EU biotech reaches record €42.2bn in GVA and €90bn exports, new edition WifOR Institute study shows

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 17 November 2026 - Gross value added (GVA) from EU biotech outputs reached a record **€42.2 billion in 2024**. The findings come from the 2026 edition of *Measuring the Economic Footprint of the Biotechnology Industry in the European Union*, conducted by the WifOR Institute on behalf of EuropaBio, now covering 2008–2024 and which tracks 117 products across sectors.

In 2024, products across combined biotech sectors recorded average annual GVA growth of 4.7%, exceeding the EU economy-wide average of 3.6%.

Biotech remains one of the EU's most economically productive technologies, generating **€188,400 in GVA per employee** in 2024, over 2.5 X the EU average, with healthcare outputs reaching €213,700 per employee.

The EU's international trade position is also powered through biotech, with extra-EU biotechnology exports reaching **€91.1 billion in 2024**. Healthcare biotechnology exports remained substantially above 2020 levels following their pandemic-period peak, while industrial biotechnology exports followed a more consistent trend upwards.

Employment growth in biotechnology in 2024 was **almost four times higher** than the EU average, whilst industry investment into R&D remains consistent at over **€6bn** per year.

Dr Claire Skentelbery, Director General of EuropaBio, *commented: "Biotechnology continues as an economic powerhouse in the EU. It is essential that policymakers at EU and Member State levels place this technology at the heart of ambitions for growth and resilience. It has significance far beyond economics as the world reorders itself for supply chain power and regional strength."*

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