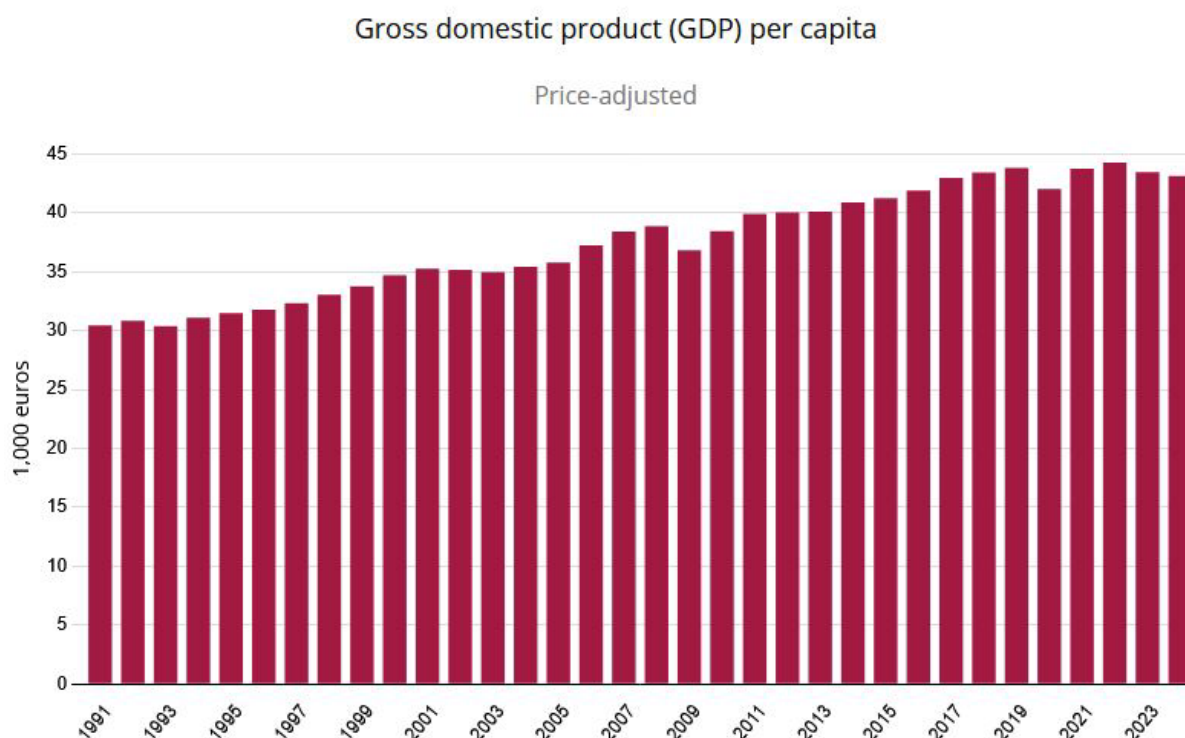




Economic performance – Combining greater economic output with environmental and social responsibility

8.4 Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita



Note(s):

Previous years' prices chain-linked: 2020=100. – 2021 to 2024 provisional data.

Data source(s):

Federal Statistical Office

Definition

The indicator represents the price-adjusted gross domestic product (GDP) per inhabitant in Germany on the basis of 2020 (in EUR 1,000).

Intention

There are many relationships between the development of gross domestic product (GDP) and the other indicators of the sustainability strategy. Social factors such as population structure, labour supply, the education system and social cohesion in society play an important role in the international competitiveness of the economy. GDP is considered an important indicator for the economic cycle and growth of an economy.

Target

Steady and appropriate economic growth by 2030

Content and progress

The indicator represents the inflation-adjusted Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita. In 2024, it amounted to 42,583 euros per capita, which was 0.5% below the previous year's



value. Between 1991 and 2024, the inflation-adjusted GDP per capita increased by a total of 40.0%.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a decline in the inflation-adjusted GDP per capita of 4.2%. An even sharper drop occurred only in 2009, as a result of the global financial and economic crisis, with a decrease of 5.2%. Due to the lack of a uniform definition of adequate and sustained economic growth, only the average annual change over the last five years can be used as a reference. This was 0.3% and thus indicates a long-term negative trend of the indicator.

At the level of the Länder, the picture in 2024 was as follows: Sachsen-Anhalt recorded the lowest real GDP per capita at 28,895 euros, while Hamburg recorded the highest at 66,860 euros.

Background on the calculation

GDP measures the total economic output produced within a country during a reporting period. It includes both market-traded and government-provided goods and services. Residents are defined as all persons who have their permanent place of residence in Germany.

The calculation is based on the European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA), which mandates the concepts and methods of the national accounts (VGR). The national accounts constitute an integrated accounting framework representing economic activity over a specific period. The results are consistently determined within a closed accounting system and presented in tabular form. GDP is the central indicator of the national accounts.

The population figures used for calculating the indicator are the average population numbers, extrapolated and updated from the 2011 census by the Federal Statistical Office.

Limitations of GDP

GDP primarily functions as a production and income indicator. For a comprehensive measure of welfare, supplementary indicators are necessary, such as those from the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), which represent interactions between the economy and the environment.

As a single figure, GDP naturally does not provide information about the distribution of income and wealth among different population groups. Changes in stock variables – with the exception of the capital stock, which is accounted for through investments and depreciation – are not captured in GDP.

Key economic variables such as the stocks and quality of human capital (for example education, health), social capital (for example security, integration), and natural capital (for example resources, ecosystems) are also excluded from GDP. Therefore, it is not possible to assess whether GDP growth has contributed to capital maintenance in a comprehensive sense. Accordingly, no direct conclusions about the sustainability of economic growth can be drawn from GDP.

Type of target

Directional target



Assessment

Gross domestic product per capita should be increased.

According to the target formulation, indicator 8.4 is assessed as thunderstorm for 2024, as the indicator value declined both between 2023 and 2024 and on average over the period 2019 to 2024.

