

## The Economic Footprint of Tobacco Use in Florida

There are approximately 4.5 million adult and youth users of tobacco products in Florida. While cigarette smoking represents the vast majority of products used, Floridians also smoke cigars and pipes, use smokeless products and use electronic vaping devices. The decision by these individuals to use and purchase tobacco products has an obvious effect on the economy, as does all consumer spending. But the use of tobacco, unlike the use of other types of products, also has far more reaching impacts when the health risks associated with it are taken into account. When these factors are added in, tobacco use has a large and undesirable impact on Florida economic activity.

In general terms, the economic footprint of tobacco in Florida is large and costly. The Florida economy would be healthier and more robust if tobacco was not used by residents in the state. Specifically, by the end of the forecast simulation analysis period:

- More than 614,000 additional jobs would exist
- Personal income would be \$362 billion higher
- Output would be \$140 billion higher
- Gross State Product would be \$77 billion higher
- Population would be more than 1 million people higher

These changes would occur as the strands of the tobacco value chain became unwoven through the state. Consumer spending would shift away from tobacco products to purchases that provide more value to the state economy in terms of investment and jobs. Most employer costs fall as tobacco induced health expenditures are eliminated. Workers would enjoy longer and more productive lives, which increases the purchases of goods and services within Florida. As a result of these changes, the forecasted trajectory of the Florida economy is altered in the positive as investment, jobs and migration patterns change.

Additionally, tobacco use also effects the wages that are earned by Florida workers. Analysis of survey data that includes smoking behaviors and income data reveals that smokers can expect to earn 15.2% less in wages than non-smokers and former smokers.

Lastly, data shows that by assisting 188,000 adults to quit smoking and preventing as many as an additional 57,000 teens aged 15 to 17 from using cigarettes, it is estimated that but for Tobacco Free Florida services, additional healthcare spending and productivity losses generated by tobacco users and those effected by secondhand smoke would exceed \$2.8 billion. TFF impacts citizens directly through disease prevention from tobacco use and health promotion, and indirectly impacts the community and local business by providing a more habitable and safe environment.

