



THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE - FY 2023



Southern Illinois University

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LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Dear Friends,

At Southern Illinois University Carbondale, we have always known we serve as an economic engine. We prepare students to pursue a lifetime of careers, conduct research that solves problems and leads to innovation, and serve as a major employer in our region. In these pages, you will see in great detail how we quantify that impact. I would like to highlight two figures:

- **\$2.7 billion** — impact from our university's operations, student expenditures, visitor spending and alumni income.
- **18,601** — jobs in Illinois supported by our economic activity.

You will find without a doubt that the State of Illinois and our students are seeing a significant return on the investment of tax dollars and tuition in benefits for the regional economy and the long-term impact on Salukis' income – not to mention the great discoveries and wonderful creative works that influence and change lives within and outside Illinois.

Special thanks go to Jebaraj Asirvatham, Scott Gilbert and other members of the research team who prepared this report. Their work gives us a clearer picture of how SIU Carbondale is making a difference.

Go Dawgs!



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Austin Lane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Austin" and last name "Lane" clearly distinguishable.

Austin Lane
SIU Chancellor

CAMPUS LEADERSHIP



Austin Lane
Chancellor



Sheryl A. Tucker
Provost and Vice
Chancellor for
Academic Affairs



Susan Simmers
Vice Chancellor for
Administration and Finance



Susan Wegmann
Executive Director, SIU
Extended Campus



Jeff Burgin
Vice Chancellor for
Student Affairs



Jerry Kruse
Dean and Provost of the
School of Medicine



Costas Tsatsoulis
Vice Chancellor for
Research and Graduate
School Dean



Jeff Harmon
Chief Communications and
Marketing Officer



Matt Kupec
Vice Chancellor for
Development and
Alumni Relations



Tim Leonard
Director, Intercollegiate
Athletics



Paul Frazier
Vice Chancellor for Anti-
Racism, Diversity, Equity
and Inclusion



Wendell Williams
Vice Chancellor for
Enrollment Management



Nick Wortman
Assistant Vice Chancellor
for Human Resources



Wil Clark
Director, Information
Technology and Chief
Information Officer



Deb Nelson
Senior System Counsel



Ben Newman
Director, Department of
Public Safety



David G. Shirley
Director, Office of
Institutional Effectiveness,
Planning and Research

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**SIU CARBONDALE FY23
TOTAL ECONOMIC
IMPACT**

\$2.7 BILLION
TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT
18,601 JOBS



**OPERATIONS
ECONOMIC IMPACT**

\$1.36 BILLION
9,669 JOBS



**STUDENT
SPENDING IMPACT**

\$163 MILLION
1,335 JOBS



**VISITOR
ECONOMIC IMPACT**

\$12.6 MILLION
95 JOBS



IL TAX DOLLARS

\$153.3 MILLION



ALUMNI IMPACT

\$1.0 BILLION

EVERY \$ INVESTED

**SIU STUDENTS
RETURNS**

\$2.74 - \$8.60
Carbondale Medical School

**TAXPAYERS
RETURNS**

\$1.15

**TAXPAYERS
PROVIDE**

\$132,886,900



THE STATE'S INVESTMENT IN SIU YIELDS

\$153,322,462
IN TAX REVENUES



INTRODUCTION

This study examines various ways Southern Illinois University Carbondale contributes to the state's economy, emphasizing its role as a catalyst for driving the region's growth. This report utilizes an IMPLAN economic impact modeling technique to measure the multiplier effect of economic activities. It calculates the cumulative impact of multiple rounds of spending triggered by expenditures, new incomes, or job creation within the region. Not all activities generate a quantifiable economic ripple effect. Certain activities, like volunteering as a doctor, are crucial in maintaining the community's well-being, yet they are not quantified or evaluated. The economic impact is calculated by adding up the initial direct spending and the subsequent ripple effects throughout the supply chain, including direct, indirect, and induced spending. The economic benefits are classified according to the following effects: 1) the effect of operational expenditures, 2) the influence of student expenditures, 3) the impact of visitor expenditures, and 4) the alumni contribution to the region. The research conducted at SIU positively influences student learning and career opportunities. It also stimulates the creation of innovative methods and technologies that cater to the needs of the region and enhance the overall quality of life. In addition, SIU actively participates in community-oriented initiatives that contribute to the growth of small businesses, entrepreneurial endeavors, and the development of a highly skilled workforce in the region.

PROFILE OF SIU CARBONDALE

SIU Carbondale is the flagship campus of the Southern Illinois University System. It is a strong, diverse, student-centered, research-intensive, and comprehensive university that earned the prestigious 2015 community engagement classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. That designation reflects a longstanding commitment to service and outreach: in 2013 alone, 237,000 residents in central and southern Illinois benefited from 578 initiatives with more than 3,000 community partners. Diversity is integral to the SIUC legacy, dating to the inaugural SIU class of 143 in 1869 that included two African American students. Today, minority students make up 29 percent of our total enrollment, and SIU Carbondale continues to rank among the nation's top colleges and universities in the number of degrees awarded to students in ethnic and racial minority groups.

The SIU campus, located in Carbondale, sits on 1,133 scenic acres that includes a large campus lake. It's minutes away from Giant City Park, popular for hiking and camping and part of the vast Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois. The region's physical beauty and fun outdoor recreation are a major attraction to students, faculty, and visitors.

SIU embraces a unique tradition of access and opportunity, inclusive excellence, innovation in research and creativity, and outstanding teaching focused on nurturing student success. SIU Carbondale is expected to achieve the Carnegie Research R1 status after securing over \$50 million in total R&D and offering over 70 doctoral research degrees. As a nationally ranked public research university

and regional economic catalyst, it creates and exchanges knowledge to shape future leaders, improve communities, and transform lives. The university produces quality graduates with creative and critical thinking skills, emotional intelligence, ethical reasoning, teamwork experience, fluent communication, and effective technological skills. Graduates demonstrate professional integrity, respect social constructions, and engage diverse individuals and groups.

SIU Carbondale is part of the SIU System, which is one of the most powerful economic engines in the southern half of the state. The SIU System employs more than 7,000 faculty, staff and administrators who serve approximately 23,500 students through campuses in Carbondale, Edwardsville and Springfield. The SIU System Office and SIU Medical School are in Springfield, Illinois as well as SIU Medicine clinics that serve thousands of patients.

SIU's economic impact extends far beyond our campus, creating a ripple effect that benefits the surrounding region, nation and the world. The system's operations, construction, capital projects, and research directly affect the state economy, while student spending, visitor spending, and alumni activities support the region's industry. SIU graduates have a positive influence across the globe in a variety of professions.

The SIU System's economic impact in fiscal year 2023 was an astounding \$4 billion, and the system's economic activity helped support 45,075 jobs in Illinois. We are proud that SIU's impact has grown tremendously in our 155-year existence; we know this trend will continue with so many outstanding students, innovative faculty, and dedicated staff.

ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Operations spending impact

Expenses of Southern Illinois University Carbondale

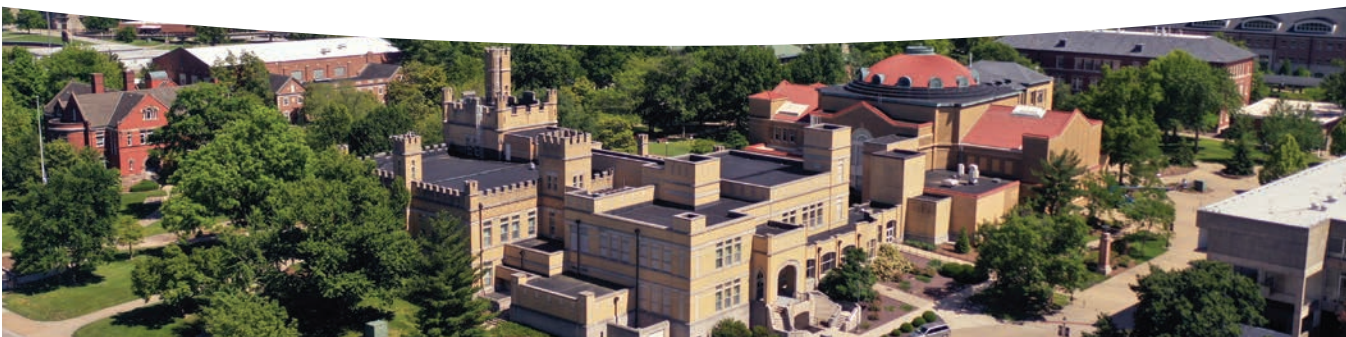
The operational spending by Southern Illinois University Carbondale contributes significantly to the economic activities of the southern Illinois region and statewide economy.

	In-state expenditures	Out-of-state expenditures	Total expenditures
Employee salaries, wages, and benefits	\$379,366,501	\$949,199	\$380,315,700
Operation and maintenance of plant	\$31,625,896	\$9,182,455	\$40,808,351
All other expenditures	\$113,716,489	\$106,131,160	\$219,847,649

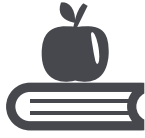
TOTAL SIU CARBONDALE ECONOMIC IMPACTS FROM UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS	\$524,708,886	IN-STATE
	\$116,262,814	OUT-OF-STATE
	\$640,971,700	TOTAL

SIUC Economic Impacts from University Operations

Channel	Jobs	Income	Output
Direct	6,293	385,247,122	654,034,200
Indirect	1,174	80,734,391	279,851,535
Induced	2,203	145,681,504	429,095,223
Total	9,669	611,663,017	1,362,980,958



SIU OPERATIONAL EXPENSES, BY FUNCTION



INSTRUCTION
\$118,947,703



ACADEMIC SUPPORT
\$231,232,186



OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE
\$40,808,351



RESEARCH
\$31,520,000



STUDENT SUPPORT
\$40,215,430



INDEPENDENT OPERATIONS
\$48,557,800



PUBLIC SERVICES
\$45,171,488



INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT
\$42,727,930



SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS
\$41,790,812

TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES \$640,971,700





STUDENT SPENDING IMPACT

Spending by SIU students off-campus generates significant economic impacts, as shown in the table below:

These impacts generate nearly 1,335 jobs, create more than \$81.54 million in income and \$163.5 million in economic output, and are in addition to the impacts of the university’s operations

SIU Economic Impacts from Student Spending Off-Campus

	Jobs	Income	Output
Direct	946	\$54,720,444	\$85,791,288
Indirect	96	7,451,662	20,676,996
Induced	293	19,364,246	57,029,431

TOTAL SIU CARBONDALE
ECONOMIC IMPACTS FROM
STUDENT SPENDING

1,335 JOBS
\$81,536,351 INCOME
\$163,497,715 OUTPUT

VISITOR SPENDING IMPACT

Visitors to SIU spend money in the community, generating economic impacts, as shown in the table below.

SIU Economic Impacts from Visitor Spending

	Jobs	Income	Output
Direct	68	\$2,659,169	\$6,885,552
Indirect	10	860,436	2,483,666
Induced	17	1,103,792	3,249,514

TOTAL SIU CARBONDALE ECONOMIC IMPACTS FROM VISITOR SPENDING	95 JOBS
	\$4,623,397 INCOME
	\$12,618,731 OUTPUT

Average Spending and Sales per SIU Visitor

Visitor Spending	Southern Illinois Region Visitors	Out-of-State Visitors
Accommodation	\$150	\$300
Food	\$35	\$60
Entertainment and shopping	\$20	\$40
Transportation	\$110	\$230

TOTAL EXPENSES PER VISITOR	\$315 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS REGION VISITORS
	\$630 OUT-OF STATE VISITORS

Visitor Spending	Southern Illinois Region Visitors	Out-of-State Visitors
Number of out-of-state/ region visitors	60,532	16,814
Gross sales	\$19,067,681	\$10,596,334
Less On-campus sales (excl. textbooks)	\$1,547,390	\$417,795

NET OFF-CAMPUS SALES	\$17,520,292 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS REGION VISITORS
	\$10,178,539 OUT-OF STATE VISITORS

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

The total economic impact combines the economic impacts of university operations, student off-campus spending, visitor spending, and alumni contributions. SIU's total economic impact on the state is \$2.686 billion. Excluding alumni contributions to the state, the university directly produces an economic impact of \$1.54 billion.

SIU's Total Economic Impact

Source	Impact
Operations	\$1,362,980,958.00
Student Spend	\$163,497,715
Visitor Spend	\$12,618,731
Alumni Impact	\$1,146,637,412

TOTAL \$2,685,734,816.00



POINTS OF PRIDE AND PUBLIC IMPACTS

SIU's public impacts include community benefits that are not measured in dollars but have human and social value. University service to the community has public impacts today, and university research will have public impacts and benefits in the future – as the research helps to shape future opportunities. SIU Carbondale is a strong, diverse, student-centered, research-intensive, and comprehensive university with a long history of community engagement. Select points of pride are described below.



At the Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center, the university provides a plethora of services to launch and grow businesses. In 2024, the Illinois Small Business Development Center at SIU Carbondale was named the Illinois SBDC of the Year.

The university is among the top 5% of all U.S. higher education institutions for research. During fiscal year 2023, faculty members received \$95.7 million in research, training, and service grants.

The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education designates SIU Carbondale as a “high research” institution (Research 2) and is expected in 2025 to classify SIU Carbondale as a Research 1 institution — “very high research spending and doctorate production,” the same level as many flagship universities across the U.S.


news.siu.edu/points-of-pride



Diversity is integral to the SIU Carbondale legacy, dating to the inaugural SIU class of 143 in 1869 that included two African American students. Today, minority students make up more than 38% of its total enrollment of about 11,800.

In 2024, The Princeton Review included SIU Carbondale among its “Best of the Midwest” — just 23% of the nation’s four-year colleges.



The aviation management and aviation flight programs place SIU among a group of universities whose exceptional aviation programs warranted certification by the Federal Aviation Administration to substantially reduce flight time requirements (500-hour deduction) for graduates interested in becoming airline pilots.

The iFERM Hub, launched in 2022, aims to solve food/nutrition, agriculture, and health challenges through interdisciplinary research, innovation, and education. It also provides infrastructure for the development of Illinois agriculture value-added products to promote and support successful entrepreneurial activities.



The only Bachelor of Science program in automotive technology in Illinois is exceptional, part of a major research university, and one of only a few in the nation.

The only dental hygiene baccalaureate in Illinois. The Dental Hygiene Clinic hosts “Give Kids A Smile Day” and “Give Adults A Smile Day” annually.



One of two universities in Illinois offering a bachelor’s degree in radiologic sciences and one of 13 in the U.S. with a specialization in MRI/CT, accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT).

SIUC’s Touch of Nature Outdoor Education Center, nestled amidst the breathtaking beauty of the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois, provides diverse programs and activities. The serene environment inspires discovery, personal growth, and environmental stewardship.

Accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International puts SIU Carbondale’s College of Business and Analytics among the top 5% of business schools worldwide.

SIU launched the \$7.2 million BioLaunch lab, a new, 10,000-square-foot space for cutting-edge life sciences research and more. The lab contains a biotechnology core, an analytical core, a mass spectrometry core and a business annex. It is funded in part by a \$2.7 million grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Wet Lab Program. BioLaunch is the newest addition to the Illinois Food, Entrepreneurship, Research, and Manufacturing (iFERM) Hub, a state-of-the-art research and training suite for faculty use, students, start-up companies and private firms in the region.



SIU Carbondale was at the epicenter of the eclipses in 2017 and 2024. Through partnerships with the city of Carbondale and other area entities, SIU Carbondale delivered a first-class experience for spectators from across the U.S. and the world and garnered unprecedented international media coverage and exposure for the university and region. The university also used the celestial events as an opportunity for research and received funding.

The SIU Research Park is a non-profit corporation affiliated with Southern Illinois University Carbondale that promotes technology and knowledge-based enterprise development within the park and southern Illinois. It is the primary innovation and technology space in the southern third of Illinois and is a member of the Association of University Research Parks (AURP).

One of only a handful of universities in the nation and the only one in Illinois to offer a bachelor's degree in fermentation science.





The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute brings together public service leaders, the community, and students to carry on Senator Paul Simon's vision to create a place to research and provide constructive public policy resources, encourage others to take part in conversations on the issues of our time and support the next generation of public leaders.



RESEARCH TEAM

This report was prepared for the Office of the President, Southern Illinois University System, by a research team of SIU faculty (including Jebaraj Asirvatham, Ph.D. in agricultural and applied economics, and Scott Gilbert, Ph.D. in economics) with the help of economics graduate assistants (including Stephen Troveh and Haya Akram Khan).

For more information, please contact the study authors at jebaraj@siu.edu or gilberts@siu.edu.



THE SIU SYSTEM

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