

Bahrain - Country Brief

Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2025

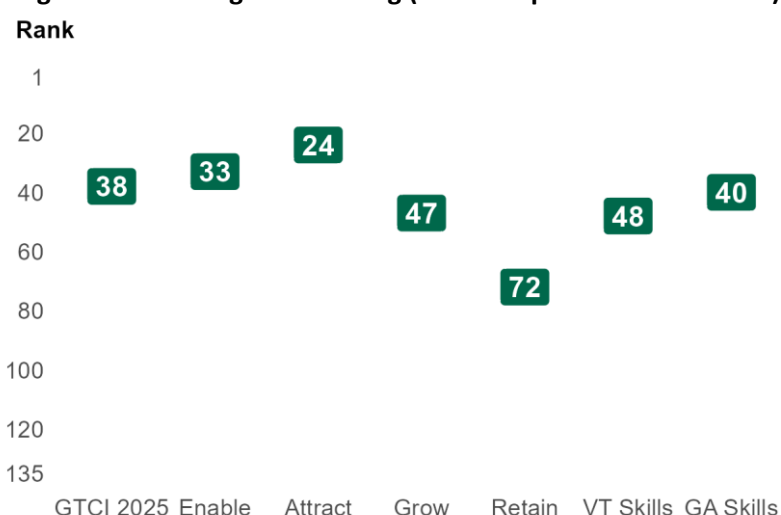


Total population:	1.59 million
GDP:	US\$ 46.192 billion
GDP (PPP) per capita:	US\$ 64,171 (20 out of 135 countries)
Country income level:	High income
GTCI 2025 ranking:	38 (out of 135)

Global GTCI position

In GTCI 2025, Bahrain is ranked 38th out of a sample of 135 countries (Figure 1). When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Bahrain relate to External Openness, High-level Skills and Market Landscape, among others. Still, more could be done to improve the economy's performances in the Formal Education, Internal Openness and Lifestyle sub-pillars.

Figure 1: Bahrain global ranking (GTCI sample of 135 countries)



Note: VT Skills = Vocational and Technical Skills; GA Skills = Generalist Adaptive Skills.

Comparison with different groups of countries

Bahrain is situated in Northern Africa and Western Asia and is classified as High income. Within its region, the country is ranked 5th out of 19 countries (Table 1).

Bahrain is ranked 38th within the group of High income countries (implying that 27 percent of countries rank lower).

Table 1: Bahrain performance vs. income groups and regions

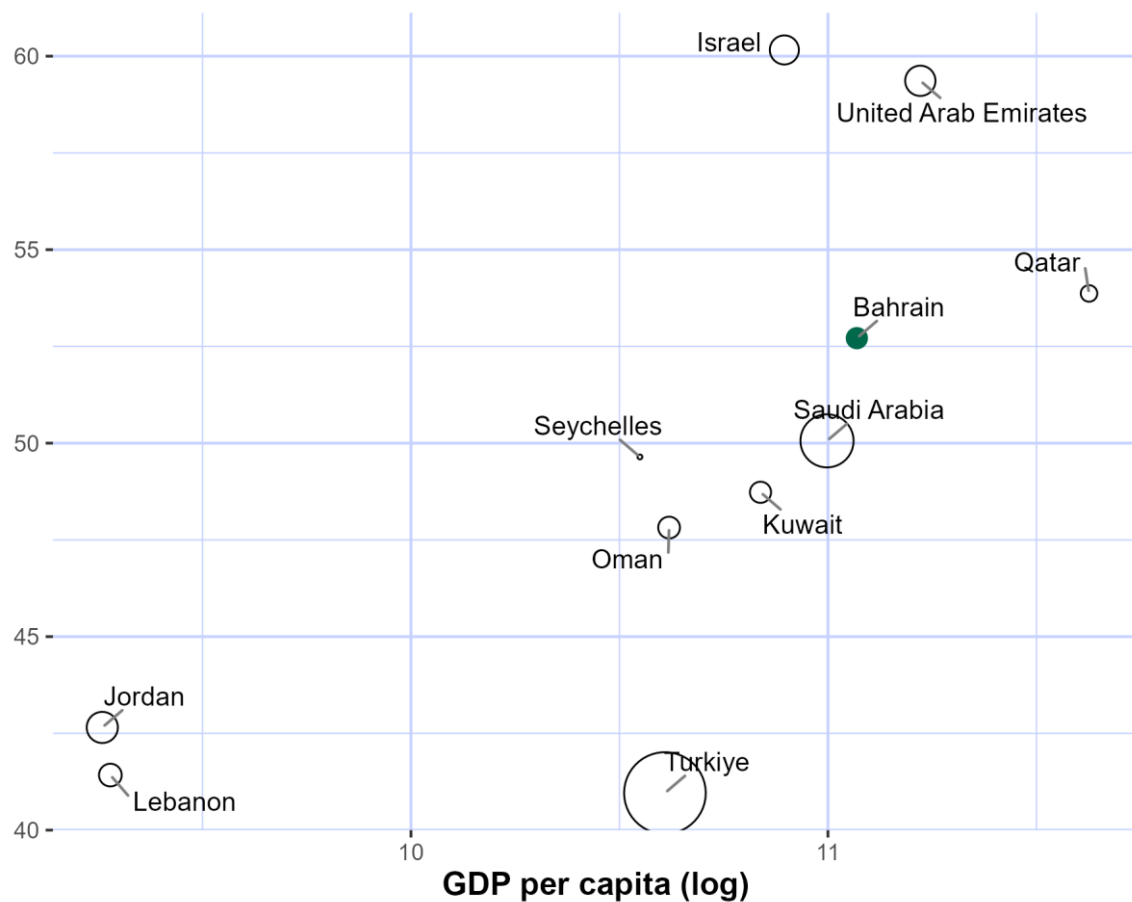
Comparison group	Top 3 scorers of the group	Score GAP: Bahrain score minus group highest score	Share of countries in the group ranked below Bahrain
Region			
Central and Southern Asia	Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan	9.4	100%
Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania	Singapore, Australia, New Zealand	-20.6	69%
Europe	Switzerland, Denmark, Finland	-20.4	33%
Latin America and the Caribbean	Chile, Uruguay, Costa Rica	0.1	100%
Northern Africa and Western Asia	Israel, United Arab Emirates, Cyprus	-7.4	74%
Northern America	United States of America, Canada	-16.7	0%
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa	3.0	100%
Income group			
High income	Singapore, Switzerland, Denmark	-20.6	27%
Upper-middle income	Georgia, Malaysia, Mauritius	1.7	100%
Lower-middle income	Uzbekistan, Jordan, Philippines	9.4	100%
Low income	Rwanda, Malawi, Gambia	18.8	100%

Comparison with group of competitors

Bahrain's group of competitors is defined as high-income countries located in Western Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa plus Jordan, Lebanon, and Türkiye. It comprises a group of 11 economies. Figure 2 plots how Bahrain fares against each competitor in terms of GTCI score and GDP per capita.

As can be seen, Bahrain's GTCI score and GDP per capita are both greater than the corresponding medians of its group of competitors. Thus, the country's talent competitiveness is in line with what would be expected given its income level.

Figure 2: GTCI score and GDP per capita (log) of Bahrain and its identified competitors



Note: Bubble size indicates country population.

Performance against its income group and region

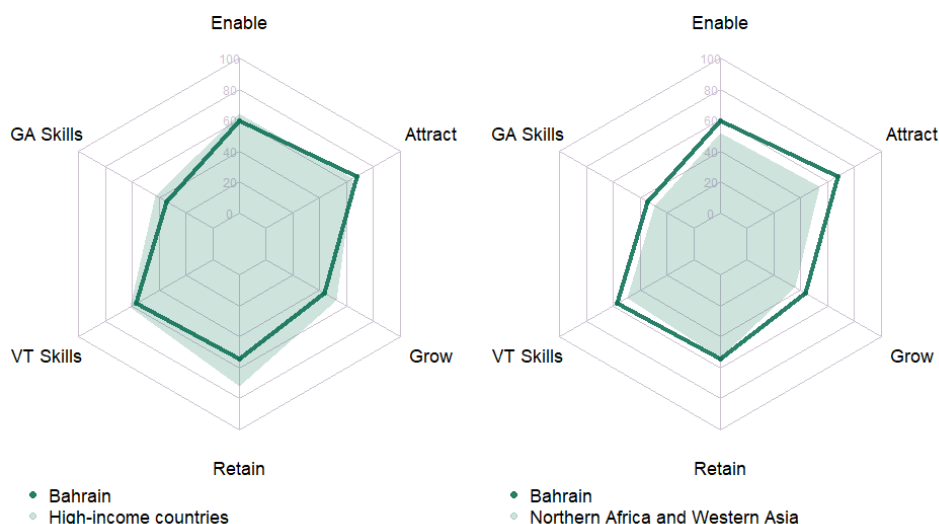
High-income countries

Bahrain is ranked 38th in the group of high-income countries (Figure 3, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a higher score than the income group average in one of the six pillars: Attract. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in three of the fourteen sub-pillars: Market Landscape, External Openness and Highlevel Skills.

Northern Africa and Western Asia

Bahrain is ranked 5th within Northern Africa and Western Asia (Figure 3, right panel). It outperforms its region in each of the six pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Northern Africa and Western Asia in eleven of the fourteen sub-pillars: Regulatory Landscape, Market Landscape, Business Labour Landscape, External Openness, Internal Openness, Lifelong Learning, Access Growth Opportunities, Sustainability, Midlevel Skills, Employability and Highlevel Skills.

Figure 3: Bahrain pillar scores vs. averages of relevant income group and region

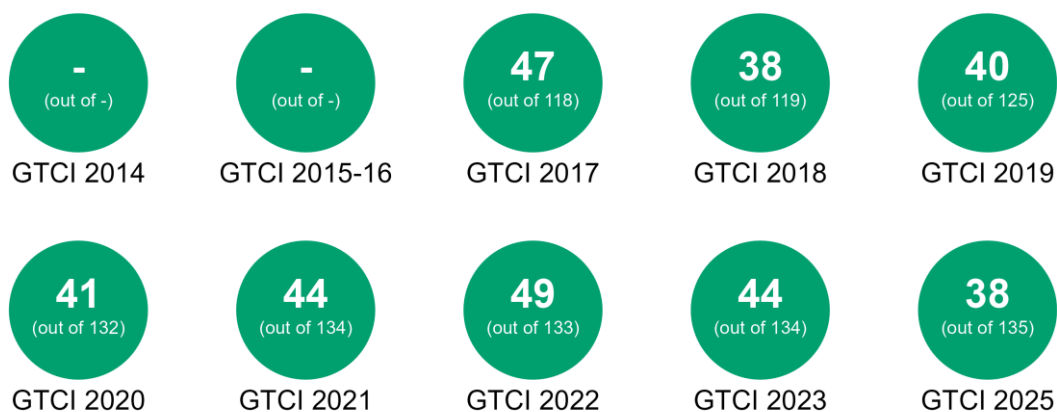


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Longer-term trends in talent competitiveness

Across all GTCI editions from 2015 to 2025, Bahrain's ranking ranges from 38th to 49th place (see Figure 4). During GTCI 2020-GTCI 2025, Bahrain ranks 43 out of a total 134 countries (on average), which is a decline from the average rank of 42 in GTCI 2015-GTCI 2019.

Figure 4: Evolution of GTCI rank for Bahrain, 2015-2025





Sources

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