

Quantum Labs Grow Slower Than Testing Infrastructure

A hidden imbalance in U.S. innovation capacity.

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THE DATA

14.7%

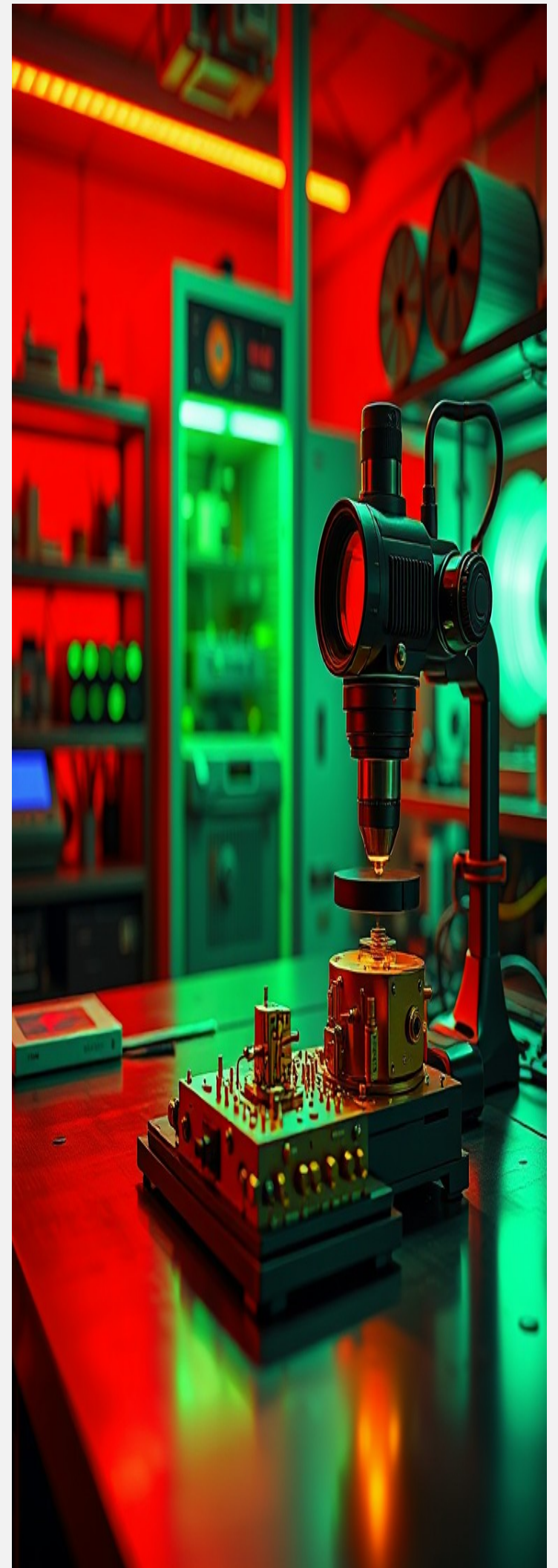
Spread Between the Fastest and Slowest Growth in Testing Laboratories

The gap between Idaho's 26.3% and Rhode Island's 11.1% growth in testing laboratories.

This 14.7% spread reveals a stark divergence in where America's technical infrastructure is expanding. Idaho leads with a 26.3% surge in testing labs—driven by advanced biotech and materials science clusters—while Rhode Island, despite strong academic foundations, lags at 11.1%. The disparity isn't just about volume; it reflects a deeper misalignment between lab expansion and quantum readiness.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2019 and 2022, NAICS 541380 (Testing laboratories) • Published September 16, 2026

<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-16-ai-quantum-dive-541380-state>



01

Testing Infrastructure Precedes Quantum Readiness

The data shows that states with the fastest-growing testing infrastructure—like Idaho and Illinois—are building the foundational capacity to validate quantum materials and systems. These labs aren't just measuring outcomes; they're enabling the feedback loops needed for iterative quantum development. Without this infrastructure, even the most advanced quantum algorithms would remain untestable in real-world conditions.



02

The Risk of Over-Investment in Quantum Without Lab Capacity

States with high quantum R&D funding but low testing lab growth—such as those in the Northeast—face a structural bottleneck. Even with top-tier research talent and AI-driven modeling, real-world validation requires physical testing infrastructure. A quantum breakthrough in a lab with no validation capacity is an academic exercise, not an industrial one. The 14.7% gap is a warning sign of an innovation bottleneck.

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