

World Intangible Investment Highlights 2026

Intangible Economy Profile

Key indicators

United Kingdom

Intangible investment
USD 610.2B
2% year-on-year growth

Growth in intangibles
3.2%
10-year CAGR

Intangible intensity
13.5%
Share of GDP

Other IP products
7.2%
Fastest-growing asset type
10-year CAGR

Key insights

- Intangible investment in the UK reached USD 610.2 billion in 2025.
- In the last year (2024–2025), intangible investment grew at 2 percent while tangible investment grew at 4.2 percent.
- Over the past decade (2015–2025), intangible investment in the UK grew at a real rate of 3.2 percent per year, compared to 1.3 percent recorded for tangible investment.
- Intangible investment in the UK makes up 13.5 percent of GDP in 2025, while tangible investment makes up 9.8 percent.
- The UK's fastest-growing intangible asset type was other intellectual property (IP) products, growing at 7.2 percent between 2013–2023 in real terms, followed by brands (4.3 percent) and organizational capital (4 percent).
- Investment in organizational capital makes up the largest share (32 percent) of the UK's total intangible investment in 2023, followed by brands (25 percent) and software & databases (15 percent).
- 72.1 percent of the UK's total intangible investment goes unmeasured in official statistics, as of 2025.

Figure 1: Investment intensity over time (UK)
Share of GDP, 1995–2025

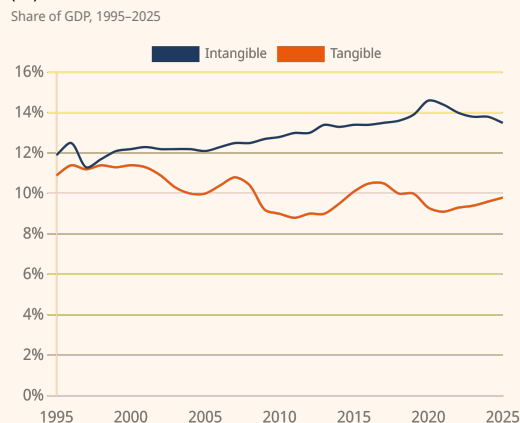


Figure 2: Intangible versus tangible investment growth (UK)
Indexed 2015 = 100, latest 10-year period available

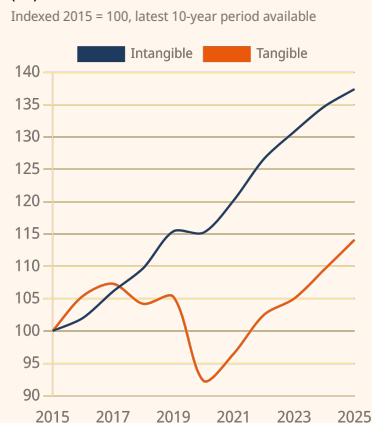


Figure 3: Real growth of intangible & tangible investment (UK)
10-year CAGR, 2015–2025

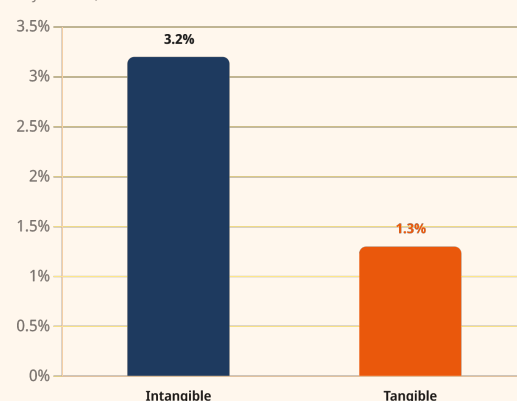


Figure 4: Real growth by asset type (UK)
10-year CAGR, 2013–2023

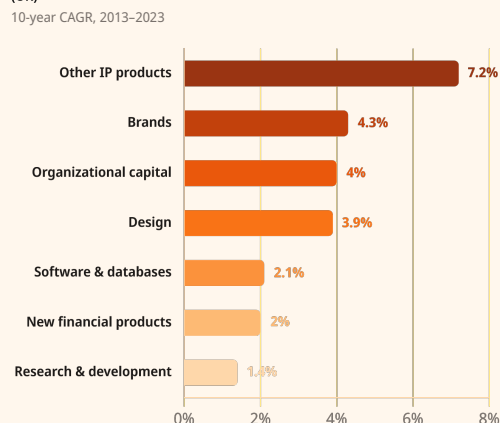


Figure 5: Intangible asset composition (UK)
Share of intangible investment, 2023

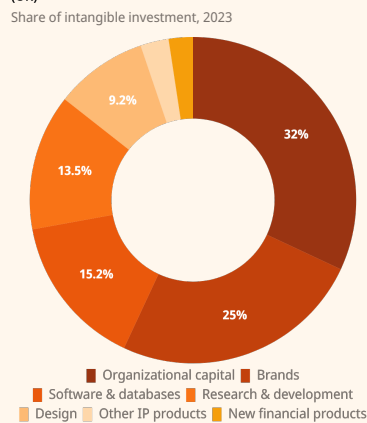
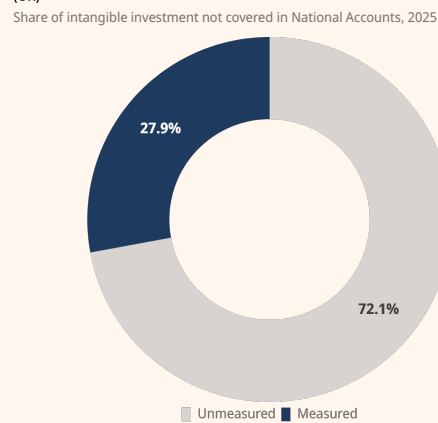


Figure 6: Measured versus unmeasured intangible investment (UK)
Share of intangible investment not covered in National Accounts, 2025



Cross-country comparison

Figure 7: Top 5 economies by intangible investment

Absolute levels, latest available year for all countries (2025), except JP (2024) — in USD billions

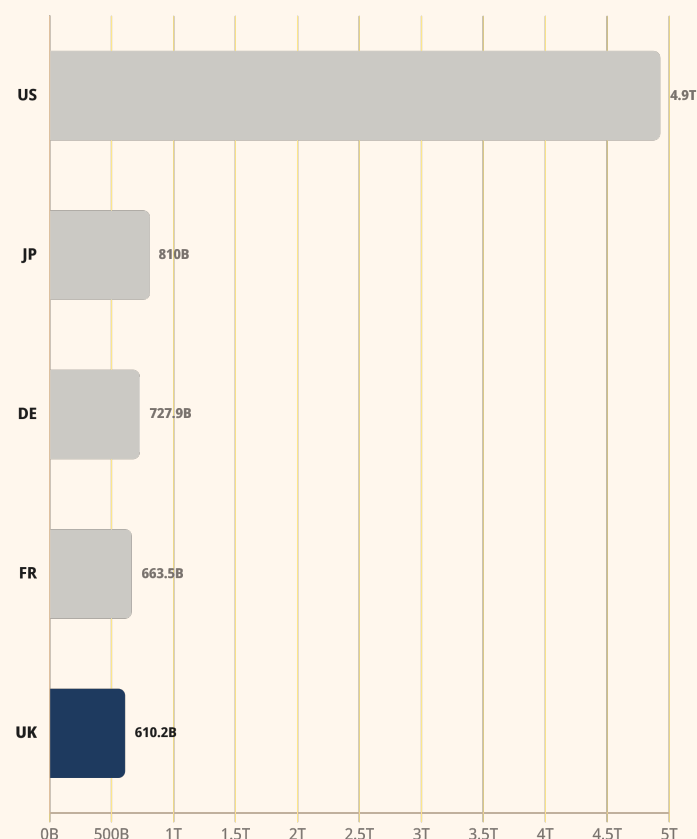


Figure 8: Remaining economies by intangible investment

Absolute levels, latest available year for all countries (2025), except BR (2023), CA (2024), IND (2023), and PHL (2022) — in USD billions

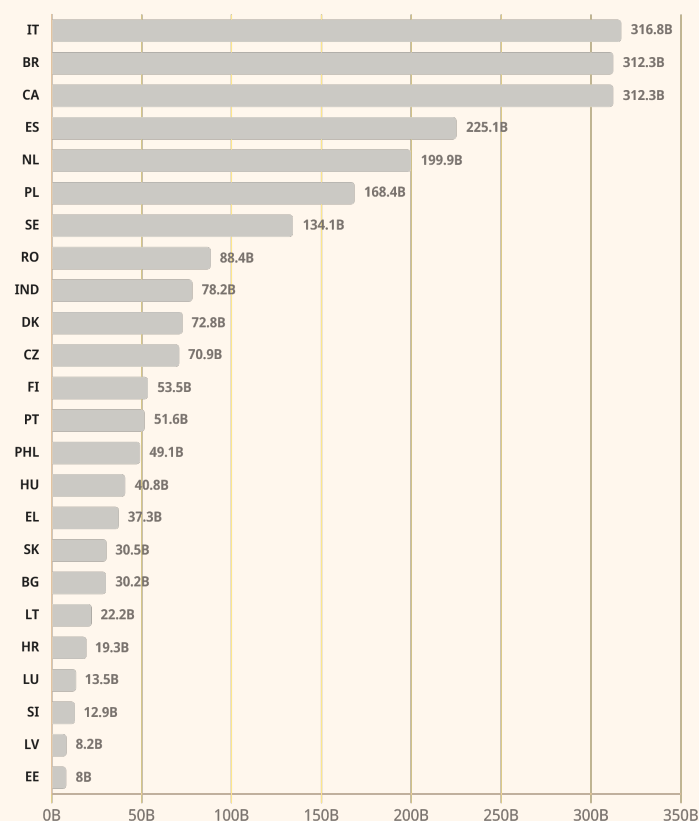


Figure 9: Intangible investment intensity

Share of GDP, latest available year

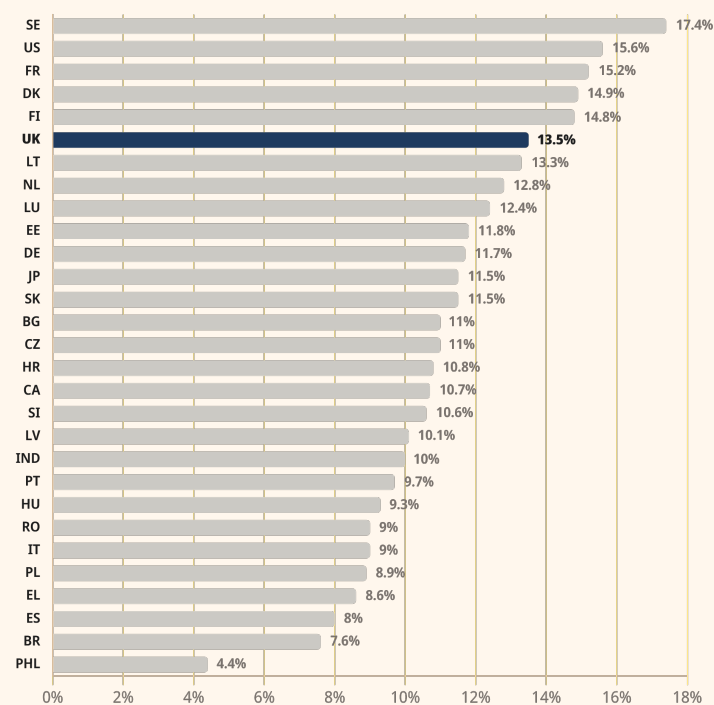
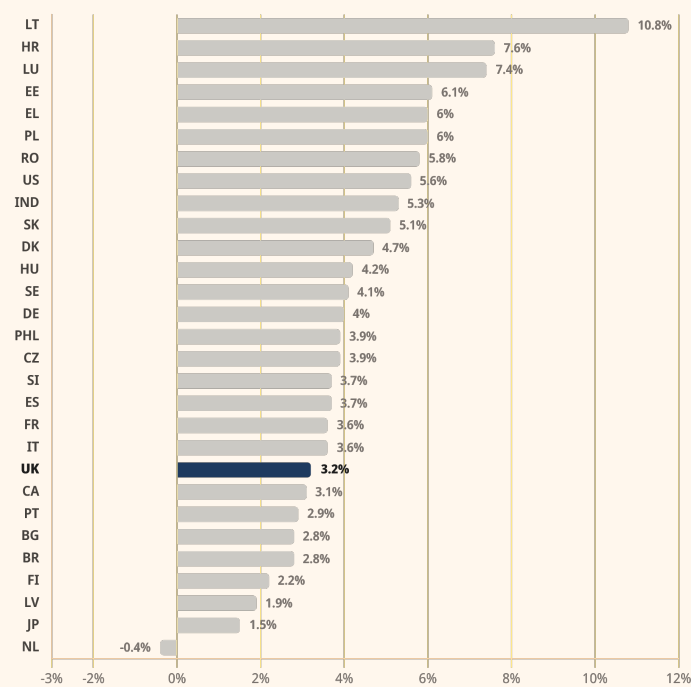


Figure 10: Real growth of intangible investment

CAGR for 2015–2025 for all economies, except BR (2013–2023), CA (2014–2024), IND (2013–2023), JP (2014–2024), and PHL (2012–2022)



Source: WIPO-LBS Global INTAN-Invest Database, July 2026.

Notes: All estimates are based on the most recent data available—2025 for all economies, with the exception of Brazil (2023), Canada (2024), India (2023), Japan (2024) and the Philippines (2022). All investment levels are expressed in purchasing power parity-adjusted current prices. Compound annual growth rates (CAGRs) in Figures 3, 4 and 10 are computed using investment data in chain-linked volume terms to reflect real growth. Investment intensities in Figures 1 and 9 are measured as a share of GDP, where GDP is proxied by “adjusted” value-added i.e. taking into account the full set of intangibles. In Figure 9, shares for India are based on formal sector GDP only; comparable estimates for Brazil and the Philippines are not yet available and are under development for future editions. Country codes in Figures 7-10 refer to the following economies: BG: Bulgaria; BR: Brazil; CA: Canada; CZ: Czech Republic; DE: Germany; DK: Denmark; EE: Estonia; EL: Greece; ES: Spain; FI: Finland; FR: France; HR: Croatia; HU: Hungary; IND: India; IT: Italy; JP: Japan; LT: Lithuania; LU: Luxembourg; LV: Latvia; NL: Kingdom of the Netherlands; PHL: Philippines; PL: Poland; PT: Portugal; RO: Romania; SE: Sweden; SI: Slovenia; SK: Slovakia; UK: United Kingdom; US: United States of America.