



**For Immediate Release**

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**New Economic Impact Study Shows U.S. Meat and Poultry Industry Represents \$1.02 Trillion in Total Economic Output**

Washington, DC, June 14, 2016 – The U.S. meat and poultry industry accounts for \$1.02 trillion in total economic output or 5.6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), according to a new economic impact analysis conducted by John Dunham & Associates for the North American Meat Institute (NAMI).

The meat and poultry industry is responsible for 5.4 million jobs and \$257 billion in wages, the report found. An estimated 527,019 people have jobs in production and packing, importing operations, sales, packaging and direct distribution of meat and poultry products. Wholesaling directly employs an estimated 232,418 individuals in all 50 states, and 1.11 million employees' retail jobs depend on the sale of meat and poultry products to the public. All totaled, the meat and poultry industry (packers, processors, wholesalers and retailers) directly employs 1.9 million people, paying \$71.63 billion in wages and benefits.

In addition, approximately two million full-time equivalent jobs are created in firms that supply goods and services to the meat and poultry industry. This includes people working in industries as broad as real estate services, trucking and container manufacturing. An additional 1.57 million people have jobs throughout the economy that depend on the re-spending of wages by meat and poultry, as well as supplier industry employees. These are real people with real jobs ranging from restaurant workers to automobile mechanics, to bakers and refrigerator manufacturers.

Dunham's analysis is featured on the web site [www.MeatFuelsAmerica.com](http://www.MeatFuelsAmerica.com), which enables users to view the summary of findings presented nationally, on a state by state basis, or on a Congressional district by district basis. The site also showcases the top ten states in terms of direct output and total output, as well as the top 25 Congressional districts in terms of direct output and total output.

“The companies and the people that produce, process, distribute and sell nutritious meat and poultry products are an essential part of the U.S. economy,” said Meat Institute President and CEO Barry Carpenter. “We are proud that we provide millions of quality jobs in every state and every sector of the U.S. economy and that these jobs ensure people in North America and around the world have access to our high quality, nutritious and affordable products.”

In addition to the direct economic impact, the study also captures the economic impact of suppliers to the industry and the total induced impact, or multiplier effect, on the economy of spending by employees of the direct industry and supplier firms.

“While meat and poultry plants are not found in every city in America, our products have a large presence and create millions of jobs and economic impact nationwide,” said Brian Coehlo, NAMI chairman and president of Central Valley Meat in Hanford, California. “I’m proud that my company’s economic impact helps put California’s 21<sup>st</sup> Congressional district on the top 25 list of districts with the biggest meat and poultry industry-generated economic impact.”

Importantly, the analysis also calculates the industry’s contribution to the public finances of communities. Not only does the meat and poultry industry create jobs, it also generates sizeable tax revenues in two forms. Traditional direct taxes paid by firms and their employees provide over \$108.42 billion in revenues to the federal, state and local governments. In addition, meat and poultry consumption generates \$3.26 billion in state sales taxes.

“The taxes paid by the meat and poultry industry and its employees contribute to national defense, schools, health care, roads, veterans benefits and even the government regulation of our own industry – which is the most heavily regulated and inspected industry in America,” Carpenter added.

The economic impact study was conducted by John Dunham & Associates based in New York City and uses data from 2014. The study, including state-by-state and congressional district breakdowns and a methodology report, can be found at <http://www.meatfuelsamerica.com/>.