FELARIS

REGIONAL RESEARCH | Q4 2026

Felaris Digital and AI Maturity Report

Caribbean readiness, verified activity, operating capability, public evidence and the next decisions for regional leaders.

Research edition dated 18 October 2026. Felaris published readiness scores remain unchanged. Operational AI maturity findings are described using attributed evidence and coverage limits. Separate independent coding review has not been completed.

Prepared by Felaris Global LLC

Truth. Strength. Direction. | felarisglobal.com

Research audience: governments, regulators, boards, private-sector executives, universities, investors and regional institutions.

Executive perspective

The Caribbean has begun to operate AI services and formalise governance frameworks. The region now needs to show where those services are deployed, what they cost, what outcomes they deliver, whether staff and data are ready, and who is accountable for results.

> Headline interpretation: A strong digital-government foundation or published policy is a useful starting point. It does not establish operational AI maturity or economic return. Felaris separates those questions so a decision-maker can trace each finding to its evidence.

Five findings for executive decisions

- The 2024 UN EGDI and 2025 Oxford Government AI Readiness editions are the newest verified references used here, and their years and scoring methods must be shown separately.
- Trinidad and Tobago is second among the scored CARICOM jurisdictions in the 2024 UN EGDI column and in the 2025 Oxford ranking used by Felaris. Its Felaris composite remains 58/100 because governance readiness measures different criteria.
- A live public-facing AI service can be verified in Trinidad and Tobago. Service use, delivery quality, cost and case-level benefits require separate evidence.
- Jamaica leads Felaris CARICOM governance-readiness scoring at 82/100; its announced GAINS skills programme creates an opportunity to publish delivery and outcomes data.
- Public evidence of realised value and independently documented assurance controls remains sparse. Missing evidence is reported as a gap, never silently treated as a zero score.

Recommended decisions within 90 days

- Name an accountable reporting owner in each priority jurisdiction or partner institution.
- Define an operational AI register with service, owner, data access, status, vendor, review and measurable baseline.
- Request quarterly evidence of completed training, operational deployments and measured outcomes.
- Publish sector-relevant controls for AI procurement, audit logging, access, redress and incident handling.

What the index measures

Felaris publishes a legal and institutional readiness composite separately from research on digital capacity and operational AI. The distinction protects comparability while making the AI evidence visible.

Measure	Scoring or reference basis	Interpretation
Felaris Readiness	60% governance (six legal criteria, 0–12), 40% UN EGDI 2024	Public governance and digital-government readiness
Digital maturity reference	UN EGDI 2024, presented as 0–100	Digital public service foundations; not AI compute
Government AI readiness reference	Oxford Insights 2025, published country score and rank	External government readiness context
Operational AI research	20 tests in six research pillars; attributed evidence, 0–5 proposed rubric	Activity, results, workforce, operations, controls and momentum
Evidence confidence	Source type, observation date, geographic coverage and review status	Quality of the published information

Six areas that every country profile should address

- Deployment & use: adoption evidence, use-case breadth and movement beyond pilots.
- Realised value: measured outcomes, workflow changes, cost and benefit tracking.
- Skills & operating capacity: demonstrated skills, connectivity, data infrastructure and research ecosystem.
- Governance development: AI policy, oversight, privacy, ethics and accountability.
- Assurance & controls: data governance, cybersecurity, identity and independent control evidence.
- Institutional momentum: implementation partnerships, funding and regulator/programme follow-through.

Scoring discipline: National numeric operational AI maturity scores remain unissued until qualifying outcomes, deployments and assurance evidence are sufficiently documented. This does not prevent publication of dated, sourced findings. There is no unreviewed score being disguised as a verified rank.

Country readiness: retained baseline

Felaris readiness scores are preserved from the 11 October 2026 baseline. Ranking is relative to the displayed filter; CARICOM-only sorting correctly places Jamaica first. The EU and Montserrat are unranked because the composite lacks a single comparable EGDI input.

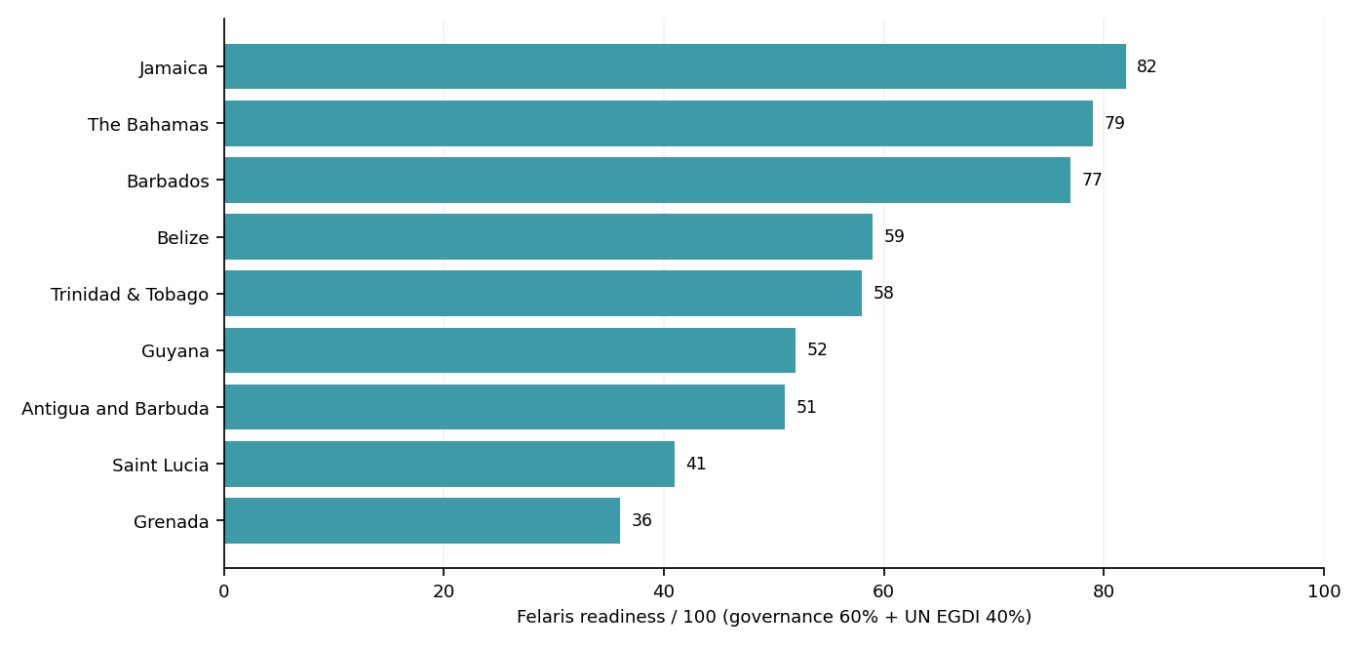


Chart: nine highest-scoring CARICOM members in the Felaris composite. Source: Felaris October 11 baseline; UN E-Government Survey 2024.

Country-level benchmark distinction

Market	Felaris /100	UN EGDI /100	Oxford 2025 /100
Jamaica	82	66.8	40.09
The Bahamas	79	71.4	31.18
Barbados	77	68.2	23.33
Trinidad and Tobago	58	69.7	32.73
Guyana	52	54.0	25.47

These are different constructs. Oxford scores do not enter the Felaris composite. Minor display rounding is shown; source records preserve reference editions.

New research dashboard: evidence before ranking

The redesigned dashboard moves AI and digital maturity into prominent navigation, and each country detail opens with digital and AI reference measures before the six governance criteria. Research tabs distinguish operational evidence and confidence from the established composite.

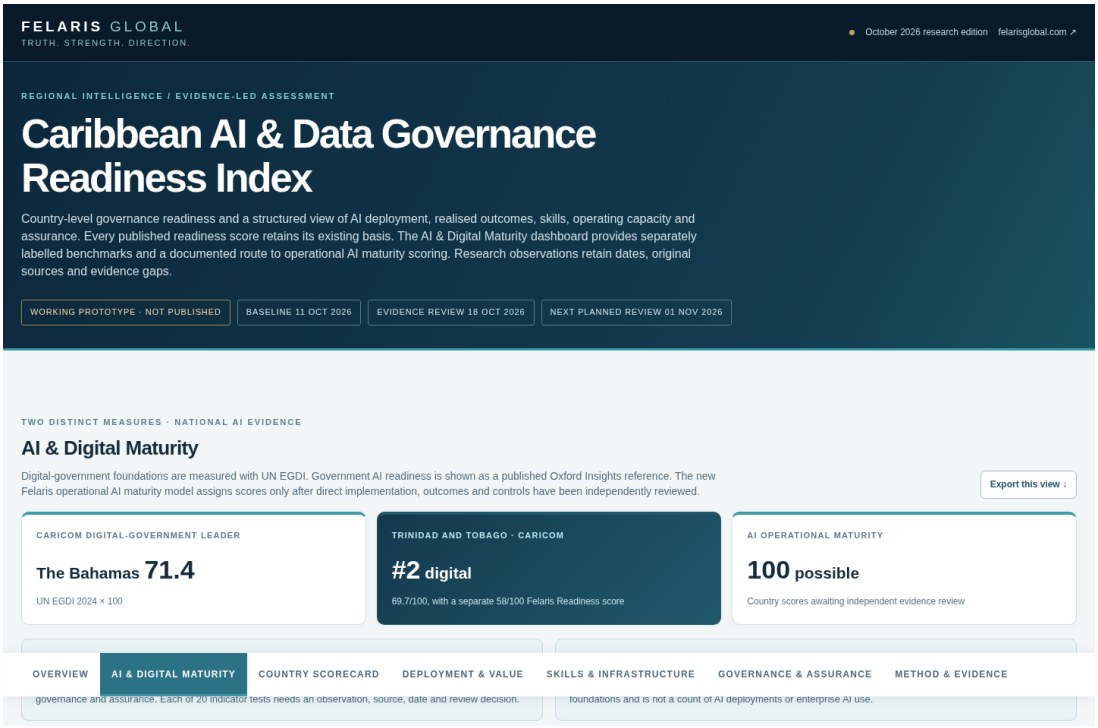


Figure 1. Interactive AI & Digital Maturity working prototype, captured before the final navigation contrast correction. The V4 HTML carries the updated tab styling and research notices.

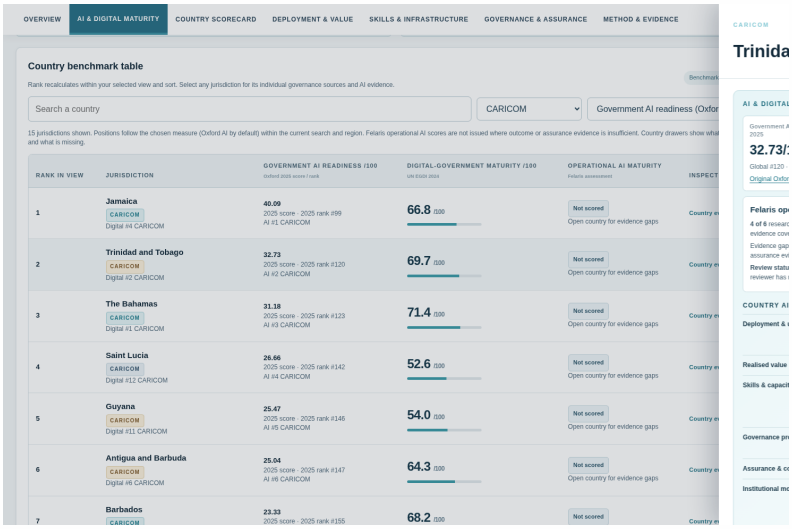


Figure 2. Trinidad and Tobago country drawer prototype: external benchmarks, governance breakdown and separate operational evidence. Screenshot is a review-stage interface, not a live production capture.

01 / AI deployment and observed use

Felaris research domain: Deployment & use | Evidence cut-off: 18 October 2026

What available evidence shows

- Operational signal: the Trinidad and Tobago Anansi government assistant is documented as a public-facing service. Confirm active production scope, supported transactions, user numbers and service quality before inferring scale.
- Modelled diffusion evidence: Microsoft Q1 2026 estimated generative AI use at 24.0% of Jamaica’s working-age population. This is a modelled usage estimate, not a verified national count of deployed enterprise AI systems.
- Published operational activity remains difficult to compare across agencies and sectors because use-case registries, launch dates and service metrics are inconsistent.

Concern / decision risk

> AI deployments should be evaluated on the service they run, the data they access, the person accountable and the measures reported.

Recommended action

- 1. Inventory all production and pilot AI services with responsible owners and permitted data.
- 2. Publish usage counts, transaction mix, error rates and accessibility metrics with a quarterly observation window.
- 3. Require a deployment-to-benefits evidence trail for funded pilots.

What to display in the index

For every jurisdiction: indicator, operational status, observation date, original source, data owner or institution, evidence-confidence classification, reviewer note and open gap. Display an explicit “No public evidence verified” label where needed.

Relevant citations and exact source URLs are provided in the report source register; country-specific evidence records are linked in the companion interactive index.

02 / Realised value and operating model

Felaris research domain: Reported outcomes | Evidence cut-off: 18 October 2026

What available evidence shows

- PwC’s regional board survey reports mixed perceptions of AI investment results: 8% “very much”, 31% “somewhat”, 36% “not very much” and 26% “not at all”. These are rounded, self-reported perceptions across sampled directors, not audited savings.
- Public service improvements such as shorter processing times require a pre-deployment baseline, comparable workload, staff review cost and documented error corrections.
- Publicly available national outcome series are insufficient for a defensible country-by-country realised-value ranking.

Concern / decision risk

The principal risk is funding visible pilots that never produce measurable service or economic improvements.

Recommended action

- 1. Require baseline and 90-day follow-up for time, cost, volume, service quality and correction effort.
- 2. Separate gross AI output from net benefit after human review and operating costs.
- 3. Use an outcomes register for government procurement and enterprise pilots.

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03 / Skills, talent and institutional capacity

Felaris research domain: Talent and capacity | Evidence cut-off: 18 October 2026

What available evidence shows

- Jamaica’s GAINS programme was announced with JMD 545 million in funding and intended coverage across 63 constituencies. The announcement is programme evidence; completions and labour-market impact require later verification.
- Trinidad and Tobago’s AI Academy and FutureReadyTT records indicate public-sector and education programmes under development or launch.
- Training seat counts and course launches reveal supply; competency assessment and on-the-job use demonstrate capability.

Concern / decision risk

A region can expand training while retaining shortages in implementation, assurance, data management and programme ownership.

Recommended action

- 1. Report enrolment, completion, assessed proficiency and use at work separately.
- 2. Build shared skills standards across public administration, business and universities.
- 3. Commission workforce demand surveys for AI practitioners, data stewards, security and auditors.

What to display in the index

For every jurisdiction: indicator, operational status, observation date, original source, data owner or institution, evidence-confidence classification, reviewer note and open gap. Display an explicit “No public evidence verified” label where needed.

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04 / Digital foundations and infrastructure

Felaris research domain: Infrastructure | Evidence cut-off: 18 October 2026

What available evidence shows

- UN EGDI measures online services, telecommunications infrastructure and human capital for public administration. It is a useful digital-government reference, but does not measure AI compute availability or affordable enterprise-grade access.
- ITU’s 2024 SIDS research reports internet use around 75% in Caribbean SIDS versus 41% in Pacific SIDS using 2023 data; regional digital inclusion still varies considerably within countries.
- The ITU 2025 global report highlights continuing divides in broadband quality, affordability and meaningful use, despite broad coverage.

Concern / decision risk

Digital public service scores can conceal affordability and infrastructure weaknesses that slow AI deployment.

Recommended action

- 1. Publish connectivity, affordability, resilience, data centre/hosting access and public data interoperability separately.
- 2. Prioritise reliable identity, interoperability and digital-service transaction quality.
- 3. Assess public-sector procurement dependence, sovereign data needs and vendor concentration.

What to display in the index

For every jurisdiction: indicator, operational status, observation date, original source, data owner or institution, evidence-confidence classification, reviewer note and open gap. Display an explicit “No public evidence verified” label where needed.

Relevant citations and exact source URLs are provided in the report source register; country-specific evidence records are linked in the companion interactive index.

05 / Governance, law and institutional ownership

Felaris research domain: Governance developments | Evidence cut-off: 18 October 2026

What available evidence shows

- Jamaica’s data protection framework and operating Information Commissioner contribute to its existing Felaris governance score; a pending national AI policy remains separately identified.
- UNESCO has completed or supported national AI Readiness Assessment Methodology activities in Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname, but activities vary in stage and should not be treated as equivalent policy enactments.
- Sector-specific frameworks may be binding even where no comprehensive national AI statute exists, so each criterion must identify scope and effective date.

Concern / decision risk

Policy announcements can lead actual operating controls by years; source dates and stage labels prevent premature claims.

Recommended action

- 1. Publish legal status, commencement, institution and enforcement separately.
- 2. Require named owners for public AI systems and procurement approvals.
- 3. Establish regionally interoperable procurement, notice, risk and human-oversight practices.

What to display in the index

For every jurisdiction: indicator, operational status, observation date, original source, data owner or institution, evidence-confidence classification, reviewer note and open gap. Display an explicit “No public evidence verified” label where needed.

Relevant citations and exact source URLs are provided in the report source register; country-specific evidence records are linked in the companion interactive index.

06 / AI assurance and demonstrable controls

Felaris research domain: Assurance & controls | Evidence cut-off: 18 October 2026

What available evidence shows

- Public documentation of AI inventories, model evaluations, access testing, logging, complaint handling and independent assessment is patchy across regional markets.
- Conventional privacy and cybersecurity rules support AI operations, but do not by themselves demonstrate tested model behaviour, monitoring or benefits realisation.
- An assurance score without access to control evidence would create false precision. Felaris therefore records these as evidence gaps until verifiable artefacts are available.

Concern / decision risk

The major institutional risk is unmonitored AI influencing consequential decisions without a reliable evidence trail.

Recommended action

- 1. Create minimum public-sector AI assurance records: use register, risk tier, data owner, evaluation, approval and exception history.
- 2. Assess identity, access, incident response and retention before connecting AI to sensitive data.
- 3. Publish annual assurance summaries with documented test scope and limitations.

What to display in the index

For every jurisdiction: indicator, operational status, observation date, original source, data owner or institution, evidence-confidence classification, reviewer note and open gap. Display an explicit “No public evidence verified” label where needed.

Relevant citations and exact source URLs are provided in the report source register; country-specific evidence records are linked in the companion interactive index.

CARICOM country benchmark register

Each line reports established Felaris readiness and two distinct external references. There is no nationally scored Felaris operational AI maturity ranking in this edition. Values show the baseline inputs retained as reviewed 11 October and Oxford 2025 references checked 18 October.

Jurisdiction	Felaris readiness	UN EGDI 2024	Oxford AI 2025
Jamaica	82/100	66.8/100	40.09/100
The Bahamas	79/100	71.4/100	31.18/100
Barbados	77/100	68.2/100	23.33/100
Belize	59/100	48.7/100	22.68/100
Trinidad and Tobago	58/100	69.7/100	32.73/100
Guyana	52/100	54.0/100	25.47/100
Antigua and Barbuda	51/100	64.3/100	25.04/100
Saint Lucia	41/100	52.6/100	26.66/100
Grenada	36/100	64.6/100	19.36/100
Saint Kitts and Nevis	35/100	63.1/100	20.85/100
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	34/100	58.8/100	21.50/100
Dominica	27/100	54.5/100	19.76/100
Suriname	25/100	63.7/100	18.37/100
Haiti	8/100	21.2/100	14.94/100
Montserrat	Unranked	n/a	n/a

Reading this table: Felaris readiness prioritises governance status and digital-government infrastructure. Oxford 2025 measures government readiness for AI under an external revised method; no country score should be treated as a measured count of operational AI services.

Jurisdiction priorities: evidence to seek next

These are proposed research and implementation priorities, rather than findings of regulatory failure or absence of AI activity. They identify the source material that would most strengthen each country profile.

Jurisdiction	Priority information or action
Jamaica	Convert announced skills programmes into documented completions and published government/enterprise AI outcomes.
The Bahamas	Publish operating-service measures and clarify the status of proposed AI governance institutions.
Barbados	Trace finance-sector governance controls to live use cases and measurable benefits.
Trinidad and Tobago	Measure Anansi service outcomes, record public use cases, and document assurance, skills and review controls.
Belize	Verify actual deployment beyond policy announcements and data-law commencement where relevant.
Guyana	Confirm dated public deployment evidence, data stewardship and outcomes.
Antigua and Barbuda	Translate completed readiness assessment recommendations into operating service and control evidence.
Saint Lucia	Connect digital identity and public-service reform to demonstrated AI-enabled use cases.
Grenada	Evidence live service delivery and verify the status of relevant legal and data controls.
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Track implementation of digital transformation commitments and assess AI service assurance.
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Establish an initial register of verifiable AI uses and digital-service outcomes.
Dominica	Confirm current institutional and operational AI evidence, with explicit gaps rather than inferred zeros.
Suriname	Follow UNESCO RAM work with documented policy adoption and live service evidence.
Haiti	Prioritise comparable, reliable public evidence and operational capacity under country-specific conditions.
Montserrat	Retain unranked status until a comparable digital baseline can be established.

The Caribbean in a Global South context

Comparisons require like-for-like definitions and reference periods. This section uses ITU connectivity indicators to establish broad context, not to rank Caribbean AI maturity against regions with different income, geography and regulatory structures.

Relevant reference	Finding	Interpretation
Caribbean vs Pacific SIDS	ITU reports 75% vs 41% internet use in 2023	Caribbean SIDS enter AI adoption from stronger average connectivity, though inclusion remains uneven
SIDS across regions	2024 ITU assessment identifies high affordability and fixed-broadband constraints	Cloud dependence, cost and digital skills require direct measurement
Africa connectivity (2025)	ITU DataHub reports 11.8% 5G population coverage for Africa	Comparisons should be by same indicator and year, not broad national AI narratives
Asia-Pacific connectivity (2025)	ITU DataHub reports 70.4% 5G coverage for Asia-Pacific	Differences in scale and infrastructure conditions should guide practical infrastructure prioritisation

Where Caribbean countries can take a stronger position

- Interoperable regional data standards and a trusted approach to cross-border handling, particularly for small-state public services.
- Common procurement and independent assessment expectations, allowing small governments to pool evaluation and supplier-review capability.
- Publication of public AI service metrics and citizen outcomes, including baseline cost, processing time, grievance and error rates.
- Targeted technical workforce development linked to active service demand, not programme volume alone.
- A shared reporting scheme across the Caribbean, with comparable indicators while allowing jurisdiction-specific legal status and social priorities.

Comparison caveat: the SIDS estimate is from 2023 observations reported in a 2024 publication. Africa and Asia-Pacific ITU 2025 dashboard figures represent later population-coverage indicators. They are presented as distinct contextual facts, not a regional trend calculation.

A practical 90-day programme

The first release should prioritise evidence that decision-makers can act on. The most useful new reporting is a credible distinction among policy readiness, verified AI services, realised benefits, workforce capacity and assurance.

Window	Deliverables	Executive owner
0–30 days	Release evidence-labelled dashboard; verify all links and baseline scores; agree priority source owners and a corrections address.	Felaris editorial owner / jurisdiction contributors
31–60 days	Obtain deployment inventories from cooperating public bodies and major sectors; document benefit baselines and standard metrics.	Technology and service programme owners
61–90 days	Publish updated operational evidence, selected case studies, quantified outcomes when available and a source-confidence ledger.	Governance and programme assurance leads

Publication controls

- Data cut-off: research evidence checked 18 October 2026; next scheduled update 1 November 2026.
- Change history must distinguish source correction, methodology update, new evidence and changed country scores.
- An independent reviewer has not signed this edition. The report labels research observations accordingly.
- Publication is permitted for transparent, source-backed findings. Numeric Felaris national operational AI maturity rankings remain unissued pending adequate comparable evidence.
- Before publication, test all 18 country drawers, 108 governance source entries, local score calculations, navigation, exports, mobile layouts and report links.

Release position: This document and dashboard are candidates for publication today. No Netlify production deployment or independent second review is claimed in this research edition.

Evidence register and cited sources

Primary and institutional references used for the current Felaris research series, with dates and coverage where available. Sources must be rechecked when the update cycle closes. Long links are retained in the companion JSON source register.

S01 UN DESA. UN E-Government Survey 2024

https://desapublications.un.org/publications/un-e-government-survey-2024

S02 Oxford Insights. Government AI Readiness Index 2025

https://oxfordinsights.com/ai-readiness/government-ai-readiness-index-2025/

S03 Microsoft AI Economy Institute. Global AI Diffusion, Q1 2026

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Microsoft-AI-Diffusion-Report-2026-Q1.pdf

S04 PwC Caribbean. Corporate Governance Survey 2026, detailed results

https://www.pwc.com/bb/en/services/esg/assets/corporate-governance-survey-2026.pdf

S05 Government of Jamaica. GAINS launch, June 2026

https://opm.gov.jm/government-launches-growing-ai-innovation-and-national-skills-programme/

S06 UNESCO. Jamaica RAM profile

https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/jamaica

S07 UNESCO. Antigua and Barbuda RAM report launch

https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/antigua-and-barbuda-unveils-landmark-ai-readiness-assessment-report

S08 UNESCO. Trinidad and Tobago RAM validation

https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/trinidad-and-tobago-advances-ethical-ai-governance-unesco-ram-validation-workshop

S09 UNESCO. Suriname RAM activity

https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/suriname-advances-responsible-ai-governance-unescos-ram-20

S10 ITU. Facts and Figures: Focus on SIDS (2024)

https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2024/03/ITUFFSIDS_BDTcommunique.pdf

S11 ITU. Facts and Figures 2025

https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/facts/default.aspx

S12 ITU DataHub. Africa and Asia-Pacific 2025 indicators

https://datahub.itu.int/

S13 IDB. Data Centre Opportunity in LAC, October 2025

https://publications.iadb.org/en/capturing-data-center-opportunity-latin-america-and-caribbean

S14 Felaris. Caribbean AI & Data Governance Readiness baseline, Oct 2026

https://ai.felarisglobal.com/caribbean-readiness-index

Methodology, limitations and editorial record

Evidence confidence and comparability

- The 2024 UN EGDI and Oxford 2025 Government AI Readiness values are external references. Their definitions, sampling and revisions are governed by their publishers.
- The existing Felaris composite remains 60% governance (six criteria) plus 40% UN EGDI 2024, with all published scores preserved.
- The proposed 20-measure operational research framework has not been used to issue new national scores in this report.
- A missing public source does not prove a government, university or business has no relevant activity or controls.
- A programme announcement is not an independently verified completion or value result.
- Self-reported regional survey answers reflect respondents and sampling; they do not establish national AI return on investment.

Editorial disclosures

Record	Status
Source and evidence cut-off	Working cut-off: 18 Oct 2026
Baseline last reviewed	11 Oct 2026
Oxford latest verified	2025 edition, reference checked 18 Oct 2026
Independent second review	Not completed; research findings transparently labelled
Proposed publication	Q4 2026 edition, pending Netlify production verification
Next scheduled update	01 Nov 2026

Corrections: A reader should submit the specific jurisdiction, disputed indicator, official source, observation or effective date, and requested correction. Felaris will log the claim, verify the evidence, record any score effect, and publish a dated correction. No contact address has been invented.