

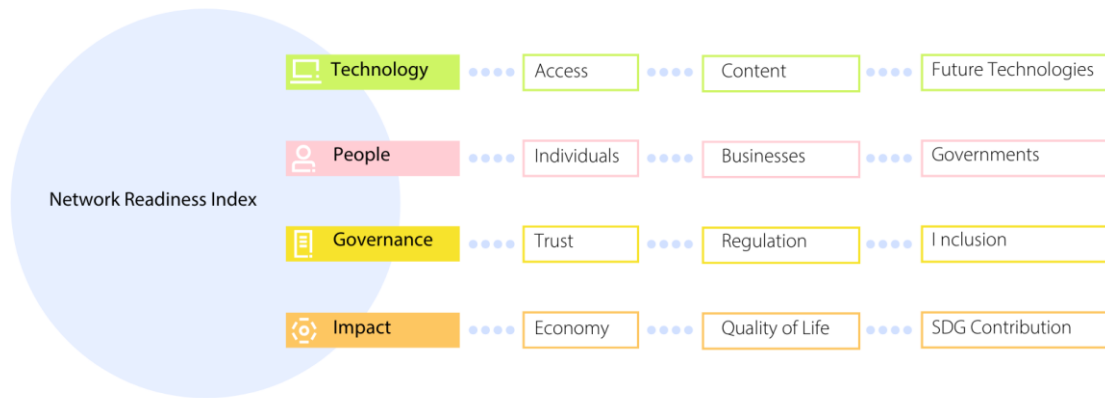
# Network Readiness Index 2024



## Korea, Rep.

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.

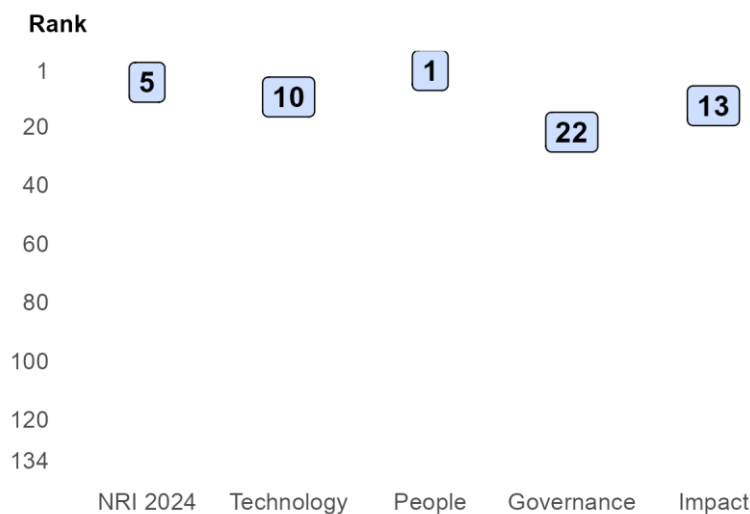
Figure 1: The NRI 2024 model



### Global NRI position of Korea, Rep.

Korea, Rep. ranks 5th out of the 133 economies included in the NRI 2024 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to People. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Governance.

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

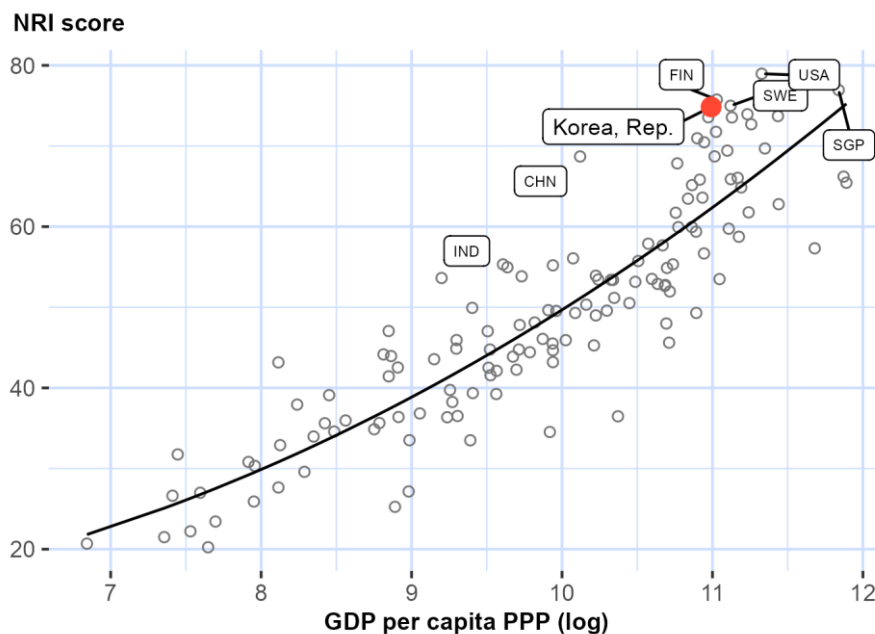
Table 1: Korea, Rep. rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Individuals	1	Access	14
Governments	1	Content	18
Businesses	2	Inclusion	18
Future Technologies	5	SDG Contribution	28
Economy	8	Regulation	41
Trust	9	Quality of Life	44

## NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Korea, Rep. 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, Korea, Rep. 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), SWE = Sweden (4), KOR = Republic of Korea (5), CHN = China (17), and IND = India (49). Korea, Rep. 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

Korea, Rep. is ranked 5th 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 each of the four pillars. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in ten of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Content, Future Technologies, Individuals, Businesses, Governments, Trust, Inclusion, Economy and SDG Contribution.

### Asia & Pacific

Korea, Rep. is ranked 2nd within Asia & Pacific (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 Korea, Rep. against its income group and region, overall and by pillar

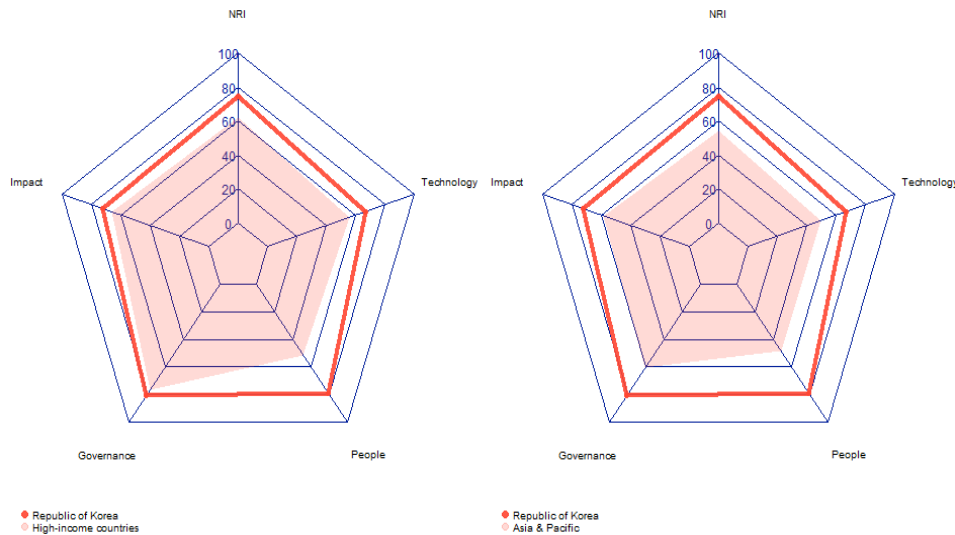


Table 2: Korea, Rep. scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Korea, Rep.	High-income countries	Asia & Pacific
NRI	74.85	62.50	54.25
Technology	66.78	55.84	49.31
People	79.28	51.81	48.55
Governance	80.93	76.61	60.88
Impact	72.40	65.73	58.26

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#### Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where Korea, Rep. performs particularly well include 1.1.6 Internet access in schools, 1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies, and 1.3.3 Robot density (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include 3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment, 4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, and 4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices.

**Table 3: Highlight of Strengths and Opportunities for Korea, Rep.**

<b>Strongest indicators</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Weakest indicators</b>	<b>Rank</b>
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	1	3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	53
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	1	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	56
1.3.3 Robot density	1	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	61
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	1	1.3.4 Computer software spending	64
2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	1	4.1.4 ICT services exports	67
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	74
4.1.1 ICT patent applications	1	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	87
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	2	4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	97
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	2	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	105
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	2		
2.3.1 Government online services	3		
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	3		
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	4		
3.1.4 Internet shopping	5		
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	6		

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

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## NRI 2024 At-A-Glance: Korea, Rep.

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Rank: 5 (out of 133)

Score: 74.85

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	10	66.78	C. Governance pillar	22	80.93
1st sub-pillar: Access	14	79.89	1st sub-pillar: Trust	9	86.29
2nd sub-pillar: Content	18	49.98	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	41	75.88
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	5	70.46	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	18	80.62
B. People pillar	1	79.28	D. Impact pillar	13	72.40
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	1	81.87	1st sub-pillar: Economy	8	64.29
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	2	70.95	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	44	72.74
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	1	85.02	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	28	80.16

### The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
<b>A. Technology pillar</b>	10	66.78	<b>C. Governance pillar</b>	22	80.93
<i>1st sub-pillar: Access</i>	14	79.89	<i>1st sub-pillar: Trust</i>	9	86.29
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	74	61.23	3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	48	69.34
1.1.2 Handset prices	45	81.32	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	5	98.50
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	13	58.48	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	8	87.41
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	29	98.83	3.1.4 Internet shopping	5	89.92
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	23	79.50	<i>2nd sub-pillar: Regulation</i>	41	75.88
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	1	100.00	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	28	74.90
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Content</i>	18	49.98	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	105	65.71
1.2.1 GitHub commits	20	56.13	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	32	67.11
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	48	8.04	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	18	74.73	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	61	71.68
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	15	61.03	<i>3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion</i>	18	80.62
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies</i>	5	70.46	3.3.1 E-Participation	9	94.19
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	1	100.00	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	26	93.43
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	34	59.50	3.3.3 Availability of local online content	32	81.01
1.3.3 Robot density	1	100.00	3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	53	67.80

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Indicator	Rank	Score		Indicator	Rank	Score	
1.3.4 Computer software spending	64	22.34	○	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	56	66.67	○
<b>B. People pillar</b>	1	79.28		<b>D. Impact pillar</b>	13	72.40	
<i>1st sub-pillar: Individuals</i>	1	81.87		<i>1st sub-pillar: Economy</i>	8	64.29	
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	15	45.18		4.1.1 ICT patent applications	1	100.00	●
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	10	83.32		4.1.2 Domestic market scale	14	76.72	
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	6	82.58	●	4.1.3 Prevalence of gig economy	20	68.31	
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	23	98.25		4.1.4 ICT services exports	67	12.14	○
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	1	100.00	●	<i>2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life</i>	44	72.74	
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Businesses</i>	2	70.95		4.2.1 Happiness	56	64.83	
2.2.1 Firms with website	40	66.03		4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	87	65.70	○
2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	1	100.00	●	4.2.3 Income inequality	39	77.38	
2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	9	74.35		4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	3	98.00	●
2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	21	43.44		<i>3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution</i>	28	80.16	
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Governments</i>	1	85.02		4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	2	96.77	●
2.3.1 Government online services	3	98.08	●	4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	4	77.02	●
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	2	86.13	●	4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	52	83.76	
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging technologies	21	67.16		4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	97	69.08	○
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	2	88.70	●	4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	29	84.81	

NOTE: ● a strength and ○ a weakness.

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