MEDICON VILLAGE

Skåne Life Science Barometer 2026

Taking the pulse of the life science sector in Skåne

A word from Medicon Village

Life science is one of southern Sweden (Skåne)'s most dynamic and knowledge-intensive sectors, built on a strong foundation of research excellence, entrepreneurial ambition, and close collaboration between academia, healthcare, industry, and investors. Across the region, companies are developing new therapies, diagnostics, and technologies that contribute to improving health and wellbeing – both in Sweden and globally.

This year's edition of the Skåne Life Science Barometer provides an updated perspective on how this ecosystem continues to evolve. The data shows a sector characterised by both growth and transformation, as companies navigate a rapidly changing global landscape marked by economic uncertainty, geopolitical developments, and an increasingly competitive environment for capital and talent.

As in previous editions, the report offers a data-driven overview of the life science sector in Skåne, presenting key indicators such as the number of companies, employees, and areas of activity across the region. To complement the quantitative analysis, the report also includes perspectives from company leaders through the CEO survey conducted as part of the national Life Science Barometer 2026, produced by SwedenBIO. These insights help illuminate how companies in the region view the current business climate, as well as the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

This year, the report also introduces interviews with companies representing three of Skåne's key life science hubs – Lund, Malmö, and Helsingborg. Through these conversations, we highlight the environments, networks, and ambitions that continue to shape the development of life science across the region.

Medicon Village is proud to contribute to this work by producing the Skåne Life Science Barometer for the third consecutive year. By making knowledge about the sector more visible and accessible, we hope to strengthen dialogue across the ecosystem and support informed decision-making.

Skåne has long been recognised as one of Scandinavia's leading life science regions. The continued growth of companies, the strength of the research environment, and the collaborative spirit across the ecosystem all point to a region with strong foundations for the future. We hope this report will serve as a useful resource for everyone working to advance innovation, investment, and collaboration in life science – in Skåne, Sweden, and beyond.

Petter Hartman, CEO
Medicon Village Innovation

Sarah Lidé, Deputy CEO
Medicon Village Innovation

This report has been produced by Medicon Village.

Data sources: The report is based on the Life Science Barometer 2026 report, produced by SwedenBIO in cooperation with Medicon Village Innovation, Sahlgrenska Science Park, Stockholm Science City Foundation, STUNS Life Science, and Citeline. The Life Science Barometer 2026 report was published in January 2026.

The report aims to describe the Swedish life science industry through company metrics and a CEO survey. The survey was directed to top management of life science companies in Sweden in October and November 2025. 203 unique companies responded to the survey. Company metrics are gathered from the national statistics of the life science industry published by Sweden's innovation agency, Vinnova, in October 2025 (N2021/02243) and the Swedish life science database Insight Machine managed by STUNS Life Science. Additional analysis has been conducted by Medicon Village based on data from Insight Machine and other publicly available sources.

Special thanks to SmiLe Venture Hub and Medeon for supporting with the outreach to life science companies in Skåne.

Differences in company statistics compared with other datasets may occur due to data validation and cleaning processes, including the removal of companies that are no longer active and the correction of companies that were incorrectly classified as being based in Skåne.

Data on Skåne's contribution to the Swedish biopharma pipeline is derived from SwedenBIO's report, "The Swedish Drug Discovery and Development Pipeline 2026" published October 2025, with additional analysis by Medicon Village.

The interviews were carried out by Øresundsinstitutet on behalf of Medicon Village.

Definitions: The report follows the definition and classification of the Swedish life science industry as presented in the abovementioned 2025 Vinnova report. The definition includes companies that have activities in research and development (R&D), manufacturing, sales and distribution of products or services that contribute to human health. The definition excludes companies in the healthcare sector, including physical healthcare providers (doctors, dentists, clinics and hospitals), digital healthcare providers, companies in marketing and training for end users, as well as pharmacies that sell directly to the general public.

The classification of business segments is based on SNI codes, databases such as the National product register for medicines (NPL) and MDR EUDAMED (the IT system developed by the European Commission to implement regulations on medical devices and in vitro diagnosis medical devices), membership lists from trade associations as well as keywords in the companies' business descriptions. A full list of inclusion as well as exclusion key words can be found in the appendix to Vinnova's report.

Disclaimer: The content of this report is based on information gathered in good faith and is believed to be correct at the time of publication.

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This report comprises two sections and featured interviews:

Section 1 presents **key facts and figures on Skåne's life science sector**, based on statistics from Vinnova, Insight Machine and SwedenBIO, supplemented with publicly available data.

The report **features several interviews with companies based in various key hubs in Skåne**.

Section 2 captures industry sentiment, drawing from the **Life Science Barometer 2026**, a nationwide survey targeting top management of Swedish life science companies.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THIS REPORT

FACTS & FIGURES

- Skåne is home to 670 life science companies and organisations, collectively employing around 7,500 professionals. 118 of these companies were established between 2019 and 2023.
- The sector is characterised by a high proportion of micro-sized companies (fewer than 10 employees), which account for 82% of all life science businesses in the region. Of these 550 micro-sized companies, approximately half are zero or one-employee companies.
- Medtech is the dominant segment, with 57% of Skåne-based life science companies active in this field, followed by pharma (38%) and biotech (24%).
- Skåne's life science sector has a strong focus on research and development, with 35% of companies engaged in R&D - higher than the average for the rest of Sweden (27%).
- The 236 R&D companies collectively represent 2 800 employees and SEK 14.5 billion worth of revenues in 2024. R&D activity is relatively evenly spread across branch segments, and 61% of these companies are based in Lund. 83% of R&D companies have less than 10 employees.
- The life science industry is primarily concentrated in Lund and Malmö, which together account for 66% of the region's life science workforce and 65% of its life science companies. The largest life science employer is however based in Helsingborg, with 600+ employees.
- Skåne continues to punch above its weight from a biopharma pipeline perspective, contributing to 29% of the Swedish drug pipeline. There are 152 drug assets in development by 44 Skåne-based companies, with 65% of them based in Lund.

SENTIMENT

- Commercialisation and growth remain top priorities. Respondents allocate the largest share of resources to R&D and new product innovation (40% short term / 36% long term), followed by business expansion (37% / 33%) and advertising and brand building (24% / 25%).
- Access to capital continues to be a key concern as well. 63% of respondents in the short term and 58% in the long term identify fundraising as an area requiring continued investment, reflecting the capital-intensive nature of life science innovation from early research through to commercialisation.
- Skåne companies report a strong early-stage innovation pipeline. 85% of respondents identify ongoing research projects and 65% patents as key value-generating assets, underscoring the R&D-driven character of the regional ecosystem.
- Companies remain cautiously optimistic about workforce growth. Despite the challenges of 2025, 46% of respondents expanded their workforce while 23% reduced it, and 61% expect to increase their internal workforce in 2026.
- Specialised expertise remains in high demand. Companies highlight needs for commercial and business development competences, clinical and regulatory expertise, and scientific and technical skills, while 61% of respondents rely on external consultants to access specialised capabilities.

Key facts and figures

This section is based on statistics from Vinnova, Insight Machine, and SwedenBIO, and is supplemented by publicly available data. It provides an overview of the current composition and activities of Skåne's life science sector.

118
Life science companies started between 2019-2023 [1]

19%
Skåne representation of new life science companies in Sweden in the same period [2]

670+
Life science companies headquartered in Skåne [2]

18%
Skåne representation of all life science companies in Sweden [1]

7 500+
Life science employees in Skåne [1]

14%
Skåne representation of all life science employees in Sweden [1]

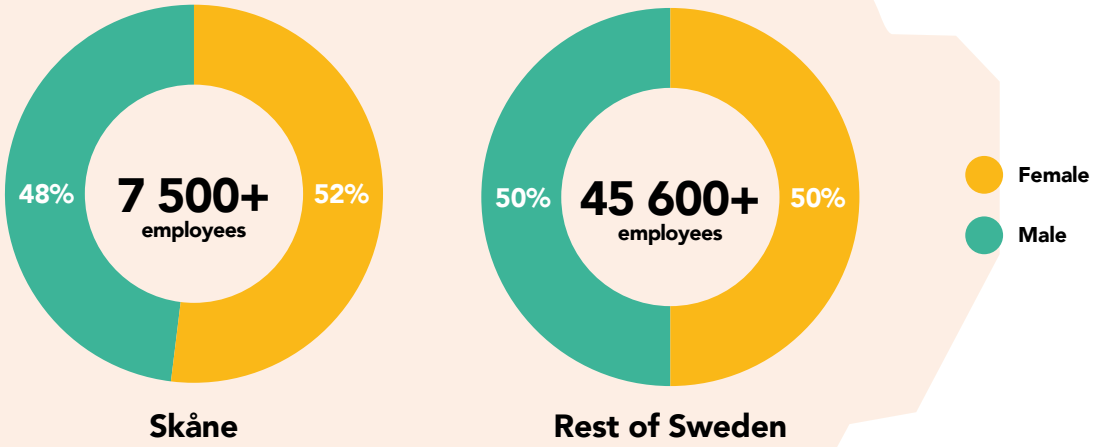
670 life science companies and 7 500 life science professionals call Skåne home

Skåne is one of Sweden's three main life science hubs, alongside Stockholm-Uppsala and Gothenburg. Of Sweden's 3,800 life science companies, 18% are headquartered in Skåne. The region also accounts for 19% of Sweden's newly established life science companies (2019–2023), underscoring its strong innovation capacity.

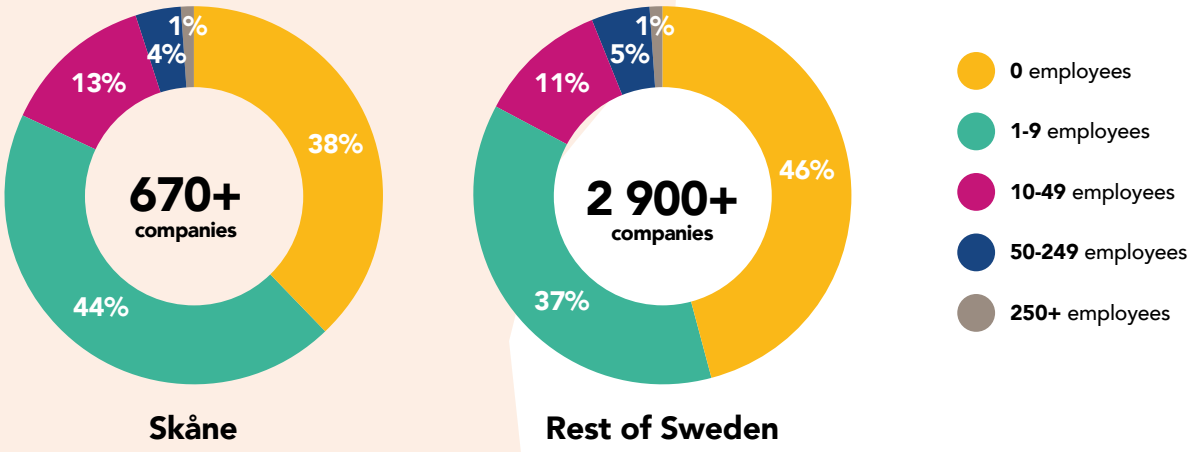
In total, Skåne's 670 life science companies employ more than 7,500 professionals, representing 14% of Sweden's total life science workforce. These are dominated by micro-sized companies, with 82% employing fewer than 10 full-time employees. Of these 550 micro-sized companies, approximately half are zero or one-employee companies.

[1] What's reflected in Vinnova's report and appendices.
[2] Own analysis, based on Vinnova's methodology and supplied data set.

Life science workforce [1]



Company sizes in the life science sector by number of employees – Skåne and rest of Sweden [2]



Skåne – part of Medicon Valley, the leading life science cluster in the EU

Skåne, Sweden's southernmost region, covers just 3% of the country's land area but is the third most populous county, home to 13% of Sweden's population.

Its strategic location, connected to Denmark via the Öresund Bridge, provides access to a market of 4.4 million people in the Greater Copenhagen region – Scandinavia's largest pool of highly skilled talent.

Skåne boasts two international airports, seven international harbours, and extensive road and rail networks. Copenhagen International Airport is just 13 minutes from Malmö by train or car, with direct links via the Öresund Bridge to the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).

Skåne is also a part of Medicon Valley, the EU's leading life science cluster spanning eastern Denmark and southern Sweden, a cross-border region that is home to over 1,100 life science companies employing more than 65,000 professionals. The region's innovation ecosystem is further supported by seven science parks with a strong life science focus.

[1] What's reflected in Vinnova's report and appendices.

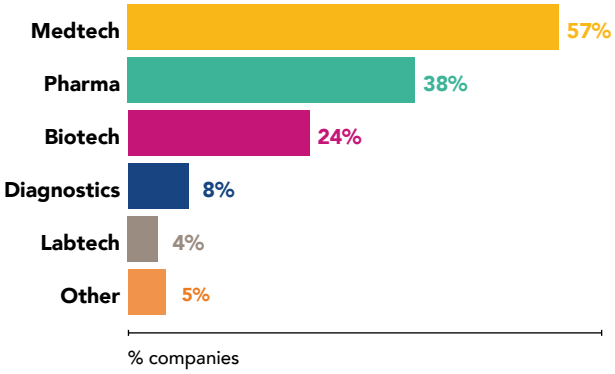
[2] Own analysis, based on Vinnova's methodology and supplied data set.

Medtech is a key sector in Skåne

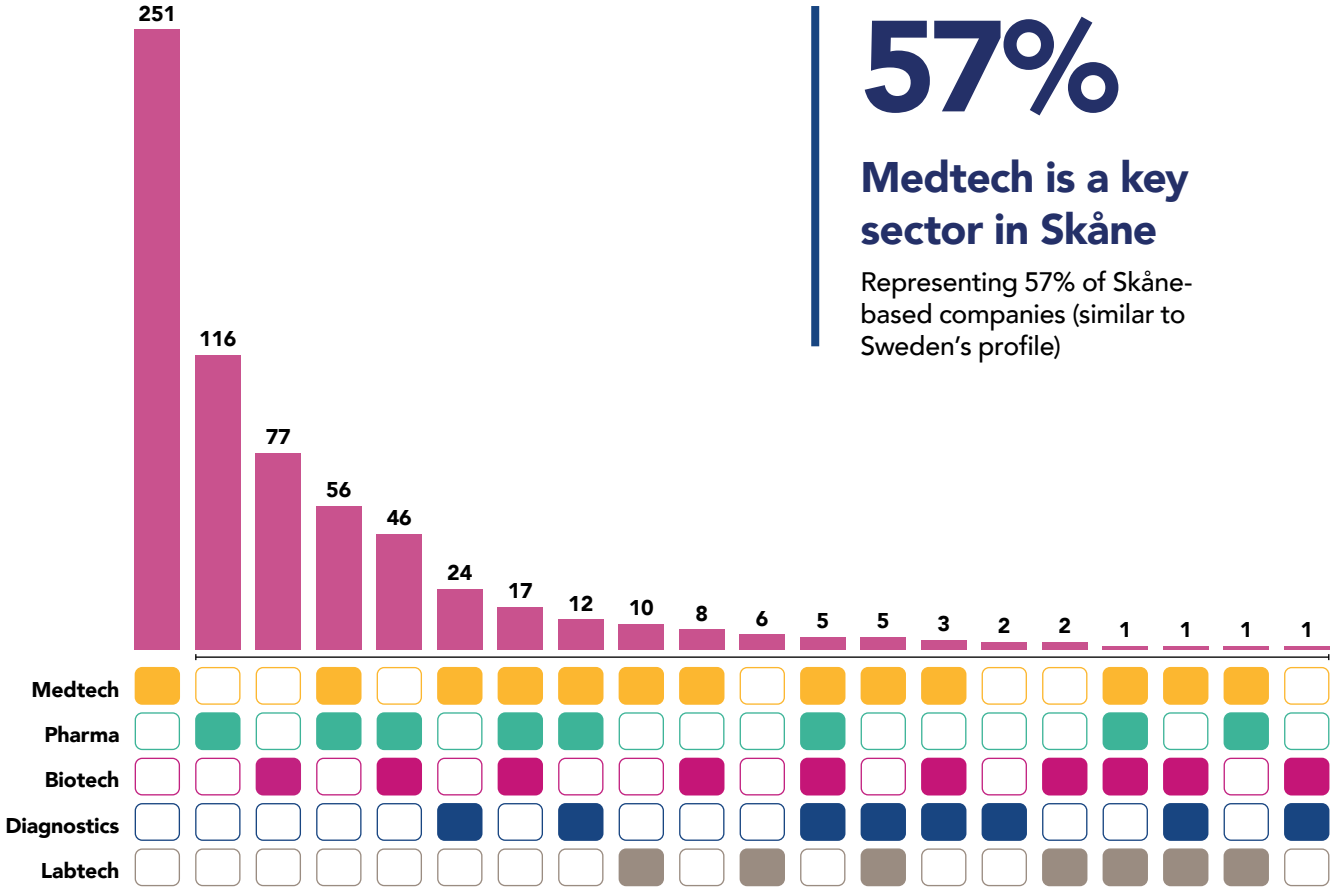
Medtech continues to represent the largest segment of the life science sector in Skåne, with 57% of companies active in this field, broadly reflecting the national landscape. Pharma is the second-largest segment, accounting for 38% of companies in Skåne compared with 34% nationally, followed by biotech at 24% in Skåne versus 22% across Sweden.

Many life science companies operate at the intersection of multiple segments, reflecting the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of the sector. In particular, areas such as diagnostics and labtech often overlap with medtech activities, suggesting that these fields are frequently integrated within the broader medtech ecosystem.

Proportion of Skåne life science companies active in each segment



Skåne life science demographics - branch segments for Skåne



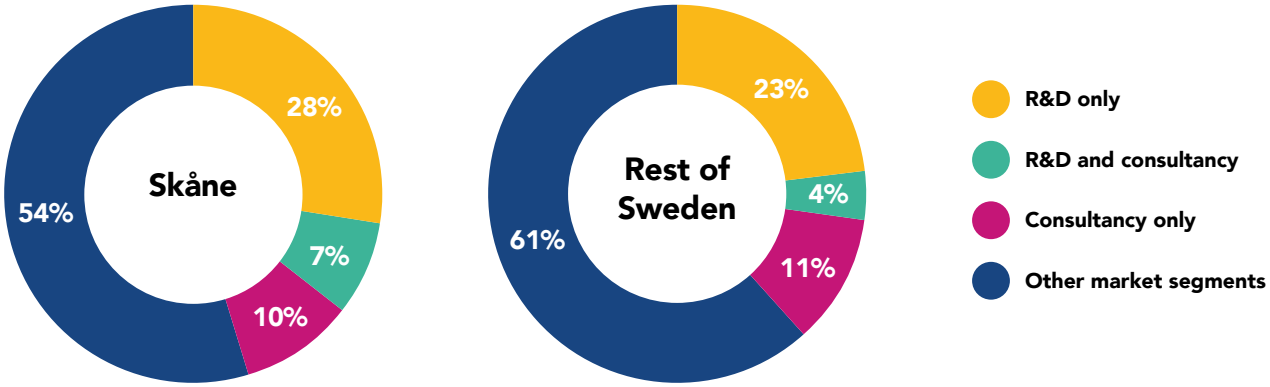
57%

Medtech is a key sector in Skåne

Representing 57% of Skåne-based companies (similar to Sweden's profile)

The region also stands out for its strong emphasis on innovation and research. Around 35% of life science companies in Skåne are engaged in research and development, compared with 27% nationally, highlighting the region's important role as a hub for early-stage innovation and technology development.

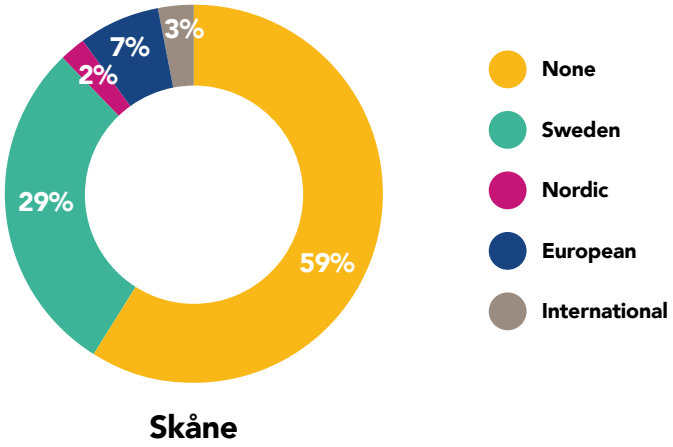
Proportion of Skåne life science companies classified as R&D, consultancy, or other



Most Skåne-based life science companies, 59%, are not part of a corporate group structure. 29% are part of a Swedish corporate group structure, while the remaining 12% are part of a corporate group structure based outside of Sweden.

55 Skåne-based life science companies are public limited companies (companies which are permitted to offer shares to the public, often through a stock exchange listing), with 87% located in Lund. 71% of these public limited companies are involved in research and development (R&D) activity, and 60% employ fewer than 10 people.

Skåne life science demographics - corporate group structure



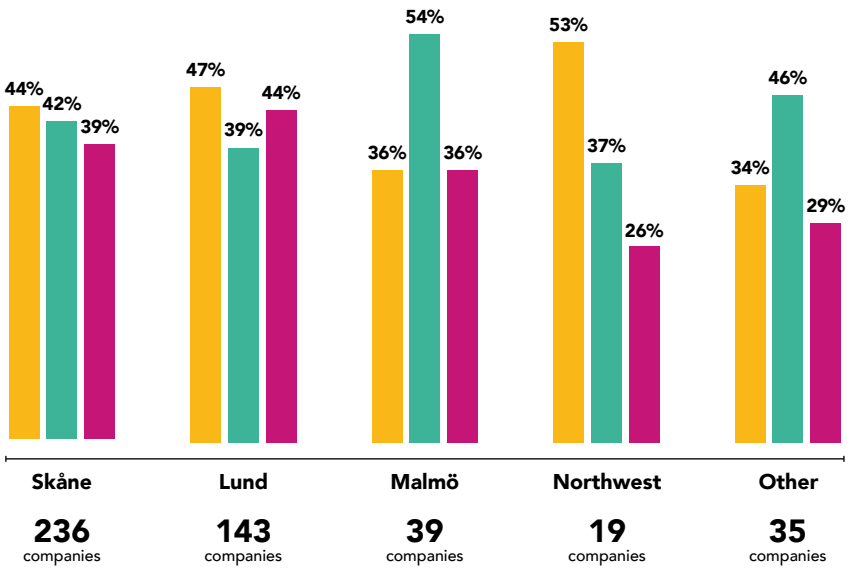
A deep dive into Skåne-based companies with R&D activities

In Skåne, 236 life science companies are engaged in R&D. Of these, 50 companies also provide consultancy services. Together, these companies employ approximately 2,800 people and generated SEK 14.5 billion (€1.37 billion) in revenue in 2024.

R&D activity is relatively evenly distributed across life science segments, although 61% of these companies are located in Lund, highlighting the city's central role in the region's research-driven ecosystem.

The majority of R&D companies are small and early-stage organisations. 83% have fewer than 10 employees, and 39% are less than 10 years old. At the same time, the sector remains largely locally rooted, with only 3% of R&D companies belonging to a corporate group headquartered outside Sweden.

Spread of R&D companies across segments - Skåne



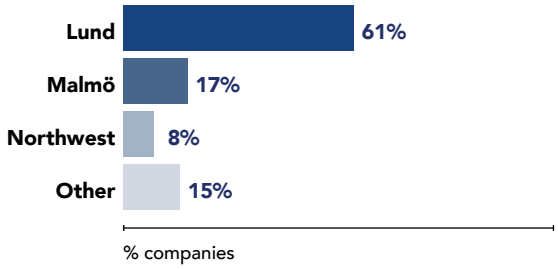
2 800
employees

14.5
billion SEK in revenue in 2024

- Medtech
- Pharma
- Biotech

Note that companies may operate across multiple segments.

Spread of R&D companies across cities in Skåne



256

companies with R&D activities

(50 of them also offer consultancy activities)

Some definitions

In this report, we rely on the classification methodology adopted by Vinnova in their 2025 publication on statistics on Swedish life science companies (N2021/02243). Below is a summary of key definitions used by Vinnova:

Branch segments

Medtech
Medical technology companies develop, manufacture, and sell medical technology solutions for medical purposes, which are governed by the EU regulation "Medical Device Regulation (MDR)".

Pharma
Pharmaceutical companies develop, manufacture, and sell medicines and other types of therapeutic treatments with pharmacological, immunological, or metabolic effects.

Biotech
Biotechnology companies develop, manufacture, and sell products related to living organisms and biological materials.

Diagnostics
Diagnostic companies develop, manufacture, and sell solutions for identifying diseases, monitoring, and providing information about health conditions.

Diagnostics are divided into **in vivo** and **in vitro** diagnostics. **In vitro** diagnostics are governed by the EU regulation "In Vitro Diagnostic Regulation (IVDR)" and are a subgroup of laboratory technology. **In vivo** diagnostics are governed by the EU regulation "Medical Device Regulation (MDR)" and are a subgroup of medical technology.

Labtech
Laboratory technology companies develop, manufacture, and sell laboratory technology.

Market segments

Research and development (R&D)
R&D (Research and Development) consists of creative and systematic work aimed at increasing the body of knowledge and finding new applications for existing knowledge across all scientific fields. For an activity to be considered R&D, it must be characterised by innovation, creativity, uncertainty, systematics, and transferability and/or reproducibility.

Consultancy
In the Vinnova analysis, consultants are defined as companies engaged in consultancy services primarily focused on the life science sector.

Other market segments
This covers companies that are not classified as R&D or consultancy companies.

Skåne's biopharma pipeline continues to punch above its weight

Sweden is a major engine for the Nordic drug pipeline, with a highly productive R&D ecosystem that includes over 150 biotech and pharma companies and more than 500 active projects from discovery to Phase III. The country's contribution is characterized by a strong focus on oncology and neurology, with a significant, growing portfolio in Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMPs).

Skåne, in turn, continues to punch above its weight – life science companies based in the region contribute to 29% of the Swedish drug pipeline, despite forming 18% of the Swedish life science sector in terms of number of companies and representing 13% of the total population in Sweden.
There is a slightly higher weight of pipeline assets focused on oncology (36% versus the national average of 33%), and 45% of biopharma assets are in the clinical phase (Phase I and beyond), which reflects the national average.

Opportunity area: Advanced therapies (ATMPs)[1]

Skåne is well positioned to contribute to the rapidly growing field of advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMPs), including cell and gene therapies. The region combines a strong scientific base at Lund University and the Lund Stem Cell Center with clinical expertise at Skåne University Hospital, creating favourable conditions for translational research and clinical development. More than 20 ATMP-related research projects are currently underway in the region, several of which have already led to the formation of new biotech companies.

Key infrastructure supports the transition from discovery to patient application. The Pre-GMP Facility at Lund University helps researchers and companies prepare advanced therapies for GMP-compliant manufacturing, while the ATMP Centre at Skåne University Hospital provides clinical infrastructure and expertise to support the development and implementation of advanced therapies in healthcare. In parallel, collaborative initiatives such as ATMP Path2Patient, involving partners including Lund University, Region Skåne, SmiLe Venture Hub, and Medicon Village, aim to strengthen the regional ecosystem by improving access to specialised expertise, testing environments, and investment networks.

Together, these capabilities position Skåne as an emerging hub for next-generation therapies and translational life science innovation.

[1] To find out more about ATMP infrastructures and initiatives in Skåne, please see:
Lund Stem Cell Center – Pre-GMP facility and ATMP pipeline: https://www.stemcellcenter.lu.se/pre-gmp
Collaborations and projects supporting ATMP development: https://www.stemcellcenter.lu.se/pre-gmp/collaborations-and-projects
Development and support for ATMP in clinical trials: https://kliniskastudier.se/english/forum-south/atmp-center

Skåne

Sweden

Number of drug assets

152

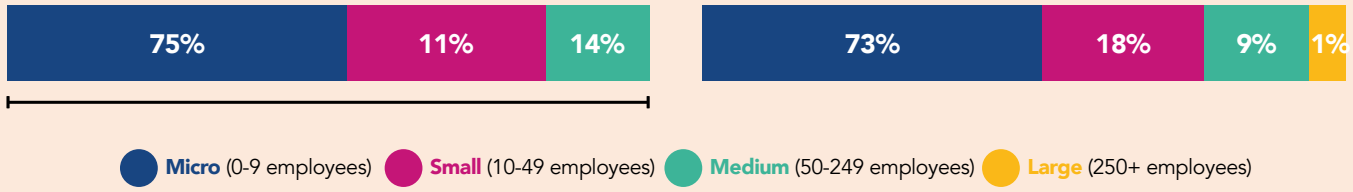
518

Number of companies

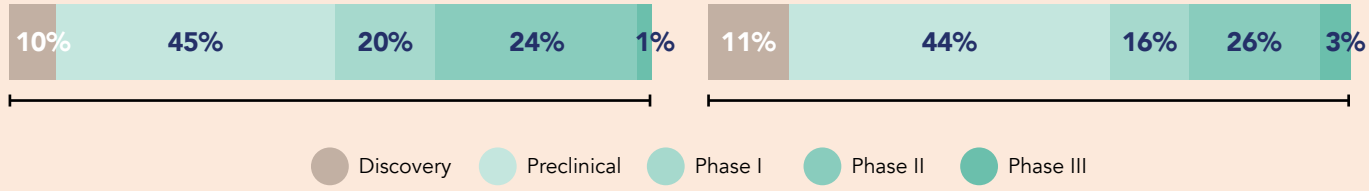
44

152

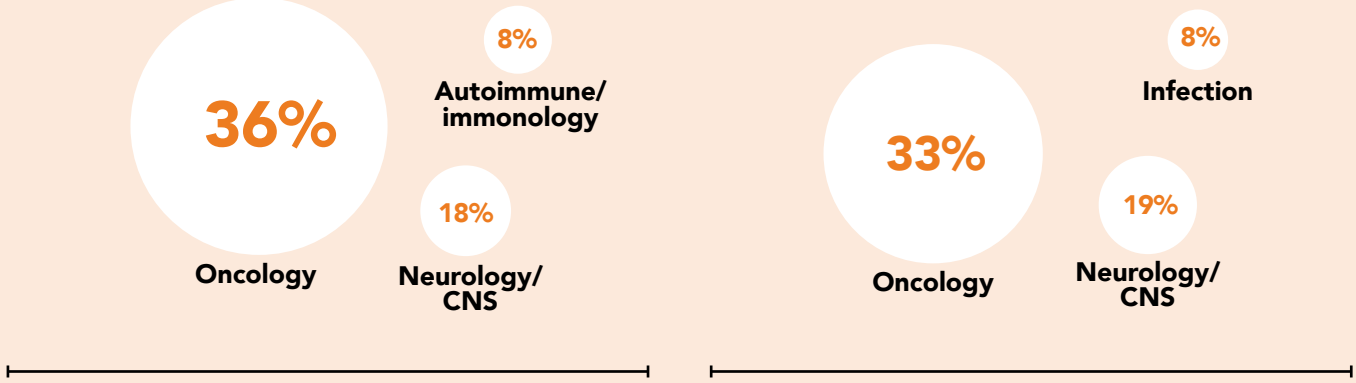
% Pipeline by company size



Clinical status



Top three drug disease groups

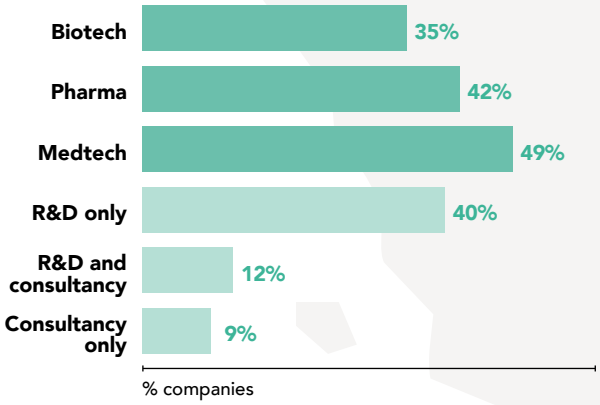


Source: SwedenBIO 2025, Medicon Village analysis

Mapping key hubs in Skåne

Skåne's life science sector is largely concentrated in Lund and Malmö, which together account for 66% of the region's life science workforce and 65% of its life science companies. At the same time, the largest single life science employer in the region is located in Helsingborg, with more than 600 employees. The profile of companies also differs across the region's main hubs.

Lund hosts 41% of Skåne's life science companies, employing 28% of the regional workforce. The city has a particularly strong research and development focus, with 52% of Lund-based companies engaged in R&D, significantly above the Skåne average of 35%. While medtech remains the dominant sector, biotech plays a more prominent role in Lund than elsewhere in the region, with 35% of companies active in this field compared with 24% across Skåne.



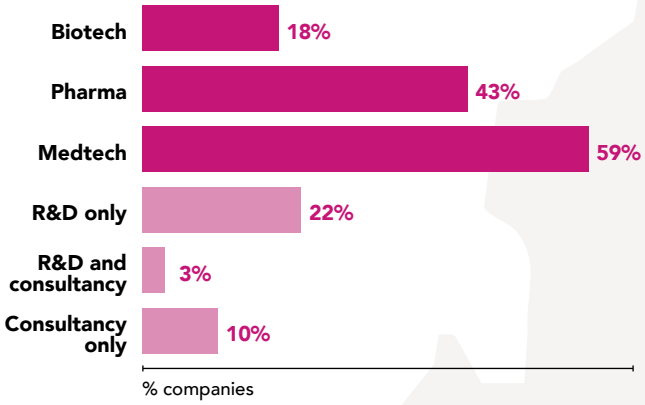
Lund

274
life science companies

2 100
employees

Examples of larger employers
50-249 employees: Alligator Bioscience, BioInvent International, Bonesupport, Camurus, CellaVision, Hansa Biopharma, Repligen, RG Discovery

Malmö represents the largest share of life science employment in Skåne, accounting for 38% of the regional workforce but only 24% of companies. This suggests the presence of larger companies and employers in the city. The sector is strongly oriented towards medtech, with 59% of Malmö-based companies active in this field, slightly above the Skåne average of 57%.



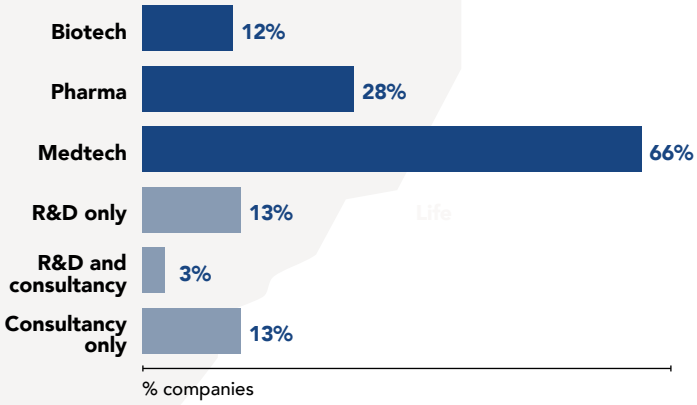
Malmö

158
life science companies

2 900
employees

Examples of larger employers
250+ employees: PolyPeptide, Sever Pharma, Rechon Life Science
50-249 employees: Air Liquide Gas, Arjo, Bioglan, Galenica, Magle Chemoswed, Mediplast, Novo Nordisk Scandinavia, Stryker, Svar Life Science

Northwest Skåne, including Helsingborg, Ängelholm, and Torekov, accounts for 18% of Skåne's life science companies and 23% of the regional workforce. The area also shows a strong concentration of medtech activity, with 66% of companies operating in this segment.



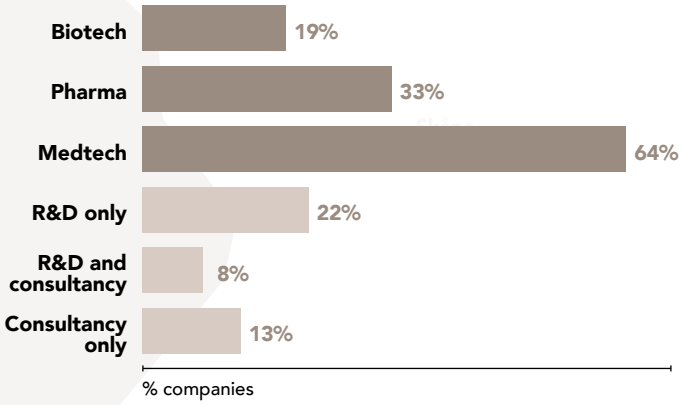
Northwest Skåne

119
life science companies

1 700
employees

Examples of larger employers
250+ employees: Hemocue, Kenvue
50-249 employees: Boston Scientific, Linxens Sweden, Occlutech International, Recipharm Höganäs, Teva Sweden

Companies situated **elsewhere in Skåne** represent 18% of Skåne's life science companies and 11% of its workforce, with 1 in 2 companies having zero employees.



Elsewhere in Skåne

119
life science companies

800
employees

Examples of larger employers
250+ employees: Nolato MediTech
50-249 employees: Atos Medical

Camurus

35 years ago, Camurus was founded by a group of researchers at Lund University. Since then, it has grown into a company with close to 300 employees and offices in Europe, Australia, and the United States.

At the core of its success is its proprietary FluidCrystal® technology, which enables less frequent dosing of medicines.

Fredrik Tiberg/Camurus

Last year, Camurus reported revenues of nearly SEK 2.3 billion (equivalent to approximately 200 million Euros). CEO Fredrik Tiberg, who has led the company since 2003, explains:

"We develop and market long-acting medicines that can be administered weekly or monthly, reducing the need for daily dosing. This also creates opportunities to improved treatment outcomes for patients with severe and chronic conditions."

He highlights the lipid-based FluidCrystal technology as the foundation of the company's success:

"These are lipid molecules that, when they come into contact with fluid – for example under the skin – spontaneously assemble into a defined nanostructure and form a gel. This gel can encapsulate drug substances and release them over an extended period of time, enabling extended drug release in the body and providing long-acting treatment efficacy."

Camurus currently has three approved medicines on the market, including Buvidal® for the treatment of opioid dependence. The most recently approved product targets acromegaly.

"The condition is caused by an overproduction of growth hormone, which, if left untreated, can lead to various symptoms, including enlargement of internal organs as well as the hands, feet, and jaw. Do you remember Jaws in James Bond? He had acromegaly."

"We are also developing a cancer treatment based on the same active compound, but with a different mechanism of action."

A key milestone for Camurus was the decision to move beyond being a pure research and development company and to take responsibility for marketing and sales of its own drug products.

"This led us to do an IPO on the NASDAQ Stockholm Stock Exchange in 2015. The listing provided us with the financial resources to take our own projects all the way to market and to build our own commercial organisation for marketing and sales," says Fredrik Tiberg.

Photo credit: Camurus

All core research activities are conducted in Lund and nearly half of the company's employees work in research and development. The workforce represents around 30 nationalities, and Fredrik Tiberg sees few challenges in attracting talent.

"We see strong interest in most roles. Highly specialised positions and senior leadership roles can be more challenging to fill, but overall, we have a solid talent pool in the region."

What role does Lund play as a location?

"For a pharmaceutical company, Lund is an excellent base. It offers a strong international research environment at the university, as well as major research facilities such as MAX IV and ESS. That creates a very dynamic environment."

Looking ahead, Fredrik Tiberg notes that the relocation of AstraZeneca from the region around fifteen years ago created a strong talent pool for Lund's life science cluster, but that this was some time ago.

"Today, we see increasing dynamics on the Danish side, with companies like Novo Nordisk, where changes are taking place. Thus, we are increasingly recruiting people from across the strait in Denmark. Looking at the wider Öresund region, there is a significant pool of talent available."

If Camurus was founded today, would Lund still be the location?

"We never chose Lund as a location – we have our roots here and have grown here. The reason we remain is that we believe the environment is well suited for a growing pharmaceutical company."

Camurus continues to expand and sees further growth opportunities in its new premises at Science Village on the outskirts of Lund, where it relocated just over a year ago.

The move from Ideon Science Park was not only driven by growth:

"One of the reasons we moved to this building was to gain even better control over our resource use, which is important for our sustainability efforts."

According to Fredrik Tiberg, sustainability is an integrated part of the company's long-acting drug model:

"A patient can go from taking a medicine every day to once a month. That alone can result in reduced treatment burden and significant savings in terms of injections and production units."

"A central aspect of our sustainability work is improving access to treatment for vulnerable patient groups. We work not only with the product itself, but also with authorities to develop sustainable pricing models to enable better access and treat as many patients as possible."

As a major employer, does Camurus have a responsibility for the life science cluster in Lund?

"Absolutely. Through our success, we can contribute to the growth of the broader cluster. We are involved in a wide range of activities, from health economics research to collaborations with academic institutions from chemistry and economics. We are an integrated part of the industry–university ecosystem."

Dx4Life

Male infertility and prostate cancer were originally the main focus of Yvonne Lundberg Giwercman's research. However, after observing how differently women responded to hormone treatments, her interest began to shift.

"We are currently waiting for CE marking – that is the bottleneck. Once we receive it, we can begin hiring and start selling," says founder and CEO of Dx4Life Yvonne Lundberg Giwercman, speaking from Medicon Village, where she has been developing her innovation over the past two years.

The environment at Medicon Village, which brings together around 180 companies and organisations, has played an important role for a researcher entering the business world for the first time. Through her company, she also participates in the incubator programme at SmiLe Venture Hub, where she has gained access to a broad network that has been important for the company's development. The opportunity to exchange experiences with other companies at different stages has been invaluable.

"This journey would have taken much longer – if it had been possible at all. And I don't have that kind of time. I am incredibly grateful that this environment exists."

From research to product

Her work in women's health began somewhat unexpectedly in 2010, when the Reproductive Medicine Centre in Malmö started receiving infertile couples. There, she observed that women responded very differently to hormone stimulation.

"Some did not respond at all, while others overreacted and ended up in emergency care – despite receiving the same treatment. That's when I realised there must be a genetic explanation. It started purely as a research question."

Over time, her team was able to reliably identify the relevant gene variants. However, translating this discovery into clinical practice proved challenging. Traditional genotyping is both costly and time-consuming, often requiring blood samples to be sent to specialised laboratories.

"That's the process I've worked with in my research, so I know what it involves. But then I started thinking – could we adapt the type of rapid tests used for detecting viruses like Ebola, and redesign them for this purpose?"

This idea led to the development of a physical testing device – a simple, user-friendly "box" designed to make genetic testing accessible for both clinics and patients.

"We started with blood samples, then moved to saliva – but that wasn't ideal. Eventually, I thought about how the police use swabs. That had to be the solution."

Thinking like a researcher – and a CEO

While Yvonne Lundberg Giwercman remains an active researcher, her role as CEO has required a shift in mindset. Academic research demands caution and thorough validation, whereas leading a company requires clarity, focus, and the ability to communicate value.

"As a CEO, it's about having a strategy to sell the product and helping people understand why it is valuable – without all the reservations that come with research."

She finds it relatively easy to separate the two roles, although they sometimes overlap when she is invited to speak about her work.

Yvonne Lundberg Giwercman/Dx4Life

Today, she is the CEO of the startup company Dx4Life, which is based at Medicon Village in Lund. By the summer, she hopes to launch her "box": a genetic test designed to determine which hormone women undergoing IVF treatment should receive in order to increase their chances of pregnancy.

"In those situations, I make it clear what we have demonstrated through research and how we have translated that into a product."

Another difference relates to the product itself.

"As an entrepreneur, the goal is to sell and build a profitable business, whereas as a researcher, the instinct is often to share the results freely."

Her primary customers are fertility clinics. In Sweden, IVF treatment is publicly funded for up to three attempts, after which patients – or those over the age of 40 – often turn to private providers.

The strong interest in her innovation, both from the public and from patients undergoing IVF, can be demanding at times.

"Just yesterday, I received a call from a mother whose daughter is going through this. Not having a finished product yet can be difficult. But at the same time, every researcher hopes their work will lead to something practical. I'm very happy that this now seems within reach."

Building a company from research

At Lund University, researchers and students with innovative ideas can access support through LU Innovation and LU Ventures (the latter previously known as LU Holding). These organisations provide support ranging from developing research results to handling intellectual property and legal matters.

Yvonne Lundberg Giwercman first turned to LU Innovation, where she presented her concept and received support with market analysis and a Swedish patent application.

"They then connected me with LU Ventures, which at the time was known as LU Holding. They helped build the company, assemble a board, and manage legal, regulatory, and financing aspects."

Securing funding was initially a concern, but this was quickly resolved. The company raised SEK 6.4 million (slightly more than half a million Euros) early on, led by Gobia Enterprises.

"That would not have happened without LU Ventures – their network and expertise were crucial. The people working there come from industry and understand what is required."

She is clear in her assessment:

"The decision to establish holding companies at major universities is one of the best initiatives Sweden has implemented."

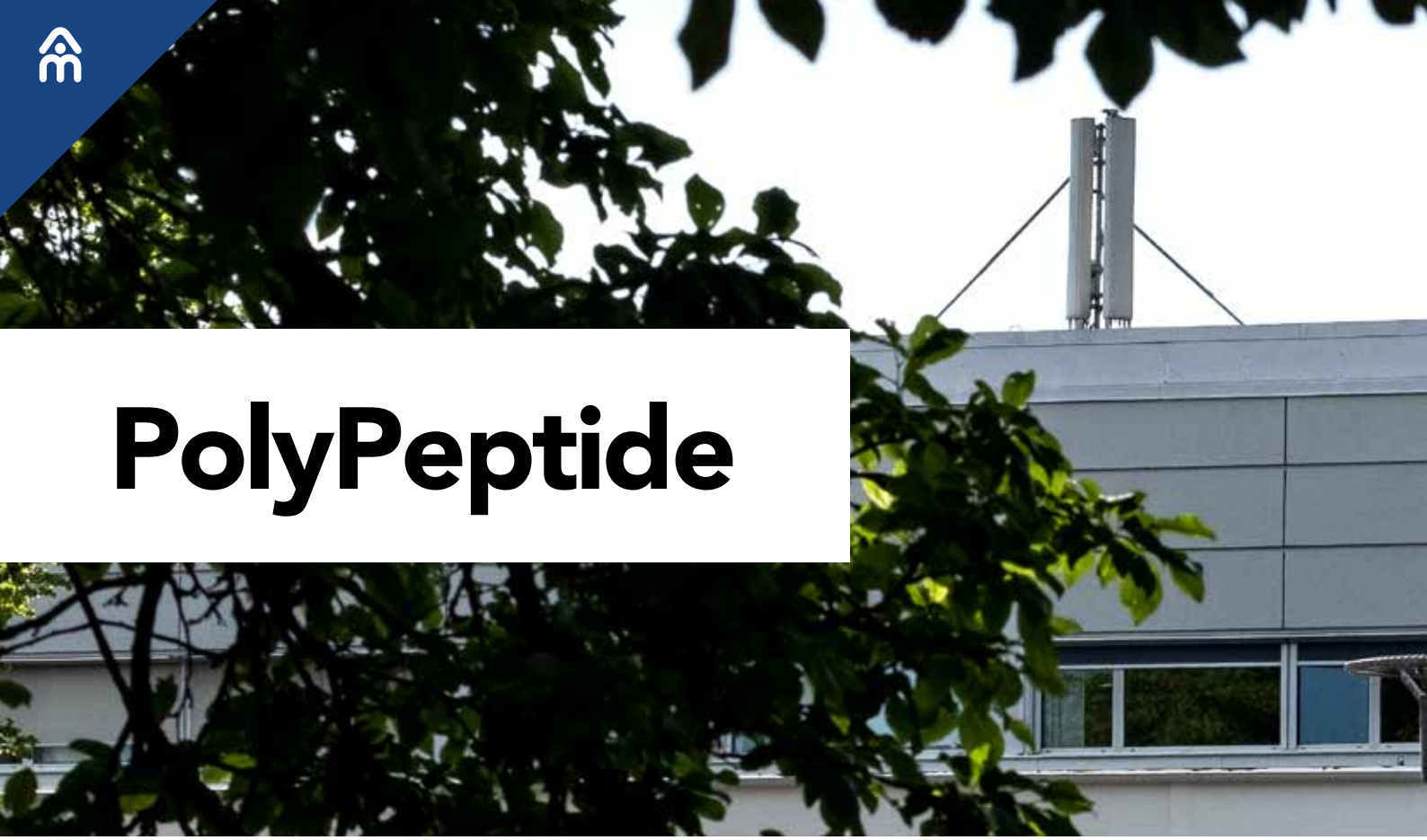
Taking the leap

For her, the biggest challenge is taking the initial risk.

"You can't do more than fail. Many startups fail early – and that's the reality. But I don't want to be in a position where people have invested in me and the company, and we lose. That's not part of my plan."

As the company moves into a commercial phase, a new CEO will be recruited to accelerate growth, allowing her to focus more on research. The long-term ambition is clear.

"I want to build something – something that remains in Lund. And now that I know how to do it, I already have the next product in mind."



PolyPeptide

Peptides have been manufactured along Limhamnsvägen in Malmö since the 1950s. Following its spin-off from Ferring Pharmaceuticals in 1996, PolyPeptide Group has been producing and supplying these "strings of amino acids". Now, the company is preparing to double its production capacity, driven in large part by growing demand for weight-loss medicines.

Lena Berdén/PolyPeptide

"Once you are established in a location, you tend to stay. Relocating is a complex process, so if things work well, you prefer to remain," says Lena Berdén, site director at PolyPeptide's Malmö facility.

And things do seem to be working. The company aims to double its production capacity next year, supported by a new production facility scheduled to come into operation in early 2027.

"We are now beginning to see whether we can recruit all the people we need. We are planning to hire around 70 employees this year."

The expansion is largely driven by the surge in demand for treatments targeting obesity and diabetes, a trend expected to continue over the coming decade.

"It is quite unusual to see such a clear long-term demand. We know how many people globally could benefit from these types of treatments – if supply is sufficient, pricing is appropriate, or if healthcare systems choose to subsidise them, given the range of diseases associated with obesity."

Does this lead to increased competition in peptide manufacturing?

"There are a handful of established players, both in Europe and Asia. At the same time, more companies are entering the space as demand for production capacity grows. All existing players are expanding."

"Companies that have previously operated in adjacent areas, for example producing some of our raw materials, are also looking to move further into this market. Competition may increase over time, but overall demand is expected to remain strong – so overall, this is a positive development."

Today, around 450 people are employed at the Malmö site, while the company has approximately 1,400 employees globally, with facilities in Belgium, France, India, and the United States. PolyPeptide has been listed on the Swiss stock exchange since 2021.

The company serves a fully global customer base, supplying peptides to both Big Pharma and smaller startups, including those based at Medicon Village.

Photo credits: News Öresund; Henrik Smångs

"We do not own any products ourselves. It is our customers that develop specific amino acid sequences that have a defined function in the body. When they decide to turn these into finished medicines, they come to us."

Lena Berdén notes that while larger companies may handle more of the process internally, PolyPeptide can support smaller biotech companies throughout the entire development journey – effectively acting as their manufacturing partner.

A strategic location with strong connectivity

Malmö is often described as a place where everything is close at hand – a view Lena Berdén shares.

"In the phase of expansion we are currently in, it is very valuable to be located in a region with a well-established university in Lund, a modern university in Malmö, and close proximity to Copenhagen."

While Skåne offers a stable base of companies that work with pharmaceuticals, Denmark hosts a large and dynamic life science ecosystem, with Novo Nordisk as a key driver. The company's growth has increased the interest for life science across the region.

"Being able to easily cross the bridge to meet customers or suppliers is a clear advantage."

From a talent perspective, the situation is also favourable. When Novo Nordisk expanded rapidly, it drew heavily on the regional labour market. More recently, as hiring has slowed, talent has become more available.

Swedish professionals who previously considered Denmark too far away have found their way to Skåne. PolyPeptide has also attracted around 30 employees from Denmark. When it comes to international recruitment, it mainly involves individuals who have studied in the region and chosen to stay, but the workforce is diverse enough that internal meetings are conducted in English.

"Our workforce reflects the diversity of Malmö itself – you notice the international 'vibe' just by looking around."

As a major employer, does PolyPeptide have a responsibility towards the life science cluster in Skåne?

"The chemistry we work with is not always the most environmentally friendly, so if we can contribute to making it greener, we want to do that," says Lena Berdén.

The company collaborates with academic partners on research and development projects.

"We also have had several projects together with smaller companies, where we have received funding support from Vinnova (Sweden's innovation agency) to explore more sustainable approaches to peptide manufacturing."

Their work is guided by the concept of "green chemistry", which focuses on reducing material use, increasing recycling, and replacing more harmful chemicals with safer, water-based alternatives.

However, progress can be slow. Development cycles can take up to ten years before a product reaches the market – if it does at all. Once regulatory documentation has been submitted and approved, making changes becomes complex, says Lena Berdén.

"If you want to introduce new and improved methods, this typically has to be done in new projects and products. It takes time before such changes are implemented more broadly."

Kenvue

Skåne's third life science cluster, after Malmö and Lund, is located in northwest Skåne, with Helsingborg as its centre. Among the key actors in this area is Kenvue, one of the largest private employers in Helsingborg.

Christer Spégel/Kenvue

Kenvue is a spin-off from Johnson & Johnson and is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. It is the world's largest manufacturer of consumer health products, with brands such as Listerine, Natusan, and Nicorette, and employs approximately 22,000 people globally. Just over 600 of these are based at the Helsingborg site in Stattena, near Fredriksdal Gardens. The company has been present at this location for more than a century, previously operating under the names Leo Läkemedel (former daughter company to present day LEO Pharma) and later McNeil.

According to Christer Spégel, Kenvue's EMEA Translational Science R&D Director, there are several advantages to being located in Helsingborg:

"There is close proximity to very strong universities, and access to well-educated graduates is both high and of good quality."

However, talent supply can also present challenges, as the profile of many life science companies in Skåne differs from that of Kenvue.

"I wouldn't say we are completely different, but the life science sector in Skåne is more pharma-driven. That makes it somewhat more difficult to find relevant competences when we need people with experience in our specific area. It's not only complex – pharmaceutical manufacturing is also highly regulated."

"There is always a balance between building competences internally and recruiting people with experience. It often becomes more challenging when the role requires four to five years of specialised experience in a specific field."

Would Kenvue have been established in Helsingborg if it were founded today?

"That's not for us to decide, but it is perhaps unlikely," says Christer Spégel, pointing to the company's historical roots. From the early days of Swedish pharmaceutical manufacturing in the early 20th century, including products such as Albyl and early insulin preparations, to the development of Nicorette by Leo in the 1960s, the Helsingborg site has built up significant expertise over time.

Photo credits: Kenvue, Henrik Smångs

"It has clearly been successful to have the company here – there is a great deal of knowledge within these walls."

"And you could say that without the investment in Nicorette in the 1960s, there probably wouldn't be any operations here today," adds communications director Jonas Nordström.

"It's not a standard product. Chewing gum is not simple, and manufacturing it to pharmaceutical standards requires a high level of expertise and experience," says Christer Spégel.

"It's not just about producing the product, but also about managing regulatory requirements and inspections from the roughly 80 countries where Nicorette is sold."

He highlights the ongoing development of Nicorette in Helsingborg, presenting the latest innovation: lozenges in a child-resistant paper-based packaging.

"We are also operating in a changing environment. Tobacco companies are driving innovation, and we need to remain relevant. Smoking has traditionally been the main focus, but e-cigarettes have grown rapidly, so we have launched products in the UK aimed at vaping cessation."

"We have also evolved from focusing almost exclusively on Nicorette R&D to taking on increasing responsibility for supporting other brands that are not manufactured here."

Of the more than 600 employees in Helsingborg, around 45 work in research and development, but they are supported by Kenvue's global organisation.

"When it comes to regulatory and medical expertise, we rely on a larger organisation in the UK, and for analytical work we receive significant support from our laboratories in Mumbai," explains Christer Spégel.

The global nature of the company is also reflected in its workforce. The 45 employees in R&D represent at least ten different nationalities. When asked about the challenges of recruiting international talent to Helsingborg, Jonas Nordström notes:

"Attracting people from within Kenvue globally is relatively straightforward. This is one of the largest manufacturing sites, and Nicorette is a priority brand within the group. Sweden as a country is also attractive – the opportunity to experience a Nordic country up close is a strong motivator."

And what about recruiting talent from outside the organisation?

"If the role is attractive enough, there are no real barriers to recruiting internationally. Diversity is valuable and contributes to development, but ultimately it comes down to who is best suited for the role. Whether that person comes from Brazil or Eslöv is less important."

A focused approach to sustainability

Turning to sustainability, Christer Spégel once again highlights the new paper-based packaging for Nicorette lozenges.

"Paper-based packaging for pharmaceutical products has hardly existed before, so this is quite unique. Pharmaceutical packaging typically relies heavily on plastic, aluminium, and other materials. With this packaging, we have reduced the use of virgin plastic by 171 tonnes."

Kenvue has worked to reduce its climate footprint over the past fifteen years and became officially carbon neutral across all energy sources in 2020.

"Sustainability is no longer a selling point – it is something consumers expect. Requirements are also driven by retailers. If you work with pharmacies or companies like Amazon, they have their own sustainability targets. We need to meet those in order to be listed on their shelves, so this is an issue that runs throughout the entire value chain and is very important to us," concludes Christer Spégel."

Sentiment among leaders in the life science sector in Skåne

This section draws on insights from the Life Science Barometer 2026, a survey conducted by SwedenBIO in October and November 2025 among senior executives of Swedish life science companies. In total, 203 companies across Sweden participated, including 52 companies headquartered in Skåne, representing 26% of all respondents.

As these companies account for approximately 8% of Skåne's life science sector, the findings should be interpreted with some caution. While the survey does not provide a comprehensive view of the entire regional industry, it reflects the perspectives of a relevant subset of company leaders and offers an indication of prevailing industry sentiment.

The results should therefore be understood as a snapshot of current perceptions and priorities, providing context for discussions on the opportunities and challenges facing the sector.

For more insights at a national level, please refer to the Life Science Barometer 2026 report, which can be downloaded at www.swedenbio.se

Quick facts about the respondents from Skåne

- **They are R&D intensive** – on average, 53% of their revenue and 56% of in-house employees was allocated to R&D in the past year (compared to 45% of revenue and 48% of employees for rest of Sweden).
- **They tend to be smaller** – 67% are micro-sized (fewer than 10 employees), slightly higher than the 56% of respondents from the rest of Sweden.
- **More are based in a community** – 67% of Skåne respondents are part of a science park, co-working space, or incubator, compared to 50% of respondents elsewhere in Sweden.
- **They lean more towards pharma and medtech** compared to the national respondent profile – 46% operate in pharma, 42% in medtech, and 33% in biotech.
- **25% of Skåne respondents are listed** on a public stock exchange, which is higher than the 15% of respondents from the rest of Sweden.

Commercialisation, capital, and competence

When asked about their short- and long-term priorities, respondents highlight investments that support **commercialisation and growth**. The largest share of resources is directed towards R&D and new product innovation, which account for an average of 40% of resources in the short term and 36% in the long term. This is followed by business expansion (37% in the short term and 33% in the long term) and advertising and brand building (24% and 25% respectively).

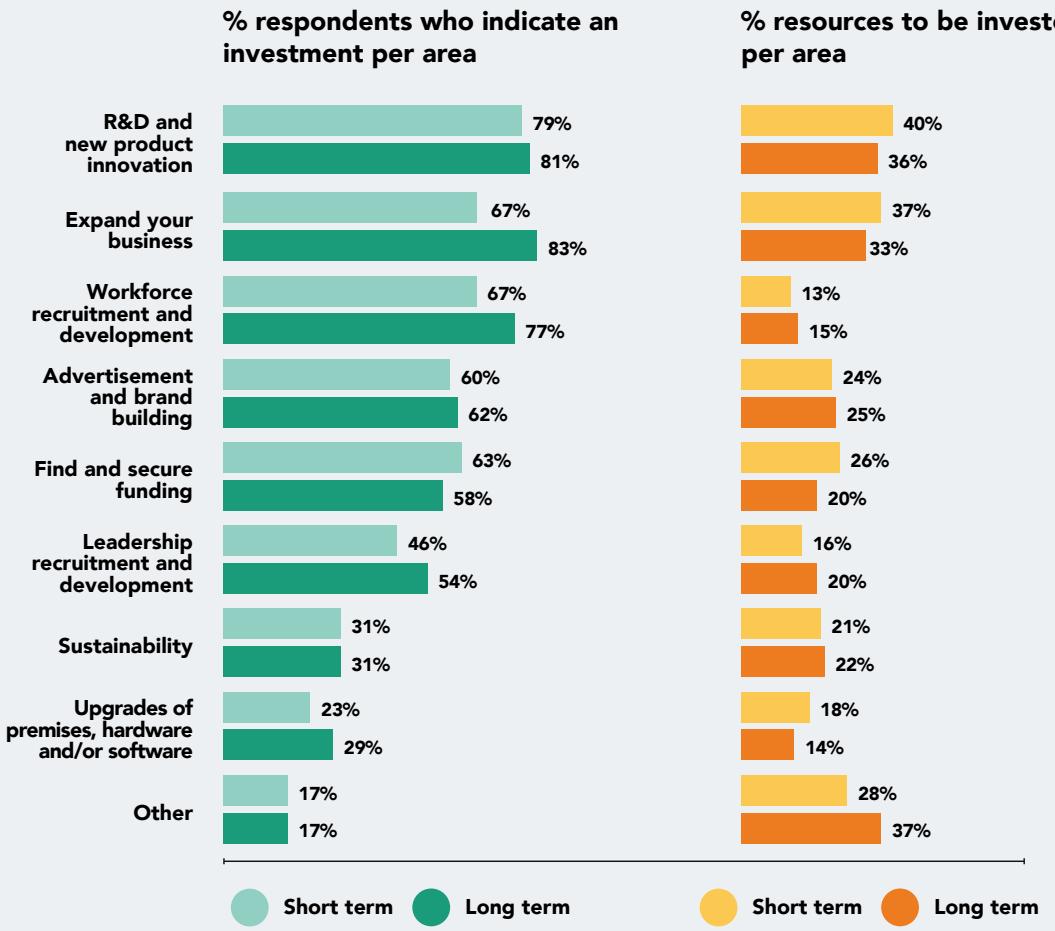
Access to capital is another key consideration. Between 58% and 63% of respondents identify capital as an area requiring investment in both the short and long term. This reflects the realities of the R&D-intensive life science industry, where companies face significant financing needs throughout the innovation cycle. With one in three life science companies in Skåne engaged in R&D, securing sufficient funding across all stages – from early research to commercialisation – is essential to ensure that new health innovations reach the market and ultimately benefit patients and society.

Talent and competence development also remain high on the agenda. Between 67% and 77% of respondents report investing in recruitment and workforce development in both the short and long term.

The following section explores in greater detail how companies are working with these three key pillars of commercialisation, capital, and competence.

R&D and innovation & business expansion are top of mind for the coming year

Qn: What percentage of your resources do you expect to invest in each activity below in the coming year (short term) and in the next 3-5 years (long term)?



Commercialisation

Strong pipeline of early-stage innovation

Skåne continues to demonstrate a strong foundation for early-stage life science innovation. Among respondents in the region, 85% identify ongoing research projects and 65% patents as key value-generating assets for their companies, both significantly higher than in the rest of Sweden (68% and 58% respectively). This underscores the R&D-driven nature of the regional ecosystem and its strong emphasis on intellectual property and technology development.

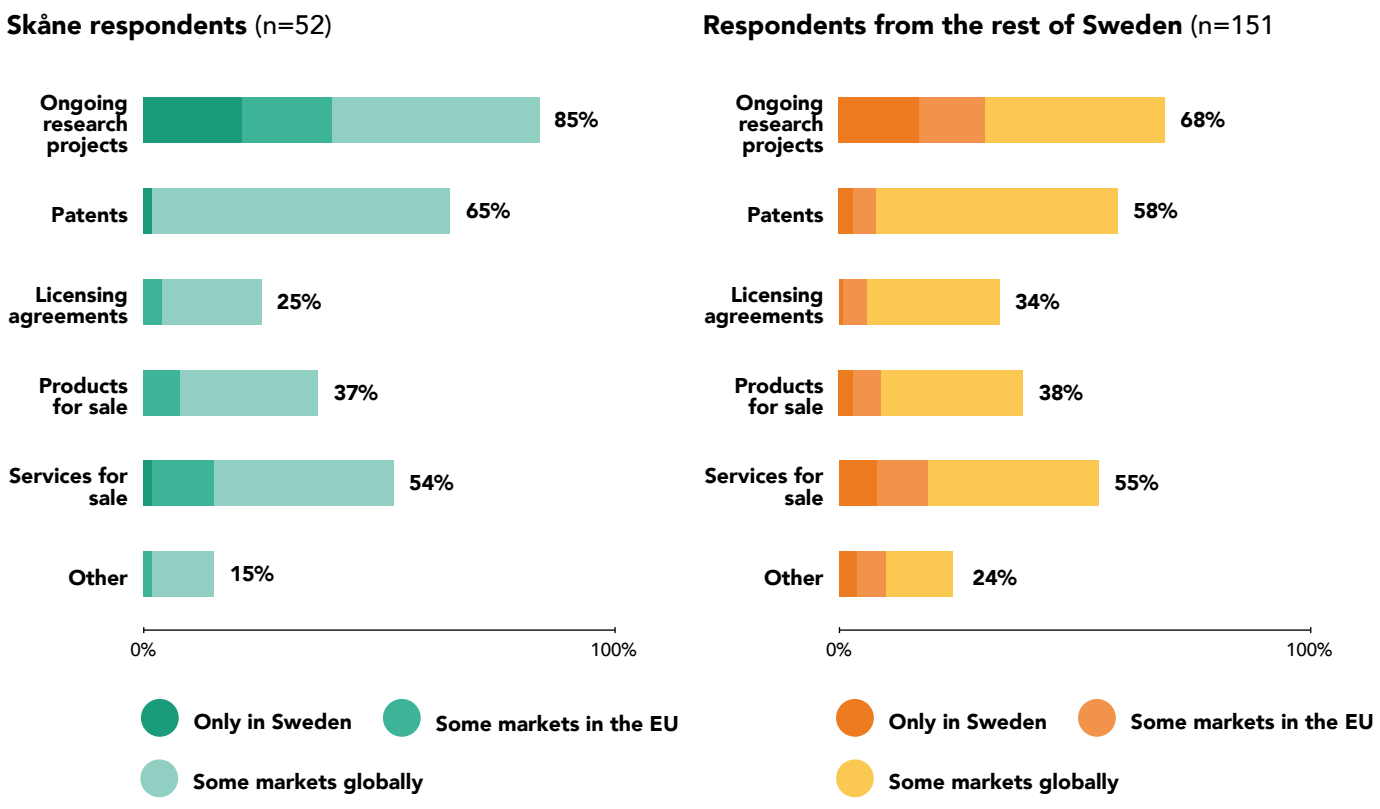
Patent data further supports this picture. An analysis[1] by the IP law firm Potter Clarkson shows that Skåne was the Swedish region that recorded the fastest growth in life science patenting at the European Patent Office (EPO) between 2015 and 2024, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.1%. This is higher than Stockholm (4.7%) and the Swedish average (3.5%). During the same period, 27.3% of Sweden's life science patents at the EPO originated from Skåne, highlighting the region's strong role as a source of new life science innovations.

Taken together, these indicators point to a vibrant pipeline of early-stage research and technology development. For the regional ecosystem, this creates opportunities to attract international partnerships, investment, and collaboration with global life science companies seeking access to emerging technologies.

At the same time, the findings underline the importance of supporting the growth and scaling of innovative companies, ensuring that promising discoveries can progress from early research to commercialisation and ultimately deliver benefits for patients and society.

Strong research and patent activity

Qn: What value generating assets does your company have at this timepoint?



[1] For more details on the analysis, see Medicon Village's 2025 Skåne Life Science Barometer report, pages 14-16

Capital

Sources of funding

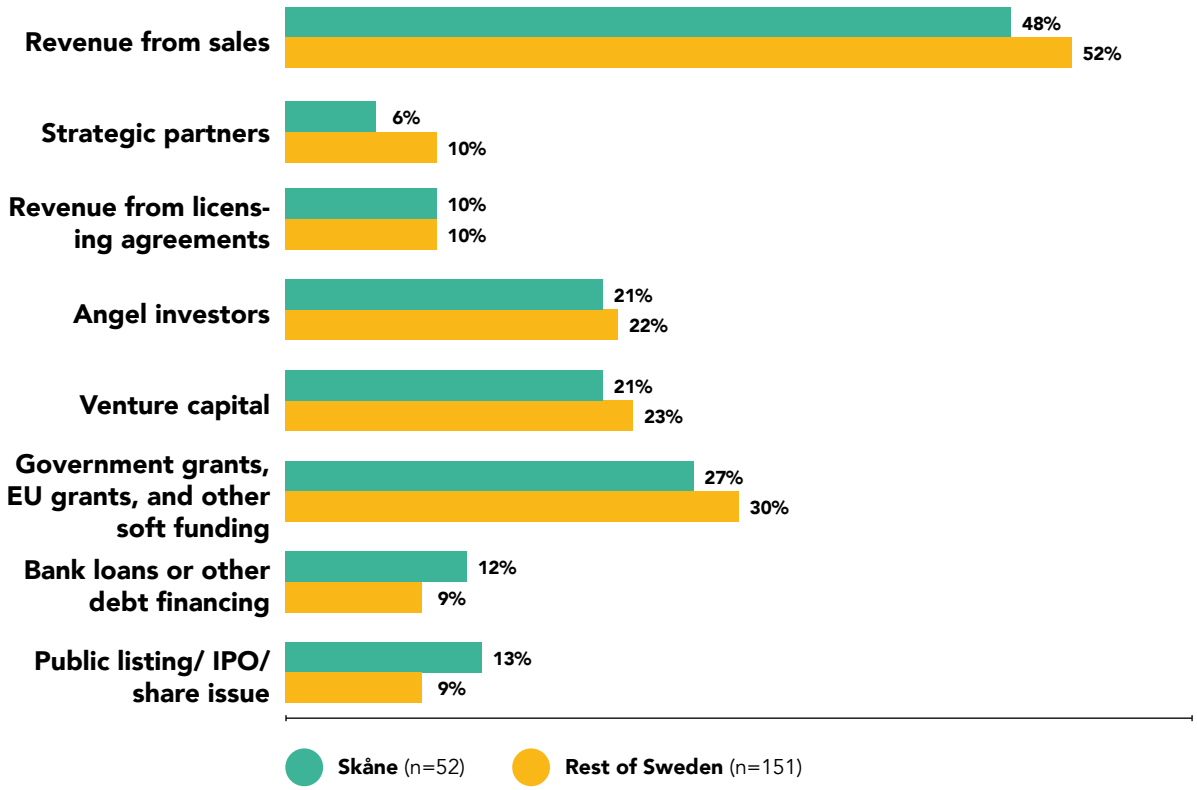
When asked about their three most important sources of funding, 48% of respondents in Skåne identify revenue from sales as a key funding source. This is followed by soft funding such as grants (27%), and investors and venture capital (21% respectively).

Overall, the funding profile in Skåne is broadly similar to that observed across Sweden. However, a somewhat higher share of Skåne-based companies report relying on public stock market listings (13% in Skåne compared with 9% in the rest of Sweden), as well as debt financing (12% in Skåne versus 9% nationally).

This may partly reflect the presence of several publicly listed life science companies in the region, as well as the capital-intensive nature of the sector, where companies often combine multiple financing sources as they progress from research and development to commercialisation.

Sources of funding

Qn: Which sources of funding is your company most reliant on today? (Top 3)



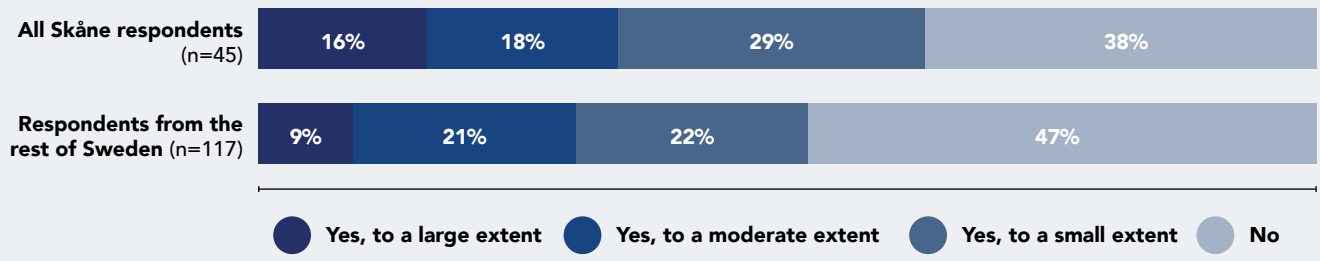
Investors and sustainability

Respondents in Skåne are more likely than their counterparts in the rest of Sweden to report that investors take sustainability into account when evaluating their companies. In total, 62% of Skåne-based respondents report this, compared with 53% nationally. This also represents an increase from last year, when 57% of respondents in Skåne reported the same.

The results may indicate growing attention to sustainability among investors, as well as increasing awareness of sustainability-related reporting requirements and expectations. This is also reflected in companies' own priorities: in last year's survey, Skåne respondents indicated that they intended to allocate around 5% of resources to sustainability initiatives, whereas this year's respondents report allocating 21% of resources to sustainability-related efforts (see page 23).

Investors and sustainability

*Qn: Have you experienced that investors take sustainability into account when evaluating your company? **



* Excludes those who indicated N/A, I don't know

> Skåne respondents are slightly more likely than other Swedish respondents (62% in Skåne vs 53% rest of Sweden) to have experienced that investors take sustainability into account when evaluating their company

Competence

Reliance on external consultants

Respondents in Skåne report a greater reliance on external consultants than their counterparts in the rest of Sweden. In total, 61% of Skåne-based respondents engage consultants across at least several areas, compared with 46% nationally.

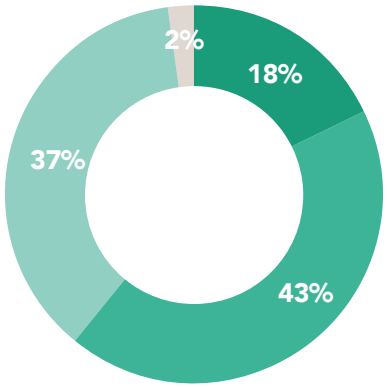
The reliance on consultants is particularly pronounced among micro-sized companies, defined as those with fewer than 10 employees. Among these respondents, 91% report using external consultants.

This pattern is consistent with the structure of the life science sector, where small and early-stage companies often rely on external expertise to access specialised competences in areas such as regulatory affairs, clinical development, and quality management. With lean organisational structures and limited resources, hiring full-time specialists is often not feasible, making consultants an important way for companies to access the expertise required to advance research, development, and commercialisation activities.

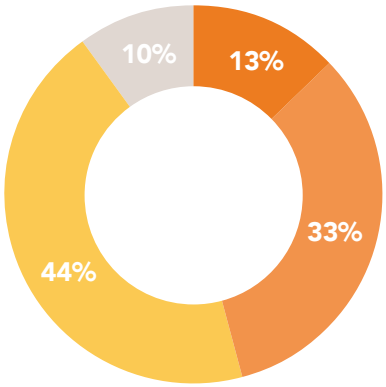
Reliance on external consultants

*Qn: To what extent is your business relying on external services (consultants)? **

All Skåne respondents (n=49)



Respondents from the rest of Sweden (n=145)



Major - majority of operations handled by external consultants

Moderate - engages consultants in several areas

Minor - handles most activities with internal staff

None - does not use consultants

* Excludes those who indicated N/A, I don't know

Skåne respondents are more reliant on external consultants compared to respondents from the rest of Sweden

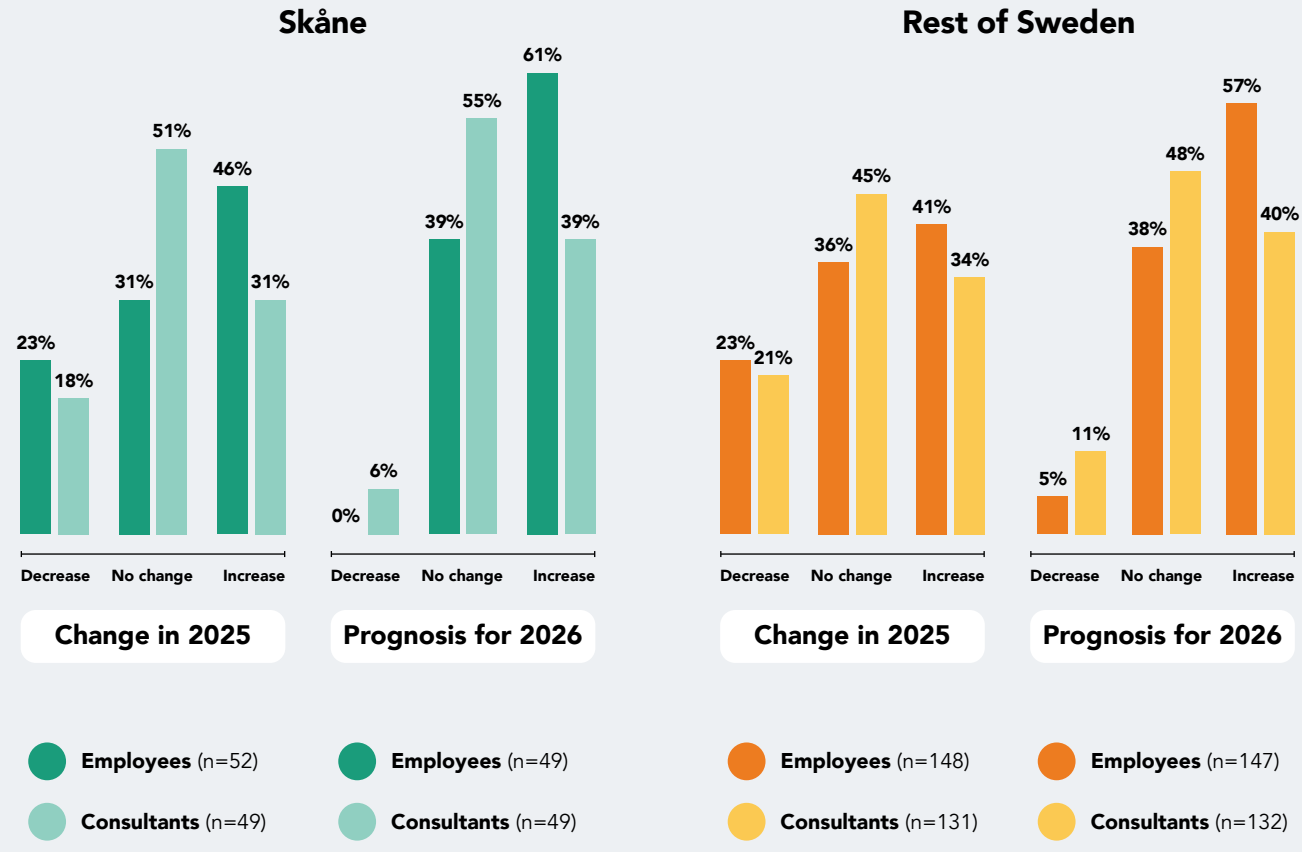
Skåne respondents are looking to hire

Despite the challenges faced in 2025, more companies in Skåne expanded their internal workforce than reduced it. In total, 46% of respondents reported increasing their in-house staff, compared with 23% who reduced their workforce.

A similar trend can be seen in the use of external consultants. 31% of Skåne-based respondents increased their engagement of consultants during 2025, while 18% reported reducing their reliance on external consultants.

Looking ahead to 2026, respondents in Skåne remain cautiously optimistic about workforce growth.

- 61% plan to expand their internal workforce, slightly higher than the 57% reported in the rest of Sweden.
- When it comes to consultants, expectations are more moderate: 39% anticipate increasing their use of external consultants, while 55% expect their reliance on consultants to remain unchanged.



Source: Skåne Life Science Barometer 2026, Medicon Village

Key competences that companies are looking for

Among the 61% of Skåne respondents planning to expand their internal workforce, the top three sought-after competencies are:

1. Commercial and business development competences

Includes sales, marketing, market access, US market expertise, alliance management, strategic partnerships, financing, public affairs, and general business development. Many companies emphasise strengthening commercial teams and market-facing roles.

2. Clinical, regulatory and quality expertise

Includes clinical trial management, clinical operations, CMO roles, regulatory affairs (RA), quality assurance (QA/QMS), pharmacology, toxicology, CMC, pharmacovigilance, and medical writing. These competences are particularly linked to companies approaching or conducting clinical development.

3. Scientific and technical expertise

Includes scientists, chemists (e.g. analytical chemistry, polymer chemistry), engineers, bioinformaticians, software/digital specialists, metallurgical expertise, and laboratory technicians. These reflect the continued demand for deep R&D and technical capabilities.

These hiring priorities align with investment trends in business expansion and new product development, emphasising the need for multidisciplinary expertise. While R&D expertise remains essential, companies are also seeking commercialisation-focused skills, such as market access and business development, to navigate the transition from innovation to market.

Providing smaller companies with the benefits of a large company

Smaller life science companies can significantly benefit from being part of a science park, as it provides access to a rich ecosystem of expertise, resources, and collaboration opportunities that would otherwise be difficult to obtain independently. Science parks bring together a diverse network of researchers, entrepreneurs, industry experts, and consultants, creating a dynamic environment where companies can tap into specialised knowledge in areas such as regulatory affairs, clinical trials, intellectual property, and business development.

By being part of a science park, companies gain access to shared facilities, cutting-edge laboratories, and advanced research infrastructure without the need for large upfront investments. Additionally, the close proximity to other innovative companies, academic institutions, and healthcare organisations fosters collaboration and knowledge exchange, accelerating the pace of innovation and product development.

Science parks also serve as hubs for networking and funding opportunities, connecting smaller firms with potential investors, grant programs, and strategic partners. This access to financial and strategic support can be crucial for early-stage companies aiming to scale their operations and bring their innovations to market.

Strengthening the Skåne life science ecosystem through focusing on three strategic pillars: commercialisation, capital, and competence

A strong life science ecosystem depends on more than scientific excellence alone. For research and innovation to translate into societal and economic value, companies must be able to bring ideas to market, access capital to grow, and recruit the right talent and competences. Medicon Village supports this development through a structured "3 Cs" approach:

Commercialisation

Medicon Village helps bridge the gap between research and market application by fostering collaboration between academia, startups, established industry and healthcare. Through dedicated programmes, networks and meeting places, the environment enables knowledge exchange, partnerships and the translation of scientific discoveries into viable companies and solutions.

Capital

Access to funding is strengthened by connecting companies with investors and financing partners. Through curated investor dialogues, networks and collaboration with regional capital actors, Medicon Village supports companies in building relationships with investors and developing long-term capital-raising strategies.

Competence

Medicon Village also contributes to strengthening the sector's talent base. Through career initiatives, professional networks, training activities and events, the organisation helps attract talent, support lifelong learning and ensure that companies have access to the competences required to grow.

Together, these three dimensions create a reinforcing framework that supports innovation, company growth and long-term competitiveness within the life science ecosystem in Skåne.

To find out more about how Medicon Village supports the translation of ideas into innovations that reach the patient, visit https://www.mediconvillage.se/innovation-support/.

MEDICON VILLAGE

The largest value-driven science park in Scandinavia dedicated to life science

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