

Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of the Harris Tweed® Industry

A report to the Harris Tweed Authority, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
February 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A close-up photograph of Harris Tweed fabric, showing a complex, multi-colored plaid pattern in shades of red, green, yellow, and black. A white woven logo is visible, featuring a cross above a circle with a dotted interior. Below the logo, the text "HARRIS TWEED" is woven in a large, bold font, followed by "HAND WOVEN IN THE OUTER HEBRIDES" and "CERTIFICATION TRADE MARK" in a smaller font.

HARRIS TWEED
HAND WOVEN IN THE OUTER HEBRIDES
CERTIFICATION TRADE MARK

Executive Summary

Harris Tweed®: rugged, authentic, and versatile. A colourful, traditional woollen cloth produced in the Outer Hebrides. Born of domestic necessity, the production evolved into a successful commercial enterprise in the early 1900s and now embodies the very character of the Islands.

SCOTLAND



£16.8M Gross Value Added (GVA)



520 Jobs

OUTER HEBRIDES

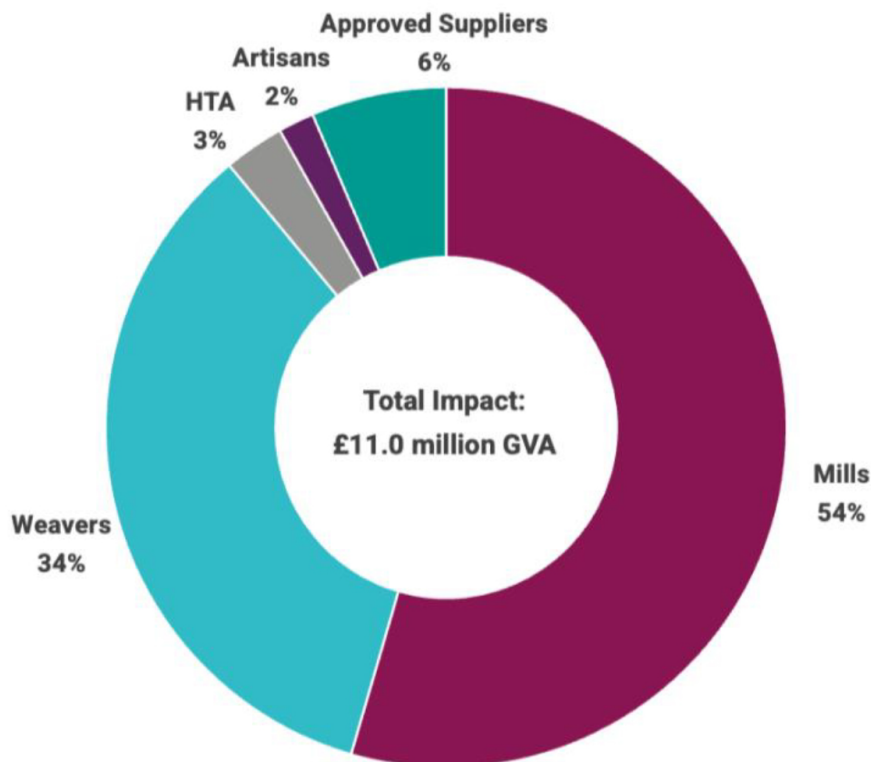


£11.0M Gross Value Added



370 Jobs

Figure ES1 Breakdown of Outer Hebrides GVA Impact



This impact has almost doubled (in real terms) since 2009, confirming the sector has successfully emerged from a period of significant uncertainty in the early 2000s.

Dualchas

The value of Harris Tweed® extends far beyond the balance sheet. The fabric is a tangible expression of dualchas, a Gaelic concept representing the deep connection between people, culture, language, and the land.



Cultural Custodian
- A symbol of
island identity



Global Ambassador
- Exported to over
50 countries



Tourism Driver
- Contribution of
£45-£69M per year

