

Submitting Country, Organization, Company

Fashion Revolution

If Organization or Company, please indicate the approximate number of employees

20

Title of the action

Fashion Transparency Index Global

Upload an image



Relevant Website

www.fashionrevolution.org

Partners

- Wikirate: Our partnership with Wikirate enables the data we collect about brands to be freely accessible, easily comparable, machine readable, and crucially, actionable. This is valuable to investors and civil society organisations, including trade unions that represent garment workers, that make use of transparency data.

Link 1:

https://wikirate.org/Fashion_Revolution+Fashion_Transparency_Index_2021

Link 2:

https://wikirate.org/Fashion_Revolution+Fashion_Transparency_Index_2020

- Clean Clothes Campaign - Fashion Checker: FTI data is integrated with Fashion Checker, a tool which compares brands' claims about living wages to workers' wage slips.

Link 1: <https://cleanclothes.org/>

Link 2: <https://fashionchecker.org/>

- Good on You: Parts of the FTI Methodology have been integrated with Good on You for industry alignment.

Link: <https://goodonyou.eco/>

- Business & Human Rights Resource Centre: FTI data is integrated into BHRRC's brand dashboards.

Link: <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/companies/>

- Open Apparel Registry: Some of the indicators included in the Traceability section of the FTI Methodology are in alignment with the OAR and the Open Data Standard to encourage synergy with how traceability data is shared. We hold regular meetings with OAR, as they are a key collaborator in our drive for greater transparency.

Link: <https://openapparel.org/>

- Laudes Foundation: Laudes Foundation is an independent foundation and part of the Brenninkmeijer family enterprise, alongside COFRA Group businesses and the family's other private philanthropic activities, including Porticus, the Good Energies Foundation and the Argidius Foundation. Laudes currently funds core activities of Fashion Revolution, including special projects like the FTI.

Link: <https://www.laudesfoundation.org/>

Type of initiative

Civil society initiative

Description of action

A review of 250 of the world's largest fashion brands and retailers ranked according to how much they disclose about their social and environmental policies, practices and impact, in their operations and supply chains. Brands are selected if they have an annual turnover of over USD \$400 million and represent a spread of market segments including high street, luxury, sportswear, accessories, footwear and denim from across Europe, North America, South America, Asia and Africa.

As the biggest and most powerful consumer brands in the apparel industry, the brands reviewed in this Index have the most significant negative human rights and environmental impacts and the greatest responsibility to mitigate these impacts. Where brands are privately held, we have made an educated guess regarding their size and turnover. Geographic spread is considered too.

The Index benchmarks brands' public disclosure on human rights and environmental issues across 5 key areas including: Policies & Commitments, Governance, Supply Chain Traceability, Know, Show & Fix and Spotlight Issues.

This year, the spotlight issues are: Decent work, forced-labour, living wages, purchasing practices, unionisation and collective bargaining; gender and racial equality; sustainable sourcing and materials; overconsumption and business model; waste and circularity; water and chemicals and finally, climate change and biodiversity.

The methodology was designed in 2017 through a four-month consultative process with a variety of industry experts and stakeholders from academia, NGOs, the trade union movement, civil society organisations, socially responsible investment, business consulting and journalism.

Fashion Revolution is an organisation that is uniquely positioned both 'within' and 'outside' the fashion industry. We work to achieve change in three main ways: policy change, cultural change and industry change. Working 'within' the system means engaging in a system that is deeply unsustainable, extractive and unjust. Engaging within a system we disagree with is not to condone it. In fact, it is the very opposite - an attempt to fundamentally disrupt and dismantle the structures that uphold injustice and exploitation. This includes opaque supply chains that allow hidden human rights and environmental abuses and obscure who has the responsibility to redress them.

We are working for industry-wide transparency and accountability that becomes deeply embedded across the value chain. This can only be achieved by involving the biggest players in the industry, such as the brands and retailers reviewed in the Fashion Transparency Index, precisely because they have the biggest negative impacts and greatest responsibility to address and change the problems they

have caused and continue to perpetuate. Broadly speaking, we see industry change as work 'within' the system, and cultural and policy change as work 'outside' the system.

That said, we simultaneously work 'outside' of the system, to educate and mobilise citizens as well as advocate for policy changes in government and legislation and the Index is just one of the outcomes of Fashion Revolution's awareness-raising efforts.

The 2020 Index report has 148,445 downloads to date with the 2021 Index report (released July 2021) currently at around 50,000 downloads with +3,000 reads of mobile-friendly executive summary.

Type of action

Traceability

Transparency

Please select the specific area/s of the action

Norms and standards

Incentives

Awareness and Education

Collaborative initiatives

Scope of the action, including a description of the value chain processes that are covered

Objective

To incentivise major brands and retailers to disclose a greater level of detailed and comparable data and information year-on-year by leveraging their competitive tendencies; to analyse trends and compare the level of transparency on human rights and environmental issues among the world's largest and most influential fashion brands and retailers; to create a tool that helps a wide set of stakeholders to better understand what data and information is being disclosed by the world's largest brands and use the findings to take further action; to shape our ongoing efforts to raise public awareness and educate people about the social and environmental challenges facing the global fashion industry, using this research to inform people's activism; and to influence future legislation. The indicators included in the FTI Methodology act are progressive, although necessary, in what they are asking brands to disclose and these indicators help inform the basis of new legislation.

Commitments

The Fashion Transparency Index is currently funded by the Laudes Foundation. The Laudes Foundation has committed to funding the FTI global report conducted from 2020 through to 2022 with 250 brands and to convene the annual launch of the FTI. Fashion Revolution committed to: (1) Publish the FTI Global and develop specific KPIs, of which have been achieved i.e. a 2% increase in the overall average score of all brands reviewed in each FTI report by 2023. Brands included in the Index since 2017 have increased their overall scores by an average of 3 percentage points. (2) Liaise, share, collaborate with other benchmarks and similar tools. (3) To build on the FTI national reports, namely the FTI Brazil and FTI Mexico. The first edition of the FTI Brazil was published in 2018 and assessed 20 of the biggest fashion companies in Brazil, with 30 assessed in 2019 and 40 assessed in 2020 and 2021, respectively. The first edition of the FTI Mexico was published in 2020 and assessed 20 of the biggest fashion companies across Mexico, with 31 brands reviewed in 2021.

Value chain scope

The Index assesses brands across 239 indicators, looking for disclosure of relevant information applicable to Tier 1, beyond Tier 1 and at raw material level. It is not within the scope of the Index to verify brands' sustainability claims; we only assess brands on the information they disclose. Transparency is not to be confused with sustainability. However, transparency is an important and critical first step to a more fair, transparent and sustainable fashion industry.

Timeframe and/or milestones for the action

- The Fashion Transparency Index is an on-going project. The Index was first published in April 2017 and has been published annually. The July 2022 edition will be the 7th edition of the Index.
- In 2017, there were 100 brands included in the Index with a participation rate of 48/100, or 48% of brands.
- In 2021, there were 250 brands included in the index with a participation rate of 138/250, or 55% of brands.
- We advocate for year-on-year incremental improvements in transparency for all 250 indicators within the Index and across all brands included in the Index.

Reference instruments and sources used

- Main website, where you will find all editions of the FTI Global, Brazil and Mexico published <https://www.fashionrevolution.org/about/transparency/> • Complete Dataset, Questionnaire template <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1tXnfDvOTGNts2-P3a1JK1NTHh5ghzYUt> • Wikirate integration https://wikirate.org/Fashion_Revolution

Expected benefits and impact for the stakeholders involved

Enhanced traceability of the social / environmental / ethical attributes of product(s)/materials along the value chain; for example, for origin, quality, sustainability performance, and compliance with health and safety requirements for consumers and workers

Enhanced environmental and socially responsible consumption and production, and circularity of the value chain, that may be relevant to and inspire other countries and industry actors/partners

Management of reputational risk for manufacturers, brands and retailers who are selling the products concerned

Improved working conditions for workers along the value chain and, particularly, those who work for "suppliers to suppliers" in parts of the value chain that today are often "hidden"

Stakeholders involved

Business and industry associations

Consumers and consumer associations

Intergovernmental organizations

Investors/shareholders

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Workers and trade unions

Lawmakers

Key performance indicators for the action

- Brand participation rate
- Number of report downloads/reads
- Number of brands reviewed in the Index
- Improvement across any of the indicators within the five different sections of the Index, i.e.
- “X% of brands now disclose their Tier 1 supplier lists, compared to X% last year”
- The Fashion Transparency Index publication press reach
- The Fashion Transparency Index publication social media reach
- The number of investors using the Index

Good practices

- The methodology was designed in 2017 through a four-month consultative process with a variety of industry experts and stakeholders from academia, the trade union movement, civil society organisations, socially responsible investment, business consulting and journalism.
- The methodology is updated every year to ensure it is comprehensive, robust and progressive in what information we are asking brands to disclose.
- The Fashion Transparency Index methodology is free and open to the public, as well as the questionnaire template.
- The Fashion Transparency Index dataset is open to the public on our website but also via Wikirate, our data partner.

How has this UNECE-UN/CEFACT Call to Action contributed to strategic engagement and/or public awareness in support of your commitment?

Engagement with the UNECE measures will support the Index through collaboration such as feedback on current key performance indicators to facilitate alignment with industry goals. Further to this, the Index can align indicators and guidelines within the methodology to the targets of the UNECE Sustainability Pledge to foster further synergy.

Link to relevant goal(s) and specific target(s) of the United Nations

