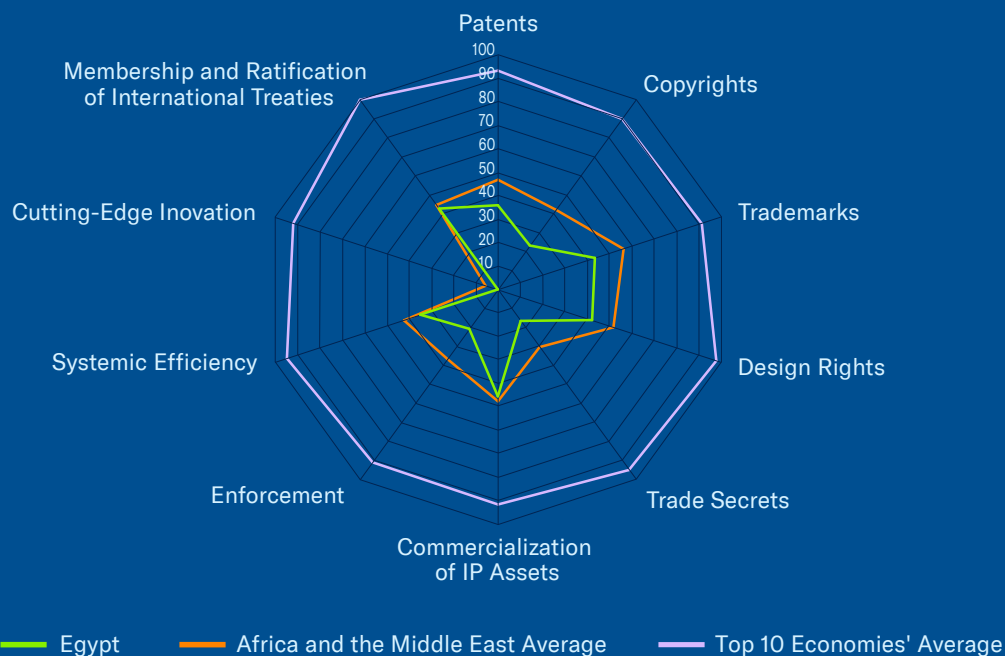




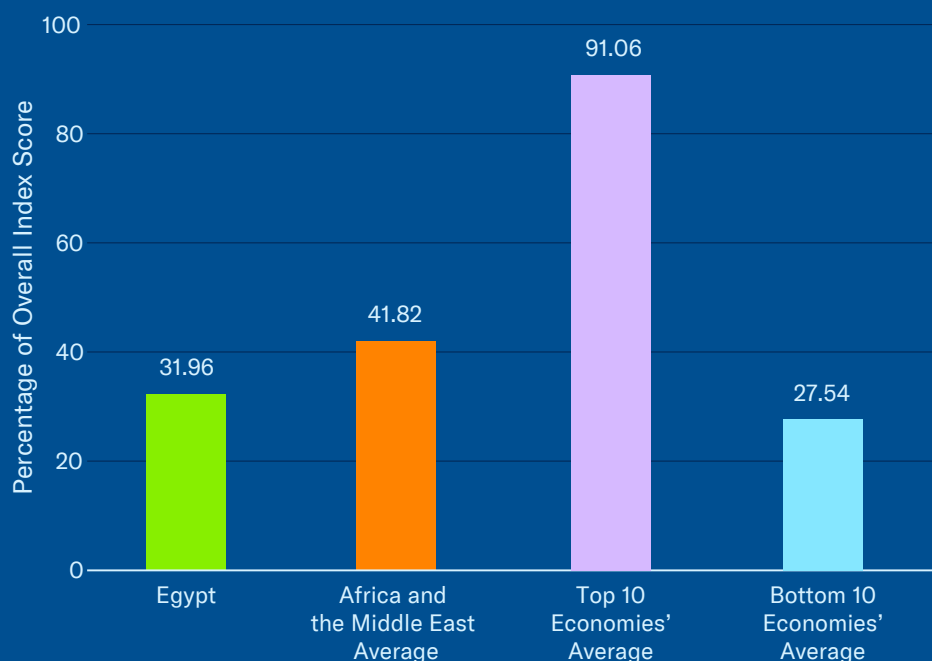
Egypt

Rank
48/55

Category Scores



Overall Score in Comparison





Egypt

Rank
48/55

Key Areas of Strength

- 2023 saw increased copyright enforcement
- Member of the 1991 UPOV agreement
- Since 2015, a PPH has been in place with the JPO
- Relative freedom to patent CIIIs and support from government agencies
- Relatively strong push from the government to raise awareness of counterfeit products, particularly medicines

Key Areas of Weakness

- No special IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development
- 2020 data protection law will potentially impose new localization requirements
- 2020 compulsory license decree and establishment of new Ministerial Committee with expansive powers to override IP rights
- Limited framework for the protection of life sciences IP rights
- Gaps exist in copyright law and framework, particularly with regard to the protection of online content
- High levels of piracy; BSA estimated a 59% software piracy rate
- Challenging enforcement environment and lack of border measures

Indicator	Score	Indicator	Score
Category 1: Patents Rights and Limitations		Category 7: Enforcement	
1. Term of protection	1.00	29. Direct government intervention in setting licensing terms	0.50
2. Patentability requirements	0.25	30. IP as an economic asset	0.50
3. Patentability of CII	0.50	31. Tax incentives for the creation of IP assets	0.00
4. Plant variety protection	1.00		
5. Pharmaceutical-related enforcement	0.00	32. Physical counterfeiting rates	0.30
6. Legislative criteria and use of compulsory licensing	0.00	33. Software piracy rates	0.41
7. Pharmaceutical patent term restoration	0.00	34. Civil and precedural remedies	0.25
8. Membership of a Patent Prosecution Highway	0.50	35. Pre-established damages	0.00
9. Patent opposition	0.00	36. Criminal standards	0.50
		37. Effective border measures	0.00
Category 2: Copyrights and Limitations		38. Transparency and public reporting by customs	0.00
10. Term of protection	0.38		
11. Exclusive rights	0.25	Category 8: Systemic Efficiency	
12. Expeditious legal remedies disabling access to infringing content online	0.25	39. Coordination of IP rights enforcement	0.50
13. Cooperative action against online piracy	0.00	40. Consultation with stakeholders during IP policy formation	0.25
14. Limitations and exceptions	0.50	41. Educational campaigns and awareness raising	0.25
15. TPM and DRM	0.25	42. Targeted incentives for the creation and use of IP assets for SMEs	0.50
16. Government use of licensed software	0.00	43. IP-intensive industries, national economic impact analysis	0.25
Category 3: Trademarks Rights and Limitations			
17. Term of protection	1.00	Category 9: Cutting-Edge Innovation	
18. Protection of well-known marks	0.25	44. IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development	0.00
19. Exclusive rights, trademarks	0.25	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			
21. Industrial design term of protection	0.60	Category 10: Membership and Ratification of International Treaties	
22. Exclusive rights, industrial design rights	0.25		
Category 5: Trade Secrets and the Protection of Confidential Information		47. WIPO Internet Treaties	0.00
23. Protection of trade secrets (civil remedies)	0.25	48. Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks and Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks	0.50
24. Protection of trade secrets (criminal sanctions)	0.25	49. Patent Law Treaty and Patent Cooperation Treaty	0.50
25. Regulatory data protection term	0.00	50. Membership of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, act of 1991	1.00
Category 6: Commercialization of IP Assets		51. Membership of the Convention on Cybercrime, 2001	0.00
26. Barriers to market access	0.75	52. The Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs	1.00
27. Barriers to technology transfer	0.50	53. Post-TRIPS FTA	0.00
28. Registration and disclosure requirements of licensing deals	0.50		

Percentage of Overall Score: 31.96%

• Total Score: 16.94

Spotlight on the National IP Environment

Past Editions versus Current Score

Egypt's overall Index score has increased from 16.93 out of 50 indicators in the twelfth edition to 16.94 out of 53 indicators. This reflects a score increase for indicator 32.

Area of Note

As noted last year, in a positive development, the government established the Egyptian Intellectual Property Authority (EIPA). The launch of the EIPA constitutes an important part of Egypt's realization of its *National Intellectual Property Strategy*, which was introduced in 2022. As a long-term vision for reforming Egypt's national IP environment, the strategy intends to overhaul the existing legal framework. As noted over the course of the Index, the bulk of Egypt's IP laws are over 20 years old and largely mirror commitments made under the WTO TRIPS Agreement. Consequently, this legal system largely predates globalization and the advent of the knowledge-based economy.

Egypt's national IP environment lacks many fundamental IP rights and incentives. Patentability standards continue to be outside of international norms, especially for biopharmaceuticals and CII; the protection of copyright remains underdeveloped and ill-suited to the challenges of the internet era; and levels of physical and online counterfeit goods remain high, but relevant enforcement mechanisms are weak and nondeterrent. Rightsholders also face basic challenges with respect to technology transfer, licensing the use of IP assets, and the commercialization of IP assets.

Since 2015, the Index has included a *Statistical Annex* that investigates a series of correlations of the relationship between the strength of national IP environments, as measured by the Index scores, and different types of economic activity, including rates of R&D spending, innovation, technology creation, and creativity. As the economic data and analysis of the *Statistical Annex* and the experiences of other economies strongly suggest, IP rights and incentives are the fundamental building blocks for innovation and advanced economic development to take place. For all economies—emerging and developed alike—what drives innovation, technological advances, and economic development and growth is the creation of new forms of intangible assets and IP. Covering 53 indicators across 10 separate categories, the Index has for a decade provided a clear model for the type and strength of IP rights that international innovators, creators, and rightsholders need to be able to fully develop and commercialize their ideas and products. As the EIPA and Egyptian Government pursue a program of national IP rights reforms, they are encouraged to use the Index findings and accompanying *Statistical Annex* as a guide in 2025 and beyond.

Patent Rights and Limitations

5. Pharmaceutical-related patent enforcement and resolution mechanism:

As noted over the course of the Index, no mechanism links the market authorization of a follow-on biopharmaceutical product with the exclusivity status of the registered reference product. Industry reports suggest that, over the past decade, several follow-on products have been granted market authorization by the health authorities even though the reference product has been under patent protection.

Judicial enforcement is difficult because Egypt's court system is overburdened. Litigation in Egypt is common and largely paper based, which has resulted in a large backlog of cases and court proceedings progressing slowly; it can take years to reach a verdict. Egypt is ranked low on international indices pertaining to the ability to seek legal judicial redress. For example, in the 2019 edition of the World Bank's *Doing Business* report, Egypt ranked 160th in the category "Enforcing Contracts" and 101st for "Resolving Insolvency." It took, on average, 1,010 days to enforce a contract—over 2.5 years—and at a cost of over 25% of the claim value. This has remained unchanged for the past 15 years. Given the difficulties in enforcing IP rights through the Egyptian court system, the lack of a linkage mechanism means rightsholders have limited ability to protect and defend their IP from infringement. This issue remained unresolved in 2024.

6. Legislative criteria and use of compulsory licensing of patented products and technologies: In 2020, Decree 251/2020 was issued establishing a new Ministerial Committee with the authority to override any existing IP rights and issue compulsory licenses. It remains unclear why this committee was established and what purpose it continues to serve. TRIPS Article 31, the amendments introduced in the 2001 Doha Ministerial Declaration, and the subsequent General Council decision allowing the export of medicines produced under a compulsory license (outlined in Paragraph 6) form the legal grounds for compulsory licensing for medicines. The chairman's statement accompanying the General Council decision (concerning Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration) underscores that these provisions are not in any way intended for industrial or commercial objectives, and, if used, it is expected that they would be aimed solely at protecting public health. In addition, Article 31 and the Doha Declaration suggest that compulsory licensing represents a "measure of last resort" to be used only after all other options for negotiating pricing and supply have been exhausted. The Index will continue to monitor these developments.

Copyrights and Limitations; and Enforcement

12. Expeditious legal remedies disabling access to infringing content online; and 36. Criminal standards, including minimum imprisonment and minimum fines:

As noted over the past two editions, Egyptian authorities have together with an international rightsholders' coalition—the Alliance for Creativity and Entertainment—successfully and in a sustained fashion begun to tackle the entrenched levels of copyright infringement. Access to several notable websites streaming pirated content throughout the region have been disabled, domain names have been seized, and arrests have been made. Rightsholders have historically faced significant challenges in protecting their content in Egypt. The existing legal copyright framework has major gaps, and enforcement remains inadequate. As a result of this greater enforcement activity, Egypt's score for indicators 12 and 36 increased in last year's Index. These positive efforts have continued over the past year. In late 2023, access to the website CIMACLUB was disabled. CIMACLUB was a central distribution point across the Middle East and North Africa) region of copyright-infringing content in Arabic. Similarly, the "Cima4U" portal was shut down a few months later in early 2024. These successful efforts were, again, the result of the strong cooperation between local Egyptian law enforcement and rightsholders acting through the Alliance for Creativity and Entertainment. Although the scale of copyright infringement means that challenges remain, Egypt is becoming an example of what can be achieved when the public and private sectors join forces and work together. The Index will continue to monitor these developments in 2025.

Incentives for Cutting-Edge Innovation

44. Special market exclusivity incentives for orphan medicinal product development; 45. Special market exclusivity incentives for orphan medicinal product development, term of protection; and 46. Restrictions on the effective use of existing market exclusivity incentives for orphan medicinal product development:

Interest in rare diseases has grown in Egypt. Although no specific legislative framework is in place (including with respect to R&D and IP-based market exclusivity incentives for orphan medicinal product development), the Egyptian Government announced in 2024 that patients with rare diseases would have access to a special emergency medical fund to cover medical treatment. Furthermore, the past few years have seen a growing research interest from Egyptian academic institutions in investigating the prevalence of rare diseases in Egypt, with hundreds of research papers published over the past few years.