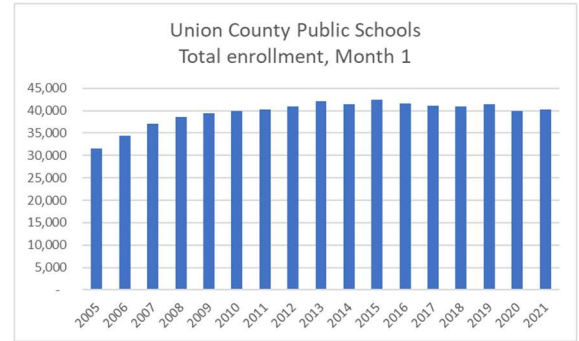




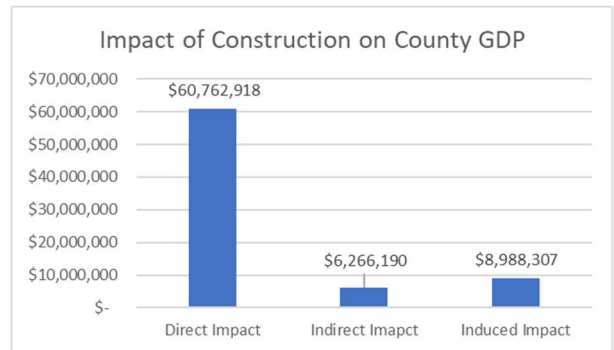
Economic Impact of Union County Public Schools' Construction Projects

The Union County Public School (UCPS) system is most commonly cited for the academic, athletic and artistic achievements of its students. This study looks at UCPS through the lens of the local economy. At the end of 2021, it was the largest employer in the county. ([Visit AccessNC for an updated ranking](#)). The approximately 5,000 faculty and staff served around [40,200 students at 53 campuses](#). Enrollment grew by 27% in the fifteen years from 2006 to 2021, which driving construction at multiple sites.

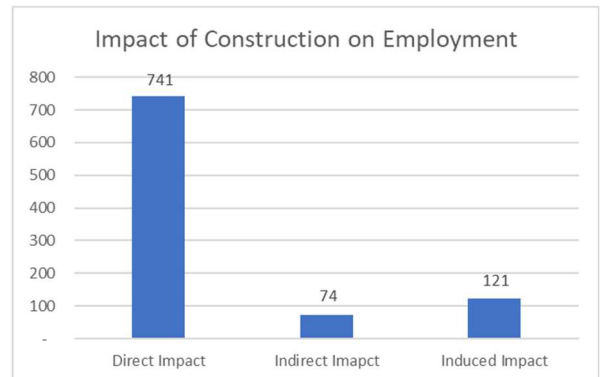


IMPLAN software allows analysis of the matrix that is Union County's economy. An organization can increase the County's economic output through direct effects, indirect effects (like spending in business-to-business transactions) and induced effects (as employees spend additional income). During the 2021/22 academic year, School of Business student Jonas Soerensen undertook a detailed analysis as part of his senior thesis. This report describes the economic impact of school construction and renovation projects.

The construction expenses are based on reported capital expenditures. Union County Public Schools spent [over \\$112 million on construction projects](#) for the period 2016-2020. In IMPLAN, sectors were assigned for construction spending as well as furniture and equipment. IMPLAN adjusts the dollar amounts from previous years for inflation, so the reported amounts reflect the value of the 2022 US dollar.



The past five years of construction work for UCPS boosted Union County's GDP by approximately \$76 million. The sector that benefited the most was construction, not surprisingly. Residential real estate was second, with extra value added of around \$3 million as new income from the construction projects boosted household spending (induced effects).



The construction projects supported over 935 jobs. While the majority (≈ 740) were directly in construction, other industries with a positive employment impact included durable goods wholesalers, building materials, truck transportation, architectural/engineering services, restaurants and retail.