Global Innovation Index 2025

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.

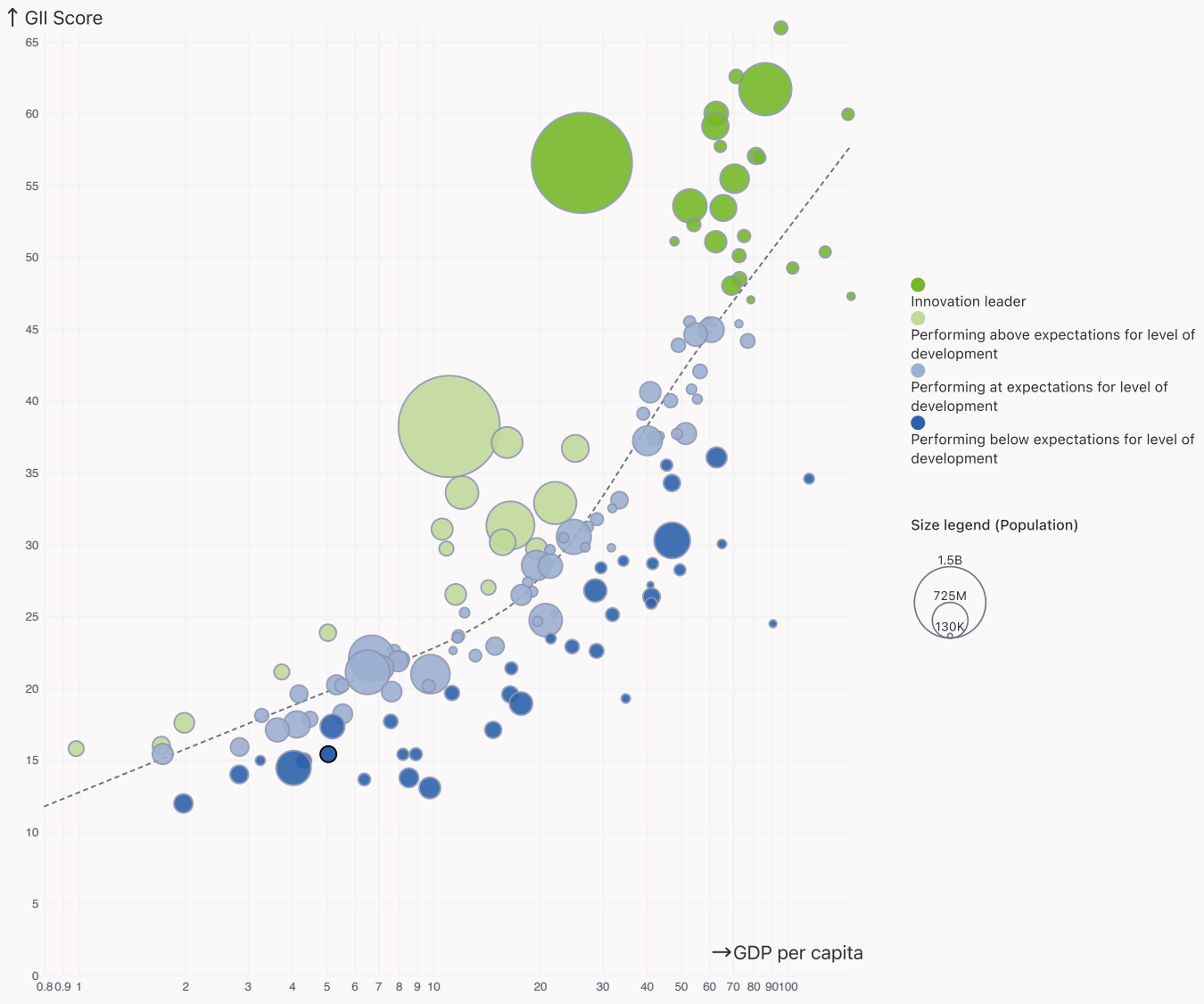
Global Innovation Index 2025

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.

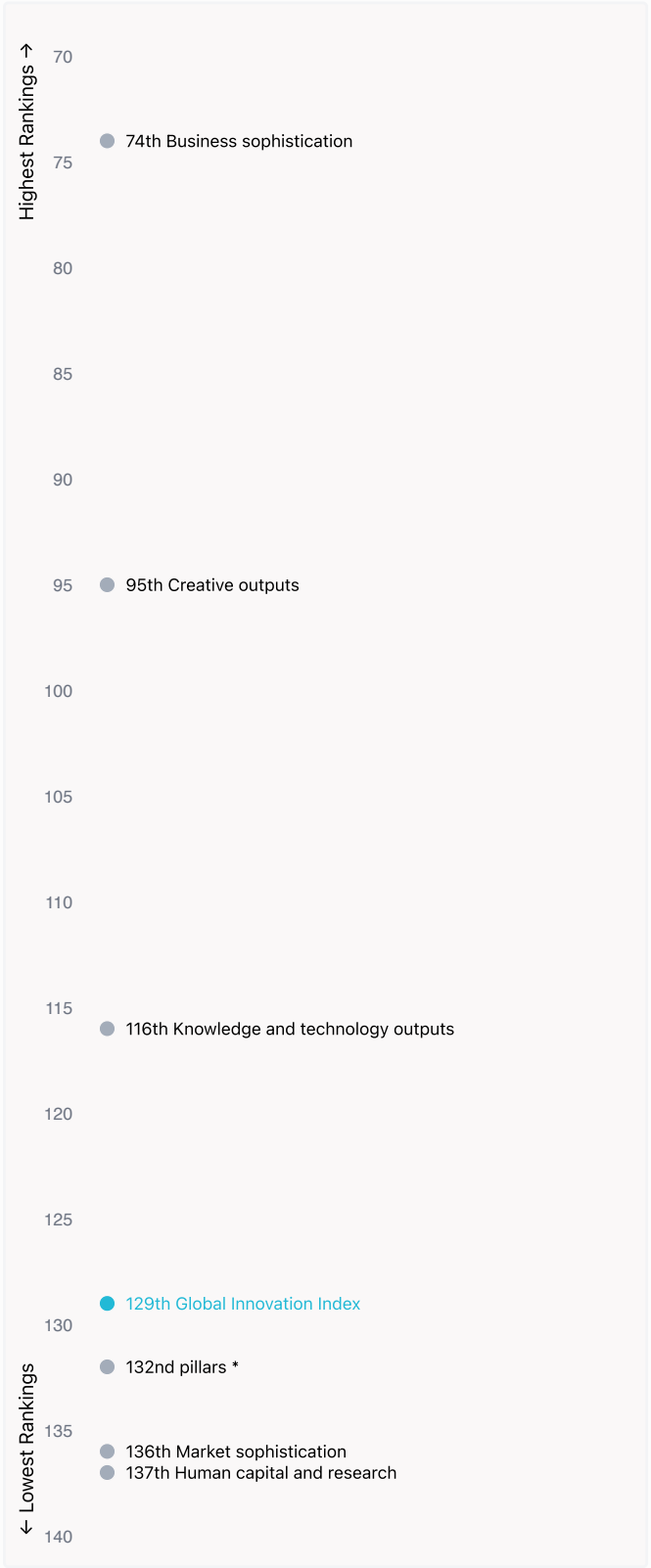
Zimbabwe produces more innovation outputs relative to its level of innovation investments.

> 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

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: 20.9
- 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

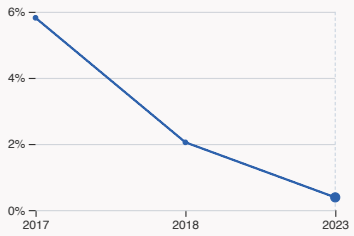
Rank	Code	Indicator name
138	4.3.1	Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %
136	1.1.1	Operational stability for businesses*
135	2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP
135	1.2.1	Regulatory quality*
135	1.2.2	Rule of law*
134	4.1.2	Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP
100	5.2.5	Patent families/bn PPP$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

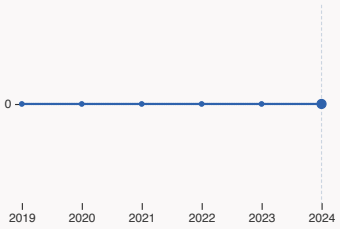
As far as practicable, the plots below present unscaled indicator data.

Innovation inputs in Zimbabwe



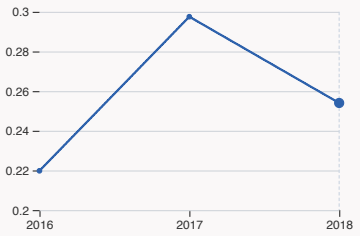
2.1.1 **Expenditure on education**

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.



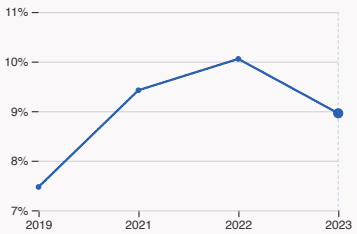
2.3.4 **QS university ranking**

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



4.3.2 **Domestic industry diversification**

was equal to an index score of 0.254 in 2018, down by 14.62% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 97.

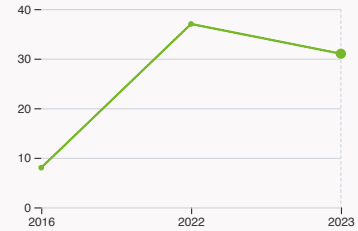


5.1.1 **Knowledge-intensive employment**

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

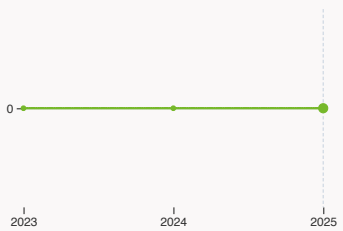
Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation outputs in Zimbabwe



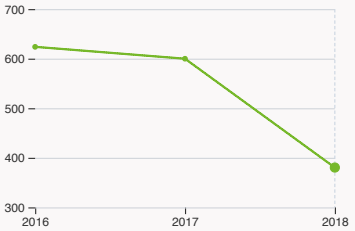
6.1.1 Patents by origin

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



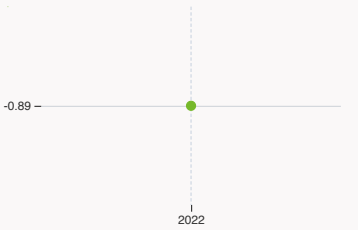
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

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.

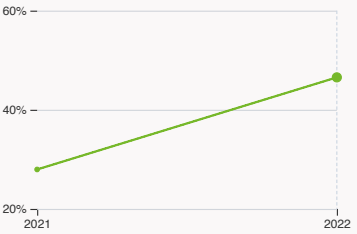


6.3.2 Production and export complexity

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

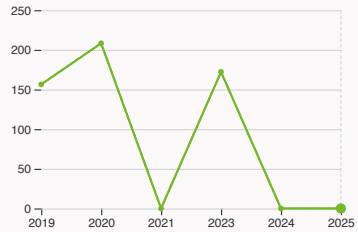
6.3.3 High-tech exports

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.



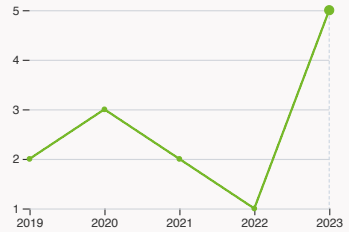
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15

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.



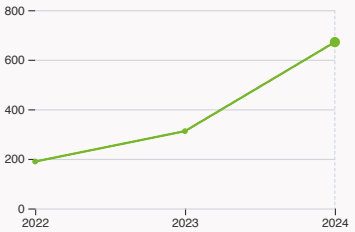
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

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.

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.

Zimbabwe

GII 2025 rank **129**

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	
Institutions	**18.8**	**132**	◇
1.1 Institutional environment	**14.5**	**136**	◇
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	14.7	136	○ ◇
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	14.3	134	◇
1.2 Regulatory environment	**18.5**	**135**	◇
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	15.9	135	○ ◇
1.2.2 Rule of law*	21.2	135	○ ◇
1.3 Business environment	**23.4**	**[116]**	
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	23.4	119	
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	n/a	n/a	
Human capital and research	**8.1**	**[137]**	
2.1 Education	**0.4**	**[139]**	
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	0.4	135	○ ◇
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	n/a	n/a	
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years	n/a	n/a	
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	n/a	
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	n/a	n/a	
2.2 Tertiary education	**23.8**	**86**	
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	10.7	116	
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %	30.2	21	
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %	0.5	101	
2.3 Research and development (R&D)	**0**	**[124]**	
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	n/a	n/a	
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
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	**21.6**	**132**	◇
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**40.1**	**121**	
3.1.1 ICT access*	44.7	122	◇
3.1.2 ICT use*	46.5	114	
3.1.3 Government's online service*	29	120	
3.2 General infrastructure	**10.1**	**131**	◇
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	533.7	113	
3.2.2 Logistics performance*	18.2	90	
3.2.3 Gross capital formation, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**14.7**	**97**	
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	6.1	108	◇
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	21.8	61	●
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	0.9	71	●
Market sophistication	**13.1**	**136**	◇
4.1 Credit	**3.2**	**132**	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	n/a	n/a	
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	8.3	134	○
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	0.6	44	
4.2 Investment	**1.6**	**[105]**	
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.03	105	
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	**34.4**	**128**	◇
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	47.5	138	○ ◇
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	61.3	97	
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	86.2	97	

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**27.4**	**74**	
5.1 Knowledge workers	**43.4**	**[42]**	
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	9	103	
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	9.5	77	◆
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %	61.6	12	● ◆
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	**18.3**	**94**	
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %	1.6	61	● ◆
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†	31.2	78	●
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*	13.2	86	
5.2.4 State of cluster development†	31	106	
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	0	100	○ ◇
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**20.4**	**106**	
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	0.05	120	
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	8	70	●
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	1.3	75	●
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	1.2	109	
5.3.5 Research talent, % in businesses	n/a	n/a	
Knowledge and technology outputs	**10.7**	**116**	
6.1 Knowledge creation	**6.1**	**107**	
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.4	81	
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.001	107	
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.1	53	
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	6.7	93	
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	7.1	90	
6.2 Knowledge impact	**16.8**	**112**	
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	1	66	●
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	0	53	○ ◇
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.09	92	
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing, %	8.3	92	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**9.2**	**112**	
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	0.04	83	
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	29	112	
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	0.1	121	
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	0.9	92	
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	2.5	78	●
Creative outputs	**15.2**	**95**	
7.1 Intangible assets	**21.2**	**76**	
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	46.5	52	
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	13.5	108	
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	0	81	○ ◇
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.3	96	
7.2 Creative goods and services	**2.1**	**[112]**	
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	n/a	n/a	
7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	0.5	79	
7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	n/a	n/a	
7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade	0.1	91	
7.3 Online creativity	**16.4**	**111**	
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	1	101	
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	1	117	
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	47.1	109	

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 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

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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

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

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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

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

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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.