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## THE DRIVERS OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

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**Abstract:** The current paper aims to create a review of the most influential papers in the field of the drivers of sustainable economic growth. The authors have analysed and presented the academic papers on sustainability drivers according to their citations and publication type. The article presents the most influential papers of all time, focusing on the last five years (from 2018 to 2022). The results of our ranking for the previous five years align with most impact factor calculations available. To create a reliable ranking list of the most cited academic works in the field of sustainable economic growth, we have used the Google Scholar citation database and Ann Harzing software.

**Keywords:** sustainability, economic growth, academic papers, ranking.

### Introduction

Sustainability has come to the forefront of economic debates during the last three decades. More and more new journals are emerging focusing on this topic, such as the journal of "Sustainable development" published by John Wiley and Sons (Q1), Springer journal of "Environment, Development and Sustainability" (Q1/Q2), "International Journal of Sustainable Development" published by InderScience enterprises (Q2/Q3), "Sustainability" published by MDPI (Q1/Q2), "Sustainability Accounting, Management and Policy Journal" published by Emerald Group Publishing, and many other notorious journals indexed in the Web of Science and Scopus databases. Dozens of academic papers, such as articles, working papers, dissertation theses, working documents, analytical documents and books, are published annually on sustainable development.

When exploring this tremendous data, new researchers face the challenge of finding the best papers for examining the research gap that needs attention. On the other hand, journals also encounter the challenge of assessing if the existing literature was analysed enough. Thus ranking lists of the most influential research papers in the field under review is of assistance to both parties.

To fulfil the research goal, we used Ann Harzing's software (Harzing, 2007) to extract the citation reports from the Google Scholar database using the following keywords: sustainability, sustainable development, sustainable growth, sustainable economic growth, sustainable economic development, and sustainability emerging economies. We have searched articles for historical data and for a specific period (from 2018 to 2022).

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Table 1 includes the list of most cited top 50 papers on sustainable growth and development. Table 2 presents the top 20 most cited articles from 2018 to 2022.

**Table 1. Top 50 most cited articles on sustainable growth** (compiled by the authors)

N	Author(s)	Title	Year	Journal / Publisher
1.	EB Barbier	The concept of sustainable economic development	1987	Environmental conservation
2.	T Jackson	Prosperity without growth?: The transition to a sustainable economy	2009	Sustainable Development Commission
3.	TP Soubbotina	Beyond economic growth: An introduction to sustainable development	2004	World Bank Publications
4.	W Santagata	Cultural districts, property rights and sustainable economic growth	2002	International journal of urban and regional research
5.	R Dietz, D O'Neill	Enough is enough: Building a sustainable economy in a world of finite resources	2013	Berrett-Koehler Publishers
6.	K Tomislav	The concept of sustainable development: From its beginning to the contemporary issues.	2018	Zagreb International Review of Economics & Business,
7.	J Holmberg, R Sandbrook	Sustainable development: what is to be done?	2019	Policies for a small planet
8.	S Thacker, D Adshead, M Fay et al.	Infrastructure for sustainable development.	2019	Nature Sustainability
9.	P Ekins	'Limits to growth'and 'sustainable development': grappling with ecological realities	1993	Ecological Economics
10.	O Galor	The demographic transition and the emergence of sustained economic growth	2005	Journal of the European Economic Association
11.	E Barbier	The policy challenges for green economy and sustainable economic development	2011	Natural resources forum
12.	J MacNeill	Strategies for sustainable economic development	1989	Scientific American
13.	AL Halpern	The economics of sustainable development	1995	Centre for economic policy research /



				Cambridge University Press
14.	J Hammer, G Pivo	The triple bottom line and sustainable economic development theory and practice	2017	Economic Development Quarterly
15.	SAR Khan, Y Zhang, A Kumar et al.	Measuring the impact of renewable energy, public health expenditure, logistics, and environmental performance on sustainable economic growth	2020	Sustainable Development
16.	AA Adepoju, AS Salau, AE Obayelu	The effects of external debt management on sustainable economic growth and development: Lessons from Nigeria	2007	MPRA
17.	DŞ Armeanu, G Vintilă, ŞC Gherghina	Does renewable energy drive sustainable economic growth? multivariate panel data evidence for EU-28 countries	2017	Energies
18.	DC Duran, LM Gogan, A Artene, V Duran	The components of sustainable development-a possible approach	2015	Procedia Economics and Finance
19.	T Vasylieva, O Lyulyov, Y Bilan, D Streimikiene	Sustainable economic development and greenhouse gas emissions: The dynamic impact of renewable energy consumption, GDP, and corruption	2019	Energies
20.	P Dasgupta	The idea of sustainable development	2007	Sustainability Science
21.	E Hysa, A Kruja, NU Rehman, R Laurenti	Circular economy innovation and environmental sustainability impact on economic growth: An integrated model for sustainable development	2020	Sustainability
22.	R Kurniawan, S Managi	Economic growth and sustainable development in Indonesia: an assessment	2018	Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies
23.	AG Awan	Relationship between environment and sustainable economic development: A theoretical approach to environmental problems	2013	International Journal of Asian Social Science
24.	N Eisenmenger, M Pichler, N Krenmayr, D Noll et al.	The Sustainable Development Goals prioritise economic growth over sustainable resource use: a critical reflection on the SDGs from a socio-ecological	2020	Sustainability Science



		perspective		
25.	KI Carlaw, RG Lipsey	Externalities, technological complementarities and sustained economic growth	2002	Research Policy
26.	SS Pomi, SM Sarkar, BK Dhar	Human or physical capital, which influences sustainable economic growth most? A study on Bangladesh	2021	Canadian Journal of Business and Information Studies
27.	RK Turner, DW Pearce	Sustainable economic development: economic and ethical principles	1993	Economics and ecology
28.	S Creaco, G Querini	The role of tourism in sustainable economic development	2003	European Regional Science Associatio
29.	S Smulders	Environmental policy and sustainable economic growth	1995	De Economist
30.	SMN Islam, M Munasinghe, M Clarke	Making long-term economic growth more sustainable: evaluating the costs and benefits	2003	Ecological Economics
31.	T Jackson	Societal transformations for a sustainable economy	2011	Natural Resources Forum
32.	M Munasinghe	Making economic growth more sustainable	1995	Ecological Economics
33.	A Esseghir, LH Khouni	Economic growth, energy consumption and sustainable development: The case of the Union for the Mediterranean countries	2014	Energy
34.	I Khan, F Hou, A Zakari, VK Tawiah	The dynamic links among energy transitions, energy consumption, and sustainable economic growth: A novel framework for IEA countries	2021	Energy
35.	OT Oyelola, IO Ajiboshin, L Raimi et al.	Entrepreneurship for sustainable economic growth in Nigeria	2013	Journal of sustainable Development Studies
36.	F Tregenna	Deindustrialisation, structural change and sustainable economic growth	2015	UNU-MERIT
37.	AN Menegaki, CT Tugcu	Energy consumption and Sustainable Economic Welfare in G7 countries; A comparison with the conventional nexus	2017	Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews
38.	CC Chang, CFS Carballo	Energy conservation and sustainable economic growth: The case of Latin America and the Caribbean	2011	Energy policy
39.	M Weber, V	A multi-factor dynamic	2005	Ecological

	Barth, K Hasselmann	integrated assessment model (MADIAM) of induced technological change and sustainable economic growth		Economics
40.	AA Adenle, L Manning, H Azadi	Agribusiness innovation: A pathway to sustainable economic growth in Africa	2017	Trends in food science & technology
41.	PE Prasetyo, NR Kistanti	Human capital, institutional economics and entrepreneurship as a driver for quality & sustainable economic growth	2020	Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Issues
42.	DC Duran, A Artene, LM Gogan, V Duran	The objectives of sustainable development-ways to achieve welfare	2015	Procedia Economics and Finance
43.	DȘ Armeanu, G Vintilă, ȘC Gherghina	Empirical study towards the drivers of sustainable economic growth in EU-28 countries	2017	Sustainability
44.	AK Alhowaish	Is tourism development a sustainable economic growth strategy in the long run? Evidence from GCC countries	2016	Sustainability
45.	CM Loser, E Kalter	Mexico: The strategy to achieve sustained economic growth	1992	Mexico
46.	JE Stiglitz	How to restore equitable and sustainable economic growth in the United States	2016	American Economic Review
47.	W Saad, K Kalakech	The nature of government expenditure and its impact on sustainable economic growth	2009	Middle Eastern Finance and Economics
48.	J Zhang	Delivering environmentally sustainable economic growth: The case of China	2012	Asia Society Report
49.	HA Ajie, OE Wokekoro	The impact of corruption on sustainable economic growth and development in Nigeria	2012	International Journal of Economic Development Research and Investment
50.	E Kim, Y Ha, S Kim	Public debt, corruption and sustainable economic growth	2017	Sustainability

The next table presents the most cited articles on sustainable growth that were published during the last 5 years.

**Table 2. Top 20 most cited articles on sustainable growth from 2018 to 2022**  
(compiled by the authors)

N	Author(s)	Title	Year	Journal /
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				<b>Publisher</b>
1.	K Tomislav	The concept of sustainable development: From its beginning to the contemporary issues.	2018	Zagreb International Review of Economics & Business,
2.	J Holmberg, R Sandbrook	Sustainable development: what is to be done?	2019	Policies for a small planet
3.	S Thacker, D Adshead, M Fay et al.	Infrastructure for sustainable development.	2019	Nature Sustainability
4.	SAR Khan, Y Zhang, A Kumar et al.	Measuring the impact of renewable energy, public health expenditure, logistics, and environmental performance on sustainable economic growth	2020	Sustainable Development
5.	T Vasylieva, O Lyulyov, Y Bilan, D Streimikiene	Sustainable economic development and greenhouse gas emissions: The dynamic impact of renewable energy consumption, GDP, and corruption	2019	Energies
6.	E Hysa, A Kruja, NU Rehman, R Laurenti	Circular economy innovation and environmental sustainability impact on economic growth: An integrated model for sustainable development	2020	Sustainability
7.	R Kurniawan, S Managi	Economic growth and sustainable development in Indonesia: an assessment	2018	Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies
8.	N Eisenmenger, M Pichler, N Krenmayr, D Noll et al.	The Sustainable Development Goals prioritise economic growth over sustainable resource use: a critical reflection on the SDGs from a socio-ecological perspective.	2020	Sustainability Science
9.	SS Pomi, SM Sarkar, BK Dhar	Human or physical capital, which influences sustainable economic growth most? A study on Bangladesh	2021	Canadian Journal of Business and Information Studies
10.	I Khan, F Hou, A Zakari, VK Tawiah	The dynamic links among energy transitions, energy consumption, and sustainable economic growth: A novel framework for IEA countries	2021	Energy
11.	PE Prasetyo, NR Kistanti	Human capital, institutional economics and entrepreneurship as a driver for quality	2020	Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Issues



		&sustainable economic growth		
12.	E Mania, A Rieber	Product export diversification and sustainable economic growth in developing countries	2019	Structural change and economic dynamics
13.	RP Pradhan, MB Arvin, M Nair et al.	Sustainable economic growth in the European Union: The role of ICT, venture capital, and innovation	2020	Review of Financial Economics
14.	AC Marques, JA Fuinhas, DF Pais	Economic growth, sustainable development and food consumption: Evidence across different income groups of countries	2018	Journal of Cleaner Production
15.	A Arif, M Sadiq, MS Shabbir, G Yahya et al.	The role of globalisation in financial development, trade openness and sustainable environmental-economic growth: evidence from selected South Asian economies	2022	Journal of Sustainable Finance and Investment
16.	AV Fomina, ON Berduygina et al.	Industrial cooperation and its influence on sustainable economic growth	2018	Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Issues
17.	R Abdulov	Artificial intelligence as an important factor of sustainable and crisis-free economic growth	2020	Procedia Computer Science
18.	G Wang, M Sadiq, T Bashir, V Jain, SA Ali et al.	The dynamic association between different strategies of renewable energy sources and sustainable economic growth under SDGs	2022	Energy Strategy Reviews
19.	T Christoforidis, C Katrakilidis, A Karakotsios et al.	The dynamic links between nuclear energy and sustainable economic growth. Do institutions matter?	2021	Progress in Nuclear Energy
20.	T Hirai	A balancing act between economic growth and sustainable development: Historical trajectory through the lens of development indicators	2022	Sustainable Development



## Concluding Remarks

The academic paper published by Barbier in 1987 on the topic "The concept of sustainable economic development" has shaped the concept of sustainability in economic growth and development, ranking at the top of the list with the highest number of citations. It is followed by two popular books published by Jackson (Prosperity without growth?: The transition to a sustainable economy) and Soubbotina (Beyond economic growth: An introduction to sustainable development). It is evident that the research on sustainable economic growth is ongoing as a popular field in economic analysis.

## References

Harzing, A.W. (2007) Publish or Perish. Available at <https://harzing.com/resources/publish-or-perish/windows>