Stuttgart – A Livable City

The global 2030 Agenda at local level

4th Voluntary Local Review

2025

STUTTGART

Stuttgart – A Livable City

The global 2030 Agenda at local level

4th Voluntary Local Review

Coordination and editorial:
Dr. Bettina Bunk (Department for International Relations)
Mirko Eppler (Statistics Office)
Dr. Stephanie Maier (Statistics Office)

Support:
Andrea Brenner
Hue Truong
Laura Schmitt

With the involvement of all divisions of State Capital Stuttgart

Layout:
Claudia Huber

Editing:
Dr. Susanne Mädger

Publisher:
State Capital Stuttgart
Administrative Coordination, Communication and International Relations Division
Public Safety, Order and Sport Division

Email: international@stuttgart.de
poststelle.12@stuttgart.de

Web: www.stuttgart.de
www.stuttgart.de/global-und-nachhaltig

Copyright held by the publisher
Stuttgart 2025

All rights reserved. It is expressly prohibited, without the publisher's express consent, to translate, reproduce, film (on microfilm or microfiche) or store this publication or any part thereof in electronic systems for commercial purposes.

Foreword

Stuttgart – A Livable City for All

The core aim of the 2030 Agenda, adopted by the United Nations (UN) in 2015 along with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is to ensure a dignified life for all people within the planet's ecological boundaries.

Amidst humanitarian crises in a multipolar world, the UN's 2024 Sustainability Report states that over 80 percent of the targets set for 2030 have yet to be achieved. UN Secretary-General António Guterres therefore called for a "race to catch up" in the UN's joint political declaration for 2024. It states: "We will act with urgency to realise the vision (of the 2030 Agenda) as an action plan for people, the planet, prosperity, peace and partnership that leaves no one behind."

State Capital Stuttgart sees its sustainable actions at local level in a global context. Since 2017, the State Capital has taken key decisions and created appropriate instruments and structures to expand the scope and depth of anchoring of international sustainability goals. The Stuttgart process was given further impetus at the 2024 event in City Hall, "Stuttgart Together for the International Sustainability Goals – Network Meeting at the Midpoint of the Implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda".

The regular "Stuttgart – A Livable City" Voluntary Local Review (VLR) (since 2019), the dashboard and the underlying barometer showing the status of development (since 2024), as well as closer integration with budget planning, all play a key role in the city's monitoring of the international sustainability goals.

The mid-term barometer of the Statistics Office of the State Capital shows that slightly more than half of the indicators are showing a moderately positive trend for Stuttgart. There is still room for improvement in around a third of the indicators. On a positive note, no indicator shows a significantly negative trend.

In this fourth VLR, the indicators were further adapted to the Stuttgart context in a participatory process, for the city districts for example. As a pilot local community, then, State Capital Stuttgart is once again contributing to nationwide and international projects, including the nationwide "Digital Platform for Sustainable Municipalities".

The developments, target conflicts and interrelationships depicted in "Stuttgart – A Livable City" create a data-based foundation for the further strategic alignment and impact-oriented design of transformation processes on the ground.

Social cohesion, climate protection and economic sustainability can be mutually beneficial. Stuttgart can achieve effective solutions if these areas are viewed holistically and tackled jointly by politics, administration, the private sector and civil society.

We would like to thank everyone involved in the VLR and invite you to use these reliable insights to take bold action to promote a sustainable and future-facing city – as part of a global initiative – beyond the year 2030.

For Stuttgart – A Livable City for All![1]

Dr. Clemens Maier
Deputy Mayor
Public Safety, Order and Sport Division

Dr. Winfried Klein
Head of Division
Administrative Coordination,
Communication and International Relations Division

This Voluntary Local Review (VLR) presents the current status of the further development of the SDG anchoring process and the SDG indicators. It focuses on developments in Stuttgart regarding the selected SDGs prioritised in this year's UN High Level Political Forum: SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 14 (Life below Water), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Consequently, not all chapters mentioned in the table of contents are included. The complete VLR on all 17 SDGs will be available in English shortly.

Stuttgart – A Livable City
The global 2030 Agenda at local level

SDG 4 – Quality Education

SDG 5 – Gender Equality

SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation

SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy

SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth

SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production

SDG 13 – Climate Action

SDG 14 – Life below Water

SDG 15 – Life on Land

SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

Overall process and perspectives

Appendix

Structure and explanation

The sections that follow present the trends in selected indicators for measuring international Sustainable Development Goals [2]. The benchmark is always State Capital Stuttgart.

The individual SDG sections are structured as follows:

- a brief statement about the SDG in question,
- an overview of the topics relevant to the nationwide "SDG Indicators for Municipalities" project[3],
- the presentation of the targets relevant to German local communities, along with a description of which targets are covered by indicators,
- a depiction (time series diagram) and description of the development of the indicator in question,
- classification, definition and calculation basis – in some cases with methodological notes,
- a presentation of the correlations with other SDGs and references to other indicators relevant to the SDG in question and explained under other SDGs,
- the presentation of selected new practical examples of State Capital Stuttgart drawn up by the specialist units.

As a rule, the time series of the indicators covers the years 2010 to 2023 or 2024, depending on the availability of data. This VLR reflects the most recent data available at the time of going to press. Indicators without a time series so far are presented as a data point in a number chart. The quantitative and qualitative data used for the VLR are provided by the Statistics Office and other offices and departments of State Capital Stuttgart. Some data were sourced from the "Wegweiser Kommune" [Community Guide] by the Bertelsmann Foundation and the State and Federal Statistical Office.

The texts of the individual indicators are based on the VLR of 2023. In certain cases, the figures in this report differ from the data in the last VLR. This is due to adjustments made with the aim of more accurately reflecting each of the indicators. Examples include the use of new data sources (e.g., indicator 1-1) or the use of annual averages instead of values on a specific date (e.g. for the

poverty indicators under SDG 1). Definitions and calculation formulae originating from the nationwide "SDG Indicators for Municipalities"[4] project were partly adapted to the Stuttgart context.[5] Appropriate definitions and calculation bases were formulated for the indicators contributed by the State Capital itself.

In the 2025 VLR, a direct link to the targets was also established for each indicator[6]. The target to which an indicator primarily contributes is highlighted in colour with a brief description next to each indicator text. Some indicators can be assigned to several targets. This is presented in the Overview of Indicators in Appendix II. In addition, the subsections entitled "Correlation with other SDGs" provide important information on synergies and target conflicts. These are relevant for decision-making processes in sustainable urban development and convey the added value of the holistic orientation framework of the 2030 Agenda.

The assignment of targets to indicators can sometimes appear to be slightly inaccurate. This is because global goals have been broken down to fit the local community context in Germany. The targets relevant to German local communities were adopted from the nationwide "SDG Indicators for Municipalities" project and presented in abridged format. If individual targets from this project are not yet covered by indicators in the current VLR, this is primarily due to a lack of suitable indicators or available data. A new feature of this VLR is the inclusion of small-scale data at the city district level for selected indicators. Fifteen new indicators and a new index have also been added. Last but not least, some existing indicators have been modified. The exact methodological approach and the data basis are presented in the concluding section, "Overall process and perspectives". This section also contains comments on the interim results of the process of anchoring the International Sustainability Goals in Stuttgart.

The colour-coded boxes contain additional information. Their aim is to provide additional information on the individual indicators from scientific studies or other relevant literature (such as results from the latest Stuttgart survey).

Overviews of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations with their 169 targets, the indicators specifically selected for the VLR in the State Capital and other possible SDG Indicators for Municipalities can be found in Appendices I, II and III. A list of figures appears below the bibliography.

All results of the SDG monitoring process are available in the city's own SDG dashboard. The dashboard provides an interactive display of all indicators and enables a detailed analysis of progress. The dashboard can be accessed at: **https://sdg.dashboardstr.de/**

A wide range of specific measures contributes to the implementation of the sustainable development goals. The practical examples from previous VLRs are still relevant; a full list can be found at the following link:
https://www.stuttgart.de/lebenswertes-stuttgart
The responsibility for practical examples lies with the specialist units or offices. This being the case, there may be differences in the presentation and the texts.

Further information on the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in Stuttgart can be found at: **www.stuttgart.de/global-und-nachhaltig**

SDG 1 – No Poverty
End poverty in all its forms everywhere

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG 4 – Quality Education
Ensure inclusive, equitable and high-quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

SDG 5 – Gender Equality
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation
Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth
Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities
Reduce inequality within and among countries

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities
Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production
Ensure responsible consumption and production patterns

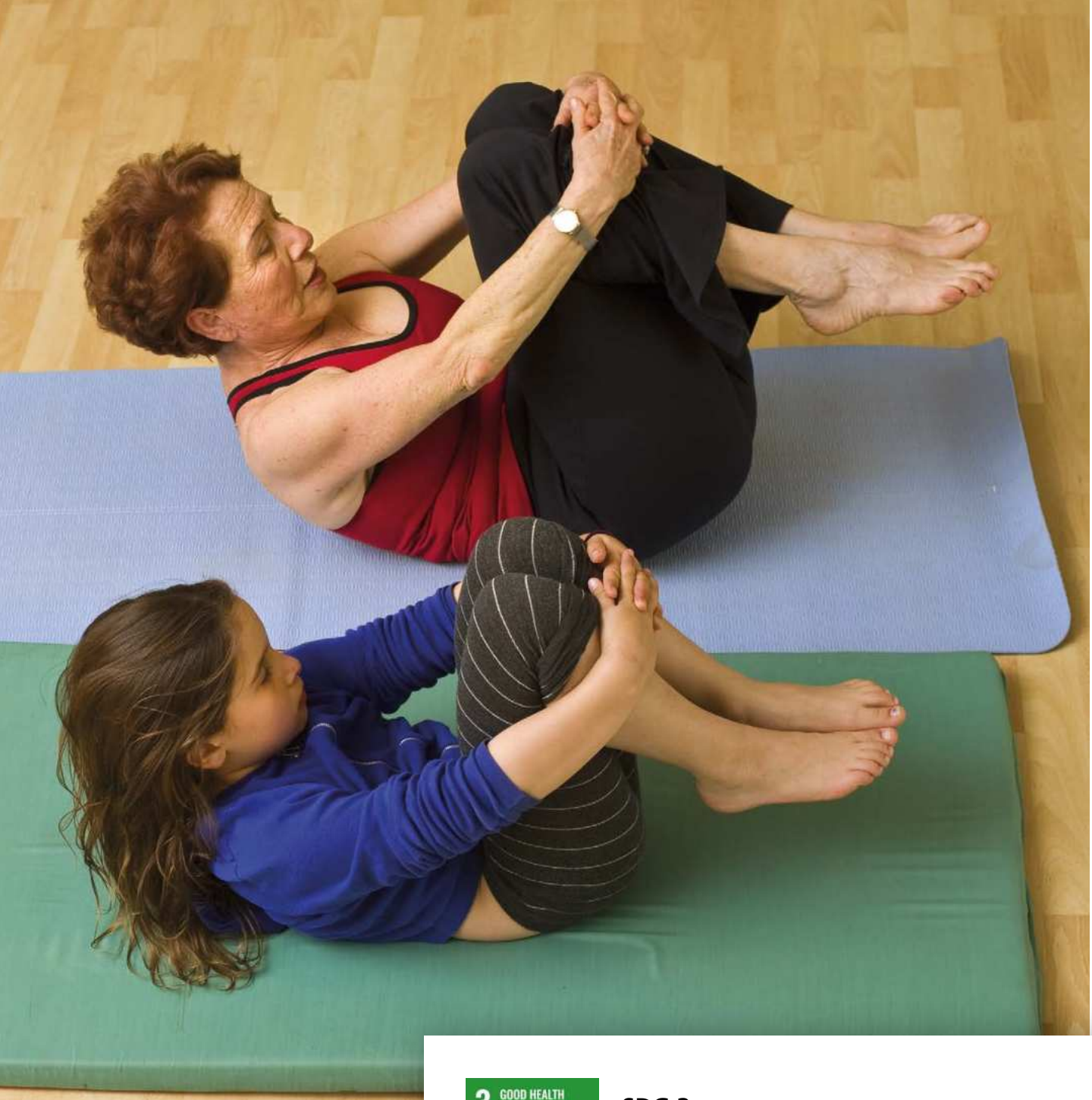
SDG 13 – Climate Action
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

SDG 14 – Life below Water
Conserve and responsibly use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

SDG 15 – Life on Land
Protect, restore and promote the responsible use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals
Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



SDG 3

Good Health and Well-Being

"Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages"

Relevant targets of SDG 3 for German local communities include, but are not limited to, combating infectious diseases, promoting mental health and well-being, preventing and treating the misuse of harmful substances, universal access to healthcare and reducing the impacts of pollution of air, water and soil.

Overview of the relevant targets

The following targets of SDG 3 are relevant to German local communities. The focus is on targets that can be directly measured using selected indicators. Additionally, a single indicator may be relevant for multiple targets. These holistic correlations are presented in the sections entitled "Correlation with other SDGs" as well as in Appendix II.

3.2 End preventable deaths of children under 5 years of age

3.3 Combat infectious diseases

3.4 Reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health

3.6 Reduce traffic accidents and fatalities

3.8 Access to basic health care services for all

3.9 Reduce illness and death from hazardous chemicals and pollution

The following relevant targets have not yet been represented by indicators:

3.1 Reduce maternal mortality

3.5 Prevent and treat abuse of harmful substances

3.7 Universal access to sexual and reproductive care, birth control and education

3.a Implementation of the WHO framework agreement to curb tobacco consumption

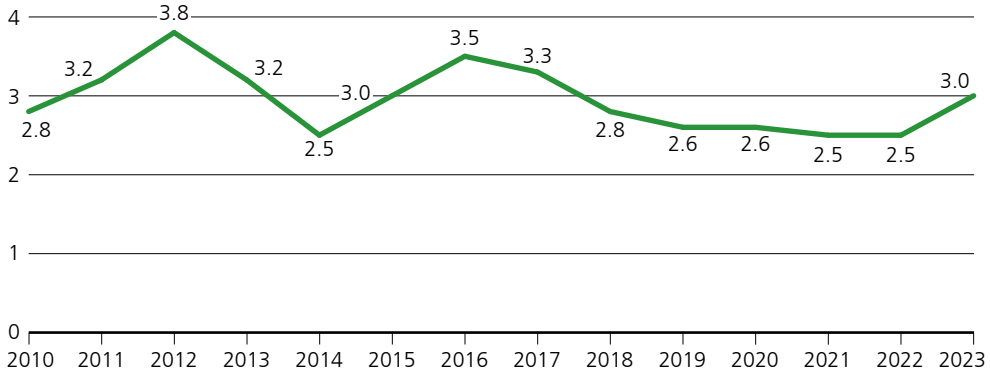
3.b Support research, development and universal access to affordable vaccines and medicines

3.c Increase funding for healthcare and support healthcare workers in developing countries

3.d Improve early warning systems for global health risks

All indicators used to measure the listed targets can also be accessed via the city's own SDG dashboard: https://sdg.dashboardstr.de/

Indicator 3-1:
Infant mortality



Source: State Health Office Baden-Württemberg (Health Atlas BW)

Figure 13:
Infant mortality in the first year of life (per 1,000 live births)

The infant mortality rate in Stuttgart ranged between approximately 2.5 and 3.8 deceased infants per 1,000 live births on a 3-year moving average from 2010 to 2023. Since 2016, a slight decline has been observed in the moving average, with the level in 2021 and 2022, as well as in 2014, at around 2.5. However, in 2023, there are signs of an increase again, with the 3-year average rising to around 3.0 per 1,000 live births. This means State Capital Stuttgart is trending below the national average, standing at 3.2 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022 and 3.0 in 2021.[38]

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 3.2:
"End preventable deaths of children under 5 years of age"

Classification / Definition

This indicator was introduced in 2025. It shows the number of infants who died within their first year of life per 1,000 live births in a calendar year, calculated as a 3-year moving average. Infant mortality includes children born alive who died after birth. Stillborn children are not included. Due to the low number of cases, averages over three years are used. The reported year always refers to the last year of the respective three-year period (e.g. "2020" covers data from 2018 to 2020). The data on live births and deceased infants refer to the place of residence, not the place of birth, such as the hospital.

Infant mortality, when compared over time and internationally, is an indicator of the general quality of living conditions and medical care.

Calculation

Infant mortality:

Number of deaths of children under 1 year of age
/
Number of all live births
* 1,000

Indicator 3-2:
Vaccination coverage at school enrolment examination (tetanus, polio, measles and rubella)

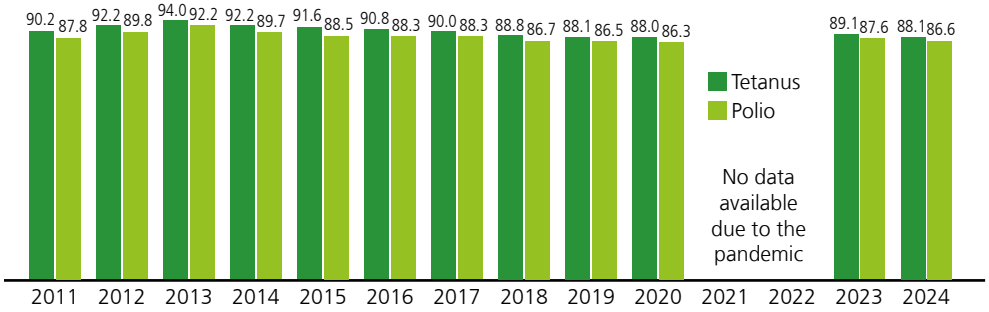


Figure 14:
Proportion of fully immunised children at the school enrolment examination (polio and tetanus; in percent)

Source: State Health Office Baden-Württemberg (school enrolment examination)

The proportion of children vaccinated against tetanus and polio at the school entry examination has been around 90 percent since 2011, with a slightly declining trend between 2013 and 2020. Immediately after the COVID-19 pandemic, during which no data are available for 2021 and 2022, vaccination rates rose slightly in 2023. However, in 2024, the vaccination rates dropped again to a somewhat lower level, at 88.1 percent for tetanus and 86.6 percent for polio. The vaccination coverage against tetanus was consistently around 2 percentage points higher than the coverage against polio throughout the period under review.[39]

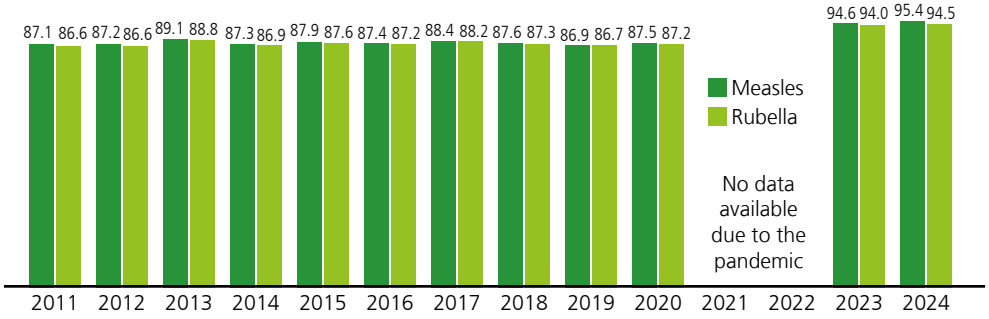


Figure 15:
Proportion of fully immunised children at the school enrolment examination (measles and rubella; in percent)

Source: State Health Office Baden-Württemberg (school enrolment examination)

The proportion of children vaccinated against rubella and measles at the school enrolment examination remained relatively constant at 87 percent between 2011 and 2020. After the pandemic years 2021 and 2022, for which no data are available, the rate increased to 94 and 95 percent respectively. One reason for this is the Measles Protection Act, which came into effect in 2020. Due to the commonly used combination vaccines[40], this also affects the proportion of children vaccinated against rubella and mumps (see section Classification / Definition).[41] Throughout the period under review, the proportion of children vaccinated against measles was slightly higher than that of children vaccinated against rubella, with annual differences ranging from 0.2 to 0.9 percentage points.[42]

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 3.3:
Combat infectious diseases

Classification / Definition

This indicator was introduced in 2025. It represents the percentage of children at the school enrolment examination (SEE) who are considered fully immunised against tetanus and polio according to the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Vaccination (STIKO). The SEE is performed according to the school year. The reported year always refers to the year in which the cohort starts school. The examination period always covers the two preceding years (e.g. "2023" includes data from the cohort starting school in 2023, examined in 2021/2022).[43]

Children who have received at least four vaccinations against tetanus and polio are considered fully immunised according to STIKO (basic immunisation following the 3+1 schedule). Since the examination year 2022, children who have received three vaccinations, respecting the recommended intervals and using an approved vaccine, are also deemed fully immunised if this is documented (basic immunisation according to the 2+1 schedule, STIKO recommendation since 2020). The data refer to children with vaccination records submitted during the school enrolment examinations.

Regarding vaccination coverage against measles and rubella, the indicator also reflects the percentage of children at the school enrolment examination who are considered fully immunised according to STIKO recommendations. Children who have received at least two vaccinations against measles and rubella are generally considered fully immunised. Measles and rubella vaccinations are usually administered in combination with the mumps vaccination in the form of a triple vaccine. The vaccination rate for mumps is almost identical to that for rubella each year and is therefore not reported separately here. The slightly higher vaccination coverage rate for measles compared to mumps and rubella is down to the occasional administration of single vaccines against measles. Here, too, the data refer to children with vaccination records submitted during the school enrolment examinations.

In Stuttgart, over 95 percent of vaccination records have been submitted and evaluated for years, so the results on vaccination coverage rates can be considered valid.

Vaccinations are among the most effective and important preventive measures in the world of medicine. The tetanus vaccination is regarded as an indicator of basic willingness to be vaccinated and an indicator of access to vaccination in general. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has been working towards the global eradication of polio since 1988. Europe was declared polio-free in 2002. According to the WHO, a vaccination coverage rate of at least 95 percent in the population is required to eradicate measles. Vaccinations are key to achieving these goals and maintaining the status quo.

Calculation

Vaccination coverage at school enrolment examination (Tetanus and polio or measles and rubella):

Number of fully immunised children per disease at the school enrolment examination

/

Total number of children at the school enrolment examination

* 100

Indicator 3-3:
Children with atypical result from gross motor skills screening (school enrolment examination)

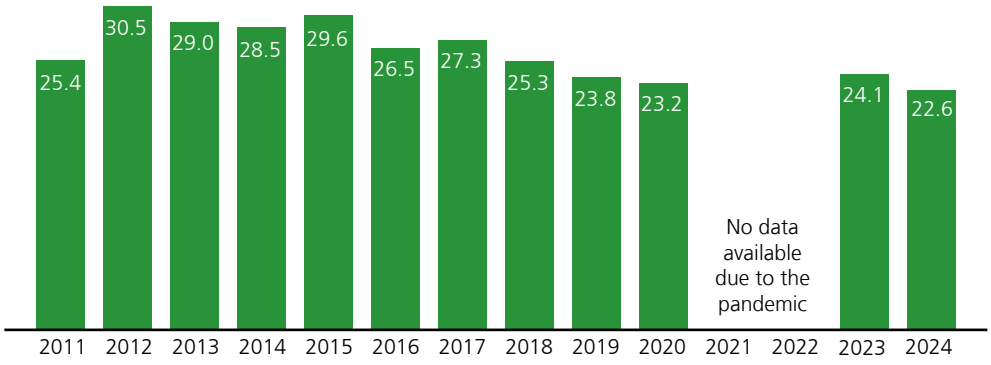


Figure 16:
Gross motor skills among children (percentage of 4- and 5-year-olds with atypical screening results at school enrolment examination)

Source: State Capital Stuttgart, Public Health Office (school enrolment examination)

The proportion of 4- and 5-year-old children with an atypical result from gross motor skills screening in the school enrolment examination fluctuated between 22.6 and 30.5 per cent in the period under review. Between 2017 and 2020, the number of atypical findings declined steadily. In 2023, the rate rose slightly again to 24.1 percent, but in 2024 it reached the lowest level in the period under review at 22.6 percent. The examination period for school enrolments years 2021 and 2022 coincided with the pandemic years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the cohorts could not be fully examined, meaning that no data are available for these years.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 3.4:
"Reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health"

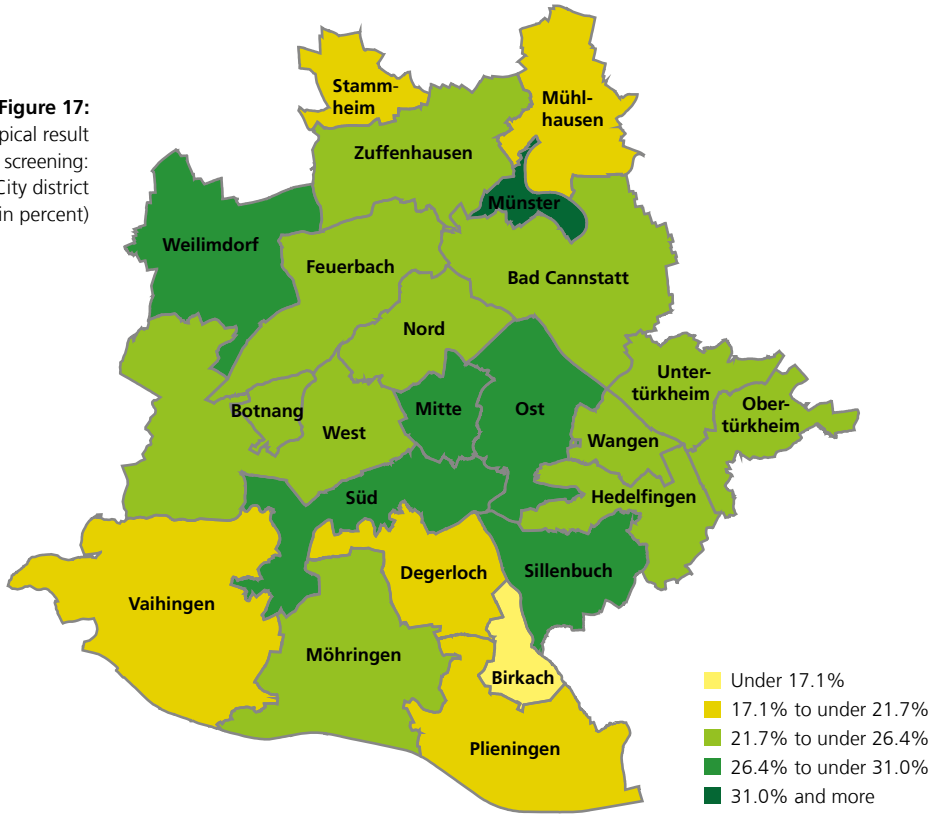


Figure 17:
Children with atypical result from gross motor skill screening: 2023 – City district (figures in percent)

Source: Social monitoring by State Capital Stuttgart

An analysis of the figures at city district level shows a rather heterogeneous picture for Stuttgart. The figures range from 8.2 percent in the city district of Birkach to 34.1 percent in Münster (see Figure 17).

Classification / Definition

The indicator shows the rate of children with an atypical result from gross motor skills screening (documentation from the school enrolment examination). Gross motor development is assessed by a standardised examination (hopping on one leg) and evaluated based on age-specific thresholds. As this is a screening examination, a certain degree of overestimation is to be expected. The year indicated always refers to the year of enrolment. This means that the stated year is the year of school enrolment, while data collection takes place approximately 18 months earlier, hence covering children aged 4 and 5.

The relevance of this indicator for target 3.4 is not apparent at first glance. However, gross motor development is important for all physical activities. It forms the foundation for movement and exercise, helping to prevent non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular conditions and type 2 diabetes, promoting mental well-being, and therefore making a direct contribution to achieving target 3.4.

Calculation

Children with atypical result from gross motor skill screening:

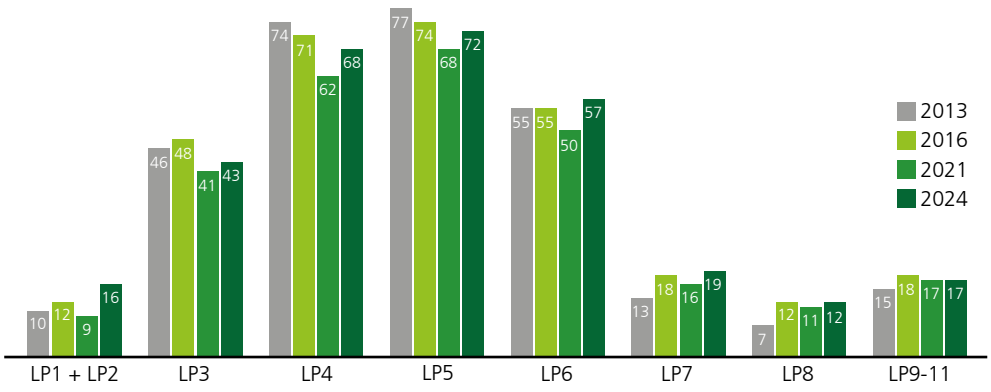
Number of children in a school enrolment cohort with atypical gross motor screening results

/

Total number of children examined in a school enrolment cohort

* 100

Indicator 3-4:
Degree of involvement in sport



Source: State Capital Stuttgart, Office of Sport and Physical Activity

Figure 18:
Degree of involvement in sports clubs across different life phases (LP) (in percent)

The level of involvement in sports clubs is particularly high among children. In life phases (LP) 4 and 5 (children aged 6 to under 14), over half are members of sports clubs. However, for children and adolescents in LP 3 to 5 (ages 3 to under 14), the number of club memberships has slightly declined over the long term. For example, the number of memberships in LP 3, 4 and 5 was higher in 2013 and 2016 than in 2024. In LP 6 (adolescents aged 14 to under 18), the involvement rate is around 50% and above average in a long-term comparison. With the transition to adulthood (LP 7), the rate of sports club involvement drops significantly, and in LP 8 (ages 25 to under 40), it falls to below 13%. From age 40 onwards (LP 9), the number of club memberships increases again but remains below 20%.

Compared to the pandemic year 2021, which led to a decline in sports club memberships, the rate of sports involvement in 2024 has increased across all life phases, even exceeding pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels in life phases 1, 2 and 6.[44]

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 3.4:
"Reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health"

Classification / Definition

Sport and physical activity are key factors in the promotion of health. Besides individual exercise, involvement in sports clubs is a key expression of physical activity. The Office of Sport and Physical Activity of State Capital Stuttgart records the number of members in sport clubs by life phase. A distinction is made between eleven different life phases.[45]

- Life phase 1: Pregnancy and children under 1
- Life phase 2: Children under 3
- Life phase 3: Children from 3 to under 6
- Life phase 4: Children from 6 to under 10
- Life phase 5: Children/adolescents from 10 to under 14
- Life phase 6: Adolescents from 14 to under 18
- Life phase 7: Young adults from 18 to under 25
- Life phase 8: Adults from 25 to under 40
- Life phase 9: Adults from 40 to under 60
- Life phase 10: Adults from 60 to under 75
- Life phase 11: Adults from 75 and older

For each of the eleven life phases, the number of people involved in sports clubs is recorded and related to the total population. The resulting value represents the degree of involvement expressed as a percentage.

Sport and physical activity play a crucial role in preventing non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular conditions and type 2 diabetes – and for promoting mental health, thereby making a direct contribution to achieving target 3.4.

Calculation

Degree of involvement in sport:

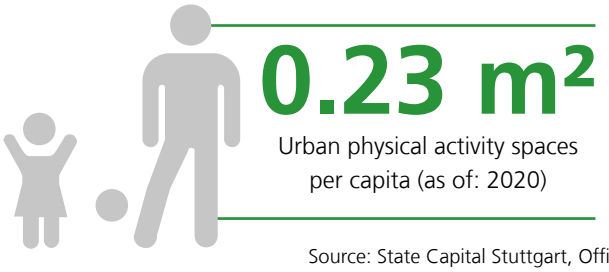
$$\frac{\text{Number of people involved in sports clubs by life phase}}{\text{Population (by life phase)}} * 100$$

Sports initiatives in Stuttgart

Stuttgart has a diverse sports club landscape with around 400 clubs offering a wide range of activities for all ages and skill levels. Whether it's recreational activities, competitive sports or exercise designed to improve health, there are options to suit everyone. State Capital Stuttgart actively supports club sport and offers numerous initiatives to promote physical activity. Residents can easily find local clubs, sports activities and training programmes in their area using the online platform "Stuttgart bewegt sich" (Stuttgart gets moving).

Thanks to close cooperation between the city, nurseries, schools, clubs and other partners (e.g., Gemeinschaftserlebnis Sport - Sport as a Shared Experience), children and adolescents are also introduced to physical activity to encourage sports participation from an early age.
https://www.stuttgart-bewegt-sich.de

Indicator 3-5:
Urban physical activity spaces



Source: State Capital Stuttgart, Office of Sport and Physical Activity

Sport and physical activity are part of urban life in Stuttgart. Alongside the sports and exercise programmes offered by clubs, a growing number of physical activities are now happening outside traditional sports venues. At the same time, more people are choosing to exercise outdoors by themselves and the variety of activities on offer is steadily expanding. The result is a broader range of demands on public spaces. With the "Stuttgart Master Plan for Urban Physical Activity Spaces," the city administration is developing strategies to promote exercise in public areas and secure it for the long term. In 2020, there were 0.23 m² of urban physical activity space per resident. The master plan aims to double this figure over the long term.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 3.4:
"Reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health"

Classification / Definition

The indicator refers to areas that are specifically equipped for sports and exercise and are accessible to all. Including, for example, football pitches, basketball courts, boules lanes and table tennis tables. These areas are related to the population size. The indicator was introduced in 2021. It should be noted that this indicator only refers to actual sports areas. For example, in the case of boules facilities, only the area of the facility itself is measured, not the park in which it is located.

Sport and physical activity are essential for the prevention of non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular conditions and type 2 diabetes, promoting mental well-being, and therefore making a direct contribution to achieving target 3.4.

Calculation

Urban physical activity spaces:

$$\frac{\text{Sports areas accessible to all in square metres}}{\text{Population}} * 100$$

Indicator 3-6:
Promotion of physical activity in nursery schools

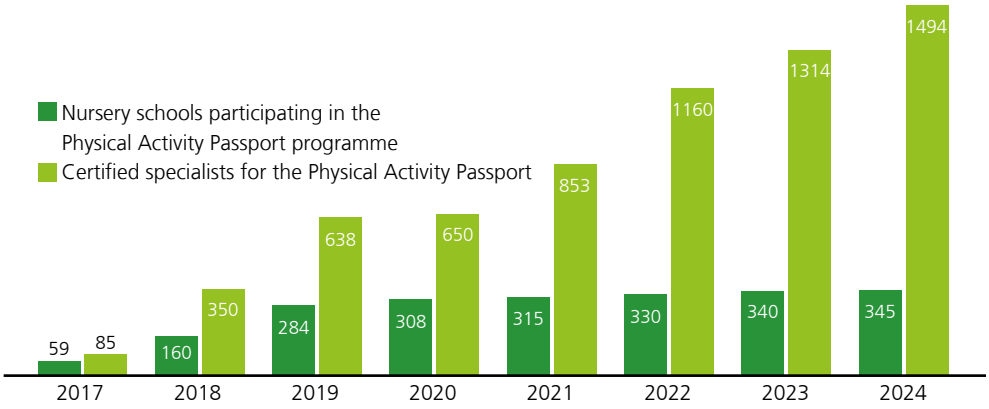


Figure 19:
Promotion of physical activity in nursery schools (number)

Source: State Capital Stuttgart, Office of Sport and Physical Activity

Since its launch, the number of childcare facilities participating in the "Physical Activity Passport" programme has increased significantly – recently reaching 345 nursery schools. There were a total of 1,494 certified specialists for the Physical Activity Passport in Stuttgart in 2024, and the number continues to grow.

The Stuttgart Physical Activity Passport was developed to help nursery schools and sport clubs promote physical activity. It is aimed at children aged three to under six years. One of its goals is to make physical activity a regular part of family life. Eight animated animals teach children various exercises, each of which can be performed at four levels of difficulty. The video clips explain how to do the exercises correctly. The Physical Activity Passport supports educators, instructors and parents in promoting children's motor skills and in carefully observing, guiding, and assessing their developmental progress.

For children, everyday physical activity plays a crucial role in healthy development. In collaboration with local clubs and childcare facilities, State Capital Stuttgart offers "Growing up actively" – a programme to encourage physical activity tailored to each age group. In addition to the Physical Activity Passport, this programme includes several other components aimed at fostering movement and motor development in children (kitafit, schwimmfit (nursery fitness, swimming fitness), minisport voucher).[46]

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 3.4:
"Reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health"

Classification / Definition

The regular participation and registrations of nursery schools in the individual sub-projects of the "Growing up actively" programme are the basis of the quantitative survey on how actively nursery schools implement the promotion of physical activity.

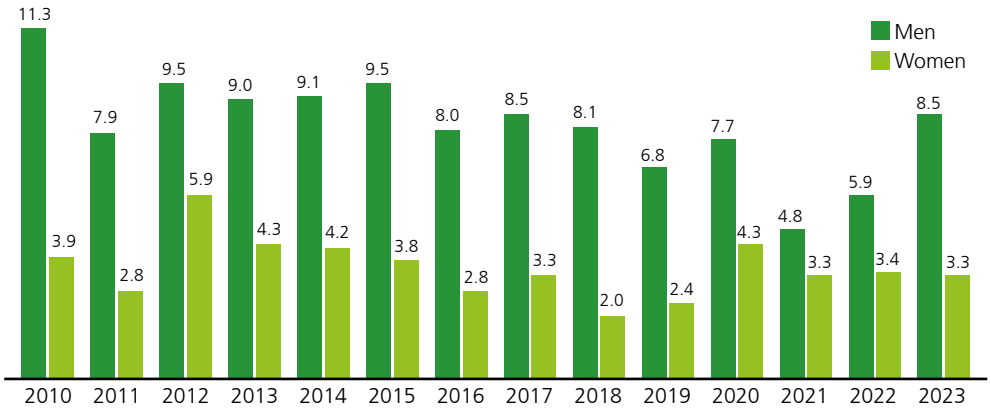
Promoting physical activity in daycare centres helps children discover the joy of movement in a way that suits their age, helping to prevent overweight and obesity. It is the first step in avoiding non-communicable diseases and increasing the mental well-being of children (target 3.4). Early childhood experience is vital for developing behaviour that promotes health and maintaining this healthy attitude in later life.

Calculation

Promotion of physical activity in nursery schools:

Number of Physical Activity Passport nursery schools and certified specialists for the Physical Activity Passport

Indicator 3-7:
Deaths by suicide



Source: State Statistical Office Baden-Württemberg

Figure 20:
Deaths by suicide among men and women (figures per 100,000 individuals)

The number of suicides per year varies considerably, which is not unusual statistically given the relatively small number of cases. What is striking is the quite different distribution over time between men and women. In the period under review, 2010 was the year with the highest number of suicides among men, while 2012 stood out for women. Between 2010 and 2020, there was a steady decline in the suicide rate among men. In 2021, there was even a significant decline in the suicide rate among men, reaching a low of 4.8 cases per 100,000 individuals – the lowest level since 2010.[47] Since then, however, this figure has risen again and reached 8.5 cases in 2023.

A study published in the Deutsches Ärzteblatt (German Medical Journal) found no correlation between suicide rates and the COVID-19 pandemic based on an analysis of data from police crime statistics. However, due to the complex data situation, continued monitoring is advisable in the coming years to rule out potential long-term effects of the pandemic.[48]

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 3.4:
"Reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health"

Help in suicidal crises

In Stuttgart, there are numerous support services available for people experiencing a life crisis and who may be at risk of suicide, as well as for relatives and those bereaved by suicide. At the following link and QR code, you will find contact information and phone numbers for organisations that offer competent and experienced support to help overcome a suicidal crisis.[49]

www.stuttgart.de/medien/ibs/WEB_Hilfe-in-Suizidalen-Krisen_Feb_2021.pdf

Classification / Definition

Suicide is one of the possible causes of premature death. It is usually the result of severe psychological distress or mental illness, which is why the number of deaths by suicide can be used as an indicator in this context. Completed suicides vary between men and women and therefore have to be considered as a gender-specific issue.

The data is based on the official cause-of-death statistics, which in turn are derived from death certificates issued by physicians who determine the cause of death. It is assumed that, in addition to the suicides officially recorded in statistics, there is a number of unreported cases that are classified as accidents or other causes of death. This may occur if the suicide is not recognised, is ambiguous, or if physicians (who confirm the death) – due to loyalty to the family – tend to indicate another cause of death. The indicator presents the number of completed suicides relative to the population, disaggregated by gender.

.

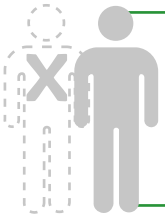
Calculation

Deaths by suicide:

Number of suicides among men
/
Population
* 100,000

Number of suicides among women
/
Population
* 100,000

Indicator 3-8:
Perception of loneliness



11.6%

of the population of Stuttgart reported feeling lonely in 2023

Source: State Capital Stuttgart, Statistics Office

In 2023, according to a survey conducted by the Statistical Office of State Capital Stuttgart, 11.6 percent of Stuttgart's population reported feeling lonely. Based on the total population (people aged 16 and older), this corresponds to approximately 58,000 individuals. This puts State Capital Stuttgart close to the national average of 11.3 percent (see the German Federal Government's Loneliness Barometer). People with a migration background, poor overall health and low income are more frequently affected. Additionally, men tend to be more affected by loneliness than women. Age and educational attainment, on the other hand, do not play a key role in explaining loneliness.[50]

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 3.4:
"Reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health"

Paths out of Loneliness: Stuttgart's Strategy for Social Inclusion

Loneliness in Stuttgart is understood as a complex phenomenon influenced by social, economic and health-related factors. Those particularly affected are people with limited social networks who rarely maintain personal relationships and, as a result, experience emotional isolation. Experiences of discrimination, cultural barriers and language difficulties further increase the risk of loneliness, especially among people with a migration background. Chronic illnesses or disabilities can also reduce participation in social life. It is also evident that social activities like sports not only improve physical health but also foster social connections and significantly decrease the risk of loneliness.

Stuttgart's strategy against loneliness focuses precisely on these points: Since 2022, stakeholders from culture, sports, education and the social and therapeutic sectors have been systematically involved in developing services to prevent loneliness and provide targeted support for those affected. Special attention is given to groups who face a higher risk of loneliness due to their circumstances. By consolidating and connecting existing services and creating new programmes, low-threshold access points and opportunities for social interaction are established to promote social inclusion.[51] Alongside direct support services, increasing public awareness and reducing stigma around the issue are also major priorities. Loneliness, then, is recognised as a collective challenge, which is being addressed through sustainable and inclusive measures.

https://www.stuttgart.de/leben/soziales/gemeinsam-gegen-einsamkeit/

Classification / Definition

This indicator was introduced in 2025. Loneliness is a subjective feeling that describes the perceived gap between desired and actual social relationships. For those affected, loneliness is a painful, negative and enduring experience. Loneliness carries a stigma and often leads to social withdrawal.[52] It has consequences for both physical and mental well-being and also impacts physical health (such as reduced life expectancy and cardiovascular diseases), which in turn results in high costs for the healthcare system.[53] Loneliness also diminishes trust in other people and societal institutions, thus posing a threat to democracy and social cohesion.[54]

There are many different triggers for loneliness. Common causes include moving to a new place, changing jobs, children leaving home, the end of a relationship, illness or need for care, as well as the loss of relatives, friends, or close confidants.[55] Loneliness requires attention at municipal level, as it has far-reaching consequences for community life and social participation.[56] In 2024, the German federal government introduced its first-ever strategy to prevent and address loneliness, incorporating a wide range of measures to raise awareness and tackle the issue.[57]

Calculation

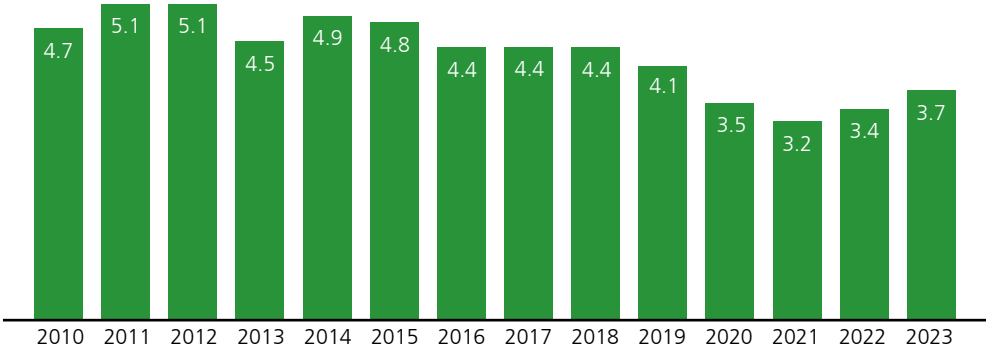
The indicator refers to the perceived loneliness of the surveyed individuals. Loneliness is measured using the scientifically validated questionnaire developed by De Jong-Gierveld et al. (2006)[58], which consists of six questions. The scale values of three of the six questions in the questionnaire below are first recoded so that the values from 1 to 5 are assigned the same meaning. The arithmetic mean value is then calculated from the scale values. Individuals with a loneliness index greater than 2.5 are classified as lonely.

Questionnaire:

1. I miss people with whom I feel comfortable.
2. There are enough people who would help me if I have problems.
3. I often feel abandoned.
4. I know people I can truly rely on.
5. I miss feelings of security and warmth.
6. There are enough people with whom I feel a close connection.

$$\frac{\text{Number of people feeling lonely}}{\text{Total number of respondents}} * 100$$

Indicator 3-9:
Traffic casualties



Source: Federal and State Statistical Offices

Figure 21:
Traffic casualties (number of casualties per 1,000 individuals)

The number of traffic accident casualties fluctuated between 3.2 and 5.1 per 1,000 inhabitants from 2010 to 2023. Although the pattern is irregular, there has been a general downward trend since 2012. This decline is likely due, among other factors, to the monitoring and traffic engineering management of accident hotspots in the city. Particular attention is being paid to school routes. The low figures for 2020, 2021 and 2022 can at least partly be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to reduced traffic volume. Accordingly, the number rose somewhat again in 2023 but remained below pre-pandemic levels.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 3.6:
"Reduce traffic accidents and fatalities"

Classification / Definition

This indicator relates the number of people injured or killed in traffic accidents to the total population. It is directly linked to target 3.6, which aims to reduce traffic accidents and fatalities. Until the 2021 reporting year, it was assigned to target 11.2, "Sustainable Mobility". Due to the high volume of traffic in cities and the convergence of different modes of transport (cars, bicycles, pedestrians), road safety is an important issue. The traffic casualties indicator reflects how successful traffic safety measures ultimately are.

One limitation of the indicator is that, strictly speaking, the number of casualties should be related to the number of road users rather than to the population as a whole. This is because commuters travelling into the city, in addition to its residents, contribute to urban traffic volume.

The number of traffic casualties also directly relates to SDG 11 concerning sustainable mobility: shifting from motorised individual transport to more environmentally friendly modes of transport (public transit, cycling, walking) can help reduce the number of accidents.

Calculation

Traffic casualties:

Number of persons injured or killed through traffic accidents
/
Population
* 1,000

Indicator 3-10:
Dental health in children

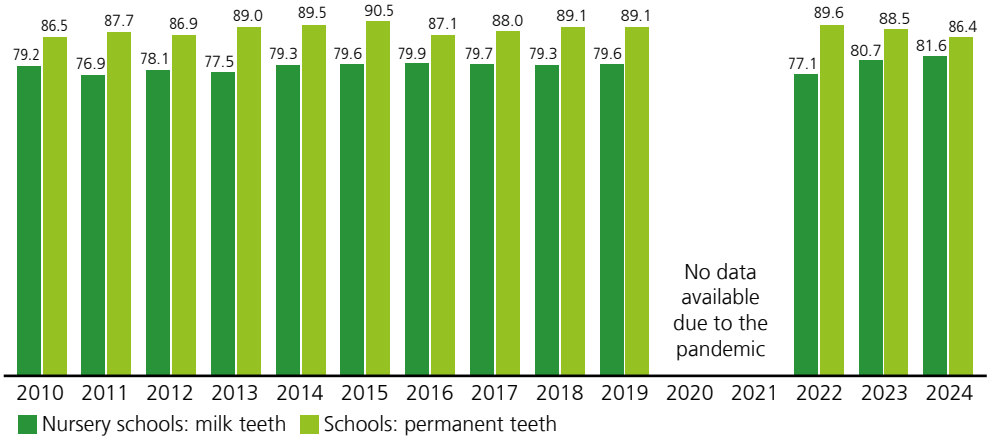


Figure 22:
Nursery children with naturally healthy teeth and schoolchildren with naturally healthy permanent teeth (in percent)

Source: State Capital Stuttgart, Public Health Office

Since 2010, the proportion of children in nursery schools with naturally healthy teeth (no obvious tooth decay) among all examined children has been around 80 percent. In 2024, this figure reached a new high of 81.6 percent. While the focus in nurseries is on children's milk teeth, the emphasis in schools is on permanent teeth. The proportion of children with naturally healthy permanent teeth among all examined children has varied between 86.4 percent and 90.5 percent since 2010. Unlike the positive trend seen in the health of milk teeth, recent years have shown a decline in the health of permanent teeth.

Looking at the long-term trend in dental health, it is evident that the rates have risen significantly in both nurseries and schools – from around 60 percent in the early 1990s to the late 2000s – and have since stabilised.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 3.8:
Access to basic health care services for all

Classification / Definition

This indicator was introduced in 2025. The services for children and adolescents in daycare centres and schools include examinations for dental, oral and jaw diseases, assessments of dental status and enamel hardness, nutritional counselling, and oral hygiene education. Parents of young children are offered consultations called "1x1 for Children's Teeth," parent information sessions and participation in numerous public events.

In primary schools, pupils in years 1 and 4 (German educational system) and in special needs classes are examined, with nine schools offering decay prevention programmes covering years 1 to 4. Pupils in year 6 (German educational system) at community and secondary schools, as well as those in international preparatory classes, are also regularly examined. Special educational and counselling centres conduct examinations across all years. This approach reaches more children, both with and without treatment needs, and signposts them to dental practices for care or preventive measures.

One goal of early childhood and adolescent prevention efforts, such as timely dental check-ups, is to minimise financial risks in adulthood (e.g. costs for dental treatments and especially prosthetics). This is ensured particularly through collaboration with the Baden-Württemberg Association of Statutory Health Insurance Dentists and the Baden-Württemberg State Dental Association. The dental health division, which includes the

Regional Working Group for Dental Health Stuttgart (RAGZ), has a legal mandate to maintain and promote dental health among Stuttgart's children and adolescents, laying the foundation for lifelong dental health. Other RAGZ partners include the Public Health Department of State Capital Stuttgart, the Stuttgart District Dental Association and statutory health insurance providers operating in the city.[59]

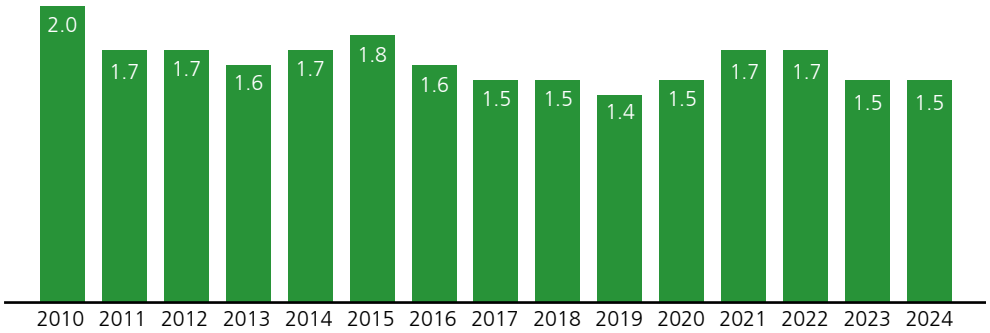
The reported figures always refer to the school year, meaning that the 2024 value corresponds to the 2023/2024 school year.

Calculation

Dental health in children:

$$\frac{\text{Number of nursery children with naturally healthy teeth and schoolchildren with naturally healthy permanent teeth}}{\text{Total number of nursery and school children examined by dentists}} * 100$$

Indicator 3-11:
Premature mortality



Source: State Capital Stuttgart, Statistics Office

Figure 23:
Premature mortality (number of deaths per 1,000 individuals under 65)

Premature mortality of people under 65 years in State Capital Stuttgart was two deaths per 1,000 individuals in this age group in 2010. Since then, despite fluctuating annual values, a slight decline can be observed. While the 7-year average between 2010 and 2016 was still 1.7 deaths, it decreased to 1.5 deaths between 2017 and 2024.

This decline is due to various factors, including improvements in medical care and the decrease in traffic accident casualties. The overall decline in premature mortality cannot be clearly attributed to specific measures in health prevention, accident hotspot elimination, or improved occupational safety. However, it is assumed that the entirety of measures and the availability of basic health services influence this development.

In the years 2021 and 2022, there was a slight increase in premature mortality. This increase is unlikely to be due to excess mortality from the COVID-19 pandemic, as the majority of COVID-19-related deaths occurred in the over-65 age group. Another possible reason is a larger population in older cohorts; however, the decrease in excess mortality in 2023 tends to contradict this theory.[60]

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 3.8:
Access to basic health care services for all

Classification / Definition

Health status has a significant impact on people's quality of life. If deaths occur more frequently in people under the age of 65, this may indicate serious health risks and problems within the healthcare system. Measuring mortality under the age of 65 thus reflects widespread health risks.

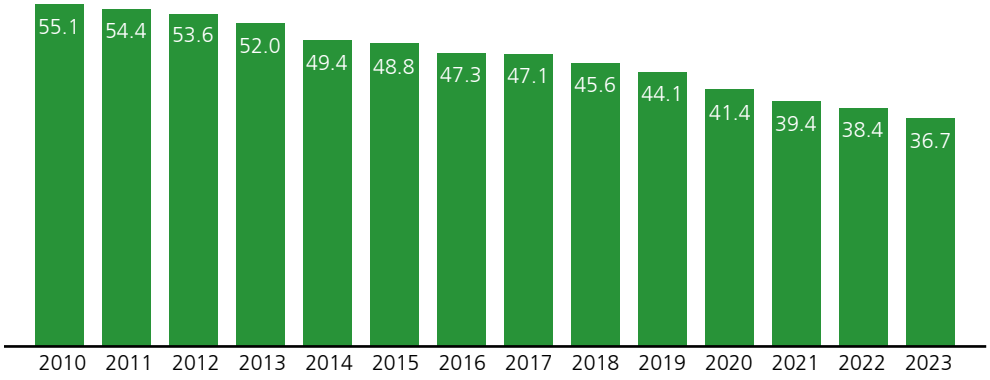
In local communities, health care and the promotion of preventive health measures, including both physical and mental health, are given particularly high priority, as is improving road safety. In addition, local communities can work with business associations to help improve occupational health and safety. The indicator is defined as the number of deaths under the age of 65 per 1,000 individuals under the age of 65 (measured in ‰).

Calculation

Premature mortality:

$$\frac{\text{Number of fatalities among persons under 65}}{\text{Population (under 65 years of age)}} * 1{,}000$$

Indicator 3-12:
Medical care



Source: State Statistical Office Baden-Württemberg; District Medical Associations of Baden-Württemberg

Figure 24:
Medical Care (number of general practitioners / 100,000 individuals)

According to data from the State Statistical Office Baden-Württemberg, the availability of general practitioners in State Capital Stuttgart has significantly declined relative to the population between 2010 and 2023 – from approximately 55 to just under 37 general practitioners per 100,000 individuals.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 3.8:
Access to basic health care services for all

Classification / Definition

The indicator measures physician density and therefore serves as a key element of comprehensive healthcare, which is a core focus of target 3.8. General practitioners play a crucial role in this context, as they ensure primary care and refer patients to specialists when needed. At the same time, the availability of general practitioners can serve as an indicator of the overall performance of the healthcare system. Gaps in care often point to deficiencies in the widespread provision of health services.

A higher density of general practitioners typically improves the chances of flexible and individualised treatment – for example, through shorter waiting times as one aspect of accessibility. However, the indicator does not provide information about the quality of care or the actual accessibility of services, especially for less mobile population groups. It should also be remembered that more and more doctors are working part-time, which can have a negative impact on care, by making it more difficult to arrange appointments for instance.

Calculation

Medical care:

Number of general practitioners, primary care physicians and physicians without a specialty
/
Population
* 100,000

Public perception of medical care

In the 2023 Stuttgart Survey, 61% of respondents stated they were satisfied with medical care and hospitals, with 16% even saying they were very satisfied. Only around 11% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.[61] This overall positive perception stands contrary to the declining trend of the indicator. Against the backdrop of demographic change, the population's assessment could change in the future: given the age structure of the medical profession, it is estimated that around 190 of the current 466 general practitioners in central Stuttgart (40.6%) will retire within the next five to ten years.[62] At the same time, the need for general medical care is expected to increase due to the rising multimorbidity of an ageing population.

Indicator 3-13:
Primary care close to home – distance to the nearest general practitioner practice

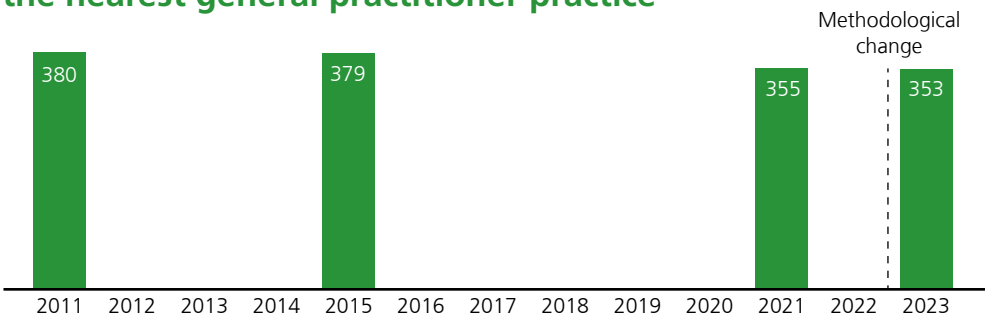


Figure 25:
Linear distance to the nearest GP practice (in metres)

Source: Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) in the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR)

The estimated average distance to the nearest general practitioner's office was approximately 380 meters as the crow flies in the years 2011 and 2015, and it decreased to 353 meters by 2023. When interpreting these values, Stuttgart's topography should be taken into account. Due to the city's basin location with steep slopes in places, the actual walking distances can differ significantly from the linear distances used here.

This indicator contributes to the measurement of SDG target 3.8:
Access to basic health care services for all

Accessibility of medical practices

An analysis conducted by the Statistics Office of State Capital Stuttgart on the accessibility of medical practices shows that the majority are within easy walking distance. This result is also reflected in the Stuttgart Survey 2023, in which respondents generally expressed high satisfaction with medical care. However, there were significant differences between the city districts.[63] The highest density of medical practices in 2022 was found in the Stuttgart-Mitte district, where all residents could reach a medical practice within less than ten minutes on foot. The lowest density was in the Plieningen district, which had only two medical practices. On average, it took the longest to reach a medical practice in Vaihingen. Compared to 2020, no significant differences were observed, meaning general accessibility was still good in 2023. However, it remains unclear whether timely appointment scheduling was possible.[64]

Classification / Definition

The indicator reflects the distance, as the crow flies, to the nearest GP practice weighted by residents.

The chosen approach only approximates the actual distance to the nearest general practitioner's practice. In the medium term, further development of the indicator is planned to take account of actual walking distances.

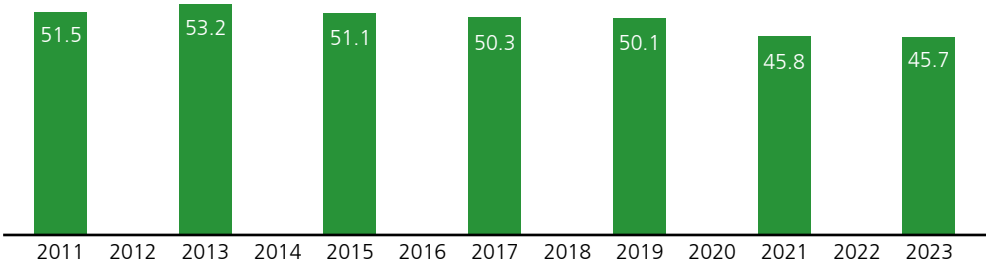
Calculation

Linear distance to the nearest GP practice:
Up until 2021: The linear distance describes the absolute, relief-independent distance from a population unit (250 x 250 metres) to the nearest unit with a general practitioner's practice, as located by the address from the "Who-to-who" company database.

Linear distances do not cross water barriers such as rivers. This linear distance is weighted according to the proportion of the total population of the district or independent city, as a total of all population units. Population units are based on ATKIS Basis DLM250 (settlement land use data) plus census data from 2011 and 2022.

From 2023: The distance determined here describes the absolute, elevation-independent distance in a 100 x 100 metre grid along the OSM path network[65] from a residential unit (Census 2022) to the nearest unit with a general practitioner's office, located using the address from the Federal Points of Interest Dataset,[66] based on the infas360 database.[67]

Indicator 3-14:
Places in nursing homes



Source: Federal and State Statistical Offices; State Capital Stuttgart, Statistics Office

Figure 26:
Places in nursing homes (given in number of places / 1,000 inhabitants)

The number of available full-time residential care places in State Capital Stuttgart declined slightly soon after 2013. From around 53 care places per 1,000 individuals aged 65 and older at that time, the figure dropped to just under 46 places in 2021 and 2023. In reality, the supply situation of residential nursing home places has deteriorated further due to the disproportionate increase in elderly people needing care.[68] In 2021, the number of residential care places fell significantly by around 500 compared to 2019. This figure increased slightly again in 2023 – to about 5,100 places.

Fundamentally, the approach is "non-residential rather than residential" – not least since the majority of people in need of care would prefer to be cared for at home. To align with this, the non-residential care infrastructure in State Capital Stuttgart has been significantly expanded in recent years. It can be expected that the number of people in need of care will increase and, due to demographic developments (an increase in older care-dependent individuals), even full occupancy of existing places will not be sufficient to meet the demand, even if non-residential care continues to be significantly expanded.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 3.8:
Access to basic health care services for all

Classification / Definition

The provision of places in nursing homes is an essential aspect of the care of older people in need close to home. The importance stems on the one hand from the adequate care of people who require inpatient nursing services. However, the availability of nursing home places also provides relief for family members who would otherwise have to provide care themselves – bringing consequences for family dynamics and employment opportunities. Sufficient nursing home places also give security to families who currently do not need a care place but are considering a potential future need. A predictable future bottle-neck in care means stress for families, even before the need actually arises. Because of these secondary effects, the "Places in nursing homes" indicator reflects a broader range of relevant aspects. The indicator is defined as the number of available nursing home places in relation to 1,000 individuals aged 65 and older. The data are collected every two years.

Calculation

Places in nursing homes:

Number of places available in nursing homes
/
Population (under 65 years of age)
* 1,000

Indicator 3-15:
Air quality

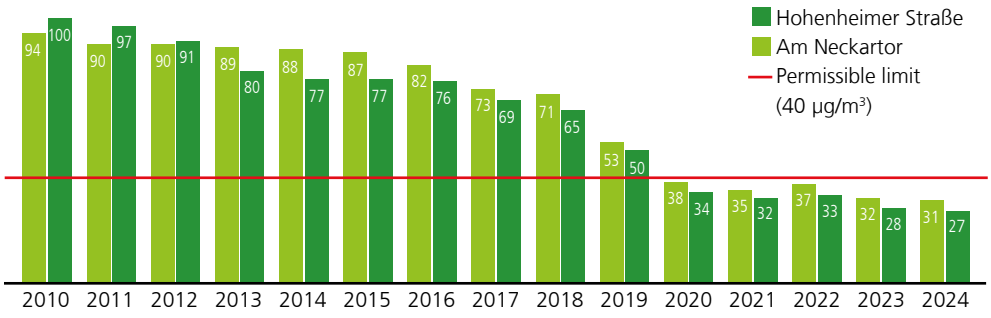


Figure 27:
Nitrogen pollution:
Annual mean NO_2 at two traffic-related monitoring stations (in µg/m³)

Source: State Capital Stuttgart, Environmental Protection Office

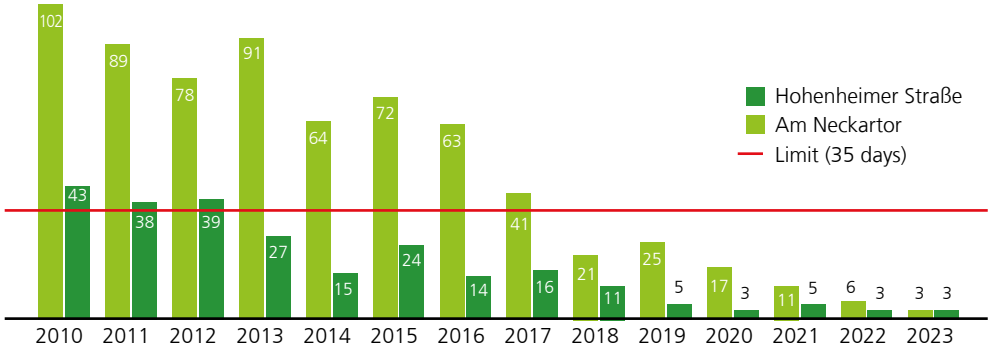


Figure 28:
Particulate matter pollution:
PM10 > 50 µg/m³ at two traffic-related monitoring stations (number of days)"

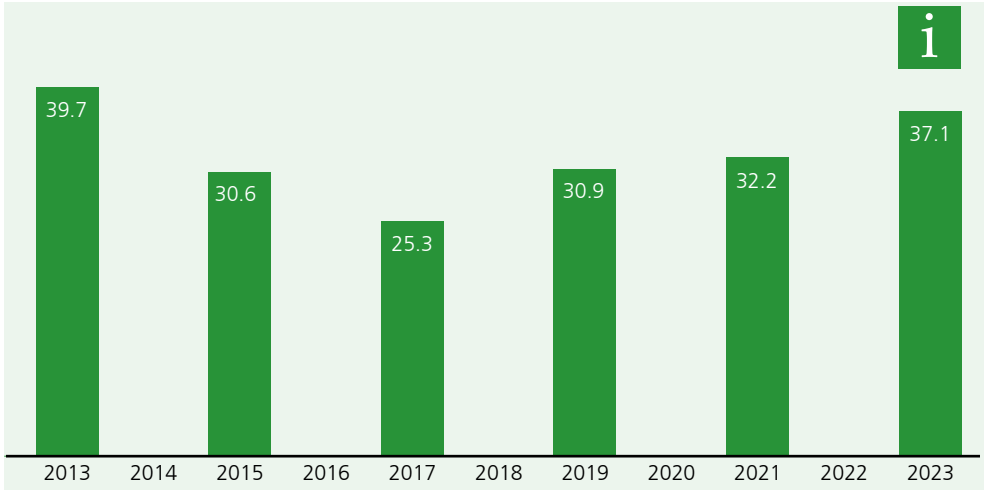
Source: State Capital Stuttgart, Environmental Protection Office

Both the nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter pollution decreased significantly at Am Neckartor and Hohenheimer Straße in Stuttgart-Mitte during the period under review. In terms of nitrogen dioxide pollution, air quality measures led to the limit value of 40 µg/m³ being met for the first time in 2020 during the observation period. Levels dropped to 38 and 34 µg/m³, respectively, significantly lower than those recorded ten years earlier (94 and 100 µg/m³). Since then, the downward trend has continued. In 2024, the figures reached a new low, at 31 and 27 µg/m³, respectively. However, there are two other monitoring stations (Prag- and Talstraße), where the nitrogen dioxide thresholds were still exceeded recently.

The number of days on which the particulate matter (PM 10 > 50 µg/m³) was exceeded has remained below the threshold of 35 days since 2013 at the Hohenheimer Straße station and since 2018 at both monitoring stations. According to official measurement data of the Landesanstalt für Umwelt Baden-Württemberg (LUBW) [Regional Environment Office], the particulate matter thresholds were observed at all monitoring stations in the city area.[69]

Traffic is the main source of air pollution. The decline in pollution levels reflects the improved measures aimed at reducing pollutant emissions. Air pollution caused primarily by non-traffic-related pollutants (e.g., sulphur dioxide, dust fallout) has decreased significantly in recent years, while ozone pollution has increased slightly.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 3.9:
Reduce illness and death from hazardous chemicals and pollution



Source: State Capital Stuttgart, Statistics Office (citizen surveys. Stuttgart survey)

Figure 29:
Opinions on air quality: Percentage of people who are very satisfied/satisfied with the air quality in Stuttgart (in per cent)

Opinions on air quality

The proportion of citizens who stated in the citizen survey and Stuttgart survey that they were very satisfied or satisfied with the air quality in Stuttgart was highest in 2013 at nearly 40 percent, and reached its lowest point in 2017 at around 25 percent. Since then, the proportion has risen again and approached the 2013 level, reaching 37.1 percent in 2023 (see Figure 29). The discrepancy between the perceived and measured air quality has decreased since 2019, as the air quality at the two monitoring stations, as described, has significantly improved since 2013.[70]

Classification / Definition

Air pollution control is important for the well-being and long-term health of the population. Due to the topographical urban basin situation, this has always been an important issue in Stuttgart since its beginnings – also when it comes to urban development. The chosen indicator is based on two limit values, compliance with which poses a particular challenge in Stuttgart.

These are precautionary values, meaning that exceeding them over the long term increases the risk of adverse health effects on humans. However, it is not easily possible to directly attribute specific deaths or illnesses to air pollution. Air quality in Stuttgart has been monitored around the clock for years, in accordance with legal regulations. Baden-Württemberg accomplishes this task by operating a dedicated air quality monitoring network.

Calculation

Air quality:

Annual average nitrogen dioxide pollution:
permitted 40 µg NO_2 / m^3

Number of days per year with a particulate matter (PM10) daily mean > 50 µg/m^3: permitted 35 days

Indicator 3-16:
Noise pollution

11.7%
affected by day/evening/ night noise

12.6%
affected by night noise

(as of: 2022)

Source: State Capital Stuttgart, Environmental Protection Office

In 2022, 11.7 percent of Stuttgart residents were exposed to road traffic noise levels exceeding 65 dB(A) over a 24-hour weighted average (day-evening-night), and 12.6 percent were affected by night-time road traffic noise exceeding 55 dB(A).

To systematically and continuously reduce noise pollution, State Capital Stuttgart adopted a Noise Action Plan in 2009 in accordance with the EU Environmental Noise Directive, which was first updated in 2015 and reviewed again in 2019. The next complete update is scheduled for 2025.

Since road traffic is the main source of noise pollution in Stuttgart, the measures focus primarily on reducing road traffic noise. Key areas of the noise reduction plan include speed limits on main roads, by-pass roads around residential areas for HGV traffic, increased installation of noise-reducing road surfaces and construction of noise barriers or embankments, such as raising the noise barrier on the B 10/27 in Zuffenhausen or a noise barrier on the A 831 in Vaihingen.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 3.9:
Reduce illness and death from hazardous chemicals and pollution

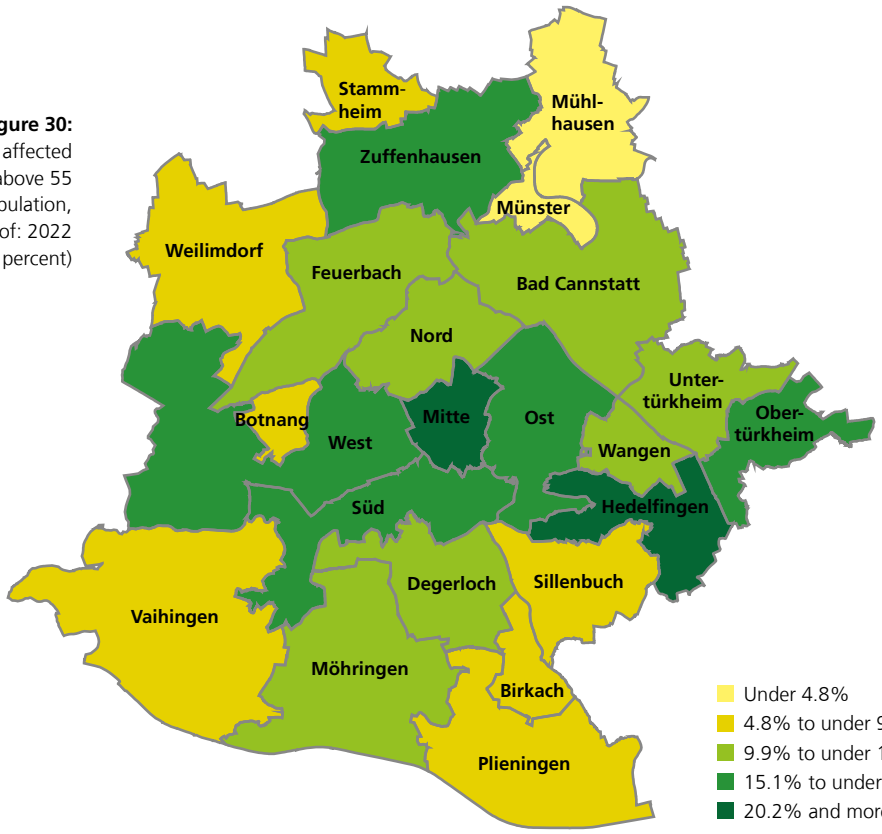


Figure 30:
Proportion of residents affected by night-time noise above 55 dB(A) relative to the population, by city district; as of: 2022 (in percent)

Source: Social monitoring by State Capital Stuttgart

The impact of night-time noise on the population is shown in Figure 30 at district level. In 2022, a relatively high number of citizens in Stuttgart-Mitte and Hedelfingen (23.2% and 20.4% respectively) were affected by noise pollution, the figure for the district of Mühlhausen being just 1.9%.

Source: State Capital Stuttgart, Statistics Office (citizen surveys. Stuttgart survey)

Figure 31:
Opinions on noise pollution: Proportion of people who are very satisfied/satisfied with the noise pollution in Stuttgart (in per cent)

Opinions on noise pollution

Since 2015, data on perceived noise pollution have been collected every two years as part of the citizen survey. The proportion of respondents who were very satisfied or satisfied with the noise levels in Stuttgart was around 30 percent in both 2015 and 2017. This figure increased to around 40 percent in 2023 (see Figure 31). In 2023, approximately 25 percent of respondents were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the noise levels, while the remaining 35 percent gave a neutral response.[71]

Classification / Definition

Noise is a physical and mental burden causing stress to those affected. This can lead to high blood pressure and cardiovascular diseases or even heart attacks. In particular, noise levels at night (Lnight) above 55 dB(A) are detrimental to health. Noise pollution caused by excessive noise exposure therefore constitutes acoustic environmental pollution that negatively impacts both health and the environment.

Noise levels vary greatly across different parts of the city. Relatively high noise levels can be observed in certain spots, though these vary over the course of the day. Noise levels during the day, especially from road or air traffic, tend to be higher than at night. Yet night-time noise is particularly problematic because it can lead to sleeping disorders. The noise pollution indicator reflects the proportion of people exposed to road traffic noise levels exceeding 65 dB(A) during the day or 55 dB(A) at night.

In 2022, a new EU-wide standardised method was introduced for noise mapping, fundamentally altering the way populations exposed to noise are calculated and recorded. Under the new method, people living in a building are no longer evenly distributed across all façades but are assigned only to the loudest 50 percent of façades. As a result, the number of people reported in higher noise level categories increases significantly, even though the actual noise exposure remains unchanged. This new method leads to higher reported values and will be used in all future EU reports. The data from previous years are therefore not directly comparable.

Calculation

Noise pollution, day/evening/night noise over 24 hours:

Number of people affected by 24-hour weighted road traffic noise exposure exceeding 65 dB(A)
/
Population
* 100

Noise pollution, night-time noise index:

Number of people affected by night-time road traffic noise exposure exceeding 55 dB(A)
/
Population
* 100

Correlation with other SDGs

SDG 3, "Good Health and Well-being" is directly linked to SDG 1 ("No Poverty"), since poverty and homelessness can have psychological consequences or are associated with inadequate access to medical care, nursing home places, or medication. Malnutrition or overweight also have a direct impact on health and can increase the risk of cardiovascular diseases or diabetes (SDG 2, "Zero Hunger").

There is also a link to SDG 4 ("Quality Education"), as preventive health measures like screenings and physical activity programmes are part of providing high-quality and free education in schools and nursery schools. In addition, quality education empowers individuals to make informed choices about their health, such as decisions related to nutrition, physical activity and disease prevention. Health education plays a crucial role in promoting a conscious lifestyle and can contribute to a healthier living environment in the long term.

Health and well-being are closely linked to gender equality (SDG 5). Women and girls often face poorer conditions in access to healthcare and preventive services due to discrimination. Reducing gender-specific inequalities, such as improving access to sexual and reproductive health services, has a direct impact on well-being and quality of life.

Consistent wastewater management and the provision of high-quality drinking water are also essential for good health (SDG 6, "Clean Water and Sanitation"). Pollution of water bodies – such as by microplastics or chemicals – affects not only aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 14 and SDG 15) but also human health. Ensuring clean water quality is vital to minimising pollutant exposure and reducing health risks such as poisoning or infectious diseases. Health problems can also arise from the use of fossil fuels in households, especially through pollutant-rich heating and cooking methods. Transitioning to clean energy sources (SDG 7) reduces respiratory diseases commonly triggered by indoor pollution, thus making a direct contribution to improving health.

While a high workload can contribute to economic growth (SDG 8, "Decent Work and Economic Growth"), it can also present a target conflict, as too much work over time may impact health and well-being. Conversely, unemployment, particularly long-term unemployment, can have adverse effects on mental health and general well-being. Social inequalities (SDG 10, "Reduced Inequalities") often have a strong impact on mental health and overall well-being. People from socially disadvantaged groups often have poorer access to healthcare services and are disproportionately affected by chronic illnesses. To compensate for this, inclusive health systems are necessary to provide medical care to all individuals, regardless of income, origin, or residency status.

Air quality and noise pollution are directly linked to urban traffic and the chosen means of transport (see "Transport means for commuting", under SDG 11). The "Air quality" indicator is also influenced by pollutants from other sources (e.g. "Greenhouse gas emission" indicator, SDG 13). In a carbon-based economic system, emissions are influenced by economic activities, particularly reflected in indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (SDG 8 and also SDG 9, "Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure"). Forests and trees (SDG 13, "Climate Action"), recreational spaces (SDG 11, "Sustainable Cities and Communities"), as well as natural habitats and biodiversity (SDG 15, "Life on Land") are linked to air quality and overall well-being.

Sustainable procurement of organic food and low-pollution products (SDG 12, "Responsible Consumption and Production") contributes to better health not only for Stuttgart's residents but also for people along global supply chains. Reducing the use of pesticides and antibiotics in agriculture improves food quality and lowers health risks caused by residues in food.

The increasing occurrence of urban heat islands, a consequence of climate change (SDG 13), directly affects health, often resulting in circulatory diseases and even heat-related deaths. Measures such as urban greening (SDG 11), creating shaded areas, or water-based cooling systems can significantly mitigate the health impacts of heat waves.

The availability of mobile working as part of the digital municipality (SDG 16) can improve work-life balance, especially by eliminating long commutes. This better work-life balance reduces stress and promotes mental health and well-being. Additionally, digitally connected healthcare with telemedicine

services enables better access to medical advice, especially for people in rural areas or with limited mobility. Reducing traffic volume can lower the number of traffic-related injuries and fatalities, directly linking to sustainable transport (SDG 11). Safe cycle paths, traffic calming measures and strengthening public transport help reduce accidents and health burdens.

Advances and innovations in medical technology and infrastructure (SDG 9) improve the diagnosis and treatment of serious illnesses, directly contributing to SDG 3. At the same time, expanding this infrastructure may cause target conflicts when resource-intensive or environmentally harmful methods are used. Sustainable hospital concepts – such as energy-efficient buildings – can help mitigate these target conflicts.

Conflicts between healthcare development and ecological sustainability (SDG 6, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15) can also arise, particularly when building or expanding medical facilities. However, environmentally friendly, climate-conscious and resource-efficient construction methods can minimise these impacts and make health infrastructure more sustainable.

The following indicators are also directly relevant to SDG 3 "Health and Well-Being":

SDG 1: "Poverty"
SDG 1: "Homelessness"
SDG 2: "Overweight children"
SDG 5: "Relative poverty among women"
SDG 6: "Wastewater treatment"
SDG 8: "Unemployment"
SDG 8: "Long-term unemployment"
SDG 8: "Occupational safety"
SDG 10: "Accessible housing"
SDG 11: "Financial burden of housing costs"
SDG 11: "Recreational areas"
SDG 11: "Transport means for commuting (incl. walking)"
SDG 11: "Cycle paths"
SDG 12: "Environmental Protection Investments in the Manufacturing Sector"
SDG 13: "Forest areas"
SDG 13: "Trees in public spaces"
SDG 13: "Greenhouse gas emissions"
SDG 15: "Biodiversity"
SDG 16: "Violent deaths"
SDG 16: "Domestic violence against children and adolescents"
SDG 16: "Mobile working"

Practical example 6:
Sport in the Park

Context
A healthy lifestyle can lower the risk of chronic illnesses and improve overall well-being across all stages of life. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends at least 150 minutes of aerobic activity per week. However, only 45 percent of women and 52 percent of men in adulthood achieve these recommendations (Journal of Health Monitoring, 2021, 6(3)). This being the case, the Office of Sport and Physical Activity has set the goal of creating access to exercise opportunities and making them easier for everyone.

Description / Implementation
Inspired by a similar initiative in Munich, "Sport in the Park" was launched in Stuttgart in summer 2010. Since 2012, the Municipal Council has provided funding for this low-threshold exercise programme, which runs annually from May to the end of September. The programme is a joint project involving the Office of Sport and Physical Activity, the Stuttgart Sports Association, local sports clubs, private providers and the AOK health insurance company Stuttgart-Böblingen. The various partners are developing a diverse sports programme in which residents can participate free of charge and without registration throughout the summer.

Existing green spaces in Stuttgart serve as venues for the activities. Thanks to cooperation with partners in Stuttgart, participants have the opportunity to continue the programme throughout the winter and maintain their active, healthy lifestyle. At the same time, Sport in the Park helps to strengthen the network of stakeholders (municipality, clubs, businesses) and create synergies for further projects.

Experience / Results
Sport in the Park has become an integral part of the state capital's recreational landscape. In 2012, there were just under 600 participants attending 18 offerings at twelve locations. By 2023, over 80 exercise programmes at 40 locations were attracting a total of 24,500 participants. Feedback from participants has been thoroughly positive.

Division / Office / Public Undertaking
Office of Sport and Physical Activity in the Public Safety, Order and Sport Division in cooperation with other partners

Further reading / links
https://www.stuttgart.de/sportimpark
(Last access on 13.12.2024)

https://www.stuttgart-bewegt-sich.de/entdecke/sport-im-park
(last access on 13.12.2024)

Practical example 7:
Dental health in children

Context

The goal is to ensure general healthcare provision, secure access to high-quality basic health services and minimise financial risks in adulthood from dental treatments – particularly the costs of dentures – through preventive measures during childhood and adolescence.

The Dental Health Department and the Regional Working Group for Dental Health Stuttgart (RAGZ), through their legal mandate to maintain and promote dental health among children and adolescents in Stuttgart, lay the foundation for ensuring dental care for the Stuttgart population. This is achieved in co-operation with the Association of Statutory Health Insurance Dentists of Baden-Württemberg and the Dental Association of Baden-Württemberg. The Regional Working Group for Dental Health Stuttgart is organisationally integrated into the Dental Health Department. The RAGZ's cooperation partners include the Public Health Department of State Capital Stuttgart, the Stuttgart District Dental Association and the statutory health insurance providers operating in the city.

Description / Implementation

The services for children and adolescents in daycare centres and schools include examinations for dental, oral and jaw diseases, assessments of dental status and enamel hardness, nutritional counselling, and oral hygiene education. For parents of young children, consultation sessions titled "1x1 for Children's Teeth" are offered, along with parent information events and participation in numerous public activities.

Experience / Results

Based on a resolution by the Municipal Council, primary school pupils in years 1 and 4 (German educational system) have been examined in State Capital Stuttgart since 2016, including years 1 to 4 at nine schools participating in a caries prevention programme.

As a result, a greater number of children – with or without treatment needs – are reached and referred to dental practices for treatment or preventive care.

Further reading / links:

Niekusch, U. & Möller-Scheib, C. (2024) Gruppenprophylaxe – ein wesentlicher Beitrag zur Zahn- und Mundgesundheit von Kindern und Jugendlichen, Oralprophylaxe & Kinderzahnmedizin [Group Prophylaxis – A Key Contribution to the Dental and Oral Health of Children and Adolescents, Oral Prophylaxis & Paediatric Dentistry] 46:127–135

Practical example 8:
Together against loneliness

Context
Loneliness can affect anyone. In Stuttgart, the aim is to raise awareness and encourage open conversations about loneliness. Drawing on experience gained during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Stuttgart Municipal Council commissioned the Department of Strategic Social Planning to develop a Stuttgart-based approach to combating loneliness.

Description / Implementation
Since 2022, Stuttgart's strategy against loneliness has been implemented as a participatory and ongoing process. This approach is based on findings from the 2023 Stuttgart Survey by the Office of Statistics, which showed that 11.6 percent of residents – around 58,000 people aged 16 and older – experienced feelings of loneliness in Stuttgart. The strategy aims, among other things, to publicly destigmatise loneliness and to raise awareness among Stuttgart's network of service providers. Local authority offices and departments, as well as institutions and services from the social, education, sports and cultural sectors, were informed about the issue of loneliness and connected with one another. Only through collaboration can a broad-based approach to combating loneliness succeed.

Experience / Results
This network-building effort was supported by a Conference on Loneliness on November 7, 2022, as well as through additional informational events. The low-threshold event series "A Word Against Loneliness", developed by the Department of Strategic Social Planning, has proven particularly effective. Held nine times over the course of eighteen months, the series included both online and in-person sessions covering a wide range of topics. Experts from various fields presented their services aimed at reducing loneliness, connected with stakeholders across the city, and in some cases established direct contact with participants affected by loneliness. Topics included telephone counselling, the specific challenges of loneliness in old age (as seen by the Centre for Mental Health at Stuttgart Hospital), youth-focused support such as krisenchat.de and the digital streetwork initiative of the Stuttgart Youth Centre Association, sports and physical activity programmes by the Office of Sport and Physical Activity and volunteer initiatives such as the "Welcome Mentors" of the Welcome Centre Stuttgart. In collaboration with Malteser Hilfsdienst, the series also addressed loneliness among people with dementia, while Evangelische Müttergenesung provided insights on alleviating loneliness among people with family responsibilities.

Once the topic had been firmly established in professional circles, the people of Stuttgart were directly addressed over the 2023/24 New Year period through the public campaign "GemEINSAMkeiten" with a broad poster and postcard campaign. The campaign focused on discovering commonalities, encouraging social encounters and promoting mindfulness toward others and one's own well-being. The message conveyed was that there are many paths out of loneliness; the website of State Capital Stuttgart – www.stuttgart.de/gemeinsam – serves as a resource.

To raise awareness about loneliness among digitally savvy and younger audiences, a three-week social media campaign was conducted in parallel. The main goals were to achieve broad reach and high visibility. This campaign, like the overall initiative, proved to be a huge success. Using a variety of social media visuals, the campaign managed to appeal to target groups in different life situations. More than 1.1 million users came across the campaign content. During the campaign period, the Stuttgart website recorded a total of 2,051 visits. Almost 66 percent of these visits were generated by the social media campaign.

Driven by data, the Stuttgart Strategy Against Loneliness is being steadily and systematically implemented, with additional partners from civil society and municipal departments being continuously integrated into the network.

Division / Office / Public Undertaking
Department for Strategic Social Planning in the
Social Affairs, Health and Integration Division
in cooperation with other offices and partners

Further reading / links:
www.stuttgart.de/gemeinsam
(last access on 25.10.2024)

Further practical examples at: www.stuttgart.de/lebenswertes-stuttgart

SDG 5

Gender Equality

"Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"

Relevant targets of SDG 5 for German local communities include, but are not limited to, ending discrimination against women and girls, as well as violence against women and girls, recognising unpaid care and domestic work, ensuring women's inclusion through management roles, ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health and broadly promoting gender equality.

Overview of the relevant targets

The following targets of SDG 5 are relevant to German local communities. The focus is on targets that can be directly measured using selected indicators. Additionally, a single indicator may be relevant for multiple targets. These holistic correlations are presented in the sections entitled "Correlation with other SDGs" as well as in Appendix II.

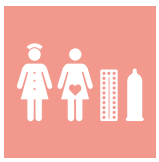
5.1 End discrimination against women and girls

5.4 Appreciation of unpaid care and promotion of split domestic responsibilities

5.5 Inclusion through management roles and decision-making processes

The following relevant targets have not yet been represented by indicators:

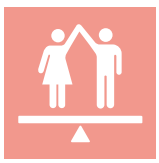
5.2 End all forms of violence against and exploitation of women and girls



5.6 Universal access to reproductive health and rights

5.a Equal rights to economic resources, property rights and financial services

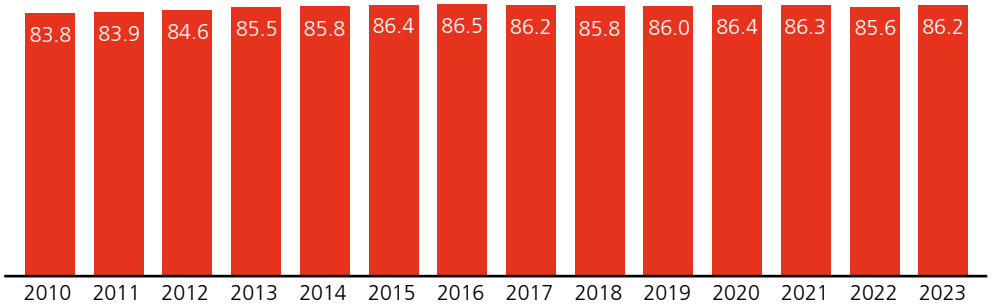
5.b Promotion of women's empowerment through technology



5.c Adoption and expansion of political measures and enforceable legislation on gender equality

All indicators used to measure the listed targets can also be accessed via the city's own SDG dashboard: https://sdg.dashboardstr.de/

Indicator 5-1:
Ratio employment rates

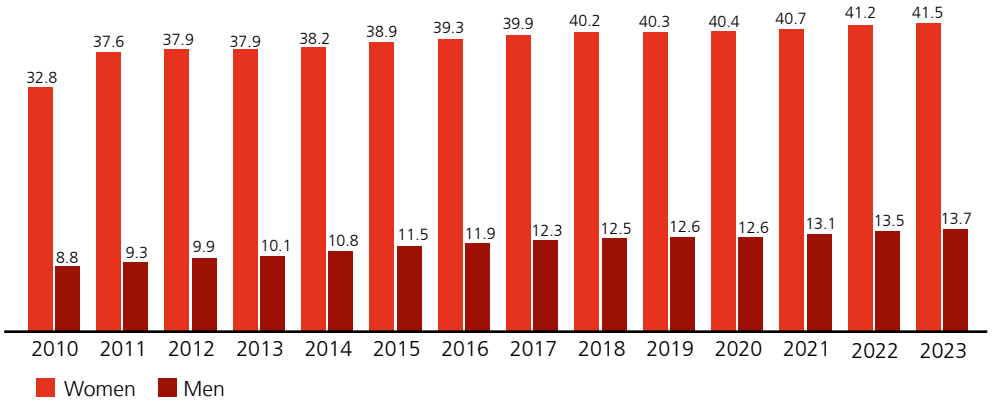


Source: Federal and State Statistical Offices; Statistics of the Federal Employment Agency

Figure 52:
Employment rate of women relative to men (in percent)

The ratio of employment rates between women and men remained more or less constant over the period under review, standing at between 83.8 and 86.5 percent. The employment rate for women remained consistently lower than that for men. The steady ratio between women's and men's employment rates is the result of a continuous yet parallel increase in employment rates for both genders. The pattern of unequal employment rates remains unchanged. More and more employees retire at over 65 years of age. This is partly due to the raising of the retirement age to 67 years for those born in or after 1947.[87]

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 5.1:
"End discrimination against women and girls"



Source: Federal and State Statistical Offices; Statistics of the Federal Employment Agency

Figure 53:
Part-time employment rates of women and men (in percent)

Women are not only employed less frequently than men but also more likely to work part-time. In the period under review, the part-time rate for women increased from 32.8 percent in 2010 to 41.5 percent in 2023. The figure also increased for men, from almost nine percent in 2010 to 13.7 percent in 2023. However, this development does not change the fact that the number of women in part-time work is more than three times higher than that of men.

Classification / Definition

Education and employment are crucial to individual opportunities in life. Therefore, in addition to educational opportunities already discussed under SDG 4 from a gender perspective, gainful employment deserves particular attention. Employment not only provides income, but also contributes to social recognition and creates greater independence.

The value of the indicator reflects the employment rate of women relative to that of men. A value of 100 represents equal employment rates between women and men. Values below 100 indicate a lower employment rate among women compared to men.

The indicator, then, captures the overall employment situation. However, it does not account for the quality of employment (see the following indicators) or the extent to which voluntary non-participation in employment contributes to the differences.

While the employment rate includes all forms of jobs subject to social security contributions, the proportion of part-time workers differs significantly between women and men. Therefore, the analysis is extended to include the part-time employment rates of women and men.

In the calculation, employees of all age groups subject to social security contributions (ssc) were taken into account and not only persons under 65, since pension eligibility has been raised and considerably more people are working beyond the age of 65.

Calculation

Employment rates of women relative to men:

Number of women subject to ssc at place of residence
/
Total number of women

/

Number of men subject to ssc at place of residence
/
Total number of men

* 100

Part-time employment rate for women:

Number of women in part-time employment subject to ssc at place of residence

/

Total number of women subject to ssc at place of residence

* 100

Part-time employment rate for men:

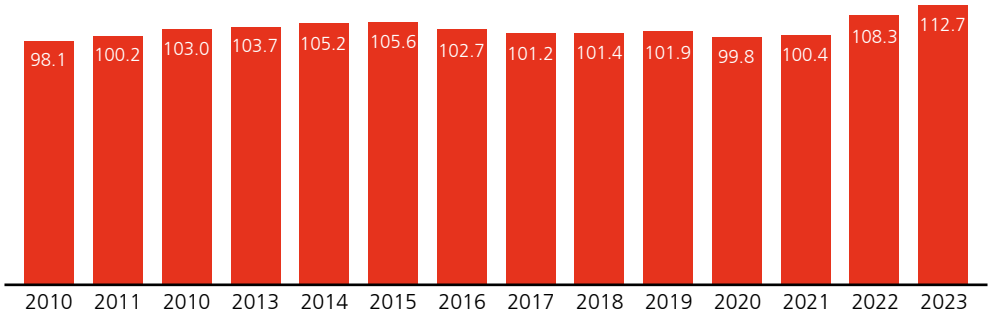
Number of men in part-time employment subject to ssc at place of residence

/

Total number of men subject to ssc at place of residence

* 100

Indicator 5-2:
Relative poverty among women



Source: State Capital Stuttgart, Office of Social Welfare and Participation and Statistics Office; Statistics of the Federal Employment Agency

Figure 54:
Relative poverty among women (in percent of poverty rate among men)

Poverty is more widespread among women than among men. During the period under review, the values were above 100 in all years except 2010 and 2020, indicating that the poverty rate among women was higher than that of men in those years. After peaking in the mid-2010s at up to 105.6 percent, the rate reached a new high of 112.7 percent in 2023. One reason for the increased poverty risk among women is that they make up the majority of single-parent households. As described under Indicator 1-5, single parents are particularly affected by poverty.

In 2022 and 2023, the increase was partly attributable to female refugees from Ukraine. The slight decline in the relative poverty rate among women from 2015 to 2016 is also linked to refugee migration. Since the majority of refugees arriving during this period were male – and more likely to be affected by poverty – the ratio fell accordingly.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 5.1:
"End discrimination against women and girls"

Classification / Definition

The issue of poverty was already addressed under SDG 1. However, poverty does not affect genders equally. This difference is highlighted by the indicator, which compares the extent to which women are affected relative to men.

The "Relative Poverty Among Women" indicator shows the proportion of women receiving benefits under SGB II or SGB XII in comparison to the proportion of men receiving these same benefits. The indicator value is 100 when the proportion of women receiving these benefits among all women is exactly the same as the proportion of men receiving these benefits among all men. A value above 100 indicates that a higher proportion of women receive benefits under SGB II or SGB XII compared to men, meaning that women are more affected by poverty than men.

Calculation

Relative poverty among women:

$$\frac{\text{Number of women entitled to benefits pursuant to SGB II and SGB XII}}{\text{Total number of women 15 years and older}} \Big/ \frac{\text{Number of men entitled to benefits pursuant to SGB II and SGB XII}}{\text{Total number of men 15 years and older}} * 100$$

5 GESCHLECHTER-GLEICHHEIT

Indicator 5-3:
Pay gap between women and men

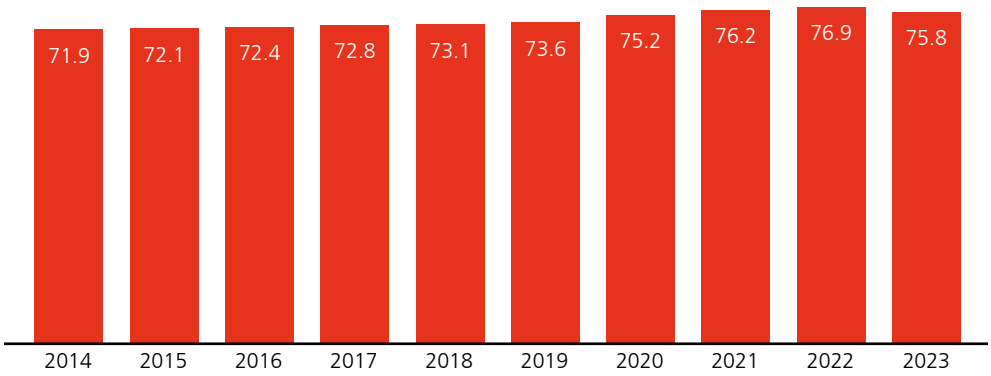


Figure 55:
Ratio of median incomes of women to men (in percent)

Source: Statistics of the Federal Employment Agency

The ratio of women's median income to men's median income rose steadily between 2014 and 2022, from around 72% to just under 77% in 2022, before falling slightly by around one percentage point in 2023. This indicator highlights the significant income disparities between men and women, as the median income of employed women in 2023 amounted to only about 76 percent of the median income of their male colleagues.

The federal government is aiming to reduce the gender pay gap to ten percent by 2030.[88] Looking at the results of the unadjusted Gender Pay Gap (GPG) at the state level, Baden-Württemberg showed one of the highest differences in median income between women and men in 2023, at around 22 percent. In contrast, the income gap in Brandenburg, for example, was only four percent. In Thuringia, Saxony-Anhalt and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the figure was well below ten percent. However, this is often due to the fact that wage levels in these federal states are generally significantly lower than in Stuttgart, and that men in cities such as Brandenburg earn less on average, which in turn leads to a particularly low gender pay gap there.[89]

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 5.1:
"End discrimination against women and girls"

Classification / Definition

This indicator was introduced in 2023. It compares the median income of women in full-time employment and subject to social security contributions (ssc) with the median income of men in full-time employment, thereby showing the unadjusted gender pay gap. This makes income disparities between women and men visible at local community level. On the one hand, income disparities arise from career choice and work experience, both of which are included in the unadjusted gender pay gap. In addition, temporary career breaks for family reasons also have a negative impact on the level of the median income. It should also be noted that the indicator calculation only considers full-time employees. Since around 40 percent of employed women work part-time, the assumption is that the gender pay gap would be even higher if part-time employees were also included in the calculation. Despite performing work of equal value and the existing non-discrimination principle, women are often paid less under the same conditions.[90]

Calculation

Pay gap between women and men:

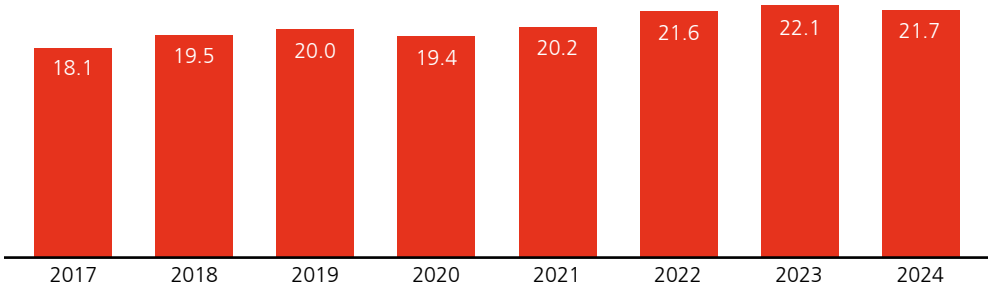
$$\frac{\text{Median income of women subject to ssc in full-time employment}}{\text{Median income of men subject to ssc in full-time employment}} * 100$$

Gender pay gap in Stuttgart

People who work in Stuttgart earn some of the highest salaries in the country: with a median gross salary of 4,750 euros (2021), the city ranks fourth in Germany. Men earn a median of 5,291 euros, while women earn just 4,032 euros – an unadjusted gender pay gap of 24 percent, significantly above the state average of 17 percent. Even after adjustment, a pay gap of 14 percent remains. This difference is explained by Stuttgart's industry structure: well-paying sectors such as manufacturing (median: 6,503 euros) and financial services (5,949 euros) are dominated by men. Women more often work in lower-paying sectors such as public administration or education. Although women in Stuttgart earn above-average salaries, they benefit less frequently from top-tier earnings.

To reduce gender inequalities and improve work-family balance, expanded childcare services and a review of company pay structures are seen as important measures – also with a view to securing the skilled labour supply.[91]

Indicator 5-4:
Proportion of fathers receiving parental allowance



Source: Federal and State Statistical Offices

Figure 56:
Proportion of fathers receiving parental allowance (in percent)

The proportion of fathers reflects the average proportion of men in Stuttgart who received parental benefits in one year. Since 2017, the proportion of fathers has steadily increased with slight fluctuations and has stood at a steady 22 percent since 2022. In 2024, among all parents receiving benefits, there were on average 1,329 fathers. The majority, however, were mothers, with an average of 4,806 benefit recipients per quarter. Nationwide, the proportion of fathers receiving parental allowance in 2022 was 26.1 percent; the figure for Baden-Württemberg was 28.3 percent.[92]

The indicator takes into account that women's duration of receiving parental allowance is significantly longer than men's. Nationwide, the average planned duration of parental allowance receipt for women in 2022 was 14.6 months.[93] For men, the average duration was 3.6 months. In Stuttgart, the average duration of parental allowance receipt in 2023 was 14.1 months for mothers and 3.8 months for fathers.[94]

According to the parental allowance statistics from the Federal Statistical Office, the proportion of children whose fathers received parental allowance nationwide in 2021 was 46.2 percent. Unlike the "Proportion of fathers receiving parental allowance" indicator, this measure does not consider the duration of parental leave but rather the proportion of children in a birth cohort whose fathers received parental allowance at all.[95] The German federal government aims to increase the proportion of fathers receiving parental allowance to 65 percent by 2030.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 5.4:
Appreciation of unpaid care and promotion of split domestic responsibilities

Classification / Definition

This indicator was introduced in 2023. It represents the proportion of fathers receiving parental allowance relative to all eligible recipients. The proportion of fathers is an important indicator for estimating the extent to which fathers are involved in childcare and whether this involvement increases over time.

Parental allowance is primarily intended to compensate for income loss that occurs when parents take time off to care for their child after birth. It also aims to support families in sharing childcare responsibilities more equally and to improve the compatibility of family and career. The introduction of ElterngeldPlus [parental benefit plus] has partly succeeded in increasing fathers' uptake of parental leave and further advancing the social shift away from traditional gender roles.

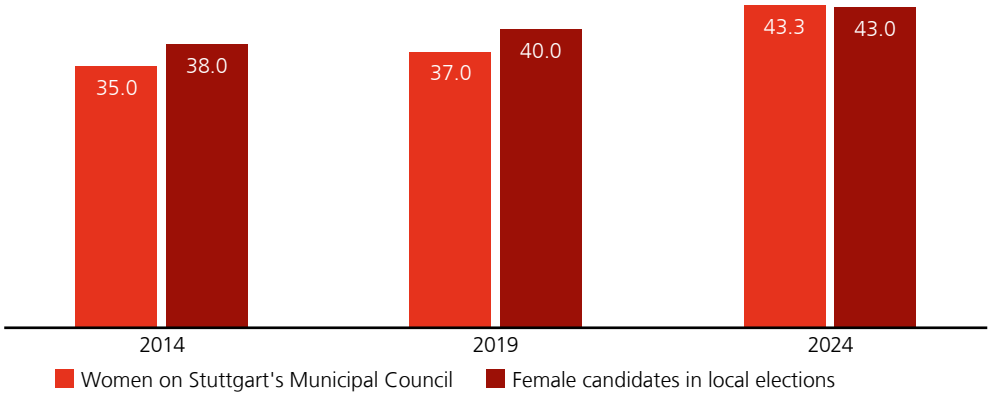
There are various reasons why women still account for the majority of parental allowance recipients. Besides personal and social attitudes, economic conditions also play a role.

Calculation

Proportion of fathers receiving parental allowance:

Number of fathers receiving parental allowance
/
Total number of persons receiving parental allowance
* 100

Indicator 5-5:
Women on Stuttgart's Municipal Council



Source: State Capital Stuttgart, General Administration, Culture and Legal Affairs Division

Figure 57:
Percentage of women on Stuttgart's Municipal Council (in percent)

The percentage of women on Stuttgart's Municipal Council increased from around 35 to 43 percent between the 2014 and 2024 local elections. In the 2004 and 2009 elections, these proportions were approximately 40 and 43 percent, respectively. In 2024, the figure of 43.3 percent was slightly up on the previous high from 2009. This means that in 2024, new record highs were reached both for the proportion of female candidates running in the council elections and for the proportion of women ultimately elected to the council.

Similar to the proportion of women on Stuttgart City Council, the proportion of female candidates also increased from the 2014 to the 2024 election. In 2004 and 2009, the proportion of female council members was still higher than that of female candidates, while in 2014 and 2019 it was lower. In 2024, the proportion of female council members (43.3 percent) was slightly higher than that of female candidates (43.0 percent). With the exception of 2014, the proportion of female candidates in local elections has generally increased since 2004.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 5.5:
"Inclusion through management roles and decision-making processes"

Classification / Definition

The proportion of women on Stuttgart's Municipal Council reflects the representation of women in local politics. Representing bodies are generally expected to reflect the demographic composition of the population in terms of composition. The proportion of women is just one of many important aspects that is directly addressed in the sustainability target.

The proportion of women on the Municipal Council is determined by two factors: the nomination of female candidates by parties and electoral alliances on the one hand and the voting decisions on the other.

Stuttgart's Municipal Council is elected every five years. Since parties and electoral alliances act autonomously in nominating candidates, no direct influence can be exerted, for example, on the gender balance of candidate lists. Legal requirements (e.g., gender quotas) are difficult to implement, among other reasons due to the General Equal Treatment Act.

Calculation

Women on Stuttgart's Municipal Council:

Number of women with a seat on the Municipal Council
/
Seats on the Municipal Council in total
* 100

Proportion of female candidates in local elections:

Number of female candidates in local elections
/
Female and male candidates in total
* 100

Indicator 5-6:
Women in municipal management positions

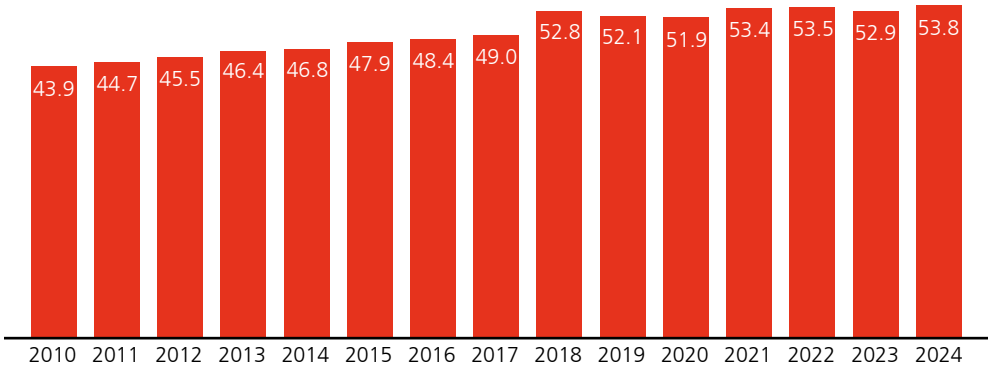


Figure 58:
Women in management positions at State Capital Stuttgart (in percent)

Source: State Capital Stuttgart, Office of Administrative Services and Human Resources (HR report)

The proportion of women in municipal management positions developed positively over the survey period, increasing from around 44 percent in 2010 to a new high of 53.8 percent in 2024. This positive trend also applied to the higher management levels (such as deputy mayors, heads of office and department). However, the proportion of women at these levels remained comparatively lower. In 2024, it was approximately 22 percent at management level 1 (particularly deputy mayors and heads of division, concerning a total of only 9 managers), around 32 percent at level 2 (particularly heads of office, managing directors and district leaders), and about 34 percent at level 3 (especially department heads).[96] When interpreting the data, it should be noted that the overall proportion of women among all employees is higher, so an increased proportion of women in management positions is to be expected. In the administration of State Capital Stuttgart (excluding the city's hospital), the proportion of employed women has remained consistently high since 2015 – in 2024, it stood at 63 percent.[97]

According to the Federal Government's policy decision on the German Sustainability Strategy, equal participation of women and men in management positions within the public sector is to be achieved by the end of 2025.[98]

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 5.5:
"Inclusion through management roles and decision-making processes"

Classification / Definition

The indicator describes the proportion of management positions in the core administration of State Capital Stuttgart (excluding the city's hospital) that are held by women. The figures indicate the extent to which gender parity has been achieved.

Promoting equal opportunities for women and men in the labour market is a key sociopolitical objective. Over the past ten years, although there have been nationwide improvements in women's employment rates, this progress has not been equally reflected in the proportion of women in management positions.

Calculation

Women in municipal management positions:

$$\frac{\text{Number of women in municipal management positions}}{\text{Number of employees in municipal management positions in total}} * 100$$

Correlation with other SDGs

Gender equality across various stages of life is shaped by long-term sociocultural and political developments. There is a close correlation with SDG 1 "No Poverty" and SDG 10 "Reduced Inequalities".

Since women often still play a key role in ensuring healthy family nutrition, gender equality is directly linked to the prevention of malnutrition (SDG 2) in early childhood and to associated health outcomes (SDG 3). Moreover, specific structural conditions can influence gender equality in the short and medium term. In particular, childcare availability (SDG 4 "Quality Education") enables women to return to the workforce and contributes to higher female employment rates. There is a positive correlation between the employment rate ratio of women to men and the availability of care for children under age 3.[99] In Stuttgart, the expansion of childcare services for children under 3 years old (SDG 4) likely played a role in maintaining a relatively stable female-to-male employment ratio, despite overall rising employment levels.

The design of safe and inclusive public spaces (SDG 11) is also a key factor in promoting gender equality. Women in urban areas are often more affected by insecurity, harassment, or gender-based violence (SDG 16). Measures such as improved street lighting, gender-sensitive urban planning and the expansion of public transport systems can help enable equal participation of women in urban life.

Women's participation in economic growth (SDG 8) is also of central importance. As shown in this section, women still work part-time more often than men and perform more unpaid caregiving work at home, which impacts their retirement income and increases the risk of old-age poverty (SDG 1). There is also a significant disparity in female entrepreneurship compared to male entrepreneurship (SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure).

Gender equality is reflected in a wide range of other aspects as well: For example, the digitalisation of cities and the option of working remotely improve the work-life balance, especially for women (SDG 16). Ultimately, reducing inequalities (SDG 10) is the most effective way to promote gender equality and to empower both women and children. In addition, strengthening the rights of LSBTTIQ individuals is another important aspect that must be taken into account, although it is not yet explicitly addressed in any specific target.

The following indicators have a direct relevance for SDG 5 "Gender Equality":

SDG 1: "Poverty among single parents"
SDG 2: "Overweight children (at school enrolment)"
SDG 4: "Childcare"
SDG 9: "Start-ups"
SDG 16: "Digital municipality"
SDG 16: "Mobile working"
SDG 16: "Crimes"
SDG 16: "Violent deaths"
SDG 16: "Domestic violence against children and adolescents"

Practical example 12:

Equal Opportunities for LGBTIQ+ – Queer in old age

Context

In old age, memories and reflections on one's life often take up more space and gain importance. Many queer people are unable to live their relationships and identities freely and openly. These experiences have a profound impact on their personal life paths. Even today, many lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans*, intersex, non-binary and queer older adults avoid or conceal their sexual orientation or gender identity when dealing with health, care services and social services. This comes from fear of rejection and discrimination.

Description / Implementation

The municipal working group LSBTIQ+ Stuttgart[100] has the task of raising awareness for the specific needs of queer[101] people across different stages of life and finding solutions. A dedicated subgroup within the working group focuses on the topic "Queer in Old Age", where various organisations exchange ideas and experiences.

Experience / Results

This long-standing cooperation has resulted in the development of workshop programmes for nursing schools to raise awareness of the needs of queer care recipients.

As the first joint pilot project, three CSD party kits were handed over to care facilities of the leben&wohnen (living&housing) Public Undertaking during the 2024 CSD culture weeks. The idea behind: since many queer people in old age can no longer attend the CSD Pride themselves, the Pride comes to them in the form of a party kit with decoration materials. The vivid party kit is a symbol of celebrating openness and tolerance even in old age.

2025 saw the publication of "Queer in Old Age – Stuttgart Nursing Homes on the Way to Queer-Sensitive Care". This brochure contains specific recommendations for action for Stuttgart nursing facilities on how queer-sensitive care in old age can be implemented.

Division / Office / Public Undertaking

Equal Opportunities Department,
"leben&wohnen" (living&housing) Public Undertaking,
Citizen Service for Living in Old Age,
Frauenberatungs- und Therapiezentrum Fetz e.V.,
Weissenburg e. V. – LGBTQIA+ Stuttgart,
Stuttgart PRIDE,
Gruppe Lesben 50plus (social/support group for lesbians aged 50 and older) and treffpunkt 50plus
(social gathering point for people aged 50 and older)

Further reading / links

https://www.stuttgart.de/lsbttiq#queer-im-alter
(Last access on 13.12.2024)

Practical example 13:
"Wasenboje" and "Nachtboje" – Safety of Girls* and Women* in Public Spaces

Context
Some people do not feel safe in public spaces, for example, after dark or at large-scale events. This includes in particular girls and women who are affected by gender-based violence, as well as vulnerable groups such as queer people who experience structural disadvantage and discrimination. This feeling of insecurity influences individual behaviour and can, for instance, restrict participation in social and cultural life. The Nachtboje and Wasenboje projects offer effective solutions.

Description / Implementation
Nachtboje
In certain situations, some people feel uncomfortable or unsafe when they are out and about at night. This could be the route from one club to another or the walk home. In such moments, an open door can be helpful. The Nachtboje project pinpoints facilities that offer spontaneous, low-threshold support at night.

Places that are open at night – such as snack bars, kiosks, restaurants and bars, hotels or cinemas – can get involved as Nachtboje locations. Participating establishments are marked with a neon sticker and can be found online on a city map.

The project promotes respectful and attentive coexistence in public spaces at night. By securing the support of night-time businesses, a network of many Nachtboje locations is gradually being established in Stuttgart, making civil society engagement visible at night.

Wasenboje
Twice a year, up to three million people celebrate the Frühlingsfest ("Spring Festival") and the Cannstatter Volksfest on the Wasen in Stuttgart. Situations that make visitors feel uncomfortable can sometimes occur: suddenly, the group is missing, the phone is out of battery and the way home is unclear. Especially girls* and women* repeatedly experience critical situations involving sexual verbal and physical assaults.

The Wasenboje is a safer space – a sanctuary for girls* and women*. This safer space gives them time to breathe, charge their phones and receive assistance in getting home safely, for example. In cases of harassment, threats or sexual assault, the Wasenboje is a sanctuary with qualified and trained female professionals on hand.

Experience / Results
- The Bojen have already provided immediate help and support in various critical situations.
- The widespread media attention makes it possible to publicly and effectively address issues such as sexism and gender-based violence.
- Other local authorities (across Europe) and institutions/facilities/festivals have given positive feedback and shown interest in the concepts and their implementation.
- At the UEFA Men's Football European Championship 2024, the concept of a safer space was realised by "Fanboje".

Division / Office / Public Undertaking
Nachtboje:
Equal Opportunities Department

Wasenboje:
Partnership for Safety and Security - Community Crime Prevention staff unit in the Public Safety, Order and Sport Division and Equal Opportunities Department

Further links
Email: wasenboje@stuttgart.de
www.nachtboje.stuttgart.de and
www.wasenboje.stuttgart.de
(Last access on 24.10.2024)

Further practical examples at: www.stuttgart.de/lebenswertes-stuttgart

SDG 8

Decent Work and Economic Growth

"Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all"

Relevant targets of SDG 8 for German local authorities are appropriate economic growth as well as increasing productivity and resource efficiency. SDG 8 also addresses the achievement of full employment and decent work. Priority is given to decreasing the proportion of young people without employment, formal education or vocational training.

Overview of the relevant targets

The following targets of SDG 8 are relevant to German local communities. The focus is on targets that can be directly measured using selected indicators. Additionally, a single indicator may be relevant for multiple targets. These holistic correlations are presented in the sections entitled "Correlation with other SDGs" as well as in Annex II.

8.1 Sustainable economic growth

8.5 Full employment and decent work for all with equal pay

8.8 Safeguard workers' rights and foster a safe work environment

8.9 Promote positive and sustainable tourism

The following relevant targets have not yet been represented by indicators:

8.2 Diversity, innovation and modernisation for economic productivity

8.3 Promote strategies to increase employment opportunities and support expanding companies

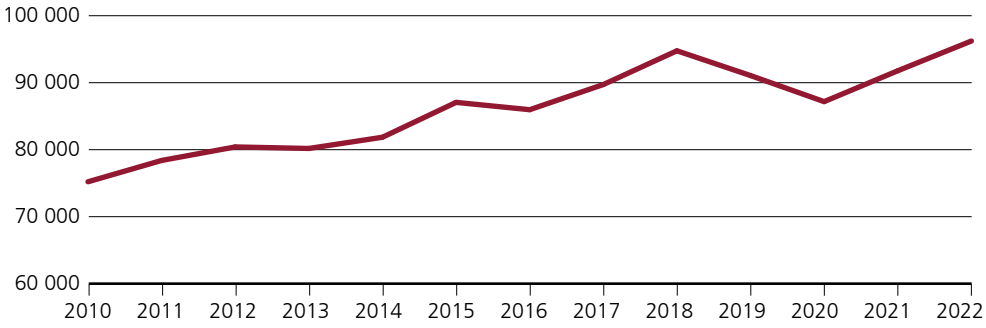
8.4 Improve resource efficiency in consumption and production

8.6 Support for young people without a job, school qualifications or vocational training

8.7 Substantially eradicate slavery, human trafficking, and child labour

All indicators used to measure the listed targets can also be accessed via the city's own SDG dashboard: https://sdg.dashboardstr.de/

Indicator 8-1:
Gross domestic product



Source: State Capital Stuttgart, Statistics Office; Federal and State Statistical Offices, Working group on "National Accounts of the Federal States"

Figure 70:
Gross domestic product (in euro per capita)

The gross domestic product of State Capital Stuttgart fell sharply during the economic crisis from 2007 to 2009. In 2009, the city had a per capita gross domestic product of 66,130 euro. However, a swift recovery took hold in 2010. 2011 saw the figure rise to 78,452 euro, surpassing the 2007 level once again. By 2018, there had been a further increase to 94,778 euro per capita. The positive overall economic situation in Germany was also reflected in Stuttgart. Moreover, prior to 2018, Stuttgart had developed as a business hub with greater momentum than other comparable major German cities.[123] The deep recession, which caused gross domestic product to fall to 87,209 euro per capita in 2020, was triggered by the global COVID-19 pandemic.[124] However, the economy recovered in 2021, and in 2022, gross domestic product per capita stood at 96,234 euro.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 8.1:
"Sustainable economic growth"

Classification / Definition

Economic productivity serves as the foundation for sustainable economic development. However, to fully guarantee the sustainability of this growth, ecological and social factors, along with long-term resource conservation, must also be considered. These elements are reflected in other SDG indicators, including combating poverty, education, gender equality, and environmental protection. Steady and adequate economic growth is also a key objective of the German government.[125] The gross domestic product serves as an indicator of the overall economic strength.

Gross domestic product is the total value of all final goods and services produced within a geographic area, less intermediate consumption, measured at current prices. The population figure used in the calculation is taken from the official population statistics of the Baden-Württemberg State Statistical Office.

Calculation

Gross domestic product:

Gross domestic product
/
Population

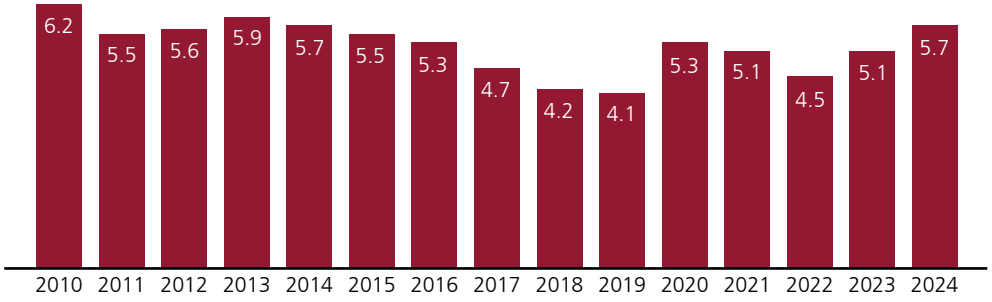
Stuttgart in the economic city ranking

Stuttgart ranked second among 72 major German cities in the 2024 city ranking published by Wirtschaftswoche magazine, improving its position by one spot compared to last year. The city even took first place in the economy subcategory. This ranking takes into account factors such as the labour market, economic development, quality of life, the property market and sustainability.[126]

The Prognos City Ranking 2024, which measures 71 major German cities based on 28 indicators, puts Stuttgart in ninth place. The city performs especially well in the areas of employment and digitalisation, but lags behind in the ecology category.[127]

These results are testimony to Stuttgart's strong economic position and its ongoing efforts to improve quality of life and sustainability.

Indicator 8-2: **Unemployment**



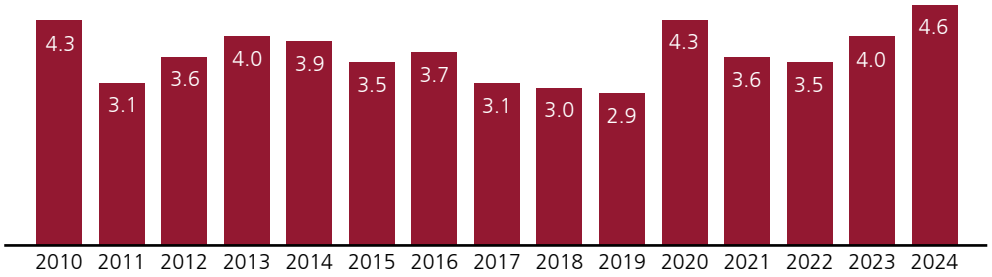
Source: Statistics of the Federal Employment Agency

Figure 71:
Total unemployment rate (in percent)

From 2010 to 2024, the unemployment rate fluctuated between 4.1 and 6.2 percent. The years 2012 to 2019 saw a steady decline, driven by positive labour market trends that led to a notable rise in employment (see indicator 8-4, "Employment rate"). However, in 2020, the unemployment rate rose again sharply to reach 5.3 percent as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the years that followed, it dropped again but has been climbing since.[128]

The causes of the increase since 2022 are complex and diverse and cannot be attributed to a single factor. Germany's labour market is now being negatively affected by major economic challenges, including rising energy costs linked to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.[129] In addition, the influx of refugees since 2022 has had a negative impact on unemployment statistics.[130] Apart from this, special regulations on short-time work benefits that expired in 2022/2023 are also likely to have had an adverse effect on unemployment.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 8.5:
"Full employment and decent work for all with equal pay"



Source: Statistics of the Federal Employment Agency

Figure 72:
Unemployment among adolescents and young adults ("youth unemployment rate") (in percent)

From 2013 to 2019, the unemployment rate among 25-year-olds fell almost continuously to 2.9 percent. The sharp rise in 2020, mirroring the unemployment rate as a whole, was triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic slowdown that followed. The increase in youth unemployment in 2023 and 2024 was caused by multiple factors, likely including a higher number of young refugees from Ukraine[131] and the tense economic situation, partly resulting from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.[132] In 2024, unemployment among teenagers and young adults stood at 4.6 per cent, reaching its highest level since 2010.

Opinions on unemployment

In the 2023 Stuttgart survey, only a small number of respondents identified unemployment as one of the city's most pressing problems at the time. Consequently, the general public did not consider the issue to be among the most urgent concerns. Instead, the most significant challenges were perceived to be in housing (high rents and a shortage of available accommodation) and in transport (excessive road traffic and insufficient parking).[133]

Classification / Definition

Registered unemployed refers to individuals who

- who are temporarily not employed or who work less than 15 hours per week (deemed unemployed),
- are looking for employment subject to social security contributions, with a minimum of 15 working hours per week (personal efforts),
- are available for job placement efforts by the Employment Agency or Job Centre – that is, they are able, willing, and entitled to work (availability),
- live in the Federal Republic of Germany,
- are not under 15 and have not yet reached the age limit for retirement and
- have registered as unemployed in person with an Employment Agency.

The unemployment rate is calculated as the percentage of registered unemployed persons within the total civilian labour force (i.e. both employed + registered unemployed individuals). The civilian labour force comprises all employed civilian workers, including employees, the self-employed, and family members who help out. Dependent civilian workers include employees subject to social security contributions (including trainees), marginal part-time workers, individuals in employment opportunities under SGB II (additional expenditure model), civilian civil servants (excluding active service personnel), cross-border commuters, and the registered unemployed.

The unemployment rate includes only those individuals who have officially registered as unemployed. Persons who are not gainfully employed and would actually like to take up gainful employment but do not register with the Employment Agency are therefore not included. In particular, individuals who are not eligible for unemployment benefit (I) under SGB II have little incentive to register as unemployed. As a result, the number of registered unemployed persons is underestimated. This is especially true for people returning to work who, following a period without employment, are ineligible for unemployment benefits but are seeking to rejoin the labour market. This suggests that underreporting of unemployment is more prevalent among women than men. As of 2025, annual average values have replaced point-in-time data, which may lead to slight differences compared to figures in earlier reports.

Calculation

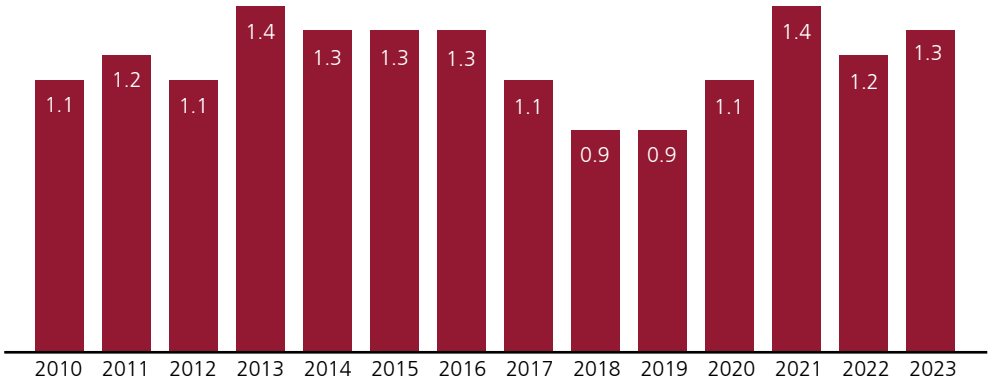
Total unemployment rate:

$$\frac{\text{Registered unemployed}}{\text{Total civilian labour force} + \text{Registered unemployed}} * 100$$

Unemployment among adolescents and young adults:

$$\frac{\text{Registered unemployed people under 25}}{\text{Total civilian labour force under 25} + \text{Registered unemployed people under 25}} * 100$$

Indicator 8-3:
Long-term unemployment



Source: Statistics of the Federal Employment Agency

Figure 73:
Long-term unemployment
(in percent)

Long-term unemployment rose sharply between 2012 and 2013, then stabilised at approximately 1.3 percent through 2016. Following a decline in long-term unemployment from 2016 to 2019, the rate increased again starting in 2020 (the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic), reaching 1.4 percent in 2021. In 2023, the figure stood at 1.3 percent.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 8.5:
"Full employment and decent work for all with equal pay"

Classification / Definition

For those affected, unemployment becomes a significant problem if it persists over a prolonged period. Long-term unemployed people are those who have been continuously unemployed for more than one year. Similar to the definition of unemployment, the long-term unemployment rate compares the number of long-term unemployed individuals to both the civilian labour force and the registered unemployed. Annual averages are used to calculate long-term unemployment.

Calculation

Long-term unemployment:

$$\frac{\text{Registered unemployed persons who have been unemployed for more than 1 year}}{\text{Total civilian labour force} + \text{Registered unemployed}} * 100$$

Indicator 8-4:
Employment rate

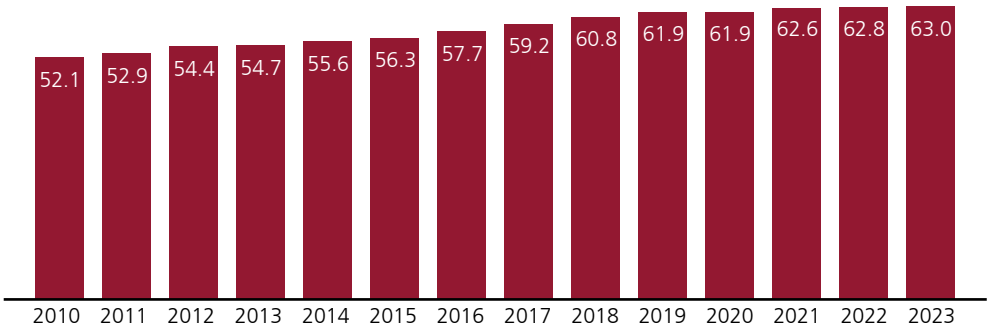


Figure 74:
Employment rate (in percent)

Source: Federal and State Statistical Offices; Statistics of the Federal Employment Agency; State Capital Stuttgart, Statistics Office

In the period under review, since 2010 the employment rate rose steadily from 52.1 per cent to 63.0 per cent. The positive economic performance until 2023 was mirrored by an increase in employment. The increase in the employment rate slowed only in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The upward trend continued in 2022, and by 2023 the rate had climbed to 63.0 percent.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 8.5:
"Full employment and decent work for all with equal pay"

Classification / Definition

The employment rate indicates the percentage of people aged 15 to 64 who are employed out of the total population within this age group. Unlike the unemployment rate, which measures those who are jobless and actively seeking work, the employment rate reflects the degree to which individuals enter the labour market. Consequently, the employment rate is also affected by the prevalence of people staying at home for childcare and household duties, as well as those retiring before reaching the official retirement age. The German government has set a target employment rate of 78 percent by 2030.[134]

The employment rate is defined as the proportion of employees subject to social security contributions relative to the working-age population. Accordingly, the employment rate includes only employees but self-employed individuals and family members who help out. Civil servants are also excluded from the calculation. As a result, the total number of people employed outside the household is consistently underestimated. Nonetheless, developments in this segment of the labour market have a major impact and are an important addition to the "unemployment" indicator. The values reflect the status as of 30 June of each year.

Calculation

Employment rate:

Number of employees aged 15 to 64 subject to social security contributions, recorded at their place of residence

/

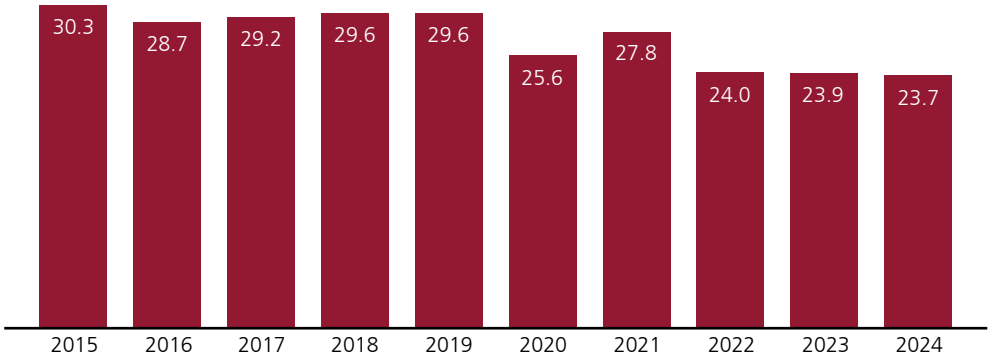
Population (15-64 years of age)

* 100

Economic development outlook for the Stuttgart region

Expanding the focus from the State Capital to the Stuttgart region as a whole, the outlook for economic development is a cautious one. Significant risk factors for economic development include declining domestic demand, rising energy and labour costs, and a shortage of skilled workers. According to the Stuttgart region's economic survey, almost one in three companies is anticipating a downturn in business.[135] Since economic growth and employment are closely linked, this trend could negatively impact the employment rate in the medium term.

Indicator 8-5:
"Top-up benefit recipients"



Source: Statistics of the Federal Employment Agency

Figure 75:
Employed benefit recipients ("Top-up benefit recipients") (in percent)

In 2015, approximately 30 percent of benefit recipients capable of gainful employment received top-up benefits. An increasing proportion of people receiving unemployment benefit II (basic income support for job seekers) were employed, though often in low-paid jobs. From 2020 onward (with a slight uptick in 2021), the proportion fell to 23.7 percent by 2024. This decline is mainly attributed to a reduction in marginal employment.

In recent years, rising employment rates have also influenced the SGB II sector. While rising employment is generally considered a positive trend, the large proportion of benefit recipients who need extra support shows that many remain reliant on state aid even though they are working. This situation particularly affects women and benefit recipients without German citizenship.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 8.5:
"Full employment and decent work for all with equal pay"

Classification / Definition

Not every job provides sufficient income. People on low incomes are entitled to basic income support for jobseekers (currently known as universal basic income, previously unemployment benefit II).[136] These top-up benefit recipients are therefore subject to social security contributions, are in marginal employment or self-employed and receive additional support from the state.

The "Top-up benefit recipients" indicator compares the number of employed individuals eligible for universal basic income with the total number of individuals actually receiving universal basic income. This indicates the proportion of benefit recipients engaged in employment subject to social security contributions, marginal employment, or self-employment. This provides an insight into the magnitude of the low-wage sector, but also highlights the proportion of universal basic income recipients who maintain some connection to employment, albeit in low-paid positions.

The deadline for data collection is 31 December of each year, except in 2024, when the data refer to 1 June.

Calculation

"Top-up benefit recipients":

Number of universal basic income recipients who are in employment

/

Total number universal basic income recipients who are capable of gainful employment

* 100

Indicator 8-6:
Marginal employment

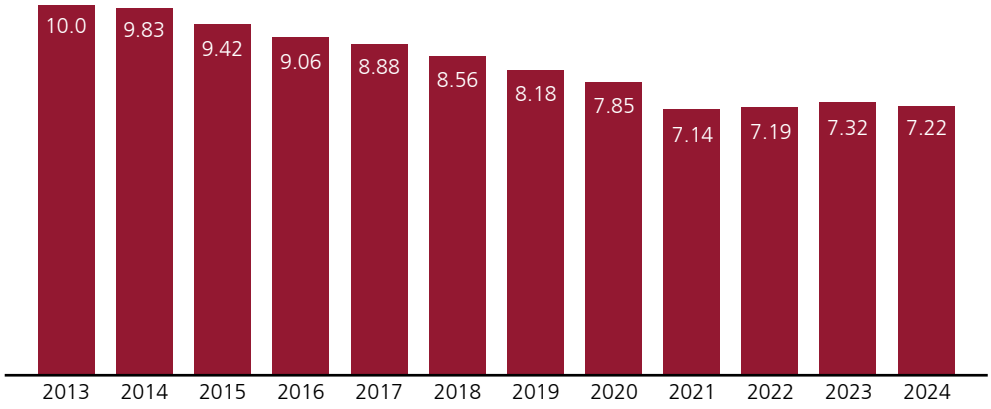


Figure 76:
Proportion of employees in marginal employment relative to the total number of employees (subject to social security contributions and in marginal employment) (in percent)

Source: Statistics of the Federal Employment Agency, State Statistical Office Baden-Württemberg

The proportion of people in marginal employment has dropped from 10.0 percent in 2013 to around 7 percent currently. In 2022 and 2023, the rate rose slightly again for the first time, to 7.32 percent. In the year that followed, the proportion of people in marginal employment fell to 7.22 percent. During the period under review, the marginal employment threshold was raised repeatedly. While still 450 euro in 2013, the amount has increased to 556 euro per month as of January 2025.[137]

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 8.5:
"Full employment and decent work for all with equal pay"

Classification / Definition

This indicator shows the proportion of people in marginal employment relative to the total number of employees subject to social security contributions plus those in marginal employment only. Employment is considered marginal if the total remuneration does not exceed the defined marginal earnings threshold.

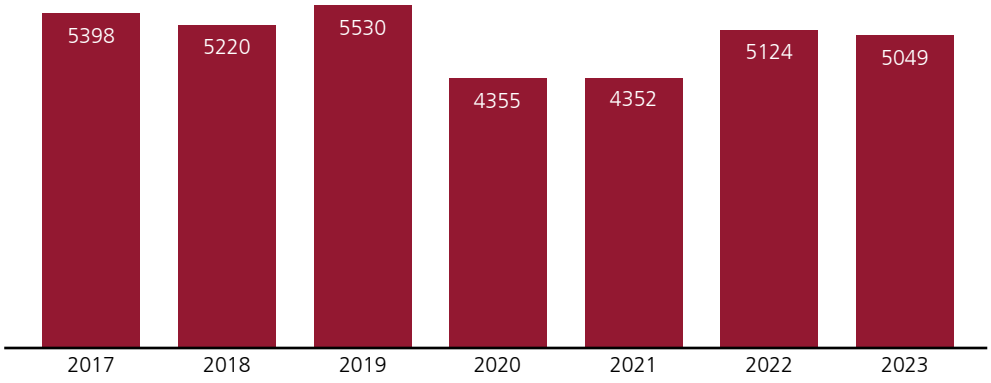
The marginal earnings threshold, which sets the income limit for marginal employment, is flexible and increases in step with the minimum wage. This ensures that employment of up to than ten hours per week at the minimum wage is classified as marginal employment.[138] The deadline for data collection is 30 June of each year.

Calculation

Marginal employment:

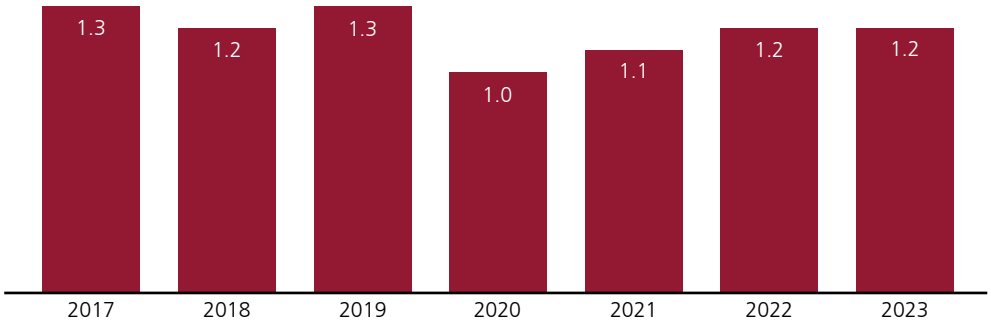
$$\frac{\text{Number of employees in marginal employment only}}{\text{Number of employees subject to social security contributions + employees in marginal employment only}} * 100$$

Indicator 8-7:
Occupational safety



Source: German Social Accident Insurance Association

Figure 77:
Number of reportable accidents at work (number of cases)



Source: German Social Accident Insurance Association; State Capital Stuttgart, Statistics Office

Figure 78:
Number of reportable accidents at work (number of cases per 100 inhabitants aged between 15 and 64)

The number of reportable accidents at work (excluding commuting accidents) has been declining slightly since 2017. The German Social Accident Insurance Association (DGUV) reported approximately 5,000 accidents at work in State Capital Stuttgart in 2023. This corresponded to slightly more than one case per 100 inhabitants aged between 15 and 65. After a significant decline in reported cases in 2020 and 2021, which was attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic, the figures rose again slightly in 2022, but even after another decline in 2023, they remained at a lower level than before the pandemic. The umbrella organisation DGUV, whose accident insurance providers insured approximately 67.2 million people throughout Germany in 2023 under general accident insurance and school accident insurance against the consequences of accidents at work, on the way to and from work, at school and on the way to and from school, as well as occupational diseases, attributed the decline in accidents at work during the COVID-19 pandemic to the large number of employees on short-time work and the increase in the number of those working from home.[139] The fact that the phenomenon of working from home has outlasted the pandemic also explains why there were slightly fewer accidents at work per year after the pandemic than before. Fatal accidents at work fluctuated between zero and four cases per year.

Absences from work can cause serious disruption, especially in smaller companies. This is another reason why it is in a company's interest to prevent accidents at work and health hazards in the workplace.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 8.8:
"Safeguard workers' rights and foster a safe work environment"

Classification / Definition

This indicator, introduced in 2025, represents the number of reportable accidents at work involving DGUV members. This includes members of commercial employers' liability insurance associations and public-sector accident insurance providers, i.e. also public-sector employees (excluding civil servants). This covers insurance groups that are 'typically' associated with occupational accidents: In particular, entrepreneurs, employees and family members working in the business. However, it does not include people insured by the SVLFG (agriculture, forestry and horticulture) and other groups of individuals such as blood donors, volunteers, schoolchildren, prisoners, persons undergoing rehabilitation and others.[140] Since this only represents a subset of all insured people, it can be assumed that the total number of accidents at work is slightly higher than shown here – however, the overall trend is well reflected in the data. As the accident location has only been recorded in accident reports since 2017, the time series shown above also begins in 2017.

Calculation

Accidents at work (total number of cases):
Number of reportable accidents at work reported by industrial employers' liability insurance associations and public accident insurance institutions.

Accidents at work (cases per 100 inhabitants aged between 15 and 64):

Number of reportable accidents at work
/
Population (15-64 years of age)
* 100

Indicator 8-8:
Accommodation places

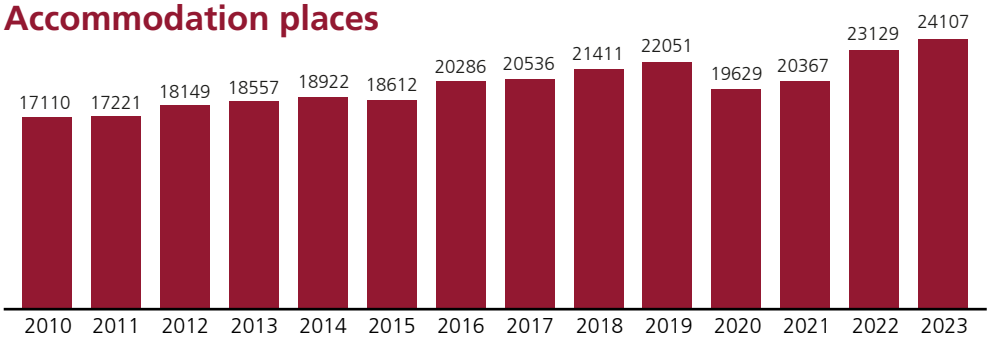


Figure 79: Accommodation available in Stuttgart (number of beds)

Source: State Statistical Office Baden-Württemberg

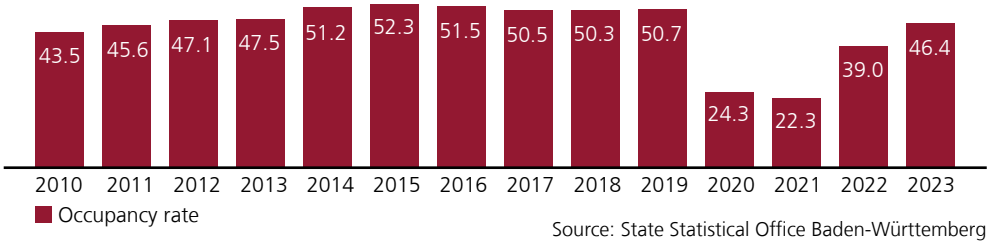


Figure 80: Occupancy rate of accommodation in Stuttgart (in percent)

Source: State Statistical Office Baden-Württemberg

In 2023, Stuttgart's accommodation establishments offered more than 24,000 beds. The number of beds available rose by 29 per cent from 17,110 in 2010 to over 22,000 in 2019. With the exception of a slight decline in 2015, the increase was continuous. The opening of several larger hotels in 2022 and 2023 has recently led to new record highs.

In 2020 and 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a significant decline in the figures, which was also reflected in the actual occupancy rate of accommodation facilities. As a result, 2021 and 2022 saw the lowest occupancy rates in the period under review, at 24.3 and 22.3 percent respectively. By 2023, occupancy had risen again to 46 percent, returning to a similar level to that seen before the pandemic.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 8.9:
"Promote positive and sustainable tourism"

Sustainable tourism in Stuttgart

Promoting sustainable tourism is a key priority for the Stuttgart region. In recognition of this commitment, the region earned the "Sustainable Travel Destination" certification from TourCert in 2025. A number of (hotel) businesses, restaurants and larger-scale operations, such as Stuttgart Airport (GmbH), VfB Stuttgart (1893 AG) and Landesmesse Stuttgart (GmbH), were acknowledged for their contributions.[141]

Classification / Definition

This indicator, introduced in 2025, represents the number (annual average) of beds offered by accommodation facilities in Stuttgart. It includes establishments providing temporary accommodation (less than two months) for guests with ten or more beds, as well as campsites with ten or more pitches. Small businesses with fewer beds or pitches, holiday apartments and privately rented rooms (e.g. via Airbnb) are not included.

Tourism is an important economic factor that creates jobs directly in the hotel/accommodation and catering industries and indirectly in areas such as transport, retail and culture. Tourism can contribute to education and tolerance in society. However, tourism also has a negative impact on sustainability, primarily due to CO_2 emissions from travel to and from tourist destinations. Switching from air and car travel to more climate-friendly modes of transport such as rail, bus and bicycle, as well as longer stays, would reduce the negative impact on the climate. Good local public transport is an important prerequisite for this.[142]

The "Accommodation places" indicator is used to measure SDG target 8.9, which aims to 'promote sustainable tourism with positive benefits'. While this indicator contributes to measuring the economic benefits of tourism, other factors must be taken into account for a comprehensive assessment of tourism sustainability.

Calculation

Accommodation places:

Number of beds offered

Accommodation places (occupancy rate):

Number of beds used
/
Total number of beds offered
*100

Correlation with other SDGs

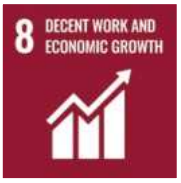
While economic productivity itself is a key component of economic sustainability, it also directly impacts the social and environmental sustainability dimensions. For instance, decent work and full employment (SDG 8) contribute to poverty reduction, as shown in the related indicators (SDG 1, "No Poverty"). Conversely, an increase in economic activity can lead to rising environmental pollution and hence to negative impacts on water resources, the global climate, life on land and below water (SDG 6, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15).

Infrastructure development and expansion (see targets in SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 7, SDG 9, SDG 11) drive economic growth and employment, while also harming the environment and climate. Sustainable consumption and production, as formulated in SDG 12, are therefore crucial to sustainable economic growth. There is also a direct link between energy and economic growth. Economic growth often goes hand in hand with rising energy consumption. The sustainability and inclusivity of economic growth can be measured by indicators such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the use of sustainable energy for all (SDG 7). Decoupling economic growth from environmental pollution is therefore of crucial importance.

In Stuttgart, recent economic growth has been accompanied by a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (SDG 13) from the industrial and commercial sectors. This development is extremely positive at municipal level, but has to be assessed in a broader context. The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions partly results from the relocation of high-emission industries to other regions and countries. Improved local conditions do not automatically translate into a better global outcome. That said, this limitation does not detract from Stuttgart's overall positive development regarding economic growth and emission reductions. The transition to a climate-neutral economy offers significant economic potential, notably in the realm of the circular economy. Implementing resource-saving and low-emission production practices (SDG 12) enables companies to boost environmental sustainability without sacrificing their competitive edge.

As a centre of innovation, Stuttgart benefits from close links between industry, academia and research. Digital expansion (SDG 9 "Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure") is especially driving opportunities for decent work and sustainable economic growth. While this can help enhance resource efficiency (SDG 12), it may also present new challenges such as job losses due to automation (SDG 8).

Promoting start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) (SDG 9) can help reduce inequalities (SDG 10) by improving access to financing and markets for underrepresented groups such as women, migrants, and young entrepreneurs. A diverse economic sector, in turn, positively influences employment and drives innovation (SDG 9).



Promoting e-mobility, public transport and low-emission supply chains (SDG 11 and SDG 12) not only supports climate action (SDG 13), but also stimulates economic growth for local businesses and start-ups. At the same time, the transition to sustainable mobility requires high levels of investment, which must be brought into line with the principles of SDG 8 and SDG 12 (sustainable production).

The social sustainability dimension is closely linked to factors like unemployment and mental well-being, as highlighted in SDG 3. The target SDG 8 concerning equal access to education and reducing the proportion of young people without school qualifications, training and/or employment is also closely linked to SDG 4 ("Quality Education") and SDG 10 ("Reduced Inequalities"). Eliminating all forms of workplace discrimination to ensure decent work and full employment for all is directly linked to SDG 5 ("Gender Equality") and SDG 10 ("Reduced Inequalities"). The shortage of skilled workers can be eased by improving vocational training (SDG 4 "Quality Education") and by more effectively integrating young people with a migrant background or from disadvantaged backgrounds (SDG 10 "Reduced Inequalities").

The following indicators are directly relevant to SDG 8 "Decent Work and Economic Growth":

SDG 1: "Poverty"
SDG 3: "Perception of Loneliness"
SDG 4: "School Leavers by Qualification"
SDG 4: "Students"
SDG 4: "Professional Qualifications"
SDG 5: "Ratio of Employment Rates"
SDG 6: "Consumption of Drinking Water"
SDG 7: "Energy Productivity"
SDG 7: "Energy Consumption"
SDG 9: "Highly Skilled Workforce"
SDG 9: "Start-ups"
SDG 11: "Financial Burden of Housing Costs"
SDG 11: "Proportion of social housing relative to the total rental housing inventory"
SDG 12: "EMAS-Certified Locations"
SDG 12: "Waste Volume"
SDG 12: "Sustainable Procurement"
SDG 12: "Environmental Protection Investments in the Manufacturing Sector"
SDG 13: "Greenhouse Gas Emissions"
SDG 16: "Digital municipalities"
SDG 16: "Trade tax rate"

Practical example 16:

Sustainability and AI: The Green AI Day of State Capital Stuttgart

Context

According to RegioClusterAgentur Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart accounts for over 40 percent of all Green AI (Artificial Intelligence) projects, the highest share among all AI initiatives. Comparable regions achieve only around 15 to 21 percent. Stuttgart's funding for green AI amounts to approximately 47 million euro, nearly matching that of Berlin. A benchmark and potential analysis by the Economic Development Agency has also shown that there is great potential for ideas, development, applications and services in the field of green AI in Stuttgart and the surrounding area. The Green AI approach goes beyond resource savings – it also involves developing and promoting innovative AI business models with significant potential to address the ecological challenges of our time.

Green AI Day was launched in 2023 by the Economic Development Department of State Capital Stuttgart, in partnership with the Stuttgart Region Economic Development Corporation, to stimulate further research, networking, and collaboration. The goal is to raise awareness of the Green AI ecosystem and projects within the region.

Description / Implementation

This is the idea behind Green AI Day. It provides Stuttgart, as an AI hub, the opportunity to collaborate with regional, national, and international partners to concentrate on Green AI, exploring innovative ideas, research approaches, and specific challenges through practical applications and research-driven approaches. Green AI Day brings together leading scientists from the green AI industry with AI providers and users, creating opportunities for networking in an innovative setting.

The target groups are those with an interest in AI and stakeholders from established companies, start-ups, research institutions and cluster initiatives with links to green AI. Green AI Day primarily focuses on fostering networking opportunities among these participants. The program also offers engaging content on green AI, including keynotes, panel discussions, start-up pitches, and themed breakout sessions.

Experience / Results

AI products and applications provide valuable opportunities to enhance the sustainability of business operations, create solutions for environmental challenges, and conserve finite resources. Numerous stakeholders from Stuttgart and the surrounding region are already actively involved, developing innovative approaches to implement Green AI in practice. Green AI Day takes place every autumn. Edition 3 will take place on 25 September 2025.

Division / Office / Public Undertaking

Economic Development Department in the Mayor's Office

Further reading / links

https://www.newstuttgart.de/green-ai-day.html

Further practical examples at: www.stuttgart.de/lebenswertes-stuttgart

SDG 14

Life below Water

"Conserve and responsibly use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development"

Relevant targets of SDG 14 for German local communities include, but are not limited to, reducing all forms of marine pollution, particularly from land-based activities, the responsible use of marine resources, and the conservation and responsible use of the oceans and their resources.

Overview of the relevant targets

The following targets of SDG 14 are relevant to German local communities, but have not yet been covered in the VLR by indicators. Because of Stuttgart's geographical location, "Life Below Water" has only limited relevance for State Capital Stuttgart. Consequently, no indicators have been used to directly measure any targets for this SDG. Nonetheless, holistic correlations to other SDGs are presented in the section entitled "Correlation with other SDGs" as well as in Annex II.

14.1 Reduce marine pollution

14.7 Increase the economic benefit of sustainable use of marine resources

14.c Improve the conservation and responsible use of oceans and their resources

All indicators used to measure the listed targets can also be accessed via the city's own SDG dashboard: https://sdg.dashboardstr.de/

Smart water monitoring at Lake Max Eyth

To ensure the water quality of Lake Max-Eyth in Stuttgart, the city introduced a raft of measures following the massive fish kill during the summer of 2019. In that year, exceptionally high temperatures and low oxygen levels caused mass fish death. From that point onward, advanced digital sensors have enabled real-time monitoring of parameters such as oxygen content, pH value, and turbidity. The data obtained makes it possible to react quickly to critical developments, by deploying ventilation systems or alternative countermeasures for example.

The city's goal is to improve the ecological stability of the lake over the long term. The measure is part of a more comprehensive concept for intelligent environmental monitoring. Going forward, the aim is to gain a deeper understanding of natural processes such as algae formation and oxygen consumption, and to actively manage them.[198]

Correlation with other SDGs

Despite Stuttgart being geographically distant from oceans and seas, urban society influences their resources and marine pollution, primarily through consumer and production practices (SDG 12).

Recycling and the circular economy, which are promoted under SDG 12 and SDG 13, play a crucial role in preventing marine pollution, especially stemming from plastic and other resilient waste products. The Neckar, as a tributary of the Rhine, can carry improperly managed waste (SDG 12), agricultural residues (SDG 2), and microplastics from textiles and cosmetics all the way to the North Sea. Plastic waste exported abroad and inadequately recycled at its destination further contributes to marine pollution. This highlights how urban development, agricultural practices, and industrial processes can significantly impact marine ecosystems and biodiversity, even when cities are located far from the coast.

Microplastics re-enter the human food chain through the consumption of fish and seafood, posing risks to human health (SDG 3). The consumption of fish and seafood – from unsustainable fisheries in particular – also affects the conservation of marine ecosystems and aquatic biodiversity. Overfishing driven by unchecked consumption and the lack of sustainable fishing practices results in the decline of marine biodiversity and harms entire ecosystems. This is directly linked to SDG 2, SDG 12, and SDG 14, as sustainable fish and seafood consumption, along with the promotion of responsible fishing practices, are key to preserving oceanic biological resources. The interaction between environmental protection, health, and consumption habits highlights the intricate links between SDG 14, SDG 3, and SDG 12, emphasising the need to make our consumption patterns more sustainable to safeguard marine ecosystems and protect human health.

The effects of climate change (SDG 13) on seas and oceans only serve to exacerbate the problems of pollution and overexploitation. Rising water temperatures and ocean acidification, driven by greenhouse gas emissions, adversely affect marine life and lead to coral bleaching, depletion of fish stocks, and destruction of marine habitats. Stuttgart's commitment to climate protection and reducing CO_2 emissions directly benefits ocean health and helps mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on marine ecosystems.

Another important link concerns the conservation of water resources (SDG 6). Contaminated waters, resulting from improper waste management and excessive agricultural run-off, harm marine ecosystems and degrade drinking water quality, potentially leading to health problems and long-term environmental crises.

Ultimately, education and raising awareness (SDG 4) play a vital role in reaching the goals of SDG 14. Educating the public on the environmental impacts of overfishing, plastic waste, and other oceanic risks is vital to fostering responsible consumer choices and supporting sustainable marine resource management.

The following indicators are directly relevant to SDG 14 "Life below Water":

SDG 6: "Quality of Running Water"
SDG 6: "Wastewater Treatment"
SDG 12: "Waste Volume"
SDG 12: "Sustainable Procurement"
SDG 12: "Environmental Protection Investments in the Manufacturing Sector"
SDG 13: "Greenhouse Gas Emissions"
SDG 15: "Renaturation Measures for Flowing Waters
SDG 15: "Biodiversity"

SDG 17

Partnerships for the Goals

"Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development"

SDG 17 broadly focuses on enhancing the resources for implementing the 2030 Agenda and fostering partnerships for sustainable development across all levels. For municipalities, relevant issues include the establishment and expansion of partnerships and the mobilisation of resources from various sources, both locally and in countries in the Global South.

Overview of the relevant targets

The following targets of SDG 17 are relevant to German local communities. The focus is on targets that can be directly measured using selected indicators. Additionally, a single indicator may be relevant for multiple targets. These holistic correlations are presented in the sections entitled "Correlation with other SDGs" as well as in Annex II.

17.6 Knowledge sharing and strengthening North-South and South-South cooperation for access to academia, technology and innovation

17.16 Expand the global partnership for sustainable development

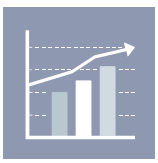
The following relevant targets have not yet been represented by indicators:

17.3 Mobilisation of financial resources for developing countries

17.14 Enhance political coherence for sustainable development

17.17 Promote effective partnerships

17.18 Increase the availability of reliable data



17.19 Develop measurements of progress on sustainable development

All indicators used to measure the listed targets can also be accessed via the city's own SDG dashboard: https://sdg.dashboardstr.de/

Indicator 17-1:
Students from the Global South

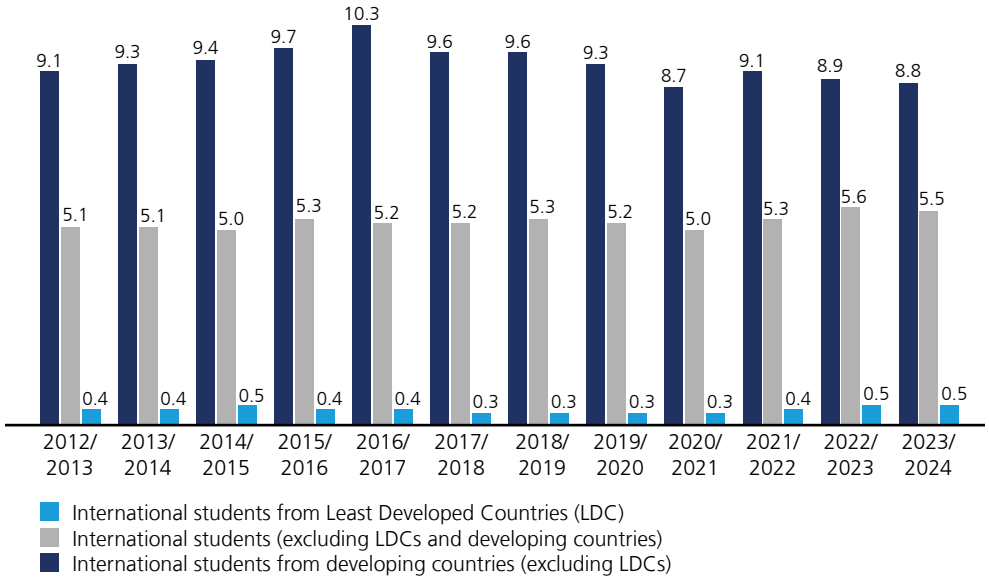


Figure 140:
Proportion of students from the Global South at Stuttgart's colleges and universities (figures in percent)

Source: State Statistical Office Baden-Württemberg, Student Statistics

The proportion of students from developing countries[224] among all students at colleges and universities in Stuttgart fluctuated during the period under review. Initially, the figure rose from 9.1 percent in the 2012/2013 winter semester to a peak of 10.3 percent in the 2016/2017 winter semester. It then fell slightly again, reaching a low of 8.7 percent in the 2020/2021 winter semester due to travel restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the following winter semester, the proportion rose again to 9.1 per cent, but has since fallen slightly again and stood at 8.8 per cent in the winter semester 2023/2024.

Overall, the proportion of students from developing countries is highest among all foreign students at around 60 per cent, and lowest among those from the least developed countries (LDCs). Throughout the period under review, the proportion of students from LDCs remained relatively constant at between 0.3 and 0.5 percent of the total student population, and at approximately 3 percent in relation to all foreign students. The proportion of foreign students (excluding LDCs and developing countries) among all students also remained relatively stable at around 5 percent during the period under review, accounting for almost 40 percent of all foreign students.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 17.6:
"Knowledge sharing and strengthening North-South and South-South cooperation for access to academia, technology and innovation"

Classification / Definition

Since the 2017/2018 winter semester, international students from non-EU countries have been required to pay tuition fees of 1,500 euro following a ruling by the state government of Baden-Württemberg. The extent to which this is reflected in the numbers of foreign students is not apparent from the data, as there were also changes in the classification of developing countries and LDCs at that time.

The indicator describes the proportion of foreign students relative to the total number of students at universities and colleges in Stuttgart for the following three groups:

1) Proportion of students from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)[225]

2) Proportion of students from developing countries (excluding LDCs according to OECD)

3) Proportion of foreign students (excluding developing countries and LDCs, including other Asian countries, unspecified, stateless with unclear origins).

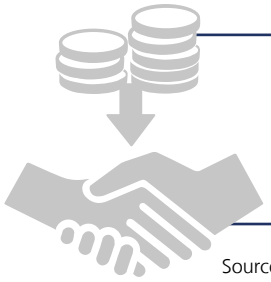
The classification as a developing country or LDC is made by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD. The list for the current year always applies. As the classification may change over time, the time series are not always fully comparable. For example, there was a change from 2017 to 2018.[226]

Calculation

Students from the Global South:

Number of students from developing countries (excluding LDCs); number of students from LDCs; number of foreign students (excluding LDCs and developing countries)
/
Total number of students at Stuttgart colleges and universities
* 100

Indicator 17-2: **Twin towns in the Global South**



22 %

of the twin town budget for the twin towns in the Global South (as of: 2024)

Source: State Capital Stuttgart, Department for International Relations

On average, between 2008 and 2024, expenditure on the three twin cities in the Global South (Mumbai, Cairo, Menzel Bourguiba) remained constant at 20 percent of the twin city budget of the Department for International Relations.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 17.16:
"Expand the global partnership for sustainable development"

Peace, international understanding and solidarity are driving forces behind the international activities of State Capital Stuttgart. Since 1948, Stuttgart has been cultivating and shaping its relationships with cities and partners in Europe and around the world. This has resulted in ten active town twinning projects on four continents, three of which are in the so-called Global South, as well as a wide range of networks and projects to strengthen partnerships. Since Russia's attack on Ukraine in violation of international law, the partnership with Samara, Russia, has been suspended. In 2023, a solidarity partnership with Khmelnytskyi in Ukraine was launched together with Dresden. Other partnerships include projects in South/South-East Europe and climate and energy partnerships.

In addition, third-party funds and earmarked funds are used to support the solidarity partnership with Ukraine, South/Southeast Europe, climate partnerships and learning dialogues to anchor the international sustainability goals (see also target 17.3). Offers and financial support from the Service Agency for Municipalities in One World (SKEW) were leveraged, making broader participation in various programmes possible.

Cities with international relations make a key contribution to international understanding and are committed to the United Nations' global sustainability goals within the framework of international local government policy. At their core, cities are spaces where diversity and interaction flourish. Especially in light of current crises and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, cities can play a key role in fostering dialogue and help shape future-oriented transformation.

Classification / Definition

The "Twin towns in the Global South" indicator covers expenditure in the local communities or for projects launched in the twin towns. These vary in size and content and are organised by the city itself or by civil society organisations.

The expenditure is for programmes in and with the twin towns of Menzel Bourguiba (Tunisia), Cairo (Egypt) and Mumbai (India).

This includes funding for exchange programmes, educational work, town twinning anniversaries, networking and activation events, as well as grants for exchange and participation projects run by third parties (e.g. civil society organisations).

It does not include services provided by other departments for project work with and in countries of the Global South or in international networks, third-party funding, or measures to promote fair trade.

This indicator shows the average amount of funding used for cooperation with and in twin cities in the Global South in relation to the average amount of funding available for twin city work in the Department for International Relations from 2008 to 2024.

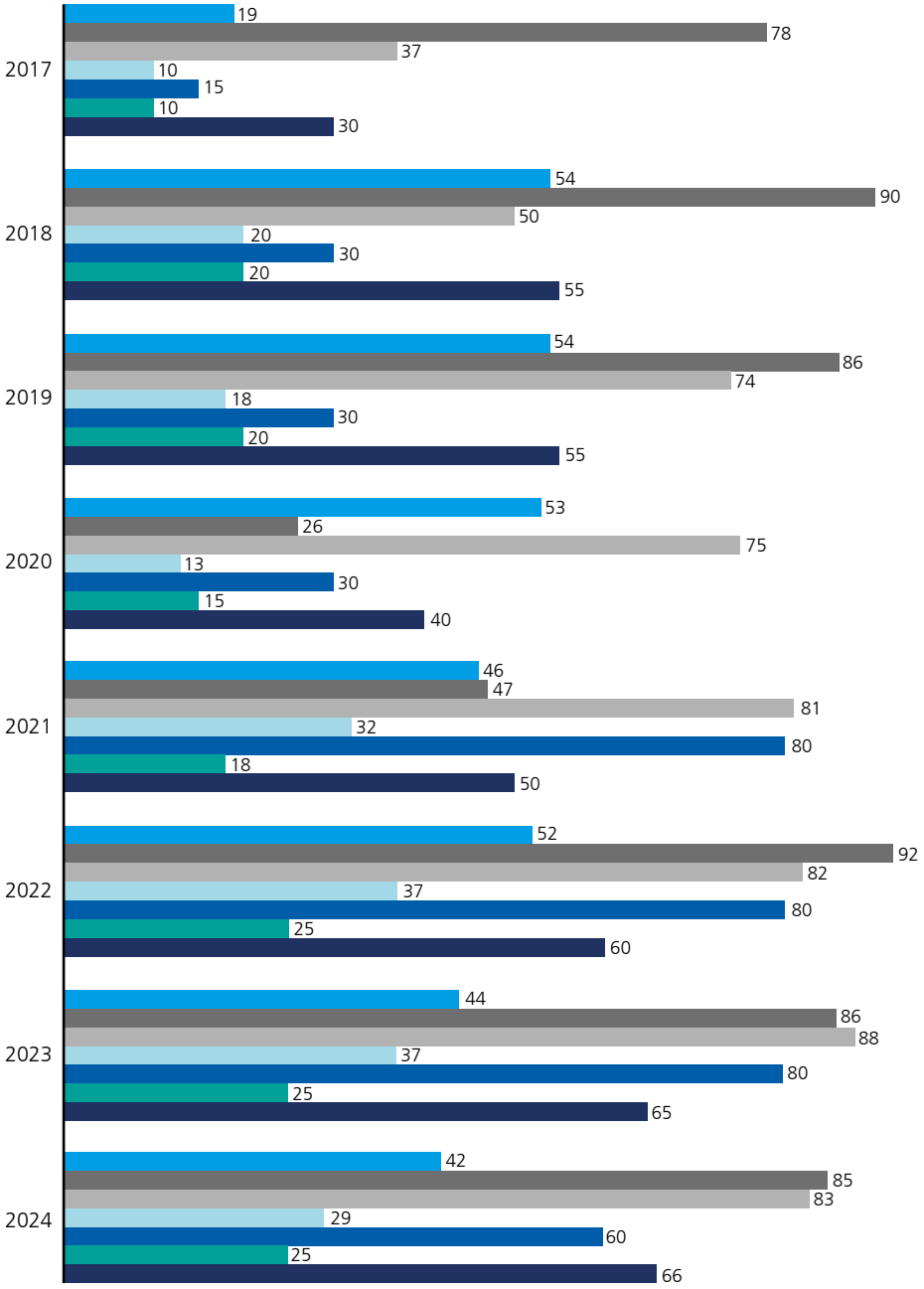
Calculation

Twin towns in the Global South:

$$\frac{\text{Funds for cooperation with twin towns in the Global South}}{\text{Free project budget of the Department for International Relations}} * 100$$

Indicator 17-3:
Projects and advisory services

Figure 141:
Projects and advisory services
(in numbers)



1. Launching of the city's own twin town projects
2. Advice and support for externally funded town twinning projects
3. Non-monetary support for external town twinning projects / target group-specific advice
4. Advice, support and launching of internal and external EUROCITIES projects and measures to strengthen Europe, EU expert advice and acquisition of EU funding
5. Non-monetary support for internal and external EUROCITIES projects and measures to strengthen Europe, EU expert advice and acquisition of EU funding / target group-specific advice
6. Advice, support and launching of internal and external international sustainability projects and development for implementation at local and international level
7. Non-monetary support for internal and external international sustainability projects and development for implementation at both local and international level

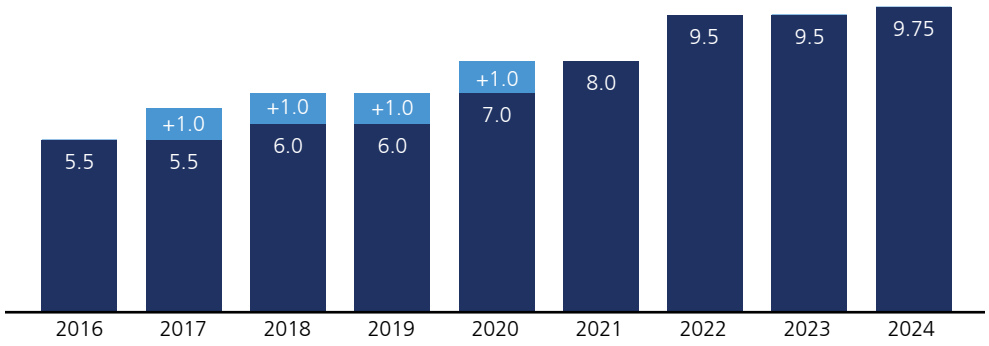
Source: State Capital Stuttgart

Since 2016, the Department for International Relations has expanded its role as a central service provider and organiser by intensifying interdepartmental and civil society coordination, advisory, implementation, and (financial) support activities. Since 2016, the department's tasks, staff and budget have each grown by around a third.

Alongside the State Capital's own resources, the Department for International Relations has secured approximately 600,000 euro in third-party funding over the past 16 years (since 2008), creating additional opportunities to implement development policy projects in Stuttgart and to strengthen international partnerships.

Since 2021, project implementation – particularly for third-party initiatives – has been gaining momentum again and has now reached or even surpassed pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels. Recent additions include the solidarity partnership with Khmelnytskyi in Ukraine, the climate partnership with Menzel Bourguiba in Tunisia, and learning dialogues within the framework of Urban Diplomacy Exchange on the International Sustainable Development Goals and related topics.These dialogues involve collaboration with British cities such as St Helens and Cardiff, the French city of Strasbourg, and participation in European networks (e.g. the "Governance Peer-Learning Hub") alongside the Estonian capital Tallinn, other European cities, and the EU Commission.

This indicator is used to measure SDG target 17.16:
"Expand the global partnership for sustainable development"



Note: From 2017 to 2020 plus third-party funded project position "Global Development Goals"

Source: State Capital Stuttgart

Figure 142:
Number of positions according to staffing plan (in number of positions)

Close partnership and town twinning, European networking, and international sustainability and development are the guiding principles of the work carried out by the Department for International Relations. State Capital Stuttgart is actively addressing pressing existing and current challenges, such as the climate crisis, the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. State Capital Stuttgart is broadening and deepening its international commitment overall, wherever opportunities arise. Through its European and international involvement, the State Capital is seeking to actively embrace global responsibility and achieve both sustainable action and solidarity.

State Capital Stuttgart is one of the municipal pioneers in Germany and internationally in anchoring the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for the international sustainability goals (SDGs). This is being promoted, among other things, through the permanent establishment of a coordination position for International Sustainability and Development, which heads an interdisciplinary working group. This working group is chaired by the Department for International Relations and the Statistics Office.

The focus on UN Sustainable Development Goals concerns all departments. Stuttgart also leverages collaboration with twin cities as well as third-party projects and programmes to encourage international exchange and cooperation on the international sustainability goals to achieve the priorities of the 2030 Agenda.

Stuttgart's award of the Council of Europe's 2021 Medal of Honour is testimony to its notable efforts towards spreading the European idea and its outstanding commitment to strengthening a united Europe. Stuttgart is committed to a strong and diverse Europe and lives the European idea. In the year of the 2024 European elections, Stuttgart declared 2024 to be the European Year and organised or supported several European events, such as the European Action Day of the State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg in May in cooperation with its twin city Strasbourg. This included a "Europabus" organised by the SSB-AG in the run-up to the European elections, launched on 10 May to encourage people to vote. In June, State Capital Stuttgart held the first Stuttgart Europe Talks in cooperation with Europe Direct Stuttgart and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium. The Stuttgart Europe Talks are held annually to showcase the current EU Council Presidencies and initiatives such as the urban dimension within the EU. Here, Stuttgart is actively promoting European dialogue and European integration as the foundation for peaceful coexistence.

Stuttgart has a long-standing tradition of engaging in city diplomacy through its partnerships and collaborations with international institutions and networks like EUROCITIES. State Capital Stuttgart supports the initiative founded by the capitals Bratislava, Budapest, Prague and Warsaw to promote freedom, human dignity, democracy, equality, the rule of law, social justice, tolerance and cultural diversity, and joined the "Pact of Free Cities" in 2021.

Since 2018, the city administration has been committed to strengthening exchange and dialogue with Southern and South-Eastern Europe. In line with the 2030 Agenda's goal of expanding international partnerships and collaborations, support is being given to projects by Stuttgart-based organisations that focus on empowering people in and from South-Eastern Europe. 2023 saw the launch of a citizens' project involving residents from Srebrenica focused on EU perspectives and municipal cooperation. In collaboration with just human e.V., a joint integration project in Athens targeting vulnerable groups (refugee women with children and LGBTIQ refugees) also sought to promote sustainability goals.

An increasing number of municipalities, especially in industrialised countries, feel responsible for actively contributing towards achieving global climate targets. Climate protection and climate adaptation are being systematically integrated into State Capital Stuttgart's municipal partnership initiatives, supported in part by a newly established part-time role focused on climate partnerships.

In the spirit of solidarity, State Capital Stuttgart is keen to establish a long-term friendship with a Ukrainian city. This would include measures that gain relevance as reconstruction unfolds.

Recent examples illustrating the expansion of global partnerships include:

- town twinning meeting 2023 in collaboration with the Office of Cultural Affairs on "New Perspectives in Cultural Work", including culture and sustainability in the run-up to the Urban Future Conference 2023 in Stuttgart;
- town twinning meeting 2024 in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Office for climate protection and climate adaptation;

- solidarity partnership 2023 with Khmelnytskyi, approved by the Municipal Council, to be coordinated and implemented bilaterally and jointly within a tripartite alliance with State Capital Dresden;
- signing of a Memorandum of Understanding 2023 focusing on the UN Sustainable Development Goals as part of the 75th anniversary of the town twinning with St Helens;
- Urban Diplomacy Exchange 2023 with St Helens and Cardiff on anchoring the International Sustainability Goals (supported by the Federal Foreign Office, German Association of Cities; implemented by Engagement Global); regular learning dialogues at expert level in 2024 on topics such as climate neutrality and social cohesion;
- learning dialogues as part of the Urban Future Conference 2023 in Stuttgart and the EUROCITIES Task Force, as well as learning dialogues in 2024 with Tallinn and other European cities on municipal sustainability management based on the international sustainability goals;
- mid-term review 2024 event "Stuttgart together for the international sustainability goals" with representatives from all specialist units of State Capital Stuttgart along with international experts;
- participation in the World Urban Forum 12 (WUF12) in Cairo, Stuttgart's twin city. Active participation in the German pavilion with a focus on the topic of "social cohesion" and the related SDGs, SDG 17 and the question of how this can be used to promote other goals, such as sustainable urban development, including a presentation of the Stuttgart SDG dashboard;
- Trip in 2024 to Menzel Bourguiba for the Climate Partnership: Delegation to Menzel Bourguiba for the climate partnership with participation from Stuttgart Waste Management, Offices for Environmental Protection and Parks, Cemeteries and Forestry, Department for International Relations and the Fraunhofer Institute for Interfacial and Bioengineering IGB. The focus was on further planning for upcoming projects in the areas of energy, water, green spaces and waste;
- 2024 Trip to Mumbai: High-level delegation trip to Mumbai as part of the 20th anniversary of the "Stuttgart meets Mumbai" networking platform. Participation by Deputy Mayor Fuhrmann, Municipal Council, Stuttgart Hospital, Department for International Relations, Communications Department, Economic Development Department. Topics: Health (establishing a clinic and care partnership; attracting skilled workers), economy (start-up ecosystem) and town twinning initiatives (school exchanges, community projects);
- presentations on Stuttgart's experiences, ongoing dialogue and advocacy by European cities on municipal anchoring and monitoring of the UN's international sustainability goals (Sustainability Governance Peer-Learning Hub, led by Tallinn; EUROCITIES SDG Task Force).

Classification / Definition

The "Projects and advisory services" indicator includes advisory and support services in the core areas of the Department for International Relations, aligned with the budget indicators. These include our own projects in town twinning, European networks and support initiatives, and global sustainable development, as well as projects launched by civil society partners such as schools, associations, and artists. The scope and duration of the projects vary.

Areas 1 to 4 in the bar chart (see Figure 141) have been systematically recorded in the budget with key figures since 2019; the figures for previous years are based on subsequent counts.

Calculation

The indicator shows the number of advisory and support services provided in the core areas of the Department for International Relations for the budget years from 2016 to 2024.

Correlation with other SDGs

Municipal sustainability is embedded at a global level. This global integration is embodied in cross-border and cross-continental partnerships, as well as collaborations with a diverse range of local stakeholders. SDG 17 plays a cross-cutting role for all SDGs, as it forms the basis for the implementation and achievement of all sustainable development goals. Global partnerships facilitate the development and sharing of joint solutions for complex challenges such as climate change, social inequality and the scarcity of resources.

As an example, the local social situation (see SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 16) and the local environmental situation (see SDGs 6, 7, 13, 14, 15) are also influenced by the global context and vice versa. Global trade relations, economic policies and technological developments have a direct impact on local production processes, labour markets and access to resources. Conversely, local innovations and best practices can be exchanged globally through partnerships and networks, fostering positive connections between global and local sustainability efforts. For instance, local measures for clean energy (SDG 7) or sustainable agriculture (SDG 2) can be strengthened through international partnerships. Local production and consumption patterns are integral to the global economy (see SDGs 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15), and fall within the responsibilities of the municipalities. By encouraging responsible consumption and waste reduction (SDG 12) as well as advancing renewable energy (SDG 7), municipalities help reduce global greenhouse gas emissions (SDG 13) while boosting the local economy by creating green jobs and supporting local sustainable businesses. On the same note, developing sustainable infrastructure (SDG 9) is also crucial, as it can build on strong global cooperation.

The influx of refugees also means that the local situation is directly influenced by global developments. Global crises such as wars, persecution or environmental disasters lead to an increase in migration and affect local social systems, educational resources and the local economic situation (SDG 1, SDG 5, SDG 10). The equitable integration of refugees and migrants not only fosters social cohesion (SDG 16), it also enhances the city's cultural diversity and economic prosperity. Supporting migrants and refugees can also strengthen local labour markets (SDG 8) and contribute to global solidarity (SDG 10). By integrating people from around the world, local authorities tackle challenges related to economic transformation and social cohesion on both local and global levels. Promoting integration and embracing diversity helps achieve peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16). This fosters peaceful coexistence while enhancing social trust and cohesion (SDG 10). This also encourages effective and equitable governance that can resolve conflicts and boost resilience in the face of global crises.

Through partnerships with business, civil society and academia, municipalities are actively shaping the transformation processes needed to meet global challenges and mobilising citizens to jointly implement the global development goals. Collaboration among public, private, and civil society stakeholders (SDG 17), along with the transfer of knowledge and innovation from research (SDG 9), plays a crucial role in this context. Collaboration at both regional and international levels encourages mutual learning and reinforces the role of municipalities in strategically anchoring the 2030 Agenda.

The 17 SDGs, with their interdependencies and conflicting goals, affect all areas of municipal action and can only be achieved through strong partnerships at all levels. SDG 17 highlights the importance of cooperation both within a country and across international borders. Global collaboration is crucial for addressing environmental challenges like climate change (SDG 13) and biodiversity loss (SDG 15). Through the exchange of knowledge, technologies and innovations, municipalities all over the world can drive sustainable development that delivers benefits at both local and global levels.

The following indicators also have a direct relevance for SDG 17 "Global Partnerships for the Goals":

SDG 1: "At-risk-of-poverty rate"
SDG 4: "Educational Opportunities for Sustainable Development"
SDG 8: "Gross Domestic Product"
SDG 9: "Research and Development in the Business Sector"
SDG 10: "Relative Poverty Rate Among Benefit Recipients Without German Citizenship"
SDG 12: "Sustainable Procurement"
SDG 12: "Fair Trade Schools"

Practical example 28:

Solidarity partnership between Khmelnytskyi and Stuttgart and "Tripartite Solidarity Partnership" between Khmelnytskyi, Dresden and Stuttgart

Context

On 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation launched a large-scale invasion across Ukraine, unleashing a devastating war that caused extensive damage to civilian and critical infrastructure, immense suffering among the population, and the displacement of over eight million refugees into Europe.

In the spirit of solidarity, State Capital Stuttgart is extending its support for Ukraine beyond existing partnerships and short- to medium-term initiatives. Commitments include aid shipments organised in collaboration with twin cities Łódź and Brno, having provided temporary accommodation for 100,000 and 25,000 Ukrainian refugees respectively – as well as support for orphanages in the twin city of Łódź, now home to Ukrainian refugee children. Examples include knowledge sharing, vehicles and heated boxes for delivering food aid. Another aim is to establish a long-term friendly relationship with a Ukrainian city. This also includes measures that may be needed in the course of reconstruction.

Description / Implementation

With the support of the Service Agency for Municipalities in One World (SKEW), State Capital Stuttgart has identified the city of Khmelnytskyi for a so-called "solidarity partnership". Several German cities have chosen this path, for example Hanover with the city of Mykolaiv and Dortmund with Zhytomyr.

Khmelnytskyi is the capital of the eponymous oblast between Lviv and Kyiv and the economic, scientific and cultural centre of the oblast. The city is characterised by strong European and international engagement – it is the winner of the Council of Europe's 2021 European Prize. Khmelnytskyi, among other initiatives, has implemented a Green City Action Plan and an urban development strategy for 2025.

On 2 March 2023, Stuttgart Municipal Council approved the solidarity partnership by a large majority in the presence of the Deputy Mayor of Khmelnytskyi, Mykola Vavryshchuk. This will be conducted in a tripartite alliance with State Capital Dresden.

The partnership goes beyond emergency aid and reconstruction assistance, focusing on mutual learning and guiding Khmelnytskyi on its path toward European integration. The partnership defined the following key areas of collaboration:

- citizen participation and EU citizenship
- political awareness and youth participation
- economy
- school and education
- transport and urban mobility
- waste management and climate protection

On 5 March 2024, the "Tripartite Solidarity Partnership" was signed in Dresden by the mayors of the three participating cities. The agreement had already been signed on 7 November 2023 during a video conference.

Experience / Results

The "Tripartite Solidarity Partnership" not only strengthens European and German solidarity and cooperation with Ukraine, but also intensifies German-German cooperation. State Capital Stuttgart will be responsible for coordination. This unique tripartite approach enables each city to bring its particular strengths to the partnership. Cooperation and the exchange of expertise can be strategically coordinated, organised and distributed, and Khmelnytskyi can be provided with targeted support.

Since the Municipal Council resolution, several projects have already been successfully implemented, including the following examples:

- four aid transport missions delivered relief supplies from Stuttgart to Khmelnytskyi.
- a civil society exchange between Stuttgart and Khmelnytskyi is also ongoing. In 2023 and 2024, runners from Khmelnytskyi achieved great results in the Stuttgart Run.
- in June 2023, Mayor Mykola Vavryshchuk and members of the Youth Council participated in the annual Stuttgart town twinning meeting focused on "New Perspectives in Cultural Work", with two other colleagues attending the Urban Future Conference.
- on 19 June 2023, the first school partnership within our solidarity partnership was established between Eberhard-Ludwigs-Gymnasium and the 2nd Educational Complex Khmelnytskyi.
- in July 2023 and September 2024, female cyclists from Khmelnytskyi had the opportunity to experience and enjoy the traditional "Pretzel Race" in Stuttgart.

- in mid-October 2023, a youth group from Khmelnytskyi spent several days in Stuttgart to gain insights into the workings of the city administration and local civil society. Whilst in the city, they had the opportunity to engage in various activities that provided them with a deep understanding of our locality and its values.
- in November 2023, the German-Ukrainian Municipal Partnership Conference was held in Leipzig, with Stuttgart, Dresden, and Khmelnytskyi participating at working level.
- also in November 2023, the Khmelnytskyi fire brigade and a colleague from Dresden visited the Stuttgart fire brigade to exchange knowledge and collaborate on disaster management. In July 2024, the Khmelnytskyi fire brigade travelled to Stuttgart once again for a joint training week.
- in May 2024, Khmelnytskyi joined the EUROCITIES network of cities. All three cities participated at the working level in the association's annual conference in Cluj-Naca, Romania.
- in June 2024, Mayor Vasyl Nowatschok and Head of the Youth and Sport Department Vasyl Holowatjuk visited Stuttgart and held expert talks with their Stuttgart colleagues on the topics of sport, youth, green space design, tree care and urban development. This has sparked numerous ideas for professional exchanges and workshops involving two or all three cities.
- in July 2024, the Stuttgart and Khmelnytskyi fire departments met for a week of training at the Training Centre for Rescue and Assistance (TCRH) in Mosbach. The Stuttgart Fire Department donated search and rescue equipment and fire protection clothing, while the Süßen Volunteer Fire Department donated a set of lifting bags to Khmelnytskyi.
- in 2024, Stuttgart and Dresden also took part in the GIZ project "Civil Protection and Reconstruction in Ukraine," through which they were able to provide Khmelnytskyi with equipment for nursery schools as well as a minibus equipped with a wheelchair ramp.

Division / Office / Public Undertaking

Department for International Relations in the Administrative Coordination, Communication and International Relations Division

Further reading / links

GRDrs 113/2023

Further practical examples at: www.stuttgart.de/lebenswertes-stuttgart

Overall process and perspectives

The sections that follow describe the methodological approach for drawing up the SDG Voluntary Local Review (VLR), present new elements of the current VLR and offer a perspective on future developments. The mid-term review of the implementation of the sustainability goals in Stuttgart is also addressed.

Methodological approach and further development of the VLR

Genesis and new instruments

In 2019, Stuttgart – as a pilot city nationwide – partnered with the Bertelsmann Foundation and the German Institute for Urban Affairs to conduct a VLR based on SDG Indicators for Municipalities. The Municipal Council has passed a resolution that this will be updated every two years. State Capital Stuttgart is set to present its fourth VLR in 2025. This marks a further development of the reporting system. The catalogue of indicators has been expanded, and those indicators developed by State Capital Stuttgart itself have been fine-tuned. The third VLR incorporates a number of new indicator proposals from the third edition of the Wegweiser für Kommunen [Community Guide] and from the joint statistics portal of the Federal and State Statistics Offices.[227] The fourth VLR includes a higher number of new indicators, developed internally in State Capital Stuttgart and tailored specifically to the local context. A new index to measure the commitment of the district advisory councils has also been developed.

With the inclusion of this index and other activities, such as a project to link existing urban development instruments with the SDGs,[228] which is being promoted jointly by State Capital Stuttgart (Urban Renewal Department, Statistics Office, Department for International Relations), the Stuttgart District Advisory Council Münster and the Urban Development Institute of the University of Stuttgart, State Capital Stuttgart is among the first municipalities in Germany to raise awareness of the issue of sustainability monitoring at district level and to actively promote it.[229] In addition, data at city district level was presented for the first time for certain indicators in the fourth VLR. This provides the district advisory councils with additional, more detailed information for analysing local needs and potentials.

At city level, the indicators and practical examples presented in the report provide a cross-sectoral view of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Stuttgart and State Capital's progress in terms of the 17 sustainability goals over recent years. The cross-sectoral VLR supplements the detailed individual reports from the specialist units (e.g. social monitoring, education monitoring, climate protection monitoring).

Recommendations taken from earlier VLRs and current requirements create the basis for advancing both the VLR and the dashboard. The selection and analysis of indicators is a complex process that calls for expert knowledge and an interdisciplinary approach. All specialist units of the Stuttgart city administration played an active and committed role in compiling this fourth VLR "Stuttgart – A Livable City – The Global 2030 Agenda at Local Level". Alongside the VLR, the SDG dashboard provides a compact overview of target achievement based on key figures, while the SDG barometer also makes it possible to assess development trends.

SDG dashboard

The city's own SDG dashboard offers an interactive and easy-to-use tool to transparently track sustainable developments in Stuttgart and support data-based decisions. It supports a systematic analysis of topics and indicators, facilitates the tracking of progress and offers electronic data download capabilities. The Statistics Office developed the dashboard in 2024 and launched it online as a public resource. It complements the printed version of the VLR "Stuttgart – A Livable City". However, the interactive presentation of all indicators unlocks new possibilities for visualising and using data. One example is the display of percentage changes in indicator values relative to the previous year. As in the fourth edition of the VLR, the dashboard will also provide more small-scale data at the city district level in the future (https://sdg.dashboardstr.de/).

SDG barometer

For the mid-term review of the 2030 Agenda, Stuttgart developed an SDG barometer to systematically measure the current status of sustainable development at local level. This innovative monitoring tool, based on the methodology of Eurostat and Statistics Austria, assesses the average annual growth rate of the SDG indicators (further information can be found at https://lmy.de/tApyo).

The SDG barometer also offers other municipalities a transferable assessment framework for analysing their own sustainability indicators. The methodology highlights key trends in the indicators over time and provides a clear overview of priority areas for achieving the goals.

Creation process

The first step in compiling this VLR and earlier ones involved analysing which sustainability dimensions, SDGs and related targets were still inadequately represented by indicators. The results prior to the fourth VLR showed that most indicators (around 66 percent) could be assigned to the social dimension, around 22 percent to the economic dimension and the fewest indicators (around 13 percent) to the environmental dimension.[230] This is partly because the SDGs themselves assign nearly twice as many goals to the social dimension compared to the other two dimensions. Nonetheless, the ecological and economic dimensions have remained underrepresented so far. Even after incorporating new indicators into the 2025 VLR, this underrepresentation was not fully corrected in the fourth VLR. Currently, approximately 68 percent of the indicators can be assigned to the social dimension, around 10 percent to the ecological dimension, and just under 22 percent to the economic dimension.

The assignment of the SDGs to the three sustainability dimensions according to Rockström and Sukhdev (2016) is made from the perspective of the protected resource – i.e. which needs to be preserved. It is important to bear in mind that human activities can adversely impact the ecological dimension. Intuitively, certain indicators such as "ecological agriculture" or "nitrogen surplus" would be assigned to the ecological dimension, as they measure the target of "sustainable food production and resilient agricultural methods". However, this target focuses primarily on the social dimension rather than the environmental one. This means the main priority is to guarantee sustainable agriculture that provides food for people while minimising harm to the environment. Ultimately, this target is about meeting human needs without overburdening nature. The perspective of the protected resource is therefore crucial for assigning sustainability goals and indicators to the three sustainability dimensions.

Of the 125 targets identified as relevant for German municipalities in the "Community Guide", only 48 were covered in the 2021 VLR or were able to be directly measured using the selected indicators. This was partly because the federal project had only provided partial indicator proposals for the remaining 77 targets not covered at that time, and data was not always available for them. The aim of the 2023 and 2025 VLRs was therefore to close these gaps to the greatest possible extent. Of the 125 targets, 60 are now covered. The increasing number of covered targets demonstrates that State Capital Stuttgart is making an ongoing methodological contribution to the nationwide project by developing new indicator proposals for previously uncovered targets.[231]

To further develop the fourth VLR, cross-sectoral workshops and surveys were held in early 2024 under the leadership of the Department for International Relations and the Statistics Office. The existing indicators and additional indicator proposals from the departments were discussed, partially adapted, supplemented and finally selected. This allowed additional areas of municipal action to be linked to the SDGs in the fourth Stuttgart VLR and supported with indicators. The focus was on indicators that close the gaps identified and, in doing so, cover new targets for instance.

In another step, the specialist units concerned provided the necessary quantitative data, proposed texts and supplementary information for updating existing indicators and implementing new ones. Qualitative data from the specialist units in the form of descriptive texts on selected current practical examples were also compiled.

In a third step, the indicators, which had been reprocessed by the Statistics Office and supplemented with additional basic information, were reviewed by the specialist units and possible reasons for the changes documented over the period under review were identified. Reference was made to areas where the data available for certain developments also allowed a correlation with the COVID-19 pandemic or Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

This approach not only brought together detailed expertise from all specialist units with an understanding of cross-sectoral interrelationships, it also enabled the use of additional data sources within the municipal administration.

Data basis, contribution and limitations

The indicator catalogue provided by the nationwide project "SDG Indicators for Municipalities" also served as the foundation for the fourth VLR of State Capital Stuttgart (https://sdg-portal.de).

Targets
A target is deemed covered if it can be measured directly by an indicator. Although not through direct measurement, certain indicators may apply to or be relevant for several targets. These links to various targets are highlighted at several points in the report to emphasise a holistic approach to the Sustainable Development Goals: both in the explanations "Correlation with other SDGs" in the respective concluding chapter for each SDG and in a table in Annex II of the report.

The assignment of indicators to targets is partly based on the federal project "Community Guide", and partly broken down further for State Capital Stuttgart in a comprehensive discussion, with internal coordination of locally developed indicators. For a few indicators, the link between the indicator and the target was unclear. In these cases, the explanation for understanding the targets was also described in the section entitled "Classification/Definition".

Indicators

A total of 27 new indicators were included in the VLR for 2023 – 17 of these were developed internally and 10 were taken from the "SDG Indicators for Municipalities".[232] Sixteen additional indicators developed in State Capital Stuttgart were included in the 2025 VLR (see Figure 144). Besides these new indicators, 13 indicators were revamped due to new data sources or other factors (see Annex II). During the in-depth examination of the indicators in the preparation of the report, it also became clear that minor further developments, adjustments or additions to existing SDG indicators were necessary in some cases in order to better measure the actual target. In such cases, the time series presented in the 2025 report may differ from those in the 2023 report. In addition, minor deviations may occur if data sources differ from those used in the previous report, for example by prioritising municipal data and data from direct official sources (in particular Federal and State Statistics Offices and the Federal Employment Agency). Due to a lack of available data, one indicator was also removed from the VLR.

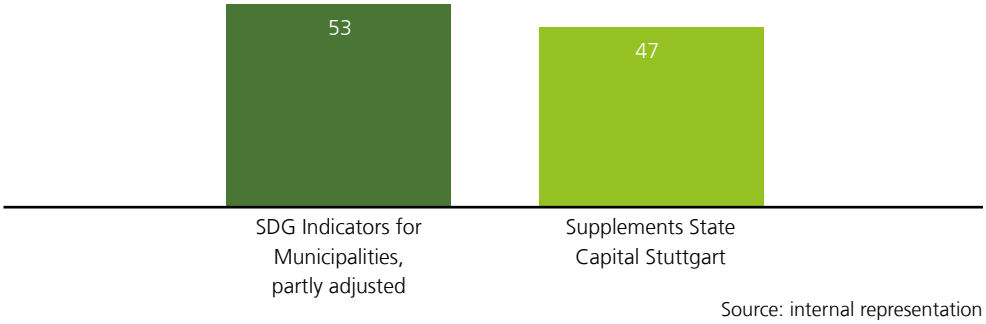


Figure 143:
Sources of the indicators (in percent)

Source: internal representation

The criteria for selecting the SDG indicators for State Capital Stuttgart, which were determined in the cross-sectoral workshops, were:

- the valid recording of the SDGs and targets,
- the relevance for State Capital Stuttgart and
- the availability of the latest data for the period under review (usually 2010 to 2023 or 2024).

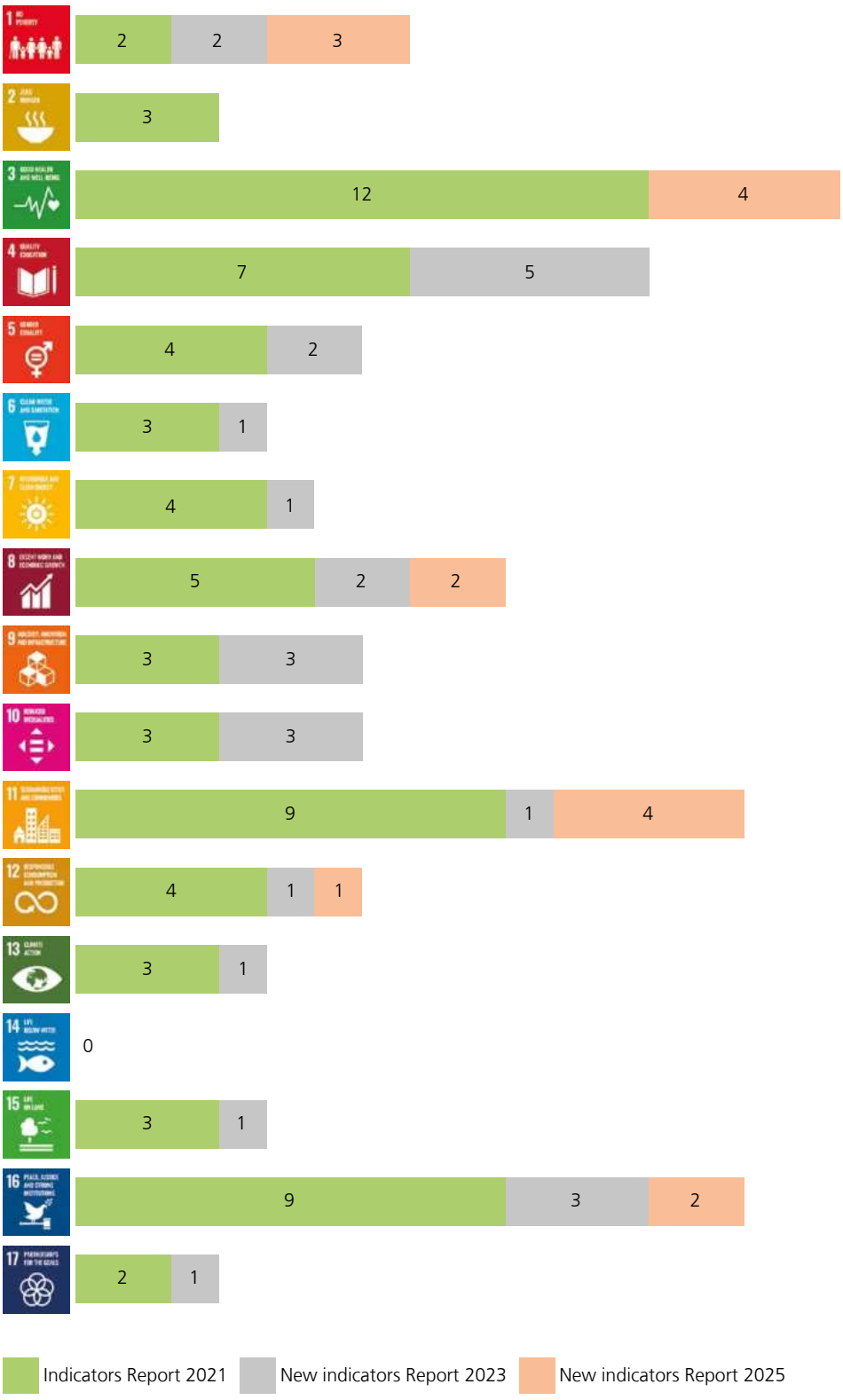
For practical purposes, the total number of indicators must be kept at a manageable level. This being the case, preference was given to indicators covering several SDGs or targets. As the indicators were further developed, their number grew from 77 in the 2019 pilot report to 103 in the third VLR and 118 in the fourth. Of these, 53 percent came from the federal project "SDG Indicators for Municipalities" and 47 percent were developed by State Capital Stuttgart itself (see Figure 143). Some of the supplementary indicators for State Capital Stuttgart come from other sources, such as the joint statistics portal of the federal and state governments,[233] or are based on suggestions from individual departments of State Capital Stuttgart and the Baden-Württemberg State Statistics Office.

Similar to the VLRs for 2021 and 2023, a uniform starting point for the time frame was selected. The data series begin in 2010, i.e. in the wake of the global financial and economic crisis of 2008/2009, and generally cover a period of 13 to 14 years depending on data availability. Adjustments to the start of the time series were made if data were only available from later years or if displaying the full series in complex charts (with multiple columns for example) proved impractical.

For reasons of methodology, with just a few exceptions, all the data used and processed by the Statistics Office of State Capital Stuttgart, were sourced from State Capital or the Federal and State Statistics Offices. Where the population is used as a reference value, this is generally based on the municipal population figures published by the Statistics Office in Stuttgart on the basis of the population register. This figure differs from the official population count, which is determined and annually updated by the State Statistics Office based on the 1987 census and the 2011 and 2022 national censuses. Due to this difference, there may be slight discrepancies with the figures in other nationwide publications on occasion.

Although the indicators were further developed and supplemented in the third and fourth VLRs, their distribution across the SDGs (see Figure 144) still shows imbalances. For the SDGs in question, this is primarily due to a lack of suitable indicators with reliable data availability. Most indicators can be found in SDG 3 ("Public Health and Well-Being"), SDG 4 ("Quality Education"), SDG 11 ("Sustainable Cities and Communities") and SDG 16 ("Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions"). Gaps were closed primarily in SDG 1 ("No Poverty"), SDG 5 ("Gender Equality"), SDG 9 ("Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure") and SDG 10 ("Reduced Inequalities"). Indicators relating to the environmental dimension, such as SDG 13 ("Climate action"), SDG 15 ("Life on Land") and SDG 14 ("Life Below Water"), as well as SDG 2 ("Zero Hunger"), SDG 6 ("Clean Water and Sanitation") and SDG 17 ("Partnerships for the Goals") remain under-represented. However, it should be noted that this only applies to the direct measurement of an indicator's contribution to an SDG. These issues are indirectly covered by links to other SDGs and also by other indicators. There are also gaps in themes such as culture and LGBTIQ which, although not represented by separate SDGs, are equally important for sustainable development.

Figure 144:
Overview of the indicators in the 2021, 2023 and 2025 VLRs according to SDG (in number of indicators)



Source: Internal representation

Limitations

Many sustainability goals are interrelated and mutually influential, though some can be at odds with one another. Not all developments – if there are any significant changes at all – can be described and explained using the indicators. This applies not only to content, but also to location. Significant sustainability-related developments and framework conditions at other levels (EU, federal, state) also impact changes in Stuttgart, and vice versa. Systematically pinpointing the specific municipal role in shaping certain developments was beyond the scope of this report. This would necessitate a thorough analysis of the various impacts at municipal level across the various sustainability dimensions. The focus is on gaining an insight into the situation in the State Capital rather than comparing it with other municipalities.

Such an inter-municipal comparison is made possible by the SDG portal of the federal project www.sdg-portal.de, which is currently being developed into a "Platform for sustainable municipalities". The State Capital is participating as a pilot municipality.[234]

However, it should be noted that the results of the indicators from the federal project are not directly comparable with the indicators from the VLR of State Capital Stuttgart, even though many indicators originate from the federal project. This is mainly because data are sourced from different places. While the VLR mainly uses data owned by the city (especially municipal population figures), the SDG portal is generally based on other public data sources, such as the statistics offices of the states or the federal government (official population figures).

As in previous SDG reports, the quantitative indicator values are supplemented by selected goals, strategies and measures for effectively shaping sustainability at the local level, described as practical examples based on qualitative data. New practical examples were selected for the fourth VLR, although the examples from previous VLRs remain relevant. All practical examples can also be found on the homepage and will be updated on a regular basis: www.stuttgart.de/lebenswertes-stuttgart

Further development

The VLR will undergo further methodological development for future indicator updates. This will enable the indicators to focus more closely on SDGs and targets that have been underrepresented to date, as well as on gaps in themes. In addition, the plan is to increasingly implement indicators at a more localised level, depending on data availability. Data on this will also be available on the city's own SDG dashboard in the future.

The VLR is based on the structure of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs that apply for reporting to the UN. In the future, the VLR will also be made more compatible with other forms of sustainability reporting. The report content can be made comprehensibly transferable, particularly with regard to the basic logic and fields of action of the Sustainable Municipality Reporting Framework (BNK)[235].

Going forward, State Capital Stuttgart is working on closer integration of SDG indicators and budget figures in order to use them for sustainable financial monitoring.

This fourth report further consolidates the data and calculation basis for the future regular updating of the VLR. The new indicators selected for the various VLRs of State Capital Stuttgart are listed in Annex II. Additional indicator proposals from the State Capital are listed in Annex III as a further methodological contribution for future VLRs and for other municipalities.

All practical examples, the 2019 pilot report and the subsequent VLRs for 2021 and 2023, also in English, can be found on the website of State Capital Stuttgart at: www.stuttgart.de/lebenswertes-stuttgart

Mid-term review of the International Sustainability Goals in Stuttgart

The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is used in a multi-level system (UN, EU, federal government, state, local government) as a holistic and cross-sectoral orientation framework to support the necessary transformation processes. The SDGs also provide municipalities with a tool to prioritise and guide their objectives and resource allocation in line with sustainable development.

Since 2017, the State Capital has created important tools and structures to expand the scope and depth of the anchoring of the international sustainability goals (see a detailed description of the process and learning experiences in "Stuttgart – A Livable City 2023", https://www.stuttgart.de/lebenswertes-stuttgart).[236] The network of stakeholders has steadily expanded, and a multitude of strategies, concepts and practical measures based on the UN 2030 Agenda make the added value of this framework tangible for the specialist units and the city as a whole. The regularly published VLR "Stuttgart – A Livable City" (since 2019), the SDG dashboard (since 2024, https://sdg.dashboardstr.de/) and closer integration with budget planning play a pivotal role here.

The working group for "Anchoring International Sustainability Goals in State Capital Stuttgart" forms a platform and interface within the administration for communication and information between the divisions and directly subordinate specialist units. The working group members appointed by the divisions as representatives act as multipliers to bring practical measures, ideas and needs from the departments to the working group. Conversely, they support the implementation of the working group's recommendations within the divisions (e.g. reporting on the basis of the international sustainability goals on the specialist committees).

The process of anchoring the international sustainability goals raises the question of how the prerequisites that have been met can be used even more effectively to achieve additional reach and impact for the implementation of the sustainability goals.

This is the background against which the working group supported the 2024 event "Stuttgart Together for the International Sustainability Goals – Network Meeting at the Halfway Point of UN 2030 Agenda Implementation" in the State Capital. The purpose of the cross-sectoral event at City Hall was to review progress and reinforce community spirit around implementing the sustainability goals in Stuttgart. The focus was on discussing where the State Capital stands, what is needed to strengthen the anchoring process, what Stuttgart can learn from international and urban examples, and how the stakeholders can support one another. Building on this, further solutions were to be developed jointly.

Drawing on a city-wide online questionnaire, the outcomes of dialogue groups at the network meeting and guidance from the coordinator for international sustainability and development, momentum was generated for advancing the anchoring of the international sustainability goals in Stuttgart. This includes internal and external communication and participation, knowledge management, platforms for knowledge sharing, further training, digitalisation and alignment with national and EU taxonomies.[237]

The participants advocate a more radical change of perspective and exploring new, creative avenues such as:

- having the regular and strategic use of existing instruments become a normal part of the routine tasks,
- creating additional platforms for sharing information, networking, meeting up and support,
- supporting cross-functional thoughts and actions,
- creating environments to collectively develop and implement ideas,
- actively fostering partnerships, broadening the implementation together with the various stakeholder in the city's community and
- strengthening mutual international learning, representation of interests and cooperation between municipalities.

Building on this, the specialist units and the "International Sustainability Goals" working group have nurtured numerous specific links tailored to the needs of the specialist units. Including:

- extending the integration of international sustainability goals into budget planning to other departments (child-friendly Stuttgart, economic development),
- stronger links between international sustainability goals and Municipal Council proposals, and regular reporting based on SDG indicators,
- participation as a pilot municipality in the nationwide project "Digital Platform for Sustainable Municipalities",
- events organised by the cross-city 2030 Agenda Alliance with representatives of the new Municipal Council,
- cooperation with the Stuttgart Network for Education for Sustainable Development,
- the Urban Diplomacy Exchange with twin cities (Cardiff and St Helens) on social cohesion,
- exchange on reporting and anchoring the international sustainability goals with representatives of the EU Commission, the EUROCITIES network and major European cities such as Strasbourg, Ghent and Helsinki as part of the Sustainability Governance Peer Learning Hub in Tallinn,
- Stuttgart's contribution to the UN-Habitat World Urban Forum 2024 in Cairo in the German Pavilion – "Stuttgart Drives SDG 17: Building a Sustainable Future through Partnerships for Our Cities", using the example of combating poverty and urban renewal through SDG monitoring,
- impetus for creating a Voluntary Local Government Review for the UN, in addition to the German government's Voluntary National Review 2025.[238]

Overall, the German Association of Cities is advocating for a stronger focus on sustainability management at the municipal level. The federal and state governments are being urged to lend cities the support they need to achieve this aim. This involved making the commitment of the cities visible and ensuring the measurement and comprehensive reporting of reliable development based on international sustainability indicators. The Sustainable Municipalities Reporting Framework, compatible with multiple reporting formats – including UN reporting – is a valuable tool for this purpose. This is why, at its meeting on 13 and 14 March 2024, the Presidium of the German Association of Cities decided to strengthen municipal sustainability management. The idea was for every city to develop its own strategy to reflect sustainable development.

In light of this, the Presidium also advocates establishing a digital platform for sustainable municipalities with the German Association of Cities and important sustainability stakeholders, serving as a central hub for knowledge, training, collaboration, and visibility.

The State Capital's current participation as a pilot municipality in this nationwide "Digital Platform for Sustainable Municipalities" offers the opportunity to create additional synergies with the impetus provided by the mid-term review of State Capital Stuttgart.

State Capital Stuttgart maintains transparency and precision in its local actions with the regularly published VLR "Stuttgart – A Livable City", the interactive SDG dashboard developed by the Statistics Office, and the SDG barometer that systematically tracks sustainable development.[239]

These monitoring tools not only showcase progress and challenges but also act as a model for other municipalities aiming to effectively advance the 2030 Agenda. Since 2018, Stuttgart has been involved as a pilot municipality in various nationwide projects to anchor the international sustainability goals, which are supported by the German Association of Cities, the Bertelsmann Foundation, the German Institute for Urban Affairs (Difu), the Municipal Community Centre for Administrative Management (KGSt) and other supporting organisations. It regularly submits the present "Stuttgart – a Livable City" as a Voluntary Local Review to the High Level Political Forum of the UN. State Capital Stuttgart is therefore playing a nationwide role and, through international learning dialogues and networks with other municipalities, helping to advance the process of anchoring 2030 Agenda at all levels.

The combination of budget planning, indicators and practical measures, based on the international sustainability goals, offers Stuttgart new opportunities for impact-oriented sustainability management. The global 2030 Agenda, with its transparent, interconnected goals, provides Stuttgart with an orientation framework for further developing its own objectives in collaboration with politics, administration and urban society. This not only establishes additional foundations and outlooks for a focused, strategically reach for sustainable transformation within and through Stuttgart, it also integrates Stuttgart into a global initiative extending beyond 2030.

Awards
(Selection)

Since 2013 Fairtrade-Town
Since 2018 Local authorities signing the model resolution "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"
2019 EU Fair and Ethical Trade Award, special award in recognition of "Monitoring for Impact"
2021, German Sustainability Award 2022 in the "Big Cities" category
2021 Plaque of Honour of the Council of Europe
2023 "National Award for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)" by UNESCO
2024 Top Ten German Big Cities in the Smart City Index

Municipal Council documents ("GRDrs") with reference to international sustainability

[A selection, see further GRDrs of the specialist units and budget resolutions in the present VLR at the respective indicators and practical examples, as well as via the website of State Capital Stuttgart.]

GRDrs 821/2015
Internationalisation strategy
(including Europe)

GRDrs 987/2017
South/South-East Europe

GRDrs 1058/2018; GRDrs 690/2019; GRDrs 396/2019; GRD 522/2021
Strengthening Europe; EU funding strategy; increasing the participation of State Capital Stuttgart in EU projects on urban development and sustainability

GRDrs 206/2018; GRDrs 202/2018
Signing of the model resolution of the German Association of Cities on the implementation of 2030 Agenda at local level

GRDrs 755/2019; GRDrs 531/2021; GRDrs 146/2019;
Town twinning, Urban Diplomacy

GRDrs 1074/2019; GRDrs 899/2021 GRDrs 608/2023
"Stuttgart – A Livable City. VLR based on indicators to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" – holistic, cross-sectoral indicator system; monitoring tool to measure and orientate administrative action towards the guiding principle of sustainable development; dovetailing with budget planning (see process of developing an integrated financial control system by the Division of Economic Affairs, Finances and Public Undertakings); resolution in the two-year budget 2019/20 for regular updating the VLR

GRDrs 1246/2019
Resolution in the two-year budget 2020/21 to permanently establish a coordination position for International Sustainability and Development

GRDrs 394/2019
Council of Europe Flag of Honour – recognition of State Capital Stuttgart's work on town twinning, European, international and global affairs (2nd level of the Council of Europe's European Prize)

GRDrs 1034/2020; GRDrs 304/2021; GRDrs 804/2021
Integrated financial control system, geared towards the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda; analysis of resource allocation according to SDGs and assignment to product areas

GRDrs 554/2021
Resolution in the two-year budget 2021/22 on the permanent allocation of funds for international sustainability and development and on the regular updating of the "Stuttgart – A Livable City" VLR based on indicators for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

GRDrs 329/2021
Council of Europe Medal of Honour: recognition of State Capital Stuttgart's work on town twinning, European, international and global affairs (3rd level of the Council of Europe's European Prize)

2022: Project assignment
Management of the anchoring of the UN 2030 Agenda in State Capital Stuttgart (25.03.2022) with project steering group of representatives of all divisions at management level. Goal: To permanently anchor the UN 2030 Agenda in accordance with Municipal Council resolutions as a cross-sectoral orientation framework for sustainable urban development through mandatory structures and measures within the city administration.

GRDrs 218/2023
Action plan for child-friendly community

GRDrs 236/2023
Smart City Stuttgart concept

GRDrs 325/2023
Resolution on further strategy: integrated financial control system and comprehensive integration of international sustainability goals.

GRDrs 434/2023
Framework concept – naturally sustainable Stuttgart

2023: Recommendation "Reporting on international sustainability goals in State Capital Stuttgart" for regular and effective use of the results of the "Stuttgart – A Livable City" VLR through appropriate reporting and referencing by the specialist units in the Municipal Council and on the committees.

2024: Ongoing task for the cross-sectoral working group (WG) "Anchoring the International Sustainability Goals in State Capital Stuttgart" based on the previous project mandate (of 25.03.2022; ongoing task since 21.02.2024).

Bibliography related to the anchoring and implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda in Stuttgart (a selection)

2025

Peters, O. & Liedloff, V.
Voluntary Local Government Review 2025, Kommunaler Beitrag zum 3. Freiwilligen Staatenbericht der Bundesregierung zur Umsetzung der Agenda 2030 für nachhaltige Entwicklung, Deutsches Institut für Urbanistik (Difu, German Institute for Urban Affairs) (Publisher), Berlin, accessed on 20.02.2025 at https://repository.difu.de/handle/difu/317

2024

Kommunale Gemeinschaftsstelle für Verwaltungsmanagement (KGSt).
Kommunales Nachhaltigkeitsmanagement wirksam gestalten,
KGSt-Bericht 02/2024,
accessed on 20.02.2025 at https://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/de/unsere-projekte/kommunales-nachhaltigkeitsmanagement/projektnachrichten/kgst-bericht-kommunales-nachhaltigkeitsmanagement#detail-content-2c3e-245969

Riedel, H.
Nachhaltigkeitsmonitoring auf Bezirksebene.
Bertelsmann-Stiftung (Publisher) Analysen 1/2024, accessed on 20.02.2025 at https://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/de/unsere-projekte/kommunales-nachhaltigkeitsmanagement/projektnachrichten/nachhaltigkeitsmonitoring-auf-bezirksebene

2023

Landeshauptstadt Stuttgart.
Stuttgart – a Livable City – The global 2030 Agenda at local level, (3rd VLR), accessed on 20.02.2025 at https://www.stuttgart.de/leben/internationale-beziehungen/global-und-nachhaltig/bericht-lebenswertes-stuttgart.php

SI | Städtebau-Institut Universität Stuttgart – Department of International Urbanism.
PARTICIPATORY SDG-MONITORING – Documentation of a transdisciplinary seminar to localize SDG-monitoring at neighborhood level,
accessed on 20.02.2025 at https://international-urbanism.de/media-library/

Servicestelle Kommunen in der Einen Welt (SKEW).
Nachhaltigkeit messen: Zum Stand des Nachhaltigkeitsmonitorings in Kommunen,
Dialog Global No. 66, accessed on 20.02.2025 at https://skew.engagement-global.de/dialog-global/dialog-global-nr-66.html

2022

Andréasson Derner, T. & Altrov Berg, G.
Voluntary local review: A bridge between global goals and a local reality,
Global Utmaning, Swedish Institute, 05.2022

Ley, A., Bunk, B., Busch, S., Dobbins, A., Eltrop, L., Fahl, U., Vetter-Gindele, J., Hansen, G., Luehl, Ph., Van der Merwe, G. & Thonke, F.
GoGlocal! in Windhoek and Stuttgart! The Neighbourhood Scale for Collective Action: Building transformative knowledge on SDG implementation and monitoring, in: International Urbanism

2021

United Nations (o. D.).
Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR) | Department of Economic and Social Affairs, accessed on 20.02.2025 at https://sdgs.un.org/topics/voluntary-local-reviews. VLR of State Capital Stuttgart, accessed on 20.02.2025 at https://unhabitat.org/node/160415

Bundesinstitut für Bau-, Stadt- und Raumforschung.
Nationaler Fortschrittsbericht zur Umsetzung der New Urban Agenda, accessed on 20.02.2025 at https://www.bbsr.bund.de/BBSR/DE/veroeffentlichungen/bbsr-online/2021/bbsr-online-02-2021.html

Die Bundesregierung.
Bericht über die Umsetzung der Agenda 2030 für nachhaltige Entwicklung: Freiwilliger Staatenbericht Deutschlands zum HLPF 2021, accessed on 20.02.2025 at https://www.publikationen-bundesregierung.de/pp-de/publikationssuche/bericht-ueber-die-umsetzung-der-agenda-2030-fuer-nachhaltige-entwicklung-1942880

Siragusa, A. & Proietti, P.
European SDG Voluntary Local Reviews: A Comparative Analysis of Local Indicators and Data

Landesanstalt für Umwelt Baden-Württemberg.
Nachhaltig handeln: Arbeitskleidung – Den fairen Faden aufnehmen, accessed on 20.02.2025 at https://pudi.lubw.de/detailseite/-/publication/10378

Städtetag Baden-Württemberg & Stiftung Entwicklungs-Zusammenarbeit Baden-Württemberg (SEZ).
Handbuch zu Kommunaler Entwicklungspolitik, accessed on 20.02.2025 at https://sez.de/mediathek/publikationen-der-sez/

Landeshauptstadt Stuttgart.
Stuttgart – a Livable City – The global 2030 Agenda at local level, (2nd VLR), accessed on 20.02.2025 at https://www.stuttgart.de/leben/internationale-beziehungen/global-und-nachhaltig/bericht-lebenswertes-stuttgart.php

2020

EUROCITIES.
Paving the way for sustainable cities: EUROCITIES report on the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals at local level, accessed on 20.02.2025 at https://eurocities.eu/resources/paving-the-way-for-sustainable-cities/

Landeshauptstadt Stuttgart.
Fairtrade in Stuttgart, accessed on 20.02.2025 at https://www.stuttgart.de/wirtschaft/fairtrade/

Walhalla Fachredaktion (Publisher).
Globale Agenda 2030 auf lokaler Ebene, In: Umweltbriefe Journal, Interview, p.11, November 2020 edition

2019

Landeshauptstadt Stuttgart.
Stuttgart – a Livable City – The global 2030 Agenda at local level, (1st VLR), accessed on 20.02.2025 at https://www.stuttgart.de/leben/internationale-beziehungen/global-und-nachhaltig/bericht-lebenswertes-stuttgart.php

2017

Evermann, A., Kleinert, U. & Neumann, A.
Global verantwortliche Beschaffung für Pioniere. Handreichung, in: Werkstatt Ökonomie, 01/2017