

Sustainable Trade Index **2026**

Hong Kong SAR

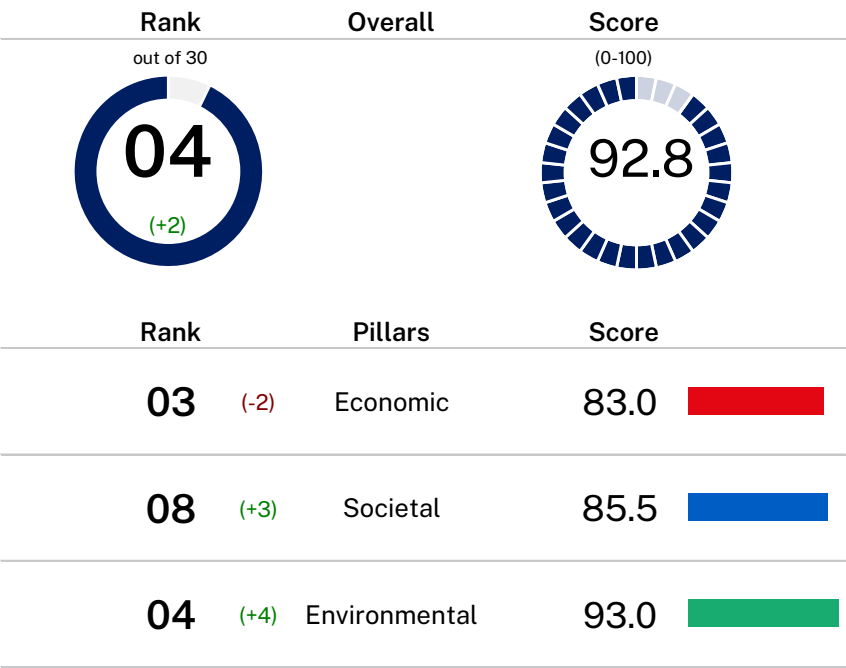


Sustainable Trade Index

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

Hong Kong, SAR



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

Background information

Population, millions (2025)	7.51	Small
Income level, GDP per Capita US\$ (2025)	56,893	High
Membership	APEC	

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

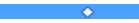
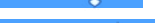
1 Economic Pillar		Rank	Rank +/-	Value	Year	Score and 30 country average
1.01	Consumer price inflation	07	(+1)	1.40	2025	90.36
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	12	(+2)	3.35	2025	50.58
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	29	(0)	-0.66	2025	18.84
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	01	(0)	30.81	2025	100.00
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	26	(0)	16.94	2025	16.12
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	15	(-7)	-	-	79.23
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	02	(+8)	-	-	99.27
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	01	(0)	0	2025	100.00
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	(+16)	0.000	2025	94.27
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	19	(-9)	-	-	66.80
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	07	(-1)	107	2025	95.53
1.06.02.b	New non-tariff barriers 2025	10	(-9)	15	2025	95.72
1.06.02.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new non-tariff barriers (2025)	27	(-12)	0.56	2025	11.05
1.07	Trade liberalization	12	(0)	-	-	58.52
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	26	(0)	8	2025	11.43
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, Index	01	(0)	2.28	2023	100.00
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, Index	-	-	-	-	-
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2025/2023	01	(+1)	0.01	2025	100.00
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	01	(0)	222.65	2025	100.00
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	02	(0)	-	-	86.36
1.10.01	Country credit rating	08	(0)	52.67	2025	87.14
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	02	(0)	11.90	2025	94.93
1.11	Trade costs	05	(-1)	-	-	90.44
1.11.01	Logistics performance indicators	04	(-2)	-	-	92.15
1.11.01.a	Aviation import dwell time (days)	02	(NEW)	0.60	2024	98.63
1.11.01.b	Number of aviation partner economies	05	(NEW)	143.0	2024	87.83
1.11.01.c	Container import dwell time (days)	07	(NEW)	3.40	2024	83.22
1.11.01.d	Number of maritime partner economies	09	(NEW)	62.0	2024	88.82
1.11.01.e	Business-to-business postal delivery time (days)	02	(NEW)	1.80	2024	98.17
1.11.01.f	Number of business-to-business postal partner economies	13	(NEW)	103.5	2024	85.40
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	03	(+2)	76	2025	88.24
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	10	(-2)	72.82	2024	78.54
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	28	(-18)	-	-	21.17
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	26	(0)	12.20	2025	24.64
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	-	-	-	2023	-
1.13	Export concentration	29	(0)	-	-	13.09
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	27	(-1)	75.52	2025	30.75
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	27	(-1)	83.31	2025	23.76
1.14	Exports of goods and services	08	(+1)	-	-	30.46
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$ millions	03	(+2)	753,582	2025	41.62
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$ millions	09	(0)	116,538	2025	11.64
1.15	Technological innovation	04	(0)	-	-	74.67
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	11	(+1)	1.13	2024	22.56
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	04	(+2)	5.87	2024	61.90
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	11	(0)	377.59	2024	8.74
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	01	(0)	75.57	2024	100.00
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	01	(0)	3,126.27	2025	100.00
1.16	Technological infrastructure	01	(0)	-	-	100.00
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	04	(+5)	241.76	2025	74.18
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	05	(+2)	95.76	2024	97.14
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	05	(0)	40.27	2024	84.17
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	01	(0)	364.85	2024	100.00
1.17	Digital readiness (e-commerce legislations)	17	(NEW)	70.0	2025	56

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	05	(+1)	-	-	71.96 
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	10	(0)	12.35	2023	83.74 
2.02.02	University education Index	13	(-3)	13.50	2026	8.13 
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment	01	(+2)	120.09	2024	100.00 
2.03	Labor standards	01	(0)	-	-	100.00 
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring	01	(0)	100	2024	100.00 
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly	-	-	-	-	- 
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	08	(+1)	76.67	2024	81.92 
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	09	(0)	-	-	96.74 
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	09	(0)	-	-	93.49 
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	08	(0)	0.28	2023	86.00 
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	29	(-1)	-	-	23.28 
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	-	-	-	-	- 
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	28	(0)	32.05	2023	17.65 
2.06.03	Government response to human trafficking, Action	23	(0)	3	2025	33.33 
2.07	Trade in goods at risk of modern slavery	23	(+5)	-	-	68.51 
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	29	(0)	30,802	2025	62.80 
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	09	(NEW)	76.90	2023	90.30 
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	01	(0)	85.51	2023	100.00 
2.10	Uneven economic development	-	-	-	-	- 
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	-	-	-	-	- 
2.12	Equal distribution of resources index	06	(NEW)	0.87	2025	88.53 

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	-	-	-	-	-
3.02	Deforestation, Index	-	-	-	-	-
3.03	% of wastewater treated	07	(0)	93.20	2024	92.66
3.04	Energy intensity (Energy use (kg of oil equivalent) per \$1,000 GDP)	01	(0)	23.56	2023	100.00
3.05	Ecological footprint	-	-	-	-	-
3.06	Renewable energy, %	29	(-1)	0.40	2021	0.64
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	2022	100.00
3.07.05	The International Timber Agreement	01	(0)	2	2022	100.00
3.07.06	Convention: International Trade in Endangered Species	01	(0)	2	2022	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	06	(0)	-30.35	2023	60.84
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	14	(-1)	15.84	2025	81.04
3.10	Carbon	27	(0)	-	-	41.74
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	17	(+3)	0	2025	0.00
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita	18	(0)	4.48	2024	80.00

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.

hinrichfoundation.com | STI 2026

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.

imd.org/wcc | STI 2026