



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI®

Economic Impact Report

for Fiscal Year 2025



FEBRUARY 2026



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Executive Summary

The University of Southern Mississippi (Southern Miss or USM) is a major driver of economic and social activity across Mississippi. In fiscal year 2025, USM directly and indirectly contributed **\$1.3 billion** in economic output to the overall State of Mississippi. USM operates as a dual-campus institution with campuses in Hattiesburg and Long Beach, teaching and research sites across the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and a robust online education platform. The University offers more than 180 academic programs across four degree-granting colleges and serves a diverse student population of approximately **13,242** students representing **80** foreign countries, all regions of the United States, and communities throughout Mississippi.

Research universities strengthen regional economies and quality of life through workforce development, innovation, and community engagement. One of the most direct and measurable effects, however, is annual spending associated with university operations and the expenditures of faculty, staff, students, and visitors. This activity generates additional economic benefits as funds circulate through local supply chains and household spending.

This report quantifies USM's annual economic contribution across three geographies: the State of Mississippi, the Hattiesburg Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), and the Gulfport–Biloxi Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

In FY 2025, USM's total economic contribution to the State of Mississippi is estimated at **\$1.3 billion** in output, supporting approximately **10,245 jobs** and generating more than **\$438 million** in labor income. Within the Hattiesburg MSA, the University's impact is estimated at **\$853 million** in output, supporting **6,745 jobs** and **\$283.7 million** in labor income. Within the Gulfport–Biloxi MSA, the estimated impact is **\$227.3 million** in output, supporting **1,820 jobs** and **\$78.1 million** in labor income.

TOTAL ECONOMIC
OUTPUT

**\$1.3
billion**

TOTAL JOBS
SUPPORTED

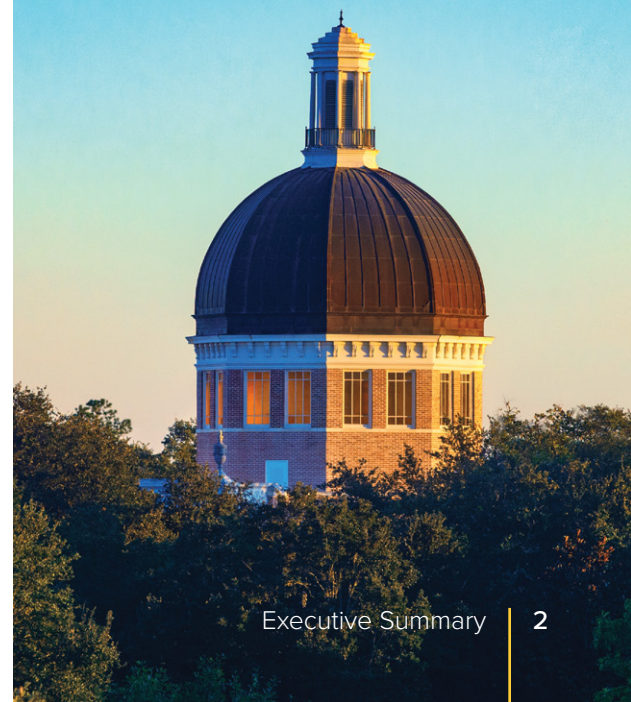
10,245

TOTAL LABOR
INCOME

**\$438
million**

ESTIMATED STATE
AND LOCAL TAXES
GENERATED

**\$72.3
million**



USM’s impact extends beyond spending effects. The University directly employs approximately **4,469** faculty and staff across its two campuses and associated sites, providing a stable base of high-quality employment that supports households and communities across south Mississippi. As these effects ripple through the economy, they also generate public revenue.

In FY 2025, USM-related activity is estimated to have generated **\$72.3 million** in state and local tax revenue impacts across the **state economy** through the combined spending of the institution, its employees, students, and visitors.

Table 1. Overall Economic Impact of The University of Southern Mississippi

ECONOMIC IMPACT CATEGORY	HATTIESBURG MSA REGION	GULFPORT-BILOXI MSA REGION	STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
Jobs Supported	6,745	1,820	10,245.
Labor Income Generated	\$283,692,774	\$78,138,919	\$437,969,050.
Total Economic Sales/Output	\$852,931,350	\$227,322,627	\$1,301,669,997.
Local Tax Revenue	\$15,281,425	\$4,926,039	\$23,424,463.
State Tax Revenue	\$34,750,786	\$8,408,815	\$48,939,102.

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)



The University of Southern Mississippi Background

Founded in 1910, The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) has grown from a small teachers' college into a leading community-engaged Carnegie R1 research institution. With campuses in Hattiesburg and along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, USM offers more than 180 degree programs across various disciplines. The university is nationally recognized for its research in ocean science, polymer science, and sports venue safety and security. USM continues to attract top students, with its Honors College distinguished among the oldest in the nation and its graduates earning prestigious awards, such as Truman Scholarships and National Science Foundation Fellowships.

USM's Hattiesburg campus spans one square mile, blending historic charm with modern facilities like the Trent Lott Center, Scianna Hall, and the recently completed Holmes Criminal Justice Building. The Gulf Park campus in Long Beach is the state's only beachfront university campus, offering unique academic programs in high-demand fields. Beyond academics, USM plays a vital role in Mississippi's economy through research commercialization, industry partnerships, and workforce development initiatives. The university remains committed to innovation, student success, and advancing the economic and social well-being of the region.





Hattiesburg Campus

The University's main campus is located in the heart of Hattiesburg and features notable landmarks, such as the Lucas Administration Building (affectionately known as "The Dome"), a 20-foot-wide bronze eagle sculpture, and a gold street that runs under the football stadium. Quaint brick plazas, promenades shaded by a canopy of oaks, and quintessential Southern porches are charming features of this beautiful campus. Beyond the historic district, a series of state-of-the-art facilities dot the campus, including a 93,000-square-foot business school, a nursing education facility with an advanced technology simulation laboratory, and a polymer science center housing more than \$20 million of research instrumentation.



Gulf Park Campus

The Gulf Park campus is situated on 52 acres along scenic Highway 90 in Long Beach. Sprawling lawns and mission-style architecture give the Gulf Park campus a distinct feel. Students on this campus experience a close-knit atmosphere in a coastal environment.

Economic Impact Study Background



The economic and fiscal impact of The University of Southern Mississippi extends across multiple sectors, contributing significantly to the state's economic vitality:

- **University Operations** – USM drives economic growth through operational expenditures, including payroll distributions and other non-payroll costs.
- **Student Spending** – The spending by USM students provides a major impact on direct and indirect jobs, labor income, and output.
- **Visitor Spending** – Visitors to USM through events, conferences, camps, and athletic events have a substantial impact on direct and indirect jobs, labor income, and output.
- **Alumni Dividend** – USM graduates enhance workforce development, earning higher wages, which, in turn, create higher levels of spending that foster job creation across industries.
- **Capital Expenditure** – USM contributes to local and state tax revenues through institutional spending, employee wages, and student expenditures.
- **Governmental Revenue (Taxes)** – This represents the estimated local and state taxes generated by the direct, indirect, and induced economic activity.



Methodology

This economic impact analysis measures the effects of direct and indirect/induced business volume and government revenue impacts of all USM's operations throughout Mississippi. The software used to calculate these impacts is IMPLAN. While key assumptions were made and approved by USM, IMPLAN provided economic language and other supporting services. Data included FY 2025 capital expenditures, operational expenditures, employment headcounts, payroll and benefits, and taxes. All monetary values presented in this report are expressed in 2026 dollars, adjusted for inflation.

Economic impact occurs when an organization spends money. Researchers capture the economic impact from the direct financial effects of an organization's spending, plus the indirect and induced spending in the economy that resulted from direct spending.

Total economic impact measures the dollars generated in Mississippi and select regions due to USM's presence. The effect includes spending on goods and services between various vendors throughout the state, accounting for their faculty, staff, students, and visitors. Not all dollars spent by a university remain in its home state, and dollars that "leak" out of the state through purchases from out-of-state vendors are not included in the university's economic impact. The multipliers utilized in this study are derived from the IMPLAN software.

This study's key economic impact findings include the total FY 2025 impact of USM's operations on the overall economy and employment in Mississippi, as well as the tax revenue impact on state and local governments. The analysis also looked at the effects of USM on the Hattiesburg MSA, the Gulfport-Biloxi MSA, and the State of Mississippi.



USM Impact on the Mississippi and Regional Economies

We will look at the impacts on the overall Mississippi economy, the Hattiesburg MSA, and the Gulfport-Biloxi MSA. The data used in this analysis were from university operations expenditures, capital expenditures, student spending, visitor spending, and alumni dividends.

Table 2. Total Economic Impacts of USM on the Hattiesburg MSA Region by Category

	TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	TOTAL LABOR INCOME	TOTAL OUTPUT
University Operations	3,599	\$182,963,822	\$459,307,463
Student Spending	713	\$20,089,480	\$89,009,297
Visitor Spending	1,658	\$44,427,625	\$170,377,077
Alumni Dividend	551	\$24,932,708	\$93,681,379
Capital Expenditures	224	\$11,279,139	\$40,556,134
Total	6,745	\$283,692,774	\$852,931,350

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)

Table 3. Total Economic Impacts of USM on the *Gulfport-Biloxi MSA* Region by Category

	TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	TOTAL LABOR INCOME	TOTAL OUTPUT
University Operations	970	\$41,528,183	\$86,186,700
Student Spending	56	\$1,738,650	\$7,440,289
Visitor Spending	63	\$1,977,205	\$7,348,237
Alumni Dividend	696	\$31,076,928	\$120,068,659
Capital Expenditures	35	\$1,817,954	\$6,278,743
Total	1,820	\$78,138,920	\$227,322,628

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)

Table 4. Total Economic Impacts of USM on the *Overall Mississippi* Economy by Category

	TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	TOTAL LABOR INCOME	TOTAL OUTPUT
University Operations	5,823	\$249,980,705	\$584,233,833
Student Spending	745	\$21,941,976	\$94,927,567
Visitor Spending	404	\$11,363,739	\$43,957,629
Alumni Dividend	3,015	\$140,959,213	\$530,188,033
Capital Expenditures	259	\$13,723,416	\$48,362,935
Total	10,245	\$437,969,050	\$1,301,669,997

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)



Operational Spending

In FY 2025, USM’s operations spending for payroll and non-payroll operating expenses was approximately \$317 million. This includes foundation and research expenditures, as well as salaries paid by equity (start-up) companies operating within USM facilities. Additionally, operational spending was directed to the region where it occurred, for instance, the Hattiesburg MSA and the Gulfport-Biloxi MSA. The breakdown in Tables 5-7 estimates the economic impact of operational spending on the overall Mississippi economy and the Hattiesburg MSA and Gulfport-Biloxi MSA.

Table 5. Breakdown of Economic Impacts on *Employment* of Operational Spending on the Regional Economies of Mississippi

	DIRECT	INDIRECT	INDUCED	TOTAL
Hattiesburg MSA	2,616	476	507	3,599
Gulfport-Biloxi MSA	795	68	107	970
Mississippi	4,536	513	774	5,823

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)

Table 6. Breakdown of Economic Impacts on *Labor Income* of Operational Spending on the Regional Economies of Mississippi

	DIRECT	INDIRECT	INDUCED	TOTAL
Hattiesburg MSA	\$141,346,123	\$18,669,155	\$22,948,544	\$182,963,822
Gulfport-Biloxi MSA	\$33,663,059	\$3,080,993	\$4,784,131	\$41,528,183
Mississippi	\$191,732,717	\$22,043,237	\$36,204,750	\$249,980,705

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)

Table 7. Breakdown of Economic Impacts on *Total Output* of Operational Spending on the Regional Economies of Mississippi

	DIRECT	INDIRECT	INDUCED	TOTAL
Hattiesburg MSA	\$273,019,155	\$100,064,770	\$86,223,537	\$459,307,463
Gulfport-Biloxi MSA	\$52,959,115	\$14,743,895	\$18,483,690	\$86,186,700
Mississippi	\$338,245,722	\$109,814,611	\$136,173,500	\$584,233,833

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)



Student Spending

USM students stimulate economic activity through their spending, which meaningfully strengthens the university's overall impact. USM's reported enrollment for the 2025 academic year was **13,242** students, with **70%** coming from Mississippi and **30%** from out-of-state. The USM Office of Financial Aid provided estimated cost-of-attendance budgets by student level (undergraduate vs. graduate) and residency status (in-state vs. out-of-state). These costs include transportation, housing, food and beverage, personal expenses, and books and supplies.

Several assumptions guided the student-spending analysis. First, **tuition and required course fees** were excluded because these payments flow directly to the university and are reflected in USM operational spending. Similarly, for students living on campus, **housing charges paid to the university** were excluded because those funds are also captured within university operations. However, based on discussions with university officials, **student meal plan spending** was included because these funds are remitted to the food service provider rather than expended through USM operations.

Second, while student spending generates ripple effects throughout the economy, not all such activity can be attributed to USM. In-state students would likely reside and spend in Mississippi even in the absence of USM enrollment. Accordingly, **all out-of-state student spending** was modeled as attributable to the university, since these students would not otherwise be in Mississippi. For in-state students, only **15%** of spending was attributed to USM, reflecting the assumption that approximately **15%** would have left Mississippi to attend colleges or universities elsewhere. Finally, student expenses were expensed in the MSA in which they occur. Tables 8-10 present the resulting student-spending impacts for the two MSAs and the State of Mississippi.

Table 8. Economic Impacts on *Employment* Originating from Student Spending on the Regional Economies of Mississippi

	DIRECT	INDIRECT	INDUCED	TOTAL
Hattiesburg MSA	568	89	56	713
Gulfport-Biloxi MSA	45	6	5	56
Mississippi	586	91	68	745

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)

Table 9. Economic Impacts on *Labor Income* Originating from Student Spending on the Regional Economies of Mississippi

	DIRECT	INDIRECT	INDUCED	TOTAL
Hattiesburg MSA	\$13,128,251	\$4,443,231	\$2,517,998	\$20,089,480
Gulfport-Biloxi MSA	\$1,213,150	\$319,884	\$205,615	\$1,738,650
Mississippi	\$14,257,001	\$4,506,160	\$3,178,816	\$21,941,976

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)

Table 10. Economic Impacts on *Total Output* Originating from Student Spending on the Regional Economies of Mississippi

	DIRECT	INDIRECT	INDUCED	TOTAL
Hattiesburg MSA	\$62,807,705	\$16,740,804	\$9,460,787	\$89,009,297
Gulfport-Biloxi MSA	\$5,478,384	\$1,167,563	\$794,342	\$7,440,289
Mississippi	\$66,365,007	\$16,606,537	\$11,956,023	\$94,927,567

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)



Visitor Spending

USM welcomes a wide range of visitors to its campuses and facilities throughout the year. Conferences, camps, educational visits, campus tours, and athletic events attracted more than **529,936** visitors in FY 2025. To estimate the economic activity associated with these visits, several assumptions were applied to ensure the analysis reflects spending that is attributable to USM-related travel.

First, for the statewide analysis, only spending by **out-of-state visitors** was included. The rationale is that when Mississippi residents travel to Hattiesburg or the Gulf Coast, their spending generally represents a shift in where dollars are spent within the state rather than new spending entering Mississippi. Based on discussions with event planning staff, a conservative estimate of **25%** was applied to total non-athletic visitors to reflect the share originating outside Mississippi. For athletic events, out-of-state visitation was estimated using season ticket sales as a proxy for attendee origin, yielding an assumed **20%** out-of-state share of athletic visitor spending.

Second, for the Hattiesburg and Gulfport–Biloxi MSAs, the analysis included visitors who reside **outside the respective MSAs**, including both out-of-state visitors and Mississippi residents traveling from other parts of the state. In these regional analyses, spending by non-local visitors represents new spending within the local economy, even if it is not new to Mississippi overall. For athletic events, **62%** of attendees were assumed to be non-local based on a previous visitor survey conducted at football games, with ticketing information supporting that estimate.

Finally, visitor spending was assigned to the region where it occurs. Athletic visitor spending was attributed to the Hattiesburg MSA, while conferences, events, and tours generated visitor activity across both MSAs. Visitor expenditures were estimated using standard tourism methodology by multiplying the number of visitors by the estimated length of stay and an applicable daily spending profile. Daily spending profiles were drawn from **Visit Hattiesburg** for the Hattiesburg MSA and **Coastal Mississippi** for the Gulfport–Biloxi MSA.

Table 11. Economic Impacts on *Employment* Originating from Visitor Spending on the Regional Economies of Mississippi

	DIRECT	INDIRECT	INDUCED	TOTAL
Hattiesburg MSA	1,300	234	124	1,658
Gulfport-Biloxi MSA	50	8	5	63
Mississippi	311	57	35	404

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)

Table 12. Economic Impacts on *Labor Income* Originating from Visitor Spending on the Regional Economies of Mississippi

	DIRECT	INDIRECT	INDUCED	TOTAL
Hattiesburg MSA	\$28,776,131	\$10,030,123	\$5,621,371	\$44,427,625
Gulfport-Biloxi MSA	\$1,343,344	\$405,710	\$228,151	\$1,977,205
Mississippi	\$7,054,185	\$2,652,314	\$1,657,241	\$11,363,739

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)

Table 13. Economic Impacts on *Total Output* Originating from Visitor Spending on the Regional Economies of Mississippi

	DIRECT	INDIRECT	INDUCED	TOTAL
Hattiesburg MSA	\$104,363,671	\$44,892,798	\$21,120,608	\$170,377,077
Gulfport-Biloxi MSA	\$4,953,029	\$1,513,741	\$881,466	\$7,348,237
Mississippi	\$26,997,225	\$10,727,285	\$6,233,118	\$43,957,629

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)



Alumni Dividend

A university's economic contribution extends beyond annual expenditures through its long-term role in building a higher-skilled, higher-earning workforce. The “alumni dividend” captures the portion of increased labor income associated with USM degree attainment—reflecting the difference between what USM alumni earn and what they would be expected to earn under a lower level of educational attainment.

When alumni live and work in Mississippi, this incremental earnings effect strengthens household purchasing power and supports broader economic activity through everyday spending on housing, goods, services, and other local industries. In this report, the alumni dividend is presented as increased labor income attributable to USM graduates and is summarized in the tables below across the study geographies.

To estimate the alumni earnings premium, the analysis relied on data from the USM Alumni Association to identify the number of USM alumni ages 25–65 residing in Mississippi. Alumni counts were segmented by degree level (bachelor's, master's, and PhD) and by geography, including the Hattiesburg MSA, the Gulfport–Biloxi MSA, and the remainder of the state. Because not all graduates participate in the labor force, these totals were adjusted using Empower Mississippi estimates, which indicate that approximately **67%** of degree-holding adults are in the labor force. The average wage premium by degree attainment was derived from the Mississippi Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) and benchmarked against the median earnings of a worker with a high school diploma.

It is also important to note that when modeling labor income only, the results are reported as **induced effects**. This reflects the economic activity generated as households spend employee earnings on housing, healthcare, retail, and other everyday expenditures.

Table 14. Economic Impacts on *Employment* Originating from the Alumni Dividend on the Regional Economies of Mississippi

	DIRECT	INDIRECT	INDUCED	TOTAL
Hattiesburg MSA	-	-	551	551
Gulfport-Biloxi MSA	-	-	696	696
Mississippi	-	-	3,015	3,015

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)

Table 15. Economic Impacts on *Labor Income* Originating from the Alumni Dividend on the Regional Economies of Mississippi

	DIRECT	INDIRECT	INDUCED	TOTAL
Hattiesburg MSA	-	-	\$24,932,708	\$24,932,708
Gulfport-Biloxi MSA	-	-	\$31,076,928	\$31,076,928
Mississippi	-	-	\$141,231,810	\$140,959,213

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)

Table 16. Economic Impacts on *Total Output* Originating from the Alumni Dividend on the Regional Economies of Mississippi

	DIRECT	INDIRECT	INDUCED	TOTAL
Hattiesburg MSA	-	-	\$93,681,379	\$93,681,379
Gulfport-Biloxi MSA	-	-	\$120,068,659	\$120,068,659
Mississippi	-	-	\$531,213,348	\$530,188,033

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)



Capital Expenditures

Capital expenditures represent USM’s investments in long-lived assets that support instruction, research, student life, and campus operations. These investments can include new construction, renovations, deferred maintenance, infrastructure improvements, and major equipment, furnishings, and technology purchases. Unlike annual operating expenditures, which recur each year, capital spending is typically project-based and may vary from year to year, depending on project schedules and funding availability.

In economic impact reporting, capital expenditures are evaluated separately because they generate economic activity through different channels than operations. Capital projects create demand for construction labor, professional services, materials, and specialized vendors. This activity directly supports jobs and income, and it also generates secondary effects as contractors and suppliers purchase additional inputs and as workers spend earnings within the regional economy. Tables 17-19 summarize the estimated impacts associated with USM’s FY 2025 capital expenditures.

Table 17. Economic Impacts on *Employment* Originating from the Capital Expenditures on the Regional Economies of Mississippi

	DIRECT	INDIRECT	INDUCED	TOTAL
Hattiesburg MSA	161	32	31	224
Gulfport-Biloxi MSA	26	4	5	35
Mississippi	176	41	42	259

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)

Table 18. Economic Impacts on Labor Income Originating from the Capital Expenditures on the Regional Economies of Mississippi

	DIRECT	INDIRECT	INDUCED	TOTAL
Hattiesburg MSA	\$7,859,108	\$2,024,057	\$1,395,974	\$11,279,139
Gulfport-Biloxi MSA	\$1,352,670	\$259,065	\$206,220	\$1,817,954
Mississippi	\$9,175,400	\$2,586,472	\$1,961,544	\$13,723,416

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)

Table 19. Economic Impacts on Total Output Originating from the Capital Expenditures on the Regional Economies of Mississippi

	DIRECT	INDIRECT	INDUCED	TOTAL
Hattiesburg MSA	\$27,466,948	\$7,844,176	\$5,245,010	\$40,556,134
Gulfport-Biloxi MSA	\$4,484,970	\$997,035	\$796,737	\$6,278,743
Mississippi	\$30,742,349	\$10,242,858	\$7,377,729	\$48,362,935

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)



Government Revenue (Taxes)

IMPLAN estimates **state and local tax impacts** by translating the modeled economic activity into the taxable bases that state and local governments typically levy taxes on, then applying region-specific and year-specific **effective tax rates**.

As direct, indirect, and induced activity increases output and income, IMPLAN estimates how that activity expands state and local tax bases, primarily through **household spending** (supporting sales and excise-type collections), **labor income** (supporting state and local income-related and payroll-related collections, where applicable), and **business production activity** (supporting business and production-related taxes and fees). IMPLAN then applies average effective rates calibrated to the selected geography to estimate the portion of tax collections attributable to the modeled activity.

These results should be interpreted as **modeled fiscal impacts based on average relationships**, not statutory tax liability. They do not reflect taxpayer-specific provisions, such as abatements, exemptions, apportionment, or incentive agreements, but they provide a consistent estimate of how incremental economic activity is expected to translate into state and local revenue.

Table 20. Estimated Taxes Generated by the Economic Activity of USM

	HATTIESBURG MSA	GULFPORT-BILOXI MSA	MISSISSIPPI
Local	\$15,281,425	\$4,926,039	\$23,424,463
State	\$34,750,786	\$8,408,815	\$48,939,102

Source: IMPLAN (includes direct, indirect, and induced effects)



Summary of Findings

The results of this analysis confirm that USM is a consistent and significant driver of economic activity across Mississippi and the regions it serves. In FY 2025, USM generated an estimated **\$1.3 billion** in **statewide economic output**, supported **10,245 jobs**, and produced **\$438 million** in **labor income**. These impacts reflect the combined effects of university operations, student and visitor spending, capital investment, and the long-term earnings gains associated with USM alumni.

Impacts are concentrated in the two metropolitan regions that host USM's primary campuses. The Hattiesburg MSA accounted for an estimated **\$853 million** in **economic output**, supported **6,745 jobs**, and **\$283.7 million** in **labor income**. The Gulfport–Biloxi MSA generated an estimated **\$227.3 million** in **economic output**, supported **1,820 jobs**, and **\$78.1 million** in **labor income**. In addition to economic activity and employment, USM-supported statewide spending generated meaningful fiscal benefits, including an estimated **\$23.4 million** in **local tax revenue** and **\$48.9 million** in **state tax revenue**, while creating an estimated **\$15.2 million** in **local tax revenue** and **\$34.7 million** in **state tax revenue** in the Hattiesburg MSA, and another **\$4.9 million** in **local tax revenue** and **\$8.4 million** in **state tax revenue** in the Gulfport-Biloxi MSA.

Taken together, the findings underscore USM's role as a cornerstone institution for Mississippi, supporting high-quality employment, strengthening household incomes, and contributing to regional competitiveness through education, research, and workforce development. The economic impacts described in this report occur annually and represent an ongoing contribution to the state's economy and quality of life.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

TRENT LOTT
NATIONAL CENTER

Study Contributors

BRIAN HENSON

Director, Trent Lott National Center

SARAH SHOWS

*Business and Operations Manager,
Trent Lott National Center*

NOELLE KEMPER

*Graduate Research Assistant,
Trent Lott National Center*

ADAM ACKEL

*Graduate Research Assistant,
Trent Lott National Center*

CHAD R. MILLER, PHD

*Program Director, Master of Science
in Economic Development*

