The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report 2025

Inputs and information provided as of 30 April 2025

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Note: This unedited 'Extended Report' includes all indicator storyline contents as provided by the SDG indicator custodian agencies as of 30 April 2025. For instances where the custodian agency has not submitted a storyline for an indicator, please see the custodian agency focal point information for further information. The 'Extended Report' aims to provide the public with additional information regarding the SDG indicators and is compiled by the Statistics Division (UNSD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Storylines presented in this document may slightly differ from figures cited in the SDG Report 2025 text due to the timing of the submission and the subsequent updates received upon finalizing the Report.

Contents

Indicator 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita 2

Indicator 8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person 4

Indicator 8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex 5

Indicator 8.4.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP 6

Indicator 8.4.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP 6

Indicator 8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of employees, by sex, age, occupation and persons with disabilities 7

Indicator 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities 7

Indicator 8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training 8

Indicator 8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age 9

Indicator 8.8.1 Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers, by sex and migrant status 9

Indicator 8.8.2 Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status 9

Indicator 8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate 10

Indicator 8.9.2 Employed persons in the tourism industries 11

Indicator 8.10.1 (a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults 12

Indicator 8.10.2 Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider 12

Indicator 8.a.1 Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements 13

Indicator 8.b.1 Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy 13

Target 8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries

Indicator 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita

Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth

Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth

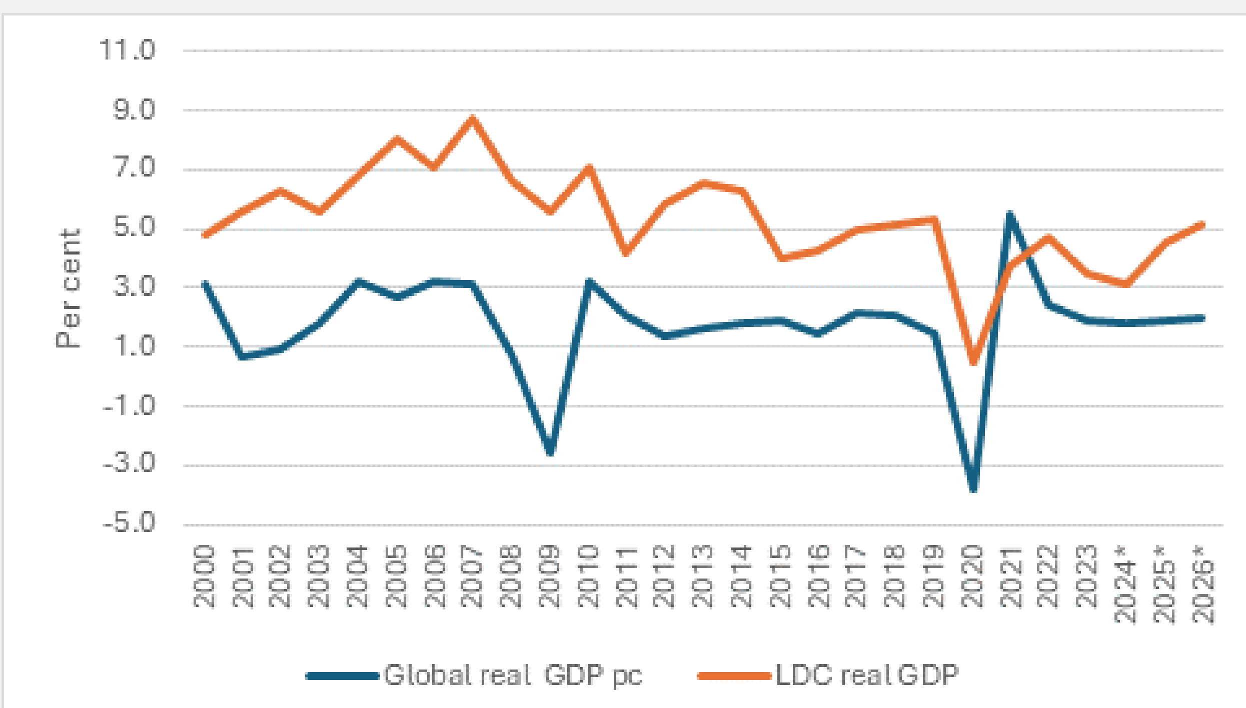
Global real GDP per capita increased at an average annual rate of 1.9 per cent from 2015 to 2019 but decreased sharply by 3.8 per cent in 2020, due to the COVID pandemic, before recovering to an increase of 5.5 per cent in 2021. The growth in global real GDP per capita slowed down to 2.2 per cent in 2022 and 1.9 per cent in 2023. Consequently, the average annual growth in real GDP per capita from 2015 to 2023 slowed down to 1.7 per cent. It is projected that the growth in GDP per capita will remain at the level of about 2.0 per cent from 2024 to 2026.

Following an increase of 5.3 percent in 2019 the real GDP of the least developed countries recorded only 0.5 per cent growth in 2020, because of the disruption caused by the pandemic. The real GDP of the least developed countries subsequently increased by 3.7 per cent in 2021 and 4.7 per cent in 2022 before sliding back to 3.5 per cent in 2023. The growth in real GDP of the least developed countries is projected to decrease further to 3.1 per cent in 2024 before accelerating to 4.5 and 5.1 per cent in 2025 and 2026 respectively. However, it is expected that the growth in real GDP of the least developed countries will remain well below the 7 per cent target envisioned by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Average annual growth rate of real GDP in LDCs

The growth in real GDP for LDCs accelerated from an average annual rate of 5.8 per cent in the period 2000 to 2004 to 7.2 per cent over the period 2005 to 2009, before it slowed down to average annual rate of 6.0 per cent in the period 2010 to 2014 and 4.0 per cent in the period 2015 to 2023, which is less than the target rate of 7 per cent.

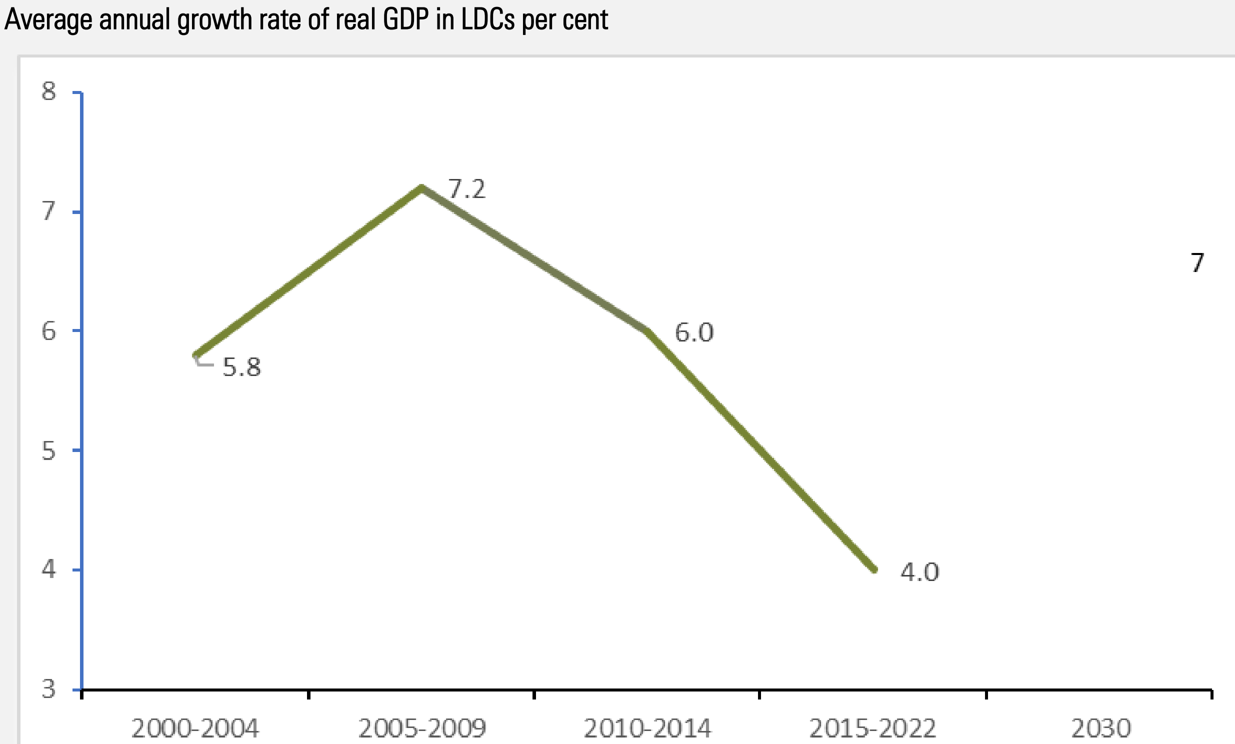
Annual growth in real GDP and real GDP per capita



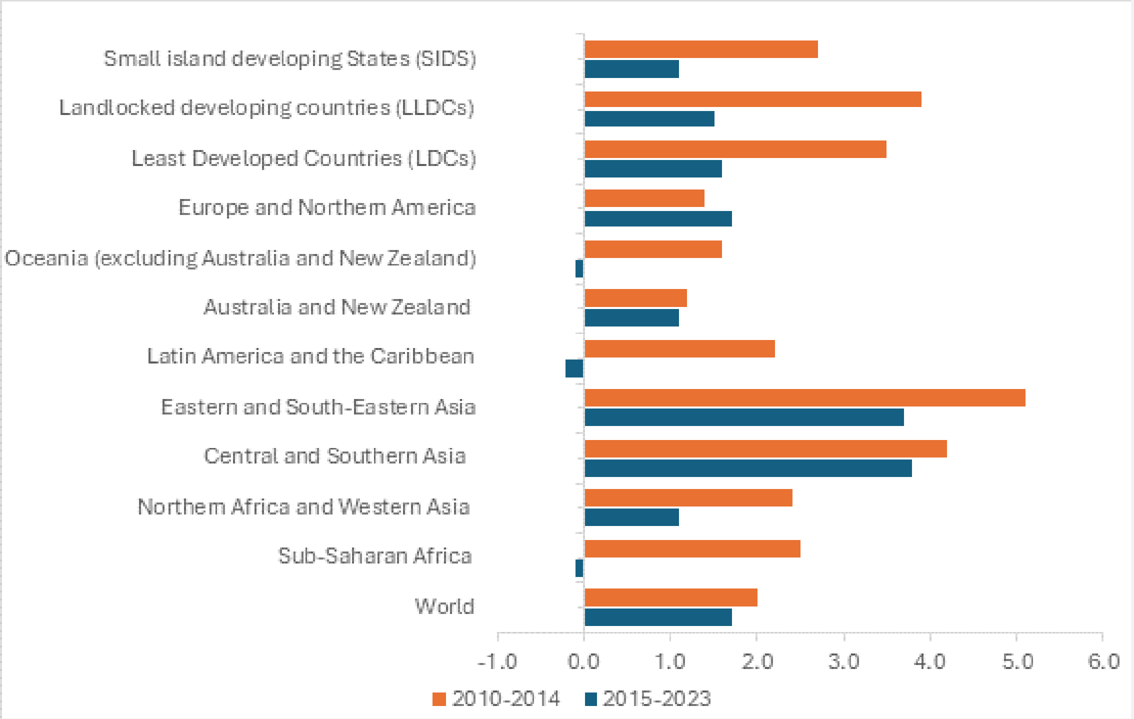
Average annual growth rate of real GDP per capita

Global real GDP per capita increased at an average annual rate of 2.0 per cent in the period 2010-2014 but slowed down to an increase at an average annual rate of 1.7 per cent in the period 2015-2023. This lower rate of growth in the 2015-2023 period can be attributed to the moderately lower growth in most regions of the world while the real GDP per capita actually decreased in the Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Caribbean and and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) regions. The average growth in real GDP per capita for least developing countries and landlocked developing countries fell sharply from an average annual rate of 3.5 per cent and 3.9 per cent, respectively, during the period 2010-2014 to 1.6 per cent and 1.5 per cent, respectively, in the period 2015-2023.

Average annual growth rate of real GDP in LDCs per cent



Average annual growth of real GDP per capita, 2010-2014 and 2015-2023 (per cent)



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[Custodian agency(ies):](#) UNSD

Target 8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

Indicator 8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person

Global labour productivity growth rebounds in 2024

Labour productivity, measured as the average output (Gross Domestic Product) generated per worker per hour worked, is a key indicator of the efficiency of a country's economy and labour market. After facing near stagnation in 2022 and 2023, global labour productivity growth rebounded to 1.5 per cent in 2024. However, this upturn still falls short of pre-pandemic trends, where the average growth rate from 2015 to 2019 was 1.8 per cent. The COVID-19 pandemic had a severe impact on productivity in 2020, as output plummeted at a faster rate than employment. Although productivity rebounded in 2021, growth has struggled to regain its pre-pandemic momentum.

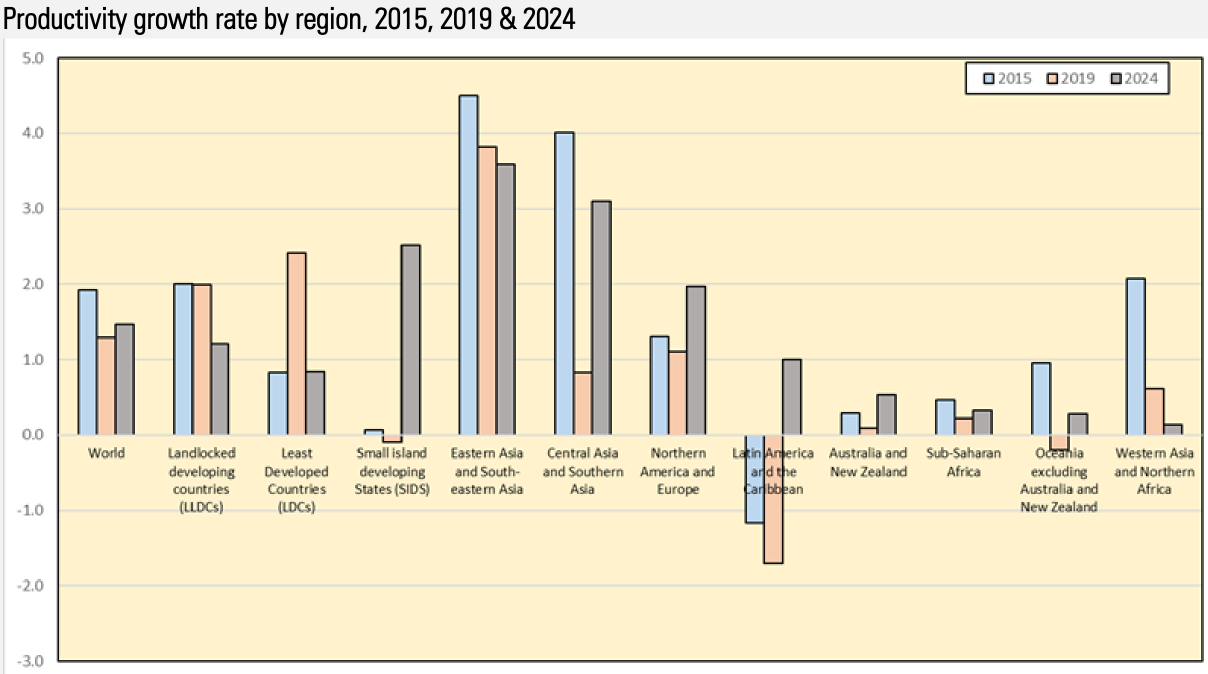
Regional trends vary significantly. Eastern and South-eastern Asia has consistently registered strong productivity growth, averaging 4.4 per cent between 2015 and 2019 and 3.2 per cent between 2020 and 2024. Even in 2020, when global productivity sharply declined, the region achieved 1.7 per cent growth. Similarly, Central and Southern Asia has demonstrated resilience, maintaining strong growth since 2015 and surpassing 3 per cent growth in 2024—one of only two regions to do so.

On the other hand, productivity growth rates were negative between 2015 and 2019 in Latin America and the Caribbean, averaging -1.1 per cent. Nonetheless, the region has moved towards positive, albeit low, growth rates in 2023 and 2024. Meanwhile, labour productivity growth rates in Sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania, and Western Asia and Northern Africa in 2023 and 2024 were close to 0, indicating stagnant output levels.

Without stronger productivity growth, expanding opportunities for decent work and boosting real wages will remain challenging. As global productivity growth continues to decelerate, the path to sustainable and inclusive economic recovery becomes more difficult, underscoring the urgency of policy measures to enhance productivity and economic resilience.

Global productivity growth rate, 2000 to 2024

Productivity growth rate by region, 2015, 2019 & 2024



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2025, https://www.ilo.org/publications/flagship-reports/world-employment-and-social-outlook-trends-2025

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): ILO

Custodian agency(ies): ILO

Target 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

Indicator 8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex

More than 34 million workers entered informal employment in 2024

Worldwide, the share of workers in informal employment has been increasing since 2015. By 2024, 57.8 per cent of the employed population was in informal employment, meaning that over half of the global workforce was not adequately covered by social security arrangements, legal protection or workplace safety measures. While the informality rate rose by just 0.2 percentage points since the previous year, this small increase represents a significant addition—over 34 million more informal workers in 2024 alone. By 2026, although the informality rate is projected to decrease slightly to 57.7 per cent, an additional 38 million workers will enter informal employment.

Informality is unevenly distributed across regions, with low-income countries facing the highest rates. In 2024, nearly nine out of ten workers in Sub-Saharan Africa and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) were in informal employment. Central and Southern Asia and Landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) followed closely, with informality rates of 83.8 per cent and 78.9 per cent, respectively. In Eastern and Southeastern Asia, more than half of workers remained in informal employment in 2024, despite a rate decrease of 2.3 percentage points since 2015. Meanwhile, Western Asia and Northern Africa and Small Island Developing States were the only regions where informality rates increased, rising by 1.6 and 0.7 percentage points, respectively.

Women are more likely to be in informal employment in regions where informality is rampant. In 2024, women in LDCs and Sub-Saharan Africa had informality rates of 93.8 per cent and 91.4 per cent, respectively, compared to rates of 86.4 per cent and 86.0 per cent, respectively, for their male counterparts.

Beyond the lack of legal protections, informal employment is associated with lower wages and a lack of social security coverage, leaving workers particularly vulnerable in times of job loss or economic crises. To improve livelihoods and ensure decent work, policymakers must address not just the number of jobs available, but also the quality of employment.

Proportion of informal employment in total employment, 2015 & 2024

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2025, https://www.ilo.org/publications/flagship-reports/world-employment-and-social-outlook-trends-2025

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): ILO

Custodian agency(ies): ILO

Target 8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead

Indicator 8.4.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP

Indicator 8.4.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP

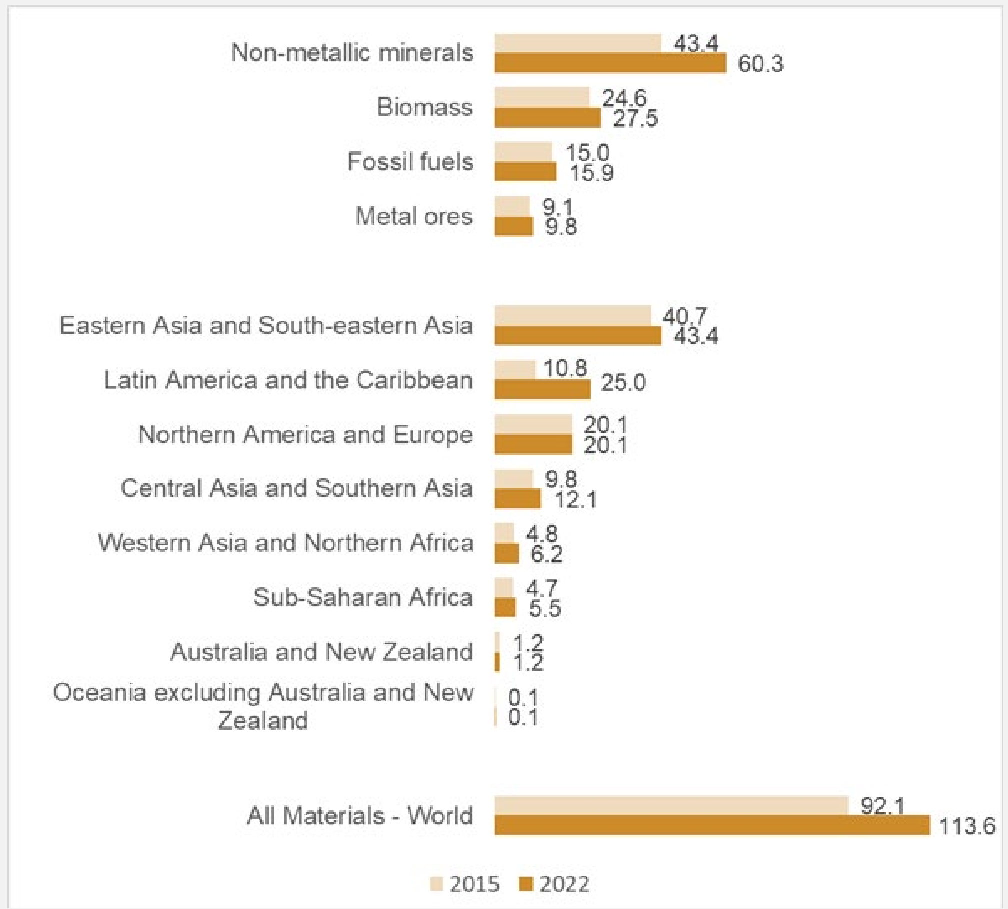
Global Material Consumption rises by over 20% (2015–2022), driven by domestic demand for non-metallic minerals

Domestic Material Consumption (DMC) measures the total amount of materials directly utilized within an economy, excluding the raw material equivalents of traded products. It accounts for domestic material extraction and the physical balance of material imports and exports.

Between 2015 and 2022, global DMC increased by 23.3%, rising from 92.1 to 113.6 billion tonnes, while DMC per capita grew by 14.8%, from 12.4 to 14.2 tonnes per capita. This suggests that increasing consumption patterns were the primary driver of DMC trends during the analyzed period, outweighing the impact of population growth.

Non-metallic minerals drove the overall increase, growing 39.0%, from 43.4 billion tonnes in 2015 to 60.3 billion tonnes in 2022. Other material groups changed as follows: biomass increased by 11.8%, metal ores by 7.4%, and fossil fuels by 6.2%.

Domestic material consumption, by material and region in 2015 and 2022 (billion tonnes)



Regionally, Latin America and the Caribbean recorded the most significant increase, with DMC rising by 132%, from 10.8 to 25.0 billion tonnes. Other regions also saw growth: Western Asia and Northern Africa increased by 29.7%, Central and Southern Asia by 23.1%, Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) by 17.6%, and Sub-Saharan Africa by 17.3%. Eastern and South-Eastern Asia experienced a more modest increase of 6.7%, while Australia and New Zealand, as well as North America and Europe, showed minimal changes—1.3% and -0.2%, respectively.

DMC for non-metallic minerals in Latin America and the Caribbean experienced the highest growth among all material groups and regions, increasing from 3.4 to 17.1 billion tonnes between 2015 and 2022. These figures align with Material Footprint trends for the same material group in the region, indicating that DMC for non-metallic minerals is primarily driven by local demand.

Material Footprint (MF), an indicator representing raw materials extracted to meet final consumption demands, exhibited similar overall dynamics globally increasing by 21.3%[1] between 2015 and 2022. Comparison of DMC and MF by region shows that DMC is higher than MF in regions such as Australia and New Zealand, Central and Southern Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, while Eastern and South-Eastern Asia and North America and Europe demonstrate the opposite trend, indicating regional inequalities in material distribution and consumption.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- United Nations Environment Programme International Resource Panel (UNEP IRP) (2025) Global Material Flows Database. Available at: https://www.resourcepanel.org/global-material-flows-database (Accessed: 20 February 2025).
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (2023) The Use of Natural Resources in the Economy: A Global Manual on Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounting. Available at: https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/36253 (Accessed: 20 February 2025).

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Custodian agency(ies): UNEP

[1] The difference between global DMC and MF is explained by the different nature of the data to calculate these indicators. In particular, MF is based on estimates, whereas DMC presents a combination of estimates and country data.

Target 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

Indicator 8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of employees, by sex, age, occupation and persons with disabilities

Custodian agency(ies): ILO

Indicator 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

Steady decline in global unemployment rate masks underlying disparities

The global unemployment rate has steadily declined from 6.0 per cent in 2015 to an all-time low of 5.0 per cent in 2024. However, the labour market remains vulnerable due to an uncertain economic outlook marked by geopolitical frictions, rising loss and damage costs of climate change, and unresolved sovereign debt risks.

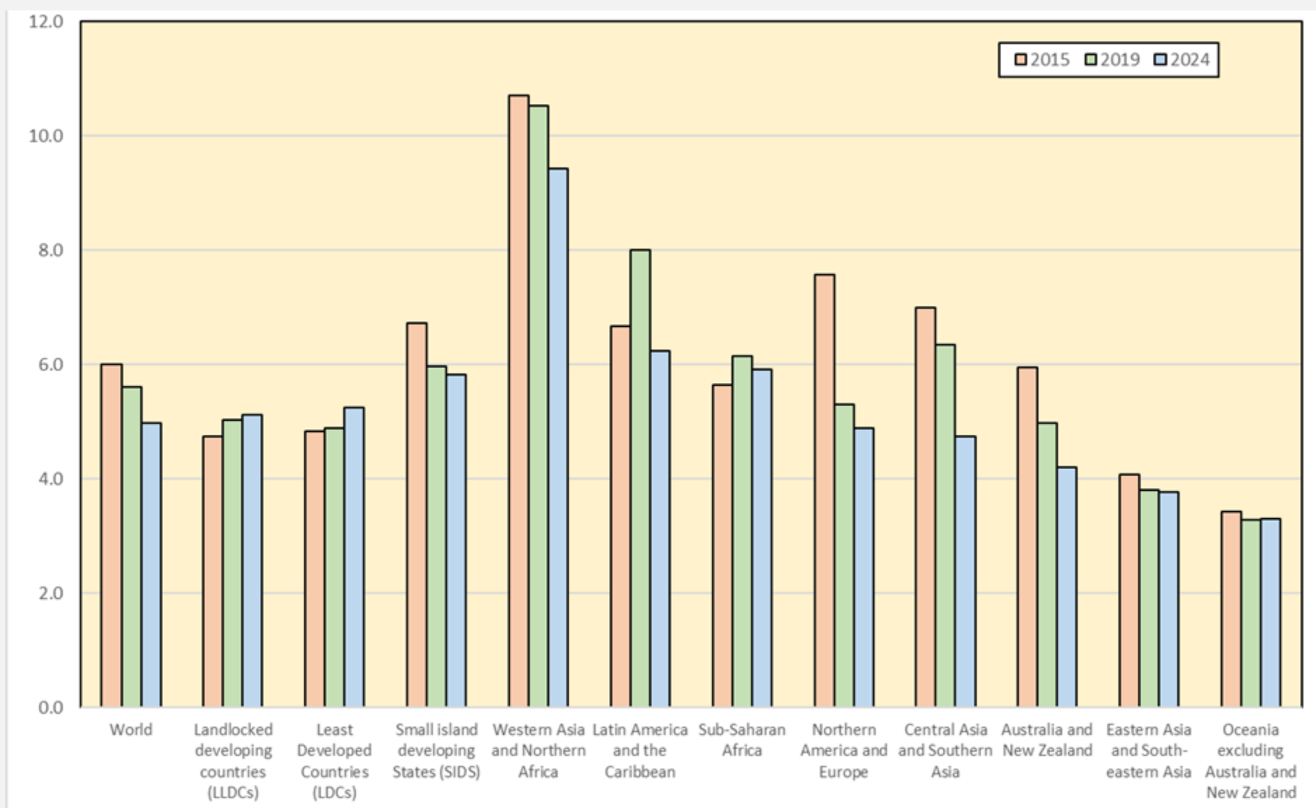
Moreover, the progress in reducing the global unemployment rate hides regional disparities. In 2024, Sub-Saharan Africa, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Least Developed Countries experienced higher unemployment rates compared to 2015. In contrast, regions such as Central and Southern Asia and Northern America and Europe have seen lower rates.

Women still face higher unemployment rates than men, and the gender gap has widened from 0.1 percentage point in 2015 to 0.4 point in 2024. In all regions except Oceania and Eastern and South-eastern Asia, women faced higher unemployment rates compared to their male counterparts in 2024. Western Asia and Northern Africa report the highest unemployment rates and the largest gender gaps, with women being twice as likely to be unemployed as men (14.6 per cent and 7.8 per cent, respectively).

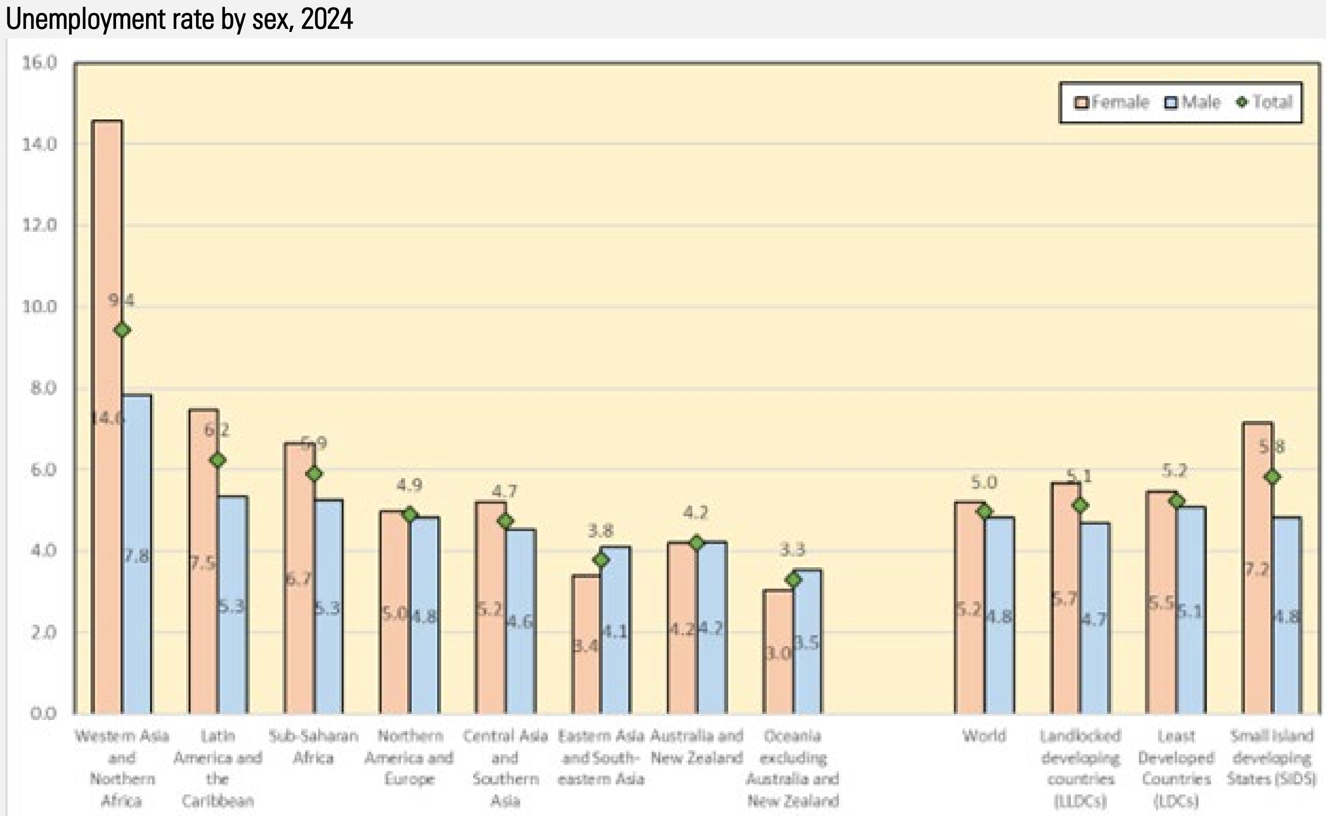
Young people also continue to face significantly higher unemployment rates than adults despite some improvement. Youth unemployment rates declined from 14.2 per cent in 2015 to 12.9 per cent in 2024. Nonetheless, youth remain three times more likely to be unemployed than adults, whose unemployment rate stood at 3.7 per cent in 2024.

Although declining unemployment rates indicate progress in meeting the needs of those seeking and available for work, they do not account for persistent decent work deficits. Policymakers should prioritize addressing these deficits by focusing on improving job quality, reducing working poverty and tackling informality.

Unemployment rate, 2015, 2019 & 2024



Unemployment rate by sex, 2024



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2025, https://www.ilo.org/publications/flagship-reports/world-employment-and-social-outlook-trends-2025

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): ILO

Custodian agency(ies): ILO

Target 8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

Indicator 8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training

Global youth NEET rate remains high

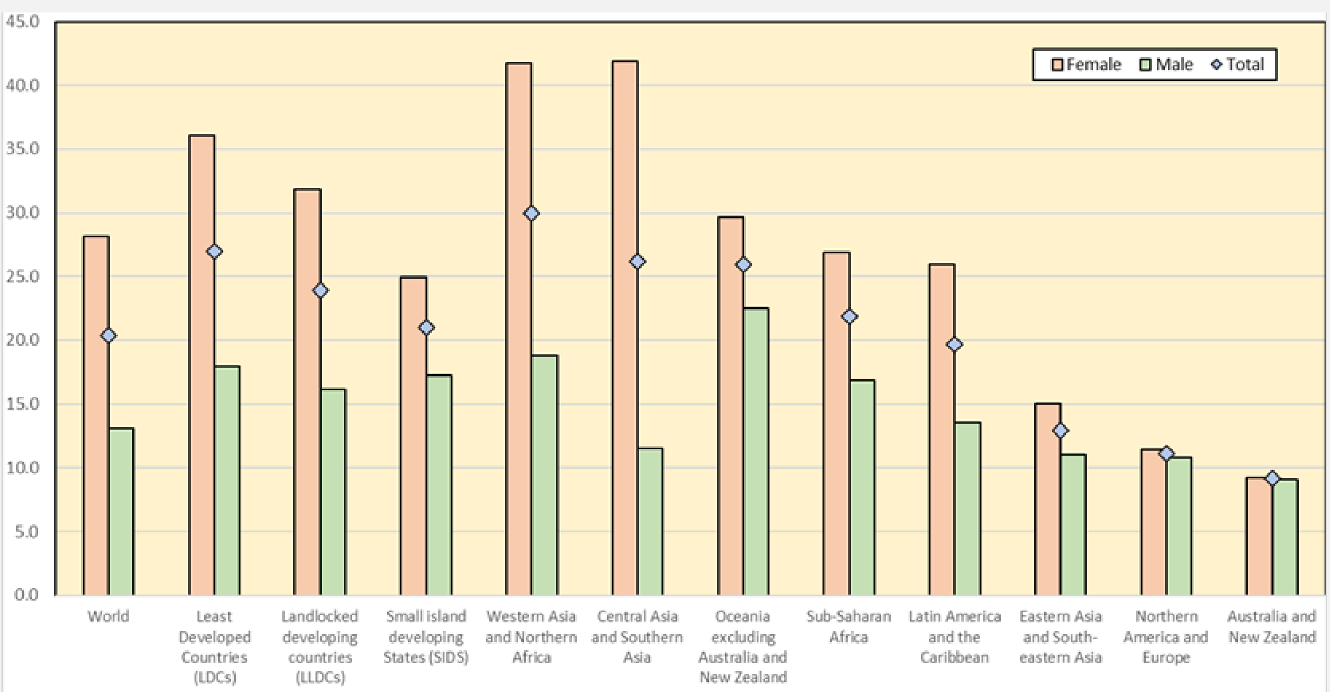
One out of five young people (aged 15 to 24) worldwide are not in employment, education or training (NEET), leaving them without opportunities to build skills or gain work experience. The share of youth NEET has stayed persistently high since 2015, with a mere 0.9 percentage point decrease to 20.4 per cent in 2024.

Regional disparities are stark. In 2024, one in three young people in Western Asia and Northern Africa were NEET, compared to only one in ten in Australia, New Zealand, Northern America and Europe. Despite high NEET rates at around 26 per cent in Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) and Central and Southern Asia, these regions have seen modest declines of 3.8 and 2.4 percentage points, respectively, since 2015. In contrast, the NEET rate in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) has increased in the last decade, reaching 27.0 per cent.

Young women face even greater barriers. Globally, they are twice as likely to be NEET as young men. In Central and Southern Asia, for example, the overall decline in NEET rates masks a significant gender gap: in 2024, 41.9 per cent of young women were NEET, compared to 11.5 per cent of young men. Similar trends persist in Western Asia and Northern Africa and LDCs, where rates among women stood at 41.8 per cent and 36.1 per cent, respectively.

Economic crises tend to hit young people the hardest, limiting their future job prospects and earning potential. Addressing this challenge requires structural reforms that expand access to education, training and employment opportunities, particularly for young women, so they can participate fully in the labour market.

Proportion of youth not in education, employment or training by sex, 2024 (%)



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2025, https://www.ilo.org/publications/flagship-reports/world-employment-and-social-outlook-trends-2025

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): ILO

Custodian agency(ies): ILO

Target 8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

Indicator 8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age

Custodian agency(ies): ILO, UNICEF

Target 8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

Indicator 8.8.1 Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers, by sex and migrant status

Custodian agency(ies): ILO

Indicator 8.8.2 Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status

Continued erosion of compliance with fundamental labour rights exacerbating the worrying decrease in civic space

The global average for SDG indicator 8.8.2[2] stood at 4.86[3] in 2023, signalling the continuation of the alarming trend in the deterioration of employers' and workers' rights since 2015, when it stood at 4.54.

The indicator ranges between 0 to 10, with 0 being the best possible score (indicating higher levels of compliance with freedom of association and collective bargaining rights) and 10 the worst (indicating lower levels of compliance).

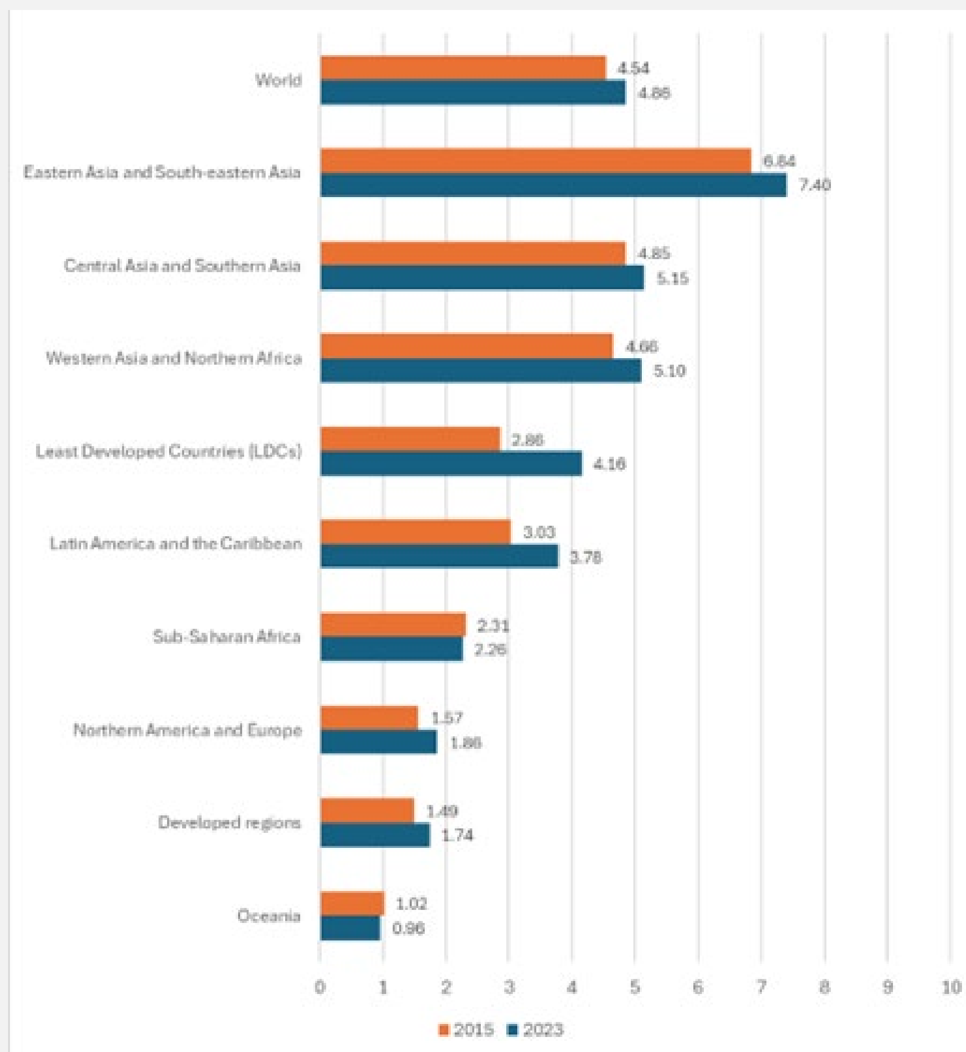
While the global average deteriorated by only 0.5 percent from 2022 to 2023 (as opposed to 6.5 per cent from 2021 to 2022), this is mostly due to the little or no change of the scores in countries with the largest labour forces, particularly China, India and Indonesia. What the underlying data shows is that the protection of employers' and workers' rights during both periods worsened in 22 per cent of the countries. Looking at the non-weighted scores, however, the deterioration was larger from 2022 to 2023 than from 2021 to 2022 (by 5.0 and 3.3 per cent respectively). Still, progress was made in 11 per cent of the countries from 2022 to 2023.

Regarding regional breakdowns, the trend, like in 2022, shows worsening in five of seven regions, with Eastern and South-eastern Asia continuing to be the region with the worst scores. While the largest erosion occurred among Least Developed Countries (by 45.4 per cent worsening of the scores), respect for freedom of association and collective bargaining also declined in developed economies (by 16.5 per cent worsening of their scores).

From 2015 to 2023, the biggest deterioration measured by change in indicator values was observed in Latin America and the Caribbean (0.75), Western Asia and Northern Africa (0.45) and Eastern and South-eastern Asia (0.56). While the change from 2021 to 2022 was driven by a deterioration in Central and Southern Asia (1.01), the score for the region indicates improvement from 2022 to 2023 (0.17). This is explained by improvement in the score of a single country, despite the worsening in other countries in the same region. While in Northern America and Europe the score worsened from 2015 to 2023 (0.29) there was little to no change from 2021 to 2022 and from 2022 to 2023. The regions with improvements from 2015 to 2023, though small, are Oceania and Sub-Saharan Africa (0.06 and 0.05, respectively).

As observed for 2022, the deterioration continues to be driven heavily by violations of fundamental civil liberties of workers, employers and their organizations. As the ILO's supervisory bodies have repeatedly stressed, civil liberties are indispensable for the exercise of freedom of association and collective bargaining and are prerequisites for the proper functioning of independent organizations[4] that can only develop in a climate free from violence, pressure and threats of any kind against the leaders and members of such organizations[5]. Free and independent workers' and employers' organizations are the very essence of democracy and the continued violations of their rights will exacerbate the worrying decrease in civic space necessary for the functioning of genuine democracies.

SDG indicator 8.8.2 - Level of national compliance with labour rights (2015-2023)



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- https://ilostat.ilo.org/methods/concepts-and-definitions/description-sustainable-development-labour-market-indicators/about-sdg-indicator-8-8-2/

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): ILO

Custodian agency(ies): ILO

[2] SDG indicator 8.8.2 seeks to measure the level of national compliance with fundamental labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining). It is based on six International Labour Organization (ILO) supervisory body textual sources and also on national legislation. National law is not enacted for the purpose of generating a statistical indicator of compliance with fundamental rights, nor were any of the ILO textual sources created for this purpose. Indicator 8.8.2 is compiled from these sources and its use does not constitute a waiver of the respective ILO Constituents' divergent points of view on the sources' conclusions. SDG indicator 8.8.2 is not intended as a tool to compare compliance among ILO member States. It should specifically be noted that reporting obligations of an ILO member State to the ILO's supervisory system and thus ILO textual sources are different for ratifying and non-ratifying ILO member States.

[3] Global and regional aggregates are weighted averages with weights derived from ILO labour force estimates.

[4] Paragraphs 68 and 71 of the Freedom of Association. Compilation of decisions of the Committee on Freedom of Association / International Labour Office – Geneva: ILO, 6th edition, 2018

[5] Paragraph 84, Ibid.

Target 8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

Indicator 8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate

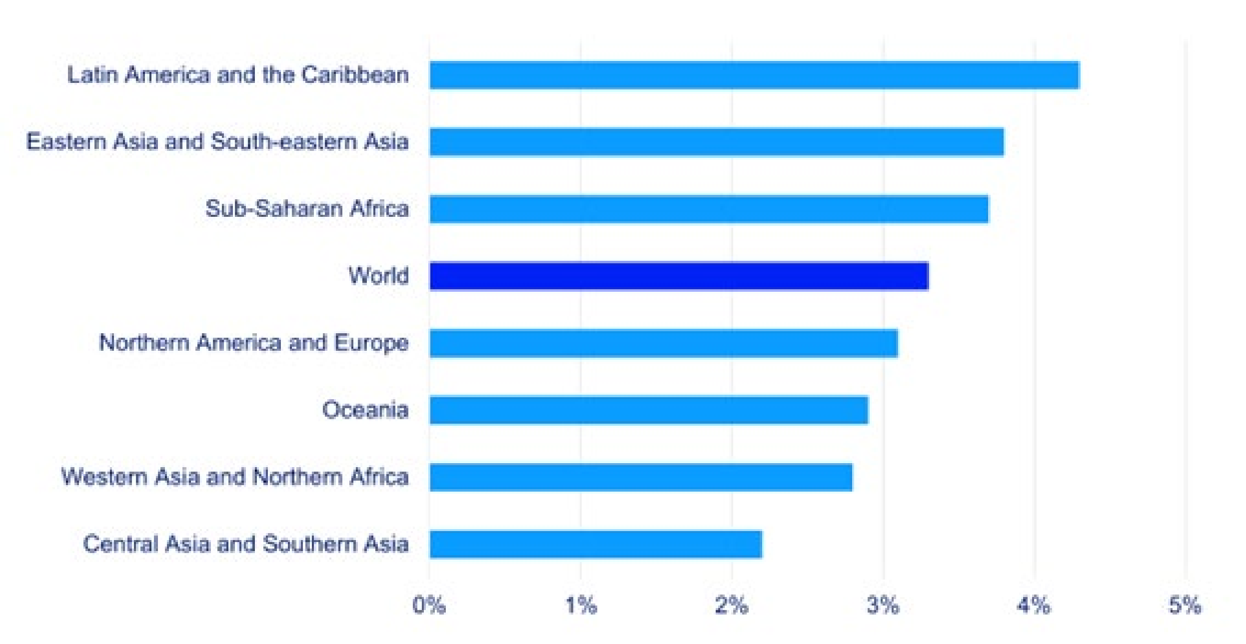
Tourism's contribution to global GDP rebounded to 3.4% in 2023, reaching over 90% of the 2019 pre-pandemic level

Tourism, as a cross-cutting sector, holds significant potential to drive sustainable development by fostering socio-economic progress and offering livelihood and natural preservation opportunities, even in remote areas.

Data on tourism's contribution to global GDP rebounded in 2023 to over 90% of the 2019 pre-pandemic level, reaching 3.4%. This value slightly surpassed the world average (3.3%) for the period 2015-2023. This indicates a consolidation of the recovery after the COVID crisis at the global level.

There are however notable differences across regions. During 2015-2023, the share of tourism direct GDP (TDGDP) over total GDP was highest in the region of 'Latin America and the Caribbean' (4.3%), where tourism contribution exceeded the global average by one percentage point. 'Eastern Asia and Southeast Asia' and 'Sub-Saharan Africa' were also above the global average, with TDGDP representing 3.8% and 3.7% respectively of total GDP. In contrast, 'Central Asia and Southern Asia' (2.2%) data is more than one percentage point below the global average (Chart 1).

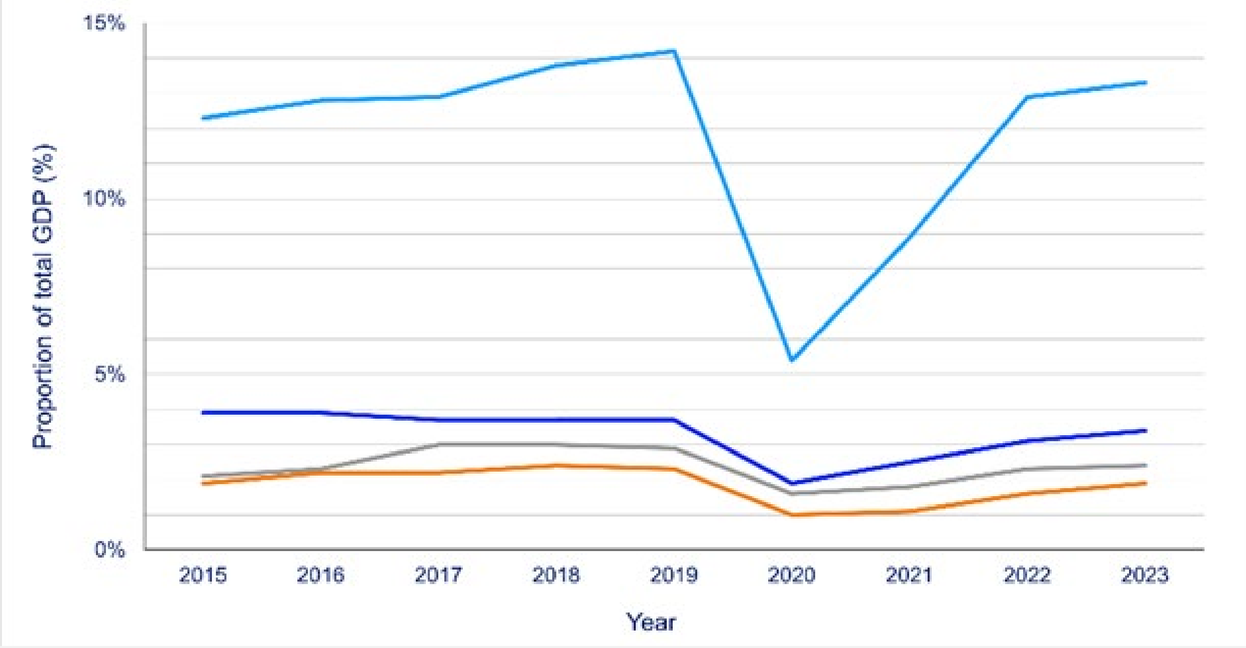
Chart 1. Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP: average 2015-2023



The evolution of global data during 2015-2023 shows the impact of the COVID-pandemic in the second half of this period, with a drop and subsequent rebound. In the spirit of leaving no one behind, a closer look at the data provides important insights. In 'Small Island Developing States' (SIDS), tourism is often a lifeline for local economies and jobs, making up on average 13% of the economy (excluding Singapore), with some countries reporting shares above 20%. Therefore, the Covid shock was particularly pronounced, yet seems to be largely recovered by 2023 (Chart 2).

In contrast, 'Least Developed Countries' (LDCs) (2.4% in 2023) and 'Landlocked Developing Countries' (LLDCs) (1.9%) show tourism shares below the world average. In 2023 they remained at about 85% of their 2019 pre-pandemic levels, slightly behind other regions.

Chart 2. Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP: evolution 2015-2023



Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Clara Van Der Pol, UN Tourism; Leandry Moreno, UN Tourism; Javier Montero, UN Tourism; Eric Hernández Corona, UN Tourism; and Linus Hartmann, UN Tourism

Custodian agency(ies): UN Tourism

Indicator 8.9.2 Employed persons in the tourism industries

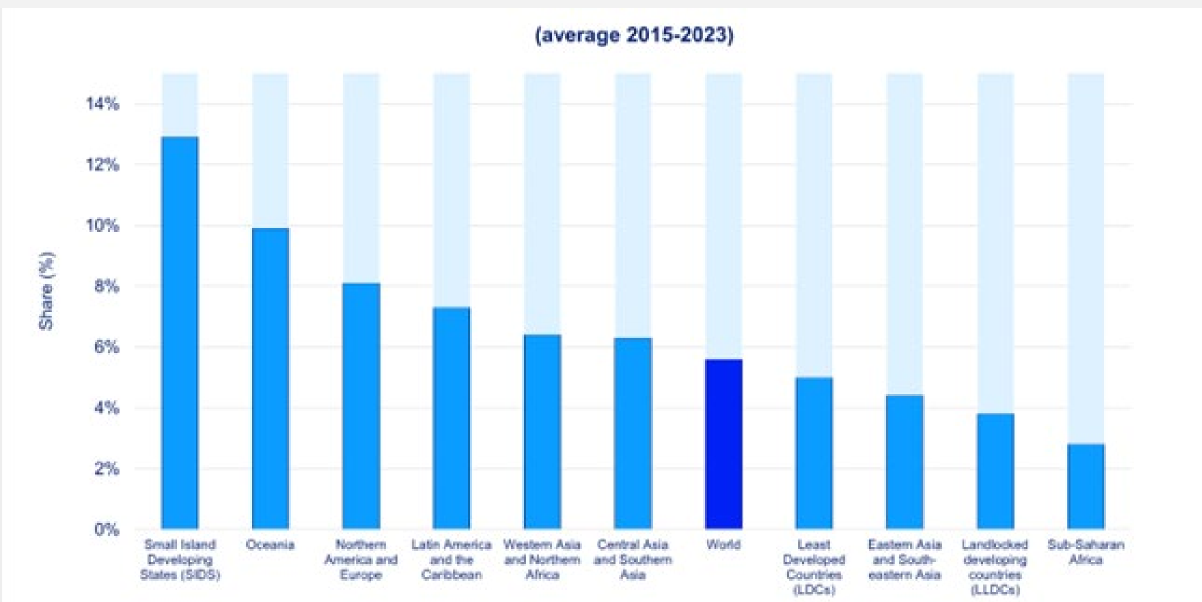
Countries increase by 10% employment opportunities through tourism since 2015

Globally, tourism represented on average 5.6% of the total number of employed persons in the period 2015-2023. Despite the shock from the COVID-19 pandemic, globally countries are on track to meet target 8.9 with employed persons in tourism rising 10% between 2015 and 2023. Tourism offers employment and income opportunities in developed and developing countries alike, even in remote areas. With its higher relevance in the global labour market, tourism is increasingly a means towards sustainable development that leaves no one behind.

The new indicator 8.9.2 'employed persons in the tourism industries' permits valuable additional insight to track target 8.9 on the promotion of sustainable tourism that creates jobs. In 2023, 127 million persons were employed in tourism, as based on data reported by 89 countries and comprising 68% of the world population.

Tourism plays a particularly crucial role in employment in the 'Small Island Developing States' (SIDS), where on average it accounted for 12.9% of the total number of employed persons, more than twice the global level. By regions, the share of tourism in employment was highest in 'Oceania' (9.9%) and 'Northern America and Europe' (8.1%), whereas the lowest shares were found in 'Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia' (4.4%) and 'Sub-Saharan Africa' (2.8%) (Chart 1).

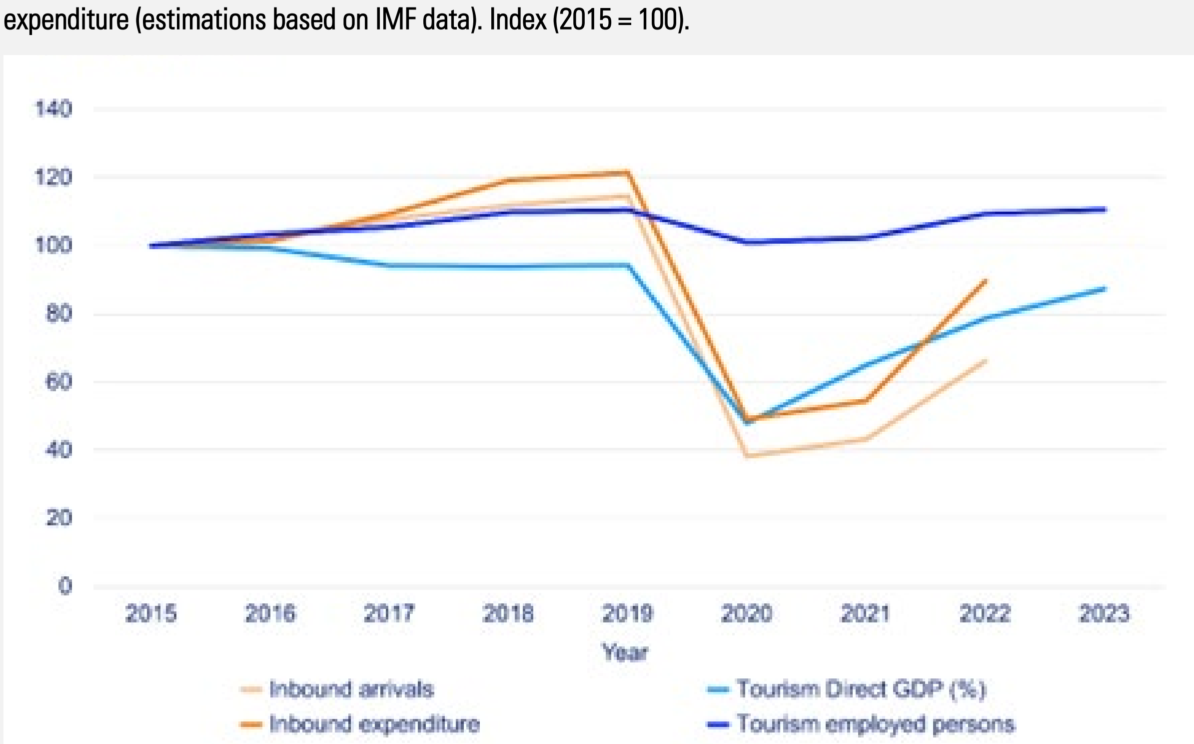
Chart 1. Share of employed persons in the tourism industries (SDG indicator 8.9.2) over total of employed persons (ILO data)



The indicator provides complementary information to better assess target 8.9 and the global state of tourism for sustainable development. For example, data show that during 2015-2023, and even in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic shock, tourism employment remained relatively stable compared to other key tourism indicators, such as tourism direct GDP, inbound arrivals, and inbound expenditures (Chart 2). This conveys relevant information for assessing the behavior of the tourism sector during crises and highlights the importance of a multidimensional analysis of progress towards sustainable development.

The indicator benefits from improved coverage made possible by the integration of UN Tourism and International Labour Organization databases. Still, further improvements in data coverage can be made, especially in terms of disaggregation by sex, employed/self-employed and tourism industry. This will boost the evidence base for better managing tourism's impact both on the economy and on society at large.

Chart 2. Number of employed persons in tourism industries (SDG indicator 8.9.2) versus other key tourism indicators: tourism direct GDP [%] (SDG indicator 8.9.1), inbound arrivals (UN Tourism data) and inbound expenditure (estimations based on IMF data). Index (2015 = 100).



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- https://www.unwto.org/tourism-in-2030-agenda
- Tourism Statistics Database
- Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism
-

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Clara Van Der Pol, UN Tourism; Leandry Moreno, UN Tourism; Javier Montero, UN Tourism; Eric Hernández Corona, UN Tourism; and Linus Hartmann, UN Tourism.

Custodian agency(ies): UNWTO

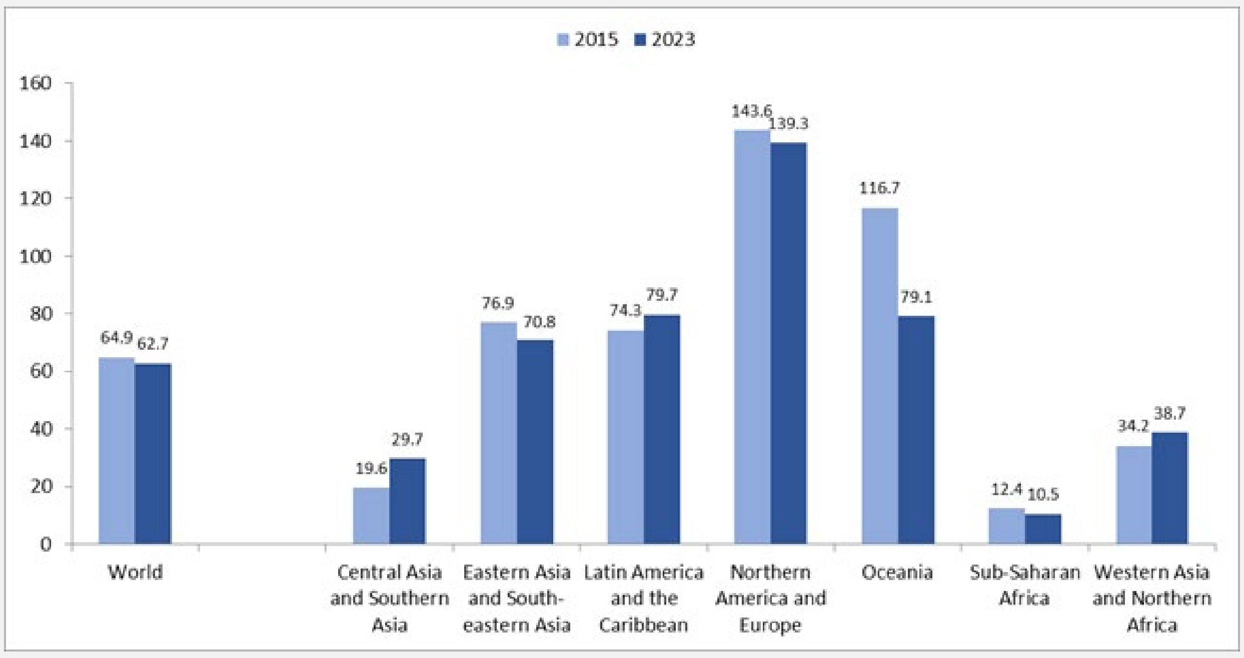
Target 8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

Indicator 8.10.1 (a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults

Access to finance has continued to rise across the world since 2015 while new modes of financial access have gained relevance, growing even more rapidly since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic

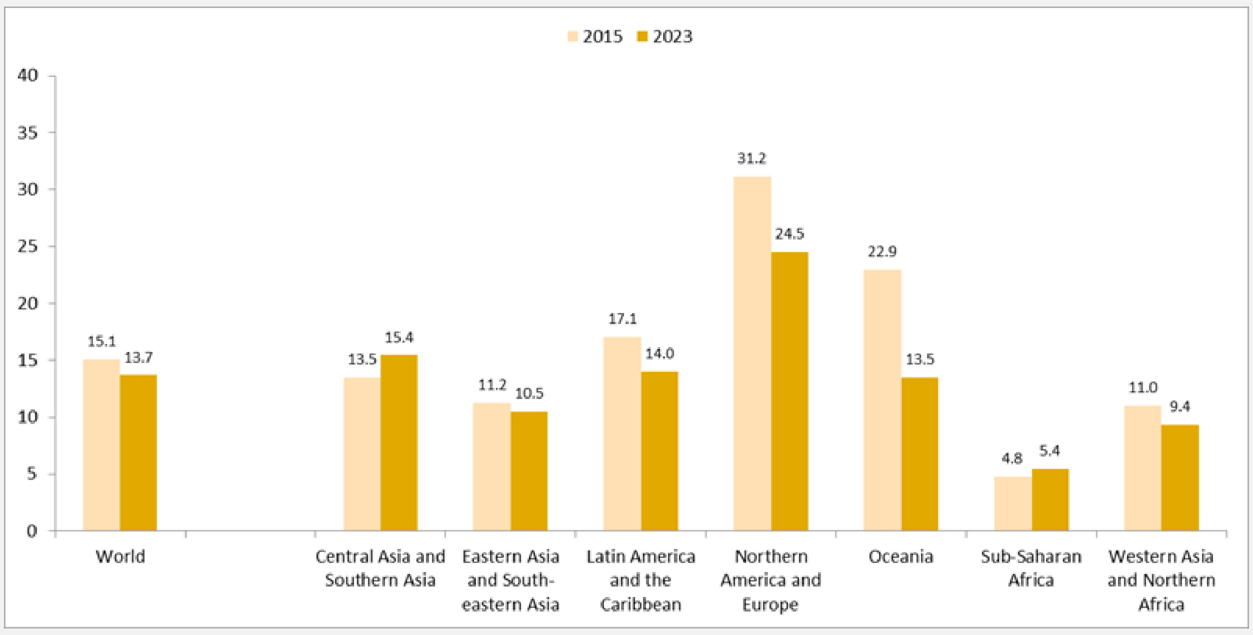
Globally, the number of ATMs per 100,000 adults slightly declined between 2015 and 2021(64.6 in 2015 versus 63.9 in 2021), though significant regional differences are observed. The fastest growth was observed in Central Asia and Southern Asia with an annual growth rate of 6 percent while Western Asia and Northern Africa also experienced a modest increase. In Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), the number of ATMs per 100,000 adults grew annually on average by 7 percent between 2015 and 2022, reaching 8.7 and 20.4 ATMs per 100,000 adults in 2021, respectively. On the other hand, this indicator decreased in Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia, the Oceania and Sub-Saharan Africa and remained broadly stable in Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Europe, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults, 2015 and 2023



The growth of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults worldwide has seen a slight reversal in 2022 relative to its level in 2015, declining from 15.1 to 13.7 during this period. This is a result of the decreasing trend in bank branches in many regions to reduce costs, and the move towards the adoption of digital financial services such as mobile and internet banking., Oceania experienced the largest decline in bank branches between 2015 and 2022, with negative average annual growth of about 6 percent followed by North America and Europe (3 percent average annual fall) while Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Asia and Northern Africa also observed a fall. The level in Sub-Saharan Africa has remained broadly stable over the past five years. In contrast, however, Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) experienced the fastest average annual growth of 6 percent between 2015 and 2022.

Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults, 2015 and 2023



The COVID-19 pandemic seemed to have reinforced the use of digital modes of financial access further while more traditional modes of accessing finance captured by the two indicators decline globally and in most regions from 2019 to 2022.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- FAS 2024 Press release
- FAS 2024 Highlights Report

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Custodian agency(ies): IMF

Indicator 8.10.2 Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider

Custodian agency(ies): World Bank

Target 8.a Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries

Indicator 8.a.1 Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements

Aid for Trade is a critical instrument to support developing countries integration into sustainable and digitally connected global value chains

Aid for Trade is plays an important role in supporting structural transformations that enable countries to move up the value chain, expand into services and digital trade, and respond to rising demand for low-carbon and ethically produced goods. In 2023, a total of USD 50 bn was disbursed by bilateral and multilateral donors to help developing countries address supply-side barriers to trade and increase their exports. 56% of that amount helped finance trade-related infrastructure, while 42% contributed to strengthen productive capacities and 2% assisted in trade policy reforms and regulations.

Support to trade policies and regulation is particularly relevant to adapt to increasingly complex regulatory environments, strengthen supply chain transparency and sustainability, and enhance capacity to engage in digital trade. In 2023, while overall Aid for Trade disbursements saw a moderate decline, support for trade policies increased by 19% in real terms, reaching USD 1.2 billion. Trade facilitation, which has been highlighted through the 2024 global Aid for Trade monitoring and evaluation exercise as a key priority for partner countries, increased from USD 264 to USD 327 million. Support to information and communication technologies saw a moderate decline (-2%) reaching nearly USD 985. Such support remains particularly important to bridge the digital divides in developing countries.

Maintaining a strong focus on LDCs remains essential to foster inclusive partcipation in the global trading system. In 2023, support allocated to Africa declined, plateauing at 35% of total Aid for Trade disbursements, which is below 2015 levels. Despite a decline in overall Aid for Trade flows, disbursements to LDCs increased by 3.4%, reaching 30% of total Aid for Trade flows. This growth however remains below the levels needed to achieve the commitments of the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs to double Aid for Trade levels from 2018 by 2031.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Aid for Trade at a Glance 2024 Aid for Trade at a Glance 2024 | OECD

Custodian agency(ies): OECD

Target 8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

Indicator 8.b.1 Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy

More countries with an operationalized strategy for youth employment in 2024

Reporting on the indicator was significantly higher than the previous year (103 countries compared to 87 countries reporting in 2023) and the share of reporting countries with operationalized strategies for youth employment was also higher. Nearly one half of reporting countries in 2024 (50 of 103 countries) had implemented a national strategy for youth employment. Another 30 countries (one-third) had developed and adopted a strategy but not yet moved toward operationalization and the remaining 22 countries had strategies or plans under various stages of development. In terms of countries that reported progress from the initial process stage to development and adoption of a youth employment strategy between the two reporting years, four countries were found: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mozambique, the Republic of Moldova and Somalia. Nigeria was the only country found to have progressed from the adoption stage to implementation of the strategy in 2024.

From a regional standpoint, the majority of countries with implemented national youth employment strategies were found in Europe (60 per cent), where they benefit from their participation in the European Union Directive on the “Reinforced Youth Guarantee”, followed by the Americas (16 per cent), Asia and the Pacific (14 per cent) and Africa (10 per cent).

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Custodian agency(ies): ILO