

Sweden - Country Brief

Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2025

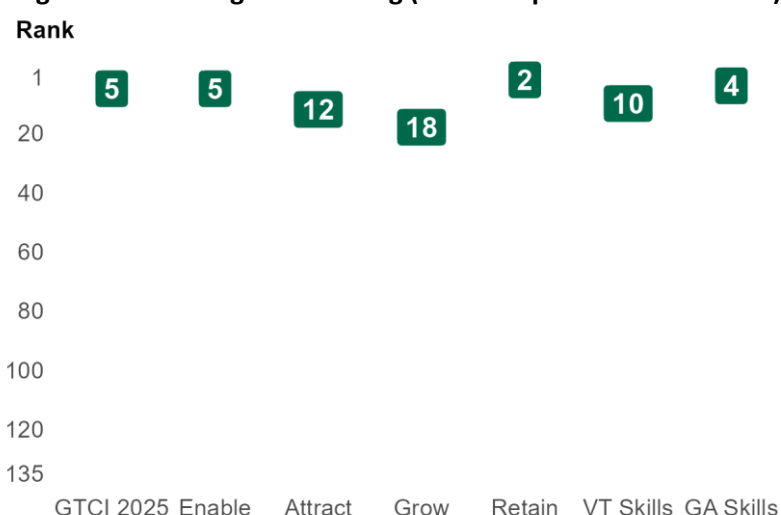


Total population:	10.57 million
GDP:	US\$ 610.118 billion
GDP (PPP) per capita:	US\$ 70,085 (17 out of 135 countries)
Country income level:	High income
GTCI 2025 ranking:	5 (out of 135)

Global GTCI position

In GTCI 2025, Sweden is ranked 5th out of a sample of 135 countries (Figure 1). When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Sweden relate to Sustainability, Business and Labour Landscape and High-level Skills, among others. Still, more could be done to improve the economy's performances in the Formal Education, External Openness and Lifelong Learning sub-pillars.

Figure 1: Sweden 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

Sweden is situated in Europe and is classified as High income. Within its region, the country is ranked 4th out of 39 countries (Table 1).

Sweden is ranked 5th within the group of High income countries (implying that 90 percent of countries rank lower).

Table 1: Sweden performance vs. income groups and regions

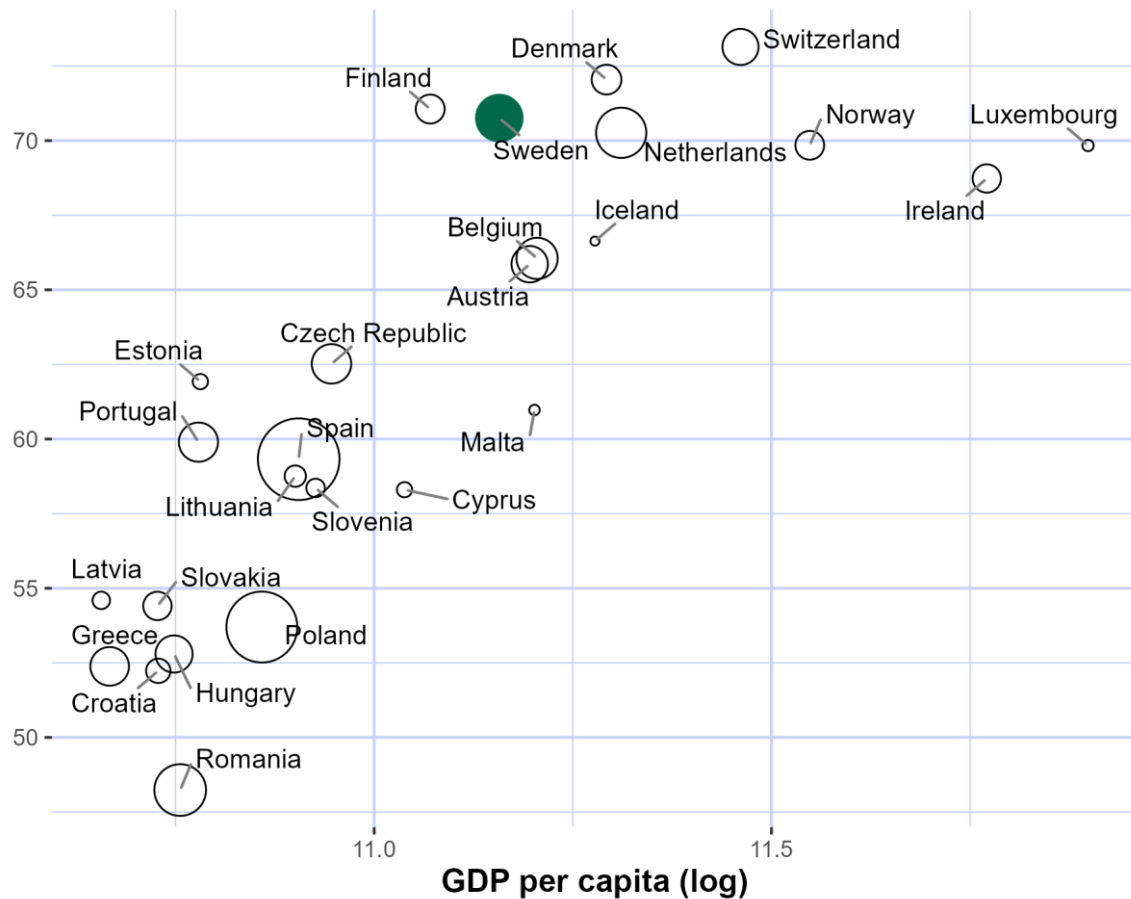
Comparison group	Top 3 scorers of the group	Score GAP: Sweden score minus group highest score	Share of countries in the group ranked below Sweden
Region			
Central and Southern Asia	Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan	27.4	100%
Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania	Singapore, Australia, New Zealand	-2.5	94%
Europe	Switzerland, Denmark, Finland	-2.4	90%
Latin America and the Caribbean	Chile, Uruguay, Costa Rica	18.1	100%
Northern Africa and Western Asia	Israel, United Arab Emirates, Cyprus	10.6	100%
Northern America	United States of America, Canada	1.3	100%
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa	21.1	100%
Income group			
High income	Singapore, Switzerland, Denmark	-2.5	90%
Upper-middle income	Georgia, Malaysia, Mauritius	19.8	100%
Lower-middle income	Uzbekistan, Jordan, Philippines	27.4	100%
Low income	Rwanda, Malawi, Gambia	36.8	100%

Comparison with group of competitors

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

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



Note: Bubble size indicates country population.

Performance against its income group and region

High-income countries

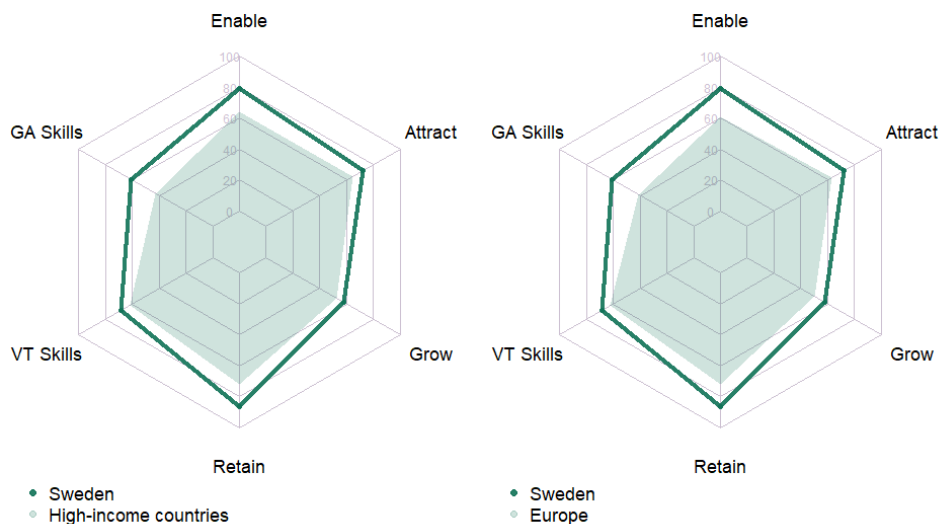
Sweden is ranked 5th in the group of high-income countries (Figure 3, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a higher score than the income group average in each of the six pillars. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in thirteen of the fourteen sub-pillars: Regulatory Landscape, Market Landscape, Business Labour Landscape, External Openness, Internal Openness, Formal Education, Access Growth Opportunities, Sustainability, Lifestyle, Midlevel Skills, Employability, Highlevel Skills and Talent Impact.

Europe

Sweden is ranked 4th within Europe (Figure 3, right panel). It outperforms its region in each of the six pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Europe in thirteen of the fourteen sub-pillars: Regulatory Landscape, Market Landscape, Business Labour Landscape, External Openness, Internal Openness, Formal Education, Access Growth Opportunities, Sustainability, Lifestyle, Midlevel Skills, Employability, Highlevel Skills and Talent Impact.



Figure 3: Sweden 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, Sweden's ranking ranges from 4th to 9th place (see Figure 4). During GTCI 2020-GTCI 2025, Sweden ranks 6 out of a total 134 countries (on average), which is better than the average rank of 6 in GTCI 2015-GTCI 2019.

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





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