

Sustainable Trade Index **2026**

Australia

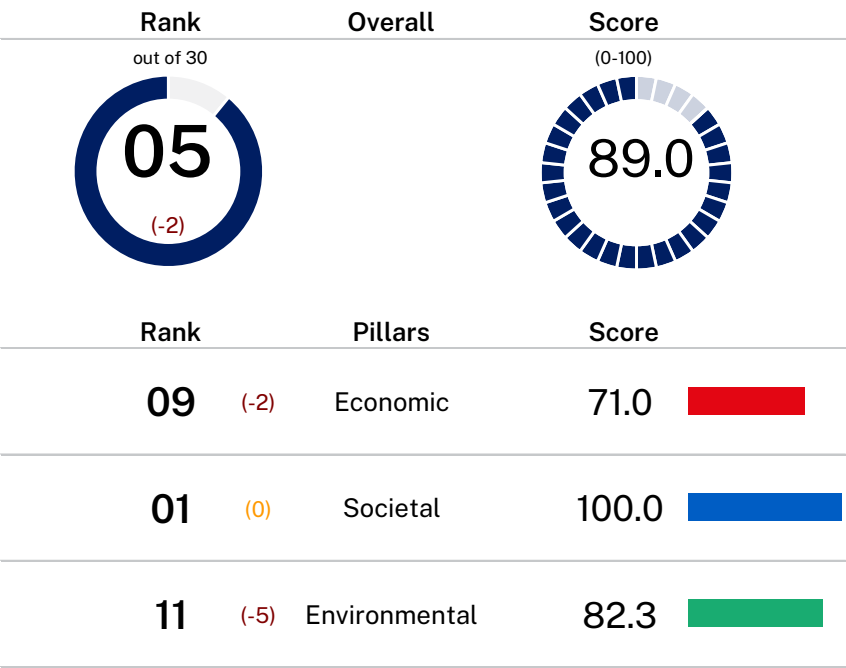


Sustainable Trade Index

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

Australia



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

Background information

Population, millions (2025)	27.73	Medium
Income level, GDP per Capita US\$ (2025)	66,352	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
1.01	Consumer price inflation	19	(+1)	2.90	2025	81.85
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	25	(0)	0.71	2025	28.13
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	16	(-2)	0.84	2025	57.49
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	12	(-4)	2.03	2025	13.98
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	11	(+1)	24.33	2025	43.41
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	28	(-2)	-	-	39.79
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	29	(-2)	-	-	52.30
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	29	(-1)	6,693	2025	5.00
1.06.01.b	New tariff barriers 2025	28	(-1)	307	2025	61.96
1.06.01.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new tariff barriers (2025)	21	(-15)	0.011	2025	88.09
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	23	(-1)	-	-	49.34
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	22	(0)	5,133	2025	78.95
1.06.02.b	New non-tariff barriers 2025	22	(+1)	540	2025	74.34
1.06.02.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new non-tariff barriers (2025)	30	(-5)	0.62	2025	0.00
1.07	Trade liberalization	03	(0)	-	-	82.95
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	09	(-1)	19	2025	42.86
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, Index	01	(0)	2.28	2023	100.00
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, Index	02	(0)	80.00	2026	85.71
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2025/2023	10	(-2)	0.04	2025	92.82
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	08	(0)	133.79	2025	58.07
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	04	(0)	-	-	81.64
1.10.01	Country credit rating	01	(0)	60.00	2025	100.00
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	11	(0)	51.00	2025	75.85
1.11	Trade costs	03	(+3)	-	-	91.77
1.11.01	Logistics performance indicators	05	(+3)	-	-	87.22
1.11.01.a	Aviation import dwell time (days)	03	(NEW)	0.80	2024	97.66
1.11.01.b	Number of aviation partner economies	14	(NEW)	114.5	2024	71.95
1.11.01.c	Container import dwell time (days)	03	(NEW)	2.20	2024	97.30
1.11.01.d	Number of maritime partner economies	16	(NEW)	41.0	2024	77.59
1.11.01.e	Business-to-business postal delivery time (days)	11	(NEW)	3.30	2024	90.71
1.11.01.f	Number of business-to-business postal partner economies	09	(NEW)	119.0	2024	88.83
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	03	(0)	76	2025	88.24
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	03	(+1)	82.27	2024	94.34
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	06	(0)	-	-	69.61
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	06	(-1)	-2.60	2025	94.79
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	11	(+2)	0.001	2025	31.68
1.13	Export concentration	22	(0)	-	-	36.33
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	21	(+1)	66.99	2025	47.46
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	22	(-2)	71.41	2025	43.74
1.14	Exports of goods and services	12	(0)	-	-	20.06
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$ millions	16	(-2)	337,582	2025	26.01
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$ millions	10	(0)	90,833	2025	9.07
1.15	Technological innovation	09	(-2)	-	-	44.59
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	09	(-1)	1.71	2023	34.35
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	-	-	-	-	-
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	10	(0)	391.01	2024	9.05
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	11	(0)	25.16	2024	32.34
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	02	(0)	2,047.60	2023	65.45
1.16	Technological infrastructure	12	(0)	-	-	68.83
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	16	(0)	132.90	2025	38.61
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	04	(0)	96.13	2024	97.61
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	09	(0)	36.48	2024	76.20
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	23	(-1)	112.58	2024	32.34
1.17	Digital readiness (e-commerce legislations)	04	(NEW)	87.0	2025	90

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)	12	-	33.80	2020	59.31
2.02	Educational attainment	03	(0)	-	-	78.82
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	05	(0)	12.87	2023	89.16
2.02.02	University education Index	04	(0)	51.04	2026	30.73
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment	04	(-3)	108.42	2024	89.32
2.03	Labor standards	05	(0)	-	-	91.03
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring	01	(0)	100	2024	100.00
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly	06	(0)	0.73	2025	82.06
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	06	(-1)	79.44	2024	86.80
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	03	(0)	-	-	99.08
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	03	(0)	-	-	98.16
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	02	(0)	0.16	2023	96.05
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	02	(0)	-	-	98.89
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	04	(0)	7	2025	80.00
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	2025	100.00
2.07	Trade in goods at risk of modern slavery	14	(+5)	-	-	88.84
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	21	(+3)	10,960	2025	86.82
2.07.02	Exports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	01	(0)	0.0	2025	100.00
2.08	Legatum prosperity index	04	(NEW)	79.36	2023	96.98
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	04	(0)	83.92	2023	91.80
2.10	Uneven economic development	03	(0)	2.90	2024	92.59
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	02	(+3)	89	2023	95.00
2.12	Equal distribution of resources index	07	(NEW)	0.87	2025	88.18

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	(+4)	6.41	2025	100.00
3.02	Deforestation, Index	02	(-1)	0.0147	2024	78.21
3.03	% of wastewater treated	06	(0)	95.77	2024	95.44
3.04	Energy intensity (Energy use (kg of oil equivalent) per \$1,000 GDP)	17	(-13)	78.77	2024	50.68
3.05	Ecological footprint	-	-	-	-	-
3.06	Renewable energy, %	20	(0)	12.30	2021	19.55
3.07	Environmental standards in trade, count	01	(0)	-	-	100.00
3.07.01	Convention: Hazardous Wastes	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.07.02	Convention: Prevention of Marine Pollution	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.07.03	Convention: Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna)	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.07.04	Convention on Climate Change (Kyoto)	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.07.05	The International Timber Agreement	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.07.06	Convention: International Trade in Endangered Species	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.07.07	Convention: Prior Informed Consent - Hazardous Chemicals (Rotterdam)	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.08	Transfer emissions, million tonnes carbon	22	(+2)	3.32	2023	48.83
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	28	(0)	72.93	2025	8.33
3.10	Carbon	14	(+2)	-	-	67.48
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita	28	(-1)	14.43	2024	29.33

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 job creation. Yet its benefits are not self-sustaining. Without responsible stewardship, trade can widen income inequalities, disrupt labor markets, and impose significant environmental costs. Sustainable trade means striking a durable balance by expanding the economic opportunities that open markets generate while ensuring those gains are broadly shared and maintained. This requires sound public policy, responsible business leadership, and evidence-based frameworks to guide decision-making.

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 independent Asia-based philanthropic organization dedicated to advancing mutually beneficial and sustainable global trade.

We believe that mutually beneficial and sustainable global trade is a powerful force for shared prosperity, technological progress, sustainability and peaceful international cooperation. Our work is grounded in rigorous 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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