



New Zealand

Thriving entrepreneurs and welcoming government policy

A well-educated workforce, entrepreneurial spirit and largely friendly response from the government to innovative tech launched New Zealand into the top tier of Innovation Champions.

Almost half of all workers in New Zealand are highly-skilled, and about a third of all degrees awarded in the country go to graduates of STEM programs.

The country also boasts a healthy entrepreneurial sector. A new business entry rate of 16.63 for every 1,000 people is the highest of any country.

Rules for self-driving vehicles are light. Testing is allowed without government interference on private roads. In 2016, the first self-driving vehicle drove on public roadways as a result of a collaboration between the New Zealand Traffic Institute, the country’s transport agency and transport minister, and car company Volvo. In 2017, self-driving buses navigated the streets of Christchurch, thanks to New Zealand company Ohmio Automation. Ohmio plans to develop four more self-driving vehicles over a 12-month span — including shuttles and freight pods — citing the ease of testing driverless tech in New Zealand as an advantage over its foreign competitors.

Sources: (CAA)(Stuff.co) (NZ Herald)

WHAT DID WE DO RIGHT?

New Zealand’s diverse economy and well-developed tech sector are the result of a concentrated push by the government. The country also has a high annual new

business entry rate of 16.63 per 1,000 people. Nearly half of the New Zealand workforce is highly-skilled, and 30 percent of degrees in the country go to STEM graduates. Testing of self-driving vehicles is allowed.

WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER NEXT YEAR?

New Zealand can eliminate rules that limit drone operations, such as mandating permission from any person or property drone operators intend to fly over. It should also lower the 28-percent corporate tax rate and drop taxes on streaming services.

Diversity	B+
Freedom	B-
Broadband	B
Human Capital	A-
Tax Friendliness	D+
R&D Investment	B-
Entrepreneurial Activity	A
Drones	D
Ridesharing	B
Short-Term Rentals	B
Self-Driving Vehicles	A
Environment	A+



Broadband

New Zealand ranks above most other countries with average internet speeds of 13.9 mbps and an average monthly internet prices of \$24.54.



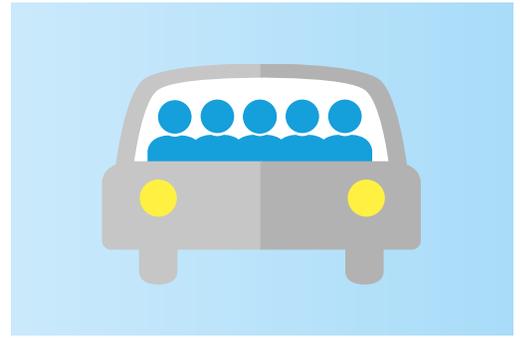
Short-Term Rentals

Short-term rentals are operational, but restrictions in cities like Queenstown – which puts a 28-day cap on the amount of time hosts can rent out their home if they aren't physically there – limit the potential market growth.



Human Capital

Has one of the highest percentages of highly-skilled workers of any country and nearly a third of all degrees awarded to STEM graduates.



Ridesharing

Ridesharing services are operational, but drivers face licensing regulations and other restrictions.

WELLINGTON

After the 2008 global financial crisis, New Zealand put an emphasis on developing the country's technological sector to diversify its economy and blunt future downturns.

The efforts have already met with success. The information communication technology sector ballooned by \$1.28 billion between 2008 and 2013 and increased as a share of national GDP. Between 2008 and 2014, the country saw a 25 percent increase in full-time engineering students.

New Zealand's capital city has seen its own successes and, with a crop of accelerators, aims to attract new ventures. The Wellington-based Lightning Lab has fostered an ensemble of success stories like Wipster, a video development collaboration tool used by companies like Evernote and Intel. The Lighting Lab Creative HQ bridges the gap between business founders and investment opportunities, crucial for developing New Zealand businesses.

Creative HQ and the Lightning Lab are both owned by the Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency, which is involved in other accelerator projects as well. One is specifically dedicated to helping New Zealand capitalize on the growing fintech market.

Sources: [Forbes](#) [\(Stuff.co\)](#)



A crop of tech accelerators have planted roots in Wellington, and the city continues to attract new ventures. Lighting Lab, an incubator in the New Zealand capital, fostered local standout Wipster, a video development collaboration tool used by companies like Evernote and Intel.