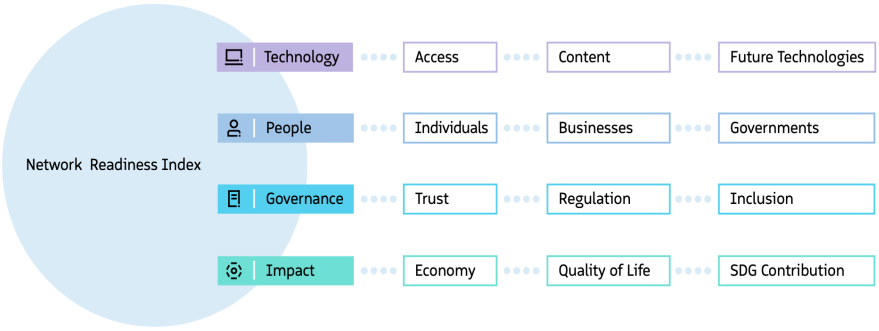
Iran (Islamic Republic of)

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.

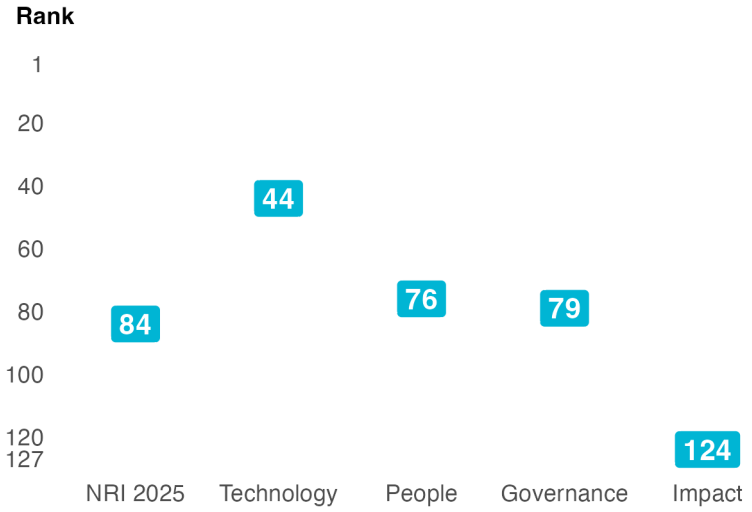
Figure 1: The NRI 2025 model



Global NRI position of Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Iran (Islamic Republic of) ranks 84 out of the 127 economies included in the NRI 2025 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to Technology. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Impact.

Figure 2: Iran (Islamic Republic of) global ranking, overall and by pillar



Performance at sub-pillar level

When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Iran (Islamic Republic of) relate to Future Technologies, Content and Businesses, among others (Table 1). More could be done, though, to improve the economy's performances in the Economy, Governments and SDG Contribution sub-pillars.

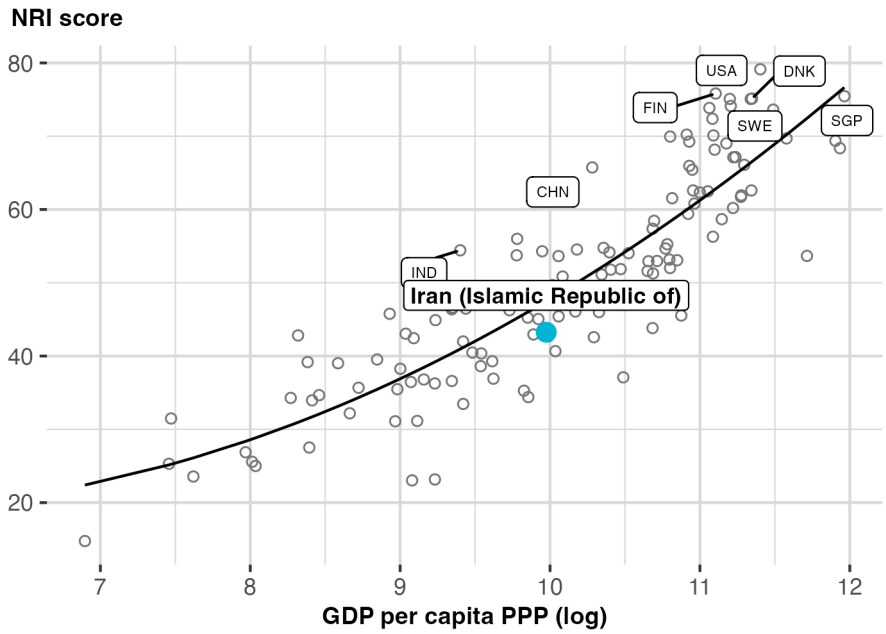
Table 1: Iran (Islamic Republic of) rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Future Technologies	30	Access	92
Content	34	Regulation	107
Businesses	42	Quality of Life	107
Individuals	43	Economy	108
Trust	63	Governments	112
Inclusion	70	SDG Contribution	127

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Iran (Islamic Republic of) 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, Iran (Islamic Republic of) 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

Iran (Islamic Republic of) is ranked 25th 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 one of the four pillars: Technology. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms upper-middle-income countries in six of the twelve sub-pillars: Content, Future Technologies, Individuals, Businesses, Trust and Inclusion.

Asia & Pacific

Iran (Islamic Republic of) is ranked 16th within Asia & Pacific (Figure 4, right panel). It lags behind its region in each of the four pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Asia & Pacific in three of the twelve sub-pillars: Content, Future Technologies and Businesses.

Figure 4: Performance of Iran (Islamic Republic of) against its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Table 2: Iran (Islamic Republic of) scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Upper-middle-income countries	Asia & Pacific
NRI	43.25	47.32	53.68
Technology	48.41	39.95	50.06
People	38.11	40.75	46.80
Governance	54.19	57.29	61.33
Impact	32.31	51.31	56.53

NRI 2025 At-A-Glance: Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Network Readiness Index Rank: 84 (out of 127) Score: 43.25

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	44	48.41
1st sub-pillar: Access	92	57.21
2nd sub-pillar: Content	34	40.65
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	30	47.35
B. People pillar	76	38.11
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	43	55.72
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	42	37.73
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	112	20.88

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
C. Governance pillar	79	54.19
1st sub-pillar: Trust	63	56.43
2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	107	45.46
3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	70	60.68
D. Impact pillar	124	32.31
1st sub-pillar: Economy	108	21.84
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	107	45.48
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	127	29.60

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	
A. Technology pillar	44	48.41	
1st sub-pillar: Access	92	57.21	
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	91	52.53	
1.1.2 Handset prices	93	41.94	
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	75	28.13	
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	94	83.32	
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	21	80.13	●
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	n/a	n/a	
2nd sub-pillar: Content	34	40.65	
1.2.1 GitHub commits	100	2.10	
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	59	5.10	
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	90	55.39	
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	1	100.00	●
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	30	47.35	
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	59	62.60	
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	100	27.75	
1.3.3 Robot density	n/a	n/a	
1.3.4 Computer software spending	5	51.72	●
B. People pillar	76	38.11	
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	43	55.72	
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	9	51.10	●
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	89	36.33	
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	88	52.50	
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	61	82.96	
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	n/a	n/a	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
C. Governance pillar	79	54.19	
1st sub-pillar: Trust	63	56.43	
3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	48	71.56	●
3.1.2 Cybersecurity	102	58.58	
3.1.3 Online access to financial account	n/a	n/a	
3.1.4 Internet shopping	54	39.16	
2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	107	45.46	
3.2.1 Regulatory quality	127	0.00	○
3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	70	71.88	
3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	99	22.57	
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	72	75.00	
3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	75	57.86	
3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	70	60.68	
3.3.1 E-Participation	123	13.04	○
3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	51	79.13	●
3.3.3 Gender gap in Internet use	67	63.65	
3.3.4 Rural gap in use of digital payments	6	86.91	●
D. Impact pillar	124	32.31	
1st sub-pillar: Economy	108	21.84	
4.1.1 ICT patent applications	55	0.63	
4.1.2 Domestic market scale	22	70.67	●
4.1.3 Technology-Enabled Work Flexibility	98	14.53	
4.1.4 ICT services exports	116	1.53	
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	107	45.48	
4.2.1 Happiness	93	40.95	

Network Readiness Index 2025

Indicator	Rank	Score	
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	42	37.73	
2.2.1 Firms with website	n/a	n/a	
2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	n/a	n/a	
2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	9	67.08	●
2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	54	8.37	●
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	112	20.88	
2.3.1 Government online services	118	25.08	
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	n/a	n/a	
2.3.3 Government promotion of emerging technologies	84	26.19	
2.3.4 Gross expenditure on R&D	50	11.37	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	118	27.60	○
4.2.3 Income inequality	63	69.13	
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	61	66.66	
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	127	29.60	
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	63	86.67	
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	n/a	n/a	
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	127	0.00	○
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	123	13.46	○
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	61	64.02	

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

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