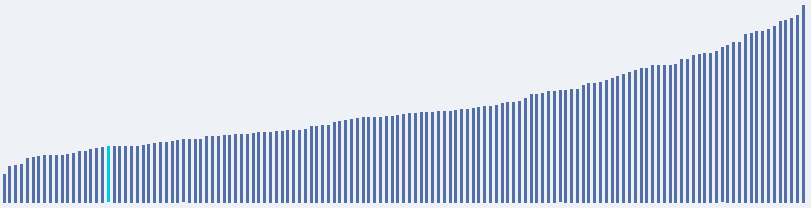
Global Innovation Index 2026



Cameroon ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2026

Cameroon ranks 121st 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.



Cameroon ranks 30th among the 36 Lower middle-income group economies.

Cameroon ranks 16th among the 31 economies in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Cameroon GII Ranking (2020-2026)

The table shows the rankings of Cameroon 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 Cameroon in the GII 2026 is between ranks 117 and 124.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	119th	120th	119th
2021	123rd	124th	117th
2022	121st	124th	114th
2023	123rd	123rd	117th
2024	123rd	120th	120th
2025	116th	113rd	118th
2026	121st	112nd	126th

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

This year **Cameroon ranks 112nd in innovation inputs.** This position is higher than last year.

Cameroon ranks 126th in innovation outputs. This position is lower than last year.

World's Top 100 Innovation Clusters

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

For Cameroon, 3 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	▲ 2.1 % 2024 - 2025	n/a	▼ -11.1 % 2024 - 2025	▼ -66.7 % 2024 - 2025
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 9.6 % 2015 - 2025	n/a	▲ 9.9 % 2020 - 2025	0 % 2015 - 2025

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	n/a	▼ -2.2% 2021 - 2022	n/a	n/a	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	n/a	▲ 45.5% 2012 - 2022	n/a	n/a	n/a
Penetration	n/a	2.1 per 100 inhabitants in 2022	n/a	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	▲ 0.5 % 2024 - 2025	▲ 0.4 % 2023 - 2024	+ 1.1 °C 2025
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 1.5 % 2015 - 2025	▲ 0.8 % 2014 - 2024	+ 1 °C 2015
Level	14,511 USD in 2025	64 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

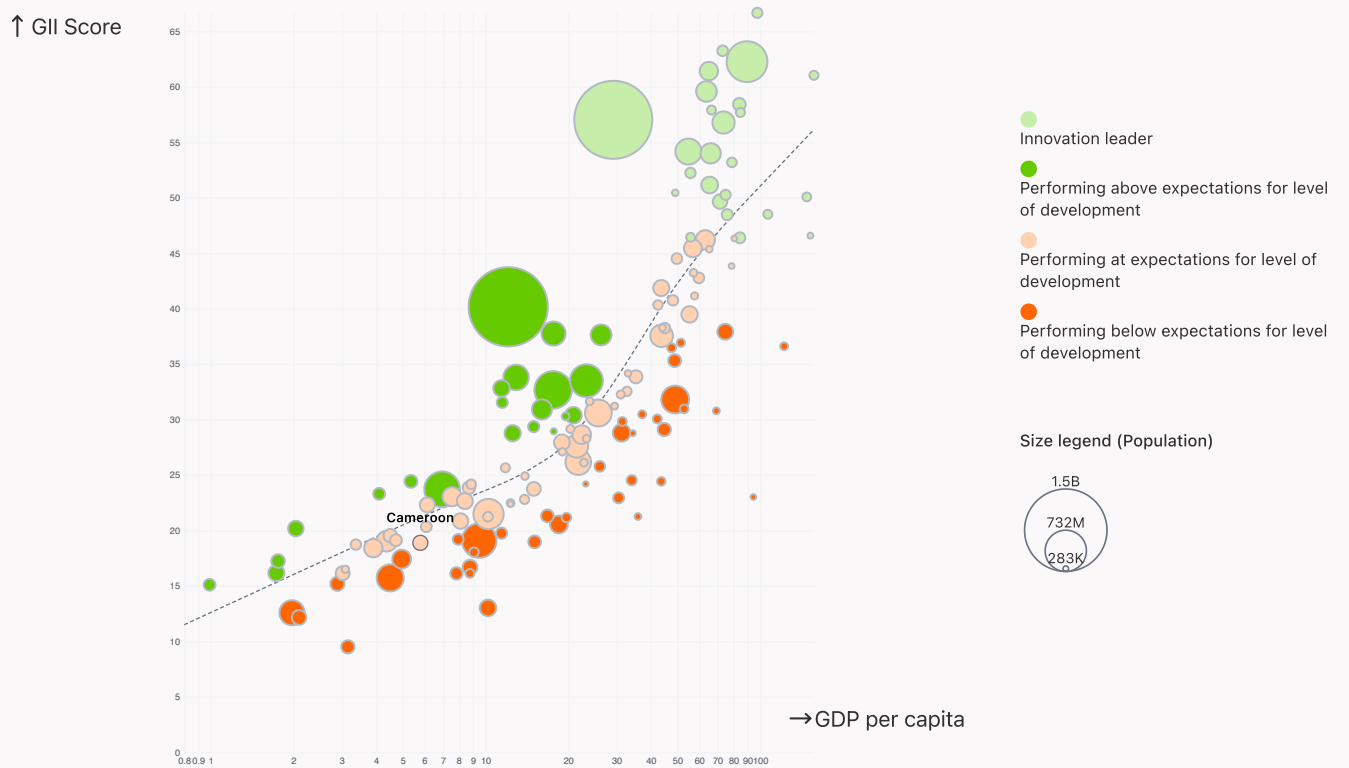


Expected vs. Observed Innovation Performance

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 Cameroon 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.

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

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

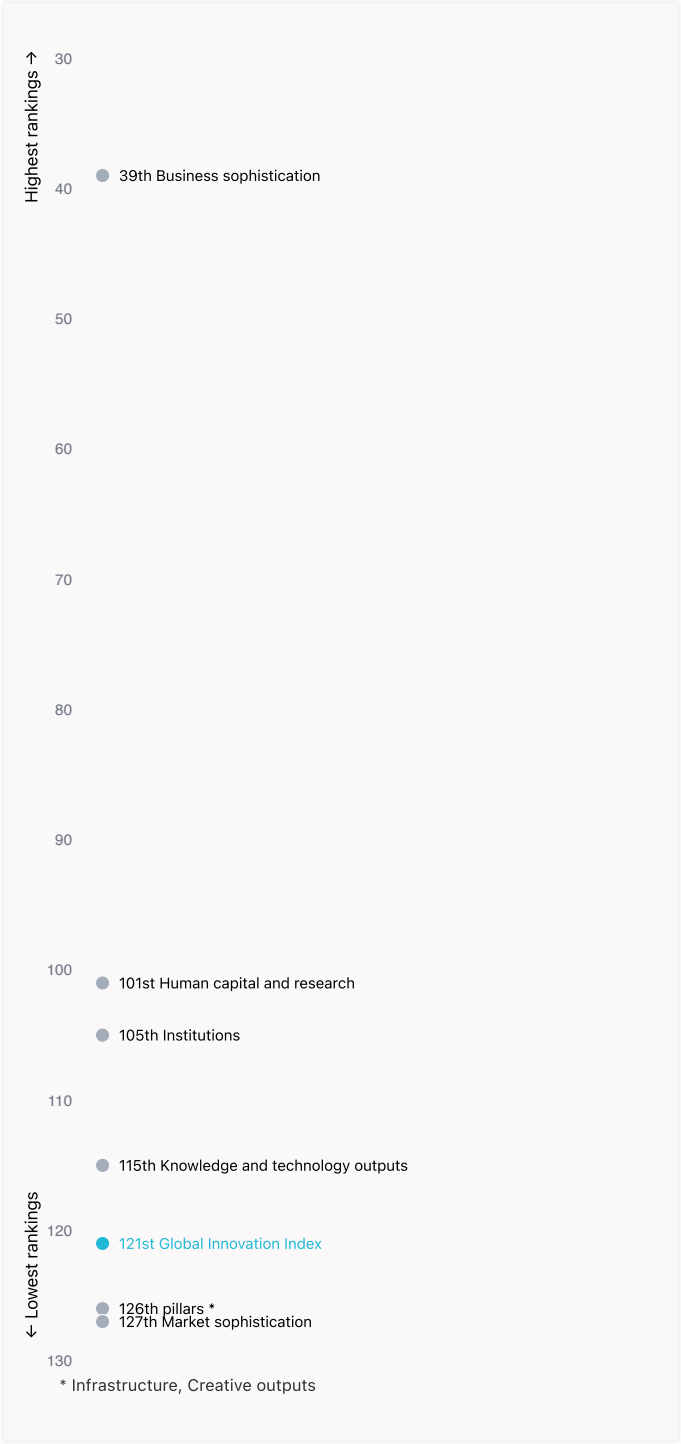


Global Innovation Index 2026



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



Highest Rankings

Cameroon ranks highest in Business sophistication (39th), Human capital and research (101st) and Institutions (105th).

Lowest Rankings

Cameroon ranks lowest in Market sophistication (127th), Infrastructure, Creative outputs (126th) and Knowledge and technology outputs (115th).

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

Global Innovation Index 2026



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

Lower middle-income economies

Cameroon performs above the Lower middle-income group average in Business sophistication.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Cameroon performs above the regional average in Human capital and research, Business sophistication.

Institutions

- Top 10 | Score: 78.28
- Lower middle-income | Score: 39.43
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 39.32
- Cameroon | Score: 36.30

Human capital and research

- Top 10 | Score: 60.87
- Lower middle-income | Score: 24.06
- Cameroon | Score: 23.36
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 19.47

Infrastructure

- Top 10 | Score: 63.75
- Lower middle-income | Score: 35.49
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 27.81
- Cameroon | Score: 26.31

Market sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 63.92
- Lower middle-income | Score: 29.66
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 22.67
- Cameroon | Score: 19.11

Business sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 60.02
- Cameroon | Score: 34.78
- Lower middle-income | Score: 23.29
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 22.38

Knowledge and technology outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.83
- Lower middle-income | Score: 16.59
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 12.13
- Cameroon | Score: 11.67

Creative outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.45
- Lower middle-income | Score: 16.00
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 12.01
- Cameroon | Score: 7.85

Global Innovation Index 2026



Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Cameroon

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

Cameroon's best-ranked innovation strengths are **Youth demographic dividend, %** (rank 16), **ICT services imports, % total trade** (rank 27) and **Graduates in science and engineering, %** (rank 30).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
16	5.1.3	Youth demographic dividend, %
27	5.3.3	ICT services imports, % total trade
30	2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %
31	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %
54	5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %
61	5.2.2	University–industry R&D collaboration†
66	6.1.4	Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP
67	6.3.4	ICT services exports, % total trade

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
113	3.2.3	Logistics performance*
125	6.3.2	Production and export complexity
132	4.3.1	Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %
132	7.2.4	Creative goods exports, % total trade

Global Innovation Index 2026



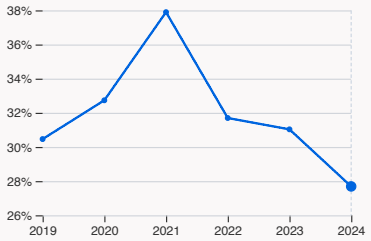
Cameroon's innovation system

Innovation inputs in Cameroon



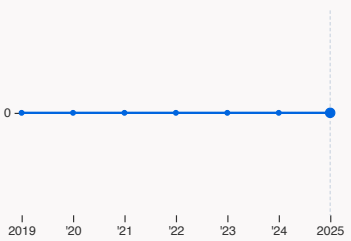
2.1.1 Expenditure on education

was equal to 2.84 % GDP in 2023, up by 0.18 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 115.



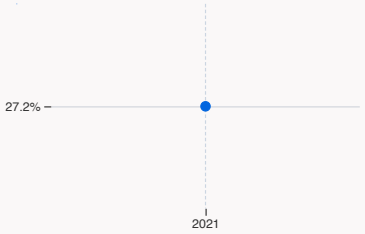
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering

was equal to 27.69 % of total graduates in 2024, down by 3.34 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 30.



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 27.22 % in 2021 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 54.

Global Innovation Index 2026

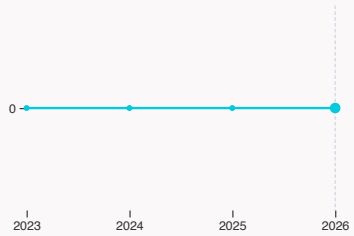


Innovation outputs in Cameroon



6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 79 patents in 2024, up by 83.72% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 72.



6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

The country does not have unicorns in 2026.



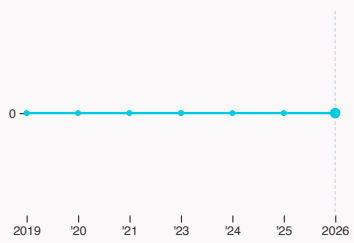
6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of -1.59 in 2024, down by 41.96% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 125.



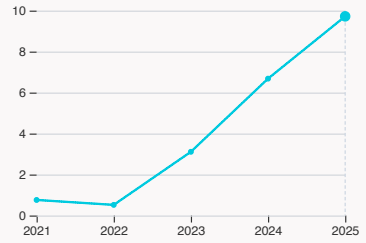
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 7.05 million USD in 2023, down by 18.78% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 125.



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 9.72 million global downloads of mobile apps in 2025, up by 45.51% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 109.

Cameroon

GII 2026 rank **121**

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP$
126	112	Lower middle	Sub-Saharan Africa	29.9	173	5,791.1

	Score / Value	Rank	
Institutions	**36.3**	**105**	
1.1 Institutional environment	**33.3**	**116**	
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	44.1	116	
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	22.5	123	
1.2 Regulatory environment	**25.8**	**127**	
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	29.1	116	
1.2.2 Rule of law*	22.5	132	◇
1.3 Business environment	**49.8**	**59**	
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	41.4	82	
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	58.2	19	
Human capital and research	**23.4**	**[101]**	
2.1 Education	**44.5**	**[98]**	
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	2.8	115	
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	n/a	n/a	
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years	10.9	103	
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	n/a	
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	17	91	
2.2 Tertiary education	**25.6**	**90**	
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	16.7	108	
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %	27.7	30	●
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %	1.8	86	
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	**26.3**	**126**	◇
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**35.7**	**128**	◇
3.1.1 ICT access*	45.5	126	◇
3.1.2 ICT use*	34.1	120	◇
3.1.3 Government online service*	27.7	121	
3.2 General infrastructure	**24.9**	**122**	
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	287.2	120	
3.2.2 Aviation import dwell time	3.5	83	
3.2.3 Logistics performance*	0	113	○ ◇
3.2.4 Gross capital formation, % GDP	20.5	95	
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**18.3**	**68**	
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	12	77	
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	27.2	31	●
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	0.1	128	
Market sophistication	**19.1**	**127**	◇
4.1 Credit	**25.9**	**74**	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	64.9	25	
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	14.1	119	
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	1	33	
4.2 Investment	**1.6**	**106**	
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.04	72	
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	0.006	82	
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.01	110	
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale	**29.8**	**135**	◇
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	11.6	132	○ ◇
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	n/a	n/a	
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	173	84	

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**34.8**	**39**	◆
5.1 Knowledge workers	**63.9**	**[6]**	
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	27.2	54	● ◆
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	n/a	n/a	
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %	60.8	16	● ◆
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	**20.1**	**90**	
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %	0.5	118	
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†	38.9	61	●
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*	n/a	n/a	
5.2.4 State of cluster development†	35.8	80	
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	0	98	○ ◇
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**20.4**	**78**	
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	0.2	99	
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	5.8	102	
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	2.9	27	● ◆
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	1.8	89	
5.3.5 Greenfield R&D & high-tech FDI	0.3	98	
5.3.6 Research talent, % in businesses	n/a	n/a	
Knowledge and technology outputs	**11.7**	**115**	
6.1 Knowledge creation	**7.6**	**97**	
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.5	72	
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.02	82	
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0	77	○ ◇
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	13.4	66	●
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	7.6	89	
6.2 Knowledge impact	**16.4**	**114**	
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	0.4	106	
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	0	58	○ ◇
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.2	73	
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing, %	n/a	n/a	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**10.9**	**122**	
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	0.04	91	
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	37.1	125	○ ◇
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	0.08	125	
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	2	67	●
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	0.4	129	
Creative outputs	**7.8**	**126**	
7.1 Intangible assets	**3.3**	**127**	
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	n/a	n/a	
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	4.3	127	◇
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	0	81	○ ◇
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.3	94	
7.2 Creative goods and services	**4.4**	**[108]**	
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	0.4	69	
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	0.009	132	○
7.3 Online creativity	**20.3**	**113**	
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	0.3	115	
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	1.7	113	
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	59	109	

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 Cameroon.

Cameroon has missing data for fifteen indicators and outdated data for nineteen indicators.

Missing data for Cameroon

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
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
4.2.1	Market capitalization, % GDP	n/a	2024	World Federation of Exchanges; World Bank
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
5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	n/a	2025	International Labour Organization
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
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



Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
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 Cameroon

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
1.3.2	Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	2016	2025	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
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
2.2.3	Tertiary inbound mobility, %	2023	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	2023	2024	International Energy Agency
4.1.1	Finance for startups and scaleups†	2016	2025	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
4.1.2	Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	2019	2024	International Monetary Fund; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and World Bank.
4.1.3	Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	2020	2024	International Monetary Fund, Financial Access Survey (FAS)
4.2.4	VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	2024	2025	PitchBook Data, Inc.; International Monetary Fund
4.3.1	Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	2021	2024	World Trade Organization
5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %	2021	2025	International Labour Organization
5.3.1	Intellectual property payments, % total trade	2023	2024	World Trade Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
5.3.2	High-tech imports, % total trade	2023	2024	United Nations Comtrade Database; Trade Data Monitor; World Trade Organization and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
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

Global Innovation Index 2026



Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
6.3.1	Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	2023	2024	World Trade Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
6.3.3	High-tech exports, % total trade	2023	2024	United Nations Comtrade Database; Trade Data Monitor; World Trade Organization and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
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
7.2.4	Creative goods exports, % total trade	2023	2024	United Nations Comtrade Database; Trade Data Monitor; World Trade Organization and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

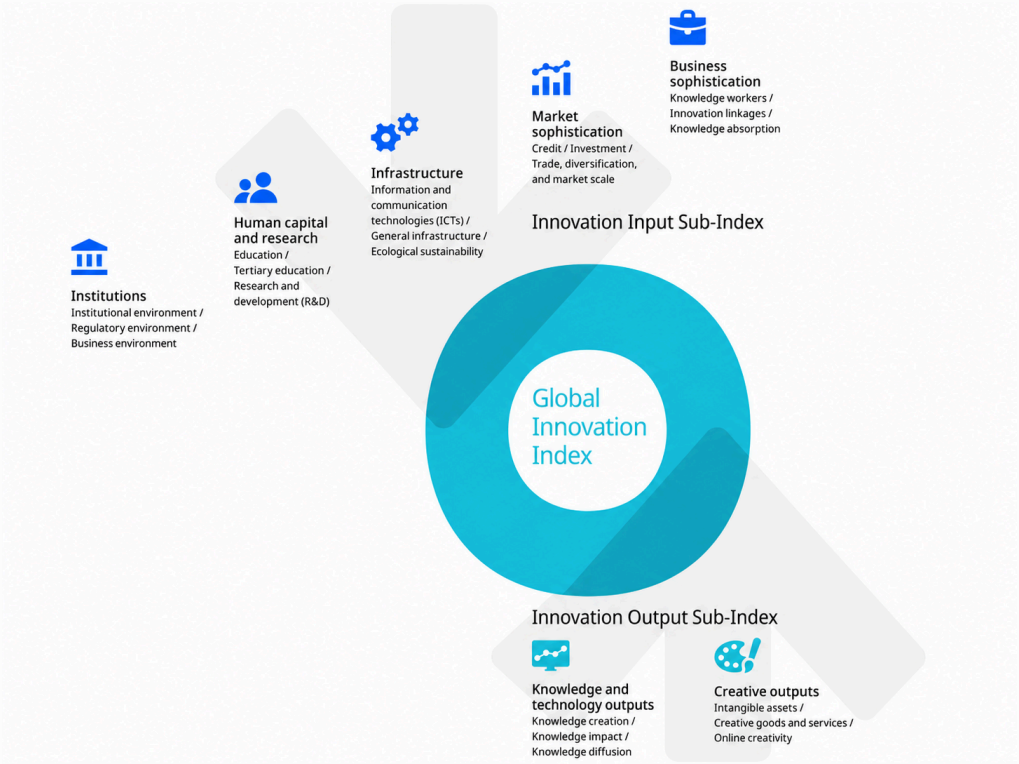
*Model year corresponds to the most frequent data year (the year that appears most often across all economies in the GII).

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.