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.

Spain ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2023

> Spain ranks 29th among the 132 economies featured in the GII 2023.

> Spain ranks 28th among the 50 high-income group economies.

> Spain ranks 18th among the 39 economies in Europe.

Spain GII Ranking (2020-2023)

The table shows the rankings of Spain over the past four 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 Spain in the GII 2023 is between ranks 28 and 30.

Spain performs better in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2023.

This year Spain ranks 28th in innovation inputs. This position is the same as last year.

Spain ranks 26th in innovation outputs. This position is the same as last year.
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, Spain’s performance is at expectations for its level of development.

Innovation overperformers relative to their economic development

→GDP per capita, PPP logarithmic scale (thousands of $)
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.

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

Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

![Graph showing the relationship between innovation inputs and outputs.](image)

- High income
- Upper middle
- Lower middle
- Low income
- Fitted line
→ Overview of Spain's rankings in the seven areas of the GII in 2023

The chart shows the ranking for each of the seven areas that the GII comprises. The strongest areas for Spain are those that rank above the GII (shown in blue) and the weakest are those that rank below.

**Highest rankings**

Spain ranks highest in Infrastructure (16th), Knowledge and technology outputs (24th), Human capital and research (27th) and Creative outputs (29th).

**Lowest rankings**

Spain ranks lowest in Institutions (46th), Market sophistication (33rd) and Business sophistication (32nd).

* Creative outputs
Benchmark of Spain against other country groupings for each of the seven areas of the GII Index

The charts show the relative position of Spain (blue bar) against other country groupings (grey bars), for each of the seven areas of the GII Index.

> High-Income economies
Spain performs below the high-income group average in Business sophistication, Market sophistication, Human capital and research, Institutions.

> Europe
Spain performs above the regional average in Knowledge and technology outputs, Creative outputs, Market sophistication, Human capital and research, Infrastructure.

Knowledge and technology outputs
- Top 10 | Score: 58.96
- Spain | Score: 39.38
- Europe | Score: 38.80
- High income | Score: 38.62

Creative outputs
- Top 10 | 56.09
- Spain | 43.02
- High income | 40.27
- Europe | 39.87

Business sophistication
- Top 10 | 64.39
- High income | 46.38
- Europe | 44.61
- Spain | 42.77

Market sophistication
- Top 10 | 61.93
- High income | 46.42
- Spain | 45.97
- Europe | 43.65

Human capital and research
- Top 10 | 60.28
- High income | 46.30
- Spain | 45.64
- Europe | 44.05

Infrastructure
- Top 10 | 62.83
- Spain | 59.70
- High income | 55.85
- Europe | 54.69

Institutions
- Top 10 | 79.85
- High income | 68.16
- Europe | 61.69
- Spain | 59.19
## Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Spain

The table below gives an overview of the indicator strengths and weaknesses of Spain in the GII 2023.

> Spain’s main innovation strengths are **Tertiary enrolment, % gross** (rank 6), **National feature films/mn pop. 15-69** (rank 8) and **ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP** (rank 11).

### Strengths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Indicator name</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Indicator name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.2.1</td>
<td>Tertiary enrolment, % gross</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>6.2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>7.2.2</td>
<td>National feature films/mn pop. 15-69</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>1.3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>3.3.3</td>
<td>ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>1.2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>6.1.5</td>
<td>Citable documents H-index</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>3.2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>6.2.3</td>
<td>Software spending, % GDP</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>5.2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>5.1.2</td>
<td>Firms offering formal training, %</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>2.2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>7.1.4</td>
<td>Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>2.1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>2.1.3</td>
<td>School life expectancy, years</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>2.1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>2.3.3</td>
<td>Global corporate R&amp;D investors, top 3, mn US$</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>2.2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>4.3.3</td>
<td>Domestic market scale, bn PPP$</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>4.1.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Global Innovation Index 2023

→ Spain’s innovation system

As far as practicable, the plots below present unscaled indicator data.

> Innovation inputs in Spain

2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP
was equal to 4.23% GDP in 2019, up by 0.05 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 63.

2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %
was equal to 20.81% of total tertiary graduates in 2020, down by 1.14 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 65.

2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.
was equal to 3,256.28 FTE/mn pop. in 2021, up by 6.075% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 30.

2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP
was equal to 1.43% GDP in 2021, up by 0.02 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 30.

2.3.4 QS university ranking, top 3
was equal to an average score of 44.5 for the top 3 universities in 2022, up by 0.45% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 25.

3.1.1 ICT access
was equal to a score of 9.16 in 2021, up by 0.11% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 38.
Global Innovation Index 2023

4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups was equal to an average perception score of 4.57 in 2022, equivalent to an indicator rank of 45.

4.2.4 VC received, value, % GDP was equal to 0.00219% GDP in 2022, up by 0.000021 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 37.

4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification was equal to an index score of 0.128 in 2020, up by 4.43% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 38.

5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, % was equal to 35.71% in 2022, up by 0.19 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 39.
**Global Innovation Index 2023**

> Innovation outputs in Spain

**6.1.1 Patents by origin**

was equal to 3.26 Thousands in 2021, up by 1.023% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 42.

**6.1.5 Citable documents H-index**

was equal to an index value of 1,154 in 2022, up by 7.55% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 12.

**6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP**

was equal to 0.503 % GDP in 2023 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 39.

**6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP**

was equal to 0.653% GDP in 2022, up by 0.042 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 12.

**6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing, %**

was equal to 37.05% of total manufacturing output in 2020, up by 0.73 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 31.

**6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade**

was equal to 0.783% total trade in 2021, up by 0.017 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 24.
6.3.2 Production and export complexity
was equal to a score of 0.766 in 2020, down by 4.21% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 33.

6.3.3 High-tech exports
was equal to 24,566,206,872 USD in 2021, up by 45.33% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 37.

7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %
was equal to 64.46% in 2022, down by 1.07 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 29.

7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000
was equal to 117.147 bn USD in 2023, down by 5.63% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 24.

7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports
was equal to 4,925,403,000 USD in 2021, up by 15.39% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 28.

7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69
was equal to 8.06 films/mn pop. 15–69 in 2021, up by 22.31% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 8.
Global Innovation Index 2023

7.3.4 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP

was equal to 672,218.09 Apps/bn PPP$ GDP in 2022, down by 1.18% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 33.
### Spain’s innovation top performers

#### 2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors from Spain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Firm</th>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>R&amp;D</th>
<th>R&amp;D Growth</th>
<th>R&amp;D Intensity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>146</td>
<td>BANCO SANTANDER</td>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>1,325</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>233</td>
<td>TELEFONICA</td>
<td>Fixed Line Telecommunications</td>
<td>835</td>
<td>-13</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249</td>
<td>AMADEUS</td>
<td>Software &amp; Computer Services</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>532</td>
<td>IBERDROLA</td>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommendation: European Commission’s Joint Research Centre ranks the top 2,500 firms by R&D investment annually.

#### 2.3.4 QS university ranking of Spain’s top universities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>178</td>
<td>UNIVERSITAT AUTONOMA DE BARCELONA</td>
<td>45.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>184</td>
<td>UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA</td>
<td>45.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>215</td>
<td>UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DE MADRID</td>
<td>42.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd [https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2023].
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=x" or a range "x-y".

### 6.2.2 Top Unicorn Companies in Spain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Unicorn Company</th>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Valuation, bn USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>JOBANDTALENT</td>
<td>Internet software &amp; services</td>
<td>Madrid</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>CABIIFY</td>
<td>Auto &amp; transportation</td>
<td>Madrid</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>TRAVELPERK</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Barcelona</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7.1.1 Top 15 intangible-asset intensive companies in Spain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Firm</th>
<th>Intensity, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>INDUSTRIA DE DISENO TEXTIL SA</td>
<td>71.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>IBERDROLA SA</td>
<td>29.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>TELEFONICA SA</td>
<td>48.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Brand Finance only provides within economy ranks.

### 7.1.3 Top 5,000 companies in Spain with highest global brand value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Brand</th>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Brand Value, mn USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SANTANDER</td>
<td>Banking</td>
<td>16,923.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>ZARA</td>
<td>Apparel</td>
<td>11,049.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MOVISTAR</td>
<td>Telecoms</td>
<td>7,638.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Brand Finance [https://brandirectory.com].  
Note: Rank corresponds to within economy ranks.
Global Innovation Index 2023

Spain

Output rank | Input rank | Income High | Population (mn) | GDP, PPP$ (bn) | GDP per capita, PPP$
---|---|---|---|---|---
26 | 28 | EUR | 47.6 | 2,218.0 | 46,551.2

### Business sophistication

| 5.1 Knowledge workers | 5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, % | 5.1.2 Firms offering formal training, % | 5.1.3 GERD performed by business, % GDP | 5.1.4 GERD financed by business, % | 5.1.5 Females employed w/advanced degrees, % | 2023 | 55.6 | 35.9 | 37.9 | 39.7 | 40.1 | 38.6 | 23

| 5.2 Innovation linkages | 5.2.1 University-industry R&D collaboration | 5.2.2 State of cluster development | 5.2.3 GERD financed by abroad, % GDP | 5.2.4 Joint venture/strategic alliance deals/bn PPP$ GDP | 5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP | 5.3 Knowledge absorption | 42.3 | 38.6 | 4.2 | 38.6 | 25

| 5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade | 5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade | 5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade | 5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP | 5.3.5 Research talent, % in businesses | 2023 | 39.0 | 38.0 | 3.6 | 61 | 2.6 | 32

### Knowledge and technology outputs

| 6.1 Knowledge creation | 6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP | 6.1.2 PCT patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP | 6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP | 6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP | 6.1.5 Oitable documents H-index | 6.2 Knowledge impact | 39.9 | 38.6 | 6.1 | 42.5 | 28

| 6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade | 6.3.2 Production and export complexity | 6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade | 6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade | 6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP | 2023 | 39.9 | 39.9 | 3.6 | 37.5 | 3.0 | 43

### Creative outputs

| 7.1 Intangible assets | 7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, % | 7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP | 7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000 | 7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP | 7.2 Creative goods and services | 7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade | 7.2.2 National feature films/mon pop. 15-69 | 7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/mon pop. 15-69 | 7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade | 7.3 Online creativity | 7.3.1 Generic top-level domains (TLDs)/sh pop. 15-69 | 7.3.2 Country-code TLDs/sh pop. 15-69 | 7.3.3 GitHub commits/mon pop. 15-69 | 7.3.4 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP | 2023 | 52.4 | 30.4 | 30.4 | 3.0 | 28.0 | 30.4 | 30.4 | 32.2 | 32.2 | 14.7 | 34.1 | 33.9 | 32.0 | 73.9 | 33

**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; see appendices for details, including the year of the data, at https://www.wipo.int/gii-ranking. Square brackets [ ] indicate that the data minimum coverage (DMC) requirements were not met at the sub-pillar or pillar level.
Data availability

The following tables list indicators that are either missing or outdated for Spain.

> Spain has missing data for one indicator and outdated data for one indicator.

Missing data for Spain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Indicator name</th>
<th>Economy Year</th>
<th>Model Year</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1.3</td>
<td>Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>International Monetary Fund, Financial Access Survey (FAS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outdated data for Spain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Indicator name</th>
<th>Economy Year</th>
<th>Model Year</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1</td>
<td>Expenditure on education, % GDP</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>UNESCO Institute for Statistics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 130 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.