



# 1 A comparative analysis of EDGAR and UNFCCC GHG emissions 2 inventories: insights on trends, methodology and data discrepancies

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## 10 **Abstract**

11 Tracking greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is essential for understanding the drivers of climate change and guiding  
12 global mitigation strategies. The Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR) and submissions  
13 by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are two key sources of  
14 GHG emissions data. While EDGAR provides comprehensive and globally consistent estimates, UNFCCC  
15 submissions are based on nationally reported inventories, which adhere to specific guidelines and reflect country-  
16 specific circumstances and practices. This study presents a detailed comparison between EDGAR and UNFCCC  
17 GHG emissions inventories, focusing on G20 countries, which account for nearly 80% of global emissions, as well  
18 as Annex I countries, including the EU27. By examining sectoral discrepancies, methodological variations, and the  
19 impact of reporting timelines, the paper identifies key areas of alignment and divergence in emissions estimates.  
20 While CO<sub>2</sub> emissions show strong agreement between the datasets, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O estimates exhibit substantial  
21 discrepancies due to differences in methodologies, emission factors, uncertainties, and reporting practices. Our  
22 findings emphasise the need for enhanced methodological harmonization and more frequent reporting, particularly  
23 in non-Annex I countries, where limited capacity and irregular updates reduce comparability. Addressing these  
24 inconsistencies is crucial for improving transparency, aligning national and independent datasets, and  
25 strengthening climate policy decisions under the Paris Agreement.

## 26 **1 Introduction**

27 The quantification of GHG and air pollutants emissions has become a priority in the political and scientific agendas  
28 nowadays. The accurate estimation of GHG emissions is important for the global efforts to combat climate change.  
29 The Paris Agreement which made legally binding the target of 2° C temperature increase compared to pre-  
30 industrial time for global warming, introduced a review process for emission inventories every five-years, starting  
31 from 2018 (UNFCCC, 2015). This process is a key element of the global stocktake, where national emission  
32 inventories are evaluated to track progress toward meeting climate targets.

33 The evolution of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) methodologies, currently represented by  
34 the 2006 Guidelines (IPCC, 2006) and 2019 Refinement (IPCC, 2019) versions, reflects the increasing  
35 methodological improvement for GHG inventory estimates, enabling countries to provide more accurate and  
36 comprehensive data. These guidelines have become essential for national inventories submitted to the UNFCCC,  
37 ensuring comparability across countries while accommodating varying levels of capacity and data availability.

38 Within the UNFCCC inventory system, countries are required to regularly submit their emission inventories and  
39 national reports, which form the foundation for assessing global progress toward emission reduction goals. These  
40 inventories form the basis for tracking progress in meeting national climate targets and assessing the collective  
41 progress of Parties towards global goals. The Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) introduced by Paris  
42 Agreement aims to improve emissions reporting by fostering greater consistency, comparability, and transparency  
43 in national data (UNFCCC Secretariat, 2021a). The CRF/CRT (Common Reporting Format/Common Reporting  
44 Tables) reporting formats are designed to improve the clarity and consistency of emission data submitted by  
45 Parties, enhancing the credibility of the emissions data used in the global stocktake process (UNFCCC Secretariat,  
46 2024).



47 However, persistent differences in data interpretation, methodologies, and data quality remain. This leads for  
 48 instance to differences between EDGAR's independent, partially top-down estimates and the UNFCCC's bottom-  
 49 up inventories (van Amstel et al., 1999). These discrepancies should be interpreted in the context of methodological  
 50 frameworks rather than as inaccuracies in either dataset. Bottom-up inventories, typically designed for regulatory  
 51 purposes, use detailed activity data combined with specific emission factors (EFs) to comprehensively estimate  
 52 emissions (Dios et al., 2012), (Smith et al., 2022). In this context, the comparison of inventories is useful to detect  
 53 gaps in inventories data, mistakes or differences (van Amstel et al., 1999).

54 Bottom-up inventories benefit from their ability to reflect national circumstances, including detailed local data and  
 55 customized emission factors. However, they often face challenges such as limited data quality, methodological  
 56 inconsistencies, and varying levels of technical capacity, especially in developing countries. When looking for the  
 57 examples of comparisons between two or more bottom-up approaches, the scientific literature cannot offer a large  
 58 number of analysis or these comparison studies can be found only for specific sectors as in the case of bottom-up  
 59 energy inventories/models (Pfenninger et al., 2014). (Prina et al., 2020) have performed a literature review on the  
 60 existing comparisons on bottom-up energy inventories/models.

61 Both EDGAR and UNFCCC inventory system play complementary but distinct roles in tracking emissions, with  
 62 significant implications for climate science and policy. Despite their shared goal of advanced understanding of  
 63 GHG emissions, EDGAR and UNFCCC datasets often differ significantly in their estimates, raising questions about  
 64 the comparability and harmonization of global emission inventories.

65 These differences arise from variations in methodologies, data sources, emission factors, and sectoral  
 66 classifications, among other factors. For instance, (Olivier and Peters, 2020) noted significant variations between  
 67 UNFCCC reported emissions and EDGAR estimates, particularly in sectors such as agriculture and waste, where  
 68 data availability and methodology differ widely. Similarly, (Federici et al., 2015) highlighted that discrepancies often  
 69 arise from differences in emission factor assumptions and activity data used in the two systems. Understanding  
 70 and addressing differences is critical for enhancing the transparency, accuracy, and usability of GHG data.  
 71 (Petrescu, et al., 2024) found that for the EU the discrepancies in methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) emissions between the UNFCCC  
 72 countries inventories 1990–2020 average and EDGARv7.0 dataset is less than 5%.

73 Several studies have emphasized the complexities in comparing emissions data due to variations in datasets  
 74 related to energy consumption, production, and use. For example, Andrew et al., 2020 compared estimates of  
 75 global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuel sources and highlighted how differences in assumptions, scope, and  
 76 revisions among datasets contribute to discrepancies in emissions reporting. Similarly, Marland et al., 2009  
 77 underscored the importance of transparent methodologies and harmonized data for improving global carbon  
 78 accounting.

79 The methodology used in this paper involves the comparison of GHG emissions data from EDGAR database and  
 80 national inventories submitted to the UNFCCC having in focus the G20 countries, Annex I countries and EU27  
 81 countries (see Table S.1 for country names and iso 3 codes). The aim of this comparison is to evaluate the extent  
 82 of alignment, identify the drivers of discrepancies for data and methodologies applied.

## 83 2 Analytical frameworks, geographical scope, methodology and data availability

84 The comparison begins by addressing the mapping of sectoral coverage having in focus the structure of the  
 85 Common Reporting Tables (CRT) in UNFCCC submissions and the EDGAR's harmonised global data system.  
 86 This helps identifying variations arising from different classification structures and data treatment approaches.

87 Temporal trends are also integral to the analysis, with datasets examined over consistent time series, to assess  
 88 trends and variability. Differences in reporting frequency, data updates, and methodological refinements over time  
 89 are evaluated for their impact on emissions estimates and trend reliability.

90 The geographical scope of this paper focuses on the G20 countries, which collectively represented in 2023 just  
 91 over 77% of global GHG emissions, approximately 81% of global carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from fossil fuels,  
 92 nearly two-third of global methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) emissions, nearly 68% of global nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions (EDGAR,  
 93 2024) and two-third of global population (Climate Analytics, WRI 2021).



94 The G20 countries play an important role in shaping the global emissions trends and are pivotal in achieving the  
 95 objectives of the Paris Agreement (UNFCCC Secretariat, 2021b). This group includes a diverse range of  
 96 economies, covering both Annex I and non-Annex I countries, allowing for an analysis of how discrepancies vary  
 97 across countries with different level of economic development and statistical infrastructure. The inclusion of G20  
 98 countries provides a comprehensive basis for evaluating the comparison between EDGAR emissions data and  
 99 countries inventories submitted to the UNFCCC.

## 100 2.1 Conceptual framework of GHG emission estimation

101 The analysis of GHG emissions inventories requires a clear understanding of the conceptual underpinnings of the  
 102 data frameworks used for estimation and reporting. The main principles of GHG emissions accounting are  
 103 structured around two main dimensions: (i) **production-based emissions** - emitted during economic production  
 104 activities within a specific geographic area, regardless of where the produced goods or services are consumed.  
 105 This approach aligns with the territory principle used in national inventories compiled according to IPCC guidelines,  
 106 and (ii) **demand-based emissions** - known also as consumption-based emissions, attributing emissions to the  
 107 final consumers of goods and services, regardless of where the emissions occur along the supply chain.

108 The IPCC has played a pivotal role in standardizing methodologies for estimating GHG emissions since its  
 109 establishment in 1988. The IPCC classification is primarily a production-based emissions classification system that  
 110 operates under the territory principle, making it suitable for tracking emissions within national boundaries and  
 111 ensuring compliance with international agreements like the Paris Agreement.

112 The evolution of IPCC methodologies (see Table 1) reflects advancements in the scientific understanding,  
 113 technological capabilities, and the growing complexity of climate policies. Reporting requirements for GHG  
 114 inventory are different for Annex I and non-Annex I countries that can choose to follow also a different data  
 115 compilation procedure under the IPCC Guidelines.

## 116 2.2 Methodologies in EDGAR and in the UNFCCC inventory system submissions

117 The EDGAR database originally created by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and PBL, Netherlands and now  
 118 continuously developed by the JRC, provides a consistent, comprehensive, and independent estimate of global  
 119 emissions. It adopts the IPCC sectoral classification and applies a standardized bottom-up emission calculation  
 120 methodology across all countries to ensure comparability of emissions estimates while accounting for variations in  
 121 data detail, uncertainties, and limitations among countries (Crippa et al., 2024). The EDGAR database is  
 122 characterised by a high granularity with more than 95 sub-sectors, 75 fuels and 90 technologies included in the  
 123 emission estimation.

124 EDGAR provides emissions consistently estimated for more than 220 world countries based on international  
 125 statistics and a detailed methodology following the IPCC guidelines (Crippa et.al., 2018), (Janssens-Maenhout  
 126 et.al., 2019), (Oreggioni et.al., 2021), (Oreggioni et.al., 2022). Figure S.1 illustrates data sources for activity data  
 127 and emission factors, used in the EDGAR bottom-up approach to estimate emissions.

128 Its global scope and consistency make EDGAR a useful comparative reference when national data are limited,  
 129 depending on the context and analytical needs. In case when specific data are unavailable, EDGAR fill the gaps  
 130 with proxy data or extrapolated values from regional or global trends.

131 EDGAR is mainly a Tier 1 bottom-up inventory incorporating elements of Tier 2 method e.g for the estimation of  
 132 enteric fermentation methane emissions from both dairy and non-dairy cattle (Crippa et al., 2024). EDGAR primarily  
 133 employs default emission factors for estimating GHG emissions, though it selectively incorporates country-specific  
 134 information (Janssens-Maenhout et al., 2019).

135 On the other side, the UNFCCC inventory system is built on country-level submissions, where Parties report their  
 136 emissions in accordance with the guidelines established under the IPCC. These submissions reflect national data  
 137 and methodologies, capturing country-specific circumstances and practices. While this bottom-up approach  
 138 ensures relevance to national contexts, it also results in variability in data quality, completeness, and comparability



139 across countries. For example, at the EU level, and for most of the key categories of the EU inventory, more than  
 140 75%<sup>1</sup> of the EU emissions are calculated using higher tier methodologies.

141 Figure 1 illustrates examples of different methodological approaches and emission factors applied by Annex I (42  
 142 countries) and G20 non-Annex I (9 countries) countries for estimating GHG in two sectors: public electricity and  
 143 heat production (CO<sub>2</sub>) and enteric fermentation (CH<sub>4</sub>). It highlights the reliance on Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3  
 144 methodologies, as well as the inclusion of country-specific (CS) emission factors, which vary significantly between  
 145 the two sectors. In the public electricity and heat production sector, Tier 2 methodologies are predominantly used  
 146 in Annex I, with ten countries applying this approach. A significant number of Annex I countries (13) employ a  
 147 combination of Tier 1 and Tier 2 methodologies, reflecting a moderate level of methodological refinement. More  
 148 advanced approaches, such as the exclusive use of Tier 3 methods or a mix of Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3, are less  
 149 common, applied by three and six Annex I countries, respectively. In G20 non-Annex I countries Tier 1 and  
 150 Tier1/Tier 2 methods are applied the most (6).

151 In contrast, the enteric fermentation sector primarily relies on simpler approaches. The combination of Tier 1 and  
 152 Tier 2 methods is used by most Annex I countries (30), indicating a preference for straightforward and less data-  
 153 intensive estimation methods for methane emissions from livestock. Only a small number of Annex I countries  
 154 adopt Tier 1 or Tier 2 methodologies individually, with two and one countries, respectively, using these tiers alone.  
 155 Advanced combinations, such as Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3, are used by four Annex I countries. Among G20 non-  
 156 Annex I countries the application of Tier 1 and Tier 1 combined with Tier 2 are applied the most (8 countries). Table  
 157 S.2 provides an overview of the methodologies applied in some Annex I countries for CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub>.

158 As all 2024<sup>2</sup> Annex I UNFCCC submissions became available by the end of April 2025, the comparative analysis  
 159 presented in the main text is based on the officially reported national greenhouse gas inventories for the year 2024,  
 160 ensuring temporal consistency using the EDGAR 2024 dataset. Accordingly, all tables and figures in the main text  
 161 reflect the comparison between the UNFCCC Common Reporting Tables (CRT) 2024 and EDGAR 2024. For non-  
 162 Annex I countries that submitted their Biennial Update Reports (BURs), National Communications (NCs), and/or  
 163 CRT tables during 2024, the comparison is likewise performed using EDGAR 2024 data. The supplementary  
 164 material provides information illustrating trends and differences related to activity data, emission factors,  
 165 methodologies and sectoral trends, based on the comparison between the UNFCCC 2023 submissions and the  
 166 EDGAR v8.0 dataset released in 2023.

### 167 2.3 Sectorial mapping: online EDGAR data vs UNFCCC inventory system submissions

168 The comparison between EDGAR and UNFCCC country submissions requires an understanding of their sectorial  
 169 classifications which are important to identify and interpret discrepancies in emissions data.

170 Despite its very detailed internal structure, when comparing EDGAR's available data online that represent a more  
 171 aggregated version of the estimations, users might face some issues. The EDGAR database follows IPCC sectoral  
 172 classifications introducing few modifications - such as aggregating specific subcategories and adjusting sector and  
 173 fuel breakdowns - to enhance global comparability. Subcategories in EDGAR include global aggregates by sector  
 174 and fuel, matching IPCC where applicable (Jeffery et al., 2006).

175 On the other side the UNFCCC country submissions follow the IPCC guidelines for national inventories using the  
 176 CRF/CRT to ensure standardisation in countries submissions, categorizing emissions into broad sectors: Energy,  
 177 Industrial processes and product use, Agriculture, Land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF), Waste, and  
 178 Other. Within each of these sectors, countries may break down emissions into more specific sub-categories (e.g.,

(<sup>1</sup>) <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/indicators/total-greenhouse-gas-emission-trends?activeAccordion=546a7c35-9188-4d23-94ee-005d97c26f2b>

(<sup>2</sup>) In 2024, the Annex I UNFCCC reporting did not follow the usual timeline, as many submissions were delayed beyond the standard April–May deadline. Countries submitted their reports throughout the year, with the final submission (Sweden) arriving in April 2025. Initially, at the time of preparing the main analysis for this paper, the data—available only in the CRT tables—were incomplete. However, all 2024 submissions are now available. For the EU27, the inventory report was submitted in December 2024, and the CRT tables were finalized by the end of April 2025. The updated analysis presented in this paper uses the full set of 2024 submissions to construct the overall GHG inventory for CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O, which is now used in comparison with EDGAR 2024 data for selected sections of the paper.



179 different types of energy or industrial processes). The number of sub-categories can vary depending on the  
 180 country's reporting practices and the level of detail they provide.

181 The sub-categories can be further broken down in various fuel types for emissions from the energy sector, animal  
 182 types for emissions from the agriculture sector, and other specific inputs depending on the sector. For example, in  
 183 the energy sector, emissions may be classified by fuel type, such as liquid fuels, natural gas, or coal. In agriculture,  
 184 emissions can be broken down by different animal types, such as cattle, sheep, and pigs. In the industrial  
 185 processes and product use sector, emissions can be classified by specific chemicals or materials used. Similarly,  
 186 in the waste sector, emissions may be differentiated based on waste treatment methods (e.g., landfill, incineration,  
 187 composting).

188 Table S.3 illustrates a sectorial mapping between the EDGAR structure applied for online reporting even that its  
 189 internal system follows a more detailed IPCC classification. The aim of this sectorial mapping is focused on  
 190 EDGAR's online available categories rather than the extensive subcategories available within full detailed  
 191 database.

192 Table S.3 is structured to help users to navigate EDGAR's online data and compare it effectively with other data  
 193 sources providing also the allocation of categories upon EDGAR yearly publication. It brings also the differences  
 194 in categories assignment between UNFCCC submissions of Annex I and non-Annex I countries. EDGAR structure  
 195 is more in line with the UNFCCC structure of Annex I countries with some changes as for example the category of  
 196 Manure Management is assigned as sector 3.A.2 in EDGAR (as in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines) whereas in the  
 197 UNFCCC structure is assigned at category 3.B.

198 EDGAR's online data are provided following both IPCC classifications: 1996 and 2006. Issues related to the  
 199 comparison with the EDGAR's online data is related also with the very detailed structure that EDGAR has for some  
 200 sub-sectors for which the country reporting don't provide a detailed information. For example, under category  
 201 1.A.5.b related to vehicles and other machinery, marine and aviation emissions that are not included in 1 A 4 c ii  
 202 or elsewhere, not all countries provide detailed estimation, making as such difficult the comparison of data since  
 203 EDGAR has a very detailed estimation and split these emissions between Buildings and Fuel exploitation. Non  
 204 specified industry 1.A.2.m IPCC 2006 code has not a corresponding code in IPCC 1996 and can be aligned with  
 205 the UNFCCC reporting code 1.A.2.g.viii.

## 206 **2.4 Metrics and data availability for comparison**

207 The comparison of GHG emissions data from EDGAR and national inventories submitted to the UNFCCC requires  
 208 the use of comprehensive metrics to evaluate discrepancies, identify their sources, and assess the robustness of  
 209 methodologies. These metrics span quantitative, temporal, sectoral, methodological, and qualitative dimensions,  
 210 each providing unique insights on the alignment and differences between datasets.

211 One of the key metrics is the total emissions by sector and gas, which provides an overview of emissions across  
 212 categories such as energy, agriculture, and waste. The percentage difference and absolute difference metrics  
 213 further quantify these variations, offering insights on the magnitude and scale of discrepancies.

214 Temporal metrics also play a critical role in this analysis. Comparing year-to-year trends in emissions data  
 215 highlights areas where trends diverge, such as in dynamic sectors like transport or industry. The timeliness of data  
 216 is particularly relevant when working with non-Annex I country inventories, where irregular submission intervals  
 217 may result in temporal gaps and short time series of data. For instance, when comparing EDGAR's annually  
 218 updated emissions data with inventories submitted years earlier and not updating the whole time series as in the  
 219 case of non-Annex I countries shows how reporting lags can influence the alignment of trends.

220 Unlike Annex I countries, which are required to submit annual inventories as part of their obligations, non-Annex I  
 221 countries traditionally submitted their inventories as part of their National Communications (NCs) or Biennial  
 222 Update Reports (BURs), with no fixed timeline. This inconsistency meant that emission data from non-Annex I  
 223 countries were often outdated, creating discrepancies when compared with current statistics or datasets like  
 224 EDGAR, which are updated annually.



225 Another issue related to the availability of non-Annex I data on the UNFCCC website is that the data provided  
 226 under the sections for country profiles or detailed data by Party are often outdated and do not include the latest  
 227 submissions from non-Annex I countries.

228 However, under the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework, all Parties, including non-Annex I  
 229 countries, are now required to submit Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), including Common Reporting Tables  
 230 (CRT) for greenhouse gas inventories, by 31 December 2024, with flexibility for Least Developed Countries (LDCs)  
 231 and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (UNFCCC, 2024b). This development is expected to improve the  
 232 availability, comparability, and timeliness of inventory data from non-Annex I countries. However, there is a  
 233 difference in data organization between Annex I and non-Annex I countries on the UNFCCC website, where Annex  
 234 I countries' data are in one place (NIR/NID and CRF/CRT), while non-Annex I countries' data are scattered<sup>3</sup>.

235 The years for which data are now available for G20 non-Annex I countries considering their submissions of BURs  
 236 and NCs are shown in Table 2. Within the G20 countries, although Argentina submitted its BURs/NC in 2015  
 237 (covering the year 2012), in 2017 (covering the year 2014), and every two years since 2019 (covering the years  
 238 2018 and 2020), the data available in the UNFCCC country profiles and detailed data by Party still correspond to  
 239 its 2015 BUR/NC. Argentina's most recent inventory submission in 2024 covers the period 1990- 2020 whereas  
 240 the CRT tables cover period 1990-2022. Mexico has submitted its Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) by the end  
 241 of 2024 with data for period 1990-2022.

242 The fourth NC of Brazil was submitted in 2020 covering the period 1990-2016 while the fifth BUR along with the  
 243 CRT tables was submitted in December 2024. Since these inventories are based on data updated at different  
 244 times, this results in discrepancies from a statistical perspective. Therefore, comparing Brazil's emissions with  
 245 datasets, such as EDGAR's 2023 update, involves discrepancies stemming from the differences in the timing of  
 246 statistical updates.

247 China's fourth NC was submitted in the year 2023 reporting however data only for the year 2018. The GHG  
 248 emissions inventory, part of fourth China's BUR report submitted in 2024, followed the structure of the IPCC 2006  
 249 Guidelines providing data for the year 2020. The CRT tables submitted in December 2024 provides data only for  
 250 years 2005, 2020 and 2021. Mexico's sixth NC was submitted in 2019, with 2015 being the most recent year of  
 251 available data. The last NIR was submitted in 2022 with information/data for period 1990-2019, but it still lacks  
 252 data for some years related to emissions. Although these updates, the data available on the UNFCCC website for  
 253 this country still reflects the older dataset.

254 When comparing total CO<sub>2</sub> fossil fuel emissions for Mexico in 2013, the updated statistics showed emissions that  
 255 were 6.6% higher than those in the previous submission. South Africa submitted its fourth NC in 2024, six years  
 256 after its third NC, providing an inventory for the period 2000–2020. However, the detailed reporting for sectors and  
 257 substances is missing. Saudi Arabia first NC was submitted in 2005 providing data for year 1990 and the second  
 258 NC report was submitted in 2011 with data for year 2000. Saudi Arabia has submitted two BURs so far: in 2018  
 259 with data for 2012 and in 2024 with data for year 2019. The first submission of CRT tables for years 2019, 2020  
 260 and 2021 took place in march 2025.

261 Irregular submissions mean that emissions reported by non-Annex I countries may not reflect recent economic  
 262 developments, policy changes, or shifts in sectoral activities. For instance, significant growth in emissions from the  
 263 energy sector in Indonesia between 2019 and 2024 is unlikely to be captured in older inventories.

264 These lags pose a challenge for ensuring accuracy and relevance in global emissions analyses. When comparing  
 265 EDGAR's annually updated emissions data with inventories submitted by non-Annex I countries, analysts must  
 266 account for significant time discrepancies. This introduces uncertainties, as national inventories often rely on older  
 267 methodologies, datasets, and assumptions that may not align with the latest global standards or trends. **As gap-**  
 268 **filling techniques are required to ensure continuity in non-Annex I reporting, any inventory or model**  
 269 **claiming to use data from these countries while presenting a complete historic time series is, in fact,**  
 270 **applying estimation methods rather than solely relying on reported data. It is important to highlight here**

<sup>(3)</sup> The non-Annex I countries CRT tables can be found at the "Party-authored reports" section <https://unfccc.int/reports>



271 **the role of EDGAR as one of the established sources providing consistent emissions data for all countries,**  
 272 **offering a transparent and systematic approach that supports comparative analyses when full time series**  
 273 **are not available from national reporting.**

## 274 **2.5 Uncertainty in GHG emissions estimation**

275 Uncertainty plays an important role when comparing emissions data from different sources. The estimation of  
 276 emissions involves various factors that contribute to uncertainty, including the quality of activity data, the choice of  
 277 emission factors, and the application of methodologies.

278 When comparing emissions data from EDGAR and the UNFCCC countries submissions, one of the critical aspects  
 279 to consider is whether the statistical differences between the two datasets fall within the acceptable thresholds of  
 280 uncertainty. If the statistical differences between the two data sources fall within this threshold range, it can be  
 281 concluded that the observed discrepancies are likely due to the inherent uncertainties of the data and  
 282 methodologies used rather than significant differences in actual emissions levels. In such cases, the comparison  
 283 of EDGAR and UNFCCC emissions data should be interpreted with caution, as small differences within this range  
 284 are expected and do not necessarily indicate discrepancies in the overall emissions trends or rankings of countries.  
 285 Uncertainties related to trends and variability indicate that the uncertainty for long-term emission trends is generally  
 286 larger for earlier years and smaller for more recent years, particularly in non-Annex I countries, due to limited data  
 287 sources, technological limitations, and less developed reporting systems.

288 For EDGAR, uncertainty is primarily linked to its use of global datasets and standardised methodologies. This  
 289 ensures consistency but may lack the granularity needed to capture country-specific conditions. (Solazzo et al.  
 290 2021) reported that global uncertainty in EDGAR emissions estimates for CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O (taken together) in  
 291 2015 ranged between -15% and +20%, highlighting variability across sectors and gases. While CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
 292 are more reliably estimated due to better data availability, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions introduce significant variability,  
 293 especially in sectors with limited reporting or high process heterogeneity. These variations underscore the  
 294 importance of acknowledging uncertainties when comparing EDGAR data with other inventories.

295 The uncertainty in EDGAR's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions estimates for the energy sector is approximately 7%, with a high level  
 296 of confidence for major emitting countries. Estimation of emissions from fossil fuel combustion, the main source of  
 297 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, relies on well-documented activity data and scientifically established emission factors.

298 For industrialized countries, EDGAR's CO<sub>2</sub> uncertainties typically range between ±5–10%, reflecting robust energy  
 299 statistics and stable emission factor estimates (see Table 3). In developing countries, where energy data may be  
 300 less comprehensive, uncertainties increase to ±10–20%. The variability is even greater for biofuel-related  
 301 emissions due to the complexities in estimating the carbon content and combustion characteristics of these fuels.

302 CH<sub>4</sub> emissions show significantly higher uncertainties compared to CO<sub>2</sub> due to the variability in emission processes  
 303 and the challenges in measuring fugitive emissions. For example, emissions from oil and gas production, which  
 304 form a large portion of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions, have uncertainties that can reach ±75%. In regions with less developed  
 305 infrastructure or incomplete reporting systems, such as certain developing countries, this variability can increase  
 306 further. Methane emissions from agricultural sources and waste sectors also contribute to high uncertainty levels,  
 307 often exceeding ±50%, due to spatial and process-specific variability.

308 N<sub>2</sub>O emissions are among the most uncertain in EDGAR due to their dependence on complex chemical and  
 309 biological processes. These emissions, particularly from agriculture, are influenced by variables such as soil type,  
 310 climate, and fertilizer application practices. As a result, uncertainty levels for N<sub>2</sub>O emissions can exceed ±100%,  
 311 especially in sectors with high spatial and temporal variability. For example, fossil fuel combustion and waste  
 312 management processes also contribute to N<sub>2</sub>O emissions, but the relative uncertainty in these sectors remains  
 313 substantial, often surpassing ±50%.

314 The UNFCCC submissions incorporate country-specific data and emission factors. While this approach improves  
 315 relevance, it introduces variability in data quality, completeness, and comparability. In the UNFCCC country  
 316 submissions, the methodologies applied also include higher tiers, as these often, though not solely, are based on



more detailed methods that account for national or process-specific characteristics (Tier 2 and Tier 3) (Schulte et al., 2024).

For Annex I countries, where reporting systems are more robust, uncertainty in fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is typically within ±5%–±10% (Jones et al., 2021). The uncertainty ranges of CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions is broader, for example, the USA reports a 95% confidence interval for total CH<sub>4</sub> emissions ranging from -8% to +12%, and for N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from -19% to +30% (USA NID 2024).

In non-Annex I country inventories, uncertainties are often reported at an aggregate level for total GHG emissions or specific sectors such as energy, industry, or agriculture, and they may rely on older or incomplete data. Argentina's BUR5 reports a GHG emission uncertainty of 23.1% for 1990 and 6.5% for 2020. In China, the reported uncertainty for 2020 GHG emissions ranges between -4.1% and +4.4%.

Regarding non-CO<sub>2</sub> substances, Petrescu et al. (2024) analysed CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions across EU27+UK, comparing bottom-up and top-down estimates with national UNFCCC submissions. Their findings indicate that for CH<sub>4</sub>, uncertainties can exceed ±20%, particularly in agriculture and waste sectors. Brazil's BUR5 reports CH<sub>4</sub> uncertainty in fuel combustion at 49% and in the metal industry at 85%, highlighting significant variation across sectors. India's BUR4 reports an uncertainty for CH<sub>4</sub> emissions that ranges from 21% for rice cultivation to 100% for fugitive emissions from solid fuels (above ground mining).

### 3 Results of global emissions comparison: a focus on G20 countries

#### 3.1 Global GHG emissions

Global GHG emissions (without Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry) according to EDGAR have reached 53.0 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq in 2023 showing an increase of 28% since 2005 and 62% since 1990 (Crippa et al., 2024).

Reporting GHG emissions in the harmonised unit of kilotons of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent (kt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq) requires applying Global Warming Potential (GWP) values provided by various IPCC Assessment Reports (ARs). However, countries do not apply these GWP values uniformly over time, which can cause discrepancies when comparing emissions databases.

To ensure an accurate comparison of total GHG emissions between EDGAR and UNFCCC country submissions, we carefully consider the GWP values applied<sup>4</sup>. Many non-Annex I countries, including some G20 members, still use the GWP values from IPCC AR2 (100-year time horizon), which are outdated but may persist due to methodological inertia or for historical consistency. Annex I countries, including most G20 members (except the EU27), transitioned from using GWP AR4 values in their 2023 submissions to GWP AR5 values in 2024. In contrast, the EU27 countries reported their 2023 inventories using GWP AR5 values and maintained this approach in their 2024 submissions.

For the comparative analysis of G20 emissions to minimize methodological differences contributing to discrepancies all CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions are converted in kt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq using the IPCC AR5 GWP values.

Comparison of global emissions between EDGAR and UNFCCC country submissions is possible only for specific years that align with the availability of data for those years. In the context of specific sectors, fossil fuel combustion data tends to have lower uncertainties (5-10%), making a ±10% difference a reliable benchmark for comparability. In contrast, sectors like agriculture and waste often have higher uncertainties, which allows for more flexibility in comparability thresholds (e.g., ±20% or above) (IPCC, 2006; UNFCCC, 2021).

The analysis of the GHG emissions' relative differences between EDGAR and UNFCCC submissions for G20 countries over the period 1990 to 2022 (For the comparative analysis of G20 emissions to minimize methodological differences contributing to discrepancies all CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions are converted in kt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq using the IPCC AR5 GWP values.

<sup>(4)</sup> GWP values of IPCC Assessment Reports AR2, AR4 and AR5 are sourced from IPCC ([https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/Global-Warming-Potential-Values%28Feb%2016%29\\_1.pdf](https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/Global-Warming-Potential-Values%28Feb%2016%29_1.pdf)). According to the IPCC AR4 report (Annex 2- Changes to the IPCC Guidelines and Methods) the GWP AR4 values have an uncertainty of ±35% for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> percentile (90% confidence range).



359 ) reveals varying levels of alignment across countries and time. Several Annex I countries—such as Canada (CAN),  
 360 Germany (DEU), France (FRA), the United Kingdom (GBR), Italy (ITA), Japan (JPN), and the United States  
 361 (USA)—display consistent differences mostly within the  $\pm 10\%$  threshold, indicating strong comparability between  
 362 the datasets. Among non-Annex I countries, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and South Korea also show good alignment,  
 363 with differences narrowing in recent years. In contrast, larger discrepancies are observed for countries such as  
 364 India, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa, where differences often exceed  $\pm 15\%$  and in some years reach over 20%.  
 365 Russia and Australia show a particularly notable trend of increasing divergence, with relative differences rising  
 366 toward 2022 both exceeding the levels seen in earlier comparisons (e.g., between EDGAR 2023 and UNFCCC  
 367 2023). Discrepancies in 1990 remain higher because time series updates are not always reported to start from that  
 368 year, making the data outdated for comparison.

369 When interpreting the relative differences shown in Table 4, it is important to consider the associated uncertainties  
 370 in both EDGAR and UNFCCC datasets. For several G20 countries the relative differences remain below the overall  
 371 EDGAR uncertainty and for 2022 also within the UNFCCC countries submissions uncertainty as for example for  
 372 Germany, France, United Kingdom, and Japan.

373 Figure 2 compares the Annex I EDGAR and UNFCCC datasets for  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$ , and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  over time, both through  
 374 temporal trends and statistical summaries using median values. The trends in fossil  $\text{CO}_2$  emissions show strong  
 375 agreement between the two datasets, with only minor deviations over time. The median values for  $\text{CO}_2$  emissions  
 376 further confirm this alignment, as the ratio of EDGAR to UNFCCC values consistently remains close to one, ranging  
 377 between 0.98 and 1.01. For  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions, the trends in the two datasets are initially well-aligned, but from 2005  
 378 onward, EDGAR reports progressively higher emissions compared to UNFCCC Annex I. This discrepancy is  
 379 reflected in the median ratios, which increase from values close to one in the early years to 1.21 in 2022. For  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$   
 380 emissions, a significant difference is observed between the datasets, with UNFCCC systematically reporting higher  
 381 values than EDGAR. The ratio of medians remains below one throughout the period, ranging from 0.83 in 1995 to  
 382 a maximum of 0.88 in 2022. More insights on the discrepancies for these substances can be found at Section 3.3  
 383 and 3.4.

384 The primary source of this discrepancy is the methodology applied in EDGAR, which relies only on Tier 1 emission  
 385 factors for  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  estimation, whereas UNFCCC estimates likely incorporate higher-tier approaches that account for  
 386 country-specific conditions. A major factor contributing to the observed differences is the treatment of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$   
 387 emissions from managed soils, where the EDGAR approach leads to lower estimates compared to UNFCCC.

388 Figure 3 shows the GHG ( $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$ , and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ) emissions for Annex I countries (EU27 countries not included here),  
 389 providing a quick comparative view complementing For the comparative analysis of G20 emissions to minimize  
 390 methodological differences contributing to discrepancies all  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  emissions are converted in kt  $\text{CO}_2$ -eq  
 391 using the IPCC AR5 GWP values.

392 for G20 Annex I countries. The overall alignment between the two datasets is shown- major emitters USA, Russia  
 393 (RUS), Japan— maintain consistent relative positions in both datasets. For most countries and years displayed,  
 394 EDGAR and UNFCCC estimates are relatively close, indicating consistency in emission reporting. However, some  
 395 discrepancies are visible, where EDGAR estimates either exceed or fall below UNFCCC values. The USA, as the  
 396 largest emitter in this selection, shows a relatively higher variation in some years. More insights on specific cases  
 397 and countries can be found in the Sections 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5.

398 Total GHG emissions estimated by EDGAR for the EU27 remain closely aligned with the levels reported to the  
 399 UNFCCC, with relative discrepancies within  $\pm 3.5\%$ . There is a slight increasing trend in these differences,  
 400 indicating that EDGAR tends to estimate slightly higher total GHG emissions for this group of countries. An in-  
 401 depth look at the comparison within the EU27 (Table 5 and Figure 4) shows that EDGAR's emissions estimates  
 402 align closely with the inventories of several Member States (MSs), with differences remaining below the  $\pm 10\%$   
 403 threshold.

404 The MSs for which relative differences are found higher than the threshold is Estonia (above 30% in some years),  
 405 Lithuania (between 10% and 16%), and Bulgaria, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Sweden, where certain years exceed



±10%. Following the analysis of global GHG emissions comparison, a similar examination is conducted for individual greenhouse gases, providing a more detailed understanding of the alignment and discrepancies between EDGAR and UNFCCC estimates for CO<sub>2</sub> and other non-CO<sub>2</sub> GHG gases across G20 countries.

In some cases, discrepancies in non-CO<sub>2</sub> GHG emissions between these two data sources arise from differences in biomass activity data, which vary between national reporting and the data used by EDGAR in its calculations. EDGAR primarily relies on biomass data from the IEA, but also incorporates other sources such as UN STAT, particularly for the power, residential, and industry sectors. The IEA is taken here as a reference because it is the main data source for EDGAR's energy sector and collects data through joint questionnaires developed collaboratively by Eurostat, the OECD/IEA, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)<sup>5</sup>. The IEA activity data on biomass use are expected to reflect official national data; however, differences still exist for certain countries. An example of biomass consumption relative changes in the residential sector for Slovakia and in public electricity and heat from the EU27 is shown in Figure S.2.

### 3.2 Global fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

The primary contributor to anthropogenic GHG emissions is the release of CO<sub>2</sub> resulting from the burning of fossil fuels. In 2023 the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions covered nearly 74% of global GHG emissions showing an increase of 29% since 2005 and 72% since 1990. Just over 75% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is sourced from industrial combustion (16.4%), power industry (38.2%) and transport (21%) sectors (Crippa et al., 2024).

When having in focus the G20 countries, the analysis of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions combines two key elements: correlation between datasets (Figure 5) for specific years depending on data availability and relative differences over time (Table 6).

While the table presents changes in relative differences across multiple years (1990–2022), the graph illustrates the alignment of EDGAR and UNFCCC emissions estimates for 2012, year in which the data are available for all G20 countries. Together, these visuals provide complementary insights into the consistency, discrepancies, and trends between the two datasets.

The majority of G20 countries display low discrepancies over the years. Relative differences within ±10% are generally considered in literature as a practical benchmark for comparing emissions estimates, as they may fall within the range of methodological uncertainties, sectoral coverage variations and statistics updates. For most G20 countries, the discrepancies stay within this range, reflecting reasonable alignment between the two datasets. For example, countries like Germany (DEU), United Kingdom (GBR), Italy (ITA), Japan (JPN) show consistent differences of less than ±3% over the years, demonstrating comparable inventory estimations. Some countries show decreasing relative differences over time, suggesting improvements in the consistency of emissions estimation.

For top emitters like the United States (USA), discrepancies are consistently negative, with a -5.27% relative difference in 2022, indicating lower estimates in EDGAR's inventory but still within the acceptable threshold. The main difference lies in fugitive emissions (see Figure S.5). USA applies a country-specific methodology for oil and natural gas and a Tier 1 approach for solid fuels. For Russia (RUS) discrepancies also stem from fugitive emissions for which a Tier1/Tier 2 method is applied. EDGAR includes emissions from solid fuels, while Russia's reporting excludes them. In 2021, EDGAR estimated that Russia contributed 61% of Annex I CO<sub>2</sub> fugitive emissions—double the UNFCCC figure. For the USA, the trend was the reverse, nearly half of emissions reported to the UNFCCC.

The application of the net or gross calorific values<sup>6</sup> for converting gas volumes to energy units plays also a role in the differences in the fugitive emissions estimation. The IPCC provides the default values of the net calorific values

<sup>(5)</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/38154/4956088/SHARES+tool+manual-2021.pdf/11701ebe-1dae-3b00-4da4-229d86d68744?t=1664793455773>

<sup>(6)</sup> The net/gross calorific values represent the amount of heat or energy in a given volume of fuel. In the case of oil and coal the NCV value is 5% lower than the GCV and in the case of gas the NCV is 10% lower than the GCV (IPCC 2006, Chapter 1).



448 (NCV). Except USA, JPN and CAN that apply the gross calorific values (GCV) for gaseous, liquid and other fossil  
 449 fuels, all other Annex I countries apply the NCV values.

450 Specific years are analysed to conduct a correlation relationship between EDGAR and UNFCCC countries  
 451 submissions for years 2000, 2010 and 2012. The overall analysis of the correlation of fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for  
 452 these years shows a good correlation between EDGAR and UNFCCC emissions, indicating overall consistency  
 453 between the two sources (see Figure 5 and Figure S.3). In the case of India (IND), the years available for  
 454 comparison are 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2016, which do not provide a clear overview of the comparability between  
 455 the country's data and EDGAR estimations.

456 For all G20 countries similarity in trends and magnitudes of fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions between EDGAR datasets and  
 457 UNFCCC inventories are found for period 1990-2021 (see Figure 6). Even that for non-Annex I countries,  
 458 Argentina, China, India, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia the fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions time series are not complete there  
 459 is similarity in the temporal trend between EDGAR and these countries inventories for years where data were  
 460 available.

461 Comparing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the EU27 MS similar results as in the case of GHG emissions are found. In the case  
 462 of Estonia differences are mainly related with fugitive emissions from fuels. Estonia does not report emissions from  
 463 solid fuels transformation (IPCC 1.B.1.b) whereas EDGAR estimates these emissions that range from 0.44 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>  
 464 in 1990 to 1.27 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> in 2023. These emissions in EDGAR are results of the allocation of peat within this  
 465 subsector. Whereas EDGAR does not estimate for Estonia emissions from oil and gas venting and flaring, Estonia  
 466 reports emissions from these categories (1.B.2.b and 1.B.2.c) (see Figure S.6).

467 Absolute fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions every 5-year over period 1990-2021 is presented in Figure 7, showing a comparison  
 468 between EDGAR (blue circles) and UNFCCC EU27 submissions (red crosses). In general, the two datasets show  
 469 a high degree of alignment, with EDGAR and UNFCCC values closely matching for most countries and years. The  
 470 majority of data points for both datasets fall within the highlighted area representing 90% of UNFCCC EU27 CO<sub>2</sub>  
 471 emissions, and the vertical line marking the median remains consistent over time. Some visible differences for  
 472 certain countries in specific years can be seen. For example, in Germany (DEU), the UNFCCC values appear  
 473 slightly higher than EDGAR in multiple years, while France (FRA) also shows small deviations, particularly in earlier  
 474 years such as 1990 and 1995. In Italy (ITA), Spain (ESP), and Poland (POL), the two datasets remain closely  
 475 aligned throughout the time series. For smaller emitting countries such as Malta (MLT) and Luxembourg (LUX),  
 476 the differences appear minimal.

477 Table S.4 and Figure S.7 illustrates the case of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from biogenic waste incineration (5.C.1.1) providing  
 478 the comparison between the EDGAR EFs and Annex I implied emission factors (IEF) for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The  
 479 Annex I countries IEFs show variation over time and very few countries apply similar values with EDGAR. Majority  
 480 of these IEFs are plant specific and their temporal profile change over the years as shown in the case of Belgium  
 481 and France.

482 A comparison between annual submissions, specifically the EU27 UNFCCC 2024 vs UNFCCC 2023 submissions,  
 483 shows that for fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, percentage differences range from -0.1% to -0.5% at the aggregate level all  
 484 over 1990-2021. However, at the MSs level, the differences are more pronounced. For example, in France, the  
 485 differences range from a minimum of 0.55% in 1990 to a maximum of 2.53% in 2020. In Sweden, from 2013  
 486 onward, differences exceed -10% between the two submissions. Similarly, Denmark exhibits negative relative  
 487 differences, reaching -5.8% in 2020. Negative differences indicate that the 2023 submissions reported higher  
 488 emissions than the 2024 submissions. (UNFCCC 2024 CRT tables, JRC elaboration). How EDGAR and UNFCCC  
 489 estimate the relative MSs contribution in fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is shown in Figure S.8.

### 490 3.3 Global CH<sub>4</sub> emissions

491 CH<sub>4</sub> is the second most significant anthropogenic greenhouse gas, contributing to global warming due to its high  
 492 GWP relative to CO<sub>2</sub>. In 2023, EDGAR estimated that CH<sub>4</sub> emissions accounted for nearly 19% of global GHG  
 493 emissions, representing a 28% increase since 1990. A substantial portion of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions (just over 96% of  
 494 global CH<sub>4</sub> emissions) originates from three sectors: agriculture (46%; e.g., enteric fermentation and manure



management), fuel exploitation (32%; e.g., oil and gas systems and coal mining), and the waste sector (18%; e.g., landfills and wastewater) (Crippa et al., 2024).

For G20 countries, the comparison of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions between EDGAR and UNFCCC datasets highlights both alignments and discrepancies. These discrepancies can be attributed to differences in methodologies, emission factors, sectoral coverage, and data sources, particularly in fugitive emissions from fossil fuel extraction, emissions from agriculture (manure management) and waste sectors such as landfills and wastewater. Table 7, presents the relative differences between CH<sub>4</sub> emissions reported by EDGAR<sup>7</sup> and those submitted to the UNFCCC for G20 countries over time. The temporal trend of EDGAR and UNFCCC CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in G20 countries over period 1990-2021 is shown in Figure 8, whereas by sector for Annex I countries is shown in Figure S.11.

Relative differences are often higher for CH<sub>4</sub> compared to CO<sub>2</sub>, reflecting the variability in emission estimation methodologies, such as reliance on Tier 1 or Tier 2 approaches for agriculture and waste or country specific and higher tiers methodologies as in the case of fugitive emissions. For example, CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from enteric fermentation in Argentina for 2012<sup>8</sup> are nearly twice as high in EDGAR compared to the 2015 national submission, a discrepancy further influenced by Argentina's reliance on outdated statistics since the data availability for separate substances is not available in the most recent Argentina's BUR.

A significant source of discrepancies in CH<sub>4</sub> emissions between EDGAR and UNFCCC country submissions stems from the estimation of fugitive emissions. These differences are strongly influenced by how fuel consumption data is allocated in the International Energy Agency (IEA) dataset—the primary source of activity data for EDGAR. In some cases, the IEA assigns solid fuels to the fugitive emissions subsector (1.B.1), whereas certain countries do not report such usage under this category in their national inventories, leading to inconsistencies in reported emissions. In the case of Slovakia and Slovenia the discrepancies in this sector are related to the fuel inputs quantities: lower in EDGAR for Slovakia and higher in EDGAR for Slovenia.

The increasing trend in Annex I EDGAR CH<sub>4</sub> emissions (see Figure 2) is largely driven by differences in the estimation of fugitive emissions in Russia and the exclusion of energy recovery from managed solid waste disposal in Turkey within the EDGAR dataset. In Russia, EDGAR reports higher fugitive CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from gas (mainly distribution), whereas Russia's national inventory shows a significant decline in emissions from gas transmission and storage. According to Russia's NID 2024, the emission factors (EFs) for CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> applied in estimating emissions from natural gas transportation account for losses due to gas venting. However, since EDGAR uses pipeline length as the activity data for gas transmission and Russia bases the estimates on the volume of gas transmitted and distributed, a direct comparison of the inputs (activity data and /or emission factors) cannot be done. These methodological differences of the various IPCC approaches contribute significantly to the observed discrepancies and the increasing trend in EDGAR Annex I CH<sub>4</sub> emissions.

A further example of discrepancies between EDGAR and national reporting can be observed in Japan's CH<sub>4</sub> fugitive emissions (see Figure S.9). Japan employs a combination of Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 methods, whereas EDGAR relies solely on a Tier 1 approach. Another factor contributing to these differences is the application of the gross calorific value (GCV) for stationary combustion of gas, oil, and coal. In the case of Japan, the large differences are also related to the estimation of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from rice cultivation and waste sector<sup>9</sup>.

In some cases, discrepancies in CH<sub>4</sub> emissions between these two data sources comes from differences in biomass statistics of activity data, which vary between national reporting and the data used by EDGAR in its calculations. EDGAR primarily relies on biomass data from the IEA but also incorporates other sources, such as UN STAT for sectors as residential and industry.

The IEA activity data on biomass use, for example in sector 1.A.1.a, should reflect the official reporting data for biomass. However, differences still exist for certain countries. The use of country-specific emission factors for biomass is also a contributing factor. For example, Germany applies a country-specific implied emission factor for

<sup>(7)</sup> Examples of the EDGAR emissions improvements are included in the supplementary material for some G20 and Annex I countries.

<sup>(8)</sup> These data are taken from UNFCCC Detailed data by Party section - [https://di.unfccc.int/detailed\\_data\\_by\\_party](https://di.unfccc.int/detailed_data_by_party)

<sup>(9)</sup> See section 4.2 and supplementary material for more info on the EDGAR improvements.



539 biomass use in public electricity and heat production (1.A.1.a) that is higher than the upper limit of the solid biomass  
 540 default IPCC emission factor range (IPCC 2006, Vol.2). In contrast, EDGAR applies for this fuel the default  
 541 emission factor equal for all countries, which in the case of solid biomass less than one-third of the upper-limit  
 542 value.

543 Figure S.10 illustrates the variability of biomass implied emission factors applied in each Annex I country to  
 544 estimate CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from the public electricity and heat production sector. Germany exhibits the highest  
 545 biomass emission factor for CH<sub>4</sub>, while the USA has the lowest values well below 1 kg/TJ. The level of this implied  
 546 EFs depends also on the types of biomass used e.g. solid biomass, biogas, and liquid biomass for which a different  
 547 EF value<sup>10</sup> is assigned. The figure also presents the temporal trend of Germany's biomass CH<sub>4</sub> emission factor  
 548 and emissions, along with the emissions of Lithuania, which applies the default emission factor used by EDGAR.  
 549 The differences between CH<sub>4</sub> emissions estimated by EDGAR and Germany are evident, whereas the comparison  
 550 between EDGAR and Lithuania shows a strong alignment between the datasets due also to the dominance of solid  
 551 biomass as primary fuel in the Lithuania's stationary combustion process.

552 In the agriculture sector, the main discrepancies are observed in the manure management category. EDGAR  
 553 applies Tier 2 method only for cattle (dairy and non-dairy). For all other livestock EDGAR distinguishes only  
 554 between industrialised and developed countries and in most of the countries a static EF value is applied over all-  
 555 time series. A recent JRC study compared the input data used for CH<sub>4</sub> emissions estimation in EU27 countries  
 556 between national UNFCCC submissions and FAOSTAT data, which serves as the primary data source for  
 557 EDGAR's agricultural emissions estimates. The study examined the extent and nature of differences in key activity  
 558 data, including livestock population, milk yield, nitrogen excretion rates, and emission factors applied in both  
 559 datasets. While good agreement was found for livestock population data, with some exceptions, notable  
 560 differences were identified for milk yield and nitrogen excretion rates between UNFCCC submissions and default  
 561 input values (Banja & Crippa, 2020).

562 In the waste sector, the main discrepancies between EDGAR and national inventories are observed in the  
 563 wastewater treatment sub-sector, but also, in some cases, in solid waste disposal, biological treatment of waste  
 564 and waste incineration. In its current version, EDGAR does not distinguish between incineration and open waste  
 565 burning of biogenic waste when estimating GHG emissions; it applies two static implied emission factors (IEFs) as  
 566 shown in Figure S.13 respective for the industrialised and developed countries. The IPCC 2006 Guidelines and  
 567 the 2019 Refinement provide distinct emission factors for incineration and open burning, between which significant  
 568 differences exist. Some countries allocate emissions from specific segments of waste incineration under different  
 569 inventory categories; for example, the United States includes emissions from controlled hazardous waste  
 570 incineration under the fuel combustion category (1.A), considering it as a process with energy recovery (USA GHG  
 571 NID 2024). Improved EDGAR CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from waste incineration for some of the Annex I countries are  
 572 illustrated at the Figure S.15.

573 For CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from solid waste disposal, EDGAR applies the IPCC First Order Decay (FOD) model to provide  
 574 a consistent global estimate. EDGAR relies on multiple data sources, such as the World Bank (WB), UN Statistics  
 575 Division (UN STAT), and Eurostat, but these sources do not always offer annual updates for all necessary inputs.  
 576 For instance, waste data for non-Annex I countries are mainly based on WB and UN STAT reports, which in many  
 577 cases remain unchanged over several years. As a result, EDGAR uses additional assumptions, such as  
 578 extrapolating urban waste production rates to national levels. For the EU27 and several Annex I countries, input  
 579 updates for the FOD model are sourced from Eurostat; however, Eurostat provides new data only at two-year  
 580 intervals starting from 2004. Moreover, in some cases, these statistics are incomplete, with missing data for certain  
 581 countries or years, which further limits the frequency and accuracy of emissions updates.

582 Among Annex I countries, discrepancies are further amplified by specific methodological differences. In Turkey,  
 583 for example, EDGAR's estimation of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from managed solid waste disposal does not yet account for  
 584 energy recovery, resulting in an overestimation of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions compared to national reporting. This difference

<sup>(10)</sup> The IPCC 2006 Guidelines define in the Chapter 2 the emission factor for different biomass types which are implemented in EDGAR. For solid biomass, biogas and liquid biomass the values used by EDGAR are respectively 30 kg/TJ, 1.0 kg/TJ and 3.0 kg/TJ.



585 strongly influences the overall CH<sub>4</sub> emissions trend from landfills reported for Annex I countries in EDGAR,  
 586 emphasizing the impact that individual country profiles can have on aggregated results.

587 The reporting of Annex I countries on solid waste disposal shows notable year-to-year variations in both the  
 588 quantity and typology of waste, particularly regarding the shares of managed, unmanaged, and uncategorized  
 589 waste. An analysis of the EU27 submissions in 2022, 2023, and 2024 reveals changes in the reported amounts  
 590 and classifications over time. For example, as shown in Figure S.15, Croatia's 2024 submission shows a lower  
 591 amount of unmanaged landfilled waste compared to its 2023 submission, whereas Poland reports a higher quantity  
 592 of unmanaged waste in 2024 relative to 2023. Similarly, Ireland and the Netherlands report significant changes in  
 593 the overall amount of waste landfilled between submissions. These shifts might reflect improvements in national  
 594 inventory data, a reclassification of landfilled typology and correction of past errors but also introduce challenges  
 595 when comparing emissions with other data sources estimates.

596 Regarding the biological treatment of waste, the current EDGAR estimation does not include CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from  
 597 anaerobic digestion at biogas facilities, which have shown an increasing contribution to emissions over the years

598 Figure 9 presents a comparative analysis of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions between EDGAR (represented by blue circles) and  
 599 UNFCCC EU27 submissions (represented by red crosses) for individual EU countries over different years from  
 600 1990 to 2021. The highlighted areas indicate 90% of UNFCCC EU27 GHG emissions, while the vertical line  
 601 represents the median of UNFCCC submissions. Overall, the comparison shows that, for most countries and years,  
 602 EDGAR and UNFCCC estimates are relatively close, yet notable discrepancies exist. Some countries exhibit  
 603 systematic differences, with EDGAR values either consistently higher or lower than the corresponding UNFCCC  
 604 submissions. This suggests potential variations in methodologies, emission factors, or underlying activity data. The  
 605 differences appear more pronounced in earlier years, particularly in the 1990s, which could be attributed to  
 606 historical data gaps, evolving national reporting methods, or refinements in UNFCCC inventory calculations over  
 607 time. While the alignment between the two datasets appears to improve in more recent years, some inconsistencies  
 608 persist.

### 609 3.4 Global N<sub>2</sub>O emissions

610 In 2023, EDGAR estimated that N<sub>2</sub>O emissions accounted for nearly 5% of global GHG emissions, representing a  
 611 32% increase since 1990 and 17% since 2005. Just over 80% of global N<sub>2</sub>O emissions is sourced from agriculture  
 612 (70%) and processes (11%) (Crippa et al., 2024).

613 The comparison of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions between EDGAR and UNFCCC datasets highlights both alignments and  
 614 discrepancies. These discrepancies can be attributed to differences in methodologies, emission factors, sectoral  
 615 coverage, and data sources, particularly in direct N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from managed soils. The methodology applied in  
 616 EDGAR for this subsector relies only on Tier 1 emission factors for N<sub>2</sub>O estimation, whereas UNFCCC estimates  
 617 likely incorporate higher-tier approaches that account for country-specific conditions. A major factor contributing to  
 618 the observed differences is the treatment of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from managed soils, where the EDGAR approach  
 619 leads in overall for Annex I to lower estimates compared to UNFCCC (see Figure 2 for Annex I overall N<sub>2</sub>O  
 620 emissions).

621 Table 8 presents the relative differences between N<sub>2</sub>O emissions reported by EDGAR and those submitted to the  
 622 UNFCCC for G20 countries over time. Relative differences between EDGAR and UNFCCC are higher for N<sub>2</sub>O  
 623 than for CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, reflecting the greater complexity of nitrogen-based emission estimation. This  
 624 involves multiple indirect pathways, including variability in nitrogen excretion rates, differences in manure  
 625 management systems, soil interactions affecting nitrogen losses, and indirect emissions from leaching and  
 626 volatilization (IPCC, 2006; IPCC, 2019). As a result, uncertainties and discrepancies between datasets increase.  
 627 UNFCCC submissions often use country-specific Tier 2/Tier 3 data (UNFCCC, 2023), whereas EDGAR relies on  
 628 Tier 1 default assumptions, leading to larger differences.

629 Emission factors for N<sub>2</sub>O (both direct and indirect) are more uncertain than those for CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>. Additionally,  
 630 variations in milk yield, nitrogen intake, and nitrogen retention significantly impact N excretion rates, influencing  
 631 N<sub>2</sub>O emissions (IPCC, 2019; FAO, 2013). Unlike CO<sub>2</sub>, which is directly proportional to fuel consumption, small



632 differences in nitrogen inputs can cause disproportionately large variations in  $N_2O$  estimates due to the nonlinear  
 633 nature of microbial processes in manure and soils. The nitrogen cycle is further affected by manure application  
 634 rates and timing, soil type, climate conditions, and interactions between direct and indirect  $N_2O$  emissions.

635 The EDGAR methodology for estimating emissions from animal manure applied to soils overall follows the IPCC  
 636 framework but incorporates adjustments based on external data sources and expert input. It calculates N excretion  
 637 based on N excretion rates, the number of animals, and manure management systems. It accounts for N losses  
 638 before manure used as fertilizer and includes additional N from bedding materials. Different loss percentages are  
 639 applied depending on the manure management system and animal type (e.g., 50% N loss for swine in solid  
 640 storage). The IPCC default Tier 1 EFs for  $N_2O$  emissions are based on the default factor of 1% of N input forming  
 641  $N_2O$ .

642 Temporal trend of  $N_2O$  emissions in G20 countries is shown in Figure 10. Significant differences are found for  
 643 Australia and USA, with the latter's  $N_2O$  emissions determining the trend of Annex I  $N_2O$  emissions. EDGAR  
 644 underestimates  $N_2O$  emissions for the USA while overestimating them for Australia. In the case of Australia, the  
 645 main differences are sourced from different nitrogen (N) input for the animal waste manure applied to soils whereas  
 646 the USA applies a country specific Tier 3 methodology that takes into account the land-use, management impacts  
 647 and environment interaction- such as weather conditions and soil characteristics - including also the effect of the  
 648 nitrogen added to soils in previous years that is re-mineralised from soil organic matters and emitted as  $N_2O$  in the  
 649 upcoming years.

650 Figure S.16 illustrates the cases of N input and EFs applied in Australia and USA for the estimation of  $N_2O$   
 651 emissions from animal manure applied to soils. The comparison shows that the N input applied in EDGAR sourced  
 652 from the FAOSTAT differs in both cases from the countries reporting. The application of EDGAR  $N_2O$  EF for animal  
 653 waste manure applied to soils is also shown here providing insights on how this static value differs from the IEFs  
 654 of Australia and USA.

655 According to (Hergoualc'h et al., 2021) the default Tier 1 EF has important limitations, particularly regarding its  
 656 sensitivity to climate conditions. Their study shows that  $N_2O$  emissions are significantly higher in wet climates  
 657 (1.4% of nitrogen input) compared to dry climates (0.5% of nitrogen input). Moreover, in wet regions, synthetic  
 658 fertilizers exhibit a higher EF (1.6%) than organic fertilizers (0.6%). Applying these refined EFs leads to substantial  
 659 changes in national emission estimates, decreasing emissions by 15% to 46% in countries characterized by dry  
 660 climates, and increasing them by 7% to 37% in countries with wet climates and intensive use of synthetic fertilizers.

661 Figure 11 illustrates the absolute  $N_2O$  emissions every 5 years over period 1990-2021. The figure presents a  
 662 comparative analysis of  $N_2O$  emissions between EDGAR (represented by blue circles) and UNFCCC EU27  
 663 submissions (represented by red crosses) for individual EU countries over different years from 1990 to 2021. The  
 664 highlighted areas indicate 90% of UNFCCC EU27 GHG emissions, while the vertical line represents the median of  
 665 UNFCCC EU27 submissions. Overall, the comparison shows that, for most countries and years, EDGAR and  
 666 UNFCCC estimates are relatively close, yet notable discrepancies exist especially for MS as Germany, Spain,  
 667 France, Italy, Netherlands, Poland and Romania. However, a better match has been seen towards the last years  
 668 of the 1990-2021 period.

#### 669 4. Data availability

670 EDGAR data can be freely accessed at [https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/emissions\\_data\\_and\\_maps](https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/emissions_data_and_maps)

671 EDGAR 2024 - Crippa et al., 2024, JRC dataset <http://data.europa.eu/89h/88c4dde4-05e0-40cd-a5b9-19d536f1791a>

673 EDGARv8.0 - Crippa et al., 2023, JRC dataset <http://data.europa.eu/89h/809d7b72-55ef-4e52-8bd4-7d33f2f9916b>

675 UNFCCC data are available at <https://unfccc.int/reports>



## 676 5 Discussions

677 The comparison of GHG emissions data between EDGAR and UNFCCC submissions reveals significant insights  
 678 into the challenges offering a unique lens through which examining the discrepancies arising from methodological  
 679 differences, temporal misalignments, and varying reporting capacities.

680 These challenges highlight the value of consistent, regularly updated datasets such as EDGAR, which can support  
 681 comparative analyses—while also underscoring the need for continued improvements in official reporting systems.  
 682 Metrics such as percentage and absolute differences, sectoral contributions, and trends over time are applied to  
 683 identify alignment and gaps between the two datasets. The findings provide significant variations in key sectors  
 684 such as energy and agriculture, driven by differences in data availability, emission factors, and methodological  
 685 approaches.

686 The comparison of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data between EDGAR and UNFCCC submissions reveals  
 687 significant insights into methodological, temporal, and data discrepancies that influence global emissions  
 688 accounting. This section synthesizes the findings, highlighting advancements in emissions estimation, and  
 689 explores implications for climate policy and monitoring frameworks.

### 690 5.1 Key Findings on Data Comparisons

691 This study highlights the issues posed by irregular reporting intervals of non-Annex I countries and the reliance on  
 692 outdated data in UNFCCC submissions, which are often presented in static formats. The emissions inventories  
 693 included in National Communications (NCs) or Biennial Update Reports (BURs) often lag by several years  
 694 compared to EDGAR's most recent datasets. This discrepancy limits the use of some non-Annex I data for  
 695 assessing recent trends and highlights the importance of improving data timeliness and accessibility to support the  
 696 global stocktake.

697 While both aim to provide comprehensive emissions inventories, their methodologies, data sources, and reporting  
 698 frameworks differ. EDGAR employs a standardized global approach, using consistent methodologies and default  
 699 emission factors, whereas UNFCCC relies on bottom-up national inventories tailored to country-specific  
 700 circumstances. Key discrepancies arise from:

701 *Temporal Coverage:* UNFCCC submissions often lag due to irregular reporting intervals, particularly from non-  
 702 Annex I countries. For instance, even though Argentina's most recent Biennial Update Report (BUR) was submitted  
 703 in 2024, the available data in the UNFCCC webpage remains still those of 2015 with data from 2012, creating a  
 704 12-year lag if these data are used from the users.

705 *Completeness of reporting:* Completeness of the reporting is an important element when comparing emission  
 706 inventories, especially for the non-Annex I countries. Unlike the Annex I countries, which submit the CRF/CRT  
 707 tables with detailed and structured time series data, the non-Annex I countries primary report through BURs and  
 708 NIRs. These reports typically provide GHG inventory data for specific years rather for complete time series.  
 709 Additionally, these submissions present aggregate GHG emissions rather than disaggregated data by gas.

710 *Sectoral Classifications:* While EDGAR uses a harmonized global classification system, UNFCCC inventories  
 711 reflect more granular, country-specific categorizations, leading to mismatches in sectors such as energy and  
 712 agriculture.

713 *Global Warming Potential (GWP) Values:* Differences in the application of GWP values further complicate  
 714 comparisons. Annex I countries have transitioned to using AR5 GWP values, whereas many non-Annex I countries  
 715 still use the IPCC AR2 values.

716 *Methodological Variations:* EDGAR's reliance on default emission factors contrasts with the higher-tier methods  
 717 employed by some Annex I countries, which incorporate detailed, country-specific data.

718 *Calorific values applied:* To convert the volume of fuels to energy units the calorific values are applied. EDGAR  
 719 applies the IPCC default option which is the Net Calorific Value (NCV) whereas under the UNFCCC countries



720 submissions some of the Annex I countries as USA, Japan and Canada apply the Gross Calorific Value (GCV).  
 721 This inconsistency can bring to a discrepancy that ranges between 5 to 10%.

722 *Measurement units of activity data and emission factors:* Comparison of emission inventories in consistent  
 723 measurement units is crucial for an accurate assessment. Differences in units can lead to discrepancies that are  
 724 not due to actual differences in emissions but rather due to methodological inconsistencies despite the fact that  
 725 estimations might follow strictly the IPCC Guidelines. For instance, in the estimation of fugitive emissions from  
 726 natural gas transmission, the IPCC provides EFs based on both volume of gas transported and pipeline length  
 727 which become challenging without the proper conversion when comparing inventories.

728 Despite these discrepancies, there is a general alignment in long-term trends, particularly for fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
 729 in major emitting countries like the United States, Germany, and Japan, where relative differences remain below  
 730 ±10%. This indicates a shared understanding of emissions trajectories despite methodological differences.

## 731 **5.2 Improvements in EDGAR's Emissions Estimation**

732 EDGAR's methodological evolution has addressed many of the challenges inherent with global emissions  
 733 estimation. Over the years, EDGAR has performed consistent annual updates ensure that its emissions estimation  
 734 captures recent developments, making it a valuable resource for real-time trend analysis. The integration of IPCC-  
 735 compliant factors and selective use of country-specific information has played a role in reducing uncertainties.

736 EDGAR regularly updates its methodologies for specific processes. These improvements, documented annually  
 737 on the EDGAR webpage during its yearly publications, ensure the application of the latest scientific insights and  
 738 more accurate emission factors. For example, updates to the methodology for emissions from liming now involve  
 739 applying a standard method across all countries. Recently, the methodology for estimating CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from  
 740 rice cultivation has been revised to implement the 2019 Refinement of the IPCC methodology, ensuring consistent  
 741 application across all countries.

742 Other improvements of EDGAR estimations applied since in its 2024 release are also those related to the  
 743 technology specific emission factors for the waste water treatment sector that have been revised following the  
 744 IPCC 2006 Guidelines, specifically for CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from domestic waste water using latrines and sewer to raw  
 745 discharge or a treatment plant, but also for industrial waste water treatment for pulp and organic chemicals  
 746 production. Fugitive CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from gas and oil operations have been improved using different emission  
 747 factors for on- and off-shore activities for developed and developing countries in line with the IPCC 2006 Guidelines  
 748 and the 2019 Refinements.

749 These advancements enhance EDGAR's comparability with national inventories, make it one of the most  
 750 comprehensive and frequently updated global GHG emission datasets, and support its role as a complementary  
 751 tool for global emissions monitoring. For instance, its use of proxy data to address gaps in under-reported regions,  
 752 bridges a critical gap left by irregular or outdated UNFCCC submissions.

## 753 **5.3 Implications for global GHG climate policy**

754 The findings underscore the complementary nature of EDGAR and UNFCCC inventories in supporting global  
 755 climate policy. EDGAR's consistency and scope make it a complementary resource widely used for global  
 756 assessments, while UNFCCC inventories provide localized, detailed insights that are critical for national policy  
 757 development. To enhance the harmonization of global emissions inventories, several steps are recommended:

758 -Standardization of reporting: greater alignment between UNFCCC reporting could reduce discrepancies. For  
 759 example, adopting common GWP values across all inventories would improve comparability.

760 -Capacity building for non-Annex I countries: Providing technical support to improve the frequency and quality of  
 761 emissions reporting could bridge temporal gaps and reduce uncertainties.

762 -Support non-Annex I countries to develop full-time series inventories, rather than reporting emissions for only a  
 763 few years.



#### 764 5.4 Limitations and Future Research

765 This study highlights key discrepancies but is limited by the availability of complete and comparable data across  
 766 all world countries. Future research should explore: i) sector-specific discrepancies in greater detail, particularly in  
 767 areas with high variability, such fugitive, agriculture, waste emissions; ii) investigate the impact of methodological  
 768 advancements in EDGAR on long-term emissions trends; iii) assess the role of top-down estimates, such as those  
 769 retrieved from remote sensing, in improving emissions data accuracy.

#### 770 6 Conclusions

771 Enhanced transparency and knowledge in emissions reporting ensures that decision-makers can better track  
 772 progress toward global climate goals.

773 This paper compares GHG emissions estimates from EDGAR and UNFCCC national submissions for G20, Annex  
 774 I, and EU27 countries, highlighting both similarities and discrepancies. The findings emphasise the complementary  
 775 nature of the two datasets: while national inventories provide detailed, country-specific insights, EDGAR offers a  
 776 globally harmonized perspective, enabling cross-country comparisons. However, discrepancies persist, particularly  
 777 for CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions, due to differences in methodologies, data sources, and emission factors. These  
 778 findings underscore the need for enhanced methodological harmonization in non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions estimation.

779 The paper also highlights the importance of aligning international statistical sources with the evolving data reported  
 780 in national inventories. Discrepancies arise when EDGAR, relying on global datasets such as IEA and FAOSTAT,  
 781 does not fully incorporate updates or methodological refinements introduced in official UNFCCC submissions. This  
 782 issue was evident in CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from fossil fuel production, where misalignment in fuel allocation between IEA  
 783 data and national inventories contributes to discrepancies in EDGAR's estimates of fugitive emissions from oil and  
 784 gas. Similarly, agricultural and waste GHG emissions diverge due to differences between global default values and  
 785 country-specific emission factors.

786 The role of biomass in emissions discrepancies is also examined, particularly the misalignment between EDGAR's  
 787 biomass statistics and UNFCCC national inventory submissions. In sectors such as power and residential heating,  
 788 differences exist between biomass consumption data from international sources like IEA and the values reported  
 789 by national inventories. These discrepancies impact GHG emissions, where country-specific combustion  
 790 characteristics and emission factors play a critical role. For example, Germany applies a country-specific implied  
 791 emission factor (IEF) for biomass in public electricity and heat production, which is significantly higher than the  
 792 default IPCC values used by EDGAR, leading to CH<sub>4</sub> underestimation in EDGAR's dataset.

793 A key challenge identified in this study is the reporting gap between Annex I and non-Annex I countries. Non-  
 794 Annex I inventories often lack continuity and completeness, making it difficult to compare their emissions with  
 795 EDGAR estimates. Addressing this issue requires more frequent and standardized reporting under UNFCCC  
 796 guidelines. Furthermore, harmonizing time series data across emissions inventories remains a significant  
 797 challenge, particularly for developing countries with inconsistent reporting intervals. Long gaps in non-Annex I  
 798 reporting hinder accurate tracking of emissions trends and highlight the need for better data availability and  
 799 consistency.

800 Our findings also emphasize the necessity of improved data transparency and methodological consistency in  
 801 emissions reporting. National inventory submissions often employ country-specific methods that improve accuracy  
 802 but reduce comparability, while EDGAR applies globally uniform approaches that enhance consistency but may  
 803 not capture country-specific conditions.

804 The analysis reveals a clear need for more comprehensive, consistent, and regularly updated data across sources,  
 805 as reliable underlying statistics are crucial to ensure the accuracy and comparability of GHG emissions estimates.

806 This study provides valuable input for the continuous improvement of EDGAR estimations. By comparing EDGAR  
 807 with UNFCCC submissions, the analysis identifies key areas for methodological refinement, particularly in CH<sub>4</sub>  
 808 and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions estimation, sectoral classifications, and alignment with national reporting.



809 Insights from this comparison can guide targeted refinements in EDGAR's methodologies, including the integration  
810 of the most recent IPCC Guidelines for CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from rice cultivation, improved treatment of activity data  
811 from international statistical sources, and adjustments in non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions estimation across sectors. As national  
812 inventories adopt more detailed and higher-tier methodologies, EDGAR must also enhance its methodology, for  
813 example, by improving agricultural sector emissions estimations. Strengthening the feedback loop between  
814 EDGAR and national inventories will ultimately increase its usability for researchers, policymakers, and  
815 international climate assessments, making it a more robust tool for emissions tracking and mitigation evaluation.

816 This analysis does not aim to validate one dataset over the other, but rather to explore the sources of difference  
817 and identify opportunities for mutual improvement. By highlighting alignment and divergence between EDGAR and  
818 UNFCCC national inventories, the findings support ongoing efforts to enhance transparency, foster methodological  
819 consistency, and inform the development of more robust international emissions statistics.

820 EDGAR's independence as a global inventory relies on the quality and timeliness of its international statistical  
821 inputs. Ensuring the robustness of these data sources is crucial for maintaining EDGAR's credibility and usability  
822 in climate policy and research.



## 823 **Disclaimer**

824 The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies  
 825 of the European Commission. All emissions, except CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fuel combustion, are from the EDGAR  
 826 community GHG database comprising IEA-EDGAR CO<sub>2</sub>, EDGAR CH<sub>4</sub>, EDGAR N<sub>2</sub>O, and EDGAR F-gases version  
 827 8.0 (2023).

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## 835 **Conflict of Interest**

836 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

## 837 **Ethics**

838 This study did not involve human participants, animals, or the use of personal data, and therefore did not require  
 839 ethical approval.

## 840 **Author contribution**

841 MB and MC defined the structure, objectives, and overall approach of the paper. MB conducted the full analysis,  
 842 including the collection, processing, and detailed assessment of national inventory data from multiple sources, the  
 843 preparation of all figures and tables, and the writing of the entire manuscript. MB also ensured the scientific  
 844 robustness of the analysis by integrating data from various reporting cycles and addressing gaps and  
 845 inconsistencies across datasets. In addition, MB was responsible for implementing revisions and improvements  
 846 throughout the review process. MC contributed to the refinement of the manuscript by providing scientific feedback,  
 847 suggesting structural improvements, and supporting the consistency of the discussion. DG supported the  
 848 preparation and organization of the UNFCCC data inputs used for the analysis and contributed to the comparison  
 849 work with the EDGAR database. MM supported the work providing valuable comments to improve the analysis.  
 850 FP provided the input data used for uncertainty information included in selected tables and figures. EP contributed  
 851 by providing comments to improve the presentation of some figures and tables.

852

## 853 **Supplementary materials**

854 The Supplementary Material contains further details that support the findings of this study.

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Figures and tables

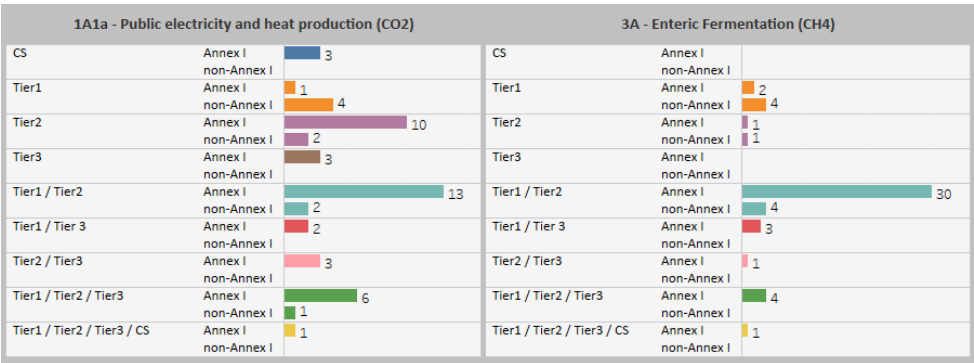


Figure 1. Number of G20 Annex-I and non-Annex I countries that reported to the UNFCCC inventory system by methodology applied for the 3A and 1A1a categories (CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) -2021  
Source: UNFCCC Annex I and non-Annex I reports (last access May 2025),

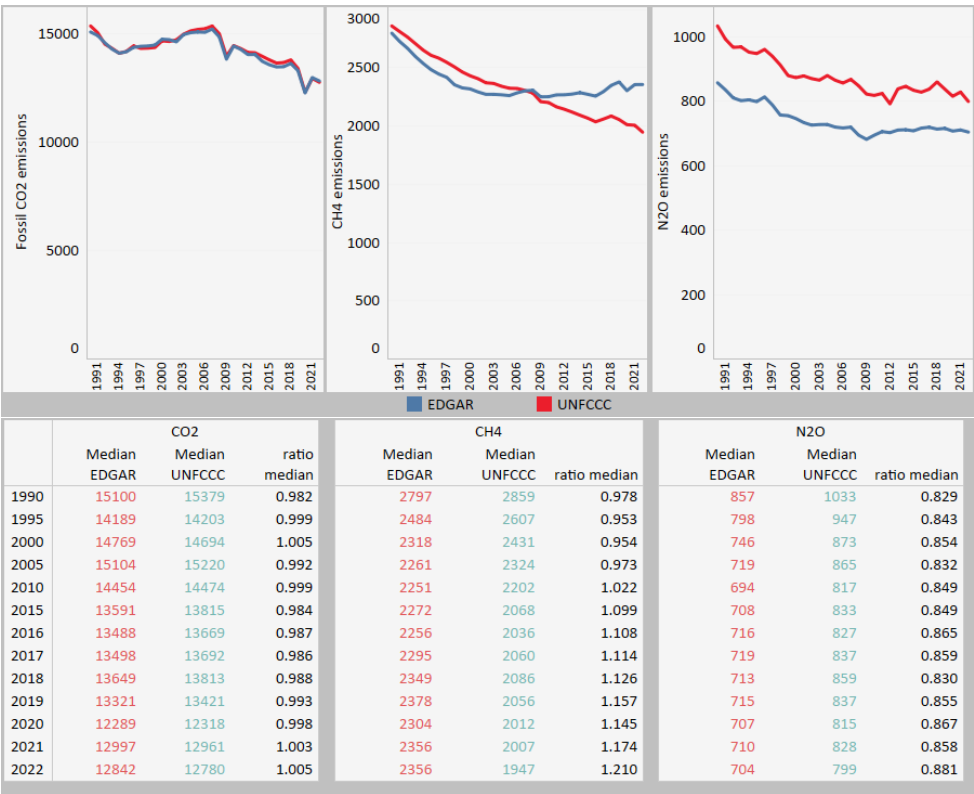
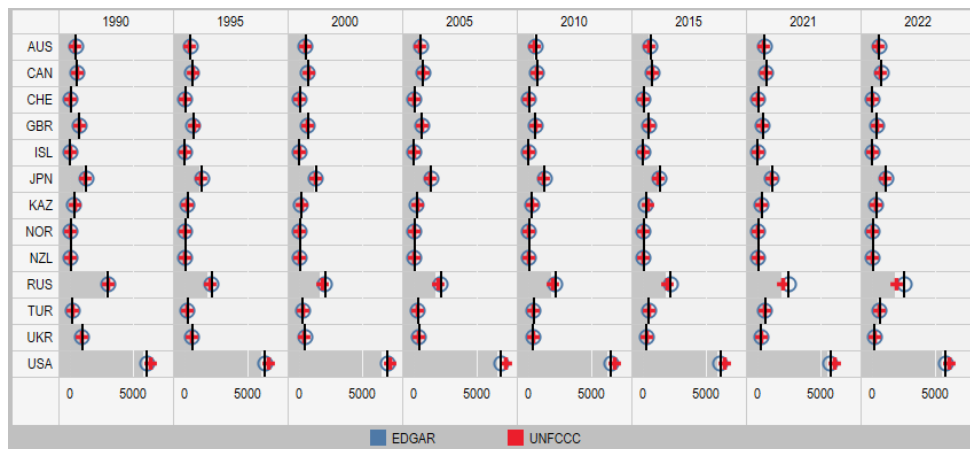
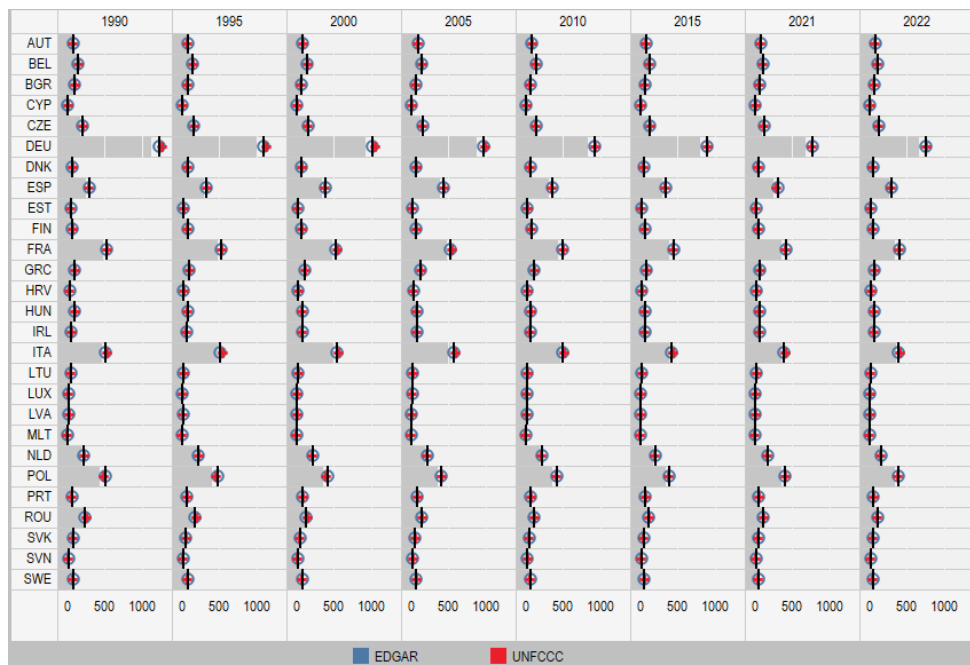


Figure 2. Temporal trend of fossil CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions for Annex I (above) – median values for EDGAR and UNFCCC Annex I and respective medians ratio for the selected years (below), 1990-2022, Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq  
Source: UNFCCC CRT 2024; EDGAR 2024



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Figure 3. GHG (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions every 5-years, 1990-2022, Annex I countries (EU27 not included), Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq  
Source: UNFCCC CRT 2024; EDGAR 2024  
NB. GWP (100 years) of IPCC Fourth Assessment Report is applied for CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions. EDGAR (blue circles) and UNFCCC  
submissions (red crosses). Highlighted area represents up to 90% of UNFCCC EU27 emissions.  
Vertical line represents the median value of EDGAR emissions



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Figure 4. GHG (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions in EU27 MS: EDGAR vs UNFCCC submission every 5-years, 1990-2022, Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq  
Source: UNFCCC CRT 2024, EDGAR 2024  
NB. EDGAR (blue circles) and UNFCCC submissions (red crosses). Highlighted area represents up to 90% of UNFCCC EU27 emissions.  
Vertical line represents the median value of EDGAR emissions

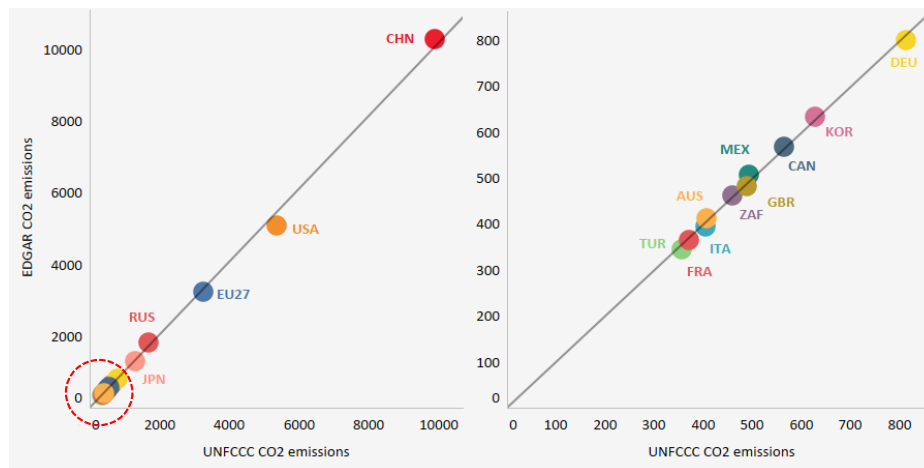
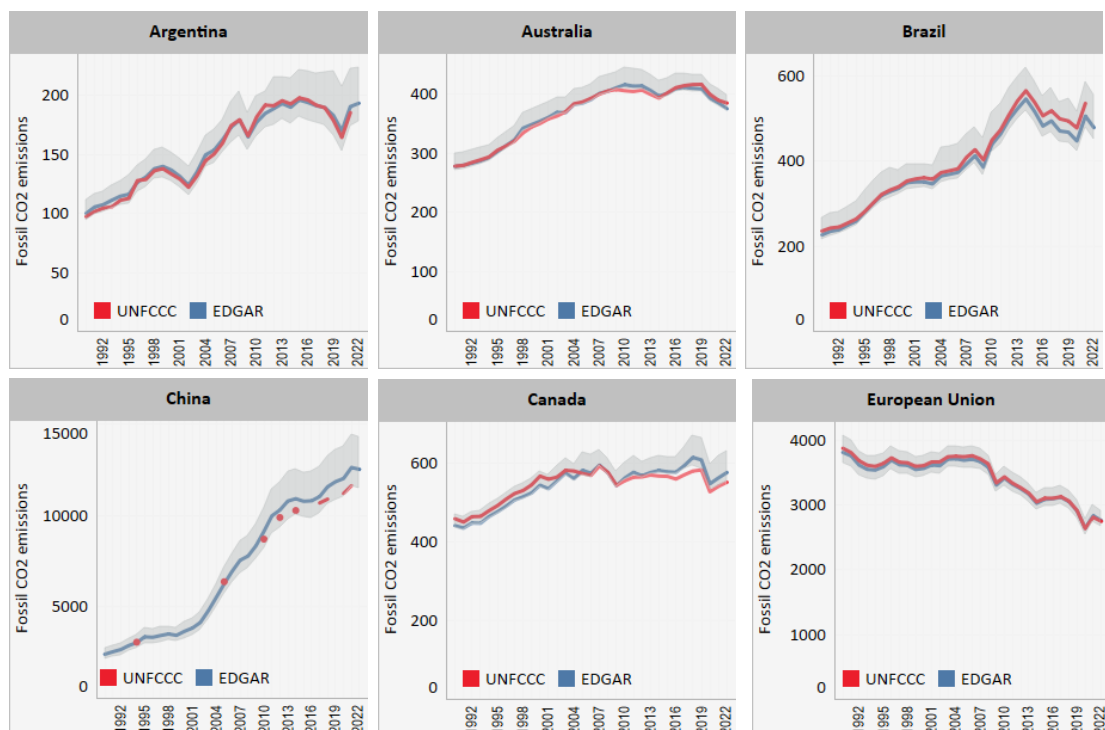


Figure 5. G20 countries fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: EDGAR compared with UNFCCC, 2012, (Mt)

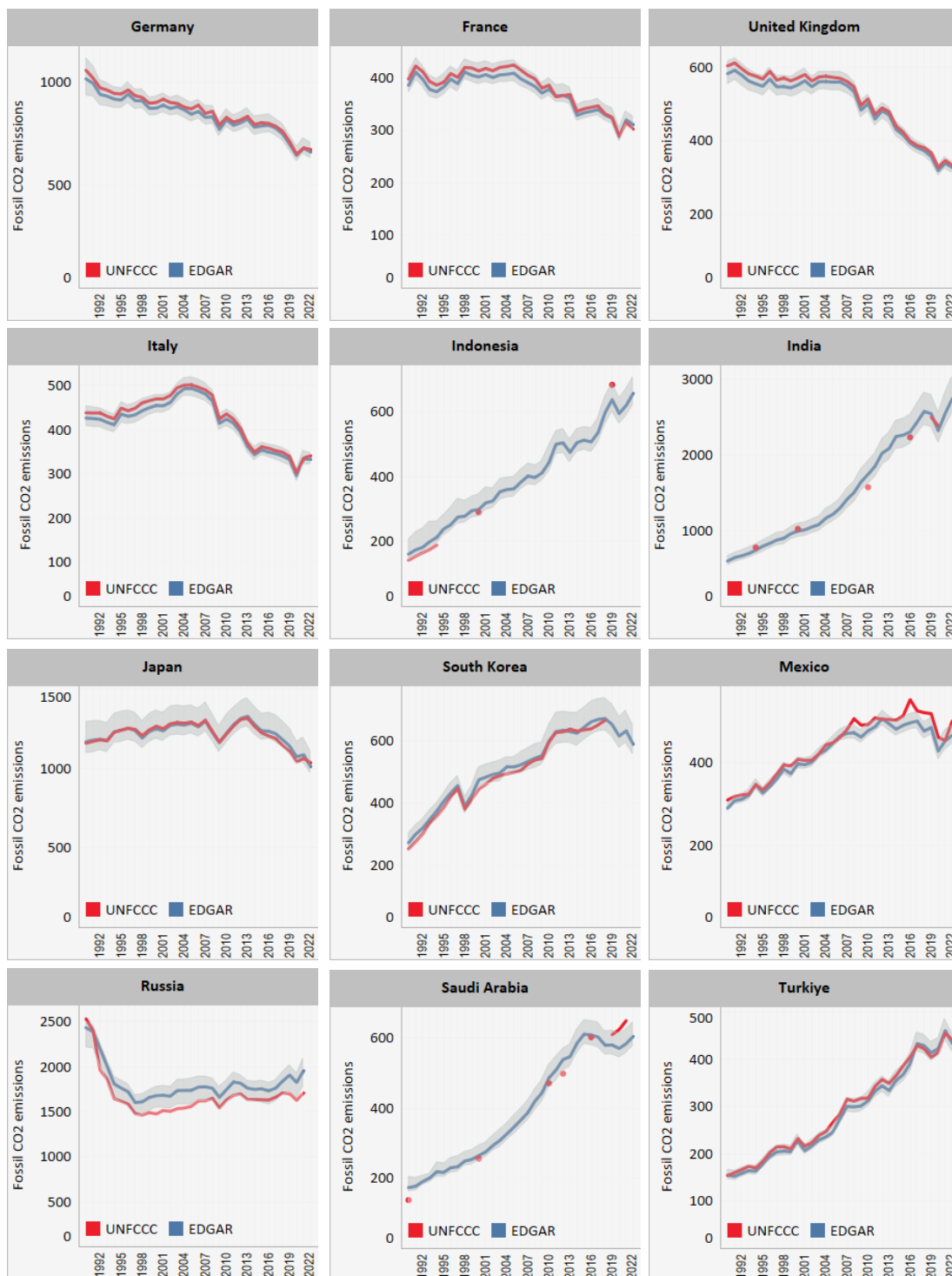
Source: UNFCCC CRT 2024, UNFCCC non-Annex I reports (last access May 2025), EDGAR 2024

NB. Countries with the largest CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, such as China (CHN), the USA, the EU27, and Russia (RUS), are positioned on the left side of the graph. In contrast, countries located in the lower-left section of the graph (inside the red circle) are displayed on the right side.





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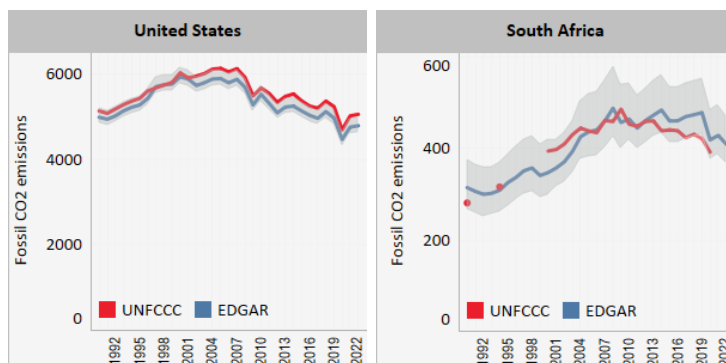


Figure 6. Temporal trends of fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in G20 countries: EDGAR vs UNFCCC inventories, 1990-2022, Mt

Source: UNFCCC CRT 2024, EDGAR 2024, UNFCCC non-Annex I reports and CRT tables (last access May 2025)  
NB: The shadow area represents the lower and the upper EDGAR emissions estimated uncertainty. The EDGARv8.0, 2023 dataset, incorporates or is consistent with the updated statistical data reported by Annex I countries in their 2023 submissions to the UNFCCC. For non-Annex I countries with submissions during year 2024 the EDGAR 2024 data are used for the comparison. The data for non-Annex I countries included here are [China](#) - the 2017 and 2018 data are sourced from the Second and Third Biennial Update Reports, submitted to the UNFCCC in December 2018 and 2023, respectively. 2020 and 2021 data are sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024. [Brazil](#) - data for period 1990-2021 are sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024. [Argentina](#) - data for period 1990-2021 are sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024. [India](#) - data are sourced from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> NC submitted respectively in 2023 and 2024. [Indonesia](#) - data sourced from BURs (BUR3 submitted in 2021 but detailed data for gas for period 2000-2019 are missing). [Mexico](#) - data for period 2000-2015 are sourced from 2019 NC submission. [South Africa](#) - data for period 2000-2021 is sourced from the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) submitted in December 2024. [Saudi Arabia](#) - data are sourced from BURs (BUR2 submitted April 2024). [South Korea](#) - data are sourced from BUR4 submitted in July 2023.

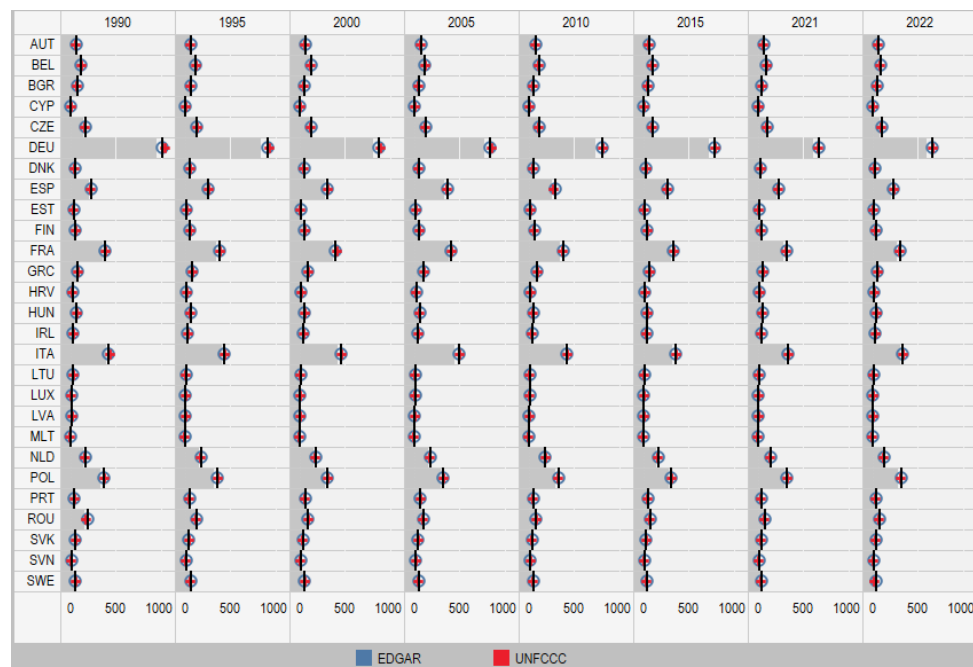


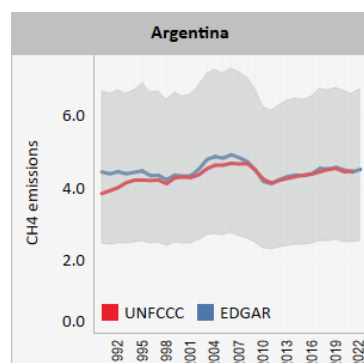
Figure 7. Fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in EU27 MS: EDGAR vs UNFCCC submission every 5-years, 1990-2022, Mt

Source: UNFCCC CRT 2024, EDGAR 2024

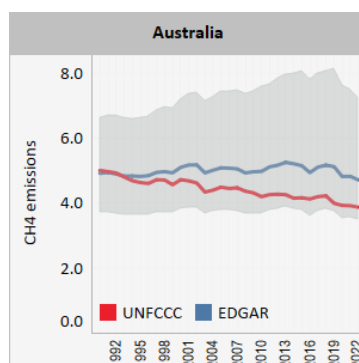
NB. EDGAR (blue circles) and UNFCCC submissions (red crosses). Highlighted area represents up to 90% of UNFCCC EU27 emissions. Vertical line represents the median value of EDGAR emissions



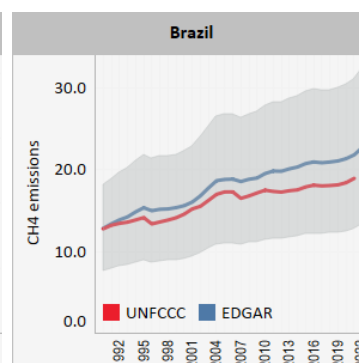
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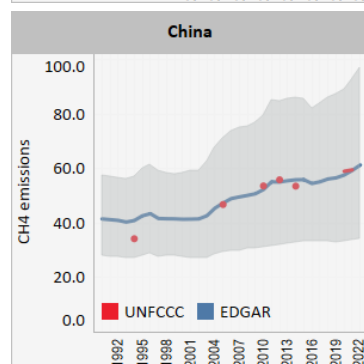
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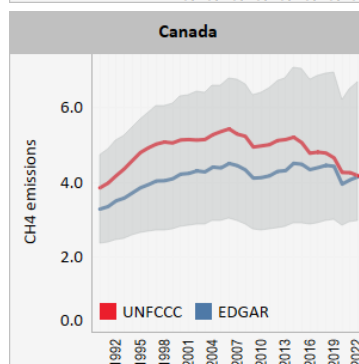
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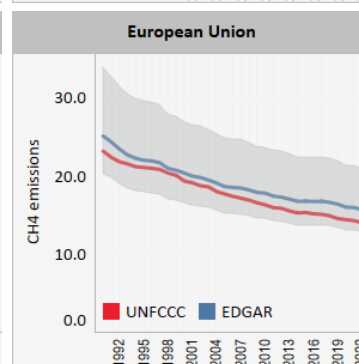
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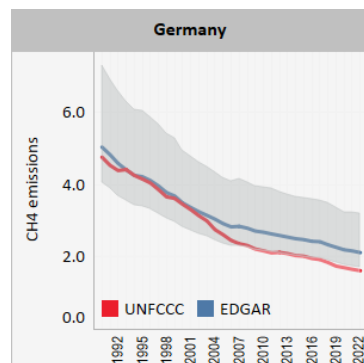
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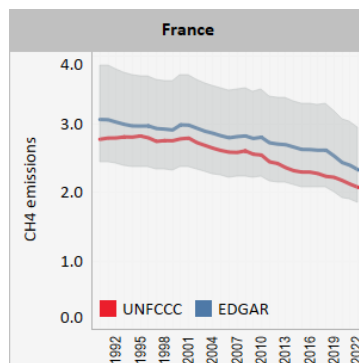
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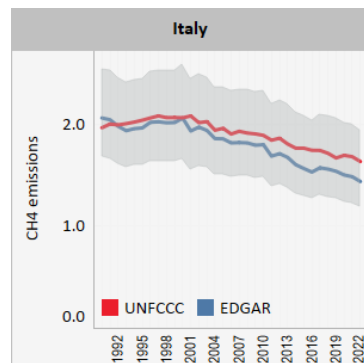
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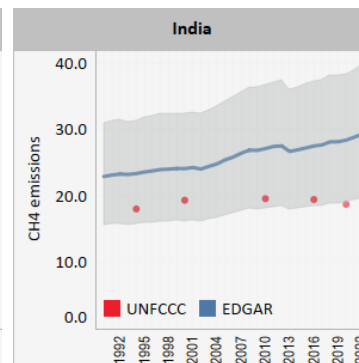
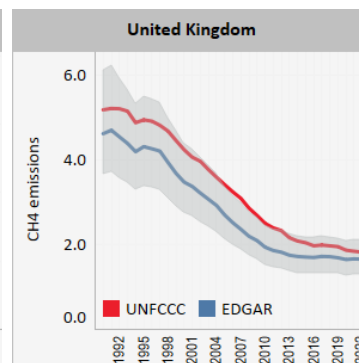
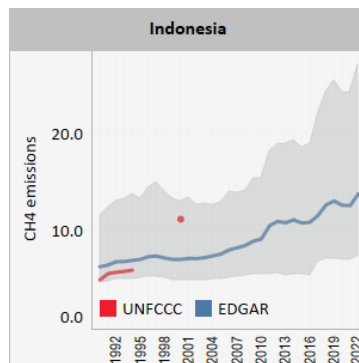
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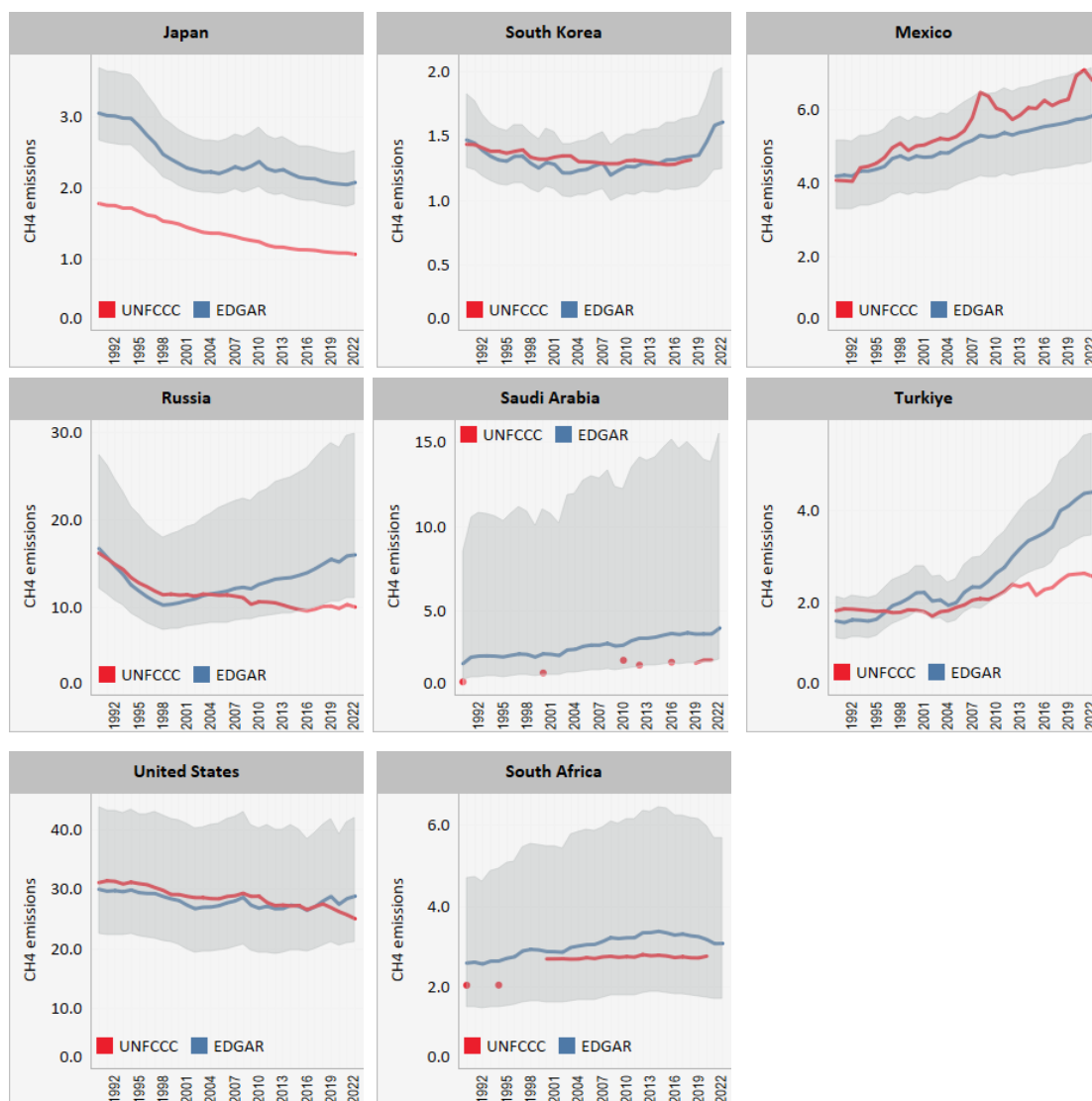


Figure 8. Temporal trends of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in G20 countries: EDGAR vs UNFCCC inventories, 1990-2021, Mt

Source: UNFCCC CRT 2024, EDGAR 2024, UNFCCC non-Annex I reports and CRT tables (last access May 2025)

NB: The shadow area represents the lower and the upper EDGAR emissions estimated uncertainty. The data for non-Annex I countries included here are: China - the 2017 and 2018 data are sourced from the Second and Third Biennial Update Reports, submitted to the UNFCCC in December 2018 and 2023, respectively. 2020 and 2021 data are sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024. Brazil - data for period 1990-2021 are sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024. Argentina - data for period 1990-2021 are sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024. India - data are sourced from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> NC submitted respectively in 2023 and 2024. Indonesia - data sourced from BUR3 submitted in 2021 but detailed data for gas for period 2000-2019 are missing. Mexico - data for period 2000-2015 are sourced from 2019 NC submission. South Africa - data for period 2000-2021 is sourced from the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) submitted in December 2024. Saudi Arabia - data are sourced from BURs (BUR2 submitted April 2024). South Korea - data are sourced from BUR4 submitted in July 2023.

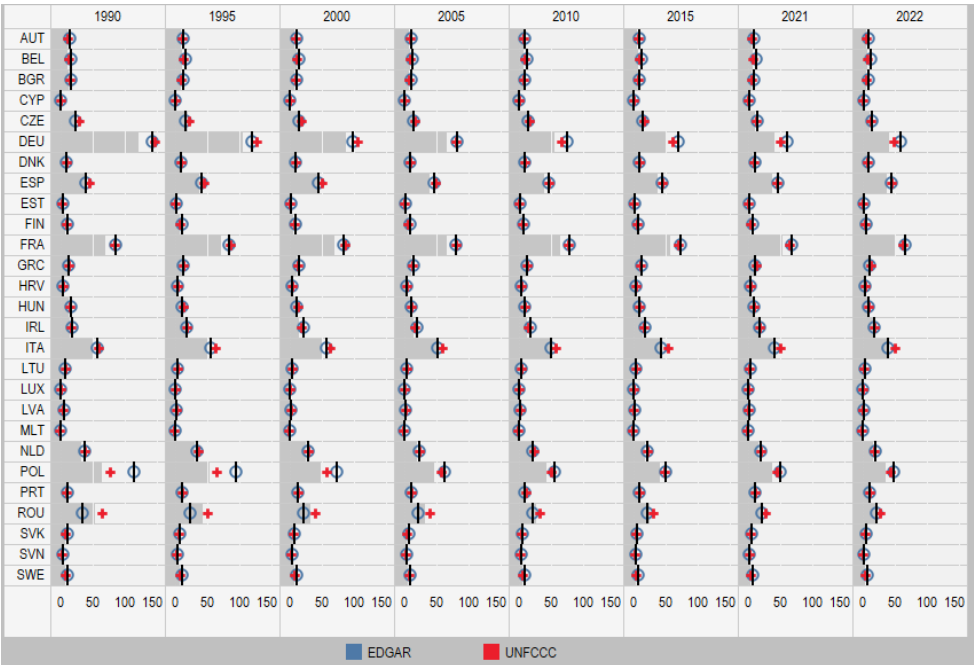
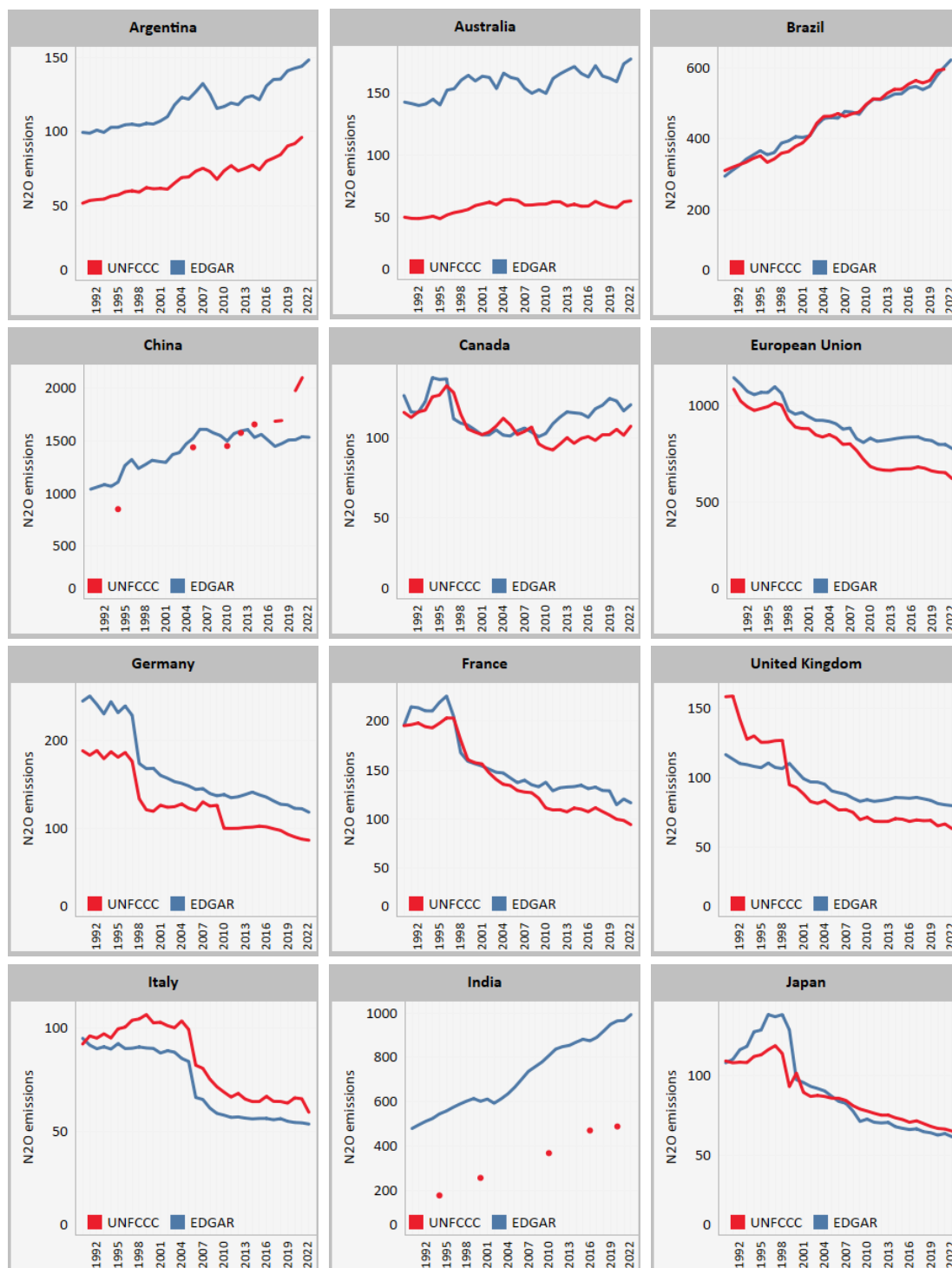


Figure 9. CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in EU27 MS: EDGAR vs UNFCCC submission every 5-years, 1990-2022, Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq  
EDGAR (blue circles) and UNFCCC submissions (red crosses). Highlighted area represents up to 90% of UNFCCC EU27 emissions.  
Vertical line represents the median value of EDGAR emissions  
Source: UNFCCC CRT 2024, EDGAR 2024



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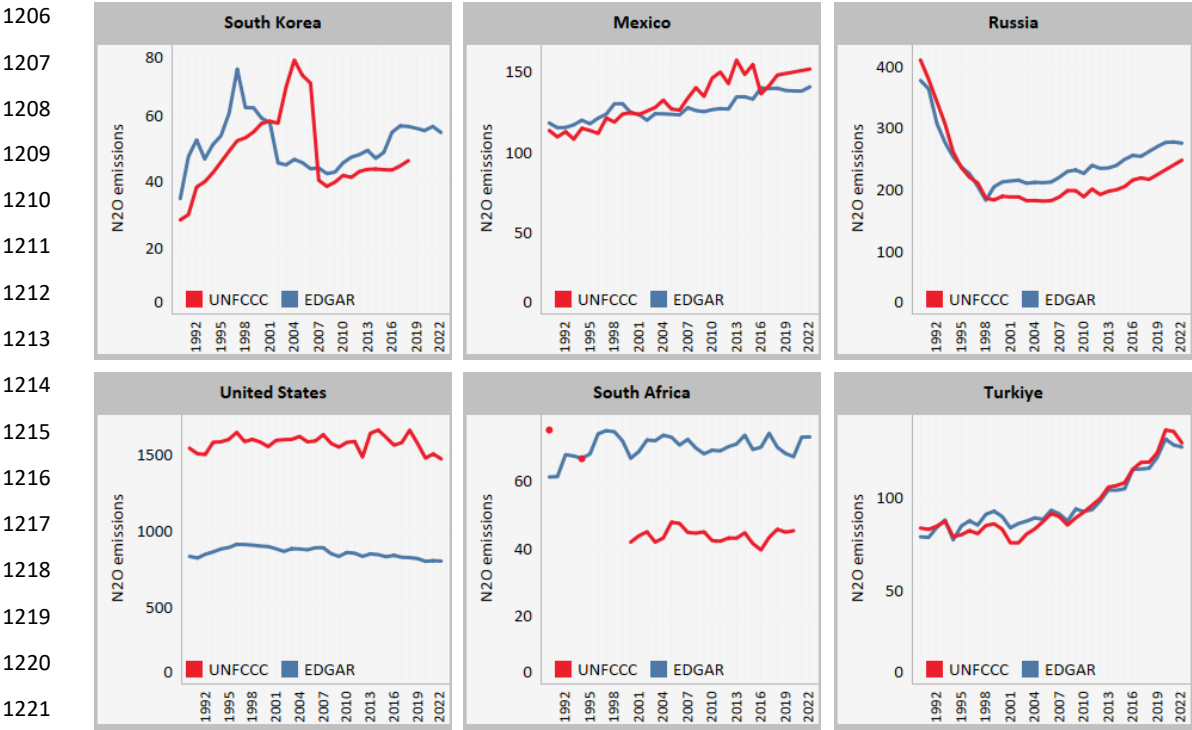


Figure 10. Temporal trend of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in G20 countries: EDGAR vs UNFCCC inventories, 1990-2022, kt

Source: UNFCCC CRT 2024, EDGAR 2024, UNFCCC non-Annex I reports and CRT tables (last access May 2025)  
 NB: The shadow area represents the lower and the upper EDGAR emissions estimated uncertainty. The data for non-Annex I countries included here are: China - the 2017 and 2018 data are sourced from the Second and Third Biennial Update Reports, submitted to the UNFCCC in December 2018 and 2023, respectively. 2020 and 2021 data are sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024. Brazil - data for period 1990-2021 are sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024. Argentina - data for period 1990-2021 are sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024. India - data are sourced from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> NC submitted respectively in 2023 and 2024. Indonesia - data sourced from BURs (BUR3 submitted in 2021 but detailed data for gas for period 2000-2019 are missing). Mexico - data for period 2000-2015 are sourced from 2019 NC submission. South Africa - data for period 2000-2021 is sourced from the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) submitted in December 2024. Saudi Arabia - data are sourced from BURs (BUR2 submitted April 2024). South Korea - data are sourced from BUR4 submitted in July 2023.

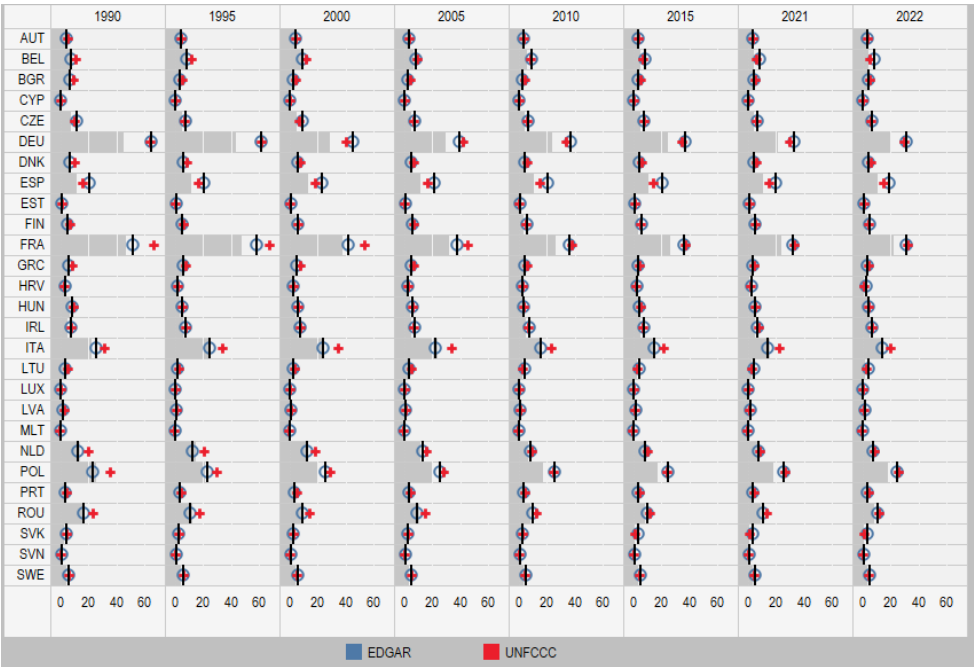


Figure 11. N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in EU27 MS: EDGAR vs UNFCCC submission every 5-years, 1990-2022, Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq  
EDGAR (blue circles) and UNFCCC submissions (red crosses). Highlighted area represents up to 90% of UNFCCC EU27 emissions.  
Vertical line represents the median value of UNFCCC EU27 emissions  
Source: UNFCCC CRT 2024, EDGAR 2024



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**Table 1.** Key milestones in the UNFCCC inventory system reporting

| Year | Development                                                      | Implications                                                                                                                             |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1999 | Introduction of CRF tables                                       | Standardized reporting format for Annex I Parties, enabling comparability                                                                |
| 2014 | Launch of Biennial Update Reports (BURs) for Non-Annex I Parties | Non-Annex I Parties began submitting BURs, enhancing transparency while considering their capabilities.                                  |
| 2015 | Paris Agreement Adoption                                         | Establishment of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) to replace the existing MRV system and standardize reporting for all Parties. |
| 2023 | Introduction of Test CRTs for Feedback                           | Parties tested the CRTs and provided feedback for the final versions, aligning with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines                             |
| 2024 | Transition to CRTs for Annex I Parties                           | CRTs replace CRFs for GHG inventory reporting, and all Parties submit Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) under the ETF.                |

1276 Source: UNFCCC, last access May 2025

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**Table 2.** Data availability of total GHG emissions (without LULUCF) in non-Annex I G20 countries, 1990-2021

| Argentina | Brazil | China | India | Indonesia | Mexico | South Korea | South Africa | Saudi Arabia |
|-----------|--------|-------|-------|-----------|--------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 100%      | 100%   | 26%   | 42%   | 68%       | 100%   | 94%         | 71%          | 19%          |

1280 Source: UNFCCC last access May 2025, JRC elaboration

1281 NB. The percentages included in this table indicate data availability, calculated as the ratio of the number of years a non-Annex I country  
 1282 has reported data to the total number of years in the 1990–2021 period (31 years). These data are derived from non-Annex I countries  
 1283 BURs, NCs and CRTs submitted to the UNFCCC. Data coverage elaborated using G20 non-Annex I countries' BURs, NCs and CRTs differs  
 1284 from what is available on the UNFCCC webpage (country profiles and detailed data by parties). For [Argentina](#), the data coverage on the  
 1285 UNFCCC webpage corresponds to 19% coverage for period 1990-2021 whereas Argentina has now submitted its CRT for 1990-2022. For  
 1286 [China](#) (CRT available only for 2005, 2020 and 2021), [India and Saudi Arabia](#) (CRT available only for 2019, 2020, 2021) the available data  
 1287 on the UNFCCC website corresponds to 13% coverage for period 1990-2021. For [Indonesia](#), the available data on the UNFCCC website  
 1288 corresponds to 20% coverage for the period 1990-2021. For [South Africa](#), the available data on the UNFCCC website correspond to years  
 1289 1990 and 1994 only. For [Mexico](#) the available data on the UNFCCC website covers only the period 1990-2013.

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1291 **Table 3.** Uncertainties in CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions estimates in EDGAR

|                  | Sector                                          | Uncertainty (%)                                                      | Notes                                                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CO <sub>2</sub>  | Energy (fossil fuel combustion)                 | ±5–10% (industrialized countries);<br>±10–20% (developing countries) | Lower uncertainty due to robust activity data and emission factors  |
| CH <sub>4</sub>  | Energy (fugitive emissions), Agriculture, Waste | ±50–150% (depending on source and region)                            | High variability due to spatial, process, and reporting differences |
| N <sub>2</sub> O | Agriculture, Fossil fuel combustion, Waste      | ±50–100% (fossil fuel combustion);<br>>100% (agriculture, waste)     | Significant uncertainty from complex chemical/biological processes  |

1292 Source: Crippa et al., (2024) based on Solazzo et al., (2021) methodology

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1304 Table 4. GHG emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O) in G20: EDGAR vs UNFCCC submissions: relative differences over years, 1990-2022, and  
1305 uncertainties: (EDGAR average 1990-2022; UNFCCC from 2022 submissions where available) (%)

|      | 1990  | 2000   | 2005  | 2010  | 2012  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  | UNFCCC       | EDGAR |
|------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|
| ARG  | 14.91 | 6.25   | 7.95  | 1.59  | 2.58  | 2.90  | 3.17  | 4.45  | 3.69  | 4.38  | 5.27  | 2.88  |       | 4.7          | 30.2  |
| AUS  | 5.00  | 8.24   | 7.67  | 10.29 | 10.93 | 10.28 | 8.92  | 9.36  | 8.63  | 9.39  | 8.59  | 9.76  | 8.68  | 3.5          | 13.9  |
| BRA  | -1.73 | 3.72   | 3.42  | 4.35  | 5.33  | 4.68  | 4.52  | 4.34  | 4.07  | 4.45  | 4.15  | 4.26  |       | 20           | 32.6  |
| CAN  | -5.14 | -6.57  | -2.77 | -2.02 | -2.13 | -0.08 | 1.10  | 2.33  | 4.08  | 3.36  | 2.38  | 2.91  | 3.98  | 2.6          | 8.9   |
| CHN  |       |        | -0.98 | 3.79  | 3.25  |       |       | 16.43 | 19.32 |       | 4.92  | 6.06  |       | 4.1-4.4      | 14.0  |
| EU27 | 0.15  | 0.18   | -0.18 | 1.51  | 1.68  | 1.84  | 2.25  | 2.25  | 2.24  | 2.67  | 2.93  | 3.29  | 3.17  | 3.1          | 7.1   |
| DEU  | -1.53 | -1.29  | -1.07 | 1.45  | 1.00  | 0.78  | 1.58  | 1.45  | 1.05  | 1.36  | 2.31  | 3.00  | 1.42  | 3.5          | 6.8   |
| FRA  | -0.66 | -1.08  | -1.40 | 1.35  | 3.16  | 1.90  | 1.80  | 1.91  | 3.35  | 3.33  | 2.63  | 4.73  | 5.66  | 6.2          | 9.6   |
| GBR  | -6.09 | -5.19  | -4.33 | -4.25 | -3.17 | -2.66 | -1.92 | -2.02 | -2.46 | -3.18 | -2.76 | -2.01 | -1.59 | 2.6          | 6.7   |
| IDN  | 30.98 | -11.57 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       | -            | 30.2  |
| IND  |       | 11.93  |       | 22.36 |       |       | 13.93 |       |       |       | 10.96 |       |       | 6.85         | 19.3  |
| ITA  | -1.62 | -3.29  | -2.55 | -3.39 | -3.34 | -3.50 | -4.12 | -3.31 | -3.61 | -3.25 | -4.15 | -2.55 | -3.76 | 2.4          | 5.4   |
| JPN  | 3.61  | 0.56   | 1.22  | 2.82  | 2.49  | 3.08  | 4.51  | 4.61  | 5.28  | 5.22  | 5.30  | 4.43  | 0.22  | (-2.5 +2)    | 6.6   |
| KOR  | 7.59  | 6.08   | 1.68  | 0.40  | 0.77  | 1.58  | 3.87  | 3.12  | 1.31  |       |       |       |       | -            | 6.7   |
| MEX  | -3.34 | -3.20  | -1.65 | -5.92 | -2.09 | -6.05 | -9.82 | -5.47 | -8.72 | -7.17 | -9.77 | -5.72 | -8.88 | 7.5          | 9.1   |
| RUS  | -2.98 | 9.99   | 10.04 | 9.11  | 10.09 | 12.36 | 12.01 | 11.98 | 13.56 | 18.04 | 18.30 | 19.97 | 26.93 | 12           | 11.1  |
| SAU  | 36.61 | 11.88  |       | 7.22  | 14.88 |       | 7.95  |       |       | 2.95  | -1.23 | -2.88 |       | -            | 31.7  |
| TUR  | -2.88 | 2.32   | -5.17 | 2.17  | 0.67  | 3.37  | 4.19  | 7.53  | 9.23  | 9.90  | 10.04 | 9.21  | 7.81  | 5.5          | 8.7   |
| USA  | -5.72 | -4.07  | -6.23 | -5.71 | -6.65 | -6.79 | -6.41 | -6.85 | -6.86 | -6.47 | -6.32 | -6.04 | -5.50 | (-2 +6)      | 6.3   |
| ZAF  | 12.53 | -5.15  | 5.11  | 8.04  | 6.58  | 10.34 | 10.81 | 16.28 | 15.07 | 18.04 | 11.97 |       |       | (-5.7 +6...) | 17.1  |

1306 Source: UNFCCC CRT 2024, UNFCCC non-Annex I reports and CRT tables (last access May 2025), EDGAR 2024  
1307 NB. Empty cells indicate that data are missing in the UNFCCC country submission. The analysis for EU27 MS is shown in Table 5. GHG  
1308 emissions in the table represent CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O, expressed in kt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq using IPCC fifth Assessment Report GWP values for all  
1309 countries. The EDGAR 2024 dataset incorporates or is consistent with the updated statistical data reported by Annex I countries in their  
1310 2024 submissions to the UNFCCC. For non-Annex I countries with submissions during year 2024 the EDGAR 2024 data are used for the  
1311 comparison. The data for non-Annex I countries included here are China - the 2017 and 2018 data are sourced from the Second and Third  
1312 Biennial Update Reports, submitted to the UNFCCC in December 2018 and 2023, respectively. The 2020 and 2021 data are sourced from  
1313 CRT tables submitted in December 2024. Brazil - data for period 1990-2021 are sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024.  
1314 Argentina - data for period 1990-2021 are sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024. India - data are sourced from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and  
1315 4<sup>th</sup> NC submitted respectively in 2023 and 2024. Indonesia - data sourced from BURs (BUR3 submitted in 2021 but detailed data for gas  
1316 for period 2000-2019 are missing). Mexico - data for period 1990-2022 are sourced from 2024 BTR submission. South Africa - data for  
1317 period 2000-2020 is sourced from the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) submitted in December 2024. Saudi Arabia - data are sourced  
1318 from BURs (BUR2 submitted April 2024). South Korea - data are sourced from BUR4 submitted in July 2023.



1343 Table 5. GHG emissions in EU27 MS: EDGAR vs UNFCCC submissions: relative differences over years, 1990-2021 (%)

|      | 1990  | 2000   | 2005  | 2010  | 2012  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  |
|------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| AUT  | 1.74  | 3.56   | 3.88  | 4.88  | 4.93  | 4.10  | 3.57  | 3.61  | 4.19  | 4.25  | 4.38  | 4.35  | 3.52  |
| BEL  | -3.63 | 1.56   | -1.63 | 4.56  | 5.76  | 6.40  | 6.99  | 5.72  | 5.44  | 6.03  | 7.82  | 8.67  | 8.40  |
| BGR  | 4.69  | 8.57   | 5.96  | 5.01  | 4.97  | 5.66  | 6.16  | 6.90  | 8.68  | 8.31  | 11.68 | 11.10 | 9.95  |
| CYP  | -2.75 | -2.14  | -2.59 | 0.00  | -0.19 | 0.26  | 0.29  | 0.64  | 4.46  | 9.69  | 9.58  | 10.29 | 14.87 |
| CZE  | 0.30  | 4.72   | 2.78  | 3.42  | 2.50  | 3.30  | 2.94  | 2.93  | 3.23  | 3.17  | 4.04  | 3.92  | 5.85  |
| DEU  | -1.18 | -0.49  | -0.39 | 1.57  | 1.12  | 0.90  | 1.71  | 1.60  | 1.20  | 1.51  | 2.47  | 3.14  | 1.60  |
| DNK  | -1.90 | -2.44  | -1.63 | -1.43 | -2.55 | -0.20 | -0.32 | -0.08 | 0.74  | 2.09  | 3.09  | 3.92  | 3.49  |
| ESP  | 3.68  | 3.53   | 3.44  | 5.86  | 5.94  | 5.39  | 6.60  | 6.51  | 6.24  | 6.76  | 7.55  | 7.20  | 3.84  |
| EST  | 10.40 | 18.55  | 17.79 | 18.94 | 21.57 | 33.52 | 21.75 | 21.27 | 32.80 | 29.45 | 27.93 | 21.50 | 11.59 |
| FIN  | 1.49  | 5.15   | 5.89  | 7.96  | 8.01  | 9.69  | 9.10  | 9.11  | 9.73  | 9.97  | 10.63 | 10.31 | 5.63  |
| FRA  | -0.90 | -0.61  | -1.00 | 1.12  | 2.78  | 1.67  | 1.58  | 1.68  | 3.10  | 3.14  | 2.49  | 4.55  | 5.39  |
| GRC  | -4.74 | -4.42  | -6.26 | -6.44 | -8.13 | -4.76 | -2.49 | -6.03 | -5.51 | -4.81 | -5.47 | -6.33 | -6.59 |
| HRV  | 6.03  | -3.15  | -3.44 | -2.84 | -2.91 | 1.97  | 3.50  | 2.57  | 2.92  | 3.27  | 4.71  | 3.81  | 1.79  |
| HUN  | 1.78  | 2.70   | 3.16  | 1.77  | 2.74  | 2.15  | 2.35  | 3.47  | 3.53  | 3.98  | 5.04  | 5.28  | 7.95  |
| IRL  | 3.66  | 7.34   | 6.74  | 6.19  | 6.80  | 5.77  | 7.08  | 6.58  | 0.02  | 0.95  | 0.87  | -0.71 | -0.37 |
| ITA  | -1.80 | -2.98  | -2.37 | -3.10 | -2.81 | -2.73 | -3.12 | -2.10 | -2.35 | -1.75 | -2.35 | -0.94 | -2.23 |
| LTU  | -2.73 | -4.92  | -3.02 | 10.14 | 14.14 | 16.23 | 13.02 | 14.14 | 14.58 | 14.39 | 13.35 | 11.51 | 10.05 |
| LUX  | 1.49  | 1.62   | 0.45  | 0.35  | -0.02 | -0.69 | -0.85 | -1.11 | -1.42 | -1.59 | -2.22 | -1.87 | -0.81 |
| LVA  | 4.08  | 0.25   | 5.92  | 6.07  | 10.70 | 11.24 | 11.53 | 10.07 | 10.29 | 9.98  | 11.03 | 10.53 | 9.52  |
| MLT  | -5.16 | -14.77 | -3.46 | -0.13 | -2.23 | -4.69 | -5.10 | -2.94 | -3.87 | -4.24 | -5.16 | -5.38 | -6.63 |
| NLD  | 0.60  | 2.65   | 3.12  | 2.46  | 4.00  | 3.74  | 4.49  | 4.02  | 3.57  | 3.79  | 3.94  | 4.89  | 5.39  |
| POL  | 7.86  | 5.21   | 2.50  | 2.54  | 2.81  | 1.49  | 1.59  | 1.34  | 1.12  | 2.26  | 1.78  | 1.55  | 4.51  |
| PRT  | -0.57 | -1.49  | -3.02 | -0.63 | -1.30 | -1.20 | 0.21  | 0.46  | 0.20  | -0.84 | -0.08 | -0.59 | -0.07 |
| ROU  | -5.96 | -7.97  | -7.64 | -5.92 | -6.63 | -2.29 | -0.70 | -0.22 | 0.31  | 1.54  | -0.75 | 0.28  | 0.90  |
| SVK  | 2.56  | 5.43   | 3.18  | 8.72  | 8.03  | 8.73  | 9.88  | 12.24 | 11.62 | 11.74 | 14.50 | 13.65 | 22.89 |
| SVN  | 13.96 | 8.97   | 14.33 | 11.73 | 7.00  | 11.70 | 10.27 | 11.80 | 12.14 | 11.57 | 11.90 | 11.80 | 9.92  |
| SWE  | 5.38  | 11.01  | 7.02  | 6.33  | 6.89  | 7.59  | 7.42  | 7.86  | 4.10  | 6.29  | 13.14 | 13.00 | 13.59 |
| EU27 | 0.38  | 0.81   | 0.36  | 1.67  | 1.85  | 1.98  | 2.37  | 2.38  | 2.36  | 2.78  | 3.07  | 3.57  | 3.29  |

Source: UNFCCC CRT 2024, EDGAR 2024

NB: IPCC GWP (100 years) AR5 values are used in both 2023 EU27 countries submissions and EDGARv8.0.

1347 Table 6. Fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in G20: EDGAR vs UNFCCC submissions: relative differences over years, 1990-2022 (%)

|      | 1990  | 2000   | 2005  | 2010  | 2012  | 2015  | 2016   | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021   | 2022  |
|------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| ARG  | 2.22  | 2.03   | 1.60  | -3.57 | -2.91 | -2.15 | -2.50  | -1.78 | -1.83 | -0.91 | -0.27 | -2.22  |       |
| AUS  | -0.16 | 1.10   | -0.54 | 2.50  | 1.75  | -0.24 | -0.46  | -0.72 | -1.54 | -1.90 | -1.67 | -1.12  | -2.47 |
| BRA  | -3.82 | -1.17  | -2.17 | -2.20 | -2.15 | -3.96 | -4.75  | -4.61 | -5.72 | -5.32 | -6.40 | -5.67  |       |
| CAN  | -3.83 | -4.10  | 1.44  | 1.24  | 0.54  | 2.03  | 3.04   | 4.12  | 5.97  | 4.33  | 3.82  | 3.94   | 4.49  |
| CHN  |       |        | -1.82 | 4.90  | 4.09  |       |        | 3.26  | 6.21  |       | 7.33  | 8.54   |       |
| DEU  | -3.96 | -3.03  | -2.97 | -1.37 | -1.67 | -1.93 | -1.04  | -1.23 | -1.69 | -1.81 | -0.90 | -0.14  | -1.78 |
| EU27 | -1.63 | -1.19  | -1.44 | -0.56 | -0.47 | -0.50 | -0.14  | -0.13 | -0.19 | -0.01 | 0.43  | 0.91   | 0.60  |
| FRA  | -2.95 | -2.72  | -3.67 | -1.99 | 0.19  | -2.20 | -2.22  | -1.95 | -0.69 | -0.46 | -0.48 | 1.72   | 2.88  |
| GBR  | -3.53 | -3.30  | -2.21 | -2.58 | -1.62 | -1.87 | -1.45  | -1.59 | -2.15 | -2.85 | -2.78 | -2.02  | -1.82 |
| IDN  | 13.38 | 3.30   |       |       |       |       |        |       |       | -6.67 |       |        |       |
| IND  |       | -2.84  |       | 10.76 |       |       | 3.24   |       |       | 1.73  | -2.67 |        |       |
| ITA  | -2.69 | -3.17  | -1.57 | -2.68 | -2.13 | -2.00 | -2.43  | -1.91 | -2.42 | -2.11 | -2.23 | -0.49  | -2.39 |
| JPN  | 0.82  | -1.20  | -0.57 | 0.47  | 0.41  | 1.00  | 2.47   | 2.55  | 3.21  | 3.08  | 3.05  | 2.17   | -2.40 |
| KOR  | 7.98  | 6.87   | 3.60  | 0.47  | 0.69  | 1.32  | 3.53   | 2.72  | 0.88  |       |       |        |       |
| MEX  | -6.33 | -2.66  | -0.18 | -3.05 | 0.26  | -4.41 | -10.15 | -4.70 | -8.62 | -6.40 | -7.20 | -0.15  | -6.96 |
| RUS  | -3.88 | 13.74  | 11.36 | 7.02  | 7.05  | 7.41  | 6.30   | 6.05  | 7.65  | 12.17 | 12.23 | 14.42  | 22.08 |
| SAU  | 25.77 | 3.32   |       | 3.32  | 8.12  |       | 1.11   |       |       | -4.86 | -8.59 | -10.11 |       |
| TUR  | 0.66  | -2.28  | -7.84 | -1.70 | -3.73 | -4.79 | -3.32  | 0.89  | 1.60  | 2.31  | 2.03  | 1.19   | -1.74 |
| USA  | -2.88 | -1.56  | -3.89 | -2.59 | -4.59 | -4.38 | -4.14  | -4.56 | -4.55 | -5.11 | -4.75 | -5.22  | -5.27 |
| ZAF  | 11.85 | -11.92 | -0.46 | 2.49  | 0.37  | 4.39  | 4.93   | 10.91 | 9.91  | 13.54 | 6.85  |        |       |

Source: UNFCCC CRT 2024, UNFCCC non-Annex I reports and CRT tables (last access May 2025), EDGAR 2024.

NB. Empty cells indicate that data were missing in the UNFCCC country submissions. The EDGAR 2024 dataset incorporates or is consistent with the updated statistical data reported by Annex I countries in their 2024 submissions to the UNFCCC. For non-Annex I countries with submissions during year 2024 the EDGAR 2024 data are used for the comparison. The data for non-Annex I countries included here are China - the 2017 and 2018 data are sourced from the Second and Third Biennial Update Reports, submitted to the UNFCCC in December 2018 and 2023, respectively. 2020 and 2021 data are sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024.



1355 Brazil – data for period 1990-2021 are sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024. Argentina – data for period 1990-2021 are  
 1356 sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024. India – data are sourced from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> NC submitted respectively in 2023  
 1357 and 2024. Indonesia – data sourced from BURs (BUR3 submitted in 2021 but detailed data for gas for period 2000-2019 are missing).  
 1358 Mexico – data for period 1990-2022 are sourced from 2024 BTR submission. South Africa – data for period 2000-2020 is sourced from  
 1359 the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) submitted in December 2024. Saudi Arabia – data are sourced from BURs (BUR2 submitted April  
 1360 2024). South Korea – data are sourced from BUR4 submitted in July 2023.

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Table 7. CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in G20: EDGAR vs UNFCCC submissions: relative differences over years, 1990-2022 (%)

|      | 1990  | 2000  | 2005  | 2010  | 2012  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| ARG  | 15,4  | 0,5   | 4,1   | -1,4  | 0,5   | -0,2  | 0,3   | 2,0   | 0,4   | 0,5   | 1,2   | -0,7  |       |
| AUS  | -1,8  | 8,1   | 13,3  | 18,5  | 20,9  | 23,6  | 19,7  | 21,6  | 22,4  | 28,2  | 22,7  | 23,0  | 21,7  |
| BRA  | 0,4   | 7,1   | 8,8   | 11,7  | 14,8  | 16,0  | 15,7  | 15,7  | 15,9  | 16,1  | 15,9  | 15,2  |       |
| CAN  | -3,0  | -5,8  | -6,3  | -5,4  | -3,9  | 1,1   | 2,6   | 4,6   | 6,2   | 8,4   | 7,1   | 11,7  |       |
| CHN  |       |       | 1,1   | -2,5  | -1,5  |       |       |       |       |       | -2,4  | -0,3  |       |
| DEU  | 5,8   | 1,1   | 11,7  | 23,7  | 22,0  | 22,7  | 24,1  | 25,6  | 26,5  | 29,7  | 29,0  | 30,6  | 30,8  |
| EU27 | 8,4   | 5,3   | 5,3   | 9,2   | 9,0   | 9,5   | 10,4  | 11,1  | 11,6  | 12,7  | 11,1  | 11,8  | 11,9  |
| FRA  | 10,4  | 7,3   | 8,2   | 10,2  | 11,7  | 14,4  | 14,3  | 15,0  | 17,1  | 14,0  | 12,1  | 13,0  | 12,3  |
| GBR  | -10,9 | -18,0 | -20,9 | -22,5 | -21,8 | -16,5 | -14,0 | -13,5 | -13,0 | -13,5 | -11,8 | -9,7  | -9,2  |
| IDN  | 26,7  | -36,6 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| IND  |       | 24,5  |       | 38,4  |       |       | 41,2  |       |       |       | 51,5  |       |       |
| ITA  | 4,9   | -0,2  | -5,3  | -4,8  | -8,1  | -11,3 | -12,2 | -9,8  | -9,0  | -7,8  | -11,4 | -11,7 | -12,0 |
| JPN  | 71,3  | 57,0  | 61,5  | 90,4  | 91,1  | 89,9  | 88,6  | 89,4  | 89,1  | 88,9  | 89,2  | 88,4  | 94,5  |
| KOR  | 2,3   | -1,9  | -4,6  | -3,4  | -1,3  | 2,9   | 2,8   | 2,4   | 2,1   |       |       |       |       |
| MEX  | 2,8   | -5,6  | -5,9  | -12,6 | -7,4  | -9,1  | -11,4 | -8,8  | -9,8  | -9,9  | -17,2 | -18,7 | -14,3 |
| RUS  | 3,2   | -7,7  | 2,7   | 18,7  | 25,5  | 40,1  | 45,2  | 47,0  | 47,8  | 52,6  | 53,7  | 53,7  | 59,2  |
| SAU  | 137,1 | 86,5  |       | 43,3  | 89,7  |       | 87,4  |       |       | 91,6  | 74,5  | 74,3  |       |
| TUR  | -12,3 | 20,6  | 5,4   | 23,4  | 24,9  | 58,4  | 53,6  | 56,3  | 60,9  | 57,3  | 61,8  | 65,7  | 70,8  |
| USA  | -3,6  | -3,5  | -4,0  | -7,0  | -2,0  | -0,5  | -0,4  | -0,2  | 1,8   | 6,9   | 4,7   | 10,6  | 15,0  |
| ZAF  | 26,6  | 6,7   | 11,7  | 16,9  | 19,1  | 20,5  | 20,2  | 20,3  | 19,9  | 19,2  | 14,9  |       |       |

1365 Source: UNFCCC CRT 2024, UNFCCC non-Annex I reports and CRT tables (last access May 2025), EDGAR 2024  
 1366 NB. Empty cells indicate that data were missing in the UNFCCC country submissions. The EDGAR 2024 dataset incorporates or is  
 1367 consistent with the updated statistical data reported by Annex I countries in their 2024 submissions to the UNFCCC. For non-Annex I  
 1368 countries with submissions during year 2024 the EDGAR 2024 data are used for the comparison. The data for non-Annex I countries  
 1369 included here are China - the 2017 and 2018 data are sourced from the Second and Third Biennial Update Reports, submitted to the  
 1370 UNFCCC in December 2018 and 2023, respectively. 2020 and 2021 data are sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024.  
 1371 Brazil – data for period 1990-2021 are sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024. Argentina – data for period 1990-2021 are  
 1372 sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024. India – data are sourced from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> NC submitted respectively in 2023  
 1373 and 2024. Indonesia – data sourced from BURs (BUR3 submitted in 2021 but detailed data for gas for period 2000-2019 are missing).  
 1374 Mexico – data for period 1990-2022 are sourced from 2024 BTR submission. South Africa – data for period 2000-2020 is sourced from  
 1375 the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) submitted in December 2024. Saudi Arabia – data are sourced from BURs (BUR2 submitted April  
 1376 2024). South Korea – data are sourced from BUR4 submitted in July 2023.

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Table 8. N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in G20: EDGAR vs UNFCCC submissions: relative differences over years, 1990-2022 (%)

|      | 1990  | 2000  | 2005  | 2010  | 2012  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| ARG  | 91,7  | 70,8  | 75,3  | 58,7  | 60,6  | 63,4  | 63,1  | 64,3  | 60,1  | 55,9  | 55,1  | 49,7  |       |
| AUS  | 184,8 | 168,6 | 152,4 | 146,9 | 164,8 | 181,3 | 175,9 | 173,7 | 171,6 | 176,8 | 175,2 | 177,9 | 180,7 |
| BRA  | -5,2  | 7,1   | -0,8  | -0,4  | -0,3  | -2,3  | -2,0  | -2,9  | -3,4  | -2,9  | -2,5  | 0,9   |       |
| CAN  | 9,1   | 1,4   | -6,5  | 9,5   | 17,4  | 15,5  | 11,9  | 20,0  | 18,0  | 22,1  | 16,8  | 14,9  | 12,4  |
| CHN  |       |       | 5,9   | 3,2   | 1,1   |       |       | -14,1 | -12,9 |       | -23,6 | -26,7 |       |
| DEU  | 30,0  | 40,8  | 20,6  | 38,2  | 35,8  | 34,7  | 33,2  | 31,7  | 30,4  | 35,7  | 35,9  | 39,3  | 36,7  |
| EU27 | 5,5   | 9,5   | 8,8   | 21,4  | 23,1  | 24,2  | 24,4  | 22,8  | 21,9  | 23,8  | 21,9  | 22,3  | 25,1  |
| FRA  | 0,2   | -0,7  | 5,8   | 23,7  | 20,5  | 22,3  | 22,0  | 19,0  | 20,0  | 23,9  | 14,9  | 22,2  | 23,8  |
| GBR  | -26,4 | 12,7  | 13,0  | 17,7  | 22,1  | 22,0  | 24,4  | 23,4  | 22,9  | 20,8  | 24,7  | 20,7  | 25,9  |
| IDN  | 233,3 | 134,9 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| IND  |       | 132,3 |       | 113,8 |       |       | 77,4  |       |       |       | 88,3  |       |       |
| ITA  | 3,0   | -12,1 | -15,6 | -16,1 | -16,6 | -12,7 | -15,9 | -13,8 | -12,9 | -13,8 | -17,9 | -17,7 | -9,7  |
| JPN  | -1,0  | -4,1  | 1,4   | -6,5  | -6,5  | -7,6  | -6,5  | -7,0  | -7,3  | -5,9  | -6,3  | -4,3  | -5,4  |
| KOR  | 22,7  | 2,6   | -36,6 | 9,1   | 11,8  | 12,0  | 26,2  | 27,0  | 22,3  |       |       |       |       |
| MEX  | 4,1   | 0,1   | -2,6  | -13,4 | -11,0 | -13,9 | 2,7   | -1,2  | -5,5  | -5,1  | -3,0  | -4,7  | -7,3  |
| RUS  | -8,0  | 12,2  | 16,3  | 20,0  | 21,9  | 21,4  | 18,3  | 15,8  | 20,8  | 20,8  | 19,5  | 15,7  | 11,1  |
| SAU  | -43,4 | -41,9 |       | -19,9 | -19,7 |       | -13,0 |       |       | 13,1  | 25,9  | 23,6  |       |
| TUR  | -5,7  | 8,2   | 1,4   | 0,4   | -1,4  | -3,0  | -0,1  | -3,0  | -2,8  | -1,9  | -3,5  | -5,4  | -1,7  |
| USA  | -45,9 | -42,1 | -44,6 | -45,6 | -43,7 | -48,4 | -46,1 | -47,5 | -50,2 | -47,8 | -45,7 | -46,4 | -45,4 |
| ZAF  | -18,5 | 59,1  | 52,5  | 63,0  | 62,6  | 67,0  | 76,6  | 71,0  | 53,0  | 51,8  | 48,3  |       |       |

Source: UNFCCC CRT 2024, UNFCCC non-Annex I reports and CRT tables (last access May 2025), EDGAR 2024  
 NB. Empty cells indicate that data were missing in the UNFCCC country submissions. The data for non-Annex I countries included here are: China - the 2017 and 2018 data are sourced from the Second and Third Biennial Update Reports, submitted to the UNFCCC in December 2018 and 2023, respectively. 2020 and 2021 data are sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024. Brazil - data for period 1990-2021 are sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024. Argentina - data for period 1990-2021 are sourced from CRT tables submitted in December 2024. India - data are sourced from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> NC submitted respectively in 2023 and 2024. Indonesia - data sourced from BURs (BUR3 submitted in 2021 but detailed data for gas for period 2000-2019 are missing). Mexico - data for period 2000-2015 are sourced from 2019 NC submission. South Africa - data for period 2000-2021 is sourced from the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) submitted in December 2024. Saudi Arabia - data are sourced from BURs (BUR2 submitted April 2024). South Korea - data are sourced from BUR4 submitted in July 2023.