

Forest accounts in Poland in 2023

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0.2%

Decrease in value of gross output of the forestry and logging division in comparison with 2022 (in current prices)

According to the methodology of the European Forest Accounts (EFA), the value of gross output of the forestry and logging division in Poland in 2023 amounted to PLN 36.4 billion, which was a decrease in comparison with the previous year by 0.2% (in current prices).

Forest land balance¹

At the end of 2023, the area of forest land in Poland, according to the EFA methodology equalled 9407.1 thousand hectares and decreased within a year by 1.1 thousand hectares. As a result of classification changes of non-forest land into forest land, there were 0.9 thousand hectares of forest land more, and 0.6 thousand hectares of forest land less due to deforestation.

Forest land area in forests available for wood supply at the end of 2023 was 9094.8 thousand hectares (3.0 thousand hectares less than a year before) and constituted 96.7% of total forest land.

Table 1. Forest land balance

| SPECIFICATION | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| | total | | forests available for wood supply | | forests not available for wood supply | |
| | in thousand ha | | | | | |
| Opening area | 9398.8 | 9408.2 | 9093.5 | 9097.8 | 305.3 | 310.4 |
| Afforestation | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Deforestation | 1.0 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 0.6 | . | . |
| Changes in use | 0.0 | 0.0 | -5.0 | -2.0 | 5.0 | 2.0 |
| Balancing item | 9.8 | -1.4 | 9.7 | -1.3 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| Closing area | 9408.2 | 9407.1 | 9097.8 | 9094.8 | 310.4 | 312.3 |

At the end of 2023, the value of forest land amounted to PLN 65.3 billion and grew in comparison with the previous year by 1.3% (in current prices). The value of forest land available for wood supply equalled PLN 63.0 billion, which was 96.5% of total forest land value.

At the end of 2023, the value of forest land amounted to PLN 65.3 billion

¹ As a result of the change of a definition of a forest in forest accounts, the data concerning forest land balance presented in this publication are not comparable with the data presented in its previous editions – see methodological notes on page 6.

Table 2. Balance of forest land value

| SPECIFICATION | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| | total | | forests available for wood supply | | forests not available for wood supply | |
| | in million PLN | | | | | |
| Opening area | 42263.7 | 64457.6 | 40816.6 | 62212.0 | 1447.1 | 2245.6 |
| Afforestation | 4.3 | 6.0 | 4.3 | 6.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Deforestation | 6.5 | 4.4 | 6.5 | 4.4 | . | . |
| Changes in use | 0.0 | 0.0 | -36.4 | -14.6 | 36.4 | 14.6 |
| Revaluation | 22138.8 | 862.8 | 21371.0 | 832.8 | 767.8 | 30.0 |
| Balancing item | 57.3 | -7.5 | 63.0 | -6.8 | -5.7 | -0.6 |
| Closing area | 64457.6 | 65314.5 | 62212.0 | 63025.0 | 2245.6 | 2289.6 |

Balance of growing stock of standing wood²

Growing stock of standing wood in Polish forests at the end of 2023 was 2698.7 million m³ and increased by 0.8% within a year. The annual increment of timber volume, adjusted for mortality of trees, added 78.4 million m³ of standing wood (by 1.3% more than in 2022) while removals equalled 52.1 million m³ (i.e. by 6.7% less than the previous year). At the end of 2023, growing stock of standing wood in forests available for wood supply equalled 2585.6 million m³, which constituted 95.8% of total growing stock of standing wood.

Table 3. Balance of growing stock of standing wood

| SPECIFICATION | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| | total | | forests available for wood supply | | forests not available for wood supply | |
| | in thousand m ³ | | | | | |
| Opening growing stock | 2659364.0 | 2676554.1 | 2550746.7 | 2564942.2 | 108617.3 | 111611.9 |
| Net increment of timber | 77371.1 | 78378.4 | 75268.5 | 76143.1 | 2102.6 | 2235.3 |
| Removals (over bark) | 55808.2 | 52077.7 | 55576.2 | 51873.2 | 232.0 | 204.5 |
| Losses | 830.7 | 331.1 | 825.5 | 330.1 | 5.2 | 1.0 |
| Changes in use | 0.0 | 0.0 | -1930.6 | -636.1 | 1930.6 | 636.1 |
| Balancing item | -3542.1 | -3845.3 | -2740.7 | -2680.6 | -801.4 | -1164.7 |
| Closing growing stock | 2676554.1 | 2698678.4 | 2564942.2 | 2585565.3 | 111611.9 | 113113.1 |

² As a result of the change of a definition of a forest in forest accounts, the data concerning the balance of growing stock of standing wood presented in this publication are not comparable with the data presented in its previous editions – see methodological notes on page 6.

At the end of 2023, the production value of growing stock of standing wood in forests available for wood supply in current prices reached PLN 567.2 billion, which was by 4.0% more than a year before. Within a year, the net increment of timber brought about an increase in the value of growing stock of standing wood by PLN 16.6 billion and the value of removals totalled PLN 12.7 billion.

The value of growing stock in forests available for wood supply at the end of 2023 equalled PLN 567.2 billion

Table 4. Value balance of growing stock of standing wood

| SPECIFICATION | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| | total | | forests available for wood supply | | forests not available for wood supply | |
| | in million PLN | | | | | |
| Opening growing stock | 370924.8 | 574997.3 | 352180.6 | 545249.8 | 18744.2 | 29747.5 |
| Net increment of timber | 16491.6 | 17238.5 | 15947.3 | 16641.9 | 544.3 | 596.6 |
| Removals (over bark) | 14404.7 | 12711.7 | 14344.8 | 12661.8 | 59.9 | 49.9 |
| Losses | 178.7 | 73.4 | 177.3 | 73.1 | 1.4 | 0.3 |
| Changes in use | 0.0 | 0.0 | -541.0 | -155.6 | 541.0 | 155.6 |
| Revaluation | 200998.8 | 18167.2 | 190690.0 | 17610.5 | 10308.8 | 556.7 |
| Balancing item | 1165.5 | 237.2 | 1495.0 | 546.1 | -329.5 | -308.9 |
| Closing growing stock | 574997.3 | 597855.1 | 545249.8 | 567157.8 | 29747.5 | 30697.3 |

At the end of 2023, in the area of forests not available for wood supply comprising 312.3 thousand hectares, there were 113.1 million m³ of growing stock (i.e. 4.2% of total growing stock). The potential production value of this stock was PLN 30.7 billion.

Economic accounts of the forestry and logging division

In 2023, the amount representing the value of gross output of the forestry and logging division (in accordance with EFA methodology) was PLN 36.4 billion, of which the production of goods characteristic of forestry activities was valued at PLN 31.8 billion, and the forestry and logging services – PLN 3.2 billion.

The value of gross output of the forestry and logging division in 2023 amounted to PLN 36.4 billion (according to EFA methodology)

In the analysed period, the value of gross output in the part concerning the annual increment of timber volume in forests available for wood supply amounted to PLN 16.5 billion. The production of wood in the rough went as high as PLN 13.4 billion, of which 93.7% was the value of roundwood.

Table 5. Gross output of the forestry and logging division

| SPECIFICATION | 2022 | 2023 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | in million PLN | |
| TOTAL | 36465.4 | 36406.6 |
| of which output for own final use | 18.7 | 22.5 |
| Goods characteristic of the forestry and logging activity | 31701.0 | 31761.0 |
| trees, tree plants and forest tree seeds | 15854.3 | 16554.9 |
| live forest tree plants and tree seeds | 53.1 | 56.0 |
| forest trees | 15801.2 | 16498.9 |
| wood in the rough | 14193.2 | 13389.3 |
| roundwood | 13477.0 | 12551.2 |
| fuel wood | 716.2 | 838.1 |
| non-wood products | 1653.5 | 1816.8 |
| Services characteristic of the forestry and logging activity | 3252.2 | 3237.0 |
| Products of secondary activities | 1512.2 | 1408.7 |

In 2023, the value of intermediate consumption in the analysed division totalled PLN 24.9 billion. Its significant share constituted the consumption of trees, tree plants, and forest tree seeds (valued at PLN 12.6 billion), of which the majority represented trees removed from forests available for wood supply. Services related to the forestry activity, whose value in 2023 reached PLN 3.3 billion, were yet another significant item in intermediate consumption.

Table 6. Intermediate consumption in the forestry and logging division

| SPECIFICATION | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | in million PLN | |
| TOTAL | 26641.0 | 24903.8 |
| Trees, tree plants and forest tree seeds | 14291.2 | 12619.1 |
| Energy, lubricants | 427.0 | 488.8 |
| Fertilisers and soil improvers | 237.1 | 269.1 |
| Plant protection products and pesticides | 36.5 | 35.1 |
| Services characteristic of the forestry and logging activity | 3078.1 | 3307.4 |
| Regular maintenance and repair of equipment | 554.7 | 522.8 |
| Maintenance of buildings | 917.3 | 901.6 |
| Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured (FISIM) | 116.8 | 130.4 |
| Other goods and services | 6982.3 | 6629.5 |

In 2023, gross value added in the forestry and logging division was PLN 11.5 billion (an increase by 17.1% compared to 2022) and net value added – PLN 10.4 billion (an increase by 18.0%). Labour input in this division equalled 46.6 thousand annual work units³ (by 0.2% less than in 2022), of which 6.6 thousand AWUs of self-employed persons (by 2.2% less).

³ An annual work unit (AWU) is a representative of a full time equivalent. In Poland it is 2120 hours.

Methodological notes

Forest Accounts in Poland are prepared in accordance with the European Forest Accounts (EFA) methodology. They represent a sectoral satellite account related to national accounts, widening their scope with additional information concerning forestry activity.

From 2025 on (starting with the transmission of data for 2023), forest accounts are mandatory European reporting in accordance with the Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2011 on European environmental economic accounts (hereinafter referred to as the EEA Regulation).

Following the EEA Regulation, in forest accounts we use a definition of a forest that is different from the national one. In forest accounts, a forest is defined as land spanning more than 0.50 hectares with trees higher than five metres and a canopy cover of more than 10% or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ.

The national definition set out in the Act of 28 September 1991 on Forests (Article 3) states that a forest is the land:

- 1) of a contiguous area of at least 0.10 ha, covered with forest vegetation (young forest cultures) – trees and bushes and ground cover – or temporarily devoid of thereof. This land:
 - a) is designated for forest production or
 - b) constitutes a nature reserve or comprises a part of a national park or
 - c) is entered into the register of the monuments;
- 2) related to forest management that is occupied by objects such as buildings and structures, forest irrigation and drainage systems, forest spatial division lines, forest roads, areas beneath power lines, forest nurseries, wood depot areas, as well as forest car parks and tourist infrastructure.

Due to the difference in the definition of a forest, the data concerning forest land and growing stock of standing wood presented in this news release differ from those reported in other publications of public statistics and are not comparable to data presented in previous editions of this elaboration. The forest area determined according to the EEA Regulation definition was smaller than the area determined according to the national definition by 0.7% in 2022 and by 0.8% in 2023. Standing timber resources calculated with the use of the EEA Regulation definition were smaller than the resources determined according to the national forest definition by 0.8% in 2022 and by 0.9% in 2023.

Data on forests are broken down by forests available and not available for wood supply⁴. This division makes it possible to show forest resources which can be of productive use. The estimation of forest production capacity of these resources is vital to show the role of forests in national economy.

Production value can only be attributed to forests available for wood supply. Its estimation for forests not available for wood supply is only done because of the theoretical possibility of including these resources in productive resources.

The valuation of the increment of growing stock of standing wood in forests available for wood supply is necessary to include this value in the gross output of the forestry and logging division. Forest accounts in Poland use the gross method to estimate the gross output of forestry, which means that this value represents the annual increment of timber volume in forests available for wood supply less losses caused by mortality. As regards intermediate consumption, it includes the value of timber removed from forests available for wood supply in a given year. All values are provided at current prices.

⁴ Forests not available for wood supply are forests where wood supply is severely restricted. In Poland, forests not available for wood supply are forests in national parks and nature reserves.

The tables show both afforestation, with reclassification-related changes in the area of the land that was so far non-forest land and that was converted to forest land in a given year, and other factors leading to the increase in the area (e.g. succession). Deforestation, on the other hand, is the reduction in the area of forest land resulting from the exclusion of such land from forest use. Changes in forest land use reflect changes in the classifications from forests available for wood supply to forests not available for wood supply, and vice versa. Other changes refer to changes of figures stemming from price changes (revaluations), losses (fires) as well as the balancing item.

Net increment of growing stock of standing wood is a yearly increase in timber volume that is the result of the processes of natural growth adjusted by the change in the stock (volume) of standing and lying dead trees (i.e. mortality).



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Related information

[Statistical Yearbook of Forestry 2024](#)
[European forest accounts handbook – 2024 edition](#)

Data available in databases

[Local Data Bank – Forestry and Hunting](#)
[Knowledge Database – Forestry and Hunting](#)
[Eurostat Database – Forestry](#)

Terms used in official statistics

[Forest land](#)
[Growing stock of standing wood](#)
[Gross output](#)
[Intermediate consumption](#)
[Gross value added](#)