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The Economic Contribution of Utah Tech University

Utah Tech University strengthens Utah's and the Southwest Economic Region's economies through high-quality education; institutional, student, and visitor spending; and broad societal benefits.

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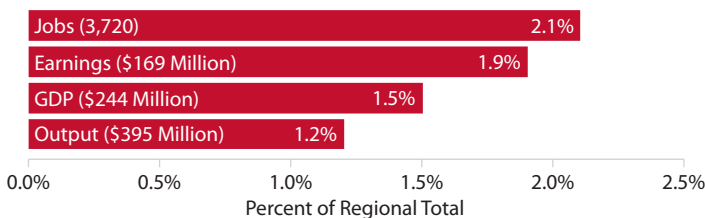
Analysis in Brief

Utah Tech University (UT) significantly contributes to the state's and the Southwest Economic Region's economies through operational spending, construction and capital spending, and nonresident student and visitor spending. Located in St. George, Utah Tech attracts students and visitors from out-of-state and other Utah regions whose spending supports the local economy. UT advances education and workforce development and provides many societal benefits to its students, employees, and the broader community.

Key Findings

- **Employment** – UT directly employs 2,200 individuals, making it the third largest employer in Washington County and the fifth largest employer in the Southwest Economic Region. UT supports more than 3,700 jobs in the region (including jobs produced through indirect and induced effects), representing 2.1% of jobs regionwide.
- **Regional Economic Activity** – UT supported a total of \$169 million in earnings, \$244 million in gross domestic product (GDP), and \$395 million in output (total sales) regionwide in FY 2025. This activity constitutes 1.9% of regional earnings, 1.5% of regional GDP, and 1.2% of total output in the Southwest Economic Region.

Utah Tech University Regional Economic Contribution, FY 2025



Note: Includes direct, indirect, and induced effects.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Tech University data using IMPLAN 2024

Top 10 Employers in the Southwest Economic Region, FY 2025

Rank	Company	Industry	Average Employment
1	Intermountain Healthcare	Health Care	5,000-6,999
2	Washington County School District	Public Education	3,000-3,999
3	Southern Utah University	Higher Education	2,000-2,999
4	Walmart	Retail Trade	2,000-2,999
5	Utah Tech University	Higher Education	2,000-2,999
6	Iron County School District	Public Education	1,000-1,999
7	St. George City	Local Government	1,000-1,999
8	State of Utah	State Government	1,000-1,999
9	The Home Depot	Retail Trade	1,000-1,999
10	Skywest Airlines	Air Transportation	500-999

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, FY 2025

- **Visitor Spending** – UT attracts many out-of-region visitors for events such as athletics, campus tours, and commencement. These visitors spent an estimated \$1.1 million in the Southwest Economic Region, further boosting local economic activity.
- **Education** – UT enrolled over 13,000 students across more than 75 undergraduate programs, 10 graduate programs, and more than 80 certificate programs during the 2024-25 academic year. UT awarded 4,696 degrees and certificates in 2024-25, equipping graduates for a wide range of careers in Utah's economy. These graduates support Utah's workforce with many remaining employed in-state following graduation.
- **Societal Benefits** – UT benefits its students, employees, and the broader community through workforce quality and development initiatives, student experience, community supports and services, and research and commercialization.

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Overview

Founded in 1911, Utah Tech University (UT) offers a wide range of certificate, undergraduate, and graduate programs spanning business, education, health sciences, the arts, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), and more. Located in St. George, Utah, the university serves as an educational and economic anchor for Utah's rapidly growing Southwest Economic Region.

UT contributes to Utah's and the Southwest Economic Region's economies through operational spending, construction and capital spending, and spending by nonresident students and visitors. UT also strengthens the local workforce through its hands-on approach to education, small class sizes, and strong partnerships with industry and community organizations.

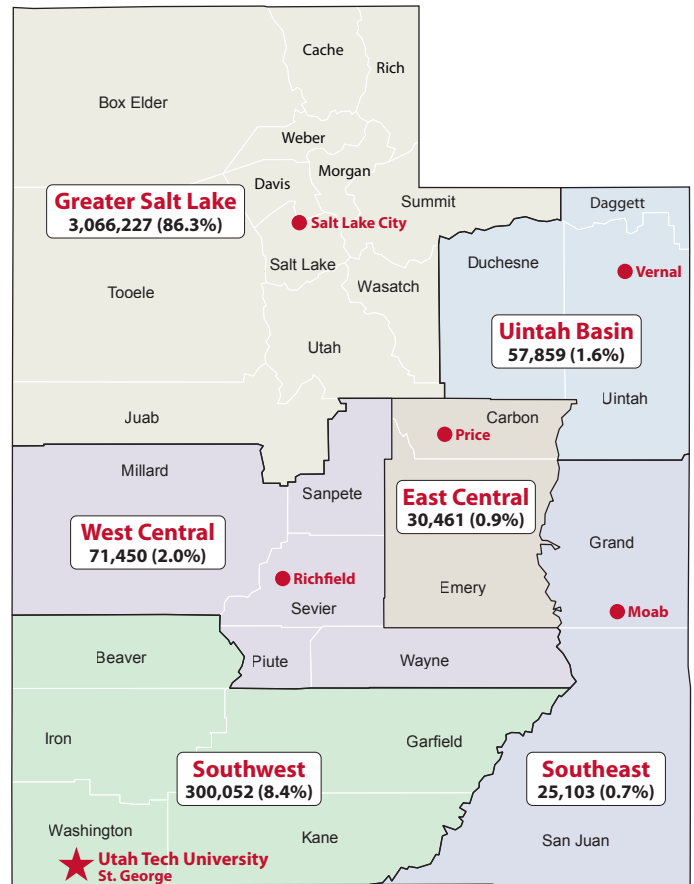
While UT generates substantial long-term value by developing human capital, strengthening the workforce, and enriching the community, the economic contribution estimates presented in this report exclude these broader benefits. These estimates focus solely on the short-term, measurable effects of university-related spending and visitor activity tied directly to the institution.

Economic Analysis

Utah Tech University employed 2,200 individuals in FY 2025, making it the third largest employer in Washington County and the fifth largest employer in the Southwest Economic Region (Table 1). Four different types of spending comprise UT's economic contribution: operations (including employment and associated compensation), capital and construction expenditures, nonresident student spending, and nonresident visitor spending. Based on these spending drivers, UT's FY 2025 statewide contributions totaled 3,405 direct and indirect jobs, \$163 million in earnings, \$232 million in gross domestic product (GDP), and \$373 million in output or total sales (Table 2 and Figure 3).

UT's regional contribution is more pronounced than its contribution to the state. In addition to out-of-state students and visitors, UT draws many out-of-region students and visitors from other areas within the state. This brings additional money to the local economy. UT's regional economic contribution totals 3,720 jobs, \$169 million in earnings, \$244 million in GDP, and \$395 million in output (or total sales) representing 2.1% of regional jobs, 1.9% of regional earnings, 1.5% of regional GDP, and 1.2% of output regionwide (Table 3 and Figure 4).

Figure 1: Utah's Economic Regions
Population and Percent of Total, 2025



Note: Each region shows the city that serves as its economic center along with the region's population (and the population as a percentage of the state total). Utah Tech is in St. George, the economic center of Utah's Southwest Economic region.
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

Table 1: Top 10 Employers in the Southwest Economic Region, FY 2025

Rank	Company	Industry	Average Employment
1	Intermountain Healthcare	Health Care	5,000-6,999
2	Washington County School District	Public Education	3,000-3,999
3	Southern Utah University	Higher Education	2,000-2,999
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6	Iron County School District	Public Education	1,000-1,999
7	St. George City	Local Government	1,000-1,999
8	State of Utah	State Government	1,000-1,999
9	The Home Depot	Retail Trade	1,000-1,999
10	Skywest Airlines	Air Transportation	500-999

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, FY 2025

Operational Expenditures

Operational spending accounts for more than 75% of UT's statewide economic contribution. UT spent \$156 million in FY 2025—approximately \$105.5 million on payroll and \$50.5 million on goods and services—to support a wide range of operational activities including instruction, research, student services, public service, athletics, arts and culture, operations

and maintenance, and academic and institutional support. This spending supports 2,845 jobs, \$137 million in earnings, \$180 million in GDP, and \$281 million in output statewide (Table 4).

The regional contribution is slightly smaller than the statewide results (due to some economic effects occurring outside the region), totaling 2,794 jobs, \$133 million in earnings, \$167 million in GDP, and \$263 million in output (Table 5).

Statement of Methods

To support transparency and clarity, this report defines the scope, direct expenditures, modeling approach, and multipliers used in the analysis. The following statement summarizes these elements, with additional detail provided in Appendix B.¹

Geographic Scope

This report covers Utah Tech University's economic contribution in the state of Utah and the Southwest Economic Region, which includes Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, and Washington counties.

Units of Analysis

This study evaluates economic activity for four major categories:

1. *Operations*: Ongoing expenditures for educational and student services.
2. *Capital and Construction*: Average annual construction and capital expenditures.
3. *Nonresident Student Spending*: Off-campus spending by out-of-state and out-of-region students in the regional economy, adjusted for wages earned in Utah.
4. *Nonresident Visitor Spending*: Off-campus spending by out-of-state and out-of-region visitors to Utah Tech University.

Year of Analysis

This study analyzes economic activity produced during Utah Tech's Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025). The report expresses amounts in 2025 dollars.

Model and Multipliers

This study uses the 2024 version of IMPLAN and its associated multipliers for the state of Utah and Southwest Economic Region, the most recent model available at the time of analysis.

Direct Expenditures

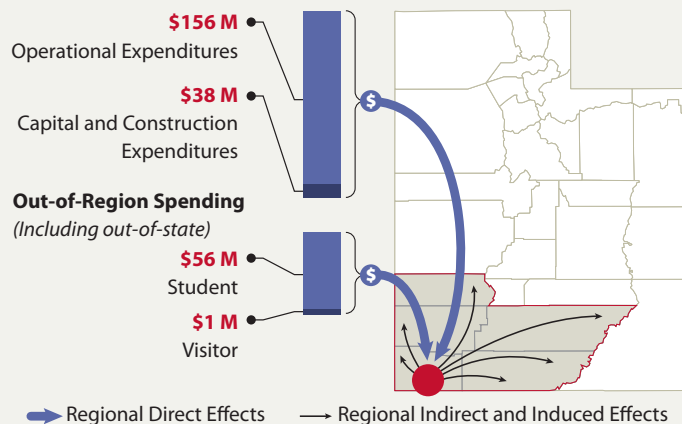
UT spent approximately \$156 million on operations in FY 2025 with an additional \$38 million on construction and capital (a 5-year average inflation-adjusted to 2025 dollars). The analysis estimates the contribution of this spending in-region and in-state and the subsequent effects. First-round expenditures also include \$24 million in off-campus spending by nonresident students, \$56 million by out-of-region students, \$550,000 by out-of-state visitors, and \$1 million by out-of-region visitors. Out-of-state students and visitors are included in out-of-region estimates.

Inflation Adjustment

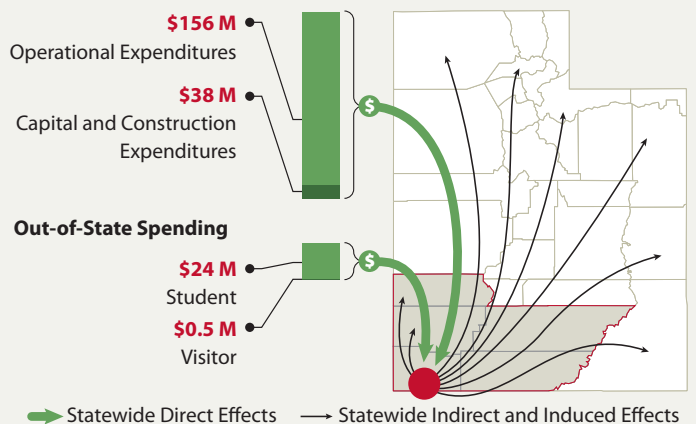
Inputs are inflation-adjusted using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Urban Consumers: All Items in U.S. City Average.

Figure 2: Regional vs. Statewide Contribution

REGIONAL ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION



STATEWIDE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION



Capital and Construction Expenditures

UT's construction spending also drives economic contribution. Major projects completed within the last five years include Atwood Innovation Plaza Annex, Campus View Suites II and III, Greater Zion Stadium Expansion, and the Science, Engineering, and Technology Building. UT's capital investments include vehicles, laboratory equipment, music and theater equipment, machinery, and other equipment. The analysis uses a 5-year average of annual expenditures (FY 2021 to FY 2025) given construction projects and capital purchases often extend over multiple years and vary annually. UT's average annual spending on capital and construction totaled \$38 million with \$2 million spent on capital and \$36 million spent on construction.

This spending supported a statewide contribution of 279 jobs, \$17 million in earnings, \$32 million in GDP, and \$58 million in output (Table 6). Like operational spending, some of this contribution occurs outside the region resulting in a slightly lower regional contribution of 272 jobs, \$17 million in earnings, \$30 million in GDP, and \$56 million in output (Table 7).

Table 2: Utah Tech University Statewide Economic Contribution, FY 2025

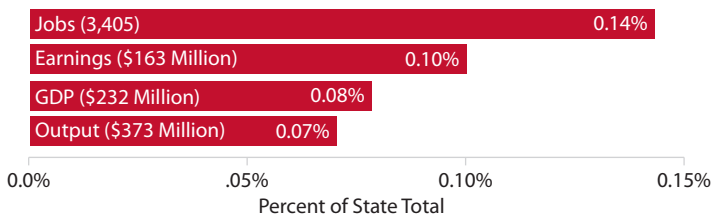
Dollars in Millions

Impact	Jobs	Earnings	GDP	Output
UT Total	3,405	\$163	\$232	\$373
Direct	2,200	\$105	\$105	\$214
Indirect & Induced	1,205	\$58	\$127	\$159

Note: Indirect and induced effects include jobs, earnings, and GDP associated with direct spending on construction and capital, student spending, and visitor spending.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Tech University data using IMPLAN 2024

Figure 3: Utah Tech University Statewide Economic Contribution, FY 2025



Note: Includes direct, indirect, and induced effects.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Tech University data using IMPLAN 2024

Table 3: Utah Tech University Regional Economic Contribution, FY 2025

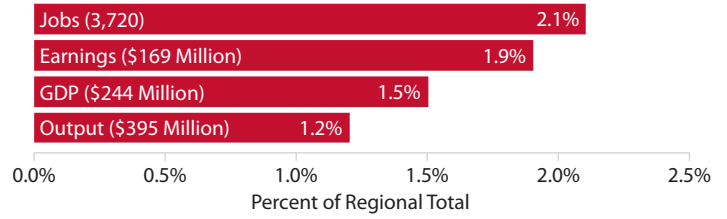
Dollars in Millions

Impact	Jobs	Earnings	GDP	Output
UT Total	3,720	\$169	\$244	\$395
Direct	2,200	\$105	\$105	\$242
Indirect & Induced	1,520	\$64	\$139	\$153

Note: Indirect and induced effects include jobs, earnings, and GDP associated with direct spending on construction and capital, student spending, and visitor spending.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Tech University data using IMPLAN 2024

Figure 4: Utah Tech University Regional Economic Contribution, FY 2025



Note: Includes direct, indirect, and induced effects.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Tech University data using IMPLAN 2024

Table 4: Utah Tech University Operations Statewide Economic Contribution, FY 2025

Dollars in Millions

Impact	Jobs	Earnings	GDP	Output
Utah Tech Total	2,845	\$137	\$180	\$281
Direct	2,200	\$106	\$106	\$156
Indirect & Induced	645	\$32	\$74	\$125

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Tech University data using IMPLAN 2024

Table 5: Utah Tech University Operations Regional Economic Contribution, FY 2025

Dollars in Millions

Impact	Jobs	Earnings	GDP	Output
Utah Tech Total	2,794	\$133	\$167	\$263
Direct	2,200	\$106	\$106	\$156
Indirect & Induced	594	\$27	\$61	\$107

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Tech University data using IMPLAN 2024

Table 6: Utah Tech University Construction and Capital Statewide Economic Contribution, FY 2025

Jobs	Earnings	GDP	Output
279	\$17 Million	\$32 Million	\$58 Million

Note: Includes direct, indirect, and induced effects stemming from \$38 million of direct expenditures with an estimated \$37 million occurring in-state.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Tech University data using IMPLAN 2024

Table 7: Utah Tech University Construction and Capital Regional Economic Contribution, FY 2025

Jobs	Earnings	GDP	Output
272	\$17 Million	\$30 Million	\$56 Million

Note: Includes direct, indirect, and induced effects stemming from \$38 million of direct expenditures with an estimated \$37 million occurring in-region.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Tech University data using IMPLAN 2024

Economic Terms

University economic contribution and impact studies measure an institution's economic effect on a region.

Economic contribution: Contributions capture the extent of all university spending within the study region (regardless of the origin of funds) and show its reach and magnitude in the state and regional economies. This study highlights UT's economic contributions from operations, construction, and capital spending. Including all spending enables reasonable comparisons with similar studies from other higher education institutions.

Economic impact: Impact studies measure changes in the size and structure of a region's economy when goods and services are purchased within the region with out-of-region or "new" money. This includes money generated outside the

Figure 5: Visual Representation of Economic Contribution and Impact

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

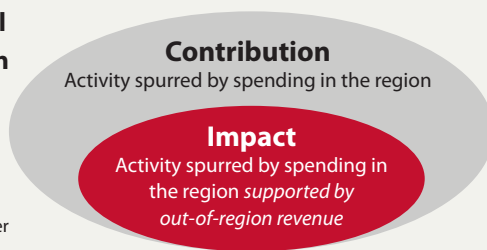
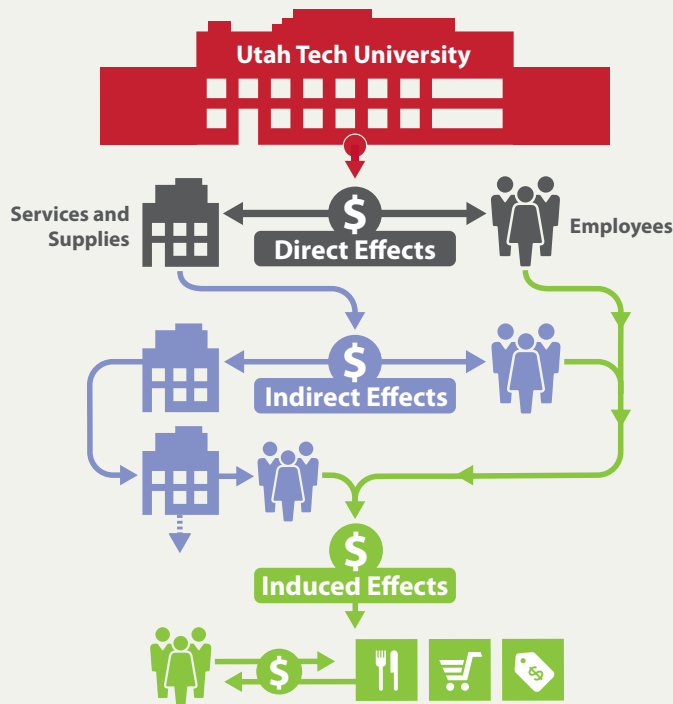


Figure 6: Economic Flow of Direct, Indirect, and Induced Economic Effects



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

region or can also result from "import substitution," where residents would have to import goods and services if an industry did not exist locally. Impact analyses attempt to measure what portion of the contribution would not exist if the institution did not exist. Student and visitor spending included in the analysis are considered economic impacts, as they count only spending from students and visitors from outside the study region.

Appendix A provides an economic and fiscal impact analysis of Utah Tech operations, capital, and construction spending in addition to nonresident student and visitor spending.

Direct spending by the university generates economic effects that ripple through the economy, creating additional economic activity. This is measured through three main components:

- **Direct Effects:** Generated by spending on wages of UT employees and direct purchases from vendors within the study region.
- **Indirect Effects:** Produced when UT's local suppliers hire employees and make purchases from other local vendors.
- **Induced Effects:** Occur when employees of UT and its suppliers spend their wages in the local economy.

This analysis measures economic effects in four ways: jobs, earnings, gross domestic product (GDP), and output. These measures capture different aspects of the economy and are not summable.

- **Jobs:** The annual average number of full-time and part-time jobs (not workers) counted equally, including wage and salary and self-employed positions.
- **Earnings:** The total of wage and salary disbursements, employer-paid benefits and payroll taxes, and self-employment income.
- **GDP:** The market value of all goods and services produced in Utah or the Southwest Economic Region, capturing only the "value added" by labor and capital, avoiding double-counting intermediate sales. GDP provides the most common measure of total economic activity in a region and equals total output less the value of intermediate inputs purchased to produce that output.
- **Output:** The gross value of all transactions in a region's economy, representing total industry sales and reflecting both final purchases and intermediate inputs resulting in the double-counting of some intermediate purchases.

Nonresident Student Spending

While UT enrolls many local students, a portion of its student body comes from out-of-state or within Utah but out-of-region. These students bring new money to the region as they spend money off campus on housing, food from local grocery stores and restaurants, transportation, entertainment, and recreation at local venues. More than 2,000 out-of-state students attended UT in-person during the 2024-25 academic year, making up over 16% of the in-person student population (Table 8 and Figure 7).

Each nonresident student spent an estimated \$11,500 off campus in FY 2025. This amount excludes tuition, on-campus housing, and other on-campus expenses accounted for in the university's operational spending. After accounting for estimated wages earned in-state, total net off-campus spending

Figure 7: Utah Tech University In-Person Students by Origin, Fall 2024



Source: Utah Tech University

Table 8: Utah Tech University Students, Fall 2024

	Student Count	Share of In-Person Students
In Person	12,966	100.0%
In-state students	10,860	83.4%
Out-of-state students	2,106	16.2%
In-region students	7,398	57.1%
Out-of-region students	5,568	42.9%
Online Students	615	NA
Total Students	13,581	NA

Note: Out-of-region students include both out-of-state students and in-state students from outside the Southwest Economic Region.

Source: Utah Tech University

Table 9: Utah Tech University Out-of-State Student Spending Economic Contribution, FY 2025

Dollars in Millions

Jobs	Earnings	GDP	Output
275	\$9	\$20	\$33

Note: These effects stem from approximately \$24 million of direct student spending with an estimated \$21 million occurring in-state.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Tech University data using IMPLAN 2024

Table 10: Utah Tech University Out-of-Region Student Spending Economic Contribution, FY 2025

Dollars in Millions

Jobs	Earnings	GDP	Output
642	\$20	\$46	\$75

Note: These effects stem from approximately \$56 million of direct student spending with an estimated \$48 million occurring in-region.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Tech University data using IMPLAN 2024

amounts to about \$24 million in FY 2025. This spending supported 275 jobs, \$9 million in earnings, \$20 million in GDP, and \$33 million in output statewide (Table 9).

While UT serves many out-of-region students, most students are from within the Southwest Economic Region. Excluding online students, more than 5,500 students (42.9%) attend UT from outside the region, collectively spending an estimated \$56 million in the region during the 2024-25 academic year. This results in a regional contribution more than twice as large as the state contribution, totaling 642 jobs, \$20 million in earnings, \$46 million in GDP, and \$75 million in output (Table 10).

Visitor Spending

Out-of-state and out-of-region visitor spending also contributes to Utah Tech University's economic impact. This analysis accounts for estimated spending from visitors attending athletic events, campus tours, and commencement (Table 11).

- **Athletic Events:** UT issued more than 32,000 tickets for athletic events in the 2023-24 academic year, drawing nearly 4,700 out-of-state visitors and more than 9,600 out-of-region visitors.
- **Campus Tours:** UT provided campus tours to more than 1,500 students and guests in the 2024-25 academic year. These tours drew 768 out-of-state students and nearly 1,300 out-of-region students. UT estimates an average of three visitors per student, resulting in 2,300 out-of-state visitors and about 3,800 out-of-region visitors.
- **Commencement:** More than 3,900 students graduated from UT in 2025. Based on student origin data and estimating an average of two guests per graduate, UT's commencement brought about 1,300 out-of-state visitors and over 3,200 out-of-region visitors.

These out-of-state and out-of-region visitors support the local economy by spending money on lodging, food, and recreational activities. In FY 2025, out-of-state visitors spent an estimated \$550,000, resulting in an economic contribution of 6 jobs, \$215,000 in earnings, \$411,000 in GDP, and \$726,000 in output. UT's regional contribution is even greater due to the number of Utahns who travel from other parts of the state to attend UT events. Out-of-region visitors spent an estimated \$1.1 million within the Southwest Economic Region in FY 2025, supporting 12 jobs, \$428,000 in earnings, \$813,000 in GDP, and \$1.4 million in output.

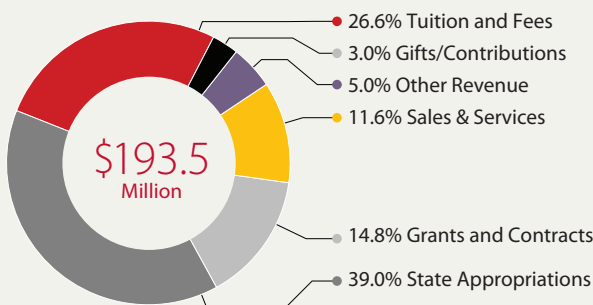
These visitor contribution estimates likely understate economic effects, however, as some visitors may come from out-of-state or out-of-region to attend other UT events or visit a student or staff member for reasons other than those included in the analysis.

Utah Tech University Funding Overview

Utah Tech University's FY 2025 revenue totaled \$193.5 million and came from a diverse array of sources. State appropriations and tuition and fees constitute the university's two largest revenue sources, comprising more than two-thirds of total revenue. Other revenue sources include grants and contracts, sales and services, gifts and contributions, and investment income (Figure 8).

UT's FY 2025 expenditures totaled \$191.6 million with more than half spent on instruction, academic support, and student services and scholarships (Figure 9). More than half of all expenses support salaries and benefits of UT employees.

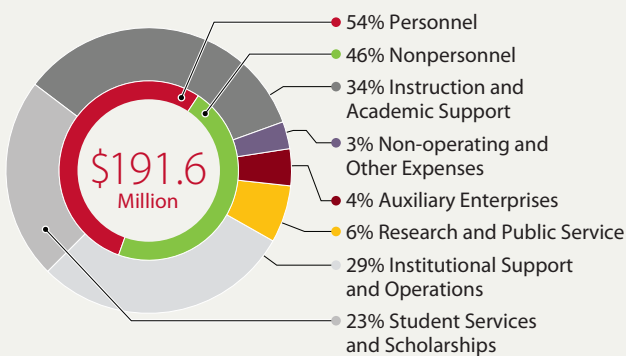
Figure 8: Utah Tech University Revenue, FY 2025



Note: Grants and contracts include federal, state, and other grants for research and other purposes.

Source: Utah System of Higher Education

Figure 9: Utah Tech University Expenses, FY 2025



Source: Utah System of Higher Education and Utah Tech University FY 2025 Annual Financial Report

Societal Benefits

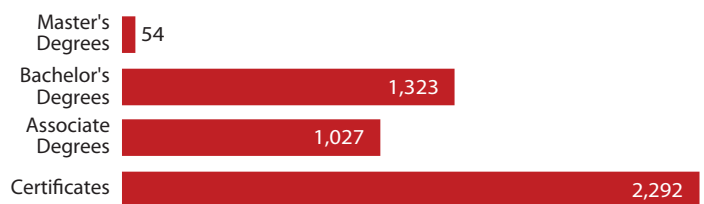
Utah Tech University offers societal benefits beyond quantifiable economic contributions. These contributions are central to UT's mission and its value to Utah and the Southwest Economic Region. While not comprehensive of all UT programs and services, the programs described in this section highlight some of the societal benefits UT provides related to workforce quality and development, student experience, community supports and services, and research and commercialization.

Workforce Quality and Development

Utah Tech enhances workforce quality by providing experiential education that prepares students for the job market. Workforce quality contributes to economic growth through human capital development. Economies grow by transforming lower-value inputs into higher-value outputs through factor accumulation (capital and labor) and productivity (the efficiency of turning inputs into outputs). Factor accumulation and productivity are known as the "proximate causes of growth." Labor, or human capital, plays a critical role in this process. While population growth determines labor *quantity*, education shapes labor *quality*. A well-educated workforce boosts economic output.

Utah Tech contributes to Utah's workforce by educating over 13,000 students across more than 75 undergraduate programs, 10 graduate programs, and over 80 certificate programs. UT awarded 4,696 degrees and certificates during the 2024-25 academic year, preparing 3,922 graduates for various careers in Utah's economy (Figure 10 and Table 12).

Figure 10: Utah Tech University Degrees and Certificates Awarded by Award Level, 2024-25



Source: Utah System of Higher Education

Table 11: Utah Tech University Estimated Visitors, 2024-25 Academic Year

Event	Out-of-State			Out-of-Region*		
	Estimated Visitors	Estimated Days in Region	Total Estimated Visitor Days	Estimated Visitors	Estimated Days in Region	Total Estimated Visitor Days
Athletics	4,683	1	4,683	9,614	1	9,614
Campus Tours	2,304	1	2,304	3,813	1	3,813
Commencement	1,279	1	1,279	3,247	1	3,247

*Out-of-region visitors include both out-of-state visitors and in-state visitors from outside the Southwest Economic Region.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Tech University data

UT emphasizes hands-on learning, career readiness, employing a human-centered approach to problem solving, and providing industry experiences to help students meet regional economic and workforce needs. UT awards degrees in all academic disciplines, with a specific focus on business, technology, and health care fields.

UT Graduates

Many UT graduates live and work in Utah, continuing to contribute to the Utah economy as they enter the workforce. Using a conservative measure of sustained, full-year employment, about 40% of Utah Tech graduates work in Utah one year after graduation, with a slighter higher share observed

Table 12: Utah Tech University Degrees and Certificates Awarded by Area of Study, 2024-25

Area of Study	Degrees Awarded
Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities	2,288
Health Professions and Related Programs	718
Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services	408
Visual and Performing Arts	213
Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services	166
Engineering	165
Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs	143
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, Fitness, and Kinesiology	117
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	82
Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting and Related Protective Services	81
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	76
Psychology	61
English Language and Literature/Letters	44
Education	43
Social Sciences	22
History	15
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	14
Communications Technologies/Technicians and Support Services	12
Physical Sciences	9
Mathematics and Statistics	8
Family and Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences	6
Natural Resources and Conservation	3
Mechanic and Repair Technologies/Technicians	2

Source: Utah System of Higher Education

Table 13: Utah Tech Graduates Employment Status

Full-Year Employment at or Above Minimum Wage

	Total Graduates	2019 Cohort Employed in Utah				2023 Cohort Employed in Utah		
		One Year After Graduation		Five Years After Graduation		Total Graduates	One Year After Graduation	
		Number	Share	Number	Share		Number	Share
Resident	1,742	775	44.5%	950	54.5%	2,902	1,224	42.2%
Nonresident	552	121	21.9%	148	26.8%	958	229	23.9%
Total	2,294	896	39.1%	1,098	47.9%	3,860	1,453	37.6%

Note: Employment reflects individuals with earnings of at least \$3,770 in each quarter of the fiscal year, equivalent to full-time minimum wage. These data capture employment in firms that report to the unemployment insurance program, which includes most Utah employees. Data does not include self-employed individuals, federal employees, or military personnel.

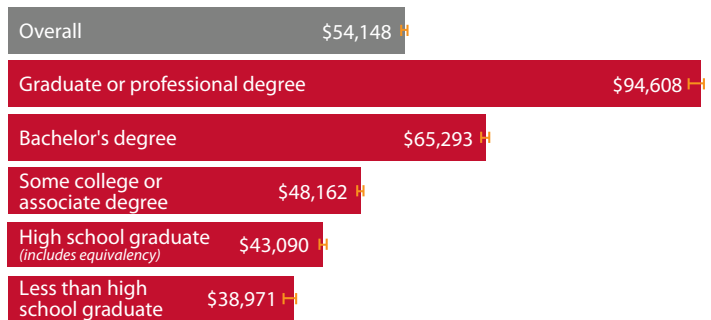
Nonresident means a person ever listed as an out-of-state student prior to graduation.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Data Research Center data

five years after graduation (Table 13). A broader measure including individuals with any earnings indicates higher levels of workforce participation, with more than three-fourths of UT's 2019 and 2023 graduates working in Utah one year after graduation, and more than two-thirds of the 2019 cohort working in Utah five years after graduation.

These alumni provide a skilled workforce and support economic growth through spending on goods and services and increased tax contributions. On average, Utah residents with higher educational attainment earn higher wages resulting in increased consumption and larger tax contributions than those with lower educational attainment (Figure 11). Wages for UT graduates are significantly higher five years after graduation than they are one year after graduation (Table 14).

Figure 11: Utah Median Earnings by Educational Attainment, 2024



Note: Data for the population age 25+. Earnings include wages or salary from a job, or income from self-employment.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 5-Year American Community Survey estimates

Table 14: Median Annual Wages of Utah Tech Graduates

FY 2025 Dollars

Award Level	2019 Cohort		2023 Cohort
	One-Year Post-graduation	Five Years Post-graduation	One-Year Post-graduation
Associate	\$52,352	\$57,796	\$45,036
Bachelor's	\$66,645	\$89,048	\$63,401

Note: These data capture the wages of individuals with sustained, full-year employment (earning at least the equivalent of full-time minimum wage in each quarter) in firms that report to the unemployment insurance program, which includes most Utah firms. Data do not include self-employed individuals, federal employees, or military personnel. The 5-year post-graduation wages for the 2019 cohort exclude students who reenrolled.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Data Research Center data

Utah Tech University's Mission and Values

Mission: Utah Tech University is an open, inclusive, comprehensive, polytechnic university featuring active and applied learning to advance students' knowledge and skills while fostering competent, resilient, lifelong learners to succeed in their careers and personal lives as creators, innovators, and responsible citizens.

Values:

- **Academic Distinction:** Excellence as an open, comprehensive, polytechnic university that distinguishes UT from other universities.
- **Student Learning and Success:** Achievement of learning outcomes and the attainment of an academic award or other educational goal, including holistic personal development.
- **Purposeful Discovery:** Creative thinking and acting across boundaries to solve complex problems both individually and collaboratively.
- **Collaborative Culture:** An open culture grounded on principles of honesty, integrity, sharing, transparency, accountability, mutual respect, and freedom of inquiry.
- **Opportunity and Belonging:** A safe, tolerant and welcoming community that collaborates and learns through open and civil discourse.
- **Public Service:** Effective leadership of civic, educational, economic, and cultural entities and initiatives to transform communities.
- **Local and Global Resources:** Mutually beneficial partnerships that engage and integrate local and global resources into learning experiences, with a special emphasis on southern Utah.
- **Innovation and Responsiveness:** Responsive to local and regional needs and opportunities through institutional innovation and entrepreneurship.

Four-in-Four Initiative

UT's Four-in-Four initiative offers workforce-ready pathways through industry-aligned microcredentials—short-term credentials that certify specific workforce skills—and stackable certificates for adult learners to upskill or transition into degree programs. Students can earn up to four academic credentials in a four-year period through this initiative. The Four-in-Four initiative supports economic growth and workforce readiness that align with regional needs.

Student Experience

UT prioritizes student experience as it is key to academic success and personal development. These initiatives and programs play an important role in promoting student engagement and empowering students to remain in school through graduation.

Academic Engagement and Support

UT's academic advising program provides a central point of contact for students, helping them navigate degree pathways, course planning, and maintain timely progress toward graduation. Advising is complemented by targeted support through the Academic Performance Center, Student Success Program, and Career Services, which offer tutoring, academic skill development, peer coaching, and career preparation aligned with students' educational goals. These services supported nearly 27,000 annual academic advisement appointments in FY 2023-24.²

Wellness and Support Services

UT supports student well-being through a comprehensive set of wellness and support services. The Student Resource Center plays a central role in supporting students' basic needs and overall stability. The center connects students to resources such as food assistance, emergency support, financial guidance, and referrals to campus and community services. The Booth Wellness Center serves nearly 2,000 students annually with more than 4,000 medical and counseling appointments. These services help students remain focused on their education and complete their degrees by addressing barriers that can affect academic performance and retention.

Community Support and Services

Utah Tech University supports Southern Utah communities through partnerships, outreach, and public programs that expand access to education, strengthen local capacity, and enhance life quality. These efforts connect university expertise with community needs through initiatives such as city partnerships, K-12 STEM programming, community education, and a wide range of public events.

City Alliance

City Alliance fosters partnerships between UT and selected southern Utah cities. Each year, UT selects a new partner city and identifies three to four projects that would benefit from UT's expertise and research. This partnership spans three years: the first year focuses on planning, the second year on implementation, and the third year on reporting.

UT collaborated with the City of St. George in 2021 to develop key initiatives that provide students with hands-on experience while supporting the city's progress toward long-term "economic strength and social vibrancy." These initiatives focused on managing city growth, analyzing cost-of-living, fostering economic development, addressing city personnel needs, increasing community spirit, and facilitating collaboration.

STEM Outreach

UT's STEM Outreach program offers 475 programs and has interacted with more than 55,000 K-12 students since receiving state legislative funding in 2016. UT opened the STEM Outreach Center at Atwood Innovation Plaza in September 2021, which hosts classes, workshops, and community-focused events for students and community members.

Community Education

Utah Tech University partners with the City of St. George and Washington County School District to offer community education classes. About 3,770 community members participated in over 315 classes, workshops, and programs in the 2024-25 school year. UT also hosted over 3,500 youth on campus for summer conferences and workshops.

Research and Commercialization

As a regional institution, Utah Tech University primarily focuses on high-quality teaching and experiential learning. That said, the university also engages in research and commercialization efforts that support its mission and contribute to local economic development.

UT supports small business growth, nurtures entrepreneurship, and advances research activity through its Research Office (including its annual Symposium for Research, Innovation, and Creativity), Atwood Innovation Plaza, and Center for Precision Medicine and Functional Genomics.

Research Office

UT's Research Office supports faculty, staff, and student research by connecting researchers with collaborators and identifying funding opportunities to advance innovative work. The office plays a central role in expanding the university's research capacity and strengthening ties between campus and community partners. It also leads the annual Symposium for Research, Innovation, and Creativity, which provides a forum for students, faculty, and community members to present research, innovation, and creative projects.

Atwood Innovation Plaza

The Atwood Innovation Plaza is an entrepreneurship and innovation center serving southern Utah. The plaza provides resources and specialized personnel to support students and community members in launching or expanding their businesses. The plaza hosts the Business Resource Center (BRC) and the Innovation Guidance and Solutions Center.

The BRC provides no-cost technical support to startups and innovators. Experienced business staff offer support and technical education in business planning and formation, develop pitch decks, perform customer validation, and identify and pursue funding. The BRC provided more than 1,830 consultations as of 2023, supporting the creation of nearly 130 businesses and 400 jobs.

The Innovation Guidance and Solutions Center supports innovators (students, faculty, and community members) through the patent process. The center assists with research, patents, trademarks, and copyrights. The center vetted nearly 900 ideas and has been granted 123 patents and 26 copyrights as of 2023.³

Center for Precision Medicine and Functional Genomics

The Center for Precision Medicine and Functional Genomics expands UT's research capacity in biomedical and computational sciences. Housed in the Science, Engineering, and Technology building, the center supports faculty- and student-led research with modern laboratory infrastructure. This infrastructure includes functional genomics teaching and research laboratories, specialized equipment and sterilization spaces, and dedicated research areas.

Center faculty conduct applied research in variant validation, protein evolution, population genomics, and the genetic basis of disease. The center also supports workforce development by training students in molecular, pharmacological, and computational biology techniques and engages the public on the societal implications of personalized medicine. This strengthens connections between academic research, innovation, and future commercialization opportunities.

Appendix A: Impact Analysis

Economic Impact

Many university “economic impact studies” capture activity beyond a true economic impact, incorrectly labelling economic contributions as “impacts”.⁴ Because of this, the results of the economic contribution analysis presented in the main body of the report is likely best suited for comparison with other studies. These economic impact analysis results (in this Appendix A) illustrate the net-new economic activity attributable to Utah Tech University.

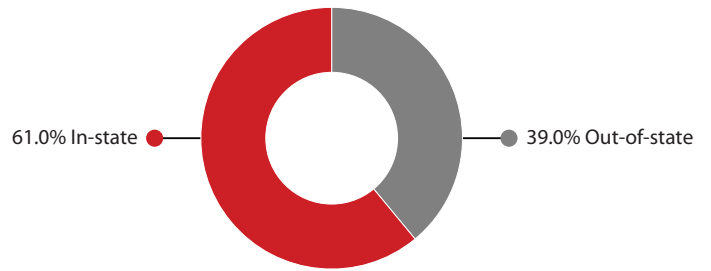
The economic impact refers to the portion of the economic contribution financed by out-of-region revenue. In other words, economic impacts occur when “new money” from outside the regional economy is spent within the region. Thus, Utah Tech’s economic impact represents the piece of the Utah economy that would not exist without Utah Tech. It assumes that without UT, the revenue it currently brings in from outside Utah would not be a part of the state’s economy.

Approximately 39.0% of UT’s revenue represents new money in Utah’s economy (Figure 12). Nearly 85% of this external revenue came from tuition and fees from out-of-state students, federal grants, and student aid for in-state students. Sales and services and other revenue make up the remainder of UT’s out-of-state revenue (Figure 13).

Similar to the economic contribution analysis, UT’s total economic impact derives from four different types of spending: its out-of-state financed operations, construction and capital spending, nonresident student spending, and visitor spending. This economic impact totals 1,500 jobs, \$69 million in earnings, \$103 million in GDP, and \$166 million in output (Table 15).

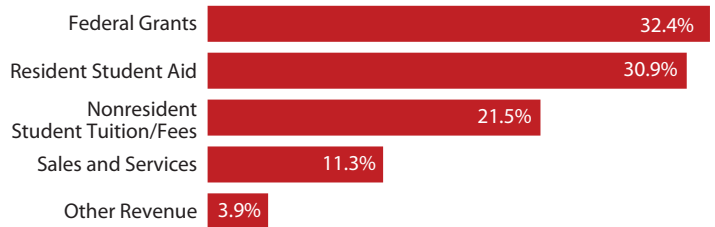
This report does not capture additional fiscal impacts associated with higher education in general. These range from narrower estimates tied to university-related tax revenues and public service costs, to broader long-term effects associated with a more highly educated population. Future research will explore these broader fiscal impacts.

Figure 12: Utah Tech University Revenue by Origin, FY 2025



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Tech University data

Figure 13: Utah Tech University Out-of-State Revenue by Source, FY 2025



Note: Resident student aid includes Pell grants, federal student loans, and private scholarships.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Tech University data

Table 15: Utah Tech University Statewide Economic Impact, FY 2025

Dollars in Millions

Impact	Jobs	Earnings	GDP	Output
UT Total	1,500	\$69	\$103	\$166
Direct	858	\$41	\$41	\$96
Indirect & Induced	642	\$28	\$62	\$70

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Tech University data using IMPLAN 2024

Appendix B: Methods

Model Construction

The economic contribution and impact analyses in this report use a custom, multi-regional, 528-sector economic model for Utah's Southwest Economic Region (Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, and Washington counties) and the state of Utah. Built using IMPLAN's 2024 database, the model uses input-output (I-O) and social account matrix (SAM) frameworks to estimate how activity in one industry affects the entire economy. While analysts widely use IMPLAN, REMI PI+, and RIMS II for economic impact and contribution analyses, they most commonly utilize IMPLAN to estimate university contributions and impacts. As with any economic model, the accuracy of IMPLAN results depends on the fidelity of model assumptions and the quality of input data.

IMPLAN operates under key I-O model assumptions:

- **Constant returns to scale** – Inputs per unit of output remain constant.
- **Fixed input and technology structure** – The mix of inputs and technology necessary to produce a unit of output does not vary.
- **Zero supply constraints** – Access to in-region and out-of-region raw materials and labor is unlimited.
- **Fixed output mix** – An industry will produce the same mix of outputs at any level of production.
- **Static model** – Prices and industry relationships do not change.

Input Data and Geographic Scope

The economic contribution and impact analyses in this report use Utah Tech University's FY 2025 revenue and expenditure data, adjusted to prevent double counting. For example, the university operational spending analysis captures student spending on tuition, fees, and on-campus housing (revenue for the institution), while the student spending analysis excludes this same spending to avoid double-counting.

To fully capture UT's significance, this study measures its contribution to both the Southwest Economic Region and the state.

Measuring Economic Effects

The study utilized multi-regional input-output analysis to trace how spending in the Southwest Economic Region affects both the region itself and the rest of Utah, as well as how surrounding area impacts generate additional local effects. Summing these effects on the region and the rest of the state shows the total effects on Utah.

Operations

The study employs an industry impact analysis technique to measure the economic contribution of university operations. The operations analysis includes:

- **Direct jobs** – Average annual jobs.
- **Direct earnings** – Total payroll expenditures (wages, salaries, benefits, and payroll taxes).
- **Intermediate inputs** – Non-payroll operational spending (excluding capital, construction, scholarship spending, out-of-state travel expenses, and debt payments).
- **Output** – The sum of total labor income, intermediate inputs, taxes on production and imports (TOPI), and other property income (OPI). Given UT's status as a state entity, the analysis sets TOPI and OPI at zero. This results in direct earnings equaling direct GDP.

Direct payroll models labor income resulting in induced effects, while intermediate inputs model intermediate demand changes spurring additional induced and indirect effects. The analysis models UT's campus spending with a custom spending pattern aligned to actual expenditures (Table 16).

The analysis includes all in-state travel expenses, with 50% allocated to hotels, 25% to ground transportation, and 25% to restaurants. For out-of-state travel and unknown travel, the analysis allocates 40% of total expenses to air transportation (80%) and ground transportation (20%), assuming the hotel and restaurant spending occurred primarily out-of-state.

To estimate economic impact, UT provided data on revenue sources. Economic impacts measure the economic activity of spending supported by out-of-region revenue. For statewide impacts, this analysis adjusts all inputs based on the share of out-of-state revenue.

Construction and Capital

Due to the multi-year and variable nature of construction projects and capital purchases, the analysis models these purchases using a 5-year average of expenditures adjusted to FY 2025 dollars. This analysis models construction expenditures as industry output in IMPLAN 53: Construction of New Educational and Vocational Structures.

The analysis models capital expenditures as commodity output events. UT provided detailed data for most FY 2025 capital expenditures, which were matched to IMPLAN commodities with each commodity share applied to the 5-year average (Table 17).

The analysis adjusts inputs based on UT's out-of-state revenue share (39.0%) to estimate statewide economic impacts.

Table 16: Utah Tech University Spending Pattern

IMPLAN Commodity Code	IMPLAN Commodity Description	Share of Spending
3505	Business and professional services	39.2%
3374	All other miscellaneous manufactured products	9.1%
3447	Advertising, public relations, and related services	5.8%
3396	Air transportation services	5.2%
3410	Software publishers	4.8%
3355	Office furniture, except wood	4.7%
3044	Water, sewage and other systems	4.4%
3426	Other insurance	3.8%
3493	All other food and drinking place services	3.5%
3043	Natural gas distribution	3.2%
3287	Electronic computers	2.5%
3455	Business support services	2.3%
3365	Sporting and athletic goods	2.3%
3055	Maintained and repaired nonresidential structures	1.9%
3400	Transit and ground passenger transportation services	1.3%
3460	Other support services	0.9%
3407	Books	0.7%
3042	Electricity transmission and distribution	0.7%
3393	Retail services - Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument and book stores	0.6%
3497	Commercial and industrial machinery and equipment repair and maintenance	0.5%
3417	Satellite, telecommunications resellers, and all other telecommunications	0.4%
3437	Legal services	0.4%
3429	Other real estate services	0.4%
3435	Commercial and industrial machinery and equipment rental and leasing services	0.3%
3399	Truck transportation services	0.3%
3391	Retail services - Gasoline stores	0.3%
3464	Other educational services	0.2%
3508	US Postal delivery services	0.1%
3489	Hotels and motel services, including casino hotels	0.1%
3501	Dry-cleaning and laundry services	0.03%
3367	Office supplies (except paper)	0.02%
3458	Services to buildings	0.02%
3176	Photographic films and chemicals	0.01%
3395	Retail services - Miscellaneous store retailers	0.001%
3406	Periodicals	0.0003%

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Tech University data using IMPLAN 2024

Nonresident Students

Utah Tech University provided student headcount data with the number of students attending from in-state and out-of-state and in-region and out-of-region (Table 8). The analysis excludes online students and assumes that living expenses (e.g., food, housing) do not differ between full-time and part-time students. UT also provided cost of attendance estimates for the 2024-25 academic year.

Table 17: Utah Tech University Capital Spending Commodities

IMPLAN Commodity Code	IMPLAN Commodity Description	Share of Capital Spending
3306	Analytical laboratory instruments	31.4%
3261	Commercial and service industry machinery	22.3%
3324	Automobiles and light duty motor vehicles	18.7%
3450	All other miscellaneous professional, scientific, and technical services	7.7%
3374	Other miscellaneous manufactured products	5.9%
3323	All other miscellaneous electrical equipment and components	2.7%
3365	Sporting and athletic goods	2.5%
3254	Construction machinery	2.1%
3370	Musical instruments	2.1%
3300	Electromedical and electrotherapeutic apparatus	1.3%
3120	Apparel accessories and other apparel	1.2%
3287	Electronic computers	0.9%
3352	Institutional furniture	0.7%
3042	Electricity transmission & distribution	0.5%

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Tech University data using IMPLAN 2024

The analysis assumes each student attended two semesters and excludes spending on tuition/fees, books/supplies, and on-campus housing given these are included in the university’s operational expenditures. The analysis then adjusts expenditures to account for student earnings in Utah for consistency with the exclusion of off-campus spending of resident students from the analysis. Therefore, the economic contribution of nonresident students is equivalent to their economic impact.

The Gardner Institute obtained wage data from the Utah Data Research Center (UDRC) for all UT students for FY 2024, the latest available year. Based on these data, approximately 58.9% of out-of-state students and 80.1% of out-of-region students earned wages in state with average annual earnings of \$12,800 for out-of-state students and \$17,700 for out-of-region students (in FY 2025 dollars).

To refine the estimate, the analysis used two-thirds of these wages to account for two semesters of attendance and then applied a spending share for off-campus housing, food, transportation, and personal expenses, adjusting for excluded costs (tuition/fees and books/supplies). The analysis then multiplied these adjusted average wages by the number of working out-of-state and out-of-region students and subtracted this amount from total spending.

After calculating direct spending, the Gardner Institute used IMPLAN to estimate indirect and induced contributions. The analysis modeled spending as industry output events across eight IMPLAN industries using the following assumptions:

- Off-campus housing estimates in IMPLAN 430: Tenant-occupied housing.
- Food spending estimates in IMPLAN 493: All other food and drinking places.
- Transportation expenses were split among IMPLAN 391: Retail – Gasoline Stores, 426: Insurance carriers, except direct life, and 594: Automotive repair and maintenance, except car washes.
- Personal expenses under 395: Retail – Miscellaneous store retailers, 486: Other amusement and recreation, and 499: Personal Care Services.

The analysis based the share of spending in each category on spending data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Survey for the under 30 population.

The analysis likely reflects conservative estimates for several reasons:

- Some students attend three semesters or live in-region year-round leading to higher spending than accounted for in these estimates.
- The analysis excludes all spending on books and supplies since the share spent off-campus could not be determined.
- The analysis excludes in-state wage estimates for out-of-state and out-of-region students. Out-of-region students likely earned some of these wages in-state but outside the region. The analysis excludes all in-state wages since the region where wages were earned is unknown.
- Cost of attendance data likely underestimates spending. While these estimates provide spending close to a minimum cost of living for students, some students likely exceed these estimates while living in-region.

Nonresident Visitors

To estimate the economic effects of nonresident visitor spending, the analysis estimates both total visitors and average spending per visitor. Visitor spending estimates include three Utah Tech University event types: athletic events, campus tours, and commencement. The analysis conservatively assumes nonresident visitors spend one day in-region for these events.

After estimating the total number of visitors, the analysis applies total spending assumptions and expenditure patterns to estimate total visitor spending. The analysis uses Omnitrak's general leisure visitor profile data for St. George for the three most recent years (2022-2024) to derive total spending and

Table 18: Utah Tech University Estimated Visitor Spending, FY 2024

IMPLAN Industry Code	IMPLAN Industry Description	Average Spending (Per Person Per Day)
400	Transit & ground transportation	\$1.29
432	Automotive equipment rental & leasing	\$0.55
391	Retail – Gasoline store	\$7.30
489	Hotels/motels	\$23.57
493	All other food and drinking places	\$14.71
389	Food and beverage stores	\$6.16
486	Other amusement & recreation services	\$6.83
395	Miscellaneous retail	\$4.65
502	Other personal services	\$1.48
Total		\$66.54

Note: Based on Omnitrak general leisure profile for St. George from 2022 to 2024, inflation-adjusted to 2024 dollars.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Omnitrak data using IMPLAN 2024

expenditure pattern assumptions. The analysis applies the spending patterns and amount spent per day by St. George visitors to the estimated number of Utah Tech University visitors. Based on these data, an average visitor spends a total of \$66.54 per day. The analysis models this spending as industry output across nine IMPLAN categories (Table 18). The analysis multiplies average spending in each category by the estimated number of visitors from out-of-state and out-of-region before modeling.

Graduate Analysis

The Utah Data Research Center (UDRC) provided data on Utah Tech University graduates from 2019 and 2023. These data include the degree/award, residency status, whether the individual was working in state (based on unemployment claims from the Utah Department of Workforce Services), and their wages for one- and five-years post-graduation, if working. These data come from educational records (Utah System of Higher Education) and workforce records (Utah Department of Workforce Services). The Gardner Institute calculated the share of graduates working in-state and average wages one- and five years post-graduation by residency status and degree type.

Utah Data Research Center Disclaimer

Some of the data for this research was accessible through Utah's state longitudinal data system database administered by the Utah Data Research Center, which includes data supplied by UDRC members. This research, including the methods, results, and conclusions neither necessarily reflect the views of, nor are endorsed by, the UDRC members. All errors are the responsibility of the author.

Endnotes

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