

Saudi Arabia - Country Brief

Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2025

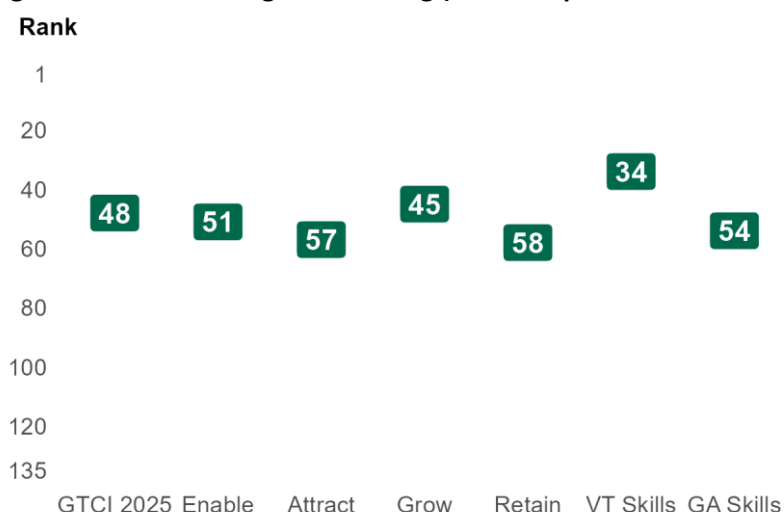


Total population:	35.30 million
GDP:	US\$ 1085.358 billion
GDP (PPP) per capita:	US\$ 59,741 (27 out of 135 countries)
Country income level:	High income
GTCI 2025 ranking:	48 (out of 135)

Global GTCI position

In GTCI 2025, Saudi Arabia is ranked 48th out of a sample of 135 countries (Figure 1). When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Saudi Arabia relate to Access to Growth Opportunities, Market Landscape and Mid-level Skills, among others. Still, more could be done to improve the economy's performances in the Talent Impact, Internal Openness and Business and Labour Landscape sub-pillars.

Figure 1: Saudi Arabia 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

Saudi Arabia is situated in Northern Africa and Western Asia and is classified as High income. Within its region, the country is ranked 7th out of 19 countries (Table 1).

Saudi Arabia is ranked 46th within the group of High income countries (implying that 12 percent of countries rank lower).

Table 1: Saudi Arabia performance vs. income groups and regions

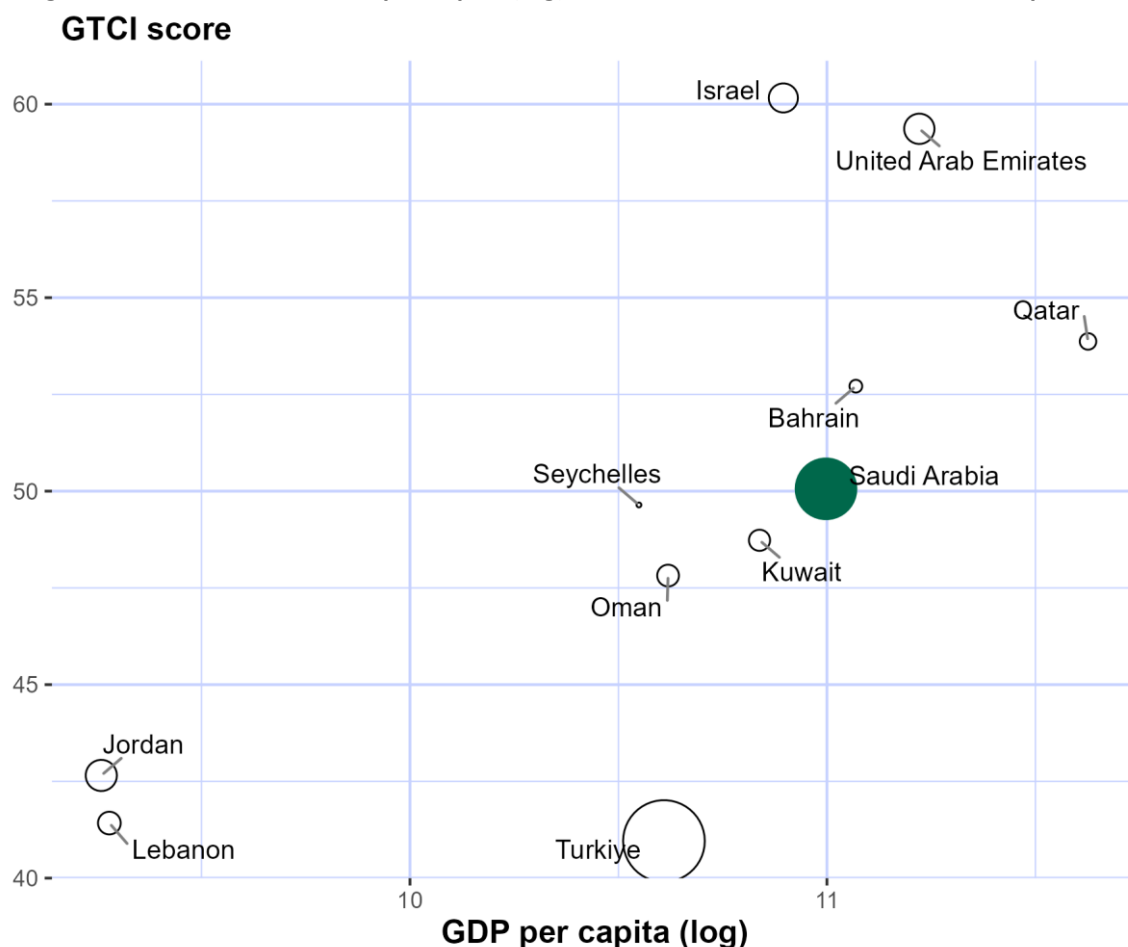
Comparison group	Top 3 scorers of the group	Score GAP: Saudi Arabia score minus group highest score	Share of countries in the group ranked below Saudi Arabia
Region			
Central and Southern Asia	Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan	6.7	100%
Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania	Singapore, Australia, New Zealand	-23.2	56%
Europe	Switzerland, Denmark, Finland	-23.1	26%
Latin America and the Caribbean	Chile, Uruguay, Costa Rica	-2.6	83%
Northern Africa and Western Asia	Israel, United Arab Emirates, Cyprus	-10.1	63%
Northern America	United States of America, Canada	-19.4	0%
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa	0.4	100%
Income group			
High income	Singapore, Switzerland, Denmark	-23.2	12%
Upper-middle income	Georgia, Malaysia, Mauritius	-0.9	94%
Lower-middle income	Uzbekistan, Jordan, Philippines	6.7	100%
Low income	Rwanda, Malawi, Gambia	16.1	100%

Comparison with group of competitors

Saudi Arabia'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 Saudi Arabia fares against each competitor in terms of GTCI score and GDP per capita.

As can be seen, Saudi Arabia'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 Saudi Arabia and its identified competitors



Note: Bubble size indicates country population.

Performance against its income group and region

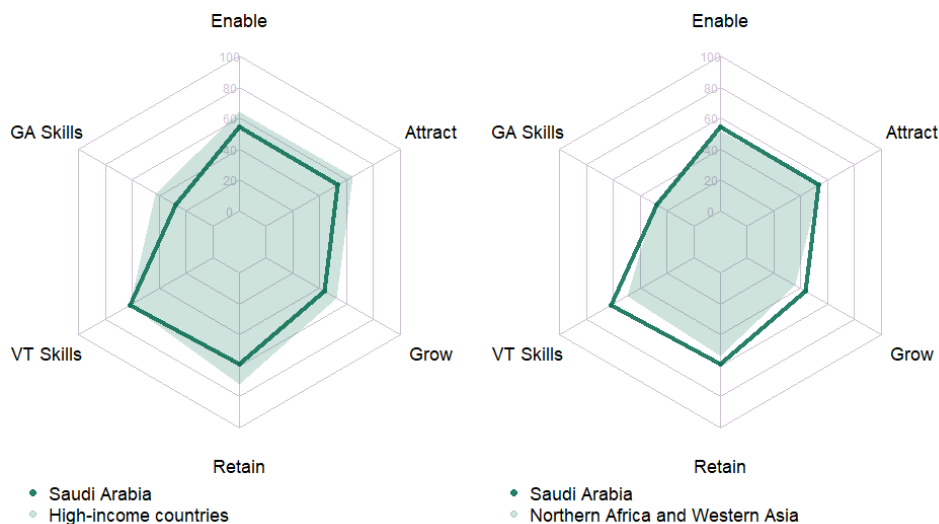
High-income countries

Saudi Arabia is ranked 46th 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: VT. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in three of the fourteen sub-pillars: Market Landscape, Midlevel Skills and Employability.

Northern Africa and Western Asia

Saudi Arabia is ranked 7th within Northern Africa and Western Asia (Figure 3, right panel). It has a score above the regional average in four of the six pillars: GTCI, Enable, Grow, Retain and VT. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Northern Africa and Western Asia in ten of the fourteen sub-pillars: Regulatory Landscape, Market Landscape, Internal Openness, Formal Education, Access Growth Opportunities, Sustainability, Lifestyle, Midlevel Skills, Employability and Highlevel Skills.

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

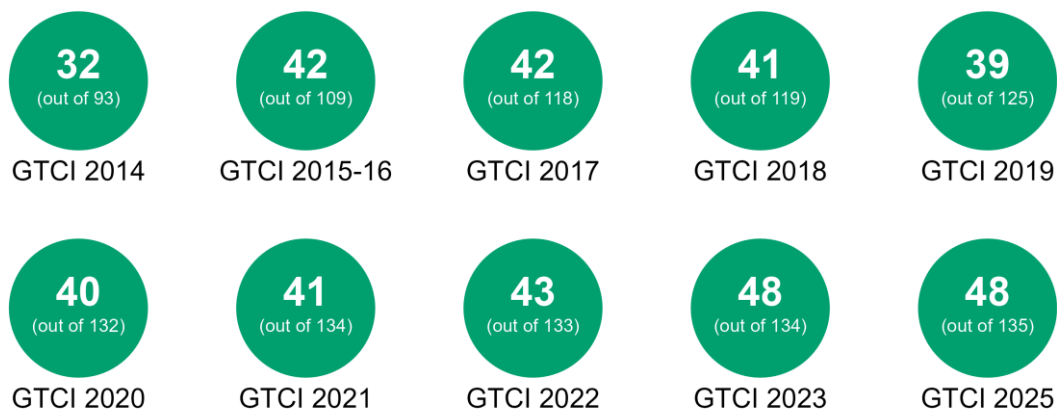


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Longer-term trends in talent competitiveness

Across all GTCI editions from 2015 to 2025, Saudi Arabia's ranking ranges from 32nd to 48th place (see Figure 4). During GTCI 2020-GTCI 2025, Saudi Arabia ranks 44 out of a total 134 countries (on average), which is a decline from the average rank of 39 in GTCI 2015-GTCI 2019.

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





Sources

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