking results of both FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines versions, please see FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines 2023 Update.¹⁹

3.3.2 Regulatory changes

In the last few years, collective industry action on more sustainable and resilient soya sourcing has flourished thanks to fora such as the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya, the Consumer Goods Forum Forest Positive Coalition and more recently the UK Soy Manifesto, but further

¹⁶ https://fefac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Web_FEFAC-SSGuidelines_2023Final.pdf

¹⁷ With the changes, the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines now still have 73 criteria, but one more essential criterion and one less desired criterion. Also, some improvements were applied in the area of the verification requirements. Please see the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines 2023 Update for further details (and a full comparison with the version released in 2021).

¹⁸ https://fefac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Web_FEFAC-SSGuidelines_2023Final.pdf

¹⁹ https://fefac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Web_FEFAC-SSGuidelines_2023Final.pdf

incentives are also expected from a regulatory (due diligence) perspective, following the publication of Schedule 17 of the Environment Act 2021, and in light of the future publication of its secondary legislation for its implementation.

At the European level, the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)²⁰ entered into force on 29th June 2023, and will become “active” from 30th December 2024. The EUDR will prohibit placing or exporting products in/from the EU market that do not comply with its legality and sustainability requirements and will require companies to conduct due diligence to ensure that the products they source are legal and are not linked to land that has been deforested or degraded after 31st December 2020. Ultimately, the EUDR’s main goal is also to reduce the EU’s impact on global deforestation by promoting the consumption of deforestation free products.²¹ While the UK is no longer part of the EU, this regulation has the potential to significantly shift commercial practices for soya trading to Europe as a whole.

²⁰ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32023R1115&qid=1687867231461>

²¹ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/forests/deforestation/regulation-deforestation-free-products_en

4 Conclusion

The UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya has supported significant progress over the past six years. Overall, it represents the whole UK supply chain from traders to customer facing retailers and food service companies, and it has seen a considerable increase in the uptake of certified and/or deforestation and conversion free soya.

While collective progress towards the goal of the UK Roundtable has reached 69% of the UK's soya consumption being linked to either verified deforestation free sources or certification, this figure is currently expected to grow even further in future years due to the continuous efforts being made by UK industry. To deliver greater uptake and assurance of deforestation and conversion free soya sourcing, the supply chain needs to continue to collaborate, collectively taking action for the creation, development and implementation of practical, shared solutions.

The UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya, within the context of the UK Sustainable Commodities Initiative (UK SCI), will therefore aim to support UK industry in better understanding both regulations, and their respective requirements, while also continuing to collaborate with actors and stakeholders beyond the UK, thanks to outreach and engagement activities with other European as well as global initiatives and platforms. In fact, achieving sustainable and resilient supply chains (to the UK) of soya that has been legally produced, and that is deforestation and conversion free, will require collaboration and collective action with both producer countries and other consumer markets, in Europe as well as internationally.

Annex – Methodology

This section explains the methodology used to calculate the estimated volume of soya imported by the UK, in order to identify changes to UK sourcing and the UK’s progress towards meeting the goal of the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya.

The highly complex nature of soya supply chains and ultimate end uses means that it can be challenging to accurately capture data on all products containing soya. For this reason, reporting is split into sections: the first being the total volume of soya entering the UK, including the country of origin and any inter-European trade; and the second being verifying the proportion of soya linked to deforestation and conversion risks.

A.1 Data sources

Total volumes of UK imports of soya have been gathered using the International Trade Centre (ITC) Trade Map tool, which uses a combination of UN Comtrade data and HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) statistics to provide import and export information based on HS codes.

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is an online service of a suite of tools, funded by the World Bank and the European Commission. It was developed to support global trading decisions, improve transparency, and facilitate access to markets. The tools available include maps for trade, market access, investment, trade competitiveness, and standards. For the purpose of this study, Efeca has used the Trade Map tool, and its associated datasets.

The Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) is the UK trade association for several sections of the agri-supply industry, including 90% of UK animal feed, and 90% of UK grains and oilseeds. The association has over 250 members and represents £6.5 billion turnover at farmgate. The AIC fosters collaboration throughout the food chain to support modern commercial agriculture in the UK. AIC continues to provide its soya supply data reports for use in this annual progress report series, having first shared this for the 2020 APR (using 2019 data). This AIC report is a summary provided by the four main traders to the UK of the volumes of soya used in animal feed supply chains (ADM, Cargill, Cefetra and Viterra). This includes information on both origin and sustainability claims.

The ITC Trade Map can provide more detailed breakdowns of soya (e.g., whole beans, meal, oil) and covers all soya usage in the UK, including soya for human consumption. However, the AIC data presents a more accurate summary of country of origin for most of the UK’s soya, and provides an additional layer of information that would otherwise not be publicly available. For example, the volume of soya sourced in compliance with the Amazon Soy Moratorium (ASM).

A.2 Indirect soya imports

Some soya consumed in the UK may be imported “indirectly,” for example, meat from an animal reared in another country and sold on the UK market.

To calculate the volumes of soya associated with these products, proxy calculations can be used to provide a reasonably accurate estimate of the volume of soya that has been used to produce the volume of chicken, pork, etc. sold to the UK. Proxy figures vary across different sets of

research, and therefore Efeca has chosen to present a range of figures across several sources: RTRS²² (an independent 3rd party certification scheme), the Dutch Soy Barometer²³ and WWF's Riskier Business report.^{24,25}

These conversion factors are intended to provide a proxy calculation for the proportion of soya in a product. For example, according to the WWF Riskier Business report, 57.5% of the weight of a chicken product can be attributed to the volume of soya consumed.

Table A: Common conversion factors applied to soya (kg of soya per tonne of product)

	RTRS conversion factors	WWF Riskier Business report (2020) conversion factors	Dutch Soy Barometer (2014) conversion factors
Chicken	0.756	0.575	0.60
Pork	0.507	0.263	0.33
Cheese	0.182	0.144	0.30
Beef	0.451	0.180	0.40
Margarine	0.241		0.06
Eggs (per unit)	0.533	0.307	0.04
Milk (per m3)	0.037	0.017	0.03

Table B: HS codes captured in this report

HS code	Description
0201	Meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled
0202	Meat of bovine animals, frozen
0203	Meat of swine, fresh, chilled, or frozen
020410	Fresh or chilled lamb carcasses and half-carcasses
020421	Fresh or chilled sheep carcasses and half-carcasses (excluding lambs)
020422	Fresh or chilled cuts of sheep, with bone in (excl. carcasses and half-carcasses)
020423	Fresh or chilled boneless cuts of sheep
020430	Frozen lamb carcasses and half-carcasses
020441	Frozen sheep carcasses and half-carcasses (excluding lambs)
020442	Frozen cuts of sheep, with bone in (excluding carcasses and half-carcasses)
020443	Frozen boneless cuts of sheep
0206	Edible offal of bovine animals, swine, sheep, goats, horses, asses, mules, or hinnies, fresh, chilled, or frozen
0207	Meat and edible offal of fowls of the species Gallus domesticus, ducks, geese, turkeys, and guinea fowl, fresh, chilled, or frozen
020711	Fresh or chilled fowls of the species Gallus domesticus, not cut into pieces
020712	Frozen fowls of the species Gallus domesticus, not cut into pieces
020713	Fresh or chilled cuts and edible offal of fowls of the species Gallus domesticus
020714	Frozen cuts and edible offal of fowls of the species Gallus domesticus

²² <https://responsiblesoy.org/rtrs-soy-footprint-calculator?lang=en>

²³ https://www.bothends.org/uploaded_files/document/Soy_Barometer2014_ENG.pdf

²⁴ https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/RiskierBusiness_July2020_V7_0.pdf

²⁵ Please note that the Riskier Business report has used proxies based on a mid-range estimate from a range of sources.

021011	Hams, shoulders, and cuts thereof of swine, salted, in brine, dried or smoked, with bone in
021012	Bellies streaky and cuts thereof of swine, salted, in brine, dried or smoked
021019	Meat of swine, salted, in brine, dried or smoked (excl. hams, shoulders and cuts thereof, with bone in, and bellies and cuts thereof)
021020	Meat of bovine animals, salted, in brine, dried or smoked
0401	Milk and cream, not concentrated nor containing added sugar or other sweetening matter
0402	Milk and cream, concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter
0403	Buttermilk, curdled milk and cream, yogurt, kephir and other fermented or acidified milk and cream, whether or not concentrated or flavoured or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter, fruits, nuts, or cocoa
0404	Whey, whether or not concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter; products consisting of natural milk constituents, where or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter
0405	Butter inc. dehydrated butter and ghee, and other fats and oils derived from milk, dairy spreads
0406	Cheese and curd
0407	Birds' eggs, in shell, fresh, preserved or cooked
040721	Fresh eggs of domestica fowls, in shell (excluding fertilised for incubation)
040729	Fresh birds' eggs, in shell (excluding of domestic fowls, and fertilised for incubation)
040790	Birds' eggs, in shell, preserved or cooked
040811	Dried egg yolks, whether or not sweetened
040819	Egg yolks, fresh, cooked by steaming or boiling in water, moulded, frozen or otherwise preserved, whether or not sweetened (excluding dried)
040891	Dried birds' eggs, not in shell, whether or not sweetened (excluding egg yolks)
040899	Birds' eggs, not in shell, fresh, cooked by steaming or boiling in water, moulded, frozen or otherwise preserved, whether or not sweetened (excluding dried)
160241	Hams of swine and cuts thereof, prepared or preserved
160242	Prepared or preserved shoulders and cuts thereof, of swine
160249	Prepared or preserved meat and offal of swine, incl. mixtures (excl. hams, shoulders, and cuts thereof, sausages and similar products, finely homogenised preparations put up for retail sale as infant food or for dietetic purpose, in containers of a net weight of <= 250 g, preparations of liver and meat extracts and juices
160250	Prepared or preserved meat or offal of bovine animals (excl. sausages and similar products, finely homogenised preparations put up for retail sale as infant food or for dietetic purposes, in containers of a net weight of <= 250 g, preparations of liver and meat extracts and juices
210310	Soya sauce

A.3 Assumptions

Due to the complexity of the supply chain, and data currently available, several assumptions have been made.

The total figure of imported soya meal varies between the various organisations reporting on soya trading, due to differing methods of data collection, the time of year reporting takes place, and choice of HS codes. For this reason, this report favours ITC data, as HS codes can be selected by the user, and any assumptions or corrections made to the data can be clearly identified.

Where data has either been unavailable, or too complex to analyse at this time, proxy figures have been used to calculate estimates of soya usage (e.g., for embedded soya within products).

Since UK exports of soybeans, soybean oil and soybean meal tend to be relatively small, it is assumed that all UK soya imports are consumed in the UK.

A.4 Chain of custody models in sustainable soya standards

Table C: Chain of custody (CoC) models in sustainable soya standards

CoC model	Description
Credits or certificates	In a certificate trading system, the credit/certificate transactions are usually completed electronically, as the administrative record flow is not connected to the physical flow of materials or products throughout the supply chain. For this reason, this model cannot guarantee that the physical output actually contains items from a certified source. However, it can be a useful first step for downstream companies, as it allows them to support a producer of sustainable soya and/or account for the impact of soya used in their products. Purchasing credits or certificates can drive demand for sustainable produce and build volumes to allow other chain of custody models to become available.
Mass balance	A mass balance model involves the use of both certified and uncertified product. The volume of certified product entering the operation is controlled, and only an equivalent amount can then be sold as certified. The physical mixing of certified and uncertified product is allowed but not required – the important thing is that the quantities of both are controlled and documented. Similar to the above, there is no guarantee that all of the soya entering the supply chain meets the standard but again this helps to build sustainable volumes overtime.
Segregation	The segregation model ensures that soya from multiple certified sources is kept separate from that of uncertified sources throughout the supply chain, and that output quantities should correspond to the input quantities.