

ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS PROGRAMS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS

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Florida FIRST is a strategic planning process to enhance the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) mandate for serving Florida and its food, agriculture, natural and human resource sectors. As a part of that initiative, the Department of Food and Resource Economics (FRED) is developing a special program emphasis in economic impact analysis focused on Florida's agricultural and natural resource based industries.¹

The *Economic Impact Analysis Program* is housed in FRED and supported by a group of faculty with expertise in regional, marine, and natural resource economics. Activities focus on data collection and analytical studies designed to enhance the understanding of natural resource based industries and their role in the Florida economy.

Specific objectives of the *Economic Impact Analysis Program* are listed below.

- Compile and maintain a comprehensive information base on economic activity in Florida's natural resource based industries.
- Conduct economic impact analyses of various natural resource based commodity sectors and service industries for counties and regions of Florida.
- Publish results of analyses in a form suitable for policymakers, industry officials and the general public.
- Conduct in-depth economic impact studies as sponsored projects for industry and government clientele groups.

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- Support needs for economic impact information with the UF/IFAS organization for purposes of program and proposal development.

Faculty members are also available to provide technical assistance to industry groups, government agencies and local communities and to conduct specific research projects involving detailed analysis of specific industries, regions or situations. A list of faculty who support the economic impact work is included as Table 1 with telephone numbers and email addresses.

Implan Software and Databases

Much of the economic impact analysis work depends on the ability to estimate the total effect on a local or regional economy from changes that take place within a particular industry. These estimations depend on input-output models that quantify the interactions between firms and industries and social institutions within a particular study region.²

IMPLAN is a computer software package that consists of procedures for estimating local input-output models and associated databases.³ The acronym is for *Impact Analyses and Planning*. IMPLAN was originally developed by the U.S. Forest Service in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management. IMPLAN is available

² For a detailed discussion of input-output models, see: William A. Schaffer, *Regional Impact Models*. The Web Book of Regional Science.

<http://www.rri.wvu.edu/regscweb.htm>

³ User's Guide, IMPLAN Professional Version 2.0. Minnesota IMPLAN Group, Inc., Stillwater, Minnesota, April 1999 (www.implan.com).

under license from the Minnesota Implan Group, Inc.

IMPLAN is based on data collected by the U. S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and other federal and state Data are compiled by Standard Industrial Categories for 528 industry sectors of the national economy, and corresponding data sets are produced for each county in the United States. Databases allow analyses at the county level and for geographic aggregations such as clusters of contiguous counties, individual states or groups of states.

The Department of Food and Resource Economics at UF/IFAS is a licensed user of IMPLAN software. The department maintains current databases for Florida and for all counties within Florida.

Services Available to Industry and Government Clients

Regional Economic Analysis: The primary function of the *Economic Impact Analysis Program* is analytical studies, which are focused on the general area of economic impacts. Activities and services available include:

- construction of regional economic models at the county, region or state level using Implan software and databases,
- economic impact analysis of industry activity, commodity production, special events, government regulations or policies, industrial or community development projects and business locations,
- evaluation of economic linkages among industries, institutions and households, and
- business analysis and budgeting for agricultural and natural resource operations.

Survey Research: A variety of economic and market survey research activities are

available through the *Economic Impact Analysis Program* and the *Florida Agricultural Market Research Center in FRED*. Services available include:

- survey questionnaire and statistical sampling design, and mail and telephone survey implementation,
- measurements of industry or commodity output, imports and exports, employment, and value added, and profiles of industry or market structure, production and marketing practices,
- measurement of consumer expenditures, purchasing patterns, opinions, preferences and expectations, and
- valuation of non-market or non-monetary goods, services and natural resources.

Other: A number of other, general, research services are available through the *Economic Impact Analysis Program* or other FRED programs. Available services include research project management, literature reviews, report preparation and peer review and dissemination of research results to include publications, presentations, seminars and training programs.

Project Examples

A number of special projects have been completed within recent months and several others are currently in progress. Several are listed here to provide examples of the type of projects undertaken by the economic impact group in FRED.

Economic Impact of the Ft. Lauderdale International Boat Show and the Miami International Boat Show. Funding provided by Thomas Murray and Associates. Final reports delivered April 1998 and June 1999.

Economic Impact Analysis of Sykes Enterprises, Inc. Location in Columbia and Jackson Counties. Final reports delivered December 1999 and April 2000.

Development of an Economic Impact Assessment Methodology for the Occurrence of Red Tide. Funding provided by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for 1999 with continued funding for 2000.

Economic Impact of the Florida Botanical Gardens and other Cultural Attractions in Pinellas County, Florida. Final report due June 2000.

Assessing the Statewide Socio-economic role of Florida Fairs. Funding provided by the Florida Federation of Fairs. Final report due July 2000.

Economic Impact of the Florida Apiculture (Beekeeping) Industry. Funding provided by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Final report due September 2000.

Economic Impact of the Florida Citrus Industry. Funding provided by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Final report due December 2000.

Publications Available

A number of publications, county level data and other information are available through our web site. Publications are listed below.

<http://www.fred.ifas.ufl.edu/impact>

Economic Importance of Florida's Horticultural Industry. Alan W. Hodges, and John J. Haydu.

Impact of Hurricane Andrew on Ornamental Nursery Profitability in Dade County, Florida. DeArmand Hull and Alan W. Hodges.

Contribution of the Turfgrass Industry to Florida's Economy, 1991-1992: A Value-Added Approach. A.W. Hodges, J.J. Haydu, P.J. van Blokland, and A.P. Bell.

An Assessment of the Economic Importance of the San Carlos Island Shrimp Processing Industry to the Lee County Economy. Charles Adams, David Mulkey and Alan Hodges.

The Economy of Manatee and Sarasota Counties. Effie Philippakos, Alan W. Hodges, David Mulkey and Chuck Adams.

Public Preferences and Economic Values for Restoration of the Everglades/South Florida Ecosystem. J. Walter Milon, Alan W. Hodges, Arbindra Rimal, Clyde Kiker and Frank Casey.

Economic Impact of Agriculture and Agribusiness in Dade County, Florida. Robert L. Degner, Susan D. Moss and David Mulkey.

Contact Us

Interested individuals or agencies may contact us directly at the addresses provided below.

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We may also be contacted through the local UF/IFAS Cooperative Extension Office located in each county in Florida. Office locations and telephone numbers are available at the following web site.

<http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/www/extension>

Table 1. Faculty in the Economic Impact Analysis Group

Faculty	Title	Area of Expertise	Telephone	E-mail
Janaki R.R. Alavalapati	Assistant Professor	Forestry Resources	(352) 846-0899	janaki@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu
Charles M. Adams	Professor	Marine Resources	(352) 392-1826 x223	adams@fred.ifas.ufl.edu
Dorothy A. Comer	Associate Professor	Economics	(352) 392-1826 x213	comer@fred.ifas.ufl.edu
Robert Degner	Professor	Economics	(352) 392-1871 x454	degner@fred.ifas.ufl.edu
John Gordon	Professor and Chair	Public Policy	(352) 392-1826 x206	Gordon@fred.ifasu.ufl.edu
John Haydu	Associate Professor	Ornamental Horticulture	(407) 884-2034	jjh@icon.apk.ufl.edu
Alan Hodges	Coordinator of Economic Analysis	Economic Analysis, Ornamental Horticulture	(352) 392-1845 x312	hodges@fred.ifas.ufl.edu
J. Walter Milon	Professor	Natural Resources	(352) 392-1881 x301	milon@fred.ifas.ufl.edu
David Mulkey	Professor	Regional Resources	(352) 392-1845 x406	mulkey@fred.ifas.ufl.edu
Fritz Roka	Assistant Professor	Economics of South Florida Region	(941) 658-3400	fmro@icon.imok.ufl.edu
David Zimet	Associate Professor	Economics of North Florida Region	(850) 875-7125	djz@icon.qcy.ufl.edu