

Sustainable Trade Index **2025**

Australia

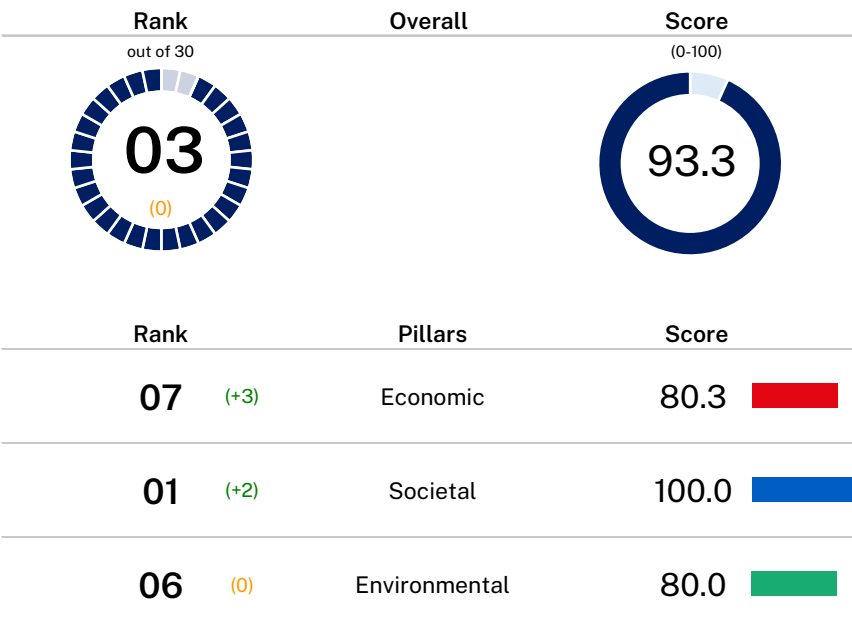


Sustainable Trade Index

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

Australia



The values in (parentheses) indicate the one year ranking change

Background information

Population, millions (2024)	27.12	Medium
Income level, GDP per Capita US\$ (2024)	66,248	High
Membership	APEC, CPTPP, RCEP	

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


1 Economic Pillar		Rank	Rank +/-	Value	Year	Score (and 30-country average ^o)
1.01	Consumer price inflation	20	(-1)	3.20	2024	78.63
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	25	(-8)	0.40	2025	35.30
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	14	(-9)	1.08	2024	51.95
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	08	(-1)	3.15	2024	17.50
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	12	(+3)	24.27	2024	44.63
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	26	(0)	-	-	59.58
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	27	(+1)	-	-	49.35
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	28	(0)	2,832	2024	51.26
1.06.01.b	New tariff barriers 2024	27	(+3)	59	2024	53.05
1.06.01.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new tariff barriers (2023)	06	(0)	-0.12	2023	53.00
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	22	(0)	-	-	62.56
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	22	(0)	5,145	2024	84.43
1.06.02.b	New non-tariff barriers 2024	23	(0)	541	2024	85.53
1.06.02.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new non-tariff barriers (2023)	25	(0)	0.10	2023	34.25
1.07	Trade liberalization	03	(0)	-	-	82.95
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	08	(-1)	19	2025	42.86
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, index	01	(0)	2.29	2022	100.00
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, index	02	(0)	80	2025	85.71
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2024/2022	08	(+6)	0.04	2024	84.44
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	08	(+2)	129.67	2024	53.88
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	04	(-1)	-	-	84.70
1.10.01	Country credit rating	01	(0)	60.0	2024	100.00
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	11	(+1)	49.83	2024	79.72
1.11	Trade costs	06	(0)	-	-	83.82
1.11.01	Logistics performance, index	08	(0)	3.70	2023	68.42
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	03	(+1)	77	2024	89.71
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	04	(+1)	91.98	2023	93.34
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	06	(+16)	-	-	84.37
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	05	(+13)	-1.93	2024	82.59
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	13	(+4)	-0.18	2024	46.57
1.13	Export concentration	22	(-1)	-	-	36.71
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	22	(-1)	67.70	2024	42.26
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	20	(+1)	71.63	2024	43.98
1.14	Exports of goods and services	12	(-1)	-	-	11.55
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$ millions	14	(-1)	341,390	2024	9.44
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$ millions	10	(0)	82,712	2024	8.94
1.15	Technological innovation	07	(+1)	-	-	57.98
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	08	(-1)	1.86	2021	35.45
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	-	-	-	-	-
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	10	(0)	410.56	2023	9.30
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	11	(-4)	25.16	2024	33.86
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	02	(0)	2,368.56	2022	95.93
1.16	Technological infrastructure	12	(+1)	-	-	67.68
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	16	(+1)	104.78	2025	32.74
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	04	(+1)	97.10	2023	97.46
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	09	(+1)	36.60	2023	78.49
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	22	(-1)	112.51	2023	27.13

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

2 Societal Pillar		Rank	Rank +/-	Value	Year	Score (and 30-country average 
2.01	Inequality (Gini coefficient)	-	-	-	-	-
2.02	Educational attainment	03	(0)	-	-	82.95
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	05	(0)	12.87	2023	89.16
2.02.02	University education index	04	(-1)	43.26	2024	37.95
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment, % age group	01	(0)	106.24	2023	100.00
2.03	Labor standards	05	(-2)	-	-	89.17
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring, index	01	(0)	100	2024	100.00
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly, index	06	(-3)	0.75	2024	78.34
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	05	(0)	79.62	2023	81.02
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	03	(0)	-	-	99.08
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	03	(0)	-	-	98.16
2.05.01.a	Goods produced by forced labor, number of goods categories	01	(0)	0	2024	100.00
2.05.01.b	% population in forced labor	02	(0)	0.16	2023	96.05
2.05.02	Goods produced by child labor, number of goods categories	01	(0)	0	2024	100.00
2.06	Government response to human trafficking	02	(+1)	-	-	98.89
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	04	(0)	7	2024	80.00
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	02	(0)	66.67	2023	97.06
2.06.03	Government response to human trafficking, Action	01	(0)	1	2024	100.00
2.07	Trade in goods at risk of modern slavery	19	(+3)	-	-	83.25
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	24	(0)	11,850	2023	80.65
2.07.02	Exports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	01	(0)	0	2023	100.00
2.08	Social mobility, index	03	(0)	75.1	2020	97.46
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	04	(+1)	83.92	2023	91.80
2.10	Uneven economic development	03	(-1)	2.9	2024	92.59
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	05	(0)	87.00	2021	93.44

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

3 Environmental Pillar		Rank	Rank +/-	Value	Year	Score (and 30-country average ^o)
3.01	Air pollution, PM2.5 micrograms per cubic metre	05	(0)	8.11	2020	95.71
3.02	Deforestation, index	01	(0)	0.02	2022	100.00
3.03	% of wastewater treated	06	(-1)	95.77	2024	95.44
3.04	Energy intensity, energy consumed for each 1,000 US\$ of GDP in MTOE	04	(0)	0.046	2022	90.57
3.05	Ecological footprint	24	(0)	7.28	2024	29.73
3.06	Renewable energy, %	20	(0)	9.8	2023	12.23
3.07	Environmental standards in trade, count	01	(0)	-	-	100.00
3.07.01	Convention: Hazardous Wastes	01	(0)	2	2024	100.00
3.07.02	Convention: Prevention of Marine Pollution	01	(0)	2	2024	100.00
3.07.03	Convention: Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna)	01	(0)	2	2024	100.00
3.07.04	Convention on Climate Change (Kyoto)	01	(0)	2	2023	100.00
3.07.05	The International Timber Agreement	01	(0)	2	2024	100.00
3.07.06	Convention: International Trade in Endangered Species	01	(0)	2	2024	100.00
3.07.07	Convention: Prior Informed Consent - Hazardous Chemicals (Rotterdam)	01	(0)	2	2024	100.00
3.08	Transfer emissions, million tonnes carbon	24	(0)	13.18	2021	35.34
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	28	(0)	74.94	2024	6.04
3.10	Carbon	16	(-1)	-	-	63.77
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita, tonnes per person	27	(+1)	14.21	2023	33.66

About us

Global trade has helped lift hundreds of millions of people around the world out of poverty. It is a powerful driver of economic growth and a key source of job opportunities. However, downsides may include labor disruptions, negative environmental impacts, and income inequalities. Therefore, sound public policy and responsible business leadership are essential for properly harnessing the full benefits of global trade.

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 dedicated to advancing mutually beneficial and sustainable global trade.

We believe that global trade – when mutually beneficial and sustainable – is a powerful force for shared prosperity, technological progress, sustainability and peaceful international cooperation. Our work is grounded in independent, fact-based research and the development of innovative trade education programs.

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IMD / World Competitiveness
Center

IMD is an independent academic institution with close ties to business and a strong focus on impact. Challenging what is and inspiring what could be, it develops leaders who transform organizations for a more prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive world. Through its Executive Education, MBA, Executive MBA, and advisory work IMD helps leaders and policymakers navigate complexity and change.

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 data. The Center has pioneered research on how nations and enterprises compete to lay the foundations for future prosperity.

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