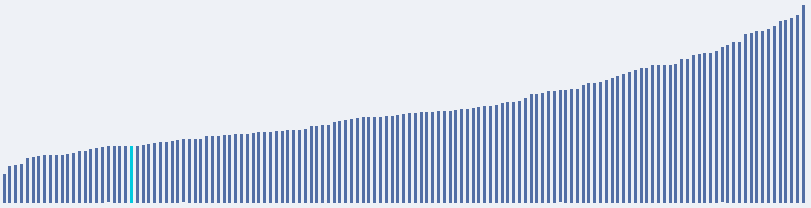
Global Innovation Index 2026



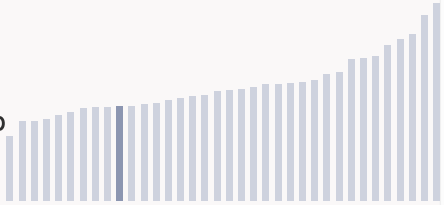
Benin ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2026

Benin ranks 117th 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.



Benin ranks 27th among the 36 Lower middle-income group economies.



Benin ranks 13th among the 31 economies in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Benin GII Ranking (2020-2026)

The table shows the rankings of Benin 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 Benin in the GII 2026 is between ranks 116 and 126.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	126th	116th	131st
2021	128th	113rd	132nd
2022	124th	107th	131st
2023	120th	108th	128th
2024	119th	109th	125th
2025	118th	111st	122nd
2026	117th	109th	128th

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

This year **Benin ranks 109th in innovation inputs.** This position is higher than last year.

Benin ranks 128th in innovation outputs. This position is lower than last year.

World's Top 100 Innovation Clusters

Benin 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 Benin, how rapidly is technology being embraced and what are the resulting societal impacts.

For Benin, 4 indicators have improved in the short-term and 1 indicator has worsened.

Science and innovation investment

	Scientific publications	R&D investments	Venture capital deal numbers	International patent filings
Short term	▲ 14.1 % 2024 - 2025	n/a	0 % 2024 - 2025	0 % 2020 - 2022
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 8.1 % 2015 - 2025	n/a	0 % 2020 - 2025	0 % 2014 - 2022

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	▲ 3.1% 2023 - 2024	▲ 66.4% 2023 - 2024	n/a	n/a	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 3.4% 2014 - 2024	▼ -1.2% 2014 - 2024	n/a	n/a	n/a
Penetration	16.4 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	0.3 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	5 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	n/a	▲ 0.3 % 2023 - 2024	+ 1.3 °C 2025
Long term (annual growth)	n/a	▲ 0.3 % 2014 - 2024	+ 1.2 °C 2015
Level	n/a	61 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

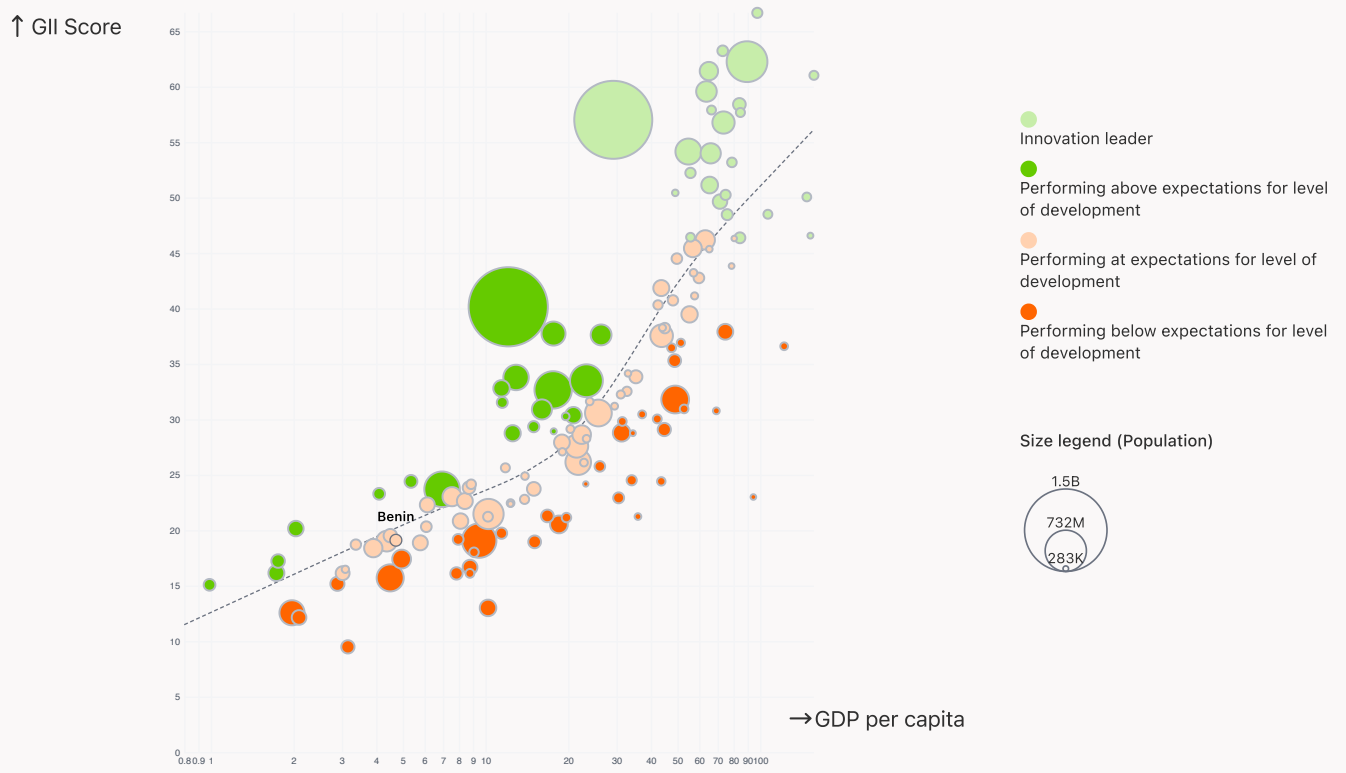


Expected vs. Observed Innovation Performance

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 Benin performs at 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.

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

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

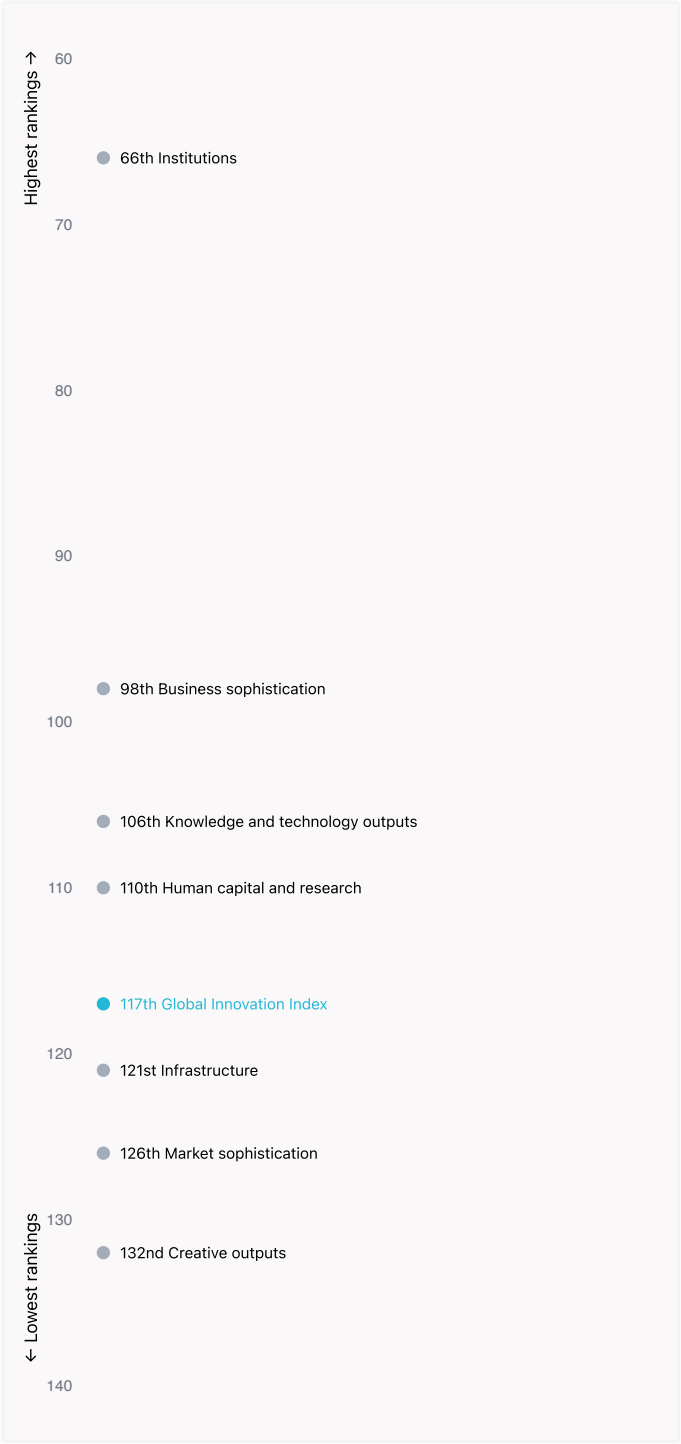


Global Innovation Index 2026



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



Highest Rankings

Benin ranks highest in Institutions (66th), Business sophistication (98th), Knowledge and technology outputs (106th) and Human capital and research (110th).

Lowest Rankings

Benin ranks lowest in Creative outputs (132nd), Market sophistication (126th) and Infrastructure (121st).

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

Global Innovation Index 2026



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

Lower middle-income economies

Benin performs above the Lower middle-income group average in Institutions.

Sub-Saharan Africa

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

Institutions

- Top 10 | Score: 78.28
- Benin | Score: 51.53
- Lower middle-income | Score: 39.43
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 39.32

Human capital and research

- Top 10 | Score: 60.87
- Lower middle-income | Score: 24.06
- Benin | Score: 20.91
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 19.47

Infrastructure

- Top 10 | Score: 63.75
- Lower middle-income | Score: 35.49
- Benin | Score: 28.51
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 27.81

Market sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 63.92
- Lower middle-income | Score: 29.66
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 22.67
- Benin | Score: 19.24

Business sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 60.02
- Lower middle-income | Score: 23.29
- Benin | Score: 22.65
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 22.38

Knowledge and technology outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.83
- Lower middle-income | Score: 16.59
- Benin | Score: 13.15
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 12.13

Creative outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.45
- Lower middle-income | Score: 16.00
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 12.01
- Benin | Score: 6.10

Global Innovation Index 2026



Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Benin

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

Benin's best-ranked innovation strengths are **Gross capital formation, % GDP** (rank 10), **Youth demographic dividend, %** (rank 17) and **Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP** (rank 22).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
10	3.2.4	Gross capital formation, % GDP
17	5.1.3	Youth demographic dividend, %
22	4.1.3	Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP
23	6.2.1	Labor productivity growth, %
32	1.3.1	Policy stability for doing business[†]
48	5.3.3	ICT services imports, % total trade
67	5.2.4	State of cluster development[†]
70	2.2.3	Tertiary inbound mobility, %
76	5.3.4	FDI net inflows, % GDP
78	6.1.4	Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP

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
77	6.1.3	Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP
81	2.3.4	QS university ranking, top 3*
81	7.1.3	Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP
98	5.2.5	Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP
107	6.1.2	PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP
131	3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.
132	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %
138	5.2.1	Public research–industry co-publications, %

Global Innovation Index 2026



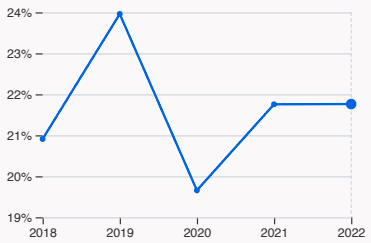
Benin's innovation system

Innovation inputs in Benin



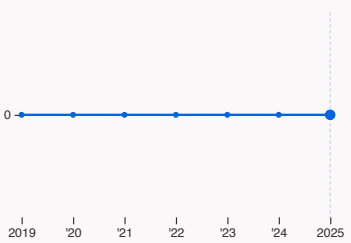
2.1.1 Expenditure on education

was equal to 3.23 % GDP in 2023, up by 0.13 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 103.



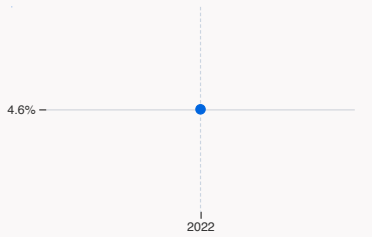
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering

was equal to 21.76 % of total graduates in 2022, up by 0.006 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 76.



2.3.4 QS university ranking

The country does not have any universities in the QS world universities ranking in 2025.



5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment

was equal to 4.64 % in 2022 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 118.

Global Innovation Index 2026

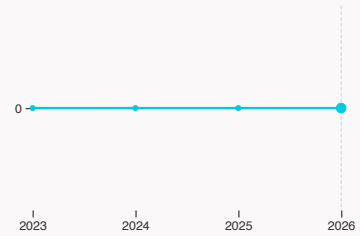


Innovation outputs in Benin



6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 17 patents in 2024, down by 32% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 88.



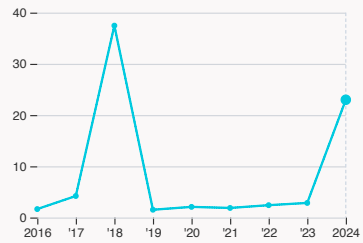
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

The country does not have unicorns in 2026.



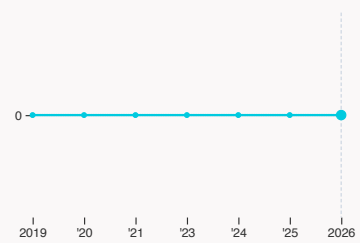
6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of -0.92 in 2024, up by 11.54% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 110.



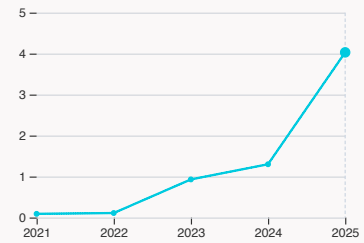
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 22.99 million USD in 2024, up by 706.67% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 98.



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.



7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 4.03 million global downloads of mobile apps in 2025, up by 210% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 112.

Benin

GII 2026 rank **117**

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP$
128	109	Lower middle	Sub-Saharan Africa	14.8	70.4	4,719.2

	Score / Value	Rank	
Institutions	**51.5**	**66**	
1.1 Institutional environment	**47.6**	**91**	
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	57.2	94	
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	38	87	
1.2 Regulatory environment	**41.3**	**89**	
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	40.3	92	
1.2.2 Rule of law*	42.4	88	
1.3 Business environment	**65.7**	[23]	
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	65.7	32	●◆
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	n/a	n/a	
Human capital and research	**20.9**	**[110]**	
2.1 Education	**44.4**	[99]	
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	3.2	103	
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	n/a	n/a	
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years	10	108	
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	n/a	
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	16.2	84	
2.2 Tertiary education	**18.4**	**106**	
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	10.2	116	
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %	21.8	76	
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %	3.1	70	●
2.3 Research and development (R&D)	**0**	[122]	
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	n/a	n/a	
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD	0	46	○◇
2.3.4 QS university ranking, top 3*	0	81	○◇
Infrastructure	**28.5**	**121**	
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**42.2**	**120**	◇
3.1.1 ICT access*	42.4	128	◇
3.1.2 ICT use*	41.9	119	◇
3.1.3 Government online service*	42.3	103	
3.2 General infrastructure	**37.7**	**80**	
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	55.5	131	○
3.2.2 Aviation import dwell time	5.7	105	
3.2.3 Logistics performance*	36.4	65	
3.2.4 Gross capital formation, % GDP	34.5	10	●
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**5.7**	**130**	◇
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	9.2	98	
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	0.2	132	○
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	0.2	119	
Market sophistication	**19.2**	**[126]**	
4.1 Credit	**18.1**	[101]	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	n/a	n/a	
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	2	22	●
4.2 Investment	**4.1**	[79]	
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.04	77	
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	n/a	n/a	
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale	**35.6**	**129**	◇
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	8.9	124	
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	n/a	n/a	
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	70.4	108	

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**22.6**	**98**	
5.1 Knowledge workers	**31.8**	[87]	
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	4.6	118	◇
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	1.1	121	◇
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %	60.7	17	●◆
5.1.4 GERD performed by business, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
5.1.5 GERD financed by business, %	n/a	n/a	
5.2 Innovation linkages	**18.9**	**95**	
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %	0.2	138	○◇
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†	32.6	85	
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*	n/a	n/a	
5.2.4 State of cluster development†	40.7	67	●
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	0	98	○◇
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**17.2**	**97**	
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	0.0005	131	
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	5.6	105	
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	2	48	●◆
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	2.3	76	●
5.3.5 Greenfield R&D & high-tech FDI	0.4	94	
5.3.6 Research talent, % in businesses	n/a	n/a	
Knowledge and technology outputs	**13.1**	**106**	
6.1 Knowledge creation	**5.3**	**113**	
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.3	88	
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0	107	○◇
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0	77	○◇
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	11.1	78	●
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	4.1	114	
6.2 Knowledge impact	**22.8**	**75**	
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	3.4	23	●
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	0	58	○◇
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.05	105	
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing, %	n/a	n/a	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**11.3**	**120**	
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	0.02	102	
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	49.9	110	
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	0.4	98	
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	0.3	119	
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	0.9	110	
Creative outputs	**6.1**	**132**	◇
7.1 Intangible assets	**1.5**	**133**	
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	n/a	n/a	
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	4.3	129	◇
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	0	81	○◇
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.08	117	
7.2 Creative goods and services	**1.7**	[123]	
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	0.1	100	
7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	n/a	n/a	
7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	n/a	n/a	
7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade	0.03	120	
7.3 Online creativity	**19.8**	**118**	
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	0.2	122	
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	1.3	116	
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	57.7	112	

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 Benin.

Benin has missing data for nineteen indicators and outdated data for fourteen indicators.

Missing data for Benin

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
1.3.2	Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	n/a	2025	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
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
2.3.1	Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	n/a	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
2.3.2	Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	n/a	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
4.1.1	Finance for startups and scaleups†	n/a	2025	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
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.
4.2.1	Market capitalization, % GDP	n/a	2024	World Federation of Exchanges; World Bank
4.2.3	Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	n/a	2025	PitchBook Data, Inc.
4.2.4	VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	n/a	2025	PitchBook Data, Inc.; International Monetary Fund
4.3.2	Domestic industry diversification	n/a	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
5.1.4	GERD performed by business, % GDP	n/a	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
5.1.5	GERD financed by business, %	n/a	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
5.2.3	University industry & international engagement, top 5*	n/a	2023	Times Higher Education



Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
5.3.6	Research talent, % in businesses	n/a	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
6.2.4	High-tech manufacturing, %	n/a	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
7.1.1	Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	n/a	2025	Brand Finance
7.2.2	National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	n/a	2024	OMDIA; United Nations, World Population Prospects
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 Benin

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
1.3.1	Policy stability for doing business†	2023	2025	World Economic Forum, Executive Opinion Survey (EOS)
2.1.3	School life expectancy, years	2022	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.5	Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	2022	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.1	Tertiary enrolment, % gross	2022	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %	2022	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD
2.2.3	Tertiary inbound mobility, %	2022	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	2023	2024	International Energy Agency
5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %	2022	2025	International Labour Organization
5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	2022	2025	International Labour Organization
5.2.2	University–industry R&D collaboration†	2023	2025	World Economic Forum, Executive Opinion Survey (EOS)
5.2.4	State of cluster development†	2023	2025	World Economic Forum, Executive Opinion Survey (EOS)

Global Innovation Index 2026



Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
5.3.3	ICT services imports, % total trade	2023	2024	World Trade Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
6.1.3	Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	2021	2024	World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund
6.3.4	ICT services exports, % total trade	2023	2024	World Trade Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

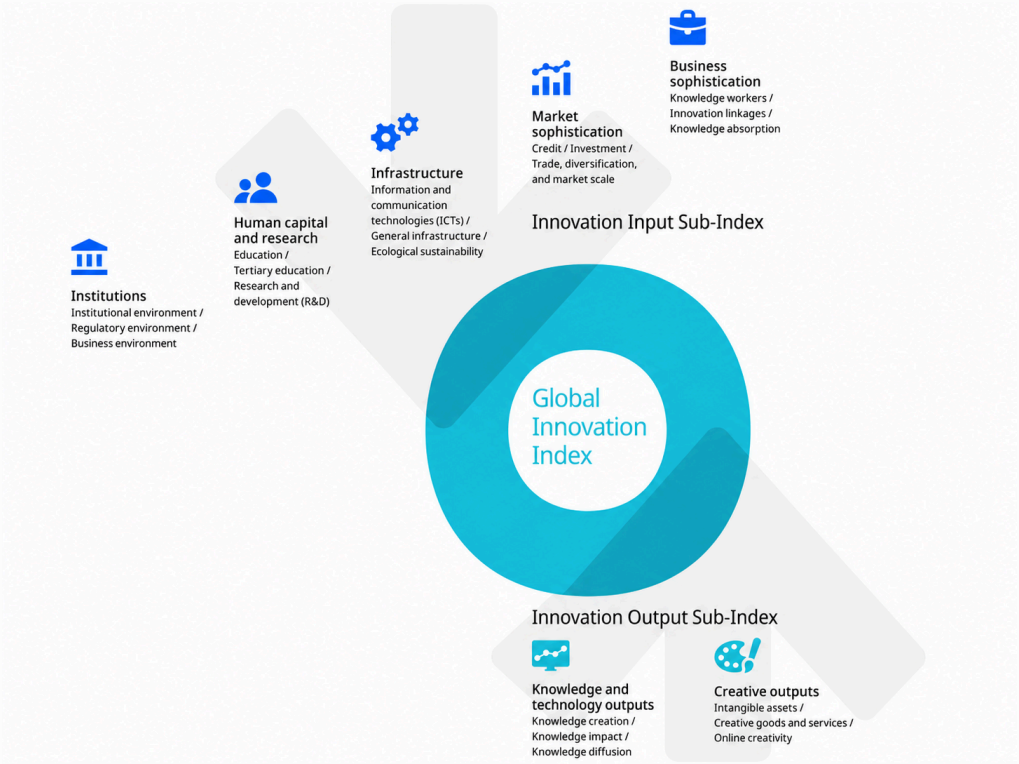
*Model year corresponds to the most frequent data year (the year that appears most often across all economies in the GII).

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.