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**The New York Times**



Thomas Patterson Emerald

Each of the average 16,000 out-of-town Duck fans attending every football game at Autzen Stadium spends an average \$145 per day in the Eugene-Springfield area.

## Booster

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like if they were not here."

Hauser said that with an average of six to eight home games per year, Oregon football is the biggest sporting event in town. Other sporting events, he said, such as the Prefontaine Classic, come close, "but not in the order of the magnitude of football."

Last year, Duck fans set an Autzen Stadium attendance record with an average of 45,093 fans per game. At least 16,000 of those fans are out-of-town visitors, according to a study prepared by the Convention and Visitors Association of Lane County and the University Athletic Department.

"It's like having a convention with 16,000 visitors, six to eight times a year," Hauser said.

The study said each visiting fan spends an average of \$145 per day, which works out to about \$2.3 million a game. These dollars are spread out among restaurants, ho-

tels and retail outlets.

"The typical visiting fan eats a lot of meals at restaurants, lots of stays in local hotels and lots of gas purchases," Hauser said.

However, some establishments say the money brought in from games is not enough to offset the loss of revenue from the sluggish economy and the impact of Eugene's smoking ban.

"As of late, (football Saturdays) are not bad, but they are not great, either," said Deanna George, general manager of the Old Pad.

"I know these people, and we're still having some hard times, and some of the people are not coming because they can't smoke," she said.

But the overall economic impact of football fans is still positive. Fans who stay the night in local hotels in the Eugene-Springfield area are subject to a 9.5 percent room tax, which spreads the money out even more.

Emerald higher education editor John Liebhardt can be reached at johnliebhardt@dailyemerald.com.

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