Calgary has a thriving Life Sciences ecosystem motivated to solve global challenges, driven by innovation and well-positioned for growth. Home to top institutions producing internationally recognized research, numerous emerging companies advancing health-care solutions, and a highly skilled pool of talent, this dynamic sector is accelerating homegrown innovation in Calgary.

**KEY SECTOR**

Life Sciences is a sector identified for growth in the economic strategy Calgary in the New Economy that sees Calgary as a place where bright minds embrace advanced technology and innovative thinking to solve global challenges, including health care.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>Companies developing life sciences products and services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>944</td>
<td>Clinical trials underway in 2021*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>Students enrolled in Life Science-related fields in 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*clinicaltrials.gov

**VALUE PROPOSITION & COMPETITIVENESS STUDY**

A 2021 study for Calgary Economic Development by KPMG assesses Calgary’s competitiveness as a centre for investment in Life Sciences against eight jurisdictions in North America. It rated Calgary third among the peer group with significant opportunities in four key subsectors.

**Diagnostics**
Demand for diagnostic services continues to grow as our population ages with increases in conditions like cancer, diabetes and heart disease.

**Oncology**
One of the world’s fastest growing therapeutic areas with significant assets locally, including the Calgary Cancer Centre.

**Digital Health**
Calgary is seeing an emergence of startups focused on providing digital health products and services leveraging Alberta’s data rich health environment.

**Microbiome**
The growing microbiome market is supported by the International Microbiome Centre – home to the world’s largest germ-free facility.
RESEARCH HUB
With Alberta Health Services, Canada’s largest integrated health system, and internationally recognized R&D from post-secondary institutions, including the University of Calgary, which attracts more research funding per graduate student than any university in Canada, Calgary is a hub for life sciences research.

Key institutions include:
• Cumming School of Medicine
• Biomedical Engineering Program
• Life Sciences Innovation Hub
• Ward of the 21st Century
• IMPACT Clinical Trials Accelerator
• The Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking
• International Microbiome Centre
• Calgary Cancer Centre will be North America’s second largest cancer treatment and research facility when completed in 2023

GLOBAL ACCESS TO KEY MARKETS
• Competitive logistics and distribution advantages with linkages throughout Canada, the U.S. and Mexico to support cold chain distribution.
• 14 active free trade agreements covering 51 countries.
• Connected to 1.5 billion consumers and nearly two-thirds of the world’s GDP.

COMPETITIVE ECOSYSTEM

1ST for competitive transportation costs for system assembly (e.g., medical devices and technology intensive biomedical manufacturing)

2ND most competitive R&D labour costs in Canada ($116,000 average labour cost for R&D)

3RD in cost competitiveness for R&D of tangible products (e.g., pharmaceutical and biomedical R&D operations)

FUNDING AND BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMS
• Opportunity Calgary Investment Fund (City of Calgary)
• UCeed (University of Calgary)
• Alberta’s Employment Innovation Grant (Government of Alberta)
• Alberta Innovates (Government of Alberta)
• Scientific Research and Experimental Development Program (Government of Canada)
• Western Economic Diversification (Government of Canada)

INCUBATORS AND ACCELERATORS FOR STARTUPS AND GLOBAL SCALEUPS

For more on Calgary’s Life Sciences sector, visit calgarylifesciences.ca

*KPMG City Competitiveness Index. Rankings based on an assessment of Calgary against eight comparable North American jurisdictions and “business personas” applicable to Life Sciences. A business persona is a profile of the cost structure and operational requirements commonly present in a category of business operations or foreign direct investment projects. www.citycompetitivenessindex.kpmg.ca/home