

Life Sciences and Health

A Strategic Investment Opportunity
in Cape Town & the Western Cape

May 2025



Western Cape
Government
FOR YOU



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Biotech, Cape Winelands

Sector Overview

The Western Cape is a leading hub for life sciences and health, medical technology, and digital health, combining cutting-edge research, advanced manufacturing, and strong trade connections. As Africa's healthcare sector grows, the region is well-positioned to meet rising demand for innovative medical solutions.

South Africa's pharmaceuticals market is valued at US\$3.2 billion with the Western Cape at the heart of this growth. With global leaders like Roche, GSK, and Sanofi operating in the country, the Western Cape benefits from strong industry collaboration, a highly skilled workforce, and a thriving innovation ecosystem, cementing its position as a key player in Africa's healthcare future.

Key segments include:

- **Pharmaceuticals:** The Western Cape is home to leading pharmaceutical firms, supported by advanced research capabilities.
- **Medical Devices:** Serving as a strategic export hub, the province plays an important role in the production of high-quality medical device components.
- **Healthcare:** A rising demand for services and continued investment in health infrastructure present opportunities for growth in the Western Cape.
- **Biotech:** The Western Cape is home to cutting-edge biotech innovation, with the ecosystem supported by four leading universities.
- **Digital Health Services:** The Western Cape hosts several pioneering digital health companies, leading the way in telemedicine and digital health solutions.



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WHY CAPE TOWN & THE WESTERN CAPE

1. Strategic Export Hub for Africa

The Western Cape accounts for 24% of South Africa's exports of instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical & sciences. It offers a gateway to the AfCFTA, unlocking potentially duty-free access to a US\$ 3.4 trillion market.

2. Growing Healthcare Demand

Rising middle-class spending is fuelling demand for diagnostics, treatment, and digital health solutions.

3. World-Class Research & Innovation

Home to top-tier universities, and leading academic hospitals, including Groote Schuur – the site of the world's first heart transplant. Pioneering genomic medicine, HIV/TB diagnostics, and AI-driven healthcare.

4. Advanced Manufacturing & Medtech Excellence

A leading medtech hub in Africa, specialising in surgical robotics, 3D-printed prosthetics, and vaccine production.

5. Digital Health & Telemedicine Leadership

South Africa is home to leading digital health firms, advancing remote monitoring, electronic health records, and AI diagnostics, while expanding telehealth to underserved rural areas and international markets.

6. Business-Friendly Policies

Streamlined regulations and modern infrastructure for life sciences and health investors. The Western Cape Government has budgeted over US\$ 200 million for health infrastructure investment over the next three years.

7. Skilled Workforce & Cost-Competitive Talent

Strong talent pipeline in biotech, engineering, and data science at globally competitive salaries. Industry-academia collaboration ensures a steady flow of skilled professionals.

8. Sustainable Healthcare & Biodiversity Advantage

Over 9,000 plant species (10% of global biodiversity) support natural drug discovery and biotech research.

9. Stable Governance & Investor-Friendly Environment

Policy certainty, strong intellectual property protection, and investor-friendly reforms drive a supportive environment for growth and investment.

10. Incentives

For additional information scan here:



Life Sciences and Health Companies Shaping Cape Town & the Western Cape



Contact us for more information

For further information on setting up or expanding your business in Cape Town & the Western Cape please contact Wesgro's Investment Team

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