

Melbourne Overall Score: 41.5/100 | Overall Rank: 17/50

Basic Facts

- 4.4 million population
- \$203 billion Gross Metro Product (2016)
- Top industries by employment are: professional, scientific and technical services, finance
- Melbourne rivals Sydney as home to corporate headquarters, indeed is home to six of the ten largest Australia companies
- It has a knowledge-based economy, high education levels, and a multi-cultural population with large international immigration. It is well-known for biotech and information technology, led by GlaxoSmithKline, IBM and Siemens facilities
- Melbourne always ranks high among global cities for livability, education, entertainment, healthcare and tourism
- The cost of doing business is cheaper in this city than in Sydney. Melbourne has also been growing faster than Sydney
- The Government is investing heavily in rail extensions for Metro Melbourne to accommodate population growth over the next decades

Notable Strengths

- Melbourne scores strongest (No.14) in the enabling environment, propelled by a No. 8 rank in Culture
- It scored No. 2 in the Policy sub-category for Culture, achieving maximal scores in data collection, advocacy, equal pay, non-discrimination in hiring and parental leave
- The Culture is fostered by a city government that is active in encouraging women entrepreneurs. This past May, the Melbourne city government hosted a panel during their Knowledge Week on "[Women Entrepreneurs: Changing the World](#)"
- In July, the city government will partner with [StartSomethingGood](#) to host a live crowdfunding event where social entrepreneurs will pitch their ideas

- The city government also hosts an annual Women in Business event to highlight the achievements of women business owners and provide a networking event for like minded entrepreneurial women
- In the Operating Environment, Melbourne scores its best (No. 11) for its costs of doing business. Here it is led by its ease of starting a business (tied for No. 3 overall with Sydney, behind only our two Canadian cities)

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Areas for Improvement

- Melbourne is weakest (No. 37) in the Talent pillar. Its biggest weakness is its small percentage of workers with a tertiary education (No. 45 for females, No. 46 for all)
- Though Culture overall was a highlight, it lacks globally recognized women entrepreneurs and female political leaders. More city level organizations for businesswomen would help
- While Melbourne does a good job of collected gender disaggregated data for economic indicators, it should extend this to collect gender specific data on technology usage. This is a first step in benchmarking, monitoring and ensuring inclusive technology use