Global Innovation Index 2025

Australia ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2025

Australia ranks 22nd 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.

Australia ranks 21st among the 54 High-income group economies.

Australia ranks 6th among the 17 economies in South East Asia, East Asia, and Oceania.

Australia GII Ranking (2020-2025)

The table shows the rankings of Australia 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 Australia in the GII 2025 is between ranks 21 and 25.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	23rd	13th	31st
2021	25th	15th	33rd
2022	25th	19th	32nd
2023	24th	16th	30th
2024	23rd	18th	30th
2025	22nd	16th	27th

Australia performs worse in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2025.

This year **Australia ranks 16th in innovation inputs.** This position is higher than last year.

Australia ranks 27th in innovation outputs. This position is higher than last year.

Australia has 2 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 Australia, how rapidly is technology being embraced and what are the resulting societal impacts.

For Australia, 8 indicators have improved in the short-term and 3 indicators have worsened.

Science and innovation investment

	Scientific publications	R&D investments	Venture capital deal numbers	International patent filings
Short term	▲ 2.7 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 1.8 % 2019 - 2021	▼ -18.3 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 5.1 % 2023 - 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 2.5 % 2014 - 2024	▲ 0.5 % 2011 - 2021	▼ -4.2 % 2020 - 2024	▼ -0.9 % 2014 - 2024

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	▲ 0.1% 2023 - 2024	▲ 1.5% 2022 - 2023	▲ 6.2% 2022 - 2023	▼ -0.3% 2022 - 2023	▲ 66.9% 2023 - 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 0.1% 2014 - 2024	▲ 4.9% 2013 - 2023	n/a	▼ -1.9% 2013 - 2023	▲ 66.2% 2014 - 2024
Penetration	95.8 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	36.6 per 100 inhabitants in 2023	85 per 100 inhabitants in 2023	n/a	1.9 per 100 cars in 2024

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	0 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 1.4 % 2022 - 2023	+ 1.4 °C 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 0.7 % 2014 - 2024	▲ 0.2 % 2013 - 2023	+ 1.1 °C 2014
Level	123,388.3 USD in 2024	83.9 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.

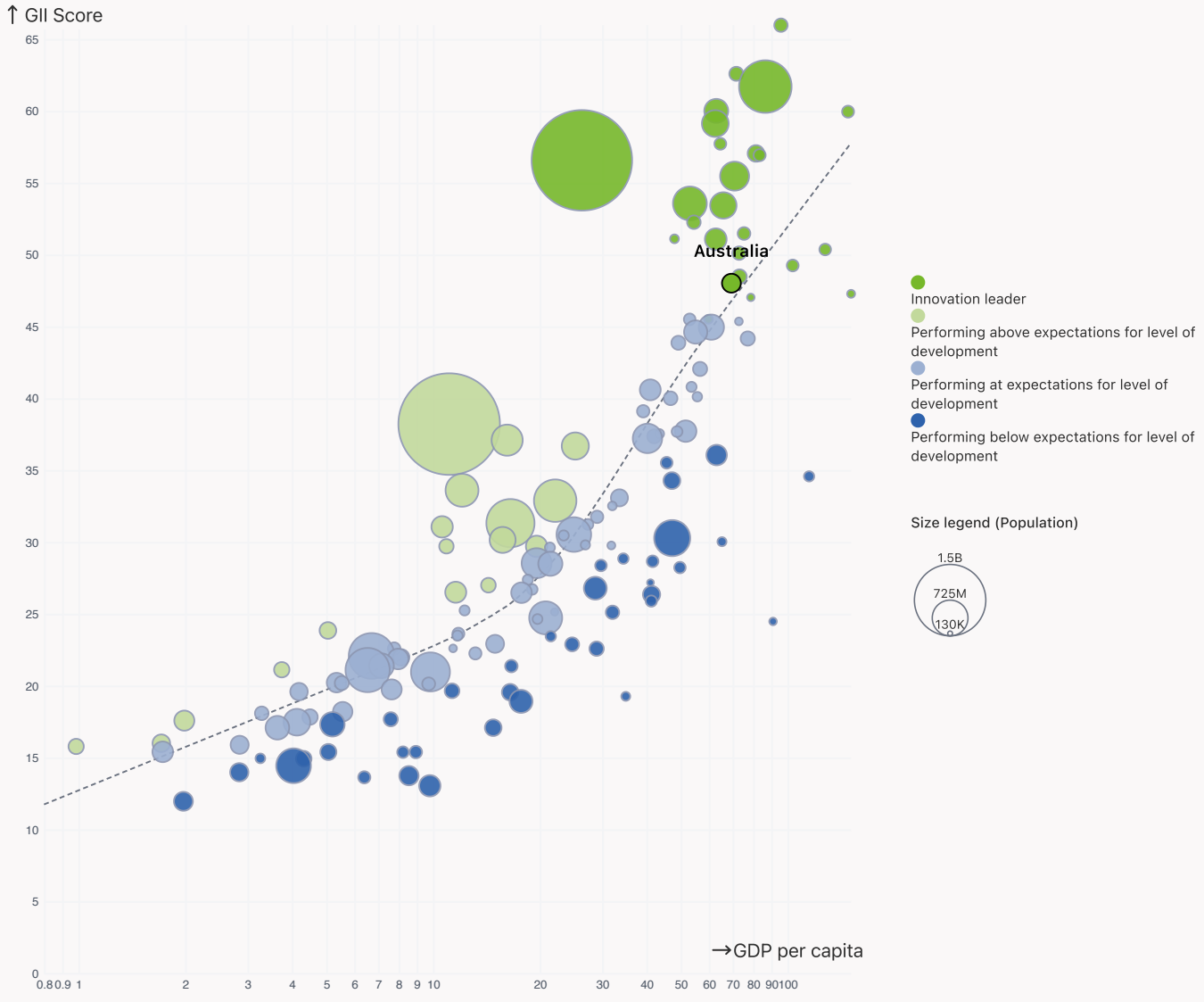
Global Innovation Index 2025

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.

Australia is an Innovation leader, ranking in the top 25 of the GII.

> 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.

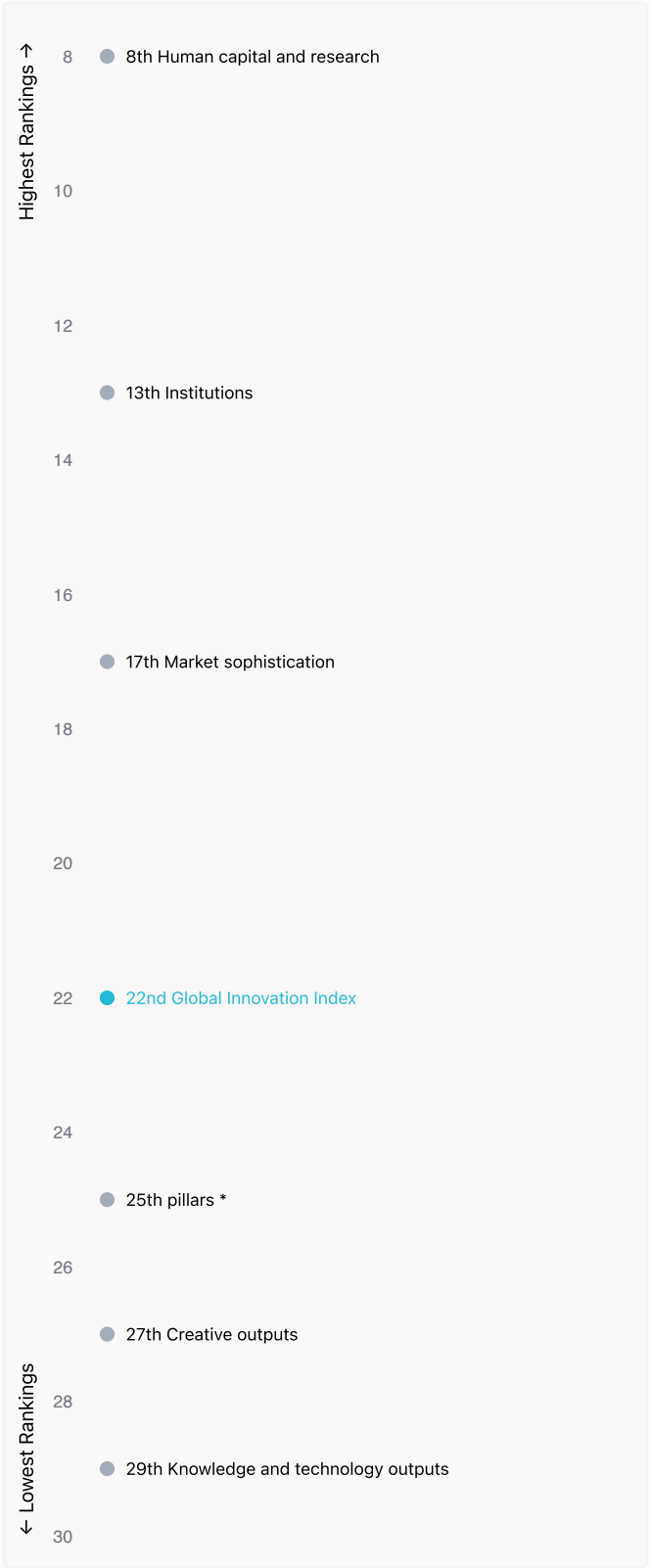
Australia produces less innovation outputs relative to its level of innovation investments.

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

Global Innovation Index 2025

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



Highest Rankings

Australia ranks highest in Human capital and research (8th), Institutions (13th) and Market sophistication (17th).

Lowest Rankings

Australia ranks lowest in Knowledge and technology outputs (29th), Creative outputs (27th) and Infrastructure, Business sophistication (25th).

* Infrastructure, Business sophistication

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

Global Innovation Index 2025

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

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

High-income economies

Australia performs above the High-income group average in Institutions, Human capital and research, Infrastructure, Market sophistication, Business sophistication, Creative outputs.

South East Asia, East Asia, and Oceania

Australia performs above the regional average in all pillars.

Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Australia

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

Australia's best-ranked innovation strengths are **Regulatory quality*** (rank 2), **School life expectancy, years** (rank 2) and **QS university ranking, top 3*** (rank 3).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
2	1.2.1	Regulatory quality*
2	2.1.3	School life expectancy, years
3	2.3.4	QS university ranking, top 3*
4	5.2.3	University industry & international engagement, top 5*
5	7.2.3	Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69
5	2.2.3	Tertiary inbound mobility, %
6	4.3.1	Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %
6	6.1.5	Citable documents H-index
6	2.2.1	Tertiary enrolment, % gross
9	5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %
10	7.3.1	Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69

Weaknesses

Rank	Code	Indicator name
100	6.3.2	Production and export complexity
93	6.2.1	Labor productivity growth, %
91	5.1.3	Youth demographic dividend, %
90	2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %
82	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %
79	5.3.3	ICT services imports, % total trade
77	3.3.1	GDP/unit of energy use
76	6.3.4	ICT services exports, % total trade
75	7.2.1	Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade
59	7.2.2	National feature films/mn pop. 15–69

Global Innovation Index 2025

Australia's innovation system

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

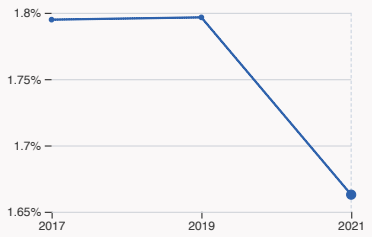
Innovation inputs in Australia

2.1.1 **Expenditure on education**

was equal to 5.21 % GDP in 2022, down by 0.13 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 33.

2.2.2 **Graduates in science and engineering**

was equal to 19.15 % of total graduates in 2022, down by 1.53 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 90.



2.3.2 **Gross expenditure on R&D**

was equal to 1.66 % GDP in 2021, down by 0.13 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 24.

2.3.4 **QS university ranking**

was equal to an average score of 87.77 for the top three universities in 2024, up by 0.77% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 3.

4.3.2 **Domestic industry diversification**

was equal to an index score of 0.12 in 2023, up by 6.52% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 40.

5.1.1 **Knowledge-intensive employment**

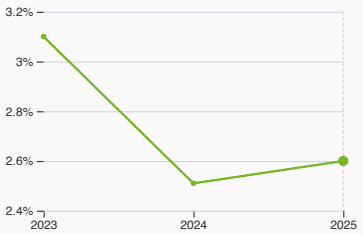
was equal to 49.53 % in 2024, up by 0.25 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 13.

Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation outputs in Australia

6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 2.51 thousand patents in 2023, up by 2.03% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 40.

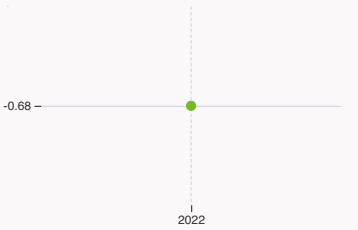


6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

was equal to 2.6 % GDP in 2025, up by 0.09 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 17.

6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing

was equal to 80.66 high-tech manufacturing output in billion USD in 2023, up by 5.66% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 52.

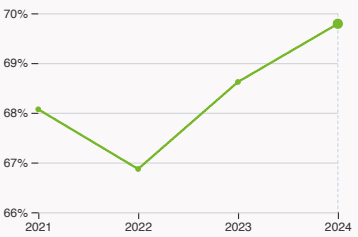


6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of -0.68 in 2022 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 100.

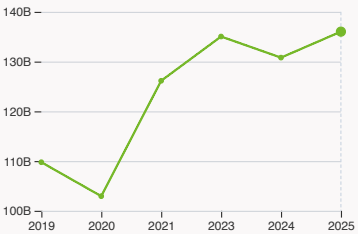
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 8.05 billion USD in 2023, down by 2.54% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 63.



7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15

was equal to 69.79 % for the top 15 companies in 2024, up by 1.17 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 16.



7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

was equal to 136.02 billion USD for the brands in the top 5,000 in 2025, up by 3.99% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 27.

7.2.2 National feature films

was equal to 36 films in 2023, up by 16.13% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 59.

7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 808.92 million global downloads of mobile apps in 2024, down by 16.13% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 39.

Australia'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 Australia

Rank	Firm	Industry	R&D [mn EUR]	R&D Growth [%]	R&D Intensity [%]
1	CSL	Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology	1,302	16	10
2	TELSTRA	Technology Hardware & Equipment	899	15	6
3	COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA	Banks	577	4	3
4	NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK	Banks	534	19	5

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 Australia's top universities

Rank	University	Score
13	THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE	88.90
18	THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY	87.30
19	THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES	87.10

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	THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND	96.65
2	UNSW SYDNEY	96.05
3	MONASH UNIVERSITY	95.85

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 Australia

Rank	Unicorn Company	Industry	City	Valuation, bn USD
1	CANVA	Enterprise Tech	Surry Hills	32
2	AIRWALLEX	Financial Services	Melbourne	6
3	IMMUTABLE	Media & Entertainment	Sydney	3

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 Australia

Rank	Firm	Intensity, %
1	COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA	62.57
2	CSL LIMITED	89.14
3	BHP GROUP LIMITED	60.04

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 Australia with highest global brand value

Rank	Brand	Industry	Brand Value, mn USD
1	COMMONWEALTH BANK	Banking	10,796
2	WOOLWORTHS	Retail	8,755.3
3	TELSTRA	Telecoms	8,331.6

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

Australia

GII 2025 rank **22**

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP$
27	16	High	South East Asia, East Asia, and Oceania	26.7	1,897.9	69,475.4

	Score / Value	Rank	
Institutions	**76.1**	**13**	
1.1 Institutional environment	**82.1**	**13**	
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	82	16	
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	82.1	12	
1.2 Regulatory environment	**90.4**	**7**	
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	91.5	2	●
1.2.2 Rule of law*	89.2	15	
1.3 Business environment	**55.8**	**46**	
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	66.3	31	
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	45.3	43	
Human capital and research	**58.6**	**8**	
2.1 Education	**61.9**	**30**	
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	5.2	33	
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	19.1	48	
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years	20.6	2	●
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science	497.4	10	
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	n/a	n/a	
2.2 Tertiary education	**53.2**	**7**	
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	104.6	6	●
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %	19.1	90	○
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %	27.2	5	●
2.3 Research and development (R&D)	**60.6**	**13**	
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	n/a	n/a	
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	1.7	24	
2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD	65.8	17	
2.3.4 QS university ranking, top 3*	89.9	3	●
Infrastructure	**55.7**	**25**	
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**93.2**	**13**	
3.1.1 ICT access*	98.3	22	
3.1.2 ICT use*	90.6	20	
3.1.3 Government's online service*	90.6	14	
3.2 General infrastructure	**50.8**	**21**	
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	10,265.7	14	
3.2.2 Logistics performance*	72.7	18	
3.2.3 Gross capital formation, % GDP	24	66	
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**23**	**58**	
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	9.9	77	○
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	14.9	82	○
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	3.7	26	
Market sophistication	**55.4**	**17**	
4.1 Credit	**56.1**	**19**	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	62.5	28	
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	127.4	13	
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.2 Investment	**24.5**	**24**	
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	116.7	12	
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.3	23	
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	0.5	11	
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.5	28	
4.2.5 VC investor co-participation/bn PPP$ GDP	0.2	27	
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale	**85.7**	**12**	
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	0.6	6	●
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	89.8	40	
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	1,897.9	19	

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**45.5**	**25**	◇
5.1 Knowledge workers	**53.2**	**23**	
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	49.5	13	
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	29	9	●
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %	29.9	91	○
5.1.4 GERD performed by business, % GDP	0.9	28	◇
5.1.5 GERD financed by business, %	n/a	n/a	
5.2 Innovation linkages	**55.1**	**21**	
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %	2.2	39	◇
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†	63.5	16	
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*	98.4	4	●
5.2.4 State of cluster development†	76.6	23	
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	0.9	30	◇
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**28.3**	**63**	◇
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	1	35	
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	10.1	38	
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	1.2	79	○ ◇
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	2.7	65	
5.3.5 Research talent, % in businesses	n/a	n/a	
Knowledge and technology outputs	**33**	**29**	◇
6.1 Knowledge creation	**46.9**	**16**	
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	1.4	40	◇
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.9	23	◇
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	-	-	
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	32.3	13	
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	71.3	6	●
6.2 Knowledge impact	**34.1**	**42**	
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	0.1	93	○
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	2.6	17	
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.2	58	
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing	24	52	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**18.1**	**72**	◇
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	0.3	36	◇
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	33.6	100	○ ◇
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	2	63	◇
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	1.4	76	○
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	7.5	35	
Creative outputs	**42.5**	**27**	◇
7.1 Intangible assets	**42.7**	**26**	
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	69.8	16	
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	46.5	37	
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	7.2	27	
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	1.4	46	
7.2 Creative goods and services	**22.2**	**51**	◇
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	0.3	75	○
7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	2	59	○
7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	65.6	5	●
7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade	0.5	62	
7.3 Online creativity	**62.4**	**19**	
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	68.8	10	●
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	47.3	24	◇
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	71	39	

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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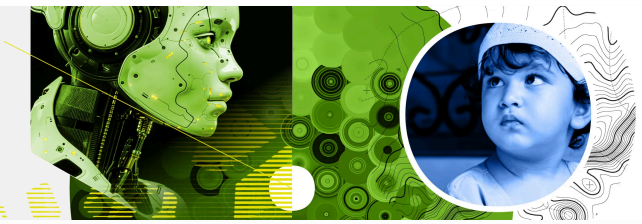


Data Availability

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

Australia has missing data for six indicators and outdated data for five indicators.

Missing data for Australia

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
2.1.5	Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	n/a	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.3.1	Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	n/a	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
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
5.3.5	Research talent, % in businesses	n/a	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
6.1.3	Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	n/a	2023	World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund

Outdated data for Australia

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
1.3.2	Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	2019	2024	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP	2022	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.3.2	Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	2021	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
4.1.1	Finance for startups and scaleups†	2019	2024	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
5.1.4	GERD performed by business, % GDP	2021	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT

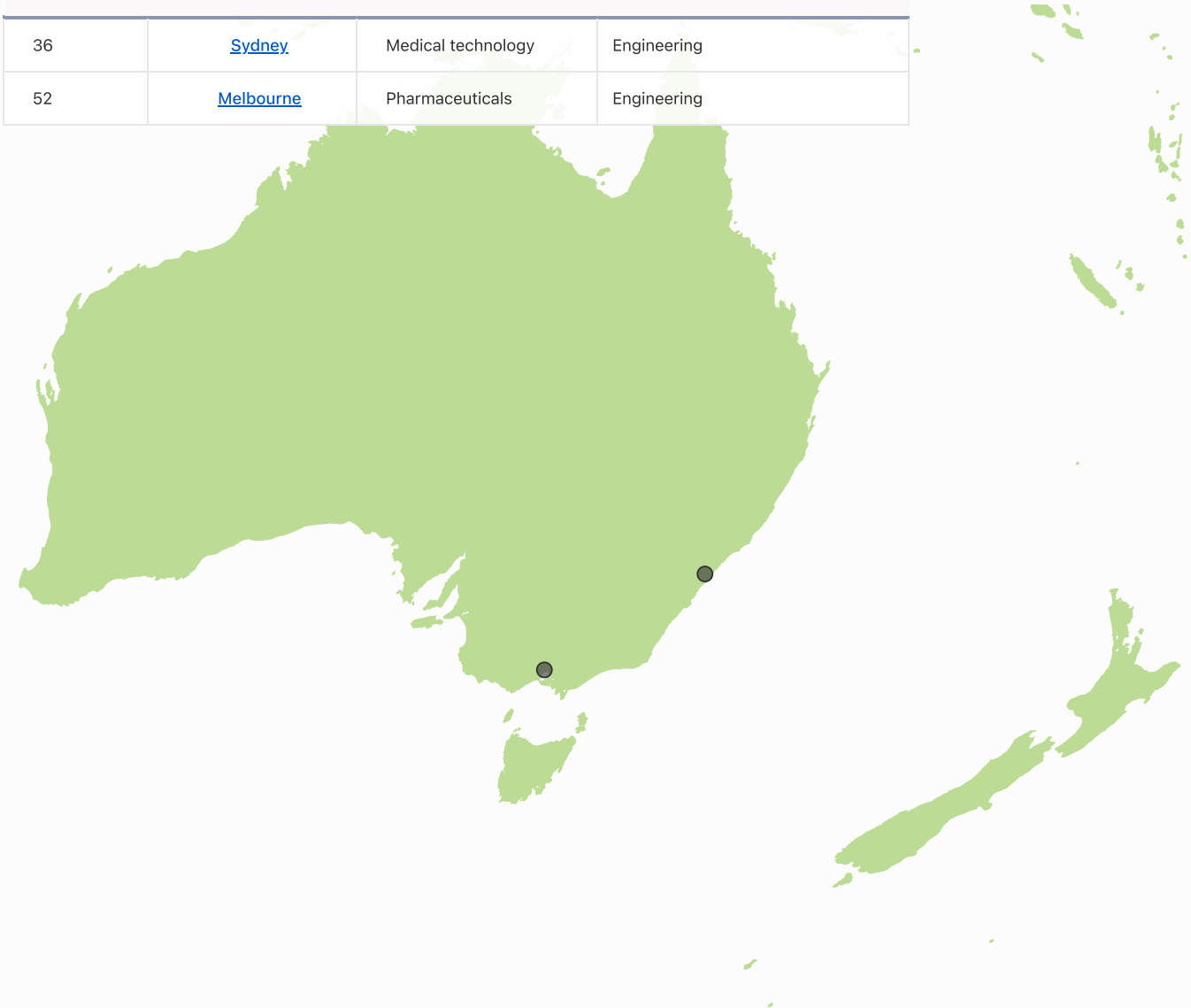
Global Innovation Index 2025

Top innovation clusters in Australia

Australia has 2 clusters in the world's top innovation clusters of the Global Innovation Index

The table and map below give an overview of the top innovation clusters in Australia.

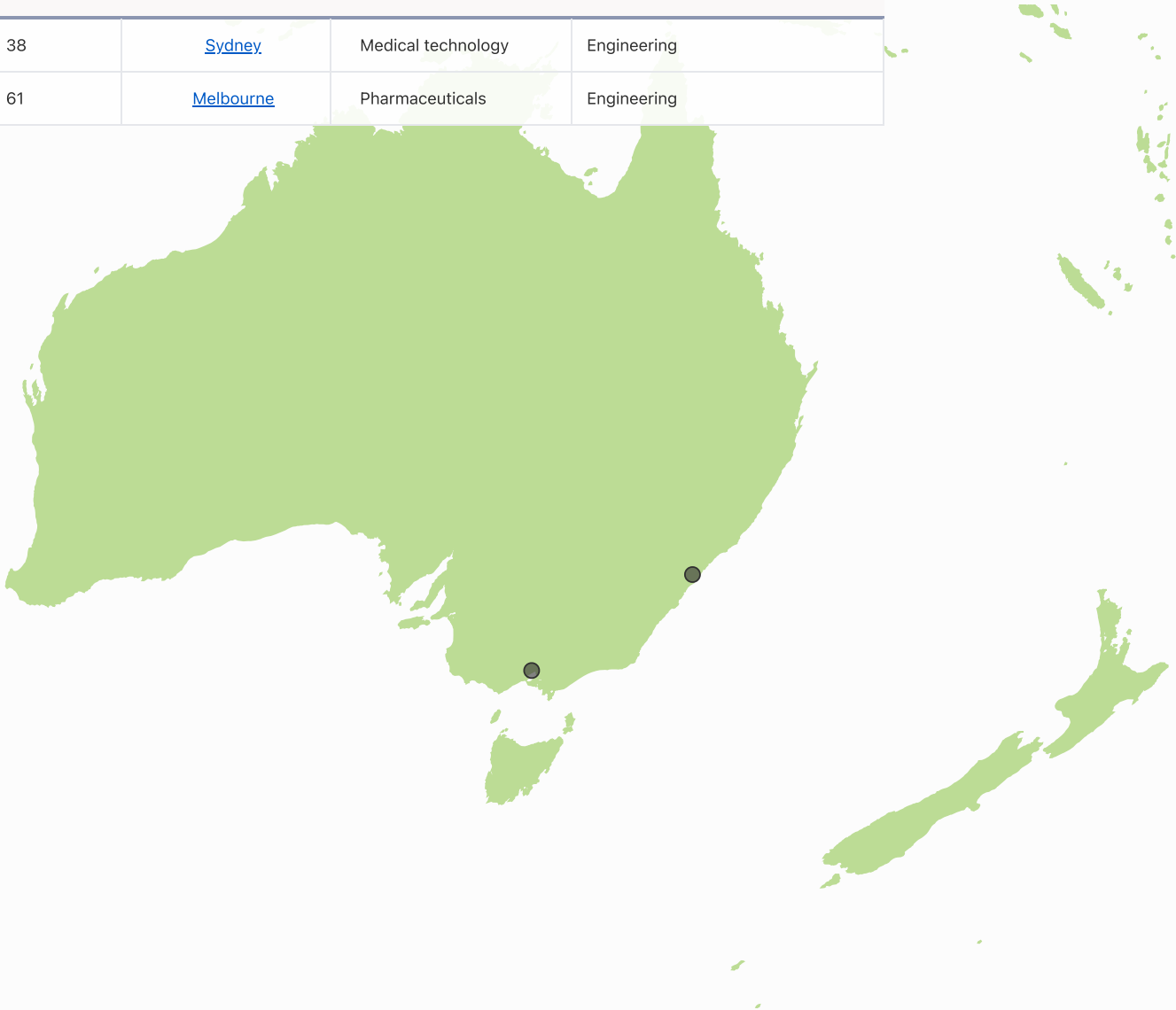
Rank	Cluster name	Top patent field	Top academic subject
36	Sydney	Medical technology	Engineering
52	Melbourne	Pharmaceuticals	Engineering



Global Innovation Index 2025

The table and map below give an overview by intensity of the top innovation clusters in Australia.

Rank	Cluster name	Top patent field	Top academic subject
38	Sydney	Medical technology	Engineering
61	Melbourne	Pharmaceuticals	Engineering



Global Innovation Index 2025

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.