Global Innovation Index 2025

Kenya ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2025

Kenya ranks 102nd 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.

Kenya ranks 17th among the 37 Lower middle-income group economies.

Kenya ranks 9th among the 32 economies in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Kenya GII Ranking (2020-2025)

The table shows the rankings of Kenya 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 Kenya in the GII 2025 is between ranks 92 and 106.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	86th	92nd	78th
2021	85th	89th	76th
2022	88th	103rd	79th
2023	100th	104th	91st
2024	96th	105th	87th
2025	102nd	116th	85th

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

This year **Kenya ranks 116th in innovation inputs.** This position is lower than last year.

Kenya ranks 85th in innovation outputs. This position is higher than last year.

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

For Kenya, 6 indicators have improved in the short-term and 4 indicators have worsened.

Science and innovation investment

	Scientific publications	R&D investments	Venture capital deal numbers	International patent filings
Short term	▼ -0.7 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 108.1 % 2022 - 2023	▼ -27.1 % 2023 - 2024	▼ -63.6 % 2023 - 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 6.4 % 2014 - 2024	▲ 5.9 % 2010 - 2023	▼ -1 % 2020 - 2024	▼ -1.2 % 2014 - 2024

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	▲ 1.6% 2023 - 2024	▲ 65% 2022 - 2023	▲ 100% 2022 - 2023	n/a	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 2.1% 2014 - 2024	▲ 33.4% 2013 - 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a
Penetration	35.8 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	2.4 per 100 inhabitants in 2023	1.2 per 100 inhabitants in 2023	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	▲ 2.3 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 0.2 % 2022 - 2023	+ 1.8 °C 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 3.3 % 2014 - 2024	▲ 0.3 % 2013 - 2023	+ 1 °C 2014
Level	17,127.2 USD in 2024	63.6 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.

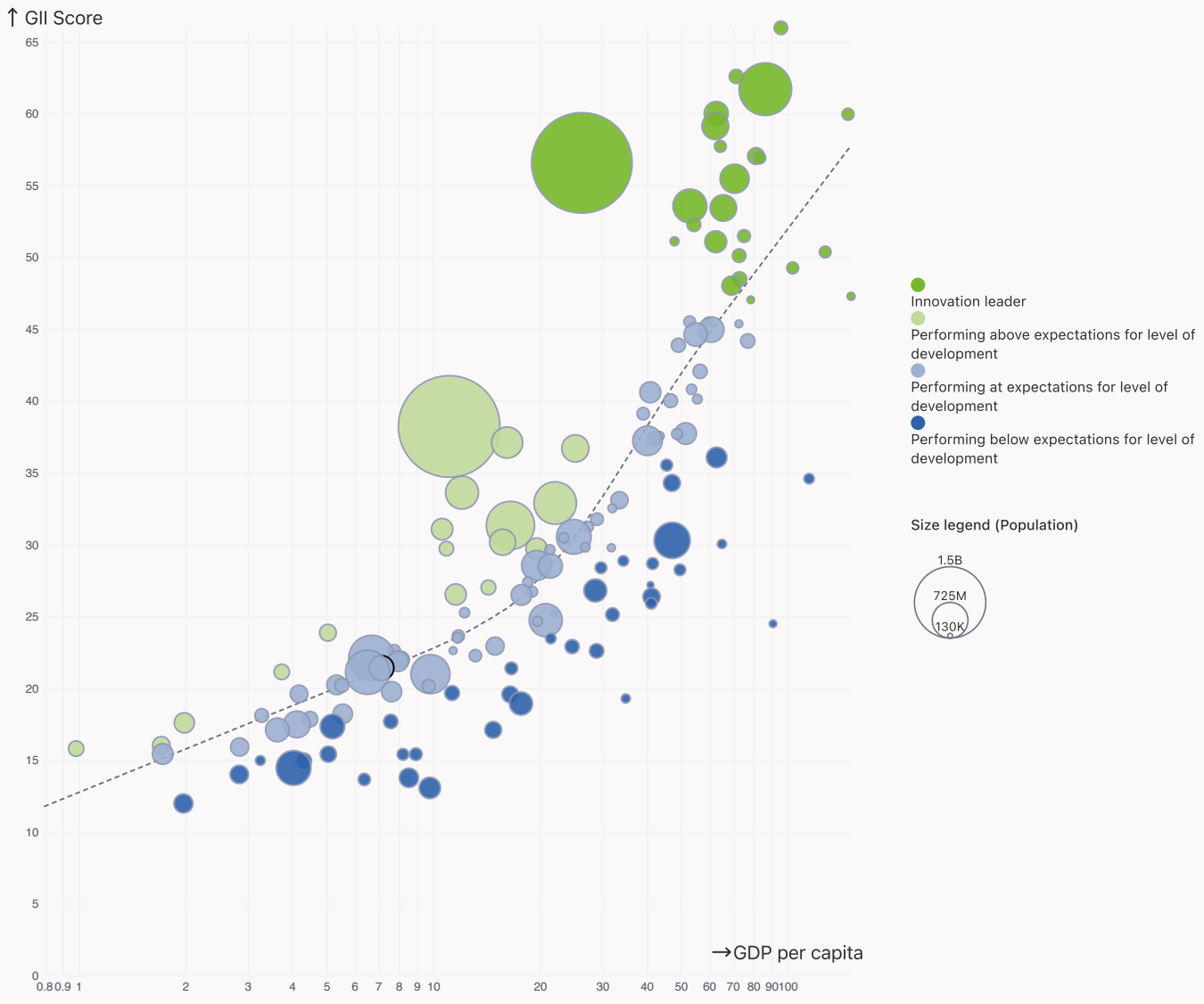
Global Innovation Index 2025

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 Kenya 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.

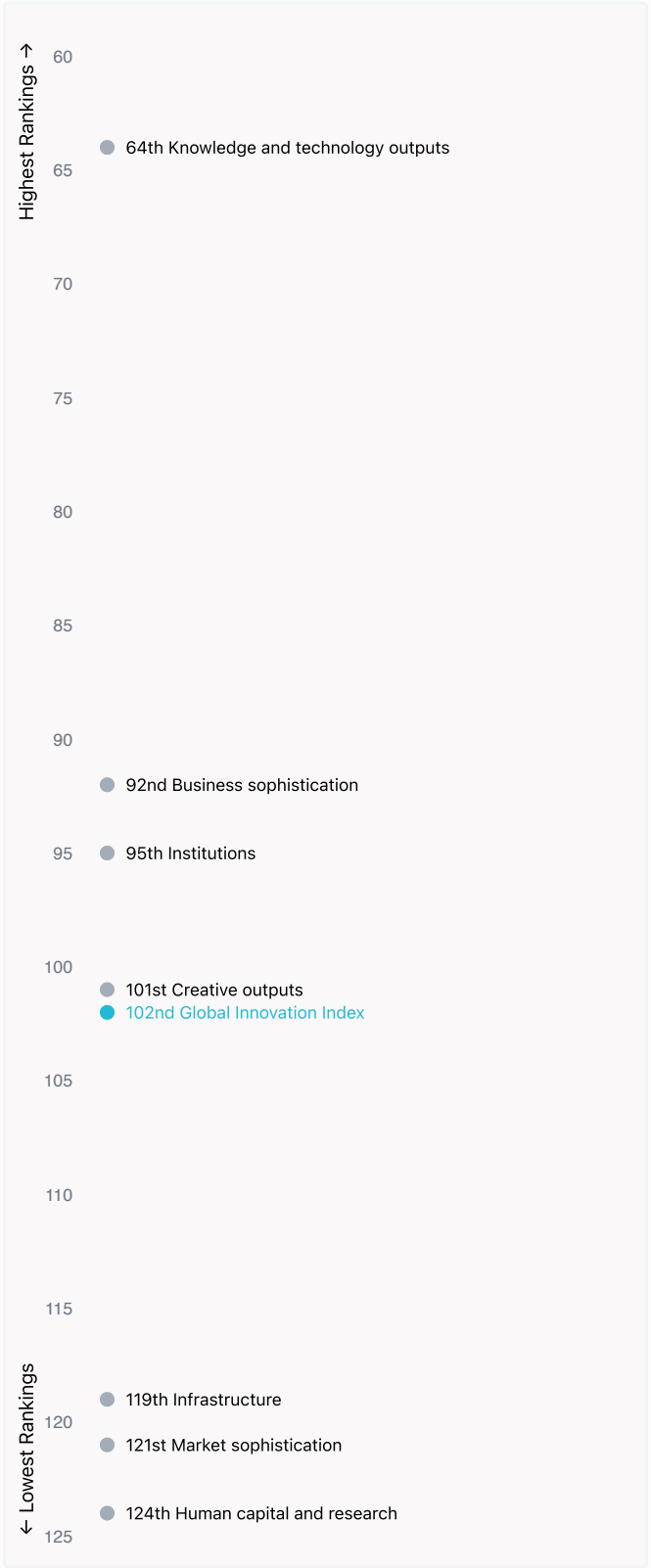
Kenya produces more innovation outputs relative to its level of innovation investments.

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

Global Innovation Index 2025

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



Highest Rankings

Kenya ranks highest in Knowledge and technology outputs (64th), Business sophistication (92nd), Institutions (95th) and Creative outputs (101st).

Lowest Rankings

Kenya ranks lowest in Human capital and research (124th), Market sophistication (121st) and Infrastructure (119th).

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

Global Innovation Index 2025

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

Lower middle-income economies

Kenya performs above the Lower middle-income group average in Institutions, Business sophistication, Knowledge and technology outputs.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Kenya performs above the regional average in Infrastructure, Business sophistication, Knowledge and technology outputs, Creative outputs.

Institutions

- Top 10 | Score: 78.63
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 40.29
- Kenya | Score: 39.18
- Lower middle-income | Score: 37.2

Human capital and research

- Top 10 | Score: 59.30
- Lower middle-income | Score: 20.9
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 18.06
- Kenya | Score: 15.38

Infrastructure

- Top 10 | Score: 61.36
- Lower middle-income | Score: 32.1
- Kenya | Score: 27.87
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 27.58

Market sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 61.82
- Lower middle-income | Score: 28.1
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 22.67
- Kenya | Score: 20.27

Business sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 59.10
- Kenya | Score: 25.46
- Lower middle-income | Score: 25.3
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 25.36

Knowledge and technology outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 54.93
- Kenya | Score: 21.61
- Lower middle-income | Score: 15.4
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 11.53

Creative outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.98
- Lower middle-income | Score: 13.8
- Kenya | Score: 12.64
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 10.61

Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Kenya

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

Kenya's best-ranked innovation strengths are **ICT services exports, % total trade** (rank 19), **Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP** (rank 19) and **Youth demographic dividend, %** (rank 23).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
19	6.3.4	ICT services exports, % total trade
19	6.1.3	Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP
23	5.1.3	Youth demographic dividend, %
26	6.2.2	Unicorn valuation, % GDP
27	4.2.2	Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP
29	6.2.1	Labor productivity growth, %
35	6.3.1	Intellectual property receipts, % total trade
35	4.2.3	Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC
40	4.2.4	VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP
42	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %

Weaknesses

Rank	Code	Indicator name
131	4.3.1	Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %
124	3.1.1	ICT access*
120	3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.
117	2.2.1	Tertiary enrolment, % gross
115	7.2.1	Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade
111	5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %
80	2.3.4	QS university ranking, top 3*
74	7.1.1	Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %
44	2.3.3	Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD

Global Innovation Index 2025

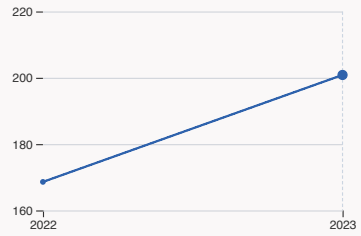
Kenya's innovation system

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

Innovation inputs in Kenya

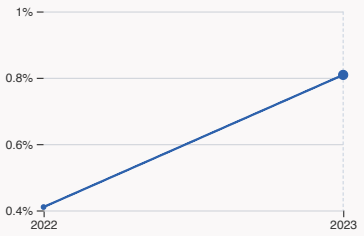
2.1.1 Expenditure on education

was equal to 4.02 % GDP in 2024, up by 0.06 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 77.



2.3.1 Researchers

was equal to 200.85 FTE per million population in 2023, up by 19.13% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 83.

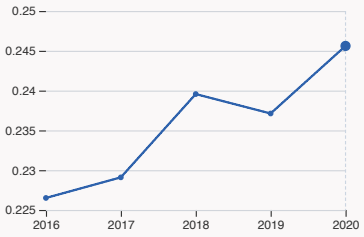


2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D

was equal to 0.81 % GDP in 2023, up by 0.4 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 46.

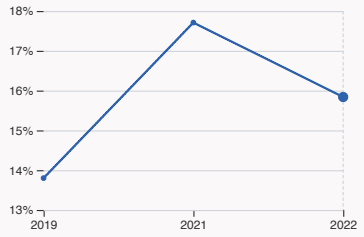
2.3.4 QS university ranking

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



4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification

was equal to an index score of 0.246 in 2020, up by 3.58% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 90.



5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment

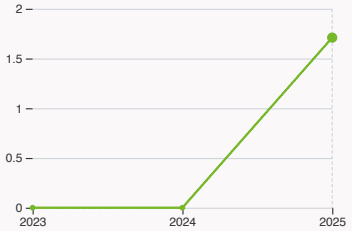
was equal to 15.84 % of total workforce in 2022, down by 1.87 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 85.

Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation outputs in Kenya

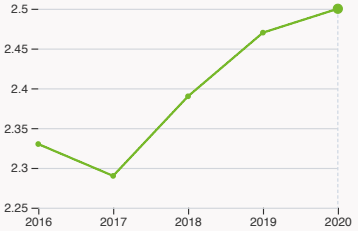
6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 363 patents in 2023, down by 1.09% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 53.



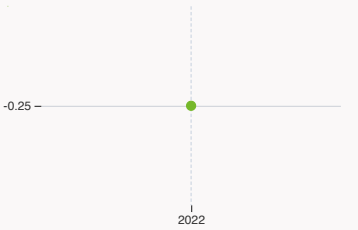
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

was equal to 1.71 % GDP in 2025, up by 171% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 26.



6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing

was equal to 2.5 high-tech manufacturing output in billion USD in 2020, up by 1.21% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 81.

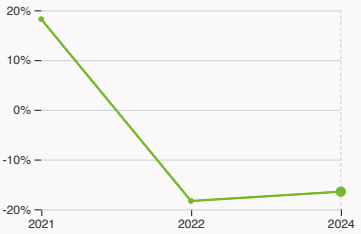


6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of -0.25 in 2022 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 79.

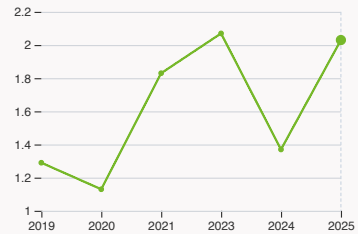
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 98.34 million USD in 2023, up by 18.28% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 92.



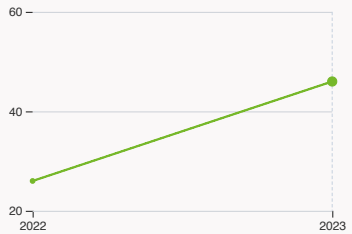
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15

was equal to -16.46 % for the top 15 companies in 2024, up by 1.88 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 74.



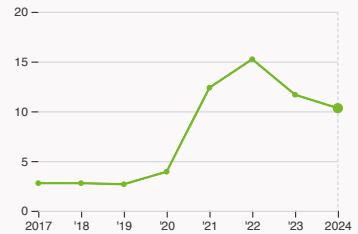
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

was equal to 2.03 billion USD in 2025, up by 48.18% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 48.



7.2.2 National feature films

was equal to 46 films in 2023, up by 76.92% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 65.



7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 10.32 million global downloads of mobile apps in 2024, down by 11.57% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 93.

Global Innovation Index 2025

Kenya's innovation top performers

Data not available for 2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors and 2.3.4 QS university ranking of top universities.

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

5.2.3 University industry and international engagement, top 5 universities

Rank	University	Score
1	KENYATTA UNIVERSITY	36.65
2	UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI	34.15

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 Kenya

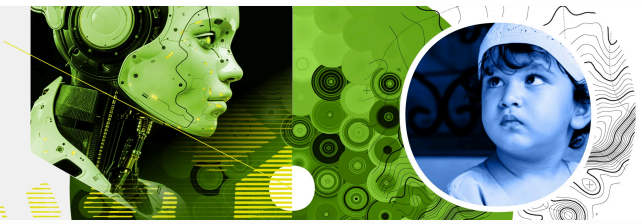
Rank	Unicorn Company	Industry	City	Valuation, bn USD
1	CHIPPER CASH	Financial Services	Nairobi	2

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

7.1.1 Top 15 intangible-asset intensive companies in Kenya

Rank	Firm	Intensity, %
1	SAFARICOM PLC	66.01
2	CROWN PAINTS KENYA PLC	39.38
3	NAIROBI BUSINESS VENTURES PLC	80.88

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 Kenya with highest global brand value

Rank	Brand	Industry	Brand Value, mn USD
1	EQUITY BANK	Banking	554.1
2	SAFARICOM	Telecoms	453.4
3	KENYA COMMERCIAL BANK	Banking	425.6

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

Kenya

GII 2025 rank **102**

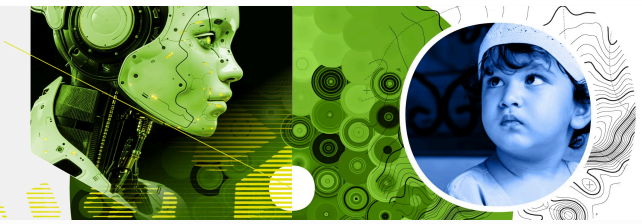
Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP$
85	116	Lower middle	Sub-Saharan Africa	56.4	375.4	7,157.3

	Score / Value	Rank	
Institutions	**39.2**	**95**	
1.1 Institutional environment	**40.1**	**98**	
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	44.7	107	
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	35.6	92	
1.2 Regulatory environment	**41**	**92**	
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	37.7	96	
1.2.2 Rule of law*	44.3	85	
1.3 Business environment	**36.4**	**[85]**	
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	36.4	89	
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	n/a	n/a	
Human capital and research	**15.4**	**124**	
2.1 Education	**38.5**	**[111]**	
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	4	77	
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	n/a	n/a	
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	30.7	124	
2.2 Tertiary education	**4**	**130**	◇
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	10.5	117	○
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %	n/a	n/a	
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %	1.3	88	
2.3 Research and development (R&D)	**3.6**	**84**	
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	200.9	83	
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	0.8	46	◆
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	**27.9**	**119**	
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**56.8**	**106**	
3.1.1 ICT access*	44	124	○ ◇
3.1.2 ICT use*	53.3	110	
3.1.3 Government's online service*	73.2	55	◆
3.2 General infrastructure	**9.2**	**132**	◇
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	230.5	120	○
3.2.2 Logistics performance*	n/a	n/a	
3.2.3 Gross capital formation, % GDP	17.4	115	◇
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**17.7**	**85**	
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	8.4	94	
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	28.5	42	●
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	0.4	99	
Market sophistication	**20.3**	**121**	
4.1 Credit	**6.2**	**126**	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	n/a	n/a	
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	31.6	92	
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	0.2	53	
4.2 Investment	**10.1**	**47**	◆
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	18.7	64	
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.3	27	● ◆
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	0.08	35	●
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.3	40	● ◆
4.2.5 VC investor co-participation/bn PPP$ GDP	0.1	47	◆
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale	**44.5**	**117**	
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	11	131	○ ◇
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	63	90	
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	375.4	57	

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**25.5**	**92**	
5.1 Knowledge workers	**36.1**	**[65]**	
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	15.8	85	
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	1.9	111	○
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %	57.8	23	●
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	**20.3**	**92**	
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %	1.9	50	◆
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†	29.5	83	
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*	12.4	89	
5.2.4 State of cluster development†	40.2	88	
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	0.007	87	
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**20.1**	**108**	
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	0.3	82	
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	8.7	59	
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	0.5	119	
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	0.6	116	
5.3.5 Research talent, % in businesses	n/a	n/a	
Knowledge and technology outputs	**21.6**	**64**	
6.1 Knowledge creation	**15.3**	**64**	
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	1	53	◆
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.02	88	
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	1	19	●
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	7.4	87	
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	15.9	54	
6.2 Knowledge impact	**28.2**	**58**	
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	1.9	29	●
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	1.7	26	●
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.1	89	
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing, %	12.4	81	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**21.3**	**58**	
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	0.4	35	● ◆
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	43.3	79	
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	0.6	92	
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	5.6	19	● ◆
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	1.6	95	
Creative outputs	**12.6**	**101**	
7.1 Intangible assets	**13.3**	**90**	
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	-16.5	74	○ ◇
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	16.6	94	
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	1.7	48	
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.5	86	
7.2 Creative goods and services	**2.7**	**107**	
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	0.01	115	○
7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	1.4	65	
7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	1.7	53	
7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade	0.2	84	
7.3 Online creativity	**21.2**	**93**	
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	0.9	104	
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	6.7	68	
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	56.1	93	

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 Kenya.

Kenya has missing data for ten indicators and outdated data for eleven indicators.

Missing data for Kenya

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
2.1.3	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
2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %	n/a	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD
3.2.2	Logistics performance*	n/a	2023	World Bank, Logistics Performance Index 2023
4.1.1	Finance for startups and scaleups†	n/a	2024	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
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

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

Outdated data for Kenya

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
2.1.5	Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	2015	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.1	Tertiary enrolment, % gross	2019	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.3	Tertiary inbound mobility, %	2019	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
4.3.2	Domestic industry diversification	2020	2022	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %	2022	2024	International Labour Organization

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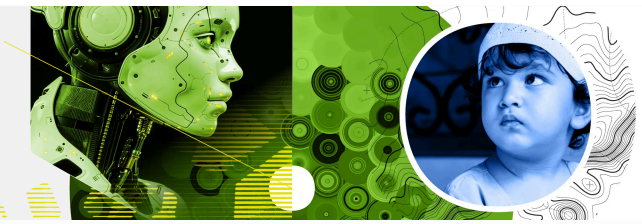

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	2022	2024	International Labour Organization
5.3.1	Intellectual property payments, % total trade	2022	2023	World Trade Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
5.3.3	ICT services imports, % total trade	2022	2023	World Trade Organization and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
6.2.4	High-tech manufacturing, %	2020	2022	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
6.3.1	Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	2022	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	2022	2023	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).

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About the Global Innovation Index

- The Global Innovation Index (GII) is published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- Recognizing that innovation is a key driver of economic development, the GII aims to provide an innovation ranking and rich analysis referencing around 140 economies. Over the last decade, the GII has established itself as both a leading reference on innovation and a "tool for action" for economies that incorporate the GII into their innovation agendas.

The Index is a ranking of the innovation capabilities and results of world economies. It measures innovation based on criteria that include institutions, human capital and research infrastructure, credit, investment, linkages, the creation, absorption and diffusion of knowledge and creative outputs.

The GII has two sub-indices: the Innovation Input Sub-Index and the Innovation Output Sub-Index, and seven pillars, each consisting of three sub-pillars.