

Network Readiness Index 2025

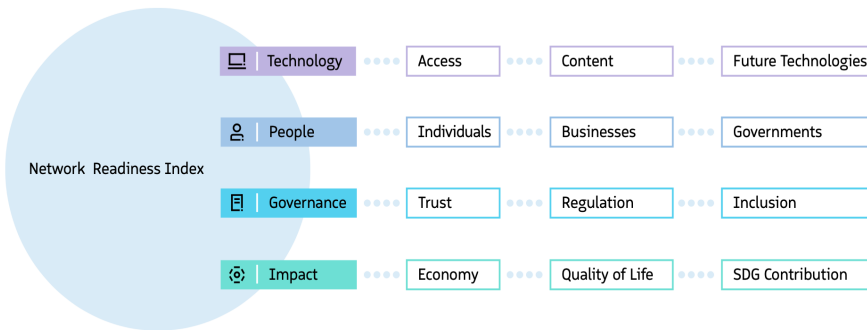
With support from:



Malaysia

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.

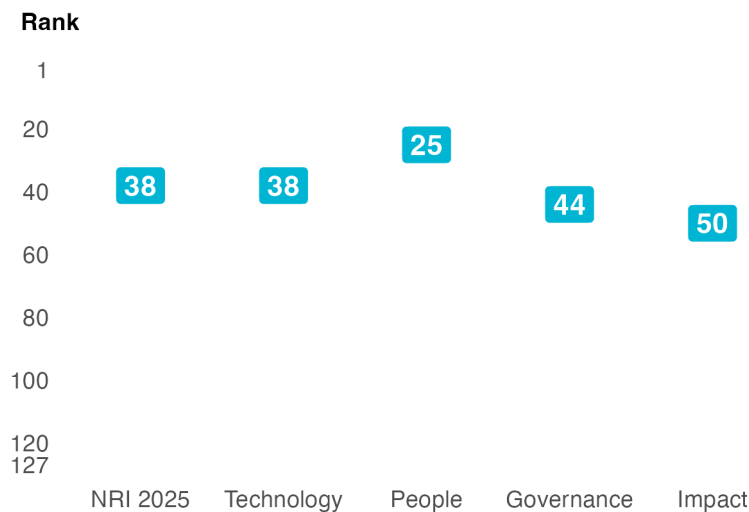
Figure 1: The NRI 2025 model



Global NRI position of Malaysia

Malaysia ranks 38 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 Impact.

Figure 2: Malaysia global ranking, overall and by pillar



Performance at sub-pillar level

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

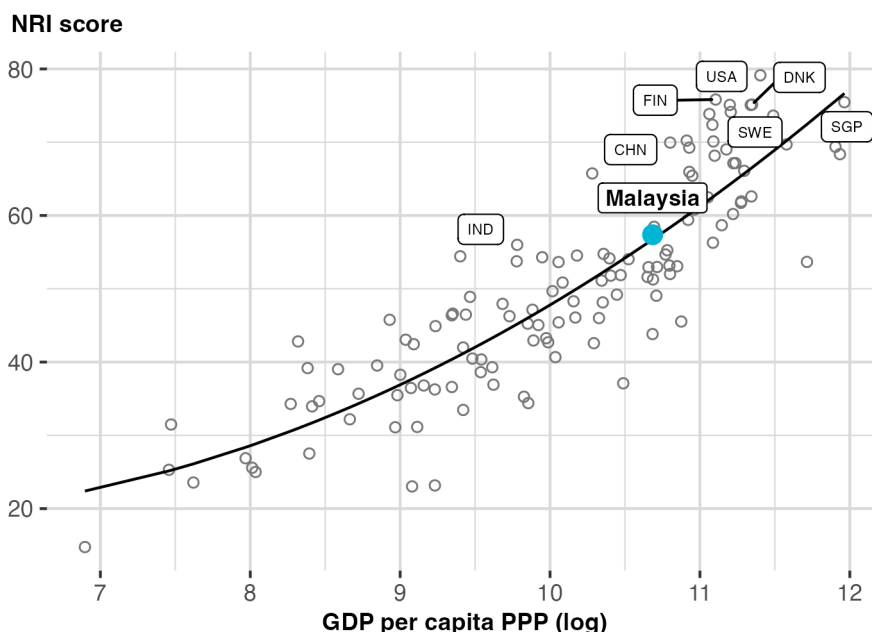
Table 1: Malaysia rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Individuals	11	Trust	44
Governments	24	Regulation	46
Access	31	Content	56
Future Technologies	31	Businesses	56
Economy	35	Inclusion	56
Quality of Life	40	SDG Contribution	95

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Malaysia 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, Malaysia is slightly above the trend line, which suggests that its network readiness is more or less in line with what 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

Malaysia is ranked 2nd 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, Regulation, Inclusion, Economy and Quality of Life.

Asia & Pacific

Malaysia is ranked 8th within Asia & Pacific (Figure 4, right panel). It has a score above the regional average in three of the four pillars: Technology, People and Governance. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Asia & Pacific in eight of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Future Technologies, Individuals, Governments, Trust, Regulation, Inclusion and Quality of Life.

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



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

Dimension	Malaysia	Upper-middle-income countries	Asia & Pacific
NRI	57.37	47.32	53.68
Technology	50.61	39.95	50.06
People	53.14	40.75	46.80
Governance	69.79	57.29	61.33
Impact	55.94	51.31	56.53

NRI 2025 At-A-Glance: Malaysia

Network Readiness Index

Rank: 38 (out of 127)

Score: 57.37

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	38	50.61	C. Governance pillar	44	69.79
1st sub-pillar: Access	31	77.84	1st sub-pillar: Trust	44	73.78
2nd sub-pillar: Content	56	27.26	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	46	68.33
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	31	46.74	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	56	67.26
B. People pillar	25	53.14	D. Impact pillar	50	55.94
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	11	69.25	1st sub-pillar: Economy	35	40.64
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	56	32.63	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	40	73.07
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	24	57.54	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	95	54.11

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	38	50.61	C. Governance pillar	44	69.79
1st sub-pillar: Access	31	77.84	1st sub-pillar: Trust	44	73.78
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	71	63.25	3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	47	71.83
1.1.2 Handset prices	50	76.73	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	25	98.58
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	27	47.20	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	14	62.61
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	78	92.63	3.1.4 Internet shopping	30	62.10
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	9	87.22	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	46	68.33
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	1	100.00	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	41	58.77
2nd sub-pillar: Content	56	27.26	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	64	73.75
1.2.1 GitHub commits	62	7.28	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	40	59.69
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	58	5.27	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	72	62.15	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	89	49.46
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	23	34.35	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	56	67.26
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	31	46.74	3.3.1 E-Participation	53	68.11
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	39	71.76	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	71	67.78
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	12	78.75	3.3.3 Gender gap in Internet use	42	66.55
1.3.3 Robot density	30	8.44	3.3.4 Rural gap in use of digital payments	36	66.59
1.3.4 Computer software spending	29	28.03	D. Impact pillar	50	55.94
B. People pillar	25	53.14	1st sub-pillar: Economy	35	40.64
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	11	69.25	4.1.1 ICT patent applications	41	3.48
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	10	47.95	4.1.2 Domestic market scale	28	68.64
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	49	57.52	4.1.3 Technology-Enabled Work Flexibility	12	79.25
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	38	77.68	4.1.4 ICT services exports	70	11.21
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	39	93.85	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	40	73.07
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	n/a	n/a	4.2.1 Happiness	62	60.21
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	56	32.63	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	2	97.27

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Indicator	Rank	Score
2.2.1 Firms with website	61	55.70
2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	80	2.16 ○
2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	32	49.33
2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	35	23.32
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3rd sub-pillar: Governments	24	57.54
2.3.1 Government online services	68	67.27
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	8	71.20 ●
2.3.3 Government promotion of emerging technologies	15	76.77 ●
2.3.4 Gross expenditure on R&D	42	14.91

Indicator	Rank	Score
4.2.3 Income inequality	86	56.89 ○
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	62	66.57
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3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	95	54.11
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	53	91.11
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	56	27.70 ○
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	116	42.73 ○
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	82	69.21
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	65	62.50

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

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