

Sustainable Trade Index **2026**

United States

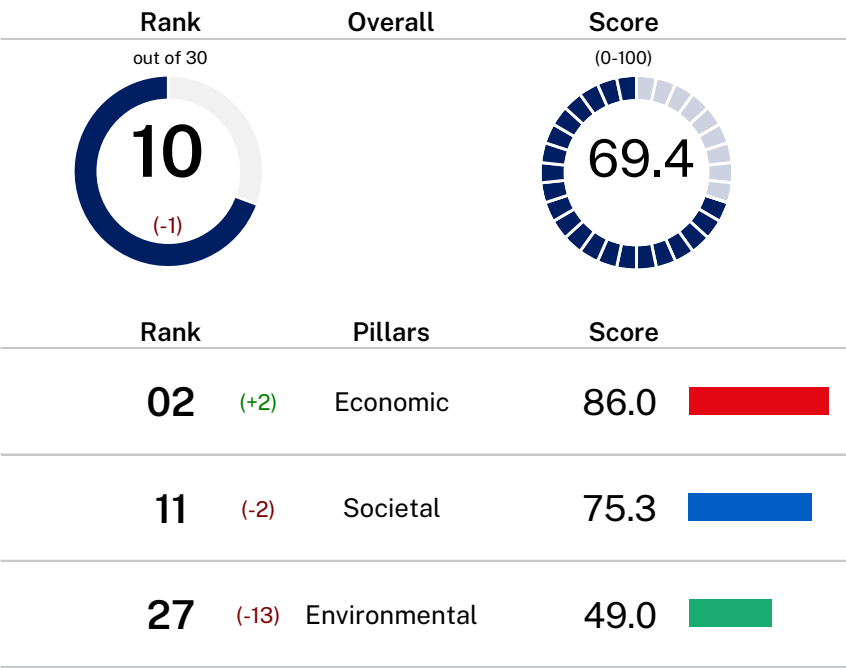


Sustainable Trade Index

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

United States



The values in parentheses indicate the one year ranking change

Background information

Population, millions (2025)	341.89	Large
Income level, GDP per Capita US\$ (2025)	89,991	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	17	(+2)	2.70	2025	82.98
1.02	Real GDP Growth per capita, % GDP	21	(-1)	1.55	2025	35.27
1.03	Growth in labor force, %	23	(-1)	0.36	2025	45.04
1.04	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, % GDP	19	(-2)	1.30	2025	10.17
1.05	Gross fixed capital formation, % GDP	20	(0)	21.35	2024	32.41
1.06	Tariff & non-tariff barriers	30	(0)	-	-	0.00
1.06.01	Tariff barriers	30	(0)	-	-	0.00
1.06.01.a	Tariff barriers in force	30	(0)	9,882	2025	0.00
1.06.01.b	New tariff barriers 2025	30	(-1)	2,122	2025	0.00
1.06.01.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new tariff barriers (2025)	30	(-5)	0.590	2025	0.00
1.06.02	Non-tariff barriers	29	(+1)	-	-	36.63
1.06.02.a	Non-tariff barriers in force	29	(0)	168,312	2025	14.99
1.06.02.b	New non-tariff barriers 2025	29	(+1)	4,647	2025	24.73
1.06.02.c	Net percentage of imports affected by new non-tariff barriers (2025)	05	(+2)	0.14	2025	77.92
1.07	Trade liberalization	04	(+3)	-	-	77.27
1.07.01	Regional Trade Agreements, number in force	17	(0)	14	2025	28.57
1.07.02	Capital account liberalization, Index	01	(0)	2.28	2023	100.00
1.07.03	Investment Freedom, Index	02	(+2)	80.00	2026	85.71
1.08	Exchange rate stability, parity change from national currency to SDR, 2025/2023	02	(0)	0.01	2025	99.15
1.09	Domestic credit to private sector, % of GDP	02	(0)	201.27	2025	89.91
1.10	Foreign trade and payments risk	13	(-2)	-	-	50.59
1.10.01	Country credit rating	05	(0)	57.00	2025	94.74
1.10.02	Gross debt, % GDP	28	(0)	123.90	2025	40.29
1.11	Trade costs	04	(+5)	-	-	90.87
1.11.01	Logistics performance indicators	03	(+3)	-	-	96.30
1.11.01.a	Aviation import dwell time (days)	08	(NEW)	1.10	2024	96.11
1.11.01.b	Number of aviation partner economies	01	(NEW)	167.0	2024	100.00
1.11.01.c	Container import dwell time (days)	11	(NEW)	4.20	2024	75.20
1.11.01.d	Number of maritime partner economies	01	(NEW)	97.0	2024	100.00
1.11.01.e	Business-to-business postal delivery time (days)	14	(NEW)	4.50	2024	85.93
1.11.01.f	Number of business-to-business postal partner economies	01	(NEW)	190.0	2024	100.00
1.11.02	Corruption perceptions, index	09	(0)	64	2025	70.59
1.11.03	Rule of law, index	09	(-2)	73.52	2024	79.72
1.12	Monetary policy intervention	05	(-2)	-	-	70.09
1.12.01	Current account balance, % GDP	02	(0)	-3.60	2025	99.53
1.12.02	Change (1-year) in total reserves (includes gold), % GDP	18	(0)	0.001	2025	27.71
1.13	Export concentration	01	(+3)	-	-	100.00
1.13.01	Export market concentration, Top 5 as % total	03	(+4)	44.39	2025	91.69
1.13.02	Export product concentration, Top 5 as % total	01	(+1)	37.89	2025	100.00
1.14	Exports of goods and services	01	(0)	-	-	100.00
1.14.01	Merchandise exports, US\$ millions	02	(0)	2,185,220	2025	74.78
1.14.02	Commercial services exports, US\$ millions	01	(0)	1,212,380	2025	100.00
1.15	Technological innovation	06	(0)	-	-	57.82
1.15.01	R&D expenditure, % GDP	03	(0)	3.44	2024	69.51
1.15.02	Researchers in R&D, per 1,000 inhabitants	08	(0)	4.94	2022	51.99
1.15.03	Patent applications, per million inhabitants	05	(0)	1,479.73	2024	34.27
1.15.04	High-technology exports, % of manufactured exports	12	(0)	24.32	2024	31.22
1.15.05	Scientific articles, per million people	08	(+1)	1,279.19	2023	40.83
1.16	Technological infrastructure	05	(+1)	-	-	81.27
1.16.01	Fixed internet speed, Mbps	03	(+1)	257.59	2025	79.35
1.16.02	Internet users, % population	08	(+3)	94.69	2024	95.80
1.16.03	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	06	(+1)	38.86	2024	81.20
1.16.04	Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	22	(+1)	113.19	2024	32.60
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)	21	(-4)	41.80	2024	20.10
2.02	Educational attainment	01	(0)	-	-	100.00
2.02.01	Mean years of schooling	01	(0)	13.91	2023	100.00
2.02.02	University education Index	01	(0)	210.17	2026	100.00
2.02.03	Tertiary enrollment	08	(0)	79.36	2022	62.71
2.03	Labor standards	06	(-4)	-	-	90.13
2.03.01	Gender non-discrimination in hiring	01	(0)	100	2024	100.00
2.03.02	Freedom of association and assembly	07	(-5)	0.71	2025	80.27
2.04	Political stability and absence of violence	16	(-1)	64.27	2024	60.06
2.05	Goods produced by forced labor or child labor	11	(0)	-	-	95.78
2.05.01	Goods produced by forced labor	11	(0)	-	-	91.55
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	10	(0)	0.33	2023	81.83
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	08	(0)	-	-	83.81
2.06.01	Government response to human trafficking, Criminalization	22	(0)	5	2025	40.00
2.06.02	Government response to human trafficking, Strategy	02	(0)	66.67	2023	97.06
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	29	(0)	-	-	15.36
2.07.01	Imports of goods at risk of modern slavery, US\$ millions	30	(0)	109,717	2025	0.00
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	07	(NEW)	77.44	2023	91.77
2.09	Life expectancy at birth	11	(-1)	79.30	2023	67.97
2.10	Uneven economic development	09	(0)	3.90	2024	74.07
2.11	Universal Health Coverage Index	04	(+2)	88	2023	93.33
2.12	Equal distribution of resources index	17	(NEW)	0.51	2025	46.23

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	04	(0)	6.97	2025	99.11
3.02	Deforestation, Index	11	(-3)	0.0066	2024	34.59
3.03	% of wastewater treated	04	(0)	98.06	2024	97.91
3.04	Energy intensity (Energy use (kg of oil equivalent) per \$1,000 GDP)	20	(-13)	84.24	2024	45.80
3.05	Ecological footprint	22	(+3)	7.05	2025	0.00
3.06	Renewable energy, %	22	(0)	10.90	2021	17.33
3.07	Environmental standards in trade, count	30	(-4)	-	-	0.00
3.07.01	Convention: Hazardous Wastes	30	(0)	1	2025	0.00
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)	30	(-1)	1	2025	0.00
3.07.05	The International Timber Agreement	01	(+20)	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)	26	(-1)	1	2025	50.00
3.08	Transfer emissions, million tonnes carbon	01	(0)	-140.08	2023	100.00
3.09	Share of natural resources in trade, %	19	(-2)	28.28	2025	65.18
3.10	Carbon	28	(+1)	-	-	17.54
3.10.1	Carbon pricing	17	(+3)	0	2025	0.00
3.10.2	CO2 emissions per capita	26	(0)	13.59	2024	33.61

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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