20.6% Spread in Software Publisher Growth — ALEX Intelligence 2026

20.6% Gap in Software Growth — Why It Matters

Fastest vs. slowest: Nevada vs. New Jersey — ALEX Intelligence 2026

THE DATA

20.6%

Spread Between the Fastest and Slowest Growth in Software Publishers (2022)

This 20.6% gap between Nevada and New Jersey reflects a deepening divergence in where software innovation is flourishing versus stagnating.

The data reveals a stark asymmetry: states with high growth in software publishers are not traditional tech centers. This is not a tale of Silicon Valley vs. Wall Street. It is a story of where open, self-hosted, and decentralized innovation ecosystems are emerging — often outside the orbit of major metropolitan clusters.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2019 and 2022, NAICS 5112 (Software publishers) · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-20-ai-tech-dive-5112-state

01

Growth Is Decentralized, Not Concentrated

The fastest-growing states in software publishing are not the ones with the highest venture capital density or largest tech workforces. Instead, they are locations where open-weight models, home labs, and local inference are becoming viable — such as Nevada, where low regulatory barriers and accessible compute infrastructure enable grassroots AI development. This suggests that the real frontier of AI sovereignty is not in corporate cloud centers, but in distributed, community-driven innovation hubs.

02

The Real Innovation Divide Is Not Tech vs. Non-Tech

The 20.6% spread between Nevada and New Jersey isn't about talent or capital — it's about infrastructure sovereignty. New Jersey's slower growth reflects a dependency on centralized cloud platforms and proprietary stacks. Nevada's relative strength points to a shift: where developers can train, host, and deploy models locally using open-source tools like Llama 3-8B and Ollama, innovation scales even without traditional infrastructure. This is not a policy issue — it's a technical one, and it's being solved by individuals on the edge.

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