

Sustainable Trade Index **2025**

New Zealand

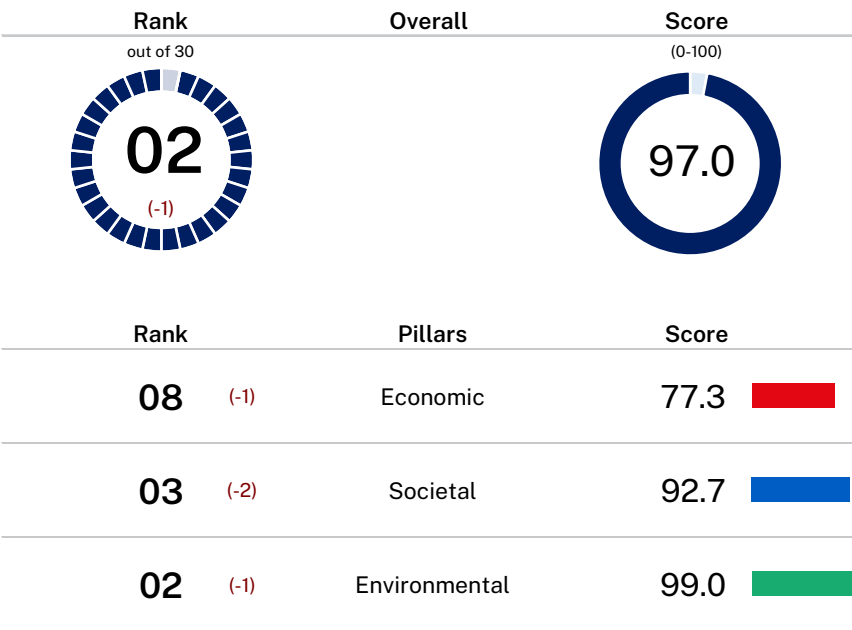


Sustainable Trade Index

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

New Zealand



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

Background information

Population, millions (2024)	5.34	Small
Income level, GDP per Capita US\$ (2024)	48,310	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	18	(+2)	2.92	2024	80.27
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	29	(-4)	-2.20	2025	5.43
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	16	(-13)	0.98	2024	49.66
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	18	(-8)	1.21	2024	7.86
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	11	(-1)	24.70	2023	46.10
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	04	(-2)	-	-	90.09
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	06	(-4)	-	-	86.24
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	20	(0)	389	2024	93.30
1.06.01.b	New tariff barriers 2024	25	(-2)	43	2024	65.78
1.06.01.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new tariff barriers (2023)	03	(0)	-0.42	2023	84.82
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	09	(+4)	-	-	82.98
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	09	(0)	145	2024	99.56
1.06.02.b	New non-tariff barriers 2024	11	(-1)	8	2024	99.79
1.06.02.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new non-tariff barriers (2023)	09	(0)	-0.00	2023	46.76
1.07	Trade liberalization	06	(+3)	-	-	72.73
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	14	(0)	15	2025	31.43
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, index	01	(0)	2.29	2022	100.00
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, index	04	(+4)	70	2025	71.43
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2024/2022	08	(+14)	0.04	2024	84.44
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	07	(+1)	141.22	2023	59.14
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	05	(0)	-	-	81.74
1.10.01	Country credit rating	04	(0)	58.0	2024	96.64
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	12	(-1)	51.15	2024	79.15
1.11	Trade costs	03	(0)	-	-	86.37
1.11.01	Logistics performance, index	11	(0)	3.60	2023	63.16
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	02	(-1)	83	2024	98.53
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	02	(0)	95.75	2023	97.43
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	11	(-9)	-	-	73.04
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	01	(0)	-6.03	2024	100.00
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	29	(-10)	2.45	2024	19.26
1.13	Export concentration	15	(-1)	-	-	54.17
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	14	(+2)	59.99	2024	56.15
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	16	(0)	62.57	2024	59.46
1.14	Exports of goods and services	20	(0)	-	-	1.78
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$ millions	22	(0)	42,410	2024	0.94
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$ millions	19	(0)	18,308	2024	1.97
1.15	Technological innovation	10	(0)	-	-	44.41
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	10	(-1)	1.47	2021	27.94
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	07	(-3)	5.09	2021	39.29
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	09	(0)	492.84	2023	11.16
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	18	(-1)	12.95	2024	16.73
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	04	(0)	1,797.78	2022	72.78
1.16	Technological infrastructure	07	(0)	-	-	78.29
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	10	(-1)	188.30	2025	62.76
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	06	(+1)	96.20	2023	96.26
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	08	(+1)	37.85	2023	81.19
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	14	(+5)	126.86	2023	32.09

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












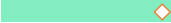








2 Societal Pillar		Rank	Rank +/-	Value	Year	Score (and 30-country average ^o)	
2.01	Inequality (Gini coefficient)	05	-	33.00	-	60.73	
2.02	Educational attainment	09	(-2)	-	-	63.99	
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	04	(0)	12.88	2023	89.26	
2.02.02	University education index	09	(-1)	21.63	2024	18.98	
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment, % age group	10	(-2)	77.01	2023	69.24	
2.03	Labor standards	06	(-4)	-	-	88.90	
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring, index	01	(0)	100	2024	100.00	
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly, index	07	(-5)	0.74	2024	77.80	
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	03	(-1)	96.21	2023	98.97	
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	04	(0)	-	-	98.98	
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	04	(0)	-	-	97.96	
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	03	(0)	0.17	2023	95.62	
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	11	(+1)	-	-	75.24	
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	04	(0)	7	2024	80.00	
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	10	(0)	53.85	2023	67.65	
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	07	(0)	-	-	98.49	
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	08	(0)	1,135	2023	98.26	
2.07.02	Exports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	01	(0)	0	2023	100.00	
2.08	Social mobility, index	06	(0)	74.3	2020	95.43	
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	07	(-1)	82.09	2023	82.33	
2.10	Uneven economic development	02	(0)	2.8	2024	94.44	
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	07	(0)	85.00	2021	90.16	

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 )
3.01	Air pollution, PM2.5 micrograms per cubic metre	01	(0)	6.35	2020	100.00 
3.02	Deforestation, index	13	(+1)	0.01	2022	24.91 
3.03	% of wastewater treated	10	(0)	84.53	2024	83.31 
3.04	Energy intensity, energy consumed for each 1,000 US\$ of GDP in MTOE	05	(+1)	0.055	2022	87.50 
3.05	Ecological footprint	21	(-1)	5.43	2024	49.42 
3.06	Renewable energy, %	05	(-1)	44.4	2023	55.76 
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	18	(0)	-1.79	2021	43.12 
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	05	(-2)	6.01	2024	93.43 
3.10	Carbon	05	(0)	-	-	85.23 
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00 
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita, tonnes per person	19	(0)	7.22	2023	67.71 

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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