

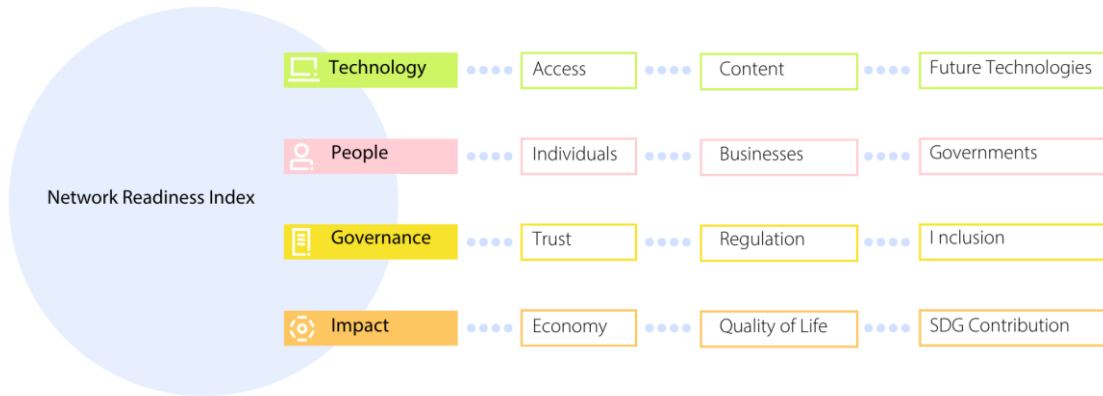
Network Readiness Index 2024



United Kingdom

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.

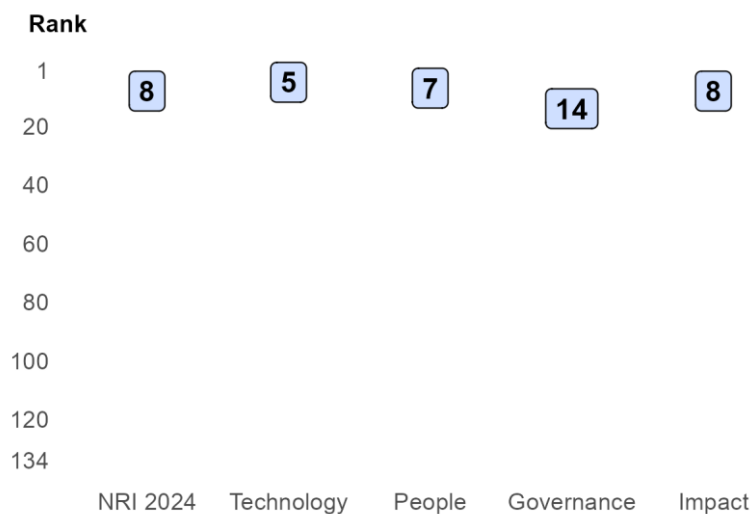
Figure 1: The NRI 2024 model



Global NRI position of United Kingdom

United Kingdom ranks 8th 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 Governance.

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

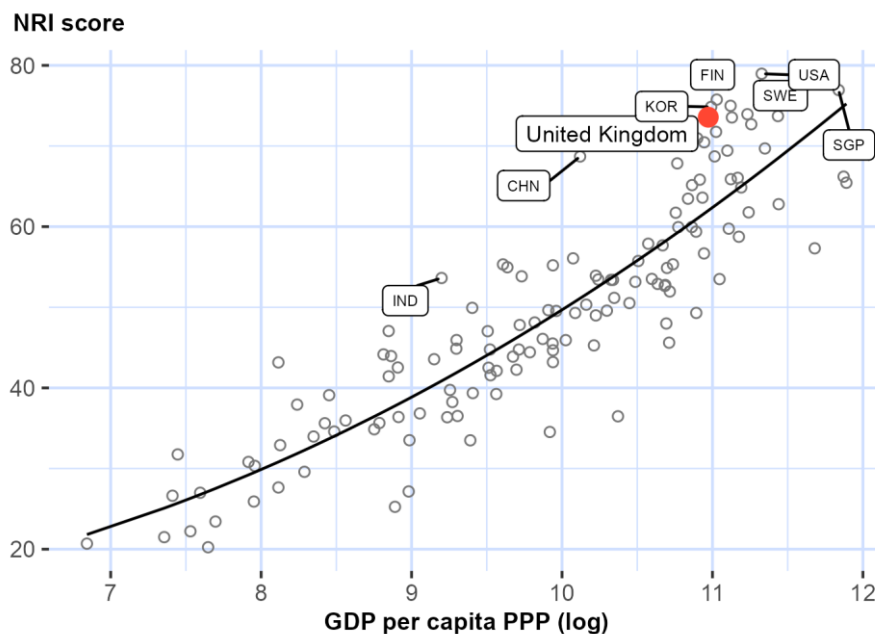
Table 1: United Kingdom rankings by sub-pillar

| Sub-pillar | Rank | Sub-pillar | Rank |
|------------------|------|---------------------|------|
| Content | 3 | Economy | 12 |
| Businesses | 4 | Future Technologies | 16 |
| Governments | 4 | Trust | 21 |
| SDG Contribution | 4 | Quality of Life | 22 |
| Inclusion | 5 | Regulation | 25 |
| Access | 10 | Individuals | 49 |

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of United Kingdom 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 Kingdom 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). United Kingdom belongs to the group of high-income countries, where the best performer is United States of America (USA). The top performer of its region-Europe-is Finland (FIN).

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Performance against its income group and region

High-income countries

United Kingdom is ranked 8th 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 eleven of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Content, Future Technologies, Businesses, Governments, Trust, Regulation, Inclusion, Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

Europe

United Kingdom is ranked 5th within Europe (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 Kingdom against its income group and region, overall and by pillar

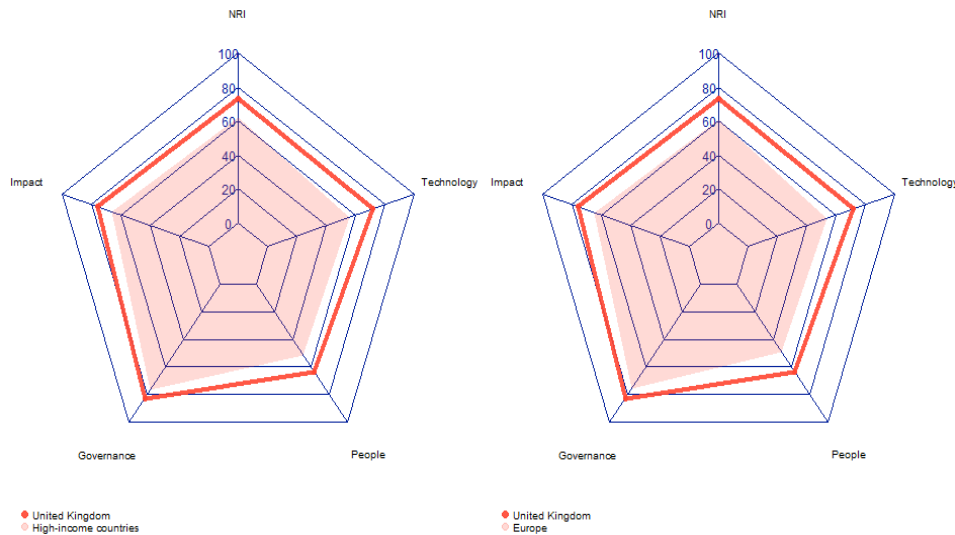


Table 2: United Kingdom scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

| Dimension | United Kingdom | High-income countries | Europe |
|------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------|
| NRI | 73.57 | 62.50 | 60.84 |
| Technology | 71.38 | 55.84 | 53.51 |
| People | 64.01 | 51.81 | 49.45 |
| Governance | 82.88 | 76.61 | 75.76 |
| Impact | 76.02 | 65.73 | 64.63 |

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Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where United Kingdom performs particularly well include 3.2.4 E-commerce legislation, 3.1.2 Cybersecurity, and 2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include 3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content, 3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use, and 4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices.

Table 3: Highlight of Strengths and Opportunities for United Kingdom

| Strongest indicators | Rank | Weakest indicators | Rank |
|---|-------------|--|-------------|
| 3.2.4 E-commerce legislation | 1 | 1.3.3 Robot density | 23 |
| 3.1.2 Cybersecurity | 2 | 2.1.5 AI talent concentration | 26 |
| 2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale | 3 | 1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network | 29 |
| 4.1.3 Prevalence of gig economy | 4 | 3.1.3 Online access to financial account | 33 |
| 3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments | 5 | 1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions | 34 |
| 4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being | 5 | 4.2.3 Income inequality | 35 |
| 2.3.2 Data Capabilities | 6 | 4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices | 38 |
| 3.3.1 E-Participation | 6 | 3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use | 46 |
| 1.2.4 AI scientific publications | 7 | 3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content | 85 |
| 2.3.3 Government promotion of emerging technologies | 7 | | |
| 3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment | 7 | | |
| 1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth | 8 | | |
| 1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies | 8 | | |

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

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NRI 2024 At-A-Glance: United Kingdom

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Rank: 8 (out of 133)

Score: 73.57

| Pillar/sub-pillar | Rank | Score | Pillar/sub-pillar | Rank | Score |
|-------------------------------------|------|-------|----------------------------------|------|-------|
| A. Technology pillar | 5 | 71.38 | C. Governance pillar | 14 | 82.88 |
| 1st sub-pillar: Access | 10 | 81.48 | 1st sub-pillar: Trust | 21 | 80.52 |
| 2nd sub-pillar: Content | 3 | 72.55 | 2nd sub-pillar: Regulation | 25 | 82.05 |
| 3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies | 16 | 60.11 | 3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion | 5 | 86.08 |
| B. People pillar | 7 | 64.01 | D. Impact pillar | 8 | 76.02 |
| 1st sub-pillar: Individuals | 49 | 51.81 | 1st sub-pillar: Economy | 12 | 59.75 |
| 2nd sub-pillar: Businesses | 4 | 66.17 | 2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life | 22 | 81.45 |
| 3rd sub-pillar: Governments | 4 | 74.05 | 3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution | 4 | 86.85 |

The Network Readiness Index in detail

| Indicator | Rank | Score | Indicator | Rank | Score |
|--|------|---------|--|------|----------|
| A. Technology pillar | 5 | 71.38 | C. Governance pillar | 14 | 82.88 |
| <i>1st sub-pillar: Access</i> | 10 | 81.48 | <i>1st sub-pillar: Trust</i> | 21 | 80.52 |
| 1.1.1 Mobile tariffs | 25 | 82.08 | 3.1.1 Secure Internet servers | 21 | 83.82 |
| 1.1.2 Handset prices | 12 | 96.12 | 3.1.2 Cybersecurity | 2 | 99.50 ● |
| 1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions | 34 | 41.44 ○ | 3.1.3 Online access to financial account | 33 | 64.59 ○ |
| 1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network | 29 | 98.83 ○ | 3.1.4 Internet shopping | 19 | 74.18 |
| 1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth | 8 | 88.91 ● | <i>2nd sub-pillar: Regulation</i> | 25 | 82.05 |
| 1.1.6 Internet access in schools | NA | NA | 3.2.1 Regulatory quality | 13 | 84.79 |
| <i>2nd sub-pillar: Content</i> | 3 | 72.55 | 3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment | 7 | 95.83 ● |
| 1.2.1 GitHub commits | 18 | 58.86 | 3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies | 29 | 69.11 |
| 1.2.2 Internet domain registrations | 10 | 63.00 | 3.2.4 E-commerce legislation | 1 | 100.00 ● |
| 1.2.3 Mobile apps development | 25 | 73.95 | 3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content | 85 | 60.53 ○ |
| 1.2.4 AI scientific publications | 7 | 94.38 ● | <i>3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion</i> | 5 | 86.08 |
| <i>3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies</i> | 16 | 60.11 | 3.3.1 E-Participation | 6 | 95.34 ● |
| 1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies | 16 | 84.70 | 3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments | 5 | 99.42 ● |
| 1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies | 8 | 82.25 ● | 3.3.3 Availability of local online content | 12 | 90.87 |
| 1.3.3 Robot density | 23 | 15.34 ○ | 3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use | 46 | 68.70 ○ |

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| Indicator | Rank | Score | Indicator | Rank | Score |
|---|------|---------|--|------|---------|
| 1.3.4 Computer software spending | 15 | 58.16 | 3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments | 19 | 76.06 |
| B. People pillar | 7 | 64.01 | D. Impact pillar | 8 | 76.02 |
| <i>1st sub-pillar: Individuals</i> | 49 | 51.81 | <i>1st sub-pillar: Economy</i> | 12 | 59.75 |
| 2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country | 17 | 43.80 | 4.1.1 ICT patent applications | 18 | 35.38 |
| 2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system | 28 | 74.46 | 4.1.2 Domestic market scale | 9 | 79.42 |
| 2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks | 13 | 72.66 | 4.1.3 Prevalence of gig economy | 4 | 89.24 ● |
| 2.1.4 Adult literacy rate | NA | NA | 4.1.4 ICT services exports | 27 | 34.97 |
| 2.1.5 AI talent concentration | 26 | 16.31 ○ | <i>2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life</i> | 22 | 81.45 |
| <i>2nd sub-pillar: Businesses</i> | 4 | 66.17 | 4.2.1 Happiness | 25 | 76.93 |
| 2.2.1 Firms with website | 15 | 82.00 | 4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices | 38 | 84.69 ○ |
| 2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI | 9 | 47.30 | 4.2.3 Income inequality | 35 | 78.66 ○ |
| 2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services | NA | NA | 4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth | 27 | 86.78 |
| 2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale | 3 | 69.22 ● | <i>3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution</i> | 4 | 86.85 |
| <i>3rd sub-pillar: Governments</i> | 4 | 74.05 | 4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being | 5 | 95.16 ● |
| 2.3.1 Government online services | 17 | 87.39 | 4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education | 13 | 64.95 |
| 2.3.2 Data Capabilities | 6 | 71.31 ● | 4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity | 15 | 96.58 |
| 2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging technologies | 7 | 84.88 ● | 4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy | 14 | 91.89 |
| 2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education | 11 | 52.61 | 4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities | 16 | 92.78 |

NOTE: ● a strength and ○ a weakness.

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