



ecovadis

Business

Sustainability Index

7th Edition of Global Trends
and Benchmarks From Supply Chain
Ratings 2018-2022

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Foreword

Dear readers,

Welcome to the seventh edition of our Business Sustainability Index, which covers more than 100,000 EcoVadis Ratings from 2018 to 2022 and 62,000 unique companies assessed across 159 countries. The insights in this report are derived from millions of data points analyzed by a team of over 450 experts.

Over the past year, the world has discovered the incredible potential of AI. This has raised questions about the role of humans versus machines in EcoVadis Ratings. Our annual Index report is the perfect opportunity for me to confirm that both human expertise and cutting-edge AI technology power the tens of thousands of assessments we conduct and ratings we publish every year. Given the vast amount of data this involves, we wouldn't be able to achieve this without AI. Equally, we couldn't do it without the wealth of human expertise that makes our ratings credible and trusted by companies around the world.

We use AI and machine learning to collect sustainability data across thousands of supply chains and scan millions of documents for the information our analysts need. Human expertise is used to improve

our rating methodology on a day-to-day basis and evaluate companies based on the information collected and qualified by our technology platform. Our analysts also spend a significant amount of time presenting and explaining the results to rated companies to give them a clear roadmap for improvement.

From the outset, EcoVadis' approach has been to combine the best of people and technology. AI will help us further enhance our approach and accelerate progress toward our official purpose of guiding all companies toward a sustainable world.

We hope you find these new insights valuable.

Sylvain Guyoton
Chief Rating Officer



Introduction

In its seventh edition, the EcoVadis Index provides insights from the sustainability ratings of more than 62,000 companies assessed between 2018 and 2022. Based on data from over 100,000 assessments, this summary report and the accompanying [Index Online](#) showcase that companies across sizes, industries and regions have been consistently improving on our core sustainability themes: Environment, Labor & Human Rights, Ethics and Sustainable Procurement.

The companies in the Index are categorized into three distinct groups: small (25–99 employees), medium-sized (100–999 employees) and large (1,000+ employees) businesses. Of the companies analyzed, 83% have between 25 and 999 employees and are referred to as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This expansive group of companies has been outperforming its larger counterparts in recent years, driving much of the progress in the EcoVadis network. While the strides being made by SMEs are a highly positive sign for global supply chains, large companies – with their extensive and complex supplier networks – still represent the best lever for accelerating sustainable change at the scale

and rate needed. Between expanding stakeholder expectations and more stringent social and environmental due diligence requirements, large companies will have no choice but to rapidly improve their performance across all sustainability themes.

The upward trend in Sustainable Procurement theme scoring suggests that more companies are implementing practical strategies to mitigate risk and drive meaningful sustainable change throughout their extended value chains. After years of sluggish growth, companies have increased the global theme average to 40.6, improving by 1.7 points since 2021 alone – the highest yearly gain across all themes. The most challenging of the four performance themes assessed under [the EcoVadis ratings methodology](#), Sustainable Procurement is crucial to building organizational resilience and mitigating risk. It also helps cascade a company's sustainability values and goals throughout the upstream value chain.

As awareness around supply chain due diligence grows and more companies begin to assess and monitor their suppliers, there are more first-time ratings. Thus, the EcoVadis network has

grown exponentially, with the number of assessments increasing by 134% since 2018. We also see a growing commitment to the ongoing process of assessment and improvement – more than half (54%) of the companies in the network were assessed multiple times between 2018 and 2022.

As highlighted across all performance themes, that group is more likely to fall into the Advanced (65+) or Outstanding (85+) categories. An impressive 12% of companies have now reached this upper echelon of the performance scale.

What can we say about the entirety of the EcoVadis network? The global average score for companies of all sizes is now at 50.3 – halfway there, but not halfway done. We expect this to increase in the coming years as more companies shift their focus from risk to sustainable value and positive impact – not just within their operations but across their supply chains. It's clear, however, that companies of certain categories in some geographical areas have more work cut out for them than others. This report explores the trends behind this global overall average of 50.3 – across regions, themes and industries.



A Word on the Data

50.3

global overall average in 2022

↑ 1.1

since 2021

↑ 5.5

since 2018

100,000+

assessments performed
between 2018 and 2022

159

countries represented in the data

62,000+

unique companies assessed
between 2018 and 2022

31,000+

unique companies assessed
in 2022*

54%

of companies assessed more
than once since 2018

12%

of companies scored
above 65 in 2022

- a 140% increase since 2018

2%

of companies
scored below 25 in 2022

- a 50% decrease since 2018

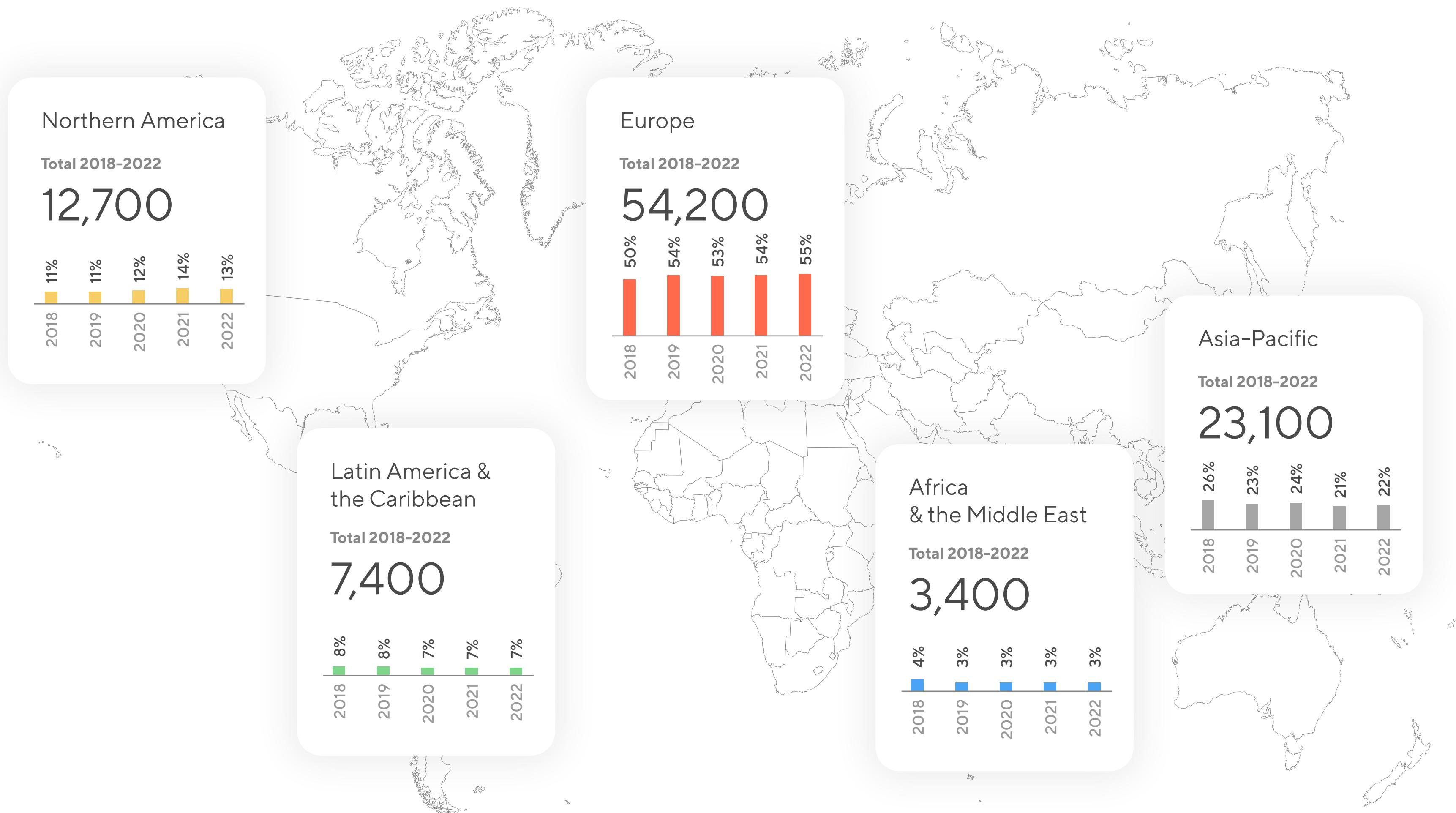
* The data set doesn't include extra-small companies (with a workforce of fewer than 25 people).

 / A Word on the Data

The scoring trends highlighted in this summary report give an overview of our broad and highly diverse data set. They do not paint the full picture though – performance varies significantly across company sizes, regions, industry categories and the four EcoVadis assessment themes. Our [Index Online](#) tool provides a more granular view of the performance of our ever-growing network and enables you to customize your data exploration.

EcoVadis Ratings, which use a 0-to-100 scoring scale, are the key to understanding how a company performs against size, geographic and industry benchmarks. If you're not yet part of the EcoVadis network and you would like to see how you or your suppliers measure up against your peers, get started [here](#).

Number of Assessments and Proportion by Region (2018-2022)

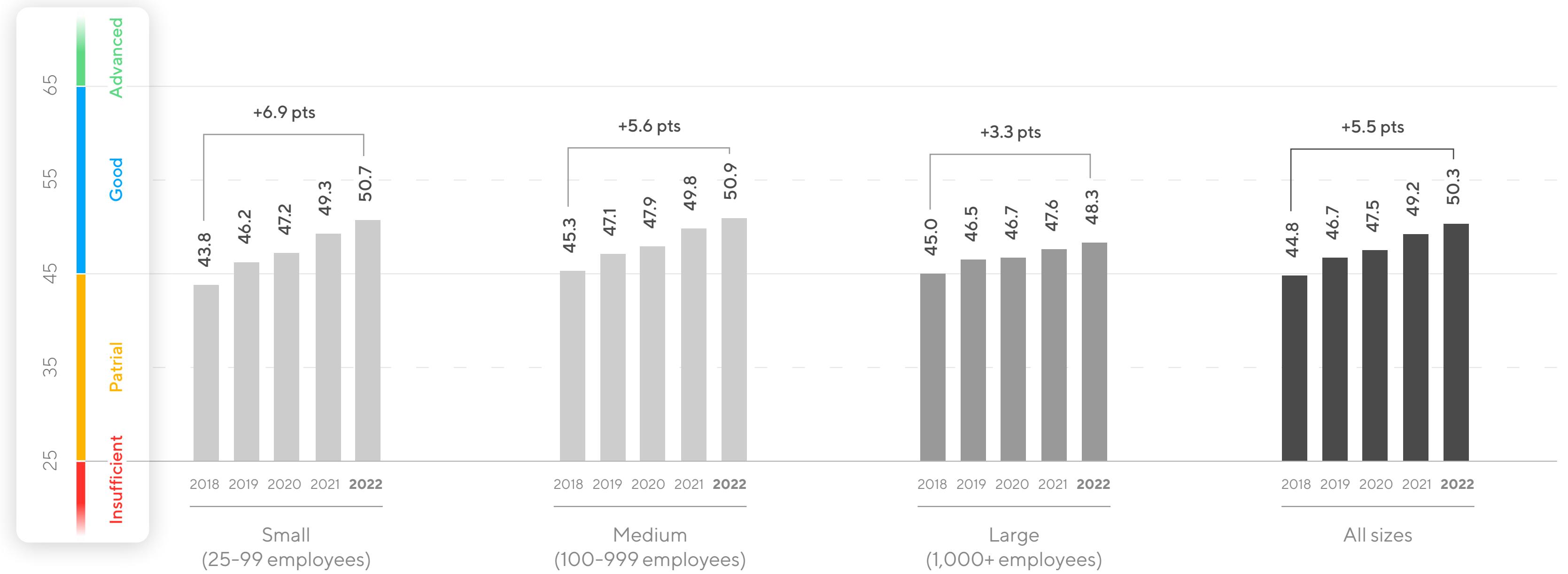


SMEs Forge Ahead

The global average reached 50.3 in 2022, passing the 50-point mark for the first time. Much of the 5.5-point improvement since 2018 has been fueled by SMEs. They continue to outperform their larger counterparts and progress at a faster rate. Small companies improved the most, gaining 6.9 points in the 2018-2022 timeframe. Medium enterprises follow with a 5.6-point gain, while large

companies trail behind, improving by 3.2 points over the five years. To achieve scalability and make a significant impact, large companies need to make progress on multiple fronts due to the complex interconnections within their supply chains.

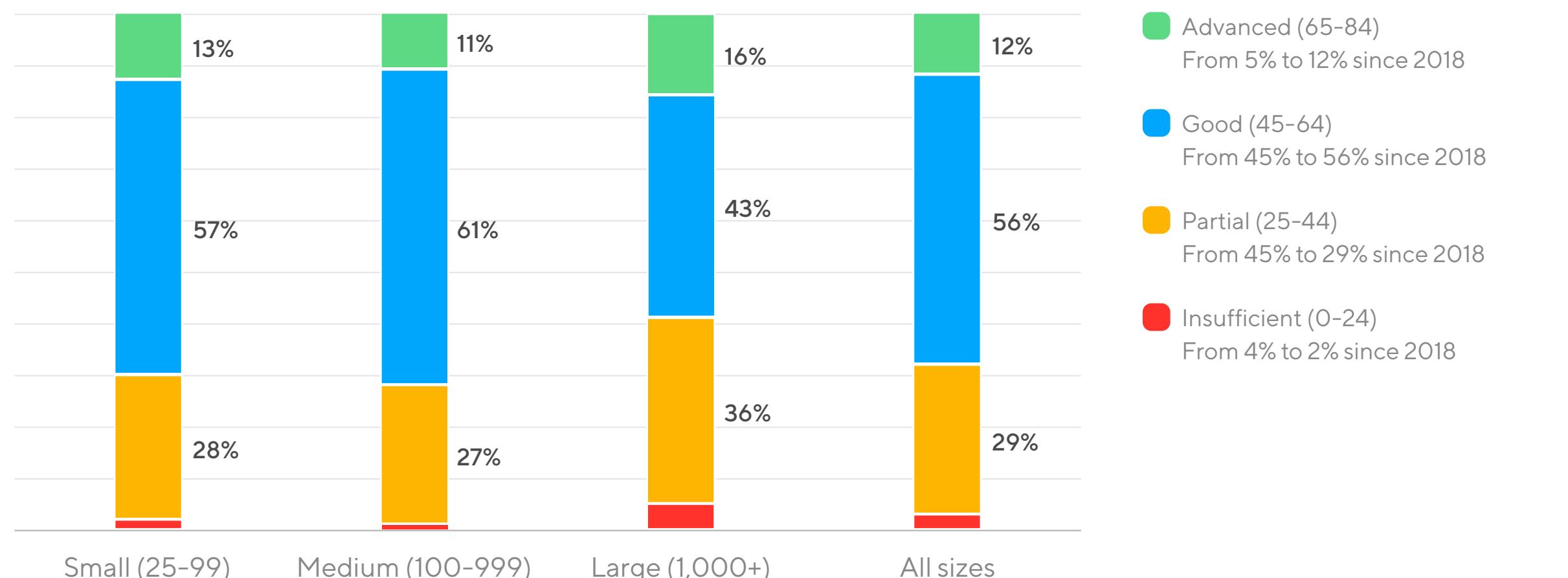
Overall Scoring by Company Size (2018-2022)



Performance distribution across the 2018-2022 period shows that companies in the EcoVadis network are gradually improving their sustainability management systems. As the number of companies in the Advanced and Good performance levels increases, we observe an analogous decrease in the below-45 categories. About a third of all companies fell into the Partial

and Insufficient performance levels (29% and 2%, respectively) in 2022, while more than half (56%) were in the 45-64 threshold. Of the remaining companies, 12% performed at an Advanced level, and only about two dozen made it to the Outstanding (85+) category – the peak of the EcoVadis performance scale.

Distribution of Overall Scores by Company Size (2022)*



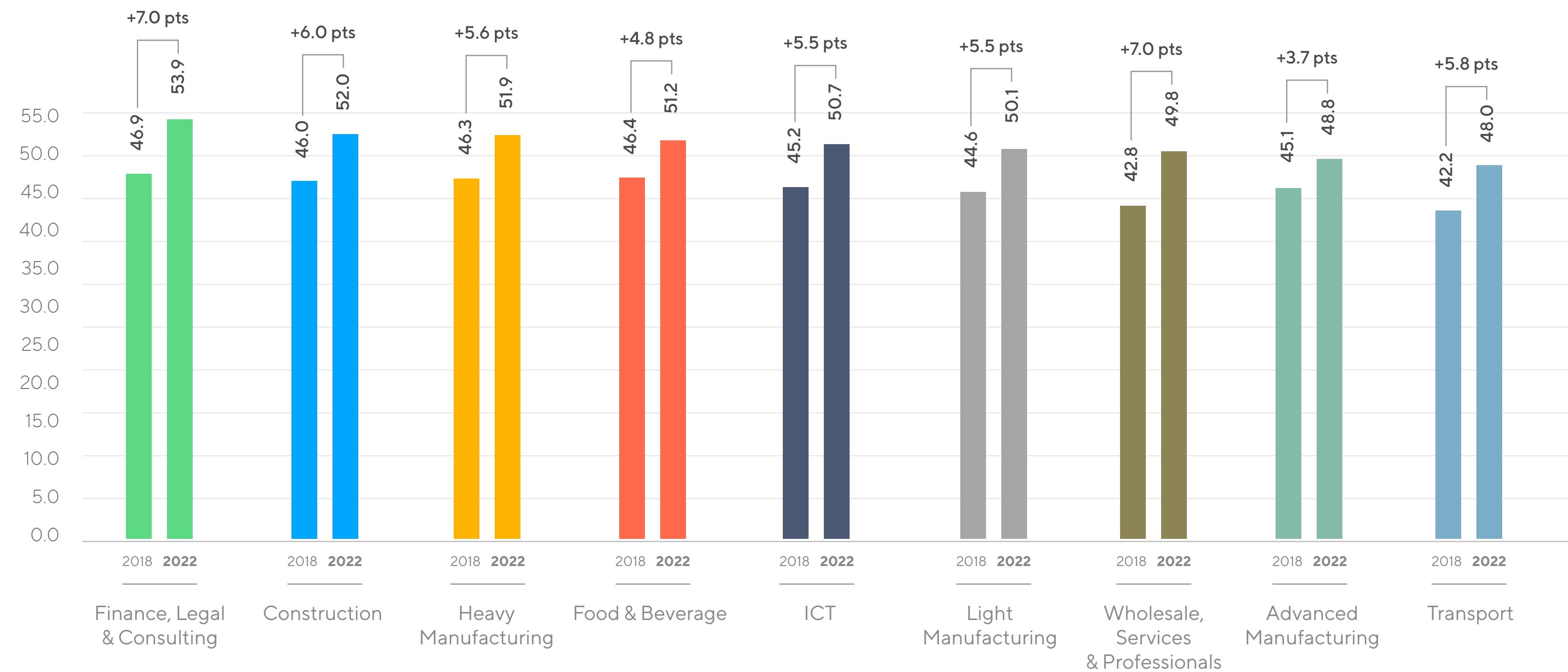
*Due to rounding, distribution chart totals throughout the report can range from 99 to 101.



Most Industries Above the 50-Point Mark

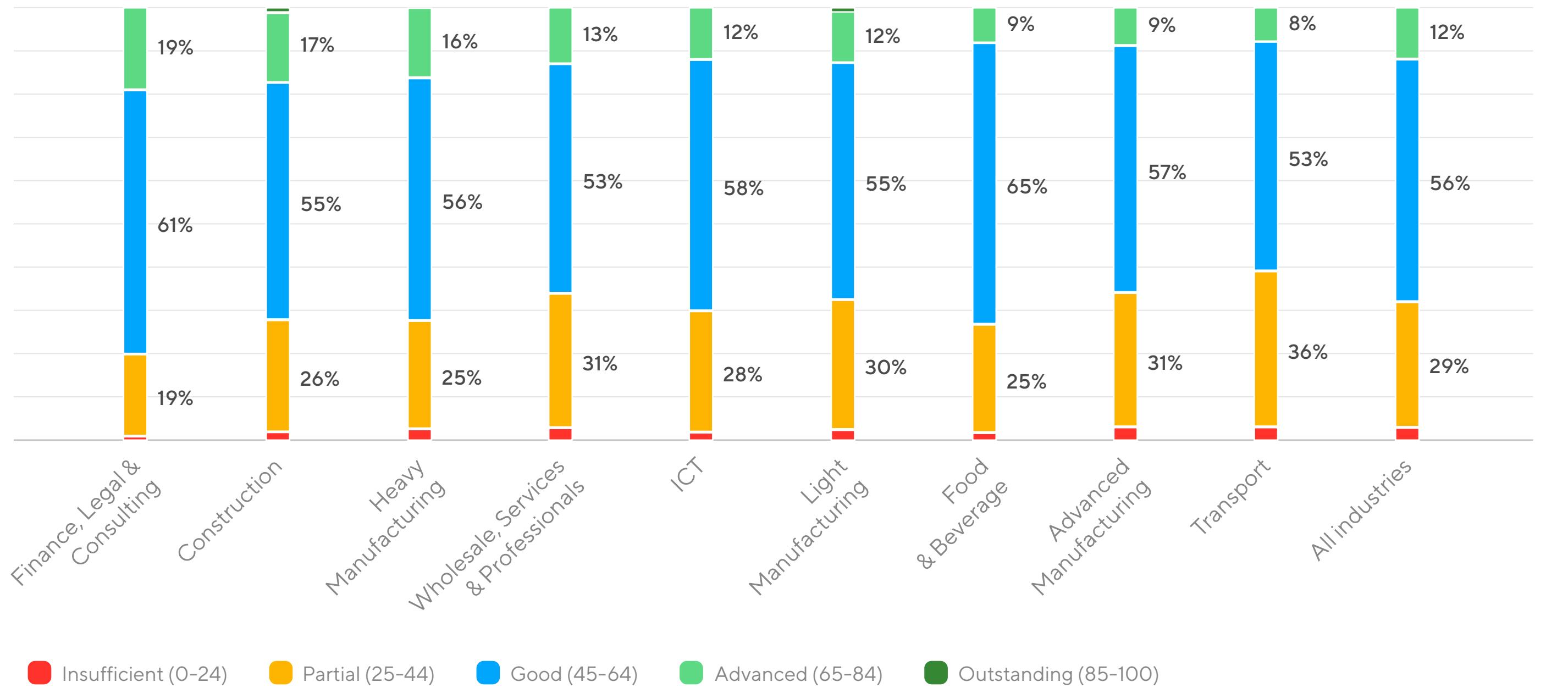
The Finance, Legal and Consulting industry, which has the highest overall average at 53.9, leads the way in terms of the number of high performers (19%). Since 2018, it jumped by an impressive 7 points to the top of the rankings. Construction (52.0) and Heavy Manufacturing (51.9) narrowly trail behind, having improved by 6 and 5.6 points respectively. In 2018, none of the Industry categories examined in the Index had more than 10% of the companies at an Advanced level. By 2022, six out of nine were able to cross that threshold and the remaining three are close to achieving it. Construction was the only industry with more than 1% of its companies at the Outstanding level in 2022.

Performance Improvement by Industry (2018-2022)



► / Most Industries Above the 50-Point Mark

Distribution of Overall Scores by Industry (2022)



EcoVadis uses the United Nations industry classification system ISIC (International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities) to group our rated companies into nine industry categories.

View a full breakdown of industry categories here. >



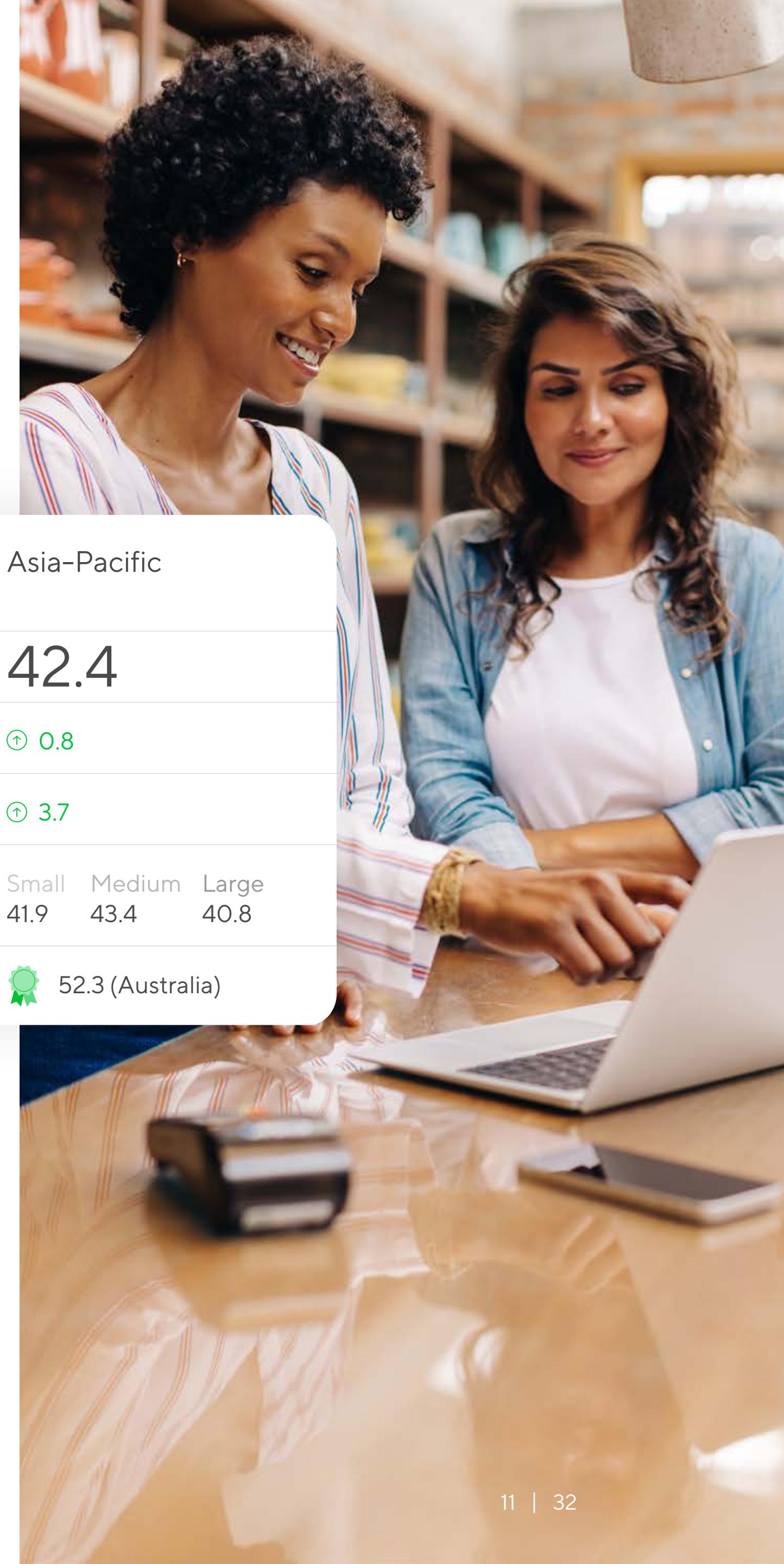
Europe Continues to Lead the Way

Overall Scoring and Improvement by Region (2018-2022)

	Europe	Northern America	Latin America & the Caribbean	Africa & the Middle East	Asia-Pacific
2022 average	55.0	47.9	45.9	43.6	42.4
2021-2022 increase	① 1.2	① 0.9	① 1.0	① 1.7	① 0.8
2018-2022 increase	① 5.6	① 5.0	① 3.7	① 5.7	① 3.7
2022 average score by company size	Small 54.4 Medium 55.7 Large 54.7	Small 49.4 Medium 48.6 Large 45.7	Small 46.0 Medium 47.1 Large 40.8	Small 41.4 Medium 45.2 Large 42.8	Small 41.9 Medium 43.4 Large 40.8
Top scorer	.ribbon 59.4 (Norway)	ribbon 49.6 (Canada)	ribbon 48.5 (Colombia)	ribbon 47.6 (South Africa)	ribbon 52.3 (Australia)

A look at the average scoring per region underlines the status quo established five years before: With an overall average score of 55 points in 2022, Europe has outranked other regions and solidified its leadership position. Companies in Northern America, the second-best region, are averaging 47.9. Latin America & the Caribbean (LAC) and the Middle East and Africa (MEA) follow with 45.9 and 43.6 points,

respectively. Companies in MEA have improved the most – gaining 1.7 points since 2021 and 5.7 since 2018. This indicates that they are building momentum on improving their sustainability management systems and are poised to gain more ground on the other regions.



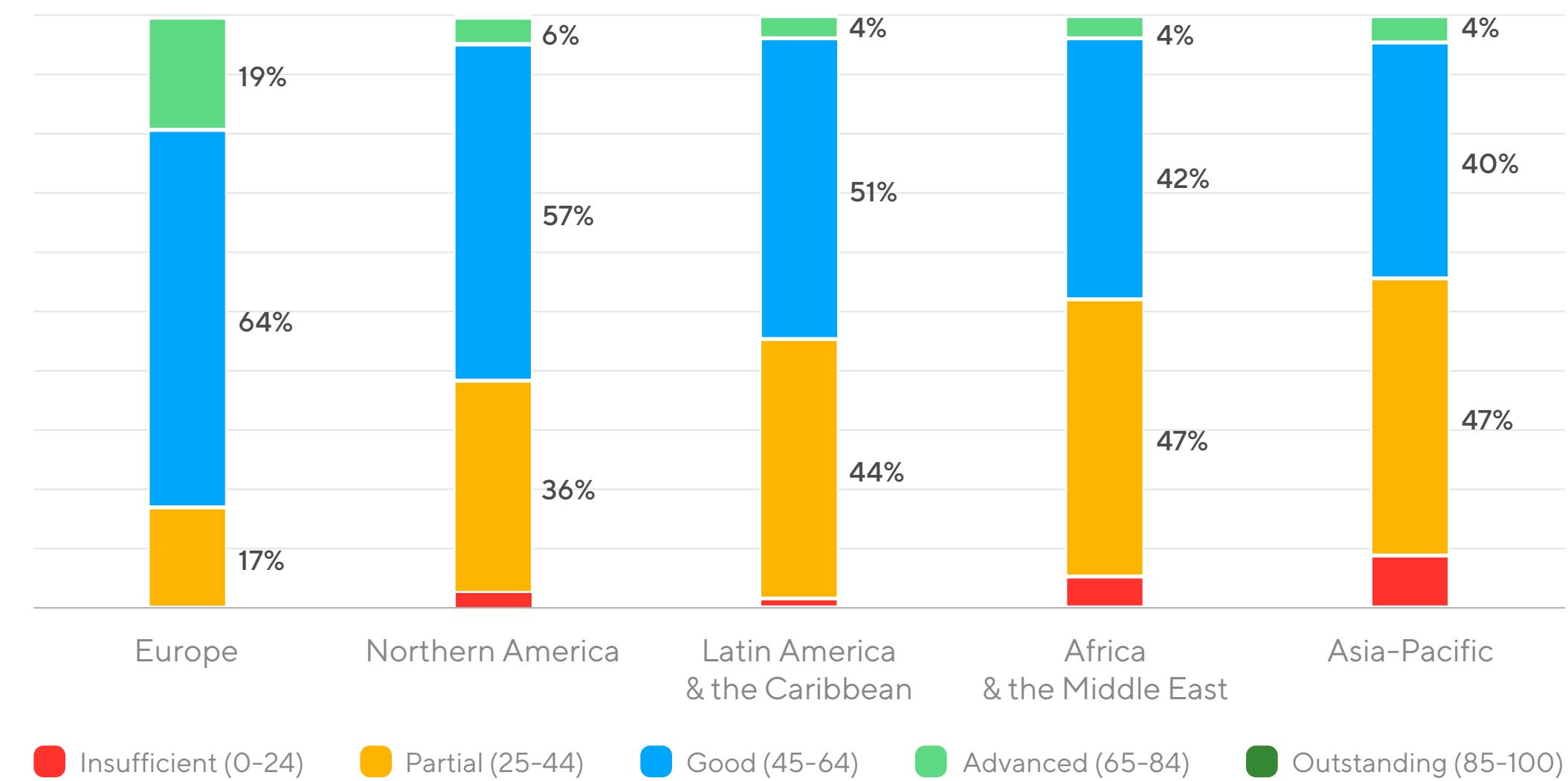
► / Europe Continues to Lead the Way

On the tail end of the regional distribution is Asia-Pacific with an overall score of 42.4. Companies in the region have improved by 0.8 points since 2021, closing the surveyed timeframe with a 3.7-point increase. This reverses the trend observed between 2020 and 2021 when Asia-Pacific was the most improved region. The overall performance of the region will continue to hinge on the progress of Chinese companies due to their massive representation in the EcoVadis network.

Europe is still home to many of the leaders on the rated side: While 9% of European companies achieved Advanced (65+) performance in 2022, only 6% of

companies in Northern America can say the same (although, both regions have seen a doubling of companies in this category since 2018). The remaining regions amassed a small but growing (4%) group of leading companies in 2022. As seen in the distribution chart on the right, virtually none of the European companies have Insufficient (below 25) sustainability management systems, asserting the maturity the other regions currently lack: MEA and Asia-Pacific still have an appreciable number of companies in the lowest performance category (7% and 9%, respectively) and the majority still have not progressed to Good or better (45+) categories.

Distribution of Overall Scores by Regions (2022)



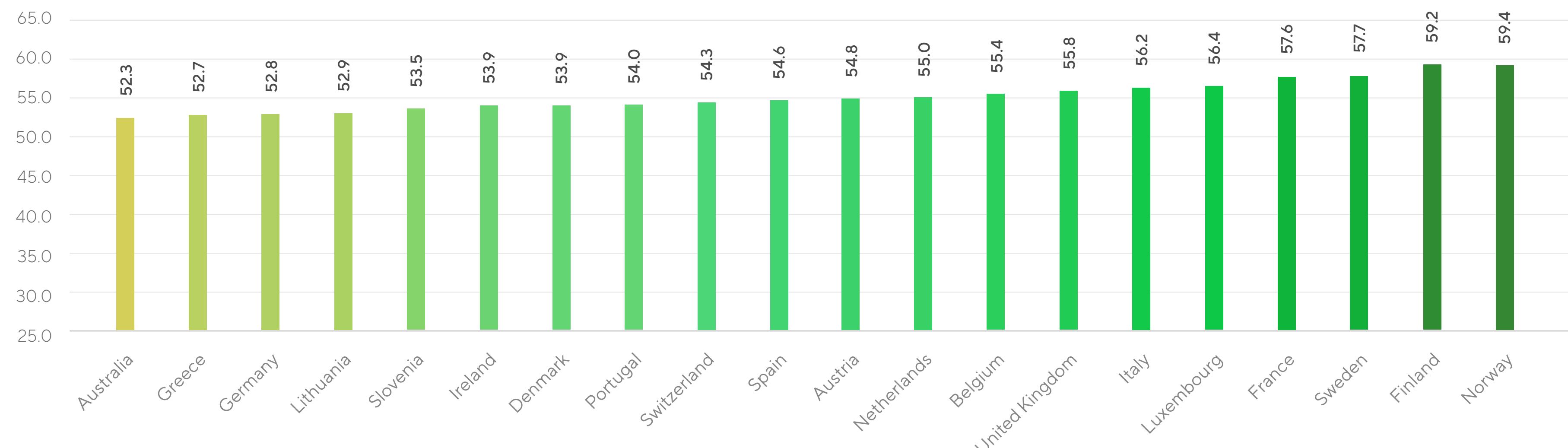
The Nordics Round up the Top Three

European countries are much faster at adopting sustainable business practices and taking steps to address sustainability challenges. Government spending and clear political will are driving the change: Many European countries have set sustainability goals enshrined in domestic legislation, like Finland's carbon neutrality target for 2035. On top of national laws, the European Union is implementing extensive measures to make Europe a climate-neutral continent by 2050.

No region is as focused on net-zero targets as Europe, where environmental considerations have been at the political table for many years. It's clear, however, that the climate transition requires sweeping transformation on all levels. We see that approach reflected in the performance of European companies as they have consistently improved their overall performance across all assessment themes.

Norway is the top-performing country (59.4 points), having improved by a remarkable 4.6 points since 2021 (and 9.4 points since 2018). It has narrowly surpassed Finland (59.2), now the runner-up. Another Nordic country, Sweden (57.7), rounds out the top three, while France (57.6) and Luxembourg (56.4) follow. The first non-European country on the list is Australia, which closes out the top 20 with a score of 52.3.

Top-20 Countries by Overall Average (2022)*



Don't see your country listed?

This summary report is supplemented by an interactive web-based tool: [Index Online](#). You can explore our ratings data set in more detail and filter the results by country, industry, theme, and other parameters.

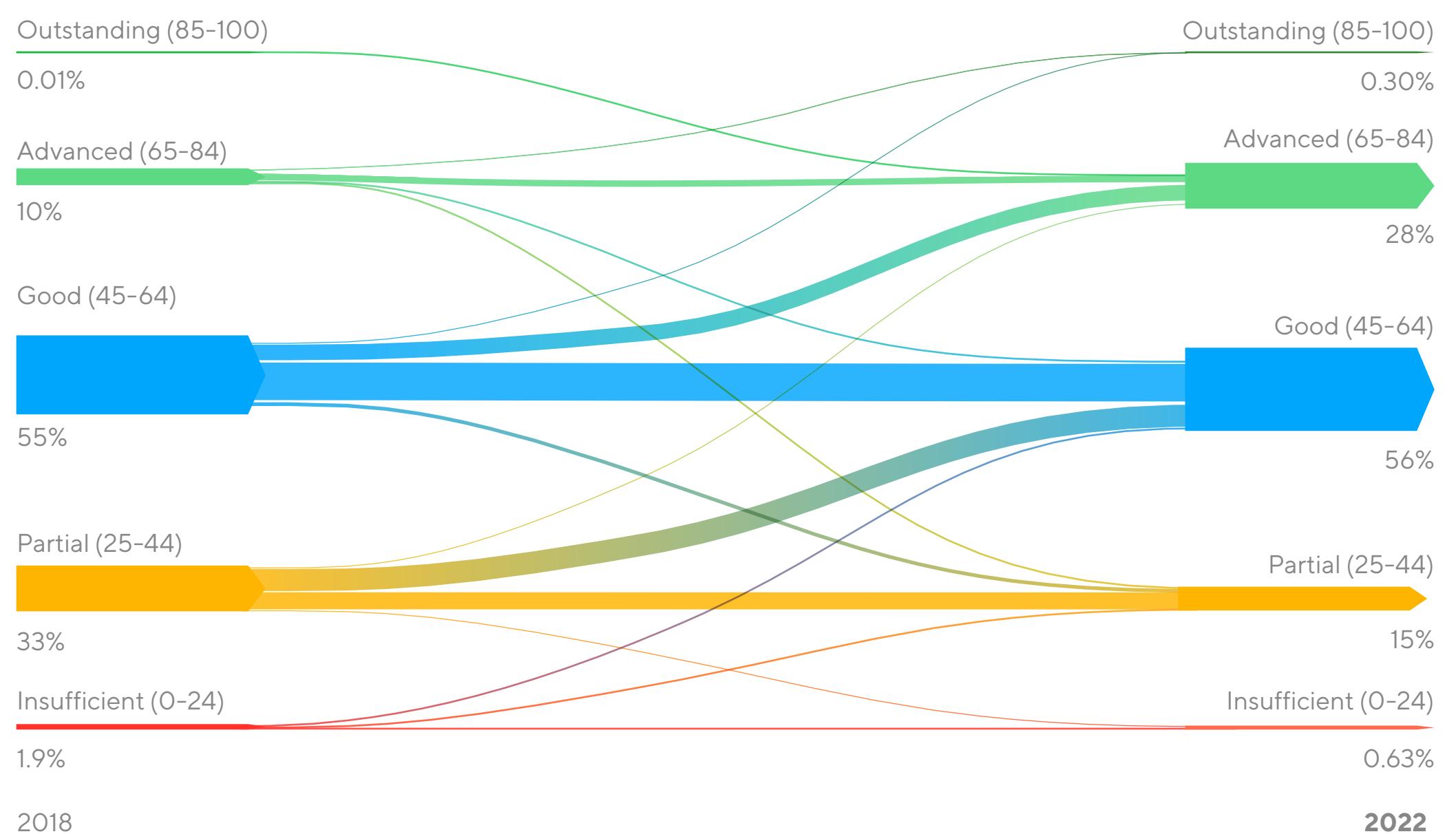
*Ranking includes only countries with at least 30 assessments in 2022.

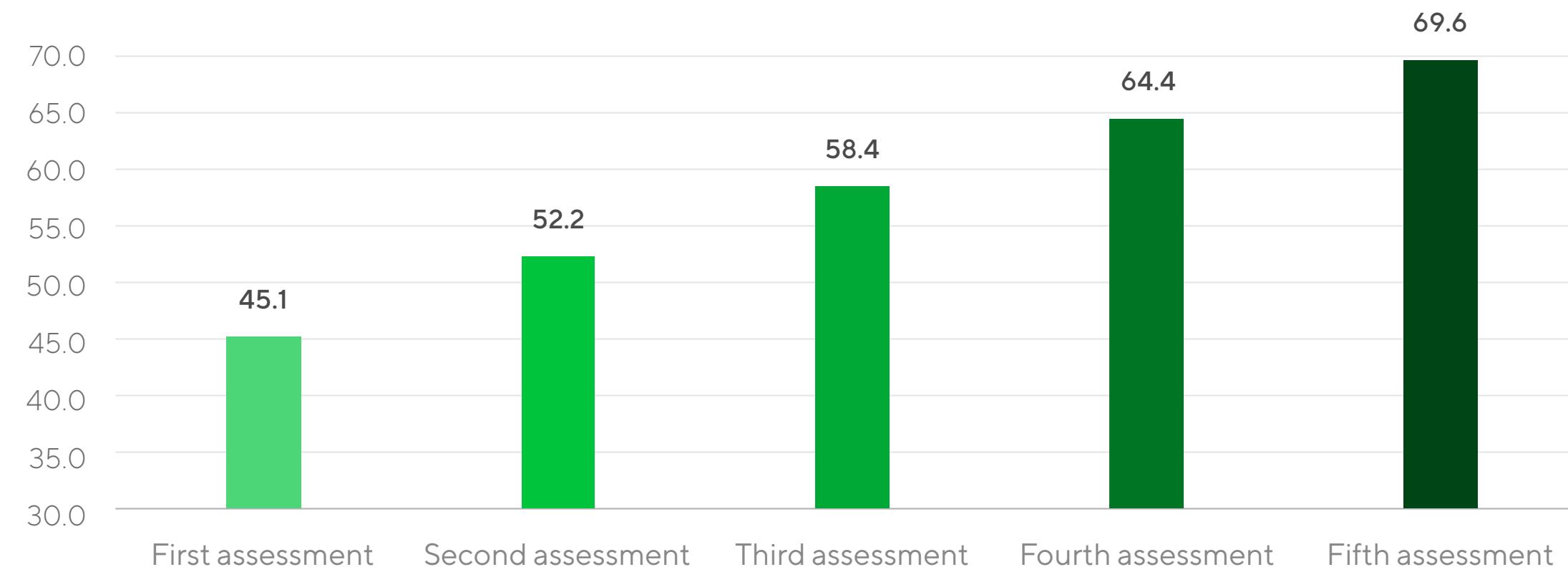
The Leaders of the EcoVadis Network

A score of 65 or more puts a company in the Advanced or Outstanding category, indicating that it has a comprehensive sustainability management system and robust mechanisms to measure progress and report on it. Building a system of this caliber takes time and commitment as illustrated by the fact that 84% of the companies with an Advanced or Outstanding rating in 2022 were reassessed at least once since 2018 (the remaining 16% were assessed for the first time in 2022).

Looking closely at companies assessed in 2018 and again in 2022, 28% have reached an Advanced or higher performance level (with just a handful of companies in the Outstanding category), up from 10% in 2018. Most of these new high achievers moved up from the Good level. However, a small but significant number of companies were able to transform their sustainability management systems over a relatively short timeframe and make the leap from the Partial and Insufficient performance levels. As a result, the share of companies assessed as having a Partial management system has roughly halved over the past five years.

Progression of Companies Assessed in 2018 and Again in 2022



Environment Performance by Number of Assessments (2022)

A deep dive into each EcoVadis assessment theme confirms just how impactful a cycle of baselining can be for improving sustainability performance. Companies assessed multiple times are much more likely to reach Advanced or Outstanding performance than those that are not consistently benchmarking and driving improvement. The case for reassessments is especially salient when we look at the average

Environment scores by the number of assessments: Companies assessed for the first time in 2022 averaged 45.1, while those undergoing their second assessment that year on average scored 7.1 points more. A small group of companies committed over the long term saw even better results – those with five assessments under their belts averaged a remarkable score of 69.6 points.



Environment Performance

51.5

global average in 2022

↑ 1.5
since 2021

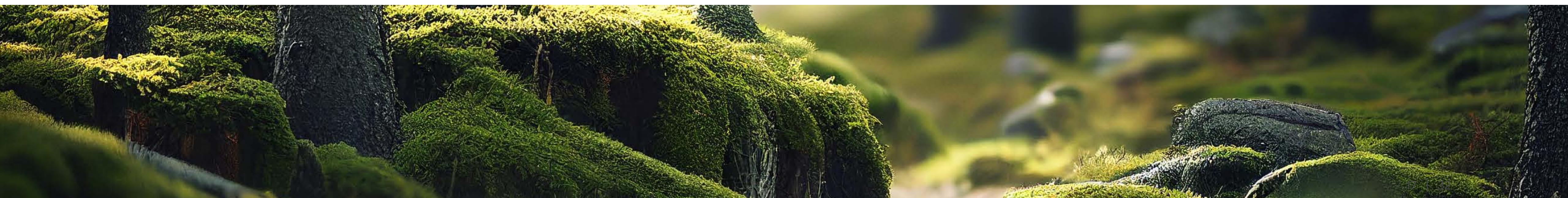
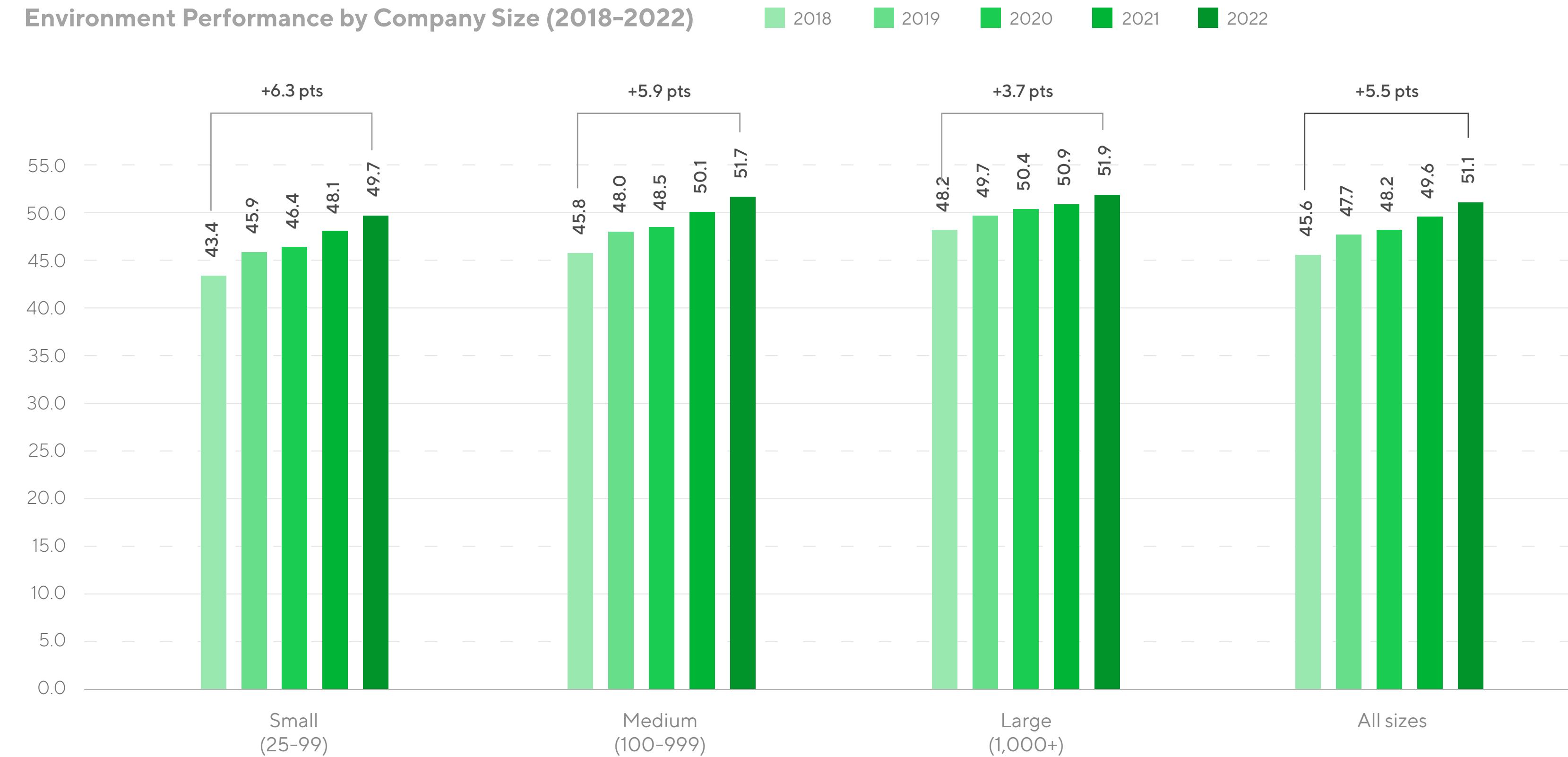
↑ 5.5
since 2018

Top performers in 2022:

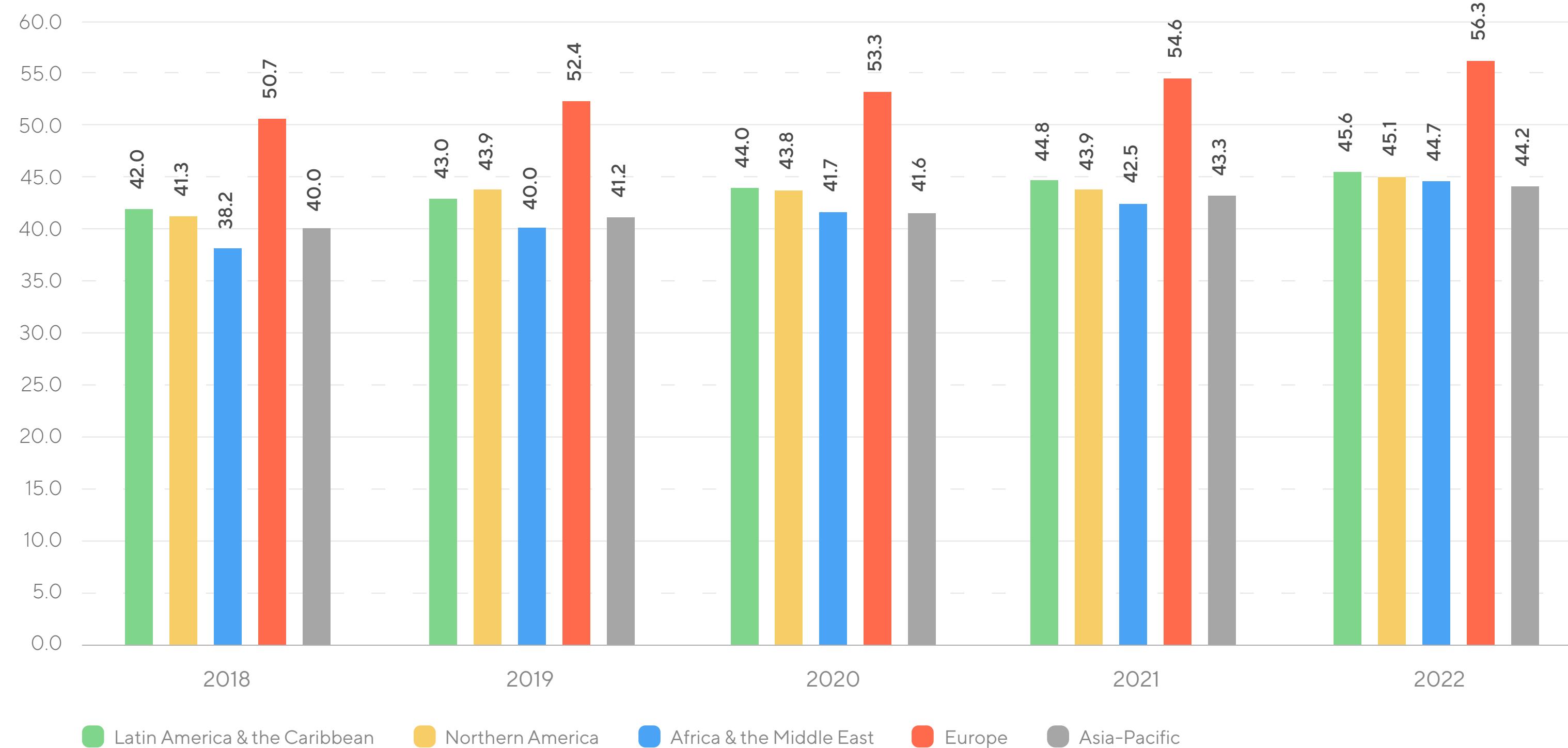
Finland	Norway	Sweden
62.4	61.9	60.6

The average score for the Environment theme rose to 51.1 in 2022, an increase of 1.5 points from 2021 and 5.5 since 2018. Large companies continue to lead on this theme (51.9 points) but not by much. Over the past five years, small companies improved by 6.3 points (now at 49.7) and medium-sized companies gained 5.9 points (51.7). It's the only theme where large companies outperform SMEs but, with just a 0.2-point gap separating medium and large companies, that can easily change within the next assessment cycle.

Environment Performance by Company Size (2018-2022)



Average Environment Scoring by Region (2018-2022)



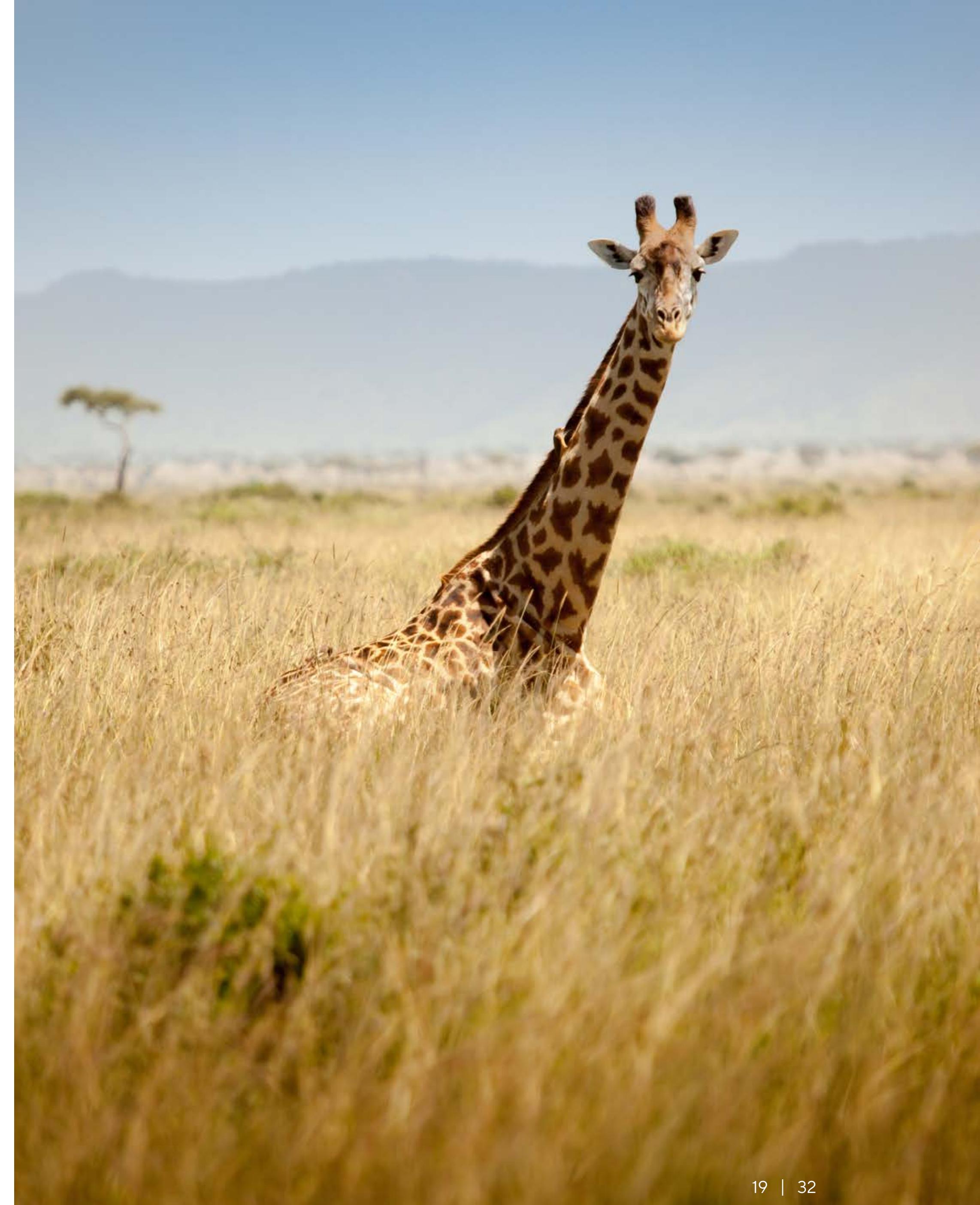
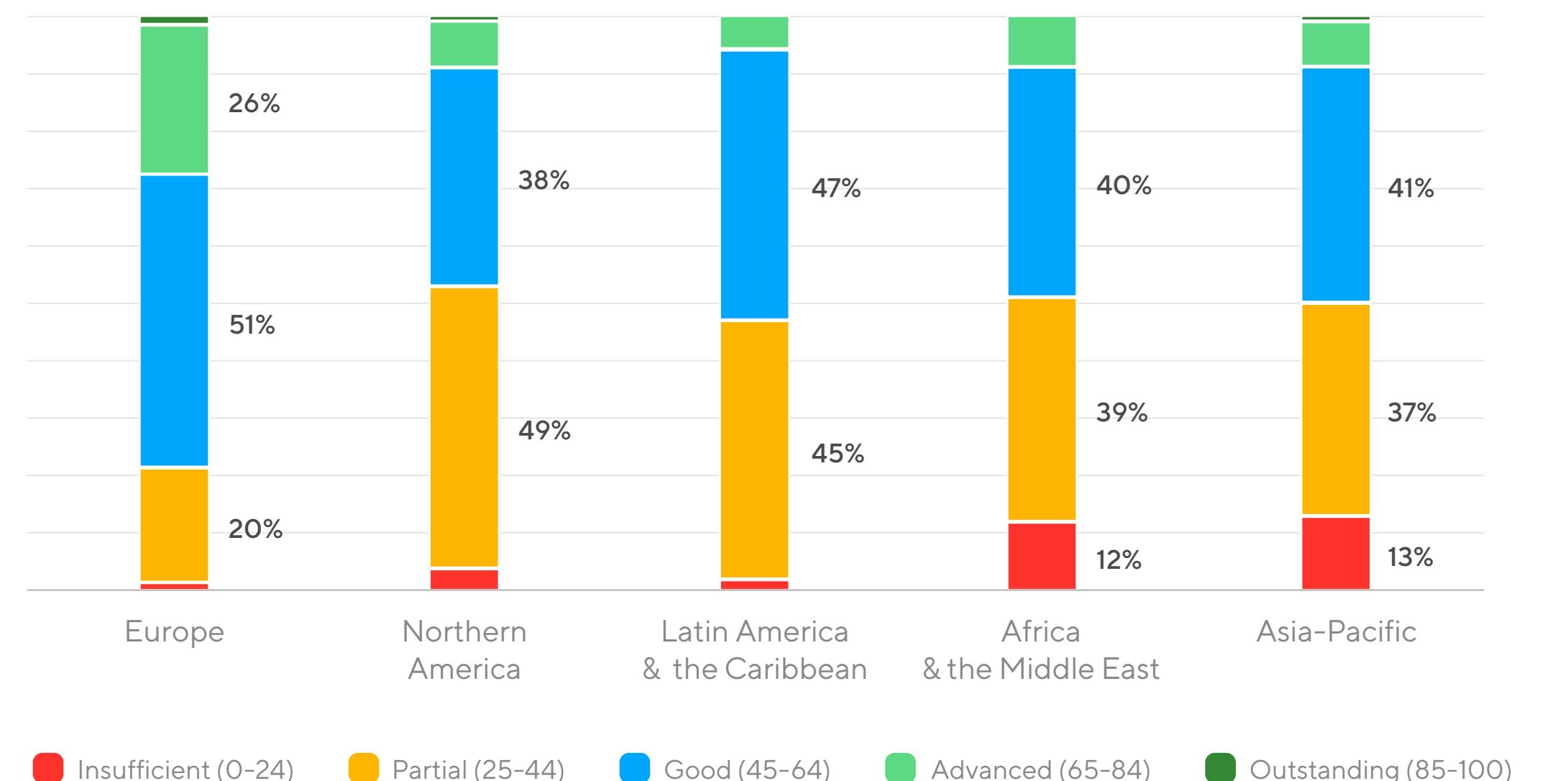
The 10.7-point scoring gap between companies in Europe and LAC – the next best region – is the largest regional disparity between first and second place across any of the themes in 2022. Some of the gulf between Europe and the rest of the world can be attributed to the performance of the standout Nordic countries, which are all scoring above 60 on the theme. However, a few countries in Europe outside of these outliers stack up remarkably well, pulling up the regional average. The other regions remain close to each other, struggling for breakout improvement; however, it's worth noting that companies in MEA have made eye-catching progress, gaining 2.2 points since 2021 and 6.5 points since 2018.



More companies score Advanced or better on the Environment theme than on any other, with 19% crossing the 65-point threshold in 2022 (including 1% that made it to the Outstanding category – the only case across all themes). This is largely due to the strong performance of European companies – 26% are now

considered Advanced on this theme and 2% are in the Outstanding category. Other regions have a steadily growing share of companies in this upper tier; however, each also has about half of its companies performing below the 45-point threshold, either at a Partial or Insufficient level.

Distribution of Environment Scores by Region (2022)



Labor & Human Rights Performance

53.3

global average in 2022

↑ 0.7 ↑ 6.5
since 2021 since 2018

Top performers in 2022:

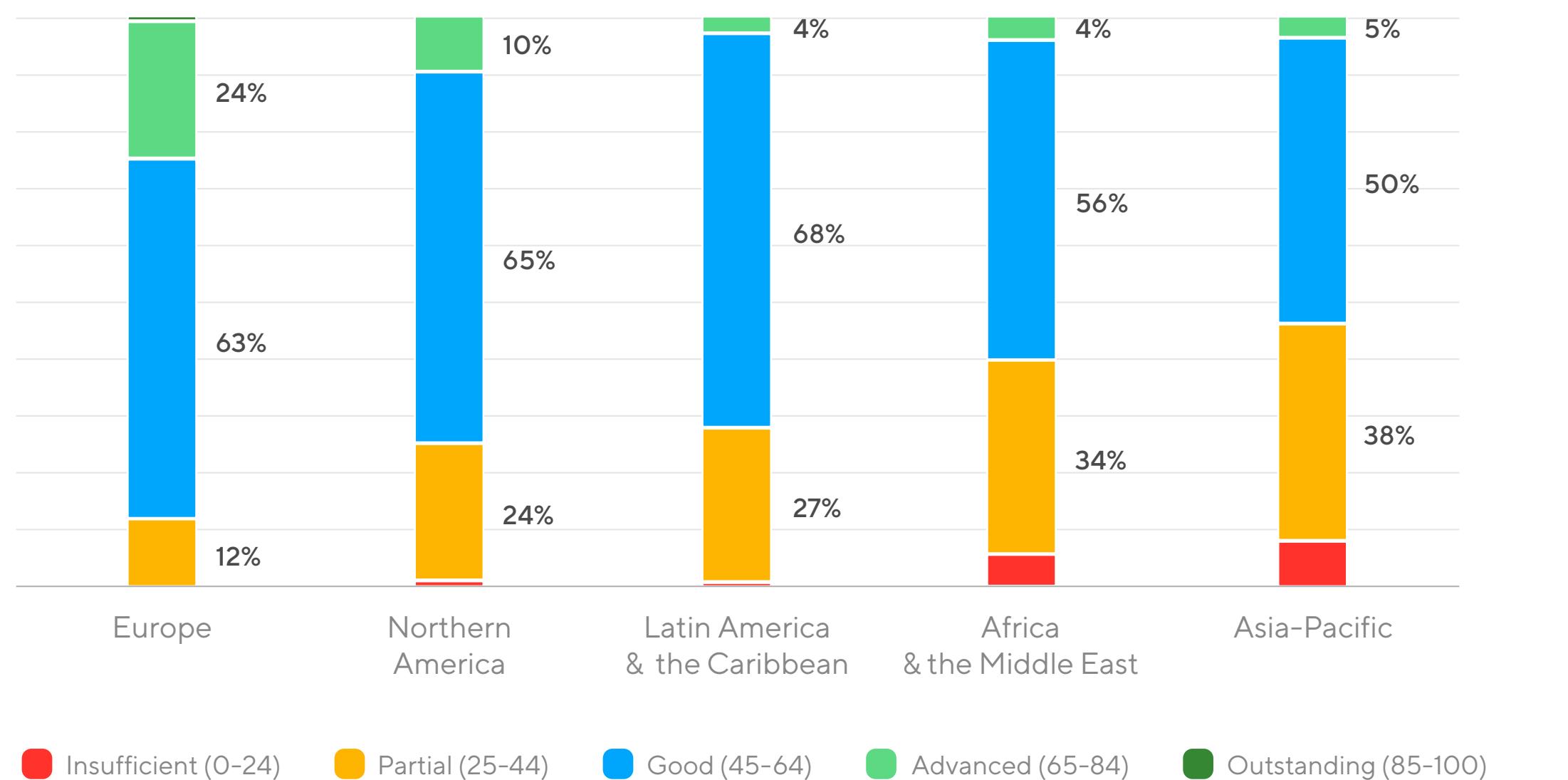
Finland	France	Norway
61.2	60.6	60.0



Companies are scoring better on Labor & Human Rights than any other theme. Over the past five years, the global average on this theme has increased by a significant 6.5 points (the highest gain across all themes), rising to 53.3 in 2022. However, it seems momentum is slowing as the theme average has risen by just 0.7 points since 2021. Labor & Human Rights remains the only theme where all regions are scoring above the 45-point threshold indicating Good performance.

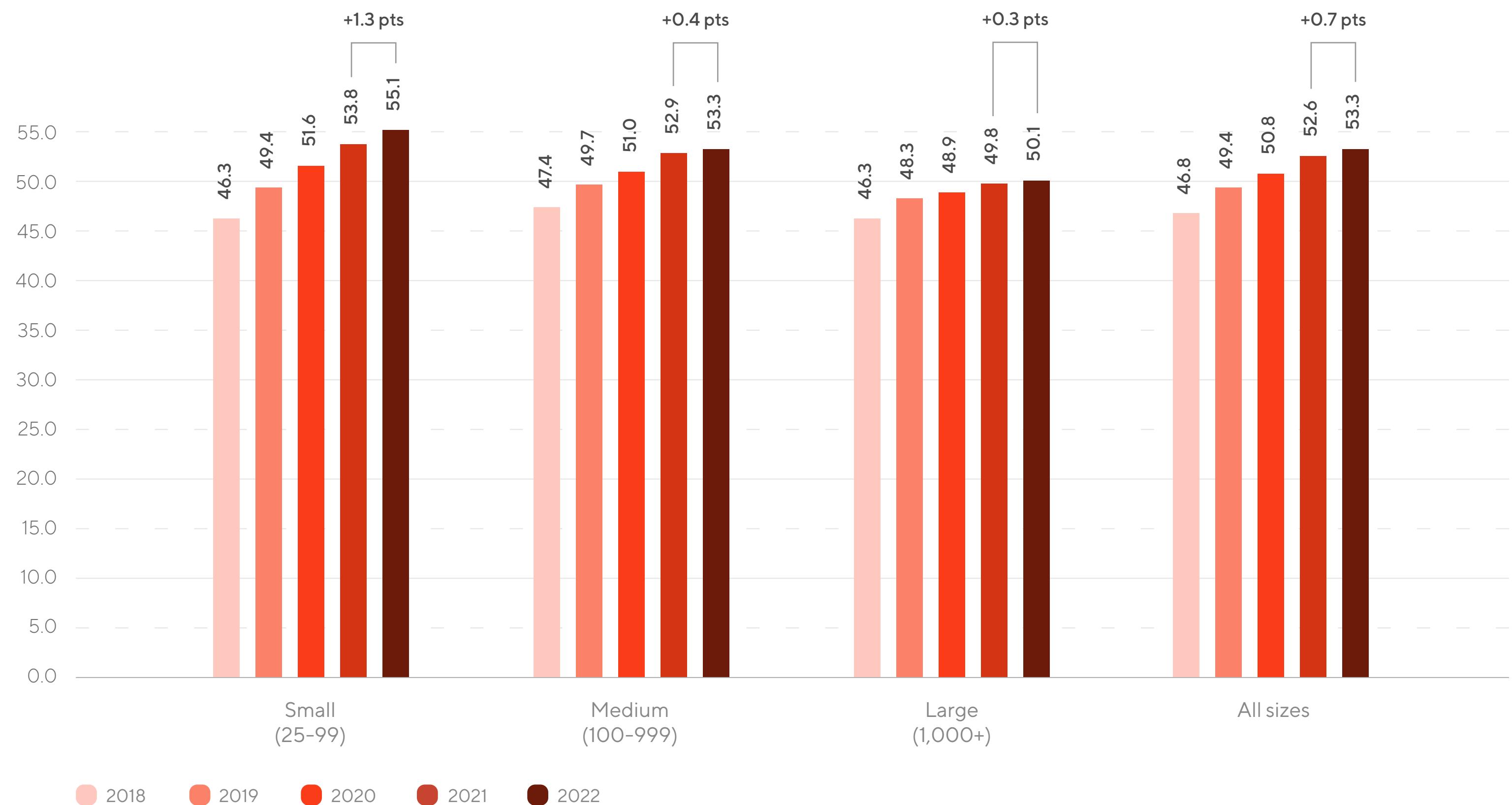
Northern America saw the highest increase on this theme since 2018, with its 7.7-point gain over the past five years bringing its average to 51.9 in 2022. Still, companies in Europe continue to outcompete their Canadian and American counterparts as they have been able to improve by 6.5 points over the five years. Regional performance distribution shows growing parity on this theme – it's the only theme where at least 50% of companies in each region are at a Good performance level.

Distribution of Labor & Human Rights Scores by Region (2022)



Looking at performance by size, small companies significantly outperformed larger peers. Their 8.8-point improvement since 2018 leaves large companies trailing by 5 points as of 2022. Over the past year, small companies improved by 1.3 points, while medium and large gained roughly 0.4 points each.

Labor & Human Rights Performance by Company Size (2018-2022)



Ethics Performance

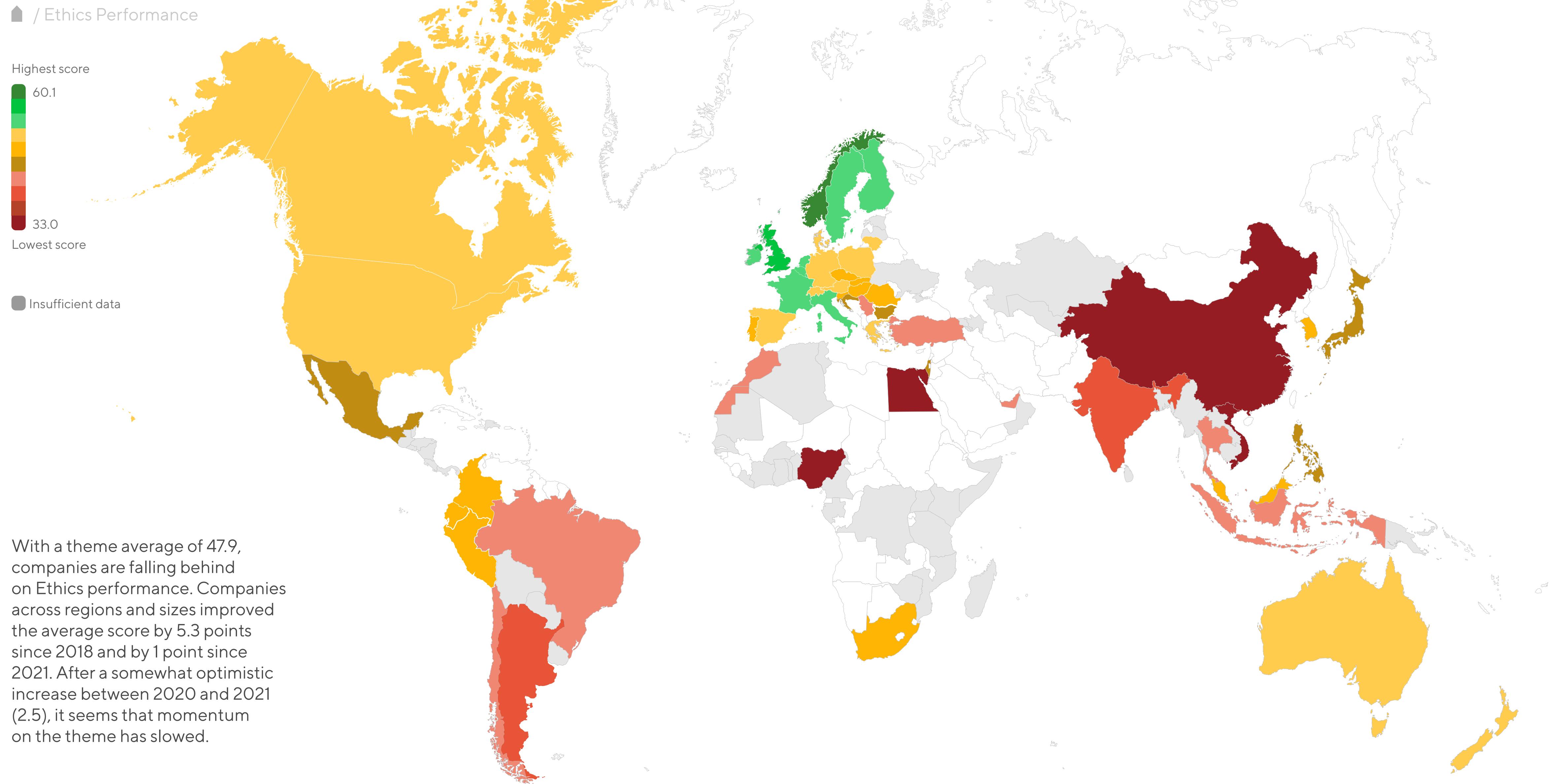
47.9

global average in 2022

↑ 1.0 ↑ 5.3
since 2021 since 2018

Top performers in 2022:

Norway	United Kingdom	Sweden
60.1	56.8	54.2



■ / Ethics Performance

Highest score

60.1

Lowest score

33.0

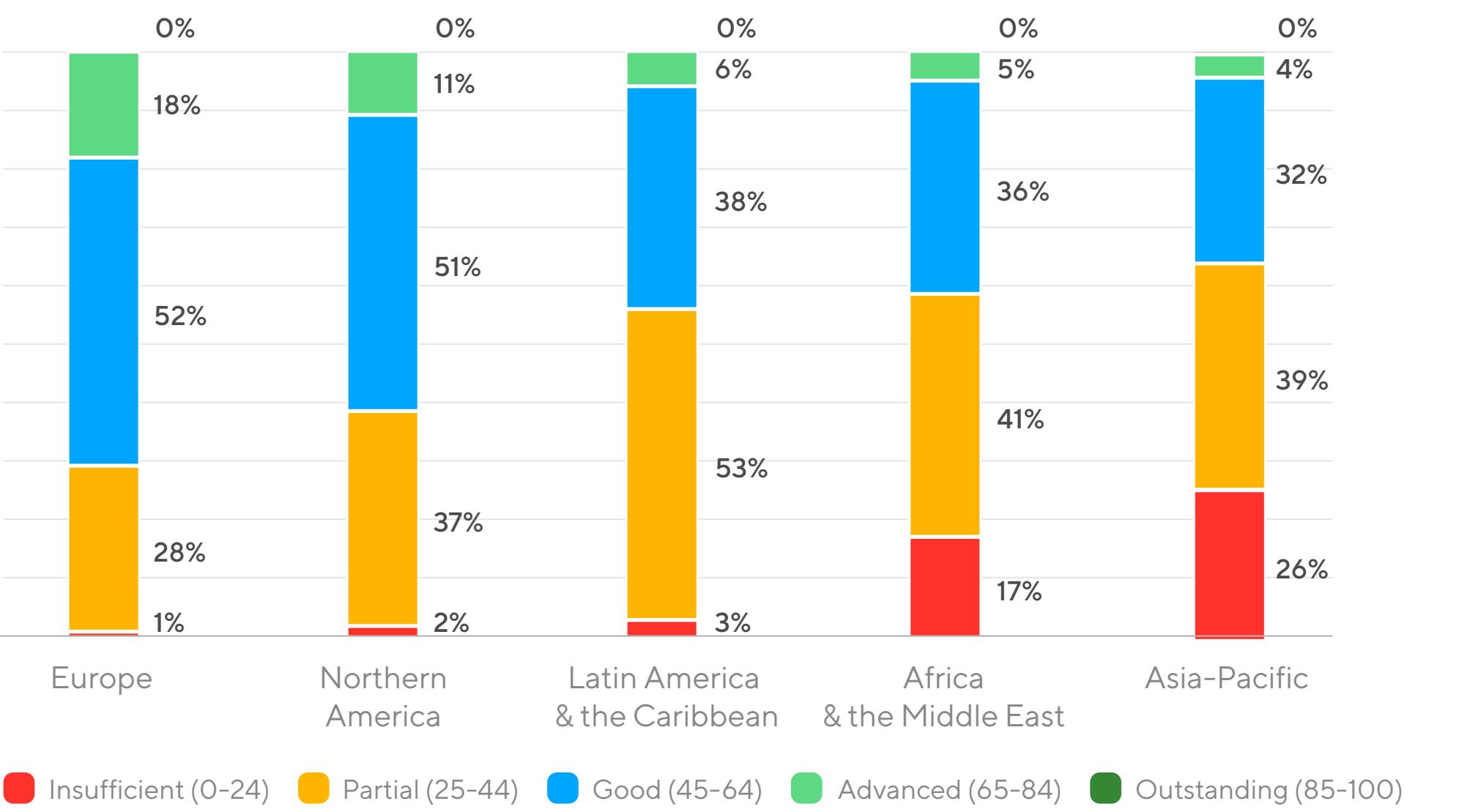
■ Insufficient data

With a theme average of 47.9, companies are falling behind on Ethics performance. Companies across regions and sizes improved the average score by 5.3 points since 2018 and by 1 point since 2021. After a somewhat optimistic increase between 2020 and 2021 (2.5), it seems that momentum on the theme has slowed.

Europe's average score of 52.5 in 2022 and 6-point gain in five years has put it well ahead of other regions. It owes this strong improvement in part to its two top-performing countries: Norway (60.1) and the United Kingdom (56.8). The 3.3-point gulf between these two leaders is a testament to the holistic approach that companies in Norway are taking to sustainability. This gap may continue to widen if current trends continue: The UK's score on the theme has declined by 1.1 points since 2021 – a contradictory signal given the implementation of the country's 2017-2022 Anti-Corruption Strategy.

The 3.6-scoring gap between the best-performing region and the next-closest region, Northern America (48.9), is the smallest regional gap observed across any of the themes in 2022. However, the difference between Europe and the lowest-performing Asia-Pacific sits at a worrying 14.5 points. A look at performance distribution shows that more than a quarter (26%) of companies in Asia-Pacific are performing at an Insufficient level (below 25) on Ethics. In comparison, only 2% of companies in Northern America and LAC are performing below the 25-point threshold.

Distribution of Ethics Scores by Region (2022)



Sustainable Procurement Performance

40.6

global average in 2022

↑ 1.7
since 2021

↑ 2.3
since 2018

Top performers in 2022:

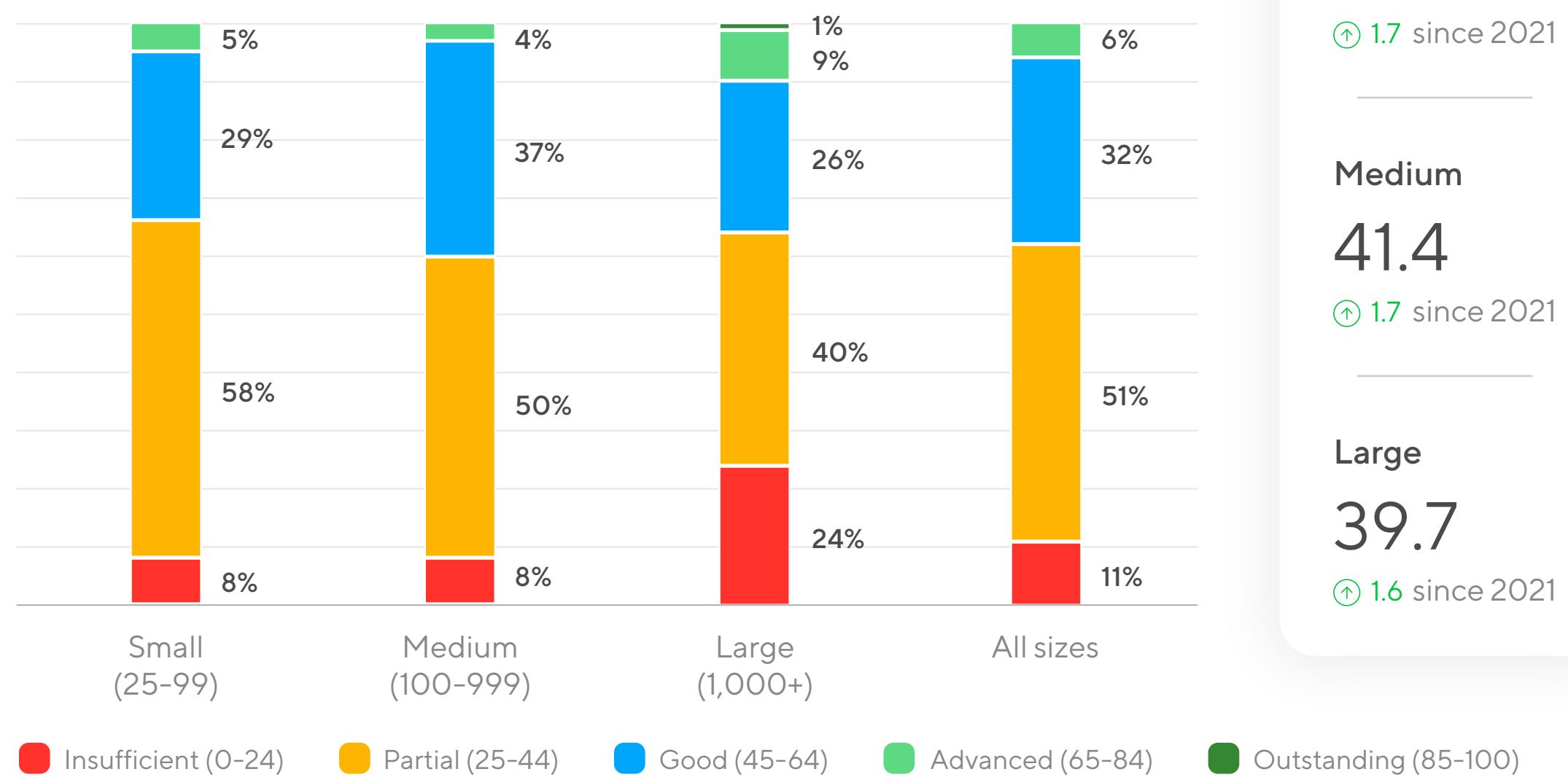
Norway	Finland	Sweden
49.6	49.2	48.5

Overall scoring is significantly lower on this theme than the others and, unsurprisingly, the score progression is nonlinear. Companies worldwide have increased the average by only 2.3 since 2018, to 40.6 points in 2022. However, much of that gain (1.7 points) was reported in the last year alone, hinting at a long-awaited rebound in the theme's performance.

The growth over the past five years is largely the result of the relatively strong performance of SMEs: Medium-sized companies gained 2.8 points since 2018, while small companies improved by 2.2 over this period. By contrast, large companies increased their average by 1.3 points. However, the year-on-year improvement for companies of each size aligns with the global trend. Still, there is a noticeable difference between large companies and SMEs when looking at the performance thresholds – a crushing number of large companies are scoring less than 25 points on the theme. Nearly a quarter now perform at an Insufficient level (4 percentage point increase) since 2018.

This is where large companies, with the coverage they have, need to focus their efforts and develop effective sustainable procurement programs and strategies to influence their vast supplier networks. A committed few are already excelling in these efforts: In 2022, 9% of large companies reached an Advanced level (and about two dozen made it to the Outstanding category).

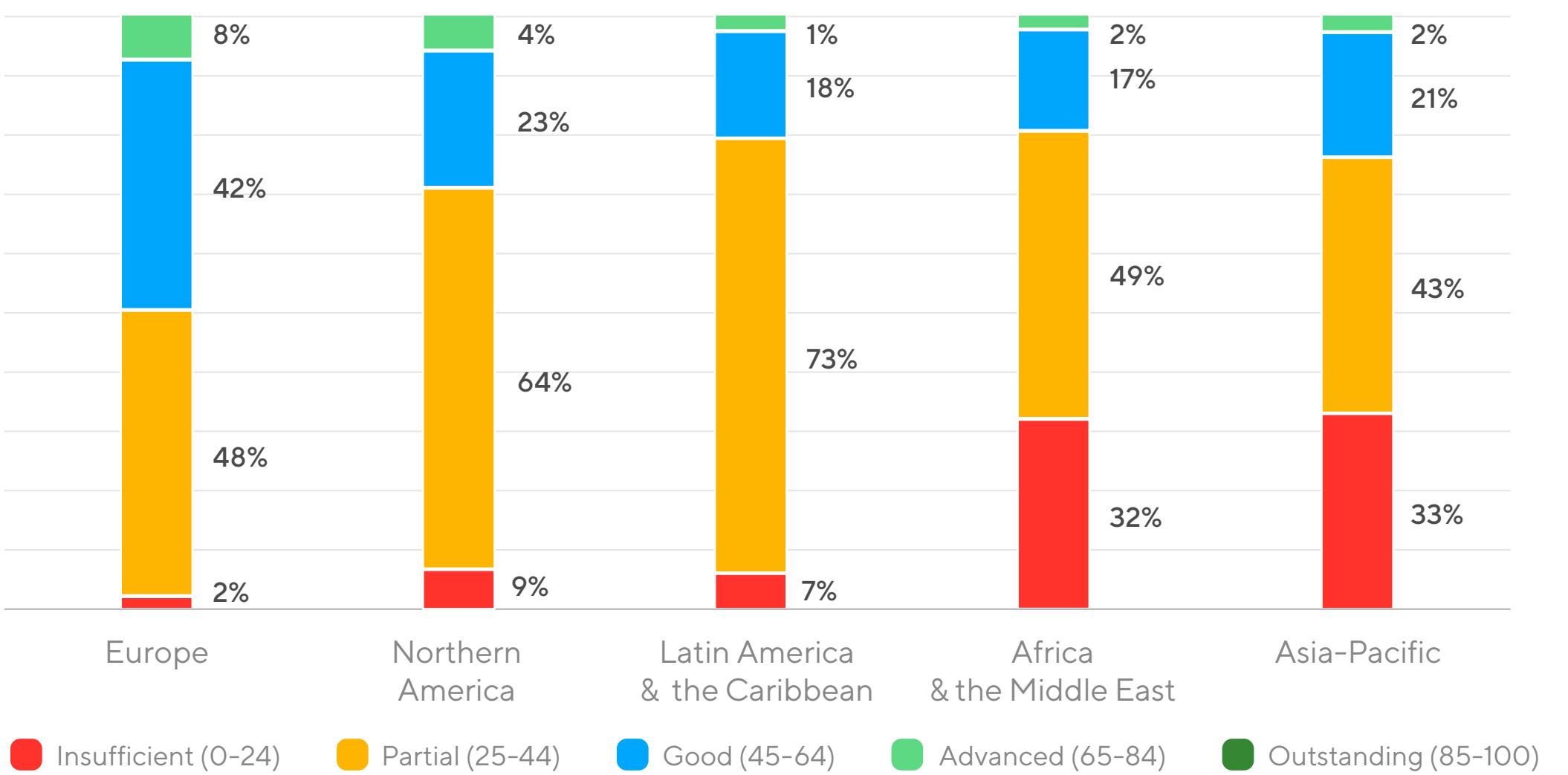
Distribution of Sustainable Procurement Scores by Company Size (2022)



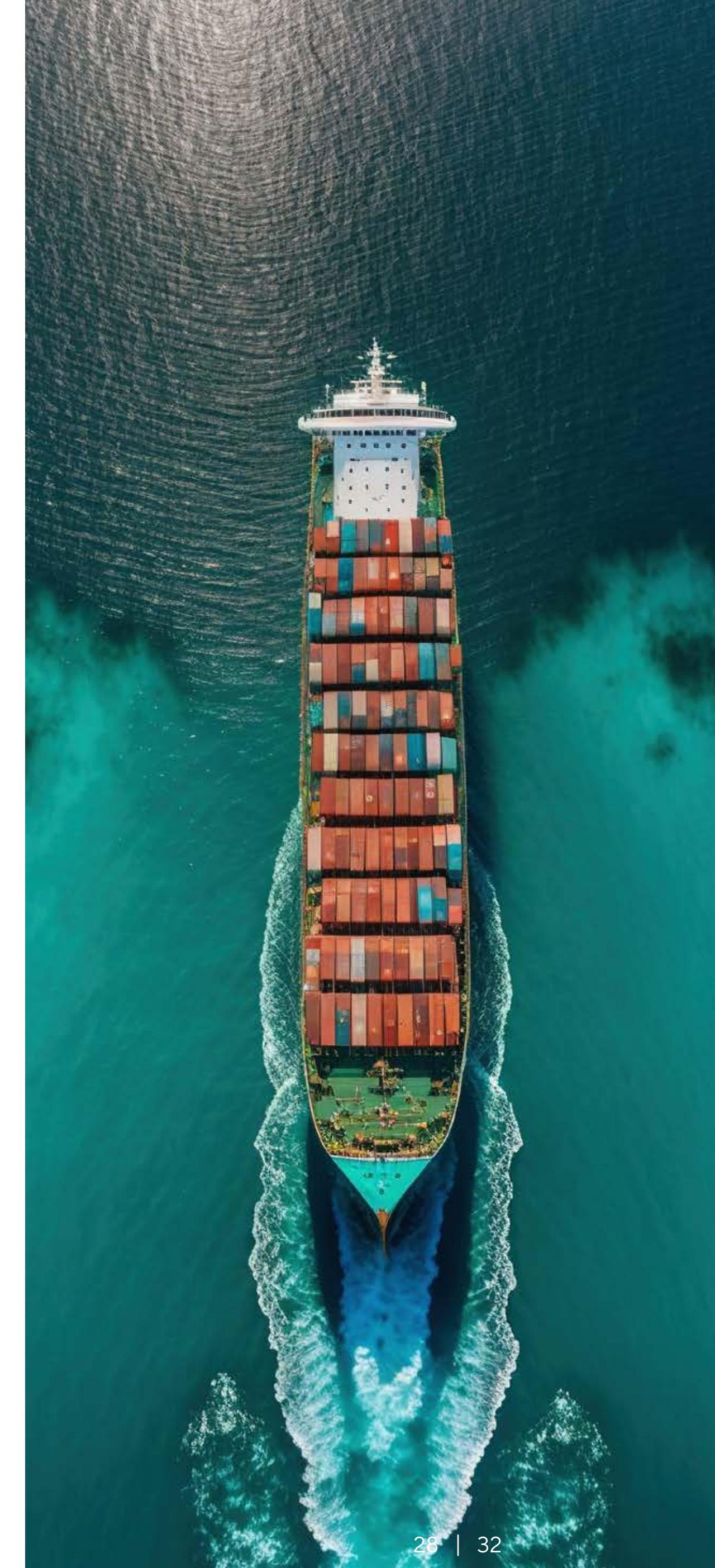
The 1.7-point score increase since 2021 is the highest year-on-year gain across any theme. Europe, LAC and Asia-Pacific bested the average increase, improving by 1.8 points over the last year. But it's MEA that improved the most (1.9 points), proving that companies in all regions have the potential to accelerate their efforts. Northern America is slightly losing ground as companies in the US and Canada have increased the regional average by 1.4 points since 2021 and only 0.5 points since 2018.

Zooming in on score distribution per region, it's clear that performance gaps persist. Europe is the most advanced region by some margin. Half of all European companies are performing at a Good or Advanced level (45+) and only 2% had Insufficient scores in 2022. 27% of companies in Northern America and 20% in LAC crested the 45-point threshold in 2022. The two remaining regions, MEA and Asia-Pacific, have a similar share of companies in the upper-performance categories; however, strikingly, a third of companies in each region are at an Insufficient (high risk) level.

Distribution of Sustainable Procurement Scores by Region (2022)



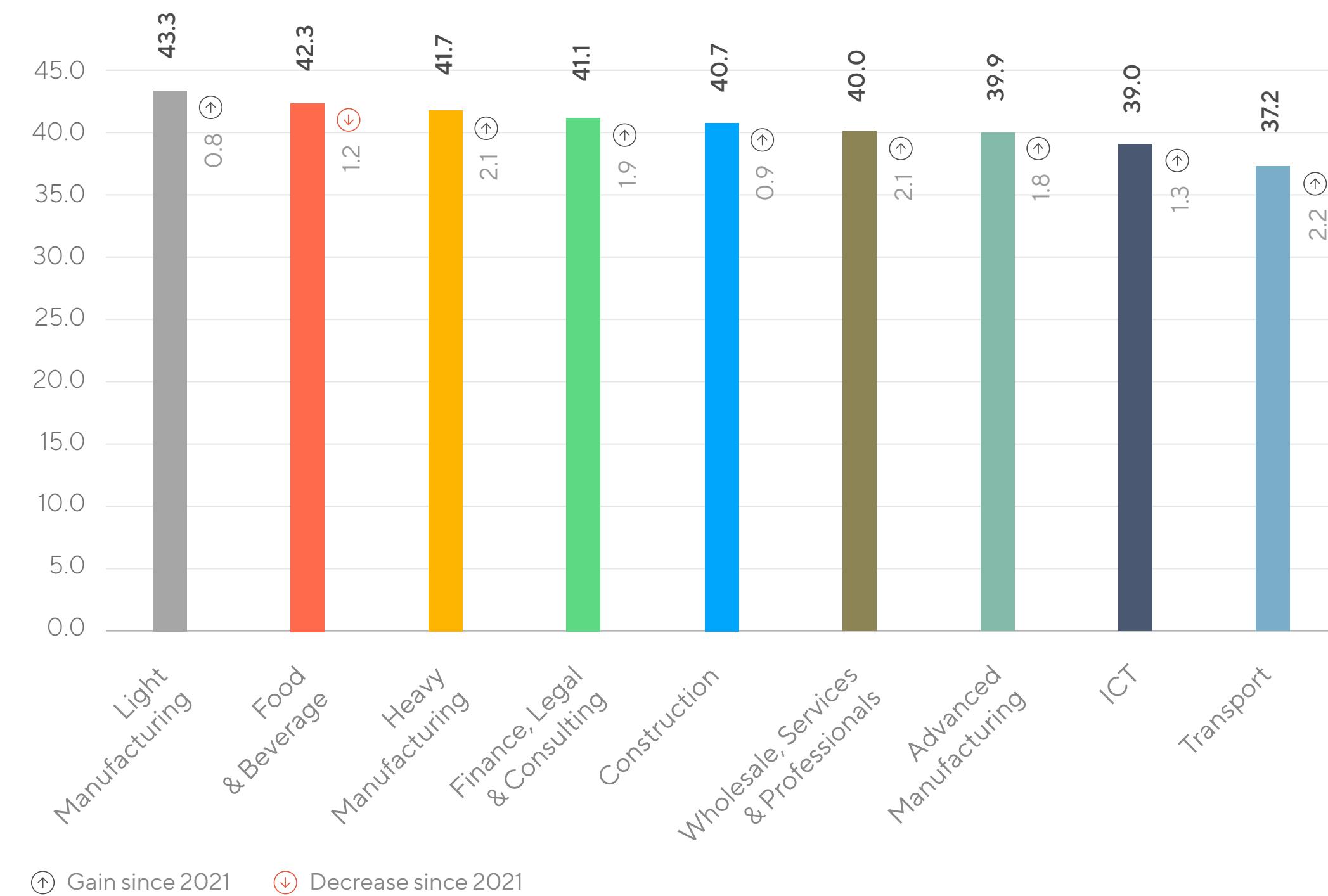
Region	Score	Change since 2021
Europe	44.8	↑ 1.8 since 2021
Northern America	37.7	↑ 1.4 since 2021
Latin America & Caribbean	36.1	↑ 1.0 since 2021
Africa & the Middle East	33.3	↑ 1.9 since 2021
Asia-Pacific	34.2	↑ 1.8 since 2021



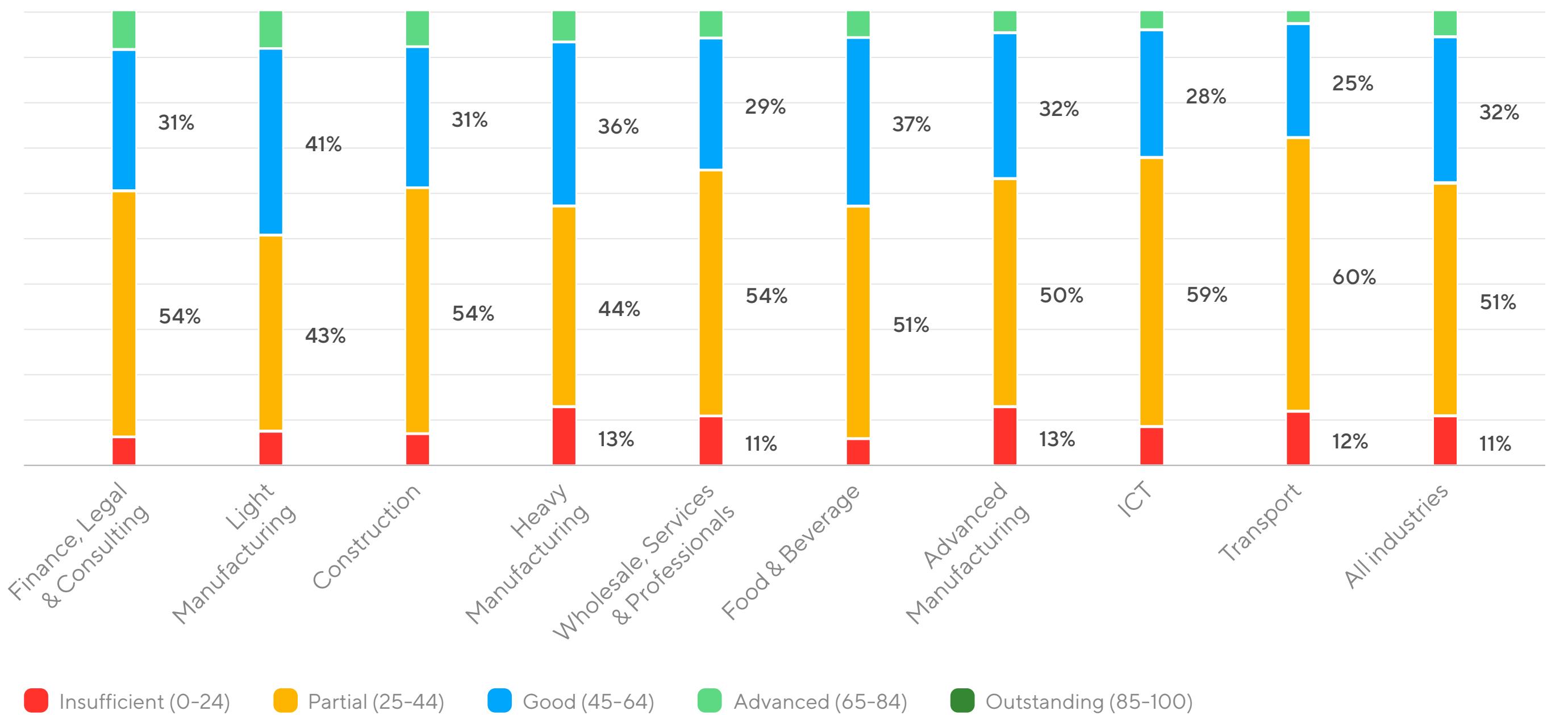
A look into the theme performance by size and region reveals that a significant number of large companies remain subject to a high degree of risk in their supply chains. Their lower scoring may be symptomatic of some regulatory deficiencies that have permitted large companies to overlook sustainability considerations in their value chains. The results also imply that more deficiencies in sustainability management systems are identified in regions where supply chain due diligence is less mandated by regulatory authorities.

Do some industries integrate sustainability considerations into their procurement management better than others? Almost all industry categories are keeping up with the global 40-point average. Light Manufacturing (43.3), Food and Beverage (42.3) and Heavy Manufacturing (41.7) are on top but a couple other industries follow closely behind. Although last on the list, Transport companies are the ones that made the most progress (2.2 points) since 2021. Food and Beverage was the only industry with a scoring decrease in the last year.

Industry Scoring on Sustainable Procurement Theme (2022)

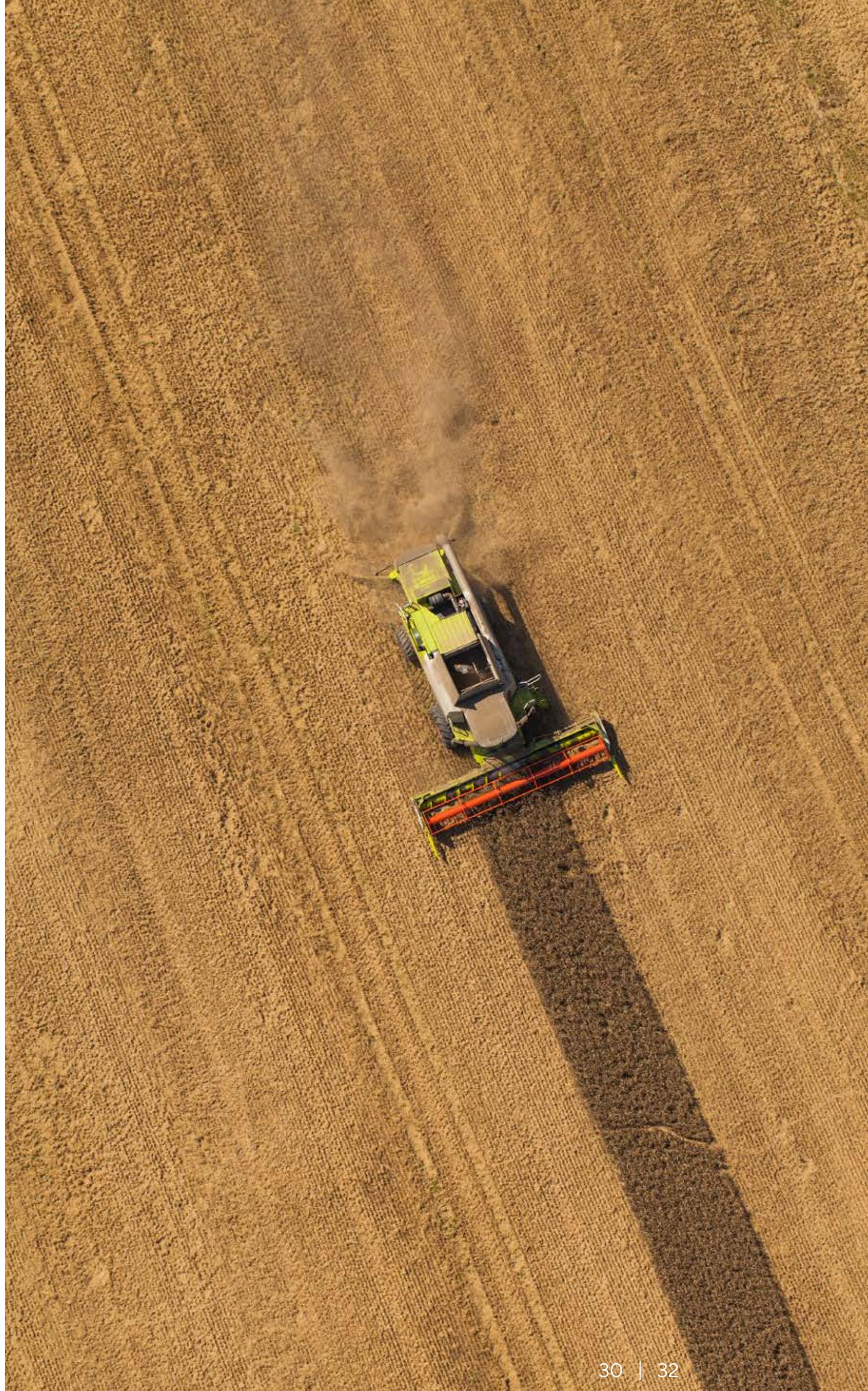


Industry Scoring on the Sustainable Procurement Theme (2022)



Insufficient (0-24) Partial (25-44) Good (45-64) Advanced (65-84) Outstanding (85-100)

A recent study in partnership with Bain & Company shows companies with Advanced Sustainable Procurement performance have a profitability edge. Find out more by following the link.



An Outlook on Future Performance

A confluence of factors, from increased regulatory pressure to growing stakeholder demands, will further incentivize companies to improve their social and environmental performance. Companies will have to be increasingly proactive to stay ahead of rapidly evolving sustainability challenges and regulatory changes.

A growing number of entities should be on alert for further legislation as regulators expand the scope of criteria for who must comply. Newer regulations, like the German Supply Chain Act, are being rolled out in phases. As the employee count and revenue thresholds ratchet down over time, thousands of businesses will be affected. Proactive companies will start preparing now and view emerging regulations as an opportunity to accelerate their sustainability efforts and supplier engagement programs. Rising regulatory demands will likely catalyze even better performance results, for SMEs and large companies alike.

The performance gap between Sustainable Procurement and other themes will narrow as more companies

work with tier-one suppliers and beyond to integrate sustainability measures into procurement functions. However, companies will likely improve their in-house social and environmental practices first and ensure that governance standards on bribery or corruption are in place before they start purposefully engaging their partners. Ultimately, sustainable procurement is the most powerful lever available to the global economy for driving positive environmental and social change – cascading measures into value chains put suppliers on the same development path that can support sustainable goals.

Our impact model helps companies drive improvement through their supply chains and direct operations. See how we enable companies to collaborate with their trading partners to scale sustainable change.



How EcoVadis Helps: From Risk Mitigation to Performance & Impact

EcoVadis provides sustainability ratings and intelligence used in global value chains, finance and commerce, offering detailed insights into environmental, social and ethical risks across more than 200 industry categories and 176 countries. The EcoVadis Intelligence Suite covers:

Risk Mapping

[IQ Plus](#): Fast, contactless ESG risk & transparency identification of 100% of suppliers. Gain visibility and set priorities for engagement steps in days (no supplier survey or fees needed).

The Carbon Heatmap (part of the Carbon Action Module): An easy-to-use carbon hotspot mapping tool to prioritize high-risk/opportunity trading partners for engagement on decarbonization.

Sustainability Ratings and Monitoring

[EcoVadis Ratings](#) engage companies in benchmarking and monitoring to mitigate risk and improve their sustainability performance. A robust methodology covering 21 criteria and a 360° Watch that scans external inputs (e.g., trade unions, NGOs, watchlists, news, etc.) yield reliable ratings on a 0-to-100 scale that integrate easily into procurement or investment strategies and other business decisions.

Engagement and Improvement Tools

Detailed scorecards provide feedback and guidance for improvements. The [Carbon Action Module](#) engages companies deeper on measuring, reporting and reducing their GHG emissions. The Corrective Action Plan enables collaboration between purchasers and suppliers, investors and portfolio companies. The [EcoVadis Academy](#) provides e-learning courses to help companies build knowledge and capacity on sustainability topics.

Service, Support and Community

Enterprise offerings include program management support – change management, journey mapping, global deployment, supplier/rated company onboarding, dashboarding and reporting, etc. – and training options for both requesting and rated companies.