

# FACTSHEET ON WOOD BIOMASS IN LATVIA

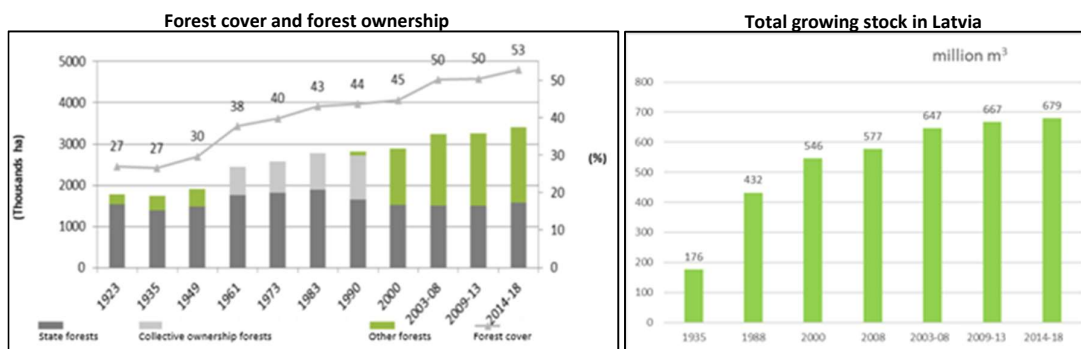
## STATISTICS in general

Country area	6.459 million hectares
Forest area	3.412 million hectares 53 % of country area
Protected forests and forest under Natura 2000	0.549 million hectares 8.5 % of country area

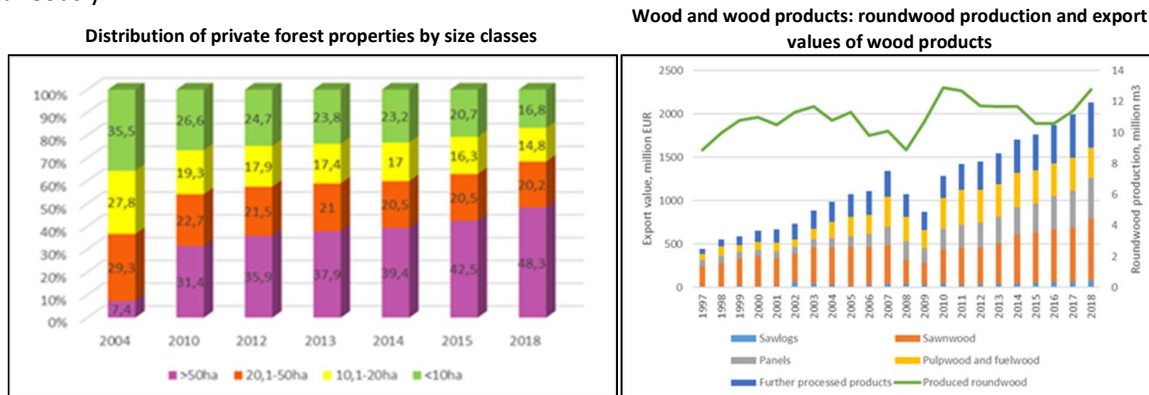
Forest growing stock in 2019	679 million m <sup>3</sup>
Total harvested timber (roundwood) in 2019	13.3 million m <sup>3</sup>
Wood fuel production in 2019	3.2 million m <sup>3</sup> 24 % of harvested wood

Primary Energy consumption in 2019	196.7 PJ
Wood fuel share in primary energy sources in 2019	61.9 PJ 31 % of primary energy consumption
Wood fuel share in H&C in 2019	61 %
Electricity from wood fuel share in produced electricity in 2019	8 %

- **The forest area in Latvia has doubled compared to the first half of the last century**, and this increasing trend has remained in the last decade. **The volume of growing stock** in forests has grown even more rapidly.
- **Forest ownership** is almost equal – 49% are state owned and 48% are private forests. The rest 3% are mostly owned by municipalities. There are more than 110 thousands private forest owners. Due to the private land consolidation process the average private forest property has increased from 6,4 hectares in 2000 to more than 13 hectares nowadays. It is important not to create huge administrative burden to the small forest owners.

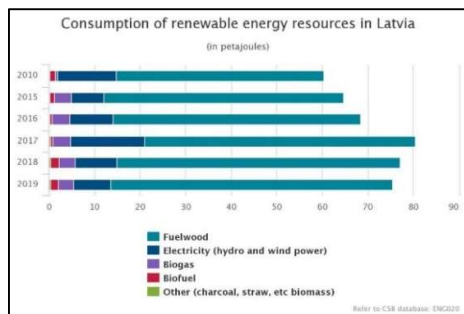


- The forest sector in Latvia is traditionally one of the most important sectors of the economy. **The share of the forest sector in gross domestic product in 2018 was 5.1%**. The added value of forest sector products has increased significantly while harvested volume is stable.
- **Latvian forest sector is export oriented (positive export – import balance). In 2019 timber and wood products dominated in export** (20.3% of the total export value, 2.635 billion EUR). Also exports of fuelwood increased simultaneously.

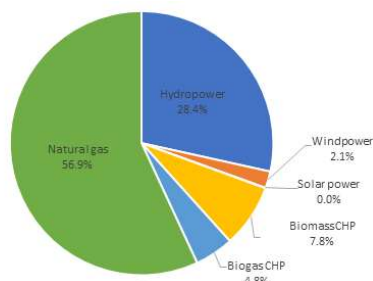


- Sustainability is a very important issue for the whole sector not only for certain products such as biomass (wood for energy production). Even more – fuelwood is not the driver for forest management – it is only by-product. Latvia has quite detailed legislation on forest management based on sustainable forest management principles. Forest management is regularly evaluated according to the national sustainable forest management criteria and indicators (based on Pan European criteria and indicators). This basis ensure that biomass meets sustainability criteria at state level.
- In 2019 gross consumption of RES in Latvia amounted to 75.5 PJ that is 16.7% increase in 2015–2019. Fuelwood is 82 % of the RES consumption. During the last five years, gross consumption of fuelwood increased by 9.3 PJ 2019.
- In 2018-2019, the volume of wood chips produced went up by 5.8 % and 39.1 PJ of pelleted wood were exported - 26.4 % more than in 2018; during the last five years exports of pelleted wood increased by 40 %. The largest share of export of all kinds of fuelwood are to Estonia, Denmark, UK and Sweden.
- **The main use of the fuelwood is in H&C.** According to Shares data in 2018 92% of RES-H&C share is ensured by biomass, but in RES-E – 14% (as a by-product of high efficient CHP).
- 35.4 % of fuelwood is consumed in transformation sector in 2019 (>53% of heat energy is produced from fuelwood). Fuelwood consumption in households comprised 34.4 %.

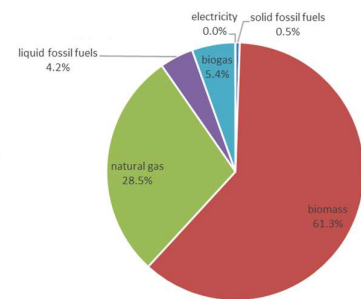
Consumption of renewable energy resources in Latvia (PJ)



Electricity production in 2019



Fuel consumption in heating in 2019



- **Increasing consumption of local resources, energy dependency is reduced from 63.9 % in 2005 to 44.3 % in 2018.**
- 56 % of heat plants and 30 % of CHP in Latvia use fuel wood and it ensured that heat costs have decreased. Due to the decrease of biomass price, heat energy costs have decreased (by up to 20%) in several towns of Latvia and in Riga in 2019 and 2020. **Therefore use of biomass also reduces energy poverty in Latvia.**

