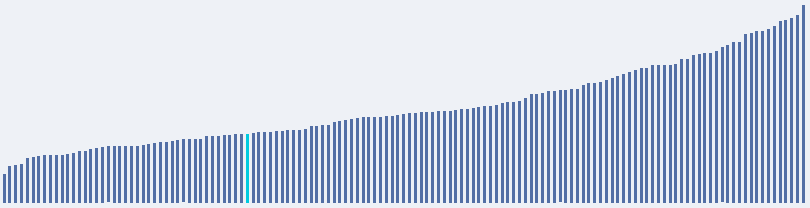
Global Innovation Index 2026



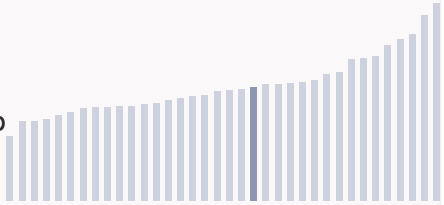
Kenya ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2026

Kenya ranks 97th 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.



Kenya ranks 16th among the 36 Lower middle-income group economies.



Kenya ranks 6th among the 31 economies in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Kenya GII Ranking (2020-2026)

The table shows the rankings of Kenya 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 Kenya in the GII 2026 is between ranks 90 and 102.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	86th	92nd	78th
2021	85th	89th	76th
2022	88th	103rd	79th
2023	100th	104th	91st
2024	96th	105th	87th
2025	102nd	116th	85th
2026	97th	111st	86th

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

This year **Kenya ranks 111st in innovation inputs.** This position is higher than last year.

Kenya ranks 86th in innovation outputs. This position is lower than last year.

World's Top 100 Innovation Clusters

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

For Kenya, 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	▲ 10.1 % 2024 - 2025	▲ 8.7 % 2023 - 2024	▼ -30.8 % 2024 - 2025	▲ 212.5 % 2024 - 2025
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 8.7 % 2015 - 2025	▲ 6.7 % 2014 - 2024	▼ -6.9 % 2020 - 2025	▲ 8.6 % 2015 - 2025

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	▲ 1.6% 2023 - 2024	▲ 29.9% 2023 - 2024	▲ 1,066.7% 2023 - 2024	n/a	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 2.1% 2014 - 2024	▲ 32.7% 2014 - 2024	n/a	n/a	n/a
Penetration	35.8 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	3 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	14 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	▲ 2 % 2024 - 2025	▲ 0.3 % 2023 - 2024	+ 1.1 °C 2025
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 2.9 % 2015 - 2025	▲ 0.3 % 2014 - 2024	+ 1.1 °C 2015
Level	17,788.6 USD in 2025	63.8 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.

Global Innovation Index 2026

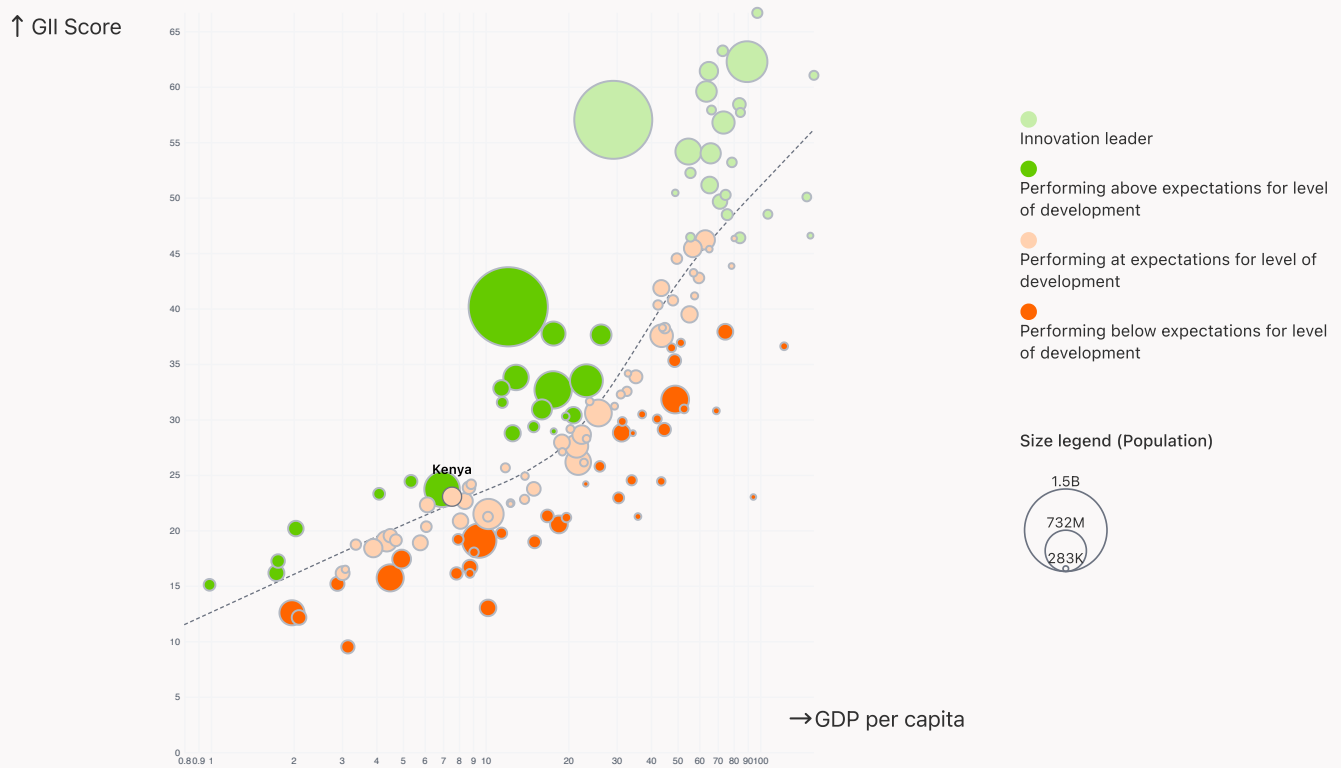


Expected vs. Observed Innovation Performance

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 Kenya 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.

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

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs



Global Innovation Index 2026



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



Highest Rankings

Kenya ranks highest in Knowledge and technology outputs (73rd), Infrastructure (88th) and Creative outputs (95th).

Lowest Rankings

Kenya ranks lowest in Human capital and research (125th), Market sophistication (110th) and Institutions (104th).

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

Global Innovation Index 2026



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

Lower middle-income economies

Kenya performs above the Lower middle-income group average in Infrastructure, Knowledge and technology outputs.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Kenya performs above the regional average in Infrastructure, Market sophistication, Business sophistication, Knowledge and technology outputs, Creative outputs.

Institutions

- Top 10 | Score: 78.28
- Lower middle-income | Score: 39.43
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 39.32
- Kenya | Score: 36.41

Human capital and research

- Top 10 | Score: 60.87
- Lower middle-income | Score: 24.06
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 19.47
- Kenya | Score: 17.07

Infrastructure

- Top 10 | Score: 63.75
- Kenya | Score: 38.87
- Lower middle-income | Score: 35.49
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 27.81

Market sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 63.92
- Lower middle-income | Score: 29.66
- Kenya | Score: 25.01
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 22.67

Business sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 60.02
- Lower middle-income | Score: 23.29
- Kenya | Score: 22.52
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 22.38

Knowledge and technology outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.83
- Kenya | Score: 20.91
- Lower middle-income | Score: 16.59
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 12.13

Creative outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.45
- Lower middle-income | Score: 16.00
- Kenya | Score: 15.24
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 12.01

Global Innovation Index 2026



Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Kenya

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

Kenya's best-ranked innovation strengths are **Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP** (rank 8), **Low-carbon energy use, %** (rank 11) and **Youth demographic dividend, %** (rank 24).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
8	6.1.3	Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP
11	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %
24	5.1.3	Youth demographic dividend, %
29	5.3.2	High-tech imports, % total trade
30	4.2.2	Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP
30	6.3.4	ICT services exports, % total trade
34	4.2.3	Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC
36	5.3.5	Greenfield R&D & high-tech FDI
39	6.3.1	Intellectual property receipts, % total trade
45	6.2.1	Labor productivity growth, %

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
75	7.1.1	Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %
81	2.3.4	QS university ranking, top 3*
115	5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %
120	7.2.1	Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade
121	3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.
125	3.1.1	ICT access*
127	4.3.1	Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %
129	2.1.5	Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary

Global Innovation Index 2026



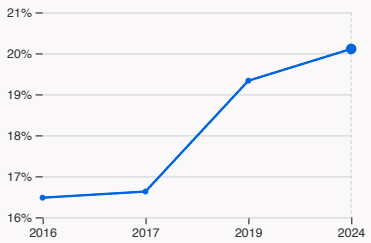
Kenya's innovation system

Innovation inputs in Kenya



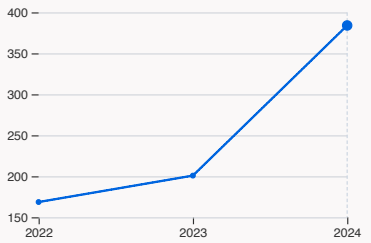
2.1.1 Expenditure on education

was equal to 4.02 % GDP in 2024, up by 0.06 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 78.



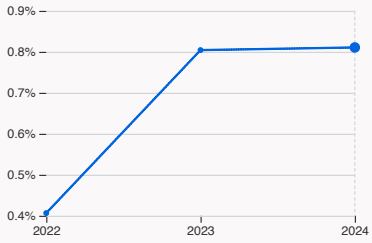
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering

was equal to 20.11 % of total graduates in 2024, up by 0.78 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 83.



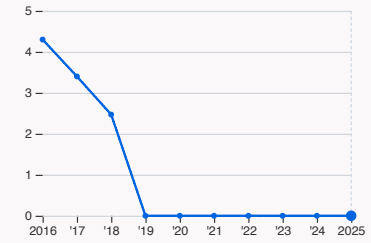
2.3.1 Researchers

was equal to 384.02 FTE per million population in 2024, up by 91.2% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 81.



2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D

was equal to 0.81 % GDP in 2024, up by 0.006 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 46.



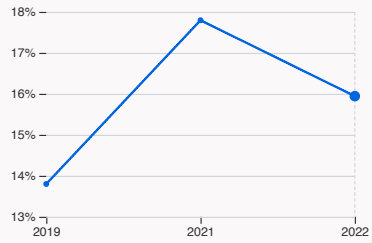
2.3.4 QS university ranking

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



4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification

was equal to an index score of 0.224 in 2023, down by 0.95% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 83.



5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment

was equal to 15.94 % in 2022, down by 1.85 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 87.

Global Innovation Index 2026

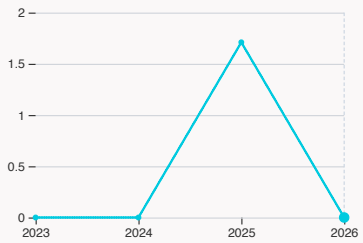


Innovation outputs in Kenya



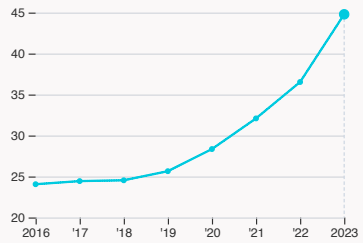
6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 396 patents in 2024, up by 9.09% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 49.



6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

The country does not have unicorns in 2026.



6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing

was equal to 44.79 high-tech manufacturing output in trillion USD in 2023, up by 22.61% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 81.



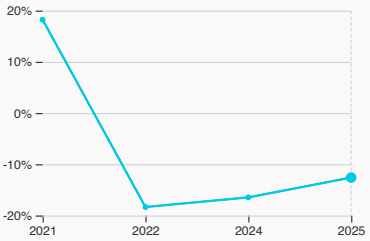
6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of -0.27 in 2024, up by 30.77% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 89.



6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 106.42 million USD in 2024, up by 8.22% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 90.



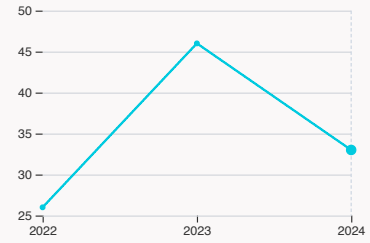
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15

was equal to -12.59 % for the top 15 companies in 2025, up by 3.87 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 75.



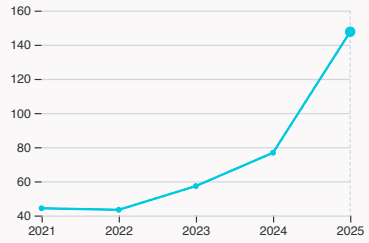
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

was equal to 1.93 billion USD for the brands in the top 5,000 in 2026, down by 4.93% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 55.



7.2.2 National feature films

was equal to 33 films in 2024, down by 28.26% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 82.



7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 147.61 million global downloads of mobile apps in 2025, up by 92.28% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 61.



Kenya'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 top universities, 5.3.5 Greenfield R&D and high-tech FDI and 6.2.2 Top Unicorn Companies.

5.2.3 University industry and international engagement, top 5 universities

Rank	University	Score
1	KENYATTA UNIVERSITY	36.00
2	UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI	35.95

Source: Times Higher Education (THE), World University Rankings 2026 (https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2026/world-ranking).
Note: Rank corresponds to within economy ranks. The score is calculated as the average of the International Outlook score (encompassing international staff, students, and co-authorship) and the industry score (reflecting industry income and patent citations). The 2026 ranking corresponds to data from the academic year that ended in 2023.

7.1.1 Top 15 intangible-asset intensive companies in Kenya

Rank	Firm	Intensity, %
1	SAFARICOM PLC	83.10
2	NCBA GROUP PLC	3.04
3	CROWN PAINTS KENYA PLC	31.41

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 Kenya with highest global brand value

Rank	Brand	Industry	Brand Value, mn USD
1	Equity Bank	Banking	571.6
2	Kenya Commercial Bank	Banking	462.2
3	Safaricom	Telecoms	431.1

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



GII 2026 SPECIAL THEME

Deep science entrepreneurship in Kenya

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 Kenya

Rank	Company	Industry	City	Founded	VC funding raised, mn USD	Valuation, bn USD
1	Sanergy	Life Sciences	Nairobi	2010	32.9	0.09
2	Octavia Carbon	Energy	Nairobi	2022	4.3	0.02

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

Kenya

GII 2026 rank **97**

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP$
86	111	Lower middle	Sub-Saharan Africa	57.5	403.1	7,556.1

	Score / Value	Rank	
Institutions	**36.4**	**104**	
1.1 Institutional environment	**40.9**	**106**	
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	46.7	113	
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	35.1	98	
1.2 Regulatory environment	**40**	**95**	
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	38.9	97	
1.2.2 Rule of law*	41.2	90	
1.3 Business environment	**28.3**	**104**	
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	32.1	97	
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	24.4	66	
Human capital and research	**17.1**	**125**	
2.1 Education	**32.3**	[126]	
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	4	78	
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	n/a	n/a	
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years	n/a	n/a	
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	n/a	
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	40	129	○ ◇
2.2 Tertiary education	**15**	**114**	
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	10.4	115	
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %	20.1	83	
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %	1.3	91	
2.3 Research and development (R&D)	**3.9**	**84**	
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	384	81	
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	0.8	46	◆
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	**38.9**	**88**	
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**60.2**	**101**	
3.1.1 ICT access*	46.9	125	○ ◇
3.1.2 ICT use*	60.5	109	
3.1.3 Government online service*	73.2	55	◆
3.2 General infrastructure	**31.8**	**98**	
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	227.5	121	○
3.2.2 Aviation import dwell time	3	74	
3.2.3 Logistics performance*	n/a	n/a	
3.2.4 Gross capital formation, % GDP	17.1	114	◇
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**24.7**	**44**	◆
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	10.2	93	
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	45.5	11	● ◆
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	0.4	99	
Market sophistication	**25**	**110**	
4.1 Credit	**14.9**	**110**	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	31.6	75	
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	31.8	95	
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	0.2	53	
4.2 Investment	**9.6**	**49**	◆
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	11.7	70	
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.2	30	● ◆
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	0.08	34	●
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.2	41	◆
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale	**50.6**	**115**	
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	9.9	127	○ ◇
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	71.1	83	
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	403.1	57	

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**22.5**	**99**	
5.1 Knowledge workers	**26**	**113**	
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	15.9	87	
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	1.9	115	○
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %	57.3	24	●
5.1.4 GERD performed by business, % GDP	0.1	63	
5.1.5 GERD financed by business, %	14.5	70	
5.2 Innovation linkages	**20.1**	**89**	
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %	1.8	53	◆
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†	33.1	83	
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*	11.7	90	
5.2.4 State of cluster development†	35.3	83	
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	0.006	89	
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**21.5**	**73**	
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	0.2	94	
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	11	29	●
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	0.6	112	
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	0.5	114	
5.3.5 Greenfield R&D & high-tech FDI	1.9	36	● ◆
5.3.6 Research talent, % in businesses	n/a	n/a	
Knowledge and technology outputs	**20.9**	**73**	
6.1 Knowledge creation	**20.2**	**51**	◆
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	1.1	49	◆
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.01	90	
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	1.4	8	● ◆
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	9.9	90	
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	16.1	54	
6.2 Knowledge impact	**19.6**	**97**	
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	2.4	45	●
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	0	58	○ ◇
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.1	91	
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing, %	13.3	81	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**22.9**	**66**	
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	0.3	39	● ◆
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	62.5	89	
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	0.6	90	
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	4.5	30	●
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	1.8	94	
Creative outputs	**15.2**	**95**	
7.1 Intangible assets	**16.5**	**86**	
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	-12.6	75	○ ◇
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	16	98	
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	1.4	55	
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	1.1	59	
7.2 Creative goods and services	**2.7**	**117**	
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	0.01	120	○
7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	1	82	
7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	1.9	53	
7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade	0.1	87	
7.3 Online creativity	**25.4**	**78**	
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	0.8	106	
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	6.7	67	
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	68.6	61	

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 Kenya.

Kenya has missing data for five indicators and outdated data for nine indicators.

Missing data for Kenya

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
2.1.2	Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	n/a	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.3	School life expectancy, years	n/a	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.4	PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	2022	OECD, PISA
3.2.3	Logistics performance*	n/a	2023	World Bank, Logistics Performance Index 2023; and World Bank 2023, Connecting to Compete 2023: Trade Logistics in the Global Economy – The Logistics Performance Index and its Indicators.
5.3.6	Research talent, % in businesses	n/a	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT

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

Outdated data for Kenya

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
2.1.5	Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	2023	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.3	Tertiary inbound mobility, %	2019	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
4.1.2	Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	2023	2024	International Monetary Fund; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and World Bank.
5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %	2022	2025	International Labour Organization
5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	2022	2025	International Labour Organization
5.3.1	Intellectual property payments, % total trade	2023	2024	World Trade Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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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
6.3.1	Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	2023	2024	World Trade Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
6.3.4	ICT services exports, % total trade	2023	2024	World Trade Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

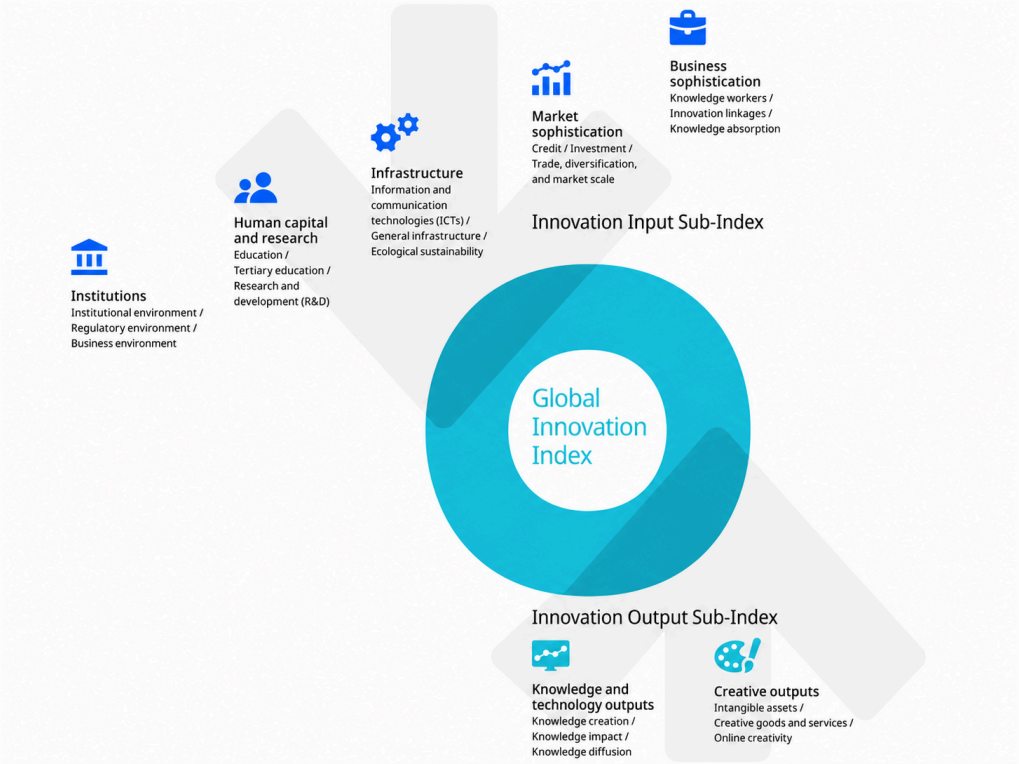
*Model year corresponds to the most frequent data year (the year that appears most often across all economies in the GII).

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.