

Uruguay

Trilemma Rank  
# 18

Trilemma Score  
77.0

Balance Grade  
BBA

Uruguay performs well in all Trilemma dimensions with particularly strong Equity and Sustainability scores though it does not score as well on Energy Security. However, the Security index has been stable and shows some improvement in recent years after a government push to diversify the energy mix and rely less on imports. The strong Sustainability performance is due to a higher proportion of decarbonised energy sources in power generation. Uruguay's balance grade is BBA and its global ranking is 18.

Population  
3.5 (millions)

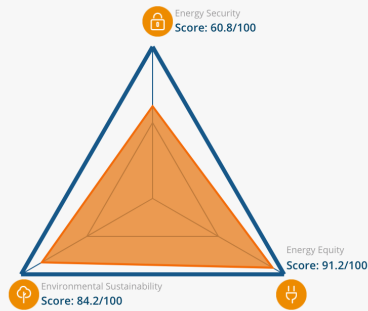
Land Area  
175.0 (thousand sq. km)

GDP Per Capita  
17,278 (PPP US\$)

Industrial Sector  
24.5 (% of GDP)

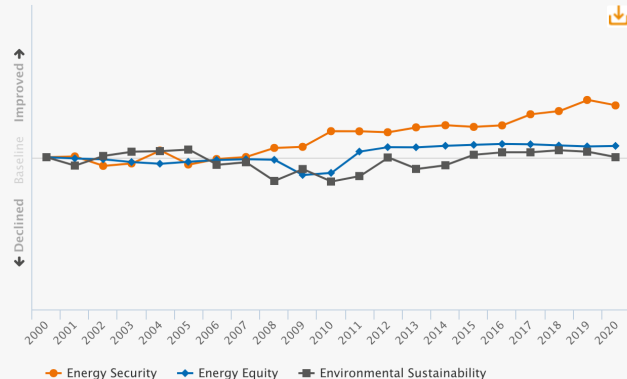
GDP Growth  
1.6 (annual %)

Balance



Historical Trilemma Scores

Trend lines track the country's performance in each dimension, beginning with a baseline of 100 in the year of 2000



Trends and Outlook

Uruguay is one of the strongest overall Trilemma performers in the Latin America and Caribbean region. The National Energy Policy 2005-2030 lays out a comprehensive long-term vision for diversification of the energy mix, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, improve energy efficiency, and increase the use of indigenous resources with a focus on renewables. The country is also in the process of strengthening the resilience of the energy sector and developing strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

In the Sustainability dimension, Uruguay is a leader in the deployment of renewables, ranking at #6 globally. Renewable energy accounts for 59% of the country's energy mix and approximately 98% of electricity generation. A concerted government effort over the last twenty years to diversify domestic energy production, particularly through investment in renewables and wind power, has led to significant CO2 reductions and a strong and competitive renewables sector. In 2019 electricity production was composed of approximately 56% hydro; 34% wind; 3% solar PV; 6% biomass and 2% fossil fuel. The government published its fifth National Communication to the UNFCCC in 2019 in which it identified emissions produced mainly by the Energy sector through fossil fuel combustion, primarily in transport activities (57% of the sector) as the largest emitter of CO2 in the country. The government is taking steps to address and is a frontrunner in electric mobility in Latin America, and electric public transport is being promoted strongly.

Investments in renewables in recent years have also improved energy security as the country has turned from energy importer to a net exporter in the last decade. Reliance on oil imports has declined as wind power capacity has grown, resulting in a more diverse energy mix as reflected in the improved Security score, making Uruguay one of the strongest improvers in the LAC region in this category. Uruguay has one of the largest middle classes in the LAC region with low levels of poverty and inequality. The steady performance on Energy Equity since the early 2000s is due to 100% electricity access in the country.

Compared with several other LAC countries, Uruguay managed to control the COVID-19 spread effectively, aided by early adoption of new technologies for contact tracing and access to healthcare and social security. However, the global economic slowdown is expected to have long term effects on the domestic economy as exports to major trade partners fell in the first half of 2020.

Key metrics

Metrics are determined relative to other countries, with a full bar representing a score of 100.

