

SDG Goal 6	Clean water and sanitation
SDG Target 6.3	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
SDG Indicator 6.3.2	Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality
Time series	Flowing water with good ecological status for total phosphorous

1. General information on the time series

- Date of national metadata: 15 November 2022
- National data: <http://sdg-indicators.de/6-3-2/>
- Definition: The time series measures the proportion of monitoring points at which the benchmark values for good ecological status for total phosphorous in flowing waters is not exceeded.
- Disaggregation: Not available.

2. Comparability with the UN metadata

- Date of UN metadata: July 2024
- UN metadata: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-06-03-02.pdf>
- The time series is not compliant with the UN metadata, but provides additional information.

3. Data description

- The pollution of rivers with phosphorus is measured by the Länder as part of their monitoring under the EU Water Framework Directive. The data used for the indicator are taken from the surveillance network, which comprises some 250 monitoring sites. In most cases, the monitoring sites were established in the main flows of the large rivers and at the mouths of important tributaries. The data are compiled by the Federal Environment Agency on the basis of information from the German Working Group on Water Issues of the Länder and the Federal Government (LAWA).

Each of the figures used to calculate the indicator value shows whether the annual average reading from a particular monitoring site adhered to or fell below the benchmark value but not the extent to which the threshold was exceeded. The information from the individual monitoring sites is presented in aggregated form. Accordingly, the value of the indicator depends on the number of monitoring sites and how representative their distribution is. Lakes and other bodies of water are not covered by the indicator.

Since the different bodies of water react with differing levels of sensitivity to nutrients such as phosphorous, the precise benchmark values vary. The vast majority of flowing waters use the benchmark value of 0.1 mg/l of phosphorous. In organic substrate-dominated rivers, the benchmark value is 0.15 mg/l, for marshland streams 0.3 mg/l and for transitional waters influenced by tidal movement 0.045 mg/l.

4. Access to data source

- River eutrophication by phosphorus:
<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/data/environmental-indicators/indicator-river-eutrophication-phosphorus>

5. Metadata on source data

- River eutrophication by phosphorus:
<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/data/environmental-indicators/indicator-river-eutrophication-phosphorus>

6. Timeliness and frequency

- Timeliness: t + 15 months
- Frequency: Annual

7. Calculation method

- Unit of measurement: Percentage
- Calculation:

Not available.

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SDG Indicator 6.3.2	Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality
Time series	Groundwater measuring points below the threshold value for nitrate

1. General information on the time series

- Date of national metadata: 15 November 2022
- National data: <http://sdg-indicators.de/6-3-2/>
- Definition: The time series measures the proportion of groundwater measuring points at which the threshold value for nitrate is not exceeded.
- Disaggregation: Not available.

2. Comparability with the UN metadata

- Date of UN metadata: July 2024
- UN metadata: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-06-03-02.pdf>
- The time series is not compliant with the UN metadata, but provides additional information.

3. Data description

- The nitrate content in groundwater is collected by the Länder for the purpose of reporting on the status of groundwater in Germany to the European Environment Agency (EEA). The monitoring sites used for this purpose together form the so-called EEA monitoring network. The EEA monitoring network comprises a total of 1,214 monitoring sites and provides a representative picture of Germany. The data are compiled by the Federal Environment Agency from information provided by the German Working Group on Water Issues of the Länder and the Federal Government (LAWA).

The naturally occurring level of nitrate lies between 0 and 10 mg/l. Concentrations between 10 and 25 mg/l indicate minor to medium loads. Concentrations between 25 and 50 milligrams per liter indicate severe groundwater contamination. Figures above the threshold of 50 mg/l which is set in the Ground Water Ordinance and which also underlies this indicator mean that the groundwater has a poor chemical status and cannot be used as drinking water without treatment.

4. Access to data source

- Nitrate in groundwater:
<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/data/environmental-indicators/indicator-nitrate-in-groundwater>

5. Metadata on source data

- Nitrate in groundwater:
<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/data/environmental-indicators/indicator-nitrate-in-groundwater>

6. Timeliness and frequency

- Timeliness: t + 12 months
- Frequency: Annual

7. Calculation method

- Unit of measurement: Percentage
- Calculation:

Not available.