

Forestry in 2024

30.06.2025


1.1%

 Decrease in total removals
in comparison with the
previous year

Forest land area, as of 31 December 2024, comprised 9488.8 thousand ha, with forest area amounting to 9289.0 thousand ha, i.e. 29.6% of the area of the country. In 2024, forest renewals covered 60.7 thousand ha and afforestation – 0.9 thousand ha. In 2024, in comparison with the previous year, a recorded decrease in total removals (by 1.1%) amounted to 41222.9 thousand m³ and timber removals, a drop by 1.0%, equalled 39447.4 thousand m³.

Forest resources

At the end of 2024, forest land comprised 9488.8 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 9289.0 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 5.3 thousand ha in comparison with the data for the preceding year.

At the end of 2024, in comparison with the data for the preceding year, forest area grew by 5.3 thousand ha

Table 1. Forest land area
As of 31 December

Specification	2023	2024
GRAND TOTAL in thousand ha	9484.2^a	9488.8
Forest	9283.8 ^a	9289.0
public	7503.8 ^a	7513.5
of which managed by the State Forests	7144.1 ^a	7152.4
private	1780.0	1775.6
Land related to forest management	200.4 ^a	199.7
Forest cover in %	29.6	29.6
Share of forest land area in the land area of the country in %	31.0	31.0
Forest area per capita in ha	0.247	0.248

^a Data has been changed in relation to the previous edition of the news release.

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. It is also connected with providing information on 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 the analysed period public forests constituted 80.9% of the total forest area, with the State Forests managing 77.0% of the total forest area. Private forests comprised the remaining 19.1% of forest area in the country.

As of the end of 2024, 93.1% 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 2024, forest area per capita in Poland equalled 0.248 ha.

At the end of 2024, the protective forest status, i.e. the one with non-productive functions, was characteristic of 3910.6 thousand ha of forests (42.1% of forest area of the country), of which 97.6% comprised forests managed by the State Forests (3817.2 thousand ha).

At the end of 2024, protective forests covered 42.1% 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 2024, forest land area within national parks comprised 197.3 thousand ha (i.e. 2.1% of forest land area of the country) and 62.8% of the total area of these parks. Forest land prevailed in the area structure of 19 parks, constituting over 49% 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% of their total area.

Forest management

In 2024, forest renewals comprised 60.7 thousand ha, of which 41.6% were felling sites and 37.5% renewals under shelterwood.

In the analysed year, the area of afforested farmland and wasteland equalled 879 ha and was by 155 ha bigger than in 2023 (growth by 21.5%). Moreover, 109 ha of afforestation was attributed to natural regeneration (in 2023 – 136 ha).

Afforestation on farmland and wasteland grew by 21.5% in comparison with the previous year

As far as carried-out afforestation in 2024 is concerned, 79.0% of afforestation was done by the State Forests, while 19.1% – by owners of private forests. Afforestation activities covered 698 ha of the State Treasury land.

In 2024, tending works covered 321.3 thousand ha, which is an area by 5.9% larger than a year before. These works were carried out on 3.5% of the forest area of the country. The works covered mostly young forest cultures comprising 72.2% of the total area of tending works. The structure of total area under tending works shows a 97.1% share of forests managed by the State Forests and a 1.8% private forest share.

In the analysed year, irrigation and drainage activities covered 70.5 thousand ha of forests.

Table 2. Renewals, afforestation and other silviculture operations

Specification	2023	2024
	in ha	
Renewals and afforestation	63863	61546
Renewals	63140	60667
artificial	50827	48514
felling sites	26828	25225
under shelterwood	23496	22770
blanks and irregularly stocked open stands	504	519
natural	12313	12153
Afforestation	723	879
Forest tending	303375	321281
Of which: young forest cultures	225382	231944
young stands	77126	88688
Forest drainage and irrigation	70391	70473

Economic exploitation of the forest

In 2024, removals in Poland equalled 41222.9 thousand m³, of which 39447.4 thousand m³ of timber and 1775.6 thousand m³ of slash removals. 37984.5 thousand m³ of the total tree stand timber, i.e. 96.3%, was removed in the State Forests and 981.0 thousand m³ (i.e. 2.5%) – in private forests. In comparison with 2023, total removals fell by 1.1% and precisely timber removals decreased by 1.0%, while slash removals – by 2.2%. The index of timber removals per capita was 1.05 m³ and the one calculated per 1 ha of forest area equalled 4.25 m³.

Timber removals fell by 1.0% in comparison with the previous year

Table 3. Removals

Specification	2023	2024
TOTAL^a in thousand m³	41662.2	41222.9
Timber	39846.0	39447.4
Slash	1816.2	1775.6
Timber per 1 ha of forest area in m³	4.29^b	4.25
Timber per capita in m³	1.06	1.05

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

Within auxiliary forest activity in 2024, the procurement of forest fruit equalled 1.8 thousand tonnes (by 55.1% less than in 2023) and 4.0 thousand tonnes of mushrooms (by 41.3% more than a year before).

In the analysed year, the procurement of game animals amounted to 9.3 thousand tonnes (a decrease by 17.6% in comparison with the previous year), of which 53.9% constituted deer procurement.

The procurement of forest fruit fell by 55.1% and the procurement of forest mushrooms increased by 41.3% in comparison with the previous year

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

Specification	2023	2024
	in t	
Forest fruit	3898	1751
Forest mushrooms	2831	4001
Game animals	11268	9288

a Data concern fresh forest both fruit and mushrooms.

Note

Relative numbers (indices, percentages) are usually calculated on the basis of absolute data expressed with greater precision than that presented in the elaboration.

Due to data rounding, in some cases sums of components may slightly differ from the amount given in the “total” item.

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Related information

[Statistical Yearbook of Forestry 2024](#)

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](#)