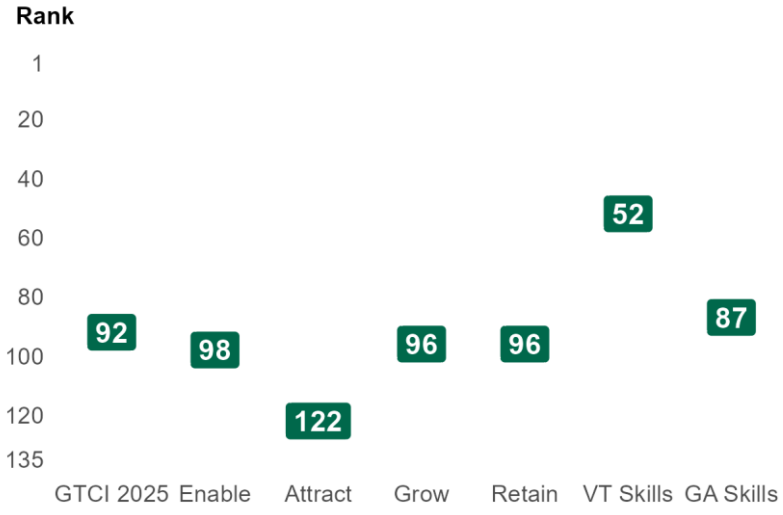
Sri Lanka - Country Brief
Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2025

Total population:	21.92 million
GDP:	US$ 74.584 billion
GDP (PPP) per capita:	US$ 14,072
	(87 out of 135 countries)
Country income level:	Lower-middle income
GTCI 2025 ranking:	92 (out of 135)

Global GTCI position

In GTCI 2025, Sri Lanka is ranked 92nd out of a sample of 135 countries (Figure 1). When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Sri Lanka relate to Mid-level Skills, Employability and Business and Labour Landscape, among others. Still, more could be done to improve the economy's performances in the Internal Openness, Market Landscape and External Openness sub-pillars.

Figure 1: Sri Lanka 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

Sri Lanka is situated in Central and Southern Asia and is classified as Lower-middle income. Within its region, the country is ranked 4th out of 10 countries (Table 1).

Sri Lanka is ranked 10th within the group of Lower-middle income countries (implying that 71 percent of countries rank lower).

Table 1: Sri Lanka performance vs. income groups and regions

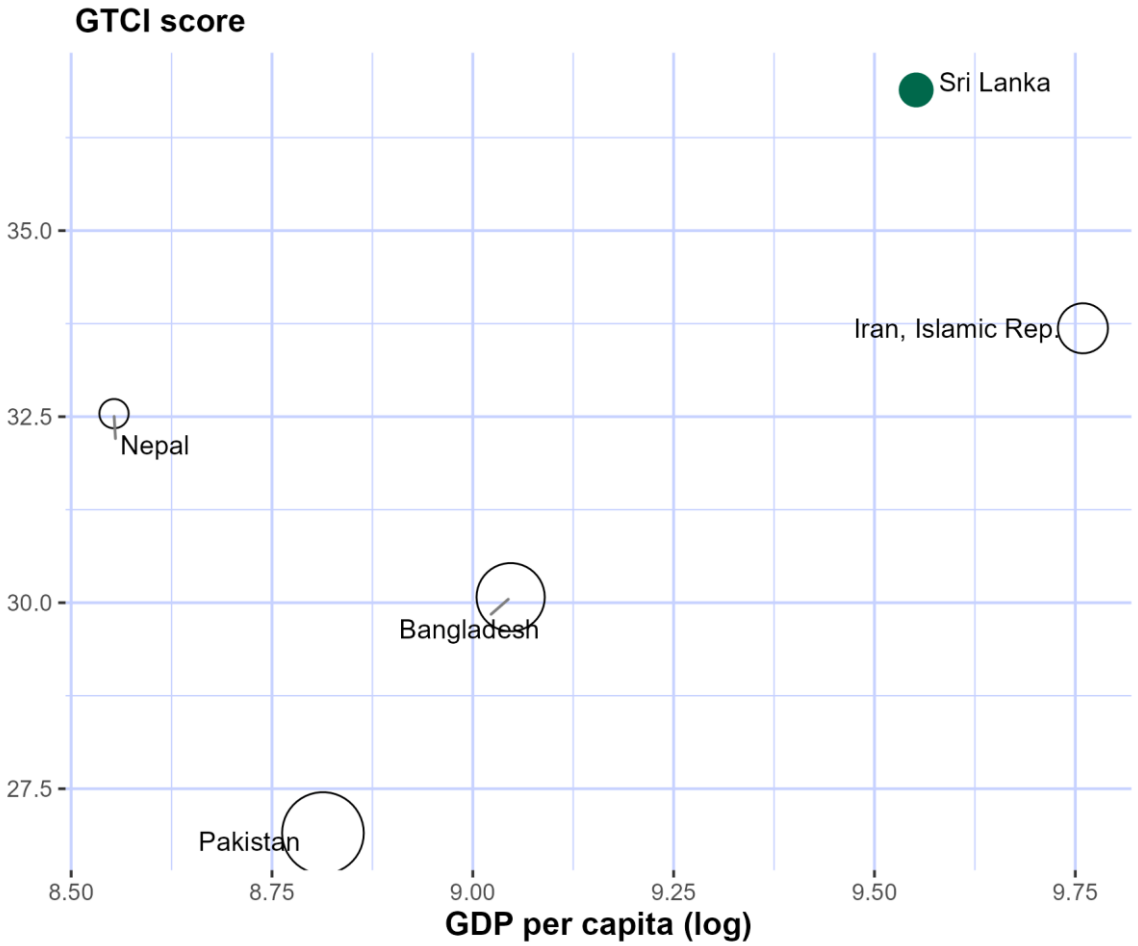
Comparison group	Top 3 scorers of the group	Score GAP: Sri Lanka score minus group highest score	Share of countries in the group ranked below Sri Lanka
Region			
Central and Southern Asia	Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan	-6.5	60%
Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania	Singapore, Australia, New Zealand	-36.4	19%
Europe	Switzerland, Denmark, Finland	-36.2	0%
Latin America and the Caribbean	Chile, Uruguay, Costa Rica	-15.8	28%
Northern Africa and Western Asia	Israel, United Arab Emirates, Cyprus	-23.3	21%
Northern America	United States of America, Canada	-32.5	0%
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa	-12.8	81%
Income group			
High income	Singapore, Switzerland, Denmark	-36.4	0%
Upper-middle income	Georgia, Malaysia, Mauritius	-14.1	14%
Lower-middle income	Uzbekistan, Jordan, Philippines	-6.5	71%
Low income	Rwanda, Malawi, Gambia	3.0	100%

Comparison with group of competitors

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

As can be seen, Sri Lanka'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 Sri Lanka and its identified competitors



Note: Bubble size indicates country population.

Performance against its income group and region

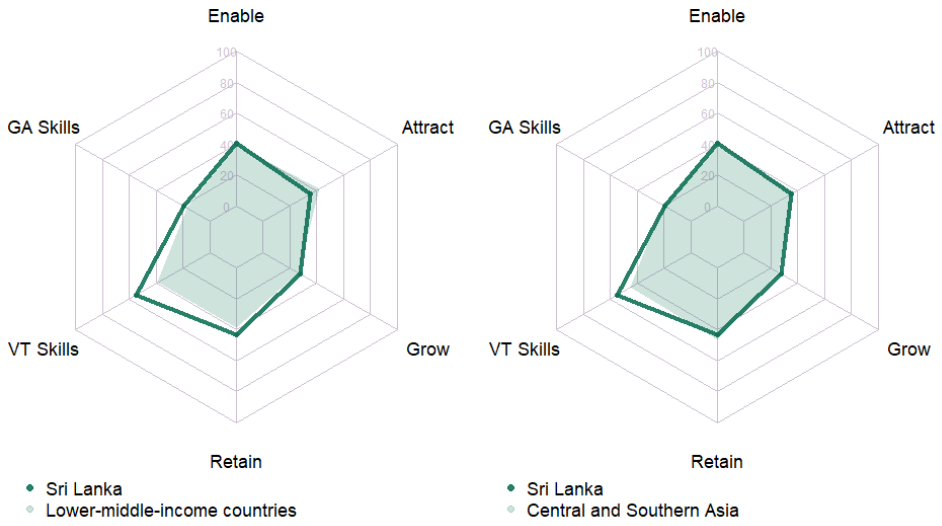
Lower-middle-income countries

Sri Lanka is ranked 10th 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 five of the six pillars: GTCI, Enable, Grow, Retain, VT and GA. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms lower-middle-income countries in ten of the fourteen sub-pillars: Regulatory Landscape, Business Labour Landscape, Lifelong Learning, Access Growth Opportunities, Sustainability, Lifestyle, Midlevel Skills, Employability, Highlevel Skills and Talent Impact.

Central and Southern Asia

Sri Lanka is ranked 4th within Central and Southern Asia (Figure 3, right panel). It has a score above the regional average in three of the six pillars: GTCI, Enable, Grow and VT. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Central and Southern Asia in eight of the fourteen sub-pillars: Regulatory Landscape, Business Labour Landscape, Internal Openness, Lifelong Learning, Access Growth Opportunities, Midlevel Skills, Employability and Talent Impact.

Figure 3: Sri Lanka 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, Sri Lanka's ranking ranges from 76th to 93rd place (see Figure 4). During GTCI 2020-GTCI 2025, Sri Lanka ranks 90 out of a total 134 countries (on average), which is a decline from the average rank of 81 in GTCI 2015-GTCI 2019.

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

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