

Sustainable development in the European Union

Overview of progress towards
the SDGs in an EU context

2021 edition



EUROSTAT
SUPPORTS THE SDGs



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Printed by Imprimerie Bietlot in Belgium

Manuscript completed in May 2021

5th edition

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Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2021



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Theme: General and regional statistics

Collection: Compact guides

Print ISBN 978-92-76-30700-6 doi:10.2785/341585 KS-03-21-097-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-76-30699-3 doi:10.2785/36111 KS-03-21-097-EN-N

Acknowledgements

Editor-in-chief

Anna Sabadash (Eurostat, Unit E2 — Environmental statistics and accounts; sustainable development)

Editors

Markus Hametner, Patricia Urban, Mariia Kostetckaia (WU Vienna); Simon Johannes Bley, Miriam Blumers, Johanna Giczi, Christine Mayer, Åsa Önnersfors, Ekkehard Petri, Irina Schön, Anton Steurer (Eurostat, Unit E2 — Environmental statistics and accounts; sustainable development)

Production

Felicity McDonald, Carolyn Avery (ENDS, Haymarket Media Group Ltd)

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Contents

Sustainable development in the EU	3
COVID-19: detecting impacts and monitoring the recovery	8
SDG 1: No poverty	10
SDG 2: Zero hunger	12
SDG 3: Good health and well-being	14
SDG 4: Quality education	16
SDG 5: Gender equality	18
SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation	20
SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy	22
SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth	24
SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure	26
SDG 10: Reduced inequalities	28
SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities	30
SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production	32
SDG 13: Climate action	34
SDG 14: Life below water	36
SDG 15: Life on land	38
SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions	40
SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals	42
Annex	44



Sustainable development in the EU

Sustainable development has been at the heart of European policy for a long time, firmly anchored in the European Treaties. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, have given a new impetus to global efforts to achieve sustainable development. The EU has fully committed itself to delivering on the 2030 Agenda and its implementation, as outlined in '[The European Green Deal](#)' ⁽¹⁾ and the Commission Staff Working Document '[Delivering on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals](#)' ⁽²⁾. Regular monitoring of progress towards the SDGs in an EU context is essential for this purpose.

EU SDG indicator set

This regular monitoring is based on the EU SDG indicator set, developed in cooperation with a large number of partners and stakeholders. The indicator set comprises 102 indicators distributed over the 17 SDGs. Thirty-seven of these are multi-purpose indicators and monitor more than one goal.

Monitoring progress towards the SDGs in an EU context

This brochure presents a statistical overview of the most recent trends of the EU SDG indicators over a five-year period ('short-term'); the specific years depend on data availability for the individual indicators. It shows EU progress towards the SDGs for the individual indicators and presents the average progress for each of the 17 SDGs, based on the mean score of the selected indicators for the respective goal, including the multi-purpose indicators ⁽²⁾. Studies and reports that consider current status rather than progress, different indicators or different time spans may come to different conclusions. The brochure also includes a section highlighting some of the effects the COVID-19 pandemic had on the EU in 2020, based on monthly or quarterly data from the European Statistical Recovery Dashboard.

⁽¹⁾ European Commission (2019), *The European Green Deal*, COM(2019) 640.

⁽²⁾ European Commission (2020), *Delivering on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals — A comprehensive approach*, SWD(2020) 400 final, Brussels.

How has the EU progressed towards the SDGs?

On average, the EU made progress towards most of the goals over the most recent five-year period of available data assessed for each of the selected indicators. Progress towards some goals was faster than for others, and within goals there was movement away from the sustainable development objectives in specific areas. A more detailed description of individual indicator trends can be found on the following pages and in the full report '[Sustainable development in the European Union — 2021 monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context](#)'.

Over the most recent five-year period, the EU made strong progress towards fostering peace and personal security, access to justice and trust in institutions (SDG 16). Good progress was also visible in reducing poverty and social exclusion (SDG 1) and in improving the EU's health situation (SDG 3). However, due to the time lag of the respective indicators, the assessment of the goals on poverty (SDG 1) and health (SDG 3) still refers to the period up to 2019 and therefore does not reflect the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The assessment of the remaining goals has already to some extent been affected by the pandemic, with COVID-19 markedly slowing the reported average progress. In the area of the economy and the labour market (SDG 8), the COVID-19 crisis interrupted the continuous improvement that had been observed since 2013. Similar impacts can be observed in the areas of education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), other inequalities (SDG 10), and global

partnerships and means of implementation (SDG 17), where 2020 data show a clear deterioration for individual indicators.

Moderate progress is visible for sustainable cities (SDG 11), consumption and production (SDG 12), sustainable agriculture (SDG 2) and R&D and innovation (SDG 9). For these goals 2020 data are not yet available, and their assessment therefore reflects the period before the pandemic.

The overall assessment of SDG 13 'Climate action' remains more or less neutral. While the EU has been stepping up its efforts to support climate action and mitigation, the assessment is negatively affected by the intensifying climate impacts that Europe is facing.

For two goals, SDG 7 'Affordable and clean energy' and SDG 15 'Life on land', the aggregation of the individual indicator trends shows a slight movement away from the respective SD objectives over the past five years. In the case of SDG 7, this overall negative assessment is due to an increase in the EU's energy consumption in the period from 2014 to 2019 and thus does not reflect the — at least temporary — reductions expected for 2020. The assessment of SDG 15 shows that ecosystems and biodiversity remain under pressure from human activities.

For two other goals — SDG 6 'Clean water and sanitation' and SDG 14 'Life below water' — overall EU trends cannot be calculated because there is insufficient data for the past five years.


Overview of EU progress towards the SDGs over the past 5 years, 2021

(Data mainly refer to 2014–2019 or 2015–2020)



EU indicator trends


The following thematic chapters present short-term indicator trends for each of the 17 SDGs. These trends are assessed following specific quantitative rules. For indicators with quantitative EU targets, the brochure assesses their progress towards those targets.

This applies to 15 out of the 102 indicators, mainly in the areas of climate, energy and education. Indicators with an associated quantitative EU target are marked with the following symbol .


Target values for each indicator are listed in the Annex. All other indicators are analysed according to the direction and speed of change.

The assessment of indicator trends is presented visually in the form of arrows. The direction of the arrows shows whether an indicator has moved towards or away from the sustainable development objectives. Depending on the presence or absence of a quantitative EU target, the indicators are assessed differently. The following presentation illustrates the different cases.




Significant progress towards the EU target 
or
Significant progress towards SD objectives




Moderate progress towards the EU target 
or
Moderate progress towards SD objectives



Insufficient progress towards the EU target 
or
Moderate movement away from SD objectives



Movement away from the EU target 
or
Significant movement away from SD objectives



Assessment of trend not possible
(for example, time series too short)

Eurostat's publication '[Sustainable development in the European Union — 2021 monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context](#)' describes the methodology applied and provides a detailed analysis of progress for the individual indicators.

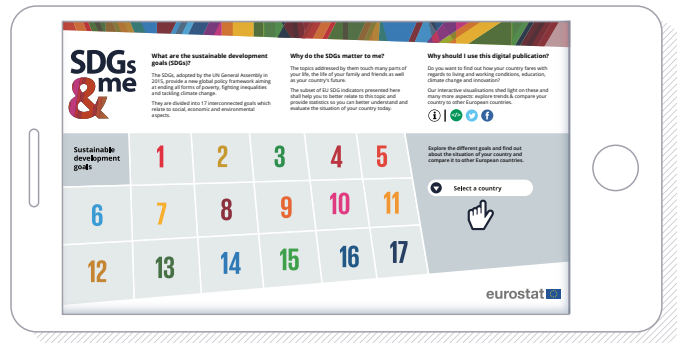
The 2021 EU SDG communication package

The brochure is part of an EU SDG communication package which comprises a number of products:



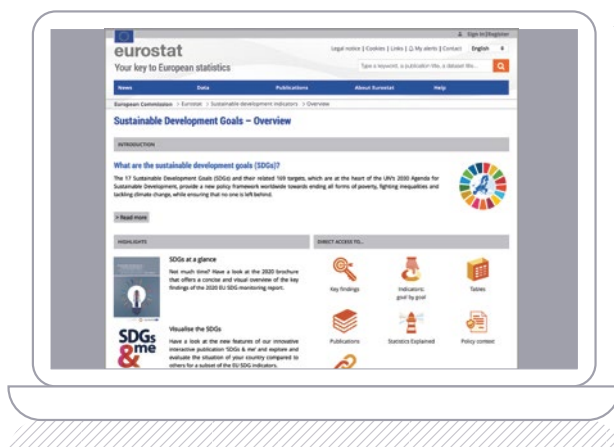
Interested in obtaining all the details?

The [2021 EU SDG monitoring report](#) provides a detailed description of EU progress towards the 17 SDGs in an EU context.



Curious why the SDGs matter to you?

The 2021 EU SDG digital publication 'SDGs & me' presents the SDGs in a visual and personalised way, based on a selection of indicators across all 17 SDGs.



Looking for the full overview of all Eurostat SDG products and direct access to all Eurostat SDG publications, indicators, key findings, data and much more?

Eurostat SDG dedicated section (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/sdi/overview>).

The COVID-19 pandemic: detecting impacts and monitoring the recovery

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has a significant impact on every aspect of life worldwide, from public health, the economy and social stability to the environment. It affects the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs broadly, influencing all three dimensions of sustainability and threatening the achievement of the global goals. While the full-scale effects of the pandemic remain to be seen, short-term data provide some indications of how COVID-19 and the related contingency measures are affecting the EU in its attempts to achieve the SDGs.

The [European Statistical Recovery Dashboard](#) shows monthly and quarterly trends of the indicators related to economy and prices, business and trade, and people and work. The dashboard is updated on a monthly basis and offers an overview of changes over the past month. The indicators below show the most significant short-term effects of the COVID-19 crisis in the EU, mostly referring to the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020, while the following page presents the annual impacts.

Most significant changes in selected indicators during 2020

- **Excess mortality** in the EU reached 40.6 % in November compared with average monthly deaths in 2016–2019.
- **GDP** fell by 11.2 % in the second quarter of the year compared with the previous quarter.
- **Industrial production** dropped by 19.0 % in April compared with the previous month.
- **Extra-EU imports** decreased by 10.7 % in March compared with February.
- **General government gross debt** grew by 8.3 percentage points in the second quarter, compared with the previous quarter.
- **Employment** of people aged 20 to 64 dropped by 2.1 % in the second quarter compared with the first quarter.
- **Unemployment** for 15- to 74-year-olds in the third quarter increased by 9.9 % compared with the second quarter.
- The number of young people aged 15 to 29 **neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET)** increased by 13.4 % in the second quarter compared with the previous quarter.
- **Electricity consumption** by end-users fell by 13.0 % in April compared with the previous month.

HEALTH



Excess mortality in 2020

545 000 deaths

+ 12 % compared with the annual average in 2016–2019

ECONOMY

in 2020



Real GDP per capita

EUR 26 230

- 6.2 pp since 2019



Industrial production

97.2 Index, 2015 = 100

- 8.5 index points since 2019



Extra-EU imports

EUR 1 714 billion

- 11.7 % since 2019



General government gross debt

90.7 % of GDP

+ 13.2 pp since 2019

LABOUR MARKET

in 2020



Employment rate

72.4 % of population aged 20 to 64

- 0.7 pp since 2019



Unemployment rate

7.1 % of active population

+ 0.4 pp since 2019



Not in employment, education or training

13.7 % of population aged 15 to 29

+ 1.1 pp since 2019

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

change 2019–2020



Electricity consumption

- 4.4 %



CO₂ emissions from energy use

- 10 %

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [demo_mexrt](#), [sdg_08_10](#), [sts_inpr_a](#), [ext_lt_intratrd](#), [sdg_17_40](#), [sdg_08_30](#), [une_rt_a](#), [sdg_08_20](#) and [nrg_cb_eim](#))

1 NO POVERTY



SDG 1 calls for the eradication of poverty in all its manifestations. It envisions shared prosperity, a basic standard of living and social protection benefits for people everywhere, including the poorest and most vulnerable. The goal seeks to ensure equal rights and access to economic and natural resources.

Assessment of short-term trends



At risk of poverty or social exclusion



Material deprivation



Low work intensity



In work at-risk-of-poverty rate



Poor dwelling conditions



Unmet need for medical care



Lack of sanitary facilities



Inability to keep home warm



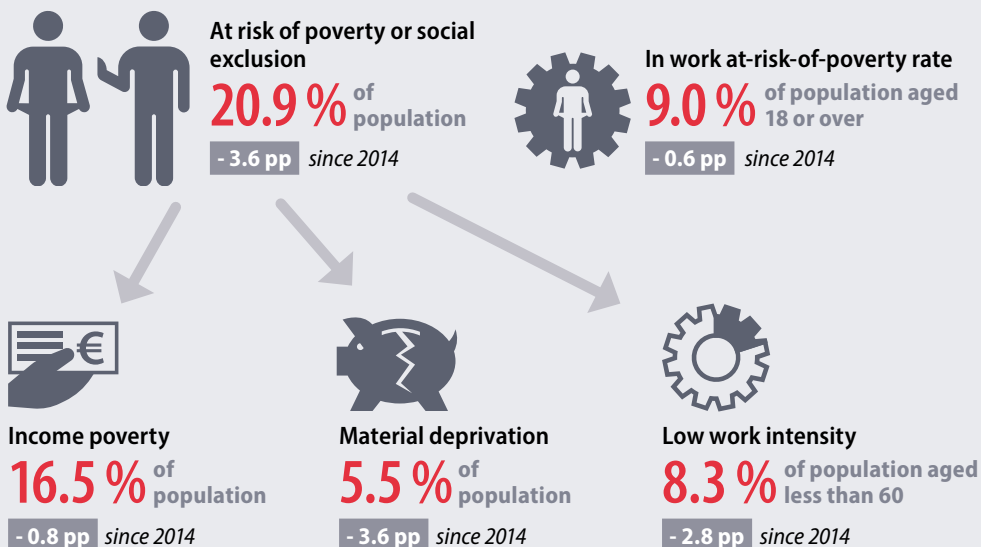
Overcrowding rate



Income poverty

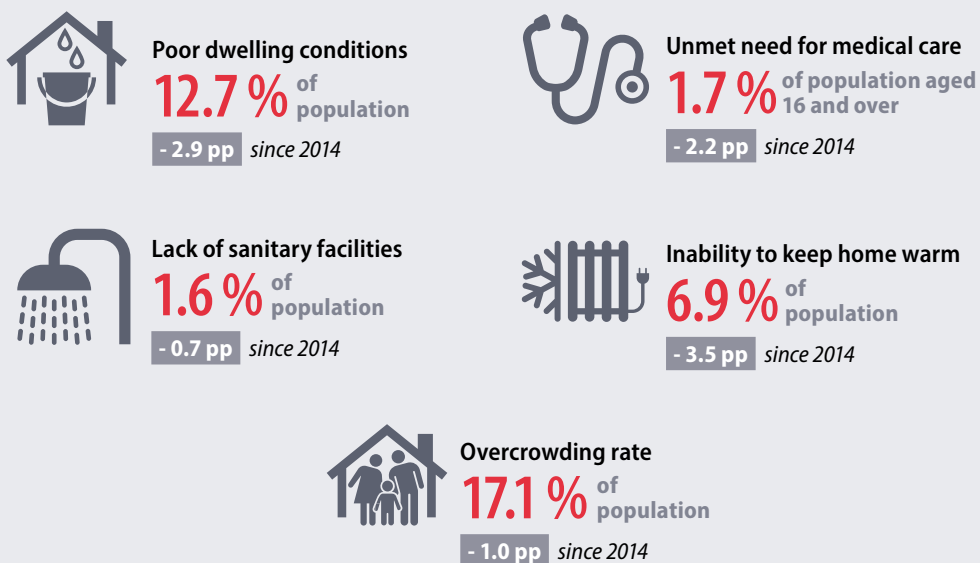
MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY

in 2019



BASIC NEEDS

in 2019



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [sdg_01_10](#), [sdg_01_20](#), [sdg_01_30](#), [sdg_01_40](#), [sdg_01_41](#), [sdg_01_60](#), [sdg_03_60](#), [sdg_06_10](#), [sdg_07_60](#) and [sdg_11_10](#))

2 ZERO HUNGER



SDG 2 seeks to end hunger and malnutrition and ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food.

Realising this goal largely depends on promoting sustainable food production systems, as well as increased investment in rural infrastructure and agricultural research and development.

Assessment of short-term trends



Agricultural factor income



Government support to agricultural R&D



Pesticides risk indicator



Organic farming



Severe soil erosion by water



Ammonia emissions from agriculture



Nitrate in groundwater



Farmland bird index



Obesity rate

MALNUTRITION



Obesity rate in 2017

14.9 % of population
aged 18 or over

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION



Agricultural factor income
in 2020

127.2 Index,
2010 = 100

+ 16.8 index points since 2015



Government support to
agricultural R&D in 2019

EUR 2 893 million

+ 14.2 % since 2014



Organic farming in 2019

8.5 % of utilised
agricultural area

+ 2.4 pp since 2014



Pesticides risk indicator in 2018

83 Index,
2011–2013 = 100

- 10 index points since 2013

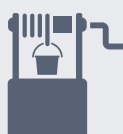
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION



Ammonia emissions
from agriculture in 2018

3.2 million tonnes

+ 1.2 % since 2013



Nitrate in groundwater in 2018

22.0 mg NO₃ per litre

+ 4.7 % since 2013



Severe soil erosion by water
in 2016

5.3 % of the total
non-artificial
erosive area

- 0.01 pp since 2010



Farmland bird index in 2019

82.9 Index, 2000 = 100

- 1.2 index points since 2014

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [sdg_02_10](#), [sdg_02_20](#), [sdg_02_30](#), [sdg_02_40](#), [sdg_02_51](#), [sdg_02_60](#), [sdg_06_40](#), [sdg_15_50](#) and [sdg_15_60](#))

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



SDG 3 aims to ensure health and promote well-being for all at all ages by improving reproductive, maternal and child health; ending epidemics of major communicable diseases; and reducing non-communicable and mental diseases. It also calls for behavioural and environmental health-risk factors to be reduced.

Assessment of short-term trends



Smoking prevalence



Suffering from noise



Exposure to air pollution by particulate matter



Deaths due to tuberculosis, HIV and hepatitis



Avoidable mortality



Fatal accidents at work



Unmet need for medical care



Healthy life years at birth



Self-perceived health



Road traffic deaths



Obesity rate

HEALTHY LIVES

in 2019



Healthy life years at birth

64.6 years

+ 0.6 years since 2016



Self-perceived health

68.6 % of population feeling in (very) good health

+ 1.3 pp since 2014

HEALTH DETERMINANTS



Obesity rate in 2017

14.9 % of population aged 18 or over



Smoking prevalence in 2020

25 % of population aged 15 or over

- 2.0 pp since 2014



Exposure to air pollution by particulate matter in 2019 smaller than 2.5 µm

12.6 µg/m³

- 19.7 % since 2014



Suffering from noise in 2019

17.3 % of population

- 1.2 pp since 2014

CAUSES OF DEATH



Avoidable mortality in 2016

255.6 per 100 000 persons

- 9.1 % since 2011



Deaths due to tuberculosis, HIV and hepatitis in 2016

2.8 per 100 000 persons

- 23.8 % since 2011



Fatal accidents at work in 2018

1.8 per 100 000 employees

- 7.8 % since 2013



Road traffic deaths in 2019

5.1 per 100 000 persons

- 5.6 % since 2014

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE



Unmet need for medical care in 2019

1.7 % of population aged 16 and over

- 2.2 pp since 2014

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [sdg_03_11](#), [sdg_03_20](#), [sdg_02_10](#), [sdg_03_30](#), [sdg_11_40](#), [sdg_11_20](#), [sdg_03_42](#), [sdg_03_41](#), [sdg_08_60](#), [sdg_11_50](#) and [sdg_03_60](#))

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



SDG 4 seeks to ensure access to equitable and quality education through all stages of life, as well as to increase the number of young people and adults having relevant skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. The goal also envisages the elimination of gender and income disparities in access to education.

Assessment of short-term trends



🎯 Early school leavers



🎯 Tertiary educational attainment



🎯 Early childhood education



🎯 Adults with at least basic digital skills



🎯 Underachievement in reading



🎯 Underachievement in maths



🎯 Underachievement in science



Adult learning

BASIC EDUCATION



Early school leavers in 2020

10.1 % of population aged 18 to 24

- 0.9 pp since 2015



Early childhood education in 2019

93.3 % of children between 3 and the starting age of compulsory primary education

+ 2.1 pp since 2014

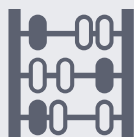
Underachievement in reading, maths and science in 2018

% of 15-year-old students who fail to reach level 2 in PISA



22.5 %

+ 2.5 pp since 2015



22.9 %

+ 0.7 pp since 2015



22.3 %

+ 1.2 pp since 2015

TERTIARY EDUCATION



Tertiary educational attainment in 2020

40.2 % of population aged 25 to 34

+ 3.7 pp since 2015

ADULT EDUCATION



Adult learning in 2020

9.2 % of population aged 25 to 64

- 0.9 pp since 2015

DIGITAL SKILLS



Adults with at least basic digital skills in 2019

56 % of individuals aged 16 to 74

+ 2.0 pp since 2015

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [sdg_04_10](#), [sdg_04_30](#), [sdg_04_40](#), [sdg_04_20](#), [sdg_04_60](#) and [sdg_04_70](#))

5 GENDER EQUALITY



SDG 5 aims to achieve gender equality by ending all forms of discrimination, violence and any harmful practices against women and girls in the public and private spheres. It also calls for the full participation of women and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of political and economic decision-making.

Assessment of short-term trends



Gender pay gap



Women in
parliaments



Women in senior
management



Gender
employment gap



Gender gap for tertiary
educational attainment



Gender gap for early
school leavers



Gender gap for
inactivity due to caring
responsibilities



Physical and
sexual violence

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Physical and sexual violence
in 2012

8 % of women
aged 15 to 74

EDUCATION

in 2020



Gender gap for early school
leavers

3.9 pp to the disadvantage
of men

+ 0.8 pp since 2015



Gender gap for tertiary
educational attainment

10.8 pp to the disadvantage
of men

+ 0.2 pp since 2015

EMPLOYMENT



Gender employment
gap in 2020

11.3 pp to the disadvantage
of women

- 0.3 pp since 2015



Gender pay gap
in 2019

14.1 % of average
gross hourly
earnings of men

- 1.6 pp since 2014



Gender gap in inactivity due to caring
responsibilities in 2019

27.8 pp to the disadvantage
of women

+ 3.1 pp since 2014

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

in 2020



Women in parliaments

32.7 % of seats

+ 4.5 pp since 2015



Women in senior management

29.5 % of board
members

+ 7.3 pp since 2015

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



SDG 6 calls for ensuring universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, and ending open defecation. It also aims to improve water quality and water-use efficiency and to encourage sustainable abstractions and supply of freshwater.

Assessment of short-term trends



Lack of sanitary facilities



Biochemical oxygen demand in rivers



Bathing water quality



Nitrate in groundwater



Phosphate in rivers



Population connected to waste water treatment



Water exploitation

SANITATION



Lack of sanitary facilities
in 2019

1.6 % of population
- 0.7 pp since 2014



Population connected to
waste water treatment
in 2018

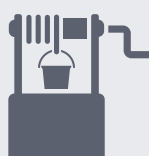
> 80 % in 15 reporting
Member States

WATER QUALITY



Biochemical oxygen demand
in rivers in 2018

2.03 mg O₂ per litre
- 6.9 % since 2013



Nitrate in groundwater
in 2018

22.0 mg NO₃ per litre
+ 4.7 % since 2013



Phosphate in rivers in 2018

0.059 mg PO₄ per litre
+ 7.3 % since 2013



Bathing water quality in 2019

79.1 % of inland water
bathing sites with
excellent water
quality

+ 0.8 pp since 2014

WATER USE EFFICIENCY



Water exploitation in 2017

8.4 % of renewable water
resources
- 0.02 pp since 2012

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [sdg_06_10](#), [sdg_06_20](#), [sdg_06_30](#), [sdg_06_40](#), [sdg_06_50](#), [sdg_14_40](#) and [sdg_06_60](#))

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



SDG 7 calls for ensuring universal access to modern energy services, improving energy efficiency and increasing the share of renewable energy. To accelerate the transition to an affordable, reliable and sustainable energy system that fulfils these demands, countries need to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology and to promote investment in resource- and energy-efficient solutions and low-carbon energy infrastructure.

Assessment of short-term trends



Energy productivity



GHG intensity of energy consumption



Inability to keep home warm



Renewable energy



Energy consumption in households



Primary energy consumption



Final energy consumption



Energy dependency

ENERGY CONSUMPTION

in 2019



Primary energy consumption

1 352 Mtoe

+ 1.6 % since 2014



Final energy consumption

984 Mtoe

+ 4.8 % since 2014



Energy consumption in households

550 kgoe

+ 3.8 % since 2014



Energy productivity

EUR 8.4 per kgoe

+ 9.1 % since 2014



GHG intensity of energy consumption

82.7 Index, 2000 = 100

- 5.6 index points since 2014

ENERGY SUPPLY

in 2019



Renewable energy

19.7 % of gross final energy consumption

+ 2.3 pp since 2014



Energy dependency

60.7 % of imports in gross available energy

+ 6.3 pp since 2014

ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE ENERGY



Inability to keep home warm in 2019

6.9 % of population

- 3.5 pp since 2014

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [sdg_07_10](#), [sdg_07_11](#), [sdg_07_20](#), [sdg_07_30](#), [sdg_13_20](#), [sdg_07_40](#), [sdg_07_50](#) and [sdg_07_60](#))

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



SDG 8 recognises the importance of sustained economic growth and high levels of economic productivity for the creation of well-paid quality jobs, as well as resource efficiency in consumption and production. It calls for opportunities for full employment and decent work for all alongside the eradication of forced labour, human trafficking and child labour, and the promotion of labour rights and safe and secure working environments.

Assessment of short-term trends



Investment share of GDP



Resource productivity



Not in employment, education or training



Long-term unemployment rate



Fatal accidents at work



In work at-risk-of-poverty rate



Real GDP per capita



Employment rate



Gender gap for inactivity due to caring responsibilities

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH



Real GDP per capita
in 2020

EUR 26 230

+ 1.2 % since 2015



Investment share of GDP
in 2020

22.1 % of GDP

+ 1.5 pp since 2015



Resource productivity
in 2019

EUR 2.09 per kg DMC

+ 7.1 % since 2014

EMPLOYMENT



Employment rate in 2020

72.4 % of population
aged 20 to 64

+ 3.3 pp since 2015



Not in employment, education
or training in 2020

13.7 % of population
aged 15 to 29

- 1.5 pp since 2015



Long-term unemployment
rate in 2020

2.5 % of active
population

- 2.5 pp since 2015



Inactivity due to caring
responsibilities in 2019

22.2 % of inactive population
aged 20 to 64

+ 3.0 pp since 2014

DECENT WORK



Fatal accidents at work
in 2018

1.8 per
100 000 employees

- 7.8 % since 2013



In work at-risk-of-poverty rate
in 2019

9 % of population aged
18 or over

- 0.6 pp since 2014

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [sdg_08_10](#), [sdg_08_11](#), [sdg_12_20](#), [sdg_08_30](#), [sdg_08_20](#), [sdg_08_40](#), [sdg_05_40](#), [sdg_08_60](#) and [sdg_01_41](#))

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



SDG 9 calls for building resilient and sustainable infrastructure and promotes inclusive and sustainable industrialisation. It also recognises the importance of research and innovation for finding lasting solutions to social, economic and environmental challenges.

Assessment of short-term trends



R&D personnel



Patent applications



🎯 Tertiary educational attainment



Air emissions intensity of industry



🎯 High-speed internet connections



🎯 R&D expenditure



🎯 CO₂ emissions from new passenger cars



Collective passenger transport



Rail and waterways freight transport

R&D AND INNOVATION



R&D expenditure *in 2019*

2.2 % of GDP

+ 0.1 pp *since 2014*



R&D personnel *in 2019*

1.4 % of active population

+ 0.2 pp *since 2014*



Tertiary educational attainment *in 2020*

40.2 % of population aged 25 to 34

+ 3.7 pp *since 2015*



Patent applications *in 2020*

65 854 applications to the EPO

+ 5.2 % *since 2015*

SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY



Air emissions intensity of industry (PM_{2.5}) *in 2018*

0.08 g per euro

- 11.1 % *since 2013*

SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE



CO₂ emissions from new passenger cars *in 2019*

122.2 g of CO₂ per km

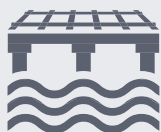
- 0.7 % *since 2014*



Collective passenger transport *in 2018*

17.1 % of total inland passenger-km

- 1.0 pp *since 2013*



Rail and waterways freight transport *in 2019*

23.7 % of total inland freight tonne-km

- 2.4 pp *since 2014*



High-speed internet connections *in 2020*

59.3 % of households

+ 37.4 pp *since 2015*

Source: Eurostat (online data sources: [sdg_09_10](#), [sdg_09_30](#), [sdg_04_20](#), [sdg_09_40](#), [sdg_09_70](#), [sdg_12_30](#), [sdg_09_50](#), [sdg_09_60](#) and [sdg_17_60](#))

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



SDG 10 addresses inequalities within and among countries. It calls for nations to reduce inequalities in income as well as those based on age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status within a country. The Goal also addresses inequalities among countries, including those related to representation, and calls for the facilitation of orderly and safe migration and mobility of people.

Assessment of short-term trends



Urban-rural gap for people at risk of poverty or social exclusion



Disparities in disposable household income



At-risk-of-poverty gap



Income distribution



Income share of bottom 40 %



Disparities in GDP per capita



Citizenship gap for income poverty



Citizenship gap for employment rate



Citizenship gap for early leavers from education



Citizenship gap for NEET rate



Asylum applications

INEQUALITIES WITHIN COUNTRIES

in 2019



Income distribution

5.0 income quintile share ratio

- 0.2 points since 2014



At-risk-of-poverty gap

24.5 % distance to poverty threshold

- 0.8 pp since 2014



Income share of bottom 40 %

21.4 % of income

+ 0.5 pp since 2014



Urban-rural gap for people at risk of poverty or social exclusion

1.1 pp higher rate in rural areas

- 2.7 pp since 2014

INEQUALITIES BETWEEN COUNTRIES

in 2019



Disparities in GDP per capita

41.3 % variation coefficient

- 1.9 pp since 2014



Disparities in disposable household income

24.9 % variation coefficient

- 5.3 pp since 2014

MIGRATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION



Asylum applications in 2020

932 per million inhabitants

- 66.0 % since 2015



Citizenship gap for income poverty in 2019

23.5 pp to the disadvantage of non-EU citizens

- 1.2 pp since 2014



Citizenship gap for early school leavers in 2020

19.6 pp to the disadvantage of non-EU citizens

+ 2.6 pp since 2015



Citizenship gap for NEET rate in 2020

14.0 pp to the disadvantage of non-EU citizens

+ 0.9 pp since 2015



Citizenship gap for employment rate in 2020

15.9 pp to the disadvantage of non-EU citizens

+ 2.3 pp since 2015

Source: Eurostat (online data sources: [sdg_10_41](#), [sdg_10_30](#), [sdg_10_50](#), [sdg_01_10a](#), [sdg_10_10](#), [sdg_10_20](#), [sdg_10_60](#), [sdg_01_20a](#), [sdg_04_10a](#), [sdg_08_20a](#) and [sdg_08_30a](#))

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



SDG 11 aims to renew and plan cities and other human settlements in a way that offers opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, housing, transportation and green public spaces, while reducing resource use and environmental impact.

Assessment of short-term trends



Overcrowding rate



Suffering from noise



Exposure to air pollution by particulate matter



Poor dwelling conditions



Reported occurrence of crime



Recycling of municipal waste



Road traffic deaths



Collective passenger transport



Settlement area



Population connected to wastewater treatment

QUALITY OF LIFE IN CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

in 2019



Overcrowding rate

17.1 % of population

- 1.0 pp since 2014



Poor dwelling conditions

12.7 % of population

- 2.9 pp since 2014



Suffering from noise

17.3 % of population

- 1.2 pp since 2014



Reported occurrence of crime

11.0 % of population

- 2.6 pp since 2014



Exposure to air pollution by
particulate matter
smaller than 2.5 μm

12.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

- 19.7 % since 2014

SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY



Road traffic deaths in 2019

22 757 persons

- 5.7 % since 2014



Collective passenger
transport in 2018

17.1 % of total inland
passenger-km

- 1.0 pp since 2013

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS



Recycling of municipal waste
in 2019

47.7 % of total
municipal waste
generated

+ 4.3 pp since 2014



Population connected to
wastewater treatment in 2018

> 80 % in 15 reporting
Member States



Settlement area in 2018

703.4 m^2 per
capita

+ 3.3 % since 2015

Source: Eurostat (online data sources: [sdg_11_10](#), [sdg_01_60](#), [sdg_11_20](#), [sdg_16_20](#), [sdg_11_50](#), [sdg_11_40](#), [sdg_09_50](#), [sdg_11_60](#), [sdg_06_20](#) and [sdg_11_31](#))

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



SDG 12 envisions sustainable production and consumption based on advanced technological capacity, resource efficiency and reduced global waste. It calls on researchers, businesses and policy to develop sustainable production methods and promotes responsible consumption among consumers.

Assessment of short-term trends



Resource productivity



Energy productivity



Environmental goods and services



Circular material use



Consumption of toxic chemicals



CO₂ emissions from new passenger cars



Generation of waste

DECOUPLING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FROM ECONOMIC GROWTH

in 2019



Consumption of toxic chemicals
216.6 million tonnes
- 1.7 % since 2014



Resource productivity
EUR 2.09 per kg of DMC
+ 7.1 % since 2014



Energy productivity
EUR 8.4 per kgoe
+ 9.1 % since 2014



CO₂ emissions from new passenger cars
122.2 g of CO₂ per km
- 0.7 % since 2014

GREEN ECONOMY



Environmental goods and services in 2018
2.3 % of GDP
± 0.0 % since 2013

WASTE GENERATION AND MANAGEMENT



Circular material use in 2019
11.9 % of material input for domestic use
+ 0.8 pp since 2014



Generation of waste in 2018
1 818 kg per capita
+ 5.8 % since 2012

Source: Eurostat (online data sources: [sdg_12_10](#), [sdg_12_20](#), [sdg_07_30](#), [sdg_12_30](#), [sdg_12_61](#), [sdg_12_41](#) and [sdg_12_50](#))

13 CLIMATE ACTION



SDG 13 seeks to implement the commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and deliver on the Green Climate Fund. It aims to strengthen countries' resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and the resulting natural disasters with a special focus on supporting least-developed countries.

Assessment of short-term trends



GHG intensity of energy consumption



Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy signatories



Climate-related expenditure



Renewable energy



Greenhouse gas emissions



CO₂ emissions from new passenger cars



Global mean ocean acidity



Climate-related economic losses



Near surface temperature deviation

CLIMATE MITIGATION

in 2019



Greenhouse gas emissions ⁽¹⁾

74.9 Index, 1990 = 100

- 1.9 index points since 2014



GHG intensity of energy consumption ⁽¹⁾

82.7 Index, 2000 = 100

- 5.6 index points since 2014



Renewable energy

19.7 % of gross final energy consumption

+ 2.2 pp since 2014



CO₂ emissions from new passenger cars

122.2 g of CO₂ per km

- 0.7 % since 2014

CLIMATE IMPACTS



Near surface temperature deviation in 2010–2019

Global: **0.9** °C deviation, compared with 1850–1899 average
European: **1.7**



Climate-related economic losses in 2019

EUR 11.9 billion

+ 9.8 % since 2014



Global mean ocean acidity in 2019

8.06 pH value

- 0.1 % since 2014

SUPPORT TO CLIMATE ACTION



Climate-related expenditure in 2019 ⁽²⁾

EUR 21.9 billion

+ 69.4 % since 2014



Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy signatories in 2020

42.6 % of population

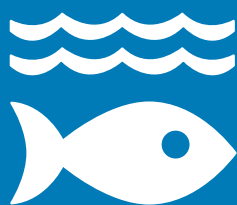
+ 6.2 pp since 2015

⁽¹⁾ Net emissions including international aviation, indirect CO₂, and natural sinks from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF). 2019 data are provisional estimates based on the EEA approximated GHG inventory for the year 2019.

⁽²⁾ Data refer to EU Member States, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank.

Source: Eurostat (online data sources: [sdg_13_10](#), [sdg_13_20](#), [sdg_07_40](#), [sdg_12_30](#), [sdg_13_30](#), [sdg_13_40](#), [sdg_14_50](#), [sdg_13_50](#) and [sdg_13_60](#))

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



SDG 14 aims to protect and ensure the sustainable use of oceans. This includes the reduction of marine pollution and the impacts of ocean acidification, the ending of overfishing and the conservation of marine and coastal areas and ecosystems. SDG 14 has strong interdependencies with a broad range of other SDGs, as oceans sustain coastal economies and livelihoods and contribute to food production, while at the same time functioning as a sink for land- and sea-based pollution.

Assessment of short-term trends



Natura 2000
marine sites



Bathing water
quality



Global mean ocean
acidity



Marine
eutrophication



Trends in fish stock
biomass



Overfishing

OCEAN HEALTH

in 2019



Bathing water quality
88.4 % of coastal bathing sites with excellent water quality

+ 2.6 pp since 2014



Global mean ocean acidity

8.06 pH value

- 0.1% since 2014



Marine eutrophication

0.25 % of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ)

+ 0.17 pp since 2014

MARINE CONSERVATION



Natura 2000 marine sites
in 2019

441 001 km²

+ 80.7 % since 2014

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

in 2019



Trends in fish stock biomass ⁽¹⁾

135 Index, 2003 = 100

+ 21 index points since 2014



Overfishing ⁽¹⁾

43.1 % of fish stocks

- 11.5 pp since 2014

⁽¹⁾ Data refer to the North-East Atlantic and adjacent seas.

Source: Eurostat (online data sources: [sdg_14_40](#), [sdg_14_50](#), [sdg_14_60](#), [sdg_14_10](#), [sdg_14_21](#) and [sdg_14_30](#))

15 LIFE ON LAND



SDG 15 seeks to protect, restore and promote the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial, inland-water and mountain ecosystems. This includes efforts to sustainably manage forests and halt deforestation, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, halt biodiversity loss and protect threatened species.

Assessment of short-term trends



Biochemical oxygen demand in rivers



Forest area



Severe soil erosion by water



Natura 2000 terrestrial sites



Common bird index



Grassland butterfly index



Phosphate in rivers



Soil sealing index

ECOSYSTEM STATUS

in 2018



Biochemical oxygen demand
in rivers

2.03 mg O₂ per litre
- 6.9 % since 2013



Phosphate in rivers

0.059 mg PO₄ per litre
+ 7.3 % since 2013



Forest area

43.5 % of total
land area
+ 0.9 pp since 2015

LAND DEGRADATION



Severe soil erosion by water
in 2016

5.3 % of the total non-
artificial erosive area
- 0.01 pp since 2010



Soil sealing index in 2018

108.3 Index, 2006 = 100

BIODIVERSITY



Natura 2000 terrestrial sites
in 2019

763 986 km²
+ 0.4 % since 2014



Common bird index in 2019

95.9 Index, 2000 = 100
+ 0.6 index points since 2014



Grassland butterfly index in 2018

78.5 Index, 2000 = 100
- 5.0 index points since 2013

Source: Eurostat (online data sources: [sdg_06_30](#), [sdg_06_50](#), [sdg_15_10](#), [sdg_15_50](#), [sdg_15_41](#), [sdg_15_20](#), [sdg_15_60](#) and [sdg_15_61](#))

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



SDG 16 calls for peaceful and inclusive societies based on respect for human rights, protection of the most vulnerable, the rule of law and good governance at all levels. It also envisions transparent, effective and accountable institutions.

Assessment of short-term trends



Homicide rate



Reported occurrence of crime



Expenditure on law courts



Perceived independence of judiciary



Confidence in EU institutions



Corruption Perceptions Index

PEACE AND PERSONAL SECURITY



Homicide rate in 2016

0.7 per 100 000 inhabitants

- 0.2 per 100 000 since 2011



Reported occurrence of crime in 2019

11.0 % of population

- 2.6 pp since 2014

ACCESS TO JUSTICE



Expenditure on law courts in 2019

EUR 44 989 million

+ 16.1 % since 2014



Perceived independence of judiciary in 2020

54 % of population perceived it very good or fairly good

+ 4 pp since 2016

TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS



Corruption Perceptions Index in 2020

Member States perceptions range from

44–88

Score scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean)



Confidence in EU institutions in 2019

European Parliament

54 % of population

+ 11 pp since 2014

European Commission

47 % of population

+ 8 pp since 2014

European Central Bank

44 % of population

+ 8 pp since 2014

Source: Eurostat (online data sources: [sdg_16_10](#), [sdg_16_20](#), [sdg_16_30](#), [sdg_16_40](#), [sdg_16_50](#) and [sdg_16_60](#))

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SDG 17 calls for a global partnership for sustainable development. The goal highlights the importance of global macroeconomic stability and the need to mobilise financial resources for developing countries from international sources, as well as through strengthened domestic capacities for revenue collection. It also highlights the importance of trade for developing countries and equitable rules for governing international trade. SDG 17 furthermore emphasises the importance of access to science, technology and innovation, in particular internet-based information and communications technology.

Assessment of short-term trends



Official development assistance



Imports from developing countries



High-speed internet connections



Financing to developing countries



General government gross debt



Environmental taxes

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP



Official development
assistance *in 2020* ⁽¹⁾

0.50 % of gross national
income (GNI)

+ 0.08 pp since 2015



Financing to developing
countries *in 2019*

EUR 131.4 billion

- 11.3 % since 2014

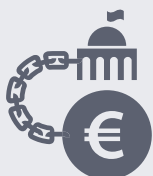


Imports from developing
countries *in 2020*

EUR 851.8 billion

+ 12.0 % since 2015

FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE WITHIN THE EU



General government
gross debt *in 2020*

90.7 % of GDP

+ 5.9 pp since 2015



Environmental taxes
in 2019

5.9 % of total tax revenues

- 0.3 pp since 2014

ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY



High-speed internet
connections *in 2020*

59.3 % of households

+ 37.4 pp since 2015

⁽¹⁾ Data include EU Member States and EU institutions.

Source: Eurostat (online data sources: [sdg_17_10](#), [sdg_17_20](#), [sdg_17_30](#), [sdg_17_40](#), [sdg_17_50](#) and [sdg_17_60](#))

Annex

EU SDG indicators assessed against quantitative EU targets

Code	Name	Target value	Target year	SDGs
sdg_02_40	Area under organic farming	25 %	2030	2
sdg_04_10	Early school leavers	9%	2030	4
sdg_04_20	Tertiary educational attainment	45 %	2030	4 9
sdg_04_30	Early childhood education	96 %	2030	4
sdg_04_40	Underachievement in reading, maths and science	15 %	2030	4
sdg_04_61	Adults with at least basic digital skills	70 %	2025	4
sdg_07_10, sdg_07_11	Primary and final energy consumption	+32.5 % efficiency	2030	7
sdg_07_40	Share of renewable energy	32 %	2030	7 13
sdg_09_10	R&D expenditure	3 % of GDP	2030	9
sdg_11_40	Road traffic deaths	-50 % of 2010	2020	3 11
sdg_11_60	Recycling of municipal waste	60 %	2030	11
sdg_12_30	CO ₂ emissions from new passenger cars	95 g CO ₂ per km	2020	9 12 13
sdg_13_10	Greenhouse gas emissions	-55 % of 1990	2030	13
sdg_17_10	Official development assistance	0.7 % of GNI	2030	17
sdg_17_60	Households with high-speed internet connection	100 %	2030	9 17

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EU law and related documents

For access to legal information from the EU, including all EU law since 1952 in all the official language versions, go to EUR-Lex at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

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The EU Open Data Portal (<http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en>) provides access to datasets from the EU. Data can be downloaded and reused for free, for both commercial and non-commercial purposes.

Sustainable development in the European Union

Overview of progress towards the SDGs in an EU context

This brochure is a 'light' version of Eurostat's publication 'Sustainable development in the European Union — 2021 monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context', conveying its main messages in a visual and concise way. The brochure builds on the EU SDG indicator set which comprises 102 indicators structured around the 17 SDGs. It presents a statistical overview of trends for each indicator, described on the basis of a set of specific quantitative rules and focusing on short-term trends over the past five years. For a detailed presentation of the EU trends and a description of the methodology, please refer to the full Eurostat SDG publication.

For more information

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>