

Beijing Overall Score: 34.7/100 | Overall Rank 38/50

Basic Facts

- 21.2 million population
- \$716 billion Gross Metro Product (2016)
- Top industries by employment are: government, finance and education
- Beijing is the capital of China and is a service-based economy that surrounds its extensive government administration
- It is the main higher education center for China, with a highly educated and well-paid work force that drives high consumption expenditures

Notable Strengths

- Beijing, No. 7 in size in the 2017 WE Cities Index by population, ranked No. 38 overall, and came in No. 23 for its Operating Environment and placed No. 45 in its Enabling Environment
- Beijing scored high in Talent ranking No. 9, and ranked No. 10 in Capital. 48 percent of the population has completed tertiary education, including 42 percent of women
- The number of top-ranked universities and accredited business schools, led by Peking University, ranked among the highest outside North America
- One of the 10 highest performing international cities when it comes to capital, Beijing led all cities outside the U.S. in the value of venture capital invested in companies that have at least 25 percent women executives
- 54 percent of all investment companies have at least one female executive, which leads all other cities in the index. Venture capital investment is extensive in Beijing, as are crowdfunding platforms such as Jingdong, Baidu, DemoHour, and AngelCrunch. Also, the equality of women's versus men's savings to start a business ranks high (66 percent)
- There are a large number of globally recognized, successful women entrepreneurs in Beijing

- Women are well-represented on boards of directors and business associations
- Organizations such as [Lean In in Beijing](#) help develop women entrepreneurs

“47 percent of the population has completed tertiary education, including 42 percent of women.”

Areas for Improvement

- Beijing's Policy score is very low, ranking No. 49, holding Beijing's Culture ranking down to No. 43
- The city could collect gender disaggregated data on technology, which could help evaluate not only women's access to technology, but also how and where improvements need to be made
- Policies such as paid paternity leave and fair pay requirements could help improve its Culture score
- It could better capitalize on its No. 4 ranking in Market Size by improving: Market Costs by easing the difficulties of starting a business; Market Access by encouraging accelerators (and programs within them specifically directed toward women entrepreneurs); Market Policy by fully developing a city portal or website for starting a business