



INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTATÍSTICA
STATISTICS PORTUGAL

press release

DIISTAQUE

6 June 2025

MULTITHEMES

2015-2024

Version updated on 19/09/2025

On page 3, the wording was updated from “43 showed...” and “38 are not subject...” to “42 showed...” and “39 are not subject...”.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) INDICATORS FOR PORTUGAL

Statistics Portugal (INE) launches today the seventh annual publication of statistical follow-up of the UN 2030 Agenda, entitled "Sustainable Development Goals: Indicators for Portugal | 2030 Agenda". This publication describes the behaviour, for Portugal, of 183¹ SDG indicators of the United Nations (UN) global list since 2015 until the last year with available information. All the SDGs are synthetically analysed in terms of evolution and performance in Portugal.



INE releases the seventh annual publication on statistical monitoring of the 2030 Agenda. This publication provides a comprehensive analysis of the national progress on the SDGs, focusing on visual, infographic and quantitative communication. 183¹ SDG indicators from the United Nations (UN) global list for Portugal are presented. The analysis by SDG is complemented with an indication of the trend and performance of the indicators in relation to existing targets or, in their absence, in relation to the desirable direction of their evolution, from 2015 (the start of the 2030 Agenda) to the last year with available information. This analysis is based on the evaluation methodology tested and applied by Eurostat at European aggregate level.

To enable the consultation of a more comprehensive time series, information since 2010 has been made available in the data file attached to the publication.

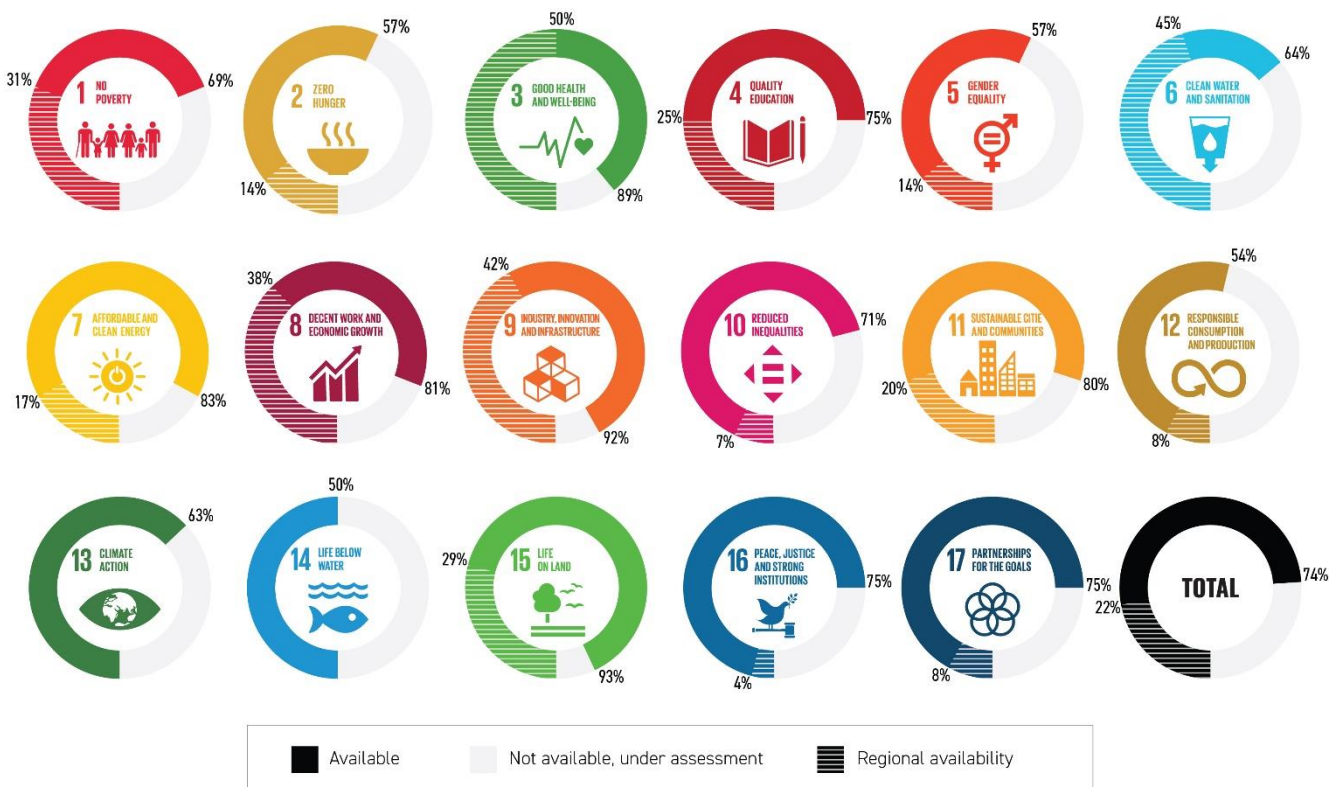
¹ 65 indicators from the UN's global list are not included in this list for Portugal, basically for three reasons: (i) they are not applicable in the national context; (ii) they do not yet have a sufficiently stabilized and clear methodology for their calculation; or (iii) there is no information available.



The 183 indicators with available information at national level represent 74% of the total 248 SDG indicators of the United Nations list, which, compared to the 66% representation achieved in 2023, represents progress in the availability of information. However, there are still SDGs with data gaps and for which the availability of information has remained below 60%: SDG 2 “Eradicate hunger” (57%), SDG 5 “Gender equality” (57%), SDG 12 “Sustainable production and consumption” (54%) and SDG 14 “Protect marine life” (50%).

The selection of indicators favoured the inclusion of data disaggregated at the NUTS II geographical level (NUTS 2013 version) whenever available and relevant, with a coverage of 22%. Some of the indicators were also broken down by NUTS 2024, a version that came into force on January 1, 2024. SDG 3 “Quality health”, SDG 6 “Drinking water and sanitation”, SDG 8 “Decent work and economic conditions” and SDG 9 “Industry, innovation and infrastructure” had the highest availability of indicators with regionalized information, respectively 50%, 45%, 38% and 42%.

Figure 1. Availability of SDG indicators for Portugal, 2015-2024



Source: Statistics Portugal



The performance analysis of the global SDG indicators at national level was based on the methodology adopted by Eurostat to classify the performance of the SDGs at European level. This methodology made it possible to identify, through the evolution of the different indicators, the performance of the 183 global SDG indicators and consequently the positioning of the 17 SDGs in the 2015-2024 period.

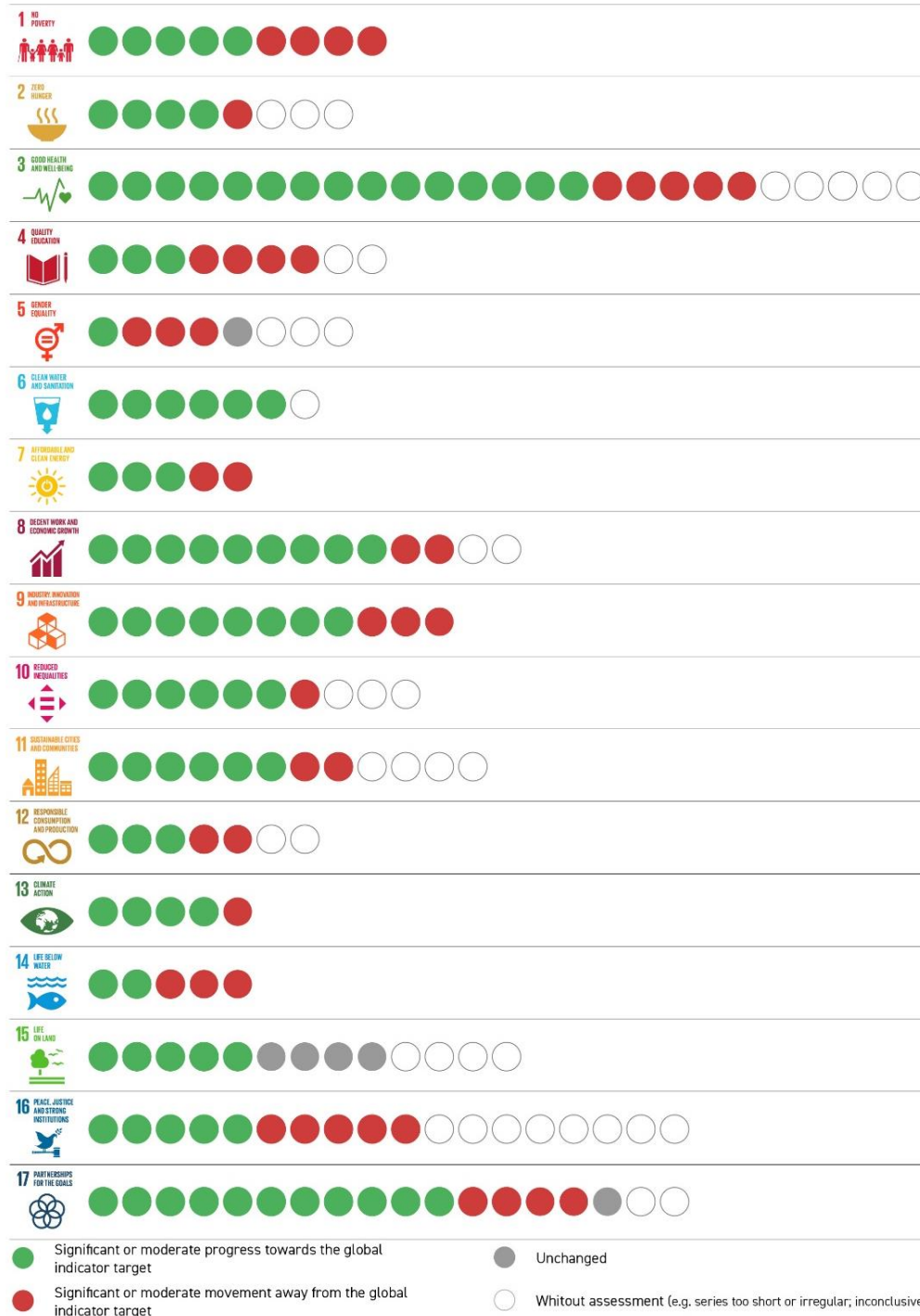
Comparing the most recent year with the first year available since 2015, it is possible to conclude that:

- 96 of the 183 global indicators analysed registered a positive evolution;
 - 🎯 22 of the 96 indicators with a positive evolution reached the target;
- 42 showed an unfavourable evolution;
- 6 remained unchanged;
- 39 are not subject to evaluation (irregular or short data series, inconclusive).

In the SGD analysis, most of the global indicators evolved favourably. However, SDGs 4, 5, 12, 14, 15 and 16 had less than 50% of their indicators moving in the positive direction (Figure 2). It should be noted, however, that most of these SDGs (4, 5, 12, 15 and 16) are also the ones with the most global indicators without evaluation due to lack of information (Figure 2).



Figure 2. SDG global indicators evolution in Portugal in 2015-2024²



² From the first year available from 2015 to the last year available. Each circle represents a global indicator. The evolution over the period is attributed through the average annual growth rate between the most recent year available and the first year available since 2015 (with at least three interpolated observations) and in line with the favourable direction of the indicator.

Source: Statistics Portugal



From the scoring of the global indicators by SDG and by applying Eurostat's methodology, it was possible to establish the performance of the 17 SDGs and to position them jointly according to their evolution in the 2015-2024 period (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Overview of SDGs progress in Portugal in 2015-2024



Source: Statistics Portugal



Based on the analysis carried out in terms of the performance of each indicator by SDG, a synthesis of the assessment of the performance of the main indicators for Portugal for the period 2015-2024 is presented, as well as the generic assessment of each SDG resulting from the methodology used.



SDG 1 'Eradicate poverty' showed moderate progress between 2015 and 2023 in relation to the goal of eradicating poverty, with 56% of its global indicators showing a favourable trend.

However, the decrease of the at-risk-of-poverty rate between 2015 and 2023 is insufficient to reach the targets set at national and EU level. Considering social protection, there has also been a decrease in beneficiaries from old-age social pensions per 1,000 inhabitants aged 65 and over (average annual growth rate of -1.9% between 2015 and 2022) and beneficiaries of disability pensions per 1,000 inhabitants aged 15 to 64 (average annual growth rate of -5.0% between 2015 and 2022). In terms of population's access to basic services, Portugal met the targets for water supply, providing the population with access to safe water and water supply services (data for mainland Portugal). In terms of wastewater drainage services, there has been significant progress in the number of dwellings served (87% in 2022, compared to 83% in 2015), as well as in reducing the total resident population living without a bath, shower or toilet inside the dwelling.

Also noteworthy, on the negative side, is the increase in the number of deaths and missing persons due to disasters and, above all, the rise in the number of injured or sick people attributed to disasters, a result that was also influenced by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



SDG 2 'Eradicate hunger' showed significant progress towards the goal, with 50% of the global indicators showing a positive evolution towards the targets, however for 37.5% of the global indicators it was not possible to analyse them due to data gaps.

The decrease in prevalence rate of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population stood out positively (average annual growth rate of -2.69% in 2019-2024) and, on the negative side, the deterioration of food prices, especially in 2022 and 2023.

Also noteworthy the increase of the proportion of Utilised Agricultural Area with organic farming, which more than tripled in 2023 compared to 2016, ensuring significant progress towards the EU target (25%), as well as Official Development Assistance (ODA) and other official flows to the agricultural sector, which followed the same trend, registering an average annual growth rate of 14.94%.



Regarding SDG 3 ‘Quality health’, which aims to guarantee access to quality health care and promote well-being for all, at all ages, the national trajectory in the period under review showed moderate progress, with 60% of its overall indicators showing a favourable trend. Four targets were achieved in indicators related to maternal, neonatal and child mortality up to the age of 4 and births attended by qualified health personnel. As for the incidence of diseases and infections, there were different trajectories. The incidence of HIV infection, the incidence of malaria and the number of interventions against neglected tropical diseases have seen a significant evolution towards to a favourable path. In contrast, the incidence of hepatitis B and tuberculosis increased, and in the latter case there was even significant progress in the opposite direction to the target set at national level (an average annual growth rate of 0.49% cent was observed, while the rate required to reach the target was -3.45%).

The mortality rate of people aged between 30 and 70 attributable to diseases of the circulatory system, malignant tumours, diabetes *mellitus* and chronic respiratory diseases and the mortality rate from road accidents showed a positive trajectory in relation to the target. In the same way, but more significantly, there was a decrease in the mortality rate from intentional self-harm (suicide), reflected in an average annual growth rate of -1.32% in 2015-2023. Also noteworthy was the maintenance of high vaccination coverage rates, considering the National Vaccination Plan, as well as the significant progress towards the SDG target for the number of health professionals in relation to the resident population.



Portugal's progress on SDG 4 ‘Quality education’ was not favourable in most of the global indicators, with a predominance of indicators with progress divergent to the goal (44.4% compared to 33.3% with favourable progress), plus a significant proportion of indicators that were not evaluated due to the lack of a time series to allow its assessment (22.2%).

According to PISA data, proficiency in reading and maths deteriorated at national level between 2015 and 2022 (average annual growth rate of -1.07% in reading and -1.16% in mathematics). The transition/completion rates in basic and secondary education are showing moderate progress towards the SDG, with results in 2023 of around 90% for secondary education and 96% for basic education, relatively close to the EU target (100%). Participation in pre-school education has been universal since 2020.

The proportion of people aged between 16 and 74 with digital skills at basic level or above made significant progress towards the SDG between 2015 and 2023, rising from 47.7% to 56.0% of people in this age group. The provision of schools with access to the internet and computers for teaching purposes, considering data for the



mainland, showed an irregular trajectory in the period under review, having evolved moderately in the opposite direction to the SDG. A comparable situation occurred with the net amount of Official Development Assistance for aid types E01 and E02, which went from 15 million euros in 2015 to 13.8 million euros in 2024.



The assessment of SDG 5 ‘Gender equality’ continues to be unfavourable. This assessment is supported by the predominance of indicators with unfavourable evolution (37.5%), with only 12.5% of the overall indicators showing positive trend.

Portugal has met the UN target for publishing legislative framework that promotes, enforces and monitors gender equality, especially those relating to comprehensive legal frameworks and public life and to employment and economic benefits.

As far as parity indicators are concerned, their progress has been insufficient to reach the UN target of parity by 2030:

- ✓ The proportion of women elected to the national parliament which, despite the irregular trajectory, stood at 33% in both 2015 and 2024;
- ✓ In relative terms, the proportion of women holding management positions has changed insufficiently (2.2% to 2.8%);
- ✓ In case of women holding management positions in the public administration sector, the indicator moved away from the 50% parity target, as women's representation exceeded 50% (55.5% in 2023).



National progress on SDG 6 ‘Drinking water and sanitation’ is positive overall, with 85.7% of the global indicators showing good progress towards the SDG between 2015 and 2023. The national targets were met in terms of access to safe water and in terms of the proportion of dwellings served by a water supply (data for mainland Portugal). The proportion of the total resident population living without a bath, shower or toilet inside the dwelling has seen a significantly progress (0.3% in 2023, compared to 0.9% in 2015). The proportion of dwellings served by wastewater drainage also made significant improvement towards the target in mainland Portugal. Regarding the quality of water bodies, and considering data for mainland Portugal, there has been a moderate development in the opposite direction to the ODS in the proportion of the surface area of water bodies with good overall status and with good status/ecological potential. The proportion of surface water bodies with chemical status classified as ‘Good’ evolved significantly



favourably. In fulfilment of the UN target, all national transboundary river and lake basins are covered by an operational water resources cooperation agreement.



For SDG 7 'Renewable and affordable energy', 60% of the global indicators showed a positive trend, contributing to the moderate progress of the SDG. The targets achieved in the field of energy stand out, namely the total coverage of the population with access to electricity and with primary access to clean fuels and technologies. Although there has been a favourable evolution in the proportion of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption, which reached 35.2% in 2023, the trend assessment was insufficient progress towards the national target set at 51% for 2030. The contribution of renewable resources to electricity production has also increased consistently in recent years, but performance (63% in 2023) falls below the national target (93% in 2030). From the point of view of energy efficiency, Portugal has become more efficient, as shown by the significant reduction in the economy's energy intensity, measured by the ratio of total primary energy consumption to GDP, with a figure of less than 90 toe/million euros in 2023 for the first time in the period under consideration



The progress of the SDG 8 'Decent work and economic growth' indicators at national level was mostly favourable in the period under review, with 63.8% of the overall indicators evolving towards the goal, whose performance was classified as having evolved moderately. There was positive progress in GDP per capita at current prices, but there was a decrease in the annual rate of change in real GDP per capita (average annual growth rate of -8.49% in 2015-2024). Similarly, GVA generated by tourism increased significantly (9.1% in 2023, compared to 6.9% in 2016), but its rate of change decreased 1.29% per year for the period 2017-2023. In the labour market, the significantly favourable progress of the unemployment rate, the rate of young people who were not employed and were outside the education and training system and the incidence rates of fatal and non-fatal accidents at work stand out. The population made greater use of Homebanking to make payments, but at the same time there was less availability of other monetary intermediation establishments and ATMs. Also noteworthy was the fulfilment of the UN target regarding the existence of a national strategy for the employability of young people.



The national performance for SDG 9 ‘Industry, innovation and infrastructure’ was of moderate progress. The global indicators for this SDG with favourable progress towards the SDG reached 72.7% of the total indicators with data. Favourable developments include the value added of manufacturing per capita, the proportion of the gross value added of high and medium-high technology industries in the gross value added of manufacturing industries, CO₂ emissions per unit of value added, as well as the proportion of R&D expenditure in GDP and the proportion of full-time equivalent (FTE) researchers. In the opposite direction are, among others, the transport of goods by companies operating the heavy railway system and the tonne-kilometre value of heavy goods road vehicles, as well as the proportion of the population employed in manufacturing and the proportion of the gross added value of small-scale industries in total industry.



SDG 10 ‘Reduce inequalities’ showed significant progress between 2015 and 2023, with 60% of the global indicators with available information evolving favourably. The mean equivalent net monetary income of the total population presented a significant progress towards the desirable path, and, above all, for the 40% of the population with the lowest resources, which has made it possible to achieve the EU target for 2030. The proportion of people living in households with an equivalent income of less than 50% of the median equivalent income also saw a significant evolution towards the target. The difference between the Gini Coefficients of gross monetary income and net monetary income, per equivalent adult, narrowed, showing a significant evolution in the opposite direction to the SDG. Even so, the decrease in the gross and net coefficients over the period in question indicates a positive trend towards reducing inequality. All financial soundness indicators also evolved favourably.



Portugal's progress on SDG 11 ‘Sustainable cities and communities’ was moderate, with 50% of the global indicators rated positively and 33.3% not ranked due to lack of data.

The UN target was achieved in the universality of cities with a structure for direct civil society participation in urban planning and management that operates regularly and democratically. Private spending on library, archive and museum services and other cultural services has recovered but is still far from the figures reached in 2019. Nevertheless, the trend between 2015 and 2022 was significant and in the desirable direction. Also noteworthy is the significantly favourable evolution of Portugal's score in terms of adopting and implementing national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework and the proportion of municipalities that have adopted and implemented local disaster risk reduction strategies.



With regard to the communities quality of life, the indicator of severe housing deprivation has evolved in the opposite direction to the target (average annual growth rate of 0.46% over the period 2015-2024), while in the area of environmental impacts, the reduction in exposure to inhalable particles stands out as positive and the decrease in the national urban waste recycling rate (29% in 2023 compared to 31.3% in 2015), stands out as negative, positioning Portugal below the 60% target to be reached by 2030. Also showing a movement in the opposite direction to what was desirable is the number of deaths, missing persons and people directly affected by disasters, data that still reflects the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



SDG 12 ‘Sustainable production and consumption’ performed poorly in the period under review, with performance close to the opposite of the goal. The assessment of the global indicators shows that 42.9% had a positive evolution towards the SDG, with the remainder divided between negative progress (28.6%) and no assessment due to lack of information (28.6%).

Among the indicators with positive evolution, the material footprint per unit of GDP and domestic consumption of materials per unit of GDP stands out. Regarding hazardous waste, there was a significant decrease in the generation of this type of waste in the total recorded, although the proportion of this waste that was recovered also decreased over the same period. On the other hand, the total amount of hazardous sectoral waste generated per capita has evolved significantly towards the ODS, and the amount of this waste sent for recovery per capita has evolved in the same direction.

With an unfavourable evolution, the proportion of municipal waste prepared for reuse and recycling not only remained below the national and European target of 60% to be achieved by 2030 (32.5% in 2023), but also showed a decrease during the period in question.



SDG 13 ‘Climate action’ was characterised by favourable progress in four of its five global indicators in the period under review (80%), with no global indicators left unassessed. There was a significantly favourable growth trajectory for Portugal in terms of adopting and implementing national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework, as well as in the proportion of local governments adopting and implementing local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies. The indicator of total greenhouse gas emissions recorded a significantly favourable trend. The national contribution to the commitment of 100 billion dollars in climate-related expenditure grew moderately between 2015 and 2023, from 6.2 million euros to 6.6 million euros.



The only indicator of this SDG with a significant movement away towards the goal is the number of people killed, missing or directly affected by disasters, which increased considerably (average annual growth rate of 56.65% between 2015 and 2023), to which the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic contributed.



The goal-level assessment of SDG 14 'Protect marine life' revealed that the evolution of this SDG in the period under review was not very favourable in the direction intended by this goal, with 60% of the global indicators showing negative progress between 2015 and 2023. The proportion of fisheries management stocks (stocks) with an Analytical Assessment (ICES Category 1) exploited in national waters at the level of Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) reached the ideal value of 100% in 2024 on the mainland, but the proportion of fisheries management stocks (stocks) managed using a precautionary approach (ICES Category 3) and exploited in national waters at a level approaching Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) showed a significant evolution in the opposite direction to the desirable one. On the other hand, the proportion of marine protected areas in relation to the maritime area under national jurisdiction, which remained constant at 7% over the period in question, made insufficient progress towards the UN target of 30% by 2030. The proportion of investment in scientific R&D services in marine technology in the total investment in intellectual property products decreased between 2016 and 2022, showing a significant evolution divergent from what is desirable.



Although SDG 15 'Protect terrestrial life' has no global indicators with unfavourable evolution in the period under analysis, it has 30.8% of the total indicators without changes, and an equal percentage without evaluation due to lack of information. In this context, and for the indicators that can be assessed, its classification is of significant progress in the period under review, which is also supported by the fact that three of the global indicators have already reached the target. One of the targets achieved refers to the adoption of legislative, administrative and political frameworks to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits. The other two targets refer to the adoption of relevant national legislation and the allocation of adequate resources for the prevention or control of invasive alien species, and the establishment of national targets in line with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the implementation of the System of Environmental Economic Accounts. Stands out the significant evolution in favourable direction of public development aid for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and also of note, due to the evolution in the opposite direction to the SDG, of the cut in public aid to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) 312 series (forestry).



The national trajectory in SDG 16 ‘Peace, justice and effective institutions’ is one of moderate favourable progress between 2015 and 2023, but with a classification that brings it closer to progress in the opposite direction to the SDG, which is partly justified by the predominance of global indicators with no assessment (44.4%), while also registering a total of indicators with positive progress equal to the total of indicators with unfavourable progress (27.8%). It should be noted, however, that targets were achieved in four indicators: the proportion of children under 5 with birth registration with a civil registry authority, Portugal's adoption and implementation of constitutional, statutory and/or political guarantees for public access to information, as well as recognising that Portugal has independent national human rights institutions, in accordance with Paris Principles. The perception of corruption index, the number of crimes of intentional homicide consummated and the number of weapons seized, found or surrendered, whose origin or illicit context has been detected or established by a competent authority, in line with international instruments, evolved significantly favourably. The perception of safety on solitary walks after dark deteriorated and the number of human trafficking offences recorded by the police showed a significant evolution in the opposite direction to the desirable one.



The national trend towards SDG 17 ‘Partnerships for the implementation of the goals’ was one of moderate progress in the period under review, with 61.1% of the overall indicators showing favourable progress, and targets having been achieved in five indicators. In terms of tax revenue, the significant progress towards the SDG in total social contributions as a percentage of GDP is particularly noteworthy. Official development assistance (ODA) as a proportion of gross national income made favourable progress between 2015 and 2024 but was insufficient to reach the target. On the other hand, the same indicator, but considering only official development assistance to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), showed an opposite pattern towards the target. The accumulated net value of emigrant/immigrant remittances decreased, showing a significant trend in the opposite direction to what was desirable. There was significant progress towards the SDG in the proportion of broadband Internet access at a fixed location and in the proportion of individuals aged between 16 and 74 who used the Internet in the 3 months prior to the interview.

As far as the panel of macroeconomic indicators is concerned, the evolutionary trends are diverse, but mostly favourable (12 out of 17 variables evolved favourably towards the SDG), with GDP growth and household consumption standing out positively; on the other hand, there were developments contrary to the objective with regard to the inflation rate and international trade, where the slowdown in exports was greater than that in imports.



INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTATÍSTICA
STATISTICS PORTUGAL

press release

DIISTAQUE

This publication complements other dissemination outlets, such as the [SDG thematic file](#) and the excel file attached to the publication. It presents the latest information available as of May 26, 2025.



Methodological Note

In this edition, Portugal has adopted the methodology applied by EUROSTAT in its SDG monitoring reports at European level, which starts by assessing the performance of each of the indicators in relation to the SDG in which they fall, in order to assess national progress in each SDG on the basis of this individual measurement.

Evaluation of the trend in the evolution of indicators

The trend evaluation method considers two dimensions of analysis: the direction of the indicator's evolution, i.e. whether it has moved closer to or further away from the SDG; and the classification of this evolution (unchanged, moderate or significant). The direction of the trend also includes the existence or not of an explicit and measurable quantitative target, which is only available for some indicators. The method for evaluating the indicators varies depending on whether or not there is a quantifiable target. In both situations, the rule for applying the evaluation method is that there must be at least three observations from 2015 to the most current period for which data is available. If this condition is not met, the indicator is classified as "Without assessment". This measurement of SDG performance is based on the assumption that all global indicators contribute equally to the performance of the SDG in which they fall. Indicators for which the evaluation of the evolutionary trend cannot be calculated (due to the lack of a time series that would allow this) are not taken into account for the purpose of evaluating the overall performance of the SDG.

In terms of general steps, calculations of the overall performance of each SDG are based, in the first instance, on the results achieved for the individual indicators - the average annual growth rate in the case of indicators without a quantitative target and the ratio between the average annual growth rate observed and that required in the case of indicators with a quantitative target. Using these results and scoring functions, a score is assigned ranging from +5 (best score) to -5 (worst score). The final score assigned to the SDG is, according to the EUROSTAT methodology, the arithmetic mean of the scores of the respective indicators. At national level, the overall indicators are not measured in a uniform way, varying with the number of indicators used and the type of indicators (identical, proxy, complementary or partial). In order to reduce the bias promoted by this heterogeneity of situations, an intermediate step was introduced into the methodology applied to national monitoring: for each global indicator, a score was calculated which consists of the average of the scores of the individual indicators that make it up; the final score of the SDG was then obtained through the arithmetic average of the scores of the respective global indicators.

To summarize, the SDG trend assessment methodology applied in this report has three essential stages: i) assigning a score between +5 and -5 to each individual indicator; ii) calculating the arithmetic mean of the scores of the individual indicators to calculate the score of each global indicator; iii) and calculating the arithmetic mean of the scores of the global indicators to determine the final score of the SDG, gauging its relative position in relation to the other SDGs.