

Network Readiness Index 2025

With support from:



Republic of Korea

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.

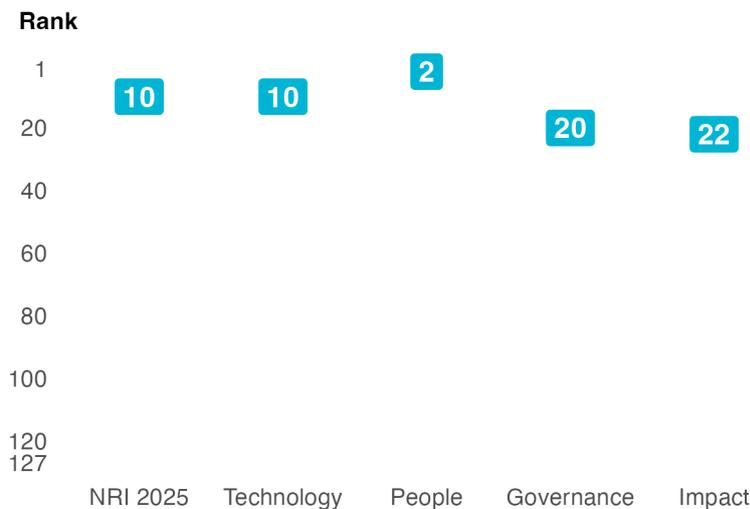
Figure 1: The NRI 2025 model



Global NRI position of Republic of Korea

Republic of Korea ranks 10 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: Republic of Korea global ranking, overall and by pillar



Performance at sub-pillar level

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

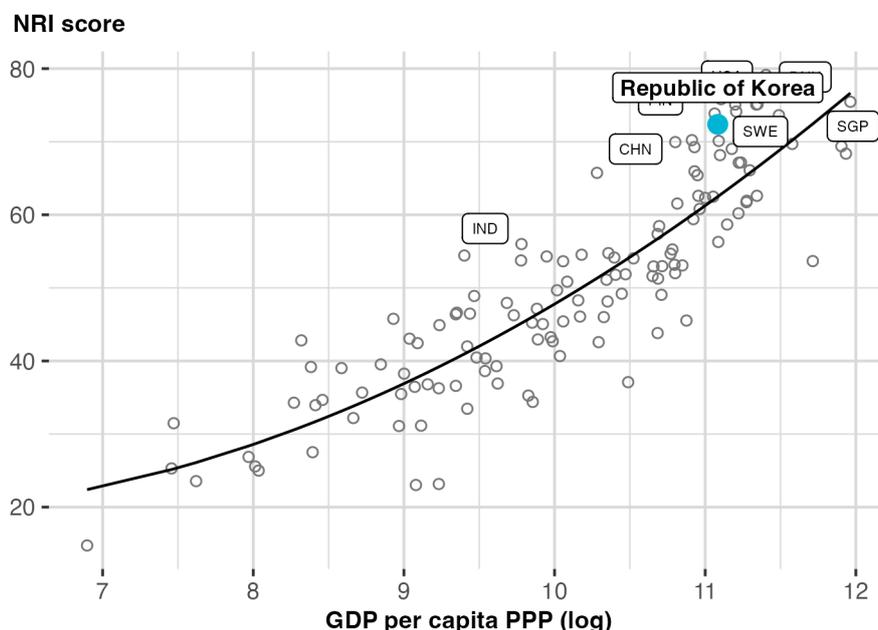
Table 1: Republic of Korea rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Governments	1	Trust	13
Future Technologies	4	Content	17
Individuals	4	Access	29
Inclusion	7	SDG Contribution	31
Businesses	10	Regulation	38
Economy	12	Quality of Life	56

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Republic of Korea 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, Republic of Korea 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

Republic of Korea is ranked 10th 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, Content, Future Technologies, Individuals, Businesses, Governments, Trust, Inclusion, Economy and SDG Contribution.

Asia & Pacific

Republic of Korea is ranked 2nd 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 Republic of Korea against its income group and region, overall and by pillar



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

Dimension	Republic of Korea	High-income countries	Asia & Pacific
NRI	72.38	62.71	53.68
Technology	66.07	55.47	50.06
People	72.55	52.36	46.80
Governance	82.05	77.18	61.33
Impact	68.84	65.84	56.53

NRI 2025 At-A-Glance: Republic of Korea

Network Readiness Index

Rank: 10 (out of 127)

Score: 72.38

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	10	66.07	C. Governance pillar	20	82.05
1st sub-pillar: Access	29	78.43	1st sub-pillar: Trust	13	88.50
2nd sub-pillar: Content	17	49.81	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	38	71.44
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	4	69.98	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	7	86.20
B. People pillar	2	72.55	D. Impact pillar	22	68.84
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	4	74.31	1st sub-pillar: Economy	12	59.47
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	10	60.50	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	56	68.30
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	1	82.85	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	31	78.74

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	10	66.07	C. Governance pillar	20	82.05
1st sub-pillar: Access	29	78.43	1st sub-pillar: Trust	13	88.50
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	67	65.38	3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	44	75.58
1.1.2 Handset prices	59	67.92	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	1	100.00
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	14	58.28	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	4	89.91
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	25	79.50	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	38	71.44
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	1	100.00	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	26	70.32
2nd sub-pillar: Content	17	49.81	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	85	55.94
1.2.1 GitHub commits	19	57.04	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	32	64.38
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	48	8.70	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	15	74.74	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	55	66.57
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	12	58.74	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	7	86.20
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	4	69.98	3.3.1 E-Participation	4	97.10
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	1	100.00	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	25	92.50
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	34	59.50	3.3.3 Gender gap in Internet use	23	69.00
1.3.3 Robot density	1	100.00	3.3.4 Rural gap in use of digital payments	n/a	n/a
1.3.4 Computer software spending	51	20.42	D. Impact pillar	22	68.84
B. People pillar	2	72.55	1st sub-pillar: Economy	12	59.47
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	4	74.31	4.1.1 ICT patent applications	1	100.00
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	16	45.41	4.1.2 Domestic market scale	14	76.87
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	10	81.71	4.1.3 Technology-Enabled Work Flexibility	51	47.88
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	3	98.53	4.1.4 ICT services exports	64	13.14
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	22	98.16	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	56	68.30
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	10	47.75	4.2.1 Happiness	56	62.06
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	10	60.50	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	95	56.51

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Indicator	Rank	Score
2.2.1 Firms with website	38	69.14
2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	6	74.45
2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	14	61.20
2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	17	37.20
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3rd sub-pillar: Governments	1	82.85
2.3.1 Government online services	1	100.00 ●
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	2	86.13 ●
2.3.3 Government promotion of emerging technologies	21	67.16
2.3.4 Gross expenditure on R&D	2	78.13 ●

Indicator	Rank	Score
4.2.3 Income inequality	40	76.79
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	3	95.88 ●
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3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	31	78.74
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	1	100.00 ●
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	4	77.02 ●
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	51	82.73
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	93	63.83 ○
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	29	82.78

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

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