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Country Focus

EGYPT

WORLD **SME** NEWS

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
(ECOSOC)**



WASME is one of the most representative, effective and leading international non-governmental organizations engaged in the promotion of MSMEs worldwide. WASME works closely with MSME experts in different parts of the world and also enjoys consultative/Observer status with concerned agencies in UN system such as UNCTAD, ITC, WIPO, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNCITRAL, UNESCAP and ILO, and several other inter-governmental and international organizations.

Since its inception in 1980, as the global voice of SMEs, WASME is actively engaged in crafting the Development agendas for SMEs, advocating for their greater recognition and enabling them to effectively contribute to the economic prosperity and social well being of their respective country.

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Through multi-dimensional activities like Policy Advocacy, Information Dissemination, National & International Conferences & Seminars, Events & Trainings, Publication & Research, Network linkages etc. we assist in creating best, integrated, innovative and sustainable working frameworks for SMEs in all industry sectors.

Our monthly Newsletter “World SME News” featuring developments in MSME sector around the world and fortnightly “SME e-Bulletin” are the special purpose vehicle for information dissemination that empowers



SMEs with right knowledge and experience.

With our members, permanent representatives, senior advisors, associates and SME Experts in different countries worldwide, we are unceasingly strengthening international cooperation, building linkages with governments bodies, SME associations, Chamber of Commerce, institutions of different countries to enable sound macroeconomic policies, capability of stakeholders to develop conducive business environments, regulatory frameworks, good governance for SMEs.



FROM THE DESK OF SECRETARY GENERAL



February 2021 VOLUME 154

Research paper on “The Word Cloud Analysis to Evaluate the Impact of COVID-19 on Environmental Professionals and Environmental Degree Holders: A PAN India Survey authored by Moharana Choudhury¹, Srijan Goswami², Sougata Maity³ and Arghya Chakravorty⁴ is focussed on how COVID-19 affects PAN India employment and the likely impact on education on the different environmental fields.

In UN section, we have included the article on ECOSOC. The Economic and Social Council is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.

In country focus section, our focus country is the Egypt. Egypt is in the process of redesigning its institutional and policy framework for SME and entrepreneurship and is starting to address one of the key recommendations of the SME Policy Index 2014 – which noted that the country should address the fragmentation of the institutional framework by defining the role of the various institutions and government agencies, co-ordinating support instruments and developing synergies among programmes.

Interview with the CEO of Beam Global, Desmond Wheatley, revolved around some of the hardships encountered in developing and deploying such tech, as well as the benefits and drawbacks that current technological advances allow for.

WASME CORNER covers “An Educational Transformation Initiative” by WASME and CODE. Centre of Digital Excellence (CODE) Private Limited is an Educational Transformation and consulting Company that enhances the STREAM & AI education in school children from class 1 to class 12. CODE enhances the learning concepts of Robotics, 3D Printing, Coding, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Aerodynamics and Design Thinking in these children. Enterprises WASME is organising International Women's Day on Monday, 8th March 2021 at WASME International Secretariat, Film City, Noida, India. International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. It aims to bring together the next generations of women leaders and is to empower women economically and to integrate them with the developmental goals of the nation as Atmanirbhar Bharat.

In UN News Scan, we have included the news of Global foreign direct

investment fell by 42% in 2020, outlook remains weak and New UNIDO publication on South-South and triangular industrial cooperation.

In start-up section, the focus news are The 14 Largest Global Startup Funding Rounds of January 2021 and The Global Startup Awards 2020 Global Winner have been announced.

In Women's wing section we have added news related to Bumb.le's 31-year-old CEO becomes a rare female billionaire and PM Modi's Standup India: Loans to SC/ST, women entrepreneurs jump 21%; sanctioned amount nears Rs. 25k cr.

DR GYAN PRAKASH AGARWAL

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reader's review



Research paper on "Access to Finance – Experiences of SMEs in Croatia" authored by Marko Kolaković, Mladen Turuk, Ivan Turčić provides good knowledge for small and medium enterprises to access to finance which is one of the biggest problems that entrepreneurs face when launching their business or when they want to enhance their production capacities in other stages of the enterprise life cycle.

Diane Paula
Johannesburg, South Africa

Article on UN section, the World Trade Organization (WTO) which is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations is very rich content with the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible.

Aamir Abbas
Dhakka, Bangladesh

Story of Botswana's Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) which create many of the country's jobs are in such firms, even though each one employs fewer than 100 people is worthwhile that SMEs are essential engines of job creation and are vital to economic and export diversification in Botswana.

Radhika Shrestha
Kathmandu, Nepal

Sharmia Deventa 's story published in Entrepreneur of the month is very inspiring as her story begins more than 50 years ago on June 16 1970 when she came back from school and went to sleep and into coma. The doctors diagnosed it as viral encephalitis, a brain fever that left her with cerebral palsy when she woke up from the coma her left eye, cheek, voice box, hand and leg muscle control gone. After recovering, she started vardaana.

Prabhakar Mandal
Noida, U.P

The Word Cloud Analysis to Evaluate the Impact of COVID-19 on Environmental Professionals and Environmental Degree Holders: A PAN

Moharana Choudhury¹, *Srijan Goswami², Sougata Maity³, **Arghya Chakravorty⁴,

Abstract:

Background: In addition to its impact on public health, COVID-19 has had a major impact on the Indian economy and the employment and education on the field of environmental sciences and engineering. This survey study has a mission to focus on how COVID-19 affects PAN India employment and the likely impact on education on the different environmental fields. **Methodology:** We have surveyed on PAN India basis by considering different working sectors on environmental field. In our survey, questionnaires circulated by email and different social media like Facebook, WhatsApp and their opinion have been analyzed by analyzing the frequency of the words from their texts / Word Cloud Analysis. **Results and Conclusion:** This survey report convey highest frequency of the word "life", "affecting", "Covid", "work" which is similar with "job", "time" "day", "home", "very", "lockdown" by all environmental professionals, students and researchers. This study suggests a need for more comprehensive and longitudinal evaluation of population needs, allowing the country to design holistic initiatives for affected people.

Keywords: COVID-19; Indian Context; Environmental Education; Environmental Employment, Environmental Degree Holders, Environmental Professionals.

Introduction

A cluster of pneumonia incident was reported in the city of Wuhan, China, in the month of December, 2019. Some of the early cases of the transmission were reported to be started from seafood and live animal market in Wuhan^{1,2, 3, 4, and 5}. Since then COVID 19 has become a common and most feared disease in the present time. The World Health Organization declared the

outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020^{6, 7, and 8}. The impact of COVID-19 has been multiple and not only limited to the deterioration of health. This pandemic and associated lockdown has also made a devastating impact on society, education, economy and several other aspects of life⁹.

According to joint study of the World Health Organization, International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development around ten million people are at a risk of falling into extreme poverty⁵. As of October 13, 2020, the estimated numbers of undernourished people are around 690 million that is predicted to increase upto 132 million by the end of 2020^{10, 11}. According to UNICEF, more than one billion children are at risk of falling behind due to closure of educational institutions¹². The COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption in the history of education systems, affecting nearly 1.6 billion students in more than 190 countries and all continents. This has definitely negative impacts on students all around the world.^{12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18}. School of Bio Sciences & Technology, Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore- 632014, India and R&D Section, SANCHARAN (A Socio-Cultural Organization) 4289/2003, Agartala 799001, India.

Understand the point of view of University students, Research-scholars, Professors, Assistant Professors, Associate Professors, Engineers, Manager, Teacher and other various sectors regarding the impact of disruption of day to day activities as a result of complete lockdown in India.

In this study a Covid-19 response dataset collected from various location in India. The

participants were University student, Research-scholar, Professor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Engineer, Managers, Teacher and other Govt. and Non-Govt. sectors. The survey is made using Google Form containing most common question related to Covid-19, like How Covid-19 affecting your life? How Global Climate changes and Covid-19 interlinked? Share your opinion on current Scenario of Environmental Challenges and Opportunities? The present paper aim to analyze these datasets and conclude valid conclusion using various statistical tools.

Methodology of the Survey Reaching out to the Participants

The survey was performed using online platform and social media. A set of questionnaire was created as Google Form and shared with various University students, Research-scholars, Professors, Engineers, Management Professionals, Teachers and Servicemen belonging to various Government and Non-Government sectors. The people shared their opinion using Facebook, Email, and Whatsapp.

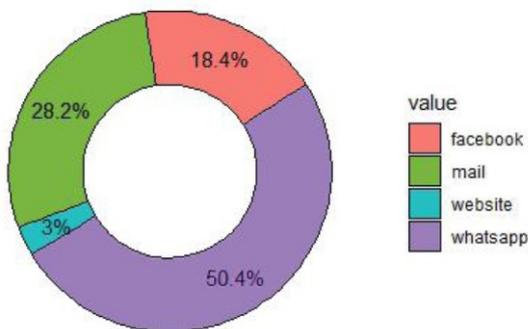


Figure (Percentage of different medium chosen to answer)

The pie-chart shown as Figure 2, represents the percentage of the medium preferred for answering the questions. 50.4% people answered through Whatsapp, 28.2% through E.mail, 18.4% through Facebook and rest 3% through other websites.

Analysis of the Profession of the Participants
Profession of the participant is one of the important parameter of this analysis. Various profession persons opinion in this Covid-19 questions various. This bar-chart clearly shows the fill-up percentage of various profession persons. 23.3% students

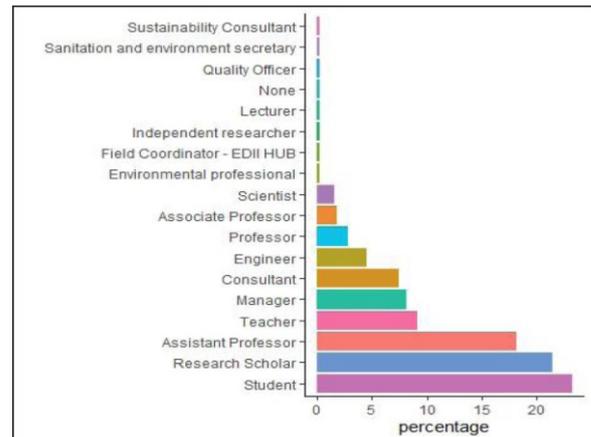


Figure (Percentage of different professions in the survey)

fill-up this and it's larger than others. Then 21.5% Research Scholar fill up this. 2.8%, 18.2% and 1.8% corresponding fill-up Professor, Assistant Professor and Associate Professor.

Result and Discussion

How COVID 19 affecting your life?

The pandemic, Covid-19 is a pandemic, has created global disorientation.

This brings out one of the valid and most important question, i.e. how does this situation affect day to day life. People belonging to various profession shared their experience and perspectives, which are presented as word cloud, emphasizing the

important words. Highlighted and bigger word shows most frequently used word while sharing opinion. And other small highlighted word shows the less frequently used ones.

This bar plot and word cloud analysis shows most frequently used words and their frequency (times of repetition). Here life, affecting, Covid, work, time, day, home, health, job, research, lockdown very frequently used. This words gives a pre-image about this question (How Covid-19 affecting your life).

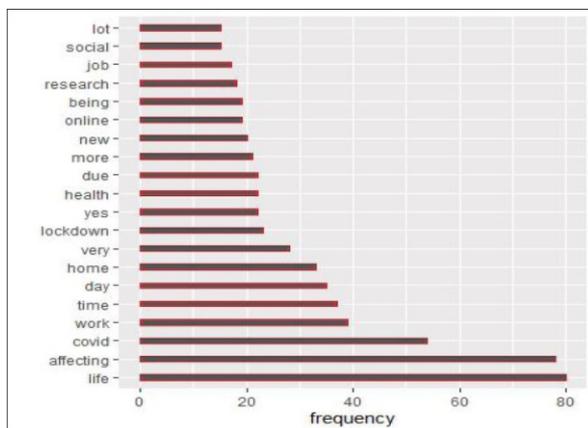


Figure. (Bar Plot Analysis of "How COVID 19 affecting your life?")

Coefficient of variation:

For this text-analysis, length of text play very important role. How many letter a person used for answering a question.

Consistency gives better result than and education inconsistency. A set of response in a particular profession use approximately same number of letters for answer a particular question that imply consistency.

Large number of response gives better consistency this is not true, Coefficient of variation (cv) measure the consistency.

cv is a relative measure and is most suitable for comparing two series. The smaller result of cv gives more consistent than the others.

Coefficient of variation (CV) measure the consistency

Figure 5 clearly shows the mean, sd and cv. 64.2 is Professor cv and it is smaller than the others that imply professor consistency is best then the others. Similarly Manager, Associate Professor, Student, Scientist also good. Consultant cv is high (186.3) then the others it imply inconsistent. That means some Consultant use large numbers of letter and some are use few.

Figure. Mean, SD and CV of Profession

	Profession	letter	mean.letter	sd.letter	cv
1	Assistant Professor	4632	62.6	75.8	121.1
2	Associate Professor	523	65.4	62.8	96.0
3	Consultant	3996	159.8	297.7	186.3
4	Engineer	730	42.9	54.7	127.5
5	Manager	783	34.0	29.8	87.6
6	Professor	469	46.9	30.1	64.2
7	Research Scholar	7449	99.3	130.4	131.3
8	Scientist	710	118.3	123.5	104.4
9	Student	7891	97.4	101.6	104.3
10	Teacher	1956	54.3	70.9	130.6

Assistant Professor

Highlighted and bigger word shows most frequently use word of sharing opinion. And other small highlighted word shows the less frequently use word.

Figure 6. (Word Cloud Analysis of answers given by Assistant Professors against "How COVID 19 affecting your life?")

Assistant Professors use more frequently life, economically, lockdown, home, Covid, different, human, people, problem, social, work, world. This words gives pre-images about the question how covis-19 affect in Assistant Professors life.

Students

Highlighted and bigger word shows most

frequently use word of sharing opinion. And others small highlighted word shows the less frequently use word. Students use more frequently life, economically, lockdown, health, home, future, daily, online, activities, exams, staying, lockdown, opportunities, work, education, mental, pandemic. This words gives pre-images about the question how covis-19 affect in Students life.

Research Scholar

Highlighted and bigger word shows most frequently use word of sharing opinion. And other small highlighted word shows the less frequently use word.

Research Scholar use more frequently research, life, affecting, Ph.D., lockdown, health, home, family, work, lock, mental, pandemic, opportunities, lab, positive, global.

This words gives pre-images about the question how covis-19 affect in Research Scholar life.

Consultant

Highlighted and bigger word shows most frequently use word of sharing opinion. And other small highlighted word shows the less frequently use word.

Consultant use more frequently life, affecting, financial, situation, life, job, unemployed, change, opportunity, increase, family, country, business, working, home.

These words are giving pre-images about the question

Conclusion

This survey particularly indicates the different difficulties and challenges towards environmental education as well as environmental employments while the natural environment is healing up during this pandemic period. This study paved way to draw attention of the government and policy

makers.

Recommendations:

In this article we have discussed about the recent scenario of educational and employment on the environmental sector. As per the analyzed data, following recommendations have been highlighted.

- Follow government rules and regulations to combat COVID-19 and maintain personal hygiene.
- Follow the strategies to reframe NEGATIVE THOUGHTS to keep well mental health.
- Don't be depressed, share your emotions with family / friends / close persons and don't be judgmental while anyone sharing their emotions with you - be a good listener.
- Keep continuation with daily basic physical exercise and eat healthy - natural immune booster.
- Be positive about innovative business idea along with startups, be self dependent and contribute in country economy.

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Contribution of Authors: Data gathering and idea owner of this study: MC, SG, AC; Study design: MC, SG, AC, SM; Data Analysis: SM; Writing and submitting manuscript: SG, AC; Editing and approval of final draft: MC, SG; Visualization: AC; Proofreading: MC, SG.

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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)



About Us

The Economic and Social Council is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable



development - economic, social and environmental. It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals. It is also responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits.

The UN Charter established ECOSOC in 1945 as one of the six main organs of the United Nations.

Foto ONU/Amanda Voisard

Wide view of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Chamber during the special meeting on the topic of "Ebola : A Threat to Sustainable Development". UN Photo/Amanda Voisard

Coordination within the UN

ECOSOC links a diverse family of UN entities (Organigram) dedicated to sustainable development, providing overall guidance and coordination. The entities include regional economic and social commissions, functional commissions facilitating inter-governmental discussions of major global issues, and specialized agencies, programmes and funds at work around the world to translate development commitments into real changes in people's lives.

Reforms over the last decade, particularly General Assembly resolution 68/1, have strengthened ECOSOC's leading role in identifying emerging challenges, promoting innovation, and achieving a balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development-economic, social and environmental. ECOSOC is charged with giving special attention to coordinated follow-up on major UN conferences and summits.

Partnership with the rest of the world

Building on its coordination role within the UN system, ECOSOC is a gateway for UN partnership and participation by the rest of the world. It offers a unique global meeting point for productive dialogues among policymakers, parliamentarians, academics, foundations, businesses, youth and 3,200+ registered non-governmental organizations. A spotlight on global issues Each year, ECOSOC structures its work around an annual theme of global importance to sustainable development. This ensures focused attention, among ECOSOC's array of partners, and throughout the UN development system.

By emphasizing combined economic, social and environmental concerns, ECOSOC encourages agreement on coherent policies and actions that make fundamental links

across all three.

ECOSOC's annual High-Level Segment includes:

High-Level Political Forum provides political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, and reviews progress in implementing sustainable development commitments

- Development Cooperation Forum reviews trends and progress in development cooperation

Other sessions encompass:

- Integration Segment promotes integrated actions on economic, social and environmental issues, within the United Nations system and beyond
- Humanitarian Affairs Segment strengthens coordination of UN humanitarian efforts
- Operational Activities for Development Segment provides overall guidance for UN funds and programmes
- Management Segment reviews reports of ECOSOC subsidiary and expert bodies; promotes UN system coordination on development issues; and considers special country or regional concerns
- Youth Forum brings youth voices into discussions on global policy-making on development issues of the day
- Partnership Forum encourages collaboration among Governments, businesses and foundations, non-governmental organizations, academia and Parliamentarians
- Special meetings to address global development emergencies or crises, to raise awareness and to serve as a high level policy platform for coordination of actors working on a specific situation

WHAT WE DO

What We Do

- Promoting Sustainable Development
- Advancing policy integration
- Development Cooperation Forum

- Financing for sustainable development
- Coordinating humanitarian action
- Guiding operational activities for development
- Providing coordination and oversight
- Building partnerships
- Engaging youth
- Raising awareness on emerging issues
- Advising on Haiti's long-term development
- Promoting the peace-development nexus
- Working with civil society

Promoting sustainable development

A view of the Middelgruden offshore wind farm in Denmark. UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

Sustainable development is the international community's most urgent priority, and the core aim of the 2030 Development Agenda for sustainable development. ECOSOC operates at the centre of the UN system's work on all three pillars of sustainable development-economic, social and environmental. It is the unifying platform for integration, action on sustainable development and follow-up and review.

As the umbrella for the UN's functional and regional commissions, and operational and specialized agencies, it links the setting of global norms with their implementation. Across diverse fora, it brings together all the different people and partners involved in achieving sustainable development, while fueling broader awareness and action through sharing its own extensive knowledge and issue expertise.

Within the UN system, ECOSOC has the main responsibility for following up on all major past international conferences linked to the three pillars of sustainable development, and will continue to do this alongside the implementation of the sustainable development goals. As a hub for the exchange of knowledge and mutual learning, it had an

instrumental role in examining lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals, assessed the transition into the post-2015 agenda, and currently consider the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. ECOSOC also explores the scope of a renewed global partnership and invites youth to share their views on their future.

Important ECOSOC forums for exchanges around sustainable development comprise:
High-Level Political Forum

- Development Cooperation Forum, including reviews of global trends
- Annual Ministerial Review, including its national voluntary presentations on development strategies that have proven effective
- Financing for Development Forum, involving leading financial and trade organizations
- Integration Segment, with specific focus on the three pillars of sustainable development
- Operational Activities for Development Segment, on adapting the UN funds and



programmes to post-2015

ECOSOC Integration Segment

- H.E. Mr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, delivers a keynote address at the 2015 ECOSOC integration segment under the theme, "Achieving Sustainable Development through Employment Creation and Decent Work for All". UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe
- ECOSOC's Integration Segment meets annually to help UN Member States and others map ways to achieve the three

pillars of sustainable development—economic, social and environmental.

- The sessions collect and share inputs from Member States, ECOSOC subsidiary bodies, other UN organizations and relevant stakeholders, with an emphasis on cutting-edge issues of global concern.
- Policy makers from national ministries attend to exchange experiences and discuss strategies to advance integration of the three pillars. Key findings inform action-oriented recommendations for follow up.



Financing for Sustainable Development

- The Economic and Social Council at UN Headquarters. UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

ECOSOC is charged with reviewing the financing for development follow-up process. In 2002, the International Conference on Financing for Development, which issued the Monterrey Consensus, brought over 50 heads of state and an unprecedented number of finance and other ministers together to agree on the first international framework for financing development. A follow-up process was continued through intergovernmental negotiations to build on and update commitments, including the Second Global Conference on Financing for Development in Doha in 2008 and the Third International Conference on Financing for Development held in Addis Ababa in July 2015. The subsequent Addis Ababa Action Agenda laid out a new global framework for financing sustainable development that

The official outcome of the Forum is a set of intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations that contribute to the overall follow-up and review on the 2030 Agenda and are submitted to the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development.

- Integral to the Council's overall efforts, ECOSOC also brings UN Member States together in the Development Cooperation Forum to assess global trends in development cooperation and related commitments, and consider ways to accelerate progress.

Guiding Operational Activities for Development

- Calendar of key events connected to the 2020 QCPR
- 2020 ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment
- Secretary-General's 2020 report on the QCPR
- General Assembly resolution A/RES/75/233 (2020 QCPR)
- General Assembly resolution 72/279 (UNDS repositioning)

Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review

The QCPR is the mechanism through which the General Assembly assesses the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of UN operational activities for development and establishes system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the UN system in response to the evolving international development and cooperation environment.

The UN Secretary-General leads the preparation for the QCPR resolution, with his report on its implementation, and a body of analytical work as background information in support of Member States' deliberations. Starting in 2019, the Secretary-General's annual review of the implementation of the

QCPR includes a review of the mandates contained in the resolution on the repositioning of the UN development system (GA resolution 72/279).

The QCPR process was envisioned as a shared responsibility of the GA & ECOSOC, with ECOSOC conducting the informed review and the GA issuing the respective resolution to evaluate UN effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact and guide the system in supporting developing countries in implementing the 2030 sustainable development agenda.

The implementation of the QCPR is reviewed annually through the ECOSOC segment on Operational Activities for Development.

ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment

Each year, ECOSOC's Operational Activities for Development Segment reviews UN policies, including the implementation of the General Assembly's quadrennial comprehensive policy review, which guides the UN development system's work with countries around the world in making progress on all dimensions of sustainable development. Starting in 2019, the Segment also reviews the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the UN development system.

Governing boards of each entity manage their operations and they report to ECOSOC. In turn, ECOSOC provides overall guidance on system-wide issues to the UN development system, recognizing that poverty eradication and sustainable development issues are complex and interrelated, and the most effective responses are well coordinated.

The 2020 Segment was held virtually from 19 to 22 May and on 27 May. The 2021 Segment will be held from 18 to 20 May, 2021.

Egypt



Egypt, country located in the northeastern corner of Africa. Egypt's heartland, the Nile River valley and delta, was the home of one of the principal civilizations of the ancient Middle East and, like Mesopotamia farther east, was the site of one of the world's earliest urban and literate societies. Pharaonic Egypt thrived for some 3,000 years through a series of native dynasties that were interspersed with brief periods of foreign rule. After Alexander the Great conquered the region in 323 BCE, urban Egypt became an integral part of the Hellenistic world. Under the Greek Ptolemaic dynasty, an advanced literate society thrived in the city of Alexandria, but what is now Egypt was conquered by the Romans in 30 BCE. It remained part of the Roman Republic and Empire and then part of Rome's successor state, the Byzantine Empire, until its conquest by Arab Muslim armies in 639-642 CE.

Egypt

Political map of Egypt, showing the disputed areas along the country's border with Sudan. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

Until the Muslim conquest, great continuity had typified Egyptian rural life. Despite the incongruent ethnicity of successive ruling groups and the cosmopolitan nature of Egypt's larger urban centres, the language and culture of the rural, agrarian masses—whose lives were largely measured by the annual rise and fall of the Nile River, with its annual inundation—had changed only marginally throughout the centuries.

Following the conquests, both urban and rural culture began to adopt elements of Arab culture, and an Arabic vernacular eventually replaced the Egyptian language as the common means of spoken discourse. Moreover, since that time, Egypt's history has been part of the broader Islamic world, and though Egyptians continued to be ruled by foreign elite—whether Arab, Kurdish, Circassian, or Turkish—the country's cultural milieu remained predominantly Arab.



Egypt Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

Egypt eventually became one of the intellectual and cultural centres of the Arab and Islamic world, a status that was fortified in the mid-13th century when Mongol armies sacked Baghdad and ended the Abbasid caliphate. The Mamluk sultans of Egypt, under whom the country thrived for several centuries, established a pseudo-caliphate of dubious legitimacy. But in 1517 the Ottoman Empire defeated the Mamluks and established control over Egypt that lasted until 1798, when Napoleon I led a French army in a short occupation of the country.

The French occupation, which ended in 1801, marked the first time a European power had conquered and occupied Egypt, and it set the stage for further European involvement. Egypt's strategic location has always made it a hub for trade routes between Africa, Europe, and Asia, but this natural advantage was enhanced in 1869 by the opening of the Suez Canal, connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea. The

COUNTRY FOCUS

concern of the European powers (namely France and the United Kingdom, which were major shareholders in the canal) to safeguard the canal for strategic and commercial reasons became one of the most important factors influencing the subsequent history of Egypt. The United Kingdom occupied Egypt in 1882 and continued to exert a strong influence on the country until after World War II (1939-45).

In 1952 a military coup installed a revolutionary regime that promoted a combination of socialism and Pan-Arab nationalism. The new regime's extreme political rhetoric and its nationalization of the Suez Canal Company prompted the Suez Crisis of 1956, which was only resolved by the intervention of the United States and the Soviet Union, whose presence in the Mediterranean region thereafter kept Egypt in the international spotlight.

During the Cold War, Egypt's central role in the Arabic-speaking world increased its geopolitical importance as Arab nationalism and inter-Arab relations became powerful and emotional political forces in the Middle East and North Africa. Egypt led the Arab states in a series of wars against Israel but was the first of those states to make peace with the Jewish state, which it did in 1979.

Egypt's authoritarian political system was long dominated by the president, the ruling party, and the security services. With opposition political activity tightly restricted, decades of popular frustration erupted into mass demonstrations in 2011. The uprising forced Pres. Hosni Mubarak to step down, leaving a council of military officers in control of the country. Power was transferred to an elected government in 2012, and a new constitution was adopted at the end of the year. This elected government, however, was toppled a year later when the military intervened to remove the newly elected president, Mohamed Morsi, a member of the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood,

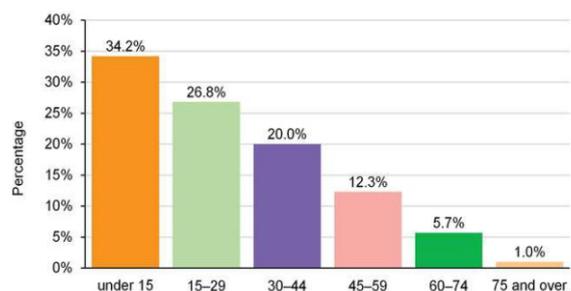
following a series of massive public demonstrations against his administration. (For a discussion of unrest and political change in Egypt in 2011,

The ancient Greek historian Herodotus called Egypt the "gift of the Nile." Indeed, the country's rich agricultural productivity-it is one of the region's major food producers-has long supported a large rural population devoted to working the land. Present-day Egypt, however, is largely urban. The capital city, Cairo, is one of the world's largest urban agglomerations, and manufacturing and trade have increasingly outstripped agriculture as the largest sectors of the national economy. Tourism has traditionally provided an enormous portion of foreign exchange, but that industry has been subject to fluctuations during times of political and civil unrest in the region.

Demographic trends

Most of Egypt's people live along the banks of the Nile River, and more than two-fifths of the population lives in urban areas. Along the Nile, the population density is one of the highest in the world, in excess of 5,000 persons per square mile (2,000 per square km) in a number of riverine governorates. The rapidly growing population is young, with roughly one-third of the total under age 15 and about three-fifths under 30. In response to the strain put on Egypt's economy by the country's burgeoning population, a national family planning

Egypt age breakdown (2019*)



Egypt: Age breakdown Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

program was initiated in 1964, and by the

1990s it had succeeded in lowering the birth rate. Improvements in health care also brought the infant mortality rate well below the world average by the turn of the 21st century. Life expectancy averages about 72 years for men and 74 years for women.

Economy

Although the constitution of 1971 described the economy as one based on socialism, with the people controlling all means of production, the public sector thoroughly dominated the economy for only about two decades following the revolution of 1952—prior to which time the country had a free market. Most major nationalization took place between 1961 and the early 1970s, when most important sectors of the economy either were public or were strictly controlled by the government. This included large-scale industry, communications, banking and finance, the cotton trade, foreign trade as a whole, and other sectors. During that time, private enterprise came gradually to find its scope restricted, but some room to maneuver was still left in real estate and in agriculture and, later, in the export trade. Personal income, as well as land ownership, was strictly limited by the government.

As part of the infit?? ("opening") economic policy adopted in the early 1970s, some of these restrictions were relaxed in the last quarter of the 20th century, permitting greater private-sector participation in various areas. Although the everyday running of corporations is now left to their boards of directors, those boards receive instructions from public boards, and the chairmen of boards often coordinate their production policies with the appropriate state minister. The government formulates five-year development plans to guide economic development. Likewise, since the early 1970s, the Egyptian government has campaigned for increased foreign investment—initially receiving financial aid from the oil-rich Arab states. Although Arab aid was

suspended as a punitive measure after Egypt signed a 1979 peace treaty with Israel (see Camp David Accords), the subsequent return of several Western and Japanese corporations, encouraged by the normalization of Egyptian relations with Israel, increased the potential for further foreign investment in the country. Much of the effort exerted by the government in the early 1980s was devoted to adjusting the economy to the situation resulting from the 1979 treaty. Defense expenditures were reduced, and increased allocations were made available for developing roads, bridges, oil pipelines, telephone lines, and other infrastructure. Egypt's economy began to become more resilient, primarily because of new oil and natural gas discoveries but also because Western aid increased. In the late 1990s and the first decade of the 21st century, Egypt's per capita gross domestic product (GDP) rose markedly, as the government sought to raise domestic production and foreign trade. However, the economy has continued to face many hurdles. The general standard of living in Egypt remains rather low, and in relation to the size of its population, its economic resources are limited.

Manufacturing

During the 20th century, manufacturing grew to be one of the largest sectors of Egypt's economy, accounting (along with mining) for roughly one-fourth of the GDP by the 21st century. Domestic manufactures were weak from the late 19th century until about 1930 because of free trade policies that favoured importing foreign products. Motivated by the need to increase national income, to diversify the economy, and to satisfy the aspirations of nascent nationalism, the government imposed a customs tariff on foreign goods in 1930 that promoted the development of Egyptian manufactures. The Bank of Egypt also extended loans to Egyptian entrepreneurs in the 1920s and '30s to help stimulate Egyptian domestic production. A succession of companies were

founded that engaged in printing, cotton ginning, transport, spinning and weaving (linen, silk, and cotton), vegetable oil extraction, and the manufacture of pharmaceuticals and rayon. Egypt was a major Allied base during World War II (1939-45) but was largely cut off from European imports; this situation further fueled the development of manufacturing, particularly of textile products.

Most large-scale manufacturing establishments were nationalized beginning in the 1950s, and emphasis was placed on developing heavy industry after a long-term trade and aid agreement was reached with the Soviet Union in 1964. An ammonium nitrate plant was opened in 1971, based on gases generated in the coking unit of the steel mill at ?ulw?n.

By the beginning of the 21st century, most large manufacturing enterprises were still owned or operated by the state, although the government had begun to sell substantial holdings to the private sector. Major manufactures included chemicals of all sorts (including pharmaceuticals), food products, textiles and garments, cement and other building materials, and paper products as well as derivatives of hydro-carbons (including fuel oil, gasoline, lubricants, jet fuel, and asphalt). Iron, steel, and automobiles were of growing importance to the Egyptian economy.

The government again reorganized the banking system in the early 1970s, merging some of the major banks and assigning special functions to each of the rest. Two new banks were created, and foreign banks were again permitted in the country as part of a program aimed at liberalizing the economy. Of particular interest were joint banking ventures between Egyptian and foreign banks. In 1980 Egypt's first international bank since the revolution was opened and a national investment bank was established.

Islamic banks have been set up in Egypt, paying dividends to their investors instead of interest, which is proscribed under Islamic law. In 1992 the stock exchanges at Cairo (1903) and Alexandria (1881), which had been closed since the early 1960s, were reopened, and in 1997 they were fully merged as the Cairo and Alexandria Stock Exchange.

The supply of money has, in general, followed the development of the economy; the authorities have aimed at tolerable increases in the price level, although some prices soared during the 1970s and '80s. Long pegged to the U.S. dollar, the pound was allowed to float in January 2003.

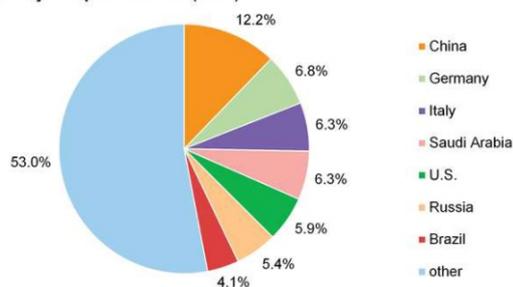
Egypt is a member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Since World War II the international liquidity of the Egyptian economy, including the Special Drawing Rights, added in 1970, has been depressed. In the late 1970s both internal and external debts rose, primarily because of large government subsidies to the private sector. In the 1980s and '90s the government gradually introduced price increases on goods and services, effectively reducing (though not eliminating) subsidies for food and fuel. In 1991 Egypt signed an agreement with the IMF and the World Bank called the Economic Reform and Structural Adjustment Program, which reduced the fiscal deficit, removed consumer subsidies, eliminated price controls, liberalized trade, reformed labour laws, and privatized state-owned enterprises. Although the program strengthened Egypt's economy during the 1990s, economic growth slowed in the early 21st century.

Trade

The value of imports into Egypt is usually equal to about one-third and exports about one-tenth of the GDP. Since World War II exports have tended to fall short of imports. The trade deficit was particularly sizable

from 1960 to 1965 as expenditure on development rose, reaching a peak in 1966. After the 1973 war with Israel, there was a decided effort to restrict imports and stimulate exports, but this met with little success. The trade deficit rose to record highs in the early and mid-1980s, largely because of the decline in revenue from petroleum exports and the increase in food imports. These problems have persisted in the early 21st century. The large visible trade deficit was partially offset by transfers from abroad, such as aid from Western gover-

Egypt major import sources (2017)



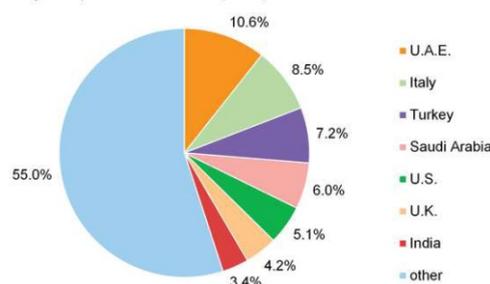
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Egypt: Major import sources Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

ments and remittances from Egyptians working in other countries.

Nearly two-fifths of imports consist of raw

Egypt major export destinations (2017)



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Egypt: Major export destinations Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

materials, mineral and chemical products, and capital goods (machinery, electrical apparatuses, and transport equipment), some one-fifth are foodstuffs, and the remainder are other consumer goods. Its most important exports include petroleum

and petroleum products, followed by raw cotton, cotton yarn, and textiles. Raw

materials, mineral and chemical products, and capital goods are also exported. Among agricultural exports are rice, onions, garlic, and citrus fruit. Egypt's most important trading partners include China, the United States, Italy, Germany, and the Gulf Arab countries.

Services

Learn about the impact on Egypt's tourism industry due to its political and social unrest. How political and social unrest in Egypt in 2016 was hurting tourism at some of the country's most popular sites.

The service sector-including retail sales, tourism, and government services-is one of the largest in the economy. The government alone is one of the biggest employers in the country, and government contracts help fuel other sectors of Egypt's still heavily socialized economy. Despite privatization and fiscal austerity measures in the late 20th century, construction projects, particularly major public-works projects, have been an important source of employment and a major source of national spending. Tourism has traditionally been an important source of foreign exchange, with millions visiting Egypt each year, mostly from Europe, Asia, and other Arab countries. Warm winters, beaches, and gambling casinos draw as many tourists as do Egypt's ancient monuments. Although the number of tourists per year and the amount they spend in Egypt rose in the 1990s and the first decade of the 21st century, security problems have at times hurt the industry.

The foundations of SME policy: definitions, statistics and institutions

Egypt is in the process of redesigning its institutional and policy framework for SME and entrepreneurship and is starting to

address one of the key recommendations of the SME Policy Index 2014 - which noted that the country should address the fragmentation of the institutional framework by defining the role of the various institutions and government agencies, co-ordinating support instruments and developing synergies among programmes.

As part of these efforts the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) are working towards the development of a unified SME definition, which is expected to be included in the upcoming SME law. Currently, there are three definitions, i.e. those of 1) the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS) the Establishment Census; 2) the Egyptian Small Enterprise Law No. 141 of 2004; and 3) the CBE. Each institution applies a different

Table 7.1 SME definitions in Egypt

Class	Existing companies		Newly established companies	
	Annual revenues (EGP Mn.)	Number of employees	Paid-up capital (EGP Mn.)	Number of employees
Micro	< 1	<10	< 0.5	<10
Small	1 : 50	< 200	Industrial companies 0.05 : 5 Non-industrial companies 0.05 : 3	<200
Medium	50 : 200		Industrial companies 5 : 15 Non-industrial companies 3 : 5	

Source: Central Bank of Egypt, <http://www.cbe.org.eg/ar/BankingSupervision/Pages/Circulars.aspx?p=4>.

definition (see Table 7.1).

Table 7.1. SME definitions in Egypt

In terms of SME statistics, the main source of information is the Establishment Census undertaken by CAPMAS. This census is usually conducted every ten years, and the latest was issued on 2017. According to the Census, there are 3.8 million micro enterprises and 67 600 small and micro enterprises in Egypt. In 2010-2011, the Egyptian Banking Institute (EBI), the financial development arm of the Central Bank of Egypt, and CAPMAS conducted an SME survey, which was expanded by the Economic Census of CAPMAS in 2013. There are plans to create an SME Observatory in the context of the new SME agency.

Egypt's overall economic policy framework is being shaped by a number of important structural reforms, including those launched in November 2016 in the context of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Extended Fund Facility. These reforms have been mostly oriented at redressing macro-economic imbalances and structural challenges (such as low growth and investment rates, rising inflation, high government debt and an overvalued exchange rate) that had negative effects on the current account deficit and international reserves. The implementation of these reforms has yielded positive results such as increased economic growth and declining inflation (despite the negative immediate effects of the floatation of the currency and the removal of subsidies). Yet, as noted by the IMF in its latest Article IV Consultation for Egypt, the state continues to play a prominent role in the economy, either as the employer of choice given the better job conditions and security it offers, or through its direct participation through state-owned enterprises in sectors such as banking, energy, manufacturing, agriculture, transport, tourism and services.¹

Egypt has taken important steps to address the fragmentation of the SME policy framework. First, in November 2016 the Ministry of Trade and Industry launched a National Strategy for Enhancing Industrial Development and Foreign Trade until 2020, which had been developed with support of the EU.² This strategy includes a thematic pillar on developing SMEs and entrepreneurship, under which the "National MSME & Entrepreneurship Development Strategy & Operational Plan 2018-2023" is developed with the support of Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

In April 2017, a Prime Ministerial Decree established the new MSME Development Agency (MSMEDA) under the direction of the

Minister of Trade and Industry. MSMEDA absorbs the responsibilities of the SFD, the Industrial Training Centre (ITC) and the IMC's responsibilities related to entrepreneurship and SME support. One of the main role of MSMEDA will be to ensure coordination among the different government structures dealing with SMEs. MSMEDA is in charge of:

Developing SME and entrepreneurship policy and strategic planning;

- Putting in place the necessary frameworks for implementing, co-ordinating and monitoring SME support initiatives;
- Designing and executing support programmes on skills, supply chain, marketing, participation in trade fairs, collective negotiation for suppliers, etc;
- Facilitating access to finance for MSMEs; and
- Working with concerned and relevant authorities to facilitate and streamline license issuance procedures for MSMEs to start up activity.

MSMEDA is working on finalizing the Performance Measurement Framework (PMF) of the National MSME and Entrepreneurship Strategy. It has also developed a new National Strategy for MSME Development 2020 and its Operation Plan, which was endorsed by its board and should be officially approved in the next months. The new National Strategy for MSMEs is divided into six pillars, and the Operational Plan includes 115 measures. The European Union (EU) is supporting the implementation of the strategy through the "Support for the Implementation of Strategies to Foster MSME Development in Egypt" (MiSMESIS) project. The project is developing a corporate strategy for MSMEDA to implement the National Strategy around three main pillars: 1) knowledge and centre of excellence; 2) business environment; and 3) enterprise-level support. The project has also undertaken a donor mapping exercise to

identify ongoing activities within the six pillars of the strategy.

The seven "government directions" regarding SMEs are influenced by the SBA principles and their adaptation to the MED region through the SME Policy Index assessments. These are:

1. Creating an environment in which entrepreneurs and SMEs can thrive and where entrepreneurship is rewarded - in particular for future entrepreneurs - by fostering entrepreneurial interest and talent, particularly among young people and women, and by simplifying the conditions for business transfers.

2. Ensuring that honest entrepreneurs who have faced bankruptcy quickly get a second chance. The government will promote a positive attitude in society towards giving entrepreneurs a fresh start, making it easier and quicker to apply for non-fraudulent bankruptcy, and ensuring re-starters are treated on an equal footing with new start-ups.

3. Designing rules according to the "think small first" principle, in particular by:

a. Ensuring that the impact of all government legislation and regulation on small businesses are carefully considered before they are introduced;

b. Making public administrations responsive to SMEs' needs; and

c. Adapting public policy tools to suit SME needs and facilitate SMEs' participation in public procurement, and to make better use of small-business support programs.

4. Facilitating small business access to finance and developing a legal and business environment that supports timely payments in commercial transactions. In particular, the government will facilitate the promotion of risk capital, microcredit and mezzanine finance and develop a legal and business environment supportive to timely payment in commercial transactions.

5. Promoting the upgrading of skills in SMEs and all forms of innovation by encouraging investment in research by SMEs and their participation in research and development (R&D) support programs, transnational research, and clustering and active intellectual property management by SMEs.

6. Enabling MSMEs to turn environmental challenges into opportunities by providing more information, expertise and financial incentives to help small businesses exploit opportunities of new "green" markets and increased energy efficiency, partly through the implementation of environmental management systems in SMEs.

7. Encouraging and supporting SMEs to benefit from the growth of international markets. The government will facilitate the provision of market-specific support and business training activities.

Concerning public-private dialogue (PPD), as in 2014, there is a large number of private sector organisations in Egypt, including the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce; the Federation of Egyptian Industries; the Egyptian Business Association; the Egyptian Junior Business Association; the Egyptian Federation of Investors; the Alexandria Business Association; and the Women Business Association. According to this interim assessment, private sector organisations are considering establishing departments for SMEs and the establishment of the MSMEDA is expected to lead to increased PPD. Of the three boards in the MSMEDA (Advisory Board, Board of Directors, and Board of Trustees), the first two include representatives from the private sector and from non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

For further action: Egypt is moving forward in terms of one of the key recommendations of the SME Policy Index 2014: the need to address the fragmentation of the SME institutional framework. The creation of the MSMEDA as an authority with policy co-

ordination and direct support powers is a concrete step, although there are still no details on the precise role and responsibilities of the agency: the institutional strategy of MSMEDA and the national SME strategy are still under development and there is no clarity on when and how they will be approved and implemented. Furthermore, although the consultations for this interim assessment pointed to plans for establishing a formal public-private dialogue mechanism for SME policy, there is no concrete evidence on how these plans will be developed and implemented. Similarly, there is talk of the development of an SME Law and an official SME definition, but no evidence on how and when that would happen. Hence, Egypt could continue and increase its efforts to develop and implement its new legal and institutional framework for SME policy beyond its initial plans and steps.

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INTERVIEW With

Desmond Wheatley
CEO, Beam Global

Exclusive Interview With the CEO of Solar EV Charging Company Beam Global

If you've never heard of Beam Global, previously known as Envision Solar, it's probably because you don't own an EV. Just to bring you up to speed, the company manufactures and deploys fully contained solar powered EV charging units that can be easy to deploy anywhere and can get up and running in less than five minutes.

Our interview with the CEO of Beam Global, Desmond Wheatley, revolved around some of the hardships encountered in developing and deploying such tech, as well as the benefits and drawbacks that current technological advances allow for.

Interviewer: What would be the three biggest challenges you've faced in implementing the EV ARC and Solar Tree?

Desmond Wheatley: Starting with the non-technical, the biggest challenge has been, in the early days, simply a lack of knowledge or lack of understanding on the part of the consumer of the product. But we're overcoming that now by having big and well-known customers like the city of New York, Google, and the state of California, and others. From a technological point of view, I would say battery technology has improved dramatically over the last decade, and batteries have become more energy-dense, more reliable, and less expensive, and so this allows you to store the energy you generate so that you can charge vehicles during nighttime or when it's cloudy.

Interviewer:: We see on the Beam Global website that the EV ARC only charges to 245 e-miles in a day. What does that mean for me if I own two Evs?

DW: That's a great question and one that we often get asked. We're really interested in consumer behavior, and so we ask ourselves what consumers do, and therefore, what do they need. The U.S. Department of Transportation tells us that the average U.S. sedan drives 30.4 miles per day. Further, they tell us that 8 out of 10 commuters require less than 24 miles for their roundtrip commute. This means you can potentially charge up to ten vehicles with one EV ARC.

Interviewer:: What can you tell us about the challenge against the oil industry?

DW: The great thing with the oil majors is that it's sort of a David and Goliath thing going on here. You know, they're still supreme, let's not deny it. Electric vehicles are still in very low single digit percentages of penetration in the market, and the really big guys are looking at that and saying, is there a real threat here?

I'm going to say that they're missing the point because consumers have a tendency to drive explosive growth into something once they get a hold of it. It's what happened with the iPhone. EV ARC

Interviewer:: How is Beam Global handling the loss of energy that occurs during conversions to either AC or DC current?

DW: It's a matter of great frustration for us, but there are a couple of things that you can do. First of all, you do not skimp out on the components that you integrate into your product. We use the best of the best components we manufacture ourselves or buy, but even then, there are still losses.

As you know, we live in an AC world, and the EV chargers we enable are all AC current users. And so we have this ridiculous scenario where we are converting sunlight into DC electricity, storing it as DC electricity, then inverting it into AC electricity so that we can put it into a charger which puts it into a vehicle which then converts it back into DC electricity. And all of that is very wasteful. The good news is that we and others are working on DC-to-DC technology.

Source: <https://www.autoevolution.com/news/exclusive-interview-with-the-ceo-of-solar-ev-charging-company-beam-global-156163.html>

Kareem Tarek Ahmed

Founder, Pines Studio

Kareem studied Business Technologies in Canadian International College in Cairo, Egypt and is the Co-Founder / public relations manager of Pines-Studio - a software solution and digitalization company in Egypt, since the last 1 year. He has partners in Germany and another here in Cairo. The journey for Kareem started many years ago, during which time Kareem worked with the most reputable organizations around the world, like the UN and Arab African Foundation for Research and Sustainable development. With 7 years of experience in IT, he has played many vital roles in coordinating public and foreign relations as an active member at the National Council of Young Entrepreneurs in the field of sustainable development. Kareem's experience in the field of software paved the way for him to start his own software company, www.pines-studio.com. The main aim behind pines-studio is to make software solutions more accessible and affordable for everyone. Pines-Studio, provides web- solutions, mobile solutions, e-commerce solutions and e-learning solutions.



Kareem's company Pines-Studio is a development and digital marketing agency based in Cairo, Egypt. In the field of mobile solutions, they build innovative applications for both platforms using native app development or cross-platform development. His designs, UI, UX and every tiny detail is chosen to offer a vibrant and positive user experience for his clients. Solid strategy, stunning design and fantastic user experience are all part of the mix. Pines-studio develops, designs and manages integrated technology solutions that take the digital presence of their clients to another level. They also provide the highest and the best quality in the market in Egypt, at their price point. The company Pines-Soft has recently developed and opened a new branch in Germany. The company's branch in Germany managed to have many connections and partnerships around Germany and succeeded in expanding their partner network in Berlin.

The journey which started in his early years has currently resulted in having a dedicated team of 250+ developers and digital marketers and social media specialists. By hard work and persistence, he is now managing a Network of small and medium companies in Egypt. For him to get this far, he worked with many prominent companies in Egypt until he became prominent in his own right. During his college years he developed an interest in the public relations and went very far in this field, having worked at the UN news responsible for creative design for prominent (UNN – United Nations News) magazine as a public relations manager. When he decided to start his own software company all this experiences and connections were of a great help to him. He currently cooperates with many Governmental offices in Egypt to provide technology solutions such as, to the Ministry of Communication & Information Technology and the engineering authority. Due to the continuous business between his company the many governmental agencies, Kareem has also managed to establish a good connection to high rankings officials in the Egyptian parliament.

Global foreign direct investment fell by 42% in 2020, outlook remains weak



UNCTAD says uncertainty about the COVID-19 pandemic's evolution and the global investment policy environment will continue to affect FDI flows in 2021. For developing countries, the prospects for 2021 are a major concern.

Global foreign direct investment (FDI) collapsed in 2020, falling 42% from \$1.5 trillion in 2019 to an estimated \$859 billion, according to an UNCTAD Investment Trends Monitor published on 24 January.

Such a low level was last seen in the 1990s and is more than 30% below the investment trough that followed the 2008-2009 global financial crisis.

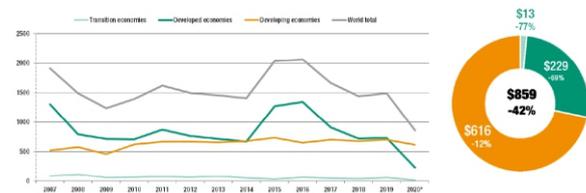
Despite projections for the global economy to recover in 2021 - albeit hesitant and uneven - UNCTAD expects FDI flows to remain weak due to uncertainty over the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The organization had projected a 5-10% FDI slide in 2021 in last year's World Investment Report.

"The effects of the pandemic on investment will linger," said James Zhan, director of UNCTAD's investment division. "Investors are likely to remain cautious in committing capital to new overseas productive assets."

FDI inflows: global and by group of economies, 2007-2020 (billions of US

dollars)



Source: UNCTAD (preliminary estimates)

Developed countries hardest hit

According to the report, the decline in FDI was concentrated in developed countries, where flows plummeted by 69% to an estimated \$229 billion.

Flows to North America declined by 46% to \$166 billion, with cross-border mergers and acquisitions (M&As) dropping by 43%. Announced greenfield investment projects also fell by 29% and project finance deals tumbled by 2%.

The United States recorded a 49% drop in FDI, falling to an estimated \$134 billion. The decline took place in wholesale trade, financial services and manufacturing. Cross-border M&A sales of US assets to foreign investors fell by 41%, mostly in the primary sector.

On the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, investment to Europe dried up. Flows fell by two-thirds to -\$4 billion. In the United Kingdom, FDI fell to zero, and declines were recorded in other major recipients.

But Europe's overall FDI performance masks a few regional bright spots. Sweden, for example, saw flows double from \$12 billion to \$29 billion. FDI to Spain also rose 52%, thanks to several acquisitions, such as private equities from the United States Cinven, KKR and Providence acquiring 86% of Masmovil.

Among other developed economies, flows to Australia fell (-46% to \$22 billion) but increased for Israel (from \$18 billion to \$26 billion) and Japan (from \$15 billion to \$17 billion).

Developing economies account for record share of FDI

Although FDI flows to developing economies decreased by 12% to an estimated \$616 billion, they accounted for 72% of global FDI - the highest share on record.

The fall was highly uneven across developing regions: -37% in Latin America and the Caribbean, -18% in Africa and -4% in developing countries in Asia. FDI to transition economies declined by 77% to \$13 billion.

While developing countries in Asia weathered the storm well as a group, attracting an estimated \$476 billion in FDI in 2020, flows to members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) contracted by 31% to \$107 billion, due to a decline in investment to the largest recipients in the subregion.

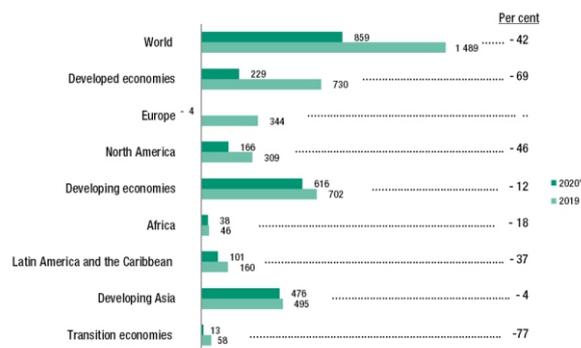
In terms of individual nations, China was the world's largest FDI recipient, with flows to the Asian giant rising by 4% to \$163 billion. High-tech industries saw an increase of 11% in 2020, and cross-border M&As rose by 54%, mostly in ICT and pharmaceutical industries.

"A return to positive GDP growth (+2.3%) and the government's targeted investment facilitation programme helped stabilize investment after the early lockdown," the report says.

India, another major emerging economy, also recorded positive growth (13%), boosted by investments in the digital sector.

FDI inflows by region, 2019 and 2020 (billions of US dollars)

Source: UNCTAD (preliminary estimates)
Weak outlook for 2021 except for



technology and healthcare

The report says that data on an announcement basis - on M&As, greenfield investments and project finance - provides a mixed picture on forward trends and confirms the weak outlook for 2021.

"Greenfield project announcements in 2020, 35% lower than in 2019, do not bode well for new investment in industrial sectors in 2021," the report says.

The decline in announced international project finance deals, important for investment in infrastructure, was more contained at -2%, but the uptick in the last part of the year was largely concentrated in developed countries.

"For developing countries, the prospects for 2021 are a major concern," Mr. Zhan said. Although, FDI flows in developing economies appear relatively resilient in 2020, greenfield announcements fell by 46% and international project finance by 7%, according to the report.

"These investment types are crucial for productive capacity and infrastructure development and thus for sustainable recovery prospects," Mr. Zhan added.

The report warns that "the far more limited capacity of developing countries to roll out economic support packages to stimulate

investment in infrastructure will result in an asymmetric recovery of project-finance-driven FDI.”

UNCTAD expects any increases in global FDI flows in 2021 to come not from new investment in productive assets but from cross-border M&As, especially in technology and healthcare - two industries affected differently by the pandemic.

“Although their investment activity slowed down initially in 2020, they are now set to take advantage of low interest rates and increasing market values to acquire assets in overseas markets for expansion, as well as rivals and smaller innovative companies affected by the crisis.”

Some 80% of the acquiring firms are based in developed economies, primarily in Europe, but a few multinational enterprises from developing countries are active buyers.

South African investors, for example, plan to acquire stakes in healthcare providers across Africa and Asia. And Indian IT companies have announced a 30% increase in acquisitions, targeting European and other markets for information technology services.

Source: [Global foreign direct investment fell by 42% in 2020, outlook remains weak | UNCTAD](#)

Startup

The 14 Largest Global Startup Funding Rounds of January 2021

Armed with some data from our friends at CrunchBase, I broke down the largest global startup funding rounds for January 2021. I have included some additional information such as industry, round type, a brief description of the company, investors in the round, company location, and total equity

funding raised for the company to further the analysis.

14. Enflame ¥1.8B

Round: Series C

Description: Shanghai-based Enflame is an artificial intelligence start-up developing cloud-based deep learning chips for AI training platforms. Founded by Arthur Zhang and Lidong Zhao in 2018, Enflame has now raised a total of ¥3.1B in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include Tencent Holdings, CPE, ZhenFund, Delta Capital, and Primavera Capital Group.

Investors in the round: CICC Alpha, CPE, Primavera Capital Group, Redpoint Ventures China, Summitview Capital, Tencent Holdings

Industry: Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Semiconductor, Software
Founders: Arthur Zhang, Lidong Zhao
Founding year: 2018
Location: Shanghai
Total equity funding raised: ¥3.1B

13. Rapyd \$300.0M

Round: Series D

Description: London-based Rapyd is a payments platform that inserts fintech services into any app and simplifies the complex offering of local payment methods. Founded by Arik Shtilman, Arkady Karpman, and Omer Priel in 2016, Rapyd has now raised a total of \$470.0M in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include General Catalyst, FJ Labs, Spark Capital, Stripe, and Tiger Global Management.

Investors in the round: Avid Ventures, Coatue, Durable Capital Partners, Entree Capital, FJ Labs, General Catalyst, Latitude, LVL1 Group, Oak HC/FT, Spark Capital, Tal Capital, Target Global, Tiger Global Management

Founding year: 2016
Location: London
Total equity funding raised: \$470.0M

13. MX Technologies \$300.0M

Round: Series C

Description: Lehi-based MX Technologies is a fintech company that aims to connect people with their financial data in a way that automates their money experience. Founded by Brandon Dewitt and Ryan Caldwell in 2010, MX Technologies has now raised a total of \$505.0M in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include H.I.G. Capital, Battery Ventures, Point72 Ventures, TPG, and Pelion Venture Partners.

Investors in the round: Canapi Ventures, CapitalG, Digital Garage, Geodesic Capital, Greycroft, Pelion Venture Partners, Point72 Ventures, Regions Financial Corporation, TPG

Industry: Banking, Finance, Financial Services, FinTech

Founders: Brandon Dewitt, Ryan Caldwell

Founding year: 2010

Location: Lehi

Total equity funding raised: \$505.0M

13. Hinge Health \$300.0M

Round: Series D

Description: San Francisco-based Hinge Health is a patient-centered digital clinic that treats chronic musculoskeletal conditions such as back and joint pain. Founded by Daniel Perez and Gabriel Mecklenburg in 2015, Hinge Health has now raised a total of \$426.1M in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include Tiger Global Management, Insight Partners, Bessemer Venture Partners, Atomico, and Coatue.

Investors in the round: Coatue, Tiger Global Management

Industry: Employee Benefits, Fitness, Health Care, Medical, Therapeutics, Wearables,

Wellness

Founders: Daniel Perez, Gabriel Mecklenburg

Founding year: 2015

Location: San Francisco

Total equity funding raised: \$426.1M

13. Blend \$300.0M

Round: Series G

Description: San Francisco-based Blend is a digital lending platform that supports and simplifies applications for mortgages, consumer loans, and deposit accounts. Founded by Erin Collard, Eugene Marinelli, Nima Ghamsari, and Rosco Hill in 2012, Blend has now raised a total of \$665.0M in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include Lightspeed Venture Partners, General Atlantic, Salesforce Ventures, Aura Financial, and Andreessen Horowitz.

Investors in the round: Coatue, Tiger Global Management

Industry: Financial Services, FinTech, Lending, SaaS, Software

Founders: Erin Collard, Eugene Marinelli, Nima Ghamsari, Rosco Hill

Founding year: 2012

Location: San Francisco

Total equity funding raised: \$665.0M

13. Grab Financial Group \$300.0M

Round: Series A

Description: Midview City-based Grab Financial Group provides financial services across payments, rewards, lending and insurance. Founded in 2018, Grab Financial Group has now raised a total of \$300.0M in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include GGV Capital, Flourish Ventures, Arbor Ventures, K3 Ventures, and Hanwha Asset Management.

Investors in the round: Arbor Ventures, Flourish Ventures, GGV Capital, Hanwha Asset Management, K3 Ventures

Industry: Financial Services, Insurance, Payments

Founders:

Founding year: 2018

Location: Midview City

Total equity funding raised: \$300.0M

12. Mixuebingcheng ¥2.0B

Round: Series A

Description: Henan-based Mixuebingcheng is a national beverage chain brand. Founded in 1997, Mixuebingcheng has now raised a total of ¥2.0B in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include Hillhouse Capital Group and Longzhu Capital.

Investors in the round: Hillhouse Capital Group, Longzhu Capital

Industry:

Founders:

Founding year: 1997

Location: Henan

Total equity funding raised: ¥2.0B

11. Calendly \$350.0M

Round: Series B

Description: Atlanta-based Calendly is an automated scheduling tool that takes the work out of connecting with others so that its users can accomplish more. Founded by Tope Awotona in 2013, Calendly has now raised a total of \$350.6M in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include OpenView, ICONIQ Capital, and Atlanta Ventures.

Investors in the round: ICONIQ Capital, OpenView

Industry: Productivity Tools, Scheduling, Software

Founders: Tope Awotona

Founding year: 2013

Location: Atlanta

Total equity funding raised: \$350.6M

10. Keep \$360.0M

Round: Series F

Description: Beijing-based Keep is a mobile

fitness community that offers a variety of training programs for different groups of people. Founded by Ning Wang and Wei Peng in 2014, Keep has now raised a total of \$614.0M in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include Tencent Holdings, Goldman Sachs, 5Y Capital, GGV Capital, and Hillhouse Capital Group.

Investors in the round: 5Y Capital, Bertelsmann Asia Investments, Coatue, GGV Capital, Hillhouse Capital Group, Jeneration Capital, SoftBank Vision Fund, Tencent Holdings

Industry: Fitness, Mobile Apps, Training, Wellness

Founders: Ning Wang, Wei Peng

Founding year: 2014

Location: Beijing

Total equity funding raised: \$614.0M

9. Nubank \$400.0M

Round: Series G

Description: Sao Paulo-based Nubank is a digital bank that offers digital credit cards, transfers, and payments. Founded by Adam Edward Wible, Cristina Junqueira, and David Velez in 2013, Nubank has now raised a total of \$1.1B in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include Tencent Holdings, Goldman Sachs, Ribbit Capital, Sequoia Capital, and Dragoneer Investment Group.

Investors in the round: Dragoneer Investment Group, GIC, Invesco, Kaszek Ventures, Ribbit Capital, Sequoia Capital, Tencent Holdings, Whale Rock Capital Management

Industry: Banking, Credit Cards, Financial Services, FinTech, Payments

Founders: Adam Edward Wible, Cristina Junqueira, David Velez

Founding year: 2013

Location: Sao Paulo

Total equity funding raised: \$1.1B

9. Horizon Robotics \$400.0M

Round: Series C

Description: Beijing-based Horizon Robotics develops artificial intelligence chips for robots. Founded by Annie Tao, Chang Huang, Kai Yu, and Ming Yang in 2015, Horizon Robotics has now raised a total of \$1.3B in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include Sequoia Capital, Contemporary Amperex Technology, GSR Ventures, 5Y Capital, and Intel Capital.

Investors in the round: Aspex Management, Baillie Gifford, China Securities, CloudAlpha Tech Fund, Contemporary Amperex Technology, CPE, Hermitage Asset Management, Neumann Advisors, Orix Capital Corporation, SDHS, YF Capital, Yuantai Investment Partners

Industry: Artificial Intelligence, Electronics, Machine Learning, Robotics, Semiconductor
Founders: Annie Tao, Chang Huang, Kai Yu, Ming Yang
Founding year: 2015
Location: Beijing
Total equity funding raised: \$1.3B

9. OneWeb \$400.0M

Round: Venture
Description: London-based OneWeb is building a space-based global communications network that delivers high-speed, low latency internet access. Founded by Greg Wyler in 2012, OneWeb has now raised a total of \$3.4B in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include SoftBank, Qualcomm, Qualcomm Ventures, Airbus, and SoftBank Capital.

Investors in the round: Hughes Network Systems, SoftBank Capital

Industry: Aerospace, Database, Internet, Satellite Communication, Telecommunications
Founders: Greg Wyler
Founding year: 2012
Location: London
Total equity funding raised: \$3.4B

9. Hive Box \$400.0M

Round: Series C

Description: Shenzhen-based Hive Box operates a network of self-service package drop-off and pick-up stations across China. Founded in 2015, Hive Box has now raised a total of \$1.1B in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include Trustbridge Partners, Sequoia Capital China, CDH Investments, STO Express, and Eastern Bell Capital.

Investors in the round: All-Stars Investment, Asia Forge (Cayman), Redview Capital, Sequoia Capital China, Trustbridge Partners
Industry: E-Commerce, Logistics, Packaging Services
Founders:
Founding year: 2015
Location: Shenzhen
Total equity funding raised: \$1.1B

8. Checkout.com \$450.0M

Round: Series C

Description: London-based Checkout.com is an API-based platform providing online payment solutions that improve the user's checkout experience. Founded by Guillaume Pousaz in 2012, Checkout.com has now raised a total of \$830.0M in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include DST Global, GIC, Tiger Global Management, Greenoaks Capital, and Insight Partners.

Investors in the round: Blossom Capital, Coatue, DST Global, Endeavor Catalyst, GIC, Greenoaks Capital, Insight Partners, Tiger Global Management
Industry: E-Commerce, FinTech, Payments, Transaction Processing
Founders: Guillaume Pousaz
Founding year: 2012
Location: London
Total equity funding raised: \$830.0M

7. Roblox \$520.0M

Round: Series H

Description: San Mateo-based Roblox is an online gaming and entertainment platform offering a shared digital experience that brings people together through play. Founded by David Baszucki and Erik Cassel in 2004, Roblox has now raised a total of \$855.7M in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include Tencent Holdings, Altimeter Capital, Dragoneer Investment Group, Andreessen Horowitz, and Tiger Global Management.

Investors in the round: Altimeter Capital, Altos Ventures, Andreessen Horowitz, Dragoneer Investment Group, Investment Group of Santa Barbara, Tiger Global Management, Warner Music Group

Industry: Developer Platform, Gaming, Online Games, Online Portals, Software, Video Games, Virtual Reality

Founders: David Baszucki, Erik Cassel

Founding year: 2004

Location: San Mateo

Total equity funding raised: \$855.7M

6. Lacework \$525.0M

Round: Series D

Description: San Jose-based Lacework is a security platform for cloud generation that provides automated threat defense and intrusion detection for cloud workloads. Founded by Sanjay Kalra and Vikram Kapoor in 2015, Lacework has now raised a total of \$599.0M in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include Alumni Ventures Group, Altimeter Capital, Dragoneer Investment Group, Tiger Global Management, and AME Cloud Ventures.

Investors in the round: Altimeter Capital, Coatue, D1 Capital Partners, Dragoneer Investment Group, Liberty Global Ventures, Snowflake Ventures, Sutter Hill Ventures, Tiger Global Management

Industry: Cloud Security, Compliance, Security, Software

Founders: Sanjay Kalra, Vikram Kapoor

Founding year: 2015

Location: San Jose

Total equity funding raised: \$599.0M

5. Wolt \$530.0M

Round: Series E

Description: Helsinki-based Wolt is a food delivery company specializing in real-time logistics optimization. Founded by Elias Aalto, Juhani Mykkanen, Lauri Andler, Mika Matikainen, Miki Kuusi, and Oskari Petas in 2014, Wolt has now raised a total of \$813.7M in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include DST Global, Tiger Global Management, EQT Ventures, Coatue, and Prosus Ventures.

Investors in the round: 83North, Coatue, DST Global, EQT Ventures, GS Growth, Highland Europe, ICONIQ Growth, KKR India Financial Services, Prosus Ventures, Tiger Global Management, Vintage Investment Partners

Industry: Apps, Delivery, Delivery Service, Food Delivery, Mobile Payments

Founders: Elias Aalto, Juhani Mykkanen, Lauri Andler, Mika Matikainen, Miki Kuusi, Oskari Petas

Founding year: 2014

Location: Helsinki

Total equity funding raised: \$813.7M

4. Sila Nanotechnologies \$590.0M

Round: Series F

Description: Alameda-based Sila Nanotechnologies is a provider and manufacturer of revolutionary car batteries. Founded by Alex Jacobs, Gene Berdichevsky, and Gleb Yushin in 2011, Sila Nanotechnologies has now raised a total of \$875.0M in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include T. Rowe Price, Matrix Partners, 8VC, Bessemer Venture Partners, and Sutter Hill Ventures.

Investors in the round: 8VC, Bessemer Venture Partners, Canada Pension Plan

Investment Board, Coatue, Sutter Hill Ventures, T. Rowe Price

Industry: Electronics, Manufacturing, Nanotechnology

Founders: Alex Jacobs, Gene Berdichevsky, Gleb Yushin

Founding year: 2011

Location: Alameda

Total equity funding raised: \$875.0M

3. Leapmotor ¥4.3B

Round: Series B

Description: Hangzhou-based Leapmotor is a Hangzhou-based Chinese new energy car maker. Founded by Fu Liquan and Zhu Jiangming in 2015,

Leapmotor has now raised a total of \$1.1B in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include Zju Jiuzhi Investment Management, Sequoia Capital China, Yonghua Capital, Gopher Asset Management, and CRRC.

Investors in the round: SDIC Fund Management, Yonghua Capital, Zju Jiuzhi Investment Management

Industry: Automotive, Electric Vehicle, Energy, Manufacturing

Founders: Fu Liquan, Zhu Jiangming

Founding year: 2015

Location: Hangzhou

Total equity funding raised: \$1.1B

2. 4Paradigm \$700.0M

Round: Series D

Description: Beijing-based 4Paradigm is an AI tech firm that helps enterprises improve work efficiency while reducing risk and achieving greater commercial value. Founded by Feng Tian, Qiang Yang,

Shiwei Hu, Wen Yuan Dai, and Yuqiang Chen in 2014, 4Paradigm has now raised a total of \$1.1B in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include Goldman Sachs, Lenovo, Cisco, Agricultural Bank of China,

and Sequoia Capital China.

Investors in the round: Boyu Capital, China Development Bank, China Jianyin Investment, China Reform Holdings Corporation, China Securities, CPE, Founta-inVest Partners, Goldman Sachs, Haitong Securities, HOPU Investment Management Company, Jinyi Capital, Mubadala Investment Company, Primavera Capital Group, Sequoia Capital China

Industry: Artificial Intelligence, Information Services, Machine Learning, Software

Founders: Feng Tian, Qiang Yang, Shiwei Hu, Wen Yuan Dai, Yuqiang Chen

Founding year: 2014

Location: Beijing

Total equity funding raised: \$1.1B

1. Lalamove \$1.5B

Round: Series F

Description: Hong Kong-based Lalamove is a logistics company that provides on-demand and same-day delivery services. Founded by Chow Shing Yuk, Gary Hui, and Santit Jirawongkraisorn in 2013, Lalamove has now raised a total of \$2.5B in total equity funding and is backed by investors that include Shunwei Capital, Sequoia Capital China, Hillhouse Capital Group, Vitruvian Partners, and D1 Capital Partners.

Investors in the round: Boyu Capital, D1 Capital Partners, Hillhouse Capital Group, Sequoia Capital China, Tiger Fund, Vitruvian Partners

Industry: Apps, Delivery, Logistics, Transportation

Founders: Chow Shing Yuk, Gary Hui, Santit Jirawongkraisorn

Founding year: 2013

Location: Hong Kong

Total equity funding raised: \$2.5B

Source: <https://www.alleywatch.com/2021/02/global-startup-funding-top-largest-january-2021-vc/>

Bumble's 31-year-old CEO becomes 'rare female billionaire'

According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, self-made women make for less than 5% of the world's biggest fortunes.

Dating app Bumble, where only women can make the first move, soared 64 percent in its market debut, valuing the company Chief Executive Officer Whitney Wolfe Herd's stake at \$1.5 billion.

The Texas-headquartered company's stock closed at \$70.31 in New York, putting its value at roughly \$13 billion including debt. It raised \$2.15 billion with its initial public offering (IPO) and had its share jump over 80 percent during the early minutes of trading. The shares had debuted at \$43 apiece.

The stunning IPO catapults 31-year-old Wolfe Herd into a rare league of self-made female billionaires.

According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, self-made women make for less than 5 per cent of the world's biggest fortunes even though the females constitute nearly half of the world's population. Two-thirds of the wealth index is occupied by self-made men.

It is interesting to note that out of the 559 companies that have gone public in the US during the past 12 months, only three, including Bumble, have women founders.

By catering to an underserved market, Wolfe Herd went on to build a multibillion-dollar company that aimed to obliterate one of the most common yet terrifying experiences of women entrepreneurs - sexual harassment. "Hopefully this will not be a rare headline," Wolfe Herd, the youngest woman to take a large company public in the U.S. as CEO, was quoted as saying in an interview with Bloomberg Television on Thursday, in reference to the uniqueness of Bumble's female-led management. "Hopefully this will

be the norm. It's the right thing to do, it's a priority for us and it should be a priority for everyone else," she added.

In fact, it was harassment that led Wolfe Herd to quit Tinder, which she had co-founded, and launch Bumble as competition in 2014.

The split was marked by a sexual harassment lawsuit in which Wolfe Herd mentioned being repeatedly called derogatory names by executives and stripped of her position as a co-founder because having a "girl" in such a role "makes the company seem like a joke". The lawsuit was, however, settled later.

Although Wolfe Herd was initially focussed on creating a women-only social network, she settled for match-making following the advice of Russian tech billionaire and founder of dating app Badoo, Andrey Andreev. That's how Bumble was born as a "by women, for women" service with a strict policy against harassment.

When Blackstone Group Inc. bought a majority stake in Bumble's owner for nearly \$3 billion last year, she took over from Andreev. As part of the agreement, she received about \$125 million in cash as well as a \$119 million loan that has been fully repaid. At that time, Andreev had told Bloomberg that he was "very comfortable handing the baton to Whitney" and that "she has proved to be very insightful and innovative in the dating space".

Bumble has grown to become the second-most popular dating app in the US with catchy taglines like "Be the CEO your parents always wanted you to marry" drawing women's attention.

Source <https://www.cnbc.com/entrepreneurship/bumbles-31-year-old-ceo-becomes-rare-female-billionaire-82925-01.htm>

“PM Modi’s Standup India: Loans to SC/ST, women entrepreneurs jump 21%; sanctioned amount nears Rs 25k cr

Credit and Finance for MSMEs: The scheme was launched to facilitate credit from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 1 crore to at least one SC/ST borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch of scheduled commercial banks for setting up their businesses in the manufacturing, services, or trading sectors.

Credit and Finance for MSMEs: The Modi government’s Standup India scheme, which facilitates loans to scheduled caste or scheduled tribe and women entrepreneurs for setting up greenfield enterprises, has grown 21.3 per cent in the number of loan applications sanctioned by lending institutions and 21.1 per cent in the amount sanctioned in the past nearly 12 months. Launched on April 5, 2016, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and subsequently extended up to 2025, the scheme has received 1,28,377 applications out of which 1,10,813 applications involving Rs 24,803 .85 crore were sanctioned so far, according to the Standup India data as of February 10, 2021.

The total number of loans extended till March 10, 2020 stood at 91,319 involving Rs 20,466.94 crore, Ministry of Finance MoS Anurag Thakur had shared data in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha last year. The scheme was launched to facilitate credit from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 1 crore to at least one SC/ST borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch of scheduled commercial banks for setting up their businesses in the manufacturing, services, or trading sectors. Similarly, 6,292 entrepreneurs in Gujarat secured Rs 1,837.7 crore in loan, Uttar Pradesh saw 11,455 entrepreneurs raising Rs 2,317.89 crore, Maharashtra had 6,834 accounts and Rs 1,577.05 crore sanctioned in loan.

Source: <https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/sme/msme-fin-pm-modis-standup-india-loans-to-sc-st-women-entrepreneurs-jump-21-sanctioned-amount-nears-rs-25k-cr/2191926/>

[com/industry/sme/msme-fin-pm-modis-standup-india-loans-to-sc-st-women-entrepreneurs-jump-21-sanctioned-amount-nears-rs-25k-cr/2191926/](https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/sme/msme-fin-pm-modis-standup-india-loans-to-sc-st-women-entrepreneurs-jump-21-sanctioned-amount-nears-rs-25k-cr/2191926/)

WASME CORNER

WASME’s VIEWS ON UNION BUDGET 2021-22 FOR MSME SECTOR

Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Budget 2021 -22 in the parliament on 1st February 2021. The main focus of Budget was directed towards Aatmanirvar Bharat, Local for Vocal, growth, tax simplification, employment, ease of doing business and FDI.

A.ALLOCATION TO MSME SECTOR:-

The MSME Sector allocation has been doubled to ₹15,700 crore for the next financial year from ₹7,572 crore in 2020-21. This is one of the best allocation till date to support MSMEs. Allocation will definitely provide a support to those MSMEs who have been struggling to revive business which they have lost due to pandemic.

B.CLG SCHEME:-

Majority of the allocation for 2021-2022 is for the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme. The scheme to help MSMEs revive from pandemic losses.

C.FINANCIAL INCLUSION:-

Proposal to facilitate credit flow under the scheme of Stand Up India for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes and also women, will reduce the margin money requirement from 25 per cent 15 per cent only and to also include loans for activities in allied activities in agriculture.

D.PRODUCTION LINKED SCHEME (PL-I) FOR MSME MANUFACTURING UNITS:-

Production Linked Scheme (PLI) for MSME manufacturing units has been allocated Rs 1.97 lakh crore which is very important step

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Our members support WASME's mission to advance, promote and support SMEs in their respective countries through association and collaboration mechanism with local government bodies, regional authorities, international linkages, civil societies and SMEs.

General Members	Any Government Organizations, Small Business Authorities, Authorities bodies, Financial Institutions, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, SME Associations, Training Institutes, Consultancy Organisations, Technology Providers etc.
Permanent Members	Any General member of Associate Member who contributes to the funds of the Organization.
Associate Members	Any Individuals, Enterprises, Corporations, Stakeholders, Research Institutions, Large Enterprises, Academicians, Consultants etc. engaged in SME sector.
Associate Membership-Indian Chapter	Indian MSMEs, Entrepreneurs, Corporates, SME Associations, Universities, Training Institute and Individuals who are interested in the growth of SMEs.

Information Assistance	Benefits Enterprise Support	Business Support
Basic business related laws, business legislation, trade regulation, Public policy, Taxation, Available MSME support by different stakeholders.	Expert guidance and assistance for starting new business, improving existing business, Skill development and empowerment, Business matching, International experts search.	Tender information, potential buyer & seller, Marketing linkages, import/export facilitations, financial assistance technology transfer, branding and promotions etc.
Exposure Visit to Global members	Participation & Knowledge Support	Branding Opportunity
Facilitate exposure visit at National & International Organizations, Institutes, Research Centres etc	Participation of WASME National/International conferences and seminars, workshops, training and programmes etc	Sponsorship and volunteering, advertising and programs, newsletters, website, e-bulletins, publications etc.

For more information visit our website: www.wasmeinfo.org or contact wasme@wasmeinfo.org

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