

Sustainable Trade Index **2026**

Brunei

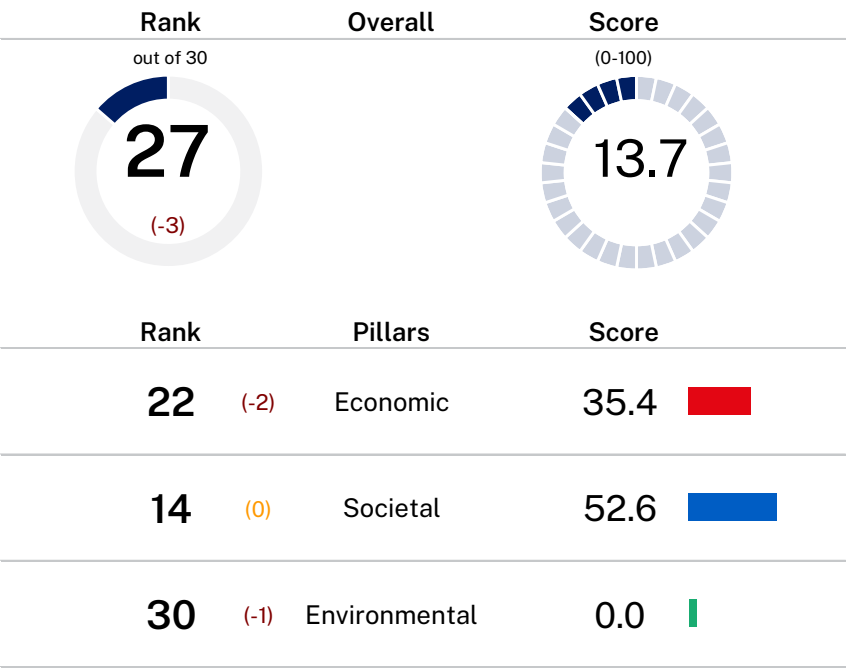


Sustainable Trade Index

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

Brunei



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

Background information

Population, millions (2025)	0.46	Small
Income level, GDP per Capita US\$ (2025)	34,678	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	01	(0)	-0.30	2025	100.00
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	28	(-16)	-0.32	2025	19.35
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	20	(+1)	0.60	2025	51.40
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	27	(-1)	0.41	2025	5.51
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	09	(-1)	26.91	2025	52.96
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	02	(+1)	-	-	98.32
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	06	(+1)	-	-	99.19
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	05	(0)	15	2025	99.78
1.06.01.b	New tariff barriers 2025	01	(0)	0	2025	100.00
1.06.01.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new tariff barriers (2025)	02	(+12)	0.000	2025	94.27
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	02	(+4)	-	-	98.07
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	03	(-1)	4	2025	98.80
1.06.02.b	New non-tariff barriers 2025	01	(0)	0	2025	100.00
1.06.02.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new non-tariff barriers (2025)	02	(+8)	0.05	2025	91.27
1.07	Trade liberalization	17	(-3)	-	-	42.33
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	18	(0)	11	2025	20.00
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, Index	-	-	-	-	-
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, Index	09	(-1)	65.00	2026	64.29
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2025/2023	06	(+2)	0.02	2025	98.48
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	18	(+2)	40.15	2025	13.88
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	01	(0)	-	-	100.00
1.10.01	Country credit rating	-	-	-	-	-
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	01	(0)	1.50	2025	100.00
1.11	Trade costs	22	(-11)	-	-	46.84
1.11.01	Logistics performance indicators	25	(-12)	-	-	36.62
1.11.01.a	Aviation import dwell time (days)	12	(NEW)	1.50	2023	93.85
1.11.01.b	Number of aviation partner economies	28	(NEW)	25.0	2023	0.00
1.11.01.c	Container import dwell time (days)	01	(NEW)	2.00	2024	100.00
1.11.01.d	Number of maritime partner economies	28	(NEW)	10.0	2024	2.17
1.11.01.e	Business-to-business postal delivery time (days)	10	(NEW)	3.20	2024	91.15
1.11.01.f	Number of business-to-business postal partner economies	29	(NEW)	31.0	2024	51.84
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	10	-	63	2025	69.12
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	12	(-1)	67.08	2024	68.96
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	29	(-2)	-	-	5.51
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	27	(+2)	13.70	2025	17.54
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	27	(-24)	0.006	2025	6.80
1.13	Export concentration	30	(0)	-	-	0.00
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	25	(+2)	73.94	2025	33.86
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	30	(0)	97.47	2025	0.00
1.14	Exports of goods and services	30	(0)	-	-	0.00
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$ millions	30	(-1)	10,498	2025	0.00
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$ millions	29	(0)	444	2025	0.04
1.15	Technological innovation	17	(+1)	-	-	11.98
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	-	-	-	-	-
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	15	(0)	0.51	2022	5.06
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	23	(+1)	6.48	2024	0.14
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	29	(-1)	1.06	2024	0.00
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	10	(0)	1,090.22	2023	34.78
1.16	Technological infrastructure	18	(-2)	-	-	55.49
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	20	(-1)	78.20	2025	20.74
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	03	(-2)	96.30	2024	97.83
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	16	(-1)	21.18	2024	44.03
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	17	(-4)	118.13	2024	34.77
1.17	Digital readiness (e-commerce legislations)	20	(NEW)	66.0	2025	48

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	23	(-9)	-	-	25.76	
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	18	(0)	9.28	2023	51.76	
2.02.02	University education Index	23	(-18)	0.00	2026	0.00	
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment	21	(0)	36.42	2023	23.40	
2.03	Labor standards	30	(0)	-	-	0.00	
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring	29	(0)	25	2024	0.00	
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly	-	-	-	-	-	
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	02	(0)	86.44	2024	99.12	
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	01	(0)	-	-	100.00	
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	01	(0)	-	-	100.00	
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	-	-	-	-	-	
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	24	(+5)	-	-	30.97	
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	22	(0)	5	2025	40.00	
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	27	(0)	34.62	2023	23.53	
2.06.03	Government response to human trafficking, Action	23	(+2)	3	2025	33.33	
2.07	Trade in goods at risk of modern slavery	01	(0)	-	-	100.00	
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	01	(0)	71	2025	100.00	
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	-	(NEW)	-	-	-	
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	18	(-1)	75.33	2023	47.44	
2.10	Uneven economic development	26	(0)	6.90	2024	18.52	
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	10	(+3)	84	2023	86.67	
2.12	Equal distribution of resources index	-	(NEW)	-	-	-	

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	05	(-2)	7.57	-	98.16
3.02	Deforestation, Index	27	(0)	0.0019	2024	9.46
3.03	% of wastewater treated	-	-	-	-	-
3.04	Energy intensity (Energy use (kg of oil equivalent) per \$1,000 GDP)	25	(-15)	113.00	2023	20.11
3.05	Ecological footprint	-	-	-	-	-
3.06	Renewable energy, %	30	(0)	0.00	2021	0.00
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	20	(+1)	0.99	2023	49.66
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	29	(0)	76.79	2025	3.41
3.10	Carbon	30	(-2)	-	-	0.00
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	17	(-4)	0	2025	0.00
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita	30	(0)	20.19	2024	0.00

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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