



LIFE SCIENCES

INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Life Sciences, or biotechnology, spans a variety of fields, such as medical devices, therapeutics and drug development. San Diego is ranked as one of the top five Life Sciences regions in the U.S., with more than 80 research institutions in the county.

Sub-sectors or fields:

- Agriculture Feedstock and Chemicals
- Drugs and Pharmaceuticals
- Medical Devices and Equipment
- Bioscience-related Distribution
- M-Health or Wireless Health

FAST FACTS



1,350
Businesses



46,095
People employed



5,278
5-year job growth



11.5%
5-year job growth rate



\$118,689
Average annual salary

Source: EMSI, February 2016. Non-QCEW, QCEW, self-employed and extended proprietor employment data.

Top Five Occupations by Educational Attainment and Median Hourly Wages

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

- Packaging Machine Operators **\$12.67**
- Team Assemblers **\$12.95**
- Office Clerks **\$15.57**
- Customer Service **\$17.85**
- Inspectors and Testers **\$19.71**

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

- Clinical Laboratory Techs **\$22.52**
- Chemical Technicians **\$22.86**
- Engineering Techs **\$30.38**
- Radiologic Technologists **\$33.77**
- Computer Network Support Specialists **\$34.19**

BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR ABOVE

- Biological Technicians **\$22.51**
- Scientific Sales Representatives **\$31.71**
- Medical Scientists **\$48.70**
- Operations Managers **\$50.00**
- Software Developers **\$51.75**

KNOWLEDGE



- Math
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Sales
- Marketing

SKILLS



- Quality Control
- Monitoring
- Critical Thinking
- Coordination
- Reading Comprehension
- Active Listening
- Complex Problem-Solving

ABILITIES



- Information Ordering
- Oral and Written Communication
- Deductive Reasoning
- Inductive Reasoning

Learn more about Knowledge, Skills and Abilities at [ONETonline.org/search](https://www.onetonline.org/search)



Sample of Local Employers

COMPANY NAME	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
Organovo Est. 2007	Creates functional human tissues using three-dimensional bio-printing technology	51 - 200
Resmed Inc. Est. 1994	Develops medical equipment for respiratory disorders that occur during sleep	5,001 - 10,000
Illumina Inc. Est. 1998	Makes tools that isolate and analyze sequence pieces of DNA and RNA	5,001 - 10,000
Thermo Fisher Scientific Est. 1956	Offers innovative tools to accelerate life sciences research, improve patient diagnostics and increase laboratory productivity	10,000+
Pfizer Inc. Est. 1942	Produces medicines for ailments in cardiovascular health, metabolism, oncology, immunology and neurology	10,000+

Source: LinkedIn May 2017.



How do I start my career in Life Sciences?

- **Learn more about the sector** — California Life Sciences Association (califsciences.org)
- **Apply for a paid summer internship** — Life Sciences Summer Institute (workforce.org/life-sciences-summer-institute)
- **Get a certificate** — MiraCosta College (catalog.miracosta.edu/disciplines/biotechnology), UCSD Extension (extension.ucsd.edu/courses-and-programs/sciences)
- **Research companies** — BIOCOM (biocom.org/s/MembershipDirectory)
- **Learn more about undergraduate and graduate programs** — UCSD (biology.ucsd.edu), SDSU (sci.sdsu.edu/bioadvise/degree.html), or CSU San Marcos (csusm.edu/biology/bioms/index.html)

Learn more at workforce.org/mycareer