

# Sustainability Ratings Index

10th Edition - From Commitment to Capability: What Performance Data Reveals



ecovadis

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# 10 Years of Index Data

## A decade that has changed everything

When EcoVadis published its first edition of this Index, supply chain sustainability as a discipline existed, but it was fragmented, voluntary, and largely invisible to procurement teams. The data was thin. The standards were inconsistent. And for most buyers, supplier sustainability performance was not yet meaningfully linked to business decisions. Ten years later, none of that is true.

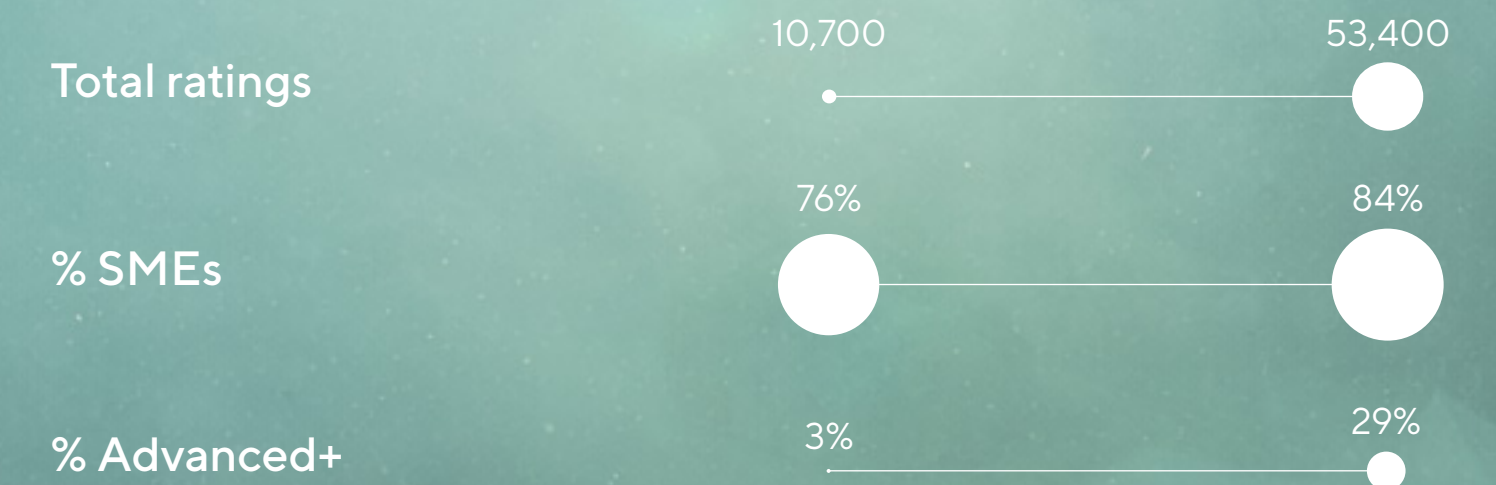
Over the past decade, sustainability ratings have evolved from a compliance tool into strategic infrastructure for supply chain management. The latest phase of this evolution – the one that frames this tenth edition – is defined by regulation, standardization, and a sharpening focus on what sustainability performance actually means in practice. Mandatory reporting frameworks have replaced voluntary disclosure as the baseline expectation in major markets. Social factors have moved from secondary considerations to headline risks. And the conversation has shifted decisively from ambition to execution: not whether companies have sustainability commitments, but whether they can demonstrate, verify, and improve on the practices that sit behind them.

This is the landscape into which the tenth edition of the EcoVadis Sustainability Ratings Index arrives.

*“Ten years ago, sustainability in supply chains was largely a matter of policy and intent. What this data shows, edition after edition, is the shift toward demonstrable capability – companies that have built practices, embedded them across cycles, and can now show the evidence behind their commitments.”*

– Sylvain Guyoton, Chief Ratings Officer

### A decade ago vs now



### Average scores



## What we measure, and why it matters

This edition draws on ratings data from almost 200,000 EcoVadis scorecards from 100,000+ companies assessed on our platform between 2021 and 2025 – the majority (84%) of them small and mid-size enterprises (companies with 25-999 employees) that form the operational backbone of global supply chains. This edition deliberately centers that population, recognizing SMEs as a critical focus for supply chain sustainability transformation. It is where the highest concentration of unmanaged risk sits, and where sustained buyer engagement has the greatest potential to move the needle.

EcoVadis measures four sustainability themes: Environment, Labor & Human Rights, Ethics, and Sustainable Procurement, each assessed across seven management indicators – policies, measures, reporting, coverage, certification, endorsements, and 360° Watch. Scores run from 0 to 100. Companies reaching 65 or above are classified as Advanced or Outstanding – what this report calls the Advanced+ tier. These are organizations whose sustainability practices are consistently strong across all themes, are evidence-based, and are more innovative than those of their peers.

For procurement leaders, the Advanced+ classification is not an abstract quality label. It is a signal about supply chain risk, regulatory exposure, and the depth of a supplier relationship worth protecting.

## The headline findings

The share of companies reaching Advanced+ status rose from 19% in 2024 to 29% in 2025, the largest single-year jump in the ten-year history of this Index. This reflects sustained investment in sustainability practices by a cohort of companies that have been rated multiple times and have used each rating cycle to build meaningfully on the last.

The same data reveals a divergence that procurement teams cannot afford to overlook: Companies completing their first rating in 2025 score an average of 51.5 overall (compared to 59.9 for a second rating or more). Companies that have been in the EcoVadis network for 10+ years score 63.2. That nearly 12-point gap – and the 28-point difference in Advanced+ rates between the two cohorts (17% versus 45%) – is a compounding return on sustained engagement. **Companies that undergo consistent, rigorous sustainability assessments perform substantially better on average than those that do not.**

For procurement leaders managing risk across thousands of suppliers, this divergence is the strategic challenge that the data is surfacing. The supply base is not moving as a single wave. It is separating into a group of rapidly improving companies and a much larger group still building the foundations. The question is not whether supplier sustainability performance is improving, but whether improvement is happening quickly enough where risk exposure is highest.

## EcoVadis themes:

- Environment** Evaluates a company’s environmental impact across its operations
- Labor & Human Rights** Assesses working conditions and human rights practices within the organization
- Ethics** Measures a company’s approach to fair business practices
- Sustainable Procurement** Focuses on how a company integrates environmental and social criteria into its purchasing and supply chain management

## Reading this alongside the EcoVadis Sustainable Procurement Barometer

This Index is published alongside the 2026 edition of the [EcoVadis Sustainable Procurement Barometer](#), produced in collaboration with Accenture. The Barometer surveyed 1,000 multinational buyers and nearly 2,000 suppliers on the state of sustainable procurement programs globally. The two reports are complementary by design: the Barometer provides a view of buyer ambition – what global procurement teams are requiring, building, and investing in – while the Index provides performance data on the resulting supplier action and capability.

On sustainable procurement specifically, the Barometer and the Index arrive at the same diagnosis from opposite directions. Buyers report scaling engagement, but only 14% extend supplier innovation programs to more than half of their spend, the lowest coverage of any high-impact action, and only 41% of suppliers describe their customers as highly committed and actively engaged. The Index reflects the result: just 19% of companies reach Advanced+ in Sustainable Procurement, and 80% still lack any documented supply chain risk analysis. This is where the field is furthest behind, and where the case for action is strongest.

What 100,000+ companies have achieved. What a thousand buyers are requiring, and the gap between them.



1,000+  
multinational buyers surveyed

~2,000  
suppliers surveyed

20  
industries represented

Commitment is no longer the gap. Capability is.  
[Download the Barometer](#)

# 32 Performance Trends Across the Ratings Network

Drawing on 200,000 scorecards, this section tracks how sustainability performance has shifted across geographies, company sizes, and all four themes between 2021 and 2025. It identifies where improvement is compounding, where gaps are widening, and what the indicators behind the scores reveal about real capability.

## Geography shapes performance, but the map is changing

### 1. 57% of all 2025 assessments come from European companies.

Europe is not just the most assessed region in the EcoVadis network – it is also the best-performing one. Countries across the continent account for 57% of all assessments in 2025, with France (6,000+) and Germany (5,400+) leading in volume. Both markets are characterized by depth as much as breadth: roughly three-quarters of French and German companies assessed in 2025 had been rated before, reflecting programs that have moved well past the onboarding phase and into sustained improvement cycles.

### 2. The US remains a top-five country by assessment volume, but its SME base is shrinking.

With ratings dropping by roughly 2% compared to 2024, the US remains the third-largest country in the network by rating volume, with 5,200+ scorecards. (Canada presents a contrasting trend, with a 3% increase in ratings of 600+ in 2025.) The more telling shift is in who is stepping back – SME participation quietly erodes. Their declining numbers represent a genuine signal worth watching.

### 3. Mainland China: Steep score progression and rapid Advanced+ growth signal a market gaining momentum fast.

Mainland China's assessment volume dipped by 5% from 2024 to 2025, to a pool of 5,100+, a contraction potentially reflecting market normalization after a period of rapid expansion. The share of first-time rated companies in Mainland China stands at 42%, reflecting continued strong market entry – a sign of expanding demand for verified sustainability performance, and a structural driver of future score growth as those companies begin reassessing.

In 2025, Mainland China's average score reached 50.4, with a gain of 5.1 points since 2024 and 12.2 points since 2021 – a rate of progress comparable to the global average and among the strongest sustained trajectories in the network. Meanwhile, the share of local companies reaching Advanced+ has grown from 0% in 2021 to 21% in 2025 – one of the largest four-year gains of any major market in the network, and a signal that a meaningful cohort of local companies has built genuinely strong sustainability practices.

*The top five countries by rating volume in 2025 are France, Germany, the US, Mainland China, and Italy, ranked in descending order.*

**4. South Korea: 56% growth in assessments from 2024 to 2025 – the sharpest acceleration of any major market in the network.**

South Korea stands out for its ratings momentum – assessment volume jumped by 56% year-on-year (860+ ratings in 2025 alone). Nearly half of all South Korean companies assessed in 2025 (48%) were doing so for the first time, meaning the market is simultaneously expanding its base and deepening its existing cohort. Both things are happening at once, and at speed.

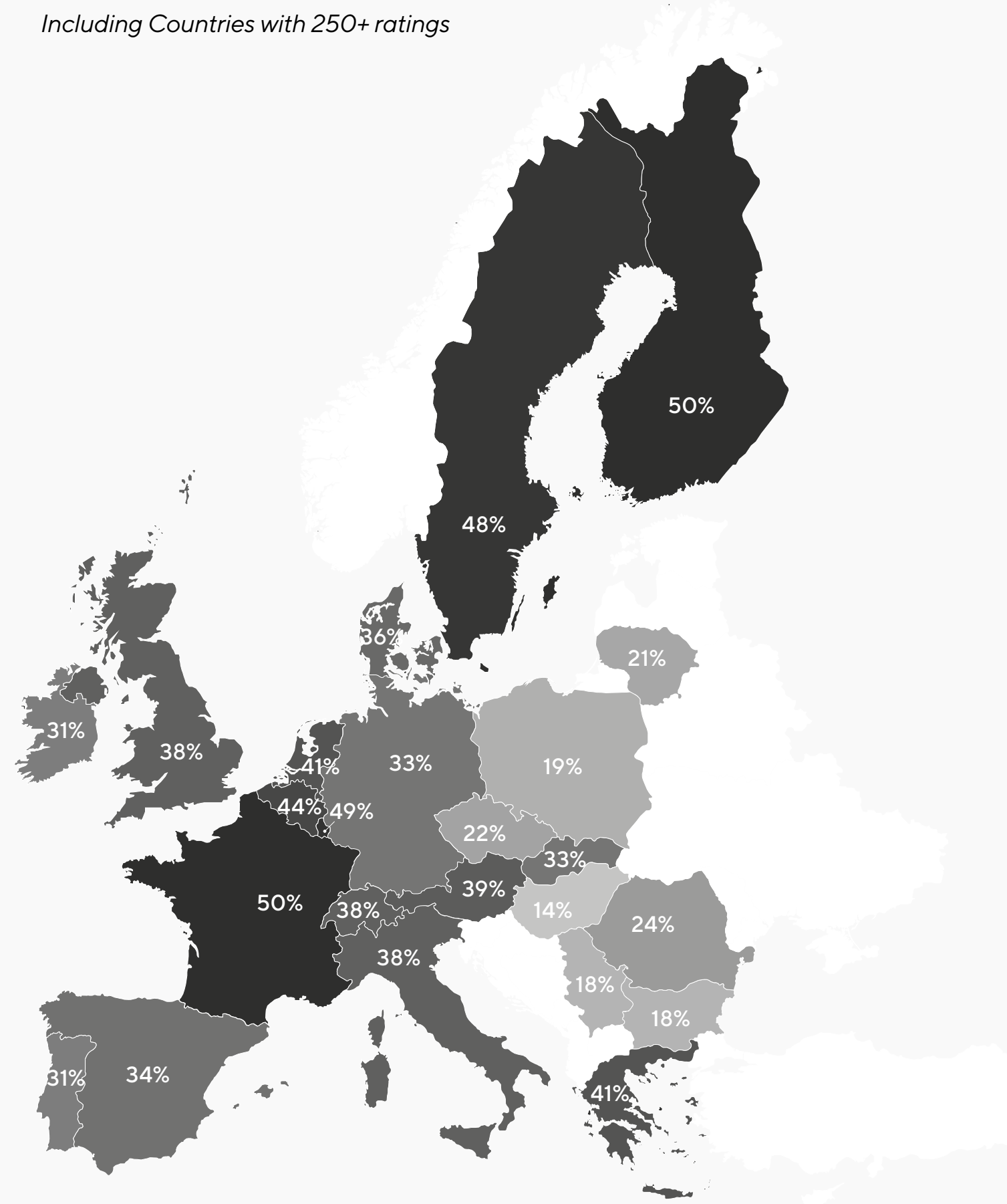
**5. Companies are improving – but unevenly.**

Europe as a region outperforms the global average with 61.2, with a significant share of European countries clearing that bar individually.

For procurement teams with European-heavy supply bases, the message is one of relative advantage, but not complacency. Strong average performance masks meaningful variation by country and company size. The question is not whether European suppliers are ahead; it is whether the laggards within that population are being actively identified and engaged.

**% of European companies scoring 65+ in 2025**

*Including Countries with 250+ ratings*



**% of companies scoring 65+ in 2021 vs 2025**

*Countries/regions/territories with 250+ ratings*

	% in 2021	vs 2025
Europe	17%	39%
S. Korea	8%	29%
Australia	1%	25%
UAE	5%	25%
India	2%	24%
Malaysia	6%	23%
Singapore	11%	23%
Mainland China	0%	21%
Thailand	10%	21%
Canada	5%	17%
Japan	7%	16%
US	4%	15%
Turkey	2%	13%
Brazil	2%	11%
Mexico	3%	5%

## Small companies are outperforming expectations, x-large companies set the ceiling

### 6. Small companies’ progression rate mirrors large companies’ trajectory, but from a higher starting point.

Small companies – those with 25 to 99 employees – have outscored large companies (1,000–9,999 employees) by 3+ points every year since 2021, and the gap is holding. The theme-level data confirms the pattern is broad-based.

Sustainable Procurement scoring is a positive outlier. Small companies improved by 5.4 points since 2024, the largest single-theme gain of any size group (+4.6 for large+ companies – those with 1,000+ employees). They entered this run from a 2021 base of 38.0, and have been making up ground ever since, reaching 47.3 in 2025. The most likely explanation is that supply chain due diligence requirements are cascading from major buyers and regulatory frameworks are landing most directly on procurement practices. When the external pressure is high, the rate of change accelerates.

### 7. X-large companies averaged 58.7 on Sustainable Procurement in 2025, more than 11 points above small companies.

The step change at the top of the scale is in a different category. X-large companies – those with 10,000 or more employees – operate at a level of sustainability maturity that the other size groups have not yet approached, and the Sustainable Procurement data makes this most visible.

Across all themes, the pattern repeats. X-large companies bring structural advantages that compound over time: dedicated sustainability teams, long-standing programs, direct regulatory exposure, and the commercial leverage to require sustainability action from their own suppliers in turn. The 3.9-point overall gain from 2024 to 2025 for x-large companies is lower than that of small companies (+4.1), but it comes from a base that the rest of the network will not reach for several years.

#### % of companies scoring Advanced or better (65+)

	Small (25-99 employees)	Medium (100-499)	Medium-large (500-999)	Large (1,000-9,999)	X-large (10,000+)
<b>2021</b>	10%	9%	12%	10%	28%
<b>2025</b>	30%	26%	34%	29%	52%

## The return on reassessment

### 8. Larger companies reassess more often. Smaller ones wait longer.

Companies that reassess more frequently show stronger performance improvement over time. The data points to a consistent pattern: sustained engagement with the assessment cycle – rather than one-off participation – is one of the clearest predictors of score progression. This holds across all size groups, but the gap between companies that reassess frequently and those that do not is most visible among smaller companies.

### 9. Assessment experience is one of the strongest predictors of a company’s score.

Ten years of Index data have established one thing with consistency: score improvement compounds with assessment frequency, particularly for SMEs. Among small companies, first-time raters average 53.4. Companies in the same size group completing their second or subsequent rating score 60.8. That 7.4-point gap – between two groups of companies that are otherwise comparable in scale and resource – is the compounding return on experience.

Each assessment cycle builds documentation, embeds processes, and anchors sustainability practices into operational routines. It also gives companies a structured

opportunity to identify gaps and prioritize the areas where improvement will have the most impact. The pattern holds across all size groups for reassessed companies: medium (100–499 employees) moves from 50.5 to 58.9, medium-large (500–999) from 52.7 to 61.5.

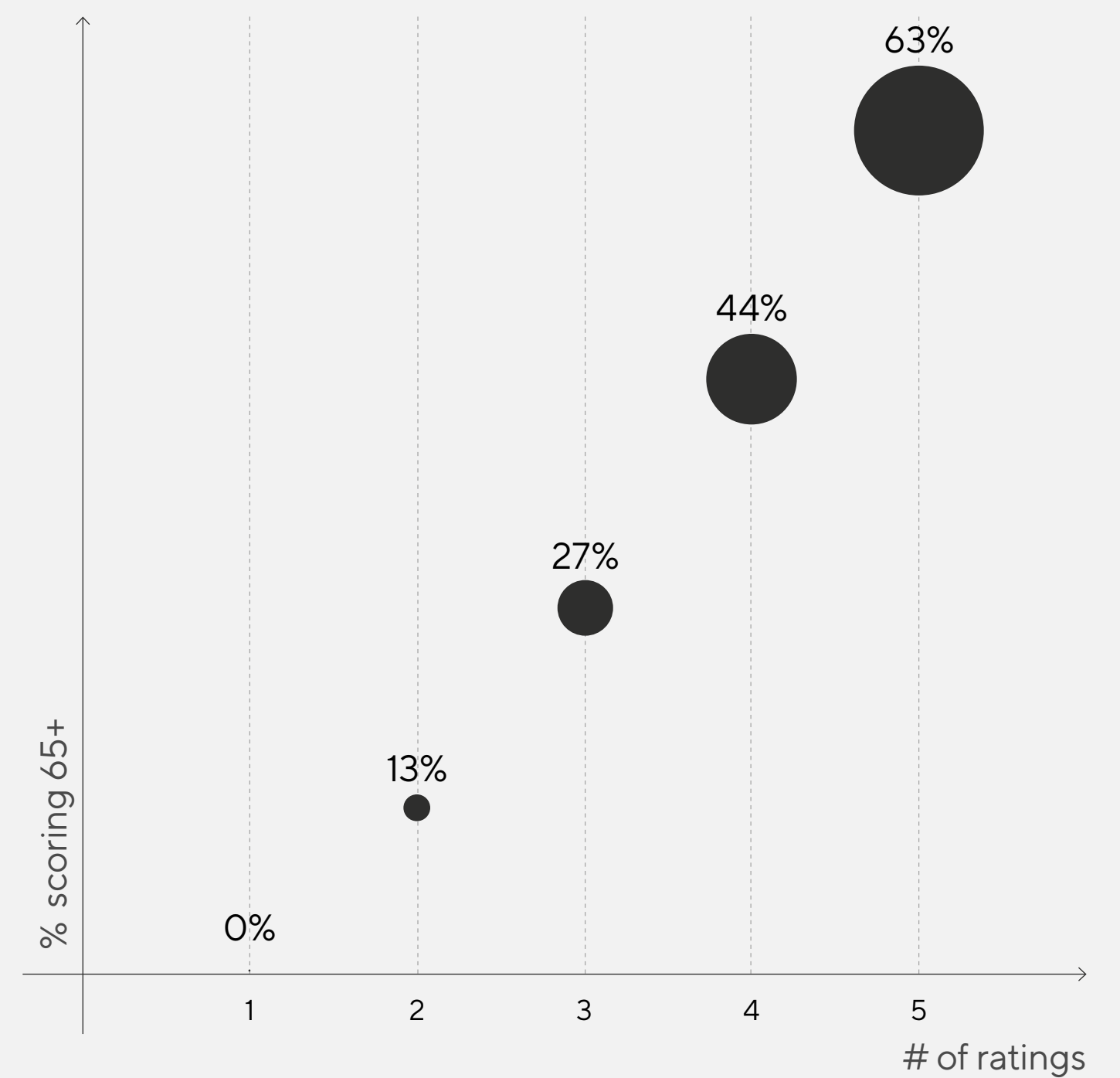
### 10. Large and x-large companies entering the network are arriving with lower baseline scores than their predecessors did four years ago.

The most striking signal in the data is not where returning companies land – it is what happens to large and x-large companies on their first assessment. First-time large companies score 44.7 in 2025, down 1.4 points from their 2021 cohort equivalent. First-time x-large companies score 51.4, down 3.0 points over the same period.

The most likely explanation is that when EcoVadis expands into new markets and supply chains, the new entrants at the top of the size distribution increasingly include companies from geographies and sectors where sustainability infrastructure is still developing – organizations that are large by employee count but early in their sustainability journey. This reflects a broader pattern in how market adoption unfolds: in less mature markets, it is typically large and x-large companies that enter the network first, well ahead of the SME base. The first-time large company scores in these markets are therefore pulling the overall cohort average down, even as returning companies in the same markets show strong progression.

### What happens to performance with each rating

*% of Advanced+ by the number of ratings*



## Four themes, four different stories

### 11. Sustainable Procurement: The weakest theme, the fastest mover.

Companies' own procurement practices – how they manage their suppliers, conduct supply chain due diligence, and their responsible sourcing commitments – remain the most underdeveloped sustainability area. Despite Sustainable Procurement recording the biggest year-on-year theme gain in 2025 (+4.4 points), it remains the weakest theme globally, with only 19% of companies reaching Advanced+, well behind Environment (38%) and Labor & Human Rights (37%). It is simultaneously the theme showing the most momentum and the one where the rated population as a whole remains furthest behind. That combination – rapid movement from a low base – is one of the defining patterns of this edition.

### 12. The countries showing the largest four-year Sustainable Procurement improvements are not the established leaders.

India gained 16 points, followed by Mainland China at 14.2, Turkey at 12, and the UAE at 8.7. For context, Finland – one of the top-scoring countries globally – gained 6.4 points, and France 10.2. The markets that made the most dramatic progress in 2025 are precisely those where supply chain due diligence pressure from buyers and regulatory frameworks is landing most directly and most recently. When external demand for documented sustainable procurement practices arrives in a market that has not yet built the underlying infrastructure, the rate of change can be dramatic.

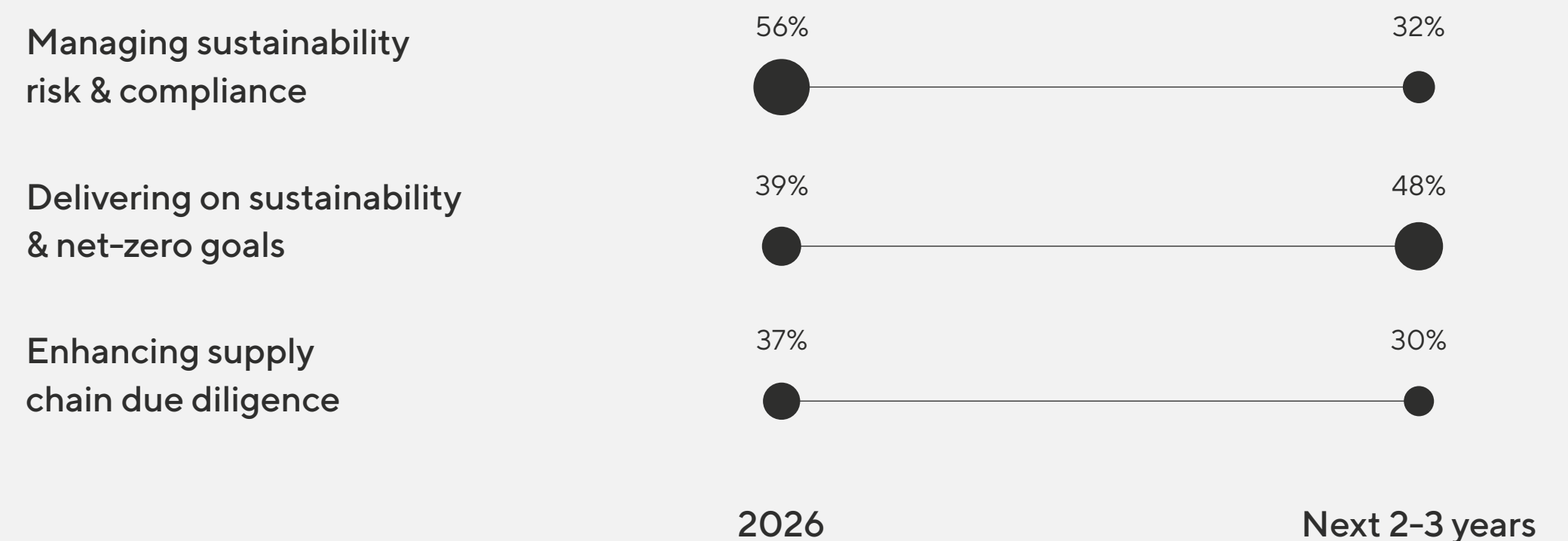
### 13. Environment: The largest absolute gain of any theme over the four years.

The share of companies reaching Advanced+ on the Environment theme more than doubled between 2021 and 2025, from 17% to 38%. This 21-point gain reflects both the sustained pressure of climate-related regulation and the deepening integration of environmental performance into buyer requirements and investor expectations. Companies added 9.6 points to their Environment average between 2021 and 2025, the highest gain of any theme and a full 3 points ahead of Labor & Human Rights and Ethics (6.9 points each).

The most cited sustainability priority in Barometer 2026 points to where the environmental agenda is heading. Carbon management and net-zero progress is named as a top-three program drivers by 54% of organizations surveyed, a figure that holds steady across regions. It is also the priority most expected to remain dominant: 55% identify it as a leading focus in the near future, the highest forward projection of any topic. Teams have been handed a mandate on carbon, and they are responding.

#### Top program drivers now vs the next 2-3 years

*% of Barometer respondents identifying each as a top-three driver*



**14. Labor & Human Rights was the highest-scoring theme globally in 2025 at 59.5.**

Of all assessment themes, Labor & Human Rights ranks first by absolute score at 59.5 in 2025 – ahead of Environment. The Environment score has been rapidly closing the gap with a 9.6-point gain since 2021, but has not yet caught up. Averages for Labor & Human Rights and Ethics each increased by 6.9 points over the same four-year window, a steady, broadly distributed improvement that has less of the Environment’s acceleration but greater consistency across the rated population.

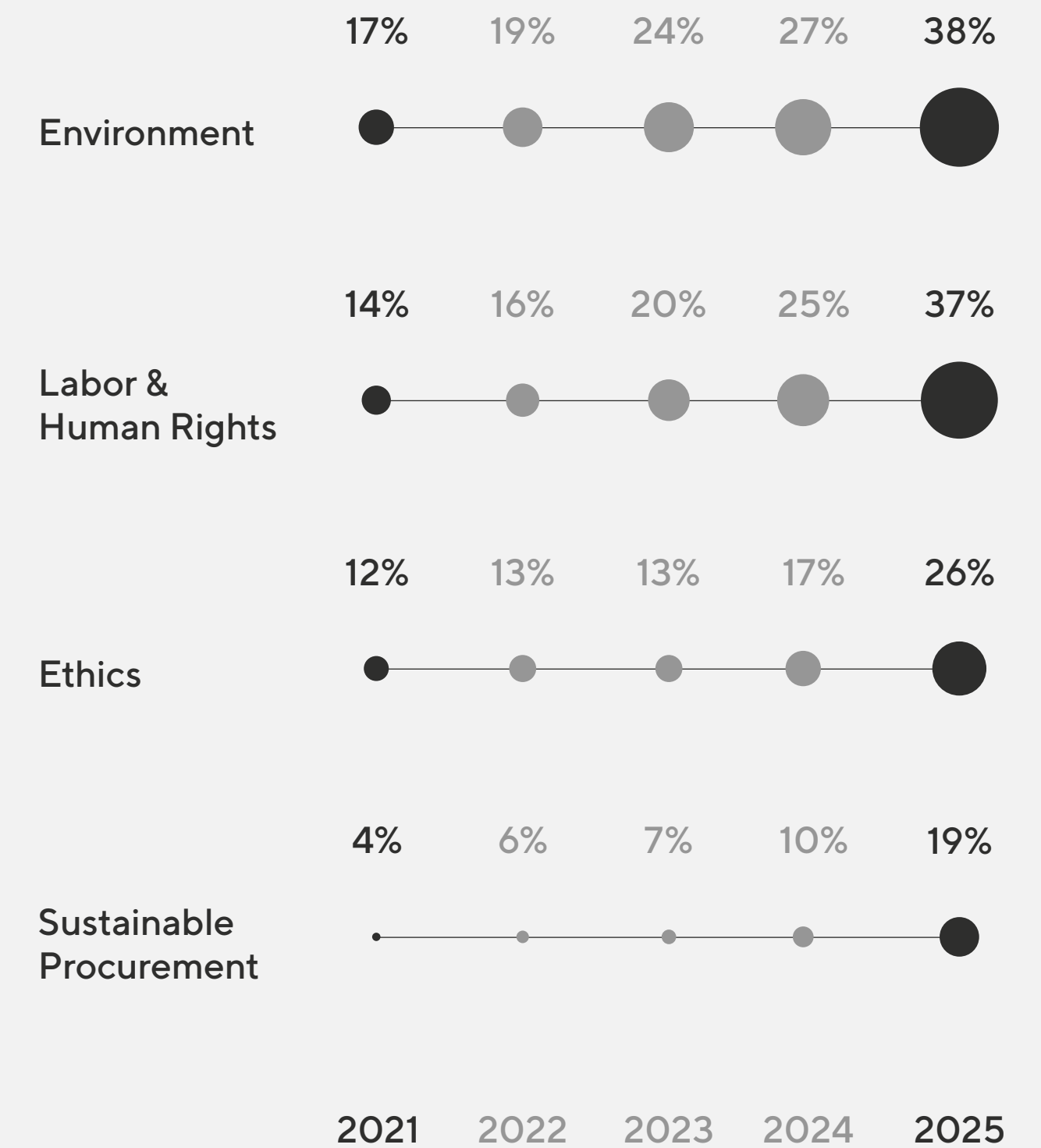
For small companies, Labor & Human Rights is where they are most likely to be performing at a high level. It is the theme where size is least predictive of outcome, as scores across size groups are more tightly clustered than on any other theme. Notably, 44% of small companies reach Advanced+ in Labor & Human Rights, outperforming their own rates in Environment (37%), Ethics (26%), and Sustainable Procurement (16%). On this theme at least, being small is no disadvantage.

**15. Ethics performance is finally accelerating after years of marginal gains.**

Performance on the Ethics theme added meaningful ground in 2025, with all size groups now sitting between 25% and 27% at Advanced+. That near-flat distribution across sizes is itself significant: Ethics is the one theme where a small company and a large+ company are almost equally likely to have reached the same performance tier. Ethics and compliance frameworks, anti-corruption policies, and whistleblower mechanisms are not fundamentally more complex to implement at 50 employees than at 5,000.

**% of companies rated Advanced+ on each sustainability theme**

*2021 to 2025 evolution*



## Performance on three indicators separates companies: policies, measures, and reporting

### 16. Policies, measures, and reporting: Adoption is near-universal, transparency is not.

80% of companies have some Ethics measures in place, but only 38% report on them. On Sustainable Procurement, the difference is 66% to 36%. The gap between having a policy and demonstrating the measures versus reporting quality remains the central challenge for companies.

### 17. Practices, programs, and initiatives companies have in place – the 2025 data shows a rated population that has broadly crossed a threshold.

97% of rated companies now have some Labor & Human Rights measures in place, up from 93% in 2021. Environment sits at 89% (from 77%) and Ethics at 80% (from 67%). These improvements represent a structural shift in the baseline expectations across the global supply base.

Sustainable Procurement is the exception that proves the rule. Measures reach 66% of companies in 2025, the lowest among themes. That said, companies have made faster progress on Sustainable Procurement measures than on any other indicator in this dataset over the past four years: +17 points since 2021.

### 18. Companies are more likely to have a formal ethics policy than an environmental one.

Anti-corruption frameworks, codes of conduct, and whistleblower mechanisms are largely text-based commitments that require intent more than infrastructure. Environmental policies, by contrast, increasingly demand quantified targets, emissions baselines, and technical specificity that takes longer to build.

### 19. Reporting gap equals AI readiness bottleneck.

Across all themes, there is a substantial gap between the share of companies with measures in place and the share reporting on them. Even for Labor & Human Rights – the highest-reporting theme – the gap between measures (97%) and reporting (75%) is 22 percentage points.

The numbers represent thousands of companies that are doing things they are not documenting, or documenting things they are not making visible. This has a direct consequence for AI readiness: the Barometer finds that 68% of buyers have deployed AI in their sustainability programs, with carbon data validation and predictive analytics among the most common use cases. But the quality of what those systems can produce is only as good as what suppliers are willing to report. With 36% of suppliers reporting no plans to adopt AI tools themselves, the asymmetry is widening – buyers are building intelligence infrastructure that the supply base is not yet equipped to feed. The good news is that reporting is also the indicator showing the fastest improvement trajectory. Ethics reporting reached 38% in 2025, up from 16% in 2021. Sustainable Procurement reporting moved from 16% to 36% over the same period.

### 20. Breadth is not the same as depth. On measures, comprehensive adoption exists but it is selective.

The previous trends established a baseline for where the rated population stands on policies, measures, and reporting. This and the following trends ask a harder question: how many companies are doing any of these things at a genuinely comprehensive level, reflecting not just the presence of a practice but its depth, consistency, and sophistication?

24% of all rated companies had comprehensive Labor & Human Rights measures in place in 2025, up from 11% in 2021. This drops to 14% for the Environment theme and 10% for Ethics and Sustainable Procurement. The Labor & Human Rights figure in particular suggests that a quarter of the rated population has built substantive workforce and human rights practices.

Large and x-large companies show substantially higher rates on measures across every theme. Size confers a real advantage here – larger organizations have the resources, dedicated teams, and accumulated program history to build practice depth that smaller companies are still working toward.

## 21. Policies: Harder than they look.

The data on exceptional-level policies – those that are comprehensive, specific, and evidence-based – tells a more sobering story.

In 2025, only 10% of all companies had exceptional Environment policies, compared with 7% on Ethics, 6% on Labor & Human Rights, and just 4% on Sustainable Procurement. These figures have grown from near-zero in 2021, but they remain low. Large companies again perform better, confirming that policy sophistication, like practice depth, correlates with organizational scale and program maturity.

## 22. Across all themes, exceptional reporting sits below 1% for the overall population.

Four years of sustained improvement across measures and policies have not moved the needle on exceptional reporting in any meaningful way. The large and x-large company data makes this finding sharper. Large+ companies manage 2% on Environment, Labor & Human Rights and Ethics reporting, and 1% on Sustainable Procurement. The organizations with the largest sustainability teams, most program maturity, and highest regulatory pressure to disclose are barely ahead of the overall population on the one indicator that makes their data usable by buyers.

Exceptional-level sustainability reporting – granular, verified, decision-grade – remains the rarest capability in the network, and the one with the highest strategic value for buyers trying to build the supplier intelligence infrastructure.

### Sustainable Procurement: adoption is spreading, but depth remains rare

% of companies with at least one respective indicator in place



% of companies with an exceptional performance on each indicator



## Where the rated population leads – and where it lags.

### 23. The top 20 best practices in 2025 are dominated by Labor & Human Rights and Ethics.

The leading strength across the entire rated population is the Labor & Human Rights policy on diversity, equity, and inclusion, present in 80% of all ratings in 2025, up from 67% in 2024. Second is a policy on employee health and safety at 78% (from 67%), third is a policy on corruption, at 76% (from 64%).

### 24. Labor & Human Rights: Companies are strong on workplace practices, weak on value chain ones.

69% of companies have a health and safety emergency action plan in place, 66% provide H&S training to employees, and 63% conduct formal risk assessments. Working conditions show similar depth: 61% provide healthcare coverage, 56% compensate for atypical working hours, and 52% offer flexible work arrangements. Career management is similarly well-embedded.

The picture changes sharply when the lens moves from internal labor and human rights practices to those in the supply chain. Only 2% of companies rated in 2025 had a grievance mechanism for external stakeholders – the mechanism through which communities, contractors, and supply chain workers outside a company’s direct employment can raise human rights concerns.

### 25. Anti-corruption infrastructure is solid.

On Ethics, the anti-corruption sub-category shows the strongest concentration of actions within the theme. 51% of companies are reporting on corruption and bribery, up from 41% in 2024. 39% have specific approval procedures for sensitive transactions. 37% provide awareness training on corruption prevention. But corruption risk assessments – the practice that moves from policy and procedure into active identification of where exposure actually sits – are conducted by 19% of companies. Only 13% audit their anti-corruption control procedures.

### 26. Responsible information management is the unexpected bright spot.

49% of companies provide awareness training on information security. 42% have measures to protect third-party data, and 41% have whistleblower procedures for information security concerns. The rapid growth of data privacy regulation and cyber risk exposure has driven Ethics action in a direction not seen in earlier editions of this Index.

### 27. Only one Environment best practice made the top 20.

The policy on energy consumption and GHGs is present in 62% of ratings (up from 49% in 2024). At the same time, there are no Sustainable Procurement best practices in the top 20. The strengths data confirms what the theme scores show:

the rated population has developed its deepest capabilities in the areas it has worked on longest and where buyer requirements have been most consistent.

### 28. Environment improvement areas are concentrated on emissions targets and Scope 3 reporting.

78% of rated companies still lack science-based targets under SBTi. Setting absolute Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions reduction targets each appears as a distinct improvement area, each affecting 64–73% of the rated population.

Scope 3 reporting remains a widespread gap. In 2025, the absence of Scope 3 upstream and downstream emissions reporting was flagged in 73% and 77% of assessments, respectively.

*“The supply base is taking real action on energy and emissions. Renewable energy procurement, carbon audits, employee training – that operational investment is visible in the data. What is not yet visible is the documentation layer that turns those actions into data buyers can use. The Scope 3 reporting gap is not a failure of ambition. It is a measurement infrastructure problem, and closing it is the defining challenge for supply chain climate programs in the next phase.”*

– Dexter Galvin, SVP & Climate Ambassador

### 29. Energy: Where real investment is happening.

On energy consumption and GHG – the sub-category that directly maps to the Scope 3 reporting gap and the carbon management priorities the Barometer identifies – the picture is more encouraging than the improvement area data alone might suggest. 46% of rated companies are now purchasing or generating renewable energy, 38% are training employees on energy conservation and climate action, 32% have environmental emergency measures in place, and the same share have conducted an energy or carbon audit.

Read together, these figures describe a supply base that is investing in the energy transition at the operational level – through procurement decisions, training programs, and capital expenditure – while simultaneously struggling to document and report on the outcomes. The Scope 3 reporting gap is not a failure of ambition or practice, but a lack of measurement systems needed to turn operational action into the reliable, detailed data buyers and regulators demand.

### 30. On biodiversity, the majority are still at the starting line.

The most common biodiversity action, recorded in 33% of ratings, is a company declaring that none of its sites are located near biodiversity-sensitive areas – a self-declaration that requires no verification. Meanwhile, only 1% of companies have conducted a formal risk assessment

or data-driven analysis of their operations' potential impact on local biodiversity. External sustainability audits with no non-compliance found are at 4%. The measurement frameworks, data standards, and buyer requirements in this area are still maturing. It is, however, an accurate picture of where the environmental agenda stands beyond energy and carbon.

### 31. 80% of rated companies are flagged on the same improvement area – no conclusive documentation on sustainability risk analysis in their supply chain.

Second is the absence of endorsement of external ethics initiatives, at 80%. Third is the absence of quantitative targets on labor and human rights, at 80% – a figure that has barely moved from 2024 (79%), suggesting this is not a gap companies are actively closing.

### 32. Sustainable Procurement actions are concentrated at the documentation-led end of the spectrum.

Across the rated population, the most common Sustainable Procurement actions are supplier sustainability codes of conduct (46% of assessments) and regular supplier assessments via questionnaire (42%). Integration of social or environmental clauses into supplier contracts reaches 30%. On-site supplier audits and training of buyers on supply chain social and environmental issues sit close to 20%.

*Each EcoVadis scorecard identifies not just a score, but the specific practices and actions that sit behind it. Strengths are the measures, policies, and initiatives a company has demonstrably in place – the things it is already doing well. Improvement areas are the gaps: practices that are absent or insufficiently documented relative to what is expected for a company's industry and size. Together, they turn a score into a roadmap. The trends outlined draw on this data across the full rated population to show where companies are consistently strong, and where the most common gaps lie.*

# Perception Versus Data

Read alongside the Barometer, this section surfaces a consistent gap between what buyers report about their programs and what supplier performance data actually shows. On ESG integration, carbon ambition, and supplier engagement, the two datasets arrive at the same diagnosis: the translation from commitment to demonstrated capability remains incomplete.

## What buyers say, and what the data shows

The EcoVadis Sustainable Procurement Barometer 2026 and this Index are built on different methodologies, different populations, and different questions. But, read together, they reveal findings that neither dataset can surface alone: a consistent, measurable gap between what buyers report about their own programs and what the company's performance data actually shows. It is a gap between commitment and capability, between process and outcome, between what procurement teams are building and what lands in global supply chains.

### Integration of ESG data: near-universal adoption, limited depth.

The Barometer finds that 98% of buyers have begun embedding supplier ESG intelligence into core procurement processes, but the qualifier matters. Most of that integration is still manual or only partially digital. Only 30% report full digital integration into procurement analytics, and 29% into risk management. The rest are operating with spreadsheets, periodic reviews, and fragmented data flows that have limited ability to shape day-to-day sourcing decisions.

The Index reflects the downstream consequence. If ESG integration was as widespread and effective as the 98% figure suggests, the rated population's Sustainable Procurement scores would show it. Instead, it remains the lowest-scoring

theme, with only 19% of companies at Advanced+ and 80% still lacking any documented supply chain sustainability risk analysis. Integration is happening but not at the depth needed to influence supplier behavior at the pace needed.

### On supplier engagement: The commitment-credibility gap.

The Barometer-surveyed buyers report scaling high-impact engagement, including third-party ratings and decarbonization programs, training, and corrective action plans. Yet, only 41% of suppliers view customers as highly committed, with half citing inconsistent follow-through. Looking at the 2025 Index data from Europe and Asia-Pacific, a clear pattern explains this credibility gap.

Supplier sustainability codes of conduct are in place at just over half of companies in Europe and Asia-Pacific (APAC). Only one-third integrate social and environmental clauses. These documentation-led practices are important foundations, but they are limited in their ability to change what suppliers actually do. The actions that require real operational investment – visiting suppliers on-site, providing hands-on training and capacity building, linking sustainability performance to commercial consequences such as preferred supplier status or contract renewal – are where the numbers drop sharply.

## Key supplier engagement actions

*Asia-Pacific vs Europe*

**29% vs 18%**

suppliers visited on-site

**9% vs 12%**

suppliers incentivized through preferred status, RFP access, or sustainability awards

**11% vs 6%**

suppliers receiving capacity building or corrective action support

## Carbon ambition is outpacing carbon data

Carbon data is the single most actively demanded form of supplier ESG intelligence in 2026.

The Barometer finds that 85% of leading buyers have started collecting product-level carbon footprints from suppliers, and that gathering Scope 3 insights – data granular enough to inform sourcing decisions and supplier engagement – is the priority for most procurement programs. The Index data shows what that ambition is actually running into at scale.

### What buyers are building.

Among buyers who have begun collecting carbon data, the use cases are already operational. 63% use it to identify and prioritize GHG hotspots across their supply base. 60% are working directly with suppliers to reduce emissions. 54% are using it to benchmark and incentivize supplier improvement. These are not pilot programs or future aspirations; they are current practices among a majority of the buyer population surveyed.

The infrastructure investment is also accelerating. Over 68% of buyers have deployed AI tools in their sustainability programs, with carbon data validation cited as the third most common AI use case, at 62%. Procurement teams are building systems specifically designed to process, validate, and act on supplier carbon data at scale. But those investments are not yet changing supplier behavior at the same pace.

### What the network is delivering.

The Barometer data also reveals the typical supplier side of this equation. 30% of suppliers currently provide no carbon data at all. 26% provide only aggregated Scope 1 and 2 data. 23% provide estimates. Only 21% provide primary activity-level data, including some Scope 3 – the level at which the data becomes decision-grade for most buyer use cases.

The Index bundle data gives that picture a network-scale dimension. 26% of the rated population mentions having a corporate-level GHG inventory in place. Only 23% have a publicly available GHG emissions report. Third-party-verified emissions data is present in just 16% of assessments, while Scope 3 upstream reporting is in 19%; downstream in 15%. These are not marginal figures – they represent the actual carbon data infrastructure of the global supply base that buyers are trying to plug into.

Buyers are deploying AI to process carbon data. They are building Scope 3 programs that depend on primary supplier emissions data. They are integrating carbon intelligence into sourcing decisions and product design. Meanwhile, the supply base as a whole, cannot yet provide the data those systems require. The 30% of suppliers providing nothing – and the further 26% providing only aggregated estimates – represent a gap that AI cannot close because there is no data to validate.

*63% of buyers use Scope 3 data to identify GHG hotspots.*

*30% of suppliers provide no carbon data at all.*

# What buyers are building. What's available in global supply chains.

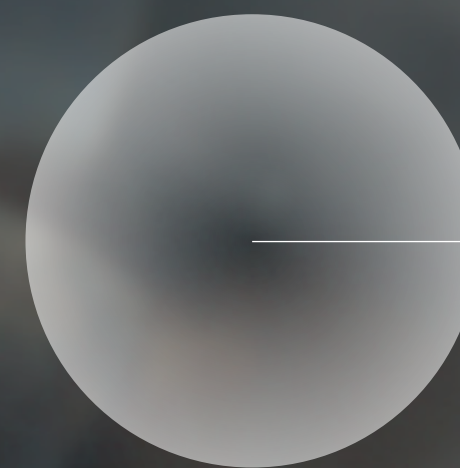
The Barometer finds that 85% of leading buyers have started collecting product-level carbon footprints from their supply chains. The Index shows what that ambition is running into at scale.

## What buyers are building



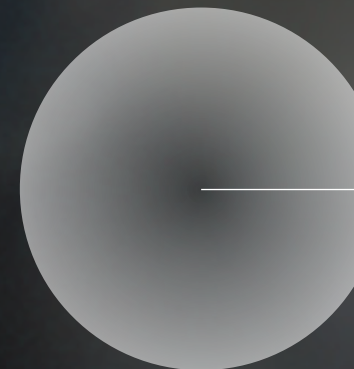
63%

of buyers use Scope 3 data to identify GHG hotspots



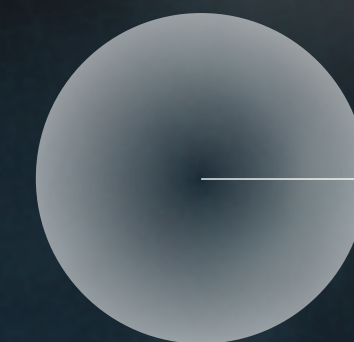
85%

of leaders are collecting product-level carbon data



68%

of buyers deploy AI in their sustainable procurement programs



62%

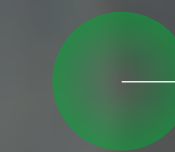
use AI specifically for carbon data validation

## What the data shows



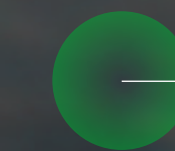
30%

of rated companies provide no carbon data at all



26%

have only aggregated Scope 1 & 2 data available



26%

have corporate-level GHG inventory



16%

have third-party verified emissions data

# Direction of Travel

The data across a decade points in a consistent direction: sustainability performance across global supply chains is improving, the improvement is compounding for companies that have made a sustained commitment to transparency and taken measurable steps to build on each assessment cycle, and the gap between what buyers require and what suppliers can demonstrate – while still substantial – is narrowing in the areas where engagement has been most consistent and most structured.

# Three trajectories will define the next phase

## Regulatory frameworks will continue to raise the global performance baseline

Among the most striking regional findings in this edition are the single-year overall score gains recorded in several emerging markets: all substantially above the global average rate of progression. These markets also share a structural characteristic: a rated population still weighted toward first-time assessed companies, arriving with lower baseline scores but showing steep improvement trajectories once engaged. The most likely explanation is that external demand – regulatory frameworks and buyer due diligence requirements landing in markets that had not yet built the underlying sustainability infrastructure – is accelerating the rate of change.

That pattern will repeat as supply chain due diligence legislation extends its reach and as carbon reporting mandates move from large listed companies into the supplier tier. The markets currently showing the steepest improvement curves are not outliers; they are early indicators of what happens when compliance pressure becomes concrete. Procurement teams operating in those markets should expect the baseline to keep rising.

## The Scope 3 and reporting infrastructure gap is the defining constraint of the near term

The data is consistent and unambiguous: the global supply base is taking operational action on energy, emissions, and procurement practices faster than it is building the measurement and reporting infrastructure to document those actions. Buyers are deploying AI-enabled carbon validation systems and building Scope 3 programs that require primary supplier data. 30% of suppliers currently provide none. That is not a gap that more ambition can close – it requires investment in measurement capability. The procurement programs that help suppliers move toward decision-grade reporting, rather than simply demanding it, will be the ones that actually receive it.

The overall trajectory is positive. Performance is improving, engagement is compounding, and the regulatory environment is creating durable pressure for continued progress. What the data also shows is that improvement is uneven, that the gap between commitment and demonstrated capability remains wide in the areas that matter most, and that the next phase of supply chain sustainability will be defined less by what companies have pledged and more by what they can verify.

## Sustained engagement will widen the performance gap

The 12-point difference between first-time companies and companies that have maintained a sustained commitment to sustainability improvement over ten or more years reflects the accumulated return on that effort: documentation built up, processes embedded, and practices anchored into operational routines across multiple improvement cycles. These are not companies that have simply been assessed more often – they are companies that have consistently acted on what each rating cycle revealed.

*“The data is clear: performance is improving, and engagement is compounding. What the next phase requires is not more ambition – it is the operating infrastructure to match it: measurement systems, verified reporting, and buyer programs that build supplier capability rather than simply demand it.”*

– Pierre-François Thaler, Co-CEO

# About this report

The tenth edition of the EcoVadis Sustainability Ratings Index covers anonymized ratings data from companies assessed on our platform during the 2021–2025 calendar years. All scores are reported on the EcoVadis 0–100 scale. Advanced+ refers to companies scoring 65 or above.

## Company size classifications

Size classifications used throughout this report are based on employee count: Small = 25–99 employees; Medium = 100–499 and Medium-large = 500–999; Large = 1,000–9,999; X-large companies (10,000+). Companies with fewer than 25 employees (XS) are excluded from size-segmented analysis in this edition. Where network-wide findings are reported, they reflect the five tiers above.

## A note on populations

Year-on-year comparisons in this report reflect the assessed population in each respective year and are not restated. First-time rater analysis excludes companies that completed only one EcoVadis rating between 2021 and 2025. The returning company analysis covers all companies with at least one prior assessment on record between 2021 and 2025.

## On themes and indicators

EcoVadis assesses companies across four sustainability themes: Environment, Labor & Human Rights, Ethics, and Sustainable Procurement. Each theme is evaluated across seven management indicators – policies, measures, reporting, coverage, certifications, endorsements, and 360° Watch findings – producing a weighted overall score and individual theme scores. Where this report refers to “exceptional-level” performance on a specific indicator, this reflects the highest tiers of the EcoVadis scoring rubric, not simply the presence of a practice.

# About EcoVadis Ratings

EcoVadis provides sustainability ratings to companies operating in global supply chains. Ratings are produced following a structured assessment methodology based on documentary evidence submitted by rated companies, supplemented by 360° Watch findings drawn from public sources.

## Core purposes of the rating

EcoVadis Ratings are designed to assess the quality of a company's sustainability management systems – the policies, measures, and reporting practices a company has in place – rather than to measure sustainability outcomes directly. They are intended for use by procurement organizations as one input into supply chain risk management and supplier engagement decisions

## Core purposes of the rating

Ratings reflect the information available at the time of assessment. They are not a guarantee of a company's future sustainability performance, nor a certification that specific practices are in place. EcoVadis scorecards should be interpreted alongside other sources of company information and do not constitute financial, legal, or investment advice.

## Methodology and governance

The EcoVadis assessment methodology is reviewed on a regular basis. Methodological updates, scoring criteria, and indicator weightings are documented and disclosed to rated companies. Our framework is strictly aligned with leading international sustainability standards.

[Find out more](#)

# About EcoVadis

EcoVadis is a purpose-driven company dedicated to embedding sustainability intelligence into every business decision worldwide. With global, trusted, and actionable ratings, businesses of all sizes rely on EcoVadis' detailed insights to comply with ESG regulations, reduce GHG emissions, and improve the sustainability performance of their business and value chain across 220 industries in 180 countries.

Leaders like Johnson & Johnson, L'Oréal, Unilever, Bridgestone, BASF, and JPMorgan are among 150,000+ businesses that use EcoVadis' sustainability ratings, risk and carbon management tools, and e-learning platform to accelerate their journey toward resilience, sustainable growth, and positive impact worldwide.

Learn more at [ecovadis.com](https://ecovadis.com) or on [LinkedIn](#).

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