Global Innovation Index 2025

Uganda ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2025

Uganda ranks 124th 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.

Uganda ranks 4th among the 11 Low-income group economies.

Uganda ranks 19th among the 32 economies in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Uganda GII Ranking (2020-2025)

The table shows the rankings of Uganda 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 Uganda in the GII 2025 is between ranks 118 and 124.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	114th	103rd	123rd
2021	119th	119th	122nd
2022	119th	116th	120th
2023	121st	117th	121st
2024	121st	119th	117th
2025	124th	117th	121st

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

This year **Uganda ranks 117th in innovation inputs.** This position is higher than last year.

Uganda ranks 121st in innovation outputs. This position is lower than last year.

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

For Uganda, 6 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	▲ 7.5 % 2023 - 2024	n/a	▼ -26.3 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 200 % 2023 - 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 8.8 % 2014 - 2024	▲ 14.2 % 2014 - 2023	▲ 6.2 % 2020 - 2024	▲ 4.1 % 2014 - 2024

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	▲ 1.5% 2023 - 2024	▲ 10.3% 2022 - 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 1.7% 2014 - 2024	▲ 0.7% 2013 - 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a
Penetration	20.4 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	0.09 per 100 inhabitants in 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	▲ 2.4 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 0.9 % 2022 - 2023	+ 1.3 °C 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▼ -4.4 % 2014 - 2024	▲ 0.9 % 2013 - 2023	+ 0.9 °C 2014
Level	7,747.7 USD in 2024	68.3 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.

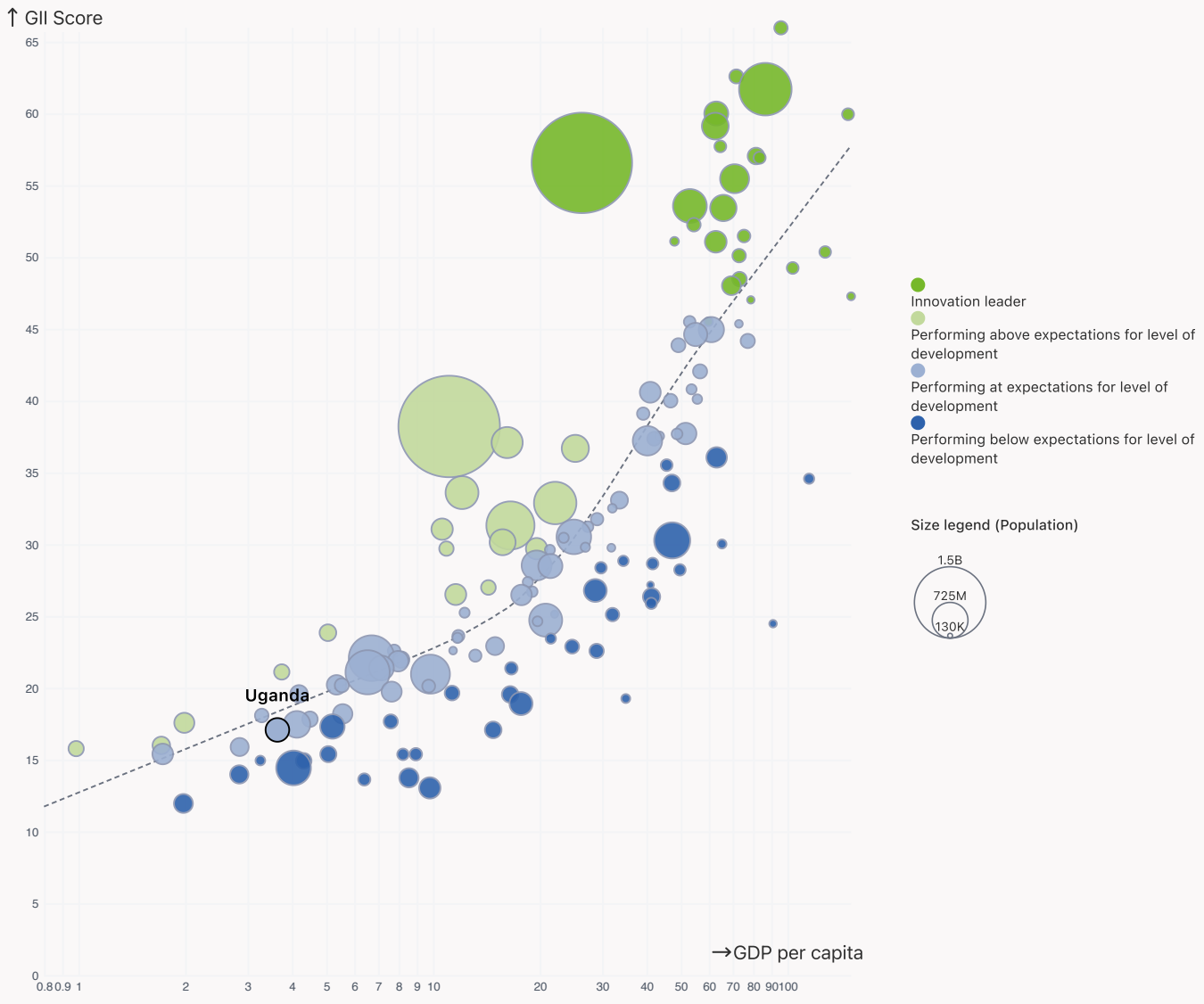
Global Innovation Index 2025

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 Uganda 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.

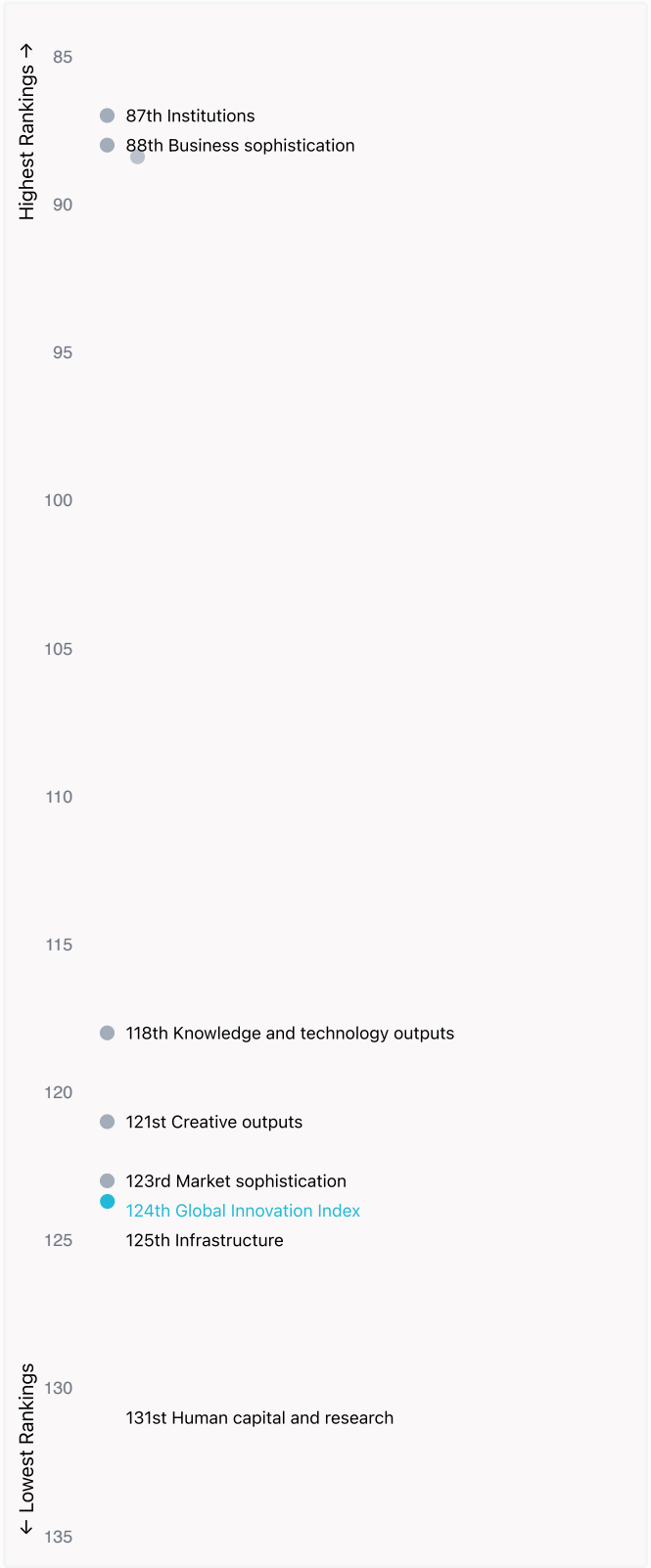
Uganda produces less innovation outputs relative to its level of innovation investments.

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

Global Innovation Index 2025

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



Highest Rankings

Uganda ranks highest in Institutions (87th), Business sophistication (88th), Knowledge and technology outputs (118th) and Creative outputs (121st).

Lowest Rankings

Uganda ranks lowest in Human capital and research (131st), Infrastructure (125th) and Market sophistication (123rd).

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

Global Innovation Index 2025

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

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

Low-income economies

Uganda performs above the Low-income group average in Institutions, Infrastructure, Business sophistication.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Uganda performs above the regional average in Institutions, Business sophistication.

Institutions

- Top 10 | Score: 78.63
- Uganda | Score: 42.93
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 40.29
- Low-income | Score: 34.81

Human capital and research

- Top 10 | Score: 59.30
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 18.06
- Low-income | Score: 15.10
- Uganda | Score: 12.88

Infrastructure

- Top 10 | Score: 61.36
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 27.58
- Uganda | Score: 25.42
- Low-income | Score: 21.77

Market sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 61.82
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 22.67
- Low-income | Score: 20.14
- Uganda | Score: 19.06

Business sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 59.10
- Uganda | Score: 25.80
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 25.36
- Low-income | Score: 23.04

Knowledge and technology outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 54.93
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 11.53
- Low-income | Score: 10.90
- Uganda | Score: 10.40

Creative outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.98
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 10.61
- Low-income | Score: 7.58
- Uganda | Score: 7.43

Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Uganda

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

Uganda's best-ranked innovation strengths are **Youth demographic dividend, %** (rank 3), **FDI net inflows, % GDP** (rank 25) and **Low-carbon energy use, %** (rank 27).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
3	5.1.3	Youth demographic dividend, %
25	5.3.4	FDI net inflows, % GDP
27	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %
48	4.2.2	Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP
53	1.3.1	Policy stability for doing business[+]
54	6.3.1	Intellectual property receipts, % total trade
60	6.1.4	Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP
72	5.2.1	Public research–industry co-publications, %
73	3.3.3	ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP
75	5.3.2	High-tech imports, % total trade

Weaknesses

Rank	Code	Indicator name
134	6.2.3	Software spending, % GDP
131	5.3.1	Intellectual property payments, % total trade
114	4.2.4	VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP
113	4.2.5	VC investor co-participation/bn PPP$ GDP
109	6.1.2	PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP
108	2.3.1	Researchers, FTE/mn pop.
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

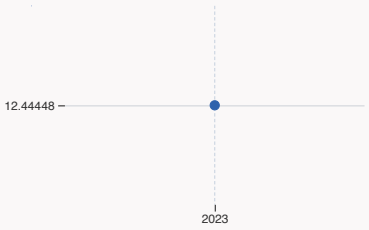
Uganda's innovation system

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

Innovation inputs in Uganda

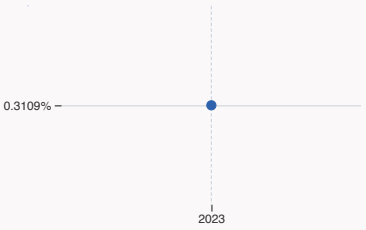
2.1.1 Expenditure on education

was equal to 2.56 % GDP in 2022, down by 0.07 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 120.



2.3.1 Researchers

was equal to 12.44 FTE per million population in 2023 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 108.

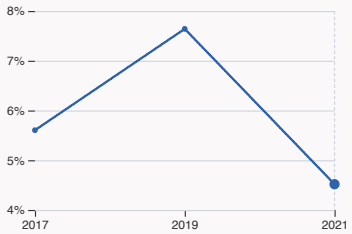


2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D

was equal to 0.31 % GDP in 2023 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 75.

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

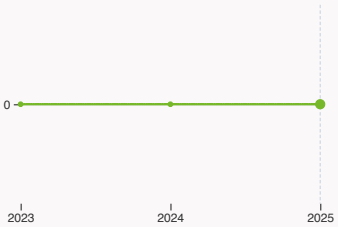
was equal to 4.52 % in 2021, down by 3.12 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 115.

Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation outputs in Uganda

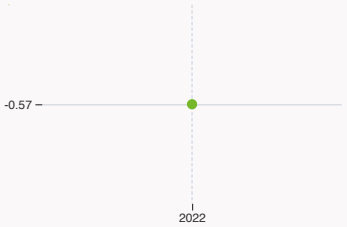
6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 30 patents in 2023, up by 200% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 99.



6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

The country does not have unicorns in 2025.

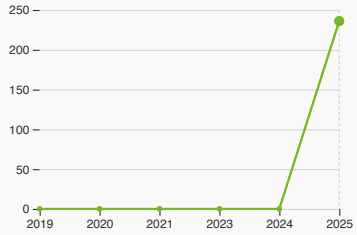


6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of -0.57 in 2022 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 94.

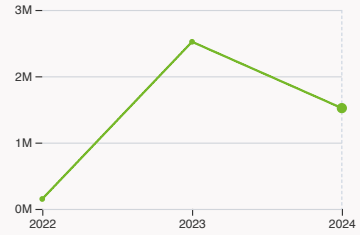
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 17.11 million USD in 2023, down by 24.96% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 120.



7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

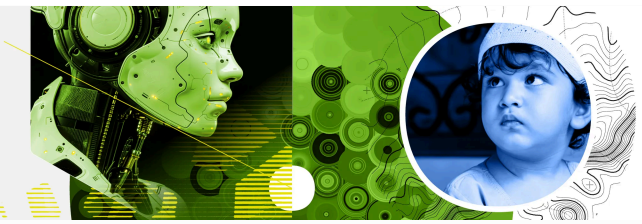
was equal to 236 million USD for the brands in the top 5,000 in 2025, up by 23600% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 70.



7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 1.52 million global downloads of mobile apps in 2024, down by 39.68% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 103.

Global Innovation Index 2025



Uganda's innovation top performers

Data not available for 2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors, 2.3.4 QS university ranking of top universities, 6.2.2 Top Unicorn Companies and 7.1.1 Top 15 intangible-asset intensive 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.

5.2.3 University industry and international engagement, top 5 universities

Rank	University	Score
1	MAKERERE UNIVERSITY	43.75

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.

7.1.3 Top 5,000 companies in Uganda with highest global brand value

Rank	Brand	Industry	Brand Value, mn USD
1	SPORTSMAN	Tobacco	236

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

Uganda

GII 2025 rank **124**

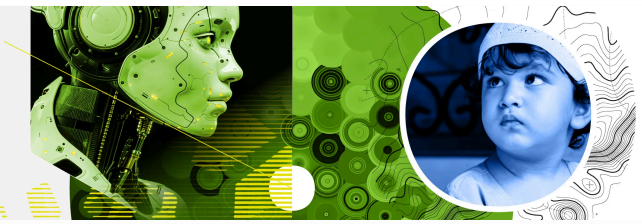
Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP$
121	117	Low	Sub-Saharan Africa	50.0	170.6	3,641.8

	Score / Value	Rank	
Institutions	**42.9**	**87**	
1.1 Institutional environment	**35.4**	**109**	
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	41.3	112	
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	29.6	103	
1.2 Regulatory environment	**37.8**	**100**	
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	34.8	102	
1.2.2 Rule of law*	40.7	96	
1.3 Business environment	**55.6**	**[48]**	
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	55.6	53	●
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	n/a	n/a	
Human capital and research	**12.9**	**[131]**	
2.1 Education	**36.1**	**[117]**	
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	2.6	120	◇
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	n/a	n/a	
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years	9.4	115	
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	n/a	
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	20.5	106	
2.2 Tertiary education	**1.3**	**[132]**	
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	4.8	129	
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)	**1.2**	**101**	
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	12.4	108	○ ◇
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	0.3	75	
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	**25.4**	**125**	
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**39.2**	**123**	
3.1.1 ICT access*	42.9	126	
3.1.2 ICT use*	22.1	122	
3.1.3 Government's online service*	52.7	88	
3.2 General infrastructure	**17.1**	**119**	
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	122.3	124	
3.2.2 Logistics performance*	n/a	n/a	
3.2.3 Gross capital formation, % GDP	22.7	80	
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**20**	**69**	
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	5.1	117	
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	37.4	27	●
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	0.9	73	●
Market sophistication	**19.1**	**123**	
4.1 Credit	**2.8**	**133**	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	n/a	n/a	
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	14.8	123	
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	0.3	52	
4.2 Investment	**2.8**	**89**	
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.1	48	●
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	0.01	63	
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.009	114	○
4.2.5 VC investor co-participation/bn PPP$ GDP	0.003	113	○
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale	**51.6**	**111**	
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	5.8	104	
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	n/a	n/a	
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	170.6	81	

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**25.8**	**88**	
5.1 Knowledge workers	**36.5**	**[64]**	
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	4.5	115	
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	3.3	100	
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %	64.6	3	●
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	**20.3**	**91**	
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %	1.3	72	●
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†	29.1	88	
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*	24.3	63	
5.2.4 State of cluster development†	35.9	93	
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	0	100	○ ◇
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**20.6**	**104**	
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	0	131	○ ◇
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	7.8	75	●
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	0.4	123	
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	5.6	25	●
5.3.5 Research talent, % in businesses	n/a	n/a	
Knowledge and technology outputs	**10.4**	**118**	
6.1 Knowledge creation	**8.3**	**92**	
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.2	99	
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0	109	○ ◇
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.1	48	
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	11.7	60	●
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	10	77	
6.2 Knowledge impact	**12.4**	**128**	
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	-0.6	113	
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	0	53	○ ◇
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.01	134	○ ◇
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing	n/a	n/a	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**10.6**	**102**	
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	0.1	54	●
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	36	94	
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	0.2	120	
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	0.5	107	
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	2	89	
Creative outputs	**7.4**	**121**	
7.1 Intangible assets	**5.8**	**117**	
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	n/a	n/a	
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	13.7	105	
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	0.4	70	
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.3	94	
7.2 Creative goods and services	**0.7**	**[128]**	
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	0.03	108	
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	0.06	110	
7.3 Online creativity	**17.5**	**109**	
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	0.2	126	
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	1.1	115	
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	51.2	103	

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

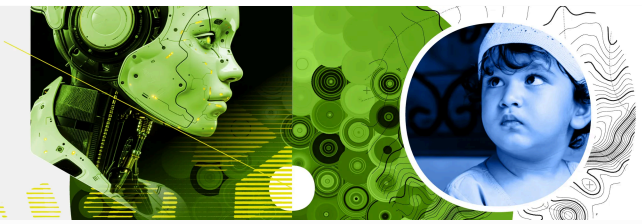
The following tables list indicators that are either missing or outdated for Uganda.

Uganda has missing data for sixteen indicators and outdated data for twelve indicators.

Missing data for Uganda

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
2.1.4	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
3.2.2	Logistics performance*	n/a	2023	World Bank, Logistics Performance Index 2023
4.1.1	Finance for startups and scaleups†	n/a	2024	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
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)
5.1.4	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
6.2.4	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
7.2.2	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

Global Innovation Index 2025



Outdated data for Uganda

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
1.3.1	Policy stability for doing business†	2020	2024	World Economic Forum, Executive Opinion Survey (EOS)
2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP	2022	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.3	School life expectancy, years	2016	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.5	Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	2017	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.1	Tertiary enrolment, % gross	2016	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	2022	2023	International Energy Agency
4.3.1	Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	2021	2023	World Trade Organization
5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %	2021	2024	International Labour Organization
5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	2021	2024	International Labour Organization
5.2.2	University–industry R&D collaboration†	2020	2024	World Economic Forum, Executive Opinion Survey (EOS)
5.2.4	State of cluster development†	2020	2024	World Economic Forum, Executive Opinion Survey (EOS)
7.2.1	Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	2022	2023	World Trade Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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.