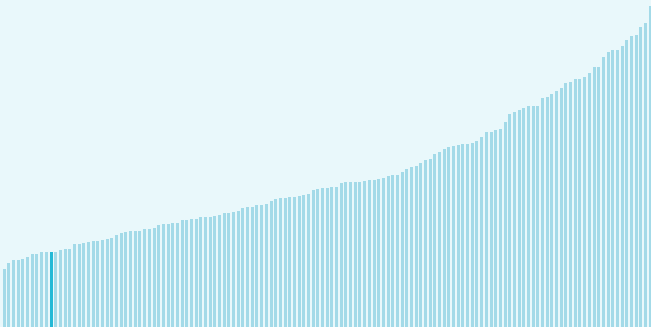




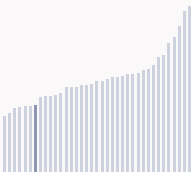
Zimbabwe ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2025

Zimbabwe ranks **129th** among the 139 economies featured in the GII 2025.

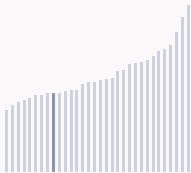
The Global Innovation Index (GII) ranks world economies according to their innovation capabilities. Consisting of roughly 80 indicators, grouped into innovation inputs and outputs, the GII aims to capture the multi-dimensional facets of innovation.



Zimbabwe ranks 31st among the 37 Lower middle-income group economies.



Zimbabwe ranks 24th among the 32 economies in Sub-Saharan Africa.



➤ Zimbabwe GII Ranking (2020-2025)

The table shows the rankings of Zimbabwe 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 Zimbabwe in the GII 2025 is between ranks 120 and 133.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	120th	123rd	108th
2021	113rd	116th	105th
2022	107th	120th	93rd
2023	117th	127th	97th
2024	118th	131st	96th
2025	129th	137th	100th

Zimbabwe performs better in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2025.

This year Zimbabwe ranks 137th in innovation inputs. This position is lower than last year.

Zimbabwe ranks 100th in innovation outputs. This position is lower than last year.

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



For Zimbabwe, 2 indicators have improved in the short-term and 5 indicators have worsened.

Science and innovation investment

	Scientific publications	R&D investments	Venture capital deal numbers	International patent filings
Short term	▲ 1 % 2023 - 2024	n/a	0 % 2022 - 2023	▼ -100 % 2023 - 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 5.1 % 2014 - 2024	n/a	n/a	n/a

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	▼ -0.1% 2023 - 2024	▼ -1.3% 2022 - 2023	0% 2022 - 2023	n/a	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	▼ -1.2% 2014 - 2024	▲ 9.5% 2013 - 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a
Penetration	23.6 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	1.6 per 100 inhabitants in 2023	2.6 per 100 inhabitants in 2023	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	▼ -1.9 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 0.7 % 2022 - 2023	+ 1.5 °C 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▼ -1.7 % 2014 - 2024	▲ 1 % 2013 - 2023	+ 0.3 °C 2014
Level	4.5 USD in 2024	62.8 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 Zimbabwe 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.



Zimbabwe produces more innovation outputs relative to its level of innovation investments.

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

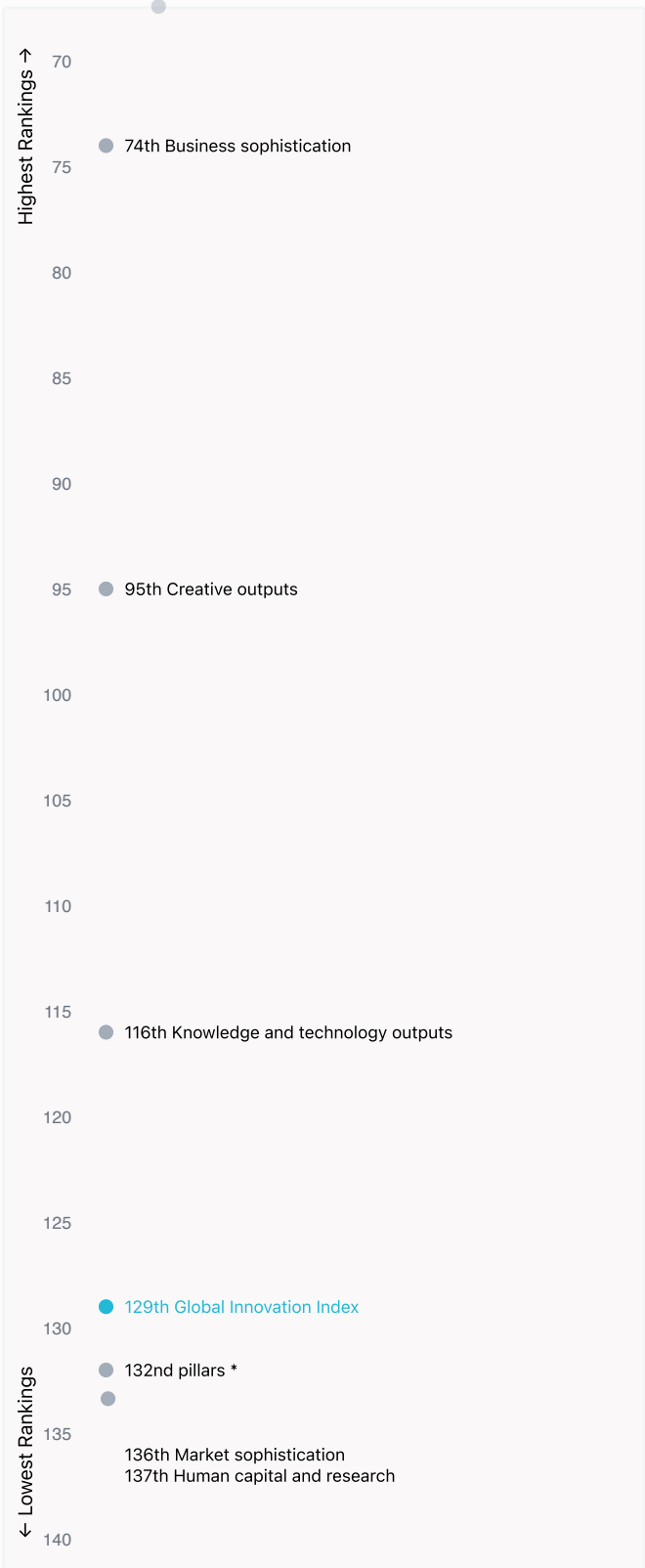


Global Innovation Index 2025



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



Highest Rankings

Zimbabwe ranks highest in Business sophistication (74th), Creative outputs (95th) and Knowledge and technology outputs (116th).



Lowest Rankings

Zimbabwe ranks lowest in Human capital and research (137th), Market sophistication (136th) and Institutions, Infrastructure (132nd).

* Institutions, Infrastructure



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

Global Innovation Index 2025



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

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



Lower middle-income economies

Zimbabwe performs above the Lower middle-income group average in Business sophistication, Creative outputs.



Sub-Saharan Africa

Zimbabwe performs above the regional average in Business sophistication, Creative outputs.

Institutions

Top 10 | Score: 78.63

Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 40.29

Lower middle-income | Score: 37.2

Zimbabwe | Score: 18.83

Human capital and research

Top 10 | Score: 59.30

Lower middle-income | Score: 20.5

Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 18.06

Zimbabwe | Score: 8.08

Infrastructure

Top 10 | Score: 61.36

Lower middle-income | Score: 32.1

Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 27.58

Zimbabwe | Score: 21.63

Market sophistication

Top 10 | Score: 61.82

Lower middle-income | Score: 28.1

Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 22.67

Zimbabwe | Score: 13.07

Business sophistication

Top 10 | Score: 59.10

Zimbabwe | Score: 27.36

Lower middle-income | Score: 25.3

Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 25.36

Knowledge and technology outputs

Top 10 | Score: 54.93

Lower middle-income | Score: 15.4

Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 11.53

Zimbabwe | Score: 10.72

Creative outputs

Top 10 | Score: 55.98

Zimbabwe | Score: 15.20

Lower middle-income | Score: 13.8

Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 10.61

Global Innovation Index 2025



Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Zimbabwe

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



Zimbabwe's best-ranked innovation strengths are **Youth demographic dividend, %** (rank 12), **Low-carbon energy use, %** (rank 61) and **Public research–industry co-publications, %** (rank 61).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
12	5.1.3	Youth demographic dividend, %
61	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %
61	5.2.1	Public research–industry co-publications, %
66	6.2.1	Labor productivity growth, %
70	5.3.2	High-tech imports, % total trade
71	3.3.3	ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP\$ GDP
75	5.3.3	ICT services imports, % total trade
78	6.3.5	ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP\$ GDP
78	5.2.2	University–industry R&D collaboration [†]

Weaknesses

Rank	Code	Indicator name
138	4.3.1	Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %
136	1.1.1	Operational stability for businesses*
135	2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP
135	1.2.1	Regulatory quality*
135	1.2.2	Rule of law*
134	4.1.2	Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP
100	5.2.5	Patent families/bn PPP\$ GDP
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

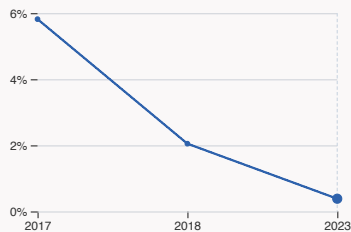
Global Innovation Index 2025



Zimbabwe's innovation system

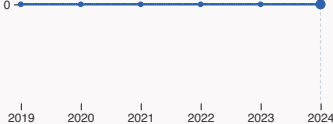
As far as practicable, the plots below present unscaled indicator data.

› Innovation inputs in Zimbabwe



2.1.1 Expenditure on education

was equal to 0.38 % GDP in 2023, down by 1.67 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 135.



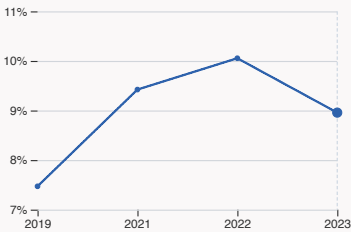
2.3.4 QS university ranking

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



4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification

was equal to an index score of 0.25 in 2018, down by 14.62% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 97.



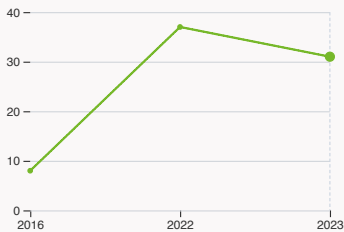
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment

was equal to 8.96 % in 2023, down by 1.1 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 103.

Global Innovation Index 2025

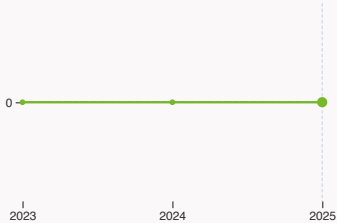


> Innovation outputs in Zimbabwe



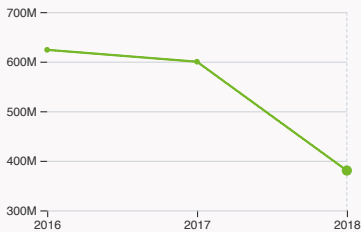
6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 31 patents in 2023, down by 16.22% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 81.



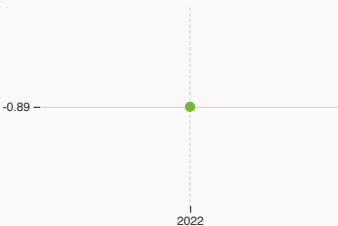
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

The country does not have unicorns in 2025.



6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing

was equal to 380.35 high-tech manufacturing output in million USD in 2018, down by 36.6% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 92.



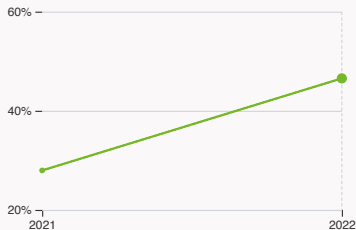
6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of -0.89 in 2022 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 112.



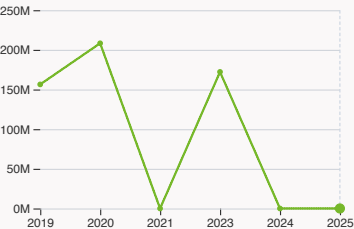
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 13.51 million USD in 2023, up by 44.49% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 121.



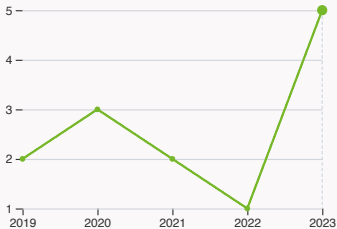
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15

was equal to 46.54 % for the top 15 companies in 2022, up by 18.58 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 52.



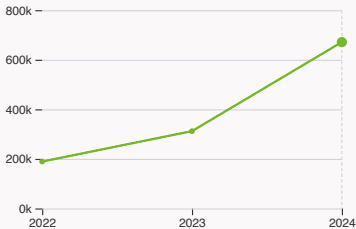
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

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



7.2.2 National feature films

was equal to 5 films in 2023, up by 400% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 79.



7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 671.2 thousand global downloads of mobile apps in 2024, up by 115.11% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 109.

Global Innovation Index 2025



Zimbabwe'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 7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000.

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	UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE	35.95

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 Zimbabwe

Rank	Firm	Intensity, %
1	DELTA CORP LTD/ZIMBABWE	82.60
2	ECOCASH HOLDINGS ZIMBABWE LTD	77.54
3	SIMBISA BRANDS LTD	37.57

Source: Brand Finance (<https://brandirectory.com/reports/gift-2024>).
Note: Brand Finance only provides within economy ranks.

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP\$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP\$
100	137	Lower middle	Sub-Saharan Africa	16.6	86.2	5,070.6
Score / Value Rank				Score / Value Rank		
Institutions				Business sophistication		
1.1 Institutional environment				5.1 Knowledge workers		
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*				5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %		
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*				5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %		
1.2 Regulatory environment				5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %		
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*				5.1.4 GERD performed by business, % GDP		
1.2.2 Rule of law*				5.1.5 GERD financed by business, %		
1.3 Business environment				5.2 Innovation linkages		
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†				5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %		
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†				5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†		
Human capital and research				5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*		
2.1 Education				5.2.4 State of cluster development†		
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP				5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP\$ GDP		
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap				5.3 Knowledge absorption		
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years				5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade		
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science				5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade		
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary				5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade		
2.2 Tertiary education				5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP		
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross				5.3.5 Research talent, % in businesses		
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %				Knowledge and technology outputs		
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %				6.1 Knowledge creation		
2.3 Research and development (R&D)				6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP		
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.				6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP\$ GDP		
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP				6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP		
2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD				6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP\$ GDP		
2.3.4 QS university ranking, top 3*				6.1.5 Citable documents H-index		
Infrastructure				6.2 Knowledge impact		
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)				6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %		
3.1.1 ICT access*				6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP		
3.1.2 ICT use*				6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP		
3.1.3 Government's online service*				6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing		
3.2 General infrastructure				6.3 Knowledge diffusion		
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.				6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade		
3.2.2 Logistics performance*				6.3.2 Production and export complexity		
3.2.3 Gross capital formation, % GDP				6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade		
3.3 Ecological sustainability				6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade		
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use				6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP\$ GDP		
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %				Creative outputs		
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP\$ GDP				7.1 Intangible assets		
Market sophistication				7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %		
4.1 Credit				7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP		
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†				7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP		
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP				7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP		
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP				7.2 Creative goods and services		
4.2 Investment				7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade		
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP				7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69		
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP\$ GDP				7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69		
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC				7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade		
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP\$ GDP				7.3 Online creativity		
4.2.5 VC investor co-participation/bn PPP\$ GDP				7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69		
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale				7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69		
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %				7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP\$ GDP		
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification						
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP\$						

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 Zimbabwe.



Zimbabwe has missing data for eighteen indicators and outdated data for fifteen indicators.

Missing data for Zimbabwe

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
2.1.5	Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	n/a	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.3.1	Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	n/a	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
2.3.2	Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	n/a	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
3.2.3	Gross capital formation, % GDP	n/a	2024	International Monetary Fund
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
4.2.3	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
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
7.2.1	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

Global Innovation Index 2025



Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
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 Zimbabwe

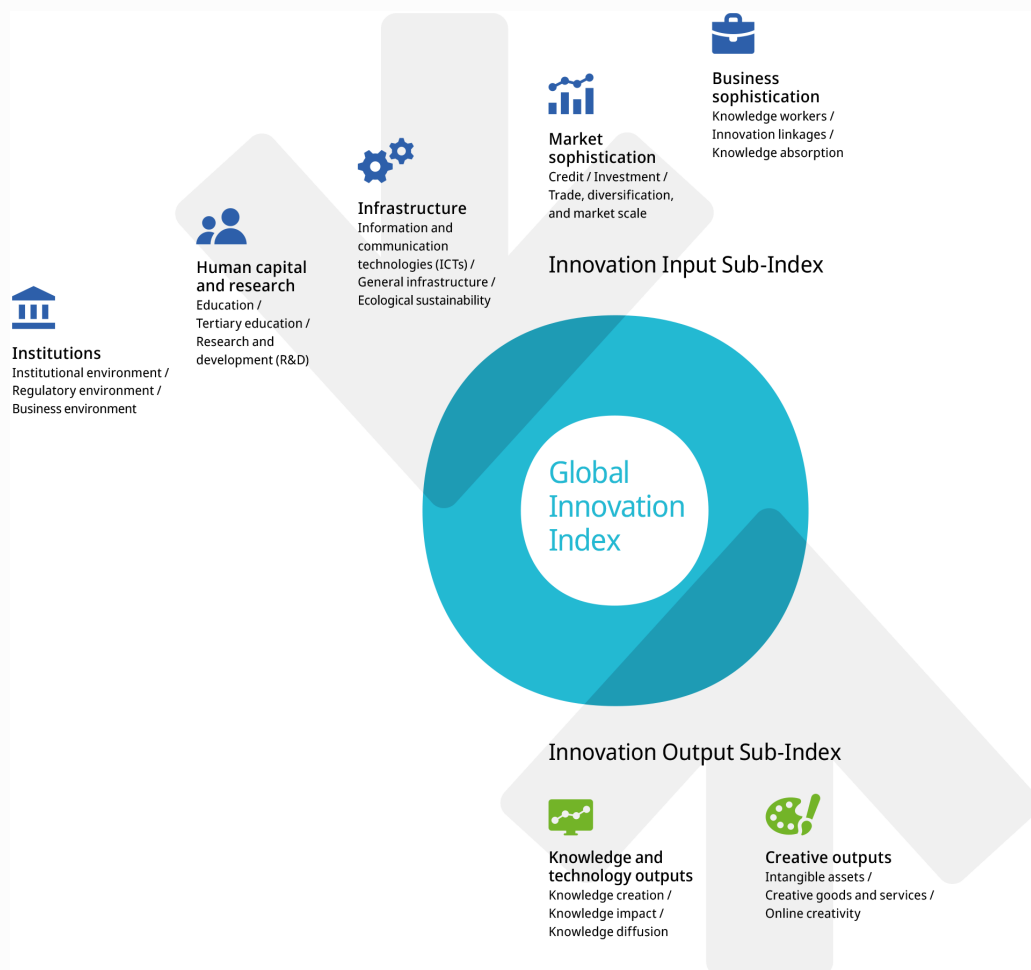
Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
2.2.1	Tertiary enrolment, % gross	2020	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %	2015	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD
2.2.3	Tertiary inbound mobility, %	2015	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	2022	2023	International Energy Agency
4.2.2	Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP\$ GDP	2023	2024	PitchBook Data, Inc.; International Monetary Fund
4.3.2	Domestic industry diversification	2018	2022	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %	2023	2024	International Labour Organization
5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	2023	2024	International Labour Organization
5.3.1	Intellectual property payments, % total trade	2020	2023	World Trade Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
5.3.3	ICT services imports, % total trade	2020	2023	World Trade Organization and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
6.2.4	High-tech manufacturing	2018	2022	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
6.3.1	Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	2016	2023	World Trade Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
6.3.4	ICT services exports, % total trade	2020	2023	World Trade Organization and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
7.1.1	Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	2022	2024	Brand Finance
7.2.4	Creative goods exports, % total trade	2022	2023	United Nations Comtrade Database; World Trade Organization and 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.