City of
Philadelphia

A NATIONAL LIFE SCIENCES LEADER

Key Drivers and Trends: Research, Employment, and Economic Opportunity

2024

Philadelphia is at the center of a region that is a national leader in life sciences, with top ranks for its talent, connectivity, research community, and real estate suited for uses ranging from start-ups to research labs to production facilities.

Real Estate

5.8 Million S.F.
Existing Life Sciences Inventory

2.8 Million S.F.
Under Construction for Life Sciences

Funding

$5.9 Billion
National Institutes of Health Funding
(2019-2023)

$2.5 Billion
Venture Capital*
(2019-2023)

**Includes: accelerator, angel, seed round, early- and late-state VC*

Talent

13,000+
Life Sciences Workers

88,000+
in the Greater Philadelphia Region

2,200+
Annual Life Sciences Graduates from Philadelphia Institutions

95,000
Graduates in the Greater Philadelphia Region

Institutions

34
Colleges & Universities in Philadelphia

37
Hospitals in Philadelphia

5
Medical Schools

4
National Cancer Institute Centers

Photo Source: Shahadat, Rahman for Unplash.com

Department of Commerce
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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AN ACCESSIBLE URBAN COMMUNITY

Philadelphia is uniquely positioned on the East Coast to serve the growing life sciences industry.

The core of an interconnected, well-resourced, and innovation-minded region, Philadelphia is home to top class research institutions of higher education, a growing community of founders, with a vision for its life sciences ecosystem centered on growth and prosperity for all its residents.

40%
U.S. population is within a day's drive of Philadelphia



Philadelphia is within a day's drive of 40% of the U.S. population, and also boasts an easily accessible international airport equipped with advanced temperature-controlled shipping technology and the largest refrigerated marine port in the U.S. This type of connectivity is important for any growing economy but is especially crucial for a life sciences ecosystem, which relies on infrastructure, density, collaboration, and engagement for success.

A GROWTH CATALYST

The life sciences sector is energizing growth in the urban core of Philadelphia.

MAJOR LIFE SCIENCES CLUSTERS



ranked

4th Best

LIFE SCIENCES MARKET IN THE U.S.

(Colliers)

#5

BEST COST OF LIVING

Among Top 15 U.S. Life Sciences Hubs

REAL ESTATE CAPACITY FOR LIFE SCIENCES

Within the Urban Core of Philadelphia

Philadelphia offers diverse life sciences real estate options, from existing spaces to development-ready sites, suitable for startups, research labs, and production facilities, all within the urban core.

Existing

5.8 Million S.F.
2.4 Million S.F. designated high quality, built after 2015

65% Lower
Average Rent Rate Compared with Top East Coast Markets

Source: CBRE Q4 2023 Life Sciences Market Report, Urban Total

In the Pipeline

2.8 Million S.F.
Under Construction

8.5 Million S.F.
Ready for Conversion

4.4 Million S.F.
In Proposal Stages

ATTRACTING & DEVELOPING TALENT

Philadelphia's institutions and workforce development resources generate a talent pipeline for life sciences employers.

2,200+ Life Sciences-Related Degrees Conferred in 2022 at 9 Philadelphia Institutions, led by:

- → University of Pennsylvania: 680+
- → Drexel University: 600+
- → Temple University: 550+

100+
Institutions of Higher Education in the Greater Philadelphia Region

4,000+
Annual Life Sciences Graduates from Colleges and Universities in Greater Philadelphia

325,000
Students in the Region
→ Boasting 50% Retention Rate

155%
Growth of Residents Aged 25-34 Holding a Bachelor's Degree
→ Outpacing all Major U.S. Cities (2000-2021)

Source: Campus Philly

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

2023

EDA Tech Hub Designation for Precision Medicine
Greater Philadelphia Region

2022

EDA Good Jobs Challenge
Awarded to Keystone LifeSci Collaborative

13,000+
Life Sciences Jobs in Philadelphia

- → 7,000+ Jobs in Philadelphia Research, Testing, and Medical Laboratories
- → 3,500+ at Philadelphia Academic Institutions
- → 1,600+ Biopharmaceuticals Jobs
- → 1,000+ Jobs in Logistics / Medical Devices / Ag-Bio



DRIVING INNOVATION

Research institutions in Philadelphia are leaders in life sciences discovery.

Funding for life sciences research in Philadelphia is fueling groundbreaking innovation.

Innovations in the life sciences sector are often borne out of research completed in university and hospital laboratories. Having a robust pipeline of research funding from federal, state, private and philanthropic sources, Philadelphia is long considered a hub for medical innovation and expertise.

$5.8 Billion

National Institutes of Health Funding since 2019
→ $1.2 Billion in 2023

$512 Million

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Funding since 2019

$1.2+ Billion

Private* Life Sciences Research Funding in 2023

**Includes 19 top life sciences research institutions in Philadelphia with published research budgets.*

home of 2023
Nobel Prize in Medicine

Recipients Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman

1st FDA-approved cell-based gene therapy and directly administered gene therapy.

Philadelphia is where pioneering life sciences research leads to advancements and impact.

Philadelphia is home to a growing community of life sciences firms, sparked in part by its foundation of research activity. Since 2019, a growing volume of research has been translated into commercial enterprises, further drawing venture capital to the city and growing new local businesses.

3,200+
Clinical Trials* Started since 2019
Source: National Library of Medicine (2024)

2,500+
Clinical Trials* Completed since 2019
Source: National Library of Medicine (2024)

1,000+
Phase II & III Clinical Trials* Completed since 2019

** Conducted by companies with facilities in Philadelphia*

INVESTMENTS IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

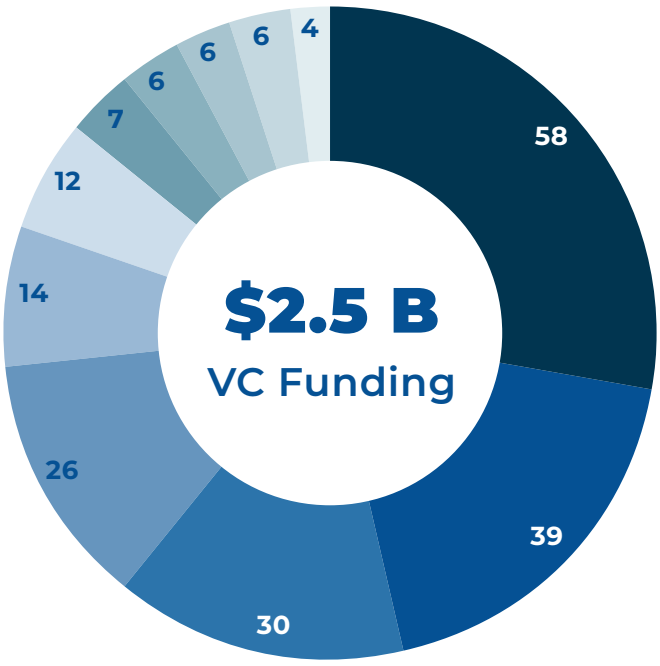
Venture capital is advancing life sciences innovation in Philadelphia.

With a strong, growing startup community, Philadelphia has made strategic investments in talent and resources to strengthen the next generation of life sciences entrepreneurs.

5th
Largest VC Region by Number of Deals
2022 and 2023

Source: Pitchbook

VENTURE CAPITAL DEALS BY LIFE SCIENCES SUBSECTOR, 2019-2024



- Drug Discovery
- Biotechnology
- Medical Supplies
- Pharmaceuticals
- Healthcare and Enterprise Systems
- Drug Delivery
- Diagnostic Equipment
- Surgical Supplies
- Other Healthcare Services
- Therapeutic Devices
- Clinics/Outpatient Services

FOSTERING FUTURE GROWTH

The capacity for Philadelphia's life sciences ecosystem is poised to grow with inbound investments in business creation.

Philadelphia is home to a growing community of life sciences firms, energized in part by its foundation of research activity. In the past five years, a growing number of ventures have been translated into commercial enterprises, establishing new local businesses.

48 IPOs
Life Sciences Businesses since 2019
in the region

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING DEALS, 2019-2023

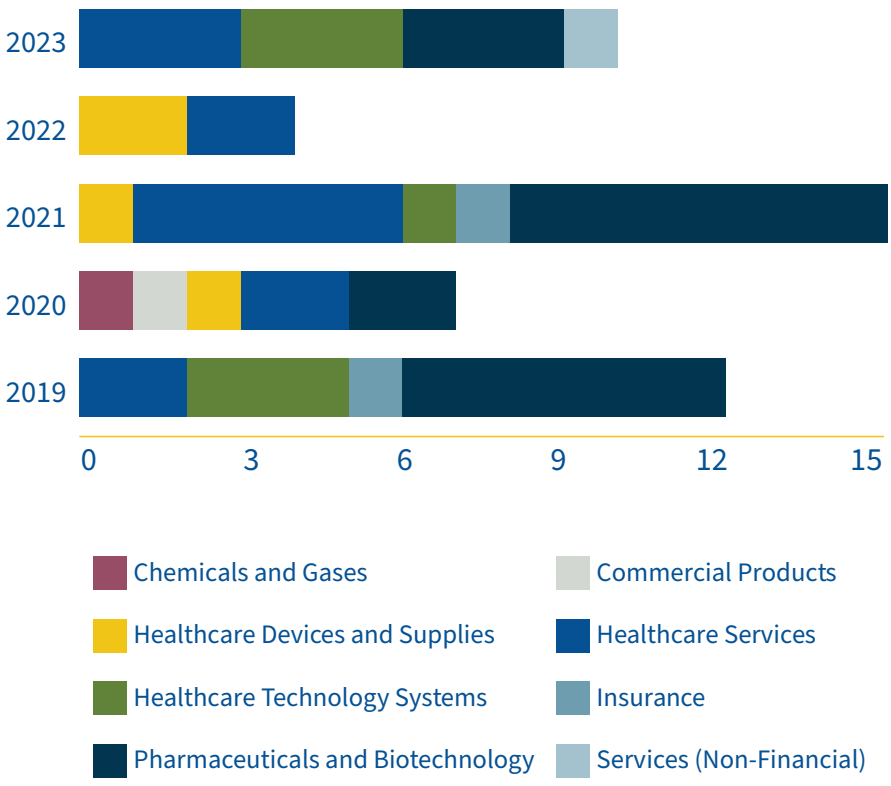




Photo Source: Shahadat, Rahman for Unplash.com

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This report was commissioned by the City of Philadelphia Department of Commerce. The Department of Commerce is the economic catalyst for the City of Philadelphia. Commerce helps businesses thrive and increases economic opportunity for all. We envision Philadelphia with a globally competitive economy that benefits all people who live, work, and do business in our city.

Our strategic priorities include:

- Attract and retain businesses through customized support and incentives.
- Build workforce development strategies that connect talent to growth industries and to jobs that pay family-sustaining wages.
- Leverage partnerships and research to drive policy, strategy and ease of doing business.

Find out more: phila.gov/commerce

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This report was produced by Econsult Solutions, Inc. (ESI). ESI provides businesses and public policy makers with consulting and thought leadership services in urban economics, real estate, transportation, public infrastructure, economic development, public policy and finance, strategic planning, as well as expert witness services for litigation support.

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