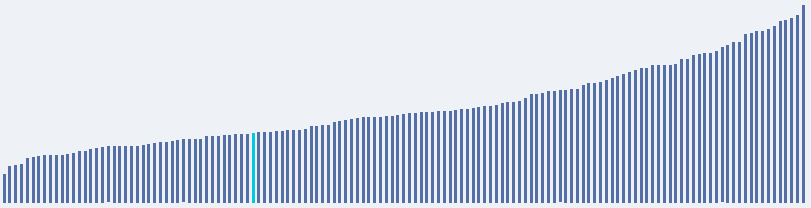
Global Innovation Index 2026



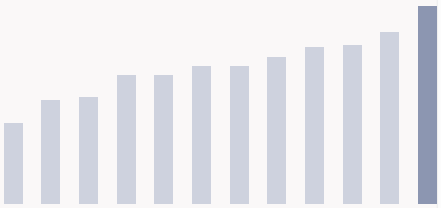
Rwanda ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2026

Rwanda ranks 96th 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.



Rwanda ranks 1st among the 12 Low-income group economies.



Rwanda ranks 5th among the 31 economies in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Rwanda GII Ranking (2020-2026)

The table shows the rankings of Rwanda 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 Rwanda in the GII 2026 is between ranks 92 and 106.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	91st	79th	112nd
2021	102nd	91st	108th
2022	105th	91st	123rd
2023	103rd	85th	113rd
2024	104th	81st	116th
2025	104th	86th	116th
2026	96th	80th	114th

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

This year **Rwanda ranks 80th in innovation inputs.** This position is higher than last year.

Rwanda ranks 114th in innovation outputs. This position is higher than last year.

World's Top 100 Innovation Clusters

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

For Rwanda, 5 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	▲ 27.6 % 2024 - 2025	▲ 8.9 % 2023 - 2024	▼ -33.3 % 2024 - 2025	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 17.1 % 2015 - 2025	▲ 9.2 % 2016 - 2024	0 % 2020 - 2025	n/a

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	n/a	▲ 36.6% 2023 - 2024	n/a	n/a	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	n/a	▲ 40.1% 2014 - 2024	n/a	n/a	n/a
Penetration	n/a	0.6 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	n/a	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	▲ 3.9 % 2024 - 2025	▲ 0.3 % 2023 - 2024	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 3.8 % 2015 - 2025	▲ 0.4 % 2014 - 2024	n/a
Level	10,080.7 USD in 2025	68 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

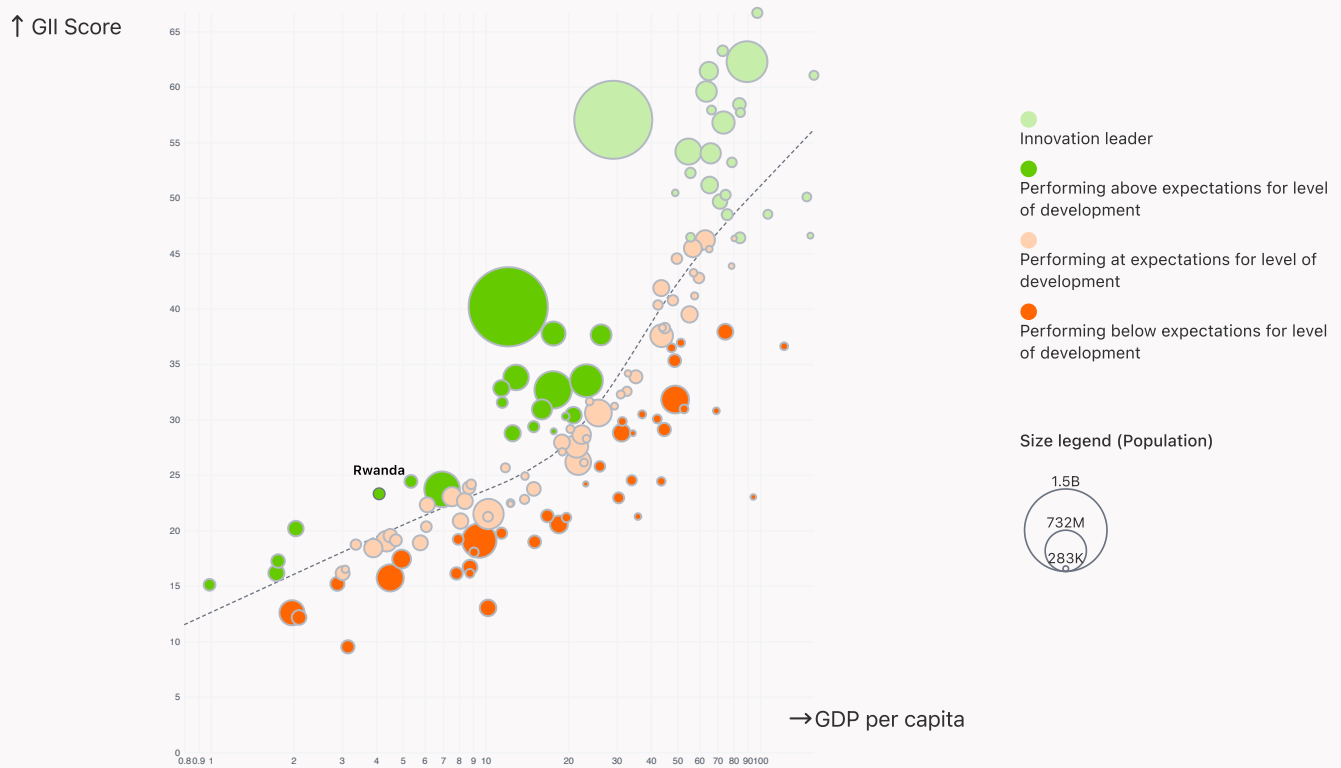


Expected vs. Observed Innovation Performance

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 Rwanda performs above 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.

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

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs



Global Innovation Index 2026



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



Highest Rankings

Rwanda ranks highest in Institutions (26th), Knowledge and technology outputs (94th) and Business sophistication (95th).

Lowest Rankings

Rwanda ranks lowest in Market sophistication (121st), Creative outputs (120th) and Infrastructure (113rd).

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

Global Innovation Index 2026



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

Low-income economies

Rwanda performs above the Low-income group average in Institutions, Human capital and research, Infrastructure, Market sophistication, Business sophistication, Knowledge and technology outputs.

Sub-Saharan Africa

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

Institutions

- Top 10 | Score: 78.28
- Rwanda | Score: 69.01
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 39.32
- Low-income | Score: 32.69

Human capital and research

- Top 10 | Score: 60.87
- Rwanda | Score: 26.33
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 19.47
- Low-income | Score: 17.04

Infrastructure

- Top 10 | Score: 63.75
- Rwanda | Score: 32.57
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 27.81
- Low-income | Score: 20.40

Market sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 63.92
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 22.67
- Rwanda | Score: 21.21
- Low-income | Score: 20.36

Business sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 60.02
- Rwanda | Score: 22.73
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 22.38
- Low-income | Score: 20.46

Knowledge and technology outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.83
- Rwanda | Score: 15.06
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 12.13
- Low-income | Score: 10.77

Creative outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.45
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 12.01
- Low-income | Score: 9.66
- Rwanda | Score: 9.33

Global Innovation Index 2026



Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Rwanda

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

Rwanda's best-ranked innovation strengths are **Policy stability for doing business†** (rank 2), **Labor productivity growth, %** (rank 10) and **Youth demographic dividend, %** (rank 23).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
2	1.3.1	Policy stability for doing business†
10	6.2.1	Labor productivity growth, %
23	5.1.3	Youth demographic dividend, %
25	2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %
26	6.1.3	Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP
31	4.2.2	Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP
35	5.2.1	Public research–industry co-publications, %
40	5.2.4	State of cluster development†
43	3.1.3	Government online service*
44	5.2.2	University–industry R&D collaboration†

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
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
120	2.2.1	Tertiary enrolment, % gross
127	3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.
128	5.3.1	Intellectual property payments, % total trade
128	6.3.5	ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP

Global Innovation Index 2026



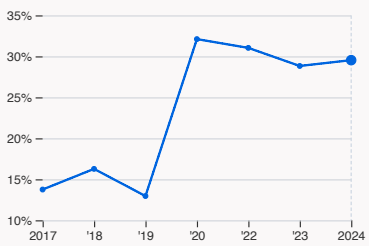
Rwanda's innovation system

Innovation inputs in Rwanda



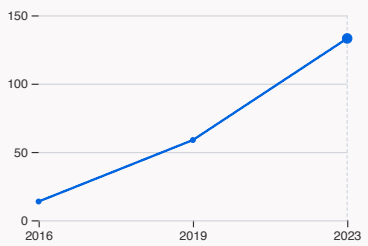
2.1.1 Expenditure on education

was equal to 4.61 % GDP in 2024, down by 0.31 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 53.



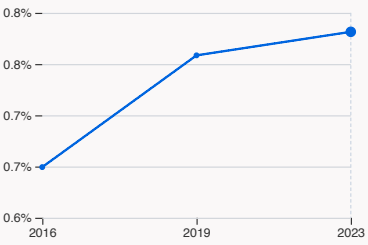
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering

was equal to 29.54 % of total graduates in 2024, up by 0.71 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 25.



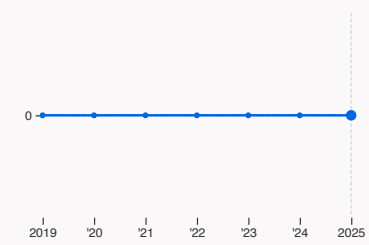
2.3.1 Researchers

was equal to 133.12 FTE per million population in 2023, up by 126.62% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 91.



2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D

was equal to 0.78 % GDP in 2023, up by 0.02 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 47.



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 0.288 in 2023, up by 7.03% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 101.



5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment

was equal to 8.29 % in 2024, up by 1.53 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 107.

Global Innovation Index 2026

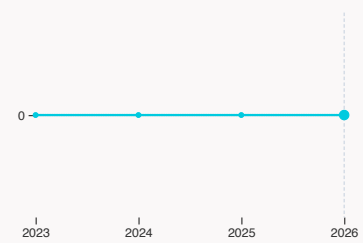


Innovation outputs in Rwanda



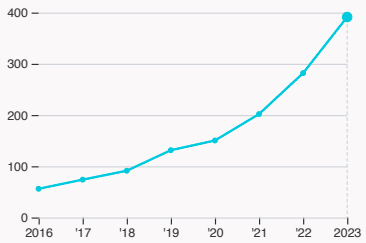
6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 8 patents in 2024, down by 33.33% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 102.



6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

The country does not have unicorns in 2026.



6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing

was equal to 391.37 high-tech manufacturing output in trillion USD in 2023, up by 38.86% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 92.



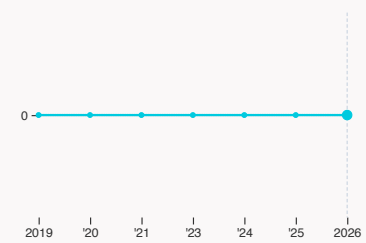
6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of -1.08 in 2024, down by 13.68% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 116.



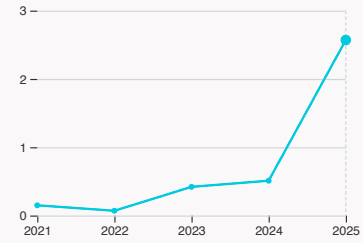
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 9.23 million USD in 2024, down by 21.71% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 113.



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 2.57 million global downloads of mobile apps in 2025, up by 403.92% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 117.



Rwanda'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, 6.2.2 Top Unicorn Companies, 7.1.1 Top 15 intangible-asset intensive companies and 7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000.

5.2.3 University industry and international engagement, top 5 universities

Rank	University	Score
1	UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA	39.30

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

5.3.5 Greenfield R&D and high-tech FDI announcements in Rwanda

Rank	Company	Industry	Description
1	Nawah Scientific	Pharmaceuticals	Egypt-based Nawah Scientific, a provider of a platform for the outsourcing of scientific services and research experiments, has announced it will build a research and development center in Rwanda. The 10,000 m² facility will serve the global market. The company raised USD 23 million in a series A funding round led by Life Ventures Holding, with participation from Den Ventures, Empire M, AfricInvest, Elsewedy and angel investors.
2	Infocloud IT Services	Software & IT services	India-based Infocloud IT Services, an IT services and consultancy firm, has opened a new office in Kigali, Rwanda. It is located at KL House.
3	Minapharm Pharmaceuticals	Pharmaceuticals	Egypt-based Minapharm Pharmaceuticals, a pharmaceutical firm, has opened a new sales office in Rwanda. It will serve markets in east and sub-Saharan Africa. The project was supported by the Rwanda Development Board.

Source: FT Locations, fDi Markets.

Rwanda

GII 2026 rank **96**

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP$
114	80	Low	Sub-Saharan Africa	14.6	58.1	4,100.7

	Score / Value	Rank	
Institutions	**69**	**26**	◆
1.1 Institutional environment	**60.9**	**54**	◆
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	70.4	52	◆
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	51.4	57	◆
1.2 Regulatory environment	**54.2**	**59**	◆
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	53.8	57	◆
1.2.2 Rule of law*	54.5	60	◆
1.3 Business environment	**91.9**	[3]	
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	91.9	2	●◆
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	n/a	n/a	
Human capital and research	**26.3**	**98**	◆
2.1 Education	**46**	**91**	
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	4.6	53	
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	20.3	41	
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years	12.9	90	◆
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	n/a	
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	26.3	115	
2.2 Tertiary education	**29.8**	**78**	◆
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	9.4	120	○
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %	29.5	25	●◆
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %	6.2	48	
2.3 Research and development (R&D)	**3.2**	**90**	◆
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	133.1	91	◆
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	0.8	47	◆
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	**32.6**	**113**	◆
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**57**	**108**	◆
3.1.1 ICT access*	43.9	127	◆
3.1.2 ICT use*	48.8	116	◆
3.1.3 Government online service*	78.4	43	●◆
3.2 General infrastructure	**32.8**	**94**	◆
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	85.1	127	○
3.2.2 Aviation import dwell time	4.7	98	
3.2.3 Logistics performance*	31.8	71	◆
3.2.4 Gross capital formation, % GDP	24.9	52	
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**7.9**	**118**	
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	7.5	111	
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	9.1	82	
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	0.2	115	
Market sophistication	**21.2**	**121**	
4.1 Credit	**11**	**117**	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	n/a	n/a	
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	22.6	110	
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	1.6	24	
4.2 Investment	**7.5**	**59**	
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	21.9	57	
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.2	31	●◆
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	0.01	66	
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.03	95	
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale	**45.2**	**117**	
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	8	117	
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	59.2	101	
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	58.1	120	

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**22.7**	**95**	
5.1 Knowledge workers	**22**	**129**	◇
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	8.3	107	
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	3.2	106	◆
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %	57.4	23	●
5.1.4 GERD performed by business, % GDP	0.05	72	◆
5.1.5 GERD financed by business, %	6	83	
5.2 Innovation linkages	**30.8**	**53**	◆
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %	2.3	35	●◆
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†	46.3	44	●◆
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*	16.5	76	
5.2.4 State of cluster development†	65.2	40	●◆
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	0	98	○◇
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**15.5**	**112**	
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	0.007	128	○
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	5.5	109	
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	0.5	116	
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	3.2	51	
5.3.5 Greenfield R&D & high-tech FDI	1.4	46	◆
5.3.6 Research talent, % in businesses	11.7	60	◆
Knowledge and technology outputs	**15.1**	**94**	◆
6.1 Knowledge creation	**10.9**	**80**	
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.2	102	
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0	107	○◇
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.5	26	●◆
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	18.2	47	◆
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	4.1	115	
6.2 Knowledge impact	**23.4**	**73**	◆
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	4.9	10	●◆
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	0	58	○◇
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.05	106	
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing, %	8.2	92	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**10.9**	**123**	
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	0.02	104	
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	47	116	
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	0.2	113	
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	0.7	96	
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	0.5	128	○
Creative outputs	**9.3**	**120**	
7.1 Intangible assets	**6.8**	**111**	
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	n/a	n/a	
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	31	69	◆
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	0	81	○◇
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.1	113	
7.2 Creative goods and services	**3.5**	**[112]**	
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	0.02	117	
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	0.2	82	◆
7.3 Online creativity	**20.1**	**116**	
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	0.2	125	
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	4.4	88	◆
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	55.7	117	

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 Rwanda.

Rwanda has missing data for six indicators and outdated data for twelve indicators.

Missing data for Rwanda

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
1.3.2	Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	n/a	2025	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
2.1.4	PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	2022	OECD, PISA
4.1.1	Finance for startups and scaleups†	n/a	2025	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
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 Rwanda

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
2.3.1	Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	2023	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
2.3.2	Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	2023	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
3.2.1	Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	2023	2024	International Energy Agency
4.3.1	Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	2023	2024	World Trade Organization
5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %	2024	2025	International Labour Organization
5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	2024	2025	International Labour Organization
5.1.4	GERD performed by business, % GDP	2023	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT

Global Innovation Index 2026



Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
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
5.3.3	ICT services imports, % total trade	2023	2024	World Trade Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
5.3.6	Research talent, % in businesses	2023	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
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

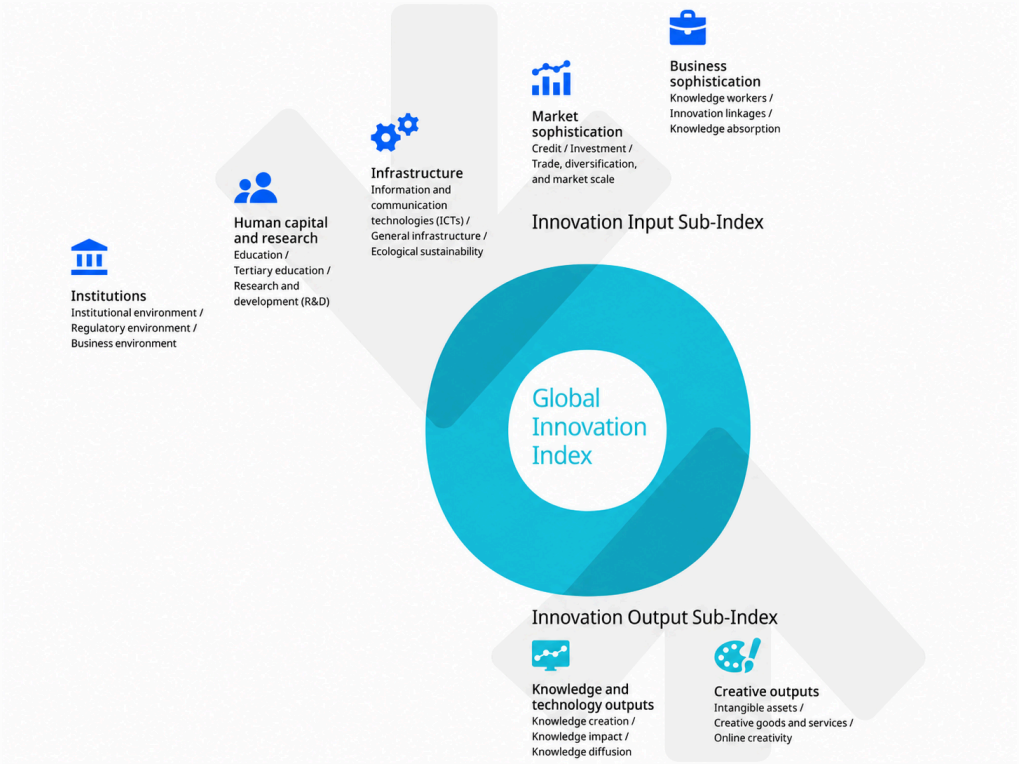
*Model year corresponds to the most frequent data year (the year that appears most often across all economies in the GII).

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.