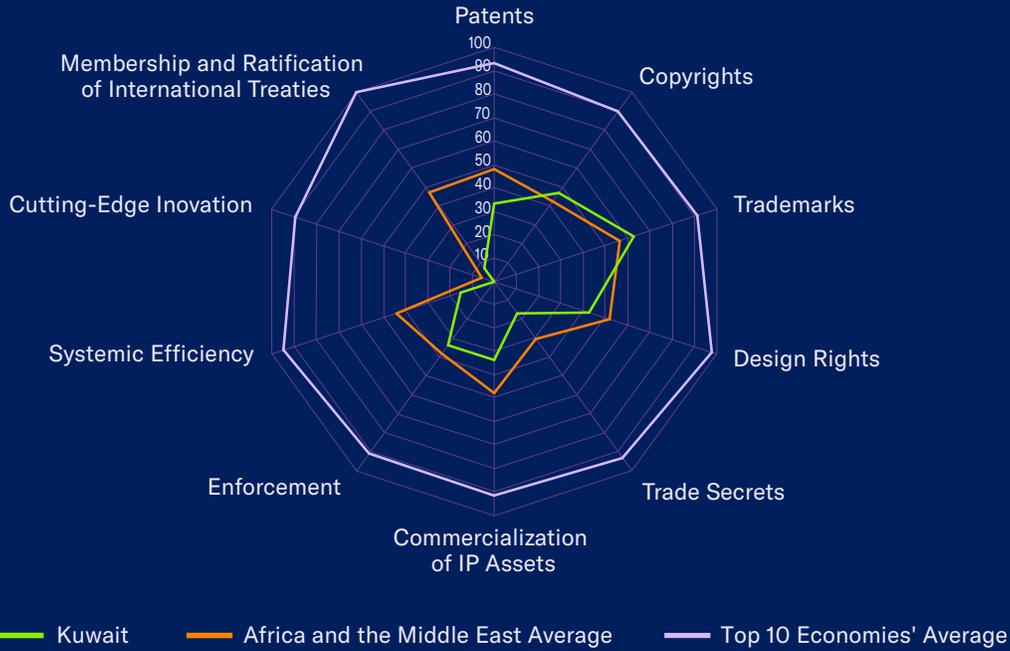




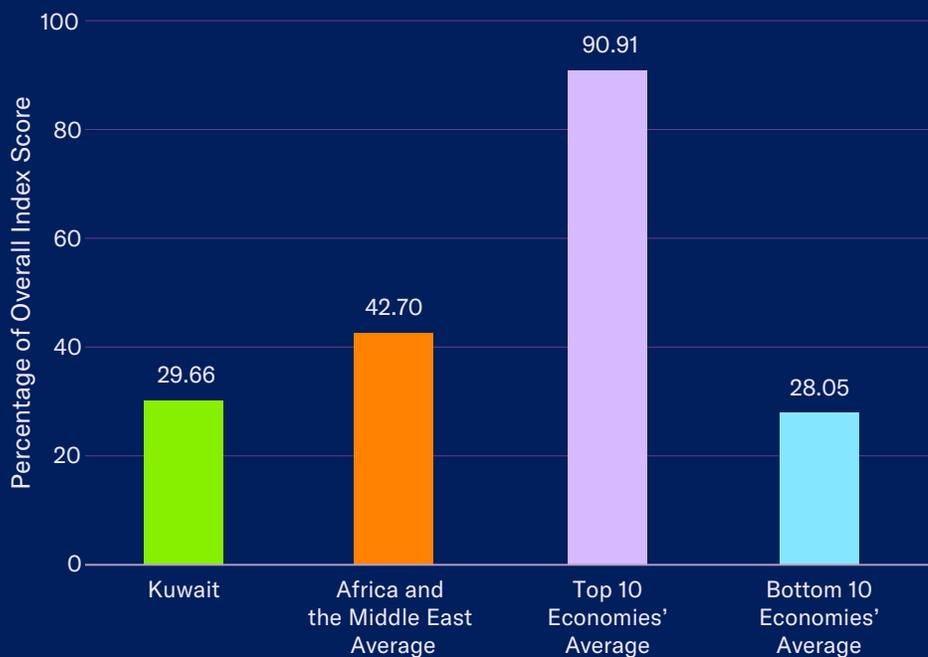
Kuwait

Rank
50/55

Category Scores



Overall Score in Comparison





Key Areas of Strength

- New targeted incentives for the creation and use of IP assets for SMEs
- Administrative IP enforcement option led to the disabling of access to thousands of websites offering counterfeit and IP infringing goods
- Basic IP framework in place
- Participant in regional patent and trademark harmonization efforts through GCC

Key Areas of Weakness

- No special IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development
- Uncertainty over future of GCC patent and whether regional patenting route will continue to exist
- Most sector-specific rights missing
- Barriers in place for licensing and technology transfer
- No R&D or IP specific tax incentives in place
- Limited participant in international treaties

Indicator	Score	Indicator	Score
Category 1: Patents Rights and Limitations		3.00	
1. Term of protection	1.00	29. Direct Government intervention in setting licensing terms	0.50
2. Patentability requirements	0.50	30. IP as an economic asset	0.50
3. Patentability of CII	0.25	31. Tax incentives for the creation of IP assets	0.00
4. Plant variety protection	0.00	Category 7: Enforcement	
5. Pharmaceutical-related enforcement	0.00	2.34	
6. Legislative criteria and active use of compulsory licensing	1.00	32. Physical counterfeiting rates	0.41
7. Pharmaceutical patent term restoration	0.00	33. Software piracy rates	0.43
8. Membership of a Patent Prosecution Highway	0.00	34. Civil and procedural remedies	0.25
9. Patent Opposition	0.25	35. Pre-established damages	0.25
Category 2: Copyrights and Limitations		3.28	
10. Term of protection	0.53	36. Criminal standards	0.25
11. Exclusive rights	0.50	37. Effective border measures	0.50
12. Expeditious legal remedies disabling access to infringing content online	0.75	38. Transparency and public reporting by Customs	0.25
13. Cooperative action against online piracy	0.00	Category 8: Systemic Efficiency	
14. Limitations and exceptions	0.50	0.75	
15. TPM and DRM	0.50	39. Coordination of IP rights enforcement	0.00
16. Government use of licensed software	0.50	40. Consultation with stakeholders during IP policy formation	0.25
Category 3: Trademarks Rights and Limitations		2.50	
17. Term of protection	1.00	41. Educational campaigns and awareness raising	0.25
18. Protection of well-known marks	0.50	42. Targeted incentives for the creation and use of IP assets for SMEs	0.25
19. Exclusive rights, trademarks	0.50	43. IP-intensive industries, national economic impact analysis	0.00
20. Frameworks against online sale of counterfeit goods	0.50	Category 9: Cutting-Edge Innovation	
Category 4: Design Rights and Limitations		0.85	
21. Industrial Design Term of Protection	0.60	0.00	
22. Exclusive rights, industrial design rights	0.25	44. IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development	0.00
Category 5: Trade Secrets and the Protection of Confidential Information		0.50	
23. Protection of trade secrets (Civil Remedies)	0.25	45. IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development, term of protection	0.00
24. Protection of trade secrets (Criminal Sanctions)	0.25	46. Restrictions on the effective use of existing IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development	0.00
25. Regulatory data protection term	0.00	Category 10: Membership and Ratification of International Treaties	
Category 6: Commercialization of IP Assets		0.50	
26. Barriers to market access	0.00	0.00	
27. Barriers to technology transfer	0.50	47. WIPO Internet Treaties	0.00
28. Registration and disclosure requirements of licensing deals	0.50	48. Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks and Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks	0.00
		49. Patent Law Treaty and Patent Cooperation Treaty	0.50
		50. Membership of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, act of 1991	0.00
		51. Membership of the Convention on Cybercrime, 2001	0.00
		52. The Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs	0.00
		53. Post-TRIPS FTA	0.00

Total Score: 15.72

Spotlight on the National IP Environment

Past Editions versus Current Score

Kuwait's overall score has increased from 15.47 out of 53 indicators in the 13th edition to 15.72. This reflects a score increase on indicator 42.

Systemic Efficiency

42. Targeted Incentives for the creation and use of IP assets for SMEs:

Kuwait has historically not had an abundance of educational campaigns, awareness-raising activities, or IP incentives for SMEs. The Kuwaiti Society for the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (KIPA), a publicly sanctioned body, together with the National Library, is the main governmental body responsible for IP awareness-raising activities. Over the years, both have organized several awareness-raising events and workshops on the importance of IP rights. Still, these have not been part of a more systematic Government campaign targeting small businesses. Similarly, neither Kuwaiti IP authorities nor the GCC Patent Office have offered SMEs any reduced fees for registering trademark or patent applications. The number of specific technical support programs provided to SMEs by the Kuwaiti IP authorities has always been low. This may now be changing.

In the last few years, organizations have increased both general IP awareness initiatives and specific programs that provide technical support for SMEs. Although it has existed since 2011, the Kuwait-based Intellectual Property Training Center (part of the GCC) has expanded its activities beyond internal training programs for GCC and Member State IP office staff to include larger events and public initiatives, including for small businesses. For example, in early 2025, the Center organized a seminar and workshop on IP and AI.

It co-hosted a public lecture with Kuwait University on the centrality of IP rights to the GCC. In July, the Ministry of Education announced that, together with the Center, it would increase awareness-raising activities in public education about the socio-economic importance of IP rights.

As noted in previous editions of the Index, the growth and development of SMEs and IP-based industries are key parts of the *New Kuwait 2035 Vision* national development plan. One of the seven pillars of the plan includes the development of thousands of new small businesses. Central to these efforts is a dedicated government agency, the Kuwait National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development. The Fund has primarily focused on enabling access to finance and launching new businesses, while also supporting and sponsoring specific IP training programs over the past year. For example, in late 2024, the Fund sponsored Kuwaiti small-business participation in the Intellectual Property Entrepreneurship Program in Saudi Arabia. Kuwait is also part of the latest IP Management Clinic Program for small businesses, kicked off at the Arab SMEs Summit in late 2024, with the operational phase taking place throughout 2025. The Program has been developed and coordinated by WIPO and the UN's Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. As a result of this positive activity, the score on this indicator increased by 0.25.