

Sustainable Trade Index **2026**

India

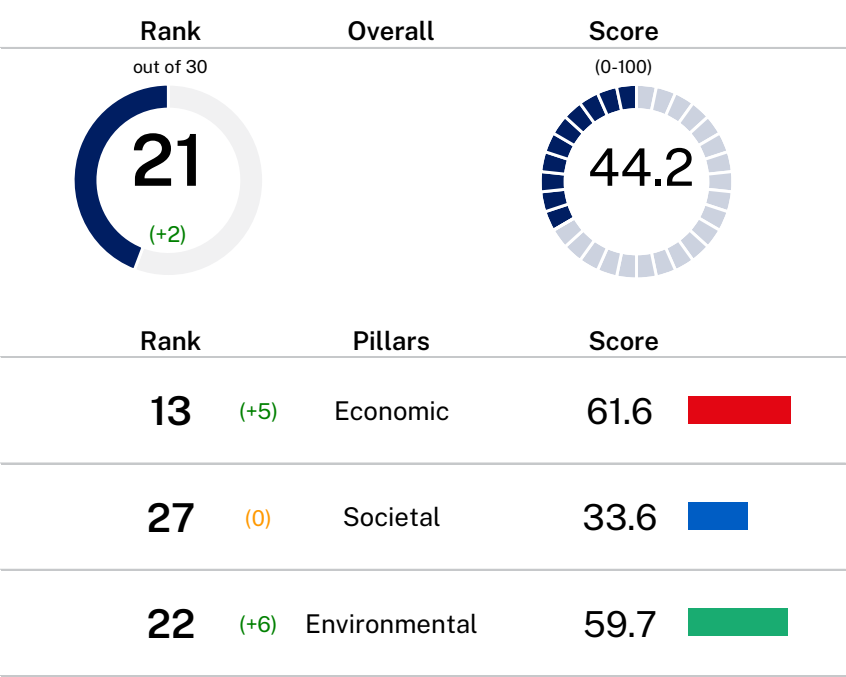


Sustainable Trade Index

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

India



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

Background information

Population, millions (2025)	1,463.87	Large
Income level, GDP per Capita US\$ (2025)	2,675	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	13	(+11)	2.10	2025	86.39
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	03	(-1)	6.67	2025	78.87
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	10	(-9)	1.50	2025	74.48
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	22	(-1)	0.99	2025	8.53
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	02	(+4)	31.68	2025	70.56
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	26	(+3)	-	-	43.96
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	26	(+3)	-	-	65.23
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	27	(+2)	3,945	2025	40.88
1.06.01.b	New tariff barriers 2025	26	(+4)	147	2025	73.68
1.06.01.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new tariff barriers (2025)	23	(+5)	0.027	2025	78.81
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	27	(+1)	-	-	43.21
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	28	(-2)	37,511	2025	53.37
1.06.02.b	New non-tariff barriers 2025	28	(0)	4,252	2025	28.00
1.06.02.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new non-tariff barriers (2025)	13	(+16)	0.28	2025	54.74
1.07	Trade liberalization	22	(+1)	-	-	28.05
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	08	(0)	20	2025	45.71
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, Index	21	(0)	-1.25	2023	16.24
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, Index	22	(0)	40.00	2026	28.57
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2025/2023	17	(-1)	0.07	2025	87.92
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	17	(0)	44.03	2025	15.71
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	20	(+1)	-	-	43.74
1.10.01	Country credit rating	14	(+5)	40.80	2025	66.32
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	23	(-1)	84.10	2025	59.71
1.11	Trade costs	13	(+3)	-	-	70.64
1.11.01	Logistics performance indicators	10	(+5)	-	-	81.74
1.11.01.a	Aviation import dwell time (days)	13	(NEW)	1.80	2024	91.97
1.11.01.b	Number of aviation partner economies	06	(NEW)	140.5	2024	86.50
1.11.01.c	Container import dwell time (days)	14	(NEW)	4.70	2024	70.57
1.11.01.d	Number of maritime partner economies	07	(NEW)	64.0	2024	89.64
1.11.01.e	Business-to-business postal delivery time (days)	22	(NEW)	7.90	2024	75.11
1.11.01.f	Number of business-to-business postal partner economies	07	(NEW)	126.0	2024	90.21
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	16	(-1)	39	2025	33.82
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	14	(+1)	56.29	2024	50.94
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	11	(-7)	-	-	63.98
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	08	(+2)	-0.90	2025	86.73
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	13	(-8)	0.001	2025	30.76
1.13	Export concentration	03	(-2)	-	-	91.32
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	07	(-5)	51.08	2025	78.59
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	02	(-1)	38.25	2025	99.40
1.14	Exports of goods and services	05	(0)	-	-	41.09
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$ millions	12	(-1)	445,278	2025	30.70
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$ millions	05	(0)	411,648	2025	41.13
1.15	Technological innovation	18	(+2)	-	-	10.67
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	15	(0)	0.65	2020	12.80
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	21	(-2)	0.26	2020	2.45
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	13	(+1)	52.70	2024	1.21
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	14	(+2)	18.57	2024	23.50
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	18	(+1)	158.67	2023	4.94
1.16	Technological infrastructure	25	(0)	-	-	29.28
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	22	(-2)	62.92	2025	15.75
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	22	(+3)	70.00	2025	64.62
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	26	(+1)	3.15	2024	6.13
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	27	(0)	79.35	2024	17.78
1.17	Digital readiness (e-commerce legislations)	04	(NEW)	87.0	2025	90

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)	01	(0)	25.50	2022	100.00
2.02	Educational attainment	24	(0)	-	-	25.73
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	24	(0)	6.88	2023	26.72
2.02.02	University education Index	05	(+2)	44.49	2026	26.79
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment	22	(0)	34.45	2025	21.60
2.03	Labor standards	15	(0)	-	-	71.90
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring	01	(0)	100	2024	100.00
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly	19	(-1)	0.45	2025	43.80
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	26	(0)	52.47	2024	39.27
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	30	(0)	-	-	0.00
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	30	(0)	-	-	0.00
2.05.01.a	Goods produced by forced labor, number of goods categories	27	(0)	12	2024	42.79
2.05.01.b	% population in forced labor	25	(0)	0.80	2023	42.15
2.05.02	Goods produced by child labor, number of goods categories	29	(0)	26	2024	0.00
2.06	Government response to human trafficking	17	(+2)	-	-	61.05
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	15	(0)	6	2025	60.00
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	18	(0)	46.15	2023	50.00
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	28	(-1)	-	-	19.60
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	27	(-2)	26,869	2025	67.56
2.07.02	Exports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	29	(-3)	75131.8	2025	37.45
2.08	Legatum prosperity index	23	(NEW)	53.66	2023	27.17
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	23	(-1)	72.00	2023	30.29
2.10	Uneven economic development	18	(0)	5.70	2024	40.74
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	19	(+1)	69	2023	61.67
2.12	Equal distribution of resources index	21	(NEW)	0.31	2025	23.64

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	27	(+3)	54.10	2025	24.17
3.02	Deforestation, Index	17	(+3)	0.0039	2024	20.17
3.03	% of wastewater treated	21	(-1)	28.83	2024	23.24
3.04	Energy intensity (Energy use (kg of oil equivalent) per \$1,000 GDP)	18	(+7)	82.05	2023	47.76
3.05	Ecological footprint	05	(-1)	1.13	2025	93.56
3.06	Renewable energy, %	07	(+3)	34.90	2021	55.48
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	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	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	27	(-1)	141.80	2023	6.54
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	21	(-1)	35.31	2025	56.23
3.10	Carbon	01	(+12)	-	-	100.00
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	01	(+12)	2	2025	100.00
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita	09	(0)	2.19	2024	91.66

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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