

Sustainable Trade Index **2026**

Ecuador

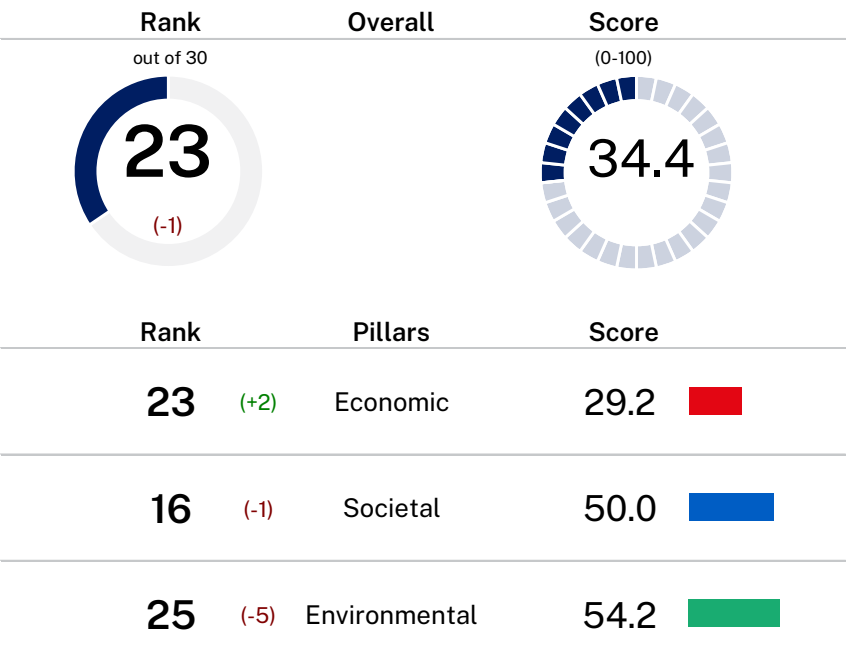


Sustainable Trade Index

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

Ecuador



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

Background information

Population, millions (2025)	18.10	Medium
Income level, GDP per Capita US\$ (2025)	7,199	Medium
Membership	CPTPP (applicant)	

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	04	(+3)	0.70	2025	94.33
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	14	(+16)	2.94	2025	47.12
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	08	(+1)	1.53	2025	75.19
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	21	(+6)	1.00	2025	8.57
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	24	(0)	19.94	2025	27.19
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	07	(+11)	-	-	91.28
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	10	(+14)	-	-	97.44
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	16	(+1)	361	2025	94.59
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	(+27)	0.000	2025	94.27
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	06	(-3)	-	-	88.31
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	08	(+4)	216	2025	94.07
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)	08	(-4)	0.20	2025	68.60
1.07	Trade liberalization	21	(0)	-	-	31.32
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	24	(0)	9	2025	14.29
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, Index	12	(0)	1.02	2023	70.17
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, Index	24	(0)	30.00	2026	14.29
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2025/2023	03	(-1)	0.01	2025	99.15
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	14	(+1)	58.87	2025	22.72
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	28	(-3)	-	-	11.53
1.10.01	Country credit rating	27	(-3)	8.40	2025	9.47
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	15	(0)	54.40	2025	74.20
1.11	Trade costs	27	(-3)	-	-	26.22
1.11.01	Logistics performance indicators	27	-	-	-	26.50
1.11.01.a	Aviation import dwell time (days)	25	(NEW)	3.20	2024	71.44
1.11.01.b	Number of aviation partner economies	22	(NEW)	88.0	2024	55.29
1.11.01.c	Container import dwell time (days)	23	(NEW)	7.80	2024	46.16
1.11.01.d	Number of maritime partner economies	20	(NEW)	36.0	2024	73.77
1.11.01.e	Business-to-business postal delivery time (days)	30	(NEW)	57.70	2024	0.00
1.11.01.f	Number of business-to-business postal partner economies	28	(NEW)	34.5	2024	55.34
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	20	(0)	33	2025	25.00
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	25	(+3)	40.36	2024	24.33
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	25	(0)	-	-	40.46
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	22	(+2)	5.80	2025	54.98
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	22	(+6)	0.002	2025	25.04
1.13	Export concentration	25	(0)	-	-	27.45
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	15	(0)	61.31	2025	58.56
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	28	(0)	86.37	2025	18.62
1.14	Exports of goods and services	23	(+1)	-	-	3.01
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$ millions	23	(0)	37,152	2025	4.91
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$ millions	26	(0)	4,019	2025	0.40
1.15	Technological innovation	21	(+2)	-	-	6.93
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	24	(-1)	3.71	2024	0.08
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	19	(+4)	10.00	2024	11.99
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	17	(0)	196.87	2023	6.16
1.16	Technological infrastructure	20	(0)	-	-	47.93
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	17	(+1)	117.46	2025	33.57
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	20	(0)	77.17	2024	73.68
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	17	(0)	17.25	2024	35.77
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	25	(0)	101.60	2024	27.52
1.17	Digital readiness (e-commerce legislations)	22	(NEW)	65.0	2025	46

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)	24	(-4)	45.90	2025	0.00
2.02	Educational attainment	15	(+1)	-	-	36.12
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	21	(0)	8.97	2023	48.50
2.02.02	University education Index	21	(+1)	1.04	2026	0.63
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment	12	(+1)	67.89	2023	52.21
2.03	Labor standards	10	(-1)	-	-	79.78
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring	01	(0)	100	2024	100.00
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly	13	(-2)	0.57	2025	59.56
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	24	(-6)	53.58	2024	41.22
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	20	(0)	-	-	64.71
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	19	(0)	-	-	60.19
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	23	(0)	0.77	2023	45.15
2.05.02	Goods produced by child labor, number of goods categories	21	(0)	8	2024	69.23
2.06	Government response to human trafficking	12	(0)	-	-	73.02
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	04	(0)	7	2025	80.00
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	11	(0)	51.28	2023	61.76
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	04	(+1)	-	-	99.70
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	04	(+1)	361	2025	99.65
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	21	(NEW)	57.42	2023	37.38
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	15	(-1)	77.39	2023	58.10
2.10	Uneven economic development	22	(0)	6.00	2024	35.19
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	16	(-2)	78	2023	76.67
2.12	Equal distribution of resources index	19	(NEW)	0.32	2025	24.22

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	14	(0)	18.60	2025	80.62
3.02	Deforestation, Index	24	(+1)	0.0025	2024	12.68
3.03	% of wastewater treated	20	-	31.11	2020	25.69
3.04	Energy intensity (Energy use (kg of oil equivalent) per \$1,000 GDP)	09	(+8)	66.18	2023	61.93
3.05	Ecological footprint	-	-	-	-	-
3.06	Renewable energy, %	17	(-1)	18.90	2021	30.05
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	(+14)	2	-	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	19	(-2)	-1.17	2023	50.43
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	24	(-2)	45.25	2025	43.57
3.10	Carbon	25	(0)	-	-	46.67
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	17	(+3)	0	2025	0.00
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita	10	(+1)	2.63	2024	89.44

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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