

Netherlands - Country Brief

Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2025

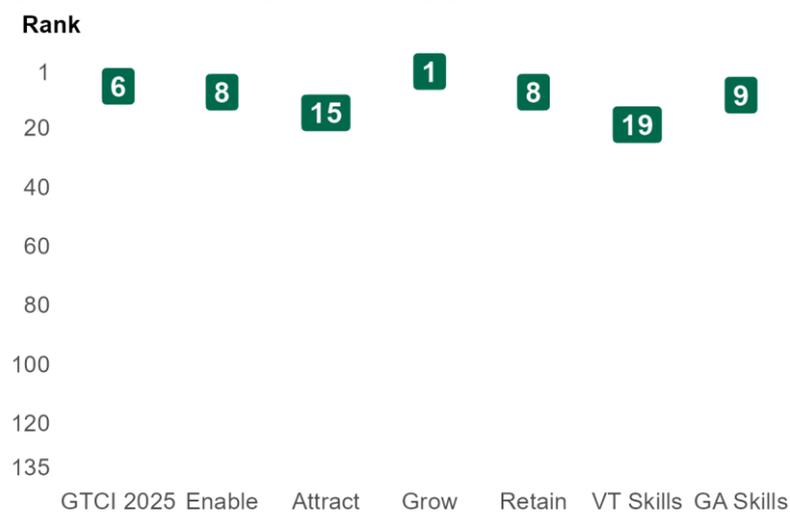


Total population:	17.99 million
GDP:	US\$ 1227.174 billion
GDP (PPP) per capita:	US\$ 81,705 (9 out of 135 countries)
Country income level:	High income
GTCI 2025 ranking:	6 (out of 135)

Global GTCI position

In GTCI 2025, Netherlands is ranked 6th out of a sample of 135 countries (Figure 1). When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Netherlands relate to Access to Growth Opportunities, Formal Education and Business and Labour Landscape, among others. Still, more could be done to improve the economy's performances in the External Openness, Mid-level Skills and Employability sub-pillars.

Figure 1: Netherlands 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

Netherlands is situated in Europe and is classified as High income. Within its region, the country is ranked 5th out of 39 countries (Table 1).



Netherlands is ranked 6th within the group of High income countries (implying that 88 percent of countries rank lower).

Table 1: Netherlands performance vs. income groups and regions

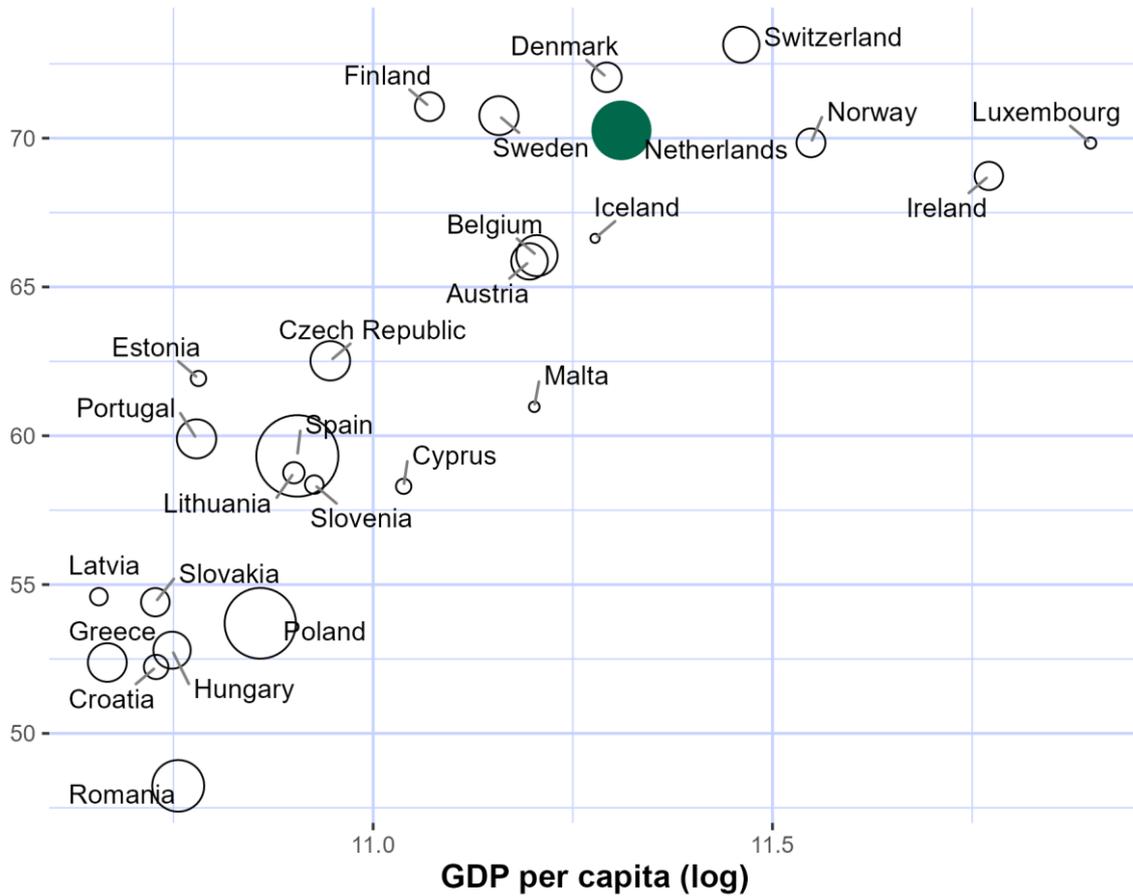
Comparison group	Top 3 scorers of the group	Score GAP: Netherlands score minus group highest score	Share of countries in the group ranked below Netherlands
Region			
Central and Southern Asia	Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan	26.9	100%
Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania	Singapore, Australia, New Zealand	-3.0	94%
Europe	Switzerland, Denmark, Finland	-2.9	87%
Latin America and the Caribbean	Chile, Uruguay, Costa Rica	17.6	100%
Northern Africa and Western Asia	Israel, United Arab Emirates, Cyprus	10.1	100%
Northern America	United States of America, Canada	0.9	100%
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa	20.6	100%
Income group			
High income	Singapore, Switzerland, Denmark	-3.0	88%
Upper-middle income	Georgia, Malaysia, Mauritius	19.3	100%
Lower-middle income	Uzbekistan, Jordan, Philippines	26.9	100%
Low income	Rwanda, Malawi, Gambia	36.3	100%

Comparison with group of competitors

Netherlands's group of competitors is defined as high-income countries located in Europe (incl Cyprus). It comprises a group of 26 economies. Figure 2 plots how Netherlands fares against each competitor in terms of GTCI score and GDP per capita.

As can be seen, Netherlands'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 Netherlands and its identified competitors



Note: Bubble size indicates country population.

Performance against its income group and region

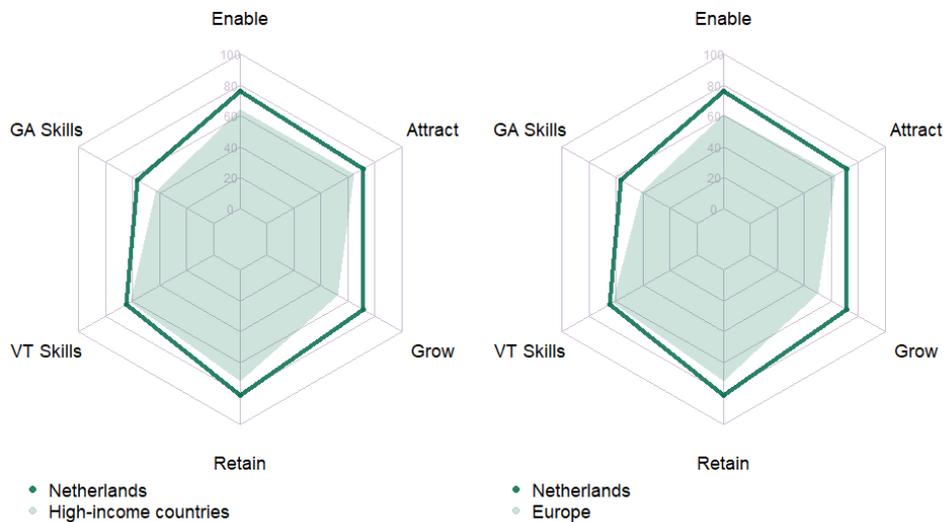
High-income countries

Netherlands is ranked 6th 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 each of the six pillars. At the sub-pillar level, it has a score higher than the average of high-income countries in all of them.

Europe

Netherlands is ranked 5th within Europe (Figure 3, right panel). It outperforms its region in each of the six pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it has a higher score than the regional average in each of the fourteen sub-pillars.

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

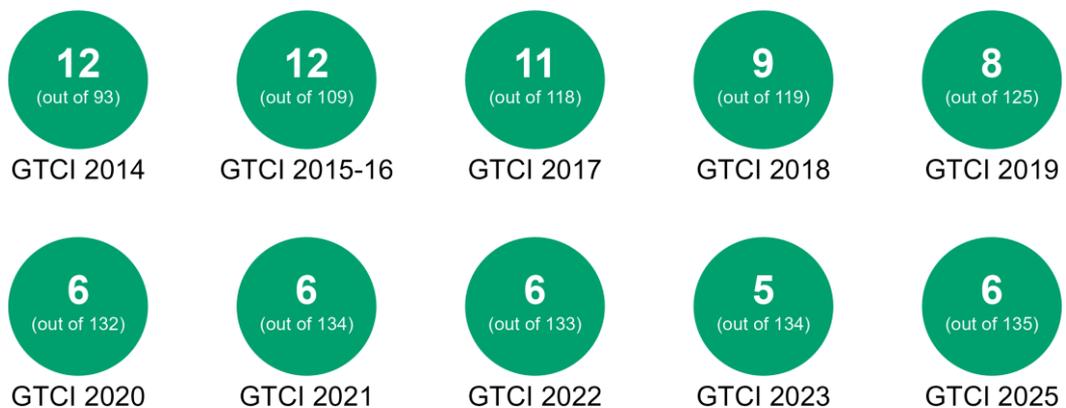


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Longer-term trends in talent competitiveness

Across all GTCI editions from 2015 to 2025, Netherlands’s ranking ranges from 11th to 9th place (see Figure 4). During GTCI 2020-GTCI 2025, Netherlands ranks 6 out of a total 134 countries (on average), which is better than the average rank of 10 in GTCI 2015-GTCI 2019.

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





Sources

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