



# Taiwan

ECONOMIC GROWTH DRIVING GLOBAL AMBITIONS IN PHARMA AND BIOTECH

**T**aiwan's economy is showing remarkable strength in 2025, driven by robust export performance and domestic investment. The International Monetary Fund has boosted its forecast for Taiwan's 2025 GDP growth to 2.9%, up 0.2 points from earlier projections—placing it ahead of regional peers. In Q1, annualized growth was revised upward to 5.48%, with resilient performance in production, exports, and investments—prompted by rising demand for semiconductors and AI-enabled technologies. In response, the government raised its full-year GDP forecast to 3.6%, up from the earlier estimate of 3.14%, positioning Taiwan for sustained economic momentum despite global uncertainties. These impressive figures reinforce the country's capacity to invest significantly in strategic sectors such as pharmaceuticals and biotechnology.

At the core of Taiwan's pharmaceutical ascent lies a deep-rooted culture of innovation and collaboration between academia, industry, and government. Taiwan's National Health Research Institutes and top universities are spearheading breakthroughs in biologics, precision medicine, and AI-driven drug discovery. Public-private partnerships are flourishing, with local biotech firms co-developing novel therapies alongside global pharmaceutical leaders and contract research organizations. This ecosystem is further catalyzed by streamlined regulatory pathways and government incentives aimed at fast-tracking R&D and commercialization. As a result, Taiwan is swiftly evolving from a generic drugs producer into a global contender in cutting-edge

therapeutics.

President Lai Ching-te, himself a physician, has been a vocal champion of this transformation. He has stated: "The government has earmarked NT\$5 billion this year for new cancer drugs and will expand to NT\$10 billion as part of our Healthy Taiwan plan." This demonstrates his commitment to allocating public resources toward pharmaceutical innovation that directly impacts public health. In another address, Lai emphasized that "our communication and collaboration with the private sector will improve people's health and allow Taiwan's biotechnology and medical care to shine on the international stage." These medium-sized quotes reveal a coherent vision: government funding plus private ingenuity equals global medical leadership.

A clear example of this synergy is Taiwan's investment in precision oncology. The Healthy Taiwan Promotion Committee, which Lai chairs, allocated NT\$6.8 billion in the 2025 budget to expand national cancer screening programs. This funding supports genetic testing, earlier detection, and the development of targeted therapies—areas where domestic firms are quickly gaining ground. Taiwan's pharmaceutical companies are also advancing novel cancer drugs, rare disease treatments, and biosimilars, many of which are entering international clinical trials and attracting foreign investment.

Taiwan's pharmaceutical innovation is further amplified by its vibrant startup ecosystem, which is nurtured by government grants, venture capital, and specialized incubators. Startups are developing everything from advanced biologics to AI-enabled drug discovery platforms, while multinational firms are setting up R&D centers on the island. Clinical trial infrastructure meets international standards, enabling quicker approval timelines and facilitating global collaboration.

Taiwan stands at the forefront of pharmaceutical innovation. Its economic backdrop, bolstered by IMF and World Bank endorsements, provides solid footing. President Lai's funding commitments and public statements reflect strategic leadership. Meanwhile, a dynamic confluence of academia, biotech startups, and global partners is rapidly transforming Taiwan into a global hub for next-generation therapeutics, putting it on track to make a profound impact on health outcomes both locally and worldwide.



# EirGenix

TAIWAN'S LEADING CDMO

**A**s global supply chains recalibrate in the post-pandemic era, **Taiwan has emerged as a quiet powerhouse**—a model of economic resilience and industrial precision. According to Allianz Trade, the island's "solid business environment," low public debt, and "well-developed and resilient financial system" have all played critical roles in supporting its sustained economic momentum. Even during the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic, Taiwan managed to maintain positive GDP growth—an outlier performance by any global standard.

This stability has created fertile ground for Taiwan's biomedical sector, which now generates over \$24 billion in annual revenues, according to the U.S. International Trade Administration. One of the key drivers of this growth is EirGenix, Taiwan's largest biologics-focused contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO).

Founded in 2012, EirGenix has carved out a niche in monoclonal antibody development and biopharmaceutical manufacturing, offering end-to-end services that span from early clinical trials to full-scale commercial production. Its state-of-the-art facility in Zhubei is equipped for high-volume antibody production and has become a strategic hub for global biotech firms looking for trusted manufacturing partners in Asia.

"From the beginning, our vision has been international," says Lee-Cheng Liu, Chairman and President of EirGenix.

That vision is bearing fruit. Today, **around 65% of the company's revenue comes from Japan**, a market where it has established a strong reputation in the biosimilar space—thanks in large part to two ongoing commercial collaborations. EirGenix is also deepening its presence in the U.S. and Europe, with dedicated teams on both American coasts and active M&A efforts underway.

Among its most prominent partnerships is one with **Sandoz**, a global leader in biosimilars. Together, the two companies co-developed EG12014, a trastuzumab biosimilar that has already secured marketing approvals in both Europe and

the U.S.—a milestone that underscores EirGenix's credibility in highly regulated markets.

Beyond its strategic alliances, what truly sets EirGenix apart is its **deep scientific expertise and culture of manufacturing excellence**. Taiwan's unique talent pool—engineers, scientists, and leaders with hands-on manufacturing experience—forms the backbone of the company's operations. These professionals don't just understand the science; they grasp the entire lifecycle of biologics production, from cell line development to fill-finish.

"Taiwan offers two core advantages: exceptional talent and a manufacturing-oriented mindset," Liu explains.

"Our teams are not only scientifically trained—they think like manufacturers, which is rare in the CDMO world."

Infrastructure is another key differentiator. EirGenix operates **Taiwan's largest biologics facility**, equipped with twelve 2,000-liter bioreactors. Looking ahead, the company plans to expand its production capacity with an additional 150,000 liters of bioreactor volume to meet the expected demand from new commercial projects.

The global landscape appears to be shifting in EirGenix's favor. Regulatory pathways for biosimilars are poised to become more streamlined over the next few years—potentially cutting development costs by up to 60%. Meanwhile, the proposed U.S. Biosecure Act, which seeks to limit reliance on Chinese biotech suppliers, could open new doors for trusted, regionally aligned partners like EirGenix.

With a strong domestic ecosystem, global ambitions, and a relentless focus on quality, **EirGenix isn't just riding the wave of biomanufacturing's future—it's helping shape it.**



Mr. Lee-Cheng Liu  
Chairman and President

