Global Innovation Index 2025

Barbados ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2025

Barbados ranks 84th 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.

Barbados ranks 52nd among the 54 High-income group economies.

Barbados ranks 11th among the 21 economies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Barbados GII Ranking (2020-2025)

The table shows the rankings of Barbados 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 Barbados in the GII 2025 is between ranks 78 and 87.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	n/a	n/a	n/a
2021	n/a	n/a	n/a
2022	n/a	n/a	n/a
2023	n/a	n/a	n/a
2024	77th	77th	77th
2025	84th	91st	78th

Barbados performs better in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2025.

This year **Barbados ranks 91st in innovation inputs.** This position is lower than last year.

Barbados ranks 78th in innovation outputs. This position is lower than last year.

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

For Barbados, 4 indicators have improved in the short-term and 1 indicator has worsened.

Science and innovation investment

	Scientific publications	R&D investments	Venture capital deal numbers	International patent filings
Short term	▲ 23.4 % 2023 - 2024	n/a	▲ 100 % 2023 - 2024	▼ -56.2 % 2023 - 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 4.2 % 2014 - 2024	n/a	▲ 18.9 % 2020 - 2024	▼ -27.4 % 2014 - 2024

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	n/a	▲ 3.2% 2021 - 2022	n/a	n/a	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	n/a	▲ 4.7% 2012 - 2022	n/a	n/a	n/a
Penetration	n/a	37.5 per 100 inhabitants in 2022	n/a	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	n/a	▲ 0.7 % 2022 - 2023	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	n/a	0 % 2013 - 2023	+ 0.7 °C 2014
Level	n/a	76.2 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.

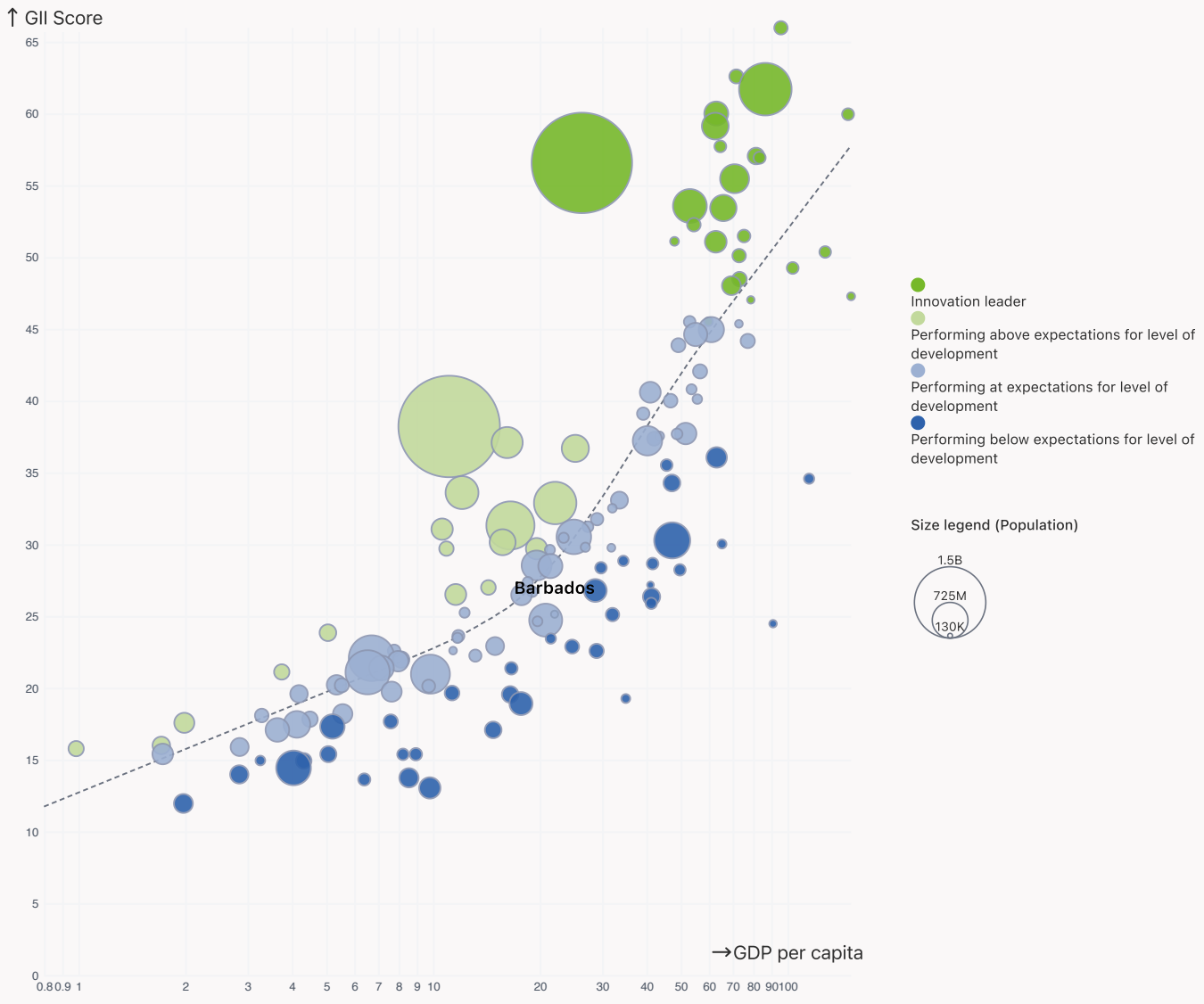
Global Innovation Index 2025

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 Barbados 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.

Barbados produces more innovation outputs relative to its level of innovation investments.

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

Global Innovation Index 2025

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

Highest Rankings

Barbados ranks highest in Business sophistication (51st), Institutions (56th) and Knowledge and technology outputs (61st).

Lowest Rankings

Barbados ranks lowest in Market sophistication (127th), Infrastructure (121st) and Creative outputs (90th).

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

Global Innovation Index 2025

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

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

High-income economies

Barbados performs below the High-income group average in all pillars.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Barbados performs above the regional average in Institutions, Business sophistication, Knowledge and technology outputs.

Institutions

- Top 10 | Score: 78.63
- High-income | Score: 65.99
- Barbados | Score: 54.15
- LCN | Score: 38.69

Human capital and research

- Top 10 | Score: 59.30
- High-income | Score: 45.45
- LCN | Score: 26.83
- Barbados | Score: 24.93

Infrastructure

- Top 10 | Score: 61.36
- High-income | Score: 54.18
- LCN | Score: 36.36
- Barbados | Score: 26.90

Market sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 61.82
- High-income | Score: 47.12
- LCN | Score: 29.96
- Barbados | Score: 17.55

Business sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 59.10
- High-income | Score: 42.22
- Barbados | Score: 32.30
- LCN | Score: 25.00

Knowledge and technology outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 54.93
- High-income | Score: 33.94
- Barbados | Score: 22.11
- LCN | Score: 15.29

Creative outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.98
- High-income | Score: 38.68
- LCN | Score: 17.22
- Barbados | Score: 16.06

Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Barbados

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

Barbados's best-ranked innovation strengths are **Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP** (rank 1), **PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP** (rank 1) and **Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP** (rank 4).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
1	5.2.5	Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP
1	6.1.2	PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP
4	6.1.1	Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP
9	7.2.2	National feature films/mn pop. 15–69
24	6.3.1	Intellectual property receipts, % total trade
29	4.2.2	Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP
35	1.1.1	Operational stability for businesses*
46	5.3.4	FDI net inflows, % GDP
47	4.1.2	Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP
47	6.1.4	Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP

Weaknesses

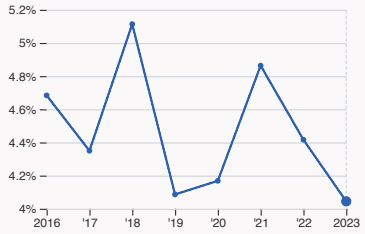
Rank	Code	Indicator name
137	4.3.3	Domestic market scale, bn PPP$
135	4.3.1	Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %
124	6.1.5	Citable documents H-index
121	3.2.3	Gross capital formation, % GDP
120	5.2.2	University–industry R&D collaboration†
117	7.3.3	Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP
114	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %
80	2.3.4	QS university ranking, top 3*
53	6.2.2	Unicorn valuation, % GDP
44	2.3.3	Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD

Global Innovation Index 2025

Barbados's innovation system

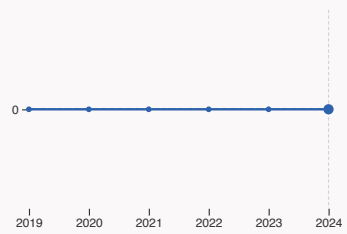
As far as practicable, the plots below present unscaled indicator data.

Innovation inputs in Barbados



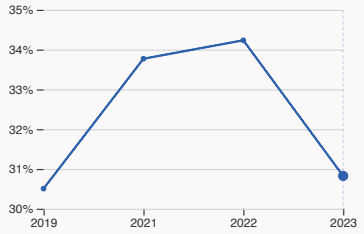
2.1.1 Expenditure on education

was equal to 4.04 % GDP in 2023, down by 0.37 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 75.



2.3.4 QS university ranking

The country does not have any universities in the QS world universities ranking in 2024.



5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment

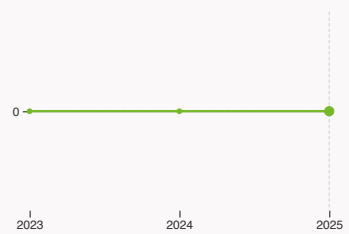
was equal to 30.82 % in 2023, down by 3.41 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 48.

Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation outputs in Barbados

6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 73 patents in 2021, up by 151.72% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 4.

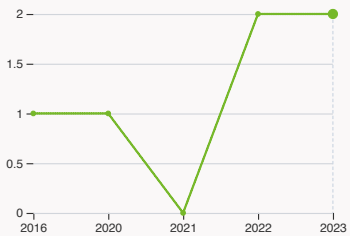


6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

The country does not have unicorns in 2025.

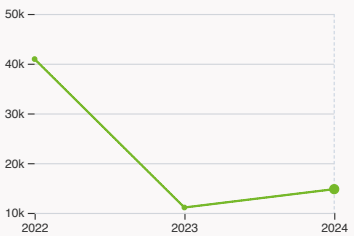
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 23.12 million USD in 2023, down by 18.01% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 76.



7.2.2 National feature films

was equal to 2 films in 2023 with no change from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 9.



7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 14.78 thousand global downloads of mobile apps in 2024, up by 33.27% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 117.

Barbados

GII 2025 rank **84**

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP$
78	91	High	Latin America and the Caribbean	0.3	6.4	22,034.9

	Score / Value	Rank	
Institutions	**54.1**	**56**	
1.1 Institutional environment	**63.9**	**45**	
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	75.3	35	●
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	52.4	54	
1.2 Regulatory environment	**60.3**	**49**	
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	58.3	49	
1.2.2 Rule of law*	62.3	49	
1.3 Business environment	**38.2**	**82**	
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	45.6	71	
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	30.9	57	
Human capital and research	**24.9**	**[89]**	
2.1 Education	**49.9**	**[70]**	
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	4	75	
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	20	45	
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years	n/a	n/a	
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	n/a	
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	14.7	79	◇
2.2 Tertiary education	**n/a**	**[n/a]**	
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	n/a	n/a	
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %	n/a	n/a	
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %	n/a	n/a	
2.3 Research and development (R&D)	**0**	**[124]**	
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	n/a	n/a	
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD	0	44	○ ◇
2.3.4 QS university ranking, top 3*	0	80	○ ◇
Infrastructure	**26.9**	**121**	◇
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**60.1**	**98**	◇
3.1.1 ICT access*	80.9	84	◇
3.1.2 ICT use*	59.7	105	◇
3.1.3 Government's online service*	39.6	106	◇
3.2 General infrastructure	**14**	**[126]**	
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	n/a	n/a	
3.2.2 Logistics performance*	n/a	n/a	
3.2.3 Gross capital formation, % GDP	16.2	121	○ ◇
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**6.6**	**128**	◇
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	n/a	n/a	
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	4.2	114	○
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	1	69	
Market sophistication	**17.6**	**127**	◇
4.1 Credit	**30.1**	**65**	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	36.8	65	
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	64.2	47	●
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.2 Investment	**12.5**	**43**	
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	58.5	33	
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.3	29	●
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	n/a	n/a	
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.2	56	
4.2.5 VC investor co-participation/bn PPP$ GDP	0.02	89	◇
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale	**10.1**	**139**	◇
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	11.7	135	○ ◇
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	n/a	n/a	
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	6.4	137	○ ◇

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**32.3**	**51**	
5.1 Knowledge workers	**35.4**	**[70]**	
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	30.8	48	◇
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	11.7	67	◇
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %	30	89	
5.1.4 GERD performed by business, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
5.1.5 GERD financed by business, %	n/a	n/a	
5.2 Innovation linkages	**38.4**	**34**	
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %	0.8	104	◇
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†	16.6	120	○ ◇
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*	n/a	n/a	
5.2.4 State of cluster development†	31.2	104	◇
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	73.7	1	●
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**23.1**	**86**	◇
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	0.4	80	
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	5.7	110	
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	1.6	62	
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	3.7	46	●
5.3.5 Research talent, % in businesses	n/a	n/a	
Knowledge and technology outputs	**22.1**	**61**	
6.1 Knowledge creation	**50.6**	**13**	
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	16.5	4	●
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	7.6	1	●
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	-	-	
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	14.8	47	●
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	3.2	124	○ ◇
6.2 Knowledge impact	**6**	**[137]**	
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	n/a	n/a	
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	0	53	○ ◇
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.2	81	
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing	n/a	n/a	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**9.7**	**107**	◇
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	0.6	24	●
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	n/a	n/a	
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	1	76	◇
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	0.4	112	
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	2.2	88	
Creative outputs	**16.1**	**90**	◇
7.1 Intangible assets	**11.8**	**[98]**	
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	n/a	n/a	
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	30	63	
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.3	93	◇
7.2 Creative goods and services	**21.7**	**52**	
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	0.5	62	
7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	9.8	9	●
7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	n/a	n/a	
7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade	0.7	55	
7.3 Online creativity	**19**	**101**	◇
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	8.3	52	
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	7.1	67	◇
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	41.5	117	○ ◇

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 Barbados.

Barbados has missing data for twenty four indicators and outdated data for thirteen indicators.

Missing data for Barbados

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
2.1.3	School life expectancy, years	n/a	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.4	PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	2022	OECD, PISA
2.2.1	Tertiary enrolment, % gross	n/a	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %	n/a	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD
2.2.3	Tertiary inbound mobility, %	n/a	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.3.1	Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	n/a	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
2.3.2	Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	n/a	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	n/a	2023	International Energy Agency
3.2.2	Logistics performance*	n/a	2023	World Bank, Logistics Performance Index 2023
3.3.1	GDP/unit of energy use	n/a	2022	International Energy Agency
4.1.3	Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	2023	International Monetary Fund, Financial Access Survey (FAS)
4.2.3	Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	n/a	2024	PitchBook Data, Inc.
4.3.2	Domestic industry diversification	n/a	2022	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
5.1.4	GERD performed by business, % GDP	n/a	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
5.1.5	GERD financed by business, %	n/a	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
5.2.3	University industry & international engagement, top 5*	n/a	2025	Times Higher Education, World University Rankings 2025
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
6.2.1	Labor productivity growth, %	n/a	2024	The Conference Board
6.2.4	High-tech manufacturing	n/a	2022	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
6.3.2	Production and export complexity	n/a	2022	Harvard University, Growth Lab

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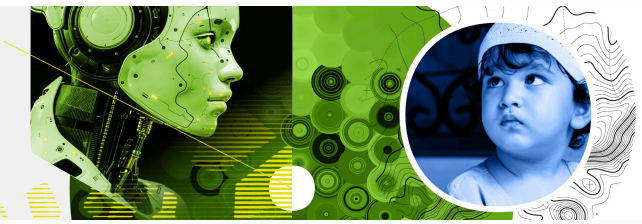

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
7.1.1	Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	n/a	2024	Brand Finance
7.1.3	Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	n/a	2025	Brand Finance; International Monetary Fund
7.2.3	Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	n/a	2024	PwC, GEMO; United Nations, World Population Prospects; International Monetary Fund

Outdated data for Barbados

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
1.3.1	Policy stability for doing business†	2022	2024	World Economic Forum, Executive Opinion Survey (EOS)
1.3.2	Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	2015	2024	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
4.1.1	Finance for startups and scaleups†	2015	2024	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
4.2.1	Market capitalization, % GDP	2020	2022	World Federation of Exchanges; World Bank
5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %	2023	2024	International Labour Organization
5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	2023	2024	International Labour Organization
5.2.2	University–industry R&D collaboration†	2022	2024	World Economic Forum, Executive Opinion Survey (EOS)
5.2.4	State of cluster development†	2022	2024	World Economic Forum, Executive Opinion Survey (EOS)
5.3.1	Intellectual property payments, % total trade	2020	2023	World Trade Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
5.3.3	ICT services imports, % total trade	2020	2023	World Trade Organization and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
6.1.1	Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	2021	2023	World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund
6.3.1	Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	2020	2023	World Trade Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
6.3.4	ICT services exports, % total trade	2020	2023	World Trade Organization and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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.