

# Forestry in 2023

27.06.2024


**6.7%**

 Decrease in total removals  
in comparison with the  
previous year

As of 31 December 2023, forest land area comprised 9495.7 thousand ha, with forest area amounting to 9294.9 thousand ha, which was 29.6% of the area of the country. In 2023, forest renewals covered 63.1 thousand ha and afforestation – 0.7 thousand ha. In 2023, in comparison with the previous year, a recorded decrease in total removals (by 6.7%) amounted to 41662.2 thousand m<sup>3</sup> and timber removals, a drop by 6.7%, equalled 39846.0 thousand m<sup>3</sup>.

## Forest resources

At the end of 2023, forest land comprised 9495.7 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 9294.9 thousand ha, i.e. 29.6% of the area of Poland. Over many years forest area has been gradually increasing. At the end of the analysed year, forest area grew by 20.1 thousand ha in comparison with the data for the preceding year.

At the end of 2023, in comparison with the data for the preceding year, forest area grew by 20.1 thousand ha

**Table 1. Forest land area**  
As of 31 December

Specification	2022	2023
<b>GRAND TOTAL in thousand ha</b>	<b>9476.9</b>	<b>9495.7</b>
Forest	927.8	9294.9
public	7491.4	7514.9
of which managed by the State Forests	7134.4	7155.2
private	1783.4	1780.0
Land related to forest management	202.1	200.8
<b>Forest cover<sup>a</sup> in %</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>29.6</b>
<b>Share of forest land area in the land area of the country in %</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>31.0</b>
<b>Forest area per capita in ha</b>	<b>0.246</b>	<b>0.247</b>

a In 2023, the total area of the country (including the area of internal sea waters) was included in the indicator.

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 77.0% of the total forest area. Private forests comprised the remaining 19.2% of forests in the country.

As of the end of 2023, 92.7% 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 2023, forest area per capita in Poland equalled 0.247 ha.

At the end of 2023, the protective forest status, i.e. the one with non-productive functions, was characteristic of 3897.4 thousand ha of forests (41.9% of forest area of the country), of which 97.6% comprised forests managed by the State Forests (3803.6 thousand ha).

At the end of 2023, protective forests covered 41.9% of the 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 2023, forest land area within national parks comprised 198.0 thousand ha (i.e. 2.1% of forest land area of the country) and 62.8% of the total area of parks. Forest land prevailed in the area structure of 18 parks, constituting over 50% of the total area of each park; of which forest land share in 7 parks exceeded 90%. Forest area in nature reserves and landscape parks exceeded 50% of their total area, while in landscape areas under protection – 36.0% of their total area.

### **Forest management**

In 2023, forest renewals comprised 63.1 thousand ha, of which 42.5% were felling sites and 37.2% renewals under shelterwood.

In the analysed year, the area of afforested farmland and wasteland equalled 723 ha and was by 206 ha bigger than in 2022 (growth by 39.8%). Moreover, 136 ha of afforestation was attributed to natural regeneration (in 2022 – 104 ha).

Afforestation on farmland and wasteland grew by 39.8% in comparison with the previous year

As far as carried-out afforestation in 2023 is concerned, 60.1% of afforestation was done by the State Forests, while 37.1% – by owners of private forests. Afforestation activities covered 435 ha of the State Treasury land.

In 2023, tending works covered 303.4 thousand ha, i.e. 3.3% of the forest area of the country, which is an area by 1.0% larger than a year before. These works covered mostly young forest cultures, comprising 74.3% of all tending works area. The structure of total area under tending works shows a 96.9% share of forests managed by the State Forests and a 2.2% private forest share.

In the analysed year, irrigation and drainage activities covered 70.4 thousand ha of forests.

**Table 2. Renewals, afforestation and other silviculture operations**

Specification	2022	2023
	in ha	
<b>Renewals and afforestation</b>	<b>66012</b>	<b>63863</b>
Renewals	65494	63140
artificial	52435	50827
felling sites	28192	26828
under shelterwood	23807	23496
blanks and irregularly stocked open stands	436	504
natural	13060	12313
Afforestation	518	723
<b>Forest tending</b>	<b>300390</b>	<b>303375</b>
Of which: young forest cultures	224521	225382
young stands	74737	77126
<b>Forest drainage and irrigation</b>	<b>69874</b>	<b>70391</b>

**Economic exploitation of the forest**

In 2023, removals in Poland equalled 41662.2 thousand m<sup>3</sup>, of which 39846.0 thousand m<sup>3</sup> of timber and 1816.2 thousand m<sup>3</sup> of slash removals. 38251.9 thousand m<sup>3</sup> of the total tree stand timber, i.e. 96.0%, was removed in the State Forests and 1187.0 thousand m<sup>3</sup> (i.e. 3.0%) – in private forests. In comparison with 2022, total removals fell by 6.7% and precisely timber removals decreased by 6.7%, while slash removals – by 6.6%. The index of timber removals per capita was 1.06 m<sup>3</sup>, and this index calculated per 1 ha of forest area equalled 4.30 m<sup>3</sup>.

Timber removals fell by 6.7% in comparison with the previous year

**Table 3. Removals**

Specification	2022	2023
<b>TOTAL<sup>a</sup> in thousand m<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>44646.7</b>	<b>41662.2</b>
Timber	42702.8	39846.0
Slash	1943.8	1816.2
<b>Timber per 1 ha of forest area in m<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>4.60</b>	<b>4.30</b>
<b>Timber per capita in m<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>1.13</b>	<b>1.06</b>

a Excluding stump wood.

Within auxiliary forest activity in 2023, the procurement of forest fruit equalled 3.9 thousand tonnes (by 10.6% more than in 2022) and 2.8 thousand tonnes of mushrooms (by 19.2% less than a year before).

In the analysed year, the procurement of game animals amounted to 11.3 thousand tonnes (an increase by 10.5% in comparison with the previous year), of which 52.7% constituted deer procurement.

The procurement of forest fruit grew by 10.6% and the procurement of forest mushrooms dropped by 19.2% in comparison with the previous year

**Table 4. Procurement of forest fruit, forest mushrooms<sup>a</sup>, and game animals**

Specification	2022	2023
	in t	
Forest fruit	3525	3898
Forest mushrooms	3503	2831
Game animals	10197	11268

<sup>a</sup> Data concern fresh forest both fruit and mushrooms.

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#### **Related information**

[Statistical Yearbook of Forestry 2023](#)

#### **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](#)