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# New Hampshire Life Sciences 2026 Assessment & Update

## State of New Hampshire

NHLS BEA SKYTerra Empowering Businesses to Do More camoin associates

# About the Assessment

## Introduction

This assessment provides an update to the data analytics contained in the 2023 State of New Hampshire Life Sciences Industry Assessment. In addition to examining the size, growth, specialization, and economic contribution of the cluster, the analysis considers research and innovation activity, business investment, workforce conditions, real estate, business costs, incentives, and other factors affecting New Hampshire's ability to support and attract Life Sciences companies.

The assessment examines the cluster's performance and change over time, including historical trends and developments since the previous report. It is an analytical document intended to lay the foundation for subsequent strategy updates and further engagement with the industry.

## Methodology

The assessment uses 2025 as the primary base year, with recent industry performance generally measured from 2022 to 2025. Industry projections extend through 2028, while workforce projections extend through 2030. Longer-term trends are included where useful, including 2015–2025 real estate trends and business investment activity through May 2026. Because source availability varies by topic, some indicators use the most recent year available. Dollar values are adjusted to 2026 dollars where noted.

The analysis draws on a range of industry, trade, workforce, innovation, investment, education, real estate, and business-climate sources. Major sources include Lightcast, IMPLAN, USA Trade Online, IBISWorld, fDi Markets, Crunchbase, USPTO PatentsView, NIH, NSF, SBIR/STTR data, IPEDS, ClinicalTrials.gov, FDA, CoStar, the Tax Foundation, and state and federal program sources. Metrics are evaluated for the overall Life Sciences Cluster and, where appropriate, its five major industry groups and detailed industries. The report also examines 25 target occupations important to New Hampshire's Life Sciences workforce, including potential exposure to AI-driven changes in work.

## Study Area

The primary study area is the State of New Hampshire. New Hampshire is compared with the other New England states and New England overall for measures such as industry performance, trade, education, patents, and research funding. National and global data are used to examine broader industry trends, trade relationships, and investment activity.

The Competitive Analysis compares New Hampshire with six peer states: Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia. These states were selected to provide a mix of established and growing Life Sciences markets that compete for similar types of business investment, talent, and manufacturing activity.

# About the Assessment

## Understanding NAICS Codes

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard framework used to classify businesses based on their primary economic activity. NAICS codes become more detailed as additional digits are added. In this report, four-digit NAICS codes are used to organize New Hampshire's Life Sciences cluster into five broad industry groups, while six-digit NAICS codes identify the more specific industries within each group. This structure allows the analysis to present an overall view of the cluster while also identifying the detailed industries driving employment, growth, specialization, and economic output.

## A Note on the Previous Report

The cluster definition (detailed on the following page) remains generally consistent with the 2023 report to support comparisons over time. It includes five broad industry groups composed of 25 detailed six-digit NAICS industries. One adjustment reflects the transition from the 2017 to the 2022 NAICS structure: Optical Instrument and Lens Manufacturing, formerly NAICS 333314, is now included within the broader NAICS 333310, Commercial and Service Industry Machinery Manufacturing. The broader industry was retained because of its importance in New Hampshire and its inclusion in the previous cluster definition. Where updated data sources, classifications, or methods affect comparisons with the prior report, those differences will be noted.

# About the Assessment

## Defining the Cluster

Life Sciences includes a broad range of industries, and cluster definitions often vary based on a region's assets and the purpose of the analysis. For this assessment, New Hampshire's Life Sciences cluster includes 5 four-digit NAICS industry groups and 25 six-digit industries.

The definition remains generally consistent with the 2023 report to support comparison over time. One adjustment reflects the transition from the 2017 to 2022 NAICS structure. Optical Instrument and Lens Manufacturing, previously classified as NAICS 333314, is now included within the broader NAICS 333310, Commercial and Service Industry Machinery Manufacturing. Additionally, the industry group previously referred to as Research and Development Services in the 2023 report has been renamed Biotechnology, Research and Development Services to better reflect the activity in that industry group.

## New Hampshire's Life Sciences Cluster

The table below shows the **Industry Groups** and the *Industries (6 Digit NAICS)* that make up New Hampshire's Life Sciences Cluster.

| **Medical Device Manufacturing** | |
|---|---|
| *333310* | *Commercial and Service Industry Machinery Mfg.* |
| *334510* | *Electromedical & Electrotherapeutic Apparatus Mfg.* |
| *334513* | *Instruments & Related Products Mfg. for Measuring, Displaying, & Controlling Industrial Process Variables* |
| *334514* | *Totalizing Fluid Meter & Counting Device Mfg.* |
| *334515* | *Instrument Mfg. for Measuring & Testing Electricity & Electrical Signals* |
| *334516* | *Analytical Laboratory Instrument Mfg.* |
| *334517* | *Irradiation Apparatus Mfg.* |
| *334519* | *Other Measuring & Controlling Device Mfg.* |
| **Biotechnology, Research and Development Services** | |
| *541380* | *Testing Laboratories & Services* |
| *541713* | *Research & Development in Nanotechnology* |
| *541714* | *Research & Development in Biotechnology (expt. Nanobiotech)* |
| *541715* | *Research & Development in the Physical, Engineering, & Life Sciences (expt. Nanotech & Biotech)* |

| **Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing** | |
|---|---|
| *327212* | *Other Pressed & Blown Glass & Glassware Mfg.* |
| *339112* | *Surgical & Medical Instrument Mfg.* |
| *339113* | *Surgical Appliance & Supplies Mfg.* |
| *339114* | *Dental Equipment & Supplies Mfg.* |
| *339115* | *Ophthalmic Goods Mfg.* |
| *339116* | *Dental Laboratories* |
| **Pharmaceutical and Medicine Manufacturing** | |
| *325411* | *Medicinal & Botanical Mfg.* |
| *325412* | *Pharmaceutical Preparation Mfg.* |
| *325413* | *In-Vitro Diagnostic Substance Mfg.* |
| *325414* | *Biological Product (except Diagnostic) Mfg.* |
| **Medical and Diagnostic Laboratories** | |
| *621511* | *Medical Laboratories* |
| *621512* | *Diagnostic Imaging Centers* |
| *621991* | *Blood & Organ Banks* |

# Executive Summary

**New Hampshire's Life Sciences cluster is a growing, high-value driver of the state's economy.** The cluster includes strengths in medical devices, precision instruments, and pharmaceutical and biological product manufacturing. Its combination of specialized manufacturing, expanding research activity, and access to New England's broader Life Sciences network gives New Hampshire a competitive advantage for continued growth.

THE CLUSTER ACCOUNTS FOR:

**13,065**
jobs across the cluster.
1.7%of all state jobs.

**800+**
establishments.

**~$3.6B**
in economic output.
3% of the state's output.

**$136,527**
average annual earnings, well above the statewide average.

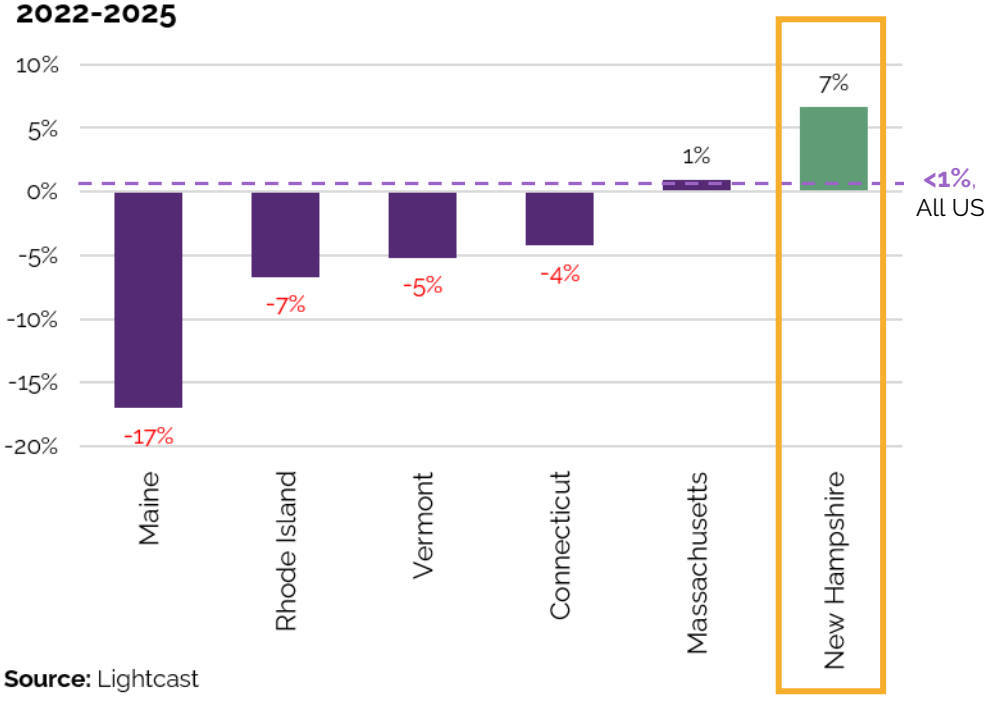
## NH LEADS NEW ENGLAND IN JOB GROWTH

**+7%**

(812 Jobs)

Life Sciences jobs, 2022–2025

**Job Expansion and Contraction in Life Sciences, 2022-2025**




**Source:** Lightcast

**New Hampshire stands out for its growth and specialization within New England.** The state ranked third in the region for Life Sciences employment and economic output, behind Massachusetts and Connecticut, and second for employment concentration, behind Massachusetts. Between 2022 and 2025, it added 812 Life Sciences jobs—a 7% increase and the fastest growth rate in New England. Pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing employment grew by 20%, leading the region, while research and development services grew by 16%, second only to Rhode Island. Medical device manufacturing maintained modest growth during a period of contraction in most neighboring states.

# Executive Summary

**72%**

Of Life Sciences sales go to customers outside of the state.

**$148 M**

Amount of NIH research funding the state received in 2025.

**20%**

Life Sciences patents represented about 20% of all patents awarded to NH inventors between 2022 and 2025.

**Manufacturing remains a competitive strength for New Hampshire and continues to grow.** New Hampshire's medical device employment is more than 2.6 times as concentrated as the national average, supported by capabilities in instruments, specialized machinery, and related technologies. Medical equipment and supplies, and pharmaceutical manufacturing also have above-average concentrations. Pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing generates 41% of the industry's economic output while accounting for just 17% of its jobs, demonstrating its substantial contribution to the state's economy.

**New Hampshire's strengths also compare favorably with national competitors.** Among the states examined, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, and South Carolina, New Hampshire had the second-fastest recent Life Sciences employment growth, behind South Carolina. Its employment concentration trailed only North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Relative to the comparison group, New Hampshire led in Life Sciences business density and slightly led in employment density. Although its industry is smaller in absolute terms, these measures show that Life Sciences has a substantial presence relative to the state's size. When comparing overall business environments across national peers, New Hampshire had the highest electricity costs, industrial rents, and cost-of-living indicators. While the state's favorable overall tax ranking and lower average Life Sciences earnings can be advantageous, competitiveness depends on the full cost of doing business.

**Emerging markets offer opportunities that fit New Hampshire's existing capabilities.** AI-enabled medical devices, precision medicine, advanced materials, and demand for more reliable domestic supply chains favor businesses with specialized engineering and manufacturing expertise. National growth forecasts also point to expanding demand for diagnostics and precision instruments, which New Hampshire is well-positioned to foster with its specialized production and operations that help companies progress into larger-scale manufacturing.

# Executive Summary

**This assessment identified 25 target occupations that make up Life Sciences activity in New Hampshire.** These occupations were selected because they have a strong presence within the cluster, perform functions that are particularly important to Life Sciences activities, and/or are expected to experience significant employment growth. Together, they represent a mix of scientific, engineering, technology, management, and production occupations that support the cluster's research and manufacturing activities.

**The 25 target occupations are projected to grow in NH by 10% between 2025 and 2030. This exceeds projected growth for the same occupations nationally (7%).** Several occupations stand out for the number of jobs expected to be added. Software Developers are projected to add 71 jobs, followed by Mechanical Engineers and Industrial Engineers, each adding 39 jobs. Some of the fastest-growing occupations are highly specialized in Life Sciences. Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists are projected to grow by 31% in the state, more than three times national rate. Natural Sciences Managers are projected to grow by 19% compared with 7% nationally, while Chemists are projected to grow by 16% compared with 8% nationally. Some of this anticipated growth is related to other sectors of the economy. This creates competition for workers in roles critical to the cluster's growth.

**The state's Life Sciences target occupations range from highly trained roles to accessible pathways into the field.** Nearly half (49%) require considerable or extensive preparation, such as a doctorate or other professional degree. About a third require only a high school diploma or limited on-the-job training, and another 18% require an associate's degree or vocational training. This mix demonstrates the cluster offers pathways for workers with a range of education and experience.

## Median Annual Earnings Comparison

19 of the 25 target occupations have median annual earnings above the statewide median of $54,806 for all occupations. In New Hampshire, these occupations also pay more than the same occupations nationally. Overall, median earnings for the target occupations are nearly double the median for all occupations in the state.

**$ 105, 059**
Median annual earnings in New Hampshire for Life Sciences target occupations.

**$ 93,757**
Median annual earnings for Life Sciences target occupations at the national level.

**$ 54,806**
Median annual earnings for all occupations in New Hampshire.