

What They're Saying

About the University of Nebraska's Economic Impact Report

"The University of Nebraska is one of the most powerful economic engines in our state. This report confirms that NU is delivering tremendous value for Nebraska taxpayers, generating jobs, attracting investment, and preparing students for success. As Regents, we are committed to ensuring the university continues to be a force for growth and opportunity for all Nebraskans."

Paul Kenney
Chair, University of Nebraska Board of Regents

"A strong higher education system is critical for Nebraska's business community. The University of Nebraska fuels our workforce pipeline, fosters innovation, and supports job growth across every sector of our economy. This report underscores what Nebraska businesses have long known—continued investment in NU is an investment in a more competitive, prosperous future for our state."

Bryan Slone
CEO and President, Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry

"Ask any restaurant, hotel, or shop manager in Lincoln about the economic impact of the University of Nebraska, and they will tell you that the university makes a big difference to their bottom line. Ask any major employer in the capital city – or our entire state – and they will testify to NU's importance in cultivating the talent they need to support and grow their operations. Investments in the University of Nebraska pay enormous dividends for us all."

Leirion Gaylor Baird
Mayor, City of Lincoln

"This latest study shows the unparalleled role the University of Nebraska plays in cultivating our state's prosperity. With so much focus across the state on population growth and primary job growth, we are fortunate to have a partner like the university to drive economic growth. Continued public investment in the university system is vital to our state's long-term economic success and to building a greater Omaha that is more competitive for talent and business attraction."

Heath Mello
President & CEO, Greater Omaha Chamber

“For any state to compete in the global economy, research and innovation has to be at the heart of its strategy for growth. The University of Nebraska system is the leading engine for innovation in Nebraska, bringing research dollars, federal investments, and most importantly, new faculty and families to Nebraska to do world-changing research. The economic impact of the University leads to new startups, opportunities for Nebraska families, and economic diversification that will sustain the state for generations to come.

Jason Ball
President & CEO, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

“UNK plays an invaluable role for our community, and for much of the central and western regions of our state. Having a state university anchored outside the urban core ensures that rural Nebraska students can train and prepare to fill jobs in our local communities. It is helpful to have a report that provides hard numbers on the economic impact of UNK, but our business and community leaders have always known that a strong, vibrant UNK is vitally important.”

Jonathan Nikkila
Mayor of Kearney

“UNK is more than a university; it’s an economic engine for the Kearney area and Central Nebraska. UNK fuels our businesses, creates jobs and strengthens our local economy. A strong workforce starts with a strong university, and the Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce recognizes UNK as a key driver of our region’s economic and workforce success. As a Chamber, we are proud to collaborate with UNK to connect students with local businesses, ensuring a pipeline of talent that strengthens our community and fuels long-term economic growth.”

Derek Rusher
President & CEO, Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce

“Agriculture is the backbone of Nebraska’s economy, and the University of Nebraska is core to our state’s agricultural innovation, ensuring our next generation is educated, providing cutting-edge research and extending that knowledge across the state. The University of Nebraska’s commitment to advancing technology, sustainability and workforce development ensures that Nebraska remains a leader in feeding the world. The partnership between the university and our agricultural community drives economic growth and secures a strong future for generations to come.”

Chris Kalkowski
President, Agricultural Builders of Nebraska

"The Nebraska Cattlemen are proud of our long-standing partnership with the University of Nebraska, which has been instrumental in making Nebraska one of the top beef-producing states in the nation. For generations, NU's excellence in research and extension services has provided producers with the knowledge and innovation needed to keep Nebraska at the forefront of the industry. The university's focus on preparing our next generation of beef industry leaders continually drives progress and strengthens Nebraska's reputation as a leader in beef production."

Laura Field
Executive Vice President, Nebraska Cattlemen

"The University of Nebraska is an important partner and contributor to our state's status as an agricultural powerhouse. Its pioneering research, extensive extension services, and commitment to cultivating a skilled workforce are vital to the prosperity of Nebraska's ag economy."

Mark McHargue
President, Nebraska Farm Bureau

*For more information on the university's economic impact
or to view the full report, visit <https://nebraska.edu/economic-impact>*