

San Diego MSA

The San Diego Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)¹ is a leading hub of life sciences research and development thanks to the confluence of major pharmaceuticals manufacturing companies and research institutions. San Diego is a hot spot for the life sciences industry, providing a prime location for medical research in California.



- San Diego's life sciences sector produced **more than \$69.0 billion** in economic output in 2021.
- Within the San Diego MSA, the life sciences sector **employed more than 58,500 people**, of which more than half worked in the research, testing, and medical laboratories sub-sector.
- Compared to the United States, San Diego has a significantly greater concentration of life sciences in all major sub-categories, as measured by employment. In 2021, the San Diego's **location quotient exceeded 4.50**, which is among the highest nationwide.
- The drugs and pharmaceuticals and medical devices and equipment subsectors have particularly high concentrations.
- The average wage paid in each major sub-sector in San Diego are among the highest in the state. At nearly \$190,000, the average wage was highest in the research, testing, and medical laboratories sub-sector. The **average wage exceeds \$150,000** within San Diego's biosciences related distribution and drugs and pharmaceuticals manufacturing sub-sectors.
- San Diego is home to **one of the top one-hundred universities** in the world according to the Shanghai Index, which is a main proponent in the concentration of medical research roles in the region.
- San Diego's life sciences sector remains vibrant thanks in part to the infusion of financial capital into new ventures. San Diego **ranked among the top metro areas** in the country in 2021 in venture capital (VC) funding for life sciences firms.

Economic Contribution Of Life Sciences Industry

Geography	San Diego
Employment	
Direct	58,516
Indirect and Induced	120,048
Total	178,565
Multiplier ²⁶	3.1
Labor Income (\$B)	
Direct	13.9
Indirect and Induced	9.6
Total	23.5
Multiplier	1.7
Output (\$B)	
Direct	42.8
Indirect and Induced	26.4
Total	69.2
Multiplier	1.6

¹ The San Diego MSA consists of San Diego County and includes the areas of Chula Vista and Carlsbad.

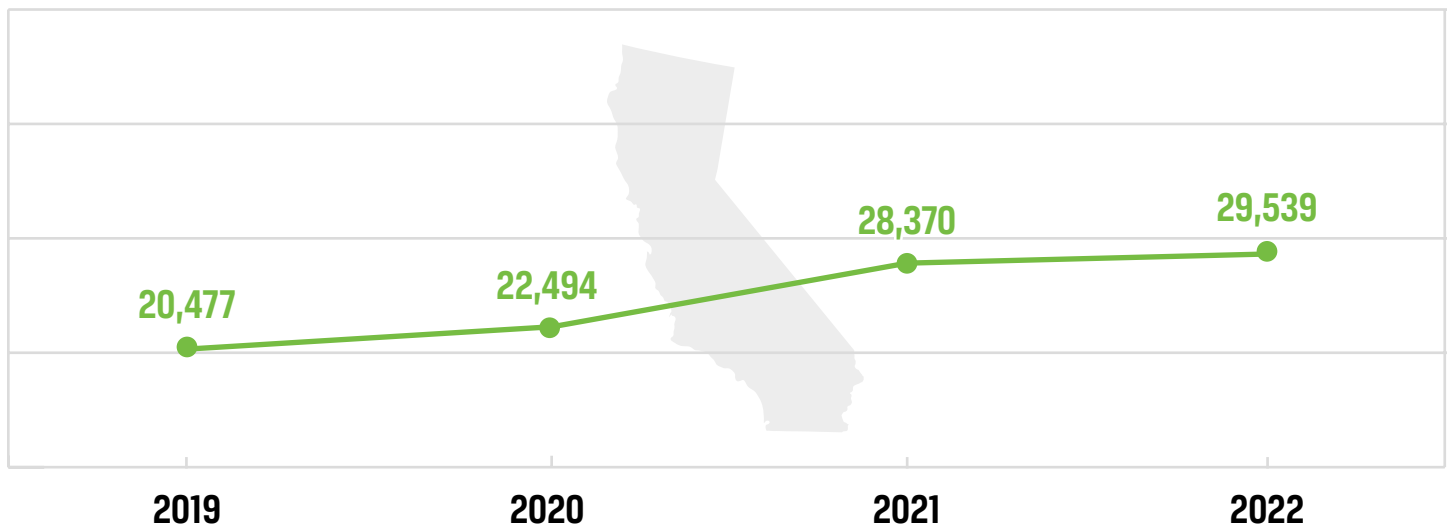
Employment, Establishments, And Average Wages For San Diego MSA

Area Name	👤 Employment	🏛️ Establishments	💰 Average Wages (\$)
San Diego County	52,952	1,589	164,425
San Diego-Carlsbad MSA	58,516	1,727	170,408

San Diego MSA Employment, Establishments, And Average Wages By Life Sciences Subsector

Life Sciences Category	👤 Employment	🏛️ Establishments	💰 Average Wages (\$)
🧪 Research, Testing, And Medical Laboratories	32,704	978	187,436
📄 Medical Devices And Equipment	11,626	185	140,316
🌐 Bioscience-Related Distribution	5,483	429	162,229
💊 Drugs And Pharmaceuticals	8,703	130	151,771
🌱 Agricultural Feedstock And Industrial Biosciences	-	5	-

San Diego Life Sciences Industry: Total Job Postings & Recent Trends, 2019-2022



Note: the individual years in trend analysis will not sum to cumulative totals due to unique postings that span across individual years.