France's progress toward achieving the 2030 Agenda Goals

Methodology

THE CHOICE OF INDICATORS

In order to monitor global progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UN Statistical Commission adopted a set of 232 indicators in 2017. These indicators, as defined at the time, are intended to serve as a basis for monitoring global progress towards the SDGs. They are therefore not necessarily applicable to all national contexts, due to each country's specificities.

States were therefore invited to each establish their own set of indicators for monitoring the SDGs at the national level, based on their respective priorities, realities, calculation capacities and situation. To this end, France created a multi-stakeholder working group (associations, research institutes, government institutions, businesses, local and regional authorities, public bodies, ministries and ministerial statistics departments) within the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS).

Following an analysis of the 232 UN indicators, 66 were selected for inclusion in the French set of indicators and these were supplemented by 32 additional indicators.

THE CHOICE OF METHOD

This Voluntary National Review presents an assessment of trends over the last five years in the 98 national indicators selected 230 to track France's progress towards achieving the 17 SDGs.[231]

The method applied here is inspired by the one used by Eurostat for assessing the European Union's progress towards achieving the SDGs.[232] With this method it is possible to determine **whether an indicator is moving towards or away from the target, and at what rate.**

However, there is no assessment of how long a given trend can be sustained. Where French or European public policies have set quantitative targets for a given date, the trends observed for each indicator are compared with the theoretical trends required to achieve them within the timeframe.

THE CALCULATION METHOD USED

Some of the 98 SDG monitoring indicators (iSDGs), **are disaggregated by several variables**.[233] For some of these indicators, only one variable may have been chosen. But for other indicators, several variables were included in the analysis (for example: life expectancy with good health for men and life expectancy with good health for women). In total, **112 indicators**[234] **were used.**

[230] INSEE, *Indicators for national monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2021. (Link to website in French)
[231] CNIS, *Report: A breakdown of France's indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals,* 2018. (Link to report in French)
[232] Eurostat, Sustainable Development in the European Union; Overview of progress towards the SDGs in an EU context, 2020.
[233] For example: the monetary poverty rate is monitored at thresholds of 50% and 60%; the prevalence of obesity among adults is monitored for men and women.
[234] In 2021, the dashboard included 472 variables.

The data used are those from the dashboard of indicators for monitoring the SDGs[235] produced by INSEE and the SDES. Changes are observed over a period of five years from the last available value. Depending on data availability, the **length of the observation period may vary**. **The trend is assessed only if the available data cover at least three consecutive years and if it is possible to measure progress.**

- The trend was assessed for 100 of the 112 indicators selected.
- The 12 indicators for which the trend was not evaluated are indicated in the data-visualization sheets by the ○ symbol:
- The evaluation method uses the calculation of average annual growth rates (AGR) based on the values recorded at the beginning and end of the period in question.

INTERPRETING THE RESULTS

This Voluntary National Review provides an assessment of short-term trends in indicators in relation to France's SDG targets. The method applied here is inspired by the Eurostat system for evaluating the European Union's progress towards achieving the SDGs. This method reveals whether an indicator is moving towards or away from the target and at what speed. What is not assessed, however, is how long the trend can be sustained. Where possible, the trends observed for each indicator are compared with the theoretical trends required to achieve the quantitative target. This target is set either through political processes or by consensus within the scientific community.

The indicator trends are displayed in the form of colour-coded dots. The colours show whether the indicators have moved in a sustainable direction or not and at what speed. For indicators with a quantitative target, the dots indicate whether, on the basis of the progress made, France is on track to meet the target. For indicators without a quantitative target, the dots indicate whether the indicator has moved towards or away from the Sustainable Development Goal and how fast. The evaluation method therefore differs slightly for these two types of indicator, as explained below.

Table 1: Colour key

Colour of the dot	The indicator's contribution to achieving the SDGs
●	Favourable
●	Moderately favourable
●	Moderately unfavourable
●	Unfavourable

[235] INSEE, Indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals, published in January 2022. (Link to website in French)

1. Preliminary stage: determining method applicability

The method is applied to the short-term trend. The data used are taken from the SDG indicators dashboard.[236] Changes over a five-year period since the last available value are observed. The trend is assessed only if the available data covers at least three consecutive years and if the measure of "progress" is possible.

The evaluation covers 100 out of the 112 indicators selected,[237] illustrating the 98 SDG monitoring indicators (iSDGs).

The 12 non-assessable indicators are indicated by a colourless dot: ○

The evaluation method uses the calculation of average annual growth rates (AGR) based on the indicator values observed at the beginning and end of the period in question.

2. Assessment method for indicators without quantitative targets

This applies to 88 of the 100 indicators assessed.

The trend assessment for indicators without quantitative targets is based on the average annual growth rates (AGR), using the following formula:

$$AGR = \left(\frac{y^t}{y^{t0}}\right)^{\frac{1}{t-t0}} - 1 \quad \text{formula (1)}$$

Where:

- t0 is the baseline year.
- t is the most recent year.
- y^{t0} is the value of the indicator for the baseline year.
- y^t is the value of the indicator for the last year.

Table 2 shows the thresholds applied and the resulting symbols.

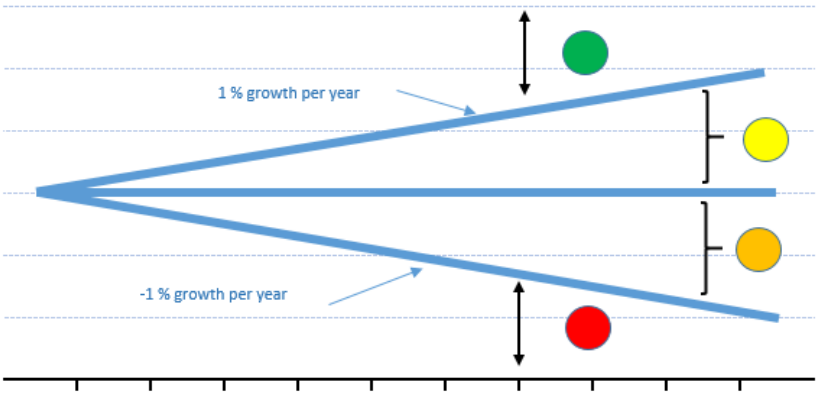
Table 2: Thresholds for assessing trends if the indicator has no quantitative target, where the desired direction is upwards[238]

Growth rate (AGR)	Symbol
≥ 1%	
< 1% and ≥ 0%	
< 0% and ≥ - 1%	
< - 1%	

[236] INSEE, Indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals, published 21 January 2022.
[237] The 98 iSDGs can be broken down into sub-indicators based on different criteria, such as gender, age, income, geography or employment.
[238] Where the desired direction is downwards, the thresholds are multiplied by -1 and the signs (≤,≥,<, >) are reversed.

Figure 1 illustrates the thresholds applied and the resulting symbols.

Figure 1: Graphic representation of trend assessment thresholds for indicators without quantitative targets



3. Assessment method for indicators with quantitative targets

This applies to 12 of the 100 indicators evaluated.

The trend assessment for indicators with quantitative targets is based on the AGR described above and also takes into account the value of the target. For this type of indicator, the actual (observed) growth rate is compared with the (theoretical) growth rate for the target to have been met in the target year. This comparison does not take into account projections of the indicator possible future developments. The calculation of actual and required indicator trends is based on the following three steps.

- Step 1: Calculation of the actual (i.e. observed) annual growth rate

$$AGR_a = \left(\frac{y^t}{y^{t0}}\right)^{\frac{1}{t-t0}} - 1 \quad \text{formula (2a)}$$

Where:

- t0 is the baseline year.
- t is the most recent year.
- y^{t0} is the value of the indicator for the baseline year.
- y^t is the value of the indicator for the last year.

- Step 2: Calculation of the required (i.e. theoretical) annual growth rate

$$AGR_r = \left(\frac{x^{t1}}{y^{t0}}\right)^{\frac{1}{t1-t0}} - 1 \quad \text{formula (2b)}$$

Where:

- t0 is the baseline year.
- t is the target year.
- y^{t0} is the value of the indicator for the baseline year.
- y^t is the indicator value for the target year

- Step 3: Calculate the ratio between the current and required growth rates

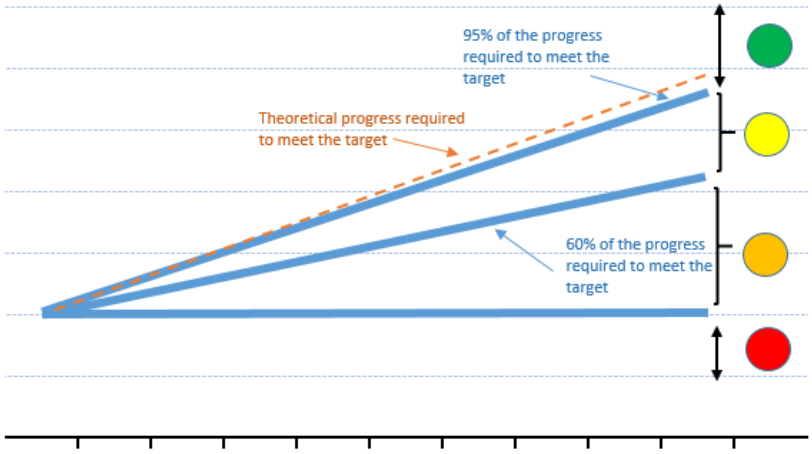
$$R_{a/r} = \left(\frac{AGR_a}{AGR_r}\right) \quad \text{formula (2c)}$$

Table 3: Thresholds for assessing trends if the indicator has quantitative targets

Ratio of actual and required AGR	Symbol
Ratio ≥ 95%	
95% > Ratio ≥ 60%	
60% > Ratio ≥ 0%	
Ratio < 0%	

Figure 2 illustrates the thresholds applied and the resulting symbols.

Figure 2: Graphic representation of trend assessment thresholds for indicators with quantitative targets

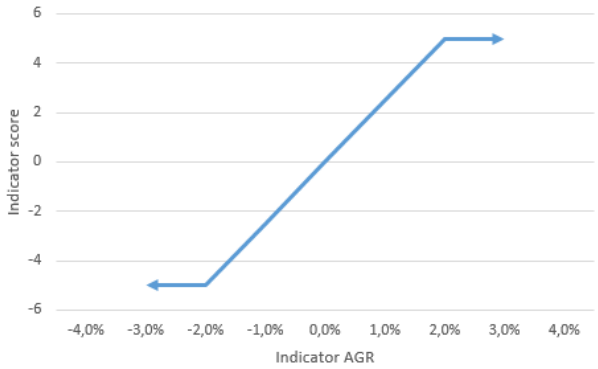


4. Calculation of average scores per SDG

The calculation of average scores for each SDG is based on the calculations described above. For indicators without quantitative targets, the AGR (formula (1)) is used. For indicators with a quantitative target, the ratio of actual growth to required growth (formula (2c)) is used. These values are fed into a scoring function in order to calculate a score ranging from - 5 to 5 for each indicator. This function is different for indicators with and without quantitative targets *(Figures 3 and 4)*. For each SDG, the arithmetic mean score for the indicators whose trend is assessed[239] is converted into a ten-point score ranging from 0 (equivalent to an average score of -5) to 10 (equivalent to an average score of 5).

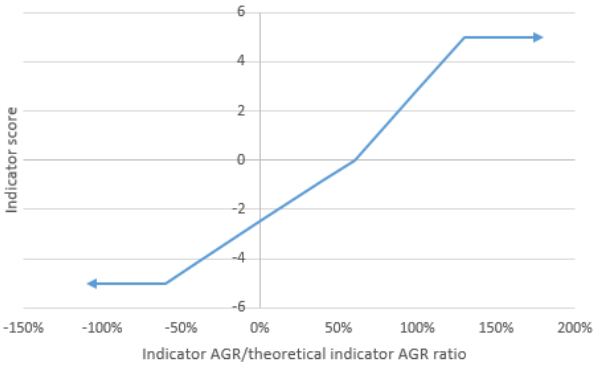
[239] When the trend of several variations of an SDG monitoring indicator are assessed, only the arithmetic mean of their scores is taken into account when calculating the average score for the specific SDG.

Figure 3: Scoring function for indicators without quantitative targets



Note: the orange dotted lines represent the AGR thresholds used to assess the trend.

Figure 4: Scoring function for indicators with quantitative targets



Note: the orange dotted lines represent the thresholds for the actual AGR /required AGR ratio used to assess the trend.