Research supporting SDG4 has grown since 2015, with a compound annual growth rate of 7.6% compared to nearly 3.5% for research in all fields. The US produces the most research supporting SDG4, followed by the United Kingdom, Australia, Brazil and the Russian Federation. Six of the 10 most prolific locations are high income locations (accounting for more than 13,400 publications) and four are upper-middle income locations (Brazil, Russian Federation, China and South Africa). No low income locations featured in the top 50.

The top five locations for which research on SDG4 represents the largest share of their research portfolio are Kazakhstan, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and Nigeria.

International collaboration yielded 16% of research on SDG4. High income locations collaborated with low income locations on 3% of their total SDG4 research, while 73% of the related output came from collaboration with high income locations.

As a measure of academic impact measured by citation, the field weighted citation impact (FWCI) for SDG4 research was below average for four out of five years, with an average of 0.96 over the period.