

Michigan

The next generation of vehicle tech comes to the Motor City

For the fourth year in a row, Michigan is a top-tier Innovation Champion and home to self-driving technologies.

General Motors revealed plans to field a fully self-driving vehicle by 2019. The Dearborn-based Ford recently announced a collaboration with chipmaker Qualcomm to create an open, cloud-based platform for vehicles to communicate with everything from stop lights to bikes. Ford expects all of its new vehicles will roll off the line equipped with Qualcomm's connected car system by 2019.

Michigan businesses are taking advantage of the state's healthy commitment to research and development investment. The state saw nearly \$1,726 per capita on R&D — among the highest rates of any state — and saw a seven percent year-over-year increase.

Well-established companies aren't the only ones making development plans in the Great Lakes State. The number of VC-backed startups spiked 48 percent from 2011 through 2016. In Detroit, that rate is even higher. In three years, the number of startups in the Motor City jumped by 50 percent.

Sources: (Michigan Radio) (Zdnet) (TechCrunch) (The Verge)

WHAT DID WE DO RIGHT?

Michigan allows the development of self-driving vehicles without undue government intervention.

WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER NEXT YEAR?

The state has a Right-to-Work law, but lacks legislation protecting workers from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

WHERE HAVE WE MOST IMPROVED?

Michigan passed a statewide tax agreement with short-term rental platforms.

Best & Brightest	B
Fast Internet	B
Grants Advanced Degrees	B
Tech Workforce	B
Tax Friendly	B+
Attracts Investment	B
Entrepreneurial Activity	B+
Ridesharing	A
Short-Term Rentals	B+
Sustainable Policies	B
Self-Driving Vehicles	A
Drones	A



Attracts Investment

Michigan invested more than \$1,725 per capita in research and development, offsetting a lackluster showing in VC investment.



Fast Internet

Michigan kept pace with other midwestern states, with 64 percent of households having internet speeds of at least 10 mbps, and 48 percent having speeds of 25 mbps or more.



Grants Advanced Degrees

A respectable 10.7 percent of residents over the age of 24 hold an advanced degree.



Short-Term Rentals

Short-term rentals operate throughout Michigan but face challenges in cities such as Grand Rapids.

In Motor City, High School Auto Shop Students Get Their Hands on the Latest Technology

Teenage gearheads have found their home at Troy High School.

Located a short drive from Detroit, the school launched an auto technology lab that helps students become certified mechanics before graduation, with a curriculum geared toward preparing them for the Student Automotive Service Excellence and Michigan State Mechanic exams.

The updated lab has the feel of a real-world service center, complete with the tools needed to repair modern cars. "Schools are recognizing the needs of businesses and providing the right learning opportunities to students," said Troy School District Superintendent Rich Machesky. "We're a pipeline to employability, connecting kids with jobs in much-needed fields."

The lab grew out of a desire — by both teachers and private companies — to help students succeed in an industry clamoring for qualified workers. Nationwide, the number of open positions for mechanics is expected to reach 24,000 annually by 2024.

PHOTO CREDIT: Troy School District | Sources: (Detroit News) (WXYZ)

