Nebraska

The U.S. Bioscience Economy:

Advancing Innovation and Strengthening States and Regions

Nebraska's bioscience industry is specialized in its employment concentration and diverse in its strengths. The industry accounted for 19,163 jobs across 1,577 business establishments in 2025. Nebraska retains a diverse set of bioscience specializations, with outsized employment concentrations in agricultural feedstock and industrial biosciences, distribution, and medical devices and equipment. Agricultural bioscience employment is more than six times as concentrated as nationally, while the overall industry's concentration is 30 percent above the national average. Employment increased by 5.5 percent from 2021, with gains in four major subsectors, including double-digit job growth in pharmaceuticals and in distribution. Average annual industry wages were $93,472, 48 percent higher than Nebraska's private sector average. Nebraska universities conducted $492.3 million in bioscience-related R&D in FY 2024, representing 73 percent of science and engineering research expenditures. State institutions received $140.9 million in NIH funding in FY 2025. Venture capital investments in Nebraska bioscience companies totaled $747.1 million from 2021 through 2025.

BIOSCIENCE PERFORMANCE METRICS

Summary of State Performance in Selected Bioscience-related Metrics

METRIC		Nebraska	United States	Quintile
Bioscience Industry, 2025	Bioscience Industry Employment	19,163	2,312,617	III
	Bioscience Industry Location Quotient	1.30	n/a	I
	Bioscience Industry Establishments	1,577	156,463	IV
Academic Bioscience R&D Expenditures, FY 2024	Bioscience R&D ($ thousands)	$492,339	$68,902,940	III
	Bioscience Share of Total R&D	73%	63%	I
	Bioscience R&D Per Capita	$245	$203	II
NIH Funding, FY 2025	Funding ($ thousands)	$140,903	$36,741,235	IV
	Funding Per Capita	$70	$107	III
Bioscience Venture Capital, 2021-25	Investments ($ millions)	$747.08	$297,644	III
Bioscience-Related Patents, 2021-25	Total Patents	749	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.

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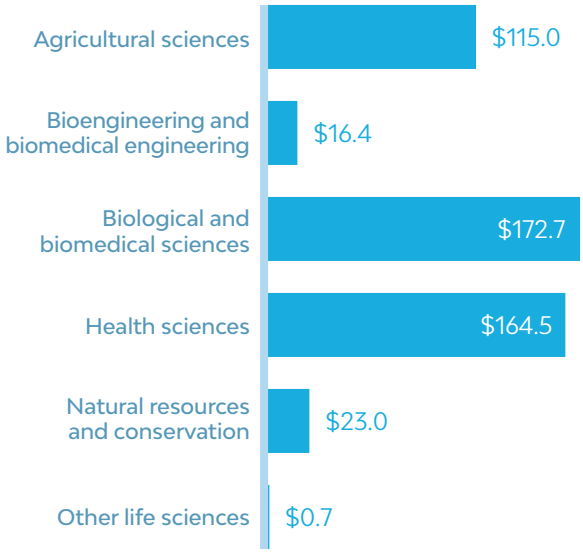
INDUSTRY SUBSECTOR		Nebraska 2025	Nebraska 2021–2025 Change	United States 2025	United States 2021–2025 Change
Agricultural Feedstock and Industrial Biosciences	Establishments	58	-0.9%	2,158	10.7%
	Employment	2,961	9.9%	71,331	2.2%
	Location Quotient	6.51		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$90,806	13.3%	$105,506	14.7%
Bioscience-Related Distribution	Establishments	1,177	5.9%	68,949	10.0%
	Employment	7,693	13.1%	667,651	10.7%
	Location Quotient	1.81		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$105,117	16.2%	$144,792	19.0%
Medical Devices and Equipment	Establishments	37	-17.5%	13,595	24.6%
	Employment	3,969	-13.8%	430,363	1.9%
	Location Quotient	1.45		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$76,646	9.8%	$110,757	13.9%
Pharmaceuticals	Establishments	23	-25.8%	7,880	31.0%
	Employment	2,616	21.7%	363,904	5.4%
	Location Quotient	1.13		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$87,935	-4.8%	$146,506	16.3%
Research, Testing, and Medical Laboratories	Establishments	282	54.8%	63,881	37.0%
	Employment	1,923	0.4%	779,368	8.1%
	Location Quotient	0.39		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$93,253	13.3%	$167,555	13.7%
Total Bioscience Industry	Establishments	1,577	10.5%	156,463	22.1%
	Employment	19,163	5.5%	2,312,617	7.0%
	Location Quotient	1.30		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$93,472	12.5%	$145,188	16.0%
Total Private Sector	Establishments	74,387	4.1%	11,985,043	12.5%
	Employment	853,470	5.8%	133,872,972	8.5%
	Location Quotient	1.00		n/a	
	Average Annual Wage	$62,987	16.7%	$78,863	16.3%

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

BIOSCIENCE RESEARCH IN NEBRASKA

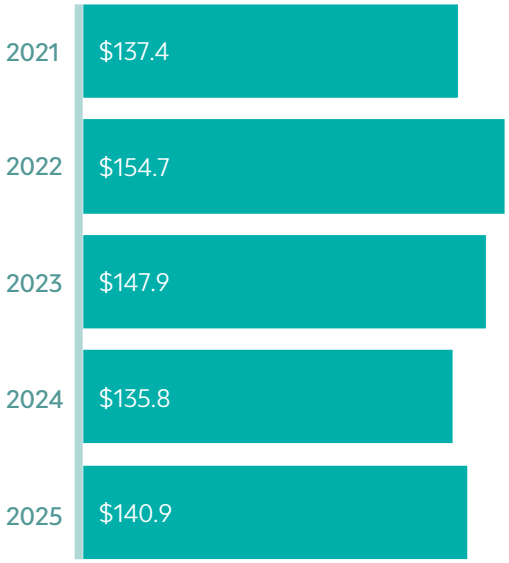
Bioscience Academic R&D Expenditures

$ Millions, FY 2024



NIH Awards

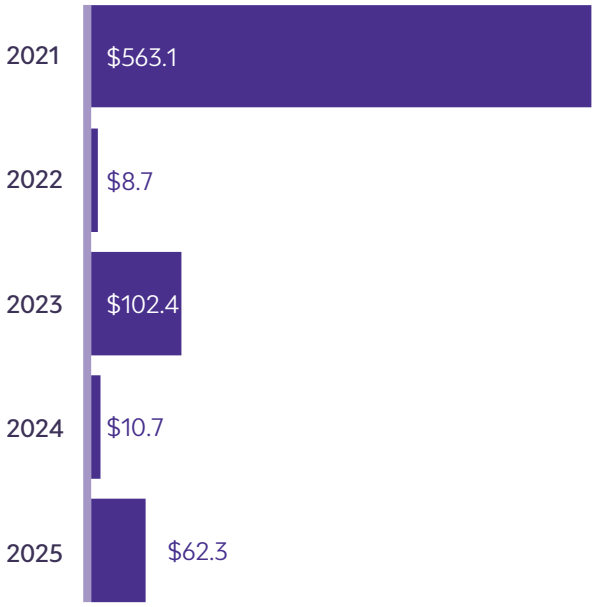
$ Millions, FY 2021-2025



BIOSCIENCE VENTURE CAPITAL IN NEBRASKA

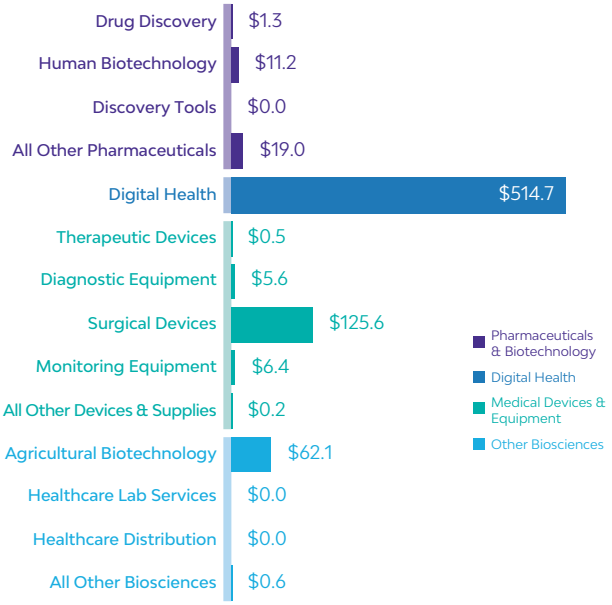
Bioscience-Related Venture Capital Investments

$ Millions, 2021-2025



Bioscience-Related Venture Capital Investments by Segment

$ Millions, 2021-2025



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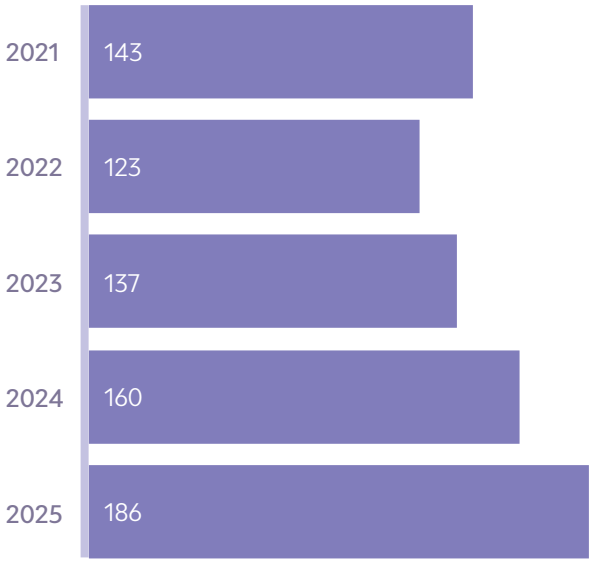
BIOSCIENCE PATENTS IN NEBRASKA

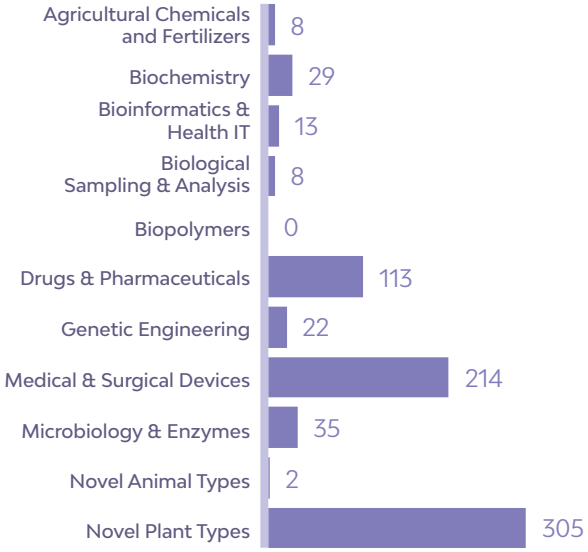
Bioscience-Related U.S. Patents

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