



# Health and Bio

The health & bio industry in Alberta is relatively young and has seen significant growth in the last 25 years.

- Alberta is now home to over 130 health & bio companies.
- The industry is expected to provide 18% of all new jobs in Alberta between 2008 and 2012.

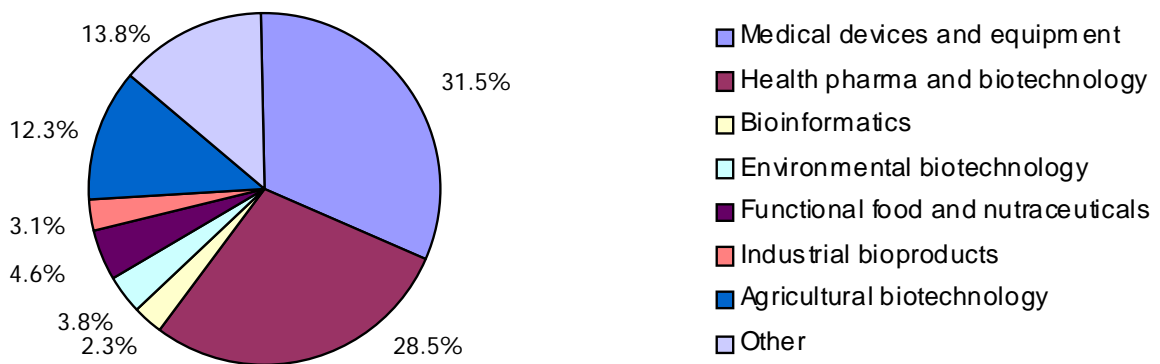
Alberta is recognized nationally and internationally for expertise in:

- Neurology
- Diabetes and islet transplantation research
- Cardiology
- Cancer research and treatment
- Bone and joint research
- Vaccines for infectious diseases

Most Alberta Health and Bio companies are located in Alberta's two largest cities, Calgary and Edmonton.

- Calgary demonstrates a strong base of activity in the medical devices and equipment subsector and the research, testing and medical laboratories subsector.
- Edmonton shows a strong base of activity in the drugs and pharmaceuticals subsector as well as medical devices and equipment subsector.

## Alberta Health & Bio Companies by Sub-sector



Source: Bioindustry in Alberta State of the Industry 2009 BioAlberta, Deloitte

## Sub-sector highlights

### Biotechnology

- Biotechnology spans a wide spectrum of technology areas, including agriculture, health, genomics and proteomics, bioinformatics, and nanotechnology.
- This sector in Alberta has grown to 60 companies, 40% of these having been established since 2000.  
Source: Alberta Health Industry Association
- 75% of the companies in the biotechnology sector in Alberta are focused on innovative health treatments and products  
Source: Bio Alberta

### Ag-biotechnology

- Ag-biotechnology is the subsector of biotechnology involving the tools employed to understand and manipulate the genetic make up of organisms for use in the production or processing of agricultural Products.
- The [Alberta Agricultural Research Institute](#), as part of Alberta Innovates – Bio Solutions, is Alberta's leading agency for the coordination and support of agricultural research.

### Medical Devices

Medical devices made in Alberta include:

- Prosthetics
- Patient positioning products for surgery and rehabilitation
- Wound care supplies
- Specialty made soft contact lenses
- Products that allow people with physical disabilities to increase their independence and productivity
- Soft gel capsules

### Health Services

- The health service subsector includes: Consulting, distribution, health networks, hospital support services, diagnostic imaging, laboratories, and telehealth/telemedicine.
- Alberta has a growing reputation in the area of patient care, particularly as it relates to the treatment of heart attacks and the hip and knee replacement pilot project being managed by the Alberta Bone and Joint Institute.

Projects enhancing health services in Alberta include:

- [Alberta Wellnet](#) : Alberta Wellnet is a province-wide system that uses information technology, video and voice to directly link doctors in rural communities with specialists in major centres.
- [Alberta NetCare](#): Alberta NetCare will provide an integrated electronic health record solution, eventually accessible by every health provider.

## Industry Strengths

### State of the Art Facilities

- **Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute:** The Institute provides a full range of heart care services, with a special focus on prevention of heart disease and complex heart care, such as paediatric cardiac surgery and heart transplantation.
- **National Institute for Nanotechnology (NINT):** NINT is an integrated, multidisciplinary research institution that employs researchers involved in the fields of pharmacy, medicine, informatics, physics, chemistry, engineering, and biology. <http://nint-innt.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/>

### Research Support

- **Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR):** The foundation, as part of Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions, supports researchers working to improve the health and quality of life of people through out the world. It has contributed more than \$800 million to medical research, training, and health initiatives over the last 25 years. <http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca>
- **Alberta Ingenuity Fund:** As part of Alberta Innovates – Technology Futures, the Alberta Ingenuity Fund, through its \$1-billion endowment, provides critical funding for research in many areas, including the health and bio-sectors.
- In 2006, Alberta established a \$500 million **Alberta Cancer Prevention Legacy Fund** which supports cancer screening and research.

### Technology Commercialization Support

- **Alberta Research Council (ARC):** As part of Alberta Innovates – Technology Futures, Canada's largest provincial research organization, ARC, works with customers and partners to bring technologies into commercial use. [www.arc.ab.ca](http://www.arc.ab.ca)
- **UTI Limited Partnership & TEC Edmonton:** The University of Calgary's UTI Limited Partnership and the University of Alberta and Edmonton Economic Development Corporation's TEC Edmonton develop collaborative university/industry research programs and work with client investors and corporations to transfer technology to the marketplace.

### Financing

[Alberta Enterprise Corporation:](#) \$100 million has been allocated to the fund to co-invest in a number of early stage capital funds. Life Sciences is a priority sector for this fund.

### Alberta's Scientific Research & Experimental Development (SR&ED) Tax Credit

The [Alberta SR&ED credit](#) is worth 10% of a company's eligible expenditures up to \$4 million, for a maximum credit of \$400,000. The credit will be refundable for all companies and can be used in conjunction with the federal SR&ED credit.

The combined provincial and federal SR&ED tax credit for large Canadian or foreign-controlled corporations is 28%.