

### Q2 2018 - Invested Capital Spikes as Valuations Hold Steady

#### Commentary from Stephen Kraus of Bessemer Venture Partners

**On deal terms:** Generally, the terms have been company and entrepreneur favorable for a long time now, and they continue to remain that way.



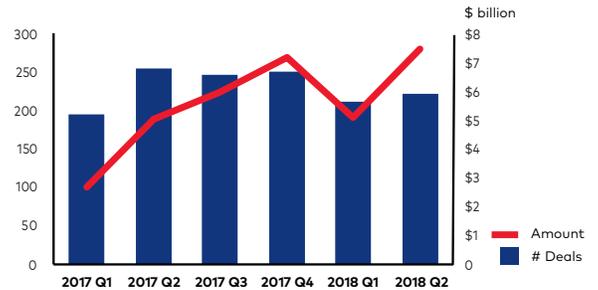
**On the proliferation of late-stage investors:** It's created this downward movement on stage of financing, and therefore upward pressure on what a normal Seed or Series A round looks like.

**On Bessemer's response to the influx of capital:** We're doing a lot more earlier-stage investing. The key to moving earlier is to know when to double down on your winners.

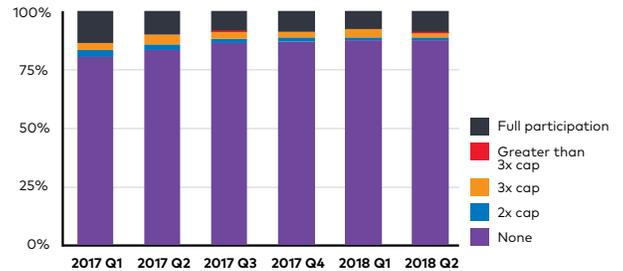
**On fewer IPOs:** There's a lot more talk about companies staying private, and I don't necessarily think that's a bad thing ... by definition if you have more time to mature, you should be more predictable and stable in your growth profile and earnings potential, which is generally more attractive to public market investors over the long term.

Read Cooley's full interview with Stephen Kraus on **Cooley GO**. [cooleygo.com](http://cooleygo.com)

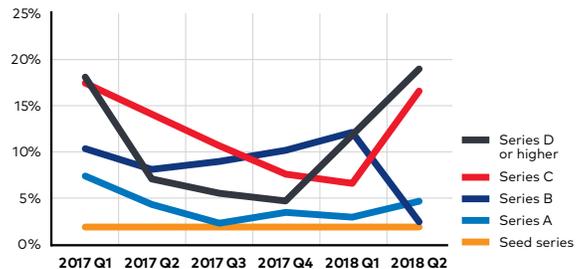
Total Deal Volume and Aggregate Dollars Raised



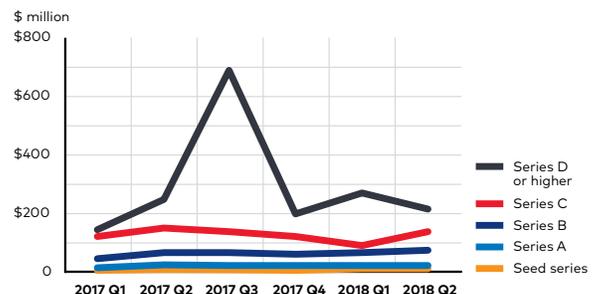
Liquidation Preference: Participation Features



Pay to Play



Median Pre-Money Valuation

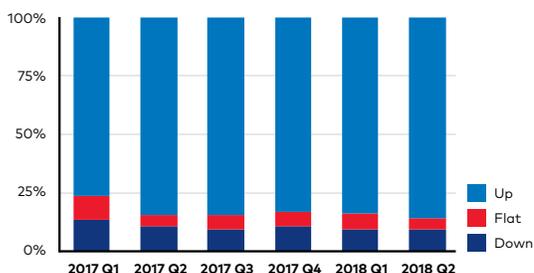


In the second quarter of 2018, both deal volumes and aggregate dollars raised remained at historically high levels. In Q2 2018, Cooley handled 224 disclosable deals, representing more than \$7.5 billion of invested capital. This is the highest level of invested capital we have seen in a calendar quarter since the inception of this report. In Q2 2018, 86% of all transactions were up rounds, the highest percentage since Q4 2015. Median pre-money valuations remained strong in Series B and C financings, but cooled a bit in Series A and D+ deals.

Deal terms during the quarter continued to be company-friendly. Consistent with recent quarters, we saw just 9% of deals with full participating liquidation preferences. We also noticed decreases in the percentage of deals structured in tranches and in recapitalization transactions. However, the data did show an increase in the use of pay-to-play provisions in later stage deals.

For more venture financing trends, view our interactive data visualization on Cooley GO: [cooleyo.com/trends](http://cooleyo.com/trends)

Up, Down and Flat Rounds



**About the Cooley Venture Financing Report**

This quarterly summary provides data reflecting Cooley’s experience in venture capital financing terms and trends. Information is taken from a subset of the transactions in which Cooley served as counsel to either the issuing company or investors. For more information regarding this report, please contact one of our Cooley lawyers.

**About Cooley**

Cooley’s lawyers solve legal issues for entrepreneurs, investors, financial institutions and established companies. Clients partner with Cooley on transformative deals, complex IP and regulatory matters, and bet-the-company litigation, often where innovation meets the law.

Cooley has 900+ lawyers across 13 offices in the United States, China and Europe.

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