



**An economic portrait  
of Bellinzona's life  
sciences sector**

**Study commissioned by  
the City of Bellinzona**

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# Foreword

Twenty-five years ago, when the deed establishing the Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB) was signed, no one could have imagined the development that this sector would undergo.

The City of Bellinzona then decided to support the project, convinced by the calibre and authority of the people who had inspired it: Giorgio Nosedà, Franco Cavalli, Marco Baggiolini, Jean-Claude Piffaretti and Claudio Marone. It did not take long and, thanks also to the arrival of the internationally renowned scientist Prof. Antonio Lanzavecchia, the previously small number of researchers began to grow rapidly, as did the working groups. The IRB was soon followed by the establishment of the Institute of Oncological Research (IOR), under the leadership of Prof. Franco Cavalli. The IOR is now in full swing and, for lack of space, there are already plans to build a new site next to the new one in Via Chiesa, which is mainly occupied by IRB laboratories (and to a lesser extent by IOR and cantonal hospital facilities). The goal of establishing a biomedical research centre in the city was set with the birth of the new Bellinzona in April 2017, the result of the amalgamation of thirteen municipalities in the region. While some companies, spin-offs of the IRB, had already started operations, in 2022 the city decided to purchase the old IRB premises in Via Vela with the aim of creating the Life Sciences Competence Centre, part of the Switzerland Innovation Park Ticino. Part of the building now also houses the laboratories of a British biomedical start-up and additional offices of the IOR.

In Bellinzona, this is a development that has been very strong in recent years and which, as the present BAK Economics study shows, is now very promising, both scientifically and in terms of production. A development that, if it continues, can help to shape the city, which is now new not only from an institutional point of view, but also in terms of its social and economic life.

Mario Branda  
Mayor of Bellinzona

# Executive summary

Compared with Bellinzona's overall economy, in 2020 the life sciences sector generated 2.4% of total GVA [Gross Added Value] and 1.4% of total FTE [Full-Time Equivalent] jobs. Even more important, however, is the fact that in the past decade this sector has experienced a phase of great development. In fact, Bellinzona's life sciences sector recorded a growth rate above the municipal and cantonal average in terms of both GVA and employment. These positive trends also have an impact on the growth of employee productivity and its nominal level, which in 2020 was more than one and a half times higher than the municipal and cantonal average. In general, the economic development of Bellinzona's life sciences sector follows the positive dynamics of the same sector at cantonal and national level.

In Bellinzona, the most represented sub-sector in terms of GVA production is the biotech sector, responsible for almost two thirds of the GVA production (64.4%) and FTE jobs (60.8%) of all life sciences sector in the city. Overall, the biotech sector is therefore the main driving force of Bellinzona's life sciences sector.

The data revealed by this study allows to conclude that, from an economic point of view, Bellinzona's life sciences sector is in excellent health. The development seen in recent years also suggests very good growth prospects for the future. In addition to a higher level of productivity and innovation capacity, in the coming years this sector is also expected to gain in importance due to demographic dynamics, such as an increasingly ageing population. For Bellinzona's life sciences sector, there is thus further scope for future development, which would continue to have positive consequences for the entire economy of Bellinzona as well for its national and international reputation.

The results of the qualitative interviews conducted with the directors of the four main entities that constitute Bellinzona's life sciences sector finally confirm the positive dynamics observed at the quantitative level. For all four interviewed entities, recent years have been characterised both by an increase in the number of employees and research teams and an increase in the scientific level of the research conducted and the publications authored. In addition, there has also been an increase in the number of collaborations and research projects with regional, national and international institutes. This has allowed Bellinzona's life sciences sector to be increasingly better known and to become part of an international research network.

# Introduction

In Switzerland, the life sciences sector is one of the main pillars of the economic system. As a recent study by BAK Economics shows<sup>1</sup>, the same is also true for the Canton of Ticino. In 2019, Ticino's life sciences sector generated in fact over 2.7 billion Swiss francs (CHF) of gross value added (GVA), which corresponds to 8.5% of the total GVA generated in the region. Moreover, in terms of employment, around 5,800 full-time equivalent jobs (FTE) were related to the activities of the life sciences sector in the same year.

So, the life sciences sector can be considered as a key sector for Ticino's entire economic system. This is due both to its contribution to the economic growth of the Canton in recent years and to its good development prospects for the future. In fact, in addition to a higher level of productivity and innovation capacity, in the coming years this sector is also expected to gain in importance due to demographic dynamics, such as an increasingly ageing population. The significant development in the last decade has mainly taken place in the regions of Lugano and Mendrisio, but the Bellinzona region has also become increasingly specialised, especially as a biomedical research location.

What is the value added produced by the life sciences sector in the city of Bellinzona? How has it developed over the last decade? How many jobs does this sector provide? How high is the productivity of this sector? What is the overall economic importance of life sciences activities for Bellinzona?

This study aims to answer these and other questions by providing an overview of Bellinzona's life sciences sector based on three main macroeconomic variables: value added, employment and productivity. To facilitate the contextualisation of the results, the main dynamics of Bellinzona's life sciences sector are compared with those that have shaped the same economic sector at the cantonal level, as well as with the development of the secondary sector and the overall economy of Bellinzona and the Canton of Ticino. This study also presents a brief portrait of the four main actors that shape the life sciences sector in Bellinzona: the Institute of Research in Biomedicine (IRB), the Institute of Oncology Research (IOR) and the companies Humabs Biomed SA and Peptone Switzerland AG. In June 2023, qualitative interviews were conducted with the directors of these four entities in order to obtain qualitative information on their past development, their current situation and their development prospects for the future. In this way, it was possible both to contextualise the quantitative results that emerged from the data analysis and to include in the present report information gathered directly from people working every day in the life sciences sector.

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<sup>1</sup> BAK Economics (2022), *The economic portrait of Ticino's life sciences sector*, Study on behalf of Farma Industria Ticino (association of research-based pharmaceutical companies in Ticino).

# Definition of Bellinzona's life sciences sector

With a focus on the research and production industry, the life sciences sector is usually represented by the pharmaceutical industry, medical technology and research and development in biotechnology. Depending on the structure of the local ecosystem, the wholesale of life sciences products, the management of companies or medical research and laboratories can also play an important role within the regional life sciences cluster. Overall, the pharmaceutical industry is the driving force for Ticino's entire life sciences sector. In addition to the typical activities of this sector, wholesale trade in pharmaceuticals and medical technology is particularly relevant for the Canton of Ticino and has therefore been included in the sector definition used in this study.

In the present study, a definition of "life sciences" has been adopted that includes five main sub-sectors: Pharma, Med Tech, Wholesale of life sciences products, Biotech, and other life sciences activities. The following table shows in detail which activities constitute these sub-sectors and their NOGA (General Classification of Economic Activities) code.

This study does not consider the activities that are classifiable under NOGA code 20 (Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products). The reason is that this NOGA category is itself made up of sub-categories referring to activities with chemical products that are not necessarily related to life sciences activities. Their integration into the present study would therefore risk overestimating the values and results reported.

## Sub-sectors included in Bellinzona's life sciences sector

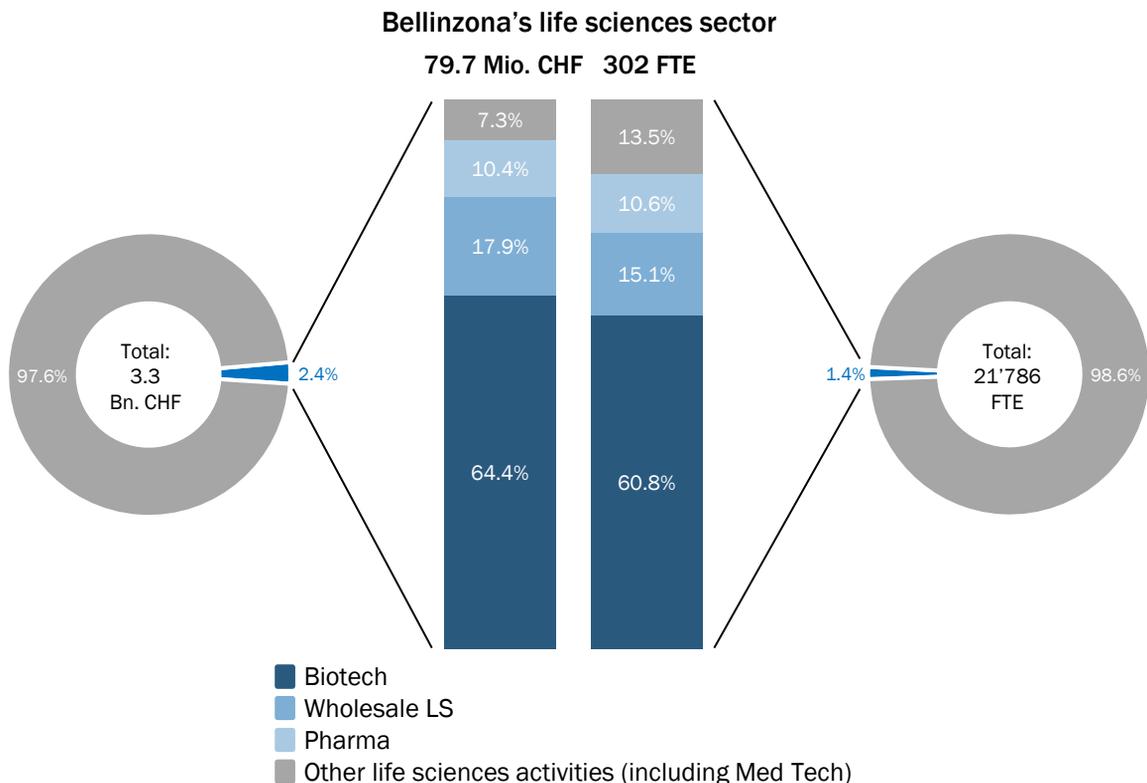
Sub-sector	NOGA Code	Description
Pharma	211000	Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products
	212000	Manufacture of pharmaceutical preparations
Med Tech	266000	Manufacture of irradiation, electromedical and electrotherapeutic equipment
	325001	Manufacture of medical and dental instruments and supplies
Wholesale life sciences	464601	Wholesale of pharmaceutical goods
	464602	Wholesale of medical, surgical and orthopedic goods
Biotech	721100	Research and experimental development on biotechnology
Other life sciences activities	721900	Other research and experimental development on natural sciences and engineering
	869006	Medical laboratories

Source: BAK Economics, Federal Statistical Office (FSO)

# Biotechnology activities are the most important in economic terms

In Bellinzona, the life sciences sector generates 2.4% of the city's total GVA and 1.4% of full-time equivalent jobs. This difference highlights the fact that this economic sector is characterised by a high level of productivity.<sup>2</sup>

At a sub-sector level, the activities in the biotech sector generate the largest percentage of GVA (64.4%) and employ the largest percentage of FTE jobs (60.8%) within the life sciences sector. This makes the biotech sector the most productive activity in Bellinzona's entire life sciences sector. Next is the Wholesale of life sciences products sector (17.9% of GVA and 15.1% of FTE jobs), and lastly the Pharmaceutical sector (10.4% of GVA and 10.6% of FTE jobs). By contrast, the rest of life sciences activities show clearly lower shares of GVA produced than the corresponding percentages of FTE jobs.



### Structure of Bellinzona's life sciences sector, 2020

% shares of total nominal gross value added and total number of employees (FTE) in relation to Bellinzona's overall economy, or to the totals in the life sciences sector respectively.

Source: BAK Economics, STATENT

<sup>2</sup> The concept of productivity indicates the efficiency with which human resources are employed in a production process. It is then calculated by dividing the value added produced by the number of FTE jobs employed in that production process.

# A brief portrait of the key players in the life sciences sector in Bellinzona

Founded in Bellinzona in 2000, the Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB) is active in the study of human immunology, with a particular focus on host defence mechanisms. In addition to this, the activities of the IRB's 13 research groups also extend to the fields of DNA repair, rare diseases, and structural and cell biology. The IRB benefits from a wide international network of collaborations and provides teaching and training programmes for graduate students from Swiss and foreign Universities. Since 2010, the IRB has been affiliated with Lugano University (*Università della Svizzera italiana*) (USI) and is part of the newly created Faculty of Biomedical sciences. Managed by the foundation of the same name, today the IRB numbers 147.0 FTE employees (May 2023).



Source: BAK Economics, [irb.usi.ch](http://irb.usi.ch)

Founded in Bellinzona in 2003, the Institute for Oncology Research (IOR) is active in basic and translational research in oncology with a special focus on cancer biology, genomics, molecular oncology and experimental therapeutics. Currently, 8 research groups (85 FTE employees in 2022) are active at the IOR in two main programmes: “Tumour Biology and Experimental Therapeutics Research” and “Lymphoma and Genomics Research Programme” Since 2011, the IOR has been administratively managed by the Foundation for the Institute of Oncological Research, and since 2017 it has been affiliated to USI as an academic institute within the Faculty of Biomedical sciences. Together with the IRB, since 2021 the IOR has become a member of the Bellinzona Institutes of (Bios<sup>+</sup>) Sciences, a non-profit association whose purpose is to promote, support and coordinate the scientific research and teaching activities of its members.



Source: BAK Economics, [ior.usi.ch](http://ior.usi.ch)

## The Bios+ building, the home of IRB and IOR, opened in 2021



©FOTOENRICOANO

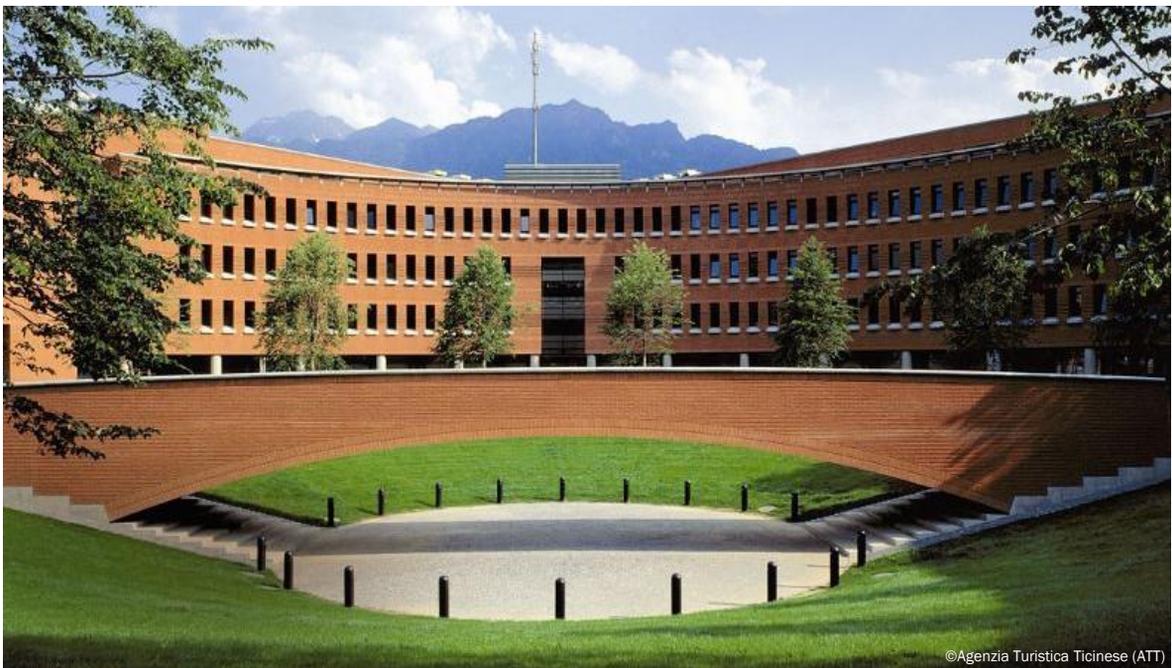
# A brief portrait of the key players in the life sciences sector in Bellinzona

Founded in 2004 and initially incubated in the IRB, Humabs Biomed SA is a private company active in immunology analysis and research, particularly concerning the early stages of research and development of medicines against infectious diseases. Over the years, Humabs Biomed has become increasingly independent of the IRB but still maintains close contacts and actively cooperates with the institute. In this sense, this company provides an important professional opportunity in Bellinzona for those finishing a doctoral programme at the IRB. The collaboration between Humabs Biomed and the IRB is also internationally recognised thanks to the discoveries made, for example, in the field of human antibodies against Ebola virus, rabies, or Zika virus. In the wake of this success, in 2017 the company was acquired by the U.S.-based Vir-Biotechnology, which allowed Humabs Biomed to complete its activities up to the marketing phase of the developed medicines. Humabs Biomed SA currently has 43.5 FTE employees (2022).



Source: BAK Economics, humabs.com

## The "Business Center" building, the headquarters of Humabs Biomed SA



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# A brief portrait of the key players in the life sciences sector in Bellinzona

Founded in London in 2018, Peptone is a translational biophysics company that focuses its activities on the discovery of new drugs against intrinsically disordered proteins. Peptone researches apply advanced biophysics, atomic-level experimental approaches, supercomputing and machine learning to the challenge of biopharmaceutical research and development. By combining these different approaches, Peptone explores the world of intrinsically disordered proteins (IDPs), which are proteins without a fixed structure that play a significant role in health and disease. This opens up the possibility of creating new drugs against a whole class of high-value and previously undruggable targets. Following a 40-million dollar funding round, in 2022 Peptone opened an advanced experimental biophysics laboratory in Bellinzona. This new laboratory will serve as an experimental innovation hub for Peptone's rapidly expanding team in Bellinzona, which currently numbers 25 peoples (July 2023).



Source: BAK Economics, [peptone.io](http://peptone.io)

The Peptone site in the city-owned *Bellinzona Biomedical Hub*, a few steps from the city center

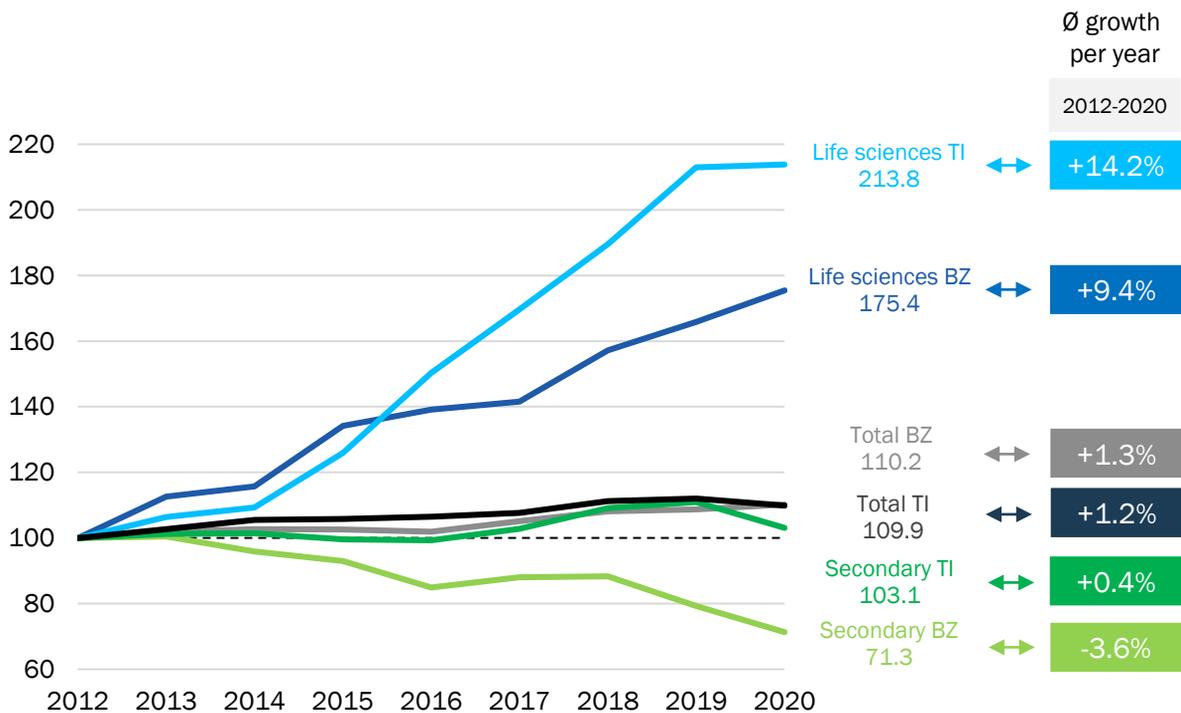


©PeptoneLtd

# GVA growth clearly higher than the municipal and cantonal average

In the period between 2012 and 2020<sup>3</sup>, the GVA growth of Bellinzona's life sciences sector was about seven times higher than the average recorded in the same city and at the cantonal level. This is mainly explained by the enlargement, especially in terms of employment (cf. p. 17), of the activities promoted by institutes and companies in this sector.

Compared with the same sector at cantonal level, Bellinzona's Life sciences sector shows a lower growth rate. This fact is mainly due to the different composition of the two sectors. At the Ticino level, the life sciences sector is largely made up of activities in the pharmaceutical sector. These activities not only have a structurally high degree of productivity, but also have experienced a strong expansion over the last decade. As pointed out on the previous page, the life sciences sector in Bellinzona is instead dominated by biotech activities which generally have a lower degree of productivity than pharmaceutical activities.



**Growth of (real) GVA, 2012-2020**

Index 2012 = 100, the value recorded in 2020 is shown below the sector name.

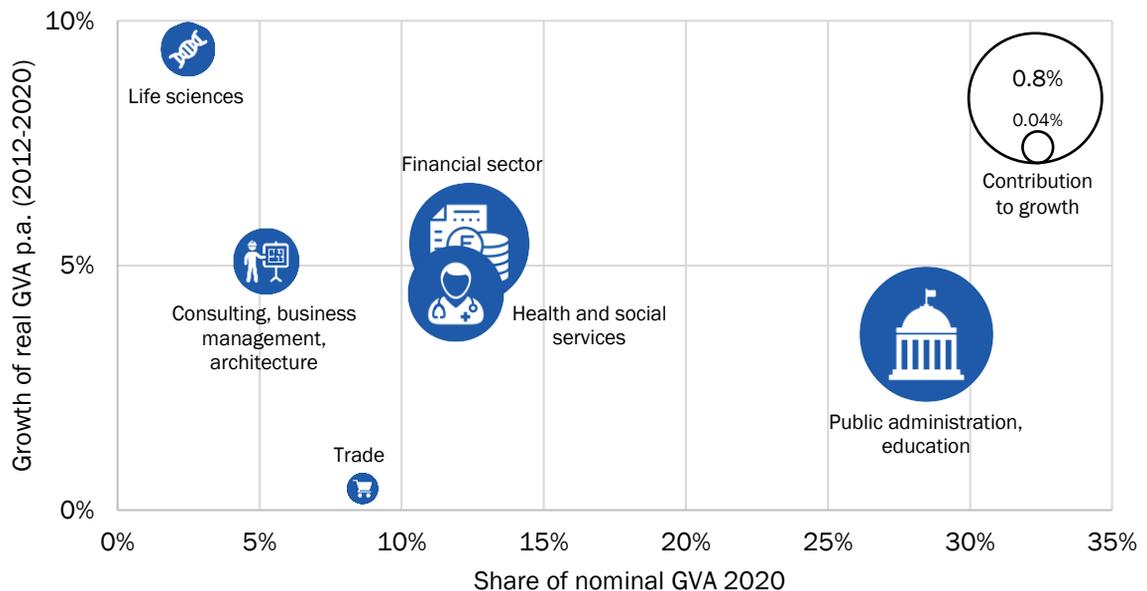
Source: BAK Economics

<sup>3</sup> The year 2020 was characterised by the Covid-19 pandemic, which also had major economic consequences. In this respect, it should be taken into account that not all sectors were affected in the same way by the pandemic, which may explain the differences in the development dynamics for the year 2020 (also on the following pages).

# In terms of GVA, Bellinzona's life sciences sector is the fastest growing

The graph below relates the share of nominal GVA produced in 2020 by Bellinzona's life sciences sector and the other main sectors present in the city to their annual real GVA growth in the period 2012-2020. This makes it possible to relate the size of a sector (in terms of nominal GVA) to its development in recent years.

As illustrated on page 8, the life sciences sector constitutes only a small part of the overall economic output of the City of Bellinzona. Compared with the larger sectors, however, it shows a clearly higher growth rate. In fact, during the period under review the life sciences sector grew at a clearly higher rate than the other main economic sectors in the city. This trend highlights how the life sciences sector is becoming increasingly important in Bellinzona also from an economic standpoint.



## Share of nominal GVA and growth of real GVA in Bellinzona by sector

The size of the bubbles corresponds to the contribution of the sector to overall economic growth (in %)

Trade: NOGA 45-47

Financial sector: NOGA 64-66

Consulting, business management, architecture: NOGA 69-71

Public administration, education: NOGA 84-85

Health and social services: NOGA 86-88

Source: BAK Economics

# The main strengths of Bellinzona's life sciences sector

The first strength of Bellinzona's life sciences sector is the high scientific profile of its main entities. Although the size of this cluster is much smaller than that of other cities or regions, the quality of research and scientific publications has enabled the various players to establish themselves on a global scale. At the same time, the small size of institutions and companies in this field allows them greater flexibility in cooperating with other training institutions or companies and in pursuing specific research programmes according to their specific needs and interests. An example of this is the context of the Covid-19 pandemic: despite some organisational difficulties (travel restrictions, shortage of certain substances, etc.), some research groups from IRB, IOR and Humabs Biomed dedicated themselves to the study of this infectious disease and the potential cures for it. The availability of skills and equipment suitable for this type of activity has thus enabled Bellinzona's life sciences sector to give its important contribution to the fight against the global pandemic.

“During the pandemic, we temporarily redirected research towards Covid-19 and long Covid. There was also a general expansion of research towards emerging diseases and preparation for new pandemics, a theme that has always been very important to the IRB.”

Davide Robbiani, Director of the IRB

“During the Covid-19 pandemic, Humabs Biomed SA developed a medicine that was then distributed to patients in approx. 2 million doses. This enabled the company to further increase its scientific standing, placing it today among the world's top 3 in our field.”

Filippo Riva, General Director of Humabs Biomed SA

A further strong point is Bellinzona's geographical location, on the north-south axis, halfway between the important research poles of Zurich and Milan, and the quality of life offered by the city.

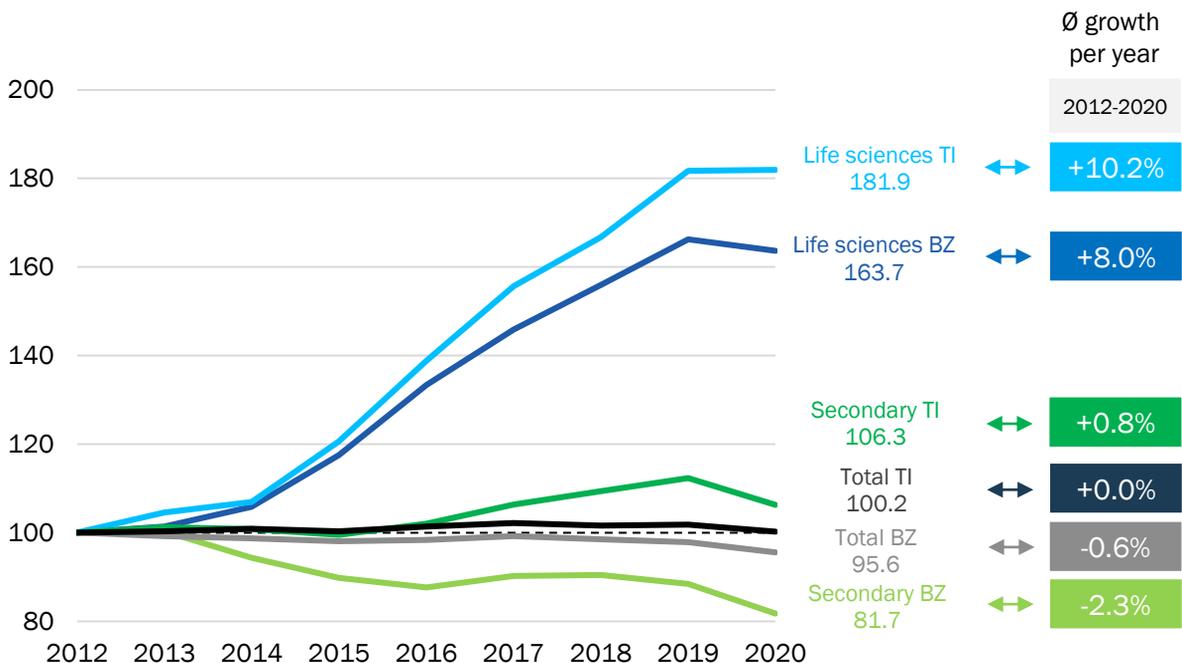
“One of the main challenges facing Bellinzona is gaining international recognition. Despite having all the necessary characteristics for life sciences activities, it is still less known than other cities like Lugano. This could be due to a "brand issue" surrounding the city and region. Promoting the region as a safe, clean, and quality location could attract the profiles needed for the sector's activities.”

Kamil Tamiola, CEO of Peptone Switzerland AG.

# ...and a significant increase in employee productivity

The growth rate of employee productivity in Bellinzona's life sciences sector followed Ticino's trend, although it was slightly lower than the cantonal average. In both cases, this sector also shows a clearly higher increase in productivity than in the Bellinzona and Ticino economies as a whole. These statements are also confirmed by the analysis of the secondary sector, which shows a much lower increase in employee productivity in Ticino and a decrease in Bellinzona.

The differences in productivity growth in the life sciences sector in Ticino and Bellinzona can again be explained by the different composition of the two sectors, in particular with a stronger presence of pharmaceutical activities in the canton. Despite this, the graph clearly shows that in both regions there was a similar and consistently positive development dynamic. The only exception is the year 2020: due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all sectors considered show lower growth, or declines compared with previous years.

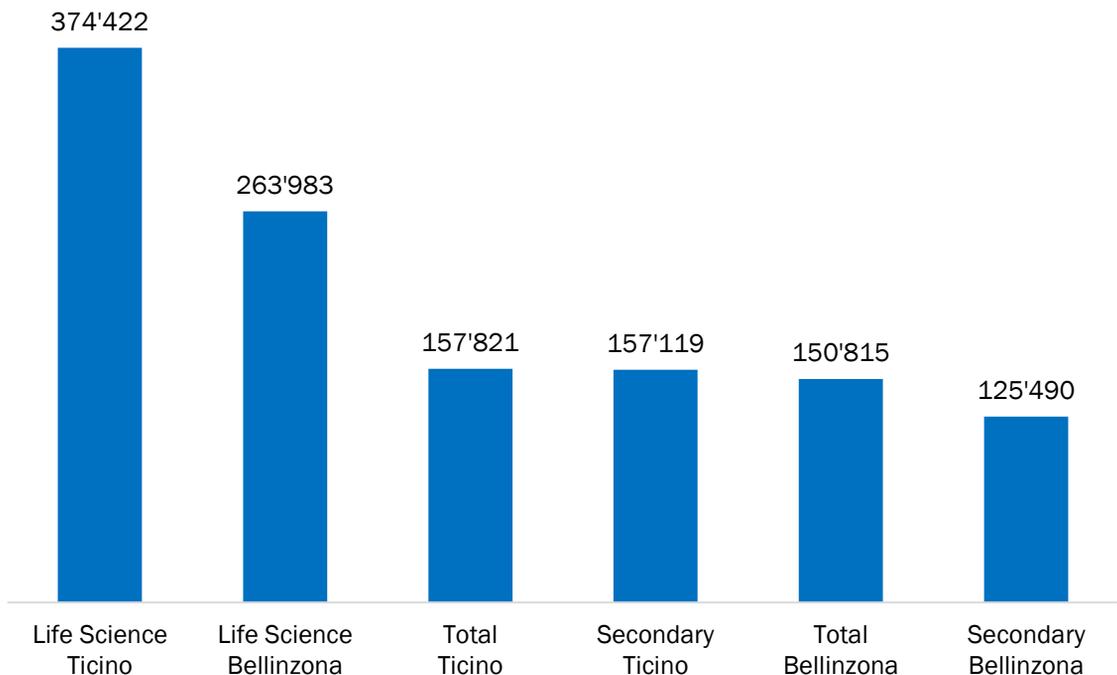


**Growth of (real) employee productivity , 2012-2020**  
 Index 2012 = 100, the value recorded in 2020 is shown below the sector name.  
 Source: BAK Economics

# In 2020, the gross value added per FTE jobs was almost 264'000 CHF

In 2020, the nominal employee productivity of Bellinzona's life sciences sector amounted to 263'983 CHF per FTE jobs. This value is around 30% lower than the data recorded for the same sector at the Canton of Ticino level (374'422 CHF per FTE jobs). This difference is mainly due to the different composition of the life sciences sector: in the Canton of Ticino, pharmaceutical and med tech activities are in fact proportionally more important in terms of GVA produced and FTE jobs than in the city of Bellinzona.

Despite this, Bellinzona's life sciences sector displays a level of employee productivity more than one and a half times higher than the average of both the Bellinzona and Ticino economies, as well as the value registered by the secondary sector in both these regions.



### Nominal employee productivity, 2020

In CHF (at current prices) per FTE job.

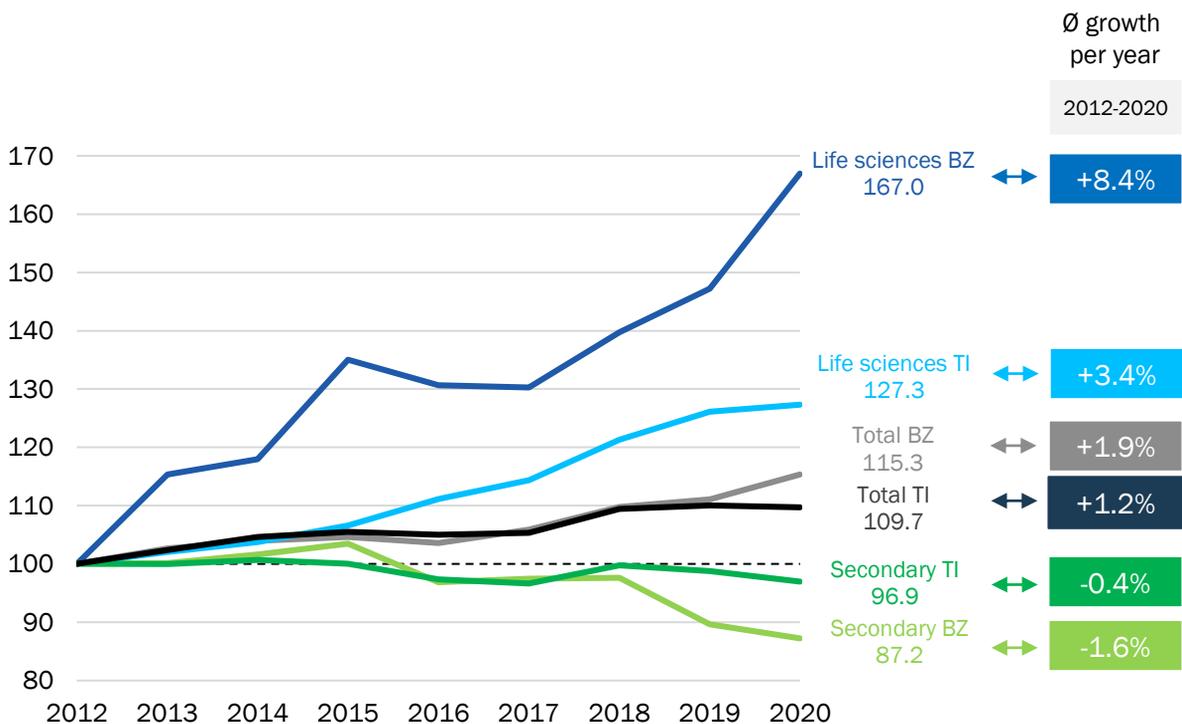
The value recorded in 2020 is shown over the columns.

Source: BAK Economics

# Employment growth is clearly above municipal and cantonal average

During the period from 2012 to 2020, employment in Bellinzona's life sciences sector grew at an average annual rate more than four times higher than the average growth in overall employment in the city. This employment growth is also more than twice as high as that of the life sciences sector at the cantonal level. This employment growth is also clearly in contrast to the trend observed for the entire secondary sector, which shows a decrease in jobs both at the cantonal and the municipal level.

From the graph, three distinct phases it can be noticed regarding employment growth in Bellinzona's life sciences sector. The first runs from 2012 to 2015, a period in which the trend of growth is clearly higher than in all the comparison sectors. Between 2015 and 2017, however, there was a slight downturn. In the most recent period under consideration (2017-2020), the growth rate returned again to a clearly higher rate than all comparison sectors.



## Growth of FTE jobs, 2012-2020

Index 2012 = 100, the value recorded in 2020 is shown below the sector name.

Source: BAK Economics, STATENT

# An important development of activities and collaborations

All four entities interviewed confirmed that they had experienced a major phase of development over the recent years. First of all, this dynamic can be seen in the increase of persons employed, which significantly rose in all four entities under consideration. On the one hand, this expansion made it possible to increase the activities promoted by these actors, for example through the establishment of new research groups for specific projects.

“In recent years, we have experienced growth in staff and research groups, diversification of research areas, growth in funding for national and international research projects as well as technological advancement and upgrading, including investments in advanced research equipment.”

Davide Robbiani, Director of the IRB

“In the period 2011-17, the company experienced an initial start-up phase. After that, there was a significant growth in the number of employees. Following the 2017 acquisition by US-based Vir Biotechnology, Humabs was then able to proceed with more investments to devote to both personnel and infrastructure.”

Filippo Riva, General Director of Humabs Biomed SA

On the other hand, this has facilitated the consolidation, or the development of new partnerships with other players of in the territory, including the Cantonal Hospital Agency (*Ente Ospedaliero Cantonale*) (EOC) and the association of pharmaceutical companies (*Farma Industria Ticino*) (FIT). In addition to this, there are the collaborations with universities and research institutes at an international level, which have made it possible for the Bellinzona research pole to become also known outside Switzerland's borders.

“IOR and IRB have research groups that have been working together positively for a long time, even though they are actors managed by two different foundations. There is also an important collaboration with the EOC: initially only with the oncology research laboratories, now also with the various other laboratories.”

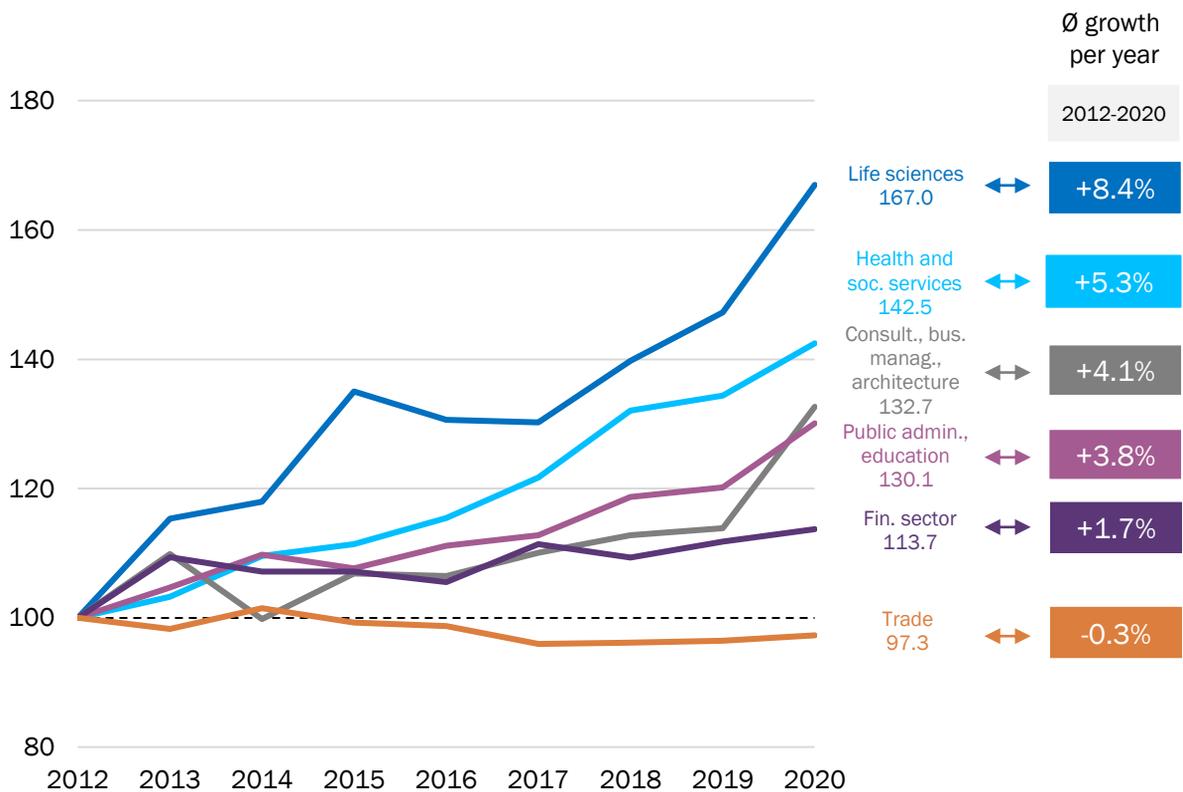
Carlo Catapano, Director of the IOR

“We have recently entered into an agreement with IRB and IOR to establish a collaborative effort. Such partnerships are crucial to us as they enable us to share knowledge and resources and help us secure funding for our various projects. Investing in such collaborations is an integral part of our strategy for the life sciences cluster. ”

Kamil Tamiola, CEO of Peptone Switzerland AG

# The life sciences sector is also one of the fastest growing in terms of jobs

The graph below shows the employment growth in the life science sector and the four main economic sectors (by number of FTEs) in Bellinzona. Similar to the observation regarding GVA (cf. p. 13), the life sciences sector shows an FTE growth rate that is clearly higher than that of the city's other main economic sectors. It can thus be noted that the life sciences sector is becoming increasingly important for Bellinzona's economy also in terms of employment.



## Growth of FTE jobs in Bellinzona by sector, 2012-2020

Index 2012 = 100, the value recorded in 2020 is shown below the sector name.

Trade: NOGA 45-47

Financial sector: NOGA 64-66

Consulting, business management, architecture: NOGA 69-71

Public administration, education: NOGA 84-85

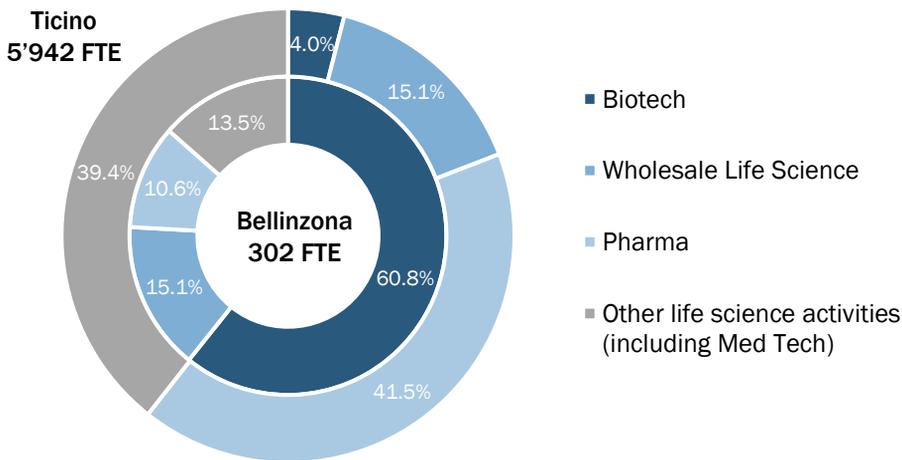
Health and social services: NOGA 86-88

Source: BAK Economics

# In terms of jobs, Bellinzona is clearly specialised in the biotech sector

An analysis of the structure of employment in the life sciences sector in Bellinzona reveals that almost two thirds of FTE jobs are related to biotech activities (60.8%). This represents a big difference with the life sciences sector in Ticino as a whole, where only 4.0% of FTE jobs are attributable to this sub-sector. A second important difference concerns the share of FTE jobs in the pharmaceutical sub-sector, which is about four times higher in the cantonal context. By contrast, activities related to the wholesale of life sciences products show the same percentage of employment in both regions under consideration.

Finally, the share of jobs in other life sciences activities is influenced by the med tech sub-sector, which in Bellinzona employs a small percentage of FTEs (3.5%) compared with the cantonal context (28.0%).



**Employment shares in the life sciences sector in Bellinzona and Ticino, 2020**  
 In full-time equivalents (FTE). The inner circle refers to the city of Bellinzona the outer circle to the Canton of Ticino.  
 Source: BAK Economics, STATENT

# The main challenges for the future

One of the main challenges cited by all the interviewed entities concerns the availability of adequate spaces, particularly for laboratory activities. In recent years, this aspect has been one of the most problematic, especially in relation to the large increase of employees. The availability of spaces is also seen as an indispensable condition for the development of the entire life sciences cluster in Bellinzona. In this respect, progress has recently been made, in particular with the opening of the new IRB and IOR building. The same applies to Humabs Biomed SA, which recently started the process of expanding its facility at their current site. The new spaces should also be designed with a long-term perspective, in order to take into account technological developments in laboratory instrumentation and their integration with other technologies (IT, artificial intelligence, etc.).

“For the future, it is important to be able to count on favourable framework conditions, for example by involving all the main actors in the planning of new research buildings (student house, daycare, canteen, cycle path, public transport access and frequency, etc.).”

Daide Robbiani, Director of the IRB

“The city must listen to the experiences of individuals working in this sector, particularly small companies in development. These are the companies that can establish themselves in Bellinzona, as opposed to large groups that are already established internationally.”

Kamil Tamiola, CEO of Peptone Switzerland AG

A further challenge relates to the capacity to attract to Bellinzona the qualified personnel needed to carry out the various research and training activities. This is especially so because the city of Bellinzona competes with larger and better known Swiss and international locations such as Zurich, Basel, Boston and San Francisco. This is linked to the need to maintain scientific research at a high level, in order to consolidate the positive dynamics of recent years. Among these dynamics there is certainly the consolidation and further development of partnerships with local, national and international life sciences actors. Finally, the importance of constant funding was mentioned as a key factor for the continuation of the various research activities and for the further expansion of the entire life sciences sector in the city of Bellinzona.

“It is important to consolidate the positive attitude towards collaboration between the various players in Bellinzona's life sciences sector. The collaborative spirit and the exchange of information is also crucial for the economic development of the entire cluster.”

Carlo Catapano, Director of the IOR



BAK Economics AG was founded in 1980 as a spin-off of the University of Basel, with which it maintains constant contact to this day. Since 1987, BAK has acquired the status of a private company under Swiss law.

In recent years, BAK has further developed to provide its clients with a service offering that is increasingly close to and in line with their cross-cutting needs and in step with the most innovative technologies. Thanks to an evolving territorial presence and a strong and developed sensitivity to local and regional dynamics, BAK is a solid and reliable partner able to provide services in a widespread and systematic way. Its services can be summed up in its name: Beratung (Consulting), Analysen (Analysis) and Kommunikation (Communication).

The group's three offices (Basel, Lugano and Bern) are in constant contact with each other in order to offer clients not only specific and synergistic skills aimed at providing a quality service, but also the possibility of accessing a consolidated and well branched network throughout Switzerland. In an increasingly fast-paced and immediate world, networking between people - be they entrepreneurs, managers, institutional representatives or leading figures in the various sectors - remains a cornerstone for economic development as well as for the expansion and consolidation of your business. The values on which BAK bases its actions are quality, concreteness, transparency and innovation.

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