

ARTICLE

Venture Capital Law: United Kingdom

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INTRODUCTION

The UK has solidified its position as a leading global hub for start-ups and venture capital (VC) investment, with £9 billion invested into UK venture-backed businesses in 2024,¹ positioning the UK as Europe's largest VC market, and third globally, trailing only the US and China. London, in particular, has long been seen as an international financial centre, but the country's start-up ecosystem extends well beyond the capital, with 51 per cent of venture businesses backed in 2024 being based outside of London,² including across Cambridge, Edinburgh, Manchester, and Oxford. Despite global economic and political headwinds and slower exit markets, the UK market remains resilient, supported by a strong investor base, a well-established legal framework, and access to international capital.

Key sectors attracting venture capital in the UK include fintech, where London continues to be a global leader, life sciences and biotech, supported by world-class universities and research institutions. Artificial intelligence, defence and deeptech have also emerged as priority investment areas, benefiting from both government initiatives and significant private capital inflows.

Although challenges remain, particularly with slow public markets and limited liquidity options on exit, the UK continues to stand out as one of the most dynamic and attractive environments for start-ups in Europe.

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