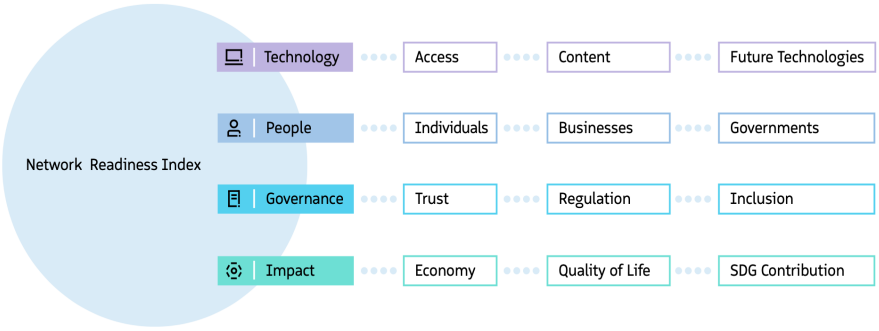
Bahrain

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.

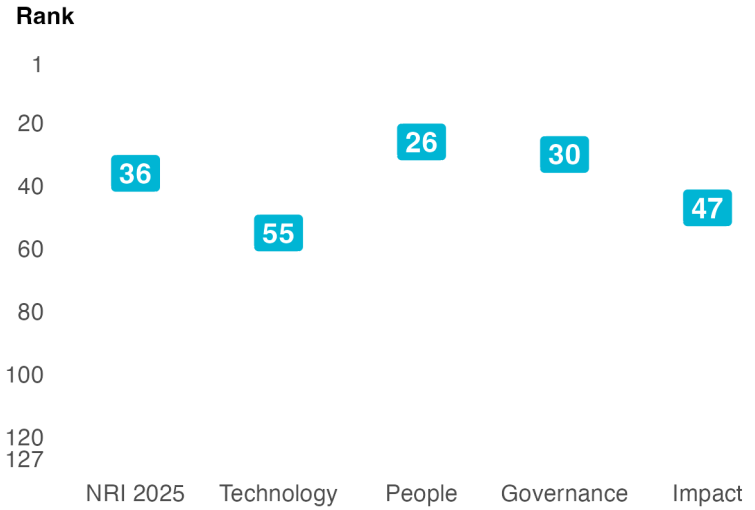
Figure 1: The NRI 2025 model



Global NRI position of Bahrain

Bahrain ranks 36 out of the 127 economies included in the NRI 2025 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to People. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Technology.

Figure 2: Bahrain global ranking, overall and by pillar



Performance at sub-pillar level

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

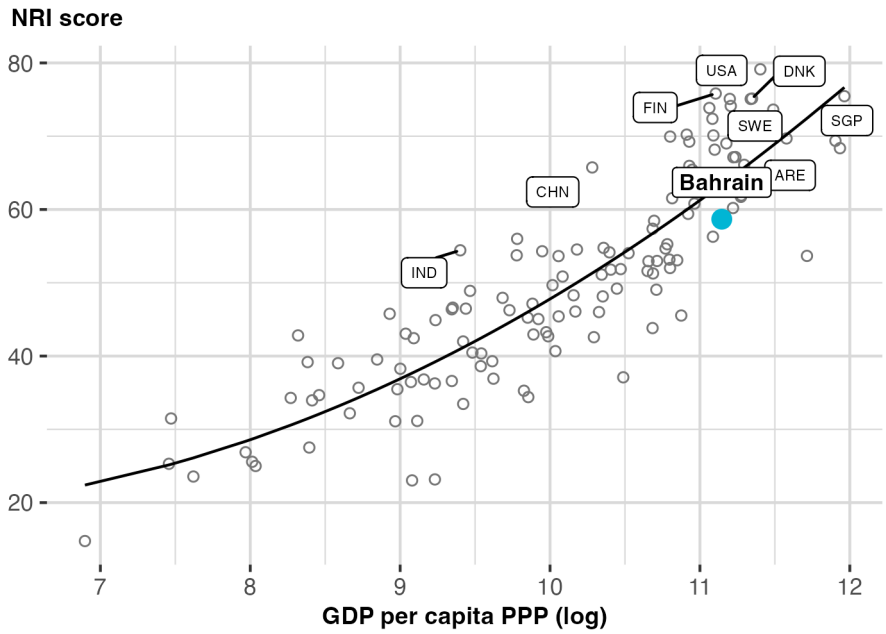
Table 1: Bahrain rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Individuals	15	Regulation	37
Trust	20	Quality of Life	43
Future Technologies	25	Businesses	44
Governments	25	Access	61
Economy	30	Content	88
Inclusion	34	SDG Contribution	88

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Bahrain 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, Bahrain 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

High-income countries

Bahrain is ranked 35th 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 two of the four pillars: People and Governance. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in five of the twelve sub-pillars: Future Technologies, Individuals, Governments, Trust and Inclusion.

Arab States

Bahrain is ranked 3rd within Arab States (Figure 4, right panel). It outperforms its region in each of the four pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Arab States in eleven of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Future Technologies, Individuals, Businesses, Governments, Trust, Regulation, Inclusion, Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

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

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

Dimension	Bahrain	High-income countries	Arab States
NRI	58.67	62.71	47.13
Technology	45.87	55.47	44.56
People	53.06	52.36	40.45
Governance	77.58	77.18	55.27
Impact	58.18	65.84	48.24

NRI 2025 At-A-Glance: Bahrain

Network Readiness Index — Rank: 36 (out of 127) — Score: 58.67

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	55	45.87
1st sub-pillar: Access	61	70.31
2nd sub-pillar: Content	88	18.15
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	25	49.16
B. People pillar	26	53.06
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	15	66.48
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	44	36.44
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	25	56.26

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
C. Governance pillar	30	77.58
1st sub-pillar: Trust	20	84.45
2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	37	71.64
3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	34	76.66
D. Impact pillar	47	58.18
1st sub-pillar: Economy	30	44.19
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	43	72.80
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	88	57.57

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	
A. Technology pillar	55	45.87	
1st sub-pillar: Access	61	70.31	
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	78	60.35	
1.1.2 Handset prices	54	74.44	
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	109	12.48	○
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	1	100.00	●
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	47	74.58	
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	1	100.00	●
2nd sub-pillar: Content	88	18.15	
1.2.1 GitHub commits	58	8.66	
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	70	3.13	
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	81	59.50	
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	92	1.32	
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	25	49.16	
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	57	63.64	
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	n/a	n/a	
1.3.3 Robot density	n/a	n/a	
1.3.4 Computer software spending	22	34.68	●
B. People pillar	26	53.06	
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	15	66.48	
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	79	9.63	
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	26	72.25	
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	8	87.11	●
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	28	96.92	
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	n/a	n/a	
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	44	36.44	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
C. Governance pillar	30	77.58	
1st sub-pillar: Trust	20	84.45	
3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	49	71.38	
3.1.2 Cybersecurity	32	97.52	
3.1.3 Online access to financial account	n/a	n/a	
3.1.4 Internet shopping	n/a	n/a	
2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	37	71.64	
3.2.1 Regulatory quality	28	69.20	●
3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	54	76.56	
3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	19	76.30	●
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00	●
3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	105	36.13	○
3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	34	76.66	
3.3.1 E-Participation	18	89.85	●
3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	65	72.20	
3.3.3 Gender gap in Internet use	31	67.93	
3.3.4 Rural gap in use of digital payments	n/a	n/a	
D. Impact pillar	47	58.18	
1st sub-pillar: Economy	30	44.19	
4.1.1 ICT patent applications	n/a	n/a	
4.1.2 Domestic market scale	89	43.85	
4.1.3 Technology-Enabled Work Flexibility	32	61.80	
4.1.4 ICT services exports	36	26.92	
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	43	72.80	
4.2.1 Happiness	57	61.89	
4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	29	86.33	

Network Readiness Index 2025

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Indicator	Rank	Score	
2.2.1 Firms with website	24	81.73	●
2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	24	24.76	
2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	76	38.08	
2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	94	1.18	
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	25	56.26	
2.3.1 Government online services	23	88.34	●
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	77	18.77	○
2.3.3 Government promotion of emerging technologies	24	61.67	●
2.3.4 Gross expenditure on R&D	n/a	n/a	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
4.2.3 Income inequality	n/a	n/a	
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	57	67.57	
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	88	57.57	
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	53	91.11	
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	n/a	n/a	
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	110	53.64	○
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	119	25.51	○
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	8	96.00	●

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

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