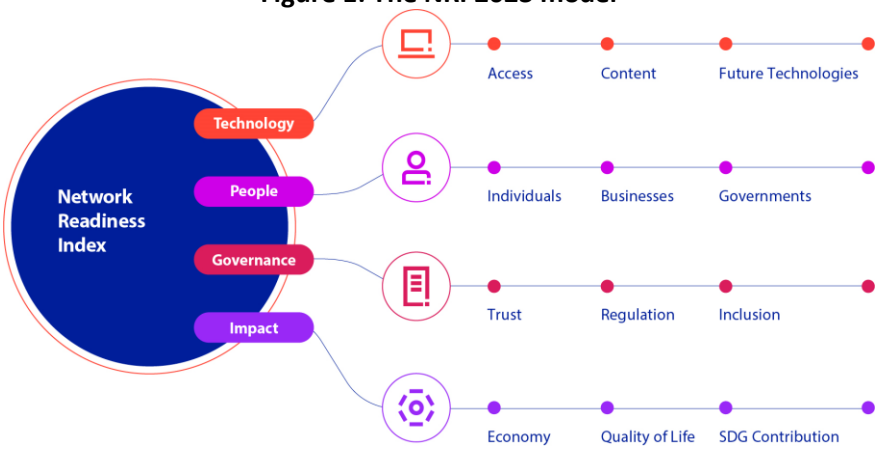
Kuwait

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.

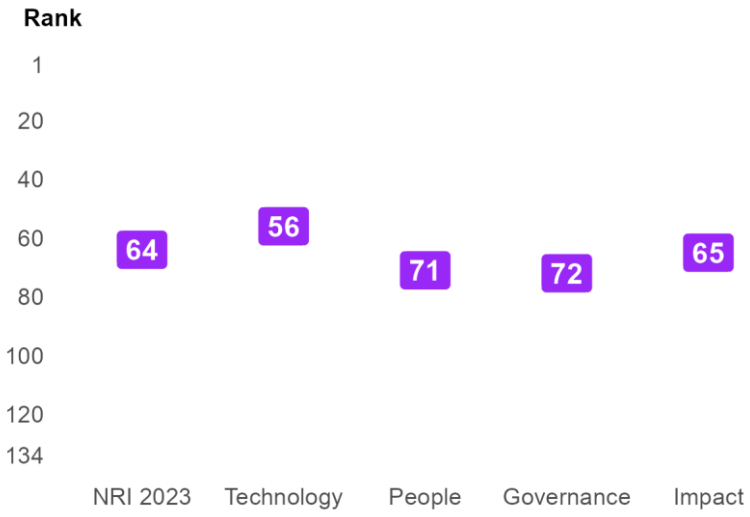
Figure 1: The NRI 2023 model



Global NRI position of Kuwait

Kuwait ranks 64th out of the 134 economies included in the NRI 2023 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to Technology. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Governance.

Figure 2: Kuwait global ranking, overall and by pillar



Performance at sub-pillar level

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

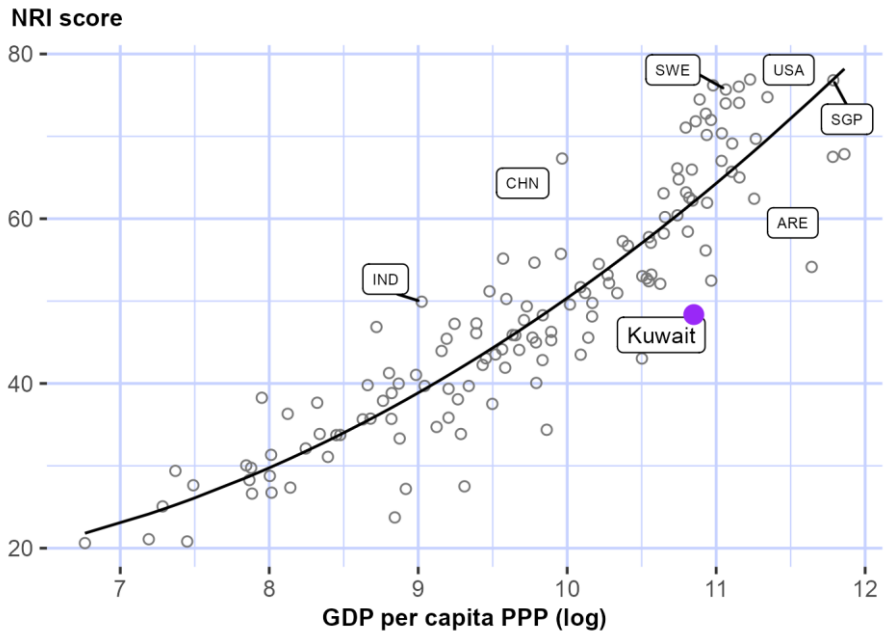
Table 1: Kuwait rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Quality of Life	30	Governments	74
Individuals	33	Regulation	80
Future Technologies	38	Inclusion	81
Access	54	Businesses	89
Economy	56	Content	90
Trust	67	SDG Contribution	110

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Kuwait 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, Kuwait is well below the trend line, which suggests that it is underachieving and that one would expect it could raise its network readiness in view of 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). Kuwait belongs to the group of high-income countries, where the best performer is United States of America (USA). The top performer of its region-Arab States-is United Arab Emirates (ARE).

Performance against its income group and region

High-income countries

Kuwait is ranked 47th in the group of high-income countries (Figure 4, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a score below the income group average in each of the four pillars. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in one of the twelve sub-pillars: Individuals.

Arab States

Kuwait is ranked 6th within Arab States (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 Arab States in eight of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Future Technologies, Individuals, Governments, Trust, Regulation, Economy and Quality of Life.

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

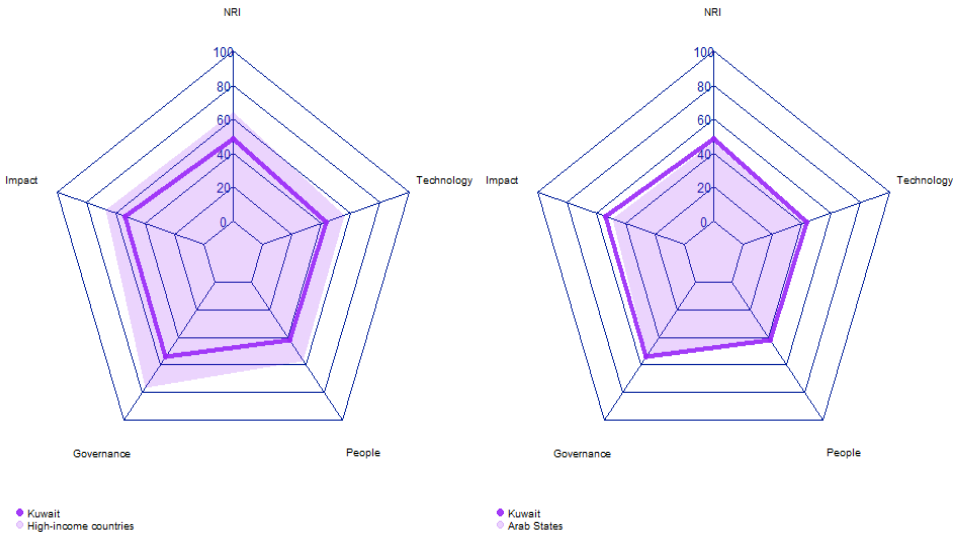


Table 2: Kuwait scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Kuwait	High-income countries	Arab States
NRI	48.36	64.07	46.59
Technology	43.14	55.76	41.17
People	42.27	56.99	42.66
Governance	54.17	76.81	53.45
Impact	53.86	66.73	49.08

Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where Kuwait performs particularly well include 1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network, 1.1.6 Internet access in schools, and 3.2.4 E-commerce legislation (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include 4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity, 3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments, and 1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions.

Table 3: Highlight of Strengths and Opportunities for Kuwait

Strongest indicators	Rank	Weakest indicators	Rank
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	1	2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	92
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	1	4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	115
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	117
4.1.6 ICT services exports	10	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	124
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	19	4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	132
1.3.4 Computer software spending	24		
3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	25		
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	27		
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	29		
1.1.2 Handset prices	39		
4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	41		

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

NRI 2023 At-A-Glance: Kuwait

Network Readiness Index Rank: 64 (out of 134) Score: 48.36

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	56	43.14
1st sub-pillar: Access	54	68.59
2nd sub-pillar: Content	90	18.08
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	38	42.76
B. People pillar	71	42.27
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	33	54.27
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	89	36.46
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	74	36.08

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
C. Governance pillar	72	54.17
1st sub-pillar: Trust	67	44.83
2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	80	62.07
3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	81	55.61
D. Impact pillar	65	53.86
1st sub-pillar: Economy	56	31.68
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	30	79.47
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	110	50.43

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	
A. Technology pillar	56	43.14	
1st sub-pillar: Access	54	68.59	
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	54	67.95	
1.1.2 Handset prices	39	65.55	●
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	117	5.16	○
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	1	100.00	●
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	59	72.86	
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	1	100.00	●
2nd sub-pillar: Content	90	18.08	
1.2.1 GitHub commits	101	1.95	
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	65	4.07	
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	67	65.32	
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	104	0.99	
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	38	42.76	
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	77	42.95	
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	57	42.50	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
C. Governance pillar	72	54.17	
1st sub-pillar: Trust	67	44.83	
3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	77	47.92	
3.1.2 Cybersecurity	73	74.63	
3.1.3 Online access to financial account	55	34.02	
3.1.4 Internet shopping	64	22.76	
2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	80	62.07	
3.2.1 Regulatory quality	61	53.55	
3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	95	69.41	
3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	76	39.22	
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00	●
3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	101	48.18	
3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	81	55.61	
3.3.1 E-Participation	67	53.49	
3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	64	76.49	
3.3.3 Availability of local online content	48	68.51	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
1.3.3 Robot density	NA	NA	
1.3.4 Computer software spending	24	42.84	●
B. People pillar	71	42.27	
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	33	54.27	
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	27	30.26	●
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	89	28.91	
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	19	79.18	●
2.1.4 Tertiary enrollment	53	37.85	
2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	41	95.16	
2.1.6 AI talent concentration	NA	NA	
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	89	36.46	
2.2.1 Firms with website	NA	NA	
2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	92	1.18	○
2.2.3 Knowledge intensive employment	63	32.42	
2.2.4 Annual investment in telecommunication services	81	75.79	
2.2.5 GERD performed by business enterprise	NA	NA	
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	74	36.08	
2.3.1 Government online services	66	66.55	
2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	NA	NA	
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging tech	62	38.52	
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	91	3.18	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	25	72.04	●
3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	124	7.53	○
D. Impact pillar	65	53.86	
1st sub-pillar: Economy	56	31.68	
4.1.1 High-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing	61	24.80	
4.1.2 High-tech exports	107	2.20	
4.1.3 PCT patent applications	89	0.67	
4.1.4 Domestic market size	63	53.32	
4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	46	53.20	
4.1.6 ICT services exports	10	55.91	●
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	30	79.47	
4.2.1 Happiness	48	69.82	
4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	41	82.00	●
4.2.3 Income inequality	NA	NA	
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	29	86.58	●
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	110	50.43	
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	73	67.63	
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	NA	NA	
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	132	7.96	○
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	115	50.72	○
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	49	75.41	

NOTE: ● a strength and ○ a weakness.

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