

Network Readiness Index 2025

With support from:



China

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.

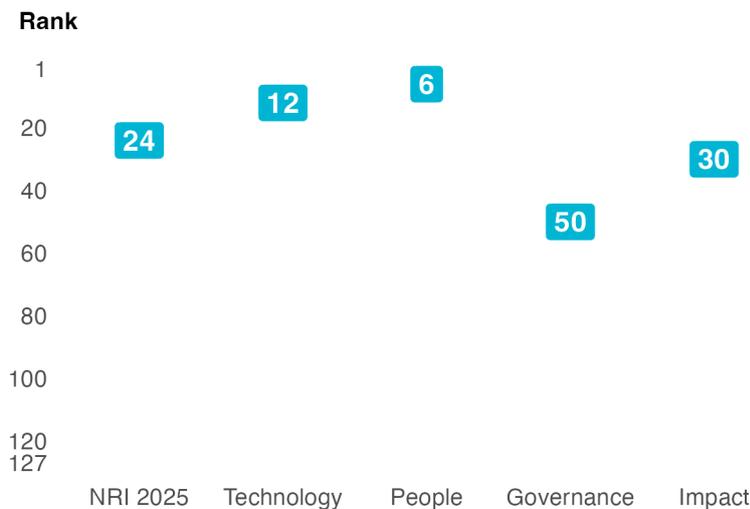
Figure 1: The NRI 2025 model



Global NRI position of China

China ranks 24 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 Governance.

Figure 2: China global ranking, overall and by pillar



Performance at sub-pillar level

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

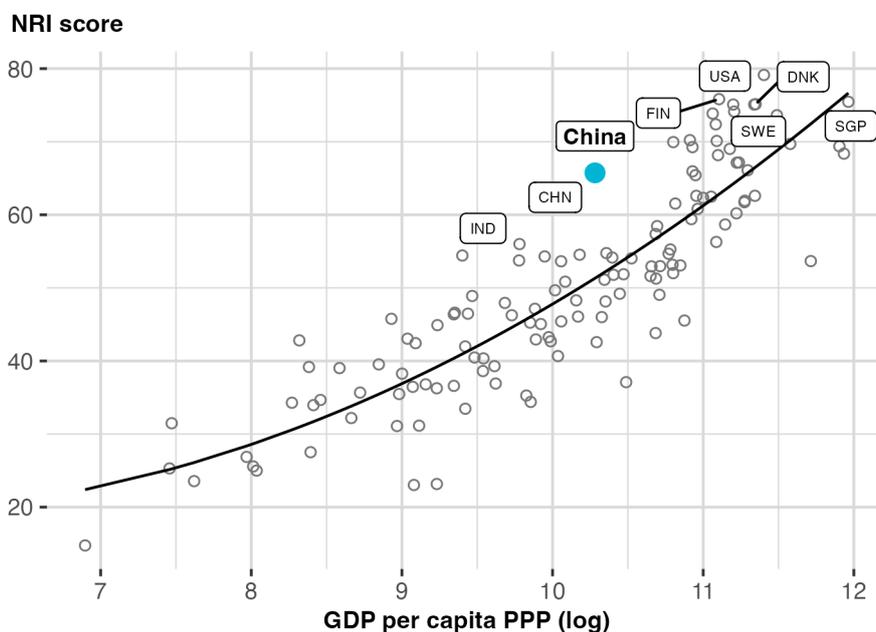
Table 1: China rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Access	1	Businesses	25
Individuals	1	Trust	36
Content	15	Inclusion	38
Economy	17	SDG Contribution	48
Governments	21	Quality of Life	60
Future Technologies	22	Regulation	106

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of China 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, China 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

Upper-middle-income countries

China is ranked 1st 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 each of the four pillars. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms upper-middle-income countries in eleven of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Content, Future Technologies, Individuals, Businesses, Governments, Trust, Inclusion, Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

Asia & Pacific

China is ranked 6th 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, Individuals, Businesses, Governments, Trust, Inclusion, Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

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



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

Dimension	China	Upper-middle-income countries	Asia & Pacific
NRI	65.74	47.32	53.68
Technology	64.37	39.95	50.06
People	67.83	40.75	46.80
Governance	66.60	57.29	61.33
Impact	64.15	51.31	56.53

NRI 2025 At-A-Glance: China

Network Readiness Index

Rank: 24 (out of 127)

Score: 65.74

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	12	64.37	C. Governance pillar	50	66.60
1st sub-pillar: Access	1	89.23	1st sub-pillar: Trust	36	78.08
2nd sub-pillar: Content	15	52.29	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	106	46.99
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	22	51.60	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	38	74.74
B. People pillar	6	67.83	D. Impact pillar	30	64.15
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	1	91.62	1st sub-pillar: Economy	17	54.16
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	25	50.00	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	60	67.62
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	21	61.88	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	48	70.66

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	12	64.37	C. Governance pillar	50	66.60
1st sub-pillar: Access	1	89.23	1st sub-pillar: Trust	36	78.08
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	38	78.96	3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	68	58.37
1.1.2 Handset prices	66	63.79	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	60	90.06
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	1	100.00	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	n/a	n/a
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	1	100.00	3.1.4 Internet shopping	10	85.80
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	3	94.00	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	106	46.99
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	41	98.65	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	91	33.31
2nd sub-pillar: Content	15	52.29	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	119	30.62
1.2.1 GitHub commits	n/a	n/a	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	7	83.86
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	62	4.59	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	72	75.00
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	n/a	n/a	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	124	12.15
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	1	100.00	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	38	74.74
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	22	51.60	3.3.1 E-Participation	12	92.75
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	n/a	n/a	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	55	77.12
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	33	59.75	3.3.3 Gender gap in Internet use	40	67.17
1.3.3 Robot density	3	69.20	3.3.4 Rural gap in use of digital payments	43	61.91
1.3.4 Computer software spending	33	25.84	D. Impact pillar	30	64.15
B. People pillar	6	67.83	1st sub-pillar: Economy	17	54.16
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	1	91.62	4.1.1 ICT patent applications	19	42.64
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	1	100.00	4.1.2 Domestic market scale	1	100.00
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	n/a	n/a	4.1.3 Technology-Enabled Work Flexibility	n/a	n/a
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	31	79.46	4.1.4 ICT services exports	49	19.83
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	34	95.38	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	60	67.62
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	n/a	n/a	4.2.1 Happiness	66	59.45
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	25	50.00	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	72	67.71

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Indicator	Rank	Score	
2.2.1 Firms with website	102	21.60	○
2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	26	24.30	
2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	3	85.77	●
2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	2	68.33	●
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3rd sub-pillar: Governments	21	61.88	
2.3.1 Government online services	11	91.07	
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	26	54.02	
2.3.3 Government promotion of emerging technologies	n/a	n/a	
2.3.4 Gross expenditure on R&D	14	40.56	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
4.2.3 Income inequality	64	68.88	
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	28	82.55	
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3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	48	70.66	
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	1	100.00	●
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	1	100.00	●
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	93	68.18	
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	108	51.56	○
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	116	25.78	○

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

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