



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Sustainable Development Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

SDG 8 recognises the importance of sustained economic growth and high levels of economic productivity for the creation of well-paid quality jobs, as well as resource efficiency in consumption and production. It calls for opportunities for full employment and decent work for all alongside the eradication of forced labour, human trafficking and child labour, and the promotion of labour rights and safe and secure working environments.

Sustainable economic growth and decent employment are vital for the development and prosperity of European countries and the well-being and personal fulfilment of individuals. For economic growth to be truly sustainable, it must be accompanied by eco-efficiency improvements, climate action and resilient measures, alongside active labour market and social inclusion policies, in order to ensure that the transition to a climate neutral economy is just and inclusive. Key to achieving this will be the generation of decent employment opportunities for all and improving working conditions for those already in employment as well as supporting citizens in their labour market transitions.

At the current rate of progress, results show that SDG 8 is “unlikely to be achieved by 2030.” Lower-middle-income and upper-middle-income countries show the most promise to meet SDG 8 targets on growth and productivity. Global inequality is a key issue, and the degree of effort needed to achieve SDG 8 is “spread unequally across the world’s regions.” The worsening rates of inequality are an obstacle to achieving decent work and sustainable growth. Over 170 million people are unemployed; women, youth and persons with disabilities are less likely to be employed; and gender pay gaps persist. SDG target 8.6 aims to substantially reduce the proportion of youth in NEET by 2020; results show this target “will almost certainly be missed.” In addition, progress in reducing child labor is too slow to meet SDG target 8.6 on reducing child labor by 2025. In 2016, 114 million children aged 5 to 15 years old were employed.

Things to do:

- ✓ Find a Goal 8 charity you want to support. Any donation, big or small, can make a difference!
- ✓ Be a conscious consumer – if something is cheap it is likely to be hurting people or the planet in some way.
- ✓ Read about workers in other countries and business practices. Talk to your colleagues about these issues.

- ✓ Stay informed. Follow your local news and stay in touch with the Global Goals online or on social media
- ✓ Organize a mentoring program. Invite people with experience in a certain field to create a mentoring group that will help young people better prepare for their future jobs.
- ✓ Know your rights at work. In order to access justice, knowing what you are entitled to will go a long way.
- ✓ Buy from local producers. Support local economic growth by choosing to buy from local producers and businesses. ¹

¹ <https://www.globalgoals.org/take-action/?id=8>

<https://sdg-tracker.org/economic-growth#:~:text=Goal%3A%20By%202030%2C%20achieve%20full,for%20work%20of%20equal%20value%20>

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=SDG_8_-_Decent_work_and_economic_growth#Context

