

Sustainable Trade Index **2025**

Japan

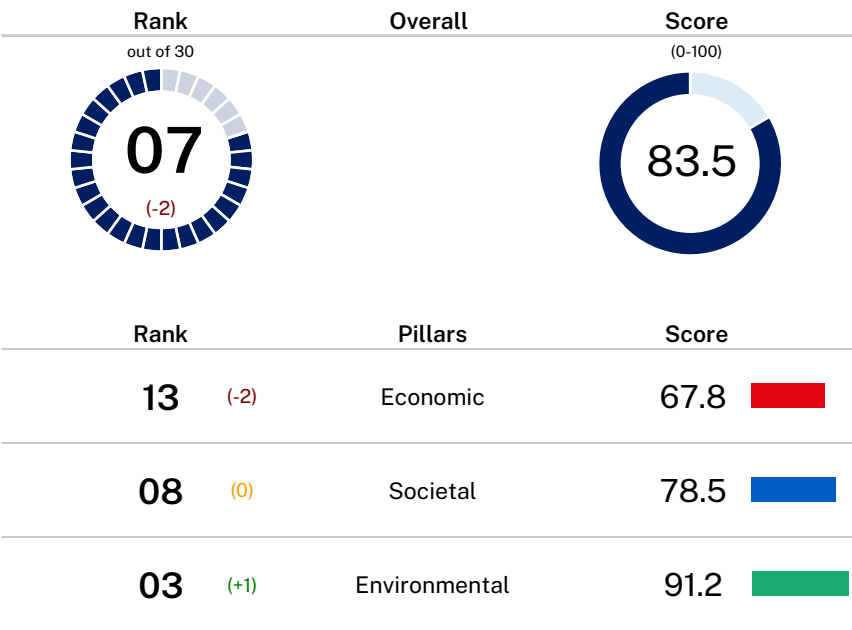


Sustainable Trade Index

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

Japan



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

Background information

Population, millions (2024)	123.89	Large
Income level, GDP per Capita US\$ (2024)	32,498	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


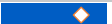

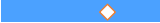





















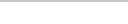
1 Economic Pillar		Rank	Rank +/-	Value	Year	Score (and 30-country average ^o)
1.01	Consumer price inflation	17	(-6)	2.74	2024	81.36
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	23	(-5)	0.56	2025	37.15
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	26	(0)	0.10	2024	29.52
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	23	(-1)	0.43	2024	3.98
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	09	(0)	26.01	2023	50.58
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	24	(-1)	-	-	64.53
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	25	(+1)	-	-	65.60
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	27	(0)	2,554	2024	56.04
1.06.01.b	New tariff barriers 2024	01	(+18)	0	2024	100.00
1.06.01.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new tariff barriers (2023)	20	(0)	0.01	2023	39.42
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	24	(-1)	-	-	55.62
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	24	(0)	9,146	2024	72.33
1.06.02.b	New non-tariff barriers 2024	25	(-3)	1,018	2024	72.78
1.06.02.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new non-tariff barriers (2023)	18	(0)	0.01	2023	44.86
1.07	Trade liberalization	10	(-2)	-	-	70.45
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	10	(-1)	18	2025	40.00
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, index	01	(0)	2.29	2022	100.00
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, index	09	(-1)	60	2025	57.14
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2024/2022	22	(+6)	0.14	2024	45.56
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	03	(+1)	196.87	2024	84.50
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	28	(0)	-	-	8.11
1.10.01	Country credit rating	11	(0)	47.0	2024	78.15
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	30	(0)	236.66	2024	0.00
1.11	Trade costs	05	(0)	-	-	84.56
1.11.01	Logistics performance, index	04	(0)	3.90	2023	78.95
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	06	(0)	71	2024	80.88
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	03	(+1)	92.45	2023	93.85
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	22	(+3)	-	-	51.54
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	22	(+2)	4.79	2024	54.08
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	14	(+13)	-0.16	2024	46.38
1.13	Export concentration	09	(-1)	-	-	65.07
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	12	(+1)	55.67	2024	63.92
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	10	(-3)	56.40	2024	70.01
1.14	Exports of goods and services	06	(0)	-	-	27.68
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$ millions	03	(0)	707,028	2024	19.83
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$ millions	06	(0)	222,616	2024	24.09
1.15	Technological innovation	05	(0)	-	-	64.24
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	04	(-1)	3.41	2022	65.32
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	04	(-1)	5.63	2022	43.43
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	02	(0)	3,351.83	2023	75.94
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	14	(+1)	17.55	2024	23.18
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	11	(0)	828.65	2022	33.48
1.16	Technological infrastructure	05	(+1)	-	-	83.22
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	08	(-2)	215.30	2025	72.46
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	14	(+1)	87.00	2023	83.98
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	06	(+2)	38.63	2023	82.87
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	03	(+1)	178.43	2023	49.92

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)	08	-	33.80	2021	56.54 
2.02	Educational attainment	11	(0)	-	-	55.81 
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	08	(-2)	12.68	2023	87.17 
2.02.02	University education index	12	(-1)	14.47	2024	12.69 
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment, % age group	12	(0)	64.63	2023	56.21 
2.03	Labor standards	17	(0)	-	-	66.67 
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring, index	24	(0)	50	2024	33.33 
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly, index	01	(0)	0.91	2024	100.00 
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	04	(0)	81.52	2023	83.08 
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	01	(0)	0.11	2023	100.00 
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	22	(-3)	-	-	58.83 
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	15	(+6)	6	2024	60.00 
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	21	(0)	43.59	2023	44.12 
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	24	(+1)	-	-	53.82 
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	28	(0)	32,542	2023	46.64 
2.07.02	Exports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	01	(0)	0	2023	100.00 
2.08	Social mobility, index	01	(0)	76.1	2020	100.00 
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	02	(-1)	84.71	2023	95.88 
2.10	Uneven economic development	05	(0)	3.2	2024	87.04 
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	08	(0)	83.00	2021	86.89 

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	08	(0)	12.62	2020	84.74
3.02	Deforestation, index	26	(0)	0.00	2022	5.85
3.03	% of wastewater treated	03	(+3)	98.58	2024	98.47
3.04	Energy intensity, energy consumed for each 1,000 US\$ of GDP in MTOE	06	(-1)	0.061	2022	85.35
3.05	Ecological footprint	18	(0)	4.04	2024	64.27
3.06	Renewable energy, %	23	(-1)	7.8	2023	9.73
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	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	03	(0)	-44.43	2021	65.28
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	12	(+1)	11.49	2024	86.49
3.10	Carbon	06	(0)	-	-	84.25
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita, tonnes per person	20	(+1)	7.54	2023	66.15

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.

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