

Sustainable Trade Index **2025**

Hong Kong SAR

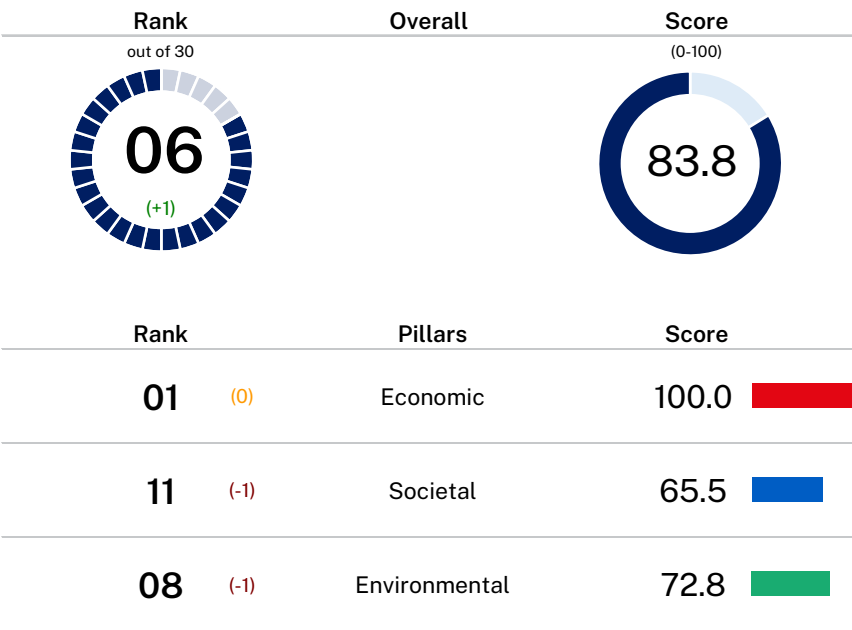


Sustainable Trade Index

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

Hong Kong, SAR



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

Background information

Population, millions (2024)	7.53	Small
Income level, GDP per Capita US\$ (2024)	54,034	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


1 Economic Pillar		Rank	Rank +/-	Value	Year	Score (and 30-country average ^o)
1.01	Consumer price inflation	08	(-4)	1.73	2024	87.38
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	14	(-2)	2.46	2025	58.86
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	29	(-16)	-1.03	2024	3.66
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	01	(0)	28.75	2024	100.00
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	26	(0)	16.21	2024	17.04
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	08	(-7)	-	-	89.17
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	10	(-9)	-	-	84.64
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	01	(0)	0	2024	100.00
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)	18	-	0.00	2023	40.15
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	10	(-9)	-	-	82.86
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	06	(0)	73	2024	99.78
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)	15	-	0.00	2023	46.09
1.07	Trade liberalization	12	(0)	-	-	58.52
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	26	(-1)	8	2025	11.43
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, index	01	(0)	2.29	2022	100.00
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, index	-	-	-	-	-
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2024/2022	02	(+10)	0.01	2024	96.11
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	01	(0)	230.90	2024	100.00
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	02	(0)	-	-	88.46
1.10.01	Country credit rating	08	(-1)	52.7	2024	87.68
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	02	(0)	9.27	2024	97.02
1.11	Trade costs	04	(0)	-	-	86.08
1.11.01	Logistics performance, index	02	(0)	4.00	2023	84.21
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	05	(-1)	74	2024	85.29
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	08	(0)	87.74	2023	88.73
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	10	(+14)	-	-	73.27
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	26	(0)	12.96	2024	19.46
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	01	(+2)	-5.32	2023	100.00
1.13	Export concentration	29	(-1)	-	-	19.66
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	26	(-2)	74.32	2024	30.34
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	26	(+1)	81.43	2024	27.24
1.14	Exports of goods and services	09	(0)	-	-	18.79
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$ millions	05	(+1)	645,537	2024	18.09
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$ millions	09	(0)	108,657	2024	11.75
1.15	Technological innovation	04	(+3)	-	-	71.18
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	12	(-1)	1.10	2023	20.81
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	06	(0)	5.27	2023	40.67
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	11	(0)	246.18	2023	5.57
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	01	(+3)	72.32	2023	100.00
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	01	(0)	2,468.89	2022	100.00
1.16	Technological infrastructure	01	(0)	-	-	100.00
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	09	(+1)	195.57	2025	65.37
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	07	(+1)	96.00	2023	95.99
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	05	(0)	39.88	2023	85.57
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	01	(0)	319.49	2023	100.00

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	06	(0)	-	-	69.90
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	10	(0)	12.35	2023	83.73
2.02.02	University education index	10	(0)	17.42	2024	15.28
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment, % age group	03	(+1)	100.46	2024	93.92
2.03	Labor standards	01	(0)	-	-	100.00
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring, index	01	(0)	100	2024	100.00
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly, index	-	-	-	-	-
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	09	(0)	69.67	2023	70.26
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	09	(0)	-	-	96.74
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	09	(0)	-	-	93.49
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	08	(0)	0.28	2023	86.00
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	28	(-5)	-	-	23.28
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	-	-	-	-	-
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	28	(0)	32.05	2023	17.64
2.06.03	Government response to human trafficking, Action	23	(-14)	3	2024	33.33
2.07	Trade in goods at risk of modern slavery	28	(0)	-	-	16.89
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	29	(0)	58,510	2023	3.97
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	01	(+1)	85.51	2023	100.00
2.10	Uneven economic development	-	-	-	-	-
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	-	-	-	-	-

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	16	(-1)	17.72	2020	72.30
3.02	Deforestation, index	28	(0)	0.00	2022	2.43
3.03	% of wastewater treated	07	(0)	93.20	2024	92.67
3.04	Energy intensity, energy consumed for each 1,000 US\$ of GDP in MTOE	01	(0)	0.019	2022	100.00
3.05	Ecological footprint	-	-	-	-	-
3.06	Renewable energy, %	28	(0)	1.3	2022	1.63
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	2022	100.00
3.07.04	Convention on Climate Change (Kyoto)	01	(0)	2	2022	100.00
3.07.05	The International Timber Agreement	01	(0)	2	2022	100.00
3.07.06	Convention: International Trade in Endangered Species	01	(0)	2	2022	100.00
3.07.07	Convention: Prior Informed Consent - Hazardous Chemicals (Rotterdam)	01	(0)	2	2022	100.00
3.08	Transfer emissions, million tonnes carbon	06	(0)	-15.67	2021	50.33
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	13	(-5)	13.39	2024	84.07
3.10	Carbon	27	(-1)	-	-	30.52
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	20	(-1)	0	2025	0.00
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita, tonnes per person	18	(-2)	4.51	2023	80.91

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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