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# Economic importance of sport in Scotland 1998-2012

## Summary

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Putting sport first

**sportscotland**  
the national agency for sport

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### Summary of the Economic importance of sport in Scotland 1998-2012

The latest economic data show that sport continues to have a significant impact on the Scottish economy. Sport related industries increased their contribution to the value of the Scottish economy, increasing from 1.9% to 2.0% from 2010 to 2012. This equates to an increase in gross value added from £1.9 billion in 2010 to £2.1 billion in 2012.

Employment in sport and associated industries are estimated to account for 52,300 full time equivalent jobs in Scotland which is 2.5% of total employment in 2012. This represents an increase of 38% since 1998. In 2012 commercial non-sport supported 47% of all sport related employment in Scotland, this includes construction jobs relating to new building for the Commonwealth Games, which provides a short term boost to the economy. Sport related employment increased by 6,000 from 2010 to 2012, it is not clear what proportion of this is due to Commonwealth Games activity or economic recovery but in line with other estimates we can assume that at least 1,000 jobs per year have been created by activity around the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Consumer expenditure on sport related goods and services continued to grow, increasing in real terms by 3.5% from 2010 to 2012, and increasing its share of total Scottish consumer expenditure to 2.6% in 2012. Longer term trends show that sport related consumer expenditure increased by 59% in real terms from 1998 to 2012. These increases have been driven by increases in sport clothing and footwear and sport TV.

Analysis of other sectors shows that despite the economic slow down in 2008-2009 which adversely affected a number of leisure related industries, the value of sport continues to grow. Its contribution in 2012 is higher than 'telecommunications' and higher than the sum of 'accommodation', 'creative arts' and 'publishing'.

Future research will capture the full impact of the Commonwealth Games and other major sport events such as the 2014 Ryder Cup on the Scottish economy.

This summary is based on the 'Economic Importance of Sport in Scotland 1998-2012', written by the Sport Industry Research Centre at Sheffield Hallam University for **sportscotland**. The full report is available online at [add in link to report](#).

### Table 1: Key economic indicators

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Gross value added for sport</b> (£million)	1,838	2,128
Percentage of Scottish total	1.9%	2.0%
<b>Sport related employment</b> (thousands)	46.3	52.3
Percentage of Scottish total	2.2%	2.5%
<b>Consumer expenditure on sport</b> (£million)	1,898	2,120
Percentage of Scottish total	2.5%	2.6%