

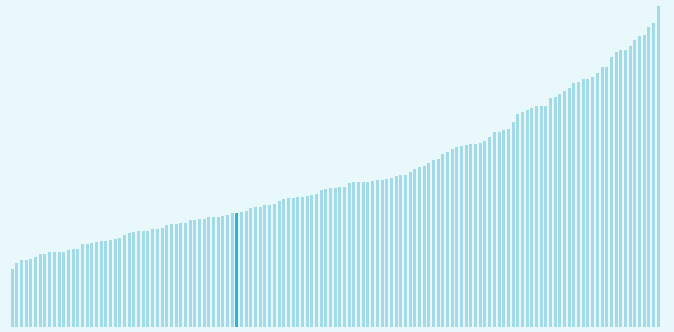
Global Innovation Index 2025



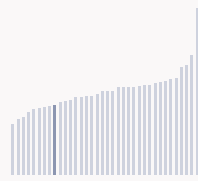
Namibia ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2025

Namibia ranks **91st** among the 139 economies featured in the GII 2025.

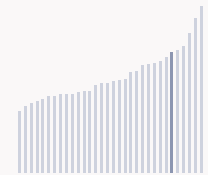
The Global Innovation Index (GII) ranks world economies according to their innovation capabilities. Consisting of roughly 80 indicators, grouped into innovation inputs and outputs, the GII aims to capture the multi-dimensional facets of innovation.



Namibia ranks **28th** among the 36 Upper middle-income group economies.



Namibia ranks **6th** among the 32 economies in Sub-Saharan Africa.



> Namibia GII Ranking (2020-2025)

The table shows the rankings of Namibia 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 Namibia in the GII 2025 is between ranks 89 and 103.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	104th	101st	104th
2021	100th	88th	110th
2022	96th	84th	113rd
2023	96th	80th	111st
2024	102nd	87th	109th
2025	91st	74th	110th

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

This year Namibia ranks **74th** in innovation inputs. This position is higher than last year.

Namibia ranks **110th** in innovation outputs. This position is lower than last year.

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



For Namibia, 4 indicators have improved in the short-term and 2 indicators have worsened.

Science and innovation investment

	Scientific publications	R&D investments	Venture capital deal numbers	International patent filings
Short term	▼ -4.5 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 8.5 % 2014 - 2022	▲ 200 % 2023 - 2024	0 % 2023 - 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 6.8 % 2014 - 2024	▲ 16 % 2010 - 2022	n/a	n/a

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	n/a	▲ 9.6% 2022 - 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	n/a	▲ 11.3% 2013 - 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a
Penetration	n/a	3.5 per 100 inhabitants in 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	0 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 5 % 2022 - 2023	+ 1.1 °C 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▼ -0.2 % 2014 - 2024	▲ 1.4 % 2013 - 2023	+ 0.4 °C 2014
Level	38,761.2 USD in 2024	67.4 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 Namibia 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.



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

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

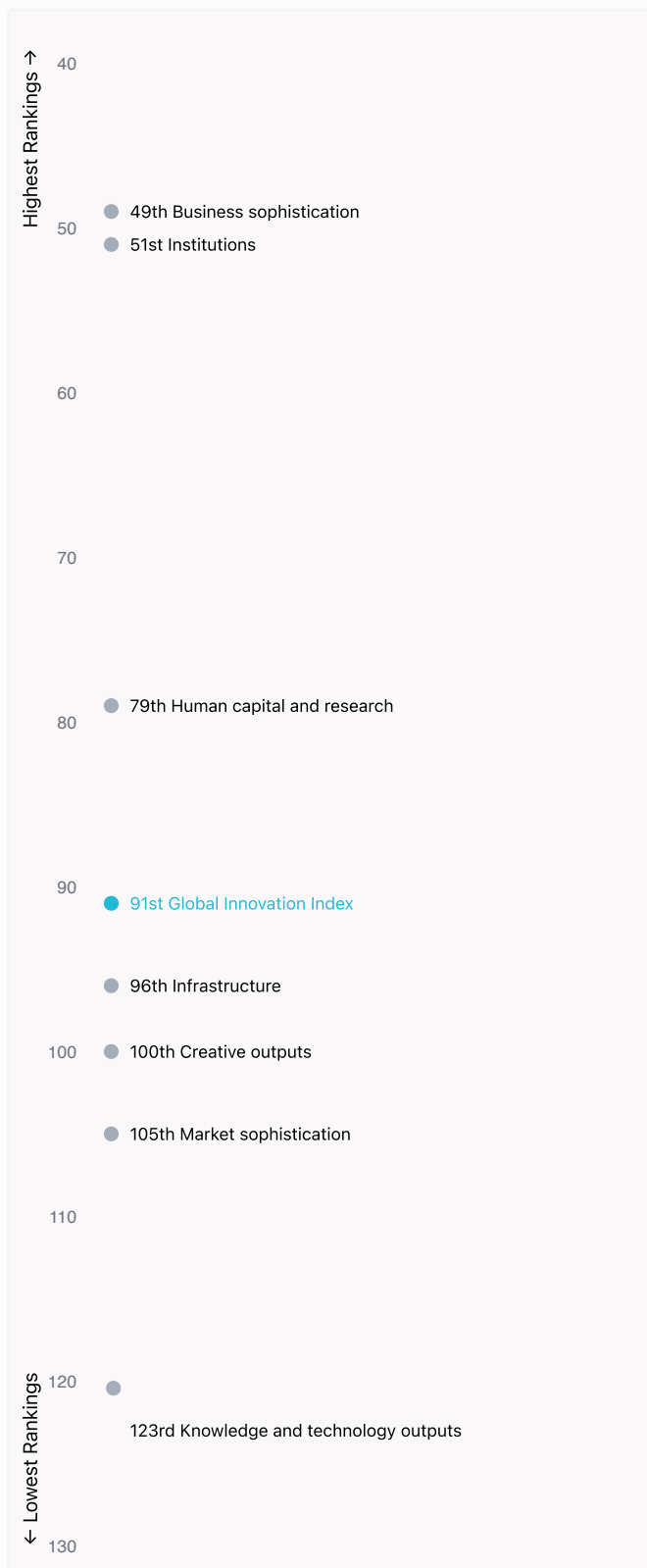


Global Innovation Index 2025



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



Highest Rankings

Namibia ranks highest in Business sophistication (49th), Institutions (51st) and Human capital and research (79th).



Lowest Rankings

Namibia ranks lowest in Knowledge and technology outputs (123rd), Market sophistication (105th) and Creative outputs (100th).



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

Global Innovation Index 2025



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



Upper middle-income economies

Namibia performs above the Upper middle-income group average in Institutions, Business sophistication.



Sub-Saharan Africa

Namibia performs above the regional average in Institutions, Human capital and research, Infrastructure, Market sophistication, Business sophistication, Creative outputs.

Institutions

Top 10 | Score: 78.63

Namibia | Score: 56.24

Upper middle-income | Score: 44.7

Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 40.29

Human capital and research

Top 10 | Score: 59.30

Upper middle-income | Score: 29.7

Namibia | Score: 28.51

Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 18.06

Infrastructure

Top 10 | Score: 61.36

Upper middle-income | Score: 41.1

Namibia | Score: 34.53

Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 27.58

Market sophistication

Top 10 | Score: 61.82

Upper middle-income | Score: 34.8

Namibia | Score: 27.40

Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 22.67

Business sophistication

Top 10 | Score: 59.10

Namibia | Score: 33.12

Upper middle-income | Score: 27.7

Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 25.36

Knowledge and technology outputs

Top 10 | Score: 54.93

Upper middle-income | Score: 20.0

Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 11.53

Namibia | Score: 9.21

Creative outputs

Top 10 | Score: 55.98

Upper middle-income | Score: 22.6

Namibia | Score: 12.78

Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 10.61

Global Innovation Index 2025



Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Namibia

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



Namibia's best-ranked innovation strengths are **Expenditure on education, % GDP (rank 1)**, **FDI net inflows, % GDP (rank 10)** and **Youth demographic dividend, % (rank 27)**.

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
1	2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP
10	5.3.4	FDI net inflows, % GDP
27	5.1.3	Youth demographic dividend, %
31	5.2.1	Public research–industry co-publications, %
38	5.2.2	University–industry R&D collaboration ⁺
43	1.3.1	Policy stability for doing business ⁺
44	1.2.2	Rule of law*
46	5.2.5	Patent families/bn PPP\$ GDP
52	4.1.2	Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP
55	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %

Weaknesses

Rank	Code	Indicator name
130	4.3.3	Domestic market scale, bn PPP\$
125	6.2.1	Labor productivity growth, %
116	2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %
109	6.2.4	High-tech manufacturing, %
101	4.3.2	Domestic industry diversification
81	7.1.3	Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP
80	2.3.4	QS university ranking, top 3*
53	6.2.2	Unicorn valuation, % GDP
44	2.3.3	Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD

Global Innovation Index 2025



Namibia's innovation system

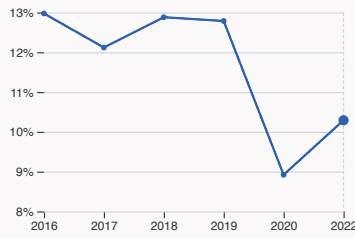
As far as practicable, the plots below present unscaled indicator data.

› Innovation inputs in Namibia



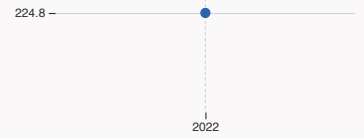
2.1.1 Expenditure on education

was equal to 9.39 % GDP in 2022, down by 1 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 1.



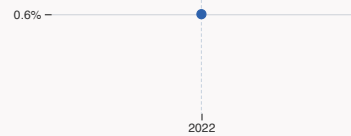
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering

was equal to 10.29 % of total graduates in 2022, up by 1.37 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 116.



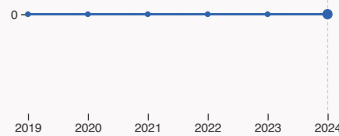
2.3.1 Researchers

was equal to 224.81 FTE per million population in 2022 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 82.



2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D

was equal to 0.65 % GDP in 2022 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 55.



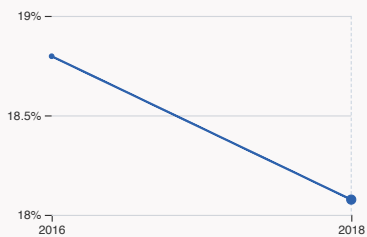
2.3.4 QS university ranking

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 0.279 in 2022, down by 6.88% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 101.



5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment

was equal to 18.08 % of total workforce in 2018, down by 0.72 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 82.

Global Innovation Index 2025



> Innovation outputs in Namibia



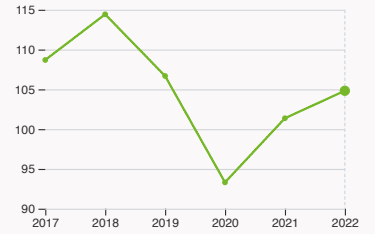
6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 16 patents in 2022, up by 77.78% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 72.



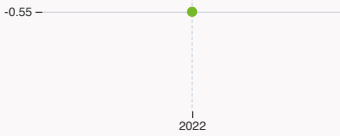
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

The country does not have unicorns in 2025.



6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing

was equal to 104.82 high-tech manufacturing output in million USD in 2022, up by 3.4% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 109.



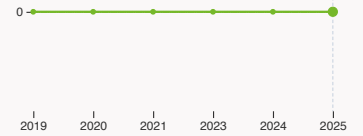
6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of -0.55 in 2022 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 93.



6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 73.35 million USD in 2023, up by 18.1% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 75.



7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

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



7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 8.11 million global downloads of mobile apps in 2024, down by 17.75% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 57.

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP\$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP\$
110	74	Upper middle	Sub-Saharan Africa	3.0	35.1	11,730.2
			Score / Value Rank			
Institutions			56.2 51	Business sophistication 33.1 49		
1.1 Institutional environment			53.6 71	5.1 Knowledge workers 40.8 [53]		
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*			63.3 66	5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, % 18.1 82		
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*			43.8 70	5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, % 7.4 87		
1.2 Regulatory environment			54.2 59	5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, % 54.4 27 ◆◆		
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*			45.3 75	5.1.4 GERD performed by business, % GDP n/a n/a		
1.2.2 Rule of law*			63.1 44 ◆◆	5.1.5 GERD financed by business, % n/a n/a		
1.3 Business environment			61 [33]	5.2 Innovation linkages 30 52		
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†			61 43 ●	5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, % 2.6 31 ◆◆		
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†			n/a n/a	5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration† 49 38 ◆◆		
Human capital and research			28.5 79	5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5* 17.8 71		
2.1 Education			74.4 [3]	5.2.4 State of cluster development† 52.9 56		
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP			9.4 1 ◆◆	5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP\$ GDP 0.1 46 ●		
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap			n/a n/a	5.3 Knowledge absorption 28.5 61		
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years			n/a n/a	5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade 0.1 113 ◇		
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science			n/a n/a	5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade 7.2 84		
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary			25.9 116	5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade 1.4 71		
2.2 Tertiary education			8.1 118 ◇	5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP 11.3 10 ◆◆		
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross			26.1 96 ◇	5.3.5 Research talent, % in businesses n/a n/a		
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %			10.3 116 ○◇	Knowledge and technology outputs 9.2 123 ◇		
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %			3.1 65	6.1 Knowledge creation 7.1 99		
2.3 Research and development (R&D)			3.1 90	6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP 0.5 72		
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.			224.8 82	6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP\$ GDP 0.01 92		
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP			0.6 55	6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP 0.1 47		
2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD			0 44 ○◇	6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP\$ GDP 8.5 79		
2.3.4 QS university ranking, top 3*			0 80 ○◇	6.1.5 Citable documents H-index 4.2 114		
Infrastructure			34.5 96	6.2 Knowledge impact 10.4 131 ◇		
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)			58.3 103 ◇	6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, % -1.4 125 ○◇		
3.1.1 ICT access*			72.7 93	6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP 0 53 ○◇		
3.1.2 ICT use*			62.6 100	6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP 0.1 86		
3.1.3 Government's online service*			39.8 105 ◇	6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing, % 3.4 109 ○◇		
3.2 General infrastructure			25.7 93	6.3 Knowledge diffusion 10.2 106		
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.			684.6 109 ◇	6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade 0.08 65		
3.2.2 Logistics performance*			36.4 65	6.3.2 Production and export complexity 36.5 93		
3.2.3 Gross capital formation, % GDP			24.1 63	6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade 1.1 75		
3.3 Ecological sustainability			19.6 74	6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade 0.3 119		
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use			12.1 55	6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP\$ GDP 1.4 98		
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %			23.8 55 ●	Creative outputs 12.8 100		
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP\$ GDP			0.6 86	7.1 Intangible assets 10.1 100		
Market sophistication			27.4 105	7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, % n/a n/a		
4.1 Credit			22 [84]	7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP 12.4 109		
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†			n/a n/a	7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP 0 81 ○◇		
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP			61 52 ●	7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP 1.2 56		
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP			n/a n/a	7.2 Creative goods and services 6.2 [90]		
4.2 Investment			3.4 80	7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade 0.5 55		
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP			18 66	7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69 n/a n/a		
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP\$ GDP			0.07 68	7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69 n/a n/a		
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC			n/a n/a	7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade 0.09 96		
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP\$ GDP			0.03 97	7.3 Online creativity 24.6 68		
4.2.5 VC investor co-participation/bn PPP\$ GDP			0.01 98	7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69 4.2 66		
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale			56.8 100	7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69 1.9 111		
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %			2.4 71	7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP\$ GDP 67.8 57		
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification			56.1 101 ○◇			
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP\$			35.1 130 ○◇			

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 Namibia.



Namibia has missing data for thirteen indicators and outdated data for thirteen indicators.

Missing data for Namibia

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
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)
4.2.3	Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	n/a	2024	PitchBook Data, Inc.
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
7.1.1	Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	n/a	2024	Brand Finance
7.2.2	National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	n/a	2023	OMDIA; United Nations, World Population Prospects
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).

Global Innovation Index 2025



Outdated data for Namibia

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP	2022	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.5	Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	2017	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.1	Tertiary enrolment, % gross	2022	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.3	Tertiary inbound mobility, %	2022	2023	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
4.1.2	Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	2022	2023	International Monetary Fund; World Bank and OECD GDP estimates
5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %	2018	2024	International Labour Organization
5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	2018	2024	International Labour Organization
6.1.1	Patents by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP	2022	2023	World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund
6.1.3	Utility models by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP	2022	2023	World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund
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

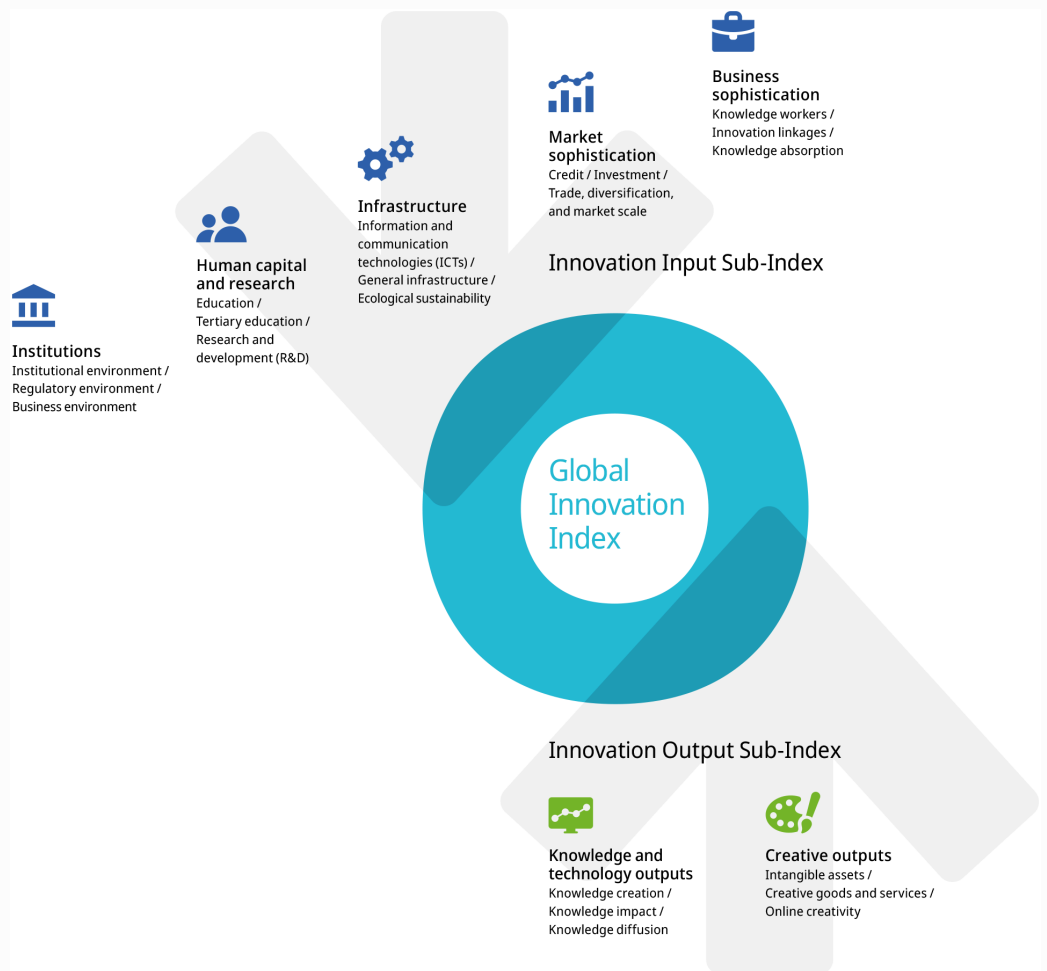
*Model year corresponds to the most frequent data year (the year that appears most often across all economies in the GII).

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.