



UK Official Development Assistance (ODA)

An overview of official UK spend on international development and the UK target to spend 0.7% of gross national income per calendar year.

1. Results:

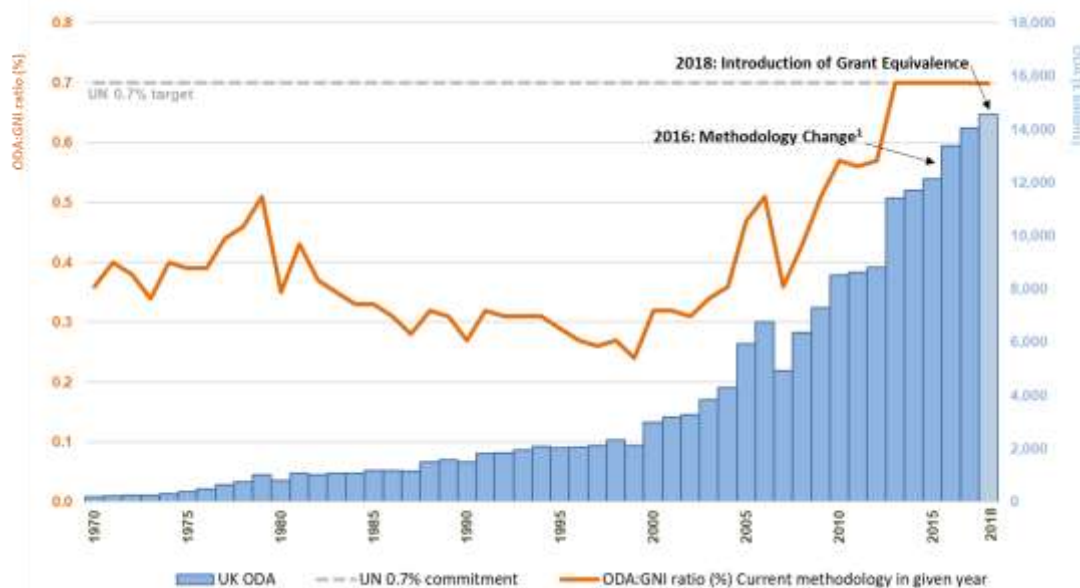
In 2018 provisional ODA spendⁱ represented **0.70 per cent** of UK Gross National Income (GNI). The total amount of ODA provided by the UK Government was provisionally £14,546 million in 2018. This was a rise of £487 million (3.5 per cent) on spend in 2017 (£14,059 million).

Figure 1 shows the trend in UK ODA since 1970. Overall there has been a steady increase in the level of UK ODA since 1970, with a peak in 2005 and 2006 which was driven by high levels of debt relief, and a steep increase in 2013 when the UK Government first met the 0.7 per cent ODA:GNI target.

The jump in the level of ODA in 2016 reflects the Office for National Statistics switch to the European System of Accounts (ESA) 2010 methodology for measuring GNI and the consequent need to increase UK ODA to meet the 0.7 per cent ODA target. In 2018, ODA is measured on a grant equivalent basis for the first time, which affects loans.

Figure 1: UK ODA Level between 1970 and 2018

2018 is shown in lighter blue to indicate that is a provisional figure



For more information on UK aid spending please follow link to DFID's national statistics publication [Statistics on International Development: Provisional UK Aid spend 2018](#)

2. Context

The United Nations General Assembly agreed on an international target of 0.7 per cent for the ODA:GNI ratio in 1970. The UK government first delivered on the commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of GNI on ODA from 2013, and in 2015 this commitment was enshrined in UK law.

3. Methodology summary

Official Development Assistance (ODA) is produced according to standardised definitions and methodologies controlled by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). ODA is defined as resource flows to developing countries and multilateral organisations, which are provided by official agencies (e.g. the UK Government) or their executive agencies, and each transaction meets the following tests:

- A) Administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective; and
- B) Concessional (i.e. grants or soft loans).

The ODA:GNI ratio presents the amount of UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) as a percentage of Gross National Income (GNI).

4. Data sources

Data for this publication comes from the following sources:

- DFID's 'ARIES' database that records financial transactions relating to DFID payments and receipts. It also includes information on the dates of transactions, where the transactions took place and in which sector. This information is primarily inputted by spending teams in DFID country offices and central departments, with some quality assurance carried out at input and centrally to ensure that spend is in line with OECD definitions of ODA. DFID spending made up about 75 per cent of total ODA in 2018.
- Similar databases for other departments. For non-DFID departments there is an assessment of whether the spending is in line with the OECD definitions of ODA. Non-DFID sources accounted for around 25 per cent of ODA.

5. Data quality notes

The Office for Statistics Regulation (part of the United Kingdom Statistics Authority) designated these statistics as National Statistics in March 2016, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the

Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation means the statistics carry the National Statistics label and conform to the standards of National Statistics.

The statistics shown here are provisional and may be subject to change between now and the final release of these statistics in autumn 2019.

The OECD DAC sets the definitions and classifications for reporting on ODA internationally. These are laid out in the DAC Statistical Reporting Directives. The statistics shown here are reported in line with these directives and are subjected to a quality assurance process as described in Annex 4 of Statistics on International Development [here](#)

ⁱ In 2018, ODA is measured on a grant equivalent basis