Azerbaijan

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.
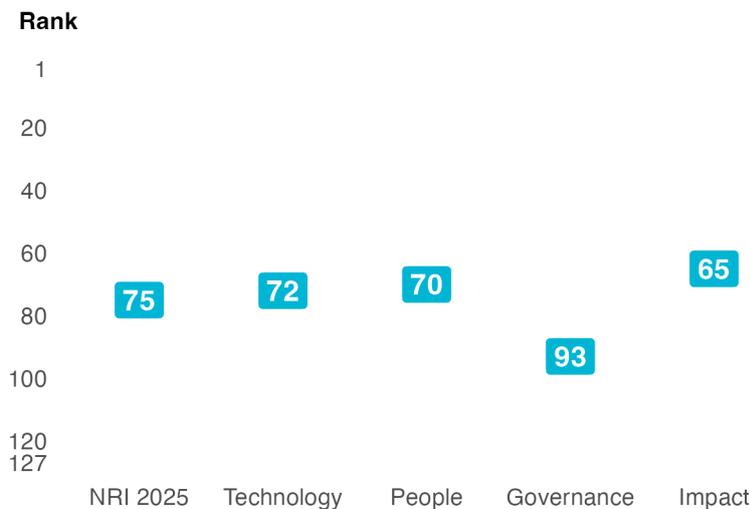
Figure 1: The NRI 2025 model

Global NRI position of Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan ranks 75 out of the 127 economies included in the NRI 2025 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to Impact. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Governance.

Figure 2: Azerbaijan global ranking, overall and by pillar

Performance at sub-pillar level

When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Azerbaijan relate to Economy, Businesses and Individuals, among others (Table 1). More could be done, though, to improve the economy's performances in the Quality of Life, Content and Inclusion sub-pillars.

Table 1: Azerbaijan rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Economy	33	Trust	79
Businesses	48	SDG Contribution	79
Individuals	53	Governments	89
Access	57	Quality of Life	90
Future Technologies	60	Content	94
Regulation	77	Inclusion	106

NRI score and income

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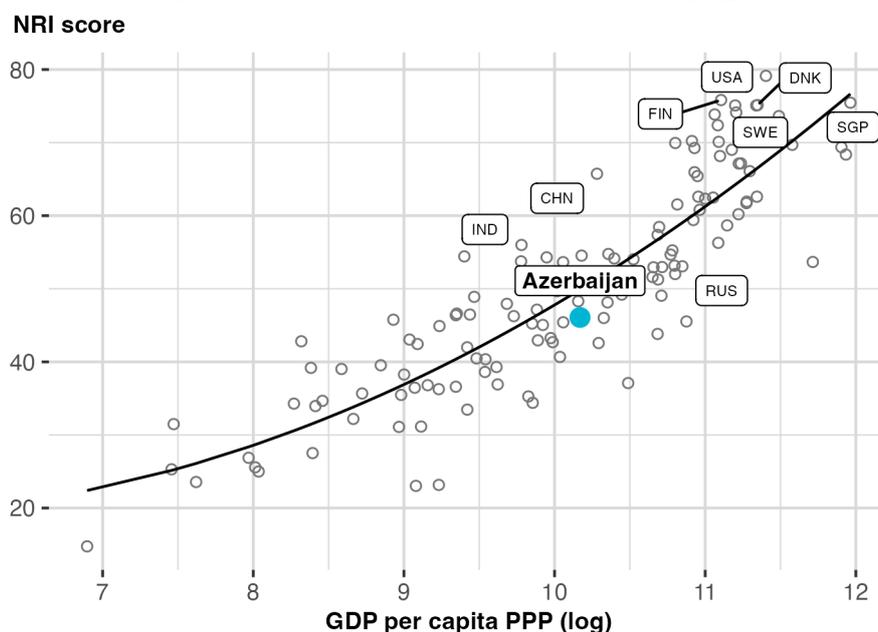
Note: USA = United States of America (rank: 1), FIN =Finland (rank: 2), SGP = Singapore (3), DNK =Denmark (4), SWE = Sweden (5), CHN =China (24), and IND = India (45).

Performance against its income group and region

Upper-middle-income countries
Azerbaijan is ranked 20th in the group of upper-middle-income countries (Figure 4, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a score higher than the income group average in two of the four pillars: Technology and Impact. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms upper-middle-income countries in five of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Future Technologies, Individuals, Businesses and Economy.

CIS
Azerbaijan is ranked 5th within CIS (Figure 4, right panel). It has a score above the regional average in one of the four pillars: Technology. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in CIS in five of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Future Technologies, Businesses, Regulation and Economy.

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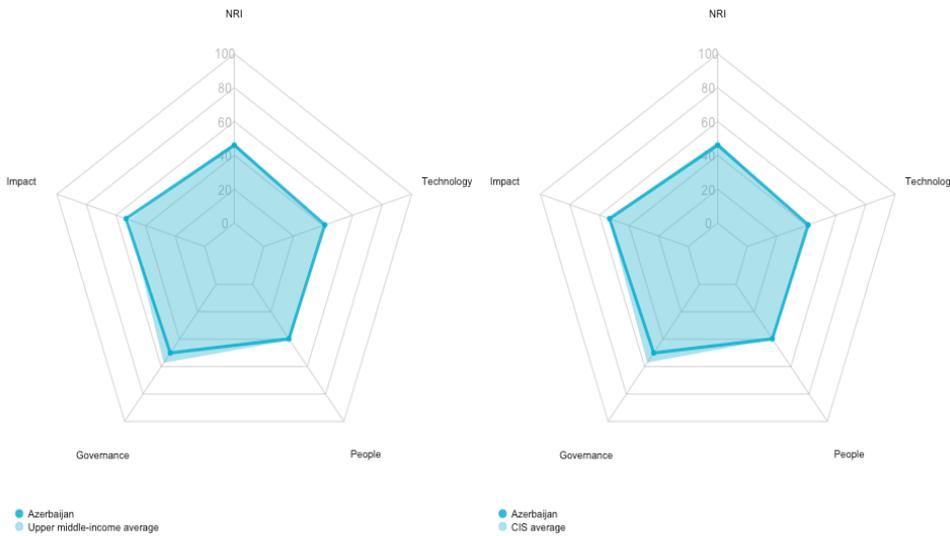

Table 2: Azerbaijan scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Azerbaijan	Upper-middle-income countries	CIS
NRI	46.08	47.32	47.82
Technology	41.26	39.95	40.20
People	39.77	40.75	40.18
Governance	50.04	57.29	57.07
Impact	53.24	51.31	53.83

NRI 2025 At-A-Glance: Azerbaijan

Network Readiness Index   Rank: 75 (out of 127)   Score: 46.08

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	72	41.26	C. Governance pillar	93	50.04
1st sub-pillar: Access	57	71.12	1st sub-pillar: Trust	79	47.67
2nd sub-pillar: Content	94	16.91	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	77	56.05
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	60	35.76	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	106	46.39
B. People pillar	70	39.77	D. Impact pillar	65	53.24
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	53	53.75	1st sub-pillar: Economy	33	43.29
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	48	34.91	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	90	55.99
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	89	30.65	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	79	60.44

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score		Indicator	Rank	Score	
A. Technology pillar	72	41.26		C. Governance pillar	93	50.04	
1st sub-pillar: Access	57	71.12		1st sub-pillar: Trust	79	47.67	
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	56	70.48	●	3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	81	50.55	
1.1.2 Handset prices	67	63.11		3.1.2 Cybersecurity	50	92.70	●
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	39	41.38	●	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	37	34.14	
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	1	100.00	●	3.1.4 Internet shopping	85	13.30	
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	38	76.47	●	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	77	56.05	
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	52	75.27		3.2.1 Regulatory quality	75	39.51	
2nd sub-pillar: Content	94	16.91		3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	107	42.81	○
1.2.1 GitHub commits	78	4.78		3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	n/a	n/a	
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	90	1.45		3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00	●
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	84	58.61		3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	98	41.87	
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	78	2.81		3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	106	46.39	
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	60	35.76		3.3.1 E-Participation	85	46.38	
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	n/a	n/a		3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	110	36.53	○
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	23	67.00	●	3.3.3 Gender gap in Internet use	88	53.21	○
1.3.3 Robot density	n/a	n/a		3.3.4 Rural gap in use of digital payments	53	49.43	
1.3.4 Computer software spending	98	4.53		D. Impact pillar	65	53.24	
B. People pillar	70	39.77		1st sub-pillar: Economy	33	43.29	
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	53	53.75		4.1.1 ICT patent applications	n/a	n/a	
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	91	5.98		4.1.2 Domestic market scale	68	52.42	
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	n/a	n/a		4.1.3 Technology-Enabled Work Flexibility	15	74.09	●
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	83	55.27		4.1.4 ICT services exports	103	3.36	○
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	1	100.00	●	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	90	55.99	
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	n/a	n/a		4.2.1 Happiness	97	36.08	
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	48	34.91		4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	64	70.44	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
2.2.1 Firms with website	49	61.72	●
2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	n/a	n/a	
2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	64	41.16	
2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	84	1.84	
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	89	30.65	
2.3.1 Government online services	66	68.56	
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	73	20.60	
2.3.3 Government promotion of emerging technologies	n/a	n/a	
2.3.4 Gross expenditure on R&D	84	2.78	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
4.2.3 Income inequality	n/a	n/a	
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	59	66.90	
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	79	60.44	
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	86	68.89	
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	68	17.92	○
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	62	78.18	
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	76	72.66	
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	39	77.11	●

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

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