

# **InsurTech:** ***The Financing of Innovation, Transformation and Disruption***

**InsurTech Symposium**  
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**Robert P. Hartwig, Ph.D., CPCU**

**Clinical Associate Professor of Finance, Risk Management & Insurance**  
**Director, Center for Risk and Uncertainty Management**

**Darla Moore School of Business ♦ University of South Carolina**

**[Robert.Hartwig@moore.sc.edu](mailto:Robert.Hartwig@moore.sc.edu) ♦ 803.777.6782**



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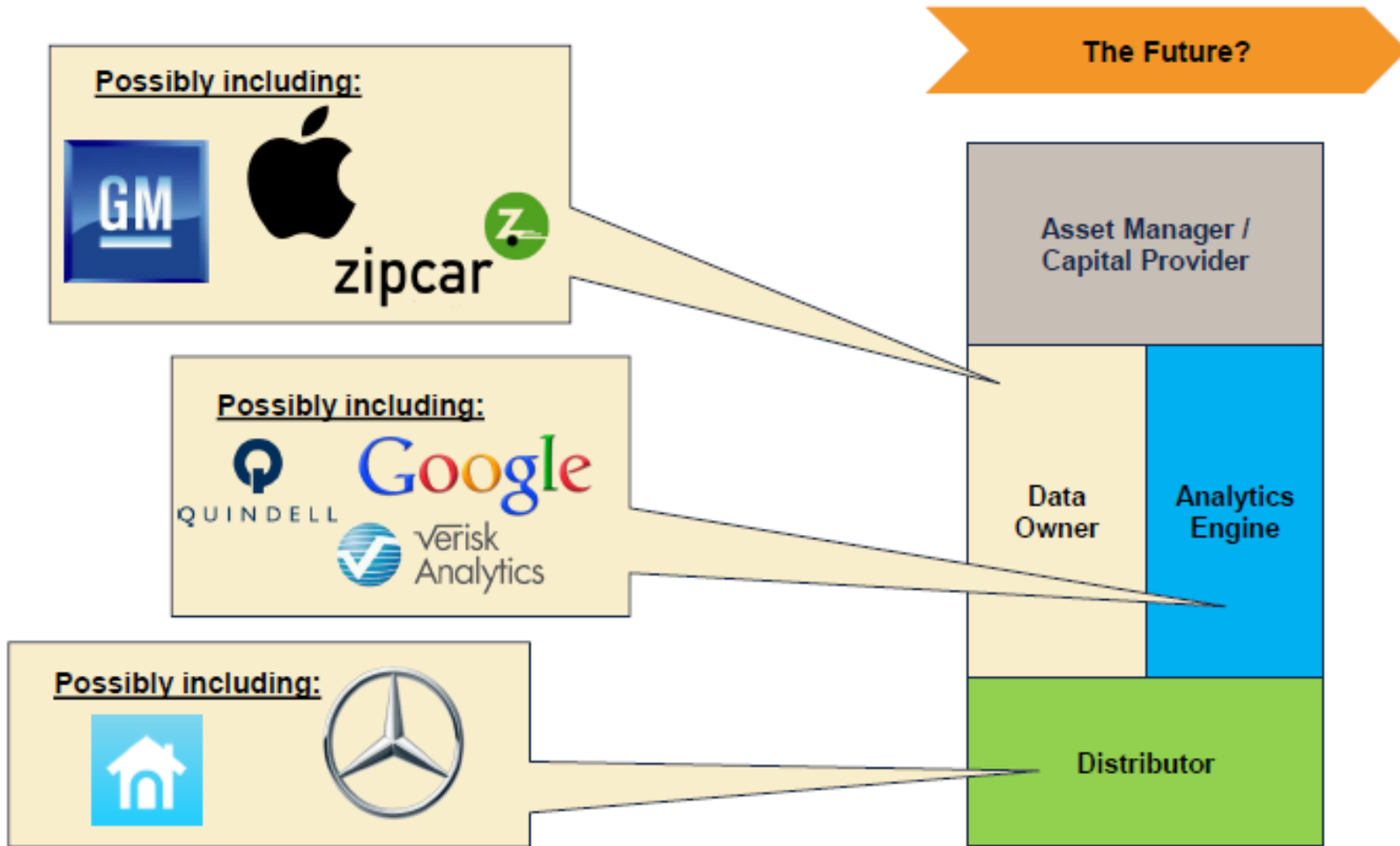
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# INSURANCE INDUSTRY DISRUPTORS

**Technology, Society and the Economy  
Are All Changing at a Rapid Pace**

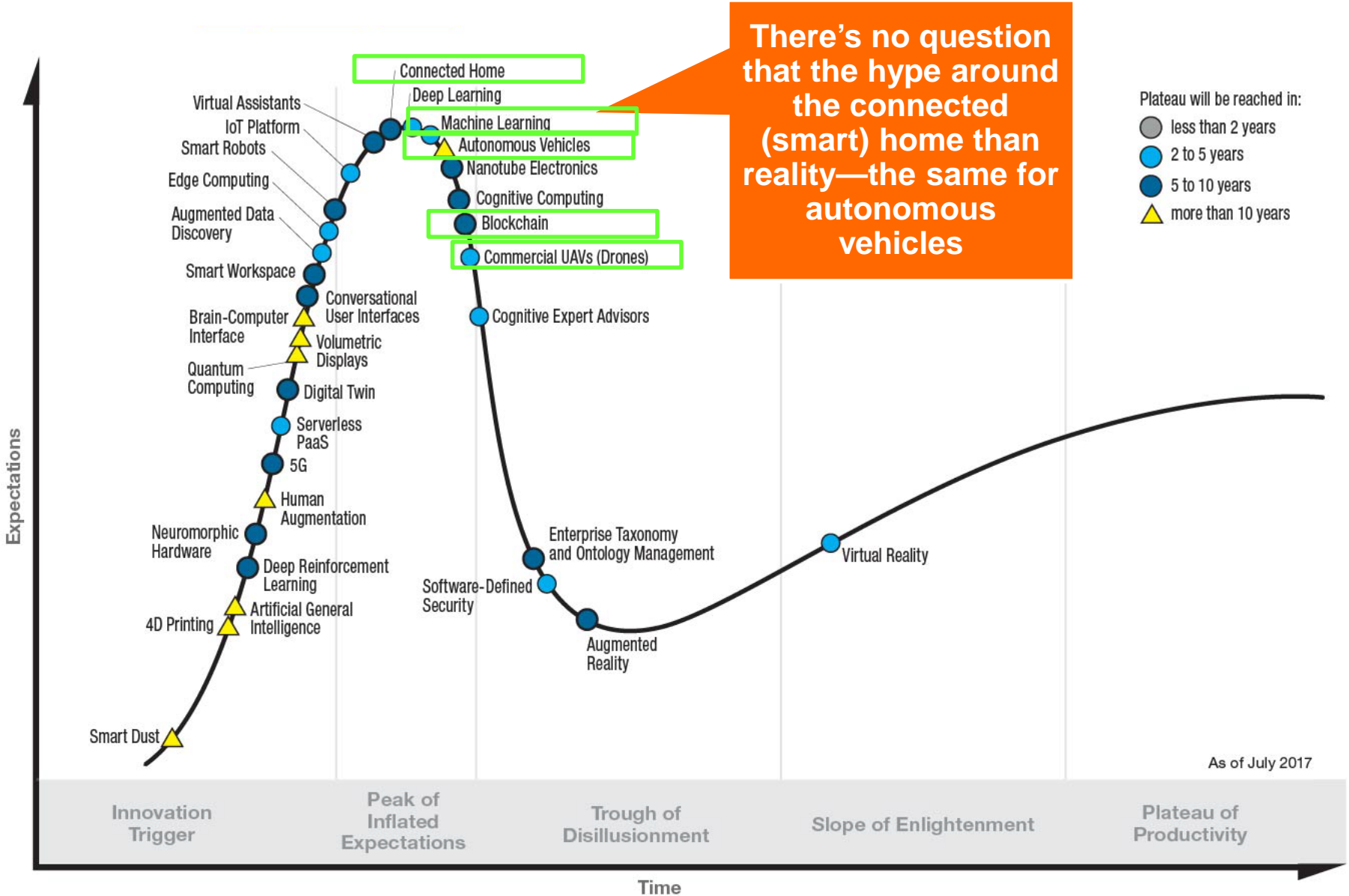
***Insurance Too: But Need to Look at  
Reality***

# The Insurance Industry Value Chain: Under Siege, Ripe for Disruption?



**Who owns the data? Where does it flow? Who does the analytics?  
Who is the capital provider?**

# Hype Cycle for Emerging Technologies, 2017



Source: Gartner.

# Most-Hyped Technologies Impacting Insurers Today, Based on Gartner's Hype Curve

- **Autonomous Vehicles**
- **Connected (Smart) Homes**
- **UAVs (Drones)**
- **Blockchain**
- **Machine Learning**

# Media is Obsessed with Driverless Vehicles: Often Predicting the Demise of Auto Insurance

## Hands-Free

Projected global unit sales of autonomous vehicles over the next 20 years

32m

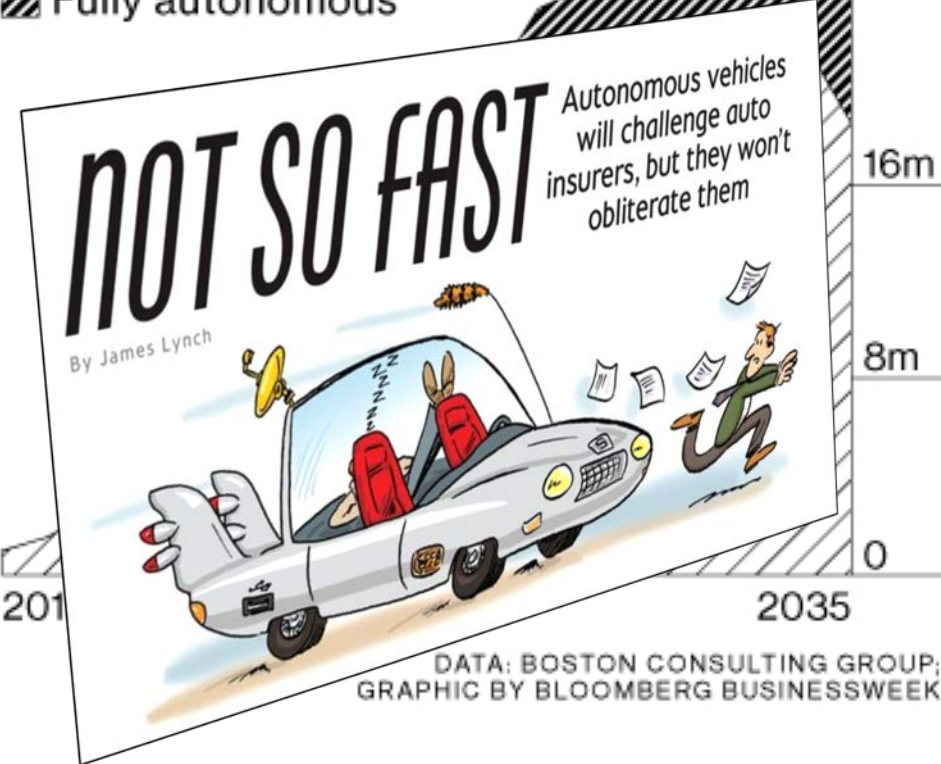
24m

16m

8m

0

- Partially autonomous
- ▨ Fully autonomous



By 2035, it is estimated that 25% of new vehicle sales could be fully autonomous models

### Questions

- Are auto insurers monitoring these trends?
- How are they reacting?
- Will Google or (Amazon) take over the industry?
- Will the number of auto insurers shrink?
- How will liability shift?

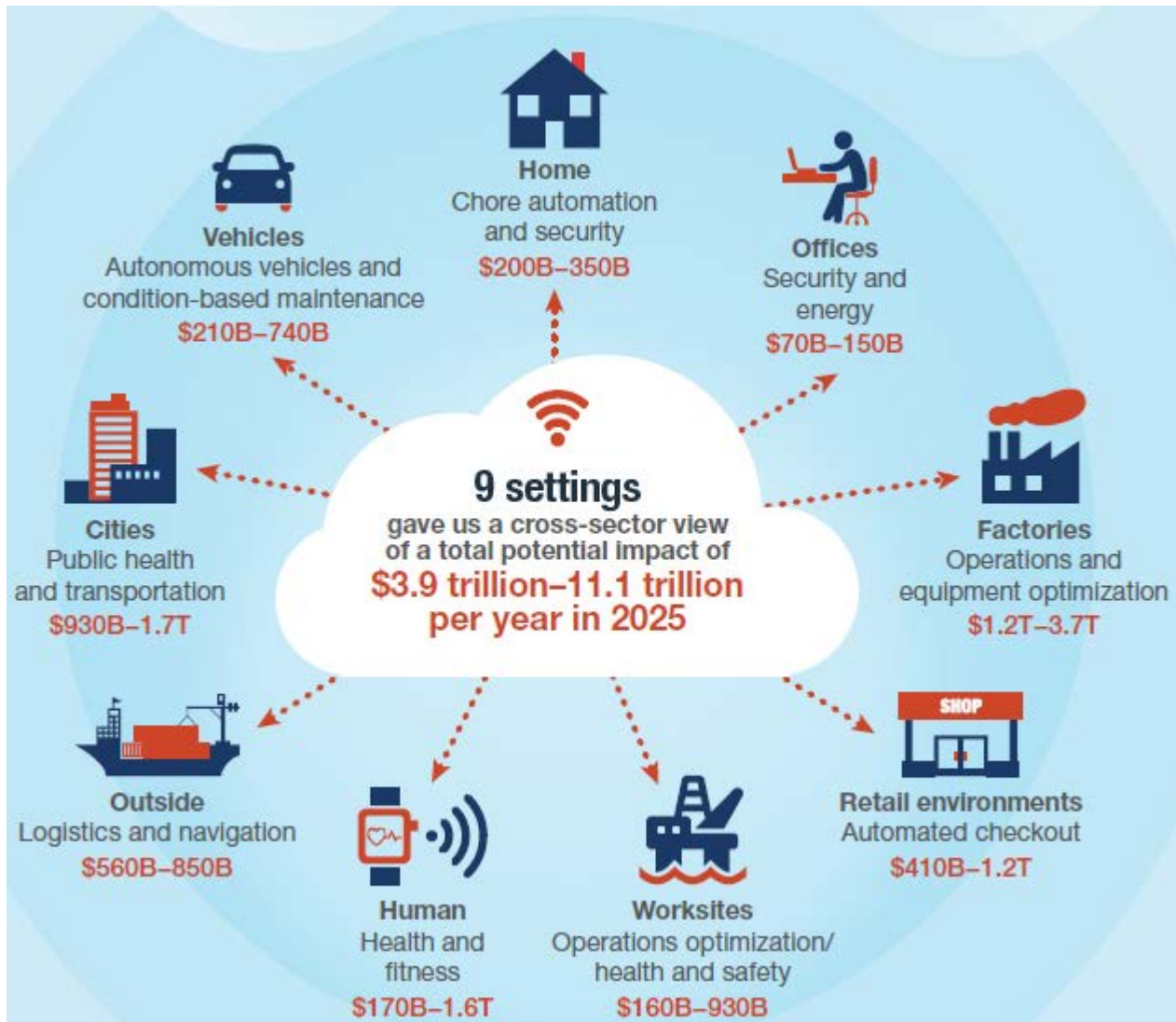
Source: Boston Consulting Group.

# Autonomous Vehicles: Will Insurers Drown in the Data?



- The average human by 2020 will generate about 1.6GB in data every day
- The average autonomous vehicle will process about 4,000GB per day—as much as nearly 2,700 humans
- Are insurers ready for this?

# The Internet of Things and the Insurance Industry



Sources: McKinsey Global Institute, *The Internet of Things: Mapping the Value Beyond the Hype*, June 2015; Insurance Information Institute.

- The “Internet of Things” will create trillions in economic value throughout the global economy by 2025
- What opportunities, challenges will this create for insurers?
- What are the impact on the insurance industry “value chain”?
- What is InsurTech’s Role?



# Trends in US Venture Capital Funding

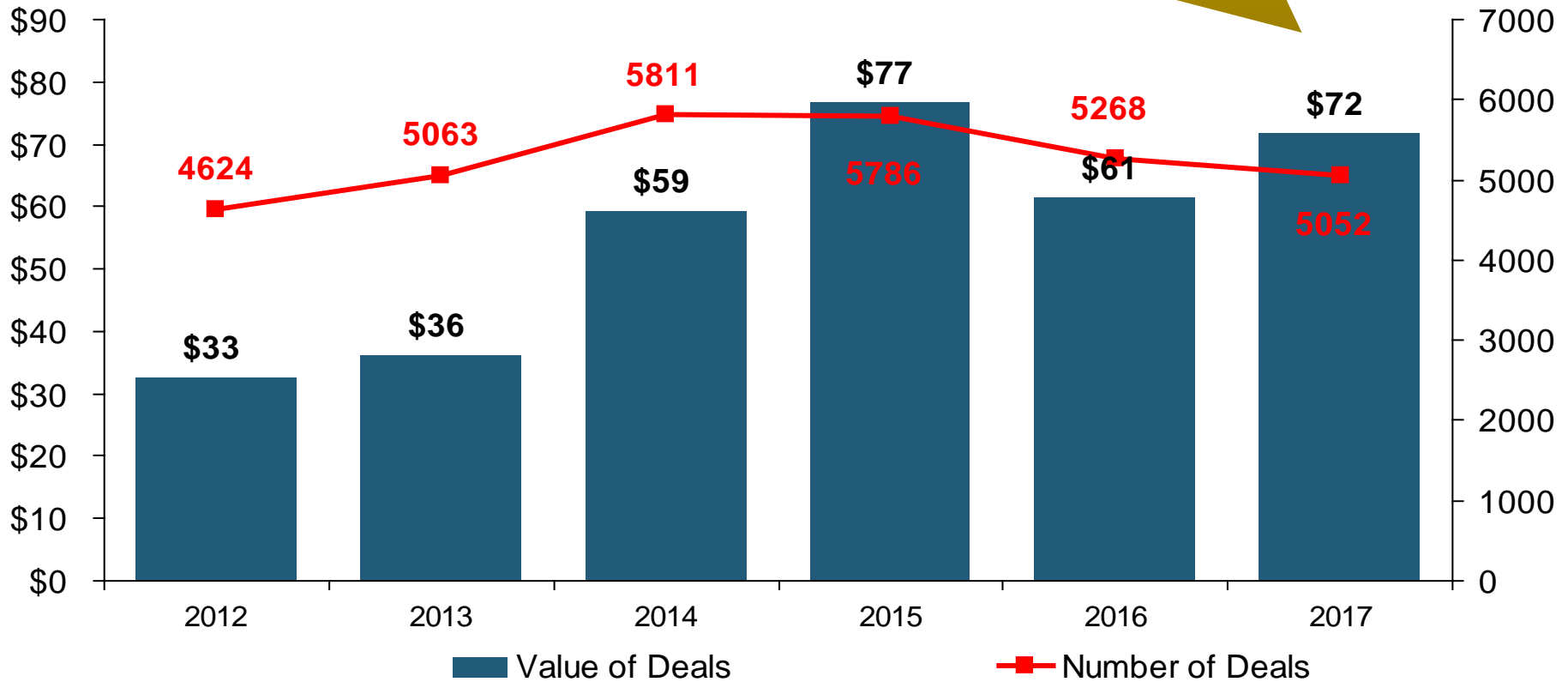
**Venture Capital Funding Is  
Large, Growing and Risky**

# US Venture Capital Funding (All Sectors), 2012 – 2017

VC funding across all sectors has been increased in 2017 though the number of deals fell

Value of Deals (\$ Billions)

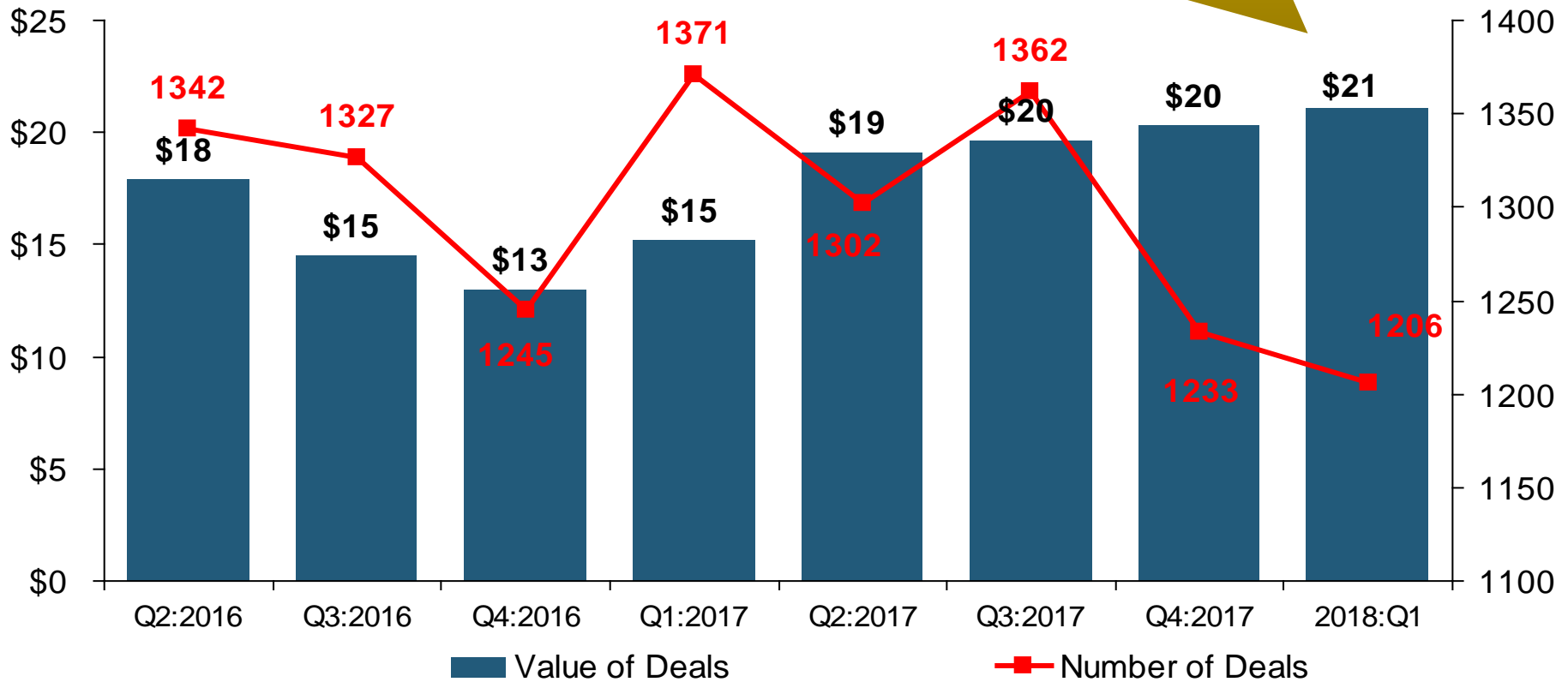
No. of Deals



# US Venture Capital Funding (All Sectors), 2016:Q2 – 2018:Q1

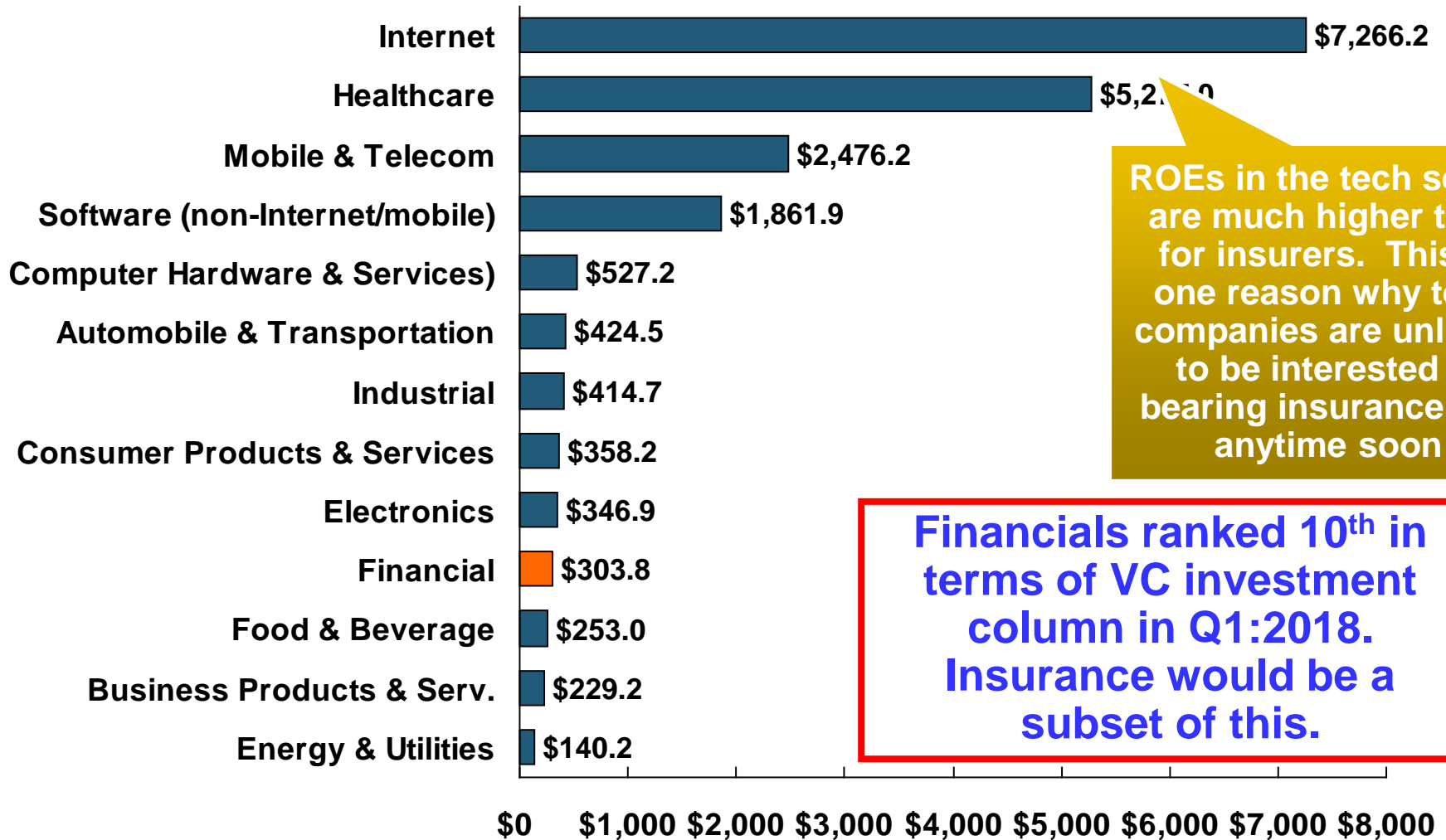
Value of Deals (\$ Billions)

No. of Deals



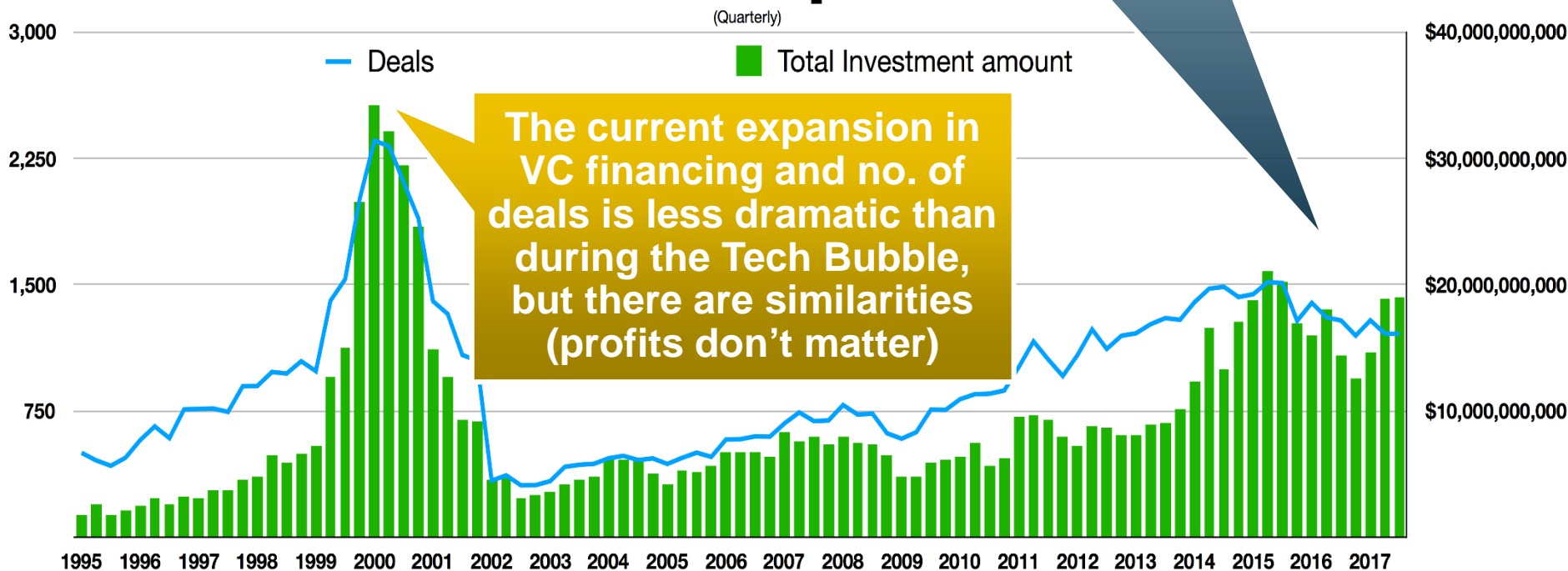
# VC Investment by Industry, 2018:Q1 (\$ Mill)

## *Technology Leads the Way—Finance Lags*

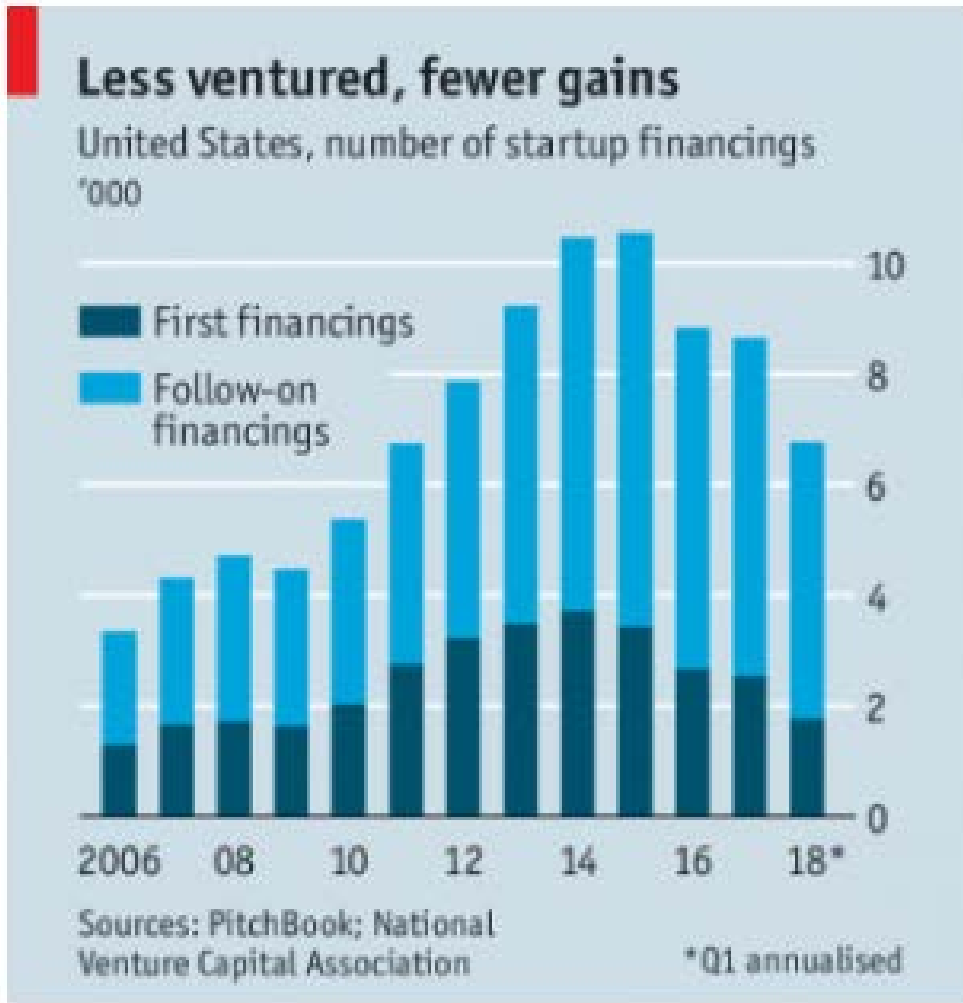


# Total US Venture Capital Investments and Number of Deals, 1995:Q1 – 2017:Q4

Is a new dot com bubble building or is an orderly “deflation” already underway?

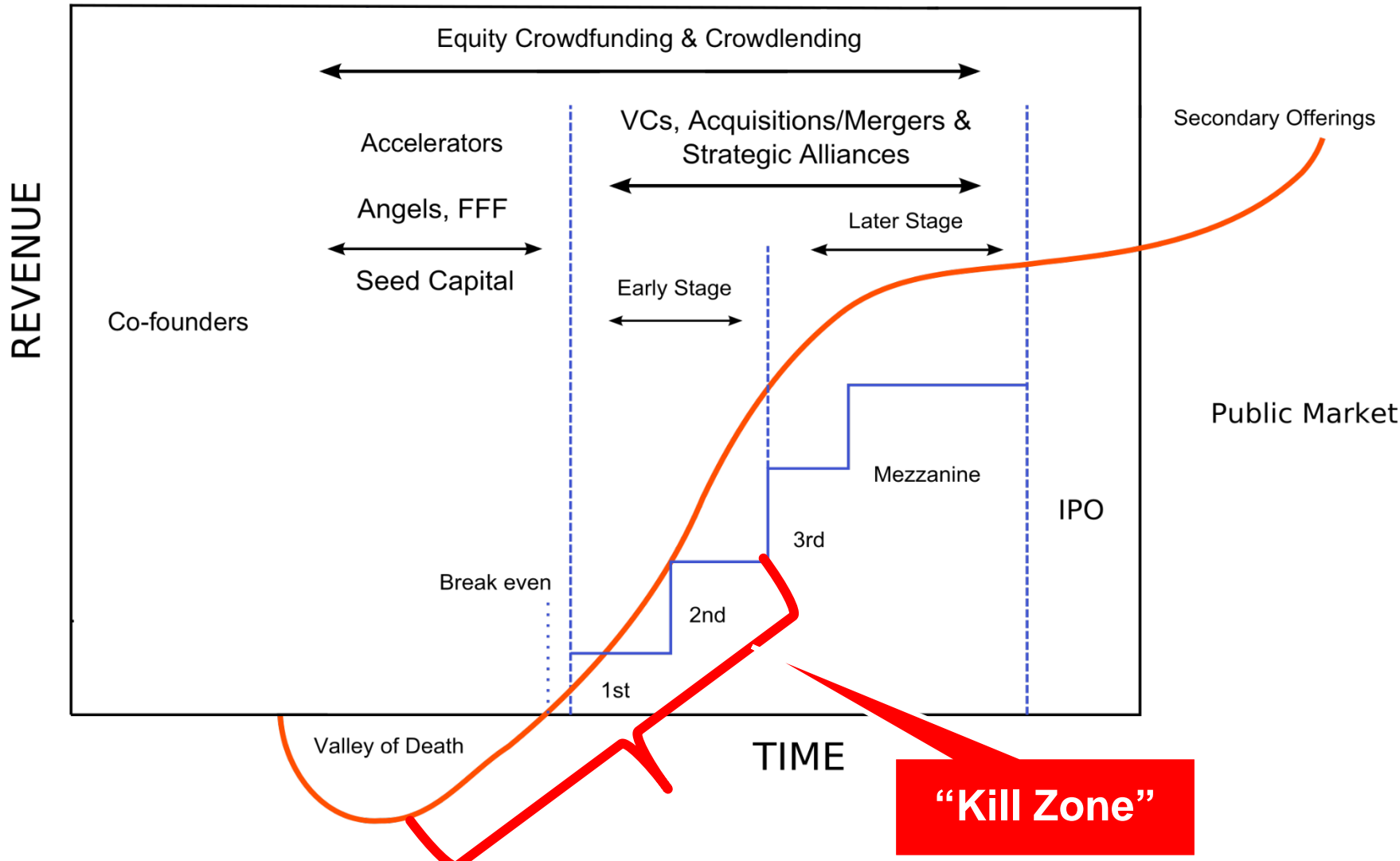


# Start-Up Financings in the US, 2006 – 2018\*



- First-round financings are down sharply across the board, including InsurTech
- One reason: **“The Kill Zone”**
- Tech giants (e.g., Google, Amazon, Microsoft, Facebook) are quick to eliminate competitive threats by copying them or buying them early
- VCs are wary of investing if one of the “Giants” is likely to move into same space
- Does InsurTech have a “Kill Zone”?

# The Startup Financing Cycle: Long, Uncertain and Sometimes Desperate Process



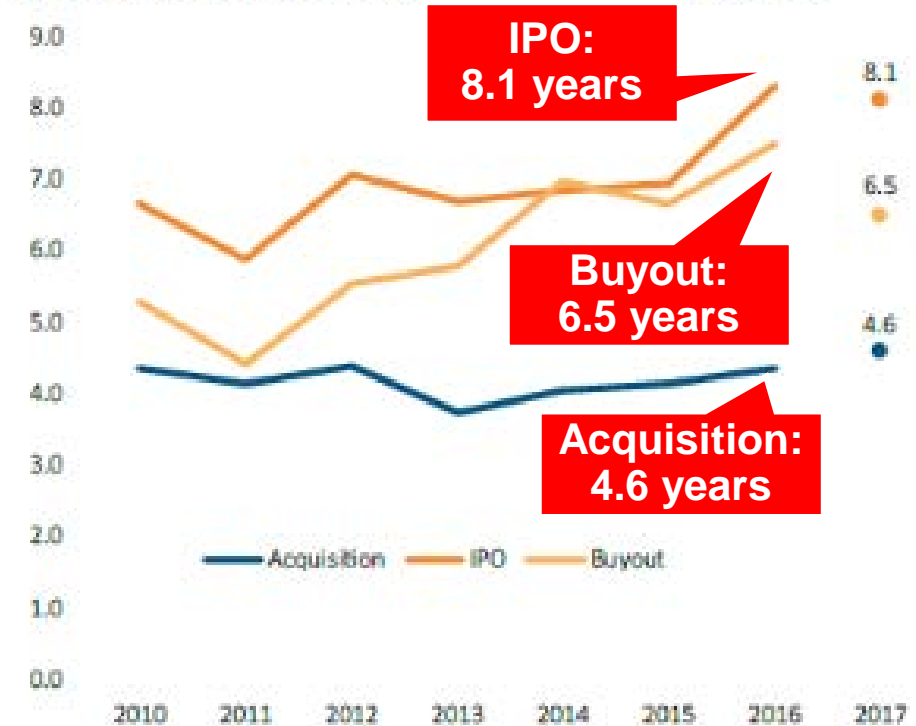
Source: PwC MoneyTree Report at: <https://www.pwc.com/us/en/technology/moneytree.html>  
 University of South Carolina, Center for Risk and Uncertainty Management.

# Median Time to Exit from VC Financing Reached All Time Record in 2017

Median and average company age (years) at time of exit



Median time to exit (years) from first VC financing by type





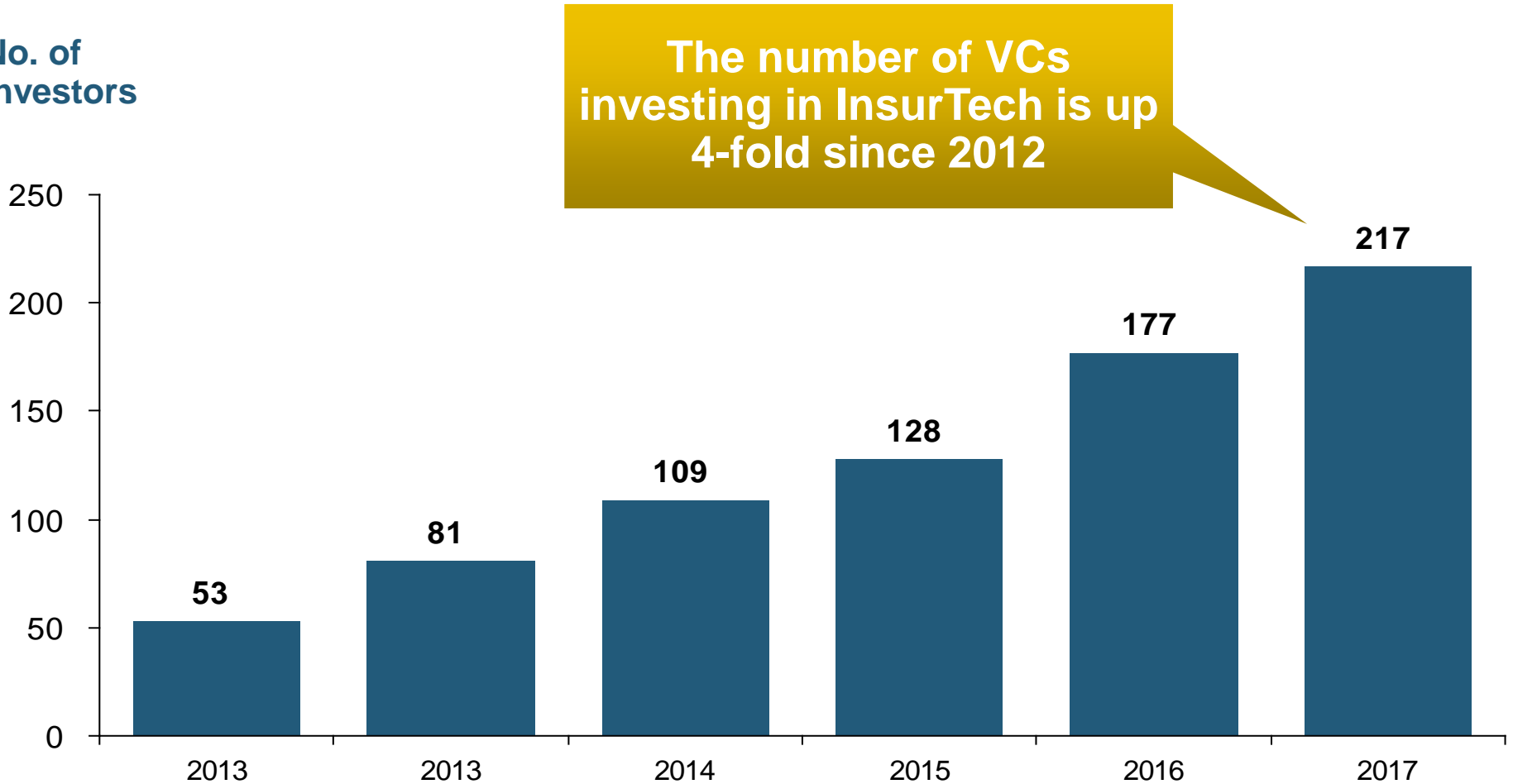
# THE STATE OF INSURTECH FUNDING TODAY

**Number and Value of Deals Is Increasing in Recent Years, but Has a Plateau Been Reached?**

***Insurance Is an Industry that Has Always Been Accepting of Change and Innovation***

# Number of VC Investors in InsurTech, 2012 – 2017

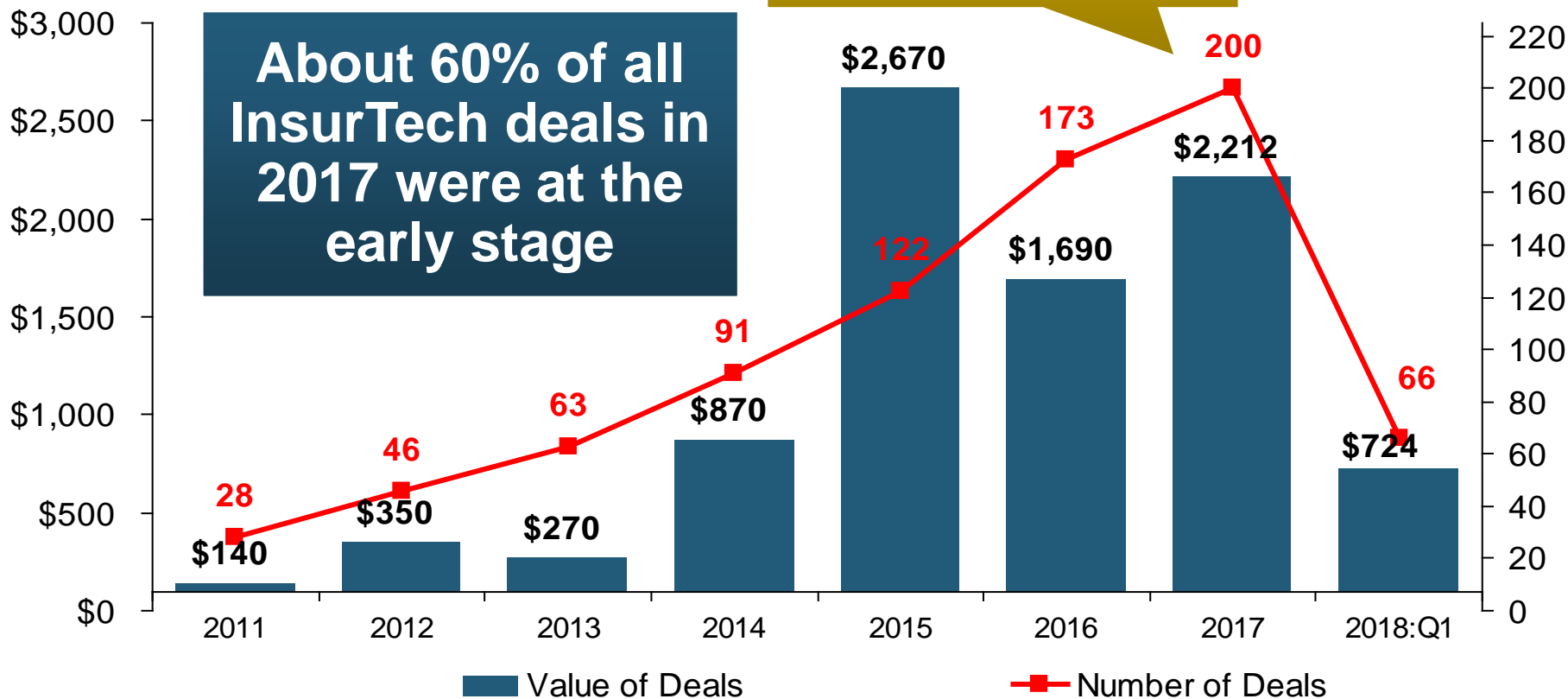
No. of Investors



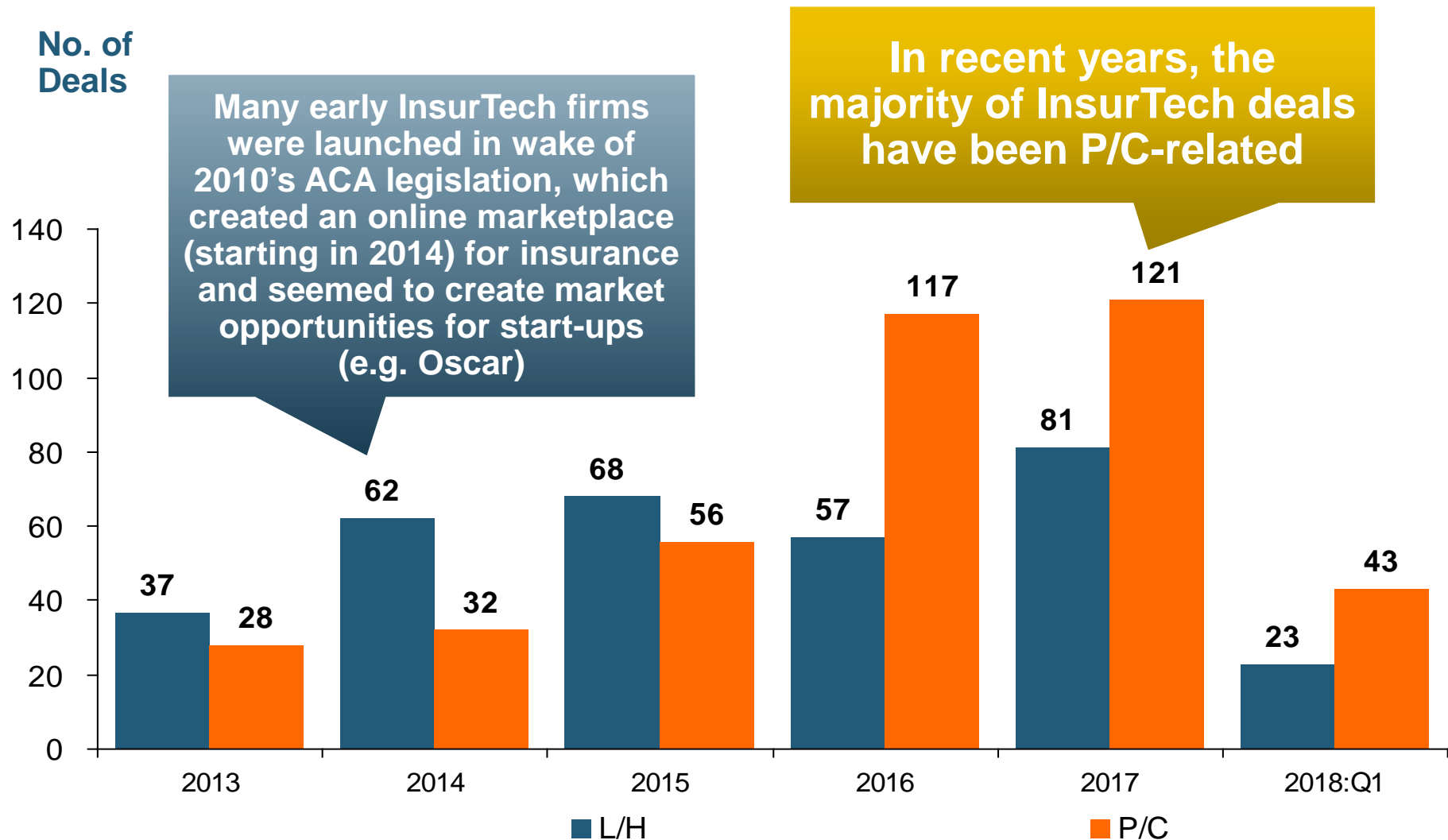
# InsurTech Annual Financing, 2011 – 2018:Q1

Value of Deals (\$ Millions)

No. of Deals



# Number of InsurTech Deals: P/C vs L/H 2013 – 2018:Q1



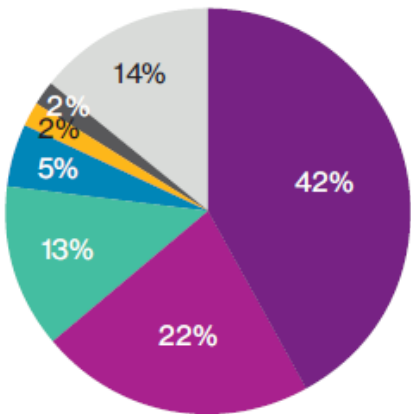
# INSURTECH INVESTMENTS BY STAGE

**Is the InsurTech Phenomenon Maturing?**

***Is the Recent Decline in Early Stage  
Financing the Signaling the End to  
Easy Money?***

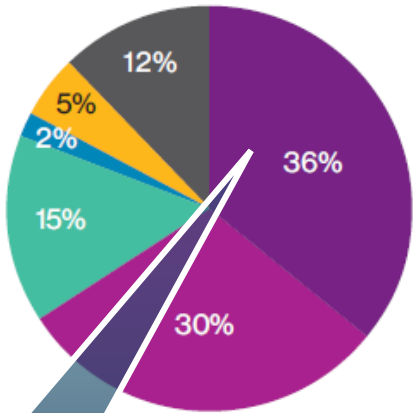
# InsurTech Investments by Investment Stage

2013 – Q1 2018



2013 – Q1 2018 Transactions: 727

Q1 2018



Q1 2018 Transactions: 66

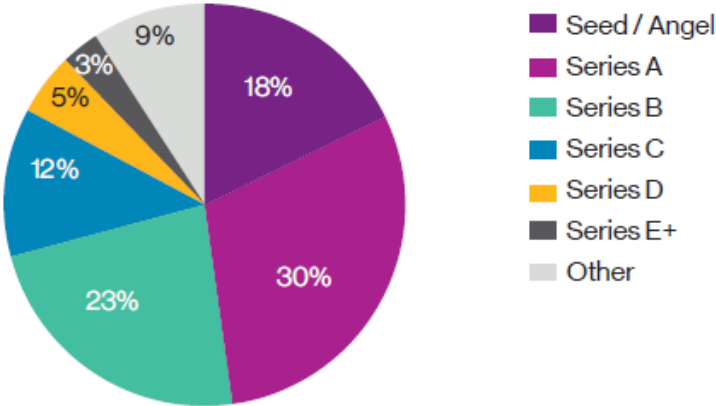
**Proportionately less investment at the earliest stage in recent quarters**

**Is the shrinkage evidence of InsurTech's Kill Zone?**

Source: CB Insights, Quarterly InsurTech Briefing, Q1 2018.

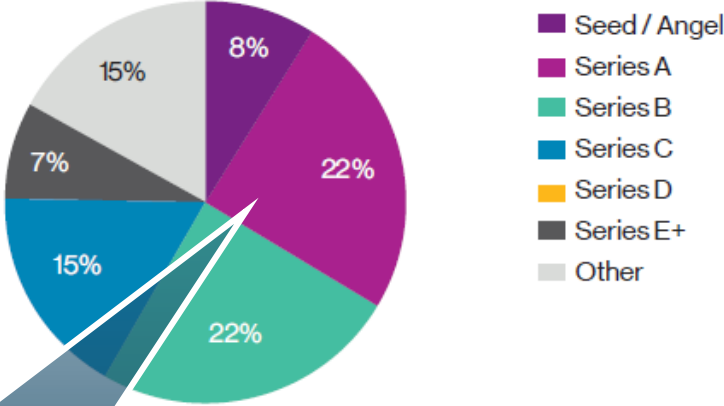
# Private Technology Investments by (Re)Insurers, 2013 – 2018:Q1

2013 – Q1 2018



2013 – Q1 2018 Transactions: 350

Q1 2018



Q1 2018 Transactions: 27

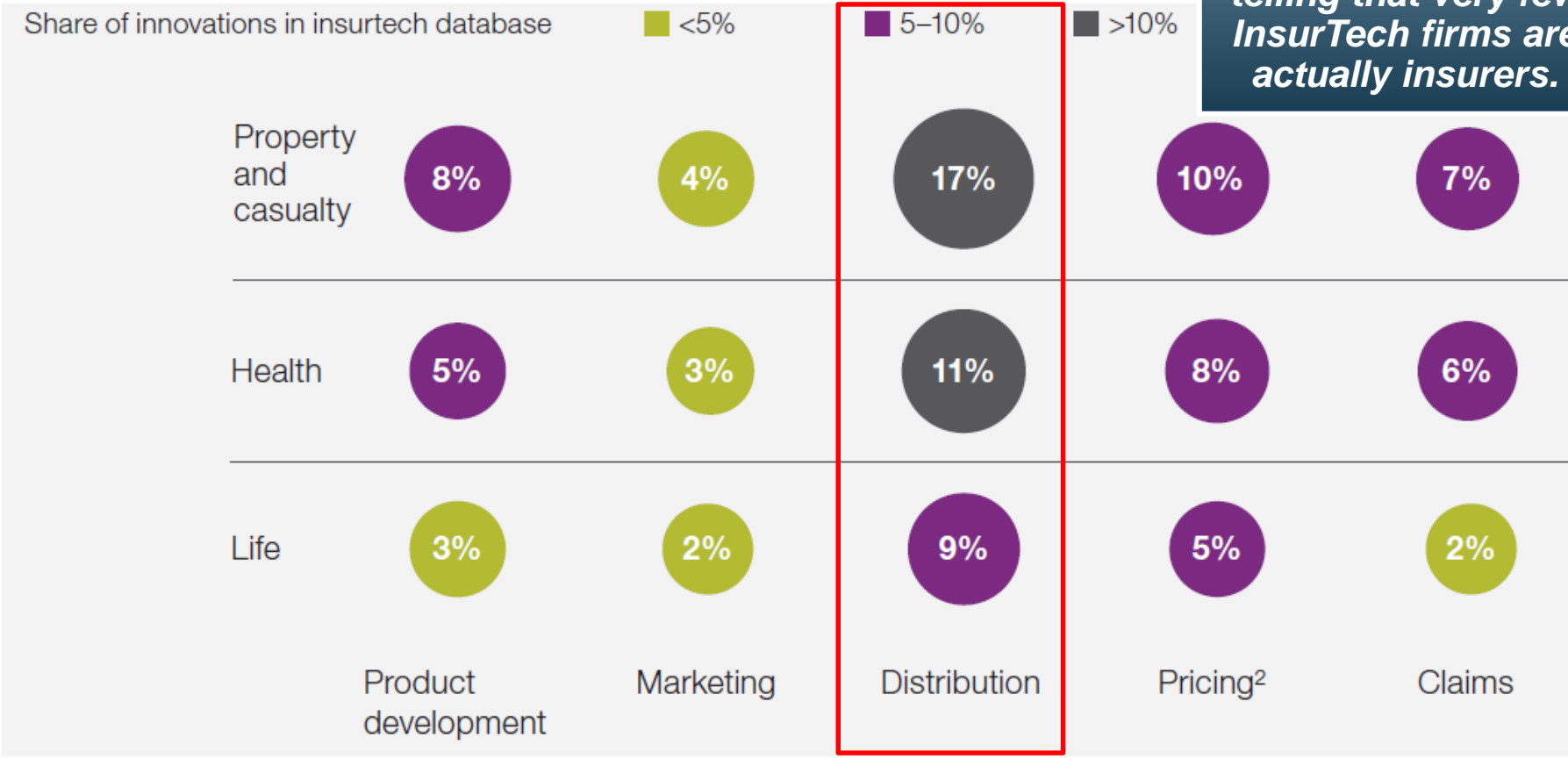
**There are proportionately fewer early-stage tech investments by (re)insurers in Q1:2018**

**Is the decline evidence of InsurTech's Kill Zone?**

Source: CB Insights, *Quarterly InsurTech Briefing*, Q1 2018.

# InsurTechs Are Focusing on Distribution and Pricing

InsurTech firms across all insurance segments tend to focus on Distribution. *It is telling that very few InsurTech firms are actually insurers.*



Source: Panorama by McKinsey, "Insurance Beyond Digital: The Rise of Ecosystems and Platforms," Jan. 2018.



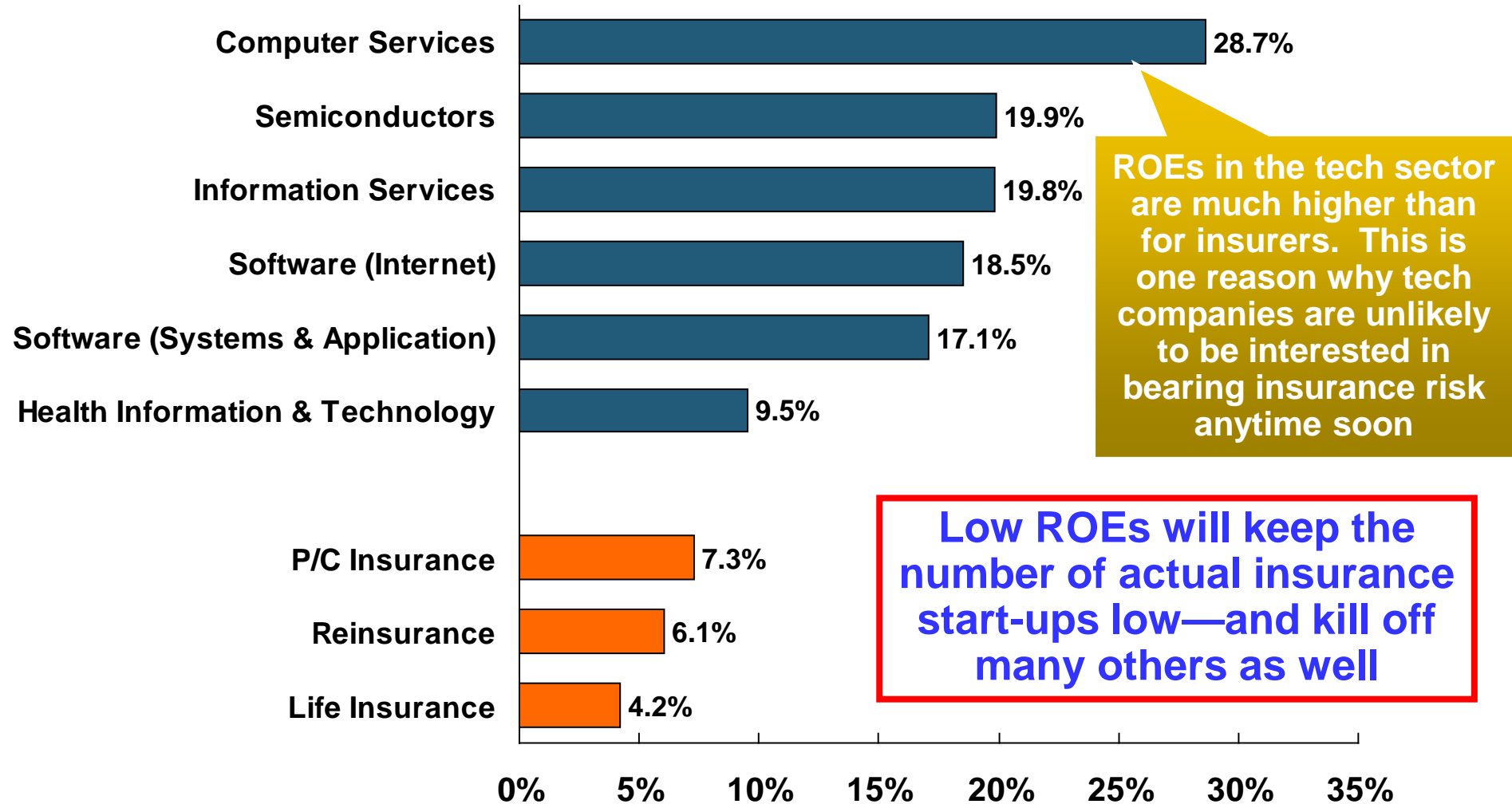
# 5 Reasons Why So Few InsurTech Start-Ups Actual Insurers (Risk Bearers)

- 1. Barriers to Entry:** Starting an actual insurance company requires significant resources in terms of:
  - ◆ Capital
  - ◆ Technology
  - ◆ Regulatory compliance capabilities
  - ◆ High customer acquisition costs
  - ◆ Human capital (i.e., experienced insurance industry execs)
- 2. Competition:** Both personal and commercial lines of insurance are intensely competitive
  - ◆ HHI Values for auto insurance ~900 - 1000 in most states
  - ◆ HHI Values for home insurance ~700 in most states
  - ◆ DoJ: HHI Values < 1500 not concentrated

# Why Are So Few InsurTech Start-Ups Actual Insurers (Risk Bearers)?

- 3. Margins Are Thin:** Profitability in the insurance industry is falling
  - ◆ P/C insurance industry ROEs fell for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in 2017 (to 5.0%) and could fall again in 2018 (2.4% in Q1)
  
- 4. Overcapitalization:** The P/C and Life insurance industries are both over capitalized
  - ◆ The p/c insurance industry finished 2017 with a record \$753 billion in policyholder surplus (a proxy for capacity)—which is at implies that the industry is overcapitalized by about 1/3

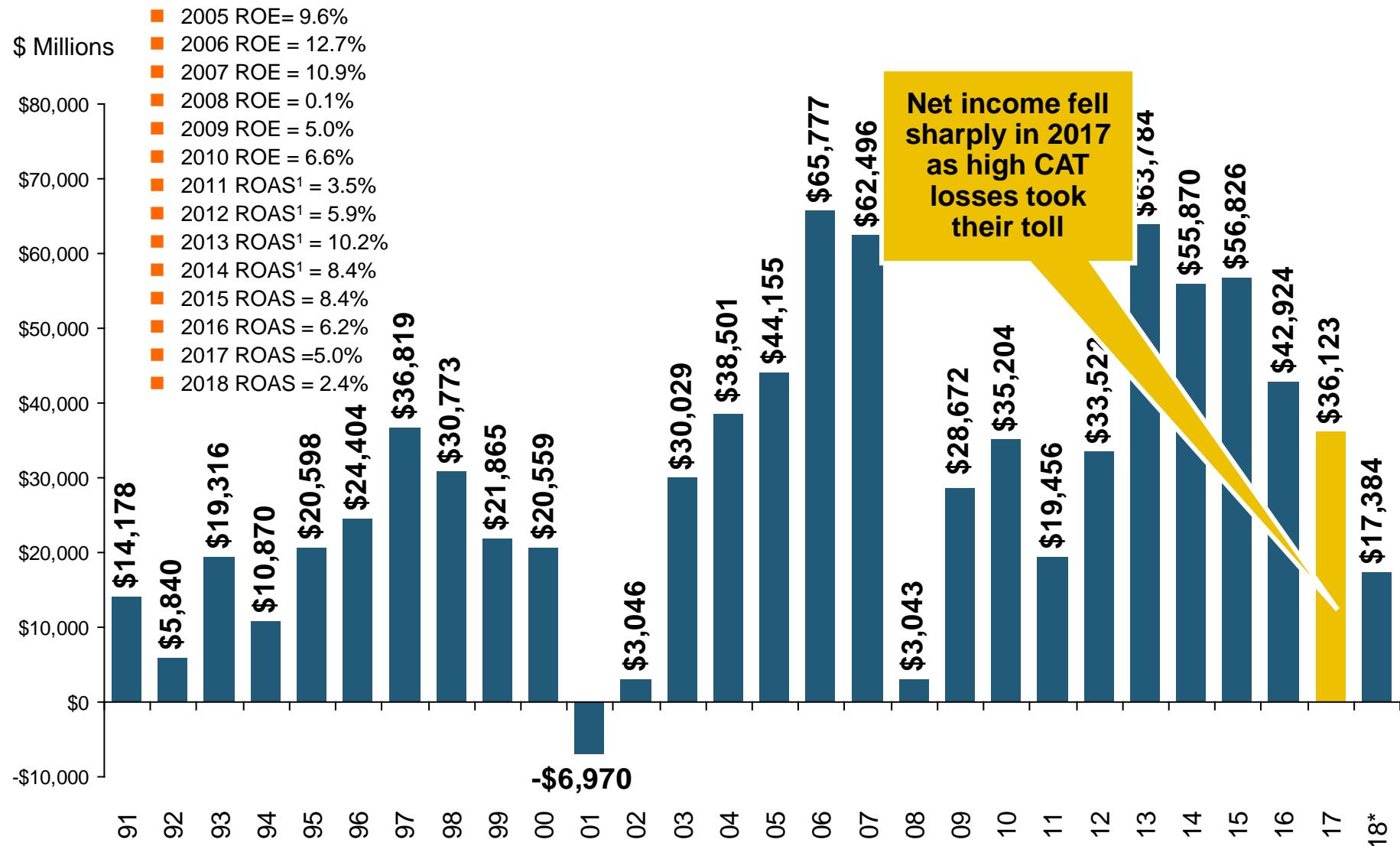
# ROEs: Insurance vs. Technology Sectors— A “Poison Pill”?



\*As of January 2018

Source: Stern School, NYU accessed 6/18/18 at : [http://pages.stern.nyu.edu/~adamodar/New\\_Home\\_Page/datafile/roe.html](http://pages.stern.nyu.edu/~adamodar/New_Home_Page/datafile/roe.html); Univ. of South Carolina Center for Risk and Uncertainty Management.

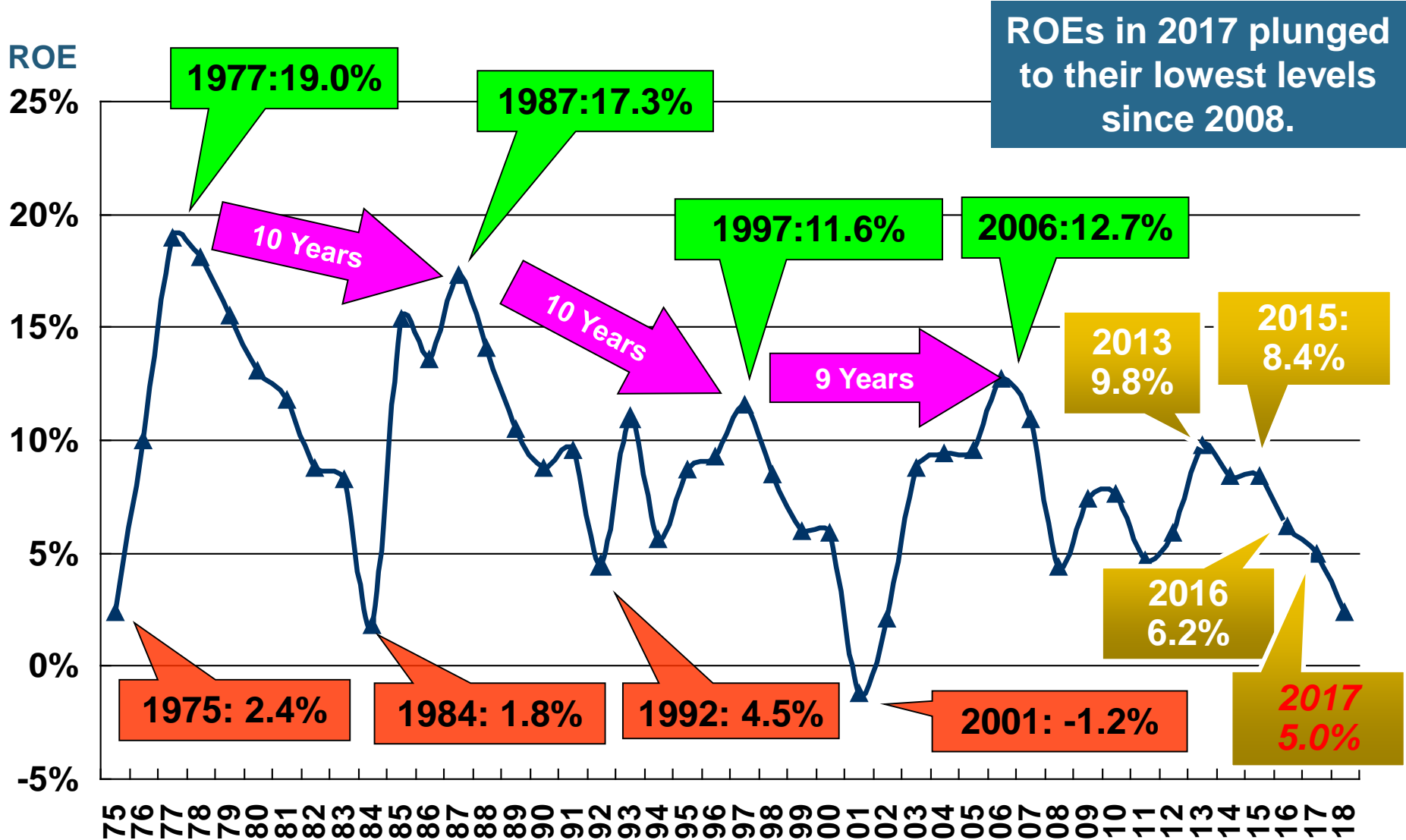
# P/C Industry Net Income After Taxes 1991–2018:Q1



•ROE figures are GAAP; <sup>1</sup>Return on avg. surplus. Excluding Mortgage & Financial Guaranty insurers yields a 8.2% ROAS in 2014, 9.8% ROAS in 2013, 6.2% ROAS in 2012, 4.7% ROAS for 2011, 7.6% for 2010 and 7.4% for 2009;

Sources: A.M. Best, ISO.

# Profitability Peaks & Troughs in the P/C Insurance Industry, 1975 – 2018:Q1

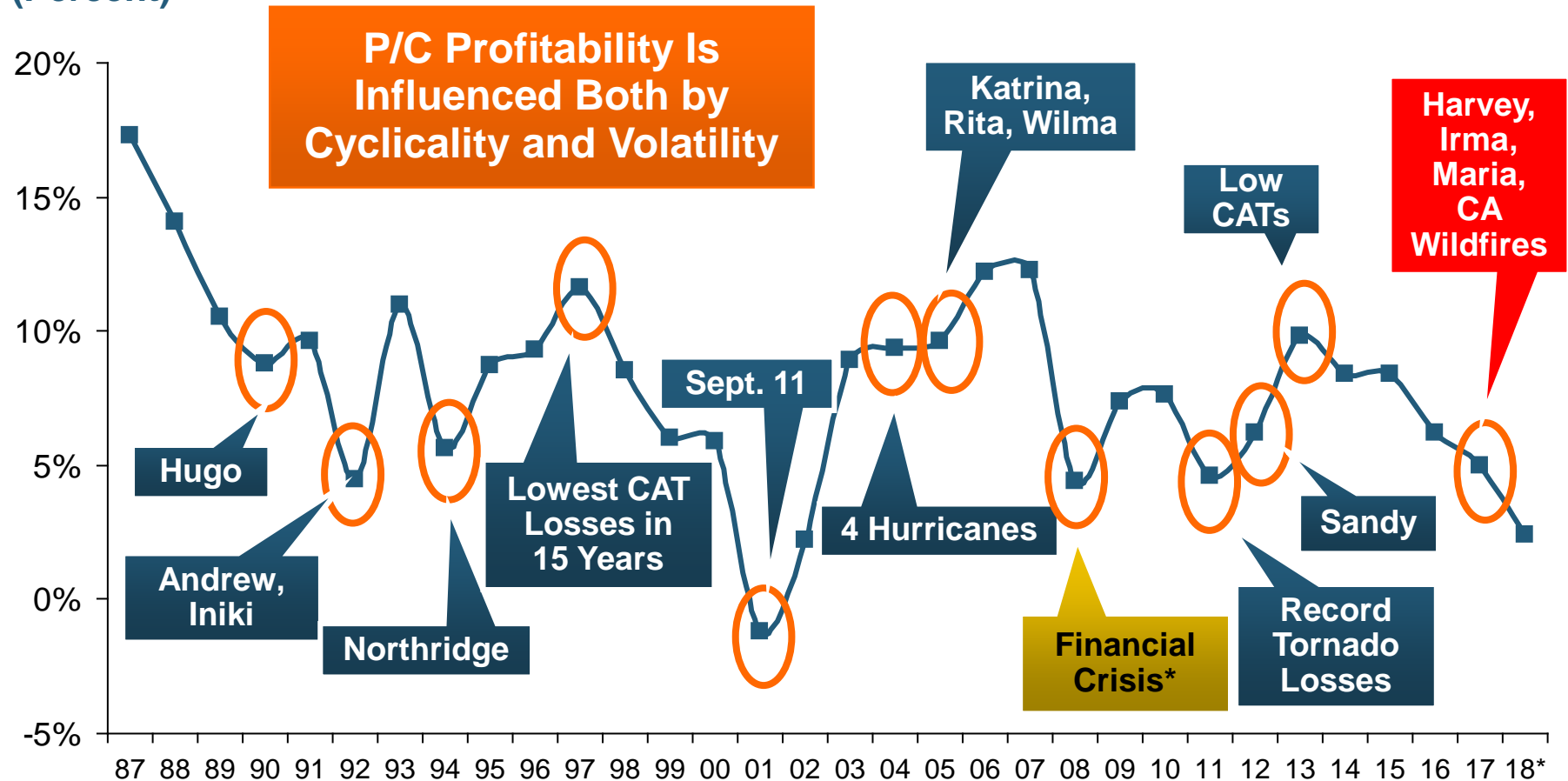


ROEs in 2017 plunged to their lowest levels since 2008.

Profitability = P/C insurer ROEs. 2011-16 figures are estimates based on ROAS data. Note: Data for 2008-2014 exclude mortgage and financial guaranty insurers.  
 Source: NAIC, ISO, A.M. Best, USC RUM Center.

# ROE: Property/Casualty Insurance by Major Event, 1987–2018:Q1

(Percent)

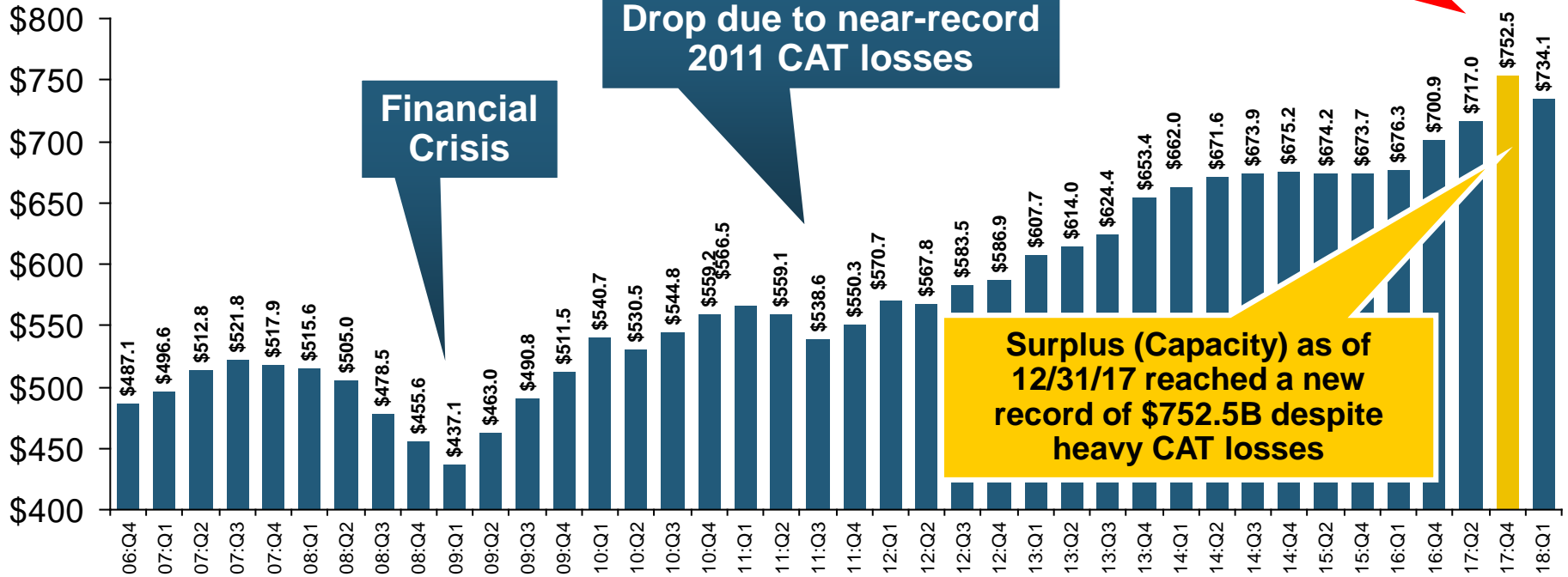


Excludes Mortgage & Financial Guarantee in 2008 – 2014.  
Sources: ISO, *Fortune*; USC RUM Center.

# Policyholder Surplus, 2006:Q4–2018:Q1

The industry is overcapitalized by as much as 1/3, a fact that InsurTechs and VC need to consider

(\$ Billions)



Financial Crisis

Drop due to near-record 2011 CAT losses

Surplus (Capacity) as of 12/31/17 reached a new record of \$752.5B despite heavy CAT losses

2010:Q1 data includes \$22.5B of paid-in capital from a holding company parent for one insurer’s investment in a non-insurance business .

Capacity/Capital “shocks” typically do not on their own drive a sustained firming of the pricing environment

Sources: ISO, A.M .Best; Center for Risk and Uncertainty Management, University of South Carolina.

# Why Are So Few InsurTech Start-Ups Actual Insurers (Risk Bearers)?

- 5. Law of Large Numbers:** The larger the number of policyholders (exposure units), the more likely it is that the actual loss equals the expected loss and thus the standard deviation of the mean falls.
- ◆ In economic terms, this means there are economies of scale in insurance that derive from the pooling of risk
  - ◆ Start-ups are not immune to the LLN. All else equal, incumbents and large insurers will have an advantage over small start-ups
  - ◆ For a small start-up insurer to “disrupt” the industry, their advantages in product design, efficiency, risk assessment, marketing, etc., need to be large enough to overcome the disadvantages of being on the losing end of the LLN



# If Actually Bearing Insurance Risks Is So Difficult, What Do InsurTechs Actually DO?

## ■ Insurance Carriers

- ◆ Since 2013, only 4% of P/C start-ups and 8% of L/H start-ups were formed as insurance carriers (i.e., risk-bearers)

## ■ Distribution

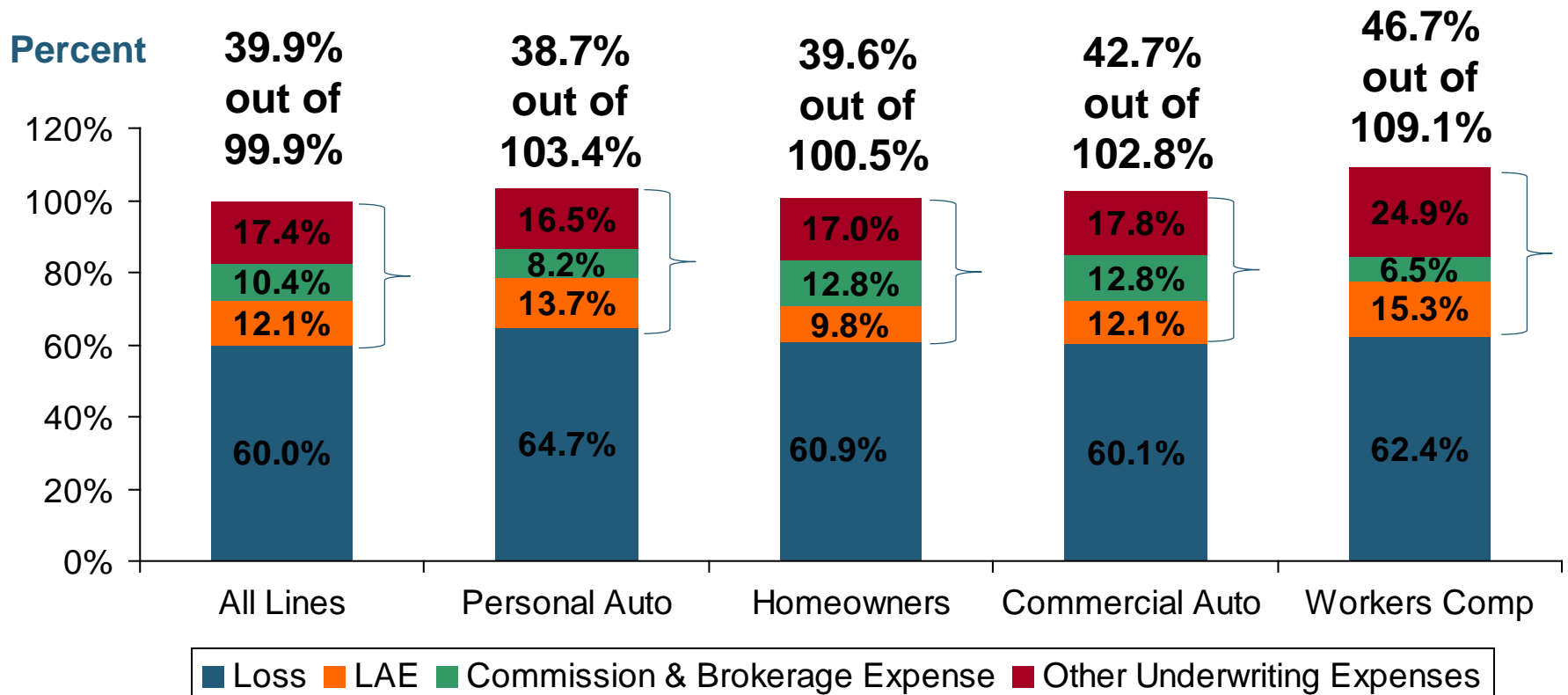
- ◆ Since 2013, 62% of P/C start-ups and 46% of L/H start-ups have focused on *Distribution* (i.e., sale of insurance)

## ■ Business-to-Business (B2B)

- ◆ Since 2013, 34% of P/C start-ups and 46% of L/H start-ups have focused on B2B solutions
- ◆ B2B start-ups focus on a wide range of insurer activities and functions such as analytics, claims, underwriting, IoT and more

# Composition of Loss and Expense Components for Key P/C Lines\*

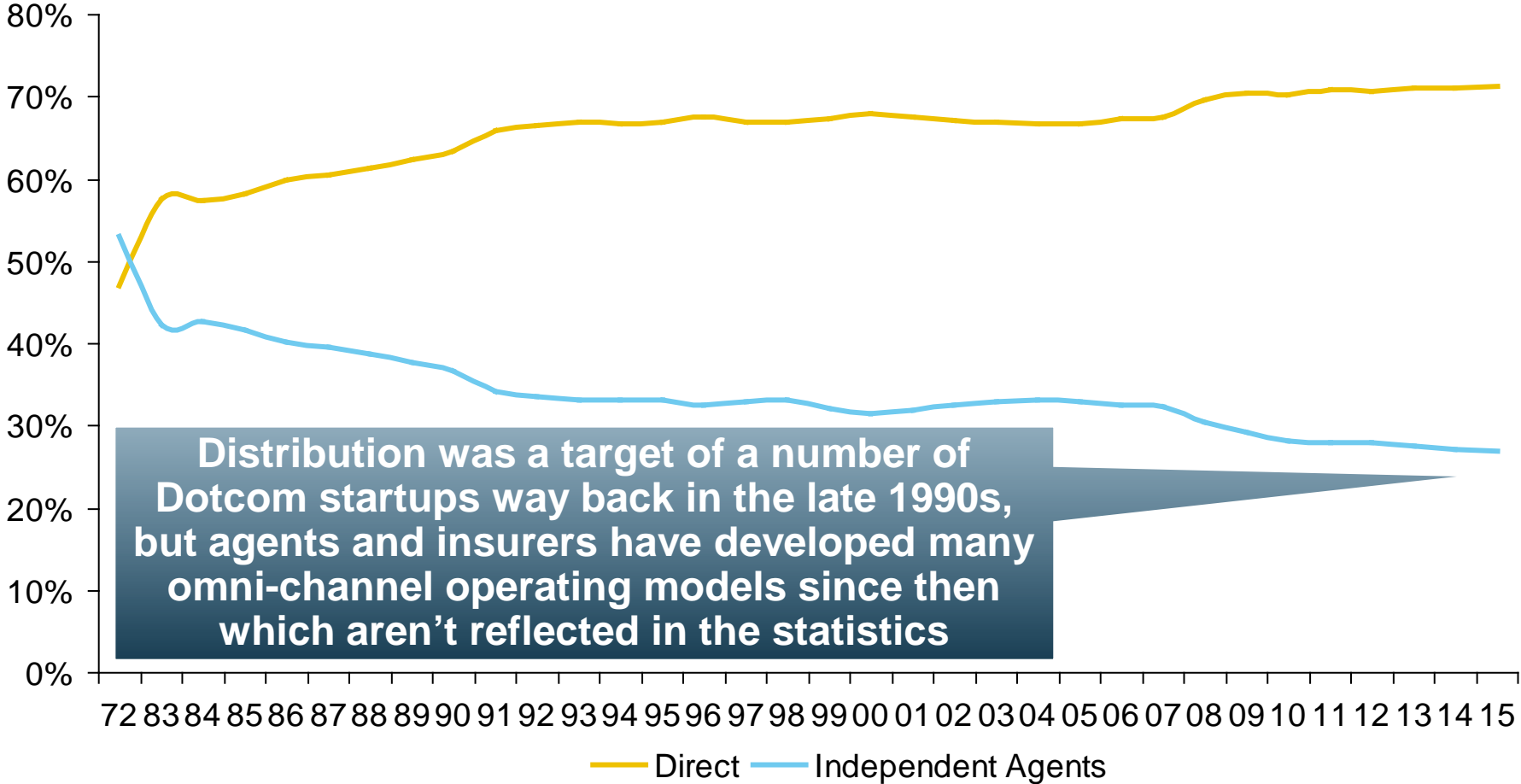
Bearing risk is challenging, so few InsurTech start-ups are actual insurers. Instead many focus on the ~40% of premiums associated with the sale/distribution, claims or underwriting expenses



\*Figures are averages for the 10-year period from 2007-2016.

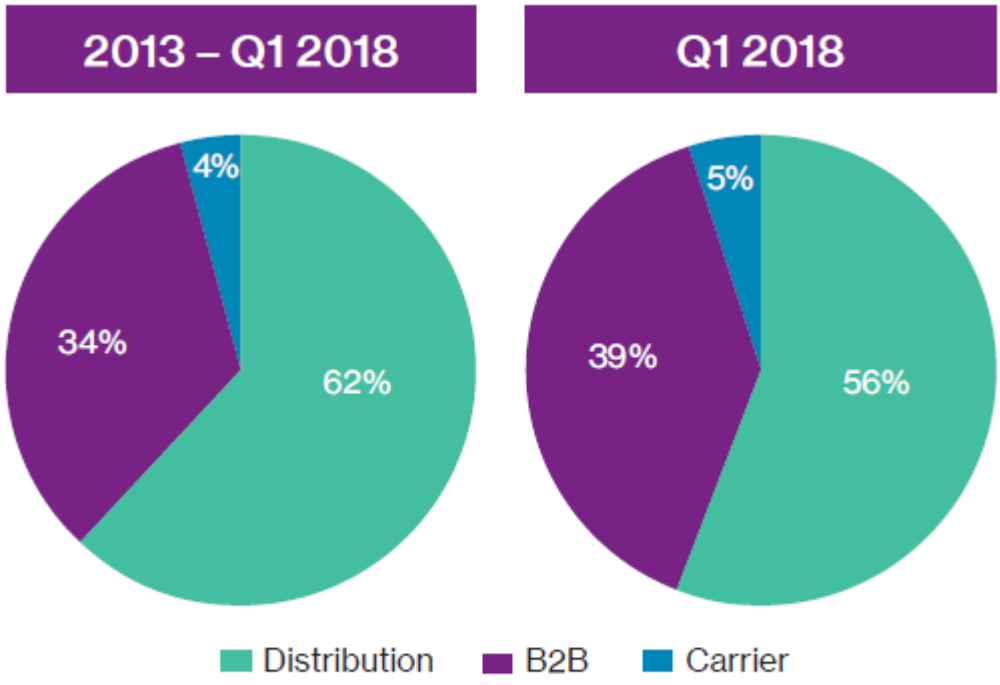
Source: A.M. Best Aggregates and Averages, 2017 Edition; Univ. of South Carolina RUM Center.

# Personal Lines Distribution Channels, Direct vs. Independent Agents, 1972-2015



Source: Insurance Information Institute; based on data from Conning and A.M. Best.

# P/C InsurTech Transactions by Subsector



2013 – Q1 2018 P&C Transactions: 399

Q1 2018 P&C Transactions: 43

Distribution consistently accounts for the majority of P/C transactions

B2B share is growing

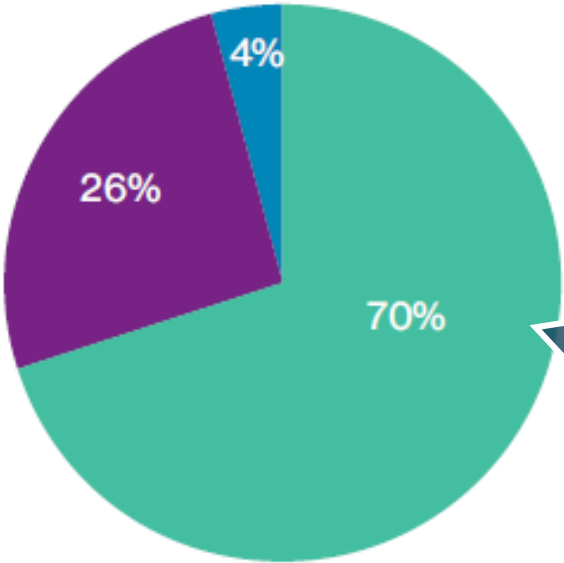
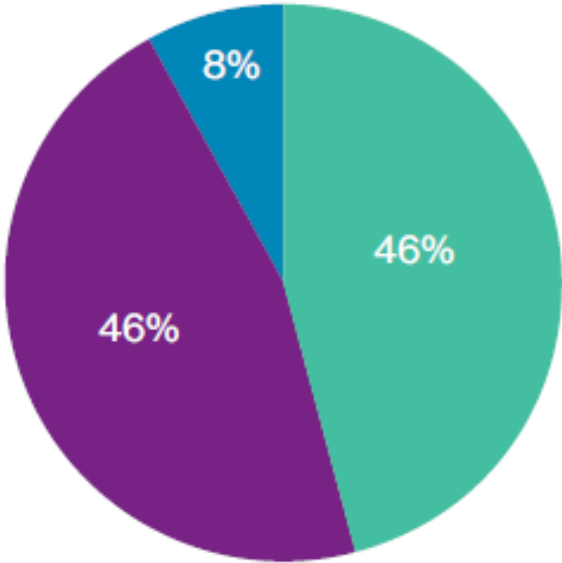
*Actual carrier start-ups are quite rare*

Source: CB Insights, Quarterly InsurTech Briefing,, Q1 2018.

# L/H InsurTech Transactions by Subsector

2013 – Q1 2018

Q1 2018



■ Distribution ■ B2B ■ Carrier

Distribution and B2B account for roughly equal shares of L/H transactions since 2013, though that may be changing

B2B share is shrinking

*Actual carrier start-ups are quite rare*

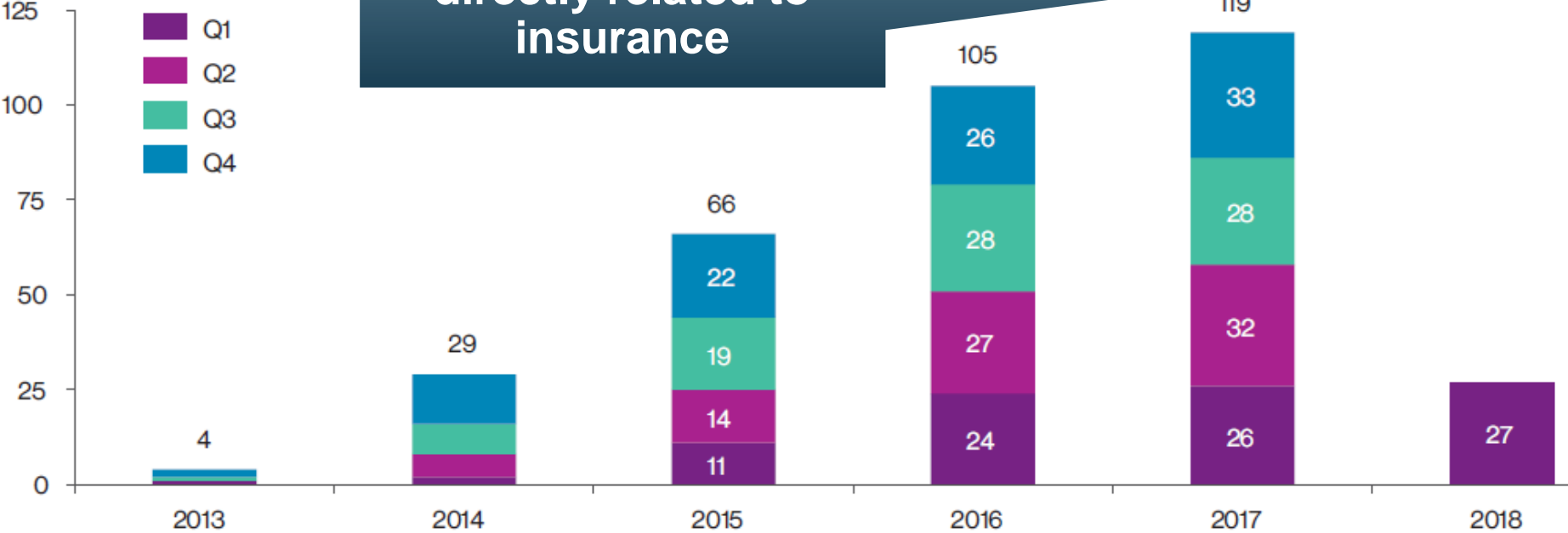
2013 – Q1 2018 L&H Transactions: 328

Q1 2018 L&H Transactions: 23

Source: CB Insights, *Quarterly InsurTech Briefing*, Q1 2018.

# Private Technology Investments by (Re)Insurers, 2013 – 2018:Q1

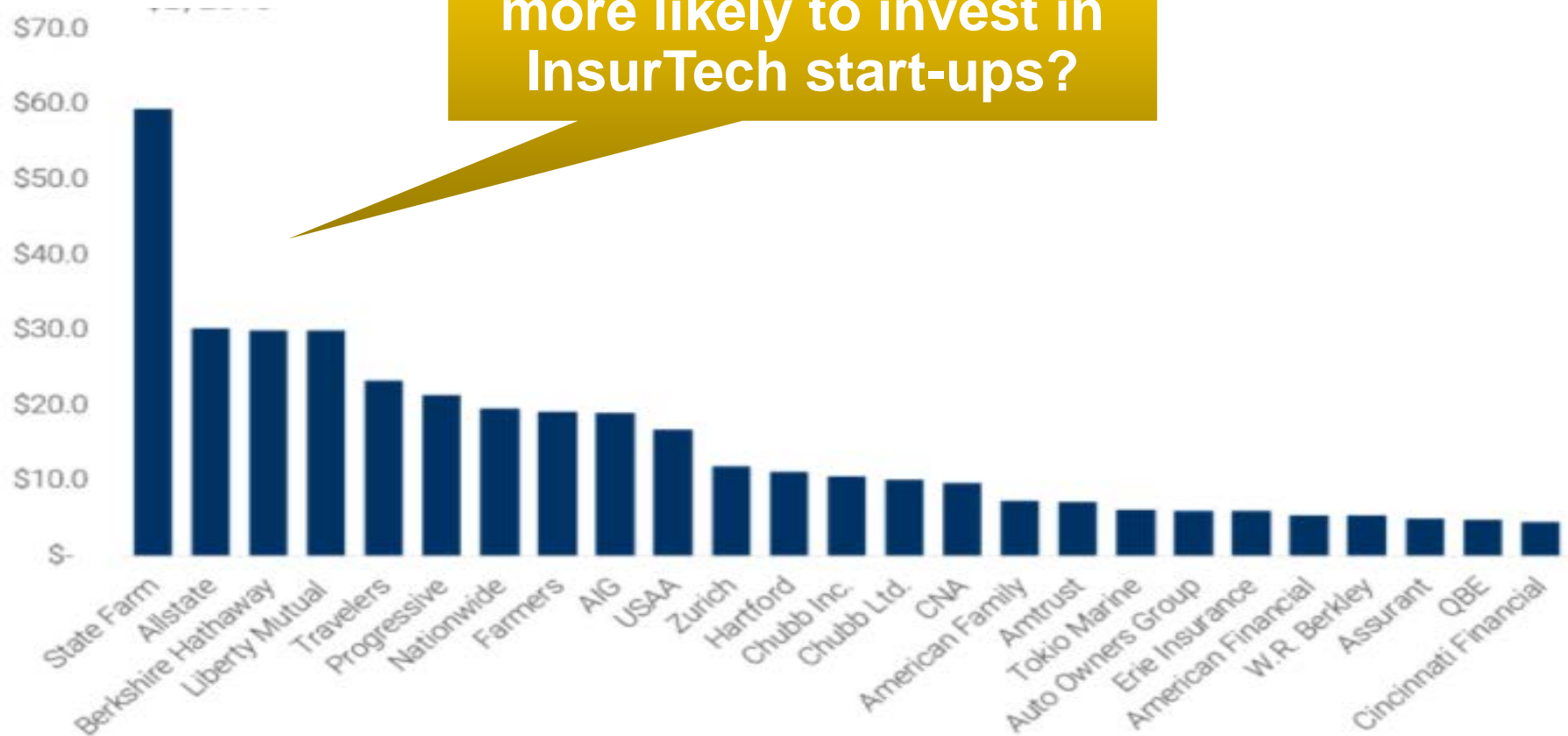
Tech investments by (re)insurers have been increasing steadily. Not all investments are directly related to insurance



Source: CB Insights, Quarterly InsurTech Briefing,, Q1 2018.

# Top 25 P/C Insurers by Direct Written Premium, 2015

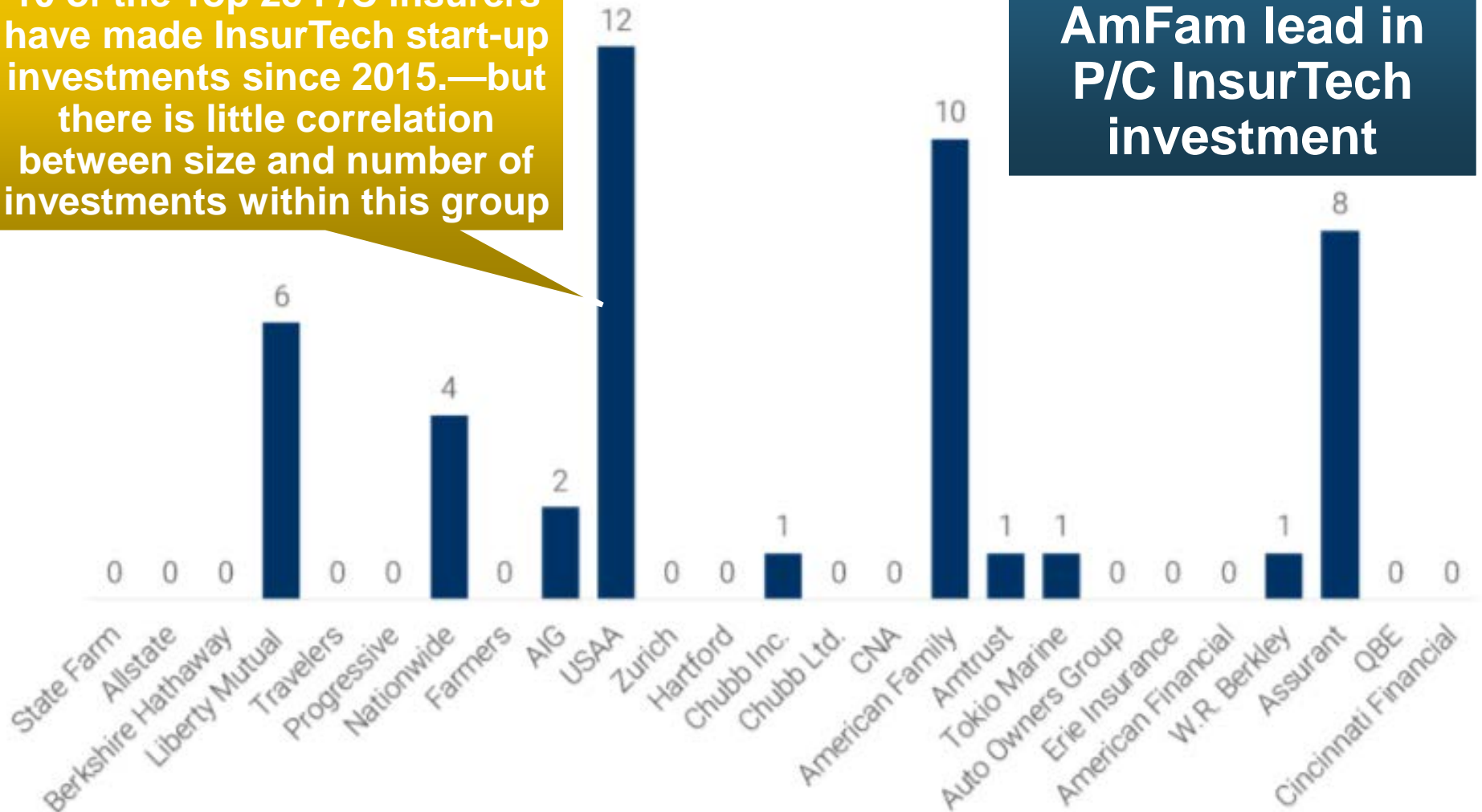
Are large P/C insurers more likely to invest in InsurTech start-ups?



# Start-Up InsurTech Investments by Top 25 P/C Insurers, 2015 - 2017\*

10 of the Top 25 P/C insurers have made InsurTech start-up investments since 2015.—but there is little correlation between size and number of investments within this group

USAA and AmFam lead in P/C InsurTech investment



\*As of June 23, 2017.

Sources: NAIC from CB Insights at <https://www.cbinsights.com/blog/largest-pc-insurers-rank-startup-investments/>



# Sample InsurTech Deals: 2018:Q1

Company	Insurer	Description
American Well	Allianz	Telemedicine, wearable sensors
Betterview	Munich Re	Drone imagery, data and analysis for MR's clients
Roost	Erie	Smart water/freeze detection products to HO customers
Jauntin	AIG	Pay-as-you-go travel insurance
Bunker	Chubb	Develop new products for small commercial market
Tencent WeSure	MetLife	Online travel insurance
Lyric	Axa	Airbnb-like service (stays in iconic apts.)
Socotra	USAA	Policy admin service to automate underwriting, quoting binding
Gabi	Northwest Mutual	HO and auto price comparison platform
Red Balloon Security	American Family	Cyber security for embedded and smart devices, including cars, office equip.

Source: CB Insights, *Quarterly InsurTech Briefing*, Q1 2018.

# Wide Variety of Investors in InsurTech

## Sampling of Traditional VC Investors



# Wide Variety of Investors in InsurTech

## Sampling of (Re)Insurer Investors



## Sampling of Other Corporate VC Investors



# CASE STUDY 1

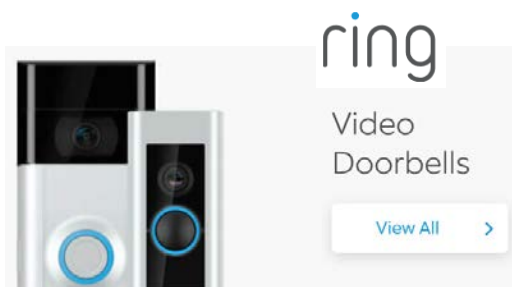
## The Curious Case of Insurance, IoT and the Smart Home

*What Went Wrong?*

# IoT, Smart Home & Insurance



notion



- In 2014-2015, the integration of IoT technologies, smart homes and insurance seemed like a sure thing
- A number of insurers rushed in to offer discounts to homeowners adopting these technologies on a trial basis
- Since then, initiatives have stalled. Why?
  - ◆ Consumers unlikely to buy hundreds of dollars of smart sensors (smoke, water, etc.)
  - ◆ Confusing standards for gear are intimidating for average consumer
  - ◆ Cost/benefit not obvious

## **CASE STUDY 2**

# **The Curious Case of Softbank, Masayoshi Son, Silicon Valley— and Swiss Re**

# Softbank and Swiss Re: A 3-Month Romance

## *What Happened?*



■ **Mid-Feb 2018: Financial press reports that Softbank could take a \$10B stake in Swiss Re (~25%), world's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest reinsurer**

- ◆ *"We want to extend our access to risk pools, we want to stay on the forefront of technology and we want to make sure that we're helping the world address this protection gap," David Cole, CFO at Swiss RE*
- ◆ Speculation that Swiss Re could help provide insurance for some of Softbank's other businesses
- ◆ Or would Swiss Re generate float for future Softbank deals?

■ **Early May: Talks stall, may collapse**

■ **May 28: Confirmation that talks collapsed**

- ◆ *"Swiss Re will continue to implement its technology strategy with a combination of in-house developments and third-party collaborations. In this context, the company will also further explore business ideas between Swiss Re's operative entities and the portfolio companies of SoftBank."*  
*Swiss Re, 5/28/18*



# InsurTech Investors

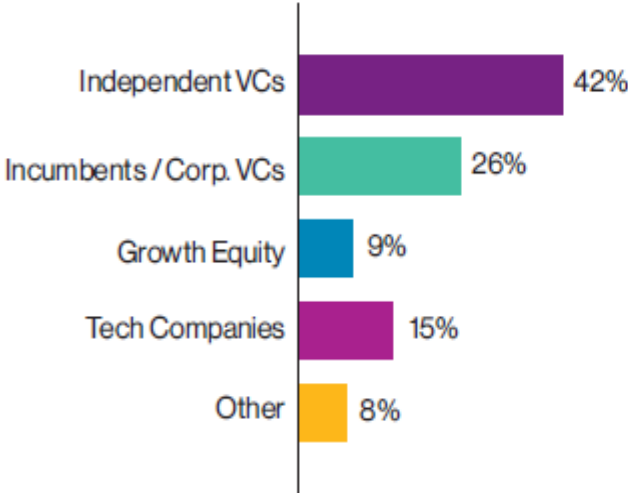
**Who Invests in What—and Why**



# Who Are the Most Successful InsurTech Investors To Date—and for the Future?

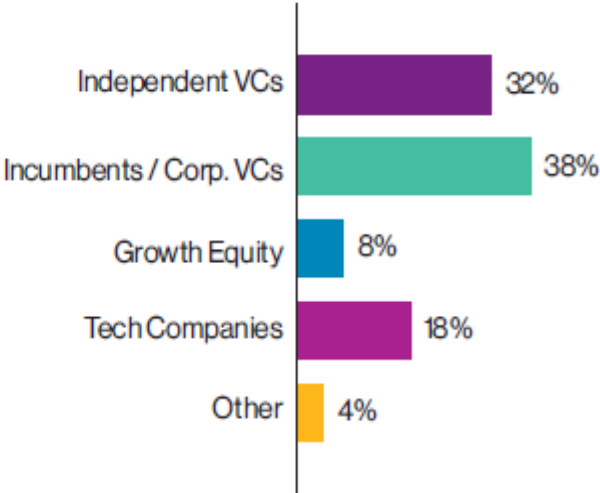
## Most Successful InsurTech Investors to Date

*Independent VCs viewed as having the most success to date...*



## Most Successful Investors Over the Next Several Years

*...however, incumbents/corp. VCs are viewed as long-term favorites*



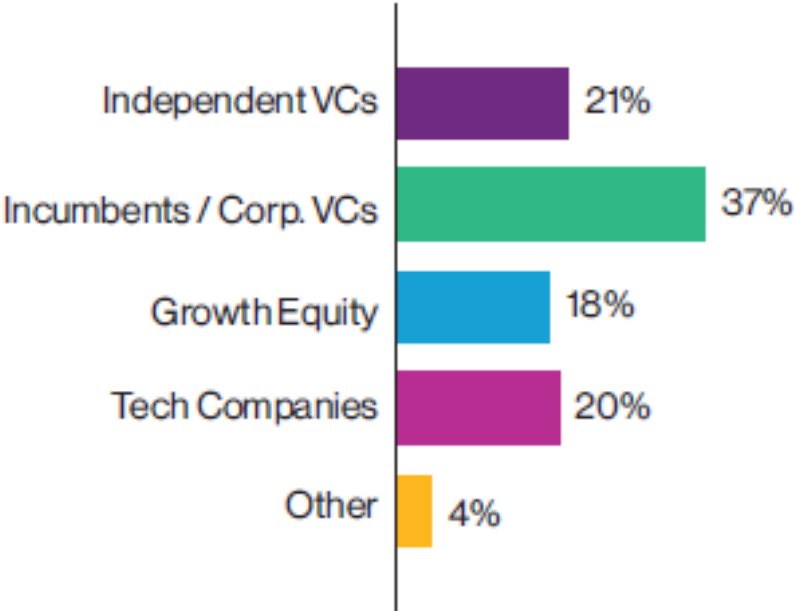
**Traditional (Independent) VCs are viewed as the most successful to date, but Corporate/Incumbents are viewed as the favorites over the long run**

Source: CB Insights, *Quarterly InsurTech Briefing*, Q1 2018. Drawn from InsurTech Investor Survey.

# Who Will Provide the Most Funding to InsurTechs in the Years Ahead?

**Most Funding Over the Next Several Years**

*Incumbents/corp. VCs are expected to be main capital providers*



With success comes funding. Corporate/Incumbent VCs are expected to be the main provider of capital to InsurTech firms in the years ahead

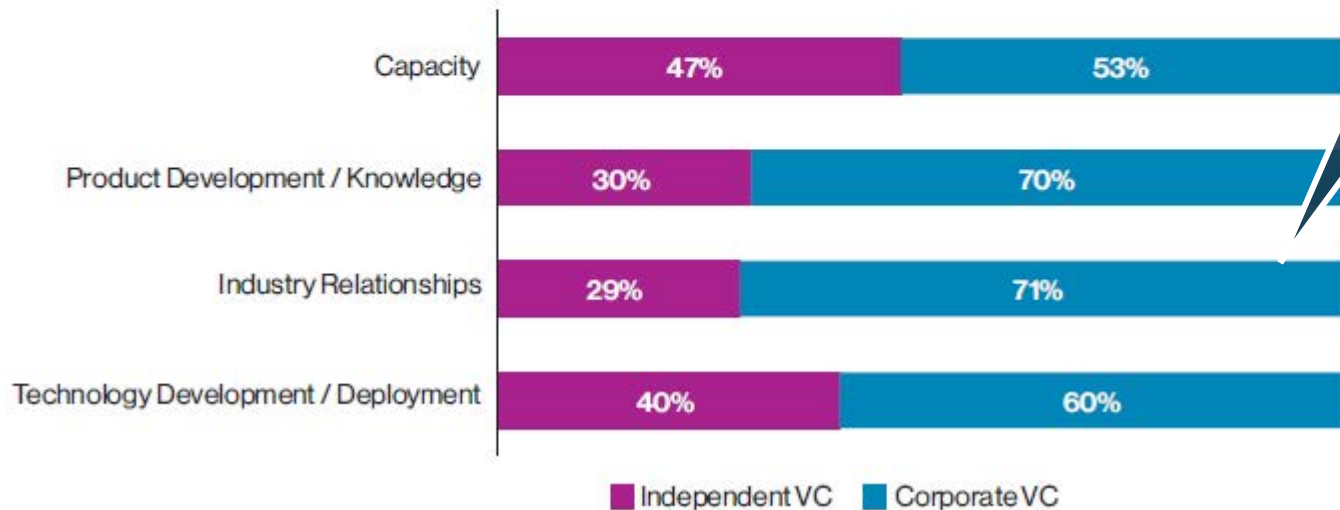
**A shift to Corporate/Incumbent VCs funding suggests that “smart money” will play a larger role and that (re)insurers in particular are making focused investments to suit their own needs**

# InsurTechs Want to Partner with What They Perceive to Be “Smart Money”

InsurTechs believe Corporate VCs offer them the best chances for success, though traditional VCs will still be necessary to meet full capital needs

## From Perspective of InsurTech Firm, Which Group Offers Better Long-Term Business Development Opportunities

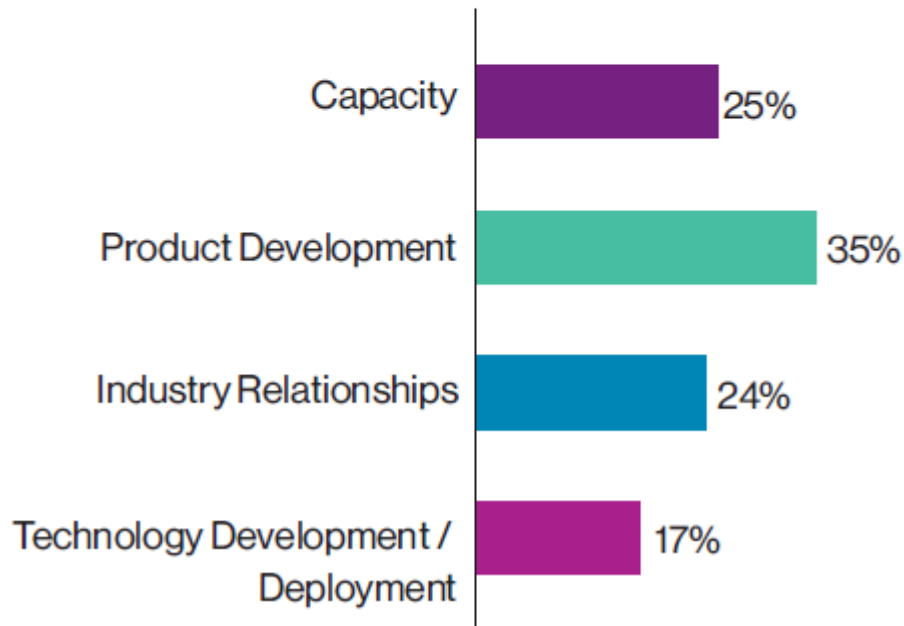
*Over the long-term, respondents feel that corporate venture capital arms provide InsurTech companies a greater set of future opportunities*



# How Do Corporate VCs Benefit InsurTechs?

## Most Significant Benefit of Corporate VC as Investor

*Most value add from corporate VC investor is product development*

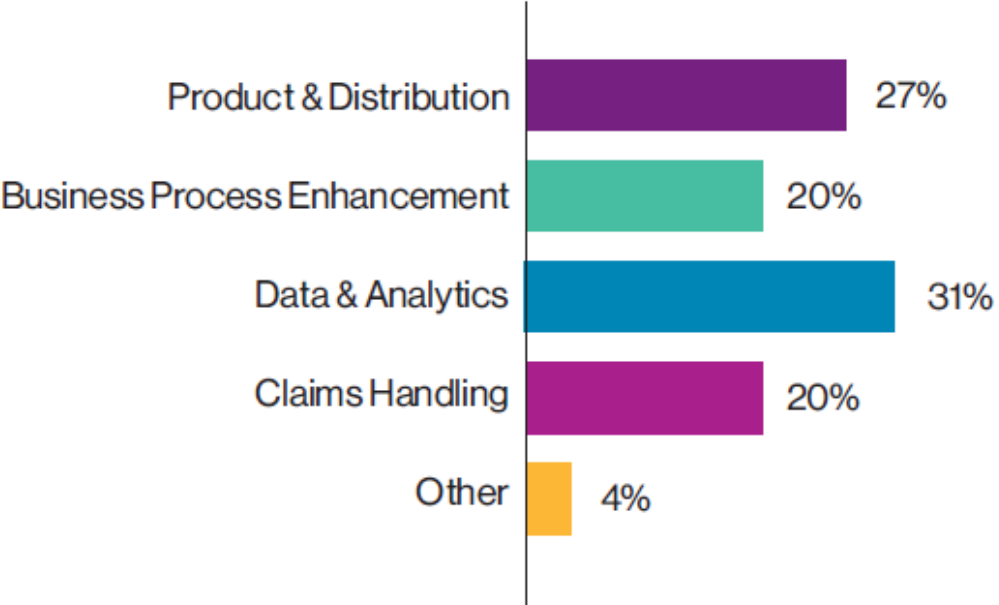


InsurTechs believe Corporate VCs add the greatest value in the area of Product Development

# Which InsurTech Segments Are the Primary Focus for VCs?

## Primary Subsectors of Investment Focus

*Product & Distribution and Data & Analytics are primary focus areas of survey participants*



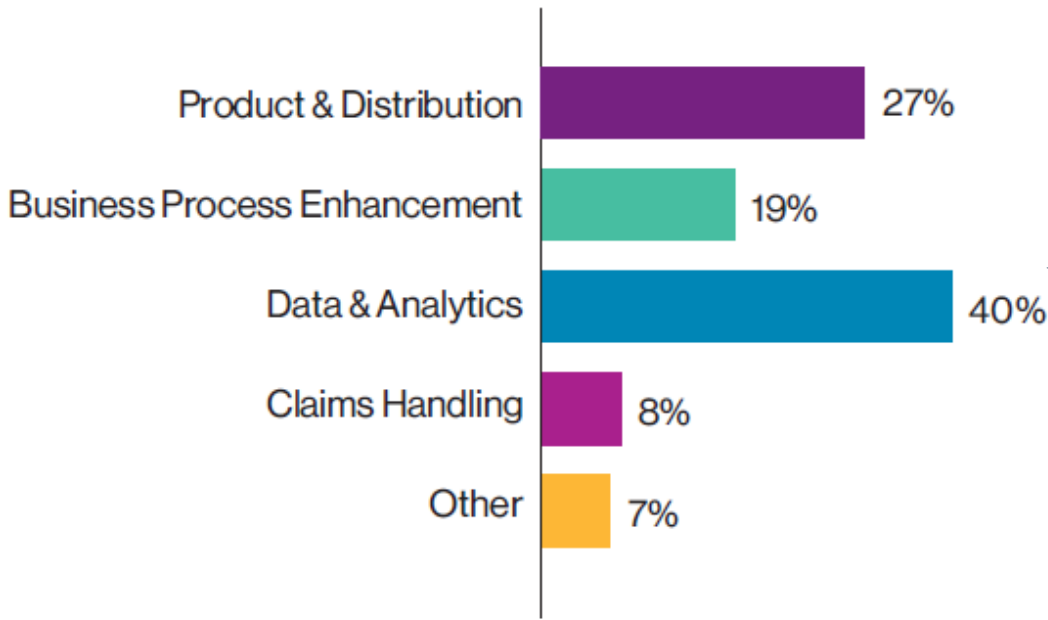
**Data & Analytics followed by Distribution and Claims are the primary investment focus of VCs**

Source: CB Insights, *Quarterly InsurTech Briefing*, Q1 2018. Drawn from InsurTech Investor Survey.

# Which InsurTech Segments Are the Most Attractive to VCs?

## Most Attractive Subsector for Investment

*Participants view data & analytics as the most attractive subsector for InsurTech investing*



**VCs believe that Data & Analytics followed by Product & Distribution and Business Process Enhancement are the most attractive subsectors for investment**

Source: CB Insights, *Quarterly InsurTech Briefing*, Q1 2018. Drawn from InsurTech Investor Survey.

# 6 Observations on Venture Capital Investment Patterns, Practices and Preferences

## 1. Actual Risk-Bearing Insurer Start-Ups Are Rare and Nobody Including VCs Is Clamoring for this to Change

- ◆ **Implication:** The near-term likelihood of a major tech usurper invading the traditional P/C or Life insurance industry and bearing actual insurance risk is remote
  - The economics of such a transaction would likely destroy shareholder value in the tech firm
  - Such a transaction would likely be rejected using traditional NPV or IRR methods

## 2. Nature of InsurTech Investment Is Far More *Complimentary* to Insurer Operations than it Is *Disruptive*

- ◆ **Implication:** Much of what InsurTechs are doing can viewed as an outsourcing of tech R&D. Insurers will adopt (acquire) or copy these technology if NPV is positive.
  - This is a very efficient way to manage tech investments
  - Options increase, less likely to be stuck with in a tech dead-end

# Observation on Venture Capital Investment Patterns, Practices and Preferences

## 3. InsurTechs Prefer to Partner with “Smart Money” Investors

- ◆ **Implication:** Over the longer run, (re)insurers/large brokers could account for the majority of InsurTech deals, along with some of the largest VCs with in-house insurance industry expertise
  - Increased presence of incumbents suggests a widening “Kill Zone” for insurance startups

## 4. InsurTech Start-Ups Go Where (They Think) the Money Is

- ◆ **Implication:** With ~40% of premium dollar going to something other than pure losses, it’s easy to see how InsurTechs would be drawn to areas such as Distribution
  - But these solutions are easily replicated or acquired
  - Data Analytics, Business Process Enhancement offer ongoing opportunities to gain competitive and efficiency enhancements



# Observation on Venture Capital Investment Patterns, Practices and Preferences

## 5. Valuations Are Likely Inflated: Pain to Come

- ◆ **Implication:** Over the longer run, (re)insurers/large brokers could account for the majority of InsurTech deals, along with some of the largest VCs with in-house insurance industry expertise
  - Increased presence of incumbents suggests a widening “Kill Zone” for insurance startups

## 6. “Cool” Ideas Aren’t Enough\*

- ◆ **Implication:** Shift toward practical applications with an emphasis on measurable results (ROI)
  - Neither InsurTech firms nor investors have endless time or money for experimentation

\*This point adapted from: PropertyCasualty360.com, *InsurTech startups wane, but funds still pour into maturing market*, Sam Friedman, April 10, 2018.

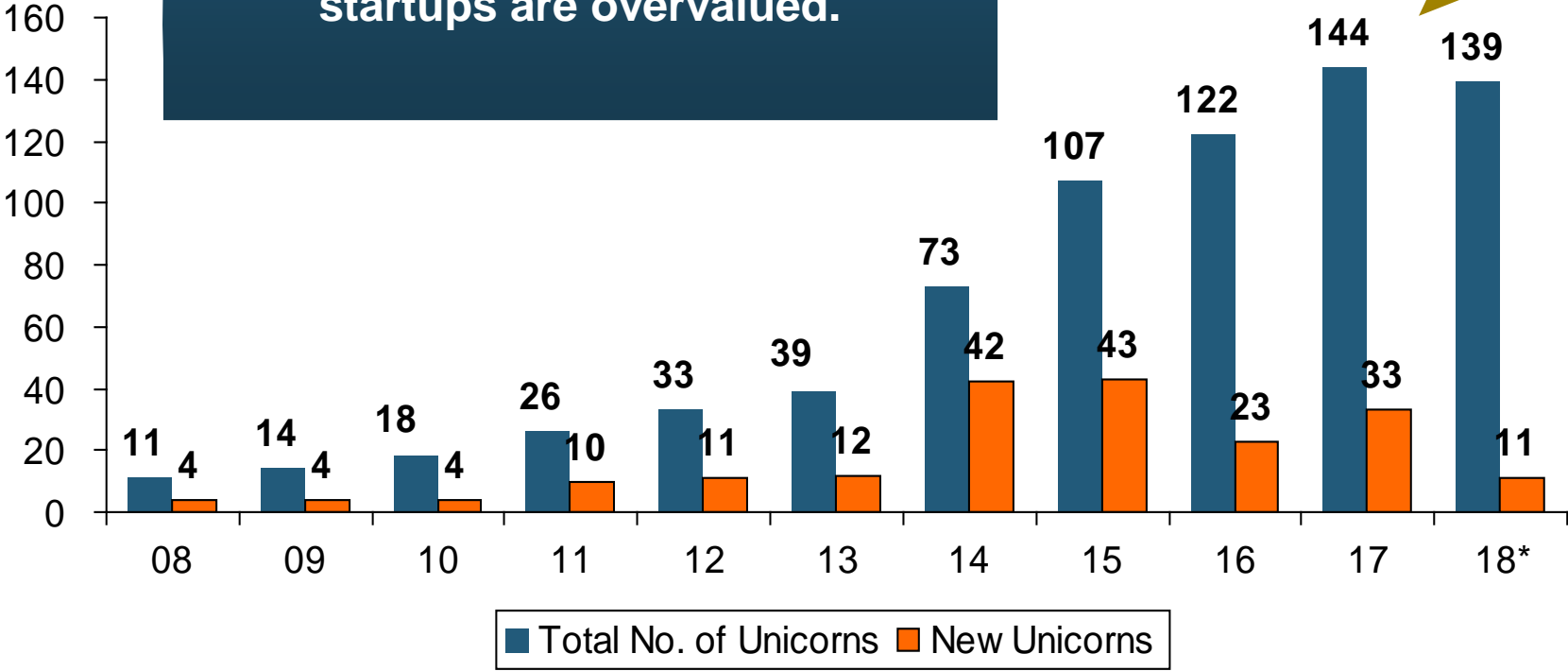
# **Are Valuations for InsurTech Firms**

**The Curious Case of Softbank,  
Masayoshi Son, Silicon Valley—  
and Swiss Re**

# Unicorn Sightings: New and Total Number of US-Based Unicorns (all sectors), 2008 – 2018\*

The peak of the unicorn bubble is already passed. This is one (of several) signals that many tech startups are overvalued.

The total number of Unicorns appears to be declining in 2018



\*Through May 15, 2018.

Source: CBS Marketwatch, May 23, 2018: <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/why-the-end-is-coming-soon-for-the-biggest-tech-bubble-weve-ever-seen-2018-05-22>

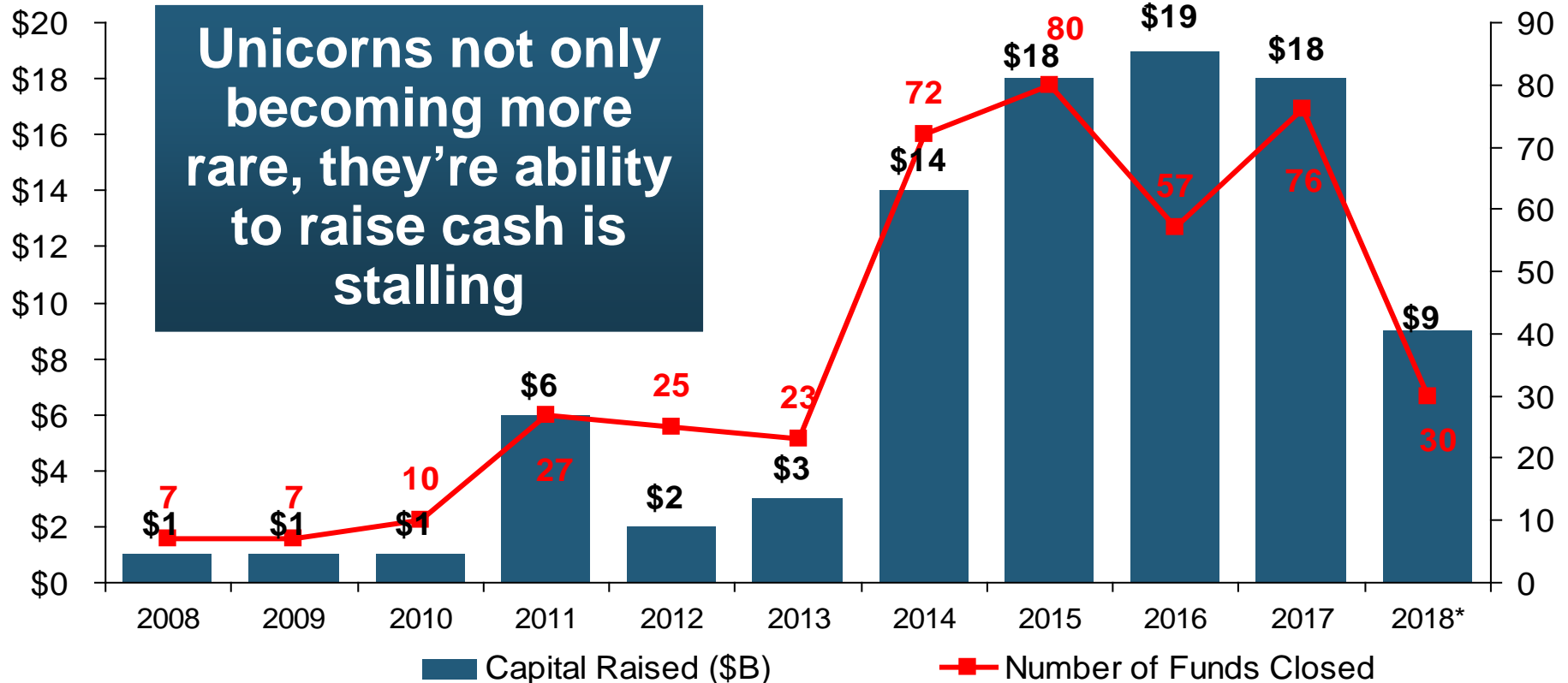
# Unicorn Cash: Cash Raised by Unicorns and Number of VC Funds Closing, 2008 – 2018\*

Capital Raised  
(\$ Billions)

No.  
Closed  
Funds

Capital raised  
by unicorns  
peaked in  
2016

Unicorns not only  
becoming more  
rare, they're ability  
to raise cash is  
stalling



\*Through May 15, 2018.

Source: CNBC.com, May 22, 2018 at <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/05/22/tech-bubble-is-larger-than-in-2000-and-the-end-is-coming.html>

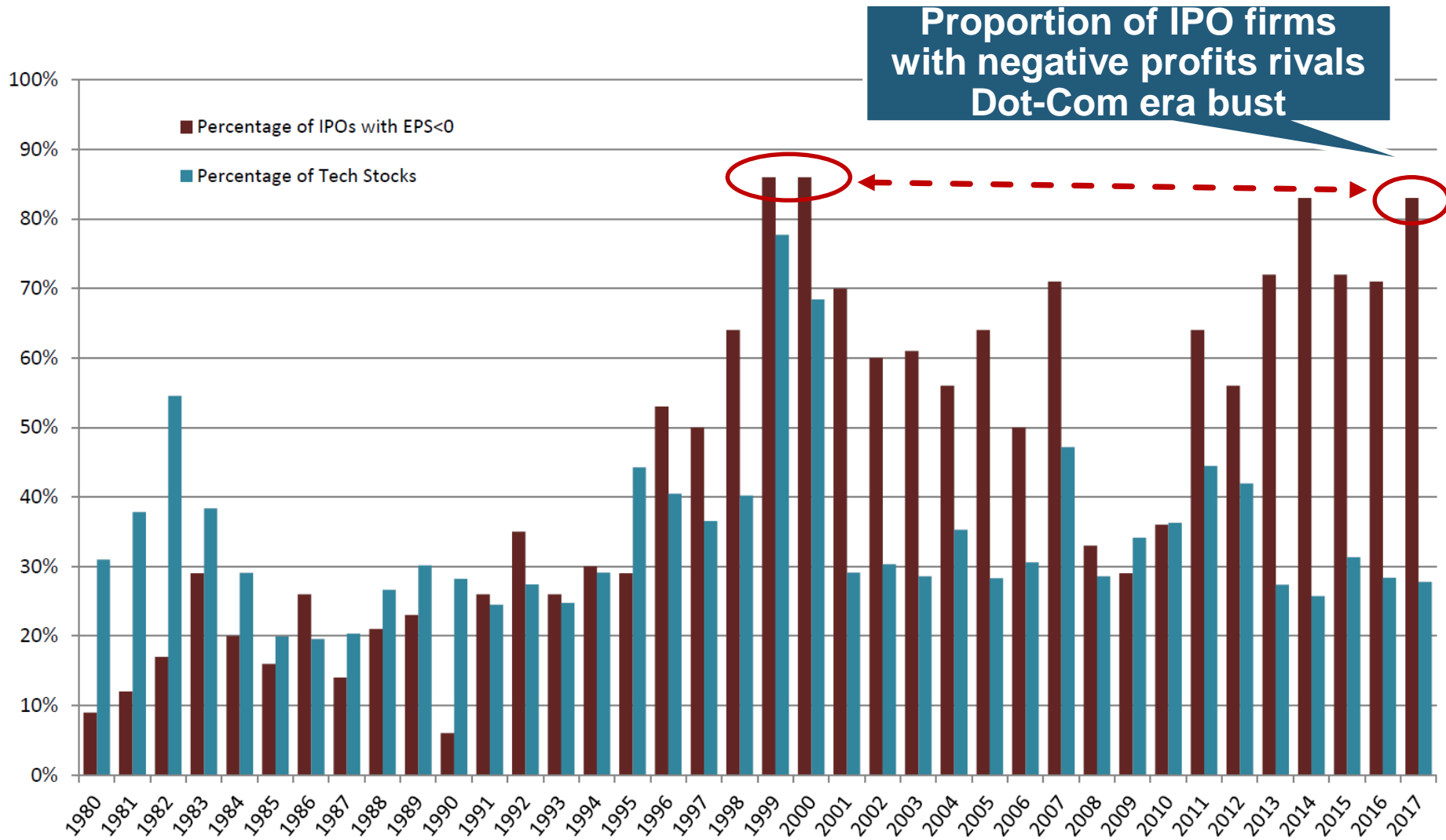
# Reasons Why Start-Up Valuations Are Falling and Will Continue to Fall

- **Rising Interest Rates:** Low interest rates made risky investments of every variety more attractive—including tech start-ups. With yields of risk-free and corporate debt rising, VC investments are less attractive
- **IPO Busts:** A number of companies that have gone public (or plan to) have seen their valuations plummet (pre- and post-IPO; e.g., SNAP: \$17→\$14; Blue Apron: \$10→\$3, FitBit: \$45→\$7)
- **Profits Matter:** 76% of companies that went public in 2017 were unprofitable, the highest since 81% at the peak of the dot-com boom in 2000 (Ritter, 2017)
- **Entrenched Incumbents Are Learning:** Sector leaders are learning to quickly copy or adopt new technologies, allowing them to sustain their competitive advantage through disruption

\*Through May 15, 2018.

Source: CNBC.com, May 22, 2018 at <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/05/22/tech-bubble-is-larger-than-in-2000-and-the-end-is-coming.html>

# IPOs with EPS<0 Is at Post Dot-Com Bust High



Source: *Initial Public Offerings: Updated Statistics*, Jay Ritter, University of Florida, Warrington School of Business. Data as of 1/17/2018 accessed at: [https://site.warrington.ufl.edu/ritter/files/2018/01/IPOs2017Statistics\\_January17\\_2018.pdf](https://site.warrington.ufl.edu/ritter/files/2018/01/IPOs2017Statistics_January17_2018.pdf)

# **INSURTECHS *MOST ARE DOOMED TO EXTINCTION***

## **Six Reasons Why Most InsurTech Firms Will Fail**

Note: Parts of this section are adapted from: PropertyCasualty360.com, “*Hey InsurTechs: Here’s Why You Will Likely Fail,*” Karlyn Carnahan, June 8, 2018, accessed at: <https://www.propertycasualty360.com/2018/06/08/hey-insurtechs-heres-why-you-will-likely-fail/>

# Why Most InsurTech Firms Will Fail

## 1. Lack of Actual Knowledge of the Insurance Business:

- ◆ There is tremendous advantage to coming in with a fresh eye and seeing the gaps that insiders have become blind to, but...
- ◆ Structural nuances and idiosyncrasies of the business are many and are material
- ◆ Regulatory requirements constitute and an enormous barrier to entry and a found throughout the industry value chain
  - Sales (licensing requirements, fiduciary/suitability requirements)
  - Claims (e.g., Fair Claims Handling Acts)
  - Underwriting (permissible underwriting criteria, rates must not be “unfairly discriminatory”)
  - Pricing ultimately needs to reflect underlying risk, cover all expenses and provide a risk appropriate return on capital) (rates must not be “inadequate or excessive)
- ◆ **Bottom Line:** Actual insurance expertise is essential



# Why Most InsurTech Firms Will Fail

## 2. Lack of Understanding of the Economics of Insurance

- ◆ Insurance is oftentimes a low-margin business
- ◆ You just can't charge as much for your product as you might think.
- ◆ Example: The average combined ratio in both the homeowners' and personal auto market over the past decade was about 103.
- ◆ This means that whatever thin profit was earned by the insurer was derived from investment earnings, of which the start-up has little-to-none
- ◆ Also, if an InsurTech firm has an idea that claims will reduce claim costs but costs \$20 per policy to introduce, the financials don't work unless the cost reductions apply across the entire book of business, not just accounts with claims
- ◆ Other: Pricing is often cyclical—meaning timing is everything when it comes to a product launch or investment in an InsurTech venture

# Why Most InsurTech Firms Will Fail

## 3. Investors Don't Understand the Insurance Industry

- ◆ **Smart Money vs. Dumb Money**
- ◆ Smart money comes with investors who understand the business and can help you with connections, advice, and insights to help you cross the hurdles
- ◆ Dumb money is just money — and often is worse than dumb if the investors don't understand the sales/pricing cycle and regulatory environment in the insurance industry
- ◆ Dumb money may push you down a path that isn't the best for your business because they're looking for the short term returns and don't understand that insurance is a longer term game than straight consumer plays
- ◆ ***Axiom: If you're running out of cash, all money looks smart***

# Why Most InsurTech Firms Will Fail

## 4. Failure to Recognize that the Cost-Benefit Analysis Is a Long-Term Return for an Insurer

- ◆ Many InsurTech firms claim they have an amazing product that will reduce losses
- ◆ The carrier has large upfront costs to acquire, implement and rollout the product and then must wait to see how (or if) losses or expenses are actually reduced, probably using a staged rollout.
- ◆ Bottom Line: It clearly takes time (and money) for there to be a critical mass of benefit to overcome the day one costs. Not every carrier has an appetite for long term CBAs on unproven solutions

# Why Most InsurTech Firms Will Fail

## 5. Running Out of Cash

- ◆ All startups face the worry of running out of money and the hunt for VC cash is relentless
- ◆ The insurance industry doesn't buy quickly. Sales cycles even on established products can run 18 months or longer.

## 6. The Product Isn't All that Novel, Unique or Better

- ◆ All InsurTech start-ups claim to be disruptors
- ◆ Reality Check: Many aren't (e.g., another online portal for selling insurance—but with a cool user interface)
- ◆ If you're placing your bets on buying traffic or Search Engine Optimization, that bet will soon run out
- ◆ Many apps or ideas are **easily** and **quickly** replicated by incumbents
  - Remember the **“Kill Zone”**

# Summary

## **InsurTech: The Financing of Innovation, Transformation and Disruption**

# Summary

- **Increased interest in InsurTech in recent years has sparked a great deal of interest and innovation in an industry that many feel is chronically behind the time**
- **Successful InsurTech investments are elusive for many reasons—some inherent to VC investing but many inherent to the idiosyncrasies of investing in the insurance industry**
- **Most InsurTech investments are complementary, not “disruptive” in the sense of a threat**
- **InsurTech investment may be at or close to a peak**
- **Startup valuations (in general) are likely stretched**
- **Entrenched incumbants are learning to manage through disruption**
- ***Profits Matter!***



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and your attention!*

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