

Network Readiness Index 2025

With support from:



Japan

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.

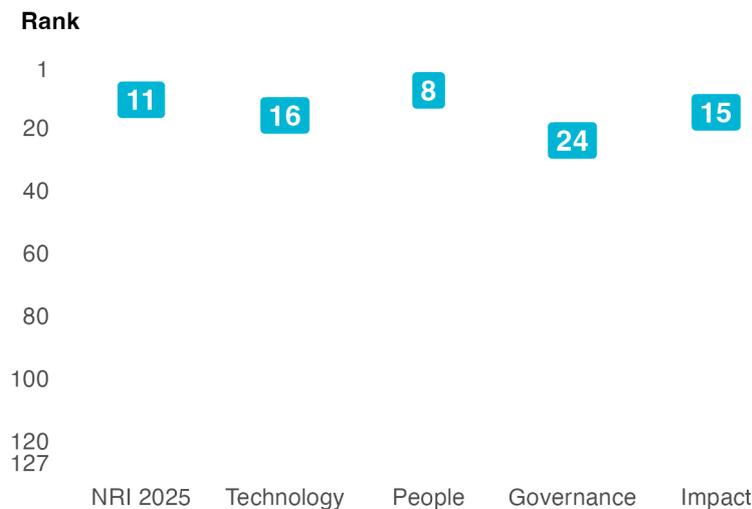
Figure 1: The NRI 2025 model



Global NRI position of Japan

Japan ranks 11 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: Japan global ranking, overall and by pillar



Performance at sub-pillar level

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

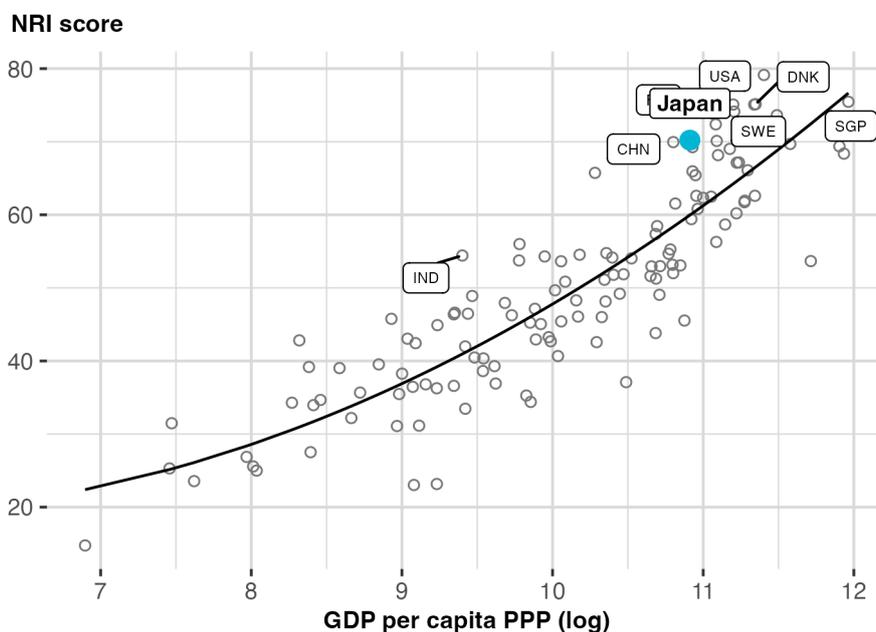
Table 1: Japan rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Individuals	6	Inclusion	15
Businesses	9	Regulation	25
Access	10	SDG Contribution	26
Future Technologies	11	Trust	33
Economy	11	Content	41
Governments	15	Quality of Life	42

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Japan 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, Japan 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

High-income countries

Japan is ranked 11th 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 each of the four pillars. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in ten of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Future Technologies, Individuals, Businesses, Governments, Trust, Regulation, Inclusion, Economy and SDG Contribution.

Asia & Pacific

Japan is ranked 3rd within Asia & Pacific (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 Japan against its income group and region, overall and by pillar



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

Dimension	Japan	High-income countries	Asia & Pacific
NRI	70.22	62.71	53.68
Technology	61.28	55.47	50.06
People	66.87	52.36	46.80
Governance	80.58	77.18	61.33
Impact	72.13	65.84	56.53

NRI 2025 At-A-Glance: Japan

Network Readiness Index

Rank: 11 (out of 127)

Score: 70.22

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	16	61.28	C. Governance pillar	24	80.58
1st sub-pillar: Access	10	83.20	1st sub-pillar: Trust	33	80.39
2nd sub-pillar: Content	41	37.76	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	25	78.06
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	11	62.88	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	15	83.28
B. People pillar	8	66.87	D. Impact pillar	15	72.13
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	6	72.68	1st sub-pillar: Economy	11	63.15
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	9	61.78	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	42	72.86
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	15	66.15	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	26	80.38

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	16	61.28	C. Governance pillar	24	80.58
1st sub-pillar: Access	10	83.20	1st sub-pillar: Trust	33	80.39
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	45	76.77	3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	29	83.78
1.1.2 Handset prices	13	96.35	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	34	97.08
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	8	66.02	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	n/a	n/a
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	29	99.47	3.1.4 Internet shopping	33	60.31
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	31	77.40	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	25	78.06
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	n/a	n/a	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	15	79.00
2nd sub-pillar: Content	41	37.76	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	94	52.19
1.2.1 GitHub commits	38	25.63	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	26	72.83
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	41	12.70	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	32	70.84	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	19	86.29
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	18	41.85	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	15	83.28
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	11	62.88	3.3.1 E-Participation	2	98.55
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	10	91.43	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	19	95.63
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	9	80.00	3.3.3 Gender gap in Internet use	84	55.67
1.3.3 Robot density	5	54.45	3.3.4 Rural gap in use of digital payments	n/a	n/a
1.3.4 Computer software spending	36	25.64	D. Impact pillar	15	72.13
B. People pillar	8	66.87	1st sub-pillar: Economy	11	63.15
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	6	72.68	4.1.1 ICT patent applications	1	100.00
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	7	58.07	4.1.2 Domestic market scale	5	83.55
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	14	79.50	4.1.3 Technology-Enabled Work Flexibility	35	60.77
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	27	80.46	4.1.4 ICT services exports	80	8.29
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	n/a	n/a	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	42	72.86
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	n/a	n/a	4.2.1 Happiness	53	64.50
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	9	61.78	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	79	65.36

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Indicator	Rank	Score
2.2.1 Firms with website	n/a	n/a
2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	12	47.69
2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	4	76.50 ●
2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	5	61.14 ●
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3rd sub-pillar: Governments	15	66.15
2.3.1 Government online services	9	93.11
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	n/a	n/a
2.3.3 Government promotion of emerging technologies	34	51.15
2.3.4 Gross expenditure on R&D	5	54.19 ●

Indicator	Rank	Score
4.2.3 Income inequality	36	78.32
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	2	99.13 ●
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3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	26	80.38
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	1	100.00 ●
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	3	80.82 ●
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	91	69.09 ○
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	54	78.26
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	22	86.70

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

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