

Economy

Businesses in the UK arts and culture industry generated an aggregate turnover of £12.4 billion in 2011.

The subsets of the arts and culture industry's productive activities of book publishing, performing arts and artistic creation are the largest contributors to the industry's aggregate turnover performance – an estimated £5.9 billion of gross value added (GVA) to the UK economy.

The arts and culture industry employed, on average, 110,600 full-time equivalent employees in the UK and 99,500 in England during the period 2008–11. This represents about 0.45 per cent of total employment in the UK and 0.48 per cent of all employment in England.

For every £1 of salary paid by the arts and culture industry, an additional £2.01 is generated in the wider economy through indirect and induced multiplier impacts.

In 2011, 10 million inbound visits to the UK involved engagement with the arts and culture, representing 32 per cent of all visits to the UK and 42 per cent of all inbound tourism-related expenditure.

Overall in terms of culture, the UK is perceived to be the fourth best nation out of 50. This is as a result of Britain being seen as the fourth best nation in terms of having an exciting contemporary culture (eg music, films, art and literature).

There are five key ways that arts and culture can boost local economies: attracting visitors; creating jobs and developing skills; attracting and retaining businesses revitalising places; and developing talent.

Looking at the spillover effects between the commercial and publicly funded arts and culture sectors found that there was high labour mobility between the two. The flow of work is often not one way, with individuals moving between publicly funded and commercial sectors in both directions, potentially more than once, as well as working concurrently in both.

Health and wellbeing

Those who had attended a cultural place or event in the previous 12 months were almost 60 per cent more likely to report good health compared to those who had not, and theatre-goers were almost 25 per cent more likely to report good health.

People value being in the audience to the arts at about £2,000 per person per year and participating at £1,500 per person. The value of participating in sports is about £1,500 per person per year.

Research has evidenced that a higher frequency of engagement with arts and culture is generally associated with a higher level of subjective wellbeing.

Engagement in structured arts and culture improves the cognitive abilities of children and young people.

A number of studies have reported findings of applied arts and cultural interventions and measured their positive impact on specific health conditions which include dementia, depression and Parkinson's disease.

The use of art, when delivered effectively, has the power to facilitate social interaction as well as enabling those in receipt of social care to pursue creative interests. The review highlights the benefits of dance for reducing loneliness and alleviating depression and anxiety among people in social care environments.

Society

High-school students who engage in the arts at school are twice as likely to volunteer than those who don't engage in the arts and are 20 per cent more likely to vote as young adults.

Employability of students who study arts subjects is higher and they are more likely to stay in employment.

Culture and sport volunteers are more likely than average to be involved and influential in their local communities.

There is strong evidence that participation in the arts can contribute to community cohesion, reduce social exclusion and isolation, and/or make communities feel safer and stronger.

Education

Taking part in drama and library activities improves attainment in literacy.

Taking part in structured music activities improves attainment in maths, early language acquisition and early literacy.

Schools that integrate arts across the curriculum in the US have shown consistently higher average reading and mathematics scores compared to similar schools that do not.

Participation in structured arts activities increases cognitive abilities.

Students from low income families who take part in arts activities at school are three times more likely to get a degree than children from low income families who do not engage in arts activities at school.

Evidence gaps

Most of the studies reviewed cannot establish causality between arts and culture and the wider societal impacts.

The need for larger sample sizes, longitudinal studies and experimental methods is referred to in many of these studies.

There is no up-to-date information on the economic impact of museums and libraries and how they contribute to the wider economy.

There is little research that quantifies the savings to the public purse that are achieved through preventative arts and culture interventions, or other contributions to public services.

The use of digital technologies and how arts and cultural organisations are using this technology to become more resilient.

Equality and diversity: those who are most actively involved with the arts and culture that we invest in tend to be from the most privileged parts of society; engagement is heavily influenced by levels of education, by socio-economic background, and by where people live.