Global Innovation Index

How innovation is measured
Saudi Arabia’s strength
in startup finance



Group 1
2026 edition

The seven pillars of innovation

INPUTS

Conditions that support innovation

1. Institutions
2. Human capital and research
3. Infrastructure
4. Market sophistication
5. Business sophistication

OUTPUTS

Results of innovative activity

6. Knowledge and technology outputs
7. Creative outputs

Source: WIPO, Global Innovation Index 2026

How the GII score works

79

indicators

0–100

common scoring scale

50% input score + 50% output score

The combined score determines the overall ranking.

Source: WIPO, Global Innovation Index 2026

Finance for startups and scaleups

Metric 4.1.1 in the Market sophistication pillar

2nd

Saudi Arabia’s global rank

96.5 / 100

GII indicator score

Experts assess financing conditions for starting and growing firms.

GEM National Expert Survey, using a five-year average.
The score describes financing conditions, not the volume invested.

Source: WIPO, Global Innovation Index 2026

Real example: Ninja

Founded in 2022. Major funding round in July 2025.

US$250m

Approximate funding round

US$1.5bn

Company valuation

Riyad Capital led the round to support expansion, technology infrastructure and delivery logistics.

An example of financing that helps a young Saudi company grow.

Sources: Ninja and Riyad Capital, July 2025