Network Readiness Index 2025

Nicaragua

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.
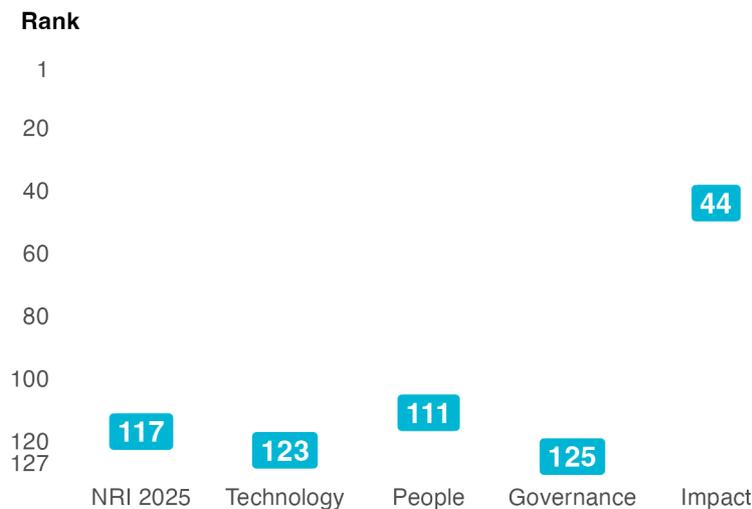
Figure 1: The NRI 2025 model

Global NRI position of Nicaragua

Nicaragua ranks 117 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 Governance.

Figure 2: Nicaragua global ranking, overall and by pillar

Performance at sub-pillar level

When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Nicaragua relate to SDG Contribution, Quality of Life and Economy, among others (Table 1). More could be done, though, to improve the economy's performances in the Trust, Regulation and Future Technologies sub-pillars.

Table 1: Nicaragua rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
SDG Contribution	40	Access	118
Quality of Life	47	Content	119
Economy	73	Inclusion	119
Individuals	84	Trust	124
Businesses	117	Regulation	125
Governments	117	Future Technologies	127

NRI score and income

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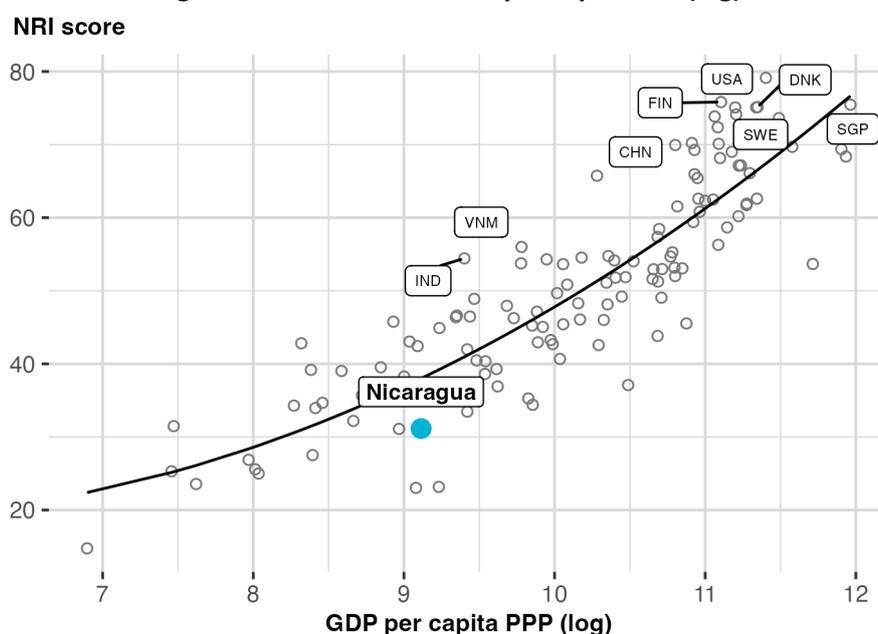
Note: USA = United States of America (rank: 1), FIN =Finland (rank: 2), SGP = Singapore (3), DNK =Denmark (4), SWE = Sweden (5), CHN =China (24), and IND = India (45).

Performance against its income group and region

Lower-middle-income countries
Nicaragua is ranked 28th in the group of lower-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: Impact. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms lower-middle-income countries in four of the twelve sub-pillars: Individuals, Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

The Americas
Nicaragua is ranked 21st within The Americas (Figure 4, right panel). It has a score above the regional average in one of the four pillars: Impact. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in The Americas in three of the twelve sub-pillars: Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

Figure 4: Performance of Nicaragua against its income group and region, overall and by pillar
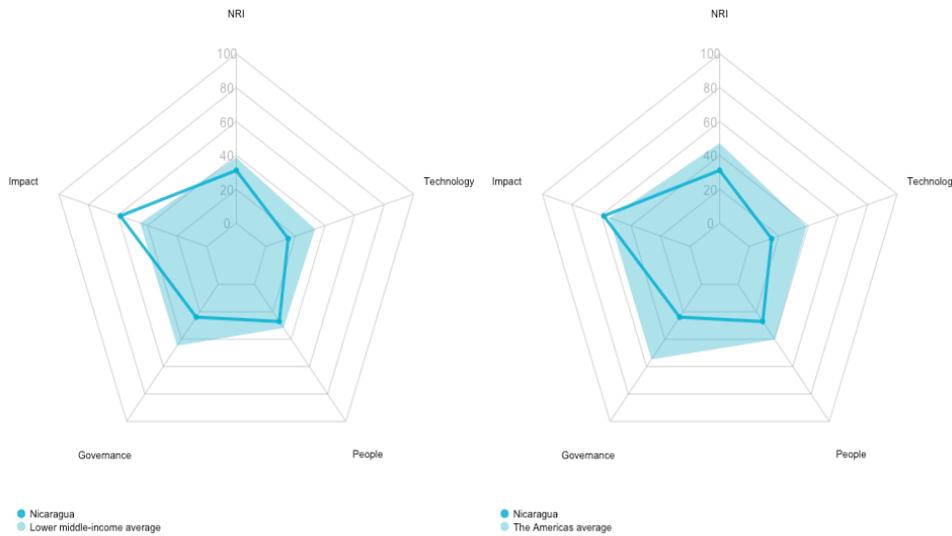
Table 2: Nicaragua scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Nicaragua	Lower-middle-income countries	The Americas
NRI	31.15	38.70	47.15
Technology	15.12	33.29	38.91
People	27.08	31.73	40.23
Governance	23.90	44.79	54.75
Impact	58.48	45.00	54.70

NRI 2025 At-A-Glance: Nicaragua

Network Readiness Index   Rank: 117 (out of 127)   Score: 31.15

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	123	15.12	C. Governance pillar	125	23.90
1st sub-pillar: Access	118	30.97	1st sub-pillar: Trust	124	14.96
2nd sub-pillar: Content	119	6.06	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	125	30.49
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	127	8.34	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	119	26.24
B. People pillar	111	27.08	D. Impact pillar	44	58.48
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	84	46.25	1st sub-pillar: Economy	73	30.22
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	117	17.33	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	47	70.48
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	117	17.68	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	40	74.76

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score		Indicator	Rank	Score	
A. Technology pillar	123	15.12		C. Governance pillar	125	23.90	
1st sub-pillar: Access	118	30.97		1st sub-pillar: Trust	124	14.96	
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	117	28.64		3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	107	35.72	
1.1.2 Handset prices	96	40.63		3.1.2 Cybersecurity	125	4.55	○
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	89	22.62		3.1.3 Online access to financial account	n/a	n/a	
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	116	35.26		3.1.4 Internet shopping	112	4.62	
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	121	55.20		2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	125	30.49	
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	83	3.47		3.2.1 Regulatory quality	114	20.26	
2nd sub-pillar: Content	119	6.06		3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	93	52.81	
1.2.1 GitHub commits	103	2.05		3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	113	2.14	○
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	91	1.40		3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	107	50.00	○
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	118	20.70	○	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	114	27.27	
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	121	0.08		3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	119	26.24	
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	127	8.34		3.3.1 E-Participation	116	18.84	
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	n/a	n/a		3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	90	53.68	
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	122	13.25		3.3.3 Gender gap in Internet use	n/a	n/a	
1.3.3 Robot density	n/a	n/a		3.3.4 Rural gap in use of digital payments	79	6.20	○
1.3.4 Computer software spending	104	3.42		D. Impact pillar	44	58.48	
B. People pillar	111	27.08		1st sub-pillar: Economy	73	30.22	
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	84	46.25		4.1.1 ICT patent applications	n/a	n/a	
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	94	5.04		4.1.2 Domestic market scale	107	38.19	
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	n/a	n/a		4.1.3 Technology-Enabled Work Flexibility	n/a	n/a	
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	85	53.19	●	4.1.4 ICT services exports	46	22.25	●
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	64	80.53	●	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	47	70.48	
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	n/a	n/a		4.2.1 Happiness	45	68.59	●
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	117	17.33		4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	28	86.98	●

Indicator	Rank	Score	
2.2.1 Firms with website	92	33.87	
2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	n/a	n/a	
2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	116	17.14	○
2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	96	0.96	
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	117	17.68	
2.3.1 Government online services	110	33.74	
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	n/a	n/a	
2.3.3 Government promotion of emerging technologies	n/a	n/a	
2.3.4 Gross expenditure on R&D	96	1.61	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
4.2.3 Income inequality	103	42.86	
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	55	68.87	●
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	40	74.76	
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	76	77.78	●
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	n/a	n/a	
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	58	80.00	●
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	80	71.69	●
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	56	67.42	●

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

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