



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS CHICAGO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

JUNE 2022



Analysis of the Economic Impact and Return on Investment of Education

The Economic Value of the University of Illinois Chicago



THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO (UIC) creates value in many ways. The university plays a key role in helping students increase their employability and achieve their individual potential. The university facilitates new research and company developments and also draws visitors and students to the state, generating new dollars and opportunities for Illinois. UIC provides students with the education, training, and skills they need to have fulfilling and prosperous careers. As one of the most diverse campuses in the nation and a national leader among urban, public higher education institutions in providing access to underrepresented students. UIC is focused on eliminating disparities in health, education, and economic opportunity. Community engagement is a centerpiece of UIC’s urban mission. Faculty, students and staff in every college work with neighbourhood, foundation and government partners on a wide range of projects to improve the quality of life in metropolitan areas around the world.

UIC influences both the lives of its students and the state economy. The university supports a variety of industries in Illinois, serves state businesses, and benefits society as a whole in Illinois from an expanded economy and improved quality of life. Additionally, the benefits created by UIC extend to the state and local government through increased tax revenues and public sector savings.

This study measures the economic impacts created by UIC on the business community and the benefits the university generates in return for the investments made by its key stakeholder groups—students, taxpayers, and society. The following two analyses are presented:



Economic impact analysis



Investment analysis

All results reflect UIC employee, student, and financial data, provided by the University of Illinois System, for fiscal year (FY21) (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021). Impacts on the Illinois economy are reported under the economic impact analysis and are measured in terms of added income. The returns on investment to students, taxpayers, and society in Illinois are reported under the investment analysis.



ILLINOIS

UIC influences both the **lives of its students** and the **state economy**.



UIC promotes economic growth in Illinois through its direct expenditures and the resulting expenditures of visitors, students, and state businesses. The university serves as an employer and buyer of goods and services for its day-to-day, research, hospital, and construction operations. Numerous start-up companies have formed as a result of programs and knowledge at UIC. The university's reputation and activities attract visitors and students from outside Illinois, whose expenditures benefit state vendors. In addition, UIC is a primary source of higher education to Illinois residents and a supplier of trained workers to state industries, enhancing overall productivity in the state workforce.

Operations spending impact



UIC adds economic value to Illinois as an employer of state residents and a large-scale buyer of goods and services. In FY21, the university employed 11,247 full-time and part-time faculty and staff (excluding research and hospital employees), 97% of whom lived in Illinois. Total payroll at UIC was \$2.3 billion (excluding payroll from research and hospital employees), much of which was spent in the state for groceries, mortgage and rent payments, dining out, and other household expenses. In addition, the university spent \$830.6 million on day-to-day expenses related to facilities, supplies, and professional services (excluding research and hospital expenditures).

UIC's day-to-day operations spending added \$2.6 billion in income to the state during the analysis year. This figure represents the university's payroll, the multiplier effects generated by the in-state spending of the university and its employees, and a downward adjustment to account for funding that the university received from state sources. The \$2.6 billion in added income is equivalent to supporting 12,620 jobs in the state.

Research spending impact



Research activities impact the economy by employing people and requiring the purchase of equipment and other supplies and services. Over the last four years, UIC received 656 invention disclosures, filed 416 new patent applications, and produced 182 licenses.

In FY21, UIC spent \$217.9 million on payroll to support research activities. This, along with \$211.7 million in other research spending, created a net total of \$482.6 million in added income for the state economy. This added income is equivalent to supporting 3,610 jobs.



UIC RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS

Fiscal year	Inventions	Patents	Licenses
FY 18	130	126	47
FY 19	199	113	42
FY 20	186	71	48
FY21	141	106	45
Total	656	416	182

Source: U of I System.

Hospital spending impact



The University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System (UI Health) provides a hands-on learning and research environment for students and employs thousands of workers. UI Health would not exist without the UIC. Although broader health-related impacts are outside the scope of this analysis, the hospital is known for providing quality patient care. In FY21, UIC spent over \$1.3 billion on hospital operations. These expenditures added a net impact of \$1.6 billion in added income to the state. This is equivalent to supporting 13,637 jobs.

Construction spending impact



UIC invests in construction each year to maintain its facilities, create additional capacities, and meet its growing educational demands. While the amount varies from year to year, these quick infusions of income and jobs have a substantial impact on the state economy. In FY21, UIC's construction spending generated \$99.0 million in added income, which is equivalent to supporting 1,136 jobs.

Start-up company impact



UIC creates an exceptional environment that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship, evidenced by the number of UIC start-up companies created in the state. Start-up companies, created specifically to license and commercialize UIC technology or knowledge, have a strong and clearly defined link to UIC. In FY21, UIC start-up companies added \$337.7 million in income to the Illinois economy, which is equivalent to supporting 697 jobs.

Visitor spending impact



Typically, UIC hosts thousands of out-of-state visitors for on-campus events. UIC, its partners, and affiliations bring national and internationally renowned speakers and entertainers to the state. In addition, UIC attracts visitors for commencement, cultural, and sporting events. It is important to remind the reader of the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and its strong influence on the number of visitors during FY21. While in the state, visitors spent money for lodging, food, transportation, and other personal expenses.

IMPACTS CREATED BY UIC IN FY21



Operations spending impact

\$2.6 billion



Research spending impact

\$482.6 million



Hospital spending impact

\$1.6 billion



Construction spending impact

\$99.0 million



Start-up company impact

\$337.7 million



Visitor spending impact

\$61.6 thousand



Student spending impact

\$133.2 million



Alumni impact

\$4.1 billion



TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$9.4 billion

OR

Jobs supported

76,968

The off-campus expenditures of the university's out-of-state visitors generated a net impact of \$61.6 thousand in added income for the state economy in FY21. This \$61.6 thousand in added income is equivalent to supporting one job.

Student spending impact



Around 18% of students attending UIC originated from outside the state in FY21, and some of these students relocated to Illinois to attend UIC. These students may not have come to the state if the university did not exist. In addition, some in-state students, referred to as retained students, would have left Illinois if not for the existence of UIC. While attending the university, these relocated and retained students spent money on groceries, accommodation, transportation, and other household expenses. This spending generated \$133.2 million in added income for the state economy in FY21, which supported 2,096 jobs in Illinois.

Alumni impact



The education and training UIC provides for state residents has the greatest impact. Since its establishment, students have studied at UIC and entered the state workforce with greater knowledge and new skills. Today, thousands of former UIC students are employed in Illinois. As a result of their education from UIC, the students receive higher earnings and increase the productivity of the businesses that employ them. In FY21, UIC alumni generated \$4.1 billion in added income for the state economy, which is equivalent to supporting 43,172 jobs.

Total impact

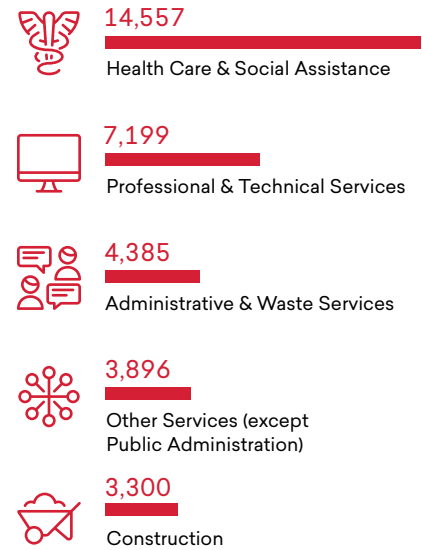
UIC added \$9.4 billion in income to the Illinois economy during the analysis year, equal to the sum of the operations, research, hospital, and construction spending impacts, the start-up company impact, the visitor and student spending impacts, and the alumni impact. For context, the \$9.4 billion impact was equal to approximately 1.1% of the total gross state product (GSP) of Illinois.

UIC's total impact can also be expressed in terms of jobs supported. The \$9.4 billion impact supported 76,968 state jobs, using the jobs-to-sales ratios specific to each industry in the state. This means that one out of every 97 jobs in Illinois is supported by the activities of UIC and its students. In addition, the \$9.4 billion, or 76,968 supported jobs, stemmed from different industry sectors. Among non-education industry sectors, UIC's spending and alumni in the Health Care & Social Assistance industry sector supported 14,557 jobs in FY21. If the university did not exist, these impacts would not have been generated in Illinois.

Note

Added income should not be confused with personal income or sales. It is important to bear in mind that much of this sales revenue leaves the state economy through intermediary transactions and costs, whereas income remains in the state and is synonymous to value added or gross state product.

UIC IMPACTS BY INDUSTRY (JOBS SUPPORTED)



One out of every 97 jobs in Illinois is supported by the activities of UIC and its students.



An investment analysis evaluates the costs associated with a proposed venture against its expected benefits. If the benefits outweigh the costs, then the investment is financially worthwhile. The analysis presented here considers UIC as an investment from the perspectives of students, taxpayers, and society in Illinois.

Student perspective



In FY21, UIC served 36,742 students. In order to attend the university, the students paid for tuition, fees, books, and supplies. They also took out loans and will incur interest on those loans. Additionally, students gave up money they would have otherwise earned had they been working instead of attending college. The total investment made by UIC's students in FY21 amounted to a present value of \$781.7 million, equal to \$439 million in out-of-pocket expenses (including future principal and interest on student loans) and \$342.7 million in forgone time and money.

In return for their investment, UIC's students will receive a stream of higher future earnings that will continue to grow throughout their working lives. For example, the average UIC bachelor's degree graduate from FY21 will see annual earnings that are \$30,100 higher than a person with a high school diploma or equivalent working in Illinois. Over a working lifetime, the benefits of the bachelor's degree over a high school diploma will amount to an undiscounted value of \$1.3 million in higher earnings per graduate. The present value of the cumulative higher future earnings that UIC's FY21 students will receive over their working careers is \$4.6 billion.

The students' benefit-cost ratio is 5.9. In other words, for every dollar students invest in UIC in the form of out-of-pocket expenses and forgone time and money, they will receive a cumulative value of \$5.90 in higher future earnings. Annually,

STUDENTS SEE A HIGH RATE OF RETURN FOR THEIR INVESTMENT IN UIC



Average annual return for UIC students
17.1%



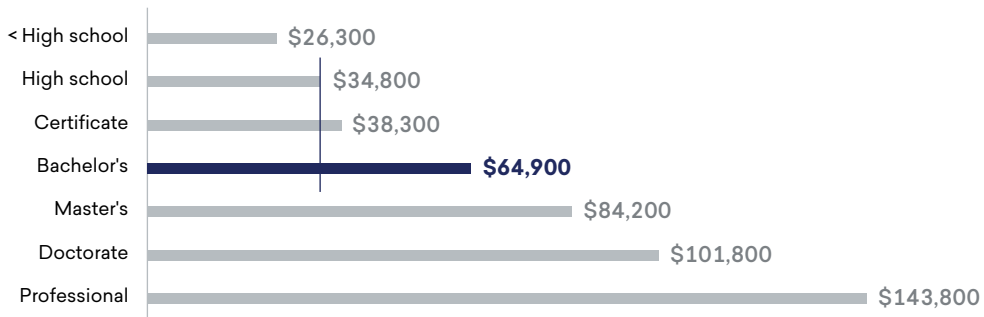
Stock market 30-year average annual return
10.5%



Interest earned on savings account (National Rate Cap)
0.8%

Source: Forbes' S&P 500, 1992-2021. FDIC.gov, 2-2022.

The average bachelor's degree graduate from UIC will see an increase in earnings of **\$30,100** each year compared to a person with a high school diploma or equivalent working in Illinois.



Source: Emsi Burning Glass employment data.

the students' investment in UIC has an average annual internal rate of return of 17.1%, which is impressive compared to the U.S. stock market's 30-year average rate of return of 10.5%.

Taxpayer perspective



UIC generates more in tax revenue than it takes. These benefits to taxpayers consist primarily of taxes that the state and local government will collect from the added revenue created in the state. As UIC students will earn more, they will make higher tax payments throughout their working lives. Students' employers will also make higher tax payments as they increase their output and purchases of goods and services.

By the end of the FY21 students' working lives, the state and local government will have collected a present value of \$1.9 billion in added taxes.

Benefits to taxpayers will also consist of savings generated by the improved lifestyles of UIC students and the corresponding reduced government services. Education is statistically correlated with a variety of lifestyle changes.

The educations that UIC students receive will generate savings in three main categories: 1) healthcare, 2) justice system, and 3) income assistance. Improved health will lower students' demand for national health care services. In addition, costs related to the justice system will decrease. UIC students will be more employable, so their reduced demand for income assistance such as welfare and unemployment benefits will benefit taxpayers. For a list of study references, contact the university for a copy of the main report. Altogether, the present value of the benefits associated with an education from UIC will generate \$193.1 million in savings to state and local taxpayers.

Total taxpayer benefits amount to \$2.1 billion, the present value sum of the added taxes and public sector savings. Taxpayer costs are \$771 million, equal to the funding received from the state for operations, grants, and the normal cost of pensions and benefits for UIC in FY21. These benefits and costs yield a benefit-cost ratio of 2.7. This means that for every dollar of public money invested in UIC in FY21, taxpayers will receive a cumulative present value of \$2.70 over the course of the students' working lives.

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Social perspective



Society as a whole in Illinois benefits from the presence of UIC in two major ways. Primarily, society benefits from an increased economic base in the state. This is attributed to the added income from students' increased lifetime earnings (added student income) and increased business output (added business income), which raise economic prosperity in Illinois.

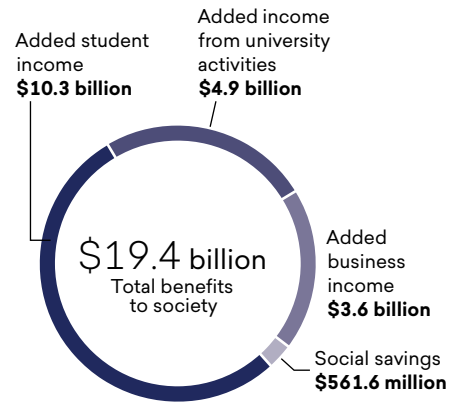
Benefits to society also consist of the savings generated by the improved lifestyles of UIC students. As discussed in the previous section, education is statistically

correlated with a variety of lifestyle changes that generate social savings. Note that these costs are avoided by the consumers but are distinct from the costs avoided by the taxpayers outlined above. Healthcare savings include avoided medical costs associated with smoking, alcohol dependence, obesity, drug abuse, and depression. Justice system savings include avoided costs to the government and society due to less judicial activity. Income assistance savings include reduced welfare and unemployment claims. For a list of study references, contact the university for a copy of the main report.

Altogether, the social benefits of UIC equal a present value of \$19.4 billion. These benefits include \$10.3 billion in added student income, \$3.6 billion in added business income, \$4.9 billion in added income from university activities, as well as \$561.6 million in social savings related to health, crime, and income assistance in Illinois. People in Illinois invested a present value total of \$5.4 billion in UIC in FY21. The cost includes all the university and student costs.

The benefit-cost ratio for society is 3.6, equal to the \$19.4 billion in benefits divided by the \$5.4 billion in costs. In other words, for every dollar invested in UIC, people in Illinois will receive a cumulative value of \$3.60 in benefits. The benefits of this investment will occur for as long as UIC's FY21 students remain employed in the state workforce.

**SOCIAL BENEFITS
IN ILLINOIS FROM UIC**



Source: Emsi Burning Glass impact model.

Summary of investment analysis results

The results of the analysis demonstrate that UIC is a strong investment for all three major stakeholder groups—students, taxpayers, and society. As shown, students receive a great return for their investments in an education from UIC. At the same time, taxpayers’ investment in UIC returns more to government budgets than it costs and creates a wide range of social benefits throughout Illinois.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE		TAXPAYER PERSPECTIVE		SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE	
Present value benefits	\$4.6 billion	Present value benefits	\$2.1 billion	Present value benefits	\$19.4 billion
Present value costs	\$781.7 million	Present value costs	\$771.0 million	Present value costs	\$5.4 billion
Net present value	\$3.9 billion	Net present value	\$1.3 billion	Net present value	\$14.0 billion
Benefit-cost ratio	5.9	Benefit-cost ratio	2.7	Benefit-cost ratio	3.6
Rate of return	17.1%			Rate of return	n/a*

* The rate of return is not reported for the social perspective because the beneficiaries of the investment are not necessarily the same as the original investors.

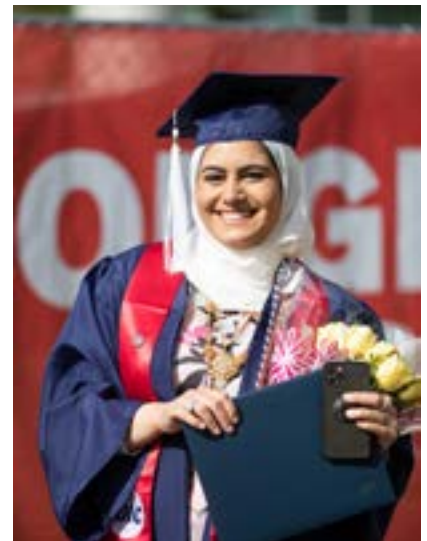
CONCLUSION

The results of this study demonstrate that UIC creates value from multiple perspectives. The university benefits state businesses by increasing consumer spending in the state and supplying a steady flow of qualified, trained workers to the workforce. UIC enriches the lives of students by raising their lifetime earnings and helping them achieve their individual potential. The university benefits state and local taxpayers through increased tax receipts and a reduced demand for government-supported social services. Finally, UIC benefits society as a whole in Illinois by creating a more prosperous economy and generating a variety of savings through the improved lifestyles of students.

About the study

Data and assumptions used in the study are based on several sources, including the FY21 academic and financial reports reflecting UIC from the University of Illinois System, industry and employment data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau, outputs of Emsi Burning Glass's Multi-Regional Social Accounting Matrix model, and a variety of studies and surveys relating education to social behavior. The study applies a conservative methodology and follows standard practice using only the most recognized indicators of economic impact and investment effectiveness. For a full description of the data and approach used in the study, please contact the university for a copy of the main report.

The results of this study demonstrate that UIC creates value from **multiple perspectives**.



Emsi Burning Glass provides colleges and universities with labor market data that help create better outcomes for students, businesses, and communities. Our data, which cover more than 99% of the U.S. workforce, are compiled from a wide variety of government sources, job postings, and online profiles and résumés. Hundreds of institutions use Emsi Burning Glass to align programs with regional needs, drive enrollment, connect students with in-demand careers, track their alumni's employment outcomes, and demonstrate their institution's economic impact on their region. Visit economicmodeling.com/higher-education to learn more or connect with us.