

MONGOLIA

EMPLOYMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY FACT SHEETS 2017

The *Employment and Environmental Sustainability Fact Sheets* series provides key features of employment and environmental sustainability performance. Jobs that are green and decent are central to sustainable development and resource productivity. They respond to the global challenges of environmental protection, economic development and social inclusion. Such jobs create decent employment opportunities, enhance resource efficiency and build low-carbon, sustainable societies. The fact sheets include the most recent available data for selected indicators¹ on employment and environmental sustainability: (i) employment in environmental sectors; (ii) skill levels; (iii) vulnerability of jobs; (iv) jobs in renewable energy; and (v) scoring on the Environmental Performance Index.

Figure 1. Map of Mongolia



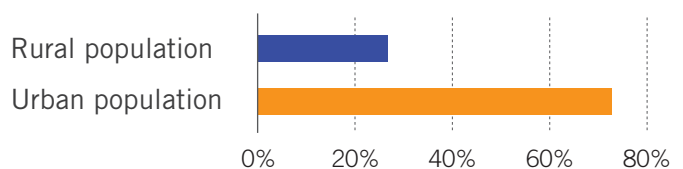
Mongolia² is a landlocked country in central Asia that borders the Russian Federation and China (Fig. 1). The population is mostly urban and growing, with a fertility rate of 2.6 children and a life expectancy of 69.8 years (Fig. 2).

Figure 2. Demographics for Mongolia

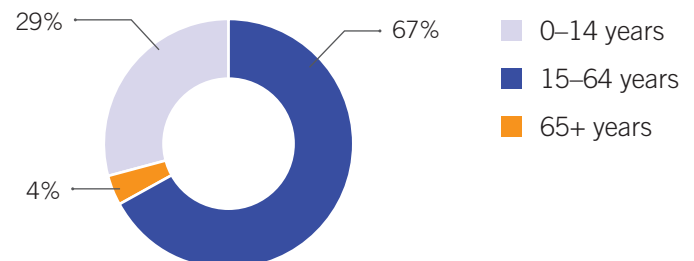
Population: 3 million



Population growth rate	Fertility rate	Life expectancy at birth
1.7%	2.6 children	69.8 years



Population age categories



Note: All data for 2016, except fertility and life expectancy, which are 2015.

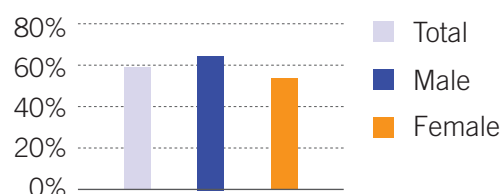
Source: ILO compilation using World Bank: World development indicators, last updated 20 July 2017, <http://databank.worldbank.org> (accessed 30 July 2017).

1. The fact sheet is based on available data only.
2. Mongolia became a member of the International Labour Organization in 1968

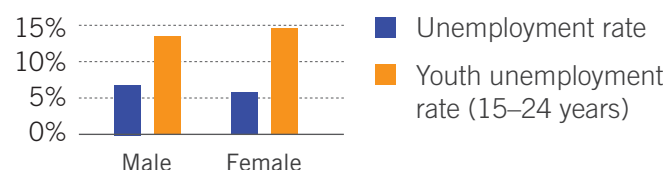
In 2017, the labour participation rate is 62.9 per cent and the employment-to-population ratio is 58.9 per cent. Both of those rates are more than 11 percentage points higher for men than for women. The unemployment rate is 6.3 per cent, and youth unemployment is 13.9 per cent, with the female youth unemployment rate 1 percentage point higher than the male rate. The youth (aged 15–24 years) not in employment, education or training rate was 16.8 per cent in 2015. Employment is heavily reliant on services (51 per cent), agriculture³ (28.4 per cent) and industry (20.7 per cent) and on medium-skilled occupations (Fig. 3).

Figure 3. Basic employment statistics for Mongolia, 2017

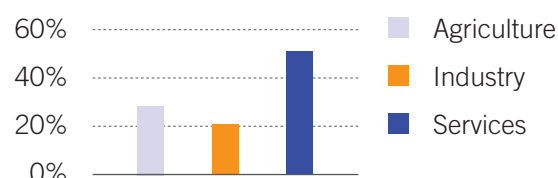
Employment-to-population ratio (15+ years)



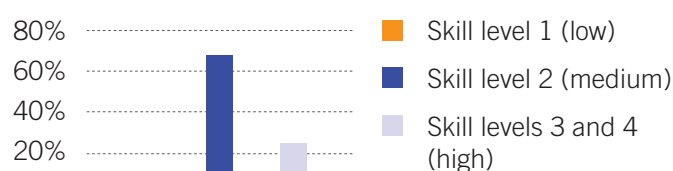
Unemployment



Employment by sector (15+ years)



Employment by occupation

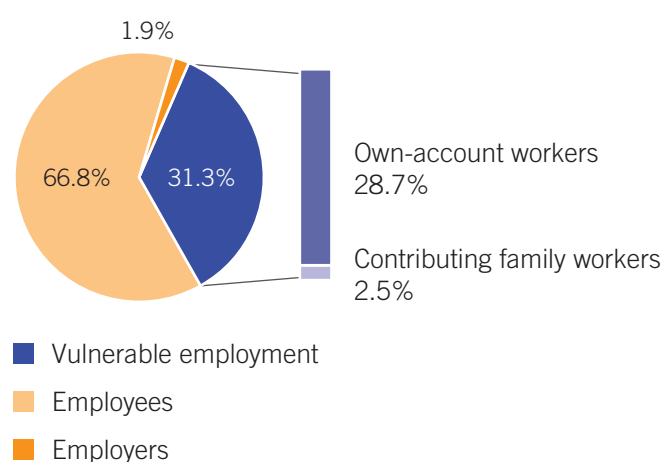


Note: ILO estimates. Labour force participation rate and unemployment: aged 15 years and older. Youth unemployment: aged 15–24 years. Employment by occupation: skill level 1 (low) for elementary occupations; skill level 2 (medium) for clerical, service and sales workers, skilled agricultural and trade workers, plant machinists and assemblers; and skill level 3 and 4 (high) for managers, professionals and technicians.

Source: ILO compilation using ILOSTAT, <http://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 17 July 2017).

Vulnerable employment in Mongolia accounts for 31.3 per cent of the labour force, with the majority of those workers having own-account status (Fig. 4). Own-account and contributing family workers are more likely to experience low job and income security than employees and employers, as well as lower coverage by social protection systems and employment regulation.

Figure 4. Vulnerable employment, by status, 2017



Note: Vulnerable employment includes own-account workers and contributing family workers.

Source: ILO compilation using ILOSTAT, <http://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 17 July 2017).

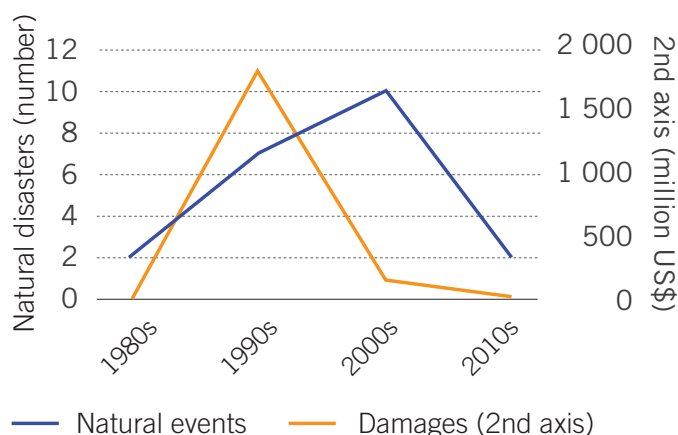
According to the *World Risk Report*,⁴ Mongolia has a very low World Risk Index score. It ranks 142 (of 171 countries) due to its minimal exposure to natural disasters and environmental damage. According to the Emergency Events Database,⁵ there have been fluctuations in natural disasters⁶ per decade since the 1960s, with a peak in the 2000s (Fig. 4), mostly due to floods, fires and droughts. Since the 1980s, there have been 206 deaths associated with the natural disasters. Developing preventive measures to limit infrastructure and property damage and increase institutional capacity, particularly for small businesses to respond to climate events, can be a source of decent job creation while building resilience.

3. Informal employment (self-employed and contributing family members) is excluded from the agriculture calculations.

4. Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft and United Nations University: *World risk report 2016* (Berlin, 2016), <http://weltrisikobericht.de/english/>.

5. EM-DAT: The Emergency Events Database – Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) – CRED, D. Guha-Sapir – www.emdat.be, Brussels, Belgium.

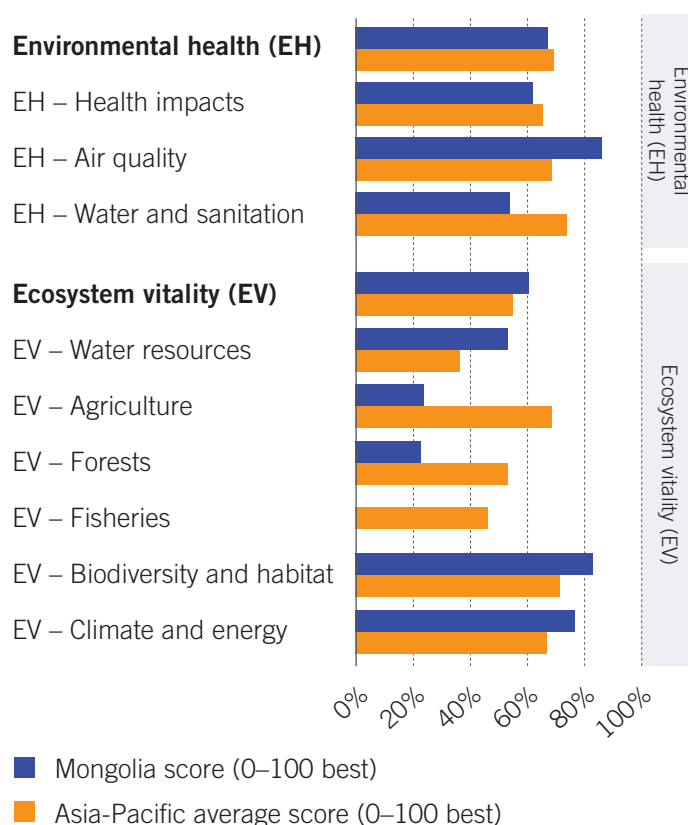
6. Climatological, hydrological and meteorological disasters.

Figure 5. Natural disaster occurrence and damage costs in Mongolia, 1980s–2010s

Note: Natural events include climatological, hydrological and meteorological disasters. 2010s data are only for the first half of the decade.

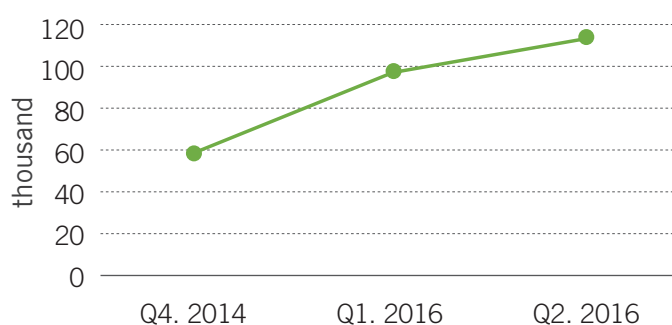
Source: ILO compilation using EM-DAT: The Emergency Events Database – Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) – CRED, D. Guha-Sapir – www.emdat.be, Brussels, Belgium.

Mongolia currently ranks 173 of 180 countries in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI), with a score of 64.39 (with 0 furthest from the high-performance benchmark target of 100). Mongolia is struggling with its environmental performance, especially in the ecosystem vitality categories (in forests and agriculture) and the environmental health categories (water sanitation and health impacts) and in comparison with the average scores in those EPI categories for Asia and the Pacific. There is significant room for improvement in all environmental areas (Fig. 6). According to a green jobs pilot study,⁷ approximately 374,000 people (33.1 per cent of total employment) were employed in the environmental sector (includes environmental outputs and environmental services) in the second quarter of 2016; of them, 12,300 people (9.9 per cent) were in green jobs.⁸ The study found an overall increase in green jobs between the fourth quarter of 2014 and the second quarter of 2016 (Fig. 7). Action to improve environmental health, ecosystem vitality, climate change and resilience to weather disasters have the potential to provide job creation, green economy growth and innovation in Mongolia.

Figure 6. Environmental Performance Index 2016 for Mongolia

Note: Score 0–100 best. Mongolia: No score for EV–Fisheries due to lack of data. Asia-Pacific: Each score is an average of all data for ILO member States in the region, excluding four countries with no data (Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Palau and Tuvalu).

Source: ILO compilation using, A. Hsu et al.: *2016 Environmental Performance Index* (New Haven, CT, Yale University, 2016), www.epi.yale.edu.

Figure 7. Green jobs, fourth quarter 2014–second quarter 2016

Note: Green jobs are jobs in the environmental sector that meet the requirements of decent work (adequate wages, safe conditions, workers' rights, social dialogue and social protection).

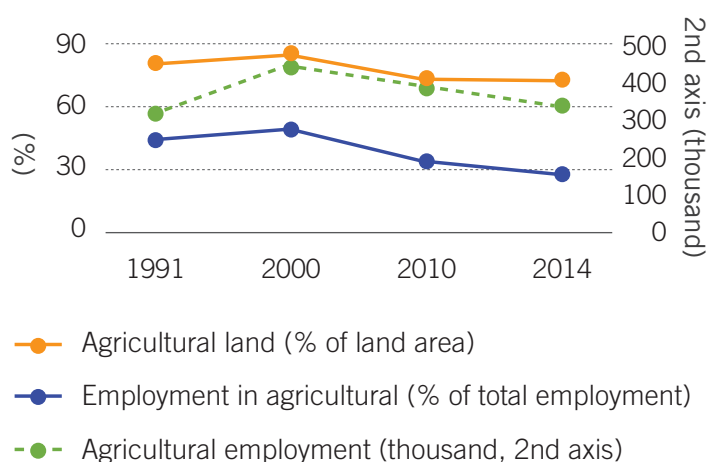
Source: ILO compilation using Partnership for Action on Green Economy, ILO and National Statistical Office of Mongolia: *Employment in the environmental sector and green jobs in Mongolia (pilot study)* (Ulaanbaatar, ILO, 2017).

7. The National Statistical Office of Mongolia conducted a pilot survey on employment within the environmental sector and green jobs through a set of module questions attached to the fourth quarter of the 2014 and first and second quarters of the 2016 Labour Force Survey, with technical assistance support from the International Labour Organization. See Partnership for Action on Green Economy, ILO and National Statistical Office of Mongolia: *Employment in the environmental sector and green jobs in Mongolia (pilot study)* (Ulaanbaatar, ILO, 2017).

8. Green jobs are decent jobs that contribute to the preservation or restoration of the environment.

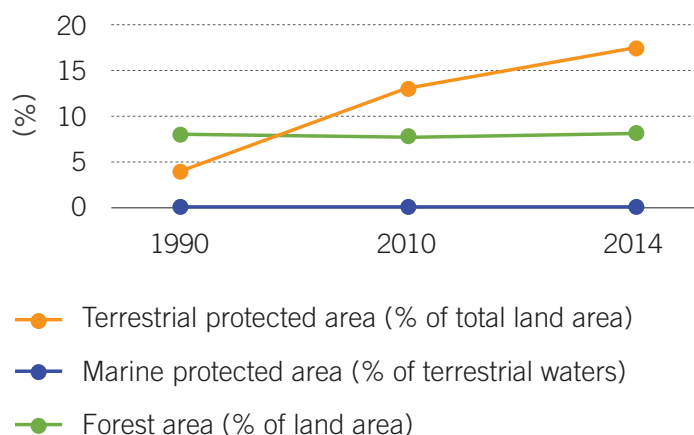
Rural population growth was a negative 1.1 per cent in 2015. The share of agricultural land in total land area, although still large, decreased between 1991 and 2014, while agricultural employment rose modestly from 311,000 to 336,000 people. The share of agricultural employment in total employment fell by approximately 15 percentage points due to faster job creation in other sectors (Fig. 8). The proportion of forest area remained stable from 1990 to 2014, while terrestrial protected area increased by 13 percentage points, to 17.2 per cent (Fig. 9). In 2016, 30.4 per cent of employment was in the agricultural, forestry and fishing sector (Fig. 10). According to the green jobs pilot study,⁹ about 3,500 people were classified as in a green job within the agricultural, forestry and fishing sector in the second quarter of 2016, which represented an increase of 1,000 jobs since the fourth quarter of 2014 (Fig. 11). Although agricultural employment has stagnated in recent decades, there are opportunities for job creation for sustainable production and organic farming. There will be greater prospects for employment opportunities with the commitment to transition to a low-carbon and resource-efficient economy, such as jobs in resource management and environmental services.¹⁰

Figure 8. Agricultural land and agricultural employment, 1991–2014



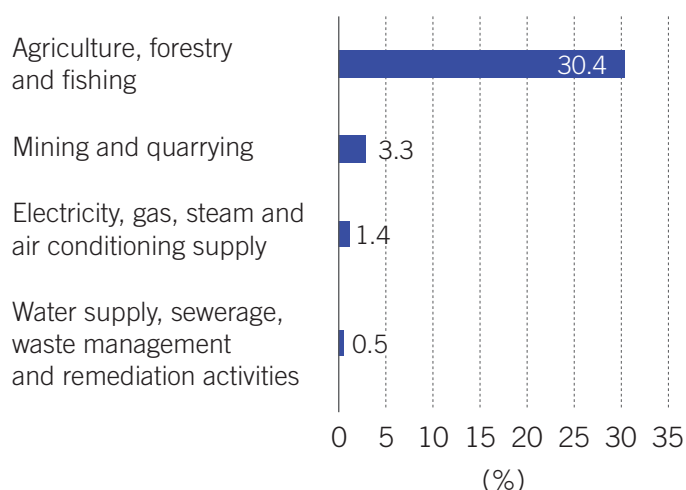
Source: ILO compilation using World Bank: World development indicators, last updated 20 July 2017, <http://databank.worldbank.org/>; ILOSTAT, <http://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 30 July 2017).

Figure 9. Forest area and terrestrial and marine protected areas, 1990–2014



Source: ILO compilation using World Bank: World development indicators, last updated 20 July 2017, <http://databank.worldbank.org/> (accessed 30 July 2017).

Figure 10. Employment in sectors with strong green jobs potential, 2016



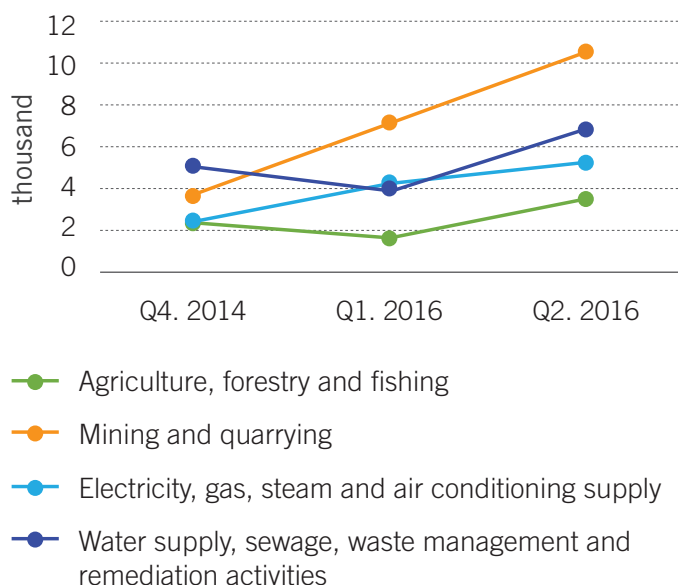
Note: These sectors have the most potential for green job opportunities. Employment by selected 1-digit sector level (ISIC-Rev. 4, 2008).

Source: ILO compilation using ILOSTAT, <http://www.ilo.org/ilostat> (accessed 16 November 2017).

9. Partnership for Action on Green Economy, ILO and National Statistical Office of Mongolia: *Employment in the environmental sector and green jobs in Mongolia (pilot study)* (Ulaanbaatar, ILO, 2017).

10. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development: *The jobs potential of a shift towards a low-carbon economy, OECD Green Growth Papers*, No. 2012/01 (Paris, 2012), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/5k9h3630320v-en>.

Figure 11. Green jobs, by economic activity, fourth quarter 2014–second quarter 2016

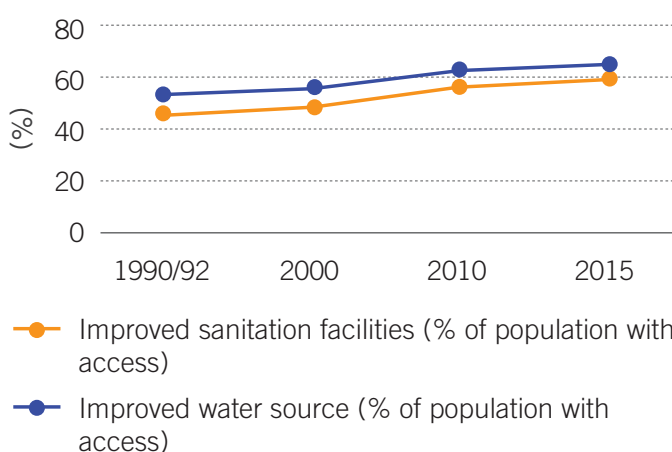


Source: ILO compilation using Partnership for Action on Green Economy, ILO and National Statistical Office of Mongolia: *Employment in the environmental sector and green jobs in Mongolia (pilot study)* (Ulaanbaatar, ILO, 2017).

Since 1990, the percentage of the population with access to improved water supply has increased 11 percentage points, to 64.4 per cent in 2015. There was a 13.7-percentage point increase in access to improved sanitation between 1992 and 2015, reaching 59.7 per cent (Fig. 12). Both rates, however, are still well below the ideal threshold of 100 per cent. According to the World Bank and based on the most recent available data,¹¹ the country's municipal solid waste generation in 2001 was 0.66 kg per capita per day and is expected increase to 0.95 kg per capita per day by 2025. The capital city of Ulaanbaatar has experienced rapid population growth and an explosion of informal settlements, which has placed significant pressure on municipal solid waste management. Within these informal settlements, waste is generally illegally dumped in public spaces, resulting in high levels of pollution and health risks for waste pickers.¹² Only 0.5 per cent of the country's labour force was employed in water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities in 2016 (Fig. 10). According to the green jobs pilot study,¹³ about

5,000 people were employed in jobs classified as within that sector in the second quarter of 2016, representing an increase of 1,900 jobs since the fourth quarter of 2014 (Fig. 11). Improvement in water and sanitation access and the much-needed implementation of a municipal waste management system for collection, safe and sustainable disposal, recycling and composting practices will provide decent green job opportunities in the future.

Figure 12. Improved sanitation and water supply access, 1990–2015



Source: ILO compilation using World Bank: World development indicators, last updated 20 July 2017, <http://databank.worldbank.org/> (accessed 30 July 2017).

The share of renewable energy in the total energy consumption is very low and falling. It peaked in 2002 at 6.5 per cent and fell below 4 per cent in 2012 (Fig. 13). Nevertheless, renewable energy generation has been steadily increasing since 2011, with wind and hydropower the main sources in 2015 (Fig. 14). There are no statistics on renewable energy employment. In 2016, employment in the electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning sector was 1.4 per cent (Fig. 10). According to the green jobs pilot study, about 5,200 people employed in that sector in the second quarter of 2016 were in jobs classified as green, representing an increase of 2,700 jobs since the fourth quarter of 2014 (Fig. 11).¹⁴ With a push for increasing reliance on renewable energy, there will be greater potential for decent job opportunities in the future.

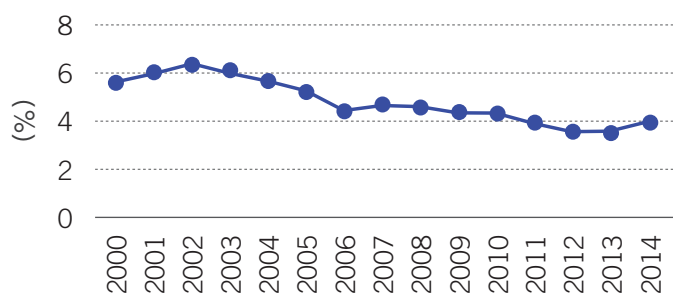
11. World Bank: *What a waste: A global review of solid waste management* (Washington, DC, 2012).

12. The Asia Foundation: Improving solid waste management in Ulaanbaatar, <https://asiafoundation.org/2015/05/27/improving-solid-waste-management-in-ulaanbaatar/>; and D. Altantuya, Z. Zhang, and H. Li: "Municipal solid waste management of Mongolia: Analysis on the solid waste treatment of Ulaanbaatar city", in *Advances in Asian Social Science*, Vol. 3, No. 3 (2012).

13. Partnership for Action on Green Economy, ILO and National Statistical Office of Mongolia: *Employment in the Environmental Sector and Green Jobs in Mongolia (Pilot Study)* (Ulaanbaatar, ILO, 2017).

14. *ibid.*

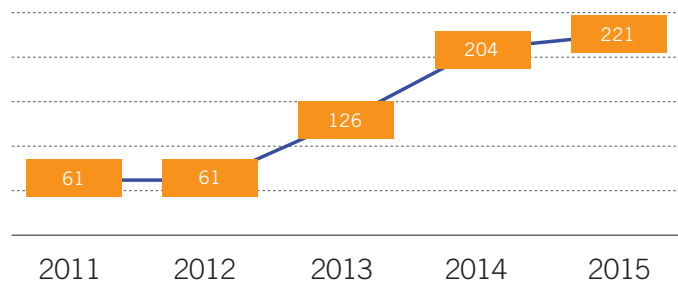
Figure 13. Renewable energy share in total final energy consumption, 2000-14



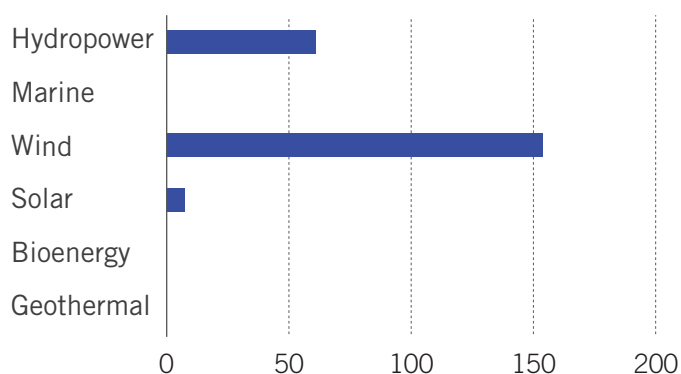
Source: ILO compilation using UN: SDG indicators: Global database (2017), <https://unstats.un.org/> (accessed 17 July 2017).

Figure 14. Renewable energy generation, 2011-15

Total renewable energy electricity generation (GWh)



Renewable energy electricity generation (GWh), by technology 2015



Source: ILO compilation using International Renewable Energy Agency: Dashboards (2017), <http://resourceirena.irena.org/gateway/dashboard/> (accessed 17 July 2017).

Better data collection relating to the green economy and the environmental sector would be valuable for policy-makers in Mongolia and Asian-Pacific countries. Despite the comprehensive green jobs pilot study, better data on green and decent jobs is particularly needed to assess the impact of climate change and climate-related policies on social inclusion. Without better data, it will be difficult to determine what policy changes are needed to assure a just transition to environmental sustainability and to monitor progress going forward.

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