

Sustainable Trade Index **2026**

Taiwan

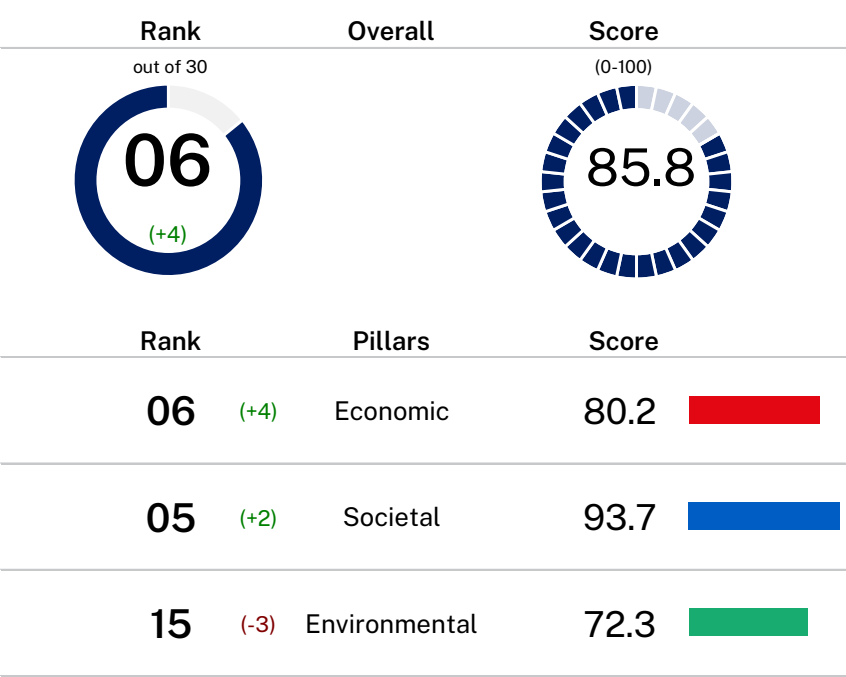


Sustainable Trade Index

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

Taiwan



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

Background information

Population, millions (2025)	23.30	Medium
Income level, GDP per Capita US\$ (2025)	39,489	High
Membership	APEC, 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

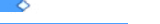
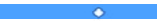
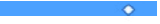
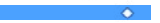
1 Economic Pillar		Rank	Rank +/-	Value	Year	Score and 30 country average
1.01	Consumer price inflation	10	(0)	1.70	2025	88.65
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	01	(+5)	9.15	2025	100.00
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	24	(0)	0.22	2025	41.60
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	17	(-1)	1.37	2024	10.52
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	10	(0)	25.67	2024	48.36
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	01	(+9)	-	-	100.00
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	01	(+12)	-	-	100.00
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	12	(+2)	237	2024	96.45
1.06.01.b	New tariff barriers 2025	01	(0)	0	2024	100.00
1.06.01.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new tariff barriers (2025)	01	(+14)	-0.010	2023	100.00
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	01	(+10)	-	-	100.00
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	06	(+2)	38	2024	97.04
1.06.02.b	New non-tariff barriers 2025	09	(+3)	2	2024	98.44
1.06.02.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new non-tariff barriers (2025)	01	(+12)	0.00	2023	100.00
1.07	Trade liberalization	20	(0)	-	-	34.66
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	30	(0)	4	2025	0.00
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, Index	-	-	-	-	-
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, Index	05	(-1)	70.00	2026	71.43
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2025/2023	04	(+15)	0.01	2025	98.93
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	-	-	-	-	-
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	03	(0)	-	-	84.24
1.10.01	Country credit rating	06	(0)	54.00	2025	89.47
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	04	(0)	22.40	2025	89.80
1.11	Trade costs	10	(-3)	-	-	79.93
1.11.01	Logistics performance indicators	14	(-10)	-	-	77.53
1.11.01.a	Aviation import dwell time (days)	11	(NEW)	1.40	2024	94.44
1.11.01.b	Number of aviation partner economies	13	(NEW)	116.0	2024	72.83
1.11.01.c	Container import dwell time (days)	17	(NEW)	5.30	2024	65.32
1.11.01.d	Number of maritime partner economies	10	(NEW)	61.0	2024	88.40
1.11.01.e	Business-to-business postal delivery time (days)	03	(NEW)	1.90	2024	97.59
1.11.01.f	Number of business-to-business postal partner economies	24	(NEW)	57.0	2024	70.02
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	08	(0)	68	2025	76.47
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	06	(+3)	79.13	2024	89.10
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	26	(+2)	-	-	25.62
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	30	(-2)	17.40	2025	0.00
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	03	(+3)	-0.004	2025	56.38
1.13	Export concentration	20	(-1)	-	-	37.23
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	22	(+1)	67.88	2025	45.72
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	21	(-4)	69.52	2025	46.90
1.14	Exports of goods and services	11	(0)	-	-	25.34
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$ millions	07	(+3)	640,975	2025	37.95
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$ millions	14	(-1)	63,788	2025	6.37
1.15	Technological innovation	02	(0)	-	-	92.00
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	02	(0)	4.08	2024	82.52
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	03	(-2)	7.70	2024	81.24
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	03	(0)	3,088.63	2025	71.54
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	02	-	65.95	2024	87.09
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	09	(-1)	1,191.43	2023	38.02
1.16	Technological infrastructure	11	(+3)	-	-	73.41
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	06	(+1)	221.84	2025	67.67
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	14	-	91.50	2022	91.77
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	10	(0)	31.33	2025	65.37
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	16	(-4)	121.46	2025	36.23
1.17	Digital readiness (e-commerce legislations)	-	(NEW)	-	-	-

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)	02	(+9)	27.70	2024	89.22 
2.02	Educational attainment	07	(0)	-	-	64.70 
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	07	(0)	12.70	2023	87.39 
2.02.02	University education Index	10	(+1)	16.15	2026	9.72 
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment	06	(0)	94.35	2024	76.44 
2.03	Labor standards	02	(+1)	-	-	94.82 
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring	01	(0)	100	2024	100.00 
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly	03	(0)	0.78	2025	89.64 
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	05	(+3)	81.55	2024	90.51 
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	08	(0)	-	-	97.83 
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	08	(0)	-	-	95.66 
2.05.01.a	Goods produced by forced labor, number of goods categories	16	(0)	1	2024	95.23 
2.05.01.b	% population in forced labor	04	(0)	0.17	2023	95.44 
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	09	(0)	-	-	80.75 
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	-	-	-	-	- 
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	17	(0)	47.30	2023	52.62 
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	20	(-3)	-	-	76.59 
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	15	(+3)	7,612	2025	90.87 
2.07.02	Exports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	22	(-1)	1301.8	2025	81.47 
2.08	Legatum prosperity index	08	(NEW)	77.36	2023	91.55 
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	10	-	80.86	2024	76.00 
2.10	Uneven economic development	-	-	-	-	- 
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	-	-	-	-	- 
2.12	Equal distribution of resources index	02	(NEW)	0.96	2025	98.96 

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	12	(+1)	16.30	2025	84.27
3.02	Deforestation, Index	28	(+1)	0.0009	2024	3.98
3.03	% of wastewater treated	-	-	-	-	-
3.04	Energy intensity (Energy use (kg of oil equivalent) per \$1,000 GDP)	-	-	-	-	-
3.05	Ecological footprint	-	-	-	-	-
3.06	Renewable energy, %	25	(+2)	4.29	2025	6.82
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	12	(+4)	-7.55	2023	52.71
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	08	(-1)	10.86	2025	87.37
3.10	Carbon	12	(0)	-	-	74.78
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	01	(0)	2	2025	100.00
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita	25	(0)	11.68	2024	43.32

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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