

Sustainable Trade Index **2025**

United States

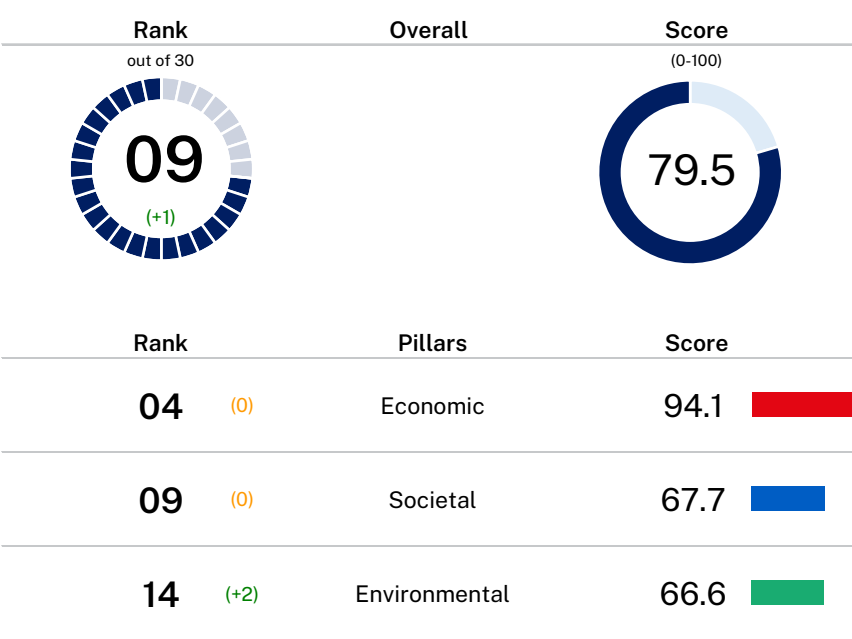


Sustainable Trade Index

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

United States



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

Background information














































Population, millions (2024)	340.10	Large
Income level, GDP per Capita US\$ (2024)	85,812	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


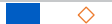

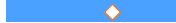





















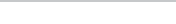
1 Economic Pillar		Rank	Rank +/-	Value	Year	Score (and 30-country average ^o)
1.01	Consumer price inflation	19	(-4)	2.95	2024	80.10 
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	20	(-5)	1.86	2025	52.07 
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	22	(-5)	0.64	2024	41.88 
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	17	(0)	1.33	2024	8.46 
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	20	(0)	21.57	2024	35.39 
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	30	(0)	-	-	0.00 
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	30	(0)	-	-	0.00 
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	30	(0)	5,810	2024	0.00 
1.06.01.b	New tariff barriers 2024	29	(-1)	294	2024	6.18 
1.06.01.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new tariff barriers (2023)	25	(0)	0.05	2023	35.27 
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	30	(-2)	-	-	0.00 
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	29	(0)	174,409	2024	19.88 
1.06.02.b	New non-tariff barriers 2024	30	(-1)	21,095	2024	0.00 
1.06.02.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new non-tariff barriers (2023)	07	(0)	-0.08	2023	55.99 
1.07	Trade liberalization	07	(-1)	-	-	71.59 
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	17	(0)	14	2025	28.57 
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, index	01	(0)	2.29	2022	100.00 
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, index	04	(-2)	70	2025	71.43 
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2024/2022	02	(+14)	0.01	2024	96.11 
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	02	(0)	197.90	2024	84.96 
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	11	(0)	-	-	58.92 
1.10.01	Country credit rating	05	(-1)	57.7	2024	96.08 
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	28	(-1)	120.79	2024	49.44 
1.11	Trade costs	09	(-1)	-	-	78.50 
1.11.01	Logistics performance, index	06	(0)	3.80	2023	73.68 
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	09	(-1)	65	2024	72.06 
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	07	(0)	88.68	2023	89.75 
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	03	(+5)	-	-	87.84 
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	02	(+2)	-3.88	2024	90.90 
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	18	(-3)	0.33	2024	41.30 
1.13	Export concentration	04	(0)	-	-	89.65 
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	07	(0)	48.24	2024	77.31 
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	02	(-1)	40.05	2024	97.95 
1.14	Exports of goods and services	01	(0)	-	-	100.00 
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$ millions	02	(0)	2,065,180	2024	58.45 
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$ millions	01	(0)	1,076,648	2024	100.00 
1.15	Technological innovation	06	(0)	-	-	60.92 
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	03	(-1)	3.59	2022	68.79 
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	08	(0)	4.83	2021	37.20 
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	05	(-1)	1,540.95	2023	34.91 
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	12	(0)	24.32	2024	32.68 
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	09	(0)	1,371.29	2022	55.49 
1.16	Technological infrastructure	06	(-1)	-	-	82.00 
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	04	(-2)	247.37	2025	83.99 
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	11	(-1)	93.10	2023	92.12 
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	07	(-1)	38.15	2023	81.84
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	23	(-3)	112.41	2023	27.09

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 
2.01	Inequality (Gini coefficient)	17	(-1)	41.80	2023	14.66 
2.02	Educational attainment	01	(0)	-	-	100.00 
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	01	(+1)	13.91	2023	100.00 
2.02.02	University education index	01	(0)	114.01	2024	100.00 
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment, % age group	08	(+1)	79.36	2023	71.71 
2.03	Labor standards	02	(+2)	-	-	92.59 
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring, index	01	(0)	100	2024	100.00 
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly, index	02	(+2)	0.80	2024	85.17 
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	15	(0)	47.39	2023	46.15 
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	11	(0)	-	-	95.78 
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	11	(0)	-	-	91.55 
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	10	(0)	0.33	2023	81.83 
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	08	(-2)	-	-	83.82 
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	22	(-7)	5	2024	40.00 
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	02	(0)	66.67	2023	97.06 
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	29	(0)	-	-	13.45 
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	30	(0)	124,860	2023	0.00 
2.07.02	Exports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	01	(0)	0	2023	100.00 
2.08	Social mobility, index	08	(0)	70.4	2020	85.53 
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	10	(+2)	79.30	2023	67.97 
2.10	Uneven economic development	09	(+1)	3.9	2024	74.07 
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	06	(0)	86.00	2021	91.80 

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	04	(0)	7.70	2020	96.72
3.02	Deforestation, index	08	(+1)	0.01	2022	31.81
3.03	% of wastewater treated	04	(-1)	98.06	2024	97.91
3.04	Energy intensity, energy consumed for each 1,000 US\$ of GDP in MTOE	07	(0)	0.061	2022	85.16
3.05	Ecological footprint	25	(+1)	7.48	2024	27.62
3.06	Renewable energy, %	22	(-1)	8.4	2023	10.50
3.07	Environmental standards in trade, count	26	(0)	-	-	37.50
3.07.01	Convention: Hazardous Wastes	30	(0)	1	2024	0.00
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)	29	(0)	1	2024	50.00
3.07.05	The International Timber Agreement	21	(0)	0	2024	50.00
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)	25	(0)	1	2024	50.00
3.08	Transfer emissions, million tonnes carbon	01	(0)	-147.37	2021	100.00
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	17	(+1)	21.48	2024	73.83
3.10	Carbon	29	(+1)	-	-	1.90
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	20	(-1)	0	2025	0.00
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita, tonnes per person	26	(+1)	13.83	2023	35.51

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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