

TELI

introduction

Glastonbury festival is one of the most iconic music festivals the UK has to offer to date! Held annually in Somerset England, the event attracts more than 200,000 thousand people annually, and is known for its array of music and artists spanning across many genres, Glastonbury offers a vibrant atmosphere for all demographics from casual listeners to music fanatics across its 62 stages, featuring amazing visuals and art especially at the pyramid stage where acrobatic performers stun viewers in jaw dropping performances. Glastonbury is on the bucket list for many people even on an international scale, gaining itself the name of Britain's biggest music event of the year. (glastonbury,2024. *An introduction to glastonbury*,26.01.23)<https://www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk/information/an-introduction-to-glastonbury-festival/>)

Hosting such large-scale events like Glastonbury can have major impacts long term and short term, in various aspects such as socially, economically, and environmentally.

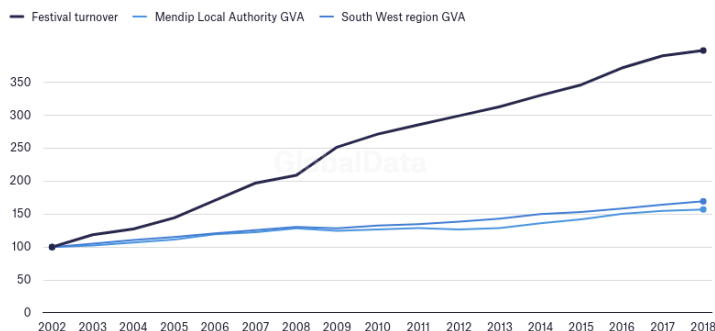
Short- & long-term impacts of Glastonbury festival:

Economically-

Glastonbury helps by Boosting the local economy through tourism and increased spending on accommodations, food, and merchandise has a significant impact, as shown by Whitaker(2022) This not only generates revenue for local businesses, but also creates job opportunities and stimulates economic growth in the region, by people spending the money earned by working at the event, in the local economy this is indirect expenditure this is shown in the index growth in Glastonbury turnover chart.

What impact has Glastonbury had on local economic activity?

Indexed growth in Glastonbury turnover, Mendip local authority gross value added (GVA) and South West regional GVA, 2002-18



(Jhon whitaker,24june,2022)

The influx of tourists supplies a platform for cultural exchange and promotes the visibility and appreciation of local attractions, leading to more people spending time in the local area creating a better local economy (United Nations Publications, 2008).

By attracting more visitors and encouraging them to explore the local area, the community benefits from increased exposure and recognition, which leads to further economic development from spending in Glastonbury. People from around the area also see benefits as the events create over 85,000 jobs, this is explained in a report from parliament talking about the future of music festivals (DCMS, parliament, 2020). The event generates revenue from ticket sales and merchandise therefore directly contributing to the tourism GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

Socially;

“Residents living close to the Glastonbury have divergent views on Glastonbury festivals strain on infrastructure, noise disruption, and environmental impacts” (Laura Linham, 2023) After conducting a comprehensive series of interviews with residents from the Glastonbury area, Linham discovered a considerable number of complaints from local people who expressed their dissatisfaction with the festival and the adverse effects it has had on their lives.

Traffic congestion from large-scale events can negatively affect social areas that are ill-prepared to handle increased traffic. Somerset's narrow, winding roads are not suited for heavy traffic, with influxes of traffic on the motorways and A roads, residents are finding themselves at a standstill for hours at a time (Tom Whitshire, 22 Jun 2016)

Large scale events can raise security concerns as there can be potential for incidents to happen, like assaults, theft, and drug related offenses, (Avon and Somerset police, May 13 2022) published a report showing the arrests at the festival in 2019.

Glastonbury Festival has a positive impact by supporting charities (TheShelter.org.2023) The festival donates a portion of its proceeds to various organizations, helping those in need and raising awareness about important causes. This promotes social responsibility and encourages festival goers to contribute to the cause furthering community engagement (Laura Stanley, Feb 4 2024)

Environmentally;

From a tourism point of view, the environmental impacts of festivals are significant for several reasons. Firstly, festivals often attract many visitors, which can strain local infrastructure and resources. UK festivals generate 25,800 Tonnes of waste, 22,876 Tonnes of CO₂ and use 185 million liters (about 48871820 gal) of water annually. Festivalgoers produce 2kg of waste per person per day, all these factors are contributors to the strain on the infrastructure, we know this because of a report that was produced by parliament when creating contingency plans for post covid music festivals, where impacts are discussed. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5802/cmselect/cmcmds/49/4907.htm> .

Temporary structures are put up such as porta-potties however festival goers end up using bushes instead of the toilets then the ammonia from the human waste can pollute local water sources and affect wildlife and pets nearby (The Telegraph (2016)).

Many people will leave their rubbish and camping gear behind, Glastonbury averages around 2,000 tons of waste a year (Natasha Anderson. jun,26 2023) this article also reveals that the clean-up operation to restore the land each year can cost up to £5000, and thousands of volunteers are needed to tackle the 1000-acre site.

Conclusion.

Economically, the festival boosts the local economy through tourism and increased spending on accommodations, food, and merchandise. This helps local businesses, creates jobs, and stimulates economic growth. The festival also generates revenue from ticket sales and merchandise, contributing to the tourism GDP.

Socially, the festival supports charities and promotes community engagement, but some residents have concerns about infrastructure strain, noise disruption, and environmental impacts.

Environmentally, festivals like Glastonbury have significant effects, including waste generation, CO2 emissions, and water usage. Improper waste disposal can pollute water sources and harm wildlife.

In conclusion, Glastonbury Festival has positive economic and social impacts but also presents challenges in infrastructure, noise, and waste management. Sustainable and responsible event management is essential. Strategies including reduction of waste, effective resource management, and community engagement are critical. Collaboration among event organizers, local governments, communities, and environmental organizations could help reduce negative impacts while maximizing the benefits of such renowned festivals. Glastonbury Festival and comparable events may succeed in the long run through implementing sustainable methods, raising environmental awareness, and encouraging community involvement.

(glastonbury,2024. *An introduction to glastonbury*,26.01.23)<https://www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk/information/an-introduction-to-glastonbury-festival/>)

(Jhon whitaker,24june,2022) <https://www.investmentmonitor.ai/features/glastonbury-music-festivals-investment-promotion-fdi/?cf-view#>

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<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5802/cmselect/cmcumeds/49/4907.htm> .##

Laura(Linham jun2023) <https://glastonbury.nub.news/news/local-news/glastonbury-festival-in-full-swing-locals-share-their-experiences-and-concerns-188705>

(The telegraph 24 may 2016) <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/05/24/glastonbury-festival-ordered-to-pay-31000-after-human-waste-poll/>

(Tom Whitshire, 22 Jun 2016) <https://www.autoexpress.co.uk/car-news/96079/traffic-chaos-surrounding-glastonbury-festival>

(Avon and Somerset police, 1 may 2022)<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/about/freedom-of-information/previous-foi-requests/requests/glastonbury-and-nass-festivals-2019-arrests-and-costs/>

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