

Sustainable Trade Index 2025

Ecuador

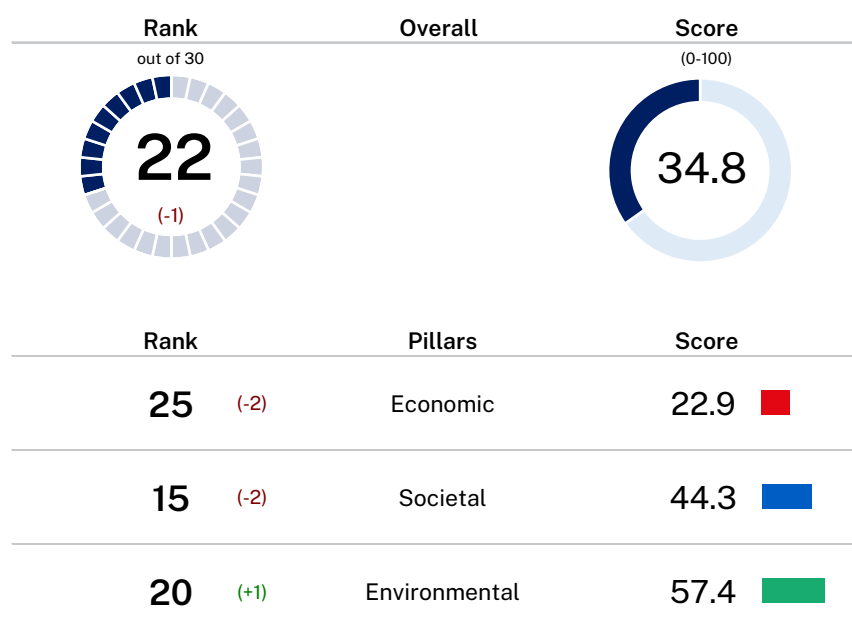


Sustainable Trade Index

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

Ecuador



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

Background information

Population, millions (2024)	17.97	Medium
Income level, GDP per Capita US\$ (2024)	6,775	Medium
Membership	CPTPP (applicant)	

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 ⁰)
1.01	Consumer price inflation	07	(-1)	1.55	2024	88.47
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	30	(-14)	-2.68	2025	0.00
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	09	(+14)	1.43	2024	59.95
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	27	(-2)	0.19	2024	2.79
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	24	(-2)	18.41	2024	24.57
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	18	(+1)	-	-	83.75
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	24	(0)	-	-	66.87
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	17	(0)	213	2024	96.33
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)	29	(0)	0.35	2023	2.10
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	03	(0)	-	-	90.45
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	12	(0)	292	2024	99.12
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)	04	(0)	-0.13	2023	62.31
1.07	Trade liberalization	21	(0)	-	-	29.03
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	24	(+1)	9	2025	14.29
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, index	12	(0)	1.03	2022	64.41
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, index	24	(0)	30	2025	14.29
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2024/2022	02	(+14)	0.01	2024	96.11
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	15	(0)	56.18	2024	20.39
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	25	(0)	-	-	23.20
1.10.01	Country credit rating	24	(0)	12.8	2024	20.66
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	15	(0)	55.04	2023	77.49
1.11	Trade costs	24	(-1)	-	-	18.95
1.11.01	Logistics performance, index	-	-	-	-	-
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	20	(-2)	32	2024	23.53
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	28	(-4)	19.34	2023	14.36
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	25	(-18)	-	-	20.77
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	24	(-7)	5.82	2024	49.73
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	28	(-24)	2.01	2024	23.85
1.13	Export concentration	25	(+2)	-	-	30.52
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	15	(+5)	60.03	2024	56.07
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	28	(0)	85.81	2024	19.76
1.14	Exports of goods and services	24	(+1)	-	-	0.62
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$ millions	23	(0)	33,670	2024	0.69
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$ millions	26	(0)	3,647	2024	0.39
1.15	Technological innovation	23	(-1)	-	-	6.63
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	-	-	-	-	-
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	-	-	-	-	-
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	23	(0)	3.29	2023	0.07
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	23	(-2)	7.27	2023	8.77
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	17	(0)	198.49	2022	7.93
1.16	Technological infrastructure	20	(0)	-	-	44.73
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	18	(+2)	93.42	2025	28.66
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	20	(0)	77.20	2024	70.89
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	17	(+1)	16.07	2023	34.21
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	25	(0)	101.03	2023	23.16

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 ⁰)
2.01	Inequality (Gini coefficient)	20	(+2)	44.60	2023	0.00
2.02	Educational attainment	16	(-1)	-	-	34.64
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	21	(-2)	8.97	2023	48.49
2.02.02	University education index	22	(+1)	1.11	2024	0.97
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment, % age group	13	(0)	59.88	2023	51.21
2.03	Labor standards	09	(0)	-	-	79.51
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring, index	01	(0)	100	2024	100.00
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly, index	11	(0)	0.60	2024	59.01
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	18	(-1)	32.70	2023	30.25
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	20	(+2)	-	-	64.71
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	19	(-1)	-	-	60.19
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	23	(0)	0.77	2023	45.15
2.05.02	Goods produced by child labor, number of goods categories	21	(+2)	8	2024	69.23
2.06	Government response to human trafficking	12	(-4)	-	-	73.02
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	04	(-3)	7	2024	80.00
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	11	(0)	51.28	2023	61.76
2.06.03	Government response to human trafficking, Action	10	(-1)	2	2024	66.67
2.07	Trade in goods at risk of modern slavery	05	(0)	-	-	99.68
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	05	(0)	300	2023	99.63
2.07.02	Exports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	01	(0)	0	2023	100.00
2.08	Social mobility, index	15	(0)	53.9	2020	43.65
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	14	(-1)	77.39	2023	58.10
2.10	Uneven economic development	22	(+1)	6.0	2024	35.19
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	14	(0)	77.00	2021	77.05

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	14	(0)	16.54	2020	75.19
3.02	Deforestation, index	25	(0)	0.00	2022	7.05
3.03	% of wastewater treated	-	-	-	-	-
3.04	Energy intensity, energy consumed for each 1,000 US\$ of GDP in MTOE	17	(+1)	0.115	2022	66.31
3.05	Ecological footprint	10	(0)	1.71	2024	89.04
3.06	Renewable energy, %	16	(-3)	15.9	2022	19.93
3.07	Environmental standards in trade, count	10	(0)	-	-	75.00
3.07.01	Convention: Hazardous Wastes	01	(0)	2	2024	100.00
3.07.02	Convention: Prevention of Marine Pollution	15	(0)	0	-	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	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)	01	(0)	2	2024	100.00
3.08	Transfer emissions, million tonnes carbon	17	(0)	-1.84	2021	43.14
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	22	(0)	37.59	2024	53.40
3.10	Carbon	25	(-1)	-	-	36.66
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	20	(-1)	0	2025	0.00
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita, tonnes per person	11	(0)	2.51	2023	90.65

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.

hinrichfoundation.com | [STI 2025](#)

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.

imd.org/wcc | [STI 2025](#)