

Berlin Overall Score: 41.0/100 Overall Rank: 21/50

Basic Facts

- 3.6 million population
- \$189 billion Gross Metro Product (2016)
- Top industries by employment are: real estate, professional, scientific and technical services, wholesale and retail trade, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles, residential care and social work activities

Notable Strengths

- Berlin strives to be the [most innovative city in Europe](#) and is among the regions with the highest concentration of environmental businesses, research institutes and employees in Germany
- Its central geography provides a strategic connection between important eastern and western European markets
- Berlin also bills itself as a [Family Friendly City](#) “with more than 2,000 day care centers, a comprehensive selection of child care options and universal all day primary schools”
- In 2011, Berlin instituted the policy that the last three years of day care before entering school will be free for all Berlin children
- As of August 2017, the last 5 days years of daycare before entering school will be free. By August 2018, daycare will be free for all children, with the exception of parents needing to pay for meals
- Despite being one of the smallest cities in the index by population, Berlin scores particularly well on the Markets pillar due to having strong Access and Policy ranks, suggesting that female entrepreneurs are relatively well-supported in these areas

- Berlin has the No. 5 most accelerators supporting women-owned businesses of any city in the index, second only to London in Western Europe
- In addition, it is estimated that 20 percent of German companies have female board members
- Berlin does relatively well in the Technology pillar, driven particularly by the low cost of accessing technology in Berlin
- The city ranks No. 3 amongst the cities in the index in terms of Cost of Technology, second only to Warsaw in the EU
- Berlin has the No. 8 lowest average monthly cost of prepaid mobile access of any city in the index (again behind only Warsaw in the EU) and is No. 13 lowest in terms of average monthly cost of Internet access
- Finally, Berlin does relatively well in terms of Women’s Skill & Experience, driven largely by the female participation rate in the labor force, which at 63.9 percent is No. 12 highest of any city in the index

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Areas for Improvement

- Berlin has the most room for improvement in the Capital pillar, where it scores No. 41
- Only 9.1 percent of businesses in the second round or funding or higher were found to have a female founder or higher
- In addition, only 5.7 percent of venture capital funding was granted to businesses with at least 25 percent female representation on the executive team
- Finally, only 28 women for every 100 men saved to start, operate, or expand a farm or business in Germany, the lowest rate in the index
- In addition, access to mentors & role models is relatively limited in Berlin. Only 0.1 percent of members of boards of major business associations are women, and only 17 percent of such associations are headed by women. Since it was unified in 1990, Berlin has had only male mayors
- However, 38 percent of the members of the German Parliament are women, the No. 22 highest rate of any government in the world