

Commercial Banking

Boston Venture Funding Ecosystem

A dynamic hub for startups, investors, and innovation



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Introduction

Boston has long been recognized as a city full of history, education, sports, and culture. We can now include venture capital (VC) investment and technology development, with increasing growth in these areas observed over the last 20 years. As more VC firms opened Boston offices, more Boston area tech startups developed, thus creating a snowballing technology ecosystem in which Wells Fargo is proud to play a part.

Wells Fargo has been serving businesses in Boston for more than 170 years, and providing specialized industry support for Boston-based tech firms for more than 20 years. Our focus and commitment to the technology industry has always been strong because we support tech from many angles:

- A financial enabler of technology
- A back-office provider of technology
- A buyer of technology
- An innovator of technology
- An investor/incubator of technology companies
- A collaborator with other technology companies

Across the next year, we'll be making an even greater investment in experienced talent in the Boston market and providing increased financial support for entrepreneurs and founders, thereby immersing ourselves even more deeply into the Boston technology ecosystem. In fact, we have already added bench strength to our Technology Banking leadership team with the addition of Dzung Nguyen, Technology Banking East Region Head, based in New York City. I invite you to read Dzung's industry insights on page 10.

Founders and investors will always find their ways to each other, but external factors such as a geographic ecosystem, renowned universities, and like-minded people keen on pushing the limits of technological innovation all help to facilitate the connectivity. It is certainly no coincidence that the most developed VC markets globally include sophisticated and diverse metropolitan areas such as the San Francisco Bay Area, New York City, London, Beijing, and now, Boston.



Tom Harper

Head of Wells Fargo Technology Banking Group





Macro trends

The Boston metropolitan statistical area (MSA), which includes Boston, Cambridge, and Quincy, is renowned for the size and strength of its university and research ecosystems, as well as its rich history. Though perhaps better known for its prominence in the colonial era, the Boston area's role in the development of the modern U.S. technology sector is as important. Before Silicon Valley, there was Massachusetts' Route 128 — the stretch of highway that connected institutions pioneering the development of radio, defense technologies, and genetic modification in the second half of the 20th century. Today, the Boston MSA maintains an integral role in incubating innovative technologies and launching the careers of entrepreneurs through its higher education talent pipeline. The area's extensive hospital and healthcare systems also make it a natural draw for sectors such as medical devices and biotechnology. The concentration of education and health services jobs in the city of Boston is 1.6 times the national average, as of 2021,¹ highlighting the outsized impact of these industries on the local economy.

According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, New England experienced more persistent inflation and lower unemployment compared to the broader U.S. economy, as of May 2024.² Continued interest rate cuts will likely bolster check writing in the near term. Public sector initiatives could shape local venture capital (VC) dealmaking, including the recently passed FutureTech Act of 2024, which allocated \$1.2 billion to enhance Massachusetts' digital infrastructure and cybersecurity, as well as invest in emerging technologies such as AI and modernization projects for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services.³

The Boston area is home to notable Private equity (PE) and VC investors, including HarbourVest Partners, Battery Ventures, Bain Capital, and Polaris Partners. Total venture deal value in the Boston MSA has topped \$10 billion each year since 2018, and YTD deal value has reached \$8.6 billion with just over a quarter of the year remaining. It is worth noting that the rate of the Boston VC ecosystem's drop-off is healthier than that observed in several other areas across the U.S., and this relatively small metro area often punches above its weight in the VC arena. In fact, YTD activity ranks the Boston MSA fourth in the U.S. in terms of both total deal count and cumulative deal value. The following report dives deeper into local VC dynamics and assesses Boston's dealmaking outlook with the final quarter of 2024 on the horizon.

Boston's innovation hub







Top four in VC nationwide

Economic resilience

\$1.2B FutureTech Act

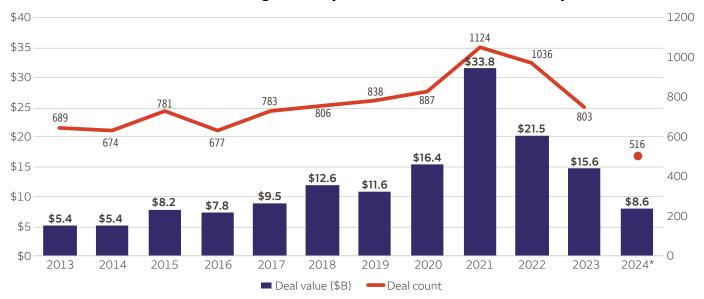
Top United States MSA (#) by 2024 deal count

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA MSA	1615	1874	1832	1719	1847	2119	2172	2205	2997	2723	2176	1381
New York-Northern New Jersey- Long Island, NY-NJ-PA MSA	1144	1321	1434	1317	1414	1557	1796	1730	2677	2427	2018	1263
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA MSA	620	741	807	766	919	980	1032	1095	1522	1424	1016	603
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH MSA	689	674	781	677	783	806	838	887	1124	1036	803	516
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA MSA	678	742	757	685	702	721	740	698	1010	844	655	430
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD MSA	193	228	236	249	276	273	337	404	560	640	495	273
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA MSA	314	306	362	304	372	377	399	374	517	487	369	247
Austin-Round Rock, TX MSA	291	299	323	275	348	361	377	356	521	505	471	239
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL MSA	147	204	177	180	205	245	240	262	461	504	394	235
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI MSA	258	287	299	316	299	331	355	359	482	439	361	223
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA	269	299	289	282	308	317	326	275	433	364	360	172
San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA MSA	239	284	284	282	300	276	311	318	475	318	264	171
Denver-Aurora, CO MSA	140	187	227	182	239	222	277	257	334	284	240	157
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX MSA	199	165	197	194	183	170	220	246	247	264	201	132
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA MSA	169	189	190	160	182	206	215	228	309	295	214	125
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI MSA	114	134	137	119	126	165	134	122	182	172	161	93
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX MSA	94	109	129	130	141	143	144	145	253	195	164	91
Dover, DE MSA	9	5	17	18	24	29	37	46	82	101	91	88
Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton, OR-WA MSA	98	101	102	110	109	116	126	111	154	135	118	76
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ MSA	95	119	132	119	122	103	131	137	169	166	116	74



Trend analysis

VC dealmaking in the Boston area has largely aligned with national trends, reaching a peak in 2021 with \$33.8 billion in total deal value and descending each year since. Despite these declines, the Boston MSA has attracted more than 10% of total VC dollars invested across the top MSAs each year since 2020, and 8.6% of total dollars YTD. With a fourth of the year left, the Boston ecosystem could see overall VC activity culminate in tallies like those seen before the ramp-up in investment from 2019 to 2022. This is primarily due to ongoing caution, as the volumes and valuations seen in 2021 have become a cautionary tale and macroeconomic concerns persist. That said, deal volume remains steady compared with the year prior, indicating the market may have reached the bottom of the VC retreat and is now poised for growth.



Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH MSA VC deal activity

*As of 09/03/2024. Full year 2024 is forecasted.

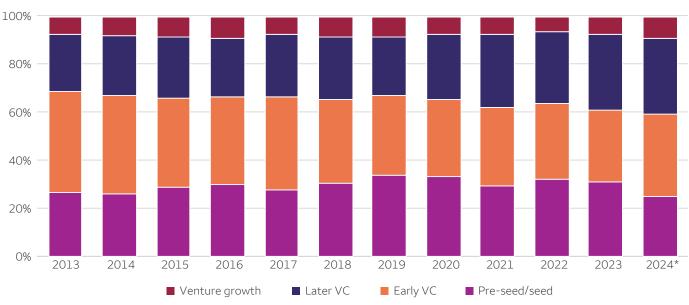
The software, B2B, and biotech & pharma industries historically command the majority of VC dealmaking in Boston. Biotech & pharma attract a uniquely large portion of total deal value compared with other regions, driven by the prominence of the area's healthcare system. The industry accounted for more than half of total VC deal value YTD, up nearly 2% from last year. The industry also represents nine of the top 10 largest VC deals in 2024, with a notable presence of drug discovery companies including Zenas BioPharma and Upstream Bio, which each raised nearly \$200 million in Q2. VC activity is highly competitive in these areas given the massive amounts of capital necessary to develop and test therapeutics along approval tracks set by the Food and Drug Administration. This means substantial check sizes will continue to flow into the area, buoyed by industry prominence.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Commercial products & services	93	96	87	73	80	85	94	80	117	113	103	81
Consumer goods & services	69	78	89	74	83	74	80	62	97	93	55	25
Energy	11	11	9	9	8	6	11	9	20	14	17	9
HC devices & supplies	58	47	57	56	65	63	73	75	84	72	73	42
HC services & systems	45	43	64	48	69	64	76	83	101	112	82	56
IT hardware	36	24	39	30	36	42	33	54	43	41	41	25
Media	15	20	16	13	20	8	10	9	11	15	10	8
Other	11	12	22	18	28	25	25	24	36	41	31	13
Biotech & pharma	106	116	146	135	166	189	192	244	276	233	185	118
Software	239	221	239	214	215	241	234	235	334	298	201	136
Transportation	6	6	13	7	13	9	10	12	5	4	5	3

Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH MSA VC deal activity (#) by VC industry

*As of 09/03/2024. Full year 2024 is forecasted.

One notable development in the biotech & pharma industry is the application and integration of today's hottest technology topic — artificial intelligence — into drug discovery and patient care. Boston served as the setting for some of the earliest artificial intelligence developments, including the formation of the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1959.⁴ Since then, Silicon Valley has become the leading hub for AI and broader VC dealmaking, but Boston's comparatively small ecosystem has the potential to drive continued investment as biotech & pharma applications expand.

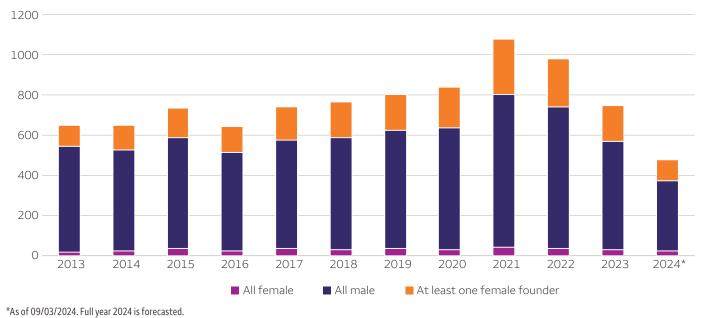


Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH MSA VC deal activity (#) by type

*As of 09/03/2024. Full year 2024 is forecasted.

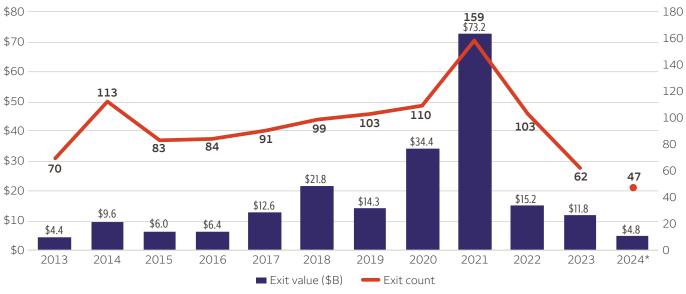
Amid the current caution from VCs, median check sizes have risen as a smaller contingent of companies secure new investments. As observed in some other regions, both median and average deal sizes for the pre-seed/seed category are at all-time highs, suggesting significant demand from VCs for exposure at earlier stages, even if riskier. This is likely due to the perceived cost-benefit advantage, even with fledgling startup risks taken into account. Boston maintains a healthy ecosystem for these deals, with a number of top-tier accelerator and incubator programs like MassChallenge and Techstars, as well as university spin-off programs, which cater to the critical earliest stages of development. Preseed/seed deals typically account for at least a quarter of Boston's total VC deal count, and this trend continued YTD.

Median pre-money valuations rose in 2024 for later-stage deals (Series C and D) and venture-growth deals (Series E or later) but declined for early-stage deals (Series A and B) and remained flat for pre-seed/seed deals. Investor selectivity likely played a role in later-stage growth, as sample sizes are smaller YTD, combined with cautious optimism regarding nearer-term exit opportunities reopening after a prolonged period of stagnation.



VC Deal count in by female founder - Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH MSA

The Boston MSA appears ahead of the curve when it comes to funding female VC founders. Companies with at least one female founder have represented at least 20% of total deal count in the area each year since 2015, while the broader U.S. figure only exceeded 20% for the first time in 2019. These companies accounted for 21.7% of total deal count in Boston YTD, compared with 18.4% for the broader US in the same period. However, there is a disparity in that local companies with all-female founding teams (as opposed to mixed-gender teams) historically close fewer deals compared to the national figure, representing 4.6% of YTD deal count compared to 6.5% for the total U.S.



Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH MSA VC exit activity

*As of 09/03/2024. Full year 2024 is forecasted.

The slow IPO market that began in 2022 is reflected in Boston's overall VC exit activity, which has yet to bounce back from the global pullback and macroeconomic uncertainty. Last year, Boston exits notched \$11.8 billion across 62 transactions, representing the slowest year since 2016. Klaviyo's \$7.2 billion IPO and Neumora's \$2.3 billion IPO were outliers, which together accounted for more than 80% of total 2023 exit value in the area. YTD exit activity reached \$4.8 billion across 47 transactions, with more consistent quarterly activity despite a lack of mega-exits so far in 2024. The Boston MSA ranked fourth for total YTD exit value and tied for third with the Los Angeles MSA in terms of total exit count.

Despite its relatively small size, the Boston MSA consistently represents a material share of total venture exit value among top MSAs, reaching a peak of 20.3% in 2022 and 18.9% in 2023. This share declined to 8.4% YTD, underscoring a moderate slowdown in overall activity this year. However, compared to several other MSAs, including those of New York and San Francisco, Boston's YTD exit count was more resilient YoY. Biotech-powered mega-exits have not reached tallies recorded in the past, as it remains to be seen when pharma giants will grow more acquisitive. Given their increasing proportion of all exits in general, it is likely they will keep looking for bargains as valuations normalize, but a full recovery for Boston exits has yet to occur.

Interview insights



Dzung Nguyen

Technology Banking East Region Head Wells Fargo Commercial Banking

Fast facts

Hometown: Hanoi, Vietnam. I also spent a portion of my childhood in Stockholm, Sweden and my adult life in the U.S., mostly in New York City.

Higher Education: Georgetown McDonough School of Business (MBA)

Languages: English, Vietnamese, Swedish

Favorite quote: "Comfort is the enemy of growth."

Q: What inspired you to join Wells Fargo's Technology Banking Group?

A: I joined Wells Fargo Technology Banking Group for several reasons, including the bank's focus and investment in our group. We cover an expansive range of tech companies across growth cycles, including early-stage companies, growth stage companies, and mature public companies. We have a strong team, and our bankers are seasoned with deep expertise in fintech, software, hardware, e-commerce, semiconductor, business and technology services, and sustainable tech. The team understands that our clients want to bank with a financial institution that can scale with them throughout the business lifecycle, and we possess the breadth of solutions necessary to support their growth, including capital raising. It is critical that as companies mature, they bank with a financial institution that can help them achieve their growth objectives.

What's also exciting is that we are growing our footprint. We have a core presence in hubs such as Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, and Atlanta, and are seeing strong expansion activity into the Southeast, particularly in Florida.

Q: From your perspective, what unique attributes have you observed within the technology industry that set it apart from other industries, and how have they fueled your interest for the field?

A: Innovation and speed of change are the key elements driving my interest in technology. And it may sound cliché, but on a day-to-day basis, the relationships we build with founders and leaders of cutting-edge technology companies is the most rewarding part of my job and continues to fuel my passion for the field. Our team's focus on helping technology companies scale is also an attribute that draws me to the sector and Wells Fargo. As a firm, we focus on enhancing our technology to seamlessly connect with our clients through channels such as API integration and digitized lending processes. In fact, we recently announced a broad suite of new API solutions that provide faster and more flexible inventory management, order processing, invoicing, accounts payable, and supply chain management. I value being part of a sector and a bank that takes the next step forward.

Q: In your view, what will be the biggest challenges or opportunities for technology banking in 2025?

A: The challenge remains for tech companies to drive both growth and profitability. For earlier stage companies, the ability to raise capital and stretch the raised dollar over a longer period continues to be important. The need for debt solutions that bridge the gap between capital raises continues to present an opportunity for technology banking providers. For later stage companies with established financing facilities, the declining rate environment presents opportunities to expand and extend its financing facilities capacity. A strategic technology banking provider brings holistic banking solutions and insights to advise companies on their growth path. Wells Fargo has been involved in technology banking for more than 25 years, launching the practice initially to support tech startups in Silicon Valley. We have the history and the scale to truly make a difference.

- Q: Your team covers the northeast, with Boston as a key hub; what excites you most about the technology sector in Boston?
- A: Boston exudes a spirit of entrepreneurship and independence. Going as far back as the Revolutionary War, the city was built on proactive, forward thinking. That still stands today.

I'm also energized by the number of prestigious universities, many with technical and entrepreneurial programs. Boston is a highly educated city with intellectual curiosity, including many strong incubators and accelerators to foster innovation, which also results in strong talent pools and smart companies.

The tech ecosystem here is collaborative and supportive, underscored by the thriving social scene, support from government entities and deep commitment from venture capital firms. In many ways it is also an intimate city. Within a several block radius, you can find many key players within the tech ecosystem working together supporting other founders to help build deeper connections more quickly than other tech hot spots.

Q: When you hear Boston Tech, you often think software and healthcare. Are there any unsung hero sectors that capture your attention?

A: Sometimes it feels as though there is a bank on every corner in Boston. Boston has been known for a long time as a hub for financial services of all sizes – it's even a place where the first mutual fund launched. It's only natural that an innovative city with deep financial services roots would support innovation in the fintech space. Through all stages of growth, we help fintechs move money efficiently, quickly, securely, and offer a wide range of APIs to help access important data throughout the process. Some of the country's largest fintechs run their businesses on the Wells Fargo platform.

In addition to fintech, we're active in the CleanTech and sustainable tech space. It's no surprise that there would be a thriving sustainable tech ecosystem in the capital city of the state that Forbes named the most environmentally friendly. With a focus on clean energy and energy efficiency, minimizing environmental impacts of government, and decarbonization, the Massachusetts Government creates an environmentally conscious population. From that population, we see a lot of innovation in renewable/clean energy (battery storage, solar, wind power), transportation tech (EVs, OEMs, EV Charging), and Agriculture/Food tech. Wells Fargo was the first money center bank to establish a group dedicated to sustainable technology. We've been in the business for over 15 years.

Q: Where is your team spending a lot of their time around town?

A: Unlike some metro areas, Boston has unique pockets of geographies with high concentrations of technology companies. One of those includes the "most innovative square mile in the world" - Kendall Square in Cambridge, which is home to several startups, high-tech companies, and venture capital firms. We see a lot of our later stage company activity in the Route 128 corridor, which has long been home to tech companies, dating back to the mid-twentieth century when the first modern industrial parks popped up along the newly opened expressway. As one might assume, we spend a lot of time meeting with clients and VC firms in FiDi, our home office. We've found a large concentration of sustainable/CleanTech companies in Somerville, and of course we regularly visit clients and other tech companies in the tech innovation district. The seaport area itself transformed from muddy parking lots into Boston's latest technology scene.

Q: What are your top priorities for leading the Technology Banking Group's East Coast team in 2025?

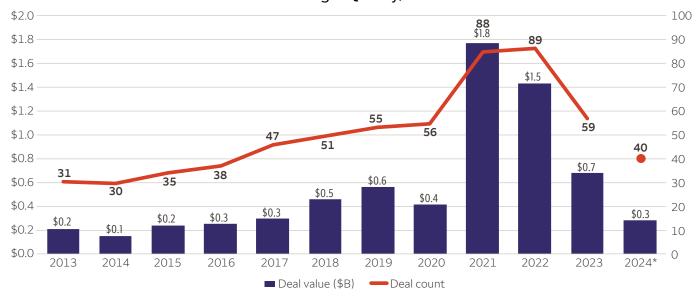
A: Focusing on our clients is always the top priority. Our clients are the most innovative technology companies, and we want to see them succeed. Depending on the growth cycle of our client, we offer a tailored advisory approach designed to help them scale and meet their specific goals. Our seamless collaboration across the Wells Fargo enterprise with business groups such as Corporate & Investment Banking, Wealth & Investment Management, and Technology Finance enables us to deliver holistic solutions. The ability to understand and anticipate banking needs such as working capital optimization, foreign exchange, and capital markets advisory also sets our team apart.

Additionally, developing and investing in our team continues to be a top priority. With our expanded coverage, attracting new talent is also a key goal for us. The activities of the tech ecosystem in hubs like Boston remain solid. The expansion of our team will enable us to actively engage with companies earlier, build relationships with founders, and advise them through growth phases. We aim to be the goto banking partner in Boston, just like we are in other parts of the country.

Spotlight – Fintech and Payments

As the financial and economic center of New England, Boston is on the radar of entrepreneurs and investors alike, and its climate sets the tone for broader dealmaking in the region. It is home to several large asset managers that attract a significant flow of capital, including Fidelity Investments, State Street, and Wellington Management. The financial services ecosystem is dominated by incumbents, but fintech and payments startups have carved out a place for themselves in part through VC funding. The fintech and payments industry represents 7.8% of total deal count and 3.3% of deal value for the Boston MSA YTD, representing a small but material slice of the area's venture ecosystem.

Boston's fintech and payments industry historically amasses several million dollars of cumulative VC funding annually, with outlier years in 2021 and 2022 that totaled over \$1 billion each. Deal value was cut in half in 2023, with just under \$700 million raised across 59 deals. YTD activity indicates a continued compression of check writing in the space at \$282.5 million in deal value, while a YTD deal count of 40 is on pace with last year. Notable deals in 2024 include Posh AI's \$32.0 million Series B for deployment of its conversational AI platform catered to credit unions and banks. Specialty insurance platform Ledgebrook raised a \$24.0 million Series A1 to launch additional products and add talent, signaling dynamism in a region with a strong presence of insurance companies.



VC Deal flow in Wells Fargo Fintech and Payments Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH MSA

*As of 09/03/2024. Full year 2024 is forecasted.

In Boston, crypto startups have also experienced recent momentum. MetaStreet raised \$25.0 million in early-stage funding to launch Liquid Credit Tokens, which represent a lender's position in a pool of high-yield credit in a tradable format. Crypto, decentralized finance, and Web3 more broadly have emerged from a period of low deal volumes, and the outlook for future venture financings has slowly improved. Circle is one of Boston's most notable crypto platforms, with a post-money valuation of \$7.7 billion and an IPO announcement in January 2024. However, the company recently announced plans to move its headquarters from Boston to New York City to engage more extensively with traditional financial institutions. This move highlights the ongoing risk of commercial relocation that the Boston area faces compared to larger cities.

The payments industry rose in prominence over the past decade as new digital platforms, cryptocurrencies, and customer demands emerged. The need for faster and more adaptable technologies for fund transfers drove significant investments, especially from VC. Now, the industry faces greater hurdles alongside a dealmaking decline as it reaches the next stage of maturation. The path to revenue growth has narrowed, and competition is heating up. The recent launch of the Federal Reserve's FedNow instant payments service reflects the latest step toward payments innovation and expanding use cases. Of the 960 institutions currently enrolled in FedNow, 36 are based in Massachusetts.⁵ The hypothetical bar for digital payments infrastructure and funds availability will only continue to rise, applying further pressure to financial institutions to update technologies, in turn creating opportunities for startups to fill in the gaps for dominant incumbents. Al adoption and integration in financial services will also likely supplement venture check writing for fintech and payments startups in the face of slower overall deal activity.



Looking forward

The Boston MSA is already a prominent hub for U.S. venture dealmaking, and it has room to grow further. With entrenched supporting institutions, including universities, research labs, and hospitals, the area will continue to be a natural fit for innovative new entrants and large talent pools. The area boasts a sustained pipeline of seed and early-stage deals, which may fortify its overall dealmaking levels over the long term. With broader economic and dealmaking sentiment improving, the Boston MSA may see a return to growth in VC deal activity over the next several guarters. Biotech & pharma prominence carries on with no signs of subsiding over the long term. Software and B2B industries also drive a significant share of VC activity in the area, and with the growth of AI and its applications, this will also likely continue in the coming years. The commercialization ramp may provide more clarity on the most viable business models in the space as well as proven applications beyond traditional tech, including - most importantly for the Boston MSA biotech & pharma use cases. Among other factors, Boston's outsized strength in life sciences, combined with its history of tech and industrial transformation, position it well for future growth in startup funding.

Boston's rich history of education, sports, and culture now includes a thriving venture capital and technology scene. Wells Fargo is proud to play a part, with over 170 years of service to Boston businesses and two decades of specialized support for the city's tech firms. As we deepen our investment in Boston, we look forward to empowering entrepreneurs and expanding the city's dynamic tech ecosystem.

Tom Harper

Head of Wells Fargo Technology Banking Group

Methodology

Reports are prepared in accordance with PitchBook's methodology, which is described in detail on the PitchBook <u>report</u> <u>methodologies page</u>. Fintech and software are two spaces with custom curated criteria that align with Wells Fargo's definitions.

Fintech is defined as payments, online lending, investment platforms, personal finance, application software, and infrastructure.

Software is defined as application software, infrastructure, security, payments, investment platforms, online lending, and personal finance.

"Boston Metro Area" is defined in this report as the Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, Massachusetts-New Hampshire Metropolitan Statistical Area.



About Wells Fargo

Wells Fargo & Company (NYSE: WFC) is a leading financial services company that has approximately \$1.9 trillion in assets. We provide a diversified set of banking, investment and mortgage products and services, as well as consumer and commercial finance, through our four reportable operating segments: Consumer Banking and Lending, Commercial Banking, Corporate and Investment Banking and Wealth & Investment Management. Wells Fargo ranked No. 34 on Fortune's 2024 rankings of America's largest corporations. In the communities we serve, the company focuses its social impact on building a sustainable, inclusive future for all by supporting housing affordability, small business growth, financial health, and a low-carbon economy.

About Wells Fargo's Technology Banking Group

As part of the Commercial Banking division, Wells Fargo's Technology Banking Group has delivered specialized insights and recommendations to technology companies for more than 25 years. The team provides scalable support to clients in all stages of the business lifecycle – early, growth, and maturity – and combines industry experience with the strength and resources of one of the largest U.S. commercial banks. Primary subsector focus includes Software, Fintech, E-commerce, Semiconductor, Business & Technology Services, and Sustainable Tech.

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^{1. &}quot;Fiscal Year 2024 Adopted Budget," City of Boston, September 26, 2023.

^{2. &}quot;New England Economic Conditions Through July 9, 2024," Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Bo Zhao, July 12, 2024.

^{3. &}quot;Massachusetts Senate Acts to Invest in Cybersecurity," General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, June 6, 2024.

^{4. &}quot;Mission & History," MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, n.d., accessed September 17, 2024.

^{5. &}quot;FedNow® Service Participants and Service Providers," The Federal Reserve, July 22, 2024.