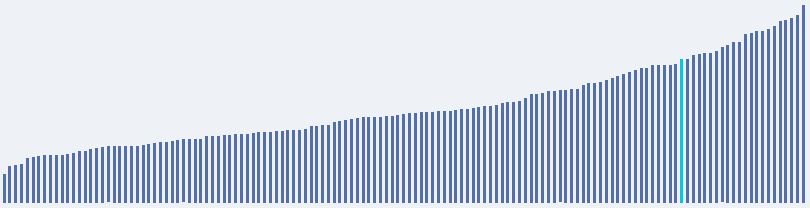
Global Innovation Index 2026



Belgium ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2026

Belgium ranks 22nd among the 139 economies featured in the GII 2026.

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.



Belgium ranks 21st among the 54 High-income group economies.

Belgium ranks 13th among the 39 economies in Europe.

Belgium GII Ranking (2020-2026)

The table shows the rankings of Belgium over the past seven 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 Belgium in the GII 2026 is between ranks 20 and 23.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	22nd	21st	25th
2021	22nd	21st	26th
2022	26th	26th	24th
2023	23rd	23rd	22nd
2024	24th	26th	22nd
2025	21st	23rd	23rd
2026	22nd	24th	23rd

Belgium performs better in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2026.

This year **Belgium ranks 24th in innovation inputs.** This position is lower than last year.

Belgium ranks 23rd in innovation outputs. This position is the same as last year.

World's Top 100 Innovation Clusters

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

Global Innovation Index 2026



> Global Innovation Tracker

The Global Innovation Tracker 2026 shows what is the current state of innovation in Belgium, how rapidly is technology being embraced and what are the resulting societal impacts.

For Belgium, 7 indicators have improved in the short-term and 4 indicators have worsened.

Science and innovation investment

	Scientific publications	R&D investments	Venture capital deal numbers	International patent filings
Short term	▲ 0.2 % 2024 - 2025	▲ 5 % 2023 - 2024	▼ -0.4 % 2024 - 2025	▼ -1.2 % 2024 - 2025
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 2.4 % 2015 - 2025	▲ 5.3 % 2014 - 2024	▼ -6.7 % 2020 - 2025	▲ 0.9 % 2015 - 2025

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	0% 2023 - 2024	▲ 1.4% 2023 - 2024	▲ 14.7% 2023 - 2024	▲ 3.2% 2023 - 2024	▲ 32.8% 2024 - 2025
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 1.2% 2014 - 2024	▲ 2.6% 2014 - 2024	n/a	▲ 5.1% 2014 - 2024	▲ 59.8% 2015 - 2025
Penetration	94.9 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	44.2 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	99.8 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	n/a	13 per 100 cars in 2025

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	▲ 0.2 % 2024 - 2025	▼ -0.1 % 2023 - 2024	+ 2.2 °C 2025
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 0.5 % 2015 - 2025	▲ 0.1 % 2014 - 2024	+ 1.4 °C 2015
Level	163,897.6 USD in 2025	82.3 years in 2024	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 2026

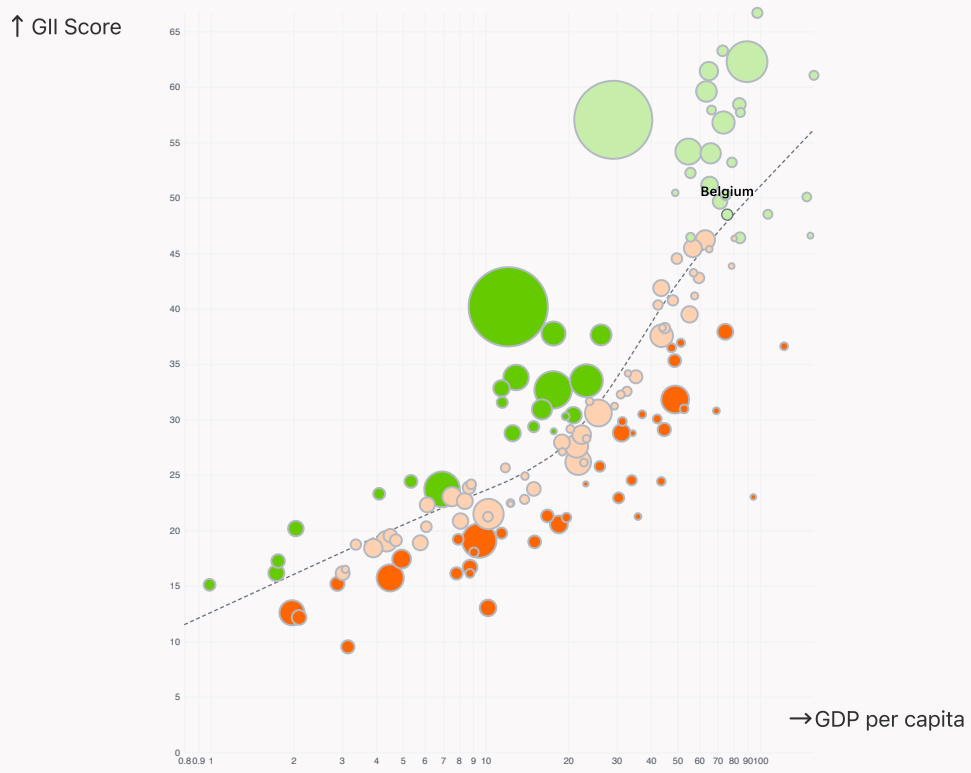


Expected vs. Observed Innovation Performance

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.

Belgium is an Innovation leader, ranking in the top 25 of the GII.

> Innovation overperformers relative to their economic development



Global Innovation Index 2026



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.

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

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

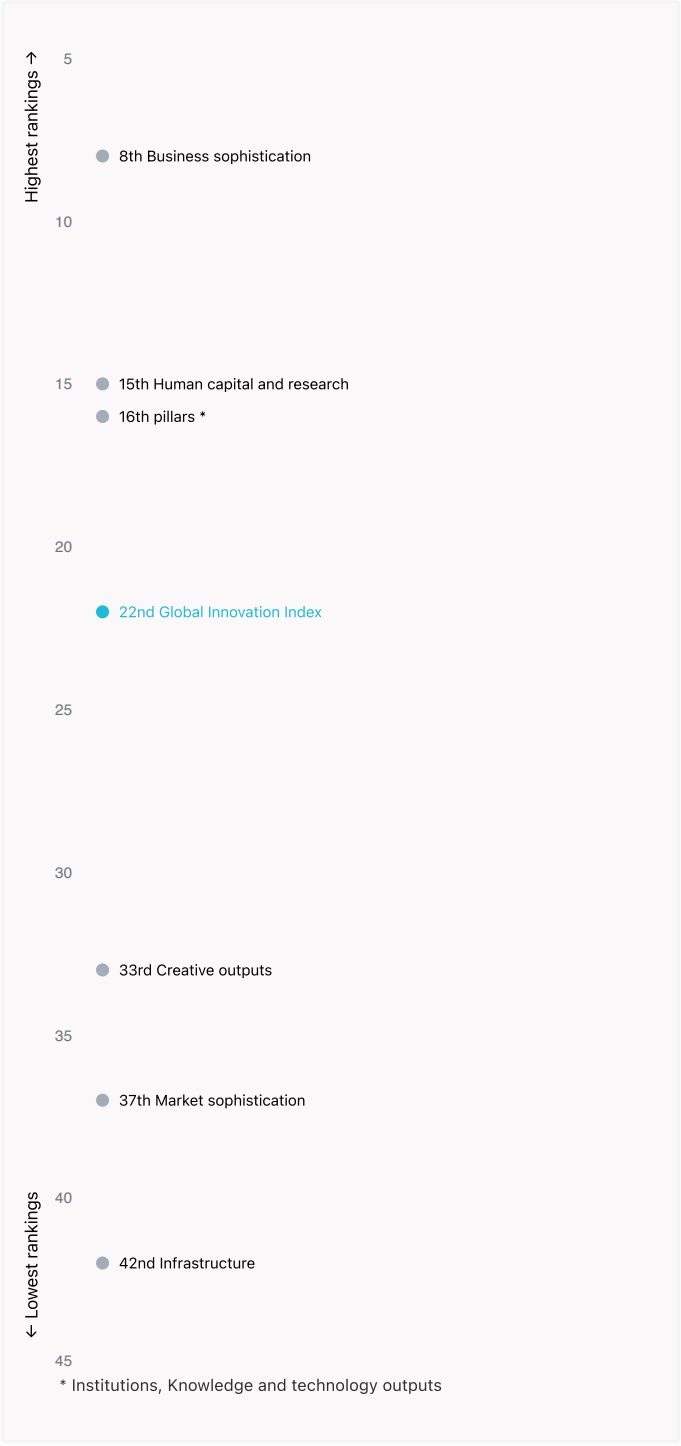


Global Innovation Index 2026



Overview of Belgium's rankings in the seven areas of the GII in 2026

The chart shows the ranking for each of the seven areas that the GII comprises. The strongest areas for Belgium are those that rank above the GII (shown in blue) and the weakest are those that rank below.



Highest Rankings

Belgium ranks highest in Business sophistication (8th), Human capital and research (15th) and Institutions, Knowledge and technology outputs (16th).

Lowest Rankings

Belgium ranks lowest in Infrastructure (42nd), Market sophistication (37th) and Creative outputs (33rd).

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

Global Innovation Index 2026



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

High-income economies

Belgium performs above the High-income group average in Institutions, Human capital and research, Business sophistication, Knowledge and technology outputs.

Europe

Belgium performs above the regional average in Institutions, Human capital and research, Business sophistication, Knowledge and technology outputs.

Institutions

- Top 10 | Score: 78.28
- Belgium | Score: 73.66
- High-income | Score: 66.62
- Europe | Score: 60.15

Human capital and research

- Top 10 | Score: 60.87
- Belgium | Score: 56.26
- High-income | Score: 47.25
- Europe | Score: 45.82

Infrastructure

- Top 10 | Score: 63.75
- High-income | Score: 57.21
- Europe | Score: 56.48
- Belgium | Score: 55.25

Market sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 63.92
- High-income | Score: 47.93
- Europe | Score: 45.67
- Belgium | Score: 44.81

Business sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 60.02
- Belgium | Score: 55.94
- High-income | Score: 42.52
- Europe | Score: 40.95

Knowledge and technology outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.83
- Belgium | Score: 41.53
- Europe | Score: 35.30
- High-income | Score: 34.48

Creative outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.45
- Europe | Score: 38.51
- High-income | Score: 38.33
- Belgium | Score: 37.93

Global Innovation Index 2026



Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Belgium

The table below gives an overview of the indicator strengths and weaknesses of Belgium in the GII 2026.

Belgium's best-ranked innovation strengths are **Aviation import dwell time** (rank 3), **School life expectancy, years** (rank 5) and **Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP** (rank 6).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
3	3.2.2	Aviation import dwell time
5	2.1.3	School life expectancy, years
6	2.3.2	Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP
6	5.1.4	GERD performed by business, % GDP
7	2.3.1	Researchers, FTE/mn pop.
7	5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %
7	5.2.2	University–industry R&D collaboration[+]
9	3.1.1	ICT access*
9	5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %
10	5.3.3	ICT services imports, % total trade

Weaknesses

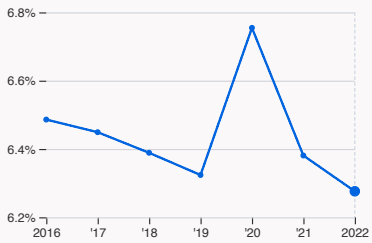
Rank	Code	Indicator name
41	7.1.1	Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %
62	6.2.1	Labor productivity growth, %
63	3.1.2	ICT use*
68	6.3.5	ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP
70	3.1.3	Government online service*
86	7.1.2	Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP
88	2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %
96	7.3.3	Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP
104	5.1.3	Youth demographic dividend, %
131	5.3.4	FDI net inflows, % GDP

Global Innovation Index 2026



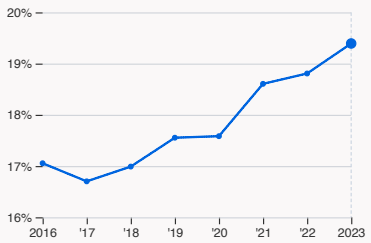
Belgium's innovation system

Innovation inputs in Belgium



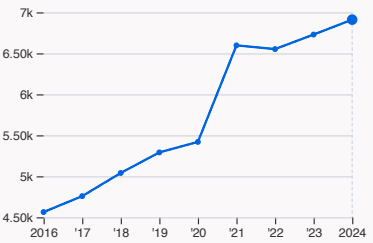
2.1.1 Expenditure on education

was equal to 6.28 % GDP in 2022, down by 0.1 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 15.



2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering

was equal to 19.39 % of total graduates in 2023, up by 0.59 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 88.



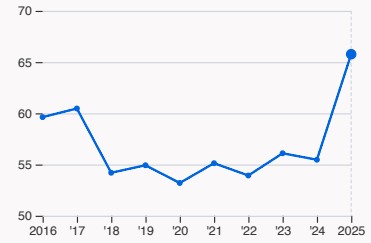
2.3.1 Researchers

was equal to 6911.17 FTE per million population in 2024, up by 2.7% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 7.



2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D

was equal to 3.36 % GDP in 2024, up by 0.13 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 6.



2.3.4 QS university ranking

was equal to an average score of 65.77 for the top three universities in 2025, up by 18.57% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 18.



4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification

was equal to an index score of 0.104 in 2023, down by 8.77% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 31.



5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment

was equal to 52.3 % in 2025, up by 2.9 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 9.

Global Innovation Index 2026

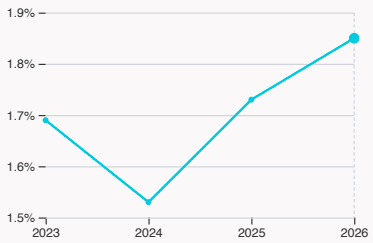


Innovation outputs in Belgium



6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 3.27 thousand patents in 2024, down by 1.21% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 18.



6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

was equal to 1.85 % GDP in 2026, up by 0.12 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 29.



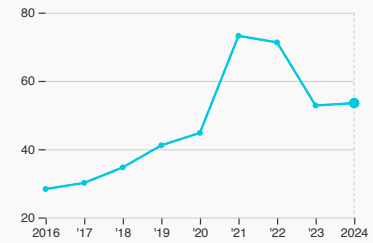
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing

was equal to 129.16 high-tech manufacturing output in billion USD in 2023, up by 3.18% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 22.



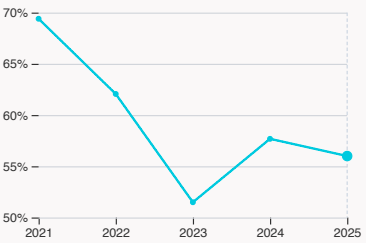
6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of 0.99 in 2024, down by 10% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 23.



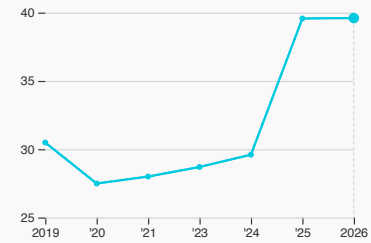
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 53.51 billion USD in 2024, up by 1.34% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 21.



7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15

was equal to 56 % for the top 15 companies in 2025, down by 1.68 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 41.



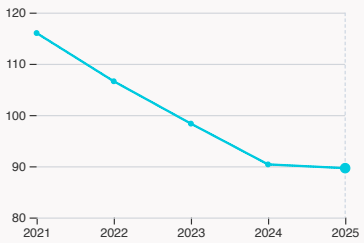
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

was equal to 39.6 billion USD for the brands in the top 5,000 in 2026, up by 0.08% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 34.



7.2.2 National feature films

was equal to 41 films in 2024, up by 28.13% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 33.



7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 89.64 million global downloads of mobile apps in 2025, down by 0.81% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 96.



Belgium's innovation top performers

Disclaimer: This section contains only the top performers per country. For the complete list, please visit the GII Innovation Ecosystems and Data Explorer website.

2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors from Belgium

Rank	Firm	Industry	R&D [mn EUR]	R&D Growth [%]	R&D Intensity [%]
150	UCB	Health industries	1,693	9.72	30.16
263	ARGENX	Health industries	896	29.61	42.51
681	KBC GROEP / KBC GROUPE	Financial	311	14.76	2.68
791	UMICORE	Industrials	258	-8.35	1.73

Source: WIPO, based on European Commission's Joint Research Centre (https://iri.jrc.ec.europa.eu/scoreboard/2025-eu-industrial-rd-investment-scoreboard) and Orbis database (https://www.moodys.com/web/en/us/capabilities/company-reference-data/orbis.html).
Note: Data is based on the 2025 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, which ranks the top 2,000 firms by R&D investment annually. For countries not represented in the Scoreboard, companies from Orbis with R&D expenditure above USD 50 million were identified and used to complement the dataset.

2.3.4 QS university ranking of Belgium's top universities

Rank	University	Score
60	KU LEUVEN	79.70
162	GHENT UNIVERSITY	60.80
191	UNIVERSITÉ CATHOLIQUE DE LOUVAIN (UCL)	56.80

Source: QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd (https://www.topuniversities.com/world-university-rankings).
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, top 5 universities

Rank	University	Score
1	KU LEUVEN	89.60
2	UNIVERSITE CATHOLIQUE DE LOUVAIN	87.75
3	UNIVERSITY OF ANTWERP	85.95

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.



5.3.5 Greenfield R&D and high-tech FDI announcements in Belgium

Rank	Company	Industry	Description
1	Google	Communications	Google, a technology company and a subsidiary of US-based Alphabet, is investing EUR 5 billion to expand its data center campus in Saint-Ghislain, Belgium by 2027. The investment will extend the company's artificial intelligence capabilities to meet growing demand for Google Cloud and create 300 full-time jobs.
2	Volvo Cars	Automotive OEM	Volvo Cars, an automobile specialist and subsidiary of China-based Zhejiang Geely, has expanded its manufacturing capacity at its plant in Ghent, Belgium. The expansion will see the company produce the EX30 and EX30 Cross Country electric vehicles at the facility. It will create 350 jobs and represents an investment of EUR 200 million. This is in addition to the investments made to expand production of other electric vehicles at the site. It serves markets in Europe.
3	Kevlinx	Communications	Netherlands-based Kevlinx, a data center developer, is constructing a new data center in Brussels, Belgium. BRU01 will have a capacity of 32 MW and be located in the north of the city. Once operational in September 2025 it will serve Netherlands, Germany, France and the United Kingdom.

Source: FT Locations, fDi Markets.

6.2.2 Top Unicorn Companies in Belgium

Rank	Unicorn Company	Industry	Location	Valuation, bn USD
1	Odoo	Enterprise Tech	Louvain-la-Neuve	5.30
2	Collibra	Enterprise Tech	Brussels	5.25
3	Deliverect	Consumer & Retail	Ghent	1.40

Source: CBInsights, Tracker - The Complete list of Unicorns Companies; Africa: The Big Deal; and PitchBook Data, Inc.
Note: The list is based on unicorns as of January 2026, covering nearly 2000 companies worldwide. For African countries, the dataset is supplemented with data from Africa: The Big Deal. PitchBook data is also used as a complementary source to enrich coverage.

7.1.1 Top 15 intangible-asset intensive companies in Belgium

Rank	Firm	Intensity, %
1	ANHEUSER-BUSCH INBEV SA/NV	96.83
2	UCB SA	95.28
3	KBC GROUP NV	37.84

Source: Brand Finance (https://brandirectory.com/reports/global-intangible-finance-tracker-gift/2025).
Note: Brand Finance only provides within economy ranks.



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

Rank	Brand	Industry	Brand Value, mn USD
1	KBC	Banking	8,974.6
2	BDO Global	Commercial Services	5,683.9
3	Proximus	Telecoms	2,894.5

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

GII 2026 SPECIAL THEME

Deep science entrepreneurship in Belgium

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 economy's most valuable venture capital-backed deep science firms and, separately, those that originated in university or public research.

Top deep science startups in Belgium

Rank	Company	Industry	City	Founded	VC funding raised, mn USD	Valuation, bn USD
1	argenx	Life Sciences	Ghent	2008	53.9	52.11
2	Ablynx	Life Sciences	Ghent	2001	83.0	4.80
3	TiGenix	Medical Devices and Digital Health	Leuven	2000	33.5	0.57

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 Belgium

Rank	Spinout	Industry	Current Headquarters Location	Founded	VC funding raised, mn USD	Valuation, bn USD
1	Ablynx	Life Sciences	Ghent	2001	83.0	4.80
2	TiGenix	Medical Devices and Digital Health	Leuven	2000	33.5	0.57
3	Amber Therapeutics	Medical Devices and Digital Health	London	2021	116.1	0.49

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

Belgium

GII 2026 rank **22**

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP$
23	24	High	Europe	11.8	900.5	75,882.4

	Score / Value	Rank	
Institutions	**73.7**	**16**	
1.1 Institutional environment	**73.5**	**29**	◇
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	74.3	44	
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	72.7	24	◇
1.2 Regulatory environment	**80.3**	**21**	
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	78	22	
1.2.2 Rule of law*	82.5	19	
1.3 Business environment	**67.2**	**[20]**	
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	67.2	30	
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	n/a	n/a	
Human capital and research	**56.3**	**15**	
2.1 Education	**70.9**	**7**	◆
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	6.3	15	◆
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	23.3	24	
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years	18.9	5	● ◆
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science	486.3	20	
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	8.6	14	◆
2.2 Tertiary education	**36.2**	**51**	
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	82.1	21	
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %	19.4	88	○ ◇
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %	10.4	33	
2.3 Research and development (R&D)	**61.7**	**14**	
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	6,911.2	7	●
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	3.4	6	●
2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD	63.7	20	
2.3.4 QS university ranking, top 3*	66.5	18	
Infrastructure	**55.2**	**42**	◇
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**82.8**	**54**	◇
3.1.1 ICT access*	99.8	9	●
3.1.2 ICT use*	82	63	○ ◇
3.1.3 Government online service*	66.6	70	○ ◇
3.2 General infrastructure	**61.3**	**18**	
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	6,296.3	31	
3.2.2 Aviation import dwell time	0.6	3	● ◆
3.2.3 Logistics performance*	86.4	7	
3.2.4 Gross capital formation, % GDP	24.4	54	
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**21.6**	**51**	
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	15.2	47	
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	21.7	41	
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	1.4	60	
Market sophistication	**44.8**	**37**	◇
4.1 Credit	**27.4**	**[69]**	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	n/a	n/a	
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	68.1	42	◇
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.2 Investment	**24.4**	**27**	
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	75.4	22	
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.3	22	
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	0.3	20	
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.6	17	
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale	**82.6**	**21**	
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	1.3	20	
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	93.3	31	
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	900.5	37	

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**55.9**	**8**	
5.1 Knowledge workers	**64.9**	**5**	
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	52.3	9	●
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	29.3	7	●
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %	27.3	104	○
5.1.4 GERD performed by business, % GDP	2.4	6	●
5.1.5 GERD financed by business, %	60.1	10	
5.2 Innovation linkages	**63.4**	**12**	
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %	4.5	17	
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†	70.8	7	●
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*	85.9	14	
5.2.4 State of cluster development†	83.7	15	
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	1.8	16	
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**39.5**	**26**	
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	0.8	52	
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	9.4	50	
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	4	10	●
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	-1.5	131	○
5.3.5 Greenfield R&D & high-tech FDI	2.5	24	
5.3.6 Research talent, % in businesses	60.3	15	
Knowledge and technology outputs	**41.5**	**16**	
6.1 Knowledge creation	**44.4**	**15**	
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	3.8	18	
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	1.4	16	
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	-	-	
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	27.7	23	
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	54.1	14	
6.2 Knowledge impact	**41.7**	**19**	
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	1.8	62	○
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	1.8	29	
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.5	20	
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing, %	41.4	22	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**38.4**	**34**	
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	0.8	23	
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	86.6	23	
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	10.2	21	
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	4.4	31	
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	3.6	68	○
Creative outputs	**37.9**	**33**	◇
7.1 Intangible assets	**34.9**	**50**	◇
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	56	41	○ ◇
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	21.6	86	○
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	5.2	34	◇
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	1.5	47	
7.2 Creative goods and services	**28.5**	**38**	
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	1.3	27	
7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	5	33	
7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	43.4	17	
7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade	0.9	46	
7.3 Online creativity	**53.4**	**25**	
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	38.7	19	
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	58.7	15	
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	63	96	○ ◇

Notes: ● indicates a strength; ○ a weakness; ◆ an income group strength; ◇ an income group weakness; * an index; † a survey question. 🕒 indicates that the economy's data are older than the base year. Square brackets [ ] indicate that 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. Examine the underlying data further via the GII Innovation Ecosystems & Data Explorer at https://www.wipo.int/gii-ranking/en.



Data Availability

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

Belgium has missing data for three indicators and outdated data for eight indicators.

Missing data for Belgium

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
1.3.2	Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	n/a	2025	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
4.1.1	Finance for startups and scaleups†	n/a	2025	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
4.1.3	Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	2024	International Monetary Fund, Financial Access Survey (FAS)

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

Outdated data for Belgium

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP	2022	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.3	School life expectancy, years	2023	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.5	Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	2023	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.1	Tertiary enrolment, % gross	2023	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %	2023	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD
2.2.3	Tertiary inbound mobility, %	2023	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
4.2.1	Market capitalization, % GDP	2018	2024	World Federation of Exchanges; World Bank
5.3.5	Greenfield R&D & high-tech FDI	2024	2025	FT Locations, fDi Markets; International Monetary Fund

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



Top innovation clusters in Belgium

Belgium 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 Belgium.

Rank	Cluster name	Top patent field	Top academic subject
58	Brussels–Antwerp	Pharmaceuticals	Engineering





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

Rank	Cluster name	Top patent field	Top academic subject
61	Brussels–Antwerp	Pharmaceuticals	Engineering

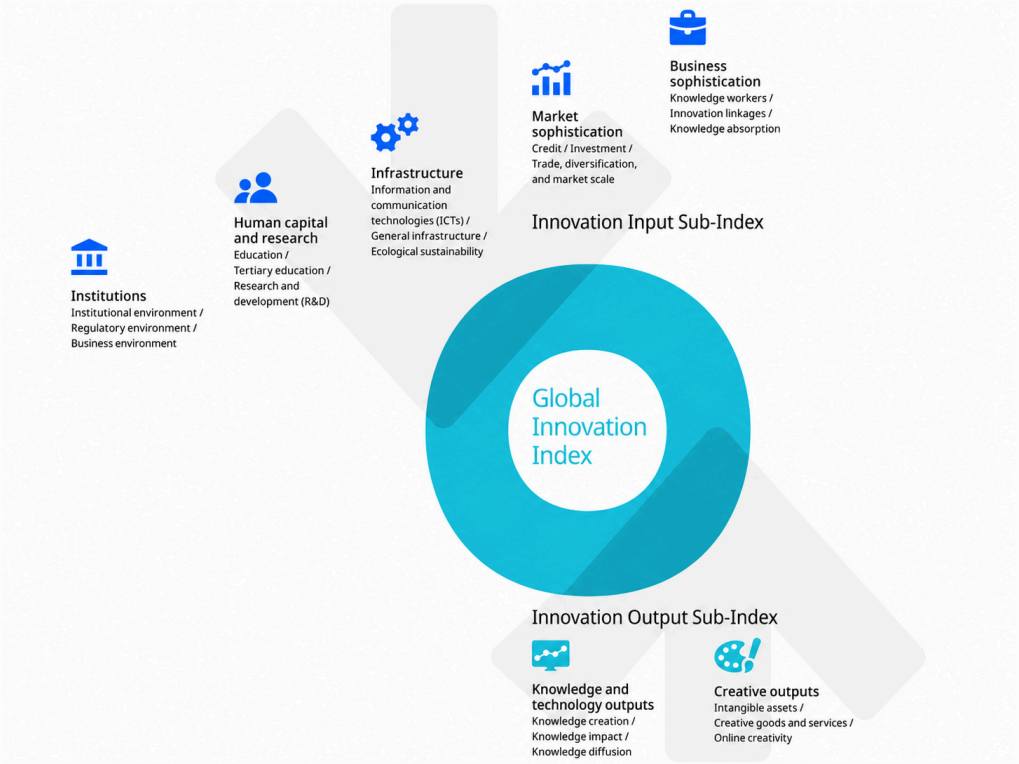


Global Innovation Index 2026



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.