Startup Trend Report 2018



This report is co-published by Open Survey, a mobile research platform, and Startup Alliance, an non-profit organization sponsored by Naver. The scope of work covered by this report is as follows.

 \checkmark Open Survey : Designed this project, carried out the analysis , and drafted the report

✓ Startup Alliance : Supervised the survey, conducted the survey of founders, and reviewed the final report



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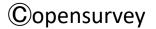
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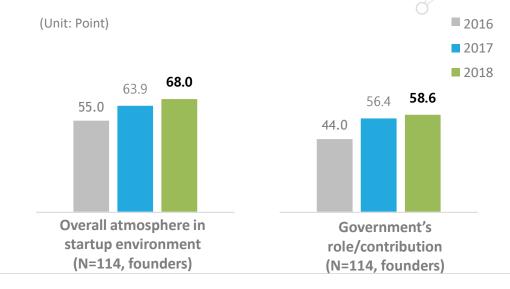




A. Survey Abstract

Title	Startup Trend Report 2018		
Purpose	To understand the perception and reality of those who are participating in South Korea's startup scene, with a focus on the IT/knowledge service industry		
	1) 114 founders		
	- Industry : information technology, knowledge service		
	- Subjects : founders/co-founders (CEO/executive/department head levels and up)		
	- Experience level: 21 people within a year of founding, 47 people within 1-3 years, 46 people with more than 3 years of running startups		
Survey	2) 250 current employees at IT/knowledge service startups		
Subjects	- Subjects : current employees below the CEO level		
	3) 500 employees of large corporations		
	- Affiliation : Those working for the top 10 corporations (Samsung, Hyundai Motors, SK, LG, Lotte, Hyundai Heavy Industries, GS, Hanjin, Hanwha, POSCO)		
	- Subjects : employees to executives		
	4) 200 college seniors	Total 1,064	
Survey Period	September 17 - September 28, 2018		





Organizations that startups hope to rely on or receive investment from (N=114, founders)

	For office space/ support	Early stage investment	VC investment
1st	 D2 startup factory (Naver) 	 BonAngels Ventures Partners 	Altos Ventures
2nd	 Contents Korea Lab Campus Seoul (Google) 		Softbank Ventures
3rd		Primer	Korea Investment Partners

Partners

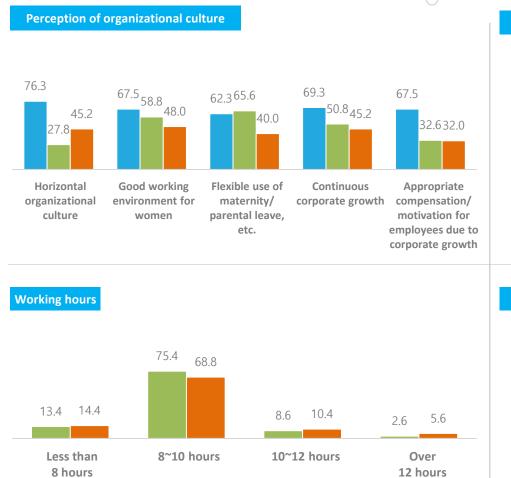
Urgent improvements in startups (N=114, founders)

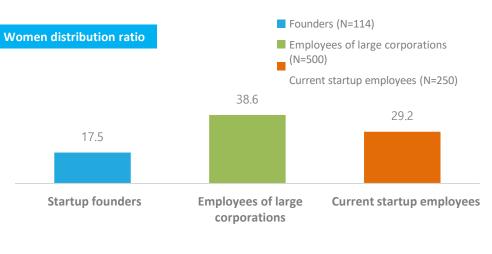
	2016	2017	2018
1st	Obtaining initial capital / increasing investment (47.7%)	Deregulation (changing the Electronic Commerce Act, etc.) (43.1%)	Deregulation (changing the Electronic Commerce Act, etc.) (53.5%)
2nd	Deregulation (changing the Electronic Commerce Act, etc.) (38.6%)	Obtaining initial capital / increasing investment (42.2%)	Obtaining initial capital / increasing investment (34.2%)
3rd	Improving society- wide perception of startups (25.0%)	Encouraging M&A/IPOs (32.8%)	Securing excellent talents (28.9%)

Countries one most hopes to expand (N=83, founders)

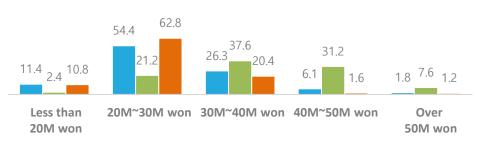
	2016	2017	2018
1st	China	SE Asia	U.S.
2nd	SE Asia	U.S.	SE Asia
3rd	U.S.	China	China, Japan













Expected competence of founders

	Founders (N=114)	Employees of large corporations (N=500)	College seniors (N=200)	Current startup employees (N=250)
1	Initiative	Creativity	Creativity	Professionalism
2	Endurance	Initiative	Determination	Initiative
3	Professionalism	Professionalism	Trendy	Determination

Fastest growing startups

	Founders (N=114)	Employees of large corporations (N=500)	College seniors (N=200)	Current startup employees (N=250)
1	Viva Republica (Toss)	Woowa Brothers (Baedal Minjok)	Woowa Brothers (Baedal Minjok)	Woowa Brothers (Baedal Minjok)
2	Woowa Brothers (Baedal Minjok)	Coupang	Coupang	Kakao
3	Market Kurly	Kakao	Socar	IT industry

Image of startups

	Employees of large corporations (N=500)	College seniors (N=200)
1	Innovative/creative	Innovative/creative
2	Young/fresh	Young/fresh
3	Lively/energetic	Unstable/uncertain

Startup entrepreneur one wants to know how to work

	Founders (N=114)	Employees of large corporations (N=500)	College seniors (N=200)	Current startup employees (N=250)
1	Woowa Brothers (Baedal Minjok)	Woowa Brothers (Baedal Minjok)	Woowa Brothers (Baedal Minjok)	Woowa Brothers (Baedal Minjok)
2	Viva Republica (Toss)	Coupang	Coupang	Kakao
3	Google	Kakao	Socar	Viva Republica (Toss) 6





#Offering office space and initial direct investment are the most useful measures
#Curious of other founders' successful mechanism/experience
#Explaining the value of business model is most challenging
#Initiative and endurance are the core competences of founders
#3 people are ideal for starting a business

✓ The overall mood within the startup ecosystem improved remarkably from last year (64 points) to approximately 68 points.

- The more positive perception came as the public perception of the industry and individual entrepreneurs' abilities improved. The perception that next year's atmosphere will improve (approximately 50.0%) also showed a year-on-year increase.
- The government's role and contribution scored 58.6 points, showing a 2-point increase from last year (56.4 points). Deregulation was considered the most urgent task. The respondents agreed that 'deregulations must be practiced unless it is stringent issue' in order to vitalize the industry.
- **72.8%** was positively considering overseas expansion with an increase from last year. Interest in the U.S and SE Asia in particular showed growth.
- KISED (Korea Institute of Startup & Entrepreneurship Development), MSS (Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and Startups) and SBA (Seoul Business Agency) were selected as the government agency most active in its support for domestic startup activities. Naver and Kakao were selected as the corporation most supportive of domestic startups.
- ✓ Most startups seem to be stayed in the angel investment phase (59.6%), and 'explaining the value of business model,' 'emphasis on revenue/profit' and 'lack of understanding in business direction' were found to be most challenging in the stage of investment.
- Startups' organizational environment was perceived positive with 'horizontal culture,' 'good working environment for women,' and 'appropriate compensation due to continuous corporate growth.' Founders were greatly positive to believe their companies provide 'horizontal culture' and 'appropriate compensation due to continuous corporate growth' compared to current employees of startups.





#A quick and flexible decision-making structure is important#Horizontal organizational culture#Slack and Kakao are for daily use#Professionalism and initiative are the expected competences of founder

Current startup employees' thoughts

- ✓ 48.8% was satisfied with the startup lifestyle, showing a 1.2% decrease from last year. Two big factors for the satisfaction were 'a quick and flexible decision-making structure' and 'organizational culture.'
- Organizational environment was perceived positive with 'horizontal culture.' Nonetheless, it was slightly negative in terms of 'flexible use of maternity/parental leave' and 'good working environment for women' compared to employees of large corporations. It also showed an negative perception with 'corporate growth' and 'appropriate compensation' compared to founders. In fact, they have longer working hours with less salary than employees of large corporations.
- ✓ 33.2% would recommend to take a job at a startup, especially at an early stage investment phase. 32.0% of current startup employees would recommend their own company to acquaintances (a decrease of 8.0% from last year). The reasons given were 'growth potential,' 'opportunity to develop new skills' and 'benefits/flexible hours.'
- The definition of startup was positive such as 'starting company,' and company with 'technology/idea,' 'challenge,' 'potential,' 'growth,' 'speediness.'
- Kakao Talk (54.8%) > Slack (14.8%) are the collaboration tools that are mainly used by current startup employees. More than a double of respondents (32.4%) said the collaborations tool increased the work efficiency than those who believe it was not helpful (12.8%).
- ✓ 'Professionalism' was found to be the most expected competence of founder, followed by 'initiative.'

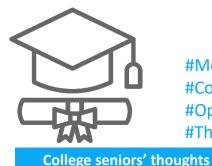




Thoughts of employees at large corporations

- ✓ The positive perception of both the idea of founding a startup and the idea of changing to a startup job showed a decrease. Such pessimism appears to have been influenced by recent economic downturn.
- ✓ Organizational environment was 'not horizontal,' however, it was perceived positive with 'flexible use of maternity/parental leave.'
 The starting salary is higher than that of startups and the working hours are generally within 8~10 hours.
- Startups were perceived as 'innovative/creative' and 'young/fresh' images. They were unlikely to be associated with negative images such as 'unstable/uncertain' and 'reckless/risky.'
- ✓ 'Creativity' was the most expected competence of founder, followed by 'initiative'.
- Most of employees of large corporations failed to find someone to ask for advice about their work other than colleagues. It appears that they seek advice from acquaintances such as 'friends/classmates' and 'family/spouse/parents' rather than expertise in the industry.





#More challenging to find a job and start a business than last year #Contents/media industry if founding a startup #Open to working at startups to enjoy rapid growth and achievement #The most expected competences of founder is creativity!

The percentage of college seniors who considered working for or founding a startup was smaller that that of employees of large corporations. Also, they had less positive views of the startup scene than in the year before and the same holds for employees of large corporations.

- ✓ 23.0% was actively seeking employment at startups with an increase of 3.5% from last year. 'Rapid growth' and 'a sense of mission from doing something valuable' were cited as reasons for positive views while 'lack of job security' was a major reason against working for startups.
- ✓ Startups were perceived as 'innovative/creative' and 'young/fresh' images. College seniors were more likely to perceive startups as 'unstable/uncertain' images than employees of large corporations.
- Among the college seniors who think about founding a startup, the industry of contents/media (23.2%) > manufacturing (14.3%) > social ventures (10.7%) were preferred in that order. The reasons for being open to working at startups were 'a sense of achievement from rapid growth' and 'a sense of mission from doing something valuable.'
- ✓ Like employees of large corporations, college seniors chose 'creativity' as the most expected competence of founder.

Startup Trend Report 2018





1) Founders

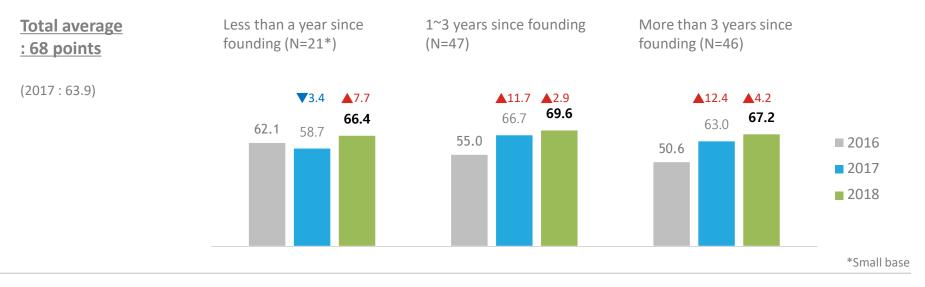
- Survey size: 114
- Industry: information technology, knowledge service
- Subjects: founders/co-founders (CEO/executive/department head levels or above)
- Experience level: 21 people within a year of founding their companies, 47 people who founded them within 1-3 years, 46 people with 3+ years of experience after founding startups



The mood within the industry has improved compared to last year; most positive for startups within 1~3 years since founding.

The overall average was 68.0 points, showing an increase from the previous year's response, measured at 63.9 points (Y/Y+4.1). The optimism was especially strong among those who were within 1~3 years after launching their startups (69.6), and those who have been in existence for less than a year with a sizeable year-on-year increase (Y/Y+7.7).

It shows that all founders regardless of their experience level feel the similar atmosphere of startup ecosystem.



Q. How would you grade the recent atmosphere of the start-up ecosystem out of 100?



Improvement in society-wide perception has the most positive impact on the mood within the startup ecosystem.

47.7% responded the mood has improved compared to the previous year, at an increase of 8.9% from the previous year. The positive views of the mood within the startup ecosystem are constantly increased since 2016.

The main reason for optimism was 'improvement in society-wide perception'. The main reason for pessimism was 'lack of competence in founders'.

Optimistic mood we the startup ecosystem of th		$\longrightarrow \begin{array}{c} 2017 \\ 38.8\% \end{array} \xrightarrow{\bullet 8.9} \begin{array}{c} 2018 \\ 47.7\% \end{array}$
	Reasons for optimism (n=51)) 1 st Reasons for pessimism (n=17*) 1 st
1st	Improvement in society-wide perception	on (33.3%) Lack of competence in founders (Poor performance) (29.4%)
2nd	Success of government policies (27.	7.5%) Lukewarm support from venture capitals (17.6%)
3rd	Improvement in abilities of founde (Outperformance) (21.6%)	ders Lack of mergers and acquisitions/initial public offerings (11.8%) Inadequate society-wide perception (11.8%) Failure of government policies (14.3%) *Small base

Q. Compared to one year ago, how do you think the mood within the startup ecosystem has changed overall?

Q. What is the reason for your optimism/pessimism? Please select the top two reasons for your view.



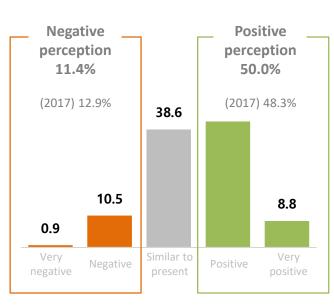
A big rise in the belief that the situation will improve even more next year.

The ratio of those expecting a more positive environment (50.0%) had a year-on-year increase (Y/Y +1.70%). Such optimism appears to have been influenced by reasons such as 'success of government policies' and 'improvement of society-wide perception.'



"The recent policy of the introduction of 52hour week seems to take an negative view of the culture of working long hours."

"Government support is just a show for their own achievement. Private investment companies take advantages of government funds."



- Success of government policies

"It's the right time to discuss the pros and cons of government policies since government aid has significantly increased and startup ecosystem has settled down. I expect for a positive change in the policies."

- Improvement of society-wide perception

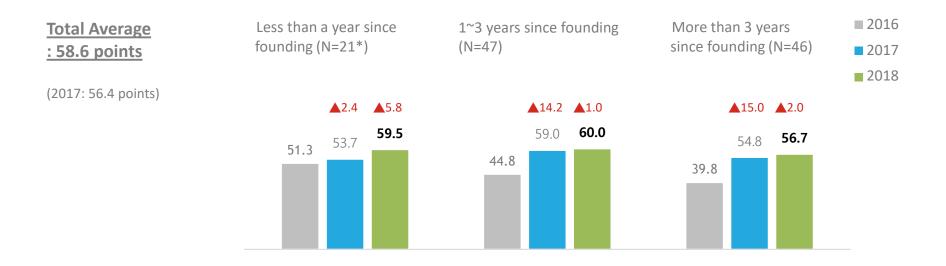
"All candidates used to prefer to work for a large corporations, but recently more of young people choose startups as their job."

Q. How do you think the mood in the startup ecosystem will change a year from now? Q. What is the reason for your positive/negative view? Please say it in detail.



Assessment of the government's role in the vitalization of the startup ecosystem: 58.6 points (Y/Y +2.2 points).

The assessment of government's role has become more positive (Y/Y + 2.2), like that of the mood within the startup ecosystem. The positive perception of the government support came from all entrepreneurs regardless of their experience level, however, the most positive perception came from entrepreneurs who were less than a year after starting their businesses at an increase of 5.8 points from the previous year.



*Small base

Q. How would you grade the government's role in vitalizing the start-up ecosystem when scoring it out of 100?



Founders believe deregulation is most urgent.

In 2018, startup founders identified 'deregulation' and 'obtaining initial capital/increasing investment' as the most urgent tasks for the development of the startup ecosystem like as 2017. Also, 'securing excellent talents' came next as important task for startup founders. Startup founders did not specify the areas to be regulated, however, they agreed that 'deregulations unless it is stringent issue' is required for the improvements of the startup ecosystem.

Urgent tasks for the improvement

			2017 (N=116)		2018 (N=114)
1st	Obtaining initial capital / increasing investment (47.7%)	1st	Deregulation (changing the Electronic Commerce Act, etc.) (43.1%)	1st	Deregulation (changing the Electronic Commerce Act, etc.) (53.5%)
2nd	Deregulation (changing the Electronic Commerce Act, etc.) (38.6%)	2nd	Obtaining initial capital / increasing investment (42.2%)	2nd	Obtaining initial capital / increasing investment (34.2%)
3rd	Improving society-wide perception of startups (25.0%)	3rd	Encouraging M&A/IPOs (32.8%)	3rd	Securing excellent talents (28.9%)

Areas to be deregulated

- Deregulations unless it is stringent issue

"Some regulations create an imbalance in power that it blocks the operation of services, impedes the economic growth and hardly leads to the creative economy; instead it advances large corporations or special concerns of groups to dominate the industry.

If regulations have become an obstacle to the market growth, they must be deregulated."

"Government needs to limit its involvement unless there are stringent issues for further innovation to be played in the market, thus, leading to a long-term growth of economy""

- Personal Information Protection Act

"Personal Information Protection Act controls a great amount of data compared to other countries, weakening Korean startups' competitiveness in the world market.

Q What two things need to be most urgently reformed for the current startup ecosystem to get better?

Q What part of government regulation related to your business should be mitigated?



Founders said that offering office space and initial direct investment would be the most useful measures the government can take to help startups.

'Offering office space' was considered the most helpful government measure for vitalizing the startup ecosystem. In addition, 'deregulation/reformed regulation' and 'expanded investment funds/various support' were widely perceived to be the most helpful policy among those the current governments pursuing.

	Helpful government measures for vitalization of the startup ecosystem	Expectations for additional government assistance		
1st	Offering office space (Center for Creative Economy & Innovation, etc.) (29.8%)	 Deregulation/reformed regulation "Role of the mediator who alleviates regulation in new business is important " "Deregulation; current government and public officials tend to overprotect existing business entities." "Realistic and rational improvement of previous regulation in new business must be made in 		
2nd	Initial direct investment (24.6%)	-Expanded investment funds/various support		
3rd	Wage subsidies (Reduction and exemption of income tax, etc.) (23.7%)	"Rather than direct support, expansion of indirect support, such as securing safety and procuring startup products, are required." "The most difficult time is early stage of startup. There are insufficient policies on fund in early stage of startup. Other than networking or training program"		

Q. What government policy was most helpful for vitalizing the startup ecosystem?

Q. What additional roles should the government play to vitalize the startup ecosystem?

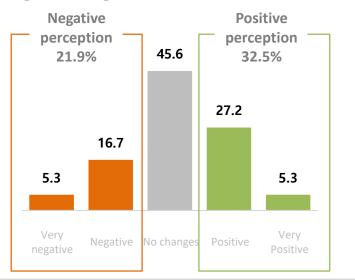


Since regime change, business confidence has remained the same or positive.

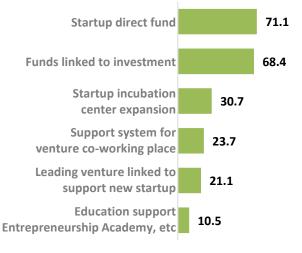
Since regime change, 45.6% said there was no changes in the business confidence from the previous regime. The perception of positive business confidence was 32.5% and negative business confidence was 21.9%.

Among the current government policies, 'startup direct fund' and 'funds linked to investment' were perceived to be the most helpful measures.

What do you notice in the business confidence since regime change?



Positive perception of current government policy (1+2+3 ranking)



Q. What do you notice in the business confidence since regime change?

Q. What is the most helpful government policy on venture ecosystem?



Three components of entrepreneurial success: Business planning/product development, experience in business, and raising capital.

Business planning and product development were seen as the most important elements of successfully founding a startup. This was seen as the most important factor for all founders regardless of their experience level.

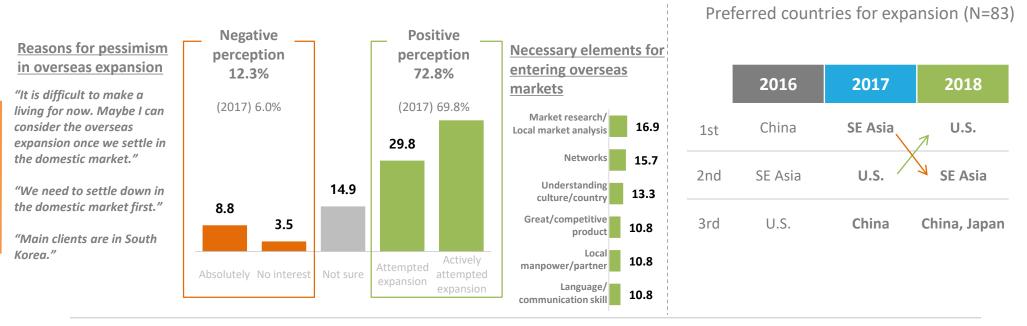
<u>Over</u>	all criteria	Business planning/product development 35.1%	>	Experience in business 17.5%	>	Raising capital 15.8%
		level: Less than 1 year n=21*, 1 st)	Experi	ence level: 1-3 years (n=47, 1 st)	Experie	ence level: Over 3 years (n=46, 1 st)
1st	Business plan	ning/product development (38.1%)	Business pl	anning/product development (31.9%)	Business p	planning/product development (37.0%)
2nd		ce in business (14.3%) ng capital (14.3%)	Experi	ence in business (19.1%)	Expe	rience in business (17.4%)
3rd			Ra	aising capital (17.0%)	F	Raising capital (15.2%)

Q. What do you think is the most important ability that determines an entrepreneur's success? Select the top three abilities you think are the most important.



Interest in overseas expansion increased, especially in the U.S and SE Asian markets.

Interest in overseas expansion increased by 3.0 points from the previous year to 72.8%; when expanding overseas, 'market research/local market analysis' were seen as the most important skills. In terms of region, there is a constantly high level of interest in the U.S. and SE Asia market.



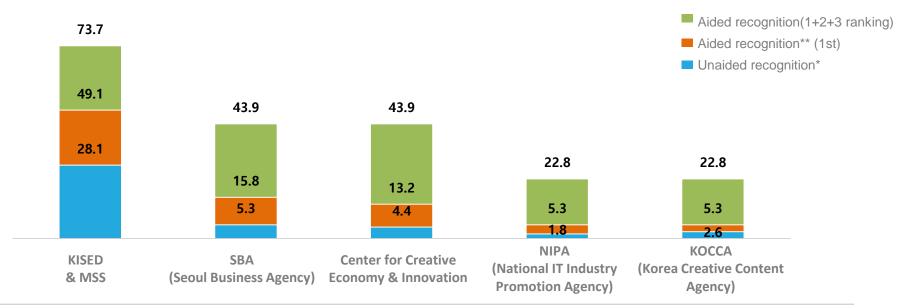
Q. Are you currently considering overseas expansion? Q. Why or why not are you considering overseas expansion?

Q. If so, what region/country are you considering? If you are considering several regions, pick the region that is the most central to your business plan.



Founders picked the KISED (Korea Institute of Startup & Entrepreneurship Development) and MSS (Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and Startups) as the most active government agencies.

Startup founders picked KISED (Korea Institute of Startup & Entrepreneurship Development) and MSS (Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and Startups) as the government agencies that most actively supports startups. Second in running were the SBA (Seoul Business Agency) and the Center for Creative Economy & Innovation (Based on 1st, 2nd, 3rd ranking in aided recognition).

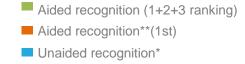


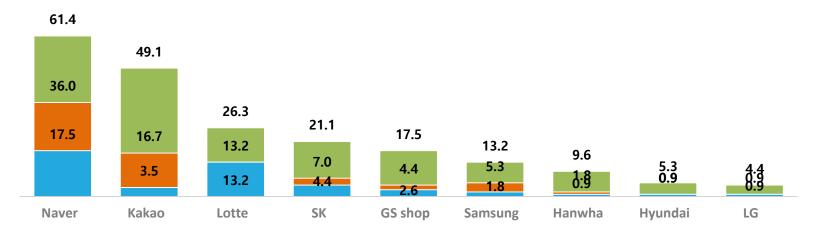
Q. Which government agency most actively supports domestic startup activities? * Unaided recognition – free form response without example ** Aided recognition - multiple choice



Naver, Kakao, SK are perceived to actively support startups.

The following were seen as the most active companies in their support of startups in that order: Naver > Kakao > Lotte > SK > GS Shop





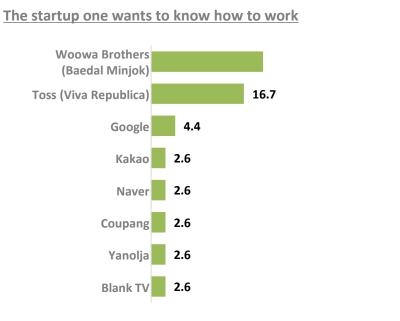
Q. Which domestic company most actively supports startup activities?

* unaided recognition – free form response without example ** aided recognition - multiple choice

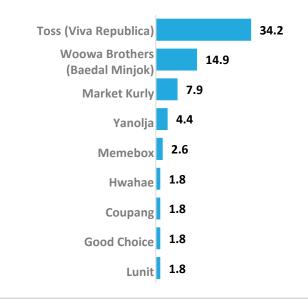


Positive views of Woowa Brothers (Baedal Minjok) and Viva Republica (Toss).

The Startup Woowa Brothers (Baedal Minjok) and Viva Republica (Toss) were picked as the most curious to know how to work; in addition, they were cited as the fastest growing startups.



The fastest growing domestic startup



Q. Among startups, who do you want to know how to work?

Q. What do you think is the fastest growing startup in South Korea?



Startup founders need an advice from other founders and CEOs about successful mechanism/experiences of corporate management.

Startup founders said they need an advice from 'other founder,' 'CEO of other companies,' and 'investor' about 'successful mechanism/experience.'



"I need an advice from people who were involved in the initial launch of startup about how ideas became a real business with trials and errors."

"I would like to ask the startup CEO about the recruitment of their team members."

"When the company faces poor growth, what criteria should be used to decide whether to continue or quit?"

Q. If you can ask someone for advice about your company's operations, 1) who would you like to ask for 2) what advice would you like to seek?



Altos Ventures and Softbank Ventures scored highest on level of recognition and preference.

Altos Ventures and Softbank Ventures scored highest, placing 1st and 2nd in level of recognition and preference.

	Unaided recognition (N=46)	Aided recognition (N=46)	Preference for investment (N=46, 1st choice)
1st	Altos Ventures (19.6%)	Softbank Ventures (97.8%)	Altos Ventures (35.6%)
2nd	Softbank Ventures (15.2%)	Altos Ventures (93.5%)	Softbank Ventures (33.3%)
3rd	Korea Investment Partners (10.9%)	Capstone Partners (84.8%)	Korea Investment Partners (11.1%)

Q. Write one place that first comes to mind when you think of a venture capital.Q. Write the top three venture capitals you would like to attract investment from.

* Unaided recognition – free form response without example ** Aided recognition - multiple choice

*** Question for respondents with more than three years of ²⁵ experiences since founding their companies (N=47)



The reputation of the investing firm and company value are the two most important factors in fundraising.

When selecting a venture capital, founders considered 'the reputation of the investing firm,' 'company value' and the 'compatibility with the associate of the investing firm' as the most important factors. Meanwhile, founders with 1-3 years of experience tended to prioritize 'company value' and 'amount of investment.' They seem to be more sensitive to money because they are at an important juncture when the business must achieve growth.

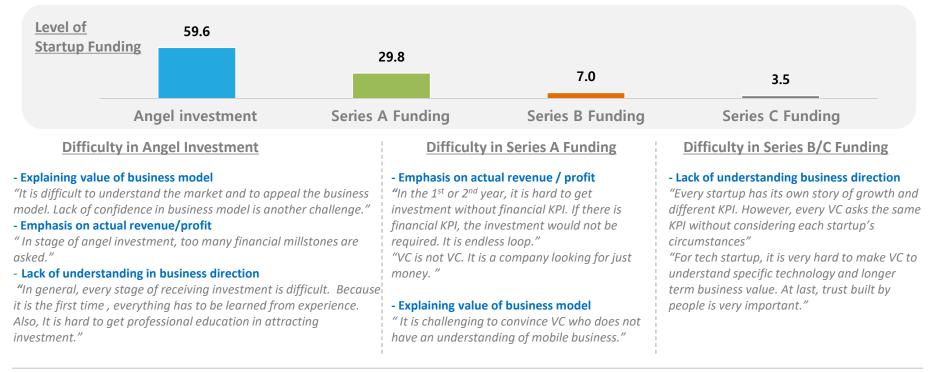
<u>Overall</u>	Reputation ofcriteriathe investing firm30.7%	Company value 19.3%	Compatibility with the associate of the investing firm 18.4%
	Experience: Less than 1 year (n=21*, 1st)	Experience: 1-3 years (n=47, 1st)	Experience: Over 3 years (n=46, 1st)
1st	Company value (38.1%)	Reputation of the investing firm (36.2%)	Reputation of the investing firm (32.6%)
2nd	Amount of investment (28.6%)	Compatibility with the associate of the investing firm (19.1%)	Compatibility with the associate of the investing firm (23.9%)
3rd	Reputation of the investing firm (14.3%) Non-capital support (14.3%)	Company value (17.0%) Non-capital support (17.0%)	Amount of investment (19.6%)

Q. In selecting venture capital investors, what are the most important factors to consider? Select the top two in order of importance.



More than a half of investment comes from angel investment, and it is particularly most challenging to explain the value of business model.

According to angel investment 59.6% > Series A funding 29.8%, startups received a smaller percentage of later rounds of financing . Especially, 'explaining the value of business model' and 'emphasis on revenue/profit' are most challenging for fundraising.



Q. What is your startup's stage of investment?

Q. Please explain the challenge you face when seeking financing in details.



'Primer' and 'BonAngels Venture Partners' ranked highest on level of recognition and preference when thinking of an early-stage investment company.

Primer ranked highest on level of recognition and BonAngels Ventures Partners on the level of preference for an early-stage investment. In addition, Kakao Ventures was next in line of preference for investment with low level of recognition.

	Unaided recognition (N=47)	Aided recognition (N=47)	Preference for investment (N=47, 1st choice)
1st	Primer (17.0%)	Primer (72.3%)	BonAngels Venture Partners (23.4%)
2nd	BonAngels Venture Partners (12.8%)	BonAngels Venture Partners (53.2%)	Kakao Ventures (17.0%)
3rd	Lotte Accelerator (8.5%) Mashup Angels (8.5%)	Mashup Angels (34.0%)	Primer (14.9%)
		** aided re-	recognition – free form response without example ecognition – multiple choice on to respondents with 1~3 years since starting busines

Q. Write one place that comes to mind when you think of an early-stage investment company.

Q. Pick the top three early-stage investment companies you would like to attract investment from.



The first place to come to mind when thinking of aid to startups is the Center for Creative Economy and Innovation.

The most desirable places to move into are the D2 Startup Factory.

The Center for Creative Economy and Innovation scored highest on level of unaided recognition but support centers managed by corporations like Naver's D2 Startup Factory scored relatively higher in preference for office space/utility. (Note: The conclusion is based on a small data set.)

	Unaided recognition (N=21*)	Aided recognition (N=21*)	Preference for office space/utility (N=21*, 1st Choice)
1st	Center for Creative Economy & Innovation (28.6%)	Maru 180 (The Asan Nanum Foundation) (76.2%)	D2 Startup Factory (Naver) (28.6%)
2nd	D.Camp (Banks Foundation for Young Enterpreneurs) (9.5%) SBA (Seoul Business Agency) (9.5%)	Center for Creative	Center for Creative Economy & Innovation (19.0%)
	Maru 180 (The Asan Nanum Foundation) (9.5%)	Economy & Innovation (71.4%) * unaided recognition – free	Campus Seoul (Google) (19.0%)
		** cided recognition	1 1

** aided recognition – multiple choice

*** Question to respondents with 1~3 years since starting business (N=21, Small base)

Q. Write one place that comes to mind when you think of startup assistance center.

Q. Pick three places in order of the most desirable startup assistance centers to move into.



Starting salary for startups is 20 million won, and their organizational culture is widely perceived to be 'horizontal organizational culture' and 'continuous corporate growth'.

More than a half of the founders said the starting salary for startups is 20 million won. Startup's organizational culture/environments was perceived positive; the optimism of their work environment was found especially among those who were less than a year or over 3 years after launching their startups.



Q. What is the starting salary of your company's new comer (college graduates)?

Q. Please answer how much you agree with the following sentence.



'Initiative' and 'endurance' are the core competencies of founders.

'Initiative' was found to be the most expected competence to founder, followed by 'endurance'. Moreover, 'creativity' was seen as an important capability to those of over 3 years of experience.

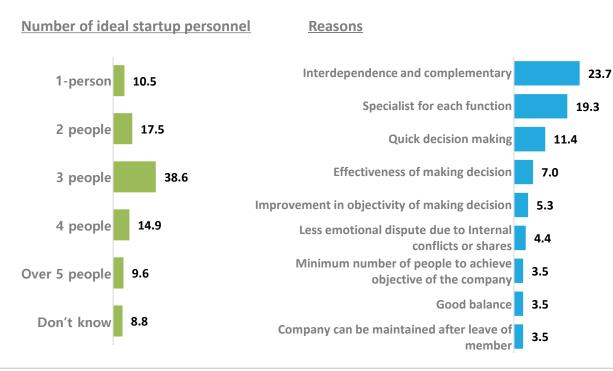
<u>Overal</u>	I criteria Initiative 32.5%	> Endurance 23.7%	> Professionalism 14.0%
	Experience: Less than 1 year (n=21*, 1st)	Experience: 1-3 years (n=47, 1st)	Experience: Over 3 years (n=46, 1st)
1st	Initiative (33.3%)	Initiative (34.0%)	Initiative (30.4%) Endurance (30.4%)
2nd	Determination (19.0%)	Professionalism (23.4%)	Creativity (8.7%)
3rd	Endurance (14.3%) Professionalism (14.3%)	Endurance (21.3%)	Determination (6.5%)

Q. Which of the following competencies do you think is most important to founders?



The most ideal number of startup is 3 people for 'interdependence and complementary.'

38.6% of respondents cited that three people are the most ideal number of startup. The mains reasons are 'interdependence and complementary' and 'specialists for each function.'



Q. If you start a new business, how many people do you think is ideal?Q. Why do you think so?

"3 people may have good complementary effect, and the organization can be maintained after leave of the member."

" One person is lonely, 2 people can be argued and separated. 3 people fulfill the functional professionalism and minimize requirement of startup."

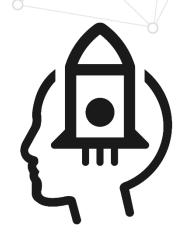
"3 members may be better in decision making and discussion about objectivity."

"It is a good structure to share roles/responsibilities and decision making."

"4 people are sufficient number of members to run startup without employment till series A funding."

" One for business/planning, one for tech/test, and one for marketing/PR; this is the minimum requirement. " Startup Trend Report 2018





2) Current startup employees

- Survey size: Total of 250 (Male:177 / Female:73)
- Subjects: Current startup employees



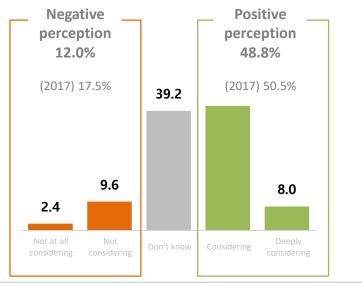
C-2. Survey responses from current startup employees

48.8% of current startup employees were satisfied with the startup lifestyle, showing a similar level to previous year.

48.8% of respondents were satisfied with the work at startups, at more than double the percentage of those who were dissatisfied (12.0%). The percentage of satisfied employees was similar level to the year before (Y/Y -1.2%).

The high level of satisfaction was influenced by a 'quick and flexible decision-making structure' and 'corporate culture,' whereas 'anxiety about job security ' and 'lack of leaders/role models' were causes of dissatisfaction.

How satisfied are you with the startup lifestyle? (N=250)



Causes of satisfaction/dissatisfaction among current startup employees (N=250)

	Causes of satisfaction	Causes of dissatisfaction
1st	A quick and flexible decision-making structure (30.8%)	Anxiety about job security (30.4%)
2nd	Corporate culture (22.4%)	Lack of leaders/role models (25.6%)
3rd	A sense of mission from doing something valuable (20.4%)	Difficulty of career planning (19.2%)

Q. How satisfied are you with your current lifestyle as a startup employee?

Q. What gives you the greatest satisfaction as a startup employee?



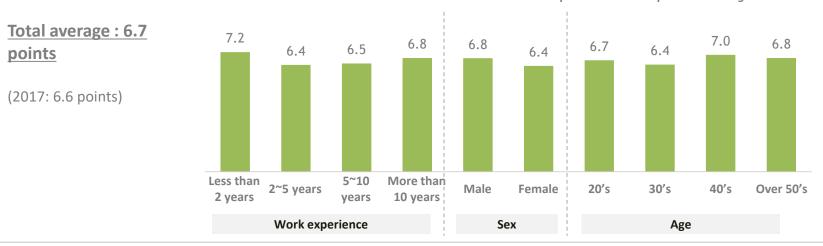
C-2. Survey responses from current startup employees

The average score current startup employees gave their CEOs was 6.7 out of 10.

Current startup employees gave an average of 6.7 out of 10 when asked to grade their CEOs. This was approximately an increase of 0.1 point from the year before. Those who had work experiences within 2 years, were male or in their 40's, were more likely to score their CEOs highly.

"He provides an inspiring vision and transparency." "He listens to all opinions and allows flexibility in work." "He strives for open communication and role-based organizational culture regardless of positions." *"He definitely lacks initiative; he does not take responsibility but blames other employees."*

"His work style is not organized nor planned, but extemporaneous." "He has started business several times, but has no experience at corporations. This explains his thoughtless and inconsiderate character."



Q. How would you grade your company's CEO, out of 10? (1: unqualified, 10: excellent)

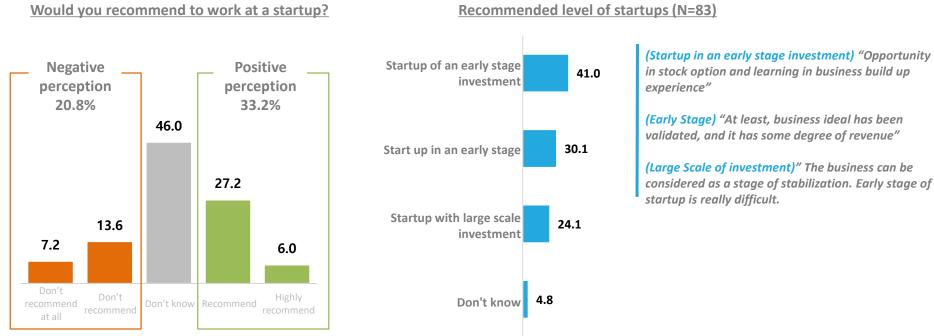
Q. What is the reason for your #{Q4.Selected score}?



C-2. Survey responses from current startup employees

33.2% of current startup employees would recommend to work at a startup.

33.2% of current startup employees would recommend to take a job at a startup, especially at an early stage investment phase.



- Q. Would you recommend to work at a startup?
- Q. What level of startup would you recommend to start working?
- Q. What is the reason for your #{Q7.ANSWERS}?



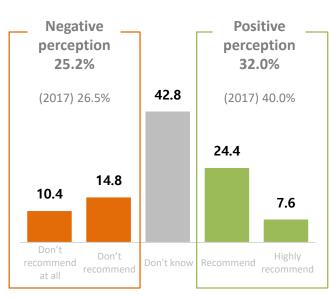
32.0% of current startup employees would recommend their employer to acquaintances.

32.0% of current startup employees would recommend their own company, showing approximately a decrease of 8.0% from the year before. The reasons given were 'growth potential,' 'opportunity to develop new skills' and 'benefits/flexible hours'.

"The future of the company is uncertain to recommend."

"High uncertainty, High workload. They don't value your challenge and enthusiasm."

"CEO and leaders are authoritarian, selfrighteous, and ignorant of business who can be found in small corporations known for bad reputations."



"Trustworthy and visionary CEO."

"I'm very satisfied with flexible work structure."

"Industry with potential growth, competitive products, talented colleagues."

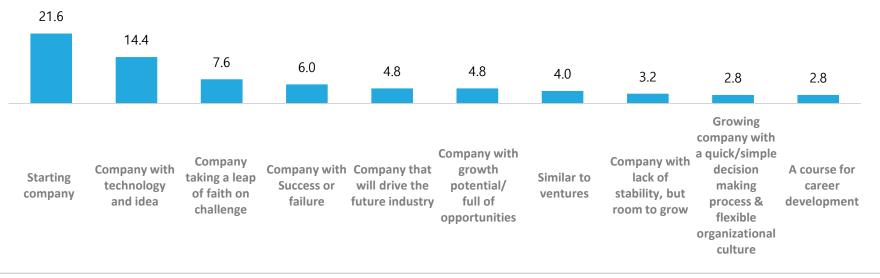
"Great working environment for women. Paternity leave is guaranteed and flexible work hours allow to take care of a child."

Q. Would you recommend the company you are at to your acquaintances?Q. What is the reason for your answer?



Startups are perceived as an image of 'starting company' with 'technology/idea,' and 'challenge.'

Current startup employees positively defined startup, such as 'starting company,' and company with 'technology/idea,' 'challenge,' 'potential' and 'growth.'



Q. How do you define "start-up"? If someone asks, how would you describe it?



Current startup employees prefer to work for a large corporation for 'stability' when changing their jobs.

When current startup employees change their job in the future, most respondents answered that they prefer to work for a large corporation and 34.8% said they do not care. It seems that 'stability' and 'salary' are the main reasons that influenced their answer.



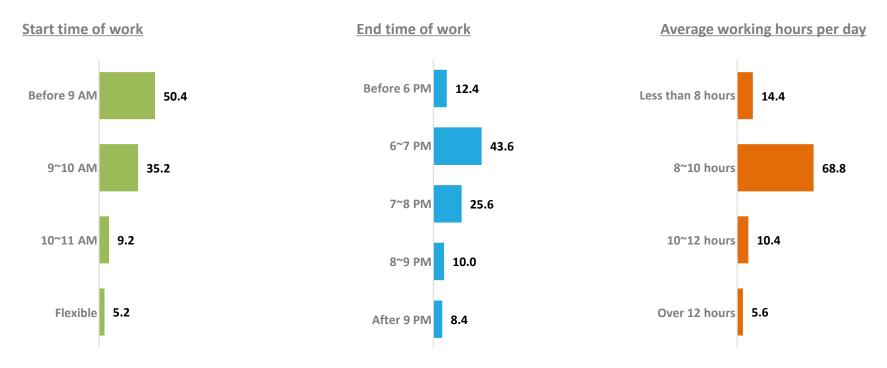
What type of organization would you like to move to? Reasons

Q. If you could change jobs, what type of organization would you like to move to? Q. Please tell us the reason.



Startup employees start work before 9 AM, end work at 6~7 PM, and work 8~10 hours per day on average.

Answers show that 50.4% of startup employees start work before 9 AM, 43.6% end work at around 6~7PM, and 68.8% work 8~10 hours per day on average.



Q. On average, what time do you go to work?

Q. On average, what time do you get off work?

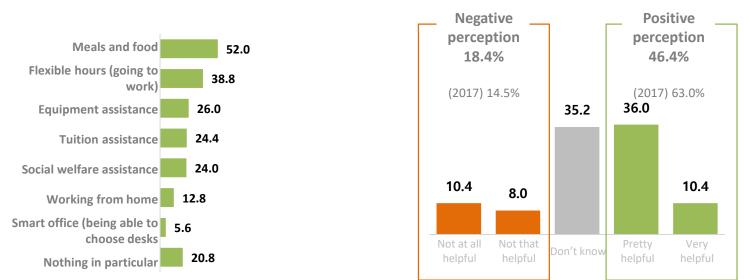
Q. On average, how many hours do you work per day?



What benefits are provided? (N=250)

The most frequently offered benefits at startups are meals/snacks and flexible hours.

The benefits that startups provide the most often were meals/snacks and flexible hours. Given that 46.4% responded that benefits enhance workplace performance, showing approximately a huge decrease of 16.6% from the year before.



How helpful are benefits in enhancing job performance? (N=250)

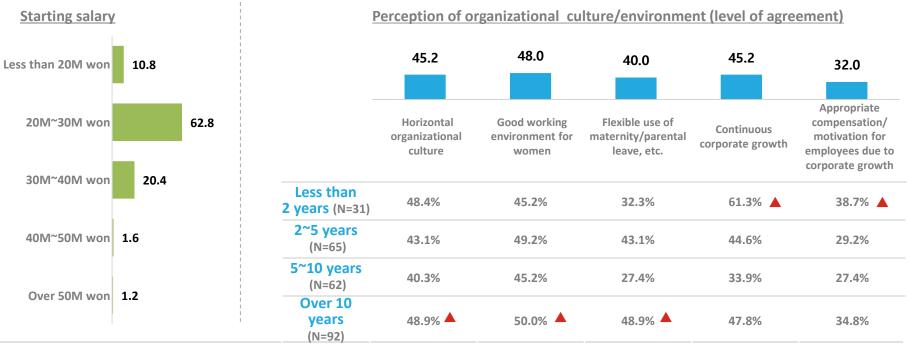
Q. Does the company you work at provide additional benefits for employees' well-being?

Q. How helpful are the company's benefits for enhancing job performance?



Starting salary is 20 million won, and their corporate culture is perceived positive with 'horizontal organizational culture' and 'good working environment for women'.

More than a half of current startup employees said the starting salary was 20 million won. Organizational culture/environment was perceived slightly negative compared to founders and employees of large corporations, however, the optimism of their work environment was found especially among those who were less than 2 years or over 10 years of working at a startup.



Q. What is the starting salary of your company's new comer (college graduates)?

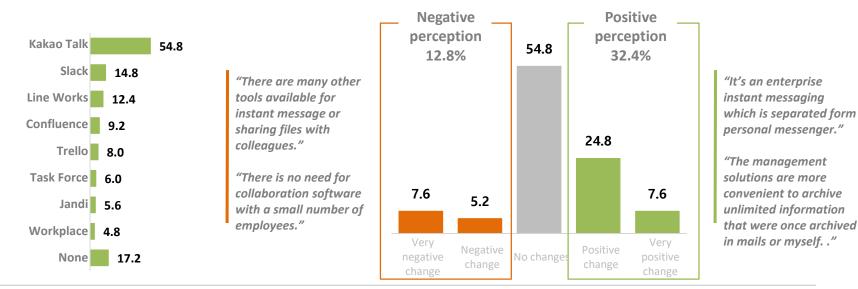
Q. Please answer how much you agree with the following sentence.



Collaboration tools are helpful to increase work efficiency; 'Kakao Talk' and 'Slack' are mainly used.

It is shown that Kakao Talk (54.8%) > Slack (14.8%) are the collaboration tools that are mainly used by current startup employees. More than a double of respondents (32.4%) said the collaborations tool increased the work efficiency than those who believe it was not helpful (12.8%).

Which software/tool are you using to collaborate with colleagues? (N=250, 1+2+3 ranking) How has your work efficiency changed before/after using the software/tool? (N=250)



Q. What software/tool are you using to collaborate with colleagues at your company?

Q. Does it make a significant effect on your work before and after using #{Q26.ANSWERS}?



Positive views of Woowa Brothers (Baedal Minjok) and KaKao.

The Startup Woowa Brothers (Baedal Minjok) and Kakao were picked as the most curious to know how to work; in addition, they were cited as the fastest growing startups.

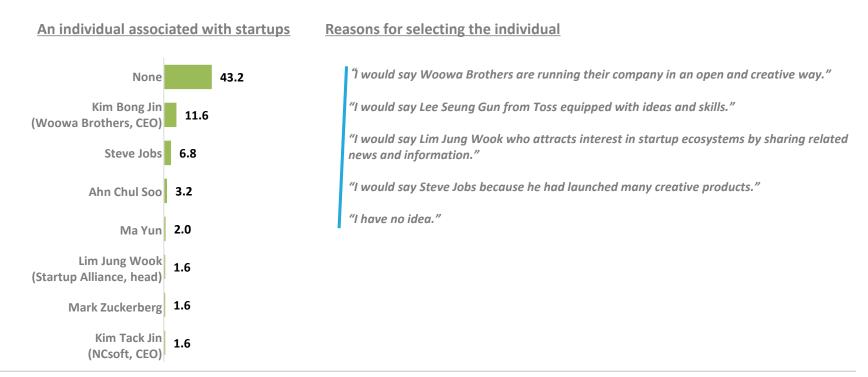


Q. Among startups, who do you want to know how to work? Q. What do you think is the fastest growing startup in South Korea?



Current startup employees failed to associate a specific individual with startups.

When asked to name a person in startup ecosystem, current startup employees also failed to associate a specific person to startup. Among the people mentioned, 'Kim Bong Jin (Woowa Brothers CEO)' received most responses.



Q. Write one person that comes to your mind when you think about startups ecosystem? Please tell us who the person is and why you pick him/her regardless of the industry /scope of business.



'Professionalism' and 'initiative' are the core competencies of founders.

'Professionalism' was found to be the most expected competence of founder, followed by 'initiative.' Moreover, 'determination' was seen as an important capability to those of 2-5 years of experience and 'leadership' to those of 5-10 years of experience.

Overall criteria Professionalism 20.4% Initiative 18.4% Determination 17.2%					
	Experience: Less than 2 years (n=31, 1st)	Experience: 2-5 years (n=65, 1st)	Experience: 5-10 years (n=62, 1st)	Experience: Over 10 years (n=92, 1st)	
1st	Professionalism (29.0%)	Determination (24.6%)	Leadership (22.6%)	Initiative (26.1%)	
2nd	Initiative (19.4%)	Professionalism (18.5%) Creativity (18.5%)	Professionalism (17.7%) Initiative (17.7%)	Professionalism (20.7%)	
3rd	Determination (16.1%)	Leadership (10.8%)	Determination (14.5%)	Determination (14.1%)	

Q. Which of the following competencies do you think is most important to founders?

Startup Trend Report 2018



3) Employees of large corporations

- Survey size: 500 (Male: 307/Female: 193)
- Affiliation: Those working for the top 10 conglomerates (Samsung, Hyundai Motors, SK, LG, Lotte, Hyundai Heavy Industries, GS, Hanjin, Hanwha, Posco)
- Subjects: Employees to executives

How much do you think about starting a business?

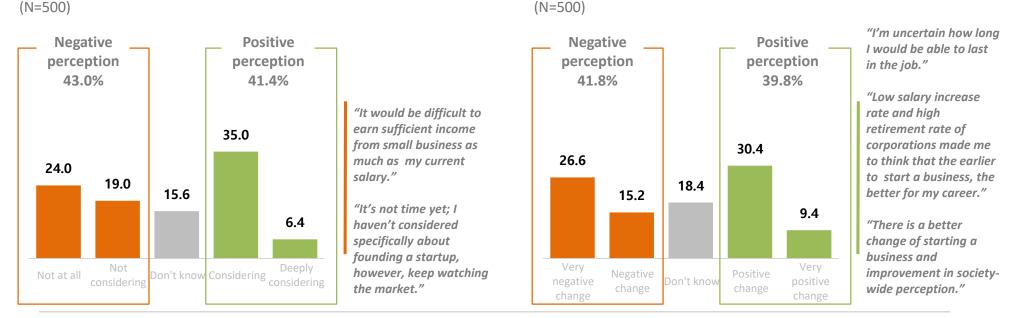


C-3. Survey responses from employees of large corporations

The percentage appeared to be similar between those who view the idea of founding a startup positively and negatively.

The percentage appeared to be similar between those who are open to founding a startup (41.4%) and those who are against (43.0%). Also, the percentage of those who changed their opinion positively was similar to that of those who changed negatively when compared to last year.

How has your view of starting a business changed?



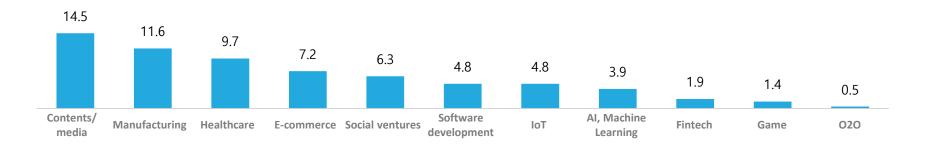
Q. To what extent are you considering whether to start a business?

Q. How does this compare with your view last year?



Among current corporate employees who think about founding a startup, 14.5% have the contents/media industry in mind.

Among the employees at large corporations who think about founding a startup, the following industry was preferred in that order: contents/media (14.5%) > manufacturing (11.6%) > healthcare (9.7%)

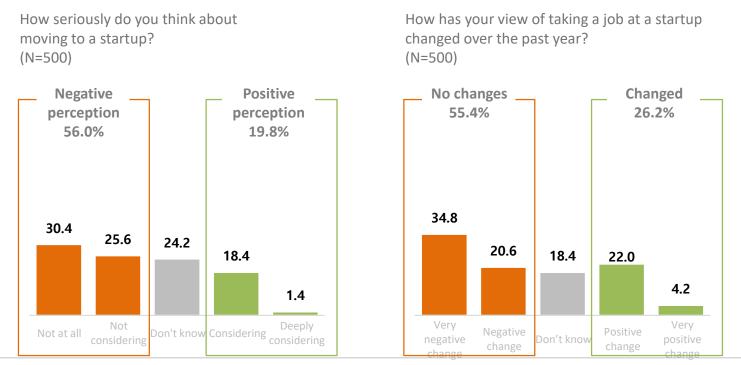


Q. If you are thinking about founding a startup, what industry do you have in mind?



Not many employees of large corporations are considering the possibility of working for startups. The level of openness is also negative.

19.8% of employees of large corporations were open to the idea of moving to startups while 56.0% said they were not open. Only 26.2% of respondents said their views of the possibility had changed for the better.



Q. To what extent are you considering changing to a startup job?

Q. How do you think your view of taking a job at a startup has changed since last year?



Employees of large corporations cited 'a sense of achievement from rapid growth' when asked about why they would switch to a startup.

The group that views changing to a startup job positively picked 'a sense of achievement from rapid growth' (27.3%) as the main reason. By contrast, negative reasons for changing to a startup job were driven by opinions such as 'concerns about reduction in wage and benefits' and 'anxiety about job security .'

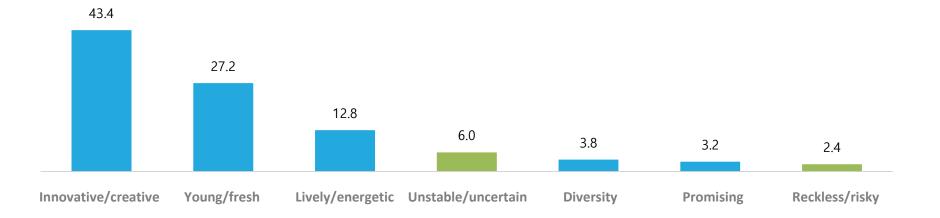
	Reasons of positive consideration (n=99)	Reasons of negative consideration (n=280)
1st	A sense of achievement from rapid growth (27.3%)	Concerns about reduction in wage and benefits (49.6%)
2nd	A sense of mission from doing something valuable (26.3%)	Anxiety about job security (41.8%)
3rd	A quick and flexible decision-making structure (24.2%)	Lack of role models/leaders (3.2%)

Q. If you are considering/against taking up a job at a startup, pick the biggest reason.



Startups are perceived as 'innovative' and 'young' images.

Employees at large corporations cited that startups are perceived as 'innovative/creative' and 'young/fresh' images . They are likely to be associated with positive images and far from negative images such as 'unstable/uncertain' and 'reckless/risky.'

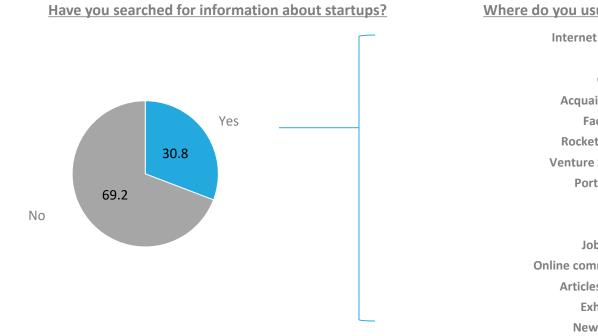


Q. What comes to your mind first when you think of a startup?



30.8% have searched for information about startups on internet.

It seems that employees of large corporations are not actively searching for information about startups. 30.8% of those who have an experience of searching for startups usually obtain such information using internet search engines, such as Naver/Google, etc.



Where do you usually obtain information about startups? (N=154)



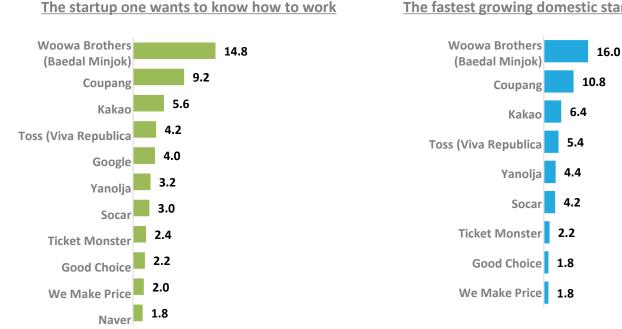
Q. Have you searched for information about startups?

Q. Where do you usually obtain information about startups?



Positive views of Woowa Brothers (Baedal Minjok) and Coupang.

The Startup Woowa Brothers (Baedal Minjok) and Coupang were picked as the most curious to know how to work; in addition, they were cited as the fastest growing startups.



Q. Among startups, who do you want to know how to work?

Q. What do you think is the fastest growing startup in South Korea?

The fastest growing domestic startup

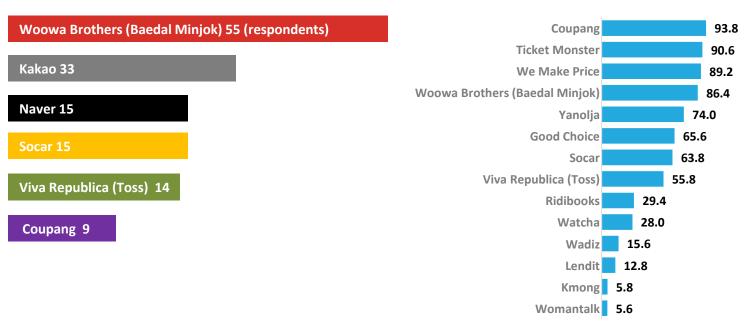
Major startups



C-3. Survey responses from employees of large corporations

The best-known startup was Woowo Brothers(Baedal Minjok) and Kakao.

When asked to name startups, employees of large corporations thought of Woowa Brothers (Baedal Minjok) (55 respondents), and Kakao (33) in that order. The main services they have known or experienced are found to be social commerce.



Q. Write one company or service that comes to your mind as an example of startups.

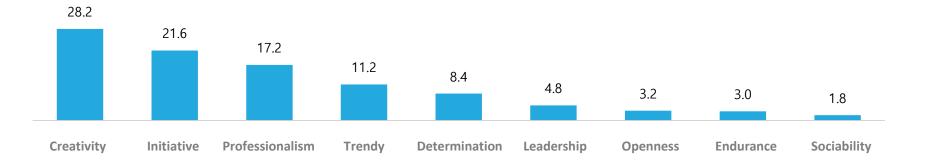
Q. Please select all the services you have known or experience.

Known/experienced services



'Creativity' and 'Initiative' are the core competencies of founders.

Employees of large corporations cited that 'creativity' was found to be the most expected competence of founder, followed by 'initiative'. By contrast, 'openness,' 'endurance' and 'sociability' do not seem to be the requisite attribute of founder.

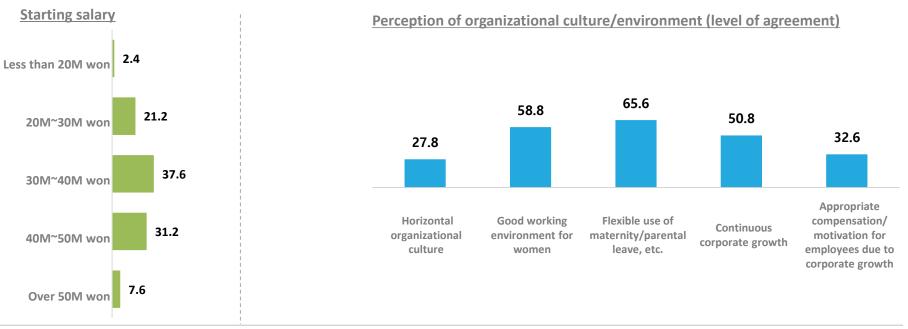


Q. Which of the following competencies do you think is most important to founders?



Starting salary is 30 million won, and their corporate culture is not perceived with 'horizontal organizational culture' and 'appropriate motivation due to corporate growth.'

Organizational culture/environments was perceived slightly negative in terms of 'horizontal organizational culture' and 'appropriate compensation/motivation for employees due to corporate growth,' whereas the optimism of their work environment was found with 'flexible use of maternity/parental leave.'



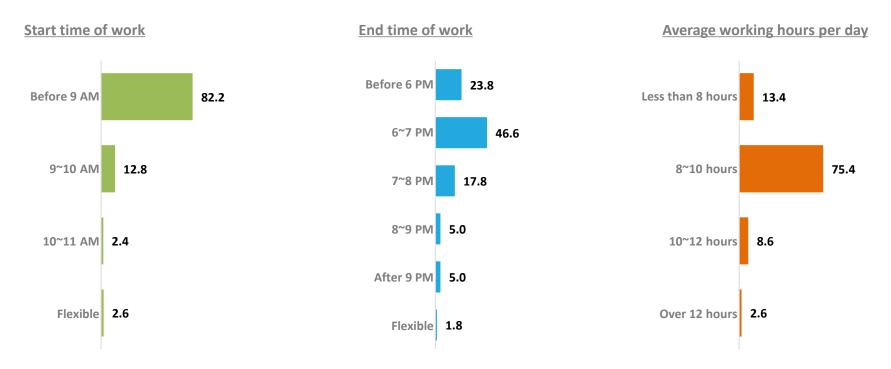
Q. What is the starting salary of your company's new comer (college graduates)?

Q. Please answer how much you agree with the following sentence.



Employees of large corporations start work before 9 AM, end work at 6~7 PM, and work 8~10 hours per day on average.

Answers show that 82.2% of employees of large corporations start work before 9 AM, 46.6% end work at around 6~7PM, and 75.4% work 8~10 hours per day on average.



Q. On average, what time do you go to work?

Q. On average, what time do you get off work?

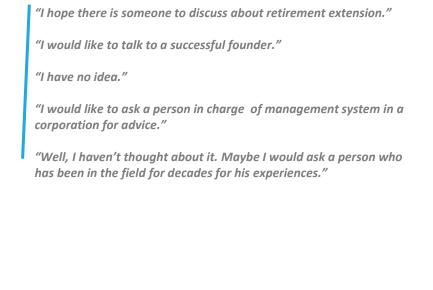
Q. On average, how many hours do you work per day?



Employees of large corporations found no sufficient person to ask for advice about their work, but only seek advice from acquaintances.

Most of employees of large corporations said it was difficult to find someone to ask for advice about their work other than colleagues. It appears that they seek advice from acquaintances such as 'friends/classmates' and 'family/spouse/parents' rather than expertise in the industry.

None/don't know/no response	24.2
Friends/former classmates	7.0
Family/spouse/parents	6.0
Boss/boss from former job/resigned boss/team leader	5.8
Coworker/alumni	5.2
Related industry employee/firm	5.0
CEO/manager	3.8
Related industry acquaintances/friends	3.8
Expertise	3.6
Professor	3.2
Founder/startup founder	2.8
consultant	2.8
Colleague/colleague from former work	2.4
Line of business	2.0
Experienced	2.0



Q. . If you can ask someone for advice about your company's operations, who would you like to ask for? (Please tell us the person who is not an employees of your company.)

Startup Trend Report 2018





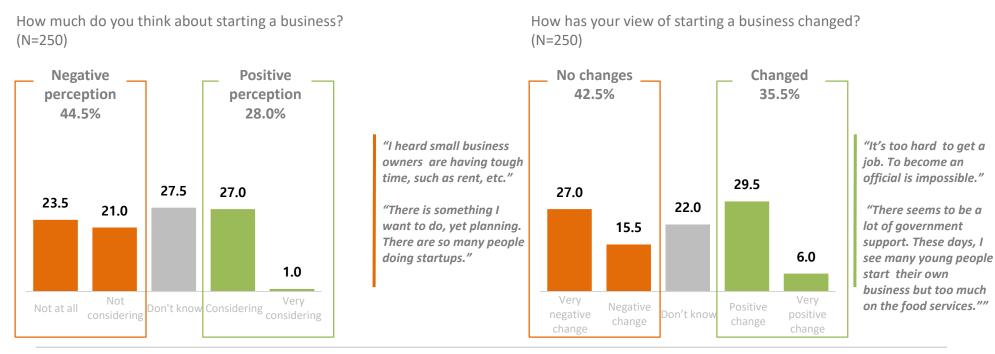
4) College seniors

- Survey size: Total of 200 (Male: 109/Female: 91)
- Subjects: Upcoming university graduates/university students in their 4th year or higher



28.0% of college seniors are open to founding a startup.

The percentage of college seniors who were open to founding a startup (28.0%) is lower than the percentage of employees of large corporations. Moreover, 42.5% of respondents has not changed their view of starting business .



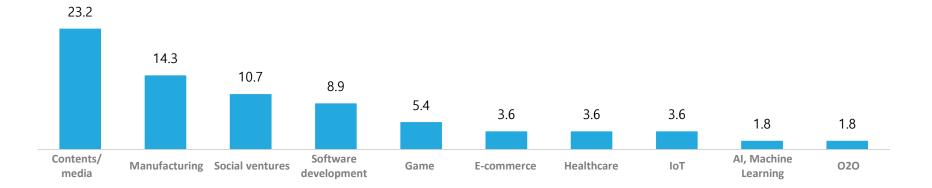
Q. To what extent do you think about founding a startup?

Q. How has your level of consideration changed compared to last year?



23.2% of college seniors have the contents/media industry in mind.

Among the college seniors who think about founding a startup, the following industry was preferred in that order: contents/media (23.2%) > manufacturing (14.3%) > social ventures (10.7%).



Q. If you are thinking about starting a business, what industry do you have in mind?



The percentage of respondents who were considering immediate employment at startups was low but opinions showed an increase (Y/Y +3.5%) from the year before.

23.0% of college seniors were actively seeking employment at startups. 32.5% of respondents said their views of working at startups had changed and 42.5% said they have not changed.

How seriously are you considering employment at a startup? (N=200)

How has your view of working at a startup changed in the past year? (N=200)



Q. How much do you think about working at a startup?

Q. How has your feeling toward working at a startup changed from one year ago?



The reasons for college seniors' positive views are 'a sense of achievement from rapid growth.'

The reasons for being open to working at startups were 'a sense of achievement from rapid growth' and 'a sense of mission from doing something valuable' while the main reason for being against working at startups was 'anxiety about job security.'

	Reasons of positive consideration (n=46)	Reasons of negative consideration (n=82)
1st	A sense of achievement from rapid growth (32.6%)	Anxiety about job security (68.3%)
2nd	A sense of mission from doing something valuable (28.3%)	Concerns about reduction in wage and benefits, etc. (14.6%)
3rd	A quick and flexible decision-making structure (23.9%)	Strong opposition from family (7.3%) Lack of role models/leaders (7.3%)

Q. If you are considering working at a startup, give one reason that influenced you.



Startups are perceived as 'innovative' and 'young' images.

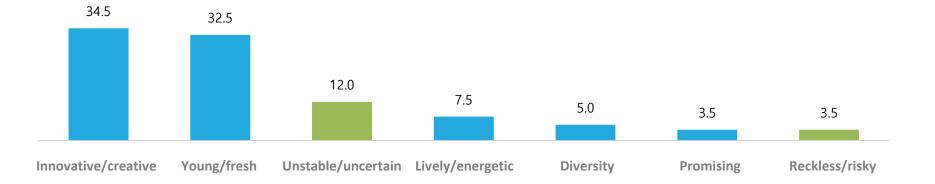
College seniors cited that startups are perceived as 'innovative/creative' and 'young/fresh' images , followed by 'unstable/uncertain' image.

"Innovative startups for young people." "To challenge with fresh and creative ideas."

"It follows and creates emerging trends, and is creative, innovative and dare to challenge."

"Startup lack job stability at all. You have to be pr epared that you may lose your money."

"I think it is too risky to challenge." "One day it would succeed but uncertain."



Q. What comes to your mind first when you think of a startup?

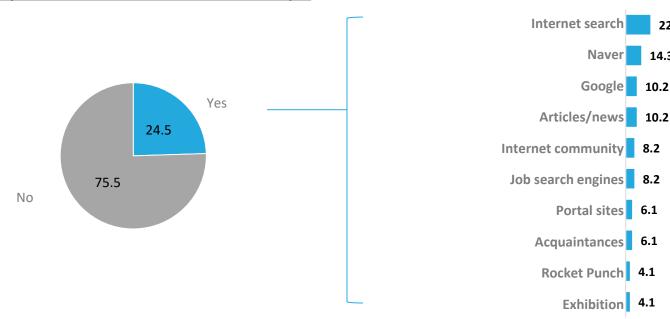
Q. How do you define 'startup'? If someone asks, how would you describe it?



Have you searched for information about startups?

24.8% of college seniors have searched for information about startups on internet.

It seems that college seniors are not actively searching for information about startups. 24.8% of those who have an experience of searching for startups usually obtain such information using internet search engines, such as Naver/Google, etc.



Where do you usually obtain information about startups? (N=49)

22.4

14.3

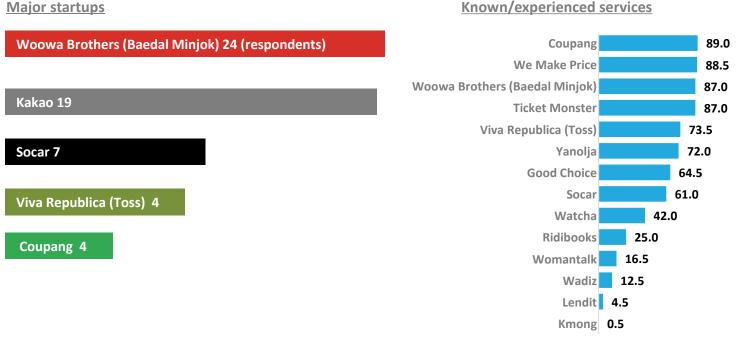
Q. Have you searched for information about startups?

Q. Where do you usually obtain information about startups?



The best-known startup was Woowo Brothers (Baedal Minjok).

When asked to name startups, respondents chose Woowa Brothers (Baedal Minjok) (20), and Kakao (19) in that order. The main services they have known or experienced are found to be social commerce and delivery applications.



Known/experienced services

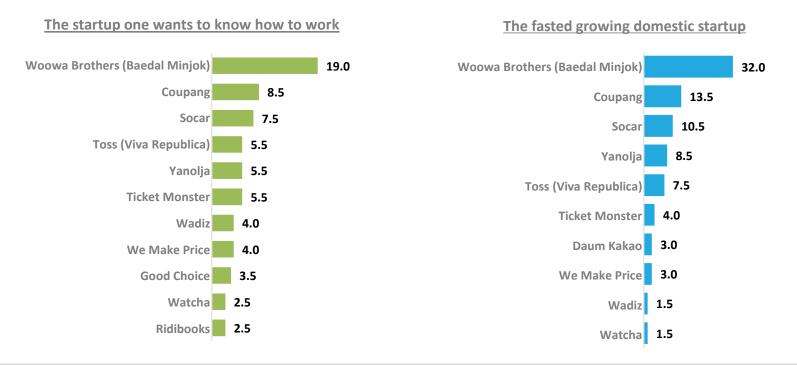
Q. Write one company or service that comes to your mind when you think about startups.

Q. Please select all of the services you currently know or have experience with.



Positive perceptions of Woowa Brothers (Baedal Minjok) and Coupang.

For startups they'd like to know how to work, college seniors chose Woowa Brothers (Baedal Minjok) and Coupang. When asked to identify the most quickly growing startups, respondents also named Woowa Brothers (Baedal Minjok) and Coupang.



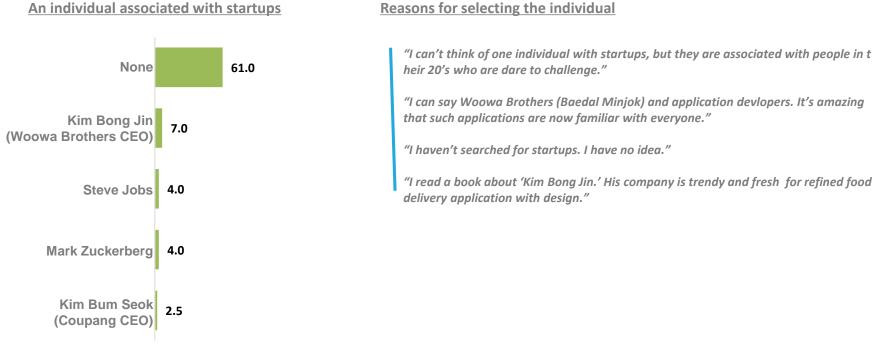
Q. Among startups, who do you want to know how to work?

Q. What do you think is the fastest growing startup in South Korea?



College seniors failed to associate a specific individual with startups.

When asked to name a person in startup ecosystem, college seniors failed to associate a specific individual with startups. Among the people mentioned, 'Kim Bong Jin' (Woowa Brothers CEO) received most responses.



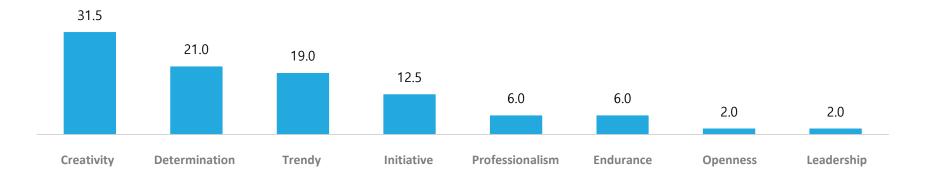
Reasons for selecting the individual

Q. Write one person that comes to your mind when you think about startups ecosystem? Please tell us who the person is and why you pick him/her regardless of the industry /scope of business.



'Creativity' and 'determinism' are the core competencies of founders.

'Creativity' was found to be the most expected competence of founder, followed by 'determination'. It appears that 'openness' and 'leadership' are not important competences of founders for college seniors.



Q. Which of the following competencies do you think is most important to founders?

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