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# Economic importance of sport in Scotland 1998-2010

## 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 1998-2010**

The latest economic data show that sport continues to have a significant impact on the Scottish economy. While many sectors were negatively affected by the 2008-2009 recession, sport increased its contribution to the total value of the Scottish economy from 1.7% to 1.9% from 2008 to 2010. This equates to an increase in gross value added from £1.7 billion in 2008 to £1.9 billion in 2010.

Analysis of other sectors in leisure related industries show that sport's contribution to the economy is higher than 'telecommunications', and higher than the sum of 'accommodation', 'creative arts' and 'publishing'.

Over this time consumer expenditure on sport related goods and services continued to grow, increasing in real terms by 1.7% from 2008 to 2010, maintaining a 2.5% share of total Scottish consumer expenditure. However some areas experienced decreases, most notably sport-related gambling decreased by 33% in real terms. Longer term trends show that sport related consumer expenditure increased by 53% in real terms from 1998 to 2010. These increases have been driven by the consumer market with significant increases in sports clothing & footwear, sports goods and sport TV.

Employment in sport and associated industries are estimated to account for 46,300 full time equivalent jobs in Scotland, 2% of total employment in 2010. Sport related employment has increased in importance over time with sport related jobs increasing from 1.6% of the Scottish total in 1998 to 2% in 2010.

Overall sport has shown its resilience in the face of a major economic downturn. Future sport events in Scotland including the 2014 Commonwealth Games and the 2014 Ryder Cup will and have already boosted the sport economy in Scotland through construction activity and sport tourism. Future research will capture the impact of these events on the Scottish economy.

This summary is based on the 'Economic Importance of Sport in Scotland 1998-2010', written by the Sport Industry Research Centre at Sheffield Hallam University for **sportscotland**. The full report is available online at [www.sportscotland.org.uk](http://www.sportscotland.org.uk).