Tennessee



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

Tennessee's bioscience industry is sizable and growing faster than the nation. Bioscience businesses accounted for 49,469 jobs across 3,704 establishments in 2025. Employment increased by 10.7 percent from 2021 through 2025, outpacing the nation. Tennessee's bioscience industry growth is supported by its specialized distribution base and expanding pharmaceutical and research, testing, and medical lab subsectors. Bioscience-related distribution, the largest subsector, grew by 18.1 percent and has a specialized employment concentration 41 percent above the national average. Pharmaceuticals and research, testing, and medical laboratories also recorded double-digit gains. Annual bioscience wages averaged $127,277, 80 percent higher than Tennessee's private sector average. State universities conducted nearly $1.4 billion in bioscience-related R&D in FY 2024, representing 73 percent of academic science and engineering research expenditures. Tennessee institutions received $823.8 million in NIH funding in FY 2025. Venture capital investments in bioscience companies totaled nearly $3.2 billion from 2021 through 2025.

BIOSCIENCE PERFORMANCE METRICS

Summary of State Performance in Selected Bioscience-related Metrics

METRIC		Tennessee	United States	Quintile
Bioscience Industry, 2025	Bioscience Industry Employment	49,469	2,312,617	II
	Bioscience Industry Location Quotient	1.01	n/a	II
	Bioscience Industry Establishments	3,704	156,463	II
Academic Bioscience R&D Expenditures, FY 2024	Bioscience R&D ($ thousands)	$1,384,773	$68,902,940	II
	Bioscience Share of Total R&D	73%	63%	I
	Bioscience R&D Per Capita	$191	$203	II
NIH Funding, FY 2025	Funding ($ thousands)	$823,826	$36,741,235	II
	Funding Per Capita	$113	$107	II
Bioscience Venture Capital, 2021-25	Investments ($ millions)	$3,176.16	$297,644	II
Bioscience-Related Patents, 2021-25	Total Patents	2,680	138,607	II

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.

Tennessee

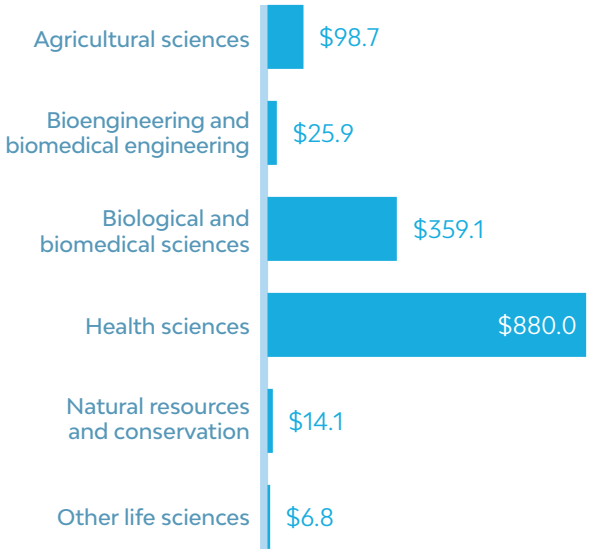
INDUSTRY SUBSECTOR		Tennessee 2025	Tennessee 2021–2025 Change	United States 2025	United States 2021–2025 Change
Agricultural Feedstock and Industrial Biosciences	Establishments	49	31.6%	2,158	10.7%
	Employment	1,350	4.4%	71,331	2.2%
	Location Quotient	0.90		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$117,149	0.1%	$105,506	14.7%
Bioscience-Related Distribution	Establishments	1,848	5.0%	68,949	10.0%
	Employment	19,942	18.1%	667,651	10.7%
	Location Quotient	1.41		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$140,855	20.0%	$144,792	19.0%
Medical Devices and Equipment	Establishments	354	22.0%	13,595	24.6%
	Employment	8,668	-8.0%	430,363	1.9%
	Location Quotient	0.95		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$107,201	11.6%	$110,757	13.9%
Pharmaceuticals	Establishments	168	27.9%	7,880	31.0%
	Employment	3,025	33.2%	363,904	5.4%
	Location Quotient	0.39		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$126,594	36.2%	$146,506	16.3%
Research, Testing, and Medical Laboratories	Establishments	1,284	84.4%	63,881	37.0%
	Employment	16,484	11.2%	779,368	8.1%
	Location Quotient	1.00		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$122,361	28.6%	$167,555	13.7%
Total Bioscience Industry	Establishments	3,704	27.0%	156,463	22.1%
	Employment	49,469	10.7%	2,312,617	7.0%
	Location Quotient	1.01		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$127,277	22.1%	$145,188	16.0%
Total Private Sector	Establishments	212,968	17.7%	11,985,043	12.5%
	Employment	2,826,709	8.5%	133,872,972	8.5%
	Location Quotient	1.00		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$70,727	18.2%	$78,863	16.3%

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

BIOSCIENCE RESEARCH IN TENNESSEE

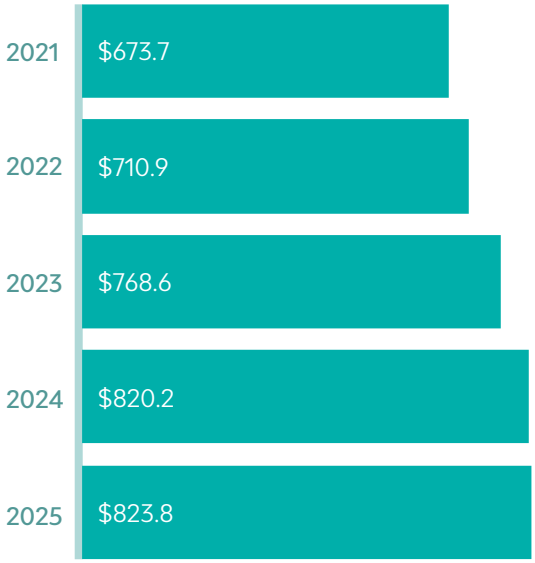
Bioscience Academic R&D Expenditures

$ Millions, FY 2024



NIH Awards

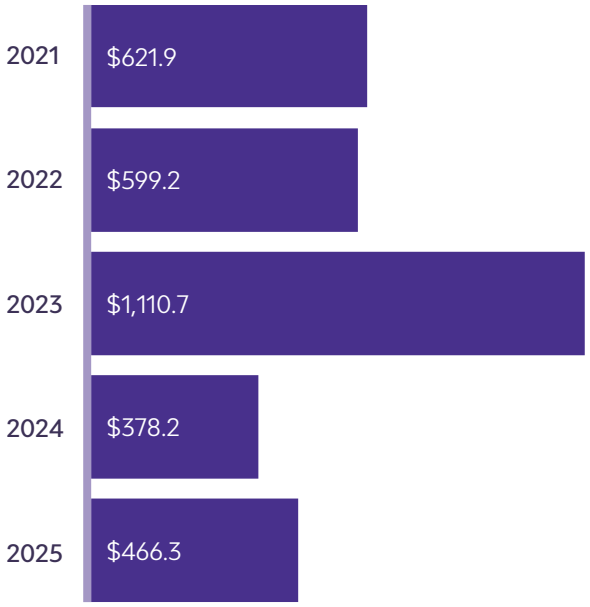
$ Millions, FY 2021-2025



BIOSCIENCE VENTURE CAPITAL IN TENNESSEE

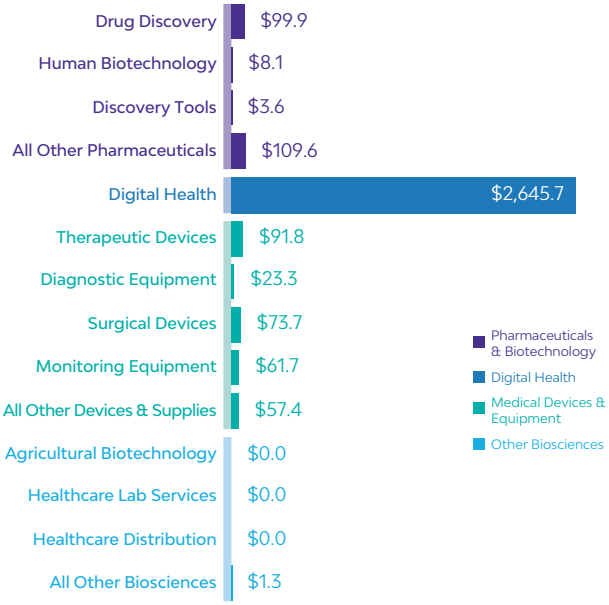
Bioscience-Related Venture Capital Investments

$ Millions, 2021-2025



Bioscience-Related Venture Capital Investments by Segment

$ Millions, 2021-2025

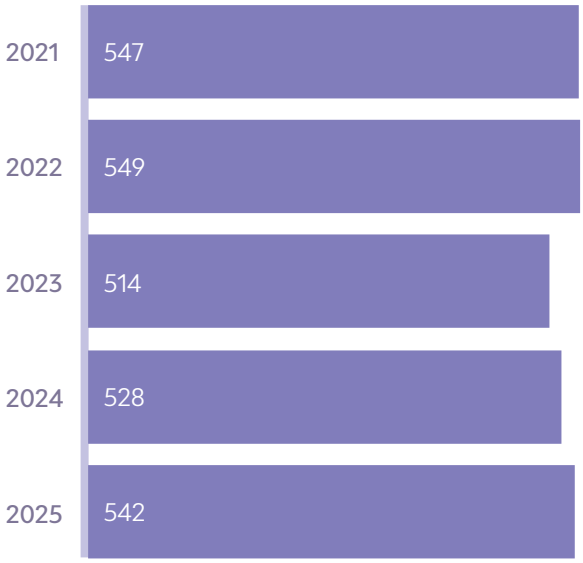


Tennessee

BIOSCIENCE PATENTS IN TENNESSEE

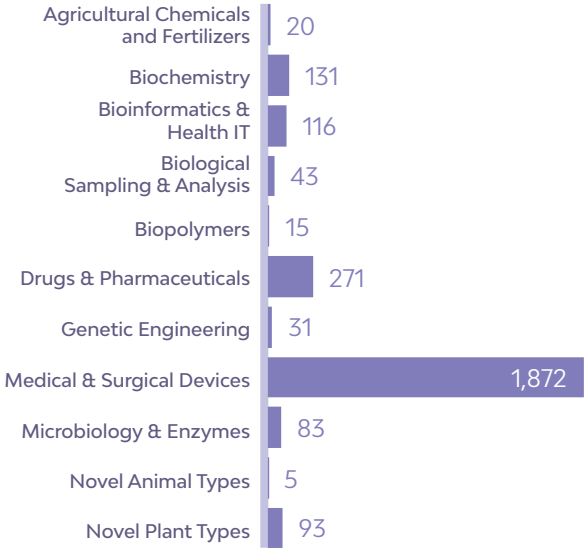
Bioscience-Related U.S. Patents

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