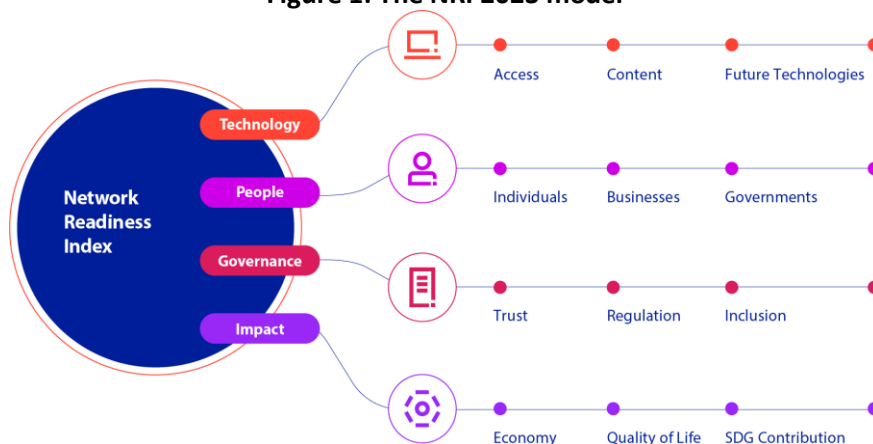


Costa Rica

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.

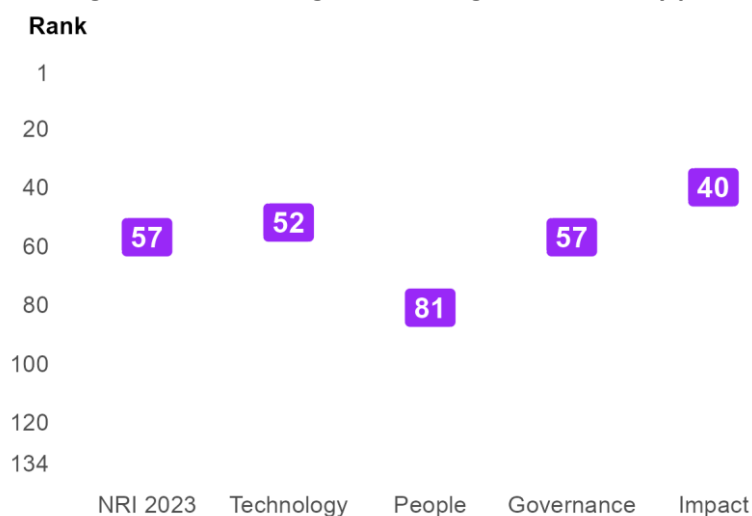
Figure 1: The NRI 2023 model



Global NRI position of Costa Rica

Costa Rica ranks 57th out of the 134 economies included in the NRI 2023 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to Impact. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns People.

Figure 2: Costa Rica global ranking, overall and by pillar



Performance at sub-pillar level

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

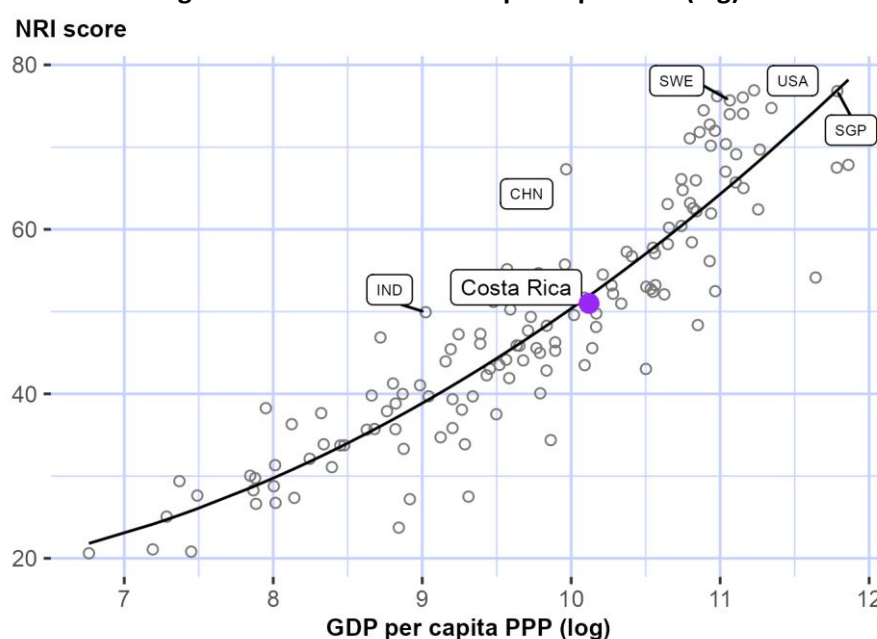
Table 1: Costa Rica rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Individuals	30	Access	60
Future Technologies	34	Trust	65
Regulation	35	Inclusion	73
SDG Contribution	40	Content	79
Quality of Life	43	Governments	80
Economy	57	Businesses	113

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Costa Rica 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, Costa Rica is slightly below the trend line, which suggests that its network readiness is more or less in line with what 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). Costa Rica belongs to the group of upper-middle-income countries, where the best performer is China (CHN). The top performer of its region-The Americas-is United States of America (USA).



Performance against its income group and region

Upper-middle-income countries

Costa Rica is ranked 9th in the group of upper-middle-income countries (Figure 4, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a score higher than the income group average in three of the four pillars: NRI, Technology, Governance and Impact. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms upper-middle-income countries in eight of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Future Technologies, Individuals, Trust, Regulation, Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

The Americas

Costa Rica is ranked 6th within The Americas (Figure 4, right panel). It has a score above the regional average in three of the four pillars: NRI, Technology, Governance and Impact. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in The Americas in nine of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Future Technologies, Individuals, Trust, Regulation, Inclusion, Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

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

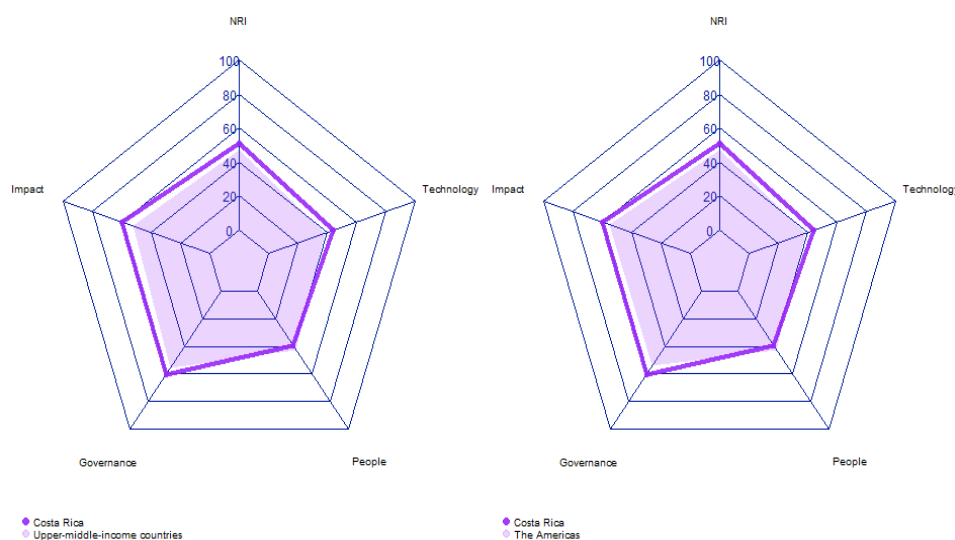


Table 2: Costa Rica scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Costa Rica	Upper-middle-income countries	The Americas
NRI	50.99	47.35	47.41
Technology	44.22	38.48	38.24
People	39.51	42.59	42.35
Governance	60.30	55.90	54.12
Impact	59.96	52.43	54.93

Network Readiness Index 2023



Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where Costa Rica performs particularly well include 3.2.4 E-commerce legislation, 4.2.1 Happiness, and 4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include 4.2.3 Income inequality, 1.2.4 AI scientific publications, and 2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise.

Table 3: Highlight of Strengths and Opportunities for Costa Rica

Strongest indicators	Rank	Weakest indicators	Rank
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	56
4.2.1 Happiness	9	4.1.1 High-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing	81
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	9	2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	85
4.1.6 ICT services exports	14	1.2.4 AI scientific publications	101
3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	20	4.2.3 Income inequality	105
4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	20		
3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	28		
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	31		
1.3.4 Computer software spending	32		
4.1.2 High-tech exports	33		
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	34		

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

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NRI 2023 At-A-Glance: Costa Rica

Network Readiness Index

Rank: 57 (out of 134)

Score: 50.99

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	52	44.22	C. Governance pillar	57	60.30
1st sub-pillar: Access	60	66.96	1st sub-pillar: Trust	65	44.95
2nd sub-pillar: Content	79	19.97	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	35	76.62
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	34	45.72	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	73	59.32
B. People pillar	81	39.51	D. Impact pillar	40	59.96
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	30	54.91	1st sub-pillar: Economy	57	31.51
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	113	28.76	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	43	74.78
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	80	34.85	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	40	73.58

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	52	44.22	C. Governance pillar	57	60.30
<i>1st sub-pillar: Access</i>	60	66.96	<i>1st sub-pillar: Trust</i>	65	44.95
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	67	60.90	3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	62	57.29
1.1.2 Handset prices	53	55.88	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	83	66.88
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	74	25.77	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	64	29.47
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	98	97.96	3.1.4 Internet shopping	62	26.18
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	46	74.98	<i>2nd sub-pillar: Regulation</i>	35	76.62
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	38	86.29	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	47	59.91
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Content</i>	79	19.97	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	28	90.59
1.2.1 GitHub commits	51	11.69	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	43	57.14
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	52	6.48	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	84	60.56	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	39	75.44
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	101	1.15	<i>3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion</i>	73	59.32
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies</i>	34	45.72	3.3.1 E-Participation	66	54.65
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	43	57.76	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	93	55.92
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	48	48.25	3.3.3 Availability of local online content	65	60.34

Network Readiness Index 2023



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Indicator	Rank	Score		Indicator	Rank	Score	
1.3.3 Robot density	NA	NA		3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	20	73.15	●
1.3.4 Computer software spending	32	31.13	●	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	87	52.52	
B. People pillar				D. Impact pillar			
<i>1st sub-pillar: Individuals</i>	30	54.91		<i>1st sub-pillar: Economy</i>	57	31.51	
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	84	5.19		4.1.1 High-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing	81	14.48	○
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	35	65.53		4.1.2 High-tech exports	33	28.20	●
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	48	69.40		4.1.3 PCT patent applications	83	0.95	
2.1.4 Tertiary enrollment	55	37.09		4.1.4 Domestic market size	82	46.91	
2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	31	97.32		4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	52	45.64	
2.1.6 AI talent concentration	NA	NA		4.1.6 ICT services exports	14	52.89	●
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Businesses</i>	113	28.76		<i>2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life</i>	43	74.78	
2.2.1 Firms with website	NA	NA		4.2.1 Happiness	9	87.87	●
2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	85	2.85	○	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	20	89.12	●
2.2.3 Knowledge intensive employment	69	30.35		4.2.3 Income inequality	105	35.93	○
2.2.4 Annual investment in telecommunication services	63	78.18		4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	31	86.20	●
2.2.5 GERD performed by business enterprise	57	3.68		<i>3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution</i>	40	73.58	
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Governments</i>	80	34.85		4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	38	81.78	
2.3.1 Government online services	70	64.77		4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	56	32.95	○
2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	49	33.82		4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	34	88.50	●
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging tech	74	34.29		4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	9	84.83	●
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	69	6.51		4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	37	79.86	

NOTE: ● a strength and ○ a weakness.



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