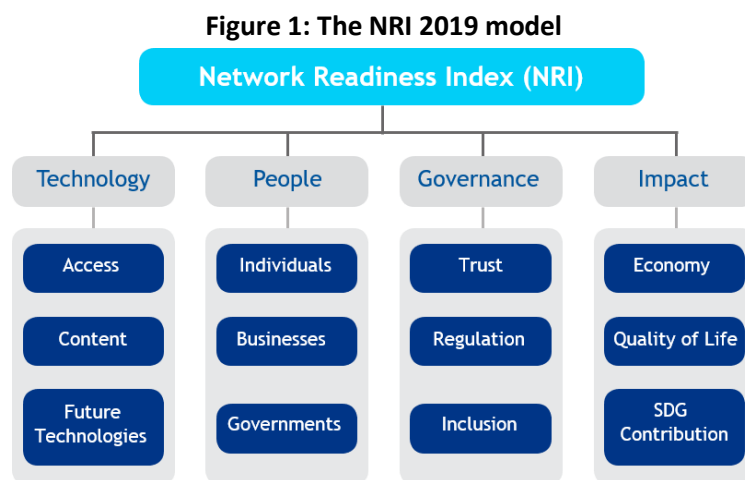


Network Readiness Index 2019

Kuwait

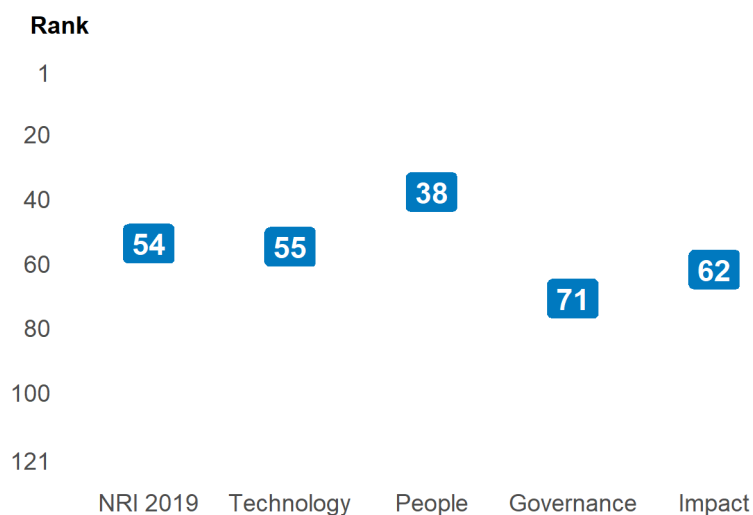
The Network Readiness Index (NRI) is one of the leading global indices on the application and impact of information and communication technology (ICT) in economies around the world. In its latest version of 2019 the NRI Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 121 economies based on their 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 Kuwait

Kuwait ranks 54th 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 Governance.

Figure 2: Kuwait global ranking, overall and by pillar



Performance at sub-pillar level

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

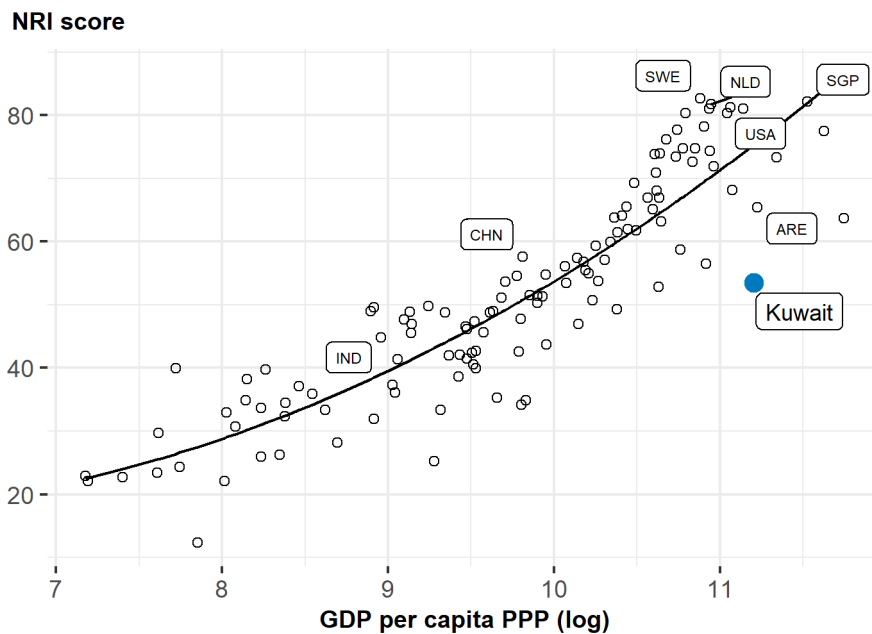
Table 1: Kuwait rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Individuals	3	Businesses	59
Access	34	Content	68
Economy	37	Future Technologies	74
Quality of Life	37	Regulation	80
Governments	38	Inclusion	82
Trust	57	SDG Contribution	89

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Kuwait 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, Kuwait 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: SWE = Sweden (rank: 1), SGP = Singapore (2), NLD = Netherlands (3), CHN = China (41), IND = India (79). USA is ranked 8th. Kuwait belongs to the group of high-income countries, where the best performer is Sweden (SWE). The top performer of its region—Arab States—is United Arab Emirates (ARE).

Performance against its income group and region

High-income countries

Kuwait is ranked 45th 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.

Arab States

Kuwait is ranked 5th within Arab States (Figure 4, right panel). It outperforms its region in each of the four pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Arab States in ten of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Content, Individuals, Businesses, Governments, Trust, Regulation, Inclusion, Economy and Quality of Life.

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

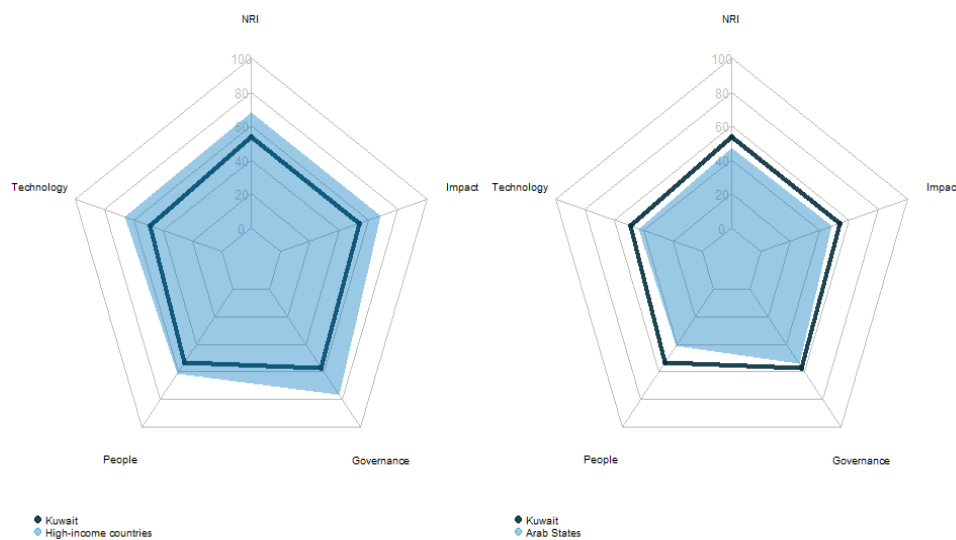


Table 2: Kuwait scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Kuwait	High-income countries	Arab States
NRI	53.39	68.12	46.82
Technology	49.19	66.07	43.54
People	53.58	61.07	41.30
Governance	57.26	77.07	54.28
Impact	53.54	68.29	48.18

Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where Kuwait performs particularly well include Internet access, 4G mobile network coverage, and Access to basic services (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include Rural gap in use of digital payments, Pollution, and ICT regulatory environment.

Table 3: Top-ranked and bottom-ranked indicators of Kuwait

Strongest indicators	Rank	Weakest indicators	Rank
Internet access	1	Government procurement of advanced technology products	73
4G mobile network coverage	1	Digital participation and content creation	75
Access to basic services	1	Ease of doing business	76
Use of clean fuels and technology	1	Road safety	76
Internet users	2	ICT PCT patent applications	80
Use of virtual social networks	3	High-tech exports	81
Labour productivity per employee	8	Legal framework's adaptability to digital business models	91
Active mobile-broadband subscriptions	11	ICT regulatory environment	106
Gender gap in internet use	17	Pollution	112
Handset prices	18	Rural gap in use of digital payments	116

NRI 2019 At-A-Glance: Kuwait

Network Readiness Index

Rank: 54 (out of 121)

Score: 53.39

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	55	49.19	C. Governance pillar	71	57.26
1st sub-pillar: Access	34	79.82	1st sub-pillar: Trust	57	58.12
2nd sub-pillar: Content	68	39.85	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	80	58.27
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	74	27.89	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	82	55.39
B. People pillar	38	53.58	D. Impact pillar	62	53.54
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	3	75.44	1st sub-pillar: Economy	37	30.25
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	59	30.41	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	37	69.78
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	38	54.89	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	89	60.61

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar			C. Governance pillar		
<i>1st sub-pillar: Access</i>			<i>1st sub-pillar: Trust</i>		
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	45	70.35	3.1.1 Rule of law	52	58.14
1.1.2 Handset prices	18	69.57	3.1.2 Software piracy rate	52	43.24
1.1.3 Internet access	1	100.00	3.1.3 Secure Internet servers	70	51.36
1.1.4 4G mobile network coverage	1	100.00	3.1.4 Cybersecurity	68	63.71
1.1.5 Fixed-broadband subscriptions	62	67.67	3.1.5 Online trust and safety	27	74.12
1.1.6 International Internet bandwidth	39	71.33	<i>2nd sub-pillar: Regulation</i>		
1.1.7 Internet access in schools	NA	NA	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	69	50.63
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Content</i>			3.2.2 Ease of doing business	76	65.75
1.2.1 Digital participation and content creation	*	*	3.2.3 Legal framework's adaptability to digital business models	91	31.84
1.2.2 Mobile apps development	52	65.90	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	66	75.00
1.2.3 Intellectual property receipts	NA	NA	3.2.5 Social safety net protection	31	66.17
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies</i>			3.2.6 ICT regulatory environment	106	60.23
1.3.1 Availability of latest technologies	53	56.83	<i>3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion</i>		
1.3.2 Company investment in emerging technology	56	37.71	3.3.1 E-Participation	69	64.97
1.3.3 Government procurement of advanced technology products	73	36.41	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	46	78.29
1.3.4 ICT PCT patent applications	80	0.00	3.3.3 Availability of local online content	50	58.94
1.3.5 Computer software spending	21	36.36	3.3.4 Gender gap in internet use	17	67.24
1.3.6 Robot density	68	0.04	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	116	7.53
B. People pillar			D. Impact pillar		
<i>1st sub-pillar: Individuals</i>			<i>1st sub-pillar: Economy</i>		
2.1.1 Internet users	2	99.94	4.1.1 Medium and high-tech industry	51	37.25
2.1.2 Active mobile-broadband subscriptions	11	51.17	4.1.2 High-tech exports	81	7.80
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	3	92.72	4.1.3 PCT patent applications	63	0.45
2.1.4 Tertiary enrolment	53	39.43	4.1.4 Labour productivity per employee	8	75.49
2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	42	93.93	<i>2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life</i>		
2.1.6 ICT skills	NA	NA	4.2.1 Happiness	46	63.25
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Businesses</i>			4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	34	82.34
2.2.1 Firms with website	NA	NA	4.2.3 Income inequality	NA	NA
2.2.2 Internet shopping	51	25.89	4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	62	63.74
2.2.3 Professionals	64	25.94	<i>3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution</i>		
2.2.4 Technicians and associate professionals	67	32.13	4.3.1 Access to basic services	1	100.00
2.2.5 Extent of staff training	63	37.69	4.3.2 Pollution	112	41.94
2.2.6 R&D expenditure by businesses	NA	NA	4.3.3 Road safety	76	53.44
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Governments</i>			4.3.4 Reading proficiency in schools	50	58.42
2.3.1 Government online services	48	76.93	4.3.5 Maths proficiency in schools	70	9.86
2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	NA	NA	4.3.6 Use of clean fuels and technology	1	100.00
2.3.3 ICT use and government efficiency	NA	NA			
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	49	32.85			

* Confidential data

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