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Report: Games Impact “Marginally Positive” on Vancouver

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While the Olympic flame won't be lit in Vancouver until February, the second of a series of reports about its impact on the city was released on Friday. The 225 page assessment, which was conducted by the [University of British Columbia](#), is one of four studies required by International Olympic Committee.

Olympic bids are usually announced with bold claims of economic and social benefits, this report highlights the difficulties of actually measuring the gains, or losses, the Olympics bring their host cities.

Despite all the pre-Olympic construction, for example, the report concludes, “the Games appear to have had a marginally positive impact on the economic sphere.” But it immediately follows that highly qualified conclusion with by cautioning that much of the data it analyzed is inconclusive. Vancouver's environment, the study found, “has been mostly unaffected or minimally affected in a negative way.” Overall, the report finds “a very slight positive impact” on Vancouver by the lead-up to the games.

Of course, the major impact of the Olympics on Vancouver has yet to come. Still, the report suggests that it will continue to be difficult to determine what changes are actually related to the Olympics.

One of the study's conclusions may boost the spirits of Canadian sports fans. The study found that a variety of Canadian government programs to boost the country's medal count at the Vancouver Games have measurably improved the performance of Canadian athletes. That improvement has come mainly in better performances by women athletes.