



St. Louis has a large, diverse and robust health care economy. The area is home to highly ranked hospitals and medical schools, bringing top talent from around the world. **BJC HealthCare**, with more than 25,000 employees, is the largest employer in the region. St. Louis is also the headquarters for several other major health-related companies, including **Express Scripts**, a Fortune 20 company and the largest pharmacy benefit manager in the world, and **Centene**, a Fortune 500 firm that provides services for government health programs.

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MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Major employers include the health services companies **Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield**, **Centene**, **Express Scripts** and **Tenet Health**. **Local health system headquarters** include **BJC HealthCare**, **Mercy Health**, **SSM Health Care** and **Ascension Health**, the largest nonprofit health system in the U.S. These health system headquarters manage more than 250 hospitals with 225,000 employees in 23 states.



Hospitals are an important driver in the St. Louis economy. **The St. Louis metro area has a hospital employment concentration that's 1.57 times that of the U.S.** St. Louis' 2013 hospital employment concentration is the third highest of the 20 largest metro areas, behind only Boston and Baltimore according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Since 2001, the area's top civic and academic leaders have worked to coordinate the area's development as a center for research and commercial activity in the plant and medical sciences.

These efforts have culminated in the formation of **BioSTL** (biostl.org), which is **dedicated to fostering research and commercialization through investment and collaboration.**

In addition to numerous incubators, accelerators and other organizations, the St. Louis region has a wide array of events focused on increasing entrepreneurship in the health economy.

One example of a successful St. Louis startup is **Advanced ICU Care**, which has grown **into the country's largest provider of remote intensive care monitoring services.**

INNOVATION



TOP HOSPITALS

St. Louis has a wide range of top-tier hospitals located throughout the entire region, with **world-class doctors** specializing in all types of medicine. Many **St. Louis region medical schools and hospitals are consistently ranked among the top in the U.S.**

In addition to stellar hospitals and health systems, St. Louis is home to top-tier schools training the doctors, nurses and other health care professionals of tomorrow. Led by some of the world's best researchers and students at Washington University in St. Louis and St. Louis University, **the region is one of the largest recipients of funding from the National Institutes of Health.**



TOP SCHOOLS



Major schools in the St. Louis area include:

Washington University in St. Louis: The School of Medicine is consistently ranked among the top 10 medical schools in the country by U.S. News and World Report.

Saint Louis University: The School of Medicine is a highly competitive medical school that has been a pioneer in the fields of geriatric medicine, chronic disease prevention, cardiovascular disease, organ transplantation, neurosciences and vaccine research.

Logan College of Chiropractic: One of the most prestigious chiropractic schools in the country.

St. Louis College of Pharmacy: One of the oldest and largest pharmacy schools in the country.

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy: One of the newest pharmacy schools in the country.

Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine: Located in Alton, IL, the school was founded in 1972.

University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Optometry: Established in 1980, the school is 1 of 21 schools in North America awarding the Doctor of Optometry degree.

Webster University: The George Herbert Walker School of Business and Technology offers a Master of Health Administration degree.

St. Louis also supports a wide range of nursing, allied health and health care technical programs.

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Health Economy

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