

**Rheinland-^{Gold}
Pfalz**

Health Economy & Biotechnology Rhineland-Palatinate

Events, Fairs, Partnerships, Networking





Health Economy and Biotechnology Rhineland-Palatinate

Rhineland-Palatinate is emerging as a breeding ground for progressive biotech and healthcare technologies. The close connection between science, industry and startups is giving rise to pioneering innovations that are setting new standards. The region is promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and utilising state-of-the-art research infrastructures to create biomedical solutions designed to meet global challenges. New companies in particular are benefiting from this collaboration, with experienced mentors and targeted support programmes specifically tailored to the needs of startups. With a strong focus on digitalisation and artificial intelligence, smart medical technology is being developed to improve patient care in the long term. Rhineland-Palatinate is combining its established expertise with brave ideas for the future, positioning itself as an international pioneer in the health economy. The region is reimagining health-technologically, economically and socially.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs has teamed up with various partners to launch a number of initiatives. After all, each sector of the health economy – medical technology, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology – can only continue to evolve for the benefit of society through close cooperation between all stakeholders. As a result, Rhineland-Palatinate not only remains a driving force for innovation, but is also making a significant contribution to excellent healthcare while strengthening the region's competitiveness on the global stage.

This brochure contains an overview of what's on offer – including events, fairs, information and contact details for collaboration partners.

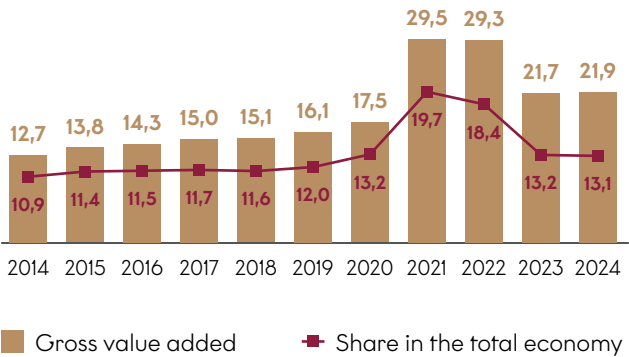
Your Health Economy and Biotechnology Team

of the Ministry for Economic Affairs, Transport, Agriculture and Viniculture for Rhineland-Palatinate

Facts & Figures

Gross value added in the health economy in Rhineland-Palatinate, 2014 – 2024

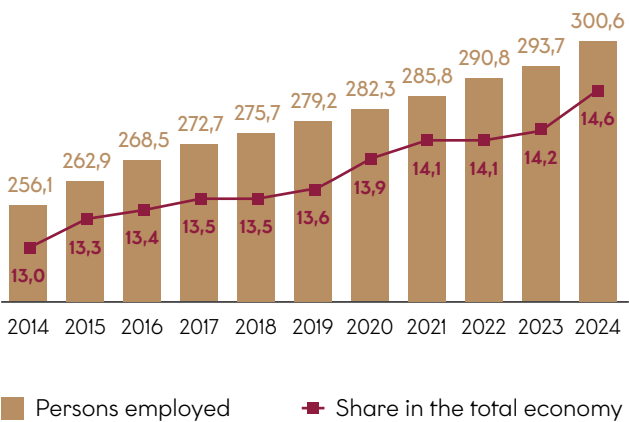
Figures are in billions of euros and as a percentage share of the total economy



Source: State Statistical Office of Rhineland-Palatinate

Persons employed in the health economy in Rhineland-Palatinate, 2014 – 2024

Figures in thousands and as a percentage share of the total economy



Source: State Statistical Office of Rhineland-Palatinate

The health economy plays a prominent role in Rhineland-Palatinate. According to the macroeconomic results recorded at federal state level, the gross value added of the local healthcare industry amounted to around EUR 21.9 billion in 2024, accounting for around 13% of the country's total economic output.

This places Rhineland-Palatinate in third place among the federal states, together with Saarland; the total value added share attributable to the healthcare industry across all states stood at 11%, while the price-adjusted gross value added share of Rhineland-Palatinate's health economy declined by 3.6% in 2024. This decline is mainly due to specific factors in the pharmaceutical industry, whose products made a significant contribution to the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. However, the health economy has recorded above-average growth over the long term: From 2014 to 2024, gross value added in this sector rose by 36%, while the economy as a whole only grew by 25% in the same period.

In 2024, the local health economy provided jobs to 300,600 people, which corresponds to 15% of the total workforce. This puts Rhineland-Palatinate in fifth place among all federal states (average: 14%).

44,600 additional jobs were created between 2014 and 2024, representing an increase of 17%. In 2024, the number of people employed in these fields rose by 2.4%, with the national average standing at 2.2%. Another indicator concerns productivity: In 2024, each person employed in the health economy in Rhineland-Palatinate generated an average gross value added of EUR 72,800. This corresponds to a price-adjusted decline of 5.9% compared to the previous year. Nevertheless, productivity in Rhineland-Palatinate's health economy is above the national average of EUR 67,677.

Events



PharmaForum Southwest

March 5, 2026 | Wiesbaden, Germany

PharmaForum provides a platform for researchers and companies from the region to meet with members of pharmaceutical research enterprises. The aim is to allow participants to identify shared projects such as research alliances and funding opportunities.

PharmaForum takes place once a year and is organized by the German Association of Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (vfa), the Central Health Strategy Group (GPA-Mitte) – a regional interest group for pharmaceutical research enterprises, and the Ministries of Economic Affairs, Transport, Agriculture and Viniculture of Saarland, Hessen and Rhineland-Palatinate.

Further information is available here:

www.pharmaforum-sw.de





Rhineland-Palatinate Medical Technology Industry Conference

June 11, 2026 | Mainz, Germany

Since 2013, Rhineland-Palatinate has hosted an annual Medical Technology Industry Conference, known as medtech, to promote cooperation and exchange between medical technology manufacturers, IT companies, service providers, institutes, authorities and health insurance companies. The overarching goal is to realise demand-oriented product and process innovations in medical technology. The event is accompanied by the "Medicine – Technology and Research" exhibition, where up to 40 exhibitors present their latest developments every year.

With medtech, the Rhineland-Palatinate Ministry of Economic Affairs has established an excellent platform for the medical technology sector, which gives opportunities to ascertain current developments and trends, present innovative solutions and discuss existing challenges. The exhibition, panel discussions, specialist presentations and pitches offer excellent networking opportunities and the chance to talk to leading experts from the field.

Further information is available here:

**[www.standort-gesundheitswirtschaft.rlp.de/
veranstaltungen/medtech-rlp](http://www.standort-gesundheitswirtschaft.rlp.de/veranstaltungen/medtech-rlp)**



MDR-Forum

Medical Device Regulation
RHEINLAND-PFALZ

10th MDR Forum for the Successful Implementation of MDR and IVDR in practice

October 1, 2026 | Mainz, Germany

The MDR Forum systematically supports companies in the practical implementation of the EU's Medical Device Regulation (MDR) and In Vitro Diagnostics Regulation (IVDR). Through open discussions and the exchange of information on the current status of processes, a platform is created that enables field stakeholders to make valuable contacts with each other and with experts, share knowledge and work on problems.

The MDR Forum is an event organised by the Rhineland-Palatinate Ministry of Economic Affairs. It is aimed at developers and manufacturers in the medical technology sector, especially SMEs and startups, as well as users from hospitals, medical practices and pharmacies. Anyone else interested in the topics of medical devices and in vitro diagnostics is also very welcome to attend.

Further information is available here:

[www.standort-gesundheitswirtschaft.rlp.de/
veranstaltungen/mdr-forum](http://www.standort-gesundheitswirtschaft.rlp.de/veranstaltungen/mdr-forum)

Trade Fairs



The Rhineland-Palatinate Health Economy and Biotechnology at MEDICA

November 16 - November 19, 2026 | Düsseldorf, Germany

At the joint stand "Innovative Healthcare Technologies Rhineland-Palatinate" organised by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Science and Health, Rhineland-Palatinate will be presenting itself as a leading location for the health economy and biotechnology.

With a diverse mix of innovative companies, research institutions and startups, Rhineland-Palatinate demonstrates its strengths in the fields of medical technology, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. The stand offers visitors the opportunity to discover the latest developments and collaborations and to experience the innovative power of the health economy. The Ministry of Economic Affairs is also presenting initiatives that will further strengthen the industry's growth and competitiveness.

Further information is available here:

**[www.standort-gesundheitswirtschaft.rlp.de/
veranstaltungen/medica](http://www.standort-gesundheitswirtschaft.rlp.de/veranstaltungen/medica)**

www.medica.de

German Biotechnology Days (DBT)

April 21 - April 22, 2026 | Leipzig, Germany

This event is a national forum for the German biotechnology industry where companies can interact with stakeholders from science and politics, research institutions and administrative departments. The two-day agenda covers diverse fields of application and highlights the potential of biotechnology from health research to bioeconomics. The DBT event is organized by BIO Deutschland and the Council of BioRegions in Germany (AK-BioRegio).

Further information is available here:

[www.standort-gesundheitswirtschaft.rlp.de
/veranstaltungen/deutsche-biotechnologietage-1](http://www.standort-gesundheitswirtschaft.rlp.de/veranstaltungen/deutsche-biotechnologietage-1)
www.biotechnologietage.de

SWISS BIOTECH DAY

Swiss Biotech Day 2026

May 4 - May 5, 2026 | Basel, Switzerland

Swiss Biotech Day is one of the most important biotechnology conferences in Europe, attracting professionals from the global life sciences community. In 2026, it will again provide a platform for networking, stimulating discussions and the exploration of developments in research & development, production, data management, artificial in-

telligence and innovative financing. International biotech delegations use the “global village” to strengthen their ties with Switzerland as a hub of biotechnology and to promote cross-border investment, public-private partnerships, research & development collaboration as well as the exchange of talent.

Further information is available here:

www.standort-gesundheitswirtschaft.rlp.de/veranstaltungen/swiss-biotech-days-1
www.swissbiotechday.ch

BIO-EUROPE®

BIO-EUROPE

March 23 - March 25, 2026 | Lisbon, Portugal

November 9 - November 11, 2026 | Cologne, Germany

The Bio Europe trade fair is one of the leading events for the biopharmaceutical industry, which takes place annually in various European cities. It brings together experts from the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical technology sectors to network, exchange ideas and explore business opportunities. The trade fair offers a comprehensive programme of lectures, workshops and panel discussions on current trends, technologies and challenges in the industry. There will also be numerous exhibitors presenting their latest products and innovations. The event serves as an important meeting place for companies, investors and research institutions to promote cooperation and support the exchange of knowledge.

Further information is available here:

www.informaconnect.com/bioeurope

Partnerships & Networking



InnoNet HealthEconomy

InnoNet HealthEconomy e.V. is the main network serving the health economy in Rhineland-Palatinate. With over 170 members (as of August 2025), it brings together experts from the pharmaceutical, medical technology, prevention and rehabilitation, healthcare, service and IT sectors – supplemented by health insurance funds and companies in supply management.

The network's aim is to strengthen the competitiveness, knowledge transfer and innovative prowess of healthcare stakeholders and to tap into potential across national markets. InnoNet offers a platform for cooperation, projects, exchange and networking.

InnoNet stands for:

- Creating transparency
- Promoting networking
- Strengthening visibility

Focus Groups at InnoNet

• Digital Health

Cooperation in developing digital health solutions and interfaces for supply management

• Diabetes Alliance Rhineland-Palatinate / Guardians for Health

Further development of the interdisciplinary DIA RLP Cluster, prevention and treatment of comorbidities

• IT / Oncology Focus Group

Interoperability, data (exchange)

- **InnoFACTOR – AI in healthcare**

Integration of AI into medical devices and processes, software-based development / certification

- **Strengthening Practices**

Primary care physicians as a central point of care, relief through prevention and digital processes

- **Future of Healthcare**

Cross-sector care, modern care models, prevention

InnoNet Network Forum

InnoNet HealthEconomy e.V. maintains an online presence to facilitate regular, targeted knowledge transfer and exchange among its members. It helps to identify common interests, tap into synergies and initiate collaborations – for a strong, networked health economy.

Impulse for exchange

The annual network meeting of InnoNet HealthEconomy e.V. brings together key players in the healthcare industry to promote high-quality exchange and effective knowledge transfer and to establish targeted collaborations. It's a truly unique event!

Further information is available here:

www.innonet-healtheconomy.com

InnoNet HealthEconomy e.V.

Healthcare Economy Network, Rhineland-Palatinate

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INNOVATIONSAGENTUR RHEINLAND-PFALZ

Innovation Agency Rhineland-Palatinate

The Innovation Agency Rhineland-Palatinate functions as a initiator, matchmaker and guide in the Rhineland-Palatinate innovation ecosystem. As a company of the state, it networks key stakeholders from economy and science such as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), startups, research institutions and clusters. In doing so, it promotes the transfer of knowledge and technology and simultaneously acts as a guide for the promotion and financing of innovations.

Some of the main topics in the field of healthcare are:

- Medical technology
- Personalized medicine
- Telemedicine
- Drug discovery and development
- Digitalization and automation

The Innovation Agency offers workshops, world cafés and other event formats. The cross-industry approach is central to this, resulting in new and unexpected connections.

On the InnoHub networking platform, you can find the partners who will move your project forward. Make new contacts in the group "Location Healthcare and Biotechnology Rhineland-Palatinate"!

Further information is available here:

www.innovationsagentur.rlp.de

innohub-rlp.de

Innovation Agency Rhineland-Palatinate

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Enterprise Europe Network Rheinland-Pfalz / Saar

With over 500 contact points in more than 50 countries, the Enterprise Europe Network is the world's largest support and advisory network for SMEs in the areas of innovation and internationalisation.

In Rhineland-Palatinate and Saarland, three strong partners are pooling their expertise: Innovationsagentur RLP GmbH in Mainz, EIC Trier GmbH and saaris GmbH in Saarbrücken.

Within this consortium, the Innovation Agency is the central point of contact for innovations focusing on the healthcare industry, industrial biotechnology, materials and renewable energies. It supports SMEs and startups in accessing foreign markets.

The Enterprise Europe Network offers tailor-made services in the following areas:

- Support in finding R&D project partners and managing international business relations
- Support in conducting business with foreign partners in the EU
- Co-organisation of international partnering events and business trips
- Support with European funding programmes and financing, especially in research and innovation
- Advice on intellectual property and sustainability
- Guidance on the international marketing of innovative products, processes and services

Further information is available here:

www.een-rlpsaar.de

Innovationsagentur Rheinland-Pfalz GmbH

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Life Science Zentrum Mainz

Life Science Zentrum Mainz GmbH

The Life Science Centre Mainz (LZM) has been involved in the constant development of the startup ecosystem in Rhineland-Palatinate and the region around the state capital of Mainz since 1987.

It focuses on supporting startups and entrepreneurs in the fields of life sciences and biotechnology, paving the way for young scientists and visionary founders to turn their ambitious ideas into successful businesses. With a comprehensive range of tailored services, it provides a solid foundation for success in these forward-looking sectors.

The LZM's current project is the Life Science Incubator [LiSci] RLP, where innovative life science ideas are transformed into sustainable startups (see p. 21).

With its strategic location in the Rhine-Main region and strong support from local and regional institutions, the LZM is an indispensable partner for anyone striving for success in the life sciences and biotechnology sectors.

Further information is available here:

www.lzmz.de

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BioVation RLP
synergy 4 life sciences

BioVation RLP – Synergy for Life Sciences

BioVation RLP is a state-wide networking platform for the fields of biotechnology and life sciences in Rhineland-Palatinate. The main objective of the platform is to establish a strong network of all players from science and industry in the fields of biotechnology, life sciences, medicine, medical technology and artificial intelligence.

The focus is on creating synergies in the life sciences sector, promoting innovation and supporting cooperation and interdisciplinary project work. The networking of leading players from science and industry with global players, as well as with innovative small and medium-sized companies and research institutes, opens up a wide range of opportunities for collaboration.

As a business unit of Life Science Centre Mainz GmbH (LZM), BioVation RLP is firmly anchored within the structures of Rhineland-Palatinate. The platform is intended to grow into an ecosystem that promotes synergies in the life sciences sector and lays the foundation for new developments and collaborations in order to advance the industry and achieve joint success.

Further information is available here:

www.biovation-rlp.de

BioVation RLP

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MEDICAL DEVICE
INNOVATION CENTER



Rheinland-Pfalz ^{Gold}



UNIVERSITÄTSmedizin.
MAINZ

Medical Device Innovation Center (MIC)

The Medical Device Innovation Center (MIC) of the University Medical Center Mainz is a publicly funded project of the Interdisciplinary Center for Clinical Trials (IZKS), which supports and advises companies and research institutions in the development of new and innovative medical devices.

As a competence center for medical devices, the MIC stands for close cooperation between industry, clinics and research and aims to achieve efficient product development closely aligned with the requirements of hospitals and in compliance with MDR regulations.

The MIC accompanies the entire product life cycle through to Post Market Surveillance (PMS), in order to ensure the benefits of medical devices, minimise risks and guarantee the best possible healthcare for patients.

Further information is available here:

www.mic-mainz.de

MIC Mainz

Dipl.-Biol. Karolina Nadjafi,

Scientific Clinical Project Manager MIC

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Interdisciplinary Center for Clinical Trials (IZKS)

The Interdisciplinary Center for Clinical Trials Mainz (IZKS) is a central research platform of the University Medical Center Mainz. It provides support in all issues concerning clinical research projects:

Study management, statistical consulting and analysis planning, test plan development, clinical monitoring, data management, regulatory affairs, safety management, study reports, inspection briefing, audits and further/continuing education.

Further information is available here:

www.izks-mainz.de

IZKS Mainz

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Medical Startup Alliance

The Rhine-Main Medical Startup Alliance, a collaboration of the Rhine-Main universities of Frankfurt, Darmstadt, Mainz and the University Medical Center Mainz (UM), has set itself the goal of scouting out initiatives for founding new businesses and helping companies to become successful and lasting startups.



Medical Startups

Medical startups in the Rhine-Main region meet quarterly – at the site of a different company each time – to discuss problems and possible solutions.

Further information is available here:

www.unimedizin-mainz.de/forschung/technologietransfer



Mainz University Medical Center

Technology transfer at the Mainz University Medical Center

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Funding & Financing

- Rhineland-Palatinate offers a range of financial support schemes tailored to innovative companies, such as innovation funds, the InnoTop programme and innovation assistants.

Further information is available at:

www.isb.rlp.de/service/foerderung

- www.startupoffice.rlp.de/en/startup-office aims to raise awareness of the opportunities available to new businesses and startups while strengthening communication on the startup scene.
- www.gruenden.rlp.de is a meta-portal run by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Transport, Agriculture and Viniculture for Rhineland-Palatinate. It is aimed at anyone interested in starting a business, providing startup advisory services and business consultants.
- www.crowdfunding.rlp.de is the crowdfunding information portal for Rhineland-Palatinate. It provides news on events relating to alternative forms of financing and crowdfunding.
- www.lisci-rlp.de offers one-to-one support, targeted mentoring, workshops and seminars for startup projects with a focus on research. It also provides access to a strong network of industry experts and partners. The aim is to transform innovative life science ideas into viable startups.



Competitions

Competitions such as Startup Innovativ, Pioniergeist, the Rhineland-Palatinate Innovation Award, the ISB Bank Success Bonus, Business Plan Competition 1, 2, 3, Go, and the Rhineland-Palatinate Ideas Competition offer more than just financial support.

Further information is available here:

**[www.gruenden.rlp.de/foerderung-finanzierung/
wettbewerbe](http://www.gruenden.rlp.de/foerderung-finanzierung/wettbewerbe)**
startupoffice.rlp.de



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UND WEINBAU

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