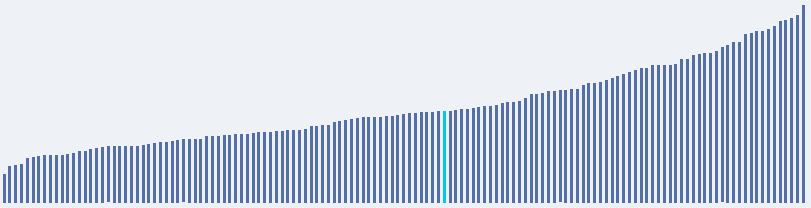
Global Innovation Index 2026



South Africa ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2026

South Africa ranks 63rd 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.



South Africa ranks 12th among the 35 Upper middle-income group economies.

South Africa ranks 2nd among the 31 economies in Sub-Saharan Africa.

South Africa GII Ranking (2020-2026)

The table shows the rankings of South Africa 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 South Africa in the GII 2026 is between ranks 59 and 68.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	60th	49th	68th
2021	61st	55th	68th
2022	61st	69th	61st
2023	59th	71st	57th
2024	69th	75th	61st
2025	61st	68th	60th
2026	63rd	70th	63rd

World's Top 100 Innovation Clusters

South Africa has no clusters in the world's top innovation clusters of the Global Innovation Index.

South Africa performs better in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2026.

This year **South Africa ranks 70th in innovation inputs.** This position is lower than last year.

South Africa ranks 63rd in innovation outputs. This position is lower than last year.

Global Innovation Index 2026



> Global Innovation Tracker

The Global Innovation Tracker 2026 shows what is the current state of innovation in South Africa, how rapidly is technology being embraced and what are the resulting societal impacts.

For South Africa, 9 indicators have improved in the short-term and 3 indicators have worsened.

Science and innovation investment

	Scientific publications	R&D investments	Venture capital deal numbers	International patent filings
Short term	▲ 5.6 % 2024 - 2025	▲ 0.5 % 2023 - 2024	▼ -12.7 % 2024 - 2025	▲ 21.2 % 2024 - 2025
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 5.3 % 2015 - 2025	▼ -0.7 % 2014 - 2024	▼ -9.7 % 2020 - 2025	▼ -4.4 % 2015 - 2025

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	▲ 0.8% 2023 - 2024	▲ 59% 2023 - 2024	▲ 20.9% 2023 - 2024	▼ -1.7% 2023 - 2024	▲ 76.9% 2024 - 2025
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 2.9% 2014 - 2024	▲ 7.2% 2014 - 2024	n/a	▲ 5.7% 2014 - 2024	▲ 41.3% 2015 - 2025
Penetration	73.8 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	5.3 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	50.5 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	n/a	0.1 per 100 cars in 2025

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	▲ 2.4 % 2024 - 2025	▲ 0.3 % 2023 - 2024	+ 1 °C 2025
Long term (annual growth)	▼ -1 % 2015 - 2025	▲ 0.5 % 2014 - 2024	+ 1.4 °C 2015
Level	63,163.2 USD in 2025	66.3 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

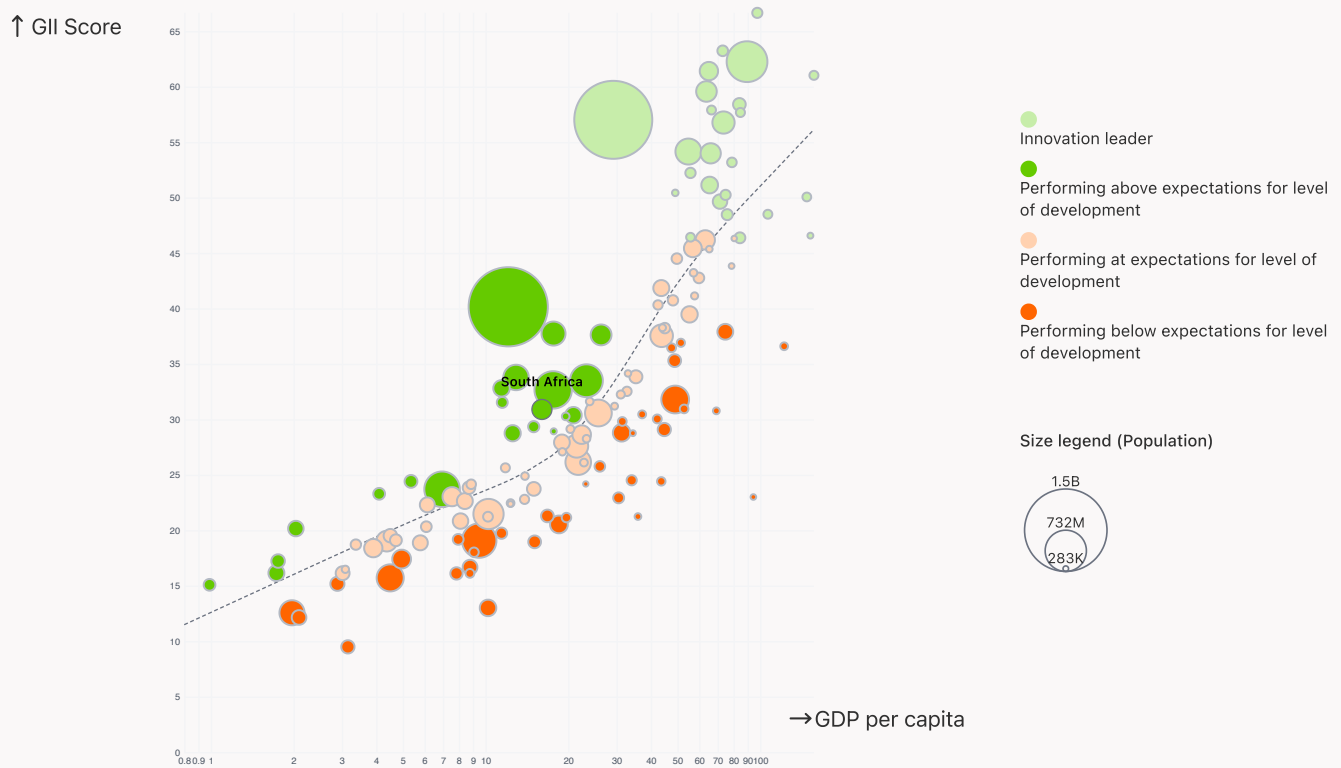


Expected vs. Observed Innovation Performance

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 South Africa 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.

South Africa produces more innovation outputs relative to its level of innovation investments.

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

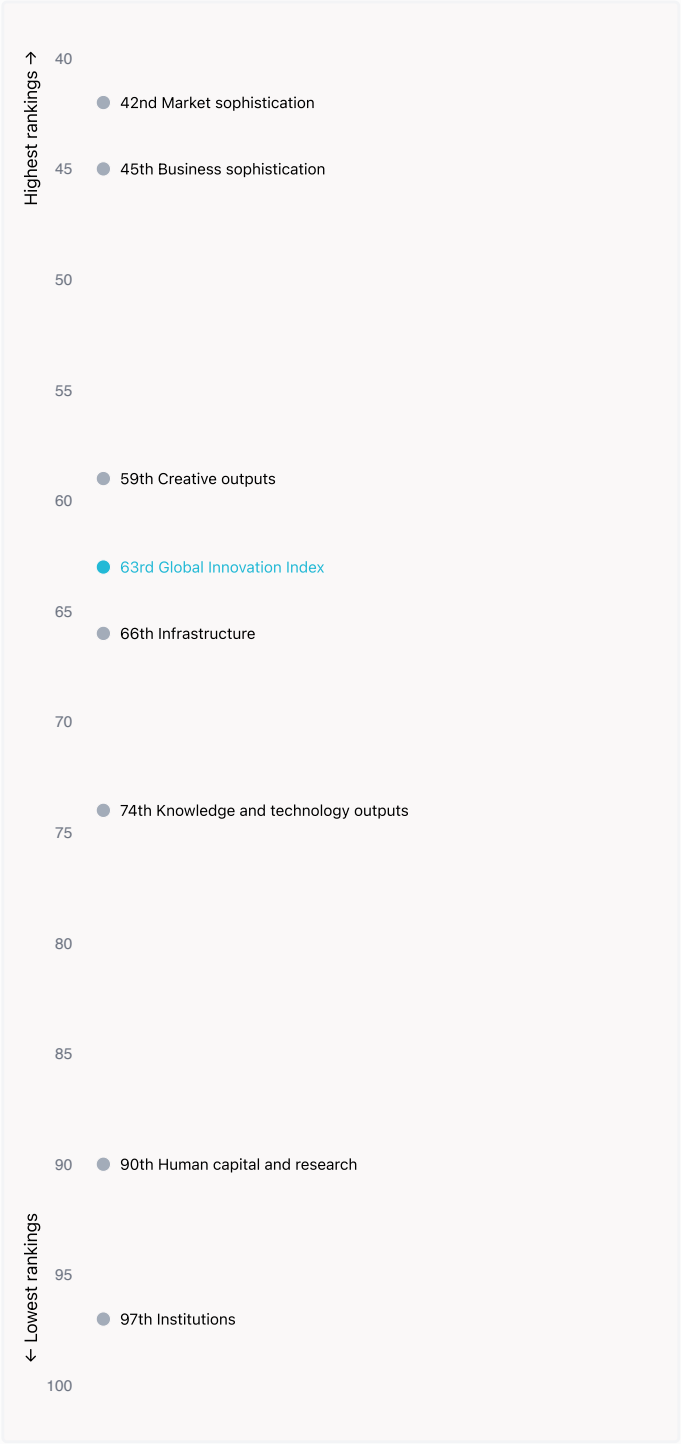


Global Innovation Index 2026



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



Highest Rankings

South Africa ranks highest in Market sophistication (42nd), Business sophistication (45th) and Creative outputs (59th).

Lowest Rankings

South Africa ranks lowest in Institutions (97th), Human capital and research (90th) and Knowledge and technology outputs (74th).

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

Global Innovation Index 2026



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

Upper middle-income economies

South Africa performs above the Upper middle-income group average in Infrastructure, Market sophistication, Business sophistication, Creative outputs.

Sub-Saharan Africa

South Africa performs above the regional average in Human capital and research, Infrastructure, Market sophistication, Business sophistication, Knowledge and technology outputs, Creative outputs.

Institutions

- Top 10 | Score: 78.28
- Upper middle-income | Score: 45.06
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 39.32
- South Africa | Score: 38.81

Human capital and research

- Top 10 | Score: 60.87
- Upper middle-income | Score: 31.25
- South Africa | Score: 27.78
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 19.47

Infrastructure

- Top 10 | Score: 63.75
- South Africa | Score: 46.37
- Upper middle-income | Score: 43.45
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 27.81

Market sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 63.92
- South Africa | Score: 42.71
- Upper middle-income | Score: 35.56
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 22.67

Business sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 60.02
- South Africa | Score: 32.54
- Upper middle-income | Score: 26.56
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 22.38

Knowledge and technology outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.83
- Upper middle-income | Score: 21.41
- South Africa | Score: 20.85
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 12.13

Creative outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.45
- South Africa | Score: 27.43
- Upper middle-income | Score: 23.59
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 12.01

Global Innovation Index 2026



Innovation strengths and weaknesses in South Africa

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

South Africa's best-ranked innovation strengths are **Market capitalization, % GDP** (rank 3), **Expenditure on education, % GDP** (rank 17) and **ICT services imports, % total trade** (rank 17).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
3	4.2.1	Market capitalization, % GDP
17	2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP
17	5.3.3	ICT services imports, % total trade
18	3.2.3	Logistics performance*
19	3.2.2	Aviation import dwell time
22	7.1.3	Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP
24	3.1.3	Government online service*
27	4.1.2	Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP
31	2.3.4	QS university ranking, top 3*
31	5.3.1	Intellectual property payments, % total trade
31	6.1.5	Citable documents H-index

Weaknesses

Rank	Code	Indicator name
46	2.3.3	Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD
81	1.3.2	Entrepreneurship policies and culture†
95	7.2.2	National feature films/mn pop. 15–69
98	2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %
106	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %
109	1.1.1	Operational stability for businesses*
117	3.3.1	GDP/unit of energy use
121	2.1.5	Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary
124	6.2.1	Labor productivity growth, %
127	3.2.4	Gross capital formation, % GDP

Global Innovation Index 2026



South Africa's innovation system

Innovation inputs in South Africa



2.1.1 Expenditure on education

was equal to 6.02 % GDP in 2024, down by 0.1 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 17.



2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering

was equal to 17.39 % of total graduates in 2023, down by 0.31 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 98.



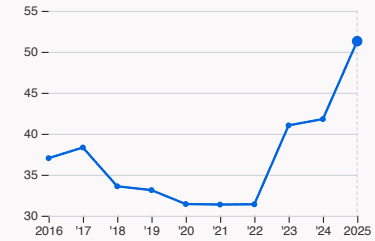
2.3.1 Researchers

was equal to 457.59 FTE per million population in 2023, down by 1.04% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 76.



2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D

was equal to 0.62 % GDP in 2023, up by 0.003 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 58.



2.3.4 QS university ranking

was equal to an average score of 51.3 for the top three universities in 2025, up by 22.73% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 31.



4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification

was equal to an index score of 0.179 in 2024, up by 0.66% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 69.



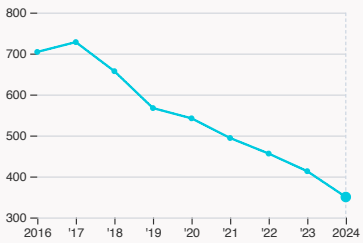
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment

was equal to 23.99 % in 2024, down by 0.57 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 62.

Global Innovation Index 2026

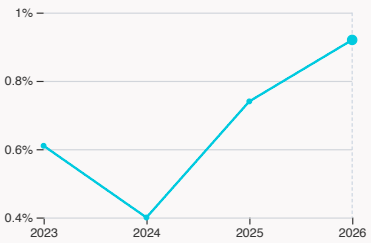


Innovation outputs in South Africa



6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 350 patents in 2024, down by 15.25% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 79.



6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

was equal to 0.92 % GDP in 2026, up by 0.18 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 40.



6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing

was equal to 12.05 high-tech manufacturing output in trillion USD in 2024, down by 2.35% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 67.



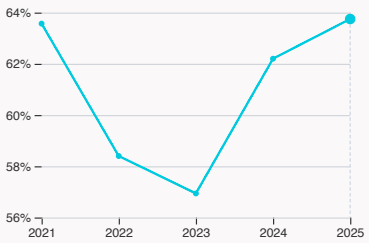
6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of 0.37 in 2024, up by 27.59% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 56.



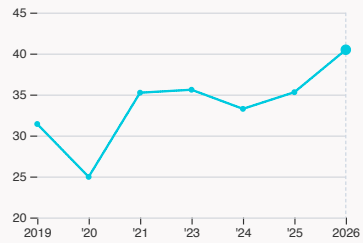
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 2.62 billion USD in 2024, up by 10.55% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 60.



7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15

was equal to 63.75 % for the top 15 companies in 2025, up by 1.55 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 24.



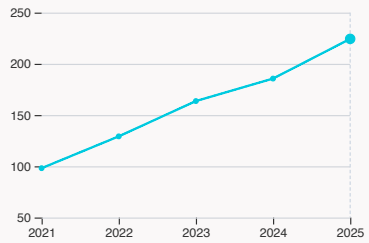
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

was equal to 40.47 billion USD for the brands in the top 5,000 in 2026, up by 14.68% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 22.



7.2.2 National feature films

was equal to 8 films in 2024, down by 46.67% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 95.



7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 224.37 million global downloads of mobile apps in 2025, up by 20.88% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 70.



South Africa'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 South Africa's top universities

Rank	University	Score
150	UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN	62.30
291	UNIVERSITY OF WITWATERSRAND	46.40
302	STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY	45.20

Source: QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd (https://www.topuniversities.com/world-university-rankings).
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, top 5 universities

Rank	University	Score
1	UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND	82.95
2	UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG	81.55
3	UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN	81.35

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 South Africa

Rank	Company	Industry	Description
1	Microsoft	Communications	US-based software giant Microsoft has announced it will invest USD 298 million to establish artificial intelligence and data center infrastructure in South Africa. The company will also provide one million South Africans with artificial intelligence and cybersecurity training opportunities by 2026.
2	Spirion	Software & IT services	US-based Spirion, a data discovery, classification and remediation company, has announced the opening of its data center in Cape Town, South Africa. It serves the domestic market. The company provides software and services that help organizations discover, classify and protect sensitive data across various environments, including cloud, on-premises and hybrid infrastructures.
3	Visa Inc	Software & IT services	US-based Visa Inc, a global payments technology company, has opened its first data center in Africa, in Johannesburg, South Africa. The data center launch is part of a broader investment initiative that will see Visa invest USD 57 million in South Africa by 2028. The facility significantly expands Visa's global processing infrastructure, VisaNet, which processes over 100 billion transactions a year across 200 countries and territories.

Source: FT Locations, fDi Markets.



6.2.2 Top Unicorn Companies in South Africa

Rank	Unicorn Company	Industry	Location	Valuation, bn USD
1	Promasidor Holdings	Consumer & Retail	Bryanston	1.59
2	Tyme	Financial Services	Johannesburg	1.50

Source: CBInsights, Tracker - The Complete list of Unicorns Companies; Africa: The Big Deal; and PitchBook Data, Inc.
Note: The list is based on unicorns as of January 2026, covering nearly 2000 companies worldwide. For African countries, the dataset is supplemented with data from Africa: The Big Deal. PitchBook data is also used as a complementary source to enrich coverage.

7.1.1 Top 15 intangible-asset intensive companies in South Africa

Rank	Firm	Intensity, %
1	NASPERS LIMITED	42.91
2	GOLD FIELDS LIMITED	74.45
3	CAPITEC BANK HOLDINGS LIMITED	86.51

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 South Africa with highest global brand value

Rank	Brand	Industry	Brand Value, mn USD
1	MTN	Telecoms	2,928.7
2	Vodacom	Telecoms	2,753.7
3	Standard Bank	Banking	2,588.9

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



GII 2026 SPECIAL THEME

Deep science entrepreneurship in South Africa

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 South Africa

Rank	Company	Industry	City	Founded	VC funding raised, mn USD	Valuation, bn USD
1	Aerobotics	Food & Agritech	Cape Town	2014	27.2	0.07
2	HearX Group	Medical Devices and Digital Health	Pretoria	2015	21.6	0.03
3	Cloudline	Transportation	Cape Town	2017	10.3	0.02

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 South Africa

Rank	Spinout	Industry	Current Headquarters Location	Founded	VC funding raised, mn USD	Valuation, bn USD
1	HearX Group	Food & Agritech	Pretoria	2015	21.6	0.03
2	CubeSpace	Medical Devices and Digital Health	Stellenbosch	2017	7.0	0.02
3	Immobazyme	Robotics and autonomous systems	Stellenbosch Local Municipality	2019	2.8	0.01

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

South Africa

GII 2026 rank **63**

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP$
63	70	Upper middle	Sub-Saharan Africa	64.7	1,026.5	16,049.8

	Score / Value	Rank	
Institutions	**38.8**	**97**	
1.1 Institutional environment	**43.5**	**99**	
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	50	109	○
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	36.9	92	
1.2 Regulatory environment	**49.1**	**68**	
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	45.7	76	
1.2.2 Rule of law*	52.6	62	
1.3 Business environment	**23.8**	**116**	
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	31.7	98	
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	15.9	81	○
Human capital and research	**27.8**	**90**	
2.1 Education	**51**	**76**	
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	6	17	●◆
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	22.8	28	
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years	13.9	74	
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	n/a	
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	30.3	121	○◇
2.2 Tertiary education	**16**	**111**	◇
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	23.5	99	◇
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %	17.4	98	○
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %	3.2	67	
2.3 Research and development (R&D)	**16.3**	**54**	
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	457.6	76	
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	0.6	58	
2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD	0	46	○◇
2.3.4 QS university ranking, top 3*	51.9	31	●◆
Infrastructure	**46.4**	**66**	
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**83.8**	**51**	
3.1.1 ICT access*	84.8	71	
3.1.2 ICT use*	80.1	73	
3.1.3 Government online service*	86.4	24	●◆
3.2 General infrastructure	**47.4**	**51**	◆
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	3,611.9	60	
3.2.2 Aviation import dwell time	1.3	19	●
3.2.3 Logistics performance*	72.7	18	●◆
3.2.4 Gross capital formation, % GDP	14.2	127	○◇
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**8**	**116**	
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	6.7	117	○◇
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	3.5	106	○
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	1.4	59	
Market sophistication	**42.7**	**42**	
4.1 Credit	**29.8**	**64**	
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	41.8	58	
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	89.4	27	●◆
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	1.2	31	
4.2 Investment	**27.9**	**22**	◆
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	267.4	3	●◆
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.08	56	
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	0.08	33	
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.1	52	
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale	**70.5**	**65**	
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	4.3	89	
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	79.4	69	
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	1,026.5	32	

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**32.5**	**45**	
5.1 Knowledge workers	**31.9**	**86**	
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	24	62	
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	11.2	72	
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %	41.9	52	
5.1.4 GERD performed by business, % GDP	0.2	57	
5.1.5 GERD financed by business, %	27.7	63	
5.2 Innovation linkages	**36.2**	**42**	◆
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %	1.3	71	
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†	44.9	49	
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*	70.9	25	◆
5.2.4 State of cluster development†	47.6	55	
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	0.1	47	
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**29.6**	**51**	
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	1.3	31	●
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	9.4	49	
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	3.4	17	●◆
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	1.3	102	
5.3.5 Greenfield R&D & high-tech FDI	2.1	31	◆
5.3.6 Research talent, % in businesses	11.2	64	
Knowledge and technology outputs	**20.8**	**74**	
6.1 Knowledge creation	**18.7**	**54**	
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.4	79	
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.2	44	
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	-	-	
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	18.6	45	
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	33.1	31	●◆
6.2 Knowledge impact	**21.7**	**88**	
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	-0.4	124	○◇
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	0.9	40	
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.3	36	
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing, %	18.8	67	
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**22.2**	**70**	
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	0.2	50	
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	74.7	56	
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	2.1	60	
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	1.2	83	
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	4.4	61	
Creative outputs	**27.4**	**59**	
7.1 Intangible assets	**37.6**	**41**	
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	63.7	24	
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	25.3	82	
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	9.1	22	●◆
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.6	78	
7.2 Creative goods and services	**8.9**	**85**	
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	0.4	71	
7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	0.2	95	○
7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	6.8	44	
7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade	0.7	53	
7.3 Online creativity	**25.6**	**75**	
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	5.5	55	
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	4.5	86	
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	66.8	70	

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 South Africa.

South Africa has missing data for one indicator and outdated data for eleven indicators.

Missing data for South Africa

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
2.1.4	PISA scales in reading, maths and science	n/a	2022	OECD, PISA

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

Outdated data for South Africa

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
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
2.2.1	Tertiary enrolment, % gross	2023	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %	2023	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD
2.2.3	Tertiary inbound mobility, %	2023	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
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
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
5.3.6	Research talent, % in businesses	2023	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT

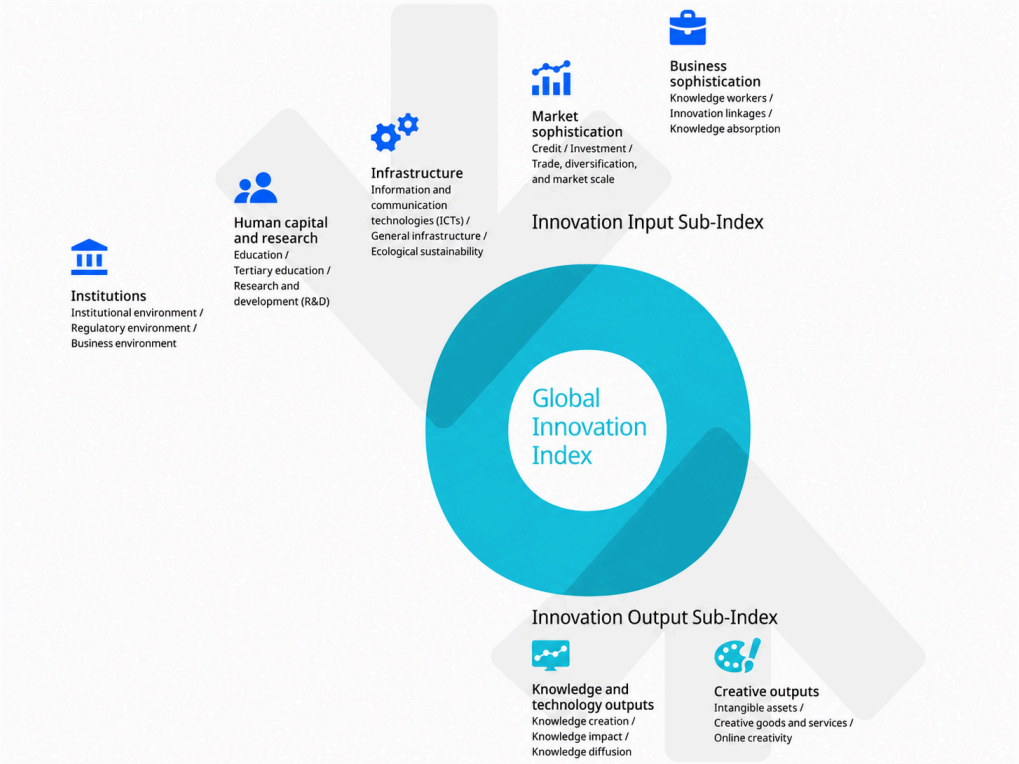
*Model year corresponds to the most frequent data year (the year that appears most often across all economies in the GII).

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.