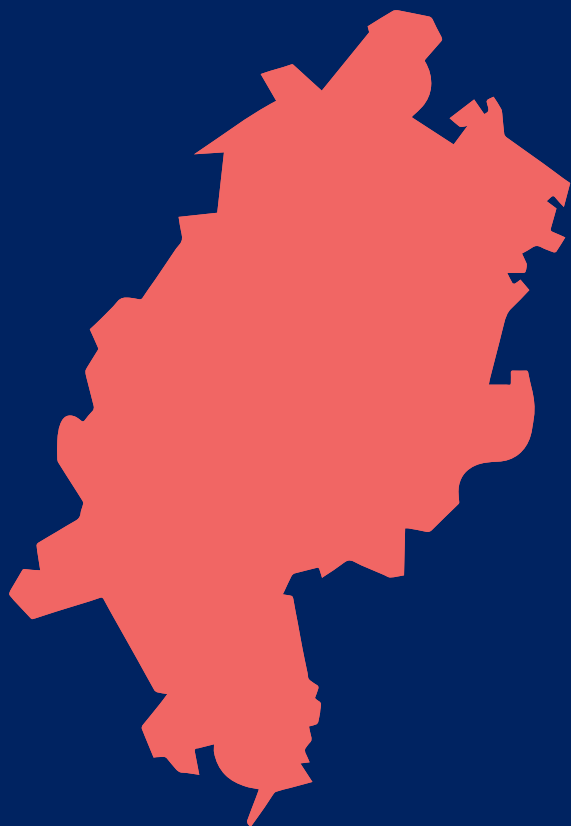




Start-up State Hessen

Facts & Figures 2025



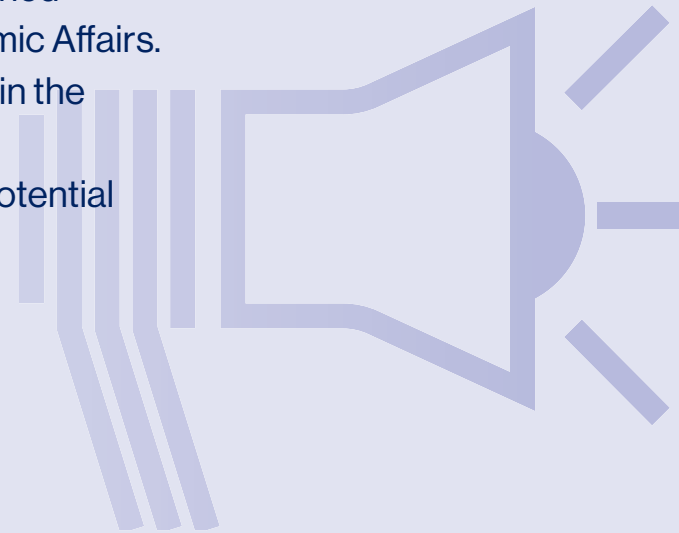
HESSEN
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für Wirtschaft, Energie, Verkehr,
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Wirtschaftsförderer für Hessen

Intro

To get a better overview of start-ups in Hessen, the StartHub Hessen has commissioned startupdetector to evaluate publicly available data for the Hessian Ministry of Economic Affairs. For this report, all start-ups were included whose company formation was published in the German commercial register between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2025. The definition of a start-up includes innovative companies with a significant growth potential that are less than ten years old.



Publisher



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In collaboration with



KEY FACTS

More than
1.600
active start-ups in
Hessen

Number of investors that
have invested in Hessian
start-ups increases by

11 %

Most investors continue
to invest in start-ups from the
following industries Health

**Health, Software,
Financial sector**

Many start-ups in
rural areas.
Proportion of start-up-
foundings in rural districts
is at 53.7 %

Frankfurt
remains with
522 start-ups
the most important
location in Hessen

244
new start-ups founded
(increase by 28 %
compared to 2024)

More Start-up-Investments
from US-Investors: Proportion
of US-Investors increases
by 76.6 %

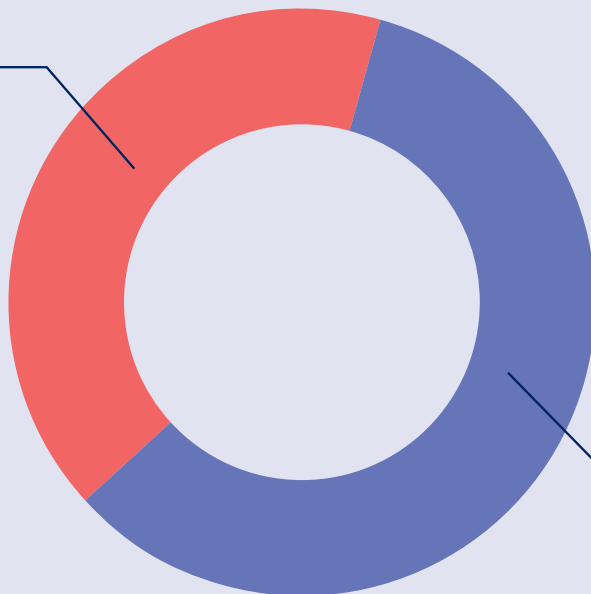
+14 %
Strong growth for
start-up-foundings in the
financial sector

START-UPS IN HESSEN – 2025

1.616 active start-ups in Hessen

662

start-ups are older
than 5 and up to
max. 10 years old



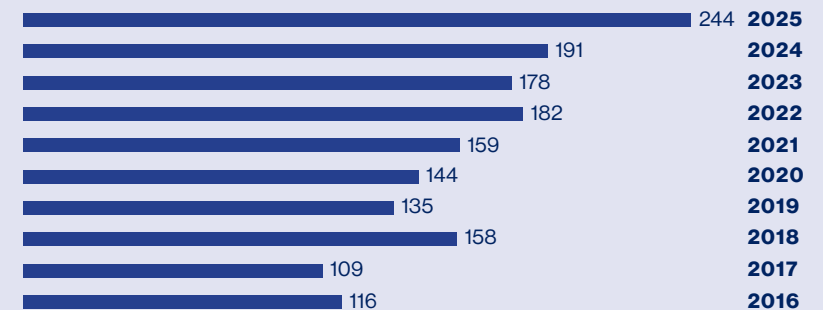
954

start-ups are
max. 5 years old

Of the start-ups founded in Hessen since 2016, 1.616 companies are still active today.

Active start-ups

Number of start-ups/year



Start-ups in numbers

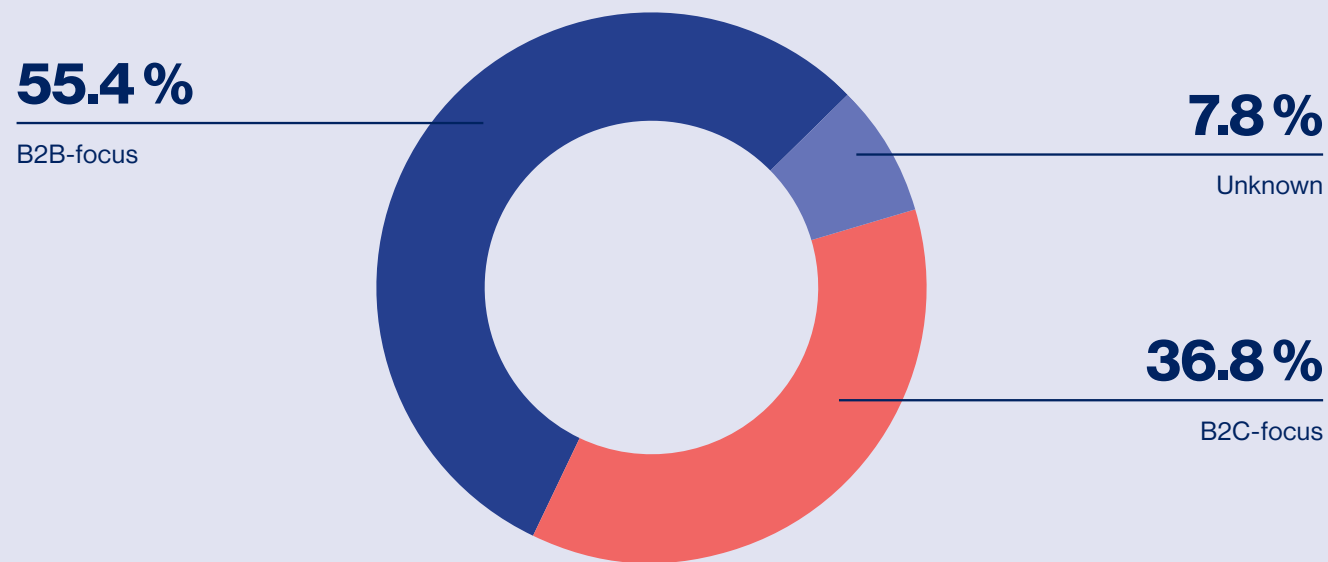
4.9 years Average age of start-ups

16.3 % Start-ups with female directors

41.5 % Management board experience from other companies

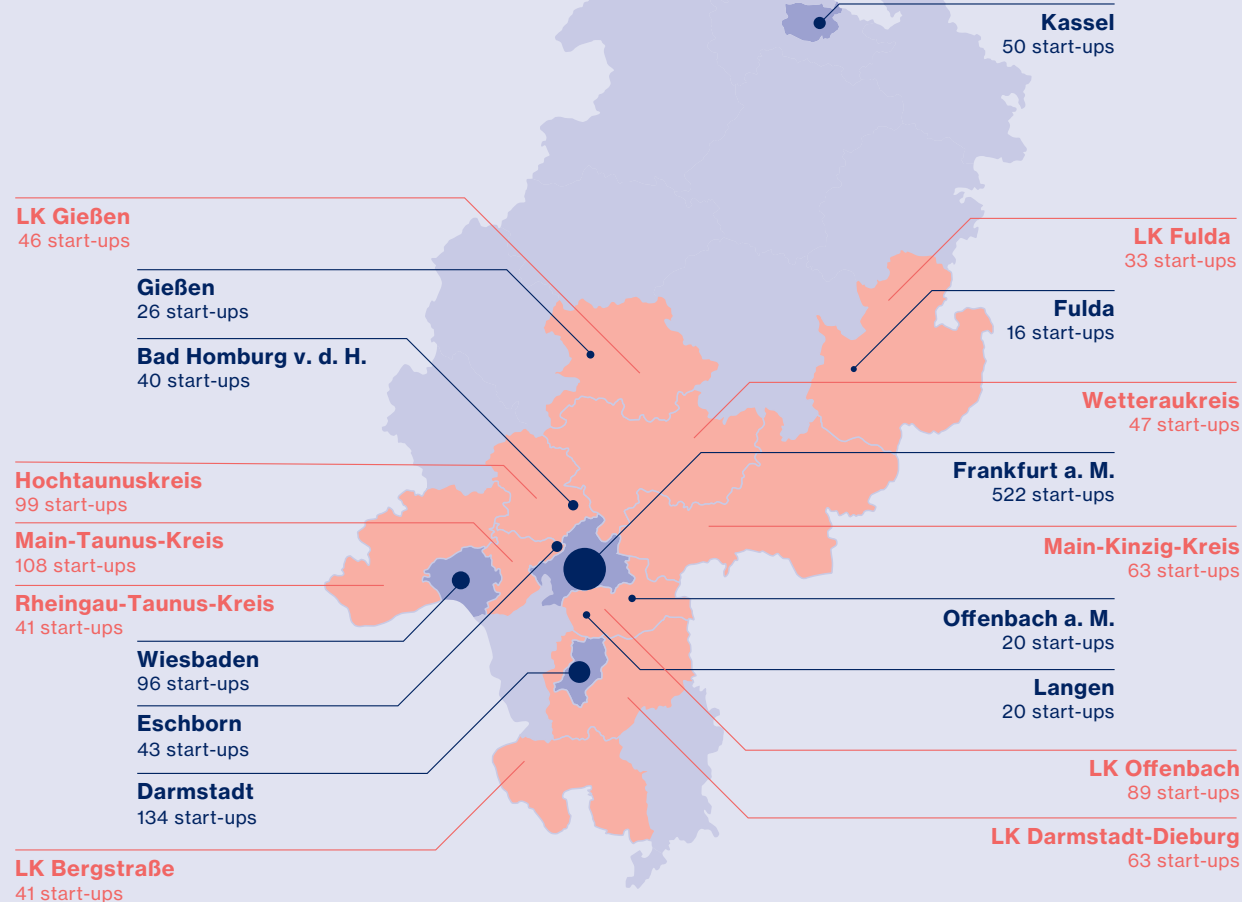
38 years Average age of directors when founding a start-up

CUSTOMER FOCUS OF HESSIAN START-UPS



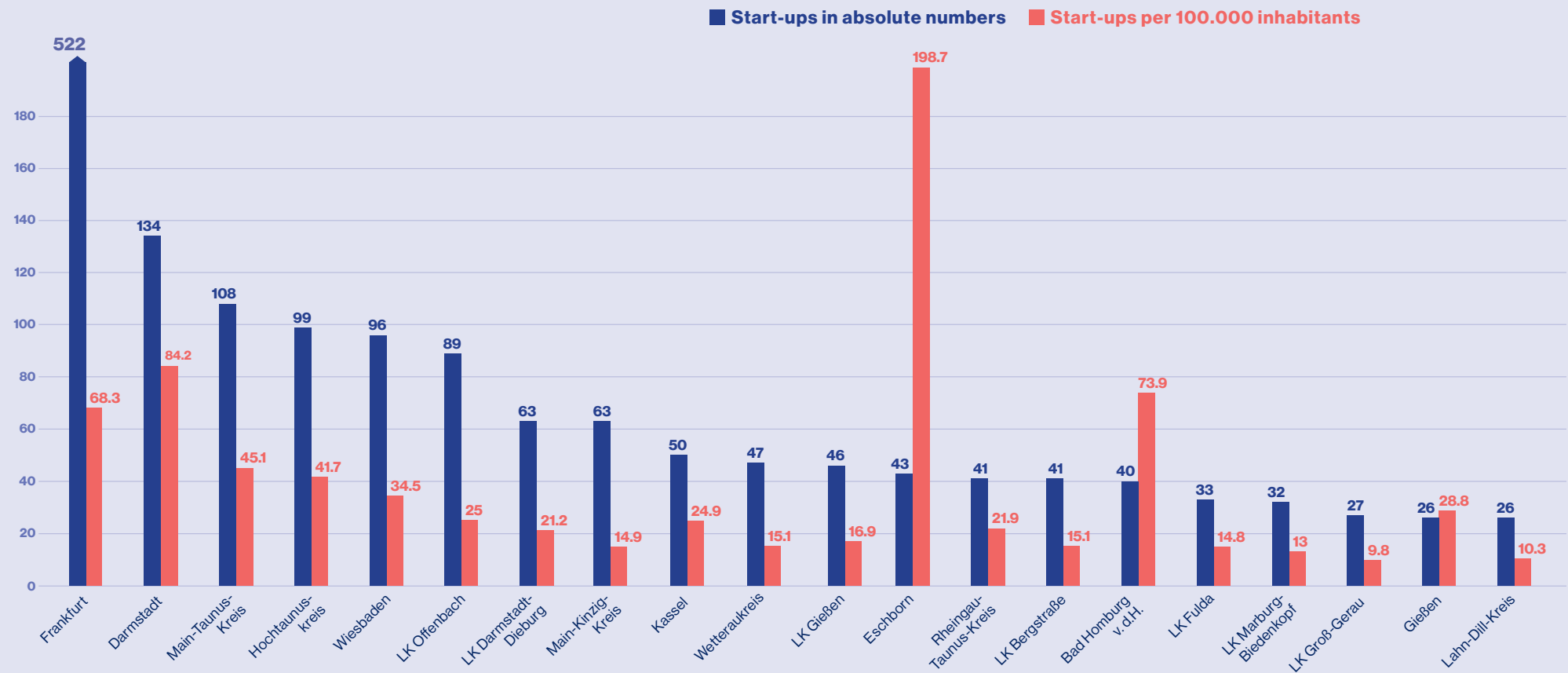
TOP 10 START-UP CITIES AND DISTRICTS IN HESSEN

In absolute numbers



TOP 20 START-UP CITIES AND DISTRICTS IN HESSEN

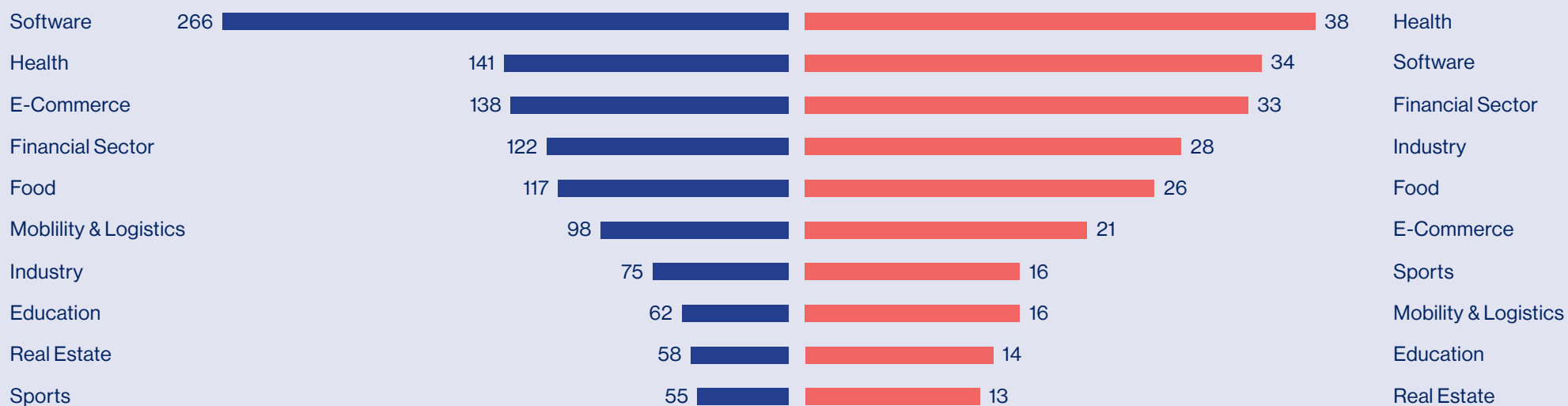
Start-ups in absolute numbers and per 100.000 inhabitants



TOP 10 HESSEN START-UP INDUSTRIES

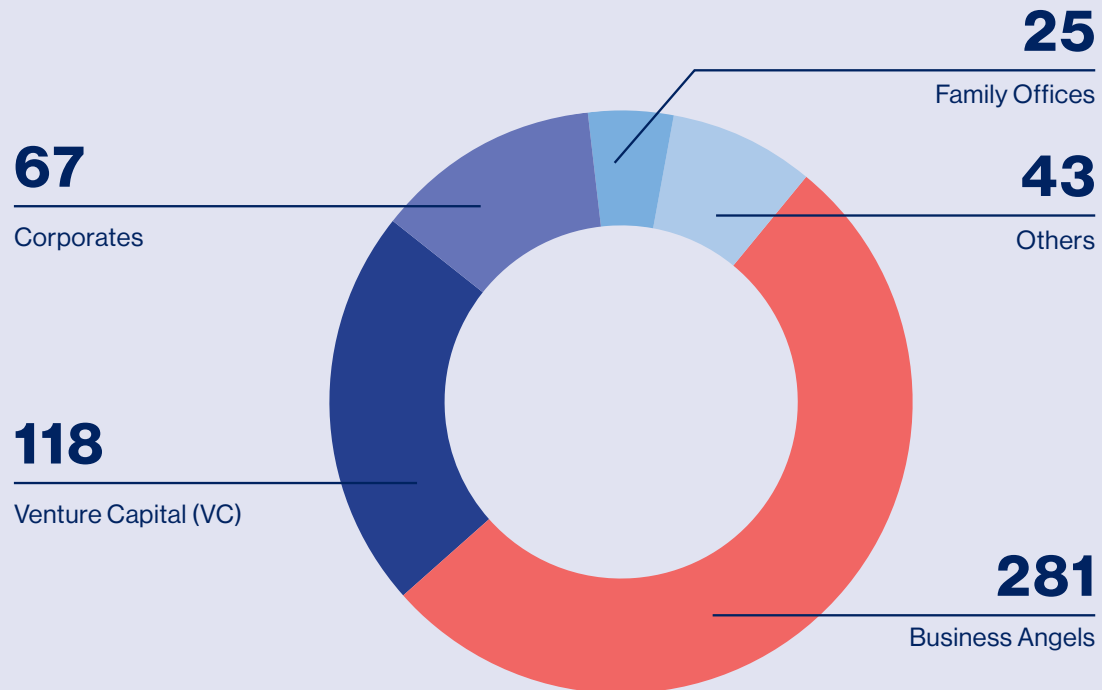
Active start-ups

Start-ups with investors



INVESTMENTS IN START-UPS

Number of financed start-ups by investor type



Start-ups with investors

Facts and figures

311 Start-ups with investors in Hessen

5.9 years Average start-up age

15.0 % Female directors

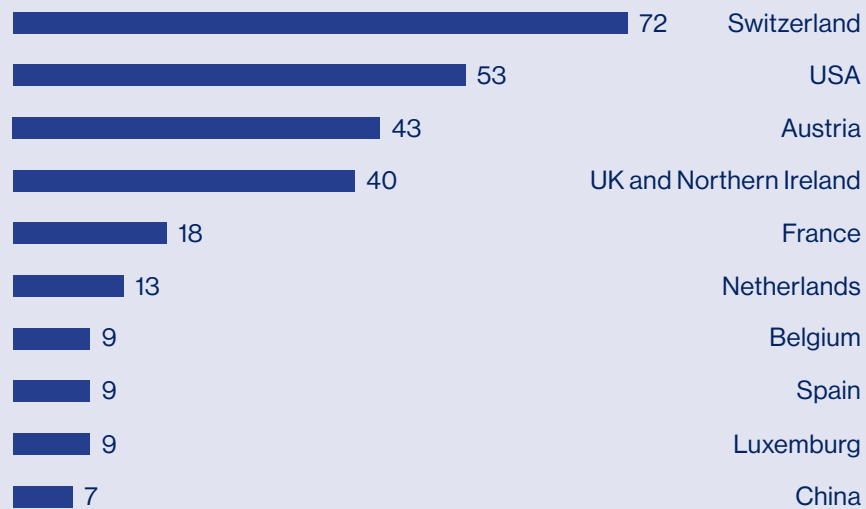
40.9 % Start-ups with foreign investors

2.267 investors have invested in Hessian start-ups

Business Angels	84.7 %
Venture Capital (VC)	7.1 %
Corporates	3.7 %
Family Offices	1.2 %
Others	3.3 %

FOREIGN INVESTORS

Top 10 countries of origin of foreign investors



40.9 %

of Hessian start-ups
with investors do have
a foreign investor

16.4 %

of all investors involved
in Hessian start-ups
do have their head-
quarters abroad

Methodology

The analysis is based on data from the commercial register. These data are checked automatically. The results are supplemented by further information from the relevant company websites, press releases, etc.

Funding rounds for Hessian start-ups and associated investors are also recorded. For every start-up, according raises in capital, published in the

commercial register, were part of the analysis. Only raises in capital with external investors were considered an investment and included in the analysis.

Investments that were undertaken by investors who were themselves involved in a start-up as directors or employees were therefore not part of the analysis.

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