

Economic Impacts of Supermarkets and other Healthy Food Retail

(from <http://www.healthyfoodaccess.org/get-started/making-case>)

Healthy food retail improves the economic health and well-being of communities and can help revitalize struggling business districts. Healthy food retail businesses including grocery stores and supermarkets serve as economic anchors in a community—supplying local jobs; creating foot traffic; and attracting complementary stores and services like banks, pharmacies, and restaurants. Smaller food retailers and farmers' markets can also bolster the local economy and contribute to a healthy neighborhood business environment. In addition to providing jobs, healthy food retail also increases or stabilizes home values in nearby neighborhoods, generates local tax revenues, provides workforce training and development, and promotes additional spending in the local economy generated by the store and the new jobs it creates (the “multiplier effect”).

Healthy Food Retail Creates Jobs

- Typical urban stores range from 17,000 to 65,000 square feet. A large, full-service supermarket employs **150 to 200 full- and part-time employees** and has weekly sales of \$200,000 to \$300,000.
- From 2004 to 2010, the **Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative (FFFI)** approved funding for 88 fresh food retail projects and created or retained more than 5,000 jobs—while improving access to healthy food for more than 400,000 residents.

Healthy Food Retail Increases Nearby Property Values

- A study by The Reinvestment Fund demonstrates that subsequent to a supermarket opening, housing values saw an immediate boost ranging from **4 to 7 percent**. In low-income communities, the opening of a supermarket also appears to largely mitigate any previously downward trend in local property values.

Healthy Food Retail Brings Federal Dollars to the Local Economy

- Grocery stores, corner stores, and farmers' markets that accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) benefits bring **federal dollars into communities** and produce specific economic benefits for stores and broader economic stimulus across states, regions, and the nation.