



Health of Arizona's Economy Deeply Intertwined with the Health of the Colorado River

A first-ever comprehensive report by noted economist Tim James at W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University, commissioned by business coalition Protect the Flows, identifies the economic value and number of jobs dependent on the river for all the basin states and major economic sectors that use water from the river. Protect the Flows released the report January 14, 2015.

The numbers uncovered for the Southwest as a region and for the [State of Arizona](#) are staggering.

For the State of Arizona:

- **Jobs in AZ dependent on the river annually: 2,147,770**
- **Gross State Product in AZ dependent on the river: \$185.01 billion (60% of AZ's GSP)**
- **Arizona Labor Income dependent on the river each year: \$107.80 billion**

Top 5 Gross State Product Losses in Arizona's private sector that would occur if Colorado River Water was unavailable for 1 year:

Real Estate and Rental=\$27.12 billion

Healthcare and Social Services=\$23.17billion

Finance and Insurance=\$19.66 billion

Professional, Scientific and Technical=\$14.28 billion

Retail Trade=\$14.19 billion

For the Colorado River Basin Region:

- The Colorado River generates **\$1.4 trillion in economic benefits** annually in the 7 basin states.
- Almost **two thirds of the Basin Region's annual Gross State Product could be lost** if Colorado River water was no longer available to businesses, industry, and agriculture.
- **More than 16 million jobs per year, resulting in \$871 billion in labor income, are at stake** if we don't keep the river flowing. Demand for river water currently exceeds supply.

For More Information on the Study Visit: <https://businessforwater.org/colorado-river-generates-1-4-trillion>

Note: This study was done in 2015 when Business for Water Stewardship was Protect the Flows.