Silicon Valley, VCs, Unicorns and the numbers behind Startups.



Abstract:

No one can deny the rise of Startups, the investment provided, and the tremendous growth of the entire entrepreneurial world. But have we stopped to analyze the data? What is the sector where most investors are investing? How many Unicorns are there in the world? Are they B2B, B2C, are the software, Fintech, Cleantech? In which regions are they investing more? Does the United States dominate the entrepreneurial sector or is it Europe? And what about the growth of new markets such as Asia or Latin America?

As I a passionate about entrepreneurship and investment, I wanted to investigate much more about these topics and I started to investigate much more the VC world, the investment rounds that took place in the day-to-day, the Mergers and Acquisitions, the biggest Exits, etc. All with one goal: Can we find the pattern to build a successful Startup?

In 2014, $119.2B was invested worldwide in Startups and last 2021 more than $620B was invested, an incredible increase. During 2021, more than 34,000 investment rounds were made and there were 10,700 exits. The sector that got the most investment was Fintech and the U.S. gathered more than 50% of the investment from all over the world.

What about unicorns? And no, we are not talking about the mythological beings from the movies. We are talking about Unicorn Startups. Those Startups have reached a valuation of +1 billion dollars. There are currently 1,007 unicorns in the world. The 5 sectors with the most unicorns are Fintech, SaaS, E-commerce, Artificial Intelligence and Health. And the top 3 biggest unicorns? Bytedance (Tik Tok) is at the top of the ranking with a valuation of 140B, followed by SpaceX (100.3B) and Stripe (95B).

And what does Silicon Valley, the world's largest entrepreneurial hub, have to say? During these months I am having the chance to live from the inside the experience of being in Silicon Valley and San Francisco with my Startup and there are many conclusions to talk about and debate. If we look at the data, Silicon Valley (San Francisco) is the number 1 region that raises the most money (105B last year), followed by New York (55B) and Boston (32B). And in SV, is it as easy to raise money as it seems? Are valuations and metrics x10? With a PowerPoint, we can raise millions of dollars?

What is clear is that entrepreneurship is growing at rates never seen before, Venture Capitals do not want to miss any opportunity because nobody knows who will be the next Google, and entrepreneurs are eager to get gas and sell great projects.

The question is: If Jim Simons managed to hack Wall Street and achieve 66% returns over the last 30 years, will an algorithm be able to find the next Stripe and invest in it or give us the keys to set up our next startup? And that brings us to the next question: Is entrepreneurship an art or a science?

Biography

My name is David Cayuela, I am 23 years old and I am passionate about the world of entrepreneurship, investment and innovation. I am from Spain, from the city of Valencia, the best city in the world! I don't say it myself, the Bloomberg Global Health index says it!

I studied electrical engineering at the Polytechnic University of Valencia and I have had the opportunity to train in business and investment at renowned schools such as Babson College (Boston), IESE (Barcelona) and IEB (Madrid). In all of them I have received scholarships from different organizations and companies. I am currently studying an MBA for Startups at the University of California Berkeley, ranked as the best public university in the world. I am learning a lot here!

Thanks to being in the United States, I can be close to the entrepreneurial ecosystem of Silicon Valley, Venture Capitals, Accelerators, entrepreneurs...

2 years ago, I set up a Startup with 2 great partners. It's called IFLUR and we develop tiles that generate clean energy with people's footsteps. We have been accelerated by the Climate Kic program of the European Union, the Lanzadera accelerator and we are currently working with the STEP accelerator promoted by the University of Berkeley, the investment bank Blackstone and the TechStars accelerator. We have the support of great advisors that help us in decision making: a researcher from MIT, a firmware engineer at Neuralink (Elon Musk's company), a business angel from Spain and a real estate consultant from Spain.

About my hobbies: I love reading, listening and playing music (I studied at the conservatory for more than 10 years) and doing sports (running and paddle tennis).