



Victor Valley College

Executive Summary

MAY 2024



# The Economic Value of Victor Valley College



**V**ICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE (VVC) creates value in many ways. The college plays a key role in helping students increase their employability and achieve their individual potential. The college draws students to the region, generating new dollars and opportunities for San Bernardino County. VVC provides students with the education, training, and skills they need to have fulfilling and prosperous careers. Furthermore, VVC is a place for students to meet new people, increase their self-confidence, and promote their overall health and well-being.

VVC influences both the lives of its students and the regional economy. The college supports a variety of industries in San Bernardino County, serves regional businesses, and benefits society as a whole in California from an expanded economy and improved quality of life. Additionally, the benefits created by VVC extend to the state and local government through increased tax revenues and public sector savings.

This study measures the economic impacts created by VVC on the business community and the benefits the college generates in return for the investments made by its key stakeholder groups—students, taxpayers, and society. The following two analyses are presented:



SAN BERNARDINO,  
CALIFORNIA

VVC influences both the **lives of its students** and the **regional economy**.

## **Economic impact analysis**

## **Investment analysis**

All results reflect employee, student, and financial data, provided by the college, for fiscal year (FY) 2021-22. Impacts on the Victor Valley College economy are reported under the economic impact analysis and are measured in terms of added income. The returns on investment to students, taxpayers, and society in California are reported under the investment analysis.

# Economic impact analysis



VVC promotes economic growth in San Bernardino County through its direct expenditures and the resulting expenditures of students and regional businesses. The college serves as an employer and buyer of goods and services for its day-to-day and construction and construction operations. The college's activities attract students from outside San Bernardino County, whose expenditures benefit regional vendors. In addition, VVC is one of the primary sources of higher education to San Bernardino County residents and a supplier of trained workers to regional industries, enhancing overall productivity in the regional workforce.

## Operations spending impact

 VVC adds economic value to San Bernardino County as an employer of regional residents and a large-scale buyer of goods and services. In FY 2021-22, the college employed 773 full-time and part-time faculty and staff, 85% of whom lived in San Bernardino County. Total payroll at VVC was \$104.7 million, much of which was spent in the region for groceries, mortgage and rent payments, dining out, and other household expenses. In addition, the college spent \$38.9 million (excluding construction) on day-to-day expenses related to facilities, supplies, and professional services.

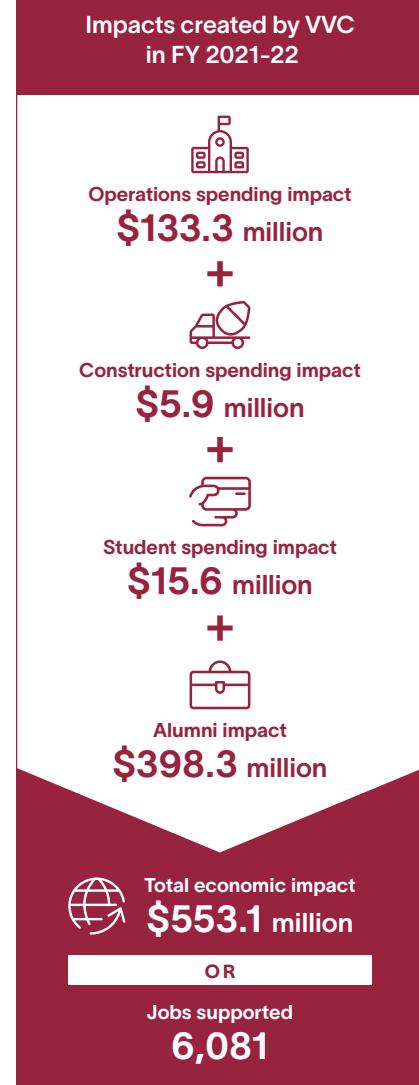
VVC's day-to-day operations spending added \$133.3 million in income to the region during the analysis year. This figure represents the college's payroll, the multiplier effects generated by the in-region spending of the college and its employees, and a downward adjustment to account for funding that the college received from regional sources. The \$133.3 million in added income is equivalent to supporting 1,043 jobs in the region.

## Construction spending impact

 VVC invests in construction each year to maintain its facilities, create additional capacities, and meet its growing educational demands. While the amount varies from year to year, these quick infusions of income and jobs have a substantial impact on the regional economy. In FY 2021-22, VVC's construction spending generated \$5.9 million in added income, which is equivalent to supporting 62 jobs.

## Student spending impact

 Around 6% of students attending VVC originated from outside the region in FY 2021-22, and some of these students relocated to San Bernardino County



to attend VVC. These students may not have come to the region if the college did not exist. In addition, some in-region students, referred to as retained students, would have left San Bernardino County if not for the existence of VVC. While attending the college, these relocated and retained students spent money on groceries, accommodation, transportation, and other household expenses. This spending generated \$15.6 million in added income for the regional economy in FY 2021-22, which supported 234 jobs in San Bernardino County.

## Alumni impact

 The education and training VVC provides for regional residents has the greatest impact. Since the establishment of the college, students have studied at VVC and entered the regional workforce with greater knowledge and new skills. Today, thousands of former VVC students are employed in San Bernardino County. As a result of their education from VVC, the students receive higher earnings and increase the productivity of the businesses that employ them. In FY 2021-22, VVC alumni generated \$398.3 million in added income for the regional economy, which is equivalent to supporting 4,742 jobs.

## Total impact

VVC added \$553.1 million in income to the San Bernardino County economy during the analysis year, equal to the sum of the operations and construction spending impacts; the student spending impact; and the alumni impact. For context, the \$553.1 million impact was equal to approximately 0.5% of the total gross regional product (GRP) of San Bernardino County. This contribution that the college provided on its own is nearly as large as the entire Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation industry in the region.

VVC's total impact can also be expressed in terms of jobs supported. The \$553.1 million impact supported 6,081 regional jobs, using the jobs-to-sales ratios specific to each industry in the region. In addition, the \$553.1 million, or 6,081 supported jobs, stemmed from different industry sectors. For instance, among non-education industry sectors, the spending of VVC and its students and the activities of its alumni in the Health Care & Social Assistance industry sector supported 945 jobs in FY 2021-22. If the college did not exist, these impacts would not have been generated in San Bernardino County.

The **\$553.1 million** impact supported  
**6,081 regional jobs.**

### VVC impacts by industry (jobs supported)



# Investment analysis



An investment analysis evaluates the costs associated with a proposed venture against its expected benefits. The analysis presented here evaluates VVC as an investment from the perspectives of students, taxpayers, and society in California. As with the economic impact analysis, this analysis considers only FY 2021-22 activities.

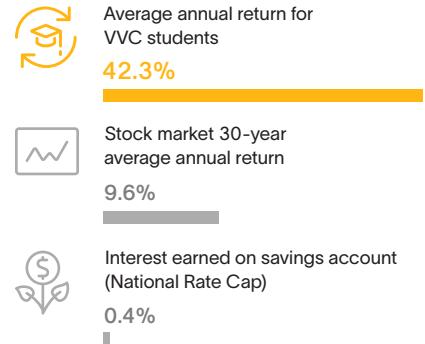
## Student perspective

 In FY 2021-22, VVC served 14,556 credit and 482 non-credit students. In order to attend the college, the students paid for tuition, fees, books, and supplies. They also took out loans and will incur interest on those loans. Additionally, students gave up money they would have otherwise earned had they been working instead of attending college. The total investment made by VVC's students in FY 2021-22 amounted to a present value of \$16.7 million, equal to \$10.7 million in out-of-pocket expenses (including future principal and interest on student loans) and \$6.0 million in forgone time and money.

In return for their investment, VVC's students will receive a stream of higher future earnings that will continue to grow throughout their working lives. For example, the average VVC associate degree graduate from FY 2021-22 will see annual earnings that are \$8,300 higher than a person with a high school diploma or equivalent working in California. Over a working lifetime, the benefits of the associate degree over a high school diploma will amount to an undiscounted value of \$348.6 thousand in higher earnings per graduate. The present value of the cumulative higher future earnings that VVC's FY 2021-22 students will receive over their working careers is \$326.7 million.

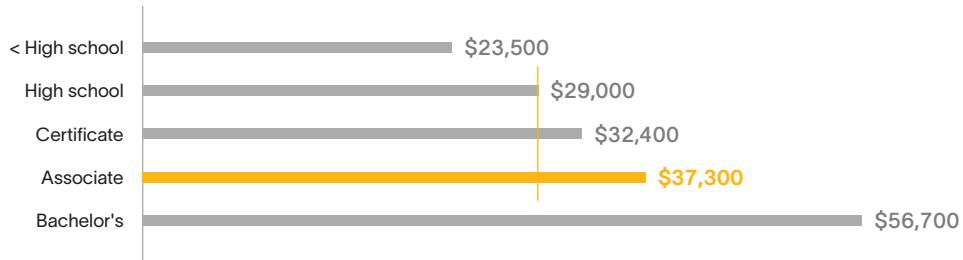
The students' benefit-cost ratio is 19.5. In other words, for every dollar students invest in VVC in the form of out-of-pocket expenses and forgone time and money, they will receive a cumulative value of \$19.50 in higher future earnings. Annually, the students'

 Students see a high rate of return for their investment in the VVC



Source: Forbes' S&P 500, 1992-2021. FDIC.gov, 2-2022.

The average associate degree graduate from VVC will see an increase in earnings of \$8,300 each year compared to a person with a high school diploma or equivalent working in California.



Source: Lightcast employment data.

investment in VVC has an average annual internal rate of return of 42.3%, which is impressive compared to the U.S. stock market's 30-year average rate of return of 9.6%.

## Taxpayer perspective

 VVC generates more in tax revenue than it receives. These benefits to taxpayers consist primarily of taxes that the state and local government will collect from the added revenue created in the state. As VVC students will earn more, they will make higher tax payments throughout their working lives. Students' employers will also make higher tax payments as they increase their output and purchases of goods and services. By the end of the FY 2021-22 students' working lives, the state and local government will have collected a present value of \$119.0 million in added taxes.

For every **\$1000** dollars of public money invested in VVC, taxpayers will receive a cumulative value of **\$1500** over the course of the students' working lives.

Benefits to taxpayers will also consist of savings generated by the improved lifestyles of VVC students and the corresponding reduced government services. Education is statistically correlated with a variety of lifestyle changes. The education that VVC students receive will generate savings in three main categories: 1) health care, 2) justice system, and 3) income assistance. Improved health will lower students' demand for national health care services. In addition, costs related to the justice system will decrease. VVC students will be more employable, so their reduced demand for income assistance such as welfare and unemployment benefits will benefit taxpayers. For a list of study references, contact the college for a copy of the main report. Altogether, the present value of the benefits associated with an education from VVC will generate \$26.6 million in savings to state and local taxpayers.

Total taxpayer benefits amount to \$145.6 million, the present value sum of the added tax revenue and public sector savings. Taxpayer costs are \$97.7 million, equal to the amount of state and local government funding VVC received in FY 2021-22. These benefits and costs yield a benefit-cost ratio of 1.5. This means that for every dollar of public money invested in VVC in FY 2021-22, taxpayers will receive a cumulative present value of \$1.50 over the course of the students' working lives. The average annual internal rate of return for taxpayers is 2.3%, which compares favorably to other long-term investments in the public sector.

## Social perspective

 Society as a whole in California benefits from the presence of VVC in two major ways. Primarily, society benefits from an increased economic base in the state. This is attributed to the added income from students' increased lifetime earnings (added student income) and increased business output (added business income), which raise economic prosperity in California.

Benefits to society also consist of the savings generated by the improved lifestyles of VVC students. As discussed in the previous section, education is statistically correlated with a variety of lifestyle changes that generate social savings. Note that these costs are avoided by the consumers but are distinct from the costs avoided by the taxpayers outlined above. Health care savings include avoided medical costs associated with smoking, alcohol dependence, obesity, drug abuse, and depression. Justice system savings include avoided costs to the government and society due to less judicial activity. Income assistance savings include reduced welfare and unemployment claims. For a list of study references, contact the college for a copy of the main report.

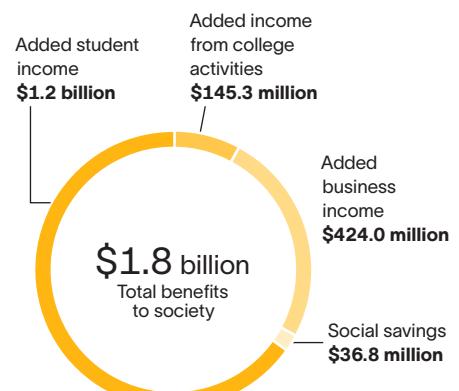
Altogether, the social benefits of VVC equal a present value of \$1.8 billion. These benefits include \$1.2 billion in added student income, \$424.0 million in added business income, \$145.3 million in added income from college activities, as well as \$36.8 million in social savings related to health, the justice system, and income assistance in California. People in California invested a present value total of \$168.8 million in VVC in FY 2021-22. The cost includes all the college and student costs.

The benefit-cost ratio for society is 10.8, equal to the \$1.8 billion in benefits divided by the \$168.8 million in costs. In other words, for every dollar invested in VVC, people in California will receive a cumulative value of \$10.80 in benefits. The benefits of this investment will occur for as long as VVC's FY 2021-22 students remain employed in the state workforce.

## Summary of investment analysis results

The results of the analysis demonstrate that VVC is a strong investment for all three major stakeholder groups—students, taxpayers, and society. As shown, students receive a great return for their investments in an education from VVC. At the same time, taxpayers' investment in VVC returns more to government budgets than it costs and creates a wide range of social benefits throughout California.

### Social benefits in California from VVC



Source: Lightcast impact model.

Student perspective	Taxpayer perspective	Social perspective
Present value benefits <b>\$326.7 million</b>	Present value benefits <b>\$145.6 million</b>	Present value benefits <b>\$1.8 billion</b>
Present value costs <b>\$16.7 million</b>	Present value costs <b>\$97.7 million</b>	Present value costs <b>\$168.8 million</b>
Net present value <b>\$310.0 million</b>	Net present value <b>\$47.9 million</b>	Net present value <b>\$1.6 billion</b>
Benefit-cost ratio <b>19.5</b>	Benefit-cost ratio <b>1.5</b>	Benefit-cost ratio <b>10.8</b>
Rate of return <b>42.3%</b>	Rate of return <b>2.3%</b>	Rate of return <b>n/a*</b>

\* The rate of return is not reported for the social perspective because the beneficiaries of the investment are not necessarily the same as the original investors.

# Conclusion

The results of this study demonstrate that VVC creates value from multiple perspectives. The college benefits regional businesses by increasing consumer spending in the region and supplying a steady flow of qualified, trained workers to the workforce. VVC enriches the lives of students by raising their lifetime earnings and helping them achieve their individual potential. The college benefits state and local taxpayers through increased tax receipts and a reduced demand for government-supported social services. Finally, VVC benefits society as a whole in California by creating a more prosperous economy and generating a variety of savings through the improved lifestyles of students.

## About the study

Data and assumptions used in the study are based on several sources, including the FY 2021-22 academic and financial reports from VVC, industry and employment data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau, outputs of Lightcast's Multi-Regional Social Accounting Matrix model, and a variety of studies and surveys relating education to social behavior. The study applies a conservative methodology and follows standard practice using only the most recognized indicators of economic impact and investment effectiveness. For a full description of the data and approach used in the study, please contact the college for a copy of the main report.

The results of this study demonstrate that VVC creates value from **multiple perspectives**.



Lightcast provides colleges and universities with labor market data that help create better outcomes for students, businesses, and communities. Our data, which cover more than 99% of the U.S. workforce, are compiled from a wide variety of government sources, job postings, and online profiles and résumés. Hundreds of institutions use Lightcast to align programs with county needs, drive enrollment, connect students with in-demand careers, track their alumni's employment outcomes, and demonstrate their institution's economic impact on their region. Visit [lightcast.io/solutions/education](https://lightcast.io/solutions/education) to learn more or connect with us.