Global Innovation Index 2025

Kuwait ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2025

Kuwait ranks 73rd 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.

Kuwait ranks 49th among the 54 High-income group economies.

Kuwait ranks 13th among the 18 economies in Northern Africa and Western Asia.

Kuwait GII Ranking (2020-2025)

The table shows the rankings of Kuwait 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 Kuwait in the GII 2025 is between ranks 70 and 80.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	78th	73rd	79th
2021	72nd	73rd	73rd
2022	62nd	66th	66th
2023	64th	67th	65th
2024	71st	70th	68th
2025	73rd	67th	79th

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

This year **Kuwait ranks 67th in innovation inputs.** This position is higher than last year.

Kuwait ranks 79th in innovation outputs. This position is lower than last year.

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

For Kuwait, 5 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	▲ 20.6 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 17 % 2022 - 2023	▲ 100 % 2023 - 2024	0 % 2023 - 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 13.4 % 2014 - 2024	▼ -10.4 % 2013 - 2023	▲ 18.9 % 2020 - 2024	▼ -12.8 % 2016 - 2024

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	0% 2023 - 2024	▼ -21.6% 2022 - 2023	▼ -0.1% 2022 - 2023	▲ 120% 2022 - 2023	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	0% 2014 - 2024	▲ 0.4% 2013 - 2023	n/a	▲ 18.6% 2013 - 2023	n/a
Penetration	100 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	1 per 100 inhabitants in 2023	99.9 per 100 inhabitants in 2023	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	▼ -4.7 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 2.1 % 2022 - 2023	+ 2.5 °C 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▼ -2.4 % 2014 - 2024	▲ 0.2 % 2013 - 2023	+ 1.5 °C 2014
Level	121,766.1 USD in 2024	80.4 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.

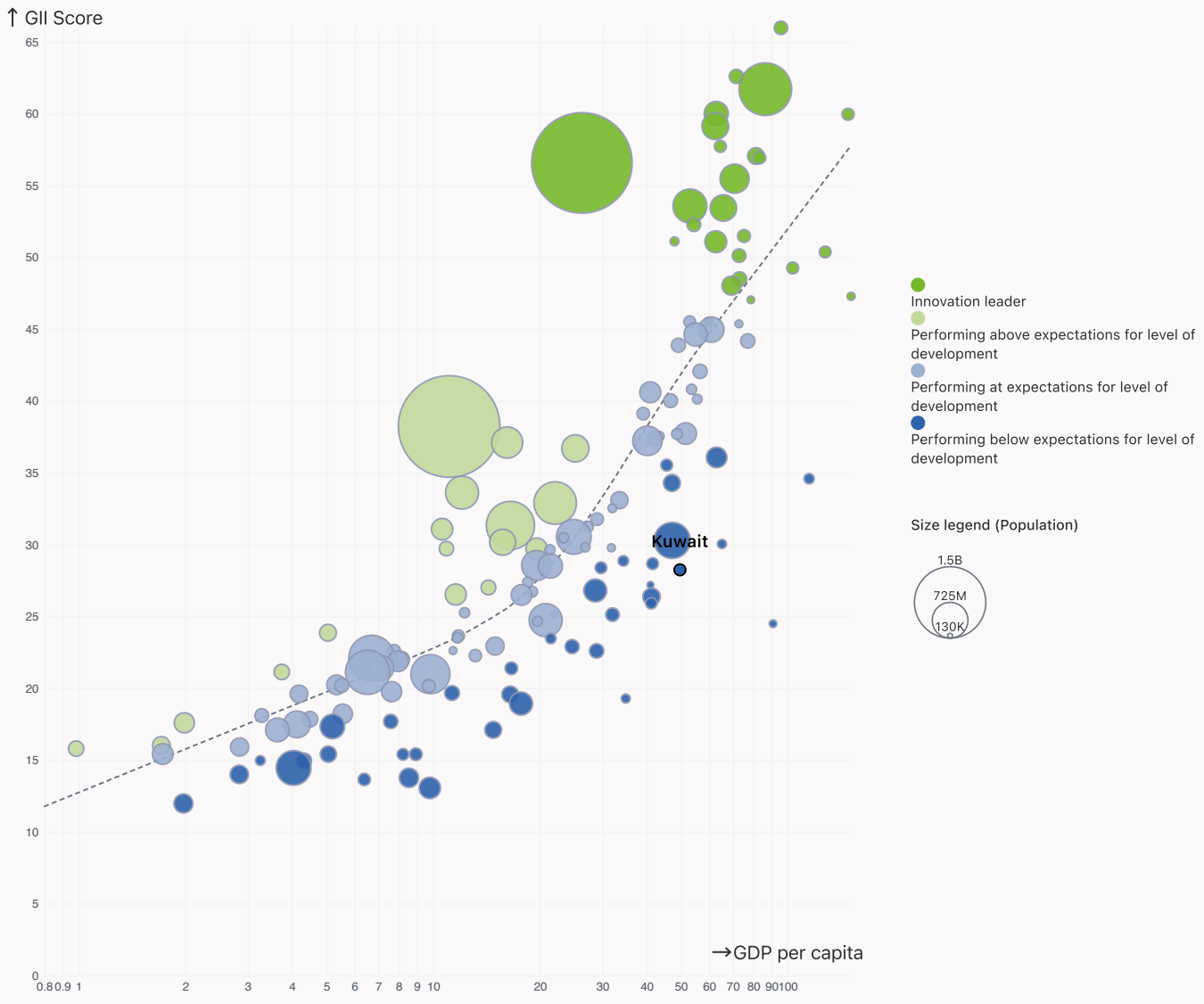
Global Innovation Index 2025

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 Kuwait 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.

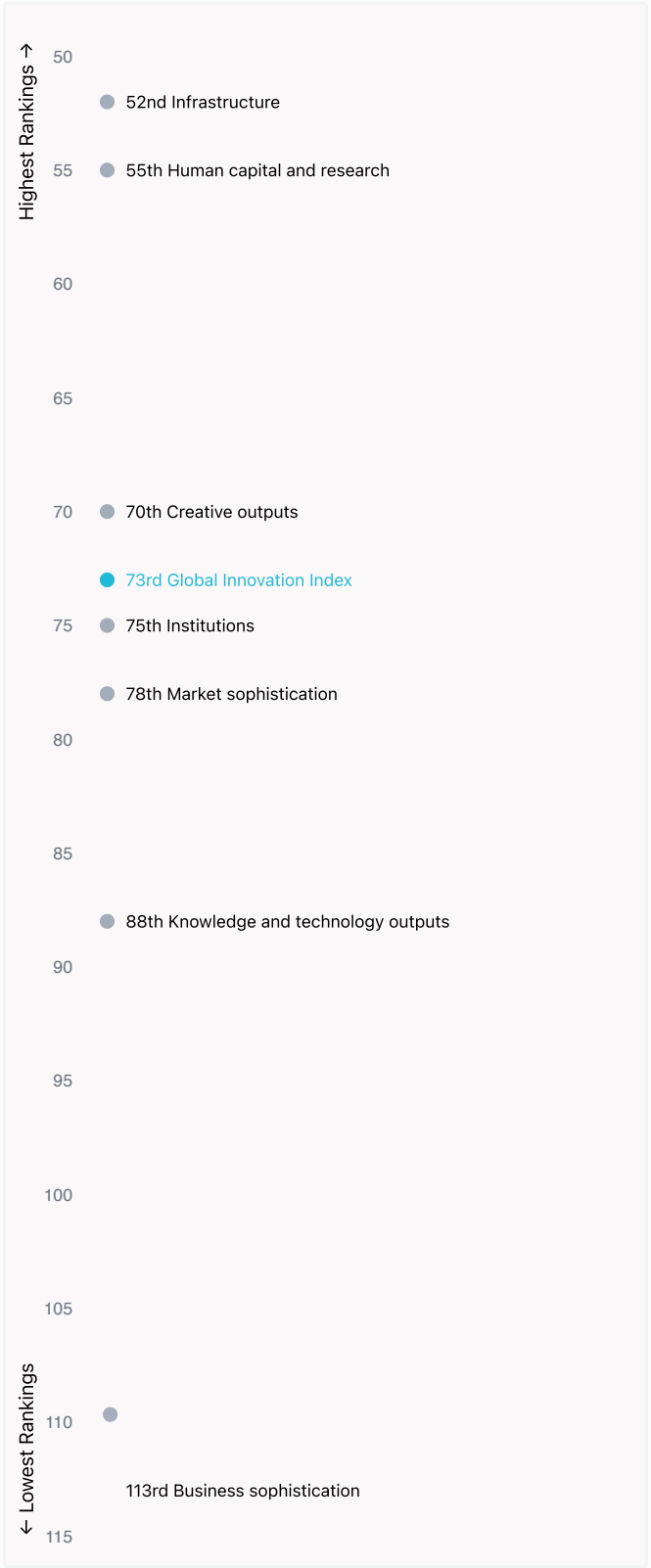
Kuwait produces less innovation outputs relative to its level of innovation investments.

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

Global Innovation Index 2025

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



Highest Rankings

Kuwait ranks highest in Infrastructure (52nd), Human capital and research (55th) and Creative outputs (70th).

Lowest Rankings

Kuwait ranks lowest in Business sophistication (113rd), Knowledge and technology outputs (88th) and Market sophistication (78th).

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

Global Innovation Index 2025

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

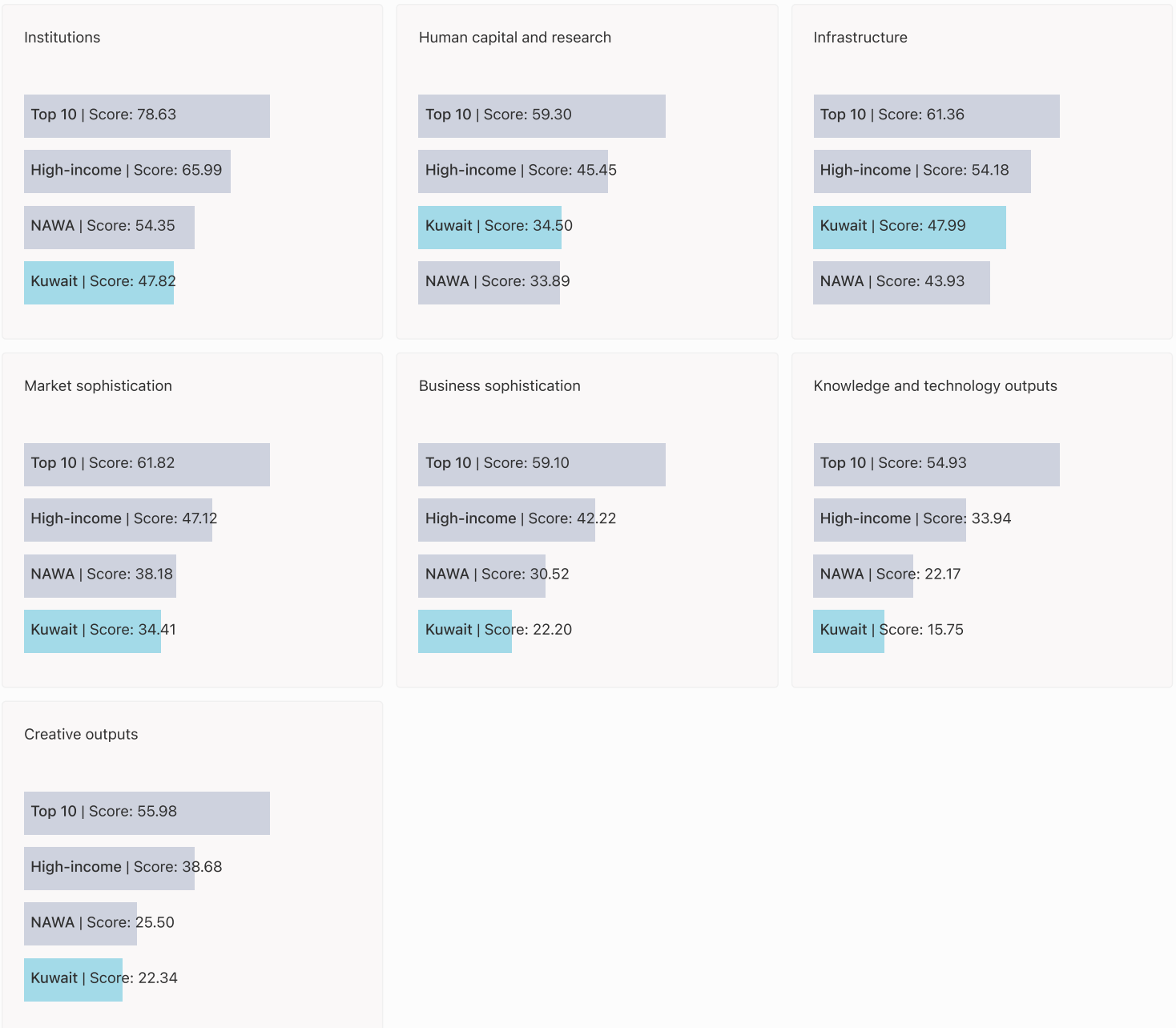
The charts shows the relative position of Kuwait (blue bar) against other economy groupings (grey bars)

High-income economies

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

Northern Africa and Western Asia

Kuwait performs above the regional average in Human capital and research, Infrastructure.



Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Kuwait

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

Kuwait's best-ranked innovation strengths are **ICT use*** (rank 3), **ICT access*** (rank 4) and **Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.** (rank 5).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
3	3.1.2	ICT use*
4	3.1.1	ICT access*
5	3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.
14	6.3.4	ICT services exports, % total trade
19	7.1.3	Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP
21	4.2.1	Market capitalization, % GDP
23	6.2.3	Software spending, % GDP
25	4.1.2	Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP
26	6.3.1	Intellectual property receipts, % total trade

Weaknesses

Rank	Code	Indicator name
136	6.2.1	Labor productivity growth, %
135	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %
127	5.3.3	ICT services imports, % total trade
125	5.2.2	University–industry R&D collaboration†
123	3.3.1	GDP/unit of energy use
120	7.1.4	Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP
109	4.3.2	Domestic industry diversification
90	7.2.2	National feature films/mn pop. 15–69
53	6.2.2	Unicorn valuation, % GDP
44	2.3.3	Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD

Global Innovation Index 2025

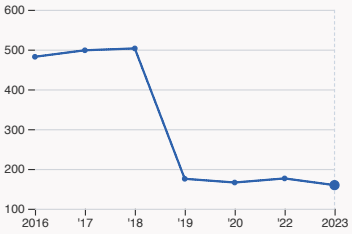
Kuwait's innovation system

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

Innovation inputs in Kuwait

2.1.1 Expenditure on education

was equal to 5.03 % GDP in 2023, down by 1.56 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 39.



2.3.1 Researchers

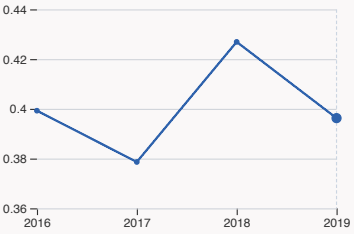
was equal to 159.39 FTE per million population in 2023, down by 9.57% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 87.

2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D

was equal to 0.1 % GDP in 2023, up by 0.02 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 103.

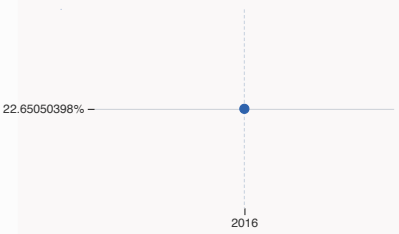
2.3.4 QS university ranking

was equal to an average score of 16.43 for the top three universities in 2024, up by 14.65% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 59.



4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification

was equal to an index score of 0.4 in 2019, down by 7.18% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 109.

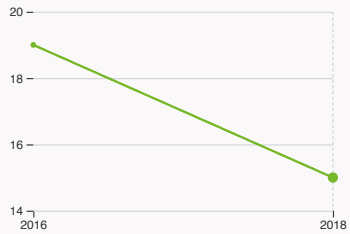


5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment

was equal to 22.65 % in 2016 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 67.

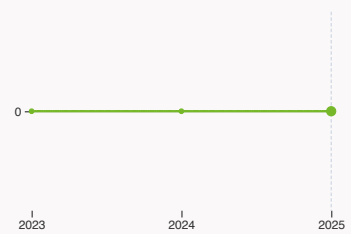
Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation outputs in Kuwait



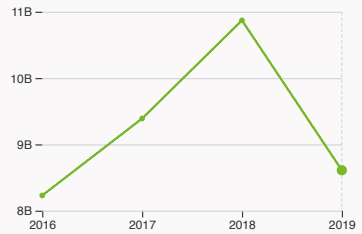
6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 15 patents in 2018, down by 21.05% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 119.



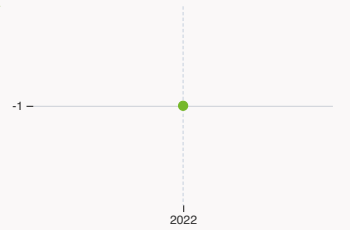
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

The country does not have unicorns in 2025.



6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing

was equal to 8.61 high-tech manufacturing output in billion USD in 2019, down by 20.79% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 60.

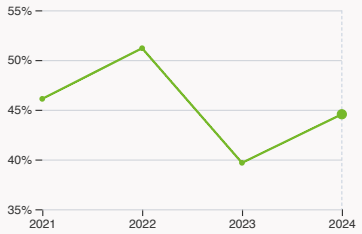


6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of -1 in 2022 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 116.

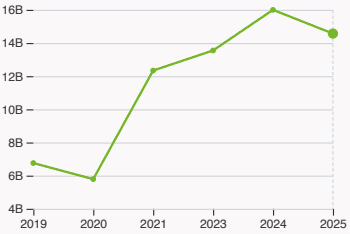
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 314.22 million USD in 2023, up by 84.17% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 98.



7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15

was equal to 44.55 % for the top 15 companies in 2024, up by 4.88 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 56.



7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

was equal to 14.57 billion USD for the brands in the top 5,000 in 2025, down by 8.94% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 19.

7.2.2 National feature films

was equal to 1 film in 2023, down by 66.67% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 90.

7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 39.52 million global downloads of mobile apps in 2024, down by 15.05% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 68.

Global Innovation Index 2025

Kuwait'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 Kuwait's top universities

Rank	University	Score
611-620	AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF THE MIDDLE EAST	20.10
801-850	KUWAIT UNIVERSITY	15.10
851-900	GULF UNIVERSITY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	14.10

Source: QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd (https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2024).
Note: QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd annually assesses over 1,200 universities across the globe and scores them between [0,100]. Ranks can represent a single value 'x', a tie 'x=' or a range 'x-y'.

5.2.3 University industry and international engagement, top 5 universities

Rank	University	Score
1	AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF THE MIDDLE EAST	55.45
2	KUWAIT UNIVERSITY	46.15

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.

7.1.1 Top 15 intangible-asset intensive companies in Kuwait

Rank	Firm	Intensity, %
1	KUWAIT FINANCE HOUSE K.S.C.P.	59.04
2	NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT S.A.K.P.	38.63
3	MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY K.S.C.P.	65.92

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 Kuwait with highest global brand value

Rank	Brand	Industry	Brand Value, mn USD
1	KPC	Oil & Gas	4,716.6
2	ZAIN	Telecoms	3,478.6
3	NBK	Banking	1,738

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

Kuwait

GII 2025 rank **73**

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP$
79	67	High	Northern Africa and Western Asia	4.9	249.3	49,736.3

	Score / Value	Rank	
Institutions	**47.8**	**75**	◇
1.1 Institutional environment	**53.6**	**70**	◇
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	64	64	
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	43.2	73	◇
1.2 Regulatory environment	**57.3**	**54**	◇
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	54.1	55	◇
1.2.2 Rule of law*	60.5	55	
1.3 Business environment	**32.5**	**93**	◇
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	34.9	92	◇
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	30.1	61	
Human capital and research	**34.5**	**[55]**	
2.1 Education	**68.6**	**[10]**	
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	5	39	
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	n/a	n/a	
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years	14.7	59	
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	n/a	
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	7.6	5	
2.2 Tertiary education	**30**	**[68]**	
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	51.9	72	◇
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)	**4.9**	**79**	◇
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	159.4	87	◇
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	0.1	103	◇
2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD	0	44	○ ◇
2.3.4 QS university ranking, top 3*	16.8	59	
Infrastructure	**48**	**52**	
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**84.8**	**42**	
3.1.1 ICT access*	100	4	●
3.1.2 ICT use*	98.2	3	●
3.1.3 Government's online service*	56.3	85	◇
3.2 General infrastructure	**51.6**	**19**	
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	19,564.4	5	●
3.2.2 Logistics performance*	50	50	
3.2.3 Gross capital formation, % GDP	19.5	107	◇
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**7.6**	**124**	◇
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	4.5	123	○ ◇
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	0.1	135	○ ◇
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	2	48	
Market sophistication	**34.4**	**78**	◇
4.1 Credit	**43.6**	**36**	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	52.3	44	
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	92	25	●
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.2 Investment	**8**	**54**	
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	90.2	21	●
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.04	88	◇
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	0.009	71	
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.1	70	
4.2.5 VC investor co-participation/bn PPP$ GDP	0.03	75	◇
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale	**51.7**	**109**	◇
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	3.7	84	
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	31.9	109	○ ◇
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	249.3	71	

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**22.2**	**113**	◇
5.1 Knowledge workers	**27**	**[107]**	
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	22.7	67	
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	n/a	n/a	
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %	28.8	95	
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	**21.7**	**83**	◇
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %	1.1	85	◇
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†	13.1	125	○ ◇
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*	34.2	50	◇
5.2.4 State of cluster development†	51.2	58	
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	0.02	81	
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**17.9**	**121**	◇
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	0.6	65	
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	5.4	115	
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	0.3	127	○ ◇
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	0.5	119	
5.3.5 Research talent, % in businesses	n/a	n/a	
Knowledge and technology outputs	**15.8**	**88**	◇
6.1 Knowledge creation	**7.4**	**96**	◇
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.07	119	◇
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.006	99	◇
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	-	-	
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	9.2	75	◇
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	9.4	86	◇
6.2 Knowledge impact	**17.1**	**111**	◇
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	-3.6	136	○ ◇
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	0	53	○ ◇
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.4	23	●
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing	20.9	60	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**22.8**	**55**	
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	0.6	26	●
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	26.4	116	◇
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	0.4	98	◇
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	6.6	14	●
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	3.9	65	
Creative outputs	**22.3**	**70**	◇
7.1 Intangible assets	**30.5**	**58**	
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	44.5	56	
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	19.3	89	
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	9	19	●
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.06	120	○ ◇
7.2 Creative goods and services	**4.7**	**100**	◇
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	n/a	n/a	
7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	0.3	90	○ ◇
7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	10.7	35	◇
7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade	0.2	86	
7.3 Online creativity	**23.6**	**78**	◇
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	3.2	74	◇
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	2.2	107	◇
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	65.5	68	

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 Kuwait.

Kuwait has missing data for eleven indicators and outdated data for thirteen indicators.

Missing data for Kuwait

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
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
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
4.1.3	Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	2023	International Monetary Fund, Financial Access Survey (FAS)
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 Kuwait

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
1.3.2	Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	2020	2024	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
2.1.3	School life expectancy, years	2015	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.5	Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	2015	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics

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Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
2.2.1	Tertiary enrolment, % gross	2021	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	2022	2023	International Energy Agency
4.1.1	Finance for startups and scaleups[+]	2020	2024	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
4.1.2	Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	2019	2023	International Monetary Fund; World Bank and OECD GDP estimates
4.3.2	Domestic industry diversification	2019	2022	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %	2016	2024	International Labour Organization
6.1.1	Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	2018	2023	World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund
6.2.4	High-tech manufacturing	2019	2022	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
7.1.2	Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	2022	2023	World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund
7.1.4	Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	2022	2023	World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund

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.