# The Sustainable Development Goals: the situation for the Netherlands

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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## Explanation of symbols

| | |
|---|---|
| Empty cell | Figure not applicable |
| . | Figure is unknown, insufficiently reliable or confidential |
| * | Provisional figure |
| ** | Revised provisional figure |
| 2017–2018 | 2017 to 2018 inclusive |
| 2017/2018 | Average for 2017 to 2018 inclusive |
| 2017/'18 | Crop year, financial year, school year, etc., beginning in 2017 and ending in 2018 |
| 2015/'16–2017/'18 | Crop year, financial year, etc., 2015/'16 to 2017/'18 inclusive |

Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond to the sum of the separate figures.

*Publisher*
Statistics Netherlands
Henri Faasdreef 312, 2492 JP The Hague
www.cbs.nl

Translation: Taalcentrum-VU, Amsterdam
Prepress: Textcetera, The Hague
Design: Edenspiekermann

*Information*
Telephone +31 88 570 70 70
Via contact form: www.cbs.nl/infoservice

ISBN 978-90-357-2188-3

# Foreword

In 2015, the members of the United Nations (UN) adopted an agenda for sustainable development. All 193 members of the UN signed up to an ambitious package of goals: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This agreement commits the UN members, including the Netherlands, to make greater efforts to end poverty and hunger, protect the Earth, defend human rights, and promote equality between men and women. The package contains a total of 17 goals that are to be achieved by 2030.
To monitor progress made towards this ambitious goal, the UN drafted a list of SDG indicators. In 2016, Statistics Netherlands (CBS) published a first report on the state of affairs in the Netherlands based on these indicators. Statistics already available at CBS were used for this purpose. The report was very well received both nationally and internationally, which was in part the motivation for publishing this second edition. This second edition was commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
An extensive consultation specially organised for this second edition and involving more than thirty ministries, policy analysis organisations, knowledge institutes and NGOs produced more data for a large number of supplementary indicators in addition to those in the first report. As a result, the added data for the SDGs in this second edition come in large part from institutions from outside CBS.
The overall picture that emerges from the SDG measurements is that in a number of areas, the Netherlands ranks highly among European countries: our gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is one of the highest in the European Union (EU) and a relatively large number of Dutch citizens have confidence in institutions. A newly available indicator shows that there is good access to public transport in the Netherlands: 98.5 percent of the population lives less than two kilometres away from the nearest public transport stop. In other areas, the Netherlands occupies a low position in the European rankings. Our proportion of renewable energy is among the smallest in Europe, and the number of women in managerial positions is proportionally one of the smallest. You can read about this and a great deal more in this second edition.
In addition to this publication on the SDGs, CBS is also looking specifically at sustainable development. In this context, CBS is developing the *Monitor Brede Welvaart* (Monitor of Well-being), the first edition of which will appear in May this year.
Finally, I wish to express my thanks to all the organisations that took part in the public consultation. They have helped ensure that this publication contains information on the Netherlands for 51 percent of the SDG indicators.

**Director General**
**Dr T.B.P.M. Tjin-A-Tsoi**

The Hague/Heerlen/Bonaire, May 2018

# Contents

# Summary

At the end of 2015, the members of the United Nations drew up the agenda for the future of sustainable development for 2015–2030. This agenda contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), elaborated in 169 sub-goals. For each of these goals, one or more indicators were determined under the aegis of the UN to monitor progress. The official list of indicators currently contains 244 indicators. Fifty of these relate to monitoring policy implementation – the 'means-of-implementation indicators'. These indicators show to what extent resources that can be employed to achieve the goals have actually been used. The other 194 are what are called 'goal indicators'. These indicate where each country stands.[1)]

In 2016, CBS (2016) was the first statistical institute in the world to report a baseline measurement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It reported on 64 indicators from the official list of indicators, 35 indicators as an alternative to official indicators and 30 extra indicators to provide a more complete picture or to cover missing topics. In doing this, CBS kept to the international list of indicators where possible. Extra indicators are only used where this is unavoidable. For 34 of the then 192 official goal indicators, the report assumed that they had either already been achieved by the Netherlands or were not relevant.

Following publication of the first report, there was an extensive consultation with more than thirty parties, such as ministries, policy analysis organisations, knowledge institutes and NGOs. Within CBS, too, steps were taken to be able to include some of the indicators that were missing from the baseline measurement. As a result, it is now possible to report on 98 official indicators – 34 more than in 2016 – and 21 alternative indicators. This publication addresses a limited number of indicators for each SDG and does not pretend to be comprehensive in doing so. It expounds on a number of relevant current topics.

**Number of goal indicators[a)] measured and not measured**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Number of indicators on the list | 194 (192) | 100% (100%) |
| The Netherlands meets or virtually meets the goal or the goal is not relevant for the Netherlands | 44 (34) | 23% (18%) |
| Measured with official indicator | 98 (64) | 51% (33%) |
| Measured with alternative indicator | 21 (35) | 11% (18%) |
| Still to be developed or hard to quantify | 31 (59) | 16% (31%) |

a) In brackets: figures from the first report in 2016.

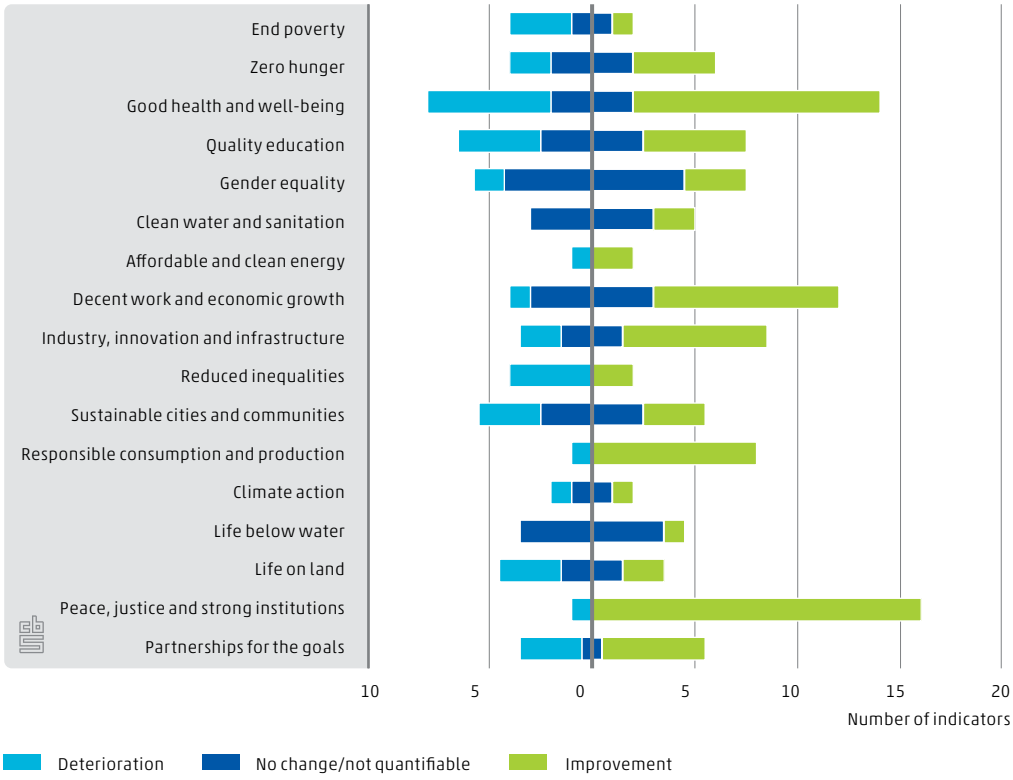
This publication is based on the internationally established list of SDG indicators. During the public consultation, ministries and NGOs indicated that the international indicators alone are not always relevant for the situation in the Netherlands. There are many other indicators that give a picture of how the Netherlands is faring in various areas. Due to the scope chosen, these are largely disregarded in this publication.

For some of the indicators, it can be indicated whether a change can be assessed as being positive or negative. For example, in the context of sustainable development, a reduction

1) The list initially contained 52 means-of-implementation indicators and 192 goal indicators. However, the list of indicators is constantly being changed and expanded. This publication is based on the most recent list, published in July 2017.

in raw material consumption can be assessed as being positive. The figure below indicates for each sustainable development goal the number of indicators that have shown an improvement or a deterioration between the previous measurement (usually 2015, the first year of the UN's future agenda) and the latest measurement (usually 2016). The figure reflects only the direction of the change, not the size or significance.
For other indicators, it no improvement or deterioration can be indicated. Sometimes this is because there have only been observations for one year, but it is usually because there are no criteria that can be used to determine whether a change is positive or negative. An example of this last category is the indicators for part-time work by men and women in the context of efforts to achieve equality between women and men (SDG 5). For women, the percentage working part-time fell from 76.9 in 2015 to 76.4 in 2016. For men these percentages were 26.5 in 2015 and 26.3 in 2016. The gap between men and women has narrowed, but the percentage has declined for both. However, without standards these developments cannot be judged to be either positive or negative.

**Number of indicators that show a positive or negative development, given the goal**




The report illustrates that the majority of the different SDG indicators for the Netherlands show a positive development. In particular, the majority of indicators for the goals *decent work and economic growth* (SDG 8), *responsible consumption and production* (SDG 12) and *peace, justice and strong institutions* (SDG 16) show a sometimes small – but favourable – development. In the case of the goals *no poverty* (SDG 1) and *reduced inequalities* (SDG 10), most indicators point to a negative development.

# 1. Introduction

**This report gives the current status of indicators for the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with respect to the situation in the Netherlands, and it encompasses more than half of the indicators prescribed by the UN. This is a substantial increase compared with the first publication. Following publication of the first study in 2016, it was decided to publish a second report containing supplementary information for indicators for which no data were yet available. This information was made available through extensive consultation with more than thirty parties: ministries, policy analysis organisations, knowledge institutes and NGOs.**

At the end of September 2015, all members of the United Nations agreed a future agenda for sustainable development. All 193 government leaders, including that of the Netherlands, signed up to an ambitious package of goals for sustainable development – the SDGs. These goals apply for the period 2015–2030.
At the heart of the 2030 agenda are 17 goals, elaborated in 169 sub-goals. The governments of the Member States bear responsibility for their implementation and the monitoring of progress. To do so, it has been agreed that the data required for monitoring will be reported by the countries, with an important role for the national statistics offices of these countries.

## 1.1 The 17 Sustainable Development Goals

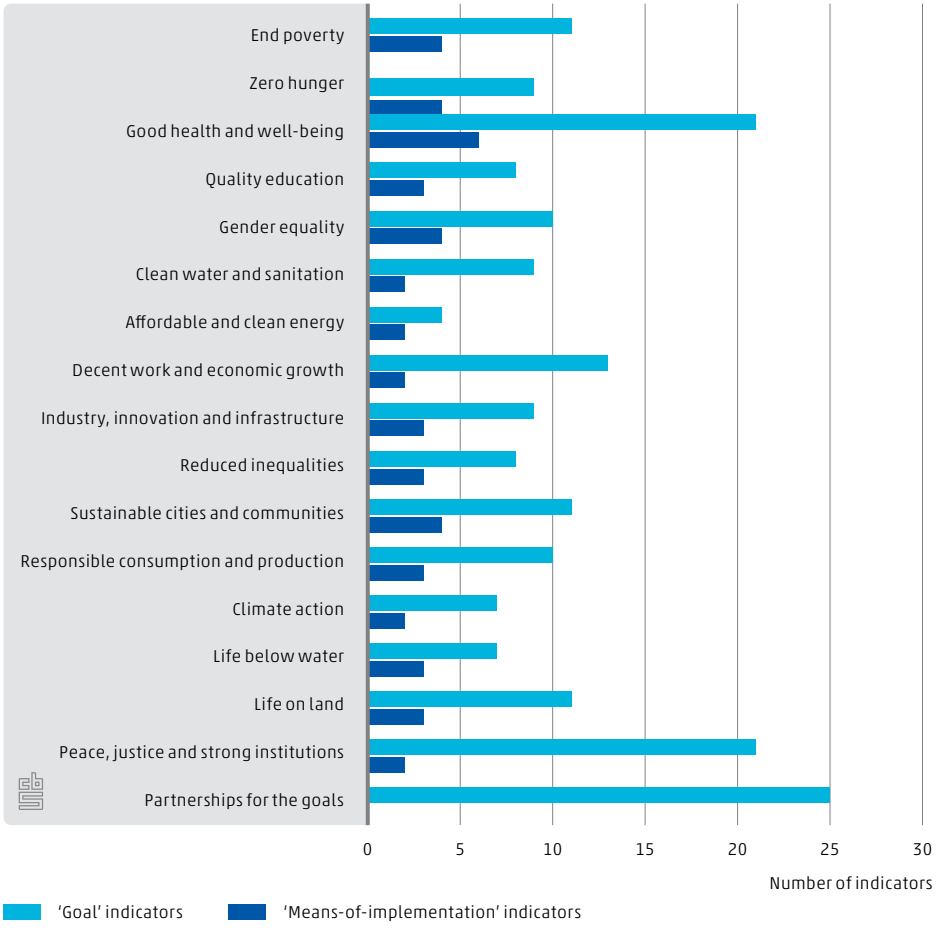

Source: United Nations.

After establishing the ambition, in 2016 work was done under the aegis of the UN to design a measuring system for reporting the progress made towards the SDGs. The Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (UN, 2016a) gives an initial set of indicators that are required for the monitoring. A first revision (of around 10 points) appeared in 2017 (UN, 2017a). Following this revision, this set totalled 232 unique indicators.

## Goals, targets and indicators

**A set of 244 indicators was drawn up to monitor the achievement of the 17 goals and 169 targets. Nine indicators are linked to two or more targets. There are a total of 232 unique indicators.**

### 1.2 Goals and indicators




**The 244 indicators can be divided into 194 'goal' indicators and 50 'means-of-implementation' indicators. 'Goal' indicators indicate for each country where it stands, while 'means-of-implementation' indicators indicate to what extent resources that can be employed to achieve the goals have actually been used. This publication focuses exclusively on the 194 'goal' indicators, 184 of which are unique.**

An initial measurement of the status of the SDG indicators for the Netherlands was published in 2016 (CBS, 2016). It prompted a broad-based societal consultation in which ministries, policy analysis organisations, knowledge institutes and NGOs were asked to contribute towards measuring indicators for which CBS had no data. This led to the addition of a large number of supplementary IAEG indicators. In a number of places, for those IAEG indicators that cannot yet be measured or that are not relevant for the Netherlands, indicators have been added that are available and/or are more relevant to the situation in the Netherlands. This publication is the result.

The overall picture presented by the SDG report is that compared with many other countries the Netherlands is making progress, but that there are areas of concern, particularly with respect to the environment, climate, energy and inequality. Regarding this conclusion, one must bear in mind that only just over half of the SDG indicators are directly measurable for the Netherlands. In addition to the prescribed SDG indicators, other indicators also give a picture of how the Netherlands is faring in various areas. However, these are largely disregarded in this publication, which focuses primarily on the prescribed international indicators.

An important factor in achieving the SDGs in the Netherlands is the national strategy. For many SDG goals and sub-goals, national aims and goals are currently still lacking. The Dutch national strategy will focus more strongly on the measuring system and help to determine which indicators must be developed first. In addition, in the course of time, the UN's list of indicators will regularly be amended at the UN level. Therefore, there is ample room for future improvement and amendment of SDG monitoring in the Netherlands.

# 2. The UN Sustainable Development Goals

**At the end of 2015, the members of the United Nations adopted an agenda for sustainable development. This includes an ambitious package of goals called the Sustainable Development Goals. Around the world, these SDGs are seen as one of the most important policy topics for the next 15 years. The first SDG indicator reports have since been published, which measure the situation in countries in relation to the goals.**

# 2.1 The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs

In September 2015, the leaders of the governments of the 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted an historic agreement concerning the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UN, 2015). For the first time in the history of the UN, a comprehensive and coherent agreement was reached on tackling the world's great challenges.

## The 17 Sustainable Development Goals

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

The 17 goals for sustainable development (SDGs) apply to the period 2015–2030 and are the successors to the millennium goals. In 2000, the world leaders adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were to halve the major problems in the poorest developing countries in 15 years. The goals covered the domains of poverty, hunger, primary education, environment (including drinking water and sanitation), gender inequality, child and maternal mortality and mortality resulting from communicable diseases.
While the millennium goals mainly focused on alleviating poverty in developing countries, the 2030 agenda is a broad sustainability agenda for all countries, therefore also for western countries including the Netherlands. The agreements reached are not legally binding, but are a best-effort obligation. Countries have signed up to these agreements and are called upon to translate the global SDGs into national goals and policy, and to commit to doing everything possible to contribute to justice, safety and prosperity in the world. In the Netherlands, the SDG activities are coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (House of Representatives, 2016a; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2016). This second monitor was commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## 2.2 The first SDG indicator reports

In mid-July 2016, two reports were published which compare the starting position of various countries (including the Netherlands) with respect to achieving the SDG goals. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) published the report *Measuring distance to the SDGs targets* (Boarini et al., 2016). This is a pilot based on extensive 'country performance reviews' and general studies. Based on half of the targets, the OECD assesses the starting position of the Netherlands as 'very good'. Virtually simultaneously, the Bertelsmann Stiftung and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) published the *SDG Index & Dashboards* (Sachs et al., 2016). This publication determined for 149 countries how much effort still has to be made in order to achieve the SDG goals. In the final ranking, the Netherlands was in eighth place (of 149 countries). In mid-2017, an update of this report was published in which the Netherlands had dropped to 13$^{th}$ place in the rankings (Sachs et al., 2017). The main reason for this was that the second edition took account of the effects of actions by the Netherlands abroad.
In November 2016, CBS was the first statistical institute to publish a SDG report (CBS, 2016). It was followed by reports from other institutions, including those of Germany (Destatis, 2017a and 2017b), Italy (ISTAT 2017), Sweden (Statistics Sweden, 2017), France (https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/2879089) and the United States (https://sdg.data.gov/).

## 2.3 Comments on the SDGs

From the start, critical opinions have been voiced about the SDGs and the UN's proposed set of indicators. In contrast to the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) indicators, the UN goals lack a clear theoretical foundation. Trade-off relationships, as made visible in the CES measuring system (Smits and Eding, 2015), are not directly visible for the SDGs. For instance, not all capital indicators that are of essential importance when monitoring the inter-generational aspect of sustainability (the relationship between the present and the future, see the text on the CES framework) are found on the UN list. In addition, few footprint indicators have been included that indicate the degree to which production and consumption activities of one country put pressure on the rest of the world or on the environment.

Hedström (2016) notes that although the UN recognises that GDP is too limited as a measure of prosperity and well-being, the list of indicators contains no alternative measure for prosperity and well-being. The ICSU/ISSC (2015) report states that only 29 percent of the indicators are fully defined with metadata, that 54 percent need to be specified and that 17 percent still require significant efforts to arrive at international harmonisation. A review of the indicator set should primarily focus on consistency with existing international agreements and processes, implementation possibilities and measurability.

Furthermore, the report makes a number of specific recommendations, including the formulation of a collective main goal that binds the underlying 17 goals together, an increased focus and the further specification (where possible) of the goals. When establishing the SDG indicators, the initial intention was to develop 17 main indicators for the various sustainability goals. However, there was ultimately insufficient political support for this.

# 3. Indicators for monitoring the SDGs

**Currently, just over half of the SDG indicators are directly measurable for the Netherlands. Although a number of the remaining indicators are not relevant for the Netherlands, there are still enough indicators left that can be developed further to provide additional information about the Dutch situation.**

## 3.1 Measuring the SDG indicators

An important question is how to monitor the extent to which the Netherlands and other countries are on the right track towards achieving the prescribed goals. The UN recognises that national statistical institutes can and must play an important role in this respect. When establishing the SDGs, it was emphasised that it is important to have an internationally harmonised database of indicators, as it must be possible to compare the data of countries and regions. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) drew up an initial list of indicators in 2016 (UN, 2016a). The Netherlands, represented by CBS, is one of the four EU members of this group. The list was adopted during the 47th session of the UN Statistical Commission in March 2016 as a pragmatic starting point that will be subject to refinement and improvements in due course.[1)] The list was once more endorsed in July 2016 in the ministerial statement after the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development that took place under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council of the UN (UN ECOSOC, 2016). In 2017, this list was supplemented or amended on ten points (UN, 2017a) and new changes and expansions are still being prepared. The first major revision of the UN indicator set is planned for 2020.

Many researchers at various international organisations have now published the first preliminary indicator reports that, for the first time, assess and compare western countries with respect to the sustainability of their development. Prominent examples are Kroll (2015) and the reports by Sachs et al. (2016) and Boarini et al. (2016) described in Chapter 3. Furthermore, the UN (UN 2016b) published an initial report comparing regions of the world. The underlying data of this report contain information for the individual countries. All the reports mentioned above contain data for the Netherlands, but they do not focus on the Netherlands. Moreover, they do not compare the Netherlands specifically with EU countries (as CBS does in this publication), but with other countries (OECD countries and other UN members).

In the first instance, CBS investigated the availability of data for the SDG indicators specifically for the Netherlands (CBS, 2016). In doing this, CBS initially limited itself to the 'goal' indicators (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, etc., see UN, 2016a): the Netherlands will have to measure its current status with respect to the targets. The other indicators are referred to as the 'means-of-implementation' indicators (1a, 1b, 2a, etc.). These are the means that should be employed to achieve the goals. CBS has not carried out initial measurements for these 'means-of-implementation' indicators in either the previous or the present study.

The lack of precise definitions and metadata for many SDG indicators has influenced the choice of indicators made by CBS. In the SDG framework, countries also have the freedom to measure alternative or supplementary indicators for the SDGs in reports at the national and regional level. These may be indicators that replace SDG indicators for which no

1) http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/03/un-statistical-commission-endorses-global-indicator-framework/

national data are (yet) available, but also SDG indicators for which countries themselves think that an alternative or supplementary indicator shine a different or better light on the (possibly country-specific) outcome for a certain SDG goal. Other researchers also used alternative and supplementary indicators, even the UN statisticians themselves (see UN, 2016b).
What makes the information demands even bigger and more complex is that the basic principle of the 2030 Agenda is that a goal has only been achieved if nobody in the population has been left behind (the 'leave no one behind' principle). To be able to measure this, a distinction must be made between individuals in the population. This implies disaggregation of indicators for various groups (by gender, education level, age, disability, etc.). For many of the available indicators, not all of the desired breakdowns are available. A second, international, aspect of the 'leave no one behind' principle is that countries do not lag behind other countries. In particular for developing countries, there is a major shortage of the information required to be able to measure the SDG indicators. In this respect, these countries will need support. At the international level, discussions are still ongoing about the precise details of this disaggregation of indicators. Because there is still no international agreement on this issue, these breakdowns into groups will be disregarded in this report.

## 3.2 First national SDG report

On 24 May 2017, the first national SDG report was presented to the House of Representatives. In addition to the Dutch government, groups that contributed to the *Dutch report on sustainable development goals* (*Nederlandse rapportage over de duurzame ontwikkelingsdoelen*) include local governments, business and the financial sector, civil society, knowledge institutes and youth groups (through the National Youth Council). This report also formed the basis of the Dutch presentation at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) of the UN on 19 July 2017. During this presentation, Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Lilianne Ploumen and UN youth representative Martijn Visser gave more details of the Dutch situation and approach to the SDGs. The picture that emerges from this is that the Netherlands is generally not doing badly in relation to the goals. However, a number of areas of concern were mentioned, such as greenhouse gas emissions, the gender pay gap and the alignment between education and the labour market. The first SDG report by CBS was important as input for the first national SDG report from the Netherlands.

### Background

The Netherlands has a much longer history of involvement in sustainable development. Since 2000, through its development policy, the Netherlands has made an active contribution to the predecessors of the SDGs, the Millennium Development Goals. Through investment in primary education, access to clean drinking water and the vaccination of children, the Netherlands has made a strong contribution to the spectacular progress made in developing countries in these domains.

### Implementation in the Netherlands

Implementation of the SDG resolution started on 1 January 2016, mainly at the level of the Member States. Implementation of the SDGs by the Netherlands focuses on its own territory and its footprint (the negative effects of consumption here on human beings and the environment elsewhere) on the one hand, and on international cooperation on the other. In addition to the Dutch government, many parties contribute actively to implementation: local governments, business and the financial sector, civil society, knowledge institutes and the National Youth Council.
In the first national SDG report for the Netherlands, the parties mentioned above give an impression of the relevant developments in their sector, answering the following three questions: according to you, what are the action points on which the Netherlands has achieved a lot and what do we need to work on further? What is your opinion on the manner in which the SDGs are tackled in the Netherlands and do you have any suggestions? How do you contribute to the implementation of the SDGs inside and outside the Netherlands?
No new institutional structures have been created in the Netherlands for the implementation of the SDGs; the basic principle is mainly to use the organisational and procedural structures that already exist in the country. Facilities have been added to these, both locally and centrally: platforms, campaigns, websites and coordination points. Stakeholders agree that implementation benefits from increased information and communication about the SDGs. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2017).

## 3.3 Public consultation

After the first publication (CBS, 2016) appeared, there was an extensive consultation involving more than thirty ministries, policy analysis organisations, knowledge institutes and NGOs. Within CBS, too, steps were taken to be able to include some of the indicators that were missing from the list.
The starting point for the public consultation was the status of the availability of SDG indicators as set out in the first list. The aim of the consultation was to make it possible to include in the second edition indicators that were missing, and also to improve and/or refine where possible indicators that were already available.
A clear and transparent assessment framework was drafted prior to the public consultation. As with the CBS data, non-CBS data that are used to measure the SDG indicators have to meet a number of conditions. The organisations that collect the data must be independent, they must fulfil confidentiality obligations and they must guarantee the quality of their data. In addition, the statistical processes that they use need to be validated, and the data must be relevant, accurate, reliable, up-to-date and comparable.
More than thirty external organisations were contacted for the public consultation. These were initially approached in writing, partly through already existing contacts. In the first instance, the aim was to fill in the blank spaces in the first report: where CBS itself lacked a figure, another organisation might possibly have it. And in cases where CBS had included an alternative indicator in the first report in the absence of the indicator requested, suggestions for a better alternative were also welcome. In coordination with

the organisations, the best possible way of completing the SDG indicators or finding alternatives for missing indicators was considered for each case.
Many organisations had data that had not been available to CBS in 2016. The consultation also produced a number of alternatives to SDG indicators for which no data are (yet) available in the Netherlands or that fit the Dutch situation better than the prescribed indicators. Overall, this consultation led to one or more supplementary or alternative indicators being available for various sub-goals. In total, in this second edition of the SDG monitor, information is available for 51 percent of the indicators.

# 4. Where does the Netherlands stand?

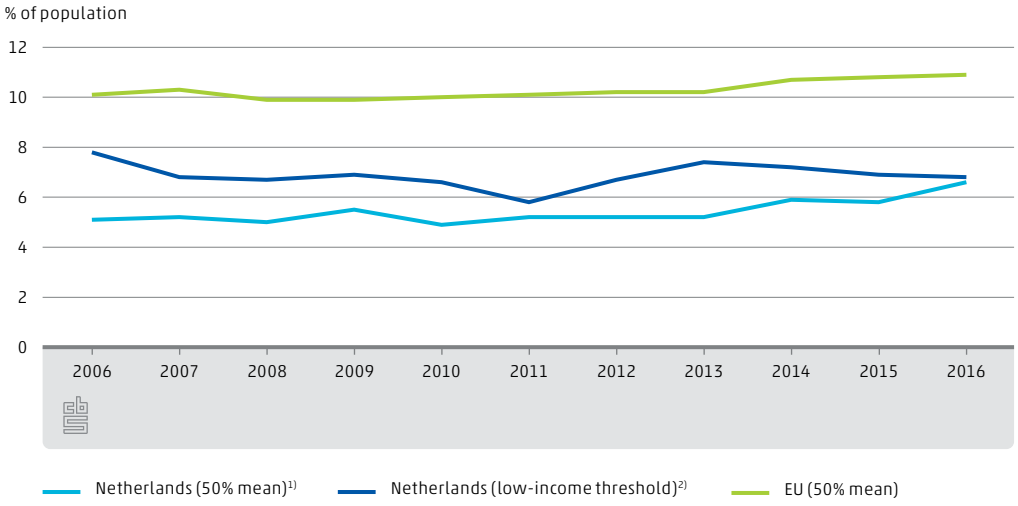
# SDG 1. No poverty

**One of the foundations of sustainable development is that everywhere in the world, people can escape poverty. This requires, among other things, better social security systems, opportunities for decent work for everyone and greater resilience for poor people.**

## Poverty threshold and low-income threshold

In the Netherlands and most of the EU, there is no extreme poverty (having to live on less than $1.90 per day). For this reason, poverty in the EU countries is measured as the percentage of households whose disposable income is insufficient to achieve the level of consumption considered to be the minimum necessary in that country. Households and household members with an income lower than the generally accepted standard are classified as households or individuals at risk of poverty. Various income thresholds are applied to delineate poverty and income poverty. The two European poverty thresholds used for this publication represent 50 percent or 60 percent of the median standardised disposable income and in the relevant country they follow developments in both prices and prosperity. In its publications, CBS uses the low-income threshold. This threshold is aligned to the social minimum and represents a fixed level of purchasing power over time.

### 4.1 People at risk of povery




1) 2016 series break in underlying income statistics.
2) 2011 series break in low-income threshold.

Source: Eurostat.

## Trends in the Netherlands and the EU

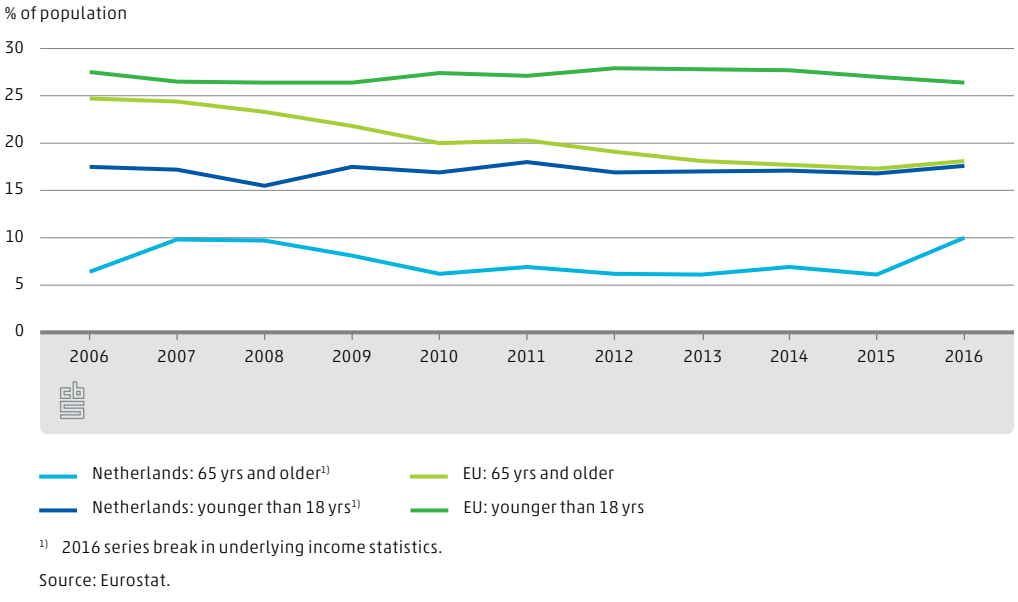
Based on the European criterion of 50 percent of the median standardised disposable income, we see both for the Netherlands and the EU member states a stable risk of poverty in the crisis period 2010–2013. The risk of poverty rose in the EU in 2014 and remained at this higher level over the following years. It is noticeable here that although the economy picked up from 2014, this appears to have had no positive impact on the

risk of poverty according to the European standard. The figures based on the low-income threshold show a more balanced pattern of development for the Netherlands. According to the CBS threshold, the proportion of people at risk of poverty rose from 5.8 percent in 2011 to 7.4 percent in 2013. Afterwards, this percentage declined in line with the economic upturn and in 2016, the proportion of people with income under the low-income threshold stood at 6.8 percent.
The figures according to the European standard clearly show that the risk of poverty in the Netherlands is lower than in other member states. With the exception of Finland and the Czech Republic – with a risk of poverty of 4.9 and 5.3 percent respectively in 2016 – the Netherlands had the lowest proportion of inhabitants at risk of poverty, at 6.6 percent. The Netherlands also compares relatively favourably as regards the intensity of poverty, shown as the mean income deficit in relation to the critical income threshold.

### Risk of poverty or social exclusion

Poverty is broader than simply a lack of income; it is also a question of not being able to participate sufficiently in a society. In the EU this is referred to as the risk of poverty or social exclusion. This broader concept of poverty is defined as the risk of income poverty (60 percent of the median income), possibly in combination with serious financial limitations and/or low work intensity of the household. This risk is also relatively low in the Netherlands: with 16.7 percent in 2016, the Netherlands, together with the Czech Republic, Finland and Denmark, was one of the countries with the smallest proportion of inhabitants at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

### 4.2 People at risk of poverty (60% mean) or social exclusion




1) 2016 series break in underlying income statistics.

Source: Eurostat.

In the whole of the EU, 26.4 percent of children under 18 were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2016. This proportion remained fairly stable in the period 2006–2016. In contrast, among older people the proportion facing such a risk fell sharply: of those over

65, more than 18 percent were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2016, down from nearly a quarter in 2008.

## SDG 2. Zero hunger

**Fighting hunger is not only a question of producing more food, but also of achieving a fair distribution of food around the world. Efficient market mechanisms, higher incomes for small farmers, access to technological developments and land, and more investment all contribute to this goal.**

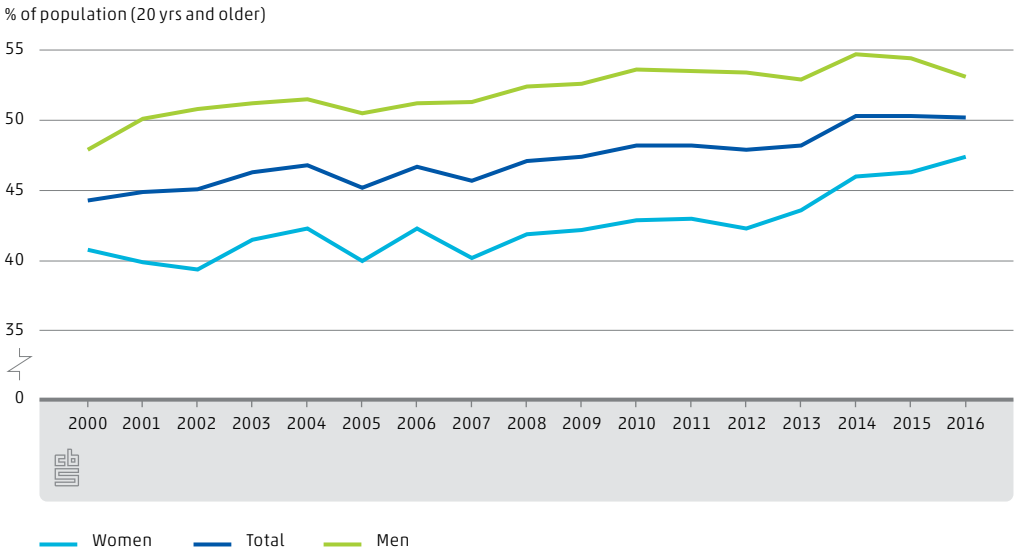
### Underweight and overweight

Compared with other countries in the world, malnourishment and food insecurity are not a frequent occurrence in the Netherlands. Nevertheless, some 135,000 people (0.8 percent of the population) sought help from food banks in 2016. These were mostly people with low incomes or in debt.

In the Netherlands as well as in neighbouring countries, excess weight is much more common. Based on the official definition (a BMI of 25 or more), just over half of the inhabitants of the Netherlands are overweight. Moreover, when we look at the data over the longer term, we can see a clearly rising trend. In 2000, the proportion of people who were overweight was around 44 percent, while in 2016 this had risen to over 50 percent. However, with these figures the Netherlands is still below average internationally. In most European countries, the percentage of people who are overweight is higher.

People with a BMI of 30 or more are referred to as being seriously overweight or obese. In the Netherlands, approximately 13 percent of the population (aged 20 or older) are obese, slightly more women than men.

### 4.3 Overweight people in the Netherlands

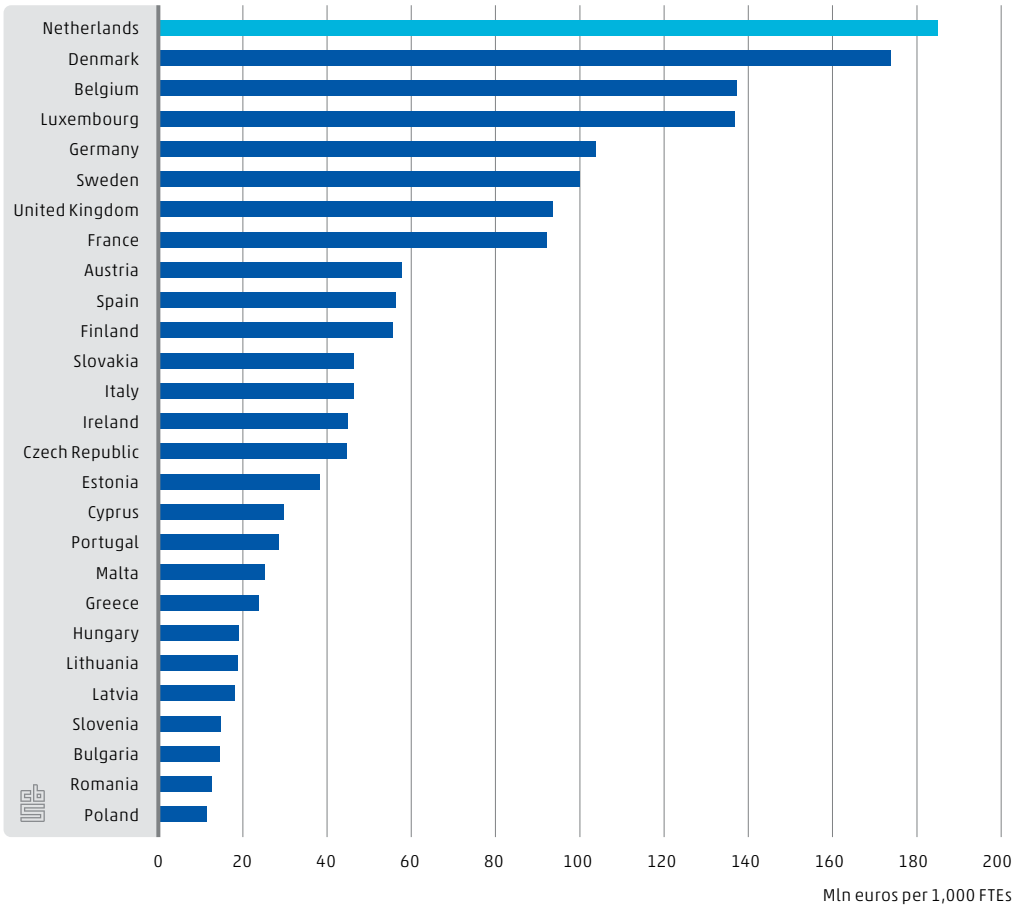



### Agricultural productivity

As regards agricultural productivity, the Netherlands, together with Denmark, has been in a leading position in Europe for a considerable time. Since the turn of the

century, production volume per unit of labour has risen by more than 41 percent in the Netherlands.

### 4.4 Production volume of agriculture, 2016




Source: Eurostat.

## Mineral surplus

This intensive agriculture and livestock farming also has a number of drawbacks. The intensive use of the soil is regularly at odds with sustainable soil use and biodiversity conservation. An excess of minerals such as nitrogen in the soil can lead to pollution of the soil, water and air. Through policy measures and efforts made in agriculture, nutrient surpluses have declined over recent years. For a long time, agricultural soil in the Netherlands had a major phosphorus surplus. With the help of targeted policy, this has been significantly reduced in recent years. In the last 25 years, the surplus has fallen from 34 to 3 kg of phosphorus per hectare.

Steps have also been taken in recent years to reduce the nitrogen surplus. In spite of this substantial decline, the Netherlands still lags behind in Europe as regards nitrogen and is in 23rd place among the 25 EU countries for which figures are available.

The reduction of the nutrient surplus in Dutch agricultural soil has been achieved by substantially reducing the application of fertilisers, while harvests have declined to a much lesser extent. In livestock farming, there was actually an increase in animal production, while the animals received less feed.

## SDG 3. Good health and well-being

**In order to tackle global health issues such as better care in pregnancy and childbirth, better healthcare for children and the elimination of infectious diseases, it is important for everyone to have access to safe, effective and affordable care and medicines.**

The above-mentioned health issues are universal, but their relevance to each individual country depends greatly on prosperity. To describe the situation in the Netherlands within the framework of the SDGs, one overarching indicator – healthy life expectancy – is considered, together with a few specific indicators in the area of prevention, a topic that is a major focus of the current coalition agreement.

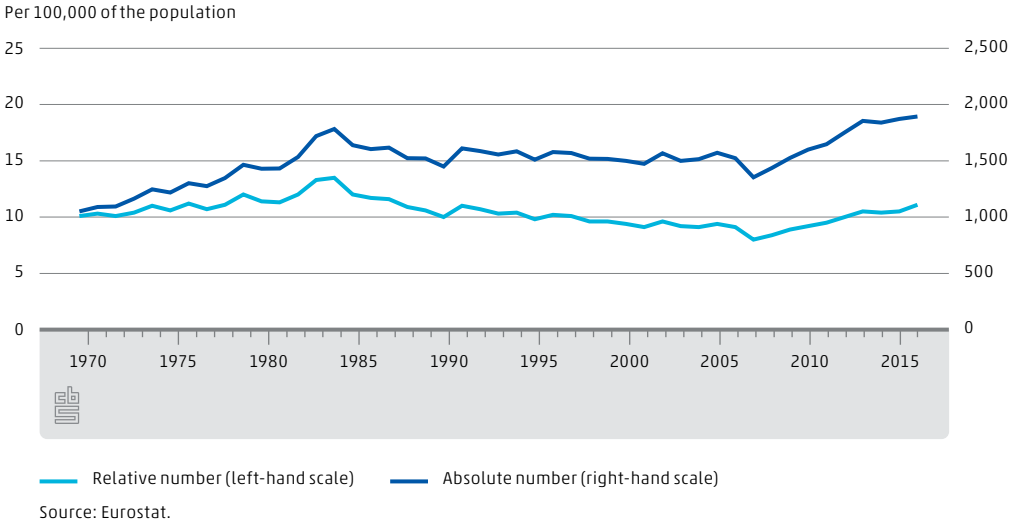
### Healthy life expectancy

Although the Netherlands generally scores highly compared with other countries on the quality and accessibility of healthcare (RIVM, 2014), life expectancy is no higher, or only marginally higher, than average. At 80 years, life expectancy at birth of Dutch men is slightly higher than the EU average, while that of women, 83 years, is in line with that average. If we look at the *healthy* life expectancy at birth, the Dutch figures are somewhat less favourable. Dutch men are then just under the EU average, while Dutch women are considerably below the average (22$^{nd}$ of the 28 countries). In these figures, 'health' is determined on the basis of limitations experienced by people as a result of health problems. A comparison with other EU countries shows that, especially when young and middle-aged, relatively many Dutch people report such limitations. In contrast, older people report fewer limitations than other EU citizens (EHLEIS, 2015), so that the healthy life expectancy of 65-year-olds is slightly higher than (men) or equal to (women) the EU average.

### Suicide

With respect to deaths per 100,000 of the population due to suicide, the figure for the Netherlands is close to the EU average. Suicide is relatively less common in south European countries and the United Kingdom in particular. In Germany, the figure is slightly higher than in the Netherlands, and in France and Belgium it is significantly higher. What is striking about the Dutch figures is that the absolute number of suicides has been increasing for years. The relative suicide figure also rose after 2007 following two decades of gradual decrease. This relative figure has remained at the same level since 2013. Developments over time vary greatly from one country to another.

## 4.5 Suicide in the Netherlands (standardised)




Source: Eurostat.

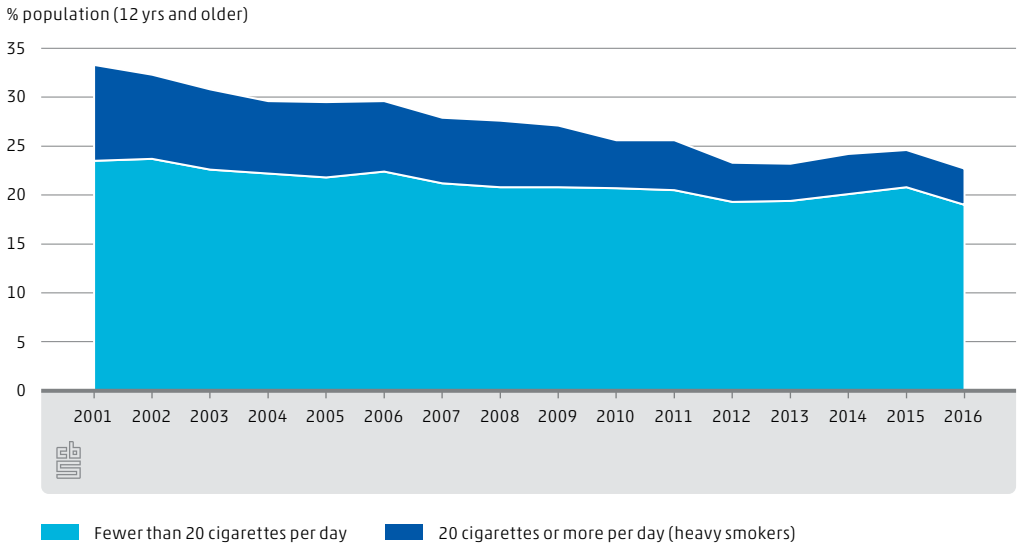
### Alcohol consumption

In terms of litres of pure alcohol consumed per person per year (population aged 15 and older), in 2015 the Netherlands had the lowest but one value of the 12 EU countries for which figures are available. Together with Italy and Ireland, the Netherlands shows the sharpest decline – more than 20 percent – in the period 2000–2015 (OECD, 2017a); in 2010, the Netherlands was still in tenth place. However, the average number of litres of alcohol says little about *problematic* alcohol consumption, an issue which the current government plans to tackle. In the Netherlands 'heavy drinking' – drinking six or more (men) or four or more (women) units in one day at least once per week – is mainly exhibited by people aged 16–29 years. In 2016, nearly 16 percent of all people in their twenties were 'heavy drinkers'. The Trimbos Institute carries out a study of alcohol consumption among school pupils once every four years. The percentage of school pupils aged 12–16 who had drunk a minimum of five glasses on a single occasion at least once in the past month (*binge drinking*) fell from 40 in 2003 to 18 in 2015 (Van Dorsselaer et al., 2016). Lastly, in 2014 more than 70,000 people were treated for an alcohol-related disorder as a primary or secondary diagnosis in specialist mental healthcare institutions.

### Smoking

According to the *Public Health Status and Forecast Report 2014 (Volksgezondheid Toekomst Verkenning 2014)*, 13 percent of the total disease burden is caused by smoking (RIVM, 2014a). In the Netherlands, 18 percent of the population aged 15 and older smoked daily in 2016. In the European context, the Netherlands is somewhere in the middle. The number of smokers in the Dutch population aged 15 and over has been decreasing for years. In 2016, less than a quarter of the population smoked, while 15 years earlier it was still a third. The proportion of heavy smokers (20 cigarettes or more per day) fell from 10 to 4 percent during this period. The *Public Health Status and Forecast Report 2017 (Volksgezondheid Toekomst Verkenning 2017)* forecasts that the percentage of smokers will continue to fall, to 14 percent in 2040, but differences in smoking behaviour between higher and lower educated groups will increase (RIVM, 2017).

### 4.6 Smokers in the Netherlands



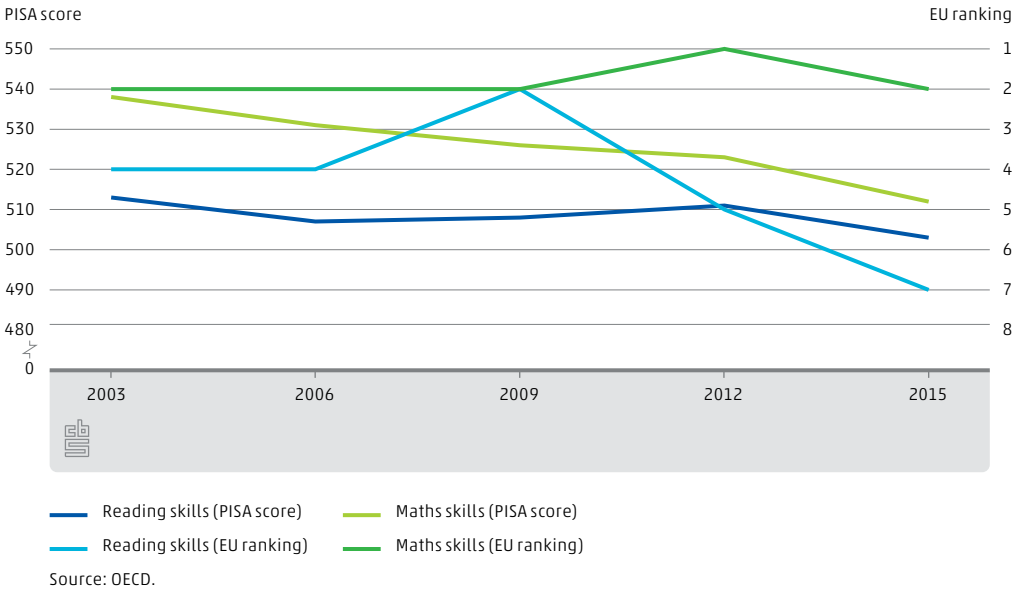

## SDG 4. Quality education

**Quality education and the possibility of life-long learning for everyone goes further than school enrolment: it also concerns levels of specific skills, the availability of well-trained teachers and suitable school facilities, and inequality in school results.**

### Knowledge and skills of young people

The acquisition of knowledge and skills by young people in education is important for participation in further education, in order to increase employability in the labour market and to be able to function in society. With the right knowledge and skills, young people can also make the right choices in order to contribute to sustainable development, i.e. to live and work in such a way that future generations will also be able to meet their needs. One of the programmes measuring knowledge and skills of young people is PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment), a study conducted among 15-year-olds by the OECD every three years. Compared with other EU countries, Dutch 15-year-olds have scored above average in the PISA studies in past years.
In mathematical skills, the Netherlands came second behind Estonia in 2015. In the years before 2015 (from 2003), young people in the Netherlands also scored well for mathematics. There has been a significant downward trend in absolute scores since 2003, but this downward trend has also been visible in most other EU countries. No clear cause for this can be identified.

### 4.7 Average PISA score for the Netherlands and EU ranking




Source: OECD.

In reading skills, the Netherlands was in seventh place in 2015, which was above the EU average, but this position is deteriorating compared with past years. Although the absolute scores have shown a downward trend since 2003, this decline is not significant. In 2009, the Netherlands was in second place for reading skills behind Finland. Since then, the Netherlands has been overtaken by Germany, Ireland and Poland among others.

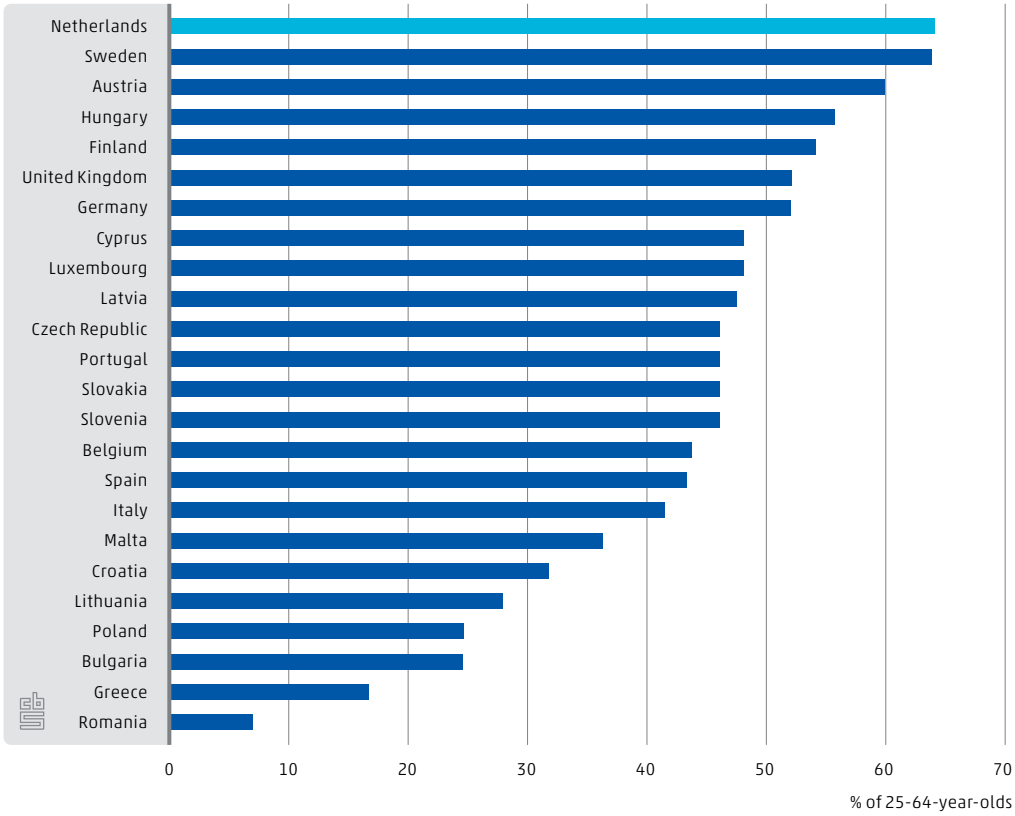
For policymakers in the Netherlands, the downward trend in reading and maths skills is a reason for investigating the possible causes. The current cabinet has asked the Netherlands Initiative for Education Research (NRO) to set up an in-depth research programme.

## Life-long learning

A high-quality knowledge economy with well-trained workers and the use of modern technologies is important for sustainable economic development. If people continue to learn during their working lives, they remain flexible and sustainably employable in the labour market. Every five years, the Adult Education Survey (AES) by Eurostat measures the participation of adults aged 25–64 in all formal and non-formal learning activities in the preceding 12 months. In the Netherlands, participation in these learning activities was 64.1 percent in 2016, making the Netherlands one of the countries with the highest participation in life-long learning in the EU.

Participation in education by Dutch men (64.7 percent) is virtually the same as for women (63.5 percent). In the case of women, only Sweden – with 68.2 percent – has higher participation than the Netherlands. The cabinet's goal is for all adults in the Netherlands to participate in life-long learning. To this end it recently introduced *levenlanglerenkrediet* (life-long learning credit), which enables people up to the age of 55 who are no longer entitled to student funding to borrow money under favourable conditions to pay for a course in secondary vocational (*mbo*) or higher education.

### 4.8 Participation rates in formal and non-formal learning, 2016




Source: Eurostat.

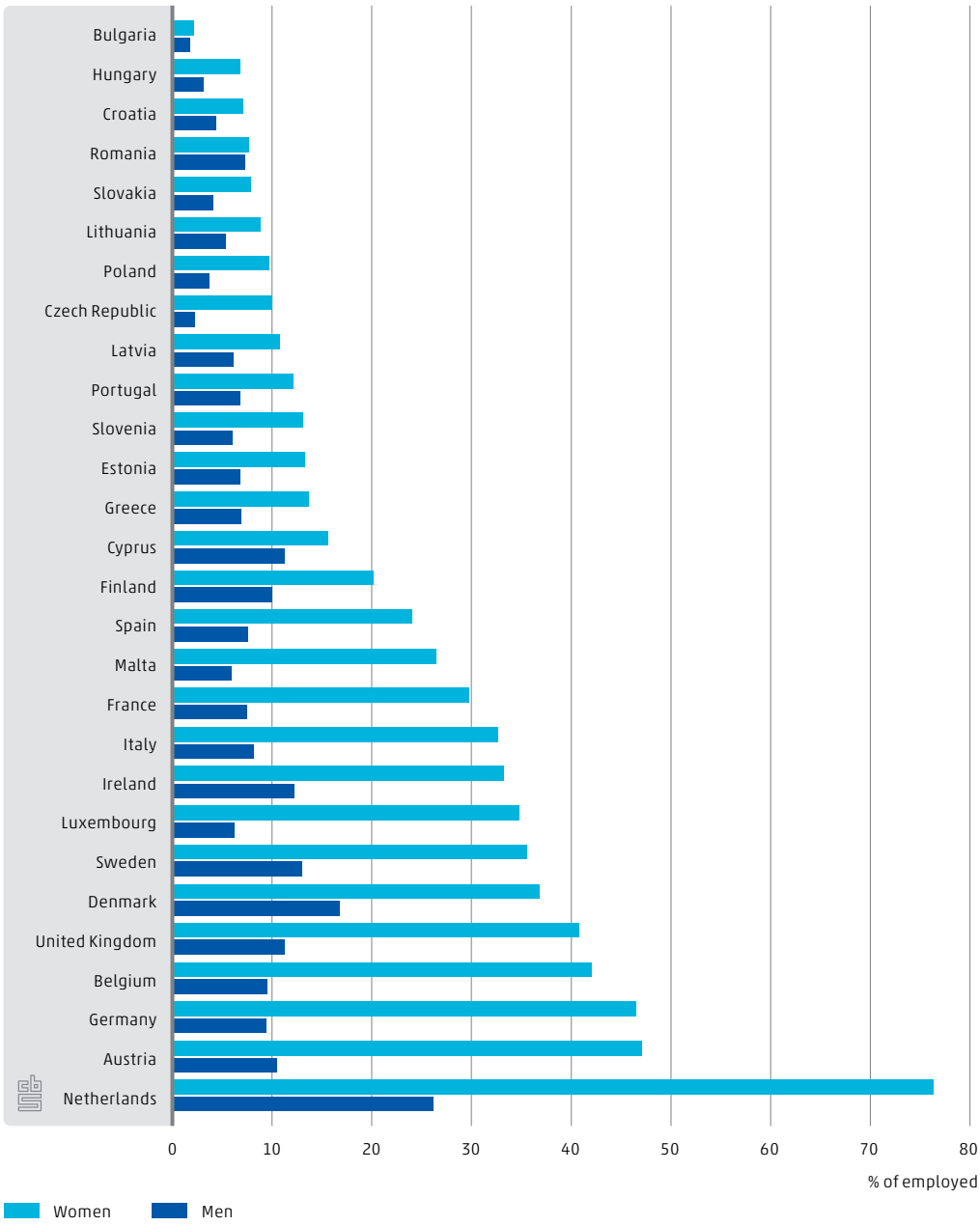
## SDG 5. Gender equality

**Inequality between men and women continues to exist around the world. Achieving gender equality and the emancipation of women and girls demands constant efforts. Among other things, a great deal of work needs to be done in the legal sphere, in order to guarantee basic rights to all women and girls in the world.**

### Part-time work

In 2016, 61 percent of women in the Netherlands aged 15–74 years had paid work. For men this share was 71 percent. More than three-quarters of working Dutch women have a part-time job, working less than 35 hours per week. In the case of Dutch men, more than a quarter work part-time. For both women and men, the Netherlands has the highest percentage of part-time workers in the EU. After the Netherlands, Austria has the highest percentage of women working part-time (47 percent). For men, too, there is a big difference compared with the other EU countries. The country with the next-largest proportion of male part-timers is Denmark (17 percent).

## 4.9 Part-time work, 2016




Source: Eurostat.

## Pay gaps

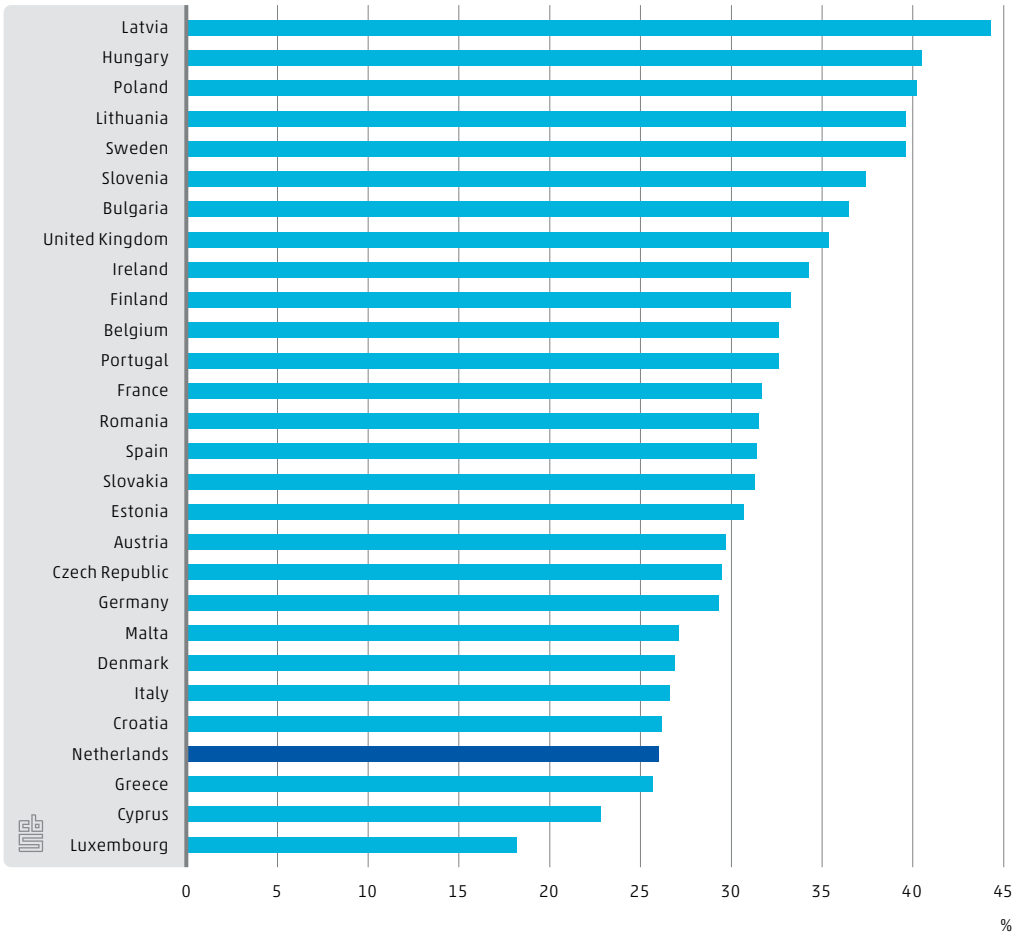
In the Netherlands, women earned on average 15.5 percent less than men in 2016. However, the disparity in the hourly wage has decreased continuously over the years: in 2008 it was still over 20 percent. To a great extent, this disparity can be explained by differences in levels of education, having part-time work and work experience. If we correct as much as possible for these disparities in background characteristics, a pay gap of 5 percent in the public sector and 7 percent in the private sector remains. For young people up to 25 years old there is already virtually no pay gap, and in the 25–29 age group, women in the public sector actually earn slightly more per hour on average than their male peers (CBS, 2016a).

The figures available at the European level have not been corrected for the above-mentioned background characteristics. Within the EU, the Netherlands occupies a middle position in relation to the uncorrected pay gap. However, there are limits to a comparison with other European countries due to the effect of the background variables.

### Government and management

The proportion of women in the national parliament and local government in the Netherlands is high internationally and remains stable. In 2017, 38 percent of seats (57 seats) in parliament were occupied by women, compared with an EU average of 27 percent. Conversely, with a share of 26 percent in 2015, there are relatively few women in middle and senior management in the Netherlands, compared with other EU countries. The level of 30 percent formulated in the coalition agreement of the second government under Mark Rutte has therefore not yet been reached.

### 4.10 Share of management positions held by women, 2015




Source: UNSD.

### Violence and sexual violence

In 2016, in more than 52 percent of violent crimes of which a woman was the victim, the perpetrator was known to the woman. For one in ten women who were victims of violence, their own partner or ex-partner was the perpetrator. According to a study by research institute Rutgers (Rutgers, 2017), 22 percent of women and 6 percent of men in the Netherlands have experienced sexual violence at some time. In this study, sexual

violence is defined as someone being forced to perform sexual acts and/or having experience of sexual acts performed against their will. No internationally comparable figures are available on female genital mutilation. According to estimates by Pharos (Dutch Centre of Expertise on Health Disparities), around 29,100 women aged 20–49 in the Netherlands had been subjected to female genital mutilation in 2012 (Pharos, 2013).

## SDG 6. Clean water and sanitation

**Clean drinking water and sanitation are fundamental to sustainable development in many different domains. This includes sustainable management and use of water sources, as well as facilitating water-related ecosystems.**

### Water quality

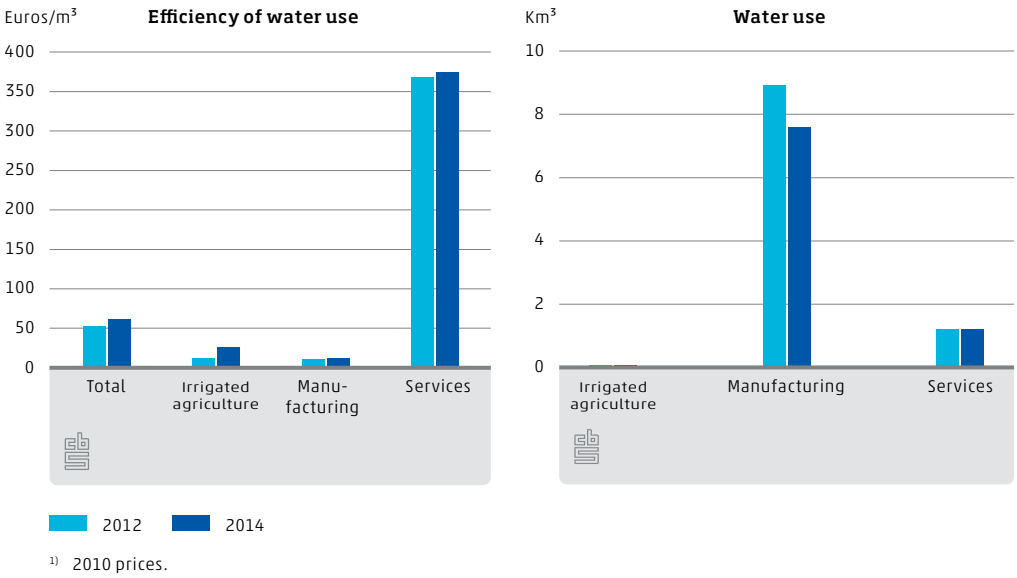
Virtually everyone in the Netherlands has access to clean and affordable drinking water and sanitation. In addition, a large part of all waste water is safely treated before being discharged back into the environment. However, the quality of the water, specifically the biological quality, can be improved. This is shown in an assessment according to the strict European assessment framework (*Compendium voor de Leefomgeving, 2018*). This nuance does not arise from the SDG methodology, because, in contrast to the European assessment framework, it is still based on a limited number of parameters.

### Efficiency of use

The Netherlands was one of the six countries that were invited to test the proof of concept for measuring the SDG indicators for efficiency of use and water stress (Graveland et al., 2016). The efficiency of water use – also referred to as water productivity – relates the economic performance (expressed as gross value added) to the volume of groundwater and surface water required for it that is withdrawn from the natural environment. For this calculation, the economic activities in the Netherlands are divided into three main sectors: irrigated and non-irrigated agriculture, manufacturing industry and services. The result is the value added (euros)/cubic metres ($m^3$) ratio. This is aggregated to the entire Dutch economy by means of the proportions of total withdrawal.

Efficiency of use according to the SDG format was first measured in 2012; between 2012 and 2014 there was an improvement of 16.8 percent – more than 8 percent on an annual basis. This is equal to the improvement in manufacturing, the sector that withdraws by far the most water. Agriculture nearly doubled the rain-fed area of farmland and irrigation. This development was even more pronounced in the sub-sector arable farming, particularly due to the dry weather in 2014. Although withdrawal was higher in agriculture in 2014, the calculated efficiency of use increased by more, because the share of irrigated agriculture in the value added of agriculture rose even more strongly. The services sector usually combines high value added with limited water use. Therefore, at first sight there appears to have been a positive trend in this fairly short period, although caution is advised in interpreting the development (Graveland et al., 2017).

## 4.11 Water use and efficiency of water use in the Netherlands[1)]



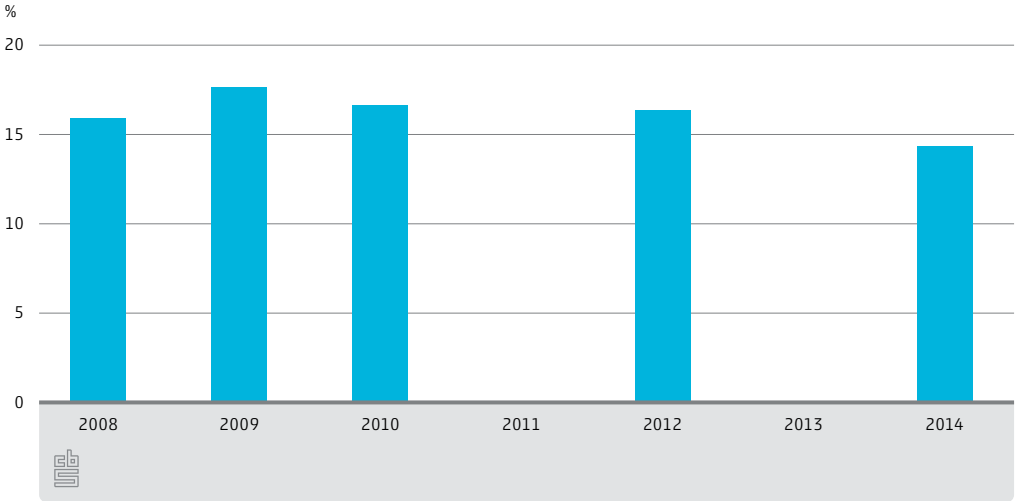

[1)] 2010 prices.

### Water stress

Water stress is determined by relating the withdrawals of groundwater and surface water for the Dutch economy as a whole to the total amounts of naturally available renewable water. This is the sum of the renewable water that is available annually from domestic sources – annual precipitation minus evaporation on Dutch soil, including bodies of fresh water – and the supply from abroad brought by the rivers, specifically the Rhine and the Meuse. The sum of these two factors is the amount of water that is available for use and for supplementing the stores of surface water, groundwater and soil water (Graveland et al., 2016, 2012). Sufficient water is then left over for other, more natural environmental functions.

Available measurements show that pressure on the available freshwater supplies from withdrawals of surface water and groundwater declined by 12 percent between 2012 and 2014 – a reduction by more than 6 percent on an annual basis. The 2014 level was also significantly lower than in 2009 and 2010.

## 4.12 Water stress in the Netherlands



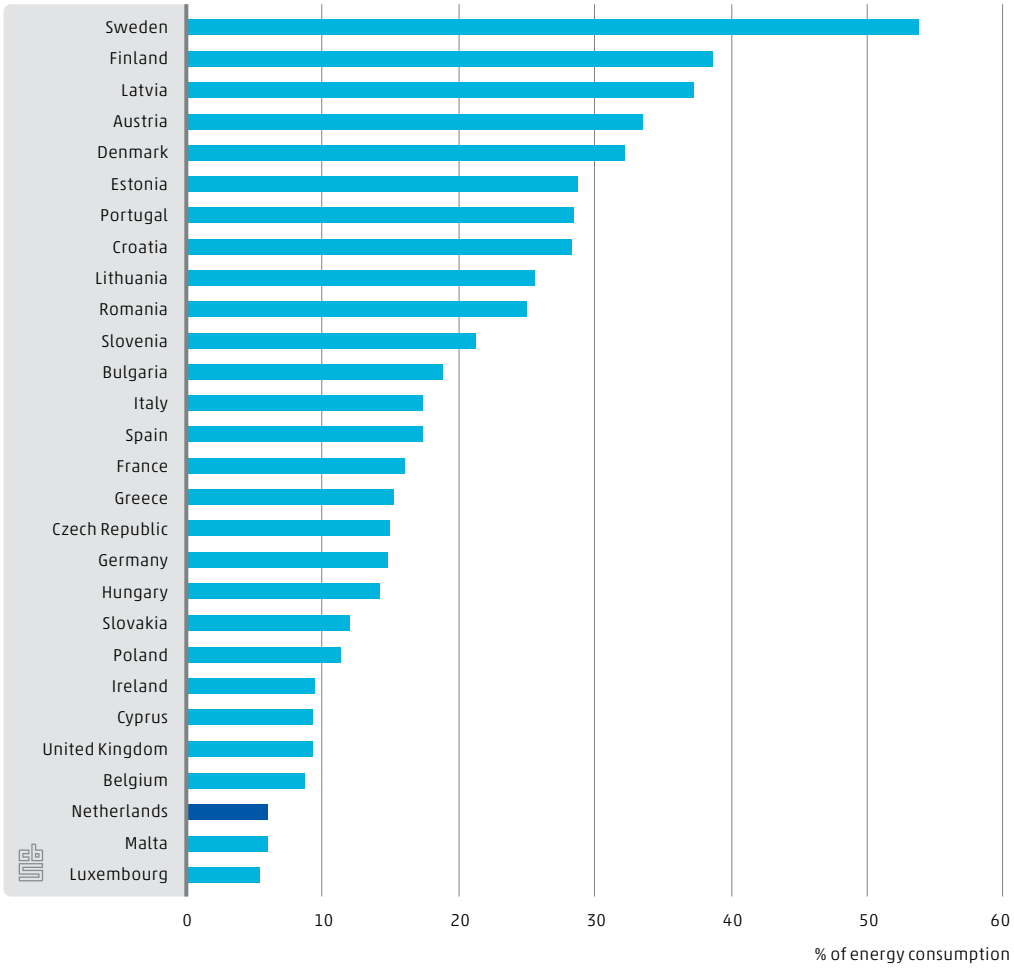
# SDG 7. Affordable and clean energy

**To make affordable, reliable and clean energy available to everyone, access to electricity, clean fuels and technology needs to be expanded, energy efficiency needs to be improved and more renewable energy needs to become available.**

## Renewable energy

In the Netherlands, access to reliable and affordable energy services including electricity and gas is organised effectively. In recent years, the proportion of renewable energy in total energy consumption rose slightly from 5.5 percent in 2014 to 6.0 percent in 2016. Energy from biomass and wind are the main contributors to the share of renewable energy. Within the EU, the Netherlands comes almost last in the ranking with respect to the proportion of renewable energy. Among other things, this is connected with geographical circumstances (e.g. slow-flowing rivers and little forest cover), good infrastructure for access to cheap gas, and the lack of an incentive policy from the government in the past. The average proportion of renewable energy in Europe was 17.0 percent in 2016, 1 percent point higher than in 2014. For 2020, the European Commission's goal is for 20 percent of energy consumption to come from renewable sources.

### 4.13 Share of renewable energy, 2015



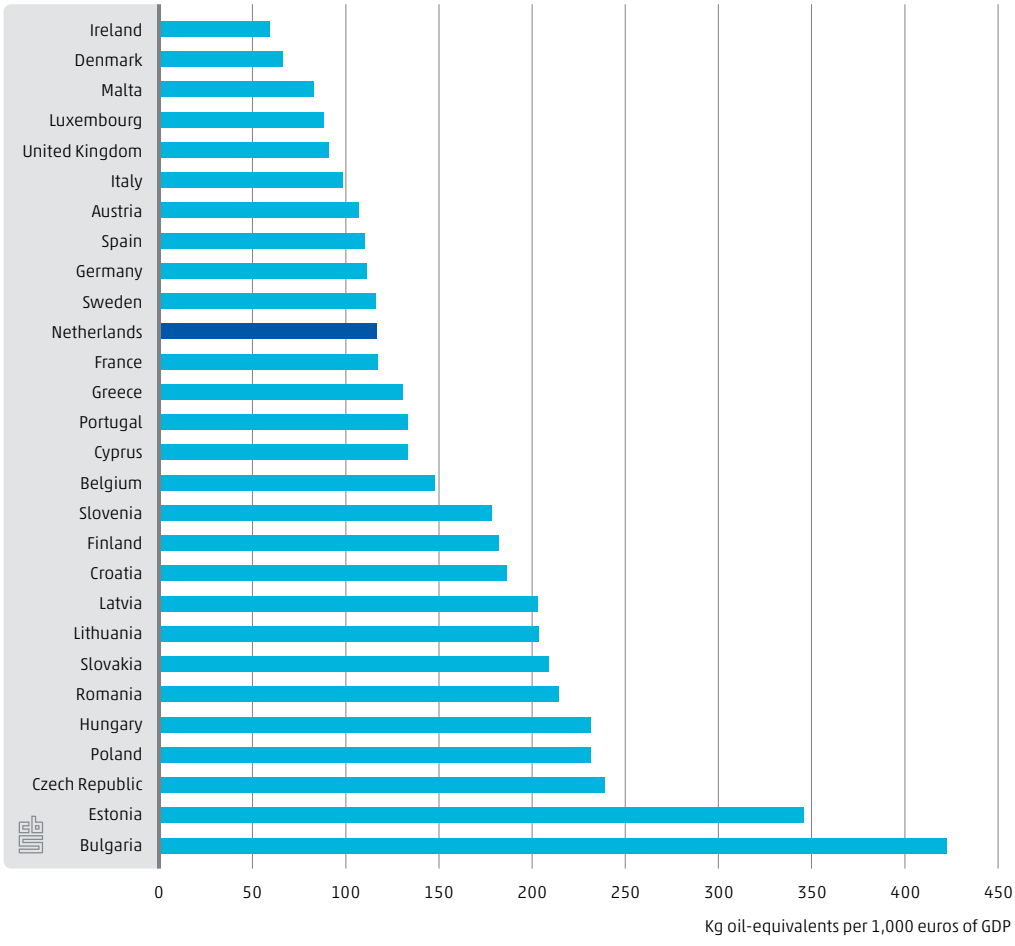

Source: Eurostat.

In response to the Energy agreement for sustainable growth of 2013 (SER, 2013) and agreements in the context of the EU Renewable Energy Directive of 2009, the Dutch government has intensified policy in recent years to increase renewable energy as a proportion of total energy consumption in the coming years. The aim is to arrive at a proportion of 14 percent in 2020 and 16 percent in 2023. This means that from 2017 the proportion of renewable energy will need to grow annually by an average of 24 percent to 2020 or an average of 15 percent to 2023. This is considerably faster than the average annual growth of 6 percent in the period 1990–2016.
According to the National Energy Outlook 2017, which outlines the observed and expected status of the Dutch energy budget, the expectation is that the goal for 2020 will not be achieved, mainly due to delays in land-based wind energy projects. However, the goal for 2023 is expected to be achieved (ECN, PBL and CBS, 2017).

### Energy intensity

Energy intensity is defined as the amount of energy used per unit of economic production. The indicator is calculated as the ratio of total energy consumption (coal, gas, oil, nuclear power, electricity and renewable energy sources) to gross domestic product (GDP) in euros. Looked at over the long term, there has been a steady decrease since 1995 and in 2016, the lowest energy intensity in the series was recorded: 117 kg of oil equivalents per 1,000 euros of GDP. This makes the Netherlands slightly better than the EU average. Data from all 28 EU countries have been available since 2000. Over this period, total energy intensity in the EU has decreased by 23 percent, with Dutch energy intensity falling by 17 percent.

### 4.14 Energy intensity, 2016




Source: Eurostat.

It is difficult to interpret the developments and the international position, as they are affected by many independent factors. On the one hand, energy factors play a role. In the Netherlands, the energy supply is becoming more efficient, the proportion of renewable energy has grown and electricity generation from coal and gas has become more efficient. For example, in recent years a number of old, low-yielding coal-fired power stations have been decommissioned, while more efficient coal and gas-fired power stations have been commissioned. In the current coalition agreement, it has been agreed to close the last five coal-fired power stations by 2030 at the latest.
In addition, other important factors influence the demand for energy. For instance, in new construction projects more and more energy-efficient housing is being built and new central heating boilers are more economical in their energy consumption than old ones. These kinds of developments have a positive effect on energy intensity. The relatively mild recent winters have also had an effect.
On the other hand, the way in which the Netherlands earns its money also plays a role in this indicator. Over the past 20 years, the proportion of GDP represented by the services sectors has increased. Because services have lower energy needs on average than manufacturing sectors, for example, this could have had a positive effect on energy intensity.

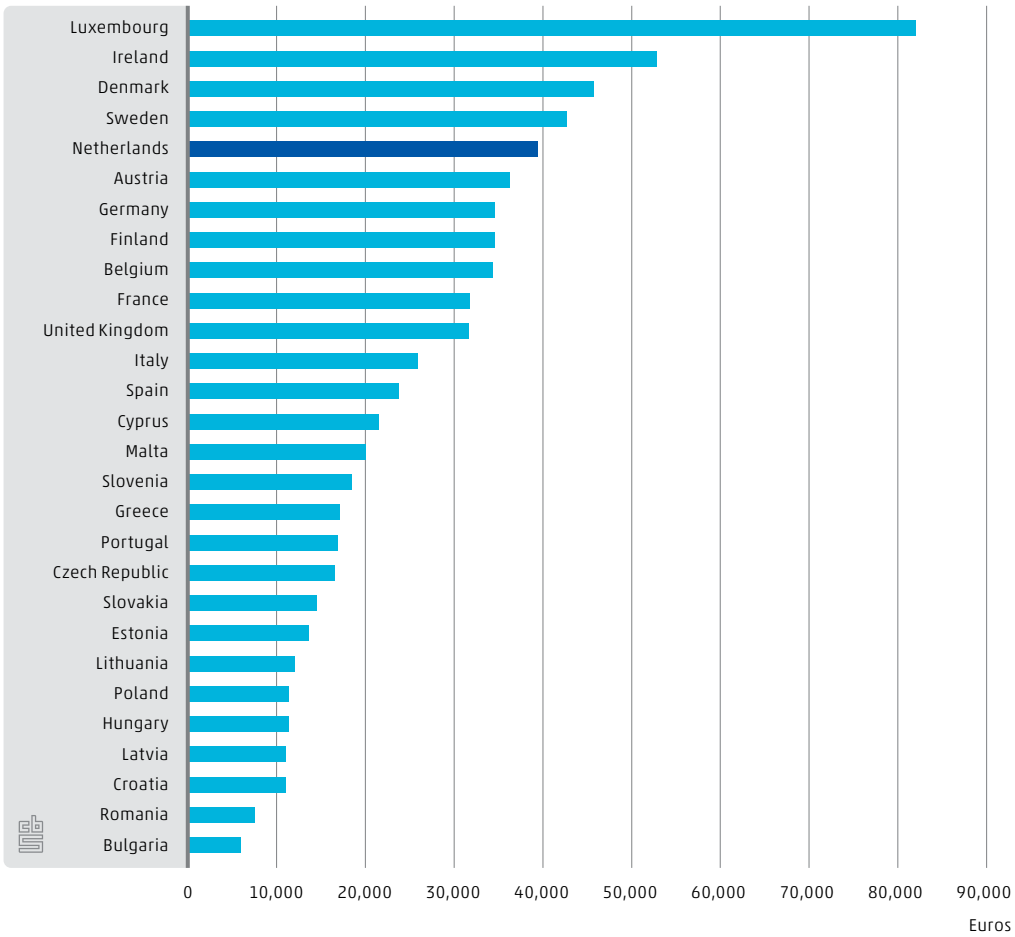
## SDG 8. Decent work and economic growth

**Economic growth is an important driver of sustainable development. If this growth is sustainable and inclusive, the resulting increased work opportunities can help more people escape poverty. However, to enable future generations to benefit from current economic growth, this growth must not lead to unsustainable exploitation of resources.**

### Economic growth

The best-known and most frequently used indicator of economic activity is the gross domestic product (GDP). GDP is the sum of all value added in a country. GDP growth is therefore often seen as an indicator of economic growth. Because the Netherlands is a relatively small country, its GDP is a lot smaller than that of larger countries in the EU, such as Germany or France. After all, more people can produce more. However, if GDP is corrected for the number of inhabitants, the Netherlands is the leader among EU countries with the highest GDP per inhabitant.
Cyclical movements can make GDP vary greatly from year to year. For example, GDP shrank considerably in 2009 and has recovered again significantly over the last few years. In 2016, Dutch GDP growth was still relatively low compared with other countries in the EU. However, growth in the first three quarters of 2017 was clearly higher. The long-term growth of GDP presents a better picture. Over the last 20 years, Dutch GDP has grown by 1.9 percent, which is more than the GDP growth of countries such as Germany, Belgium and France, and, moreover, higher than the EU average (1.5 percent).

### 4.15 GDP per capita, 2016



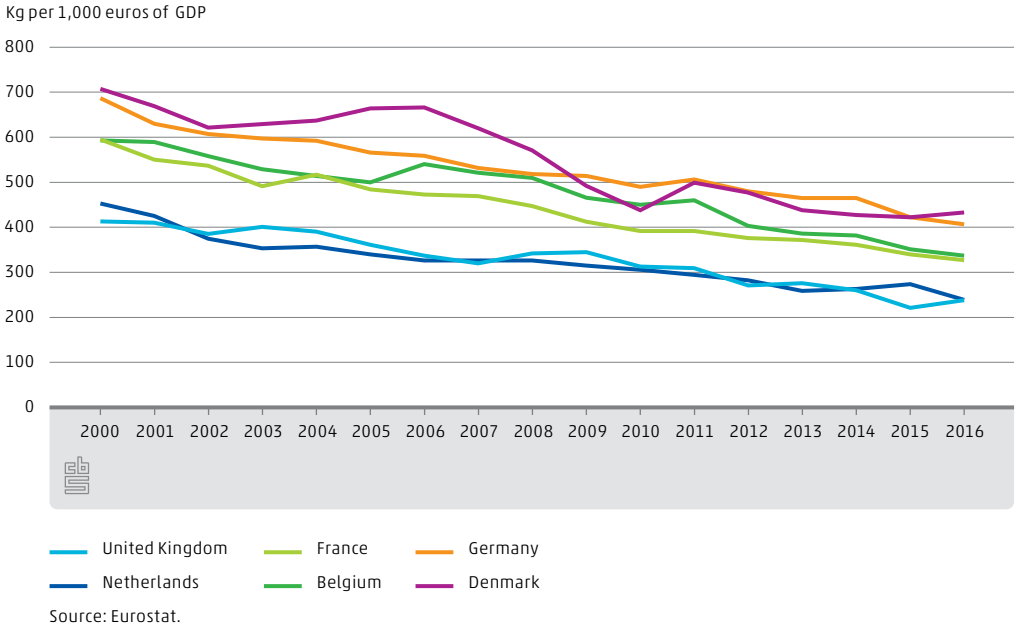

Source: Eurostat.

## Sustainable growth

It would seem, therefore, that in terms of economic activity and economic growth, the Netherlands is performing better than a number of other EU countries. The question is whether this growth is sustainable. Economic growth that is very dependent on the use of resources, for example, is not sustainable in the long term. The sustainable use of resources is important, because the supply of resources is not infinite and because their extraction and use can be damaging to humans and the environment. In order to use resources as sustainably as possible, it is important to handle them as efficiently and productively as possible.

The Dutch economy has the highest resources productivity of the EU. This means that for every 1,000 euros of GDP, the Netherlands needs fewer resources for domestic consumption than other EU countries. A country's ranking for resources productivity appears to correlate with population density. A densely populated country such as the Netherlands needs little mass for infrastructure (e.g. roads and railways) per head of population. A positive development is that since 2000, all EU countries have significantly increased their resources productivity.

### 4.16 Resources intensity of some EU countries




Source: Eurostat.

### Unemployment

Does everyone in the Netherlands benefit from the growth or is there a large group of people who remain in poverty? In other words: is economic growth in the Netherlands inclusive? The SDG indicator used for this is the unemployment rate: people without work have a lower income and a greater risk of poverty than people in work. In the Netherlands, the unemployment rate was relatively low in 2016. Therefore, compared with other countries in Europe, many people in the Netherlands who want to work do actually work.

With respect to long-term unemployment, the Netherlands is in the middle of the EU ranking. In 2016, 2.4 percent of the working population of the Netherlands had been looking for work for more than one year. The EU average is 4.1 percent; this is mainly because countries at the bottom of the list push the long-term unemployment rate sharply upwards. In 2016, 10 percent of Spaniards had been unemployed for one year or longer, while in Greece the figure was 17 percent. The percentage is lowest in Sweden and the United Kingdom, at 1.3 percent of the working population.

## SDG 9. Innovation, industry and infrastructure

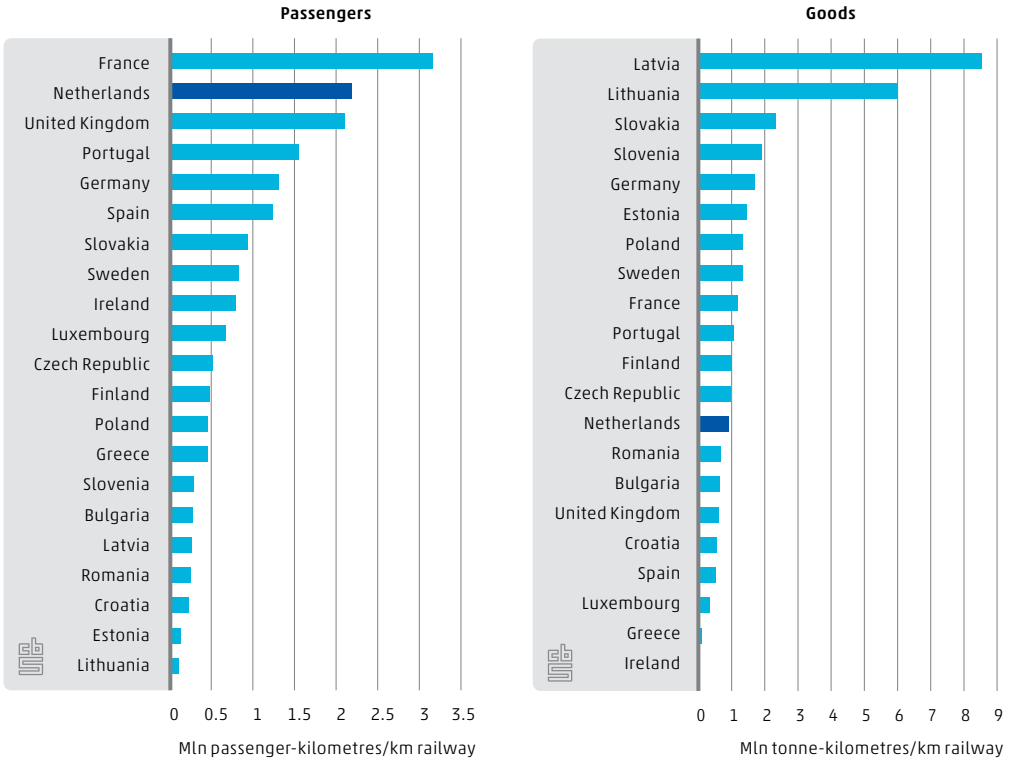
**Innovation, infrastructure and industrialisation are three important pillars of economic growth. But only if these pillars also take account of inclusivity, resilience and sustainability can economic growth support sustainable development.**

### Sustainable infrastructure

Good infrastructure that is accessible to all opens the way to sustainable industrialisation that benefits everyone. If we look at the international indicators established for this SDG, we can see that in the Netherlands, growth of both passenger and goods transport lags behind economic growth more than in most other EU countries. However, the data used, which come from Eurostat, have not been harmonised and originate from a large number of different sources. To interpret these figures, it makes sense to place them in a

broader perspective and also to consider the scale and use of the infrastructure needed for passenger and goods transport.

### 4.17 Intensity of railway use, 2015[1)]




[1)] Most recent data in the period 2010–2015. The intensity of railway use is measured as total transport by rail in passenger-kilometres for passengers and tonne-kilometres for goods in a country, divided by total length of the rail network in that country.

The Netherlands has an extensive transport infrastructure. The total road network measures 140,000 kilometres, of which more than 5,000 kilometres are national roads. Virtually everybody in the Netherlands lives near or on a paved road. The length of the heavily used rivers, lakes and canals (with more than five million tonnes of goods or 10,000 containers transported annually) totals 1,450 kilometres. The rail network is more than 7,000 kilometres long (ProRail, 2016). Taking into account the size of the Netherlands, there is virtually no other country in Europe with such a dense rail, road and inland waterway network. In addition, the Netherlands has a number of large seaports and airports.

This infrastructure is used intensively – much more intensively than in virtually all other countries of Europe. For example, every year an average of two million rail passengers travel over every kilometre of the railways, and an average of 9.5 million tonnes of freight are carried over every kilometre of road in the Netherlands. Only with respect to the use of buses, trams and the metro system is the Netherlands in the middle of the EU ranking.

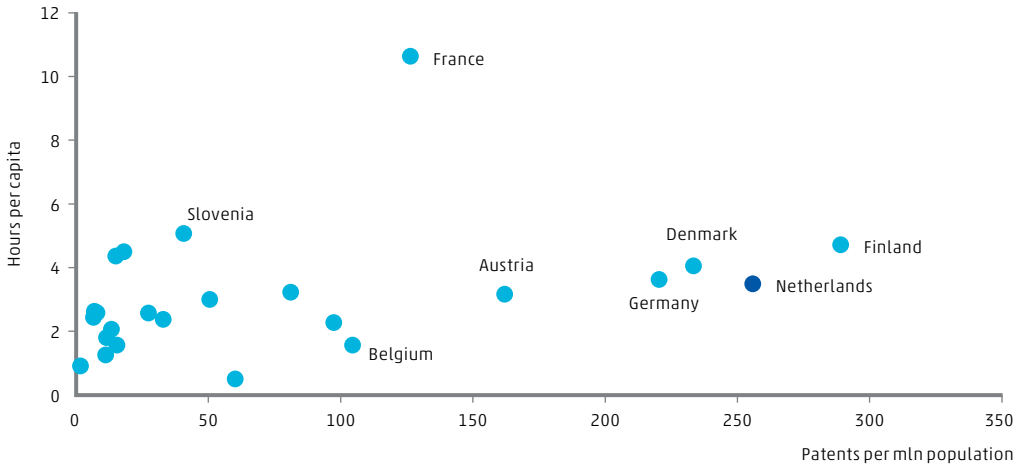
## Manufacturing industry

The manufacturing industry in the Netherlands is relatively small compared with the other EU countries. Whereas in the EU as a whole, manufacturing generates more than 16 percent of GDP, in the Netherlands this is 11 percent. Over the long term a continuous downward trend can be observed, with the exception of a small upturn since 2014. A similar picture emerges if we look at employment in manufacturing. The relatively limited share of manufacturing in Dutch GDP is connected with the relatively large financial sector in the Netherlands and, to a lesser extent, the relatively large contribution of the public sector to GDP.

## Innovation

Between 2000 and 2014 the time spent on research and development in the Netherlands fluctuated between 2.9 and 3.2 hours on average per capita. There was a subsequent slight rise to an average of 3.6 hours in 2016. When monetised, this corresponds to just under two percent of GDP, putting the Netherlands just behind the leading group of EU member states. If we look at the results of innovation efforts measured as the number of patents per capita, the Netherlands performs well. In this regard, only Luxembourg and Sweden perform significantly better, although it is not clear whether all the patents in the name of companies located in Luxembourg are actually the result of research carried out in Luxembourg. Finland also registers more patents than the Netherlands.

### 4.18 Hours spent on innovation and number of patents registered, EU[1] countries, 2015




[1] Excluding Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta and Sweden.

Source: Eurostat, WIPO.

# SDG 10. Reduced inequalities

**Reducing inequality within and among countries helps to counter economic migration and strengthen the voice of developing countries in international economic and financial decision-making.**

## Different types of inequality

From an economic perspective, inequality is often equated with material inequality, that is to say inequality in income and assets. Certainly since Piketty (2014) showed that in many countries inequality in income and assets is constantly increasing, the question of material inequality has remained high on the public, political and international agenda. But inequality is broader and contains much more than just this economic component. In this context, Piketty points to the destabilising effect of disparities in wealth on society as a whole. According to the Nobel Prize winners Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi (2009), prosperity and well-being are related to the level and distribution of economic, social and human capital. The goal of CBS is to measure inequality within the three domains of economic, social and human capital as well as possible and to describe these types of inequality both individually and in conjunction with one another.

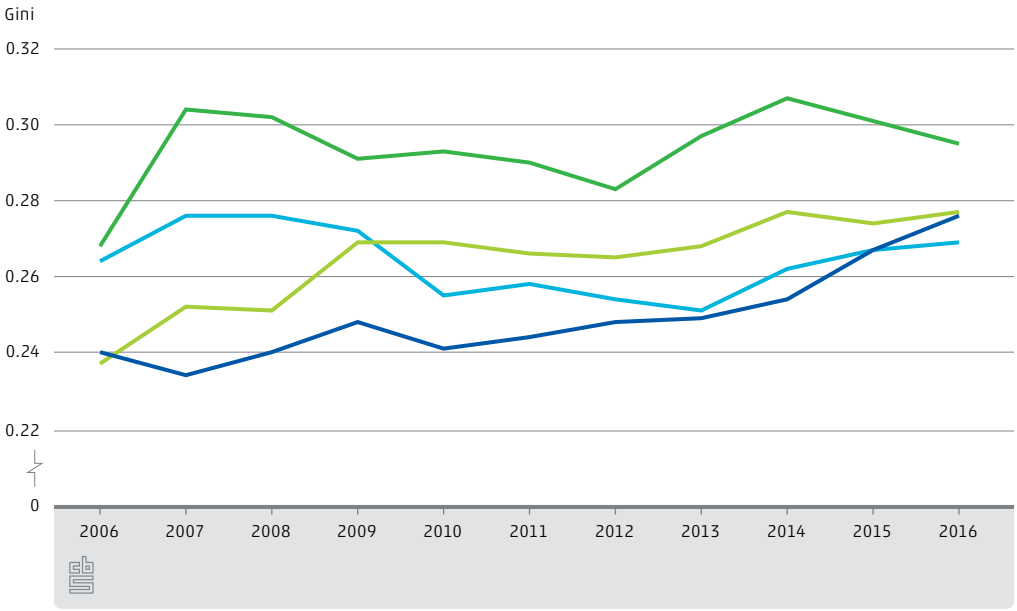
## Gini coefficient and 80/20 ratio

Both nationally and internationally, the Gini coefficient is the most commonly used measure of income inequality. The measure expresses in summary the differences in standardised disposable income between all households or between all individuals in the population to whom the relevant household income is allocated. The value of the Gini coefficient lies between 0 and 1, with 0 corresponding to total equality (every individual has the same income) and 1 corresponding to total inequality (one individual possesses all the income). The drawback of the Gini coefficient is that this measure mainly picks up changes in the broad middle of income distribution, while the upper and lower extremities count a lot less. To make any changes at the extremities of the distribution visible, an additional comparison is often made between the total amount of income of the highest income group and that of the lowest income group. To this end, CBS and Eurostat both generally use the 80/20 ratio.

## Income inequality in the Netherlands

The Netherlands has a relatively flat income distribution. The differences in standardised disposable income between people are small by European standards. Together with Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Belgium and the Scandinavian member states among others, the Netherlands has the most egalitarian income distribution within the EU. However, the level of prosperity in Slovenia and the Czech Republic is significantly lower than in the Netherlands, Belgium and the Scandinavian countries.

## 4.19 Income inequality in some EU countries

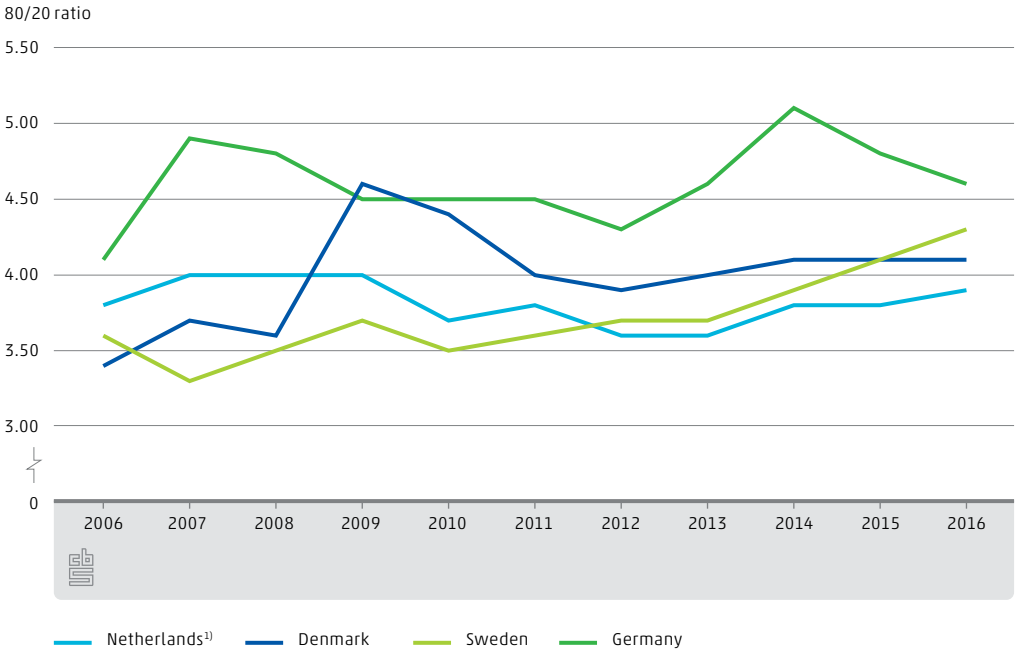



1) 2016 series break in underlying income statistics.

Source: Eurostat.

Unlike in this SDG report, CBS usually describes the development of income inequality at the household level. At the household level, the Gini coefficient of standardised disposable income has remained virtually unchanged in the Netherlands since 2001.

## 4.20 Income of highest income quintile versus lowest income quintile in some EU countries




1) 2016 series break in underlying income statistics.

Source: Eurostat.

In 2016, the total income of the highest income quintile in the Netherlands was nearly four times larger than the total income of the lowest income quintile. This ratio was also nearly four to one in 2006. Together with the Czech Republic, Finland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Belgium, the Netherlands belongs to the group of EU countries that has a relatively small difference between the highest and the lowest income group.

### Feelings of discrimination

The proportion of citizens who feel discriminated against as members of a specific group is seen as an indicator for the level of social capital in a country. Social capital refers to the networks with shared values; it is the 'lubricant' that keeps society working. Compared with other EU countries, the Netherlands is around the middle, with 7.6 percent of citizens feeling discriminated against. Significantly higher rates are reported in the United Kingdom (13.7 percent) and France (12.4 percent), which are also marked by relatively strong ethnic heterogeneity. Extremely ethnically homogeneous member states such as Poland and the Czech Republic have the lowest percentages of experienced discrimination.

## SDG 11. Sustainable cities and communities

**Urbanisation is increasing at a faster rate than ever before, and more than half of the world's population now live in cities. But although cities contribute to job opportunities and economic growth, the rapid worldwide urbanisation is accompanied by huge challenges, such as a lack of suitable housing, increased air pollution and inadequate basic facilities and infrastructure.**

### Housing

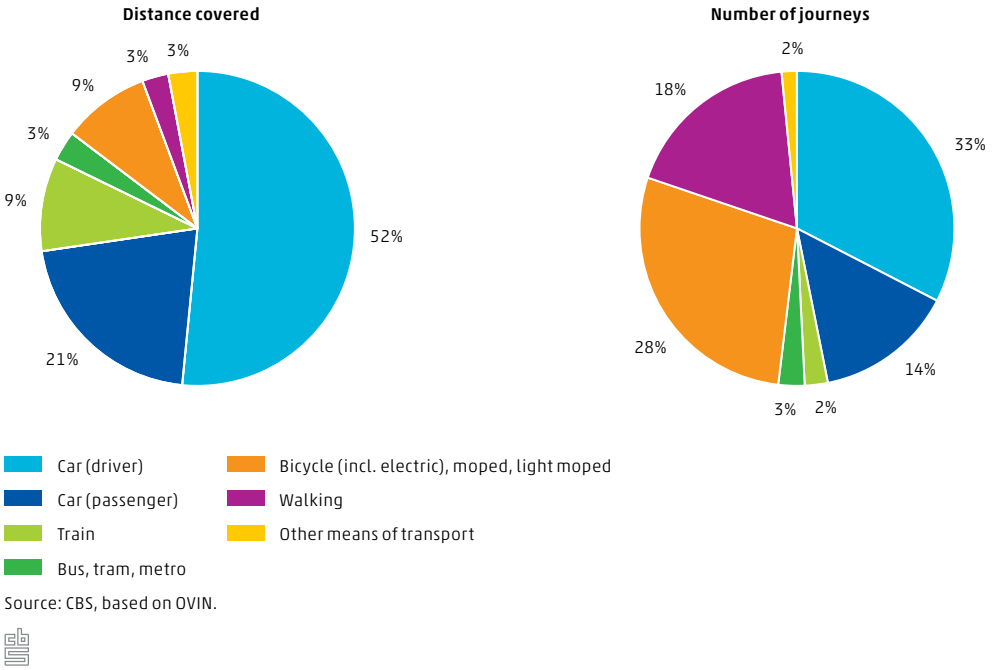
The Netherlands is the second most densely populated country in the EU. It is home to 17.1 million inhabitants living in more than 7.7 million homes. In 2015, 87 percent of all households were satisfied with their home and 82 percent were happy with the living environment. Homeowners are more often satisfied with their home and living environment than tenants. (WoON, 2015). In spite of this high degree of satisfaction, more than 16 percent of the population indicate that they have problems with faults such as a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundations, or rot in window frames or floors. Four percent of the population indicated in 2016 that their home was too small, compared with 1.8 percent in 2006. However, this is a relatively small percentage compared with other countries in the EU.
House prices in the Netherlands have been rising since 2013. After reaching a peak in 2008, house prices (excl. new-build) decreased until mid-2013. In November 2017, prices had risen again to be on average 22.5 percent higher than at their lowest point. The fast-rising house prices, combined with stricter financing conditions, make it more difficult for first-time buyers, particularly in the Randstad conurbation. In the four big cities – Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht – house prices rose by more than 11 percent in 2017 from a year earlier, and in Amsterdam they rose by 14 percent. For the Netherlands as a whole, house prices in 2017 were 7.6 percent higher than in 2016.

### Transport

The Netherlands has a public transport network that covers the country well and nearly everyone lives less than two kilometres from a public transport stop. The Netherlands is also a country of bicycles and it has extensive cycling infrastructure. How Dutch people

travel depends on where they live and the distance to be covered. Distances under five kilometres are usually covered on foot (35 percent) and by non-electric bicycle (nearly 33 percent). Cars are used for nearly a quarter of these short trips and public transport for only three percent. For longer distances, people more often opt to drive or use public transport: cars are used for 79 percent of trips of 15 kilometres or more, while public transport is used for 13 percent of such journeys.

### 4.21 Distance covered and number of journeys in the Netherlands, 2016




Source: CBS, based on OVIN.

## The environment

Increasingly, municipalities are banning polluting vehicles from city centres in an effort to reduce air pollution. As regards particulate matter in built-up areas, the Netherlands is in the middle of the range in the EU, with 11.8 micrograms of $PM_{2.5}$ per cubic metre of air in 2015. This is a sharp drop from 2010, when more than 17 micrograms per cubic metre were measured. However, this is a national figure and emissions are higher in some locations.

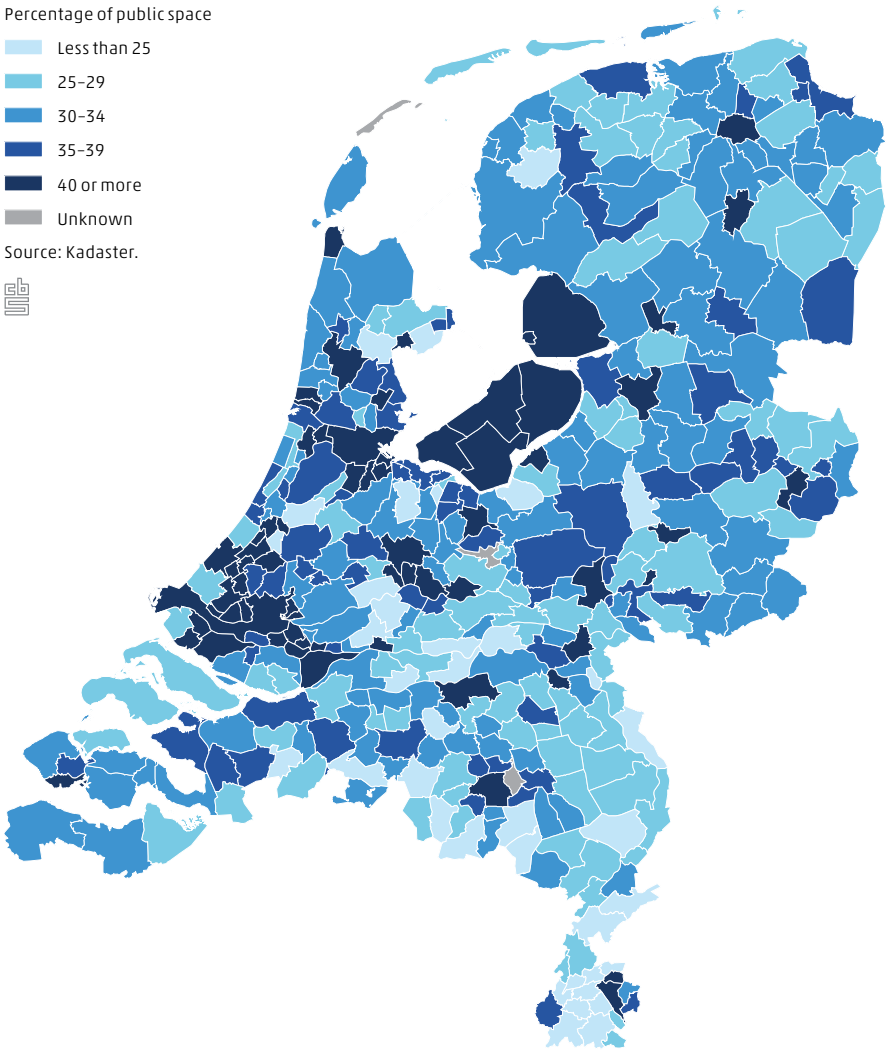
People in the Netherlands are producing less municipal waste per person than they did 10 years ago, but it is still a relatively large amount compared with other EU countries.

## Safety and accessibility

In 2016, 17.3 percent of the population of the Netherlands were victims of crimes such as violence, crimes against property or vandalism. In this respect, the Netherlands has an average score in the EU. People living in the 32 largest municipalities gave their place of residence an average score of 7.1 out of 10 for safety in 2016, slightly lower than the average score of 7.3 given by residents of all municipalities in the Netherlands.

A calculation by the Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster) shows that 35 percent of all space within the built-up area is accessible to the public. There are big differences between municipalities, though, and surprisingly, large cities sometimes have a higher percentage of publicly accessible space than smaller rural municipalities.

### 4.22 Publicly accessible space per municipality, 2017



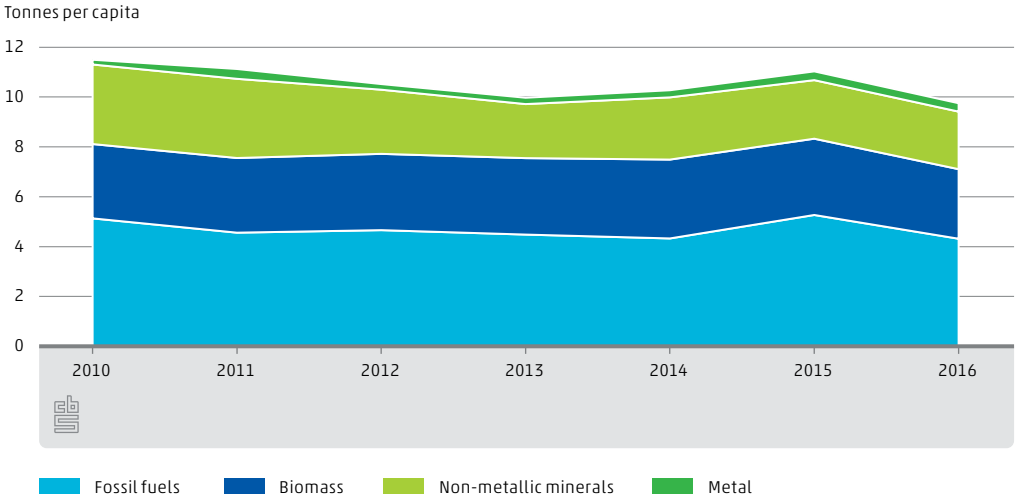

## SDG 12. Responsible consumption and production

**Sustainable consumption and production patterns enable us to use resources more efficiently. This reduces the impact on the environment and dependence on resources. Recycling waste and processing hazardous materials responsibly also contribute to this.**

### Consumption of resources

In relation to the EU, the Netherlands has a high input of resources – fuels among other things. This is because the Netherlands is an exporting country and a lot of the resources used are for export products. If exports are disregarded and only the consumption of products in the Netherlands is considered, then consumption per capita is actually low in relation to many other European countries. Consumption of fossil fuels is relatively high in the Netherlands. Among other factors, this is connected with the relatively small proportion of renewable energy in the Netherlands.

### 4.23 Resources consumption per capita in the Netherlands



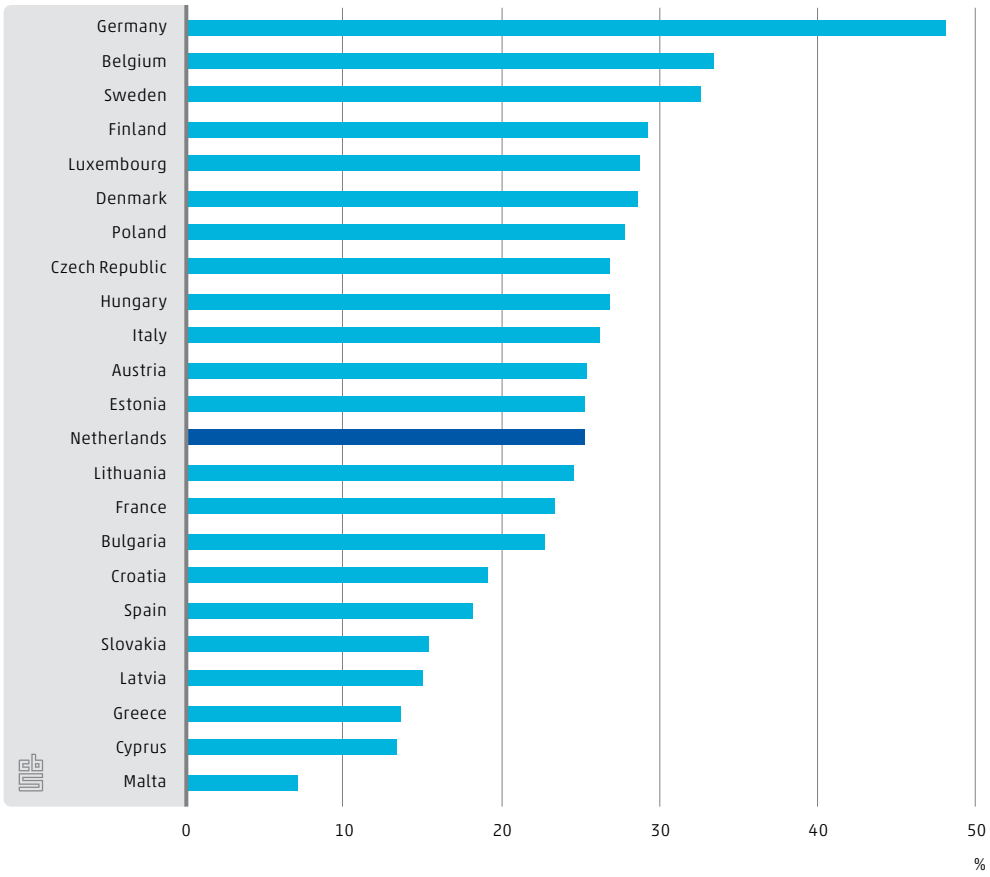

Economic growth is an important autonomous factor that increases demand for resources. Between 2010 and 2016, the economy grew by 6 percent, mainly thanks to exports and very little due to domestic consumption. Domestic consumption of materials per capita declined by approximately 15 percent between 2010 and 2016. Consumption of resources in the chain (raw material consumption or RMC) shows the material footprint of the Netherlands. Between 2010 and 2016, the RMC fell by 26 percent. This reduction can be attributed mainly to mineral raw materials, as there has been a decrease in construction activities, which use a lot of mineral resources. This reduction therefore appears to be more cyclical than structural.

## Waste recycling

Once goods have been used, sooner or later they are released again as waste. In the Netherlands, nearly 82 percent of this waste is recycled. The bulk of generated waste is building and demolition waste. Compared with other EU countries, the percentage of recycled waste in the Netherlands is high. This recycled waste can replace primary resources and thus reduce the need for these resources. However, in relation to the total use of resources by the Dutch economy, the amount of waste that can be used as a secondary resource through recycling is relatively small. Therefore, the Netherlands continues to depend to a great extent on primary resources.

The high total percentage of recycling does not apply to all waste flows. The percentage of household waste collected by municipalities that is recycled is quite a bit lower than the national total. In comparison with other EU countries, the Netherlands is just above the average. The same is true for hazardous waste, with the Netherlands in 11$^{th}$ place with regard to the recycling percentage.

### 4.24 Recycling[1)] of municipal waste, 2015




[1)] Excluding waste recycling for energy generation and composting.

Source: Eurostat.

#### Food waste

In 2015, just under 130 kg of food was wasted per person, this being food meant for human consumption that was not used for that purpose (Soethoudt et al., 2017). This has changed little in relation to 2009. The absolute reduction goal of 20 percent between 2009–2015 was therefore not achieved (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, 2009).

## SDG 13. Climate action

**The average temperature has risen by more than 1˚C worldwide since 1906. The Paris Agreement reached in 2015 aimed at reducing climate change and its effects. In this agreement, countries committed themselves to increasing resilience and limiting climate-related risks and disasters.**

#### Greenhouse gas emissions

Of all European countries, the Netherlands has the fourth highest greenhouse gas emissions per inhabitant. Only in the Czech Republic, Ireland, Estonia and Luxembourg are emissions per inhabitant higher. There are various reasons for greenhouse gas emissions per inhabitant being higher than in neighbouring countries. Firstly, for its energy supply, the Netherlands still depends to a great extent on conventional energy

sources such as gas, coal and oil. The proportion of renewable energy from wind, solar and biomass is relatively low (see also SDG 7). Secondly, sectors of industry with a high greenhouse gas intensity are strongly represented in the Netherlands: electricity companies, refineries, the basic metal industry, the chemical industry, road transport and livestock farming. Lastly, the Netherlands produces relatively more for export than the neighbouring countries. Emissions connected with exports are for the account of the producing country and are not counted as part of the importing country's emissions. This makes the emissions per inhabitant relatively high.

### 4.25 Greenhouse gas emissions, 2015


Source: EEA.

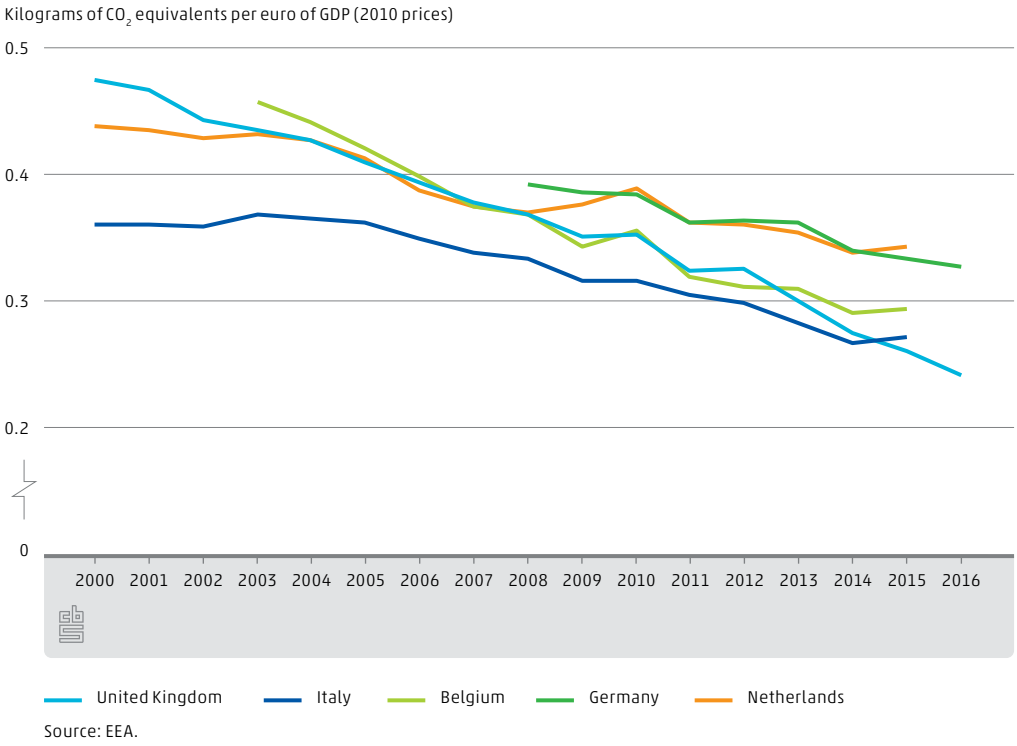
Since 2000, greenhouse gas emissions per capita have fallen by 17 percent. In the EU as a whole, these emissions have dropped by even more: by 20 percent. The decrease in the Netherlands was specifically the result of energy-saving measures in the built environment, more energy-efficient production methods in manufacturing, reductions in emissions in agriculture, and a larger proportion of renewable energy.

#### Greenhouse gas intensity

Greenhouse gas intensity, defined as greenhouse gas emissions divided by GDP, fell by 22 percent between 2000 and 2016. While in this period GDP rose by 21 percent, emissions from economic activities fell by 6 percent. In the chemical industry, the basic

metal industry and air transport, greenhouse gas intensity improved significantly, while refineries, waste management and land-based transport saw little or no improvement. As regards greenhouse gas intensity, the Netherlands is somewhere in the middle within Europe. The Netherlands scores better here than for emissions per inhabitant, because GDP per inhabitant is relatively high. However, since 2008 the Netherlands has dropped from sixth to eleventh place. Therefore, greenhouse gas intensity is improving more quickly in other EU countries than in the Netherlands.

### 4.26 Greenhouse gas intensity of the economy in some EU countries




Source: EEA.

## Climate policy

Climate policy is an important subject for the new cabinet (VVD, CDA, D66 and ChristianUnion coalition, 2017). The Netherlands aims to take measures that will halve $CO_2$ emissions by 2030. Measures for the short term include 'greening' the tax system, more offshore space for wind energy, and the introduction of a minimum $CO_2$ price for the electricity sector. A national climate and energy agreement will be drawn up to bring about substantial reductions in $CO_2$ emissions over the coming years. With the support of NGOs, the Dutch government is working to create a low-carbon energy economy within a few decades and in this way to create opportunities for new, sustainable economic growth.

# SDG 14. Life below water

**Seawater covers around three-quarters of the planet and forms the world's largest ecosystem. The increasing negative effects of climate change, overfishing and pollution pose a threat to the recent positive results of protection for parts of the world's oceans.**

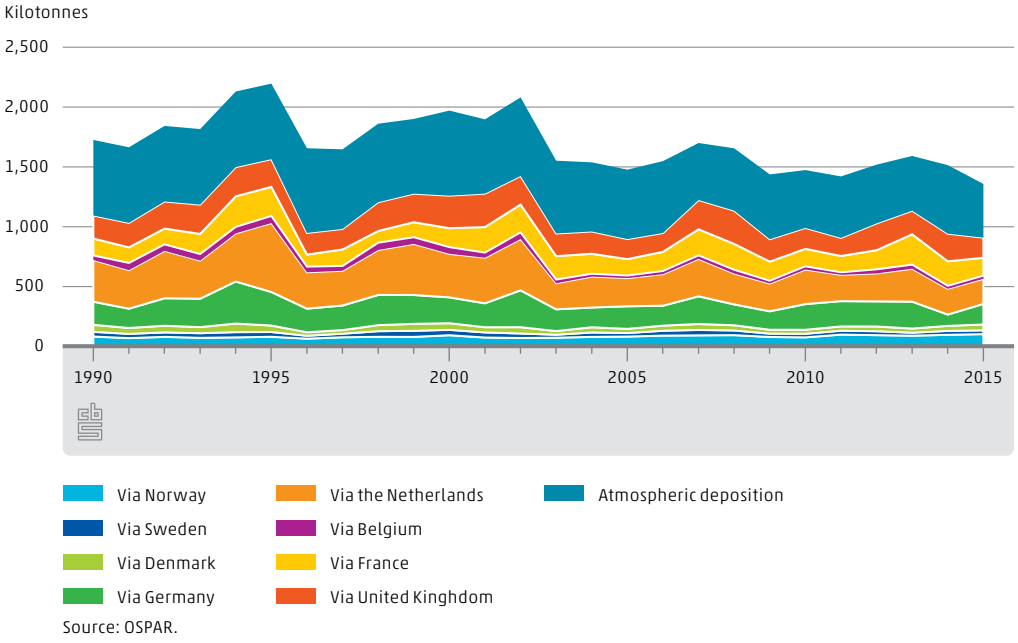
## Pollution

In order for the seas and oceans to function well, the marine environmental status has to be good. To achieve this, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) has been established at EU level: every member state must draw up a marine strategy in order to achieve a good environmental status. Measures will be developed and implemented at a national level, and with the aid of a monitoring programme, the achievement of the goals and the good environmental status will be continuously monitored. This forms the basis for reporting to the European Commission (Noordzeeloket, 2018).
Marine pollution comes from a number or sources, including shipping, the fishing industry, recreation in the sea and on beaches, and river water. Litter in the seas and oceans – especially plastic – is a growing problem for the marine ecosystem. More than 90 percent of all marine litter is plastic. The Dutch are tackling marine litter at various levels: local, regional, national and global. An international approach is essential, because the spread of litter in seas and oceans is not limited by national borders.
The MSFD is currently the most important legal framework. In the Marine Strategy, the cabinet has set as its goal for 2020 to reduce the amount of litter on the coast and the impact on marine organisms. In the period 2004–2015, measures taken under the MSFD did not result in any significant reduction in plastic and other litter on the shore.

## Biodiversity

The amount of nitrogen (and phosphate) in seawater is a measure of eutrophication – an excessive richness of nutrients – which causes a reduction in biodiversity. The EU Nitrates Directive obliges the member states to report on the quality of the coastal waters and seawater. For the Netherlands, 81 percent of seawater was assessed as being potentially eutrophic in the period 2011–2013, i.e. the biological condition was good, but the nutrient concentrations did not meet the MSFD quality standard, although the Netherlands did meet the standard for phosphate. Thirteen percent of coastal water was eutrophic; six percent was non-eutrophic and therefore met the quality standard.
A positive development is that the total input of nutrients into the North Sea from neighbouring countries has decreased since 2000 (Ospar, 2018), as the countries have tackled emissions from the most important point sources and from agriculture – an approach that is also based on EU legislation.
Marine biodiversity is under pressure, specifically from the fishing industry (bycatch and damage to the benthos) and pollution. In the period 1990–2015, the Living Planet Index (LPI) of the North Sea declined by 30 percent. This reduction is mainly attributable to the decline in animal species that live in or on the seabed, such as shellfish, crustaceans and sea urchins. Populations of marine fish and seabirds hardly declined in the same period (or even increased), while the number of porpoises increased. While the LPI declined in the North Sea, there was no decline in the North Sea Coastal Zone and the Wadden Sea over the same period. There was even a slight increase in animal life in the Western Scheldt and the Eastern Scheldt.

### 4.27 Flow of nitrogen to the North Sea




Source: OSPAR.

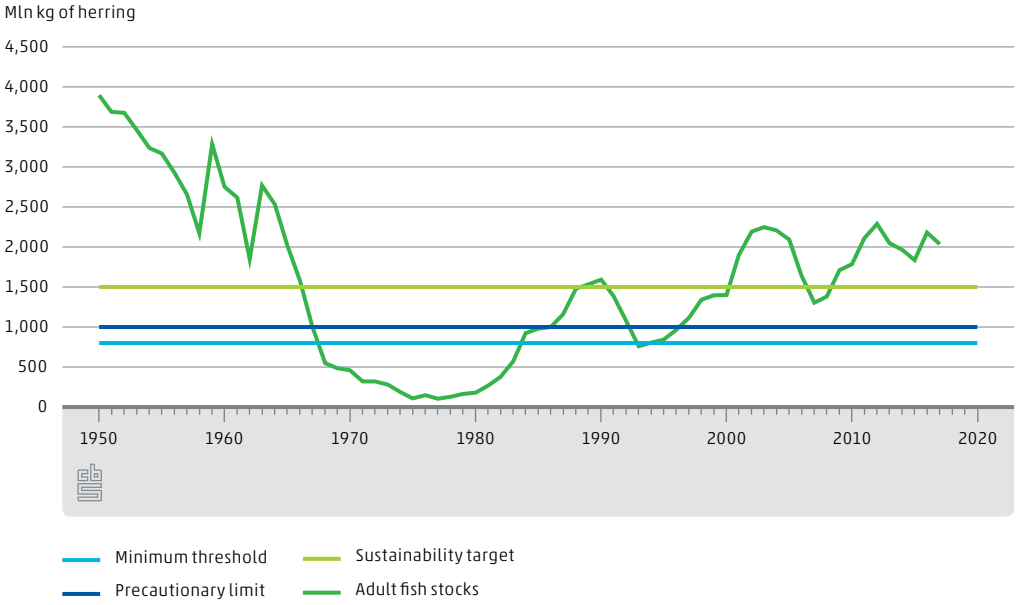
## Sustainable fishery

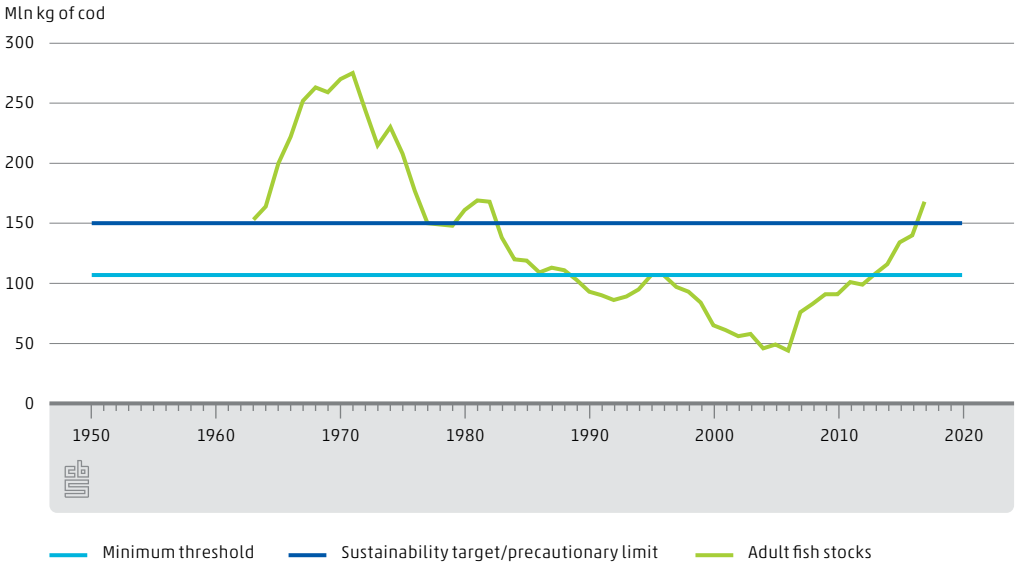
By organising catches better through population management plans, applying fishing methods that disturb the seabed less and cause less bycatch, and excluding specific areas from fishing (or from particular types of fishing), pressure on marine biodiversity can be reduced. Both internationally and in Europe, increasing numbers of marine protected areas are being established. These additionally play an important role as nurseries for fish and other marine organisms. More than one-fifth of the Dutch maritime area consists of such protected areas, which gives the Netherlands a relatively high score in the EU. However, this must be qualified by the fact that in a large part of these areas, protective measures still have to be implemented.

Since 1 January 2014, a new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) has been in force in the EU. Under the new CFP, fish stocks must remain at sustainable levels, bycatch must be avoided as much as possible, and new opportunities are being created for work and growth in coastal areas. Central to the new fisheries policy is the concept of sustainability, from an ecological (Maximum Sustainable Yield), as well as an economic and societal point of view.

As a result of catch limits and other measures established by the EU, commercial fish stocks in the North Sea have managed to recover in recent years. The populations of five major commercial fish species – herring, cod, plaice, sole and pollack – were above sustainable limits in 2017 for the first time in many years (*Compendium voor de leefomgeving, 2018a*). Vulnerable long-living species such as sharks and some rays are recovering more slowly.

### 4.28 Herring and cod stocks in the North Sea




Source: ICES, 2017a, 2017b.

## SDG 15. Life on land

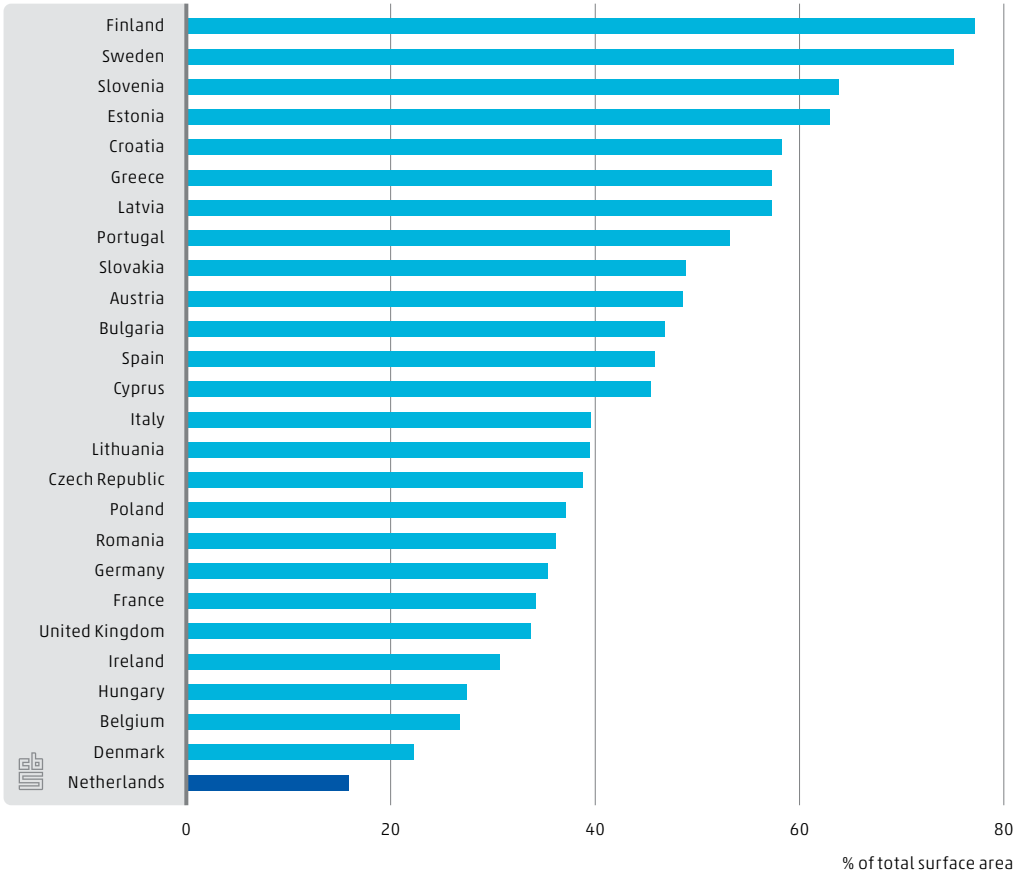
**The protection and restoration of ecosystems and the associated biodiversity can limit the consequences of climate change and enhance resilience against the increasing pressure from population and natural disasters. Healthy ecosystems form the basis of other Sustainable Development Goals such as clean water and food.**

### Nitrogen surplus in the soil

Sustainable soil use contributes to the health of ecosystems. A surplus of nutrients such as nitrogen in the soil can lead to soil, water and air pollution. Through policies and efforts made in agriculture, the nutrient surplus in Dutch soil has decreased in recent years. The loss of nitrogen to agricultural soil fell from 183 kg per hectare in 2000 to

104 kg in 2014. However, this surplus rose again in 2015 to 131 kg per hectare. This rise was the result of a large increase in the input of artificial fertiliser and a substantially smaller output of silage and pasture grass. Despite the downward trend, the Netherlands scores poorly in this area internationally and is number 23 of the 25 EU countries for which data were available in 2014. Romania is the only EU country without excess nitrogen in the soil, while Cyprus has the largest nitrogen surplus.

### 4.29 Natural and forest areas, 2015




Source: Eurostat.

## Natural areas

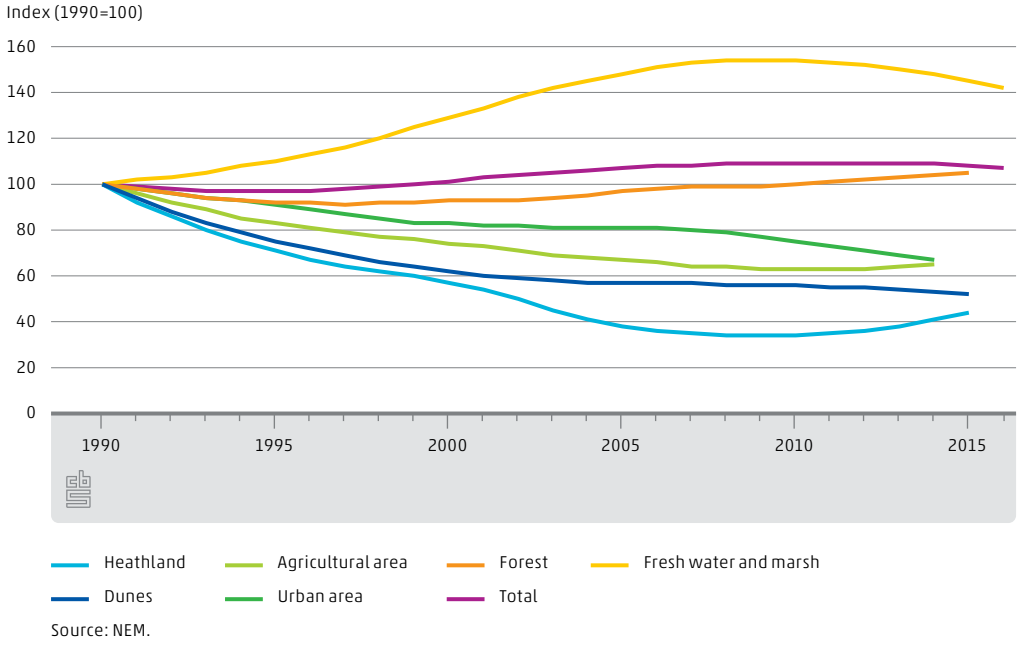
The Netherlands is a densely populated country and has relatively little natural countryside compared with other countries. Sixteen percent of the land surface of the Netherlands consists of woods, wet and dry natural terrain, and wetlands. This puts the Netherlands in last place of the 26 EU countries for which data are available. However, the valuable natural areas that exist in the Netherlands are often designated as protected nature reserves. More than 90 percent of the terrestrial and freshwater hotspots in the Netherlands – designated nature reserves with high biodiversity – are protected.

## Biodiversity

A great variety of plant and animal species is important for maintaining balanced ecosystems that are capable of supplying products and services. However, biodiversity does not just concern plant and animal species, but also the diversity of ecosystems,

such as woodlands and fresh water. In addition, biodiversity also includes the genetic variation within species.

### 4.30 Living planet index of land and freshwater fauna for the Netherlands




Source: NEM.

A commonly used benchmark for the state of biodiversity is the Living Planet Index (LPI). The LPI shows the average trend in the population sizes of 361 native species of land and freshwater fauna. Since 1990, this indicator has risen by 7 percent in the Netherlands. The increase is mainly in mammals, reptiles and dragonflies. In contrast, butterflies show a decline on average. The LPI is also calculated for individual ecosystems. In agricultural areas and heathland, the LPI has declined in comparison with 1990, while in fresh water and marshland, the LPI rose in this period.

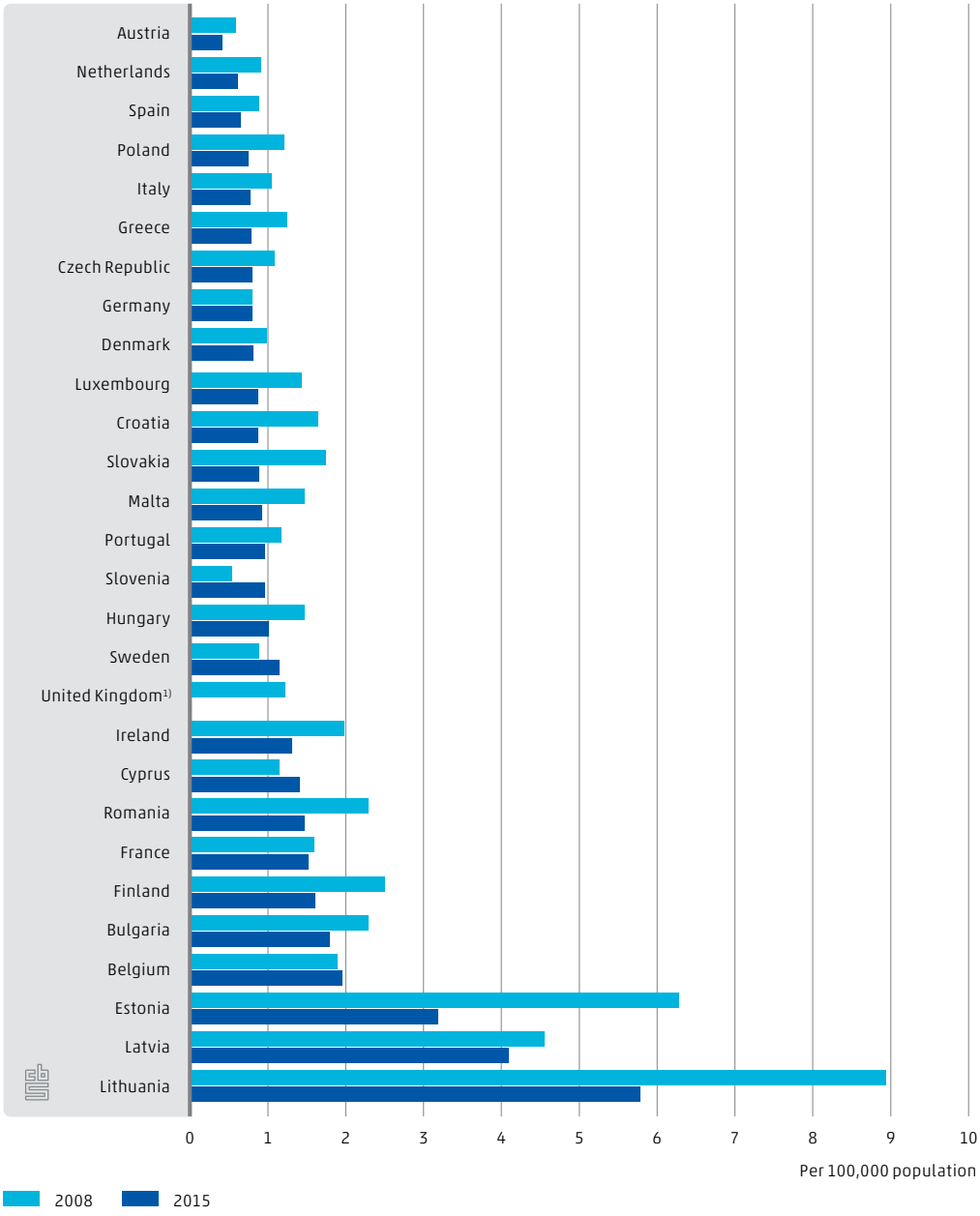
## SDG 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions

**Peace, safety and justice are of fundamental importance for sustainable development. In some countries and regions, developments towards a peaceful and safe society are slower than in others. Violent conflicts have become more numerous in recent years, and armed conflicts result in large numbers of civilian casualties and have driven millions of people from their home countries.**

### Crime

The number of recorded crimes in the Netherlands is falling sharply. Whereas in 2010 72.4 crimes were recorded per 1,000 inhabitants in the Netherlands, in 2016 this had fallen to 54.7 per 1,000. No precise total figures are available for the other EU countries, but in general the international trend is one of falling crime rates. Some crime remains unrecorded. For example, crimes are not always reported and only a small proportion of cybercrime is recorded. This is also shown in the figures for crimes experienced, which are a lot higher.

## 4.31 Mortality due to murder and manslaughter




1) No figure available for 2015.

Source: Eurostat.

The Netherlands has a low score compared with other EU countries in relation to recorded cases of murder and manslaughter: 0.6 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2016. This is a reduction by more than half compared with the second half of the 1990s, and only in Austria was the relative number of murder and manslaughter cases smaller in 2015 (0.5 per 100,000). By comparison: in the same year in Belgium, 2.0 cases of murder and manslaughter per 100,000 inhabitants were recorded. By far the largest numbers are reported in the Baltic states: deaths through violence in 2015 numbered 5.8 per 100,000 inhabitants for Lithuania, 4.1 for Latvia and 3.2 for Estonia.

## Crime victims

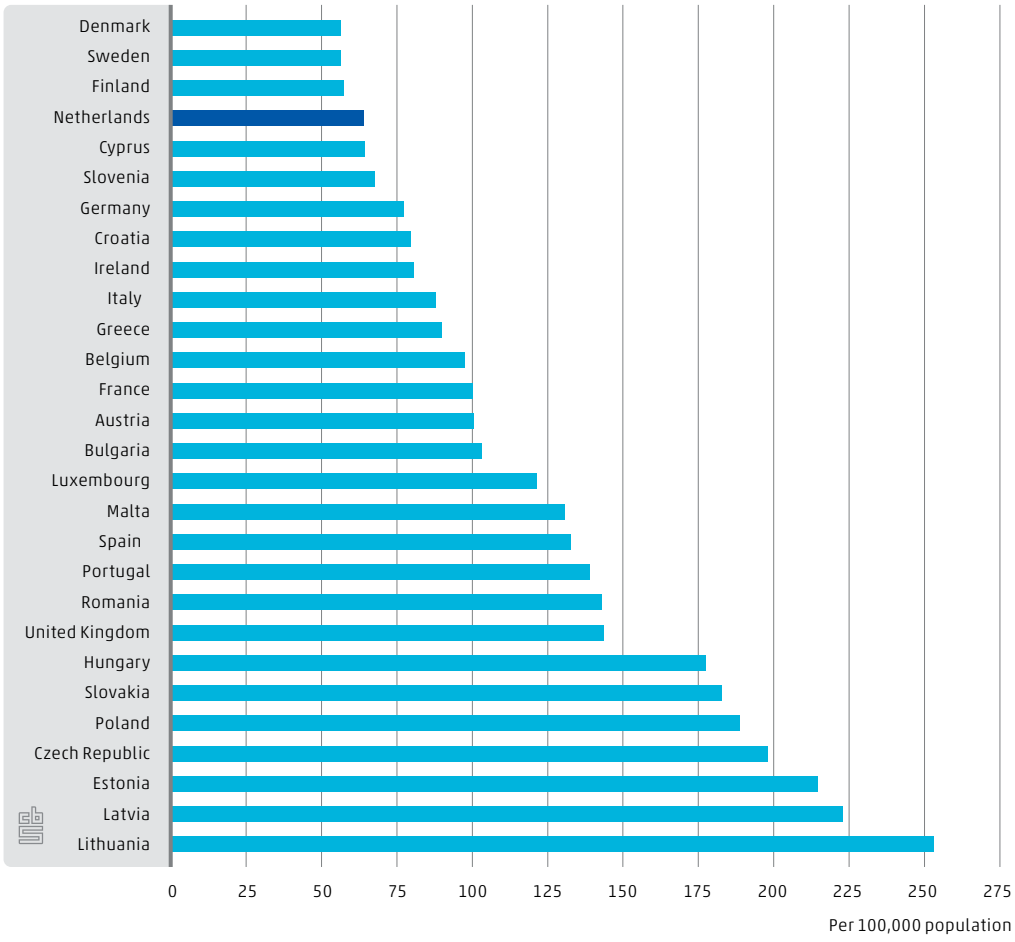
In 2016, 17.3 percent of the Dutch population said that they had been the victim of a crime. In 2012, the proportion was 19.8 percent. Just under a quarter of the crimes experienced were actually reported to the police in 2016. In 2016, 2.3 percent said that they had been the victim of a violent crime.

Some 16.4 percent of the population occasionally felt unsafe in their own neighbourhood in 2016. This percentage shows a downward trend. In 2002, the proportion of people who sometimes felt unsafe was 19 percent. The situation in the Netherlands in this respect is positive compared with most other EU countries. In 2016, there were only a few countries where relatively fewer people sometimes felt unsafe in their own neighbourhood. In the Czech Republic, Germany and France, almost a quarter of people occasionally feel unsafe in their own neighbourhood.

## People in custody

The number of detainees in the Netherlands is also showing a downward trend. In 2015, 64 people were in custody in the Netherlands per 100,000 inhabitants. In 2005, this figure was still 109 per 100,000. The relative number of detainees in the Netherlands is low in relation to other EU countries. Only three countries (Denmark, Sweden and Finland) have a slightly smaller relative number of detainees. The number of people in custody per 100,000 inhabitants is highest in the Baltic states, with 253 per 100,000 in Lithuania in 2015.

### 4.32 People in custody, 2015




Source: Eurostat.

### Government spending on safety and security

Investing in safety and security continues to be a major priority for the Dutch government. Government spending on safety and security in the Netherlands has risen since the 1990s to reach 1.9 percent of GDP in 2016. This puts the Netherlands in a middle position within the EU.

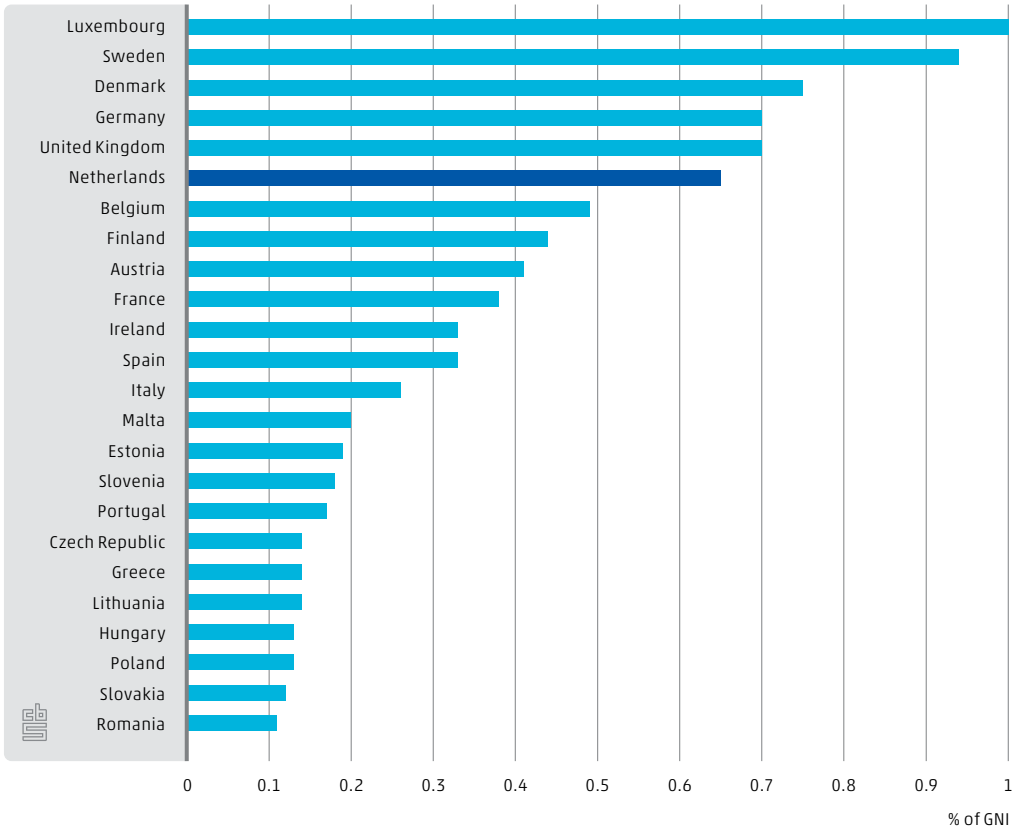
## SDG 17. International cooperation

**International cooperation is needed to boost capacity and resources in order to implement the sustainable development agenda. Achieving the goals requires coherent policy, a cooperative environment and the creation of new global partnerships.**

### Assistance to developing countries

In 2016, the Netherlands spent 0.65 percent of its gross national income (GNI) on development assistance. This puts the Netherlands in sixth place in the EU behind Luxembourg, Sweden, Denmark, Germany and the United Kingdom. In spite of this relatively high position, the trend has been downward for a long time: between 2005 and 2010, Dutch development assistance was still around 0.8 percent of GNI.

#### 4.33 Development assistance, 2016



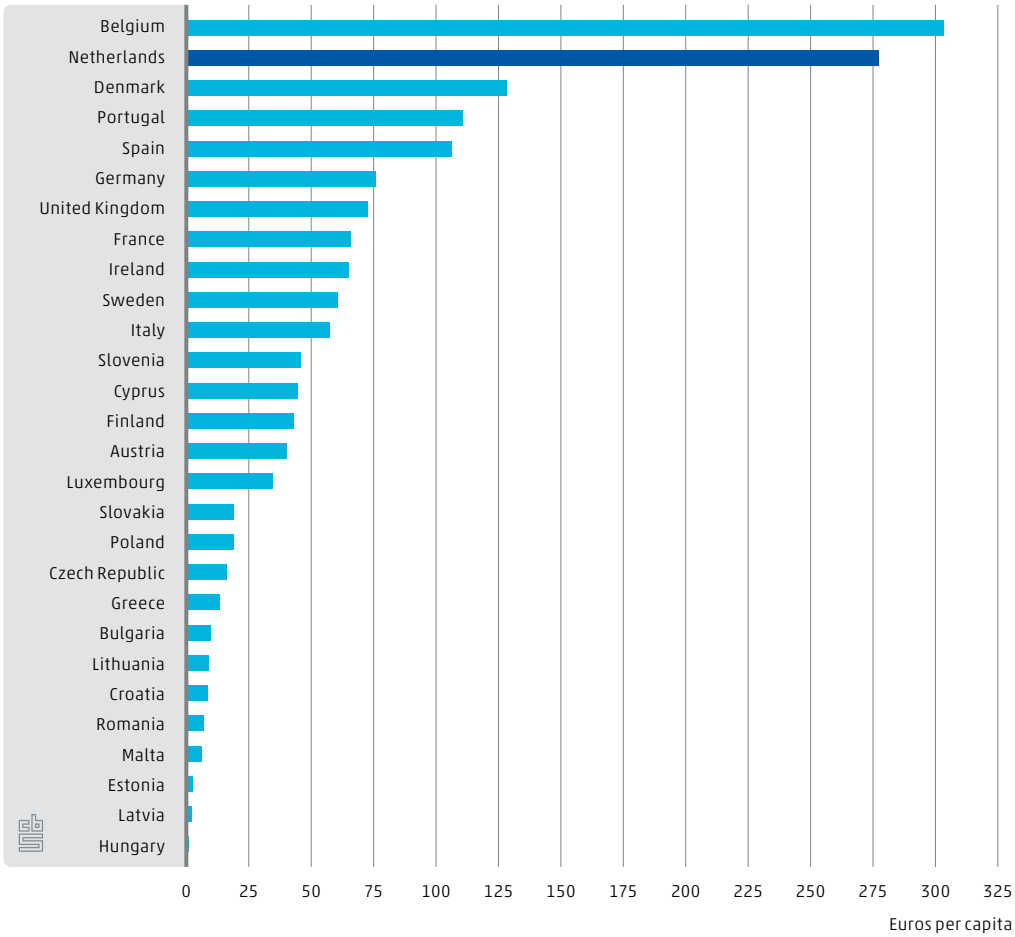

Source: OECD.

Another area in which the Netherlands has a relatively high score compared with other European countries is transfers by foreigners working in the Netherlands to their own countries. Although the figures fluctuate strongly from year to year, there is a clear trend on balance. In the period 2000–2008, transfers rose sharply, to be followed by a downward trend, from 1.36 percent of GDP in 2008 to 0.98 percent in 2016.
Academic cooperation is another form of support for developing countries. In the period 2012–2016, nearly 3,000 academic papers were published which were compiled in cooperation with at least one author from one of the 48 least developed countries (LDCs) (Elsevier, 2017).

### Trade with developing countries

Total imports to the Netherlands from developing countries, expressed in euros per inhabitant, are high from an international point of view. Within the EU, only Belgium scores slightly higher. The composition of these imports is of course important: imports of high-quality products and semi-manufactured products are beneficial to developing countries, while the extraction of raw materials can damage the environment in those countries. Additional analysis is necessary to obtain a clearer picture of the precise composition of these imports.

### 4.34 Total imports from the 48 least developed countries, 2016




Source: Eurostat.

Unfortunately, no recent figures are available for the carbon footprint of Dutch consumption, i.e. the environmental pressure that the Netherlands puts on other countries. In the last available international comparison (2007), the Netherlands scored relatively poorly in this regard. However, national developments show that there has been a clear improvement in recent years. The carbon footprint decreased from 18.6 tonnes of $CO_2$ equivalent per inhabitant in 2008 to 14.1 tonnes in 2016. This is a reduction of over 24 percent.

### Aligning goal and indicators

Indicators can be found fairly easily for a number of targets of SDG 17. These are the targets that describe ways in which the Netherlands can stimulate development in developing countries. These include forms of financial support and development aid, as well as trade contacts.

Other targets focus on developing policy instruments to support sustainable development in developing countries. These are targets for which it is not possible to devise an indicator in the classic sense. Instead, an indication can be given of the extent to which such policy instruments do or do not exist.

More problematic are indicators in the area of modern communication technology, such as fixed internet broadband contracts and the number of people who use the internet. In all probability, the roll-out of modern communication technology in developing countries will have a positive influence on social development. However, these indicators have little relevance for the Netherlands, given that the extent and quality of internet services are not directly related to the sustainable development of developing countries.

# Statistical annex

# 1 No poverty

| SDG targets, indicators and alternative indicators | | Unit | Netherlands year | Netherlands value | EU ranking year | EU ranking value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1.1 Eradicate extreme poverty** | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line | [1] | | | | | | |
| **1.2 Reduce the proportion of people of all ages living in poverty** | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1 Proportion of population living below national poverty line | | | | | | | |
| At-risk-of-poverty rate | [a] | % of population at risk of poverty, i.e. with an income below the critical threshold (= 50% of the median income of the population) | 2016 | 6.6 | 2016 | 3 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| At-risk-of-poverty gap | [b] | Median income of population at risk of poverty expressed as a % of the critical threshold (= 50% of the median income of the population) | 2016 | 20.5 | 2016 | 11 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| 1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions | | | | | | | |
| At risk of poverty or social exclusion | [a] | % of population | 2016 | 16.7 | 2016 | 3 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| **1.3 Social protection systems and measures for all** | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems | [1] | | | | | | |
| **1.4 Equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services** | | | | | | | |
| 1.4.1 Proportion of the population living in households with access to basic services | [1] | | | | | | |
| 1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land | [1] | | | | | | |
| **1.5 Reduce vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic shocks** | | | | | | | |
| 1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people | | | | | | | |
| Number of deaths | [a] | Per 100,000 population | 2016 | 0 | | | CRED |
| Number of persons affected | [a] | Per 100,000 population | 2016 | 0 | | | CRED |
| 1.5.2 Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) | | | | | | | |
| Economic loss | [a] | Mln euros | 2016 | 762 | | | CRED |
| 1.5.3 Number of countries with national disaster risk reduction strategies | [1] | | | | | | |
| 1.5.4 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies | [1] | | | | | | |

[a] Official SDG indicator measured; [b] Alternative indicator.

[1] The Netherlands has realised or almost realised target; or target is not relevant for the Netherlands; [2] To be developed; maybe difficult to quantify.

For metadata on the indicators, see: https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/publicatie/2016/44/meten-van-sdgs-een-eerste-beeld-voor-nederland (English translation forthcoming).

Indicators updated on 1 February 2018.

## 2 Zero hunger

| | | Unit | Netherlands year | Netherlands value | EU ranking year | EU ranking value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SDG targets, indicators and alternative indicators** | | | | | | | |
| **2.1 End hunger and ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food** | | | | | | | |
| 2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment | [1] | | | | | | |
| 2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population | | | | | | | |
| Food bank clients | [b] | % of population | 2016 | 0.8 | | | Association of Dutch food banks |
| **2.2 End all forms of malnutrition** | | | | | | | |
| 2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age | [1] | | | | | | |
| 2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight) | | | | | | | |
| Overweight population | [b] | % of population aged 20 years and older [*] | 2016 | 50.2 | 2014 | 6 (18) | CBS; OECD |
| **2.3 Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers** | | | | | | | |
| 2.3.1 Volume of production per labour unit | [a] | Mln euros per 1,000 working years | 2016 | 185.1 | 2016 | 1 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| 2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers | [1] | | | | | | |
| **2.4 Ensure sustainable food production systems** | | | | | | | |
| 2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture | | | | | | | |
| Organic agriculture | [b] | % of agricultural land | 2016 | 2.9 | 2016 | 24 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| Livestock density | [b] | Livestock units per hectare | 2017 | 3.7 | 2013 | 28 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| Phosphorus surplus in soil | [b] | Kg phosphorus per hectare | 2015 | 3.0 | 2014 | 9 (25) | CBS; Eurostat |
| Nitrogen surplus in soil | [b] | Kg nitrogen per hectare | 2015 | 131 | 2014 | 23 (25) | CBS; Eurostat |
| **2.5 Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species** | | | | | | | |
| 2.5.1 Number of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities | [a] | Number | 2017 | 23,017 | | | CGN |
| 2.5.1 Number of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities | [a] | Number | 2018 | 22 | | | CGN |
| 2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not-at-risk or at an unknown level of risk of extinction | [a] | % of number of local breeds | 2017 | 92.6 | 2017 | 16 (19) | CGN; FAO |

[a] Official SDG indicator measured; [b] Alternative indicator.

[1] The Netherlands has realised or almost realised target; or target is not relevant for the Netherlands; [2] To be developed; maybe difficult to quantify.

[*] For EU ranking: % of population aged 15 years and older.

For metadata on the indicators, see: https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/publicatie/2016/44/meten-van-sdgs-een-eerste-beeld-voor-nederland (English translation forthcoming).

Indicators updated on 1 February 2018.

# 3 Good health and well-being

| SDG targets, indicators and alternative indicators | | Unit | Netherlands year | Netherlands value | EU ranking year | EU ranking value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **3.1 Reduce the global maternal mortality ratio** | | | | | | | |
| 3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio | [a] | Per 100,000 live births | 2016 | 3.5 | 2014 | 5 (19) | CBS; OECD |
| 3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel | [1] | | | | | | |
| **3.2 End preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age** | | | | | | | |
| 3.2.1 Under-5 mortality rate | [a] | Per 1,000 live births | 2016 | 4.1 | 2015 | 12 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate | [a] | Per 1,000 live births | 2016 | 2.6 | 2015 | 11 (22) | CBS; Eurostat |
| **3.3 End the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis and other communicable diseases** | | | | | | | |
| 3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections | [a] | Number of new diagnoses per 100,000 population | 2016 | 4.0 | 2016 | 13 (28) | RIVM; ECDC |
| 3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence | [a] | Number of new diagnoses per 100,000 population | 2016 | 5.2 | 2015 | 4 (28) | RIVM; ECDC |
| 3.3.3 Malaria incidence | [a] | Number of new diagnoses per 100,000 population | 2016 | 1.5 | 2015 | 21 (24) | RIVM; ECDC |
| 3.3.4 Hepatitis B incidence | [a] | Number of new diagnoses per 100,000 population | 2016 | 6.6 | 2015 | 18 (25) | RIVM; ECDC |
| 3.3.5 Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases | [a] | Per million population | 2015 | 3.8 | 2015 | 25 (28) | UNSD; UNSD |
| **3.4 Reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health and well-being** | | | | | | | |
| 3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to non-communicable diseases | [a] | Per 100,000 population | 2016 | 563 | 2014 | 6 (19) | CBS; OECD |
| Healthy life expectancy for women | [b] | Years at birth | 2016 | 63.3 | 2015 | 22 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| Healthy life expectancy for men | [b] | Years at birth | 2016 | 64.9 | 2015 | 15 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| 3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate | [a] | Per 100,000 population | 2016 | 11.1 | 2014 | 10 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| Life expectancy in good mental health (women) | [b] | Years at birth | 2016 | 72.5 | | | CBS |
| Life expectancy in good mental health (men) | [b] | Years at birth | 2016 | 73.7 | | | CBS |
| **3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol** | | | | | | | |
| 3.5.1 Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders | | | | | | | |
| Persons receiving care for addiction and substance abuse | [b] | | 2015 | 64.8 | | | IVZ, LADIS |
| 3.5.2 Harmful use of alcohol, defined according to the national context as alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) | | | | | | | CBS |
| Alcohol consumption | [a] | Litres of pure alcohol per capita (15 years and older) | 2015 | 8.0 | 2015 | 2 (12) | OECD; OECD |
| Heavy drinkers | [b] | % of drinkers aged 12 years and older | 2016 | 10.6 | | | |
| Smoking | [b] | % of population aged 12 years and older [*] | 2016 | 22.7 | 2014 | 9 (21) | CBS; OECD |
| **3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents** | | | | | | | |
| 3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries | [a] | Per million population | 2016 | 36.9 | 2015 | 4 (24) | CBS; Eurostat |

## 3 Good health and well-being

| | | Unit | Netherlands | | EU ranking | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | year | value | year | value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
| **3.7 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes** | | | | | | | |
| 3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods | [2] | | | | | | |
| 3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate | [a] | Per 1,000 women in the same age group (16–19 years) [**] | 2016 | 2.6 | 2015 | 1 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| **3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all** | | | | | | | |
| 3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services | [1] | | | | | | |
| 3.8.2 Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income | | | | | | | |
| Uninsured and defaulters | [b] | % of population | 2016 | 1.9 | | | CBS, National Health Care Institute |
| **3.9 Substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination** | | | | | | | |
| 3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution | [2] | | | | | | |
| 3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services) | [a] | Per 100,000 population | 2012 | 0.2 | 2012 | 16 (28) | UNSD; UNSD |
| 3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning | [a] | Per 100,000 population | 2016 | 0.2 | 2015 | 3 (28) | CBS; UNSD |

[a] Official SDG indicator measured; [b] Alternative indicator.

[1] The Netherlands has realised or almost realised target; or target is not relevant for the Netherlands; [2] To be developed; maybe difficult to quantify.

[*] For EU ranking: % of population aged 15 years and older.

[**] For EU ranking: per 1,000 women in the age group 15–19 years.

For metadata on the indicators, see: https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/publicatie/2016/44/meten-van-sdgs-een-eerste-beeld-voor-nederland (English translation forthcoming)

Indicators updated on 1 February 2018.

# 4 Quality education

| SDG targets, indicators and alternative indicators | | Unit | Netherlands year | Netherlands value | EU ranking year | EU ranking value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **4.1 Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes** | | | | | | | |
| 4.1.1 Proportion of children achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading and mathematics at the end of primary and at the end of lower secondary education | | | | | | | |
| Numeracy skills among young people | [a] | Average PISA score | 2015 | 512 | 2015 | 2 (28) | OECD; OECD |
| Literacy skills among young people | [a] | Average PISA score | 2015 | 503 | 2015 | 7 (27) | OECD; OECD |
| **4.2 Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education** | | | | | | | |
| 4.2.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being | [2] | | | | | | |
| 4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age) | | | | | | | |
| Participation in organised learning | [a] | % of 5-year-olds in organised learning | 2014 | 99.2 | 2014 | 5 (27) | OECD; OECD |
| **4.3 Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university** | | | | | | | |
| 4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months | [a] | % of population (25–64 years) | 2016 | 64.1 | 2016 | 1 (24) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| Participation rate (men) | [b] | % of male population (aged 25–64 years) | 2016 | 64.7 | 2016 | 1 (24) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| Participation rate (women) | [b] | % of female population (aged 25–64 years) | 2016 | 63.5 | 2016 | 2 (24) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| **4.4 Substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship** | | | | | | | |
| 4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill | | | | | | | |
| Computer skills | [b] | % of 16–74 year-olds who carried out 5 or 6 of the internet-related activities | 2014 | 27.0 | 2014 | 16 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| Internet skills | [b] | % of 16–74 year-olds who carried out 5 or 6 of the computer-related activities | 2013 | 21.0 | 2013 | 3 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| Problem-solving skills in a technological setting | [b] | % of 16–64 year-olds who scored 2 or 3 in every skill level of problem-solving in a technological setting | 2015 | 41.5 | 2015 | 3 (15) | OECD; OECD |

# 4 Quality education

| | | Unit | Netherlands year | Netherlands value | EU ranking year | EU ranking value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **4.5 Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training** | | | | | | | |
| 4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict affected, as data become available) | | | | | | | |
| Gender parity index (girls/boys) for numeracy skills after completion of ISCED 2[*] | [a] | Absolute deviation from 1 (1= complete parity) | 2015 | 0.01 | 2015 | 5 (24) | UNSD; UNSD |
| Socioeconomic parity index (low/high) for numeracy skills after completion of ISCED 2[*] | [a] | Absolute deviation from 1 (1= complete parity) | 2012 | 0.22 | 2012 | 3 (20) | UNSD; UNSD |
| Urbanisation parity index (rural/urban) for numeracy skills after completion of ISCED 2[*] | [a] | Absolute deviation from 1 (1= complete parity) | 2012 | 0.04 | 2012 | 5 (20) | UNSD; UNSD |
| **4.6 Ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy** | | | | | | | |
| 4.6.1 Percentage of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills | | | | | | | |
| Literacy skills in the population | [a] | Average PIAAC score (16-65 years) | 2015 | 284 | 2015 | 2 (20) | OECD; OECD |
| Numeracy skills in the population | [a] | Average PIAAC score (16-65 years) | 2015 | 280 | 2015 | 3 (19) | OECD; OECD |
| **4.7 Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development** | | | | | | | |
| 4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development including gender equality and human rights are mainstreamed at all levels in: (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment | [2] | | | | | | |

[a] Official SDG indicator measured; [b] Alternative indicator.

[1] The Netherlands has realised or almost realised target; or target is not relevant for the Netherlands; [2] To be developed; maybe difficult to quantify.

[*] ISCED level 2 = Lower secondary education.

For metadata on the indicators, see: https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/publicatie/2016/44/meten-van-sdgs-een-eerste-beeld-voor-nederland (English translation forthcoming).

Indicators updated on 1 February 2018.

# 5 Gender equality

| | | Unit | Netherlands | | EU ranking | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | year | value | year | value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
| **SDG targets, indicators and alternative indicators** | | | | | | | |
| **5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere** | | | | | | | |
| 5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex | [1] | | | | | | |
| Income inequality | [b] | % difference in hourly wage (women compared to men) | 2016 | 15.5 | 2015 | 15 (24) | CBS; Eurostat |
| **5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation** | | | | | | | |
| 5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner | [a] | % of women reporting abuse by partner when aged 15 years or older | 2016 | 10 | | | CBS |
| 5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner | [a] | % of women reporting sexual abuse by person other than their partner when aged 15 years or older | 2012 | 12 | 2012 | 27 (28) | FRA; FRA |
| **5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation** | | | | | | | |
| 5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18 | [a] | % | 2017 | 0.0 | | | CBS |
| 5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting | [a] | Per 100,000 women aged 20–49 years | 2012 | 613 | | | Pharos |
| **5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate** | | | | | | | |
| 5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work | | | | | | | |
| Women working part-time | [b] | % of working women | 2016 | 76.4 | 2016 | 1 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| Men working part-time | [b] | % of working men | 2016 | 26.2 | 2016 | 1 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| **5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life** | | | | | | | |
| 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments | [a] | % of seats | 2017 | 38 | 2017 | 4 (28) | UNSD; UNSD |
| 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions | [a] | % of senior management positions held by women | 2015 | 26 | 2015 | 25 (28) | UNSD; UNSD |

## 5 Gender equality

| | | Unit | Netherlands year | Netherlands value | EU ranking year | EU ranking value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action** | | | | | | | |
| 5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care | [2] | | | | | | |
| 5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education | [1] | | | | | | |
| **Health** | | | | | | | |
| Healthy life expectancy for women | [b] | Years at birth | 2016 | 63.3 | 2015 | 22 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| Healthy life expectancy for men | [b] | Years at birth | 2016 | 64.9 | 2015 | 15 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| **Education** | | | | | | | |
| Women with higher education | [b] | % of women aged 25–64 years who have completed tertiary education | 2016 | 31.4 | 2016 | 15 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| Men with higher education | [b] | % of men aged 25–64 years who have completed tertiary education | 2016 | 30.6 | 2016 | 5 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |

[a] Official SDG indicator measured; [b] Alternative indicator.

[1] The Netherlands has realised or almost realised target; or target is not relevant for the Netherlands; [2] To be developed; maybe difficult to quantify.

For metadata on the indicators, see: https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/publicatie/2016/44/meten-van-sdgs-een-eerste-beeld-voor-nederland (English translation forthcoming).

Indicators updated on 1 February 2018.

# 6 Clean water and sanitation

| | | Unit | Netherlands year | Netherlands value | EU ranking year | EU ranking value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SDG targets, indicators and alternative indicators** | | | | | | | |
| **6.1 Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all** | | | | | | | |
| 6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services | [1] | | | | | | |
| **6.2 Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations** | | | | | | | |
| 6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water | [1] | | | | | | |
| **6.3 Improve water quality by reducing pollution, increasing recycling and safe reuse globally** | | | | | | | |
| 6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated | [2] | | | | | | |
| 6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality | | | | | | | |
| Total all of all water assessed water bodies | [a] | % with good quality | 2014 | 52.2 | | | Rijkswaterstaat |
| of which: lakes, canals, pools | [a] | % with good quality | 2014 | 53.2 | | | Rijkswaterstaat |
| Rivers | [a] | % with good quality | 2014 | 47.2 | | | Rijkswaterstaat |
| Groundwater bodies | [a] | % with good quality | 2014 | 87.0 | | | Rijkswaterstaat |
| **6.4 Substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater** | | | | | | | |
| 6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time | [a] | Euros/$m^3$ | 2014 | 61.9 | | | CBS |
| 6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources | [a] | % | 2014 | 14.4 | | | CBS |
| **6.5 Implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate** | | | | | | | |
| 6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100) | [a] | Scale 0–100 | 2017 | 90 | | | Rijkswaterstaat |
| 6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation | [1] | | | | | | |
| **6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes** | | | | | | | |
| 6.6.1 Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time | | | | | | | |
| Total area of water-related eco-systems (excl. rivers) | [a] | $Km^2$ | 2015 | 3,627.6 | | | Rijkswaterstaat |

[a] Official SDG indicator measured; [b] Alternative indicator.

[1] The Netherlands has realised or almost realised target; or target is not relevant for the Netherlands; [2] To be developed; maybe difficult to quantify.

For metadata on the indicators, see: https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/publicatie/2016/44/meten-van-sdgs-een-eerste-beeld-voor-nederland (English translation forthcoming).

Indicators updated on 1 February 2018.

## 7 Affordable and clean energy

| | | Unit | Netherlands | | EU ranking | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | year | value | year | value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
| **SDG targets, indicators and alternative indicators** | | | | | | | |
| **7.1 Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services** | | | | | | | |
| 7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity | [1] | | | | | | |
| Gross domestic energy consumption | [b] | Kg oil equivalents per capita | 2016 | 4,425.1 | 2016 | 23 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| 7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology | [1] | | | | | | |
| **7.2 Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix** | | | | | | | |
| 7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption | [a] | % of domestic energy consumption | 2016 | 6.0 | 2016 | 26 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| **7.3 Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency** | | | | | | | |
| 7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP | | | | | | | |
| Energy intensity of the economy | [a] | Kg oil equivalents per 1,000 euros of GDP (2005 prices) | 2016 | 116.8 | 2016 | 11 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |

[a] Official SDG indicator measured; [b] Alternative indicator.

[1] The Netherlands has realised or almost realised target; or target is not relevant for the Netherlands; [2] To be developed; maybe difficult to quantify.

For metadata on the indicators, see: https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/publicatie/2016/44/meten-van-sdgs-een-eerste-beeld-voor-nederland (English translation forthcoming).

Indicators updated on 1 February 2018.

# 8 Decent work and economic growth

| | | Unit | Netherlands year | Netherlands value | EU ranking year | EU ranking value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SDG targets, indicators and alternative indicators** | | | | | | | |
| **8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth** | | | | | | | |
| 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita | [a] | % | 2016 | 1.6 | 2016 | 19 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| Gross domestic product | [b] | Euros per capita (2010 prices) | 2016 | 39,465 | 2016 | 5 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| **8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity** | | | | | | | |
| 8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person | | | | | | | |
| Labour productivity | [a] | GDP (euros, adjusted for PPP) per hour worked | 2016 | 49.3 | 2016 | 6 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| **8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises** | | | | | | | |
| 8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment | [2] | | | | | | |
| **8.4 Improve progressively global resource efficiency in consumption and production** | | | | | | | |
| 8.4.1 Material footprint | [a] | Kg per 1,000 euros of GDP | 2016 | 197 | | | CBS |
| 8.4.2 Domestic material consumption | [a] | Kg per 1,000 euros of GDP | 2016 | 239 | 2016 | 1 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| **8.5 Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all** | | | | | | | |
| 8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities | | | | | | | |
| Median gross earnings | [a] | Euros per hour [*] | 2016 | 26.5 | 2014 | 8 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| 8.5.2 Unemployment rate | [a] | % of labour force | 2017 | 4.9 | 2016 | 7 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| Long-term unemployment | [b] | % of labour force | 2016 | 2.4 | 2016 | 13 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| **8.6 Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training** | | | | | | | |
| 8.6.1 Proportion of youth not in education, employment or training | [a] | % of population aged 15–24 years | 2016 | 4.6 | 2016 | 1 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| **8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms** | | | | | | | |
| 8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age | [1] | | | | | | |
| **8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers** | | | | | | | |
| 8.8.1 Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries | | | | | | | |
| Fatal injuries as a result of work-related accidents | [a] | Standardised incidence | 2014 | 1.0 | 2014 | 1 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| Non-fatal injuries as a result of work-related accidents | [a] | Standardised incidence | 2014 | 1,394 | 2014 | 16 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| 8.8.2 Level of national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation | [1] | | | | | | |

## 8 Decent work and economic growth

| | | Unit | Netherlands year | Netherlands value | EU ranking year | EU ranking value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **8.9 Devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism** | | | | | | | |
| 8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP | [a] | % of GDP | 2016 | 3.9 | | | CBS |
| 8.9.2 Proportion of jobs in sustainable tourism industries out of total tourism jobs | | | | | | | |
| Employment in tourism industries | [b] | % of total employment | 2016 | 6.1 | | | CBS |
| **8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access o banking, insurance and financial services for all** | | | | | | | |
| 8.10.1 Automated teller machines (ATMs) | [a] | Number per 100,000 population (18 years and older) | 2015 | 49.5 | 2015 | 25 (28) | World Bank; World Bank |
| 8.10.1 Commercial bank branches | [a] | Number per 100,000 population (18 years and older) | 2015 | 13.9 | 2015 | 23 (26) | World Bank; World Bank |
| 8.10.2 Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider | [a] | % of population (15 years and older) | 2014 | 99.3 | 2014 | 4 (28) | World Bank; World Bank |

[a] Official SDG indicator measured; [b] Alternative indicator.

[1] The Netherlands has realised or almost realised target; or target is not relevant for the Netherlands; [2] To be developed; maybe difficult to quantify.

[*] CBS figures include government sector. Figures for EU ranking exclude government sector.

For metadata on the indicators, see: https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/publicatie/2016/44/meten-van-sdgs-een-eerste-beeld-voor-nederland (English translation forthcoming).

Indicators updated on 1 February 2018.

# 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure

| | | | Netherlands | | EU ranking | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Unit | year | value | year | value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
| **SDG targets, indicators and alternative indicators** | | | | | | | |
| **9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure** | | | | | | | |
| 9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road | [1] | | | | | | |
| 9.1.2 Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport | | | | | | | |
| Passenger transport | [a] | Volume in relation to GDP, 2005 = 100 | 2015 | 86.7 | 2015 | 23 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| Freight transport | [a] | Volume in relation to GDP, 2005 = 100 | 2015 | 84.8 | 2015 | 15 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| **9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization** | | | | | | | |
| 9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita | | | | | | | |
| Value added attributable to manufacturing industry | [a] | % of GDP | 2016 | 10.9 | 2016 | 18 (24) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| Value added attributable to environment industries | [b] | % of GDP | 2015 | 2.5 | | | CBS |
| 9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment | | | | | | | |
| Employment in manufacturing | [a] | % of total employment | 2016 | 9.6 | 2016 | 24 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| Employment in environment industries | [b] | % of total employment | 2015 | 2.0 | | | CBS |
| **9.3 Increase access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises to financial services** | | | | | | | |
| 9.3.1 Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added | | | | | | | |
| Value added attributable to small and medium-sized enterprises | [b] | Value added of SMEs as a % of total value added of non-financial sector | 2015 | 62.3 | 2015 | 12 (23) | CBS; Eurostat |
| 9.3.2 Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit | | | | | | | |
| Demand for credit of small and medium sized enterprises | [b] | % of SMEs reporting that access to credit is biggest problem | 2017 | 8.1 | 2017 | 18 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| **9.4 Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable** | | | | | | | |
| 9.4.1 $CO_2$ emission per unit of value added | | | | | | | |
| Greenhouse gas intensity of the economy | [a] | Kg $CO_2$ equivalents per euro GDP (2010 prices) | 2016 | 0.35 | 2014 | 12 (28) | CBS; EEA |
| **9.5 Encourage innovation and substantially increase the number of research and development workers** | | | | | | | |
| 9.5.1 Research and development expenditure | [a] | % of GDP | 2016 | 1.8 | 2015 | 9 (27) | CBS; Eurostat |
| 9.5.2 Hours worked in research and development | [a] | Hours worked per capita | 2016 | 3.6 | 2016 | 6 (17) | CBS; Eurostat |
| Patents | [b] | Number per million population | 2016 | 275 | 2016 | 4 (28) | WIPO; WIPO |

[a] Official SDG indicator measured; [b] Alternative indicator.

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Indicators updated on 1 February 2018.

## 10 Reduced inequalities

| | | Unit | Netherlands year | Netherlands value | EU ranking year | EU ranking value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SDG targets, indicators and alternative indicators** | | | | | | | |
| **10.1 Progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population** | | | | | | | |
| 10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population | | | | | | | |
| Highest income quintile versus lowest income quintile of standardised disposable income of private households | [a] | 80/20 ratio | 2016 | 3.9 | 2016 | 6 (27) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| Gini coefficient of standardised disposable income of private households | [a] | Scale 0–1: 0=total equality; 1=total inequality | 2016 | 0.27 | 2016 | 6 (27) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| **10.2 Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all** | | | | | | | |
| 10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income | | | | | | | |
| At-risk-of-poverty rate | [a] | % of population with an income below 50% of the median income of the population | 2016 | 6.6 | 2016 | 3 (27) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| **10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities** | | | | | | | |
| 10.3.1 Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed | | | | | | | |
| Perceived discrimination | [a] | % of population who describe themselves as part of a group that is discriminated against | 2016 | 7.6 | 2016 | 7 (13) | ESS; ESS |
| **10.4 Adopt fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality** | | | | | | | |
| 10.4.1 Labour share of GDP | [a] | % of GDP (incl. wages and social protection transfers) | 2016 | 48.4 | 2016 | 9 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| **10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations** | | | | | | | |
| 10.5.1 Financial Soundness Indicators | [2] | | | | | | |
| **10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions** | | | | | | | |
| 10.6.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations | [1] | | | | | | |
| **10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people** | | | | | | | |
| 10.7.1 Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination | [2] | | | | | | |
| 10.7.2 Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies | | | | | | | |
| Migrant integration | [a] | MIPEX scale 0–100 | 2014 | 61 | 2014 | 6 (28) | MIPEX; MIPEX |

[a] Official SDG indicator measured; [b] Alternative indicator.

[1] The Netherlands has realised or almost realised target; or target is not relevant for the Netherlands; [2] To be developed; maybe difficult to quantify.

For metadata on the indicators, see: https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/publicatie/2016/44/meten-van-sdgs-een-eerste-beeld-voor-nederland (English translation forthcoming).

Indicators updated on 1 February 2018.

# 11 Sustainable cities and communities

| | | Unit | Netherlands year | Netherlands value | EU ranking year | EU ranking value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SDG targets, indicators and alternative indicators** | | | | | | | |
| **11.1 Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing** | | | | | | | |
| 11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing | | | | | | | |
| Proportion of the population living in housing with a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundation, or rot in window frames or floor | [a] | % of population in housing that is too small | 2016 | 16.3 | 2016 | 17 (27) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| Cramped housing | [b] | % of population | 2016 | 4.0 | 2016 | 5 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| **11.2 Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, notably by expanding public transport** | | | | | | | |
| 11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport | [1] | | | | | | |
| **11.3 Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization** | | | | | | | |
| 11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate | | | | | | | |
| Area per inhabitant | [b] | $M^2$ per capita | 2017 | 2,425 | 2016 | 27 (28) | CBS; World Bank/FAO |
| 11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operates regularly and democratically | [1] | | | | | | |
| **11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage** | | | | | | | |
| 11.4.1 Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage | | | | | | | |
| Government expenditure on environmental protection and cultural services (COFOG) | [b] | % of GDP | 2016 | 1.8 | 2015 | 5 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| **11.5 Significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses caused by disasters, including water-related disasters** | | | | | | | |
| 11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people | | | | | | | |
| Number of deaths | [a] | Per 100,000 population | 2016 | 0 | | | CRED |
| Number or persons affected | [a] | Per 100,000 population | 2016 | 0 | | | CRED |
| 11.5.2 Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP, including disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services | | | | | | | |
| Economic loss | [a] | Mln euros | 2016 | 762 | | | CRED |
| **11.6 Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities** | | | | | | | |
| 11.6.1 Urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge | [a] | Kg per capita | 2016 | 560 | 2016 | 20 (26) | CBS; Eurostat |
| 11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) in cities | [a] | Microgram $PM_{2.5}$ per $m^3$ | 2015 | 11.8 | 2014 | 11 (24) | National Air Quality Monitoring Network; EEA |

## 11 Sustainable cities and communities

| | | Unit | Netherlands year | Netherlands value | EU ranking year | EU ranking value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **11.7 Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces** | | | | | | | |
| 11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all | | | | | | | |
| Publicly accessible open space within built-up area | [a] | % of total built-up area | 2017 | 35 | | | Kadaster (Land Registry) |
| 11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment | | | | | | | |
| Crime victim rate | [a] | % of population aged 15 years and older | 2016 | 17.3 | 2016 | 7 (13) | CBS; ESS |

[a] Official SDG indicator measured; [b] Alternative indicator.

[1] The Netherlands has realised or almost realised target; or target is not relevant for the Netherlands; [2] To be developed; maybe difficult to quantify.

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Indicators updated on 1 February 2018.

# 12 Responsible consumption and production

| | | Unit | Netherlands year | Netherlands value | EU ranking year | EU ranking value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SDG targets, indicators and alternative indicators** | | | | | | | |
| **12.1 Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns** | | | | | | | |
| 12.1.1 Number of countries with sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans or SCP mainstreamed as a priority or a target into national policies | | | | | | | |
| Organic agriculture | [b] | % of agricultural land | 2016 | 2.9 | 2016 | 23 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| **12.2 Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources** | | | | | | | |
| 12.2.1 Material footprint | [a] | Tonnes per capita | 2016 | 8.1 | | | CBS |
| 12.2.2 Domestic material consumption | [a] | Tonnes per capita | 2016 | 9.7 | 2016 | 4 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| **12.3 Reduce global food waste along production and supply chains** | | | | | | | |
| 12.3.1 Global food loss index | | | | | | | |
| Food waste | [a] | Kg per capita (average) | 2015 | 128.5 | | | WUR |
| **12.4 Achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle,** | | | | | | | |
| 12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement | [1] | | | | | | |
| 12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment | | | | | | | |
| Hazardous waste | [a] | Kg per capita | 2014 | 286 | 2014 | 23 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| Recycling and reuse of hazardous waste | [a] | % of total hazardous waste | 2014 | 56.5 | 2014 | 11 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| **12.5 Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse** | | | | | | | |
| 12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled | | | | | | | |
| Recycled waste | [a] | % of total waste | 2014 | 81.9 | 2014 | 3 (27) | CBS; Eurostat |
| Recycled municipal waste | [b] | % of total municipal waste | 2016 | 25.3 | 2016 | 14 (25) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| **12.6 Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle** | | | | | | | |
| 12.6.1 Number of companies publishing sustainability reports | | | | | | | |
| Number of companies that include social corporate responsibility in annual report | [a] | Out of the 100 largest companies in the Netherlands | 2017 | 82 | 2017 | 6 (21) | KPMG; KPMG |
| **12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities** | | | | | | | |
| 12.7.1 Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans | [2] | | | | | | |

## 12 Responsible consumption and production

| | Unit | Netherlands | | EU ranking | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | year | value | year | value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
| **12.8 Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles** | | | | | | |
| 12.8.1 Extent to which global citizenship education and education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are mainstreamed in national education | [2] | | | | | |

[a] Official SDG indicator measured; [b] Alternative indicator.

[1] The Netherlands has realised or almost realised target; or target is not relevant for the Netherlands; [2] To be developed; maybe difficult to quantify.

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Indicators updated on 1 February 2018.

# 13 Climate action

| SDG targets, indicators and alternative indicators | | Unit | Netherlands year | Netherlands value | EU ranking year | EU ranking value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries** | | | | | | | |
| 13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster | | | | | | | |
| Number of deaths | [a] | Per 100,000 population | 2016 | 0 | | | CRED |
| Number of persons affected | [a] | Per 100,000 population | 2016 | 0 | | | CRED |
| 13.1.2 Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework | [1] | | | | | | |
| 13.1.3 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies | [1] | | | | | | |
| **13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning** | | | | | | | |
| 13.2.1 Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other) | | | | | | | |
| Total greenhouse gas emissions | [b] | Tonnes $CO_2$ equivalents per capita | 2016 | 11.5 | 2015 | 24 (28) | CBS; EEA |
| Greenhouse gas intensity of the economy | [b] | Kg $CO_2$ equivalents per euro GDP (2010 prices) | 2016 | 0.35 | 2015 | 13 (28) | CBS; EEA |
| **13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning** | | | | | | | |
| 13.3.1 Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula | [2] | | | | | | |
| 13.3.2 Number of countries that have communicated the strengthening of institutional, systemic and individual capacity-building to implement adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and development actions | [2] | | | | | | |

[a] Official SDG indicator measured; [b] Alternative indicator.

[1] The Netherlands has realised or almost realised target; or target is not relevant for the Netherlands; [2] To be developed; maybe difficult to quantify.

For metadata on the indicators, see: https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/publicatie/2016/44/meten-van-sdgs-een-eerste-beeld-voor-nederland (English translation forthcoming).

Indicators updated on 1 February 2018.

## 14 Life below water

| | | Unit | Netherlands year | Netherlands value | EU ranking year | EU ranking value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SDG targets, indicators and alternative indicators** | | | | | | | |
| **14.1 Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds** | | | | | | | |
| 14.1.1 Index of coastal eutrophication (ICEP) and floating plastic debris density | | | | | | | |
| Eutrophication in coastal waters (North Sea) | [a] | % not eutrophic | 2011–2013 | 6 | | | WUR |
| | | % potentially eutrophic | 2011–2013 | 81 | | | WUR |
| | | % eutrophic | 2011–2013 | 13 | | | WUR |
| Plastic waste on beaches | [a] | Pieces of plastic litter per 100m | 2004/2015 | 342 | | | North Sea Foundation (Stichting de Noordzee) |
| Clean water index (component of ocean health index) | [b] | Score on standardized index | 2017 | 45 | 2017 | 18 (23) | Ocean Health Index |
| **14.2 Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems** | | | | | | | |
| 14.2.1 Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches" | [1] | | | | | | |
| **14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification** | | | | | | | |
| 14.3.1 Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations | [a] | Average pH value of North Sea | 2011 | 8.06 | | | Marine Chemistry |
| **14.4 Effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing** | | | | | | | |
| 14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels | [a] | Number out of 5 fish species caught for consumption purposes within sustainable level | 2017 | 5 | | | ICES |
| **14.5 Conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas** | | | | | | | |
| 14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas | [a] | % | 2016 | 21.5 | 2016 | 6 (22) | UNSD; UNSD |
| **14.6 Prohibit and eliminate subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing** | | | | | | | |
| 14.6.1 Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing | [2] | | | | | | |
| **14.7 Increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources** | | | | | | | |
| 14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries | [2] | | | | | | |

[a] Official SDG indicator measured; [b] Alternative indicator.

[1] The Netherlands has realised or almost realised target; or target is not relevant for the Netherlands; [2] To be developed; maybe difficult to quantify.

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Indicators updated on 1 February 2018.

# 15 Life on land

| | | Unit | Netherlands year | Netherlands value | EU ranking year | EU ranking value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SDG targets, indicators and alternative indicators** | | | | | | | |
| **15.1 Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services** | | | | | | | |
| 15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area | | | | | | | |
| Natural and forest areas | [a] | forest and natural land as a % of total area [*] | 2015 | 16.0 | 2015 | 26 (26) | CBS/Eurostat; Eurostat |
| 15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas | | | | | | | |
| Proportion of terrestrial biodiversity hotspots located in protected areas | [a] | % | 2017 | 90.8 | 2017 | 6 (28) | UNSD; UNSD |
| Proportion of freshwater biodiversity hotspots located in protected areas | [a] | % | 2017 | 90.4 | 2017 | 11 (26) | UNSD; UNSD |
| **15.2 Promote implementation of sustainable management of forests** | | | | | | | |
| 15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management | | | | | | | |
| Proportion of forest area coverd by an independently approved forest certification scheme | [a] | % | 2017 | 46.7 | 2016 | 15 (26) | FSC/PEFC/Probos/ WUR; FSC/PEFC/ Eurostat |
| **15.3 Combat desertification and restore degraded land and soil** | | | | | | | |
| 15.3.1 Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area | | | | | | | |
| Phosphorus surplus in soil | [b] | Kg phosphorus per hectare | 2015 | 3.0 | 2014 | 9 (25) | CBS; Eurostat |
| Nitrogen surplus in soil | [b] | Kg nitrogen per hectare | 2015 | 131 | 2014 | 23 (25) | CBS; Eurostat |
| **15.4 Ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems** | | | | | | | |
| 15.4.1 Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity | [nvt] | | | | | | |
| 15.4.2 Mountain Green Cover Index | [nvt] | | | | | | |
| **15.5 Reduce the degradation of natural habitats and halt the loss of biodiversity** | | | | | | | |
| 15.5.1 Red List Index | [a] | 1950 = 100 | 2016 | 61.8 | | | NEM/CBS |
| Living Planet Index (terrestrial and freshwater fauna) | [b] | 1990 = 100 | 2016 | 107 | | | NEM |
| **15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources** | | | | | | | |
| 15.6.1 Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits | [1] | | | | | | |
| **15.7 End poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna** | | | | | | | |
| 15.7.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked | [2] | | | | | | |

## 15 Life on land

| | Unit | Netherlands | | EU ranking | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | year | value | year | value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
| **15.8 Prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species** | | | | | | |
| 15.8.1 Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species | [1] | | | | | |
| **15.9 Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts** | | | | | | |
| 15.9.1 Progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 | [2] | | | | | |

[a] Official SDG indicator measured; [b] Alternative indicator.

[1] The Netherlands has realised or almost realised target; or target is not relevant for the Netherlands; [2] To be developed; maybe difficult to quantify.

[*] For EU ranking: forest as a % of total area.

For metadata on the indicators, see: https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/publicatie/2016/44/meten-van-sdgs-een-eerste-beeld-voor-nederland (English translation forthcoming).

Indicators updated on 1 February 2018.

# 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions

| | | Unit | Netherlands | | EU ranking | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | year | value | year | value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
| **SDG targets, indicators and alternative indicators** | | | | | | | |
| **16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere** | | | | | | | |
| 16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide | [a] | Per 100,000 population | 2016 | 0.56 | 2015 | 2 (27) | CBS; Eurostat |
| 16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population | [2] | | | | | | |
| 16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence | | | | | | | |
| Victim rates (violent crime) | [a] | % of population aged 15 years and older | 2016 | 2.3 | | | CBS |
| Crime victim rates | [b] | % of population aged 15 years and older | 2016 | 17.3 | 2016 | 7 (13) | CBS; ESS |
| 16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live | | | | | | | |
| Proportion of population that do not feel safe sometimes | [a] | % of population | 2016 | 16.4 | 2016 | 4 (13) | CBS; ESS |
| **16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children** | | | | | | | |
| 16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month | | | | | | | |
| Risk of abuse | [b] | % 15–17 year-olds who perceive risk of abuse to be high | 2016 | 2.2 | | | CBS |
| 16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking | [a] | Per 100,000 population | 2016 | 27 | 2014 | 27 (28) | National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children; Eurostat |
| 16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18 | | | | | | | |
| Girls/women who have experienced sexually transgressive behaviour | [a] | % of population aged 12–24 years | 2017 | 11 | | | Rutgers |
| Boys/men who have experienced sexually transgressive behaviour | [a] | % of population aged 12–24 years | 2017 | 2 | | | Rutgers |
| **16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all** | | | | | | | |
| 16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization | | | | | | | |
| Registered crime | [a] | Per 1,000 population | 2016 | 54.7 | 2013 | 19 (19) | WODC/CBS; Eurostat |
| Experienced crime | [b] | Per 1,000 population | 2016 | 310 | | | CBS |
| 16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population | [a] | Average 2013–2015 | 2015 | 16.2 | 2015 | 21 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| Number of detainees | [b] | Per 100,000 population | 2015 | 64.0 | 2015 | 4 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |

## 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions

| | | | Netherlands | | EU ranking | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Unit | year | value | year | value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
| **16.4 Significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime** | | | | | | | |
| 16.4.1 Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows | [2] | | | | | | |
| 16.4.2 Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments | [2] | | | | | | |
| Firearms seized | [b] | Number | 2016 | 7,323 | | | Ministry of Justice and Security |
| **16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms** | | | | | | | |
| 16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to, or were asked for a bribe by public officials | | | | | | | |
| Civilians experiencing corruption | [a] | Score on Corruption Perceptions Index | 2016 | 83 | 2016 | 4 (28) | Transparency International; Transparency International |
| 16.5.2 Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to, or were asked for a bribe by public officials | [2] | | | | | | |
| **16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels** | | | | | | | |
| 16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget | | | | | | | |
| Government expenditure on safety and security | [b] | % of GDP | 2016 | 1,9 | 2015 | 15 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| 16.6.2 Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services | | | | | | | |
| Trust in institutions | [a] | % of population who trust institutions | 2016 | 58.2 | 2016 | 1 (13) | ESS; ESS |
| **16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels** | | | | | | | |
| 16.7.1 Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions compared to national distributions | [2] | | | | | | |
| 16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive | | | | | | | |
| Voter turnout rate | [b] | % of electorate [*] | 2017 | 81.9 | 2017 | 6 (28) | IDEA; IDEA |
| **16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance** | | | | | | | |
| 16.8.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations | [1] | | | | | | |
| **16.9 Provide legal identity for all, including birth registration** | | | | | | | |
| 16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority | [1] | | | | | | |

## 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions

| | Unit | Netherlands | | EU ranking | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | year | value | year | value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
| **16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements** | | | | | | |
| 16.10.1 Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates | [1] | | | | | |
| 16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information | [1] | | | | | |

[a] Official SDG indicator measured; [b] Alternative indicator.

[1] The Netherlands has realised or almost realised target; or target is not relevant for the Netherlands; [2] To be developed; maybe difficult to quantify.

[*] for EU comparison, the result of the most recent parliamentary election was used.

For metadata on the indicators, see: https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/publicatie/2016/44/meten-van-sdgs-een-eerste-beeld-voor-nederland (English translation forthcoming).

Indicators updated on 1 February 2018.

## 17 Partnerships for the goals

| | | Unit | Netherlands year | Netherlands value | EU ranking year | EU ranking value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SDG targets, indicators and alternative indicators** | | | | | | | |
| **17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization** | | | | | | | |
| 17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source | | | | | | | |
| Revenues of Dutch government as source for development assistance | [b] | % of GDP | 2016 | 43.8 | 2016 | 12 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| 17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes | [1] | | | | | | |
| **17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments** | | | | | | | |
| 17.2.1 Net official development assistance | [a] | % of GNI | 2016 | 0.65 | 2016 | 6 (26) | OESO; OESO |
| **17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources** | | | | | | | |
| 17.3.1 Foreign direct investments (FDI), official development assistance and South-South Cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget | | | | | | | |
| Other public financing in developing countries and financial flows from NGOs | [a] | % of GNI | 2015 | 0.01 | 2015 | 10 (15) | OESO; OESO |
| 17.3.2 Volume of remittances | [a] | % of GDP | 2016 | 0.98 | 2016 | 7 (28) | World Bank; World Bank |
| **17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability** | | | | | | | |
| 17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services | [2] | | | | | | |
| **17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries** | | | | | | | |
| 17.5.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries | [1] | | | | | | |
| **17.6 Enhance regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology, innovation and knowledge-sharing** | | | | | | | |
| 17.6.1 Number of science and/or technology cooperation agreements and programmes between countries | | | | | | | |
| Scientific publications co-written by at least one Dutch author and at least one author from one of the 48 LDCs | [b] | Number | 2012–2016 | 2,994 | | | Elsevier |
| 17.6.2 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, | [a] | % of households | 2017 | 96.1 | 2016 | 1 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |
| **17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries** | | | | | | | |
| 17.7.1 Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies | [2] | | | | | | |
| **17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017** | | | | | | | |
| 17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet | [a] | % of population aged 16–74 years [*] | 2017 | 93.4 | 2016 | 5 (28) | CBS; Eurostat |

# 17 Partnerships for the goals

| | | Unit | Netherlands | | EU ranking | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | year | value | year | value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
| **17.9 Support national plans in developing countries to implement all the SDGs** | | | | | | | |
| 17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance committed to developing countries | [2] | | | | | | |
| **17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system** | | | | | | | |
| 17.10.1 Worldwide weighted tariff-average | [1] | | | | | | |
| **17.11 Increase the exports of developing countries** | | | | | | | |
| 17.11.1 Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global exports | | | | | | | |
| Total Dutch imports from least developed countries | [b] | Euros per capita | 2016 | 277.2 | 2016 | 2 (28) | Eurostat; Eurostat |
| Carbon footprint of Dutch consumption resulting from imports | [b] | Tonnes $CO_2$ equivalents per capita | 2016 | 14.1 | | | CBS |
| **17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries** | | | | | | | |
| 17.12.1 Average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States | [1] | | | | | | |
| **17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability** | | | | | | | |
| 17.13.1 Macroeconomic Dashboard | [1] | | | | | | |
| **17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development** | | | | | | | |
| 17.14.1 Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development | [2] | | | | | | |
| **17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development** | | | | | | | |
| 17.15.1 Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation | [2] | | | | | | |
| **17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development** | | | | | | | |
| 17.16.1 Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals | [2] | | | | | | |
| **17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships** | | | | | | | |
| 17.17.1 Amount committed to public-private and civil society partnerships | [2] | | | | | | |

## 17 Partnerships for the goals

| | Unit | Netherlands | | EU ranking | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | year | value | year | value | source (NL value; EU ranking) |
| **17.18 Enhance capacity-building support to developing countries to increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data** | | | | | | |
| 17.18.1 Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics | [2] | | | | | |
| 17.18.2 Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics | [1] | | | | | |
| 17.18.3 Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation | [1] | | | | | |
| **17.19 Build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement GDP, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries** | | | | | | |
| 17.19.1 Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries | [2] | | | | | |
| 17.19.2 Proportion of countries that have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; have achieved 100 per cent birth and 80 per cent death registration | [1] | | | | | |

[a] Official SDG indicator measured; [b] Alternative indicator.

[1] The Netherlands has realised or almost realised target; or target is not relevant for the Netherlands; [2] To be developed; maybe difficult to quantify.

[*] For the Netherlands: % of population aged 12 years and older.

For metadata on the indicators, see: https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/publicatie/2016/44/meten-van-sdgs-een-eerste-beeld-voor-nederland (English translation forthcoming).

# Annexes

# I Sustainable development

**The UN's SDG indicators are an important milestone in a worldwide and long-running debate about measuring sustainable development and prosperity. The gross domestic product (GDP) is too limited an indicator to be able to measure whether a country is on a sustainable development path. Various national and international initiatives argue for multiple indicators, in addition to GDP, to gain a picture of developments and connections across the full extent of the economy, the environment and society.**

## Measuring sustainable development and broad-based prosperity

The UN's proposed SDG indicator set (UN, 2016a and 2017a) is in line with a much longer-running discussion about measuring prosperity and well-being, known as the 'Beyond GDP' discussion. Major milestones in this discussion are the report from the Brundtland Commission (WCED, 1987); the *Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Progress* (Stiglitz et al., 2009); and the recommendations of the Conference of European Statisticians (UNECE, 2014), referred to as the CES indicators. The recommendations of the Temporary Committee on a Broad Definition of Prosperity (*Tijdelijke Commissie Breed Welvaartsbegrip*) (House of Representatives, 2016b) also fit within this framework. Extensive descriptions of this development can be found in Smits and Hoekstra (2011) and House of Representatives (2016b).

Nationally and internationally, statisticians and others are involved in measuring sustainable development and prosperity. Recent publications by CBS that fit in this development are, for example, the *Sustainability Monitor of the Netherlands* (CBS/ CPB/ PBL, SCP, 2014); *Kwaliteit van Leven in Nederland* (Quality of Life in the Netherlands) (Van Gaalen and Kazemier, 2015; Van Gaalen and te Riele, 2017); *Welzijn in Nederland* (Well-being in the Netherlands) (Moonen and Stroucken, 2015); *Green Growth in the Netherlands* (CBS, 2015 including an update in 2017) (https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/corporate/2017/47/cbs-brengt-groene-groei-in-beeld); and *Circulaire economie: wat we* willen *weten en* kunnen *meten* (Circular economy: what we *want* to know and *can* measure) (Potting et al., 2018). In 2017, university knowledge centre for sustainable development Telos published the fourth edition of its *Nationale monitor duurzame gemeenten* (National Monitor of sustainable municipalities) (Telos, 2017), in which municipalities in the Netherlands are compared in the areas of economic, ecological and social capital.

International organisations have published various statistical reports, such as *How's Life?* (OECD, 2017); *Sustainable development in the European Union. Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context* (Eurostat, 2017); and *SDG index and Dashboards Report 2017* from the Bertelsmann Stiftung and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (Sachs et al., 2017). Moreover, a number of national statistical institutes have reported on the situation in their country: *Sustainable Development in Germany* (Destatis, 2017a); *ISTAT indicators for UN Sustainable Development Goals* (ISTAT, 2017); and *Statistical follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (Statistics Sweden, 2017).

## The Brundtland report

In the report *Our Common Future* (WCED, 1987), the Brundtland Commission explores social (and sustainable) development from the perspective of justice. This report examines the intra-generational distribution of wealth within the current generation (in particular wealth distribution between the rich and the developing countries) and the inter-generational perspective, where the focus is on whether the current generation is not exhausting too many of the resources, which could threaten future generations' pursuit of prosperity. According to the Brundtland Commission, a development is only sustainable if both the intra-generational and inter-generational justice requirements are met.

The concept of sustainability originates from ecology: the sustainable use of a fish stock or of a forest means that no more fish or wood is removed from the stock than is replaced through natural growth. This means that future generations will be able to continue to use natural resources and the environment. According to the commission, poverty forms a practical obstruction to the sustainable use of the physical environment, and nature conservation and economic development must be integrated to achieve sustainable development. The Brundtland Commission arrived at the following definition of sustainable development: *Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present (generation) without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*. CBS' *Sustainability Monitor of the Netherlands 2014* added to this definition: *both here and in other parts of the world*.

Sustainable development therefore mainly deals with the question of whether we are creating our quality of life here and now in such a way that it does not place too great a burden on the possibilities for people elsewhere and in the future to have a sufficient quality of life.

## The Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi report

In 2009, the *Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress* published a report under the guidance of Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi. This Commission found that financial economic policy and socio-economic policy is based on a set of data that is incorrect and too limited. The frequently used indicator of economic growth – GDP – is not the correct indicator for economic development and social progress. For this reason, the authors of the report advocate moving from a system that measures economic production – prosperity in the narrow sense – to a system that measures prosperity in a broad sense.

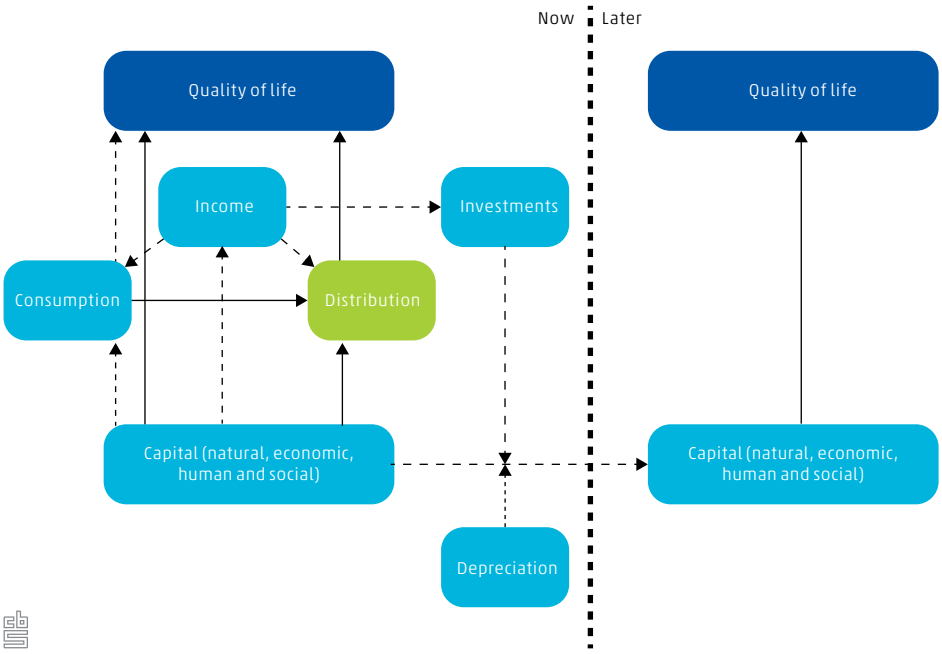
Prosperity in the broadest sense has many aspects. The Commission identified eight dimensions. Here, not only the current situation is important but also how it is experienced. Both objective and subjective indicators are important for these dimensions. Lastly, the Commission emphasises, in a way similar to the Brundtland Commission, the relationship between the present and the future. Developments now can detrimentally affect the well-being of future relationships. The measuring system must make this relationship visible.

## The framework of the UNECE Conference of European Statisticians (UNECE/CES)

Led by CBS, an international task force of statisticians has worked on a framework for measuring sustainable development using internationally accepted and harmonised data. This framework was finally accepted and endorsed by at least 60 countries during the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in 2014 (UNECE, 2014).

## The CES framework

**A society has various resources available that can be used to generate prosperity and well-being: economic capital (machinery and buildings), human capital (labour, education, health), natural capital (natural resources, biodiversity and climate) and social capital (social networks and trust). These resources are required to maintain prosperity and well-being and as such the quality of life of the population.**




**The use of capital by the present generation will affect the availability of capital later, and as such the quality of life of future generations. The figure above shows these important trade-off relationships. Sustainable development implies that the present generation, in its pursuit of prosperity, will also ensure that sufficient capital remains available for future generations. This applies in particular to natural capital, because this is a critical form of capital: without natural capital, people could not survive.**

The CES measuring system is among other things underpinned by a capital approach. This theoretical underpinning is based on the work of Smits and Hoekstra (2011). A systematic inventory is made of the status of the quality of life 'here and now' and how

this quality of life influences vital resources or capital. This concerns not only natural resources, but expressly also economic, human and social capital. Excessive depletion of these resources could, after all, impede the quality of life of future generations ('later'). In addition, the degree to which the choices made put pressure on other countries is measured ('elsewhere'). Within such a framework, it is clear that there can be a trade-off, for instance between economic growth and $CO_2$ emissions, the pressure a country puts on developing countries by importing their resources and energy, or the decision to invest in education for future generations.
The three pillars of the CES framework (quality of life, resources and pressure on other countries) are in line with the Brundtland definition for sustainable development, the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi report and the SER recommendations on sustainable development (SER, 2010).

## Parliamentary Committee on a Broad Definition of Prosperity

The fact that gross domestic product (GDP) is consistently (and mistakenly) equated to welfare and progress (WRR, 2013) was the reason for the Dutch Parliament to investigate what GDP actually does and does not measure, and the role GDP plays in policy-making and political decision-making. In addition, the temporary committee that was tasked with this investigation was asked to examine whether it would be useful to develop other indicators in addition to GDP to clarify prosperity and well-being in a broad sense and, if the answer to this question was yes, to identify which indicators should be developed and how they could be used. In a memorandum to this committee, CBS mapped out the strengths and weaknesses of GDP and what CBS is already doing to develop criteria to measure prosperity and well-being in the broad sense (Smits, 2015). After thorough research and after having heard a large number of experts, the committee found that GDP is a solid and usable indicator, but is indeed too limited to measure prosperity or well-being in its broad sense (House of Representatives, 2016b; see also the thematic edition of the *Tijdschrift Milieu* (2016) on the theme Green Well-being). The committee recommended implementing the CES indicators for a statistical description of prosperity and well-being. The committee considered the *Sustainability Monitor of the Netherlands* in its current form to be of insufficient use for the political debate. Among other things, the committee wants to see an attractive and accessible presentation, more recent data and publication at fixed times in the parliamentary process. Therefore, it recommended developing this monitor into a Monitor of Well-being. For the visual presentation, it recommended using the OECD's Better Life Index as a source of inspiration.
In June 2016, a Parliamentary debate was held on the committee report that contained the recommendation to produce an annual Monitor of Well-being to be developed by CBS for the annual Accountability Debate in May. A clear parliamentary majority accepted the report. This report was then sent to the cabinet with the request to respond to it and the recommendations it included. In January 2017, the cabinet adopted all the advisory reports of the Committee on a Broad Definition of Prosperity. From 2018, an annual Monitor of Well-being will be drawn up by CBS, which will apply the CES measuring system for policy themes. This will cover not only economic topics, but also those relating to society and the environment. CBS will seek to align these CES themes with the SDGs, among other things.

# II Selection of indicators

The criteria to be used to select and measure the SDG indicators are a subject of discussion in their own right. For this publication, the following is taken into consideration:

- In principle, the SDG indicators are measured as they stand in the IAEG list, irrespective of whether the SDG indicator concerned is substantively or politically relevant for the Netherlands.
- If it is very plausible (based on various quantitative and qualitative sources) that the Netherlands has already achieved the goal or that the indicator is irrelevant for the Netherlands, the indicator is not measured, even if data are sometimes available. For a limited number of indicators, an alternative indicator is presented that shines another light on the goal.
- If an indicator from the list is not available, an alternative indicator is sought that gives a picture of the position of the Netherlands with respect to the goal concerned, whether or not approximately. Sometimes, additional indicators have been added to give a more complete picture, or to supplement missing themes.
- All the indicators measured preferably meet each of the following criteria:
  - They have a relationship with the SDG (relevant)
  - They can show clear differences between countries (distinguishing)
  - They can be measured directly (availability of data is a characteristic)
  - They meet the requirements for statistics (quality). By far the majority of the indicators measured for this report come from official statistical sources (usually CBS, Eurostat, OECD, the UN and the World Bank). Indicators that resulted from the public consultation also meet statistical requirements.
  - Preferably indicators are used for which there are international agreements regarding harmonisation.

The Netherlands has achieved some goals, while others are not relevant for the Netherlands; these have therefore not been measured (column b in Table 3.1 above). Nevertheless, the Netherlands is required to report on these goals internationally. Indicators for which it is very likely that the targets have already been reached are, for example, the proportion of the population living below the international poverty threshold of 1.90 dollars per day, which is 0 percent (target 1.1), or the proportion of the population with access to safe drinking water, which is 100 percent (target 6.1). Indicators that are not relevant for the Netherlands are, for example, 15.4.1 and 15.4.2 – protection of biodiversity in mountain areas – but 2.3.2, which refers to incomes of small food producers, is not relevant either, because it relates to small farmers in developing countries.

## Overview of indicators by SDG

| | Number of indicators in official list | Netherlands meets or virtually meets the goal | Goal is not relevant for Netherlands | Measured as official indicator | Measured as alternative indicator | Indicator still to be developed; sometimes difficult to quantify |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | a=b+c+d+e+f | b | c | d | e | f |
| SDG | | | | | | |
| 1 End poverty | 10 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 Zero hunger | 9 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| 3 Health and welfare | 21 | 2 | 0 | 15 | 2 | 2 |
| 4 Quality education | 8 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| 5 Gender equality | 10 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| 6 Clean water and sanitation | 9 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| 7 Affordable and clean energy | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 Decent work and economic growth | 15 | 2 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 1 |
| 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure | 9 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| 10 Reduced inequalities | 8 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 2 |
| 11 Sustainable cities and communities | 11 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 0 |
| 12 Responsible consumption and production | 10 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| 13 Climate action | 6 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 14 Life below water | 7 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 |
| 15 Life on land | 11 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions | 21 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 5 |
| 17 International cooperation | 25 | 8 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 9 |
| Total | 194 | 41 | 3 | 98 | 21 | 31 |

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# Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| BMI | body mass index |
| CBS | Statistics Netherlands |
| CES | Conference of European Statisticians |
| CGN | Netherlands Centre for Genetic Resources |
| $CO_2$ | carbon dioxide |
| COFOG | Classification of the Functions of Government |
| CPB | Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis |
| CRED | Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters |
| ECDC | European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control |
| ECN | Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands |
| EEA | European Environmental Agency |
| EHLEIS | European Health and Life expectancy Information System |
| ESS | European Social Survey |
| EU | European Union |
| FAO | Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations |
| FRA | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights |
| FSC | Forest Stewardship Council |
| FTE | full-time equivalent |
| GDP | gross domestic product |
| GNI | gross national income |
| ha | hectare |
| HIV | human immunodeficiency virus |
| IAEG-SDGs | Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators |
| ICES | International Council for the Exploration of the Sea |
| ICSU/ISSC | International Council for Science/International Social Science Council |
| IDEA | International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance |
| IVZ | Netherlands Foundation for Information Provision on Healthcare |
| kg | kilogram |
| KRW | Framework guideline for water |
| LADIS | Dutch Alcohol and Drug Information System |
| LDCs | least developed countries |
| $m^2$ | square metre |
| $m^3$ | cubic metre |
| MDGs | Millennium Development Goals |
| MIPEX | Migrant Integration Policy Index |
| MSFD | Marine Strategy Framework Directive |
| mln | million |
| NEET | not in employment, education or training |
| NEM | Ecological Monitoring Network |
| NGO | Non-governmental organisation |
| ODA | Official Development Assistance |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development |
| PBL | Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency |
| PEFC | Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification |
| pH | acidity |
| PIAAC | Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies |
| PISA | Programme for International Student assessment |

| | |
|---|---|
| $PM_{2.5}$ | fine particles with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less |
| PPP | purchasing power parity |
| R&D | research and development |
| RIVM | National Institute of Public Health and the Environment |
| RMC | raw material consumption |
| SCP | Netherlands Institute for Social Research |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| SDSN | Sustainable Development Solutions Network |
| SER | Social and Economic Council of the Netherlands |
| SME | small and medium-sized enterprise |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNECE | European Economic Commission of the United Nations |
| UNSD | United Nations Statistics Department |
| WASH | water, sanitation and hygiene |
| WIPO | World Intellectual Property Organization |
| WODC | Research and Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Security and Justice |
| WRR | Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy |
| WUR | Wageningen University and Research |

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