

BY THE NUMBERS: WHO'S READY FOR SELF-DRIVING CARS?

Some countries are better positioned than others to take advantage of autonomous vehicles.

Many technophiles and long-distance commuters are ready for self-driving cars today. The vehicles themselves, however, are still years from being perfected. What's more, there are still serious gaps in the infrastructure and policy frameworks needed to accommodate autonomous vehicles. When observed on a national basis, in fact, some of the places most ready for self-driving cars are not on the cutting edge of developing them.

The consulting firm KPMG International looked at the preparation currently in place in 20 major nations for handling the promise and challenges of autonomous vehicles. Its report, Autonomous Vehicle Readiness Index, considered government support, the state of infrastructure, private-sector innovation, and other factors.

Here, those factors are separated into two categories: technology and innovation; and policy, infrastructure, and consumer acceptance. While the technology and innovation category is led by major industrial nations, some of the countries with the best policy and infrastructure are smaller ones, such as Singapore and the United Arab Emirates.

Being ready for a technology is no guarantee for success, especially when there are still many challenges standing between development and deployment. If autonomous vehicles do appear soon, however, they may be made in the U.S.A.—and operating in Dubai.

Jeffrey Winters

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION RANK				POLICY, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE RANK			
TECH RANK		COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK		COUNTRY	SCORE
1	United States		6.97	1	The Netherlands		22.27
2	Sweden		6.44	2	Singapore		21.84
3	Germany		6.15	3	United Kingdom		18.7
4	The Netherlands		5.46	4	Sweden		18.28
5	United Kingdom		5.28	5	United Arab Emirates		18.17
6	Canada		4.97	6	United States		17.78
7	Japan		4.79	7	Canada		17.64
8	Singapore		4.26	8	New Zealand		17.49
9	South Korea		4.24	9	Germany		16.59
10	France		4.03	10	South Korea		16.48
11	Austria		3.69	11	Austria		16.3
12	New Zealand		3.26	12	Australia		16.22
13	Australia		3.18	13	Japan		15.49
14	United Arab Emirates		2.71	14	France		15.41
15	China		2.25	15	Spain		12.36
16	Spain		2.21	16	China		11.69
17	Mexico		1.01	17	Russia		6.57
18	Brazil		0.86	18	Brazil		6.31
19	India		0.54	19	India		5.6
20	Russia		0.52	20	Mexico		5.5