Deciphering the initial VC fundraising rounds and seed rounds in Québec

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In relative terms, Québec surpasses Alberta in the number of first rounds but remains behind Ontario and British Columbia.

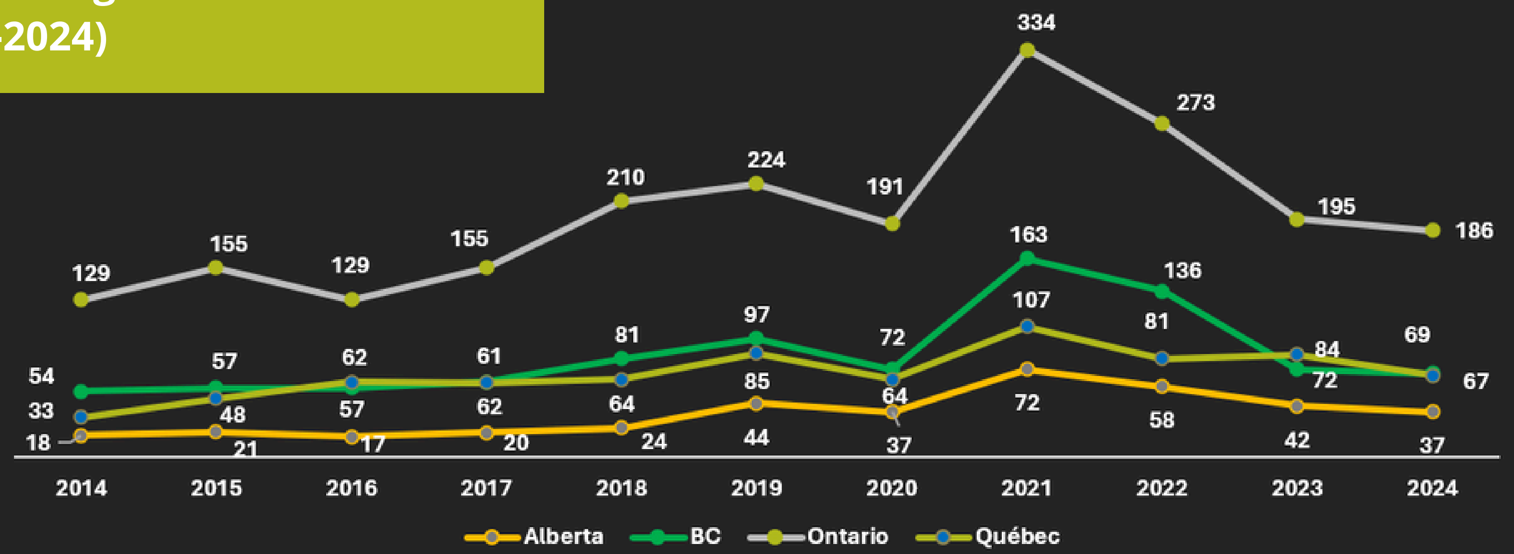
Number of startups receiving first-time VC funding | By year (2014-2024)

Relative GDP shares of Québec :

- Ontario = 51 %
- BC = 144 %
- Alberta = 129 %

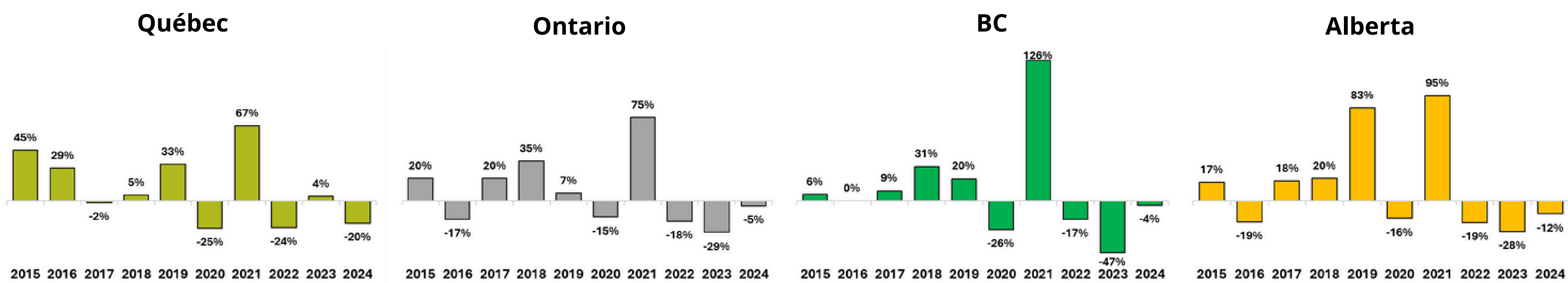
Deal count in 2024 :

- QC/ON = 36 %
- QC/BC = 97 %
- QC/AB = 181 %



Sources : PitchBook, CVCA, Crunchbase, Réseau Capital

Startups receiving first-time VC funding | YoY change (2014–2024)



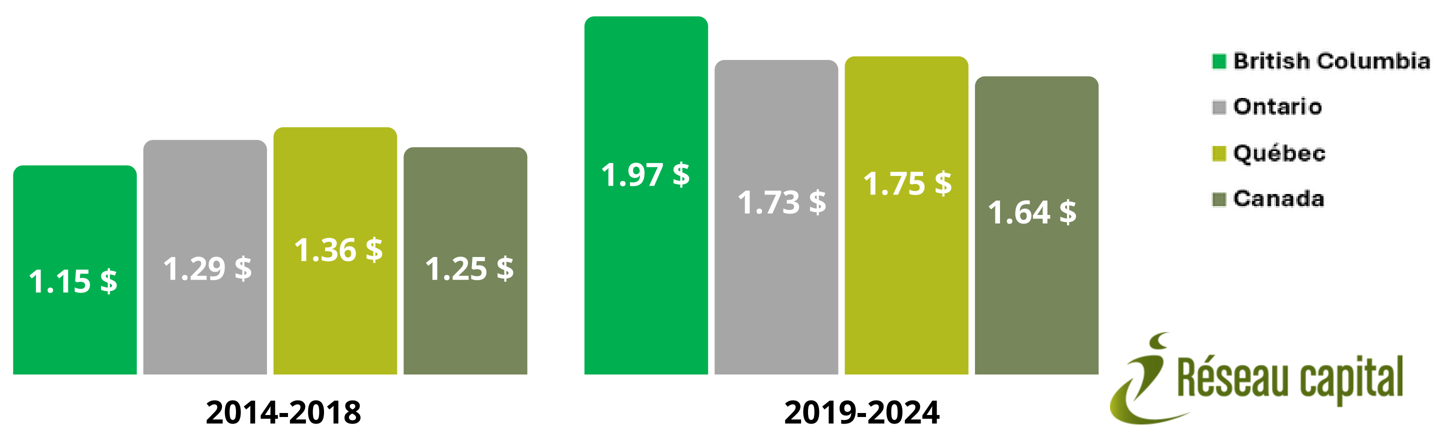
Sources : PitchBook, CVCA, Crunchbase, Réseau Capital

Median first-round sizes declined in 2024, with British Columbia being the only exception.

Median size of first-time VC funding rounds (in M$ CAD)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Canada	0.99 $	1.00 $	1.32 $	1.58 $	1.14 $	1.32 $	1.34 $	1.64 $	1.91 $	2.03 $	2.00 $
Québec	1.55 $	1.14 $	1.38 $	1.60 $	0.97 $	1.51 $	1.36 $	1.65 $	1.62 $	2.50 $	2.05 $
Ontario	1.04 $	1.23 $	1.25 $	1.60 $	1.30 $	1.43 $	1.48 $	1.74 $	1.83 $	2.00 $	1.69 $
BC	0.55 $	0.66 $	1.58 $	1.48 $	1.70 $	1.00 $	1.32 $	2.20 $	2.14 $	1.99 $	2.67 $

Median size of first-time VC funding | By period



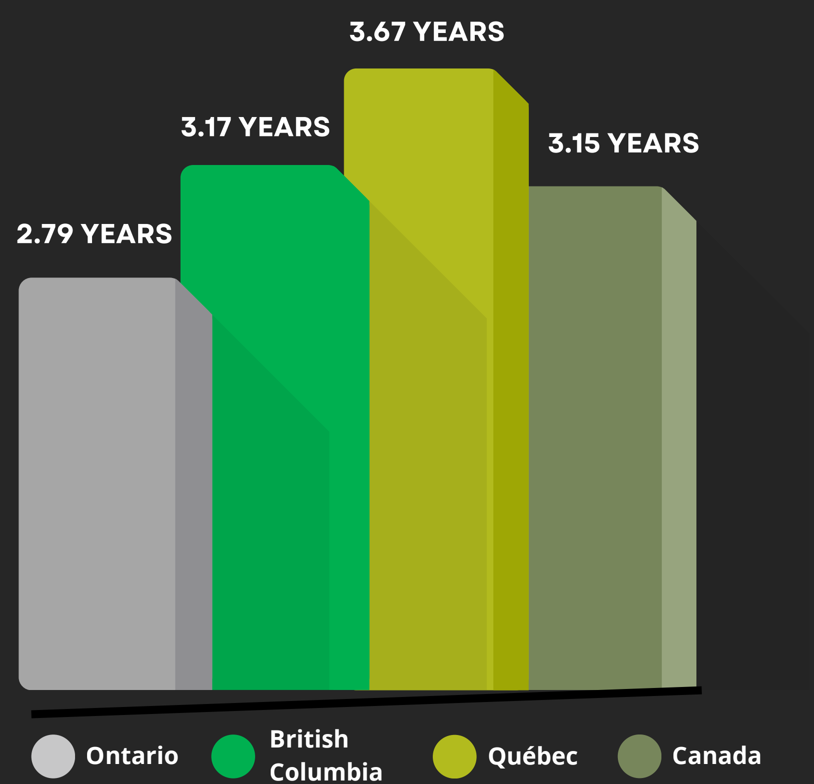
Sources : PitchBook, CVCA, Crunchbase, Réseau Capital

Réseau capital

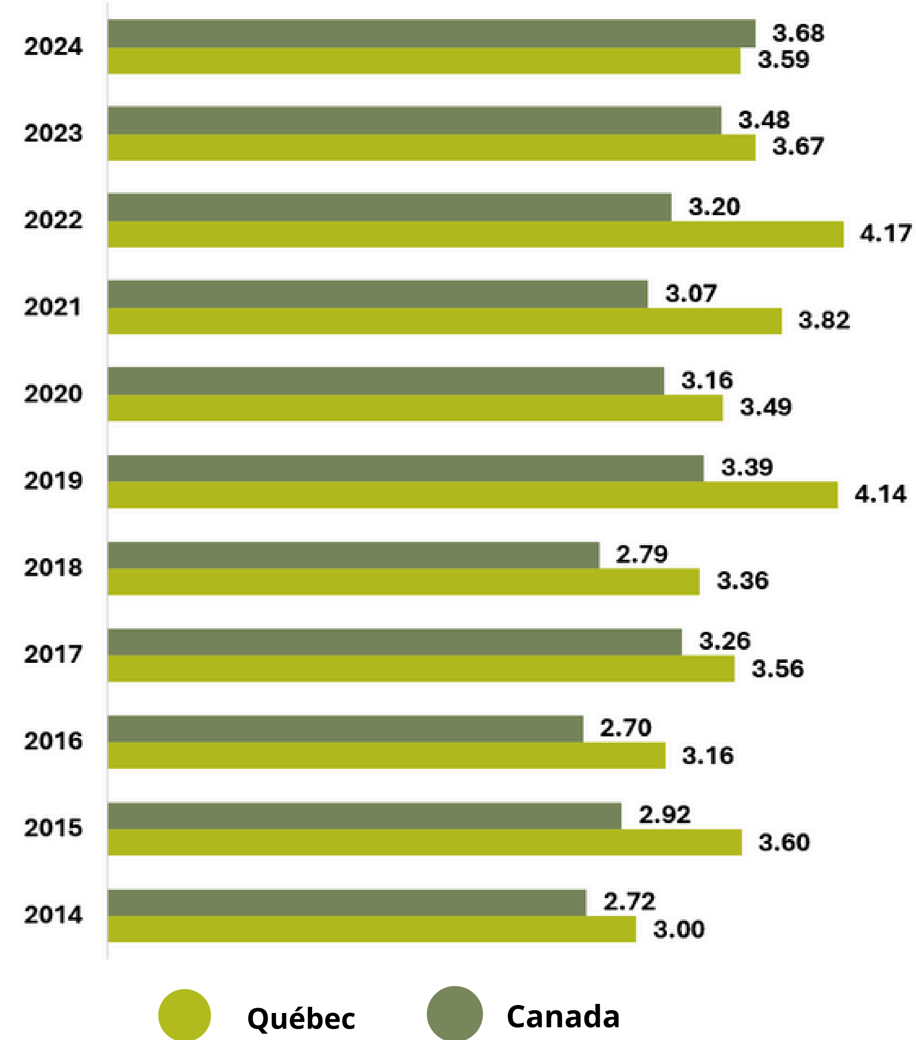
In 2024, for the first time in a decade, Québec startups raised their first round faster than the national average.

Average age of companies receiving initial venture capital funding

Average from 2014 to 2024



Sources : PitchBook, CVCA, Crunchbase, CB Insight, Réseau Capital, Registraire des entreprises du Québec

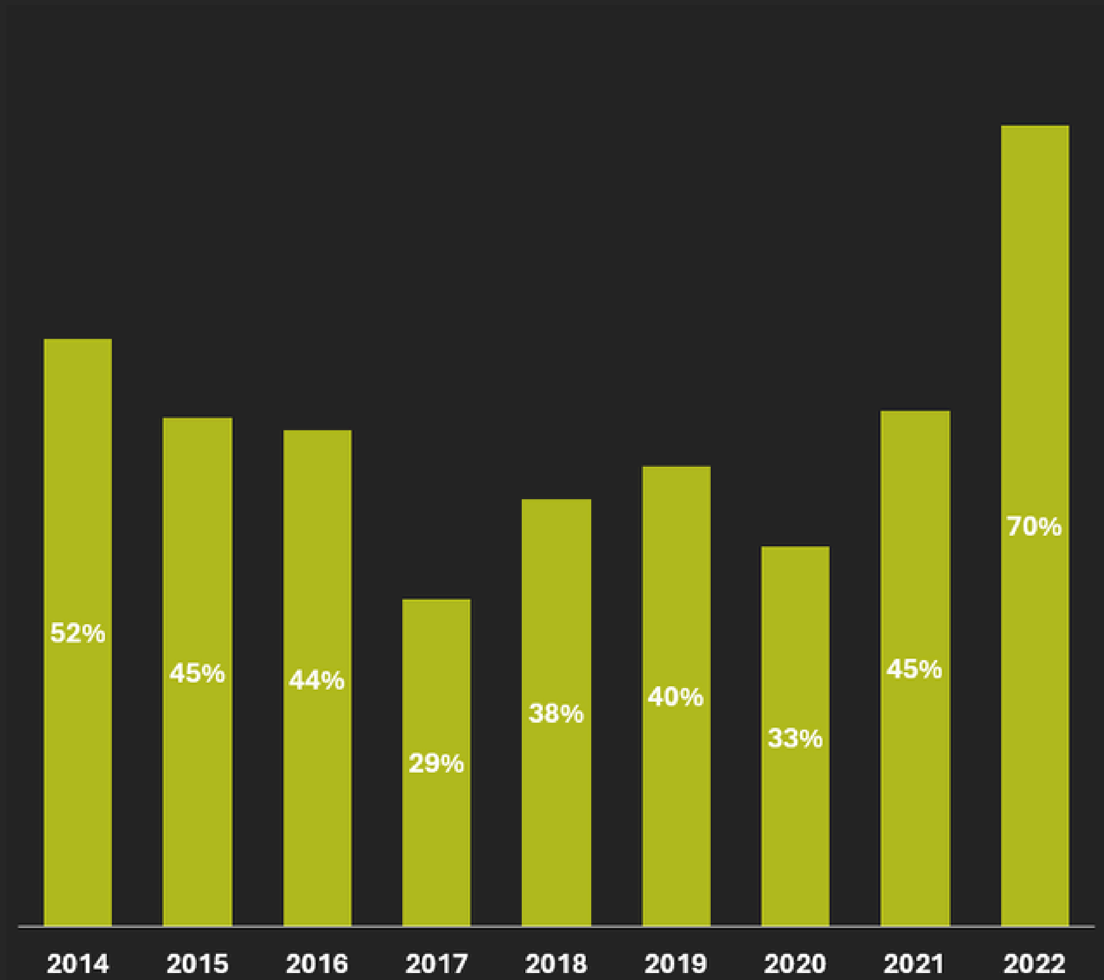


Sources : PitchBook, CVCA, Crunchbase, CB Insight, Réseau Capital, Registraire des entreprises du Québec

Réseau capital

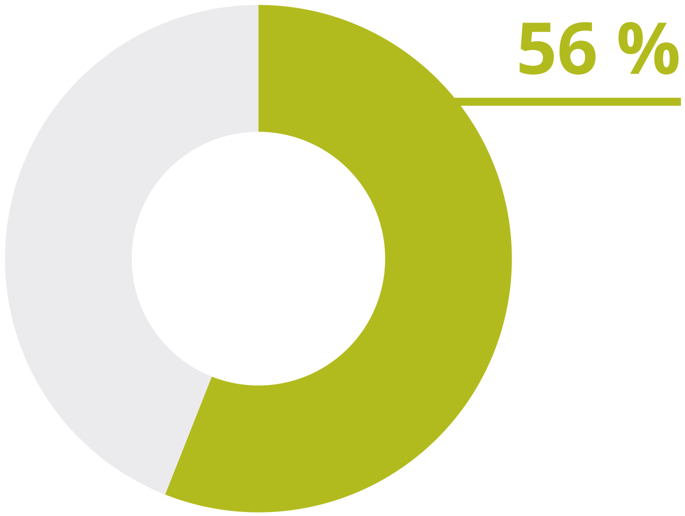
Only 30% of Quebec startups that raised their first round in 2022 went on to secure follow-on funding.

Percentage of startups that have raised only one round as of Q1 2025
| By year of 1st round



Source : PitchBook, CVCA, Réseau Capital

56% of startups that raised a first round between 2014 and 2022 went on to raise at least two more.

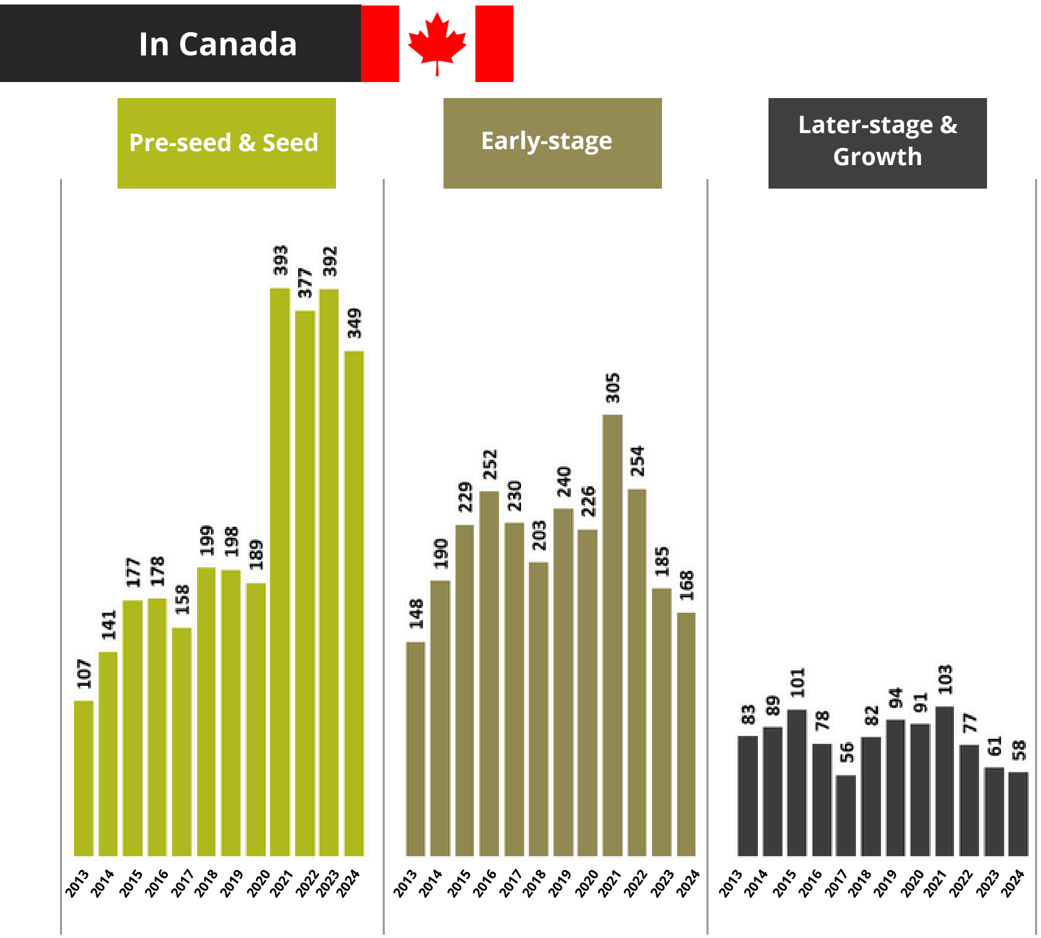


Source : PitchBook, CVCA, Réseau Capital

Réseau capital

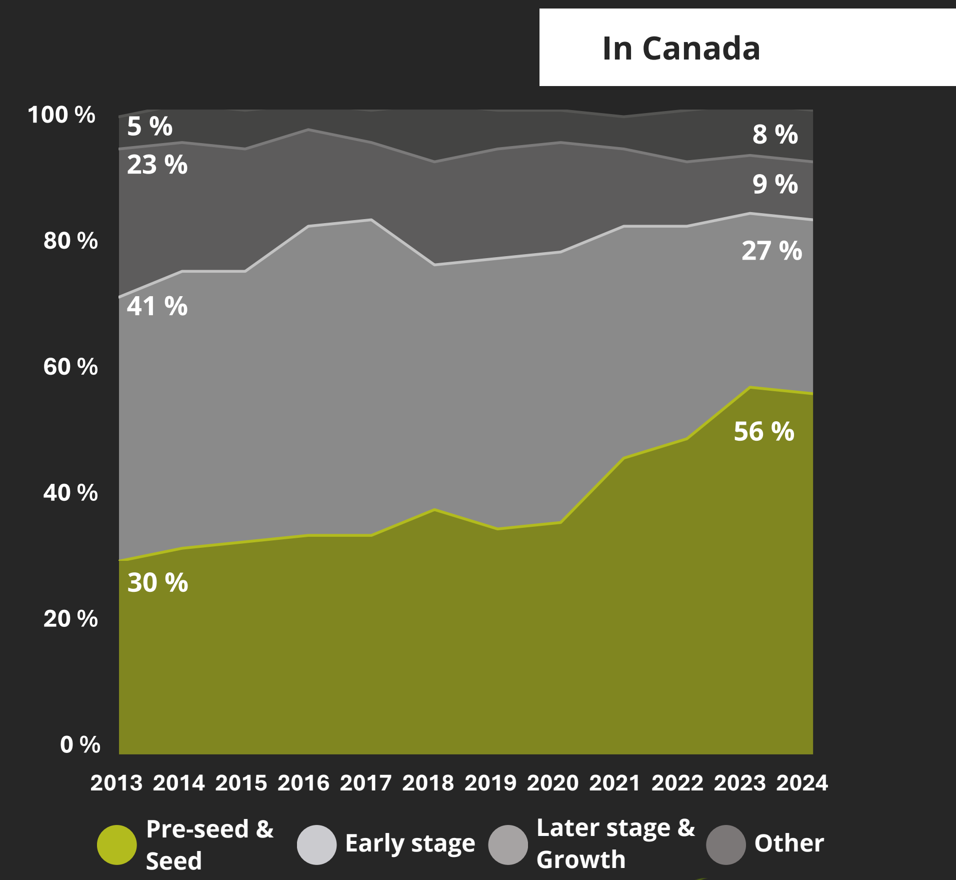
The downturn in the economic cycle has slowed funding activity across all stages in Canada, with seed stage rounds hit hardest, down 11% in deal count.

Annual number of venture capital transactions | By stage



Source : CVCA

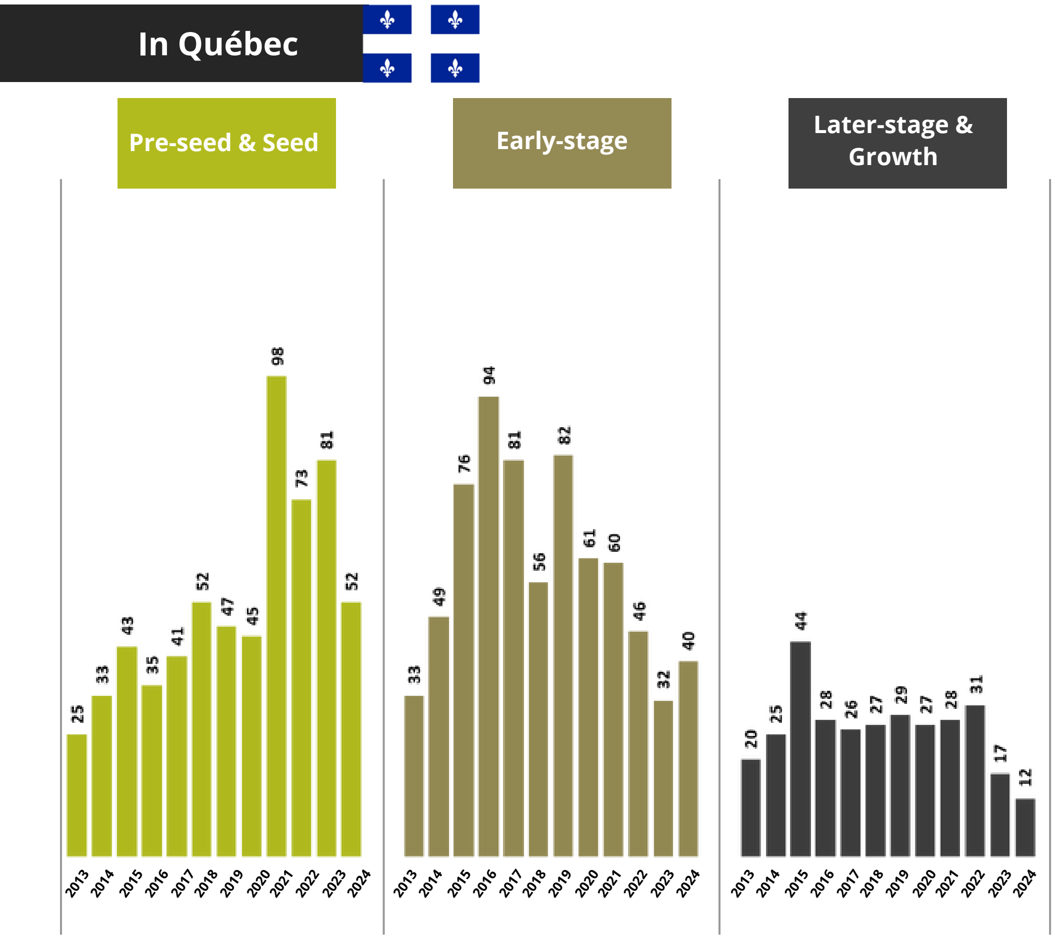
Proportion of VC transactions | By stage & year



Source : CVCA

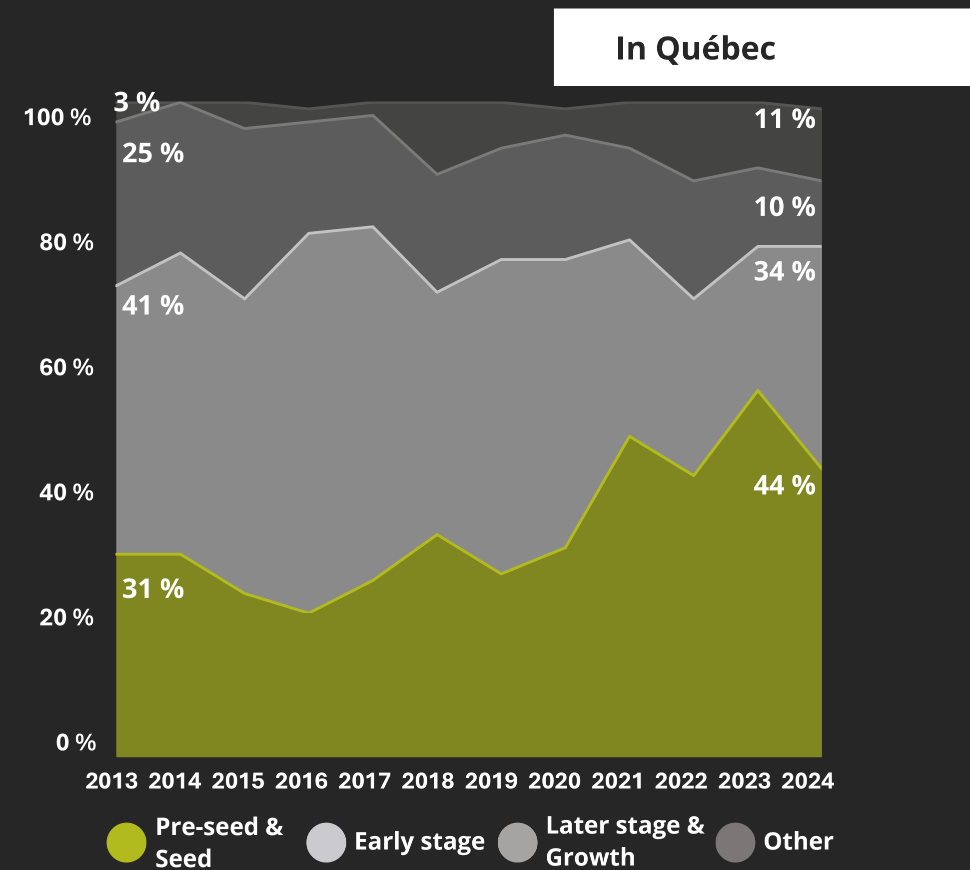
In Quebec, the economic slowdown has taken a toll on funding, with both seed and later stage rounds declining. Seed stage activity was especially hard hit, plunging 36% in deal count.

Annual number of venture capital transactions | By stage



Source : CVCA

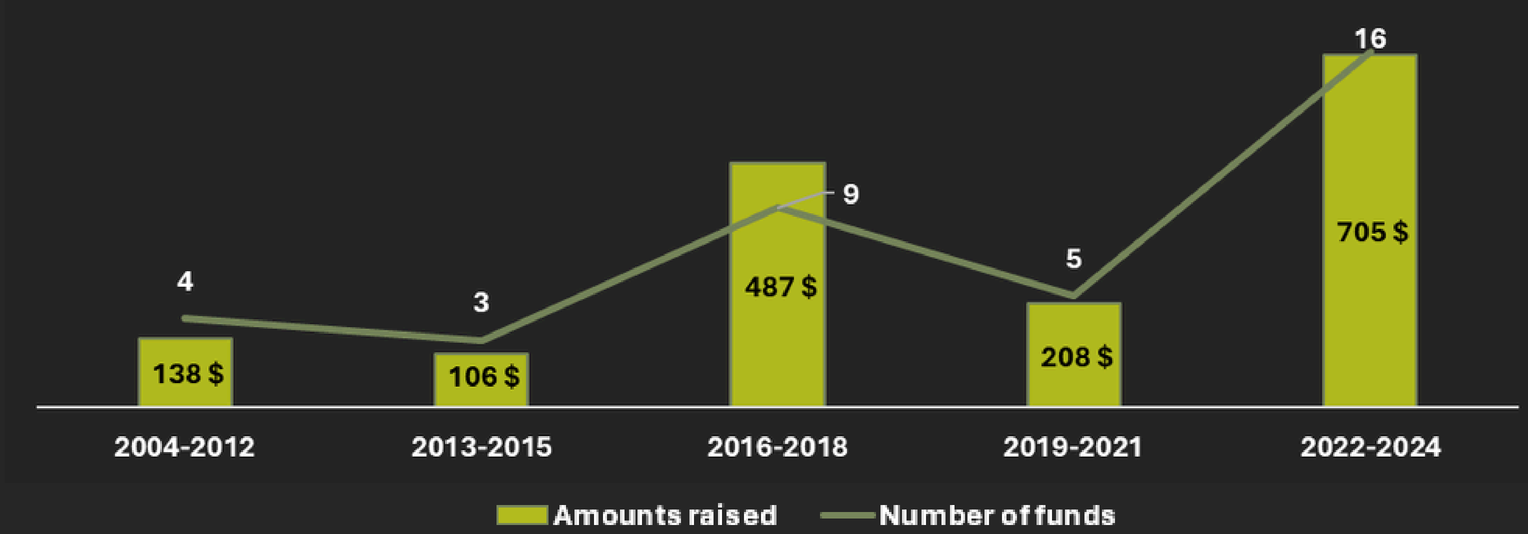
Proportion of VC transactions | By stage & year



Source : CVCA

The 2022–2024 period accounts for nearly 40% of seed fund and amounts raised in Québec since 2004.

Québec-Based seed funds and amounts raised by closing year (2004–2024)



Sources : Réseau Capital

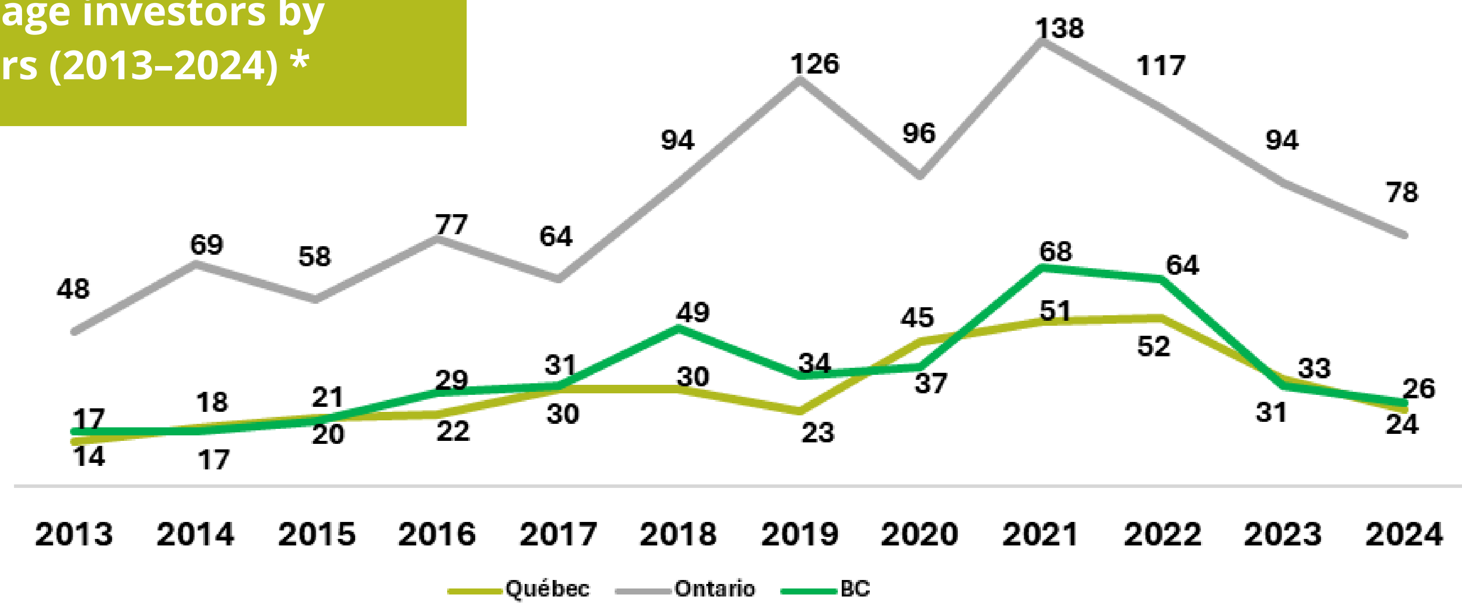
Annual count of seed stage investors by province of headquarters (2013–2024) *

Relative GDP shares of Québec :

- Ontario = 51 %
- BC = 144 %

Active investors over the entire period :

- QC/ON = 34 %
- QC/BC = 86 %



Source : PitchBook
**Invested in Canada*

METHODOLOGY

Deciphering the initial VC fundraising rounds and seed rounds in Quebec

SCOPE

The deals listed represent the first transaction of a company involving at least one venture capital fund manager.

EXCLUSIONS

The following deals were excluded from the analysis:

- Transactions involving companies founded before the year 2000;
- Transactions involving a mining and oil company;
- Transactions identified as development capital transactions in any of the consulted databases;
- Non-dilutive transactions and those from the secondary market;
- Transactions not involving any venture capital management firms;
- Transactions without a recorded date.

DATABASES CONSULTED

The following databases were used for this analysis:

- PitchBook;
- CVCA Intelligence;
- Crunchbase;
- CB Insights;
- Données propriétaires de Réseau Capital;
- Registraire des entreprises du Québec.

ABOUT

OUR ASSOCIATION

Réseau Capital is the private equity association that brings together all stakeholders involved in the Quebec investment chain. Founded in 1989, Réseau Capital has over 100 corporate members representing private equity, tax-advantaged and public investment companies as well as banks, accounting and law firms, along with many professionals working in the field.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Réseau Capital is to contribute to the development and efficient operation of the private equity industry, which plays a major role in the development and financing of businesses in Québec.

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