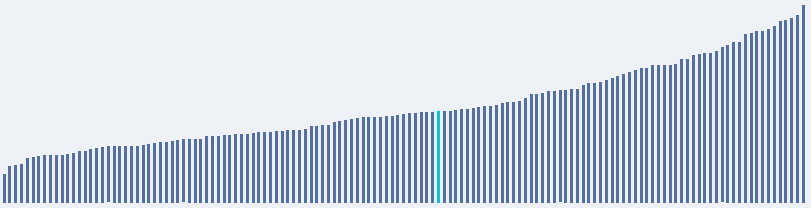
Global Innovation Index 2026



Bahrain ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2026

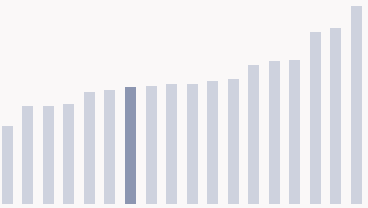
Bahrain ranks 64th among the 139 economies featured in the GII 2026.

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.



Bahrain ranks 47th among the 54 High-income group economies.

Bahrain ranks 12th among the 18 economies in Northern Africa and Western Asia.



Bahrain GII Ranking (2020-2026)

The table shows the rankings of Bahrain 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 Bahrain in the GII 2026 is between ranks 59 and 78.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	79th	63rd	89th
2021	78th	63rd	99th
2022	72nd	50th	86th
2023	67th	47th	86th
2024	72nd	49th	93rd
2025	62nd	41st	94th
2026	64th	48th	80th

World's Top 100 Innovation Clusters

Bahrain has no clusters in the world's top innovation clusters of the Global Innovation Index.

Bahrain performs worse in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2026.

This year **Bahrain ranks 48th in innovation inputs.** This position is lower than last year.

Bahrain ranks 80th in innovation outputs. This position is higher than last year.

Global Innovation Index 2026



> Global Innovation Tracker

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

For Bahrain, 5 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	▼ -3.4 % 2024 - 2025	▲ 106.9 % 2023 - 2024	▼ -44.4 % 2024 - 2025	▼ -60 % 2024 - 2025
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 15.9 % 2015 - 2025	▲ 10.1 % 2014 - 2024	▲ 4.6 % 2020 - 2025	▼ -8.8 % 2015 - 2025

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	▲ 0.3% 2023 - 2024	▲ 1.4% 2023 - 2024	0% 2023 - 2024	n/a	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 0.3% 2014 - 2024	▼ -0.5% 2014 - 2024	n/a	n/a	n/a
Penetration	93.4 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	17 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	100 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	▲ 0.7 % 2024 - 2025	▲ 0.2 % 2023 - 2024	+ 1.8 °C 2025
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 1.7 % 2015 - 2025	▲ 0.1 % 2014 - 2024	+ 2.4 °C 2015
Level	143,900.5 USD in 2025	81.4 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

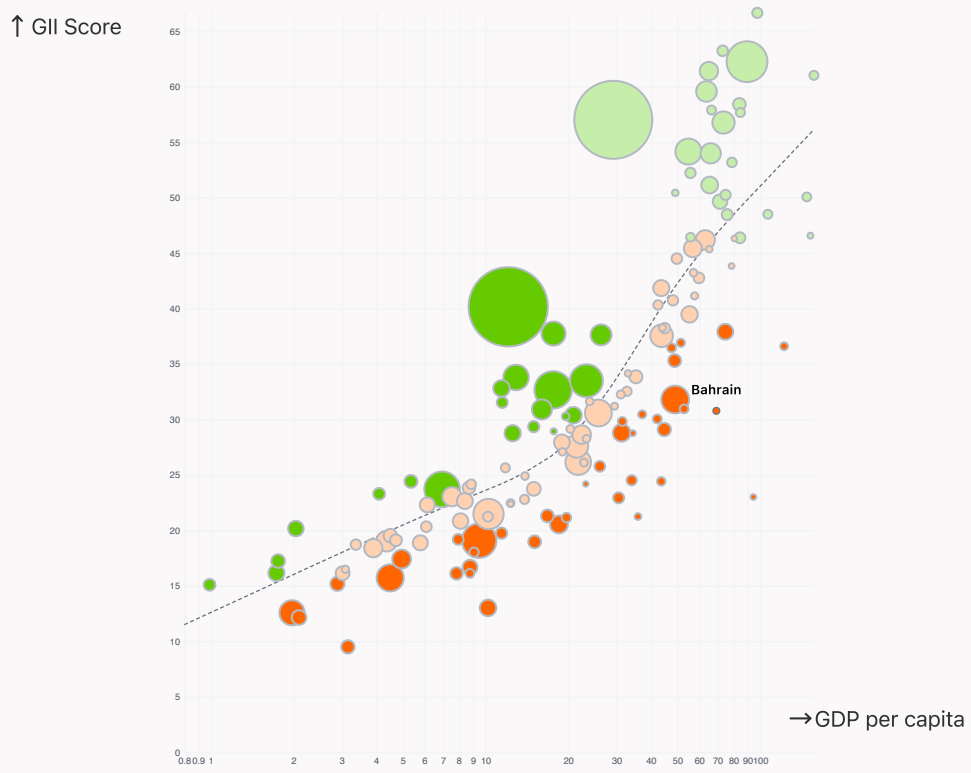


Expected vs. Observed Innovation Performance

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.

Relative to GDP Bahrain performs below expectations for its level of development.

> 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.

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

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

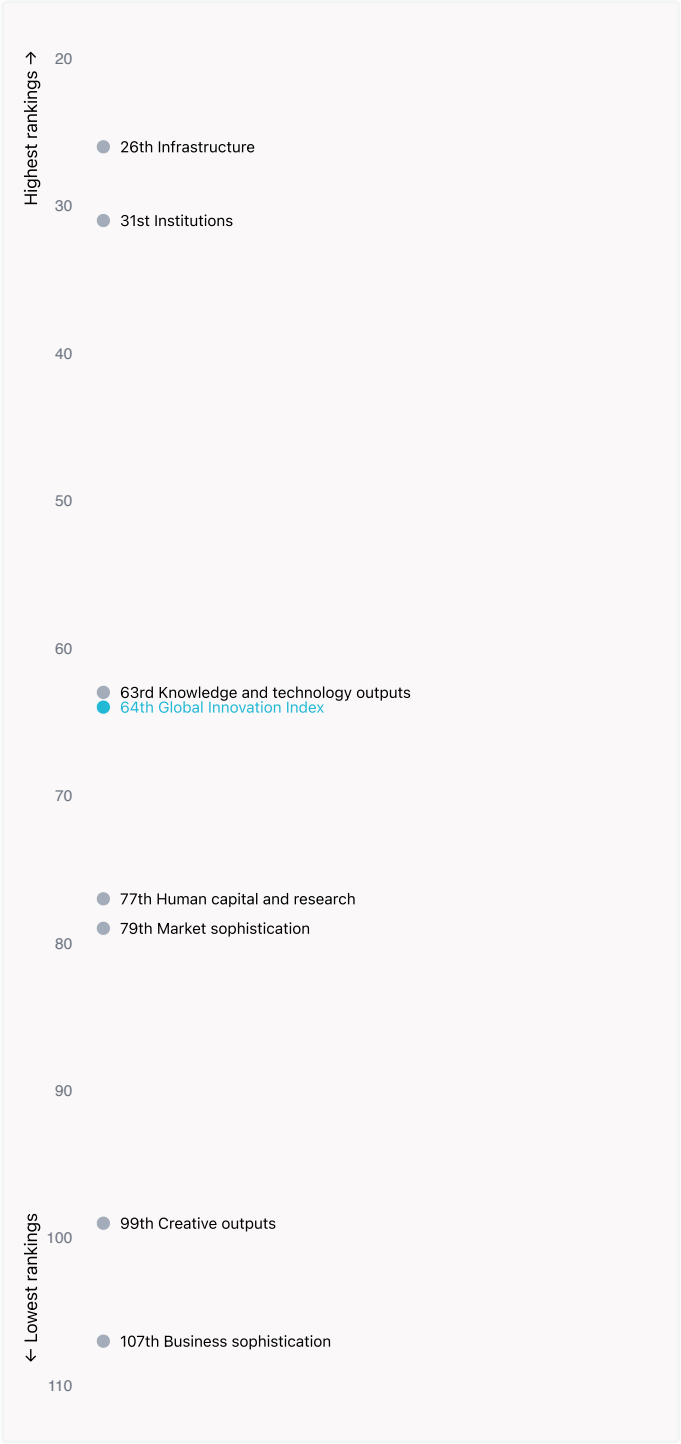


Global Innovation Index 2026



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



Highest Rankings

Bahrain ranks highest in Infrastructure (26th), Institutions (31st) and Knowledge and technology outputs (63rd).

Lowest Rankings

Bahrain ranks lowest in Business sophistication (107th), Creative outputs (99th) and Market sophistication (79th).

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

Global Innovation Index 2026



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

High-income economies

Bahrain performs above the High-income group average in Institutions, Infrastructure.

Northern Africa and Western Asia

Bahrain performs above the regional average in Institutions, Infrastructure.

Institutions

- Top 10 | Score: 78.28
- Bahrain | Score: 67.03
- High-income | Score: 66.62
- NAWA | Score: 54.89

Human capital and research

- Top 10 | Score: 60.87
- High-income | Score: 47.25
- NAWA | Score: 36.97
- Bahrain | Score: 31.47

Infrastructure

- Top 10 | Score: 63.75
- Bahrain | Score: 58.58
- High-income | Score: 57.21
- NAWA | Score: 47.40

Market sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 63.92
- High-income | Score: 47.93
- NAWA | Score: 39.73
- Bahrain | Score: 33.68

Business sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 60.02
- High-income | Score: 42.52
- NAWA | Score: 30.04
- Bahrain | Score: 21.59

Knowledge and technology outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.83
- High-income | Score: 34.48
- NAWA | Score: 24.00
- Bahrain | Score: 23.27

Creative outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.45
- High-income | Score: 38.33
- NAWA | Score: 26.44
- Bahrain | Score: 14.85

Global Innovation Index 2026



Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Bahrain

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

Bahrain's best-ranked innovation strengths are **ICT access*** (rank 1), **Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.** (rank 1) and **Entrepreneurship policies and culture†** (rank 7).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
1	3.1.1	ICT access*
1	3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.
7	1.3.2	Entrepreneurship policies and culture†
8	1.3.1	Policy stability for doing business†
10	3.1.2	ICT use*
12	5.3.4	FDI net inflows, % GDP
12	6.2.2	Unicorn valuation, % GDP
23	3.1.3	Government online service*
23	6.2.3	Software spending, % GDP
30	1.2.1	Regulatory quality*

Weaknesses

Rank	Code	Indicator name
46	2.3.3	Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD
61	4.1.3	Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP
74	7.1.1	Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %
124	3.3.1	GDP/unit of energy use
128	7.1.2	Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP
129	2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP
129	5.3.2	High-tech imports, % total trade
135	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %
136	5.2.1	Public research–industry co-publications, %

Global Innovation Index 2026



Bahrain's innovation system

Innovation inputs in Bahrain



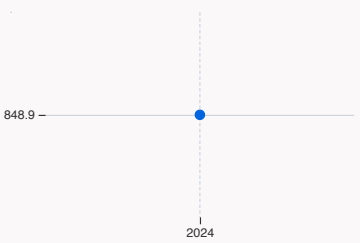
2.1.1 Expenditure on education

was equal to 1.89 % GDP in 2023, up by 0.18 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 129.



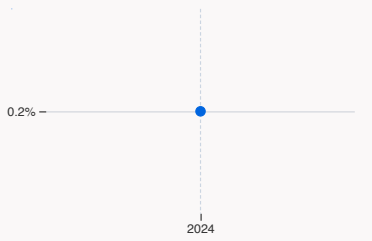
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering

was equal to 18.48 % of total graduates in 2024, up by 0.5 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 96.



2.3.1 Researchers

was equal to 848.95 FTE per million population in 2024 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 61.



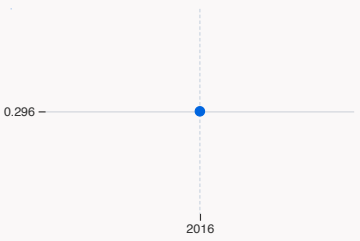
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D

was equal to 0.19 % GDP in 2024 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 90.



2.3.4 QS university ranking

was equal to an average score of 22.7 for the top three universities in 2025, up by 30.46% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 62.



4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification

was equal to an index score of 0.296 in 2016 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 103.

Global Innovation Index 2026

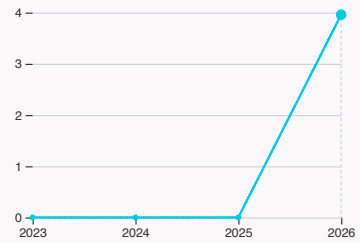


Innovation outputs in Bahrain



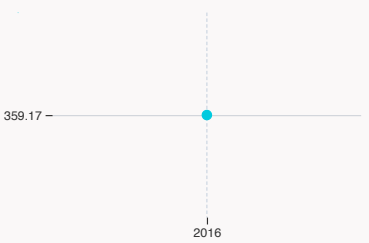
6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 7 patents in 2024, down by 46.15% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 121.



6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

was equal to 3.96 % GDP in 2026, up by 396% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 12.



6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing

was equal to 359.17 high-tech manufacturing output in million USD in 2016 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 86.



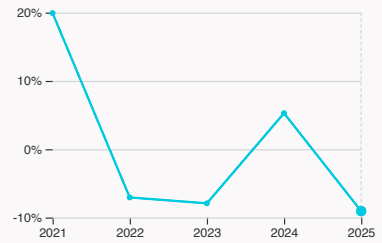
6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of 0.27 in 2024, down by 58.46% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 63.



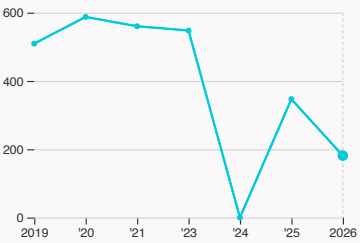
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 775.25 million USD in 2024, up by 39.02% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 61.



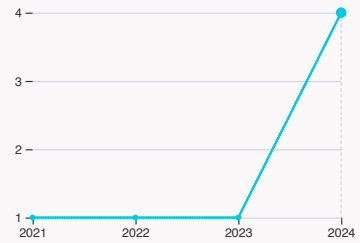
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15

was equal to -9.06 % for the top 15 companies in 2025, down by 14.34 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 74.



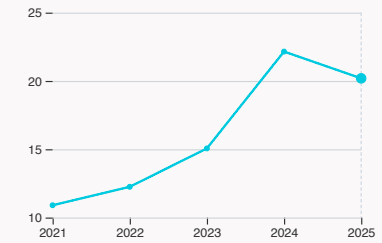
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

was equal to 181.34 million USD for the brands in the top 5,000 in 2026, down by 47.68% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 74.



7.2.2 National feature films

was equal to 4 films in 2024, up by 300% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 47.



7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 20.19 million global downloads of mobile apps in 2025, down by 8.85% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 71.



Bahrain'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.

2.3.4 QS university ranking of Bahrain's top universities

Rank	University	Score
613	APPLIED SCIENCE UNIVERSITY - BAHRAIN	27.80
801-850	AHLIA UNIVERSITY	n/a
951-1000	UNIVERSITY OF BAHRAIN	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	ARABIAN GULF UNIVERSITY	61.30
2	UNIVERSITY OF BAHRAIN	41.80

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 Bahrain

Rank	Company	Industry	Description
1	MCW Tech	Chemicals	Malaysia-based MCW Tech, a company that provides solutions for air purification, will establish an lonpaint manufacturing facility in Bahrain. The facility will serve the Middle East. This is a partnership with Bahrain-based KAR Group.
2	Citigroup	Software & IT services	US-based financial services firm Citigroup has expanded its global technology hub in Manama, Bahrain. The company has added a new floor to its facilities. This is part of the company's broader strategy to hire a new wave of talent in line with the target to allocate 1,000 coding jobs by 2031 at the Bahrain hub.
3	Gamezop	Software & IT services	India-based Gamezop, a mobile gaming platform, has announced plans to set up its regional headquarters in Bahrain. The headquarters serves Bahrain and the Middle East. The company is being supported by the Bahrain Economic Development Board.

Source: FT Locations, fDi Markets.



6.2.2 Top Unicorn Companies in Bahrain

Rank	Unicorn Company	Industry	Location	Valuation, bn USD
1	Rain (Financial Software)	Information Technology	Manama	1.95

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 Bahrain

Rank	Firm	Intensity, %
1	NATIONAL BANK OF BAHRAIN B.S.C.	44.22
2	BAHRAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY BSC	53.91
3	AL SALAM BANK B.S.C.	38.75

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 Bahrain with highest global brand value

Rank	Brand	Industry	Brand Value, mn USD
1	Al Baraka	Banking	181.3

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

Bahrain

GII 2026 rank **64**

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP$
80	48	High	Northern Africa and Western Asia	1.6	112.2	69,270.7

	Score / Value	Rank	
Institutions	**67**	**31**	
1.1 Institutional environment	**59.5**	**57**	◇
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	61.2	79	◇
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	57.7	47	
1.2 Regulatory environment	**63.4**	**44**	
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	70.7	30	●
1.2.2 Rule of law*	56.1	58	◇
1.3 Business environment	**78.2**	**6**	◆
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	82.2	8	●◆
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	74.2	7	●◆
Human capital and research	**31.5**	**77**	◇
2.1 Education	**55.4**	**[65]**	
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	1.9	129	○ ◇
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	n/a	n/a	
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years	15.6	45	
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	n/a	
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	12.2	54	
2.2 Tertiary education	**30.5**	**74**	◇
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	58.4	58	
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %	18.5	96	
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %	10.8	28	
2.3 Research and development (R&D)	**8.5**	**72**	◇
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	848.9	61	◇
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	0.2	90	◇
2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD	0	46	○ ◇
2.3.4 QS university ranking, top 3*	23	62	
Infrastructure	**58.6**	**26**	
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**94.5**	**10**	
3.1.1 ICT access*	100	1	●
3.1.2 ICT use*	95.3	10	●
3.1.3 Government online service*	88.3	23	●
3.2 General infrastructure	**73.9**	**2**	◆
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	23,774.3	1	●◆
3.2.2 Aviation import dwell time	2	42	
3.2.3 Logistics performance*	63.6	33	
3.2.4 Gross capital formation, % GDP	28.9	29	◆
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**7.3**	**121**	◇
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	5.5	124	○ ◇
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	0.06	135	○ ◇
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	2.2	42	
Market sophistication	**33.7**	**79**	◇
4.1 Credit	**32.1**	**61**	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	64.1	28	
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	0.02	61	○
4.2 Investment	**10.7**	**44**	
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	51	33	
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.1	38	
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	0.009	69	
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.2	40	
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale	**58.3**	**100**	◇
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	3.5	84	
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	57.7	103	
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	112.2	95	

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**21.6**	**107**	◇
5.1 Knowledge workers	**16.9**	**[139]**	
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	n/a	n/a	
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	n/a	n/a	
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %	30.6	84	
5.1.4 GERD performed by business, % GDP	0.04	79	◇
5.1.5 GERD financed by business, %	18.3	67	◇
5.2 Innovation linkages	**30.9**	**52**	
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %	0.2	136	○ ◇
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†	38.8	62	
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*	41.2	44	
5.2.4 State of cluster development†	70.7	31	
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	0.05	59	
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**16.9**	**99**	◇
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	0.3	87	
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	3.6	129	○ ◇
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	1.5	71	
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	8.5	12	●
5.3.5 Greenfield R&D & high-tech FDI	1.5	45	
5.3.6 Research talent, % in businesses	5.1	75	◇
Knowledge and technology outputs	**23.3**	**63**	
6.1 Knowledge creation	**5.1**	**114**	◇
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.07	121	◇
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.02	80	
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	-	-	
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	8.8	96	◇
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	5.1	100	◇
6.2 Knowledge impact	**38.3**	**22**	
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	1.9	59	
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	4	12	●
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.4	23	●
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing, %	9.8	86	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**26.4**	**56**	
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	0.2	47	
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	72.7	63	◇
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	2.1	61	
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	3.8	36	
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	5.7	48	
Creative outputs	**14.8**	**99**	◇
7.1 Intangible assets	**9.1**	**99**	◇
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	-9.1	74	○ ◇
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	4.3	128	○ ◇
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	0.4	74	◇
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.08	116	◇
7.2 Creative goods and services	**14.7**	**69**	◇
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	n/a	n/a	
7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	3.1	47	
7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	11.3	35	◇
7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade	0.7	51	
7.3 Online creativity	**26.4**	**68**	◇
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	2.8	73	◇
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	9.8	59	◇
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	66.5	71	

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 Bahrain.

Bahrain has missing data for six indicators and outdated data for three indicators.

Missing data for Bahrain

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
2.1.2	Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	n/a	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.4	PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	2022	OECD, PISA
4.1.2	Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	n/a	2024	International Monetary Fund; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and World Bank.
5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %	n/a	2025	International Labour Organization
5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	n/a	2025	International Labour Organization
7.2.1	Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	n/a	2024	World Trade Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; 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).

Outdated data for Bahrain

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	2023	2024	International Energy Agency
4.3.2	Domestic industry diversification	2016	2023	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Industrial Statistics Database (INDSTAT), two-digit level of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) Revision 3 and Revision 4
6.2.4	High-tech manufacturing, %	2016	2023	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Industrial Statistics Database (INDSTAT), two-digit level of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) Revision 3 and Revision 4

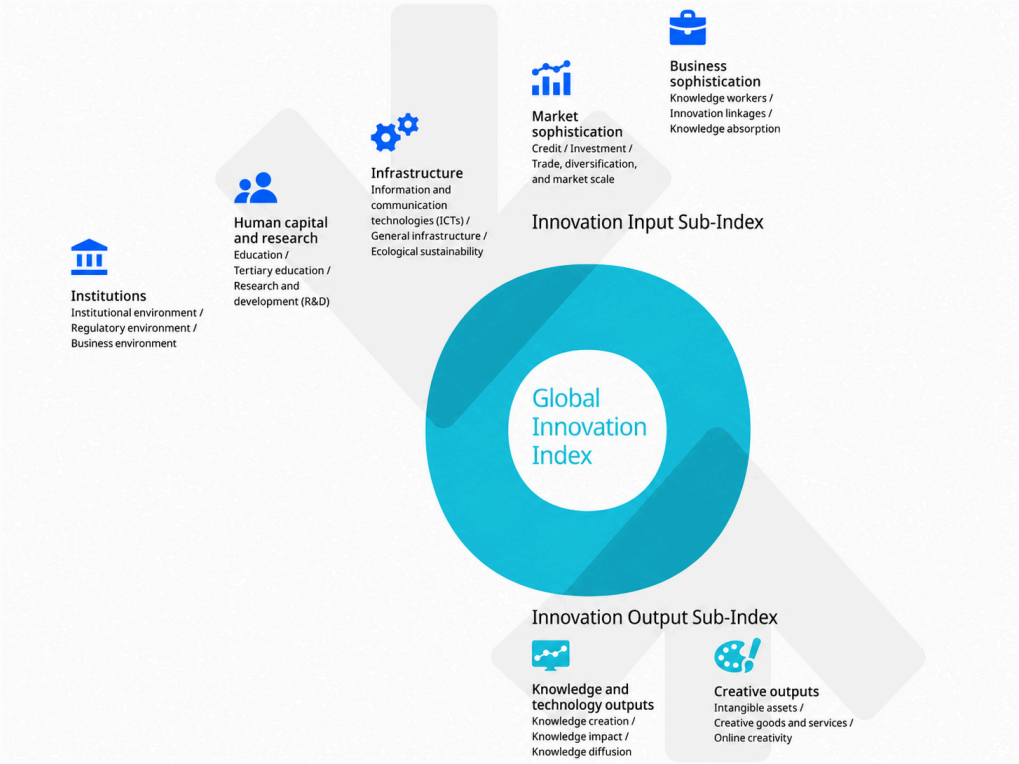
*Model year corresponds to the most frequent data year (the year that appears most often across all economies in the GII).

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.