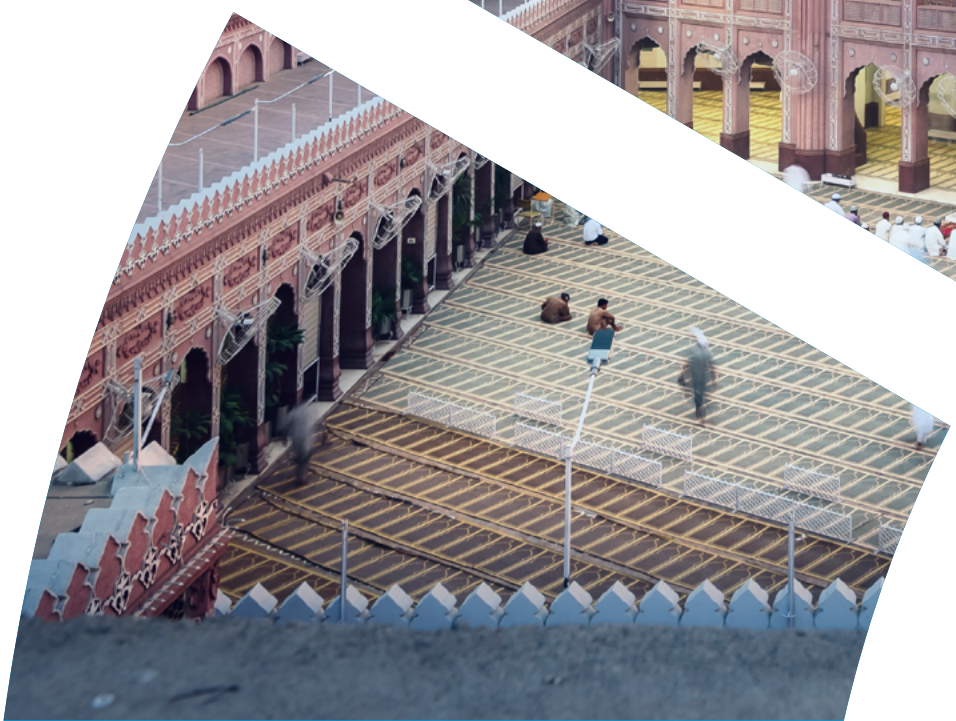
hinrich foundation
advancing sustainable global trade

IMD / World Competitiveness Center

Sustainable Trade Index 2025

Pakistan



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

Pakistan

Rank	Overall	Score
out of 30		(0-100)
27 (+1)		12.5

Rank		Pillars	Score
30	(0)	Economic	0.0
28	(-1)	Societal	15.7
21	(+3)	Environmental	57.3

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

Background information

Population, millions (2024)	235.95	Large
Income level, GDP per Capita US$ (2024)	1,581	Low
Membership	-	

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 ◊)
1.01	Consumer price inflation	29	(-2)	23.41	2024	3.75
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	24	(+4)	0.54	2025	36.92
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	03	(+3)	2.10	2024	75.29
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	22	(+5)	0.69	2024	5.28
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	27	(+1)	11.23	2024	0.00
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	13	(+8)	-	-	86.68
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	11	(+16)	-	-	84.52
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	24	(0)	994	2024	82.89
1.06.01.b	New tariff barriers 2024	19	(+8)	6	2024	95.23
1.06.01.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new tariff barriers (2023)	04	(0)	-0.20	2023	61.74
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	18	(+1)	-	-	78.31
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	20	(0)	1,994	2024	93.97
1.06.02.b	New non-tariff barriers 2024	14	(+6)	12	2024	99.68
1.06.02.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new non-tariff barriers (2023)	22	(0)	0.03	2023	42.88
1.07	Trade liberalization	22	(0)	-	-	21.59
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	21	(-1)	10	2025	17.14
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, index	21	(0)	-1.25	2022	0.00
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, index	09	(+3)	60	2025	57.14
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2024/2022	24	(+5)	0.35	2024	0.00
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	26	(+1)	11.42	2024	0.00
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	27	(0)	-	-	17.35
1.10.01	Country credit rating	25	(0)	12.0	2024	19.31
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	20	(+1)	70.07	2024	71.08
1.11	Trade costs	26	(-5)	-	-	16.30
1.11.01	Logistics performance, index	-	-	-	-	-
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	24	(0)	27	2024	16.18
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	27	(-2)	21.23	2023	16.42
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	16	(+2)	-	-	64.77
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	13	(-3)	-0.45	2024	76.34
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	22	(+4)	0.87	2023	35.68
1.13	Export concentration	11	(0)	-	-	60.54
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	03	(+3)	41.97	2024	88.59
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	23	(-3)	75.29	2024	37.73
1.14	Exports of goods and services	23	(0)	-	-	0.83
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US$ millions	24	(0)	32,321	2024	0.65
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US$ millions	21	(0)	7,082	2024	0.76
1.15	Technological innovation	27	(0)	-	-	2.15
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	20	(+1)	0.16	2023	2.70
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	16	(0)	0.47	2023	3.46
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	25	(+1)	2.19	2023	0.04
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	26	(0)	1.90	2023	1.23
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	24	(0)	99.74	2022	3.92
1.16	Technological infrastructure	29	(0)	-	-	5.37
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	30	(0)	13.69	2025	0.00
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	28	(+2)	27.40	2023	4.41
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	29	(0)	1.36	2023	2.48
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	28	(-1)	76.54	2023	14.69

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	29	(-1)	-	-	0.82
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	30	(0)	4.32	2023	0.00
2.02.02	University education index	13	(0)	13.85	2024	12.15
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment, % age group	27	(-1)	11.22	2024	0.00
2.03	Labor standards	16	(0)	-	-	69.36
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring, index	01	(0)	100	2024	100.00
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly, index	19	(0)	0.44	2024	38.71
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	29	(0)	6.64	2023	2.06
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	28	(+1)	-	-	35.31
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	28	(+1)	-	-	24.48
2.05.01.a	Goods produced by forced labor, number of goods categories	26	(+2)	6	2024	71.40
2.05.01.b	% population in forced labor	27	(0)	1.06	2023	20.03
2.05.02	Goods produced by child labor, number of goods categories	25	(+1)	14	2024	46.15
2.06	Government response to human trafficking	20	(+2)	-	-	60.83
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	04	(+17)	7	2024	80.00
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	26	(0)	37.18	2023	29.41
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	08	(+2)	-	-	97.91
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US$ millions	10	(0)	1,372	2023	97.86
2.07.02	Exports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US$ millions	19	(+7)	124	2023	99.72
2.08	Social mobility, index	24	(0)	36.7	2020	0.00
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	27	(+1)	67.65	2023	7.82
2.10	Uneven economic development	15	(-1)	5.0	2024	53.70
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	27	(0)	45.00	2021	24.59

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	29	(0)	43.17	2020	10.33
3.02	Deforestation, index	-	-	-	-	-
3.03	% of wastewater treated	18	(+1)	38.11	2022	33.24
3.04	Energy intensity, energy consumed for each 1,000 US$ of GDP in MTOE	28	(-2)	0.239	2022	23.01
3.05	Ecological footprint	02	(-1)	0.73	2024	99.44
3.06	Renewable energy, %	09	(-2)	29.9	2022	37.55
3.07	Environmental standards in trade, count	22	(0)	-	-	50.00
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	23	(0)	0	2024	0.00
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	10	(0)	-6.24	2021	45.43
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	06	(-2)	6.28	2024	93.09
3.10	Carbon	10	(-1)	-	-	73.09
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	13	(-1)	1	2025	50.00
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita, tonnes per person	04	(+1)	0.91	2023	98.44

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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