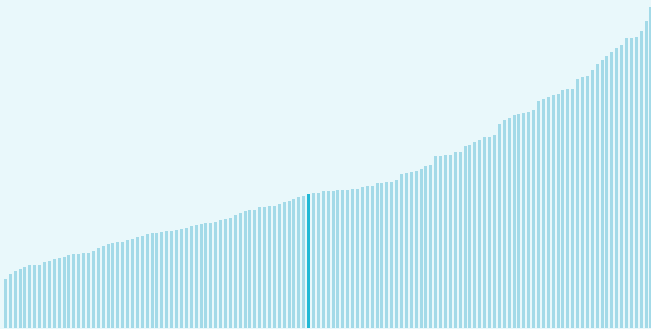




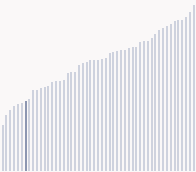
Kuwait ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2024

Kuwait ranks **71st** among the 133 economies featured in the GII 2024.

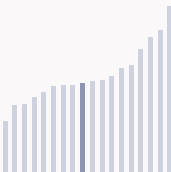
The Global Innovation Index (GII) ranks world economies according to their innovation capabilities. Consisting of roughly 80 indicators, grouped into innovation inputs and outputs, the GII aims to capture the multi-dimensional facets of innovation.



Kuwait ranks **45th** among the 51 high-income group economies.



Kuwait ranks **10th** among the 18 economies in Northern Africa and Western Asia.



> Kuwait GII Ranking (2020-2024)

The table shows the rankings of Kuwait over the past four years. Data availability and changes to the GII model framework influence year-on-year comparisons of the GII rankings. The statistical confidence interval for the ranking of Kuwait in the GII 2024 is between ranks 67 and 77.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	78th	73rd	79th
2021	72nd	73rd	73rd
2022	62nd	66th	66th
2023	64th	67th	65th
2024	71st	70th	68th

Kuwait performs better in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2024.

This year Kuwait ranks 70th in innovation inputs. This position is lower than last year.

Kuwait ranks 68th in innovation outputs. This position is lower than last year.

Kuwait has no clusters in the top 100 S&T clusters of the Global Innovation Index.

Global Innovation Index 2024



> Global Innovation Tracker

The Global Innovation Tracker 2024 shows what is the current state of innovation in Kuwait, how rapidly is technology being embraced and what are the resulting societal impacts.



For Kuwait, 5 indicators have improved in the short-term and 5 indicators have worsened.

Science and innovation investment

Scientific publications	R&D investments	Venture capital		International patent filings
		Deal numbers	Deal values	
▲ 4.6% 2022 - 2023	▼ -31.4% 2020 - 2022	▲ 100% 2022 - 2023	n/a	▼ -75% 2022 - 2023
▲ 11.2% 2013 - 2023	▼ -1.7% 2012 - 2022	n/a	n/a	n/a

Technology adoption

Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
	Fixed broadband	5G		
0% 2021 - 2022	▼ -11.6% 2021 - 2022	▲ 8.7% 2021 - 2022	▲ 50% 2021 - 2022	n/a
0% 2012 - 2022	▲ 0.6% 2012 - 2022		▲ 4.1% 2012 - 2022	n/a
100 per 100 inhabitants in 2022	1.5 per 100 inhabitants in 2022	100 per 100 inhabitants in 2022		n/a

Socioeconomic impact

Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
▼ -2.4% 2022 - 2023	▲ 2% 2021 - 2022	▲ 2°C 2023
▼ -0.7% 2013 - 2023	▲ 0.2% 2012 - 2022	n/a
153,157 USD in 2023	80.3 years in 2022	

Notes: Not all indicators of the Global Innovation Tracker are used to calculate the Global Innovation Index. Long-term annual growth refers to the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) over the indicated period. For each variable, a one-year growth rate is set for the short run, and ten-year CAGR is set for the long run; time windows might differ when gaps exist in data availability. The end period corresponds to the most recent available observation, which may differ among countries. Temperature change is an exception: it indicates the change in degrees Celsius with respect to the average temperature in the country from 1951–1980. Figures are rounded.



Expected vs. observed innovation performance

The bubble chart below shows the relationship between income levels (GDP per capita) and innovation performance (GII score). The trend line gives an indication of the expected innovation performance according to income level. Economies appearing above the trend line are performing better than expected and those below are performing below expectations.



Relative to GDP, Kuwait's performance is below expectations for its level of development.

> Innovation overperformers relative to their economic development





Effectively translating innovation investments into innovation outputs

The chart below shows the relationship between innovation inputs and innovation outputs. Economies above the line are effectively translating costly innovation investments into more and higher-quality outputs.



Kuwait produces less innovation outputs relative to its level of innovation investments.

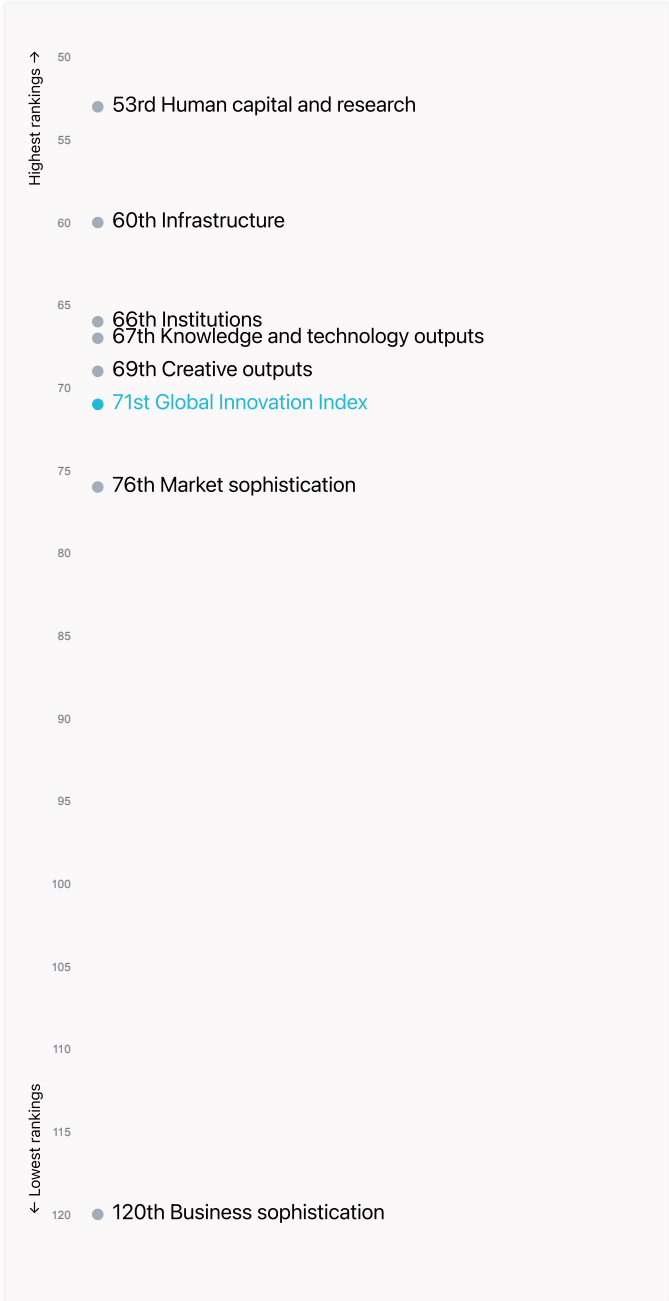
> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs





Overview of Kuwait's rankings in the seven areas of the GII in 2024

The chart shows the ranking for each of the seven areas that the GII comprises. The strongest areas for Kuwait are those that rank above the GII (shown in blue) and the weakest are those that rank below.



Highest rankings

Kuwait ranks highest in Human capital and research (53rd), Infrastructure (60th), Institutions (66th) and Knowledge and technology outputs (67th).

Lowest rankings

Kuwait ranks lowest in Business sophistication (120th), Market sophistication (76th) and Creative outputs (69th).

The full WIPO Intellectual Property Statistics profile for Kuwait can be found on [this link](#).

Global Innovation Index 2024



Benchmark of Kuwait against other economy groupings for each of the seven areas of the GII Index

The charts shows the relative position of Kuwait (blue bar) against other economy groupings (grey bars), for each of the seven areas of the GII Index.



High-Income economies

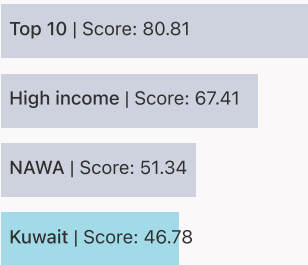
Kuwait performs below the high-income group average in all pillars.



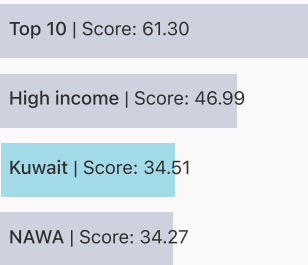
Northern Africa And Western Asia

Kuwait performs above the regional average in Human capital and research, Infrastructure.

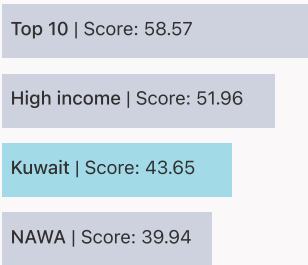
Institutions



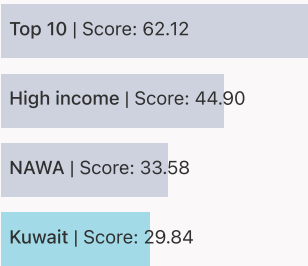
Human capital and research



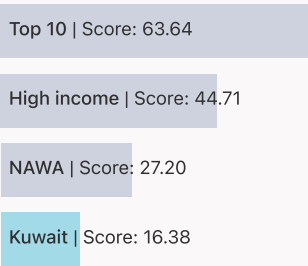
Infrastructure



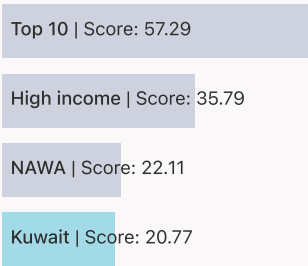
Market sophistication



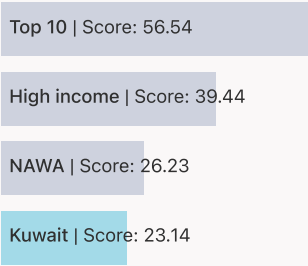
Business sophistication



Knowledge and technology outputs




Creative outputs





Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Kuwait

The table below gives an overview of the indicator strengths and weaknesses of Kuwait in the GII 2024.



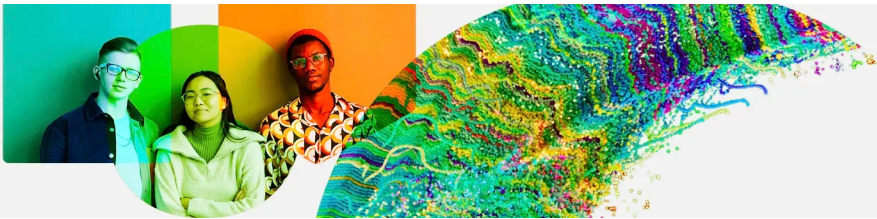
Kuwait’s main innovation strengths are **ICT access*** (rank 1), **ICT use*** (rank 1) and **Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.** (rank 5).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
1	3.1.1	ICT access*
1	3.1.2	ICT use*
5	3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.
17	7.1.3	Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP
18	6.3.4	ICT services exports, % total trade
20	4.2.1	Market capitalization, % GDP
22	6.2.3	Software spending, % GDP
27	4.1.2	Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP
44	5.2.3	State of cluster development†

Weaknesses

Rank	Code	Indicator name
131	5.3.3	ICT services imports, % total trade
127	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %
121	5.3.1	Intellectual property payments, % total trade
120	3.3.1	GDP/unit of energy use
115	3.2.3	Gross capital formation, % GDP
105	4.3.2	Domestic industry diversification
105	2.3.2	Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP
49	6.2.2	Unicorn valuation, % GDP
41	2.3.3	Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD



Kuwait's innovation system

As far as practicable, the plots below present unscaled indicator data.

> Innovation inputs in Kuwait



2.3.1 Researchers

was equal to 181.98 FTE per million population in 2022, up by 9.74% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 85.



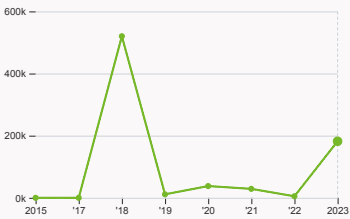
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D

was equal to 0.08 % GDP in 2022, down by 0.11 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 105.



2.3.4 QS university ranking

was equal to an average score of 14.33 for the top three universities in 2023, up by 44.31% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 60.



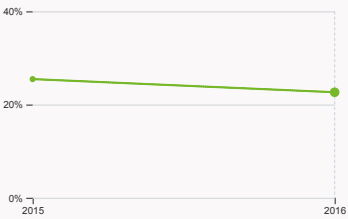
4.2.4 VC received, value

was equal to 182 thousand USD in 2023, up by 3576.77% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 63.



4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification

was equal to an index score of 0.4 in 2019, down by 7.18% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 105.



5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment

was equal to 22.65 % in 2016, down by 2.82 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 65.

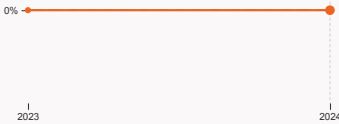


> Innovation outputs in Kuwait



6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 15 patents in 2018, down by 21.05% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 113.



6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

was equal to 0 % GDP in 2024 with no change from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 49.



6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing

was equal to 20.87 % of total manufacturing output in 2019, down by 0.94 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 59.



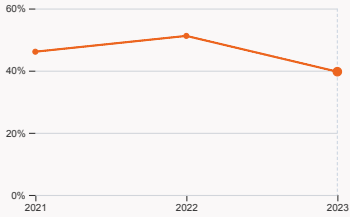
6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of 0.13 in 2021, down by 27.78% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 55.



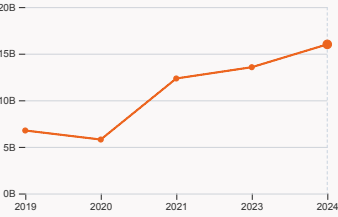
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 170.61 million USD in 2022, up by 10.79% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 111.



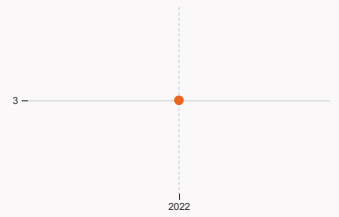
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity

was equal to 39.67 % for the top 15 companies in 2023, down by 11.52 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 62.



7.1.3 Global brand value

was equal to 16 billion USD for the brands in the top 5,000 in 2024, up by 18.08% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 17.



7.2.2 National feature films

was equal to 3 films in 2022 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 71.



7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 46.52 million global downloads of mobile apps in 2023, up by 29.91% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 67.



Kuwait's innovation top performers

2.3.4 QS university ranking of Kuwait’s top universities

Rank	University	Score
671-680	AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF THE MIDDLE EAST	17.30
851-900	GULF UNIVERSITY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	12.90
851-900	KUWAIT UNIVERSITY	12.80

Source: QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd (<https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2023>).
Note: QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd annually assesses over 1,200 universities across the globe and scores them between [0,100].
Ranks can represent a single value "x", a tie "x=" or a range "x-y".

7.1.1 Top 15 intangible-asset intensive companies in Kuwait

Rank	Firm	Intensity, %
1	KUWAIT FINANCE HOUSE K.S.C.P.	53.85
2	NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT S.A.K.P.	37.80
3	MABANEE COMPANY K.P.S.C.	35.03

Source: Brand Finance (<https://brandirectory.com/reports/gift-2022>).
Note: Brand Finance only provides within economy ranks.

7.1.3 Top 5,000 companies in Kuwait with highest global brand value

Rank	Brand	Industry	Brand Value, mn USD
1	KPC	Oil & Gas	4,417.9
2	ZAIN	Telecoms	3,036.9
3	KOC	Oil & Gas	2,015.5

Source: Brand Finance (<https://brandirectory.com>).
Note: Rank corresponds to within economy ranks.

Kuwait



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NOTES: ● indicates a strength; ○ a weakness; ◆ an income group strength; ◇ an income group weakness; * an index; † a survey question, ● that the economy's data is outdated. Square brackets [] indicate the data minimum coverage (DMC) requirements were not met at the sub-pillar or pillar level; n/a represents missing values; a dash - indicates an indicator which is not relevant to this economy and thus not considered for DMC thresholds.



Data availability

The following tables list indicators that are either missing or outdated for Kuwait.



Kuwait has missing data for twelve indicators and outdated data for fourteen indicators.

Missing data for Kuwait

Code	Indicator name	Economy Year	Model Year	Source
2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP	n/a	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.4	PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	2022	OECD, PISA
2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %	n/a	2021	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD
2.2.3	Tertiary inbound mobility, %	n/a	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
4.1.3	Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	2022	International Monetary Fund, Financial Access Survey (FAS)
5.1.2	Firms offering formal training, %	n/a	2023	World Bank Enterprise Surveys
5.1.3	GERD performed by business, % GDP	n/a	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
5.1.5	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	n/a	2023	International Labour Organization
5.3.5	Research talent, % in businesses	n/a	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
6.1.3	Utility models by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP	n/a	2022	World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund
6.3.1	Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	n/a	2022	World Trade Organization Global Services Trade Data Hub
7.2.1	Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	n/a	2022	World Trade Organization Global Services Trade Data Hub

Outdated data for Kuwait

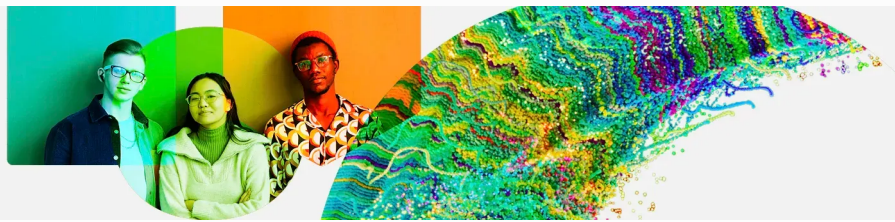
Code	Indicator name	Economy Year	Model Year	Source
1.3.2	Entrepreneurship policies and culture ⁺	2020	2023	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
2.1.2	Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	2014	2020	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.3	School life expectancy, years	2015	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.5	Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	2015	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.1	Tertiary enrolment, % gross	2021	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics

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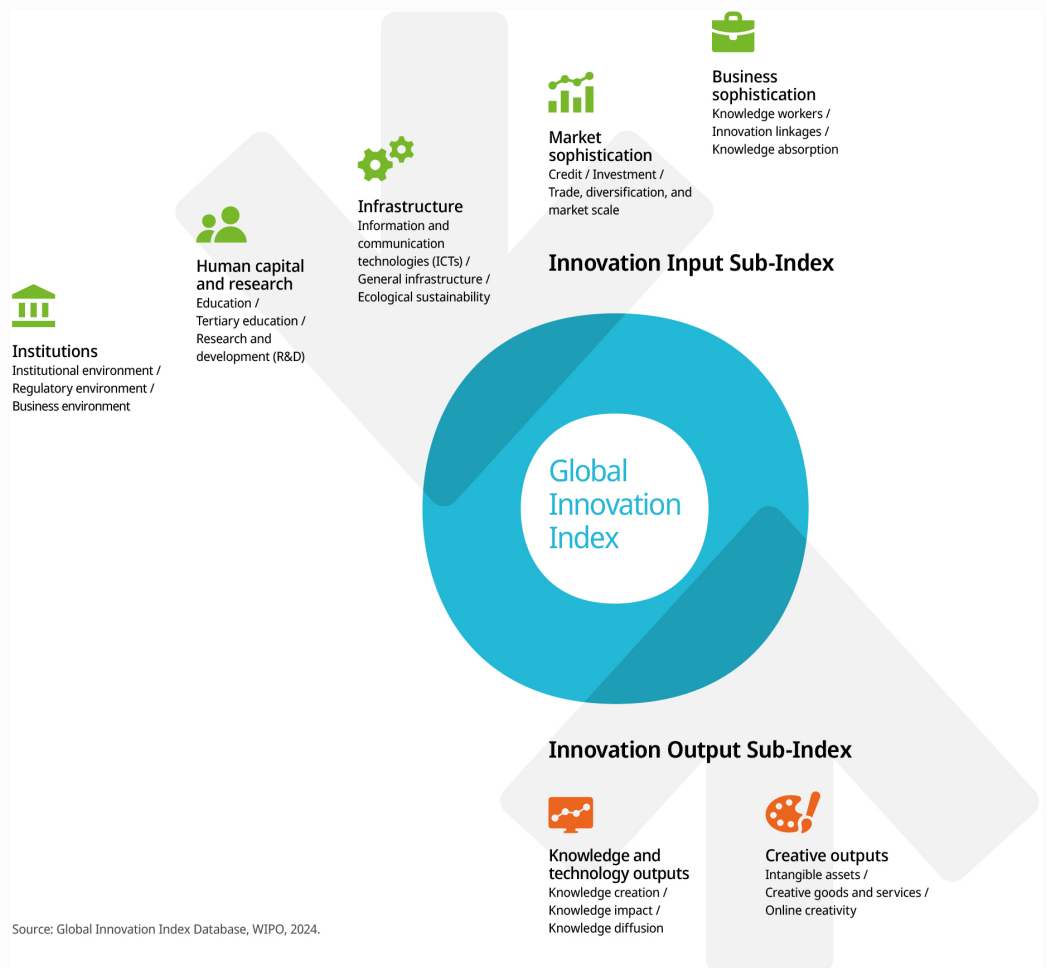
Code	Indicator name	Economy Year	Model Year	Source
3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	2021	2022	International Energy Agency
4.1.1	Finance for startups and scaleups [†]	2020	2023	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
4.1.2	Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	2019	2022	International Monetary Fund; World Bank and OECD GDP estimates.
4.3.1	Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	2021	2022	World Trade Organization
4.3.2	Domestic industry diversification	2019	2021	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Industrial Statistics Database (INDSTAT) Rev.3 and 4
5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %	2016	2022	International Labour Organization
5.1.4	GERD financed by business, %	2014	2021	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
6.1.1	Patents by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP	2018	2022	World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund
6.2.4	High-tech manufacturing, %	2019	2021	United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Global Innovation Index 2024



About the Global Innovation Index

- The Global Innovation Index (GII) is published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- Recognizing that innovation is a key driver of economic development, the GII aims to provide an innovation ranking and rich analysis referencing around 130 economies. Over the last decade, the GII has established itself as both a leading reference on innovation and a “tool for action” for economies that incorporate the GII into their innovation agendas.



The Index is a ranking of the innovation capabilities and results of world economies. It measures innovation based on criteria that include institutions, human capital and research, infrastructure, credit, investment, linkages; the creation, absorption and diffusion of knowledge; and creative outputs.

The GII has two sub-indices: the Innovation Input Sub-Index and the Innovation Output Sub-Index, and seven pillars, each consisting of three sub-pillars.