

Sustainable Trade Index 2025

# Brunei

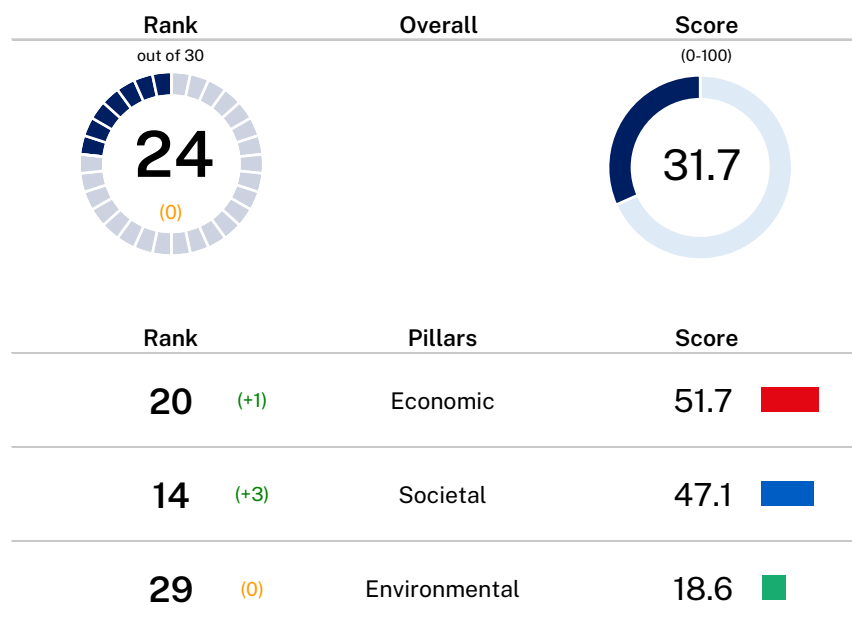


# Sustainable Trade Index

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

### Brunei



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

## Background information

Population, millions (2024)	0.45	Small
Income level, GDP per Capita US\$ (2024)	34,044	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 <sup>0</sup> )
1.01	Consumer price inflation	01	(+1)	-0.39	2024	100.00
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	12	(+8)	3.06	2025	65.80
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	21	(-1)	0.69	2024	43.02
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	26	(+3)	0.19	2024	2.80
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	08	(-2)	28.16	2024	57.94
1.06	<b>Tariff &amp; non-tariff barriers</b>	03	(0)	-	-	90.19
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	07	(+2)	-	-	86.22
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	05	(0)	7	2024	99.88
1.06.01.b	New tariff barriers 2024	01	(0)	0	2024	100.00
1.06.01.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new tariff barriers (2023)	14	(0)	-0.04	2023	43.97
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	06	(0)	-	-	83.20
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	02	(0)	5	2024	99.98
1.06.02.b	New non-tariff barriers 2024	01	(0)	0	2024	100.00
1.06.02.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new non-tariff barriers (2023)	10	(0)	0.00	2023	46.56
1.07	<b>Trade liberalization</b>	14	(0)	-	-	42.33
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	18	(+1)	11	2025	20.00
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, index	-	-	-	-	-
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, index	08	(+3)	65	2025	64.29
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2024/2022	08	(+11)	0.04	2024	84.44
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	20	(+2)	37.41	2024	11.84
1.10	<b>Foreign trade and payments risk</b>	01	(0)	-	-	100.00
1.10.01	Country credit rating	-	-	-	-	-
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	01	(0)	2.29	2024	100.00
1.11	<b>Trade costs</b>	11	(+1)	-	-	68.70
1.11.01	Logistics performance, index	13	(+5)	3.50	2023	57.89
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	-	-	-	-	-
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	11	(0)	79.25	2023	79.50
1.12	<b>Monetary policy intervention</b>	27	(+1)	-	-	6.14
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	29	(0)	16.56	2024	4.16
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	03	(+8)	-1.15	2024	56.64
1.13	<b>Export concentration</b>	30	(0)	-	-	0.00
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	27	(-2)	77.55	2024	24.52
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	30	(0)	97.37	2024	0.00
1.14	<b>Exports of goods and services</b>	30	(0)	-	-	0.00
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$ millions	29	(0)	11,308	2024	0.05
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$ millions	29	(0)	395	2024	0.03
1.15	<b>Technological innovation</b>	18	(0)	-	-	13.14
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	-	-	-	-	-
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	15	(0)	0.51	2022	3.71
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	24	(+1)	2.26	2022	0.04
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	28	(0)	1.02	2023	0.00
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	10	(0)	937.51	2022	37.90
1.16	<b>Technological infrastructure</b>	16	(0)	-	-	57.53
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	19	(+3)	84.98	2025	25.63
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	01	(0)	99.00	2023	100.00
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	15	(0)	20.21	2023	43.14
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	13	(+3)	127.01	2023	32.14

# 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











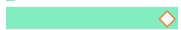






2 Societal Pillar		Rank	Rank +/-	Value	Year	Score (and 30-country average <sup>0</sup> )
2.01	Inequality (Gini coefficient)	-	-	-	-	-
2.02	Educational attainment	14	(+2)	-	-	41.25
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	18	(-1)	9.28	2023	51.72
2.02.02	University education index	05	(+1)	43.08	2024	37.78
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment, % age group	21	(+1)	38.27	2024	28.47
2.03	Labor standards	30	(0)	-	-	0.00
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring, index	29	(0)	25	2024	0.00
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly, index	-	-	-	-	-
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	02	(+1)	96.68	2023	99.48
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	01	(0)	-	-	100.00
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	01	(0)	-	-	100.00
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	-	-	-	-	-
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	29	(0)	-	-	18.41
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	22	(+7)	5	2024	40.00
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	27	(0)	34.62	2023	23.54
2.06.03	Government response to human trafficking, Action	25	(-2)	4	2024	0.00
2.07	Trade in goods at risk of modern slavery	01	(0)	-	-	100.00
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	01	(0)	73	2023	100.00
2.07.02	Exports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	01	(0)	0	2023	100.00
2.08	Social mobility, index	-	-	-	-	-
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	17	(+1)	75.33	2023	47.44
2.10	Uneven economic development	26	(0)	6.9	2024	18.52
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	13	(0)	78.00	2021	78.69

# 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 <sup>o</sup> )
3.01	Air pollution, PM2.5 micrograms per cubic metre	03	(0)	7.45	2020	97.32 
3.02	Deforestation, index	27	(0)	0.00	2022	5.78 
3.03	% of wastewater treated	-	-	-	-	-
3.04	Energy intensity, energy consumed for each 1,000 US\$ of GDP in MTOE	10	(+4)	0.086	2022	76.47 
3.05	Ecological footprint	-	-	-	-	-
3.06	Renewable energy, %	30	(-1)	0.0	2022	0.00 
3.07	Environmental standards in trade, count	27	(0)	-	-	25.00 
3.07.01	Convention: Hazardous Wastes	01	(0)	2	2024	100.00 
3.07.02	Convention: Prevention of Marine Pollution	15	(0)	0	2024	0.00 
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	23	(0)	0	2024	0.00 
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)	27	(0)	0	2024	0.00 
3.08	Transfer emissions, million tonnes carbon	21	(0)	0.44	2021	41.96 
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	29	(+1)	77.51	2024	2.79 
3.10	Carbon	28	(-1)	-	-	11.04 
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	13	(-1)	1	2025	50.00 
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita, tonnes per person	30	(0)	21.12	2023	0.00 

# 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

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

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