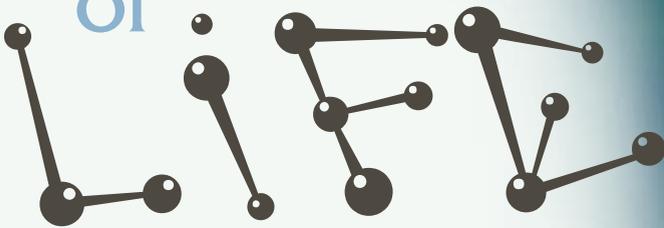


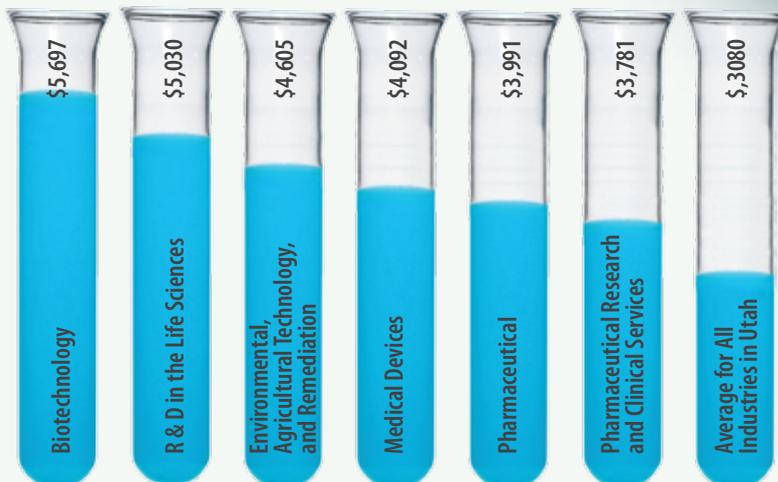


Discovering  
new medicines and  
medical devices to  
increase longevity  
and improve the  
quality of life. . .

# Industries of



Average Monthly Wages in the  
Life Sciences



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

**T**he life science industries in Utah have exhibited strong, steady growth over the last decade. Moreover, workers in these industries receive some of the higher average wages in the state. But what exactly are the life sciences?

Broadly, the life sciences are those branches of science that focus on living organisms and study their life processes and relationships to the environment. In more practical terms, the life sciences are largely concerned with the discovery and production of new medicines and medical devices for the purpose of increasing longevity and improving the quality of life. Industries involved with cleaning up the environment and disposing of hazardous waste may also be included.

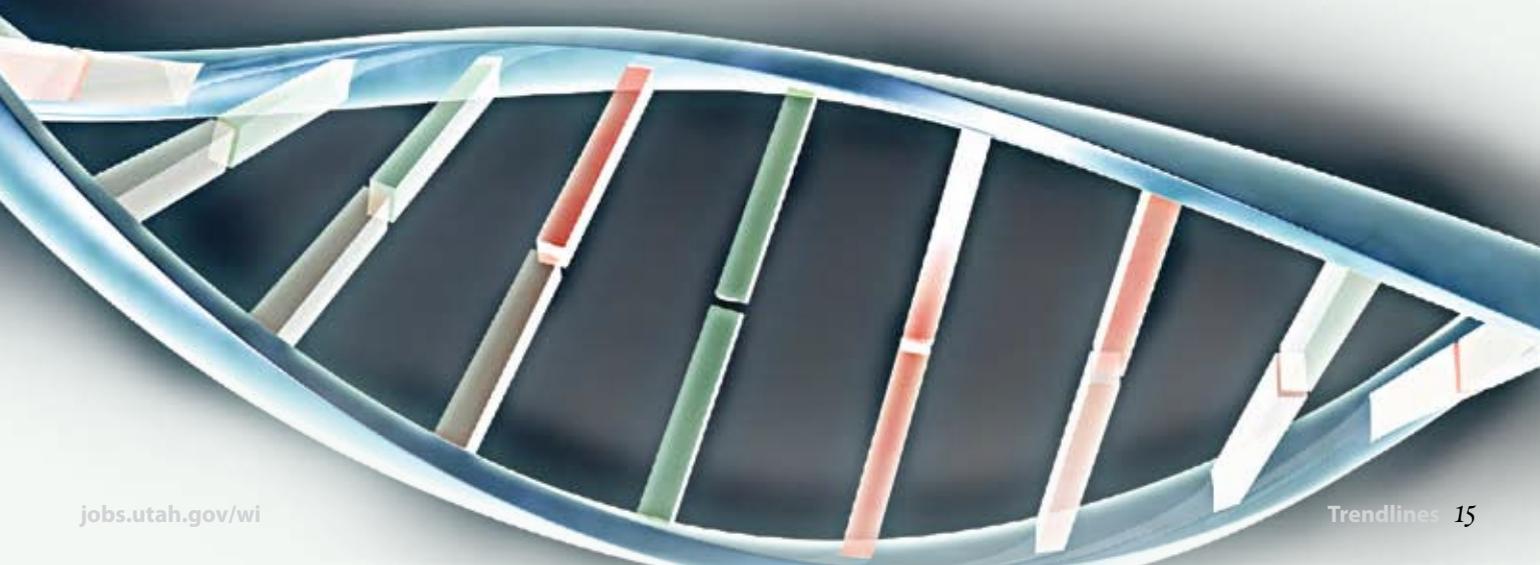
Utah's working definition that determines which industries are counted among the life sciences was developed by the Department of Workforce Services in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Economic Development. A total of 23 industries make up the life science cluster and they are organized into six groups, which are listed below along with a description of the types of activities performed in each group.

- **Biotechnology:** Biotechnology-related manufacturing and research and development.
- **Pharmaceutical:** Pharmaceutical preparation manufacturing.
- **R&D in the Life Sciences:** Research and development in physical, engineering, and life sciences.
- **Medical Devices:** Manufacture of surgical instruments, dental equipment, irradiation apparatus, and electro-medical devices.
- **Pharmaceutical Research and Clinical Services:** Dialysis centers, imaging centers, and medical research laboratories.
- **Environmental, Agricultural Technology, and Remediation:** This group is a catchall that includes environmental consultation and remediation, pesticide and agricultural chemical manufacturing, and hazardous waste collection and treatment.



Over the past nine years, life science industries employment has grown by more than 27 percent, 17 percentage points

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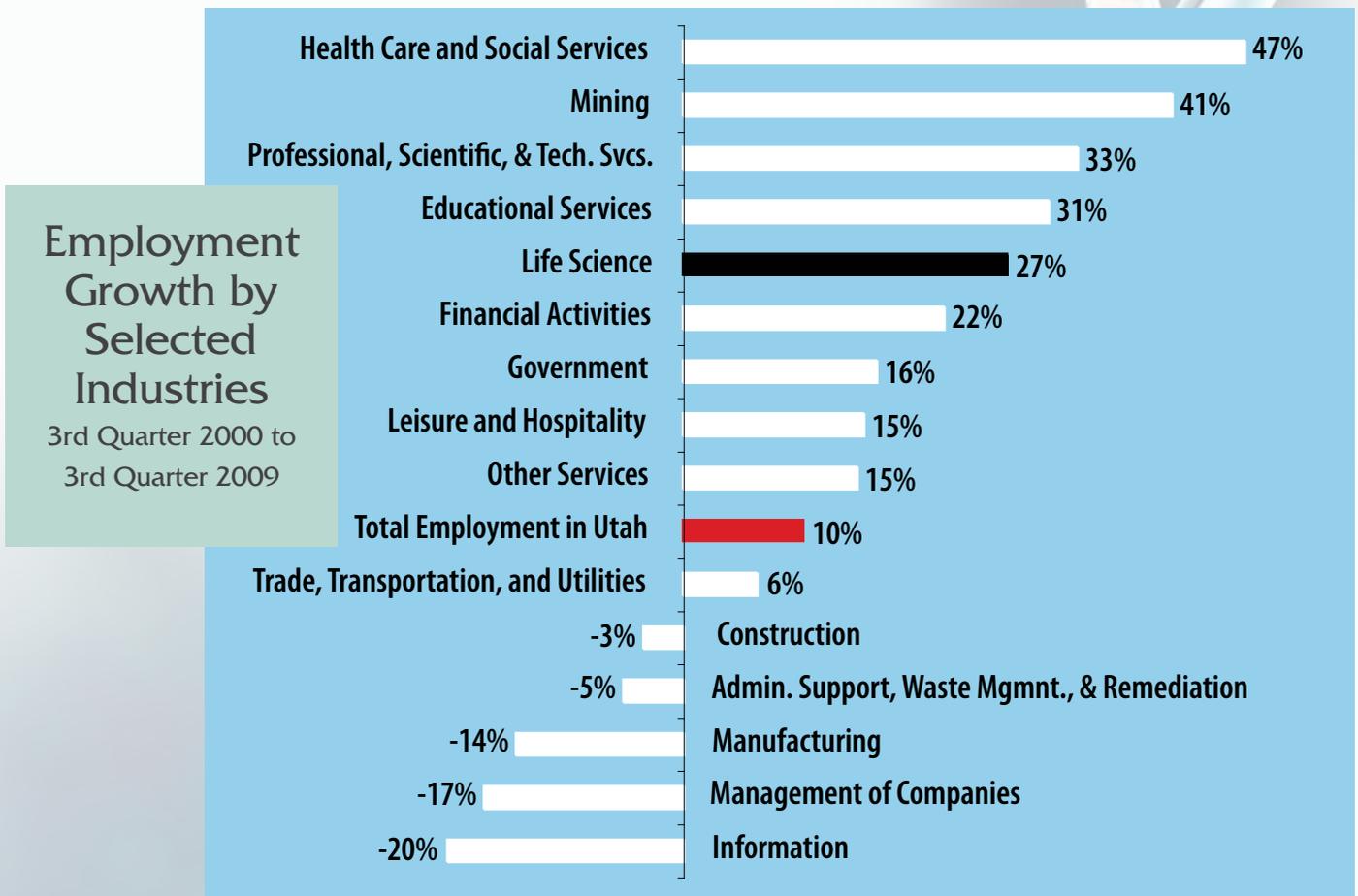
more than total employment growth for the State of Utah over the same period. Expanding by 47 percent during the last nine years, healthcare has exhibited the largest growth among the major industrial sectors and this is closely related to the growth in the life science industries. Many of the goods produced by the life science industries are used in association with the services provided by the healthcare industry. When the healthcare industry does well, we should expect it to pull life sciences along with it.

Like healthcare, the life science industries have done well during the recession. While total employment in Utah contracted by roughly 5.5 percent from September 2007 to September 2009, employment in the life sciences expanded by 6.8 percent during this same period.

Although the life science industries are growing rapidly, together they still only constitute a relatively small portion of all jobs in Utah. In the third quarter of 2009, the average number of life science jobs was approximately 25,000, which represents about 2.1 percent of total employment in the state.

The life science industries pay some of the higher average wages in Utah. Each of the six life science groups pays an average monthly wage that is significantly better than the state average (see graph).

Just as in the case with employment, the high demand for healthcare services translates into high demand for the goods produced by life sciences, which helps explain the higher wages in these industries. ⓘ



*Note: The life science industries normally fall under the healthcare, manufacturing, administrative support/waste mgmnt/remediation, and professional/scientific/technical services sectors. In the graph above, all life science industries were removed from these sectors to avoid double counting.*

*Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.*