Global Innovation Index 2025

Burundi ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2025

Burundi ranks 127th 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.

Burundi ranks 7th among the 11 Low-income group economies.

Burundi ranks 22nd among the 32 economies in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Burundi GII Ranking (2020-2025)

The table shows the rankings of Burundi 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 Burundi in the GII 2025 is between ranks 124 and 131.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	n/a	n/a	n/a
2021	n/a	n/a	n/a
2022	130th	127th	130th
2023	130th	126th	130th
2024	127th	124th	128th
2025	127th	125th	127th

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

This year **Burundi ranks 125th in innovation inputs.** This position is lower than last year.

Burundi ranks 127th in innovation outputs. This position is higher than last year.

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

For Burundi, 1 indicator has 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	▼ -5.6 % 2023 - 2024	n/a	n/a	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 12.3 % 2014 - 2024	n/a	n/a	n/a

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	n/a	▼ -30.5% 2022 - 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	n/a	▲ 6.1% 2013 - 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a
Penetration	n/a	0.02 per 100 inhabitants in 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	n/a	▲ 1.2 % 2022 - 2023	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	n/a	▲ 0.7 % 2013 - 2023	n/a
Level	n/a	63.7 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.

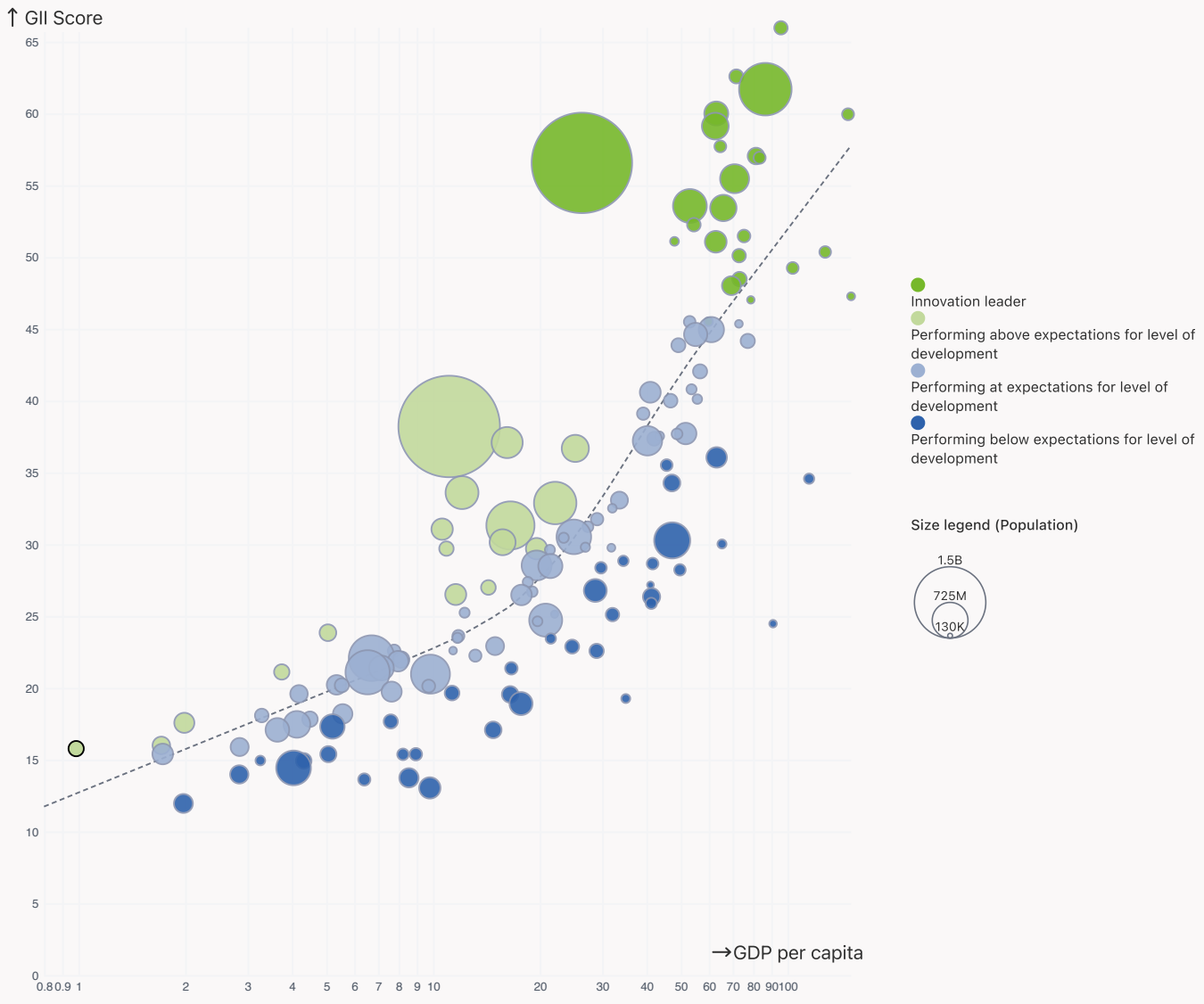
Global Innovation Index 2025

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 Burundi performs above 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.

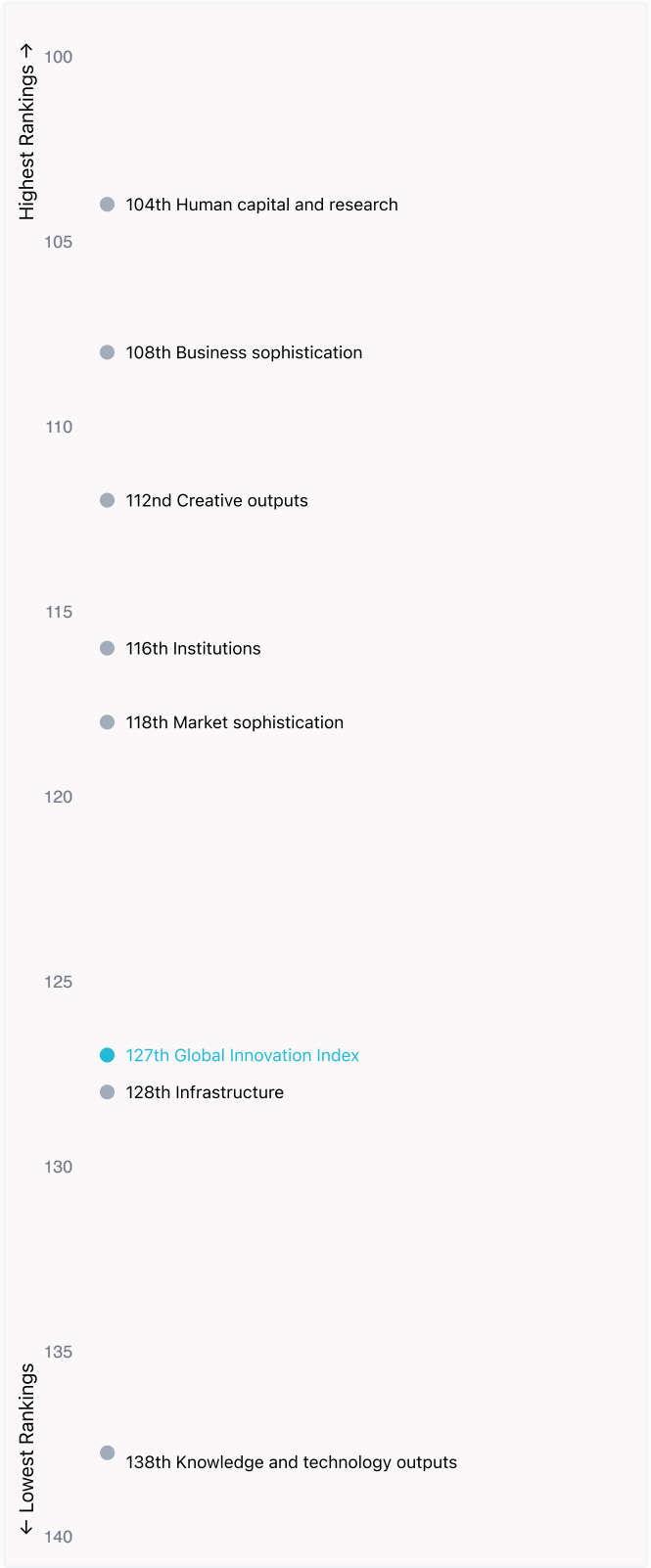
Burundi produces less innovation outputs relative to its level of innovation investments.

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

Global Innovation Index 2025

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



Highest Rankings

Burundi ranks highest in Human capital and research (104th), Business sophistication (108th), Creative outputs (112nd) and Institutions (116th).

Lowest Rankings

Burundi ranks lowest in Knowledge and technology outputs (138th), Infrastructure (128th) and Market sophistication (118th).

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

Global Innovation Index 2025

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

Low-income economies

Burundi performs above the Low-income group average in Human capital and research, Infrastructure, Market sophistication, Creative outputs.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Burundi performs above the regional average in Human capital and research.

Institutions

- Top 10 | Score: 78.63
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 40.29
- Low-income | Score: 34.81
- Burundi | Score: 30.67

Human capital and research

- Top 10 | Score: 59.30
- Burundi | Score: 19.91
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 18.06
- Low-income | Score: 15.10

Infrastructure

- Top 10 | Score: 61.36
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 27.58
- Burundi | Score: 23.31
- Low-income | Score: 21.77

Market sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 61.82
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 22.67
- Burundi | Score: 20.99
- Low-income | Score: 20.14

Business sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 59.10
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 25.36
- Low-income | Score: 23.04
- Burundi | Score: 22.50

Knowledge and technology outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 54.93
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 11.53
- Low-income | Score: 10.90
- Burundi | Score: 6.22

Creative outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.98
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 10.61
- Burundi | Score: 9.88
- Low-income | Score: 7.58

Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Burundi

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

Burundi's best-ranked innovation strengths are **Intellectual property payments, % total trade** (rank 2), **Youth demographic dividend, %** (rank 4) and **Low-carbon energy use, %** (rank 19).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
2	5.3.1	Intellectual property payments, % total trade
4	5.1.3	Youth demographic dividend, %
19	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %
37	2.2.3	Tertiary inbound mobility, %
37	6.1.3	Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP
53	5.3.3	ICT services imports, % total trade
57	7.1.4	Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP
58	2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP
60	7.2.1	Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade
67	1.3.1	Policy stability for doing business†

Weaknesses

Rank	Code	Indicator name
138	3.1.1	ICT access*
135	6.1.5	Citable documents H-index
135	4.3.3	Domestic market scale, bn PPP$
135	1.1.2	Government effectiveness*
135	6.3.3	High-tech exports, % total trade
135	7.3.1	Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69
121	5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %
100	5.2.5	Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP
81	7.1.3	Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP
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

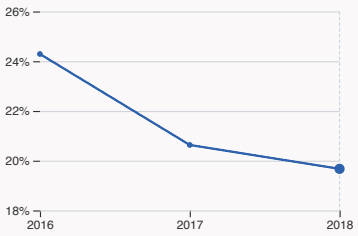
Burundi's innovation system

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

Innovation inputs in Burundi

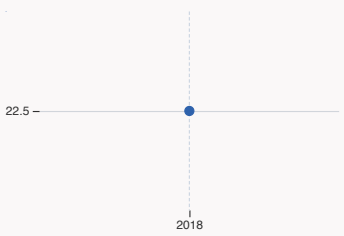
2.1.1 **Expenditure on education**

was equal to 4.44 % GDP in 2022, down by 0.43 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 58.



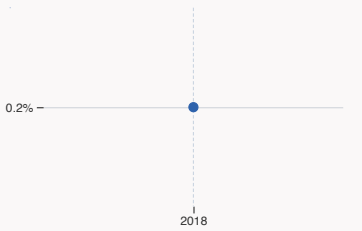
2.2.2 **Graduates in science and engineering**

was equal to 19.67 % of total graduates in 2018, down by 0.96 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 82.



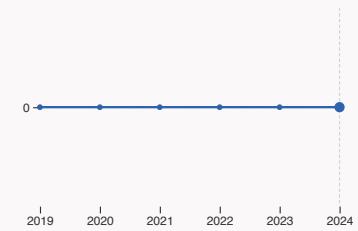
2.3.1 **Researchers**

was equal to 22.48 FTE per million population in 2018 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 104.



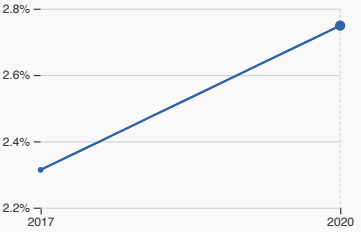
2.3.2 **Gross expenditure on R&D**

was equal to 0.21 % GDP in 2018 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 86.



2.3.4 **QS university ranking**

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

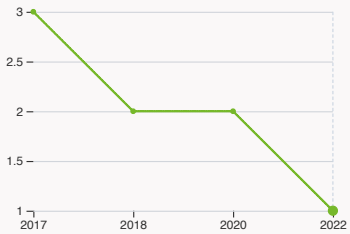


5.1.1 **Knowledge-intensive employment**

was equal to 2.75 % of total workforce in 2020, up by 0.44 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 121.

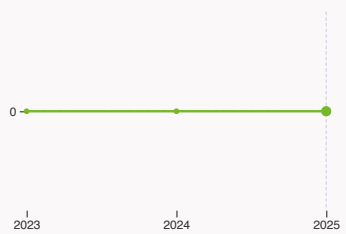
Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation outputs in Burundi



6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 1 patent in 2022, down by 50% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 115.

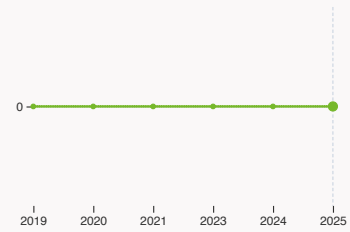


6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

The country does not have unicorns in 2025.

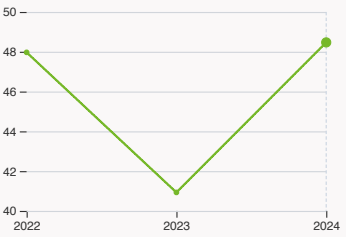
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 348.99 thousands USD in 2022, down by 55.95% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 135.



7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

The country does not have any brands that make the top 5,000 ranking in 2025.



7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 48.47 thousand global downloads of mobile apps in 2024, up by 18.42% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 113.

Burundi

GII 2025 rank **127**

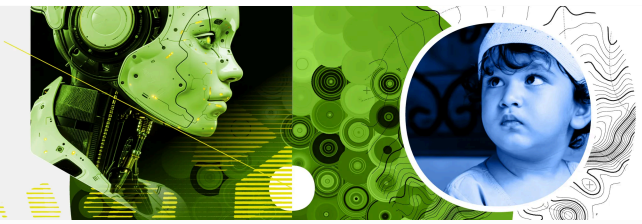
Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP$
127	125	Low	Sub-Saharan Africa	14.0	13.2	985.6

	Score / Value	Rank	
Institutions	**30.7**	**116**	
1.1 Institutional environment	**22.1**	**132**	
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	30.7	124	
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	13.6	135	○ ◇
1.2 Regulatory environment	**22.9**	**130**	◇
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	24	126	◇
1.2.2 Rule of law*	21.9	134	◇
1.3 Business environment	**47**	**[64]**	
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	47	67	●
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	n/a	n/a	
Human capital and research	**19.9**	**104**	
2.1 Education	**40.4**	**[106]**	
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	4.4	58	●
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	n/a	n/a	
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years	9.9	112	
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	n/a	
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	24.9	113	
2.2 Tertiary education	**18.5**	**99**	◆
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	6	127	
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %	19.7	82	
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %	8.6	37	● ◆
2.3 Research and development (R&D)	**0.9**	**105**	
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	22.5	104	
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	0.2	86	
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	**23.3**	**128**	
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**10.3**	**139**	◇
3.1.1 ICT access*	0	138	○ ◇
3.1.2 ICT use*	13.5	125	
3.1.3 Government's online service*	17.5	134	
3.2 General infrastructure	**30.9**	**[79]**	
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	21.8	87	
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**28.7**	**45**	◆
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	n/a	n/a	
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	43.2	19	●
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	0.6	82	◆
Market sophistication	**21**	**118**	
4.1 Credit	**13**	**111**	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	n/a	n/a	
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	48.5	68	◆
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	0.9	35	
4.2 Investment	**n/a**	**[n/a]**	
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	n/a	n/a	
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.2.5 VC investor co-participation/bn PPP$ GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale	**28.9**	**133**	◇
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	8.2	120	
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	n/a	n/a	
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	13.2	135	○ ◇

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**22.5**	**108**	
5.1 Knowledge workers	**21.9**	**127**	
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	2.7	121	○
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	0.7	120	
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %	64.5	4	●
5.1.4 GERD performed by business, % GDP	0.02	78	
5.1.5 GERD financed by business, %	8.8	74	◆
5.2 Innovation linkages	**15.1**	**114**	
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %	0.8	102	
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†	22.9	104	
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*	n/a	n/a	
5.2.4 State of cluster development†	31	105	
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	0	100	○ ◇
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**30.5**	**53**	
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	8.3	2	● ◆
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	6.9	90	
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	1.7	53	●
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	1	111	
5.3.5 Research talent, % in businesses	1.5	78	
Knowledge and technology outputs	**6.2**	**138**	◇
6.1 Knowledge creation	**5.3**	**115**	
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.08	115	
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	n/a	n/a	
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.3	37	●
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	5.1	108	
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	0.9	135	○ ◇
6.2 Knowledge impact	**11.2**	**129**	
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	-1.4	124	◇
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	0	53	○ ◇
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.06	104	◆
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing, %	n/a	n/a	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**2.1**	**136**	◇
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	0.001	118	
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	n/a	n/a	
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	0.04	135	○ ◇
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	0.6	104	
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	1.4	102	
Creative outputs	**9.9**	**112**	
7.1 Intangible assets	**9.7**	**103**	
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	n/a	n/a	
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	9.7	115	
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	0	81	○ ◇
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	1.2	57	●
7.2 Creative goods and services	**5.4**	**[93]**	
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	0.5	60	●
7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	n/a	n/a	
7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	n/a	n/a	
7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade	0.02	123	
7.3 Online creativity	**14.8**	**117**	
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	0.08	135	○
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	0.2	133	
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	44.3	113	

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

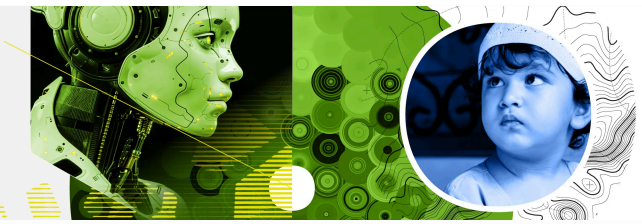
The following tables list indicators that are either missing or outdated for Burundi.

Burundi has missing data for twenty indicators and outdated data for twenty two indicators.

Missing data for Burundi

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
1.3.2	Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	n/a	2024	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
2.1.2	Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	n/a	2021	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.4	PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	2022	OECD, PISA
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
4.1.1	Finance for startups and scaleups†	n/a	2024	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
4.2.1	Market capitalization, % GDP	n/a	2022	World Federation of Exchanges; World Bank
4.2.2	Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	n/a	2024	PitchBook Data, Inc.; International Monetary Fund
4.2.3	Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	n/a	2024	PitchBook Data, Inc.
4.2.4	VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	n/a	2024	PitchBook Data, Inc.; International Monetary Fund
4.2.5	VC investor co-participation/bn PPP$ GDP	n/a	2024	PitchBook Data, Inc.; International Monetary Fund
4.3.2	Domestic industry diversification	n/a	2022	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
5.2.3	University industry & international engagement, top 5*	n/a	2025	Times Higher Education, World University Rankings 2025
6.1.2	PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	n/a	2024	World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund
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
7.1.1	Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	n/a	2024	Brand Finance
7.2.2	National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	n/a	2023	OMDIA; United Nations, World Population Prospects

Global Innovation Index 2025



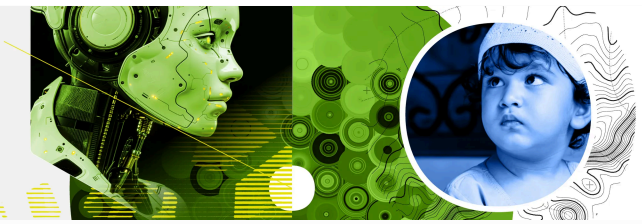
Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
7.2.3	Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	n/a	2024	PwC, GEMO; United Nations, World Population Prospects; International Monetary Fund

*Model year corresponds to the most frequent data year (the year that appears most often across all economies in the GII).

Outdated data for Burundi

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
1.3.1	Policy stability for doing business†	2020	2024	World Economic Forum, Executive Opinion Survey (EOS)
2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP	2022	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.3	School life expectancy, years	2018	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.5	Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	2020	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %	2018	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD
2.3.1	Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	2018	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
2.3.2	Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	2018	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
4.1.3	Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	2020	2023	International Monetary Fund, Financial Access Survey (FAS)
4.3.1	Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	2022	2023	World Trade Organization
5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %	2020	2024	International Labour Organization
5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	2020	2024	International Labour Organization
5.1.4	GERD performed by business, % GDP	2018	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
5.1.5	GERD financed by business, %	2018	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
5.2.2	University–industry R&D collaboration†	2020	2024	World Economic Forum, Executive Opinion Survey (EOS)
5.2.4	State of cluster development†	2020	2024	World Economic Forum, Executive Opinion Survey (EOS)
5.3.2	High-tech imports, % total trade	2022	2023	United Nations Comtrade Database; World Trade Organization and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Global Innovation Index 2025



Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
5.3.5	Research talent, % in businesses	2018	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
6.1.1	Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	2022	2023	World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund
6.1.3	Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	2020	2023	World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund
6.3.1	Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	2019	2023	World Trade Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
6.3.3	High-tech exports, % total trade	2022	2023	United Nations Comtrade Database; World Trade Organization and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; Trade Data Monitor.
7.2.4	Creative goods exports, % total trade	2022	2023	United Nations Comtrade Database; World Trade Organization and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

*Model year corresponds to the most frequent data year (the year that appears most often across all economies in the GII).

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.