Global Innovation Index 2026



Innovation performance of Latin America in the GII 2026

The GII 2026 covers 17 economies in Latin America: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Paraguay, El Salvador, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Total population
621.0M

Total GDP (PPP, intl. dollars)
1,704,953.6bn

GII 2026– Science and Technology Investment in Latin America compared to the World

	Scientific publications	R&D investments *	Venture capital	PCT Patents
Latin America (short term)	▲ 5.5% 2024-2025	▲ 2.4% 2024-2025	▼ -11.7% 2024-2025	▲ 4.3% 2024-2025
World benchmark (short term)	▲ 6.9% 2024-2025	▲ 3.3% 2024-2025	▲ 1.8% 2024-2025	▲ 0.7% 2024-2025

* R&D expenditures for 2025 are WIPO estimates for all economies, based on the latest available R&D intensity data and estimations of GDP growth at constant prices from the International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, April 2026.

	Scientific publications	R&D investments	Venture capital	PCT Patents
Latin America (long term)	▲ 3.9% 2016-2025	▲ 1.4% 2016-2025	▼ -0.9% 2020-2025	▼ -0.8% 2016-2025
World benchmark (long term)	▲ 5.3% 2016-2025	▲ 4.9% 2016-2025	▲ 0.7% 2020-2025	▲ 1.9% 2016-2025

Note: Long-term annual growth refers to the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) over the indicated period. Historic data may have been updated and might differ from last year's Global Innovation Tracker. Figures are rounded. Estimates or incomplete data are indicated by an asterisk (*). n.a. indicates not available.

Global Innovation Index 2026



GII 2026 Rankings of economies in Latin America

Economy	Economy Regional rank	GII rank	Innovation Input rank	Innovation Output rank
Chile	1	51	41	70
Brazil	2	53	66	50
Mexico	3	65	81	53
Uruguay	4	66	56	77
Costa Rica	5	70	62	76
Argentina	6	75	83	66
Colombia	7	78	74	74
Peru	8	80	72	82
Panama	9	89	86	93
El Salvador	10	100	105	90
Ecuador	11	106	101	106
Paraguay	12	109	107	101
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	13	114	120	105
Honduras	14	116	117	116
Guatemala	15	120	119	117
Nicaragua	16	124	114	130
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	17	127	126	124

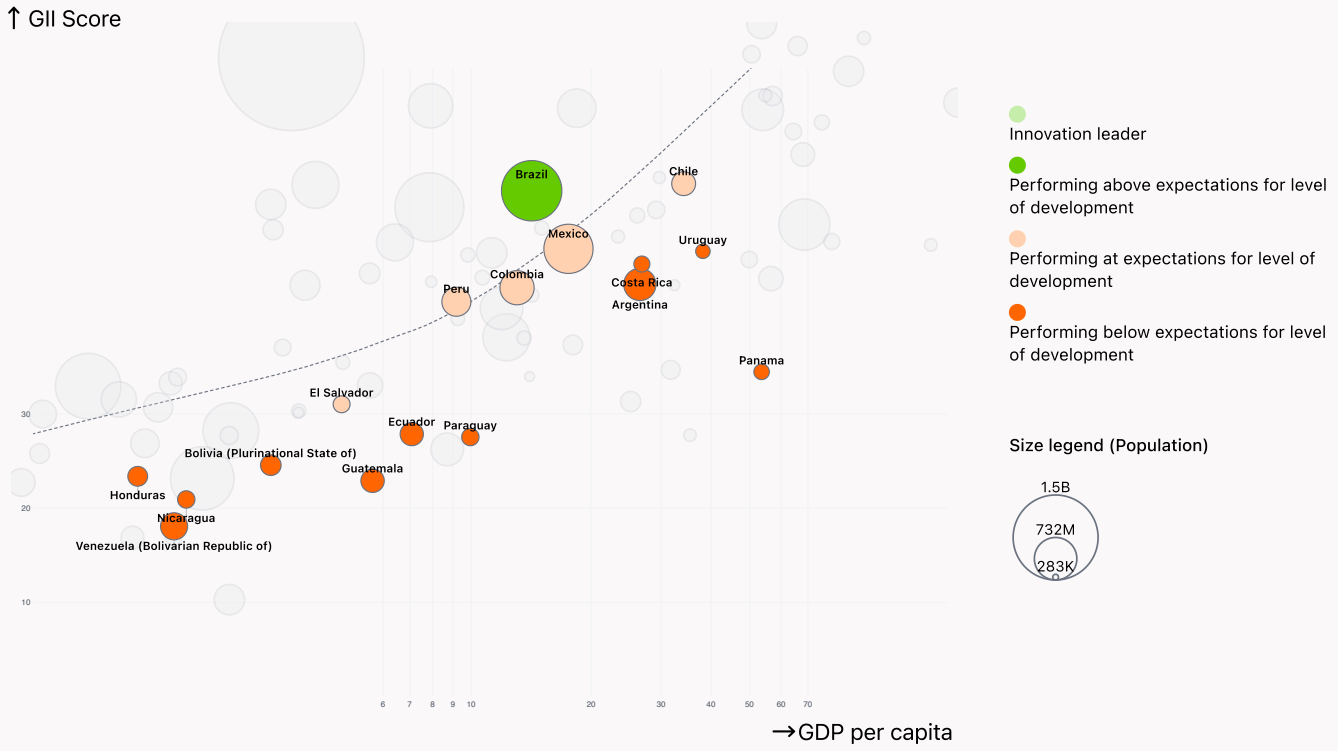
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Expected vs. Observed Innovation Performance in Latin America

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.

> Innovation overperformers relative to their economic development



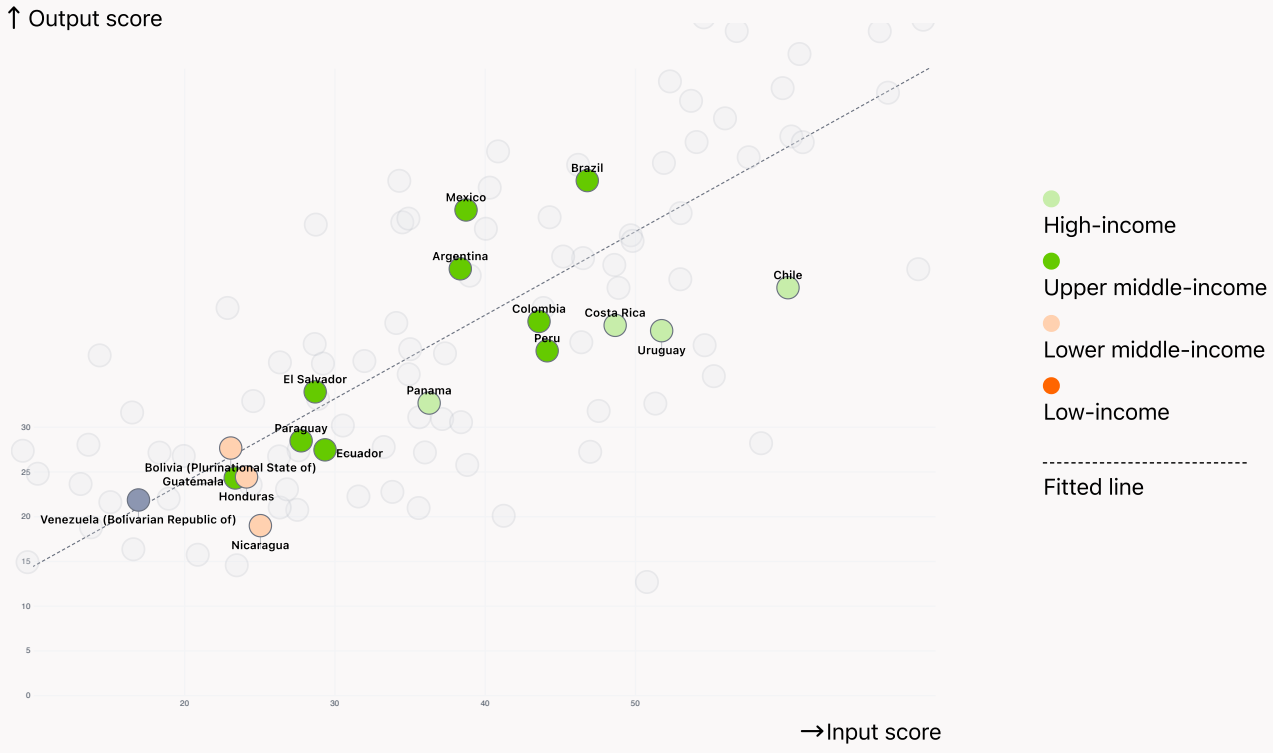
Global Innovation Index 2026



Effectively translating innovation investments into innovation outputs in Latin America

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.

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs



Global Innovation Index 2026



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

Institutions

Top 10 | Score: 78.28

Top 50 | Score: 67.38

Top 70 | Score: 62.40

Latin America | Score: 36.83

Human capital and research

Top 10 | Score: 60.87

Top 50 | Score: 49.21

Top 70 | Score: 44.52

Latin America | Score: 28.55

Infrastructure

Top 10 | Score: 63.75

Top 50 | Score: 58.48

Top 70 | Score: 55.32

Latin America | Score: 40.93

Market sophistication

Top 10 | Score: 63.92

Top 50 | Score: 51.42

Top 70 | Score: 46.93

Latin America | Score: 32.88

Business sophistication

Top 10 | Score: 60.02

Top 50 | Score: 45.24

Top 70 | Score: 40.16

Latin America | Score: 24.65

Knowledge and technology outputs

Top 10 | Score: 55.83

Top 50 | Score: 38.20

Top 70 | Score: 34.05

Latin America | Score: 16.55

Creative outputs

Top 10 | Score: 55.45

Top 50 | Score: 42.77

Top 70 | Score: 37.78

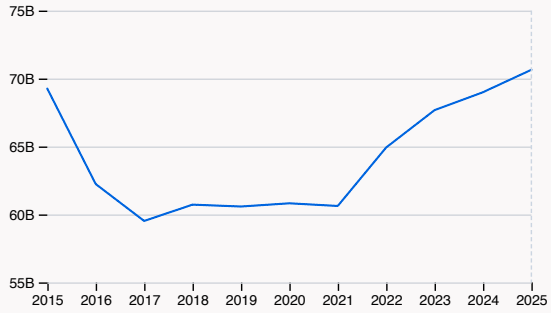
Latin America | Score: 18.05



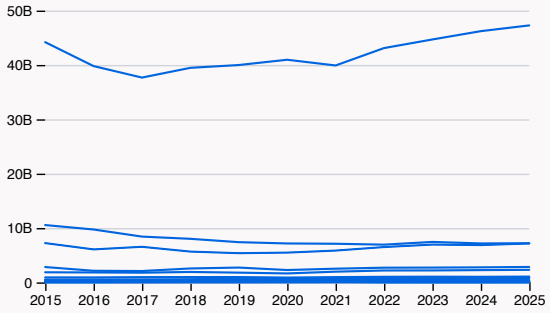
Selected Innovation Trends in Latin America

Innovation inputs

Regional value



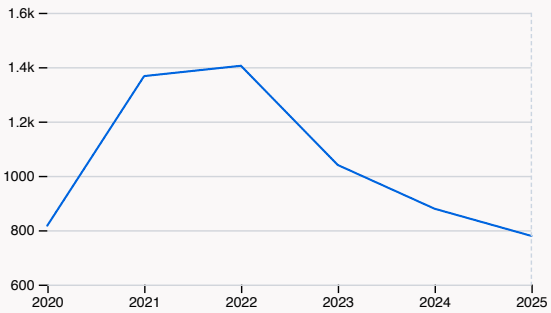
Economy values



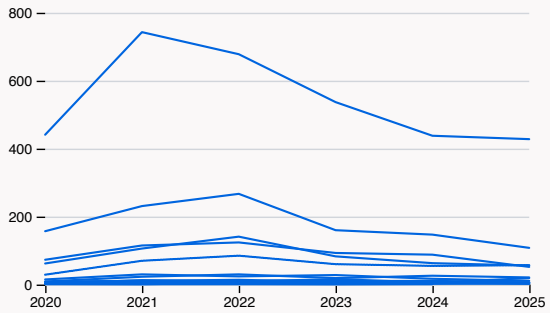
2.3.2 Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD)

Latin America's Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) changed at an annual rate of 0% (CAGR) between 2015 and 2025, rising from 69.25B USD to 70.65B USD. In 2025, GERD was up by 2.4 percentage points compared to the year prior.

Regional value



Economy values



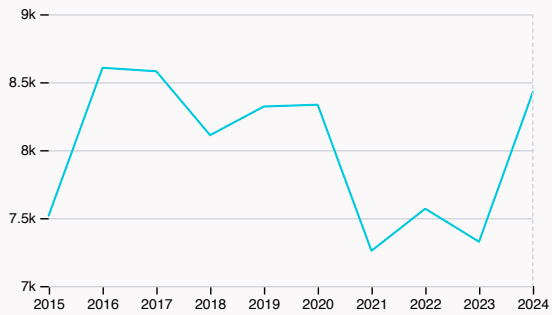
4.2.2 Venture Capital (VC) Received

After peaking at 1.3 thousand deals in 2022, Latin America's VC deal numbers declined by 27.5% in 2023 and by a further 20% in 2024, returning to 2020 levels.

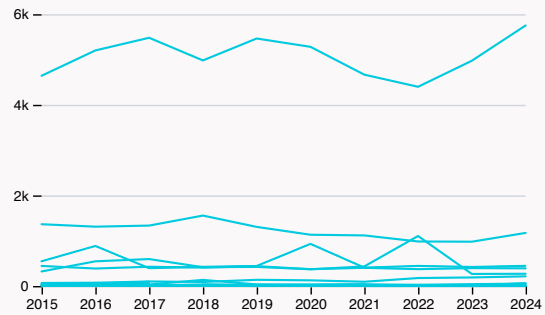


Innovation outputs

Regional value



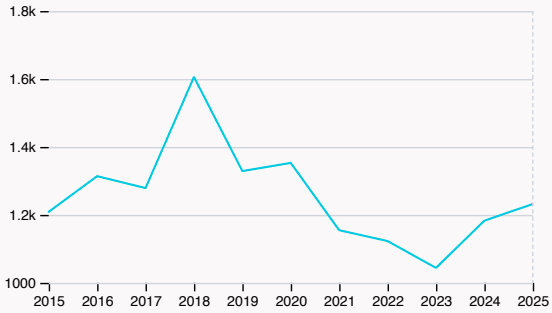
Economy values



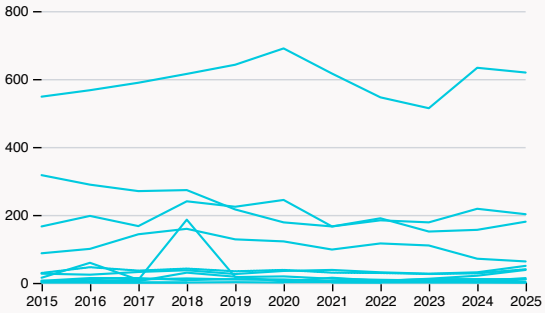
6.1.1 Patents by origin

The number of patents originating from Latin America remained practically unchanged between 2015 and 2023, with a peak of 8.61 thousand patents in 2016.

Regional value



Economy values

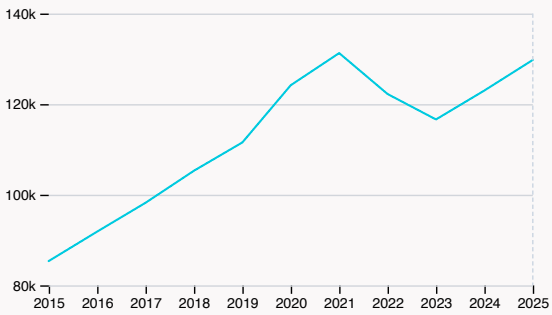


6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin

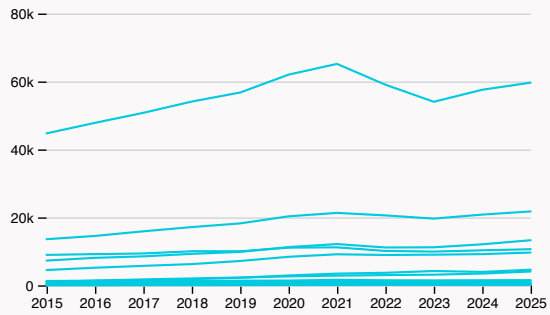
The number of PCT patents originating from Latin America remained practically unchanged between 2015 and 2024, with a peak of 1,556 PCT patents in 2018.



Regional value



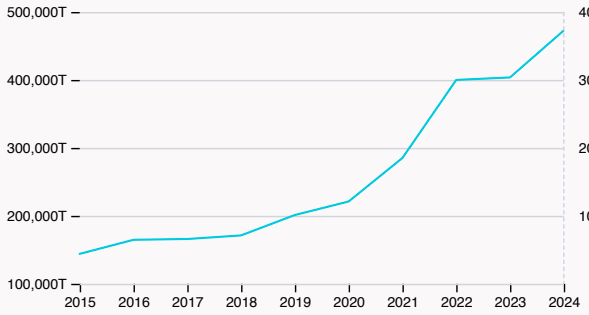
Economy values



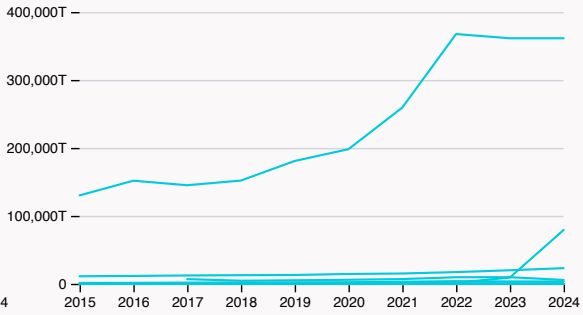
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles

The number of Scientific and technical articles in Latin America grew at an annual rate of 4% (CAGR) between 2015 and 2025, rising from 85k articles to 130k articles. In 2025, Scientific and technical articles were up by 5.5 percentage points compared to the year prior.

Regional value



Economy values

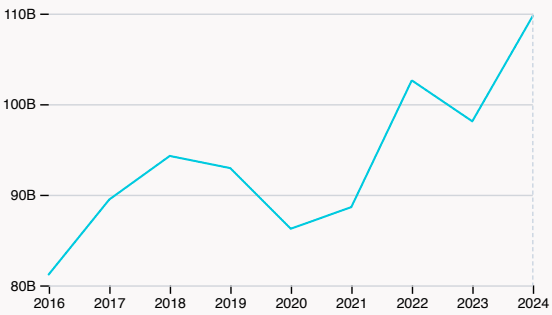


6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing

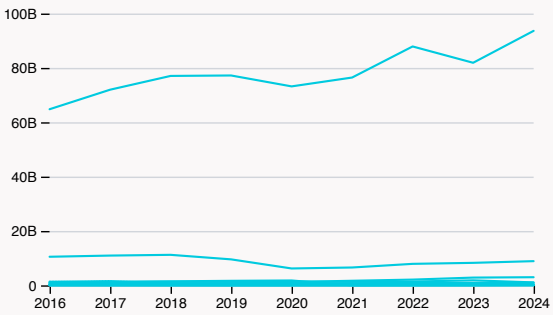
The value of High-tech manufacturing in Latin America grew at an annual rate of 14% (CAGR) between 2015 and 2024, rising from USD 144,037T to USD 472,848T. In 2024, High-tech manufacturing was up by 17.1 percentage points compared to the year prior.



Regional value



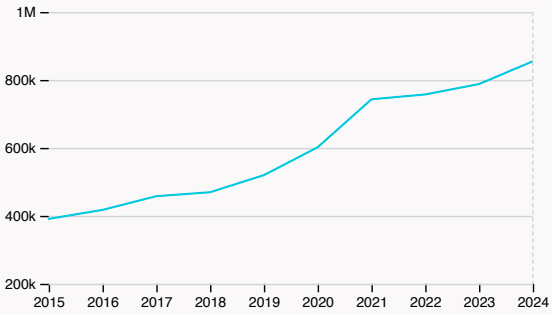
Economy values



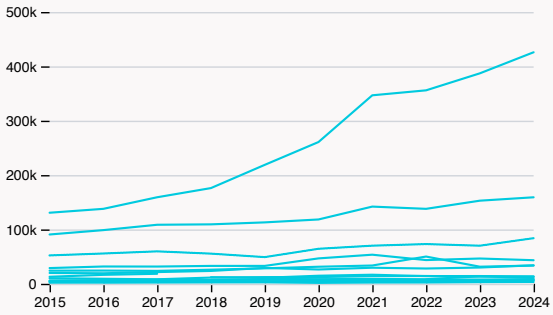
6.3.3 High-tech exports

The value of High-tech exports in Latin America grew at an annual rate of 4% (CAGR) between 2016 and 2024, rising from USD 81 billion to USD 110 billion. In 2024, High-tech exports were up by 11.9 percentage points compared to the year prior.

Regional value



Economy values

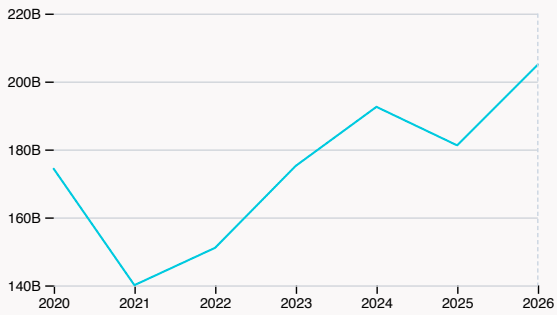


7.1.2 Trademarks by origin

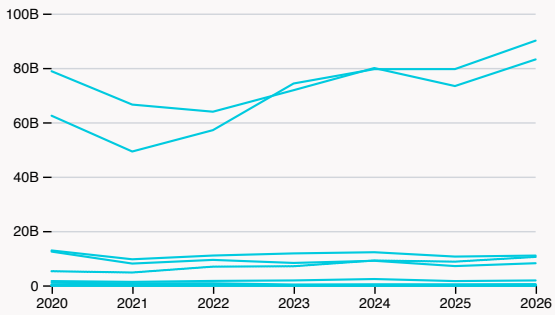
The number of Trademarks by origin in Latin America grew at an annual rate of 9% (CAGR) between 2015 and 2024, rising from 391k trademarks to 855k trademarks. In 2024, Trademarks by origin was up by 8.5 percentage points compared to the year prior.



Regional value



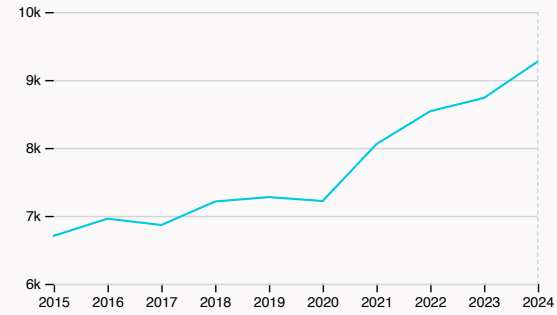
Economy values



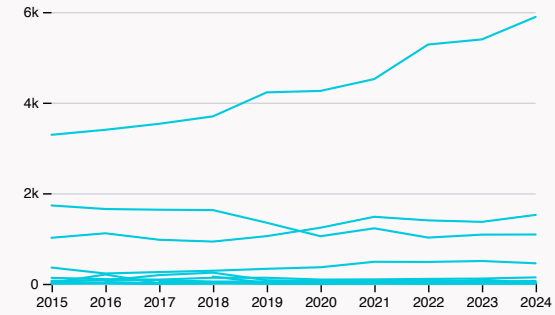
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

The value of the global brands from Latin America in the top 5000 grew at an annual rate of 3% (CAGR) between 2020 and 2026, rising from USD 174.286 billion to USD 204.959 billion. In 2026, the value of the global brands from Latin America in the top 5000 was up by 13.1 percentage points compared to the year prior.

Regional value



Economy values



7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin

The number of Industrial designs by origin in Latin America grew at an annual rate of 4% (CAGR) between 2015 and 2024, rising from 7k industrial designs to 9k industrial designs. In 2024, Industrial designs by origin was up by 6.1 percentage points compared to the year prior.

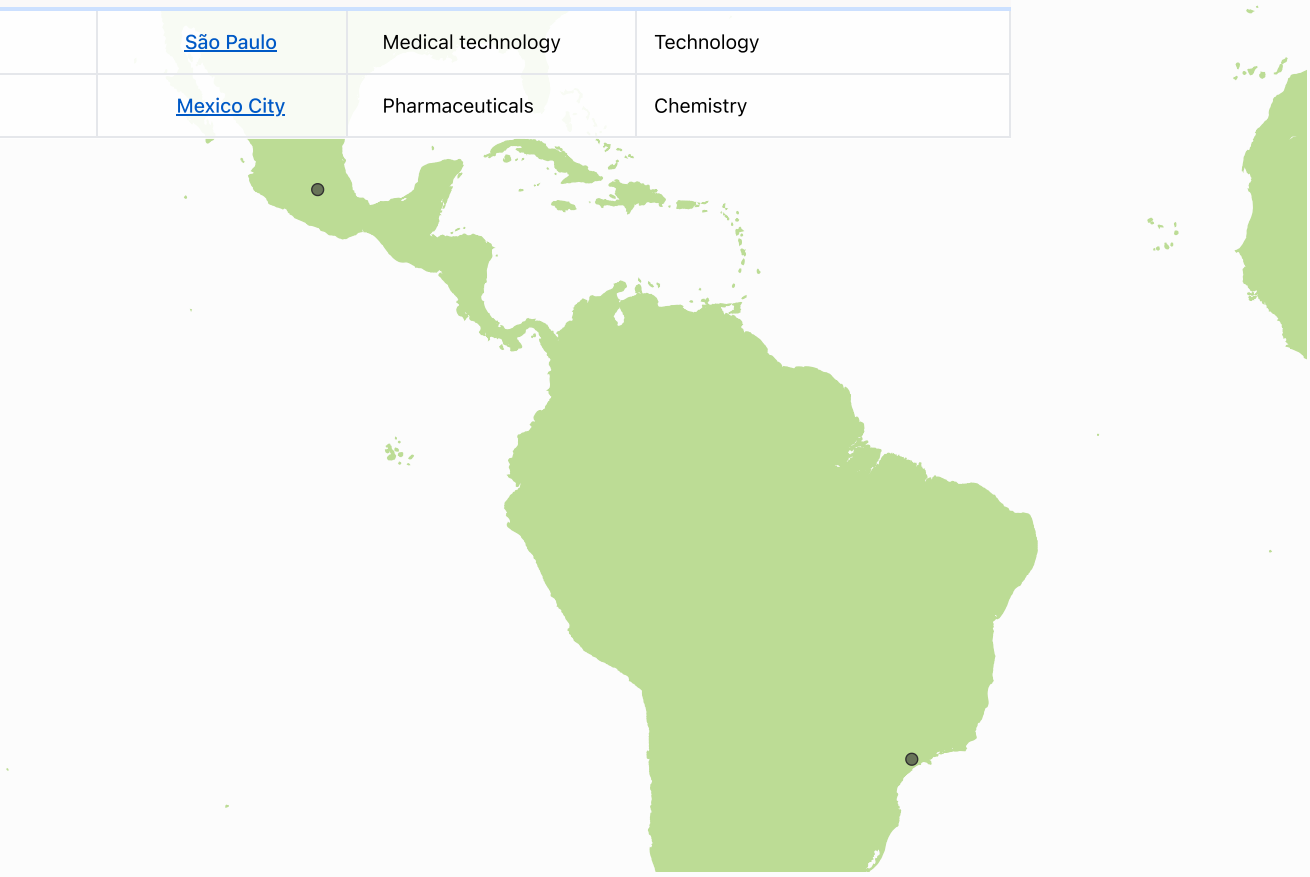


Top innovation clusters in Latin America

Latin America has 2 clusters in the world's top innovation clusters of the Global Innovation Index

The table and map below give an overview of the top innovation clusters in Latin America.

Rank	Cluster name	Top patent field	Top academic subject
49	São Paulo	Medical technology	Technology
82	Mexico City	Pharmaceuticals	Chemistry





The table and map below give an overview by intensity of the top innovation clusters in Latin America.

Rank	Cluster name	Top patent field	Top academic subject
95	São Paulo	Medical technology	Technology
99	Mexico City	Pharmaceuticals	Chemistry





Latin America's Innovation Top Performers

Disclaimer: This section contains only the top performers by region or group. For the complete list, please visit the GII Innovation Ecosystems and Data Explorer website.

2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors in Latin America

World Rank	Region Rank	Firm	Country	Industry	R&D [mn EUR]	R&D Growth [%]	R&D Intensity [%]
156	1	MERCADOLIBRE	Uruguay	Others	1,600.73	4.00	8.00
314	2	VALE	Brazil	Industrials	760.42	9.27	2.08
357	3	PETROLEO BRASILEIRO	Brazil	Energy	666.27	18.29	0.9

Source: The 2024 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard and Orbis database

Note: Data is based on the 2025 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, which ranks the top 2,000 firms by R&D investment annually. For countries not represented in the Scoreboard, companies from Orbis with R&D expenditure above USD 50 million were identified and used to complement the dataset.

2.3.4 QS university ranking of Latin America's top universities

World Rank	University	Country	Score
84	UNIVERSIDAD DE BUENOS AIRES (UBA)	Argentina	72.3
108	UNIVERSIDADE DE SÃO PAULO	Brazil	67.3
116	PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE CHILE (UC)	Chile	66.1

Source: QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd

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 in Latin America

Country Rank	University	Country	Score
1	PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA DE CHILE	Chile	69.15
1	TECNOLOGICO DE MONTERREY	Mexico	67.1
1	UEES, ESPIRITU SANTO UNIVERSITY	Ecuador	64.3

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.



6.2.2 Top Unicorn Companies in Latin America

World Rank	Region Rank	Unicorn Company	Industry	Country	Location	Valuation, bn USD
201	1	Rappi	Consumer & Retail	Colombia	Bogota	5.25
206	2	QuintoAndar	Financial Services	Brazil	Campinas	5.10
208	3	C6 Bank	Financial Services	Brazil	Sao Paulo	5.05

Source: CBInsights, Tracker , The Complete List of Unicorn Companies and Africa: The Big Deal

7.1.1 Top 15 intangible-asset intensive companies in Latin America

Country Rank	Firm	Country	Intensity, %
8	MINERA IRL LIMITED	Peru	114.17
4	COMPANHIA DE SANEAMENTO BASICO DO ESTADO DE SAO PAULO - SABESP	Brazil	103.10
1	SIEFORE XXI BANORTE BASICA INICIAL, S.A. DE C.V.	Mexico	99.86

Source: Brand Finance Global Intangible Finance Tracker

Note: Brand Finance only provides within economy ranks.

7.1.3 Top 5,000 companies in Latin America with highest global brand value

Country Rank	Brand	Country	Industry	Brand Value, mn USD
1	Corona Extra	Mexico	Beers	13,916.32
1	Itaú	Brazil	Banking	9,905.83
2	Modelo Especial	Mexico	Beers	8,038.60

Source: Brand Finance

Note: Rank corresponds to within economy ranks.



GII 2026 SPECIAL THEME

Deep science entrepreneurship in Latin America

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 region's most valuable venture capital-backed deep science firms and, separately, those that originated in university or public research.

Top deep science startups in Latin America

Rank	Company	Country	Industry	City	Founded	VC funding raised, mn USD	Valuation, bn USD
1	NotCo	Chile	Food & Agritech	Santiago	2015	423.0	1.50
2	Satellogic	Uruguay	Space	Montevideo	2010	263.9	0.56
3	New Wave	Brazil	Advanced materials and manufacturing	Rio de Janeiro	2019	120.0	0.48
4	Bioceres Crop Solutions	Argentina	Food & Agritech	Rosario	2001	n/a	0.25
5	Solubio	Brazil	Food & Agritech		2012	n/a	0.18

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

Top deep science spinouts originated in Latin America

Rank	Spinout	Country	Industry	Current Headquarters Location	Founded	VC funding raised, mn USD	Valuation, bn USD
1	Biotimize	Brazil	Life Sciences		2016	30.0	0.12
2	Andes	Chile	Food & Agritech	Emeryville	2018	41.1	0.06
3	Botanical Solutions	Chile	Life Sciences	Amherst	2013	24.0	0.03
4	Puna Bio	Argentina	Food & Agritech	Federal	2020	4.2	0.01
5	DNAzyme	Uruguay	Life Sciences	Montevideo	2023	3.7	0.01

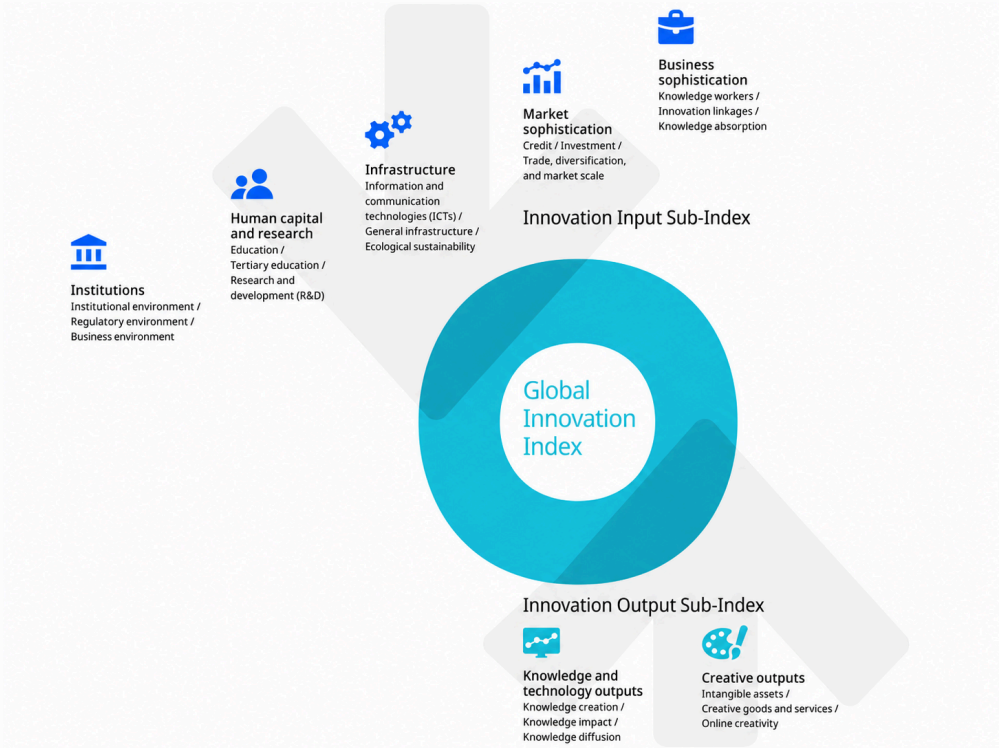
Source: Dealroom–WIPO Deep Science Startup Tracker (https://www.wipo.int/en/web/global-innovation-index/2026/deep-science-innovation).

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.