

# Life Science, Pharmaceutical and Process

## Annex A: Detailed Information on Skills Needs Assessment



# Life Science, Pharmaceutical and Process

## National picture

The United Kingdom's life sciences economy is currently governed by the strategic mandates of the Invest 2035 strategy, which identifies life sciences as one of eight core growth sectors essential to the nation's long-term prosperity. This ten-year plan establishes the aim to position UK as one of the top three life sciences economies globally by 2035, while simultaneously securing the status of Europe's leading destination for life sciences Foreign Direct Investment by 2030. Underpinned by over £2 billion in government funding, supplemented by UKRI and NIHR resources and structural reforms, the national ambition is aimed at building resilience for future health emergencies and addressing systemic supply chain weaknesses exposed during recent global disruptions.

Key interventions include a £520 million Life Sciences Innovative Manufacturing Fund to attract mobile manufacturing investment and build capability. The fund is designed to attract mobile manufacturing investment and build domestic capability in the production of human medicines, spanning Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients and finished drug products, as well as medical diagnostics and Medical Technology devices.

The government has launched the Life Sciences Transformational Research and Development Investment Fund Pilot, a £50 million initiative targeting high-risk, high-reward projects that often struggle to attract conventional private finance. These financial interventions are complemented by efforts to create a more agile regulatory environment, enabling faster adoption of new medicines and technologies within the National Health Service.

A landmark development is also the £600 million investment to establish the Health Data Research Service, under the leadership of CEO Dr. Melanie Ivarsson, appointed in January 2026, that is expected to accelerate medical breakthroughs and enhance the United Kingdom's global standing in clinical trials and data-driven drug discovery. The strategy also highlights the need for a faster, more agile regulatory environment to speed up the adoption of new medicines and technologies within the NHS.

The national picture is further refined by the Life Sciences Sector Plan, published in July 2025, which integrates these funding streams with a focus on workforce development and infrastructure. This plan emphasises the importance of "strategic autonomy" in drug production, ensuring that critical supply chains for oncology treatments, autoimmune diseases, and vaccines are anchored within the UK. The industrial strategy explicitly addresses the need for a collaborative "partnership model" between the public and private sectors to restore stability and deliver high-wage, high-skilled jobs across the country.

## The specific sector in the North East

The Life Sciences sector in the North East is a high-value, high-export engine of the regional economy. Characterised by a dense cluster of pharmaceutical manufacturing and biotech organisations, it is critical to the region's productivity and global trade profile.

Historically, the pharma companies in the region have demonstrated an exceptional ability to adapt to change to survive and grow, maintaining resilience despite global competition and ownership transitions. Organisations operate across the full scientific value chain, from analytical sciences and isotope chemistry to formulation, bioanalysis and clinical services, requiring a blend of deep technical expertise and strong cross disciplinary collaboration. Crucially, the North East offers the entire spectrum of pharmaceutical capability, spanning from early-stage discovery to large-scale commercial manufacture. While the sector is renowned for its scientific depth, it provides a broad spectrum of employment, pharma companies in the region employ substantial numbers of people who are not scientists, such as those in finance, logistics, and management, who perform very valuable and high-value jobs essential to the cluster's operation.

The North East hosts one of the UK's largest pharmaceutical clusters, employing approximately 10,743 people directly in high-value jobs. Pharma alone directly employs more than 4,500 people in the companies surveyed North East Mayoral Strategic Authority (MSA) region, about 66% are male and 34% female. Over 3,500 of the employees are in research or manufacturing roles with the largest cohort aged between 31 and 50 (47%). 27% are aged under 30 years old and 26% are over 50.

According to 2023 data from the Office for National Statistics, the life sciences, pharmaceutical, and process sector is a primary engine of the regional economy, now generating a combined GVA exceeding £4.4 billion (ONS figures for GVA incorporate data from Teesside, not just the North East MSA region). In early 2026, regional growth indicators showed the North East's GVA expansion at 1.69%, outperforming the national average with pharmaceuticals serving as a significant contributor to this growth.

The majority of the pharmaceutical companies currently operating in the North East are engaged in small molecule work as applied to biologics. This focus aligns with global trends, where small molecules accounted for 67% of all Food and Drug Administration (FDA) novel drug therapy approvals in 2025, underscoring their continued dominance in pharmaceutical innovation.

The combined life sciences, pharmaceutical, and process cluster now accounts for approximately 6.39% of the North East's total regional Gross Value Added. Within this cluster, the sector incorporates the manufacture of chemicals and chemical products (SIC 20) contributing £591 million

(0.86% of the North East GVA), basic pharmaceutical products (SIC 21) generating £2.717 billion (3.94% of the North East GVA) irradiation and electromedical equipment (SIC 26.6) contributing £288 million (0.42% of the North East GVA), medical and dental instruments (SIC 32.5) adding £95 million (0.14% of the North East GVA), and natural sciences research and development (SIC 72.1) providing an additional £710 million to the regional economy (1.03% of the North East GVA). With 80% of the products manufactured in the region being exported, the value of these exports has more than doubled over the past decade.

The region boasts the highest pharmaceutical GVA per head in the United Kingdom (£930). The pharmaceutical segment recorded a real-terms growth of 152.5% between 2018 and 2023, the highest growth rate for any region in the UK. The critical regional importance of these industries is further demonstrated by a Location Quotient of 4.66 for pharmaceutical manufacturing, indicating activity is more than four times as concentrated in the North East as the national average. The success is driven by 482 employers, ranging from global organisations to a high proportion of micro-firms (57.2%).

This sector is the region's fastest growing in terms of employment demand, with a 7.0% estimated annual growth rate that is projected to reach 13,708 roles by 2030 (currently 10,743).

Major global players such as GlaxoSmithKline, Organon, Sterling Pharma Solutions, Accord Healthcare, Pharmaron and Piramal Pharma Solutions anchor the cluster, supported by a strong supply chain in process industries. The region accounts for roughly 10% of England's pharmaceutical manufacturing employment. Complementing this is a dynamic ecosystem of 25 active spinouts and a strong pipeline from regional universities, reinforced by the Centre for Process Innovation (CPI). This combination of large-scale manufacturing and innovative R&D makes the region a "testbed" for new process technologies.

The workforce is more diverse than other technical sectors; 36% of the workforce is female and 22% of them are in Director-level roles. National data also highlights that women make up 54% of the broader United Kingdom pharmaceutical workforce. In some organisations, there is a significant Generation Z presence, but the sector is simultaneously experiencing a regional outflow of mid-career scientific talent. This "mid-career drain" creates acute gaps in the 5–10-year experience bands that are difficult to replace through standard recruitment. Furthermore, retention is heavily influenced by geography; rural sites face challenges linked to commuting costs and travel times, particularly as graduates from outside the region often return home after a few years, whereas North East-born talent tends to be more stable.

Sector Definition - Priority SIC Codes: Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products (20), Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations (21), Manufacture of irradiation, electromedical and electrotherapeutic equipment (26.6), Manufacture of medical and dental instruments and supplies (32.5), Research and experimental development on natural sciences and engineering (72.1)

IS07: Life Sciences- 0701 BioPharma, 0702 MedTech, 0799 Core

SOC20 -Priority Occupations:

| SOC20 code | SOC2020 – Priority Occupation unit label                | 2021-2025 monthly average actual job posting | average monthly job posting forecast by 2029 | Forecasted change by 2029 in monthly job postings | Forecasted % change by 2029 in average monthly job postings |
|------------|---|--|--|---|---|
| 1121       | Production Managers and Directors in Manufacturing      | 3.2  | 3.3  | 0.1   | 3.12%   |
| 2111       | Chemical Scientists                                     | 4.7  | 4.8  | 0.1   | 2.13%   |
| 2112       | Biological Scientists                                   | 1.9  | 1.8  | -0.1  | -5.26%  |
| 2113       | Biochemists and Biomedical Scientists                   | 1.4  | 1.3  | -0.1  | -7.14%  |
| 2114       | Physical Scientists                                     | 2.3  | 2.2  | -0.1  | -4.35%  |
| 2119       | Natural and Social Science Professionals n.e.c.         | 1.9  | 1.8  | -0.1  | -5.26%  |
| 2129       | Engineering Professionals n.e.c                         | 1.9  | 1.8  | -0.1  | -5.26%  |
| 2133       | IT Business Analysts, Architects and Systems Designers  | 3.2  | 3.3  | 0.1   | 3.12%   |
| 2134       | Programmers and Software Development Professionals      | 5.6  | 5.9  | 0.3   | 5.36%   |
| 2161       | Research and Development (R&D) Managers                 | 2.5  | 2.4  | -0.1  | -4.00%  |
| 2162       | Other Researchers, Unspecified Discipline               | 4  | 4.1  | 0.1   | 2.50%   |
| 2433       | Actuaries, Economists and Statisticians                 | 2  | 2.1  | 0.1   | 5.00%   |
| 2434       | Business and Related Research Professionals             | 5.6  | 5.9  | 0.3   | 5.36%   |
| 2440       | Business and Financial Project Management Professionals | 1.9  | 1.8  | -0.1  | -5.26%  |
| 2482       | Quality Assurance and Regulatory Professionals          | 3.6  | 3.7  | 0.1   | 2.78%   |

|      |  |     |     |      |        |
|------|--|-----|-----|------|--------|
| 3111 | Laboratory Technicians                           | 3.1 | 3.2 | 0.1  | 3.23%  |
| 3213 | Medical and Dental Technicians                   | 3.1 | 3.2 | 0.1  | 3.23%  |
| 3556 | Sales Accounts and Business Development Managers | 8.9 | 9.5 | 0.6  | 6.74%  |
| 4159 | Other Administrative Occupations n.e.c.          | 3   | 2.9 | -0.1 | -3.33% |
| 8113 | Chemical and Related Process Operatives          | 1.5 | 1.4 | -0.1 | -6.67% |

The data indicates a significant pivot toward roles that bridge technical scientific expertise with digital and commercial acumen. While traditional "Chemical Scientist" roles remain relatively stable, there is a marked increase in demand for programmers, data scientists, and business development managers who can interpret AI-generated outputs and navigate increasingly complex global market access strategies.

### Real-world challenges for the specific sector

- **Sustainability:** It has emerged as an increasingly dominant theme for regional companies, reflecting both global regulatory pressure and customer insistence on low-carbon supply chains. Industry have observed a clear evolution in the focus of pharmaceutical audits: where companies then started adding Safety, Health, and Environment (SHE) audits, and the region is now embedding sustainability audit as a core requirement for business operations.
- **Specialised Skills and Recruitment Pressures:** They are particularly acute for specialist roles that require high regulatory competence. Qualified Persons (QPs) and senior Quality Assurance (QA) professionals are notoriously hard to find in the North East, reflecting national shortages and the regulatory barriers to entry for these roles. Employers report that for chemistry roles, especially Experienced (5-10 years) scientist, they may receive hundreds of Curriculum Vitae, but only a handful of applicants meet the required standards for methodical, procedure-driven Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) manufacture. GMP manufacturing roles are difficult to fill due to the need for methodical, procedure driven mindsets, while regulatory and documentation roles require niche expertise. A specific shortage exists in sterile manufacturing. These capabilities are essential for producing next-generation biologics and vaccines, and the inability to source this expertise locally limits the region's ability to attract new product lines from global developers. Industry also highlighted high demand engineers and project managers critical to ensure that the technical workforce can support facility expansion and process innovation.
- **The Contract Development and Manufacturing Organisation market:** The industry market is experiencing a downturn linked to global biotech funding pressures, which has reduced headcounts and made regional recruitment more reactive, short-term.
- **Employees retention can be shaped by geography** due to the high number of transient graduate employees: Graduates from outside the region often return home, while North East-born talent is more stable.
- **The Merit Construction Crisis and Infrastructure Impact:** A significant operational challenge emerged in late 2025 with the administration of Merit, a North East-based specialist in modular construction for sterile healthcare environments. Merit was a lead contractor for several critical regional projects, including the £29.7 million National Health Service Medicines Manufacturing Centre at Seaton Delaval. The collapse of the original company resulted in 300 job losses and left major NHS infrastructure projects in a state of uncertainty. While the relaunch of "Merit Industrialised Construction" in early 2026 provided a path forward for project completion, the stall in construction of the Medicines Manufacturing Centre facility highlights the vulnerability of the life sciences sector to instabilities in specialised supply chains. The Medicines Manufacturing Centre is intended to safeguard the supply of vital drugs for patients in the region for the next 20 years, and its initial capacity is expected to save 2,500 hours of nursing time per week.
- **Capital Access:** While spinouts are active, access to early-stage funding and incubation space (wet lab space) remains a constraint on scaling up small biotech firms.
- **Process Efficiency:** The pharma manufacturers in the NE faces constant pressure to develop and improve processes efficiency and reduce carbon footprint, requiring new skills in process intensification, continuous manufacturing, and industrial digitalisation.

### Skills needs, current provision and demand

The alignment of educational provision with industrial requirements is a central pillar of the North East's growth strategy. Employers highlight significant gaps in both technical proficiency and workplace readiness that must be addressed to sustain the cluster's competitive advantage.

**Technical Skills Gaps:** A primary concern among regional employers is the declining strength in fundamental organic chemistry among graduates. Universities are increasingly offering a technical qualification where Chemistry is diluted, it is not the core scientific content required for high-stakes Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) environments. In a regulated sector where staff must be capable of managing complex chemical syntheses autonomously, this lack of core depth is viewed as a commercial risk.

Simultaneously, the transition toward "Pharma 4.0" is creating a demand for digital proficiency that current training provision has yet to fully meet. Only 31% of regional process workers have recorded training in Information Technology or digital technology, yet employers anticipate a rising need for hybrid technical-digital roles capable of interpreting AI generated outputs and supporting Manufacturing Execution Systems, using scientific software and supporting early-stage process automation. However, AI adoption remains cautious, with changes requiring validation to protect patient and volunteer safety.

Businesses identified several challenges in the availability of expertise and education within the region with recruitment from outside the region often required for senior-level leadership and strategic-level employees and in key research and analytical roles although graduate level staff are

usually recruited locally. Businesses intend to remain proactive looking forward and will increase the use of the apprenticeship levy to aid recruitment planning and to provide appropriately skilled staff. The ability in and necessity of recruiting internationally was also mentioned in most interviews.

Medium term skills demand is expected to grow across analytical sciences, pharmaceutical sciences, GMP manufacturing, bioanalysis and QA/QP capacity. Employers anticipate rising need for digital and AI enabled skills, stronger foundational chemistry, and hybrid technical digital roles. Educational pathways are being adjusted to meet these needs, with a focus on Level 4 science manufacturing apprenticeships and Level 6+ training in pharmacology and toxicology. There is also a shortage/ need for analysts and process engineers / project managers. These are skills critical to the sector development.

Cross disciplinary collaboration, scientific communication and client engagement will remain essential. As the sector evolves, the ability to adapt to new technologies while maintaining regulatory compliance will be a defining capability.

**Workplace Readiness and Soft Skills:** Technical ability alone is insufficient in a Good Manufacturing Practice context. New entrants often lack workplace readiness, communication skills, and an awareness of employer expectations regarding regulated practices. Business-critical skills such as scientific report writing and client-facing communication are frequently highlighted as areas where graduates underperform. Poor report writing poses a direct commercial risk, as inaccurate documentation can lead to regulatory non-compliance and batch rejections. A strong “safety mindset” is also described as essential, requiring constant reinforcement through in-house modules and structured inductions.

**Educational pathway:** Key routes include Engineering (L2–L6+), and Manufacturing Technologies. Refer to this section for more details. The sector requires deep academic and technical pathways to sustain global leadership.

- Post-Graduate & Clinical: High-level training at level 7 and above is essential for medicine, dentistry, and psychology.
- STEM Core: Pathways at level 6 and above must focus on allied health, biosciences, chemistry, pharmacology, toxicology, and pharmacy.
- Business Integration: Pathways including business and management at level 6+ are necessary to support the high number of startups and SMEs in the region.

**Training Provision and Pathway Challenges:** Training models across the North East combine internal technical modules, structured inductions, internal soft skills programmes, with selective on the job analytical training for specialist areas. External training is used selectively for GMP, project management and specialist technical areas.

Continuous CPD is essential due to rapid scientific and technological change. Some organisations collaborate with colleges to co create Level 5 apprenticeships, though achieving multi-employer critical mass remains a challenge.

Upskilling the mid-career workforce faces a major new hurdle following the 2025 announcement that Level 7 apprenticeship funding will be restricted to apprentices aged 16 to 21 starting in January 2026, creating a barrier for established staff seeking to advance into senior scientific roles. This policy change effectively defunds the primary advancement route for the 89% of Level 7 apprentices who were historically over the age of 22. In response, employers are beginning to utilise the Level 4+ route as a bridge to ensure continued professional development toward full qualifications.

Engagement with universities is strong, with employers contributing to curricula, offering guest lectures, hosting research fellows and providing industrial placements.

Engagement with FE is growing, particularly through T Levels and apprenticeship development, though operational constraints and laboratory safety requirements limit placement capacity. Apprenticeships and graduate recruitment both play important roles, with employers increasingly using apprenticeships and T Levels to widen access and build long term pipelines. T Level placements are supported, but the 45 days requirement is difficult to deliver safely for under 18s in laboratory environments, prompting interest in shadowing and multi-employer models.

Schools outreach is active, including primary programmes such as Children Challenging Industry (CCI), though transport funding remains a barrier for rural learners. Employers participate in regional initiatives such as North East Pharma outreach to raise awareness of life sciences careers among Year 9 pupils. Additionally, NEP and some of the pharma clusters are reaching out to schools at year 7 and above to make the students aware of the pharma industry in the North East and that it offers a broad range of high value jobs across many disciplines, not just scientists.

## **What's currently happening in the region**

The North East cluster is characterised by individual sites with rich histories of innovation, often involving ownership transitions that have revitalised regional assets.

- Accord Healthcare occupies a 22-acre site in Newcastle (formerly Sanofi), which has received €50 million in investment to create a world-class manufacturing facility supporting UK and EU markets. Supplying approximately 10% of all National Health Service medicines, Accord's Fawdon site is expanding through a £50 million joint investment with the government to build a new manufacturing facility, creating 50 new skilled roles.
- High Force Research, founded in Durham in 1988, is the UK's only independent Contract Development and Manufacturing Organisation. Specialising in complex chemistry for discovery groups and university spin-offs, the firm has seen its workforce double recently and has

expanded into a second facility at North East Technology Park near Sedgefield. Over 70% of its business is exported, primarily to the United States, where United Kingdom Contract Development and Manufacturing Organisations remain highly competitive.

- Pharmaron recently acquired the Cramlington site (originally built by Boots in the 1980s) from Recipharm in January 2022. Pharmaron has committed to a significant infrastructure investment exceeding £100 million to reconfigure the site for large-scale commercial Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient manufacturing, vertically integrating the North East site into its global Process Research and Development network.
- Quotient Sciences, based in Alnwick. The site was saved from potential closure by Sanofi in 2015 through the creation of Arcinova, which was later acquired by Quotient in 2021. The site has since expanded its drug substance manufacturing facility with a £6 million investment and recently opened a Good Manufacturing Practice compliant aseptic facility to meet rising demand for integrated drug development programs.
- Sterling Pharma Solutions, headquartered in Cramlington, is the largest Contract Development and Manufacturing Organisation, specialising in complex and hazardous chemistry. Sterling has grown its North East workforce from 380 in 2018 to over 650 by 2023, investing over £60 million in reactor capacity and sustainability initiatives, including onsite anaerobic digestion to create biomethane.
- NHS Medicines Manufacturing Centre: A £29.7 million facility is being developed in Seaton Delaval to manufacture aseptic medicines for the NHS. This directly links regional manufacturing capability with national health resilience.
- North East Technology Park (NETPark): Located in Sedgefield, the park completed its £61 million Phase 3A expansion in Spring 2025, delivered by Kier Construction. This development provided 232,000 square feet of flexible laboratory, office, and production space. The park has been designated as a Growth Site within the £160 million North East Investment Zone, securing an additional £11.3 million to accelerate the development of a 158,000 square foot commercial unit and remediate further land for thousands of high-tech jobs. It remains a core regional hub, hosting three national innovation centres and supporting the expansion of established tenants like Filtronic, who are doubling their operational footprint.
- Biosphere 2: Plans are advancing for Biosphere 2 to deliver more incubation space in Newcastle, supporting spinouts to move from research to production.
- Health Innovation Neighbourhood: This development focuses on creating a thriving all-age environment for improving lives, linking social equity with health innovation.
- Level 4 Apprenticeships: East Durham College has successfully established a Level 4 Science Manufacturing apprenticeship curriculum, developing eLearning modules and immersive learning suites to support Pharma Manufacturing and NHS Aseptic Pharmacy production. The first cohort started in September 2024, representing a direct response to employer demand.

### **What needs to be retained**

As the sector navigates technological and regulatory shifts, several foundational regional strengths must be preserved and reinforced to maintain the North East's leadership position.

- Manufacturing and Process Efficiency Focus: The region's distinctive strength lies in manufacturing rather than just R&D. Support mechanisms that bolster process efficiency and manufacturing scale-up must be retained. The reputation for delivery on time and on budget is the primary driver for the 80% export intensity that characterises the cluster.
- Translational Infrastructure and SDF Initiatives: The collaboration between industry and regional translational assets, particularly the Centre for Process Innovation, is a key asset that must be protected. The Centre for Process Innovation provides the "testbed" necessary for firms to transition from lab-scale research to commercial-scale production, particularly in emerging areas like viral vectors and Messenger RNA. Additionally, the Strategic Development Fund's support for Science Manufacturing Technician provision has been successful and should be continued to ensure a pipeline of Level 3-5 technicians.
- University-Industry Collaboration: The strong collaboration between universities and industry, particularly in translating research into process improvements via the CPI, is a key asset that must be protected. Industry contributors to curricula, guest lecturers, and industrial placements for research fellows ensure that academic output remains relevant to real-world industrial challenges. This ecosystem supports the 25 active university spinouts that represent the future of regional life sciences innovation. Employers report also a need / desire to incorporate more 'real world stuff' into the University Course, either as a standalone Boot Camp or enrichment module deep diving into specific technical topic and/or by modifying existing training content.

### **What changes are needed**

- Closing the "Digitalisation Gap": Addressing the digital skills shortage is the most urgent transformation needed. Only 31% of regional process workers have recorded training in IT or digital technology, despite the rise of AI-driven drug development. There is a need to embed data science and digital skills into life sciences training to support the "lab of the future" and data-driven drug discovery. The establishment of the North East Artificial Intelligence Growth Zone provides a unique opportunity to create synergies between the regional digital sector and the life sciences manufacturing base.
- Expanding Incubation and Follow-on Space: While university spinouts are active, access to early-stage funding and "wet lab" incubation space remains a constraint on scaling up small biotech firms. The development of Biosphere 2 in Newcastle and the Durham Innovation District (Aykley Heads) are critical steps toward providing the physical infrastructure necessary for firms to move from research to production.

- Diversity of the talent pool: Efforts to diversify the talent pool must be intensified to address labour shortages. While the sector currently has a 36% female workforce, which varies considerably from company to company, there is a recognised need to increase this proportion in technical manufacturing roles. Initiatives like the Newcastle United Foundation's "EmPower" event, which inspires young women to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics careers, are essential for building a more inclusive human capital base. Promoting the North East as an attractive and affordable place for talented people to live. Developing a skills training programme for the Cluster through cooperation and participation within the industry to meet the skills challenge, taking note that the region's universities are home to over 20,000 STEM students.
- Enhancing investment and export networks: Investment networks must be enhanced to prevent regional firms from being forced to seek risk capital from the United States. Simultaneously, enhanced support for export-led growth is needed, including leveraging new logistics routes from Newcastle International Airport.
- Build resilience – since UK left EU Single Market for goods to ensure that the pharmaceutical sector remains an attractive proposition for UK and global inward investment: Ensuring that the UK regulatory framework remains conducive to continuing competitiveness and avoids additional impediments to the smooth integrated global import and export supply chains for raw materials, intermediates or finished products to prevent any further increase in operational complexity, lead times and costs.
- Sector cluster companies' strategy identifies opportunities in: Onshoring of pharmaceuticals manufacture to mitigate extended supply chains and shortage of supply. Increased manufacture of advanced pharmaceuticals including complex biologics such as antibody-drug conjugates. Invest in continuous manufacturing improvement, automation and sustainable manufacturing.

### **Potential benefit**

The successful modernisation and expansion of the North East life sciences and pharma sector offer profound potential benefits for both the regional and national economy.

Continued growth in this sector offers the North East the potential to expand at a rate significantly higher than the national average. By capturing a larger share of the global pharmaceutical market the region can consolidate its status as a net exporter. This economic activity supports thousands of high-wage, high-skilled jobs, providing long-term career security.

The sector also contributes directly to national health resilience by securing domestic supply chains for critical medicines. Facilities like the NHS Medicines Manufacturing Centre will produce approximately 1 million dosages of chemotherapy annually, reducing dependence on international markets.