

Lahti

Lahti *Enduring change*

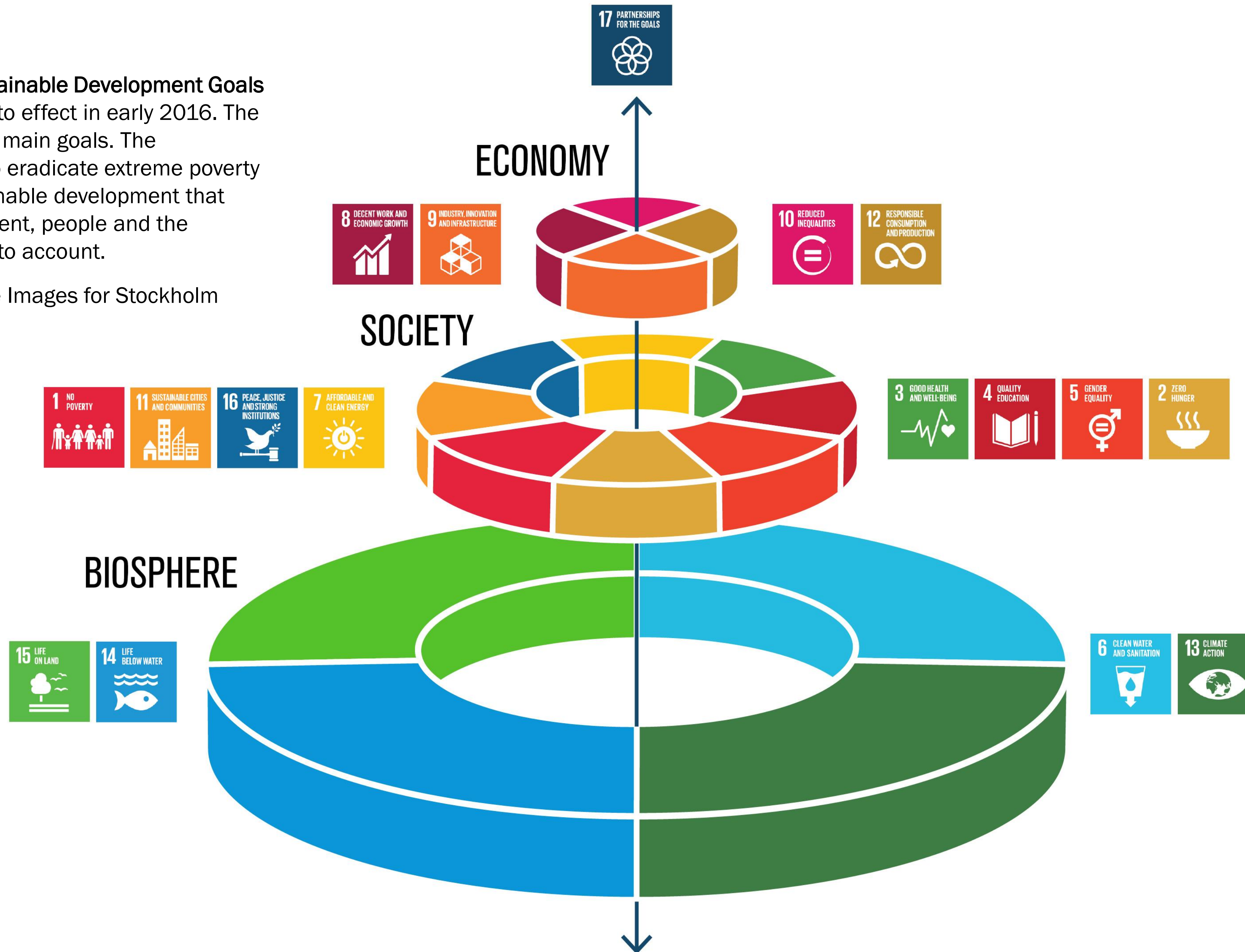
City of Lahti – Sustainability Report 2023
Environmental | Social | Economic sustainability

18.4.2024



The global UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) came into effect in early 2016. The programme has 17 main goals. The programme aims to eradicate extreme poverty and achieve sustainable development that takes the environment, people and the economy equally into account.

Image source Azote Images for Stockholm Resilience Centre



Lahti – Enduring Change

Environmental sustainability

The foundation for all sustainability

Climate neutrality
Biodiversity
Circular economy



Social sustainability

Good and meaningful everyday life

Education
Employment
Inclusion



Economic sustainability

Stable economic growth without debt and overconsumption



Lahti in figures

120 700

residents

8 200

businesses

51 608

jobs

Lahti Group

3 700

people employed by the City of Lahti

5 600

people employed by Lahti Group

45

subsidiaries in Lahti Group

Summary



Metrics indicating a positive trend



Lahti's goal is to achieve climate neutrality by 2025. The goal will be achieved, but with a slight delay from the original schedule. In 2022, emissions by the City of Lahti decreased by approximately 67% from the comparison year.



The education level of Lahti residents is increasing, and higher education is becoming more international. However, in comparison to other large cities, the level of education in Lahti is still low.



The city's financial statements for 2023 are positive. Cash flow was sufficient to cover the city's net investments in 2021–2023.



Metrics indicating areas of improvement



The share of sustainable transport has decreased. In Lahti, 37% of all trips were made by sustainable means of transport on foot or by bike or public transport. The goal is for this share to increase to more than 50% by 2030.



The city's employment rate has developed positively. Nevertheless, when comparing overall unemployment in the 12 largest Finnish cities, Lahti still performs among one of the poorest. In addition, social exclusion is on the rise among certain youth groups.



The city's economy suffers from a sustainability issue caused by a structural imbalance in income and expenditure. This results in pressure to increase debt.

Lahti aims for climate neutrality – key goals



Modal shift from private car use to sustainable alternatives and the electrification of transport



Promoting the circular economy



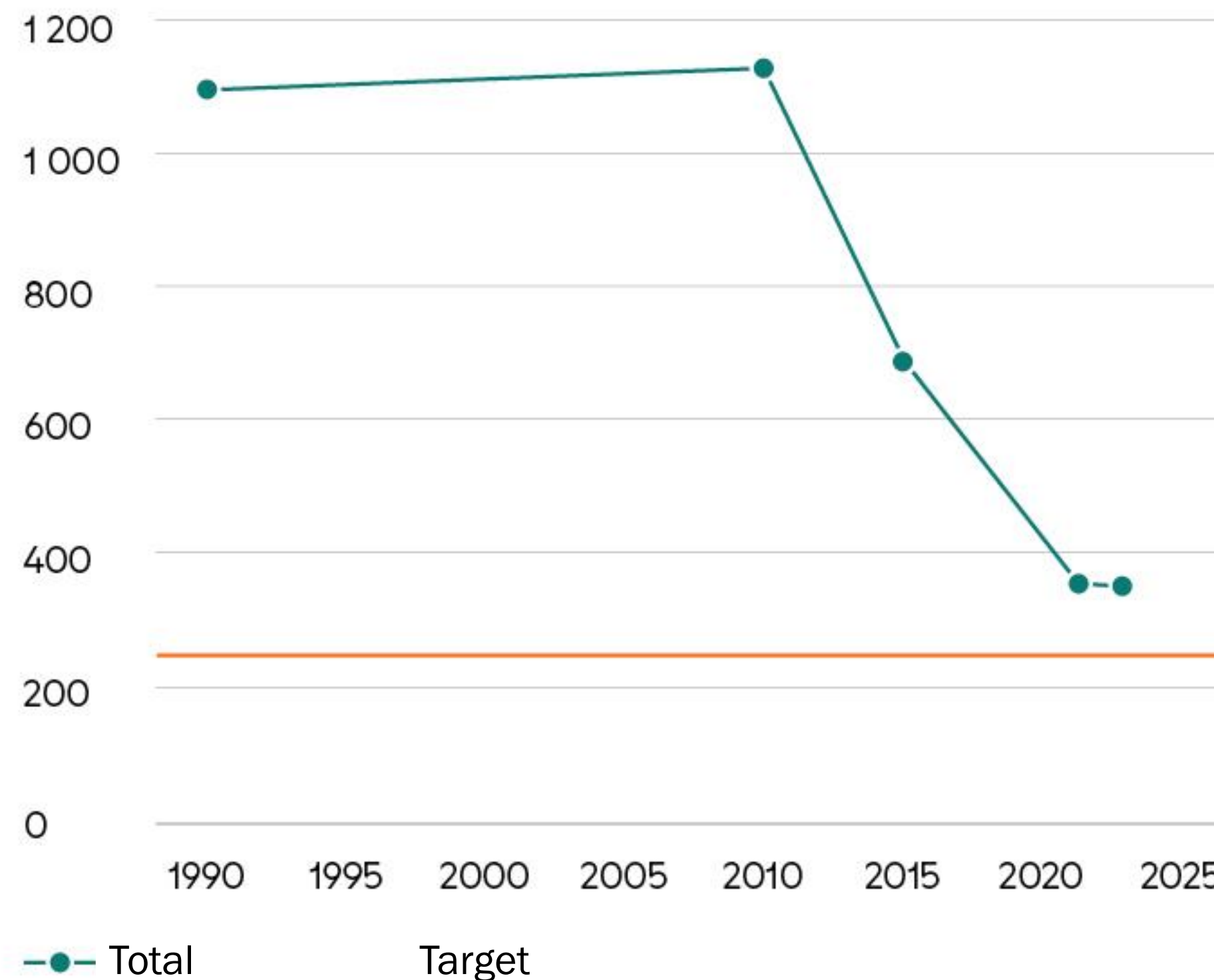
Net zero emissions from district heating*



Forests as carbon sinks and increasing urban greenery

Greenhouse gas emissions in the Lahti region

kt of CO2 equivalent

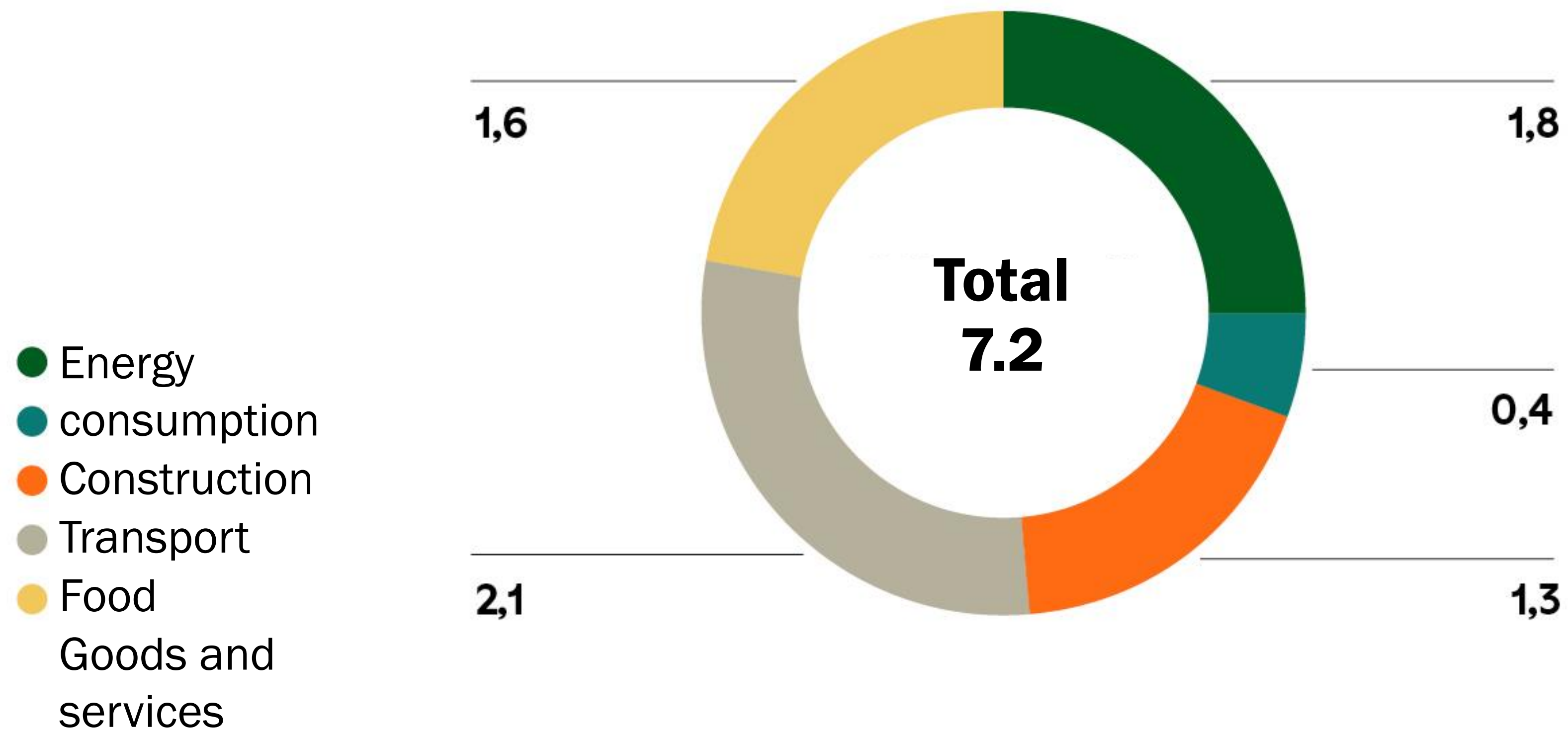


Greenhouse gas emissions in the Lahti geographical area from 1990 onwards and target level for climate neutrality. The climate-neutrality of Lahti means cutting emissions produced in the region by 80 per cent from the level of 1990. In 2022, emissions were approximately 67 per cent lower than in 1990.

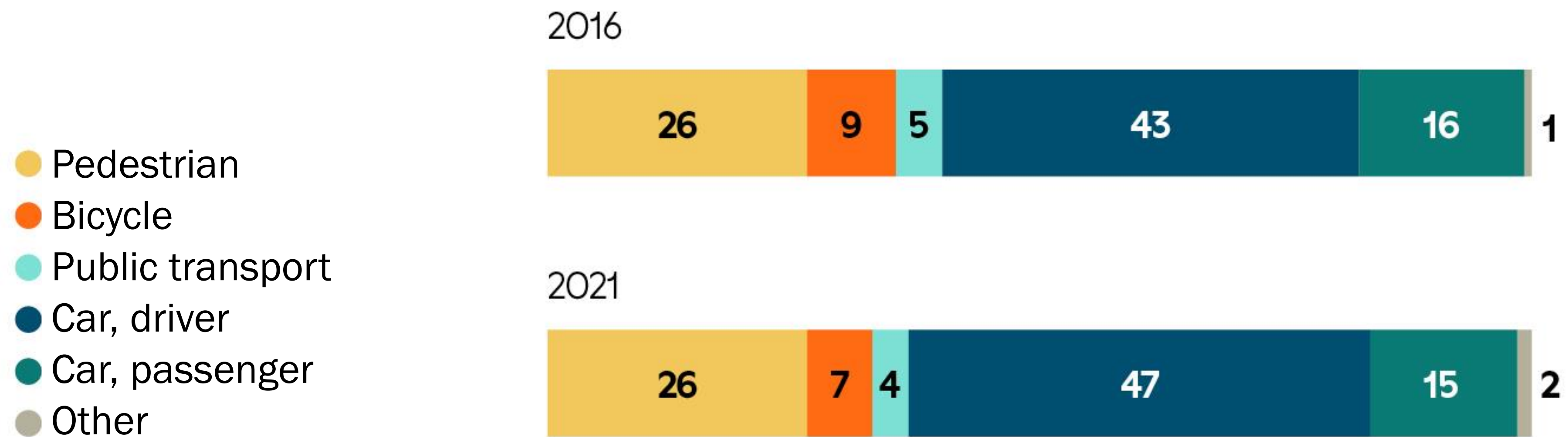
INFO

Climate-neutrality means that the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced is lower than what can be sequestered from the atmosphere to carbon sinks. This way, emissions remain at a level that does not contribute to global warming.

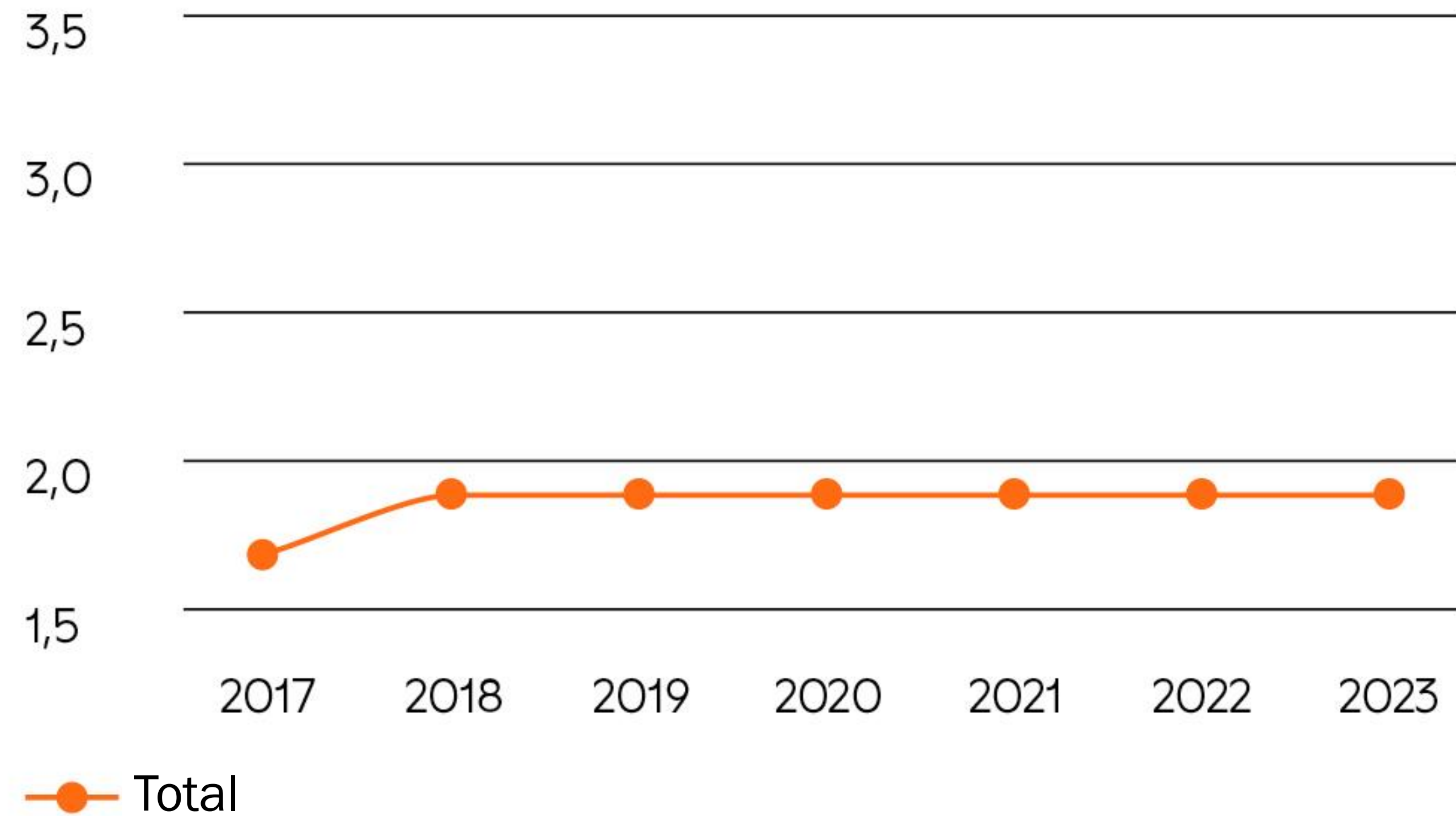
The carbon footprint of Lahti residents was the lowest in the national comparison in 2022 (CO₂e/resident)



No transition towards sustainable mobility visible yet in the modes of transport used by Lahti residents (%)

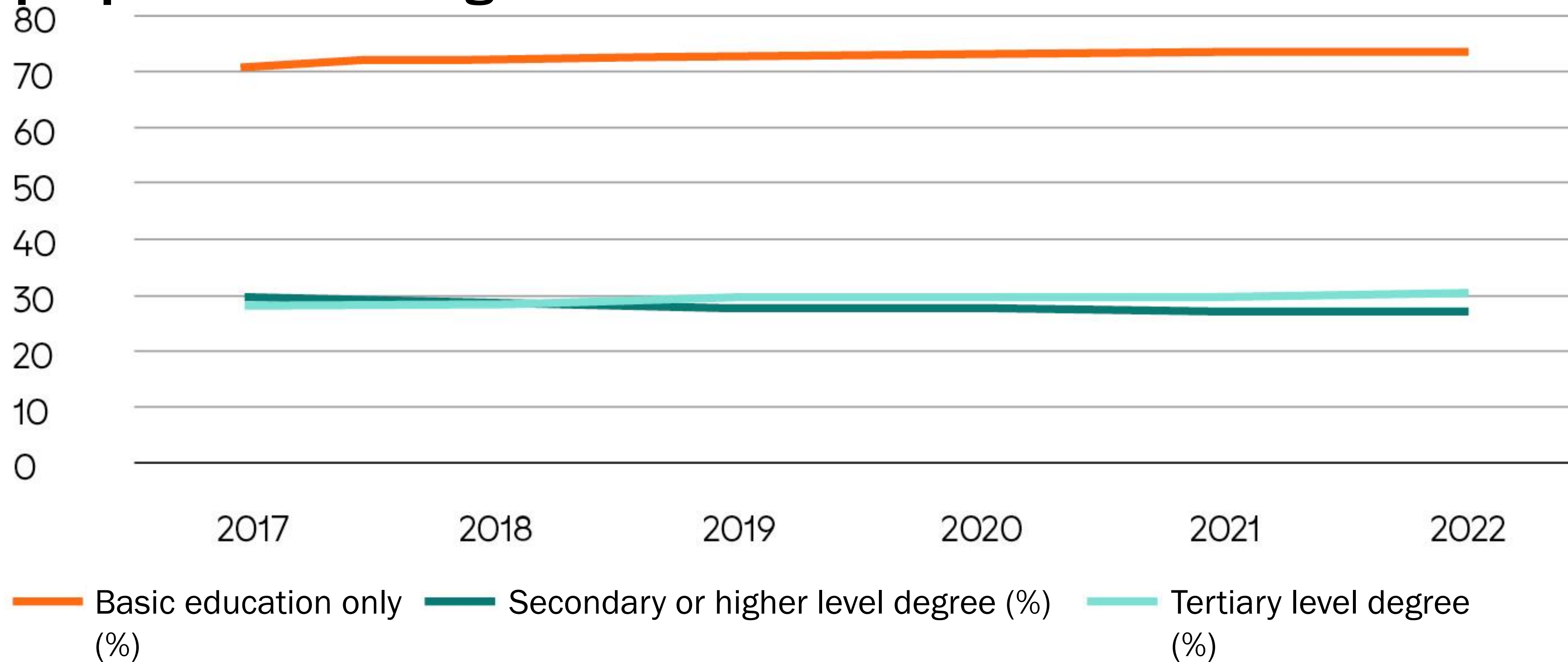


Proportion of nature reserves of the surface area of the City of Lahti (%)



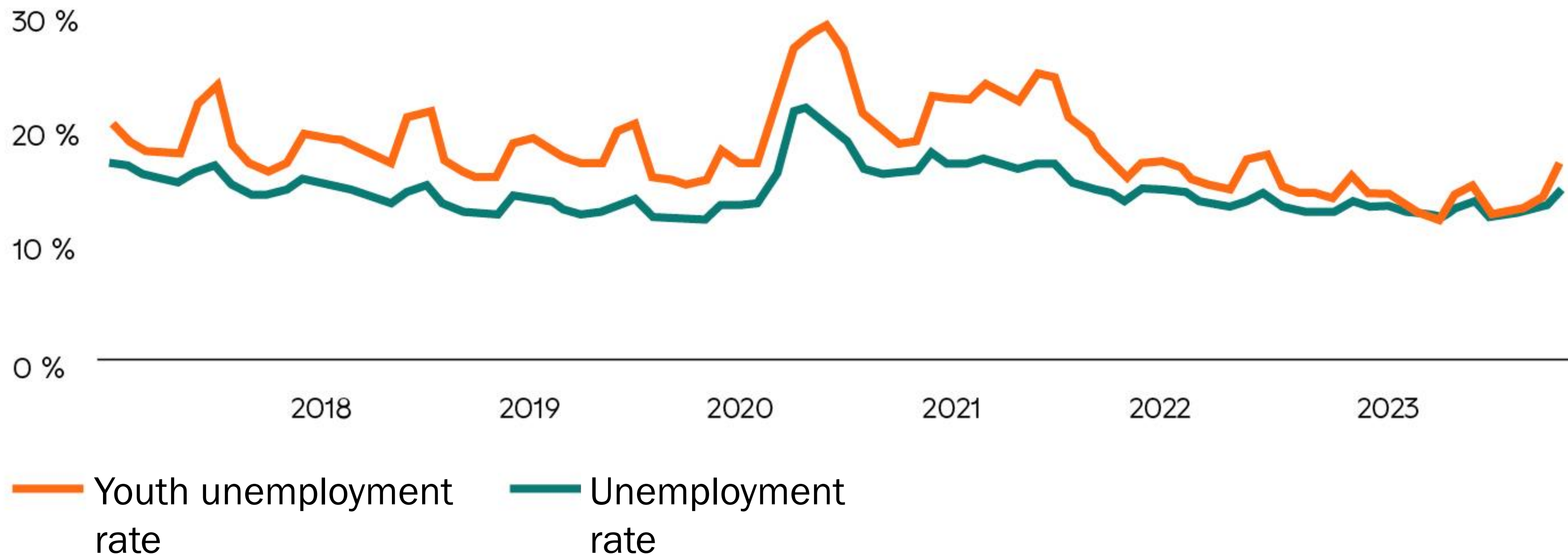
Areas protected under the Nature Conservation Act account for approximately 2 per cent of the City of Lahti surface area. The aim is to increase the proportion to 5 per cent by 2030.

Education level is increasing in Lahti, while the number of uneducated people is decreasing



Lahti education demographics 2017–2022. Education levels in 2022: basic education only 27%, secondary or higher level degree 73%, tertiary level 30.1%.

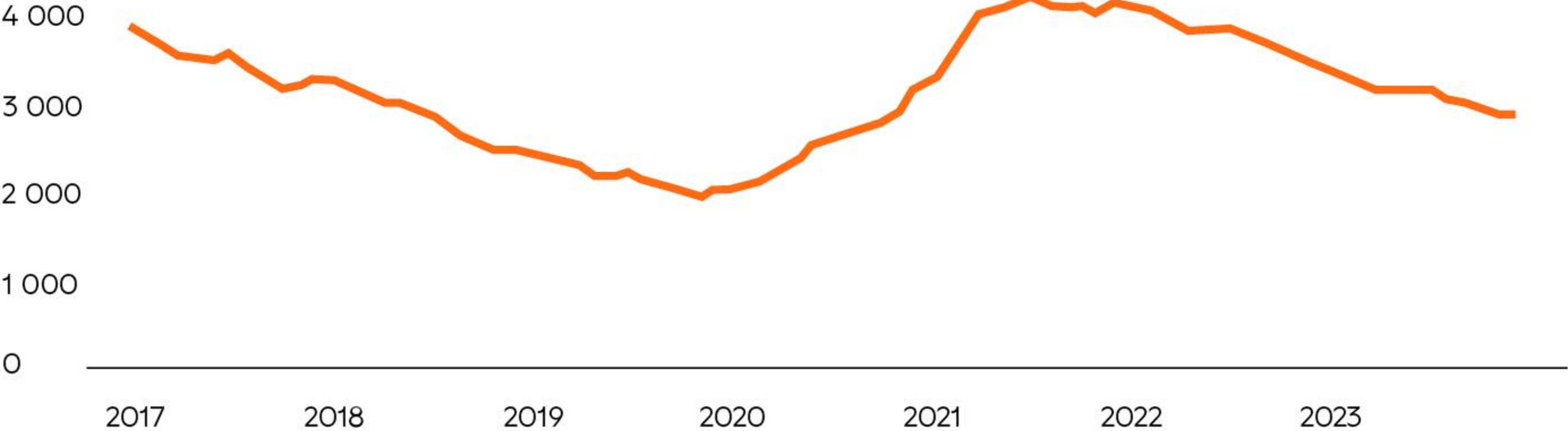
Unemployment rates (%) Youth unemployment fell at a record rate after the pandemic and was below total unemployment for the first time in May 2023



Both total unemployment and youth unemployment fell clearly in late 2021 and continued to decrease in autumn in 2023. As of December 2023, the city's youth unemployment rate was 17.4% (nationwide 13.9%).

Unemployed among different demographics (number)

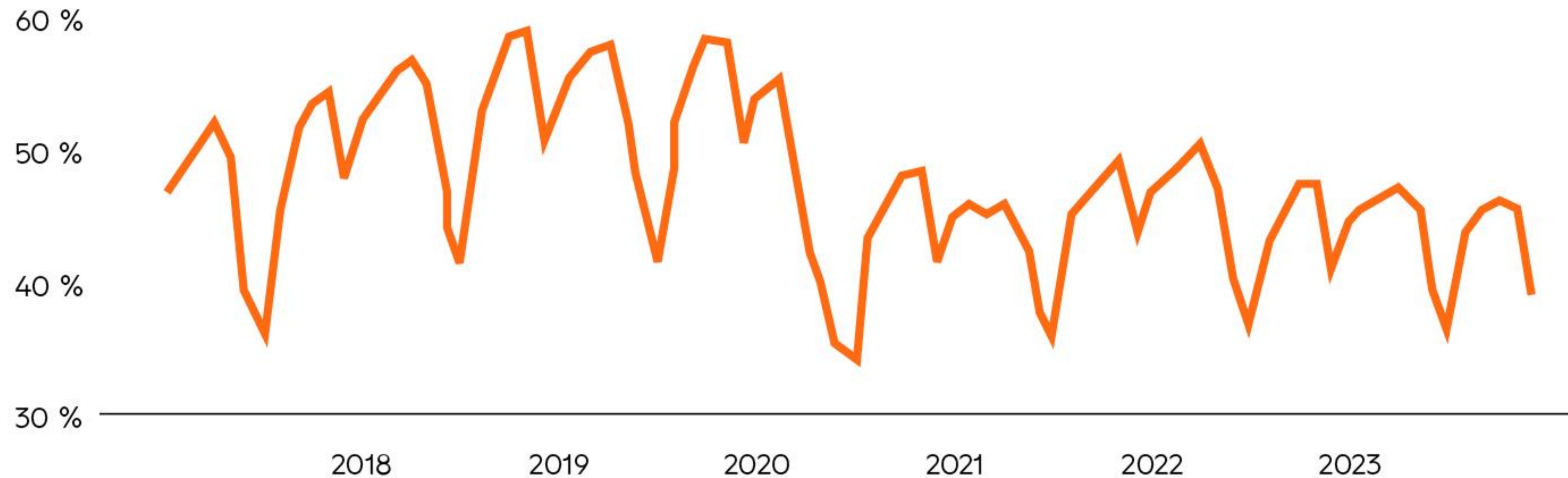
Long-term unemployment has decreased since late 2021



Long-term unemployment increased rapidly in Lahti due to the pandemic. As of late 2023, long-term unemployment had decreased to the level in spring 2018. At the end of December 2023, there were 2,897 people unemployed long-term in Lahti.

Activation rate (%) of non-Finnish jobseekers

Activation rate of non-Finnish jobseekers above the national average

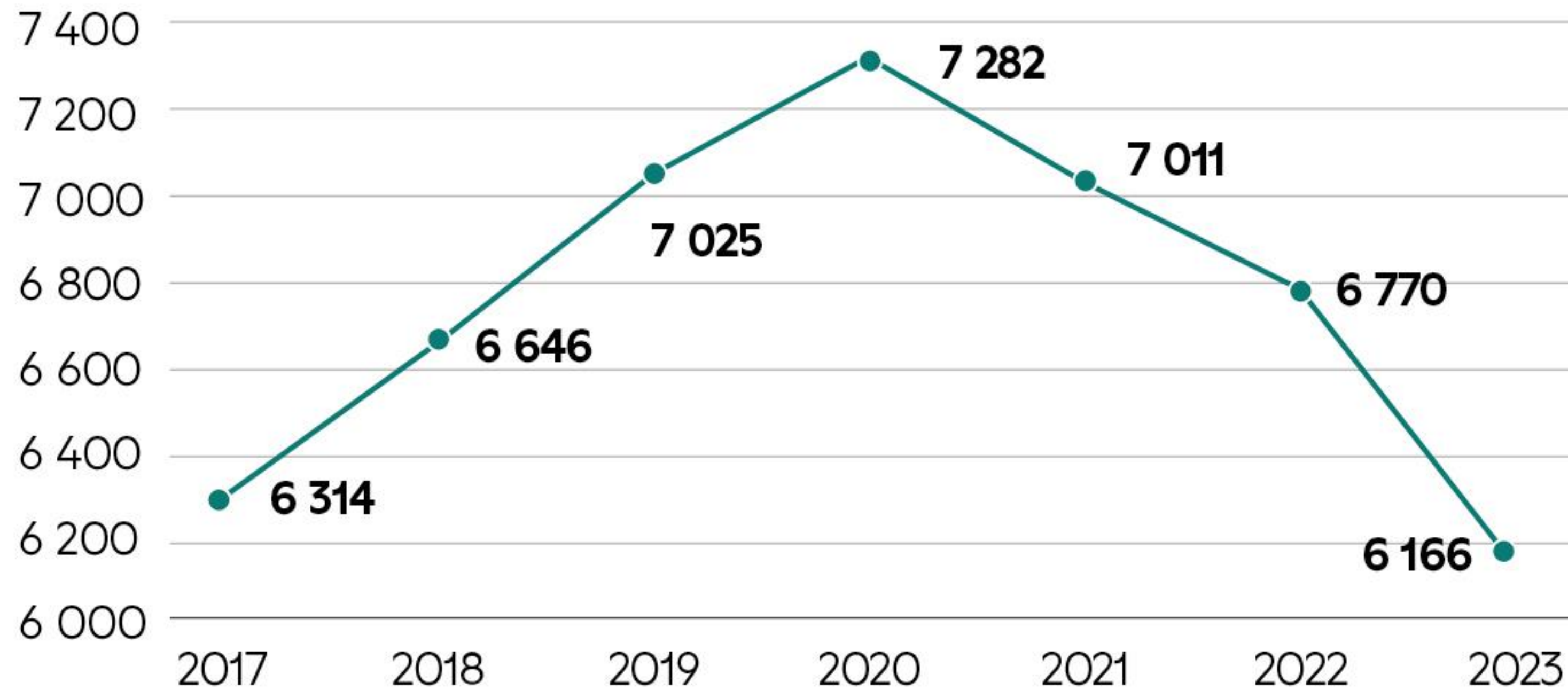


The activation rate of non-Finnish jobseekers rose above the national average in Lahti after pandemic in 2020–2021. As of December 2023, the activation rate of foreign jobseekers was 44.5% (nationwide: 39.3%). Activation rate refers to the percentage of jobseekers participating in active labour market services of all unemployed jobseekers and persons eligible for the services.

Number of events and participants in 2022-2023

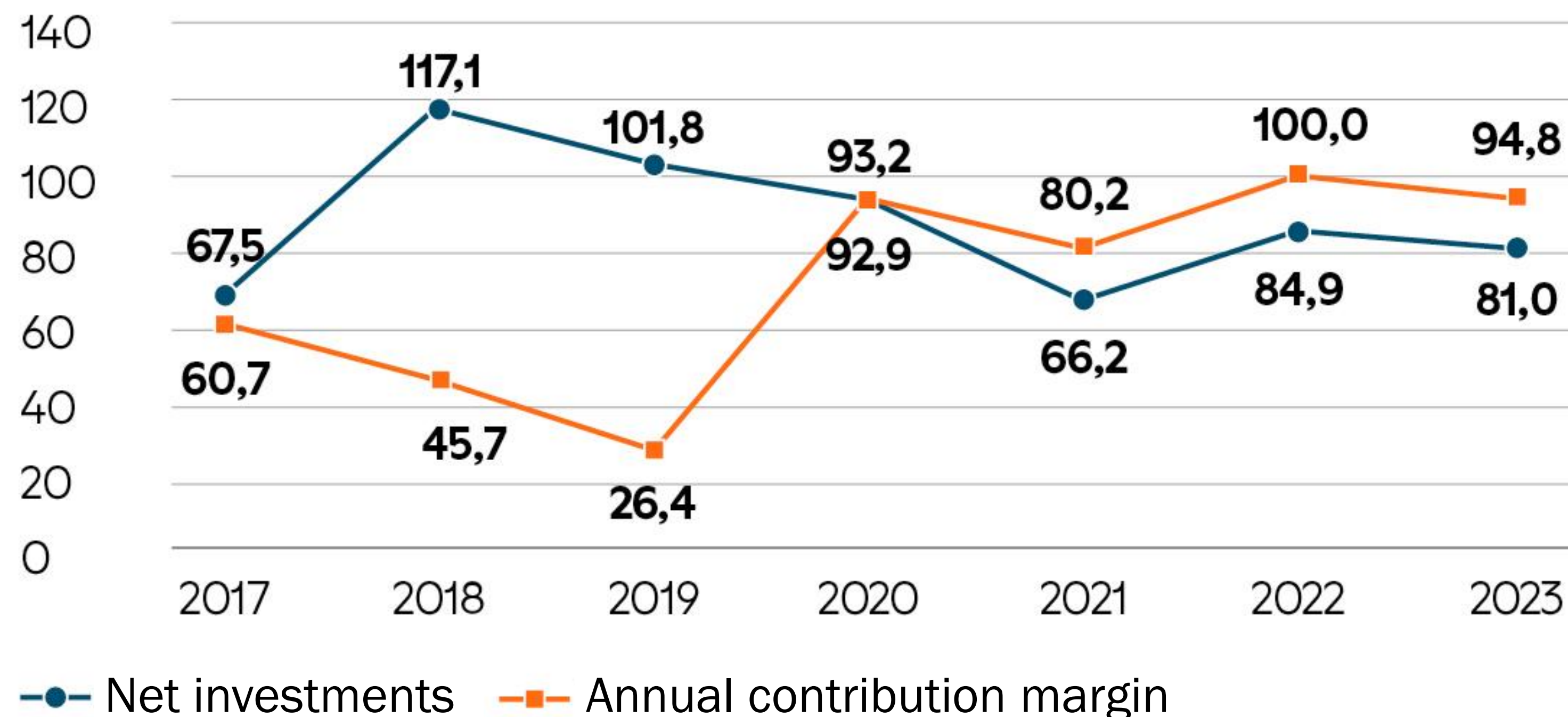
	2022	2023
Inclusion events	54	65
Participants in inclusion events	2448	5296
Other events for residents	8	24
Timeout discussions	40	43
Participants in Timeout discussions	756	810
of whom children who participated in Skidialogi	539	280
Hosted by Kumppanuuspöytä local roundtables		
Kerro Pois! events	11	16
Other events for residents	8	16
Number of participants at Kumppanuuspöytä roundtable events	4500	5837
Budget proposals by residents	950 v.2021	956

City of Lahti debt per capita in 2017-2023 (€)



In 2023, the City of Lahti's debt amounted to 6,166 euros per resident.

Cash flow generated by the city is sufficient to cover its net investments (€ million)



The annual contribution margin shows the cash flow that, after deducting expenditure, remains usable for investments and loan repayment.

Net investments = investment expenditure – financial contributions

Procurements promoting low-carbon solutions in 2022-2023

2022

2023

Total calls for tender published by the city

62

60

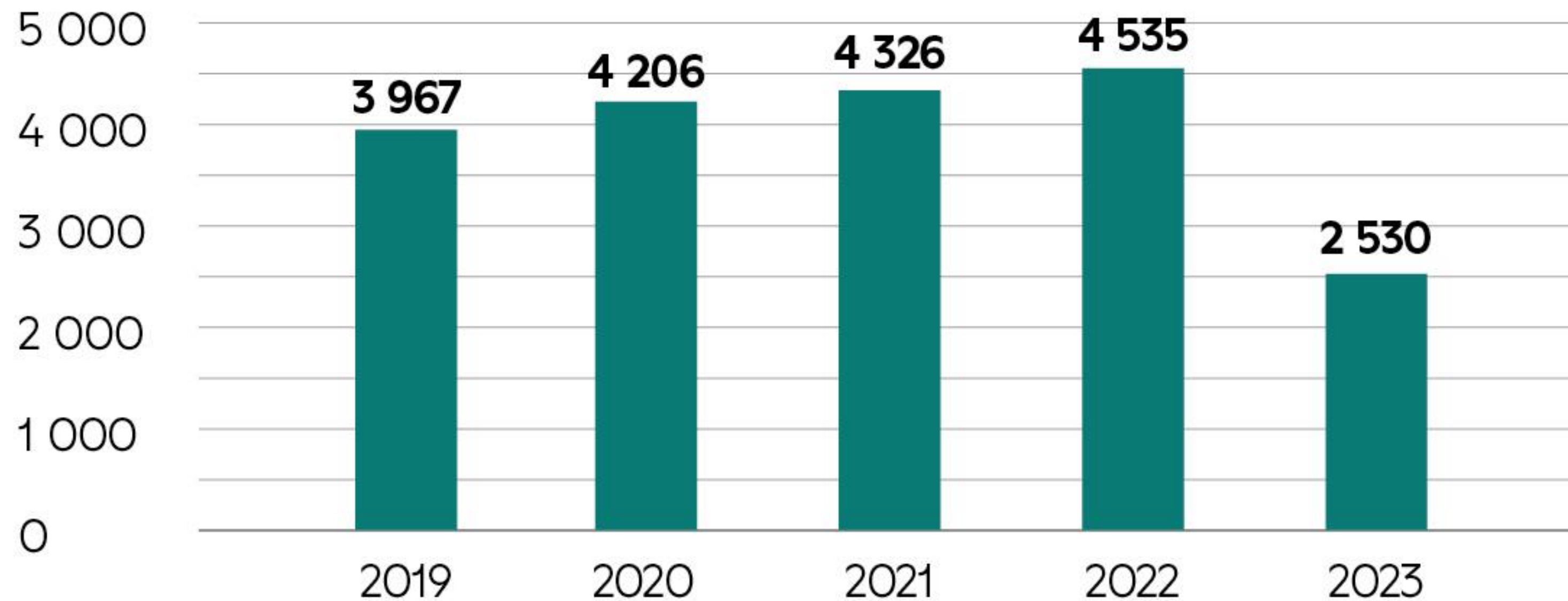
Calls for tender promoting low-carbon solutions

21

30

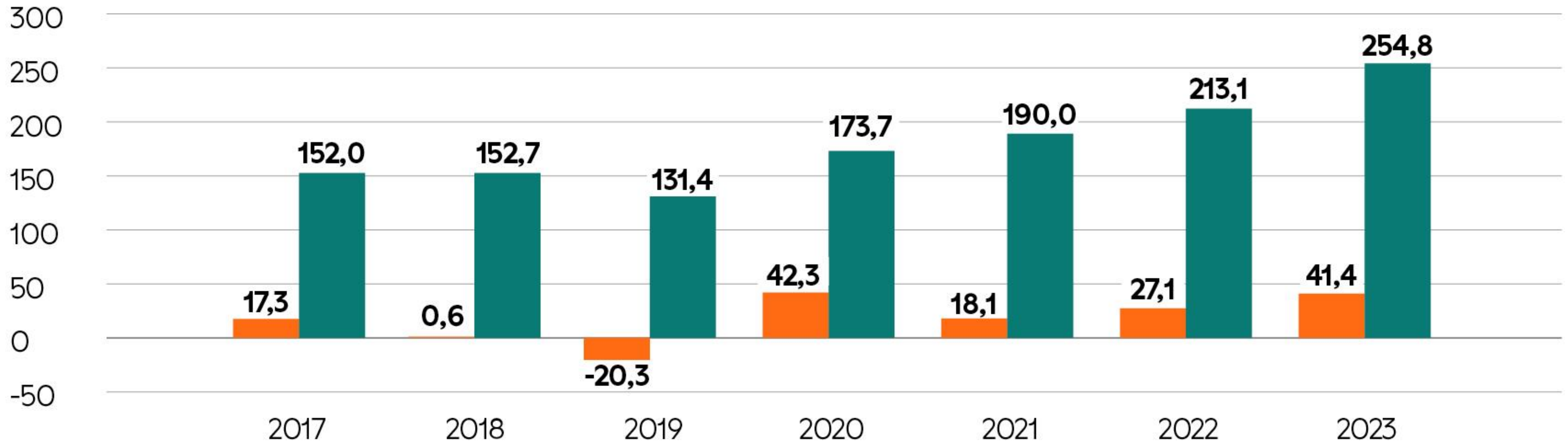
The number of procurements that contribute to Lahti's climate neutrality can be tracked starting in 2022. In 2023, the number of calls for tender promoting low-carbon solutions increased to 30. The purpose of procurements is to support the city's climate neutrality target.

Growth in tax revenue per capita from 2019 to 2023 (€)



Tax revenue per capita refers to city's tax revenue divided by the number of residents. In 2023, the tax revenue of the City of Lahti amounted to 305 million euros. The health and social services reform cut municipal tax rates for all municipalities by 12.64% from 2023 onwards.

City of Lahti balance sheet surplus 2017-2023



● Surplus/deficit for the financial year, € million ● Balance sheet surplus/deficit, € million

In 2023, the City of Lahti had a surplus of 41.4 million euros for the financial year and a balance sheet surplus of 254.8 million euros.

Lahti Group

€2.6 million **€25.4 million**

In 2023, Lahti Group companies paid a total of 2.6 million euros in dividends.

In 2023, purchases made by Group companies from the Lahti region amounted to 25.4 million euros.

Thank you!