South Carolina



The U.S. Bioscience Economy:

Advancing Innovation and Strengthening States and Regions

South Carolina has grown its bioscience industry employment base by 20.8 percent since 2021, expanding at a pace well above the national average. Industry employment reached 23,499 jobs across 2,811 business establishments in 2025. Four major subsectors added jobs, led by growth of 52.4 percent in research, testing, and medical laboratories. Bioscience-related distribution and pharmaceuticals also recorded double-digit gains. South Carolina retains a specialized employment concentration in pharmaceuticals, with a location quotient of 1.23. Bioscience wages averaged $109,555, 73 percent higher than the state's private sector average. State universities conducted $565.9 million in bioscience-related R&D in FY 2024, and state institutions received $267.5 million in NIH funding in FY 2025. Venture capital investments in South Carolina bioscience companies totaled $433.7 million from 2021 through 2025.

BIOSCIENCE PERFORMANCE METRICS

Summary of State Performance in Selected Bioscience-related Metrics

METRIC		South Carolina	United States	Quintile
Bioscience Industry, 2025	Bioscience Industry Employment	23,499	2,312,617	III
	Bioscience Industry Location Quotient	0.70	n/a	III
	Bioscience Industry Establishments	2,811	156,463	III
Academic Bioscience R&D Expenditures, FY 2024	Bioscience R&D ($ thousands)	$565,866	$68,902,940	III
	Bioscience Share of Total R&D	67%	63%	II
	Bioscience R&D Per Capita	$103	$203	IV
NIH Funding, FY 2025	Funding ($ thousands)	$267,540	$36,741,235	III
	Funding Per Capita	$48	$107	IV
Bioscience Venture Capital, 2021-25	Investments ($ millions)	$433.73	$297,644	III
Bioscience-Related Patents, 2021-25	Total Patents	799	138,607	IV

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.

South Carolina

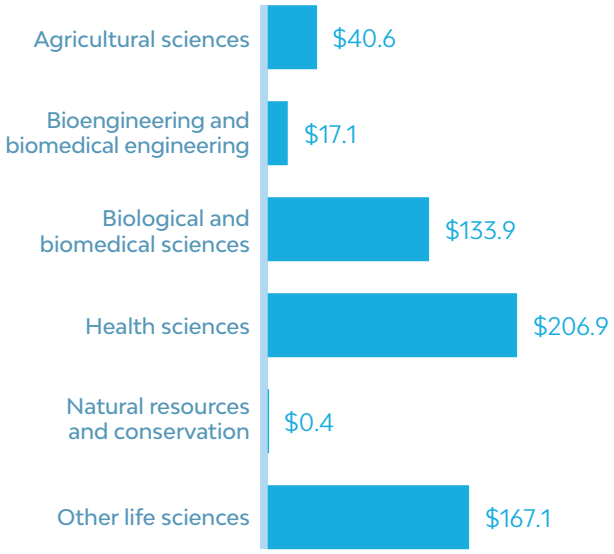
INDUSTRY SUBSECTOR		South Carolina 2025	South Carolina 2021–2025 Change	United States 2025	United States 2021–2025 Change
Agricultural Feedstock and Industrial Biosciences	Establishments	44	43.9%	2,158	10.7%
	Employment	400	2.3%	71,331	2.2%
	Location Quotient	0.39		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$86,818	23.7%	$105,506	14.7%
Bioscience-Related Distribution	Establishments	834	22.7%	68,949	10.0%
	Employment	6,122	20.6%	667,651	10.7%
	Location Quotient	0.63		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$128,799	28.6%	$144,792	19.0%
Medical Devices and Equipment	Establishments	457	101.7%	13,595	24.6%
	Employment	3,768	-5.4%	430,363	1.9%
	Location Quotient	0.60		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$101,512	30.0%	$110,757	13.9%
Pharmaceuticals	Establishments	252	62.6%	7,880	31.0%
	Employment	6,516	16.3%	363,904	5.4%
	Location Quotient	1.23		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$87,931	30.0%	$146,506	16.3%
Research, Testing, and Medical Laboratories	Establishments	1,224	46.6%	63,881	37.0%
	Employment	6,692	52.4%	779,368	8.1%
	Location Quotient	0.59		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$118,892	32.0%	$167,555	13.7%
Total Bioscience Industry	Establishments	2,811	45.9%	156,463	22.1%
	Employment	23,499	20.8%	2,312,617	7.0%
	Location Quotient	0.70		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$109,555	31.4%	$145,188	16.0%
Total Private Sector	Establishments	189,323	27.8%	11,985,043	12.5%
	Employment	1,946,063	11.4%	133,872,972	8.5%
	Location Quotient	1.00		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$63,461	22.4%	$78,863	16.3%

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

BIOSCIENCE RESEARCH IN SOUTH CAROLINA

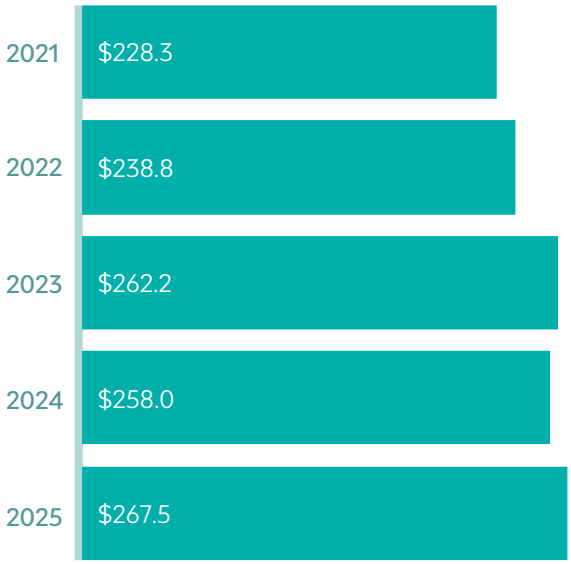
Bioscience Academic R&D Expenditures

$ Millions, FY 2024



NIH Awards

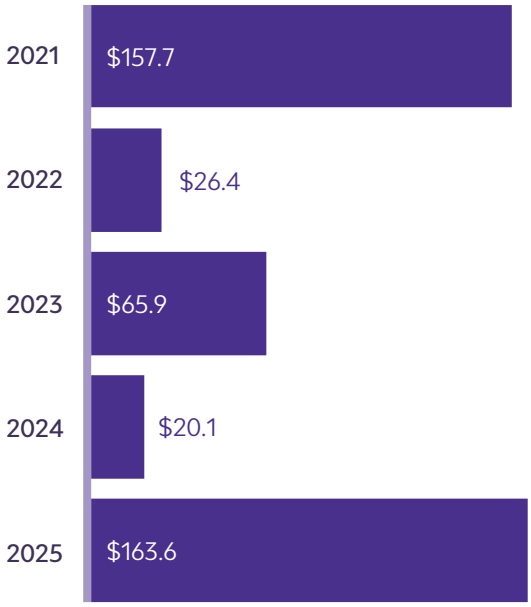
$ Millions, FY 2021-2025



BIOSCIENCE VENTURE CAPITAL IN SOUTH CAROLINA

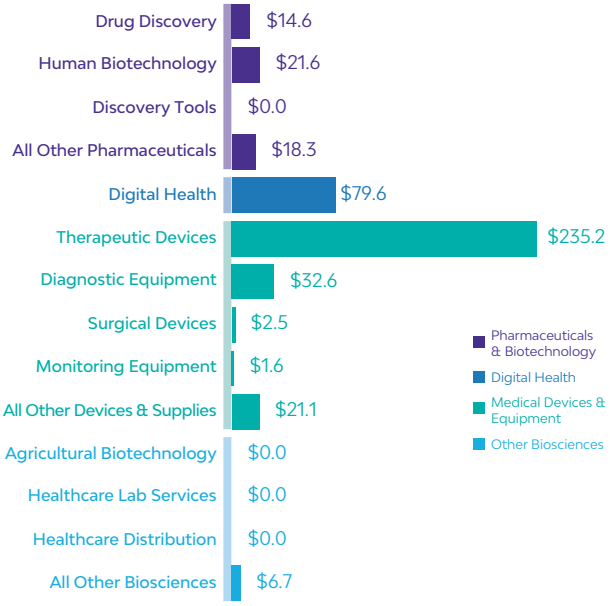
Bioscience-Related Venture Capital Investments

$ Millions, 2021-2025



Bioscience-Related Venture Capital Investments by Segment

$ Millions, 2021-2025

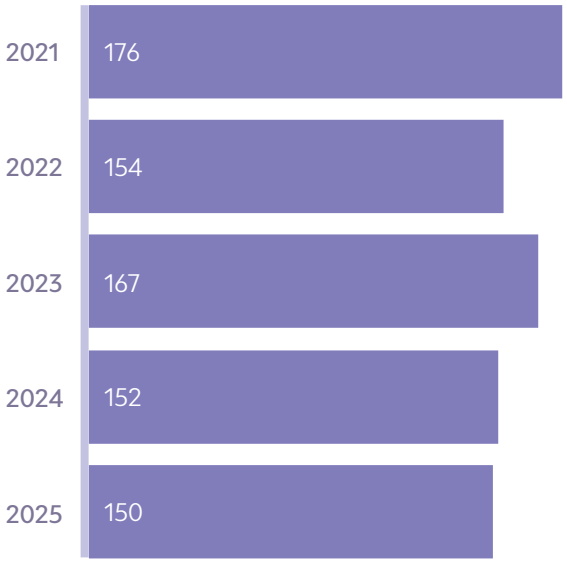


South Carolina

BIOSCIENCE PATENTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

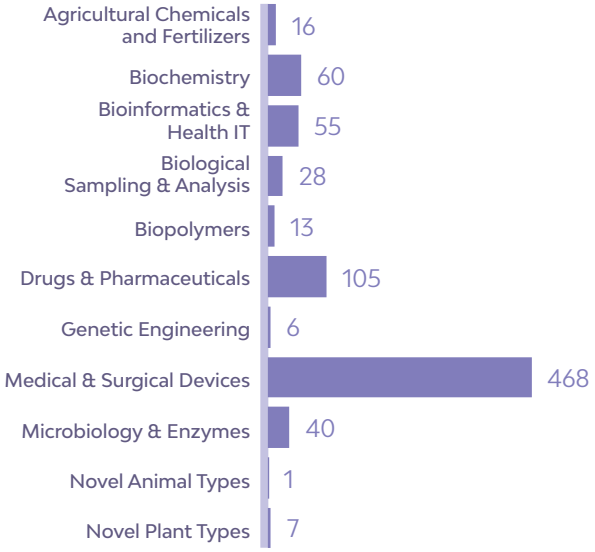
Bioscience-Related U.S. Patents

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