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**ROK government announces “Comprehensive
Start-up·Venture Ecosystem Index” for the first time**

- “Greatest Number” of unicorn companies with 15 companies -

- The ROK government released for the first time the “Comprehensive Start-up·Venture Ecosystem Index” that can summarize the overall ecosystem of start-up and venture companies, which are key players in innovative growth
 - The 2020 comprehensive index recorded 284.7 of such companies, a number that is 2.8 times greater than the base year (2010), showing that the Korean start-up and venture ecosystem has been growing steadily for the past 10 years
- As of July 19, 2021, the number of unicorn companies in Korea, which serves as evidence of the scale-up of the start-up and venture ecosystem, went up to 15, the highest number in history
 - New unicorn companies this year include Jikbang, Dunamu, and Kurly

Korea's start-up and venture ecosystem has been steadily growing for the past 10 years, and has become a growth pillar of the Korean economy.

The Ministry of SMEs and Start-ups (Minister Kwon Chil-seung, hereafter referred to as “MSS”) reported for the first time (July 20th) the “Comprehensive

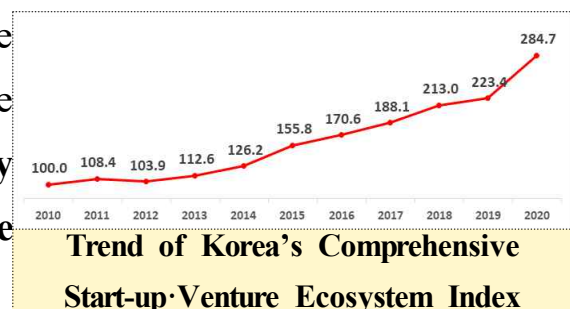
Start-up·Venture Ecosystem Index,” a quantified index used to understand the trend of the start-up and venture industry and ecosystem.

Aside from the start-up and venture companies that lead Korea’s innovative growth, the index has also included investors and the government in its analysis to quantify the entire start-up and venture ecosystem in Korea. It serves to be used as an indicator for developing policies that are needed to ensure the sustainable growth of the ecosystem.

Summary and Major Findings of Korea’s Comprehensive Start-up·Venture Ecosystem Index

The comprehensive index consists of the corporate, investment, and government indices focused on the start-up and venture companies, investors, and the government, which are the three pillars of the ecosystem. Each index was calculated individually through 2020 with 2010 as the base year according to the composite stock price index.

According to the index, the comprehensive value has continuously increased for the past 10 years since 2010. **It increased by 2.8 times in 2020 compared to the base year (2010) to 284.7.**



Specifically, the investment index showed a greatest increase (approximately by four times compared to that of 2010), leading the overall growth of the entire ecosystem.

<Comprehensive Start-up·Venture Ecosystem Index of Korea from 2010 to 2020>

Classification	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	100.0	108.4	103.9	112.6	126.2	155.8	170.6	188.1	213.0	223.4	284.7
Corporate Index	100.0	106.1	108.2	108.8	112.9	116.3	121.3	123.4	128.2	131.7	136.8
Investment Index	100.0	111.2	99.1	99.4	130.0	177.6	194.5	217.2	266.1	282.1	395.3
Government Index	100.0	107.4	105.0	146.5	145.2	191.3	221.6	259.2	276.2	289.3	359.2

Number of unicorn companies, a growth indicator of Korea’s innovative venture companies, reaches record high

With the support from the continuous scale-up of Korea’s start-up·venture ecosystem, the number of unicorn companies in Korea has **reached a record high to 15 as of July 19th.**

As of last year, there were 13 unicorn companies in Korea. Although three more including Kurly were added to the list this year, the number ultimately became 15 as Coupang was listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

The 15 Korean unicorn companies consist of the 11 companies listed on “CB Insights” that is commonly cited when making global comparisons, as well as four companies identified by the MSS via the investment sector and domestic and foreign media.

<Number of unicorn companies listed on major global media (As of July 19, 2021, Unit: Number of companies, %)>

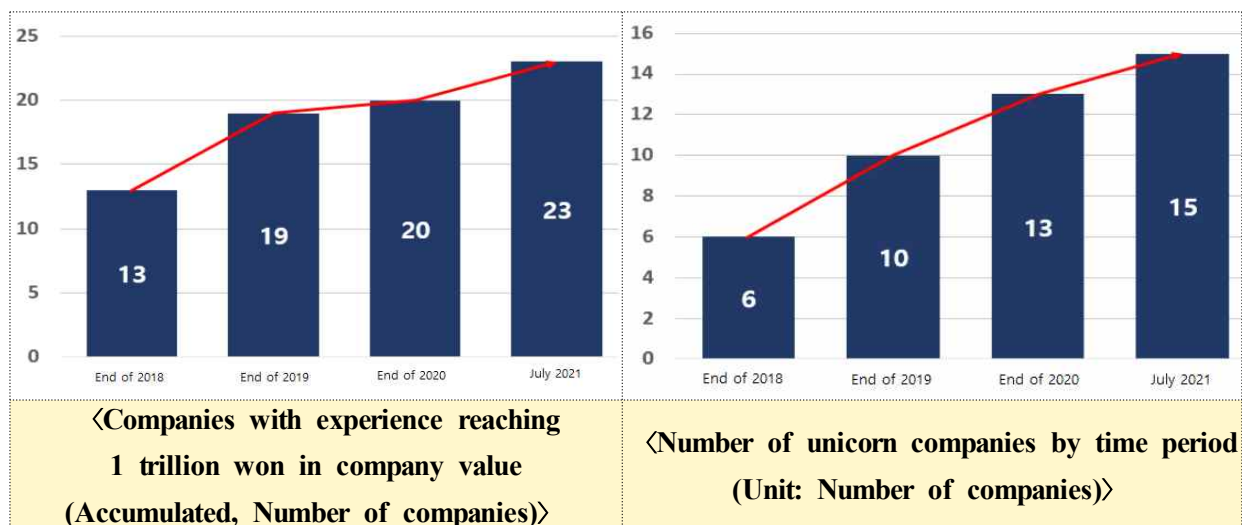
Classification	U.S. Media			Chinese Media
	CB Insights	Crunchbase	Wall Street Journal	Hurun
Total (Percentage)	762 (100.0)	916 (100.0)	150 (100.0)	586 (100.0)
Korean Companies (Percentage)	11 (1.4)	14 (1.5)	3 (2.0)	11 (1.9)

※ The unicorn company status may vary by factors including media and the point in time of survey

New unicorn companies this year include **Jikbang, Dunamu, and Kurly**. All are fast-growing companies that have become market leaders in the fields of PropTech, blockchain-based FinTech, and online fresh food deliveries.

* PropTech, a combination of “Property” and “Technology,” refers to an innovative technology real estate service that incorporates big data, IT, and AI

Including the newly identified unicorn companies, there was a total of 23 unlisted companies that have experience reaching 1 trillion won in company value as of the survey point in time of 2021 (July 19th).



As shown in the “Comprehensive Start-up·Venture Ecosystem Index,” the rise of unicorn companies in Korea is excellent evidence of the growth of the Korean start-up·venture ecosystem as well as the shift from the paradigm of an economic structure focused heavily on large companies to one that is focused more on venture and start-up companies.

The MSS will continue to revise current systems related to venture and start-up companies such as stock options, in order to create an ecosystem where more tech-based start-ups can become unicorn companies.