

## Census of French monitoring indicators for Sustainable Development Goals

In March 2016, the United Nations Statistical Commission adopted a set of 241 indicators (229 without duplicates) as a starting point for monitoring the objectives and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the 2030 Agenda.

In France, INSEE coordinates statistical work on the SDG monitoring indicators. To this effect, the Statistical Coordination Mission has carried out a census of the Official Statistical System and some other bodies to identify the producers of indicators and provide an initial overview of the current or future availability of the indicators in France in an exact or approximate version. The main results are as follows:

- of the 229 indicators without duplicates, 31 are not in the statistical domain, but are related more to the implementation of public policies;
- data producers were identified for 84% of the 198 statistical indicators. For the remaining indicators, producers could not be identified due to the limited time available for completing the task;
- of the 190 statistical indicators evaluated, 65%, already exist in an exact or approximate version. In the short to medium term (1-3 years) this percentage could reach 87%. At this stage, 13% of the indicators do not seem feasible in the medium term, often because of the complexity of constructing the indicator (vague definition, no methodology).

Care should be taken when considering these results, as work is ongoing at international level, headed by a group of experts, to refine the definition of the indicators.

### Availability of monitoring indicators for SDGs

#### At national level

The availability of SDG monitoring indicators was estimated for 190 statistical indicators (i.e. 96% of the 198 statistical ones).

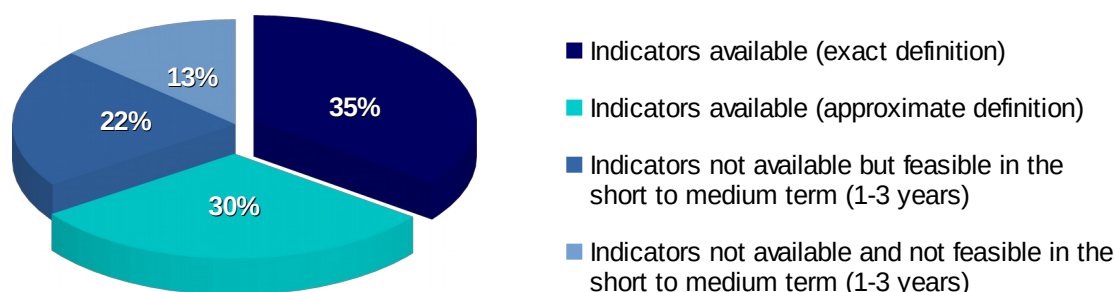
This estimate was based on standard responses which included a dual dimension, covering both the availability and the feasibility of the indicator, and this resulted in a degree of latitude in the responses.<sup>1</sup> As a result, care should be taken when considering the following analysis.

#### **65% of the estimated statistical indicators are already available, in an exact or approximate version.**

Of the 190 statistical indicators for which availability is known, 67 are available as an exact definition (35%) and 57 as an approximate definition (30%). Thus there are currently a total of 124 indicators available in an exact or approximate version (i.e. 65%).

In the short to medium term (1 to 3 years), producing departments should be able to deliver an exact or approximate version of 165 indicators (87%).

**Figure 1 : Distribution of statistical indicators according to availability**



*Scope: 190 SDG statistical monitoring indicators for which availability was estimated by the producing departments.*

*Source: INSEE – Census of monitoring indicators – June 2016*

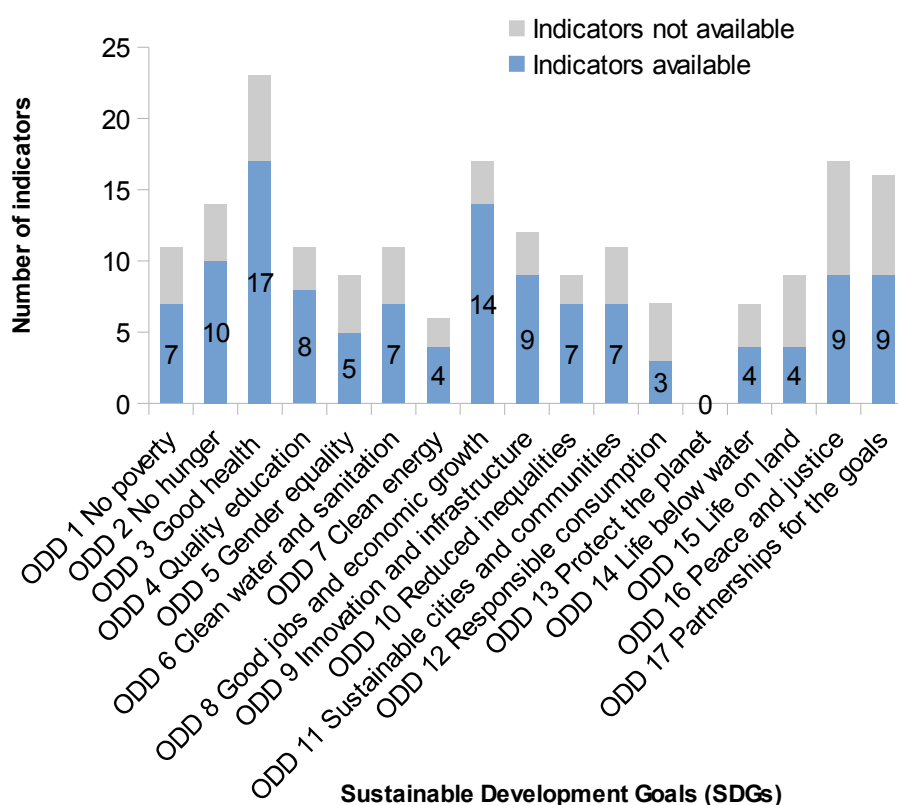
<sup>1</sup> See Annex : the question asked appears in Table 2

For most of the SDGs, more than half of the indicators are available in the form of an exact or approximate definition.<sup>2</sup>

The goals for which there are the most available indicators often relate to well-known topics which are studied by statistical departments, such as labour, economic growth, education, health, industry or inequalities. SDG 8 *Good jobs and economic growth*, for which 14 indicators are available out of 17 (82%), is a good example.

Conversely, the goals for which indicators are relatively less widely available are often those that refer to more innovative topics or topics that are more difficult to study, such as biodiversity, peace and justice. This is the case for SDG 16 *Peace and justice*, for which only 9 out of 17 indicators are available (53%).

**Figure 2 : Availability\* of statistical indicators by SDG**



Scope: 190 SDG statistical monitoring indicators for which availability was estimated by the producing departments.

Source: INSEE – Census of SDG monitoring indicators – June 2016

(\*) Indicators are said to be “available” when they currently exist as an exact or approximate definition.

### Unavailable indicators

Of the 190 statistical indicators for which assessment of readiness to provide these indicators for global reporting was done, 66 are not available in an exact or approximate version (35%). However, of these unavailable indicators, 41 are feasible in the short to medium term (1-3 years).

The 25 remaining unavailable indicators are not feasible in the medium term for the moment, often due to the complexity of constructing the indicator (vague definition, no methodology, etc.). One example of this is indicator 11.7.1 *Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies*, even though many data sources exist with which it could be produced.

<sup>2</sup> See Annex, Table 3 on the availability of indicators by SDG.

## Link with the global assessment of data availability

The UN agencies are computing all SDG monitoring indicators at global level based on data provided by countries. Some of these national data are already collected by UN agencies.

The global indicators have been classified into the following categories at international level:

**Tier 1:** Indicator conceptually clear, methodology established and standardised internationally, data regularly produced by countries;

**Tier 2:** Indicator conceptually clear, methodology established and standardised internationally, data are not regularly produced by countries (data not available in all regions or not available at least for 50% of all countries or of the population of a region);

**Tier 3:** Indicator for which there is no standardised methodology or where the methodology is being tested/developed.

Of the 190 statistical indicators assessed in France, 79 are classified by the UN<sup>3</sup> in Tier 1, 51 in Tier 2 and 60 in Tier 3.

Crossing the UN classification of global indicators with the feasibility of national indicators in France highlights the conceptual disparity between the two approaches.

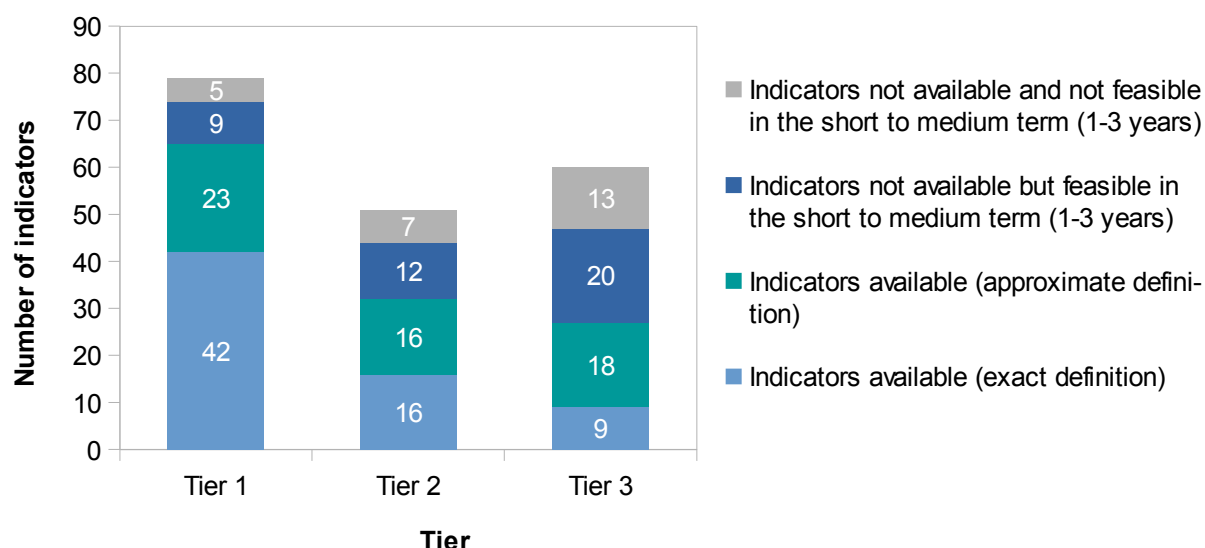
42 statistical indicators considered by the producing departments to be available in France in an exact definition are classified in Tier 1 by the UN (i.e. 53% of the 79).

In contrast, nine indicators considered to be available in an exact version<sup>4</sup> are classified in Tier 3 (e.g. 6.3.1 *Proportion of wastewater safely treated*).

Out of 66 statistical indicators assessed as being unavailable by the producing departments, 33 (50%) are classified by the UN in Tier 3 and 19 (29%) in Tier 2.

Five statistical indicators were assessed as not feasible in the short to medium term (1-3 years) by the French producing departments, yet were classified in Tier 1 by the UN. Most of these indicators relate to issues specific to developing countries and are considered by Eurostat as not relevant for European countries (e.g. 8.7.1 *Proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age* and 2.1.2 *Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale*).

**Figure 3: Availability of national indicators according to UN Tier Classification**



Scope: 190 SDG statistical monitoring indicators for which availability was estimated by the producing departments

Sources: INSEE – Census of SDG monitoring indicators – June 2016 and UN - Tier Classification as of 21 September 2016

<sup>3</sup> According to the Tier Classification as of 21 September 2016. See Annex, Table 4, on the availability of French indicators by Tier.

<sup>4</sup> According to the French national standard.

## Annexes

**Table 1: Number of indicators (statistical and non-statistical) by SDG**

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Number of indicators		
	Statistical	Non-statistical	Total
ODD 1 No poverty	11	1	12
ODD 2 No hunger	14	0	14
ODD 3 Good health	25	1	26
ODD 4 Quality education	11	0	11
ODD 5 Gender equality	10	4	14
ODD 6 Clean water and sanitation	11	0	11
ODD 7 Clean energy	6	0	6
ODD 8 Good jobs and economic growth	17	0	17
ODD 9 Innovation and infrastructure	12	0	12
ODD 10 Reduced inequalities	9	2	11
ODD 11 Sustainable cities and communities	12	0	12
ODD 12 Responsible consumption	7	3	10
ODD 13 Protect the planet	0	4	4
ODD 14 Life below water	7	3	10
ODD 15 Life on land	9	3	12
ODD 16 Peace and justice	20	2	22
ODD 17 Partnerships for the goals	17	8	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>229</b>

Scope: 229 SDG monitoring indicators (excluding duplicates)

Source: UN – United Nations Statistical Commission – March 2016

**Table 2: Availability of statistical indicators**

Given the definitions currently available, if your agency were to produce the statistics required for France, would you say that:	Statistical indicators			
	Number	Cumulated	Frequency (in %)	Cumulated frequency (in %)
The indicator already exists	67	67	35%	35%
An approximate indicator exists (broader or narrower scope and/or concept)	57	124	30%	65%
An approximate indicator could be constructed in one to three years	41	165	22%	87%
Production of the indicator or an approximate indicator is not feasible in the next few years	25	190	13%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>		<b>100%</b>	

Scope: 190 SDG statistical monitoring indicators for which availability was estimated by the producing departments.

Source: INSEE – Census of SDG monitoring indicators – June 2016

**Table 3: Availability\* of statistical indicators by SDG**

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Indicators available	Indicators not available	Total
ODD 1 No poverty	7	4	11
ODD 2 No hunger	10	4	14
ODD 3 Good health	17	6	23
ODD 4 Quality education	8	3	11
ODD 5 Gender equality	5	4	9
ODD 6 Clean water and sanitation	7	4	11
ODD 7 Clean energy	4	2	6
ODD 8 Good jobs and economic growth	14	3	17
ODD 9 Innovation and infrastructure	9	3	12
ODD 10 Reduced inequalities	7	2	9
ODD 11 Sustainable cities and communities	7	4	11
ODD 12 Responsible consumption	3	4	7
ODD 13 Protect the planet	0	0	0
ODD 14 Life below water	4	3	7
ODD 15 Life on land	4	5	9
ODD 16 Peace and justice	9	8	17
ODD 17 Partnerships for the goals	9	7	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>190</b>

Scope: 190 SDG statistical monitoring indicators for which availability was estimated by the producing departments.

Source: INSEE – Census of SDG monitoring indicators – June 2016

(\*) available indicators are those which currently exist in an exact or approximate definition. Unavailable indicators include those which are not available, feasible or not feasible in the short or medium term (1-3 years).

**Table 4: Availability of national statistical indicators according to UN Tier Classification**

Revised Tier (21/09/2016)	Indicators available (exact definition)	Indicators available (approximate definition)	Indicators not available but feasible in the short to medium term (1-3 years)	Indicators not available and not feasible in the short to medium term (1-3 years)	Total
Tier 1	42	23	9	5	79
Tier 2	16	16	12	7	51
Tier 3	9	18	20	13	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>190</b>

Scope: 190 SDG statistical monitoring indicators for which availability was estimated by the producing departments.

Sources: INSEE, Census of SDG monitoring indicators – June 2016 and UN - Tier Classification as of 21 September 2016