Ministry of SMEs and Startups

Press Release
(November 17, 2026)

www.mss.go.kr

Korea's Venture Investment and Fundraising Reach Record Highs in First Nine Months of 2026

Venture investment in Korea reached KRW 12.62 trillion (USD 9.35 billion) in the first nine months of 2026, up 28.4% from a year earlier, while capital raised by new venture funds increased 29.7% to KRW 13 trillion (USD 9.63 billion). Both figures were the highest recorded for the January-September period, the Ministry of SMEs and Startups (MSS) announced.

The figures combine activity by venture capital firms and funds with that of companies and funds specializing in financing new technology businesses. The regional analysis below uses a narrower dataset covering only venture capital firms and venture investment funds.

Venture Investment Sets a Nine-Month Record

Investment totaled KRW 12.6248 trillion (USD 9.35 billion), exceeding the previous January-September record of approximately KRW 10.9 trillion (USD 8.05 billion), set in 2021, by more than KRW 1.7 trillion (USD 1.26 billion). The average investment received per company rose 19.2% to KRW 3.7 billion (USD 2.74 million).

Year	Total investment	Average per company
2021	10,867.9 (8,050.3)	3.27 (2.42)
2022	10,212.6 (7,564.9)	3.22 (2.39)
2023	7,711.8 (5,712.4)	2.57 (1.90)
2024	8,646.3 (6,404.7)	2.51 (1.86)
2025	9,836.2 (7,286.1)	3.10 (2.30)
2026	12,624.8 (9,351.7)	3.70 (2.74)
Year-on-year change	+28.4%	+19.2%

**Venture investment, January-September (Amounts in KRW billion, with USD million in parentheses)*

AI-Related Industries Help Drive Investment Growth

Information and communications technology (ICT) services attracted the largest share of investment at KRW 2.51 trillion (USD 1.86 billion), or 19.9% of the total. Electrical equipment and machinery followed with KRW 2.24 trillion (USD 1.66 billion), or 17.8%, while biotechnology and healthcare received KRW 1.92 trillion (USD 1.42 billion), or 15.2%.

ICT manufacturing recorded the fastest growth among these major sectors, with investment rising 64.7%. Investment in electrical equipment, machinery and equipment increased 53.1%. Together, the two sectors accounted for more than half of the KRW 2.79 trillion (USD 2.07 billion) increase in total investment.

MSS attributed much of this growth to large investments in AI-related businesses, including semiconductors,

robotics and advanced manufacturing.

Investment in chemicals and materials also rose 25.1% to KRW 1.0032 trillion (USD 743.1 million), supported by large funding rounds for cosmetics companies expanding in the global beauty market.

Sector	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Year-on-year change
ICT manufacturing	690.4 (511.4)	924.8 (685.0)	869.5 (644.1)	968.7 (717.6)	1,595.2 (1,181.6)	+64.7%
ICT services	2,872.8 (2,128.0)	1,500.7 (1,111.6)	2,234.5 (1,655.2)	1,904.8 (1,411.0)	2,506.1 (1,856.4)	+31.6%
Electrical equipment, machinery and equipment	836.2 (619.4)	1,089.0 (806.7)	1,357.5 (1,005.6)	1,466.4 (1,086.2)	2,244.7 (1,662.7)	+53.1%
Biotechnology and healthcare	1,603.1 (1,187.5)	1,188.4 (880.3)	1,366.0 (1,011.9)	1,715.5 (1,270.7)	1,917.4 (1,420.3)	+11.8%
Chemicals and materials	819.0 (606.7)	662.3 (490.6)	708.6 (524.9)	801.7 (593.9)	1,003.2 (743.1)	+25.1%
Total across all sectors	**10,212.6 (7,564.9)**	**7,711.8 (5,712.4)**	**8,646.3 (6,404.7)**	**9,836.2 (7,286.1)**	**12,624.8 (9,351.7)**	**+28.4%**

**Investment in major sectors, January-September (Amounts in KRW billion, with USD million in parentheses)*

Sector	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
ICT manufacturing	6.8%	12.0%	10.1%	9.8%	12.6%
ICT services	28.1%	19.5%	25.8%	19.4%	19.9%
Electrical equipment, machinery and equipment	8.2%	14.1%	15.7%	14.9%	17.8%
Biotechnology and healthcare	15.7%	15.4%	15.8%	17.4%	15.2%
Chemicals and materials	8.0%	8.6%	8.2%	8.2%	7.9%

**Share of total investment by sector*

According to investment data provider Preqin, global venture investment totaled USD USD 515 billion in the first half of 2026, up 191% from a year earlier. Investment slowed in the third quarter, although AI continued to attract substantial funding.

AI nevertheless accounted for USD 91 billion, or 54%, of the USD 169 billion invested globally in the third quarter. The average investment per deal reached USD 63 million, more than twice the five-year average of USD 30 million.

Investment in Early-Stage Companies Rises 47.6%

Investment increased in both younger and more established businesses. Companies operating for seven years or less received KRW 5.84 trillion (USD 4.33 billion), up 28.1%, while those operating for more than seven years received KRW 6.78 trillion (USD 5.02 billion), up 28.6%.

Within the younger group, companies no more than three years old attracted KRW 2.55 trillion (USD 1.89 billion),

an increase of 47.6%. This outpaced overall investment growth, reflecting large funding rounds for early-stage AI, robotics and semiconductor businesses that require substantial capital.

The formation of early-stage funds backed by the Korea Fund of Funds accelerated in the third quarter. MSS expects these funds to help increase investment in young companies.

Company age / measure	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Year-on-year change
Seven years or less: total investment	6,264.1 (4,640.1)	4,099.1 (3,036.4)	4,003.6 (2,965.6)	4,563.9 (3,380.7)	5,844.6 (4,329.3)	+28.1%
Seven years or less: average per company	2.70 (2.00)	2.15 (1.59)	2.01 (1.49)	2.57 (1.90)	3.21 (2.38)	+25.0%
Of which, three years or less: total investment	2,750.2 (2,037.2)	2,075.9 (1,537.7)	1,570.9 (1,163.6)	1,725.9 (1,278.4)	2,547.6 (1,887.1)	+47.6%
Of which, three years or less: average per company	2.21 (1.64)	1.91 (1.41)	1.49 (1.10)	2.03 (1.50)	2.62 (1.94)	+29.0%
More than seven years: total investment	3,948.5 (2,924.8)	3,612.7 (2,676.1)	4,642.7 (3,439.0)	5,272.3 (3,905.4)	6,780.2 (5,022.4)	+28.6%
More than seven years: average per company	4.42 (3.27)	3.19 (2.36)	3.08 (2.28)	3.61 (2.67)	4.12 (3.05)	+14.2%
All companies: total investment	**10,212.6 (7,564.9)**	**7,711.8 (5,712.4)**	**8,646.3 (6,404.7)**	**9,836.2 (7,286.1)**	**12,624.8 (9,351.7)**	**+28.4%**
All companies: average per company	**3.22 (2.39)**	**2.57 (1.90)**	**2.51 (1.86)**	**3.10 (2.30)**	**3.70 (2.74)**	**+19.2%**

**Investment by company age, January-September (Amounts in KRW billion, with USD million in parentheses)*

Venture Fundraising Reaches KRW 13 Trillion (USD 9.63 Billion)

New venture funds raised KRW 12.9971 trillion (USD 9.63 billion) in the first nine months of 2026, up 29.7% from a year earlier. This surpassed the previous January-September record of KRW 12.7465 trillion (USD 9.44 billion), set in 2022.

MSS attributed the increase to government measures encouraging investment in growth businesses and stronger commitments from private investors.

Banks and other financial institutions committed KRW 3.95 trillion (USD 2.93 billion), approximately KRW 1.3 trillion (USD 963 million) more than a year earlier. The ministry said regulatory changes had helped encourage these commitments, including requirements for large securities firms to supply capital to growth businesses and lower risk weights for banks' investments in venture funds.

Nonfinancial companies committed KRW 3.48 trillion (USD 2.58 billion), an increase of more than KRW 1 trillion (USD 741 million). MSS said this appeared to reflect greater strategic investment by companies seeking to expand into new business areas.

Commitments from government-backed financing sources rose 53.1% to KRW 2.55 trillion (USD 1.89 billion). These included KRW 1.1205 trillion (USD 830 million) from the Korea Fund of Funds and KRW 752.5 billion (USD 557.4 million) from Korea Growth Investment. MSS said this public backing helped attract additional private capital to the venture market.

Source	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Year-on-year change
Government-backed financing	1,989.9 (1,474.0)	1,947.6 (1,442.7)	1,178.4 (872.9)	1,997.4 (1,479.6)	1,666.7 (1,234.6)	2,552.2 (1,890.5)	+53.1%
Private sector	9,122.2 (6,757.2)	10,798.9 (7,999.2)	7,383.2 (5,469.0)	6,303.1 (4,669.0)	8,350.5 (6,185.6)	10,444.8 (7,736.9)	+25.1%
Of which, financial institutions	2,713.1 (2,009.7)	3,842.0 (2,845.9)	2,954.4 (2,188.4)	2,285.1 (1,692.7)	2,667.4 (1,975.9)	3,952.7 (2,927.9)	+48.2%
Of which, nonfinancial companies	2,645.4 (1,959.6)	2,766.4 (2,049.2)	1,832.4 (1,357.3)	1,643.0 (1,217.0)	2,469.7 (1,829.4)	3,478.8 (2,576.9)	+40.9%
Total	**11,112.2 (8,231.3)**	**12,746.5 (9,441.9)**	**8,561.6 (6,341.9)**	**8,300.5 (6,148.5)**	**10,017.2 (7,420.1)**	**12,997.1 (9,627.5)**	**+29.7%**

**Capital raised by new venture funds, January-September (Amounts in KRW billion, with USD million in parentheses)*

Source	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Government-backed financing	17.9%	15.3%	13.8%	24.1%	16.6%	19.6%
Private sector	82.1%	84.7%	86.2%	75.9%	83.4%	80.4%
Of which, financial institutions	24.4%	30.1%	34.5%	27.5%	26.6%	30.4%
Of which, nonfinancial companies	23.8%	21.7%	21.4%	19.8%	24.7%	26.8%

*Share of total fundraising by source

Investment Outside the Seoul Metropolitan Area Grows 66.7%

The regional figures cover only venture capital firms and venture investment funds and therefore are not directly comparable with the broader national totals above.

On this basis, investment in the Seoul metropolitan area rose 26.0% to KRW 4.31 trillion (USD 3.19 billion). Large funding rounds for companies in AI semiconductors, biotechnology and healthcare in Gyeonggi Province helped drive the increase.

Investment outside the metropolitan area increased 66.7% to KRW 1.52 trillion (USD 1.13 billion).

Daejeon attracted KRW 580.2 billion (USD 429.8 million), up 72.9% as investment grew in robotics and next-generation energy businesses around the Daedeok research and development district.

Busan received KRW 197.8 billion (USD 146.5 million), an increase of 140.6%. Biotechnology and healthcare businesses, including drug developers and medical device companies, helped drive that growth.

Region	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Year-on-year change
Seoul metropolitan area	4,006.3 (2,967.6)	2,551.4 (1,889.9)	3,238.4 (2,398.8)	3,419.9 (2,533.3)	4,308.0 (3,191.1)	+26.0%
Of which, Gyeonggi Province	949.7 (703.5)	704.8 (522.1)	923.3 (683.9)	1,088.2 (806.1)	1,702.8 (1,261.3)	+56.5%
Outside the metropolitan area	918.6 (680.4)	828.7 (613.9)	1,001.3 (741.7)	911.7 (675.3)	1,519.9 (1,125.9)	+66.7%
Of which, Busan	102.7 (76.1)	90.0 (66.7)	162.7 (120.5)	82.2 (60.9)	197.8 (146.5)	+140.6%
Of which, Daejeon	281.1 (208.2)	239.2 (177.2)	267.0 (197.8)	335.6 (248.6)	580.2 (429.8)	+72.9%
Overall total reported in the source	**5,437.2 (4,027.6)**	**3,719.6 (2,755.3)**	**4,694.0 (3,477.0)**	**4,784.5 (3,544.1)**	**6,441.7 (4,771.6)**	**+34.6%**

**Investment by selected region, January-September (Amounts in KRW billion, with USD million in parentheses. Figures cover venture capital firms and venture investment funds only.)*

"Record levels of both venture investment and fundraising demonstrate the growth and potential of Korea's venture sector," Minister Lee Soyoung said.

"We will strengthen the Korea Fund of Funds' role in attracting private investment and continue working to expand the capital available to promising ventures and startups."

※USD equivalents are approximate and calculated at USD 1 = KRW 1,350, using the original, unrounded KRW figures.

For more news and updates on Korea's SME and startup policies, follow the Ministry's official **LinkedIn** page:
https://www.linkedin.com/company/mss1357