QED-C

STATE OF THE GLOBAL QUANTUM INDUSTRY 2026

REGIONAL ANALYSIS & GLOBAL TRENDS

ABOUT QED-C

The Quantum Economic Development Consortium (QED-C) is the world's premier association of pioneers in the quantum technology marketplace. Members of QED-C enable the real-world application of quantum technology, and, in turn, grow a robust commercial industry and supply chain.

Sitting at the intersection of technology, academia, business, entrepreneurship, and policymaking, QED-C is uniquely able to foster the collaborations the industry needs. QED-C is where experts and organizations share knowledge and collectively shape how quantum technology will grow.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The global quantum industry continues to demonstrate steady growth in its workforce, levels of investment, and technical capabilities, reinforcing its trajectory toward commercialization and broader economic impact. The leading regions—North America, Europe, and parts of Asia-Pacific—are distinguished by strong public funding, active private capital markets, and coordinated national strategies that align research, industry, and infrastructure development. North America is a global leader due to its concentration of companies, talent, and integrated cross-border collaboration; Europe's strength lies in its highly coordinated, research-intensive ecosystem supported by EU-wide initiatives; and in Asia-Pacific, state-led investment and industrial policy—particularly in China—are driving rapid advances and intensifying global competition. In addition, emerging regions such as South Asia and the Middle East are building capabilities through targeted national programs and strategic partnerships.

At the global level, sustained public investment, formal national strategies, and cross-institutional collaboration are foundational to successful quantum ecosystems. Venture capital plays an important role in company formation, though its relationship with workforce growth is less direct, reflecting differing investment and hiring timelines. The presence of industry associations and shared infrastructure further strengthens ecosystem development by aligning stakeholders, reducing barriers to entry, and accelerating innovation. While regional maturity varies significantly—with Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa remaining in early, largely research-focused stages—the global landscape is increasingly interconnected. Collaboration and competition coexist, as countries pursue domestic capabilities while relying on international partnerships for technology development and supply chain integration. Long-term progress in the quantum industry will depend on nationally and internationally coordinated investment, talent development, and the ability to balance openness with strategic and economic priorities.

The complete *State of the Global Quantum Industry 2026 Report* also includes the *Industry Overview & Methodology, Quantum Computing Market Forecast*, and *Quantum Sensing Market Forecast* reports.

View all of the reports here.

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REGIONAL INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

This report, as part of the broader *State of the Global Quantum Industry 2026* report, provides regional overviews of quantum ecosystem development and associated trends and major activities shaping the quantum industry. Leading regions combine strong public investment, robust private capital, and well-defined and coordinated national strategies. Areas of particular analytical interest for the regional assessments include pure-play companies, workforce, and investment, as well as highlights related to enabling policies, partnerships, and infrastructure. Overall, the global quantum industry is growing in terms of its workforce, its investment levels, and its technical capabilities, signaling the industry's continued economic progress.

NORTH AMERICA

North America is one of the most well-capitalized quantum global regions, anchored by the United States and Canada and supported by leading suppliers, research universities, national laboratories, and a concentration of pure-play companies. The two countries together have 223 pure-play quantum companies and 5,919 workers (employees and interns), respectively representing 9% and 7% increases from the prior year and making up 36% of the global pure-play quantum workforce. Sustained public investment at the federal and state or provincial levels, paired with substantial private capital, underpins activity across a wide array of quantum technologies, applied in computing, sensing, networking, and security, as well as enabling technologies.

Company growth and workforce expansion in the United States and Canada reflect increasing investment in quantum research and development (R&D). Regional dynamics are reinforced by formal national strategies and structures, including the National Strategic Overview for Quantum Information Science under the U.S. National Quantum Initiative and Canada's National Quantum Strategy and Defence Industrial Strategy, alongside cross-border research collaboration and industry partnerships. Shared infrastructure access, joint research programs, and collaborative cross-sector efforts contribute to an integrated ecosystem. The region's contributions and concentrated commercialization activity position it as a leader.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Asia-Pacific represents a large and strategically significant region characterized by strong state-led investment, industrial policy alignment, and growing private-sector participation. The region can be divided into two distinct subregions: Pacific Asia and South Asia.

The Pacific Asia region has 39 pure-play quantum companies (a 15% increase from last year) and 1,031 workers (an 11% increase from last year). Activity is concentrated in China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Australia, where national strategies prioritize quantum computing, communications, and sensing as components of broader technology and economic security agendas. Research universities and national laboratories anchor ecosystem development, often supported by long-term public funding commitments and coordinated national roadmaps. China plays an outsized role in the region through sustained public investment, large-scale research infrastructure, and leadership in quantum communications and network deployment, while South Korea and Singapore have emphasized targeted funding, international partnerships, and industry-academia collaboration to accelerate commercialization. For example, in 2024 and 2025, Chinese companies accounted for 40% of venture capital funding in this region, compared with 35% in Australia, 14% in Japan, 4% in South Korea, and 2% in Singapore, underscoring China's leading share of regional private investment alongside its significant public funding. Across the region, quantum development is closely tied to semiconductors and telecommunications, positioning Pacific Asia as a central arena for both technological advancement and strategic competition in the global quantum landscape.

South Asia represents a growing quantum region characterized by expanding public investment and strong academic foundations, with activity concentrated primarily in India. In South Asia, there are 16 pure-play quantum companies (7% more than last year) and 467 workers (74% more than last year). National initiatives emphasize quantum computing, communications, sensing, and materials research as part of broader science and technology modernization agendas. Research universities and government laboratories anchor ecosystem development, supported by structured national programs designed to strengthen domestic capabilities and reduce reliance on external technology sources. While private-sector participation and pure-play company formation remain at an earlier stage relative to more mature ecosystems, the region contributes through research output, workforce development, and integration in global academic and technology networks, positioning South Asia as an emerging participant in the international quantum landscape.

EUROPE

Europe represents a highly coordinated and research-intensive quantum region characterized by strong public investment and growing commercialization activity. The region is home to 254 pure-play quantum companies with 8,566 workers, respectively 9% and 16% growth from last year. Activity is concentrated in Germany, France, Denmark, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Finland, and Spain, where national strategies align with broader European Union (EU) initiatives to advance quantum computing, communications, sensing, and enabling technologies. Research universities, national laboratories, and cross-border research consortia anchor ecosystem development, supported by sustained public funding and structured innovation frameworks.

Regional dynamics are shaped by extensive intracontinental collaboration through EU programs, international memoranda of understanding, joint funding calls, and coordinated infrastructure development. Germany and France have emphasized industrial participation and hardware development, while highly specialized ecosystems, such as Finland and Denmark, contribute strengths in quantum software, cryogenics, sensing, and photonics. Across the region, quantum activity is closely tied to existing advanced manufacturing, semiconductor, and telecommunications industries, positioning Europe as a growing global hub for foundational research and coordinated technology deployment.

MIDDLE EAST

The Middle East region is characterized by targeted government-led investment and the use of quantum technologies as part of broader economic diversification and advanced technology strategies. The region has 15 pure-play quantum companies and 472 workers, a 25% increase from last year in pure-play companies with a flat workforce. Activity is concentrated in a small number of countries, particularly Israel and several Gulf states, where national innovation agendas prioritize quantum computing, communications, and sensing within larger digital and security frameworks. Research universities, national laboratories, and newly established technology institutes anchor ecosystem development, often supported by sovereign-backed funding mechanisms. Israel stands out for its combination of academic excellence, dual-use research, and venture-backed startups, while countries such as the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia emphasize strategic investments, research centers, and bilateral agreements to accelerate capability development.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Latin America and the Caribbean represent a relatively small but emerging quantum region characterized by concentrated academic research activity and early-stage ecosystem development. The number of pure-play quantum companies in Latin America and the Caribbean is four (the same count as last year), with 15 workers (12% fewer than last year). Quantum efforts are primarily anchored in leading universities and national research institutions, with activity focused on fundamental research in quantum information science, optics, materials, and communications. Public funding remains comparatively modest and is often embedded in broader science and innovation frameworks rather than dedicated national quantum strategies. While pure-play company formation and private capital remain limited relative to more mature ecosystems, there is opportunity for Latin American and Caribbean countries to grow research capacity and technical expertise through anchor institutions that can attract and grow the region's base of pure-play quantum companies and workers.

AFRICA

Africa represents an early-stage quantum region characterized primarily by academic research activity and growing participation in international collaborations. As was the case last year, we identified few pure-play quantum companies and workers on the continent. Quantum efforts are concentrated in a limited number of countries. For example, in South Africa, universities and national research institutions anchor work in quantum information science, photonics, and quantum communications, and there are two pure-play companies in Egypt and one in Libya, with 12 workers between them. Yet, even as private capital and pure-play company formation remain limited on the continent, the region contributes to the quantum industry through research output, specialized technical expertise, and workforce development. Africa's potential to contribute to the global quantum workforce in the future will be significant given the continent's relatively young and growing population. One way that African countries aim to reach young innovators and grow their quantum workforces is through continent-wide initiatives such as the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences' Quantum Technology Education Global Event, where Ghana hosted Africa's first ever quantum hackathon. Such efforts position Africa to participate in the global quantum landscape, with activity centered at this point on fundamental research, education, and international collaboration rather than commercialization.

GLOBAL TRENDS

Key institutions and relationships are structural forces that collectively influence countries' quantum positioning. Most leading quantum ecosystems exhibit a multilayered quantum company base that includes system integrators, software and algorithm companies, and component manufacturers. Growth in countries with quantum industry organizations—groups of professionals that share knowledge, build relationships, and work together on common quantum-related goals—saw growth in venture capital, workers, and companies, whereas countries with increased venture capital investment saw an increase in the number of quantum companies and declining workers (table 1).

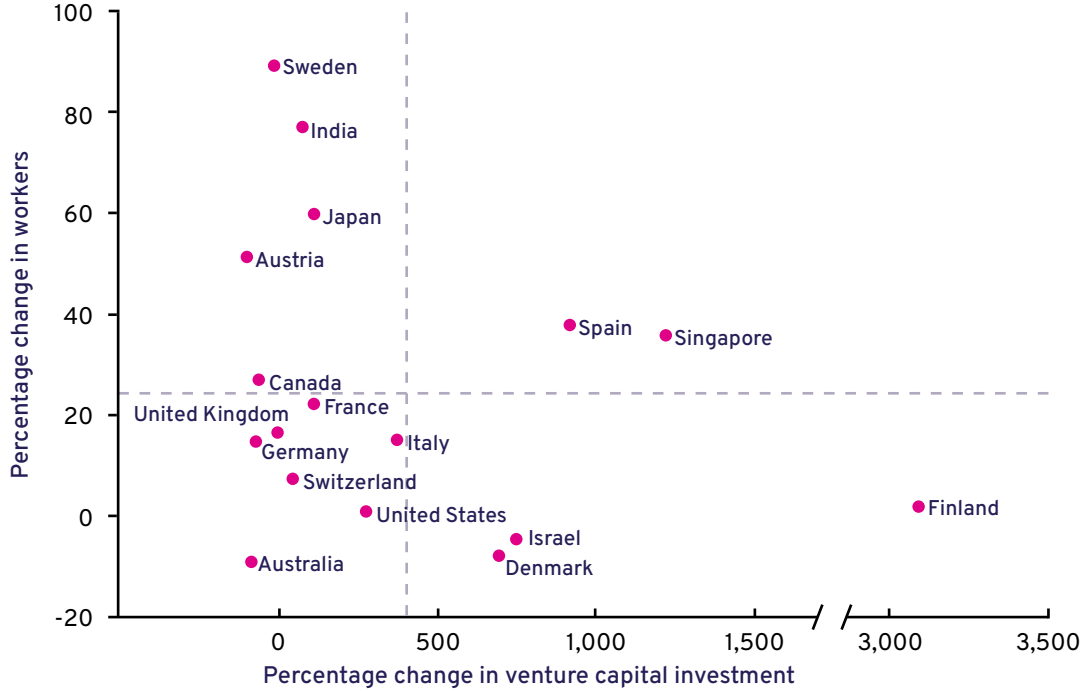
Six countries—Australia, Austria, Canada, Germany, Sweden, and the United Kingdom—saw increases in the number of workers while venture capital investments decreased. Finland, Israel, and Denmark had large percentage increases in venture capital investment, but declines or very modest growth in workers. Conversely, Sweden and Austria had growth in workers despite declines in venture capital investment (figure 1). This may be because hiring patterns reflect other factors, such as multiyear public funding commitments or previously raised private capital, indicating that workforce growth and venture capital investment often move on different timelines.

TABLE 1: CORRELATION BETWEEN PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN VENTURE CAPITAL AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN WORKERS, COMPANIES

Percentage change in	Venture capital	Workers	Companies
Venture capital	1		
Workers	−0.24	1	
Companies	0.19	0.16	1

Source: QED-C

FIGURE 1: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN PER CAPITA VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND WORKERS, 2024–25

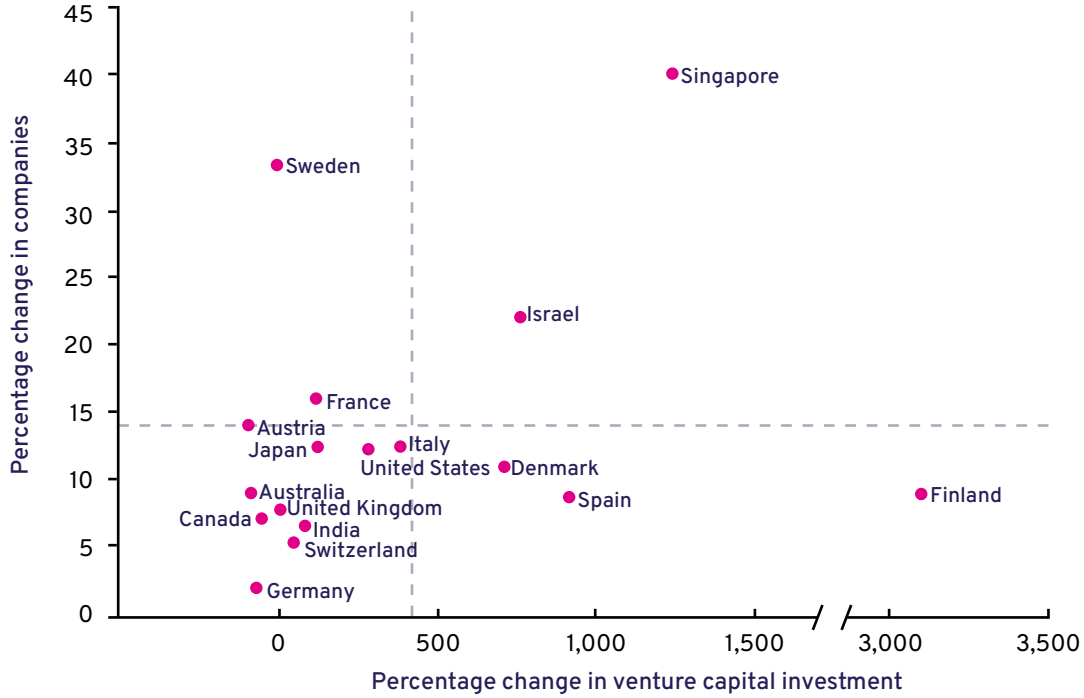


Note: dashed lines indicate average percentage change in workers and venture capital investment

Source: QED-C

Venture capital funding is necessary but not essential for quantum company growth. Increases in venture capital investments per capita were positively correlated with changes in the number of companies per capita (table 1). In most countries, both venture capital investments and the number of quantum companies increased in 2025 (figure 2). The positive correlation between per capita venture capital investment and the number of pure-play quantum companies in a quantum ecosystem suggests that venture capital conditions are more closely linked to company formation and survival than to short-term workforce expansion. At the same time, the presence of both modest and even substantial company growth despite declining venture capital investment in several countries indicates that new firm creation may also be supported by public funding, corporate partnerships, previously secured capital, or even organic revenue, rather than current-year venture capital flows alone.

FIGURE 2: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN PER CAPITA VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND COMPANIES, 2024–25



Note: dashed lines indicate average percentage change in companies and venture capital investment

Source: QED-C

Robust public funding and formal national strategies are a common foundation across the leading quantum ecosystems, which are supported by structured policy frameworks that coordinate R&D institutions, industry participation, and long-term investment priorities. National strategies differ in that some frameworks focus on fundamental research while others focus on advancing quantum for specific applications related to defense and cybersecurity. Regardless of the exact scope of strategic frameworks, sustained public capital, often deployed through multiyear national programs, reduces early-stage risk, enables infrastructure buildout, and signals strategic commitment to continued quantum ecosystem development.

Additionally, nongovernmental industry coordination mechanisms are a common feature among larger quantum ecosystems. Several countries maintain formal industry associations or consortia that help align private-sector priorities with public strategy, facilitate standards development, and promote commercialization pathways. These organizations help exchange information, create shared roadmaps, reduce fragmentation, and serve as an interface among startups, large firms, component suppliers, R&D institutions, enterprise end users, and government stakeholders.

Among countries with a quantum industry organization, the per capita growth from 2024 to 2025 in venture capital, workers, and companies was greater than in countries without such organizations. For example, countries with a quantum industry organization had about seven times more in per capita venture capital investment growth than countries without such organizations. Countries without a national quantum industry organization include China, France, and New Zealand, among others.

Cross-institutional collaboration has revealed itself to be a key driver for the success of more established national quantum ecosystems, with success measured by company and workforce presence and funding robustness. Generally, innovation ecosystems with cross-institutional collaboration are better situated to successfully leverage funding and investment to create local economic value. Shared infrastructure and testbed environments are also consistent features of leading ecosystems. National laboratories, collaborative R&D centers, and shared infrastructure (including specialized fabrication or testing facilities) can reduce capital barriers for startups and enable cross-sector experimentation. In several cases, testbed programs operate as neutral platforms for benchmarking hardware, developing applications, and strengthening supply chains.

International quantum collaborations rely on research partnerships and multinational funding programs (e.g., the European Quantum Flagship Initiative, the Eureka Network Quantum Call, or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic Challenge Programme) to expand technical capacity and accelerate experimentation. Even among well-funded national ecosystems, partnerships are used to mitigate capability gaps, access specialized hardware, and integrate into global supply chains, underscoring that quantum development remains internationally interdependent despite increasing strategic competition. Survey results from both the quantum computing and quantum sensing market analyses reflect sustained partnership activity, though the drivers differ between segments. In quantum computing, partnerships tend to take form as collaborations with end users or government organizations, aimed at exploring new commercial verticals or accessing public funding. In contrast, partnerships in the quantum sensing segment remain more closely centered on government engagement, with supplier-to-supplier collaborations present but less concentrated.

At the global level, as within countries, collaboration and competition coexist. International partnerships are central to technology development, infrastructure access, and supply-chain integration, even as countries promote domestic capabilities and greater technological capacity.

For the global quantum industry: long-term advancement will depend not only on investment levels but on coordination across government, research, and commercial institutions; sustained talent development; and the ability to balance openness with strategic priorities related to defense, intellectual property protection, and entrepreneurship as the industry moves further toward commercialization. QED-C will continue to help its members to navigate the emerging quantum economy.