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Impact Report for United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



Financial Market Chapter



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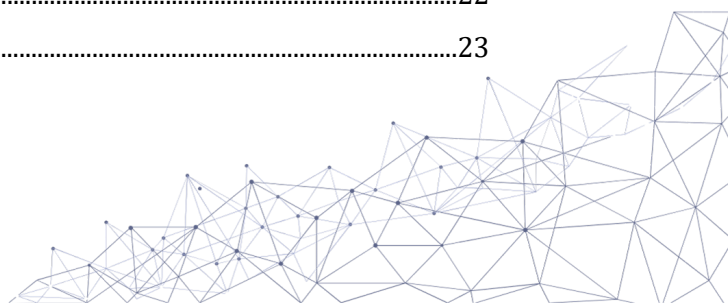
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Introduction

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 Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland'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 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

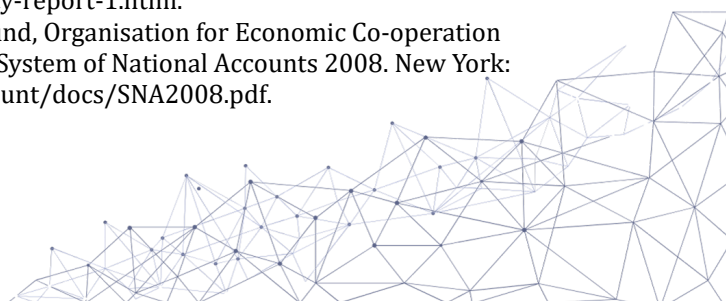
¹ Eurostat, NACE Rev. 2. Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/5902521/KS-RA-07-015-EN.pdf>.

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 UK'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 British 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	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.04
Fair Wages	-0.03	-0.05	-0.05	-0.09	-0.22
GHG	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.04
GVA	0.38	0.22	0.15	0.19	0.94
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	-0.52	-0.08	-0.02	-0.02	-0.65
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.05	-0.02	-0.01	-0.02	-0.11
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.02
Waste	-0.04	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.05
Water	-0.02	-0.04	-0.03	-0.04	-0.13

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - 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 Kingdom shows significant negative impacts across various categories, particularly in Fair Wages (-0.218840) and Land Use (-0.645019), indicating substantial adverse effects associated with these areas. In contrast, the direct impacts are generally less severe compared to the total impacts, suggesting that upstream activities contribute significantly to the overall negative impact intensities. Additionally, while some categories like Training and Ocean Plastic show minimal negative impact, the overall trend indicates a pressing need for improvements in sustainability and social responsibility within the sector.



Mining and Quarrying (B)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.02	-0.01	-0.00	-0.01	-0.04
Fair Wages	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.03	-0.03
GHG	-0.08	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.11
GVA	0.60	0.19	0.09	0.09	0.97
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	-0.01	-0.01	-0.00	-0.01	-0.03
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03
Waste	-0.00	-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 Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - Mining and quarrying (NACE Code B), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

In the Mining and Quarrying sector, the impact intensity table reveals significant negative impacts, particularly in GHG emissions (-0.108747) and Air Emissions (-0.038200), indicating serious environmental concerns associated with these activities. The direct impacts are relatively low compared to the total impacts, suggesting that upstream processes contribute substantially to the overall negative impact intensities. Additionally, while Training shows a positive impact intensity (0.025943), the overall trend highlights the need for enhanced sustainability practices and social responsibility in the sector.



Manufacturing (C)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.04
Fair Wages	0.02	-0.02	-0.03	-0.08	-0.12
GHG	-0.00	-0.02	-0.01	-0.02	-0.05
GVA	0.33	0.27	0.15	0.19	0.94
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	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.03
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.03	-0.02	-0.01	-0.02	-0.08
Ocean Plastic	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Training	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.03
Waste	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Water	-0.00	-0.01	-0.02	-0.03	-0.05

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - Manufacturing (NACE Code C), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Manufacturing sector indicates notable negative impacts, especially in Fair Wages (-0.115455) and Occupational Health & Safety (-0.076686), reflecting significant social and labor-related issues within the industry. The upstream contributions are substantial, as evidenced by the higher negative intensities in upstream tiers compared to direct impacts, suggesting that the supply chain plays a critical role in exacerbating these issues. Additionally, while Training shows a positive impact intensity (0.026200), the overall data underscores the urgent need for improvements in both environmental sustainability and social responsibility practices in manufacturing processes.



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

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.03	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.07
Fair Wages	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.05	-0.06
GHG	-0.11	-0.06	-0.03	-0.03	-0.23
GVA	0.23	0.30	0.18	0.23	0.95
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	-0.01	-0.01	-0.03
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.02
Waste	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Water	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.02	-0.02

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - 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 reveals significant negative impacts, particularly in GHG emissions (-0.232724) and Air Emissions (-0.067723), indicating serious environmental challenges associated with energy production and supply. The upstream contributions are notably high, with upstream tiers showing greater negative intensities compared to direct impacts, suggesting that the supply chain significantly exacerbates these environmental issues. Additionally, while Training has a positive impact intensity (0.024686), the overall data highlights the urgent need for enhanced sustainability practices and social responsibility within the sector.



Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities

(E)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01
Fair Wages	0.03	0.00	-0.00	-0.03	-0.00
GHG	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.03
GVA	0.49	0.22	0.11	0.12	0.94
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	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.03
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	-0.01
Water	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - 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 indicates relatively low negative impacts across various categories, with the most significant being in Occupational Health & Safety (-0.031455) and Fair Wages (-0.000637), suggesting some social and labor-related challenges. The upstream contributions are generally more negative than direct impacts, particularly in areas like Air Emissions (-0.014748) and GHG emissions (-0.026748), highlighting the importance of supply chain practices in influencing overall impact intensities. Additionally, while Training shows a positive impact intensity (0.025780), the overall data emphasizes the need for continued improvements in sustainability and social responsibility within this sector.



Construction (F)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.02
Fair Wages	0.04	0.01	-0.01	-0.04	-0.01
GHG	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.03
GVA	0.40	0.25	0.14	0.16	0.94
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	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.04
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Training	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01	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 Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - Construction (NACE Code F), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Construction sector reveals notable negative impacts, particularly in Occupational Health & Safety (-0.042184) and Land Use (-0.013940), indicating significant social and environmental challenges associated with construction activities. Upstream contributions are generally more negative than direct impacts, especially in areas like Air Emissions (-0.021897) and GHG emissions (-0.025858), highlighting the critical role of supply chain practices in exacerbating these issues. Additionally, while Training shows a positive impact intensity (0.036413), the overall data underscores the need for enhanced sustainability and social responsibility measures within the construction industry.



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	-0.01	-0.01
Fair Wages	0.02	0.00	-0.01	-0.03	-0.02
GHG	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.02
GVA	0.54	0.21	0.10	0.11	0.97
Human Rights	-0.01	-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	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.03	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.05
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02
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 Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - 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 indicates notable negative impacts, particularly in Occupational Health & Safety (-0.053958) and Fair Wages (-0.020270), highlighting significant social and labor-related challenges within the industry. Upstream contributions are generally more negative than direct impacts, especially in areas like Air Emissions (-0.011471) and GHG emissions (-0.015633), suggesting that supply chain practices play a critical role in exacerbating these issues. Additionally, while Training shows a positive impact intensity (0.021820), the overall data emphasizes the need for improved sustainability and social responsibility measures in this sector.



Transportation and Storage (H)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.05	-0.01	-0.00	-0.01	-0.08
Fair Wages	0.02	0.00	-0.01	-0.03	-0.02
GHG	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02
GVA	0.43	0.25	0.13	0.14	0.95
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	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.05
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02
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 Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - 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 reveals significant negative impacts, particularly in Air Emissions (-0.075862) and Occupational Health & Safety (-0.047148), indicating serious environmental and social challenges associated with transportation activities. Upstream contributions are notably more negative than direct impacts, especially in areas like GHG emissions (-0.021269) and Land Use (-0.004991), suggesting that supply chain practices significantly exacerbate these issues. Additionally, while Training shows a positive impact intensity (0.023455), the overall data highlights the urgent need for improvements in sustainability and social responsibility within the transportation and storage industry.



Accommodation and Food Service Activities (I)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.02
Fair Wages	-0.03	-0.01	-0.03	-0.06	-0.13
GHG	-0.01	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02
GVA	0.50	0.18	0.11	0.13	0.93
Human Rights	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
Invasive Species	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Land Use	0.00	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	-0.04
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.05	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.09
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02
Waste	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Water	0.00	-0.00	-0.03	-0.04	-0.07

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - 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 indicates significant negative impacts, particularly in Fair Wages (-0.126987) and Occupational Health & Safety (-0.088746), highlighting serious social and labor-related challenges within the industry. Upstream contributions are notably more negative than direct impacts, especially in areas like Land Use (-0.036373) and Water usage (-0.073743), suggesting that supply chain practices significantly exacerbate these environmental issues. Additionally, while Training shows a positive impact intensity (0.020880), the overall data underscores the urgent need for improvements in sustainability and social responsibility within the accommodation and food service sector.



Information and Communication (J)

Variable	direct	upstream tier 1	upstream tier 2	upstream rest	Total
Air Emission	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01
Fair Wages	0.04	0.00	-0.01	-0.03	0.00
GHG	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01
GVA	0.57	0.22	0.10	0.10	0.98
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	-0.01	-0.01	-0.00	-0.01	-0.03
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	-0.01	-0.01

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - 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 shows relatively low negative impacts, particularly in Occupational Health & Safety (-0.029991) and Air Emissions (-0.008685), indicating manageable social and environmental challenges compared to other sectors. Upstream contributions are more negative than direct impacts, especially in areas like GHG emissions (-0.013016) and Land Use (-0.004450), suggesting that supply chain practices play a significant role in influencing overall impact intensities. Additionally, while Training has a positive impact intensity (0.041936), the overall data highlights the potential for further improvements in sustainability and social responsibility within the information and communication industry.



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	-0.01
Fair Wages	0.02	0.00	-0.00	-0.02	-0.00
GHG	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01
GVA	0.49	0.25	0.11	0.10	0.94
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	-0.01	-0.02
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	-0.01	-0.01

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - 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 indicates minimal direct negative impacts, particularly in Air Emissions (-0.007665) and Occupational Health & Safety (-0.023322), suggesting that this sector has a relatively lower environmental and social footprint compared to others. However, upstream contributions are significantly more negative, especially in GHG emissions (-0.010651) and Land Use (-0.003903), indicating that the supply chain plays a crucial role in amplifying these impacts. Additionally, while Training shows a positive impact intensity (0.042306), the overall data highlights the need for ongoing improvements in sustainability and social responsibility practices within the financial and insurance industry.



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	-0.00
Fair Wages	0.00	0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.00
GHG	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
GVA	0.72	0.13	0.06	0.06	0.97
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	0.02	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	-0.00	-0.00

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - 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 shows minimal direct negative impacts, particularly in Air Emissions (-0.003874) and Occupational Health & Safety (-0.011181), indicating a relatively lower environmental and social footprint compared to other sectors. However, upstream contributions are significantly more negative, especially in GHG emissions (-0.005689) and Land Use (-0.001967), suggesting that the supply chain has a considerable influence on the overall impact intensities. Additionally, while Training demonstrates a positive impact intensity (0.033141), the overall data highlights the need for enhanced sustainability and social responsibility practices within the real estate industry.



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	0.05	0.01	-0.00	-0.02	0.04
GHG	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
GVA	0.59	0.22	0.09	0.08	0.98
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	-0.02	-0.01	-0.00	-0.01	-0.04
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03
Waste	-0.00	-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 Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - 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 indicates relatively low direct negative impacts, particularly in Air Emissions (-0.005583) and GHG emissions (-0.009333), suggesting a smaller environmental footprint compared to other sectors. However, upstream contributions are more pronounced, especially in Occupational Health & Safety (-0.037273) and Land Use (-0.003267), indicating that supply chain practices significantly influence overall impact intensities. Additionally, while Training shows a positive impact intensity (0.033603), the overall data highlights the need for ongoing improvements in sustainability and social responsibility within this sector.



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	-0.01	0.00	-0.00	-0.02	-0.04
GHG	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01
GVA	0.55	0.23	0.10	0.10	0.98
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	-0.03	-0.01	-0.00	-0.01	-0.05
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03
Waste	-0.00	-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 Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - 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 reveals notable negative impacts, particularly in Occupational Health & Safety (-0.046996) and Fair Wages (-0.036610), indicating significant social challenges within the industry. Upstream contributions are generally more negative than direct impacts, especially in areas like GHG emissions (-0.014122) and Land Use (-0.004444), suggesting that supply chain practices play a critical role in exacerbating these issues. Additionally, while Training shows a positive impact intensity (0.032891), the overall data underscores the need for improvements in sustainability and social responsibility within this sector.



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	-0.01	-0.01
Fair Wages	0.05	-0.00	-0.01	-0.03	0.01
GHG	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.02
GVA	0.54	0.20	0.08	0.09	0.91
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	-0.07	-0.01	-0.00	-0.01	-0.09
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03
Waste	-0.00	-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 Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - 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 indicates significant negative impacts, particularly in Occupational Health & Safety (-0.089597) and GHG emissions (-0.016640), highlighting serious social and environmental challenges within this sector. Upstream contributions are notably more negative than direct impacts, especially in areas like Air Emissions (-0.009361) and Land Use (-0.004099), suggesting that supply chain practices significantly exacerbate these issues. Additionally, while Training shows a positive impact intensity (0.031351), the overall data underscores the need for enhanced sustainability and social responsibility measures within public administration and defense activities.



Education (P)

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	0.09	0.00	-0.00	-0.02	0.07
GHG	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
GVA	0.75	0.12	0.04	0.05	0.96
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	-0.08	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.1
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.03	0.00	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 Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - Education (NACE Code P), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025.

The impact intensity table for the Education sector reveals significant negative impacts, particularly in Occupational Health & Safety (-0.099831) and Fair Wages (0.069871), indicating serious social challenges related to labor conditions and compensation within educational institutions. Upstream contributions are more negative than direct impacts, especially in areas like Air Emissions (-0.004967) and GHG emissions (-0.009528), suggesting that supply chain practices play a crucial role in exacerbating these environmental issues. Additionally, while Training shows a positive impact intensity (0.032282), the overall data highlights the need for continued improvements in sustainability and social responsibility within the education sector.



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	-0.01	-0.01
Fair Wages	0.01	-0.02	-0.02	-0.05	-0.07
GHG	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.02
GVA	0.49	0.22	0.10	0.11	0.92
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	-0.08	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.12
Ocean Plastic	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Training	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03
Waste	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Water	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.03	-0.04

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - 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 reveals significant negative impacts, particularly in Occupational Health & Safety (-0.119416) and Fair Wages (-0.070182), indicating serious social challenges related to labor conditions and compensation within the sector. Upstream contributions are notably more negative than direct impacts, especially in areas like GHG emissions (-0.019901) and Water usage (-0.035205), suggesting that supply chain practices significantly exacerbate these issues. Additionally, while Training shows a positive impact intensity (0.031647), the overall data highlights the urgent need for improvements in sustainability and social responsibility within health and social work activities.



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	0.02	0.00	-0.00	-0.02	-0.00
GHG	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01
GVA	0.62	0.19	0.08	0.07	0.96
Human Rights	-0.01	-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	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Occupational Health & Safety	-0.03	-0.01	-0.00	-0.01	-0.04
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	-0.01	-0.01

Source: WifOR / VBA, Table for United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - 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.

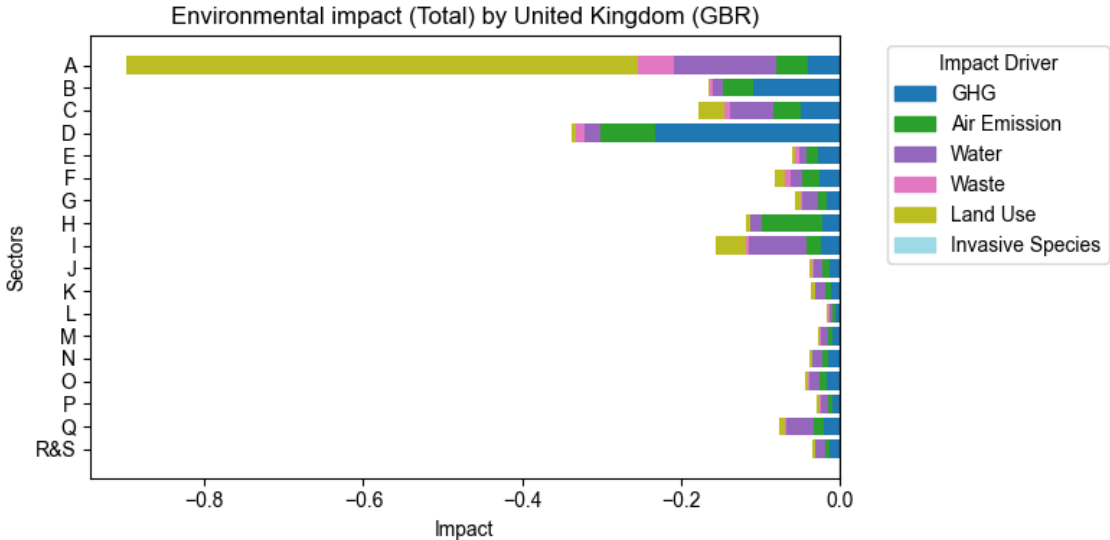
The impact intensity table for the Arts, Entertainment and Recreation; Other Services sector indicates notable negative impacts, particularly in Occupational Health & Safety (-0.041819) and GHG emissions (-0.011889), reflecting significant social and environmental challenges within this sector. Upstream contributions are generally more negative than direct impacts, especially in areas like Air Emissions (-0.006695) and Water usage (-0.011315), suggesting that supply chain practices significantly exacerbate these issues. Additionally, while Training shows a positive impact intensity (0.038404), the overall data highlights the need for enhanced sustainability and social responsibility measures within arts and entertainment activities.



Annex

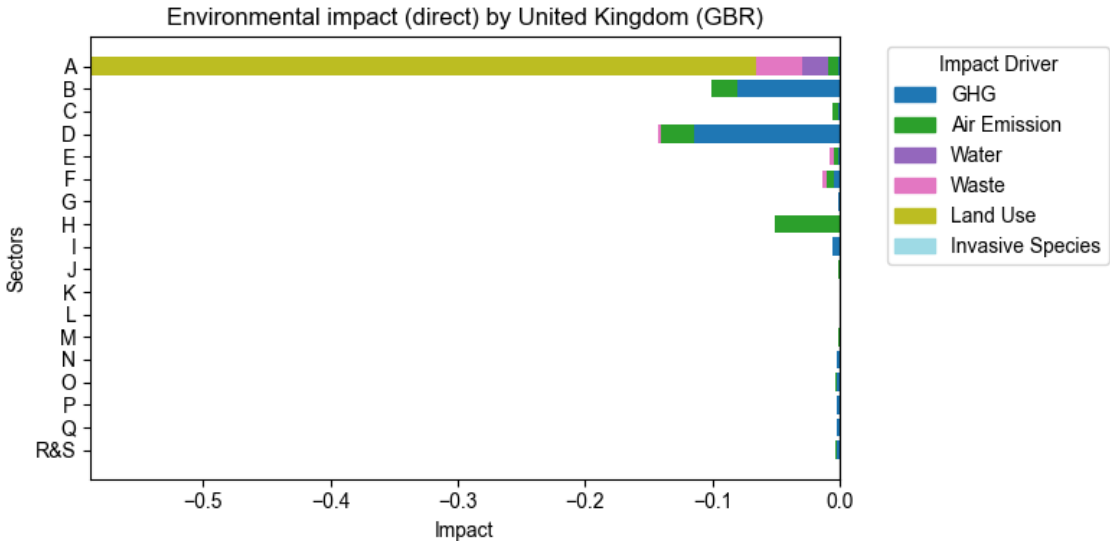
Environmental Impact GBR

Total



Source: VBA/WifOR, Overview of environmental impact, Total in United Kingdom (GBR), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025

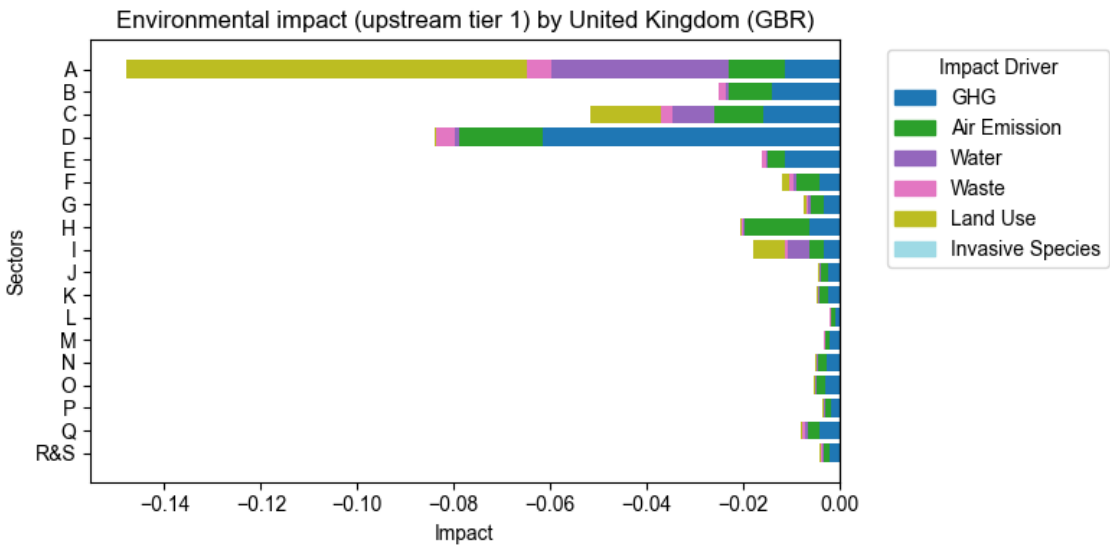
direct



Source: VBA/WifOR, Overview of environmental impact, direct in United Kingdom (GBR), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025

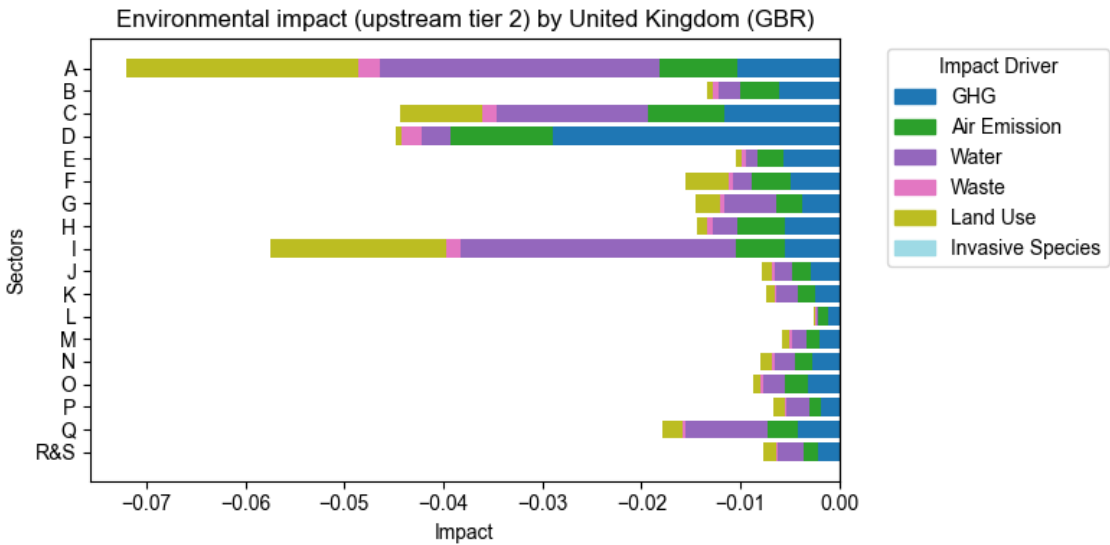


upstream tier 1



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

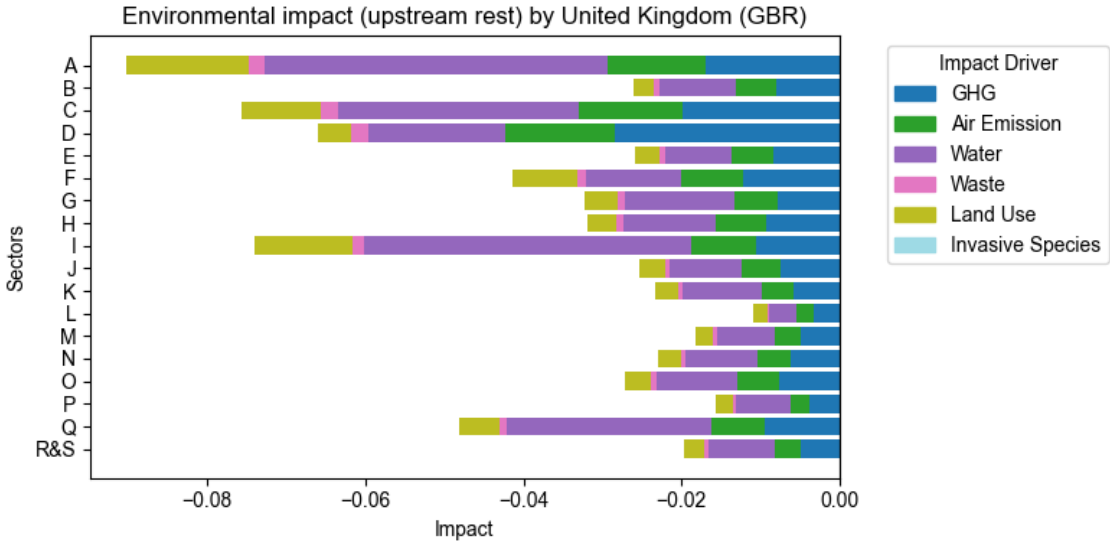
upstream tier 2



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



upstream rest



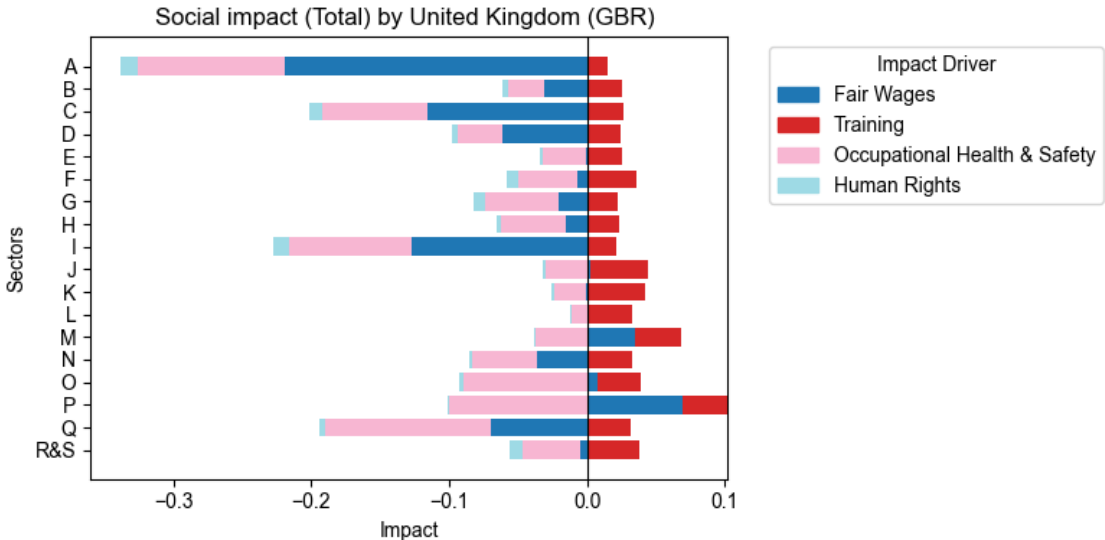
Source: VBA/WifOR, Overview of environmental impact, upstream rest in United Kingdom (GBR), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025

The environmental impact intensities across different NACE sectors in the United Kingdom reveal varying levels of negative impacts at different stages of the value chain. Direct impacts tend to be lower compared to upstream impacts, particularly in upstream tier 1 and tier 2 stages, where the cumulative effects of supply chain activities contribute significantly to overall environmental degradation. For instance, sectors such as Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing show substantial upstream impacts from air emissions and land use, while sectors like Manufacturing exhibit notable GHG emissions across all stages. Additionally, the upstream rest category often reflects the highest negative impacts, indicating that indirect activities in the supply chain can exacerbate environmental issues. Overall, the data highlights the importance of addressing both direct and upstream impacts to mitigate environmental harm effectively.



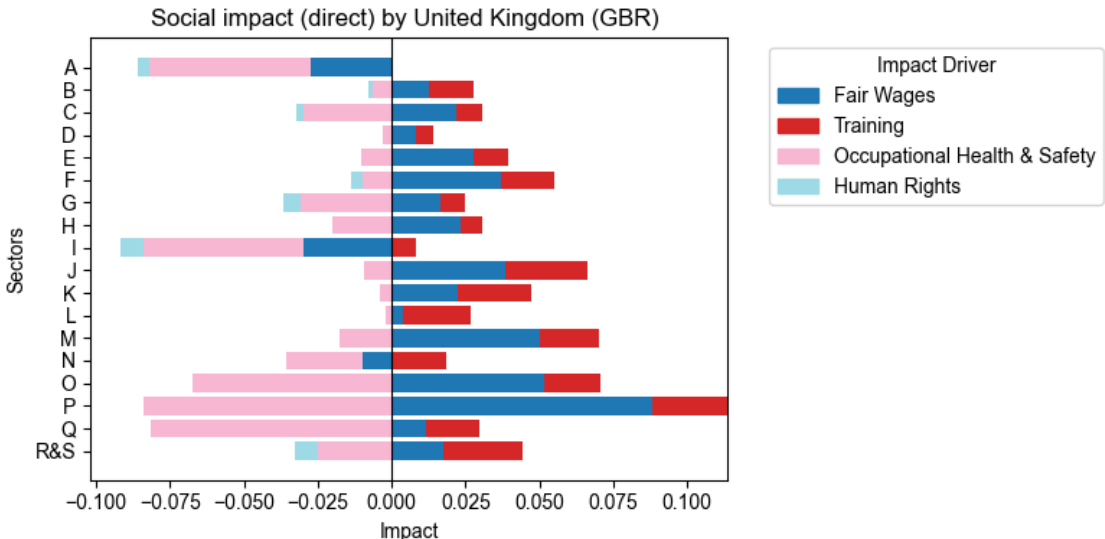
Social Impact GBR

Total



Source: VBA/WifOR, Overview of social impact, Total in United Kingdom (GBR), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025

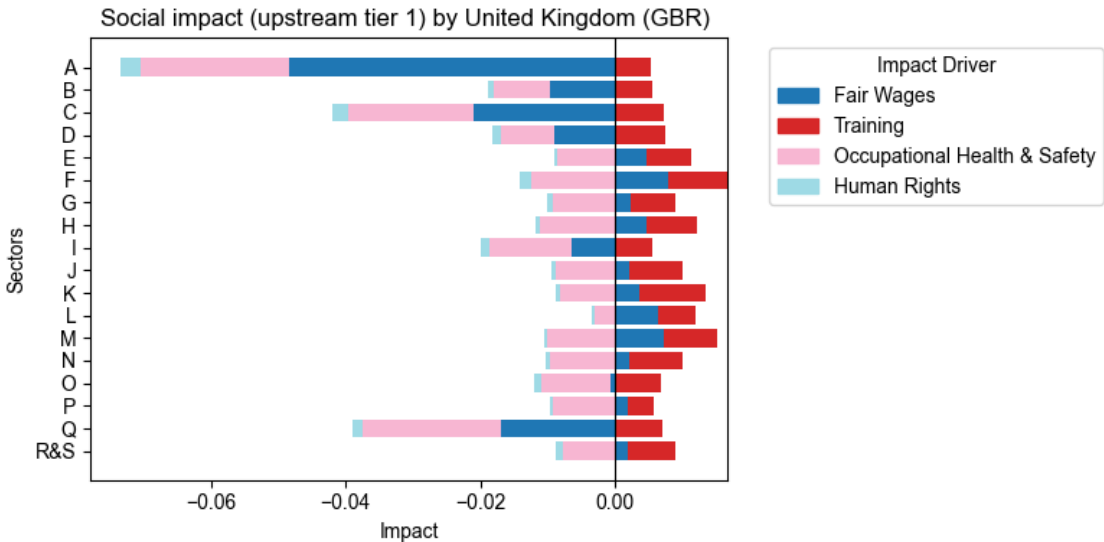
direct



Source: VBA/WifOR, Overview of social impact, direct in United Kingdom (GBR), 2024, Calculated based on WifOR Institute, WifOR Value Factors, Version February 2025

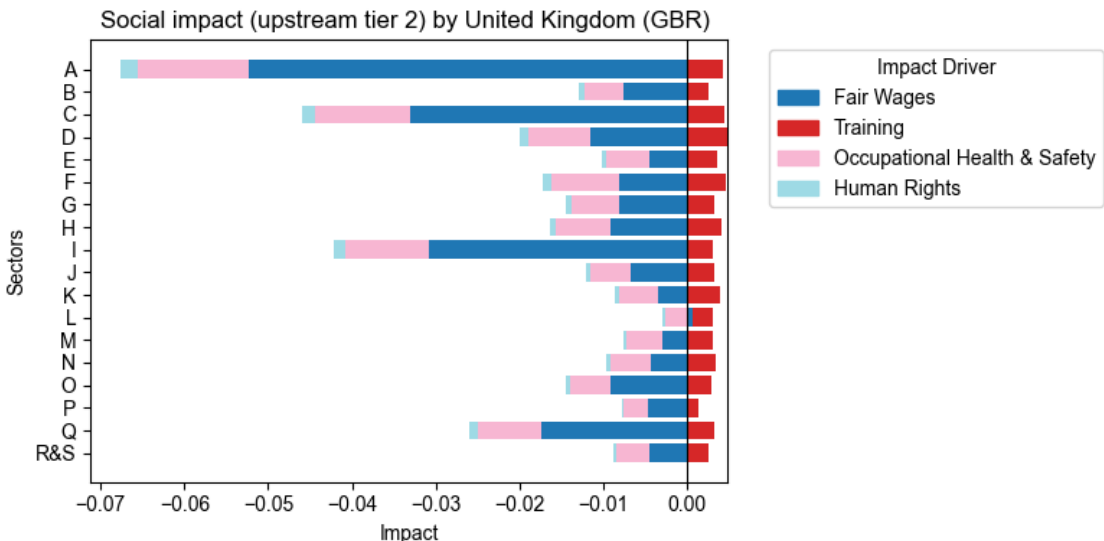


upstream tier 1



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

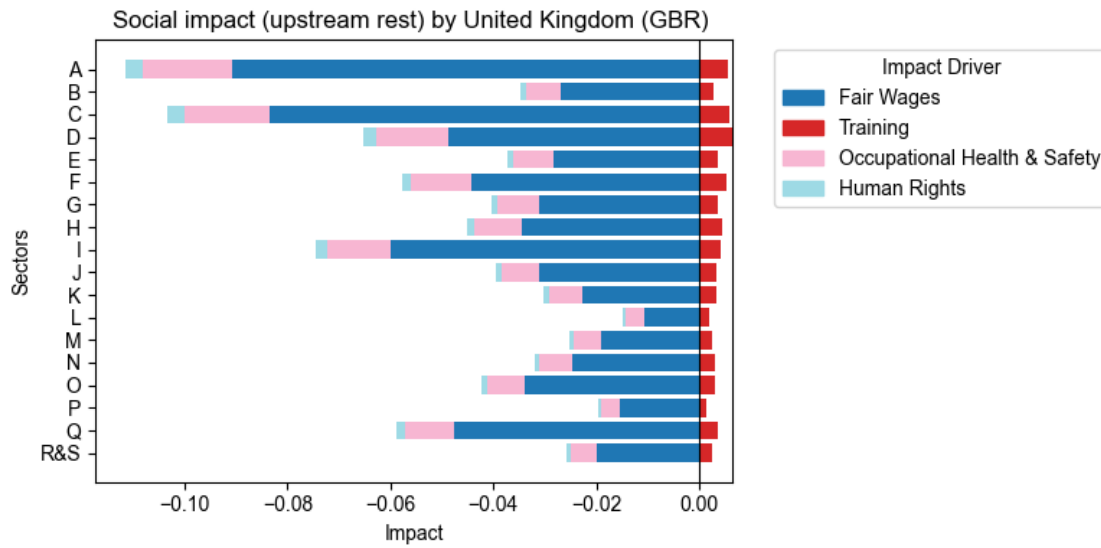
upstream tier 2



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

The impact intensities of environmental impacts across different NACE sectors in the United Kingdom, as assessed by the Value Balancing Alliance (VBA) and WifOR methodologies, highlight significant variations between direct and upstream stages of the value chain. Direct impacts are generally lower, reflecting immediate operational activities, while upstream impacts, particularly in tier 1 and tier 2, reveal higher intensities due to the cumulative effects of supply chain processes, such as resource extraction and production. The methodologies emphasize the importance of considering both direct and indirect impacts to fully understand the environmental footprint of each sector. For example, sectors like Agriculture and Manufacturing exhibit pronounced upstream impacts from air emissions and land use, indicating that upstream activities contribute significantly to overall environmental degradation. This comprehensive assessment underscores the necessity for businesses to address not only their direct operations but also the broader supply chain implications to mitigate environmental harm effectively.



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.

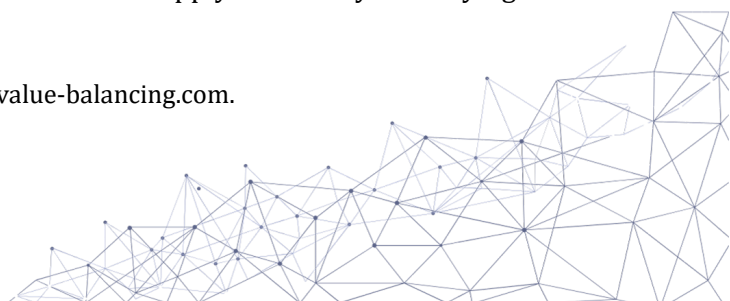
Collection of ideas				
	Regulation & Compliance	Policy & Economic Planning	Investment & Development Finance	Risk Assessment
Institution	Ministries	Development Institutions	Development Banks	Insurance Entities
Vision of application	Benchmarks could support industry-specific sustainability target setting 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.

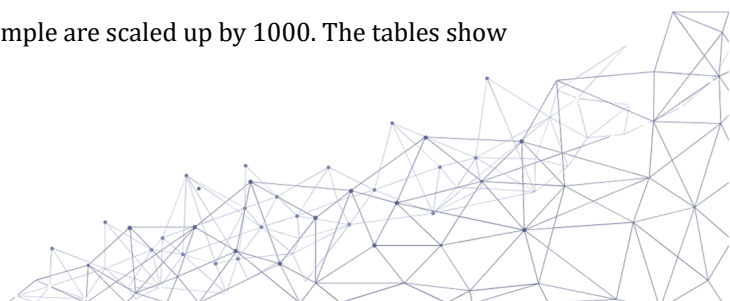
To illustrate how these benchmarks can be applied in practice, consider the following example: In Australia's Consumer Goods sector, an increase of EUR 1000¹¹ in production results in an average negative impact of EUR 6.98 from greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions within a company's own operations. Direct 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

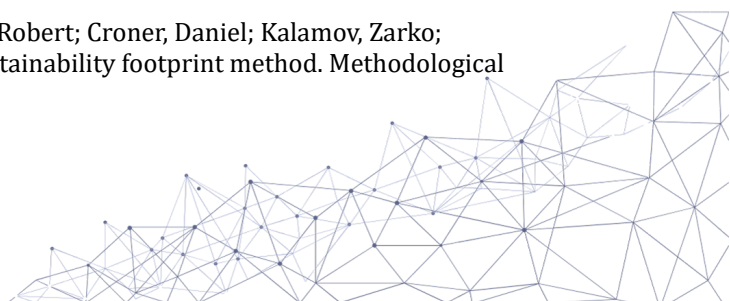
The input-output model used to calculate the Impact Intensities integrates satellite accounts for various indicators, constructed using multiple data sources. These accounts aim to accurately portray industry effects across all countries based on the best available knowledge and data.¹³ However, varying 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

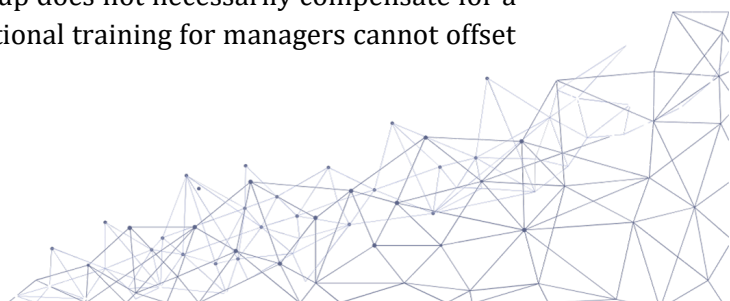
Gross Value Added (GVA) is a key metric for assessing a company's economic contribution across value chains. It represents the economic value generated through company operations after deducting the cost of inputs and services used in production. Often, the total GVA across the entire value chain approximately 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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