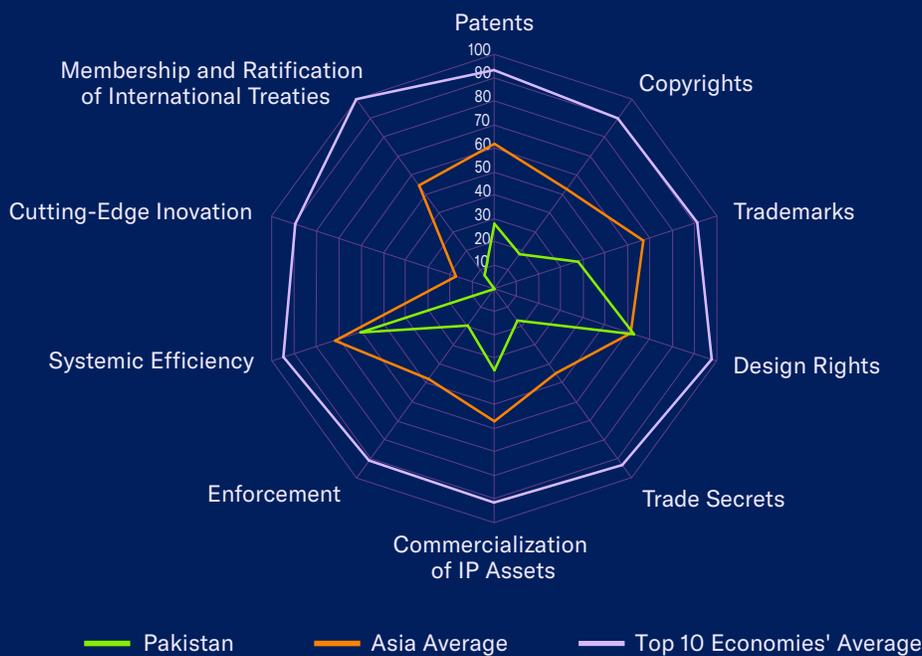




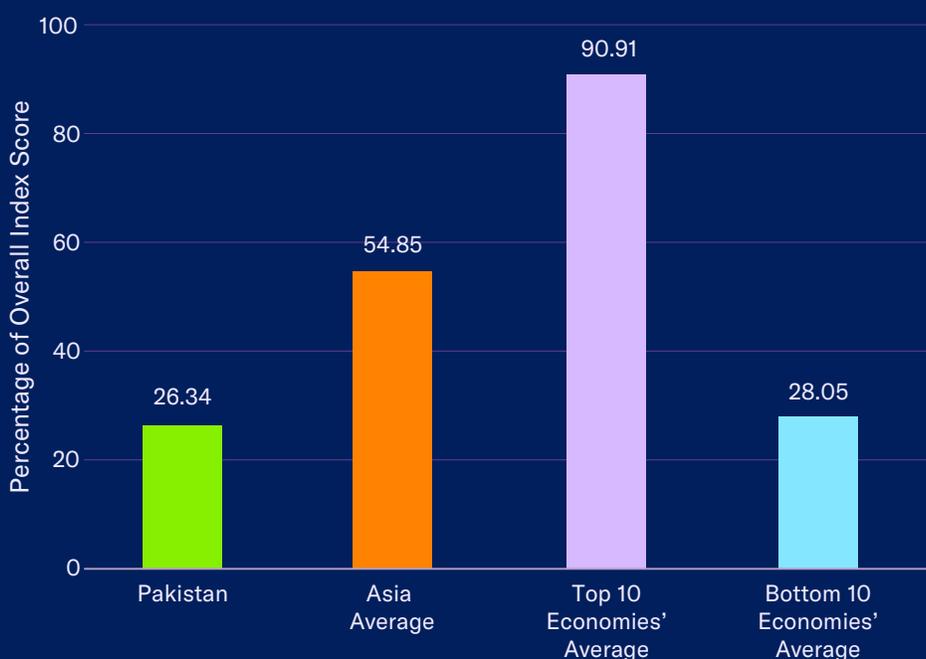
Pakistan

Rank
52/55

Category Scores



Overall Score in Comparison





Key Areas of Strength

- Acceded to Madrid Protocol in 2021
- Basic IP laws and legal framework in place
- Specialized IP courts and capacity building introduced in 2015
- Greater efforts at public education, modernization of IP laws, and enhancing coordination among enforcement agencies

Key Areas of Weakness

- No special IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development
- Limited sector specific IP protections available
- Significant discrepancy between IP rights in law and level of practical enforcement
- Enforcement often arbitrary and non-deterrent, though efforts to improve are underway
- High counterfeiting and piracy rates; latest BSA estimates put software piracy at 83%
- Punitive changes to the Patent Ordinance under consideration would exclude protections for CII and new form biopharmaceuticals

Indicator	Score	Indicator	Score
Category 1: Patents Rights and Limitations	2.50	29. Direct Government intervention in setting licensing terms	0.25
1. Term of protection	1.00	30. IP as an economic asset	0.50
2. Patentability requirements	0.25	31. Tax incentives for the creation of IP assets	0.33
3. Patentability of CII	0.25	Category 7: Enforcement	1.35
4. Plant variety protection	1.00	32. Physical counterfeiting rates	0.18
5. Pharmaceutical-related enforcement	0.00	33. Software piracy rates	0.17
6. Legislative criteria and active use of compulsory licensing	0.00	34. Civil and procedural remedies	0.25
7. Pharmaceutical patent term restoration	0.00	35. Pre-established damages	0.00
8. Membership of a Patent Prosecution Highway	0.00	36. Criminal standards	0.25
9. Patent Opposition	0.00	37. Effective border measures	0.50
Category 2: Copyrights and Limitations	1.28	38. Transparency and public reporting by Customs	0.00
10. Term of protection	0.53	Category 8: Systemic Efficiency	3.00
11. Exclusive rights	0.25	39. Coordination of IP rights enforcement	0.75
12. Expeditious legal remedies disabling access to infringing content online	0.00	40. Consultation with stakeholders during IP policy formation	0.50
13. Cooperative action against online piracy	0.00	41. Educational campaigns and awareness raising	1.00
14. Limitations and exceptions	0.25	42. Targeted incentives for the creation and use of IP assets for SMEs	0.50
15. TPM and DRM	0.00	43. IP-intensive industries, national economic impact analysis	0.25
16. Government use of licensed software	0.25	Category 9: Cutting-Edge Innovation	0.00
Category 3: Trademarks Rights and Limitations	1.50	44. IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development	0.00
17. Term of protection	1.00	45. IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development, term of protection	0.00
18. Protection of well-known marks	0.25	46. Restrictions on the effective use of existing IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development	0.00
19. Exclusive rights, trademarks	0.25	Category 10: Membership and Ratification of International Treaties	0.50
20. Frameworks against online sale of counterfeit goods	0.00	47. WIPO Internet Treaties	0.00
Category 4: Design Rights and Limitations	1.25	48. Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks and Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks	0.50
21. Industrial Design Term of Protection	1.00	49. Patent Law Treaty and Patent Cooperation Treaty	0.00
22. Exclusive rights, industrial design rights	0.25	50. Membership of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, act of 1991	0.00
Category 5: Trade Secrets and the Protection of Confidential Information	0.50	51. Membership of the Convention on Cybercrime, 2001	0.00
23. Protection of trade secrets (Civil Remedies)	0.25	52. The Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs	0.00
24. Protection of trade secrets (Criminal Sanctions)	0.25	53. Post-TRIPS FTA	0.00
25. Regulatory data protection term	0.00		
Category 6: Commercialization of IP Assets	2.08		
26. Barriers to market access	0.25		
27. Barriers to technology transfer	0.25		
28. Registration and disclosure requirements of licensing deals	0.50		

Total Score: 13.96

Spotlight on the National IP Environment

Past Editions versus Current Score

Pakistan's overall score has increased from 13.71 out of 53 indicators in the 13th edition to 13.96. This reflects a score increase on indicator 42.

Patent Rights and Limitations

2. Patentability requirements; and 3. Patentability of computer-implemented inventions (CIIs):

The Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan, IPO-Pakistan, is in the process of proposing new amendments to the Patent Ordinance with several draft changes published in 2022 and late 2023. These proposed amendments make substantive changes to Pakistan's patent regime, including with respect to patentable subject matter. As noted throughout the Index, patentability standards in Pakistan have historically stood outside international norms, particularly for high-tech fields such as computer software and biopharmaceuticals.

The proposed draft amendments to Section 7 of the Patent Ordinance seek to further restrict, or even eliminate, the patentability of computer-implemented inventions (CIIs) and biopharmaceutical innovations. Under the current statute, CIIs are not excluded, allowing for the possibility of obtaining patent protection. However, the new amendments explicitly exclude "computer programs" from the definition of inventions. Given the fact that computer software and CIIs are at the heart of virtually all socio-economic activity, from desktop PCs to smartphones, to artificial intelligence, to the Internet of Things, it is hard to see how eliminating patent eligibility for computer programs will help drive investment and resources into developing new digital and ICT-based technologies in Pakistan.

Similarly, a new Subsection (7(4)(f)) relating to biopharmaceutical inventions would eliminate the patentability of a "new form or new property of a known substance which does not result in the enhancement of the known efficacy of that substance." This subsection appears to aim to restrict the eligibility for incremental biopharmaceutical innovation, including changes to form and the application of a known substance. This is a curious change to Pakistan's patent law, as incremental innovation is an essential part of the biopharmaceutical R&D process. Should these amendments be enacted into law, the scores for indicators 2 and 3 will decrease.

9. Patent opposition:

As noted last year, the 2022 proposed amendments to the Patent Ordinance published by IPO-Pakistan would eliminate Section 23 and the pre-grant opposition system. Under the existing patent statute, an inter partes opposition system is in place that can be triggered within four months of an application's publication. Unfortunately, the updated draft amendments published in 2023 have retained the pre-grant opposition system. If adopted in their current form, amendments to the Patent Ordinance would result in no change to the score, with this indicator remaining at 0.

Copyrights and Limitations; Enforcement

15. Technological protection measures (TPM) and digital rights management (DRM) legislation; and 36. Criminal standards including minimum imprisonment and minimum fines:

IPO-Pakistan is also drafting amendments to the Copyright Ordinance, with proposed changes published in 2022 and late 2023. As noted throughout the Index, Pakistan's Copyright Ordinance provides a basic legal framework that remains underdeveloped and ill-suited to the challenges of the internet era.

Levels of copyright piracy and counterfeit goods remain high as relevant enforcement mechanisms are weak and non-deterrent. The proposed amendments do not include a notice-and-takedown system for online piracy or an injunctive relief option that allows rights holders to directly request the disabling of access to infringing content through a court of law or an administrative mechanism. However, the amendments include new provisions relating to TPM and DRM. Until now, there have been no legal definitions or provisions in Pakistan's copyright law relating to the use of circumvention devices or to the overriding or disabling of TPMs or DRMs.

Some provisions of the Cyber Crime Act and the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act could be applied to copyright. Still, they are broad and not defined or structured to apply to circumvention devices or copyright infringement. New Sections 56A and 56B of the Copyright Ordinance would remedy this by providing legal definitions and remedies for violations of TPMs and DRMs. As the IPO-Pakistan and Pakistani legislature work on these amendments, these new provisions must extend not only to the use of circumvention devices but also to the manufacture, offering for sale, distribution, and importation of such devices.

Another positive feature of the draft amendments is the increase in criminal penalties. Specifically, draft Sections 66A-70A and 70B provide higher minimum sentences and tougher penalties for repeat offenders. Should these amendments be enacted into law, the scores on indicators 15 and 36 could increase.

Systemic Efficiency

39. Coordination of IP rights enforcement efforts: In 2025, IPO-Pakistan published the draft regulation "Intellectual Property (Enforcement & Coordination) Rules." The Rules largely codify existing coordination practices and largely mirror the IPO's "Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines for IPR Infringement Complaints." Pakistan has established central and regional IPR Enforcement Coordination Committees, as mentioned in the Index.

Since 2006, these committees have operated in Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore. By 2025, the country expanded this initiative to include several more regions, raising the total to 12 operational committees. The committees are led by the IPO and include several government departments and agencies, such as the District Police, the Federal Investigative Agency, Pakistan Customs, the Judiciary, and the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority. The committees, which meet at least annually, also include several private sector organizations. The committees reportedly focus on increasing police raids and court convictions as well as improving awareness of the importance of IP protection (with the IPO leading this effort).

Still, as noted in previous editions of the Index, rights holders in Pakistan face a challenging enforcement environment. The Index will monitor the extent to which the codification of existing enforcement coordination practices helps improve the overall IP enforcement environment in Pakistan in 2026.

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

Pakistan has historically lacked IP incentives targeting SMEs. The IPO has not provided SMEs with any reduced filing fees for IP registration, and there have been no fast-track IP registration and/or examination initiatives or targeted technical assistance programs. This may now be changing. Together with WIPO, IPO-Pakistan launched two new initiatives in 2025: IP for Business Success and the Inventor Assistance Program. Both programs specifically seek to help businesses (primarily SMEs and individuals) identify, register, and commercialize their IP assets. Developed by WIPO and the World Economic Forum (WEF) and first launched globally in 2016, the Inventor Assistance Program seeks to match inventors with legal practitioners who provide pro bono legal advice on the technical evaluation and registration of the IP they create. As a result of this positive activity, the score on this indicator increased by 0.25.