COVID-19: Economic Impact Analysis on Vernon County Service Region

September 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT



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Acknowledgements

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Vernon county is one of nine counties located along the Mississippi River in Western Wisconsin that are members of the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC)¹. MRRPC includes Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Trempealeau, and Vernon counties. In 2020, the Vernon county population was 30,714², with a total regional employment of 10,033. The average earnings per job in 2020 was \$50,134, which is \$24,019 below the national average earnings per job.³

The Vernon county economy creates value in many ways. The employed labor force in Vernon generates new dollars and creates opportunities in the region.

MRRPC tracks Vernon's industries and studies the changes in taxes, earnings, and job market. An understanding of the regional economy and the economic impact effects of COVID-19 is vital to Vernon's efforts seeking to adapt to the post-pandemic economy.

Labor Force in Vernon creates new opportunities in their region.

The purpose of this report is to outline the region's economy and provide an economic impact analysis of COVID-19. This report will focus on the effects of job losses during 2020 caused by the pandemic and the impact they have had on the region's diverse industries. The following figures and tables display key findings of the analysis.

³ Emsi Burning Glass proprietary data, collected on August 23, 2021.



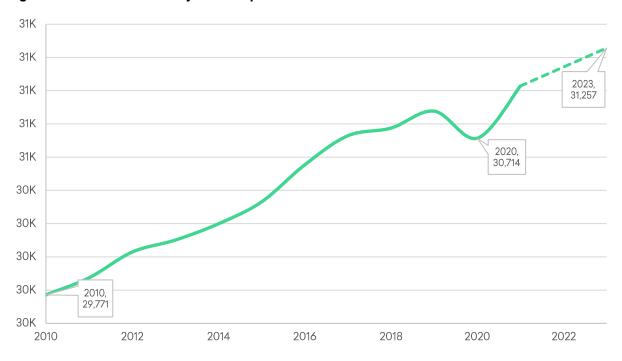
¹https://mrrpc.com/about/

² https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state.html



In 2010, 29,771 people resided in Vernon. The county's population is projected to be 31,257 people by 2023 (Figure 01).

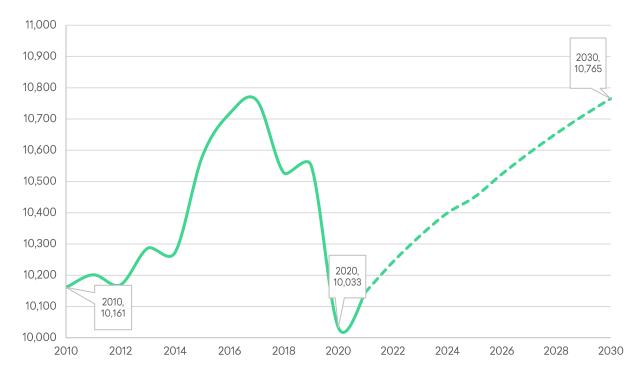
Figure 01: Historical and Projected Population in Vernon, 2010 to 2023



Source: Emsi Burning Glass demographics data, U.S. Census Bureau.

As shown in Figure 02, Vernon supported 10,161 jobs in 2010 and by 2020, the region had 10,033 jobs. In 2020 alone, the region lost 519 jobs. Due to data limitations, projections may not capture the total impact of COVID-19 on future labor markets.

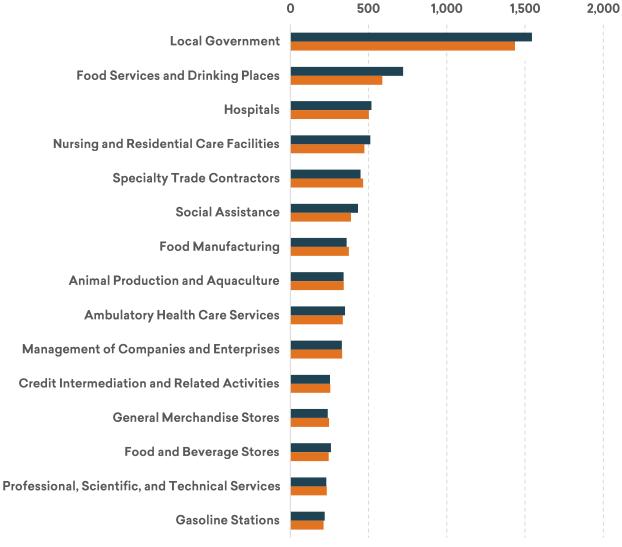
Figure 02: Historical and Projected Jobs in Vernon, 2010 to 2030



Source: Emsi Burning Glass 2021.3.

Figure 03 displays the top industry subsectors in terms of employment in Vernon. Local Government and Food Services and Drinking Places industries were the industries with highest number of jobs in 2019 and 2020.

Figure 03: Top Industry Subsectors in Vernon by Jobs



Source: Emsi Burning Glass 2021.3.

Figure 04 shows the top industry subsectors in terms of employment concentrations, referred to as location quotients⁴ (LQs). High LQs (usually anything greater than 1.2) are an indication that the region has a comparative advantage or specialization in certain industry subsectors relative to the rest of the nation or to other regions.

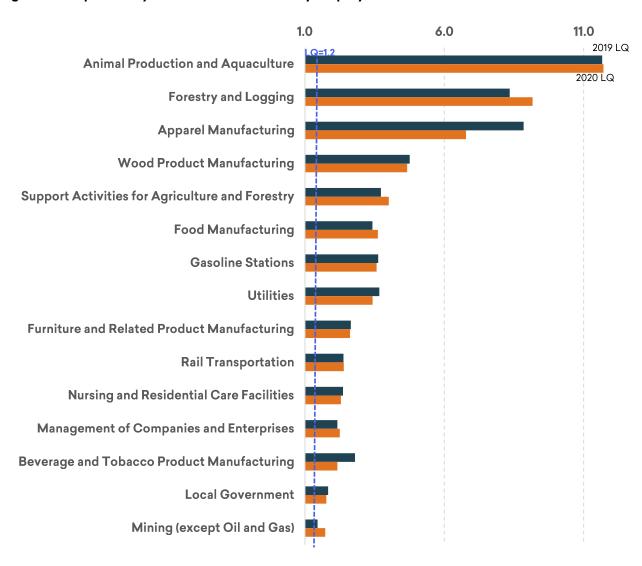


Figure 04: Top Industry Subsectors in Vernon by Employment Concentration (LQ)

Source: Emsi Burning Glass 2021.3.

⁴ Location quotient (LQ) is a way of quantifying how concentrated a particular industry, cluster, occupation, or demographic group is in a region as compared to the nation. It can reveal what makes a particular region unique. (https://www.economicmodeling.com/2020/02/03/understanding-location-quotient-2/).

Looking at industries in Figure 03, only 6 industries are within both the top 15 in terms of total jobs and in terms of relatively high LQs. The appearance of these industry subsectors provides an indication of their strength in the region's economy and offers insight into potential employment opportunities for people in the region's labor force that are looking for new professional opportunities. These industry subsectors, ranked by 2020 jobs, are:

- Local Government
- Nursing and Residential Care Facilities
- Food Manufacturing
- Animal Production and Aquaculture
- Management of Companies and Enterprises
- Gasoline Stations

The data in Table 01 shows several of the region's socioeconomic indicators as they compare to Wisconsin and the United States. Household income, reported as a median annual value, includes the income of all individuals in a household, 15 years and over, whether they are related to the householder or not. The median household income of Vernon falls below both Wisconsin and the United States. Per capita income is calculated as the mean income for every person in the area divided by the aggregate income of the total population. In contrast, Vernon shows low unemployment rate when compared against the nation.

Table 01: Income, Unemployment, and Poverty Characteristics

	AVERAGE MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (2020)	AVERAGE PERCAPITA INCOME	AVERAGE POVERTY ALL PEOPLE
Vernon County	\$52,459	3.55%	\$26,198	10.20%
MRRPC Service Region	\$57,495	3.87%	\$29,488	6.90%
Wisconsin State	\$61,747	4.05%	\$33,375	7.20%
United States	\$62,843	6.50%	\$34,103	9.50%

Source: American Community Survey 2019 five-year estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau Data

Figure 05 displays the highest educational attainments in Vernon, the MRRPC Service Region, Wisconsin, and U.S. adults. Educational attainment⁵ data is useful for targeting specific population groups with less than or greater than average education levels. Here, Vernon shows the highest percentage of High School degree holders when compared against the different regions.

Figure 05: Highest Educational Attainments

	<hs< th=""><th>HS</th><th>Some College</th><th>Associate's Degre</th><th>Bachelor's Degree</th><th>>Bachelor's</th></hs<>	HS	Some College	Associate's Degre	Bachelor's Degree	>Bachelor's
Vernon County	10.3%	37.8%	17.1%	11.9%	15.1%	7.8%
MRRPC	7.0%	32.7%	20.8%	12.6%	17.6%	9.2%
Wisconsin State	7.6%	30.2%	20.5%	11.1%	20.1%	10.6%
United States	11.8%	26.7%	20.3%	8.6%	20.0%	12.6%

Source: American Community Survey 2019 five-year estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau Data

⁵ Educational Attainment of the Population 25 Years and Over

ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Vernon's labor force promotes economic growth inside the region as well as in the state of Wisconsin through its direct contribution to income generated by work and the ripple effects that expenditures create. This is attained through the industries' interconnection in the regional economy (indirect effects) alongside the impact on household spending (induced effects). COVID-19 disrupted the regional economy in many different ways. One is the reduction of the labor force which will take a great deal of effort to return to pre-pandemic levels. The effects of COVID-19 on the region were measured via three scenarios described in the following section. Each of them will be presented via Type I and Type II Economic Effects. The loss of jobs between 2019-2020 were discounted by the typical rate of death, unemployment, and retirement previous to COVID-19 in order to get a more precise measure of economic effect of COVID on this particular region.

INPUT-OUTPUT MODEL: TYPE I & TYPE II ECONOMIC EFFECTS DESCRIPTION

An Input-Output model is a way of representing the flow of money in an economy, primarily among industries, while also accounting for government, households, and regional imports and exports. An industry is a group of business establishments that share similar end-products (or services) and processes for creating those products/services. Once the flow is represented in the model; we can introduce events that change the flow (such as loss or gain of jobs in one industry) and simulate its effects on each industry in the region, as well as the region as a whole. The Input-Output model therefore indicates how a change in one part of the economy will ultimately affect other parts based on their economic relationships.

When we talk about the Input-Output model, we sometimes hear the term "multiplier" used in discussions of economic policy and modeling, usually in the context of job creation or loss. Basically, a multiplier represents how much some aspect of a model will change in response to changes coming from "outside" the model. In other words, the multipliers capture the changes and will describe the effects of those changes in terms of the original change (final effect = original change times the multiplier).

In our particular case, we will talk about Type I and Type II multipliers.

<u>Type I multiplier</u> shows the industry-to-industry transactions. It is composed of Initial, Direct and Indirect Effects.

- Initial Effect: represents the first shock in the economy; in our case, it's the number of jobs that were lost during the pandemic in 2020, and therefore does not include ripple effects.
- *Direct Effect*: effects caused by the initially changed sectors; also describes the effects on those sectors' immediate supply chain.
- Indirect Effect extends the concept of the direct multipliers to the supply chain's supply chain.

Type II multiplier adds to the Type I by introducing the effects by households (Induced Effect).

• Induced Effect is due to the impact of the new earnings created by the Initial, Direct, and Indirect changes. These earnings enter the economy as employees spend their paychecks within the region on food, clothing, and other goods and services. In other words, this figure represents the income effects on inter-industry trade.

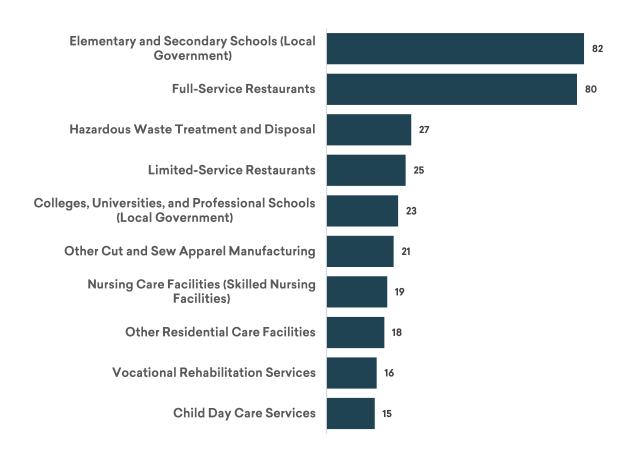
Another description for Type II: business/industry growth or decline that is going to affect the income of individuals and if the individuals spend it or not back in the economy, thus affecting the economy as a whole.

First Scenario:

The first scenario included all industries in which the number of jobs by industries in 2019 were larger than the number of jobs in 2020.

The total number of industries in this scenario were 162. Figure 06 displays the top 10 industries with the highest number of job losses.

Figure 06: Top 10 Industries for All Industries with the Highest Number of Job Losses during 2020



Source: Emsi Burning Glass 2021.3

In this scenario, the total number of lost jobs caused by the pandemic sum up to 707 jobs. Job losses shown by Figure 06 represent 46.4% of all jobs lost during 2020.

The total impact on Jobs, Earnings and Taxes on Production & Imports (TPI) by Type I and Type II effects are presented below.

The number of job losses during the pandemic increased to 801 for Type I and 872 for Type II economic effect. In other words, because of the initial 707 lost jobs, there are 94 that are full-time, part-time, and seasonal employee jobs in industries that are part of their supply chain (Type I effect) that were lost. Additionally, there are an additional 71 jobs that were lost because they were no longer supported by the 801 jobs already lost in the region (Type II effect).

The top 10 industries in Figure 06 showed a total effect of job loss by 16.1% compared to their initial effect with a total difference of -24 jobs for Type I and -53 Type II. (Table 02).

Table 02: Top 10 Industries All Industries Scenario Change in Jobs

Total Effects by Job Loss in 2019-20 due to COVID 19

162 Industries

Negatively Affected

707 Initial Job Loss

872Total Loss in Jobs*

\$37.3 million
Earning Loss*

\$5.9 million
Loss on TPI*

Industries Name	Initial Effect	Type I	Type II
Elementary and Secondary Schools (Local Government)	82	85	96
Full-Service Restaurants	80	84	87
Hazardous Waste Treatment and Disposal	27	32	35
Limited-Service Restaurants	25	28	30
Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools (Local Government)	23	23	25
Other Cut and Sew Apparel Manufacturing	21	23	26
Nursing Care Facilities (Skilled Nursing Facilities)	19	22	23
Other Residential Care Facilities	18	21	24
Vocational Rehabilitation Services	16	17	18
Child Day Care Services	15	16	17
OtherIndustries	379	449	491
All Industries	707	801	872

^{*} Total Type II Loss

In terms of Earnings loss, the total initial loss of earnings was \$37,310,753 where the total effect of Type I is 2.53 times higher and Type II 2.73 times increase over the initial effect. Table 03 shows an initial loss (Initial Effect) of \$8,058,911 and an economic impact of \$9,284,329 loss on Type I and \$10,015,223 on Type II effects, for the top 10 industries, which represents 24.3% of the total effects on Type I and Type II.

Table 03: Top 10 Industries All Industries Scenario Loss Earnings

Industries Name	Initial Effect	Type I	Type II
Fossil Fuel Electric Power Generation	\$1,735,697	\$2,083,584	\$2,312,470
Other Cut and Sew Apparel Manufacturing	\$1,276,194	\$1,372,430	\$1,470,274
General Freight Trucking, Long-Distance, Truckload	\$1,139,196	\$1,319,522	\$1,377,512
Special Die and Tool, Die Set, Jig, and Fixture Manufacturing	\$814,994	\$868,530	\$926,371
Farm Supplies Merchant Wholesalers	\$752,712	\$931,047	\$997,565
New Car Dealers	\$669,942	\$743,680	\$789,345
Soft Drink Manufacturing	\$606,606	\$725,222	\$777,347
All Other Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	\$386,907	\$415,513	\$445,620
Fertilizer (Mixing Only) Manufacturing	\$363,228	\$479,427	\$549,055
Showcase, Partition, Shelving, and Locker Manufacturing	\$313,436	\$345,374	\$369,663
Other Industries	\$5,627,859	\$25,306,930	\$27,295,530
All Industries	\$13,686,771	\$34,591,259	\$37,310,753

The loss on Taxes on Production and Imports (TPI) measures the change in local, state, and federal tax revenue through the increased or decreased industry sales, specifically general sales, and property taxes. It's important to note the change in tax revenue corresponds to the ripple effects and cannot be tied to a particular timeframe. Vernon county lost \$5,998,032 on TPI where 18% corresponds to Federal, 38% to State and 44% to Local Government taxes. The top 10 industries represent 64% of the total loss on TPI (Table 04).

Table 04: Top 10 Industries All Industries Scenario Loss on Taxes on Production & Imports

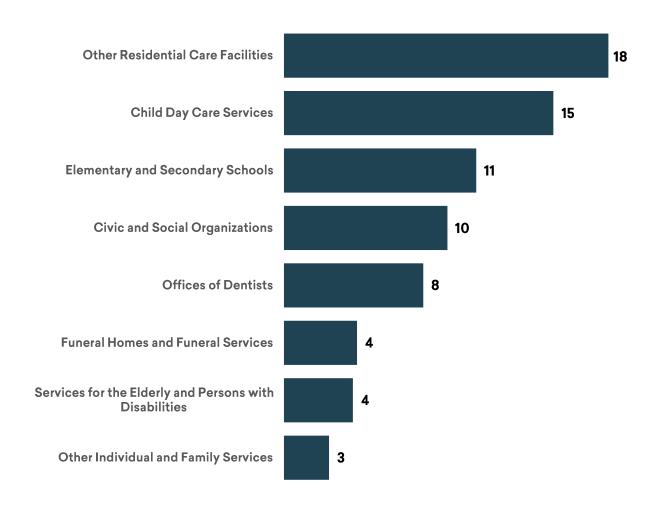
	Total Loss on Taxes on Production and	Federal	State	Local
Industries Name	Imports			
Fossil Fuel Electric Power Generation	\$1,835,857	\$322,640	\$700,909	\$812,309
Farm Supplies Merchant Wholesalers	\$519,820	\$71,341	\$204,312	\$244,167
New Car Dealers	\$281,335	\$35,087	\$111,607	\$134,641
Full-Service Restaurants	\$261,867	\$36,810	\$102,671	\$122,386
Hazardous Waste Treatment and Disposal	\$234,807	\$56,107	\$85,308	\$93,392
Fertilizer (Mixing Only) Manufacturing	\$173,259	\$65,137	\$56,007	\$52,115
Limited-Service Restaurants	\$156,992	\$22,383	\$61,460	\$73,149
Soybean and Other Oilseed Processing	\$152,899	\$21,444	\$59,997	\$71,458
Gasoline Stations with Convenience Stores	\$145,079	\$18,710	\$57,373	\$68,995
Petroleum and Petroleum Products Merchant Wholesalers (except Bulk Stations and Terminals)	\$124,894	\$13,603	\$50,123	\$61,168
Other Industries	\$2,111,222	\$394,701	\$799,131	\$917,390
All Industries	\$5,998,032	\$1,057,964	\$2,288,899	\$2,651,169

Second Scenario:

The second scenario groups industries which performed worse in terms of job loss, unemployment, and job postings, after having been compared at the national level. We selected the industries from two-digit NAICS code to six-digit NAICS code.

We called this set of industries the "Most Affected," relative to national levels. There were eight industries in the second scenario. Figure 07 displays the industries with number of job losses.

Figure 07: Most Affected Industries with the Highest Job Losses during 2020



Source: Emsi Burning Glass 2021.3

The number of total jobs lost for the 8 industries adds up to 74 jobs.

The number of job losses during the pandemic increased to 79 for Type I and to 85 Type II economic effects. In other words, because of the 74 losses in jobs, there were 5 full-time, part-time, and seasonal employee lost jobs in industries that are part of their supply chain (Type I effect). Additionally, there were an additional 11 jobs lost because they were no longer supported by 79 jobs already lost in the region (Type II effect).

Total Effects by Job Loss in 2019-20 due to COVID 19

8 Industries

Negatively Affected

74 Initial Job Loss

85Total Loss in Jobs*

\$3.4 million
Earning Loss*

\$152,732 Loss on TPI*

Table 05: Most Affected Industries Scenario
Change in Jobs

Industries Name	Initial Effect	Type I	Type II
Other Residential Care Facilities	18	21	24
Child Day Care Services	15	16	17
Elementary and Secondary Schools	11	11	12
Civic and Social Organizations	10	10	10
Offices of Dentists	8	9	10
Funeral Homes and Funeral Services	4	5	5
Services for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities	4	4	5
Other Individual and Family Services	3	3	3
All Industries	74	79	85

^{*} Total Type II Loss

In terms of earnings loss, Table 06 shows an initial loss of earnings of \$2,629,330 where the total effect of Type I is 21.4% higher and Type II 31.8% increase over the initial effect.

Table 06: Most Affected Industries Scenario Loss Earnings

Industries Name	Initial Effect	Type I	Type II
Other Residential Care Facilities	\$1,072,121	\$1,328,906	\$1,438,951
Offices of Dentists	\$449,036	\$545,191	\$598,908
Child Day Care Services	\$317,559	\$385,646	\$417,879
Funeral Homes and Funeral Services	\$246,821	\$285,832	\$310,644
Elementary and Secondary Schools	\$213,122	\$245,433	\$266,016
Civic and Social Organizations	\$146,008	\$182,958	\$197,700
Other Individual and Family Services	\$92,784	\$109,895	\$119,687
Services for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities	\$91,937	\$108,879	\$116,665
All Industries	\$2,629,390	\$3,192,740	\$3,466,450

Source: Multi-regional social account matrix model (MR-SAM). 2021.3, years 2019/2020.

As was mentioned before, the loss on taxes on production and imports (TPI) measured the change in local, state, and federal tax revenues through general sales and property taxes. The county lost \$152,732 on TPI where 17% corresponds to federal government, 38% to state and 44% to local governments (Table 07).

Table 07: Most Affected Industries Scenario Loss on Taxes on Production & Imports

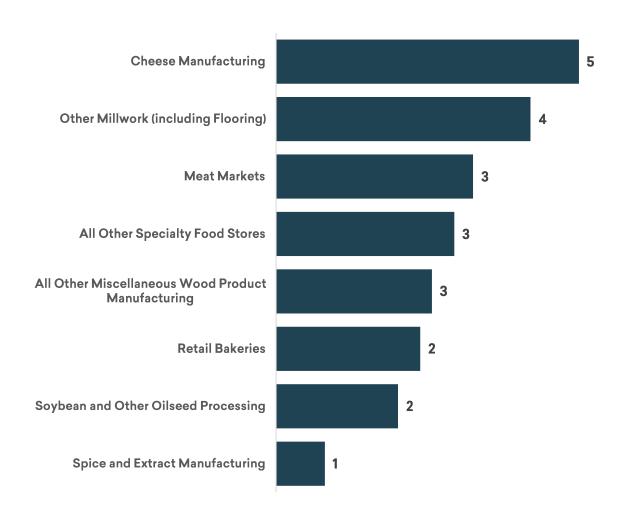
	Total Loss on Taxes on Production and	Federal	State	Local
Industries Name	Imports			
Other Residential Care Facilities	\$60,108	\$9,616	\$23,226	\$27,267
Funeral Homes and Funeral Services	\$43,218	\$6,806	\$16,731	\$19,681
Offices of Dentists	\$18,192	\$4,519	\$6,559	\$7,114
Child Day Care Services	\$12,773	\$2,331	\$4,851	\$5,591
Civic and Social Organizations	\$9,139	\$1,384	\$3,554	\$4,201
Elementary and Secondary Schools	\$5,282	\$851	\$2,039	\$2,392
Other Individual and Family Services	\$2,122	\$471	\$782	\$870
Services for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities	\$1,898	\$427	\$697	\$774
All Industries	\$152,732	\$26,404	\$58,439	\$67,889

Third Scenario:

For our third scenario, we look at industries that are the most relevant to the region. Some of the industries included are Cheese Manufacturing, Other Millwork (including Flooring), as well industries where the largest employers in the region are classified.

We called this set of industries the "Most Relevant." The total number of industries on this scenario were 8. Figure 08 displays the industries with their number of jobs lost.

Figure 08: Most Relevant Industries with Number of Job Loss during 2020



Source: Emsi Burning Glass 2021.3

In our third scenario, the total job loss for the 8 industries amount to 23 jobs during 2020.

The job losses increased to 32 for Type I and for 34 for Type II economic effects. In other words, because of the 23 losses on jobs there were 9 that were full-time, part-time, and seasonal employee jobs in industries that were part of their supply chain (Type I effect) that were lost. Additionally, there were 2 jobs lost because they were no longer supported by the 32 jobs already lost in the region (Type II effect).

Total Effects by Job Loss in 2019-20 due to COVID 19

8 Industries

Negatively Affected

23

Initial Job Loss

34

Total Loss in Jobs*

\$1.1 million

Earning Loss*

\$295,016

Loss on TPI*

Table 08: Most Relevant Industries Scenario Change in Jobs

Industries Name	Initial Effect	Type I	Type II
Cheese Manufacturing	5	11	12
Other Millwork (including Flooring)	4	5	6
Meat Markets	3	3	4
All Other Specialty Food Stores	3	3	3
All Other Miscellaneous Wood Product Manufacturing	3	3	3
Retail Bakeries	2	3	3
Soybean and Other Oilseed Processing	2	2	2
Spice and Extract Manufacturing	1	1	1
All Industries	23	32	34

^{*} Total Type II Loss

In terms of earnings loss, the initial loss was \$698,681 where the total effect of Type I was 54% higher and Type II increased 65% over the initial effect (Table 09).

Table 09: Most Relevant Industries Scenario Loss Earnings

Industries Name	Initial Effect	Type I	Type II
Cheese Manufacturing	\$266,712	\$530,874	\$570,774
Other Millwork (including Flooring)	\$127,576	\$180,824	\$194,843
All Other Miscellaneous Wood Product Manufacturing	\$104,946	\$132,793	\$142,927
All Other Specialty Food Stores	\$64,506	\$73,033	\$76,829
Meat Markets	\$62,050	\$70,287	\$74,473
Retail Bakeries	\$46,662	\$56,026	\$60,123
Spice and Extract Manufacturing	\$26,229	\$34,417	\$37,038
(*) Soybean and Other Oilseed Processing	\$0	\$0	\$0
All Industries	\$698,681	\$1,078,254	\$1,157,008

Source: Multi-regional social account matrix model (MR-SAM). 2021.3, years 2019/2020.

The loss on taxes in production and imports (TPI) measured the change in local, state, and federal tax revenue specifically through general sales, and property taxes, showing Vernon lost \$295,016 on TPI. 18.4% corresponded to federal government, 37.9% to state and 43.7% to local governments (Table 10).

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Table 10: Most Relevant Industries Scenario Loss on Taxes on Production & Imports

Total Loss on Taxes			
on Production and	Federal	State	Local
Imports			
\$152,899	\$21,444	\$59,997	\$71,458
\$75,688	\$18,618	\$27,343	\$29,728
\$18,899	\$2,526	\$7,448	\$8,925
\$18,564	\$2,474	\$7,318	\$8,772
\$13,953	\$4,340	\$4,775	\$4,838
\$9,069	\$3,026	\$3,044	\$2,999
\$3,275	\$1,136	\$1,086	\$1,052
\$2,668	\$638	\$969	\$1,061
\$295,016	\$54,202	\$111,980	\$128,834
	on Production and Imports \$152,899 \$75,688 \$18,899 \$18,564 \$13,953 \$9,069 \$3,275 \$2,668	on Production and Imports Federal \$152,899 \$21,444 \$75,688 \$18,618 \$18,899 \$2,526 \$18,564 \$2,474 \$13,953 \$4,340 \$9,069 \$3,026 \$3,275 \$1,136 \$2,668 \$638	on Production and Imports Federal State \$152,899 \$21,444 \$59,997 \$75,688 \$18,618 \$27,343 \$18,899 \$2,526 \$7,448 \$18,564 \$2,474 \$7,318 \$13,953 \$4,340 \$4,775 \$9,069 \$3,026 \$3,044 \$3,275 \$1,136 \$1,086 \$2,668 \$638 \$969

^(*) Soybean and Other Oilseed Processing industry lost 2 jobs in 2020, leaving 0 jobs remaining to measure the earnings economic impact in the region.



The results of this study demonstrate the perversive economic effects COVID-19 had on Vernon county in each of the output scenarios.

One of the most relevant results came from the total effect on TPI by job losses in all industries, where more than 46% is attributed to the 10 industries under the first scenario.

The results of this study demonstrate the profound effect of COVID-19 on Vernon county across **multiple scenarios**.

The job projections suggest a steady increase over time. Finally, the 707 initial lost jobs translated to close \$37.3 million in earnings lost and a \$5.9 million loss on TPI. This loss will affect the region deeply.

About the Study

Data and assumptions used in the study are based on several sources, including industry and employment data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau, outputs of Emsi Burning Glass' Multi-Regional Social Accounting Matrix model. The study applies a conservative methodology and follows standard practices using only the most recognized indicators of economic impact. For a better description of the data and approach used in the study, please review the Methodology document.