

Overview Fact Sheet

The University of Idaho plays a significant role in the state economy and is a sound investment from multiple perspectives. Students benefit from improved lifestyles and increased earnings. Taxpayers benefit from a larger economy and lower social costs. Finally, the state as a whole benefits from increased job and investment availability of public funds, and an eased tax burden.

ECONOMIC GROWTH ANALYSIS

Total Effect

The average annual added income due to the activities of the University of Idaho and its alumni equals **\$954.3 million**. This is approximately equivalent to **1.9%** of the Idaho economy. These impacts are broken down as follows.

College Operations Effect

- Idaho's economy annually receives roughly **\$186.7 million** in added income due to U-Idaho operations. Of this approximately **\$60.8 million** was due to U-Idaho research activities. These are conservative figures adjusted to account for leakage and monies withdrawn from the state economy in support of the university.

Student & Visitor Spending Effects

- Out-of-state students who come to the University of Idaho spend money for room and board, transportation, and other personal expenses. The off-campus expenditures of these students generate approximately **\$27.8 million** in added income in the Idaho economy each year.
- Visitors who come to the university from out of state also spend money for lodging, food and other personal expenses. This creates an estimated **\$1.2 million** in added income each year.

Productivity Effect

- Thousands of U-Idaho alumni live and work in Idaho. The accumulated contribution of U-Idaho alumni amounts to approximately **\$738.7 million** in added income annually. This represents the sum of higher earnings to U-Idaho alumni, the increased output of businesses, and associated multiplier effects as monies ripple throughout the economy.

INVESTMENT ANALYSIS

Social Perspective

- Higher student earnings and associated increases in property income expand the tax base in Idaho by about **\$81.4 million** each year.
- Higher education is statistically correlated with improved health, reduced crime, and fewer claims for welfare and unemployment. For the 2008-09 student population, avoided social costs to the public will amount to approximately **\$21.1 million** annually.

Taxpayer Perspective

- State and local government allocated **\$114.3 million** in support of the university in FY 2011-12.
- In return for this support, state and local government will see a rate of return of **5.0%** on their investment, in the form of increased tax revenue and reduced expenditures for government-supported social services.

Student Perspective

- The University of Idaho served **16,349** credit students in FY 2011-12. Approximately **78%** of these students remained in the state upon exiting college.
- The average U-Idaho student's discounted lifetime income (i.e., future values expressed in present value terms) increases by **\$5.10** for every \$1 invested, in the form of tuition and fees, books and supplies, and wages given up to attend.
- The average bachelor's degree holder will earn approximately **\$1.0 million** in additional undiscounted income relative to a high school graduate over a working lifetime.
- Students enjoy a **15.5%** rate of return on their educational investment, recovering all costs (including foregone wages) in **9.6 years**.

Students enjoy a **15.5%** rate of return on their investment in the University of Idaho.