hinrich foundation
advancing sustainable global trade

IMD / World Competitiveness Center

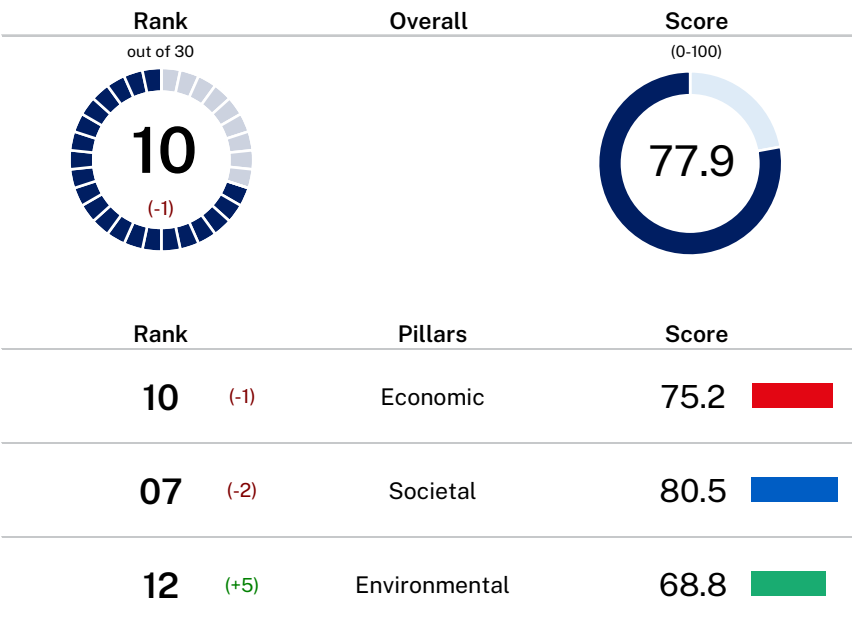Sustainable Trade Index **2025**
Taiwan

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

Taiwan

Rank	Overall	Score
out of 30		(0-100)
10 (-1)		**77.9**

Rank		Pillars	Score	
10	(-1)	Economic	75.2	🟥
07	(-2)	Societal	80.5	🟦
12	(+5)	Environmental	68.8	🟩

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

Background information

Population, millions (2024)	23.40	Medium
Income level, GDP per Capita US$ (2024)	33,437	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 ◇)
1.01	Consumer price inflation	10	(-1)	2.18	2024	84.69
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	06	(+15)	4.39	2025	81.04
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	24	(+1)	0.49	2024	38.44
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	16	(+10)	1.40	2024	8.81
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	10	(+1)	25.67	2024	49.42
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	10	(0)	-	-	88.99
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	13	(+4)	-	-	84.34
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	14	(0)	120	2024	97.93
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)	15	(0)	-0.01	2023	41.51
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	11	(-1)	-	-	82.82
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	08	(0)	142	2024	99.57
1.06.02.b	New non-tariff barriers 2024	12	(-5)	9	2024	99.76
1.06.02.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new non-tariff barriers (2023)	13	(0)	0.00	2023	46.45
1.07	Trade liberalization	20	(-1)	-	-	34.66
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	30	(0)	4	2025	0.00
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, index	-	-	-	-	-
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	19	(-10)	0.07	2024	72.78
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	-	-	-	-	-
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	03	(+1)	-	-	84.71
1.10.01	Country credit rating	06	(0)	54.0	2024	89.91
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	04	(0)	26.17	2024	89.81
1.11	Trade costs	07	(0)	-	-	80.38
1.11.01	Logistics performance, index	04	(0)	3.90	2023	78.95
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	08	(+1)	67	2024	75.00
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	09	(0)	86.32	2023	87.18
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	28	(+1)	-	-	6.04
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	28	(-1)	15.71	2024	7.76
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	06	-	-0.79	2024	52.94
1.13	Export concentration	19	(-4)	-	-	41.65
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	23	(-1)	67.82	2024	42.04
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	17	(-2)	66.64	2024	52.51
1.14	Exports of goods and services	11	(+1)	-	-	12.28
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US$ millions	10	(0)	474,369	2024	13.22
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US$ millions	13	(-1)	58,446	2024	6.32
1.15	Technological innovation	02	(0)	-	-	97.02
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	02	-	3.97	2023	76.11
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	01	(0)	12.93	2023	100.00
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	03	(0)	2,559.95	2023	58.00
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	-	-	-	-	-
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	08	(0)	1,386.38	2022	56.10
1.16	Technological infrastructure	14	(-4)	-	-	64.59
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	07	(0)	219.16	2025	73.85
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	-	-	-	-	-
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	10	(+1)	29.21	2023	62.55
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	12	(0)	128.04	2023	32.50

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
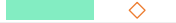
2 Societal Pillar		Rank	Rank +/-	Value	Year	Score (and 30-country average ◊)
2.01	Inequality (Gini coefficient)	11	-	35.40	2022	48.17
2.02	Educational attainment	07	(+1)	-	-	66.42
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	07	(+1)	12.70	2024	87.38
2.02.02	University education index	11	(+1)	15.07	2024	13.22
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment, % age group	06	(0)	90.30	2023	83.22
2.03	Labor standards	03	(+3)	-	-	91.55
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring, index	01	(0)	100	2024	100.00
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly, index	03	(+3)	0.78	2024	83.11
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	08	(0)	74.41	2023	75.38
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	08	(0)	-	-	97.83
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	08	(0)	-	-	95.66
2.05.01.a	Goods produced by forced labor, number of goods categories	16	(+2)	1	2024	95.23
2.05.01.b	% population in forced labor	04	(0)	0.17	2023	95.44
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	09	(-2)	-	-	80.75
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	-	-	-	-	-
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	17	(0)	47.30	2023	52.63
2.06.03	Government response to human trafficking, Action	01	(0)	1	2024	100.00
2.07	Trade in goods at risk of modern slavery	17	(+1)	-	-	86.64
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US$ millions	18	(0)	7,620	2023	87.60
2.07.02	Exports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US$ millions	21	(-20)	1,359	2023	96.97
2.08	Social mobility, index	-	-	-	-	-
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	-	-	-	-	-
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 ◊)
3.01	Air pollution, PM2.5 micrograms per cubic metre	13	(-2)	15.97	2020	76.57
3.02	Deforestation, index	29	(0)	0.00	2022	0.00
3.03	% of wastewater treated	-	-	-	-	-
3.04	Energy intensity, energy consumed for each 1,000 US$ of GDP in MTOE	14	(+3)	0.096	2022	73.04
3.05	Ecological footprint	-	-	-	-	-
3.06	Renewable energy, %	27	(-1)	2.4	2022	2.95
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	16	(0)	-2.08	2021	43.27
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	07	(+3)	7.40	2024	91.67
3.10	Carbon	12	(+16)	-	-	71.54
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	01	(+18)	2	2025	100.00
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita, tonnes per person	25	(-1)	11.68	2023	45.98

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