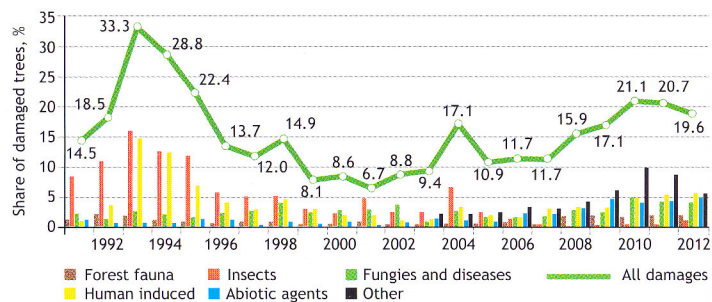


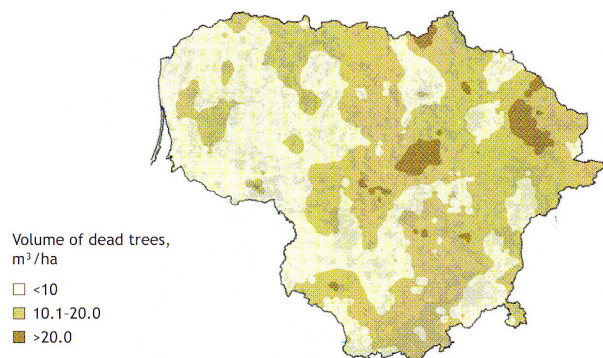
Health and vitality

Share of damaged trees due to diseases, abiotic agents and human activity is close to 20 %. Defoliation of trees does not exceed 23 %, the highest – 40 % remain for ash trees, heavily damaged by *Chalara fraxinea*. The highest concentration of dead trees is in the forests of eastern part of country.

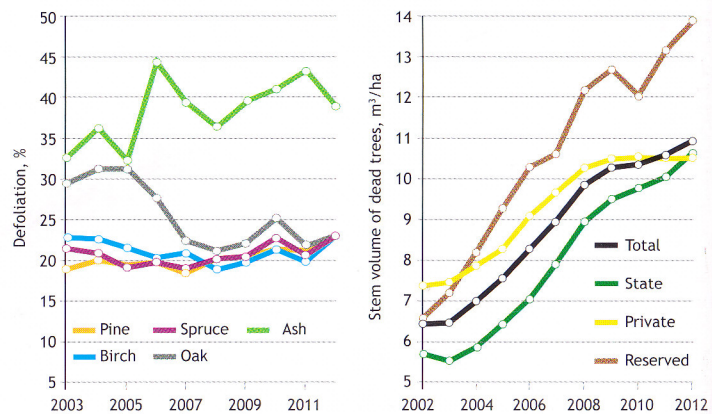
Damaged trees by damaging agents in 1991–2012



Forests according to the volume of dead trees



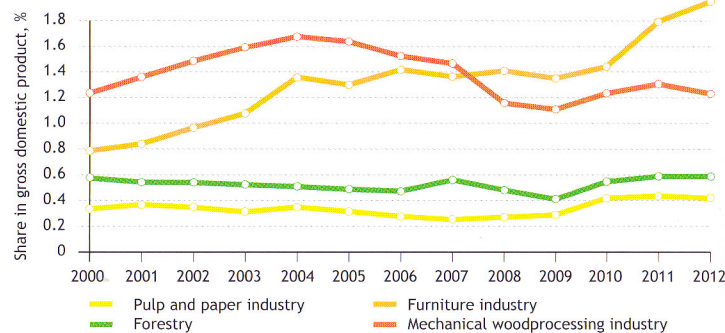
Changes of defoliation and dead trees volume by ownership



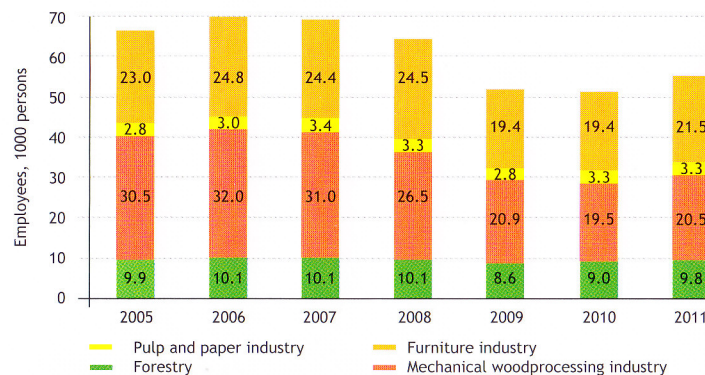
Forest sector in economy

Input of forest sector including manufacture of furniture to the gross domestic product (GDP) increased from 3.0 till 4.3 % during last twelve years. Input of forestry was between 0.5 and 0.6 %. Forest sector provides employment opportunities for more than 55 thousands employees, what corresponds to 6.4 % from all employees in the country.

Share of forest sector in GDP, 2000–2012



Persons employed in the forest sector, 2005–2011

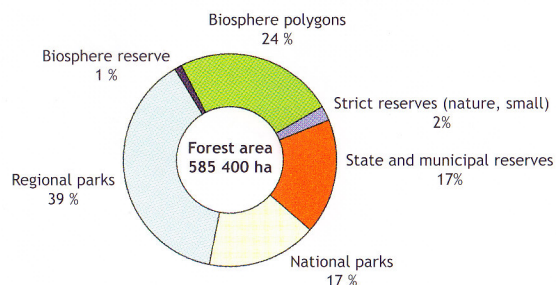


Lithuania's FORESTS

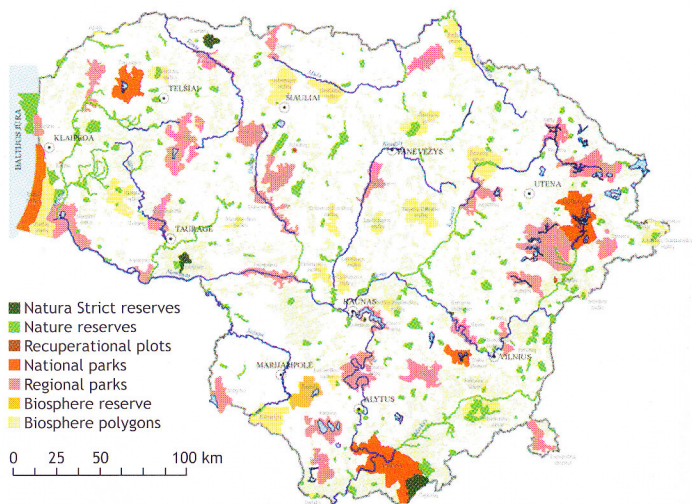
Forests in protected areas

Forests in protected areas contain 27 % of all forest land area. They are located in 5 national, 30 regional parks, 6 strict reserves, 271 state reserve and other objects. Strict regulation of forest management in these forests enables to ensure conservation of biodiversity.

Forests in protected areas



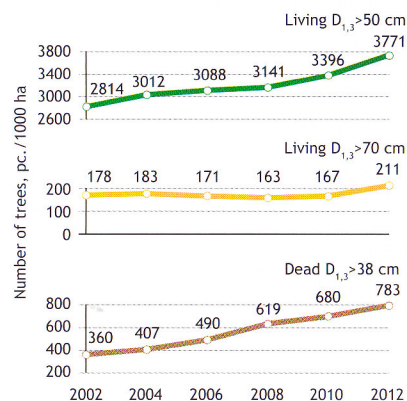
Allocation of protected areas



Biodiversity

24 tree and 36 bush species can be found in Lithuania's forests. The share of pine, spruce, black alder, lime and maple trees increased, while share of ash, grey alder, aspen, birch – decreased during last 10 years. The number of old and thick trees, which have high biodiversity value is constantly increasing.

Large trees density and its dynamics



Forest tree species occurrence in forest stands

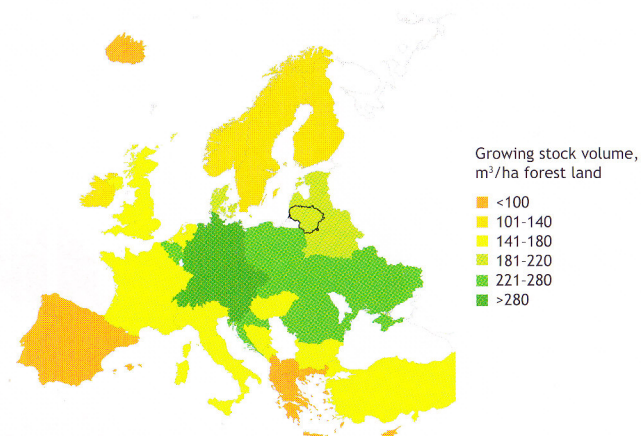


Tree species	Percentage of growing stock volume		
	2002	2007	2012
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> L.	35.522	36.860	36.981
<i>Picea abies</i> (L.)	20.468	20.229	20.608
<i>Betula pendula</i> Roth.	17.184	16.762	16.512
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> (L.) Gaerth.	7.778	8.072	8.376
<i>Populus tremula</i> L.	6.777	6.328	6.332
<i>Alnus incana</i> (L.) Moench	4.739	4.478	4.286
<i>Quercus robur</i> L.	2.868	2.778	2.825
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> L.	2.433	2.117	1.392
<i>Tilia cordata</i> Mill	0.741	0.834	0.938
<i>Salix caprea</i> L.	0.411	0.430	0.455
<i>Acer platanoides</i> L.	0.343	0.427	0.580
<i>Salix fragilis</i> L.	0.243	0.218	0.207
<i>Carpinus betulus</i> L.	0.189	0.173	0.190
<i>Ulmus glabra</i> Huds	0.155	0.133	0.147
<i>Populus canescens</i> Moench	0.036	0.045	0.028
<i>Ulmus laevis</i> Pell.	0.031	0.041	0.053
<i>Ulmus minor</i> Mill.	0.026	0.025	0.030
<i>Larix decidua</i> Mill	0.022	0.027	0.029
<i>Pinus banksiana</i> Lamb.	0.016	0.008	0.005
<i>Pinus mugo</i> Turra	0.013	0.008	0.010
<i>Acer negundo</i> L.	0.004	0.005	0.008
<i>Quercus rubra</i> L.	0.000	0.001	0.004
<i>Pinus strobus</i> L.	0.001	0.001	0.001
<i>Picea pungens</i> Engelm.	0.000	0.000	0.000

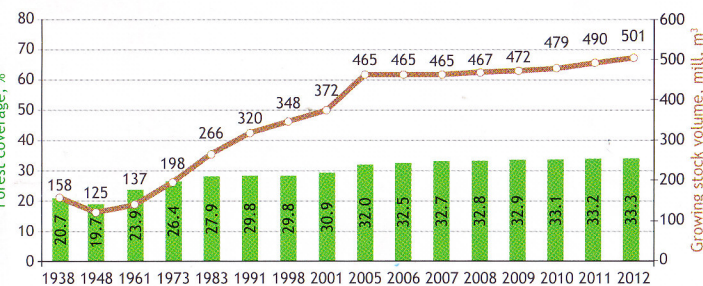
Forest resources

Lithuania is amongst the European countries with high forest productivity. Since 1938 forest coverage in Lithuania increased more than 1.5 times, growing stock volume – almost 4 times.

Mean growing stock volume in forests of European countries



Growing stock volume and forest coverage in Lithuania, 1938–2012



General characteristics

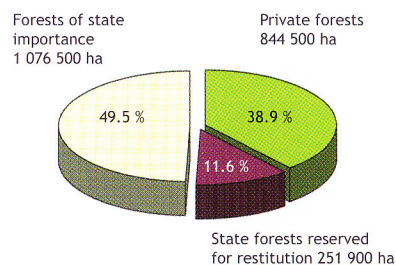
Dominant tree species	Forest land area, 1000 ha	Age	Mean volume, m³/ha	Gross increment, m³/ha
Pine	722.2	67	303	8.8
Spruce	428.4	48	218	8.3
Birch	458.8	46	200	7.1
Aspen	78.2	42	251	9.4
Black alder	141.9	44	224	8.8
Grey alder	128.5	33	157	7.7
Oak	41.9	77	232	6.9
Ash	35.7	66	195	5.6
Other	19.7	43	174	7.0
Not forested	117.4	–	–	–
Total	2172.9	53	240	8.2



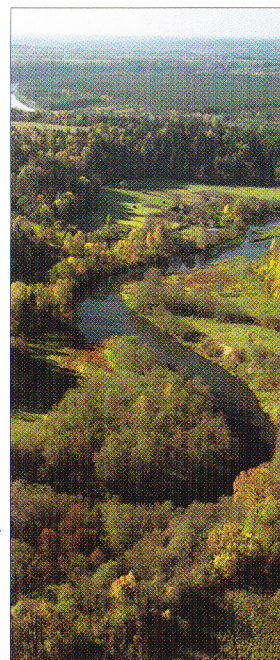
Ownership

The ownership structure of Lithuania's forests changes due to the ongoing Land (and forest) Reform. About 250 thousands hectares of forests are still reserved for restitution and practically there are no economic or commercial activities performed in these areas.

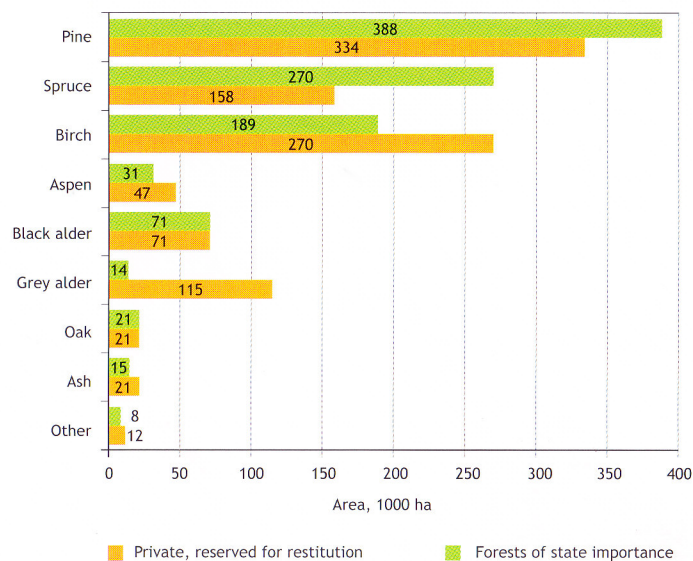
Forest land by ownership



Forests land by forest groups



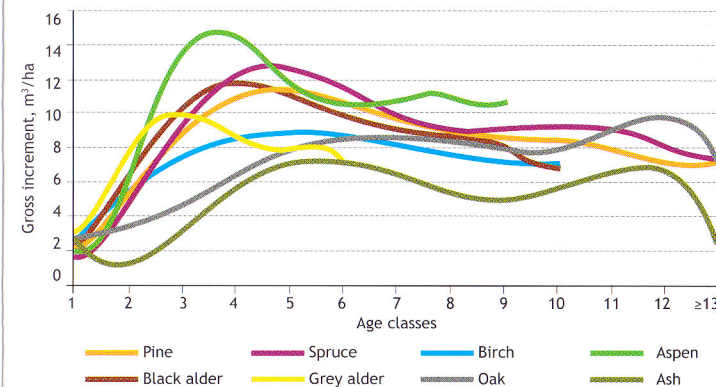
Forest stand areas by ownership and dominant tree species



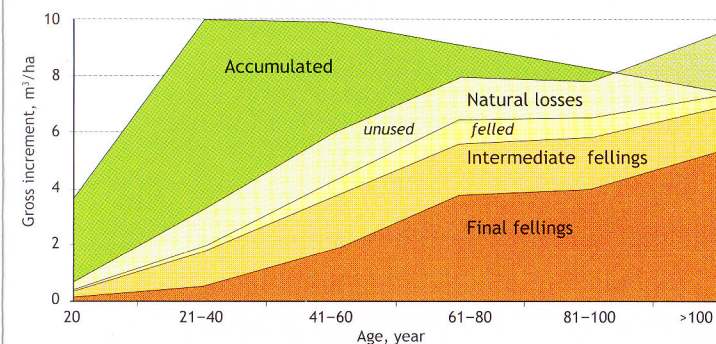
Growth and harvesting

Lithuania's forests every year produce 17–18 mill. m³ of stem wood (over bark). Annual fellings do not exceed 60 % of gross increment. Most productive are aspen and spruce stands.

Mean annual gross increment by dominant tree species



The main components of annual gross increment



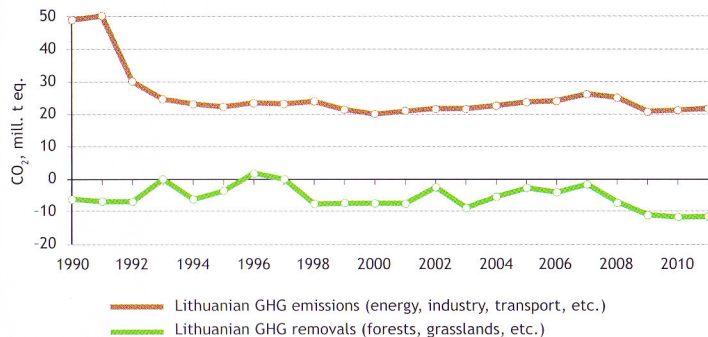
Mean annual gross increment balance

Ownership	Volume increment, mill. m³								
	Accumulated		Felled				Natural losses		Total
	I-II	III-IV	I-II	III-IV	Total	Final felling	I-II	III-IV	
State	0.9	1.4	0.2	3.9	4.1	2.7	0.3	1.4	8.1
Private	0.4	2.0	0.2	3.6	3.8	2.1	0.1	1.5	7.8
For restitution	0.2	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.4	1.9
Total	1.5	4.4	0.4	7.7	8.1	4.8	0.5	3.3	17.8

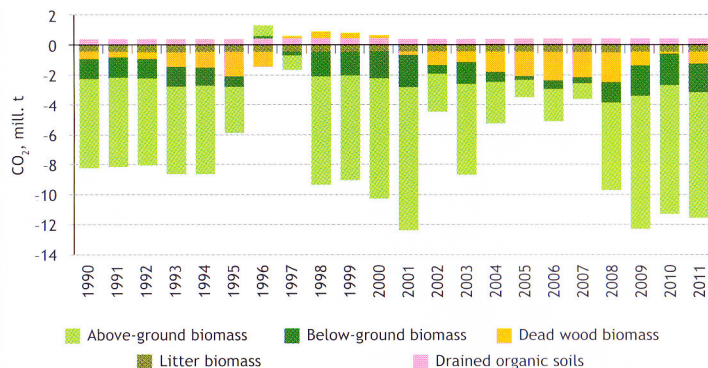
Greenhouse gas balance

Forests sequester nearly 25 % of the total Lithuania's energy, industry, transport CO₂ emissions.

GHG emissions and removals in Lithuania



GHG emissions and removals in forest land



General findings

- Forest area and growing stock volume is steadily increasing. Lithuania's forests produce every year 17–18 mill m³ of stemwood. Annual fellings do not exceed 60 % of gross increment.
- There are accumulated 417 thous. ha of mature stands with 129 mill. m³ of stem volume in forests of III–IV group, which are available for long term sustainable wood supply.
- Lithuania's forests are healthy and vital. Number of damaged trees due to diseases, abiotic agents and human activity does not exceed 20 %, defoliation of trees – 23 %.
- Besides the productive functions (III–IV groups) Lithuania's forests play very important environmental role for mitigation of climate, sequestration of carbon, enriching of biodiversity. Forests sequester nearly 25 % of the total Lithuania's CO₂ emissions.
- Forests in protected areas contain 27 % of all forest land area. They are located in 5 national, 30 regional parks, 6 strict reserves, biosphere reserve and 28 biosphere polygons.
- 24 tree and 36 bush species can be found in Lithuania's forests. Permanently increasing number of living trees with diameter over 50 cm and dead trees with diameter over 38 cm, creates valuable environment for rare species.
- Input of forest sector including manufacture of furniture to the gross domestic product contain 4.3 %. In forest sector is employed 6.4 % of all employees in country.

LITHUANIA'S FORESTS

Ministry of Environment, State Forest Service
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