

**The Sustainable
Development Goals
in the Dutch context**

2019

Explanation of symbols

.	Data not available
*	Provisional figure
**	Revised provisional figure
X	Publication prohibited (confidential figure)
–	Nil
–	(Between two figures) inclusive
0 (0.0)	Less than half of unit concerned
empty cell	Not applicable
2018–2019	2018 to 2019 inclusive
2018/2019	Average for 2018 to 2019 inclusive
2018/'19	Crop year, financial year, school year, etc., beginning in 2018 and ending in 2019
2017/'18– 2018/'19	Crop year, financial year, etc., 2017/'18 to 2018/'19 inclusive

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

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This report comprises Part 2 of the Monitor of Well-being & Sustainable Development Goals 2019, which provides a thematic perspective on well-being based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It differs substantially from the previous two SDG reports of Statistics Netherlands, which were based primarily on the indicators as defined by the United Nations Inter-Agency and Experts Group (IAEG) on SDG indicators.

1. Introduction

In 2015, the Netherlands was one of the 193 members of the UN to adopt the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, operationalised in terms of the 17 SDGs. Statistics Netherlands (CBS) published a baseline measurement of the SDG indicators for the Netherlands in 2016, the first country to do so (CBS, 2016). The report was based on statistics already available within CBS, and covered over a third of the IAEG indicators. An update of this report was published in 2018 (CBS, 2018a). It also included data sourced from a range of external organisations and covered over half of the official IAEG indicators.

The present report – part 2 of the Monitor of Well-being & Sustainable Development Goals 2019 – constitutes the third report of where the Netherlands stands in terms of the SDGs.

While the United Nations was developing its 2030 agenda, within the Netherlands there had been a growing demand to find better ways to measure well-being, using a wider range of indicators than GDP alone. In 2015 the Dutch House of Representatives officially requested CBS to report on what exactly GDP entails, what data are available to describe well-being, and current – national and international – developments in this field. In 2016 a Temporary Committee for a Broad Concept of Well-being recommended that CBS develop a concept to report annually on well-being and in 2017 the cabinet adopted the recommendations and commissioned CBS to publish an annual Monitor of Well-being. This report describes short and long-term developments of GDP alongside a wide range of quality-of-life aspects.

In accordance with one of the main recommendations – that the Monitor be based on an independent measurement system not influenced by political preferences – CBS adopted the framework of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Recommendations for Measuring Sustainable Development (UNECE, 2014) as the basis for monitoring well-being. At the time there was broad consensus among international organisations such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the European Union (EU) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that this was the state-of-the-art framework and as such the best prospect for measuring multi-dimensional phenomena such as well-being and sustainable development. Indeed, as the choice of themes and indicators are all based on scientific literature, there is little risk that the indicator set has a political bias.

The first Monitor of Well-being was published in 2018 (CBS, 2018b). In accordance with CES Framework, it used a set of indicators to provide information on well-being

'here and now' and the potential impact of our current society on well-being for the next generations ('later') and people 'elsewhere'. It also contained a chapter on the distribution of well-being between population groups and a chapter on well-being in terms of 16 relevant policy themes.

2. Incorporating the SDGs in the Monitor of Well-being

As there is a clear thematic overlap as well as a certain overlap between the SDG indicators and the indicators used for the Monitor of Well-being, in 2018 it was decided to combine the two reports.

As described above, the measurement system presented in the Monitor of Well-being 2018 and the Monitor of Well-being & Sustainable Development Goals 2019 (CBS, 2019a) provides information on well-being 'here and now', 'later' and 'elsewhere'. However, these indicators do not necessarily address issues which are part of current political and societal debate. The CES Recommendations pointed out this problem, describing opportunities to mix a conceptual and a policy approach when building an indicator set: the last chapter of the CES Report argues that the SDG indicators (which at that time were still under construction) should be integrated in the CES framework.

This report presents such an integration for the Netherlands. The incorporation of the SDGs in the Monitor of Well-being as reported here can be seen as a first step in an ongoing process. The integration will be shaped further in future editions of the Monitor.

The indicator set presented in the SDG dashboards comprises the official indicators for each of the 17 SDGs which are relevant for the Dutch context and which are measurable. In addition, for each SDG it includes CES indicators and a selection of additional relevant indicators. All indicators were selected following a set of decision rules (CBS, 2019b). This results in what we have termed an SDG^{plus} monitoring.

Including CES indicators in the SDG framework has a number of advantages. As the SDG agenda is an outcome of a long and complex negotiation, it inevitably under or over-represents some aspects of well-being and sustainability. For example, it is biased towards 'here and now' indicators, with fewer indicators on the 'later' and 'elsewhere' dimensions. Moreover, most SDG indicators focus on 'inputs', while indicators reporting the actual 'outcomes' are somewhat underrepresented. By including the CES indicators – which were all selected on conceptual grounds – we can redress these imbalances. Therefore, the SDG^{plus} monitoring as presented here not only addresses the main global policy agenda, but also covers the relevant indicators suggested in scientific literature.

For each of the 17 SDGs, indicators are presented that provide information on resources and opportunities available, use that is made of resources opportunities, relevant outcomes of this use, and the subjective assessment by the population of the phenomenon concerned.

3. SDG^{plus} dashboards

This report presents the SDG^{plus} dashboards for the Dutch policy context. As explained above, they contain more than the official SDG indicators. Also, as some SDGs cover several policy themes in the Dutch situation, they have been split into two or three dashboards.

The dashboards comprise the following categories of indicators:

- SDG indicators that are relevant in current Dutch government policy, building on previous work by CBS on the SDGs. As many as possible relevant SDG indicators for the Dutch situation have been included.
- Nearly all CES framework well-being indicators used to monitor the current state of well-being in the Netherlands in chapter 2 of the Monitor of Well-being & Sustainable Development Goals 2019. This illustrates how various aspects of well-being are positioned in the context of the 17 SDGs. Some SDGs are covered better than others.
- Supplementary indicators on available resources and opportunities, use, outcomes and subjective assessment.

Indicators for all policy themes had to come from reliable sources, and be up-to-date, internationally comparable and measured consistently in time. Where indicators were equally suitable, data quality was the deciding factor, although in a few cases policy relevance was considered more important. For some indicators, the international comparison is based on data that differ in definition from the data used to calculate the trend for the Netherlands. For other indicators no international comparison was possible as comparable data for other countries were not available at all.

The selection of SDG sub-goals and indicators was discussed with the national policy analysis agencies (Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB), Institute for Social Research (SCP) and Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL)), an interdepartmental advisory group with representatives from nearly all government ministries, CBS' users council, and external scientific experts. The final responsibility for all choices lies with CBS.

For some themes there were so many potential indicators that a selection had to be made. For each SDG a maximum 15 indicators were selected based on a system of criteria and decision rules resulting in an indicator set with the best possible balance and neutrality. The indicator selection process and statistical methods underlying the dashboards and the decision rules used to write the accompanying texts are described in CBS (2019b).

Some aspects of the dashboards may give rise to discussion about how they are to be interpreted. For example: what is the effect on well-being of resources and opportunities? If the trend in health care spending, development aid, hours worked in education, or investment in the environment is upward, this does not by definition imply an increase in well-being. It depends on whether this increased input actually has the desired result. Whether the spending, investment or hours worked are used effectively, or are 'necessary', depends on the desired outcomes and is for policymakers to decide. The measurement system is based on the premise that all these aspects (resources and opportunities, use, outcomes and subjective assessment) are taken together in this policymaking process.

Figures 1 and 2 sum up the situation in the Netherlands for the SDGs. These show that in terms of trends, relatively many indicators show a favourable trend for zero hunger (SDG 2); gender equality (SDG 5); clean water and sanitation (SDG 6); decent work and economic growth: economy and factors of production (SDG 8); and industry, innovation and infrastructure: knowledge and innovation (SDG 9). Declining trends are observed relatively often for good health and well-being (SDG 3); industry, innovation and infrastructure: mobility (SDG 9); reduced inequalities (SDG 10); sustainable cities and communities: housing (SDG 11); life below water (SDG 14); and life on land (SDG 15).

Compared with other EU countries, the Netherlands is among the leaders for five SDGs: no poverty (SDG 1); industry, innovation and infrastructure: knowledge and innovation (SDG 9); reduced inequalities: social cohesion and inequality (SDG 10); peace, justice and strong institutions: institutions (SDG 16); and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17). For four SDGs, the Dutch position is in the lowest regions of the rankings: affordable and clean energy (SDG 7); climate action (SDG 13); life below water (SDG 14); and life on land (SDG 15).

Colour codes

Three colours are used to clarify the results of the various indicators. For each indicator two aspects are illustrated: the direction of the long-term trend in the Netherlands in the period 2011–2018, and the position of the Netherlands in the EU28 in the most recent year with the most observations.

For the trends the colours show the following:

For the EU position the colours show the following:

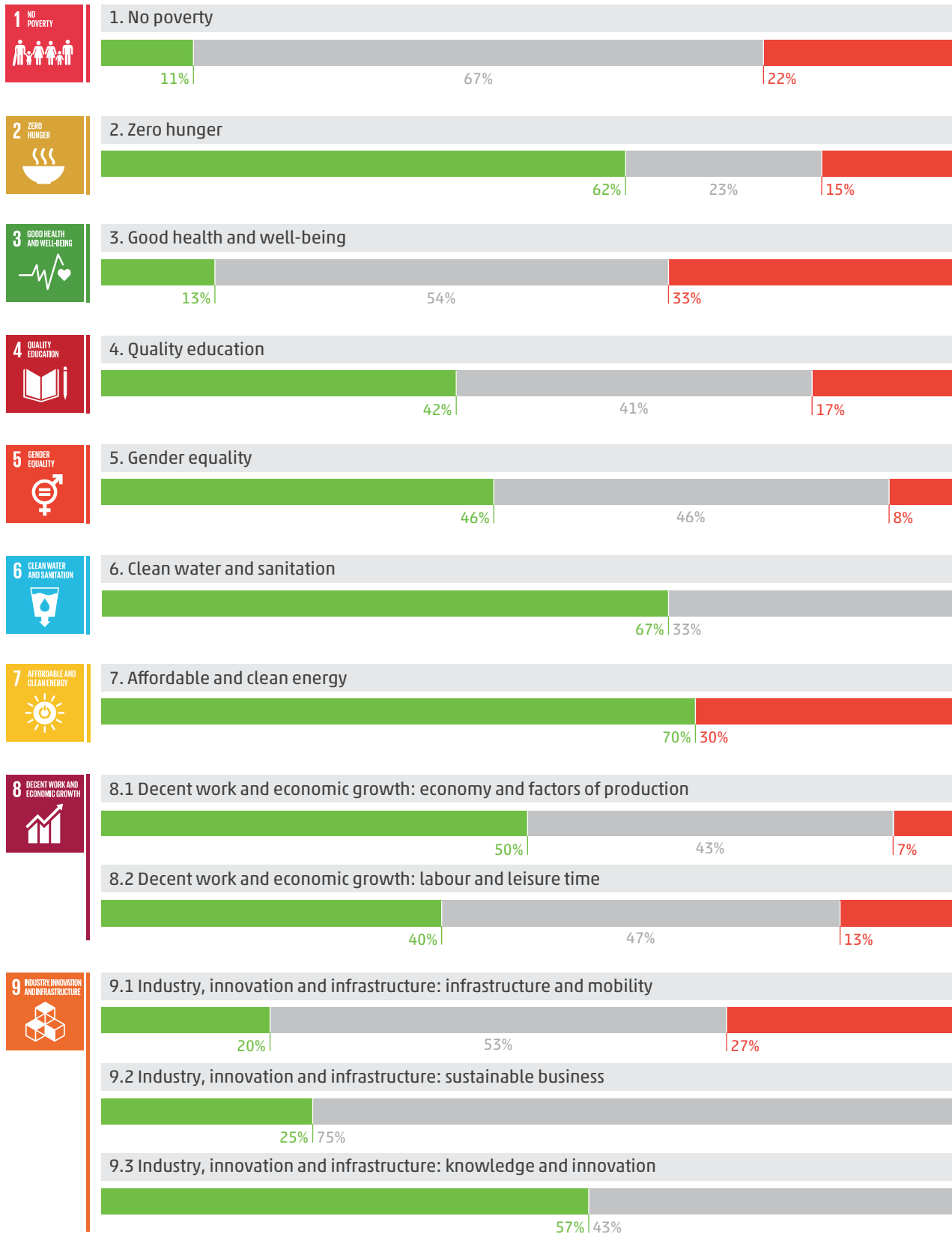
GREEN	GREEN
The trend is moving in the direction associated with an increase in well-being.	The Netherlands is in the upper quartile of the EU rankings.
GREY	GREY
No significant rise or fall in the trend.	The Netherlands is between the upper and the lower quartile of the EU rankings.
RED	RED
The trend is moving in the direction associated with a decrease in well-being.	The Netherlands is in the lower quartile of the EU rankings.

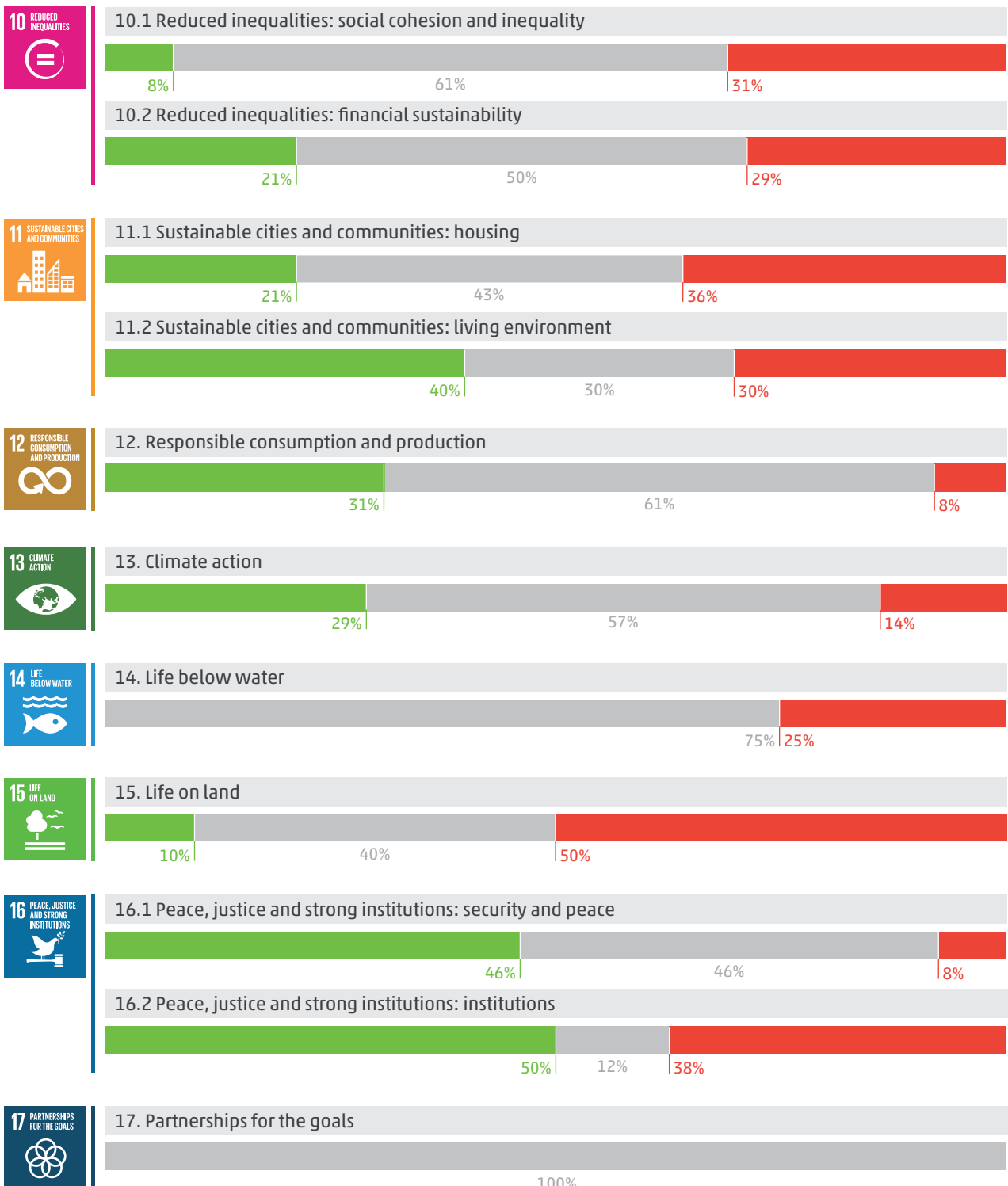
The colours are allocated on the basis of the first-order effect. For example: in the first order, an increase in individual consumption is good for the consumer. In the second order, higher consumption causes environmental pollution, obesity, water use, and CO₂ emissions in other countries, etc. If an indicator shows a trend that is moving in the direction associated with a decrease in well-being, and the position of the Netherlands in Europe is in the lower quartile, then this is illustrated as a 'red' trend and a 'red' position.

Notes in the dashboards

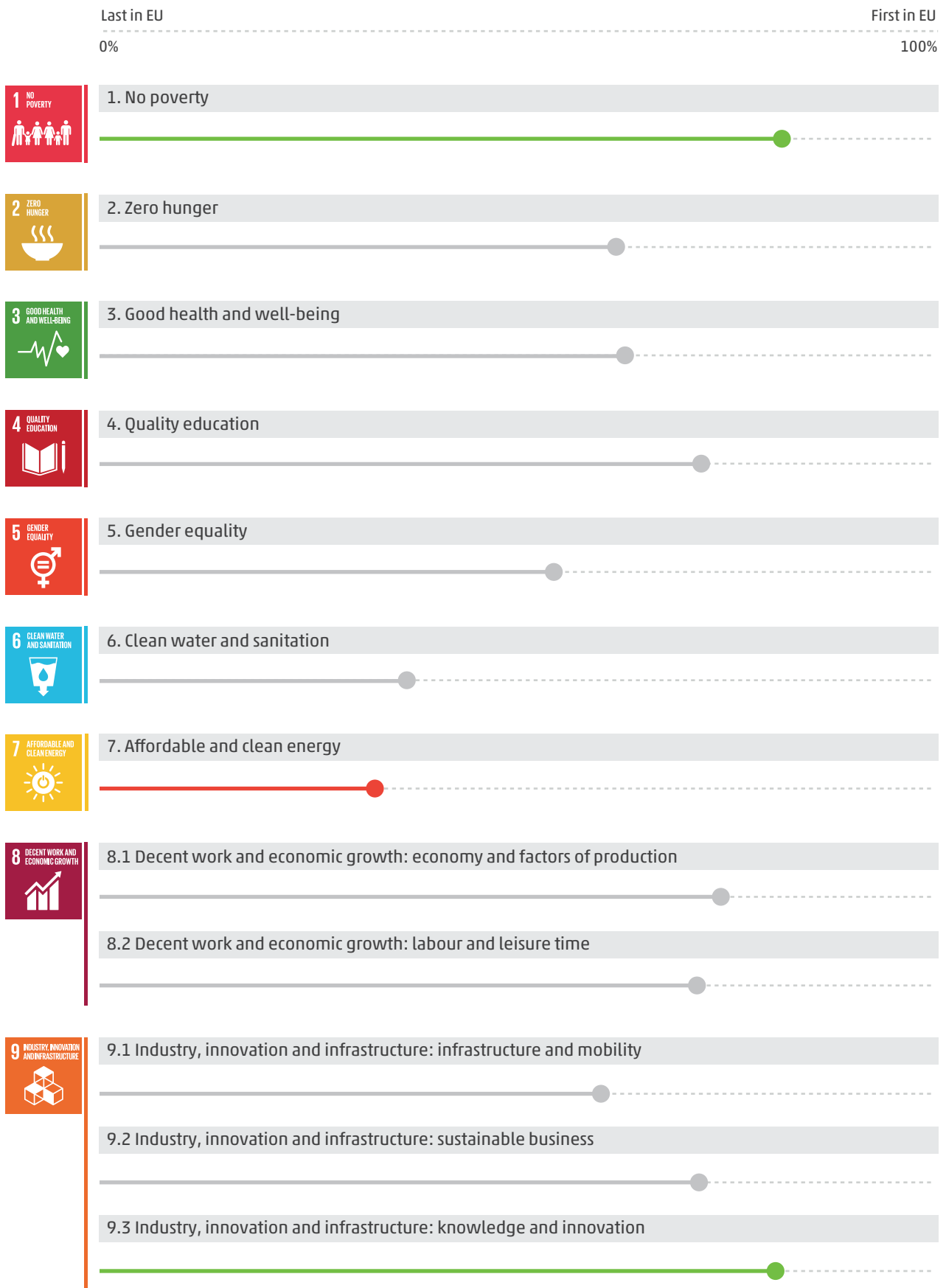
- A. Estimate by CBS for this report.
 - B. Insufficient data for 2011–2018 to calculate a trend.
-

1 Trends in the Netherlands for each SDG^{plus} (share of total number of indicators measured per SDG^{plus})

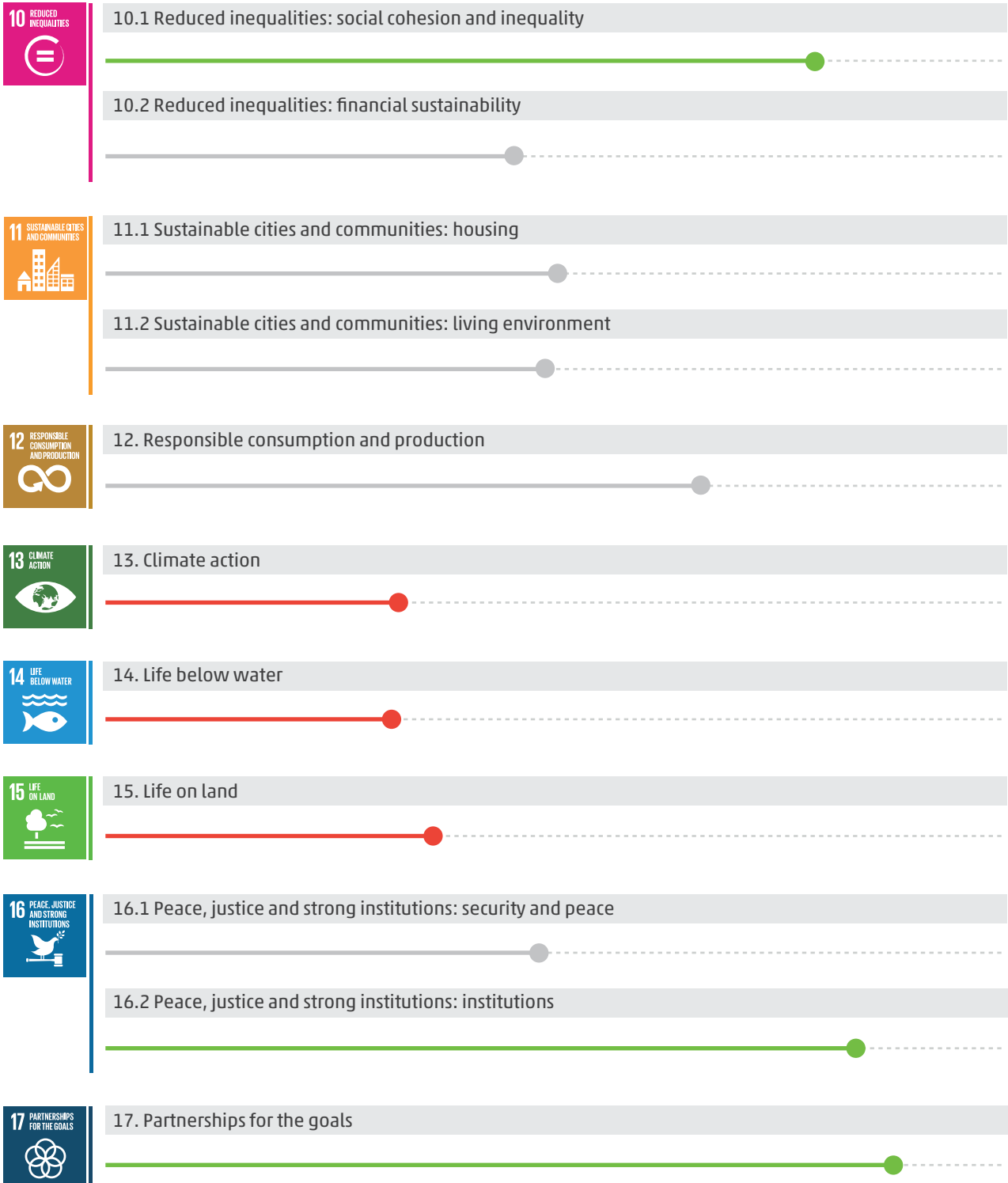




2 Position of the Netherlands in the EU for each SDG^{plus} (average of positions of indicators measured)



Last in EU 0% First in EU 100%



SDG 1 No poverty

SDG 1 aims to reduce all forms of poverty. To an important extent, someone's material well-being is determined by the disposable income of the household in which they live. They can use this income to spend on goods and services, to invest, or to save. People with a low income are at risk of poverty. If they also live in a household with serious financial problems or low economic activity, they will also be at risk of social exclusion. The level of disposable income also affects how secure people think their livelihood is. Although poverty issues in the Netherlands are of a different order than those in the least developed countries, people in the Netherlands are also at risk of relative poverty. This dashboard shows income developments in the Netherlands, how many people are at risk of income poverty or social exclusion, and to what extent people are concerned about their financial situation (SDG 1.2).

Resources and opportunities concern the financial means people have at their disposal and any support available in this respect. The median disposable income is below the average disposable income; this means that a few (very) high incomes pull up the average.

Use concerns the use of various forms of financial support. No indicators are available at the moment that comply with the quality criteria of this report.

Outcomes relate to the proportion of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion.¹⁾ The percentage of the population living in relative income poverty rose to 13.2 in 2017. While the Netherlands had the lowest but one percentage in the EU in 2011, it has now dropped to fifth place. The poverty gap (how far the median income of poor people in the Dutch population is below the poverty threshold) was 17.8 percent in 2017. The Netherlands is in the middle of the EU rankings in this respect.

The proportion at risk of poverty or social exclusion rose to 17 percent of the population in 2017. These are people who suffer from income poverty, have low economic activity, or are severely materially deprived. In most other EU countries this proportion is falling slowly, but not by enough to realise the EU2020 target of a significant reduction at this moment in time (Ministry of Economic Affairs, 2017a; European Commission, 2010). The risk of poverty or social exclusion in the Netherlands is low compared with other EU countries, however.

Subjective assessment refers to how people perceive the security of their livelihood. The percentage of people who say they are very concerned about their financial future has fallen, both in the longer term and in the most recently measured year: in 2018 just over a quarter of the Dutch population reported serious financial concerns.

¹⁾ NB A break in the time series may have an effect on the trend.

Trend in NL

Position in EU

Resources and opportunities

€ 28,317 per household (2015 prices) in 2017

Mean disposable income

€ 25,269 per household (2015 prices) in 2017

Median disposable income

0.5% change in purchasing power in 2017

Median purchasing power



Outcomes

17.0% of the population in 2017



[SDG 1.2.2] Risk of poverty or social exclusion

13.2% of the population are below poverty threshold (60% of median income) in 2017



[SDG 1.2.1] Relative poverty

17.8% difference between poverty threshold and median income of poor people in 2017

[SDG 1.2.1] Poverty gap

3.3% of households have had a long-term low income in 2017

Long-term low income households

9.7% of children under 12 live in households with insufficient income in 2016

Child poverty



Subjective assessment

25.1% of the population over 18 are very concerned in 2018



Concern about future finances

SDG 2 Zero hunger

The objective of SDG 2 is to end hunger. As undernourishment and food insecurity are relatively uncommon in the Netherlands, this dashboard focuses on the sustainability of food production (SDG 2.4) and the impact of food production on the quality of the living environment and animal welfare. The dashboard also includes an indicator on SDG 12.3, whose target is to halve per capita food waste by 2030 relative to 2015 (Ministry of Economic Affairs, 2017b).

Resources and opportunities concern the land area and livestock available for food production. Agricultural production per work year has shown an increasing trend, and the Netherlands almost tops the EU rankings, taking second place in 2018. Livestock density also shows a growing trend and was higher than in all other EU countries in 2016. Although a high livestock density is seen as positive from the perspective of food production, it has negative effects on animal welfare and on the environment.

Use relates to how and how sustainably food is produced. The area farmed organically in the Netherlands has shown an increasing trend, accounting for 3.1 percent of the total agricultural area in 2017. This is a small proportion in an international perspective. More and more protein crops such as pulses and soya are being grown, making more meat substitutes available. The area of these crops accounted for 0.5 percent of total agricultural land in 2018. Trends in outdoor grazing of dairy cattle and use of antibiotics in livestock farming are downward. Less outdoor grazing is considered to be negative for animal welfare. Just over two-thirds of dairy cows were put out to pasture in 2017.

Outcomes describe food affordability and the impact of food production on the living environment and animal welfare. The effects of agricultural production methods on local environment and water quality are related among other things to nitrogen and phosphorus uptake rates. The crop uptake of nitrogen amounted to 60 percent of total nitrogen input from fertilisers in 2017. The remaining nitrogen evaporates into the surrounding air (6 percent) or remains in the soil (34 percent), and subsequently leaches into ground and surface water. In terms of nitrogen uptake rates, the Netherlands has a low international position: 13th of 16 surveyed EU countries in 2015. The phosphorus uptake is substantially higher: at 94 percent it approximates balanced fertilisation conditions.

For the Netherlands, the SDG food waste target translates as 63 kilograms per capita in 2030. Food waste in the Netherlands fell from 143 to 125 kilograms per capita between 2011 and 2016.

Subjective assessment relates to how satisfied people are with food quality and supply, and with the living environment and animal welfare. No indicators are currently available that comply with the quality criteria of this report.

Trend in NL

Position in EU

Resources and opportunities	Trend in NL	Position in EU
42.6% of total area in 2018 Utilised agricultural area	↓	15 th out of 27 in 2017
€ 180 million (2010 prices) per 1,000 work years in 2018 [SDG 2.3.1] Agricultural production	↑	2 nd out of 28 in 2018
3.70 livestock units per hectare utilised agricultural area in 2018 [SDG 2.4.1] Livestock density index	↑	1 st out of 28 in 2016
Use		
3.1% of total utilised agricultural area in 2017 [SDG 2.4.1] Organic farming	↑	23 rd out of 28 in 2017
0.5% of total utilised agricultural area in 2018 Protein crops	↑	
405.1 kg sold per million euros of agricultural production in 2016 Pesticide sales		2 nd out of 21 in 2016
68.0% of dairy cows put out to pasture in 2017 Outdoor grazing of dairy cows	↓	
0.073 grams per kg live weight in 2017 Use of antibiotics in livestock farming	↓	
Outcomes		
94.0% of total input utilised by crops in 2017 Phosphorus uptake		8 th out of 17 in 2015
60.0% of total input utilised by crops in 2017 Nitrogen uptake		13 th out of 16 in 2015
3.0% of total spending on food in 2017 Market share of organic food	↑	
30.0% of sold meat and meat products in 2017 Meat certified as sustainable	↑	
125 kg per capita in 2016 [SDG 12.3.1] Food waste	↓	

SDG 3 Good health and well-being

SDG 3 aims to achieve good health for people of all ages. This includes preventing premature mortality as a result of communicable and non-communicable diseases and mental illness. These worldwide goals are reflected in the Dutch government's National Prevention Agreement, which highlights smoking, obesity and problem drinking, lifestyle elements that are currently the main causes of disease burden and premature deaths (Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, 2018a). One of the targets in the Agreement is a smoke-free generation by 2040, another is reducing the proportion of the overweight population to 38 percent or lower by the same year. It also prioritises the prevention of serious infectious diseases. In his Vaccination Letter to the House of Representatives, the state secretary for Health, Welfare and Sports calls on health-care professionals and other relevant parties to endorse the vaccination programme to protect society as much as possible from outbreaks of infectious disease (Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, 2018b).

Resources and opportunities relate to the resources used to maintain and improve the health care system. The Netherlands continues to be in the top of the European rankings for health care spending in terms of percentage of GDP and number of care hours worked per capita. This trend remains stable.

Use concerns behaviour that affects health and the use people make of the health care services. Obesity and smoking are two important indicators of a healthy lifestyle. The proportion of overweight people in the Netherlands has been rising for a number of years now and was over 50 percent in 2018. The percentage of smokers is falling: 21 percent of the population aged 12 years and older smoked in 2018. In a European perspective this is in the middle range. An indicator for the use of health care is the basic measles vaccination rate: this has fallen in the eight-year period reviewed here. In 2017, just under 93 percent of children were vaccinated. This is low compared with other countries in Europe, and poses a health risk to young children in particular.

Outcomes refer to the current physical and mental health of the population in relation to the quality of health care. The most direct way to measure current health is life expectancy. The healthy life expectancy of men shows an upward trend, while that of women remains stable. One – quite extreme – way to measure mental health is to look at developments in suicide rates. The trend in the number of people taking their own lives is upward. Health-care quality is measured by among other things neonatal mortality: 2.7 per 1,000 live born babies died in 2017 (see also Broersen, 2018). The trend in neonatal mortality is stable and the Netherlands is in the middle of the European rankings.

Subjective assessment describes people's satisfaction with their own health and with the Dutch health-care system. A decreasing number of people describe their health as very good, in spite of which the Netherlands is in EU's top five on this indicator.

Trend in NL

Position in EU

Category	Indicator	Trend in NL	Position in EU
Resources and opportunities	Health care expenditure	10.1% % of gross domestic product in 2017	6 th out of 23 in 2017
	Hours worked in health care	98.0 hours worked per capita in 2018	4 th out of 19 in 2017
Use	[SDG 2.2.2] Overweight population	51.1% of the population over 20 in 2018 ↑	6 th out of 18 in 2014
	[SDG 3.5.2] Alcohol consumption	8.9 litres of pure alcohol per capita (over 15) in 2017	4 th out of 20 in 2016
	[SDG 3.5.2] Smoking	21.0% of the population over 12 smoked in 2018 ↓	7 th out of 19 in 2014
	Measles vaccination rate	92.9% of 2-year-olds had been vaccinated in 2017 ↓	16 th out of 21 in 2017
Outcomes	Diabetes medication	4.7% of the population using diabetes medication in 2017 ↑	
	Average duration of hospitalisation	5.2 days in 2017	1 st out of 20 in 2016
	[SDG 3.4.1] Healthy life expectancy of men	65.0 years at birth in 2017 ↑	12 th out of 28 in 2016
	[SDG 3.4.1] Healthy life expectancy of women	63.8 years at birth in 2017	23 rd out of 28 in 2016
	Waiting time for specialist care	28.7% of waiting times are longer than the set norms in 2018	
	[SDG 3.2.2] Neonatal mortality rate	2.7 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2017	12 th out of 22 in 2016
	[SDG 3.4.2] Suicide	11.2 deaths per 100,000 population in 2017 ↑	12 th out of 28 in 2015
	Mental ill health	11.9% of the population over 12 in 2018	17 th out of 28 in 2017
Subjective assessment	Perceived health	78.3% of the population over 12 describe own health as (very) good in 2018 ↓	5 th out of 28 in 2017

SDG 4 Quality education

SDG 4 strives to achieve a good education for everyone. Education cuts through all stages of life, from pre-school (SDG 4.2) to lifelong learning (SDG 4.3). The quality of education is a determinant of competencies of pupils and students (SDG 4.1) and the overall population (SDG 4.6). Education also provides workers today and in the future with the skills they need in a knowledge-intensive workplace (SDG 4.4).

Resources and opportunities relate to the range and affordability of education. The trend in government spending on education as a percentage of GDP is downward. The Netherlands is in the middle of the EU rankings in this respect. The number of education hours worked per capita is stable, but the position of the Netherlands in Europe has taken a tumble.

Use refers to participation in education. In 2017, 97.6 percent of children aged between 4 and 5 years (5 years is the start of compulsory education) were in some form of education. This puts the Netherlands in sixth place in the EU. During their school careers, 7.4 percent of children leave education prematurely; the policy school drop-out target of below 8 percent in 2020 has therefore already been realised (Ministry of Economic Affairs, 2017a).²⁾ Participation in lifelong learning increased in the eight-year period reviewed here, and was 19.5 percent in 2018. This means the target of 20 percent in 2020 has nearly been reached (Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, 2018a). The Netherlands is fourth in the EU in this respect.

Outcomes concern attained levels of education and levels of specific competencies. The policy target of more than 40 percent tertiary or higher educated among 30–34-year-olds in 2020 had already been exceeded in 2018 when this was 49.2 percent (Ministry of Economic Affairs, 2017a; European Commission, 2010). For the population aged 25–64 years this percentage was 38.1 in 2018. The trends are upward for both age groups. The proportion of the population with secondary education, including those having completed apprenticeship courses, has remained stable. End-of-primary-school tests by the education inspectorate and the PIAAC tests (16–65-year-olds) give a good indication of acquired skills.³⁾ Dutch children score well for arithmetic and reading, although both scores are lower than in 2012. Based on the high international positions, the Dutch population aged 15–65 years also have high language and maths skill. In a knowledge-intensive economy digital skills are also indispensable; here, too, the Netherlands is doing well: second of 27 EU countries in 2017.

Subjective assessment refers to how people experience education and their education opportunities. In 2018, 81.5 percent of the adult population were satisfied or very satisfied with education opportunities in the Netherlands. This satisfaction is showing a rising trend.

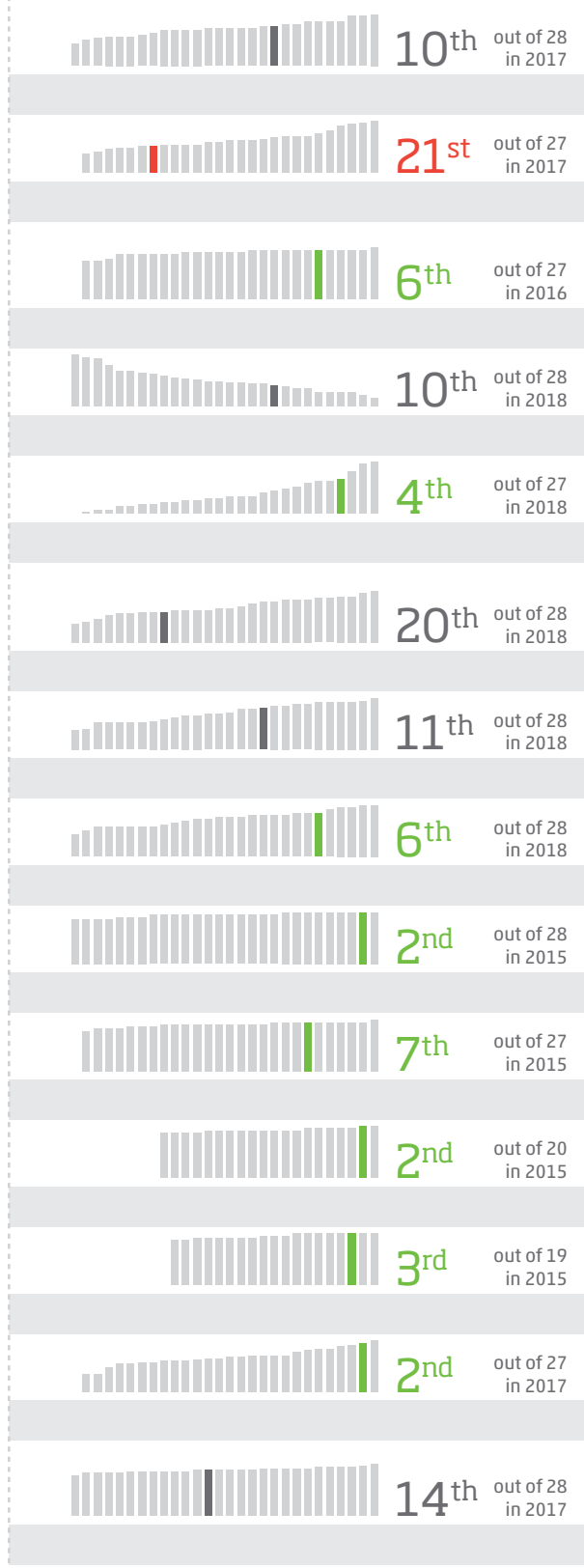
²⁾ The EU2020 target is 10 percent (European Commission, 2010).

³⁾ A different definition is used for the international comparison: mathematics skills of 15-year-olds.

Trend in NL

Position in EU

Resources and opportunities	5.1% of gross domestic product in 2017	↓
	Government expenditure on education	
Use	40.0 hours worked per capita in 2018	
	Hours worked in education	
Outcomes	97.6% of 4-year-olds in pre-school in 2017	↓
	[SDG 4.2.2] Participation in pre-school education	
	7.4% of the population aged 18-24 in 2018	↓
	Early school leavers	
	19.5% of the population aged 25-64 did a course in preceding 4 weeks in 2018	↑
	[SDG 4.3.1] Lifelong learning	
	41.0% of the population aged 15-64 with completed secondary education in 2018	
	Population with secondary education	
	38.1% of the population aged 25-64 have a higher education degree in 2018	↑
	Higher educated population	
	49.2% of the population aged 30-34 have a higher education degree in 2017	↑
	Higher educated population 30-34 years	
	48.0% of final-year primary pupils achieve target level in 2017	
	[SDG 4.1.1] Pupil numeracy skills	
	65.0% of final-year primary pupils achieve target level in 2017	
	[SDG 4.1.1] Pupil reading skills	
	284.0 average PIAAC score (16-65 years) in 2015	
	[SDG 4.6.1] Overall literacy ^{B)}	
	280.3 average PIAAC score (16-65 years) in 2015	
	[SDG 4.6.1] Overall numeracy	
	79.0% of the population aged 16-74 have at least basic computer skills in 2017	
	[SDG 4.4.1] Digital skills	
Subjective assessment	81.5% of the population over 18 are (very) satisfied in 2018	↑
	Satisfaction with learning opportunities	



SDG 5 Gender equality

SDG 5 concerns equal treatment of men and women and their equal position in society. This is measured in terms of gender differences in wage levels and labour participation and the position of women in management and government positions (SDG 5.5).

Reducing violence against women is also a specific SDG sub-goal (5.2). The Dutch cabinet has formulated various policy targets with the aim of achieving equality between women and men: more economically independent women, improving job mobility for women, especially for management positions, closing the gender pay gap and less intimidation and violence against women (Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, 2018b).

Resources and opportunities concern the rights and freedoms of men and women and the chances they have to make use of them. No indicators are currently available that comply with the quality criteria of this report.

Use relates to the extent to which women and men participate in society and the economy. Trends in net labour participation rates of men and women are stable. In 2018 labour participation of women was 63.2 percent, compared with 72.5 percent for men. This puts the Netherlands among the leaders in the EU28 for both men and women, although these rankings do not take into account the number of hours worked: many women (and relatively many men) in the Netherlands work part-time. Female students have been outnumbering their male counterparts in higher education for a number of years now: in 2016 women accounted for nearly 52 percent of students in higher education. In most other European countries the percentage of female students is higher.

Outcomes refer to the effects of participation on gender equality. Just over a quarter of higher and middle management positions were occupied by women in 2016, making the Netherlands one of the lowest scoring countries in the EU in this respect. The percentage of female members in the House of Representatives shows a downward trend and was 36 in 2018. The Netherlands has fallen in the rankings on this aspect. The difference in hourly wage rates between men and women has shown a decreasing trend and was 15 percent in 2017, giving the Netherlands a middling position in Europe. An increasing percentage of both men and women have completed higher education; this rate is increasing faster for women than for men. The Cabinet has committed to increasing the number of women who are economically independent, for example who earn at least the level of income support. This percentage has been increasing since 2014 in particular and was just over 60 percent in 2017. One of the focus points of the Cabinet's policy target of a safe society for all its citizens is less intimidation and violence against women. Physical and/or sexual abuse by a partner or former partner is one aspect of this. In 2017 1.7 in every thousand women in the Netherlands reported having been victim of physical or sexual abuse from their current or former partner since the age of fifteen. Healthy life expectancy of women (for example without restricted physical functions) has remained quite stable since 2010, for men the number of years they can expect to live in good health has risen by just over one in the same period, widening the gap between the sexes.

Subjective assessment relates to people's experience of gender (in)equality. No indicators are currently available that comply with the quality criteria of this report.

Trend in NL

Use

52.3% of students in higher education in 2017

Share of women in higher education

63.2% of women aged 15-74 in 2018

Net labour participation of women

72.5% of men aged 15-74 in 2018

Net labour participation of men

Outcomes

38.7% of women aged 25-64 have a higher education degree in 2018

[SDG 5] Women with higher education degree



37.5% of men aged 25-64 years have a higher education degree in 2018

[SDG 5] Men with higher education degree



60.5% of women aged 15-65 receive at least 70% of minimum wage in 2017

Economically independent women



79.4% of men aged 15-65 receive at least 70% of minimum wage in 2017

Economically independent men

15.0% difference in hourly wage between men and women in 2017

[SDG 5.1.1] Gender pay gap



26.0% of management positions are held by women in 2017

[SDG 5.5.2] Women in management

36.0% of seats in parliament are held by women in 2018

[SDG 5.5.1] Women in parliament



63.8 years at birth in 2017

[SDG 5] Healthy life expectancy of women

65.0 years at birth in 2017

[SDG 5] Healthy life expectancy of men



1.7 in every 1,000 women suffers abuse in 2017

[SDG 5.2.1] Physical and/or sexual abuse by (ex-)partner



Position in EU



SDG 6 Clean water and sanitation

SDG 6 focuses on drinking water and sanitation. As everybody in the Netherlands has access to clean drinking water and sanitary facilities, the focus of this dashboard is water quality (SDG 6.3) and the efficiency of water use. Discharge of pollutants to inland waters and soil affects the quality of natural inland water and groundwater. Water purification reduces emissions and improves quality. Using water efficiently (higher water productivity) is important for reducing the burden on freshwater sources in times of increasing economic activity.

Resources and opportunities concern the means used to provide households with clean and affordable drinking water. Drinking water provision is very well regulated in the Netherlands. Production costs of drinking water companies have fallen slightly.

Use relates to the extraction of water from the environment, the efficiency of drinking water use and the degree of purification of waste water. The purification efficiency for nitrogen and phosphorus from urban waste water is high. In 2016, 85 percent of all nitrogen and 87 percent of phosphorus was removed from waste water. For nitrogen the trend is positive, which is indicative of an even more efficient purification. Abstraction of fresh water from surface and groundwater was 469 m³ per capita in 2016; the trend was downward in the period 2011–2016. A considerable part of this fresh water abstraction was accounted for by water used for cooling, most of which subsequently becomes available again. There has been a noticeable shift from fresh to salt water for cooling purposes, which partly accounts for the decrease in abstraction of freshwater. Compared with other countries in the EU, the Netherlands extracts quite a lot of water from surface and groundwater. Water productivity, a measure of the efficiency of water use by industry, was 78 euros per m³ in 2016. In other words, 78 euros of value added was generated by per cubic metre of water. In 2012 this was 56 euro. Water productivity is partly connected to the structure of the industry sector. Countries with a relatively large services sector (and thus low water use), for example, will more easily achieve higher water productivity than countries with a high level of water-intensive manufacturing such as the Netherlands (where a lot of water is used for cooling in particular).

Outcomes refer to the quality, affordability and sustainability of drinking water. The quality of swimming water in Dutch inland waters is an alternative for the infrequent data on chemical and biological water quality in the Water Framework Directive. The quality of swimming water in the Netherlands shows an upward trend. In 2018 nearly 73 percent was certified as 'excellent'. This indicator is relevant for the production of drinking water, as in the Netherlands surface water is extracted alongside groundwater and purified for use as drinking water.

Subjective assessment in this context is related to satisfaction with drinking water. Customer satisfaction with drinking water was high in 2015.

Trend in NL

Position in EU

Category	Metric	Trend in NL	Position in EU
Resources and opportunities	Water production cost	€ 1.20 per m ³ (current prices) in 2017	
Use	Nitrogen removal from urban waste water	85% of all nitrogen in waste water is removed in 2016	
	Phosphorus removal from urban waste water	87% of all phosphorus in waste water is removed in 2016	
	Surface and groundwater abstraction	469 m ³ per capita in 2016	13 th out of 17 in 2014
Outcomes	[SDG 6.4.1] Water productivity	€ 78 value added per m ³ (2015 prices) in 2016	9 th out of 17 in 2014
	Quality of inland bathing waters	72.6% qualified as 'excellent' in 2018	17 th out of 26 in 2017
Subjective assessment	Customer satisfaction with drinking water ^{B)}	8.5 score on a scale of 1-10 (10 = completely satisfied) in 2015	

SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy

The availability, sustainability and affordability of energy has been a continuing item of Dutch public and political debate in recent years. As virtually everyone in the Netherlands has access to reliable energy sources, the dashboard for SDG 7 is aimed at sub-goals 7.2 (renewable energy) and 7.3 (energy efficiency). The main causes of greenhouse-gas emissions (see SDG 13) are fossil fuel combustion for electricity, manufacturing, road vehicles, and residential and other buildings. Development and use of technologies for energy conservation and renewable sources are essential to reduce energy use and fossil fuel dependency. This will have a positive effect on future levels of well-being.

Resources and opportunities relate to the availability and affordability of energy and investment in sustainable energy provision. Household spending on energy as a percentage of total consumer spending is used as an indicator for the affordability of energy. At 3.3 percent, this share was slightly larger in 2018 than in the previous year. In an international perspective, the Dutch spend relatively little on energy: in 2017 the Netherlands was seventh out of 27 EU countries. Investment in renewable energy and energy-saving measures showed a rising trend, to 0.9 percent of GDP in 2016. The operational capacity for renewable electricity rose in the period 2011–2018: from 150 to nearly 500 megawatts per million inhabitants. Fossil energy reserves decreased in the period 2011–2017.

Use concerns amounts of energy used and saved.⁴⁾ Per capita gross domestic energy consumption and the energy intensity of the economy both show a downward trend. However, compared with other EU countries the Netherlands still uses more energy per capita (23rd in 2016). This is related to the relatively energy-intensive manufacturing industry.

Outcomes relate to the affordability, sustainability and wastage of energy. There is an upward trend in the share of renewable energy; it was 6.6 percent in 2017, less than halfway to the 2020 target of 14 percent. In 27th position, the Netherlands is almost bottom of the EU rankings in this respect. Imports of fossil fuels have trended upwards, partly as a result of the reduction of gas extraction in Groningen. The Netherlands brought up the rear in the EU in 2017, although it should be noted that part of these imports are re-exported. The use of petroleum products has risen.

Subjective assessment refers to satisfaction with the price and availability of energy. No indicators are currently available that comply with the quality criteria of this report.

⁴⁾ No indicator is available for energy saving. The EU2020 target for energy efficiency is a reduction of 20 percent in the period 1990–2020. For the Netherlands the target was set at primary energy consumption of just over 60 Mtonnes of oil equivalents in 2020 (European Commission, 2010). The National Energy Outlook 2017 states an extra reduction of 100 PJ gross final energy consumption in the period 2014–2020 (ECN, PBL and CBS, 2017).

Trend in NL

Position in EU

	Trend in NL	Position in EU
Resources and opportunities		
0.9% of gross domestic product in 2016 Investment in renewable energy and energy saving	↑	
0.7% of total employment in 2017 Employment in renewable energy sector	↑	
1.6 terajoules per capita in 2017 Fossil energy reserves	↓	7 th out of 13 in 2017
499.3 megawatts electric per million population in 2018 Renewable electricity capacity	↑	23 rd out of 27 in 2016
3.3% of total household consumption expenditure (current prices) in 2018 Household spending on energy ^{A)}	↓	7 th out of 27 in 2017
Use		
4,393 kg oil equivalents per capita in 2017 [SDG 7.1.1] Gross domestic energy consumption	↓	23 rd out of 28 in 2016
116.3 kg oil equivalents per 1,000 euros of GDP (2010 prices) in 2016 [SDG 7.3.1] Energy intensity of the economy	↓	10 th out of 28 in 2016
Outcomes		
3.3 tonnes per capita in 2018 Consumption of petroleum products	↑	
13.4 tonnes per capita in 2018 Fossil fuel imports ^{A)}	↑	28 th out of 28 in 2017
6.6% of total final energy consumption in 2017 [SDG 7.2.1] Renewable energy	↑	27 th out of 28 in 2017

SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth: economy and factors of production

Although well-being is broader than GDP alone, a high GDP remains an important fundament (SDG 8.1). To produce goods and services, an economy needs input from the various factors of production: capital, labour and raw materials. One important question in this respect is how sustainably and productively these are used (SDGs 8.2 and 8.4). A second question is how profits and income are distributed between citizens and businesses. Together these factors determine whether economic growth is efficient and sustainable.

Resources and opportunities concern the volumes of labour, capital and knowledge used to produce goods and services. Capital expenditure showed a stable trend in 2011–2018, rising in the last year of this period. In a European perspective, Dutch capital expenditure is relatively low. The number of hours worked per capita rose in 2018, but is low compared with other European countries.

Use concerns the productivity and sustainability of inputs. Various economic ratios can be used to measure how sustainably and efficiently resources are used. Labour productivity, for example value added per hour worked (a measure of the efficiency of working hours) has been gradually increasing since the economic crisis. In a European perspective the Netherlands has a relatively high labour productivity rate. Raw material productivity has also shown an increasing trend, and the Netherlands has been leading the European rankings for years in this respect. The Netherlands therefore uses its raw materials relatively efficiently.

Outcomes relate to the rate, efficiency and sustainability of economic growth. Per capita GDP shows a rising trend. The Netherlands now ranks fifth in the EU, a position that has been stable for a number of years. The distribution of earnings and profits in the economy is a topical policy issue. The wage share gives an indication of this distribution, with a higher wage share being favourable for workers. The trend of the wage share has been stable in the last eight years. In 2017 it fell by 0.2 of a percentage point. The material footprint – the amount of raw materials used worldwide as a result of Dutch domestic consumption – has been showing an increasing trend.

Subjective assessment refers to the confidence of consumers and producers in the economy. The business cycle is an important determinant of consumer and producer confidence, but economic policy also has an effect. Trends for all three sentiment indicators are green, although some short-term fluctuations are visible. Consumer confidence dropped sharply in the second half of 2018, for example.

Trend in NL

Position in EU

Resources and opportunities	Use	Outcomes	Subjective assessment
<p>16.9% of gross domestic product in 2018</p> <p>Gross fixed capital formation</p>			
<p>774.3 hours worked per capita in 2018</p> <p>Hours worked</p>			
<p>€ 25,269 per household (2015 prices) in 2017</p> <p>Median disposable income</p>			
<p>€ 50 gross value added per hour worked (2015 prices) in 2018 ↑</p> <p>[SDG 8.2.1] Labour productivity</p>			
<p>€ 150 per hour worked (2015 prices) in 2017</p> <p>Physical capital stock</p>			
<p>€ 11.16 per hour worked (2015 prices) in 2017 ↑</p> <p>Knowledge capital stock</p>			
<p>€ 4.20 GDP per kg of resources used (2010 prices) in 2017 ↑</p> <p>[SDG 8.4.2] Resource productivity</p>			
<p>€ 26,076 per capita (2015 prices) in 2018</p> <p>Individual consumption</p>			
<p>€ 43,167 per capita (2015 prices) in 2018 ↑</p> <p>[SDG 8.1.1] Gross domestic product</p>			
<p>76.2% of national income is allocated to labour in 2017</p> <p>Wage share</p>			
<p>9.7 tonnes per capita in 2017 ↑</p> <p>[SDG 12.2.1] Material footprint</p>			
<p>20.0 % positive answers minus % negative answers (over-15s) in 2018 ↑</p> <p>Consumer confidence</p>			
<p>7.9 % positive sentiment minus % negative sentiment in manufacturing in 2018 ↑</p> <p>Producer confidence</p>			
<p>15.2 % positive sentiment minus % negative sentiment in private sector in 2018 ↑</p> <p>Business confidence</p>			

SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth: labour and leisure time

Decent work is important for people to earn an income and participate in society and also for their self-esteem. For many people it is important that they can find and keep a job and earn enough to get by on (SDG 8.5). In addition they want to work in decent conditions, perform relevant and interesting tasks and achieve a good work-life balance (SDG 8.8). Leisure time makes life worthwhile: people can relax, engage with others and develop themselves further.

Resources and opportunities concern options for participating in the labour market, and the number of jobs available. At 3.8 percent, unemployment in the Netherlands was relatively low compared with other EU countries in 2018. In terms of long-term unemployment, the Netherlands was in the middle of the EU rankings in 2017. In 2018 long-term unemployment fell to 1.3 percent of the labour force. The vacancy rate has been rising, quite strongly in recent years, to 30 job vacancies per thousand jobs at the end of 2018. This is favourable for jobseekers. It put the Netherlands in third place in the EU.

Use relates to labour market participation. Net labour participation was just under 68 percent of 15–74-year-olds in 2018. In an international perspective the Netherlands has a relatively high labour participation. The gross labour participation target of at least 80 percent of 20–64-year-olds⁵⁾ was already realised a few years ago; in 2018 gross labour participation was 82 percent. On the other hand, at 27.5 the average weekly working hours are relatively low compared with other European countries, although the trend is rising.

Outcomes concern working conditions, safety at work and work-life balance. The average hourly wage is relatively high in the Netherlands compared with the rest of the EU. The trend in the number of non-fatal accidents at work has been decreasing, although it rose again in the most recent year measured.

Subjective assessment relates to whether people are satisfied with their jobs, working condition and leisure time. A joint CBS/TNO survey showed that 16.3 percent of employees are concerned about job security. This percentage has been showing a decreasing trend. People's expectations about their own financial situation are showing a rising trend overall, but were less positive in 2018. The CBS/TNO figures showed that just under 73 percent of employees were satisfied with their working conditions in 2018, putting the Netherlands in second place in the EU. In 2018 nearly three-quarters of the population were satisfied with the amount of free time they had.

⁵⁾ This is the target for the Netherlands (Ministry for Economic Affairs, 2017a). The EU2020 target is a net labour participation rate of 75 percent or higher for 20-64-year-olds (European Commission, 2010).

Trend in NL

Position in EU

Resources and opportunities

30 vacancies per 1,000 jobs on 31 December 2018 

Job vacancy rate



3.8% of labour force in 2018


[SDG 8.5.2] Unemployment



1.3% of labour force had been unemployed for one year or more in 2018

[SDG 8.5.2] Long-term unemployment



11.7% of population aged 15-74 don't work but can work in 2018 

Labour underutilisation




Use

67.8% of population aged 15-74 in 2018

Net labour participation



27.5 hours worked per worker per week in 2018 

Weekly working hours



Outcomes

€ 26.35 per hour (2015 prices) in 2017

[SDG 8.5.1] Hourly earnings of employees



1,304 standardised incidence per 100,000 workers in 2016 

[SDG 8.8.1] Non-fatal accidents at work



17.3% of employees suffered from work-related mental fatigue in 2018

Work-related mental fatigue (employees)

Subjective assessment

9.9% of employees reported an imbalance between work and private life in 2018

Work-life imbalance (employees)

16.3% of employees have concerns about keeping their job in 2018 

Concerns about job retention

8.0 % positive answers minus % negative answers (over-15s) in 2018 

Expectations about own financial situation



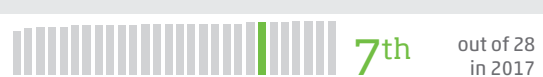
72.6% of employees aged 15-74 are satisfied or very satisfied in 2018


Satisfaction with working conditions (employees)



76.6% of employees aged 15-74 are satisfied or very satisfied in 2018 

Satisfaction with work (employees)



73.9% of the population over 18 are satisfied or very satisfied in 2018 

Satisfaction with leisure time



SDG 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure: infrastructure and mobility

SDG 9 relates to business, innovation and infrastructure. This dashboard refers to infrastructure, but is broader than SDG 9.1, as it also includes personal mobility. Mobility and infrastructure make it possible for people to work, keep in touch with each other and undertake activities in their free time. Commuting from home to work and vice versa by various forms of transport accounts for a large part of personal mobility. Mobility also has negative effects on society and the environment, including time lost in traffic congestion, unsafe traffic situations and the burden on the environment.

Resources and opportunities concern resources available for constructing and maintaining the infrastructure network and the possibilities this offers for safe, affordable and efficient transport of people and goods. The total length of both public roads and railways have increased. In 2018 investment in infrastructure equalled 2.4 percent of GDP.

Use describes the volume of transport movements of various forms of transport. Trends in the ratios of volume of personal transport to GDP and goods transport to GDP are not increasing. This means there is a direct correlation between the volume of the economy and the number of transport movements. Ideally, the number of transport movements would increase more slowly than GDP. In the EU rankings, the Netherlands has been occupying a very low position in terms of passenger transport in ratio to GDP. For goods transport on the other hand, it has a relatively high position in the EU. Motorised passenger transport mostly takes place by car (86 percent), followed by train (11 percent). This has not changed much since 2011. Kilometres travelled by bicycle come from a different data source and can therefore not be compared directly in this respect. The proportion of electric cars in all cars registered to Dutch owners rose from 0.7 percent in 2011 to 3.2 percent in 2018.

Outcomes relate to the effects of mobility, such as traffic congestion and delays, accidents, pollution and noise. The government aims to reduce traffic deaths to zero by 2050 (Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, 2018).⁶⁾ In 2017 traffic accidents claimed 35.8 lives per million inhabitants. This number is small compared with other EU countries. Following an increase in the period 2011–2018, just over one quarter of Dutch households report noise nuisance from traffic or neighbours. This puts the Netherlands near the bottom of the EU ranking. Time lost as a result of traffic congestion and delays has also shown an upward trend. Per capita CO₂ emissions of domestic traffic and transport were stable in 2017 compared with 2011, although it should be noted that emissions were significantly down in 2014 and have risen since then. Dutch airlines are accounting for increasing share of CO₂ emissions⁷⁾; these emissions have been relatively high for years now. In 2017 the Netherlands was 26th in the EU on this indicator.

Subjective assessment refers to noise nuisance and satisfaction with commuting time. The percentage of households that experience noise nuisance from traffic and/or neighbours is rising. The Netherlands scores unfavourably compared with other EU countries in this respect. The percentage of people who were satisfied with their commuting time from home to work and vice versa fell to 81.5 in 2018.

⁶⁾ As the SDG 3 indicator for road traffic deaths has a clear link to the theme Mobility, it is included here.

⁷⁾ The indicator is measured per capita to reflect the shared responsibility of Dutch citizens and Dutch businesses.

Trend in NL

Position in EU

Resources and opportunities			
2.4% of gross domestic product in 2018	Gross fixed capital formation in infrastructure		
4.15 km of roads per km ² land area in 2018	Density of public road network	↑	
0.10 km of railway track per km ² land area in 2018	Density of railway network	↑	3 rd out of 22 in 2017
85.6 volume relative to GDP, index (2005=100) in 2016	[SDG 9.1.2] Passenger transport		23 rd out of 28 in 2016
99.9 volume relative to GDP, index (2005=100) in 2016	[SDG 9.1.2] Freight transport		5 th out of 28 in 2016
86.0% of total passenger-kilometres in 2016	Travelling by car		5 th out of 28 in 2016
11.0% of total passenger-kilometres in 2016	Travelling by train		2 nd out of 26 in 2016
846.4 km per capita in 2017	Travelling by bicycle		
3.2% of the total number of cars in 2018	Electric cars	↑	
3.93 vehicle-hours per capita in 2018	Time lost due to traffic congestion and delays	↑	
35.8 per million of the population in 2017	[SDG 3.6.1] Traffic deaths		3 rd out of 28 in 2017
2,743.4 kg per capita in 2017	CO ₂ emissions by domestic transport		
755.5 kg per capita in 2017	CO ₂ emissions by national air carriers	↑	26 th out of 28 in 2017
27.0% of households experience noise nuisance in 2018	Noise nuisance caused by traffic and neighbours	↑	27 th out of 28 in 2017
81.5% of the population over 18 are satisfied or very satisfied in 2018	Satisfaction with commuting time	↓	

SDG 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure: sustainable business

SDGs 9.2, 9.3 and 9.4 focus on making businesses stronger and more sustainable and increasing access to high-value markets and finance for small businesses. Many of these topics come under the heading of corporate social responsibility (CSR). CSR crosses through many SDGs⁸⁾: access to credit for small businesses, employee conditions, more sustainable production processes, and inclusive and sustainable value chains within and across national borders. In the Netherlands, the main topics in this regard are relations between employers and employees, the role of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and large companies, and sustainable production processes and products.

Resources and opportunities describe options for businesses to make their production processes, energy consumption and value chains more sustainable. Access to finance is seen as the greatest obstacle for operational management by 6.5 percent of SMEs. This percentage has fallen substantially: in 2013 it was still nearly 20. The Netherlands currently occupies a position in the middle region of the EU rankings. The value added of the environment sector (companies operating in the area of environmental protection and management of natural resources, including energy conservation) is showing an upward trend and was 2.2 percent of GDP in 2016. Employment in this sector has increased by relatively little. Out of the one hundred companies with the highest turnover, 82 included CSR in their annual report in 2017. In an international perspective the Netherlands scores high on this indicator. The percentage has hardly changed since 2011.

Use concerns companies' efforts to make production processes, energy use and value chains more sustainable. The energy intensity of the economy – a measure for energy use efficiency – is showing a decreasing trend; internationally the Netherlands is in the middle of the EU rankings. Domestic material consumption per capita is falling. With this relatively low materials consumption, the Netherlands has been in the top part of the EU ranking for years now.

Outcomes refer to actual sustainability of production processes and value chains. Dutch SMEs account for just over 62 percent of value added in the total non-financial sector. The Netherlands is in the middle segment of the EU ranking in this respect. The greenhouse-gas intensity (a measure of 'efficiency' of greenhouse gas emissions: volume of CO₂ emitted per euro GDP) shows a downward trend.

Subjective assessment relates to satisfaction with working conditions, and the level of trust in banks and large companies. According to a survey conducted by CBS and TNO nearly 73 percent of employees were satisfied with their working conditions in 2018. In 2015 the Netherlands was second in the EU in terms of employee satisfaction.

⁸⁾ Mainly SDGs 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 17.

Trend in NL

Position in EU

Resources and opportunities

6.5% experience access to financing as main problem in 2018

[SDG 9.3.2] SME access to finance

2.2% of gross domestic product in 2016

[SDG 9.2.1] Value added of environment sector

1.9% of total employment in 2016

[SDG 9.2.2] Employment in environment sector

82% of top 100 companies reported on CSR in 2017

[SDG 12.6.1] CSR in annual report

Use

116.3 kg oil equivalents per 1,000 euros of GDP (2010 prices) in 2016

[SDG 7.3.1] Energy intensity of the economy

9,306 kg per capita in 2017

[SDG 12.2.2] Domestic material consumption

Outcomes

62.4% of value added of the non-financial sector in 2016

[SDG 9.3.1] Value added of SMEs

0.30 kg CO₂ equivalents per euro of GDP (2015 prices) in 2018

[SDG 9.4.1] Greenhouse gas intensity of the economy ^{A)}

76.2% of national income is allocated to labour in 2017

Wage share

Subjective assessment

72.6% of employees aged 15-74 are satisfied or very satisfied in 2018

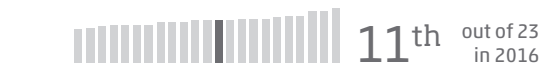
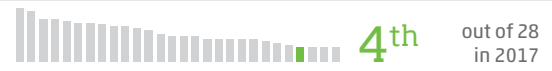
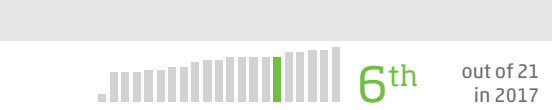
Satisfaction with working conditions (employees)

39.7% of the population over 15 has (fairly) high level of trust in 2018

Trust in large companies

42.8% of the population over 15 has (fairly) high level of trust in 2018

Trust in banks



SDG 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure: knowledge and innovation

Knowledge is essential to increase economic performance and find solutions to pressing societal issues. It can be converted into new technologies and processes, which in turn can be used to improve products and production processes and make them more sustainable. Added to this, knowledge has sociocultural and intrinsic value. Important aspects in this respect are public and private investment in knowledge, expanding ICT and other technology, and increasing knowledge and other capital (SDG 9.5). Access to the internet is an increasingly important factor in access to knowledge (SDG 9.c).

Resources and opportunities concern money, manpower and infrastructure to develop, share and apply knowledge and innovation. Total Dutch spending on research and development (R&D) has risen slightly since 2011, mainly as a result of private sector spending. Public spending remained stable at between 0.8 and 0.9 percent of GDP. Gross capital expenditure as a percentage of GDP (mainly investment in machines and equipment) fell for a while during the economic crisis. It is now rising again, but is still relatively lower than in many other EU countries. Investment in ICT on the other hand is showing an upward trend. The percentage was higher than in other EU countries in 2017. Relatively more households in the Netherlands have broadband internet connections and access to the internet than in the rest of the EU.

Use relates to creation of knowledge, innovations and knowledge networks. The rise in the number of scientific publications per million of the Dutch population is slowing down. For the first time in years the trend is no longer upward but level. The trend in the number of patent applications per million of the population is rising, however. For both indicators the Netherlands is in the EU top five. A relatively large share of Dutch companies are innovative from a technological point of view; here, too, the Netherlands is among the leading EU countries.

Outcomes refer to the extent to which new technology and knowledge is embedded in the stock of capital goods required by the present and future generations. The stock of physical goods (machines, equipment and other means of production) per hour worked has been decreasing since 2013, although the trend is still stable. This development is visible throughout a large part of Europe, which means the Netherlands is consistently in the top five of the EU. Stocks of knowledge capital on the other hand continue to show an upward trend. Here the Netherlands is high in the EU rankings (second out of thirteen countries in 2017).

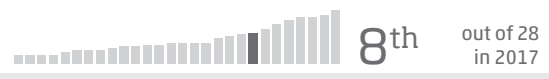
Subjective assessment relates to trust in science and innovation. The level of trust in science is relatively high.

Trend in NL

Position in EU

Resources and opportunities

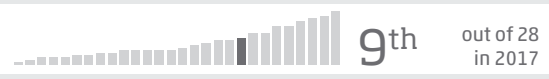
2.0% of gross domestic product in 2017
[SDG 9.5.1] R&D expenditure ↑



0.8% of gross domestic product in 2017
[SDG 9.5.1] Public expenditure on R&D



1.2% of gross domestic product in 2017
[SDG 9.5.1] Private expenditure on R&D ↑



16.9% of gross domestic product in 2018
Gross fixed capital formation



4.2% of gross domestic product in 2018
Investment in ICT ↑



3.6 hours worked per capita in 2017
[SDG 9.5.2] Hours worked in R&D ↑



95.9% of the population over 12 have a broadband connection in 2018
Broadband internet connections ↑

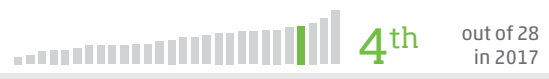


96.5% of the population over 12 have access in 2018
Internet access ↑



Use

2,994 publications per million population in 2017
Scientific publications



259 PCT patent applications per million population in 2017
[SDG 9.5] Patents ↑



38% of enterprises with more than 10 employees in 2016
Technologically innovative enterprises



Outcomes

€ 150 per hour worked (2015 prices) in 2017
Physical capital stock



€ 11.16 per hour worked (2015 prices) in 2017
Knowledge capital stock ↑



Subjective assessment

7.1 score on a scale of 1-10 (10 = complete confidence) in 2018
Trust in science

SDG 10 Reduced inequalities: social cohesion and inequality

SDG 10 is intended to reduce inequality within and between countries. This dashboard focuses on an important intangible aspect of inequality within a country: social cohesion. Social cohesion is indispensable for the fabric of society; it is based on the social infrastructure, such as family ties, neighbours, friends, clubs and associations, and interpersonal care and support. People must be able to take part in these relationships (in accordance with SDGs 10.1 and 10.2), in order to be able to feel they are part of a group (SDG 10.3). Migration issues occupy a special place in this system (SDG 10.7).

Resources and opportunities refer to social capital, social structures and income inequality. In the context of this SDG, the aim is to reduce income inequality. In terms of both the 80:20 ratio and the Gini coefficient, income inequality is low in the Netherlands compared with other EU countries. According to the 80:20 ratio, the sum of all incomes in the highest 20 percent of incomes was just over four times the sum of the lowest 20 percent of incomes in 2017. The eight-year trend of this ratio is relatively stable. A low income may be a limiting factor for participation in society. Relative poverty rose slightly in 2017, to 13.2 percent. This is a favourable score in an international perspective, but the Netherlands has fallen from second place in 2011 to its present fifth position. The effects of immigration policy are measured with the aid of the migration policy index.⁹⁾ For the Netherlands, this index showed a downward trend in 2014. In the EU rankings, too, the Netherlands dropped to sixth position.

Use refers to social interactions, membership of organisations and clubs and volunteering. Compared with other EU countries, relatively many Dutch people – nearly 73 percent – meet up with family, friends or neighbours at once a week. This places the Netherlands high on the EU list. In addition, nearly 44 percent of the Dutch are active in a club or association. The social infrastructure also relies on volunteer work and support to people outside the own household, such as informal care. In terms of volunteer work, the Netherlands tops the EU rankings. The percentage of people who volunteer is relatively stable: in 2017 nearly half of the Dutch population did some form of voluntary work.

Outcomes refer to the extent of social cohesion and exclusion and discrimination. Nearly 62 percent of the population say they trust other people. This is high in an international perspective.

Subjective assessment concerns how much people trust each other, feelings of shared norms and values and social exclusion. In 2016 7.6 percent of the population felt they were part of a group that was discriminated against. This put the Netherlands in the middle of the EU rankings. Just over 46 percent of the population say they think that norms and values have remained the same or improved. And 46 percent of the Dutch say they have a great degree of freedom to decide how to lead their own lives. This gave the Netherlands a fourth place in the EU in 2017.

⁹⁾ The index for Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) measures integration of migrants in terms of 167 indicators covering eight policy areas: labour market mobility, education, political participation, access to nationality, family reunion, health, permanent residence and anti-discrimination.

Trend in NL

Position in EU

Resources and opportunities

4.18 income ratio of highest quintile to lowest quintile in 2017

[SDG 10.1.1] 80:20 ratio

0.28 value between 0 (complete equality) and 1 (complete inequality) in 2017

[SDG 10.1.1] Gini coefficient

13.2% of the population are below poverty threshold (60% of median income) in 2017 ↑

[SDG 10.2.1] Relative poverty

61 score on a scale 0-100 (100 = best integration policy) in 2014 ↓

[SDG 10.7.2] Migrant integration policy index

Use

72.5% of the population over 15 have contact at least once a week in 2018 ↓

Contact with family, friends or neighbours

43.8% of the population over 15 are active members in 2018 ↓

Participation in clubs, associations, etc.

47.6% of the population over 15 do organised volunteer work in 2018

Volunteer work

35.6% of the population over 15 provide informal assistance in 2018

Informal assistance

Outcomes

8.0 score on a scale of 1-10 (10 = completely satisfied) in 2017

Satisfaction with family life ^{B)}

29.5% of the population over 15 have a positive opinion in 2016

Opinions about immigrants

Subjective assessment

61.7% of the population over 15 think most people can be trusted in 2018 ↑

Trust in other people

7.6% of the population over 15 say they are discriminated against in 2016

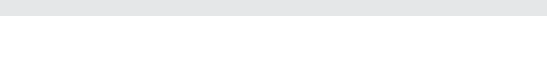
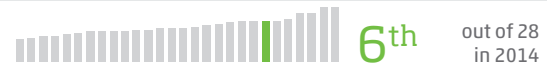
[SDG 10.3.1] Feelings of discrimination

46.3% of the population over 18 say norms and values are the same or better in 2018

Changes in values and norms

45.6% feel in control (scores 4 or 5 on a scale of 1-5) in 2018

Feeling in control of own life



SDG 10 Reduced inequalities: financial sustainability

This part of SDG 10 concerns the financial sustainability of Dutch well-being and household accounts. Debts are incurred and capital is built up collectively as well as individually. The financial liabilities of the government and households have an impact on the well-being of future generations. Financial systems may prove vulnerable when confronted with an ageing population, economic crises, increasing globalisation, and changing solidarity between generations and population groups.

Resources and opportunities concern the sustainable financing of the welfare state and the accrual of pensions and capital without burdening future generations. Grey pressure (the ratio of over-65s to 20–65year-olds) and green pressure (ratio under-20s to 20–65year-olds) both show a negative trend: green pressure is decreasing, while ageing is increasing. Up to 2011 the Netherlands was in the EU top ten in terms ageing, but since then it has dropped to fifteenth place in 2018. In terms of green pressure, the Netherlands is in the middle of the EU rankings. The current coverage ratio of Dutch pension funds shows a stable trend and was 103.2 percent in 2018.¹⁰⁾

Use concerns the withdrawal of resources from built-up capital. The trend in the number of people entitled to pension payments is upward, but decreased in 2018. While the population is still ageing, the number of self-employed people is also increasing. Self-employed people make different pension provisions than most employees, and some may not build up a pension at all.

Outcomes refer to the level of incurred debt and the sustainability of financial systems. The average debt per household shows a decreasing trend, but the Netherlands was still low in the EU rankings in 2017, at 98 thousand euros. Opposite the debt, households have savings (currency and deposits) and non-financial assets such as their homes. There is no visible trend in this respect, but the Netherlands is tenth on the EU list with an average 52.5 thousand euros per household in 2017. There is no clear trend in government debt; it did fall from 67.9 percent of GDP in 2014 to 57.0 percent in 2017¹¹⁾, scoring in the middle of the EU rankings.

Subjective assessment concerns uncertainty about and confidence in the future. In 2018 just over one quarter of the population aged over 18 were very concerned about their financial future; the trend is downward.

¹⁰⁾ Dutch target: most pension fund policies state a minimum coverage ratio requirement of 104.2 percent after five years. Pension funds also have a recovery plan to realise the required capital within ten years; this percentage varies between pension funds. (Rijksoverheid, 2018).

¹¹⁾ Under the Eurozone's Stability and Growth Pact, government debt (EMU debt) may not exceed 60 percent of GDP (Ministry of Finance, 2018).

Resources and opportunities

Trend in NL

Position in EU

32.0% ratio of over-65s to 20-64-year-olds in 2018



Grey pressure



37.6% ratio of under-20s to 20-64-year-olds in 2018



Green pressure



9.1% of employee wages in 2017

Pension contributions

103.2% of pension liabilities are covered on 31 December 2018

Coverage ratio of pension funds

7.6% of gross domestic product in 2017

Government expenditure on public health



15.9% of gross domestic product in 2017



Government expenditure on social protection



Use

71.0% of present income is average expected pension in 2014

Pension entitlements



58.4 per 100 active participants in pension funds in 2017



Pension beneficiaries

57.0% of gross domestic product in 2017

Government debt



€ 98,019 per household (current prices) in 2017



Average household debt



€ 191,200 per household with a mortgage debt (current prices) in 2017



Average household mortgage debt

€ 52,483 per household (current prices) in 2017

Currency and deposits per household



91.44 ratio of total mortgage debt to value of the property in 2017

Loan-to-value ratio for first-time home buyers

Subjective assessment

25.1% of the population over 18 are very concerned in 2018



Concern about future finances

SDG 11 Sustainable cities and communities: housing

SDG 11 comprises sustainable cities and communities. Housing is an important aspect of well-being in cities and communities. People spend a large part of their lives at home and safe, affordable, good-quality housing with adequate room this improves the sense of well-being. Where people live is determined by work location and social ties, but also importantly by where suitable and affordable housing is available. Housing market mobility is important for those starting out and for those who want to move upwards. In addition, personal well-being is affected by how much people can enjoy their home and their feelings about how much it costs them to live there.

Resources and opportunities concern the number, quality and affordability of own and rented dwellings. According to the National Housing Agenda (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, 2018) the number of available homes is set to increase by a net 700 thousand between 2018 and 2025. The number of available dwellings per thousand inhabitants shows an increasing trend and was 452 in 2018. Rent levels and house prices have risen strongly in the last few years. Housing market tension (the lower this is, the more favourable for buyers), shows an upward trend. This means selling prices are approaching asking prices, resulting in higher costs for buyers. In spite of this, the total share of their income people spend on housing has fallen slightly: according to the international definition, it was 23.4 percent in 2017. This is quite a large share compared with other EU countries.

Use refers to the rented or own homes people live in and their chances of moving up on the housing ladder. There are two ways to measure the share of people who live in rental accommodation that does not fit their circumstances: physically and financially. Just over 4 percent of the population live in a home with too few rooms according international standards in 2017. The Netherlands scores quite favourably compared with other EU countries in this respect. The average mortgage debt of households with a mortgage debt was just over 191 thousand euros in 2017. No figures are available for credit saved to repay investment-based mortgage loans.

Outcomes refer to the quality of housing, neighbourhood and housing costs. With respect to the housing quality, the Netherlands occupies a middle position in the EU: in 2018 84.2 percent of the Dutch population said they did not have a leaking roof, damp in walls, floors or foundation, or rot in window frames or floors. Nearly 70 percent of the population own the home they live in. This puts the Netherlands at the bottom of the EU list. The percentage of households who experience their housing costs as very burdensome fluctuates and is now 9.5 percent. This is relatively low compared with other EU countries. The percentage of households that experience unpleasantness in their neighbourhood on the other hand is quite high: nearly 18 percent in 2017.¹²⁾

Subjective assessment refers to how satisfied people are with their housing and their neighbourhood. A large part of the population are satisfied with their accommodation, although the trend is downward. The Netherlands is in the middle of the EU rankings for this indicator.

¹²⁾ Unpleasantness in the neighbourhood included noise from neighbours and/or the street, vandalism, crime or violence in the direct vicinity, pollution, litter and other environmental problems in the direct vicinity.

Trend in NL

Position in EU


Resources and opportunities

452 dwellings per 1,000 population in 2018 


Number of available dwellings

106.0 European harmonised consumer price index (2015=100) in 2018 


Actual housing rent

109.1 price index (2015=100) in 2017 

Spending on purchase and ownership of own home

0.98 median ratio in 2017 

Median ratio of selling price to asking price

23.4% of disposable household income in 2017 

Housing costs (rented and own homes)


Use

15.5% of tenants with too low a rent in relation to their income in 2018

Rent disproportionate to income

4.1% of the population live in a home that is too small in 2017 

[SDG 11.1.1] Overcrowding

€ 191,200 per household with a mortgage debt (current prices) in 2017 

Average household mortgage debt

Outcomes

69.4% of the population own their home in 2017 

Home ownership

9.5% of households say housing costs are a heavy burden in 2017

Housing costs burden

84.2% of the population have no major housing defects in 2018

[SDG 11.1.1] Housing quality

Subjective assessment

17.8% of households experience nuisance in 2017

Neighbourhood nuisance

86.5% of the population over 18 are satisfied or very satisfied in 2018 

Satisfaction with housing

85.8% of the population over 18 are satisfied or very satisfied in 2018

Satisfaction with residential environment



SDG 11 Sustainable cities and communities: living environment

SDG 11 also includes the living environment in cities and communities. How much space do people have? Do they feel safe? How clean is the air they breathe? The aim of Dutch Cabinet is to provide a healthy, safe and good-quality living environment, which includes good environmental quality. Towns and cities must provide opportunities for community interaction, and the available area above and below ground should be efficiently utilised (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, 2018). This dashboard focuses on environmental factors: area per person (SDG 11.3), waste management (SDG 11.6) and government spending on the environment (SDG 11.4). Other indicators relate to concentrations of particulate matter in urban air (SDG 11.6) and crime (SDG 11.7). There are no specific policy targets for safety and sustainability in Dutch cities. For air quality, the Netherlands is required to comply with the EU norm for particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) to protect citizens' health: 25 micrograms/m³.

Resources and opportunities concern the amount of available space, including green areas, and spending to protect the quality of the living environment. As the population of the Netherlands continues to grow, the amount of available space per inhabitant is shrinking. In 2018 76 m² per capita less was available than in 2011, a decline of 3 percent. The Netherlands is indeed the second most densely populated country of the EU: only Malta counts more persons per square kilometre. Although the Dutch government is spending an increasingly smaller share of GDP on environmental protection, this percentage was higher than in all other EU countries in 2017.

Use concerns how people use their living environment. In view of the amounts municipal waste services are collecting, the Dutch are producing less and less waste. The trend is positive: while the waste collection services collected 610 kilograms of waste per person in 2011, by 2017 this had fallen to 553 kilograms. In many other European countries this is less: the Netherlands is 20th of 27 countries in this respect, although it should be noted that there are differences between countries in types of waste collected by municipalities.

Outcomes relate to quality and safety of the living environment. The average urban background PM_{2.5} concentration was 12.0 micrograms/m³ in 2018, well under the EU norm (RIVM, Compendium voor de Leefomgeving, 2019).¹³⁾ Another aspect of the living environment is nature. As a measure for nature in the city, an indicator for urban birds has been added to the dashboard. Although some species feel more at home between people and buildings than in natural and agricultural areas, the index has dropped substantially. A European comparison is not possible for this indicator.

In the period 2012–2017 fewer and fewer of the Dutch population reported having been a victim of crime. In 2017 this percentage was just over 15. As illustrated in the previous dashboard, nearly 18 percent of households experienced unpleasantness such as noise, vandalism, crime and pollution in their direct vicinity in 2017. This placed the Netherlands very low in the EU rankings: 25th of 28 EU countries.

Subjective assessment describes how people experience their living environment. As mentioned above, people reported less crime. In 2017 1.5 percent of the population often felt unsafe in their own neighbourhood. This percentage has remained more or less stable in recent years.

¹³⁾ As the historical dataset for particulate matter is subject to correction, the long-term trend may change.

Trend in NL

Position in EU

Resources and opportunities

2,418 m² per capita in 2018
[SDG 11.3.1] Area per person ↓

1.4% of gross domestic product in 2017
[SDG 11.4.1] Government expenditure on environment ↓

Use

553 kg per capita in 2017
[SDG 11.6.1] Municipal waste ↓

Outcomes

2,005 micrograms per m³ above the threshold (70 mg/m³ per day) in 2014
Exposure to ozone in urban areas ↓

1.00 tonnes of acid equivalents per capita in 2017
Emissions of acidifying substances ↓

12.0 microgram PM_{2,5} per m³ in 2018
[SDG 11.6.2] Urban exposure to particulate matter (PM_{2,5}) ↓

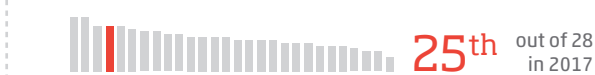
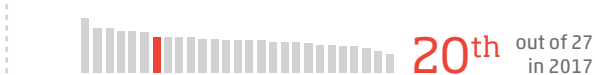
15.2% of the population over 15 are crime victims in 2017
[SDG 11.7.2] Victims of crime ↓

44.0 index (1990=100) in 2017
Urban bird population ↓

Subjective assessment

17.8% of households experience nuisance in 2017
Neighbourhood nuisance

1.5% of the population over 15 often feels unsafe in 2017
Feeling unsafe in own neighbourhood



SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production

SDG 12 relates to sustainable production and consumption, which translates to a more efficient use of raw materials. This reduces the impact on the environment and the dependency on natural resources, and limits the consequences for future generations. Reuse of waste and responsible disposal of hazardous materials also contribute to this SDG. This dashboard focuses on the transition to a circular economy, in which the dependency on natural resources is reduced to a minimum through high-grade recycling. SDG 12.2 reflects the aim of minimal use of raw materials, accompanied by an increase in the volume of waste reused (SDGs 12.4 and 12.5). This will also increase awareness among businesses (SDG 12.6) and consumers, encouraging them to make responsible choices.

Resources and opportunities relate to the possibilities for sustainable production and consumption. In 2017, 82 of the 100 highest turnover companies in the Netherlands reported on CSR. This percentage has remained stable since 2011 and the Netherlands is relatively high in the EU rankings. These reports give consumers and investors insight into how sustainable these companies operate. The value added of the environment sector – environmental protection and the management of natural resources including energy conservation – shows an upward trend. Employment in this sector accounted for 1.9 percent of total employment in 2016.

Use concerns the volume of food, natural resources and other materials used and waste generated. Domestic material consumption (SDG 12.2) shows a stable trend but has decreased recently. The government wants to halve the use of abiotic resources between 2014 and 2030, and realise a completely circular economy in 2050 (Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, 2016; Ministries of Infrastructure and Water Management, and Economic Affairs and Climate, 2018). Decoupling waste generation from economic growth is a policy goal (Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, 2017). This means that economic growth should go hand in glove with a decrease in waste generation. The volume of industrial waste is showing a stable trend, but has increased again in the most recent year. Although the amount of municipal waste is showing a downward trend (see also previous dashboard), the relative position is less favourable than in previous years. For hazardous waste, too, the Netherlands is on the bottom rungs of the European ladder.

Outcomes concern how efficiently raw materials are used, reuse of waste and residuals and food wastage. The volume of food waste has decreased (see SDG 2). Raw materials productivity, a measure of the efficiency of resource use, is increasing and as a result the Netherlands has been very efficient compared with other EU countries for years now. The material footprint – the total amount of raw materials needed to fulfil the demands of Dutch consumption – is showing an unfavourable trend. Another goal is to halve the amount of waste that is not recycled, composted or converted into energy between 2012 and 2022 (Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, 2017). Nearly 75 percent of industrial waste is recycled. The recycled and composted percentage of municipal waste is rising and is now just over 54 percent. The Netherlands has been near the top of the EU class for a number of years now in this area. Over two-thirds of hazardous waste is recycled, giving the Netherlands a high international position here too.

Subjective assessment describes people's concerns about pollution, use of resources and other aspects of sustainability. In the Netherlands 16 percent of the population experience problems with waste and pollution or other environmental aspects.

Trend in NL

Position in EU

Resources and opportunities

2.2% of gross domestic product in 2016 ↑

[SDG 9.2.1] Value added of environment sector

1.9% of total employment in 2016

[SDG 9.2.2] Employment in environment sector

82% of top 100 companies reported on CSR in 2017

[SDG 12.6.1] CSR in annual report

Use

9,306 kg per capita in 2017

[SDG 12.2.2] Domestic material consumption

1,538 kg per capita in 2017

Industrial waste

553 kg per capita in 2017 ↓

[SDG 11.6.1] Municipal waste

301 kg per capita in 2016

[SDG 12.4.2] Hazardous waste

Outcomes

€ 4.20 GDP per kg of resources used (2010 prices) in 2017 ↑

[SDG 8.4.2] Resource productivity

9.7 tonnes per capita in 2017 ↑

[SDG 12.2.1] Material footprint

74.9% of total processed industrial waste in 2017

Recycled industrial waste

54.2% of total collected municipal waste in 2017 ↑

[SDG 12.5.1] Recycled municipal waste

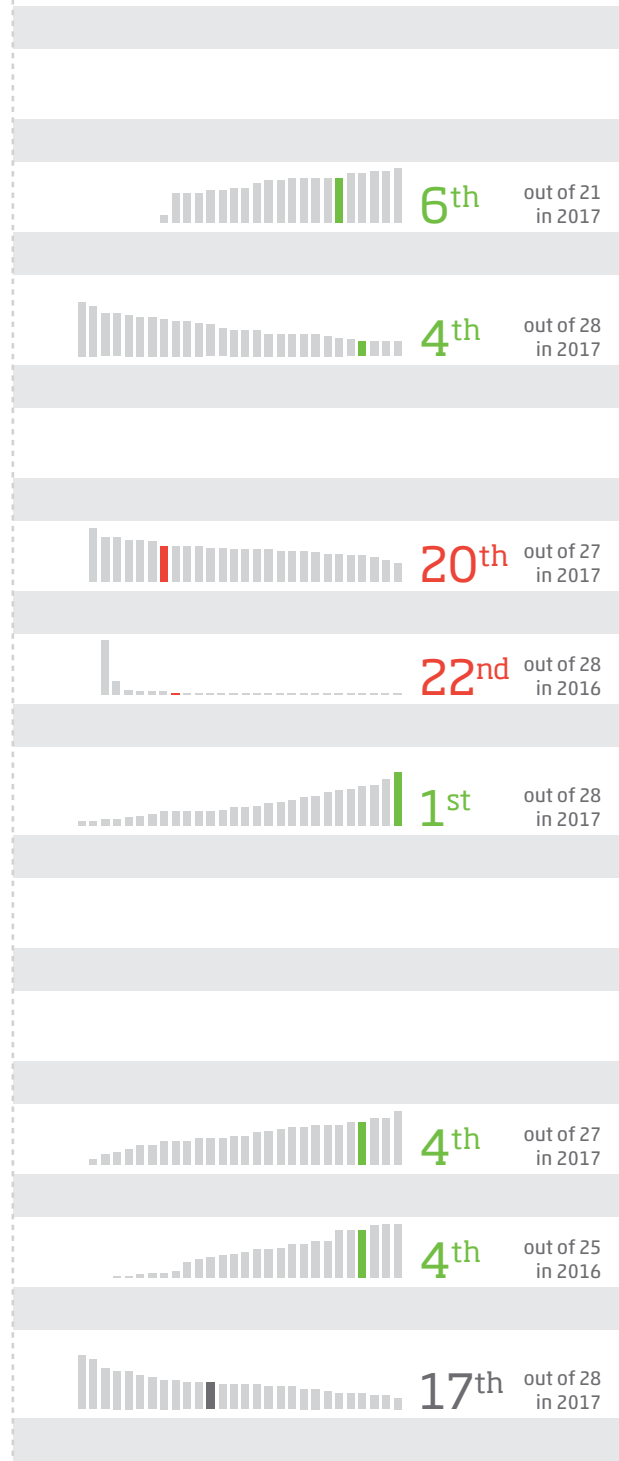
67.5% of total processed industrial waste in 2016

[SDG 12.4.2] Recycled hazardous waste

Subjective assessment

15.9% of the population over 16 experience problems in 2018

Environmental problems



SDG 13 Climate action

SDG 13 is aimed at tackling climate change as a result of human actions. The Paris Agreement reached in 2015 set out a global action plan to combat climate change and reduce the damaging effects for humans and the environment. This dashboard focuses on SDG 13.2, reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. Energy conservation and renewable energy (see also SDG 7) are factors in lessening these emissions. Also relevant in this respect is that by importing goods and services for domestic consumption, Dutch economic activities also affect greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in the world.

Resources and opportunities concern means used in the Netherlands to combat climate change and cope with its effects. Government spending related to reducing Dutch impact on the climate amounted to 0.2 percent of GDP in 2016.

Use describes the ways in which the Netherlands contributes to climate change. The Cabinet's aim is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 49 percent from their 1990 level by 2030 (Rijksoverheid, 2017). In accordance with the court verdict in the Urgenda climate case (June 2015), the Dutch government must ensure that emissions are at least 25 percent lower in 2020 than in 1990. In 2018 a reduction of 14.5 percent had been realised in the Netherlands, mainly the result of a strong decrease in methane and nitrous oxide emissions. CO₂ emissions in this period fell by 1 percent, on the other hand, and are now only just under the 1990 level. The annual greenhouse gas emission per capita is falling slightly. The Netherlands is quite low on the EU rankings for both the reduction and emission per capita. Businesses with the highest levels of greenhouse gas emissions are required to participate in the Emissions Trading System (ETS). These companies have an EU reduction target of 21 percent between 2005 and 2020.¹⁴⁾ In 2017 an EU-wide reduction of 26.5 percent had been realised, with the Netherlands in last but one position with a reduction of 5.8 percent.

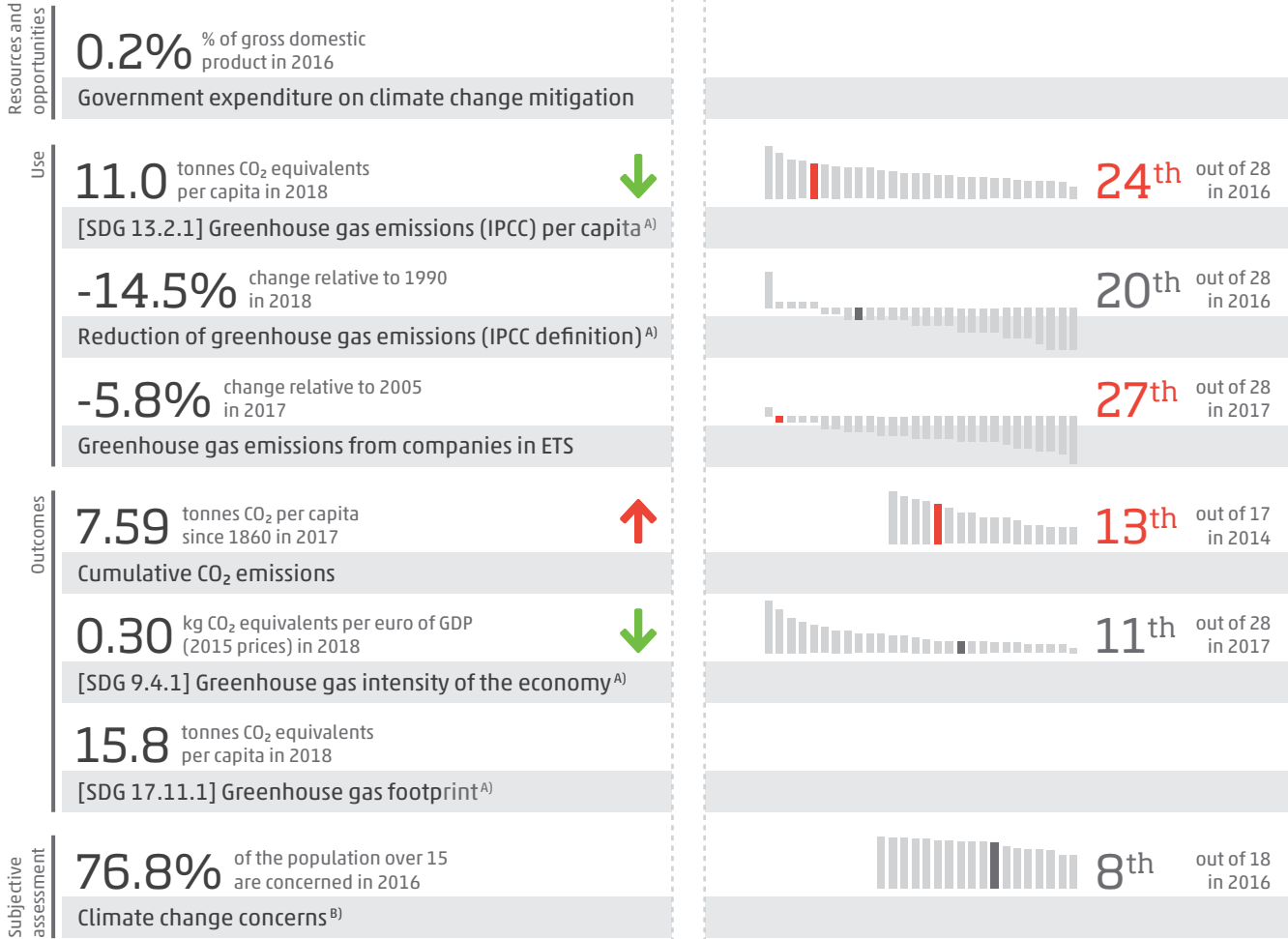
Outcomes concern the total Dutch contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions. The indicator cumulative CO₂ emissions is calculated by taking the sum of annual CO₂ emissions from 1860 onwards and dividing it by the sum of the annual population in the same period. The amount of cumulative CO₂ emissions is rising, because per capita emission is higher now than it was when measurements began. Cumulative CO₂ emissions give an indication of the Dutch share in historical CO₂ emissions since 1860. The Dutch contribution to these emissions is relatively high in a European perspective. The greenhouse gas intensity of the economy – the volume of emissions per euro GDP – is decreasing, which is positive. The greenhouse gas footprint, for example total greenhouse gases emitted as a result of Dutch consumption, has increased in recent years and was 15.8 tonnes of CO₂ equivalents in 2018. This means that consumption by the Dutch population is resulting in higher and higher emissions of greenhouse gas.

Subjective assessment refers to climate concerns and the extent to which people perceive climate change as a problem. In 2016 just over three-quarters of the Dutch population were worried about climate change and its effects.

¹⁴⁾ The ETS regulates around 40 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the EU. Around 450 companies in the Netherlands currently participate in the ETS.

Trend in NL

Position in EU



SDG 14 Life in water

SDG 14 is aimed at the protection of seas and oceans. Seawater covers around three-quarters of the planet and constitutes the world's largest ecosystem. The increasing negative effects of climate change, overfishing and pollution threaten both the intrinsic value of the ecosystem itself, and the value and pleasure people get from it. The Dutch marine area comprises part of the North Sea, the Wadden Sea and the coastal inlets. The dashboard pays attention prevention and reduction of pollution (SDG 14.1) and the sustainability of fishery (SDG 14.4) in the North Sea. As not all EU countries border on the North Sea, European comparisons cannot be compiled for this SDG.

At the moment only very few data that comply with the quality requirements for this report are available to give a picture for whole marine area of the Netherlands. In the coming years, work will be done to improve the quality of the available data for this dashboard.

Resources and opportunities concern the size of the marine area and resources used to maintain and protect it. A large part of Dutch marine waters are located within protected areas. As various forms of protection and use overlap, this protection is not fully implemented across the whole area. For this reason it is not possible to give a clear picture of relevant developments.

Use relates to marine economic activity, recreation and nature protection. The Dutch marine area is used intensively for shipping, fishing and recreation. In addition, an increasing part of the North Sea is used for offshore wind farms, and experiments are underway to generate other forms of renewable energy. At the moment no indicators fulfilling the quality requirements of this report are available to describe these uses for the whole marine area of the Netherlands.

Outcomes describe quality of seawater and natural life in and around Dutch marine waters. The sustainability of Dutch fishing is determined for six main commercial fish species by comparing current fish stocks with sustainable fish stocks, for example stocks necessary to maintain a healthy population. In 2018 the populations of five fish species was large enough to be labelled sustainable; for cod this was not the case. In 2018, 74 percent of coastal swimming water qualified as 'excellent'. This is 7 percent points down from the previous year, changing the trend from positive to neutral. This Netherlands is in the middle of the EU rankings in this respect. In terms of the more general clean water index, the Netherlands is in a low position compared with the rest of the EU.

The North Sea fauna indicator gives an impression of developments in biodiversity in the water and life on the seabed. The trend in this indicator is downward. The most recent measurement shows a relatively strong decrease in the trend of 9 percent. The indicator refers to the offshore part of the North Sea, not coastal waters, inlets and the Wadden Sea. So it is biodiversity in the deep North Sea that is under pressure; this is also true for the benthos.

Subjective assessment concerns people's concerns about pollution of and life in seas and oceans. There are no suitable indicators available to illustrate this.

Outcomes

Trend in NL

Position in EU

45.0 score on a scale of 0-100
(100 = completely clean) in 2018

[SDG 14.1.1] Clean water index

5 out of 6 fish species for consumption are
above sustainability level in 2018

[SDG 14.4.1] Stocks of fish

73.6% qualified as 'excellent'
in 2018

Quality of coastal bathing waters

60.0 index (1990=100)
in 2015

North Sea fauna



SDG 15 Life on land

SDG 15 concerns the protection, restoration and sustainable management of life on land in all its forms. Protecting and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity can strengthen resilience to increasing population pressure, intensification of land use and climate change. Healthy ecosystems constitute the basis of a series of processes that have a major impact on well-being, such as the availability of clean water and air, the presence of insects for pollination and the opportunities for relaxation, recreation and education. Nature has an intrinsic value here and now, and for future generations. This dashboard looks at the protection of nature (SDG 15.1) and the conservation of biodiversity (SDG 15.5).¹⁵⁾

Resources and opportunities concern how much natural space there is and the resources for restoration and protection. Government spending on environmental protection amounted to 1.4 percent of GDP in 2017. Trend-wise, this expenditure has fallen, but the Netherlands does occupy a high position compared with other EU countries. The total land area of nature and forest was just under 15 percent in 2015. This means that the Netherlands has the smallest share of forest in all EU countries. The available area per person in the Netherlands is the smallest of all EU countries with the exception of Malta.

Use concerns the protection and utilisation of natural space and its ecosystems and the pressure on the natural system by human activities. In the Netherlands, nature is protected within the Netherlands Nature Network (NNN). The NNN comprises existing and new nature areas, including national parks and Natura 2000 areas, as well as land farmed under agri-environment schemes and land purchased for nature development. In 2017, the NNN area accounted for more than 20 percent of the land area, and the trend is upward. Phosphorus and nitrogen surpluses, mostly from agriculture, have negative consequences for the quality of surface water and sensitive ecosystems such as heathland. The phosphorus surplus in agriculture fell sharply in 2017. The nitrogen surplus is high, which means that the Netherlands occupies a very low position in the EU ranking

Outcomes relate to the quality of ecosystems and biodiversity. The red list index indicates that more than 60 percent of species, across seven species groups (animals and higher plants), in the Netherlands, are not at risk. The share of endangered species increased slightly in 2017. The Living Planet Index (LPI), based on the average population size of a large number of indigenous species, shows a stable trend, although there is wide variation between species groups. The improved water quality has long led to an increase in aquatic species, but this trend is stagnating. At the same time, terrestrial species have declined. The indicator for farmland birds reflects nature values of agricultural land and shows a declining trend. This indicator also decreased in 2017, indicating poorer living conditions for farmland birds.

Subjective assessment derives how people experience the quality of nature areas and concerns about pollution and the disappearance of species. In the Netherlands, 16 percent of the population experience problems with pollution and contamination or other environmental problems.

¹⁵⁾ This dashboard will be improved in the future as data will become available from the Natural Capital Accounts for the Netherlands (compiled by CBS in collaboration with Wageningen University).

Trend in NL

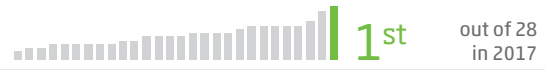
Position in EU

Resources and opportunities

1.4% of gross domestic product in 2017



Government expenditure on environment



2.3% of gross domestic product in 2016



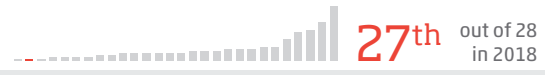
Total environment expenditure



2,418 m² per capita in 2018

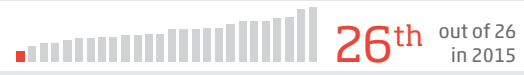


Area per person



14.8% of total land area in 2015

[SDG 15.1.1] Nature and woodland areas^{B)}



Use

20.3% of total land area in 2017



Managed natural assets within NNN

2.2 kg phosphorus per hectare utilised agricultural area in 2017

Phosphorus surplus



178.2 kg nitrogen per hectare utilised agricultural area in 2017

Nitrogen surplus



Outcomes

60.8 index (1950=100) in 2018



[SDG 15.5.1] Red list indicator

67.1 index (2000=100) in 2017

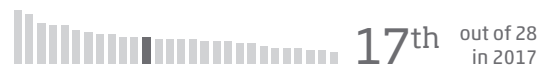


Farmland birds



106.3 index (1990=100) in 2017

[SDG 15.5.1] Living Planet Index



Subjective assessment

15.9% of the population over 16 experience problems in 2018

Environmental problems

SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions: security and peace

SDG 16 strives to promote a peaceful and safe society. Feelings of unsafety – with the accompanying vulnerability and uncertainty – can have a major impact on personal life. How safe people feel therefore has an effect, both objectively and subjectively, on well-being here and now. It is the task of the armed forces, police and judiciary to increase and maintain security, both through prevention and through the legal system. Public trust in these bodies can increase the sense of security.

Resources and opportunities in this context, relate to the means used to ensure fair legal processes and national security. Government spending on public order and security and spending on national defence show an even trend. The Netherlands scores average internationally in this area. However, the number of police officers is decreasing. In 2011 there were 302 police officers per hundred thousand inhabitants; this fell further in 2018, to 292.

Use for this SDG, is the number of people who come into contact with the judiciary or who appeal to the judicial authorities. The number of detainees shows a decreasing trend, from 83 per hundred thousand inhabitants in 2011 to 62 in 2016. The share of underage suspects in the total number of suspects is also decreasing. From an international perspective, the share is high.

Outcomes concern the number of crimes committed and the number of crime victims. The trend in the number of deaths from murder and manslaughter is neither improving nor deteriorating. Within the EU the number in the Netherlands is relatively low: only in Slovenia were relatively fewer murders committed in 2016. Both the number of registered crimes and the number of people reporting they were victims of crime show decreasing trends. Registered crime is relatively high in the Netherlands, while the proportion of the population who report (via surveys) they have been a victim of crime is average in an insertional perspective. Part of crime remains outside the registration: not all crime is reported, but there are also differences between countries in which offences are registered. The number of people reporting they have been victim of cybercrime is decreasing. Estimates by the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings show a decreasing trend for victims of human trafficking. International comparisons can only be made for the number of registered trafficking victims. The number in the Netherlands is relatively high compared with other EU countries. In the Netherlands, estimates put the actual number of victims at four or five times the registered number. In other countries this ratio may be different. The number of young men and women who experienced sexually transgressive behaviour had halved in 2017 compared with 2012.

Subjective assessment concerns trust in the judicial system, the police and how safe people feel. The number of people in the Netherlands that trust the judicial system, including the police and judges, is stable. Only in Sweden, Finland and Denmark is the level of trust in the judiciary higher. Stable trends are observed for the number of people who often feel unsafe in their own neighbourhood and the share of 15-17-year-olds who say the risk of abuse is high.

Trend in NL

Position in EU

Resources and opportunities

1.9% of gross domestic product in 2017

[SDG 16.6.1] Government expenditure on public order

1.1% of gross domestic product in 2017

Government expenditure on defence

292 police officers per 100,000 population in 2018

Police officers



Use

62 detainees per 100,000 population in 2016

[SDG 16.3.2] Detainees

10.9% of all suspects in 2017

Underage suspects



Outcomes

0.8 deaths per 100,000 population in 2017

[SDG 16.1.1] Deaths due to homicide

45.6 offences per 1,000 population in 2018

[SDG 16.3.1] Registered crime

15.2% of the population over 15 are crime victims in 2017

[SDG 16.1.3] Victims of crime

11.0% of the population over 15 are cybercrime victims in 2017

Victims of cybercrime

34.5 per 100,000 population in 2015

[SDG 16.2.2] Victims of human trafficking

11.0% of women aged 12-25 experience sexual violence in 2017

[SDG 16.2.3] Young women experiencing sexual violence^{B)}

2.0% of men aged 12-25 experience sexual violence in 2017

[SDG 16.2.3] Young men experiencing sexual violence^{B)}



Subjective assessment

1.89 score on a scale of -2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong) in 2017

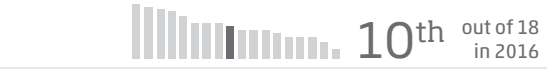
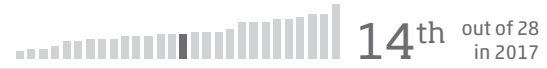
Trust in rule of law

1.5% of the population over 15 often feel unsafe in 2017

[SDG 16.1.4] Feeling unsafe in own neighbourhood

3.0% of 15-18-year-olds think risk of being abused is high in 2017

[SDG 16.2.1] Likelihood of child abuse



SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions: institutions

SDG 16 also relates to institutions. Efficient, accountable and transparent institutions are essential for the development, but also the continuance of well-being. The quality of institutions determines policy cohesion and effectiveness. It is also important that institutions are accountable if a society is to function openly and democratically. Trust of citizens in the government is also instrumental in active public participation in the community.

Resources and opportunities concern the means the government has at its disposal to carry out its tasks and provide services to its citizens. The trend in government spending on general public services is downward, and was 4.3 percent of GDP in 2017.

Use in this context refers to use by citizens of public services and services of civil society organisations. Active citizen participation in society is essential for a well-functioning democracy. One indicator to measure participation is the coverage of collective labour agreements. This is linked to trade union membership, but also to the validity of the agreements for other companies and workers in the same industry. The share of employees covered by collective labour agreements has been showing a declining trend, and was 78.6 percent in 2016. A more direct indicator for active participation is the number of people who vote in general elections. Compared with other EU countries, voter turnout in the Netherlands is high. In 2017, 82 percent of eligible voters voted, up from less than 75 percent in 2012.

Outcomes relate to the quality of public services, the openness and efficiency of the government and public participation. It is important that a government functions well. Both the quality of the regulations and the effectiveness of government administration show an increasing trend. On a European level, the Netherlands scores very high for these indicators. The Dutch public sector is highly regarded as being free from corruption compared with other EU countries. In recent years, Dutch people have seen the public sector as more corrupt than before. To measure government efficiency, the minimum number of days needed to start a business was used. This period has decreased. In the Netherlands it now takes less than four days to set up a company. In no other European country can this be done faster.

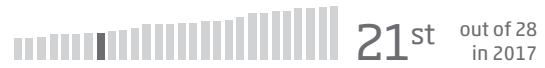
Subjective assessment here concerns the question of whether citizens trust the government. Trust in institutions is high in the Netherlands compared with other countries in Europe. Nearly 63 percent of people said they trusted the police, parliament and the judicial system. In 2012 this was 57.5 percent.

Trend in NL

Position in EU

Resources and opportunities

4.3% of gross domestic product in 2017
 Government expenditure on general public services ↓



Use

78.6% of employees covered by a collective agreement in 2016
 Collective agreement coverage ↓

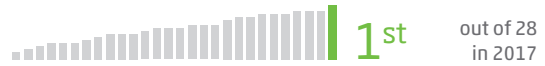


81.9% of electorate voted in general election in 2017
 Voter turnout in parliamentary elections^{B)}

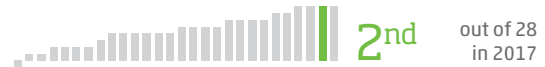


Outcomes

2.05 score on a scale of -2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong) in 2017
 Regulatory quality of governance ↑



1.85 score on a scale of -2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong) in 2017
 Government effectiveness ↑



82 score on a scale of 0-100 (100 = not corrupt) in 2018
 [SDG 16.5.1] Corruption perception index ↓



1.57 score on a scale of -2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong) in 2017
 Voice and accountability



3.5 days in 2018
 [SDG 16.7.2] Time needed to start a business ↓



Subjective assessment

62.7% of the population over 15 have sufficient trust in 2018
 [SDG 16.6.2] Trust in institutions ↑



SDG 17 Partnerships for the goals

The seventeenth and last SDG concerns the formation and maintenance of partnerships to achieve the other goals. International cooperation is needed to strengthen capacity and resources to implement the sustainable development agenda. Achieving the goals will require coherent policy, a cooperative environment and entry into new global partnerships.

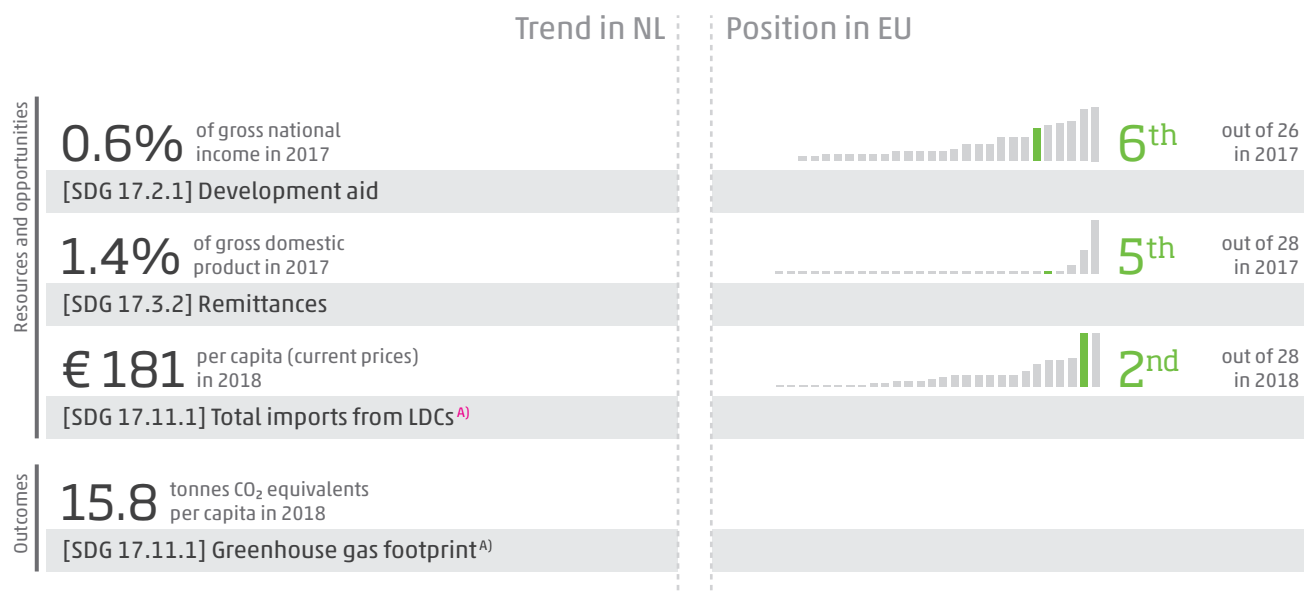
Unfortunately, no indicators are available for most of the sub-goals under SDG 17. A number of these sub-goals are aimed at developing policy instruments to support sustainable development in developing countries. No indicator in a classical sense of the word can be formulated for these targets; they largely measure whether or not policy instruments are in place.

This means that SDG 17 cannot be described in the same way as the previous SDGs. Only four of the official SDG sub-goals can be measured: development aid (SDG 17.2); remittances (SDG 17.3); total imports from LDCs (SDG 17.11); and the greenhouse gas footprint (SDG 17.11).

In terms of development aid and remittances, the trends are stable. The relative amounts of remittances and development aid have remained at around the same level in the most recent year. For both indicators, the Netherlands remains quite high up in the EU rankings. It should be mentioned in this respect that more aid does not necessarily mean higher well-being: this money may be spent inefficiently.

The value of total Dutch imports from the 48 LDCs, and the resulting flow of money to these countries has risen strongly in recent years. The Netherlands is in second place in Europe in this respect. This is also connected with the presence of large ports in the Netherlands.

Finally, the greenhouse gas footprint, for example emissions of greenhouse gases as a result of Dutch domestic consumption rose in the most recent year measured. Through domestic consumption, the Netherlands contributed more in 2018 than in 2017 to emissions of greenhouse gases in the countries where these goods and services are produced.



4. Overview of SDG^{plus} indicator trends

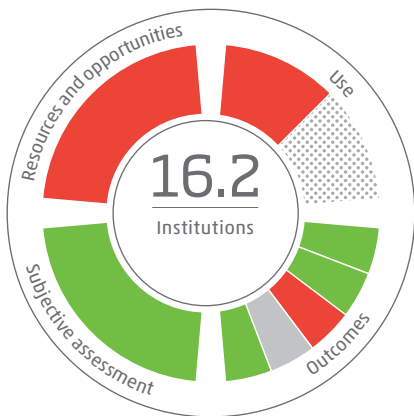
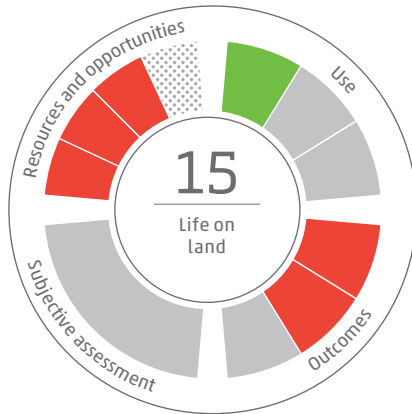
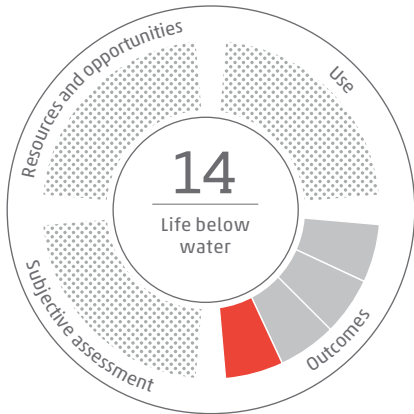
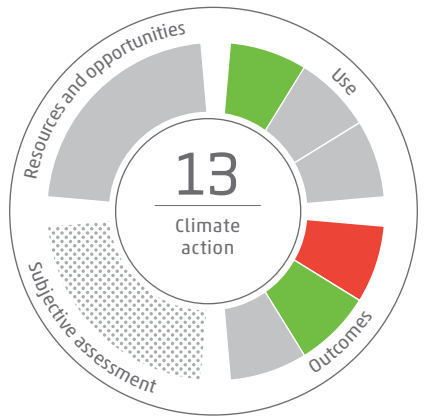
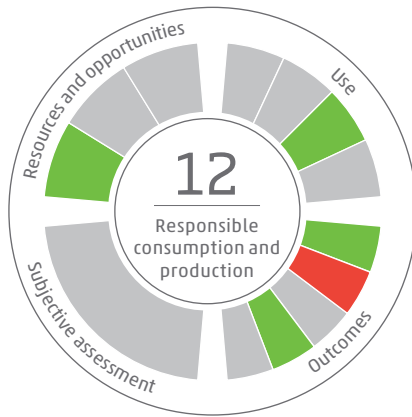
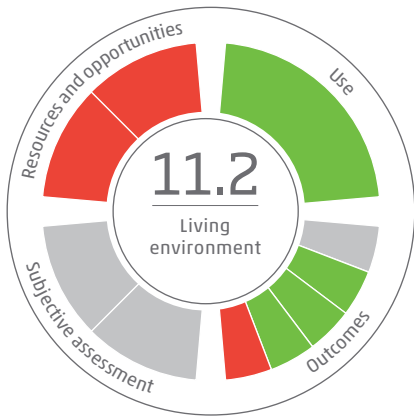
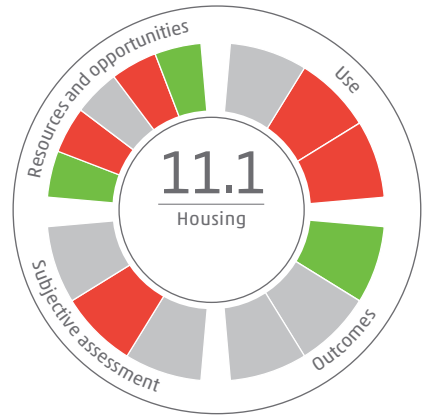
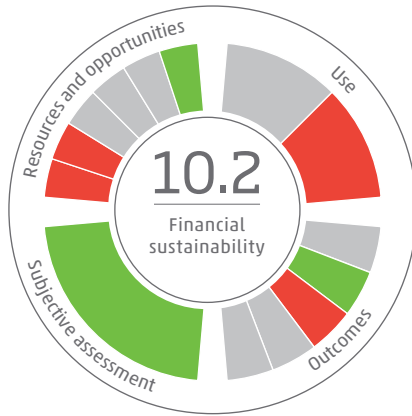
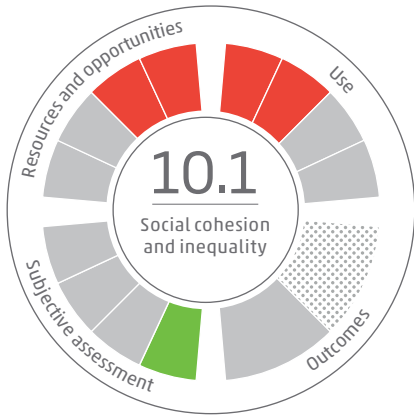
For each SDG^{plus}, figure 3 gives an overview of the trends of all indicators measured, broken down into the four types: resources and opportunities, use, outcomes and subjective assessment. This gives an overall picture of relationships between the four indicator types. The examples below show how this figure can be interpreted. It is up to politicians and policy makers to investigate whether there are correlations between the types of indicators.

Examples:

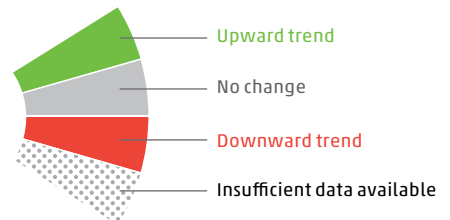
- For SDG 9 (Mobility), what stands out is that the resources and opportunities indicators, in this case density of road and rail networks, are increasing in the long term. At the same time the subjective assessment indicators of this theme show a decreasing trend: an increase in noise nuisance from traffic and neighbours, and less in satisfaction with commuting time.
- For SDG 8 (Labour and leisure time), the most obvious feature is that all indicators show a neutral or positive trend, except for two subjective assessment indicators: satisfaction of employees with their work and satisfaction with free time.

3 Trends of measured SDG^{plus} indicators by type of indicator





Key



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Abbreviations

CBS	Statistics Netherlands
CES	Conference of European Statisticians
CH ₄	methane (greenhouse gas)
CO ₂	carbon dioxide (greenhouse gas)
CPB	Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis
CSR	corporate social responsibility
ECN	Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands
EMU	European Economic and Monetary Union
EU	European Union
EU2020	Long-term strategy of the EU
EU28	28 member states of the EU (from 1 July 2013)
GDP	gross domestic product
ha	hectare
ICT	information and communication technology
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
kg	kilogram
LDCs	least developed countries
LPI	Living Planet Index
m ²	square metre
m ³	cubic metre
MIPEX	Migrant Integration Policy Index
mln	million
Mtonne	megatonne
N ₂ O	nitrous oxide (greenhouse gas)
NEA	National Working Conditions Survey
NL	Netherlands
NNN	Netherlands Nature Network
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PBL	Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency
PIAAC	Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
PJ	petajoule
PM _{2.5}	fine particles with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less
R&D	research and development
RIVM	National Institute of Public Health and the Environment
SCP	Netherlands Institute for Social Research
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SMEs	small and medium-sized enterprises
UN	United Nations

Contributors

This report is an English translation of part 2 of the Monitor of Well-being & Sustainable Development Goals 2019. The following team (in alphabetical order) developed, designed and wrote the Monitor of Well-being & Sustainable Development Goals 2019: Ellen van Berkel, Anne Blaak, Lieneke Hoeksma, Edwin Horlings, Rixt de Jong, Wouter Jonkers, Hans Langenberg, Astrid van Leer, Linda Moonen, Frank Notten, Albert Pieters, Marieke Rensman, Hermanus Rietveld, Jan-Pieter Smits, Karin van der Ven and Hans Westerbeek. Khadija Afrian, Henk van Logtestijn and Kathleen Geertjes helped with the data processing. Janneke Hendriks and Irene van Kuik assisted with the graphics.

