

Sustainable Trade Index **2025**

China

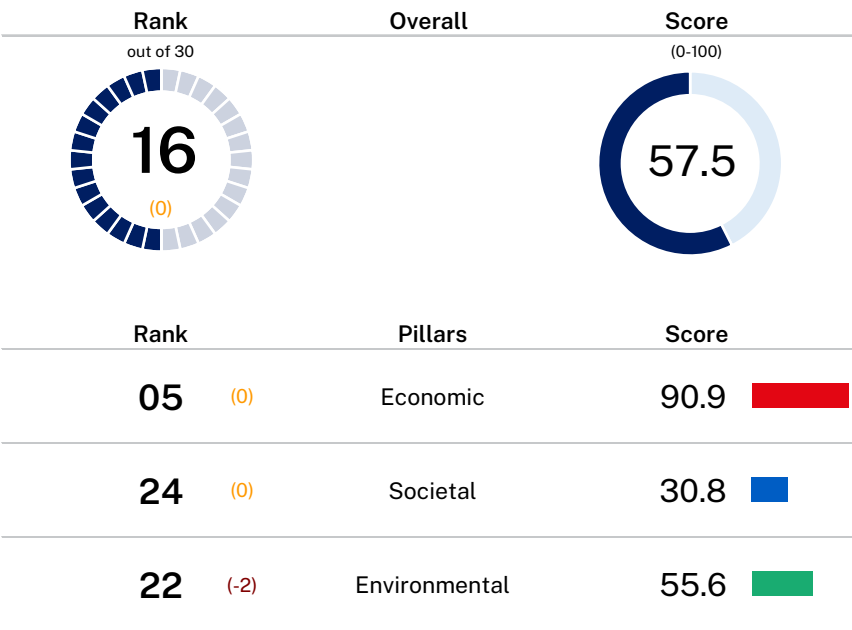


Sustainable Trade Index

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

China



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

Background information

Population, millions (2024)	1,408.28	Large
Income level, GDP per Capita US\$ (2024)	13,313	Medium
Membership	APEC, 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	02	(-1)	0.21	2024	96.42	
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	03	(+1)	5.11	2025	89.26	
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	27	(+1)	-0.19	2024	22.88	
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	28	(-4)	0.10	2024	2.36	
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	01	(0)	40.45	2023	100.00	
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	28	(0)	-	-	44.08	
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	20	(-9)	-	-	78.17	
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	23	(0)	984	2024	83.06	
1.06.01.b	New tariff barriers 2024	26	(0)	54	2024	57.03	
1.06.01.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new tariff barriers (2023)	02	(0)	-0.42	2023	84.87	
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	29	(+1)	-	-	4.64	
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	30	(0)	221,827	2024	0.00	
1.06.02.b	New non-tariff barriers 2024	29	(+1)	2,665	2024	28.74	
1.06.02.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new non-tariff barriers (2023)	06	(0)	-0.08	2023	56.64	
1.07	Trade liberalization	24	(+1)	-	-	10.23	
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	07	(+2)	20	2025	45.71	
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, index	21	(0)	-1.25	2022	0.00	
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, index	29	(0)	20	2025	0.00	
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2024/2022	16	(-12)	0.06	2024	76.67	
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	04	(-1)	194.17	2024	83.26	
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	14	(-2)	-	-	56.27	
1.10.01	Country credit rating	10	(0)	47.3	2024	78.72	
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	23	(0)	88.33	2024	63.29	
1.11	Trade costs	14	(0)	-	-	52.97	
1.11.01	Logistics performance, index	08	(0)	3.70	2023	68.42	
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	13	(+1)	43	2024	39.71	
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	16	(0)	52.83	2023	50.77	
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	15	(+8)	-	-	67.22	
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	19	(+2)	2.26	2024	64.83	
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	11	(+12)	-0.45	2024	49.34	
1.13	Export concentration	02	(0)	-	-	98.51	
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	01	(+2)	35.64	2024	100.00	
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	04	(0)	44.61	2024	90.16	
1.14	Exports of goods and services	02	(0)	-	-	93.46	
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$ millions	01	(0)	3,576,765	2024	100.00	
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$ millions	03	(0)	444,384	2024	48.09	
1.15	Technological innovation	11	(0)	-	-	39.88	
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	06	(-1)	2.56	2022	48.94	
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	11	(0)	1.85	2022	14.12	
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	06	(0)	1,170.78	2023	26.52	
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	10	(-1)	26.57	2023	35.83	
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	13	(0)	636.76	2022	25.70	
1.16	Technological infrastructure	09	(+3)	-	-	73.96	
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	11	(0)	173.71	2025	57.52	
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	19	(-1)	77.50	2023	71.30	
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	02	(+2)	44.73	2023	96.03	
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	11	(+2)	128.25	2023	32.57	

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








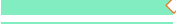











2 Societal Pillar		Rank	Rank +/-	Value	Year	Score (and 30-country average 
2.01	Inequality (Gini coefficient)	12	(0)	35.70	2021	46.60 
2.02	Educational attainment	12	(+1)	-	-	52.82 
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	23	(0)	8.04	2023	38.79 
2.02.02	University education index	03	(+1)	48.46	2024	42.50 
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment, % age group	11	(0)	74.82	2024	66.94 
2.03	Labor standards	22	(0)	-	-	52.44 
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring, index	01	(0)	100	2024	100.00 
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly, index	26	(+1)	0.18	2024	4.88 
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	22	(-2)	25.12	2023	22.05 
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	22	(+1)	-	-	54.22 
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	27	(+1)	-	-	31.53 
2.05.01.a	Goods produced by forced labor, number of goods categories	29	(+1)	24	2024	0.00 
2.05.01.b	% population in forced labor	12	(0)	0.40	2023	75.82 
2.05.02	Goods produced by child labor, number of goods categories	19	(+2)	6	2024	76.92 
2.06	Government response to human trafficking	25	(+3)	-	-	30.37 
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	15	(+6)	6	2024	60.00 
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	24	(0)	39.74	2023	35.28 
2.06.03	Government response to human trafficking, Action	25	(+1)	4	2024	0.00 
2.07	Trade in goods at risk of modern slavery	30	(0)	-	-	0.00 
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	22	(0)	9,532	2023	84.46 
2.07.02	Exports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	28	(+2)	452,725	2023	0.00 
2.08	Social mobility, index	11	(0)	61.5	2020	62.94 
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	11	(0)	77.95	2023	60.99 
2.10	Uneven economic development	24	(-2)	6.2	2024	31.48 
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	11	(0)	81.00	2021	83.61 

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	27	(0)	34.47	2020	31.53 
3.02	Deforestation, index	21	(0)	0.00	2022	12.09 
3.03	% of wastewater treated	14	(+1)	64.03	2024	61.20 
3.04	Energy intensity, energy consumed for each 1,000 US\$ of GDP in MTOE	20	(0)	0.128	2022	61.78 
3.05	Ecological footprint	16	(-1)	3.68	2024	68.11 
3.06	Renewable energy, %	19	(-1)	10.3	2022	12.98 
3.07	Environmental standards in trade, count	09	(0)	-	-	87.50 
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	2024	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)	25	(0)	1	2024	50.00 
3.08	Transfer emissions, million tonnes carbon	28	(0)	276.33	2021	0.00 
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	04	(+5)	5.57	2024	93.99 
3.10	Carbon	07	(0)	-	-	79.03 
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00 
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita, tonnes per person	22	(0)	9.24	2023	57.87 

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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