

# 2022 Nebraska Venture Capital Report

2012-2021:

Analysis of the Past \$1 Billion Dollars of Nebraska Venture Capital





## Introduction

Fellow Nebraskans,

This report highlights the successes and critical impact that venture capital plays in technology-based economic development by financing science and technology companies in our state.

In the past decade, Nebraska has witnessed considerable growth and momentum. In 2021 alone we saw 40 executed deals totaling over \$300 million in venture capital. We are fortunate to live in a state where our community leaders and policymakers understand the importance of supporting and financing entrepreneurs.

The Nebraska Business Innovation Act, which was passed by the Nebraska Legislature in 2011 and is administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, has been a catalyst for entrepreneurs across the state. The various programs under the Nebraska Business Innovation Act demonstrate the vision our elected leaders and private sector partners had to grow this next generation of businesses.

Nebraska's science and technology entrepreneurs are vital in a world with rapid technological change. They often see the potential in novel innovations and newly developed intellectual properties. They cultivate ideas that challenge the status quo.

The past \$1 billion of venture capital financed new industry leaders in insurtech, fintech, manufacturing, healthcare, bioscience, agriculture technology and robotics. Nebraska's entrepreneurs and innovators are generating excitement in the state and attracting the attention of venture capital funds across the country. We are extremely optimistic for the future and believe Nebraska's entrepreneurs will continue to lead the growth of our economy.



Daniel Hoffman CEO Invest Nebraska



# About Invest Nebraska and The Business Innovation Act

Invest Nebraska was created to fulfill the aspirations of the Nebraska Venture Capital Forum Act, as introduced in 2001 on behalf of then Governor Mike Johanns and passed by the Nebraska Legislature. The founders were collaborators - representing Nebraska's private sector, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, the Nebraska State Chamber of Commerce and the University of Nebraska System.

Leaders in their own right, they envisioned an organization that would assist Nebraska's diverse entrepreneurs, collaborate with investors, and show flexibility in growing the state's economy.

In 2010, Invest Nebraska authored a comprehensive report for the Nebraska Legislature's Innovation and Entrepreneurial Task Force, which reviewed existing state programs, conducted ecosystem surveys, analyzed policies of other states, and made recommendations to improve Nebraska's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Many of those recommendations were included in the Business Innovation Act, which was introduced in 2011 on behalf of Governor Dave Heineman and passed unanimously by the Nebraska Legislature.

At the time, Nebraska ranked last in venture capital activity, with zero dollars invested in the state. Today Invest Nebraska has invested over \$30 million in seed capital in Nebraska-based startups, spurring the hundreds of millions of dollars highlighted in this report.

The Business Innovation Act, administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, is the catalyst for critical funding to early-stage businesses. A 2020 Economic Impact Analysis of the BIA, conducted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Business Research concluded that each \$1 of BIA funding:

- Generated \$5.75 of private investment funding
- Earned \$9.77 of revenue for participating businesses
- Produced an annual economic impact of \$17.23

"... The purpose of the Business Innovation Act is to encourage and support the transfer of Nebraska-based technology and innovation in rural and urban areas ..."

-Nebraska Revised Statute 81-12,154



Good Life. Great Opportunity.

**DEPT. OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** 



# **About The Data in This Report**

This report analyzes the past billion dollars of venture capital deployed in Nebraska based companies from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2021. The source of data for this report includes Pitchbook, CB Insights, Crunchbase, and Regulation D filings from the Securities and Exchange Commission. As defined by the National Venture Capital Association: VC firms are professional, institutional managers of risk capital that enable and support the most innovative and promising companies.

Venture Capital supports new ideas that: could not be financed with traditional bank financing; threaten established products and services in a corporation or industry; and typically require five to eight years (or longer) to reach maturity.

Venture capital funds make equity investments in a company whose stock is essentially illiquid and worthless until a company matures years down the road. Follow-on investment provides additional funding as the company grows.

PitchBook.



crunchbase

## **Additional Notes**

- The Series classification of a venture round is determined by the respective companies (ie Series Seed vs Series A)
- The earliest stage of funding is known as "pre-seed" funding, this stage typically refers to the period in which a company's founders are first getting their operations off the ground

Pre Seed Seed Stage Series A Series B+

First Stage for Venture Capital Backed Companies

 Individual investments made by angel investors are not included in this venture capital report, rather the definition of venture capital as defined by the NVCA is used.

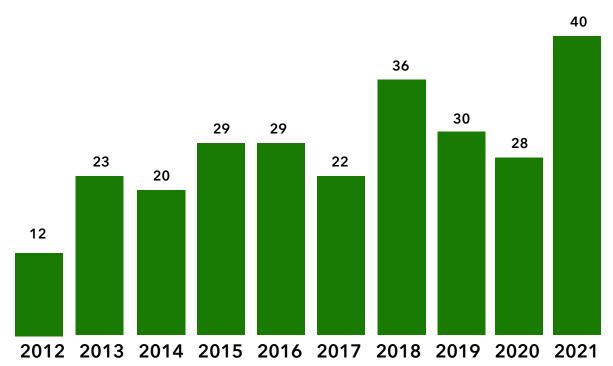


# Growth of Nebraska Attracting Venture Capital

Annual Amount of Venture Capital (Millions)



Number of Deals in a Calendar Year



# 138 Equity Investors in Nebraska **Startup Companies**

2012-2021

#### **NEBRASKA**

Burlington AqVenture **Dundee Venture Capital** 

Invest Nebraska

Kearney Area Ag Producers Alliance

Linseed Capital

Murphy Family Vision Fund

Nebraska Global

Nelnet

Proven Ventures

**Router Ventures** 

**Speedway Properties** 

**Treetop Ventures** 

#### **MIDWEST**

Advantage Capital

**Arthur Companies** Bluestem Capital Company

Five Elms Capital

Flyover Capital

Global Insurance Accelerator

Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance

Mii

iSelect Fund

Prairie Ventures

PrairieGold Venture Partners

Sightglass Capital Management

TechAccel

Voss Distributing

#### MOUNTAIN

FirstMile Ventures

**Proteus Capital Solutions** 

Splash Capital

#### **SOUTHEAST**

Ag Innovation Development Group

Bluewater Companies

Innova Memphis

NextEra Energy

Rex Health Ventures

#### **NEW ENGLAND**

Accomplice VC

Anzu Partners

**Emil Capital Partners** 

Fontinalis Partners

HighSage Ventures

Palm Ventures

Philip Morris Equity Partner

#### **GREAT LAKES:**

Azimuth Capital Management

Baird Capital

Croghan Investments

**CSA Partners** 

**Endeavour Vision** 

First Green Partners

gener8tor

Genesis Innovation Group

Hyde Park Venture Partners

Imperative Ventures

Lightbank

Lofty Ventures

Ludlow Ventures

New Stack Ventures

Northwestern Mutual Future Ventures

Open Prairie Ventures

Pearl River Venture Capital

S2G Ventures

Serra Ventures

Spiral Sun Ventures

The Food Foundry Accelerator

Two Bridges Capital Group

#### **MID-ATLANTIC**

Allen & Company

Burke Enterprises, Inc

Columbia University Endowment

Cornell Capital

Easton Capital Investment Group

Flying Point Industries

Great Oaks Venture Capital

IFG Asset Management

Insight Partners

Link Ventures

Merck Animal Health Ventures

MetaProp NYC

Middleland Capital

Morningside Venture Partners

Network Ventures

New Science Ventures

Onyx Holdings

Perry Creek Capital

**Revolution Ventures** 

RosePaul Ventures

Route 66 Ventures

SaaS Ventures

Sipadan Capital

The Pearl Fund Limited Partnership

Tull Financial Group

Warburg Pincus

#### **WEST COAST**

Biobrit

**Blueprint Equity** 

**Breakout Labs** 

Capricorn Investment Group

Clocktower Technology Ventures

Coinbase Ventures

**Emergent Ventures** 

Fiat Ventures

Foundation Capital

Frontier Ventures

G Ventures (VC)

**Greylock Partners** 

**IDEO** Futures

JMI Equity

Latterell Venture Partners

LAUNCH Accelerator

Launch Fund

Medical Technology Venture Partners

North Forty Ventures

Offline Ventures

Potrero Medical

Right Side Capital

Rock Health Silicon Valley Bank

Sure Ventures **TNT Ventures** 

Tribe Capital

West Partners

WndrCo

Y Combinator

#### SOUTH

Barshop Ventures

Bunge

Dallas Venture Partners

**Dreamit Ventures** 

Ehrenberg Chesler Investment Bankers

Elsewhere Partners

Green Park & Golf Ventures

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries

Scientific Health Development

#### INTERNATIONAL

5y Capital

**DSM Venturing** 

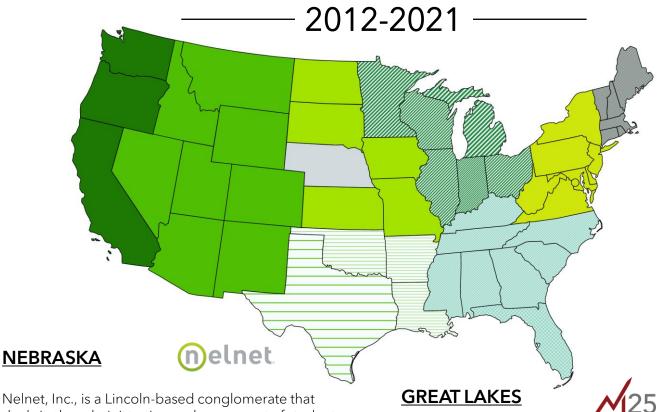
LYFE Capital

Sinopharm Capital

SK Group

Solvay Ventures

# Example Equity Investors in Nebraska Startup Companies



Nelnet, Inc., is a Lincoln-based conglomerate that deals in the administration and repayment of student loans and education financial services. Hudl is a notable Nebraska investment.

#### **MIDWEST**



Flyover Capital is a Kansas City based venture fund focused on high growth ventures outside of the traditional tech hubs. Opendorse is a notable Nebraska investment.

#### MOUNTAIN

## **FIRSTMILE**

First Miles Ventures is Colorado based venture fund. Retail Aware is a notable Nebraska investment.

#### **NEW ENGLAND**

LINK SVENTURES

Link Ventures is a Boston based venture fund dedicated to scaling early-stage internet companies. Breeze is a notable Nebraska investment.

#### **INTERNATIONAL**



Sinopharm Capital is a venture capital arm of Sinopharm Group focusing on medical and health fields. The firm is primarily based in Shanghai, China. Virtual Incision is a notable Nebraska investment. M25 is an early-stage venture firm based in Chicago, investing solely in companies headquartered in the Midwest. Workshop is a notable Nebraska investment.

#### **SOUTHEAST**



Innova's mission is to enable high-growth companies and jobs in the healthcare, technology and AgTech fields by providing seed capital. GrainWeevil is a notable Nebraska investment.

#### **SOUTH**



Elsewhere Partner is an Austin based venture fund focused on B2B companies in high-growth stages OpsCompass is a notable Nebraska investment.

#### **MID-ATLANTIC**



SaaS Ventures is a Washington DC based venture fund focused on enterprise tech. BasicBlock is a notable Nebraska investment.

### **WEST COAST**

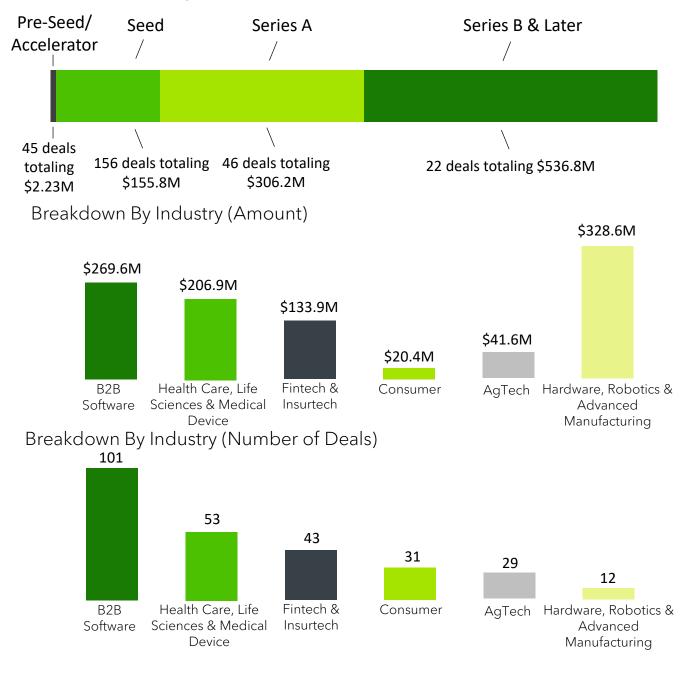
greylockpartners.

Greylock Partners is a Silicon Valley based venture fund. Pinata is a notable Nebraska investment.



# The Past One Billion Dollars of Venture Capital in Nebraska Startups

Breakdown By Stage of Investment





Direct-to-Consumer business models, products, or consumer facing software

# Hardware, Robotics & Advanced Manufacturing

Innovations in Internet-of-Things, sensors, wearables and automation

#### AgTech

Farm-to-Fork technology improving yield, efficiency and profitability

# B2B Software and other Services

Cloud-based software and supporting services sold to enterprises

# Healthcare, Life Science & Medical Device

Digital health, biotechnology, and novel surgical equipment

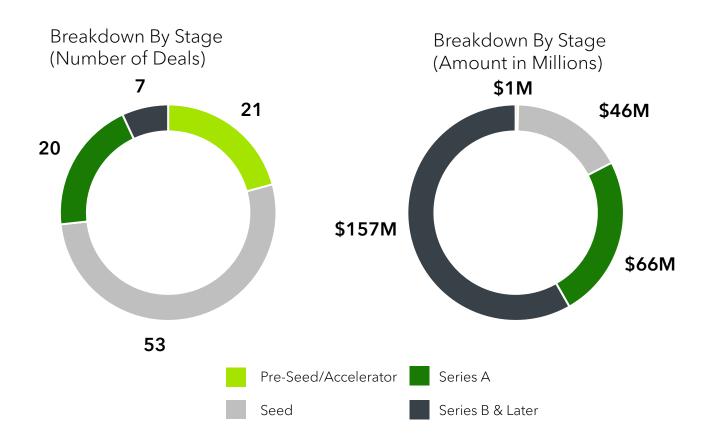
## Fintech & Insurtech

Innovations in banking, payments, crypto-currencies and novel insurance business models



## Nebraska B2B Software Deals

Examples of deals in this sector include: Hudl, Company Cam, OpsCompass, HTI Labs, Travefy and MultiMechanics



### **Spotlight Deal:**

Flywheel Series A (2016) Omaha, Nebraska



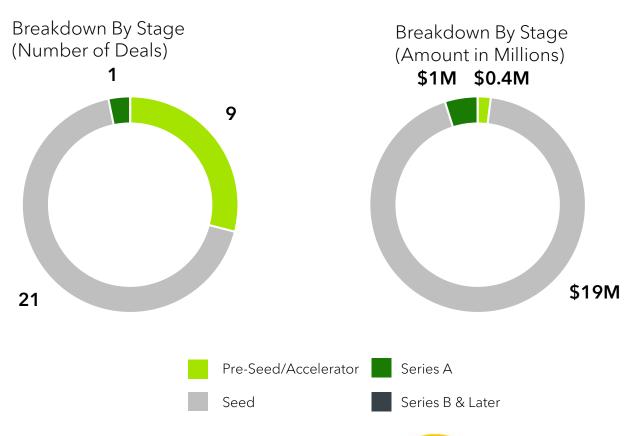
Flywheel raised a Series A venture round led by Five Elms Capital in the spring of 2016. The company's hosting platform offers nightly backups and a simple dashboard to manage everything as well as allows users to collaborate and create staging sites, enabling clients to quickly build, launch and manage websites. Flywheel was later acquired by WP Engine in 2019.





## Nebraska Consumer Deals

Examples of deals in this sector include: Certified Cell, FaithBox, Powderhook, and SwishBoom.



### **Spotlight Deal:**

Pacha Soap Series A (2017) Hastings, Nebraska

Pacha Soap raised a Series A round led by Spiral Sun Ventures in the spring of 2017. Pacha is the producer and manufacturer of natural artisan bath products designed to promote health, hygiene and well-being. The company offers environmentally sustainable goods that are free from parabens and toxic chemicals, enabling customers to stay clean and germ-free in an eco-friendly manner.

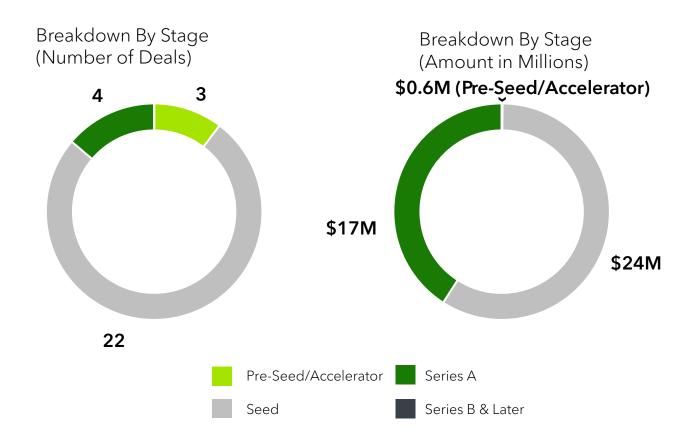






# Nebraska AgTech Deals

Examples of deals in this sector include: CropMetrics, MatMa Corp, Quantified Ag, and Realm Five



### Spotlight Deal:

Birds Eye Robotics Series Seed (2021) Herman, Nebraska

Birds Eye Robotics raised a Series Seed of funding led by Invest Nebraska with support from InnovaMemphis, Burlington AgVenture, Iowa Ag Startup Engine and other participants. Birds Eye Robotics is the developer of an autonomous robotic solution to improve overall animal welfare while solving labor scarcity for broiler barn operations.

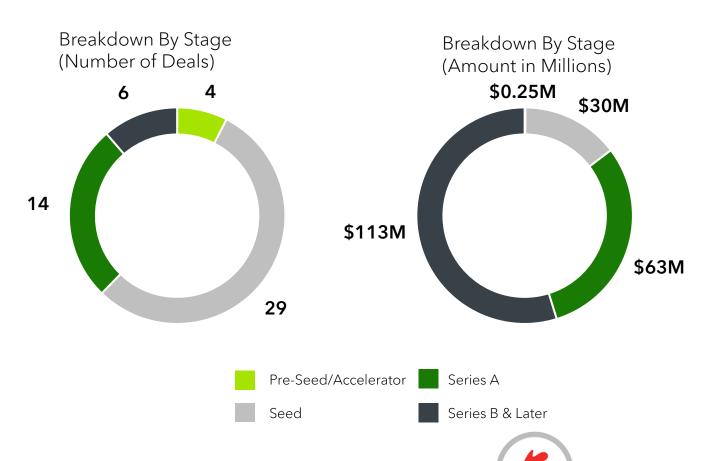






# Nebraska Healthcare, Life Sciences and Medical Device Deals

Examples of deals in this sector include: Centese, H3C, MyVitalz, Neurocarrus, Nobl and Ocuvera



### **Spotlight Deal:**

LifeLoop Series Seed (2016) Omaha, Nebraska

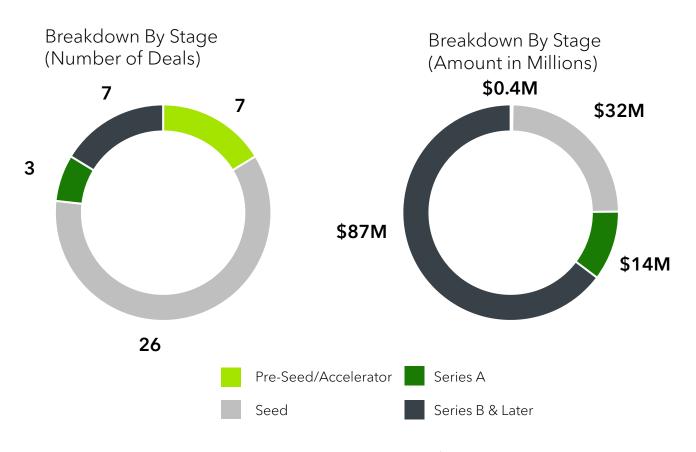
LifeLoop raised a Series Seed round of funding from Invest Nebraska, Revolution Ventures and Nelnet. LifeLoop develops a lifestyle management platform designed to improve resident engagement and overall experiences of living in senior living communities. The company's platform tracks residents' engagement, connects families, residents and staff and allows staff to chart resident attendance at community events, capture and share photos.





## Nebraska Fintech and Insurtech Deals

Examples of deals in this sector include: Breeze, Bumper, FTNI and Logica



### **Spotlight Deal:**

D3 Banking Later Stage Round (2014) Omaha. Nebraska

D3 Banking raised a later stage growth round led by Route 66 Ventures. The company develops SaaS and cloud-based banking and financial management software to offer a better digital future. The platform provides a consistent, intuitive user experience in a highly configurable environment that allows banks and credit unions to leverage their brand. D3 was acquired by NCR Corporation in 2019.

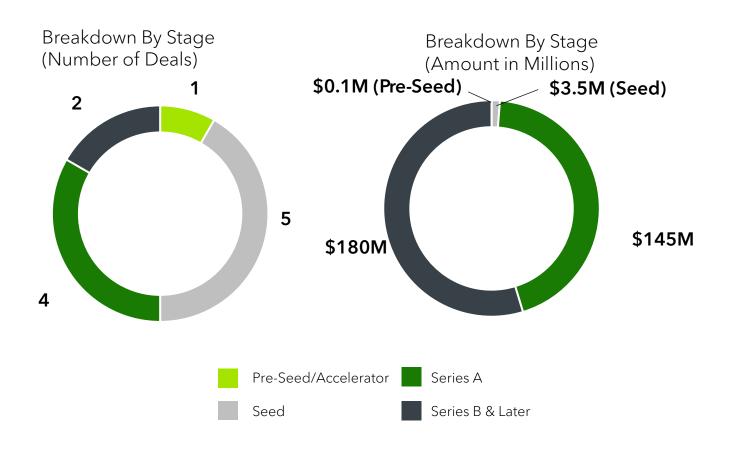






# Nebraska Hardware, Robotics and Advanced Manufacturing Deals

Examples of deals in this sector include: Drone Amplified, Capstone Technologies, and Tethod3D.



### **Spotlight Deal:**

Monolith Series A Round (2018) Lincoln, Nebraska

Monolith Materials raised a Series A round of funding from Cornell Capital and Warburg Pincus. Monolith is developing a proprietary process that helps to convert natural gas to carbon black in a cost-competitive and environmentally advantaged manner which is then used in tires and industrial rubber products. In 2021 the company announced it would hire an additional 200 new positions in Nebraska.







# Attracting Out of State Capital for Local Impact

Since its first investment in 2012, Invest Nebraska has partnered with many of the institutional investors listed in this report to co-invest and lead the rounds of funding for Nebraska high growth companies. Invest Nebraska portfolio companies have created over 930 high-wage jobs across the state. Some of the most common positions created by these companies include: Software Engineer, Robotics Engineer, Controller, Marketing Manager, Marketing and Growth Specialist, and Front-End Developer.

To explore work opportunities at some of the fastest growing companies in Nebraska visit <u>iobs.investnebraska.com</u>

