

Iran, Islamic Rep. - Country Brief

Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2025

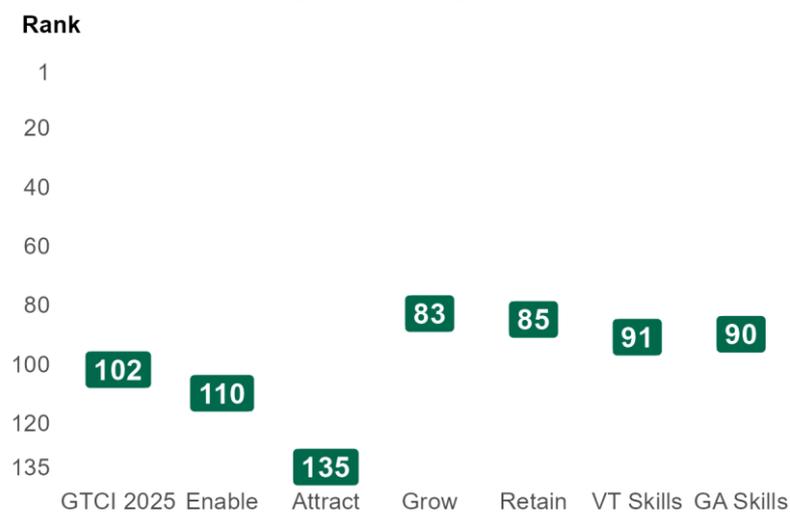


Total population:	91.57 million
GDP:	US\$ 401.357 billion
GDP (PPP) per capita:	US\$ 17,318 (77 out of 135 countries)
Country income level:	Upper-middle income
GTCI 2025 ranking:	102 (out of 135)

Global GTCI position

In GTCI 2025, Iran, Islamic Rep. is ranked 102nd out of a sample of 135 countries (Figure 1). When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Iran, Islamic Rep. relate to Sustainability, Formal Education and High-level Skills, among others. Still, more could be done to improve the economy's performances in the Regulatory Landscape, Internal Openness and External Openness sub-pillars.

Figure 1: Iran, Islamic Rep. 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

Iran, Islamic Rep. is situated in Central and Southern Asia and is classified as Upper-middle income. Within its region, the country is ranked 7th out of 10 countries (Table 1).

Iran, Islamic Rep. is ranked 34th within the group of Upper-middle income countries (implying that 3 percent of countries rank lower).

Table 1: Iran, Islamic Rep. performance vs. income groups and regions

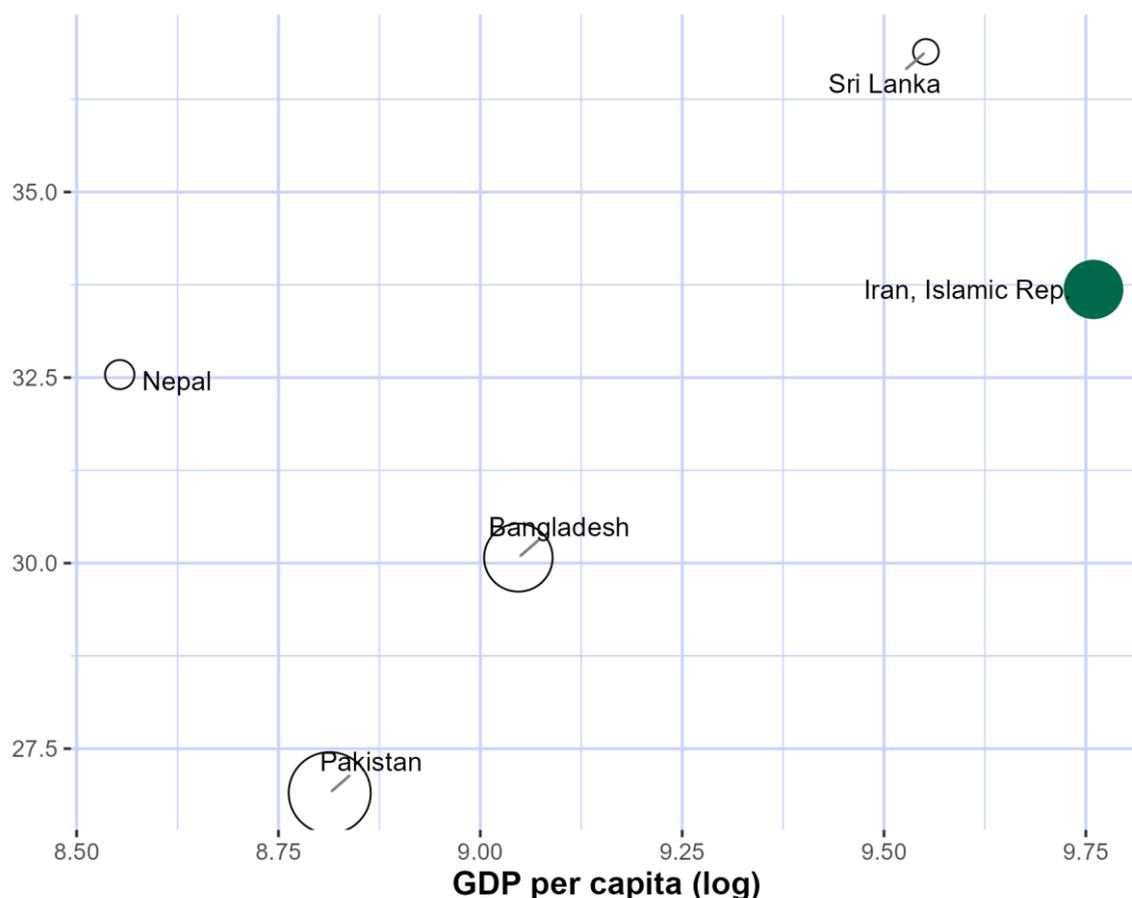
Comparison group	Top 3 scorers of the group	Score GAP: Iran, Islamic Rep. score minus group highest score	Share of countries in the group ranked below Iran, Islamic Rep.
Region			
Central and Southern Asia	Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan	-9.7	30%
Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania	Singapore, Australia, New Zealand	-39.6	19%
Europe	Switzerland, Denmark, Finland	-39.5	0%
Latin America and the Caribbean	Chile, Uruguay, Costa Rica	-19.0	17%
Northern Africa and Western Asia	Israel, United Arab Emirates, Cyprus	-26.5	5%
Northern America	United States of America, Canada	-35.7	0%
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa	-16.0	74%
Income group			
High income	Singapore, Switzerland, Denmark	-39.6	0%
Upper-middle income	Georgia, Malaysia, Mauritius	-17.3	3%
Lower-middle income	Uzbekistan, Jordan, Philippines	-9.7	57%
Low income	Rwanda, Malawi, Gambia	-0.2	92%

Comparison with group of competitors

Iran's group of competitors is defined as Southern Asia, excluding India. It comprises a group of 5 economies. Figure 2 plots how Iran, Islamic Rep. fares against each competitor in terms of GTCI score and GDP per capita.

As can be seen, Iran, Islamic Rep.'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 Iran, Islamic Rep. and its identified competitors



Note: Bubble size indicates country population.

Performance against its income group and region

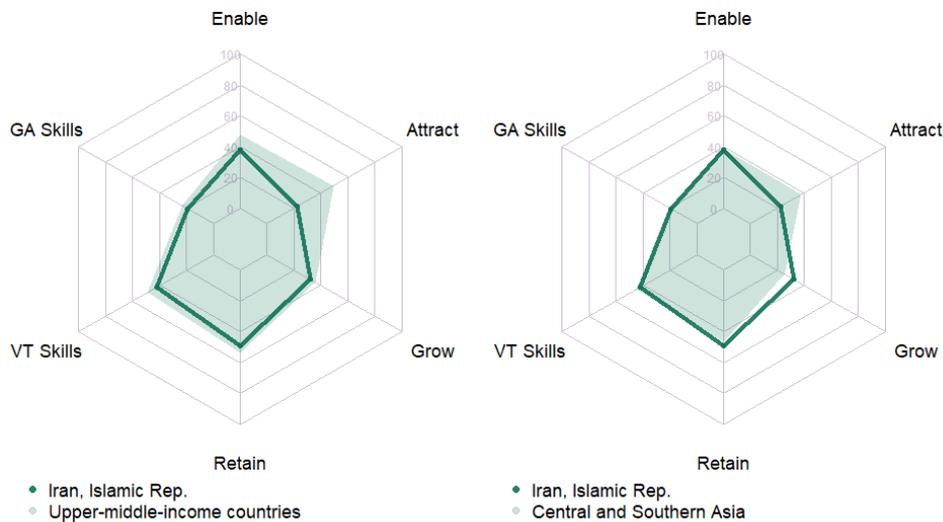
Upper-middle-income countries

Iran, Islamic Rep. is ranked 34th in the group of upper-middle-income countries (Figure 3, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a score below the income group average in each of the six pillars. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms upper-middle-income countries in two of the fourteen sub-pillars: Formal Education and Sustainability.

Central and Southern Asia

Iran, Islamic Rep. is ranked 7th within Central and Southern Asia (Figure 3, right panel). It has a score above the regional average in two of the six pillars: Grow and Retain. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Central and Southern Asia in seven of the fourteen sub-pillars: Market Landscape, Business Labour Landscape, Formal Education, Lifelong Learning, Access Growth Opportunities, Sustainability and Highlevel Skills.

Figure 3: Iran, Islamic Rep. pillar scores vs. averages of relevant income group and region



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

Longer-term trends in talent competitiveness

Across all GTCI editions from 2015 to 2025, Iran, Islamic Rep.’s ranking ranges from 100th to 98th place (see Figure 4).

During GTCI 2020-GTCI 2025, Iran, Islamic Rep. ranks 106 out of a total 134 countries (on average), which is a decline from the average rank of 95 in GTCI 2015-GTCI 2019.

Figure 4: Evolution of GTCI rank for Iran, Islamic Rep., 2015-2025





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