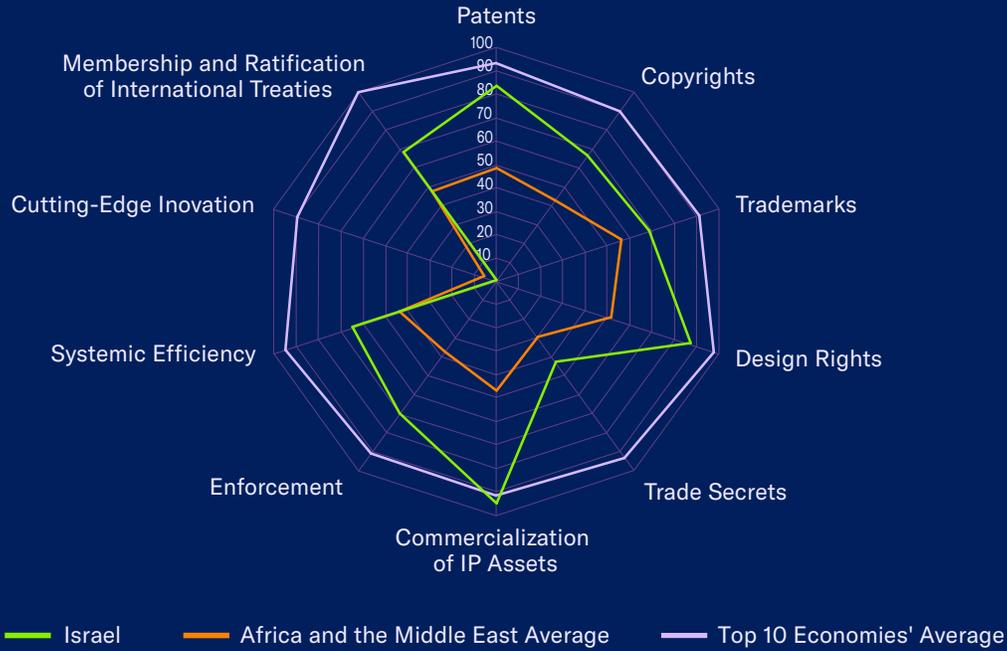
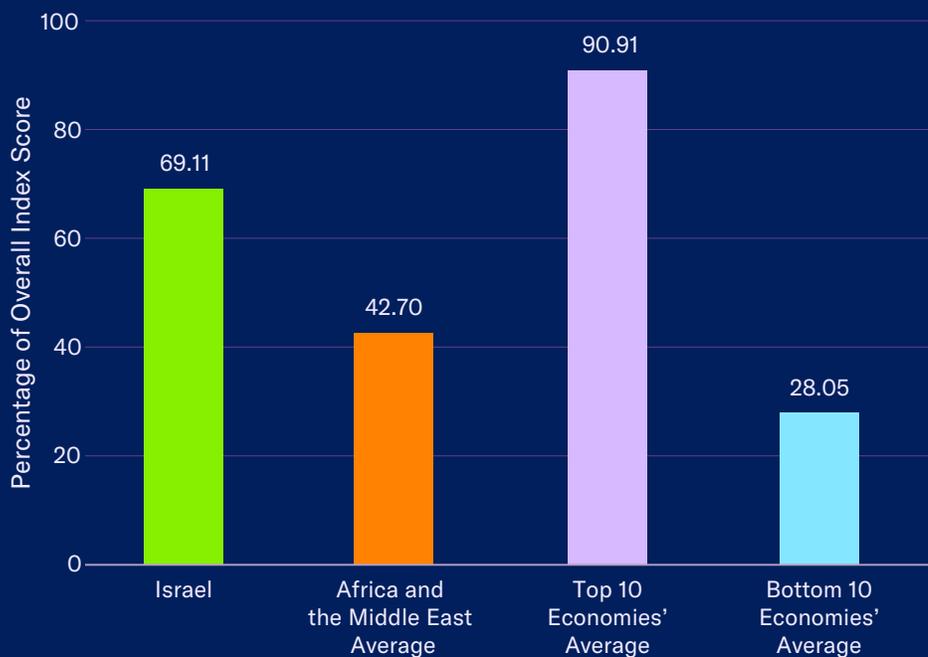




Category Scores



Overall Score in Comparison





Key Areas of Strength

- 2019 copyright amendments strengthened enforcement against online infringement and introduced possibility of injunctive style relief
- Global leader on technology transfer and international licensing activity; no administrative or regulatory barriers in place
- Generous R&D and IP specific tax incentives in place
- Israeli Patent Office active participant in all major PPH tracks
- Life sciences IP rights reform efforts have considerably strengthened Israel's IP environment
- Industrial design law passed in 2017
- Joined Hague Agreement in 2019

Key Areas of Weakness

- No special IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development
- Renewed discussions in 2025 on proposed Patent Law amendments introducing a manufacturing, export, and stockpiling exemption to the current patent term restoration regime
- Compulsory license issued in response to COVID-19 pandemic
- Current pre-grant patent opposition proceedings create long delays to patent prosecution
- Unclear if current RDP term applies to large molecule products
- More limited participation in international treaties than other high-income OECD economies

Indicator	Score	Indicator	Score
Category 1: Patents Rights and Limitations		7.50	
1. Term of protection	1.00	29. Direct Government intervention in setting licensing terms	1.00
2. Patentability requirements	1.00	30. IP as an economic asset	0.75
3. Patentability of CII	1.00	31. Tax incentives for the creation of IP assets	1.00
4. Plant variety protection	1.00	Category 7: Enforcement	
5. Pharmaceutical-related enforcement	0.50	4.95	
6. Legislative criteria and active use of compulsory licensing	1.00	32. Physical counterfeiting rates	0.72
7. Pharmaceutical patent term restoration	1.00	33. Software piracy rates	0.73
8. Membership of a Patent Prosecution Highway	1.00	34. Civil and procedural remedies	0.75
9. Patent Opposition	0.00	35. Pre-established damages	0.75
Category 2: Copyrights and Limitations		4.63	
10. Term of protection	0.63	36. Criminal standards	0.75
11. Exclusive rights	0.75	37. Effective border measures	0.75
12. Expeditious legal remedies disabling access to infringing content online	0.75	38. Transparency and public reporting by Customs	0.50
13. Cooperative action against online piracy	0.50	Category 8: Systemic Efficiency	
14. Limitations and exceptions	1.00	3.25	
15. TPM and DRM	0.00	39. Coordination of IP rights enforcement	0.50
16. Government use of licensed software	1.00	40. Consultation with stakeholders during IP policy formation	1.00
Category 3: Trademarks Rights and Limitations		2.75	
17. Term of protection	1.00	41. Educational campaigns and awareness raising	0.25
18. Protection of well-known marks	0.75	42. Targeted incentives for the creation and use of IP assets for SMEs	0.75
19. Exclusive rights, trademarks	0.75	43. IP-intensive industries, national economic impact analysis	0.75
20. Frameworks against online sale of counterfeit goods	0.25	Category 9: Cutting-Edge Innovation	
Category 4: Design Rights and Limitations		0.00	
1.75		44. IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development	0.00
21. Industrial Design Term of Protection	1.00	45. IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development, term of protection	0.00
22. Exclusive rights, industrial design rights	0.75	46. Restrictions on the effective use of existing IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development	0.00
Category 5: Trade Secrets and the Protection of Confidential Information		Category 10: Membership and Ratification of International Treaties	
1.30		4.75	
23. Protection of trade secrets (Civil Remedies)	1.00	47. WIPO Internet Treaties	0.50
24. Protection of trade secrets (Criminal Sanctions)	0.00	48. Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks and Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks	0.50
25. Regulatory data protection term	0.30	49. Patent Law Treaty and Patent Cooperation Treaty	0.75
Category 6: Commercialization of IP Assets		5.75	
26. Barriers to market access	1.00	50. Membership of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, act of 1991	1.00
27. Barriers to technology transfer	1.00	51. Membership of the Convention on Cybercrime, 2001	1.00
28. Registration and disclosure requirements of licensing deals	1.00	52. The Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs	1.00
		53. Post-TRIPS FTA	0.00

Total Score: 36.63

Spotlight on the National IP Environment

Past Editions versus Current Score

Israel's overall score has increased from 36.62 out of 53 indicators in the 13th edition to 36.63. This reflects a score increase on indicator 32.

Patent Rights and Limitations

In early 2025, the Israeli Patent Office introduced “Memorandum of the Patent Law (Amendment No. 15), 5785- 2025” to change the Patent Law. The proposed amendments seek to change existing practices relating to grace periods; the introduction of a new provisional filing system; new limitations on divisional applications; and other important changes, including a new name for the Patent Office, the IP Registration Office. Unfortunately, the proposed changes do not address one of the biggest fundamental patent challenges that rights holders have faced for years through Israel's existing patent opposition procedures.

Israeli patent law provides for a pre-grant form of opposition to pending patent applications. The Israeli Patent Office conducts the examination of a patent application's eligibility for registration within a time frame of 18 months from the filing date, upon which the application is published online for public scrutiny. Once published, a three-month period begins during which third parties may file an opposition to the patent application. Upon filing a notification of opposition, a period of 13 months is granted to the opposing party to submit the causes, arguments, and supporting evidence for the opposition, and to respond to both parties. Thus, the examination of a patent application can be extended by an additional 16 months, excluding the reexamination and/or judicial hearings.

As the Index has repeatedly noted, regardless of the merits of any opposition filing, these generous timelines impose a significant burden and delay on the patent prosecution process in Israel. In late 2016, the Ministry of Justice and the Patent Office recognized these deficiencies. They issued a public call for comments and suggestions on their plan to review the existing pre-grant system and shorten the generous timelines. In 2021, the Ministry issued a new public consultation and proposed regulatory amendments. While not in final draft regulatory form, these amendments overall recognized the excessive time taken in Israeli patent opposition proceedings and the need for clearer procedural demarcations and limits on their duration.

In 2022, the Patent Office hosted a follow-up roundtable discussion with relevant stakeholders. However, three years later, no final regulations have been published, and no further legislative action has been taken. Other patent offices around the world have recognized the need to shorten the time allotted for opposition procedures. For example, in 2016, the EPO instituted the ‘Early Certainty’ initiative, aiming to cut opposition timelines to 15 months. Reducing the length of opposition proceedings in Israel would be a positive development and mark a potential shift and recognition by Israeli policymakers of the costs the pre-grant system imposes on inventors and Israeli consumers. Instituting such changes would result in an increase in this indicator's score. The Index will continue to monitor these developments in 2026.

7. Patent term restoration for pharmaceutical products:

Up until 2014, Israel did not offer patent restoration for pharmaceutical products. In 2014, following lengthy discussions with the USTR regarding Israel's Special 301 status and the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Government, the Israeli Knesset amended the Patent Law to introduce a five-year maximum restoration term. In 2021, the Israeli Ministry of Justice published draft amendments to the Patent Law, 'The Patents Law (Amendment No. 14) (Increasing the Competitiveness of the Israeli Economy), 5721-2021.' The proposed amendments seek to introduce a manufacturing, export, and stockpiling exemption to the current term restoration regime. The law is explicitly based on a similar exemption introduced by the European Commission under Regulation 2019/933, which has been operational in the EU since 2019. In the Israeli case, the exemption allows for the manufacture and export of a product for which a term of restoration has been granted. Manufacturing stockpiling is also allowed to begin within six months of any granted patent term restoration expiring. Until late 2024, the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset, kept the proposed amendments inactive. In 2025, lawmakers held new hearings and debated the bill in the Knesset's Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee.

This is a highly negative development and comes five years after the Israeli Government's 2020 authorization of a compulsory license for the antiviral drug lopinavir/ritonavir. These negative developments undermine the substantive progress made over the last 20 years to strengthen Israel's national IP environment for biopharmaceuticals and become a global biopharmaceutical leader in R&D. Thirty years ago, the innovative research-based biopharmaceutical sector consisted mainly of research organizations and early-stage companies focused on licensing out technologies, with little development and commercialization of biopharmaceuticals and biomedical technologies in Israel.

Since the IP policy reforms, biopharmaceutical foreign direct investment into Israel has surged, and, importantly, the reforms have not had a negative impact on the domestic generics industry. Contrary to common perceptions, providing a supportive environment for innovative activities in the life sciences (including a robust IP regime) has not hurt Israel's generic drugs industry, including its national champion Teva. Israel has fought hard to strengthen its national IP environment. The introduction of a manufacturing and export exemption to the existing patent term restoration regime would be a significant setback.

From the eighth edition of the Index onwards, the methodology for calculating this indicator's score has been revised. This indicator now consists of two distinct variables: first, the existence of a term of patent restoration for pharmaceutical products due to the prolonged research, development, and regulatory approval periods for such products; and second the existence of any exemptions, waivers, or similar carve-outs on the full and effective use of such a term of restoration, including for industrial policy purposes. Of the available score for this indicator, 0.75 is allocated to the existing term of protection, compared with the current baseline rate of a five-year term restoration used in the U.S., EU, and Japan. The remaining 0.25 is allocated based on a given economy providing any exemptions, waivers, or similar carve-outs on the full and effective use of such a term of restoration, including for industrial policy purposes. At the time of the research, the proposed Israeli Patent Law amendments had not been enacted. Should these legislative changes take place, Israel's score on this indicator will be reduced from 1 to 0.75.