Viet Nam

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.
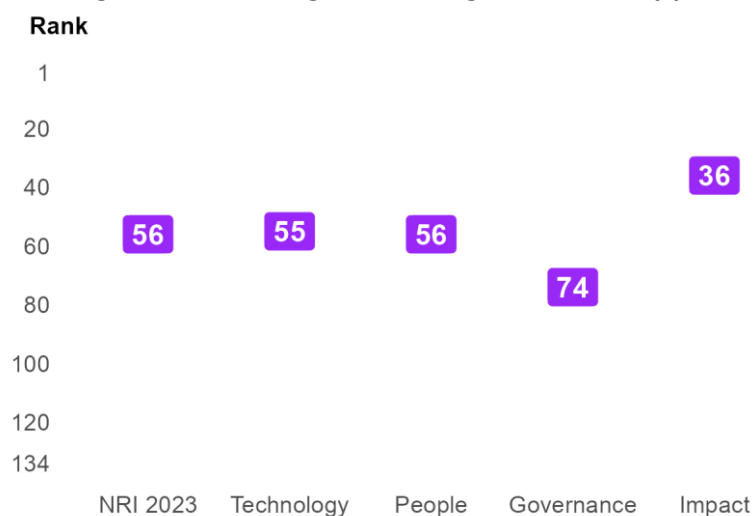
Figure 1: The NRI 2023 model

Global NRI position of Viet Nam

Viet Nam ranks 56th 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 Governance.

Figure 2: Viet Nam global ranking, overall and by pillar

Performance at sub-pillar level

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

Table 1: Viet Nam rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Individuals	16	SDG Contribution	60
Economy	27	Businesses	67
Access	31	Governments	81
Quality of Life	36	Future Technologies	85
Content	51	Inclusion	92
Trust	57	Regulation	94

NRI score and income

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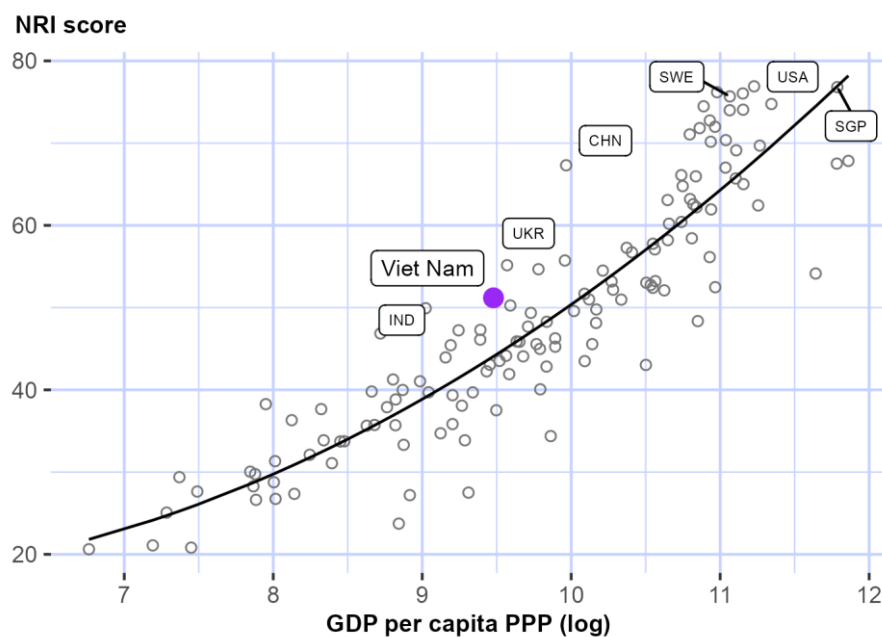
Note: USA = United States (rank: 1), SGP = Singapore (rank: 2), FIN = Finland (3), NLD = Netherlands (4), SWE = Sweden (5), CHN = China (20), IND = India (61). Viet Nam belongs to the group of lower-middle-income countries, where the best performer is Ukraine (UKR). The top performer of its region-Asia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

Performance against its income group and region

Lower-middle-income countries
Viet Nam is ranked 2nd 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 has a higher score than the average of lower-middle-income countries in all of them.

Asia & Pacific
Viet Nam is ranked 10th within Asia & Pacific (Figure 4, right panel). It has a score above the regional average in one of the four pillars: Impact. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Asia & Pacific in five of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Individuals, Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

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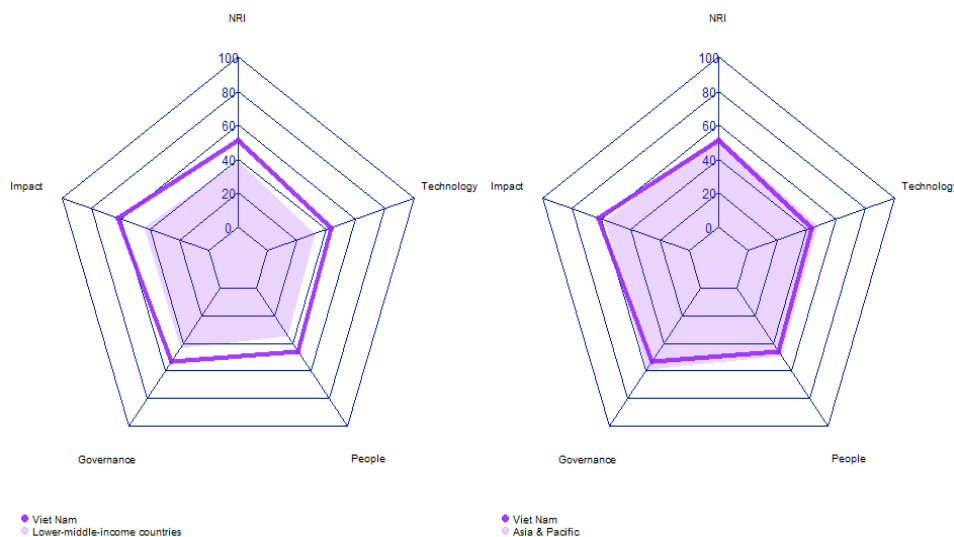

Table 2: Viet Nam scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Viet Nam	Lower-middle-income countries	Asia & Pacific
NRI	51.19	38.41	53.28
Technology	43.47	32.12	47.34
People	46.18	34.38	48.95
Governance	53.42	43.27	59.22
Impact	61.67	43.89	57.62

Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where Viet Nam performs particularly well include 3.2.4 E-commerce legislation, 4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices, and 1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include 3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content, 3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments, and 4.1.6 ICT services exports.

Table 3: Highlight of Strengths and Opportunities for Viet Nam

Strongest indicators	Rank	Weakest indicators	Rank
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	100
4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	1	2.2.3 Knowledge intensive employment	112
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	4	4.1.6 ICT services exports	115
4.1.2 High-tech exports	5	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	120
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	7	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	122
2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	9		
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	10		
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	12		
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	16		
4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	22		
4.1.4 Domestic market size	25		

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

NRI 2023 At-A-Glance: Viet Nam

Network Readiness Index   Rank: 56 (out of 134)   Score: 51.19

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	55	43.47	C. Governance pillar	74	53.42
1st sub-pillar: Access	31	74.19	1st sub-pillar: Trust	57	52.01
2nd sub-pillar: Content	51	27.93	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	94	57.52
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	85	28.28	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	92	50.74
B. People pillar	56	46.18	D. Impact pillar	36	61.67
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	16	59.27	1st sub-pillar: Economy	27	41.75
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	67	44.95	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	36	77.29
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	81	34.33	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	60	65.98

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score		Indicator	Rank	Score	
A. Technology pillar	55	43.47		**C. Governance pillar**	74	53.42	
1st sub-pillar: Access	31	74.19		*1st sub-pillar: Trust*	57	52.01	
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	52	69.30		3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	53	64.22	
1.1.2 Handset prices	99	32.85		3.1.2 Cybersecurity	32	94.49	
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	4	72.53	●	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	65	28.29	
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	38	99.95		3.1.4 Internet shopping	67	21.05	
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	10	86.70	●	*2nd sub-pillar: Regulation*	94	57.52	
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	40	83.80		3.2.1 Regulatory quality	92	40.61	
2nd sub-pillar: Content	51	27.93		3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	102	66.82	
1.2.1 GitHub commits	58	8.53		3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	49	53.25	
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	74	2.56		3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00	●
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	7	82.88	●	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	122	26.91	○
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	31	17.77		*3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion*	92	50.74	
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	85	28.28		3.3.1 E-Participation	71	52.33	
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	56	50.09		3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	120	38.65	○
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	69	38.50		3.3.3 Availability of local online content	64	61.06	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
1.3.3 Robot density	42	2.56	
1.3.4 Computer software spending	64	21.97	
B. People pillar	56	46.18	
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	16	59.27	
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	12	44.81	●
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	29	68.53	
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	63	66.76	
2.1.4 Tertiary enrollment	82	22.06	
2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	44	94.20	
2.1.6 AI talent concentration	NA	NA	
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	67	44.95	
2.2.1 Firms with website	68	45.17	
2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	9	79.32	●
2.2.3 Knowledge intensive employment	112	8.23	○
2.2.4 Annual investment in telecommunication services	39	82.19	
2.2.5 GERD performed by business enterprise	46	9.84	
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	81	34.33	
2.3.1 Government online services	75	61.14	
2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	79	14.71	
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging tech	31	54.14	
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	66	7.33	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	85	59.41	
3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	100	42.27	○
D. Impact pillar	36	61.67	
1st sub-pillar: Economy	27	41.75	
4.1.1 High-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing	38	36.54	
4.1.2 High-tech exports	5	75.48	●
4.1.3 PCT patent applications	86	0.86	
4.1.4 Domestic market size	25	69.51	●
4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	22	65.99	●
4.1.6 ICT services exports	115	2.11	○
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	36	77.29	
4.2.1 Happiness	39	72.80	
4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	1	100.00	●
4.2.3 Income inequality	59	65.83	
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	74	70.53	
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	60	65.98	
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	74	67.61	
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	16	68.54	●
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	48	83.19	
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	92	65.17	
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	102	45.39	

NOTE: ● a strength and ○ a weakness.

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