

Sustainable Trade Index **2026**

Thailand

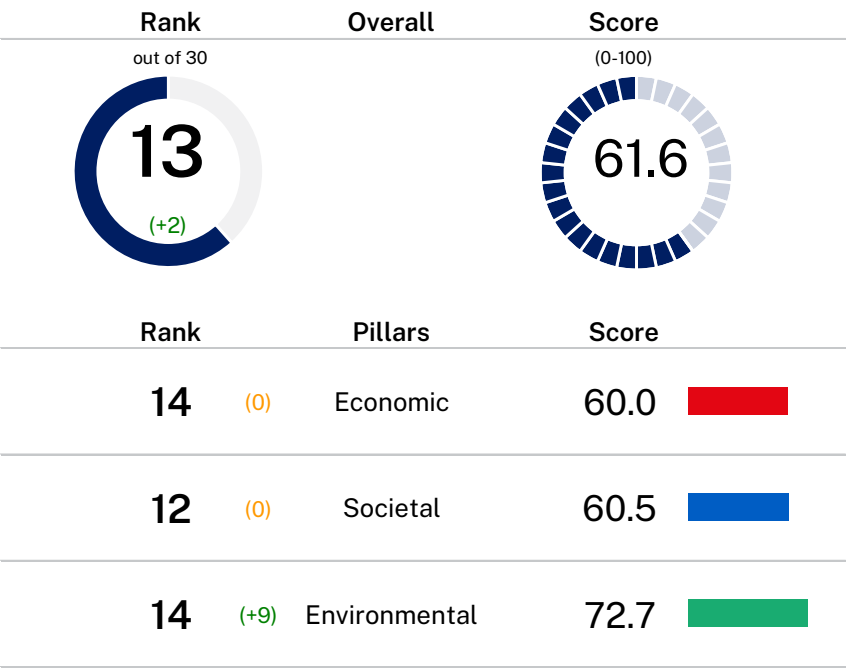


Sustainable Trade Index

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

Thailand



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

Background information

Population, millions (2025)	71.62	Large
Income level, GDP per Capita US\$ (2025)	8,057	Medium
Membership	APEC, RCEP	

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	02	(+1)	-0.10	2025	98.87
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	15	(0)	2.48	2025	43.21
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	28	(0)	-0.35	2025	26.82
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	08	(+4)	3.27	2025	20.43
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	17	(0)	22.66	2025	37.26
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	18	(-3)	-	-	75.12
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	17	(-13)	-	-	91.66
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	15	(0)	314	2025	95.29
1.06.01.b	New tariff barriers 2025	19	(-18)	42	2025	85.93
1.06.01.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new tariff barriers (2025)	18	(-9)	0.007	2025	90.49
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	18	(+2)	-	-	67.69
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	18	(-1)	1,649	2025	86.64
1.06.02.b	New non-tariff barriers 2025	20	(0)	229	2025	83.29
1.06.02.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new non-tariff barriers (2025)	19	(+9)	0.41	2025	34.88
1.07	Trade liberalization	18	(-1)	-	-	41.06
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	14	(0)	15	2025	31.43
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, Index	16	(0)	-0.17	2023	41.81
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, Index	18	(0)	55.00	2026	50.00
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2025/2023	11	(-10)	0.04	2025	92.63
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	07	(-1)	143.08	2025	62.46
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	16	(0)	-	-	48.10
1.10.01	Country credit rating	15	(-1)	38.67	2025	62.58
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	19	(0)	64.70	2025	69.17
1.11	Trade costs	14	(+1)	-	-	68.00
1.11.01	Logistics performance indicators	11	(+2)	-	-	80.99
1.11.01.a	Aviation import dwell time (days)	16	(NEW)	1.90	2024	91.30
1.11.01.b	Number of aviation partner economies	10	(NEW)	122.5	2024	76.59
1.11.01.c	Container import dwell time (days)	10	(NEW)	4.00	2024	77.12
1.11.01.d	Number of maritime partner economies	18	(NEW)	38.0	2024	75.38
1.11.01.e	Business-to-business postal delivery time (days)	06	(NEW)	2.20	2024	95.94
1.11.01.f	Number of business-to-business postal partner economies	14	(NEW)	101.5	2024	84.92
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	20	(-3)	33	2025	25.00
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	16	(-2)	53.26	2024	45.88
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	23	(0)	-	-	41.62
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	18	(-1)	3.10	2025	67.77
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	25	(+2)	0.004	2025	14.09
1.13	Export concentration	06	(-3)	-	-	78.35
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	13	(-8)	57.23	2025	66.56
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	03	(0)	43.27	2025	90.97
1.14	Exports of goods and services	16	(-2)	-	-	19.23
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$ millions	15	(+1)	339,635	2025	26.11
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$ millions	11	(0)	75,389	2025	7.53
1.15	Technological innovation	15	(0)	-	-	19.62
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	13	(-2)	0.94	2023	18.70
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	11	(-1)	1.59	2023	16.56
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	16	(0)	21.67	2024	0.49
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	09	(0)	28.31	2024	36.56
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	16	(0)	232.30	2023	7.30
1.16	Technological infrastructure	14	(-3)	-	-	66.79
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	09	(-3)	205.60	2025	62.36
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	15	(-2)	90.87	2024	90.97
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	18	(0)	14.89	2024	30.81
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	06	(-1)	160.64	2024	53.39
1.17	Digital readiness (e-commerce legislations)	08	(NEW)	84.0	2025	84

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)	10	(-3)	33.30	2024	61.76
2.02	Educational attainment	19	(+1)	-	-	30.07
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	19	(0)	9.04	2023	49.23
2.02.02	University education Index	18	(+1)	3.06	2026	1.84
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment	15	(+1)	49.08	2025	34.99
2.03	Labor standards	17	(+1)	-	-	67.31
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring	01	(0)	100	2024	100.00
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly	21	(0)	0.39	2025	34.61
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	22	(-5)	54.22	2024	42.35
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	16	(0)	-	-	79.20
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	14	(0)	-	-	69.95
2.05.01.a	Goods produced by forced labor, number of goods categories	21	(0)	3	2024	85.70
2.05.01.b	% population in forced labor	16	(0)	0.57	2023	61.21
2.05.02	Goods produced by child labor, number of goods categories	17	(0)	3	2024	88.46
2.06	Government response to human trafficking	10	(0)	-	-	76.35
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	04	(0)	7	2025	80.00
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	06	(0)	55.13	2023	70.59
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	22	(-6)	-	-	68.52
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	11	(+4)	5,045	2024	93.98
2.07.02	Exports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	24	(-1)	7370.9	2025	68.83
2.08	Legatum prosperity index	16	(NEW)	60.79	2023	46.54
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	17	(-1)	76.41	2023	53.04
2.10	Uneven economic development	11	(0)	4.00	2024	72.22
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	12	(-3)	82	2023	83.33
2.12	Equal distribution of resources index	14	(NEW)	0.60	2025	56.89

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	21	(+4)	23.50	2025	72.83
3.02	Deforestation, Index	14	(-2)	0.0064	2024	33.55
3.03	% of wastewater treated	19	(0)	33.69	2024	28.47
3.04	Energy intensity (Energy use (kg of oil equivalent) per \$1,000 GDP)	21	(+3)	87.36	2023	43.01
3.05	Ecological footprint	12	(+1)	2.46	2025	72.52
3.06	Renewable energy, %	16	(-2)	19.00	2021	30.21
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	10	(+3)	-11.14	2023	53.99
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	11	(-1)	13.57	2025	83.92
3.10	Carbon	13	(+2)	-	-	68.91
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	15	(-2)	1	2025	50.00
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita	14	(+1)	4.07	2024	82.07

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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