Netherlands

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.
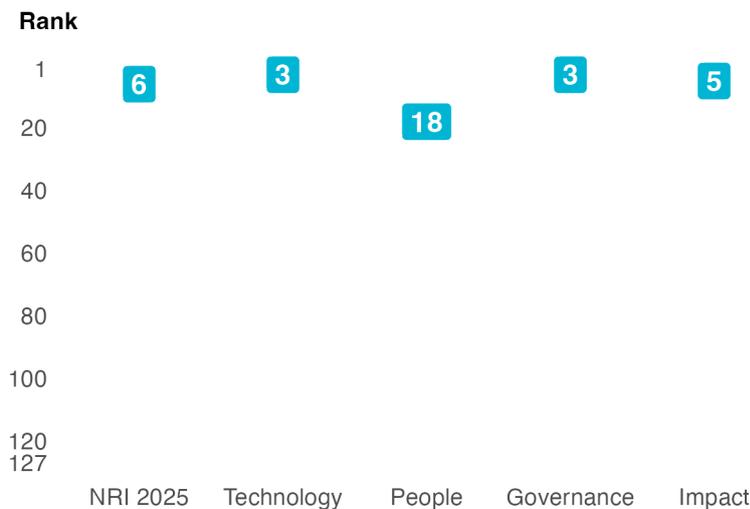
Figure 1: The NRI 2025 model

Global NRI position of Netherlands

Netherlands ranks 6 out of the 127 economies included in the NRI 2025 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to Technology and Governance. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns People.

Figure 2: Netherlands global ranking, overall and by pillar

Performance at sub-pillar level

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

Table 1: Netherlands rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Trust	2	SDG Contribution	8
Content	3	Inclusion	11
Regulation	4	Businesses	13
Future Technologies	7	Access	15
Quality of Life	7	Governments	19
Economy	8	Individuals	45

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Netherlands 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, Netherlands 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)
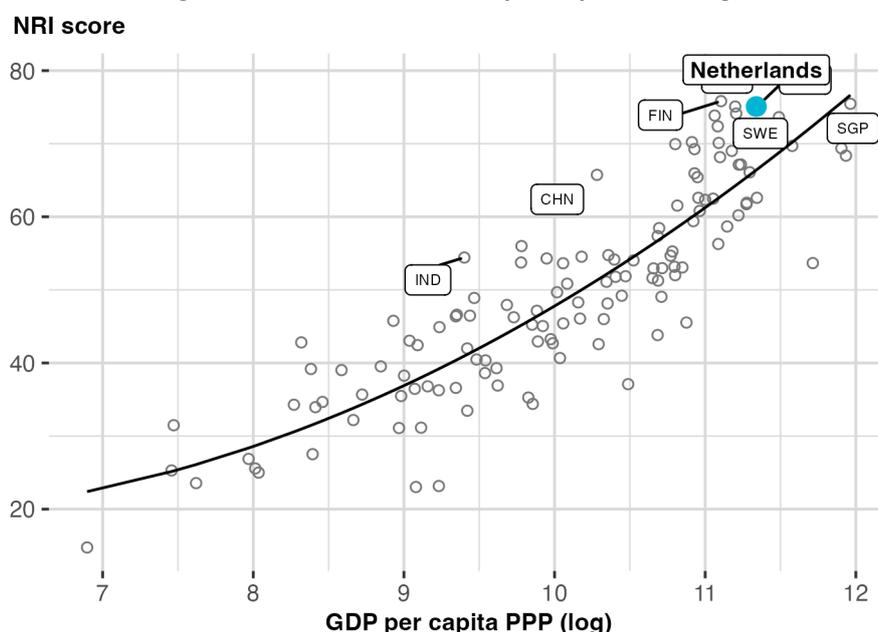
Note: USA = United States of America (rank: 1), FIN =Finland (rank: 2), SGP = Singapore (3), DNK =Denmark (4), SWE = Sweden (5), CHN =China (24), and IND = India (45).

Performance against its income group and region

High-income countries
Netherlands is ranked 6th 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 eleven of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Content, Future Technologies, Businesses, Governments, Trust, Regulation, Inclusion, Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

Europe
Netherlands is ranked 4th 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 Netherlands against its income group and region, overall and by pillar
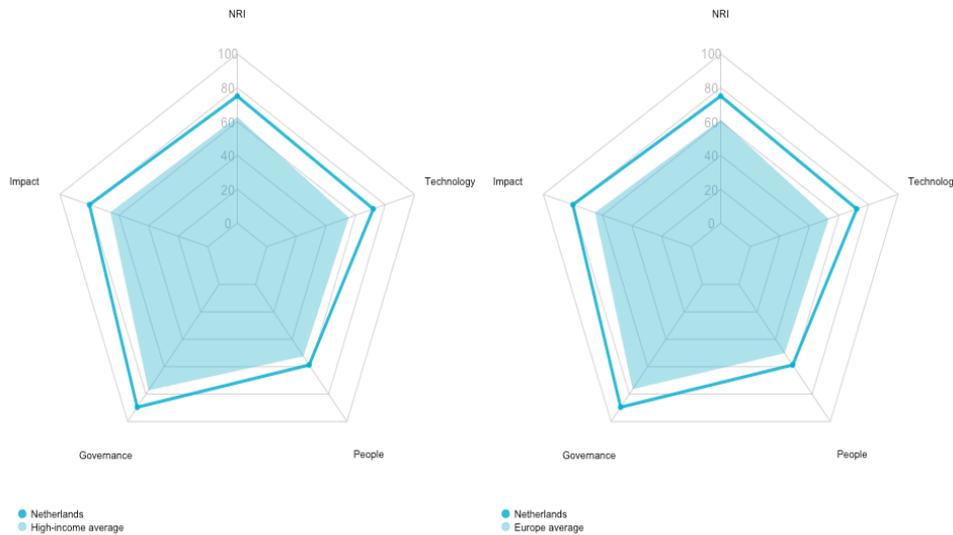

Table 2: Netherlands scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Netherlands	High-income countries	Europe
NRI	75.08	62.71	61.14
Technology	72.01	55.47	53.04
People	58.71	52.36	50.07
Governance	89.56	77.18	76.41
Impact	80.05	65.84	65.05

NRI 2025 At-A-Glance: Netherlands

Network Readiness Index Rank: 6 (out of 127) Score: 75.08

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	3	72.01	C. Governance pillar	3	89.56
1st sub-pillar: Access	15	80.84	1st sub-pillar: Trust	2	94.84
2nd sub-pillar: Content	3	69.61	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	4	89.68
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	7	65.59	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	11	84.18
B. People pillar	18	58.71	D. Impact pillar	5	80.05
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	45	55.56	1st sub-pillar: Economy	8	67.46
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	13	57.60	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	7	87.28
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	19	62.97	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	8	85.41

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score		Indicator	Rank	Score	
A. Technology pillar	3	72.01		C. Governance pillar	3	89.56	
1st sub-pillar: Access	15	80.84		1st sub-pillar: Trust	2	94.84	
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	23	86.16		3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	4	98.26	●
1.1.2 Handset prices	22	94.01		3.1.2 Cybersecurity	22	99.06	
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	54	34.96	○	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	n/a	n/a	
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	63	94.74	○	3.1.4 Internet shopping	7	87.19	
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	44	75.19		2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	4	89.68	
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	1	100.00	●	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	6	87.05	●
2nd sub-pillar: Content	3	69.61		3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	19	89.69	
1.2.1 GitHub commits	4	93.60	●	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	12	81.36	
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	1	100.00	●	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00	●
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	27	72.13		3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	12	90.29	
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	44	12.72		3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	11	84.18	
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	7	65.59		3.3.1 E-Participation	12	92.75	
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	6	96.37	●	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	16	95.95	
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	5	87.75	●	3.3.3 Gender gap in Internet use	65	63.83	○
1.3.3 Robot density	12	35.79		3.3.4 Rural gap in use of digital payments	n/a	n/a	
1.3.4 Computer software spending	20	42.45		D. Impact pillar	5	80.05	
B. People pillar	18	58.71		1st sub-pillar: Economy	8	67.46	
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	45	55.56		4.1.1 ICT patent applications	11	72.47	
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	49	20.56		4.1.2 Domestic market scale	27	69.23	
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	34	67.54		4.1.3 Technology-Enabled Work Flexibility	2	94.32	●
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	9	86.15		4.1.4 ICT services exports	26	33.81	
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	n/a	n/a		2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	7	87.28	
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	9	47.97		4.2.1 Happiness	5	90.39	●
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	13	57.60		4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	45	80.21	

Indicator		Rank	Score	
2.2.1	Firms with website	14	88.70	
2.2.2	Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	17	35.62	
2.2.3	Annual investment in telecommunication services	17	59.40	
2.2.4	Public cloud computing market scale	10	46.69	
3rd sub-pillar: Governments		19	62.97	
2.3.1	Government online services	15	90.52	
2.3.2	Data Capabilities	5	73.29	●
2.3.3	Government promotion of emerging technologies	32	53.05	
2.3.4	Gross expenditure on R&D	15	35.04	

Indicator		Rank	Score	
4.2.3	Income inequality	5	95.15	●
4.2.4	Healthy life expectancy at birth	19	87.32	
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution		8	85.41	
4.3.1	SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	1	100.00	●
4.3.2	SDG 4: Quality Education	25	59.04	
4.3.3	SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	1	100.00	●
4.3.4	SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	21	87.08	
4.3.5	SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	17	90.99	

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

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