BRITISH COLUMBIA
Canada

Life Sciences

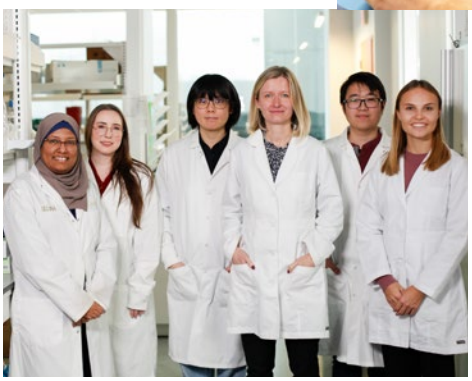
A global hub for life sciences and biomanufacturing

British Columbia, *Naturally.*

BritishColumbia.ca

A leading research and development hub **at the forefront of innovation**

British Columbia (B.C.), Canada is a leading centre for scientific innovation and has a thriving life sciences industry. The province is the home to the fastest growing life sciences sector in Canada.



British Columbia's life sciences sector has been propelled onto the global stage by its highly skilled workforce and world-class research and post-secondary institutions, complemented by a prime location and a high quality of life. During the COVID-19 pandemic, B.C. companies led in developing therapeutics, drawing international investment. The B.C. Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy has supported major projects and expansions, and fostered startup and scale-up companies, creating an ideal environment for investment and partnership opportunities. The close collaboration between academia, industry and government further enhances B.C.'s position as a global leader in life sciences innovation. B.C's Look West Economic Plan will further support the growth of the life sciences sector.

British Columbia's internationally recognized research hospitals and universities partner with world class research centres creating a dynamic and collaborative network for researchers. B.C. has world-class scientists supported by a collaborative health care environment and strong international partners such as Amgen, Novartis, Novo Nordisk and Pfizer.

British Columbia's Competitive Advantages

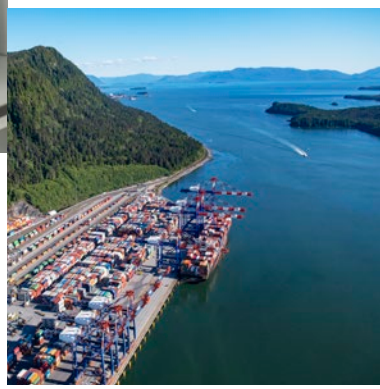
B.C.'s prime location, outstanding talent and world-class research from its post-secondary and research institutions create an excellent environment for life sciences companies, reinforced by a stable business climate, government incentives and active sector promotion.

Exceptional Talent

British Columbia's large, educated workforce of more than 270,000 across the broader tech ecosystem is well represented by diverse and energetic talent. This includes globally recognized scientists like Pieter Cullis, pioneer of lipid nanoparticle (LNP) technology, and stem cell expert Peter Zandstra. Vancouver leads North America in tech talent growth, supported by a strong pipeline of STEM graduates from top institutions such as University of British Columbia (UBC), Simon Fraser University (SFU), University of Victoria and the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT). BCIT's new Biomanufacturing Training Facility, in partnership with the Canadian Alliance for Skills and Training in Life Sciences, further strengthens B.C.'s talent development in life sciences.

A Prime Location

As Canada's gateway to the Pacific, British Columbia is ideally located for easy and cost-effective international business. Its business day conveniently overlaps with afternoon working hours in Europe, morning work schedules in Asia, and is synchronized with California and Washington State.



British Columbia's life sciences sector by numbers:

- Over 2,000 life sciences companies and almost 27,000 life sciences employees
- Life sciences sector was responsible for $936 million in goods and services exports in 2024
- B.C. boasts 23% sector growth over the last decade, the highest in Canada
- In 2024, B.C.'s life sciences sector recorded $4.6 billion in revenue and generated $3.1 billion in GDP — a 27% growth in GDP between 2021 and 2024 (current dollars)

Industry Profile

British Columbia's diverse life sciences ecosystem is a global leader in developing new therapies and technologies, with internationally recognized strengths in mRNA and lipid nanoparticles technologies, gene and cell therapies, radiopharmaceuticals, AI-aided drug discovery, antibodies, and medical technologies. B.C. companies played a pivotal role during the COVID-19 pandemic, contributing breakthroughs that propelled companies like AbCellera, Acuitas Therapeutics and StarFish Medical to global prominence. Innovation continues with firms such as Aspect Biosystems advancing 3D-printed tissue therapeutics, and Variational AI, who have partnered with Merck to develop AI-driven drug discovery in oncology and neurodiseases.

Research, Testing and Medical Laboratories

British Columbia's life sciences sector excels in research and development, with 53% of the industry made up of research, testing, and medical laboratories. Job growth was fastest in the Research, Testing and Medical Laboratories group, which added almost 1,000 jobs and grew by 7% between 2021 and 2024. This group also accounts for over half of the sector's employment and contributed $1.7 billion to B.C.'s GDP in 2024. Supporting this momentum, adMare BioInnovations has expanded in Vancouver with $10 million in provincial funding to support companies to scale up and develop new life-saving therapies, while an additional $2.5 million is establishing new wet lab and biomanufacturing space in Victoria.

Medical Devices and Equipment

British Columbia's medical devices sector is delivering cutting-edge innovations that improve patient care and attract global investment. Companies like Clarius Mobile Health and ResponseBio are enhancing diagnostic access with portable ultrasound and rapid testing technologies. StarFish Medical, is Canada's largest full-service medical device developer. Redlen, acquired by Canon in 2021, provides advanced radiation detection for CT scanners, while Kardium received FDA approval for its groundbreaking atrial fibrillation treatment system, opening access to a multi-billion dollar market.

Digital Health and Data

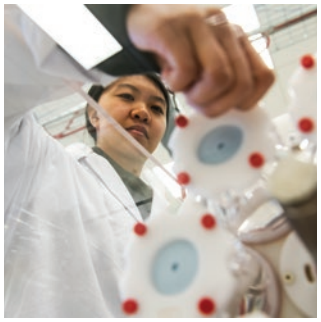
Many B.C. biotech and medtech companies are increasingly leveraging the province's dynamic AI community and, in partnership with academia, some of B.C. health data — among the most valuable in the world for their diversity and time-span. B.C.'s Look West Economic Plan aims to further leverage anonymized health data to help B.C. companies grow. The digital health industry is expanding rapidly. For example, Canary Medical is specializing in smart, implantable AI-based medical devices, and Thrive Health is developing software solutions to enhance patient and provider experiences.

Drugs and Pharmaceuticals

Most revenue for the life science sector is attributed to the drugs and pharmaceuticals industry group ($1.9 billion). Since 2021, six new B.C.-originated drugs have been approved for market use, contributing to a total of 22 therapeutics approved for patient treatment in the province over the past 25 years. Expanding clinical trials infrastructure and capacity will be critical to sustaining this pipeline and enabling future approvals.

Home Grown Successes

British Columbia is home to global leaders in biopharmaceuticals and biomanufacturing, including STEMCELL Technologies — Canada's largest biotech firm — and rising innovators like AbCellera, Aspect Biosystems, Acuitas Therapeutics, Zymeworks, and Xenon Pharmaceuticals. Supporting this growth, the Province is investing in major infrastructure projects such as the $331.7 million Clinical Support and Research Centre at St. Paul's Hospital, new wet lab and clinical trial facilities, and Canada's Immuno-Engineering and Biomanufacturing Hub in partnership with UBC.



World-Class, Innovative Research Centres

Institution	Areas of Focus
adMare BioInnovations	Incubator, wet lab space for companies, investment. Provides specialized expertise and infrastructure to identify and de-risk promising discoveries generated by health-related research and transform them into commercially viable investment opportunities, leading to therapies for patients.
BC Cancer Research	Conducts epidemiological and clinical research on cancer prevention, early diagnosis, molecular characteristics of the cancer process and new treatments using drugs and radiotherapy.
Providence Research	Part of Providence Health Care, Providence Research conducts extensive medical research, including significant work on HIV/AIDS to reduce the global burden of infection. Their efforts focus on translational research and support for vulnerable populations.
Michael Smith Laboratories (UBC)	Leads biotechnology research with applications to health, agriculture, forestry, land and food systems to address society's most important problems.
The Life Sciences Institute (UBC)	The Life Sciences Institute's translational research and innovative interdisciplinary sciences is improving health care practices and identifying more sustainable methods to harvest natural resources while minimizing environmental costs.
TRIUMF – Canada's particle accelerator	Pushes the boundaries of research in isotope science and innovation, particle and nuclear physics, and life sciences. Ultimately, their research and consequent commercialization will result in improved health and economic opportunities for all.
Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute	Research at the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI) focusses on an assortment of health conditions, diseases and specialties. VCHRI's overall goals are to improve quality of life and deliver high-quality medical care.
Canada's Immuno-Engineering and Biomanufacturing Hub (CIEBH)	Led by UBC, CIEBH is a national initiative focused on pandemic preparedness and the rapid development of lifesaving medicines. It advances biomedical research, talent development, and infrastructure to strengthen Canada's response to future health threats.

Provincial Research Funding

BC Knowledge Development Fund	Funds research infrastructure and equipment, including for life science. This includes equipment for drug discovery, genomics and medical imaging.
Genome British Columbia	Funds research for genomics innovation on Canada's West Coast and facilitates the integration of genomics in the life sciences into society.
Michael Smith Health Research BC	Funded by the Government of B.C., Michael Smith Health Research BC strengthens the province's health research system by building talent, fostering collaboration, and mobilizing communities for impact. It achieves this through funding, partnerships, and promoting science literacy.

Benefits from Strong Government and Industry Support

British Columbia is committed to providing a competitive and stable environment for the life sciences sector. The Province's Look West economic plan aims to boost the economic impact of the sector by 75% and double employment within 10 years. Industry-led associations work with government to encourage investment, promote collaboration among organizations and grow the knowledge-based economy. With our business-friendly environment and abundant trade opportunities, B.C. attracts investments from all over the world.

Supportive Government

- The Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit encourages equity investments in B.C. small businesses, giving entrepreneurs access to early-stage capital to grow and develop their ventures.
- Since the release of its 2023 Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy, the Government of B.C. has committed over $815 million for major industry projects, research, training and wet-lab facilities to position the province as a global leader in life sciences and commercial-scale biomanufacturing.
- The governments of Canada and British Columbia offer tax credit and funding programs to businesses doing R&D activities such as the Scientific, Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) tax credit, Mitacs funding, etc.
- British Columbia's InBC strategic investment fund of $500 million, which has invested into Aspect Biosystems, Reverb Therapeutics and Clarius Mobile Health. InBC has partnered with UBC to create a new $40M investment fund to help grow B.C. companies rooted in UBC innovation, with an initial focus on the life sciences sector, and with SFU to launch a complementary $20M fund to grow companies emerging from SFU research.

Close links between industry, academia and government offer opportunities for robust public-private partnerships. The life sciences sector also benefits from access to the province's world-class centres of excellence — along with industry association Life Sciences BC, which supports and represents the ecosystem through numerous initiatives at the local, national and international level.

Life Sciences BC is a not-for-profit, non-government sector association that advocates for and catalyzes the growth of the life sciences community in B.C.
www.lifesciencesbc.ca

British Columbia's **general corporate income tax rate is 12%**. When combined with the federal rate, businesses pay an overall rate of 27%. Small businesses with an income of less than $500,000 qualify for the provincial lower rate at 2%.

British Columbia's Life Sciences Advantages

- Highly collaborative life sciences ecosystem
- Excellent world-class research organizations
- Strong life sciences innovation in pharmaceuticals, medical devices, genomics, research and testing platforms
- Highly educated and skilled workforce
- Established federal and provincial funding programs
- Excellent public infrastructure
- High quality of life
- Prime location

Join this global hub with over 2,000 life sciences companies, including:

- AbCellera Biologics
- Acuitas Therapeutics
- Amgen
- Aspect Biosystems
- Clarius Mobile Health
- Kardium
- StarFish Medical
- STEMCELL Technologies
- Xenon Pharmaceuticals
- Zymeworks

British Columbia, *Naturally.*

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