

Nepal - Country Brief

Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2025

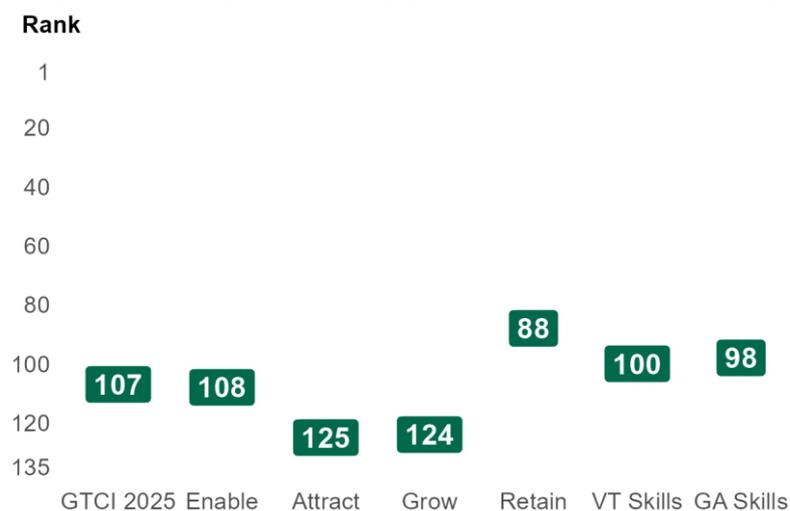


Total population:	29.65 million
GDP:	US\$ 40.907 billion
GDP (PPP) per capita:	US\$ 5,184 (114 out of 135 countries)
Country income level:	Lower-middle income
GTCI 2025 ranking:	107 (out of 135)

Global GTCI position

In GTCI 2025, Nepal is ranked 107th out of a sample of 135 countries (Figure 1). When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Nepal relate to Lifestyle, Talent Impact and Mid-level Skills, among others. Still, more could be done to improve the economy's performances in the Formal Education, Lifelong Learning and External Openness sub-pillars.

Figure 1: Nepal 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

Nepal is situated in Central and Southern Asia and is classified as Lower-middle income. Within its region, the country is ranked 8th out of 10 countries (Table 1).

Nepal is ranked 19th within the group of Lower-middle income countries (implying that 46 percent of countries rank lower).

Table 1: Nepal performance vs. income groups and regions

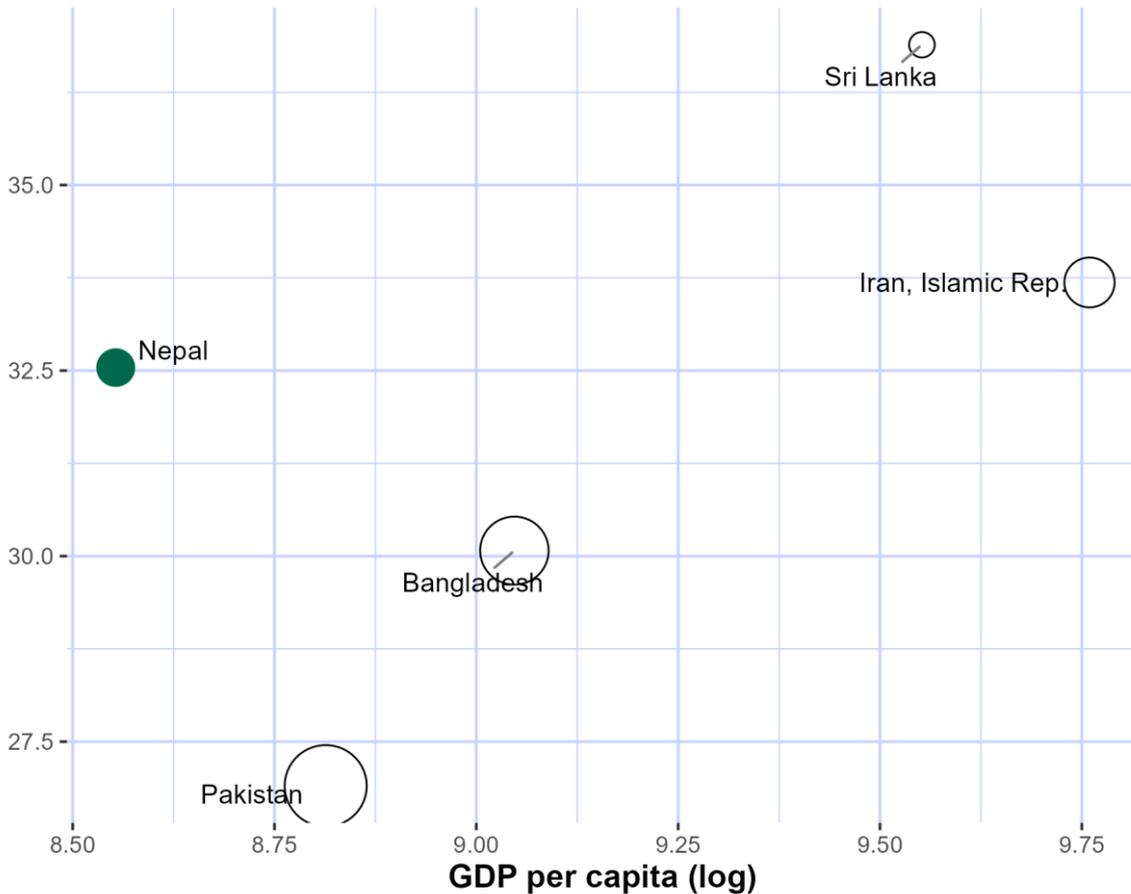
Comparison group	Top 3 scorers of the group	Score GAP: Nepal score minus group highest score	Share of countries in the group ranked below Nepal
Region			
Central and Southern Asia	Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan	-10.8	20%
Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania	Singapore, Australia, New Zealand	-40.7	12%
Europe	Switzerland, Denmark, Finland	-40.6	0%
Latin America and the Caribbean	Chile, Uruguay, Costa Rica	-20.1	6%
Northern Africa and Western Asia	Israel, United Arab Emirates, Cyprus	-27.6	5%
Northern America	United States of America, Canada	-36.9	0%
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa	-17.2	71%
Income group			
High income	Singapore, Switzerland, Denmark	-40.7	0%
Upper-middle income	Georgia, Malaysia, Mauritius	-18.4	0%
Lower-middle income	Uzbekistan, Jordan, Philippines	-10.8	46%
Low income	Rwanda, Malawi, Gambia	-1.4	92%

Comparison with group of competitors

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

As can be seen, Nepal's GTCI score and GDP per capita are, respectively, higher and lower than the corresponding medians of its group of competitors. Thus, Nepal performs well against its competitors, and its talent competitiveness is better than would be expected in view of its income level.

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



Note: Bubble size indicates country population.

Performance against its income group and region

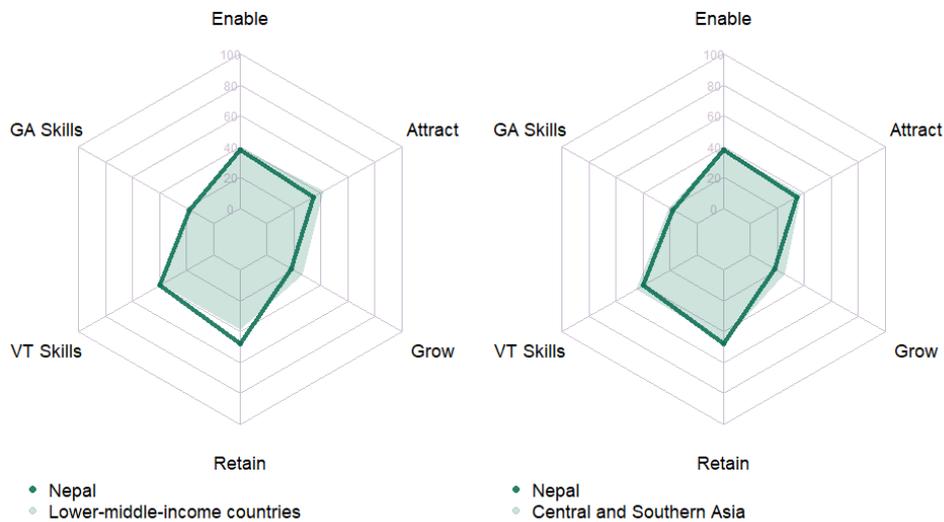
Lower-middle-income countries

Nepal is ranked 19th in the group of lower-middle-income countries (Figure 3, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a higher score than the income group average in three of the six pillars: Retain, VT and GA. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms lower-middle-income countries in six of the fourteen sub-pillars: Regulatory Landscape, Sustainability, Lifestyle, Midlevel Skills, Highlevel Skills and Talent Impact.

Central and Southern Asia

Nepal is ranked 8th within Central and Southern Asia (Figure 3, right panel). It has a score above the regional average in one of the six pillars: Retain. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Central and Southern Asia in three of the fourteen sub-pillars: Regulatory Landscape, Internal Openness and Lifestyle.

Figure 3: Nepal 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, Nepal’s ranking ranges from 107th to 121st place (see Figure 4). During GTCI 2020-GTCI 2025, Nepal ranks 112 out of a total 134 countries (on average), which is better than the average rank of 118 in GTCI 2015-GTCI 2019.

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





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