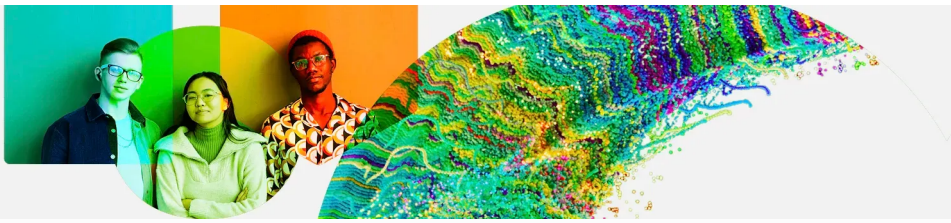
Global Innovation Index 2024



Sri Lanka ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2024

Sri Lanka ranks 89th 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.

Sri Lanka ranks 12th among the 38 lower-middle-income group economies.

Sri Lanka ranks 5th among the 10 economies in Central and Southern Asia.

Sri Lanka GII Ranking (2020-2024)

The table shows the rankings of Sri Lanka 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 Sri Lanka in the GII 2024 is between ranks 85 and 92.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	101st	107th	83rd
2021	95th	103rd	85th
2022	85th	102nd	68th
2023	90th	103rd	79th
2024	89th	100th	82nd

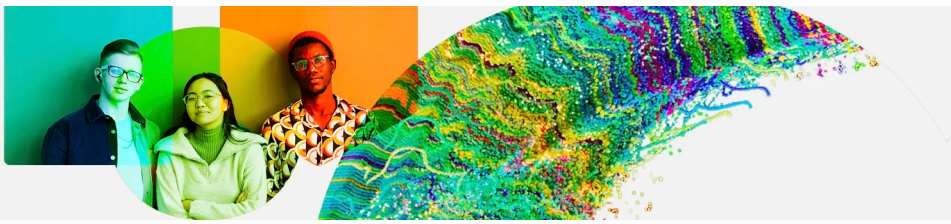
Sri Lanka performs better in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2024.

This year **Sri Lanka ranks 100th in innovation inputs.** This position is higher than last year.

Sri Lanka ranks 82nd in innovation outputs. This position is lower than last year.

Sri Lanka 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 Sri Lanka, how rapidly is technology being embraced and what are the resulting societal impacts.

For Sri Lanka, 2 indicators have improved in the short-term and 6 indicators have worsened.

Science and innovation investment

Scientific publications	R&D investments	Venture capital		International patent filings
		Deal numbers	Deal values	
▼ -7.8% 2022 - 2023	▼ -3.9% 2018 - 2020	▲ 20% 2022 - 2023	n/a	▼ -55% 2022 - 2023
▲ 11.2% 2013 - 2023	▲ 2.6% 2010 - 2020	▲ 19.6% 2013 - 2023	n/a	▼ -4.3% 2013 - 2023

Technology adoption

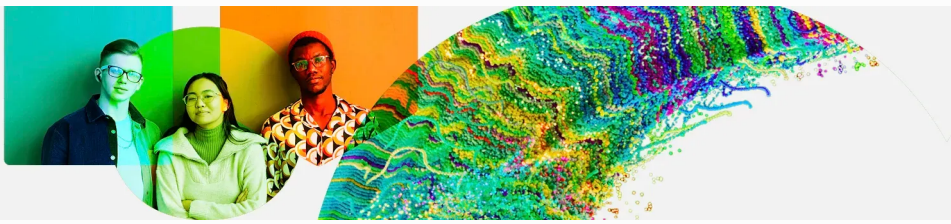
Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
	Fixed broadband	5G		
n/a	▼ -8.3% 2021 - 2022	0% 2021 - 2022	n/a	n/a
n/a	▲ 19.6% 2012 - 2022		n/a	n/a
n/a	10.1 per 100 inhabitants in 2022	9 per 100 inhabitants in 2022		n/a

Socioeconomic impact

Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
▼ -2.7% 2022 - 2023	▲ 0.3% 2021 - 2022	▲ 1.1°C 2023
▲ 0.8% 2013 - 2023	▲ 0.4% 2012 - 2022	n/a
39,543 USD in 2023	76.6 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.

Global Innovation Index 2024



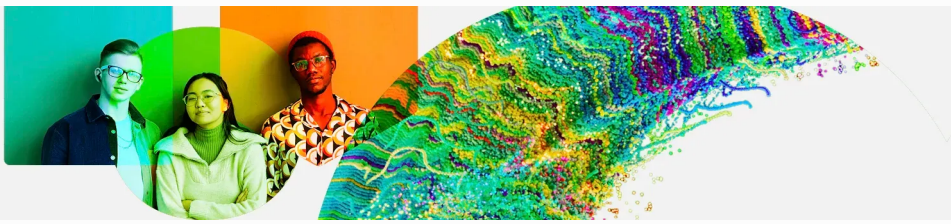
Expected vs. observed innovation performance

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, Sri Lanka's performance is at expectations for its level of development.

> Innovation overperformers relative to their economic development

Global Innovation Index 2024



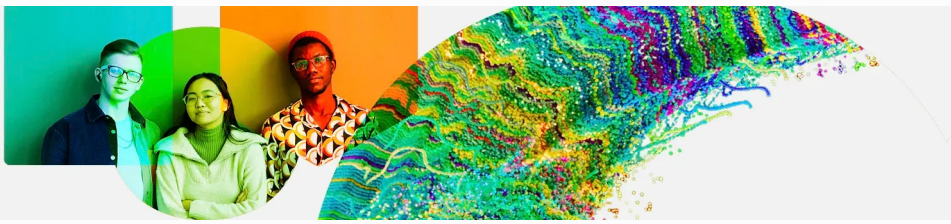
Effectively translating innovation investments into innovation outputs

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.

Sri Lanka produces more innovation outputs relative to its level of innovation investments.

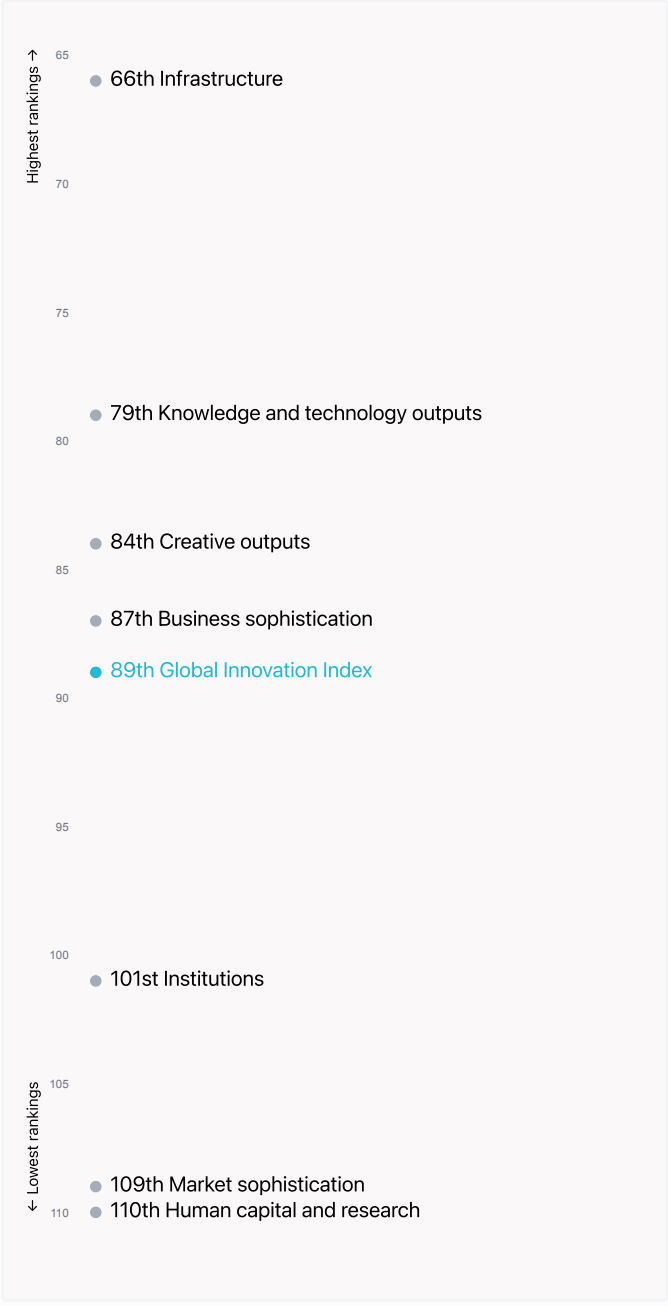
> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

Global Innovation Index 2024



Overview of Sri Lanka'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 Sri Lanka are those that rank above the GII (shown in blue) and the weakest are those that rank below.



Highest rankings

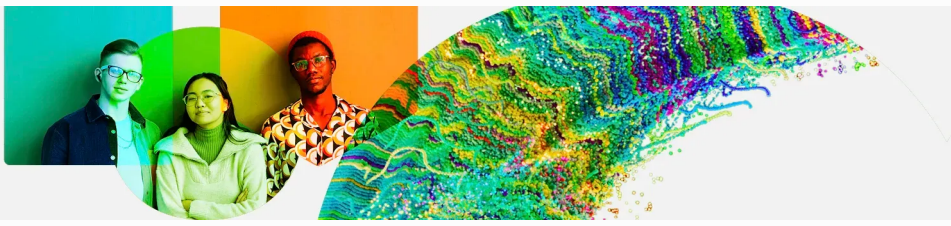
Sri Lanka ranks highest in Infrastructure (66th), Knowledge and technology outputs (79th), Creative outputs (84th) and Business sophistication (87th).

Lowest rankings

Sri Lanka ranks lowest in Human capital and research (110th), Market sophistication (109th) and Institutions (101st).

The full WIPO Intellectual Property Statistics profile for Sri Lanka can be found on this link.

Global Innovation Index 2024



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

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

Lower-Middle-Income economies

Sri Lanka performs above the lower-middle-income group average in Infrastructure, Business sophistication, Knowledge and technology outputs, Creative outputs.

Central And Southern Asia

Sri Lanka performs above the regional average in Infrastructure, Business sophistication.

Institutions

- Top 10 | Score: 80.81
- Lower middle income | Score: 34.0
- Central and Southern Asia | Score:
- Sri Lanka | Score: 32.66

Human capital and research

- Top 10 | Score: 61.30
- Central and Southern Asia | Score:
- Lower middle income | Score: 22.1
- Sri Lanka | Score: 17.51

Infrastructure

- Top 10 | Score: 58.57
- Sri Lanka | Score: 41.73
- Central and Southern Asia | Score:
- Lower middle income | Score: 29.8

Market sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 62.12
- Central and Southern Asia | Score:
- Lower middle income | Score: 25.9
- Sri Lanka | Score: 20.19

Business sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 63.64
- Sri Lanka | Score: 22.50
- Central and Southern Asia | Score:
- Lower middle income | Score: 20.8

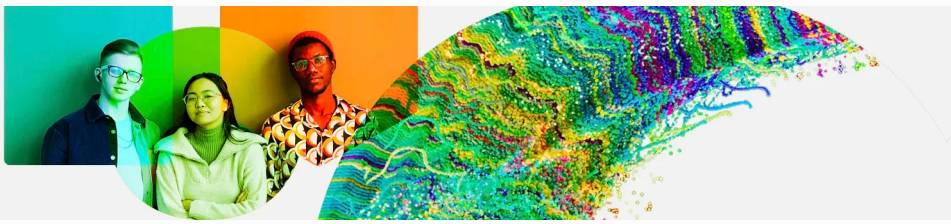
Knowledge and technology outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 57.29
- Central and Southern Asia | Score:
- Sri Lanka | Score: 18.18
- Lower middle income | Score: 15.6

Creative outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 56.54
- Central and Southern Asia | Score:
- Sri Lanka | Score: 18.39
- Lower middle income | Score: 15.7

Global Innovation Index 2024



Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Sri Lanka

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

Sri Lanka's main innovation strengths are **GDP/unit of energy use** (rank 6), **Gross capital formation, % GDP** (rank 12) and **ICT services exports, % total trade** (rank 14).

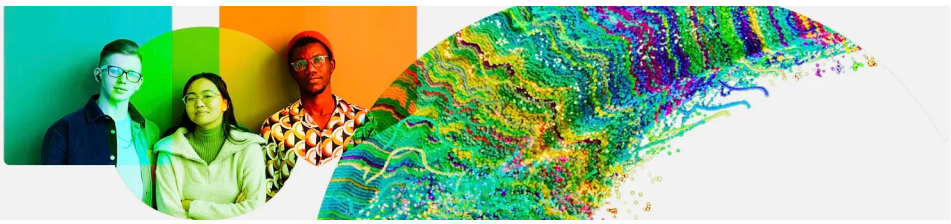
Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
6	3.3.1	GDP/unit of energy use
12	3.2.3	Gross capital formation, % GDP
14	6.3.4	ICT services exports, % total trade
21	6.2.3	Software spending, % GDP
39	5.2.4	Joint venture/strategic alliance deals/bn PPP$ GDP
48	2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %
51	7.3.2	GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69
52	3.3.3	ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP
53	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %
57	7.2.4	Creative goods exports, % total trade

Weaknesses

Rank	Code	Indicator name
129	6.2.1	Labor productivity growth, %
127	2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP
120	1.1.1	Operational stability for businesses*
101	4.2.4	VC received, value, % GDP
97	4.2.2	Venture capital (VC) investors, deals/bn PPP$ GDP
93	2.1.2	Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap
75	7.1.3	Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP
75	2.3.4	QS university ranking, top 3*
49	6.2.2	Unicorn valuation, % GDP
41	2.3.3	Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD

Global Innovation Index 2024



Sri Lanka's innovation system

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

Innovation inputs in Sri Lanka

2.1.1 **Expenditure on education**

was equal to 1.2 % GDP in 2022, down by 0.31 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 127.

2.2.2 **Graduates in science and engineering**

was equal to 24.68 % of total graduates in 2022, up by 0.21 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 48.

2.3.1 **Researchers**

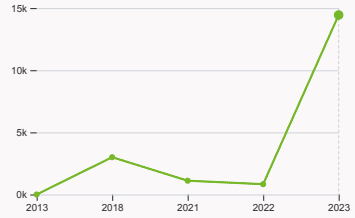
was equal to 104.55 FTE per million population in 2020, up by 0.47% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 92.

2.3.2 **Gross expenditure on R&D**

was equal to 0.12 % GDP in 2020, down by 0.004 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 100.

2.3.4 **QS university ranking**

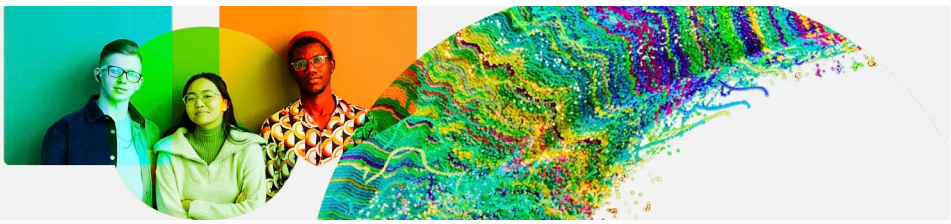
was equal to an average score of 0 for the top three universities in 2023 with no change from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 75.



4.2.4 **VC received, value**

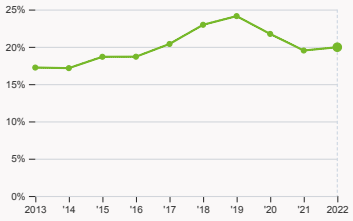
was equal to 14.44 thousand USD in 2023, up by 1639.76% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 101.

Global Innovation Index 2024



4.3.2 **Domestic industry diversification**

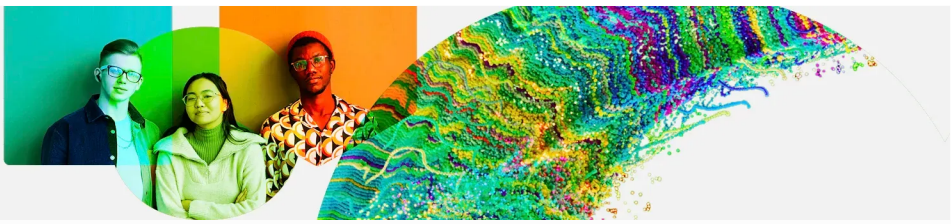
was equal to an index score of 0.21 in 2019, up by 0.65% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 77.



5.1.1 **Knowledge-intensive employment**

was equal to 19.95 % in 2022, up by 0.44 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 79.

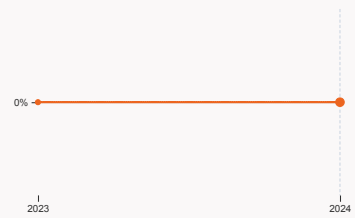
Global Innovation Index 2024



Innovation outputs in Sri Lanka

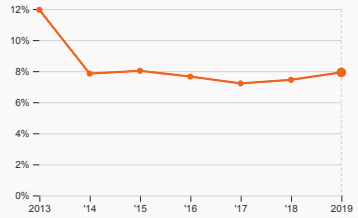
6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 171 patents in 2022, down by 35.71% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 73.



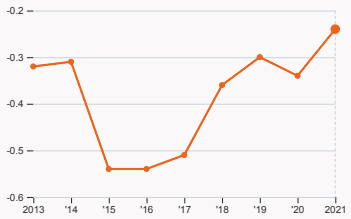
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

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 7.92 % of total manufacturing output in 2019, up by 0.48 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 93.

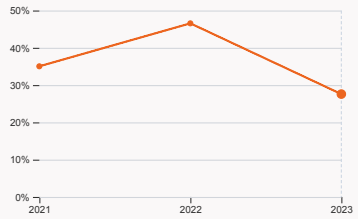


6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of -0.24 in 2021, up by 29.41% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 76.

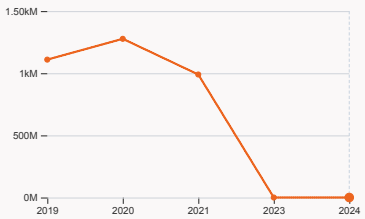
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 125.44 million USD in 2022, down by 10.05% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 87.



7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity

was equal to 27.59 % for the top 15 companies in 2023, down by 18.97 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 67.

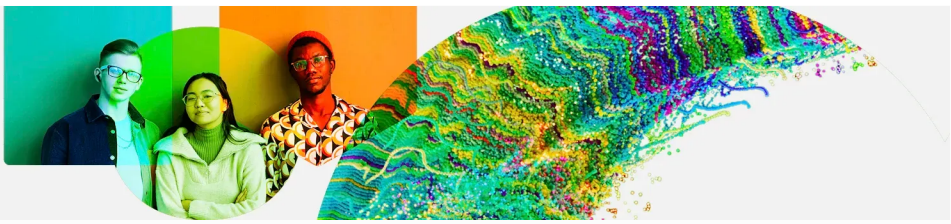


7.1.3 Global brand value

was equal to 0 million USD for the brands in the top 5,000 in 2024 with no change from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 75.

7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 16.22 million global downloads of mobile apps in 2023, up by 52.3% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 94.



Sri Lanka's innovation top performers

2.3.4 QS university ranking of Sri Lanka's top universities

Rank	University	Score
1001-1200	UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA	9.70
1201-1400	UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO	6.20

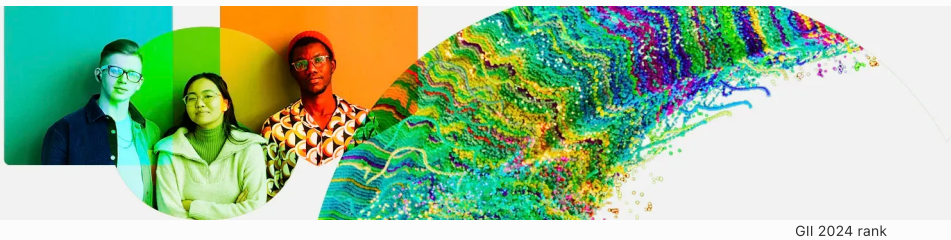
Source: QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd (https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2023).
Note: QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd annually assesses over 1,200 universities across the globe and scores them between [0,100].
Ranks can represent a single value "x", a tie "x=" or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

7.1.1 Top 15 intangible-asset intensive companies in Sri Lanka

Rank	Firm	Intensity, %
1	SRI LANKA TELECOM PLC	38.83
2	LOLC FINANCE PLC	34.78
3	SOFTLOGIC HOLDINGS PLC	19.31

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

Global Innovation Index 2024



Sri Lanka

GII 2024 rank **89**

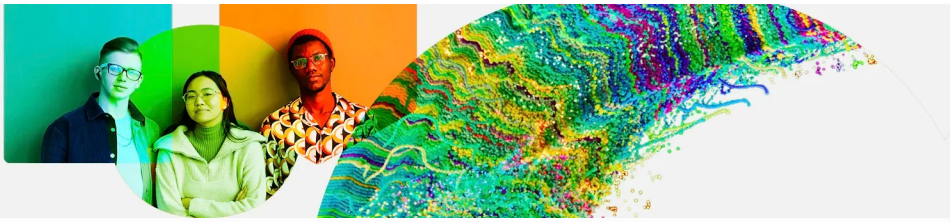
Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP$
82	100	Lower middle	CSA	23.0	n/a	n/a

	Score / Value	Rank	
Institutions	**32.7**	**101**	
1.1 Institutional environment	**31.2**	**112**	
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	28.7	120	○
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	33.8	94	
1.2 Regulatory environment	**33.4**	**88**	
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	24.7	109	
1.2.2 Rule of law*	42.2	63	◆
1.3 Business environment	**33.3**	**[93]**	
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	33.3	98	
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	n/a	n/a	
Human capital and research	**17.5**	**110**	
2.1 Education	**30.5**	**120**	
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	1.2	127	○ ◇
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	6.3	93	○ ◇
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years	13.6	73	
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	n/a	
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	16.7	88	
2.2 Tertiary education	**21.3**	**91**	
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	23	96	
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %	24.7	48	● ◆
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %	0.4	101	
2.3 Research and development (R&D)	**0.7**	**105**	
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	104.6	92	
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	0.1	100	
2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD	0	41	○ ◇
2.3.4 QS university ranking, top 3*	0	75	○ ◇
Infrastructure	**41.7**	**66**	◆
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**58.3**	**91**	
3.1.1 ICT access*	73.4	88	
3.1.2 ICT use*	74.2	76	
3.1.3 Government's online service*	51.9	89	
3.1.4 E-participation*	33.7	98	
3.2 General infrastructure	**32.9**	**60**	
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	742.5	102	
3.2.2 Logistics performance*	31.8	71	
3.2.3 Gross capital formation, % GDP	34.7	12	● ◆
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**34**	**30**	● ◆
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	24.9	6	● ◆
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	24	53	● ◆
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	2	52	● ◆
Market sophistication	**20.2**	**109**	
4.1 Credit	**15.1**	**[96]**	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	n/a	n/a	
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	47	74	
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.2 Investment	**2.5**	**105**	
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	21.2	59	
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) investors, deals/bn PPP$ GDP	0.008	97	○
4.2.3 VC recipients, deals/bn PPP$ GDP	0.01	98	
4.2.4 VC received, value, % GDP	0.00001	101	○
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale	**42.9**	**95**	
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	6.1	106	
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	70.5	77	
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	319.5	60	

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**22.5**	**87**	
5.1 Knowledge workers	**23.1**	**96**	
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	20	79	
5.1.2 Firms offering formal training, %	n/a	n/a	
5.1.3 GERD performed by business, % GDP	0.05	71	
5.1.4 GERD financed by business, %	40.3	44	◆
5.1.5 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	4.2	98	
5.2 Innovation linkages	**21.7**	**75**	
5.2.1 Public Research-Industry co-publications, %	0.9	96	
5.2.2 University-industry R&D collaboration†	45.6	63	
5.2.3 State of cluster development†	41.8	79	
5.2.4 Joint venture/strategic alliance deals/bn PPP$ GDP	0.03	39	● ◆
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	0.06	68	
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**22.7**	**79**	
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	n/a	n/a	
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	5.6	104	
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	0.9	85	
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	0.8	103	
5.3.5 Research talent, % in businesses	20	54	
Knowledge and technology outputs	**18.2**	**79**	
6.1 Knowledge creation	**7.9**	**94**	
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.5	73	
6.1.2 PCT patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.06	70	
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	-	-	
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	5	105	
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	10.8	70	
6.2 Knowledge impact	**20.3**	**98**	
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	-2.7	129	○ ◇
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	0	49	○ ◇
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.5	21	● ◆
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing, %	7.9	93	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**26.3**	**50**	● ◆
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	n/a	n/a	
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	36.9	76	
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	0.7	87	
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	6.2	14	● ◆
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	4.8	61	◆
Creative outputs	**18.4**	**84**	
7.1 Intangible assets	**21**	**77**	
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	27.6	67	
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	19.5	89	
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	0	75	○ ◇
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.4	80	
7.2 Creative goods and services	**8**	**[81]**	
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	n/a	n/a	
7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	n/a	n/a	
7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	n/a	n/a	
7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade	0.6	57	● ◆
7.3 Online creativity	**23.6**	**77**	
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	0.7	103	
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	13.4	51	● ◆
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	56.6	94	

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 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.

Global Innovation Index 2024



Data availability

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

Sri Lanka has missing data for eleven indicators and outdated data for twenty two indicators.

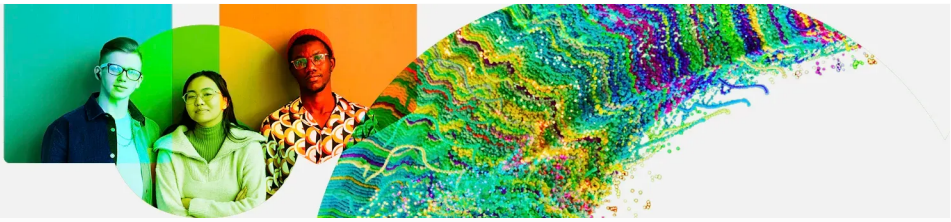
Missing data for Sri Lanka

Code	Indicator name	Economy Year	Model Year	Source
1.3.2	Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	n/a	2023	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
2.1.4	PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	2022	OECD, PISA
4.1.1	Finance for startups and scaleups†	n/a	2023	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
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
5.3.1	Intellectual property payments, % total trade	n/a	2022	World Trade Organization Global Services Trade Data Hub
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
7.2.2	National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	n/a	2022	OMDIA; United Nations, World Population Prospects
7.2.3	Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	n/a	2023	PwC, GEMO; United Nations, World Population Prospects; International Monetary Fund

Outdated data for Sri Lanka

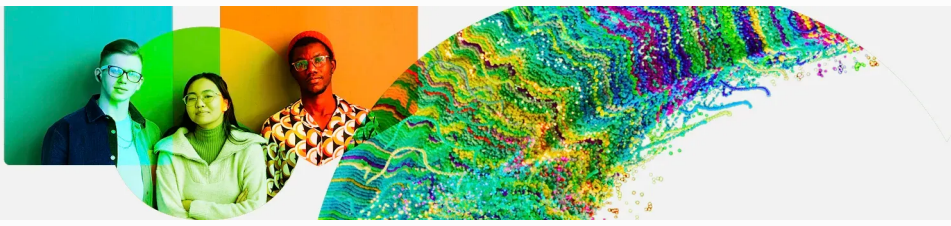
Code	Indicator name	Economy Year	Model Year	Source
2.1.2	Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	2018	2020	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.3	School life expectancy, years	2018	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.5	Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	2021	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.3.1	Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	2020	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT

Global Innovation Index 2024



Code	Indicator name	Economy Year	Model Year	Source
2.3.2	Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	2020	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	2021	2022	International Energy Agency
3.2.3	Gross capital formation, % GDP	2022	2023	International Monetary Fund
4.1.2	Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	2019	2022	International Monetary Fund; World Bank and OECD GDP estimates.
4.2.2	Venture capital (VC) investors, deals/bn PPP$ GDP	2022	2023	LSEG Data & Analytics; International Monetary Fund
4.2.3	VC recipients, deals/bn PPP$ GDP	2022	2023	LSEG Data & Analytics; International Monetary Fund
4.2.4	VC received, value, % GDP	2022	2023	LSEG Data & Analytics; International Monetary Fund
4.3.2	Domestic industry diversification	2019	2021	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Industrial Statistics Database (INDSTAT) Rev.3 and 4
4.3.3	Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	2022	2023	International Monetary Fund
5.1.3	GERD performed by business, % GDP	2017	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
5.1.4	GERD financed by business, %	2017	2021	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
5.1.5	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	2022	2023	International Labour Organization
5.2.4	Joint venture/strategic alliance deals/bn PPP$ GDP	2022	2023	LSEG Data & Analytics; International Monetary Fund
5.3.5	Research talent, % in businesses	2017	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
6.1.2	PCT patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	2022	2023	World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund
6.1.4	Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	2022	2023	Clarivate; International Monetary Fund
6.2.4	High-tech manufacturing, %	2019	2021	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
7.3.3	Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	2022	2023	data.ia (a Sensor Tower Company); International Monetary Fund

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.

Source: Global Innovation Index Database, WIPO, 2024.

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.