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Impact Report for United States of America



Financial Market Chapter



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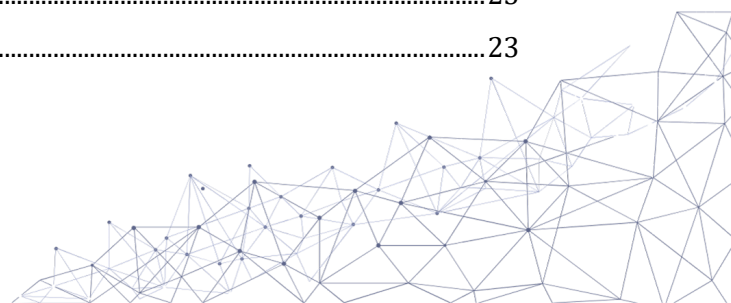
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Introduction

Understanding the societal impact of public policy in economic sectors is vital for fostering growth while achieving transition and other policy goals. To this end, the present report offers key insights into the performance of specific sectors.

This document presents impact statements for United States of America's NACE sectors.¹ The tables show the *direct impact* of companies' own operations as well as the *upstream impact* along their supply chains.² Positive or negative impact values are quantified in monetary terms and divided by each sector's macroeconomic output. These '*Impact Intensities*' (expressed in EUR of impact per EUR of output) enable comparability across countries, sectors, and companies. The output part of the formula is based on a macroeconomic assessment and reflects the overall sector turnover volume.

Impact Intensities are provided for each impact driver across four stages of the value chain: own operations, upstream tier 1, upstream tier 2, and upstream tier 3 to n.³ Results are shown for specific countries—Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Türkiye, the UK, and the USA—as well as a global average.

The tables provide a foundation for 'Type 4' sector-based benchmarks;⁴ companies can compare their reported or estimated impact with the table values. To ensure consistency, a company's impact must be monetized using the same value factor and scaled relative to revenue. In this way, company-specific Impact Intensity can be compared within the sector and across multiple sectors.

The comparison spans value chain stages within a company's control (own operations) and beyond (upstream). Impact Intensities are depicted for each upstream stage in the global supply chain, viewed from the perspective of the respective country. These stages are presented in tiers, enabling comparison with a company's global upstream supply chain. Note that these upstream impacts may not necessarily be located in the same country.

The values are modeled using input-output modeling, as outlined in the System of National Accounts.⁵ WifOR compiles the hybrid multi-regional model based on WIOD, EORA, and

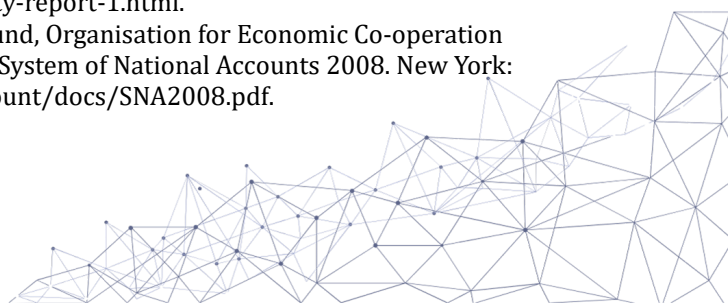
¹ Eurostat, NACE Rev. 2. Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/5902521/KS-RA-07-015-EN.pdf>.

² VBA, VBA Impact Statement, 11.2024, https://www.value-balancing.com/_Resources/Persistent/6/b/e/c/6bec726b5e28d5f75e2e5f153db845a3bbb93f2e/VBA_Impact%20Statement_Final.pdf.

³ Tiers represent different levels of suppliers in the supply chain, where 'tier 1' refers to direct suppliers, 'tier 2' to the suppliers of those direct suppliers, and 'tier 3 to n' to all subsequent levels.

⁴ VBA et al., Valuing Impact Materiality 2025, 2025, <https://www.value-balancing.com/en/publications/valuing-impact-materiality-report-1.html>.

⁵ European Commission, International Monetary Fund, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, United Nations, and World Bank. 2009. System of National Accounts 2008. New York: United Nations. <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/docs/SNA2008.pdf>.



EXIOBASE,⁶ enhanced by estimates based on *satellite accounts*, as outlined in the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting.⁷ The modeled effects are then multiplied by publicly available context-specific value factors⁸ to capture their societal impact.⁹

The tables are complemented by bar charts showing each impact driver's effect (in EUR per EUR output) in all the four value chain stages.

Responsibility of States

States have a primary duty to protect human rights and fundamental rights under international law, in accordance with the primacy principle. This obligation extends to preventing human rights abuses by third parties (including businesses) within their jurisdiction. This duty is grounded in legal obligations and reinforced by policy rationales that ensure consistency in enforcement.

Responsibility of Business

Businesses, by contrast, have a responsibility (rather than a duty) to respect human rights. Their role is supportive of state obligations but remains distinct. While international law has yet to fully define the extent of corporate human rights responsibilities, the UNGPs establish that businesses, at minimum, must prevent and address human rights harms linked to their operations. Beyond compliance with legal obligations, involvement in adverse human rights impacts must be prevented or remedied. Human rights due diligence is required for this purpose; this due diligence process includes assessing risks, integrating findings into corporate decision-making, and mitigating or remedying any adverse impacts.

Interplay

The interplay between *state obligations* and *business responsibilities* reflects a layered system of accountability: While states bear legal obligations to regulate corporate behavior, businesses have a practical responsibility to prevent harm. These responsibilities arise in different forms—whether they cause, contribute to, or are linked to human rights abuses. The nature of corporate involvement in human rights impacts determines their level of responsibility, with leverage and mitigation playing a critical role in addressing violations. Thus, while business responsibilities complement state obligations, they remain distinct and non-parallel, ensuring a balanced but clear accountability framework.

⁶ Scholz, Richard; Dorndorf, Tabea; Tesch, Jasmin; Köster, Robert; Croner, Daniel; Kalamov, Zarko; Setzer, Jana. 2025. Impact measurement using WifOR's sustainability footprint method. Methodological report. Version February 2025. WifOR Institute.

⁷ United Nations, ed. 2014. *System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012: Central Framework*. New York, NY: United Nations.

⁸ WifOR, Value Factors, <https://www.wifor.com/en/value-factors/#:~:text=Value%20factors%20convert%20physical%20units,dimensions%20and%20with%20financial%20indicators>

⁹ Scholz, Richard; Albu, Nora; Croner, Daniel; Kalamov, Zarko; Mai, Lukas; Forin, Silvia; Tesch, Jasmin; Dorndorf, Tabea; Setzer, Jana. 2025. WifOR Impact Valuation. Methodological Report. Version February 2025. WifOR Institute.

Accountability

While global businesses in the main complement state efforts and uphold responsible practices, international law establishes the primacy of state responsibility. States must create robust legal frameworks to hold businesses accountable, while companies must conduct human rights due diligence to prevent, mitigate, and remediate adverse impacts. Together, these obligations form a layered system, where corporate responsibility reinforces (rather than replaces) state duties to address human rights risks. Impact accounting helps states and businesses alike understand their respective responsibilities in the context of human rights and broader social, environmental, and economic impacts. While companies must assess their roles within supply chains and address potential harms, it is the states that bear the primary responsibility to tackle these issues and implement policies that prevent extensive negative impacts. Regulatory frameworks should go beyond preventing harm. They should empower businesses to generate positive impacts throughout the value chain. Neither states nor businesses may evade their responsibilities. States cannot plead powerlessness given that international treaties and criminal law extend their reach beyond national boundaries. By the same token, businesses cannot excuse harmful actions by pointing to weak state enforcement of human rights protections.

Benchmarks

This document explores the impacts of America's economy, focusing on direct and upstream supply chain impacts on the economic, environmental, and social domains. The analysis is based on the NACE classification of economic activities. Positive and negative impact values are quantified in monetary terms per unit of macroeconomic output (hereinafter "*Impact Intensities*"). The tables display these Impact Intensities in EUR per EUR output for each impact driver across five stages of the sector's value chain: own operations, upstream tier 1, upstream tier 2, and upstream tier 3 to n. The output data is derived from a macroeconomic assessment and reflects the turnover of each sector.

Intensities

The tables help identify the domestic economic sectors with the largest impacts across the country-specific value chain serving the American economy. By providing maximum transparency on where significant impacts occur throughout the value chain stages, our analysis enables policymakers and regulators to more effectively manage the impacts. It supports the crafting of regulatory frameworks to mitigate negative and enhance positive impacts.



Sector Intensity Benchmarks

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (A)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.18	-0.04	-0.01	-0.01	-0.24
Fair Wages	-0.01	-0.26	-0.1	-0.08	-0.45
GHG	-0.13	-0.04	-0.02	-0.02	-0.21
GVA	0.44	0.26	0.15	0.15	0.99
Human Rights	-0.00	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Invasive Species	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Land Use	-0.79	-0.32	-0.09	-0.04	-1.23
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.01	-0.04	-0.01	-0.01	-0.08
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02
Waste	-0.02	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.03
Water	-0.9	-0.51	-0.19	-0.12	-1.71

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United States of America - Agriculture, forestry and fishing (NACE Code A), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing sector in the United States reveals significant negative impacts across various categories, particularly in Land Use and Water, which have the highest negative impact intensities of -1.232216 and -1.714919, respectively. In contrast, the Fair Wages category also shows a substantial negative impact intensity of -0.447049, indicating issues related to labor compensation within the sector. Overall, the data suggests that environmental and social impacts are prevalent, with a notable emphasis on resource depletion and labor practices, overshadowing any potential positive contributions from training and ocean plastic initiatives.



Mining and Quarrying (B)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.02
Fair Wages	0.00	-0.04	-0.02	-0.02	-0.08
GHG	-0.11	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.14
GVA	0.68	0.17	0.07	0.07	0.99
Human Rights	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Invasive Species	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Land Use	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.00	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.04
Waste	-0.03	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.04
Water	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United States of America - Mining and quarrying (NACE Code B), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Mining and Quarrying sector in the United States indicates a mix of negative and positive impacts, with significant negative intensities observed in GHG emissions (-0.140053) and Waste (-0.038358), highlighting environmental concerns associated with mining activities. Fair Wages also presents a notable negative impact intensity of -0.075913, suggesting issues related to labor compensation in the sector. Conversely, the Training category shows a positive impact intensity of 0.040504, indicating some investment in workforce development, although it is overshadowed by the more substantial negative impacts in other areas.



Manufacturing (C)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.05
Fair Wages	0.01	-0.1	-0.05	-0.08	-0.22
GHG	-0.02	-0.04	-0.02	-0.02	-0.1
GVA	0.32	0.33	0.16	0.17	0.98
Human Rights	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Invasive Species	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Land Use	0.00	-0.04	-0.02	-0.02	-0.08
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.04
Ocean Plastic	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.02
Training	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.05
Waste	-0.00	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.02
Water	-0.00	-0.05	-0.03	-0.03	-0.12

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United States of America - Manufacturing (NACE Code C), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Manufacturing sector in the United States reveals significant negative impacts, particularly in Fair Wages, which has the highest negative intensity of -0.224435, indicating serious concerns regarding labor compensation practices. Environmental impacts are also prominent, with GHG emissions and Water showing negative intensities of -0.099537 and -0.118493, respectively, reflecting the sector's contribution to pollution and resource depletion. Despite these negative impacts, the Training category demonstrates a positive impact intensity of 0.049362, suggesting some commitment to workforce development amidst the broader challenges faced by the sector.



Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply (D)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.11	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.12
Fair Wages	0.00	-0.04	-0.02	-0.02	-0.08
GHG	-0.38	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.41
GVA	0.67	0.18	0.08	0.06	0.99
Human Rights	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Invasive Species	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Land Use	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.00	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03
Waste	-0.01	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.02
Water	-0.02	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.03

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United States of America - Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (NACE Code D), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Electricity, Gas, Steam, and Air Conditioning Supply sector in the United States highlights significant negative impacts, particularly in GHG emissions, which have the highest negative intensity of -0.412331, indicating a substantial contribution to climate change. Additionally, the Air Emission category shows a notable negative impact intensity of -0.119794, reflecting the sector's role in air pollution. While there are some positive contributions in the Training category with an intensity of 0.030278, these are overshadowed by the more severe negative impacts related to environmental and labor issues.



Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities

(E)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.03	-0.01	-0.00	-0.01	-0.05
Fair Wages	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.05	-0.09
GHG	-0.66	-0.05	-0.01	-0.01	-0.74
GVA	0.5	0.25	0.12	0.12	0.99
Human Rights	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Invasive Species	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Land Use	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.01	-0.01	-0.00	-0.01	-0.02
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.08	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.1
Waste	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Water	-0.00	-0.01	-0.00	-0.01	-0.02

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United States of America - Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (NACE Code E), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Water Supply; Sewerage; Waste Management and Remediation Activities sector in the United States indicates significant negative impacts, particularly in GHG emissions, which have the highest negative intensity of -0.741872, underscoring the sector's substantial contribution to climate change. Additionally, the Fair Wages category shows a notable negative impact intensity of -0.090956, reflecting concerns regarding labor compensation practices within the sector. While the Training category presents a positive impact intensity of 0.104554, suggesting some investment in workforce development, it is largely overshadowed by the more severe negative impacts related to environmental and social issues.



Construction (F)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02
Fair Wages	0.01	-0.01	-0.03	-0.05	-0.07
GHG	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.06
GVA	0.55	0.21	0.12	0.11	0.99
Human Rights	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Invasive Species	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Land Use	0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.02
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Training	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.04
Waste	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Water	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.02

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United States of America - Construction (NACE Code F), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Construction sector in the United States reveals several negative impacts, particularly in Fair Wages, which has a significant negative intensity of -0.072375, indicating concerns regarding labor compensation in the industry. Environmental impacts are also notable, with Land Use and Water showing negative intensities of -0.020910 and -0.016168, respectively, reflecting the sector's contribution to resource depletion and environmental degradation. While the Training category demonstrates a positive impact intensity of 0.037224, suggesting some investment in workforce development, it is overshadowed by the more substantial negative impacts related to labor and environmental issues.



Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles (G)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Fair Wages	0.01	0.00	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01
GHG	-0.01	-0.01	-0.00	-0.01	-0.03
GVA	0.65	0.2	0.08	0.07	1.0
Human Rights	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Invasive Species	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Land Use	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03
Waste	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Water	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United States of America - Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (NACE Code G), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles sector in the United States shows notable negative impacts, particularly in GHG emissions, which have a significant negative intensity of -0.025635, indicating the sector's contribution to climate change. Additionally, Fair Wages presents a negative impact intensity of -0.012813, reflecting challenges related to labor compensation within the industry. While the Training category demonstrates a positive impact intensity of 0.027440, suggesting some investment in workforce development, it is largely overshadowed by the more substantial negative impacts associated with environmental and labor issues.



Transportation and Storage (H)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.03	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.04
Fair Wages	0.00	-0.00	-0.04	-0.04	-0.08
GHG	-0.09	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01	-0.13
GVA	0.47	0.25	0.16	0.12	0.99
Human Rights	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Invasive Species	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Land Use	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.01	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.04
Waste	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Water	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United States of America - Transportation and storage (NACE Code H), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Transportation and Storage sector in the United States highlights significant negative impacts, particularly in GHG emissions, which have a high negative intensity of -0.132589, indicating a substantial contribution to climate change from this sector. Additionally, the Air Emission category shows a negative impact intensity of -0.040393, reflecting concerns regarding air pollution associated with transportation activities. While the Training category presents a positive impact intensity of 0.041033, suggesting some investment in workforce development, it is overshadowed by the more severe negative impacts related to environmental and labor issues.



Accommodation and Food Service Activities (I)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02
Fair Wages	0.01	-0.01	-0.03	-0.04	-0.07
GHG	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.05
GVA	0.55	0.23	0.11	0.11	1.0
Human Rights	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Invasive Species	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Land Use	0.00	-0.02	-0.03	-0.02	-0.07
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.02
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03
Waste	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Water	0.00	-0.00	-0.04	-0.04	-0.08

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United States of America - Accommodation and food service activities (NACE Code I), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Accommodation and Food Service Activities sector in the United States reveals significant negative impacts, particularly in Land Use, which has a high negative intensity of -0.074263, indicating substantial environmental concerns associated with land consumption. Additionally, the Fair Wages category shows a notable negative impact intensity of -0.069125, reflecting issues related to labor compensation within the sector. While the Training category demonstrates a positive impact intensity of 0.028038, suggesting some investment in workforce development, it is largely overshadowed by the more severe negative impacts related to environmental and labor issues.



Information and Communication (J)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Fair Wages	0.01	-0.00	-0.01	-0.03	-0.02
GHG	-0.01	-0.01	-0.00	-0.01	-0.03
GVA	0.58	0.24	0.09	0.08	0.99
Human Rights	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Invasive Species	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Land Use	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.06
Waste	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Water	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United States of America - Information and communication (NACE Code J), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Information and Communication sector in the United States indicates several notable negative impacts, particularly in GHG emissions, which have a significant negative intensity of -0.025417, highlighting the sector's contribution to climate change. Additionally, the Fair Wages category shows a negative impact intensity of -0.023977, reflecting concerns regarding labor compensation practices within the industry. While the Training category demonstrates a positive impact intensity of 0.060413, suggesting some investment in workforce development, it is largely overshadowed by the more substantial negative impacts related to environmental and labor issues.



Financial and Insurance Activities (K)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Fair Wages	0.01	0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.00
GHG	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
GVA	0.55	0.25	0.11	0.09	1.0
Human Rights	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Invasive Species	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Land Use	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.07
Waste	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Water	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United States of America - Financial and insurance activities (NACE Code K), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Financial and Insurance Activities sector in the United States shows several notable negative impacts, particularly in GHG emissions, which have a significant negative intensity of -0.013116, indicating the sector's contribution to climate change. Additionally, the Fair Wages category presents a negative impact intensity of -0.004719, reflecting concerns regarding labor compensation practices within the industry. While the Training category demonstrates a positive impact intensity of 0.073340, suggesting some investment in workforce development, it is overshadowed by the more substantial negative impacts related to environmental and labor issues.



Real Estate Activities (L)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Fair Wages	0.00	0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01
GHG	-0.00	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.02
GVA	0.74	0.16	0.05	0.04	1.0
Human Rights	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Invasive Species	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Land Use	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.04
Waste	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Water	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United States of America - Real estate activities (NACE Code L), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Real Estate Activities sector in the United States reveals several significant negative impacts, particularly in GHG emissions, which have a notable negative intensity of -0.019242, indicating the sector's contribution to climate change. Additionally, the Fair Wages category shows a negative impact intensity of -0.010890, reflecting issues related to labor compensation practices within the industry. While the Training category demonstrates a positive impact intensity of 0.037312, suggesting some investment in workforce development, it is overshadowed by the more substantial negative impacts related to environmental and labor issues.



Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities (M)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Fair Wages	0.03	-0.00	-0.01	-0.02	-0.00
GHG	-0.01	-0.01	-0.00	-0.01	-0.02
GVA	0.6	0.23	0.09	0.08	1.0
Human Rights	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Invasive Species	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Land Use	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.04
Waste	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Water	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United States of America - Professional, scientific and technical activities (NACE Code M), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Activities sector in the United States indicates several significant negative impacts, particularly in GHG emissions, which have a notable negative intensity of -0.024026, highlighting the sector's contribution to climate change. Additionally, the Fair Wages category shows a negative impact intensity of -0.001954, reflecting concerns regarding labor compensation practices within the industry. While the Training category demonstrates a positive impact intensity of 0.040786, suggesting some investment in workforce development, it is overshadowed by the more substantial negative impacts related to environmental and labor issues.



Administrative and Support Service Activities (N)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Fair Wages	0.02	-0.00	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01
GHG	-0.01	-0.01	-0.00	-0.01	-0.02
GVA	0.62	0.22	0.09	0.07	1.0
Human Rights	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Invasive Species	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Land Use	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03
Waste	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Water	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United States of America - Administrative and support service activities (NACE Code N), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Administrative and Support Service Activities sector in the United States reveals several significant negative impacts, particularly in GHG emissions, which have a notable negative intensity of -0.023929, indicating the sector's contribution to climate change. Additionally, the Fair Wages category shows a negative impact intensity of -0.006082, reflecting concerns regarding labor compensation practices within the industry. While the Training category demonstrates a positive impact intensity of 0.025132, suggesting some investment in workforce development, it is overshadowed by the more substantial negative impacts related to environmental and labor issues.



Public Administration and Defense; Compulsory Social Security (O)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Fair Wages	0.03	-0.00	-0.02	-0.03	-0.01
GHG	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.04
GVA	0.66	0.17	0.09	0.08	0.99
Human Rights	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Invasive Species	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Land Use	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.02
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.04
Waste	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Water	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United States of America - Public administration and defense; compulsory social security (NACE Code O), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Public Administration and Defense; Compulsory Social Security sector in the United States shows significant negative impacts, particularly in GHG emissions, which have a high negative intensity of -0.038345, indicating a substantial contribution to climate change. Additionally, the Fair Wages category presents a negative impact intensity of -0.013208, reflecting concerns regarding labor compensation practices within this sector. While the Training category demonstrates a positive impact intensity of 0.038702, suggesting some investment in workforce development, it is overshadowed by the more severe negative impacts related to environmental and labor issues.



Education (P)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Fair Wages	0.05	-0.00	-0.01	-0.03	0.01
GHG	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.04
GVA	0.6	0.23	0.09	0.08	1.0
Human Rights	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Invasive Species	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Land Use	0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.02
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.04
Waste	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Water	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.02	-0.04

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United States of America - Education (NACE Code P), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Education sector in the United States reveals several significant negative impacts, particularly in GHG emissions, which have a high negative intensity of -0.040059, indicating a considerable contribution to climate change. Additionally, the Land Use category shows a notable negative impact intensity of -0.020453, reflecting environmental concerns related to land consumption within the sector. While the Training category demonstrates a positive impact intensity of 0.037088, suggesting some investment in workforce development, it is largely overshadowed by the more substantial negative impacts associated with environmental and labor issues.



Human Health and Social Work Activities (Q)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Fair Wages	0.03	-0.00	-0.01	-0.03	-0.01
GHG	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.03
GVA	0.59	0.23	0.09	0.08	1.0
Human Rights	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Invasive Species	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Land Use	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.02
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.04
Waste	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Water	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United States of America - Human health and social work activities (NACE Code Q), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Human Health and Social Work Activities sector in the United States indicates several notable negative impacts, particularly in GHG emissions, which have a significant negative intensity of -0.028113, highlighting the sector's contribution to climate change. Additionally, the Fair Wages category shows a negative impact intensity of -0.005971, reflecting concerns regarding labor compensation practices within the industry. While the Training category demonstrates a positive impact intensity of 0.040644, suggesting some investment in workforce development, it is overshadowed by the more substantial negative impacts related to environmental and labor issues.



Arts, Entertainment and Recreation and Other Services and Activities (R&S)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Fair Wages	0.03	-0.00	-0.01	-0.03	-0.01
GHG	-0.04	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.07
GVA	0.59	0.23	0.09	0.08	1.0
Human Rights	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Invasive Species	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Land Use	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.05
Waste	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Water	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.02

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United States of America - Arts, entertainment and recreation and other services and activities (NACE Code R&S), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Arts, Entertainment and Recreation; Other Services sector in the United States reveals significant negative impacts, particularly in GHG emissions, which have a high negative intensity of -0.070222, indicating a considerable contribution to climate change. Additionally, the Air Emission category shows a negative impact intensity of -0.012135, reflecting concerns regarding air pollution associated with activities in this sector. While the Training category demonstrates a positive impact intensity of 0.046602, suggesting some investment in workforce development, it is overshadowed by the more substantial negative impacts related to environmental and labor issues.

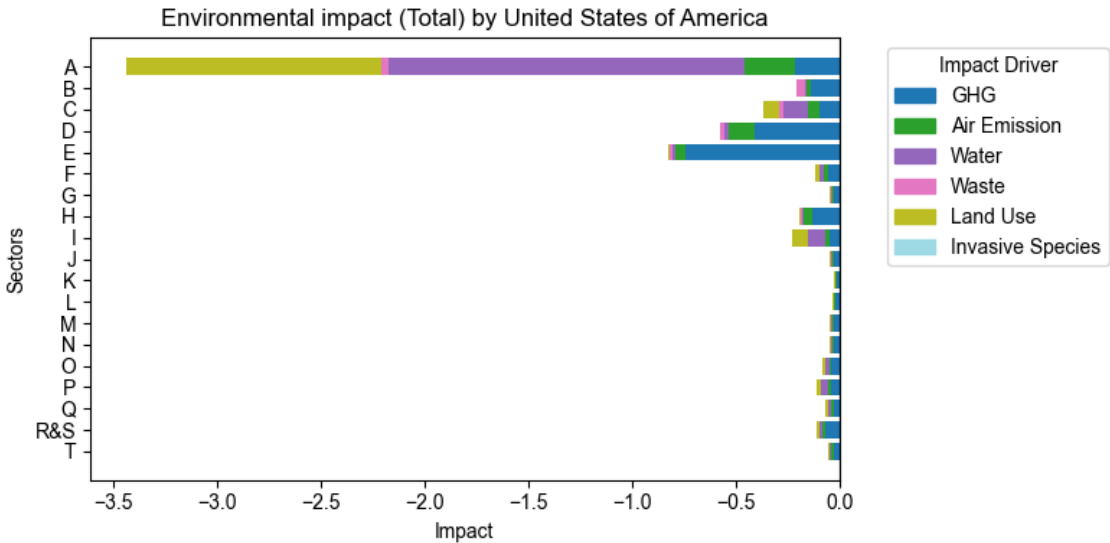


Overview

The overall assessment of the United States, based on the Value Balancing Alliance methodology and WifOR's value factors, indicates a complex landscape of environmental and social impacts across various sectors. Environmental impacts, particularly in GHG emissions and air pollution, are notably pronounced in sectors such as Electricity, Transportation, and Manufacturing, with upstream activities contributing significantly to these negative outcomes. Social impacts reveal concerns regarding Fair Wages and Occupational Health & Safety, particularly in sectors like Agriculture and Retail, where labor compensation practices are highlighted as problematic. The Training category shows some positive investment in workforce development, suggesting a potential avenue for improvement in social outcomes. Overall, the analysis underscores the importance of addressing both environmental and social dimensions in order to foster sustainable practices and enhance value creation across the economy.

Environmental Impact USA

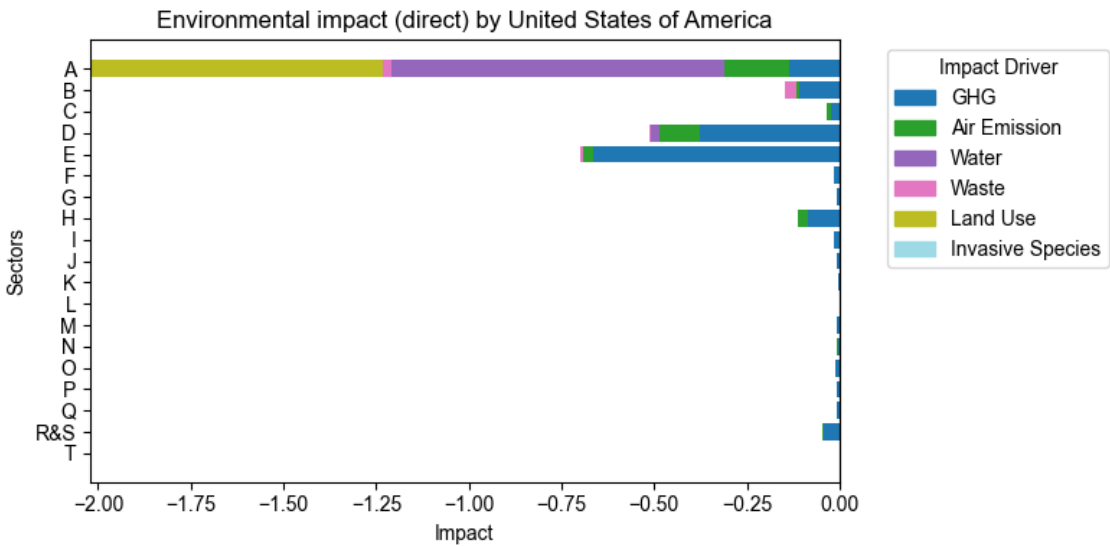
Total



Source: VBA/WifOR, Overview of environmental impact, Total in United States of America, 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025

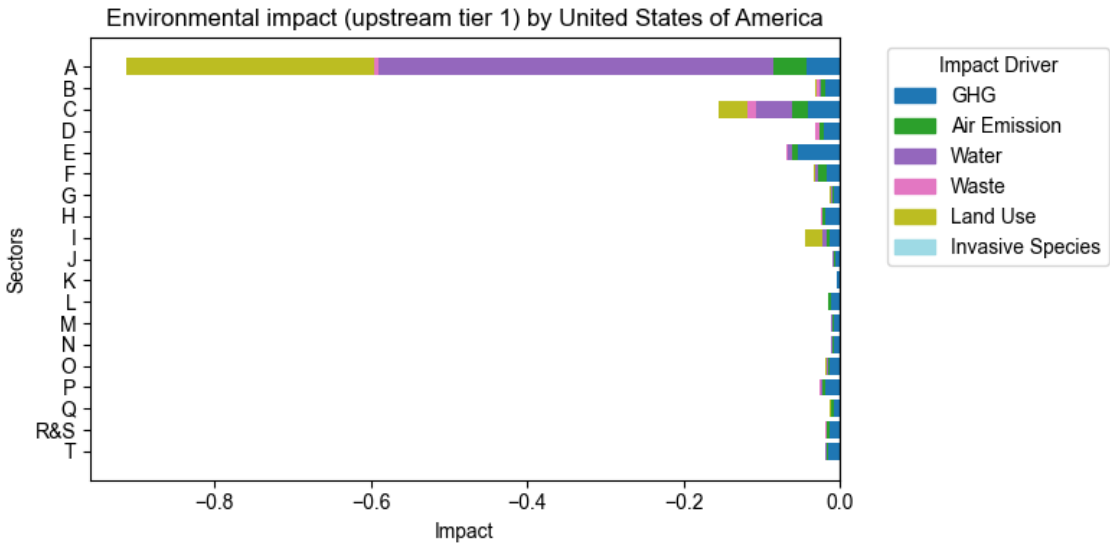


direct



Source: VBA/WifOR, Overview of environmental impact, direct in United States of America, 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025

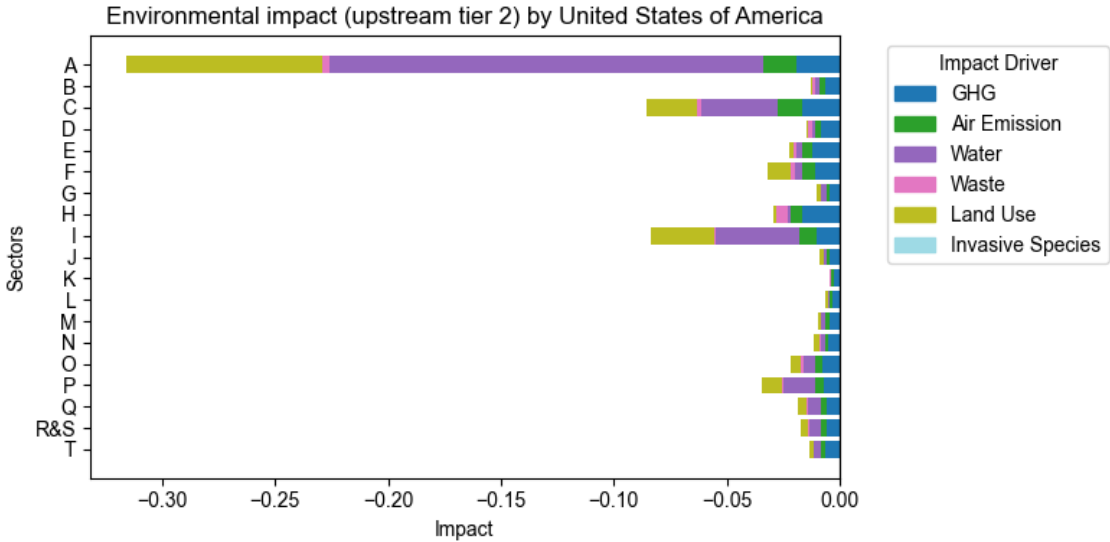
upstream tier 1



Source: VBA/WifOR, Overview of environmental impact, upstream tier 1 in United States of America, 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025

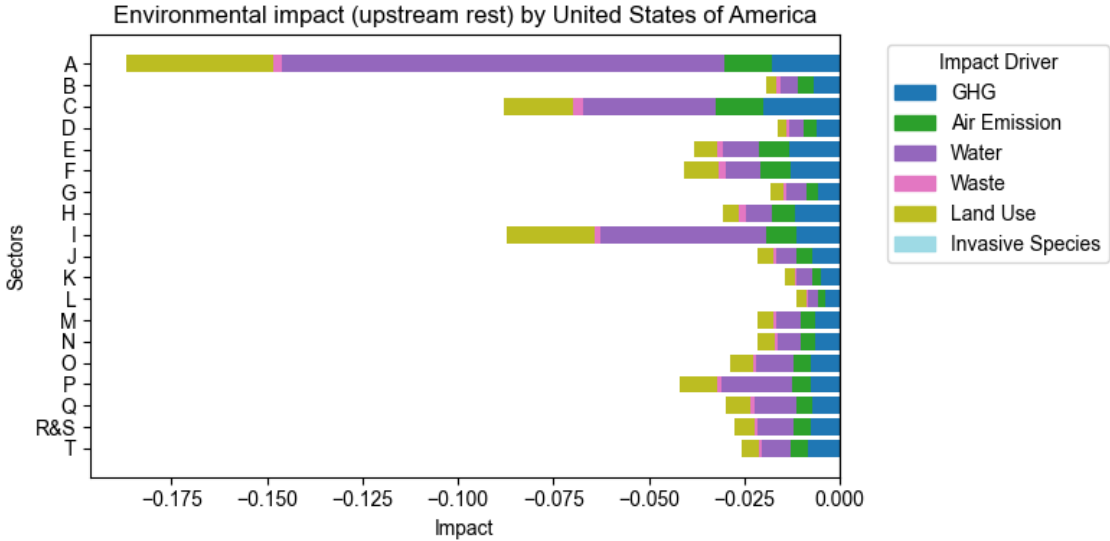


upstream tier 2



Source: VBA/WifOR, Overview of environmental impact, upstream tier 2 in United States of America, 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025

upstream rest



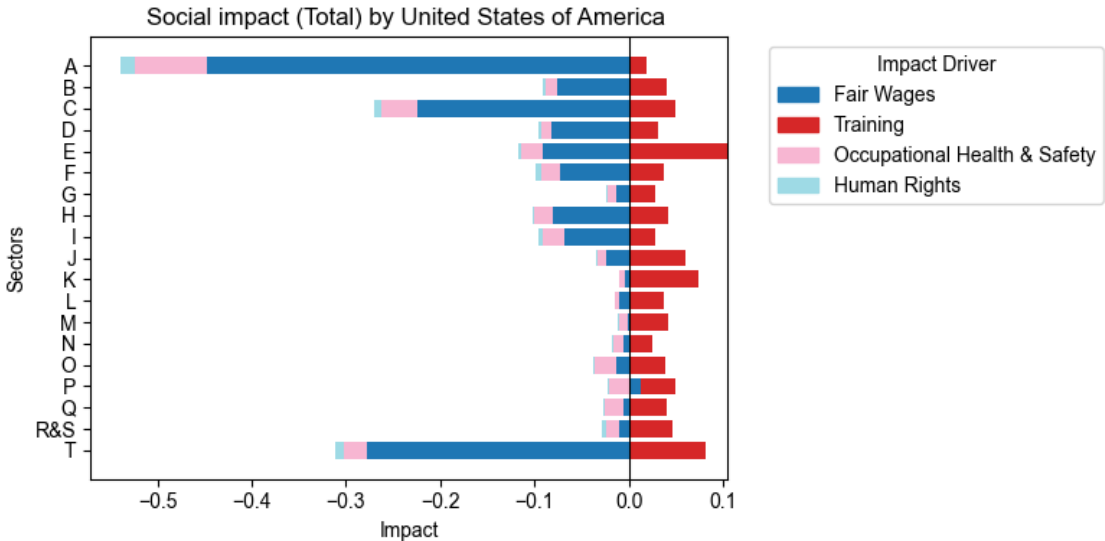
Source: VBA/WifOR, Overview of environmental impact, upstream rest in United States of America, 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025



The environmental impact intensities across various NACE sectors in the United States exhibit significant differences, particularly when comparing direct impacts to those from upstream stages in the value chain. Direct impacts tend to be lower overall, indicating that the immediate operations of sectors like Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing (A) and Manufacturing (C) contribute less to environmental degradation than their upstream activities. In contrast, upstream tier 1 and tier 2 impacts reveal a more pronounced contribution to environmental issues, especially in sectors such as Electricity, Gas, Steam, and Air Conditioning Supply (D) and Transportation and Storage (H), where upstream activities significantly amplify negative impacts related to GHG emissions and air pollution. The upstream rest category further highlights the cumulative effects of indirect activities, suggesting that the environmental burden is often greater in the supply chain than in direct operations. Overall, this analysis underscores the importance of considering the entire value chain when assessing environmental impacts across different sectors.

Social Impact USA

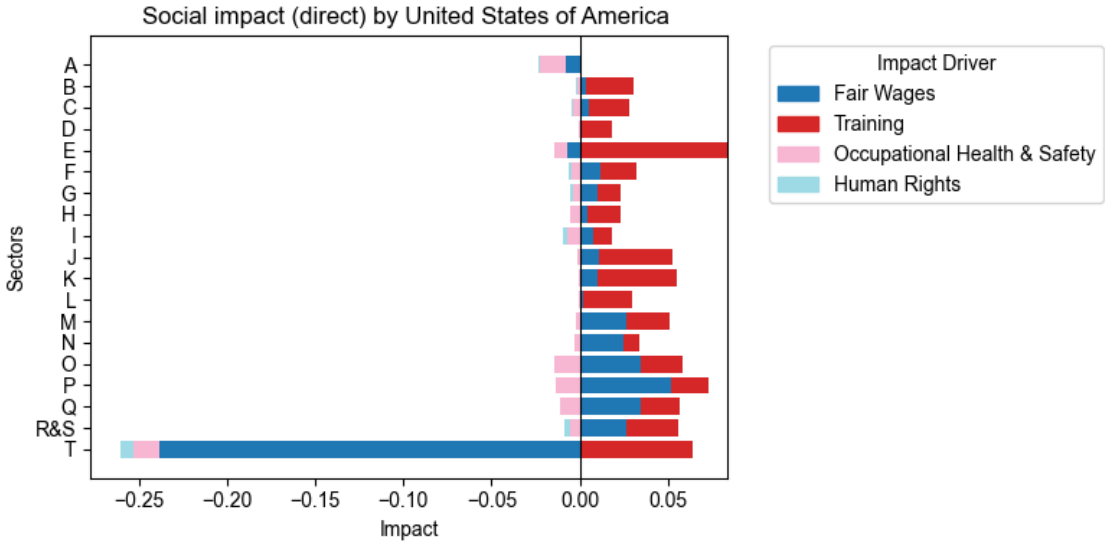
Total



Source: VBA/WifOR, Overview of social impact, Total in United States of America, 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025

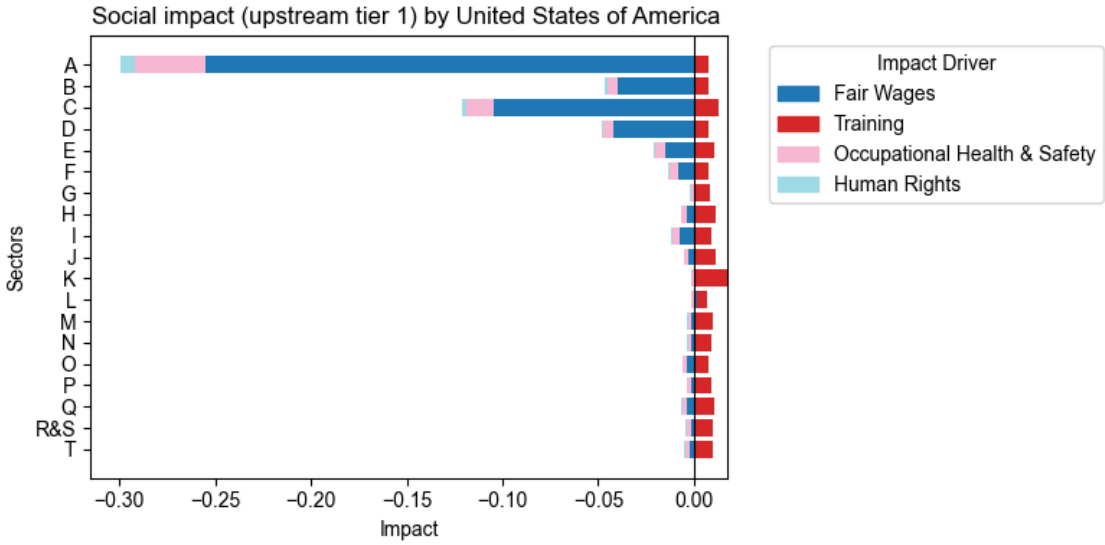


direct



Source: VBA/WifOR, Overview of social impact, direct in United States of America, 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025

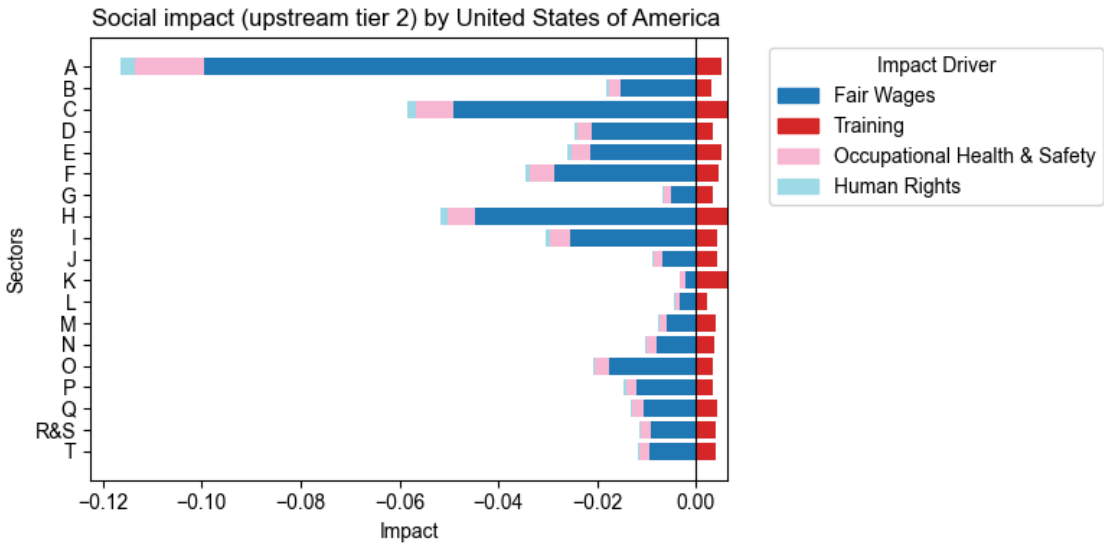
upstream tier 1



Source: VBA/WifOR, Overview of social impact, upstream tier 1 in United States of America, 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025

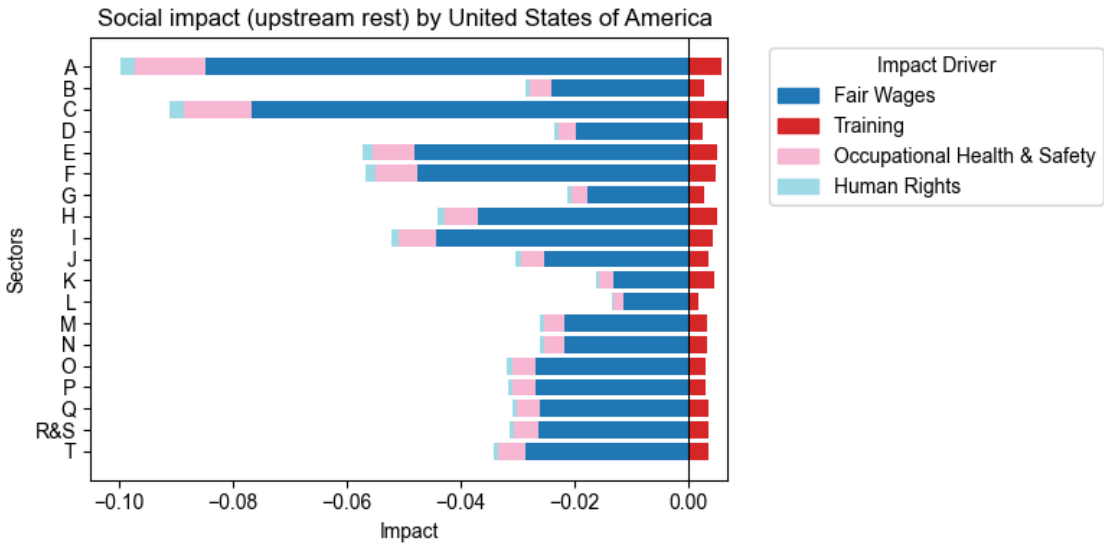


upstream tier 2



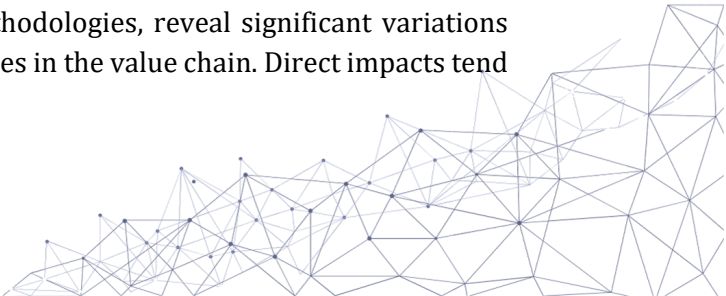
Source: VBA/WifOR, Overview of social impact, upstream tier 2 in United States of America, 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025

upstream rest



Source: VBA/WifOR, Overview of social impact, upstream rest in United States of America, 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025

The impact intensities of environmental impacts across various NACE sectors in the United States, as assessed through the VBA and WifOR methodologies, reveal significant variations between direct impacts and those from upstream stages in the value chain. Direct impacts tend



to be lower, indicating that immediate operational activities in sectors such as Agriculture and Manufacturing contribute less to environmental degradation compared to their upstream activities. The upstream tiers, particularly tier 1 and tier 2, show a marked increase in negative impacts, especially in sectors like Electricity and Transportation, where supply chain activities significantly exacerbate issues related to GHG emissions and air pollution. The upstream rest category further emphasizes the cumulative nature of these impacts, suggesting that indirect activities contribute substantially to the overall environmental burden. This analysis highlights the necessity of evaluating the entire value chain to understand the full extent of environmental impacts across different sectors.



Application

Beyond comparing company and sector impacts, the data presented here can support various additional applications. This chapter highlights several such use cases.

Impact benchmarks can help state institutions assess risks, guide investments and funding strategies, inform procurement decisions, enforce compliance, and shape policies that promote human rights protection, environmental sustainability, and economic growth. By applying country-specific and industry-specific impact benchmarks, governments and regulatory bodies can reduce liabilities, such as pollution and labor exploitation, while ensuring fair competition.

Collection of ideas				
	Regulation & Compliance	Policy & Economic Planning	Investment & Development Finance	Risk Assessment
Institution	Ministries	Development Institutions	Development Banks	Insurance Entities
Vision of application	Benchmarks could support industry-specific sustainability target setting and provide valuable insights for cost-benefit analyses of regulations	Development institutions could use benchmarks to shape industry-specific sustainability goals like labour protection guidelines	Benchmarks could help guide funding decisions for large projects, ensuring proper risk mitigation, particularly in sectors such as agriculture	Insurers could assess risks using industry benchmarks, helping determine eligibility and pricing for political risk insurance
	Public Procurement & Infrastructure	International Trade & Market Access	Accountability & Consumer Protection	Supply Chain Management
Institution	Public-Private Partnerships	Trade Ministries	Consumer Protection Agencies	Export Credit Agencies
Vision of application	Governments could use country-specific impact benchmarks to compare and select private sector partners (e.g., Infrastructure projects)	Trade ministries could apply sustainability benchmarks to imported goods (e.g., carbon intensity benchmarks for minerals)	Transparency rules could be enforced, requiring companies to disclose their impacts relative to benchmarks to prevent false claims and ensure accountability	Export credit agencies could use environmental and social benchmarks in financing decisions to promote ethical and sustainable supply chains

Figure VBA, Policy Applications, 2025

Impact Intensities represent the average environmental, social, and economic impact per sector output across countries, regions, and globally. They serve as a reference point for assessing an organization’s sustainability performance in its own operations and supply chains across industries and geographies. By comparing their performance to sector averages, companies and other organizations can determine whether they meet or exceed benchmarks and set specific targets for improvement.¹⁰

Beyond internal assessments, Impact Intensities encourage collaboration with suppliers and partners, fostering sustainability improvements across shared supply chains. By identifying

¹⁰ VBA et al., Valuing Impact Materiality 2025, 2025, www.value-balancing.com.



high-impact tiers or regions, companies can make informed decisions about production and sourcing. On a global scale, comparing benchmarks across countries highlights regions with critical sustainability challenges, enabling firms to focus efforts where they are most needed. These benchmarks also help organizations anticipate risks beyond production, such as regulatory pressures or resource availability constraints. By revealing industries and countries where unsustainable environmental or social challenges could lead to future restrictions, they support strategic decisions on production, sourcing, resource allocation, and diversification. Additionally, they help companies effectively communicate sustainability achievements across diverse markets.

The benchmarks serve as a key reference for materiality assessments, helping companies prioritize impacts, allocate resources efficiently, and align with stakeholder and sustainability goals. They provide reliable data for transparent reporting, enabling companies to demonstrate their performance to investors, customers, and other stakeholders. This fosters trust, ensures compliance with standards, and enhances corporate reputation.

As sustainability becomes increasingly important and disclosure regulations evolve, assessment and reporting methodologies must keep pace. Impact Intensity benchmarks offer valuable guidance for improving practices, refining sustainability reporting, sharpening decision-making, and optimizing resource allocation. It is important to note that Impact Intensities are monetized using WifOR value factors, and meaningful comparisons require companies to calculate their impacts using the same methodology.

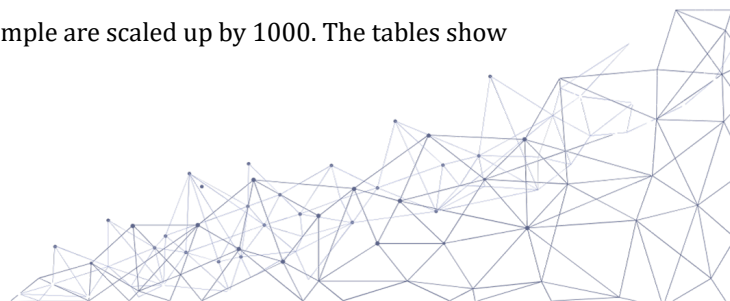
To illustrate how these benchmarks can be applied in practice, consider the following example: In Australia’s Consumer Goods sector, an increase of EUR 1000¹¹ in production results in an average negative impact of EUR 6.98 from greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions within a company’s own operations. Direct suppliers contribute another EUR 16.04, while suppliers’ suppliers account for EUR 10.20 globally, and the remaining global supply chain adds EUR 15.77. Altogether, the total damage due to GHG emissions across the entire value chain amounts to approximately EUR 49 per EUR 1000 of output. This indicates that the majority of GHG emissions are driven by the upstream supply chain rather than the direct operations of Consumer Goods companies.

A company operating in this sector in Australia can compare these Impact Intensity benchmarks with its own data to evaluate its performance. To calculate its own GHG Impact Intensities, the company must take its environmental data per country and value chain stage, divide it by its output or turnover (own operations in the respective country), and multiply the result with the WifOR value factor:

$$GHG\ Intensity_{c,v} = \frac{GHG\ emissions_{c,v}}{Output_c} * WifOR\ value\ factor\ for\ GHG\ emissions^{12}$$

¹¹ For ease of interpretation, the numbers in this example are scaled up by 1000. The tables show impact per EUR 1 of output.

¹² c = country of operation; v = value chain level



If the company's calculated GHG Intensity values are lower than the benchmark, this indicates a smaller GHG footprint relative to the sector average. Conversely, higher values suggest a larger-than-average impact.

For a materiality assessment, Impact Intensities at or above the sectoral benchmark can be considered material, signaling areas that may require targeted sustainability measures.

Caveats

Data Accuracy

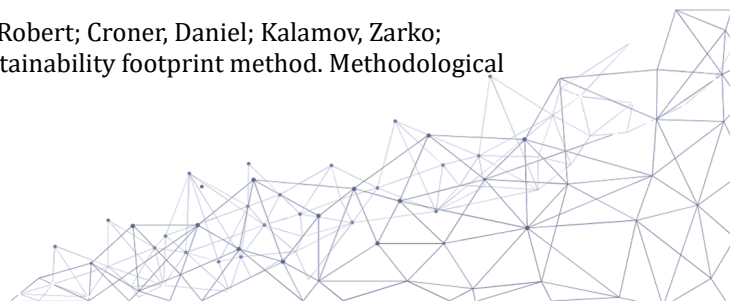
The input-output model used to calculate the Impact Intensities integrates satellite accounts for various indicators, constructed using multiple data sources. These accounts aim to accurately portray industry effects across all countries based on the best available knowledge and data.¹³ However, varying data availability across indicators, countries, and sectors necessitates certain extrapolations and assumptions. WifOR is committed to continuously updating its data to improve accuracy and minimize errors or gaps. As such, the results here represent a snapshot, capturing current impacts as comprehensively as possible. Despite inherent limitations, this dataset remains, to the best of our knowledge, the most detailed, granular, and comprehensive source available for assessing industrial impacts.

Impact Valuation

Impact Valuation advances traditional reporting beyond disclosure of companies' social and environmental effects in disparate units (e.g., GHG emissions in metric tons or occupational accidents in numbers of events). It captures the environmental and social changes caused by these outputs, tracks their broader impact on society, and conveys these effects in monetary terms—a unified metric that enables comparison across a diverse range of indicators.

Various approaches exist to quantify the societal value of indicators. In the present assessment, the indicators were monetized using the WifOR Impact Valuation methodology, with publicly available value factors. WifOR primarily focuses on damage costs to measure impacts. However, this is not feasible for all indicators, as some impact pathways and their consequences remain insufficiently understood. Each indicator therefore follows a specific valuation approach. For example, GHG emissions contribute to climate change regardless of their source and are thus valued using a 'social cost of carbon' approach and a global value factor. By contrast, water consumption is assessed based on economic damage and human health impacts, yielding country-specific value factors that reflect local water scarcity. This means water consumption in highly water-stressed regions will generate a disproportionately higher impact, in some cases exceeding that of GHG emissions at global level. Given such methodological

¹³ Scholz, Richard; Dorndorf, Tabea; Tesch, Jasmin; Köster, Robert; Croner, Daniel; Kalamov, Zarko; Setzer, Jana. 2024. Impact measurement using WifOR's sustainability footprint method. Methodological report. 2024 WifOR Institute.



idiosyncrasies, comparisons between indicators should be interpreted cautiously, as differing valuation approaches limit direct comparability, especially on a worldwide level.

Double Counting

Impact Valuation carries the risk of *double counting*, as different impact drivers may share the same, or overlapping, impact pathways. This challenge is particularly relevant when analyzing multiple indicators together. For instance, waste incineration releases air pollutants that contribute to respiratory disease and health-related costs—accounted for in the value factor for *Waste*, but also included in the factor for *Air Emission*. Simply subtracting this impact from the waste coefficient would underestimate the true impact of waste, while summing both indicators would lead to double counting.

Economic Impact

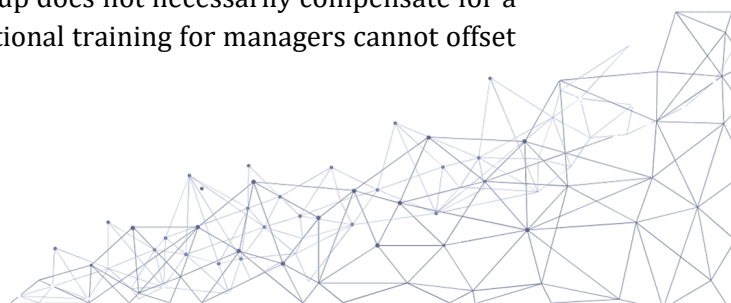
Gross Value Added (GVA) is a key metric for assessing a company's economic contribution across value chains. It represents the economic value generated through company operations after deducting the cost of inputs and services used in production. Often, the total GVA across the entire value chain approximately matches the direct output of a company—if a company generates EUR 1,000 in direct output, the total GVA across its supply chain and internal operations typically also equals EUR 1,000. This equivalence is down to the fact that GVA encompasses all value-creation activities, from raw materials production to final goods and services, and is therefore distributed across all stages of the value chain. The distribution varies by industry and location: manufacturing or heavy engineering often rely on extensive supplier networks, resulting in significant upstream GVA contributions, while software development or advanced technology focus on highly integrated operations and tend to generate a substantial proportion of GVA internally.

Netting Impacts

Impact Valuation seeks to enhance transparency, an aim that cannot be achieved if results are overly aggregated. Expressing diverse impacts using a common monetary metric does reduce complexity, but it also risks obscuring critical nuances. And while simplification can be useful, it should not carry the implication that negative impacts can be offset by positive ones.

There are certain cases where netting impacts can be appropriate (e.g., aggregating an indicator across different locations). But practices such as netting across different indicators can lead to *greenwashing* and a misrepresentation of results. This risk is particularly relevant for economic impact (represented by GVA), which has therefore been intentionally excluded from the charts below.

In the current phase of Impact Valuation development, limitations remain, including overlapping indicators (double counting), divergent valuation approaches, and data gaps that hinder a fully comprehensive assessment. Moreover, different impacts affect different groups unevenly, meaning that a positive impact on one group does not necessarily compensate for a negative impact on another (for instance, extra vocational training for managers cannot offset agricultural losses caused by water scarcity).





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