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First Global Study Reveals Superyacht Industry Has Become a €54 Billion Economic Force

New Deloitte and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam research finds sector supports manufacturing, tourism, innovation and skilled jobs worldwide

Amsterdam, May 2026 - A major new international study has, for the first time, quantified the full economic footprint of the global superyacht industry – revealing a **€54 billion ecosystem** that stretches far beyond luxury tourism into advanced manufacturing, skilled employment and coastal economies worldwide.

Released as the global superyacht fleet surpasses 6,100 vessels, the research by Deloitte and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam shows the sector has evolved into a significant economic force, supporting everything from Mediterranean tourism infrastructure to advanced European engineering, manufacturing and marine innovation.

Commissioned by the **Superyacht Life Foundation (SYL)** and the **Superyacht Builders Association (SYBAss)**, the report provides one of the most comprehensive economic analyses ever conducted on the global superyacht sector, focusing exclusively on vessels over 30 metres in length.

The study found the industry generated **€22 billion in direct economic activity** during the benchmark study period in 2022, triggering a further **€32 billion in indirect impact** through international supply chains, tourism spending and professional services.

In total, every €1 spent within the superyacht industry generates approximately €2.40 in wider economic value.

“The findings challenge the perception of superyachts as a purely niche luxury market,” said **Dilan Saraç, executive director at The Superyacht Life Foundation**. “What emerges is a deeply interconnected global economy supporting manufacturing, tourism, engineering, hospitality and thousands of highly skilled jobs.”

The report highlights the superyacht industry’s significant economic contribution, with **each yacht generating an average annual impact of €9 million**. Fleet operations and tourism are the sector’s largest economic driver, contributing €27.1 billion annually – almost half of the industry’s total global impact. Spending by active yachts supports restaurants, hotels, marinas, transport operators and other local businesses across key cruising destinations, with yachts over 60 metres generating around 5.5 times more spending than smaller vessels.

The Mediterranean remains the world’s leading superyacht hub, accounting for **€4.7 billion in operational expenditure and €1.9 billion in tourism spending** each year, underlining the importance of marina infrastructure, refit facilities and premium tourism services across the region.

Europe continues to dominate superyacht construction, representing around 90% of global new-build market value. Italy, the Netherlands and Germany account for nearly 80% of production, with new construction alone generating approximately **€20 billion in economic impact** and supporting a vast network of naval architects, engineers, craftspeople and technology suppliers.

The report also highlights the growing importance of refit and modernization activity as fleets age and environmental regulations evolve.

Among the report's key findings:

- Total global economic impact: €54 billion
- Direct industry turnover: €22 billion
- Indirect "ripple effect" impact: €32 billion
- Economic multiplier: €2.40 generated for every €1 spent
- Global fleet size now exceeds 6,100 superyachts over 30m
- More than one-third of the global fleet is available for charter
- Average annual contribution of a single yacht: €9 million
- Fleet operations and tourism account for 50% of total industry impact
- Europe represents 90% of global new build market value

Taken together, the findings reveal an industry that connects advanced manufacturing with high-end services, creating economic value long after a yacht leaves the shipyard. While construction and refit drive innovation and skilled employment, charter, operations and tourism deliver recurring benefits to coastal communities around the world.

Researchers describe the report as a benchmark study that provides the clearest picture yet of the modern superyacht economy and its growing influence across manufacturing, tourism and maritime infrastructure.

Notes for editors

About the Study

The Economic Impact of the Superyacht Industry report was commissioned by the Superyacht Life Foundation (SYL) and the Superyacht Builders Association (SYBAss), with research conducted by Deloitte and the Department of Spatial Economics at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

The research draws on shipyard surveys, operational yacht tracking data, over 100 audited corporate financial accounts and more than 50 stakeholder interviews. Economic modelling was conducted using FIGARO Input-Output analysis developed by the Department of Spatial Economics at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

The study focuses exclusively on superyachts over 30 metres in length overall (LOA) during the benchmark study period in 2022 and analyses economic activity across new construction, refit and maintenance, brokerage, charter, fleet operations and tourism

About The Superyacht Life Foundation

[The Superyacht Life Foundation](#) is a non-profit, commercially independent organisation dedicated to increasing understanding of the global superyacht industry and its wider contribution to society. Working alongside 20 partner organisations from across the sector, the Foundation provides an impartial platform to educate, inform and engage audiences about the people, skills, innovation and destinations that shape the superyacht world. Through research, storytelling and industry collaboration, it aims to broaden awareness of the sector and support its long-term sustainability and success.

About SYBAss

Founded in 2007, [SYBAss](#) represents the world's leading superyacht builders and works to shape the future of superyacht construction through collaboration, shared intelligence, and the continuous elevation of industry standards—redefining excellence, accelerating environmental innovation while sustaining craftsmanship, and demonstrating responsible stewardship of the ocean.

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