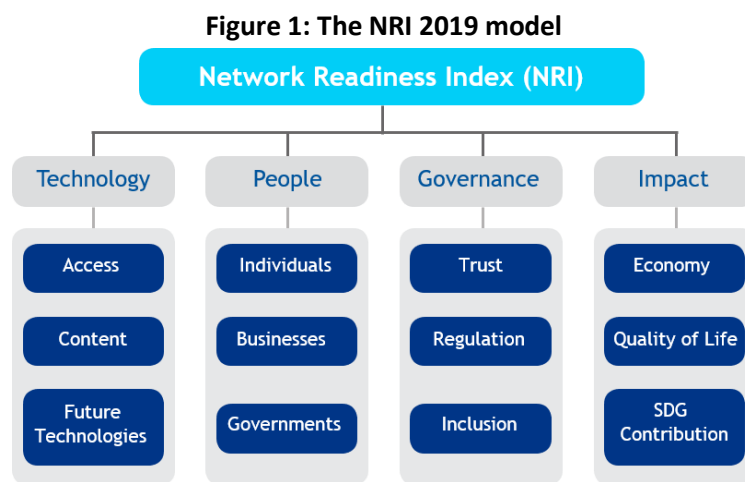


# Network Readiness Index 2019

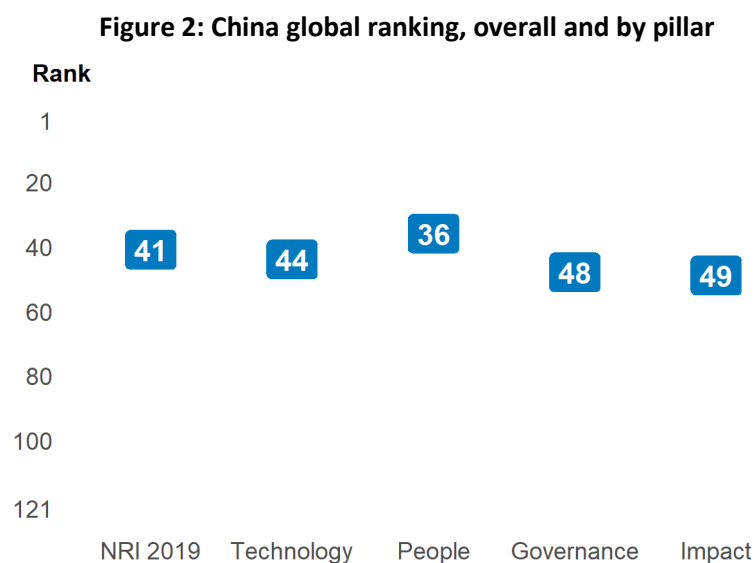
## China

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 2019 the NRI Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 121 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 62 variables.



### Global NRI position of China

China ranks 41st out of the 121 economies included in the NRI 2019 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to People. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Impact.



### Performance at sub-pillar level

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

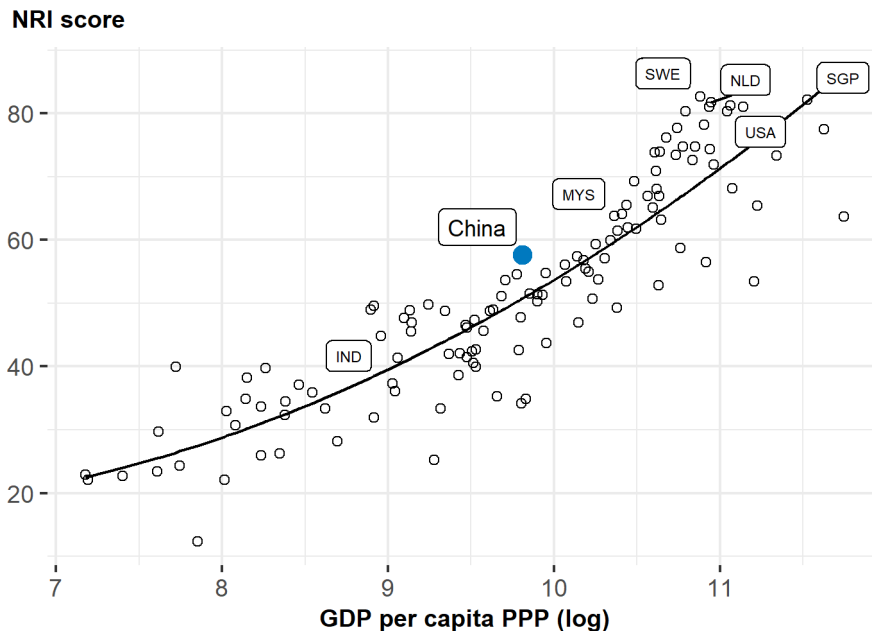
**Table 1: China rankings by sub-pillar**

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Businesses	25	Quality of Life	48
Future Technologies	26	Trust	51
Economy	32	Individuals	52
Access	42	Regulation	52
Governments	47	Content	78
Inclusion	48	SDG Contribution	78

### NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of China 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, China 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: SWE = Sweden (rank: 1), SGP = Singapore (2), NLD = Netherlands (3), IND = India (79). USA is ranked 8th. China belongs to the group of upper-middle-income countries, where the best performer is Malaysia (MYS). The top performer of its region—Asia & Pacific—is Singapore (SGP).

## Performance against its income group and region

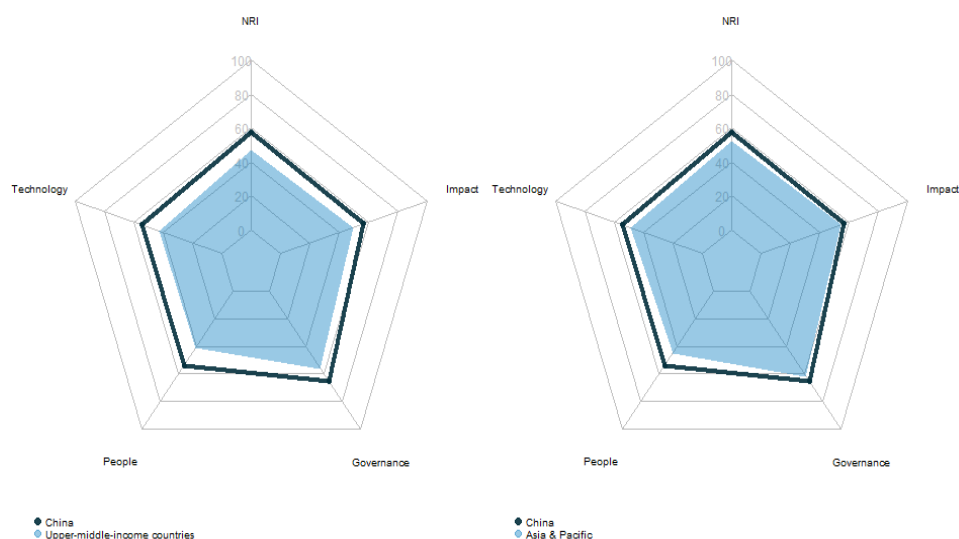
### Upper-middle-income countries

China 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 ten of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Future Technology, Individuals, Businesses, Governments, Trust, Regulation, Inclusion, Economy and Quality of Life.

### Asia & Pacific

China is ranked 8th within Asia & Pacific (Figure 4, right panel). It outperforms its region in each of the four pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Asia & Pacific in ten of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Future Technology, Individuals, Businesses, Trust, Regulation, Inclusion, Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

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



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

Dimension	China	Upper-middle-income countries	Asia & Pacific
NRI	57.63	47.40	52.44
Technology	54.46	42.66	48.56
People	53.89	41.07	44.85
Governance	65.42	56.24	61.84
Impact	56.73	49.62	54.50

### Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where China performs particularly well include E-commerce legislation, Fixed-broadband subscriptions, and Maths proficiency in schools (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include ICT regulatory environment, Pollution, and Use of clean fuels and technology.

**Table 3: Top-ranked and bottom-ranked indicators of China**

<b>Strongest indicators</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Weakest indicators</b>	<b>Rank</b>
E-commerce legislation	1	Regulatory quality	80
Fixed-broadband subscriptions	7	International Internet bandwidth	81
Maths proficiency in schools	7	Digital participation and content creation	82
Online trust and safety	8	Road safety	83
High-tech exports	8	Happiness	86
Government procurement of advanced technology products	10	Internet users	87
R&D expenditure by businesses	12	Access to basic services	87
4G mobile network coverage	21	Use of clean fuels and technology	91
Computer software spending	21	Pollution	110
Robot density	21	ICT regulatory environment	114

# NRI 2019 At-A-Glance: China

Network Readiness Index

Rank: 41 (out of 121)

Score: 57.63

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
<b>A. Technology pillar</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>54.46</b>	<b>C. Governance pillar</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>65.42</b>
1st sub-pillar: Access	42	77.36	1st sub-pillar: Trust	51	60.83
2nd sub-pillar: Content	78	35.37	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	52	67.52
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	26	50.66	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	48	67.92
<b>B. People pillar</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>53.89</b>	<b>D. Impact pillar</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>56.73</b>
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	52	57.77	1st sub-pillar: Economy	32	34.90
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	25	54.85	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	48	66.22
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	47	49.06	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	78	69.06

## The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
<b>A. Technology pillar</b>			<b>C. Governance pillar</b>		
<i>1st sub-pillar: Access</i>			<i>1st sub-pillar: Trust</i>		
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	26	79.82	3.1.1 Rule of law	69	48.74
1.1.2 Handset prices	63	46.73	3.1.2 Software piracy rate	65	31.08
1.1.3 Internet access	75	56.86	3.1.3 Secure Internet servers	68	52.05
1.1.4 4G mobile network coverage	21	99.40	3.1.4 Cybersecurity	29	88.71
1.1.5 Fixed-broadband subscriptions	7	98.47	3.1.5 Online trust and safety	8	83.56
1.1.6 International Internet bandwidth	81	63.98	<i>2nd sub-pillar: Regulation</i>		
1.1.7 Internet access in schools	29	96.23	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	80	48.44
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Content</i>			3.2.2 Ease of doing business	30	84.37
1.2.1 Digital participation and content creation	*	*	3.2.3 Legal framework's adaptability to digital business models	23	68.91
1.2.2 Mobile apps development	68	58.93	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00
1.2.3 Intellectual property receipts	44	0.86	3.2.5 Social safety net protection	40	59.37
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies</i>			3.2.6 ICT regulatory environment	114	44.02
1.3.1 Availability of latest technologies	75	44.95	<i>3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion</i>		
1.3.2 Company investment in emerging technology	33	56.31	3.3.1 E-Participation	29	89.17
1.3.3 Government procurement of advanced technology products	10	74.25	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	76	58.25
1.3.4 ICT PCT patent applications	22	52.42	3.3.3 Availability of local online content	49	60.03
1.3.5 Computer software spending	21	36.36	3.3.4 Gender gap in internet use	NA	NA
1.3.6 Robot density	21	39.65	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	67	64.25
<b>B. People pillar</b>			<b>D. Impact pillar</b>		
<i>1st sub-pillar: Individuals</i>			<i>1st sub-pillar: Economy</i>		
2.1.1 Internet users	87	49.53	4.1.1 Medium and high-tech industry	26	52.90
2.1.2 Active mobile-broadband subscriptions	35	36.64	4.1.2 High-tech exports	8	58.53
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	21	70.89	4.1.3 PCT patent applications	28	8.48
2.1.4 Tertiary enrolment	57	36.66	4.1.4 Labour productivity per employee	69	19.71
2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	38	95.14	<i>2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life</i>		
2.1.6 ICT skills	NA	NA	4.2.1 Happiness	86	43.20
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Businesses</i>			4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	30	84.93
2.2.1 Firms with website	45	61.66	4.2.3 Income inequality	68	64.21
2.2.2 Internet shopping	28	58.06	4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	35	72.53
2.2.3 Professionals	NA	NA	<i>3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution</i>		
2.2.4 Technicians and associate professionals	NA	NA	4.3.1 Access to basic services	87	84.47
2.2.5 Extent of staff training	33	57.78	4.3.2 Pollution	110	50.99
2.2.6 R&D expenditure by businesses	12	41.92	4.3.3 Road safety	83	51.56
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Governments</i>			4.3.4 Reading proficiency in schools	30	82.28
2.3.1 Government online services	34	84.61	4.3.5 Maths proficiency in schools	7	86.18
2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	69	19.64	4.3.6 Use of clean fuels and technology	91	58.89
2.3.3 ICT use and government efficiency	NA	NA			
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	37	42.91			

\* Confidential data

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