



AUSTRALIA



Population: 23,470,145 | GDP: \$1.248 trillion | Language: English | Unicorns 2009-2018: 2



What did Australia do right?

Freedom and diversity abound in Australia, and the country excels in measures of resilience thanks to how effectively information technology connects its population. Ridesharing services are also now legal in all territories, a move that improved Australia's Ridesharing grade to an A from a B.



What can Australia do better?

Australia could lower its corporate tax rate and encourage the growth of Australian startups to increase the number of domestic unicorns.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

As one of 16 Innovation Champions on the 2019 International Scorecard, Australia serves as a model for the world, and distinguishes itself in a few areas especially.



Credit: Adam J.W.C. Wikimedia Commons

The country has the highest measure of ethnic diversity on the Scorecard, earning it a grade of A+ in the Diversity category. Integrating and drawing on different perspectives is essential to scientific and technological progress, making diversity vital to innovation. Immigrants constitute nearly 29 percent of Australia's population, and the 2016 census showed that over 33 percent of Australians are the children of parents who were both born overseas.

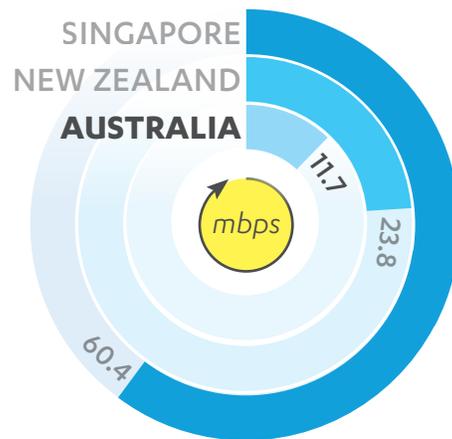
The country also earned an A+ in the Freedom category, with near-perfect scores on measures of political and economic liberty. After a nonbinding survey showed broad support for same-sex marriage, the Australian parliament legalized it in 2017.

Australia earned another A+ grade in Resilience for its robust digital infrastructure, and for making online services widely available to connect Australians with their government, enabling them to recover more easily from crises.

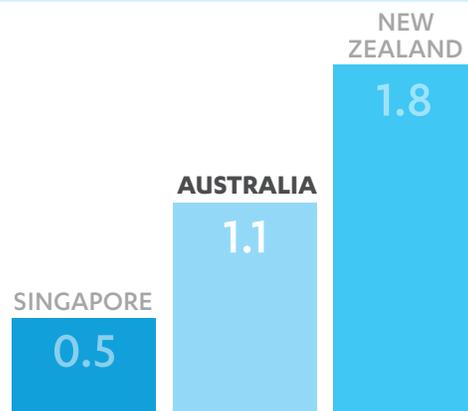
Finally, Australia is one of the easiest places in the world to start a business, earning the country its second consecutive A+ in Entrepreneurial Activity.

Sources: (Australian Census) (Australian Human Rights Commission)

Mean Download Speed (Fixed & Mobile)



Fixed Broadband Cost Per Month



Shown as a percentage of gross monthly income per capita



Entrepreneurial Activity

Starting a business in Australia is easy. The new business entry rate is 15.51 per 1,000 people, an increase from 14.91 per 1,000 people in 2018.



R&D Investment

The country spends 1.9 percent of its GDP on research and development.



Self-Driving Vehicles

The Australian National Transport Commission and Austroads partnered to create guidelines for self-driving vehicle testing, and trials of a self-driving shuttle recently began in Adelaide.



Diversity

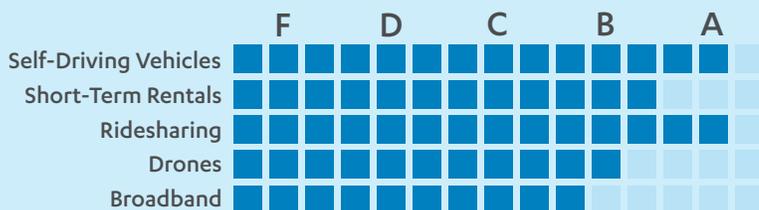
Immigrants make up 28.8 percent of the population, and the country is ethnically diverse.



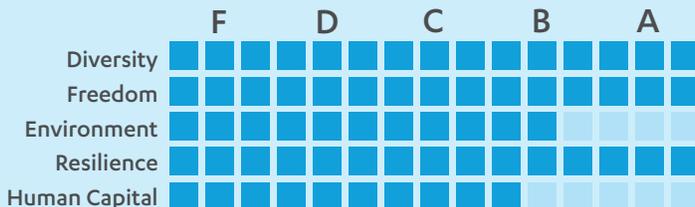
Short-Term Rentals

Short-term rentals are legal throughout the country, though regulations vary regionally. Australia's grade increased to a B+ from a B in 2018.

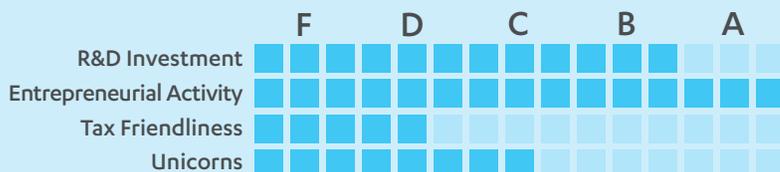
Technology



Society



Economy



ABOUT THE SCORECARD

With the 2019 International Innovation Scorecard, the Consumer Technology Association expands the report in breadth and depth, adding 23 new countries and two new categories. In this second edition, we evaluate 61 countries and the European Union across 28 indicators to determine whether they stifle progress or fuel the fires of innovation.

Each country on the Scorecard ranks in one of four tiers: Innovation Champions excel in almost all areas, followed by Innovation Leaders, which earn high scores in most. Behind the Leaders are Innovation Adopters, which promote innovation in some areas but not others. Finally, Modest Innovators may support innovation in one or more areas, but they show the greatest room for improvement.

ABOUT CTA

The Consumer Technology Association (CTA)[™] is the preeminent trade organization representing the \$398 billion U.S. consumer technology industry, which supports more than 15 million jobs. CTA serves over 2,200 companies, ranging from the startups and small businesses that make up 80 percent of its membership to some of the world's best-known brands. CTA also owns and produces CES[®], the world's premier gathering for consumer technology and the innovators who turn today's dreams into tomorrow's realities. Profits from CES are reinvested into CTA's industry services.

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