



PennState



# ONE COMMUNITY **IMPACTING MANY**

Economic Impact Report  
January 2025

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# Impact by the Numbers

**\$15.8  
billion**

generated in economic  
impact in FY23

**109,750**

jobs created and sustained

*7th largest employer in Pennsylvania*

**\$782.2  
million**

generated in state and  
local tax revenues

**\$1.239 billion**

in sponsored research generating

**\$2.5 billion**

in economic impact

Nearly

**22,000 degrees**

conferred in the 2021-22  
academic year

**788,000+ alumni**

**with 55%** working and  
living in Pennsylvania

**\$14.3  
billion**

generated in Pennsylvania  
by alumni over their careers

# Executive Summary

Penn State is a powerhouse for Pennsylvania’s economy, driving growth at local and statewide levels. Through its daily operations and major spending, wages and benefits, and the off-campus spending of students and visitors, the University creates a significant economic ripple effect across the commonwealth.

In FY23, Penn State’s total economic impact reached **\$15.8 billion** — a 36.2% increase over FY17. This analysis highlights how the University’s ongoing investments and the spending patterns of its community generate sustained economic benefits. These impacts may fluctuate with changes in state funding, University spending and student or visitor activity, but the consistent growth underscores Penn State’s essential role as an economic engine for Pennsylvania.

Penn State plays a pivotal role across Pennsylvania through its 24 campuses, Pennsylvania College of Technology and Penn State Health. As the commonwealth’s largest public university, Penn State provides

accessible education to nearly 90,000 students each year, including first-generation college students and adult learners. Beyond academics, Penn State offers students opportunities to engage in entrepreneurship, philanthropy, research, internships and other enriching experiences, helping them grow personally and professionally.

Rooted in its mission as Pennsylvania’s sole land-grant institution, Penn State remains committed to advancing humanity through teaching, research and community engagement. This commitment extends across the globe through a vast network of more than half a million Penn State alumni, all driven by a shared spirit of service to their communities.

A Penn State degree represents more than just academic achievement — it is a gateway to a lifetime of impact. Students gain access to state-of-the-art resources and interdisciplinary programs that foster collaboration, innovation and leadership, laying the foundation for their future contributions to society.

**24** campuses,  
Pennsylvania  
College of Technology  
and Penn State Health

**275+**  
majors

**200**  
minors

**100**  
undergraduate  
certificates

**20** two-year  
associate  
degrees

Nearly **90,000**  
students

**58%** of students are  
from Pennsylvania

Students from **50**  
states and **140+**  
countries

# Generating Impact in Pennsylvania

**\$15.8B**

in generated in economic  
impact each year

Penn State Economic Impact (FY23)

**\$15.8  
billion**

**\$864.7M** visitor spending

**\$2B** student spending

**\$12.9B** daily operations and  
major spending

Penn State's impact  
is equivalent to

**2%**

of the statewide  
economy

Penn State returns

**\$25.06**

to the statewide  
economy for every

**\$1** in state  
appropriation

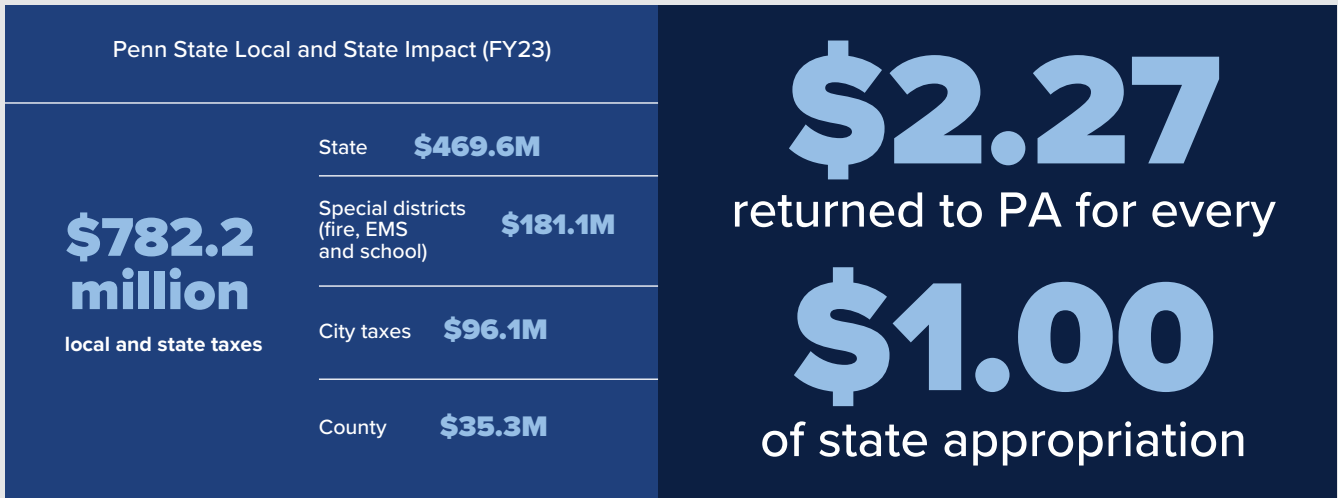
Penn State contributes to the Pennsylvania economy through its expenditures on operations, capital projects, pay and benefits, off-campus student spending and visitor spending. The direct, day-to-day expenditures of Penn State, combined with student and visitor spending, create a ripple effect throughout the statewide economy.



# Creating and Sustaining Jobs



# Generating Local & State Tax Revenue



Penn State contributes **\$782.2 million** to the state and local tax bases through its purchasing of goods and services as well as the spending of its employees, suppliers, students and visitors.

For every \$1 in state appropriations received, Penn State returns \$2.27 in tax payments to the commonwealth, demonstrating a significant return on investment for taxpayers and highlighting the University’s fiscal responsibility and economic contribution.



# Penn State Health

Penn State Health is a valuable community resource that advances health, education and research across Pennsylvania. Anchored by the Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, the system includes hospitals, physicians and outpatient services in 29 counties. The health system's alignment with the Penn State College of Medicine fosters a collaborative environment where cutting-edge research translates to innovative treatments and medical breakthroughs. This integration of health care and education enables Penn State Health to train the next generation of

health care professionals while offering comprehensive services in fields such as cancer care, heart and vascular care, neurosciences and pediatrics. Moreover, Penn State Health's community outreach programs, along with its commitment to the needs of underserved populations, make a positive impact on the health and well-being of Pennsylvania's residents. Penn State Health generates **\$7.3 billion** in economic impact, supports and sustains **38,140 jobs** and contributes **\$323.6 million in local and state taxes**.



# Penn State Health

**5**

acute care  
hospitals

**2**

specialty  
hospitals

**1**

children's  
hospital

**1,405**

licensed beds

**225**

outpatient locations

**2,450**

physicians and advanced  
practice providers

**\$7.3  
billion**

generated in  
economic impact

**38,140**

jobs supported  
and sustained

**\$323.6  
million**

local and state tax impact

# Penn State Research

**\$1.239 billion**

2022–23 research  
expenditures

**\$2.5 billion**

in economic impact

**13,032**

jobs supported  
and sustained

**\$86.2 million**

generated in local  
and state taxes

**#3** in the nation in breadth  
and depth of its research  
enterprise, as measured  
by the number of top 10  
rankings in key fields

**Top 30**  
by research expenditures

**12 disciplines**

in the top 10

**9,000+**

industry research  
projects since 2013

**2,000+**

industry partnerships  
in the last decade

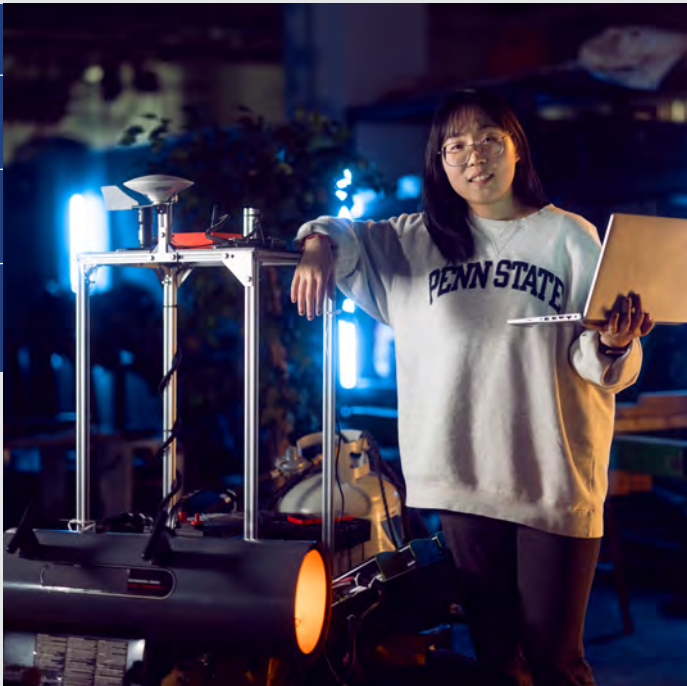
**320+**

licensing opportunities

# Penn State Research

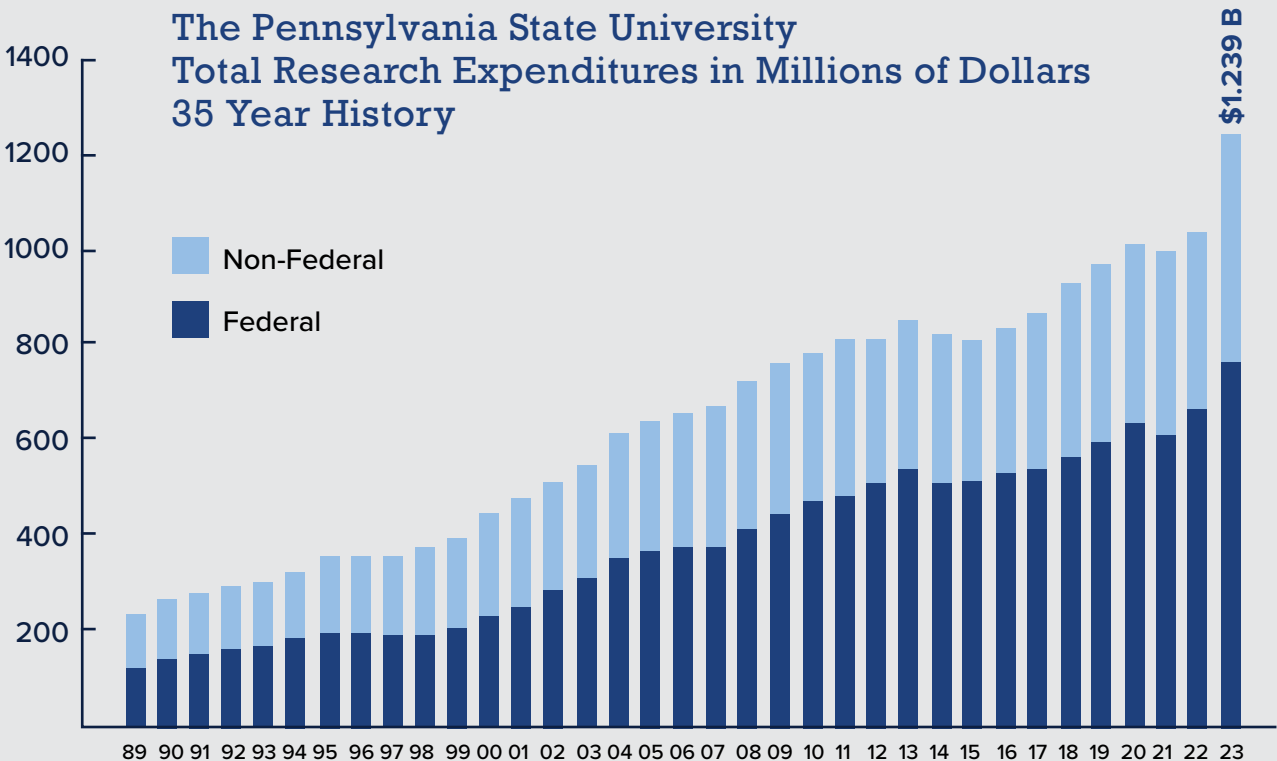
Penn State’s research strength is fueled by its seven interdisciplinary institutes, the advanced capabilities of its Applied Research Laboratory and the expertise of its 18 colleges. These colleges conduct advanced research across diverse fields, ranging from STEM to the arts, law and communications.

Penn State Research Impact (FY23)	
Economic Impact	<b>\$2.5B</b>
Employment (jobs)	<b>13,032</b>
Local and State Taxes	<b>\$86.2M</b>



## PENN STATE INTERDISCIPLINARY INSTITUTES

1. Penn State Cancer Institute
2. Clinical and Translational Science Institute
3. Institute for Computational and Data Sciences
4. Institute of Energy and the Environment
5. Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences
6. Materials Research Institute
7. Social Science Research Institutes



# Penn State Athletics

Penn State Intercollegiate Athletics has a profound impact on the University and the commonwealth, generating significant economic, social and cultural value. With a storied history and a wide range of successful athletic programs, Penn State attracts thousands of fans to its events, boosting local economies through tourism, hospitality and related industries. Beaver Stadium, home to

Penn State football, is one of the largest venues in the country, regularly drawing crowds that invigorate businesses in the surrounding area.

This passionate following extends beyond game days, with fans actively supporting athletic programs through donations and volunteering, helping to fund scholarships, facilities and community outreach initiatives. Penn State Intercollegiate Athletics generates **\$754.6 million** in economic impact, supports **5,856 jobs** and generates **\$52.4 million in local and state taxes**.

Penn State Athletics Impact (FY23)	
Economic Impact	<b>\$754.6M</b>
Employment (jobs)	<b>5,856</b>
Local and State Taxes	<b>\$52.4M</b>



# Penn State Alumni Impact

**788,000+**  
total Penn State  
alumni worldwide

**432,000**  
Penn State alumni  
living in PA

**55%**  
of Penn State alumni  
live in Pennsylvania

**\$14.3B** in economic impact

**77,191** jobs supported  
and sustained

**\$840M** in local and  
state taxes

The economic impact of Penn State alumni working in Pennsylvania is significant, as they play a key role in driving the commonwealth's workforce and contributing to its overall economic development. With more than 788,000 living alumni worldwide and nearly 432,000 Penn State alumni living in Pennsylvania, their impact is felt across various sectors, including health care, education, business and technology. Penn State graduates tend to earn higher wages, boosting local economies through consumer spending, housing investments and tax contributions. Moreover, many alumni become entrepreneurs, creating new businesses and jobs and further enhancing the state's economic landscape. Each year, Penn State alumni will generate **\$14.3 billion** in economic impact, support an additional **77,191 jobs** and contribute an additional **\$840 million in local and state taxes**.



# Penn State Gives Back

Communities throughout Pennsylvania benefit from Penn State faculty, staff and student philanthropy and charitable giving

**\$84.7M** annual charitable donations

**960,820** volunteer hours

Economic value of **\$28.8M** of volunteerism

Combined FY23 impact of **\$113.5M**

Penn State gives back to Pennsylvania through extensive volunteerism and philanthropy, mobilizing its vast network of students, alumni, faculty and staff to address community needs and foster statewide progress. The University's commitment to service is evident in initiatives such as Penn State's "Days of Caring" and "Make a Difference Day," where students and alumni volunteer in communities across the commonwealth, contributing time and resources to local causes. Penn State Extension programs, staffed by volunteers and experts, also provide critical support to Pennsylvania's farmers, small businesses and rural communities by offering education on agriculture, environmental stewardship and health.

Philanthropy plays a central role in the University's impact on the commonwealth. Penn State's largest charitable endeavor, THON, raises tens of millions annually to fight pediatric cancer. THON is the largest student-run philanthropy in the world. Alumni-led initiatives and University campaigns funnel significant financial support into scholarships, health care programs and local infrastructure projects. The Penn State Alumni Association, one of the largest and most active in the nation, coordinates regular service events, and alumni across Pennsylvania contribute to capital campaigns that support campus improvements, research and community programs. These efforts ensure that Penn State's influence extends far beyond academics, uplifting communities and contributing to the commonwealth's long-term prosperity. By fostering an educated, engaged citizenry and driving economic growth, Penn State continually strengthens its partnership with the state, ensuring a positive impact on Pennsylvania's residents. The combined impact of Penn State's volunteerism and charitable giving totals **\$113.5 million**.

Each year, Penn State Health files a Community Benefits Report detailing its charitable contributions, community health programs, and other initiatives that support public well-being. These numbers are in addition to Penn State's volunteer and charitable giving. Penn State Health and Penn State College of Medicine provided **\$165.9 million** in total community benefit in FY23, the highest amount in the organization's history.



# ONE COMMUNITY IMPACTING MANY



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