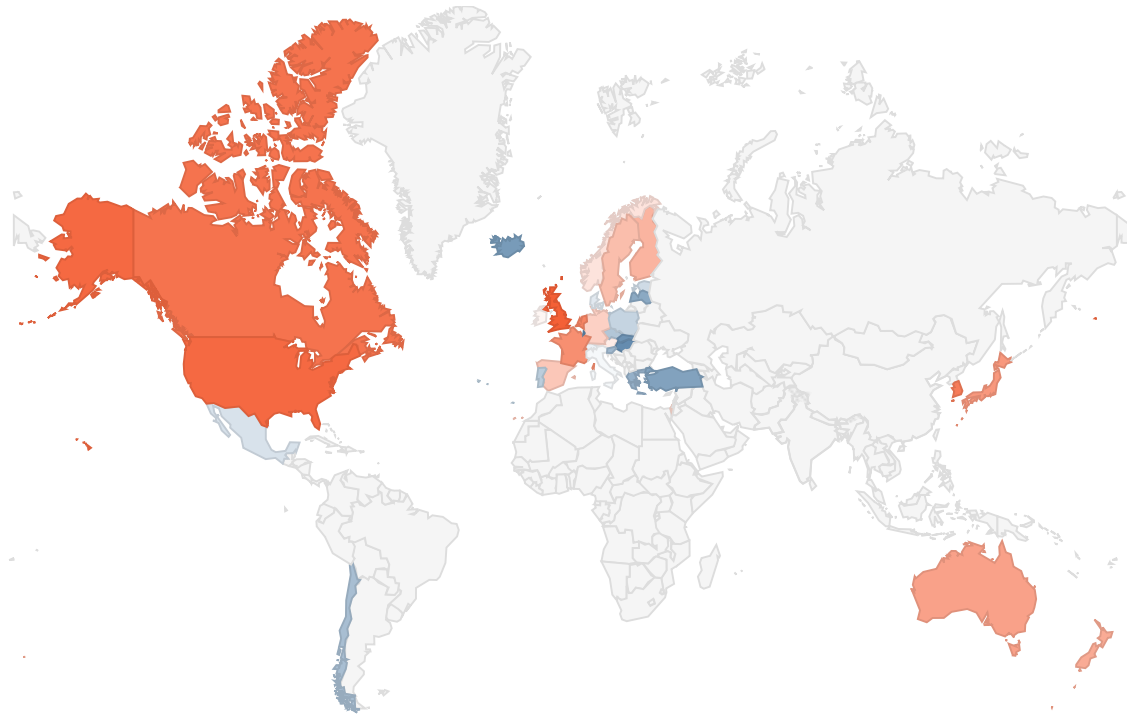




GOVERNMENT AI READINESS INDEX

by Richard Stirling, Hannah Miller and Emma Martinho-Truswell



Artificial intelligence (AI) will revolutionise public service delivery. Governments around the world are starting to see its enormous potential: for their economies, their societies, and their own public services. Until now, most research has focused on the technical implementation and likely impacts of AI. We asked a different question: *how well-placed are the national governments in the OECD to take advantage of the benefits of automation in their operations?*

We have created a world-first **Government AI Readiness Index** (full ranking below) to capture the current capacity of OECD governments to absorb - and exploit - the innovative potential of AI.



Our unique index captures the vital first stage of implementing AI: capacity, or readiness, for governments to introduce AI in public service delivery

Our unique Government AI Readiness Index provides an overall estimate for how prepared each country's national government is for implementing AI in public service delivery. It comprises nine input metrics, ranging from in-country digital skills and government innovation to existing data capabilities. The Index highlights which countries have some way to go before they are ready for the AI revolution, and identifies possible areas of improvement for every OECD government, regardless of ranking.

The factors we considered

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | Innovation | Global Innovation Index | Making progress on AI requires business as usual to change. If an innovative mindset is present in government, it should be picked up by general public service innovation indices. |
| Public service reform | Digital public services | UN eGovernment Survey | |
| | Government effectiveness | World Bank | |
| | Digitisation | Tufts' Digital Evolution Index | It is vital to have the necessary skills in the workforce to be able to identify where AI should and should not be used, and to help build effective tools and systems. Increasing investment by government can stimulate the supply of skills in the |
| Economy and skills | Technology skills | UN eGovernment Survey | |
| | AI startups | Crunchbase | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---|
| | | | economy and prompt demand from large companies in the private sector. AI startups reflect grassroots innovation and development, and a thriving tech sector. |
| | Quality of data | UN eGovernment Survey | Artificial intelligence systems are build on data. Therefore the quality and availability of data and the ability of a government to work with it effectively are critical. |
| Digital infrastructure | Available data | OECD OURdata Index | |
| | Data capability | Open Data Barometer | |

Government AI readiness is a new area, and Oxford Insights looks forward to refining our methodology. We welcome any comments and suggestions at research@oxfordinsights.com. We plan to publish the Index annually; in 2018 we intend to include new data, a wider range of indicators, and a longer list of countries.

Analysis

The UK is first in our rankings, reflecting its world-leading centres for AI research and strong technology industry. Although the UK has great starting conditions for AI development, it faces stiff competition from other countries seeking to be top of the global rankings. [China](#), [the US](#), [Russia](#) and [Canada](#) have all announced plans to be world leaders in AI. If the UK wishes to retain its high ranking in our capacity index, the government will need to continue to invest in order to remain competitive in future years.

The US lags behind the UK on measures including digital skills and data quality. Our index highlights a number of key areas for investment if the US is to prepare better for the AI revolution, such as a stronger focus on digital skills training and data infrastructure. Although the US is likely to continue to do well due to tech clusters such as Silicon Valley, without government focus and investment the digital skills gap will continue to grow. As a result, the US will need to import more and more AI experts, potentially missing out on developing in-country talent.

We also found that there is no clear geographical clustering in terms of AI readiness: the top five ranked countries are from North America, Europe and Asia. The expertise and conditions needed to capitalise on AI's potential are not area-specific, which suggests that many other governments are well-placed to begin climbing up the rankings. Estonia's e-government drive, for example, shows what may be possible with other smaller countries, and has helped it to perform well on grass-roots indicators of innovation such as digital skills and AI startups.

Our Government AI Readiness Index provides a timely insight into the capacity of governments to capitalise on the innovative potential of AI. We hope it also offers a useful starting point for policymakers seeking focus areas in their drive for AI readiness. We believe that AI offers an unprecedented opportunity to transform the public services of the future. It is now up to governments to ensure that they are well placed to take best possible advantage of the AI revolution.

If you'd like to discuss creating an AI strategy for your government or organisation and what kind of help Oxford Insights can offer, get in touch with us: email richard@oxfordinsights.com or emma@oxfordinsights.com

governments spend the labor time saved
by artificial intelligence?

Our Chief Operating Officer, Emma
Martinho-Truswell, writes on How AI
Could Help the Public Sector in the
Harvard Business Review

[Read the article here](#)

| Country | AI Rank | Index |
|----------------|---------|-------------|
| UNITED KINGDOM | 1 | 8.400058212 |
| UNITED STATES | 2 | 8.209167474 |
| CANADA | 3 | 7.863319516 |
| KOREA | 4 | 7.812407479 |
| NETHERLANDS | 5 | 7.761905159 |
| FRANCE | 6 | 7.744355794 |
| JAPAN | 7 | 7.597518368 |
| AUSTRALIA | 8 | 7.476332505 |
| NEW ZEALAND | 9 | 7.377215052 |
| FINLAND | 10 | 7.370989308 |
| SWEDEN | 11 | 7.186223717 |
| SPAIN | 12 | 7.179790582 |
| GERMANY | 13 | 6.959504184 |
| ISRAEL | 14 | 6.936561239 |
| NORWAY | 15 | 6.918981969 |
| AUSTRIA | 16 | 6.839885315 |
| IRELAND | 17 | 6.697854762 |
| BELGIUM | 18 | 6.611947802 |
| ITALY | 19 | 6.580167739 |

| Country | AI Rank | Index |
|-----------------|---------|-------------|
| SWITZERLAND | 20 | 6.52356742 |
| DENMARK | 21 | 6.399736836 |
| MEXICO | 22 | 6.191226484 |
| ESTONIA | 23 | 6.189188638 |
| POLAND | 24 | 5.903422964 |
| PORTUGAL | 25 | 5.787132218 |
| CZECH REPUBLIC | 26 | 5.778727424 |
| CHILE | 27 | 5.575553631 |
| SLOVENIA | 28 | 5.530326884 |
| GREECE | 29 | 5.506155491 |
| LATVIA | 30 | 4.864024162 |
| TURKEY | 31 | 4.653886802 |
| ICELAND | 32 | 4.584958664 |
| SLOVAK REPUBLIC | 33 | 4.561976147 |
| HUNGARY | 34 | 4.430075881 |
| LUXEMBOURG | 35 | 4.239717633 |

SOURCE: Oxford Insights

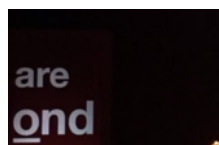
More on artificial intelligence by Oxford Insights



Suspending or shaping the AI policy frontier: has Germany become part of the AI strategy fallacy?

When it comes to national AI strategies, governments should harness first-mover advantages wherever possible. Despite continuing calls from the German economy and leading research institutes as well as Germany's great potential succeed in AI, the German Federal Government has delayed its plans to publish a national AI strategy until November 2018.

Jul 17, 2018



Beyond borders: talking at TEDxLondon

The greatest lesson I learnt during the coaching sessions was that TED is about the audience, not the speaker.

Even if the idea is yours, you are on that stage to share. To do that well you have to connect with your audience, breaking down the barrier between seat and stage in the process. You can't bat out an idea like mine – “code poetry” – if no one catches it.

Jul 5, 2018



Economic disruption and runaway AI: what can governments do?

Governments around the world are grappling with the same questions on AI: What is it? What can it do? What does it mean for our country? There are three pressing questions that governments need to answer in the short-term:

- how to manage the transition in the economy?
- how to ensure the use of AI reflects your values?
- how to use the power of AI to deliver better services for citizens?

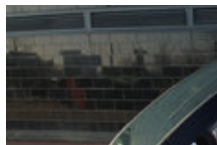
Feb 15, 2018



Want to get serious about artificial intelligence? You'll need an AI strategy

Governments are waking up to the fact that artificial intelligence (AI) could transform their economies, public services, and workforces. If governments are to capitalise on the AI opportunity, they need to have well thought out structures and processes in place to do so. Seven countries have now published national AI strategies, and they are declaring themselves as the new global leaders in AI.

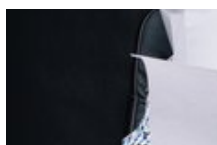
Jan 23, 2018



Beyond driverless cars: our take on the UK's Autumn Budget 2017

The UK comes from a position of strength in the competition to be the best in the world in artificial intelligence because we have world class research universities, a broad spectrum of skills, and a flexible capital market. To remain competitive, the Government needs to invest, and invest more, in AI.

Nov 23, 2017



AI: the ultimate intern

It doesn't matter that AI isn't as smart as the humans on your team. It is already capable of saving you time and

energy by taking the easiest tasks off your hands, leaving you free to focus on more important things.

Nov 3, 2017



AI and legitimacy: government in the age of the machine

The truth of the effects of AI on societies is likely somewhere between the “technoskeptic” and the “technoptimist” predictions. Regardless of where one falls on the scale, the adoption of artificial intelligence by government raises important questions about government legitimacy.

Sep 19, 2017



Five levels of AI in public service

AI is a very broad term which covers everything from machine learning to general intelligence. People can get caught up thinking about how to design the perfect system for dealing with problems we won't face for years. I've been thinking about what a common framework might look like to make it clearer what we mean when we talk about AI.

Jul 12, 2017



Why Government is ready for AI

The potential of Artificial Intelligence comes from its ability to deal with the complexity of real life. It offers is the beginnings of computer programmes that can make judgments - rather than simply following preset rules.

Apr 21, 2017



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