

Network Readiness Index 2025

With support from:



Australia

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 2025 the NRI Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 127 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 53 variables.

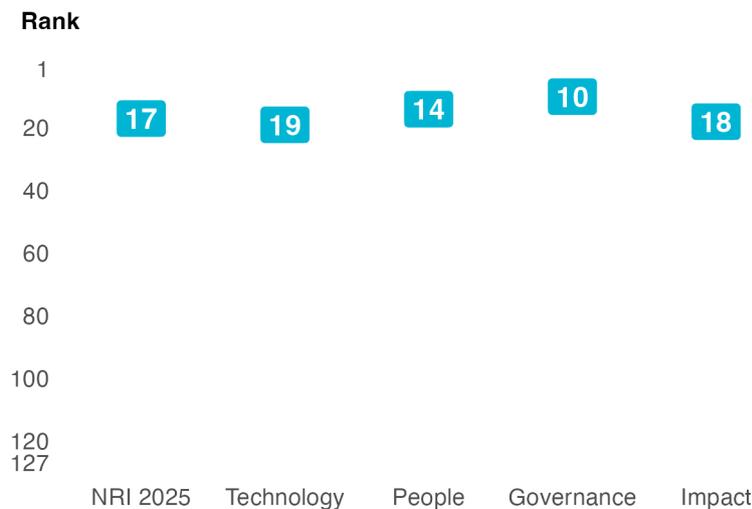
Figure 1: The NRI 2025 model



Global NRI position of Australia

Australia ranks 17 out of the 127 economies included in the NRI 2025 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to Governance. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Technology.

Figure 2: Australia global ranking, overall and by pillar



Performance at sub-pillar level

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

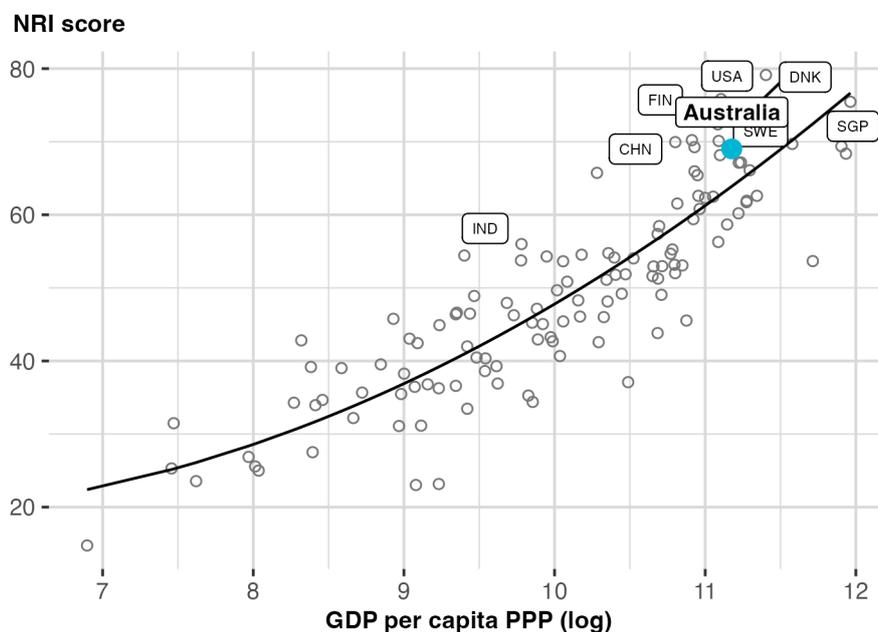
Table 1: Australia rankings by sub-pillar

| Sub-pillar | Rank | Sub-pillar | Rank |
|-----------------|------|---------------------|------|
| Trust | 9 | SDG Contribution | 17 |
| Regulation | 11 | Access | 18 |
| Content | 12 | Inclusion | 18 |
| Governments | 13 | Economy | 26 |
| Businesses | 15 | Future Technologies | 39 |
| Quality of Life | 16 | Individuals | 46 |

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Australia 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, Australia 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 of America (rank: 1), FIN =Finland (rank: 2), SGP = Singapore (3), DNK =Denmark (4), SWE = Sweden (5), CHN =China (24), and IND = India (45).

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Performance against its income group and region

High-income countries

Australia is ranked 17th 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, Businesses, Governments, Trust, Regulation, Inclusion, Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

Asia & Pacific

Australia is ranked 4th within Asia & Pacific (Figure 4, right panel). It outperforms its region in each of the four pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Asia & Pacific in eleven of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Content, Future Technologies, Businesses, Governments, Trust, Regulation, Inclusion, Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

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



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

| Dimension | Australia | High-income countries | Asia & Pacific |
|------------|-----------|-----------------------|----------------|
| NRI | 69.02 | 62.71 | 53.68 |
| Technology | 59.70 | 55.47 | 50.06 |
| People | 59.51 | 52.36 | 46.80 |
| Governance | 86.28 | 77.18 | 61.33 |
| Impact | 70.57 | 65.84 | 56.53 |

NRI 2025 At-A-Glance: Australia

Network Readiness Index

Rank: 17 (out of 127)

Score: 69.02

| Pillar/sub-pillar | Rank | Score | Pillar/sub-pillar | Rank | Score |
|-------------------------------------|------|-------|----------------------------------|------|-------|
| A. Technology pillar | 19 | 59.70 | C. Governance pillar | 10 | 86.28 |
| 1st sub-pillar: Access | 18 | 80.28 | 1st sub-pillar: Trust | 9 | 90.32 |
| 2nd sub-pillar: Content | 12 | 54.30 | 2nd sub-pillar: Regulation | 11 | 86.12 |
| 3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies | 39 | 44.51 | 3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion | 18 | 82.42 |
| B. People pillar | 14 | 59.51 | D. Impact pillar | 18 | 70.57 |
| 1st sub-pillar: Individuals | 46 | 55.46 | 1st sub-pillar: Economy | 26 | 46.71 |
| 2nd sub-pillar: Businesses | 15 | 56.39 | 2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life | 16 | 81.60 |
| 3rd sub-pillar: Governments | 13 | 66.67 | 3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution | 17 | 83.40 |

The Network Readiness Index in detail

| Indicator | Rank | Score | Indicator | Rank | Score |
|--|------|--------|--|------|--------|
| A. Technology pillar | 19 | 59.70 | C. Governance pillar | 10 | 86.28 |
| 1st sub-pillar: Access | 18 | 80.28 | 1st sub-pillar: Trust | 9 | 90.32 |
| 1.1.1 Mobile tariffs | 54 | 73.52 | 3.1.1 Secure Internet servers | 23 | 86.17 |
| 1.1.2 Handset prices | 1 | 100.00 | 3.1.2 Cybersecurity | 45 | 95.49 |
| 1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions | 50 | 36.02 | 3.1.3 Online access to financial account | n/a | n/a |
| 1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network | 48 | 98.42 | 3.1.4 Internet shopping | 5 | 89.29 |
| 1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth | 51 | 73.71 | 2nd sub-pillar: Regulation | 11 | 86.12 |
| 1.1.6 Internet access in schools | 1 | 100.00 | 3.2.1 Regulatory quality | 2 | 90.83 |
| 2nd sub-pillar: Content | 12 | 54.30 | 3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment | 19 | 89.69 |
| 1.2.1 GitHub commits | 23 | 47.25 | 3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies | 22 | 73.95 |
| 1.2.2 Internet domain registrations | 9 | 68.82 | 3.2.4 E-commerce legislation | 1 | 100.00 |
| 1.2.3 Mobile apps development | 35 | 70.49 | 3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content | 39 | 76.11 |
| 1.2.4 AI scientific publications | 27 | 30.65 | 3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion | 18 | 82.42 |
| 3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies | 39 | 44.51 | 3.3.1 E-Participation | 22 | 85.51 |
| 1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies | 14 | 85.73 | 3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments | 18 | 95.76 |
| 1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies | 24 | 65.75 | 3.3.3 Gender gap in Internet use | 48 | 66.00 |
| 1.3.3 Robot density | 31 | 7.87 | 3.3.4 Rural gap in use of digital payments | n/a | n/a |
| 1.3.4 Computer software spending | 58 | 18.69 | D. Impact pillar | 18 | 70.57 |
| B. People pillar | 14 | 59.51 | 1st sub-pillar: Economy | 26 | 46.71 |
| 1st sub-pillar: Individuals | 46 | 55.46 | 4.1.1 ICT patent applications | 24 | 21.83 |
| 2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country | 31 | 32.08 | 4.1.2 Domestic market scale | 19 | 71.73 |
| 2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system | 21 | 76.21 | 4.1.3 Technology-Enabled Work Flexibility | 6 | 82.80 |
| 2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks | 23 | 81.22 | 4.1.4 ICT services exports | 73 | 10.51 |
| 2.1.4 Adult literacy rate | n/a | n/a | 2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life | 16 | 81.60 |
| 2.1.5 AI talent concentration | 21 | 32.34 | 4.2.1 Happiness | 11 | 82.98 |
| 2nd sub-pillar: Businesses | 15 | 56.39 | 4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices | 48 | 79.82 |

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| Indicator | Rank | Score | |
|---|------|-------|---|
| 2.2.1 Firms with website | 27 | 80.25 | |
| 2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI | 20 | 31.67 | |
| 2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services | 11 | 63.82 | ● |
| 2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale | 8 | 49.84 | ● |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 3rd sub-pillar: Governments | 13 | 66.67 | |
| 2.3.1 Government online services | 14 | 90.64 | |
| 2.3.2 Data Capabilities | 11 | 69.74 | |
| 2.3.3 Government promotion of emerging technologies | 10 | 80.16 | ● |
| 2.3.4 Gross expenditure on R&D | 24 | 26.14 | |

| Indicator | Rank | Score | |
|--|------|--------|---|
| 4.2.3 Income inequality | 48 | 74.49 | |
| 4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth | 13 | 89.52 | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution | 17 | 83.40 | |
| 4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being | 1 | 100.00 | ● |
| 4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education | 10 | 66.20 | |
| 4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity | 20 | 95.45 | |
| 4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy | 70 | 74.06 | ○ |
| 4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities | 9 | 95.80 | ● |

NOTE: ● indicates a strength and ○ indicates a weakness.

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