



United Kingdom

A strong performer across the board

The United Kingdom is the only country to receive a “B-” or higher in each of the Scorecard’s 12 graded categories, earning the second-highest composite grade and the title of 2018 Innovation Champion.

The UK made self-driving vehicles a priority in recent years, and has some of the most innovation-friendly policies in Europe. “We are well-positioned not just to follow changes in motoring technology over the next couple of decades,” said the UK’s Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling in November 2017, “but to lead them.”

Several tests have already been performed on British roads, and the 2017 budget included hundreds of millions of pounds of investment in infrastructure and research, with the goal of getting self-driving vehicles on public roads by 2021.

In a blow to another kind of automotive innovation, however, the London transport authority revoked Uber’s license in September 2017. The decision sets up a potentially years-long legal fight over the fate of ridesharing in one of the biggest markets in the world.

Another particularly bright spot for the UK was in Broadband, where the country earned higher marks than any other in the Scorecard — due in large part to some of the most affordable fixed and mobile broadband services in the world.

Sources: (Gov.uk) (Gov.uk) (Financial Times) (Independent) (BBC) (Gov.uk)

WHAT DID WE DO RIGHT?

The UK is home to 24 unicorns, broadband speeds are faster than most other countries, roughly a third of graduates earn STEM degrees, and more than 48 per cent of the country’s workforce is highly-skilled.

WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER NEXT YEAR?

The UK can support ridesharing with a new national law. A public spat between London and Uber led to the revocation of service’s license to operate in the capital.

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



Human Capital

Outperforms many other countries in the percentage of highly-skilled employees in its workforce at nearly 50 percent. In addition, 31 percent of degrees in the UK go to STEM graduates.



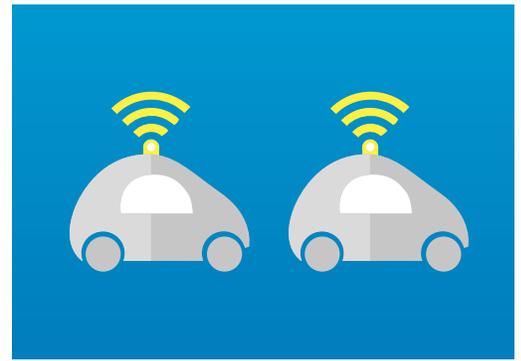
Broadband

Earned an 'A+' for impressive average internet speeds of 21.5 mbps – well above most other countries – and remarkably affordable monthly costs of



Entrepreneurial Activity

Two dozen startups worth at least \$1 billion – one of the highest counts of any country in the Scorecard – have roots in the United Kingdom. The country also has an annual new business entry rate 12.9 per 1,000 people, outpacing most others in the report.



Self-Driving Vehicles

The UK allows testing, and its leaders have voiced their support for further development.

MANCHESTER

One of the strongest tech cities in the United Kingdom, Manchester has continued its focus on innovation with several new developments in recent years.

In 2015, the city was chosen from among 30 cities around the United Kingdom to receive a 10-million-pound investment to fund smart city technology. Since then, CityVerve, a partnership of more than 20 Manchester-based groups to develop a smart city demonstrator in the city, has begun laying the groundwork for a connected Manchester.

A handful of sectors, including health and social care and environmental management, are in CityVerve's crosshairs. One project uses sensors to track environmental conditions like weather and a user's location to encourage residents to move more often. Another CityVerve project uses data from sensors to improve the efficiency of cleaning services by tracking data on how often spaces are used or when a trash can should be emptied.

In 2016, Cisco announced a partnership with Manchester Science Partnerships to open a center in the city's innovation district focused on developing ideas in the Internet of Things, smart cities, digital healthcare and digital creative industries.

Sources: (Manchester Evening News) (Gov.uk) (Cisco) (Manchester Evening News) (CityVerve) (CityVerve)



CityVerve, a program anchored by more than 20 groups, aims to turn Manchester into a connected city. The program has fostered projects like one that uses sensors to track environmental conditions and relay them to residents to encourage physical activity, and another that tracks how often spaces are used to make waste collection services more efficient.