Global Innovation Index 2026



Innovation performance of Africa in the GII 2026

The GII 2026 covers 35 economies in Africa: Angola, Burundi, Benin, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cabo Verde, Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Mauritania, Mauritius, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Chad, Togo, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Total population
1398.5M

Total GDP (PPP, intl. dollars)
1,149,893.2bn

GII 2026– Science and Technology Investment in Africa compared to the World

	Scientific publications	R&D investments *	Venture capital	PCT Patents
Africa (short term)	▲ 8.1% 2024-2025	▲ 4.2% 2024-2025	▼ -8.7% 2024-2025	▲ 17.7% 2024-2025
World benchmark (short term)	▲ 6.9% 2024-2025	▲ 3.3% 2024-2025	▲ 1.8% 2024-2025	▲ 0.7% 2024-2025

* R&D expenditures for 2025 are WIPO estimates for all economies, based on the latest available R&D intensity data and estimations of GDP growth at constant prices from the International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, April 2026.

	Scientific publications	R&D investments	Venture capital	PCT Patents
Africa (long term)	▲ 9.3% 2016-2025	▲ 7.1% 2016-2025	▼ -4.3% 2020-2025	▲ 1.2% 2016-2025
World benchmark (long term)	▲ 5.3% 2016-2025	▲ 4.9% 2016-2025	▲ 0.7% 2020-2025	▲ 1.9% 2016-2025

Note: Long-term annual growth refers to the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) over the indicated period. Historic data may have been updated and might differ from last year's Global Innovation Tracker. Figures are rounded. Estimates or incomplete data are indicated by an asterisk (*). n.a. indicates not available.

Global Innovation Index 2026



GII 2026 Rankings of economies in Africa

Economy	Economy Regional rank	GII rank	Innovation Input rank	Innovation Output rank
Mauritius	1	50	52	54
Morocco	2	54	76	46
South Africa	3	63	70	63
Tunisia	4	71	92	56
Botswana	5	82	64	95
Egypt	6	83	95	75
Senegal	7	90	82	99
Rwanda	8	96	80	114
Kenya	9	97	111	86
Ghana	10	101	103	91
Namibia	11	102	75	129
Cabo Verde	12	103	97	104
Côte d'Ivoire	13	110	108	107
Algeria	14	111	99	122
Madagascar	15	113	130	84
Zambia	16	115	110	120
Benin	17	117	109	128
Nigeria	18	118	128	96
United Republic of Tanzania	19	119	116	119
Cameroon	20	121	112	126
Togo	21	122	123	112
Uganda	22	123	125	111
Malawi	23	126	124	123
Lesotho	24	128	118	137
Mozambique	25	129	133	118
Burkina Faso	26	130	129	125
Mauritania	27	131	122	135
Zimbabwe	28	132	136	108
Ethiopia	29	133	134	115
Mali	30	134	127	133
Burundi	31	135	131	131
Angola	32	136	135	136

Global Innovation Index 2026



Economy	Economy Regional rank	GII rank	Innovation Input rank	Innovation Output rank
Democratic Republic of the Congo	33	137	137	134
Niger	34	138	138	132
Chad	35	139	139	139

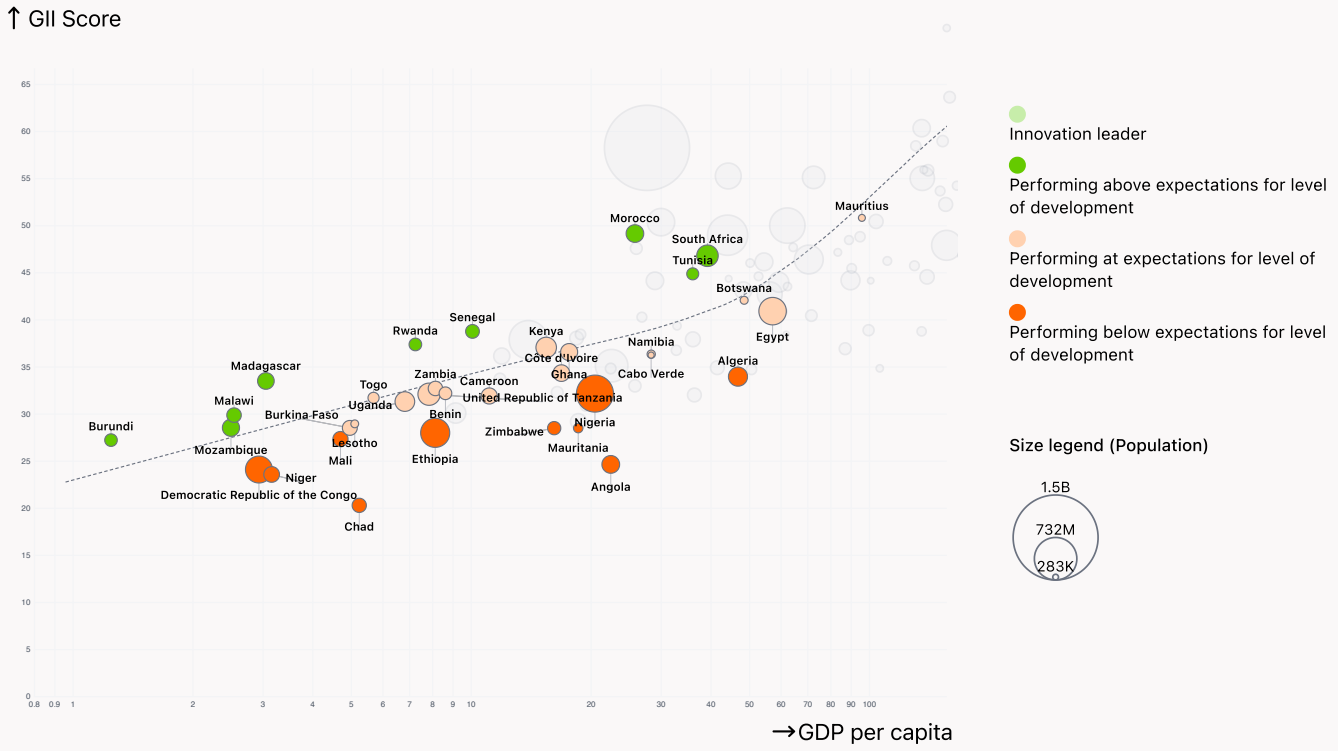
Global Innovation Index 2026



Expected vs. Observed Innovation Performance in Africa

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.

> Innovation overperformers relative to their economic development



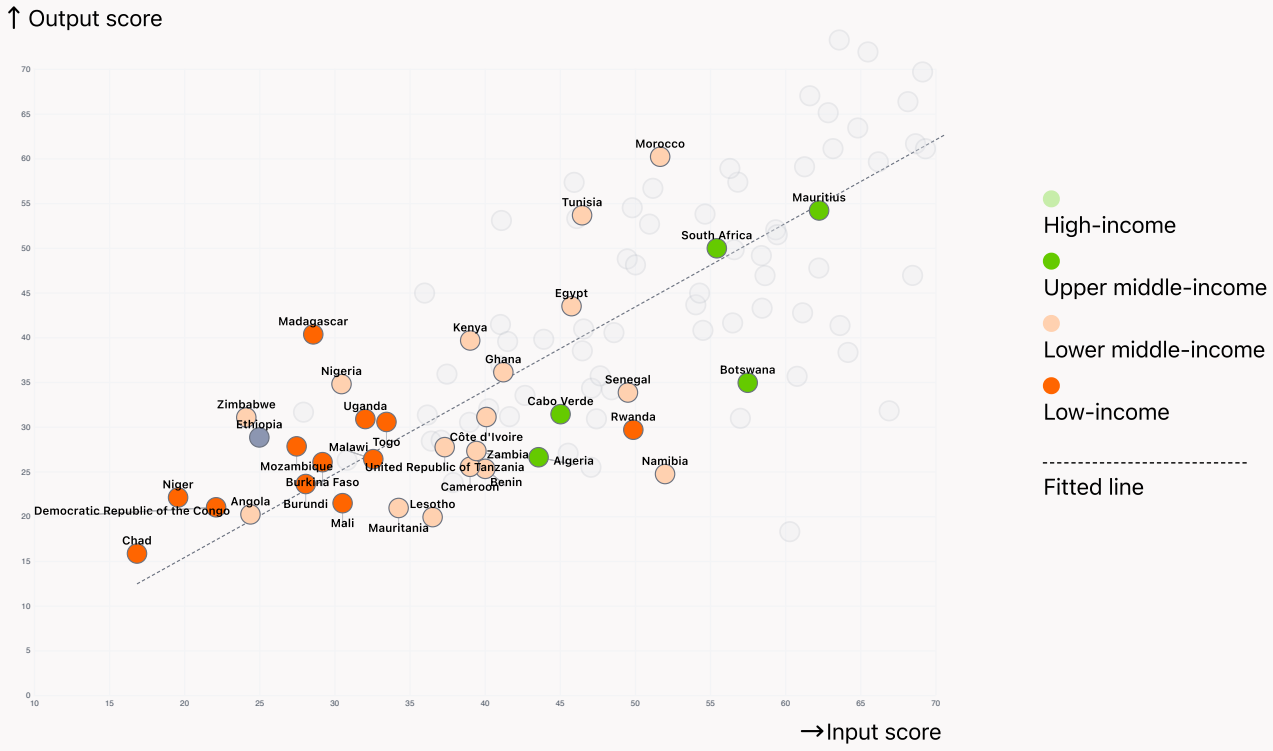
Global Innovation Index 2026



Effectively translating innovation investments into innovation outputs in Africa

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.

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs



Global Innovation Index 2026



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

Institutions

Top 10 | Score: 78.28

Top 50 | Score: 67.38

Top 70 | Score: 62.40

Africa | Score: 39.57

Human capital and research

Top 10 | Score: 60.87

Top 50 | Score: 49.21

Top 70 | Score: 44.52

Africa | Score: 21.05

Infrastructure

Top 10 | Score: 63.75

Top 50 | Score: 58.48

Top 70 | Score: 55.32

Africa | Score: 28.75

Market sophistication

Top 10 | Score: 63.92

Top 50 | Score: 51.42

Top 70 | Score: 46.93

Africa | Score: 23.42

Business sophistication

Top 10 | Score: 60.02

Top 50 | Score: 45.24

Top 70 | Score: 40.16

Africa | Score: 22.44

Knowledge and technology outputs

Top 10 | Score: 55.83

Top 50 | Score: 38.20

Top 70 | Score: 34.05

Africa | Score: 12.97

Creative outputs

Top 10 | Score: 55.45

Top 50 | Score: 42.77

Top 70 | Score: 37.78

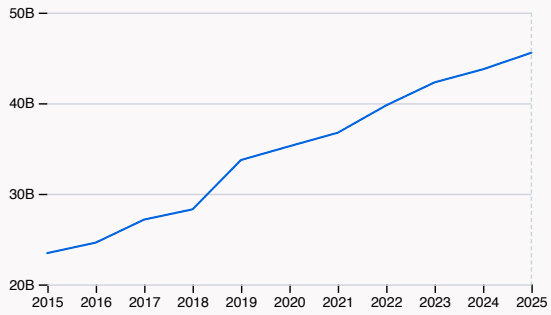
Africa | Score: 13.39



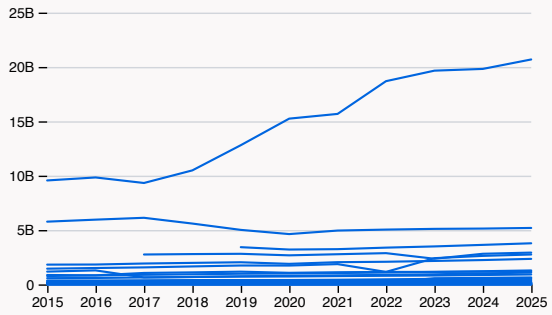
Selected Innovation Trends in Africa

Innovation inputs

Regional value



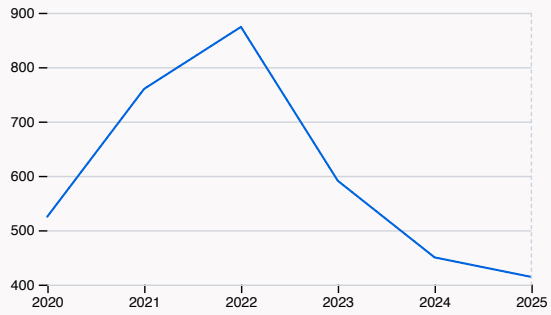
Economy values



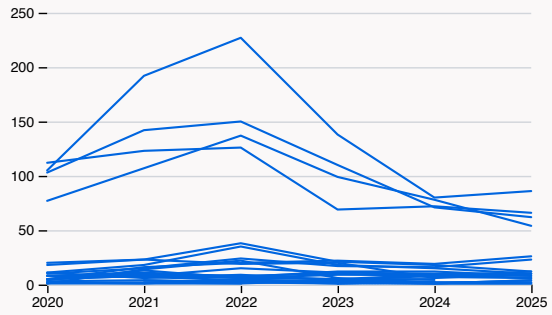
2.3.2 Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD)

Africa's Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) changed at an annual rate of 7% (CAGR) between 2015 and 2025, rising from 23.45B USD to 45.57B USD. In 2025, GERD was up by 4.2 percentage points compared to the year prior.

Regional value



Economy values



4.2.2 Venture Capital (VC) Received

Africa's Venture Capital (VC) Received grew at an annual rate of -5% (CAGR) between 2020 and 2025, falling from 525 deals to 414 deals. In 2025, VC deals were down by -8.0 percentage points compared to the year prior.

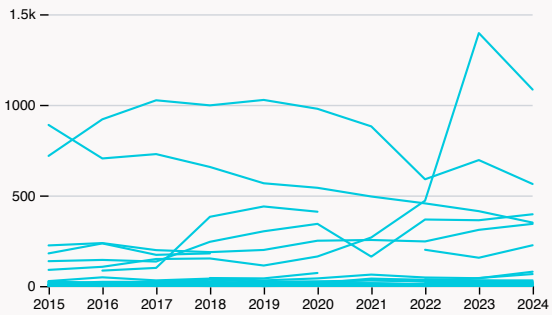


Innovation outputs

Regional value



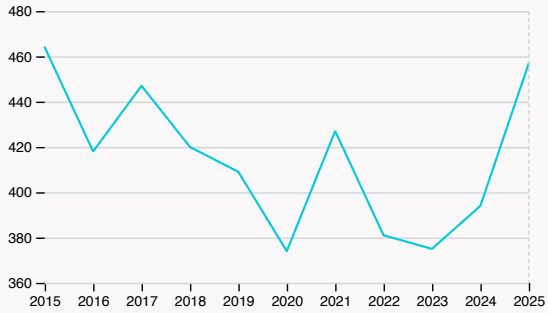
Economy values



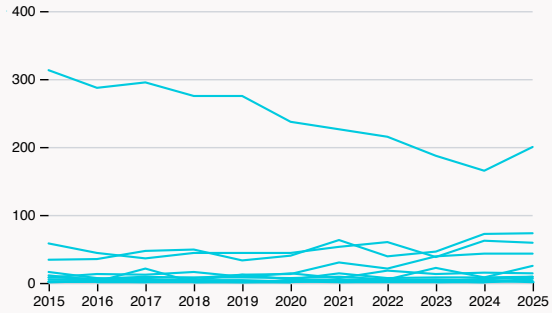
6.1.1 Patents by origin

The number of Patents by origin in Africa grew at an annual rate of 3% (CAGR) between 2015 and 2024, rising from 2k patents to 3k patents. In 2024, Patents by origin were down by -9.7 percentage points compared to the year prior.

Regional value



Economy values

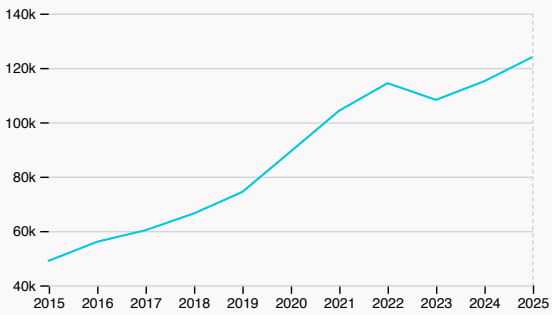


6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin

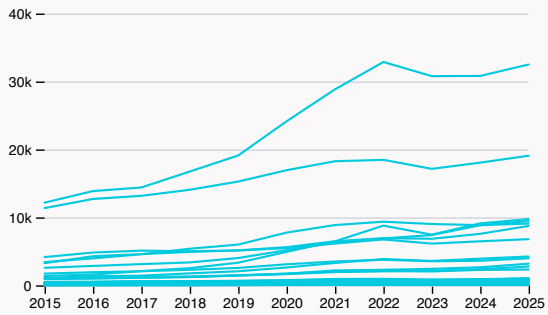
The number of PCT patents by inventor origin in Africa grew at an annual rate of -0% (CAGR) between 2015 and 2025, falling from 464 PCT patents to 457 PCT patents. In 2025, PCT patents by inventor origin were up by 16.0 percentage points compared to the year prior.



Regional value



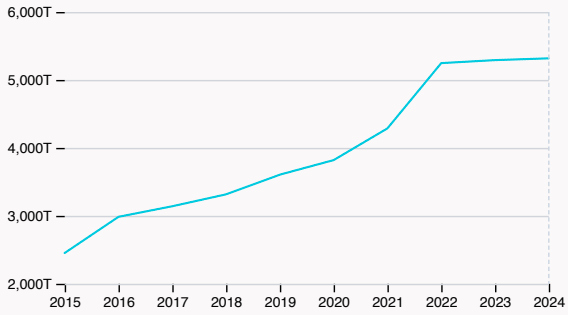
Economy values



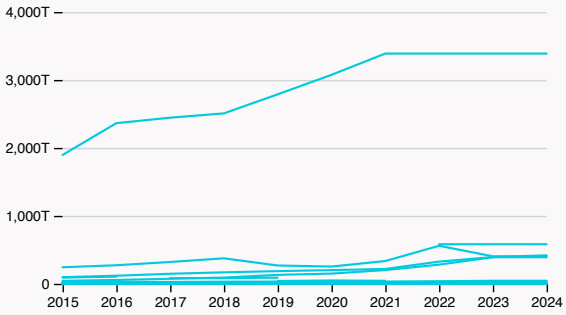
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles

The number of Scientific and technical articles in Africa grew at an annual rate of 10% (CAGR) between 2015 and 2025, rising from 49k articles to 124k articles. In 2025, Scientific and technical articles were up by 7.8 percentage points compared to the year prior.

Regional value



Economy values

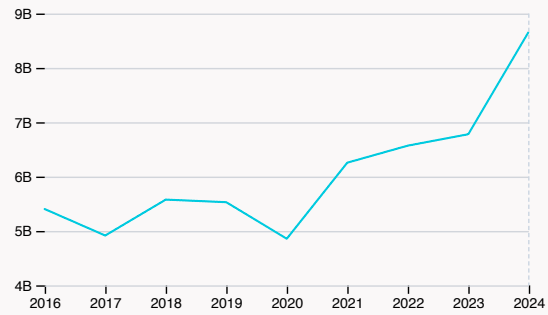


6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing

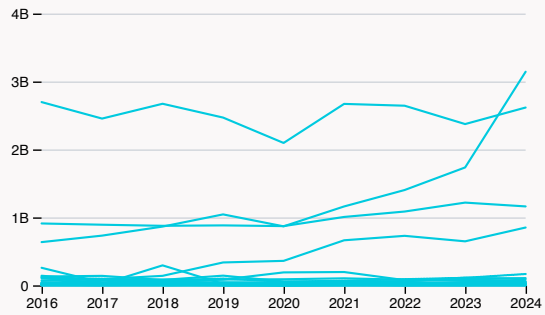
The value of High-tech manufacturing in Africa grew at an annual rate of 9% (CAGR) between 2015 and 2024, rising from USD 2,454T to USD 5,318T. In 2024, High-tech manufacturing was up by 0.5 percentage points compared to the year prior.



Regional value



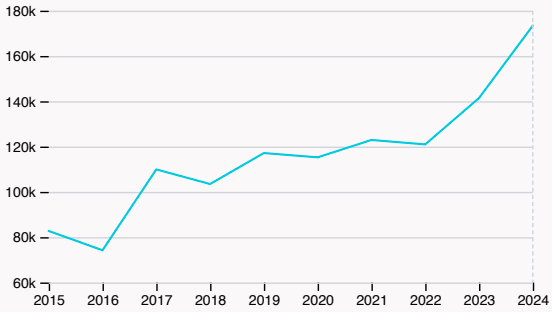
Economy values



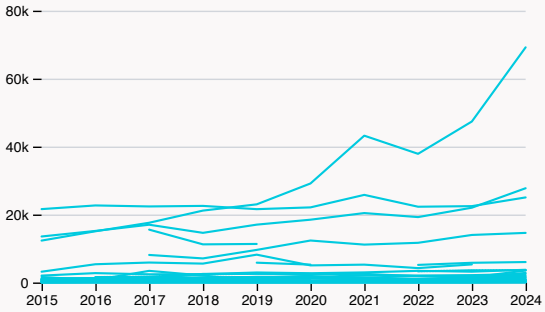
6.3.3 High-tech exports

The value of High-tech exports in Africa grew at an annual rate of 6% (CAGR) between 2016 and 2024, rising from USD 5 billion to USD 9 billion. In 2024, High-tech exports were up by 27.8 percentage points compared to the year prior.

Regional value



Economy values

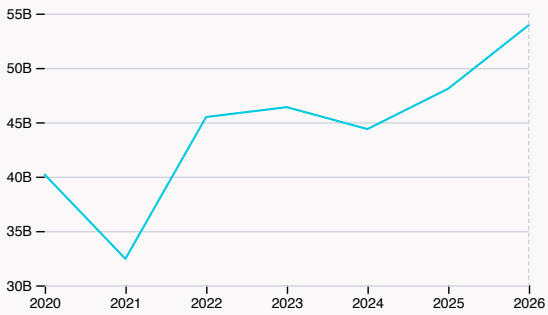


7.1.2 Trademarks by origin

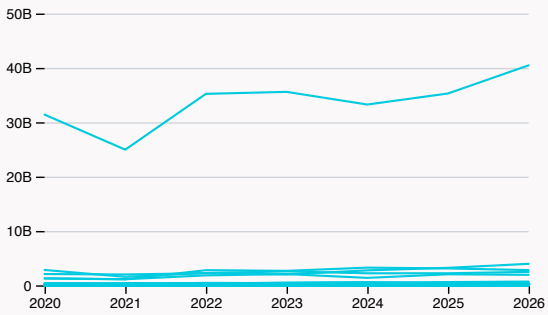
The number of Trademarks by origin in Africa grew at an annual rate of 9% (CAGR) between 2015 and 2024, rising from 83k trademarks to 173k trademarks. In 2024, Trademarks by origin was up by 22.6 percentage points compared to the year prior.



Regional value



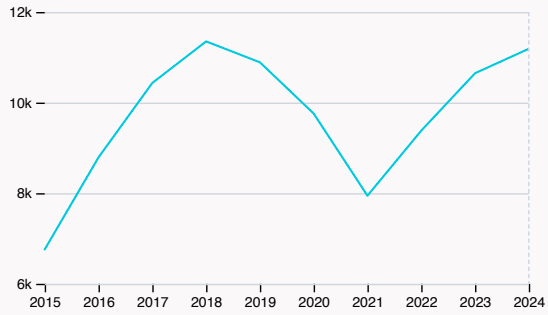
Economy values



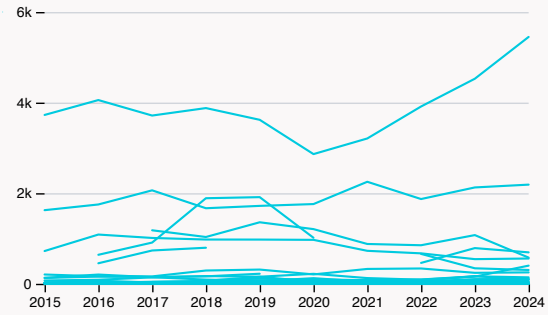
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

The value of the global brands from Africa in the top 5000 grew at an annual rate of 5% (CAGR) between 2020 and 2026, rising from USD 40.183 billion to USD 53.937 billion. In 2026, the value of the global brands from Africa in the top 5000 was up by 12.2 percentage points compared to the year prior.

Regional value



Economy values



7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin

The number of Industrial designs by origin in Africa grew at an annual rate of 6% (CAGR) between 2015 and 2024, rising from 7k industrial designs to 11k industrial designs. In 2024, Industrial designs by origin was up by 5.1 percentage points compared to the year prior.

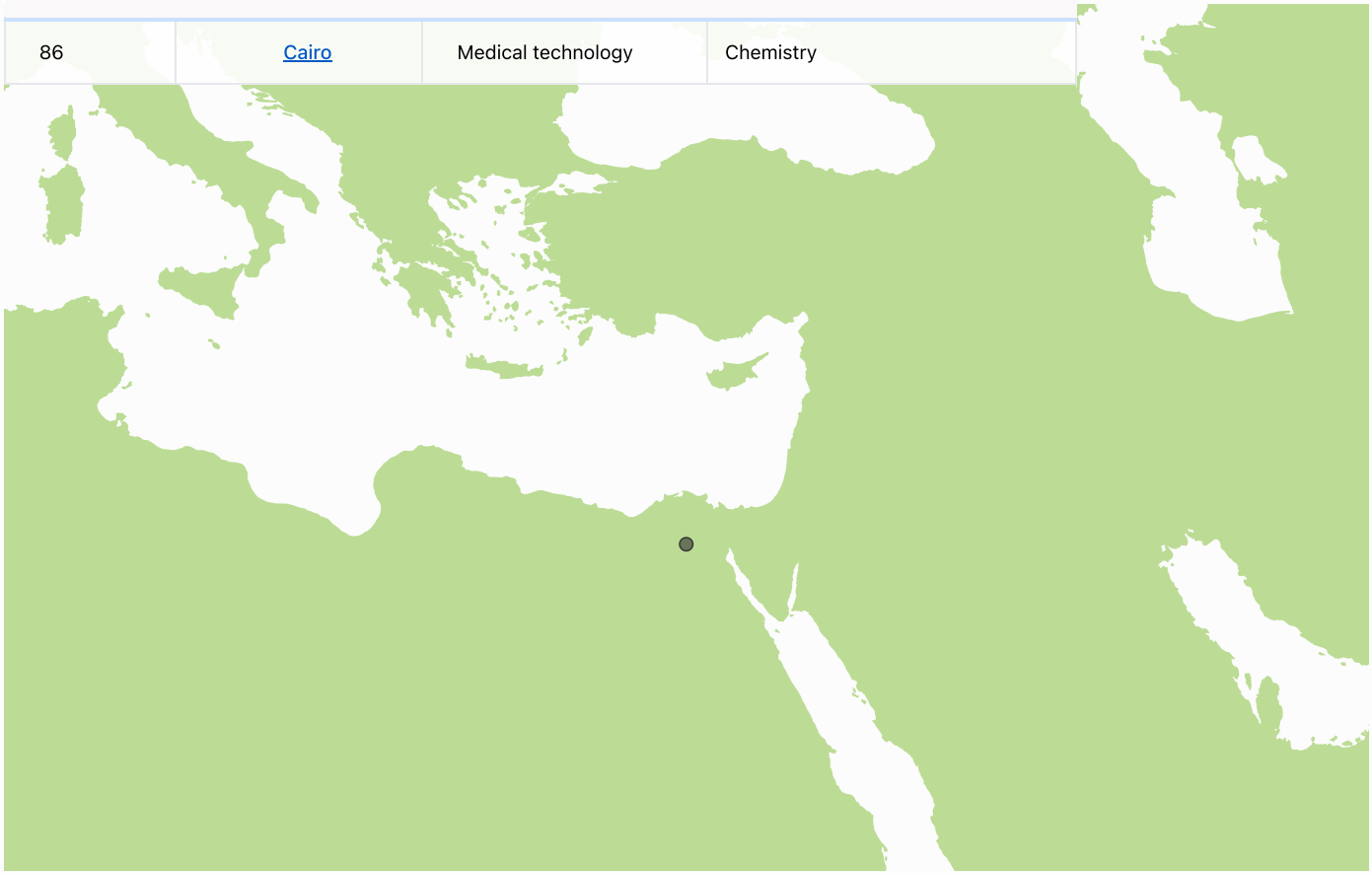


Top innovation clusters in Africa

Africa has 1 cluster in the world's top innovation clusters of the Global Innovation Index

The table and map below give an overview of the top innovation clusters in Africa.

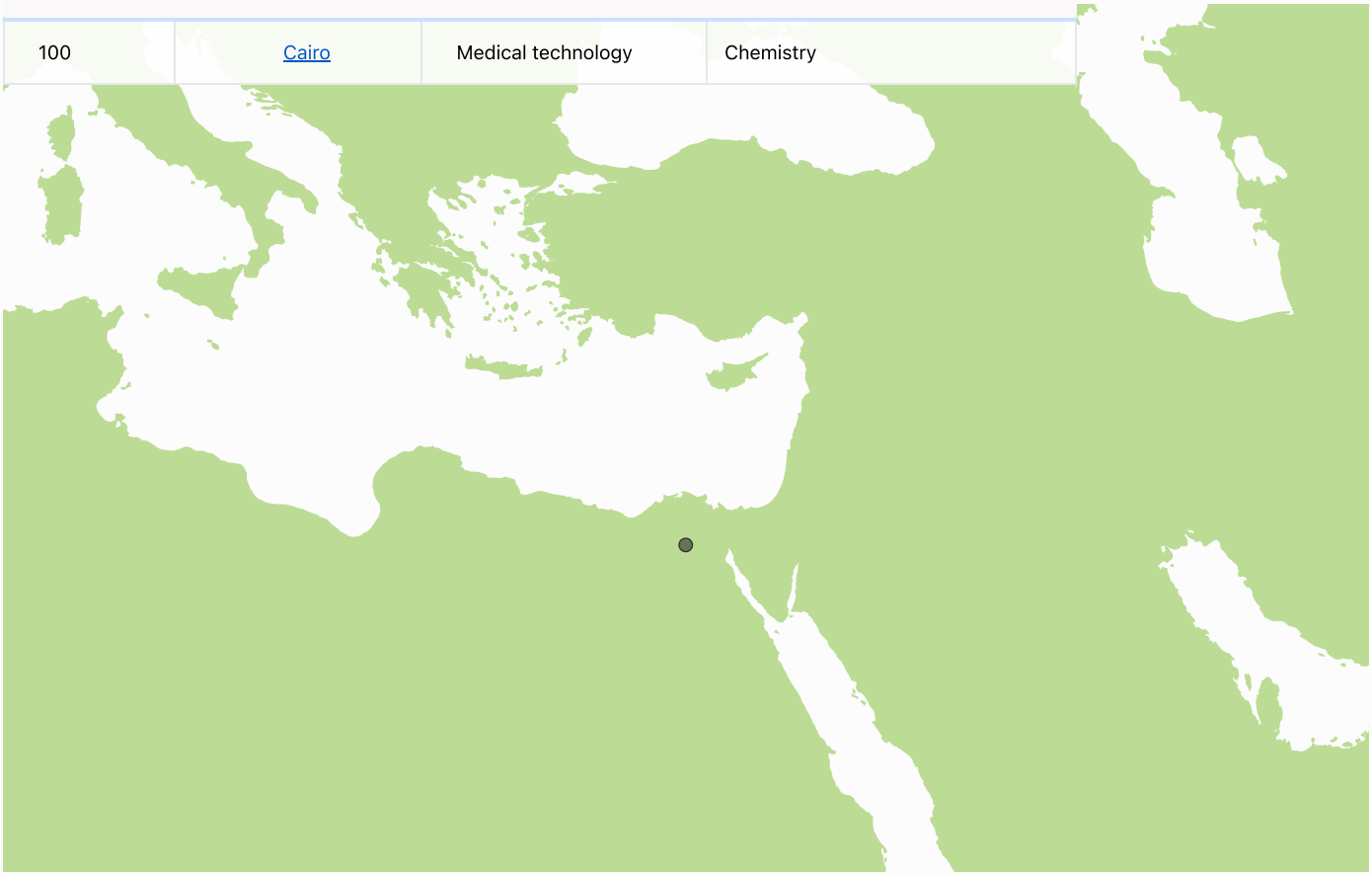
Rank	Cluster name	Top patent field	Top academic subject
86	Cairo	Medical technology	Chemistry





The table and map below give an overview by intensity of the top innovation clusters in Africa.

Rank	Cluster name	Top patent field	Top academic subject
100	Cairo	Medical technology	Chemistry





Africa's Innovation Top Performers

Disclaimer: This section contains only the top performers by region or group. For the complete list, please visit the GII Innovation Ecosystems and Data Explorer website.

2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors in Africa

Currently, there is no data available for the selected section for this region.

2.3.4 QS university ranking of Africa's top universities

World Rank	University	Country	Score
150	UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN	South Africa	62.3
291	UNIVERSITY OF WITWATERSRAND	South Africa	46.4
302	STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY	South Africa	45.2

Source: QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd

Note: QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd annually assesses over 1,200 universities across the globe and scores them between [0,100]. Ranks can represent a single value 'x', a tie 'x=' or a range 'x-y'.

5.2.3 University industry and international engagement in Africa

Country Rank	University	Country	Score
1	UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND	South Africa	82.95
2	UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG	South Africa	81.55
3	UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN	South Africa	81.35

Source: Times Higher Education (THE), World University Rankings 2026 (https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2026/world-ranking).

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 2026 ranking corresponds to data from the academic year that ended in 2023.

6.2.2 Top Unicorn Companies in Africa

World Rank	Region Rank	Unicorn Company	Industry	Country	Location	Valuation, bn USD
454	1	Flutterwave	Financial Services	Nigeria		3.00
520	2	Opay	Financial Services	Nigeria	Lagos	2.75
698	3	Chipper Cash	Financial Services	Ghana		2.00

Source: CBInsights, Tracker , The Complete List of Unicorn Companies and Africa: The Big Deal



7.1.1 Top 15 intangible-asset intensive companies in Africa

Country Rank	Firm	Country	Intensity, %
10	FILTISAC SA	Côte d'Ivoire	99.83
2	SOCIETE D'EXPLOITATION DES PORTS	Morocco	96.76
4	TRAVAUX GENERAUX DE CONSTRUCTION DE CASABLANCA S.A	Morocco	95.45

Source: Brand Finance Global Intangible Finance Tracker

Note: Brand Finance only provides within economy ranks.

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

Country Rank	Brand	Country	Industry	Brand Value, mn USD
1	MTN	South Africa	Telecoms	2,928.71
2	Vodacom	South Africa	Telecoms	2,753.70
3	Standard Bank	South Africa	Banking	2,588.90

Source: Brand Finance

Note: Rank corresponds to within economy ranks.

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GII 2026 SPECIAL THEME

Deep science entrepreneurship in Africa

The GII 2026 special theme examines deep science entrepreneurship — startups and spinouts built on scientific and engineering breakthroughs in fields such as advanced materials, energy, genomics, quantum technologies and synthetic biology, which take far longer and far more capital to reach the market than digital ventures do. Drawing on the Dealroom–WIPO Deep Science Startup Tracker, the tables below identify this region's most valuable venture capital-backed deep science firms and, separately, those that originated in university or public research.

Top deep science startups in Africa

Rank	Company	Country	Industry	City	Founded	VC funding raised, mn USD	Valuation, bn USD
1	Terra Industries	Nigeria	Robotics and autonomous systems	Municipal Area Council	2023	34.5	0.10
2	Sanergy	Kenya	Life Sciences	Nairobi	2010	32.9	0.09
3	Aerobotics	South Africa	Food & Agritech	Cape Town	2014	27.2	0.07
4	Simplex	Egypt	Robotics and autonomous systems	Cairo	2013	13.0	0.05
5	InfiniLink	Egypt	Semiconductors	Cairo	2022	10.0	0.04

Source: Dealroom–WIPO Deep Science Startup Tracker (https://www.wipo.int/en/web/global-innovation-index/2026/deep-science-innovation).

Top deep science spinouts originated in Africa

Rank	Spinout	Country	Industry	Current Headquarters Location	Founded	VC funding raised, mn USD	Valuation, bn USD
1	Ever Dye	Tunisia	Life Sciences	Paris	2021	21.4	0.07
2	Si-Ware Systems	Egypt	Semiconductors	Cairo	2004	19.0	0.04
3	HearX Group	South Africa	Food & Agritech	Pretoria	2015	21.6	0.03
4	CubeSpace	South Africa	Medical Devices and Digital Health	Stellenbosch	2017	7.0	0.02
5	Immobazyme	South Africa	Robotics and autonomous systems	Stellenbosch Local Municipality	2019	2.8	0.01

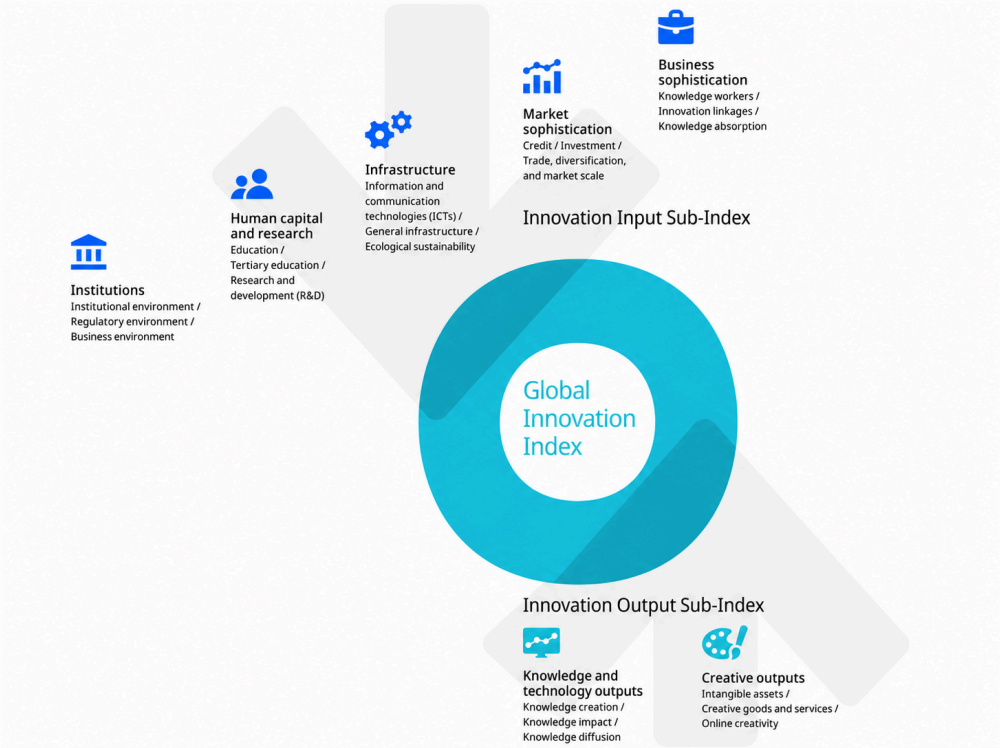
Source: Dealroom–WIPO Deep Science Startup Tracker (https://www.wipo.int/en/web/global-innovation-index/2026/deep-science-innovation).

Global Innovation Index 2026



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.