2025 ILLICIT TRADE INDEX

COUNTRY SNAPSHOT

PAKISTAN

Illicit trade remains one of the most pressing threats to Pakistan's economic stability and growth. While some efforts have been made, the scale of the challenge demands sustained political commitment and comprehensive strategies to tackle its root causes. Confronting this issue directly would allow Pakistan to recover lost tax revenues, restore investor confidence, and advance its broader economic and development objectives.

PAKISTAN'S PERFORMANCE

ILLICIT TRADE INDEX SCORES

	Pakistan	Global (average)	APAC (average)
Overall Score	**44.5**	**49.9**	**59.6**
Category scores			
Taxation and economic environment	47.3	60.5	59.6
Regulatory framework and enforcement	46.4	53.2	54.5
Criminal enablers of illicit trade	42.7	53.6	51.8
Trade customs and borders	75.4	56.5	65.3
Supply chain intermediaries	25.9	30.9	33.7
Sectoral illicit trade indicators	29.3	44.6	40.6

PRIORITY ACTIONS

- **Expand enforcement capacity** by increasing staffing, resources, and training across Customs, FBR, and Inland Revenue enforcement networks.
- **Appoint a National Anti-Illicit Trade Coordinator** to align efforts across agencies and improve interprovincial and interagency cooperation.
- **Strengthen border controls** by targeting hotspots in AJK, KP, and Balochistan, and deploying technology to intercept illicit goods.
- **Raise consumer awareness** through public campaigns on the risks of counterfeit and smuggled products, with support from industry and civil society.
- **Tackle corruption and illicit finance** by enhancing audits, improving financial intelligence, and enforcing anti-money laundering laws.

KEY INSIGHTS

GLOBAL RANKING
101st out of 158 countries

REGIONAL RANKING (APAC)
26th out of 32 countries

OVERALL SCORE
44.5 / 100

TOP PERFORMING CATEGORY
Trade, customs and borders (75.4)

LOWEST-PERFORMING CATEGORY
Supply chain intermediaries (25.9)

RESILIENCE METER

The Resilience to Illicit Trade Meter illustrates a country's risk level from illicit trade—ranging from low to very high—based on its Illicit Trade Index scores

TRACIT's **2025 Illicit Trade Index**, covering 158 countries, is a policy tool that provides governments and enforcement agencies with actionable insights by highlighting national vulnerabilities, strengths, and trends in combating illicit trade.

For more information, visit:
www.tracit.org/illicit-trade-index

TRANSNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO COMBAT ILLICIT TRADE
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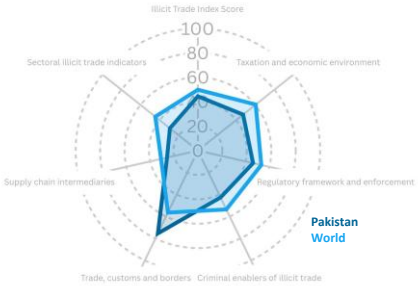
PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN'S PERFORMANCE: SYSTEMIC RISKS AND URGENT GAPS

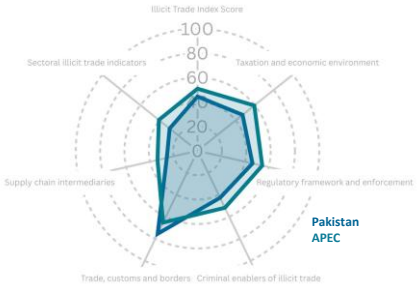
APAC

Japan	70.9
Korea, Rep.	67.5
Australia	65.3
New Zealand	63
Singapore	61.5
Indonesia	57.1
China	56.6
Mongolia	54.2
India	54.1
Georgia	53.4
Thailand	53
Armenia	52.5
Viet Nam	52.1
Türkiye	51.8
Philippines	51.1
Kazakhstan	50.9
Malaysia	50.7
Sri Lanka	50.5
Azerbaijan	49.9
Brunei	49.4
Kyrgyz Republic	47.3
Russia	46.8
Bangladesh	46.4
Vanuatu	45.3
Laos	44.8
Pakistan	44.5
Tonga	42.8
Myanmar	40.9
Nepal	40.9
Tajikistan	39.9
Afghanistan	37.1
Cambodia	36.6

World / Pakistan



Regional Grouping APAC / Pakistan



PAKISTAN ranks 101st out of 158 countries in the *Illicit Trade Index*, with an overall score of 44.5 out of 100. This places it well below the global average (49.9), signaling significant vulnerabilities in the country's ability to safeguard against illicit trade.

Pakistan performs strongest in the area of Trade, Customs, and Border Controls, with a score of 75.4, reflecting a degree of institutional strength at the borders. However, this is overshadowed by serious weaknesses in other critical areas:

- Taxation and Economic Environment: 47.3
- Regulatory Framework and Enforcement: 46.4
- Criminal Enablers: 42.7
- Supply Chain Intermediaries: 25.9
- Sectoral Illicit Trade Indicators: 29.3

These scores highlight systemic gaps in oversight, regulation, and inter-agency coordination. Pakistan's legal and institutional frameworks are under-equipped to deal with the scale and complexity of illicit trade, particularly in high-risk sectors such as tobacco, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, and alcohol.

Comparison with Strategic Peers

Pakistan's performance lags behind several key countries in the region:

- India ranks 52nd with a score of 54.1
- Bangladesh ranks 95th (46.4)
- Sri Lanka ranks 73rd (50.5)

This regional gap underscores the need for Pakistan to invest in modernizing its enforcement structures and aligning with international standards to remain competitive.

A Strategic Opportunity for Reform

As a leading South Asian economy, Pakistan can and should lead regional efforts to curb illicit trade. The stakes are high—illicit trade drains revenue, deters investment, and weakens public trust. Bold, coordinated action is needed. Treating this as a strategic investment is essential to Pakistan's growth and global credibility.