



University of Connecticut
**Social & Economic
Impact**
2025

Prepared by
Office of Budget and Planning

UConn | UNIVERSITY OF
CONNECTICUT



Executive Summary

This report analyzes the statewide economic impact of the University of Connecticut (UConn) for Fiscal Year 2025. As a primary engine of Connecticut's economy, UConn supports 49,020 jobs and generates \$4.71 billion in labor income for residents. The University's activities contribute \$5.53 billion in value added to the state GDP, culminating in a total economic output of \$8.74 billion. Furthermore, these operations bolster public resources with an estimated \$437 million in state revenue, reinforcing UConn's role as a cornerstone of regional prosperity and fiscal stability.

Overview of the University of Connecticut

The University of Connecticut is a leader of academic excellence, innovation, and economic vitality in the State of Connecticut. From its humble beginnings as an agricultural school in 1881, UConn — the flagship public university of the state has developed into a research and innovation powerhouse that consistently ranks among the top public institutions in the country.

With 14 schools and colleges, UConn offers over 30 degrees across more than 230 majors, ranging from Associate's to Doctoral levels. This comprehensive academic portfolio is strategically designed to align with

the evolving global economic landscape, producing a skilled workforce that drives innovation within and beyond the State of Connecticut.

UConn has a reputation for excellence in research and development. Based on the recent three-year report from Higher Education Research and Development (HERD), UConn's average annual expenditures exceeds \$398 million. This positions UConn at the forefront of cutting-edge research, attracting substantial federal funding and fostering industry partnerships that catalyze economic growth. In FY 2025, UConn secured \$314 million in external funding and sponsored awards, with \$224 million allocated to its main and regional campuses and \$90 million to UConn Health. This robust research activity not only advances knowledge but also translates into tangible economic benefits through technology transfer and the creation of high-value startups.

UConn's impact on Connecticut's human capital is profound. With a total student body of 33,554, including 25,304 undergraduates and 8,250 graduate and professional students, UConn is a primary source of skilled talent for the state. The university's commitment to serving Connecticut is evident in its student demographics, with 73% of undergraduates and 64% of graduate students being state residents in the Fall 2024. This focus on educating Connecticut's workforce is further amplified by UConn's extensive alumni network, with 160,000 of its 295,000 global alumni residing in the state, forming a critical mass of skilled professionals across various industries.

The university's economic impact is significant. It permanently employs over 11,000 faculty and staff members, and its yearly salary and wages exceed \$1.3 billion. Additionally, UConn's economic impact is increased



by its operations and capital expenditures, resulting in a ripple effect that benefits employment and businesses across Connecticut.

UConn Health, which includes the School of Medicine, School of Dental Medicine, and John Dempsey Hospital, expands the university's economic impact. As the state's only public academic medical center, UConn Health provides world-class healthcare while also driving biomedical research and innovation, making a substantial contribution to Connecticut's developing life sciences sector.

UConn's dedication to making higher education accessible and promoting social mobility is demonstrated by its strong financial aid program. In FY 2025, UConn awarded \$358.8 million in scholarships and grants. This investment in human capital ensures that a UConn education remains accessible to students regardless of their social or economic status.

UConn's impact extends far beyond traditional metrics, encompassing a wide range of activities that enhance Connecticut's quality of life and attract visitors from across the state and beyond. At the heart of this impact is UConn's exceptional athletic program, which has become a significant draw for sports enthusiasts and a source of pride for the entire state.

While UConn's impact on Connecticut's economy is numerous and multifaceted, this economic impact study focuses specifically on three foundational components: operational expenditures, capital investments, and the combined economic activity generated by student and visitor spending.

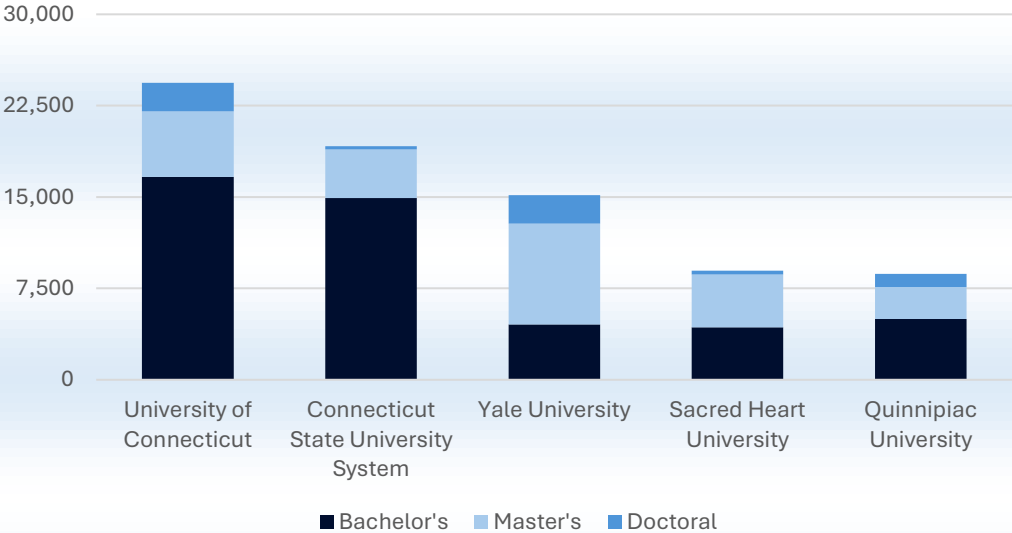


Employment and Trained Labor Force

The University of Connecticut’s economic impact extends well beyond its physical footprint, shaping the state’s workforce both as a major employer and as a generator of skilled talent. Through thousands of faculty, staff, and student employees, UConn provides stable, high-quality jobs that support households and communities across Connecticut. At the same time, the University educates and graduates students who go on to participate in—and strengthen—the state’s labor force. Using data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), this section highlights how UConn’s employment conditions and degree completion outcomes translate educational investment into long-term economic capacity. Together, these measures illustrate the University’s central role in sustaining Connecticut’s human capital and supporting broad-based economic vitality.

Figure 1 illustrates the three-year total degree completions for the five largest degree-granting institutions in Connecticut. The University of Connecticut stands out as the state’s leading contributor to degree attainment, awarding substantially more degrees than any other

Figure 1 - Three-Year Total Degree Completions

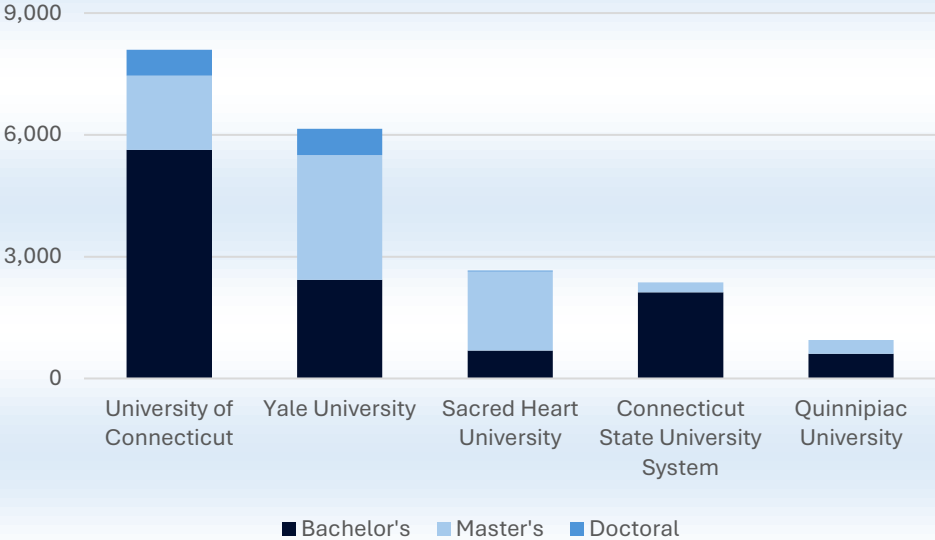


Note: Data was extracted from IPEDS 2022-2024 files. Degree completion data is based on the first major only. Associate and certificate were not included.

institution during the period analyzed. This scale reflects UConn’s broad academic offerings, multi-campus presence, and central role in educating Connecticut residents. UConn’s degree completion volume underscores its unique position as the primary public engine of workforce development. The magnitude of UConn’s graduate output highlights its critical role in sustaining and expanding Connecticut’s labor force across a wide range of industries and skill levels.

Figure 2 focuses on the three-year total degree completions in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields among Connecticut’s largest degree-granting institutions. The University of Connecticut again emerges as the state’s leading producer of STEM graduates, reflecting its comprehensive research mission and strong alignment with high-demand workforce needs. UConn’s comparatively large volume of STEM degree completions underscores its importance in supplying Connecticut with critical talent for innovation-driven sectors, including advanced manufacturing, healthcare, biotechnology, and information technology. As demand for technical and scientific skills continues to grow, UConn’s STEM graduate output represents a key asset for the state’s long-term economic competitiveness.

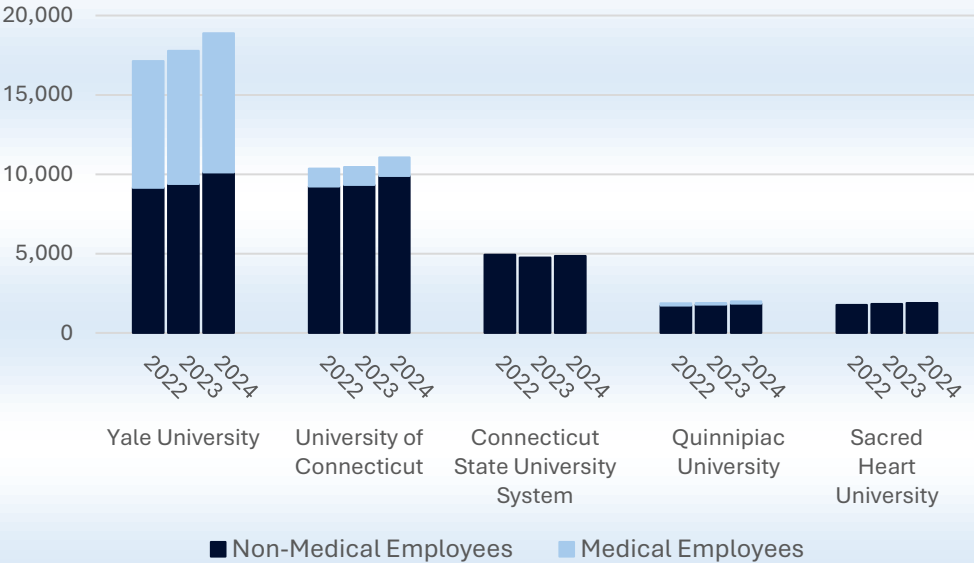
Figure 2 - Three-Year Total Degree Completions in STEM Fields

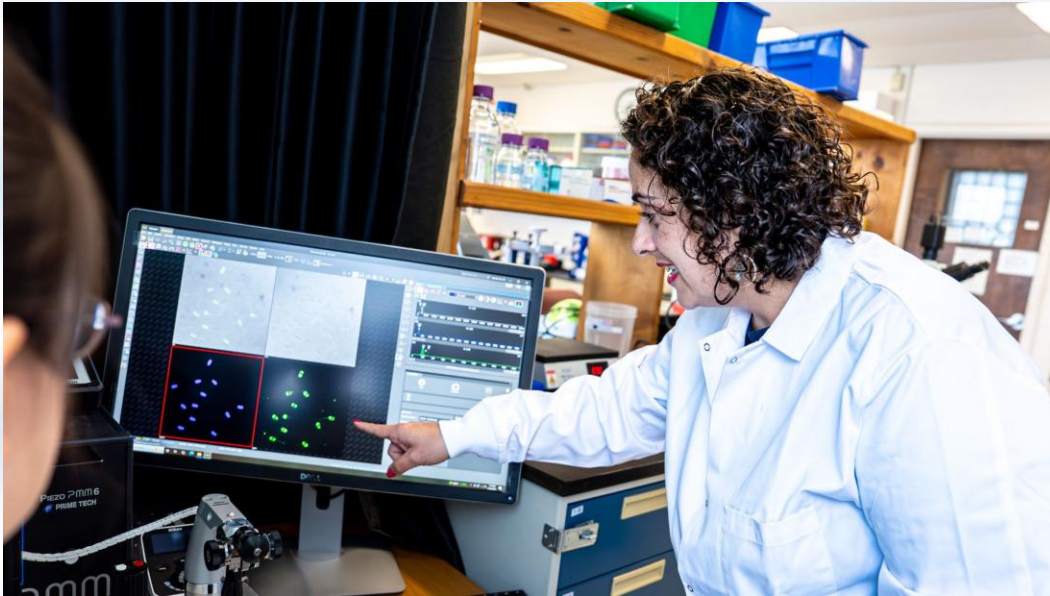


Note: Data was extracted from IPEDS 2022-2024 files. Degree completion data is based on the first major only. Associate and certificate were not included. STEM degrees are based on [DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List](#).

Figure 3 compares total employment levels across Connecticut’s largest higher education institutions over the 2022–2024 period. As the state's two largest higher education employers, Yale University and the University of Connecticut maintain nearly equal non-medical staff counts. Together, they anchor Connecticut’s workforce across the academic, research, healthcare, and administrative sectors. UConn consistently supports a large and stable workforce across its campuses, reflecting its scale as a public research university and statewide system. Overall, the data highlight the role of higher education institutions, and UConn in particular, as anchors of employment that provide long-term job stability and generate significant spillover effects for Connecticut’s economy.

Figure 3 – Total Employment by Institution and by Year





Economic Impact

This study uses the REMI (Regional Economic Models, Inc.) PI+ model that was designed for Connecticut's economy. REMI enables dynamic multi-year modeling through direct, indirect, and induced multipliers by tracing spending pathways as they circulate through the state's economy to generate direct, indirect, and induced impacts in the state.

Direct Impact: The direct impact refers to the economic activity that is directly generated by the University itself. This includes the salaries and wages paid to UConn's employees as well as the goods and services that the university purchases from Connecticut vendors.

Indirect Impact: The indirect impact refers to the economic activity that is generated by businesses and organizations that supply goods and services to the University. For example, when UConn purchases goods and services from vendors, those vendors may in turn use the revenue from these sales to buy goods and services from other businesses, creating a ripple effect in the local economy.

Induced Impact: The induced impact refers to the economic activity generated by the spending of individuals employed by the University. For example, when UConn hires faculty and staff, those individuals may use their salaries and wages to purchase goods and services from local businesses, supporting jobs and economic activity in the local economy.

Outputs of the REMI PI+ model include:

- **Economic Output:** represents the total value of goods and services produced as a result of UConn's presence and activities
- **Employment:** Jobs supported, including full-time and part-time positions
- **Labor Income:** Wages, salaries, and benefits generated
- **Value Added:** UConn's contribution to Connecticut's Gross State Product
- **Tax Revenue:** Additional state and local tax revenues attributable to UConn's activities

The analysis adjusts for economic leakage by including only expenditures that occurred within the state while excluding expenditures that would have occurred regardless of UConn's presence. This conservative approach ensures we capture the university's true economic impact on Connecticut.

Total Economic Impact:

- 49,020 jobs supported statewide
- \$4.71 billion generated in labor income
- \$5.53 billion in value added (contribution to state GDP)
- \$8.74 billion in total economic output
- \$437 million in state tax revenue



Campus-Specific Impacts:

- Storrs Campus:
 - 23,733 jobs supported, \$2.21 billion in labor income, \$2.60 billion in value-added, \$4.13 billion in output
- UConn Health:
 - 20,816 jobs supported, \$2.11 billion in labor income, \$2.45 billion in value-added, \$3.84 billion in output
- Hartford Campus:
 - 1,970 jobs supported, \$184 million in labor income, \$212 million in value-added, \$338 million in output
- Stamford Campus:
 - 1,566 jobs supported, \$120 million in labor income, \$169 million in value-added, \$267 million in output
- Avery Point Campus:
 - 542 jobs supported, \$53 million in labor income, \$61 million in value-added, \$96 million in output
- Waterbury Campus:
 - 394 jobs supported, \$32 million in labor income, \$43 million in value-added, \$68 million in output

Capital Expenditure Economic Impact:

- 1,217 jobs supported statewide
- \$105 million generated in labor income
- \$124 million in value added (contribution to state GDP)
- \$377 million in total economic output
- \$19 million in state tax revenue





Key Insights

- **Enrollment Profile (Fall 2024)**
 - Total student enrollment: **33,554** students.
 - Undergraduate: **25,304**; Graduate/Professional: **8,250**.
 - Incoming first-year class at main campus: **4,478** students.
- **Academic Programs & Degrees**
 - **14 schools and colleges** offering a wide range of programs.
 - Degrees awarded in 2024-25: **8,971 total** (including bachelor's, master's, doctorates, and professional degrees).
- **Cost & Financial Aid**
 - Estimated total annual undergraduate cost (tuition, fees, room & board) for 2024-25: **\$35,424 in-state; \$58,092 out-of-state**.
 - Scholarships and grants awarded in FY 2025: **\$358.8 million**.
- **Staff & Research**
 - Total permanent faculty and staff: **11,011** (across main, regional, and UConn Health).
 - External sponsored funding: sizeable support for research and educational programs.
- **Labor Trained for Regional Job Market**
 - UConn is Connecticut's **largest** degree-granting institution and the **leading** producer of STEM graduates.



- UConn is a **key contributor** to the state's long-term economic growth and competitiveness.
- **Total Economic Impacts:**
 - For every dollar spent on operations, UConn generates approximately \$1.84 in economic output, demonstrating a significant multiplier effect.
 - UConn supports approximately 1 out of every 38 jobs in Connecticut.
 - While the Storrs Campus and UConn Health are the most significant contributors, the Regional Campuses play important roles in their local economies, supporting jobs and generating economic activity across the state.

This economic impact study demonstrates UConn's position as a major driver of economic development in Connecticut. In addition to being one of the State's largest employers, UConn serves as an important engine for research, innovation, and sustainable economic growth. Our analysis reveals how UConn's operations create significant ripple effects throughout the State's economy, supporting jobs and generating revenue across diverse sectors, from advanced manufacturing to healthcare and professional services.