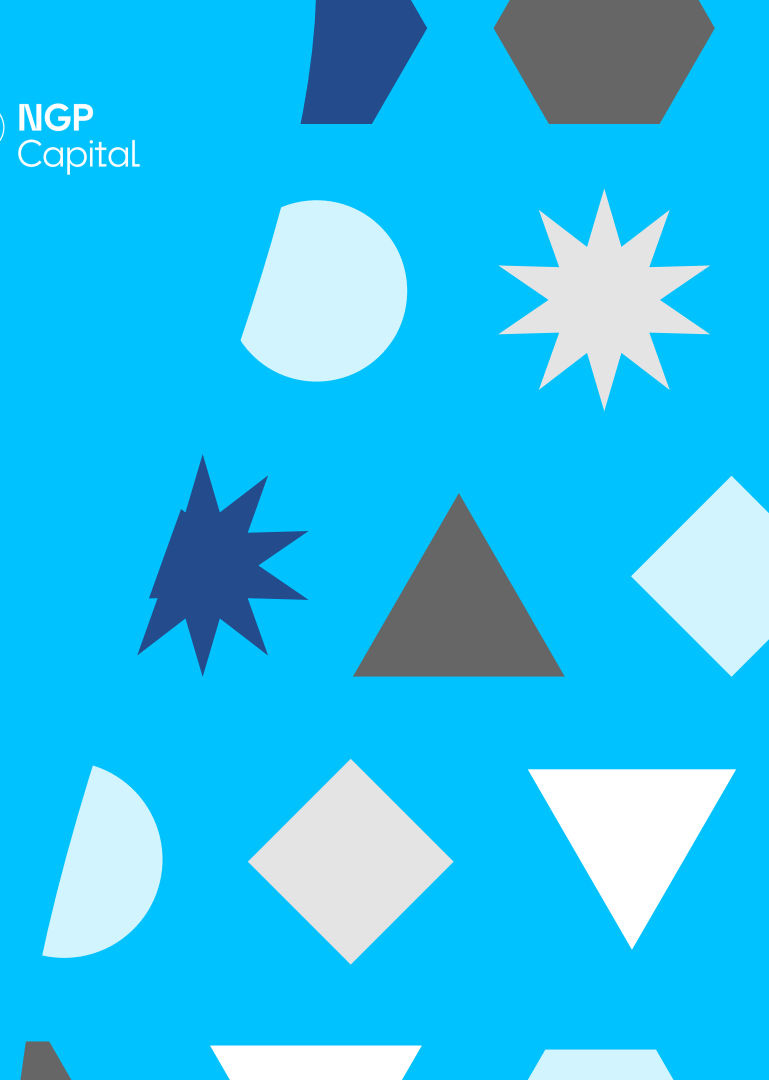




Startups & venture capital in the Nordics

February 2023



“

In a year of global recalibration, the Nordic region once again proved its resilience in 2022.

Despite the inevitable impact of global macro-economic and geopolitical turbulence, Nordic startups had their second highest year for VC funding.

With overall activity 50% higher than pre-pandemic figures, it is evident that the Nordics' is one of the top global hubs for VC funding.

Much of this activity was concentrated on “impact” business, which attracted 35% of all VC investment¹ and helped bring the value of Nordic startups to an impressive \$4.3B².

But this excitement isn't reserved for early-stage startups. Foreign investors, most active in late-stage funding, are actively increasing their presence in various Nordic markets.

As an organisation, we are excited to be the debt partner of choice to both the strong founders and insightful investors shaping this dynamic ecosystem, and look forward to its long-term growth.”

Sebastian Penn
Head of Nordics
at **Silicon Valley Bank**





Silicon Valley Bank UK, the bank of the world's most innovative companies and investors, provides commercial banking services, expertise and insights to the technology, life science and healthcare, private equity, venture capital and premium wine industries.

Silicon Valley Bank UK operates in centers of innovation around the world. With global commercial banking services, Silicon Valley Bank UK helps address the unique needs of its dynamic, fast-growing, innovative clients.



NGP Capital backs early-stage B2B companies from Series A onwards in Europe, the US, Israel, and China within enterprise software, industrial tech, cybersecurity, and infrastructure. Through its \$400m fifth fund launched in 2022, NGP Capital invests in companies driving the convergence of the physical and virtual.

Founded in 2005, NGP Capital has over \$1.6B in AUM and has invested in more than 100 companies of which 18 became unicorns and 11 went on to IPO.



Global startup & venture capital intelligence platform: Dealroom.co is the foremost data provider on startup, early-stage and growth company ecosystems in Europe and around the globe.

Founded in Amsterdam in 2013, we now work with many of the world's most prominent investors, entrepreneurs and government organizations to provide transparency, analysis and insights on venture capital activity.

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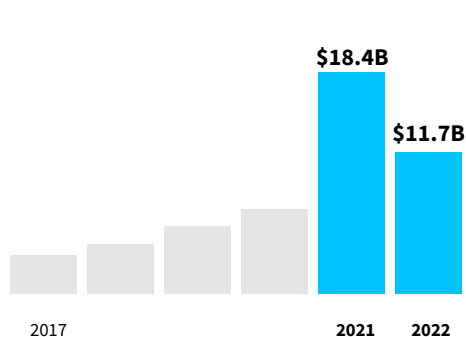
Garret Frank
Innovation Analyst

Key takeaways.

Nordic startups raised the second highest annual VC funding total ever in 2022, despite the economic downturn.

Nordic startups raised \$11.7B in 2022. This figure represents a 36% decrease from the all-time high in 2021, but is still over 50% higher than pre-pandemic numbers.

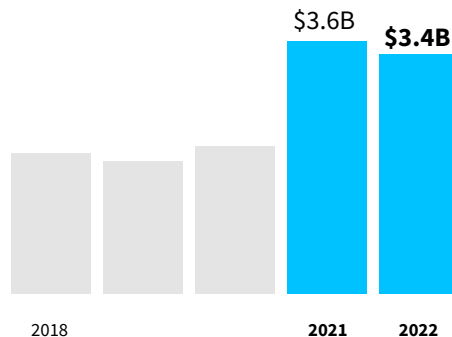
VC investment into Nordics founded startups



Early-stage investment has held up strongly in 2022.

Nordic startups have raised \$3.4B in early-stage investment in 2022, just a 6% decrease from their peak in 2021. Iceland and Norway, the two smallest Nordic ecosystems by VC funding, were the fastest growing in early-stage investment.

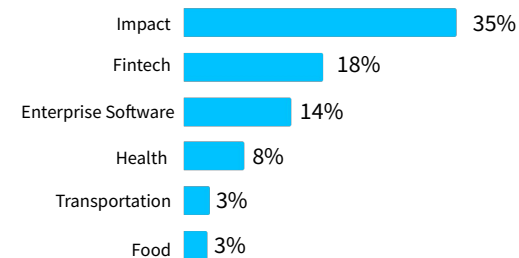
Early stage investment into Nordic startups



Impact funding makes up over a third of all investment in the Nordics.

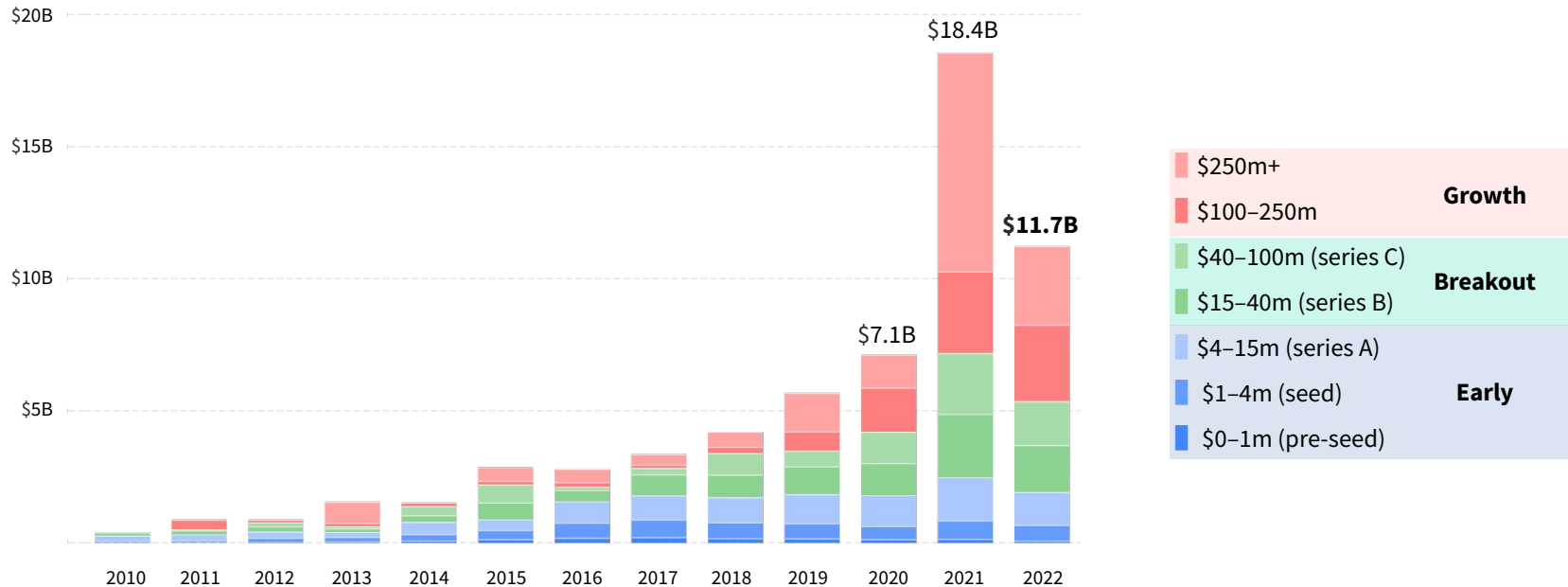
The Nordics continue to be an impact powerhouse, raising \$4.3B in 2022. This is double the amount of impact funding raised in 2020. 35% of all VC funding in the Nordics went to impacts startups last year, compared to 22% for all of Europe.

VC investment as percentage of total VC investment by industry in 2022



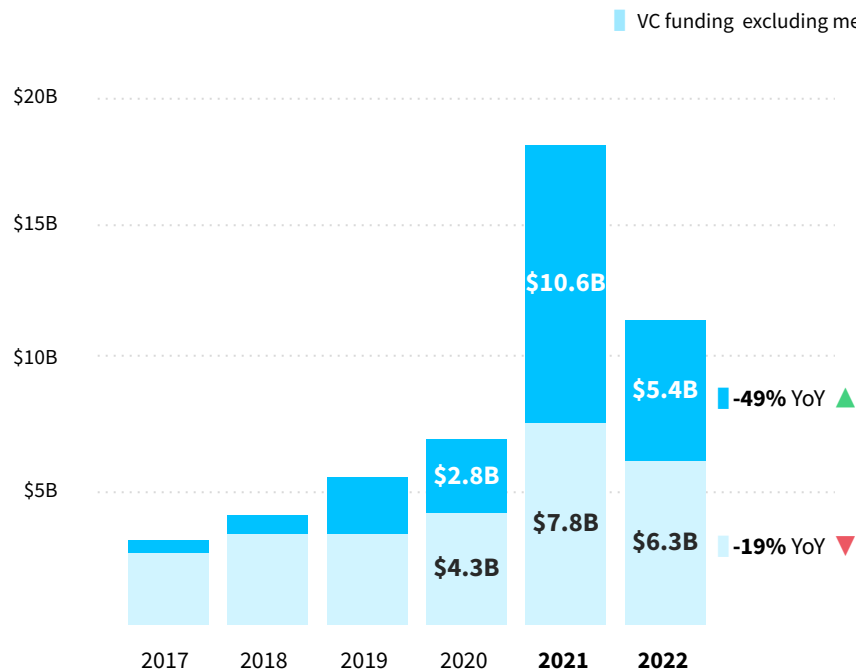
2022 saw a 36% decrease in VC funding in the Nordics compared to the previous year, but the total of \$11.7B was still more than 50% higher than pre-pandemic numbers.

VC Funding of Nordic startups* [» view online](#)

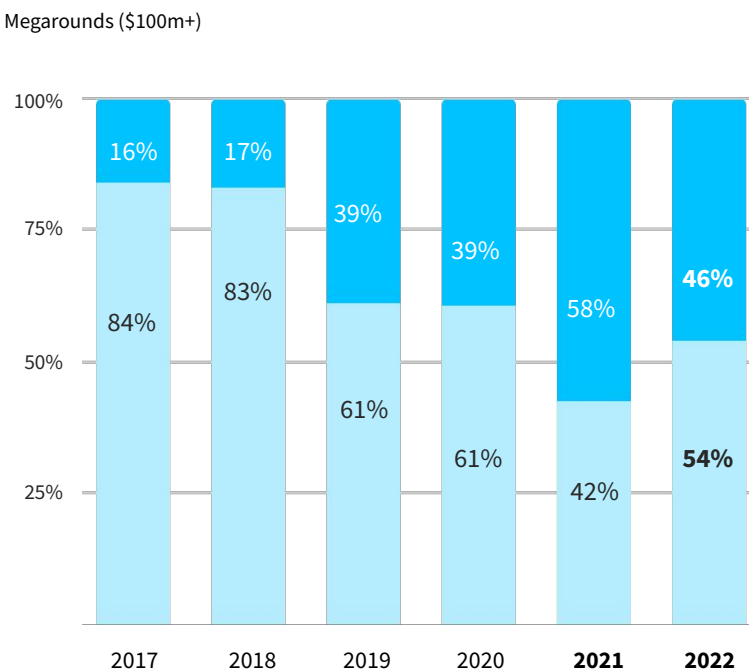


Megarounds of \$100M+ have become much scarcer in the Nordics, halving in volume in 2022.

VC investment in Nordic startups by round size, ±\$100m.

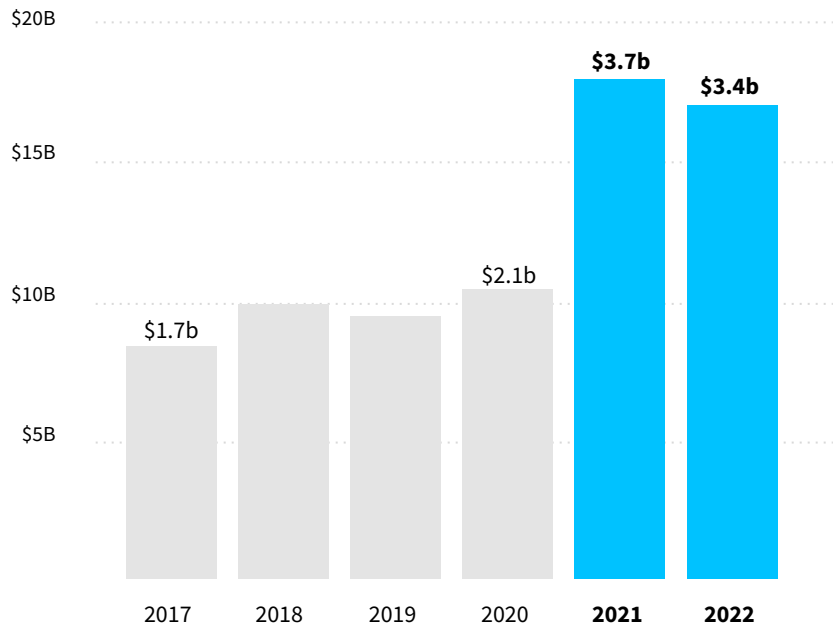


Distribution of VC investment in Nordic startups by round size.

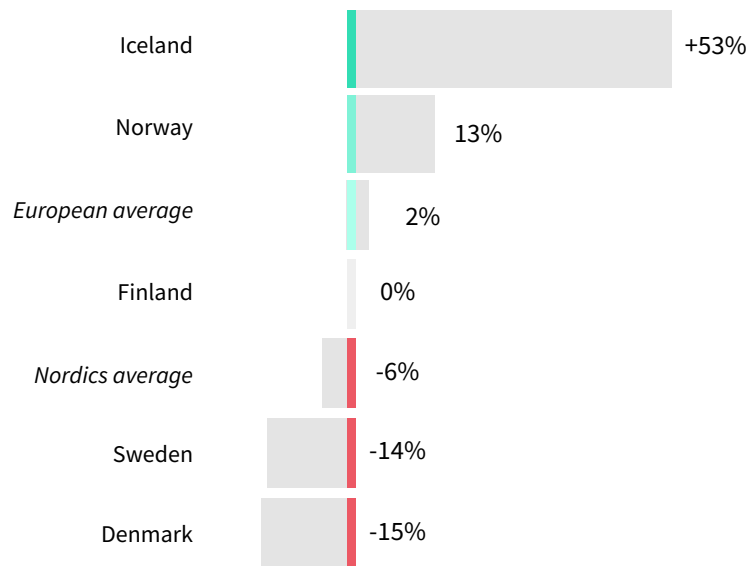


The early-stage funding landscape remains resilient, down just 6% in 2022. Iceland and Norway stand out as the two Nordic countries where early-stage investment grew.

Early stage investment into Nordic startups [» view online](#)

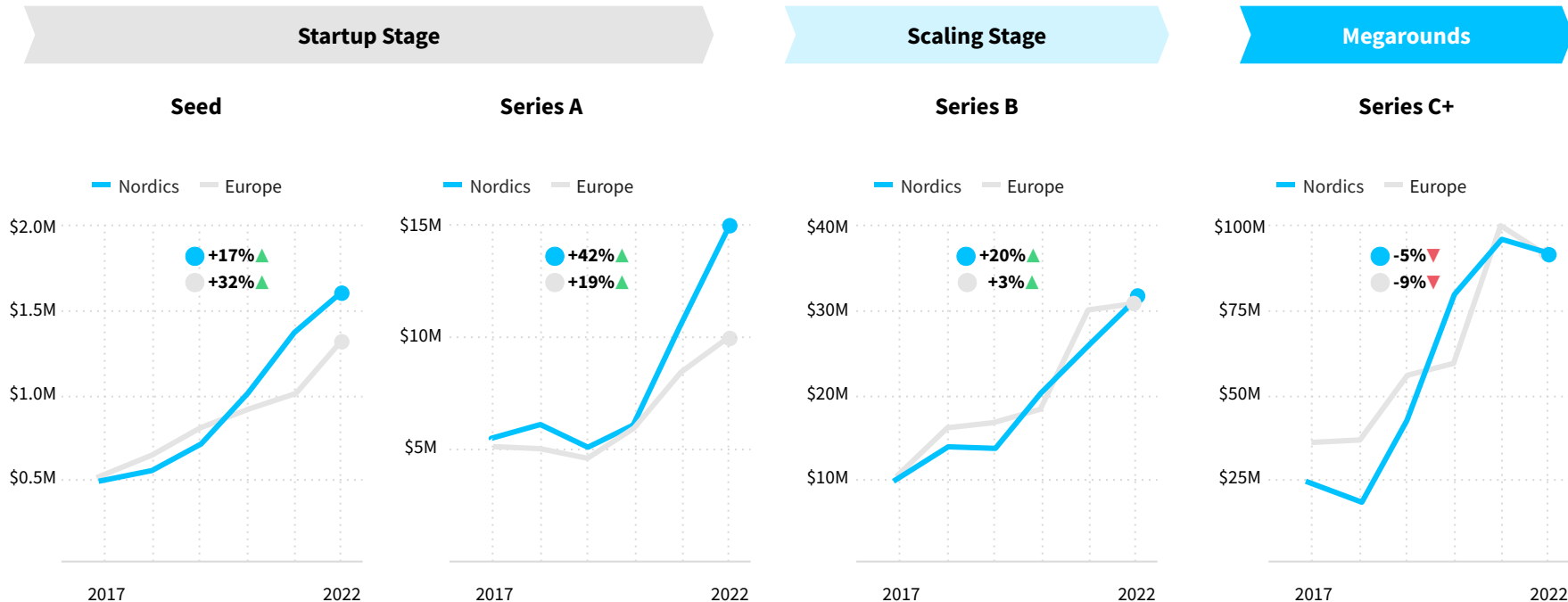


Early-stage venture capital investment 2022 vs 2021



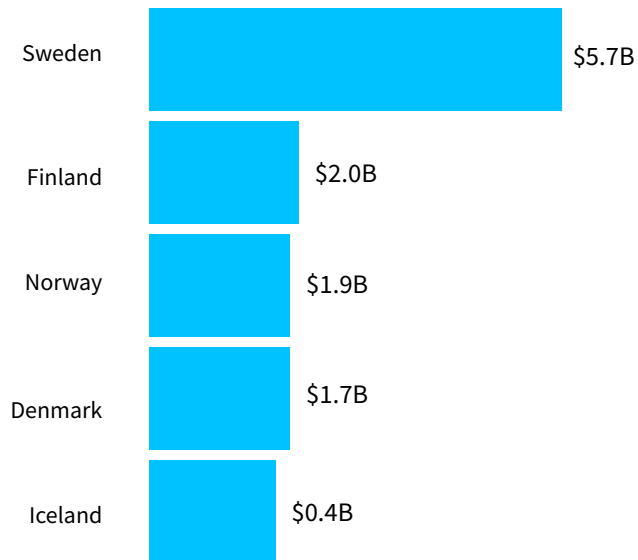
In 2022 there was a noticeable funding pullback at late-stage (Series C+), while early-stage rounds continued to increase in ticket size.

Median round sizes (self-labelled rounds)

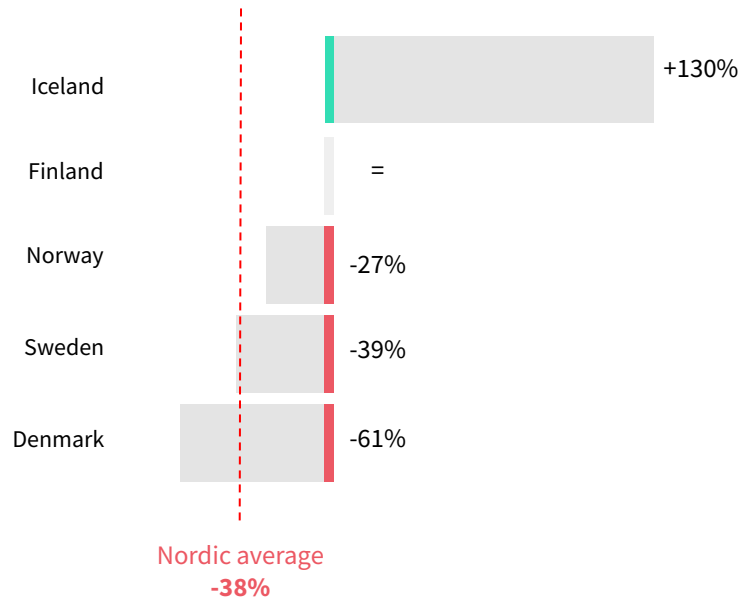


Iceland, the Nordics' smallest ecosystem by VC funding, was the fastest growing country by amount of funding raised in 2022.

VC Funding in 2022 per Nordic country

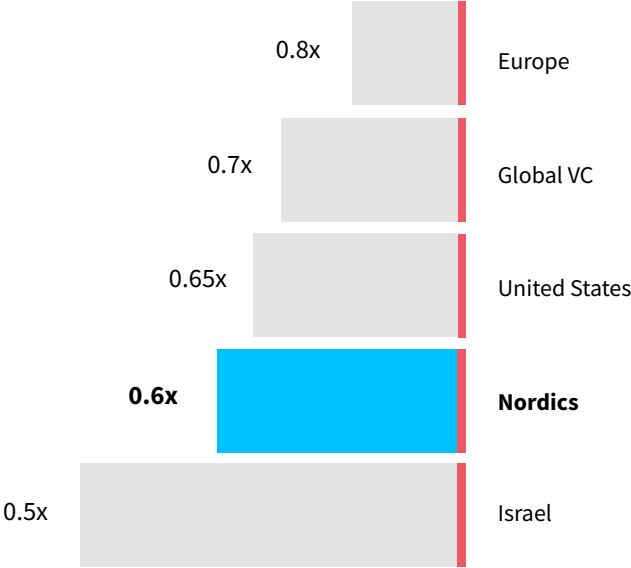


VC Funding change, 2022 vs 2021

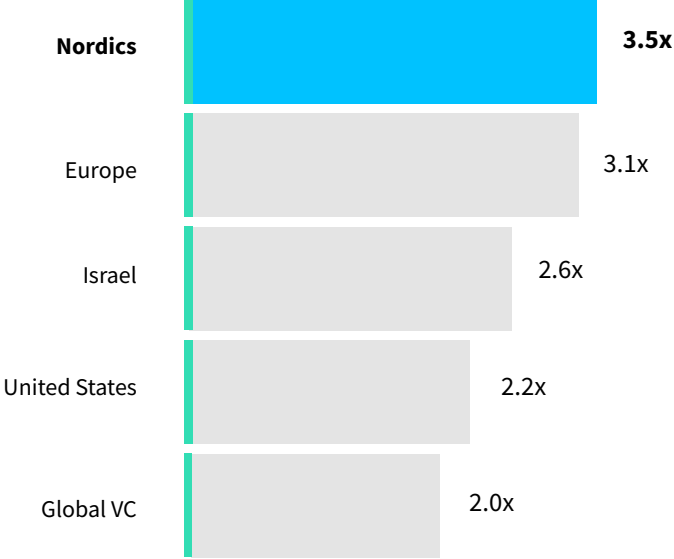


VC activity in the Nordics contracted faster year-on-year than the global and European averages in 2022, but has grown faster in the medium term than global benchmarks.

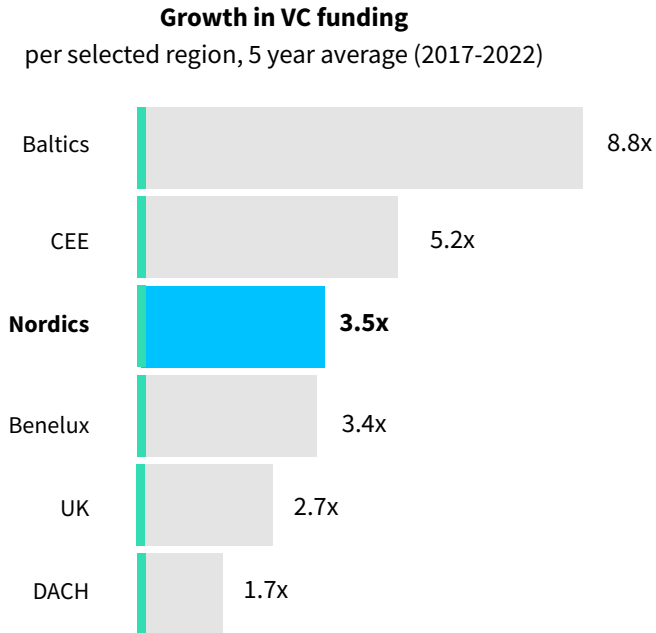
Year-on-year change in VC funding
per selected region, 2022 vs 2021



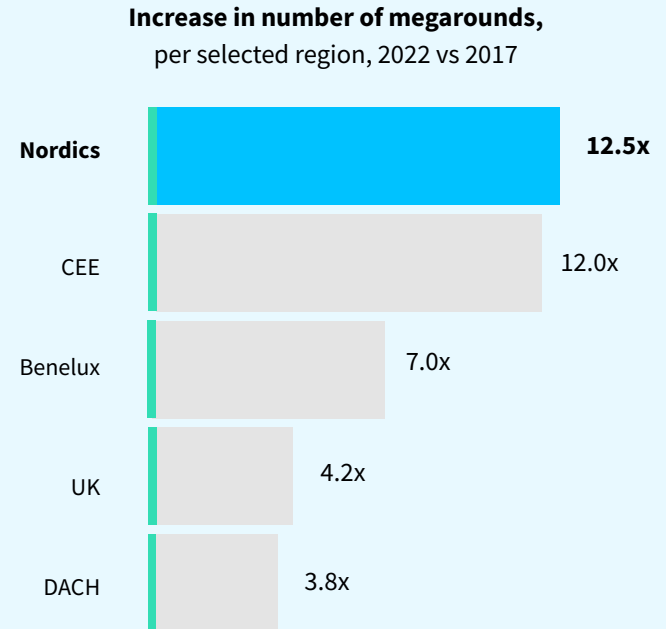
5-year change in VC funding
per selected region, 2022 vs 2017



Nordic VC funding increased more than threefold in the last five years.



The Nordics are the top European region in increase in number of megarounds.



Nordic startups that raised in 2022.

<p>New Unicorns startups that reached a \$1b valuation or exit in the last 12 months.</p>	     	 	 		
<p>Future Unicorns startups valued \$250m-\$999m, haven't reached \$1b (yet).</p>	     	  	   	   	 
<p>Rising Stars promising startups valued under \$250m with recent funding and high dealroom SIGNAL</p>	      	   	    	    	   
<p>Country</p>	<p>Sweden</p> 	<p>Finland</p> 	<p>Denmark</p> 	<p>Norway</p> 	<p>Iceland</p> 

Discover the most promising Nordic startups and scaleups using predictive signals.

» Top 100 Nordic Startups



































» Breakout Opportunities

» Series A+ Opportunities

» Pre-Seed Opportunities

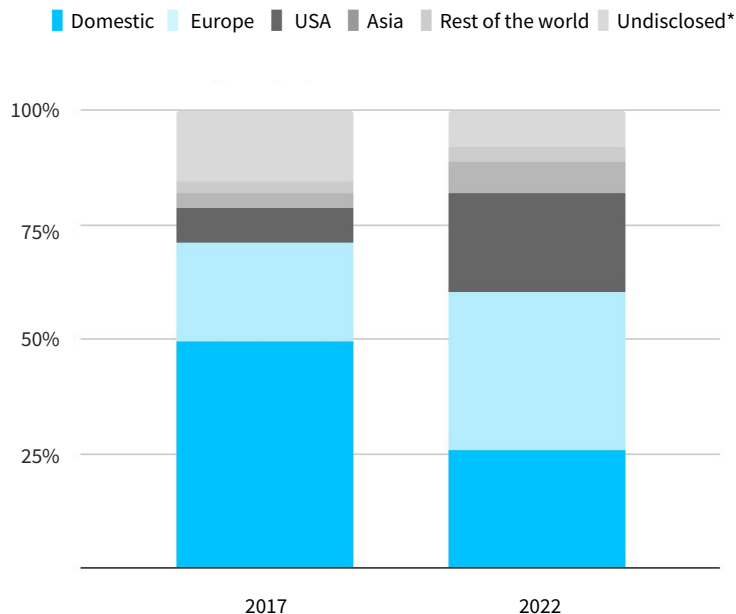
NAME	DEALROOM SIGNAL	MARKET	TYPE	GROWTH 12 months growth	LAUNCH DATE
 Aatos.app Legal matters solved automatically...	 61	B2B legal legal documents management	mobile app subscription commission saas	 140%	2019
 Sloyd ★ Automated, customizable 3D assets	 60	B2B gaming media console & pc gaming mobile gaming content production	machine learning virtual reality deep tech 3d technology saas	 143%	2021
 Eppow ✎ Assists professionals and job seek...	 59	B2B, B2C health jobs recruitment	commission subscription marketplace & ecommerce	 50%	2019
 Joos & Cos ApS Helps find a great cup of Joe and a...	 56	B2B, B2C real estate workspaces	mobile app subscription saas	 150%	May 2020
 Sense of Space Sense of Space is revolutionizing t...	 54	B2B media content production streaming	big data deep tech 3d technology augmented reality virtual reality	 -	Feb 2019
 Vagon ★ Personal performance computer o...	 54	B2B, B2C enterprise software	big data deep tech subscription saas	 31%	2019
 Healper ✎ Denmark's largest matching syste...	 53	B2C health	commission marketplace & ecommerce	 -	2019
 tira 🏠 Software designed to help teams ...	 53	B2B jobs recruitment enterprise software	subscription saas	 25%	Jan 2021
 VEAT ✎ Deploying a network of vending m...	 51	B2C food innovative food	selling own inventory manufacturing	 180%	2019

Local investors play an important role in driving investment in the Nordics.

Investor name	Investor type	HQ	Number of rounds participated in 2022*	Preferred round	Selected Nordic investments in 2022
 VR VENTURE en del af Vækstfonden	Governmental	Copenhagen, Denmark	20+	SEED	 Reform 
 Tesi	Governmental	Helsinki, Finland	15+	EARLY VC	 Swappie 
 CHALMERS VENTURES University of Gothenburg	University investment and incubator arm	Gothenburg, Sweden	10+	SEED	  
 MAKI.VC	Venture Capital	Helsinki, Finland	10+	SEED	  
 almi invest	Governmental	Stockholm, Sweden	10+	SEED	  BELECO
 in venture	Venture Capital	Helsinki, Finland	10+	SEED	  
 IEQT VENTURES	Venture Capital	Stockholm, Sweden	10+	SERIES A	  JUNI
 Industrifonden	Governmental	Stockholm, Sweden	5+	EARLY VC	  
CREANDUM	Venture Capital	Stockholm, Sweden	5+	SERIES A	  
icebreaker	Venture Capital	Helsinki, Finland	5+	SEED	  

International investors are increasing their presence in the Nordics.

VC funding in Nordic startups by investors location



Selected foreign investors turning to the Nordics' market



Citi Ventures
HQ: United States

Investment: [Doconomy](#)
HQ: Stockholm, Sweden
Round: \$19M Early VC



Bayern Kapital
HQ: Germany

Investment: [IQM Quantum Computers](#)
HQ: Espoo, Finland
Round: €128M Series A



Banana Capital
HQ: United States

Investment: [Goals](#)
HQ: Stockholm, Sweden
Round: €15M Seed



Lightspeed
HQ: United States

Investment: [Fullview](#)
HQ: Copenhagen, Denmark
Round: \$7.5M Seed



Blossom
HQ: United Kingdom

Investment: [Zevoy](#)
HQ: Espoo, Finland
Round: €15M Series A

Explore more **Nordic startups** with **foreign investor** participation »

» [Explore list](#)



The fact that top tier international investors continue to deploy significant amounts of capital into the Nordics is testament to the strength of the ecosystem and the quality of companies coming out of this region.

Furthermore, the recycling of talent, with unicorn founders contributing their experience and capital into new ventures, is another quality of the ecosystem that provides a platform for stellar new companies to grow out of the Nordics over the coming years.”

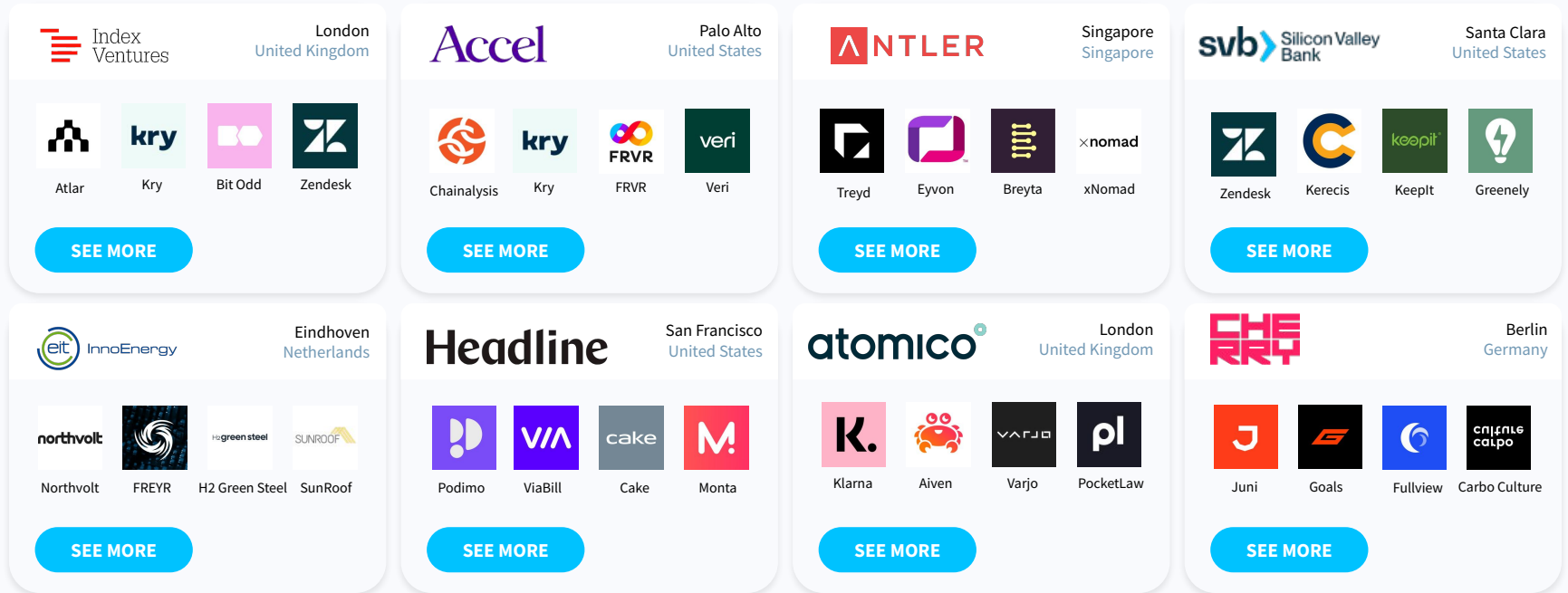
Maria Ljungberg

Director for Sweden
at **Silicon Valley Bank**



Leading international investors continue to build their portfolios in the Nordics.

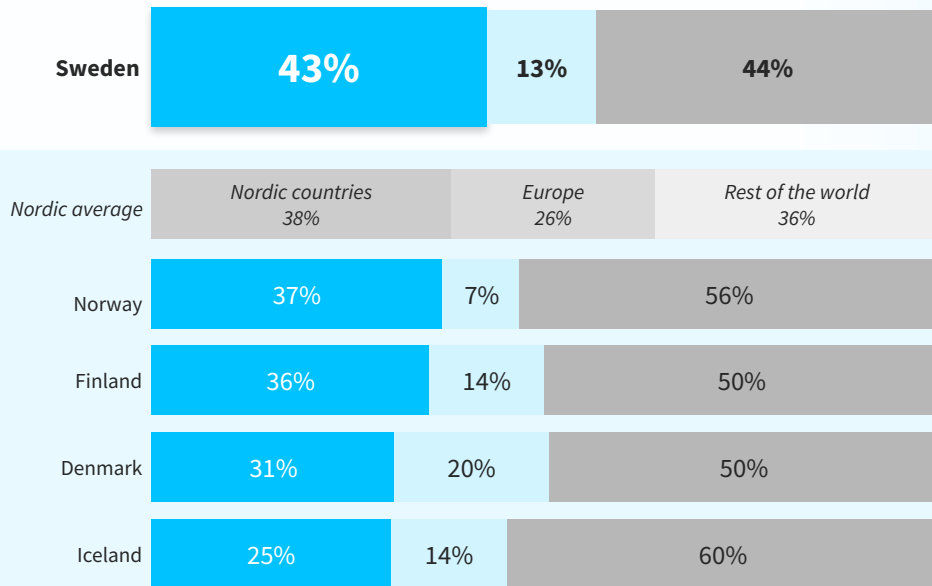
Investments into Nordic startups by selected International investors (2022)



Local investors play a foundational role at early-stage, especially in Sweden.

Early-stage funding by investor HQ, 2017-2022

Domestic Other Nordic countries Rest of the World



Sweden

In Sweden, local investors represent over 40% of early-stage investment since 2017.

Investor	Investor Type	Selected early-stage investments into Swedish startups in 2022
almi invest	Governmental	NORDIC SEAFARM BELECO Cellfion
CHALMERS VENTURES	University investment and incubator arm	ELYPTA Melt & Marble
Industrifonden	Governmental	AnaCardio telness COCTOO
LUMINAR VENTURES	Venture Capital	nomad Hypertype
IEGT VENTURES	Venture Capital	moralis Depict billhop
<norrskan>	Venture Capital	Material Exchange ELYPTA
InboxCapital	Venture Capital	Carla kavall

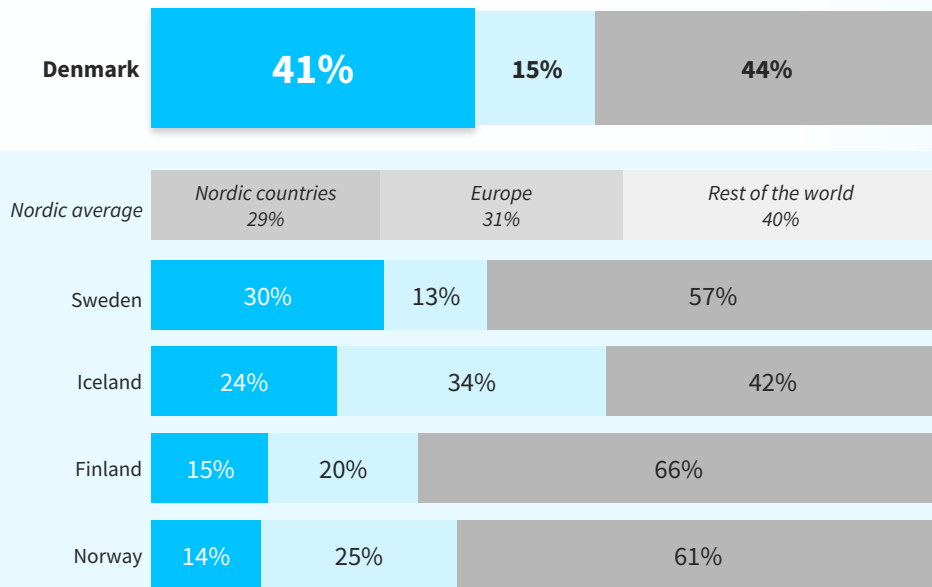
Explore all **early-stage investments** raised by **Swedish** startups »

» Explore list

Late-stage investors are more geographically diverse, but local investors maintain a significant role, particularly in Denmark.

Late-stage funding by investor HQ, 2017-2022

Domestic Other Nordic countries Rest of the World



Denmark

In Denmark, local investors represent over 40% of late-stage investment since 2017.

Investor	Investor Type	Selected late-stage investments into Danish startups in 2022
VF VENTURE <small>an act of Vestofonden</small>	Governmental	Reform Blue World NIL TECHNOLOGY
Seed Capital	Venture Capital	veo dixa Templafy
NOVO holdings	CVC	21 st BIO NMD PHARMA Galecto
HEARTCORE	Venture Capital	podimo
IDC Ventures	Venture Capital	Tradeshift LUNAR
F	Accelerator	PEO
sunstone <small>LIFE SCIENCE VENTURES</small>	Venture Capital	BOTeCH Galecto

Explore **late-stage rounds** raised by **Danish startups** »

» Explore list



The Nordic countries have been in the lead from a European perspective in venture capital investments, with state owned institutions actively backing up the industry. However, to remain in the lead, a broader asset allocation into venture capital from pension funds, family offices, banks and insurance companies is needed.

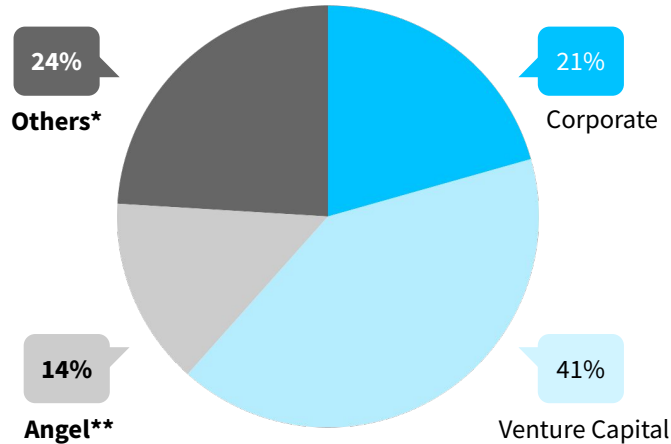
We would like to see larger allocations into venture capital through fund of funds, direct funds and directly into startups. These investments would give the region the ability to flourish, innovate, and drive growth.”

Robin Lindahl
NGP Capital



Alternative sources of investment, other than Venture Capital funds, are playing an increasingly important role in the Nordics.

VC funding by investor type
5-year Average » [view online](#)



Selected investors by type

Venture Capital

Selected VCs active in the Nordics



Nordic state-affiliated VCs



Corporate & CVCs



Other





As the Nordic ecosystem continues to mature, Venture Debt is becoming an established way of extending runway and supporting founders to limit dilution.

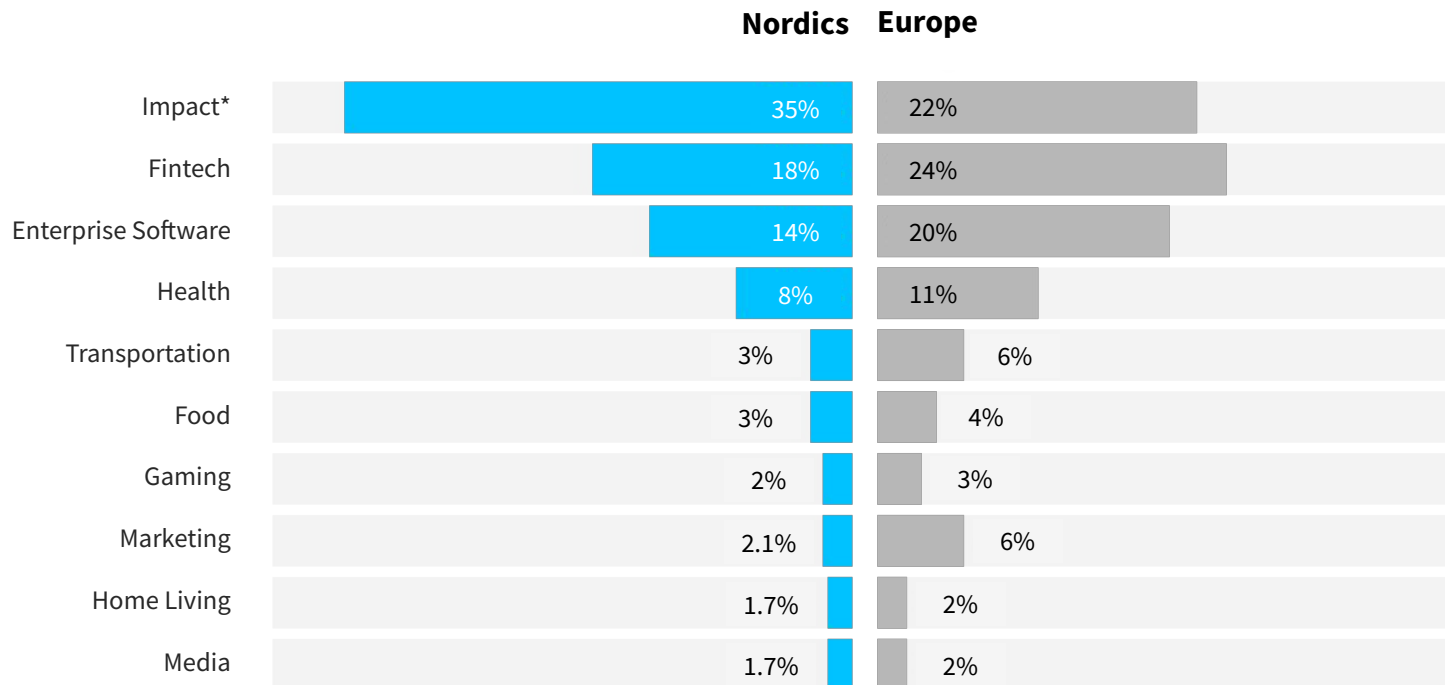
Overall there has been an expansion in the range of capital sources available to companies and in the number of providers operating across the region. We believe this trend will accelerate and continue to fuel the Nordics reputation for creating enterprise value.”

Sonya Iovieno

Head of Venture and Growth Banking
at **Silicon Valley Bank**



In 2022 impact startups raised 35% (or \$4.3B) of all VC investment in the Nordics.





The last decade has seen a rapid maturation of the Nordic ecosystem with large, outsized winners such as Spotify, Minecraft, Unity, Supercell, Universal Robots, Wolt and many others.

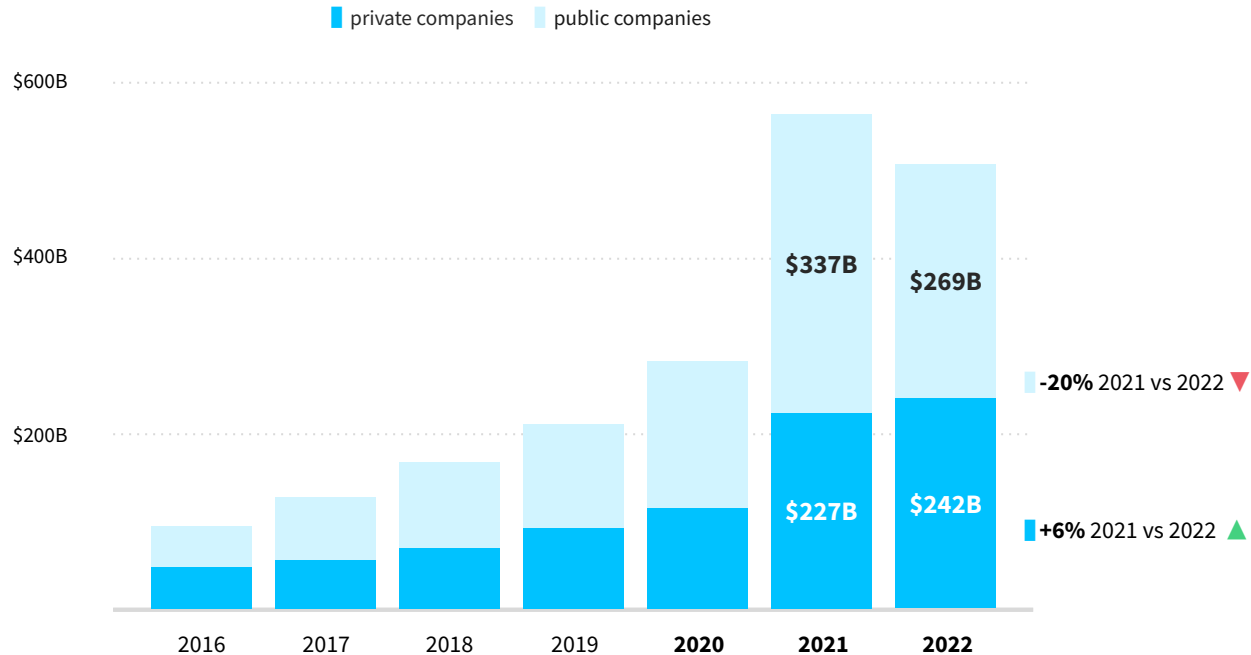
We see repeat entrepreneurs, founders backing other founders, and we believe now is the time for founders to solve big enterprise challenges by leveraging breakthrough technologies such as foundation AI, XR developer tools and digital twins as our physical and virtual worlds start to converge.”

Bo Ilsoe
NGP Capital



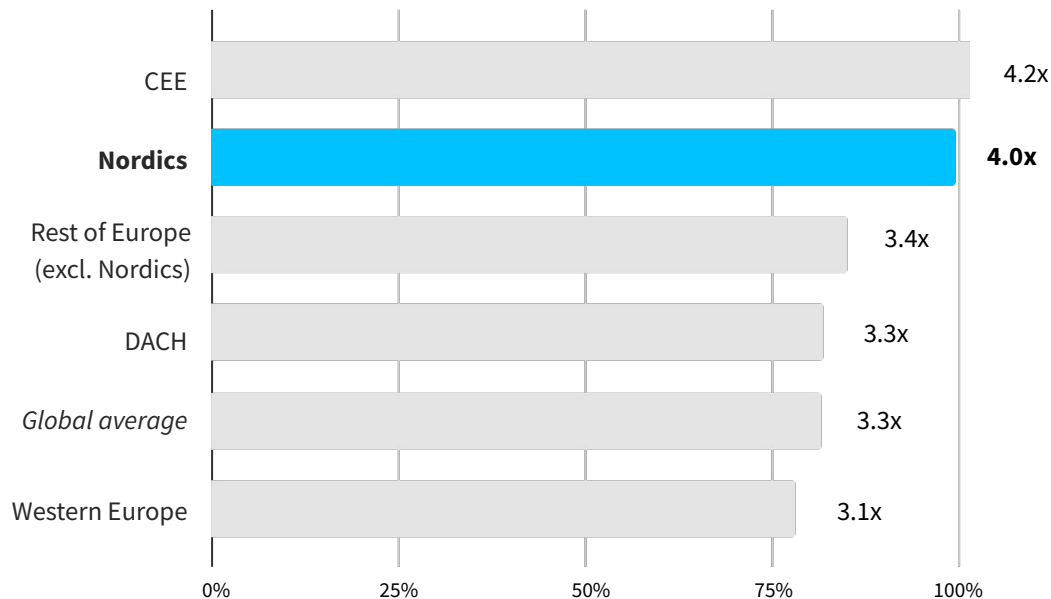
The Nordic startup ecosystem is now worth \$511B. While public tech companies decreased in value by 20%, the value of private companies is up 6% year-on-year.

Combined enterprise value of Nordic founded/HQ'ed companies*
founded after 1990



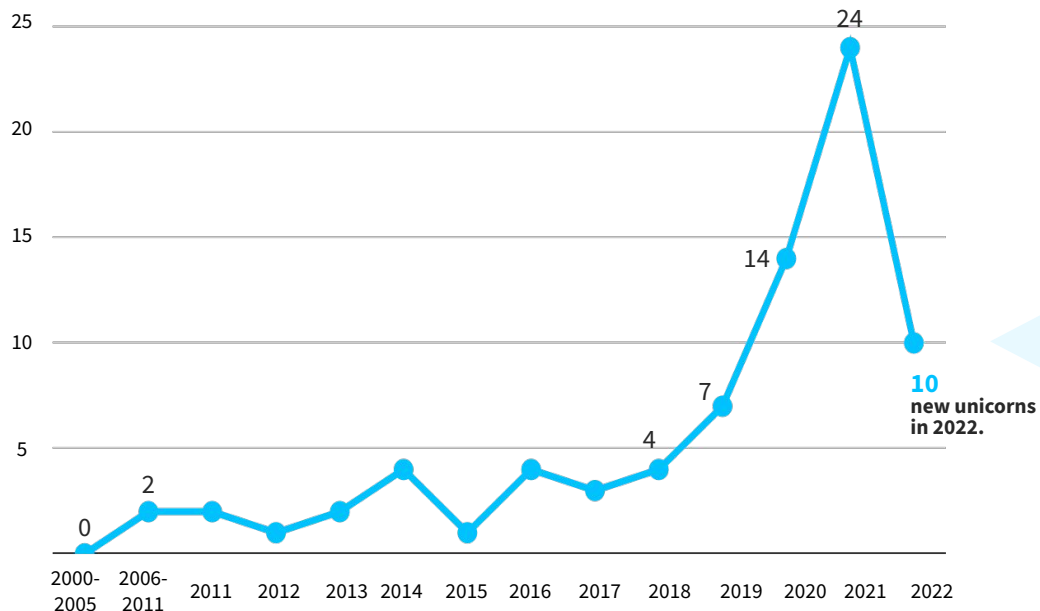
The value of Nordic startups has quadrupled in the last five years, outpacing other European regions and the global average.

Growth in ecosystem value over the last five years (2017-2022)



The Nordics have produced 10 new unicorns in 2022, bringing the region's total unicorn count to 78.

Number of new unicorns and \$1B+ exits [» view all Nordic unicorns](#)



Explore the Nordic's unicorn class of 2022 »

» Explore list

EMBRACER GROUP HQ: Karlstad, Sweden
Industry: Gaming

RELEX HQ: Helsinki, Finland
Industry: Enterprise Software

Cint HQ: Stockholm, Sweden
Industry: Enterprise Software

reMarkable HQ: Oslo, Norway
Industry: Media

einride HQ: Stockholm, Sweden
Industry: Mobility

instabox HQ: Stockholm, Sweden
Industry: Transportation /Logistics

Polarium HQ: Stockholm, Sweden
Industry: Energy

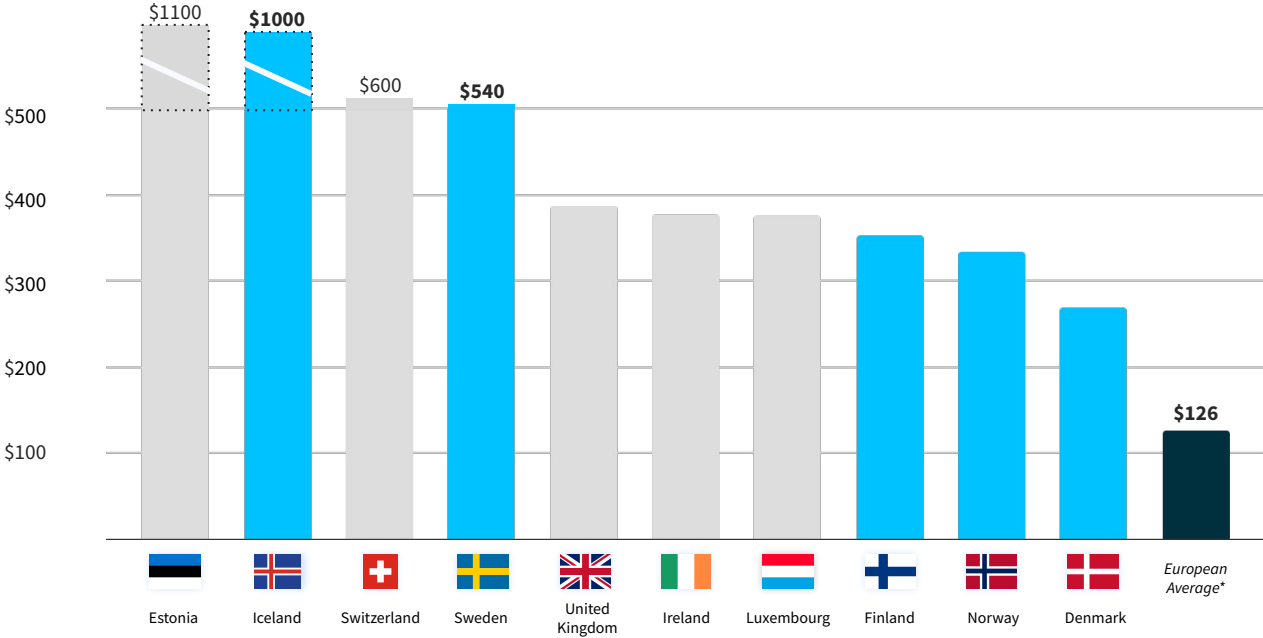
ŌURA HQ: Oulu, Finland
Industry: Health

Dune Analytics HQ: Oslo, Norway
Industry: Fintech

BYRIED HQ: Stockholm, Sweden
Industry: Wellness and beauty

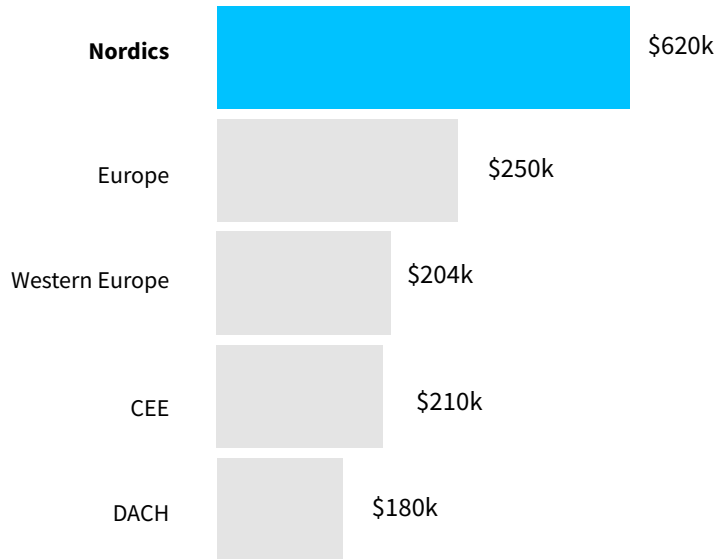
All Nordic countries are among Europe's top 10 in VC funding per capita in 2022.

VC funding per capita (2022)

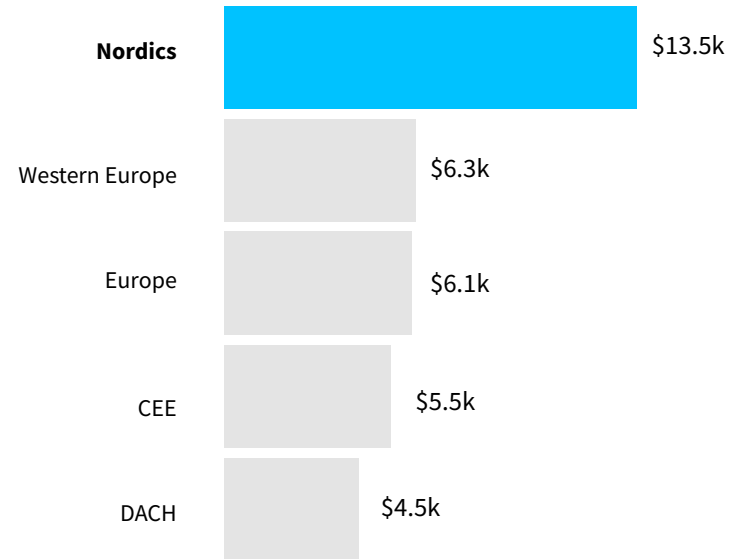


The Nordics are the most efficient builders of enterprise value in Europe.

Enterprise value per employee, 2022*

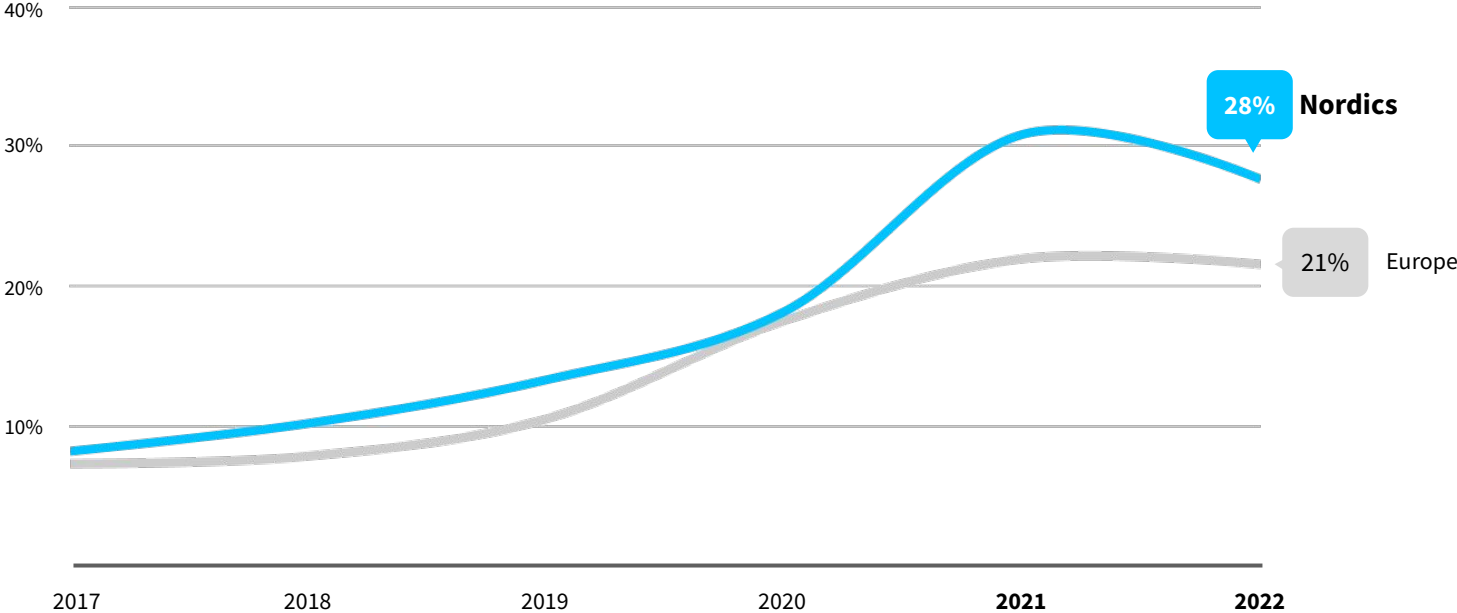


Funding per employee, 2022*



The combined enterprise value of the Nordic startup ecosystem amounts to 28% of the region's GDP.

Startup enterprise value in relation to GDP, 2017-2022



> Methodology, definitions, disclaimers

Methodology & definitions

Startups, scaleups, grownups and tech

Companies designed to grow fast. Generally, such companies are VC-investable businesses. Sometimes they can become very big (e.g. \$1B+ valuation).

When startups are successful, they develop into scaleups (>50 people), grownups (>500 people) and result in big companies. Only companies founded since 1990 are included in this report.

What is a startup?

Valuation

The combined valuation of the tech ecosystem is based on their market cap or latest transaction value.

Transaction value is realized from exit or implied unrealised valuation from the latest VC round, which is either announced or estimated by Dealroom based on benchmarks.

Venture Capital, Investors

Investment numbers refer to rounds such as Seed, Series A, B, C, ... late stage, and growth equity rounds. VC investment figures exclude debt or other non-equity funding, lending capital, grants and ICOs. Investment rounds are sourced from public disclosures including press releases, news, filings and verified, user-submitted information.

Investment rounds are sourced from public disclosures including press releases, news, filings and verified user-submitted information.

Glossary & Definitions

European regions

Nordics: Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Iceland.

DACH: Austria, Germany, Switzerland.

CEE: Poland, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovenia, Belarus, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovakia, Moldova, Kosovo, Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro.

Baltics: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania.

Benelux: Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg

Western Europe: United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Austria, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Andorra, Monaco.

Underlying Data

Dealroom's proprietary database and software aggregate data from multiple sources: harvesting public information, user-submitted data verified by Dealroom, data engineering. All data is verified and curated with an extensive manual process. The data on which this report builds is available via app.dealroom.co. For more info please visit dealroom.co or contact support@dealroom.co.

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