

Nigeria - Country Brief

Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2025

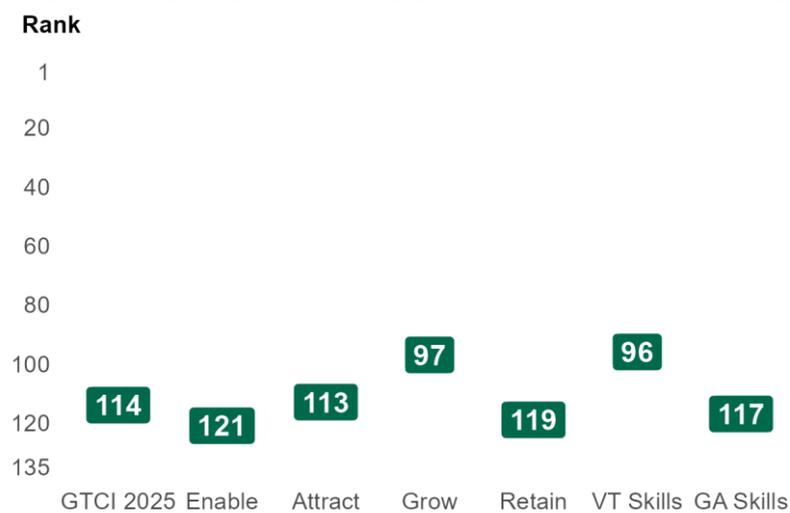


Total population:	232.68 million
GDP:	US\$ 187.64 billion
GDP (PPP) per capita:	US\$ 6,367 (112 out of 135 countries)
Country income level:	Lower-middle income
GTCI 2025 ranking:	114 (out of 135)

Global GTCI position

In GTCI 2025, Nigeria is ranked 114th out of a sample of 135 countries (Figure 1). When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Nigeria relate to Lifelong Learning, Mid-level Skills and Access to Growth Opportunities, among others. Still, more could be done to improve the economy's performances in the Sustainability, Regulatory Landscape and Formal Education sub-pillars.

Figure 1: Nigeria 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

Nigeria is situated in Sub-Saharan Africa and is classified as Lower-middle income. Within its region, the country is ranked 15th out of 31 countries (Table 1).

Nigeria is ranked 24th within the group of Lower-middle income countries (implying that 31 percent of countries rank lower).

Table 1: Nigeria performance vs. income groups and regions

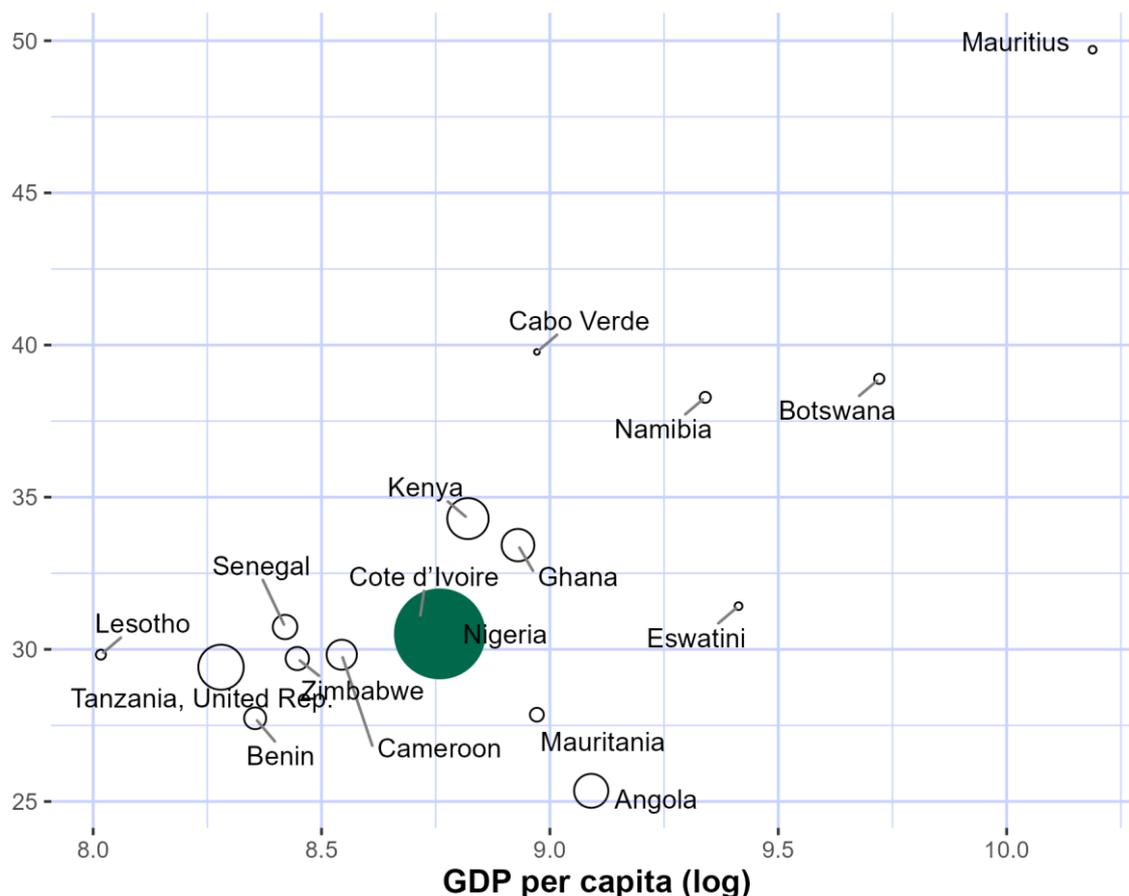
Comparison group	Top 3 scorers of the group	Score GAP: Nigeria score minus group highest score	Share of countries in the group ranked below Nigeria
Region			
Central and Southern Asia	Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan	-12.9	20%
Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania	Singapore, Australia, New Zealand	-42.8	12%
Europe	Switzerland, Denmark, Finland	-42.6	0%
Latin America and the Caribbean	Chile, Uruguay, Costa Rica	-22.2	0%
Northern Africa and Western Asia	Israel, United Arab Emirates, Cyprus	-29.7	5%
Northern America	United States of America, Canada	-38.9	0%
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa	-19.2	52%
Income group			
High income	Singapore, Switzerland, Denmark	-42.8	0%
Upper-middle income	Georgia, Malaysia, Mauritius	-20.5	0%
Lower-middle income	Uzbekistan, Jordan, Philippines	-12.9	31%
Low income	Rwanda, Malawi, Gambia	-3.4	77%

Comparison with group of competitors

Nigeria's group of competitors is defined as lower-middle-income and upper-middle-income countries located in Sub-Saharan Africa. It comprises a group of 17 economies. Figure 2 plots how Nigeria fares against each competitor in terms of GTCI score and GDP per capita.

As can be seen, Nigeria's GTCI score and GDP per capita are both lower than the corresponding medians of its group of competitors. Thus, the country's talent competitiveness is not in line with what would be expected given its income level.

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



Note: Bubble size indicates country population.

Performance against its income group and region

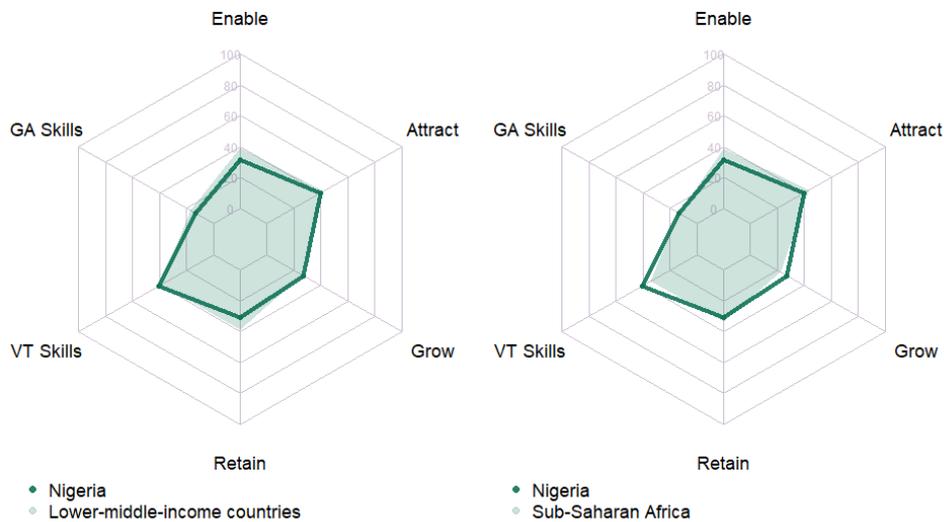
Lower-middle-income countries

Nigeria is ranked 24th 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 two of the six pillars: Grow and VT. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms lower-middle-income countries in three of the fourteen sub-pillars: Lifelong Learning, Access Growth Opportunities and Midlevel Skills.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Nigeria is ranked 15th within Sub-Saharan Africa (Figure 3, right panel). It has a score above the regional average in two of the six pillars: Grow and VT. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Sub-Saharan Africa in five of the fourteen sub-pillars: Lifelong Learning, Access Growth Opportunities, Lifestyle, Midlevel Skills and Employability.

Figure 3: Nigeria 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, Nigeria’s ranking ranges from 108th to 99th place (see Figure 4). During GTCI 2020-GTCI 2025, Nigeria ranks 111 out of a total 134 countries (on average), which is a decline from the average rank of 99 in GTCI 2015-GTCI 2019.

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





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