

13 Greenhouse gas emission intensity of production activities

Indicator type **Core indicator**

Published

Versioning

First publication Latest update

Area and sub-area

Area and sub-area

Presentation

Tier

Indicator definition and description

Unit of measure

Coverage

Spatial aggregation

Reference period

Update frequency

Base period

Disaggregation (operational indicators)

Disaggregation (operational indicators)	Comments
Economic sector (ISIC) and households	Here only a disaggregation by economic sectors is possible (households not included in the indicator)
Spatial	
Energy product (SIEC)	
Temporal (by month, by season)	

Other related -indicators (e.g.contextual, proxy, other core indicators)

ID	Subindicator	Type
05a	Total energy intensity of production activities of the national economy	Core indicator
12	Total greenhouse gas emissions from production activities	Core indicator
61	Number of employees (FTE) per industry	Contextual indicator

Relevance

Policy context and rationale

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the UNFCCC. At European level, emissions targets are set in Europe 2030: the EU policy, strategy and legislation for 2030 environmental, energy and climate targets.

Environmental accounts, such as air emission accounts, are used in economic-environmental modeling, for example for studies on eco-efficiency and resource and waste intensities, for environmental indicators, and for trade negotiations related to environmental impacts.

Compatibility with the traditional national economic accounts greatly facilitates the integration of the environmental data into macroeconomic models and analysis.

Note: the SDG indicator does not apply the residential principle, as it is based on GHG inventories. Also the SDG indicator includes CO₂ emissions only, whereas the indicator defined in this metadata sheet covers total GHG emissions.

Indirect links to goals 7, 12 and 13.

Related SDG indicator (SDG I.)

9.4.1 CO₂ emission per unit of value added

Relation w SDG-I.

Similar but not identical

Related Sendai Framework I.

Not applicable

Policy references

Document title	Link
Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly of the United Nations, 2015)	https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld
Paris Agreement (United Nations, 2015)	https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement
European Union Climate Strategies and Targets (European Commission, 2008)	https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies_en

Methodology

Methodology for indicator calculation

This indicator is calculated as total GHG emissions reported for ISIC A-U industries divided by real gross domestic product (adjusted for inflation, by means of constant prices or chain-linked prices). Total GHG emissions are calculated as the sum of individual greenhouse gas emissions: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃), measured in units of CO₂-equivalent, by using a common weighting factor, the so-called Global Warming Potentials (GWP). The enhanced transparency framework for action and support of the Paris Agreement (see Article 13), further set out in the modalities, procedures and guidelines (see part D. Metrics), establishes that each Party shall use the 100-year time-horizon GWP values from the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report. GWP values are listed in Table 8.A.1 in Appendix 8.A of Chapter 8 – “Anthropogenic and natural radiative forcing”

The GWP values for the main direct GHGs are as follows: CO₂ = 1, CH₄ = 28, N₂O = 265, SF₆ = 23500, NF₃ = 16100. GWP values for HFCs and PFCs vary for individual species. These values are to be used for reporting on GHG emissions under the Paris Agreement.

Reporting by Annex I Parties under the UNFCCC is still on the basis of GWP values of the Fourth IPCC AR (see Table 2.14 of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report). These GWP values are: CO₂ = 1, CH₄ = 25, N₂O = 298, SF₆ = 22800, NF₃ = 17200.

Note: most non-Annex I Parties still use the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for reporting and therefore use a different set of GWPs (from the IPCC Second Assessment Report).

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The gases listed in the first paragraph are the so-called direct GHGs. There exist also precursor gases: carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOX), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs), as well as sulphur oxides (SOX). The emissions of precursor gases are not included in total emissions and are therefore not part of this indicator.

Methodology references

Document title	Link
Modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement (UNFCCC, 2018)	https://unfccc.int/documents/184700
IPCC 5th Assessment Report: Chapter 8 - Anthropogenic and natural radiative forcing (IPCC, 2013)	https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/WG1AR5_Chapter08_FINAL.pdf
IPCC Fifth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2014 (Synthesis Report) (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2014)	https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/syr/
IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: The Physical Science Basis (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2007)	https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar4/wg1/
Manual for air emission accounts (Eurostat, 2015)	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/KS-GQ-15-009
Air emissions accounts and intensities, Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS) (Eurostat, 2018)	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/en_v_ac_ainah_r2_esms.htm
2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2007)	https://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/index.html

Classification syst. International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE)

Data sources

Main source	Official statistics: SEEA and/or SNA
Explanation	National SEEA air emission accounts SNA/ESA National accounts; value added at basic prices (chained values)

SEEA Accounts that can serve as data sources

SEEA Account	Comments
Air emission accounts	

UN-FDES 3.1.1: Emissions of greenhouse gases

International databases containing this indicator

Eurostat database	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database
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Comments

Comments This indicator is the ratio of indicator 12 to real gross domestic product. Note that this indicator cannot be compared directly to the related indicators for individual economic activities (emission by economic activity/value added)