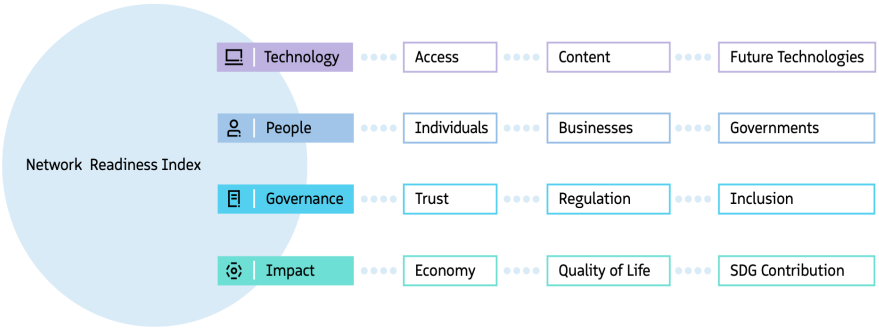
Costa Rica

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.

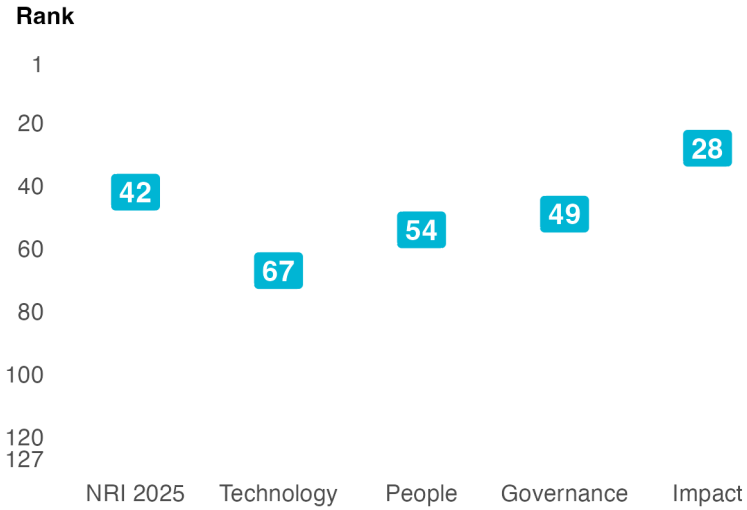
Figure 1: The NRI 2025 model



Global NRI position of Costa Rica

Costa Rica ranks 42 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 Technology.

Figure 2: Costa Rica global ranking, overall and by pillar



Performance at sub-pillar level

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

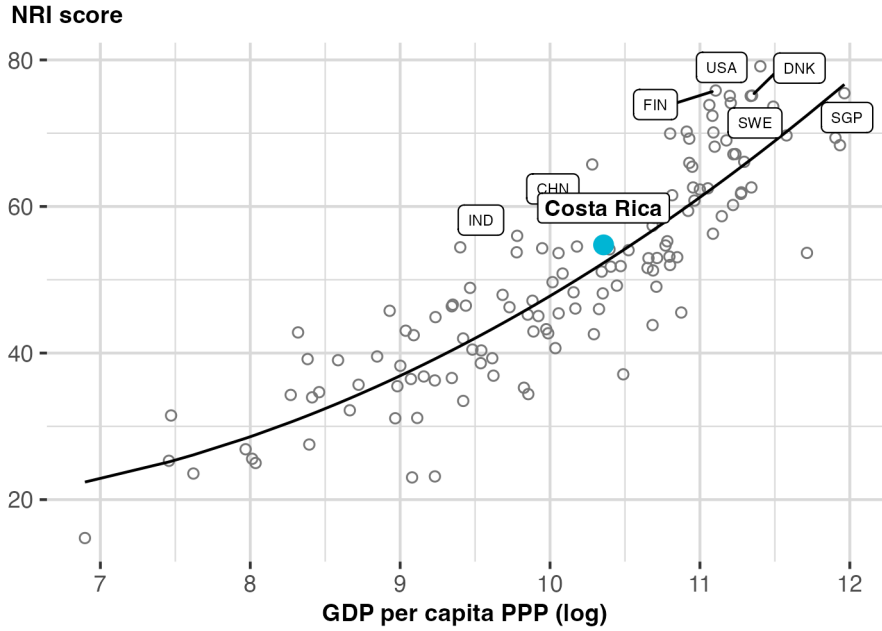
Table 1: Costa Rica rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Quality of Life	18	SDG Contribution	43
Regulation	32	Individuals	51
Businesses	34	Trust	66
Economy	36	Access	78
Future Technologies	37	Content	84
Inclusion	42	Governments	87

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Costa Rica 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, Costa Rica 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).

Performance against its income group and region

High-income countries

Costa Rica is ranked 39th in the group of high-income countries (Figure 4, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a score below the income group average in each of the four pillars. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in one of the twelve sub-pillars: Quality of Life.

The Americas

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

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

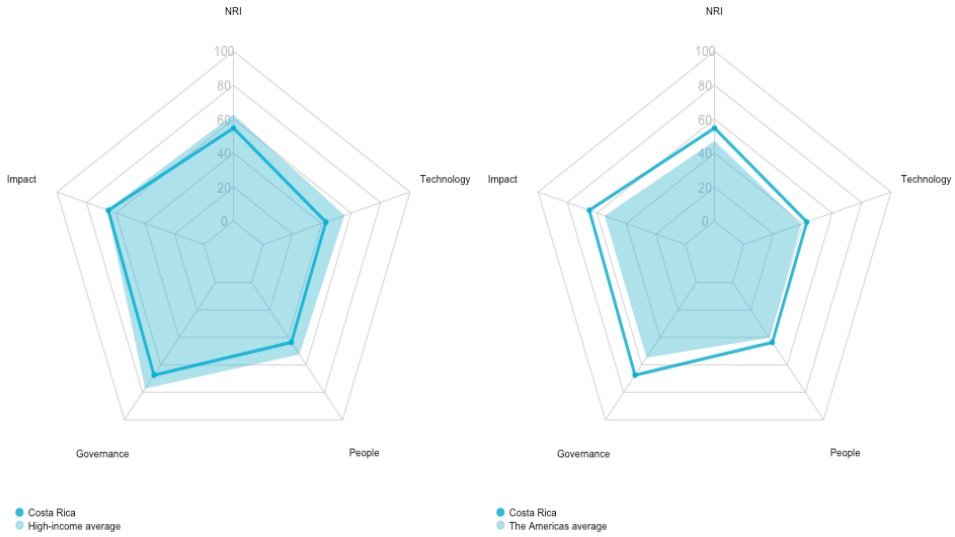


Table 2: Costa Rica scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Costa Rica	High-income countries	The Americas
NRI	54.76	62.71	47.15
Technology	42.82	55.47	38.91
People	43.62	52.36	40.23
Governance	67.47	77.18	54.75
Impact	65.13	65.84	54.70

NRI 2025 At-A-Glance: Costa Rica

Network Readiness Index Rank: 42 (out of 127) Score: 54.76

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	67	42.82
1st sub-pillar: Access	78	63.60
2nd sub-pillar: Content	84	19.55
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	37	45.32
B. People pillar	54	43.62
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	51	54.23
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	34	43.81
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	87	32.81

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
C. Governance pillar	49	67.47
1st sub-pillar: Trust	66	53.88
2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	32	74.48
3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	42	74.03
D. Impact pillar	28	65.13
1st sub-pillar: Economy	36	40.54
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	18	80.97
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	43	73.89

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	
A. Technology pillar	67	42.82	
1st sub-pillar: Access	78	63.60	
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	82	58.29	
1.1.2 Handset prices	73	59.22	
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	70	29.76	
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	100	73.68	○
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	48	74.39	
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	49	86.29	
2nd sub-pillar: Content	84	19.55	
1.2.1 GitHub commits	51	13.00	
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	53	6.37	
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	85	58.27	○
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	104	0.56	○
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	37	45.32	
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	43	68.06	
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	48	48.25	
1.3.3 Robot density	n/a	n/a	
1.3.4 Computer software spending	54	19.65	
B. People pillar	54	43.62	
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	51	54.23	
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	87	6.66	
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	36	66.90	
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	39	77.53	
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	27	96.96	
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	31	23.10	
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	34	43.81	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
C. Governance pillar	49	67.47	
1st sub-pillar: Trust	66	53.88	
3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	66	61.18	
3.1.2 Cybersecurity	87	70.05	
3.1.3 Online access to financial account	15	61.23	●
3.1.4 Internet shopping	67	23.07	
2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	32	74.48	
3.2.1 Regulatory quality	46	55.83	
3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	34	83.12	
3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	43	56.86	
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00	●
3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	36	76.61	
3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	42	74.03	
3.3.1 E-Participation	49	71.01	
3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	78	62.59	
3.3.3 Gender gap in Internet use	16	69.93	●
3.3.4 Rural gap in use of digital payments	3	92.59	●
D. Impact pillar	28	65.13	
1st sub-pillar: Economy	36	40.54	
4.1.1 ICT patent applications	61	0.39	○
4.1.2 Domestic market scale	81	47.87	
4.1.3 Technology-Enabled Work Flexibility	28	64.00	●
4.1.4 ICT services exports	13	49.90	●
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	18	80.97	
4.2.1 Happiness	6	89.68	●
4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	14	91.67	●

Network Readiness Index 2025

With support from:
aws
CNI

Indicator	Rank	Score	
2.2.1 Firms with website	15	88.44	●
2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	n/a	n/a	
2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	72	38.64	
2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	64	4.35	
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	87	32.81	
2.3.1 Government online services	71	66.52	
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	60	30.93	
2.3.3 Government promotion of emerging technologies	79	28.54	○
2.3.4 Gross expenditure on R&D	69	5.24	

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

Indicator	Rank	Score	
4.2.3 Income inequality	102	43.88	○
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	32	79.28	●
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	43	73.89	
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	1	100.00	●
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	57	27.38	
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	34	88.18	
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	10	91.39	●
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	38	77.18	

Sources

Escalona Reynoso, R., & Lanvin, B. (eds.) (2025). The Network Readiness Index 2025: AI Governance in a Global Context: Policy and Regulatory Approaches. Washington DC, USA.

Dutta, S., & Lanvin, B. (eds.) (2024). The Network Readiness Index 2024. Oxford, UK; Washington DC, USA.

Dutta, S., & Lanvin, B. (eds.) (2023). The Network Readiness Index 2023: Trust in Network Society: A Crisis of the Digital Age. Oxford, UK; Washington DC, USA.

Dutta, S., & Lanvin, B. (eds.) (2022). The Network Readiness Index 2022: Benchmarking the Future of the Network Economy. Washington DC: Portulans Institute.

Berry, B. (2019). berryFunctions: Function Collection Related to Plotting and Hydrology. R package version 1.18.2. URL: https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=berryFunctions

Dutta, S., & Lanvin, B. (eds.) (2019). The Network Readiness Index 2019: Towards a Future-Ready Society. Washington DC: Portulans Institute.

Dutta, S., & Lanvin, B. (eds.) (2020). The Network Readiness Index 2020: Fostering Digital Transformation in a post-COVID Global Economy. Washington DC: Portulans Institute.

Dutta, S., & Lanvin, B. (eds.) (2021). The Network Readiness Index 2021: Shaping the Global Recovery. How digital technologies can make the post-COVID world more equal. Washington DC: Portulans Institute.

Gohel, D. (2019). officer: Manipulation of Microsoft Word and PowerPoint Documents. R package version 0.3.6. URL: https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=officer

Gohel, D. (2019). flextable: Functions for Tabular Reporting. R package version 0.5.6. URL: https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=flextable

Milton Bache, S. & Wickham, H. (2014). magrittr: A Forward-Pipe Operator for R. R package version 1.5. URL: https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=magrittr

Nakazawa, M. (2019). fmsb: Functions for Medical Statistics Book with some Demographic Data. R package version 0.7.0. URL: https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=fmsb

R Core Team (2018). R: A language and environment for statistical computing. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. URL: https://www.R-project.org/.

Slowikowski, K. (2019). ggrepel: Automatically Position Non-Overlapping Text Labels with 'ggplot2'. R package version 0.8.1. URL: https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=ggrepel

Wickham, H. (2007). Reshaping Data with the reshape Package. Journal of Statistical Software, 21(12), 1–20. URL: http://www.jstatsoft.org/v21/i12/.

Wickham, H. (2016). ggplot2: Elegant Graphics for Data Analysis. Springer-Verlag. New York.

Wickham et al. (2019). Welcome to the tidyverse. Journal of Open Source Software, 4(43), 1686. URL: https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.01686