

## Asia Pushes Its Way to the Forefront of Venture Capital

**Nine out of 10 of the largest deals announced in 2018 were for companies based in Asia**

2018 has marked another record year for venture capital deal making, seeing 14,889 deals worth an aggregate \$274bn. Preqin expects this figure to rise by up to 5% as more information becomes available, but nonetheless 2018's total deal value has surpassed the previous high of \$192bn set in 2017. North America and Greater China – made up of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau – made up the majority of global activity, accounting for \$113bn and \$107bn in deal value respectively. Nine of the ten of the largest deals announced in the year were for Asia-based companies, seven of which were in China. This includes the largest venture capital deal ever announced: the \$14bn funding of Ant Financial Services Group in June. Global venture capital exit activity also had a record year, as 1,094 exits were made for a total of \$165bn.

**For more information, see the full [Preqin 2018 Venture Capital-Backed Deals & Exits factsheet here:](http://docs.preqin.com/reports/Preqin-Venture-Capital-Deals-and-Exits-Q4-2018.pdf)**  
<http://docs.preqin.com/reports/Preqin-Venture-Capital-Deals-and-Exits-Q4-2018.pdf>

### Christopher Elvin, Head of Private Equity:

*“2018 marks another year of record-breaking deal making in the venture capital industry. Asia in particular has seen further growth in venture capital-backed activity, seeing activity on pace with that of North America. Not only were the vast majority of the largest deals announced this year based in Asia, but we also saw the announcement of the largest venture capital deal ever, for Ant Financial Services Group. It looks like China and North America will continue to vie for the position of the foremost venture capital deal market in the coming months.”*

### Key 2018 Venture Capital-Backed Deals and Exits Facts:

- **In 2018, 14,889 venture capital deals were announced for a record \$274bn**, marking the fifth consecutive year the industry has seen record-breaking aggregate venture capital-backed deal values.
- **Greater China accounted for a large bulk of activity**, seeing 4,281 deals worth an aggregate \$107bn. North America saw another 5,510 deals announced for a total of \$113bn.
- **Nine of the 10 of the largest deals announced in 2018 were for companies based in Asia**. Seven of those were based in China, including the largest-ever venture capital deal, the \$14bn funding of Ant Financial Services Group.
- **2018 also saw the largest venture capital deal made in the US ever**: JUUL Labs, Inc. was purchased by Altria Group, Inc. for just under \$13bn.
- **Angel/seed deals made up 35% of deals announced in the year**, while series A deals accounted for 28% of transactions.
- **Investments in the internet sector accounted for the largest proportion of deal value (29%)**, while internet and software made up the largest proportions of deals announced (22% and 23% respectively).
- **Series C deals saw a spike in average deal value**, increasing from \$48mn in 2017 to \$82mn in 2018.
- **Venture capital-backed exits also saw a record 2018**, as 1,094 exits were made for a total of \$165bn.

*Preqin is the home of alternative assets, providing industry-leading intelligence on the market and cutting-edge tools to support participants at every stage of the investment cycle. More than 60,000 industry participants in over 90 countries rely on Preqin as their indispensable source of data, solutions and insights.*

*Preqin's data and analysis is frequently presented at industry conferences, and is used in the global financial press and academic journals & white papers. We are always happy to support journalists by providing reports, custom data and one-on-one interviews.*

**For more information, contact our dedicated press team at [press@preqin.com](mailto:press@preqin.com) or call (+44) 20 3207 0265.**

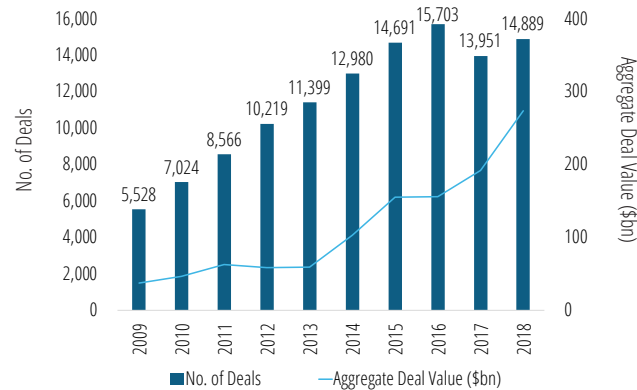
New York	London	Singapore	San Francisco	Hong Kong	Manila	Guangzhou
+1 212 350 0100	+44 20 3207 0200	+65 6305 2200	+1 415 316 0580	+852 3892 0200		

[www.preqin.com](http://www.preqin.com) / [info@preqin.com](mailto:info@preqin.com)

# 2018 VENTURE CAPITAL DEALS AND EXITS

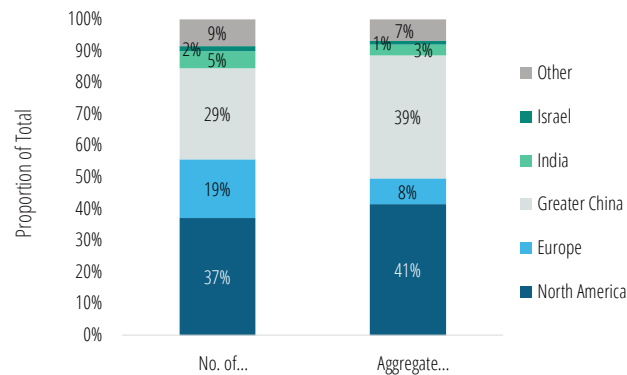
7 January 2019

**Fig. 1: Annual Global Venture Capital Deals\*, 2009 - 2018**



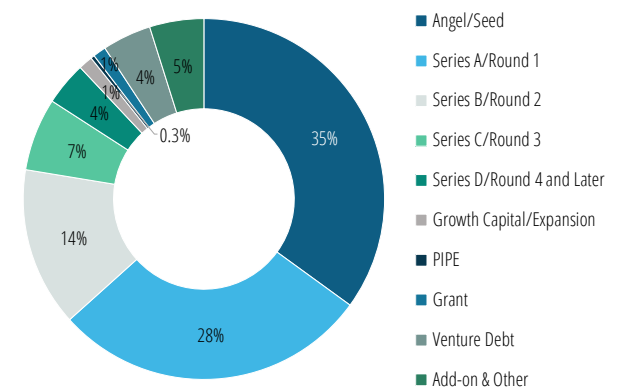
Source: Preqin Pro

**Fig. 2: Venture Capital Deals\* in 2018 by Region**



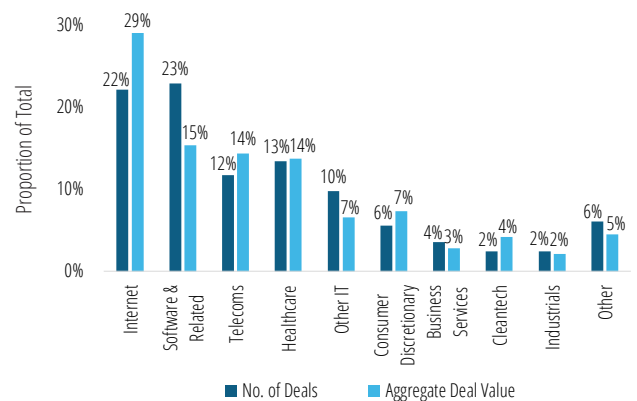
Source: Preqin Pro

**Fig. 3: Proportion of Number of Venture Capital Deals in 2018 by Investment Stage**



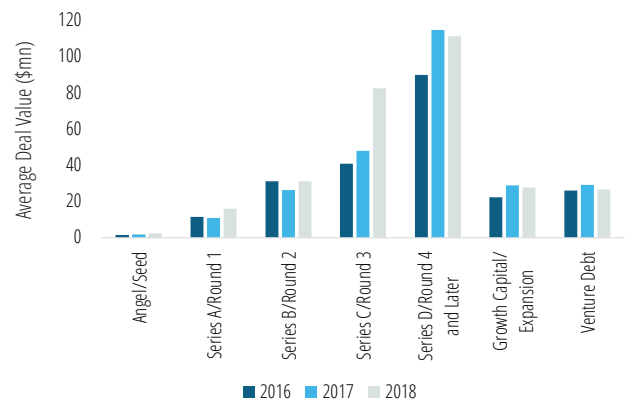
Source: Preqin Pro

**Fig. 4: Venture Capital Deals\* in 2018 by Industry**



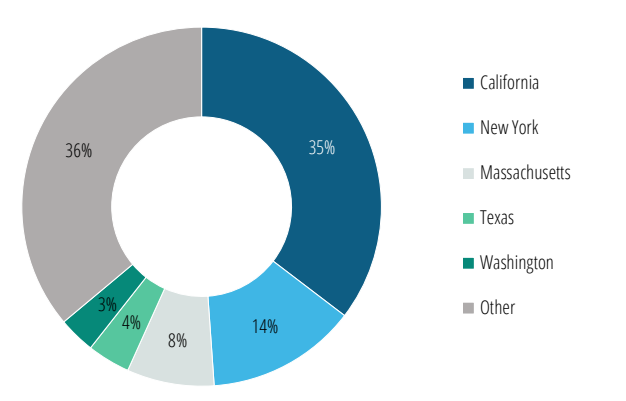
Source: Preqin Pro

**Fig. 5: Average Value of Venture Capital Deals, 2016 - 2018**



Source: Preqin Pro

**Fig. 6: Proportion of Number of US Venture Capital Deals\* in 2018 by State**



Source: Preqin Pro

\*Figures exclude add-ons, grants, mergers, venture debt and secondary stock purchases.

# 2018 VENTURE CAPITAL DEALS AND EXITS

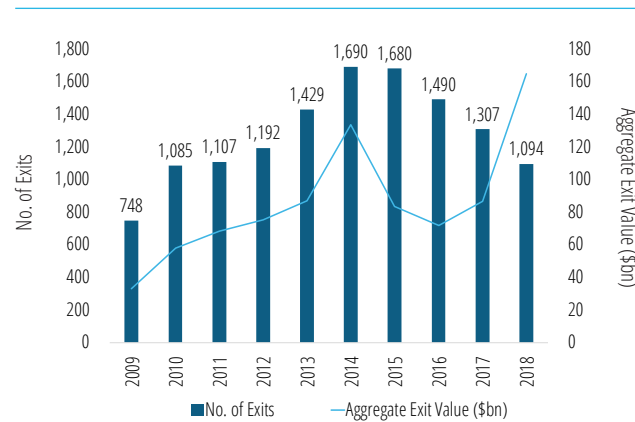
7 January 2019

Fig. 7: Largest Venture Capital Deals\* Globally in 2018

Portfolio Company	Deal Date	Investment Stage	Deal Size (mn)	Investor(s)	Industry	Location
Ant Financial Services Group	Jun-18	Series C/Round 3	14,000 USD	Baillie Gifford, Carlyle Group, CPP Investment Board, Discovery Capital Management, General Atlantic, GIC**, Janchor Partners, Khazanah Nasional, Primavera Capital, Sequoia Capital, Silver Lake, T Rowe Price, Temasek Holdings**, Warburg Pincus	Internet	China
JUUL Labs, Inc.	Dec-18	Unspecified Round	12,800 USD	Altria Group, Inc.	Consumer Products	US
Beijing Bytedance Technology Co., Ltd.	Oct-18	Pre-IPO	4,000 USD	KKR**, Primavera Capital**, Softbank China Venture Capital**	Internet	China
Hangzhou Mouth Phase Communication Network Technology Co., Ltd.	Aug-18	Unspecified Round	3,000 USD	Alibaba Group**, SB Investment Advisers**	Telecoms	China
Pinduoduo, Inc.	Apr-18	Series C/Round 3	3,000 USD	Sequoia Capital, Tencent**	Telecoms	China
Coupang	Nov-18	Unspecified Round	2,000 USD	SB Investment Advisers	Internet	South Korea
Grab Holdings Inc.	Aug-18	Unspecified Round	2,000 USD	All-Stars Investment, Lightspeed Venture Partners, Macquarie Capital, Mirae Asset Venture Investment, OppenheimerFunds, Ping An Ventures, Sino-Rock Investment Management, Toyota Motor Corporation**, Vulcan Capital	Telecoms	Singapore
JD Finance***	Jul-18	Series B/Round 2	13,000 CNY	Bank of China Group Investment, China International Capital Corporation Private Equity, China Securities International, CITIC Capital	Internet	China
Manbang Group	Apr-18	Unspecified Round	1,900 USD	Baillie Gifford, CapitalG, China Reform Fund Management**, Farallon Capital Management, Hillhouse Capital Management, IDG Capital, SB Investment Advisers**, Sequoia Capital, Tencent	Internet	China
China Media Capital Inc.	Jul-18	Series A/Round 1	10,000 CNY	Alibaba Group**, China Vanke Co. Ltd.**, CMB International Capital Management, Tencent**	Media	China

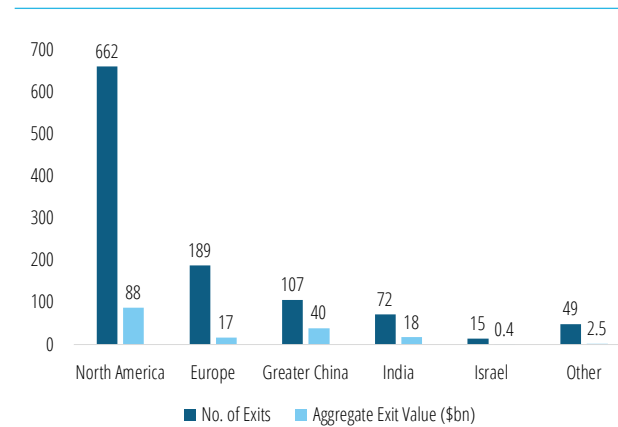
Source: Preqin Pro

Fig. 8: Annual Global Venture Capital-Backed Exits, 2009 - 2018



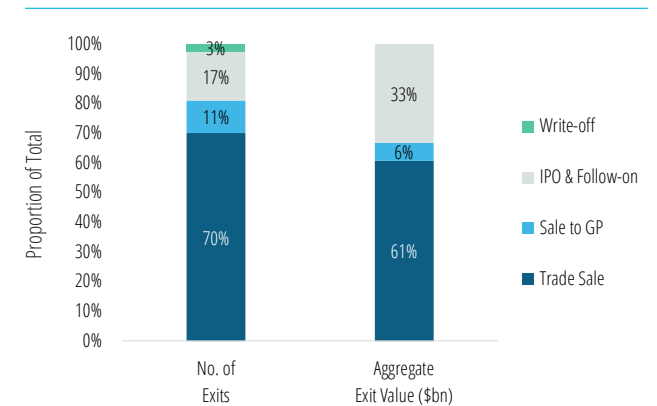
Source: Preqin Pro

Fig. 9: Venture Capital-Backed Exits in 2018 by Region



Source: Preqin Pro

Fig. 10: Venture Capital-Backed Exits in 2018 by Type



Source: Preqin Pro

\*Figures exclude add-ons, grants, mergers, venture debt and secondary stock purchases.  
 \*\*Denotes lead investor.  
 \*\*\*Announced deal.

# 2018 VENTURE CAPITAL DEALS AND EXITS

7 January 2019

Fig. 11: Largest Venture Capital-Backed Exits Globally in 2018

Portfolio Company	Date of First Investment	Investor(s)	Total Known Funding (mn)	Exit Type	Exit Date	Acquiror (Exit)	Exit Value (mn)	Industry	Location
Flipkart Internet Private Limited*	Oct-09	Accel, Axis Bank, Baillie Gifford, Chiratae Ventures, Dragoneer Investment Group, DST Global, eBay Inc., GIC, Greenoaks Capital, HDFC Bank, Helion Venture Partners, Iconiq Capital, Kalaari Capital, Microsoft, Morgan Stanley, Morgan Stanley Alternative Investment Partners, Naspers, Qatar Investment Authority, SB Investment Advisers, Schroder Adveq, Sofina, Steadview Capital Management, T Rowe Price, Tencent, Tiger Global Management, TR Capital, Vulcan Capital	6,454 USD	Trade Sale	May-18	Walmart	16,000 USD	Internet	India
AveXis, Inc.	Jan-15	Adage Capital Management, Boxer Capital, Deerfield Management, Foresite Capital, Janus Capital Group, QVT funds, RA Capital, Roche Venture Fund, Rock Springs Capital, RTW Investments, T Rowe Price, Venrock	75 USD	Trade Sale	Apr-18	Novartis International AG	8,700 USD	Biotechnology	US
Qualtrics, LLC	May-12	Accel, Insight Venture Partners, Sequoia Capital	400 USD	Trade Sale	Nov-18	SAP SE	8,000 USD	Software	US
GitHub, Inc.	Jul-12	Andreessen Horowitz, Institutional Venture Partners, Sequoia Capital, SV Angel, Thrive Capital	350 USD	Trade Sale	Jun-18	Microsoft	7,500 USD	Software	US
Spotify AB*	Oct-08	137 Ventures, Abu Dhabi Investment Council, Accel, Baillie Gifford, Blisce, Coca-Cola Company, Creandum, D.E. Shaw & Co, Digital Sky Capital, Discovery Capital Management, Dragoneer Investment Group, DST Global, EquityZen, Inc., Fidelity Investments, Founders Fund, Goldman Sachs, Groupe Arnault, GSV Asset Management, Halcyon, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, Lansdowne Partners, Li Ka Shing Foundation, Northzone Ventures, Rinkelberg Capital, Schoenfeld, Senvest Capital, SharesPost, Technology Crossover Ventures, Telia Company, TPG, Wellington Partners	2,573 USD	IPO	Apr-18	-	7,357 USD	Internet	Sweden

\*Denotes a partial exit.

Source: Preqin Pro

## LOOKING FOR MORE DATA AND ANALYSIS?

Preqin provides information, data and research on the private equity & venture capital industry across fund performance, fundraising, fund managers, investors, deals, fund terms and more.

If you have more detailed requests for private equity & venture capital data or any questions, please contact us: **+44 (0)20 3207 0265 / [www.preqin.com](http://www.preqin.com) / [press@preqin.com](mailto:press@preqin.com)**