

Uruguay



Trilemma Rank

#17

Trilemma Score

77.2

Balance Grade

ABA

Uruguay is one of the strongest Trilemma performers, ranking 17th globally. Equity and Sustainability are the strongest dimensions, with a slightly lower score in Security. However, the Security index shows stability and improvement over recent years due to a lesser reliance on imports. Strong performance in the Sustainability scores represents a high proportion of decarbonised energy generation. Equity is improving with a greater proportion of the population accessing prosperity-enabling levels of energy. The balance grade is ABA.

Population
3.5 (millions)

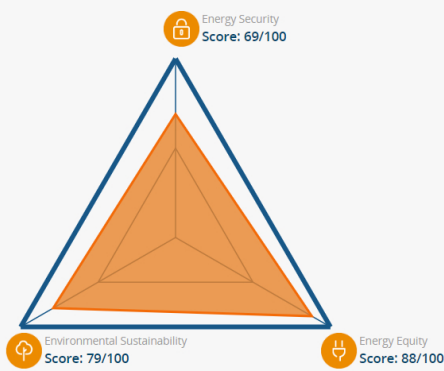
Land Area
175.0 (thousand sq. km)

GDP Per Capita
22,610 (PPP US\$)

Industrial Sector
24.3 (% of GDP)

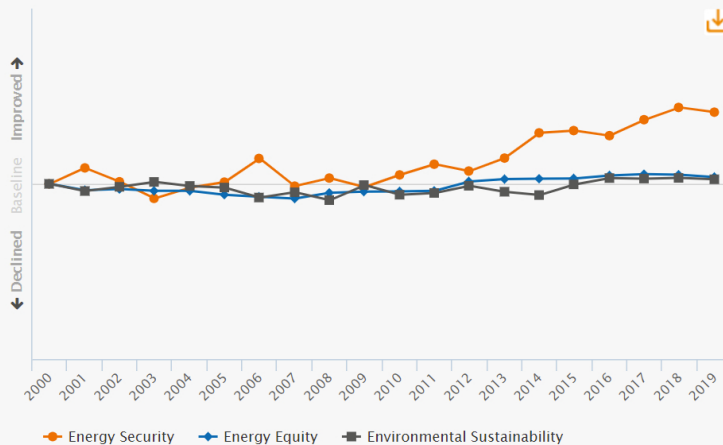
GDP Growth
2.7 (annual %)

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 has a comprehensive, long-term energy plan: The National Energy Policy 2005-2030. The overall objective of this plan is to diversify the energy mix, reduce dependency from fossil fuels, improve energy efficiency, and increase the use of endogenous resources, mostly renewables. The plan sets a target of 50% primary energy from renewable energy sources by 2015. This includes renewable energy for electricity generation, industrial and domestic heat, and transport. In 2016, Uruguay's power system had a very high share of renewable installed capacity (around 80%), comprising half VRE (mainly wind) and half hydro and biomass plants. Electricity was almost 100% renewable, with hydro contributing 56%, wind 22%, biomass 18%, solar photovoltaics (PV) 1%, and fossil fuels 3%. This was all possible without subsidies.

Uruguay has large interconnection capacity with Argentina (2000?MW) and Brazil (570?MW); however, without an active cross-border market, the energy is traded via ad hoc short-term agreements. Even with interconnection capacity exceeding peak demand, the power system experiences high VRE curtailment, mostly at night when wind generation exceeds demand. Also, 70% of the Uruguayan offshore area is being explored for natural gas and oil. Between 2010 and 2015, US\$7bn has been invested in the energy sector (15% of annual GDP). As a result of this process, during the past three years, Uruguay has moved from being an energy importer to be an energy exporter.

Key metrics

Metrics are determined relative to other countries, with the top performer receiving a full bar.

