

Sustainable Trade Index 2023

United States



Sustainable Trade Index

The Hinrich-IMD Sustainable Trade Index measures 30 economies' readiness and capacity to participate in the global trading system in a manner that supports the long-term goals of economic growth, environmental protection, and societal development.

Overall and pillars



Background information

Population, millions	333.53 (2022)	Large
Income, GDP per Capita US\$	70,160 (2021)	High
Membership	APEC	

Economic pillar

The Economic pillar measures an economy's ability to ensure and promote economic growth through international trade. In this category, economies receive scores for indicators that demonstrate a link between the trading system and economic growth.

Some indicators capture the quality of trade infrastructure, while others measure the ease of conducting international trade. We measure export diversification by evaluating an economy's bilateral trade destinations and how heavily its exports are concentrated by sector. Furthermore, we consider the technological infrastructure and innovation capabilities of an economy by assessing its emphasis on research and development investments and digital technologies.

Indicators

		Rank	Value	Year	Score	
1.01	Consumer price inflation	23	8.00	2021	65.0	
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	18	1.70	2021	66.8	
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	12	1.90	2021	59.8	
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	15	1.92	2020	5.3	
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	22	21.19	2020	28.5	
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	30	-	-	0.0	
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	29	-	-	8.9	
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	29	5,095	2021	0.0	
1.06.01.b	New tariff barriers 2022	28	325.00	2021	17.2	
1.06.01.c	Percentage of trade affected by tariff barrier (up to 2018)	13	12.18	2018	76.6	
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	28	-	-	0.0	
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	25	131,282	2021	26.8	
1.06.02.b	New non-tariff barriers 2022	24	24,476	2021	0.0	
1.06.02.c	Percentage of trade affected by non-tariff barrier (up to 2018)	26	81.04	2018	0.0	
1.07	Trade liberalization	05	-	-	76.9	
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	14	14.00	2022	29.0	
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, Index	01	2.31	2019	100.0	
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, Index	01	85.00	2022	100.0	
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2022/2020	11	0.04	2021	91.3	
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	02	216.33	2020	82.4	
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	11	-	-	57.8	
1.10.01	Country credit rating	03	59.00	2022	86.6	
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	27	121.70	2021	53.9	
1.11	Trade costs	09	-	-	80.1	
1.11.01	Logistics performance, index	06	3.80	2018	73.7	
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	08	69.00	2021	71.9	
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	08	88.94	2020	89.6	
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	13	-	-	52.0	
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	10	-3.60	2021	61.7	
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	20	-0.30	2021	5.0	
1.13	Export concentration	03	-	-	89.6	
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	08	49.92	2021	75.3	
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	01	35.04	2021	100.0	
1.14	Exports of goods and services	02	-	-	99.7	
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$	02	2,064,787	2021	89.8	
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$	01	896,685	2021	100.0	
1.15	Technological innovation	06	-	-	58.8	
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	03	3.42	2020	70.6	
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per capita	06	4.82	2019	55.2	
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	05	1,534.58	2020	29.7	
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	12	19.89	2020	27.1	
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	08	1,376.23	2020	58.0	
1.16	Technological infrastructure	04	-	-	85.9	
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	02	162.29	2021	84.1	
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	09	91.75	2020	91.8	
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	06	37.35	2021	84.3	
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	22	107.32	2020	35.5	

Societal pillar

Social factors matter in an economy's capacity to trade internationally over the long term. Economies are measured on the environment that encourages and supports the development of human capital, such as the extent of education and labor standards.

This pillar also captures factors that influence public support for trade expansion. These include income inequality, political stability, goods produced by forced and child labor, and the government response to human trafficking.

Indicators

		Rank	Value	Year	Score	
2.01	Inequality (Gini coefficient)	14	39.70	2020	33.15	
2.02	Educational attainment	01	-	-	100.00	
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	02	13.68	2019	98.38	
2.02.02	University education Index	01	120.72	2021	100.00	
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment	07	87.57	2020	73.89	
2.03	Labor standards	05	-	-	93.30	
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring	01	100.00	2022	100.00	
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly	05	0.76	2021	86.61	
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	14	47.64	2020	46.19	
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	11	-	-	88.96	
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	11	-	-	88.96	
2.05.01.a	Goods produced by forced labor, number of goods categories	01	0.00	2021	100.00	
2.05.01.b	% population in forced labor	10	3.30	2018	81.86	
2.05.02	Goods produced by child labor, number of goods categories	01	0.00	2021	100.00	
2.06	Government response to human trafficking	06	-	-	91.06	
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	15	5.00	2021	60.00	
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	02	66.67	2018	97.06	
2.06.03	Government response to human trafficking, Action	01	1.00	2021	100.00	
2.07	Trade in goods at risk of modern slavery	19	-	-	46.61	
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	30	182,220	2020	0.00	
2.07.02	Exports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	01	0	2020	100.00	
2.08	Social mobility, Index	08	70.40	2020	85.53	
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	12	77.20	2021	58.88	
2.10	Uneven Economic Development	10	4.00	2023	73.68	

Environmental pillar

The Environmental pillar measures the extent to which an economy's trade supports sustainable resources. The factors include measurements of non-renewable natural resources in trade and the management of externalities that arise from economic growth and participation in the global trading system.

While an economy's capacity to participate in the global trading system is dependent on economic development, achieving sustainable trade requires prudent stewardship of natural resources and limiting externalities in an economy's economic calculus to promote its overall environmental capital. The indicators chosen in this section measure an economy's environmental capital and include indicators for air and water pollution. In terms of future impact, we measure national environmental standards, carbon emissions, and share of natural resources in exports.

Indicators

		Rank	Value	Year	Score	
3.01	Air pollution, PM2.5 micrograms per cubic metre	04	7.84	2019	96.77	
3.02	Deforestation, Index	09	0.01	2020	33.83	
3.03	% of wastewater treated	03	97.85	2020	97.82	
3.04	Energy intensity, energy consumed for each 1'000 US\$ of GDP in MTOE	07	76.00	2019	84.59	
3.05	Ecological footprint	28	8.12	2018	0.00	
3.06	Renewable energy, %	21	8.00	2019	10.58	
3.07	Environmental standards in trade, count	26	-	-	28.27	
3.07.01	Convention: Hazardous Wastes	30	1	2021	0.00	
3.07.02	Convention: Prevention of Marine Pollution	01	2	2021	100.00	
3.07.03	Convention: Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna)	01	2	2021	100.00	
3.07.04	Convention on Climate Change (Kyoto)	28	1	2021	63.09	
3.07.05	The International Timber Agreement	21	0	2021	0.00	
3.07.06	Convention: International Trade in Endangered Species	01	2	2021	100.00	
3.07.07	Convention: Prior Informed Consent - Hazardous Chemicals (Rotterdam)	24	1	2021	50.00	
3.08	Transfer emissions, million tonnes carbon	01	-131.47	2019	100.00	
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	17	25.01	2020	71.42	
3.10	Carbon	29	-	-	6.20	
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	13	0	2022	0.00	
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita	27	14.24	2019	11.77	

About us

Global trade has helped lift hundreds of millions of people around the world out of poverty, but the benefits of trade do not come without their risks. If an economy is unprepared for the consequences of trade growth, it may result in labor disruption, environmental degradation, and worsening inequality. Proactive and responsible government policy and farsighted corporate decision-making can harness the benefits of trade and mitigate its excesses.

The Hinrich Foundation and the IMD World Competitiveness Center have combined their expertise to build the Hinrich-IMD Sustainable Trade Index, a framework for policy makers, business executives, and civil society leaders to understand and advance sustainable global trade.

hinrich foundation
advancing sustainable global trade

The Hinrich Foundation is an Asia based philanthropic organization that works to advance mutually beneficial and sustainable global trade.

We believe sustainable global trade strengthens relationships between nations and improves people's lives. We support original research and education programs that build understanding and leadership in global trade. Our approach is independent, fact-based and objective. We are an authoritative source of knowledge, sharp analysis and fresh thinking for policymakers, business, media and scholars engaged in global trade.

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The IMD World Competitiveness Center is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge on world competitiveness and offers benchmarking services for countries and companies using the latest and most relevant data on the subject. The Center has pioneered research on how nations and enterprises compete to lay the foundations for future prosperity.

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