

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RAISING THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF ARIZONA'S WORKFORCE: 2019 UPDATE

How does Arizona compare?

The percentage of Arizona's workforce with a bachelor's degree or higher lags the national average, and Arizona's production of these workers also lags behind the rest of the United States. A policy intervention to increase the number of Arizona workers with bachelor's degrees would produce substantial economic impacts and create higher revenues for the state.

This study finds that increasing the share of university graduates in the workforce by one percentage point during the period 2013–2017 would have produced **\$1.5 billion** in economic effects and generated **\$79 million** in new General Fund revenues for the state government. If a new policy initiative were to increase the share of workers with a bachelor's degree by **0.2 percentage points** each year, Arizona would only catch up with the U.S. average in 2050—32 years from the base year of 2018. During that timespan, **353,000 additional people—a full six percent of Arizona's workforce—would earn bachelor's degrees**, generating **\$32 billion** in economic impact and **\$1.7 billion** in new general fund revenues. Aside from the spillover effects of higher productivity, increased wages would also raise demand for goods and services, increasing overall employment by **2.2 percent** by 2050.

For more information, please visit:
economist.asu.edu



Arizona has a smaller share of workers with bachelor's degrees than the United States average and lags behind the rest of the country in bachelor's degree production

Increasing the share of university graduates in the Arizona workforce by one percentage point from **2013 to 2017** would have produced nearly...

\$1.5B
IN ECONOMIC
EFFECTS

\$79M
GENERAL FUND
REVENUES

Increasing the production of bachelor's degrees by **0.2 percentage points per year** would produce substantial economic impacts, generating over...

\$32B
IN ECONOMIC
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GENERAL FUND
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2.2%

The boost in earnings would also raise overall consumer demand -- lifting overall employment **2.2% above trend in 2050**