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6 ways Amazon's investments are helping the U.S. economy, from contributing over $1 trillion to the GDP to creating jobs in small towns

Our 2024 economic impact report sheds light on how we're bringing good jobs and new opportunities to communities across America.

Written by Holly Sullivan, Vice President of Worldwide Economic Development at Amazon

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3 min read

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For over 30 years, we've been investing in communities across the country—creating jobs and building infrastructure to bring people products they need in record time. We work hard to make sure that our growth has a positive impact, and we're proud that it's helped empower our employees and lift up the communities where we operate.

I've spent 16 years working inside Amazon fulfillment centers. Here are some of the ways we support our employees.

Jane Tschanen is the director of U.S. employee experience for Amazon fulfillment centers, dedicated to enhancing employee satisfaction and well-being.

In fact, this year the Progressive Policy Institute ranked Amazon as its No.1 Investment Hero, meaning that Amazon invested more in the U.S. than any other American company. And while we're honored to top this year's list, we wanted to dive deeper into the data to find out exactly how our investments create jobs and improve economic outcomes for people and in communities across the country.

To do this, we worked with Keystone Strategy, a third-party economic consulting firm, as well as our internal economists here at Amazon. Here's what they found:

1. Our investments have contributed over $1 trillion to the U.S. GDP since 2010

And last year, we directly invested over $244 billion in the U.S., including compensation to our employees and the development of our infrastructure. Keystone Strategy estimates that since 2010, our investments have contributed

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more than **$1 trillion to the U.S. GDP**, meaning that for every $1 Amazon has invested in the U.S., an additional $1.20 is contributed to the U.S. economy.

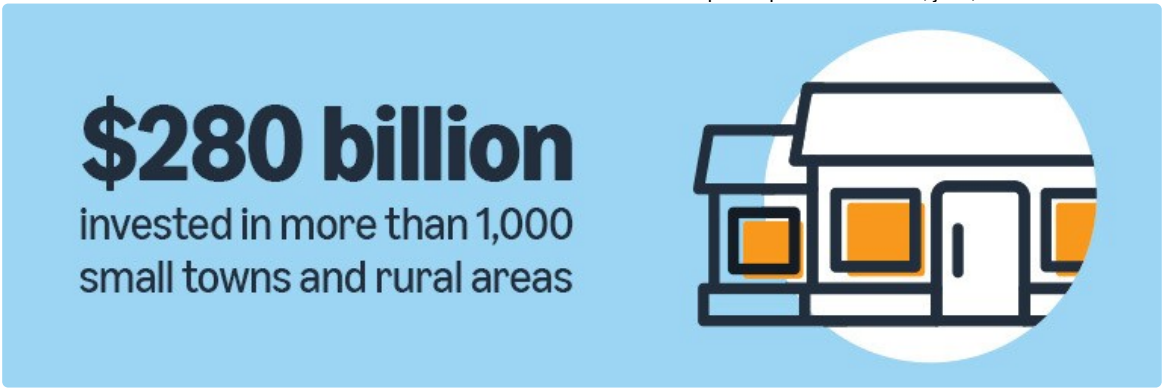
2. We support almost 5 million jobs across the country through both the people we hire and our investment in communities

When we open a new delivery station, data center, or corporate office, we're not only bringing jobs at Amazon to the community, but helping to power the economies of big cities, small towns, and rural areas. Last year alone, our investments supported over 2 million U.S. jobs in fields like construction, retail, health care, hospitality, and professional services. On top of that, our marketplace creates opportunities for small and medium-sized businesses, and they in turn create more jobs, enabling independent sellers to employ more than 1.8 million people in the U.S. in 2023. And today, more than 60% of sales in our store come from independent sellers, most of which are small and medium-sized businesses.

I built a successful online spice business thanks to Fulfillment by Amazon. These are my top 4 learnings and tips for other sellers.

With Fulfillment by Amazon, Sylvia Kapsandoy has been able to focus on innovating and growing her spice brand USimplySeason.

3. We've invested over $280 billion in more than 1,000 small towns and rural areas across the U.S.



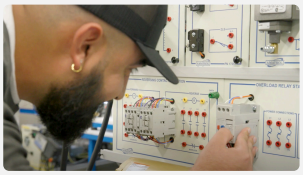
As we build our operations footprint to ensure we can deliver faster and more sustainably for our customers, we have the opportunity to create more jobs outside of big cities or centralized logistics hubs. In fact, over 40% of the 1 million people who work for Amazon in the U.S. are located in small towns across the country. Additionally, independent sellers in rural areas collectively achieved more than 60% year-over-year growth in Amazon's store.

4. Communities that have investments from Amazon see an increase in median household income

When Amazon invests, we've found that it's not only our direct employees who see the benefit, but the community as a whole. Our economists looked at counties that have Amazon fulfillment centers and compared them to similar counties without investments from the company. On average, a typical mid-sized county that received Amazon's investment had 4,400 more new jobs than one that did not. Additionally, the median household income in counties where Amazon invested increased by up to 2.2%—or $1,350 per household per year—as compared to counties without Amazon investments.

5. Our hourly associates tell us their pay at Amazon is an average of 7% higher than where they worked before

We surveyed our employees and examined industry wages using data from a large national payroll provider and found that new operations employees' compensation at Amazon is 7% higher than their previous industry average. And we continue to invest in our employees, including $2.2 billion to bring our average hourly base wage for our fulfillment and transportation employees to over $22 per hour, and more than $29 per hour when you include the value of their elected benefits. This is on top of other great benefits, most of which are available on the first day of employment, including health care, 401(k) access, and upskilling opportunities like prepaid college tuition for our hourly employees.



Thousands of Amazon employees are landing higher-paying jobs through Career Choice. Here's how.

Skills-based programs offered through Career Choice are designed to provide Amazon employees with a unique path to a new career in high-demand industries.

6. We've committed over $1.2 billion on education, upskilling, and prepaid tuition to support our hourly employees' career goals

Upskilling programs help employees gain in-demand skill sets and propel them into new careers. Our company-funded training programs support Amazon employees as they learn critical skills to move into in-demand, higher-paying technical or non-technical roles within Amazon and beyond. From our Machine Learning University to our Career Choice program, which prepays tuition at hundreds of education partners across the country, we're making meaningful investments to open new career and economic opportunities for our employees.

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