

Forestry in 2021

30.06.2022


6,5%

Increase in total timber removals in comparison with the previous year

As of 31 December 2021, forest land area comprised 9467.5 thousand ha, with forest area amounting to 9264.7 thousand ha, which was 29.6% of the area of the country. In 2021, forest renewals covered 65.8 thousand ha and afforestation – 0.6 thousand ha. In 2021, in comparison with the previous year, a recorded increase in total removals amounted to 42244.2 thousand m³ (a growth by 6.9%), and timber removals – 40691.6 thousand m³.

Forest resources

At the end of 2021, forest land comprised 9467.5 thousand ha. According to the standard used in international valuation taking into account the category of forest connected with silviculture, the share of forest land in the land area of the country equalled 30.9%. Forests covered 9264.7 thousand ha, i.e. 29.6% of the area of the country. Over many years forest area has been gradually increasing. At the end of the analysed year, in comparison with the previous year data, forest area grew by 4.4 thousand ha.

At the end of 2021, in comparison with the previous year data, forest area grew by 4.4 thousand ha

Table 1. Forest land area
As of 31 December

Specification	2020	2021
TOTAL in thousand ha	9464.2	9467.5
Forest	9260.3	9264.7
public	7474.6	7478.8
of which managed by the State Forests	7121.4	7125.1
private	1785.7	1785.9
Forest connected with silviculture	203.9	202.9
Forest cover in %	29.6	29.6
Share of forest land area in the land area of the country in %	30.9	30.9
Forest area per capita in ha	0.242	0.243

This gradual increase in the forest area is a result of the afforestation of non-forest land either under agricultural use or classified as wasteland as well as of displaying afforestation carried out in previous years and into-forest reclassification of other land covered with naturally regenerated forest vegetation. Moreover, a forest area balance is also affected by the reclassification of forest land into the land of non-forest use.

The ownership structure of forests was dominated by public share. At the end of analysed period public forests constituted 80.7% of the total forest area, with the State Forests managing 76.9% of the total forest area. Private forests comprised the remaining 19.3% of forests in the country.

As of the end of 2021, 89.5% of private forest land was covered by an approved and updated forest management planning documentation, i.e. simplified forest management plans and forest inventories.

At the end of 2021, forest area per capita equalled 0.243 ha.

At the end of 2021, the protective forest status, i.e. with non-productive functions, was characteristic of 3912.6 thousand ha of forests (42.2% of forest area in the country), of which 97.6% comprised forests managed by the State Forests (3816.9 thousand ha).

At the end of 2021 42.2% of forests were protective forests

Forests and forest land constitute one of the most important and most valuable natural objects under legal protection. At the end of 2021, forest land area within national parks comprised 193.2 thousand ha (i.e. 2.0% of forest land area in the country) and 61.3% of their total area. Forest land prevailed in the area structure of 18 parks, constituting over 50% of the total area in each of them, of which forest land share in 7 parks exceeded 90%. Like in the case of national parks, forests in nature reserves and landscape parks comprised over 50% of their total area, while landscape areas under protection had almost 36% of forest area.

Forest management

In 2021, forest renewals comprised 65.8 thousand ha, of which 46.6% were felling sites and 34.6% renewals under cover.

In the analysed year, the area of afforested farmland and wasteland equalled 627.0 ha and was by 230.8 ha smaller than in 2020 (a drop by 26.9%). Moreover, 44.7 ha of afforestation was attributed to natural regeneration (in 2020 it was 82.4 ha).

In 2021, 0.6 thousand ha of farmland and wasteland was afforested

The statistics of total carried-out afforestation in 2021 show that 49.8% of afforestation was done by the State Forests, while 44.6% – by owners of private forests. Total afforestation activities covered 323.5 ha of the State Treasury land.

In 2021, tending works covered 289.6 thousand ha, i.e. 3.1% of the forest area of the country, which is by 3.2% larger than a year before. These works covered mostly crop areas comprising 74.9% of all tending works area. The total area under tending works structure shows a 95.1% share of forests managed by the State Forests and 3.9% – a private forests share. In the analysed year, irrigation and drainage activities covered 72.1 thousand ha of forests.

Table 2. Renewals, afforestation and other silviculture operations

Specification	2020	2021
	in ha	
Renewals and afforestation	65124	66415
Renewals	64266	65788
artificial	55331	53921
felling sites	32906	30626
under cover	21796	22747
blanks and irregularly stocked open stands	629	549
natural	8935	11866
Afforestation	858	627
Forest tending	280652	289617
Of which: crops	212553	216968
young stands	67298	68178
Forest irrigation and drainage	72128	72147

Economic exploitation of the forest

In 2021, timber removals in Poland equalled 42244.2 thousand m³, of which 40691.6 thousand m³ of timber and 1552.6 thousand m³ of slash removals. 95.7% (38961.8 thousand m³) of the total tree stand timber was removed in the State Forests and 3.2% (1289.3 thousand m³) – in private forests. In comparison with 2020, total timber removals grew by 6.5% and precisely timber removals increased by 6.9% while slash removals dropped by 3.2%. Timber removals index per capita was 1.07 m³, and this index calculated per 1 ha of forest area equalled 4.4 m³.

In 2021, total timber removals equalled 42.2 million m³

Table 3. Timber removals

Specification	2020	2021
TOTAL^a in thousand m³	39668.8^b	42244.2
Timber	38064.3 ^b	40691.6
Slash	1604.5	1552.6
Stump wood ^c	4.4	1.6
Timber per 1 ha of forest area in m³	4.1	4.4
Timber per capita in m³	0.99	1.07

a Excluding stump wood. b Data have been corrected in relation to the previous edition of the news release.

c Solely in forests under the State Forests management.

Within auxiliary forest activity in 2021, the procurement of forest fruits equalled by 4.3 thousand tonnes (by 20.8% less than in 2020) and 2.3 thousand tonnes of mushrooms (by 15.0% less than a year before).

In the analysed year, the procurement of game amounted to 11.3 thousand tonnes (a decrease by 11.6% in comparison with the previous year), of which 53.0% constituted deer procurement.

In 2021, the purchase of forest fruits dropped by 20.8% and forest mushrooms by 15.0% in comparison with the previous year

Table 4. Procurement of forest fruits, forest mushrooms, and game

Specification	2020	2021
	in t	
Forest fruits	5476	4337
Forest mushrooms	2749	2337
Game	12820	11338

a Data concern fresh fruits and mushrooms.

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Related information

[Statistical Yearbook of Forestry 2021](#)

Data available in databases

[Local Data Base – Forestry and Hunting](#)

[Knowledge Database – Forestry](#)

Terms used in official statistics

[Forestry](#)

[Forest land](#)

[Protective forests](#)

[Forest breeding](#)

[Forest utilization](#)

[Timber \(large timber\)](#)

[Removals](#)