

4.5 By 2020, noise annoyance will be reduced by 10% from the 1999 level. By the same year the number of people exposed to indoor noise levels exceeding 38 dB will be reduced by 30% from the 2005 level.

Indicator:

Total noise annoyance measured by the noise annoyance index for all sources measured, especially industry, motor sport and shooting ranges

Are we moving in the right direction?

. Noise annoyance not sufficiently reduced ¹

Indicator:

Actual reduction in the number of people exposed to indoor noise levels exceeding 38 dB

Are we moving in the right direction?

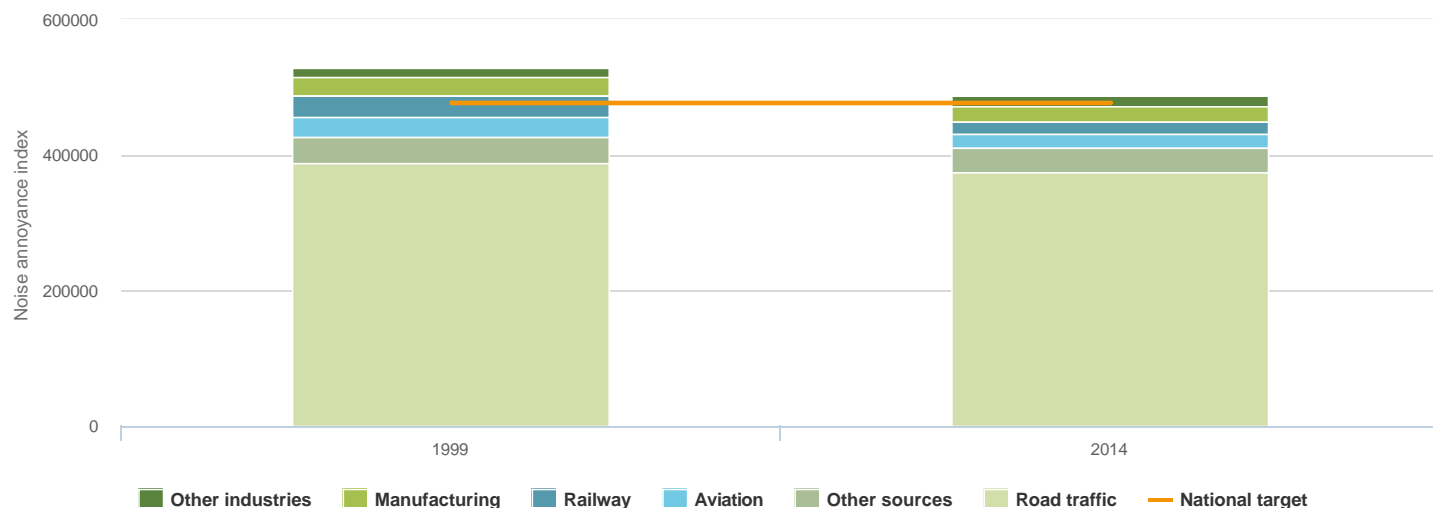
= Indoor noise levels increase ²

Miljømål 4.5 By 2020, noise annoyance will be reduced by 10% from the 1999 level. By the same year the number of people exposed to indoor noise levels exceeding 38 dB will be reduced by 30% from the 2005 level.

Indikator: Total noise annoyance measured by the noise annoyance index for all sources measured, especially industry, motor sport and shooting ranges

Noise annoyance not sufficiently reduced

Total noise annoyance for all sources measured



Source: Statistics Norway (SSB) Licence: NLOD

Are we moving in the right direction?

Published 28.05.2008 by the Norwegian Environment Agency

In 2006, the Norwegian Parliament adopted a target concerning a 10 per cent reduction in noise annoyance by 2020. The target is related to the part of the population in Norway that was exposed to noise in 1999. Statistics Norway has estimated the development from 1999 to 2014 for this part of the population. Due to reductions in noise from railways, industry and aviation there was a decrease in noise annoyance of 9 % during this period.

This indicator does not take into account those who have moved into noise-exposed areas or areas that have had a significant increase in noise levels after 1999. Thus, the indicator does not accurately reflect the number of people exposed to noise in Norway today.

Less noise from railways, industry and aviation

Reduced traffic, quieter trains and rail grinding are major causes for the reduction in noise from railways. Less noise annoyance from aviation is related to less noisy aircrafts as well as changes in procedures for landing and take-off at some airports.

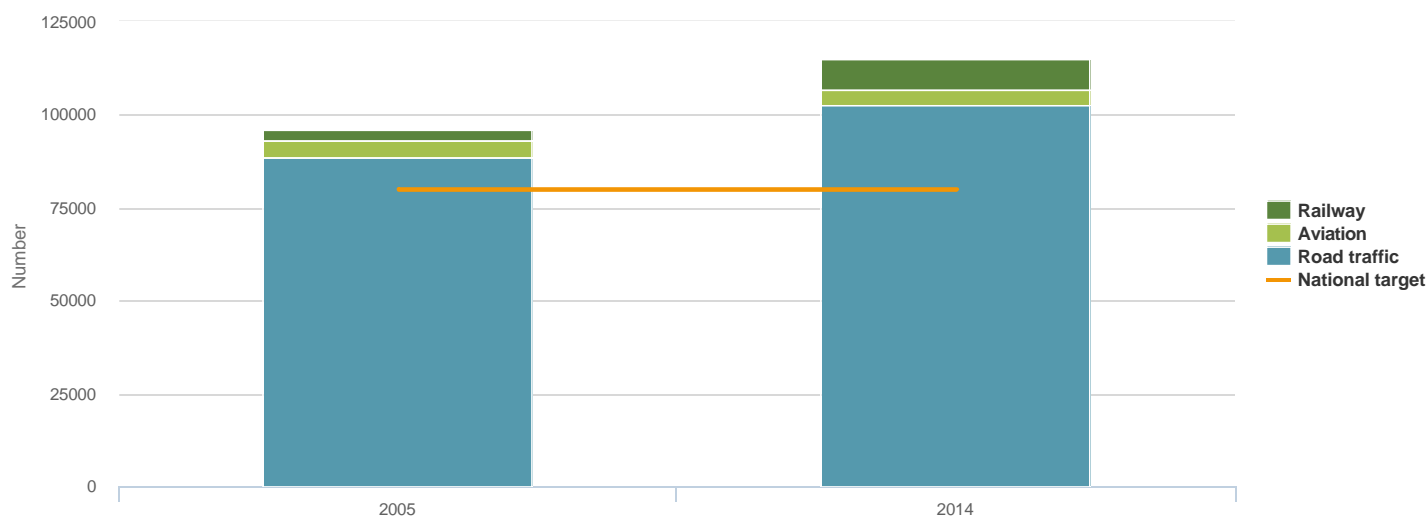
Road traffic - the largest source of noise pollution

Road traffic is the major source of noise pollution in Norway. More traffic contributes to increased noise from road traffic, but improvements in engine and tire technology helps to curb the rise in noise annoyance.

Indikator: Actual reduction in the number of people exposed to indoor noise levels exceeding 38 dB

Indoor noise levels increase

Number of people exposed to indoor noise above 38 dB



Source: Statistisk sentralbyrå (SSB), Miljøstatus i Norge Licence: NLOD

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The Norwegian Parliament has adopted a target of a 30% reduction in the number of people exposed to indoor noise levels over 38dB. So far trends have not lived up to expectations. In 2005, about 96,000 persons were exposed to indoor noise levels above 38 dBA. In 2014 the number had increased to 115,000. About 89% of the affected persons were exposed to noise from road traffic, an increase of one fifth since 2005.

More noise from road traffic and railways - less from aviation

While there was an increase in the number of persons exposed to noise from road traffic and railways from 2005 to 2014, fewer are exposed to noise from aviation.

The number of people exposed to noise from road traffic has increased in line with the general increase in traffic, and there has also been an increase in the number of persons living in the most noisy areas. The same applies to noise from railways.

The number of those exposed to noise from railways tripled during these years. About 75% of them live in Oslo, and around 20% in Akershus. More rail traffic in the Oslo area explains the increase.

Less noise annoyance from aviation is the result of quieter aircraft as well as changes in procedures for landing and take-off at some airports.

The numbers are uncertain

The number of persons exposed to indoor noise above 38 dBA indoors may be overestimated, and the figures from Statistics Norway (SSB) must be considered preliminary. When more accurate calculations become available, the numbers will be recalculated.