



## Sri Lanka

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.

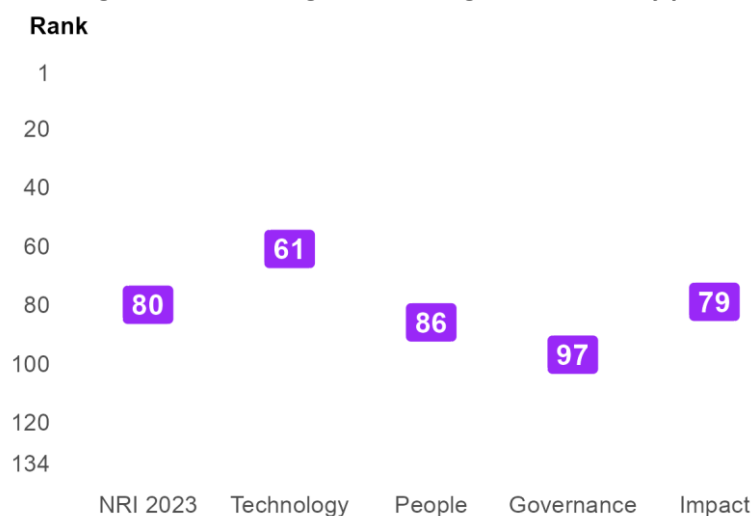
Figure 1: The NRI 2023 model



### Global NRI position of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka ranks 80th 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: Sri Lanka 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 Sri Lanka relate to Future Technologies, Economy and SDG Contribution, among others (Table 1). More could be done, though, to improve the economy's performances in the Individuals, Trust and Regulation sub-pillars.

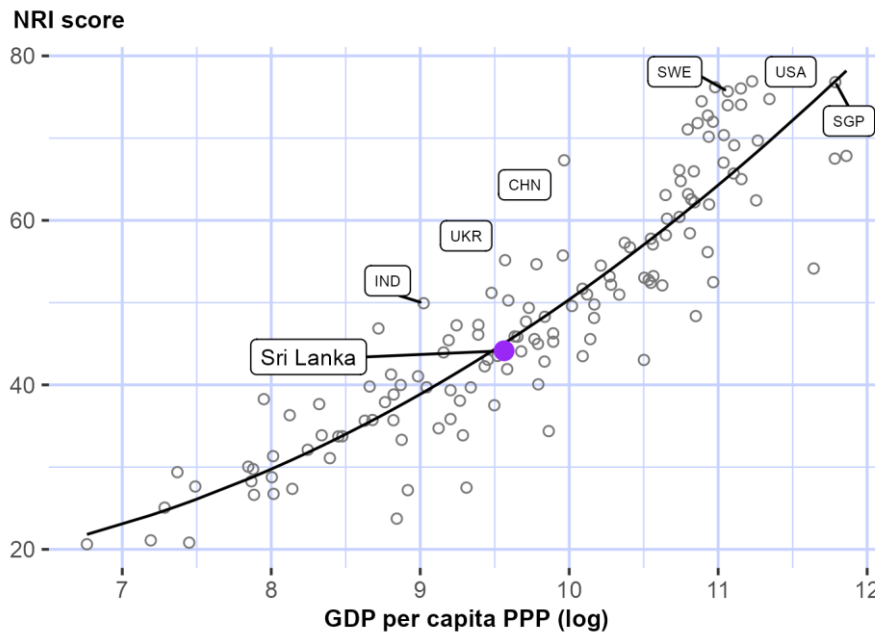
**Table 1: Sri Lanka rankings by sub-pillar**

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Future Technologies	28	Inclusion	85
Economy	64	Access	86
SDG Contribution	68	Quality of Life	94
Content	81	Individuals	95
Businesses	81	Trust	97
Governments	82	Regulation	106

## NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Sri Lanka 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, Sri Lanka 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). Sri Lanka belongs to the group of lower-middle-income countries, where the best performer is Ukraine (UKR). The top performer of its region-Asia & Pacific-is Singapore (SGP).

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## Performance against its income group and region

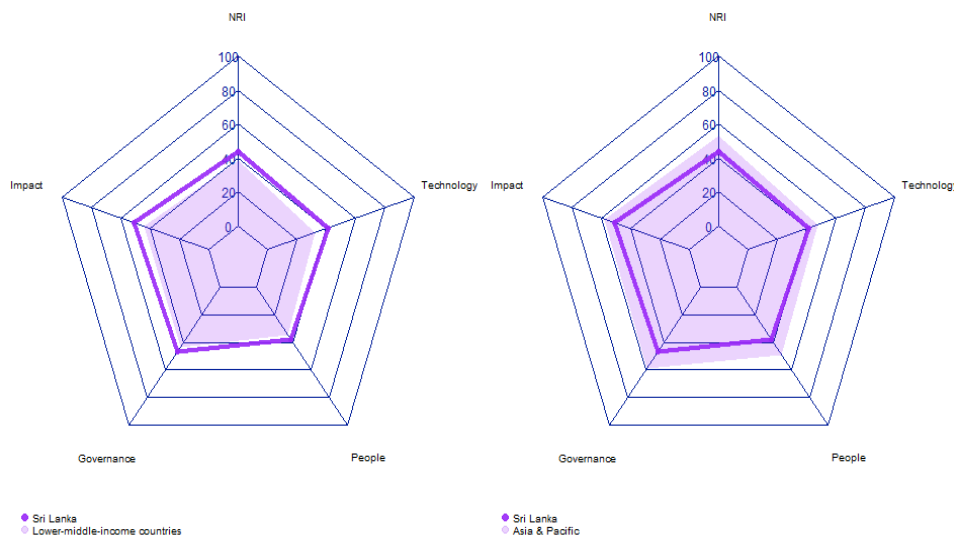
### Lower-middle-income countries

Sri Lanka is ranked 8th in the group of lower-middle-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 lower-middle-income countries in eleven of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Content, Future Technologies, Businesses, Governments, Trust, Regulation, Inclusion, Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

### Asia & Pacific

Sri Lanka is ranked 14th within Asia & Pacific (Figure 4, right panel). It lags behind its region in each of the four pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Asia & Pacific in one of the twelve sub-pillars: Future Technologies.

**Figure 4: Performance of Sri Lanka against its income group and region, overall and by pillar**



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

Dimension	Sri Lanka	Lower-middle-income countries	Asia & Pacific
NRI	44.14	38.41	53.28
Technology	41.41	32.12	47.34
People	37.79	34.38	48.95
Governance	46.71	43.27	59.22
Impact	50.66	43.89	57.62

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## Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where Sri Lanka performs particularly well 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). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include 3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment, 4.2.1 Happiness, and 3.1.3 Online access to financial account.

**Table 3: Highlight of Strengths and Opportunities for Sri Lanka**

Strongest indicators	Rank	Weakest indicators	Rank
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	7	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	87
4.1.6 ICT services exports	13	2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	102
1.3.4 Computer software spending	20	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	111
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	34	4.2.1 Happiness	114
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging technologies	41	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	125
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	42		
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	45		
4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	45		
1.2.1 GitHub commits	50		
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	52		

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

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## NRI 2023 At-A-Glance: Sri Lanka

Network Readiness Index

Rank: 80 (out of 134)

Score: 44.14

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	61	41.41	C. Governance pillar	97	46.71
1st sub-pillar: Access	86	56.34	1st sub-pillar: Trust	97	31.83
2nd sub-pillar: Content	81	19.23	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	106	53.59
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	28	48.65	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	85	54.72
B. People pillar	86	37.79	D. Impact pillar	79	50.66
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	95	38.82	1st sub-pillar: Economy	64	29.33
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	81	40.26	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	94	59.65
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	82	34.28	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	68	63.01

### The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
<b>A. Technology pillar</b>	61	41.41	<b>C. Governance pillar</b>	97	46.71
1st sub-pillar: Access	86	56.34	1st sub-pillar: Trust	97	31.83
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	34	77.25	3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	79	47.48
1.1.2 Handset prices	78	41.33	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	89	57.92
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	56	31.33	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	111	9.76
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	82	99.00	3.1.4 Internet shopping	86	12.17
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	69	70.58	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	106	53.59
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	69	18.57	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	90	41.24
2nd sub-pillar: Content	81	19.23	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	125	55.65
1.2.1 GitHub commits	50	12.21	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	71	42.60
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	99	0.96	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	87	66.67
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	93	57.27	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	73	61.79
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	63	6.48	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	85	54.72
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	28	48.65	3.3.1 E-Participation	95	33.73
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	45	56.01	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	62	77.51
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	71	38.25	3.3.3 Availability of local online content	93	47.12



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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	93	49.14
1.3.4 Computer software spending	20	51.68	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	60	66.10
<b>B. People pillar</b>			<b>D. Impact pillar</b>		
<i>1st sub-pillar: Individuals</i>			<i>1st sub-pillar: Economy</i>		
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	42	17.67	4.1.1 High-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing	93	7.95
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	73	44.13	4.1.2 High-tech exports	112	1.65
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	101	29.52	4.1.3 PCT patent applications	69	2.55
2.1.4 Tertiary enrollment	96	13.13	4.1.4 Domestic market size	58	55.79
2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	59	89.66	4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	45	53.49
2.1.6 AI talent concentration	NA	NA	4.1.6 ICT services exports	13	54.58
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Businesses</i>			<i>2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life</i>		
2.2.1 Firms with website	NA	NA	4.2.1 Happiness	114	32.57
2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	41	49.81	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	84	66.05
2.2.3 Knowledge intensive employment	67	30.93	4.2.3 Income inequality	64	63.57
2.2.4 Annual investment in telecommunication services	57	79.01	4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	52	76.39
2.2.5 GERD performed by business enterprise	70	1.29	<i>3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution</i>		
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Governments</i>			4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	83	63.12
2.3.1 Government online services	88	51.86	4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	NA	NA
2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	NA	NA	4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	117	51.33
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging tech	41	49.02	4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	7	87.28
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	102	1.97	4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	90	50.30

NOTE: ● a strength and ○ a weakness.

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