



QS World Future Skills Index 2027

Global Webinar



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Session Overview

Overview and Context

Headlines and Results

Methodology

Deep-dive by Indicator

Follow Up

We're living through a period of unprecedented change

Economies are transforming eight global shifts (power, economic, resource, energy, demographic, urban, technology and behavioural) are impacting economies around the world



Pressure on jobs Reshaping the labour market, the jobs and skills required to enhance productivity and drive growth

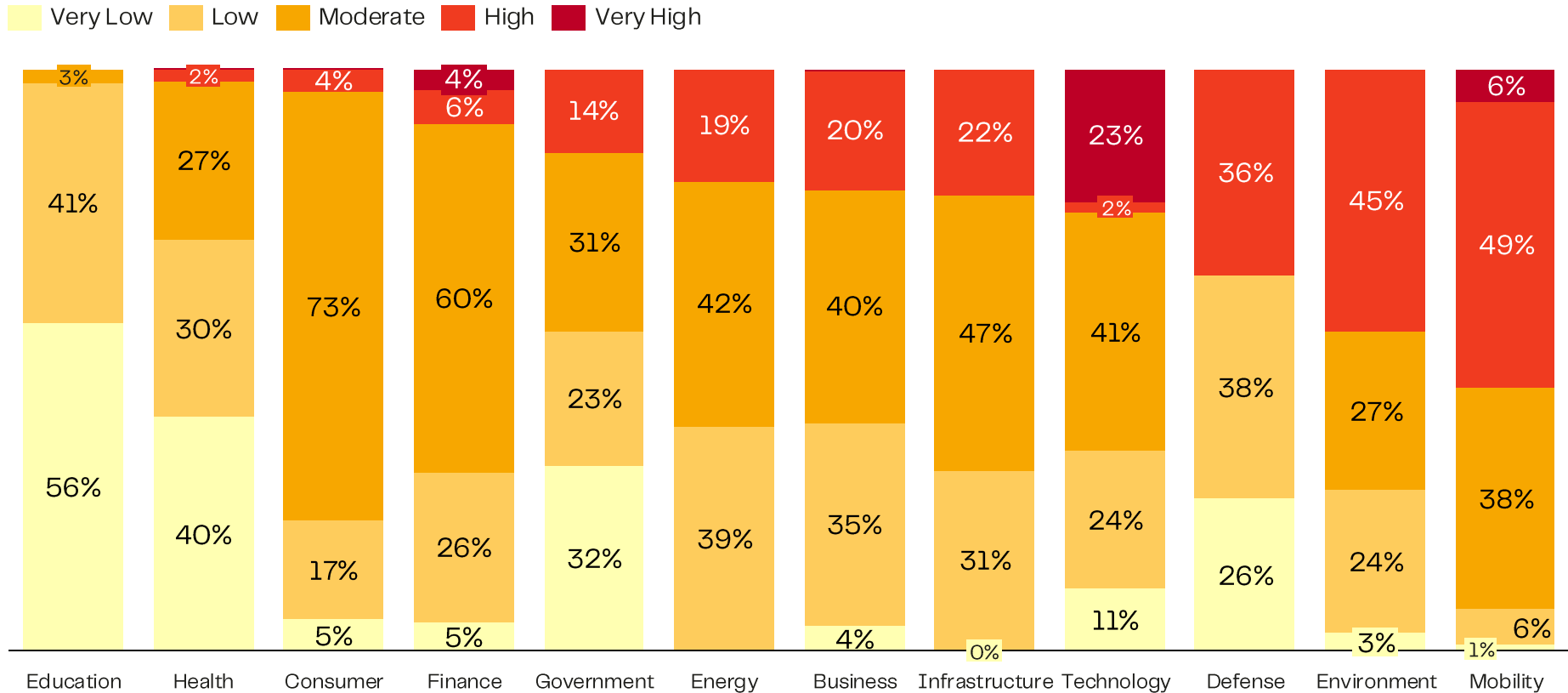


Pressure on universities Transform skills taught, turn research into industrial innovation, support re-skilling



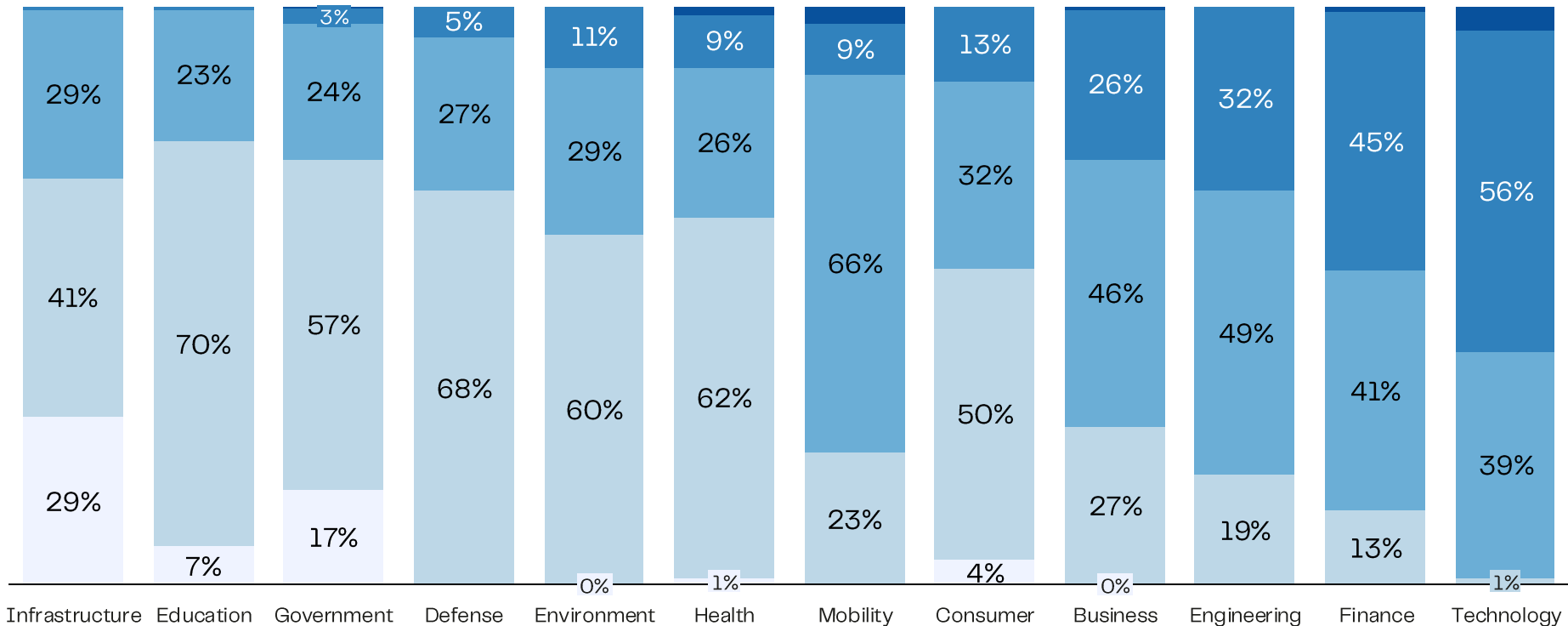
Pressure on students Choose the right higher education to be future-ready

AI Automation Vulnerability by Industry Workforce



AI Augmentation Potential by Industry Workforce

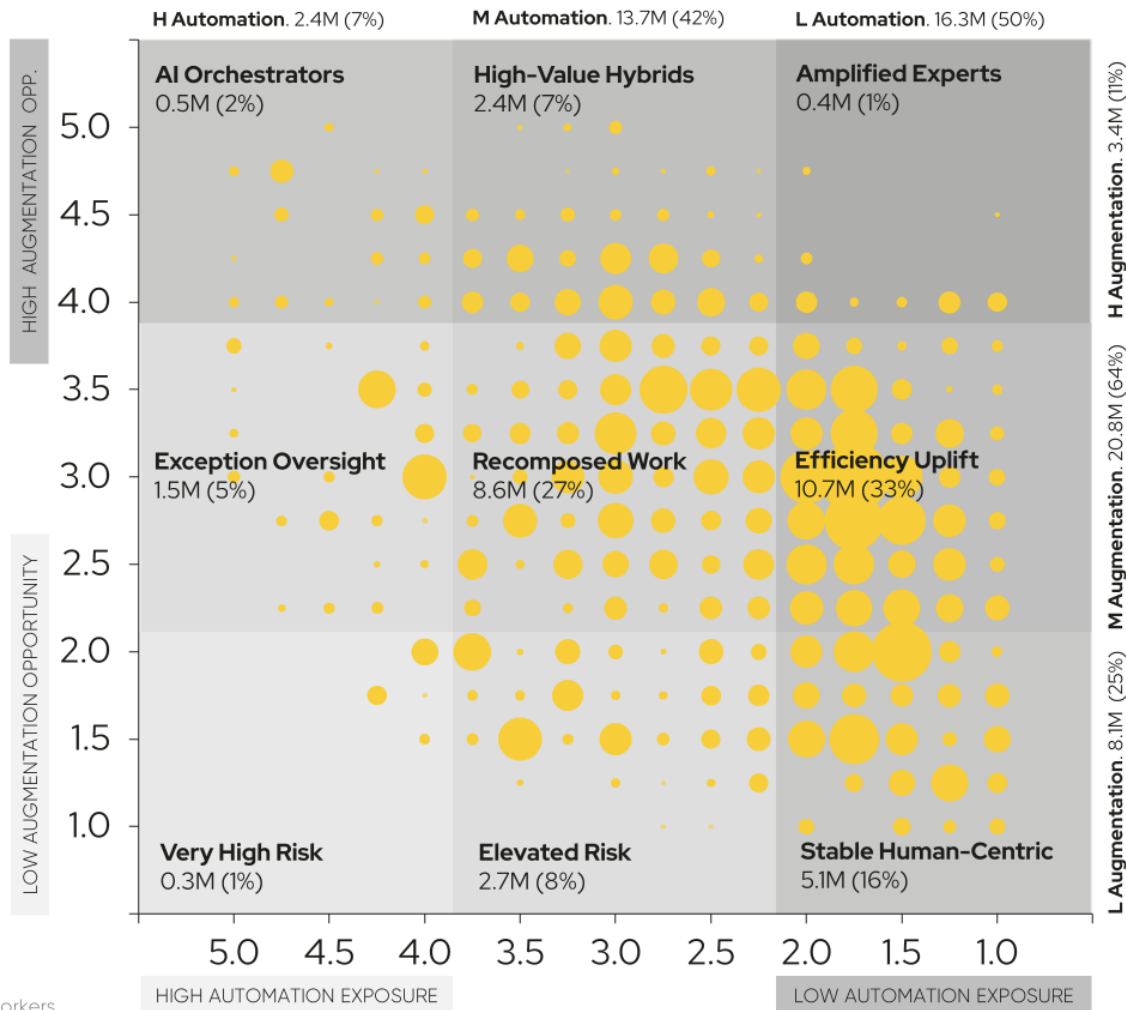
Very Low Low Moderate High Very High



50% UK Labour Force have Moderate to Very High Automation Exposure.

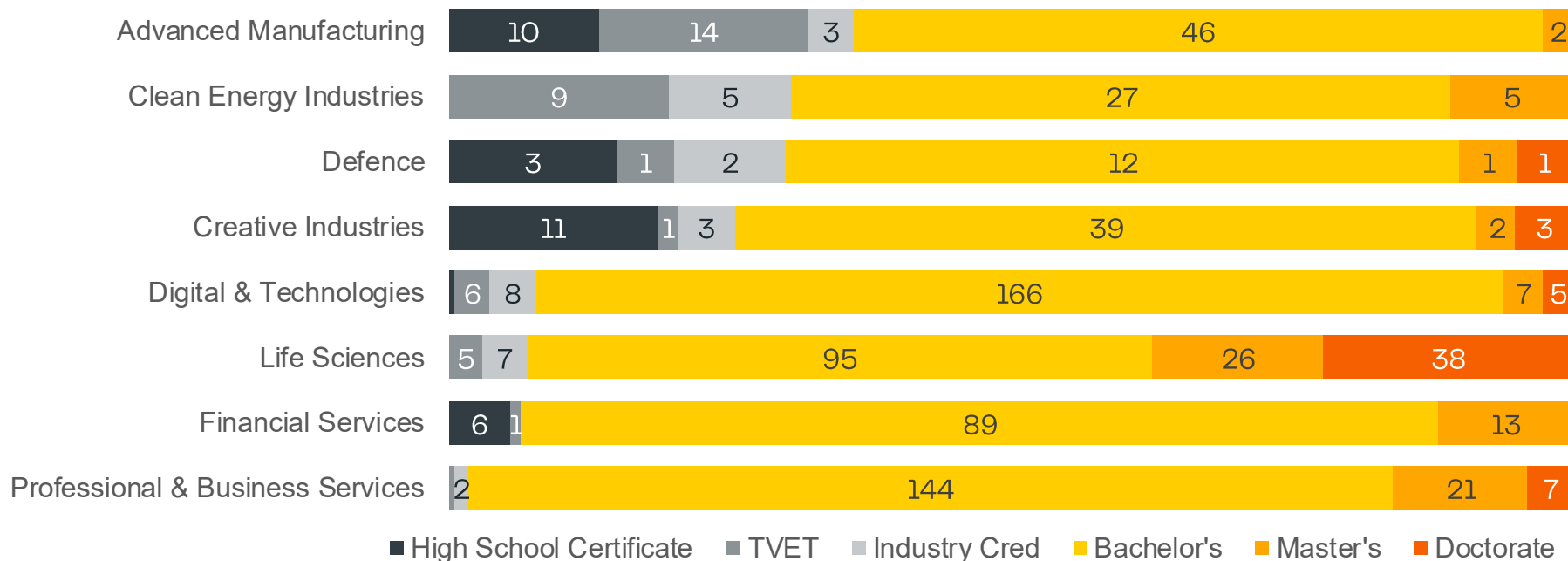
75% have Moderate to Very High Augmentation Opportunity.

- The impact of Artificial Intelligence on Labour Force Automation and on the Augmentation Opportunity is dynamic and will evolve.
- Critical for governments planning industrial strategy, but also for institutions seeking to supply labour with skills in demand.



80% of roles critical to the growth sectors of the UK require degree-level qualifications

Occupation educational requirements for occupations rated 'Very high importance'



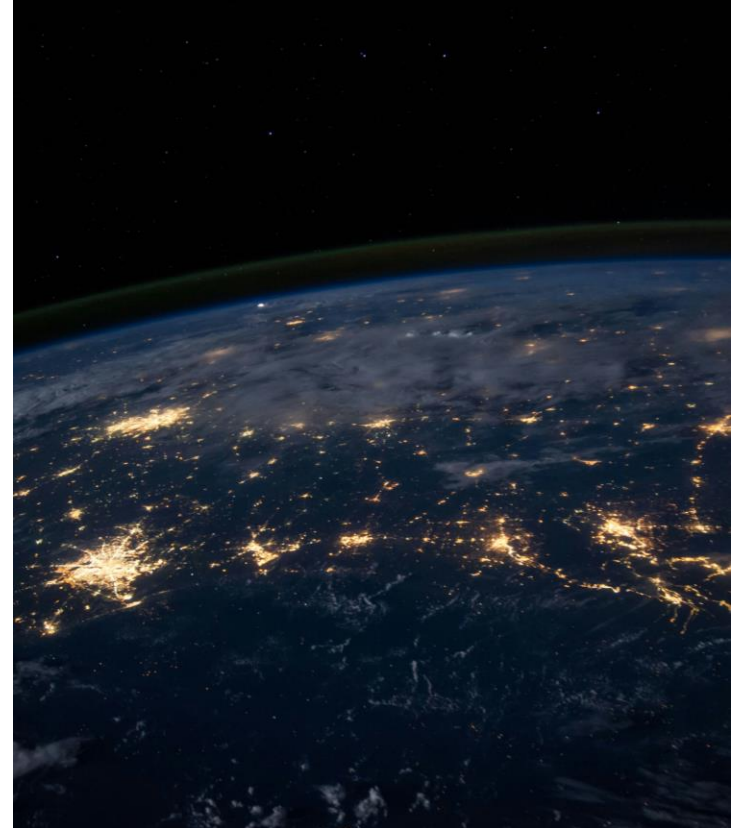
What is the QS World Future Skills Index?

Measures how effectively economies develop, align, and apply skills needed for future jobs, economic growth, and AI.

Combines higher education, labour market, economic, and workforce data to assess future skills readiness globally.

Evaluates whether universities, employers, and economies are working together to prepare talent for tomorrow.

Identifies where skills supply matches workforce demand and where critical gaps threaten future competitiveness.



Headlines

Top 25 locations



Headlines

Human skills remain employers' greatest concern

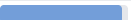
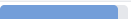
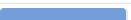
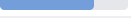
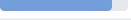
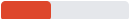
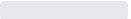
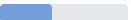
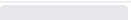
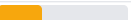
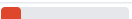
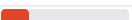
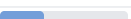
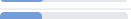
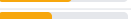
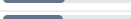
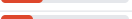
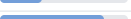
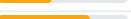
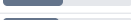
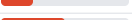
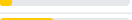
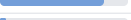
Augmentation vs. Automation – it's not about speed of AI adoption, but AI readiness

Success is in balance across supply and demand – policy is working against HE

Higher education change is lagging AI-driven workforce change

Small economies can win by leveraging agility and specialism

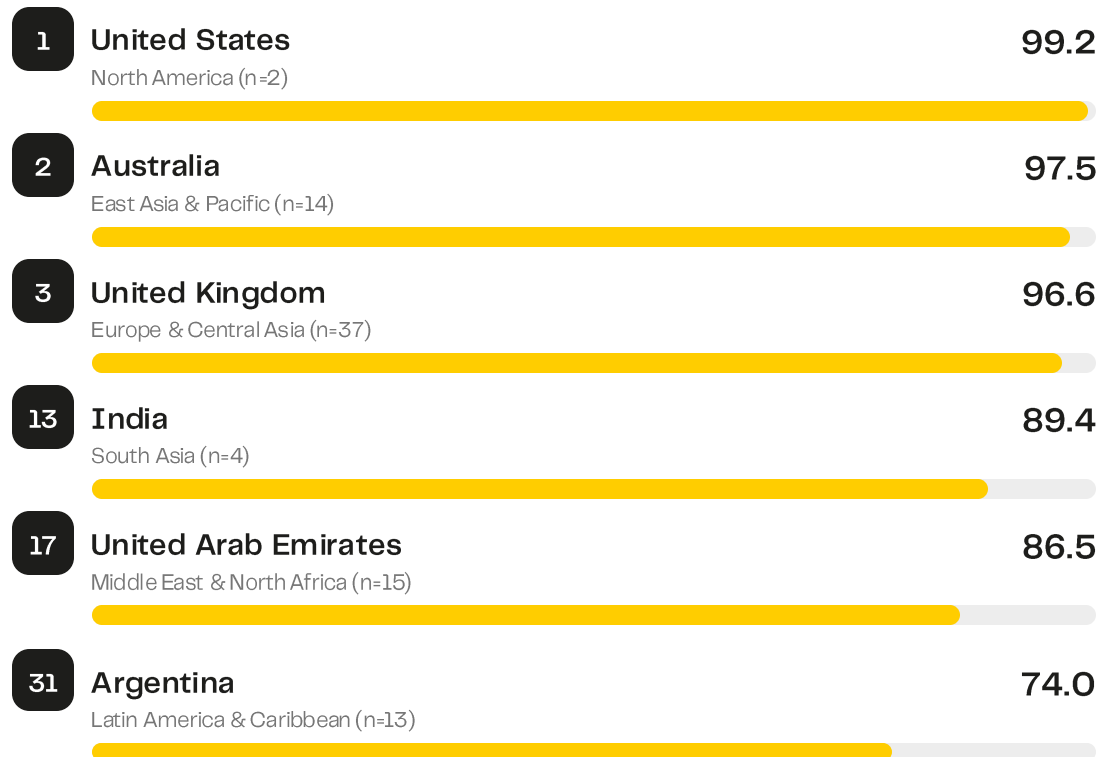
Top 25 performers

Rank	Economy	Final Score	Skills Alignment	Academic Readiness	Future of Work	Economic Transformation	Balance Index
1	United States	 99.2	 100.0	 99.3	 100.0	 97.4	1.2
2	Australia	 97.5	 96.9	 98.6	 98.0	 96.4	1.0
3	United Kingdom	 96.6	 99.0	 100.0	 97.0	 90.2	4.4
4	Germany	 95.5	 93.9	 98.0	 99.0	 91.2	3.6
5	Canada	 93.7	 94.9	 95.9	 94.1	 89.7	2.7
6	South Korea	 93.4	 95.9	 93.2	 86.1	 98.4	5.3
7	China	 92.5	 98.0	 91.8	 80.2	 100.0	8.9
8	Netherlands	 91.9	 89.8	 95.2	 88.1	 94.3	3.4
9	Spain	 91.7	 90.8	 93.9	 89.1	 92.8	2.1
10	Switzerland	 91.6	 84.8	 96.6	 90.1	 94.8	5.3
11	France	 91.2	 87.8	 97.3	 95.0	 84.6	6.0
12	Singapore	 91.1	 86.8	 88.4	 91.1	 97.9	4.9
13	India	 89.4	 82.7	 85.7	 96.0	 93.3	6.3
14	Sweden	 89.2	 79.7	 91.2	 92.0	 93.8	6.4
15	Japan	 89.0	 92.9	 87.1	 84.1	 91.7	4.1
16	Taiwan	 88.7	 77.7	 89.1	 78.2	 99.4	10.9
17	UAE	 86.5	 83.8	 85.0	 78.2	 98.9	8.8
18	Hong Kong SAR	 85.1	 88.9	 90.5	 75.8	 75.8	8.1
19	Denmark	 84.9	 69.6	 87.8	 85.1	 96.9	11.4
20	Poland	 83.5	 71.6	 84.4	 82.2	 95.8	9.9
21	Ireland	 82.3	 85.8	 83.0	 76.2	 84.1	4.2
22	Italy	 81.0	 75.7	 94.6	 75.3	 78.4	9.2
23	Israel	 80.4	 72.6	 66.7	 93.0	 89.2	12.7
24	Türkiye	 79.2	 81.7	 78.9	 65.4	 90.7	10.5
25	Austria	 79.0	 68.6	 89.8	 69.3	 88.2	11.6

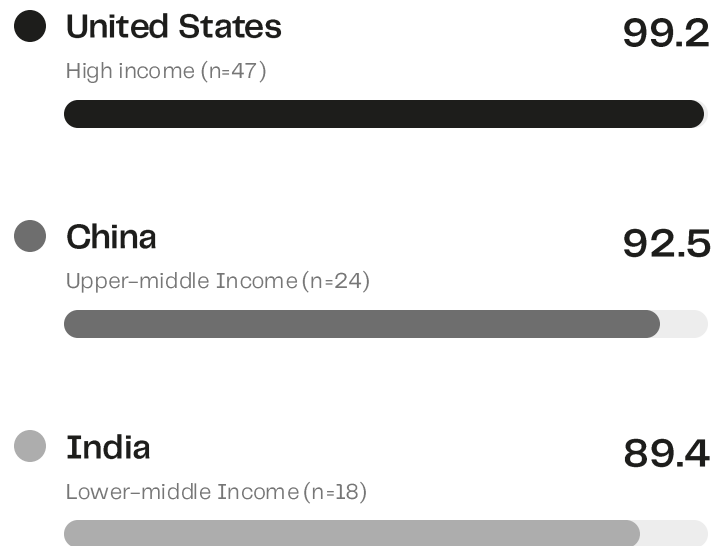
Balance Index = sample st. deviation between an economy's pillars (lower is better; darker = larger gap). **Green** = top strength, **Red** = biggest weakness.

Highest ranked economies by region and income group

BY REGION



BY INCOME GROUP



Methodology

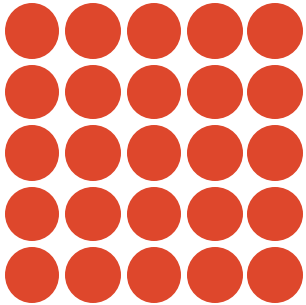
Lens and indicator overview

Weightings

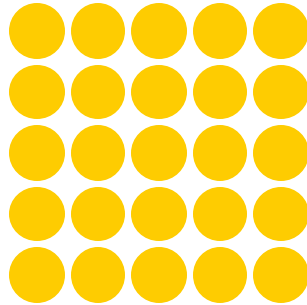
Talent supply meets talent demand

TALENT SUPPLY

Skills Alignment



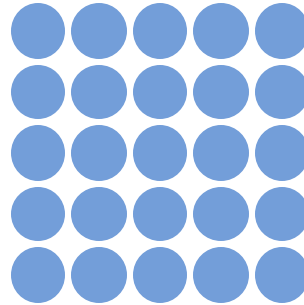
Academic Readiness



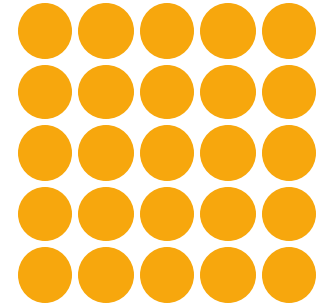
Supply: are graduates job-ready, and can the system produce talent at scale?

TALENT DEMAND

Future of Work



Economic Transformation



Demand: how will AI reshape jobs, and can the economy absorb these skills?

Methodology process

(i) Eligibility

- Economies with a population below 1.5 million population are excluded

(ii) Data Sources

- Proprietary QS data blended with third party sources
- Missing data is proportionally adjusted

(iii) Normalisation

- Each lens is normalised to a 0 to 100 scale

(iv) Aggregation

Four lenses weighted at 25% each, aggregated by a simple arithmetic mean

Skills Alignment



The **Skills Alignment** lens measures how well a country's graduate skills match employer expectations, shifting the focus from qualifications to real-world applicability.

It combines the **QS Employer Reputation Survey**, weighted by institutional prestige, with the World Bank Human Capital Index as a macro baseline.



Skills Gap

70%



Human Capital Index+

30%

SUPPLY

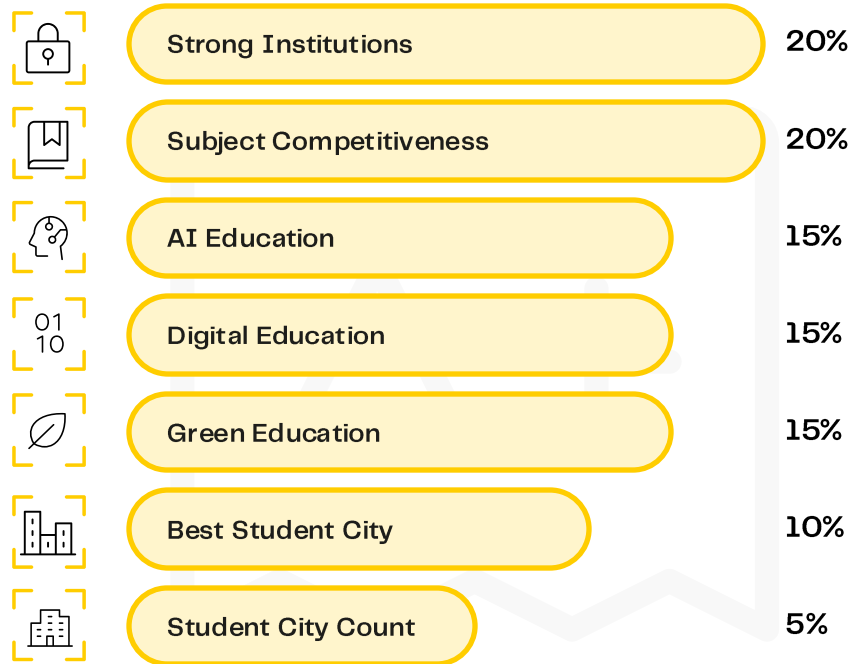
Academic Readiness



The **Academic Readiness** lens measures the depth, quality, and future-skills orientation of a country's higher education system.

In other words, how well a country's higher education system is positioned to equip students with the skills required for future jobs.

It assesses academic performance by looking at **over 5,000 universities** worldwide, with a deeper analysis of the 1,500+ universities currently ranked in the QS Subject Rankings.



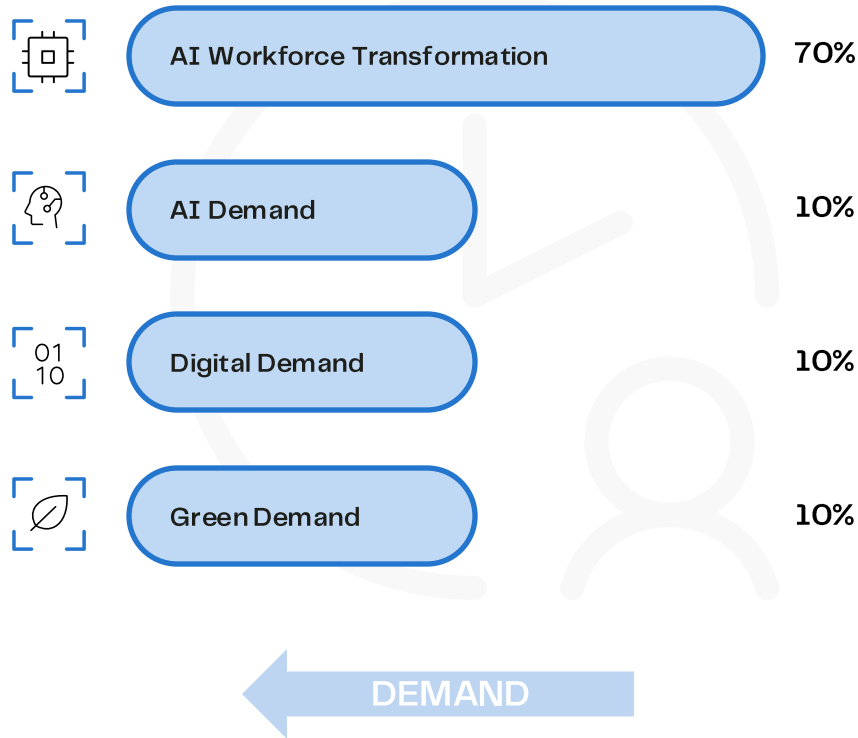
SUPPLY

Future of Work



The **Future of Work** lens measures how ready a country's job market is for AI, digital and green transformation, distinguishing augmentation from automation risk.

It combines the **QS AI Workforce Transformation Index (AI WTI)** with QS jobs and skills data and ILOSTAT employment structure across 2023 to 2025.



Economic Transformation



The **Economic Transformation** lens captures the economic enablers that convert skills into productivity, innovation and growth.

Even with strong education systems, economies need the **investment capacity, labour market efficiency and innovation ecosystem** to create demand for skills.

Our Economic Transformation indicator combines **ten metrics** into three economic enabler sub-indicators



Economic Capacity

55%



Workforce Readiness

20%



Innovation and Sustainability

25%

DEMAND

Deep-dive by Indicator

In 51% of countries demand for future skills exceeds supply



Skills Alignment



TOP 10 ECONOMIES

RANK	ECONOMY	SCORE
1	United States	100.0
2	United Kingdom	99.0
3	China	98.0
4	Australia	96.9
5	South Korea	95.9
6	Canada	94.9
7	Germany	93.9
8	Japan	92.9
9	Russian Federation	91.8
10	Spain	90.8

BY REGION

REGION	TOP ECONOMY	MEDIAN
North America	United States	97.5
East Asia & Pacific	China	78.8
Europe & Central Asia	United Kingdom	66.1
Latin America & Caribbean	Chile	47.3
South Asia	India	40.8
Middle East & North Africa	United Arab Emirates	40.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	South Africa	22.6

BY INCOME GROUP

INCOME GROUP	TOP ECONOMY	MEDIAN
High income	United States	72.1
Upper-middle income	China	58.0
Lower-middle income	India	40.8

Academic Readiness

SUPPLY

TOP 10 ECONOMIES

RANK	ECONOMY	SCORE
1	United Kingdom	100.0
2	United States	99.3
3	Australia	98.6
4	Germany	98.0
5	France	97.3
6	Switzerland	96.6
7	Canada	95.9
8	Netherlands	95.2
9	Italy	94.6
10	Spain	93.9

BY REGION

REGION	TOP ECONOMY	MEDIAN
North America	United States	97.6
East Asia & Pacific	Australia	87.8
Europe & Central Asia	United Kingdom	75.9
South Asia	India	69.1
Middle East & North Africa	United Arab Emirates	61.9
Latin America & Caribbean	Chile	58.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	South Africa	46.6

BY INCOME GROUP

INCOME GROUP	TOP ECONOMY	MEDIAN
High income	United Kingdom	82.3
Upper-middle income	Malaysia	65.0
Lower-middle income	India	59.2

Future of Work

TOP 10 ECONOMIES

RANK	ECONOMY	SCORE
1	United States	100.0
2	Germany	99.0
3	Australia	98.0
4	United Kingdom	97.0
5	India	96.0
6	France	95.0
7	Canada	94.1
8	Israel	93.0
9	Sweden	92.0
10	Singapore	91.1



BY REGION

REGION	TOP ECONOMY	MEDIAN
North America	United States	97.1
East Asia & Pacific	Australia	75.8
Europe & Central Asia	Germany	67.4
Sub-Saharan Africa	South Africa	64.4
Middle East & North Africa	Israel	48.6
Latin America & Caribbean	Argentina	46.6
South Asia	India	30.3

BY INCOME GROUP

INCOME GROUP	TOP ECONOMY	MEDIAN
High income	United States	72.8
Upper-middle income	Argentina	42.1
Lower-middle income	India	38.2

Economic Transformation

DEMAND

TOP 10 ECONOMIES

RANK	ECONOMY	SCORE
1	China	100.0
2	Taiwan	99.4
3	United Arab Emirates	98.9
4	South Korea	98.4
5	Singapore	97.9
6	United States	97.4
7	Denmark	96.9
8	Australia	96.4
9	Poland	95.8
10	Norway	95.3

BY REGION

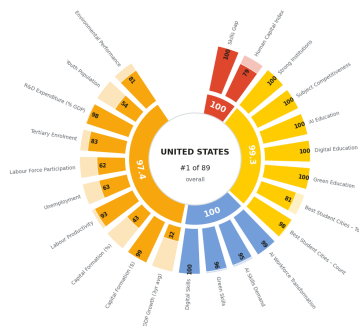
REGION	TOP ECONOMY	MEDIAN
North America	United States	93.6
East Asia & Pacific	China	88.9
Europe & Central Asia	Denmark	80.5
Latin America & Caribbean	Brazil	65.6
Middle East & North Africa	United Arab Emirates	65.1
South Asia	India	59.7
Sub-Saharan Africa	Kenya	45.4

BY INCOME GROUP

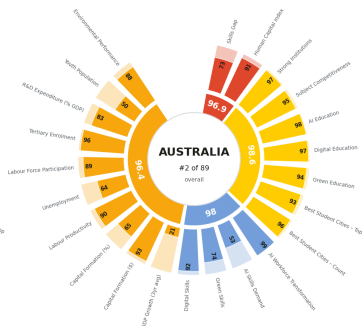
INCOME GROUP	TOP ECONOMY	MEDIAN
High income	Taiwan	85.1
Upper-middle income	China	67.9
Lower-middle income	India	53.3

The demand and supply profile across our top 10 is not uniform

#1 United States



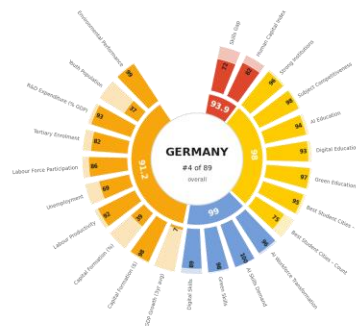
#2 Australia



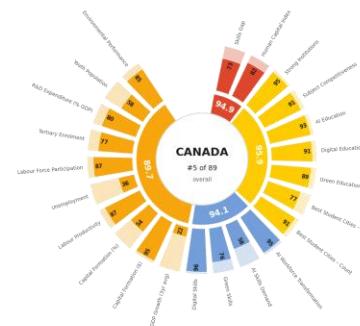
#3 United Kingdom



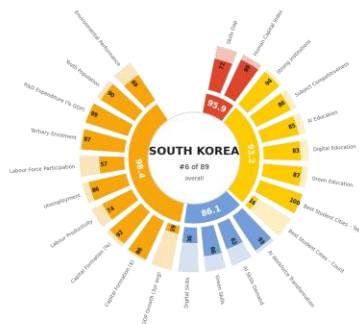
#4 Germany



#5 Canada



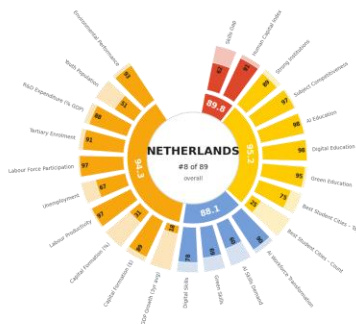
#6 South Korea



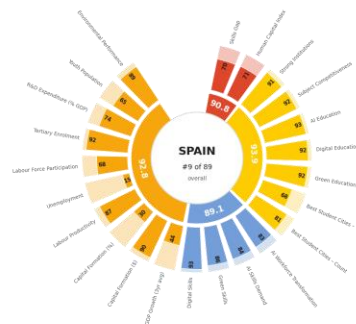
#7 China



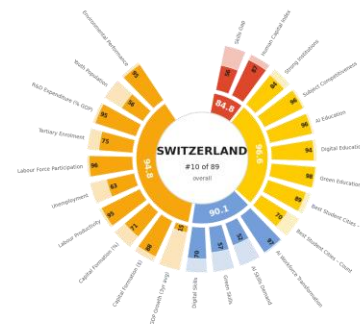
#8 Netherlands



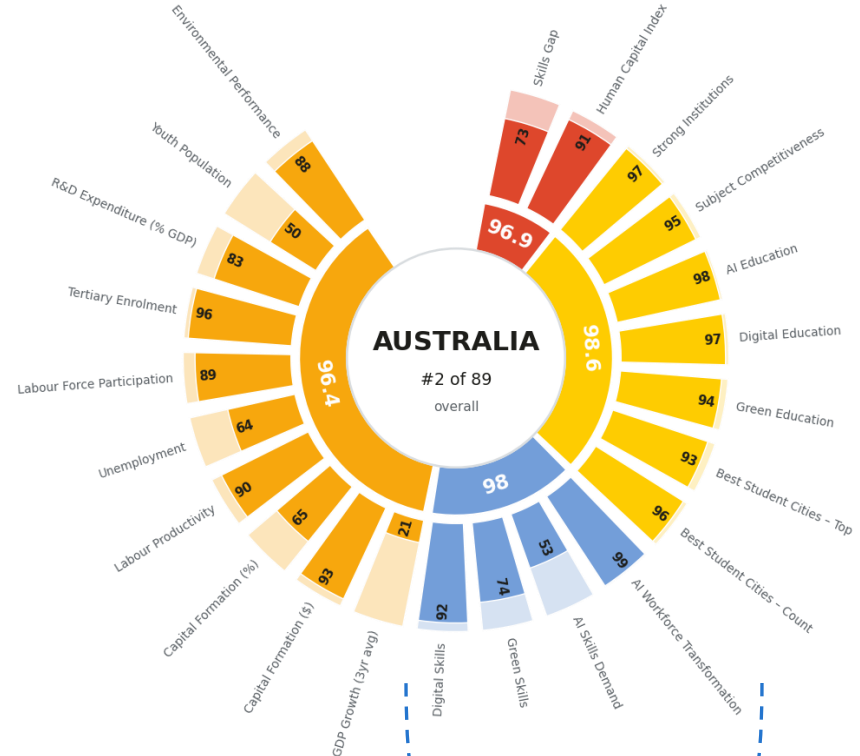
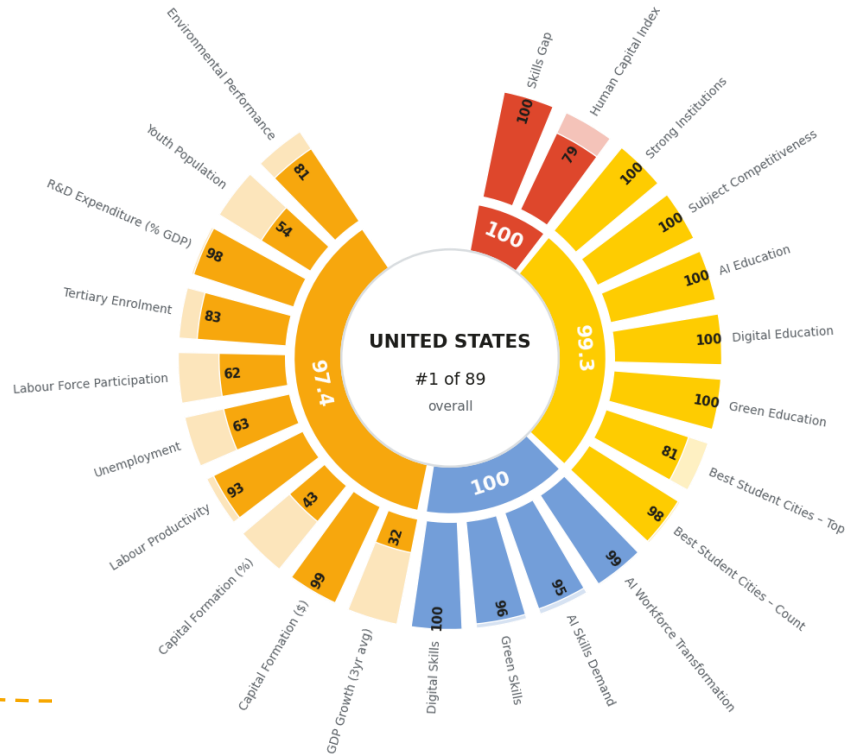
#9 Spain

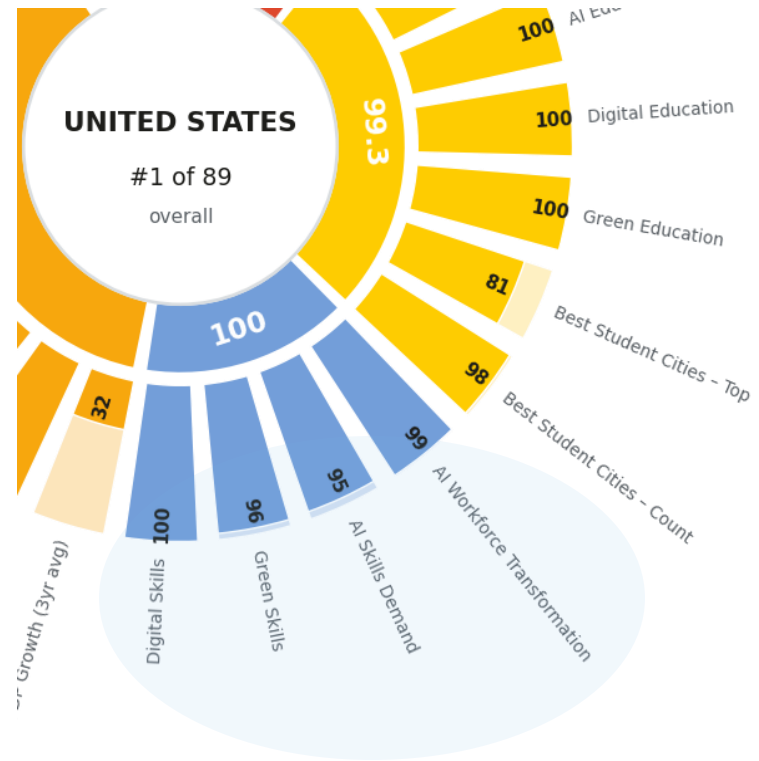
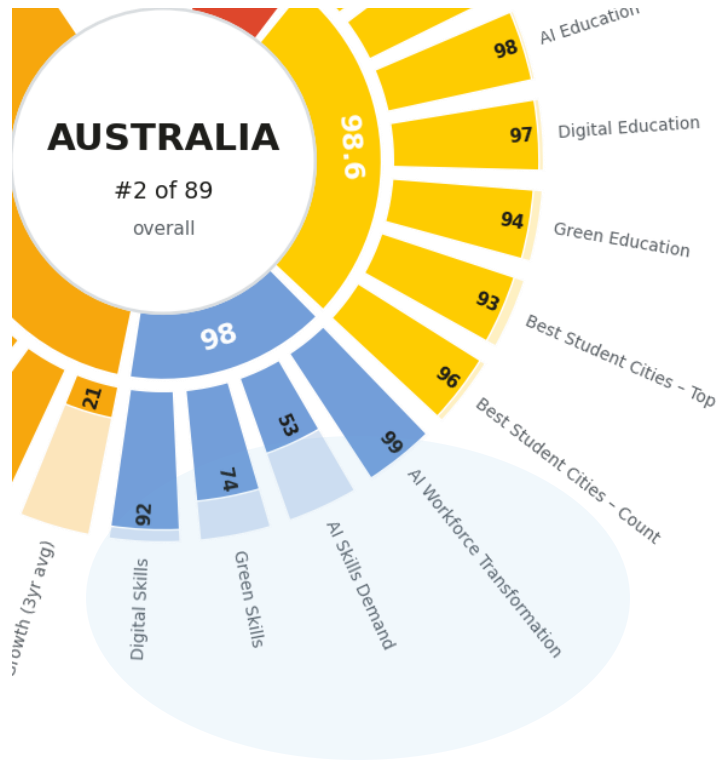


#10 Switzerland

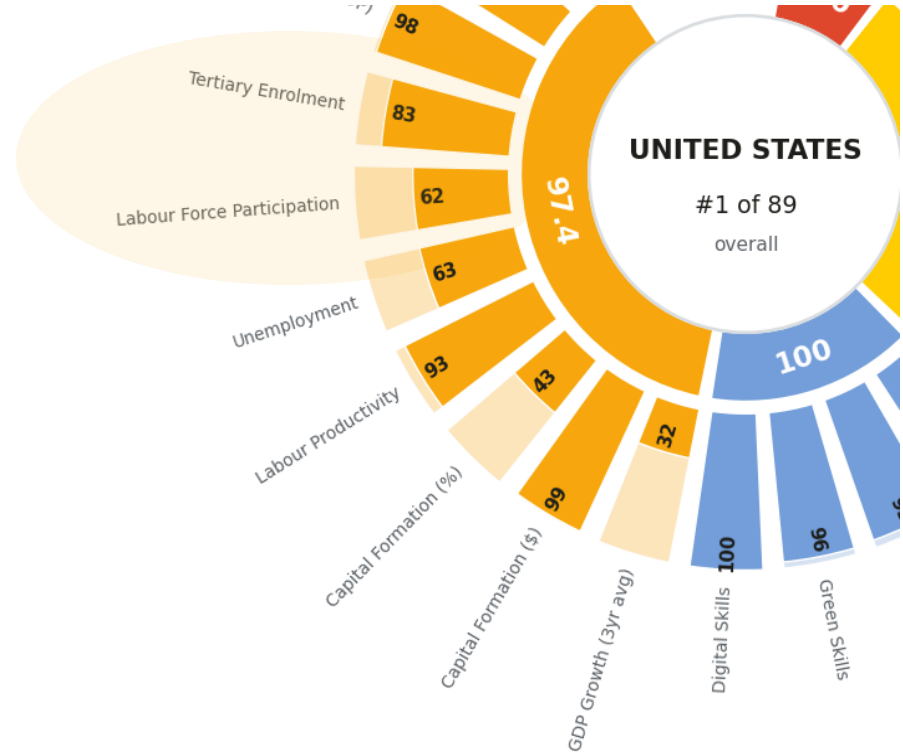
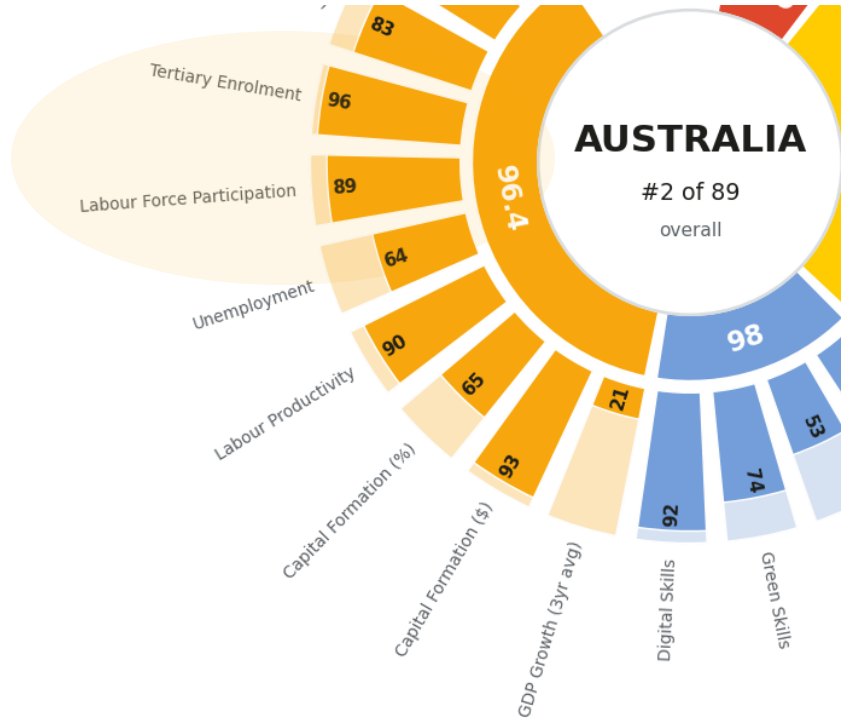


Sub-metric level comparisons reveal subtle differences





While Australia and the United States have a similar profile across most indicators, they diverge in **Future of Work**



However, Australia has the edge when it comes to broader **Workforce Readiness**

Follow Up

Go beyond the global rankings

Continue exploring the findings with **13 market briefing reports**, providing a deeper look at national performance across the **QS World Future Skills Index 2027**.

Each briefing includes:

- National performance across the four indicators
- Global, regional and peer benchmarking
- Key strengths, challenges and strategic insights
- Countries covered: Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Netherlands, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States

Exclusive access to all 13 market briefing reports will be shared on 9 July, alongside the webinar recording.



From insight to strategy

The **QS World Future Skills Index** is more than a global benchmark. It provides a platform for informed conversations around graduate employability, workforce transformation, AI readiness and economic competitiveness.

QS works with governments, universities and employers to translate these insights into evidence-based strategies through intelligence, benchmarking, advisory and strategic partnerships.

Our expertise:

- Skills intelligence & labour market insights
- Benchmarking, diagnostics & AI assessments
- Strategy, consulting & advisory
- Research, partnerships & thought-leadership

Continue the conversation

Speak with our experts to explore how these insights can support your organisation.

[Speak to our team →](#)

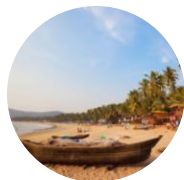


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Dates and locations of conferences are subject to change.
Please check our website for any updates.



2026 calendar



QS India Summit

1–3 February
Goa, India



Global Skills Week

25–26 March
Washington D.C.,
USA



QS China Summit

8–9 April
Shenzhen, China



QS EduData Summit

3–4 June
Singapore



QS Higher Ed Summit: Europe & QS MoveON Conference

24–25 & 25–26 June
Budapest, Hungary



QS Africa Forum

9–10 July
Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia



Back to School Summit

16–17
September
New York, USA



QS Higher Ed Summit: Americas

30 September–
2 October
Guadalajara, Mexico



QS Arab Forum

14–15 October
Riyadh,
Saudi Arabia



QS Higher Ed Summit: Asia Pacific

3–5 November
Bali, Indonesia



QS Eurasia Forum

19 November
Astana,
Kazakhstan



QS Higher Ed Summit: Middle East

22–24 November
Abu Dhabi, UAE



QS Reimagine Education Conference & Awards

7–8 December
London, UK

Thank you

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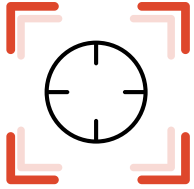


Appendix

Indicator description

Key data sources

Weighting



Skills Alignment



Skills
Gap



Human
Capital Index



Academic Readiness



Strong
Institutions



Subject
Competitiveness



AI
Education



Digital
Education



Green
Education



Top City
Best Student Cities



City Count
Best Student Cities



Future of Work



AI Workforce
Transformation



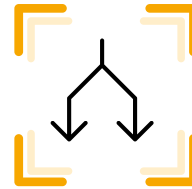
AI Skills
Penetration



Digital Skills
Penetration



Green Skills
Penetration



Economic Transformation



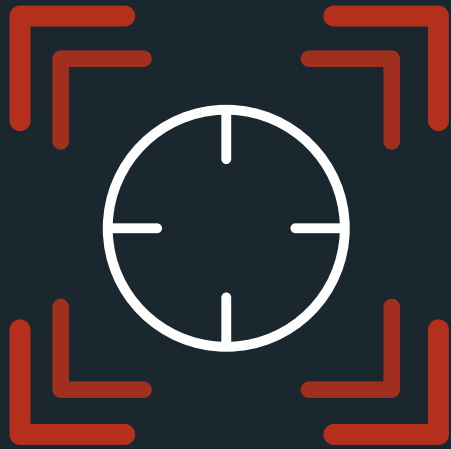
Economic
Capacity



Workforce
Readiness



Innovation and
Sustainability



25%

Skills Alignment

Skills Gap

Human Capital Index

Skills Gap

The **gap** between skills employers want and skills the workforce has

Data Sources:

QS Employer Reputation Survey reported data about skill supply and demand



70%

Human Capital Index

The amount of **human capital** that a child born today can expect to attain by age 18

Data Sources:

World Bank data on education quality, health and adult productivity



30%



25%



Academic Readiness

Strong Institutions
Subject Competitiveness
AI Education

Digital Education
Green Education
Best Student Cities

Strong Institutions

How many **top universities** the country has and how well they perform overall

Data Sources:

Count and performance of the location's institutions in the QS World University Rankings



20%

Subject Competitiveness

How competitive the country's universities are across **academic subjects**

Data Sources:

Ranking performance across subject areas in the QS World University Rankings by Subject



20%

AI Education

How competitive the country's universities are across **AI related disciplines**

Data Sources:

Ranking performance across relevant subject areas in the QS World University Rankings by Subject



15%

Digital Education

How competitive the country's universities are across **digital disciplines**

Data Sources:

Ranking performance across relevant subject areas in the QS World University Rankings by Subject

01
10

15%

Green Education

How competitive the country's universities are across **green disciplines**

Data Sources:

Ranking performance across relevant subject areas in the QS World University Rankings by Subject



15%

Top City

How **attractive** is the country's leading student city for international study

Data Sources:

Ranking performance of the location's top ranked city in the QS Best Student Cities ranking



10%

City Count

How **many** of the country's cities make the Best Student Cities ranking

Data Sources:

The number of ranked cities the location has in the QS Best Student Cities ranking



5%



25%

Future of Work

AI Workforce Transformation Index

AI Skills Penetration

Digital Skills Penetration

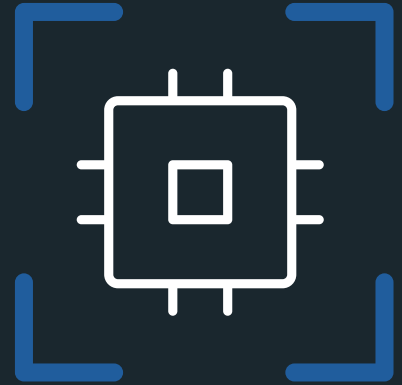
Green Skills Penetration

AI Workforce Transformation Index

A measure of whether AI is more likely to **enhance** or **replace** the country's jobs

Data Sources:

Based on QS proprietary data looking at how likely AI will augment or replace the location's jobs based on its job mix



70%

AI Demand

Current employer demand
for AI skills

Data Sources:

QS Labour Market Intelligence

ILOSTAT



10%

Digital Demand

Current employer demand
for digital skills

Data Sources:

QS Labour Market Intelligence

ILOSTAT

01
10

10%

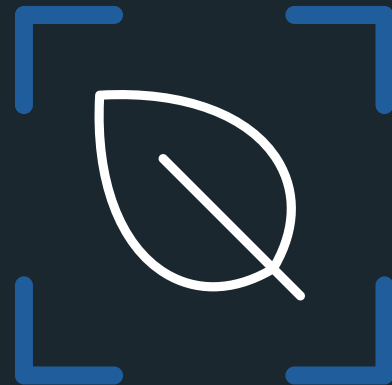
Green Demand

Current employer demand
for green skills

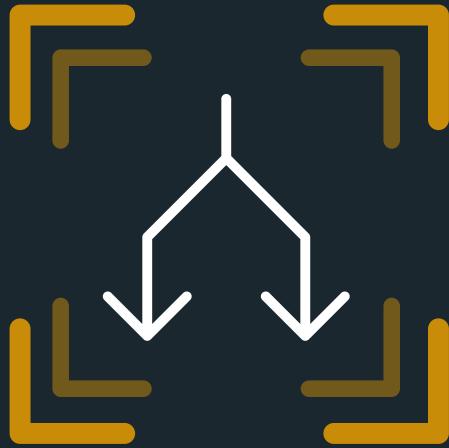
Data Sources:

QS Labour Market Intelligence

ILOSTAT



10%



25%

Economic Transformation

Economic Capacity
Workforce Readiness
Innovation and Sustainability

Economic Capacity

A measure of the country's **economic capacity** measured by GDP, capital formation and productivity

Data Sources:

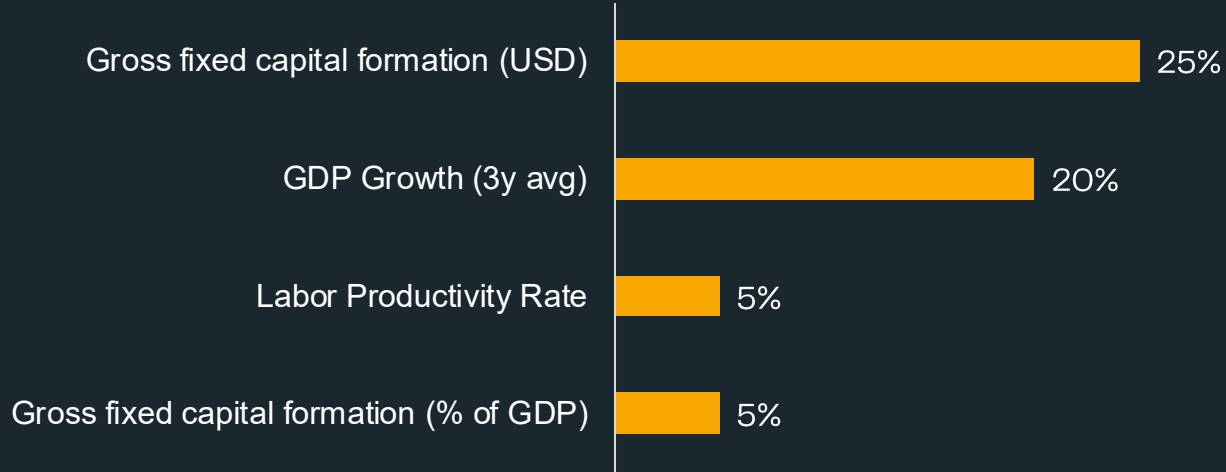
World Bank and ILOSTAT data:

GDP Growth; Gross Fixed Capital Formation (USD, %); Labor Productivity Rate



55%

Metrics



Data Sources:

World Bank and ILOSTAT



Workforce Readiness

A measure of a country's **workforce mix** measured through unemployment, labor force participation and higher education enrollment

Data Sources:

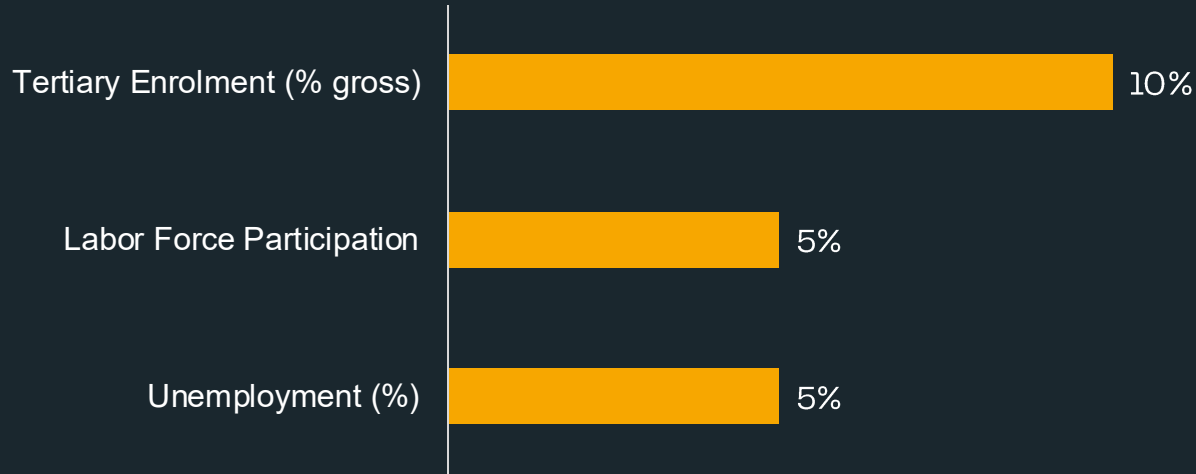
UNESCO and ILOSTAT data:

Unemployment (%); Labor Force Participation; Tertiary Enrolment (% gross)



20%

Metrics



Data Sources:
UNESCO and ILOSTAT



Innovation and Sustainability

A measure of the country's **future potential** measured through R&D spend, demographics and environmental health

Data Sources:

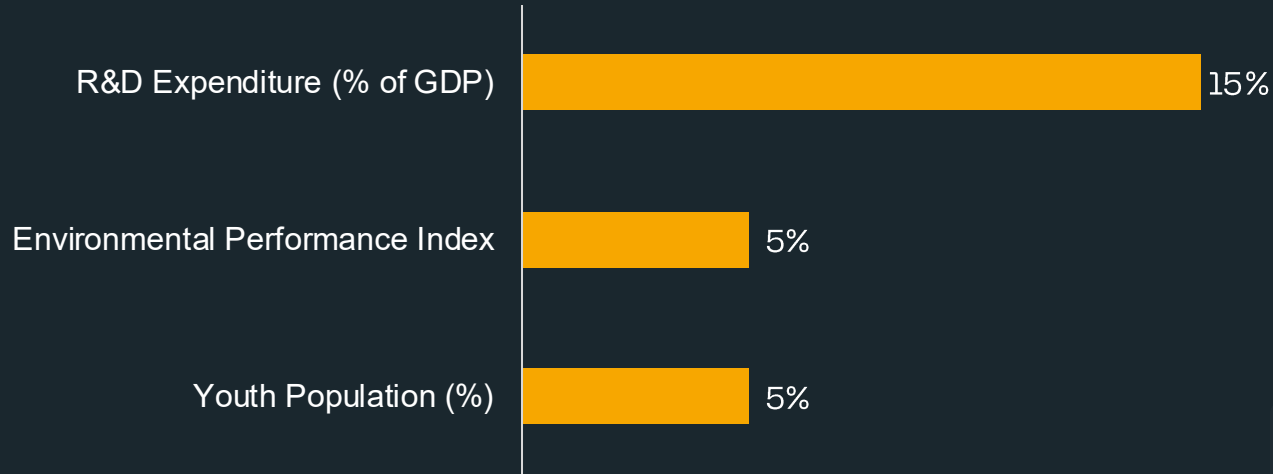
World Bank, UN World Population Prospects, Yale EPI data:

R&D Expenditure (% of GDP); Youth Population (%); Environmental Performance Index



25%

Metrics



Data Sources:

World Bank, UN World Population Prospects, Yale EPI

