

Pennsylvania

A newly minted Champion readies for continued tech growth

One of a handful of states to improve its rank from Innovation Leader in 2017, Pennsylvania ascended to Innovation Champion on the 2018 U.S. Innovation Scorecard.

That jump was helped by the more than 970,00 jobs the state added from Q2/2011 to Q4/2016.

Cities around the state are also welcoming a growing tech industry presence. Apple chose the Harrisburg Area Community College as one of six colleges to roll out an app development curriculum to prepare students for coding jobs. In Philadelphia, nearly a quarter of all tech companies said they plan to add at least one full-time worker in 2018, a seven percent increase from the year before.

The state's existing tech workers are putting their skills to use in designing and building innovative devices. A team of researchers at the University of Pennsylvania developed drones that can collaborate with each other to carry payloads in factories, expanding the possibility of using drones simultaneously to carry heavy objects. The system uses a single camera and a series of sensors that communicate among the devices to carry a heavy payload evenly between the two drones, allowing the drones to autonomously cooperate and coordinate with each other.

To keep its top-ranked position Pennsylvania should pass a Right-to-Work law and legislation protecting workers from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Sources: (Penn Live) (Digital Trends) (Philly Voice)

WHAT DID WE DO RIGHT?

The state allows short-term rentals and ridesharing to operate without burdensome rules.

WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER NEXT YEAR?

Pennsylvania can improve a burdensome electronics recycling law with guidelines less open to arbitrary interpretations by regulators.

WHERE HAVE WE MOST IMPROVED?

The state surged in Entrepreneurial Activity, thanks to nearly one million new jobs over the past five years.

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



Attracts Investment

Pennsylvania saw an impressive \$809.90 in R&D spending per capita.



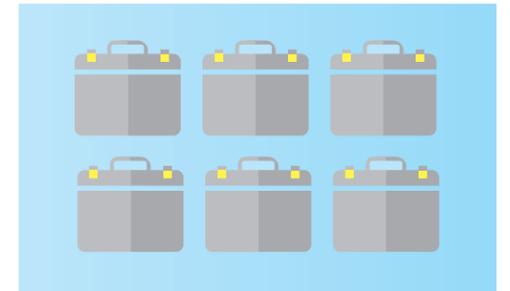
Tech Workforce

The number of tech jobs topped 486,000, a rate of more than 38 per 1,000 people.



Fast Internet

65 percent of Pennsylvania households have internet connections of at least 10 mbps, and 58 percent enjoy speeds of 25 mbps or more.



Entrepreneurial Activity

Pennsylvania netted nearly one million new jobs at small firms between Q2/2011 and Q4/2016.

Bringing New Technologies and New Jobs to Old Industries in Pennsylvania

Technology is breathing new life into traditional industries in rural Pennsylvania.

Students at the SUN Area Technical Institute are using a virtual reality simulator to get a leg up in metal arc welding. The VR program can analyze and score students' performance. The institute also prepares students for jobs in metal and wood working with tools that are already in use at manufacturing facilities throughout the region.

Mined Minds, a free coding class created by the family member of a Pennsylvania coal worker, helps retrain local miners for new jobs. In 2015, the nonprofit launched its first class for 10 students, and it now employs six former students as part-time developers and has partnered with the Community College of Allegheny County to expand the school's course offerings.

"I was skeptical at first," said one former student. "Computer coding is probably one of the best things that ever came to this community in a long time."

PHOTO CREDIT: Jonathan Graham, Mined Minds | Sources: (Daily Item) (CNN)

