

THE SUSTAINABLE TRADE INDEX

Sustainable trade is participating in the international trading system in a manner that supports the long-term domestic and global goals of economic growth, environmental protection, and strengthening social capital.



COUNTRY RANKINGS

Asia is home to two of the three largest economies, two of the world's most populous nations, and has demonstrated the power of trade to raise people out of poverty. These are the region's overall rankings with the USA as an external benchmark.

Hong Kong owes its number one position to its strong performance in the economic and environmental pillars.



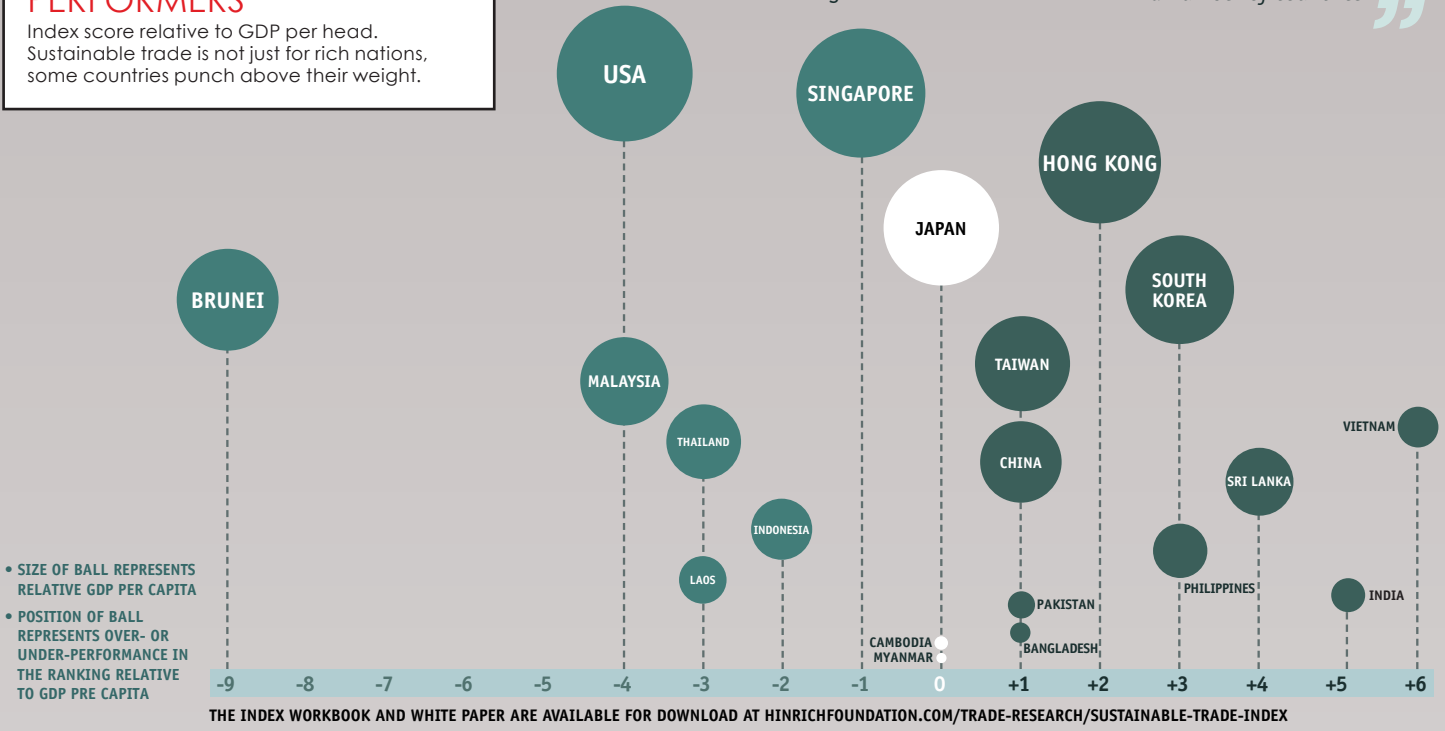
Average: All Incomes 54.1

OVER AND UNDER PERFORMERS

Index score relative to GDP per head. Sustainable trade is not just for rich nations, some countries punch above their weight.

“ Vietnam, India and Sri Lanka outperformed on an income-weighted basis ”

“ Sharp drops in social pillar scores this year dragged down a number of countries ”



• SIZE OF BALL REPRESENTS RELATIVE GDP PER CAPITA
• POSITION OF BALL REPRESENTS OVER- OR UNDER-PERFORMANCE IN THE RANKING RELATIVE TO GDP PER CAPITA

THE INDEX WORKBOOK AND WHITE PAPER ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT HINRICHFOUNDATION.COM/TRADE-RESEARCH/SUSTAINABLE-TRADE-INDEX

THE THREE PILLARS OF SUSTAINABLE TRADE

Economies that trade in a way that enables them to withstand shocks, and balance long-term resilience with short-term goals, score well.

COUNTRY OVERALL RANKING

ECONOMIC

Measures the economic conditions that support trade such as physical, technological and financial infrastructure.

SOCIAL

The countries scoring best on the social pillar have lower inequality, high levels of educational attainment, strong labour standards and are politically stable.

ENVIRONMENT

The countries scoring best on the environmental pillar avoid over-reliance on natural resource exports, limit pollution, and pursue high environmental standards in trade.



Asia's two main entrepots, **Singapore** and **Hong Kong**, are first and second on the economic pillar.

Taiwan is the best performer on the social pillar.

Poor scores for **India** and **Bangladesh** on the environment pillar.

OVERALL RANKING

The three pillars of our definition of Sustainable Trade - economic, environment and social - are taken from the 1987 landmark UN report by the Brundtland Commission on sustainable development, Our Common Future, and form the basis on which the Index was constructed.