Global Innovation Index 2025

Sri Lanka ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2025

Sri Lanka ranks 93rd 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.

Sri Lanka ranks 11th among the 37 Lower middle-income group economies.

Sri Lanka ranks 5th among the 10 economies in Central and Southern Asia.

Sri Lanka GII Ranking (2020-2025)

The table shows the rankings of Sri Lanka 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 Sri Lanka in the GII 2025 is between ranks 87 and 96.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	101st	107th	83rd
2021	95th	103rd	85th
2022	85th	102nd	68th
2023	90th	103rd	79th
2024	89th	100th	82nd
2025	93rd	103rd	86th

Sri Lanka performs better in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2025.

This year **Sri Lanka ranks 103rd in innovation inputs.** This position is lower than last year.

Sri Lanka ranks 86th in innovation outputs. This position is lower than last year.

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

For Sri Lanka, 4 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	▲ 4.2 % 2023 - 2024	▼ -6.6 % 2020 - 2022	▼ -37.5 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 155.6 % 2023 - 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 9.3 % 2014 - 2024	▲ 2.6 % 2013 - 2022	▲ 49.5 % 2020 - 2024	▲ 0.9 % 2014 - 2024

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	n/a	▼ -8.5% 2022 - 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	n/a	▲ 16.8% 2013 - 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a
Penetration	n/a	8.8 per 100 inhabitants in 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	▲ 3.1 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 0.2 % 2022 - 2023	+ 1.6 °C 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 1.4 % 2014 - 2024	▲ 0.3 % 2013 - 2023	+ 0.9 °C 2014
Level	43,228.3 USD in 2024	77.5 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.

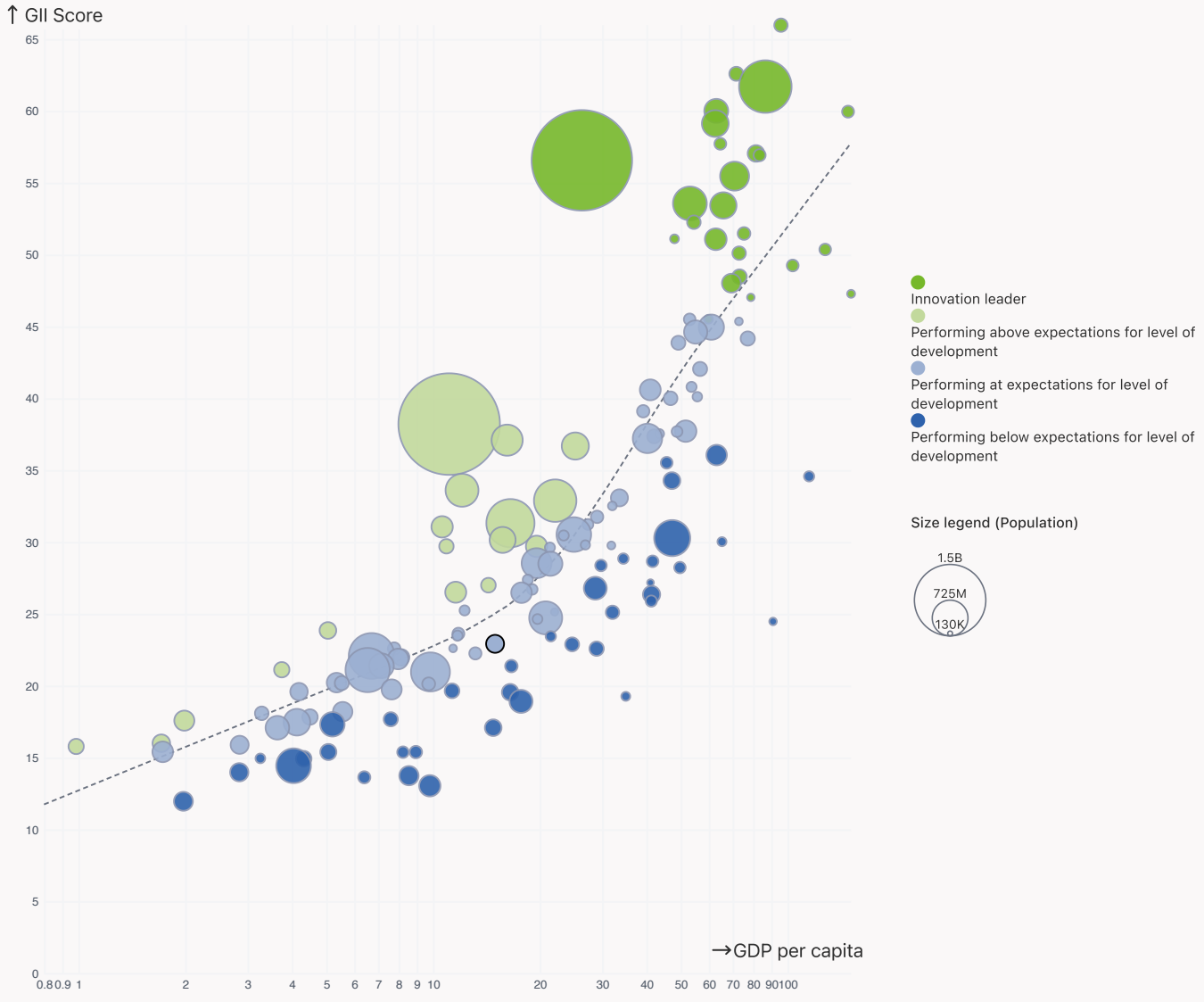
Global Innovation Index 2025

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 Sri Lanka 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.

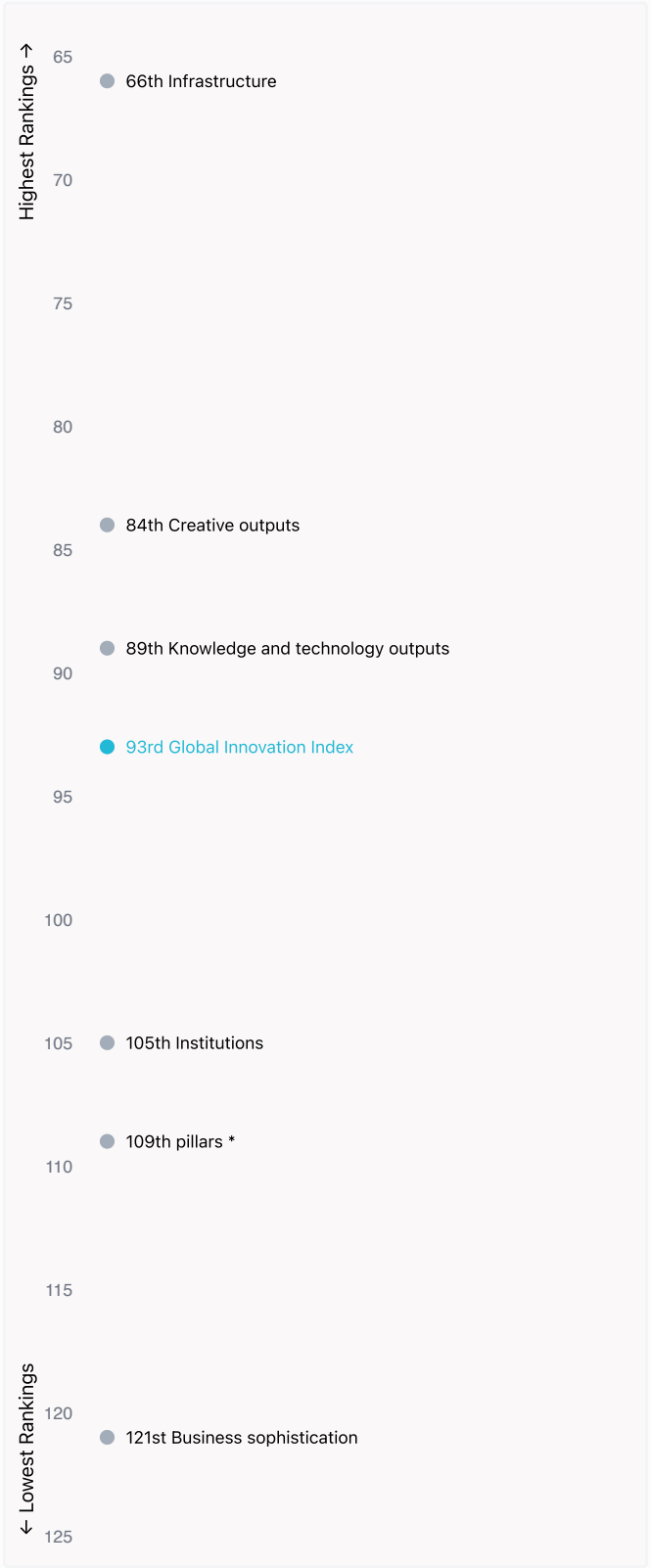
Sri Lanka produces more innovation outputs relative to its level of innovation investments.

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

Global Innovation Index 2025

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



Highest Rankings

Sri Lanka ranks highest in Infrastructure (66th), Creative outputs (84th) and Knowledge and technology outputs (89th).

Lowest Rankings

Sri Lanka ranks lowest in Business sophistication (121st), Human capital and research, Market sophistication (109th) and Institutions (105th).

* Human capital and research, Market sophistication

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

Global Innovation Index 2025

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

Lower middle-income economies

Sri Lanka performs above the Lower middle-income group average in Infrastructure, Knowledge and technology outputs, Creative outputs.

Central and Southern Asia

Sri Lanka performs above the regional average in Infrastructure.

Institutions

- Top 10 | Score: 78.63
- Lower middle-income | Score: 37.2
- Central and Southern Asia | Score:
- Sri Lanka | Score: 34.61

Human capital and research

- Top 10 | Score: 59.30
- Central and Southern Asia | Score:
- Lower middle-income | Score: 20.9
- Sri Lanka | Score: 19.20

Infrastructure

- Top 10 | Score: 61.36
- Sri Lanka | Score: 42.40
- Central and Southern Asia | Score:
- Lower middle-income | Score: 32.1

Market sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 61.82
- Central and Southern Asia | Score:
- Lower middle-income | Score: 28.1
- Sri Lanka | Score: 26.85

Business sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 59.10
- Lower middle-income | Score: 25.3
- Central and Southern Asia | Score:
- Sri Lanka | Score: 21.09

Knowledge and technology outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 54.93
- Central and Southern Asia | Score:
- Sri Lanka | Score: 15.71
- Lower middle-income | Score: 15.4

Creative outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.98
- Central and Southern Asia | Score:
- Sri Lanka | Score: 18.25
- Lower middle-income | Score: 13.8

Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Sri Lanka

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

Sri Lanka's best-ranked innovation strengths are **GDP/unit of energy use** (rank 6), **Gross capital formation, % GDP** (rank 16) and **Software spending, % GDP** (rank 24).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
6	3.3.1	GDP/unit of energy use
16	3.2.3	Gross capital formation, % GDP
24	6.2.3	Software spending, % GDP
24	6.3.4	ICT services exports, % total trade
41	2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %
46	3.3.3	ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP
51	7.3.2	GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69
58	7.2.4	Creative goods exports, % total trade
60	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %
61	4.3.3	Domestic market scale, bn PPP$

Weaknesses

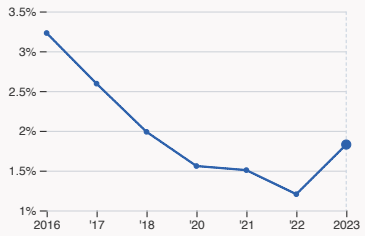
Rank	Code	Indicator name
131	2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP
121	6.2.1	Labor productivity growth, %
121	1.3.1	Policy stability for doing business†
111	4.2.2	Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP
102	2.3.2	Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP
100	4.2.5	VC investor co-participation/bn PPP$ GDP
100	5.2.3	University industry & international engagement, top 5*
100	4.2.4	VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP
92	2.1.2	Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap
53	6.2.2	Unicorn valuation, % GDP
44	2.3.3	Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD

Global Innovation Index 2025

Sri Lanka's innovation system

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

Innovation inputs in Sri Lanka

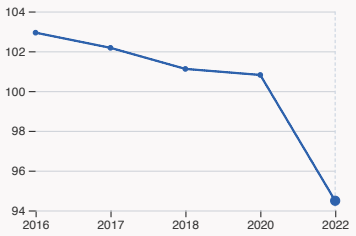


2.1.1 Expenditure on education

was equal to 1.83 % GDP in 2023, up by 0.62 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 131.

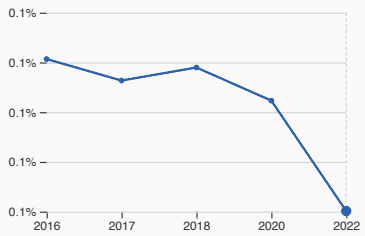
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering

was equal to 25.39 % of total graduates in 2023, up by 0.43 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 41.



2.3.1 Researchers

was equal to 94.49 FTE per million population in 2022, down by 6.27% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 91.

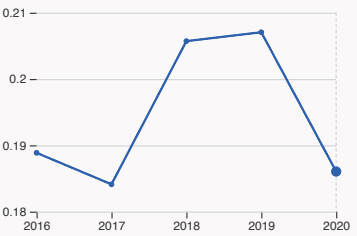


2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D

was equal to 0.11 % GDP in 2022, down by 0.01 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 102.

2.3.4 QS university ranking

was equal to an average score of 3.87 for the top three universities in 2024, up by 387% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 78.



4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification

was equal to an index score of 0.186 in 2020, down by 10.14% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 74.

5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment

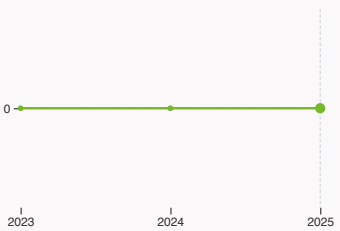
was equal to 19.95 % of total workforce in 2022, up by 0.44 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 79.

Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation outputs in Sri Lanka

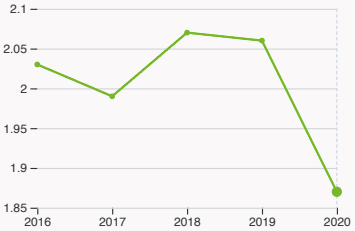
6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 185 patents in 2023, up by 8.19% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 71.



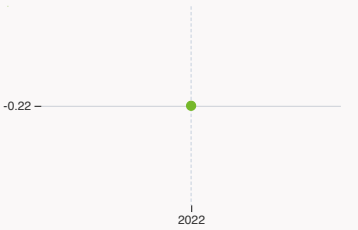
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

The country does not have unicorns in 2025.



6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing

was equal to 1.87 high-tech manufacturing output in billion USD in 2020, down by 9.22% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 90.

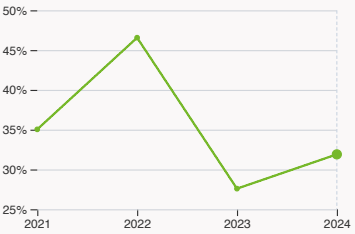


6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of -0.22 in 2022 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 77.

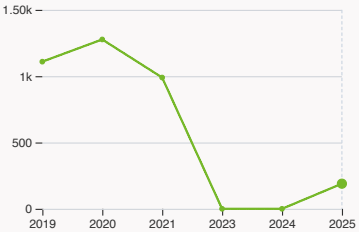
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 128.57 million USD in 2023, up by 2.5% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 88.



7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15

was equal to 31.9 % for the top 15 companies in 2024, up by 4.31 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 66.



7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

was equal to 189.4 million USD in 2025, up by 18940% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 80.

7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 11.31 million global downloads of mobile apps in 2024, down by 30.27% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 92.

Global Innovation Index 2025

Sri Lanka'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 Sri Lanka's top universities

Rank	University	Score
951-1000	UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO	11.60
1201-1400	UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA	6.70
1201-1400	UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA	4.30

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	UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA	34.40
2	UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO	32.80
3	UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA	28.85

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 Sri Lanka

Rank	Firm	Intensity, %
1	SRI LANKA TELECOM PLC	24.66
2	C T HOLDINGS PLC	30.92
3	RICHARD PIERIS AND COMPANY PLC	29.35

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 Sri Lanka with highest global brand value

Rank	Brand	Industry	Brand Value, mn USD
1	BANK OF CEYLON	Banking	189.4

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

Sri Lanka

GII 2025 rank **93**

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP$
86	103	Lower middle	Central and Southern Asia	23.1	n/a	n/a

	Score / Value	Rank	
Institutions	**34.6**	**105**	
1.1 Institutional environment	**38.8**	**102**	
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	40.7	113	
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	36.9	88	
1.2 Regulatory environment	**42.5**	**86**	
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	35	101	
1.2.2 Rule of law*	50	68	◆
1.3 Business environment	**22.5**	**[119]**	
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	22.5	121	○
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	n/a	n/a	
Human capital and research	**19.2**	**109**	
2.1 Education	**34.1**	**120**	
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	1.8	131	○ ◇
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	6.3	92	○
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years	12.9	87	
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	n/a	
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	16.3	89	
2.2 Tertiary education	**22**	**92**	
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	26.4	94	
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %	25.4	41	●
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %	0.5	99	
2.3 Research and development (R&D)	**1.6**	**95**	
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	94.5	91	
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	0.1	102	○
2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD	0	44	○ ◇
2.3.4 QS university ranking, top 3*	4	78	
Infrastructure	**42.4**	**66**	◆
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**59.8**	**100**	
3.1.1 ICT access*	65.5	103	
3.1.2 ICT use*	68	92	
3.1.3 Government's online service*	45.8	98	
3.2 General infrastructure	**33**	**71**	
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	747.5	106	
3.2.2 Logistics performance*	31.8	71	
3.2.3 Gross capital formation, % GDP	32.7	16	●
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**34.4**	**31**	◆
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	25.3	6	● ◆
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	22.4	60	●
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	2	46	● ◆
Market sophistication	**26.9**	**109**	
4.1 Credit	**16.2**	**[100]**	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	n/a	n/a	
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	47	73	
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.2 Investment	**2.1**	**99**	
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	21.3	59	
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.02	111	○
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	0.005	85	
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.02	100	○
4.2.5 VC investor co-participation/bn PPP$ GDP	0.01	100	○
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale	**62.3**	**85**	
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	5.5	101	
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	75.3	74	
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	314.8	61	●

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**21.1**	**121**	
5.1 Knowledge workers	**26.1**	**111**	
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	20	79	
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	4.2	96	
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %	36.9	67	◇
5.1.4 GERD performed by business, % GDP	0.05	68	
5.1.5 GERD financed by business, %	40.3	44	
5.2 Innovation linkages	**16**	**106**	
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %	1.2	76	
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†	29.8	82	
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*	5	100	○ ◇
5.2.4 State of cluster development†	33.6	98	
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	0.03	72	
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**21.1**	**101**	
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	0.3	93	
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	6.2	100	
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	1.4	73	
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	0.9	112	
5.3.5 Research talent, % in businesses	20	52	
Knowledge and technology outputs	**15.7**	**89**	
6.1 Knowledge creation	**8.1**	**93**	
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.6	71	
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.05	69	
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	-	-	
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	4.4	110	
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	11.2	72	
6.2 Knowledge impact	**19.2**	**98**	
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	-1	121	○
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	0	53	○ ◇
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.4	24	● ◆
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing, %	9.4	90	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**19.8**	**62**	
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	0.04	89	
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	43.9	77	
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	0.7	88	
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	5.1	24	● ◆
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	4.1	62	
Creative outputs	**18.2**	**84**	
7.1 Intangible assets	**20.6**	**78**	
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	31.9	66	
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	25	78	
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	0.2	80	
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.4	91	
7.2 Creative goods and services	**7.8**	**[78]**	
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	n/a	n/a	
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	0.6	58	●
7.3 Online creativity	**24**	**76**	
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	0.9	105	
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	14.5	51	● ◆
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	56.5	92	

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 Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka has missing data for seven indicators and outdated data for fifteen indicators.

Missing data for Sri Lanka

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
1.3.2	Entrepreneurship policies and culture[+]	n/a	2024	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
2.1.4	PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	2022	OECD, PISA
4.1.1	Finance for startups and scaleups[+]	n/a	2024	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
4.1.3	Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	2023	International Monetary Fund, Financial Access Survey (FAS)
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
7.2.2	National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	n/a	2023	OMDIA; United Nations, World Population Prospects
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 Sri Lanka

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
2.1.2	Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	2018	2021	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.3.1	Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	2022	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
2.3.2	Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	2022	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	2022	2023	International Energy Agency
3.2.3	Gross capital formation, % GDP	2022	2024	International Monetary Fund
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	2020	2022	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

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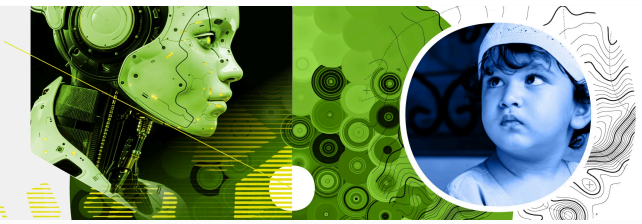

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
4.3.3	Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	2022	2024	International Monetary Fund
5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %	2022	2024	International Labour Organization
5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	2022	2024	International Labour Organization
5.1.4	GERD performed by business, % GDP	2017	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
5.1.5	GERD financed by business, %	2017	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
5.3.5	Research talent, % in businesses	2017	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
6.2.4	High-tech manufacturing, %	2020	2022	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
7.3.3	Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	2022	2024	data.ia (a Sensor Tower Company); International Monetary Fund

*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.