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.

Namibia ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2023

> Namibia ranks 96th among the 132 economies featured in the GII 2023.

> Namibia ranks 30th among the 33 upper-middle-income group economies.

> Namibia ranks 6th among the 28 economies in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Namibia GII Ranking (2020-2023)

The table shows the rankings of Namibia 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 Namibia in the GII 2023 is between ranks 92 and 104.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GII Position</th>
<th>Innovation Inputs</th>
<th>Innovation Outputs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>101st</td>
<td>104th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>88th</td>
<td>110th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>84th</td>
<td>113rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>80th</td>
<td>111st</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Namibia performs worse in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2023.

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

Namibia ranks 111st in innovation outputs. This position is higher than 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, Namibia’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.

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

Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

![Graph showing the relationship between innovation inputs and outputs.](chart.png)
Overview of Namibia’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 Namibia are those that rank above the GII (shown in blue) and the weakest are those that rank below.

- **50th institutions**
- **78th Human capital and research**
- **84th Market sophistication**
- **96th Global Innovation Index**
- **99th Business sophistication**
- **100th Infrastructure**
- **104th Creative outputs**
- **123rd Knowledge and technology outputs**

**Highest rankings**
Namibia ranks highest in Institutions (50th), Human capital and research (76th) and Market sophistication (84th).

**Lowest rankings**
Namibia ranks lowest in Knowledge and technology outputs (123rd), Creative outputs (104th) and Infrastructure (100th).

The full WIPO Intellectual Property Statistics profile for Namibia can be found on this link.
Benchmark of Namibia against other country groupings for each of the seven areas of the Gil Index

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

**Knowledge and technology outputs**
- Top 10 | Score: 58.96
- Upper middle income | Score: 22.36
- Sub-Saharan Africa | Score: 12.16
- Namibia | Score: 10.14

**Upper-Middle-Income economies**
Namibia performs below the upper-middle-income group average in Knowledge and technology outputs, Creative outputs, Business sophistication, Market sophistication, Human capital and research, Infrastructure.

**Sub-Saharan Africa**
Namibia performs above the regional average in Creative outputs, Business sophistication, Market sophistication, Human capital and research, Infrastructure, Institutions.

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**Creative outputs**
- Top 10 | 56.09
- Upper middle income | 23.16
- Namibia | 11.47
- Sub-Saharan Africa | 10.36

**Business sophistication**
- Top 10 | 64.39
- Upper middle income | 29.27
- Namibia | 21.64
- Sub-Saharan Africa | 19.85

**Market sophistication**
- Top 10 | 61.93
- Upper middle income | 35.45
- Namibia | 28.96
- Sub-Saharan Africa | 20.00

**Human capital and research**
- Top 10 | 60.28
- Upper middle income | 29.68
- Namibia | 28.18
- Sub-Saharan Africa | 17.80

**Infrastructure**
- Top 10 | 62.83
- Upper middle income | 40.40
- Namibia | 28.71
- Sub-Saharan Africa | 23.36

**Institutions**
- Top 10 | 79.85
- Namibia | 56.26
- Upper middle income | 47.71
- Sub-Saharan Africa | 43.27
→ Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Namibia

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

Namibia's main innovation strengths are **Expenditure on education, % GDP** (rank 1), **Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %** (rank 14) and **Cost of redundancy dismissal** (rank 28).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rank</strong></td>
<td><strong>Code</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4.3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>1.2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>3.3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>7.3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>5.2.4</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>7.3.1</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>5.3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>4.1.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Namibia's innovation system

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

Innovation inputs in Namibia

2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP
was equal to 9.52% GDP in 2022, down by 0.53 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 1.

2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %
was equal to 8.92% of total tertiary graduates in 2020, down by 3.87 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 112.

2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.
was equal to 149.47 FTE/mn pop. in 2014, equivalent to an indicator rank of 86.

2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP
was equal to 0.35 % GDP in 2014, equivalent to an indicator rank of 71.

2.3.4 QS university ranking, top 3
was equal to an average score of 0 for the top 3 universities in 2022, equivalent to an indicator rank of 71.

3.1.1 ICT access
was equal to a score of 6.98 in 2021, up by 7.88% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 102.
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification was equal to an index score of 0.313 in 2013, equivalent to an indicator rank of 97.

5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, % was equal to 18.08% in 2018, down by 0.72 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 79.
6.1.1 Patents by origin
was equal to 0.009 Thousands in 2019, down by 57.14% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 88.

6.1.5 Citable documents H-index
was equal to an index value of 127 in 2022, up by 6.72% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 106.

6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP
was equal to 0% GDP in 2023 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 48.

6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP
was equal to 0.093% GDP in 2022, down by 0.00012 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 92.

6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing, %
was equal to 4.7% of total manufacturing output in 2013 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 102.

6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade
was equal to 0.042% total trade in 2021, down by 0.012 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 77.
6.3.2 Production and export complexity
was equal to a score of -0.529 in 2020, down by 114.21% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 91.

6.3.3 High-tech exports
was equal to 28,456,108 USD in 2020, down by 39.61% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 80.

7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000
was equal to 0 bn USD in 2023 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 74.

7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports
was equal to 3,705,000 USD in 2021, up by 466.51% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 91.

7.3.4 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP
was equal to 4,576,328.81 Apps/bn PPP$ GDP in 2022, down by 36.53% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 39.
Global Innovation Index 2023

Namibia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institutions</th>
<th>Score / Value Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Institutional environment</td>
<td>56.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*</td>
<td>47.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.2 Government effectiveness*</td>
<td>55.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Regulatory environment</td>
<td>38.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.1 Regulatory quality*</td>
<td>71.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.2 Rule of law*</td>
<td>42.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.3 Cost of redundancy dismissal</td>
<td>50.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Business environment</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.1 Policies for doing business*</td>
<td>50.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture*</td>
<td>50.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Human capital and research**

- 2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP: 74.7, 2
- 2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap: 9.5, 1
- 2.1.3 School life expectancy, years: 89.8, 112
- 2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science: 25.9, 112
- 2.2 Tertiary education: 8.0, 115
- 2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross: 27.3, 89
- 2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %: 8.9, 112
- 2.2.3 Tertiary inradius mobility, %: 3.2, 62

**Infrastructure**

- 3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs): 71.4, 106
- 3.1.1 ICT access*: 41.8, 106
- 3.1.2 ICT use*: 54.4, 102
- 3.1.3 Government’s online service*: 51.3, 102
- 3.1.4 E-participation*: 37.2, 113
- 3.2 General infrastructure: 23.3, 115
- 3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.: 15.2, 106
- 3.2.2 Logistics performance*: 271.3, 103
- 3.2.3 Grass capital formation, % GDP: 36.4, 65
- 3.3 Ecological sustainability: 15.1, 118
- 3.4 Environmental performance*: 29.4, 56
- 3.5.3 ISo 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP: 11.8, 49
- 3.5.3 ISo 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP: 54.2, 37
- 3.5.3 ISo 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP: 0.8, 72

**Market sophistication**

- 4.1 Credit: 26.6, 74
- 4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups*: n/a, n/a
- 4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP: 72.8, 49
- 4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP: n/a, n/a
- 4.2 Investment: 7.0, 66
- 4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP: 18.8, 60
- 4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) investors, deals/bn PPP$: n/a, n/a
- 4.2.3 VC recipients, deals/bn PPP$: n/a, n/a
- 4.2.4 VC received, value, % GDP: n/a, n/a
- 4.3 Trade, diversification, and market scale: 53.3, 80
- 4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %: 1.3, 14
- 4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification: 67.5, 97
- 4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$: 28.0, 127

**Business sophistication**

- 5.1 Knowledge workers: 18.0, 106
- 5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %: 18.1, 97
- 5.1.2 Firms offering formal training, %: 25.4, 65
- 5.1.3 GERD performed by business, % GDP: 0.0, 75
- 5.1.4 GERD financed by business, %: 11.1, 73
- 5.1.5 Females employed with advanced degrees, %: 7.4, 88
- 5.2 Innovation linkages: 21.9, 65
- 5.2.1 University-industry R&D collaboration*: 47.8, 54
- 5.2.2 State of cluster development*: 38.0, 77
- 5.2.3 GERD financed by abroad, % GDP: 0.1, 48
- 5.2.4 Joint venture with strategic alliance deals/bn PPP$: 0.0, 39
- 5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$: 0.1, 54
- 5.3 Knowledge absorption: 25.1, 103
- 5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade: 0.0, 110
- 5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade: 7.3, 81
- 5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade: 1.8, 42
- 5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP: 0.8, 102
- 5.3.5 Research talent, % in businesses: 6.9, 65

**Knowledge and technology outputs**

- 6.1 Knowledge creation: 10.8, 123
- 6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$: 0.4, 88
- 6.1.2 PCT patents by origin/bn PPP$: 0.1, 52
- 6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$: 0.2, 41
- 6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$: 0.3, 71
- 6.1.5 Oable documents H-index: 4.7, 106
- 6.2 Knowledge impact: 9.4, 128
- 6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %: -2.1, 127
- 6.2.2 Unemployment, % GDP: 0.0, 88
- 6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP: 0.1, 92
- 6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing, %: 4.7, 102
- 6.3 Knowledge diffusion: 12.8, 95
- 6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade: 0.0, 77
- 6.3.2 Production and export complexity: 41.4, 91
- 6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade: 0.7, 80
- 6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade: 0.4, 106
- 6.3.5 ISo 9001 quality/bn PPP$: 1.9, 89

**Creative outputs**

- 7.1 Intangible assets: 11.2, 105
- 7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %: n/a, n/a
- 7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$: 0.1, 144
- 7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000: 0.0, 74
- 7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$: 1.4, 55
- 7.2 Creative goods and services: 1.9, 105
- 7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade: 0.1, 91
- 7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15-69: n/a, n/a
- 7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/mn pop. 15-69: n/a, n/a
- 7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade: 0.2, 78
- 7.3 Online creativity: 21.5, 61
- 7.3.1 Generic top-level domains (TLDs)/mn pop. 15-69: 10.0, 42
- 7.3.2 Country-code TLDs/mn pop. 15-69: 0.9, 94
- 7.3.3 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15-69: 2.0, 100
- 7.3.4 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$: 73.2, 39

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 Namibia.

> Namibia has missing data for twelve indicators and outdated data for twenty indicators.

### Missing data for Namibia

<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>1.3.2</td>
<td>Entrepreneurship policies and culture</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Global Entrepreneurship Monitor</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1.2</td>
<td>Government funding per pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>UNESCO Institute for Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1.3</td>
<td>School life expectancy, years</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>UNESCO Institute for Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1.4</td>
<td>PISA scales in reading, maths and science</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>OECD, PISA</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.1.1</td>
<td>Finance for startups and scaleups</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Global Entrepreneurship Monitor</td>
</tr>
<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>
<tr>
<td>4.2.2</td>
<td>Venture capital (VC) investors, deals/bn PPP$ GDP</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Refinitiv; International Monetary Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.2.3</td>
<td>VC recipients, deals/bn PPP$ GDP</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Refinitiv; International Monetary Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.4</td>
<td>VC received, value, % GDP</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>Refinitiv; International Monetary Fund</td>
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<td>Brand Finance</td>
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<td>National feature films/mn pop. 15-69</td>
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<td>OMDA; United Nations, World Population Prospects</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.2.3</td>
<td>Entertainment and media market with pop. 15-69</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>PwC, GEMO; United Nations, World Population Prospects; International Monetary Fund</td>
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</table>

### Outdated data for Namibia

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1.5</td>
<td>Pupil-teacher ratio, secondary</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2020</td>
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<td>2.3.1</td>
<td>Researchers, FTE/mn pop.</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT</td>
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<td>2.3.2</td>
<td>Gross expenditure on R&amp;D, % GDP</td>
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<td>2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Indicator name</td>
<td>Economy Year</td>
<td>Model Year</td>
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<td>3.2.1</td>
<td>Electricity output, GWh/mm pop.</td>
<td>2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.3.2</td>
<td>Domestic industry diversification</td>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>United Nations Industrial Development Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.1.1</td>
<td>Knowledge-intensive employment, %</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>International Labour Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.1.2</td>
<td>Firms offering formal training, %</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>World Bank Enterprise Surveys</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.1.3</td>
<td>GERD performed by business, % GDP</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.4</td>
<td>GERD financed by business, %</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.5</td>
<td>Females employed w/advanced degrees, %</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>International Labour Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.3</td>
<td>GERD financed by abroad, % GDP</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>United Nations Comtrade Database; World Trade Organization and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.2</td>
<td>High-tech imports, % total trade</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>United Nations Comtrade Database; World Trade Organization and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.5</td>
<td>Research talent, % in businesses</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1.1</td>
<td>Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.1.3</td>
<td>Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund</td>
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<td>6.2.4</td>
<td>High-tech manufacturing, %</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>United Nations Industrial Development Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.3.3</td>
<td>High-tech exports, % total trade</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>United Nations Comtrade Database; World Trade Organization and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; Trade Data Monitor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.1.2</td>
<td>Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund</td>
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<td>7.1.4</td>
<td>Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2.4</td>
<td>Creative goods exports, % total trade</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>United Nations Comtrade Database; World Trade Organization and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development</td>
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</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.