Global Innovation Index 2025

Bahrain ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2025

Bahrain ranks 62nd 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.

Bahrain ranks 46th among the 54 High-income group economies.

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

Bahrain GII Ranking (2020-2025)

The table shows the rankings of Bahrain 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 Bahrain in the GII 2025 is between ranks 59 and 80.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	79th	63rd	89th
2021	78th	63rd	99th
2022	72nd	50th	86th
2023	67th	47th	86th
2024	72nd	49th	93rd
2025	62nd	41st	94th

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

This year **Bahrain ranks 41st in innovation inputs.** This position is higher than last year.

Bahrain ranks 94th in innovation outputs. This position is lower than last year.

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

For Bahrain, 5 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	▲ 23.7 % 2023 - 2024	n/a	▲ 42.9 % 2023 - 2024	▼ -44.4 % 2023 - 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 15.1 % 2014 - 2024	n/a	▲ 30 % 2020 - 2024	▲ 9.6 % 2014 - 2024

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	▲ 0.3% 2023 - 2024	▼ -2.4% 2022 - 2023	0% 2022 - 2023	n/a	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 0.3% 2014 - 2024	▼ -1.1% 2013 - 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a
Penetration	93.4 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	17.2 per 100 inhabitants in 2023	100 per 100 inhabitants in 2023	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	▲ 0.5 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 0.4 % 2022 - 2023	+ 2.5 °C 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 1.2 % 2014 - 2024	▲ 0.2 % 2013 - 2023	+ 1.8 °C 2014
Level	137,372.7 USD in 2024	81.3 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.

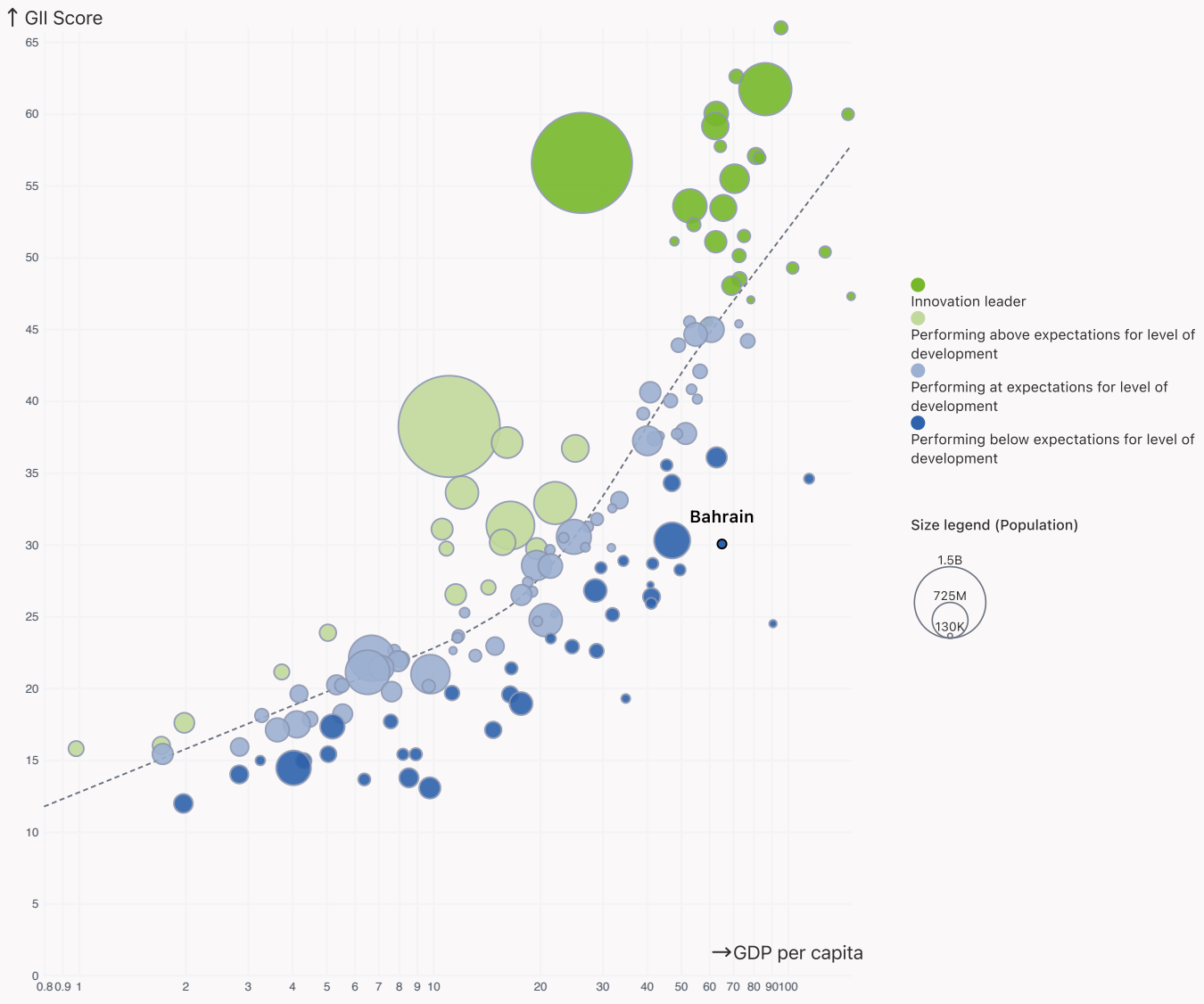
Global Innovation Index 2025

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 Bahrain performs below 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.

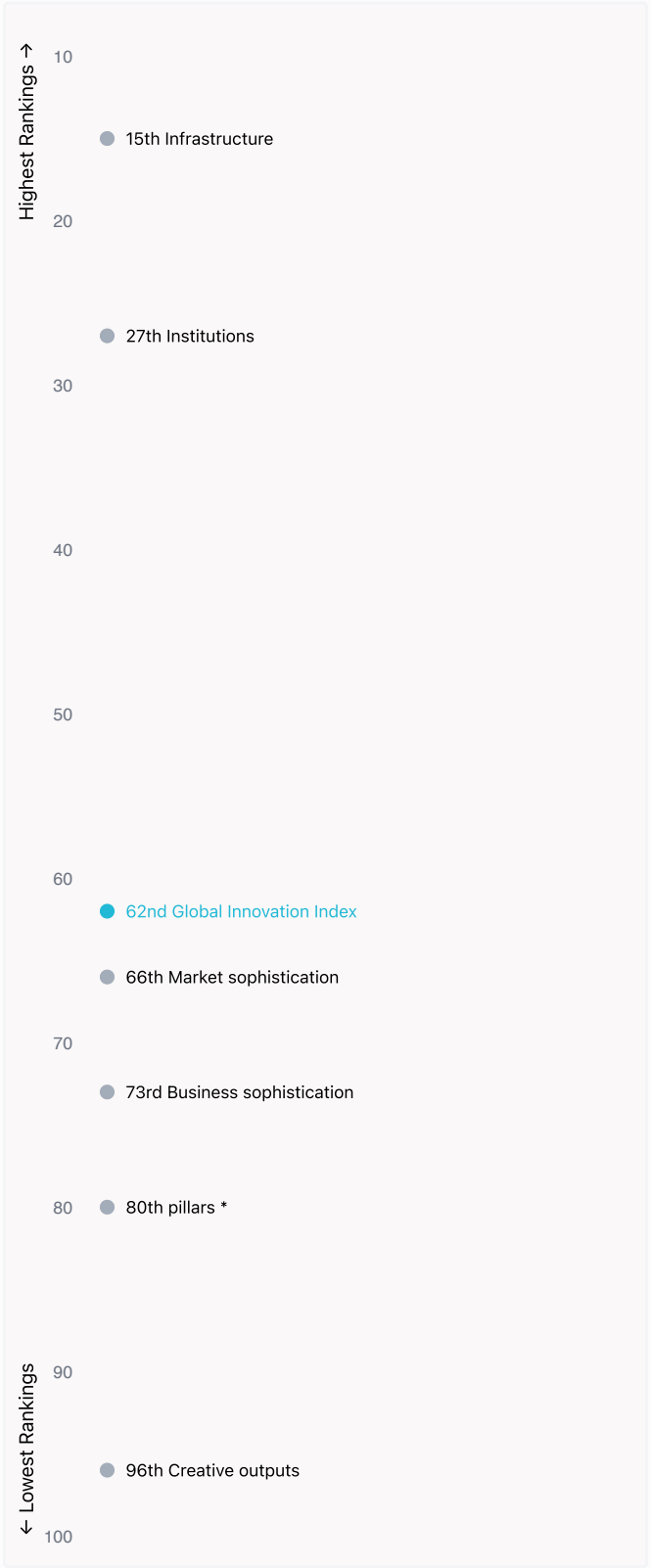
Bahrain produces less innovation outputs relative to its level of innovation investments.

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

Global Innovation Index 2025

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



Highest Rankings

Bahrain ranks highest in Infrastructure (15th) and Institutions (27th).

Lowest Rankings

Bahrain ranks lowest in Creative outputs (96th), Human capital and research, Knowledge and technology outputs (80th) and Business sophistication (73rd).

* Human capital and research, Knowledge and technology outputs

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

Global Innovation Index 2025

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

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

High-income economies

Bahrain performs above the High-income group average in Institutions, Infrastructure.

Northern Africa and Western Asia

Bahrain performs above the regional average in Institutions, Infrastructure.

Institutions

- Top 10 | Score: 78.63
- Bahrain | Score: 68.63
- High-income | Score: 65.99
- NAWA | Score: 54.35

Human capital and research

- Top 10 | Score: 59.30
- High-income | Score: 45.45
- NAWA | Score: 33.89
- Bahrain | Score: 28.25

Infrastructure

- Top 10 | Score: 61.36
- Bahrain | Score: 58.12
- High-income | Score: 54.18
- NAWA | Score: 43.93

Market sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 61.82
- High-income | Score: 47.12
- NAWA | Score: 38.18
- Bahrain | Score: 37.18

Business sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 59.10
- High-income | Score: 42.22
- NAWA | Score: 30.52
- Bahrain | Score: 27.42

Knowledge and technology outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 54.93
- High-income | Score: 33.94
- NAWA | Score: 22.17
- Bahrain | Score: 17.82

Creative outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.98
- High-income | Score: 38.68
- NAWA | Score: 25.50
- Bahrain | Score: 14.40

Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Bahrain

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

Bahrain's best-ranked innovation strengths are **Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.** (rank 1), **ICT access*** (rank 1) and **Entrepreneurship policies and culture†** (rank 7).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
1	3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.
1	3.1.1	ICT access*
7	1.3.2	Entrepreneurship policies and culture†
7	1.3.1	Policy stability for doing business†
11	3.1.2	ICT use*
16	5.3.4	FDI net inflows, % GDP
22	6.2.3	Software spending, % GDP
23	3.1.3	Government's online service*
28	1.2.1	Regulatory quality*
29	3.2.3	Gross capital formation, % GDP

Weaknesses

Rank	Code	Indicator name
137	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %
132	5.2.1	Public research–industry co-publications, %
128	2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP
127	5.3.2	High-tech imports, % total trade
127	7.1.2	Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP
124	3.3.1	GDP/unit of energy use
100	5.2.5	Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP
53	6.2.2	Unicorn valuation, % GDP
44	2.3.3	Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD

Global Innovation Index 2025

Bahrain's innovation system

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

Innovation inputs in Bahrain

2.1.1 Expenditure on education

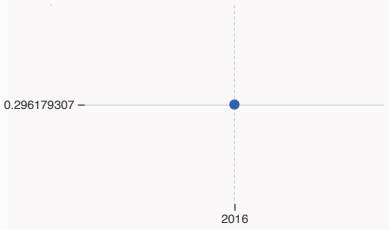
was equal to 1.99 % GDP in 2022, down by 0.23 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 128.

2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering

was equal to 17.99 % of total graduates in 2023, up by 1.63 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 94.

2.3.4 QS university ranking

was equal to an average score of 17.4 for the top three universities in 2024, up by 11.75% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 55.



4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification

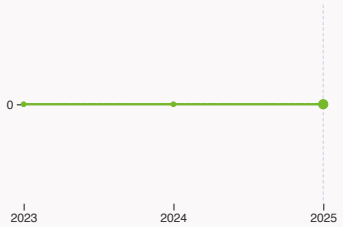
was equal to an index score of 0.3 in 2016 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 104.

Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation outputs in Bahrain

6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 13 patents in 2023, up by 333.33% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 107.

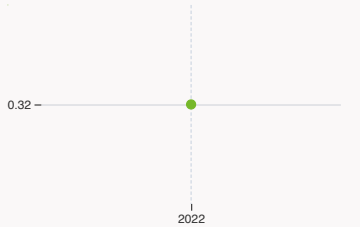


6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

The country does not have unicorns in 2025.

6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing

was equal to 2.54 high-tech manufacturing output in billion USD in 2016 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 89.

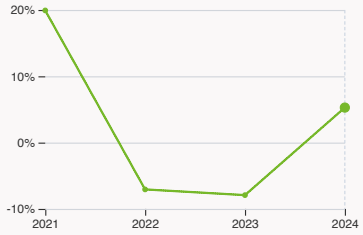


6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of 0.32 in 2022 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 45.

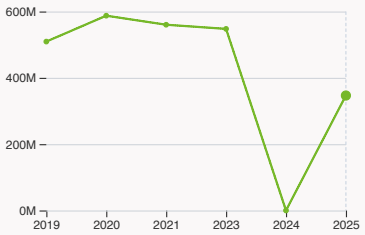
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 557.64 million USD in 2023, up by 59.86% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 67.



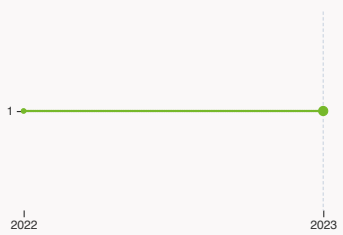
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15

was equal to 5.28 % for the top 15 companies in 2024, up by 13.2 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 70.



7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

was equal to 346.62 million USD for the brands in the top 5,000 in 2025, up by 34662% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 63.



7.2.2 National feature films

was equal to 1 film in 2023 with no change from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 75.

7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 5.98 million global downloads of mobile apps in 2024, up by 5.65% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 88.

Global Innovation Index 2025

Bahrain's innovation top performers

Data not available for 2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors and 6.2.2 Top Unicorn Companies.

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

2.3.4 QS university ranking of Bahrain's top universities

Rank	University	Score
539	APPLIED SCIENCE UNIVERSITY - BAHRAIN	22.80
711-720	AHLIA UNIVERSITY	n/a
951-1000	UNIVERSITY OF BAHRAIN	n/a

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	ARABIAN GULF UNIVERSITY	60.40

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.

7.1.1 Top 15 intangible-asset intensive companies in Bahrain

Rank	Firm	Intensity, %
1	NATIONAL BANK OF BAHRAIN B.S.C.	45.35
2	BAHRAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY BSC	60.01
3	AL SALAM BANK B.S.C.	45.19

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 Bahrain with highest global brand value

Rank	Brand	Industry	Brand Value, mn USD
1	BATELCO	Telecoms	179.3
2	ALBA	Mining, Iron & Steel	167.3

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

Bahrain

GII 2025 rank **62**

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP$
94	41	High	Northern Africa and Western Asia	1.6	105.6	65,344.8

	Score / Value	Rank	
Institutions	**68.6**	**27**	
1.1 Institutional environment	**60.1**	**52**	
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	60	73	◇
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	60.2	41	
1.2 Regulatory environment	**67.6**	**35**	
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	71.6	28	●
1.2.2 Rule of law*	63.6	42	
1.3 Business environment	**78.2**	**7**	
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	82.5	7	●
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	73.9	7	●
Human capital and research	**28.2**	**80**	◇
2.1 Education	**47.6**	**79**	◇
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	2	128	○ ◇
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	17.4	57	
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years	15.5	47	
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	n/a	
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	12.4	57	
2.2 Tertiary education	**28.3**	**72**	◇
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	57.1	58	
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %	18	94	◇
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %	10.1	28	
2.3 Research and development (R&D)	**8.9**	**[66]**	
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*	17.8	55	
Infrastructure	**58.1**	**15**	
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**94**	**11**	
3.1.1 ICT access*	100	1	●
3.1.2 ICT use*	93.6	11	●
3.1.3 Government's online service*	88.3	23	●
3.2 General infrastructure	**71.8**	**2**	
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	24,251.7	1	●
3.2.2 Logistics performance*	63.6	33	
3.2.3 Gross capital formation, % GDP	28.6	29	●
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**8.6**	**117**	◇
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	4.4	124	○ ◇
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	0.05	137	○ ◇
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	2.4	38	
Market sophistication	**37.2**	**66**	
4.1 Credit	**43.7**	**35**	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	61.6	30	
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	70.6	40	
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.2 Investment	**11.4**	**45**	
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	67.9	29	
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.2	40	
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	0.008	75	
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.3	38	
4.2.5 VC investor co-participation/bn PPP$ GDP	0.1	39	
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale	**56.4**	**101**	◇
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	3.5	82	
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	52.6	104	
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	105.6	92	

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**27.4**	**73**	◇
5.1 Knowledge workers	**26.5**	**[109]**	
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	n/a	n/a	
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	n/a	n/a	
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %	30.7	84	
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	**31.1**	**51**	
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %	0.4	132	○ ◇
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†	35.9	66	
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*	47.9	37	
5.2.4 State of cluster development†	70.3	31	
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	0	100	○ ◇
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**24.6**	**78**	
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	0.3	84	
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	4	127	○ ◇
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	1.6	60	
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	7.8	16	●
5.3.5 Research talent, % in businesses	n/a	n/a	
Knowledge and technology outputs	**17.8**	**80**	◇
6.1 Knowledge creation	**5.4**	**112**	◇
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.1	107	◇
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.04	72	◇
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	-	-	
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	6.4	96	◇
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	4.6	110	◇
6.2 Knowledge impact	**24.5**	**70**	
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	1.1	60	
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	0	53	○ ◇
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.4	22	●
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing	9.8	89	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**23.5**	**53**	
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	0.2	46	
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	56	45	
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	1.5	67	
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	3.7	37	
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	6.1	43	
Creative outputs	**14.4**	**96**	◇
7.1 Intangible assets	**12.3**	**95**	◇
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	5.3	70	◇
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	4.3	127	○ ◇
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	0.7	63	
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.1	114	◇
7.2 Creative goods and services	**9.3**	**72**	◇
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	n/a	n/a	
7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	0.8	75	◇
7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	9.7	37	◇
7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade	1.1	43	
7.3 Online creativity	**23.8**	**77**	◇
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	3.1	75	◇
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	8.8	60	◇
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	59.4	88	◇

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 2025

Data Availability

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

Bahrain has missing data for eleven indicators and outdated data for six indicators.

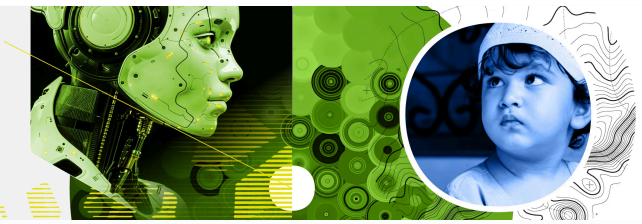
Missing data for Bahrain

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
2.1.4	PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	2022	OECD, PISA
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
4.1.3	Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	2023	International Monetary Fund, Financial Access Survey (FAS)
5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %	n/a	2024	International Labour Organization
5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	n/a	2024	International Labour Organization
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
5.3.5	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
7.2.1	Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	n/a	2023	World Trade Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Outdated data for Bahrain

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP	2022	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.2	Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	2015	2021	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	2022	2023	International Energy Agency

Global Innovation Index 2025



Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
4.1.2	Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	2015	2023	International Monetary Fund; World Bank and OECD GDP estimates
4.3.2	Domestic industry diversification	2016	2022	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
6.2.4	High-tech manufacturing	2016	2022	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

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.