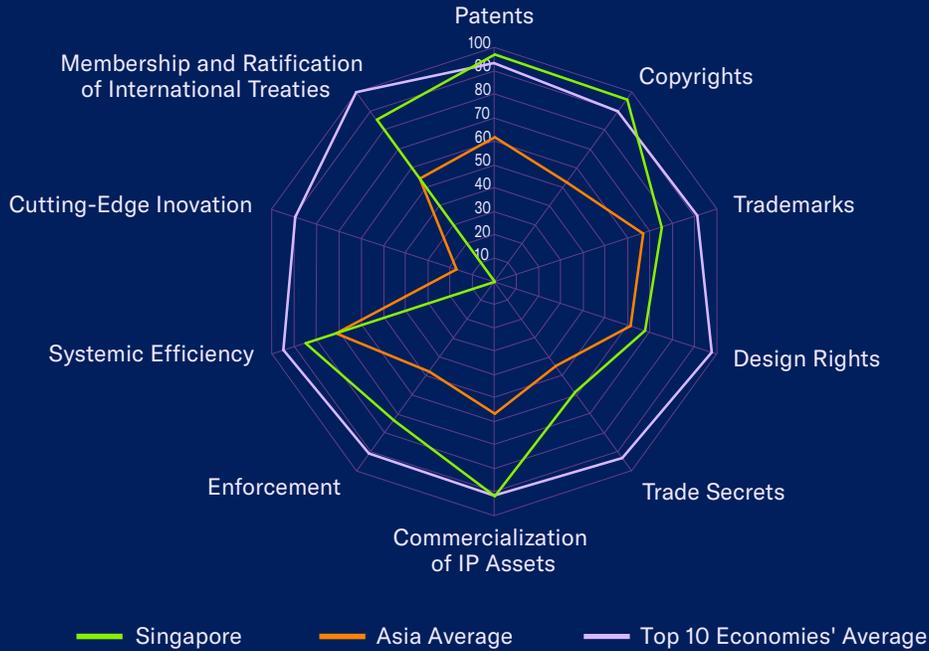




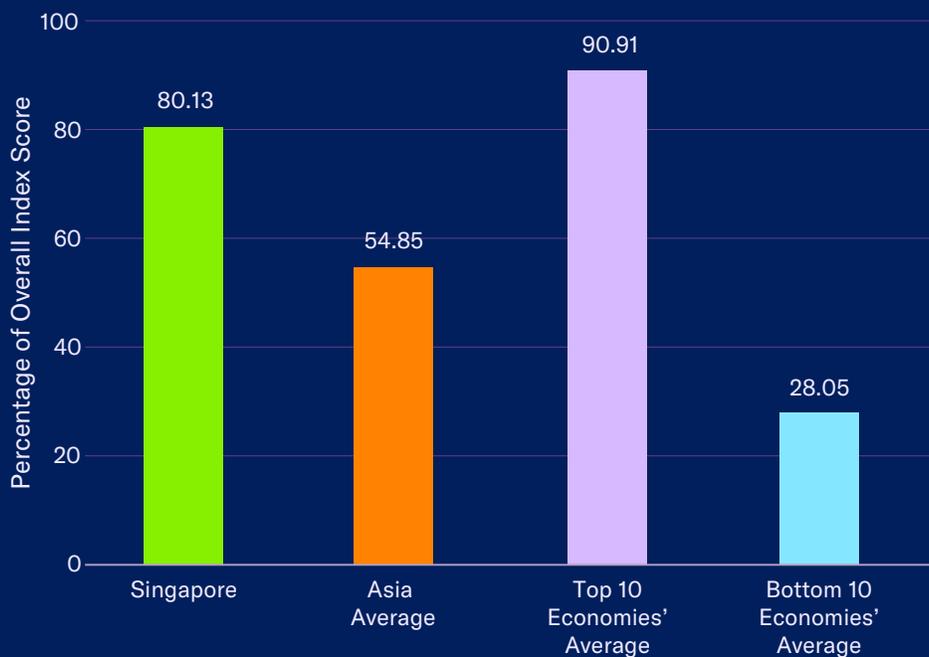
Singapore

Rank
13/55

Category Scores



Overall Score in Comparison





Singapore

Rank
13/55

Key Areas of Strength

- 2021 Copyright Act contains substantial liability provisions relating to sale and distribution of set-top boxes
- R&D and IP tax incentives scheme implemented in 2019
- Advanced national IP framework in place
- Global leader on online copyright enforcement
- Singapore is an active participant in efforts to accelerate patent prosecution; IPOS has several PPHs in place and is a member of the GPPH

Key Areas of Weakness

- No special IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development
- 2021 Copyright Act expanded existing copyright exceptions regime
- Estimated software piracy has decreased from 35% in 2009 to 27% today – but still high for developed high-income economy
- Lack of transparency and data on customs seizures of IP infringing goods

Indicator	Score	Indicator	Score
Category 1: Patents Rights and Limitations		8.75	
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	1.00	5.13	
6. Legislative criteria and active use of compulsory licensing	1.00	32. Physical counterfeiting rates	0.65
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	1.00
9. Patent Opposition	0.75	35. Pre-established damages	1.00
Category 2: Copyrights and Limitations		36. Criminal standards	0.75
6.74		37. Effective border measures	0.75
10. Term of protection	0.74	38. Transparency and public reporting by Customs	0.25
11. Exclusive rights	1.00	Category 8: Systemic Efficiency	
12. Expeditious legal remedies disabling access to infringing content online	1.00	4.25	
13. Cooperative action against online piracy	1.00	39. Coordination of IP rights enforcement	1.00
14. Limitations and exceptions	1.00	40. Consultation with stakeholders during IP policy formation	1.00
15. TPM and DRM	1.00	41. Educational campaigns and awareness raising	1.00
16. Government use of licensed software	1.00	42. Targeted incentives for the creation and use of IP assets for SMEs	0.50
Category 3: Trademarks Rights and Limitations		43. IP-intensive industries, national economic impact analysis	0.75
3.00		Category 9: Cutting-Edge Innovation	
17. Term of protection	1.00	0.00	
18. Protection of well-known marks	1.00	44. IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development	0.00
19. Exclusive rights, trademarks	0.75	45. IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development, term of protection	0.00
20. Frameworks against online sale of counterfeit goods	0.25	46. Restrictions on the effective use of existing IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development	0.00
Category 4: Design Rights and Limitations		Category 10: Membership and Ratification of International Treaties	
1.35		6.00	
21. Industrial Design Term of Protection	0.60	47. WIPO Internet Treaties	1.00
22. Exclusive rights, industrial design rights	0.75	48. Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks and Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks	1.00
Category 5: Trade Secrets and the Protection of Confidential Information		49. Patent Law Treaty and Patent Cooperation Treaty	1.00
1.75		50. Membership of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, act of 1991	1.00
23. Protection of trade secrets (Civil Remedies)	1.00	51. Membership of the Convention on Cybercrime, 2001	0.00
24. Protection of trade secrets (Criminal Sanctions)	0.25	52. The Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs	1.00
25. Regulatory data protection term	0.50	53. Post-TRIPS FTA	1.00
Category 6: Commercialization of IP Assets		Category 9: Cutting-Edge Innovation	
5.50		0.00	
26. Barriers to market access	1.00	Category 10: Membership and Ratification of International Treaties	
27. Barriers to technology transfer	1.00	6.00	
28. Registration and disclosure requirements of licensing deals	0.75	Category 9: Cutting-Edge Innovation	
Category 6: Commercialization of IP Assets		0.00	
5.50		Category 10: Membership and Ratification of International Treaties	
Category 6: Commercialization of IP Assets		6.00	
5.50		6.00	

Total Score: 42.47

Spotlight on the National IP Environment

Past Editions versus Current Score

Singapore's overall score has increased from 42.46 out of 53 indicators in the 13th edition to 42.47. This reflects a score increase on indicator 32.

Copyrights and Limitations

14. Scope of limitations and exceptions to copyrights and related rights; and 15. Technological protection measures (TPM) and digital rights management (DRM) legislation:

As noted in last year's Index, in 2024, the Ministry of Law and the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) held a public consultation on changes to copyright exceptions and limitations relating to TPM and DRM. Specifically, IPOS and the Ministry were seeking comments on the extent to which: i) current TPM and DRM exceptions were adequate and should remain in place; and ii) whether a new set of TPM and DRM exceptions should be introduced.

2021 amendments to the Copyright Act included significant changes to Singapore's copyright exceptions regime, including for TPM and DRM. Conceptually, the new Act shifted the regime from a 'fair dealing' framework to a 'fair use' framework. As noted in the Index at the time, a new Section 204 broadened existing educational exceptions to include digital materials found online. Under the amended law, educational institutions and students can generally use all materials found online without seeking explicit permission from the rights holder.

Given the vast quantity of information available online — much of it made available without rights holders' permission or knowledge — there is a risk that this expanded exception is enabling the use of infringing materials. The Act did include some limitations on the exception. For instance, under Subsection 204(2)(g), if users are made aware that the material is infringing, there is a clearly defined obligation to cease using the material and take reasonable steps to prevent its further dissemination to the public. Likewise, under Subsection 204(2)(f), there is an indirect access control measure, in that work accessed over the Internet can only be circulated through a network operated by or through an educational institution, and whose access is limited to staff and students.

Still, as the Index pointed out, it remains unclear how effective these limitations are. The 2021 amendments also clarified the extent to which text and data mining are allowed for research purposes. Text and data mining are important areas of future economic activity, as advances in computational power, AI, and machine learning enable scientific breakthroughs and innovation through the analysis of large volumes of data.

Like similar exceptions introduced in other jurisdictions — including the European Union's Directive 2019/790 on Copyright and Related Rights in the Digital Single Market (CDSM Directive) — under Section 244(2)(d) of the Act, copying or communicating for computational analysis can only be carried out on works that have been lawfully obtained or accessed. But given the existing dynamics of the Internet and the volume of infringing content available online, it is essential that safeguards be adhered to, and that rights holders can appropriately enforce their rights.

As noted in last year's Index, it was not clear from the proposed amendments that this safeguard would be retained. Specifically, the consultation sought "feedback on whether the prohibition on circumventing access control measures has impaired or adversely affected, or is likely to impair or adversely affect, any dealings with copyright works or protected performances that would be non-infringing based on a permitted use in Annex B." The most notable exception listed in Annex B relates to Part 5, Division 8 of the Copyright Act, that is, "Permitted use of copyright works and protected performances for computational data analysis."

Following completion of the consultation, the Ministry and IPOS issued a statement claiming that there would be no changes to existing exceptions relating to computational data analysis or, more broadly, to the current TPM and DRM regime. The Index will continue to monitor these developments in 2026.