

Sustainable Trade Index **2026**

Canada

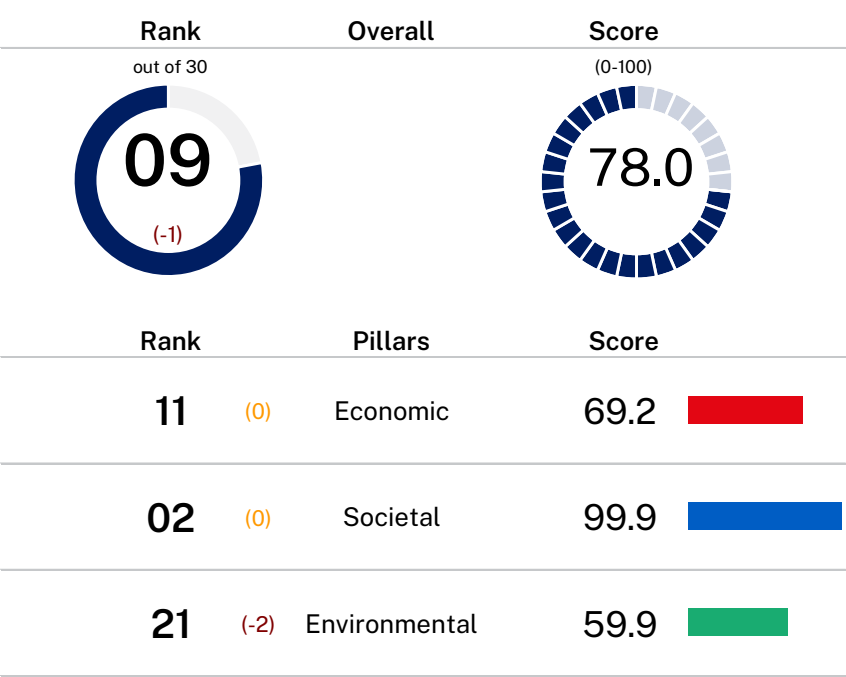


Sustainable Trade Index

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

Canada



The values in parentheses indicate the one year ranking change

Background information

Population, millions (2025)	41.60	Medium
Income level, GDP per Capita US\$ (2025)	55,765	High
Membership	APEC, CPTPP	

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	13	(+2)	2.10	2025	86.39
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	26	(+1)	0.56	2025	26.83
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	19	(-4)	0.65	2025	52.47
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	10	(-1)	2.98	2025	18.92
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	15	(+1)	22.90	2025	38.15
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	25	(0)	-	-	50.44
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	24	(-22)	-	-	71.92
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	20	(-7)	842	2025	87.38
1.06.01.b	New tariff barriers 2025	23	(-6)	97	2025	78.62
1.06.01.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new tariff barriers (2025)	28	(-20)	0.082	2025	47.19
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	25	(+2)	-	-	47.11
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	25	(+3)	17,928	2025	65.29
1.06.02.b	New non-tariff barriers 2025	25	(-1)	1,395	2025	58.76
1.06.02.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new non-tariff barriers (2025)	25	(+1)	0.48	2025	23.01
1.07	Trade liberalization	11	(0)	-	-	67.05
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	14	(0)	15	2025	31.43
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, Index	01	(0)	2.28	2023	100.00
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, Index	10	(-1)	60.00	2026	57.14
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2025/2023	14	(-6)	0.05	2025	91.89
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	-	-	-	-	-
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	09	(-1)	-	-	57.12
1.10.01	Country credit rating	03	(0)	59.00	2025	98.25
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	27	(0)	113.50	2025	45.37
1.11	Trade costs	06	(-4)	-	-	88.75
1.11.01	Logistics performance indicators	06	(-4)	-	-	86.74
1.11.01.a	Aviation import dwell time (days)	08	(NEW)	1.10	2024	96.11
1.11.01.b	Number of aviation partner economies	03	(NEW)	154.0	2024	93.52
1.11.01.c	Container import dwell time (days)	15	(NEW)	5.00	2024	67.91
1.11.01.d	Number of maritime partner economies	14	(NEW)	46.0	2024	80.84
1.11.01.e	Business-to-business postal delivery time (days)	12	(NEW)	3.70	2024	89.03
1.11.01.f	Number of business-to-business postal partner economies	03	(NEW)	153.0	2024	94.88
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	05	(-1)	75	2025	86.76
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	04	(+1)	82.11	2024	94.06
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	09	(0)	-	-	65.95
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	08	(+4)	-0.90	2025	86.73
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	09	(+7)	0.000	2025	33.90
1.13	Export concentration	19	(-2)	-	-	38.94
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	28	(+1)	86.00	2025	10.24
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	05	(+1)	46.78	2025	85.07
1.14	Exports of goods and services	09	(-1)	-	-	29.73
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$ millions	10	(-3)	554,676	2025	34.91
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$ millions	07	(0)	170,927	2025	17.08
1.15	Technological innovation	08	(+1)	-	-	45.66
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	08	(+1)	1.79	2024	35.98
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	05	(0)	5.62	2022	59.26
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	08	(0)	585.68	2024	13.56
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	16	(-1)	16.78	2024	21.09
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	04	(+1)	1,589.82	2023	50.78
1.16	Technological infrastructure	06	(-2)	-	-	78.31
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	05	(-2)	228.76	2025	69.93
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	11	(-1)	94.35	2024	95.37
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	03	(0)	42.52	2024	88.91
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	26	(0)	94.11	2024	24.24
1.17	Digital readiness (e-commerce legislations)	02	(NEW)	89.0	2025	94

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)	03	(-1)	30.60	2023	75.00
2.02	Educational attainment	06	(-1)	-	-	68.04
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	02	(0)	13.87	2023	99.58
2.02.02	University education Index	06	(0)	37.37	2026	22.50
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment	11	(-2)	76.27	2023	59.88
2.03	Labor standards	04	(0)	-	-	93.17
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring	01	(0)	100	2024	100.00
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly	05	(0)	0.76	2025	86.33
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	09	(-3)	76.12	2024	80.93
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	06	(0)	-	-	98.65
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	06	(0)	-	-	97.30
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	06	(0)	0.18	2023	94.19
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	04	(0)	-	-	93.35
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	04	(0)	7	2025	80.00
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	04	(0)	60.26	2023	82.35
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	16	(-2)	-	-	86.12
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	23	(-6)	13,620	2025	83.60
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	03	(NEW)	79.62	2023	97.69
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	06	(0)	82.63	2023	85.13
2.10	Uneven economic development	01	(0)	2.50	2024	100.00
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	01	(0)	92	2023	100.00
2.12	Equal distribution of resources index	10	(NEW)	0.83	2025	82.85

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	02	(0)	6.55	2025	99.78	
3.02	Deforestation, Index	05	(+9)	0.0095	2024	50.04	
3.03	% of wastewater treated	11	(0)	68.30	2024	65.80	
3.04	Energy intensity (Energy use (kg of oil equivalent) per \$1,000 GDP)	27	(-14)	126.19	2024	8.33	
3.05	Ecological footprint	21	(+5)	6.62	2025	6.81	
3.06	Renewable energy, %	14	(+1)	23.80	2021	37.84	
3.07	Environmental standards in trade, count	01	(+9)	-	-	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	(+29)	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	23	(0)	6.97	2023	47.53	
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	23	(0)	43.61	2025	45.66	
3.10	Carbon	15	(+2)	-	-	66.31	
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00	
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita	29	(0)	14.87	2024	27.08	

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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