

Sustainable Trade Index **2026**

Bangladesh

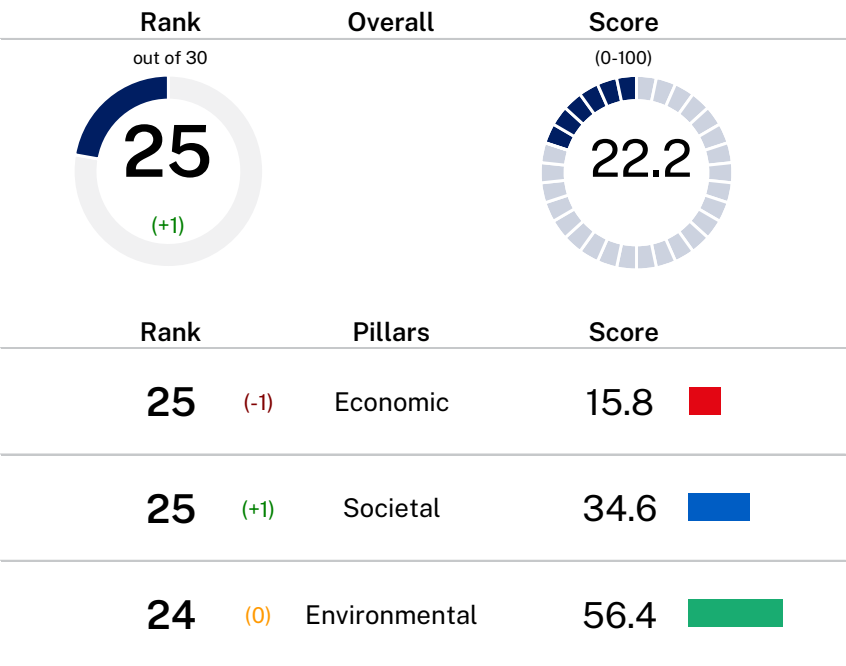


Sustainable Trade Index

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

Bangladesh



The values in parentheses indicate the one year ranking change

Background information

Population, millions (2025)	173.74	Large
Income level, GDP per Capita US\$ (2025)	2,636	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

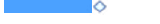
1 Economic Pillar		Rank	Rank +/-	Value	Year	Score and 30 country average
1.01	Consumer price inflation	29	(-2)	10.00	2025	41.57
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	16	(-5)	2.47	2025	43.08
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	09	(-4)	1.52	2025	75.05
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	29	(-5)	0.40	2025	5.48
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	06	(-2)	28.54	2025	58.97
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	13	(+6)	-	-	82.31
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	16	(+5)	-	-	91.81
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	13	(-2)	251	2025	96.24
1.06.01.b	New tariff barriers 2025	20	(+2)	44	2025	85.60
1.06.01.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new tariff barriers (2025)	19	(+7)	0.007	2025	90.32
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	11	(+5)	-	-	79.29
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	10	(+1)	248	2025	93.74
1.06.02.b	New non-tariff barriers 2025	14	(-1)	63	2025	91.24
1.06.02.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new non-tariff barriers (2025)	15	(+4)	0.30	2025	52.39
1.07	Trade liberalization	25	(0)	-	-	16.69
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	28	(+1)	5	2025	2.86
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, Index	21	(0)	-1.25	2023	16.24
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, Index	19	(0)	50.00	2026	42.86
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2025/2023	24	(-1)	0.16	2025	69.26
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	22	(0)	34.50	2025	11.22
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	23	(-1)	-	-	32.94
1.10.01	Country credit rating	21	(0)	21.00	2025	31.58
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	10	(-2)	42.00	2025	80.24
1.11	Trade costs	28	(-3)	-	-	22.81
1.11.01	Logistics performance indicators	28	(-4)	-	-	24.50
1.11.01.a	Aviation import dwell time (days)	26	(NEW)	4.30	2024	50.24
1.11.01.b	Number of aviation partner economies	24	(NEW)	81.5	2024	50.84
1.11.01.c	Container import dwell time (days)	25	(NEW)	8.30	2024	42.72
1.11.01.d	Number of maritime partner economies	26	(NEW)	13.0	2024	26.88
1.11.01.e	Business-to-business postal delivery time (days)	28	(NEW)	16.90	2024	54.70
1.11.01.f	Number of business-to-business postal partner economies	25	(NEW)	55.5	2024	69.29
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	27	(-1)	24	2025	11.76
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	24	(-3)	40.44	2024	24.48
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	15	(-7)	-	-	59.10
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	12	(-4)	0.00	2025	82.46
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	19	(-4)	0.001	2025	27.26
1.13	Export concentration	21	(+3)	-	-	36.65
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	06	(+2)	48.90	2025	82.86
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	29	(0)	92.20	2025	8.84
1.14	Exports of goods and services	22	(0)	-	-	4.01
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$ millions	21	(0)	48,167	2025	6.36
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$ millions	24	(0)	6,965	2025	0.69
1.15	Technological innovation	30	(-1)	-	-	0.00
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	-	-	-	-	-
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	-	-	-	-	-
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	26	(+2)	0.67	2024	0.01
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	-	-	-	-	-
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	25	(0)	48.17	2023	1.40
1.16	Technological infrastructure	26	(+1)	-	-	28.31
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	23	(0)	46.07	2025	10.25
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	28	(-1)	53.42	2024	43.69
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	22	(0)	8.09	2024	16.52
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	24	(-3)	108.08	2024	30.36
1.17	Digital readiness (e-commerce legislations)	26	(NEW)	54.0	2025	24

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)	04	(+2)	30.90	2022	73.53 
2.02	Educational attainment	25	(0)	-	-	11.96 
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	25	(0)	6.79	2023	25.78 
2.02.02	University education Index	15	(+2)	4.58	2026	2.76 
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment	23	(0)	23.73	2024	11.78 
2.03	Labor standards	25	(+1)	-	-	43.52 
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring	24	(0)	50	2024	33.33 
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly	15	(+5)	0.52	2025	53.70 
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	28	(-1)	40.90	2024	18.89 
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	26	(0)	-	-	43.94 
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	24	(0)	-	-	45.57 
2.05.01.a	Goods produced by forced labor, number of goods categories	19	(0)	2	2024	90.47 
2.05.01.b	% population in forced labor	21	(0)	0.71	2023	50.17 
2.05.02	Goods produced by child labor, number of goods categories	26	(0)	15	2024	42.31 
2.06	Government response to human trafficking	13	(0)	-	-	70.81 
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	04	(0)	7	2025	80.00 
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	13	(0)	48.72	2023	55.88 
2.06.03	Government response to human trafficking, Action	10	(0)	2	2025	66.67 
2.07	Trade in goods at risk of modern slavery	10	(0)	-	-	91.84 
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	16	(-5)	8,039	2025	90.36 
2.07.02	Exports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	01	-	0.0	2025	100.00 
2.08	Legatum prosperity index	26	(NEW)	47.87	2023	11.44 
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	20	(-1)	74.67	2023	44.06 
2.10	Uneven economic development	19	(0)	5.80	2024	38.89 
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	26	(-2)	54	2023	36.67 
2.12	Equal distribution of resources index	27	(NEW)	0.16	2025	5.33 

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	(-1)	69.30	2025	0.00
3.02	Deforestation, Index	07	(-1)	0.0089	2024	47.25
3.03	% of wastewater treated	23	(-1)	16.34	2024	9.76
3.04	Energy intensity (Energy use (kg of oil equivalent) per \$1,000 GDP)	02	(+6)	34.91	2023	89.86
3.05	Ecological footprint	02	(-1)	0.91	2025	97.09
3.06	Renewable energy, %	11	(+6)	25.00	2021	39.75
3.07	Environmental standards in trade, count	26	(+1)	-	-	20.00
3.07.01	Convention: Hazardous Wastes	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.07.02	Convention: Prevention of Marine Pollution	01	(+14)	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	23	(0)	0	2025	0.00
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)	27	(0)	0	2025	0.00
3.08	Transfer emissions, million tonnes carbon	08	(-1)	-17.29	2023	56.18
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	01	(0)	0.94	2025	100.00
3.10	Carbon	19	(+2)	-	-	51.78
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	17	(+3)	0	2025	0.00
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita	03	(0)	0.70	2024	99.24

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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