Economic & Educational Impacts

In 2014, the Illinois State Museum:

▷ employed 85 people in our communities,
▷ spent $8.9 million on goods and services in our communities,
▷ served over 386,750 individuals on and off site and 1.5 million virtual visitors,
▷ served over 40,000 schoolchildren through school visits, and
▷ served over 2,300 teachers.

The Illinois State Museum’s main facility is located in Springfield

Branch facilities include:

énom Chicago Gallery and
Illinois Artisans, Chicago in the James R. Thompson Center;
Lockport Gallery in the Norton Building in Lockport;
Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown; and
Southern Illinois Art and Artisans Center at Rend Lake in Whittington.

The Museum’s Research and Collections Center, also in Springfield, houses laboratories and over 12.5 million objects documenting Illinois’ natural and cultural heritage.

Admission to Illinois State Museum facilities is free (donations suggested). Most facilities are open 362 days each year.
**Major economic engines, U.S. museums:**

- employ 400,000 Americans;
- contribute $21 billion to the U.S. Economy each year;
- draw 78% of all U.S. leisure travelers to participate in cultural heritage activities. These travelers, including museum visitors, spend 63% more on average than other leisure travelers;
- annually generate over $135 billion in economic activity, support more than 4.1 million full-time jobs, and return over $22 billion in local, state, and federal tax revenues as part of the non-profit arts and culture industry;
- constitute 3.2% of the nation’s entire economy, a $504 billion industry, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; and
- create an average return on investment of over $7 in taxes for every $1 that the government appropriates to museum and other cultural attractions.

**Essential partners in education, U.S. museums:**

- spend more than $2.2 billion a year on education, 75% of which is typically spent on K-12 students;
- receive approximately 55 million visits each year from students in school groups;
- provide more than 18 million instructional hours for educational programs for students and teachers;
- tailor educational programs to satisfy curriculum needs and learning standards;
- spark the next generation of scientists, artists, political leaders, historians, and entrepreneurs;
- provide access to educational resources through online collections and exhibits; and
- are viewed by Americans as one of the most important resources for educating children and providing trustworthy sources of objective information.