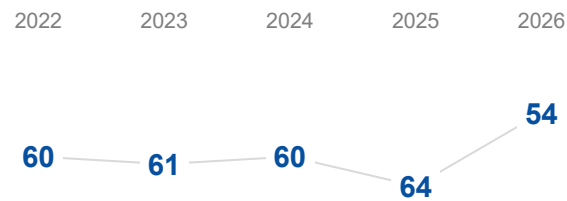


South Africa

Competitiveness Trends – Overall

OVERALL PERFORMANCE (70 countries)



CHALLENGES IN 2026

- High unemployment rate and skills mismatch.
- Economic growth remains low, while public debt continues to rise.
- Infrastructure, energy and water bottlenecks continue to limit growth and productivity.
- Corruption and crime undermine service delivery and trust in government.
- Provision of support for businesses in high-growth sectors.

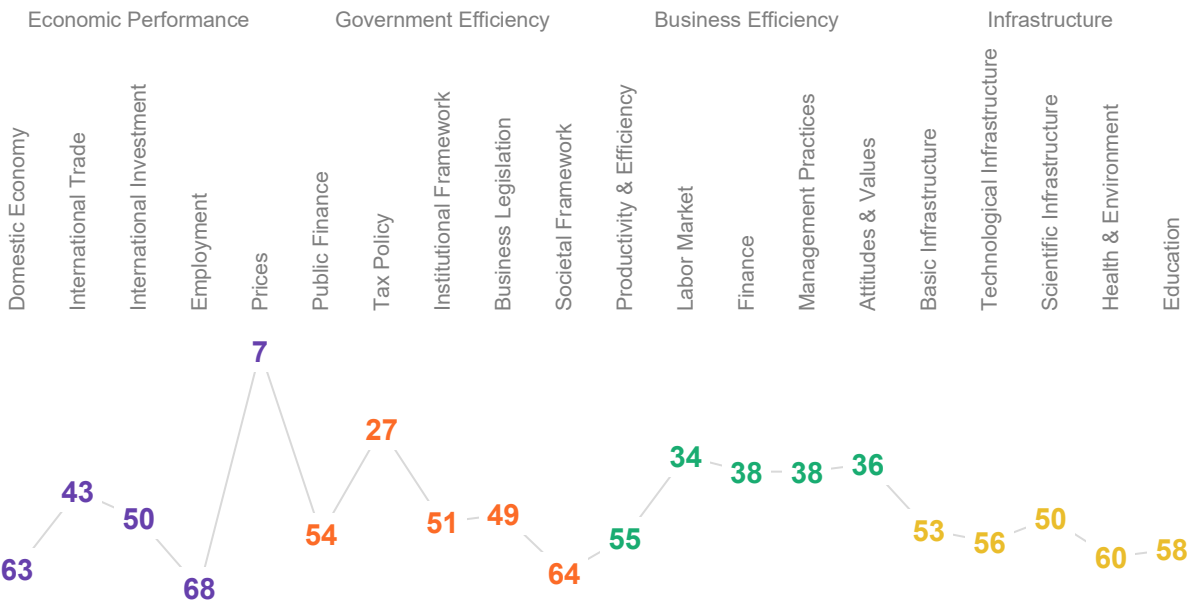
BASIC FACTS

Rank

Capital	Pretoria
Land area (square km '000)	1,219 ²⁰²⁵
Exchange rate (per \$)	17.889 ²⁰²⁵
Population - market size (millions)	64.75 ²⁰²⁵ 16
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (US\$ billions)	427.2 ²⁰²⁵ 37
GDP (PPP) per capita (US\$)	15,911 ²⁰²⁵ 62
Real GDP growth (%)	1.1 ²⁰²⁵ 50
Consumer price inflation (%)	3.22 ²⁰²⁵ 44
Unemployment rate (%)	31.40 ²⁰²⁵ 69
Labor force (millions)	24.94 ²⁰²⁵ 18
Current account balance (% of GDP)	-0.54 ²⁰²⁵ 42
Direct investment stocks inward (\$bn)	113.0 ²⁰²⁴ 45
Direct investment flows inward (% of GDP)	0.62 ²⁰²⁴ 58

PROVIDED BY: Productivity SA, South Africa

COMPETITIVENESS LANDSCAPE



PEER GROUPS RANKINGS

EUROPE - MIDDLE EAST - AFRICA (45 countries)



POPULATIONS > 20 MILLION (32 countries)



South Africa

Competitiveness Evolution & Attractiveness Indicators

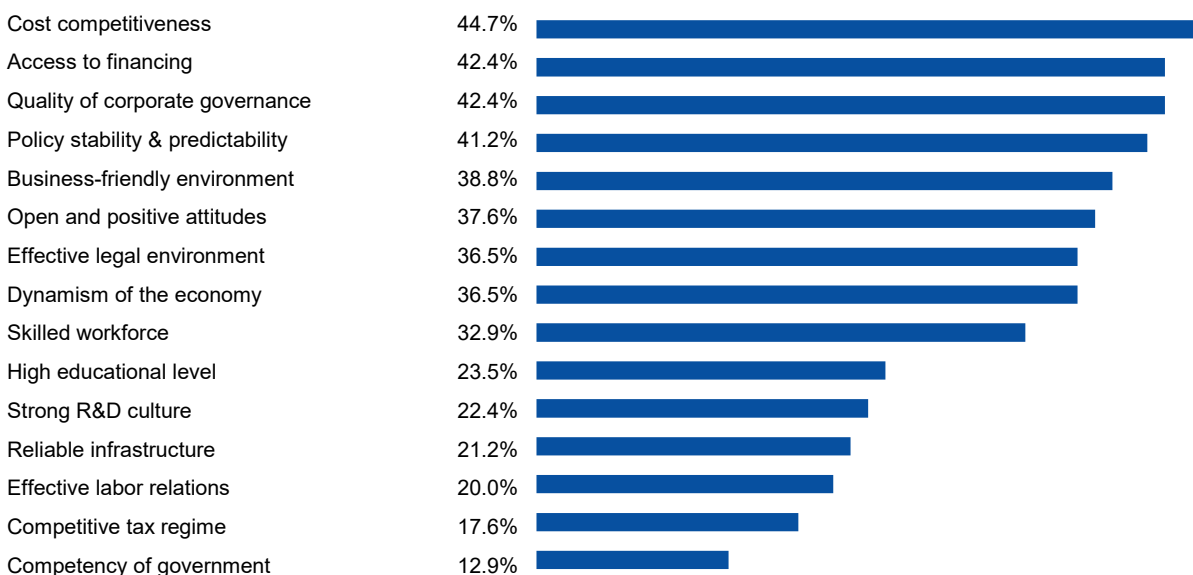
COMPETITIVENESS EVOLUTION

The criteria below highlight the 15 biggest Improvements and the 15 biggest Declines in the overall performance of the economy. They are determined by the largest percentage changes in the value of each criterion from one yearbook to the next.

IMPROVEMENTS	2025 WCY	2026 WCY	DECLINES	2025 WCY	2026 WCY
1.4.04 Employment - long-term growth	2.03	9.62	4.1.20 Electricity costs for industrial clients	0.071	0.136
4.4.19 Forest area growth	-1.1	2.0	4.4.13 Safely treated waste water	41.3	21.6
1.1.15 Real GDP growth per capita	-1.00	0.07	4.1.07 Population - growth	1.59	1.16
2.5.17 Media bias	0.424	0.786	2.2.01 Collected total tax revenues	24.54	27.99
2.3.08 Exchange rate stability	0.112	0.019	1.1.13 Economic complexity index	0.07	0.06
2.3.12 Bureaucracy	2.03	3.67	4.5.04 Pupil-teacher ratio (primary education)	30.30	34.20
4.1.15 Energy infrastructure	2.87	5.10	4.3.16 Patent applications per capita	1.86	1.65
2.1.07 Public finances	2.49	4.14	1.5.06 Gasoline prices	1.24	1.36
2.3.10 Adaptability of government policy	2.85	4.73	1.2.23 Trade to GDP ratio	71.94	66.37
3.2.15 Labor force - long-term growth	3.68	6.00	2.2.02 Collected personal income tax	9.24	9.95
4.1.05 Management of cities	3.02	4.76	2.5.13 Unemployment rate - gender ratio	1.13	1.20
2.3.11 Transparency	3.15	4.93	4.4.16 CO2 emissions intensity	1,043.8	1,099.7
4.4.04 Health infrastructure	3.34	5.06	3.3.04 Access to financial services	85.38	81.13
2.3.02 Cost of capital	3.67	5.34	4.3.07 Total R&D personnel per capita	0.73	0.70
2.3.13 Bribery and corruption	1.38	1.98	1.1.09 Gross fixed capital formation (%)	14.5	13.9

KEY ATTRACTIVENESS INDICATORS

From a list of 15 indicators, respondents of the Executive Opinion Survey were asked to select 5 that they perceived as the key attractiveness factors of their economy. The chart shows the percentage of responses per indicator from the highest number of responses to the lowest.



South Africa

Competitiveness Trends – Factor Breakdown

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE



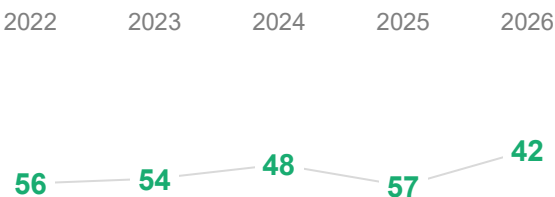
SUB-FACTOR RANKINGS :	2025	2026
Domestic Economy	63	63
International Trade	44	43
International Investment	46	50
Employment	67	68
Prices	07	07

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY



SUB-FACTOR RANKINGS :	2025	2026
Public Finance	63	54
Tax Policy	25	27
Institutional Framework	61	51
Business Legislation	61	49
Societal Framework	64	64

BUSINESS EFFICIENCY



SUB-FACTOR RANKINGS :	2025	2026
Productivity & Efficiency	63	55
Labor Market	55	34
Finance	46	38
Management Practices	56	38
Attitudes & Values	58	36

INFRASTRUCTURE



SUB-FACTOR RANKINGS :	2025	2026
Basic Infrastructure	64	53
Technological Infrastructure	61	56
Scientific Infrastructure	48	50
Health & Environment	64	60
Education	61	58

South Africa

Balance Sheet – Factor Breakdown

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

STRENGTHS

	Rank
1.5.02 Cost-of-living index	04
1.2.17 Export concentration by partner	06
1.4.04 Employment - long-term growth	11
1.5.03 Apartment rent	16
1.5.04 Office rent	19
1.3.04 Direct investment stocks abroad (% of GDP)	25
1.3.13 Relocation threats of business	28
1.2.18 Export concentration by product	29
1.3.03 Direct investment stocks abroad (\$bn)	31
1.5.05 Food costs	32

WEAKNESSES

	Rank
1.4.07 Unemployment rate	69
1.3.01 Direct investment flows abroad (\$bn)	69
1.4.09 Youth unemployment	68
1.4.02 Employment (%)	68
1.3.02 Direct investment flows abroad (% of GDP)	68
1.1.09 Gross fixed capital formation (%)	67
1.1.21 GDP (PPP) per capita	62
1.4.08 Long-term unemployment	61
1.4.10 Youth exclusion	60
1.1.20 GDP per capita	60

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

STRENGTHS

	Rank
2.4.07 Government subsidies	06
2.4.12 New business density	10
2.3.08 Exchange rate stability	18
2.5.16 Freedom of the press	24
2.2.08 Consumption tax rate	26
2.4.06 Investment incentives (e.g., grants, tax credits) f	32
2.1.09 Pension funding	32
2.3.05 Central bank policy	33
2.2.11 Real personal taxes	34
2.5.15 Disposable income	35

WEAKNESSES

	Rank
2.5.02 Homicide	68
2.5.18 Inequality in life expectancy	64
2.4.18 Immigration laws	64
2.5.06 Gini coefficient	63
2.3.15 Sustainable Development Goals	63
2.3.13 Bribery and corruption	60
2.4.03 Public sector contracts	60
2.3.04 Country credit rating	59
2.3.18 Passport freedom	59
2.5.09 Income distribution - lowest 40%	58

BUSINESS EFFICIENCY

STRENGTHS

	Rank
3.3.10 Stock market capitalization (%)	03
3.2.03 Remuneration in medium skilled professions	09
3.2.05 Remuneration in high skilled professions	13
3.2.04 Statutory minimum wage	13
3.2.15 Labor force - long-term growth	17
3.2.01 Compensation levels	19
3.4.11 Women in management	19
3.3.05 Access to financial services - gender ratio	28
3.4.01 Agility of companies	28
3.3.08 Stock markets	30

WEAKNESSES

	Rank
3.2.13 Labor force (%)	66
3.3.16 Credit	58
3.2.10 Apprenticeships	57
3.2.18 Foreign labor force - migrant stock	55
3.3.04 Access to financial services	54
3.3.17 Venture capital	53
3.1.07 Workforce productivity	53
3.2.21 Attracting and retaining talent	51
3.5.02 Image abroad or branding	50
3.4.13 Entrepreneurial fear of failure	48

INFRASTRUCTURE

STRENGTHS

	Rank
4.5.01 Total public expenditure on education	01
4.4.19 Forest area growth	13
4.2.03 Mobile telephone costs	16
4.4.23 Food waste	19
4.1.09 Dependency ratio	22
4.1.07 Population - growth	23
4.1.20 Electricity costs for industrial clients	24
4.4.01 Total health expenditure	25
4.4.27 Sustainable development	31
4.2.09 AI skills	31

WEAKNESSES

	Rank
4.4.16 CO2 emissions intensity	69
4.4.06 Life expectancy at birth	67
4.5.05 Pupil-teacher ratio (secondary education)	66
4.5.04 Pupil-teacher ratio (primary education)	66
4.1.04 Access to water	64
4.2.08 Internet bandwidth speed	64
4.4.13 Safely treated waste water	62
4.5.07 Higher education achievement	62
4.1.05 Management of cities	62
4.1.15 Energy infrastructure	62

South Africa

Extended Country Profile

1 · ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

1.1 · Domestic Economy

		Value	Avg	Rank	
1.1.00 [B]	Exchange rate National currency per US\$ (average)	17.889	815.950		2025
1.1.01	Gross Domestic Product (GDP) US\$ billions	427.2	1,554.5	37	2025
1.1.02	GDP (PPP) Estimates ; US\$ billions at purchasing power parity	1,030.2	2,604.0	28	2025
1.1.03 [B]	World GDP contribution Percentage share of world GDP based on PPP	0.49	1.24	28	2025
1.1.04 [B]	Household consumption expenditure (\$bn) US\$ billions	281.2	853.9	30	2025
1.1.05 [B]	Household consumption expenditure (%) Percentage of GDP	65.8	54.4	12	2025
1.1.06 [B]	Government consumption expenditure (\$bn) US\$ billions	80.7	260.7	30	2025
1.1.07 [B]	Government consumption expenditure (%) Percentage of GDP	18.9	17.8	32	2025
1.1.08 [B]	Gross fixed capital formation (\$bn) US\$ billions	59.3	395.8	46	2025
1.1.09	Gross fixed capital formation (%) Percentage of GDP	13.9	22.7	67	2025
1.1.10 [B]	Gross domestic savings (\$bn) US\$ billions	65.3	429.3	43	2025
1.1.11 [B]	Gross domestic savings (%) Percentage of GDP	15.3	27.8	60	2025
1.1.12 [B][3]	Economic sectors Breakdown of the economic sectors, percentage of GDP				2025
	Economic sectors / Agriculture	3.1	4.3		2025
	Economic sectors / Industry	26.8	28.6		2025
	Economic sectors / Services	70.1	66.9		2025
1.1.13	Economic complexity index Measures knowledge intensity, by considering exports	0.06	0.61	45	2024
1.1.14	Real GDP growth Percentage change, based on national currency in constant prices	1.1	2.8	50	2025
1.1.15	Real GDP growth per capita Percentage change, based on national currency in constant prices	0.07	1.91	59	2025
1.1.16 [B]	Household consumption expenditure - real growth Percentage change, based on constant prices	3.05	2.70	28	2025
1.1.17 [B]	Government consumption expenditure - real growth Percentage change, based on constant prices	-0.22	2.45	62	2025
1.1.18	Gross fixed capital formation - real growth Percentage change, based on constant prices	-2.19	2.75	59	2025
1.1.19 [S]	Resilience of the economy Resilience of the economy to economic cycles is strong	5.62	5.83	38	2026
1.1.20	GDP per capita US\$ per capita	6,598	37,912	60	2025
1.1.21	GDP (PPP) per capita Estimates; US\$ per capita at purchasing power parity	15,911	55,152	62	2025
1.1.22 [B]	Forecast: Real GDP growth Percentage change, based on national currency in constant prices	1.6	2.3	49	2026
1.1.23 [B]	Forecast: Inflation Percentage change	3.4	9.7	43	2026
1.1.24 [B]	Forecast: Unemployment Percentage of total labor force	32.5	5.8	61	2026
1.1.25 [B]	Forecast: Current account balance Percentage of GDP	-0.9	1.6	41	2026

1.2 · International Trade

Value Avg Rank

1.2.01 [B]	Current account balance (\$bn) US\$ billions (minus sign = deficit)	-2.3	10.3	44	2025
1.2.02	Current account balance Percentage of GDP	-0.54	1.83	42	2025
1.2.03 [B]	Balance of trade (\$bn) US\$ billions (minus sign = deficit)	-11.7	-0.2	51	2025
1.2.04 [B]	Balance of trade (%) Percentage of GDP	-2.73	0.13	45	2025
1.2.05 [B]	Balance of commercial services (\$bn) US\$ billions (minus sign = deficit)	-3.30	12.48	43	2025
1.2.06 [B]	Balance of commercial services (%) Percentage of GDP	-0.77	1.98	44	2025
1.2.07 [B]	World exports contribution Percentage share of world exports (goods and commercial services)	0.37	1.33	41	2025
1.2.08	Exports of goods (\$bn) US\$ billions	116.40	350.42	37	2025
1.2.09	Exports of goods (%) Percentage of GDP	27.25	40.03	38	2025
1.2.10 [B]	Exports of goods per capita US\$ per capita	1,798	16,283	60	2025
1.2.11	Exports of goods - growth Percentage change, based on US\$ values	5.74	7.13	41	2025
1.2.12	Exports of commercial services (\$bn) US\$ billions	17.88	129.13	51	2025
1.2.13	Exports of commercial services (%) Percentage of GDP	4.19	17.44	59	2025
1.2.14	Exports of commercial services - growth Percentage change, based on US\$ values	12.18	8.78	15	2025
1.2.15 [B]	Exports of goods & commercial services US\$ billions	134.28	484.64	41	2025
1.2.16 [B][3]	Exports breakdown by economic sector Percentage of total exports				2024
	Exports breakdown by economic sector / Agriculture	12.5	10.0		2024
	Exports breakdown by economic sector / Industry	74.9	62.2		2024
	Exports breakdown by economic sector / Services	12.6	27.8		2024
1.2.17	Export concentration by partner Exports to top 5 countries, percentage of total exports	39.3	55.4	6	2024
1.2.18	Export concentration by product Top 5 products, percentage of total exports	53.4	58.7	29	2024
1.2.19 [B]	Imports of goods & commercial services (\$bn) US\$ billions	149.3	472.2	30	2025
1.2.20 [B]	Imports of goods & commercial services (%) Percentage of GDP	34.9	55.7	25	2025
1.2.21 [B]	Imports of goods & commerc. services growth Percentage change, based on US\$ values	4.17	8.18	14	2025
1.2.22 [B][3]	Imports breakdown by economic sector Percentage of total imports				2024
	Imports breakdown by economic sector / Agriculture	5.8	8.3		2024
	Imports breakdown by economic sector / Industry	80.4	65.3		2024
	Imports breakdown by economic sector / Services	13.8	26.4		2024
1.2.23	Trade to GDP ratio (Exports + Imports) / GDP	66.37	113.77	49	2025
1.2.24	Terms of trade index Unit value of exports over unit value of imports	117.2	104.3	13	2024
1.2.25	Tourism receipts International tourism receipts as a percentage of GDP	1.68	3.92	51	2024

1.3 · International Investment

Value Avg Rank

1.3.01	Direct investment flows abroad (\$bn) US\$ billions	-1.28	22.49	69	2024
1.3.02	Direct investment flows abroad (% of GDP) Percentage of GDP	-0.32	3.33	68	2024
1.3.03	Direct investment stocks abroad (\$bn) US\$ billions	147.8	617.6	31	2024
1.3.04	Direct investment stocks abroad (% of GDP) Percentage of GDP	36.92	69.97	25	2024
1.3.05	Direct investment flows inward (\$bn) US\$ billions	2.47	18.85	48	2024
1.3.06	Direct investment flows inward (% of GDP) Percentage of GDP	0.62	4.42	58	2024
1.3.07	Direct investment stocks inward (\$bn) US\$ billions	113.0	692.1	45	2024
1.3.08	Direct investment stocks inward (% of GDP) Percentage of GDP	28.24	81.06	51	2024
1.3.09 [B]	Balance of direct investment flows (\$bn) US\$ billions (flows abroad minus flows inward)	-3.74	3.64	46	2024
1.3.10 [B]	Balance of direct investment flows (%) Percentage of GDP (flows abroad minus flows inward)	-0.94	-1.09	40	2024
1.3.11 [B]	Net position in direct investment stocks (\$bn) US\$ billions (stocks abroad minus stocks inward)	34.8	-73.8	19	2024
1.3.12 [B]	Net position in direct investment stocks (%) Percentage of GDP (stocks abroad minus stocks inward)	8.68	-10.96	20	2024
1.3.13 [S]	Relocation threats of business Relocation of business is not a threat to the future of your economy	5.21	5.00	28	2026
1.3.14	Portfolio investment assets US\$ billions	1.55	50.70	56	2024
1.3.15	Portfolio investment liabilities US\$ billions	0.57	52.54	54	2024

1.4 · Employment

Value Avg Rank

1.4.01	Employment Total employment in millions	17.10	38.80	27	2025
1.4.02	Employment (%) Percentage of population	26.41	48.10	68	2025
1.4.03	Employment - growth Estimates: percentage change	0.12	1.46	51	2025
1.4.04	Employment - long-term growth Estimates: five year percentage change	9.62	4.47	11	2025
1.4.05 [B][3]	Employment by sector Percentage of total employment				2025
	Employment by sector / Agriculture	5.6	8.3		2025
	Employment by sector / Industry	20.8	23.0		2025
	Employment by sector / Services	73.7	68.7		2025
1.4.06 [B]	Employment in the public sector Percentage of total employment	16.29	15.99	34	2024
1.4.07	Unemployment rate Percentage of labor force	31.40	5.93	69	2025
1.4.08	Long-term unemployment Percentage of labor force	25.10	2.80	61	2025
1.4.09	Youth unemployment Percentage of youth labor force (under the age of 25)	57.00	14.67	68	2025
1.4.10	Youth exclusion Share of youth population (15-24) not in education, employment or training	34.6	13.3	60	2024

1.5 · Prices

Value Avg Rank

1.5.01	Consumer price inflation Average annual rate	3.22	7.84	44	2025
1.5.02	Cost-of-living index Index of a basket of goods & services in the main city. Provided by Mercer	46.47	69.46	4	2024
1.5.03	Apartment rent 3-room apartment monthly rent in major cities, US\$	857	1,463	16	2025
1.5.04	Office rent Total occupation cost in the main city (US\$/Sq.M. per year)	327	566	19	2025
1.5.05	Food costs Percentage of household final consumption expenditures	16.81	19.84	32	2025
1.5.06	Gasoline prices Premium unleaded gasoline (95 Ron) US\$ per litre	1.36	1.39	34	2025

South Africa

Extended Country Profile

2 · GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

2.1 · Public Finance

		Value	Avg	Rank	
2.1.01 [B]	Government budget surplus/deficit (\$bn) US\$ billions	-24.70	-78.20	48	2025
2.1.02	Government budget surplus/deficit (%) Percentage of GDP	-5.78	-2.42	58	2025
2.1.03 [B]	Total general government debt (\$bn) US\$ billions	335.95	1,522.36	44	2025
2.1.04	Total general government debt (%) Percentage of GDP	78.64	67.76	50	2025
2.1.05 [B]	Total general government debt-real growth Percentage change, based on national currency in constant prices	4.24	9.85	38	2025
2.1.06	Interest payment (%) Percentage of current revenue	19.66	7.39	62	2025
2.1.07 [S]	Public finances Public finances are being efficiently managed	4.14	4.81	45	2026
2.1.08 [S]	Tax evasion Tax evasion is not a threat to your economy	4.38	4.93	45	2026
2.1.09 [S]	Pension funding Pension funding is adequately addressed for the future	5.00	4.95	32	2026
2.1.10	General government expenditure Percentage of GDP	34.2	36.4	31	2025

2.2 · Tax Policy

		Value	Avg	Rank	
2.2.01	Collected total tax revenues Percentage of GDP	27.99	21.52	49	2024
2.2.02	Collected personal income tax On profits, income and capital gains, as a percentage of GDP	9.95	5.76	55	2024
2.2.03 [B]	Collected corporate taxes On profits, income and capital gains, as a percentage of GDP	4.34	3.82	46	2024
2.2.04 [B]	Collected indirect tax revenues Taxes on goods and services as a percentage of GDP	8.56	8.80	29	2024
2.2.05 [B]	Collected capital and property taxes Percentage of GDP	0.31	1.14	17	2024
2.2.06 [B]	Collected social security contribution Compulsory contribution of employees and employers as a percentage of GDP	0.53	6.18	12	2024
2.2.07	Corporate tax rate on profit Maximum tax rate, calculated on profit before tax	27.00	22.45	56	2025
2.2.08	Consumption tax rate Standard rate of VAT/GST	15.00	15.89	26	2025
2.2.09	Employer social security tax rate %	1.0	15.2	5	2025
2.2.10	Employee social security tax rate %	1.0	10.2	6	2025
2.2.11 [S]	Real personal taxes Real personal taxes do not discourage people from working or seeking advancement	5.36	5.11	34	2026

2.3 · Institutional Framework

Value Avg Rank

2.3.01 [B]	Real short-term interest rate Real discount / bank rate	3.42	0.13	60	2025
2.3.02 [S]	Cost of capital Cost of capital encourages business development	5.34	5.21	37	2026
2.3.03	Interest rate spread Lending rate minus deposit rate	3.43	4.41	37	2025
2.3.04	Country credit rating Index (0-60) of three country credit ratings: Fitch, Moody's and S&P	26.3	42.1	59	2025
2.3.05 [S]	Central bank policy Central bank policy has a positive impact on the economy	6.35	6.26	33	2026
2.3.06 [B]	Foreign currency reserves US\$ billions	75.87	239.62	33	2025
2.3.07	Foreign currency reserves per capita US\$ per capita	1,172	8,619	58	2025
2.3.08	Exchange rate stability Parity change from national currency to SDR, two-year change	0.019	0.185	18	2025
2.3.09 [S]	Legal and regulatory framework The legal and regulatory framework encourages the competitiveness of enterprises	5.29	5.28	38	2026
2.3.10 [S]	Adaptability of government policy Adaptability of government policy to changes in the economy is high	4.73	4.84	35	2026
2.3.11 [S]	Transparency Transparency of government policy is satisfactory	4.93	4.96	40	2026
2.3.12 [S]	Bureaucracy Bureaucracy does not hinder business activity	3.67	3.84	37	2026
2.3.13 [S]	Bribery and corruption Bribery and corruption do not exist	1.98	4.52	60	2026
2.3.14	Rule of law Rule of Law Index	57.27	67.24	52	2024
2.3.15	Sustainable Development Goals Country performance on the 17 SDGs	63.4	74.4	63	2024
2.3.16	Democracy Index EIU Overall Democracy Index, © The Economist Intelligence Unit Limited	7.16	6.74	38	2024
2.3.17	Freely Elected Government Score (0-4) - Do the freely elected head of government and national legislative representatives determine the government policies?	3	3	36	2024
2.3.18	[2] Passport freedom Score	101	121	59	2025
	Country welcoming	93	99		2025
	Passport mobility	109	144		2025

2.4 · Business Legislation

Value Avg Rank

2.4.01	Tariff barriers	5.60	4.48	51	2024
	Tariffs on imports: Trade-weighted MFN applied tariff average - all products				
2.4.02 [S]	Protectionism	4.87	5.49	47	2026
	Protectionism of your government does not impair the conduct of your business				
2.4.03 [S]	Public sector contracts	4.68	5.90	60	2026
	Public sector contracts are sufficiently open to foreign bidders				
2.4.04 [S]	Foreign investors	5.88	6.63	54	2026
	Foreign investors are free to acquire control in domestic companies				
2.4.05 [S]	Capital markets	5.79	6.26	47	2026
	Capital markets (foreign and domestic) are easily accessible				
2.4.06 [S]	Investment incentives (e.g., grants, tax credits) for AI	4.33	3.96	32	2026
	Investment incentives (e.g., grants, tax credits) for AI are adequate				
2.4.07	Government subsidies	0.33	1.37	6	2022
	To private and public companies as a percentage of GDP				
2.4.08 [S]	Subsidies	5.47	5.51	39	2026
	Subsidies do not distort fair competition and economic development				
2.4.09 [S]	State ownership of enterprises	5.05	5.91	56	2026
	State ownership of enterprises is not a threat to business activities				
2.4.10 [S]	Competition legislation	5.86	5.73	37	2026
	Competition legislation is efficient in preventing unfair competition				
2.4.11 [S]	Parallel economy	3.79	4.88	49	2026
	Parallel (black-market, unrecorded) economy does not impair economic development				
2.4.12	New business density	11.1	6.0	10	2022
	Registered new businesses per 1'000 people aged 15-64				
2.4.13 [S]	Creation of firms	6.10	6.34	45	2026
	Creation of firms is supported by legislation				
2.4.14	Start-up days	-	28.6		
	World Bank Enterprise Survey: Average days to obtain an operating license				
2.4.15	Regulatory burden	-	7.8		
	World Bank Enterprise Survey: Average senior management time spent dealing with the requirements of government regulation (%)				
2.4.16 [S]	Labor regulations	4.39	5.35	54	2026
	Labor regulations (hiring/firing practices, minimum wages, etc.) do not hinder business activities				
2.4.17 [S]	Unemployment legislation	4.29	5.05	50	2026
	Unemployment legislation provides an incentive to look for work				
2.4.18 [S]	Immigration laws	4.64	5.82	64	2026
	Immigration laws do not prevent your company from employing foreign labor				
2.4.19	Redundancy costs	-	4.1		
	World Bank Enterprise Survey: Average weeks paid in severance				

2.5 · Societal Framework

		Value	Avg	Rank	
2.5.01 [S]	Justice Justice is fairly administered	5.19	5.70	44	2026
2.5.02	Homicide Intentional homicide, rate per 100'000 population	43.72	3.97	68	2022
2.5.03	Ageing of population Population over 65, percentage of total population	6.9	14.9	15	2025
2.5.04 [S]	Risk of political instability The risk of political instability is very low	4.52	5.65	50	2026
2.5.05 [S]	Social cohesion Social cohesion is high	4.54	5.75	58	2026
2.5.06	Gini coefficient Equal distribution of income scale: 0 (absolute equality) to 100 (absolute inequality)	54.10	35.40	63	2022
2.5.07 [B]	Income distribution - lowest 10% Percentage of household incomes going to lowest 10% of households	0.80	3.30		2023
2.5.08 [B]	Income distribution - highest 10% Percentage of household incomes going to highest 10% of households	48.60	26.86		2023
2.5.09	Income distribution - lowest 40% Percentile going to the lowest 40% of households	8.00	19.36	58	2023
2.5.10 [B]	Income distribution - lowest 40% growth Percentile going to the lowest 40% of households - growth	-	0.28		
2.5.11 [S]	Equal opportunity Equal opportunity legislation in your economy encourages economic development	4.75	6.00	58	2026
2.5.12	Females in parliament Percentage of total seats in Parliament	44.86	29.25	8	2025
2.5.13	Unemployment rate - gender ratio Ratio of the female and male unemployment rates	1.20	1.34	52	2025
2.5.14	Gender inequality Gender Inequality Index (UNDP)	0.388	0.181	58	2023
2.5.15	Disposable income Female / male ratio	73.3	70.0	35	2025
2.5.16	Freedom of the press Reporters Without Borders: World Press Freedom Score	75.71	62.44	24	2025
2.5.17	Media bias Whether the print/broadcast media cover parties/candidates impartially and proportionately	0.786	0.994	50	2025
2.5.18	Inequality in life expectancy Index	0.57	0.84	64	2023

South Africa

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3 · BUSINESS EFFICIENCY

3.1 · Productivity & Efficiency

		Value	Avg	Rank
3.1.01	Overall productivity (PPP) Estimates: GDP (PPP) per person employed, US\$	61,292	96,588	50 2025
3.1.02	Overall productivity (PPP) - real growth Estimates: Percentage change of GDP (PPP) per person employed	-0.01	1.57	61 2025
3.1.03	Labor productivity (PPP) Estimates: GDP (PPP) per person employed per hour, US\$	27.92	55.74	52 2025
3.1.04 [B]	Agricultural productivity (PPP) Estimates: Related GDP (PPP) per person employed in agriculture, US\$	34,051	72,272	48 2025
3.1.05 [B]	Productivity in industry (PPP) Estimates: Related GDP (PPP) per person employed in industry, US\$	77,686	147,448	53 2025
3.1.06 [B]	Productivity in services (PPP) Estimates: Related GDP (PPP) per person employed in services, US\$	57,316	110,835	53 2025
3.1.07 [S]	Workforce productivity Workforce productivity is competitive by international standards	5.04	5.88	53 2026
3.1.08 [S]	Large corporations Large corporations are efficient by international standards	6.60	6.56	37 2026
3.1.09 [S]	Small and medium-size enterprises Small and medium-size enterprises are efficient by international standards	5.67	5.85	40 2026
3.1.10 [S]	AI adoption in companies is implemented AI adoption in companies is implemented well	5.40	5.16	35 2026

3.2 · Labor Market

Value Avg Rank

3.2.01	Compensation levels	4.76	15.53	19	2024
	Total hourly compensation in manufacturing (wages + supplementary benefits), US\$				
3.2.02 [B]	Unit labor costs for total economy	-	3.43		
	Percentage change				
3.2.03	[4] Remuneration in medium skilled professions	3,875	22,991	9	2024
	Gross annual income, US\$				
	Remuneration in medium skilled professions / Clerical	4,544	26,061		2024
	Remuneration in medium skilled professions / Craft	5,028	25,160		2024
	Remuneration in medium skilled professions / Service	4,312	20,011		2024
	Remuneration in medium skilled professions / Skilled	1,614	20,733		2024
3.2.04	Statutory minimum wage	260.62	1,050.25	13	2024
	Statutory gross monthly minimum wage US\$				
3.2.05	[3] Remuneration in high skilled professions	10,480	44,317	13	2024
	Gross annual income, US\$				
	Remuneration in high skilled professions / Managers,	10,594	58,299		2024
	Remuneration in high skilled professions /	13,221	41,674		2024
	Remuneration in high skilled professions / Technicians	7,625	32,979		2024
3.2.06 [B]	Remuneration spread	2.33	2.26	46	2024
	Ratio of managers to technicians				
3.2.07	Working hours	2,195	1,857	13	2025
	Average number of working hours per year				
3.2.08 [S]	Worker motivation	5.41	5.84	45	2026
	Worker motivation in companies is high				
3.2.09 [B]	Industrial disputes	46.18	12.38	42	2023
	Working days lost per 1,000 inhabitants per year (three-year average)				
3.2.10 [S]	Apprenticeships	4.50	5.34	57	2026
	Apprenticeships are sufficiently implemented				
3.2.11 [S]	Employee training	5.71	6.12	48	2026
	Employee training is a high priority in companies				
3.2.12	Labor force	24.94	40.22	18	2025
	Employed and registered unemployed (millions)				
3.2.13	Labor force (%)	38.51	50.95	66	2025
	Percentage of population				
3.2.14	Labor force growth	-0.53	1.30	57	2025
	Percentage change				
3.2.15	Labor force - long-term growth	6.00	3.52	17	2025
	Estimates: five year percentage change				
3.2.16	Part-time employment	17.44	20.20	33	2024
	Less than 35 hours per week. Percentage of total employment				
3.2.17	Female labor force	45.80	43.20	37	2025
	Percentage of total labor force				
3.2.18	Foreign labor force - migrant stock	4.11	16.75	55	2024
	Migrant stock, age 20-64, % of population				
3.2.19 [S]	Skilled labor	5.46	5.69	45	2026
	Skilled labor is readily available				
3.2.20 [S]	Finance skills	6.12	6.23	36	2026
	Finance skills are readily available				
3.2.21 [S]	Attracting and retaining talent	6.19	6.67	51	2026
	Attracting and retaining talent is a priority in companies				
3.2.22 [S]	Brain drain	4.64	4.99	43	2026
	Brain drain does not hinder competitiveness in your economy				
3.2.23 [S]	Foreign highly skilled personnel	5.55	5.66	40	2026
	Foreign highly skilled personnel are attracted to your country's business environment				
3.2.24 [S]	International experience	5.48	5.88	47	2026
	International experience of senior managers is generally significant				
3.2.25 [S]	Competent senior managers	5.86	5.77	39	2026
	Competent senior managers are readily available				

3.3 · Finance

Value Avg Rank

3.3.01	Banking sector assets Percentage of GDP	99.42	145.69	41	2025
3.3.02 [B]	Financial cards in circulation Number of cards per capita	1.66	3.88	48	2025
3.3.03	Financial card transactions US\$ per capita	892	12,108	58	2025
3.3.04	Access to financial services Proportion of adults with a bank account or mobile-money-service provider	81.13	86.90	54	2024
3.3.05	Access to financial services - gender ratio Ratio of the female and male access to a bank account or mobile-money-service provider	1.00	0.97	28	2024
3.3.06 [S]	Banking and financial services Banking and financial services do support business activities efficiently	6.00	6.28	42	2026
3.3.07 [S]	Regulatory compliance (banking laws) Regulatory compliance is sufficiently developed	7.11	6.89	30	2026
3.3.08 [S]	Stock markets Stock markets provide adequate financing to companies	6.12	5.66	30	2026
3.3.09 [B]	Stock market capitalization (\$bn) US\$ billions	1,289.9	1,519.1	16	2025
3.3.10	Stock market capitalization (%) Percentage of GDP	301.95	95.07	3	2025
3.3.11 [B]	Value traded on stock markets US\$ per capita	4,389	25,535	29	2025
3.3.12	Listed domestic companies Number of listed domestic companies	212	830	26	2025
3.3.13	Stock market index Percentage change on index in national currency	22.90	14.66	16	2025
3.3.14 [S]	Shareholders' rights Shareholders' rights are sufficiently implemented	6.85	6.83	37	2026
3.3.15	Initial Public Offerings By acquiror nation (three-year average) US\$ millions	299.8	1,742.4	29	2025
3.3.16 [S]	Credit Credit is easily available for business	4.92	5.85	58	2026
3.3.17 [S]	Venture capital Venture capital is easily available for business	4.29	5.10	53	2026
3.3.18	M&A Activity Deals per listed company (three-year average)	0.616	1.204	29	2025
3.3.19 [S]	Corporate debt Corporate debt does not restrain the ability of enterprises to compete	5.58	5.77	43	2026

3.4 · Management Practices

Value Avg Rank

3.4.01 [S]	Agility of companies Companies are agile	6.47	6.26	28	2026
3.4.02 [S]	Changing market conditions Companies are generally extremely aware of changing market conditions	6.66	6.74	43	2026
3.4.03 [S]	Opportunities and threats Companies are very good at responding quickly to opportunities and threats	6.47	6.25	30	2026
3.4.04 [S]	Credibility of managers Credibility of managers in society is strong	6.07	6.22	39	2026
3.4.05 [S]	Corporate boards Corporate boards do supervise the management of companies effectively	6.38	6.22	32	2026
3.4.06 [S]	Auditing and accounting practices Auditing and accounting practices are adequately implemented in business	6.92	7.11	42	2026
3.4.07 [S]	Companies address potential bias in AI algorithms Companies address potential bias in AI algorithms agree	4.86	4.77	36	2026
3.4.08 [S]	Customer satisfaction Customer satisfaction is emphasized in companies	7.10	7.07	38	2026
3.4.09 [S]	Entrepreneurship Entrepreneurship of managers is widespread in business	6.33	6.23	30	2026
3.4.10 [S]	Social responsibility Social responsibility of business leaders is high	6.61	6.25	31	2026
3.4.11	Women in management Female share of senior and middle management (% of management)	39.27	35.09	19	2024
3.4.12	Women on boards Percentage of total director seats held by women analyzed by MSCI	37.90	27.98	16	2025
3.4.13	Entrepreneurial fear of failure % indicating that fear of failure would prevent them from setting up a business	59.51	46.36	48	2023
3.4.14	Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity % who are either a nascent entrepreneur or owner-manager of a new business	11.11	12.63	27	2023

3.5 · Attitudes & Values

Value Avg Rank

3.5.01 [S]	Attitudes toward globalization Attitudes toward globalization are generally positive in your society	6.52	6.44	36	2026
3.5.02 [S]	Image abroad or branding The image abroad of your country encourages business development	5.93	6.45	50	2026
3.5.03 [S]	National culture The national culture is open to foreign ideas	6.85	6.86	35	2026
3.5.04 [S]	Flexibility and adaptability Flexibility and adaptability of people are high when faced with new challenges	6.48	6.67	43	2026
3.5.05 [S]	Need for economic and social reforms The need for economic and social reforms is generally well understood	6.05	5.96	36	2026
3.5.06 [S]	Citizen trust in AI Citizen trust in AI supports business application of the technology	6.02	6.12	37	2026
3.5.07 [S]	Value system The value system in your society supports competitiveness	6.28	6.19	34	2026

South Africa

Extended Country Profile

4 · INFRASTRUCTURE

4.1 · Basic Infrastructure

		Value	Avg	Rank
4.1.01 [B]	Land area Square kilometers ('000)	1,219	1,215	14 2025
4.1.02	Arable area Square meters per capita	1,964	2,505	30 2023
4.1.03	Water resources Total internal renewable per capita in cubic meters	718	15,539	57 2022
4.1.04 [S]	Access to water Access to water is adequately ensured and managed	4.81	7.49	64 2026
4.1.05 [S]	Management of cities Management of cities supports business development	4.76	6.45	62 2026
4.1.06 [B]	Population - market size Estimates in millions	64.75	82.34	16 2025
4.1.07	Population - growth Percentage change	1.16	0.96	23 2025
4.1.08 [B][2]	Dependent Population Percentage of total population	32.6	33.8	2025
	Population over 65 years	6.9	14.9	2025
	Population under 15 years	25.7	18.9	2025
4.1.09	Dependency ratio Population under 15 and over 64 years old, divided by active population (15 to 64 years)	48.4	51.8	22 2025
4.1.10	Roads Density of the network, km roads/square km land area	-	1.38	
4.1.11	Railroads Density of the network, km per square km	0.017	0.044	35 2024
4.1.12 [B]	Air transportation Number of passengers carried by main companies, thousands	15,455	58,201	41 2023
4.1.13 [S]	Quality of air transportation Quality of air transportation encourages business development	6.46	6.82	46 2026
4.1.14 [S]	Distribution infrastructure The distribution infrastructure of goods and services is generally efficient	5.81	6.88	54 2026
4.1.15 [S]	Energy infrastructure Energy infrastructure is adequate and efficient	5.10	6.56	62 2026
4.1.16 [B]	Total indigenous energy production Millions MTOE	138.30	168.15	15 2022
4.1.17	Total indigenous energy production (%) Percentage of total requirements in tons of oil equivalent	112.2	111.1	17 2022
4.1.18 [B]	Total final energy consumption Millions MTOE	59.04	114.87	47 2022
4.1.19 [B]	Total final energy consumption per capita MTOE per capita	0.95	2.31	16 2022
4.1.20	Electricity costs for industrial clients US\$ per kwh	0.136	0.171	24 2025

4.2 · Technological Infrastructure

Value Avg Rank

4.2.01	Investment in Telecommunications Percentage of GDP	0.28	0.34	40	2025
4.2.02	Mobile broadband subscribers 5G market, % of mobile market	25.1	32.6	48	2025
4.2.03	Mobile telephone costs Monthly Blended Average Revenue per User	5.6	14.2	16	2025
4.2.04 [S]	Society's access to AI Society's access to AI is evenly distributed across groups	4.21	4.77	51	2026
4.2.05	Secure internet servers publicly-trusted TLS/SSL certificates, Netcraft Secure Server Survey.	16,658	45,253	38	2024
4.2.06	Internet users Number of internet users per 1000 people	784	882	61	2024
4.2.07	Broadband subscribers Number of subscriptions per 1000 inhabitants	191	379	57	2024
4.2.08	Internet bandwidth speed Average speed	46.4	147.9	64	2025
4.2.09 [S]	AI skills AI skills meet business requirements	4.68	4.57	31	2026
4.2.10 [S]	Qualified engineers Qualified engineers are available in your labor market	6.12	6.57	48	2026
4.2.11 [S]	Public-private partnerships Public and private sector ventures are supporting technological development	5.67	6.12	46	2026
4.2.12 [S]	Company compliance with relevant AI laws Company compliance with relevant AI laws is adequate	4.64	5.24	51	2026
4.2.13 [S]	Companies investment in AI Companies investment in AI are ahead of foreign-based competitors	4.46	4.29	34	2026
4.2.14	High-tech exports (\$) US\$ millions	2,454	60,359	46	2024
4.2.15	High-tech exports (%) Percentage of manufactured exports	5.71	20.46	55	2024
4.2.16	ICT service exports Percentage of service exports	9.5	12.0	32	2024
4.2.17 [S]	Cyber security Cyber security is being adequately addressed by corporations	5.58	6.18	51	2026

4.3 · Scientific Infrastructure

Value Avg Rank

4.3.01	Total expenditure on R&D (\$) US\$ millions	2,353	40,395	41	2023
4.3.02	Total expenditure on R&D (%) Percentage of GDP	0.62	1.54	49	2023
4.3.03 [B]	Total expenditure on R&D per capita (\$) US\$ per capita	37.2	740.7	53	2023
4.3.04	Business expenditure on R&D (\$) US\$ millions	819	32,245	41	2023
4.3.05	Business expenditure on R&D (%) Percentage of GDP	0.22	1.08	49	2023
4.3.06	Total R&D personnel Full-time work equivalent (FTE thousands)	44.3	312.9	38	2023
4.3.07	Total R&D personnel per capita Full-time work equivalent (FTE) per 1000 people	0.70	6.11	53	2023
4.3.08 [B]	Total R&D personnel in business enterprise Full-time work equivalent (FTE thousands)	12.4	229.2	41	2023
4.3.09 [B]	Total R&D personnel in business per capita Full-time work equivalent (FTE) per 1000 people	0.20	3.59	54	2023
4.3.10	Researchers in R&D per capita Full-time work equivalent (FTE) per 1000 people	0.4	3.7	52	2023
4.3.11	Graduates in Sciences STEM graduates, % of all graduates	17.39	24.33	57	2023
4.3.12	Scientific articles Scientific articles published by origin of author	14,949	42,435	29	2023
4.3.13 [B]	Nobel prizes Awarded in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine and economics since 1950	1	9	22	2025
4.3.14	Nobel prizes per capita Awarded in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine and economics since 1950 per million people	0.02	0.18	27	2025
4.3.15	Patent applications Number of applications filed by applicant's origin	1,053	52,440	41	2024
4.3.16	Patent applications per capita Number of applications filed by applicant's origin, per 100,000 inhabitants	1.65	63.83	55	2024
4.3.17	Patent grants Number of patents granted by applicant's origin (three-year average)	916	28,646	35	2024
4.3.18	Number of patents in force by applicant's origin, per 100,000 inhabitants	25.5	503.1	43	2024
4.3.19	AI-related patent publications Number of patent publications	1	1,029	53	2024
4.3.20	Medium- and high-tech value added Proportion of total manufacturing value added, expressed as a percentage	24.43	37.81	57	2022
4.3.21 [S]	Scientific research legislation Laws relating to scientific research do encourage innovation	5.88	6.09	43	2026
4.3.22 [S]	Intellectual property rights Intellectual property rights are adequately enforced	6.50	6.60	41	2026
4.3.23 [S]	Knowledge transfer Knowledge transfer is highly developed between companies and universities	5.40	5.64	42	2026

4.4 · Health & Environment

Value Avg Rank

4.4.01	Total health expenditure Percentage of GDP	8.9	7.8	25	2023
4.4.02 [B]	Total health expenditure per capita US\$ per capita	537	3,023	54	2023
4.4.03 [B]	Public expenditure on health (%) Percentage of total health expenditure	61.61	65.62	43	2023
4.4.04 [S]	Health infrastructure Health infrastructure meets the needs of society	5.06	5.81	47	2026
4.4.05	Universal health coverage index Coverage index for essential health services (0-100)	74	79	53	2023
4.4.06	Life expectancy at birth Average estimate	66.1	78.3	67	2023
4.4.07 [B]	Healthy life expectancy Average estimate	56.9	67.9	68	2024
4.4.08 [B]	Infant mortality Under five mortality rate per 1000 live births	34.7	10.9	65	2023
4.4.09	[2] Medical assistance Number of inhabitants per physician and per nurse	737.95	480.37	59	2025
	Medical assistance / Per nurse	208.86	232.40		2025
	Medical assistance / Per physician	1,267.05	728.34		2025
4.4.10 [B]	Urban population Percentage of total population	64	76		2025
4.4.11	Human development index Combines economic - social - educational indicators/ Source: Human Development Report	0.741	0.863	61	2023
4.4.12	Energy intensity Total energy consumed for each 1000 US\$ of GDP in MTOE	145	97	60	2022
4.4.13	Safely treated waste water Percentage of waste water	21.6	72.6	62	2024
4.4.14	Water use efficiency Value added in US\$ per cubic meter used	15.81	109.34	56	2022
4.4.15 [B]	CO2 emissions Metric tons of carbon dioxide, total	440.2	468.8	58	2024
4.4.16	CO2 emissions intensity CO2 emissions in metric tons per one million US\$ of GDP	1,099.7	323.8	69	2024
4.4.17	Exposure to particle pollution Mean population exposure to PM2.5, Micrograms per cubic meter	22.70	17.65	50	2021
4.4.18	Renewable energies (%) Share of renewables in total energy requirements, %	4.7	20.6	56	2022
4.4.19	Forest area growth Five year percentage change of hectares	2.0	2.3	13	2025
4.4.20 [B]	Total biocapacity Global hectares per capita of biologically productive space	1.17	3.25	44	2024
4.4.21 [B]	Ecological footprint Global hectares per person	2.9	5.0	17	2024
4.4.22	Ecological balance (reserve/deficit) Total biocapacity minus total footprint in global hectares per capita	-1.76	-1.75	34	2024
4.4.23	Food waste KG per capita, Including household, service and retail	93.0	120.8	19	2022
4.4.24	Environment-related technologies Development of environment-related technologies, % inventions worldwide	0.04	1.42	33	2022
4.4.25	Environmental agreements Multilateral agreements on hazardous waste, proportion fulfilled	80.00	83.87	50	2025
4.4.26	Environmental Performance Index EPI Score, quantifying the environmental performance of a state's policies	42.7	54.8	55	2024
4.4.27 [S]	Sustainable development Sustainable development is a priority in companies	6.47	6.11	31	2026
4.4.28 [S]	Pollution problems Pollution problems do not seriously affect your economy	5.00	5.86	50	2026
4.4.29 [S]	Environmental laws Environmental laws and compliance do not hinder the competitiveness of businesses	5.62	5.91	43	2026
4.4.30 [S]	Quality of life Quality of life is high	5.93	6.67	47	2026

4.5 · Education

Value Avg Rank

4.5.01	Total public expenditure on education Percentage of GDP	8.3	4.4	1	2024
4.5.02 [B]	Total public expenditure on education per capita US\$ per capita	520	1,662	50	2024
4.5.03	Total public exp. on education per student Spending per enrolled pupil/student, all levels	2,269	8,871	52	2023
4.5.04	Pupil-teacher ratio (primary education) Ratio of students to teaching staff	34.20	16.60	66	2023
4.5.05	Pupil-teacher ratio (secondary education) Ratio of students to teaching staff	27.15	14.35	66	2020
4.5.06	Secondary school enrollment Percentage of relevant age group receiving full-time education	90.4	95.1	61	2023
4.5.07	Higher education achievement Percentage of population that has attained at least tertiary education for persons 25-34	13.1	44.4	62	2023
4.5.08	Women with degrees Share of women who have a degree in the population 25-65	15.1	39.9	59	2022
4.5.09	Student mobility inbound Foreign tertiary-level students per 1000 inhabitants	0.61	4.44	54	2023
4.5.10 [B]	Student mobility outbound National tertiary-level students studying abroad per 1000 inhabitants	0.21	2.33	70	2023
4.5.11	[3] Educational assessment - PISA PISA survey of 15-year olds	-	462		
	Educational assessment - PISA / Mathematics	-	460		
	Educational assessment - PISA / Reading	-	456		
	Educational assessment - PISA / Sciences	-	469		
4.5.12	Students who are not low achievers - PISA % of students who are not low achievers in maths, sciences or reading	-	60.3		
4.5.13 [B]	English proficiency - TOEFL TOEFL scores	94	90	24	2024
4.5.14 [S]	Primary and secondary education Primary and secondary education meets the needs of a competitive economy	4.80	6.00	53	2026
4.5.15 [S]	University education University education meets the needs of a competitive economy	6.16	6.36	41	2026
4.5.16 [S]	Management education Management education meets the needs of the business community	6.19	6.39	44	2026
4.5.17	University education index Country score calculated from Times Higher Education university ranking	6.69	13.40	36	2025
4.5.18	Illiteracy Adult (over 15 years) illiteracy rate as a percentage of population	8.8	3.3	59	2024
4.5.19 [S]	Language skills Language skills are meeting the needs of enterprises	6.26	6.46	44	2026