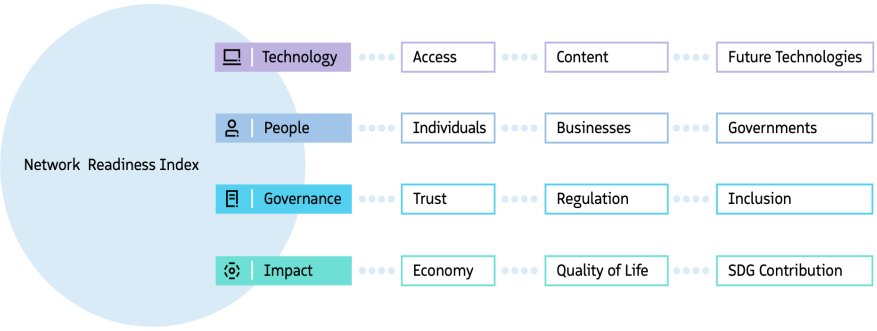
Panama

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.

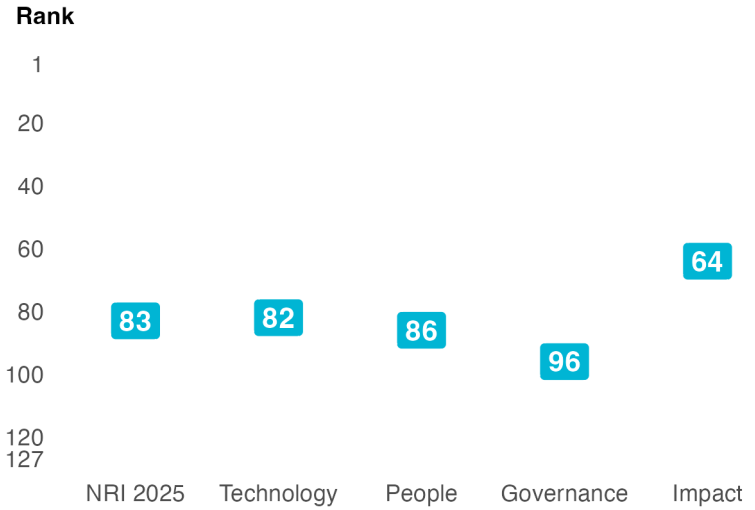
Figure 1: The NRI 2025 model



Global NRI position of Panama

Panama ranks 83 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: Panama global ranking, overall and by pillar



Performance at sub-pillar level

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

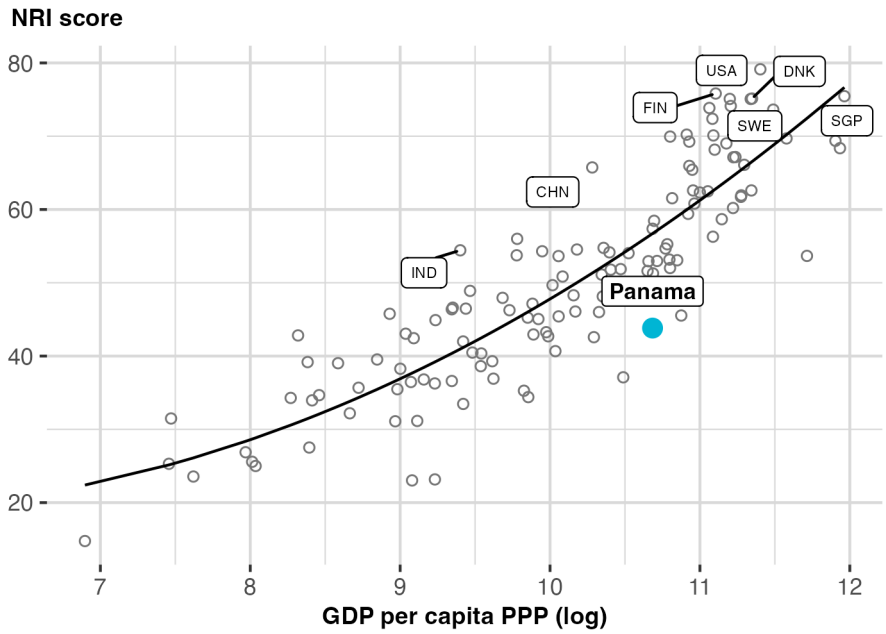
Table 1: Panama rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Individuals	30	Trust	86
Quality of Life	50	Governments	93
SDG Contribution	54	Access	96
Future Technologies	61	Economy	103
Regulation	68	Inclusion	112
Content	74	Businesses	121

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Panama 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, Panama 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

Panama is ranked 51st in the group of high-income countries (Figure 4, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a score below the income group average in each of the four pillars. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in one of the twelve sub-pillars: Individuals.

The Americas

Panama is ranked 13th within The Americas (Figure 4, right panel). It lags behind its region in each of the four pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in The Americas in five of the twelve sub-pillars: Future Technologies, Individuals, Regulation, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

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

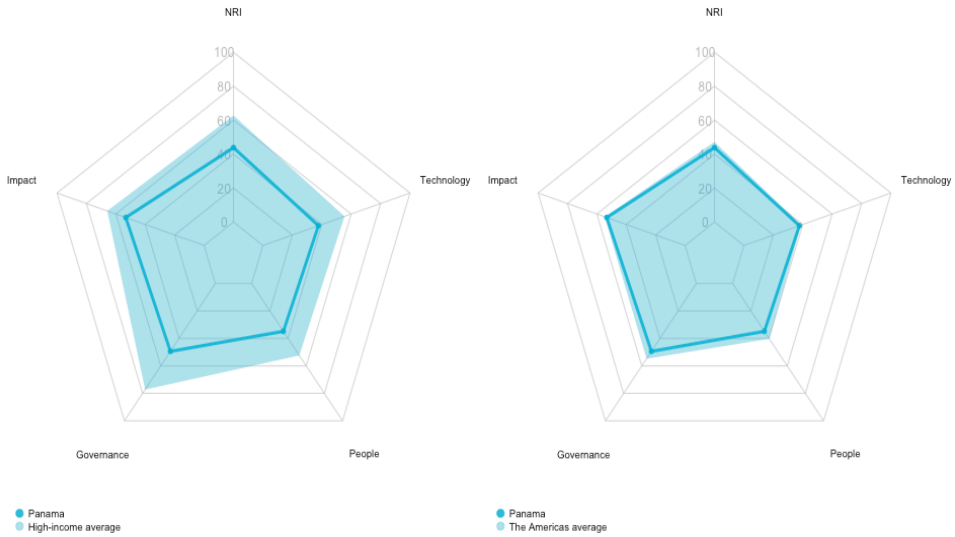


Table 2: Panama scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Panama	High-income countries	The Americas
NRI	43.82	62.71	47.15
Technology	37.74	55.47	38.91
People	34.84	52.36	40.23
Governance	49.41	77.18	54.75
Impact	53.28	65.84	54.70

NRI 2025 At-A-Glance: Panama

Network Readiness Index Rank: 83 (out of 127) Score: 43.82

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	82	37.74
1st sub-pillar: Access	96	56.05
2nd sub-pillar: Content	74	22.31
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	61	34.87
B. People pillar	86	34.84
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	30	59.00
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	121	16.09
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	93	29.44

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
C. Governance pillar	96	49.41
1st sub-pillar: Trust	86	45.64
2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	68	61.92
3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	112	40.68
D. Impact pillar	64	53.28
1st sub-pillar: Economy	103	23.21
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	50	69.22
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	54	67.40

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	
A. Technology pillar	82	37.74	
1st sub-pillar: Access	96	56.05	
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	95	50.78	
1.1.2 Handset prices	26	91.98	●
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	102	15.65	
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	100	73.68	
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	106	63.34	
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	68	40.86	
2nd sub-pillar: Content	74	22.31	
1.2.1 GitHub commits	88	3.63	
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	37	16.94	●
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	50	68.54	
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	118	0.13	○
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	61	34.87	
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	84	47.80	
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	62	40.25	
1.3.3 Robot density	n/a	n/a	
1.3.4 Computer software spending	67	16.57	
B. People pillar	86	34.84	
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	30	59.00	
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	n/a	n/a	
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	109	20.97	○
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	73	61.77	
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	38	94.24	
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	n/a	n/a	
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	121	16.09	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
C. Governance pillar	96	49.41	
1st sub-pillar: Trust	86	45.64	
3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	63	62.08	
3.1.2 Cybersecurity	95	59.80	
3.1.3 Online access to financial account	30	41.22	
3.1.4 Internet shopping	74	19.45	
2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	68	61.92	
3.2.1 Regulatory quality	66	45.20	
3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	78	63.44	
3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	64	43.66	
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	72	75.00	
3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	24	82.29	●
3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	112	40.68	
3.3.1 E-Participation	81	49.27	
3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	117	26.39	○
3.3.3 Gender gap in Internet use	22	69.04	●
3.3.4 Rural gap in use of digital payments	73	18.03	
D. Impact pillar	64	53.28	
1st sub-pillar: Economy	103	23.21	
4.1.1 ICT patent applications	63	0.34	
4.1.2 Domestic market scale	76	49.43	
4.1.3 Technology-Enabled Work Flexibility	73	32.36	
4.1.4 ICT services exports	72	10.71	
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	50	69.22	
4.2.1 Happiness	38	70.31	●
4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	38	82.29	●

Network Readiness Index 2025

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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	69	4.07	
2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	66	40.00	
2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	66	4.21	
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	93	29.44	
2.3.1 Government online services	83	57.95	
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	42	42.41	
2.3.3 Government promotion of emerging technologies	102	14.97	○
2.3.4 Gross expenditure on R&D	89	2.40	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
4.2.3 Income inequality	105	33.93	○
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	36	76.18	●
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	54	67.40	
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	46	95.56	●
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	69	17.10	
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	88	70.00	
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	5	95.37	●
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	33	78.71	●

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

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