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**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



# Background Information on SDG 11.4.1 Statistics in the UIS Database



## Objective

This document serves as a reader's guide to help data users understand and interpret SDG 11.4.1 data disseminated by the UIS. It presents the following information:

- The list of symbols accompanying the data.
- The annual data release cycles.
- The data sources used by the UIS and their updates, including population and economic data used to calculate SDG 11.4.1 indicators.
- Specific country notes.

### The following symbols are used:

- ... Data not available
- (a) Category not applicable
- (n) Magnitude nil or negligible
- (+) National estimation
- (‡) UIS estimation
- (q) Data suppressed due to confidentiality or reliability issues
- (u) Low reliability

## Data releases

As of 2022, the UIS has moved to two culture data release adding new national and regional data, when applicable. The first data release of the SDG 11.4.1 indicator took place in June 2021. The March 2024 data release did not take place; therefore, this release is the main release for the 2023 Survey data collection.

This release includes national data for SDG 11.4.1 and its disaggregation for the reference year 2022, minus 1 or minus 2 or plus 1 or 2 collected from the UIS Survey of Expenditure on Cultural and Natural Heritage (SDG 11.4.1). As the total number of available countries is 71, the calculations for regional aggregates are not yet possible.

Stay informed on the latest data releases by signing up for the UIS email alert service at <http://uis.unesco.org>



## Data sources

To produce internationally comparable SDG 11.4.1 indicators, the UIS collects data via its unique source: the UIS Survey of Expenditure on Cultural and Natural Heritage (SDG 11.4.1). For national data, countries use the main sources of data listed below. These data sources differ in their coverage as well as the timing and way in which they are collected:

**Financial and expenditure data** – these contain information on various sources of expenditure, including government spending on culture and heritage from government finance statistics, or respective ministries. This source commonly encompasses data on direct expenditure (including subsidies), transfers, and indirect public expenditures including tax incentives. Typically, they are updated annually.

**Administrative data** – based on information generally available from cultural satellite accounts or environmental satellite accounts calculated by national statistics offices in partnership with respective ministries. In contrast to expenditure data, they may not be collected on an annual basis.

**Surveys** – dedicated surveys on cultural/ heritage activities or related activities are a potential source of expenditure data. Surveys differ in terms of coverage, frequency, objectives, and questionnaire design. In contrast to administrative data, they are collected less frequently, and by a variety of organizations and countries.

**Population censuses** – important as a source of population estimates (the number of persons in a country). The UIS uses population estimates from the United Nations Population Division (UNPD), which are based on a reliable, internationally accepted, methodology. These data are used to calculate the per capita SDG 11.4.1 indicators and their disaggregation.

**Figure 1** represents the UIS data collection and dissemination processes. This figure illustrates the centralized processing of data originating from various sources. UIS data can be obtained from the following sources:

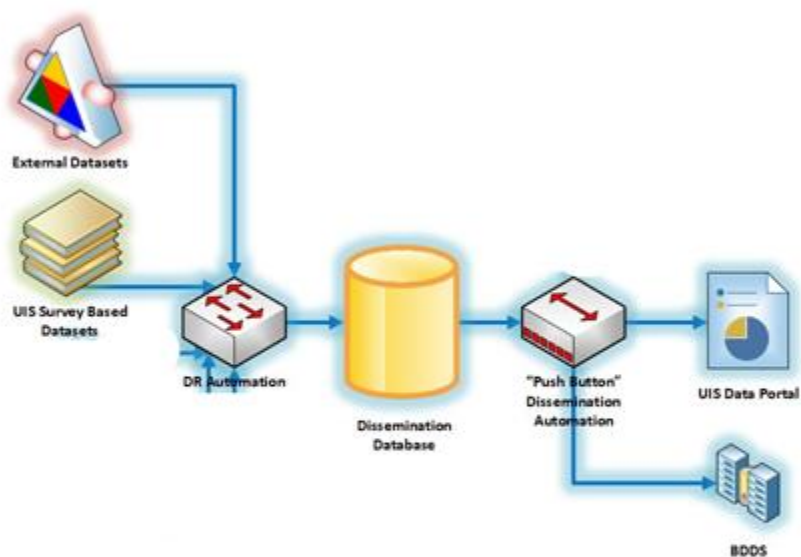
The new [UIS data browser](#), that allows users to view and filter data and metadata on SDG on SDG 11.4.1. for 71 countries and territories.

[UIS Data Portal](#), which houses internationally comparable data on SDG 11.4.1. for 71 countries and territories.

[Bulk data download service](#) (BDDS), which enables access to all UIS databases in comma-separated values (CSV) format.



**FIGURE 1. UIS SDG 11.4.1 DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION PROCESSES**



*Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.*

Note: DR = data release



## Overview of SDG 11.4.1 indicators currently available

**Table 1** provides a concise snapshot of the SDG indicators related to Target 11.4 available on the UIS website.

**TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF SDG INDICATORS DATA DIMENSIONS RELEASED FOR SDG 11.4.1**

Indicator	Indicator description		
	Total number of countries for which the indicator is reported	Range of years for which data are available for the indicator	Dimensions of disaggregation
ODD 11.4.1	71	2017–2024	By type of heritage (cultural natural), by sector (public, private), by level of government (National/Federal, regional, local/municipal)

## UIS survey of expenditure on cultural and natural heritage (SDG 11.4.1)

The UIS collects SDG 11.4.1 statistics in aggregate form from official administrative sources at the national level. The survey collects the data needed for global monitoring of SDG Target 11.4, which calls on countries to “strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage.” Collected information encompasses financial resources data for the preservation of cultural and natural heritage. These statistics cover expenditure from both public and private sectors.



These data are gathered annually by the UIS through an online survey that can be accessed from the UIS website at <http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-questionnaires>.

The UIS SDG 11.4.1 questionnaires are sent to UNESCO Member States annually. The questionnaires are based on international standards, classifications, and measures that are regularly reviewed and modified by the UIS to address emerging statistical issues and to improve data quality.

## External data sets

### Population estimates

The main source of population estimates is the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2022) (UNPD). World Population Prospects: The 2022 Revision (<https://population.un.org/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/>).

**TABLE 2. SOURCES OF POPULATION DATA FOR UIS SDG 11.4.1 INDICATOR CALCULATION**

Source of population data	Number of countries	Criteria used
United Nations Population Division (UNPD): World Population Prospect 2022, released in January 2022	71	UNPD is the main source of population data used by the UIS for all countries

## Economic statistics

SDG 11.4.1 indicators are published in purchasing power parity (PPP), constant 2017 United States dollars. Data on economic indicators, such as PPP, are World Bank estimates as of June 2024. This data release uses the PPP conversion factor (local currency per international dollar) and the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) deflator of the most recent World Bank International Comparison Program of 2017. Data are converted into PPP, constant 2017 United States dollars according to the World Bank Atlas methodology available at:

<https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/114942-what-is-the-difference-between-current-and-constan>



## Summary of countries reporting data that could not be released

Following the launch of the 2023 SDG 11.4.1 survey, data for 55 countries were collected. Three countries indicated that they did not have the data, and one only completed the metadata section of the questionnaire. Data for five countries were not published due to issues described in Table 3. This represents a significant improvement compared to the 2022 Survey cycle as it was two times more with ten countries.

**Table 3** presents a summary of the number of countries for which data was reported for the 2023 SDG 11.4.1 Survey, but not released, grouped by key causes.

**TABLE 3. 2023 SDG 11.4.1 SURVEY – SUMMARY OF CAUSES PREVENTING THE PUBLICATION OF DATASETS**

Issues preventing the publication of datasets recently received for reference years 2020, 2021, 2022	Number of countries
Partial data/under coverage	4
Data suppressed due to low confidentiality	1

*Note: the table includes only countries where the data received is not published. There are new data being published for 49 countries.*

## Technical notes

### SDG 11.4.1 data

SDG 11.4.1 data and indicators methodology including related concepts, definitions, and international standards are described in the metadata repository of the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Website available at:

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-11-04-01.pdf>



## Country notes

**Australia:** The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) did not complete the 2023 nor the 2021 and 2022 questionnaire instead, the UIS gathered the 2021 and 2022 data from the Culture Funding by Government for 2020–2021 and 2021–2022 to estimate public expenditure on heritage. UIS completed the 2020 data to estimate natural heritage from the ABS Integrated Environmental-Economic Accounts: Experimental Environmental-Economic Accounts for the Great Barrier Reef 2017.

**Andorra:** As PPP\$ are now available for Andorra, indicators for this country for 2021 and 2022 are now calculated in PPP\$ 2017 constant.

**Croatia:** The Croatian Bureau of Statistics completed the questionnaire for the 2021, 2022 and 2023 data cycle. However, at their request, data were suppressed from the dissemination database hence not released due to low reliability issues.

**Iraq:** State board of antiquities and heritage completed the questionnaire for the reference year 2024. As the economic indicators were not available for 2024, UIS estimated their values to be able to calculate the indicator and its disaggregates.

**Japan:** The values published until February 29, 2024, are based on the initial budgets. The values published after March 1, 2024, are based on the supplementary budgets included.

**Monaco:** As PPP\$ Monaco are not available in the World Bank database, its indicators are calculated in \$ in constant 2017 United States dollars instead.

**Syrian Arab Republic:** The Directorate General of Antiquities & Museums completed the questionnaire for the reference year 2023. As the economic indicators were not available for this country for 2023, UIS estimated their values to be able to calculate the SDG 11.4.1 indicator and its disaggregates.