Global Innovation Index 2025

El Salvador ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2025

El Salvador ranks 98th 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.

El Salvador ranks 32nd among the 36 Upper middle-income group economies.

El Salvador ranks 13th among the 21 economies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

El Salvador GII Ranking (2020-2025)

The table shows the rankings of El Salvador 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 El Salvador in the GII 2025 is between ranks 90 and 106.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	92nd	95th	87th
2021	96th	100th	89th
2022	100th	101st	95th
2023	95th	102nd	90th
2024	98th	107th	89th
2025	98th	106th	87th

El Salvador performs better in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2025.

This year El Salvador ranks 106th in innovation inputs. This position is higher than last year.

El Salvador ranks 87th in innovation outputs. This position is higher than last year.

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

For El Salvador, 4 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	▲ 14 % 2023 - 2024	▼ -9.7 % 2021 - 2022	▲ 22.2 % 2023 - 2024	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 7.6 % 2014 - 2024	▲ 18 % 2012 - 2022	▲ 28.8 % 2020 - 2024	▼ -4 % 2014 - 2024

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	▼ -1.1% 2023 - 2024	▲ 4.8% 2022 - 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	▼ -1.1% 2014 - 2024	▲ 9.9% 2013 - 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a
Penetration	36 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	11.6 per 100 inhabitants in 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	n/a	▲ 0.2 % 2022 - 2023	+ 1.6 °C 2024
Long term (annual growth)	n/a	▲ 0.1 % 2013 - 2023	+ 0.7 °C 2014
Level	n/a	72.1 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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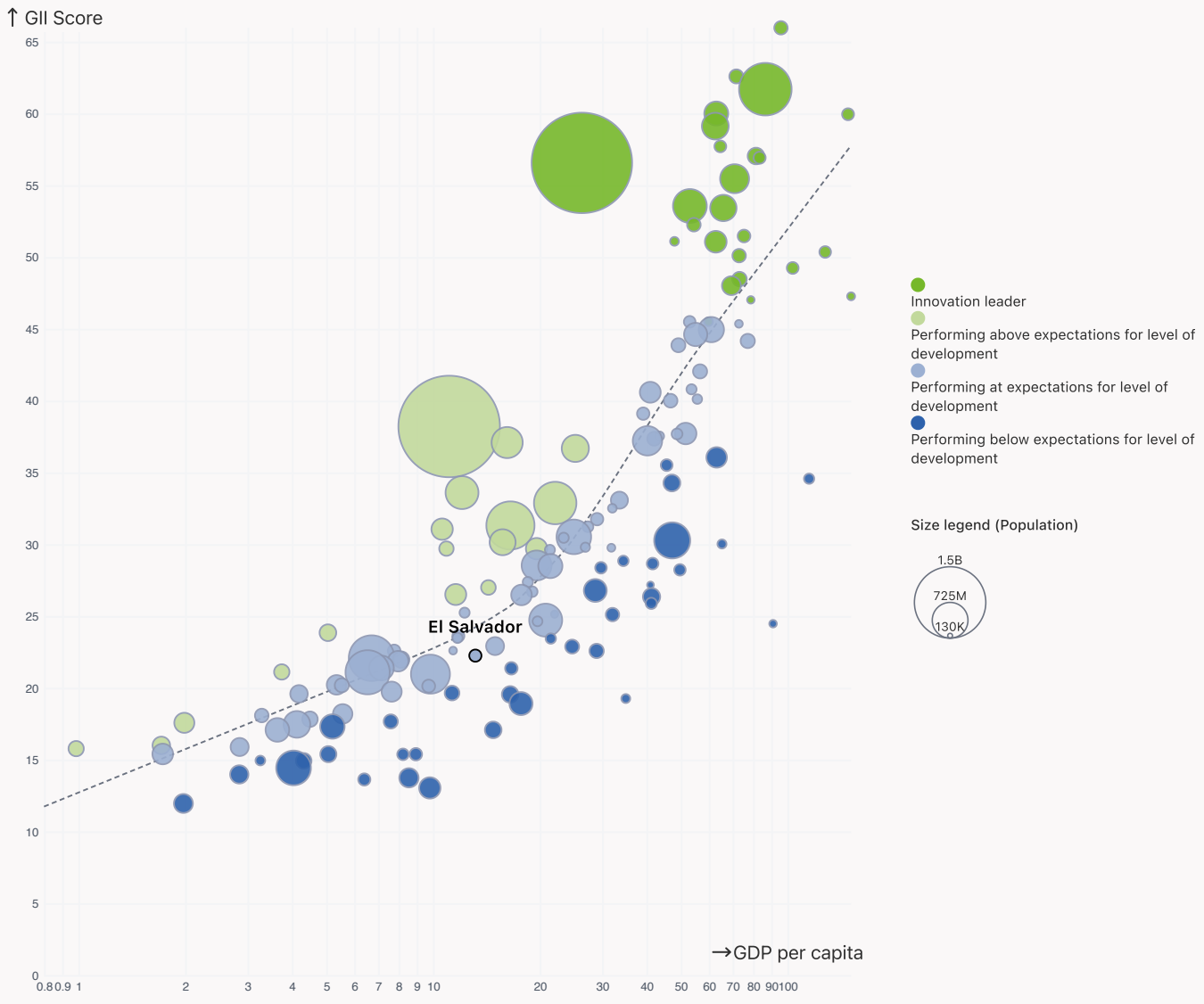
Expected vs. Observed Innovation Performance

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 El Salvador 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.

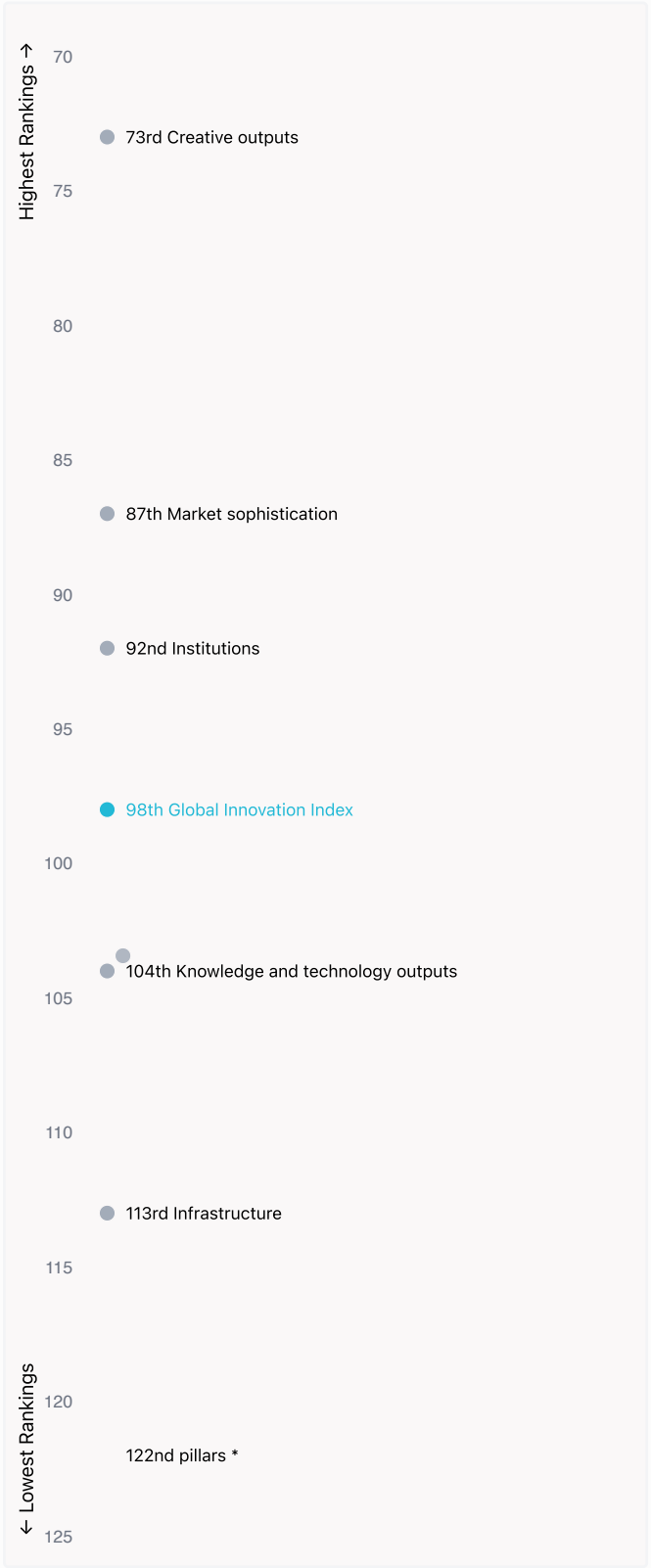
El Salvador produces more innovation outputs relative to its level of innovation investments.

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

Global Innovation Index 2025

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



Highest Rankings

El Salvador ranks highest in Creative outputs (73rd), Market sophistication (87th) and Institutions (92nd).

Lowest Rankings

El Salvador ranks lowest in Human capital and research, Business sophistication (122nd), Infrastructure (113rd) and Knowledge and technology outputs (104th).

* Human capital and research, Business sophistication

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

Global Innovation Index 2025

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

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

Upper middle-income economies

El Salvador performs below the Upper middle-income group average in all pillars.

Latin America and the Caribbean

El Salvador performs above the regional average in Institutions, Market sophistication, Creative outputs.

Institutions

- Top 10 | Score: 78.63
- Upper middle-income | Score: 44.7
- El Salvador | Score: 40.04
- LCN | Score: 38.69

Human capital and research

- Top 10 | Score: 59.30
- Upper middle-income | Score: 29.7
- LCN | Score: 26.83
- El Salvador | Score: 16.58

Infrastructure

- Top 10 | Score: 61.36
- Upper middle-income | Score: 41.1
- LCN | Score: 36.36
- El Salvador | Score: 28.75

Market sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 61.82
- Upper middle-income | Score: 34.8
- El Salvador | Score: 32.15
- LCN | Score: 29.96

Business sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 59.10
- Upper middle-income | Score: 27.7
- LCN | Score: 25.00
- El Salvador | Score: 20.90

Knowledge and technology outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 54.93
- Upper middle-income | Score: 20.0
- LCN | Score: 15.29
- El Salvador | Score: 12.40

Creative outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.98
- Upper middle-income | Score: 22.6
- El Salvador | Score: 21.19
- LCN | Score: 17.22

Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation strengths and weaknesses in El Salvador

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

El Salvador's best-ranked innovation strengths are **Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP** (rank 15), **VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP** (rank 39) and **Intellectual property payments, % total trade** (rank 41).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
15	7.1.2	Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP
39	4.2.4	VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP
41	5.3.1	Intellectual property payments, % total trade
43	5.3.2	High-tech imports, % total trade
44	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %
46	6.3.4	ICT services exports, % total trade
51	4.1.2	Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP
51	4.2.2	Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP
52	5.1.3	Youth demographic dividend, %
59	6.3.3	High-tech exports, % total trade

Weaknesses

Rank	Code	Indicator name
136	6.1.4	Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP
131	6.1.5	Citable documents H-index
131	5.2.1	Public research–industry co-publications, %
109	6.1.2	PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP
102	4.2.3	Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC
100	5.2.5	Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP
80	2.3.4	QS university ranking, top 3*
79	2.1.4	PISA scales in reading, maths and science
53	6.2.2	Unicorn valuation, % GDP
44	2.3.3	Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD

Global Innovation Index 2025

El Salvador's innovation system

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

Innovation inputs in El Salvador

2.1.1 Expenditure on education

was equal to 3.17 % GDP in 2023, down by 0.08 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 105.

2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering

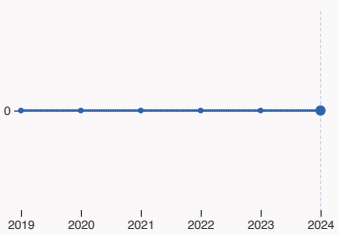
was equal to 22.37 % of total graduates in 2023, up by 2.09 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 68.

2.3.1 Researchers

was equal to 57.62 FTE per million population in 2022, down by 11.79% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 96.

2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D

was equal to 0.14 % GDP in 2022, down by 0.02 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 96.



2.3.4 QS university ranking

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

5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment

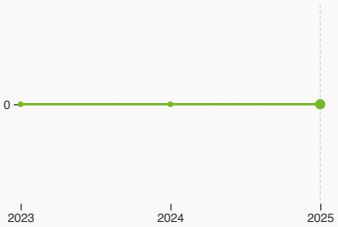
was equal to 13.8 % in 2023, down by 1 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 89.

Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation outputs in El Salvador

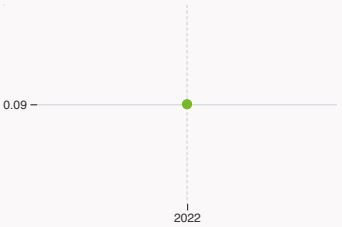
6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 9 patents in 2023, up by 125% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 111.



6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

The country does not have unicorns in 2025.



6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of 0.09 in 2022 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 58.

6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 297.22 million USD in 2023, down by 28.44% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 59.

7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 871.24 thousand global downloads of mobile apps in 2024, up by 27.9% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 107.

El Salvador

GII 2025 rank **98**

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP$
87	106	Upper middle	Latin America and the Caribbean	6.3	84.2	13,172.8

	Score / Value	Rank	
Institutions	**40**	**92**	
1.1 Institutional environment	**49.5**	**78**	
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	54.7	89	
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	44.3	68	
1.2 Regulatory environment	**41.5**	**90**	
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	39.6	92	
1.2.2 Rule of law*	43.3	88	
1.3 Business environment	**29.2**	**102**	
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	23.7	117	
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	34.7	52	
Human capital and research	**16.6**	**122**	◇
2.1 Education	**29.1**	**129**	◇
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	3.2	105	
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	13.9	71	
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years	11.1	103	◇
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science	360.5	79	○
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	23.7	111	◇
2.2 Tertiary education	**20**	**95**	
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	32.4	91	◇
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %	22.4	68	
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %	0.5	100	
2.3 Research and development (R&D)	**0.7**	**108**	
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	57.6	96	◇
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	0.1	96	
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	**28.8**	**113**	◇
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**46.2**	**117**	◇
3.1.1 ICT access*	51.5	116	◇
3.1.2 ICT use*	n/a	n/a	
3.1.3 Government's online service*	40.9	103	◇
3.2 General infrastructure	**20.2**	**109**	
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	1,165.6	95	◇
3.2.2 Logistics performance*	27.3	76	
3.2.3 Gross capital formation, % GDP	21	99	
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**19.9**	**71**	
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	11.6	62	
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	27.4	44	●
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	0.3	105	
Market sophistication	**32.2**	**87**	
4.1 Credit	**28**	**69**	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	33.8	72	
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	61.6	51	●
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.2 Investment	**5.6**	**65**	
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.1	51	●
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	0.002	102	○
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.3	39	●
4.2.5 VC investor co-participation/bn PPP$ GDP	0.06	56	
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale	**62.8**	**84**	
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	2.1	65	
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	n/a	n/a	
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	84.2	98	

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**20.9**	**122**	
5.1 Knowledge workers	**25**	**116**	
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	13.8	89	◇
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	5.4	93	◇
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %	42.2	52	●
5.1.4 GERD performed by business, % GDP	0.05	66	
5.1.5 GERD financed by business, %	31.5	57	
5.2 Innovation linkages	**11.1**	**126**	◇
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %	0.4	131	○
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†	18.4	114	
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*	n/a	n/a	
5.2.4 State of cluster development†	24.2	120	◇
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	0	100	○ ◇
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**26.6**	**69**	
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	0.9	41	●
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	9.8	43	●
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	1.1	85	
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	1.6	98	
5.3.5 Research talent, % in businesses	n/a	n/a	
Knowledge and technology outputs	**12.4**	**104**	
6.1 Knowledge creation	**1.4**	**134**	◇
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.1	111	
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0	109	○ ◇
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.05	61	
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	1.2	136	○ ◇
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	1.9	131	○
6.2 Knowledge impact	**18.4**	**104**	
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	1.1	61	
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	0	53	○ ◇
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.04	115	
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing	n/a	n/a	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**17.4**	**73**	
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	0.002	117	
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	50.7	58	
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	2.2	59	●
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	3.1	46	●
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	1.9	90	
Creative outputs	**21.2**	**[73]**	
7.1 Intangible assets	**30.5**	**[57]**	
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	n/a	n/a	
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	76.1	15	●
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	1.1	59	
7.2 Creative goods and services	**4.7**	**[99]**	
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	0.1	90	
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	0.5	64	
7.3 Online creativity	**19**	**102**	
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	1.5	93	
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	5.6	75	
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	49.7	107	

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 El Salvador.

El Salvador has missing data for eleven indicators and outdated data for nine indicators.

Missing data for El Salvador

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
3.1.2	ICT use*	n/a	2023	World Intellectual Property Organization; based on International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
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
4.3.2	Domestic industry diversification	n/a	2022	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
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)
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
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

Outdated data for El Salvador

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
1.3.2	Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	2016	2024	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
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
4.1.1	Finance for startups and scaleups†	2016	2024	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %	2023	2024	International Labour Organization

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Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	2023	2024	International Labour Organization
5.1.4	GERD performed by business, % GDP	2019	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
5.1.5	GERD financed by business, %	2019	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT

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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.