

U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Global Innovation
Policy Center

2026 Fourteenth Edition

International IP Index

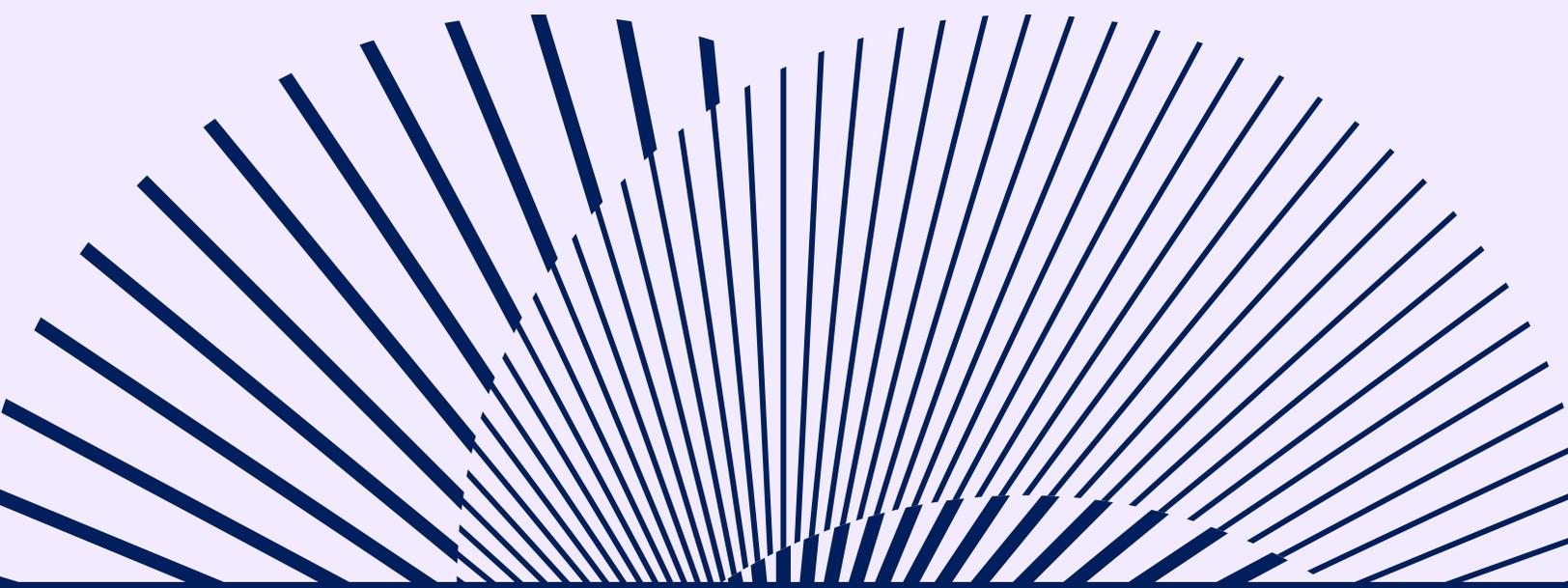
Executive Summary

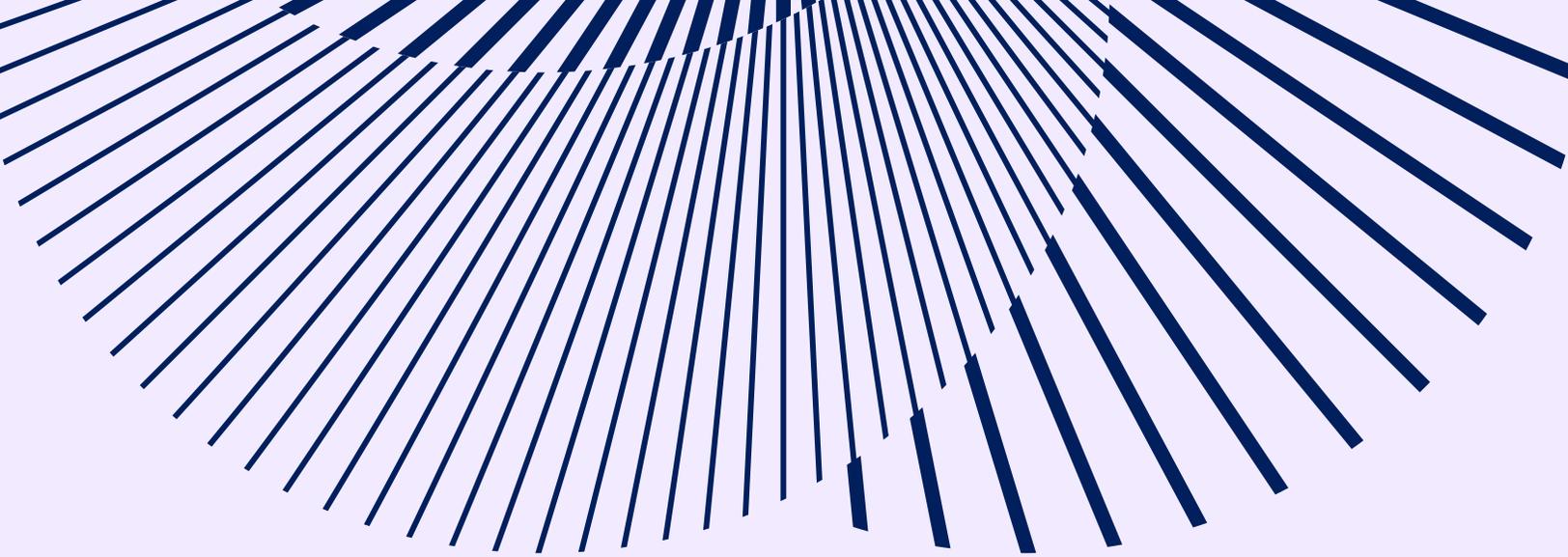


Executive Summary

The 14th edition of the U.S. Chamber's International IP Index (IP Index) provides a comprehensive assessment of the world's intellectual property (IP) frameworks. This year's Index evaluates the IP systems of 55 global economies using 53 unique criteria, offering a roadmap for economies seeking to strengthen their innovation and creativity ecosystems through more effective IP standards. The Index highlights how robust IP policies foster ingenuity, stimulate economic growth, and unlock opportunities for creators, innovators, and businesses worldwide.

The IP Index serves as a guide for policymakers, industry leaders, and stakeholders, showcasing the policies that have successfully enabled governments to unlock the benefits of IP-driven innovation and creativity. The IP Index also highlights what policy changes are needed to ensure a brighter future. By analyzing global trends and providing actionable insights, the IP Index underscores the critical role of IP in driving economic and social progress.





Geographic Coverage

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Algeria | Germany | Malaysia | South Korea |
| Argentina | Ghana | Mexico | Spain |
| Australia | Greece | Morocco | Sweden |
| Brazil | Honduras | The Netherlands | Switzerland |
| Brunei | Hungary | New Zealand | Taiwan |
| Canada | India | Nigeria | Thailand |
| Chile | Indonesia | Pakistan | Türkiye |
| China | Ireland | Peru | United Arab Emirates |
| Colombia | Israel | Philippines | Ukraine |
| Costa Rica | Italy | Poland | United Kingdom |
| Dominican Republic | Japan | Russia | United States |
| Ecuador | Jordan | Saudi Arabia | Venezuela |
| Egypt | Kenya | Singapore | Vietnam |
| France | Kuwait | South Africa | |

Key Findings



The 2026 International IP Index reveals a growing erosion of IP leadership among some of the world's most influential economies, creating renewed urgency for policymakers to reaffirm IP protection's central role in driving innovation, competitiveness, and economic growth.

- Score declines were largely concentrated in high-income economies traditionally seen as global IP standard-setters, with scores in eight EU Member States declining.
- However, 20 economies improved their overall score, with the United Arab Emirates (+4.72%), Ecuador (2.81%), Malaysia (+1.42%), and Brunei (+1.42%) achieving the largest increases in overall score. This demonstrates that targeted reforms can still strengthen IP frameworks, even amid broader global stagnation.
- With 27 economies registering little or no improvement in 2026, the Index highlights a critical moment, as the failure of leading economies to course-correct risks normalizing weaker IP standards globally.



While trade agreements have been instrumental in strengthening IP protections and fostering economic growth worldwide, the effective implementation of countries' IP commitments is fundamental to unlocking the benefits of stronger IP.

- Trade continues to underpin American economic growth, with U.S. services exports surplus contributing \$1.4 trillion to the U.S. economy. IP-intensive industries alone account for 31% of the total value of U.S. services exports.
- Despite committing to strengthening IP protection through the Phase One Agreement, rights holders in China continue to face challenges securing patent term restoration and effective patent enforcement, addressing the inconsistent acceptance of supplemental data in patent filings, and doing business in China on fair, non-discriminatory, and equal terms.
- The review of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) creates a pivotal opportunity to address the outstanding implementation of Mexico's IP commitments related to patent enforcement, patent term extension, regulatory data protection (RDP), and copyright protection. Likewise, Canada must fully implement the patent term adjustment mechanism required by USMCA.



The weakening of life sciences-related IP incentives threatens to undermine competitiveness and investment in some of the world's leading economies.

- The EU's General Pharmaceutical Legislation weakened the framework for IP protection and enforcement, discouraging investment at a time when Europe seeks to position itself as a global hub for life sciences.
- In China, the availability of patent term restoration (PTR) would depend on a first global launch in China, severely limiting the practical availability of PTR for foreign innovative companies.
- In the U.S., the imposition of Most-Favored Nations drug pricing and proposals to expand march-in rights created headwinds for the policy framework that sustains American life sciences innovation.



Across emerging markets, initiatives designed to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) leverage IP assets have grown, signaling increased government recognition of IP's critical role in SME development.

- The scores improved for seven economies due to new IP-focused SME initiatives, marking the second-largest improvement among all Index indicators.
- These economies across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East introduced new programs focused on technical assistance, financial support, and assistance in commercializing IP assets.



Copyright policy and enforcement continued to evolve across Index economies, with notable improvements in online enforcement offset by growing uncertainty related to digital piracy and remuneration rights.

- Several economies — including Brazil, Greece, Nigeria, Peru, and Poland — have implemented new laws or administrative measures to strengthen online anti-piracy enforcement.
- At the same time, the rapid expansion of broad AI-related policies created new ambiguities for both rights holders and AI developers.
- Despite modest overall improvements in category scores, many economies continue to struggle with high levels of online piracy and the lack of effective remedies to disable infringing content.

Category-by Category Results

Patents, Related Rights, and Limitations

Twenty-three economies achieved a score of 70% or more of the available score, and 32 economies in total achieved a score of 50% or more. The average score for the category is up 0.15% from last year to 59.97%, which remains the fifth highest-scoring category on the Index.

- In the EU, the General Pharmaceutical Legislation expanded the Bolar exemption to include both pre-commercial and commercial activities, an unprecedented change that will undermine effective patent enforcement.
- In Mexico, the national IP office and federal health authority are now required to regularly publish lists of in-force biopharmaceutical patents and market authorization applications by manufacturers of generic and biosimilar biopharmaceuticals. However, the mechanism does not constitute an early notification system that would comply with Mexico's USMCA commitments.
- In Vietnam, the National Assembly is considering amendments to the Law on Intellectual Property that could allow for patentability of computer-implemented inventions.

Copyrights and Limitations

Many economies struggled to provide adequate copyright protection, with only 15 economies achieving a score of 70% or more. Thirty-two economies failed to achieve a score of 50% or more. However, the average score in this category continues to improve, rising from 50.61% in the 2024 report to 51.84% in the 2026 edition.

- In Brazil, the Supreme Court issued a ruling outlining the responsibilities of digital platforms, including the obligation to remove copyright-infringing content upon notice from the rights holder.
- In Nigeria, the government introduced new legal remedies to disable access to an online piracy website.
- In Peru, the national IP authority continued to enforce online piracy by disabling websites offering pirated transmissions of soccer matches.
- In Greece, a new law strengthened enforcement measures and fines for the distribution or access of copyright-infringing content online.

Trademarks Rights and Limitations

Most economies sampled in the Index offer basic forms of trademark protection. Only nine of the 55 sampled economies failed to score over 50% in this category. Overall, this category of the Index is among the highest performing, with an average score of 63.52%.

- In Thailand, the government announced a new strategic partnership with e-commerce platforms to eliminate the online sale of illicit medical products. The government also conducted multiple raids targeting both trademark-infringing physical and online goods.
- In the Philippines, the national IP office created a new register of well-known marks to provide rights holders with greater certainty about the legal status and protection of their marks.

Design Rights and Limitations

Most economies included in the Index have some form of statutory law defining design rights and the term of protection for registered design rights. Twenty economies achieved a score of 75% or more. The average score in this category this year was 64.18%, the same as last year.

- In Indonesia, proposed amendments to the Design Law would increase the term of protection for registered designs to 15 years.
- Saudi Arabia concluded negotiations to join the Riyadh Design Law Treaty. While the Treaty is not currently included in the Index, the agreement provides important protection for design rights among the 24 contracting parties.

Trade Secrets and the Protection of Confidential Information

Many Index economies lack specific trade secret legislation. Overall, only 16 of the 55 economies included in the Index achieved a score of 75% or more in this category. Twenty-two economies achieved a score of 33.33% or less. The average score in this category remained one of the weakest in the Index at 48.67%, down 0.61% from last year.

- In the EU, the final General Pharmaceutical Legislation shortened the term of regulatory data protection and created conditions to restore lost RDP, thereby weakening the framework for life sciences innovation.
- In Kenya, the government committed to introducing a five-year RDP term as part of its commitments under a new trade agreement with the UAE.
- In South Korea, a new data exclusivity regime took effect, aiming to provide rights holders with greater legal certainty. However, the baseline period of protection for new drugs remained at six years.

Commercialization of IP Assets

Many of the economies benchmarked in the Index are introducing laws and policies that make it more difficult to access their respective markets and commercialize IP assets. Twenty economies achieved a score of 45% or less, with six economies failing to achieve a score of 25%. The average score in this category remained at 58.88%, unchanged from last year.

- In the U.S., a new National Institute of Health policy on patent licensing now requires licensees to submit plans on how successfully developed and commercialized medicinal products will be accessed by patients.
- In China, seven government agencies issued an opinion that further cements the government's role in the standard essential patent licensing process.
- In the UK, the government launched a consultation on SEP licensing, which could introduce uncertainty into SEP licensing markets and devalue the IP of innovative companies.

Enforcement

Many Index economies struggled to effectively enforce IP infringement. Only 26 Index economies achieved a score of 50% or more, and only 11 achieved a score of 75% or more. The average score in this category remains around 50%.

- In Argentina, law enforcement continued to block access to pirated live sports broadcasts, building on its successful enforcement actions against copyright-infringing content in recent years.
- In the Dominican Republic, the government continued to increase action against trademark-infringing products, with over 20 million units of counterfeit and illicit goods seized in the first half of 2025.
- In Saudi Arabia, the Saudi IP Authority and Zakat, Tax, and Customs Authority signed an agreement to deepen cooperation on IP border enforcement.

Systemic Efficiency

Forty-two economies achieved a score of 50% or more, and 26 economies achieved a score of 70% or more. The average score is 64.45%, the highest among all Index categories.

- In Africa, the Algerian government launched new initiatives to support SMEs in commercializing IP assets.
- In Asia, the IP offices in Brunei and Malaysia introduced new technical assistance programs to guide SMEs in developing, registering, and commercializing IP assets.
- Across the Middle East, governments in Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, and the UAE also initiated new programs that provide IP training and help SMEs recognize, secure, and leverage IP assets for commercial use.

Incentives for Cutting-Edge Innovation

Most Index economies do not have any special market-exclusivity incentives in place for orphan medicinal product development. Thirty-eight economies failed to achieve any score on the three indicators included in this category. The average score in this category is the lowest of all categories in the Index, at 27.39%.

- In the EU, the General Pharmaceutical Legislation reduced market exclusivity for orphan medicines by one year.

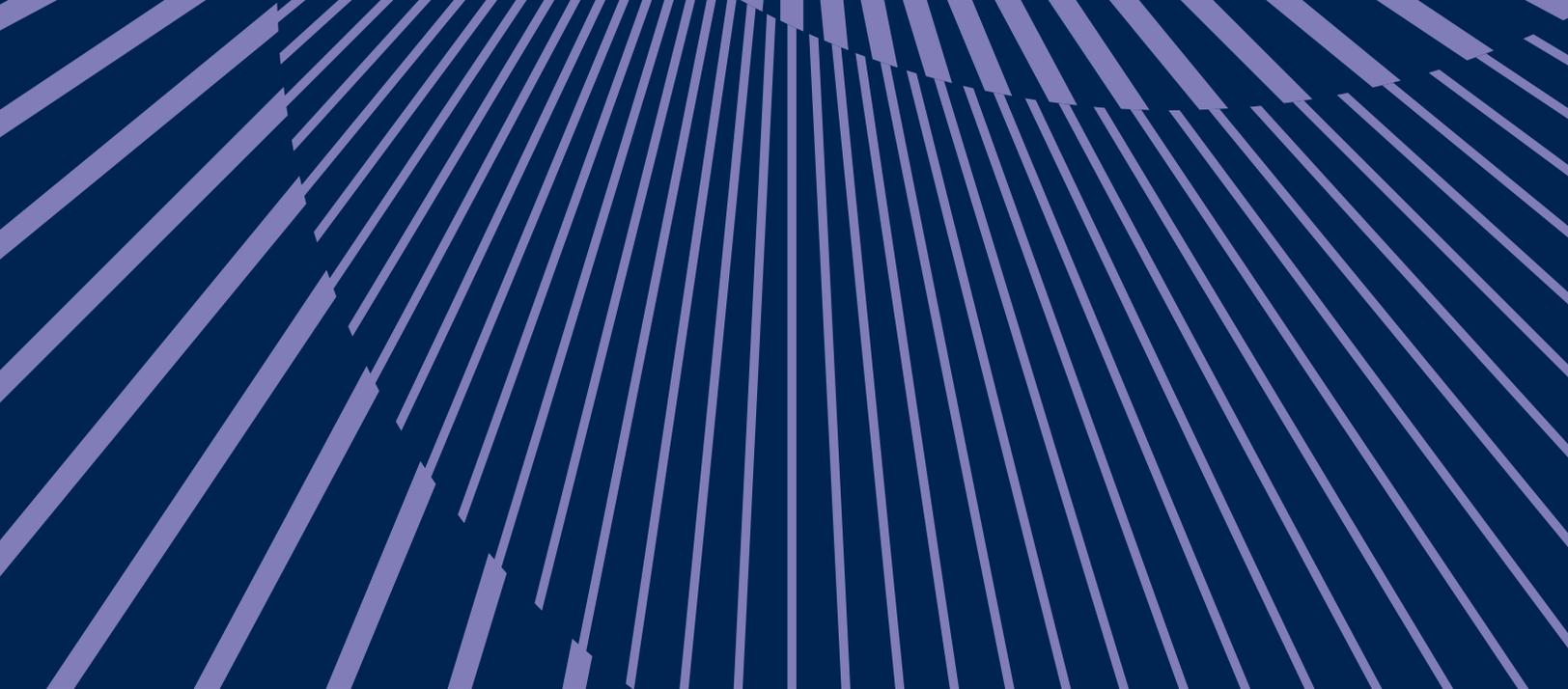
Membership and Ratification of International Treaties

This category remains one of the stronger overall categories in the Index, with many economies achieving high scores. Twenty-two economies have a score of 75% or higher, with 14 achieving over 96%.

- Ecuador became a full contracting party to the Convention on Cybercrime and fully ratified the EU-Ecuador FTA.
- The UK and India concluded a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, which includes a dedicated IP chapter.
- The UAE-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which includes a dedicated IP chapter, came into effect.

Conclusion

The 2026 IP Index underscores the importance of robust IP systems in fostering innovation, driving economic growth, and enhancing global competitiveness. As economies navigate the challenges and opportunities of the modern era, the Index continues to serve as a vital tool to guide policymakers and stakeholders toward a more innovative and prosperous future.



U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Global Innovation
Policy Center