



## United Arab Emirates

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.

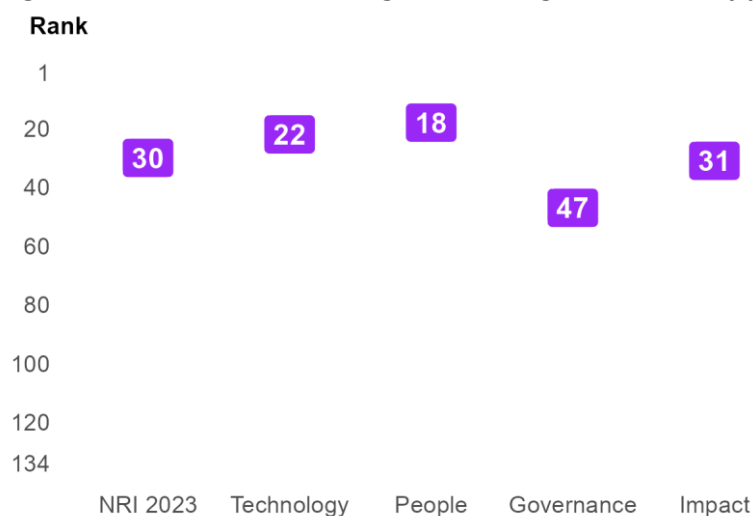
Figure 1: The NRI 2023 model



### Global NRI position of United Arab Emirates

United Arab Emirates ranks 30th out of the 134 economies included in the NRI 2023 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to People. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Governance.

Figure 2: United Arab Emirates 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 United Arab Emirates relate to Access, Individuals and Quality of Life, among others (Table 1). More could be done, though, to improve the economy's performances in the SDG Contribution, Content and Regulation sub-pillars.

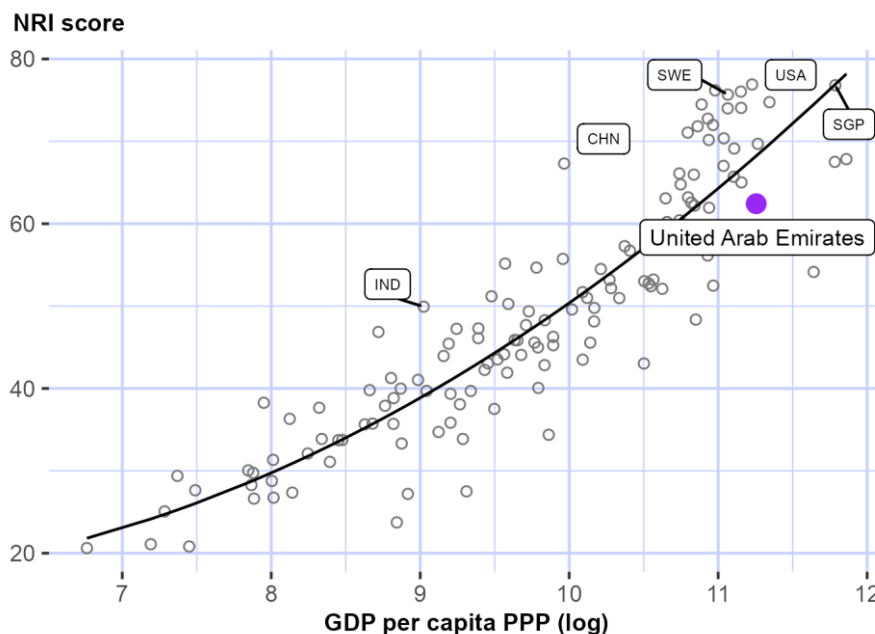
**Table 1: United Arab Emirates rankings by sub-pillar**

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Access	3	Inclusion	31
Individuals	7	Economy	37
Quality of Life	13	Trust	46
Future Technologies	14	SDG Contribution	48
Governments	25	Content	57
Businesses	26	Regulation	74

## NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of United Arab Emirates 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, United Arab Emirates 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). United Arab Emirates 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).

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### Performance against its income group and region

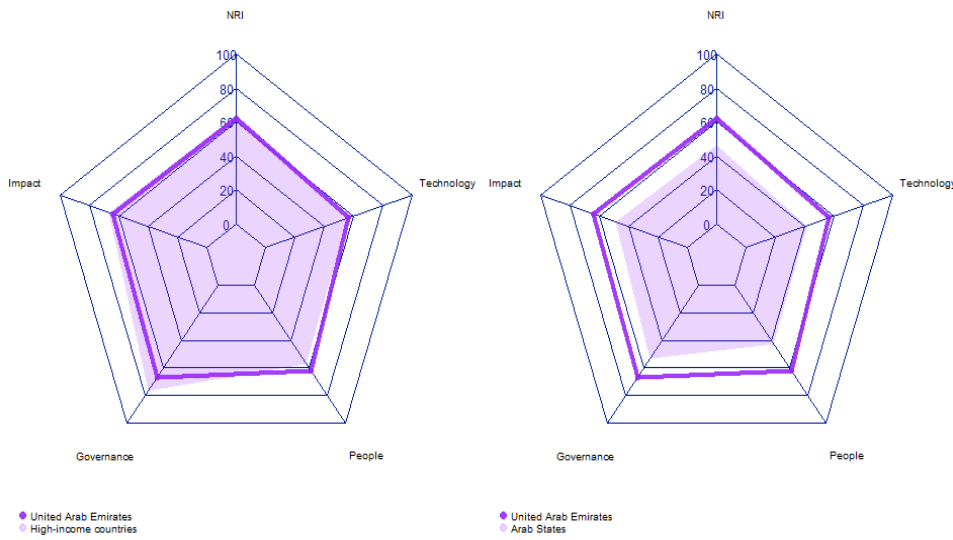
#### High-income countries

United Arab Emirates is ranked 29th 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 two of the four pillars: Technology and People. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in five of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Future Technologies, Individuals, Businesses and Quality of Life.

#### Arab States

United Arab Emirates is ranked 1st within Arab States (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 United Arab Emirates against its income group and region, overall and by pillar**



**Table 2: United Arab Emirates scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar**

Dimension	United Arab Emirates	High-income countries	Arab States
NRI	62.43	64.07	46.59
Technology	56.61	55.76	41.17
People	62.20	56.99	42.66
Governance	66.63	76.81	53.45
Impact	64.26	66.73	49.08

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## Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where United Arab Emirates performs particularly well include 1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network, 1.1.6 Internet access in schools, and 2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include 3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content, 3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments, and 3.2.4 E-commerce legislation.

**Table 3: Highlight of Strengths and Opportunities for United Arab Emirates**

Strongest indicators	Rank	Weakest indicators	Rank
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	1	4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	46
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	1	2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	65
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	1	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	87
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging technologies	4	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	89
1.1.2 Handset prices	5	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	131
2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	5		
4.2.3 Income inequality	5		
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	6		
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	7		
3.1.2 Cybersecurity	8		
3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	9		
4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	10		

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

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## NRI 2023 At-A-Glance: United Arab Emirates

Network Readiness Index

Rank: 30 (out of 134)

Score: 62.43

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	22	56.61	C. Governance pillar	47	66.63
1st sub-pillar: Access	3	84.41	1st sub-pillar: Trust	46	61.08
2nd sub-pillar: Content	57	25.29	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	74	62.99
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	14	60.14	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	31	75.82
B. People pillar	18	62.20	D. Impact pillar	31	64.26
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	7	67.82	1st sub-pillar: Economy	37	36.39
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	26	62.49	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	13	85.05
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	25	56.30	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	48	71.34

### The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
<b>A. Technology pillar</b>	22	56.61	<b>C. Governance pillar</b>	47	66.63
<i>1st sub-pillar: Access</i>	3	84.41	<i>1st sub-pillar: Trust</i>	46	61.08
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	7	91.70	• 3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	60	58.34
1.1.2 Handset prices	5	91.79	• 3.1.2 Cybersecurity	8	98.03
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	39	38.60	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	23	59.16
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	1	100.00	• 3.1.4 Internet shopping	59	28.78
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	15	84.34	<i>2nd sub-pillar: Regulation</i>	74	62.99
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	1	100.00	• 3.2.1 Regulatory quality	30	72.50
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Content</i>	57	25.29	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	74	80.00
1.2.1 GitHub commits	53	11.02	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	9	82.08
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	42	10.55	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	87	66.67
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	15	76.85	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	131	13.70
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	79	2.76	<i>3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion</i>	31	75.82
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies</i>	14	60.14	3.3.1 E-Participation	18	77.91
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	17	78.00	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	32	91.47
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	10	79.50	3.3.3 Availability of local online content	21	85.82

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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	26	71.55
1.3.4 Computer software spending	60	22.93	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	89	52.36 ○
<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	36	21.21	4.1.1 High-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing	41	35.76
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	6	84.93 ●	4.1.2 High-tech exports	56	16.00
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	1	100.00 ●	4.1.3 PCT patent applications	54	5.27
2.1.4 Tertiary enrollment	60	35.49	4.1.4 Domestic market size	33	64.96
2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	29	97.44	4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	11	79.94
2.1.6 AI talent concentration	NA	NA	4.1.6 ICT services exports	59	16.43
<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	20	81.56
2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	5	91.89 ●	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	10	92.83 ●
2.2.3 Knowledge intensive employment	41	52.74	4.2.3 Income inequality	5	92.96 ●
2.2.4 Annual investment in telecommunication services	28	85.04	4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	65	72.86
2.2.5 GERD performed by business enterprise	33	20.28	<i>3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution</i>		
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Governments</i>			4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	39	81.16
2.3.1 Government online services	12	89.10	4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	46	40.56 ○
2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	65	25.00 ○	4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	71	75.22
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging tech	4	84.34 ●	4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	80	68.28
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	26	26.77	4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	19	91.50

NOTE: ● a strength and ○ a weakness.

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