Arkansas



The U.S. Bioscience Economy:

Advancing Innovation and Strengthening States and Regions

Arkansas is home to a growing bioscience industry. Its businesses accounted for 11,176 jobs across 1,685 establishments in 2025. Growth in bioscience-related distribution, Arkansas' largest bioscience subsector, helped the state expand its industry employment by 9.3 percent from 2021 through 2025, exceeding the national rate. Bioscience-related distribution employment increased by 17.6 percent, and research, testing, and medical laboratories also recorded double-digit job growth. Arkansas retains a specialized employment concentration in agricultural feedstock and industrial biosciences, with a location quotient of 1.56. Average bioscience wages of $96,433 were 56 percent higher than the state's private sector average. Bioscience-related academic R&D totaled $350.7 million in FY 2024 and represented 76 percent of university science and engineering research expenditures, well above the national share. State institutions received $96.1 million in NIH funding in FY 2025.

BIOSCIENCE PERFORMANCE METRICS

Summary of State Performance in Selected Bioscience-related Metrics

METRIC		Arkansas	United States	Quintile
Bioscience Industry, 2025	Bioscience Industry Employment	11,176	2,312,617	IV
	Bioscience Industry Location Quotient	0.58	n/a	IV
	Bioscience Industry Establishments	1,685	156,463	III
Academic Bioscience R&D Expenditures, FY 2024	Bioscience R&D ($ thousands)	$350,664	$68,902,940	IV
	Bioscience Share of Total R&D	76%	63%	I
	Bioscience R&D Per Capita	$113	$203	IV
NIH Funding, FY 2025	Funding ($ thousands)	$96,068	$36,741,235	IV
	Funding Per Capita	$31	$107	V
Bioscience Venture Capital, 2021-25	Investments ($ millions)	$246.94	$297,644	IV
Bioscience-Related Patents, 2021-25	Total Patents	346	138,607	V

State ranking figures for bioscience performance metrics are calculated as quintiles, where I = top quintile, III = middle quintile, and V = bottom quintile. For source notes, see end of State Profile.

Arkansas

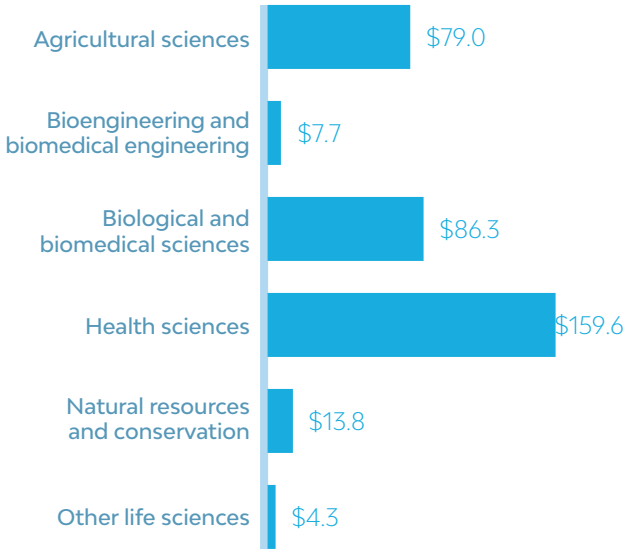
INDUSTRY SUBSECTOR		Arkansas 2025	Arkansas 2021–2025 Change	United States 2025	United States 2021–2025 Change
Agricultural Feedstock and Industrial Biosciences	Establishments	21	-5.6%	2,158	10.7%
	Employment	918	5.0%	71,331	2.2%
	Location Quotient	1.56		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$83,618	22.0%	$105,506	14.7%
Bioscience-Related Distribution	Establishments	1,200	29.1%	68,949	10.0%
	Employment	6,332	17.6%	667,651	10.7%
	Location Quotient	1.15		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$112,758	17.9%	$144,792	19.0%
Medical Devices and Equipment	Establishments	46	-16.0%	13,595	24.6%
	Employment	1,085	-22.8%	430,363	1.9%
	Location Quotient	0.30		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$56,084	16.6%	$110,757	13.9%
Pharmaceuticals	Establishments	26	-23.1%	7,880	31.0%
	Employment	464	2.0%	363,904	5.4%
	Location Quotient	0.15		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$68,463	0.9%	$146,506	16.3%
Research, Testing, and Medical Laboratories	Establishments	392	39.8%	63,881	37.0%
	Employment	2,376	12.6%	779,368	8.1%
	Location Quotient	0.37		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$81,767	19.8%	$167,555	13.7%
Total Bioscience Industry	Establishments	1,685	27.6%	156,463	22.1%
	Employment	11,176	9.3%	2,312,617	7.0%
	Location Quotient	0.58		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$96,433	20.7%	$145,188	16.0%
Total Private Sector	Establishments	105,724	15.5%	11,985,043	12.5%
	Employment	1,108,045	9.5%	133,872,972	8.5%
	Location Quotient	1.00		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$61,623	19.2%	$78,863	16.3%

Note: U.S. employment metrics include Puerto Rico.

BIOSCIENCE RESEARCH IN ARKANSAS

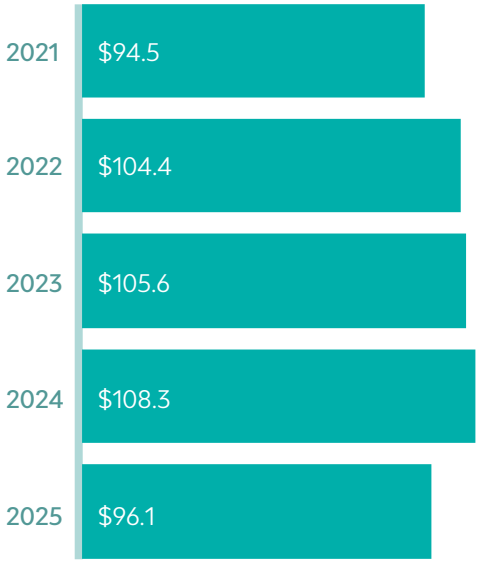
Bioscience Academic R&D Expenditures

$ Millions, FY 2024



NIH Awards

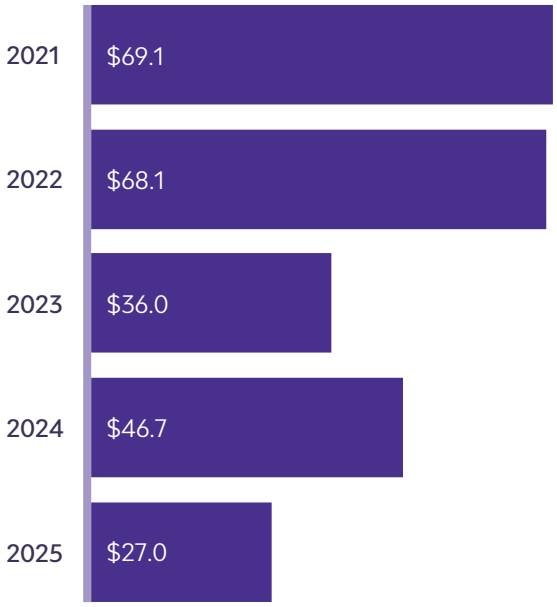
$ Millions, FY 2021-2025



BIOSCIENCE VENTURE CAPITAL IN ARKANSAS

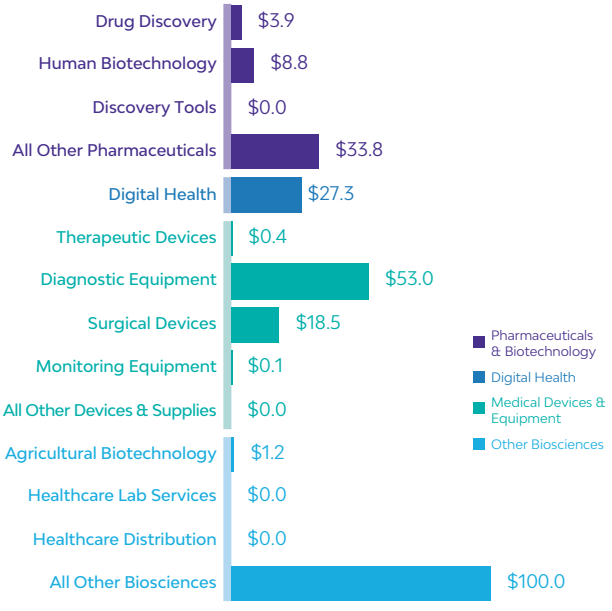
Bioscience-Related Venture Capital Investments

$ Millions, 2021-2025



Bioscience-Related Venture Capital Investments by Segment

$ Millions, 2021-2025

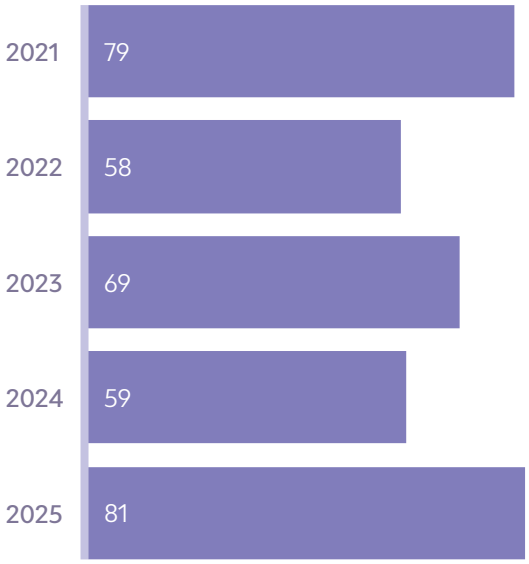


Arkansas

BIOSCIENCE PATENTS IN ARKANSAS

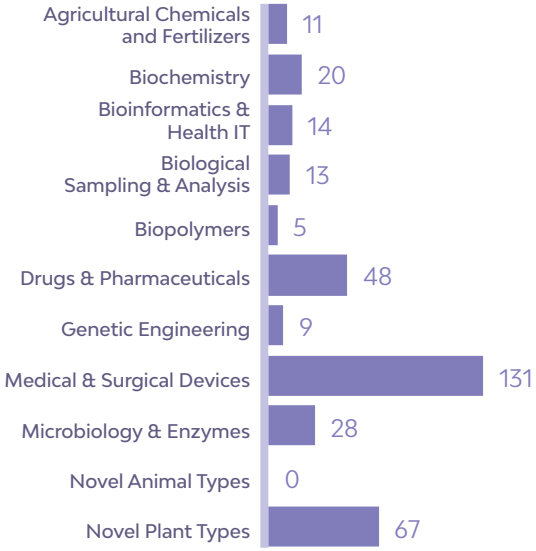
Bioscience-Related U.S. Patents

2021-2025



Bioscience-Related U.S. Patents by Segment

2021-2025



SOURCE NOTES

Employment, Establishments and Wages: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), enhanced by Lightcast (Datarun 2026.3).

Academic R&D Expenditures: National Science Foundation (NSF), National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Survey.

NIH Funding: National Institutes of Health, NIH Awards via the NIH RePORT portal.

Venture Capital: PitchBook Data, Inc.

Patents: U.S. Patent & Trademark Office data from the Clarivate Derwent Patent Search patent analysis database.

For a more detailed discussion of the data and methodology used, please see the Appendix to the full national report.

TECONOMY PARTNERS LLC

Bio Biotechnology Innovation Organization

CSBA Council of State Bioscience Associations