



Fact Sheet

PUBLISHED JUNE 2025

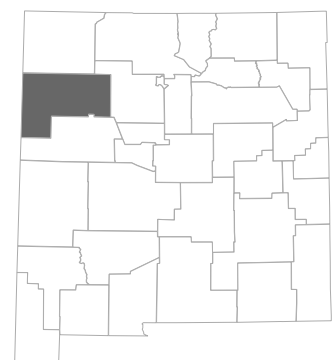
The Economic Value of Navajo Technical University



Navajo Technical University (NTU) creates a significant positive impact on the business community and generates a return on investment to its major stakeholder groups—students, taxpayers, and society. Using a two-pronged approach that involves an economic impact analysis and an investment analysis, this study calculates the benefits received by each of these groups. Results of the analysis reflect fiscal year (FY) 2022-23.

Economic impact analysis

In FY 2022-23, NTU added **\$51.7 million** in income to the Navajo Nation* economy, a value approximately equal to **2.4%** of the region's total gross regional product (GRP). Expressed in terms of jobs, NTU's impact supported **919 jobs**. For perspective, the activities of NTU and its students support **one out of every 32 jobs** in the Navajo Nation.



The Navajo Nation
(McKinley County, New Mexico)

* For the purposes of this analysis, the Navajo Nation is defined as McKinley County, New Mexico.



Operations spending impact

- NTU employed 361 full-time and part-time faculty and staff. Payroll amounted to \$17.5 million, much of which was spent in the region on groceries, mortgage and rent payments, dining out, and other household expenses. The university spent another \$22.2 million on its expenses related to facilities, supplies, and professional services.
- The net impact of the university’s operations spending added **\$21.7 million** in income to the regional economy in FY 2022-23.

Student spending impact

- Around 12% of credit students attending NTU originated from outside the region. Some of these students relocated to the Navajo Nation. In addition, some in-region students, referred to as retained students, would have left the Navajo Nation for other educational opportunities if not for NTU. These relocated and retained students spent money on groceries, mortgage and rent payments, and other living expenses at regional businesses.
- In-region students who would have remained in the region even if NTU had not existed spent more money in the region while attending the university because of the federal scholarships and grants they received.
- The expenditures of these students in FY 2022-23 added **\$3.4 million** in income to the Navajo Nation economy.

Alumni impact

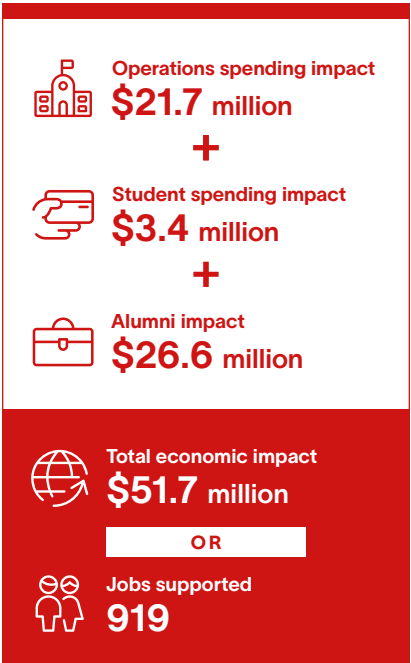
- Over the years, students have studied at NTU and entered or re-entered the workforce with newly acquired knowledge and skills. Today, many of these former students are employed in the Navajo Nation.
- The net impact of NTU’s former students currently employed in the regional workforce amounted to **\$26.6 million** in added income in FY 2022-23.

 Investment analysis

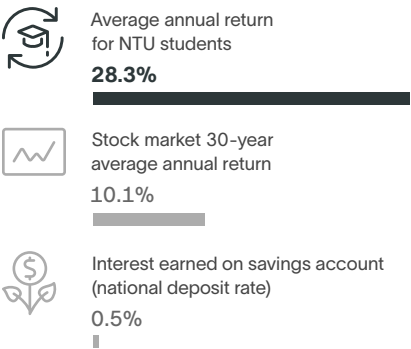
Student perspective

- NTU’s FY 2022-23 students paid a present value of **\$6.1 million** to cover the cost of tuition, fees, and supplies. They also forwent a value of **\$1.2 million** in time and money had they been working instead of attending the university.
- In return for their investment, students will receive a cumulative present value of **\$45.0 million** in increased earnings over their working lives. This translates to a return of **\$6.20** in higher future earnings for every dollar students invest in their education. Students’ average annual rate of return is **28.3%**.

Impacts created by NTU in FY 2022-23



Students see a high rate of return for their investment in NTU





Source: Forbes’ S&P 500, 1994-2023; FDIC.gov, March 2023

Taxpayer perspective

- Taxpayers in the U.S. provided NTU with **\$44.1 million** of funding in FY 2022-23. In return, they will benefit from added tax revenue, stemming from students' higher lifetime earnings and increased business output, amounting to **\$59.4 million**. A reduced demand for government-funded services in the U.S. will add another **\$8.6 million** in benefits to taxpayers.
- Total taxpayer benefits amount to **\$68.0 million**, the present value sum of the added tax revenue and public sector savings. For every dollar of public money invested in NTU, national taxpayers will receive **\$1.50** in return over the course of students' working lives. The average annual rate of return for taxpayers is **3.4%**.
- At the state level, taxpayers in New Mexico provided NTU with **\$12.5 million** of funding in FY 2022-23. In return, they will benefit from added tax revenue and public sector savings amounting to **\$18.2 million** in total taxpayer benefits. For every dollar of public money invested in the university, New Mexico taxpayers will receive **\$1.50** in return over the course of FY 2022-23 students' working lives. The average annual rate of return for New Mexico taxpayers is **3.7%**.

Social perspective

- In FY 2022-23, the U.S. invested **\$54.6 million** to support NTU. In turn, the U.S. economy will grow by **\$227.6 million** over the course of students' working lives. Society will also benefit from **\$16.0 million** of public and private sector savings.
- For every dollar invested in NTU in FY 2022-23, people in the U.S. will receive **\$4.50** in return, for as long as NTU's FY 2022-23 students remain active in the workforce. This means that the benefits not only cover the cost of society's funding but also generate a surplus of benefits for people in the U.S.

For every \$1...	
	Students gain in lifetime earnings \$6.20
	U.S. taxpayers gain in added tax revenue and public sector savings \$1.50
	New Mexico taxpayers gain in added tax revenue and public sector savings \$1.50
	Society nationwide gains in added income and social savings \$4.50

