

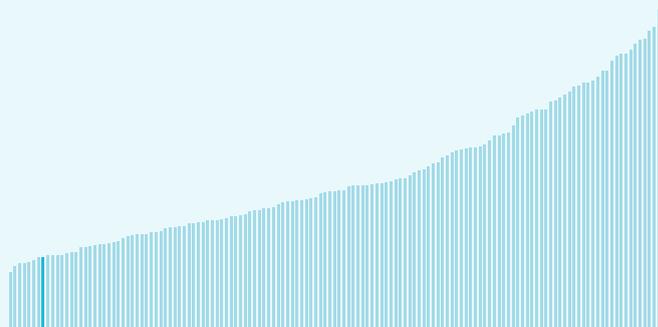
Global Innovation Index 2025



Lesotho ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2025

Lesotho ranks **132nd** 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.



Lesotho ranks 34th among the 37 Lower middle-income group economies.



Lesotho ranks 26th among the 32 economies in Sub-Saharan Africa.



➤ Lesotho GII Ranking (2020-2025)

The table shows the rankings of Lesotho 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 Lesotho in the GII 2025 is between ranks 130 and 135.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	n/a	n/a	n/a
2021	n/a	n/a	n/a
2022	n/a	n/a	n/a
2023	n/a	n/a	n/a
2024	n/a	n/a	n/a
2025	132nd	118th	139th

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

This year Lesotho ranks 118th in innovation inputs.

Lesotho ranks 139th in innovation outputs.

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



For Lesotho, 3 indicators have improved in the short-term and 3 indicators have worsened.

Science and innovation investment

	Scientific publications	R&D investments	Venture capital deal numbers	International patent filings
Short term	▲ 32.8 % 2023 - 2024	n/a	n/a	▼ -100 % 2023 - 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 14.5 % 2014 - 2024	n/a	n/a	n/a

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	▲ 2.3% 2023 - 2024	▼ -2.4% 2022 - 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 3% 2014 - 2024	▲ 14.6% 2013 - 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a
Penetration	43.8 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	0.4 per 100 inhabitants in 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	n/a	▲ 1 % 2022 - 2023	+ 1.8 °C 2024
Long term (annual growth)	n/a	▲ 1.5 % 2013 - 2023	+ 1.3 °C 2014
Level	n/a	57.4 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.

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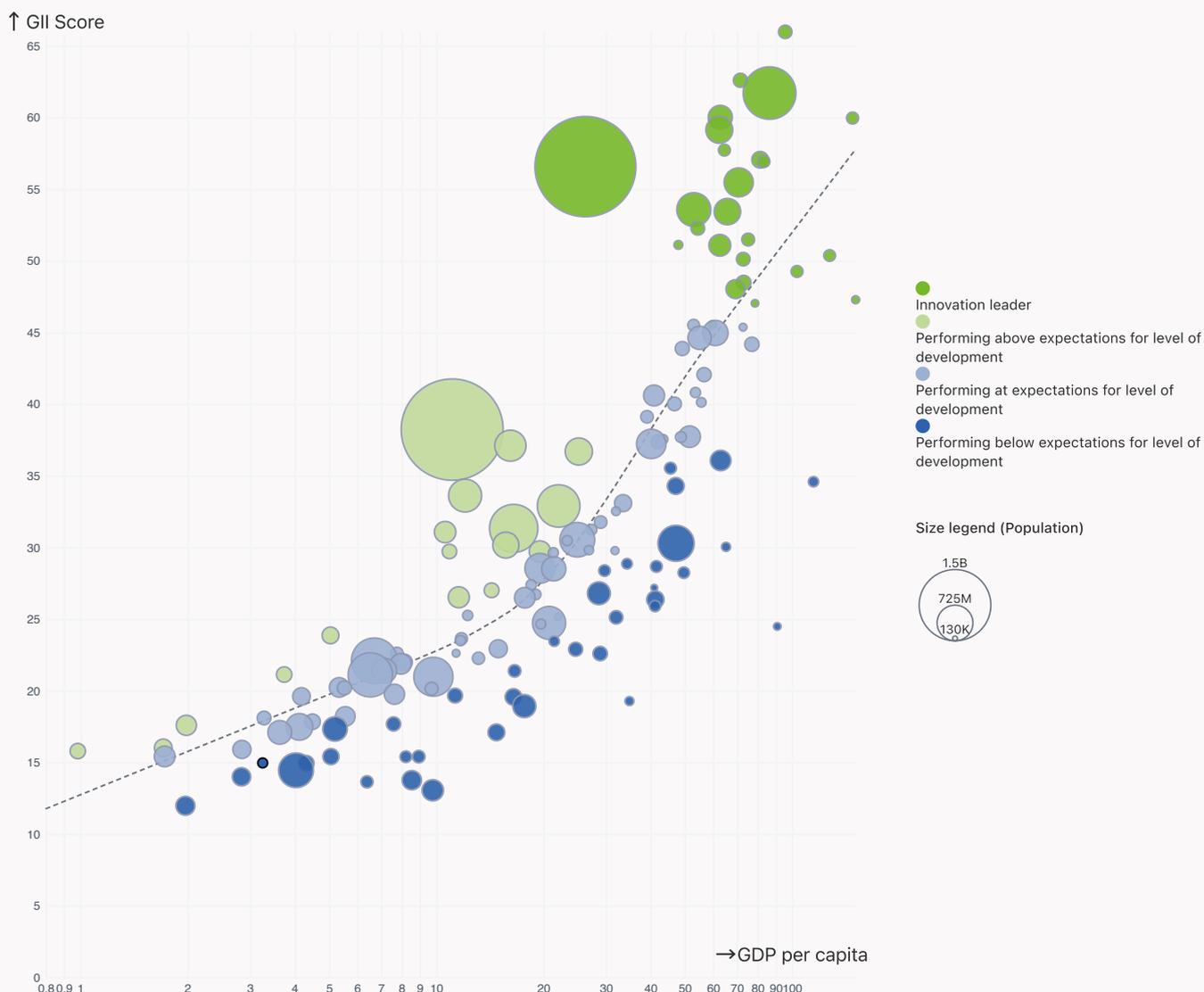
Expected vs. Observed Innovation Performance

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 Lesotho 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.



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

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

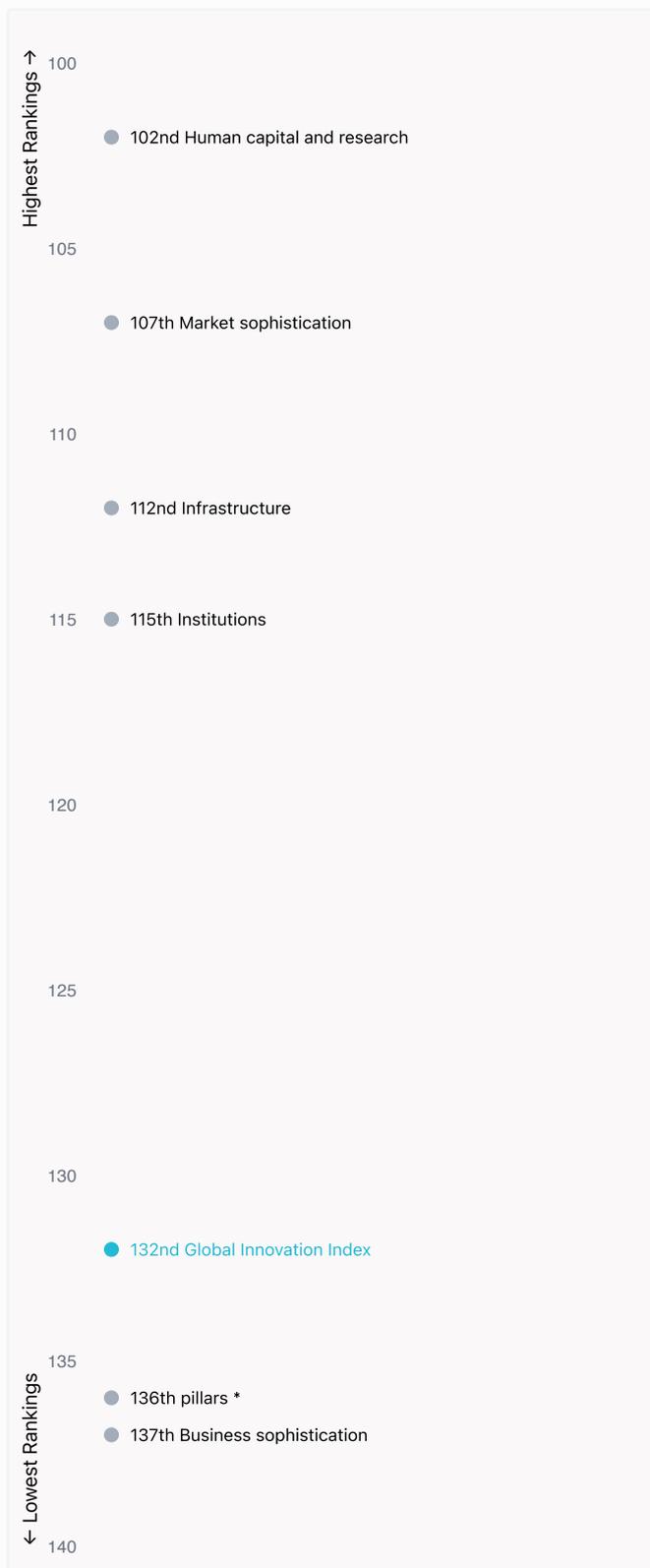


Global Innovation Index 2025



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



Highest Rankings

Lesotho ranks highest in Human capital and research (102nd), Market sophistication (107th) and Infrastructure (112nd).



Lowest Rankings

Lesotho ranks lowest in Business sophistication (137th), Knowledge and technology outputs, Creative outputs (136th) and Institutions (115th).

* Knowledge and technology outputs, Creative outputs



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

Global Innovation Index 2025



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



Lower middle-income economies

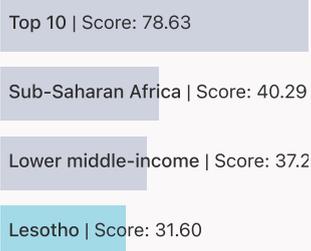
Lesotho performs below the Lower middle-income group average in all pillars.



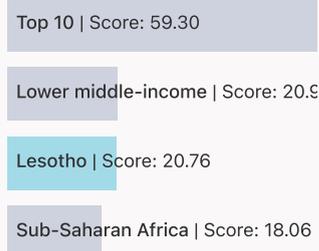
Sub-Saharan Africa

Lesotho performs above the regional average in Human capital and research, Infrastructure, Market sophistication.

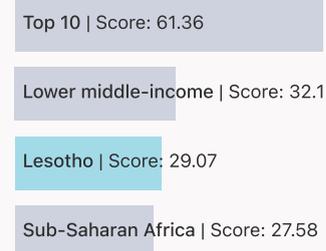
Institutions



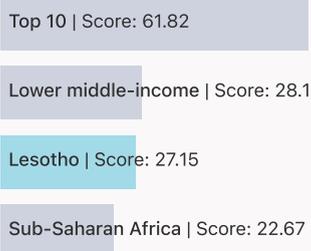
Human capital and research



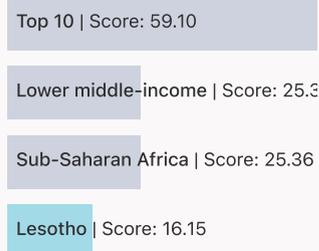
Infrastructure



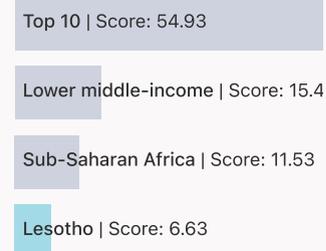
Market sophistication



Business sophistication



Knowledge and technology outputs



Creative outputs



Global Innovation Index 2025



Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Lesotho

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



Lesotho's best-ranked innovation strengths are **Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap** (rank 3), **Expenditure on education, % GDP** (rank 10) and **Youth demographic dividend, %** (rank 28).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
3	2.1.2	Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap
10	2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP
28	5.1.3	Youth demographic dividend, %
31	3.2.3	Gross capital formation, % GDP
55	6.1.2	PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP\$ GDP
58	5.2.1	Public research–industry co-publications, %
61	6.1.4	Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP\$ GDP
70	4.3.1	Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %
85	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %
91	1.1.1	Operational stability for businesses*

Weaknesses

Rank	Code	Indicator name
139	6.3.4	ICT services exports, % total trade
138	6.1.5	Citable documents H-index
136	4.3.3	Domestic market scale, bn PPP\$
136	3.1.3	Government's online service*
131	5.2.2	University–industry R&D collaboration [†]
119	7.2.1	Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade
100	5.2.5	Patent families/bn PPP\$ 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

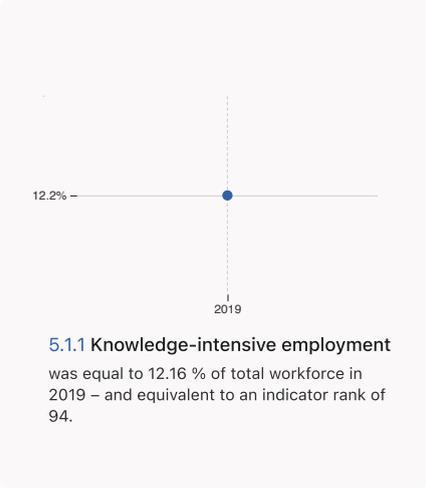
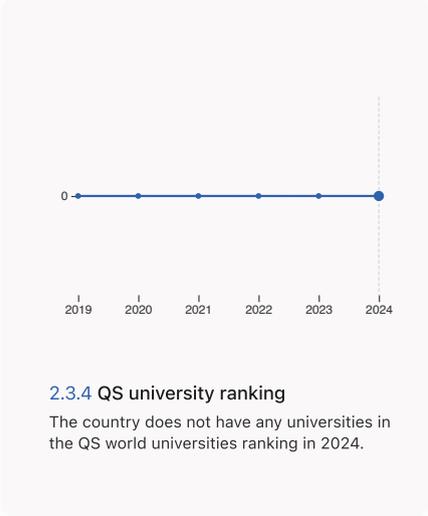
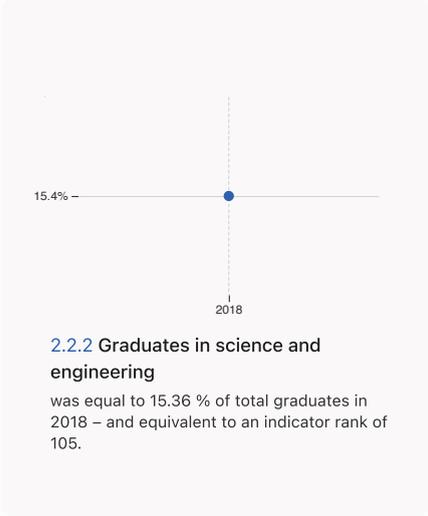
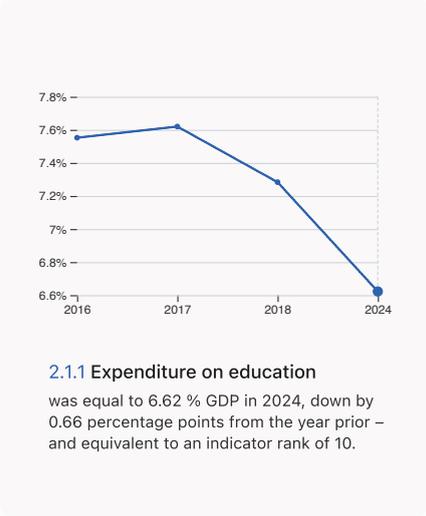
Global Innovation Index 2025



Lesotho's innovation system

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

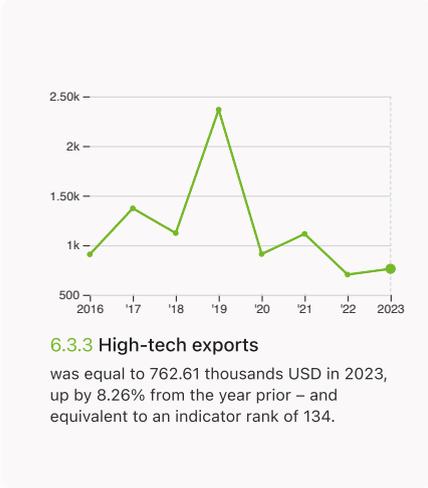
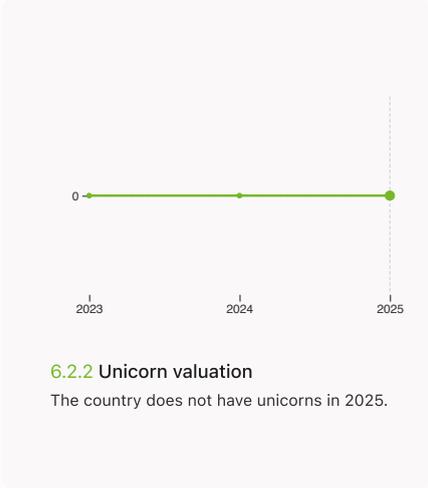
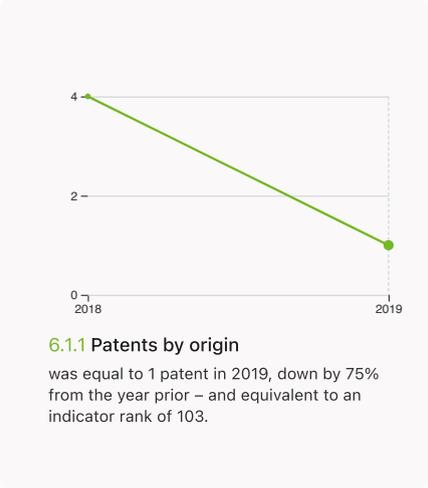
> Innovation inputs in Lesotho



Global Innovation Index 2025



> Innovation outputs in Lesotho



Lesotho

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP\$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP\$
139	118	Lower middle	Sub-Saharan Africa	2.3	7.1	3,260.4
Score / Value Rank				Score / Value Rank		
Institutions				31.6	115	
1.1 Institutional environment				37.2	108	
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*				54.7	91	●
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*				19.6	126	
1.2 Regulatory environment				36.9	104	
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*				33.1	106	
1.2.2 Rule of law*				40.6	97	
1.3 Business environment				20.8	[121]	
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†				20.8	123	
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†				n/a	n/a	
Human capital and research				20.8	102	
2.1 Education				54	60	◆
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP				6.6	10	◆◆
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap				34.8	3	◆◆
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years				11	105	🕒
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science				n/a	n/a	
2.1.5 Pupil-teacher ratio, secondary				25.3	114	🕒
2.2 Tertiary education				8.1	119	
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross				11	115	🕒
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %				15.4	105	🕒
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %				0.4	105	🕒
2.3 Research and development (R&D)				0.2	116	
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.				23.7	103	🕒
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP				0.05	109	🕒
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				29.1	112	
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)				28.7	131	◇
3.1.1 ICT access*				33.7	132	◇
3.1.2 ICT use*				38.3	118	◇
3.1.3 Government's online service*				14.1	136	◇◇
3.2 General infrastructure				50.2	[23]	
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				28.1	31	●
3.3 Ecological sustainability				8.3	119	◇
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use				n/a	n/a	
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %				13	85	●
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP\$ GDP				0.1	126	
Market sophistication				27.2	[107]	
4.1 Credit				6.9	[124]	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†				n/a	n/a	
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP				24.9	108	
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP				n/a	n/a	
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				47.4	112	
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %				2.3	70	◆◆
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification				n/a	n/a	
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP\$				7.1	136	◇◇
Business sophistication				16.2	137	◇
5.1 Knowledge workers				25.4	114	
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %				12.2	94	🕒
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %				3.7	98	●
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %				54	28	●
5.1.4 GERD performed by business, % GDP				n/a	n/a	
5.1.5 GERD financed by business, %				0.8	90	🕒
5.2 Innovation linkages				9.9	131	◇
5.2.1 Public research-industry co-publications, %				1.7	58	◆◆
5.2.2 University-industry R&D collaboration†				2.2	131	◇◇
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*				n/a	n/a	
5.2.4 State of cluster development†				20.2	126	◇
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP\$ GDP				0	100	◇◇
5.3 Knowledge absorption				13.2	136	◇
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade				0.2	104	
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade				2.8	134	
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade				0.6	107	
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP				-0.7	129	◇
5.3.5 Research talent, % in businesses				n/a	n/a	
Knowledge and technology outputs				6.6	136	◇
6.1 Knowledge creation				8.3	90	
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP				0.2	103	🕒
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP\$ GDP				0.1	55	◆◆
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP				-	-	
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP\$ GDP				11.5	61	●
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index				0.3	138	◇◇
6.2 Knowledge impact				11.1	130	◇
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %				-1.6	127	◇
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP				0	53	◇◇
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP				0.08	97	
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing, %				n/a	n/a	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion				0.5	139	◇
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade				0.01	108	
6.3.2 Production and export complexity				n/a	n/a	
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade				0.05	134	
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade				0.001	139	◇◇
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP\$ GDP				0.4	131	
Creative outputs				3.2	[136]	
7.1 Intangible assets				5.8	[116]	
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %				n/a	n/a	
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP				11.7	110	🕒
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP				n/a	n/a	
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP				n/a	n/a	
7.2 Creative goods and services				0.5	[134]	
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade				0.003	119	◇
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				0.07	105	
7.3 Online creativity				0.8	134	◇
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15-69				0.4	117	
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15-69				1.2	114	
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP\$ GDP				n/a	n/a	

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 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 Lesotho.



Lesotho has missing data for twenty four indicators and outdated data for fourteen indicators.

Missing data for Lesotho

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
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
4.1.3	Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	2023	International Monetary Fund, Financial Access Survey (FAS)
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)
5.1.4	GERD performed by business, % GDP	n/a	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
5.2.3	University industry & international engagement, top 5*	n/a	2025	Times Higher Education, World University Rankings 2025
5.3.5	Research talent, % in businesses	n/a	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
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
7.1.3	Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	n/a	2025	Brand Finance; International Monetary Fund

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Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
7.1.4	Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP	n/a	2023	World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund
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
7.3.3	Mobile app creation/bn PPP\$ GDP	n/a	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).

Outdated data for Lesotho

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
2.1.2	Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	2018	2021	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.3	School life expectancy, years	2017	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.5	Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	2017	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.1	Tertiary enrolment, % gross	2020	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %	2018	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD
2.2.3	Tertiary inbound mobility, %	2018	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.3.1	Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	2015	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
2.3.2	Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	2015	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
4.3.1	Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	2022	2023	World Trade Organization
5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %	2019	2024	International Labour Organization
5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	2019	2024	International Labour Organization
5.1.5	GERD financed by business, %	2015	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
6.1.1	Patents by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP	2019	2023	World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund
7.1.2	Trademarks by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP	2020	2023	World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund

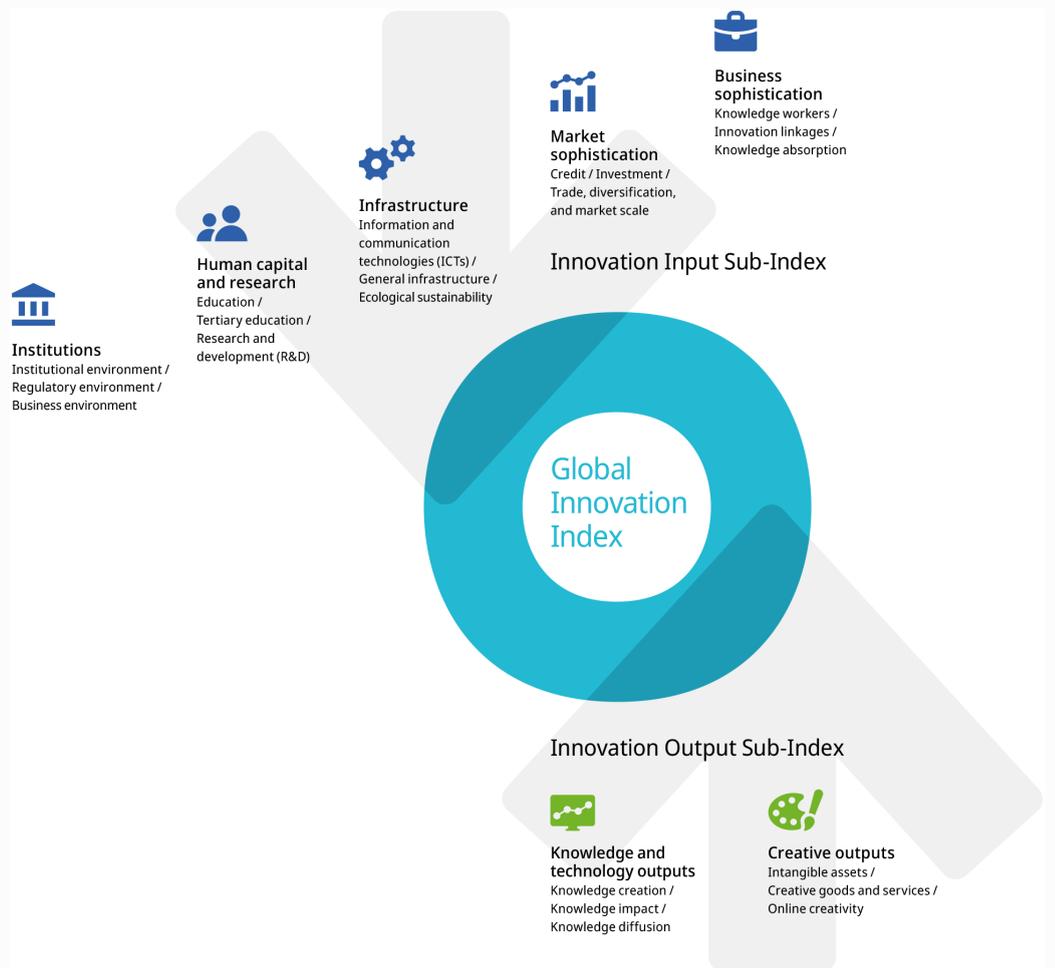
*Model year corresponds to the most frequent data year (the year that appears most often across all economies in the GII).

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.