# North Carolina



## The U.S. Bioscience Economy:
### Advancing Innovation and Strengthening States and Regions

North Carolina's large, specialized bioscience industry accounted for 102,913 jobs across 6,781 business establishments in 2025. Industry employment increased by 11.6 percent from 2021 through 2025, significantly exceeding the national rate. North Carolina's bioscience industry continues to grow across a broad set of specialized strengths. All five major subsectors added jobs. Four have specialized employment concentrations: agricultural feedstock and industrial biosciences, distribution, pharmaceuticals, and research, testing, and medical laboratories. The pharmaceuticals subsector is more than twice as concentrated as nationally, while the overall industry has a location quotient of 1.41. Annual bioscience wages averaged $135,364, 88 percent higher than North Carolina's private sector average. Bioscience-related R&D expenditures at state universities totaled nearly $3.4 billion in FY 2024, and institutions received $1.7 billion in NIH funding in FY 2025. Bioscience companies attracted nearly $6.4 billion in venture capital investments from 2021 through 2025. State inventors were affiliated with 4,844 bioscience-related patents from 2021 through 2025. North Carolina is positioned among the top quintile of states in all major industry and innovation ecosystem measures.

## BIOSCIENCE PERFORMANCE METRICS

### Summary of State Performance in Selected Bioscience-related Metrics

| METRIC | | North Carolina | United States | Quintile |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bioscience Industry, 2025 | Bioscience Industry Employment | 102,913 | 2,312,617 | I |
| | Bioscience Industry Location Quotient | 1.41 | n/a | I |
| | Bioscience Industry Establishments | 6,781 | 156,463 | I |
| Academic Bioscience R&D Expenditures, FY 2024 | Bioscience R&D ($ thousands) | $3,380,920 | $68,902,940 | I |
| | Bioscience Share of Total R&D | 76% | 63% | I |
| | Bioscience R&D Per Capita | $306 | $203 | I |
| NIH Funding, FY 2025 | Funding ($ thousands) | $1,717,148 | $36,741,235 | I |
| | Funding Per Capita | $153 | $107 | I |
| Bioscience Venture Capital, 2021-25 | Investments ($ millions) | $6,378.90 | $297,644 | I |
| Bioscience-Related Patents, 2021-25 | Total Patents | 4,844 | 138,607 | I |

*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.*

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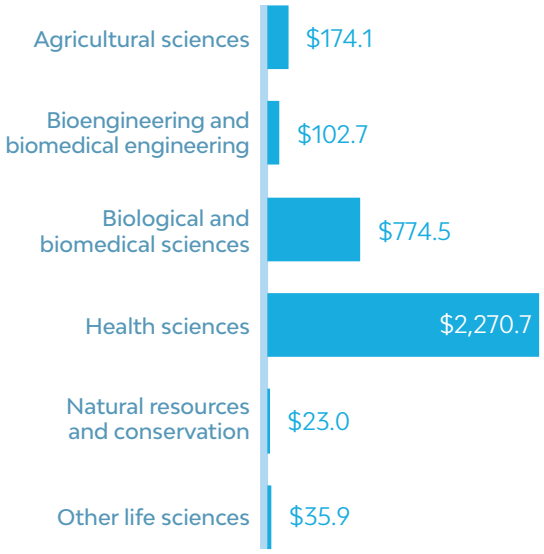
| INDUSTRY SUBSECTOR | | North Carolina 2025 | North Carolina 2021–2025 Change | United States 2025 | United States 2021–2025 Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agricultural Feedstock and Industrial Biosciences | Establishments | 49 | 1.5% | 2,158 | 10.7% |
| | Employment | 2,708 | 13.3% | 71,331 | 2.2% |
| | *Location Quotient* | 1.20 | | n/a | |
| | Average Annual Wage | $120,731 | 7.0% | $105,506 | 14.7% |
| Bioscience-Related Distribution | Establishments | 2,971 | 17.5% | 68,949 | 10.0% |
| | Employment | 25,824 | 26.1% | 667,651 | 10.7% |
| | *Location Quotient* | 1.23 | | n/a | |
| | Average Annual Wage | $148,352 | 25.2% | $144,792 | 19.0% |
| Medical Devices and Equipment | Establishments | 226 | 17.6% | 13,595 | 24.6% |
| | Employment | 8,471 | 1.8% | 430,363 | 1.9% |
| | *Location Quotient* | 0.62 | | n/a | |
| | Average Annual Wage | $86,955 | 20.1% | $110,757 | 13.9% |
| Pharmaceuticals | Establishments | 167 | 28.5% | 7,880 | 31.0% |
| | Employment | 26,999 | 12.6% | 363,904 | 5.4% |
| | *Location Quotient* | 2.35 | | n/a | |
| | Average Annual Wage | $125,485 | 21.0% | $146,506 | 16.3% |
| Research, Testing, and Medical Laboratories | Establishments | 3,368 | 13.3% | 63,881 | 37.0% |
| | Employment | 38,912 | 5.0% | 779,368 | 8.1% |
| | *Location Quotient* | 1.58 | | n/a | |
| | Average Annual Wage | $145,155 | 18.7% | $167,555 | 13.7% |
| Total Bioscience Industry | Establishments | 6,781 | 15.5% | 156,463 | 22.1% |
| | Employment | 102,913 | 11.6% | 2,312,617 | 7.0% |
| | *Location Quotient* | 1.41 | | n/a | |
| | Average Annual Wage | $135,364 | 21.0% | $145,188 | 16.0% |
| Total Private Sector | Establishments | 374,234 | 21.8% | 11,985,043 | 12.5% |
| | Employment | 4,219,236 | 10.2% | 133,872,972 | 8.5% |
| | *Location Quotient* | 1.00 | | n/a | |
| | Average Annual Wage | $72,186 | 20.1% | $78,863 | 16.3% |

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

# BIOSCIENCE RESEARCH IN NORTH CAROLINA

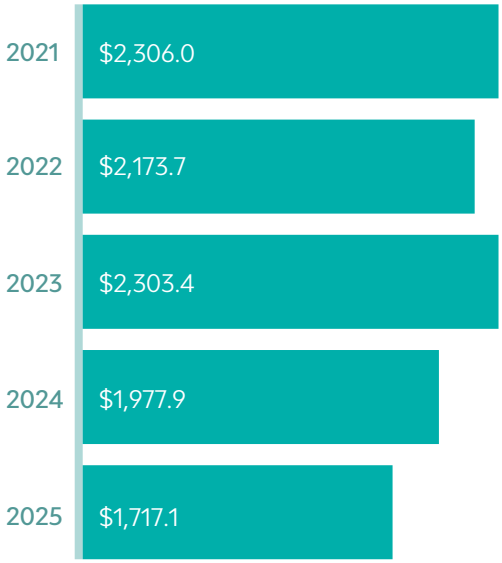
## Bioscience Academic R&D Expenditures

$ Millions, FY 2024




## NIH Awards

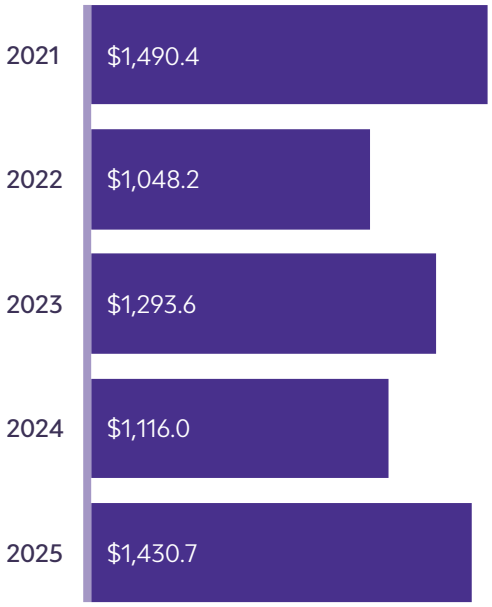
$ Millions, FY 2021-2025




# BIOSCIENCE VENTURE CAPITAL IN NORTH CAROLINA

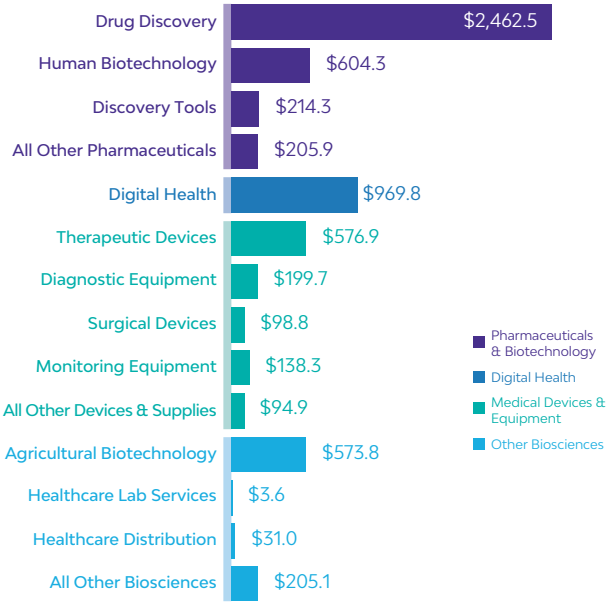
## Bioscience-Related Venture Capital Investments

$ Millions, 2021-2025




## Bioscience-Related Venture Capital Investments by Segment

$ Millions, 2021-2025

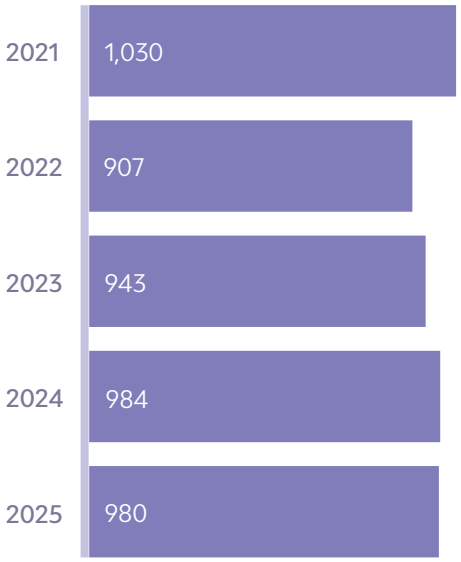


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## BIOSCIENCE PATENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

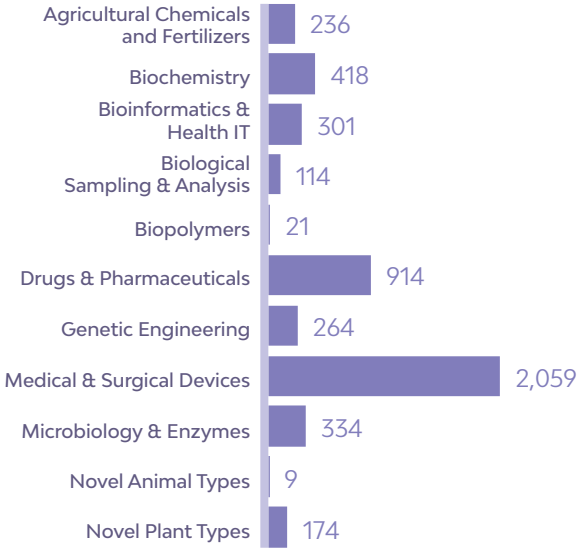
### Bioscience-Related U.S. Patents

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