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Government AI Readiness Index 2024

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The Government AI Readiness Index 2024

The Government AI Readiness Index is now in its 7th edition. **It has become a trusted resource for policymakers, adopted as an official benchmark by national governments and referenced by leading organisations such as UNESCO and the G20.** This recognition reinforces our commitment to supporting governments in their efforts to harness AI for the public good.

In this year's edition, we assess the AI readiness of **188 countries**. We do so at a time of increasing complexity, where governments face evolving citizen needs and pressing challenges such as economic uncertainty, climate risks, and rising inequalities. Properly addressing these issues will require stronger, more innovative public sector capabilities; and AI has an important role to play

While much of the global conversation focuses on how to govern this technology, an equally critical question is how governments can leverage AI to perform better. The ability to adopt AI effectively and responsibly can empower governments to deliver better services, optimise operations, and address public challenges with greater precision and impact.

The 2024 index explores this readiness by examining 40 indicators across three core pillars: Government, Technology Sector, and Data & Infrastructure. It highlights progress, identifies gaps, and provides actionable insights for policymakers striving to integrate AI into public service delivery.

At its core, the index asks: **How ready are governments to implement AI in the delivery of public services?** By answering this question, we aim to offer a practical tool that supports evidence-based decision-making and helps policymakers unlock AI's potential to better serve citizens worldwide.

Our Framework

To answer our exam question, we have developed a theory of change regarding how countries can become AI ready. From this we have devised **40 indicators** across **10 dimensions**, which make up **3 pillars**. These 3 pillars are crucial for facilitating AI readiness within a country.

Government

A government should have a strategic vision for how it develops and governs AI, supported by appropriate regulation and attention to ethical risks (governance and ethics). Moreover, it needs to have strong internal digital capacity, including the skills and practices that support its adaptability in the face of new technologies.

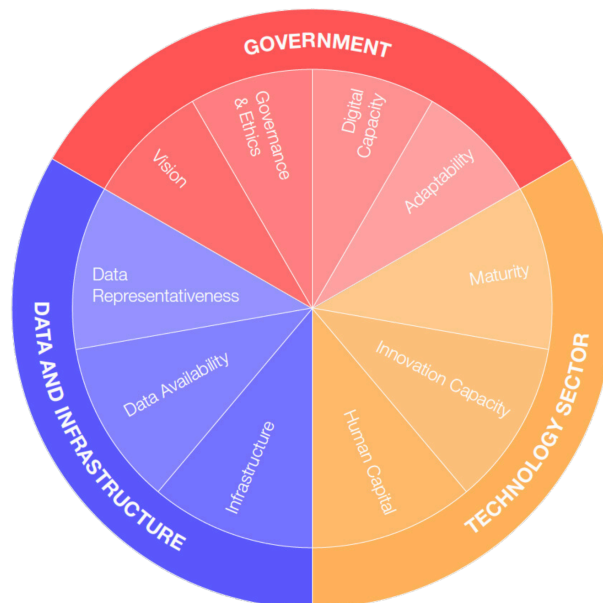
Technology Sector

Public bodies depend on a good supply of AI tools from the country's technology sector, which needs to be mature enough to supply the government. The sector should have high innovation capacity, underpinned by a business environment that supports entrepreneurship and a good flow of R&D spending. Equally important are good levels of human capital, which drive the development of advanced AI solutions and ensure the sector can respond to the evolving needs of governments.

Data & Infrastructure

AI tools need lots of high-quality data (data availability) which, to avoid bias and error, should also be representative of the citizens in a given country (data representativeness). Finally, this data's potential cannot be realised without the infrastructure necessary to power AI tools and deliver them to citizens.

The pillars and dimensions of the Government AI Readiness Index

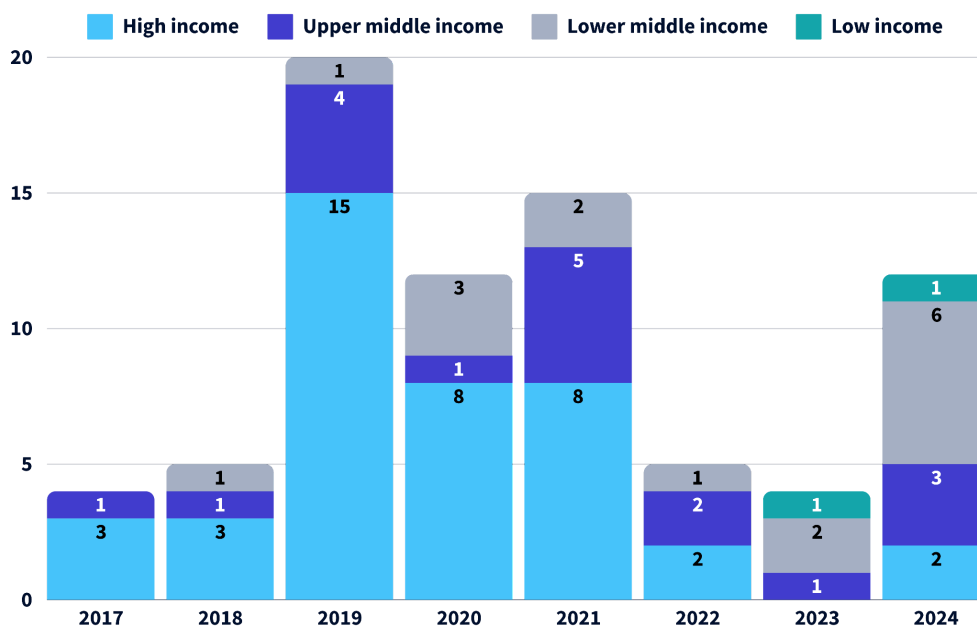


Our Findings

AI strategies are on the rise again, with growing momentum across low- and middle-income countries

Last year, one of our key findings was that the number of new AI strategies had decreased, but the picture had become more diverse, as low and lower-middle-income economies increasingly formalised their vision for AI. **This year, the number of strategies has instead increased, but that picture is continuing to become more diverse.**

Figure 1: National AI Strategies published per year (by income group)



In 2024, 12 new AI strategies have been published or announced—triple the number seen in 2023. Notably, **more than half of these strategies come from lower-middle-income and low-income countries**, demonstrating growing momentum among economies that have historically lagged in AI governance. For example, Ethiopia has become the second low-income country to release a strategy,

following Rwanda's achievement in 2023. Similarly, lower-middle-income economies such as Ghana, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, and Zambia have formalised their AI visions this year, having had them in development in 2023.

The geographic diversity also persists, with strategies emerging across Sub-Saharan Africa (Ethiopia, Ghana, Mauritania, Nigeria, Zambia), South and Central Asia (Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan), and Latin America and the Caribbean (Costa Rica, Cuba). These regions—historically underrepresented in AI strategy work—are signalling a commitment to build the foundational governance frameworks necessary to improve AI readiness.

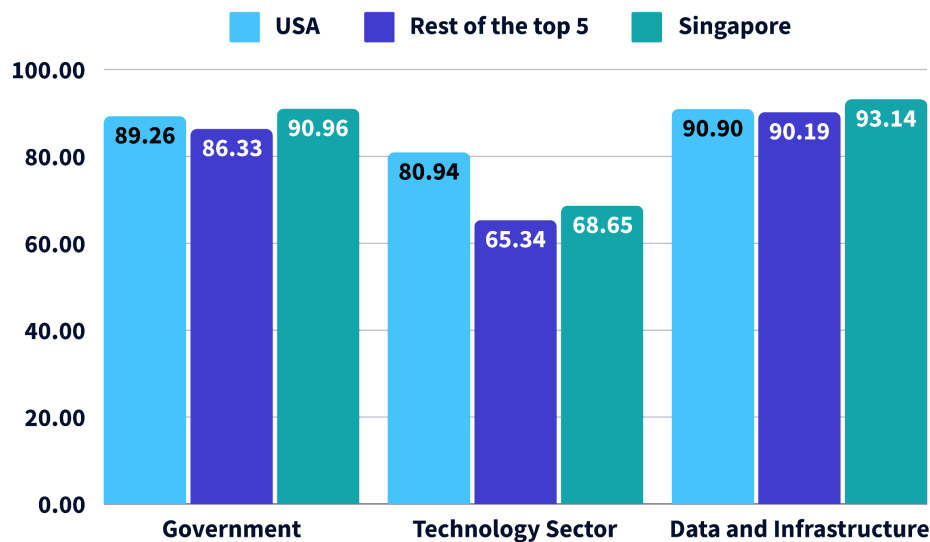
Meanwhile, high-income countries have also contributed to the total, although at a slower pace than in previous years. Countries like Romania released new strategies in 2024, reflecting steady progress in more developed economies.

These developments highlight the increasing recognition of AI as a driver of national development. International cooperation and knowledge-sharing have likely played a role in supporting this momentum. Looking forward, these efforts will be critical in addressing gaps in governance, as more countries formalise AI strategies and strengthen their capacity to adopt AI effectively.

The US leads in AI Readiness, but its advantage rests heavily on the Technology Sector Pillar

When comparing the US to the rest of the Top 5, it is clear that **its advantage lies primarily in the Technology Sector pillar, having a much larger and more mature market than anywhere else**. The advantage it has across the other pillars is less stark. In fact, **Singapore is the global leader in both the Government (90.96 compared to the US's 89.26) and Data and Infrastructure (93.14 compared to the US's 90.90) pillars**. Comparing the US to average of the rest of the countries in the top 5, this story becomes even clearer: the US maintains only a 2.93 point advantage on average over the other top 5 countries in the Government Pillar and just a 0.71 point advantage in the Data and Infrastructure one. In the Technology Sector Pillar, it maintains a 15.61 point advantage, highlighting the unique role this pillar plays in underpinning its leadership.

Figure 2: Scores by Pillar

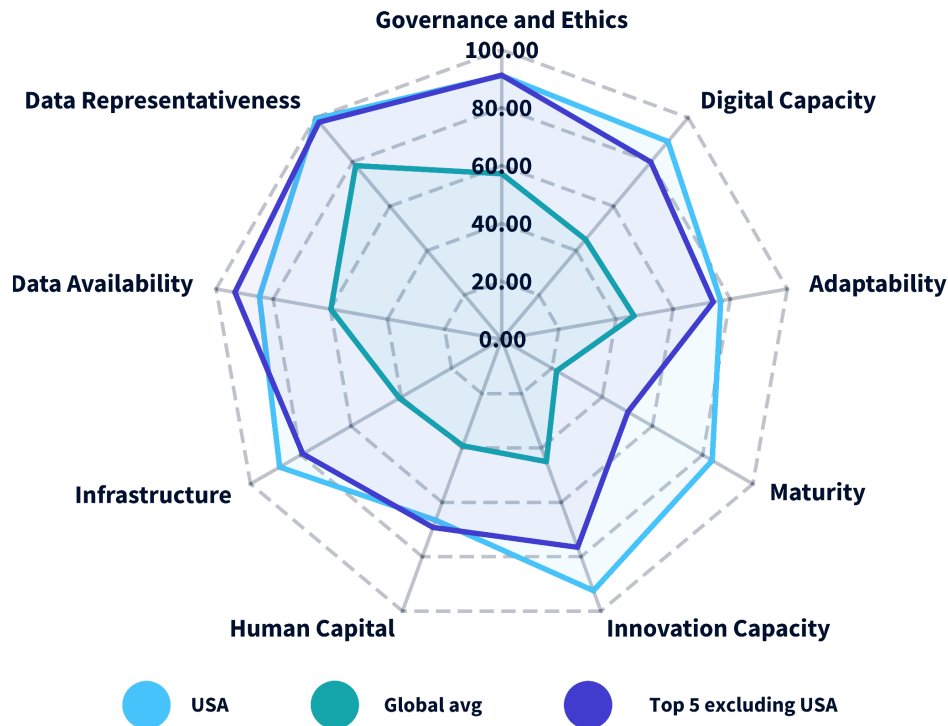


This distinction becomes even more evident when examining patterns at the dimension level¹. In **Maturity**, which looks at the size and development of the tech market within a country, the US scores

¹ We exclude the Vision dimension from this analysis because its scoring methodology creates greater data polarisation. Unlike other dimensions, Vision is based on a single indicator with only three possible scores: 0 (no strategy), 50 (upcoming strategy), and 100 (strategy in place). This limited scale inherently causes scores to be more spread out and less nuanced, making comparisons less meaningful. While some other indicators also use a 0-50-100 scale, they are part of broader dimensions that include additional metrics on a standard 0-100 scale. As a result, their impact on data distribution is far less pronounced.

83.80, a staggering **62-point difference compared to the global average of 21.86**, and in **Innovation Capacity**, the gap is nearly **48 points** (92.48 vs 45.02). Where the rest of the Top 5 outperform the global average primarily through strengths in the Government pillar—notably Governance & Ethics and Digital Capacity—as well as Infrastructure, the US’s leadership is driven disproportionately by its Technology Sector.

Figure 3: Scores by dimension



This significant edge in maturity and innovation capacity stems from the United States hosting many of the world’s largest technology companies and a well-established network of suppliers delivering AI tools for public-purpose applications. This ecosystem is **not only extensive**—leading the world in the number of unicorns, including AI-specific ones—**but also exceptionally well-funded**, with unparalleled access to venture capital. Without this strength in the Technology Sector, the US’s overall position would be far less certain, and its standing relative to other top performers would be much closer.

Middle-income economies are closing the AI readiness gap by getting the basics right

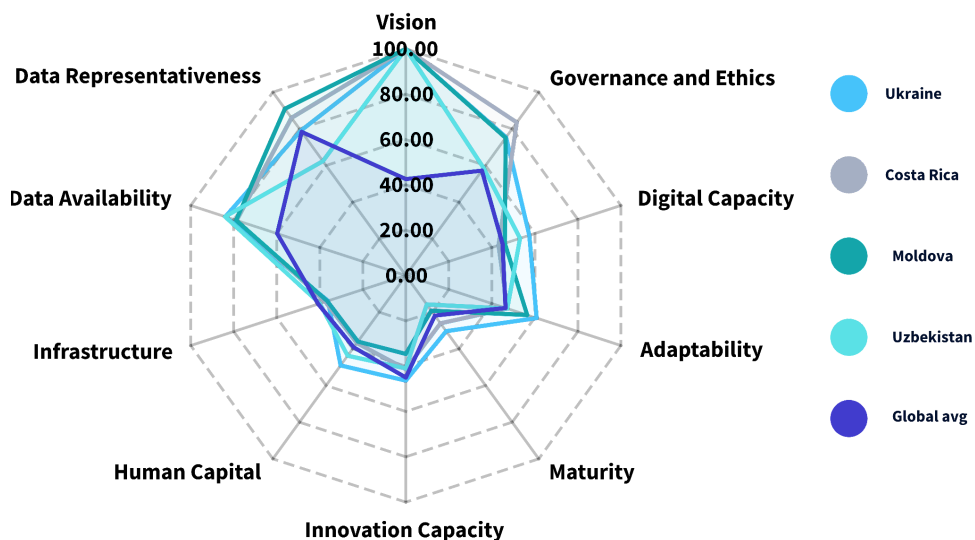
This year, a few middle-income countries have emerged as standout performers, making notable strides toward breaking into the top 50. What do these countries have in common? They have shown significant improvement in the Vision, Governance & Ethics, and Data Availability dimensions, driven largely by targeted efforts in foundational governance.

Countries like Ukraine, Costa Rica, Moldova, and Uzbekistan are getting the basics right. By focusing on areas where governments have the most direct influence, they are laying the groundwork for effective AI adoption through:

- developing national AI strategies,
- adopting AI ethics principles, and
- strengthening data governance.

These countries now perform above the global average in Vision, Governance & Ethics, and Data Availability.

Figure 4: Scores by dimension



In **Vision**, all four countries—Ukraine, Costa Rica, Moldova, and Uzbekistan—score a perfect 100, far exceeding the global average of 42.55. In **Governance & Ethics**, Costa Rica leads with 83.48, followed by Ukraine (75.43) and Moldova (75.05), all outperforming the global average of 57.21. Uzbekistan,

while slightly lower at 58.57, still surpasses the global benchmark. These results reflect significant efforts to establish ethical frameworks: Ukraine, Moldova, and Costa Rica have adopted such frameworks, while Uzbekistan developed a draft set in 2024.

Performance in **Data Availability** is equally strong. Ukraine (83.93), Costa Rica (78.67), Moldova (78.90), and Uzbekistan (84.05) all far exceed the global average of 59.81. This progress highlights ongoing work to strengthen open data policies and improve data governance frameworks.

While challenges remain in other dimensions, they are taking steps in the right direction. Their success in governance and data-related areas signals a strong starting point for future gains in areas such as digital capacity, innovation, and technology sector maturity.

Bonus insight: Global AI governance continues to take shape as regional cooperation gains momentum

As AI advances, global governance and international collaboration are becoming essential for effective and responsible adoption. Shared frameworks, international standards, and regional cooperation provide governments with resources, best practices, and a common understanding of AI's potential and risks. By showcasing some of these developments, this year's Government AI Readiness Index highlights the role of global and regional governance in strengthening AI readiness.

This year has seen significant progress in advancing international frameworks for responsible AI. The [Council of Europe's AI Treaty](#)—the first legally binding agreement on AI—represents a major milestone. Signed by 11 countries, the treaty establishes a framework to ensure AI upholds human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. Meanwhile, the International [Network of AI Safety Institutes](#), launched at the AI Seoul Summit 2024, unites countries such as the United States, Japan, and France to advance AI safety science. These initiatives demonstrate a growing commitment to international cooperation in addressing AI risks and building global trust in its development.

UNESCO continues to play a central role in ethical AI governance. Its [Readiness Assessment Methodology \(RAM\)](#) has now engaged 58 governments worldwide, helping them align with UNESCO's AI ethics recommendations. This tool supports effective AI adoption in both developed and developing economies.

Regional collaboration has also deepened, producing notable progress. In Latin America, the [Santiago Declaration](#) set the stage for further action. This year, **CAF**, **UNESCO**, and **Uruguay's AGESIC** built on that momentum with the [Montevideo Declaration](#), strengthening regional cooperation on AI governance. Meanwhile, the **African Union** presented its [continental AI strategy](#), which aims to harmonise AI policies, foster innovation, and ensure ethical deployment across the region. Similarly, the **Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization** (ICESCO) is contributing to AI readiness across its member states through mechanisms such as the [Center of Foresight and Artificial Intelligence](#). These efforts highlight the importance of regional partnerships in tackling shared challenges and opportunities.

By aligning with global and regional governance efforts, governments can strengthen their readiness, adopt AI responsibly, and collaborate to address the challenges and opportunities AI presents.



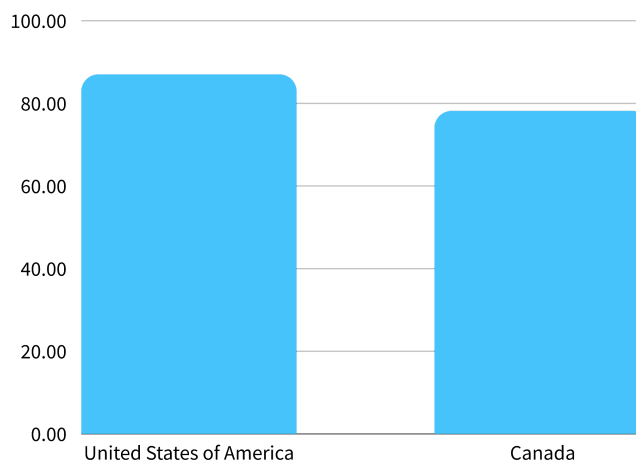
North America

Regional Snapshot

Rank: 1

Average Score: 82.60

Figure 5: North America - Overall Scores



North America remains the highest-performing region in the Government AI Readiness Index. The United States (87.03) and Canada (78.18) rank 1st and 6th globally, reflecting their strong overall AI readiness.

Both countries lead well above the global average (47.59) across all pillars. The United States demonstrates particular strength in Governance and Ethics (91.14), and leads the global ranking in Innovation Capacity (92.48) and tech-sector Maturity (83.8), showcasing its advanced AI ecosystem. Canada also performs strongly in Governance and Ethics (94.14) and Data Availability (93.15), highlighting its focus on responsible AI governance and robust data frameworks.

While Canada lags behind the United States in the Technology Sector, both countries' results solidify North America's position as a leader in AI readiness, driven by mature policies, infrastructure, and innovation capacity.

Key AI Readiness Developments in 2024

- **Canada strengthens its AI governance framework.** This November saw the launch of the [Canadian Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute](#). It has also released a comprehensive guide on the use of artificial intelligence.
- **The United States reinforces global AI leadership.** This September, it held a roundtable discussion on US leadership in AI, inviting “leaders from hyperscalers, artificial intelligence (AI) companies, data centre operators, and utility companies to discuss steps to ensure the United States continues to lead the world in AI.” In October, the White House issued its first-ever National Security Memorandum (NSM) on AI, stressing the importance of securing world-leadership in Trustworthy AI development and the need to drive international consensus on AI governance.

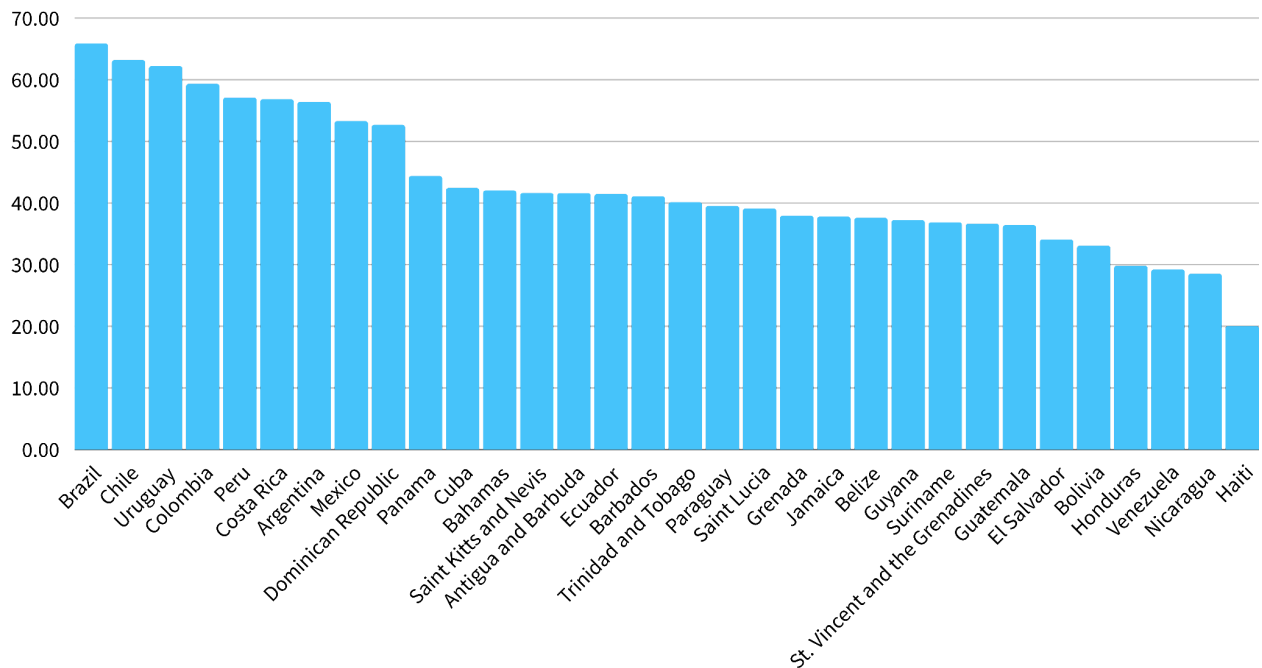
Latin America & The Caribbean

Regional Snapshot

Rank: 7

Average Score: 42.99

Figure 6: Latin America & The Caribbean - Overall Scores



Latin America and the Caribbean show steady progress in AI readiness, led by Brazil (65.89), Chile (63.19), and Uruguay (62.21). These three countries are the only ones in the region to feature in the global top 50.

Brazil leads the region in the Government pillar (74.51) and Data & Infrastructure (78.38), driven by high Data Availability (84.53) and Representativeness (94.6). Chile follows with strong results in Governance and Ethics (83.84), while Uruguay performs well in the Government pillar (76.39), supported by a clear Vision (100).

However, the Technology Sector pillar remains a challenge, with Brazil's leading score of 44.78 highlighting the need for further investment in technological development. While the region still lags behind the global average, the progress of leaders like Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay shows a clear path for others to build on emerging strengths and advance AI readiness.

Key AI Readiness Developments in 2024

- **Regional collaboration on AI governance deepens.** The [Montevideo Declaration](#), adopted at the Ministerial Summit on AI Ethics in Latin America and the Caribbean in October, introduces a two-year AI Ethics Roadmap for the region. Building on the [Santiago Declaration](#) (2023), this roadmap outlines policy priorities and initiatives, emphasising the need to harmonise AI governance approaches across countries. An AI Ethics working group has been established to oversee its implementation.
- **National AI strategies gain momentum.** In a move to refresh its 2021 vision, Chile has [updated its AI Strategy](#). Across the continent, Uruguay has [begun updating](#) its own AI strategy in hopes of increasing its scope. Some newcomers have also entered the field: October saw Costa Rica publish its [first-ever AI strategy](#).
- **Focus on digital government initiatives grows.** Governments are prioritising digital transformation to improve public administration. In Mexico, the new government [announced plans](#) to create a dedicated Agency for Digital Transformation and Telecommunications (ATDT) to accelerate the digitalisation of public services. Similarly, Chile has [launched public consultations for its 2030 Digital Government Strategy](#).
- **Brazil makes major investments in AI.** Brazil has committed significant funding to its AI ambitions. In July, the government unveiled the [Brazilian Artificial Intelligence Plan](#) (PBIA), which allocates BRL 23 billion (\$4.07 billion) in public and private investments to drive technological autonomy and competitiveness in the AI sector.

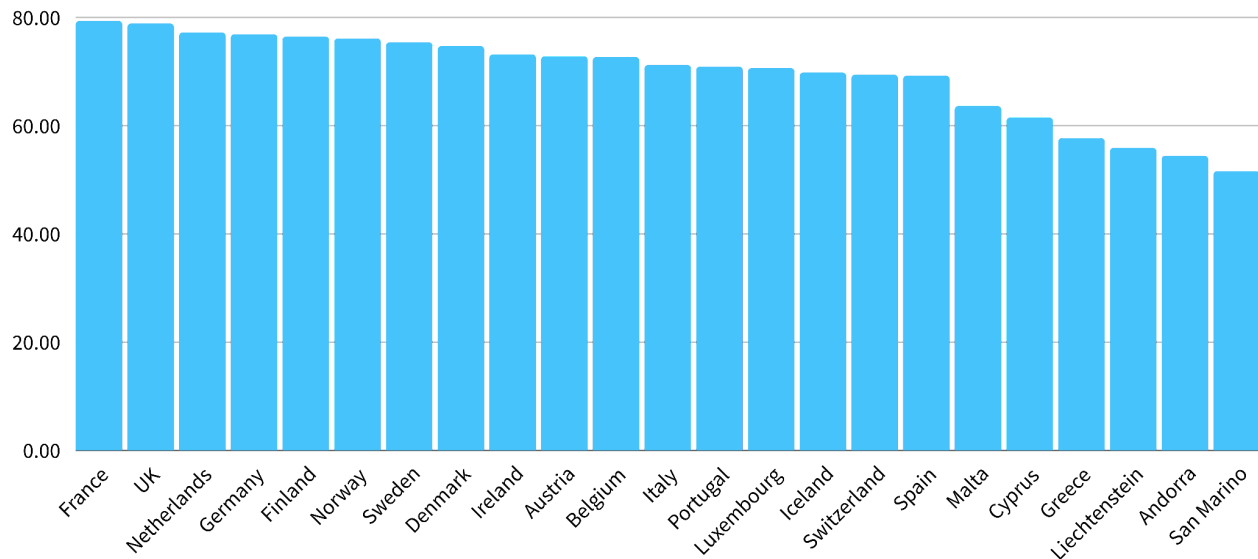
Western Europe

Regional Snapshot

Rank: 2

Average Score: 69.56

Figure 7: Western Europe - Overall Scores



Western Europe continues to be a strong performer in the Government AI Readiness Index. France leads the regional ranking this year with a score of 79.36, narrowly ahead of the United Kingdom (78.88). The region dominates the global top 10, with the Netherlands (77.23), Germany (76.90), and Finland (76.48) joining France and the UK, giving Western Europe the largest regional presence in the upper tier.

With an average score of 69.56, the region outperforms the global average (47.59) across all three pillars. Western Europe excels particularly in the Data & Infrastructure pillar, where it averages 81.91—over 21 points higher than the global average (59.62). Most Western European countries score consistently above the global average across all pillars. Exceptions include San Marino, Liechtenstein, and Andorra, whose scores in the Government pillar fall just below the global benchmark.

Western Europe's robust performance reflects its advanced data infrastructure, mature governance frameworks, and strong foundations for AI innovation. The continued presence of multiple countries in the global top 10 highlights the region's leadership in AI readiness.

Key AI Readiness Developments in 2024

- **Regulatory enforcement is on the agenda.** In January 2024, the European Union announced the establishment of an [AI office](#) to oversee the implementation of its flagship Artificial Intelligence Act, which lays out rules governing the development of AI applications.
- **Countries are streamlining AI governance.** Spain has announced the creation of the EU's first AI Agency, [the Spanish Agency for the Supervision of Artificial Intelligence \(AESIA\)](#). The agency is tasked with creating an innovation ecosystem and attracting talent in the fields of AI development and supervision. In similar spirit, France has appointed [Clara Chappaz](#) as its first ever Secretary of State for Artificial Intelligence and Digitalisation.
- **Strategic visions are still being fleshed out.** The UK's new administration has tasked tech entrepreneur Matt Clifford MBE with drafting the country's [AI Opportunities Action Plan](#) to guide efforts in building a globally competitive AI sector. In January, the Netherlands released its [national vision for Generative AI](#), and July saw Italy [update its AI Strategy](#).
- **Investments in AI infrastructure are gaining traction,** with France, Germany and Poland forming a political alliance to coordinate the countries' efforts with regards to their national plans for investment in artificial intelligence with EU policies. The "[Weimar Triangle](#)" alliance's wider goal is to kickstart further and wider European collaboration in the field. To bolster domestic innovation, the EU has also [invested €1.5 billion](#) through the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC) to establish 7 AI factories in the EU. Across the channel, the UK has [invested £300 million](#) into its AI Research Resource (AIRR), a cluster of advanced computers for AI research and development.

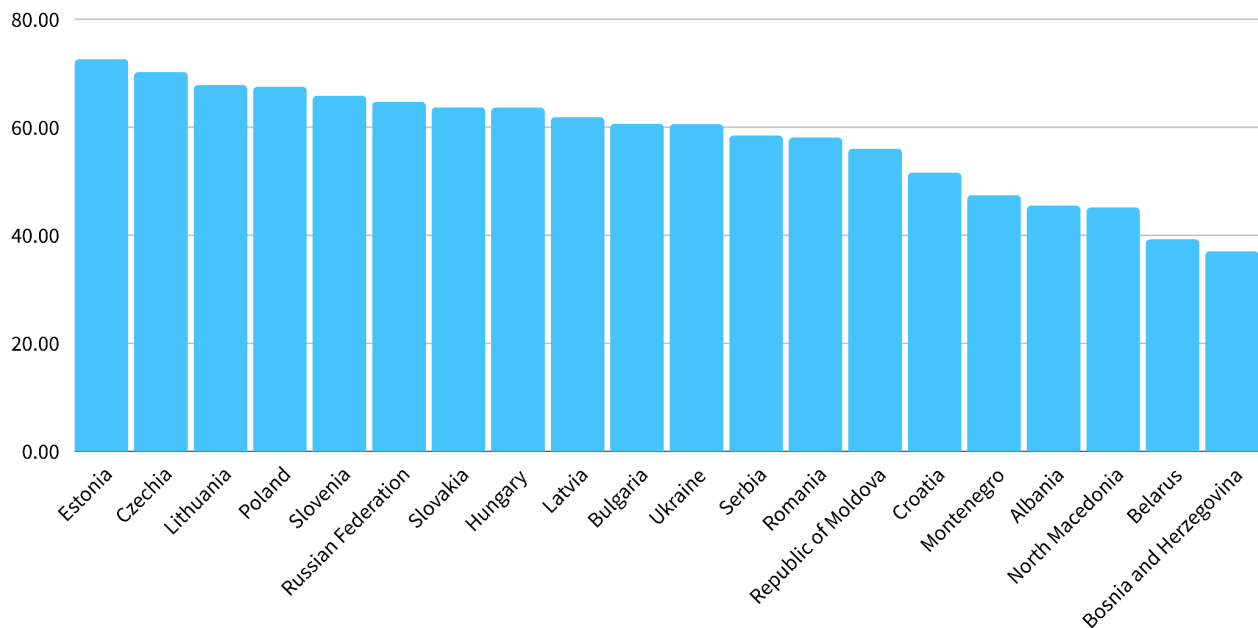
Eastern Europe

Regional Snapshot

Rank: 4

Average Score: 57.88

Figure 8: Eastern Europe - Overall Scores



Eastern Europe ranks 4th in this year’s Government AI Readiness Index, with an average score of 57.88—over 10 points above the global average (47.59). Estonia (72.62) leads the region and is the only Eastern European country to feature in the global top 25.

The region performs above the global average across all three pillars. Its strongest performance is in the Data & Infrastructure pillar (72.10), making it the third-best performing region globally in this area. Eastern Europe also shows solid results in the Government pillar (62.52), where it again ranks third worldwide.

However, the Technology Sector remains a challenge, with a regional score of 39.03—more than 20 points behind the other two pillars—and ranking fifth globally, falling narrowly behind the Middle East and North Africa (39.34). This reflects the need for further investment in technological capacity and innovation to

unlock the region's full AI readiness potential. Eastern Europe's strong governance frameworks and robust data infrastructure continue to drive its progress, positioning it as a leader among emerging regions in AI readiness.

Key AI Readiness Developments in 2024

- **New strategies are emerging.** [Moldova](#) and [Romania](#) released their national AI strategies in October and July, respectively. Moldova's strategy focuses on integrating AI into public administration, fostering innovation, and aligning with international standards. Romania's strategy highlights AI's role in boosting economic competitiveness, modernising the public sector, and ensuring ethical deployment.
- **Accountability and transparency take centre stage in Slovenia.** In October, the Slovenian organisation Danes Je Nov Dan (Today is a New Day) launched the [Public Sector AI Registry](#). This tool provides citizens with insight into how AI systems are being used by Slovenia's public institutions, improving transparency and accountability in government AI adoption.
- **Countries are looking to develop their own models.** [Poland](#) has made significant commitments to develop its own AI capabilities. The country pledged €232 million to fund domestic AI models, including the creation of a Polish large language model. A letter of intent, signed between the Defence and Digital Ministries, outlined plans to establish an AI Fund and an oversight council to ensure effective implementation.

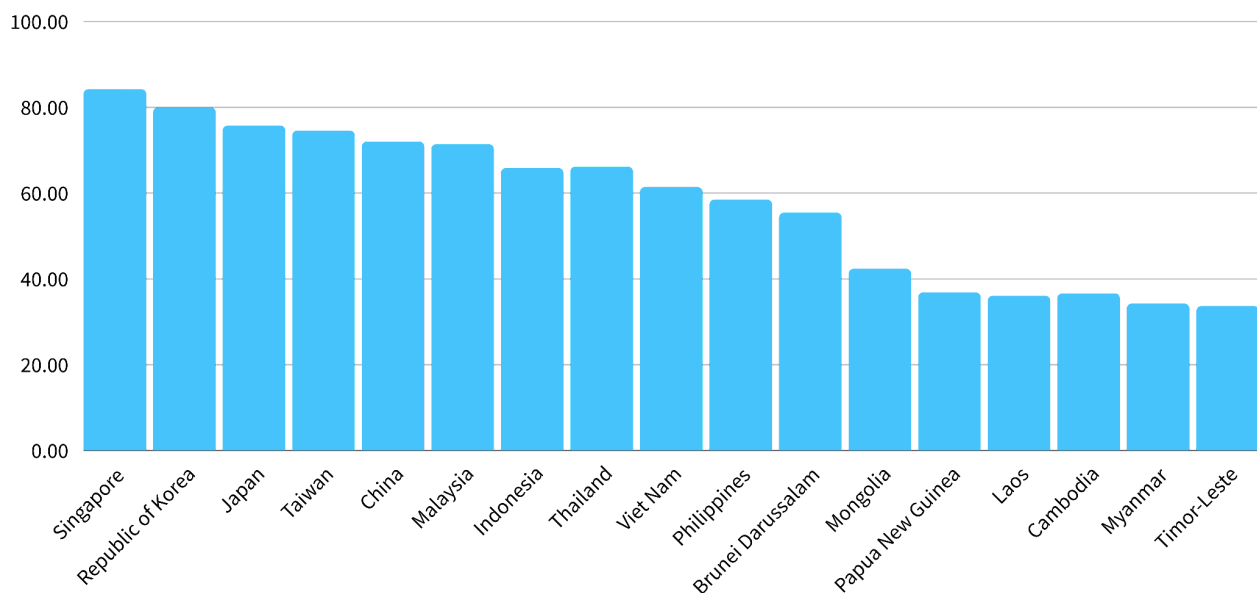
East Asia

Regional Snapshot

Rank: 3

Average Score: 57.95

Figure 9: East Asia - Overall Scores



East Asia ranks as the third-best performing region in this year’s Government AI Readiness Index, with two of the global top three countries—Singapore, leading with 84.25, and the Republic of Korea, following closely with 79.98.

The region performs well above the global average (47.59) across all three pillars. Its standout strength lies in the Government pillar, where it achieves an average score of 84.71, showcasing strong governance frameworks and strategic AI vision. The Data & Infrastructure pillar is another highlight, with an average score of 69.72, nearly 10 points above the global benchmark (59.62), reflecting robust data availability and infrastructure readiness.

However, the Technology Sector pillar lags, averaging 44.61, signalling a need for further investment in innovation and AI maturity. Despite these challenges, East Asia’s strong performance—led by Singapore

and Korea—demonstrates its significant progress and positions the region as a key global leader in AI readiness.

Note: China's performance in the index may be affected by limited data availability and reduced accessibility to relevant public information.

Key AI Readiness Developments in 2024

- **Advancing responsible AI and global safety efforts.** South Korea hosted the 2024 AI Summit in Seoul, where signatories of the [Seoul Declaration](#) launched the International AI Safety Institutes Network. Following this, Japan and South Korea established their own AI Safety Institutes, while Singapore assigned these responsibilities to its Digital Trust Center (DTC).
- **Regional collaboration is deepening around cybersecurity.** At the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Conference on Cybersecurity (AMCC) in October, ASEAN [announced](#) the opening of its first regional facility for its Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Singapore. The establishment of this organism aims to facilitate data sharing among ASEAN member states on cybersecurity threats.
- **Vietnam has partnered with NVIDIA to bolster its R&D capabilities.** The chipmaker announced [plans to open an AI R&D centre](#) in the country, leveraging Vietnam's talent pool and engaging with industry leaders, startups, government agencies, and universities. The centre will provide local businesses and researchers with infrastructure to develop AI applications and accelerate adoption.

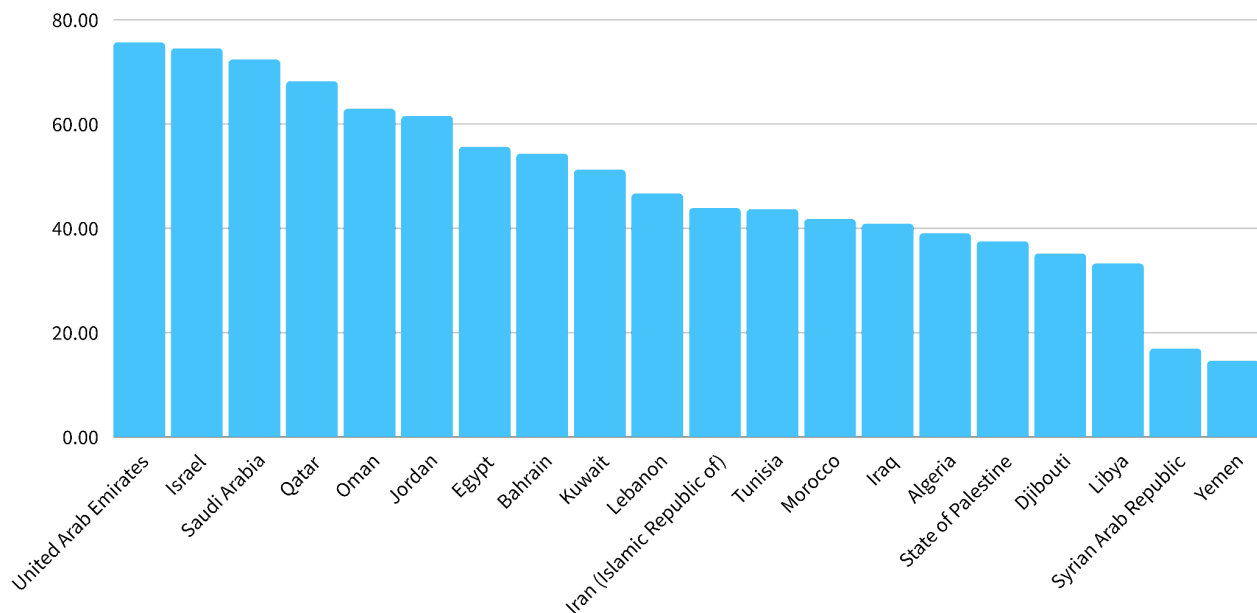
Middle East and North Africa

Regional Snapshot

Rank: 5

Average Score: 48.50

Figure 10: Middle East and North Africa - Overall Scores



The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region ranks 5th in this year’s Government AI Readiness Index, with an average score of 48.50, positioning it in the middle of the regional rankings. The United Arab Emirates leads the region with a score of 75.66, entering the global top 15. Israel (74.52) and Saudi Arabia (72.36) follow closely behind, further solidifying MENA’s leadership in AI readiness. However, the region also displays the widest range of scores in the index—61.03 points separate the UAE from Yemen (14.62), the lowest-performing country globally.

At the pillar level, MENA performs near the global average but shows notable variations. The region scores slightly above the global benchmark in the Technology Sector pillar (39.34) and Data & Infrastructure pillar

(59.94), reflecting progress in AI innovation and data availability. However, it falls short in the Government pillar (47.77), indicating room for improvement in AI strategies, governance frameworks, and responsible use of AI. MENA's strong results in leading countries like the UAE and Saudi Arabia highlight its growing capacity for innovation and infrastructure development, even as gaps remain across the wider region.

Key AI Readiness Developments in 2024

- **Saudi Arabia (KSA) commits major investments in AI.** KSA [announced Project Transcendence](#) at the 8th Future Investment Initiative (FII) Summit in October. This ambitious \$100 billion plan aims to establish a globally competitive AI hub by strengthening all aspects of the AI supply chain. Data centre construction, talent attraction, and domestic AI model development are some of the projects included in its scope.
- **Strategic visions take shape across the region.** [Mauritania](#) and [Israel](#) released their first-ever national AI strategies this year, marking a significant step toward structured AI governance. Meanwhile, Oman [updated its Executive Program for AI](#) in September, reinforcing its commitment to advancing AI adoption.
- **Infrastructure development remains a priority.** Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, the Public Investment Fund (PIF), announced a [strategic partnership with Google Cloud](#) to develop a new AI hub near the eastern city of Dammam. The hub will host joint research on Arabic language models and Saudi-specific AI applications, making Google Cloud's technology available to Saudi businesses and developers. Elsewhere, the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) has [pledged around \\$100 million](#) to support the digital transformation of Jordan's health sector.

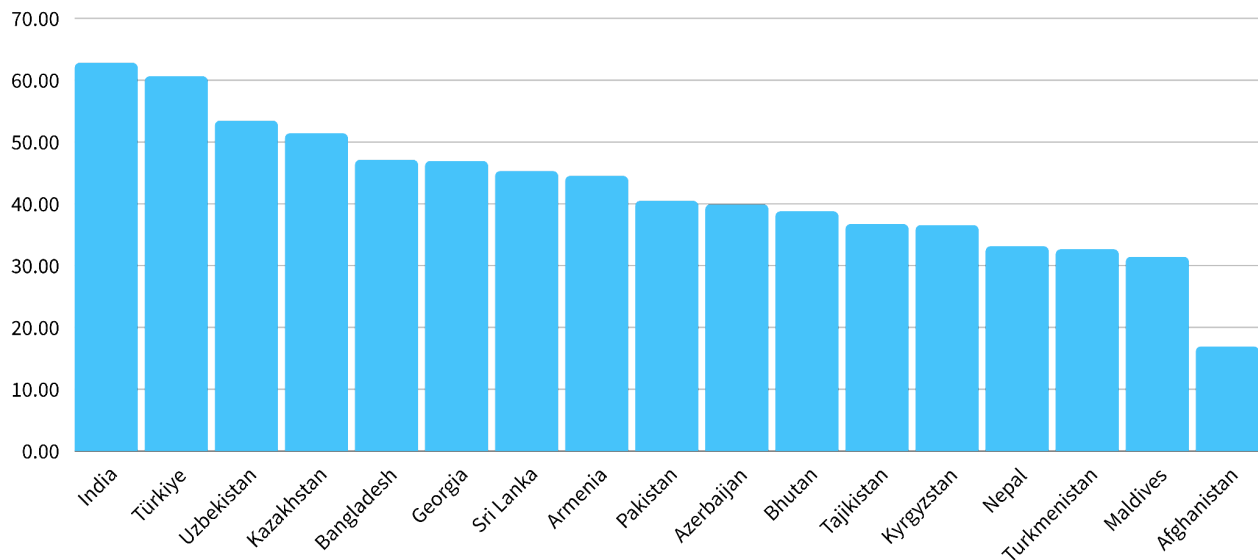
South and Central Asia

Regional Snapshot

Rank: 8

Average Score: 42.28

Figure 11: South and Central Asia - Overall Scores



South and Central Asia ranks 8th in this year’s Government AI Readiness Index, with India leading the region at 62.81 and placing 46th globally. Türkiye (60.63) and Uzbekistan (53.45) follow, ranking 53rd and 70th, respectively. Armenia and Bhutan also feature among the region’s stronger performers, highlighting their growing focus on AI governance and infrastructure.

The Government pillar is a relative strength for South and Central Asia, reflecting efforts to advance AI strategies and governance frameworks. However, performance in the Governance and Ethics dimension remains a challenge, with an average score of 47.9—14 points below the global benchmark (62.1). The region’s most significant gap is in the Data & Infrastructure pillar, where it averages 52.3, trailing the global average (64.9) by nearly 13 points. Data Representativeness stands out as a particular shortfall, with scores falling 17 points behind the global benchmark.

Despite these gaps, the performance of regional leaders like India, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan demonstrates emerging momentum, laying a foundation for broader progress in AI readiness across South and Central Asia.

Key AI Readiness Developments in 2024

- **Governments are embracing AI transformation:** Kazakhstan [announced](#) its National Centre for Artificial Intelligence, set to open in 2025. The centre aims to integrate AI into public services, focusing on education, natural disaster monitoring, and immigration. In Uzbekistan, the release of a [fully-fledged AI strategy](#) sets out a clear vision for the country with goals ranging from establishing AI-focused labs and HPC servers to increasing the export of IT services and developing a “big data” repository by September 2025.
- **Sri Lanka outlines its AI framework for competitiveness:** In March, Sri Lanka released its [AI whitepaper](#), prioritising economic growth and innovation. The strategy focuses on increasing data availability, addressing brain drain, and advancing digital and technical education. The goal is a citizen-centric AI programme that boosts the economy while safeguarding citizen well-being.
- **Maldives adopting AI to combat climate change:** In October, the Maldives hosted an [AI forum](#) to address challenges like climate vulnerability and reliance on tourism. Discussions, led by government officials and international organisations such as UNDP and UNESCO, highlighted the importance of digital education and AI-driven solutions to protect the nation’s future.

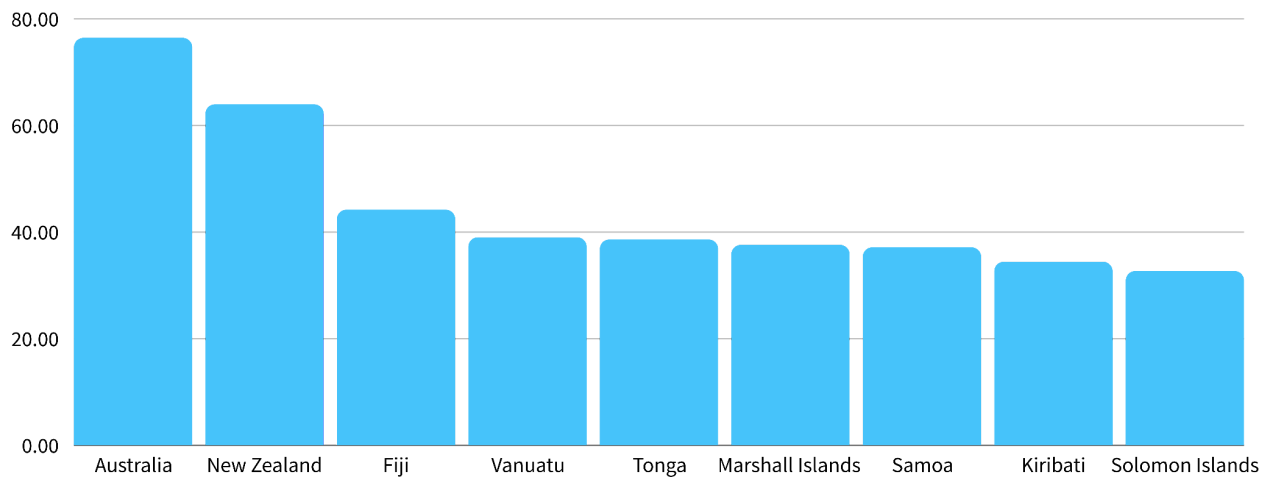
Pacific

Regional Snapshot

Rank: 6

Average Score: 44.92

Figure 12: Pacific - Overall Scores



With an average score of 44.92, the Pacific region ranks 6th in this year’s Government AI Readiness Index. Australia leads the region with a score of 76.44, securing a spot in the global top 10. New Zealand follows in 40th place with 63.98 points. However, the gap between New Zealand and the next-best performer, 92nd-placed Fiji (44.21), highlights significant disparities within the region.

The region performs slightly below the global average across all pillars, with its strongest results in the Data & Infrastructure pillar (58.81). By comparison, its scores in the Government (40.63) and Technology Sector (35.32) pillars reveal areas where further investment and development are needed.

Key AI Readiness Developments in 2024

- **The Philippines updates its AI strategy.** The country released a [new iteration](#) of its national AI strategy in July, building on its initial 2021 version. Key priorities include AI adoption in critical

sectors such as agriculture, health, and education, alongside efforts to strengthen local AI talent and attract international partnerships.

- **Australia joins global AI governance efforts.** The country continues to play an active role in international AI governance. In May, it joined the [International AI Safety Institutes Network](#), reinforcing its commitment to fostering global collaboration on AI safety and responsible governance.
- **Responsible AI is being taken seriously in Australia.** Between September and October this year, the Australian government recently [conducted a public consultation](#) for a new legislation on Responsible AI in the Health Sector, the Safe and Responsible Artificial Intelligence in Health Care Legislation and Regulation Review.

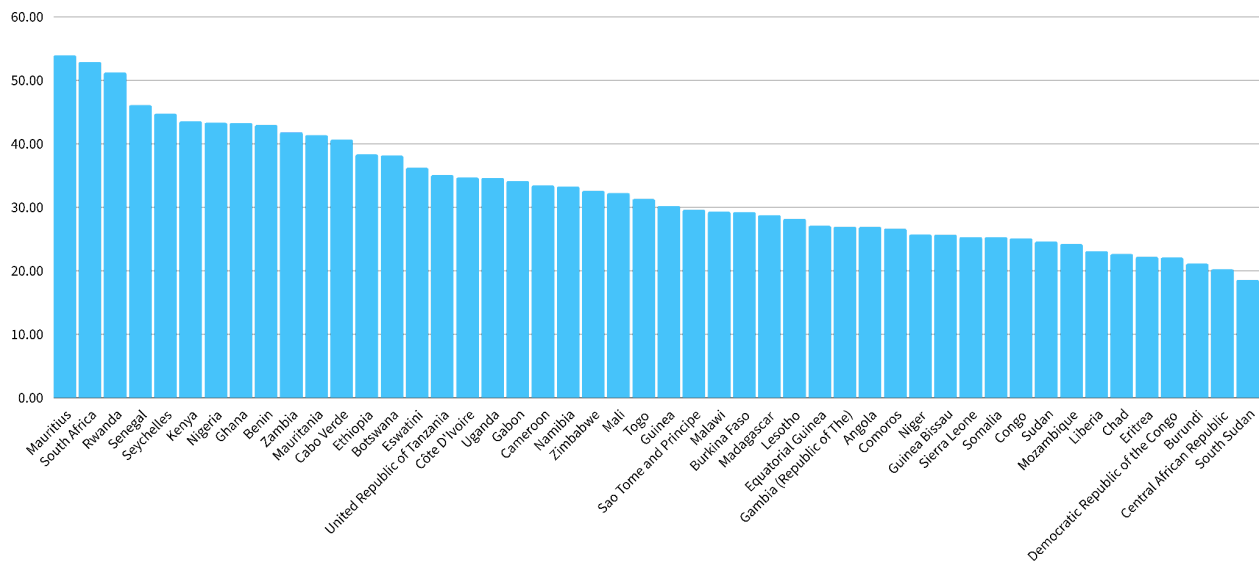
Sub-Saharan Africa

Regional Snapshot

Rank: 9

Average Score: 32.70

Figure 13: Sub-Saharan Africa - Overall Scores



Sub-Saharan Africa shows emerging progress in AI readiness, with Mauritius (53.94), South Africa (52.91), and Rwanda (51.25) leading the region. These countries stand out as front-runners, with clear momentum in strengthening their AI ecosystems. The next group of performers, led by Senegal (46.11), highlights further opportunities for growth. Notably, the region demonstrates the most compact range of scores, with 35.36 points separating its top performer from South Sudan.

The region’s greatest strength lies in the Data & Infrastructure pillar, where it averages 42.06—showing promising developments in areas like data availability and infrastructure. While scores in the Government pillar (32.05) and Technology Sector pillar (23.98) highlight opportunities for further investment, the performance of regional leaders signals important progress and growing ambition to harness AI for sustainable development.

As Mauritius, South Africa, and Rwanda continue to pave the way, their efforts reflect the region’s potential to build on emerging strengths and advance AI readiness across the

Key AI Readiness Developments in 2024

- **A host of countries have set out their strategic visions with regard to AI.** [Ethiopia](#), [South Africa](#), [Nigeria](#), and [Zambia](#) have all released their AI strategies this year. On a regional level, the [African Union](#) released its own AI strategy in July, of which the stated aim is to “harness AI for Africa’s development and prosperity”.
- **Building human capital for AI adoption.** This October, the Kenyan Government announced the establishment of the [Africa Centre of Competence for Digital and Artificial Intelligence \(AI Skilling\)](#) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Microsoft. The project is a product of the vision set out in the country’s [National Digital Master Plan 2022 - 2032](#), which aims to improve digital literacy among 300,000 public servants.
- **Kenya takes an active role in global AI discussions.** At its inaugural meeting in San Francisco this November, it became the first and only African country to [join the newly established International Network of AI Safety Institutes](#).

Methodology

Dimensions and Indicators

The table below summarises the dimensions and indicators used in the Index.

Government Pillar			
Dimension	Description	Indicator	Source
Vision	Does the government have a vision for implementing AI?	National AI strategy 100: A national AI strategy has been officially released. 50: A draft strategy exists, or there is clear evidence of a strategy being developed (e.g., public consultations, published roadmap). 0: No evidence of a national AI strategy.	Desk research (e.g. OECD AI Policy Observatory , UN IDIR AI policy portal)
		Are there the right regulations and ethical frameworks in place to implement AI in a way that builds trust and legitimacy?	Data protection and privacy legislation. 100: Law in force. 50: Draft law or pending approval. 0: No evidence of law.
Governance and Ethics		Cybersecurity	Global Cybersecurity Index
		Regulatory quality	Worldwide Governance Indicators

		<p>Ethical AI Principles. <i>100: Adoption of OECD AI Principles or independent frameworks aligned with OECD values.</i> <i>50: Draft principles exist or clear evidence they are being developed in alignment with OECD.</i> <i>0: No evidence of adoption.</i></p>	Desk research
		Accountability	Worldwide Governance Indicators
Digital Capacity	What is the existing digital capacity within government?	Online services	UN e-Government Survey
		Foundational IT infrastructure	Govtech Maturity Index
		Government support for AI adoption	World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey
		Public sector AI skills development	Global Index on Responsible AI
Adaptability	Can the government change and innovate effectively?	Government effectiveness	Worldwide Governance Indicators
		Government's responsiveness to change	World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey
		Procurement data	Global Data Barometer

Technology Sector Pillar			
Dimension	Description	Indicator	Source
Maturity	Does the country have a technology sector capable of supplying governments with AI technologies?	Number of AI unicorns	CB Insights
		Number of non-AI technology unicorns	CB Insights
		Value of trade in ICT services (per capita)	UNCTAD
		Value of trade in ICT goods (per capita)	UNCTAD
		Computer software spending	Global Innovation Index
Innovation Capacity	Does the technology sector have the right conditions to support innovation?	Time spent dealing with government regulations	World Bank World Development Indicators
		VC availability	DealRoom
		R&D spending	UNESCO
		Adoption of AI for Innovation	World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey
		AI research papers	Scimago
Human Capital	Are there the right skills in the population to support the technology sector?	Graduates in STEM	UNESCO
		GitHub users per thousand population	GitHub Innovation Graph data
		Female STEM graduates	UNESCO
		Quality of engineering and	QS Engineering &

	technology higher education	Technology rankings
	ICT skills	Network Readiness Index

Data and Infrastructure Pillar

<i>Dimension</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Source</i>
Infrastructure	Does the country have a good technological infrastructure to support AI technologies?	Telecommunications infrastructure	UN E-gov Telecommunications Infrastructure Index
		Supercomputers	Top500
		Broadband quality	EIU Inclusive Internet Index
		5G infrastructure	GSMA Mobile Connectivity Index
		Adoption of key technologies (AI, big data, VR and AR)	World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey
Data Availability	Is there good availability of data that could be used to train AI models?	Open data	Global Data Barometer
		Data governance	Desk research (with support from the GovTech Maturity Index I-34)
		Mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions	ITU
		Households with internet access	ITU

		Statistical capacity	SPI GitHub Report
Data Representative-ness	Is the data available likely to be representative of the population as a whole?	Gender gap in Internet access	GSMA Mobile Connectivity Index
		Mobile device affordability	EIU Inclusive Internet Index

New indicators

Government support to AI adoption

This indicator replaced the previous indicator *Government promotion of investment in emerging technologies*, as the previous indicator was from 2019 and considered too out-of-date. The new indicator is from the 2024 series of World Economic Forum [Executive Opinion Surveys](#) and reflects in-country respondents' average answers to the question, 'In your country, to what extent is the public sector promoting adoption of AI among local businesses? [1 = Not at all; 7 = To a great extent]'.

Data Protection and Privacy Legislation

This indicator is based on desk research, supported by the [GovTech Maturity Index](#) (GTMI) I-38 ("Is there a Data Protection/Privacy Law?"), updated through the [IAPP Global Privacy Law Directory](#) and desk research.

Public sector AI skills development

This is an entirely new indicator added to the index framework this year. This indicator is from the 2024 [Global Index on Responsible AI](#), a new tool seeking to measure progress towards responsible AI in 138 countries and jurisdictions. Our indicator is drawn from the Global Index on Responsible AI's thematic area on [public sector skills development](#), which measures steps countries have taken to support skills development in relation to responsible AI within the civil service and judiciary.

Adoption of AI for Innovation

This indicator replaced the previous indicator *Company investment in emerging technology*, as the previous indicator was from 2018 and considered too out-of-date. The new indicator is from the 2024 series of World Economic Forum [Executive Opinion Surveys](#) and reflects in-country respondents' average answers to the question, 'In your country, to what extent are local businesses adopting AI: To develop new products and business models [1 = Not at all; 7 = To a great extent]'.

Adoption of key technologies: Information processing (AI, big data, VR and AR)

This indicator replaced the previous indicator *Adoption of emerging technologies*, as the previous indicator was from 2019 and considered too out-of-date. The new indicator is from the 2024 series of World Economic Forum [Executive Opinion Surveys](#) and reflects in-country respondents' average answers to the question, 'In your country, how common is the adoption of the following key technologies [1 = Not adopted at all; 7 = Greatly adopted]: Information processing (AI, big data, VR and AR)'.

VC Availability

VC availability is vital to ensuring a flourishing technology sector; and the brute amount is important. We took data from [Dealroom](#) to find figures for the raw amount of VC available. To deal with a heavily skewed dataset with extremely high kurtosis (93.89), we took the fourth root of the raw value of VC funding available within countries. This helped us render the data less skewed and less heavily kurtotic (6.55). This new kurtosis remains outside of OECD guidelines, but we nonetheless proceeded with this as we thought it reflected something important about the data. The fundamental story of this data is, as with the Technology Sector Pillar more broadly, that the US is unique—an outlier—and so we wanted to reflect that in a way that was less statistically deranging.

The simple amount of VC available is important, but there is another story within this data: how much VC funding do countries have relative to their GDP? How attractive are the markets? We therefore took the raw amount of VC available and divided it by GDP data from [UNCTAD](#). Again, we had data that was heavily skewed and kurtotic. We did a $\log(1+\sqrt{x})$ transformation to render the data less skewed and kurtotic.

We then normalised both of these new datasets and took a mean of the two normalised datasets. This allowed us to come up with an indicator that took into account the raw amount of VC availability as well as its amount relative to a country's GDP. We also purposefully allowed the USA's outlier status within raw amount of VC to come through.

Data Governance

This indicator is based on desk research, primarily drawing from the World Bank's GovTech Maturity Index (GTMI). Specifically, we used scores from these indicators:

- I-34: "Is there a dedicated government entity in charge of data governance or data management?"
- I-34.6: "Is there a Data Governance strategy/policy?"

Both indicators are scored from 0 to 2, so we summed them to create a score out of 4 and normalised to a 0-100 scale. **Since the GTMI data collection closed in 2022, we conducted additional desk research to capture the most recent developments** (data collection closed on 6th December 2024).

Missing Values

Only countries with values for more than 50% of indicators are included in the final index. For this reason, the following countries were not included in the final rankings:

- Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Dominica
- Micronesia (Federated States of)
- Monaco
- Nauru
- Palau
- Tuvalu

Peer Group Mean Imputation

For the majority of indicators with some data missing, we imputed the value of the peer group mean for each country (where peer group is their geographical region plus their World Bank income group).

For 11 countries, imputation of peer group means was not possible for some missing indicators as they were either the sole country in their peer group or in a peer group in which all countries were missing data for that indicator. These countries were:

- Afghanistan
- Algeria
- Canada
- Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- Iraq
- Libya
- Maldives
- Seychelles
- Syrian Arab Republic
- United States of America
- Yemen

For these countries, no imputation was attempted where values for the whole peer group were missing.

Calculating Scores

Normalisation

All scores were normalised to be between 0 and 100. The formula for normalisation was as follows:

$$\frac{x - x_{min}}{x_{max} - x_{min}}$$

For all indicators the value of x_{min} was set to the minimum observed value and x_{max} was the maximum observed value. The two exceptions were for *Mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions* where we set the maximum value to 130 (i.e. above 130 subscriptions per 100 mobile-cellular telephones are sufficiently widespread to warrant a score of 100, and values any higher would not represent a significant improvement) and *Percentage of STEM graduates who are female* where we set the maximum value to 50 (i.e. countries closer to gender parity in STEM graduates score higher, but once parity is achieved, a higher percentage of female graduates does not mean a higher score).

For two indicators, *Time spent dealing with government regulations* and *Gender gap in internet access*, scores were normalised using the formula $100 - x$, so that a higher score is given to countries with a smaller gender gap in internet access and where less time is spent dealing with government regulations.

Treatment of Skewed Indicators

Nine indicators were identified as skewed (either (a) absolute skewness > 2.0 and kurtosis > 3.5 or (b) kurtosis > 10). These were:

- Number of AI unicorns
- Number of non-AI technology unicorns
- Value of ICT goods trade per capita
- Value of ICT services trade per capita
- R&D spending
- AI research papers
- GitHub users
- Supercomputers

The indicators *Number of AI unicorns*, *Number of non-AI technology unicorns*, and *Supercomputers* have large numbers of countries scoring 0. We were therefore willing to tolerate a higher degree of skewness in these indicators. However, looking purely at the countries with a value of > 0 in these indicators, absolute skewness was still > 2.0 and kurtosis still > 3.5 , so we still felt the need to treat them in some way.

The eight skewed indicators were treated using the logarithmic transformation $\log(1 + x)$. For indicators other than *Number of AI unicorns*, *Number of non-AI technology unicorns*, and *Supercomputers*, this brought skewness and kurtosis down to acceptable levels. For the other three indicators, skewness and kurtosis in the subset of countries with values > 0 were brought down to acceptable levels, even if skewness and kurtosis were still higher in the indicator overall.

Following the logarithmic transformation, the indicators were normalised as above.

Total Score

To calculate the total score, we took the arithmetic mean of each dimension. Then we took the arithmetic mean of each pillar. The final score is the arithmetic mean of the three pillars. All indicators, dimensions, and pillars were weighted equally.

Full rankings

Country	Total	Government	Technology Sector	Data and Infrastructure
Afghanistan	16.92	8.27	22.46	20.05
Albania	45.47	47.93	28.36	60.11
Algeria	39.06	31.68	33.26	52.24
Andorra	54.44	47.34	41.06	74.91
Angola	26.91	19.73	15.87	45.13
Antigua and Barbuda	41.61	30.68	30.66	63.49
Argentina	56.40	64.65	37.09	67.47
Armenia	44.51	37.97	32.91	62.66
Australia	76.45	86.18	56.26	86.90
Austria	72.84	78.37	56.56	83.57
Azerbaijan	39.92	35.56	29.43	54.78
Bahamas	42.03	31.49	30.40	64.21
Bahrain	54.33	45.62	37.61	79.76
Bangladesh	47.12	58.52	26.26	56.59
Barbados	41.11	32.12	31.69	59.51
Belarus	39.24	27.54	34.57	55.61
Belgium	72.69	81.26	56.23	80.57
Belize	37.59	26.76	30.51	55.49
Benin	42.97	59.92	24.30	44.68
Bhutan	38.78	34.02	25.58	56.73
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	33.08	22.43	22.92	53.89
Bosnia and Herzegovina	37.02	26.74	29.25	55.06

Botswana	38.16	35.14	30.23	49.12
Brazil	65.89	74.51	44.78	78.38
Brunei Darussalam	55.45	45.85	45.87	74.62
Bulgaria	60.64	65.19	37.88	78.85
Burkina Faso	29.28	25.69	21.22	40.92
Burundi	21.13	16.62	18.95	27.84
Cabo Verde	40.67	39.58	27.25	55.19
Cambodia	36.63	29.18	29.31	51.40
Cameroon	33.46	30.10	28.64	41.63
Canada	78.18	85.48	61.69	87.35
Central African Republic	20.26	12.07	19.95	28.77
Chad	22.66	20.94	18.22	28.82
Chile	63.19	70.75	44.11	74.71
China	72.01	72.90	62.95	80.18
Colombia	59.33	71.96	39.00	67.05
Comoros	26.65	17.22	23.75	38.97
Congo	25.12	22.40	22.71	30.24
Costa Rica	56.85	68.46	34.74	67.35
Côte d'Ivoire	34.69	31.15	26.10	46.81
Croatia	51.62	40.86	39.72	74.28
Cuba	42.43	51.55	26.76	49.00
Cyprus	61.50	68.53	36.18	79.80
Czechia	70.23	76.45	49.50	84.74
Democratic Republic of the Congo	22.10	17.96	15.99	32.34
Denmark	74.71	84.07	57.17	82.89
Djibouti	35.19	23.13	32.84	49.61
Dominican Republic	52.69	69.04	24.77	64.27

Ecuador	41.46	34.27	29.31	60.79
Egypt	55.63	68.98	42.13	55.77
El Salvador	34.09	25.50	26.81	49.95
Equatorial Guinea	27.09	19.28	25.68	36.31
Eritrea	22.20	8.30	23.07	35.22
Estonia	72.62	86.71	48.97	82.19
Eswatini	36.23	29.11	26.20	53.36
Ethiopia	38.34	51.46	21.57	41.98
Fiji	44.22	37.02	32.32	63.31
Finland	76.48	84.86	60.86	83.73
France	79.36	85.29	63.53	89.25
Gabon	34.15	25.45	27.77	49.22
Gambia (Republic of The)	26.95	23.25	19.67	37.92
Georgia	46.92	43.41	34.53	62.81
Germany	76.90	79.24	64.91	86.55
Ghana	43.30	59.53	25.35	45.03
Greece	57.70	50.66	46.55	75.88
Grenada	37.96	31.88	28.39	53.62
Guatemala	36.41	28.95	23.70	56.59
Guinea	30.21	25.63	22.24	42.77
Guinea Bissau	25.71	14.65	20.46	42.01
Guyana	37.23	26.53	27.56	57.61
Haiti	20.06	7.52	18.61	34.04
Honduras	29.83	24.72	21.77	43.01
Hungary	63.63	74.09	41.81	75.00
Iceland	69.82	82.20	47.16	80.10
India	62.81	73.32	50.34	64.76

Indonesia	65.85	79.86	48.06	69.64
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	43.88	26.54	38.82	66.29
Iraq	40.91	32.60	35.87	54.25
Ireland	73.18	75.47	58.13	85.95
Israel	74.52	79.30	61.53	82.74
Italy	71.22	78.64	53.12	81.88
Jamaica	37.79	34.43	28.82	50.11
Japan	75.75	80.31	57.96	88.98
Jordan	61.57	74.92	42.64	67.14
Kazakhstan	51.41	54.75	33.54	65.93
Kenya	43.56	56.20	30.98	43.49
Kiribati	34.45	30.85	26.96	45.55
Kuwait	51.26	46.49	36.93	70.36
Kyrgyzstan	36.55	34.68	24.49	50.49
Lao People's Democratic Republic	36.08	28.10	28.79	51.36
Latvia	61.87	74.46	35.72	75.43
Lebanon	46.67	51.04	40.48	48.48
Lesotho	28.21	24.66	21.08	38.90
Liberia	23.12	16.58	20.89	31.90
Libya	33.25	16.41	34.53	48.80
Liechtenstein	55.91	43.70	49.19	74.83
Lithuania	67.80	77.63	43.02	82.75
Luxembourg	70.63	84.67	43.81	83.40
Madagascar	28.80	25.30	21.19	39.92
Malawi	29.32	27.85	23.79	36.32
Malaysia	71.40	82.47	54.17	77.56
Maldives	31.43	33.71	17.22	43.36

Mali	32.27	26.00	22.44	48.36
Malta	63.64	75.86	39.89	75.18
Marshall Islands	37.62	29.94	31.65	51.29
Mauritania	41.40	50.12	29.10	44.98
Mauritius	53.94	65.31	32.71	63.81
Mexico	53.29	43.52	42.27	74.07
Mongolia	42.36	36.94	26.78	63.36
Montenegro	47.43	39.41	33.40	69.48
Morocco	41.78	34.82	36.70	53.82
Mozambique	24.22	20.86	18.23	33.57
Myanmar	34.26	24.24	33.85	44.69
Namibia	33.28	28.56	25.36	45.92
Nepal	33.14	30.61	25.44	43.37
Netherlands	77.23	84.58	60.12	87.00
New Zealand	63.98	55.95	49.56	86.43
Nicaragua	28.53	20.07	21.88	43.64
Niger	25.74	24.22	17.15	35.87
Nigeria	43.33	59.88	27.11	42.99
North Macedonia	45.12	36.51	32.36	66.50
Norway	76.12	86.38	56.28	85.70
Oman	62.91	69.61	41.29	77.84
Pakistan	40.47	40.61	36.94	43.87
Panama	44.39	35.79	26.97	70.41
Papua New Guinea	36.85	32.64	29.50	48.40
Paraguay	39.54	36.90	23.15	58.56
Peru	57.11	68.60	34.03	68.70
Philippines	58.51	74.49	38.58	62.45
Poland	67.51	76.53	45.41	80.59

Portugal	70.93	79.47	52.49	80.83
Qatar	68.22	76.07	46.90	81.69
Republic of Korea	79.98	84.59	62.60	92.74
Republic of Moldova	56.03	69.38	29.94	68.79
Romania	58.08	69.25	40.41	64.58
Russian Federation	64.72	72.15	45.38	76.62
Rwanda	51.25	71.44	30.30	52.02
Saint Kitts and Nevis	41.62	30.26	32.65	61.94
Saint Lucia	39.11	31.10	28.63	57.60
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	36.65	29.30	28.11	52.55
Samoa	37.16	31.82	27.41	52.26
San Marino	51.59	38.65	42.14	73.99
Sao Tome and Principe	29.63	24.82	23.69	40.39
Saudi Arabia	72.36	80.72	52.92	83.43
Senegal	46.11	62.37	28.77	47.18
Serbia	58.49	69.88	38.22	67.35
Seychelles	44.77	41.41	36.81	56.09
Sierra Leone	25.34	21.96	17.72	36.33
Singapore	84.25	90.96	68.65	93.14
Slovakia	63.69	68.76	41.40	80.91
Slovenia	65.85	77.48	43.32	76.76
Solomon Islands	32.71	27.69	27.98	42.45
Somalia	25.32	19.05	20.36	36.54
South Africa	52.91	54.30	39.15	65.28
South Sudan	18.58	11.04	19.74	24.96
Spain	69.25	74.58	50.75	82.43

Sri Lanka	45.29	55.04	32.19	48.65
State of Palestine	37.53	24.64	32.75	55.21
Sudan	24.63	13.32	24.29	36.28
Suriname	36.87	25.79	27.84	56.99
Sweden	75.40	80.60	63.45	82.16
Switzerland	69.42	59.06	61.32	87.88
Syrian Arab Republic	16.95	16.42	18.93	15.49
Taiwan	74.58	82.98	56.37	84.38
Tajikistan	36.72	51.05	19.79	39.31
Thailand	66.17	75.78	44.83	77.90
Timor-Leste	33.68	27.03	26.70	47.30
Togo	31.32	31.21	20.82	41.92
Tonga	38.63	31.75	34.89	49.25
Trinidad and Tobago	40.14	32.33	31.53	56.56
Tunisia	43.68	28.62	41.07	61.35
Türkiye	60.63	70.73	45.13	66.02
Turkmenistan	32.64	17.03	32.92	47.96
Uganda	34.63	35.57	22.23	46.10
Ukraine	60.57	73.42	41.93	66.37
United Arab Emirates	75.66	83.89	59.20	83.89
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	78.88	84.47	66.57	85.62
United Republic of Tanzania	35.08	36.64	20.98	47.62
United States of America	87.03	89.26	80.94	90.90
Uruguay	62.21	76.39	33.31	76.93

Uzbekistan	53.45	64.71	33.50	62.14
Vanuatu	39.04	34.44	30.85	51.82
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	29.21	15.50	26.00	46.12
Viet Nam	61.42	75.02	43.36	65.86
Yemen	14.62	12.90	20.41	10.56
Zambia	41.87	60.78	23.22	41.63
Zimbabwe	32.59	23.69	27.82	46.27