

Economic Impact Study

St. Tammany Parish Library
- Jan. 2025



In partnership with



Southeast Louisiana
Business Center

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY

Summary

Key Findings

- The return on investment to the public is \$1.65 for every dollar spent
- The St. Tammany Parish Library creates an additional \$16.45 million in economic activity in the parish
- The St. Tammany Parish Library is accountable for 172.38 jobs in the parish
- The market value of St. Tammany Parish Library resources usage is over \$20.2 million

Impacts

- Direct: Employment - 131.41 Jobs, Value Added - \$8,437,645.57, Output - \$9,343,672.44
- Indirect/Induced: Employment - 40.98 Jobs, Value Added - \$4,234,292.27, Output - \$7,110,605.84

Conclusion

This report is meant to capture a well-rounded valuation of the St. Tammany Parish Library, taking into account the economic impact generated from its activity and the value of library resources as a public service. This report is not all-encompassing as it is impossible to put a value on the community-building effects of a library, the ripple effects of increased education, or the quality of life improvements generated. All things considered, we hope this report is informative and shines a light on the public good the St. Tammany Parish Library provides.



Table 1. St. Tammany Parish Library Expenditures in 2023 minus library resource acquisitions and programing

Category	Expenditure
Employee Compensation	\$7,686,553.45
Services Spending	\$340,709.15
Operational Spending	\$1,999,034.51
Maintenance Spending	\$399,588.60
Insurance	\$229,731.86
Equipment & Vehicle Lease	\$7,617.99
Total	\$10,663,235.56

Table 2. Estimated Output Contributions in 2023

Category	Expenditure
Direct	\$9,343,672.44
Indirect	\$2,251,296.81
Induced	\$4,859,309.03
Total	\$16,454,278.28



Table 3. St. Tammany Library Services in 2024 & Estimated Value

Service	Annual # of Uses	Estimated Value
Adult Books Borrowed	197,505	\$3,357,585.00
YA Books Borrowed	14,997	\$179,964.00
Children Books Borrowed	228,263	\$3,880,471.00
Audiobooks Borrowed	9,730	\$92,435.00
Interlibrary Loan Requests	3,354	\$83,850.00
eBooks Downloaded	418,211	\$6,273,165.00
Magazines Read	4,770	\$23,850.00
Movies Borrowed	87,806	\$351,224.00
CDs Borrowed	5,844	\$58,147.80
Music Downloaded	2,286	\$2,286.00
Meeting Room Use (hourly)	3,004	\$75,100.00
Adult Program Attended	8,878	\$133,170.00
YA Program Attended	9,745	\$116,940.00
Children Program Attended	70,253	\$491,771.00
Museum Passes Borrowed	24	\$480.00
Computer Use (hourly)	66,761	\$801,132.00
Database Searches	192,257	\$3,835,527.15
Reference Assistance	63,912	\$447,384.00
Total		\$20,204,481.95



Table 4. Benefit-Cost Summary

Category	Value
Total Market Value	\$20,204,481.95
St. Tammany Population	275,538
Market Value per Capita	\$73.33
Total Operating Expense	\$12,281,832.89
Operating Expense per Capita	\$44.57
STPL Benefit-Cost Ratio	\$1.65

