



Australia

The Network Readiness Index (NRI) is one of the leading global indices on the application and impact of information and communication technology (ICT) in economies around the world. In its latest version of 2023 the NRI Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 134 economies based on their performances in four different pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact. Each of these pillars is itself comprised of three sub-pillars (see Figure 1) that have been populated by a total of 58 variables.

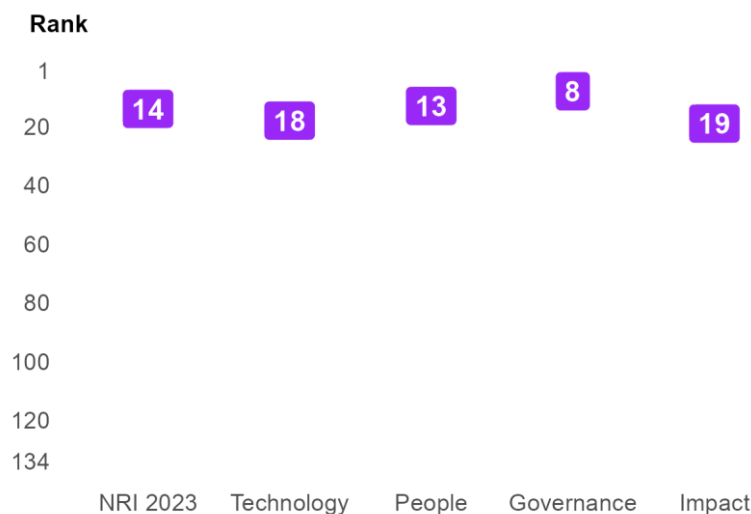
Figure 1: The NRI 2023 model



Global NRI position of Australia

Australia ranks 14th out of the 134 economies included in the NRI 2023 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to Governance. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Impact.

Figure 2: Australia global ranking, overall and by pillar



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Performance at sub-pillar level

When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Australia relate to Inclusion, Trust and Regulation, among others (Table 1). More could be done, though, to improve the economy's performances in the Economy, Individuals and Future Technologies sub-pillars.

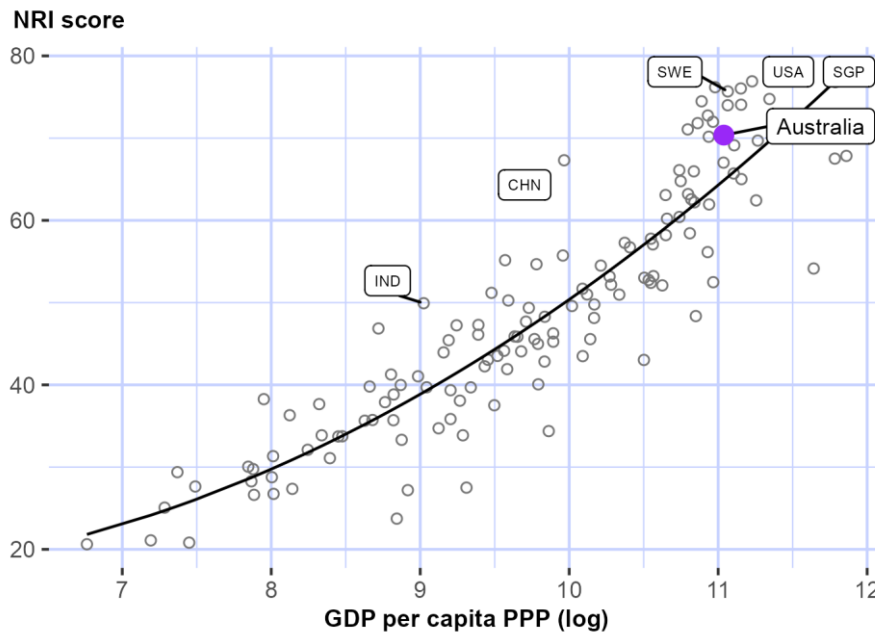
Table 1: Australia rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Inclusion	7	SDG Contribution	15
Trust	8	Businesses	17
Regulation	9	Quality of Life	19
Access	10	Economy	23
Content	12	Individuals	28
Governments	13	Future Technologies	36

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Australia in terms of both NRI score and GDP per capita (PPP). The trend line shows the expected NRI score given an economy's income level. As can be seen, Australia is well above the trend line, which suggests that it has a greater network readiness than would be expected given its income level.

Figure 3: NRI score and GDP per capita PPP (log)



Note: USA = United States (rank: 1), SGP = Singapore (rank: 2), FIN = Finland (3), NLD = Netherlands (4), SWE = Sweden (5), CHN = China (20), IND = India (61). Australia belongs to the group of high-income countries, where the best performer is United States of America (USA). The top performer of its region-Asia & Pacific-is Singapore (SGP).

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Performance against its income group and region

High-income countries

Australia is ranked 14th in the group of high-income countries (Figure 4, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a score higher than the income group average in each of the four pillars. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in eleven of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Content, Individuals, Businesses, Governments, Trust, Regulation, Inclusion, Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

Asia & Pacific

Australia is ranked 4th within Asia & Pacific (Figure 4, right panel). It outperforms its region in each of the four pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it has a higher score than the regional average in each of the twelve sub-pillars.

Figure 4: Performance of Australia against its income group and region, overall and by pillar

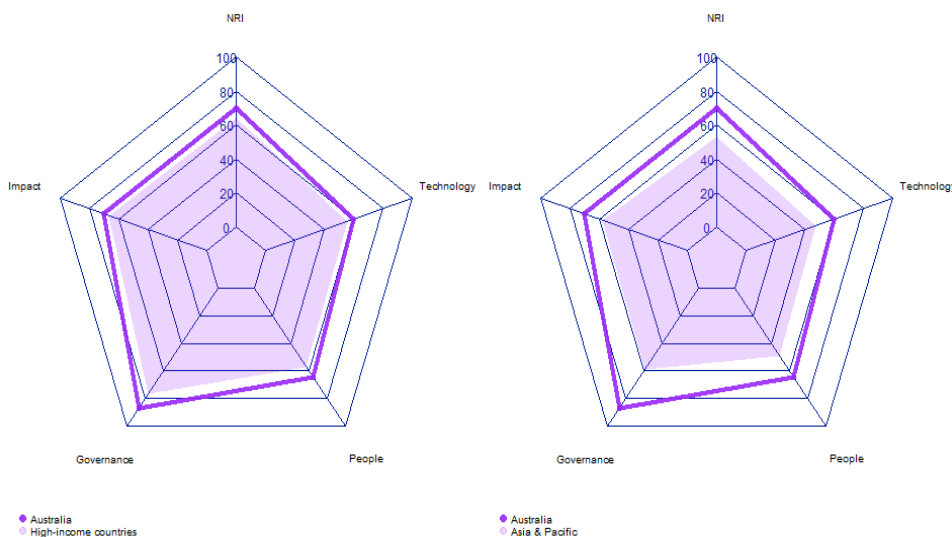


Table 2: Australia scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Australia	High-income countries	Asia & Pacific
NRI	70.36	64.07	53.28
Technology	59.97	55.76	47.34
People	64.37	56.99	48.95
Governance	86.88	76.81	59.22
Impact	70.23	66.73	57.62

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Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where Australia performs particularly well include 1.1.6 Internet access in schools, 3.2.4 E-commerce legislation, and 3.3.1 E-Participation (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include 4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, 4.1.6 ICT services exports, and 1.3.4 Computer software spending.

Table 3: Highlight of Strengths and Opportunities for Australia

Strongest indicators	Rank	Weakest indicators	Rank
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	1	2.1.6 AI talent concentration	28
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	1.3.4 Computer software spending	67
3.3.1 E-Participation	2	4.1.6 ICT services exports	75
2.1.4 Tertiary enrollment	3	4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	78
2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	3		
3.2.1 Regulatory quality	4		
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	4		
1.1.2 Handset prices	6		
3.1.4 Internet shopping	6		
2.3.1 Government online services	7		
2.2.3 Knowledge intensive employment	8		
3.3.3 Availability of local online content	9		

Note: For the full list of strengths and weaknesses, see At-A-Glance table.

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NRI 2023 At-A-Glance: Australia

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Rank: 14 (out of 134)

Score: 70.36

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	18	59.97	C. Governance pillar	8	86.88
1st sub-pillar: Access	10	80.05	1st sub-pillar: Trust	8	87.66
2nd sub-pillar: Content	12	55.08	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	9	88.04
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	36	44.78	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	7	84.96
B. People pillar	13	64.37	D. Impact pillar	19	70.23
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	28	55.68	1st sub-pillar: Economy	23	43.75
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	17	68.66	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	19	82.09
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	13	68.78	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	15	84.86

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	18	59.97	C. Governance pillar	8	86.88
1st sub-pillar: Access	10	80.05	1st sub-pillar: Trust	8	87.66
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	32	78.25	3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	18	84.53
1.1.2 Handset prices	6	91.51	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	17	97.43
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	46	35.94	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	11	79.37
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	50	99.84	3.1.4 Internet shopping	6	89.30
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	47	74.75	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	9	88.04
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	1	100.00	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	4	91.14
2nd sub-pillar: Content	12	55.08	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	11	94.71
1.2.1 GitHub commits	23	51.26	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	22	74.29
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	10	68.89	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	37	72.73	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	33	80.07
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	17	27.44	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	7	84.96
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	36	44.78	3.3.1 E-Participation	2	98.83
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	15	82.33	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	20	96.29
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	24	65.75	3.3.3 Availability of local online content	9	93.03

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Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
1.3.3 Robot density	27	10.74	3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	41	69.85
1.3.4 Computer software spending	67	20.28	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	56	66.79
B. People pillar			D. Impact pillar		
<i>1st sub-pillar: Individuals</i>			<i>1st sub-pillar: Economy</i>		
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	29	28.69	4.1.1 High-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing	49	30.35
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	10	82.28	4.1.2 High-tech exports	17	40.37
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	28	76.54	4.1.3 PCT patent applications	27	31.51
2.1.4 Tertiary enrollment	3	75.24	4.1.4 Domestic market size	19	71.62
2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	NA	NA	4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	12	78.20
2.1.6 AI talent concentration	28	15.67	4.1.6 ICT services exports	75	10.47
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Businesses</i>			<i>2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life</i>		
2.2.1 Firms with website	18	81.87	4.2.1 Happiness	12	87.09
2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	NA	NA	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	50	79.76
2.2.3 Knowledge intensive employment	8	79.39	4.2.3 Income inequality	45	72.11
2.2.4 Annual investment in telecommunication services	12	89.85	4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	22	89.42
2.2.5 GERD performed by business enterprise	24	23.52	<i>3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution</i>		
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Governments</i>			4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	4	96.39
2.3.1 Government online services	7	93.15	4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	20	67.32
2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	3	98.53	4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	20	95.58
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging tech	37	51.21	4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	78	68.71
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	21	32.24	4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	9	96.29

NOTE: ● a strength and ○ a weakness.

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