

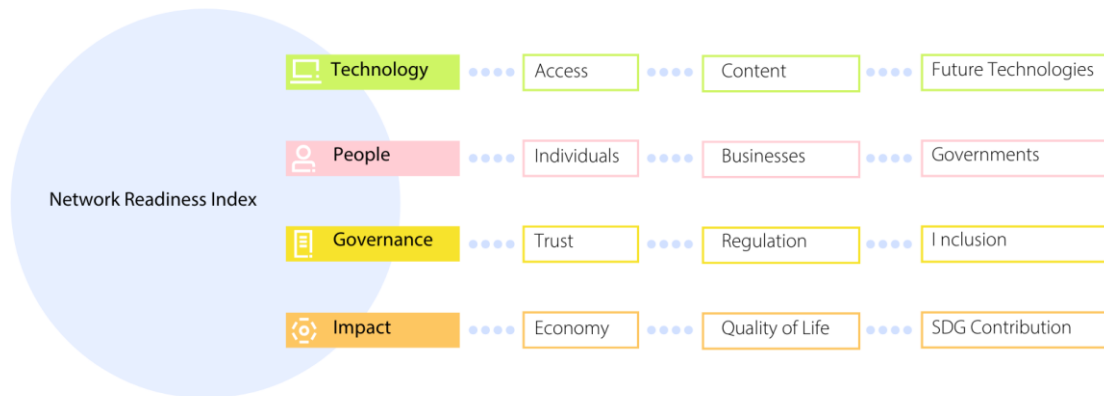
Network Readiness Index 2024



Hong Kong (China)

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 2024 the NRI Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 133 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 54 variables.

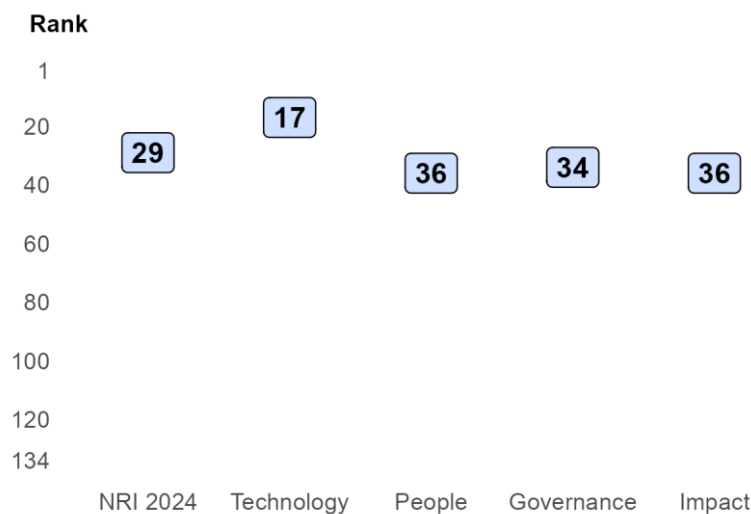
Figure 1: The NRI 2024 model



Global NRI position of Hong Kong (China)

Hong Kong (China) ranks 29th out of the 133 economies included in the NRI 2024 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to Technology. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns People and Impact.

Figure 2: Hong Kong (China) 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 Hong Kong (China) relate to SDG Contribution, Access and Future Technologies, among others (Table 1). More could be done, though, to improve the economy's performances in the Regulation, Governments and Quality of Life sub-pillars.

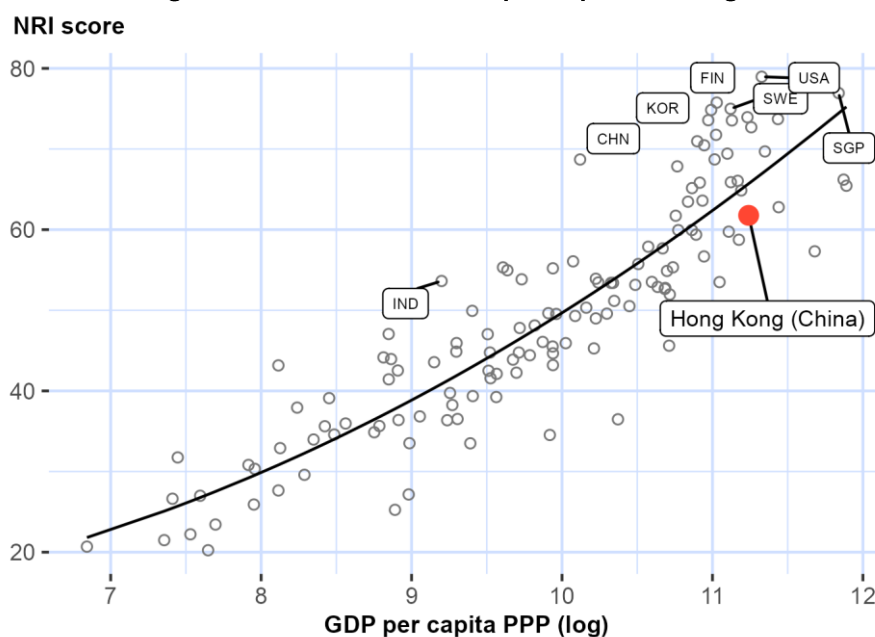
Table 1: Hong Kong (China) rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
SDG Contribution	2	Trust	27
Access	5	Businesses	28
Future Technologies	18	Content	34
Economy	19	Regulation	71
Inclusion	24	Governments	73
Individuals	25	Quality of Life	102

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Hong Kong (China) 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, Hong Kong (China) 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), SWE = Sweden (4), KOR = Republic of Korea (5), CHN = China (17), and IND = India (49). Hong Kong (China) belongs to the group of high-income countries, where the best performer is United States of America (USA). The top performer of its region-Asia & Pacific-is Singapore (SGP).

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Performance against its income group and region

High-income countries

Hong Kong (China) is ranked 28th 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 one of the four pillars: Technology. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in nine of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Content, Future Technologies, Individuals, Businesses, Trust, Inclusion, Economy and SDG Contribution.

Asia & Pacific

Hong Kong (China) is ranked 7th within Asia & Pacific (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 Asia & Pacific in ten of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Content, Future Technologies, Individuals, Businesses, Trust, Regulation, Inclusion, Economy and SDG Contribution.

Figure 4: Performance of Hong Kong (China) against its income group and region, overall and by pillar

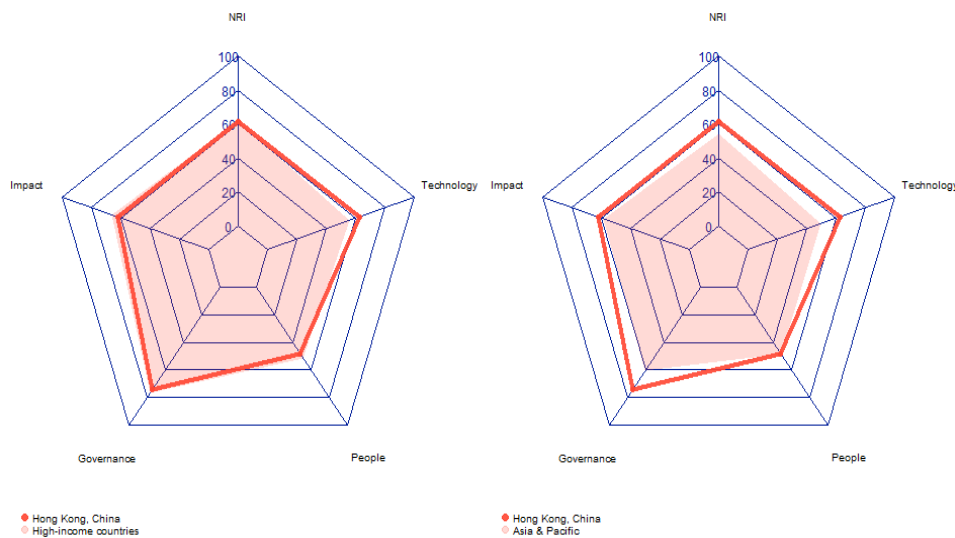


Table 2: Hong Kong (China) scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Hong Kong (China)	High-income countries	Asia & Pacific
NRI	61.77	62.50	54.25
Technology	62.31	55.84	49.31
People	48.33	51.81	48.55
Governance	74.43	76.61	60.88
Impact	62.01	65.73	58.26

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Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where Hong Kong (China) performs particularly well include 1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth, 1.1.6 Internet access in schools, and 4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include 3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content, 4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices, and 4.1.4 ICT services exports.

Table 3: Highlight of Strengths and Opportunities for Hong Kong (China)

Strongest indicators	Rank	Weakest indicators	Rank
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	1	1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	50
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	1	1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	60
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	2	3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	62
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	4	2.2.1 Firms with website	64
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	5	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	65
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	7	1.2.4 AI scientific publications	80
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	7	4.2.1 Happiness	92
3.3.3 Availability of local online content	8	4.1.4 ICT services exports	97
3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	11	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	113
3.2.1 Regulatory quality	12	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	126
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	15		

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

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NRI 2024 At-A-Glance: Hong Kong (China)

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Rank: 29 (out of 133)

Score: 61.77

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	17	62.31	C. Governance pillar	34	74.43
1st sub-pillar: Access	5	84.53	1st sub-pillar: Trust	27	77.55
2nd sub-pillar: Content	34	43.31	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	71	66.70
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	18	59.10	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	24	79.04
B. People pillar	36	48.33	D. Impact pillar	36	62.01
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	25	58.00	1st sub-pillar: Economy	19	47.19
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	28	49.60	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	102	50.86
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	73	37.39	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	2	87.98

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	17	62.31	C. Governance pillar	34	74.43
<i>1st sub-pillar: Access</i>	5	84.53	<i>1st sub-pillar: Trust</i>	27	77.55
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	7	94.59	• 3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	11	89.09
1.1.2 Handset prices	29	87.98	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	NA	NA
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	50	35.72	○ 3.1.3 Online access to financial account	21	73.50
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	60	88.89	○ 3.1.4 Internet shopping	23	70.05
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	1	100.00	• <i>2nd sub-pillar: Regulation</i>	71	66.70
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	1	100.00	• 3.2.1 Regulatory quality	12	85.34
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Content</i>	34	43.31	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	65	83.93
1.2.1 GitHub commits	NA	NA	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	28	69.89
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	20	40.62	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	NA	NA
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	4	84.98	• 3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	126	27.66
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	80	4.33	○ <i>3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion</i>	24	79.04
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies</i>	18	59.10	3.3.1 E-Participation	NA	NA
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	18	83.93	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	43	85.93
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	15	74.75	• 3.3.3 Availability of local online content	8	93.27
1.3.3 Robot density	7	43.16	3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	62	66.70
1.3.4 Computer software spending	31	34.57	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	47	70.25

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Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
B. People pillar	36	48.33	D. Impact pillar	36	62.01
<i>1st sub-pillar: Individuals</i>	25	58.00	<i>1st sub-pillar: Economy</i>	19	47.19
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	45	19.79	4.1.1 ICT patent applications	12	54.80
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	20	78.36	4.1.2 Domestic market scale	44	60.59
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	7	75.84	● 4.1.3 Prevalence of gig economy	18	68.90
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	NA	NA	4.1.4 ICT services exports	97	4.47 ○
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	NA	NA	<i>2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life</i>	102	50.86
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Businesses</i>	28	49.60	4.2.1 Happiness	92	47.09 ○
2.2.1 Firms with website	64	53.34 ○	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	113	54.62 ○
2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	NA	NA	4.2.3 Income inequality	NA	NA
2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	42	57.87	4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	NA	NA
2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	30	37.60	<i>3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution</i>	2	87.98
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Governments</i>	73	37.39	4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	NA	NA
2.3.1 Government online services	NA	NA	4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	5	75.63 ●
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	21	57.49	4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	35	88.89
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging technologies	NA	NA	4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	2	99.42 ●
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	41	17.30	4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	NA	NA

NOTE: ● a strength and ○ a weakness.

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