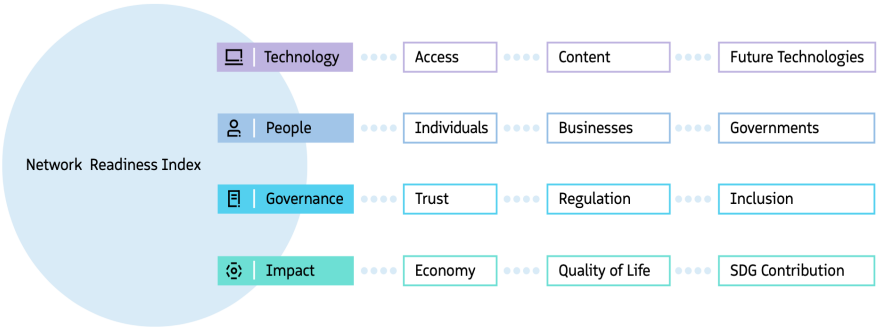
Ireland

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.

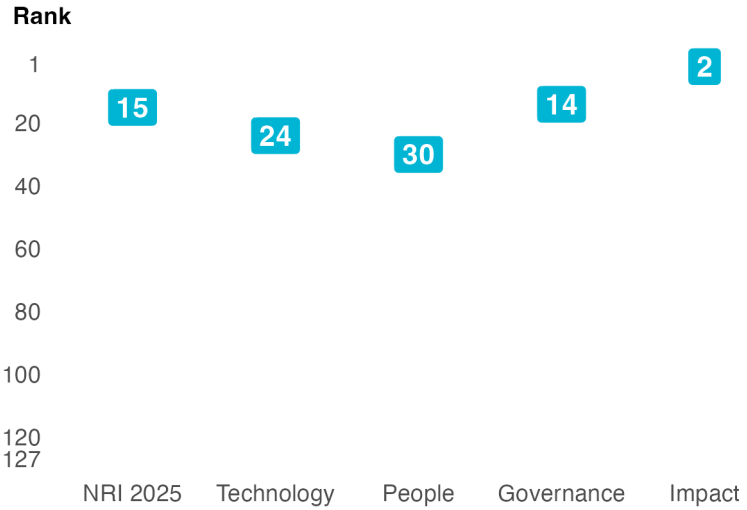
Figure 1: The NRI 2025 model



Global NRI position of Ireland

Ireland ranks 15 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 People.

Figure 2: Ireland global ranking, overall and by pillar



Performance at sub-pillar level

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

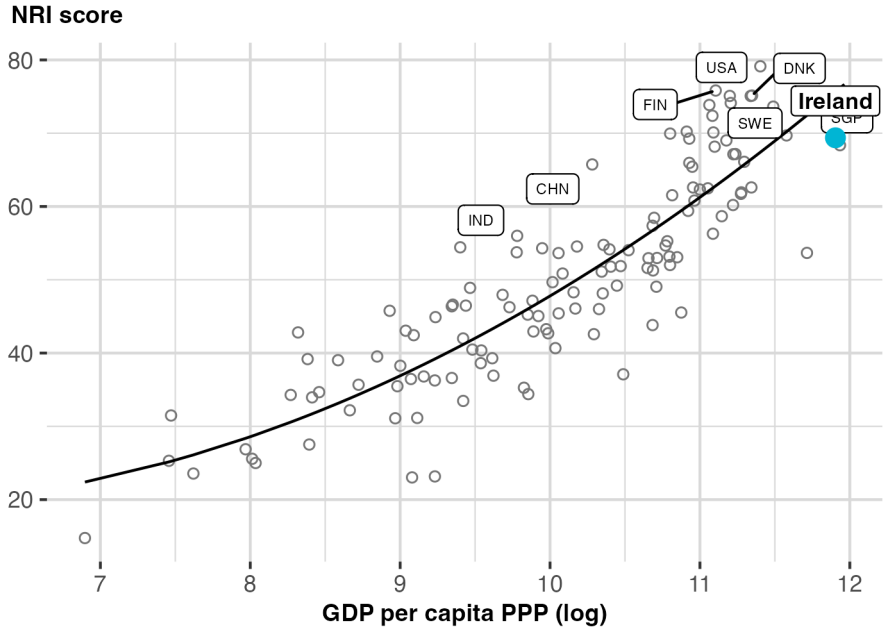
Table 1: Ireland rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
SDG Contribution	1	Regulation	21
Economy	4	Businesses	27
Inclusion	8	Content	28
Quality of Life	10	Governments	29
Trust	11	Access	39
Future Technologies	21	Individuals	47

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Ireland 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, Ireland 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

Ireland is ranked 15th 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 three of the four pillars: Technology, Governance and Impact. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in nine of the twelve sub-pillars: Content, Future Technologies, Businesses, Trust, Regulation, Inclusion, Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

Europe

Ireland is ranked 10th within Europe (Figure 4, right panel). It outperforms its region in each of the four pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it has a higher score than the regional average in each of the twelve sub-pillars.

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

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

Dimension	Ireland	High-income countries	Europe
NRI	69.38	62.71	61.14
Technology	58.13	55.47	53.04
People	52.26	52.36	50.07
Governance	84.43	77.18	76.41
Impact	82.69	65.84	65.05

NRI 2025 At-A-Glance: Ireland

Network Readiness Index Rank: 15 (out of 127) Score: 69.38

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	24	58.13
1st sub-pillar: Access	39	76.26
2nd sub-pillar: Content	28	44.76
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	21	53.36
B. People pillar	30	52.26
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	47	55.36
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	27	47.89
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	29	53.52

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
C. Governance pillar	14	84.43
1st sub-pillar: Trust	11	88.63
2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	21	79.17
3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	8	85.49
D. Impact pillar	2	82.69
1st sub-pillar: Economy	4	71.43
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	10	84.79
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	1	91.84

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	
A. Technology pillar	24	58.13	
1st sub-pillar: Access	39	76.26	
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	2	98.12	●
1.1.2 Handset prices	1	100.00	●
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	98	17.98	○
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	29	99.47	
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	98	65.71	○
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	n/a	n/a	
2nd sub-pillar: Content	28	44.76	
1.2.1 GitHub commits	14	65.66	
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	23	38.37	
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	26	72.13	
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	77	2.88	○
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	21	53.36	
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	23	79.09	
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	18	70.50	
1.3.3 Robot density	28	9.89	
1.3.4 Computer software spending	3	53.94	●
B. People pillar	30	52.26	
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	47	55.36	
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	96	4.65	○
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	4	87.09	●
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	32	79.43	
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	n/a	n/a	
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	7	50.26	
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	27	47.89	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
C. Governance pillar	14	84.43	
1st sub-pillar: Trust	11	88.63	
3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	11	94.32	
3.1.2 Cybersecurity	64	89.05	
3.1.3 Online access to financial account	n/a	n/a	
3.1.4 Internet shopping	12	82.52	
2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	21	79.17	
3.2.1 Regulatory quality	8	86.01	●
3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	3	98.12	●
3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	35	63.07	
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00	●
3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	90	48.67	○
3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	8	85.49	
3.3.1 E-Participation	15	91.30	
3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	24	93.08	
3.3.3 Gender gap in Internet use	11	72.08	
3.3.4 Rural gap in use of digital payments	n/a	n/a	
D. Impact pillar	2	82.69	
1st sub-pillar: Economy	4	71.43	
4.1.1 ICT patent applications	18	43.22	
4.1.2 Domestic market scale	41	62.09	
4.1.3 Technology-Enabled Work Flexibility	9	80.42	
4.1.4 ICT services exports	1	100.00	●
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	10	84.79	
4.2.1 Happiness	15	81.08	
4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	30	86.20	

Network Readiness Index 2025

Indicator	Rank	Score	
2.2.1 Firms with website	3	94.69	●
2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	27	22.66	
2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	35	48.88	
2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	31	25.34	
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	29	53.52	
2.3.1 Government online services	29	85.18	
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	13	68.28	
2.3.3 Government promotion of emerging technologies	66	35.76	
2.3.4 Gross expenditure on R&D	25	24.88	

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

Indicator	Rank	Score	
4.2.3 Income inequality	17	86.73	
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	17	87.44	
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	1	91.84	
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	1	100.00	●
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	8	68.87	
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	1	100.00	●
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	1	100.00	●
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	4	96.98	●

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