

Forestry in 2022

29.06.2023


5.7%

Increase in total removals
in comparison with the
previous year

As of 31 December 2022, forest land area comprised 9476.9 thousand ha, with forest area amounting to 9274.8 thousand ha, which was 29.7% of the area of the country. In 2022, forest renewals covered 65.5 thousand ha and afforestation – 0.5 thousand ha. In 2022, in comparison with the previous year, a recorded increase (by 5.7%) in total removals amounted to 44646.7 thousand m³ and timber removals, a growth by 4.9%, equalled 42702.8 thousand m³.

Forest resources

At the end of 2022, forest land comprised 9476.9 thousand ha. According to the standard used in international valuation that uses the category of land under forest management, the share of forest land in the land area of the country equalled 31.0%. Forests covered 9274.8 thousand ha, i.e. 29.7% of the area of Poland. 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 10.1 thousand ha.

At the end of 2022, in comparison with the previous year data, forest area grew by 10.1 thousand ha

Table 1. Forest land area
As of 31 December

Specification	2021	2022
GRAND TOTAL in thousand ha	9467.5	9476.9
Forest	9264.7	927.8
public	7478.8	7491.4
of which managed by the State Forests	7125.1	7134.4
private	1785.9	1783.4
Land related to forest management	202.9	202.1
Forest cover in %	29.6	29.7
Share of forest land area in the land area of the country in %	30.9	31.0
Forest area per capita in ha	0.244	0.246

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. Moreover, it is connected with presenting the latest results of afforestation carried out in previous years and the into-forest reclassification of other land covered with naturally regenerated forest vegetation. 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 80.8% of the total forest area, with the State Forests managing 76.9% of the total forest area. Private forests comprised the remaining 19.2% of forests in the country.

As of the end of 2022, 91.6% of private forest land was covered by an approved and updated forest management planning documentation, i.e. simplified forest management planning manuals and forest inventories.

As of 31 December 2022, forest area per capita in Poland equalled 0.246 ha.

At the end of 2022, the protective forest status, i.e. the one with non-productive functions, was characteristic of 3906.9 thousand ha of forests (42.1% of forest area in the country), of which 97.6% comprised forests managed by the State Forests (3811.3 thousand ha).

At the end of 2022, protective forests covered 42.1% of the total forest area of the country

Forests and forest land constitute one of the most important and most valuable natural objects under legal protection. At the end of 2022, forest land area within national parks comprised 197.3 thousand ha (i.e. 2.1% of forest land area in the country) and 62.6% of their total area. Forest land prevailed in the area structure of 18 parks, constituting over 50% of their total area; of which forest land share in 7 parks exceeded 90%. Forests in nature reserves and landscape parks comprised over 50% of their total area, while landscape areas under protection had almost 36.0% of forest area.

Forest management

In 2022, forest renewals comprised 65.5 thousand ha, of which 43.0% were felling sites and 36.4% renewals under shelterwood.

In the analysed year, the area of afforested farmland and wasteland equalled 517.6 ha and was by 109.4 ha smaller than in 2021 (a drop by 17.4%). Moreover, 104.2 ha of afforestation was attributed to natural regeneration (in 2021 – 44.7 ha).

Afforestation on farmland and wasteland fell by 17.4% in comparison with the previous year

The statistics of total carried-out afforestation for 2022 show that 47.8% of afforestation was done by the State Forests, while 48.2% – by owners of private forests. Afforestation activities covered 247.6 ha of the State Treasury land.

In 2022, tending works covered 300.4 thousand ha, i.e. 3.2% of the forest area of the country, which is an area by 3.7% larger than a year before. These works covered mostly young forest cultures, comprising 74.7% of all tending works area. The structure of total area under tending works shows a 96.1% share of forests managed by the State Forests and a 3.0% private forest share.

In the analysed year, irrigation and drainage activities covered 69.9 thousand ha of forests.

Table 2. Renewals, afforestation and other silviculture operations

Specification	2021	2022
	in ha	
Renewals and afforestation	66415	66012
Renewals	65788	65494
artificial	53921	52435
felling sites	30626	28192
under shelterwood	22747	23807
blanks and irregularly stocked open stands	549	436
natural	11866	13060
Afforestation	627	518
Forest tending	289617	300390
Of which: young forest cultures	216968	224521
young stands	68178	74737
Forest drainage and irrigation	72147	69874

Economic exploitation of the forest

In 2022, removals in Poland equalled 44646.7 thousand m³, of which 42702.8 thousand m³ of timber and 1943.8 thousand m³ of slash removals. 40377.5 thousand m³ of the total tree stand timber, i.e. 94.6%, was removed in the State Forests and 1853.8 thousand m³ (i.e. 4.3%) – in private forests. In comparison with 2021, total removals grew by 5.7% and precisely timber removals increased by 4.9%, while slash removals – by 25.2. The index of timber removals per capita was 1.13 m³, and this index calculated per 1 ha of forest area equalled 4.60 m³.

Timber removals grew by 4.9% in comparison with the previous year

Table 3. Removals

Specification	2021	2022
TOTAL^a in thousand m³	42244.2	44646.7
Timber	40691.6	42702.8
Slash	1552.6	1943.8
Stump wood ^b	1.6	0.8
Timber per 1 ha of forest area in m³	4.39	4.60
Timber per capita in m³	1.07	1.13

a Excluding stump wood. b Solely in forests under the State Forests management.

Within auxiliary forest activity in 2022, the procurement of forest fruit equalled 35 thousand tonnes (by 18.7% less than in 2021) and 3.5 thousand tonnes of mushrooms (by 49.9% more than a year before).

In the analysed year, the procurement of game animals amounted to 10.2 thousand tonnes (a decrease by 10.1% in comparison with the previous year), of which 55.8% constituted deer procurement.

The procurement of forest fruit dropped by 18.7% and the procurement of forest mushrooms grew by 49.9% in comparison with the previous year

Table 4. Procurement of forest fruit, forest mushrooms^a, and game animals

Specification	2021	2022
	in t	
Forest fruit	4337	3525
Forest mushrooms	2337	3503
Game animals	11338	10197

^a Data concern forest fruit and fresh forest mushrooms.

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Related information

[Statistical Yearbook of Forestry 2022](#)

Data available in databases

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

[Knowledge Database – Forestry and hunting](#)

Terms used in official statistics

[Forestry](#)

[Forest land](#)

[Protective forests](#)

[Forest breeding](#)

[Forest utilization](#)

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

[Removals](#)