



Croatia ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2026

Croatia ranks **46th** 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.

Croatia ranks 40th among the 54 High-income group economies.

Croatia ranks 28th among the 39 economies in Europe.

> **Croatia GII Ranking (2020-2026)**

The table shows the rankings of Croatia 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 Croatia in the GII 2026 is between ranks 45 and 47.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	41st	44th	43rd
2021	42nd	41st	48th
2022	42nd	45th	40th
2023	44th	43rd	44th
2024	43rd	42nd	40th
2025	40th	40th	41st
2026	46th	44th	47th

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

This year Croatia ranks **44th** in innovation inputs. This position is lower than last year.

Croatia ranks **47th** in innovation outputs. This position is lower than last year.

> **World's Top 100 Innovation Clusters**

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



For Croatia, 8 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	▲ 1.2 % 2024 - 2025	▲ 2.6 % 2023 - 2024	▼ -16 % 2024 - 2025	▲ 20 % 2024 - 2025
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 4.8 % 2015 - 2025	▲ 9.3 % 2014 - 2024	▼ -16.3 % 2020 - 2025	▲ 0.7 % 2015 - 2025

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	▼ -0.2% 2020 - 2021	▲ 3.4% 2023 - 2024	▲ 0.5% 2023 - 2024	▲ 21.8% 2023 - 2024	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	▼ -0.3% 2011 - 2021	▲ 1.5% 2014 - 2024	n/a	▲ 16.7% 2014 - 2024	n/a
Penetration	74.7 per 100 inhabitants in 2021	29.6 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	98 per 100 inhabitants in 2024	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	▲ 2.1 % 2024 - 2025	▲ 0.6 % 2023 - 2024	+ 2.1 °C 2025
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 2.1 % 2015 - 2025	▲ 0.2 % 2014 - 2024	+ 1.9 °C 2015
Level	106,184.5 USD in 2025	78.9 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.



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 Croatia performs below expectations for its level of development.

> Innovation overperformers relative to their economic development





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.



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

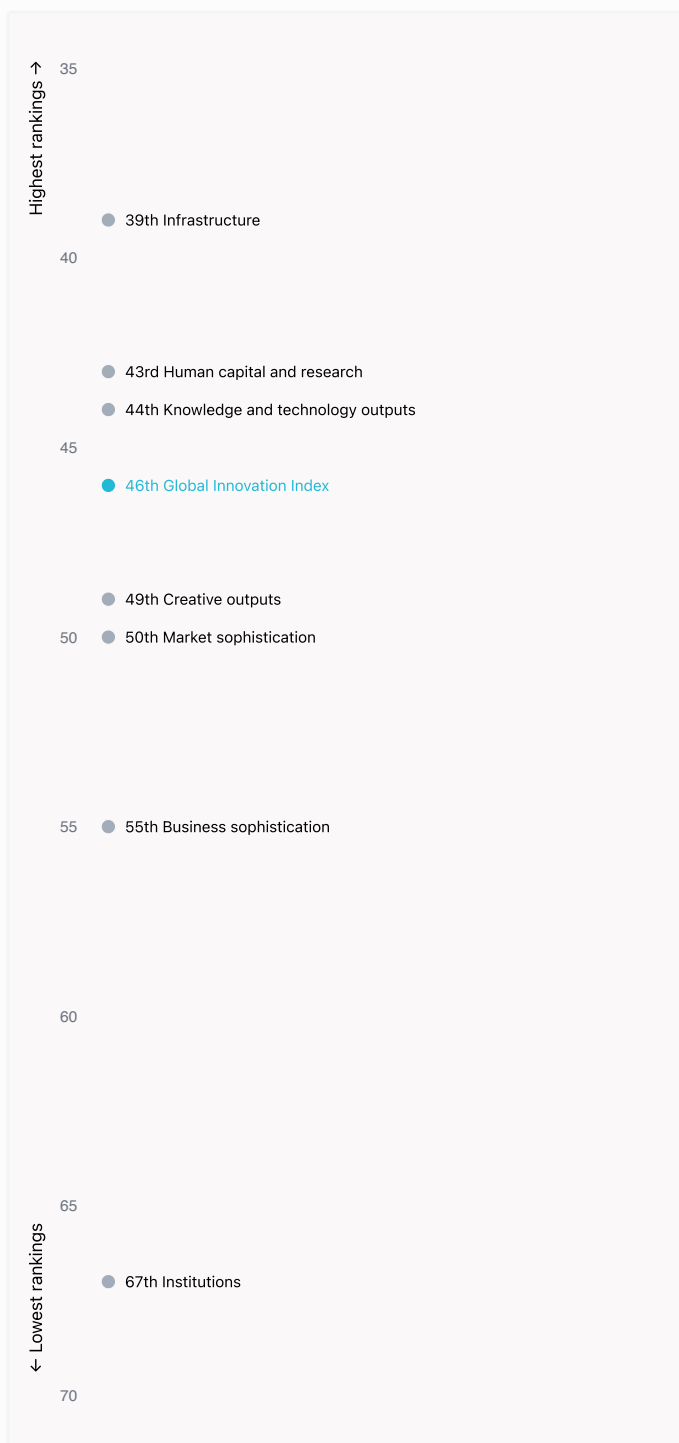
> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs





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



Highest Rankings

Croatia ranks highest in Infrastructure (39th), Human capital and research (43rd) and Knowledge and technology outputs (44th).



Lowest Rankings

Croatia ranks lowest in Institutions (67th), Business sophistication (55th) and Market sophistication (50th).



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



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



High-income economies

Croatia performs below the High-income group average in all pillars.



Europe

Croatia performs below the regional average in all pillars.

Institutions

Top 10 | Score: 78.28

High-income | Score: 66.62

Europe | Score: 60.15

Croatia | Score: 51.53

Human capital and research

Top 10 | Score: 60.87

High-income | Score: 47.25

Europe | Score: 45.82

Croatia | Score: 40.10

Infrastructure

Top 10 | Score: 63.75

High-income | Score: 57.21

Europe | Score: 56.48

Croatia | Score: 55.76

Market sophistication

Top 10 | Score: 63.92

High-income | Score: 47.93

Europe | Score: 45.67

Croatia | Score: 41.56

Business sophistication

Top 10 | Score: 60.02

High-income | Score: 42.52

Europe | Score: 40.95

Croatia | Score: 30.90

Knowledge and technology outputs

Top 10 | Score: 55.83

Europe | Score: 35.30

High-income | Score: 34.48

Croatia | Score: 27.85

Creative outputs

Top 10 | Score: 55.45

Europe | Score: 38.51

High-income | Score: 38.33

Croatia | Score: 31.80



Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Croatia

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



Croatia's best-ranked innovation strengths are **Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary** (rank 2), **Domestic industry diversification** (rank 10) and **ICT use*** (rank 16).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
2	2.1.5	Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary
10	4.3.2	Domestic industry diversification
16	3.1.2	ICT use*
19	6.2.1	Labor productivity growth, %
21	3.3.3	ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP\$ GDP
21	7.2.1	Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade
22	2.2.1	Tertiary enrolment, % gross
22	6.2.2	Unicorn valuation, % GDP
24	6.1.4	Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP\$ GDP
25	3.3.1	GDP/unit of energy use

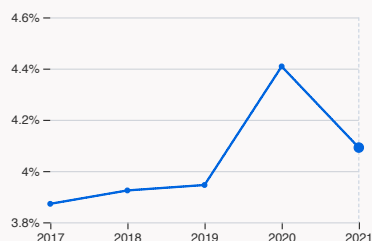
Weaknesses

Rank	Code	Indicator name
46	2.3.3	Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD
64	4.2.3	Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC
69	3.2.2	Aviation import dwell time
78	1.3.2	Entrepreneurship policies and culture ⁺
81	7.1.2	Trademarks by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP
84	5.2.3	University industry & international engagement, top 5*
89	1.3.1	Policy stability for doing business ⁺
101	5.2.2	University–industry R&D collaboration ⁺
113	6.2.3	Software spending, % GDP
129	5.1.3	Youth demographic dividend, %



Croatia's innovation system

> Innovation inputs in Croatia



2.1.1 Expenditure on education

was equal to 4.09 % GDP in 2021, down by 0.32 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 73.



2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering

was equal to 27.93 % of total graduates in 2024, down by 0.51 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 29.



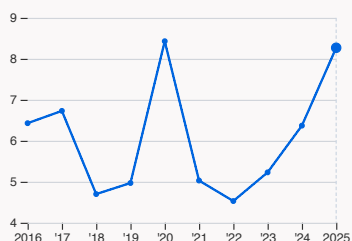
2.3.1 Researchers

was equal to 2424.18 FTE per million population in 2024, down by 1.98% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 39.



2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D

was equal to 1.35 % GDP in 2024, down by 0.02 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 33.



2.3.4 QS university ranking

was equal to an average score of 8.27 for the top three universities in 2025, up by 29.83% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 77.



4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification

was equal to an index score of 0.082 in 2023, down by 2.08% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 10.



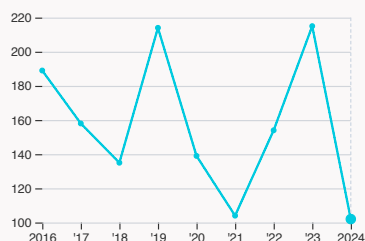
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment

was equal to 42.77 % in 2025, up by 0.5 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 28.

Global Innovation Index 2026

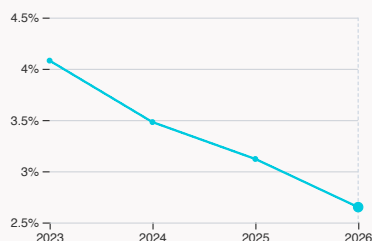


> Innovation outputs in Croatia



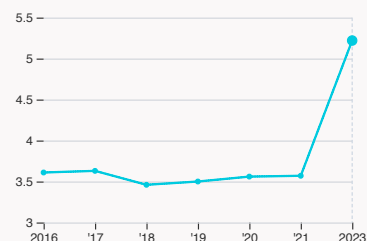
6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 102 patents in 2024, down by 52.56% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 69.



6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

was equal to 2.65 % GDP in 2026, down by 0.47 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 22.



6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing

was equal to 5.22 high-tech manufacturing output in billion USD in 2023, up by 46.22% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 61.



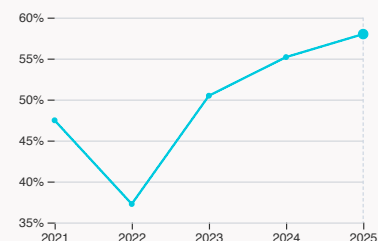
6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of 0.83 in 2024, down by 3.49% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 29.



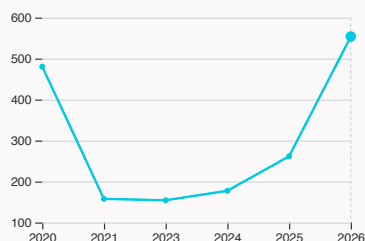
6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 2.06 billion USD in 2024, up by 10.16% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 45.



7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15

was equal to 57.99 % for the top 15 companies in 2025, up by 2.81 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 37.



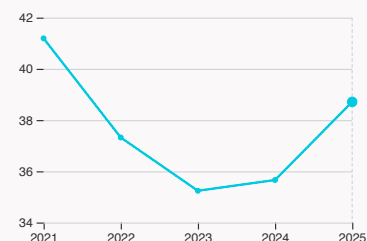
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

was equal to 553.81 million USD for the brands in the top 5,000 in 2026, up by 111.73% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 68.



7.2.2 National feature films

was equal to 21 films in 2024, down by 12.5% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 20.



7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 38.71 million global downloads of mobile apps in 2025, up by 8.55% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 72.



Croatia'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 Croatia's top universities

Rank	University	Score
701-710	UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB	n/a
1201-1400	UNIVERSITY OF RIJEKA	n/a
1201-1400	UNIVERSITY OF SPLIT	n/a

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 ZAGREB	44.40
2	UNIVERSITY OF RIJEKA	33.50
3	UNIVERSITY OF SPLIT	31.65

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 Croatia

Rank	Company	Industry	Description
1	Devoteam	Software & IT services	France-based Devoteam, which operates as a consultancy and engineering company in information system infrastructures, has opened a new office in Osijek, Croatia. It will serve markets in Europe. The new branch will offer services in cloud computing, data management, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.
2	Extedo	Software & IT services	Germany-based Extedo, an e-regulatory affairs solutions provider, has established a subsidiary and office in Zagreb, Croatia. It will serve markets in southeastern Europe.
3	BYD	Automotive OEM	China-based BYD, a manufacturer of rechargeable batteries and electric vehicles, has announced plans to establish a service center in Zagreb, Croatia.

Source: FT Locations, fDi Markets.



6.2.2 Top Unicorn Companies in Croatia

Rank	Unicorn Company	Industry	Location	Valuation, bn USD
1	Rimac Automobili	Industrials	Sveta Nedelja	2.00
2	Infobip	Enterprise Tech	Vodnjan	1.00

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 Croatia

Rank	Firm	Intensity, %
1	INA-INDUSTRIJA NAFTE, D.D.	65.90
2	DURO DAKOVIC GRUPA D.D.	95.83
3	KONCAR - ELEKTROINDUSTRIJA D.D.	70.11

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 Croatia with highest global brand value

Rank	Brand	Industry	Brand Value, mn USD
1	Zagrebacka Banka	Banking	387.9
2	Privenda Banka Zagreb	Banking	165.9

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



GII 2026 SPECIAL THEME

Deep science entrepreneurship in Croatia

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.

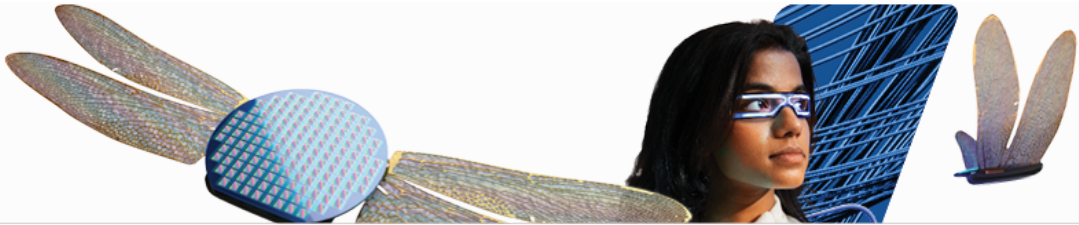
Top deep science startups in Croatia

Rank	Company	Industry	City	Founded	VC funding raised, mn USD	Valuation, bn USD
1	Verne	Transportation	Buzin	2019	110.0	0.44
2	Gideon	Robotics and autonomous systems	Zagreb	2017	36.0	0.12
3	Orqa	Robotics and autonomous systems	Osijek	2018	22.2	0.06

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

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP\$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP\$
47	44	High	Europe	3.8	198.3	51,453.3
Score / Value Rank				Score / Value Rank		
 Institutions				51.5 67		
1.1 Institutional environment				69.7 40		
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*				78.9 28		
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*				60.5 41		
1.2 Regulatory environment				57.7 53		
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*				54.2 55		
1.2.2 Rule of law*				61.1 47		
1.3 Business environment				27.2 107		
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†				37 89		
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†				17.4 78		
 Human capital and research				40.1 43		
2.1 Education				66.7 18		
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP				4.1 73		
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap				n/a n/a		
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years				16.3 31		
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science				473.8 34		
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary				6.1 2		
2.2 Tertiary education				40.7 39		
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross				81.2 22		
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %				27.9 29		
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %				3.7 64		
2.3 Research and development (R&D)				12.9 59		
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.				2,424.2 39		
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP				1.4 33		
2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD				0 46		
2.3.4 QS university ranking, top 3*				8.4 77		
 Infrastructure				55.8 39		
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)				91.7 21		
3.1.1 ICT access*				96.4 41		
3.1.2 ICT use*				93.8 16		
3.1.3 Government online service*				84.8 31		
3.2 General infrastructure				45.5 58		
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.				3,867.8 58		
3.2.2 Aviation import dwell time				2.8 69		
3.2.3 Logistics performance*				54.5 42		
3.2.4 Gross capital formation, % GDP				23.4 65		
3.3 Ecological sustainability				30.1 35		
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use				19 25		
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %				15.4 54		
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP\$ GDP				4.8 21		
 Market sophistication				41.6 50		
4.1 Credit				36.9 46		
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†				55.9 36		
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP				46.9 71		
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP				n/a n/a		
4.2 Investment				8.7 53		
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP				28.9 49		
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP\$ GDP				0.1 47		
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC				0.01 64		
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP\$ GDP				0.2 37		
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale				79.1 34		
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %				1.3 20		
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification				97.3 10		
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP\$				198.3 80		
 Business sophistication				30.9 55		
5.1 Knowledge workers				43.6 41		
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %				42.8 28		
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %				21.1 33		
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %				24 129		
5.1.4 GERD performed by business, % GDP				0.7 34		
5.1.5 GERD financed by business, %				45.1 35		
5.2 Innovation linkages				22.3 79		
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %				2.7 29		
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†				27.9 101		
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*				13 84		
5.2.4 State of cluster development†				37.6 78		
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP\$ GDP				0.1 46		
5.3 Knowledge absorption				26.8 56		
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade				1 39		
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade				8.8 54		
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade				1.6 64		
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP				4.8 27		
5.3.5 Greenfield R&D & high-tech FDI				1.6 41		
5.3.6 Research talent, % in businesses				26 52		
 Knowledge and technology outputs				27.9 44		
6.1 Knowledge creation				17.2 61		
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP				0.5 69		
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP\$ GDP				0.3 38		
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP				0.1 45		
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP\$ GDP				27.2 24		
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index				18.4 47		
6.2 Knowledge impact				33.7 38		
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %				3.6 19		
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP				2.7 22		
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP				0.04 113		
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing, %				21.2 61		
6.3 Knowledge diffusion				32.6 44		
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade				0.3 41		
6.3.2 Production and export complexity				83.6 29		
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade				4.3 45		
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade				3.9 34		
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP\$ GDP				8 27		
 Creative outputs				31.8 49		
7.1 Intangible assets				32.2 57		
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %				58 37		
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP				25.5 81		
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP				0.5 68		
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP\$ GDP				2.1 35		
7.2 Creative goods and services				26.5 45		
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade				1.6 21		
7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69				7.7 20		
7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69				n/a n/a		
7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade				0.6 55		
7.3 Online creativity				36.3 38		
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69				14.2 37		
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69				28.1 34		
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP\$ GDP				66.5 72		

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 Croatia.



Croatia has missing data for three indicators and outdated data for five indicators.

Missing data for Croatia

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
2.1.2	Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	n/a	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
4.1.3	Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	2024	International Monetary Fund, Financial Access Survey (FAS)
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 Croatia

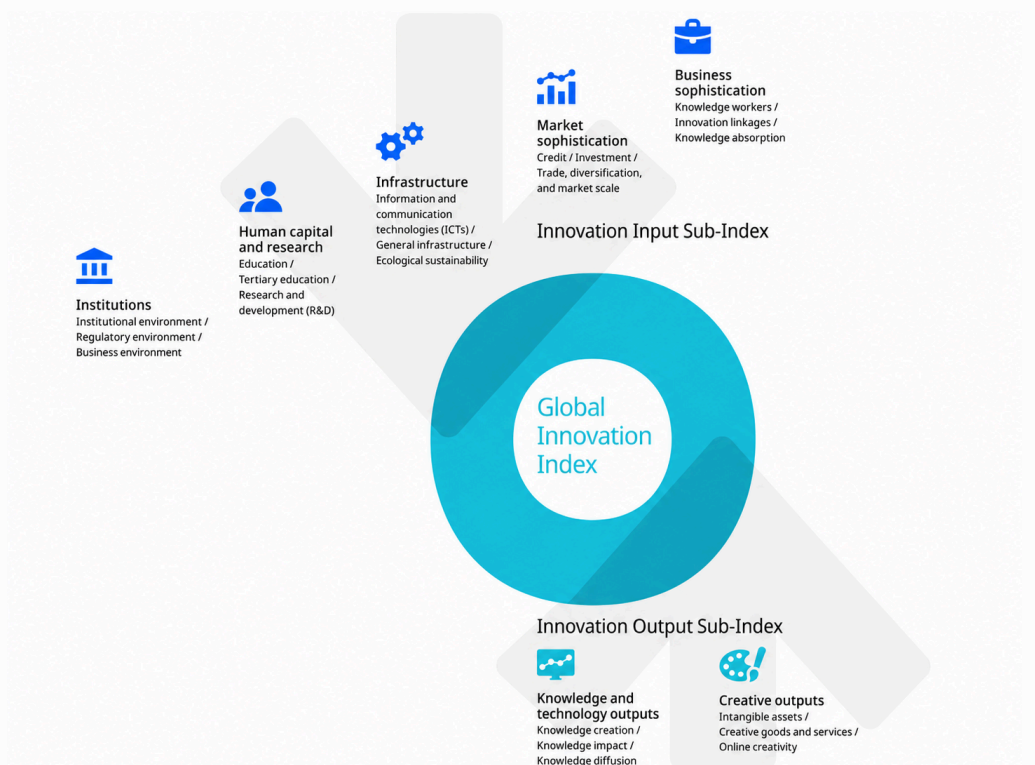
Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year*	Source
2.1.1	Expenditure on education, % GDP	2021	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.3	School life expectancy, years	2023	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.1.5	Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	2023	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.1	Tertiary enrolment, % gross	2023	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.3	Tertiary inbound mobility, %	2023	2024	UNESCO Institute for Statistics

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



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.