

Article

Cessation of the Sustainable Development Indicators



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1. Cessation of the Sustainable Development Indicators

Since 2014, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has taken responsibility for updating and publishing the Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs) annually in July, at the request of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). They provide an overview of progress towards a sustainable economy, society and environment.

The SDIs contain 12 headline and 23 supplementary indicators, supported by 25 and 41 measures respectively. The [latest release of the SDIs](#), published in July 2015, can be found on our website.

User engagement has revealed limited use of these statistics. This is most notable within Defra where policy interests have moved on towards the use of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) framework for measuring sustainability. There has also been considerable confusion between the SDIs and both the SDG programme and existing measures of National Well-being. In consultation with our users we have therefore taken the decision to stop publishing the SDIs.

This decision will not result in the loss of any statistics, which will each continue to be available from their original source. To support users we have prepared a table which signposts towards the source of each SDI, and is available below.

Please be aware that these links were accurate as of the 22 July 2016.

If users are unable to access any of the data or have any questions, please contact us at qualityoflife@ons.gsi.gov.uk.

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Indicators	Measures	Source
1. Economic Prosperity	GDP	ONS
	GDP per head	ONS
	Median income	DWP
2. Long Term Unemployment	Proportion of adults unemployed over 12 months	ONS
3. Poverty	Proportion of children in relative low income households (before housing costs)	DWP
	Proportion of children in absolute low income households (before housing costs)	DWP
4. Knowledge and Skills	Human capital (£) stocks	ONS
	Human capital per head	ONS
5. Population Demographics	Total population and projections	ONS
	Number of households and projections	DCLG
6. Debt	Public Sector Net Debt and Public Sector Net Borrowing	HMT
	Public sector finances: May 2016	
	Economic and fiscal outlook – March 2016	
7. Pension Provisions	% of workers in the automatic enrolment eligible population within a workplace	ONS/DWP
8. Physical Infrastructure	Total non financial assets net worth	ONS
9. Research and Development	Expenditure on R&D by business in real terms	ONS
	Business expenditure on EPE related R&D	Defra
10. Environmental Goods and Services Sector	Sales of Low Carbon and environmental goods and services sector	ONS
11. Healthy Life Expectancy	Life expectancy at birth	ONS
	Healthy life expectancy	ONS
12. Social capital	Civil participation at least once a year	Cabinet Office
	Volunteering at least once a year	USoC
	Proportion of people who have a partner, family member or friend to rely on if they have a serious problem	USoC
	Percentage of people who agreed or agreed strongly that they felt they belonged to their neighbourhood	USoC
13. Social Mobility in Adulthood	Percent of 16-65 year olds who are in paid employment who are in managerial or professional positions by social background using parent occupational groups	BIS

14. Housing Provision	Trend in net additional dwellings	DCLG
15. Avoidable Mortality	Avoidable mortality	ONS
	Preventable mortality	ONS
	Amendable mortality	ONS
16. Obesity	Percentage of adults overweight or obese Health Survey for England, 2014 National Child Measurement Programme	NHSIC/National Child Management Programme
	Percentage of children overweight or obese by deprivation level Health Survey for England, 2014 National Child Measurement Programme	NHSIC/National Child Management Programme
17. Lifestyles	Prevalence of smoking	ONS
	Proportion of trips under 5 miles taken by walking or cycling	DfT
	Proportion of trips under 5 miles taken by public transport	DfT
	Proportion of physically active and inactive adults	Sport England
	Average daily consumption of fruit and vegetable by age group	PHE
	Trends in fruit and vegetable measures as portions	Defra
18. Infant Health	Full term babies with birth weight less than 2500g	ONS
19. Air Quality	Average number of pollution days - urban	R-AEA Energy and Environment
	Average number of pollution days - rural	R-AEA Energy and Environment
20. Noise	Number of people affected by noise	Defra/CIEH/PHOF
21. Fuel Poverty	Number of fuel poor households	DECC
22. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Greenhouse gas emissions	DECC/Defra
	Carbon Dioxide emissions	DECC/Defra
23. Natural Resource Use	Raw material consumption - construction	Defra/ONS
	Raw material consumption – non construction	Defra/ONS
24. Wildlife	Farmland birds	RSPB/Defra/NCC/Wildlife Trust/Centre of Ecology

	Woodland birds	RSPB/Defra/NCC /Wildlife Trust/Centre of Ecology
	Water and wetland birds	RSPB/Defra/NCC /Wildlife Trust/Centre of Ecology
	Seabirds	RSPB/Defra/NCC /Wildlife Trust/Centre of Ecology
25. Water use	Abstraction from non-tidal surface waters and ground waters	Environment Agency
26. UK CO2 Emissions by Sector	CO2 emissions by sector – energy supply	DECC
	CO2 emissions by sector - transport	DECC
	CO2 emissions by sector - business	DECC
	CO2 emissions by sector - residential	DECC
	CO2 emissions by sector - other	DECC
27. Energy from Renewable Sources	Energy from renewable sources	DECC
28. Housing Energy Efficiency	Housing energy efficiency of existing homes	DECC
	Housing energy efficiency of new homes	DECC
29. Waste Disposal and Recycling	Household waste recycling rate	Defra
	Waste recovery rate	Defra
30. Land use	Land use by type	DCLG
31. Origins of Food Consumed in the UK	Origins of food consumed in the UK	Defra
32. Water Quality	Biological quality of rivers	Environment Agency
	Chemical quality of rivers	Environment Agency
33. Sustainable Fisheries	Fish stocks harvested within safe limits	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea Centre
34. Priority Species and Habitats	Status of priority species	UK biodiversity partnership/Natural England/JNCC
	Status of priority habitats	UK biodiversity partnership/Natural England/JNCC

