IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2025

Digital competitiveness profile

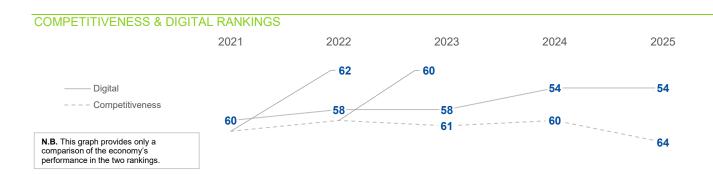
SOUTH AFRICA



SOUTH AFRICA

DIGITAL TRENDS - OVERALL

OVERALL PERFORMANCE (69 economies) Overall Factors **Sub-Factors** 58 61 52 59 Training & education Talent Scientific concentration Knowledge 54 Regulatory framework Capital Technological framework Technology 49 49 The direction of the triangle indicates the performance change from the last year: Adaptive attitudes Business agility IT integration △ improved or stable ▽declined Future readiness **OVERALL & FACTORS - 5 years** 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 60 58 58 54 54 **OVERALL** 62 54 58 54 58 Knowledge 59 58 59 54 57 Technology



59

56

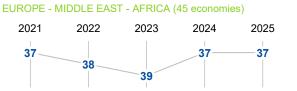
50

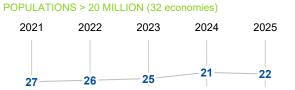
49

59

PEER GROUPS RANKINGS

Future readiness





SOUTH AFRICA

FACTORS BREAKDOWN - STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

KNOWLEDGE

Sub-Factors	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Talent	58	57	60	59	61
Training & education	62	50	49	46	52
Scientific concentration	53	53	53	55	59

	Talent	Rank
	Educational assessment PISA - Math	-
	International experience	56
\triangleright	Management of cities	67
\triangleright	Digital/Technological skills	67
	Foreign highly skilled personnel	49
	Net flow of international students	39
•	Female researchers	14
	Scientific and technical employment	-

	Training & education	Rank
	Employee training	58
•	Total public expenditure on education	02
\triangleright	Higher education achievement	62
	Pupil-teacher ratio (tertiary education)	40
	Graduates in Sciences	55
	Women with degrees	57
	Computer science education index	41

Scientific concentration	Rank
Total expenditure on R&D (%)	48
Total R&D personnel per capita	54
R&D productivity by publication	21
High-tech patent grants	50
Al-related patent publications	48
Robots in Education and R&D	47
Al articles	52

TECHNOLOGY

Sub-Factors	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Regulatory framework	59	53	56	62	62
Capital	36	51	45	47	47
Technological framework	61	60	61	55	58

	Regulatory framework	Rank
	Starting a business	62
	Enforcing contracts	54
\triangleright	Immigration laws	66
	Development & application of tech.	56
	Scientific research legislation	41
	Intellectual property rights	46
	Al policies passed into law	44

	Capital	Rank
>	IT & media stock market capitalization	07
	Funding for technological development	59
	Banking and financial services	56
>	Country credit rating	58
	Venture capital	61
	Investment in Telecommunications	06
	Al private investment	42

Rank
61
50
39
62
62
57
38

FUTURE READINESS

Sub-Factors	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Adaptive attitudes	59	57	57	55	49
Business agility	59	57	54	52	58
IT integration	55	55	56	40	44

Adaptive attitudes	Rank
E-Participation	24
Internet retailing	57
Tablet possession	42
Smartphone possession	35
Attitudes toward globalization	49
Flexibility and adaptability	58

Business agility	Rank
Opportunities and threats	50
World robots distribution	33
Agility of companies	56
Use of big data and analytics	34
Knowledge transfer	48
Entrepreneurial fear of failure	48

	IT integration	Rank
	E-Government	35
\triangleright	Public-private partnerships	63
	Cyber security	57
▶	Software piracy	19
	Government cyber security capacity	52
	Privacy protection by law exists	27

Challenging what is and inspiring what could be, we develop leaders who transform organizations for a more prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive world.

About the Institute for Management Development (IMD)

We are an independent academic institute with close ties to business and a strong focus on impact. Through our Executive Education, MBA, Executive MBA, and advisory work we help leaders and policy-makers navigate complexity and change.

We support the transition to a new model that balances prosperity and growth with ecological sustainability and social inclusion.

Sustainability and diversity, equity, and inclusion are in our DNA.

We combine a deep understanding of human dynamics with a pioneering approach to <u>technology and AI</u>. We deliver powerful learning experiences for individuals and teams across the globe.

www.imd.org

