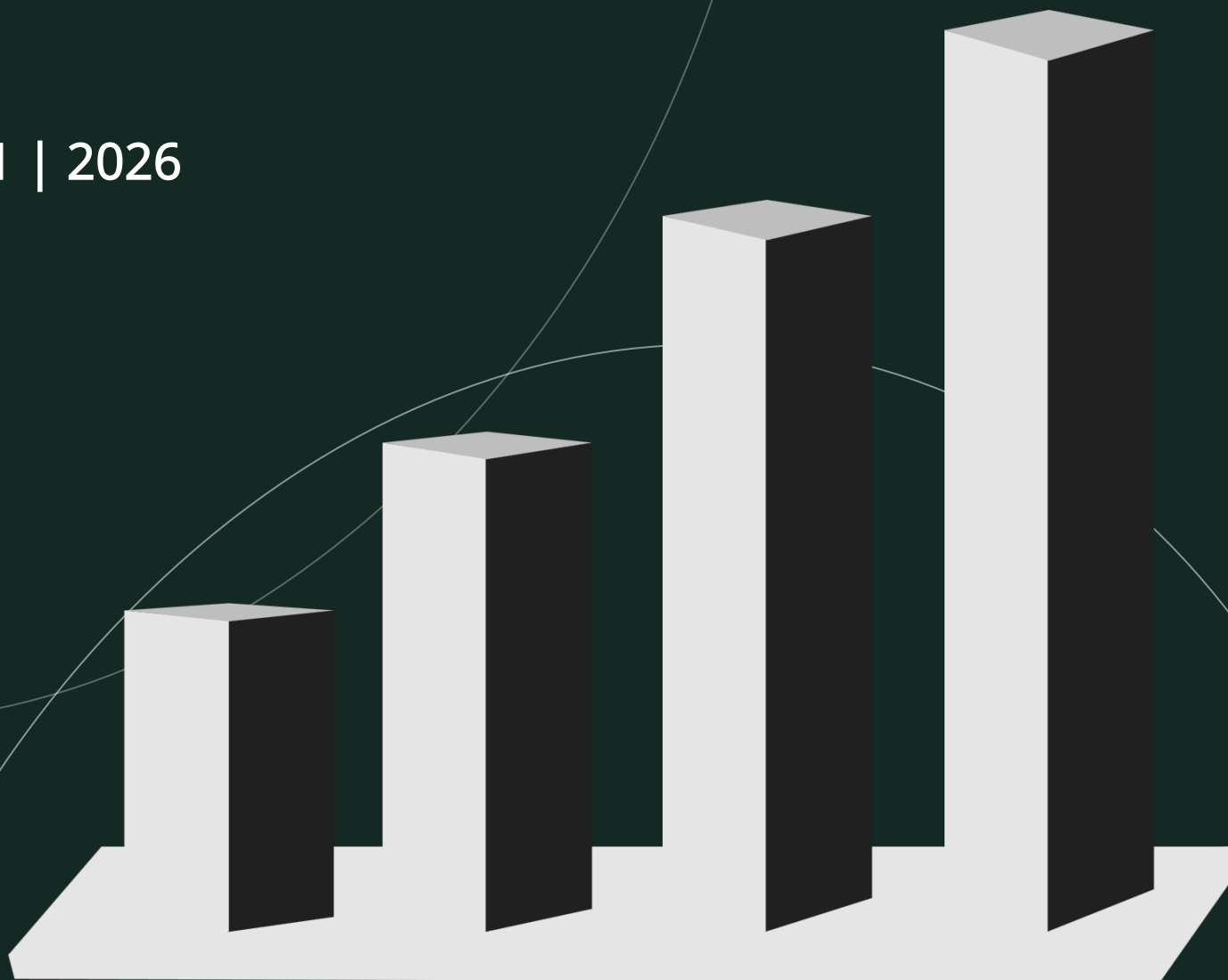


Québec's **Venture Capital** Market Overview

H1 | 2026



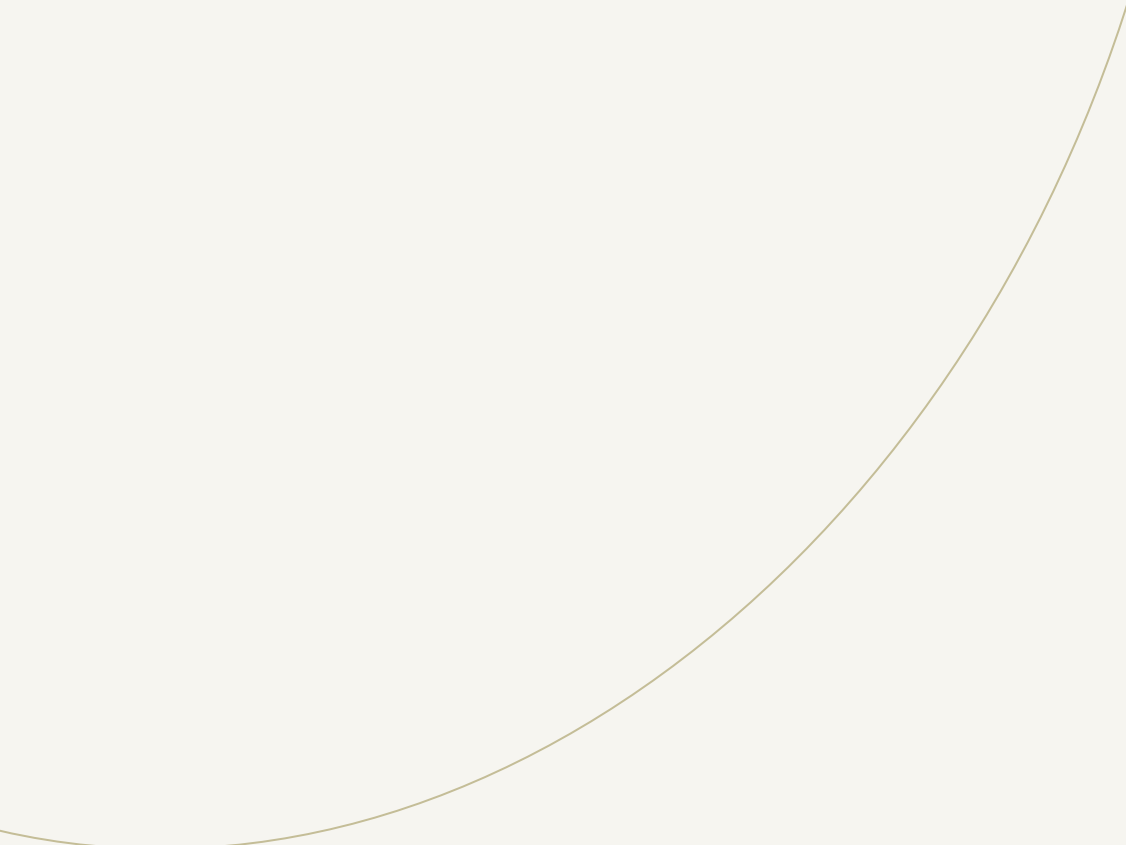


Table of Contents

Message from the CEO	3
Economic Note	4
Québec's VC Market Overview	7
Key Highlights	11
Appendices	20

Message from the CEO



Olivier Quenneville
CEO, Réseau Capital

Réseau Capital and its Centre of Expertise in Investment Capital present the quarterly report on investment capital activity in Québec. Produced in collaboration with the CVCA (Canadian Venture Capital and Private Equity Association), this report provides a detailed analysis of venture capital (VC) and private equity (PE) investments for the second quarter of 2026. It offers an overview of private investment activity in Québec-based companies by investment type, industry sector, stage, and deal size.

In venture capital, 60 deals totaling \$758 million were recorded in Québec since the beginning of the year. Deal count declined by 13%, while total dollars invested increased by 30% compared to the same period in 2025. This slowdown is primarily attributable to the pullback in cleantech investments, where deal count and dollars invested declined by 75% and 90%, respectively, compared to the same period in 2025. Québec is favourably positioned relative to the national level, accounting for 24% of deal count and 28% of total dollars invested. The province ranked second in both deal count and total dollars invested, behind Ontario and ahead of British Columbia.

Although the long-term optimism index among Canadian SMEs rose by 8 points between June and July, the economic and geopolitical environment remained uncertain in the second quarter of 2026, both in Canada and internationally. Trade tensions with the United States even intensified, with elevated tariffs maintained on steel and aluminum as well as the announcement of new duties of up to 50% on a wide range of Canadian goods, beyond the traditional CUSMA framework. This rise in friction, combined with heightened financial market volatility, global tariff measures of 10% on certain trade flows, and imported inflation risks, continues to weigh on business and investor confidence, including in Québec's technology sector.

The second quarter of 2026 confirms a profound reconfiguration of venture capital: artificial intelligence is capturing the bulk of global capital, concentrated in a limited number of mega-rounds, while institutional investors are now demanding real liquidity rather than paper valuations. In Canada, the ecosystem is consolidating significantly: fewer companies are raising capital, capital is concentrating in a few large funds, and corporate venture capital (CVC) investment is declining relative to the United States. For Québec, discipline on liquidity and differentiation will be the performance levers of the coming quarters.

Economic Note

Presented by:



This English translation is provided by Réseau Capital.

MACROECONOMIC REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Activity is advancing, despite mixed signals

At the halfway point in 2026, Québec's economy presents a mixed picture. Output continues to advance and the manufacturing sector is holding up well, while the labour market has lost some ground. Businesses are also maintaining their investment intentions, but remain cautious given the evolving trade and geopolitical context.

Québec's real GDP rose by 0.3% in the first quarter, after declining by 0.1% in the previous quarter. This increase corresponds to annualized growth of 1.3%. April data indicate that activity continued to progress, with GDP by industry up 0.1%.

The manufacturing sector is one of the main sources of support. Its GDP grew by 0.3% in April. From January to May, average sales of manufactured goods reached C\$231.9 billion, 5.2% higher than during the same period in 2025. These results point to a sustained level of activity, although developments could vary by industry and by exposure to external markets.

The labour market is sending a less favourable signal. In the first half of the year, Québec had an average of 4,613,700 jobs, down 33,300 from the second half of 2025. The average unemployment rate stood at 5.6%, a slight increase. In other words, output growth has not yet translated into an improvement in employment.

Business investment intentions changed little in the second quarter but remain elevated. Domestic demand continues to support several projects, while investments aimed at raising productivity remain more frequent than in recent years. Equipment modernization, automation and the integration of artificial intelligence are among the priorities.

This willingness to invest nevertheless coexists with greater selectivity. Some businesses are reassessing the timing, scale or conditions for carrying out their projects. For investors, asset quality, execution capacity and expected productivity gains are becoming more important in the assessment of opportunities.

The business climate improved in early July. According to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, the long-term optimism index for Canadian SMEs reached 58.3 points, up eight points from June. Québec was among the provinces recording the largest increases. This reading, however, preceded the most recent U.S. tariff announcements.

The second half of the year will therefore continue to depend on external factors. Tensions in the Middle East could put renewed pressure on energy prices and certain supply chains. On the U.S. side, the economic effects of tariff threats will depend mainly on the measures actually applied, the products targeted and any exemptions that may be granted.

Overall, the available data suggest neither a marked acceleration nor a generalized downturn in Québec's economy. Rather, they point to modest expansion, supported notably by the manufacturing sector and productivity investments, but accompanied by a softer labour market and a level of uncertainty that continues to influence business decisions.

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec – Economic Accounts, GDP by Industry, Manufacturing Sales, Labour Force Survey Results; Bank of Canada – Business Outlook Survey; Canadian Federation of Independent Business – Business Barometer.

THEMATIC SNAPSHOT

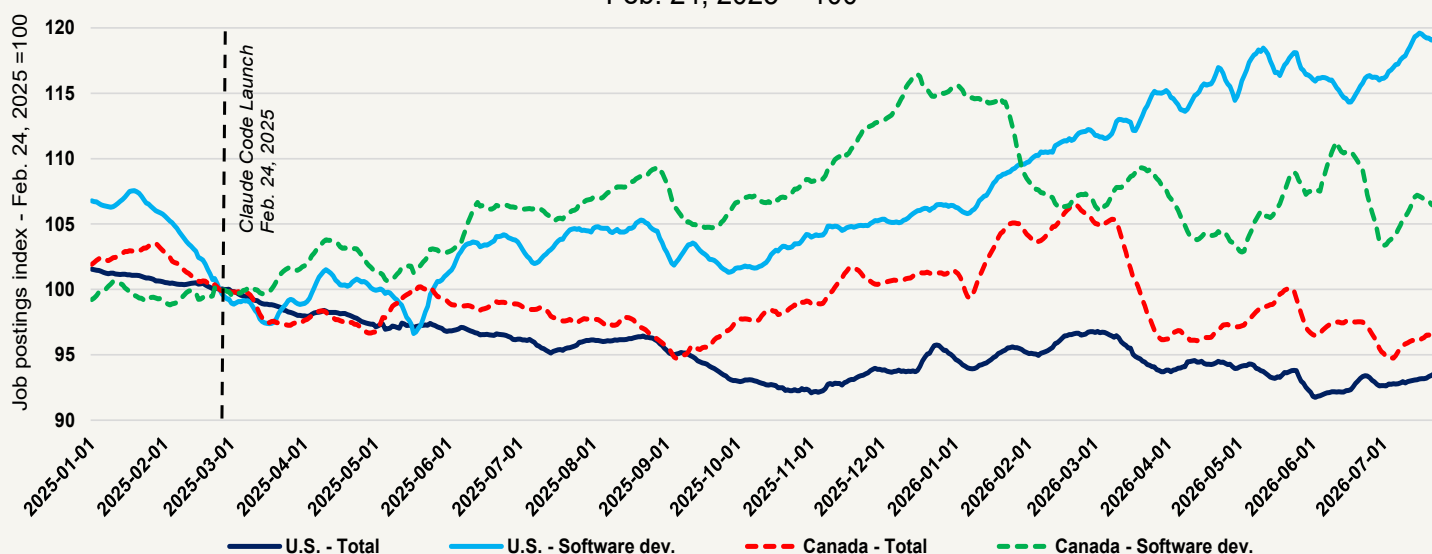
Software employment: a recovery driven by AI and experienced profiles

In our first-quarter note, we observed that employment related to software development in Québec had normalized after the strong expansion of 2020 to 2022. Despite this slowdown, the structural needs associated with automation, cybersecurity and data use remained clearly present.

New data published by the Indeed Hiring Lab now point to a shift in trend in the United States. Since the end of February 2025, software development job postings on Indeed have increased by more than 19%, while overall postings have declined by 6%. This rebound must, however, be put in perspective: in July 2026, postings in the sector remained about 25% below their February 2020 level. Our analysis of Canadian data shows a similar, although less pronounced, dynamic, with software job postings up 6.5%, compared with a 3% decline in postings over the same period.

Software development job postings are rebounding

United States and Canada, January 2025 to July 24, 2026, seasonally adjusted data, index:
Feb. 24, 2025 = 100



Source: Indeed.

The composition of this recovery is equally revealing. Between May 2025 and May 2026, senior-level positions accounted for 71% of the increase in software development postings in the United States. Jobs mentioning artificial intelligence in their title accounted for 37%. The rebound therefore appears to be benefiting mainly experienced and specialized profiles, rather than signalling a broad-based recovery in hiring across the sector.

These U.S. results cannot be transposed directly to the Québec market. They nevertheless suggest that demand for software talent could be entering a new phase: less focused on rapid headcount growth and more on the ability to integrate AI into products, processes and business models.

Economic note

Economic Intelligence Department, Investissement Québec
July 2026

1 Source: Indeed Hiring Lab, "AI and Job Postings: From Destruction to Creation?", July 8, 2026; Indeed, Job Postings Index data, GitHub, July 24, 2026.

Venture Capital Overview

Venture Capital H1 2026 Market Overview

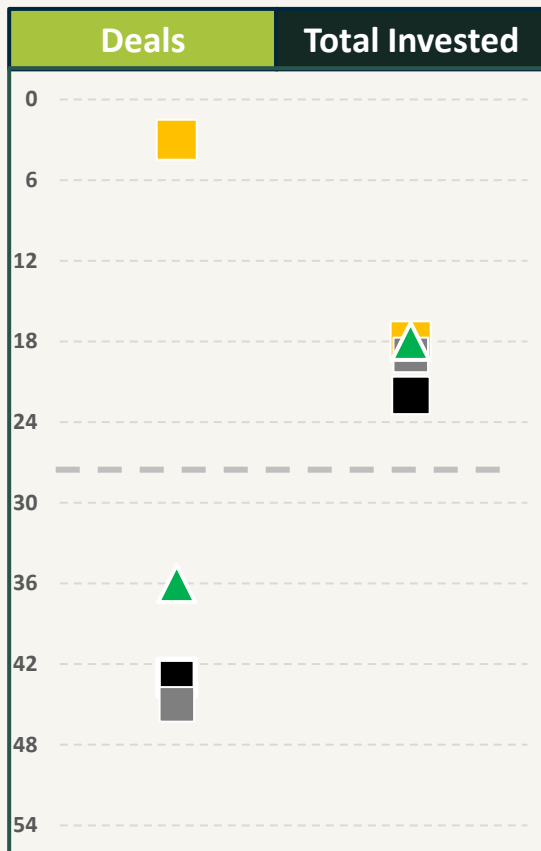
Deals

60

Total Invested (CAD)

\$758M *

Comparative Performance of Q2 2026 Over the Past 54 Quarters



▲ Overall
Performance

■ Seed Stage

■ Early Stage

■ Late Stage

1 = Best Quarter

In Q2 2026, \$434 million was invested in Québec across 32 VC deals. These results rank the quarter 36th in deal count and 18th in total dollars invested out of the past 54 quarters since 2013. Activity during the quarter was marked by the return of late stage deals as well as a decline in early stage deals. The seed stage continues to perform above its historical average.

In H1 2026, 60 deals totaling \$758 million were recorded, representing a 13% decrease in deal count and a 30% increase in total dollars invested compared to the same period in 2025. H1 2026 thus ranks 6th out of the past 14 first-half periods for total dollars invested, while deal count ranks 12th.

Québec is favourably positioned relative to the national level, accounting for 24% of deal count and 28% of total dollars invested. The province ranked second in both deal count and total dollars invested, behind Ontario and ahead of British Columbia.

Québec's H1 2026 performance was supported by the Nesto (\$107M), Stathera (\$78M), Gaiia (\$55M), and Congruence Therapeutics (\$54M) deals.

* It should be noted that invested amounts for 6% of deals recorded in 2026 remain undisclosed.

Venture Capital Highlights



The ICT sector, with 33 deals totaling \$507 million, represented 55% of deal count and 67% of total dollars invested in H1 2026.



In H1 2026, Québec maintained its second-place national ranking in both deal count (24% of national activity) and total dollars invested (28% of capital deployed in Canada).



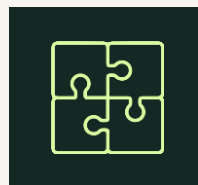
At the seed stage, total dollars invested declined by 42% in Q2 2026, while deal count increased by 27% compared to Q1 2026. Despite the decline from the previous quarter, the seed stage continues to perform above its historical average.



In Q2 2026, the late and growth stages recorded a better quarter than the previous one, with 3 deals totaling \$148 million, whereas no deals had been recorded in Q1 2026.



The cleantech sector posted a very difficult half-year, with H1 2026 ranking 14th out of 14 first-half periods in deal count and 13th in total dollars invested.



In H1 2026, \$758 million was invested in Québec across 60 VC deals. Compared with H1 2025, this represents a 13% decrease in deal count and a 30% increase in total dollars invested.

Venture Capital Heat Map

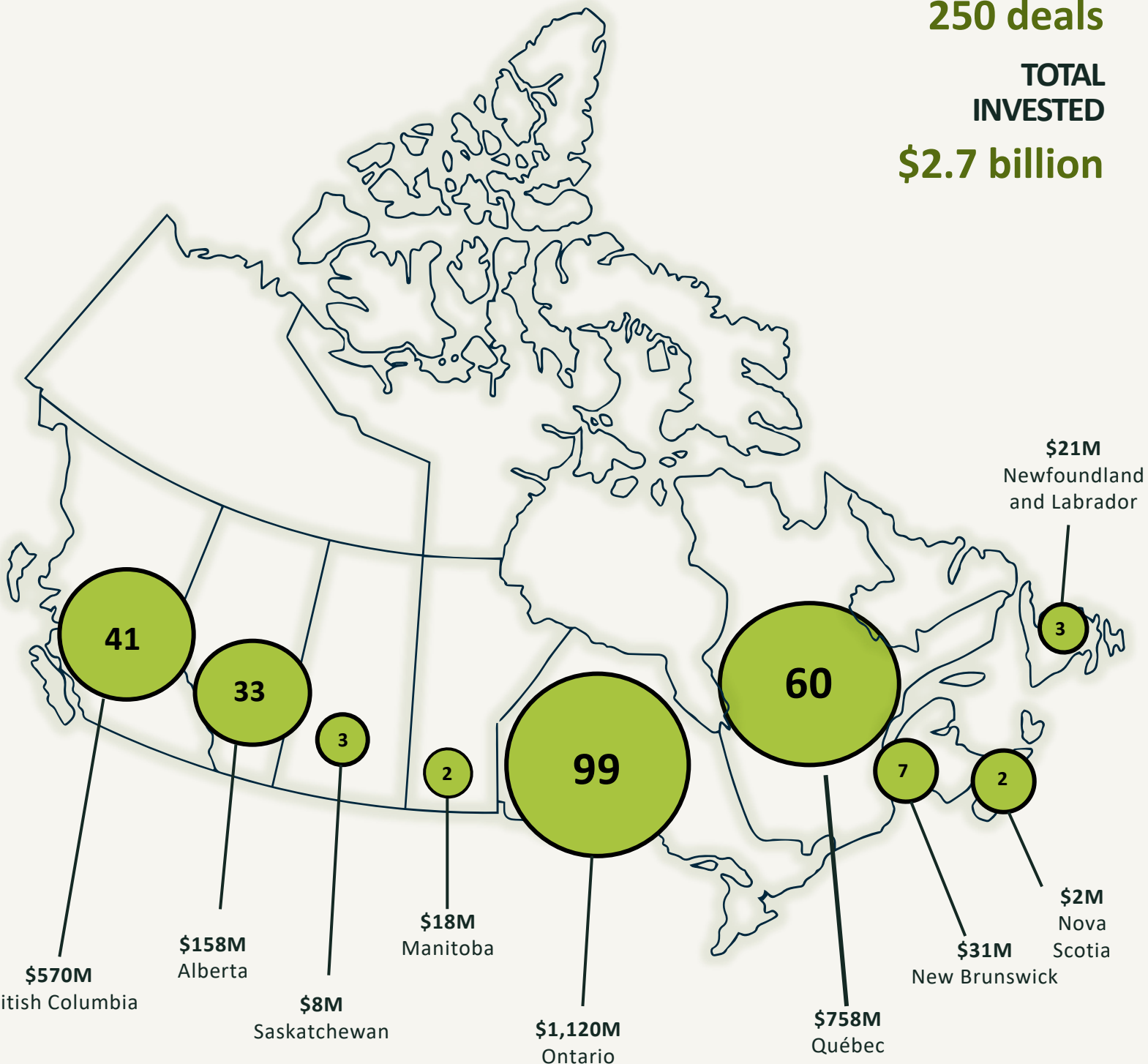
Year-to-Date | H1-2026

TOTAL

250 deals

**TOTAL
INVESTED**

\$2.7 billion



Venture Capital Activity by Administrative Region

ADMINISTRATIVE REGION	DEALS	TOTAL INVESTED*
Bas-Saint-Laurent	-	-
Capitale-Nationale	4	\$84M
Centre-du-Québec	-	-
Chaudière-Appalaches	-	-
Estrie	5	\$51M
Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine	-	-
Lanaudière	-	-
Laurentides	-	-
Laval	-	-
Mauricie	-	-
Montréal	50	\$619M
Nord-du-Québec / Abitibi-Témiscamingue	-	-
Outaouais	-	-
Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean / Côte-Nord	-	-
TOTAL	60	\$758M

Total

60 deals

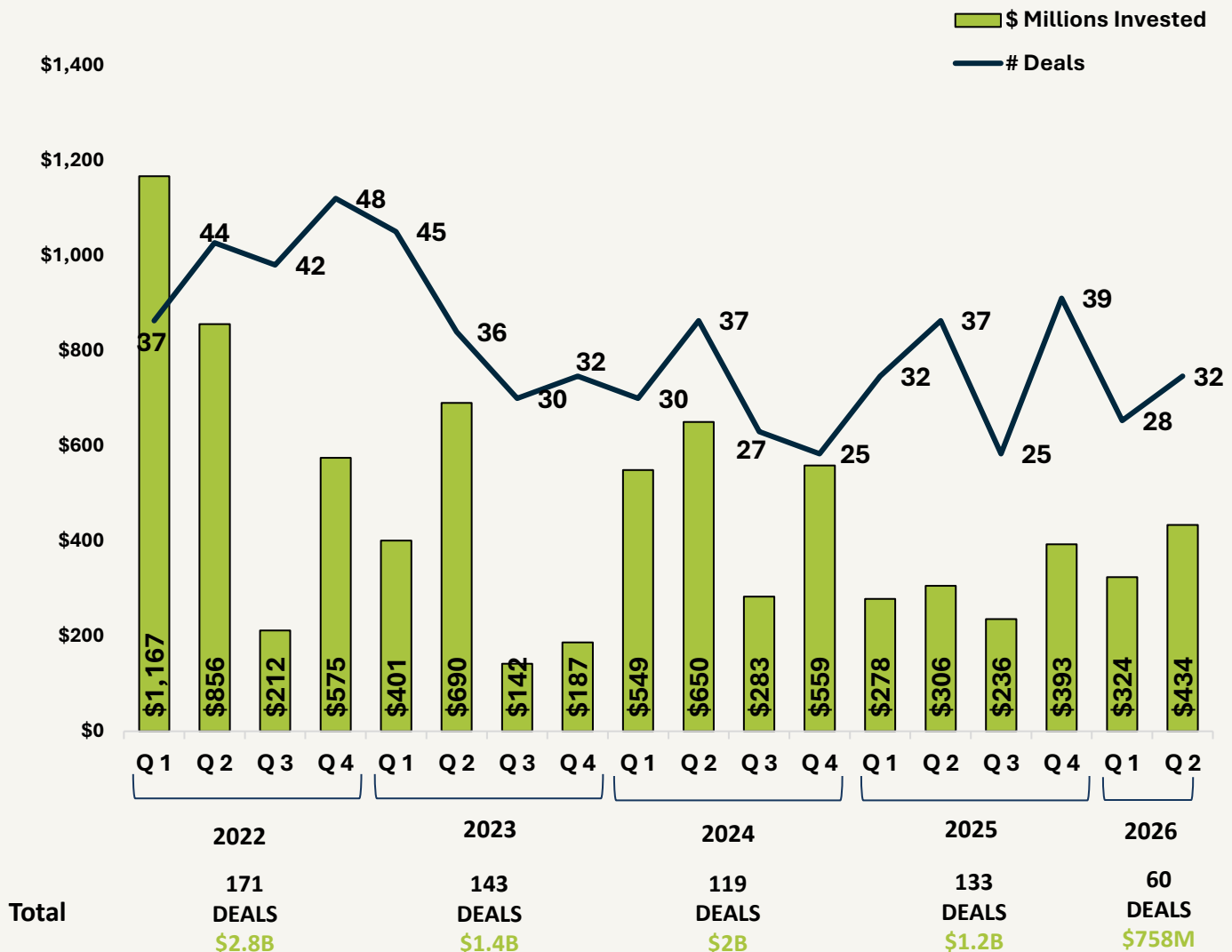
Most Active Region

Montréal

* It should be noted that invested amounts for 6% of deals recorded in 2026 remain undisclosed.

Venture Capital Investments

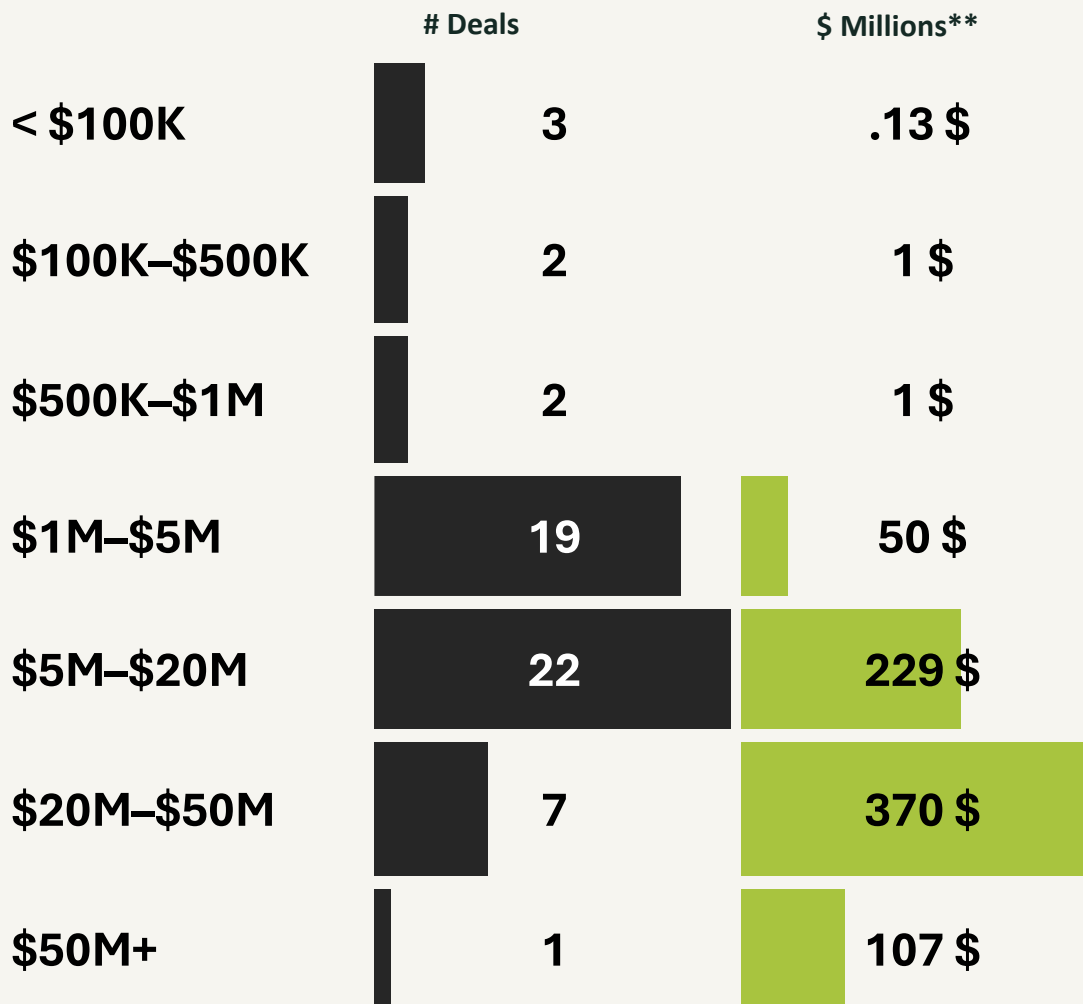
By Quarter | 2022-2026



In H1 2026, \$758 million was invested in Québec across 60 VC deals. This represents a 13% decrease in deal count compared to H1 2025 (69 deals) and a 30% increase in total dollars invested (\$584 million). H1 2026 ranks 6th out of the past 14 first-half periods for total dollars invested, while deal count ranks 12th. From a quarterly perspective, performance was mixed: Q2 2026 ranks 36th out of 54 quarters since 2013 in deal count, remaining below the historical average of 36 deals, and 18th in total dollars invested, well above the historical average of \$362 million.

Venture Capital Investments

By Deal Size | H1-2026



* Total deal values, including all investors.

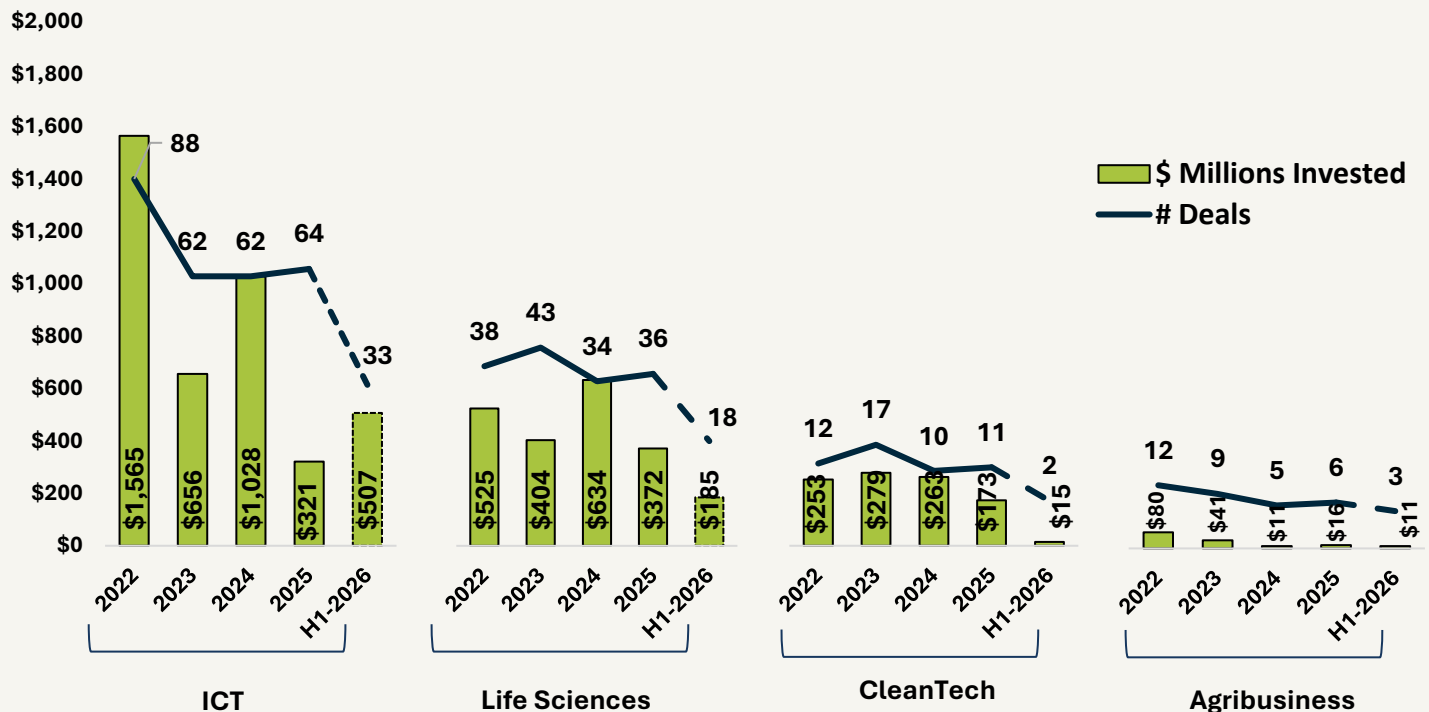
** Deals with undisclosed values have been removed.

Rounds of \$5M or less

represent 46% of disclosed venture capital deal count

Venture Capital Investments

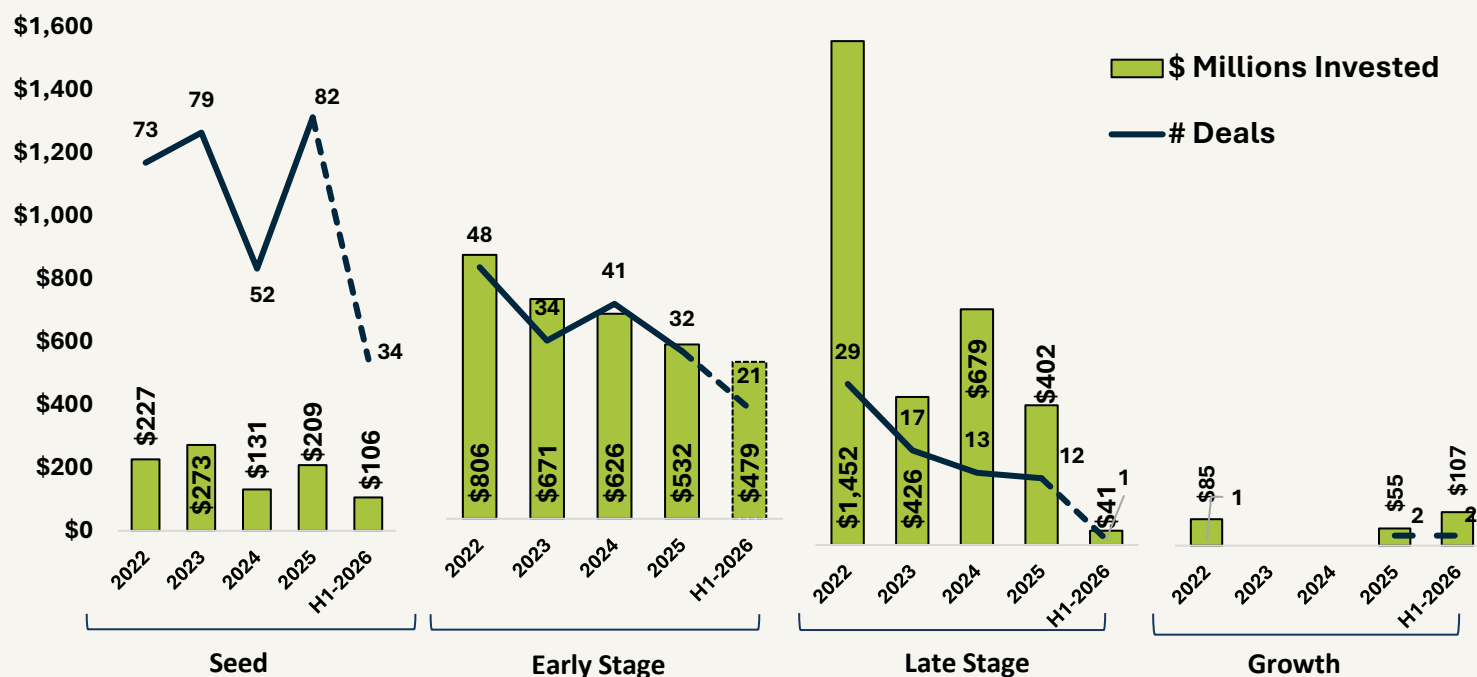
By Sector | 2022-2026



The ICT sector, with 33 deals totaling \$507 million, represented 55% of deal count and 67% of total dollars invested in H1 2026. ICT also recorded a strong quarter, with 20 deals totaling \$369 million, ranking Q2 2026 16th out of 54 in deal count and 10th in total dollars invested. The life sciences sector posted a quarter below the historical average, with 8 deals totaling \$48 million, ranking Q2 2026 29th out of 54 in deal count and 37th in total dollars invested. The cleantech and agribusiness sectors, meanwhile, posted a very difficult half-year. In cleantech, H1 2026 ranks 14th out of 14 in deal count and 13th in total dollars invested. In agribusiness, H1 2026 ranks 11th in both deal count and total dollars invested.

Venture Capital Investments

By Stage | 2022-2026

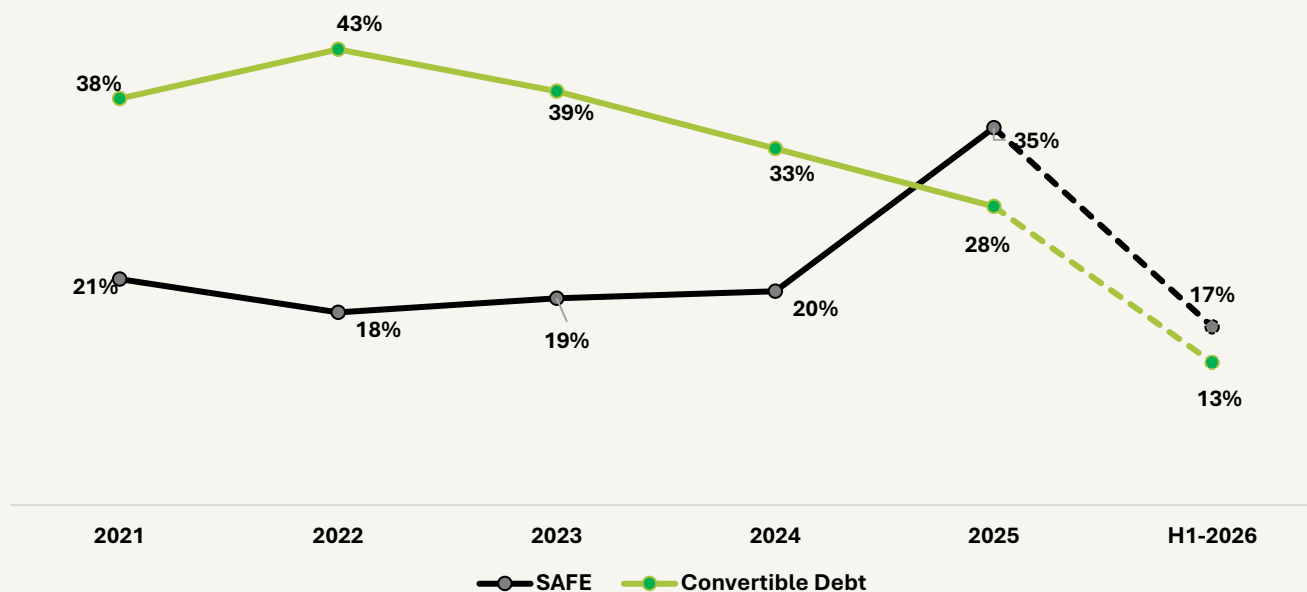


In Q2 2026, the late and growth stages recorded a better quarter than the previous one, with 3 deals totaling \$148 million, whereas no deals had been recorded in Q1 2026. At the early stage, H1 2026 performance, with 21 deals totaling \$479 million, was mixed. H1 2026 ranks 10th out of 14 in early stage deal count and 4th out of 14 in total dollars invested. From a quarterly perspective, with 9 deals totaling \$234 million, Q2 2026 shows a similar picture to the half-year. The last quarter ranks 45th out of 54 in deal count and 9th in total dollars invested. At the seed stage, total dollars invested declined by 42%, while deal count increased by 27%. Despite the decline in total dollars invested compared to Q1 2026, the seed stage continues to perform above the historical average, from both a half-year and a quarterly perspective. The last quarter ranks 9th out of 54 in deal count and 18th out of 54 in seed stage total dollars invested, while H1 2026 ranks 5th out of 14 in deal count and 3rd in total dollars invested.

Financial Instruments Used in Seed Deals in Québec

By Year | 2021-2026

Share of Seed Deals in Québec Using SAFE and Convertible Debt Instruments



Methodological note: Multiple financial instruments may be associated with a single deal. Deals for which no financial instrument was disclosed were excluded from the analysis.

Historically, convertible debt has been used in a higher number of deals than SAFE instruments. However, since 2022, its use has declined while SAFE usage has increased. As a result, in 2025, SAFE instruments were used in a greater number of deals than convertible debt for the first time since 2021. In H1 2026, the downward trend in convertible debt continues. Since the beginning of the year, SAFE usage also appears to be declining, but remains higher than that of convertible debt.

Top Disclosed Venture Capital Transactions in Québec

Year-to-Date | H1-2026

COMPANY NAME	ADMIN. REGION	SECTOR	DECLARED INVESTORS	\$M
Nesto	Montréal	ICT	La Caisse, Fonds de solidarité FTQ, Fondation, NAventures, Portage Ventures, Diagram Ventures, Endeavor Catalyst, Fidelity Investments, PICTON Investments	\$107
Stathera Inc.	Montréal	ICT	BDC Capital, Celesta Capital, MediaTek, Ultratech Capital Partners, Maverick silicon, TXC Corporation	\$78
Gaiia	Capitale-Nationale	ICT	Inovia Capital, JMI Equity	\$55
Congruence Therapeutics	Montréal	Life Sciences	BDC Capital, Investissement Québec, Lumira Ventures, Fonds de solidarité FTQ, OrbiMed Advisors, Amplitude Ventures, Driehaus Capital Management, SilverArc Capital, Dimension	\$54
Nord Quantique	Estrie	Other	Fidelity Investments	\$41
Saris AI	Montréal	ICT	8VC, Homebrew, Audacious Ventures, Btech Consortium, Service Ventures	\$40
Kainova	Montréal	Life Sciences	Investissement Québec, CTI Sciences de la vie, Schrodgers Capital, adMare BioInnovations, Seido Capital, Viva BioInnovator, 3B Future Health Fund, Seventure, Panacea Ventures, Turenne Capital	\$32
Mecademic	Montréal	Other	BDC Capital, Investissement Québec, Export Development Canada (EDC)	\$21

The publicly disclosed venture capital exits recorded in Québec since the beginning of the year are those of 35Pharma, SRTX, KisoJi Biotechnologie, Wrk Technologies and Qscale.

Most Active Venture Capital Investors

Year-to-Date | H1-2026

3 OF THE 10 MOST ACTIVE INVESTORS

IN CANADA ARE BASED IN QUÉBEC.

Québec

Investor	# Deals	\$ Millions*
BDC Capital	13	\$315
Investissement Québec	12	\$165
Fonds de solidarité FTQ	7	\$230
Desjardins Capital	7	\$41
Anges Québec	7	\$31
AQC Capital	6	\$18
Fondaction	5	\$139
Quantacet	4	\$25
Diagram Ventures	3	\$125
Inovia Capital	3	\$70

Canada

Investor	# Deals	\$ Millions*
BDC Capital	34	\$832
Inovia Capital	14	\$330
Investissement Québec	13	\$165
Archangel Network of Funds	12	\$5
Export Development Canada (EDC)	10	\$149
Velocity Fund	10	\$2
Anges Québec	9	\$35
Graphite Ventures	9	\$30
Startup TNT	9	\$7
Golden Triangle Angel Network (GTAN)	9	\$5

*Total deal values – including all investors.

Venture Debt Heat Map

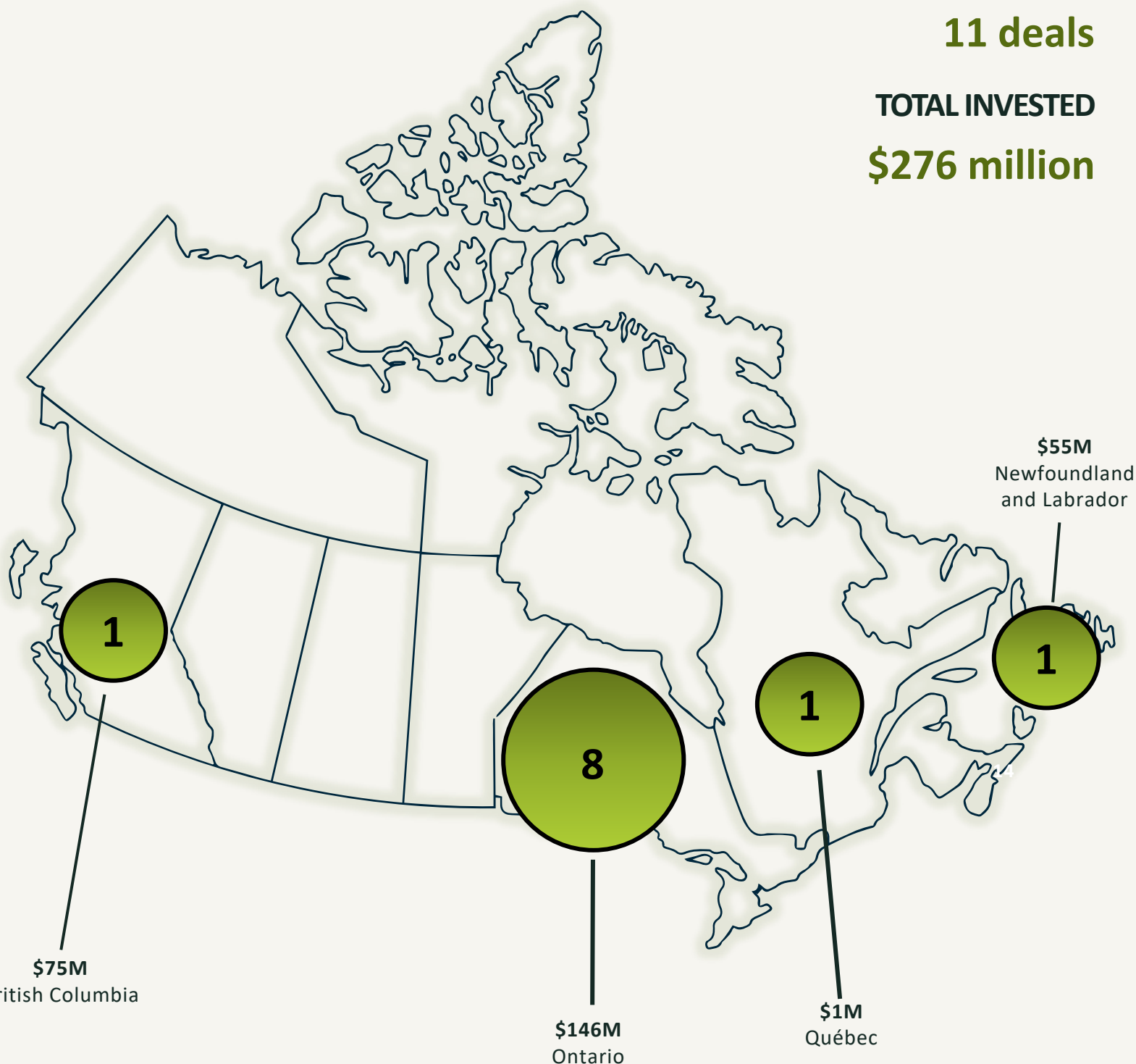
Year-to-Date | H1-2026

TOTAL

11 deals

TOTAL INVESTED

\$276 million



Venture Capital Trends and Developments on the Centre of Expertise's Radar

Capital Concentration Around Generative AI

The first half of 2026 confirms the concentration observed in Q1: OpenAI (US\$122 billion) and Anthropic (US\$95.6 billion) captured 43% of global startup funding, and mega-rounds of US\$100 million or more represented 87.5% of the US\$412.7 billion deployed. Artificial intelligence (AI) accounted for 86% of all venture capital (VC) dollars (PitchBook, Q2 2026 Global VC First Look; SiliconANGLE, July 2026). The same pattern is emerging in biotechnology: 76% of the US\$9.1 billion raised went to mega-rounds of US\$100 million or more (BioPharma Dive, July 16, 2026). Global deal count is declining on a year-over-year basis.

The TVPI-DPI Gap and the Rise of Continuation Funds

At Carta, median TVPI (Total Value to Paid-In) rose for a sixth consecutive quarter, but DPI (Distributions to Paid-In) remains near zero for the 2019-2020 vintages (Carta, VC Fund Performance Q1 2026, June 2026). Limited Partners (LPs) are 2.5 times more likely than three years ago to rank DPI as the most critical metric (McKinsey, 2025, via Dechert). The secondary market recorded a record first half: more than US\$120 billion traded (+20% year over year), including US\$34 billion in single-asset continuation vehicles, with 53.7% of volume being GP-led (PitchBook, 2026). Secondary buyers' capital reserves have declined by 10% since the beginning of the year.

Contraction of the Canadian VC Market

According to RBCx, the number of startups actively raising in Canada fell from 162 (January 2025) to 61 (March 2026), with the average deal size remaining stable at approximately \$3 million (RBCx, Canadian VC 2026 Market Check-In, June 25, 2026). The share of capital raised by the five largest funds increased from 46% (2023) to 80% (2025); all other funds combined fell from \$4.5 billion to \$444 million. Emerging managers show a cumulative shortfall of 36% relative to historical expectations. Canadian corporate venture capital is declining in parallel (60 deals in 2025, -20% year over year); 26% of large Canadian public companies have made a venture capital investment in the past 5 years, compared with 72% in the United States (Deloitte Ventures, June 30, 2026).

Institutionalization of Quantum Venture Capital

Global quantum venture capital reached US\$3.9 billion in 2025 (125 deals). The venture growth stage's share of deal value rose from ~1% in 2024 to 30.4% in 2025, driven by institutional investors such as NVIDIA, BlackRock, and JPMorgan Chase (PitchBook, Bit by Qubit, June 2026). In Québec, Nord Quantique (Sherbrooke) reached a valuation of US\$1.4 billion (C\$1.9 billion) following a US\$30 million investment from Fidelity (The Globe and Mail, May 2026). The Government of Québec also announced C\$9.6 million for the Estrie quantum ecosystem. BDC Capital remains the only Canadian investor in the global top 20. Q1 2026 exits (US\$5.7 billion across 4 deals) occurred primarily via special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs).

Appendices

Methodology

Verified completed equity and quasi-equity venture capital deals only (non-equity or project-based government funding, pharmaceutical development deals, senior debt, venture capital-backed acquisitions, secondary transactions and angel financing are not included).

VENTURE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT STAGES

Venture debt	Short-to-medium term, non-dilutive debt instrument with no equity rider.
Seed Stage	Company has a concept or product under development but is probably not fully operational.
Early Stage	Company has a product or service in testing or pilot production. In some cases, the product may be commercially available.
Late Stage	Product or service in production and commercially available. Company is generating ongoing revenue, but not necessarily profitable.
Growth	Significant minority investment to drive growth and scale, which can be combined with a secondary transaction to facilitate liquidity for existing venture capital investors.

VENTURE CAPITAL SECTORS

ICT	Computer hardware and software and services, Internet software or services, e-commerce, electronics and semiconductor, mobile and telecom technologies and services.
Life Sciences	Biotech, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, e-health, health products and services, and other medical related products and services.
CleanTech	Energy and fuel technologies, efficiency and conservation, renewable energy, environmental technologies and other energy and environmental products and services.
Agribusiness	Traditional and advanced agricultural technologies and services.

Participating Data Contributors

RÉSEAU CAPITAL THANKS THE FIRMS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE H1 2026 SURVEY

PARTICIPATING FIRMS AND LIMITED PARTNERS

- Accelia Capital
- Active Impact Investments
- Alfar Capital
- Amiral Ventures
- AmorChem
- Amplitude Ventures
- Anges Québec
- Antler
- AQC Capital (formerly: Anges Québec Capital)
- ARC Financial Corp.
- Archangel Network of Funds
- Ardenton Capital Corp.
- ATB Private Equity
- Avatar Innovations
- Banyan Capital Partners
- BCF Ventures
- BDC Capital Inc.
- BKR Capital (formerly: Black Innovation Capital)
- BlackPines Capital Partners
- Boreal Ventures
- CAI Capital Partners
- Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB)
- Canadian Business Growth Fund (CBGF)
- CEMEX Ventures
- Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation (CABHI)
- CIBC Innovation Banking
- Clairvest Group Inc
- Clearspring Capital Partners
- Climate Innovation Capital
- Conexus Venture Capital
- CTI Life Sciences / CTI Sciences de la vie
- Dancap Private Equity Inc.
- Desjardins Capital
- Emend Vision Fund
- Emmertech
- Espresso Capital Ltd.
- Export Development Canada (EDC)
- FACIT
- Farm Credit Canada (FCC)
- Ferst Capital Partners Inc.
- Finchley Healthcare Ventures
- First Ascent Ventures
- Fondation
- Fonds de solidarité FTQ
- Fonds régionaux de solidarité FTQ
- Frind Enterprises Ltd.
- Front Row Ventures
- Fulcrum Capital Partners Inc.
- Golden Triangle Angel Network (GTAN)
- Good News Ventures
- Graphite Ventures
- GreenSky Ventures
- HgCapital / Hg Capital
- Highline Beta
- iGan Partners Inc.
- InBC Investment Corporation
- Information Venture Partners Inc.
- Innovobot
- Inovia Capital Inc.
- INP Capital
- Instar Asset Management Inc.
- Investeco Capital Corp.
- Investissement Québec
- Ironbridge Equity Partners Management Limited
- Kensington Capital Partners Limited
- Killick Capital Inc.
- Lalotte Ventures
- Lumira Ventures
- MaRS Investment Accelerator Fund (IAF)
- Math Venture Partners
- McRock Capital Corporation
- Metiquity Ventures
- Mink Capital
- MKB
- Mobili Capital Corp
- NAventures
- New Brunswick Innovation Foundation (NBIF)
- NGIF Capital
- Nimbus Synergies
- Novacap Management Inc.
- NYA Ventures
- Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP)
- Outsized Ventures
- PaceZero Capital Partners
- Panache Ventures
- Pelorus Venture Capital
- Peloton Capital Management
- Pender Ventures
- PIC Investments Group Inc.
- PillarFour Capital Partners Inc.
- PRIVEQ Capital Funds
- Quark Venture Inc.
- Real Ventures
- Renewal Funds
- Resolve Growth Partners
- Rhino Ventures
- RiSC Capital
- Roadmap Capital Inc.
- Roynat Capital Inc.
- Sandpiper Ventures
- Scale Good Fund
- SeaFort Capital Inc.
- Staircase Ventures
- StandUp Ventures
- Startup TNT
- Tall Grass Ventures
- TandemLaunch Inc.
- Telegraph Hill Capital (THCAP)
- Teralys Capital
- TerraNova Partners L.P.
- The Group Ventures Inc.
- The51 Ventures Fund
- Tidal Venture Partners
- TLT East Ventures
- Top Down Ventures
- Trillick Ventures
- Triptyq Capital
- True North Fund
- Two Small Fish Ventures
- Velocity Fund
- Venture Ontario (formerly: Ontario Capital Growth Corporation (OCGC))
- Version One Ventures
- Volta Labs
- Waterous Energy Fund, WEF
- Waterpoint Lane
- Weathervane Investment
- Westcap Mgt. Ltd.
- White Star Capital Inc.
- WUTIF Management Corp.
- Yaletown Partners Inc
- Yellow Point Equity Partners

Want your company included
in future reports? [Click here!](#)

The authors

Réseau Capital

Simon Pelletier

Director, Business Intelligence

William Fréchette

Data Analyst

Amal Chaachay

Events and Communications
Coordinator

CVCA

David Kornacki

Director, Data & Product
dkornacki@cvca.ca

Rutvik Shukla

Research analyst
rshukla@cvca.ca



reseaucapital.ca



CANADIAN VENTURE CAPITAL
&
PRIVATE EQUITY ASSOCIATION

cvca.ca