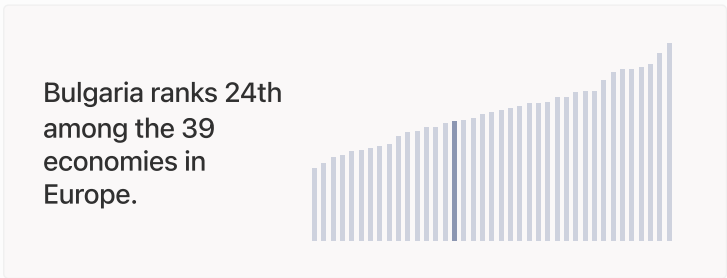
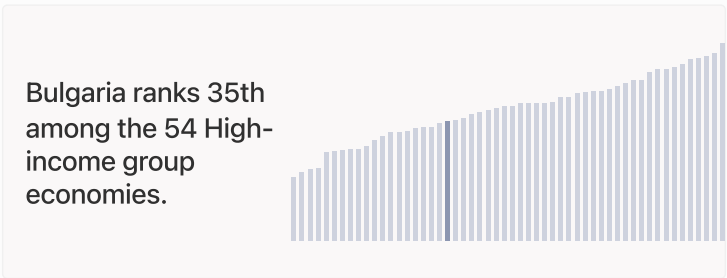
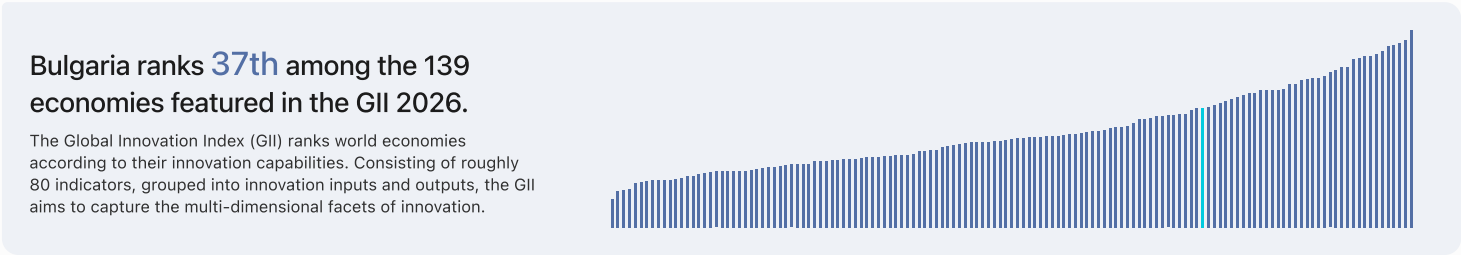




Bulgaria ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2026



> Bulgaria GII Ranking (2020-2026)

The table shows the rankings of Bulgaria 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 Bulgaria in the GII 2026 is between ranks 35 and 39.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	37th	45th	30th
2021	35th	46th	27th
2022	35th	47th	30th
2023	38th	45th	34th
2024	38th	50th	32nd
2025	37th	44th	31st
2026	37th	45th	28th

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

This year Bulgaria ranks 45th in innovation inputs. This position is lower than last year.

Bulgaria ranks 28th in innovation outputs. This position is higher than last year.

> World's Top 100 Innovation Clusters

Bulgaria has no clusters 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 Bulgaria, how rapidly is technology being embraced and what are the resulting societal impacts.



For Bulgaria, 8 indicators have improved in the short-term and 2 indicators have worsened.

Science and innovation investment

	Scientific publications	R&D investments	Venture capital deal numbers	International patent filings
Short term	▲ 2.3 % 2024 - 2025	▲ 0.1 % 2023 - 2024	▼ -28.6 % 2024 - 2025	▲ 57.9 % 2024 - 2025
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 5.8 % 2015 - 2025	▲ 2.6 % 2014 - 2024	▼ -6 % 2020 - 2025	▲ 0.5 % 2015 - 2025

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	▲ 1.4% 2023 - 2024	▲ 5% 2023 - 2024	▲ 4.5% 2023 - 2024	▲ 14% 2023 - 2024	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 1.6% 2014 - 2024	▲ 6% 2014 - 2024	n/a	▲ 21.6% 2014 - 2024	n/a
Penetration	75.7 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	39.1 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	90.2 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	▲ 1.9 % 2024 - 2025	0 % 2023 - 2024	+ 2.2 °C 2025
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 2.6 % 2015 - 2025	▲ 0.2 % 2014 - 2024	+ 1.5 °C 2015
Level	34,866.9 USD in 2025	75.8 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.



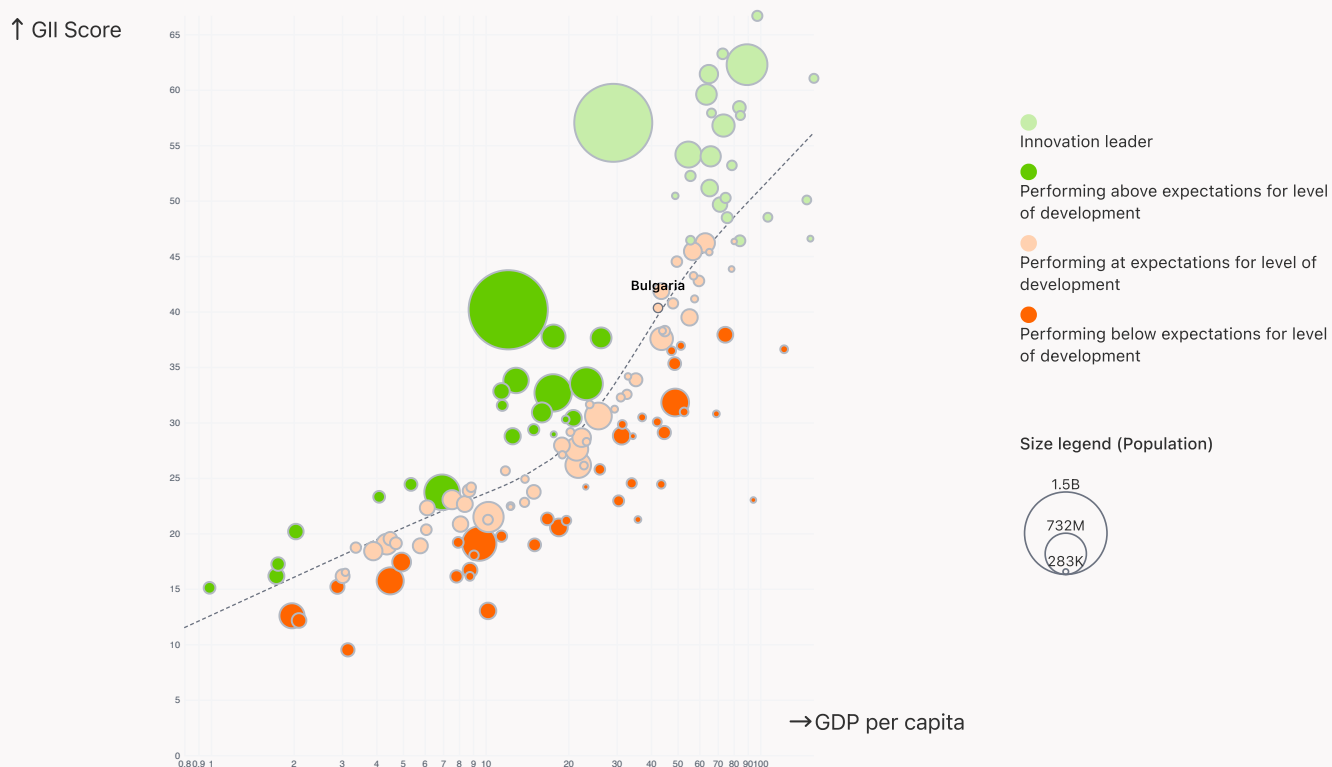
Expected vs. Observed Innovation Performance

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 Bulgaria performs at expectations for its level of development.

> Innovation overperformers relative to their economic development





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.



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

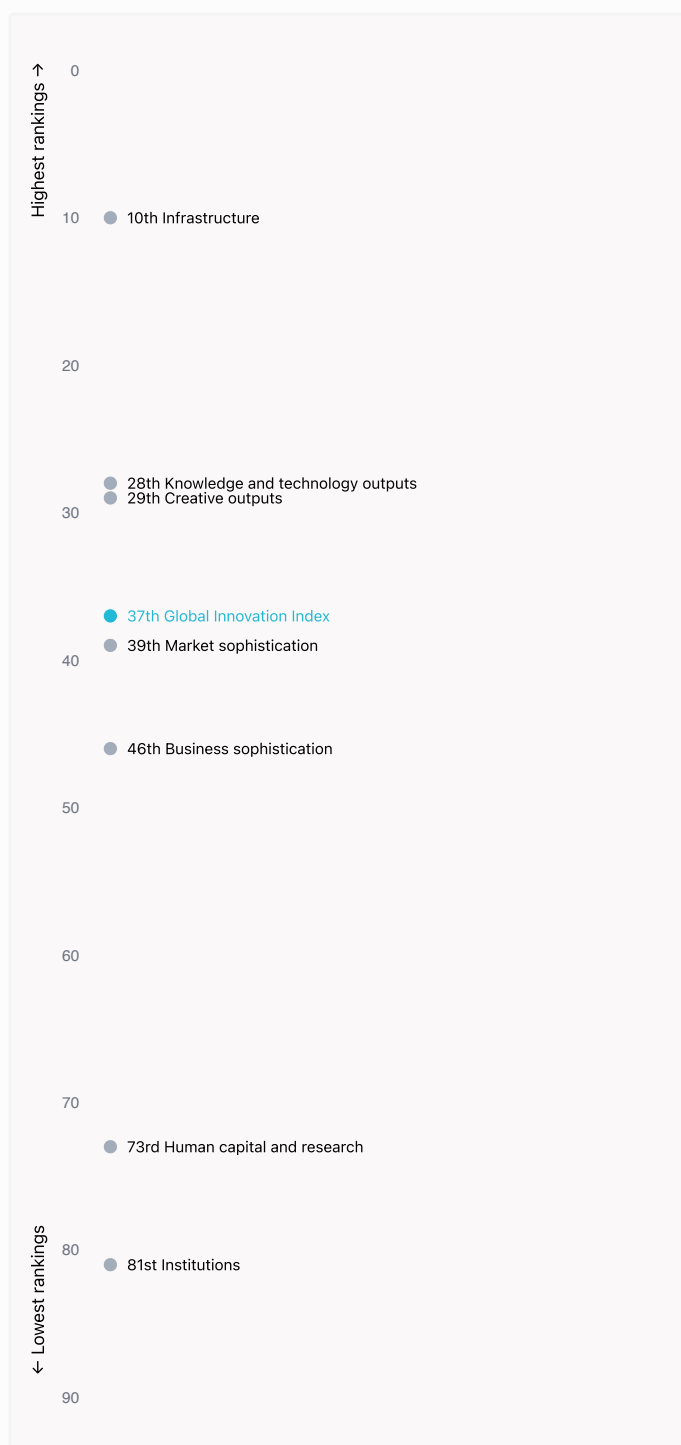
> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs





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



Highest Rankings

Bulgaria ranks highest in Infrastructure (10th), Knowledge and technology outputs (28th) and Creative outputs (29th).



Lowest Rankings

Bulgaria ranks lowest in Institutions (81st), Human capital and research (73rd) and Business sophistication (46th).



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



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



High-income economies

Bulgaria performs above the High-income group average in Infrastructure, Knowledge and technology outputs, Creative outputs.



Europe

Bulgaria performs above the regional average in Infrastructure, Creative outputs.

Institutions

Top 10 | Score: 78.28

High-income | Score: 66.62

Europe | Score: 60.15

Bulgaria | Score: 46.07

Human capital and research

Top 10 | Score: 60.87

High-income | Score: 47.25

Europe | Score: 45.82

Bulgaria | Score: 32.19

Infrastructure

Top 10 | Score: 63.75

Bulgaria | Score: 62.77

High-income | Score: 57.21

Europe | Score: 56.48

Market sophistication

Top 10 | Score: 63.92

High-income | Score: 47.93

Europe | Score: 45.67

Bulgaria | Score: 44.31

Business sophistication

Top 10 | Score: 60.02

High-income | Score: 42.52

Europe | Score: 40.95

Bulgaria | Score: 32.48

Knowledge and technology outputs

Top 10 | Score: 55.83

Europe | Score: 35.30

Bulgaria | Score: 34.84

High-income | Score: 34.48

Creative outputs

Top 10 | Score: 55.45

Bulgaria | Score: 39.28

Europe | Score: 38.51

High-income | Score: 38.33



Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Bulgaria

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



Bulgaria’s best-ranked innovation strengths are **ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP\$ GDP** (rank 1), **ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP\$ GDP** (rank 2) and **Utility models by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP** (rank 9).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
1	6.3.5	ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP\$ GDP
2	3.3.3	ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP\$ GDP
9	6.1.3	Utility models by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP
10	7.2.1	Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade
11	3.2.2	Aviation import dwell time
12	4.3.2	Domestic industry diversification
13	6.3.4	ICT services exports, % total trade
14	7.1.4	Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP
20	7.1.2	Trademarks by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP
21	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %

Weaknesses

Rank	Code	Indicator name
46	2.3.3	Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD
58	6.2.2	Unicorn valuation, % GDP
72	4.2.1	Market capitalization, % GDP
81	7.1.3	Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP
89	2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %
94	1.3.1	Policy stability for doing business ⁺
98	3.2.4	Gross capital formation, % GDP
98	5.2.3	University industry & international engagement, top 5*
126	5.1.3	Youth demographic dividend, %



Bulgaria's innovation system

> Innovation inputs in Bulgaria



2.1.1 Expenditure on education

was equal to 4.5 % GDP in 2022, down by 0.21 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 58.



2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering

was equal to 19.16 % of total graduates in 2024, down by 0.96 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 89.



2.3.1 Researchers

was equal to 2732.47 FTE per million population in 2024, up by 7.7% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 34.



2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D

was equal to 0.77 % GDP in 2024, down by 0.03 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 48.



2.3.4 QS university ranking

was equal to an average score of 8.03 for the top three universities in 2025, up by 26.86% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 78.



4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification

was equal to an index score of 0.087 in 2023, up by 2.02% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 12.



5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment

was equal to 40.37 % in 2025, up by 6.01 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 35.

Global Innovation Index 2026

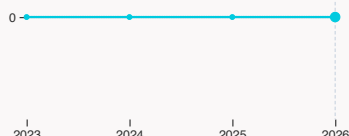


> Innovation outputs in Bulgaria



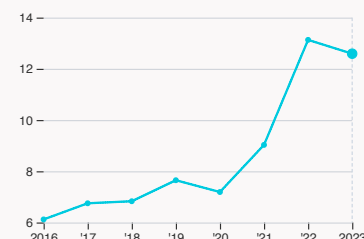
6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 234 patents in 2024, up by 3.54% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 52.



6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

The country does not have unicorns in 2026.



6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing

was equal to 12.59 high-tech manufacturing output in billion USD in 2023, down by 4.11% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 45.



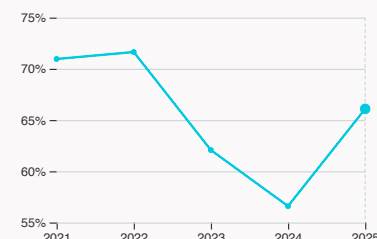
6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of 0.8 in 2024, down by 2.44% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 32.



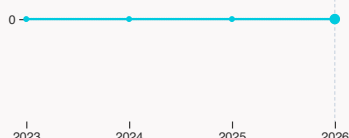
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 3.38 billion USD in 2024, up by 4.97% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 37.



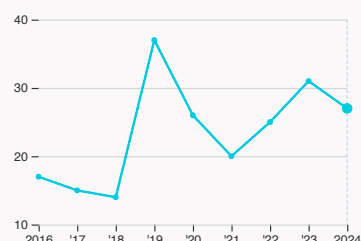
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15

was equal to 66.09 % for the top 15 companies in 2025, up by 9.49 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 23.



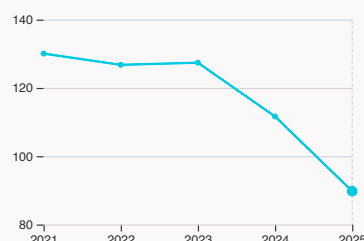
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

The country does not have any brands that make the top 5,000 ranking in 2026.



7.2.2 National feature films

was equal to 27 films in 2024, down by 12.9% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 29.



7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 89.77 million global downloads of mobile apps in 2025, down by 19.59% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 46.



Bulgaria'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.

Data not available for 2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors, 6.2.2 Top Unicorn Companies and 7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000.

2.3.4 QS university ranking of Bulgaria's top universities

Rank	University	Score
731-740	SOFIA UNIVERSITY "ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI"	n/a

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	MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOFIA	47.20
2	TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOFIA	31.20
3	SOFIA UNIVERSITY	30.35

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.

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

Rank	Company	Industry	Description
1	BTL Industries	Medical devices	UK-based medical equipment provider BTL Industries plans to expand its manufacturing capability at its plant at Vladaya 3 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. The company plans to add 500 jobs at the plant by 2028.
2	Vention Solutions	Software & IT services	US-based Vention Solutions, a global leader in custom software engineering, has moved to a new office at WorkBetter 2.0 in Sofiya, Bulgaria. The new office has a 50 desk capacity and can accommodate larger teams.
3	Rheinmetall	Chemicals	Germany-based Rheinmetall, an automotive component and defense equipment manufacturer, has announced plans to build a gunpowder manufacturing facility in Bulgaria. The project is being supported by the Bulgarian government and the European Union.

Source: FT Locations, fDi Markets.



7.1.1 Top 15 intangible-asset intensive companies in Bulgaria

Rank	Firm	Intensity, %
1	SHELLY GROUP AD	91.95
2	SOPHARMA AD	41.29
3	SMART ORGANIC AD	79.42

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

GII 2026 SPECIAL THEME

Deep science entrepreneurship in Bulgaria

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 Bulgaria

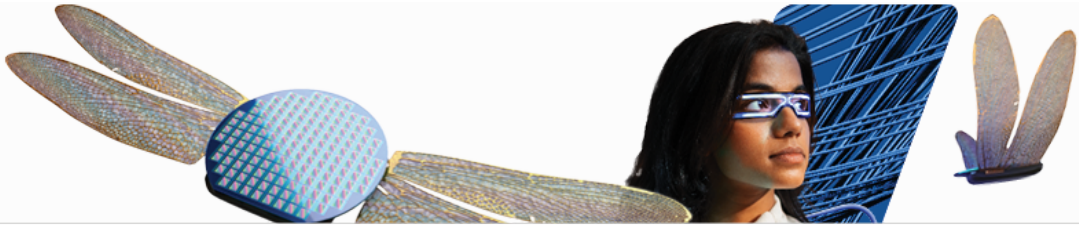
Rank	Company	Industry	City	Founded	VC funding raised, mn USD	Valuation, bn USD
1	EnduroSat	Space	Sofia	2015	176.2	0.42
2	ProsFit	Medical Devices and Digital Health	Sofia	2013	7.0	0.01
3	Flyver	Food & Agritech	Sofia	2014	0.1	0.00

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

Bulgaria

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP\$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP\$
28	45	High	Europe	6.7	266	42,477.3
Score / Value Rank				Score / Value Rank		
 Institutions				 Business sophistication		
46.1 81 				32.5 46		
1.1 Institutional environment				5.1 Knowledge workers		
54.7 73 				39.8 52		
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*				5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %		
65.8 65				40.4 35		
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*				5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %		
43.7 79 				23.5 25		
1.2 Regulatory environment				5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %		
52.8 61 				24.3 126 		
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*				5.1.4 GERD performed by business, % GDP		
54.3 54 				0.5 40		
1.2.2 Rule of law*				5.1.5 GERD financed by business, %		
51.4 63 				31.1 57		
1.3 Business environment				5.2 Innovation linkages		
30.6 94 				24.3 67 		
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†				5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %		
34.2 94 				1.9 46		
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†				5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†		
27.1 62 				40.8 57		
 Human capital and research				5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*		
32.2 73 				6.7 98 		
2.1 Education				5.2.4 State of cluster development†		
53.8 70				49.5 52		
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP				5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP\$ GDP		
4.5 58 				0.2 42		
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap				5.3 Knowledge absorption		
23.5 22				33.4 36		
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years				5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade		
14.6 59 				0.6 65		
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science				5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade		
414.2 51 				8.6 58		
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary				5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade		
11.1 44				1.8 56		
2.2 Tertiary education				5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP		
31.3 71				4.5 32		
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross				5.3.5 Greenfield R&D & high-tech FDI		
69.5 46				3 21		
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %				5.3.6 Research talent, % in businesses		
19.2 89 				52.9 25		
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %				 Knowledge and technology outputs		
7.9 41				34.8 28		
2.3 Research and development (R&D)				6.1 Knowledge creation		
11.4 64 				22.6 45		
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.				6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP		
2,732.5 34				0.9 52		
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP				6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP\$ GDP		
0.8 48				0.2 42		
2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD				6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP		
0 46 				1.3 9 		
2.3.4 QS university ranking, top 3*				6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP\$ GDP		
8.1 78 				16.8 53		
 Infrastructure				6.1.5 Citable documents H-index		
62.8 10				15.9 55		
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)				6.2 Knowledge impact		
86.1 42				27 59		
3.1.1 ICT access*				6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %		
97.6 33				2.9 34 		
3.1.2 ICT use*				6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP		
88 32				0 58 		
3.1.3 Government online service*				6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP		
72.7 57				0.2 75		
3.2 General infrastructure				6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing, %		
48.3 47				28 45		
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.				6.3 Knowledge diffusion		
5,883.9 36				54.9 7 		
3.2.2 Aviation import dwell time				6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade		
1 11 				0.6 30		
3.2.3 Logistics performance*				6.3.2 Production and export complexity		
50 50				82.9 32		
3.2.4 Gross capital formation, % GDP				6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade		
20.1 98 				5.5 37		
3.3 Ecological sustainability				6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade		
53.9 1 				7.1 13 		
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use				6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP\$ GDP		
12.8 74				32.1 1 		
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %				 Creative outputs		
35.1 21 				39.3 29		
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP\$ GDP				7.1 Intangible assets		
13.9 2 				42.9 27		
 Market sophistication				7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %		
44.3 39				66.1 23		
4.1 Credit				7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP		
41.3 36				65.1 20 		
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†				7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP		
64.6 26 				0 81 		
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP				7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP		
47.1 69				4.2 14 		
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP				7.2 Creative goods and services		
n/a n/a				33.2 29		
4.2 Investment				7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade		
11.9 42				2.7 10 		
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP				7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69		
10.8 72 				5.7 29		
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP\$ GDP				7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69		
0.2 28				n/a n/a		
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC				7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade		
0.03 52				0.8 49		
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP\$ GDP				7.3 Online creativity		
0.4 28				38.1 35		
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale				7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69		
79.7 32				13.8 39		
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %				7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69		
1.3 20				30.3 32		
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification				7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP\$ GDP		
96.3 12 				70.3 46		
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP\$						
266 73						

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 Bulgaria.



Bulgaria has missing data for two indicators and outdated data for four indicators.

Missing data for Bulgaria

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
4.1.3	Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	2024	International Monetary Fund, Financial Access Survey (FAS)
7.2.3	Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	n/a	2025	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).

Outdated data for Bulgaria

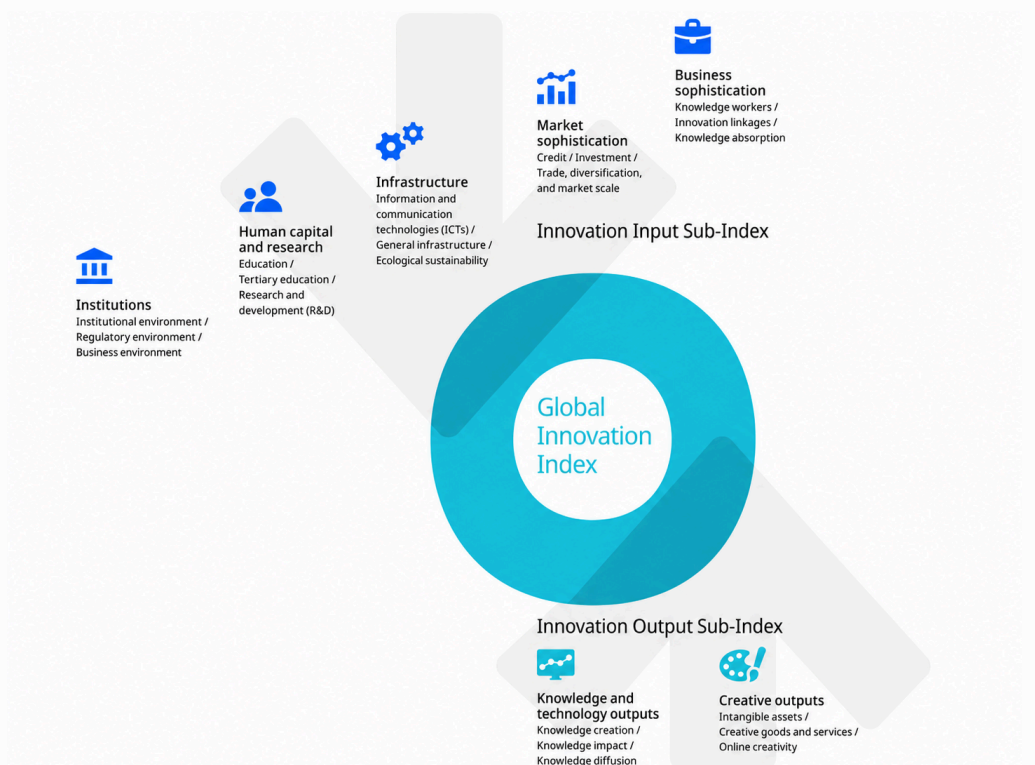
Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
1.3.2	Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	2019	2025	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP	2022	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
3.2.2	Aviation import dwell time	2023	2024	Cargo iQ; World Bank (WB) Logistic Performance Indicators (LPI) 2.0 (2026 release)
4.1.1	Finance for startups and scaleups†	2019	2025	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor

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



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.