Global Innovation Index 2025

United Arab Emirates ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2025

United Arab Emirates ranks 30th among the 139 economies featured in the GII 2025.

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.

United Arab Emirates ranks 29th among the 54 High-income group economies.

United Arab Emirates ranks 3rd among the 18 economies in Northern Africa and Western Asia.

United Arab Emirates GII Ranking (2020-2025)

The table shows the rankings of United Arab Emirates over the past six 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 United Arab Emirates in the GII 2025 is between ranks 27 and 33.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	34th	22nd	55th
2021	33rd	23rd	47th
2022	31st	18th	52nd
2023	32nd	19th	54th
2024	32nd	19th	50th
2025	30th	14th	47th

United Arab Emirates performs worse in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2025.

This year **United Arab Emirates ranks 14th in innovation inputs.** This position is higher than last year.

United Arab Emirates ranks 47th in innovation outputs. This position is higher than last year.

United Arab Emirates has no clusters in the world's top innovation clusters of the Global Innovation Index.

Global Innovation Index 2025

> Global Innovation Tracker

The Global Innovation Tracker 2025 shows what is the current state of innovation in United Arab Emirates, how rapidly is technology being embraced and what are the resulting societal impacts.

For United Arab Emirates, 8 indicators have improved in the short-term and 2 indicators have worsened.

Science and innovation investment

	Scientific publications	R&D investments	Venture capital deal numbers	International patent filings
Short term	▲ 6.8 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 4.8 % 2020 - 2021	▲ 3.8 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 18.5 % 2023 - 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 18.8 % 2014 - 2024	▲ 15.1 % 2011 - 2021	▲ 12 % 2020 - 2024	▲ 4.9 % 2014 - 2024

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	0% 2023 - 2024	▲ 4.6% 2022 - 2023	▲ 1.9% 2022 - 2023	▲ 22% 2022 - 2023	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	0% 2014 - 2024	▲ 14.2% 2013 - 2023	n/a	▲ 28.6% 2013 - 2023	n/a
Penetration	98.4 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	37.1 per 100 inhabitants in 2023	98.9 per 100 inhabitants in 2023	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	▼ -0.2 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 3 % 2022 - 2023	+ 1.8 °C 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 0.4 % 2014 - 2024	▲ 0.1 % 2013 - 2023	+ 0.9 °C 2014
Level	131,492.7 USD in 2024	82.9 years in 2023	n/a

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 countries. from 1951–1980. Figures are rounded.

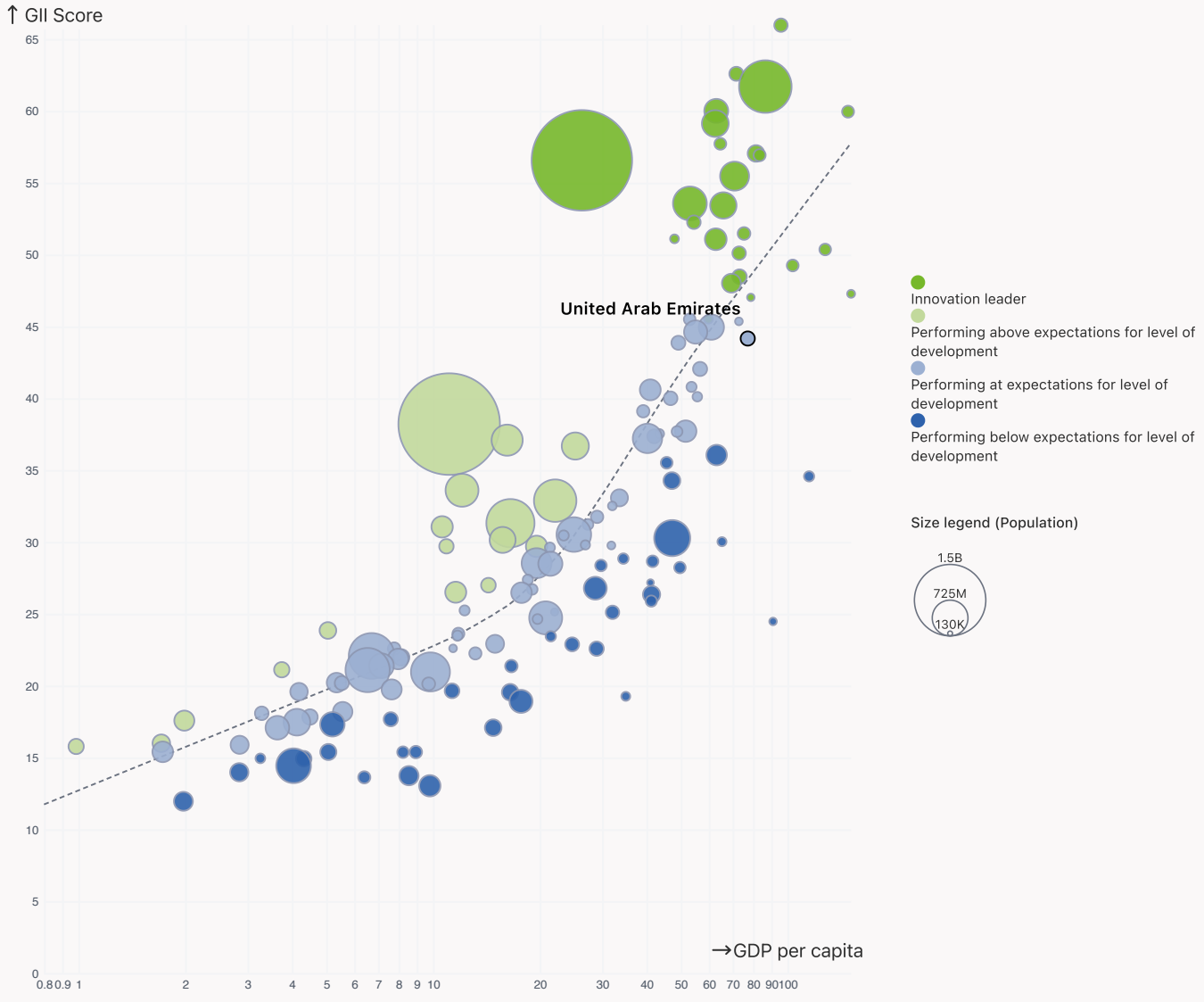
Global Innovation Index 2025

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 United Arab Emirates performs at expectations for its level of development.

> Innovation overperformers relative to their economic development



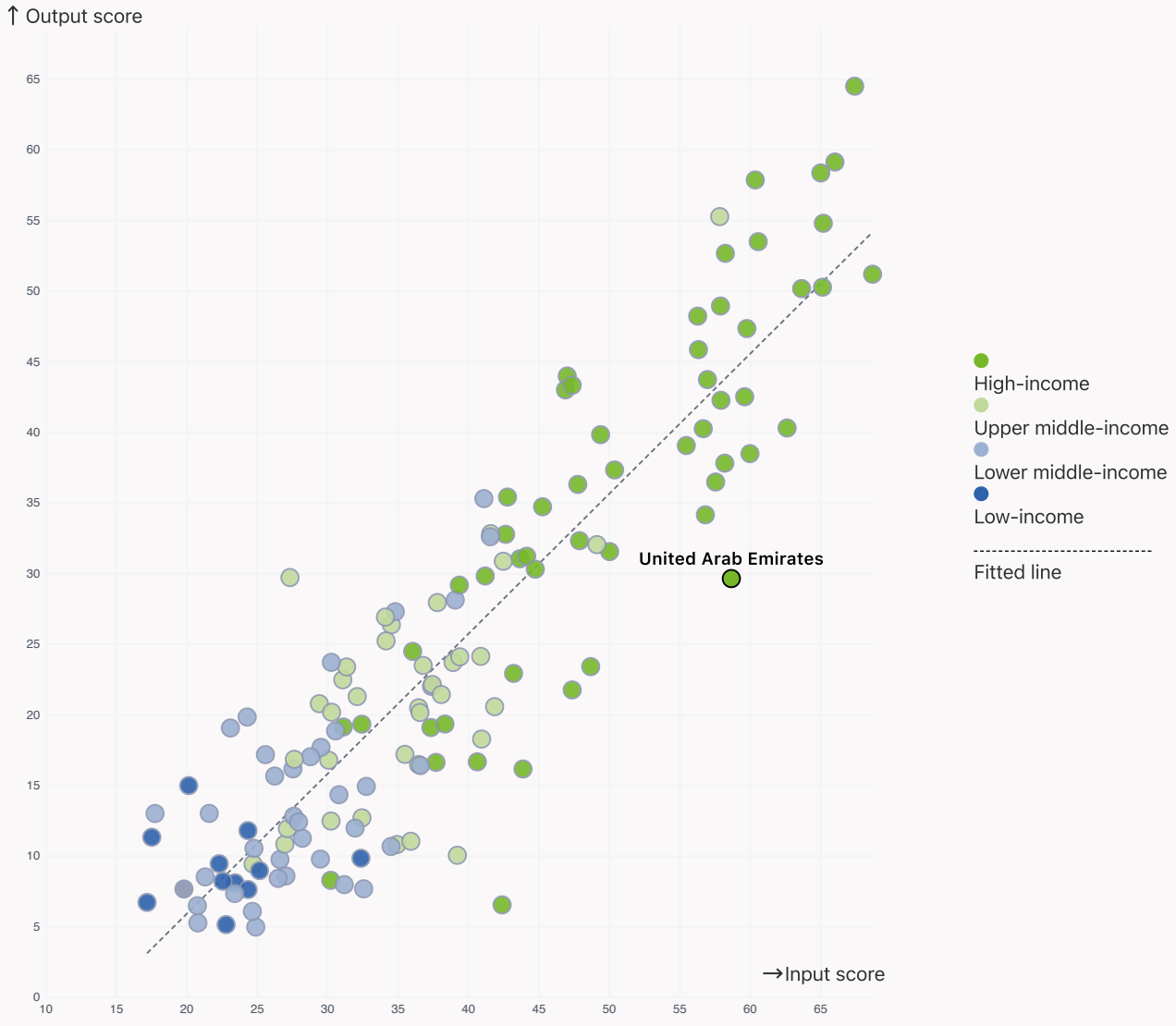
Global Innovation Index 2025

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.

United Arab Emirates produces less innovation outputs relative to its level of innovation investments.

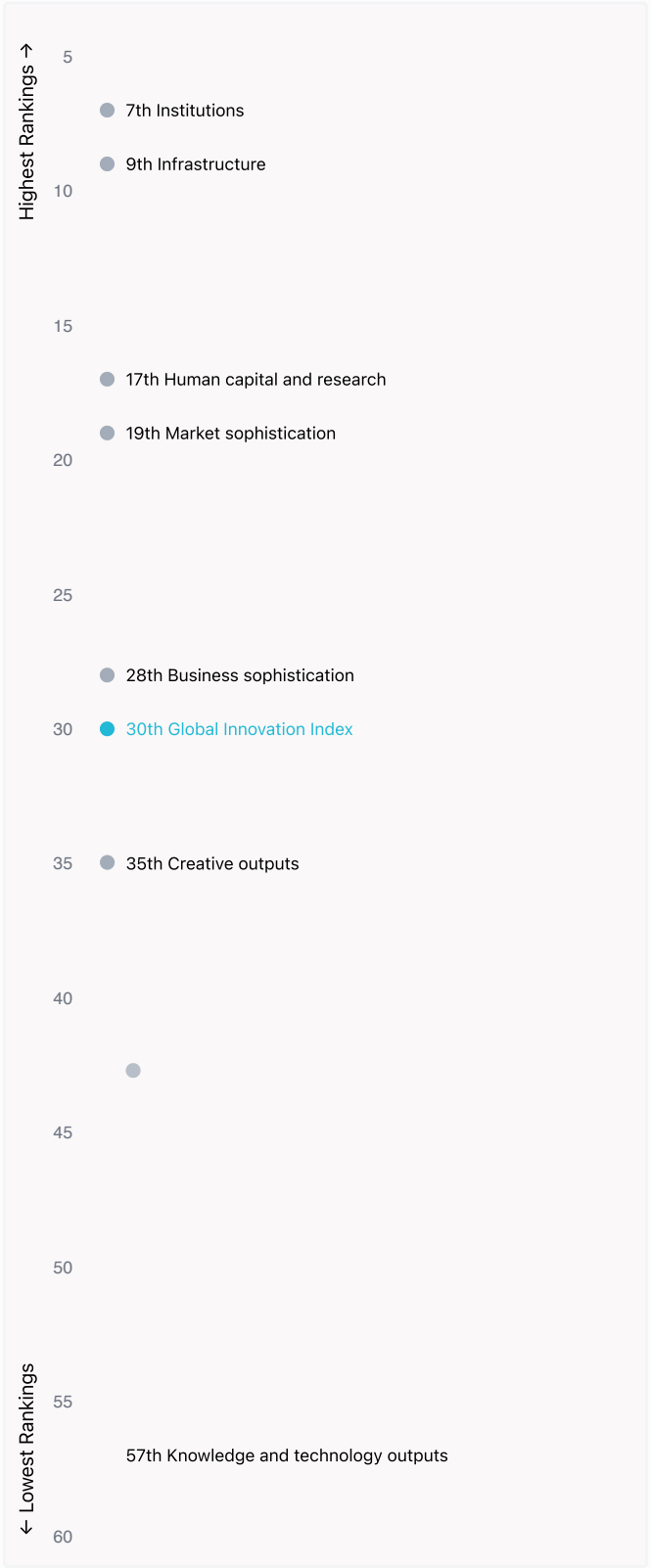
> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs



Global Innovation Index 2025

Overview of United Arab Emirates's rankings in the seven areas of the GII in 2025

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



Highest Rankings

United Arab Emirates ranks highest in Institutions (7th), Infrastructure (9th), Human capital and research (17th) and Market sophistication (19th).

Lowest Rankings

United Arab Emirates ranks lowest in Knowledge and technology outputs (57th), Creative outputs (35th) and Business sophistication (28th).

The full WIPO Intellectual Property Statistics profile for United Arab Emirates can be found on https://www.wipo.int/edocs/statistics-country-profile/en/ae.pdf

Global Innovation Index 2025

Benchmark of United Arab Emirates against other economy groupings for each of the seven areas of the GII Index

The charts shows the relative position of United Arab Emirates (blue bar) against other economy groupings (grey bars)

High-income economies

United Arab Emirates performs above the High-income group average in Institutions, Human capital and research, Infrastructure, Market sophistication.

Northern Africa and Western Asia

United Arab Emirates performs above the regional average in all pillars.

Institutions

- United Arab Emirates | Score: 81.7
- Top 10 | Score: 78.63
- High-income | Score: 65.99
- NAWA | Score: 54.35

Human capital and research

- Top 10 | Score: 59.30
- United Arab Emirates | Score: 54.6
- High-income | Score: 45.45
- NAWA | Score: 33.89

Infrastructure

- Top 10 | Score: 61.36
- United Arab Emirates | Score: 61.1
- High-income | Score: 54.18
- NAWA | Score: 43.93

Market sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 61.82
- United Arab Emirates | Score: 54.0
- High-income | Score: 47.12
- NAWA | Score: 38.18

Business sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 59.10
- High-income | Score: 42.22
- United Arab Emirates | Score: 41.9
- NAWA | Score: 30.52

Knowledge and technology outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 54.93
- High-income | Score: 33.94
- United Arab Emirates | Score: 23.0
- NAWA | Score: 22.17

Creative outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.98
- High-income | Score: 38.68
- United Arab Emirates | Score: 36.1
- NAWA | Score: 25.50

Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation strengths and weaknesses in United Arab Emirates

The table below gives an overview of the indicator strengths and weaknesses of United Arab Emirates in the GII 2025.

United Arab Emirates's best-ranked innovation strengths are **Entrepreneurship policies and culture†** (rank 1), **Tertiary inbound mobility, %** (rank 1) and **Finance for startups and scaleups†** (rank 3).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
1	1.3.2	Entrepreneurship policies and culture†
1	2.2.3	Tertiary inbound mobility, %
3	4.1.1	Finance for startups and scaleups†
3	5.3.5	Research talent, % in businesses
4	2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %
6	3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.
6	3.1.1	ICT access*
6	1.3.1	Policy stability for doing business†
6	5.2.4	State of cluster development†
7	3.1.2	ICT use*

Weaknesses

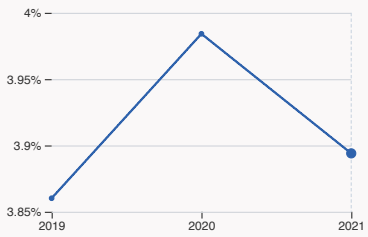
Rank	Code	Indicator name
115	7.1.4	Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP
107	7.1.2	Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP
102	6.2.1	Labor productivity growth, %
100	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %
97	5.1.3	Youth demographic dividend, %
95	5.3.3	ICT services imports, % total trade
91	3.3.1	GDP/unit of energy use
83	2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP
74	6.1.3	Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP
67	7.2.2	National feature films/mn pop. 15–69

Global Innovation Index 2025

United Arab Emirates's innovation system

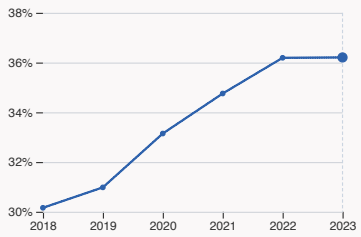
As far as practicable, the plots below present unscaled indicator data.

Innovation inputs in United Arab Emirates



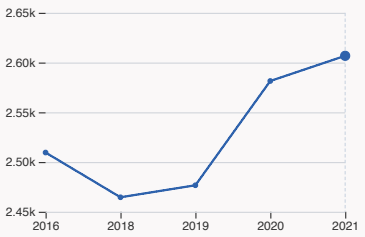
2.1.1 Expenditure on education

was equal to 3.89 % GDP in 2021, down by 0.09 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 83.



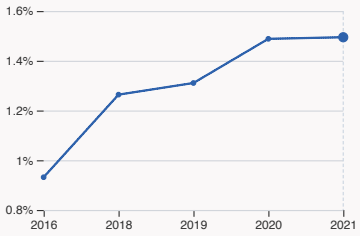
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering

was equal to 36.21 % of total graduates in 2023, up by 0.01 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 4.



2.3.1 Researchers

was equal to 2606.78 FTE per million population in 2021, up by 0.98% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 35.

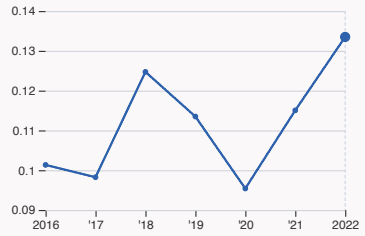


2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D

was equal to 1.49 % GDP in 2021, up by 0.006 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 27.

2.3.4 QS university ranking

was equal to an average score of 39.7 for the top three universities in 2024, up by 10.49% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 34.



4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification

was equal to an index score of 0.13 in 2022, up by 16.04% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 52.

5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment

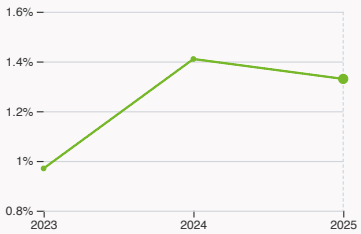
was equal to 33.86 % in 2023, down by 3.92 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 45.

Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation outputs in United Arab Emirates

6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 273 patents in 2023, up by 143.75% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 83.

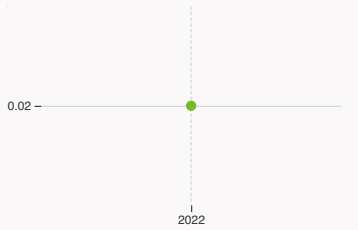


6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

was equal to 1.33 % GDP in 2025, down by 0.08 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 31.

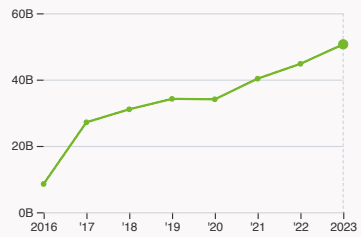
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing

was equal to 36.97 high-tech manufacturing output in billion USD in 2022, up by 21.69% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 64.



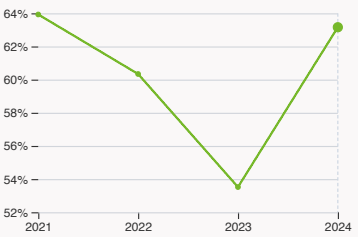
6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of 0.02 in 2022 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 61.



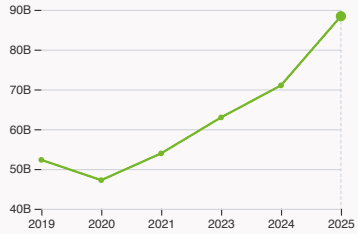
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 50.65 billion USD in 2023, up by 13.13% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 18.



7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15

was equal to 63.16 % for the top 15 companies in 2024, up by 9.64 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 27.

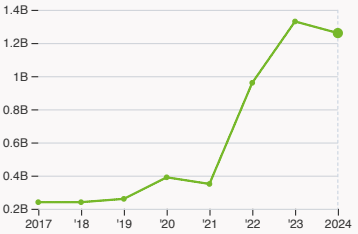


7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

was equal to 88.4 billion USD for the brands in the top 5,000 in 2025, up by 24.47% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 7.

7.2.2 National feature films

was equal to 11 films in 2023, down by 26.67% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 67.



7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 1.26 billion global downloads of mobile apps in 2024, down by 5.26% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 14.

Global Innovation Index 2025

United Arab Emirates's innovation top performers

Disclaimer: This section contains only the top performers per country. For the complete list, please visit the GII Innovation Ecosystems and Data Explorer website.

2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors from United Arab Emirates

Rank	Firm	Industry	R&D [mn EUR]	R&D Growth [%]	R&D Intensity [%]
1	MAMOURA DIVERSIFIED GLOBAL HOLDING	Financial Services	336	-19	3

Source: WIPO, based on European Commission's Joint Research Centre (https://iri.jrc.ec.europa.eu/scoreboard/2024-eu-industrial-rd-investment-scoreboard) and Orbis database (https://www.moodys.com/web/en/us/capabilities/company-reference-data/orbis.html).
Note: Data is based on the 2024 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, which ranks the top 2,000 firms by R&D investment annually. For countries not represented in the Scoreboard, companies from Orbis with R&D expenditure above USD 50 million were identified and used to complement the dataset.

2.3.4 QS university ranking of United Arab Emirates's top universities

Rank	University	Score
202	KHALIFA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	46.10
261	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES UNIVERSITY	39.40
332	AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH	33.60

Source: QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd (https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2024).
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'.

5.2.3 University industry and international engagement, top 5 universities

Rank	University	Score
1	KHALIFA UNIVERSITY	95.05
2	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES UNIVERSITY	84.75
3	UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH	71.35

Source: Times Higher Education (THE), World University Rankings 2025.
Note: Rank corresponds to within economy ranks. The score is calculated as the average of the International Outlook score (encompassing international staff, students, and co-authorship) and the industry score (reflecting industry income and patent citations). The 2025 ranking corresponds to data from the academic year that ended in 2022.

6.2.2 Top Unicorn Companies in United Arab Emirates

Rank	Unicorn Company	Industry	City	Valuation, bn USD
1	VISTA GLOBAL	Industrials	Dubai	3
2	KITOPI	Consumer & Retail	Dubai	2
3	TABBY	Financial Services	Dubai	2

Source: CBInsights, Tracker – The Complete List of Unicorn Companies: https://www.cbinsights.com/research-unicorn-companies.

7.1.1 Top 15 intangible-asset intensive companies in United Arab Emirates

Rank	Firm	Intensity, %
1	EMIRATES TELECOMMUNICATIONS GROUP COMPANY PJSC	70.59
2	INVEST BANK P.S.C.	98.00
3	FIRST ABU DHABI BANK P.J.S.C.	21.30

Source: Brand Finance (https://brandirectory.com/reports/gift-2024).
Note: Brand Finance only provides within economy ranks.

7.1.3 Top 5,000 companies in United Arab Emirates with highest global brand value

Rank	Brand	Industry	Brand Value, mn USD
1	ADNOC	Oil & Gas	18,967.5
2	E&	Telecoms	15,320
3	EMIRATES	Airlines	8,365.2

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

United Arab Emirates

GII 2025 rank **30**

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP$
47	14	High	Northern Africa and Western Asia	11.0	849.8	77,251.4

	Score / Value	Rank	
Institutions	**81.8**	**7**	
1.1 Institutional environment	**80.6**	**16**	
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	78.7	23	
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	82.5	9	
1.2 Regulatory environment	**72.2**	**27**	
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	70.8	30	
1.2.2 Rule of law*	73.7	31	
1.3 Business environment	**92.6**	**2**	
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	85.1	6	●
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	100	1	●
Human capital and research	**54.7**	**17**	
2.1 Education	**54.3**	**59**	
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	3.9	83	○
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	23.3	29	
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years	15.6	43	
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science	426.8	48	◇
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	8.9	18	
2.2 Tertiary education	**73.4**	**1**	
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	61.3	51	
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %	36.2	4	●
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %	69.7	1	●
2.3 Research and development (R&D)	**36.3**	**29**	
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	2,606.8	35	
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	1.5	27	
2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD	56.2	29	
2.3.4 QS university ranking, top 3*	40.7	34	
Infrastructure	**61.1**	**9**	
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**95**	**8**	
3.1.1 ICT access*	99.9	6	●
3.1.2 ICT use*	95.2	7	●
3.1.3 Government's online service*	89.9	16	
3.2 General infrastructure	**67.2**	**5**	
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	16,466.1	6	●
3.2.2 Logistics performance*	86.4	7	
3.2.3 Gross capital formation, % GDP	27.2	38	
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**21.1**	**66**	
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	8.6	91	○
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	8.2	100	○
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	4.4	20	
Market sophistication	**54**	**19**	
4.1 Credit	**58.3**	**13**	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	92.3	3	●
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	66.6	44	
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.2 Investment	**26.9**	**20**	
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	130.6	9	
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.3	26	
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	0.1	31	
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	1.2	12	
4.2.5 VC investor co-participation/bn PPP$ GDP	0.3	22	
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale	**76.9**	**42**	
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	2.5	74	
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	86.2	52	
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	849.8	37	

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**42**	**28**	
5.1 Knowledge workers	**33.3**	**80**	
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	33.9	45	
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	13.2	61	◇
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %	28.7	97	○
5.1.4 GERD performed by business, % GDP	0.8	32	
5.1.5 GERD financed by business, %	n/a	n/a	
5.2 Innovation linkages	**47.2**	**27**	
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %	1.4	68	
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†	59	21	
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*	71.9	22	
5.2.4 State of cluster development†	89.6	6	●
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	0.1	53	
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**45.5**	**12**	
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	0.7	60	
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	16.1	13	
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	0.9	95	○
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	5.2	30	
5.3.5 Research talent, % in businesses	77.9	3	●
Knowledge and technology outputs	**23**	**57**	
6.1 Knowledge creation	**9.9**	**83**	◇
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.3	83	◇
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.2	53	
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.003	74	○ ◇
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	10.2	68	◇
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	15.9	54	
6.2 Knowledge impact	**28.4**	**57**	
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	-0.2	102	○
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	1.3	31	
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.3	34	
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing	20.2	64	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**30.7**	**39**	
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	0.8	20	
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	49.3	61	◇
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	10.4	18	
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	1.7	69	
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	8.1	32	
Creative outputs	**36.1**	**35**	
7.1 Intangible assets	**41.1**	**30**	
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	63.2	27	
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	13.6	107	○ ◇
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	15.5	7	
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.09	115	○ ◇
7.2 Creative goods and services	**28.4**	**38**	
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	0.4	68	
7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	1.2	67	○ ◇
7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	22.6	28	
7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade	5.7	10	
7.3 Online creativity	**34**	**44**	
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	10.2	45	
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	14.3	52	◇
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	77.5	14	

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.

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Data Availability

The following tables list indicators that are either missing or outdated for United Arab Emirates.

United Arab Emirates has missing data for two indicators and outdated data for nine indicators.

Missing data for United Arab Emirates

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
4.1.3	Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	2023	International Monetary Fund, Financial Access Survey (FAS)
5.1.5	GERD financed by business, %	n/a	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT

Outdated data for United Arab Emirates

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP	2021	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.3.1	Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	2021	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
2.3.2	Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	2021	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	2022	2023	International Energy Agency
4.1.2	Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	2022	2023	International Monetary Fund; World Bank and OECD GDP estimates
5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %	2023	2024	International Labour Organization
5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	2023	2024	International Labour Organization
5.1.4	GERD performed by business, % GDP	2018	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
5.3.5	Research talent, % in businesses	2018	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT

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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 140 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.