

Tourism economic dependency and community dynamics: Exploring the impact on well-being, support, and pro-tourism behaviours

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Abstract

This study examines how residents' economic dependency on tourism influences subjective well-being, satisfaction with tourism, community support, and pro-tourism behaviours. While economic reliance is often linked to greater tourism support, other studies highlight dissatisfaction stemming from perceived social and environmental costs, pointing to a nuanced and underexplored dynamic. Addressing this gap, the study explores the moderating role of economic dependency within the broader framework of resident-tourism relationships. Drawing on data from a representative sample of 1,524 residents in the Algarve, a region heavily dependent on tourism, this research employs partial least squares structural equation modelling with multigroup analysis (PLS-MGA). Results reveal that tourism economic dependency significantly moderates key psychological and behavioural responses to tourism, particularly by enhancing the positive influence of community support on pro-tourism behaviours. These findings underscore the importance of considering economic contexts when promoting sustainable tourism strategies and highlight the central role of community cohesion in fostering resident engagement with the tourism sector.

Keywords: Tourism economic dependency, Perceptions of tourism impacts, Well-being, Satisfaction, Support, Pro-tourism behaviours.

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1. Introduction

Although economic dependency on tourism is well-documented in regions such as the Algarve (Barreira & Cesário, 2018; Ortega & Ribeiro, 2025), its influence on residents' well-being and pro-tourism behaviours remains inconclusive. This study examines how tourism economic dependency influences relationships between perceived tourism impacts, subjective well-being, satisfaction, support, and behavioural intentions (Pereira *et al.*, 2025). Understanding economic dependency on tourism as a moderator is critical since prior research has presented mixed outcomes.

Some findings suggest that greater economic dependency increases resident support for tourism (Ribeiro *et al.*, 2017; Vodeb *et al.*, 2021). Conversely, other studies indicate that high economic reliance may paradoxically lead to less favourable attitudes due to perceived costs, such as overcrowding, environmental degradation, or decreased quality of life (Hung & Wu, 2017). Moreover, research also demonstrates instances where residents support tourism despite limited direct economic benefits or even facing negative consequences (Nunkoo & So, 2016).

These inconsistent findings underscore the need for a comprehensive examination of residents' economic dependency on tourism, particularly in regions heavily reliant on the sector (Ortega & Ribeiro, 2025). Although typically studied as an independent variable (Hung & Wu, 2017; Nunkoo & So, 2016; Ribeiro *et al.*, 2017), the role of economic dependency as a moderator remains underexplored, with limited examples primarily within niche tourism contexts like sports tourism (Chang *et al.*, 2020), tourism-economic development relationships (Bojanic & Lo, 2016), and resident-tourist conflicts (Teng, 2019). Furthermore, despite growing attention to subjective well-being in tourism literature, there is limited empirical work that explicitly connects well-being (affected by tourism's economic, sociocultural, and environmental dimensions) to proactive tourism support and behaviours (Garau-Vadell *et al.*, 2018; Seo *et al.*, 2021).

To address these research gaps, this study integrates Social Exchange Theory (SET) and Bottom-Up Spillover Theory (BST) into a unified theoretical framework (Eslami *et al.*, 2019; Lança *et al.*, 2025; Tam *et al.*, 2023). This framework enables a systematic examination of residents' perceptions of tourism impacts, satisfaction with tourism, subjective well-being, and support for tourism, and how these evaluations translate into behavioural intentions. Specifically, the study analyses the effects of residents' subjective well-being and support for tourism on pro-tourism behaviours, with tourism economic dependency examined as a moderating condition. In doing so, the study advances existing research by moving beyond the treatment of tourism economic dependency as a direct predictor and demonstrating its role in reshaping how psychological outcomes are converted into behavioural engagement.

2. Literature review

2.1 Social Exchange Theory and residents' perceptions of tourism impacts

Social Exchange Theory (SET) has been widely applied to explain residents' attitudes towards tourism development. Rooted in sociology and social psychology, SET conceptualises social interactions as exchanges in which individuals evaluate perceived benefits and costs (Homans, 1958; Emerson, 1976). In tourism contexts, residents are expected to support tourism development when they perceive that its benefits outweigh its negative consequences (Molm, 1991).

Tourism research has consistently used SET to examine residents' perceptions of tourism impacts and their subsequent attitudes and behaviours (Eslami *et al.*, 2019; Gursoy *et al.*, 2019; Tam *et al.*, 2023). These impacts are commonly conceptualised across economic, socio-cultural, and environmental dimensions, in line with international sustainability frameworks (UNWTO, 2005). Positive impacts, such as employment creation, improved infrastructure, and cultural exchange, are generally associated with favourable resident evaluations, whereas negative impacts, such as environmental degradation,

congestion, and rising living costs, tend to undermine residents' perceptions of tourism development (Thyne et al., 2022; Woosnam & Ribeiro, 2023).

Residents' perceptions of tourism impacts constitute the foundation for subsequent evaluative and attitudinal responses. These include satisfaction with tourism, subjective well-being, support for tourism development, and pro-tourism behavioural intentions (Kim et al., 2013; Gursoy et al., 2019). These relationships are examined in the following subsections. Figure 1 presents an overview of the conceptual framework guiding this study and summarises the relationships that are theoretically developed and formally hypothesised thereafter.

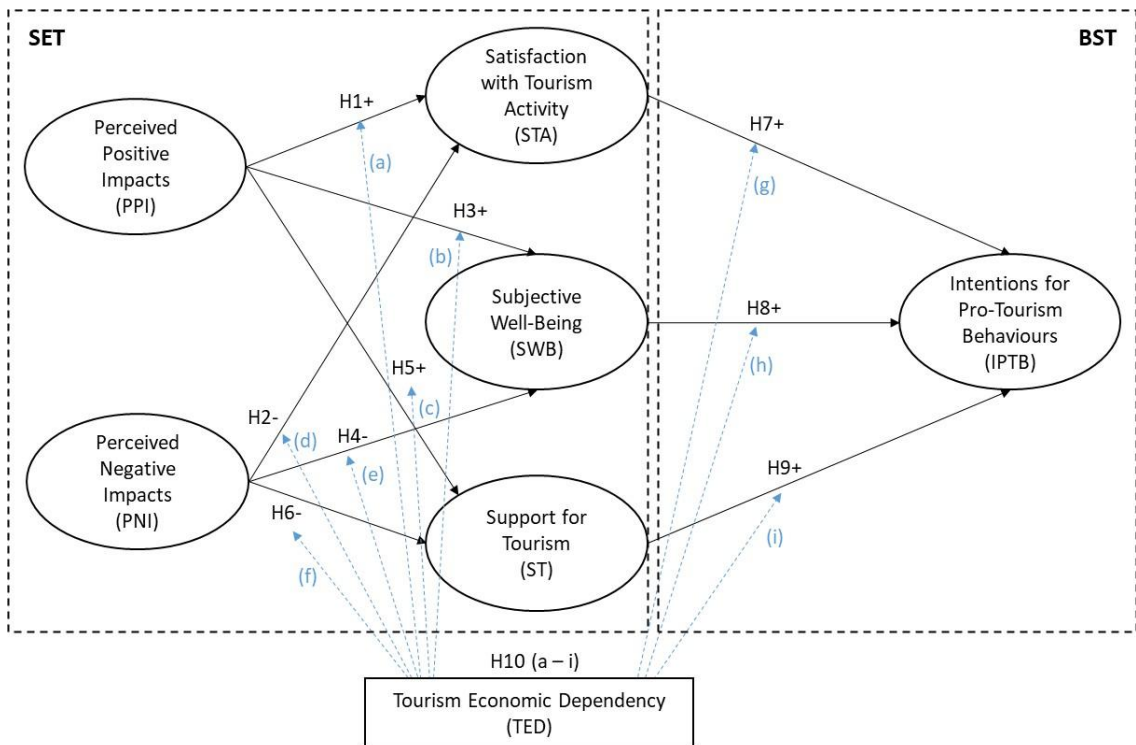


Figure 1. Conceptual framework of the study

2.2. Tourism impacts and residents' satisfaction with tourism

Residents' satisfaction with tourism captures their overall assessment of how tourism development and management are experienced within their community. From a Social Exchange Theory (SET) perspective, satisfaction emerges when residents perceive tourism as a beneficial exchange, in which the perceived benefits outweigh the associated costs at both personal and community levels (Ribeiro et al., 2017).

A substantial body of empirical research indicates that residents' satisfaction with tourism is significantly influenced by their perceptions of the impacts of tourism. Positive impacts, such as employment opportunities, improved public amenities, and enhanced cultural vitality, tend to enhance residents' satisfaction, whereas negative impacts, such as overcrowding, environmental pressure, and strain on local infrastructure, reduce favourable evaluations of tourism development (Gannon et al., 2021; Gursoy et al., 2019; Kim et al., 2013; Vodeb et al., 2021). Satisfaction with tourism thus represents a domain-specific evaluative response that reflects residents' judgments of tourism performance within their community. Based on these arguments, the following hypotheses are proposed:

H1: Perceived positive impacts of tourism have a positive effect on satisfaction with tourism activities.

H2: Perceived negative impacts of tourism have a negative effect on satisfaction with tourism activities.

2.3. Tourism impacts and residents' subjective well-being

Beyond satisfaction with tourism as a specific domain, tourism development may also influence residents' subjective well-being, defined as individuals' overall cognitive and affective evaluation of their quality of life (Diener, 2000). Unlike satisfaction with tourism, which reflects residents' assessments of tourism-related experiences and management, subjective well-being captures broader spillover effects of tourism on residents' everyday lives.

In the well-being literature, two complementary perspectives are commonly distinguished. A hedonic perspective emphasises happiness, affect, and life satisfaction, whereas a eudaimonic perspective highlights meaning, purpose, personal growth, and psychological functioning. Tourism research increasingly recognises both perspectives when assessing the broader outcomes of tourism-related change.

Although community-level studies frequently operationalise residents' well-being using hedonic and quality-of-life evaluations, due to their suitability for capturing global life assessments in survey research (Chang *et al.*, 2025; Uysal *et al.*, 2025), this approach is not without its limitations. Therefore, this study adopts a hedonic subjective well-being approach, which explicitly refers to residents' perceived quality of life and overall life evaluations. This is consistent with established tourism work that frames residents' well-being and quality of life as closely related outcomes shaped by tourism's economic, social, and environmental consequences (Kim *et al.*, 2013; Sirgy *et al.*, 2011).

Within the tourism literature, residents' subjective well-being has increasingly been recognised as a central outcome of tourism development, as tourism-related changes affect lived experiences across multiple life domains. Tourism can enhance residents' well-being through improved economic security, better infrastructure, increased social interaction, strengthened place attachment, and enhanced community pride (Dwyer, 2022; Kim *et al.*, 2013; Sirgy *et al.*, 2011). Conversely, persistent tourism-related pressures, such as overcrowding, environmental degradation, rising living costs, and reduced access to local resources, may undermine residents' perceived quality of life and overall well-being (Kuščer & Mihalič, 2019; Ribeiro *et al.*, 2017). Recent reviews and empirical contributions further emphasise that tourism-well-being relationships are context-dependent and may reflect both beneficial and detrimental pathways, underscoring the importance of considering residents' global life evaluations alongside domain-specific assessments (Vásquez *et al.*, 2025).

Recent studies emphasise that subjective well-being provides a holistic lens for assessing residents' responses to tourism, as it integrates multiple impact dimensions into an overall life evaluation that extends beyond immediate reactions to tourism performance (Ramkissoon, 2023; Tam *et al.*, 2023). From a bottom-up perspective, evaluations of specific life domains affected by tourism can spill over into residents' global well-being, thereby shaping subsequent attitudes and behavioural intentions. Accordingly, the following hypotheses are proposed:

H3: Perceived positive impacts of tourism have a positive effect on residents' subjective well-being.

H4: Perceived negative impacts of tourism have a negative effect on residents' subjective well-being.

2.4. *Tourism impacts and residents' support for tourism development*

Residents' support for tourism development reflects their willingness to endorse the continuation or expansion of tourism within their community. Consistent with SET, such support emerges when residents perceive tourism as a fair exchange that delivers net benefits to themselves and to the wider community (Wassler *et al.*, 2019; Woosnam *et al.*, 2023).

In this study, support for tourism is conceptualised as an attitudinal construct, reflecting residents' general endorsement of tourism development and related policies. While closely linked to behavioural outcomes, support represents an evaluative stance that may, but does not necessarily, translate into active behavioural engagement. Prior research consistently shows that residents' support for tourism is strongly influenced by their perceptions of tourism impacts, with positive perceptions strengthening support and negative perceptions eroding acceptance and trust (Erul *et al.*, 2023; Lança *et al.*, 2025; Papastathopoulos *et al.*, 2020). Based on these findings, the following hypotheses are proposed:

H5: Perceived positive impacts of tourism have a positive effect on residents' support for tourism.

H6: Perceived negative impacts of tourism have a negative effect on residents' support for tourism.

2.5. *Beyond Social Exchange Theory: Bottom-Up Spillover Theory*

Although Social Exchange Theory provides a useful framework for understanding residents' evaluations of tourism, it has been criticised for overemphasising rational cost-benefit calculations while underestimating psychological and emotional processes (Lança *et al.*, 2025; Ward & Berno, 2011). Residents' attitudes and behaviours are also shaped by emotions, values, and broader life evaluations that extend beyond instrumental exchange relationships (Woosnam *et al.*, 2018).

Bottom-Up Spillover Theory (BST) addresses these limitations by explaining how satisfaction within specific life domains contributes to overall subjective well-being and subsequently influences attitudes and behaviours (Diener, 2000; Sirgy *et al.*, 2011). In tourism research, BST has been increasingly applied to explain how tourism-related experiences affect residents' well-being and their support for sustainable tourism outcomes (Eslami *et al.*, 2019; Zheng *et al.*, 2022).

By integrating SET and BST, this study adopts a complementary theoretical perspective that captures both residents' evaluative judgments of tourism impacts and broader psychological spillover effects associated with quality of life. Within this framework, subjective well-being is expected to play a central role in motivating residents' engagement in pro-tourism behaviours, as positive life evaluations foster greater willingness to support and actively contribute to tourism development.

2.6. *Satisfaction, subjective well-being, support, and pro-tourism behavioural intentions*

Pro-tourism behaviour intentions refer to residents' willingness to engage in concrete actions that actively support tourism development, such as welcoming tourists, protecting tourism-related natural and cultural resources, and contributing to a positive destination image (Liu *et al.*, 2022; Ribeiro *et al.*, 2017). While related, pro-tourism behaviours are conceptually distinct from support for tourism, as the latter reflects an attitudinal endorsement of tourism, whereas pro-tourism behaviours represent the behavioural expression of that support. In this sense, support for tourism can be viewed as a necessary but not sufficient condition for pro-tourism behaviours.

Tourism research increasingly highlights the importance of pro-tourism behaviours, as residents play a central role in shaping visitor experiences, legitimising tourism development, and sustaining the social and environmental foundations of destinations (Erul & Woosnam, 2022; Lança *et al.*, 2024).

Understanding the psychological and attitudinal drivers of such behaviours is therefore essential for sustainable tourism planning.

Residents' satisfaction with tourism has been proposed as one antecedent of pro-tourism behaviours, as satisfied individuals may reciprocate perceived benefits through supportive actions. However, empirical evidence remains mixed. While some studies report a positive relationship between satisfaction and behavioural support (Lança *et al.*, 2025; Vodeb *et al.*, 2021), others suggest that tourism-related stress, economic pressure, or tourism fatigue may weaken behavioural engagement, even when satisfaction with tourism is relatively high (Boley *et al.*, 2018; Nunkoo & So, 2016).

Subjective well-being has also been identified as an important motivational driver of supportive behaviours. Drawing on Bottom-Up Spillover Theory, individuals with higher life satisfaction are more likely to engage in prosocial and community-supportive actions (Diener, 2000; Gautam, 2023). In tourism contexts, improved well-being has been associated with stronger behavioural support for tourism development, as residents who experience a higher quality of life may be more inclined to contribute positively to community initiatives, including tourism-related activities (Eslami *et al.*, 2019; Lai *et al.*, 2021; Munanura *et al.*, 2023).

Finally, residents' support for tourism represents a proximal attitudinal antecedent of behaviour. Prior research consistently demonstrates that residents who express stronger support for tourism are more likely to translate this support into concrete pro-tourism behavioural intentions (Erul & Woosnam, 2022; Wang *et al.*, 2022). Accordingly, the following hypotheses are proposed:

H7: Higher levels of satisfaction with tourism activities lead to higher levels of intentions for pro-tourism behaviours.

H8: Higher levels of subjective well-being lead to higher levels of intentions for pro-tourism behaviours.

H9: Higher levels of support for tourism lead to higher levels of intentions for pro-tourism behaviours.

2.7. The role of tourism economic dependency

Tourism dependency, also known as economic dependency, refers to the extent to which income or employment is reliant on tourism-related activities (Bandurina & Frleta, 2021; Ortega & Ribeiro, 2025). Prior studies have scrutinised residents' attitudes towards tourism through the lens of their economic circumstances (Andriotis, 2005; Harrill, 2004).

Andereck and Nyaupane (2011) showed that residents with diverse backgrounds or characteristics might have different perceptions regarding their support for tourism. For instance, Harrill (2004) and Ward and Berno (2011) claimed that individuals who are economically dependent on tourism tend to exhibit more favourable attitudes toward tourism development. As their economic welfare becomes increasingly intertwined with tourism, they will likely offer greater support for tourism (Vargas-Sánchez *et al.*, 2011). Conversely, McGehee and Andereck (2004) advocated that those residents who benefit more from tourism tend to show less favourable attitudes. Other studies showed evidence that residents still support tourism growth despite the level of economic gains (Andriotis, 2005; Nunkoo & So, 2016).

Despite these contradictory results, there are authors advocating that economic dependency on tourism is still a good predictor of residents' support for tourism and intentions for pro-tourism behaviours (Gursoy *et al.*, 2019; Wassler *et al.*, 2019). However, the role of tourism economic dependency in the relationship between these variables is unknown. We further argue that tourism economic dependency strengthens the relationships between perceived tourism impacts and satisfaction, subjective well-

being, and support for tourism development. Thus, we pose the following hypothesis on the role of tourism economic dependency on our model:

H10 (a-i): Tourism economic dependency acts as a moderator in the relationships between tourism impacts and satisfaction with tourism activity, subjective well-being, support for tourism, and pro-tourism behaviours.

3. Methodology

3.1. Study setting

The Algarve, located in southern Portugal, was recently recognised as the world's leading beach destination (World Travel Awards, 2024). This region, which encompasses 16 municipalities, borders the Alentejo to the north and Spain to the east. Tourism is pivotal as the primary economic driver for the region and the country, contributing approximately 66.0% to the regional GDP and employing over 60.0% of the workforce (Ortega & Ribeiro, 2025; RTA, 2023). Visitors are drawn to the Algarve primarily for its beaches, quality of hospitality, and overall safety (Barreira & Cesário, 2018). In 2023, the Algarve continued to lead as Portugal's top tourist destination, accounting for 26.4% of all overnight stays (INE, 2024).

3.2. Sampling procedure

All adults (aged over 18) living in the Algarve formed the target population of this study ($N=390,488$) (INE, 2023). This population was stratified by municipality, age group, and gender, according to Statistics Portugal (INE, 2023), to select a representative sample. The sample size was computed assuming a proportional allocation of the sample per stratum (Xufre *et al.*, 2021), using a confidence level of 95.0% and aiming to assure a maximum sampling error of 1.0%. Thus, a sample size of 1,500 residents was computed for both the high and low seasons of tourism activity (July-August 2022 and February 2023), considering auxiliary data on the variable *intentions for pro-tourism behaviours* from a prior survey (standard deviation = 0.586).

3.3. Data collection instrument and methods

A survey was conducted across all municipalities of the Algarve region, featuring 24 question sets, including socio-demographic questions. The main objective was to understand residents' opinions and behaviours regarding sustainable tourism development in the Algarve. For this article, the analysis focused on six key areas: residents' perceptions of tourism impacts (both positive and negative) across economic, socio-cultural, and environmental dimensions; satisfaction with tourism activities; subjective well-being; support for tourism; and intentions to engage in pro-tourism behaviours (see Table 2). Additionally, socio-demographic questions were included to provide a more in-depth analysis (see Table 1).

The survey instrument was composed of previously validated measurement scales adapted to the context of this study. All items were measured using a five-point Likert scale ranging from 1 ("strongly disagree") to 5 ("strongly agree"). Perceptions of tourism impacts (both positive and negative) were measured using items adapted from Ribeiro *et al.* (2017), which captured residents' evaluations of the economic, socio-cultural, and environmental impacts of tourism. These items have been widely applied in resident-based tourism studies, providing a comprehensive assessment of perceived tourism-related benefits and costs. Residents' satisfaction with tourism was measured using items adapted from Ribeiro *et al.* (2017), reflecting residents' overall evaluation of tourism development and management within their community. Satisfaction was conceptualised as a domain-specific evaluative construct, capturing residents' judgments of tourism performance at the local level. Subjective well-being was measured using items adapted from Lai *et al.* (2021), drawing on established life satisfaction and quality-of-life

indicators commonly used in tourism research. This construct captures residents' broader evaluations of their quality of life, extending beyond tourism-specific assessments.

Further, support for tourism development was conceptualised as an attitudinal construct reflecting residents' general endorsement of tourism in their community. This construct was measured using two items adapted from Papastathopoulos *et al.* (2020), which operationalise support through global evaluative opinions of tourism development. The use of a parsimonious two-item scale is consistent with prior tourism studies that conceptualise support as a unidimensional attitudinal outcome and employ short scales to capture residents' overall stance toward tourism (e.g., Erul *et al.*, 2023; Lança *et al.*, 2025). Pro-tourism behaviour intentions were measured using two items adapted from Ribeiro *et al.* (2017) and Liu *et al.* (2022), capturing residents' willingness to engage in concrete actions that support tourism development. These items reflect action-oriented behavioural intentions rather than attitudinal endorsement. The decision to use a limited number of items was informed by previous resident perception studies and guided by the aim of reducing respondent burden while maintaining conceptual clarity and measurement reliability.

The survey was administered in a traditional pen-and-paper format. Whenever possible, residents self-administered it after providing verbal consent for their data to be used for research purposes. Prior to the fieldwork, a team of five researchers participated in a comprehensive two-hour training session. The research team utilised the random route approach, employing a systematic sampling strategy across all municipalities in the Algarve region. Residents were approached randomly in the streets, residences, cafes, parks, and other public areas until the predetermined sample size for each stratum was achieved (Xufre *et al.*, 2021).

The final sample size comprised of 1,524 residents (990 in the high season of 2022 and 534 in the low season of 2023). Given the strong seasonality of tourism in the Algarve, where tourism activity is heavily concentrated during the summer months, residents' evaluations of tourism tend to reflect cumulative experiences from the peak season. Accordingly, even respondents surveyed during the low season reported their perceptions and behavioural intentions based on their broader experience with tourism development. Additional analyses revealed no statistically significant differences between responses collected during the high and low seasons. Incomplete surveys, with more than 10% non-response rates, were discarded, realising that missing data might compromise the study's statistical results (Hair *et al.*, 2021).

3.4. Data analysis

The analysis utilised two software tools: IBM SPSS28 and SmartPLS4. First, a descriptive analysis was performed to profile the residents, emphasising their sociodemographic characteristics. Then, a Multigroup Analysis using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-MGA) was carried out to estimate the model and evaluate the research hypotheses (Hair *et al.*, 2021).

Multigroup analysis, also known as between-group analysis, using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM), is a method for evaluating predefined data groups to identify significant differences in group-specific parameter estimates (Matthews, 2017). By utilising MGA, researchers can compare and test differences between two specific groups: residents who are economically dependent on tourism and those who are not.

4. Results

4.1. Descriptive results

As indicated in Table 1, a significant number of respondents are female (59.4%), aged between 25 and 64 (79.3%), with secondary (51.2%) or university (31.0%) levels of education. At the time of data

collection, many respondents (38.7%) were economically reliant on the tourism sector. However, the majority (58.3%) did not have such dependency. Most respondents indicated having relatively low monthly incomes, with 45.5% earning between 706€ and 1,000€ and 18.8% earning less than 705€.

Table 1. *Profile of respondents.*

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	618	40.6
	Female	906	59.4
Age (Years)	18 – 24	186	12.2
	25 – 64	1,208	79.3
	65 and above	130	8.5
Level of Education	Primary school	230	15.1
	High school	780	51.2
	University	472	31.0
	DK/DA	42	2.7
Tourism Economic Dependency*	No	888	58.3
	Yes	590	38.7
	DK/DA	46	3.0
Net Monthly Income	Until 705€	286	18.8
	706€ - 1,000€	694	45.5
	1,001€ - 1,500€	260	17.1
	1,501€ - 2,000€	56	3.7
	2,001€ or more	40	2.6
	DK/DA	188	12.3

*This variable was derived from the survey question: 'Is your professional activity related to tourism (hotels, restaurants, transport, tourist attractions, etc.)?'

Note: DK/DA = Does not know/Does not answer.

4.2. Multicollinearity and data normality

Measures were employed to mitigate the Common Method Bias (CMB) and analyses were conducted to investigate whether the data's integrity might be compromised (Jordan & Troth, 2020). Harman's single-factor test was conducted by entering all 19 items, representing the six constructs in the model, into an unrotated exploratory factor analysis to examine whether a single factor accounted for most of the variance (Podsakoff et al., 2012).

The analysis revealed that no single factor accounted for more than 29.7% of the variance among the variables, indicating that common method bias (CMB) was not an issue (<50%). Additionally, skewness and kurtosis were examined to assess data normality. The findings reveal skewness and kurtosis coefficients below the critical threshold of 3.0. These results support the normality of the data in the maximum likelihood estimation of structural equation modeling (SEM) and confirm the suitability of the data. Additionally, the variance inflation factors (VIFs) are below 3.0, and the tolerance values are greater than 0.1, indicating that multicollinearity is not a problem (Hair et al., 2021).

4.3 Model assessment in PLS-SEM

4.3.1. Assessment of measurement model and invariance measurement

Evaluating the reflective measurement model requires assessing its reliability and validity concerning the Latent Variables (LVs) (Chin, 1998; Hair et al., 2021). In this study, the measurement model included six LVs: (1) residents' perceptions of the positive (PPI) and (2) negative (PNI) impacts of tourism, (3) residents' satisfaction with tourism activity (STA), (4) residents' subjective well-being (SWB), (5) residents' support for tourism (ST), and (6) residents' intentions for pro-tourism behaviours (IPTB).

According to Table 2, all items exhibit loadings above 0.7, which is considered sufficient for reliability (Hair *et al.*, 2021). Additionally, for each group, the Composite Reliability (CR) values for all reflective LVs are above 0.7, confirming internal consistency (Hair *et al.*, 2021). These results indicate a strong level of reliability in the measurement model.

Assessing convergent and discriminant validity is crucial for ensuring the credibility of research findings (Hair *et al.*, 2021). This study's Average Variance Extracted (AVE) values were above the 0.5 threshold, demonstrating adequate convergent validity (Hair *et al.*, 2021).

Table 2. *Assessment results of the measurement model.*

LVs and Corresponding Items	Mean	SD	Loadings	CR	AVE
1. Perception of Positive Impacts (PPI)	3.21			0.855	0.663
1. Economic	3.67	0.502	0.795		
2. Socio-cultural	3.22	0.544	0.864		
3. Environmental	2.74	0.756	0.780		
2. Perception of Negative Impacts (PNI)	3.41			0.870	0.690
1. Economic	3.80	0.645	0.797		
2. Socio-cultural	3.00	0.724	0.881		
3. Environmental	3.44	0.772	0.811		
3. Satisfaction with Tourism Activity (STA)	3.21			0.928	0.812
1. I am satisfied with the current level of tourism development in my municipality	3.23	0.947	0.897		
2. I am satisfied with the way tourism is being managed in my municipality	3.04	0.989	0.902		
3. Overall, I am satisfied with tourism in my municipality	3.37	0.887	0.905		
4. Subjective Well-Being (SWB)	3.49			0.919	0.653
1. Overall, I am satisfied with my life	3.79	0.843	0.800		
2. My living conditions are excellent	3.12	0.975	0.837		
3. In many aspects, my life is close to ideal	3.14	0.983	0.835		
4. So far, I have achieved what I want in life	3.35	0.949	0.794		
5. In general, I consider myself to be a happy person	3.92	0.797	0.744		
6. In general, I am satisfied with my quality of life	3.59	0.931	0.835		
5. Support for Tourism (ST)	3.95			0.883	0.790
1. I think my municipality should continue to be a tourism destination	4.06	0.712	0.883		
2. I believe that, overall, the impacts of tourism in my municipality are positive	3.84	0.760	0.894		
6. Intentions for Pro-Tourism Behaviours (IPTB)	4.09			0.864	0.761
1. I am willing to protect the natural and environmental resources on which tourism depends	3.98	0.696	0.879		
2. I am willing to receive tourists with friendliness and hospitality	4.20	0.647	0.866		

Scale: 1 – Strongly disagree; 5 – Strongly agree.

Note: This Table reports standardised indicator loadings from the PLS-SEM measurement model. As these loadings are model-based, rotation is not applicable.

The Heterotrait-Monotrait (HTMT) ratio has recently become a more reliable standard for confirming discriminant validity than older methods, such as the Fornell-Larcker criterion. Using group-specific model estimation, the results for the HTMT criterion (Table 3) confirm successful discriminant validity, as all values remained below the critical threshold of 0.85 (Henseler et al., 2015).

Table 3. Assessment results of discriminant validity (HTMT criterion)

LVs	PNI	PPI	IPTB	ST	STA	SWB
PNI	0.830					
PPI	0.093	0.814				
IPTB	0.127	0.393	0.872			
ST	0.303	0.594	0.818	0.888		
STA	0.304	0.577	0.265	0.534	0.901	
SWB	0.172	0.248	0.196	0.287	0.316	0.808

Note: The diagonal values in bold indicate the square root of the shared variance (AVE) between the constructs and their respective measures. The non-diagonal values represent the correlations between the constructs. The diagonal values should be greater than all corresponding entries in their respective rows and columns to establish discriminant validity.

Before conducting PLS-MGA to compare path coefficients between residents with and without economic dependency on tourism, it is crucial to ensure that both the measurement models and invariance are satisfactory (Cheah et al., 2023; Hair et al., 2021). To evaluate measurement invariance in composite models using variance-based structural equation modeling (SEM) techniques like PLS path modeling, Henseler et al. (2016) introduced the Measurement Invariance of Composites (MICOM) three-step approach. Upon completing the MICOM process, the results confirmed partial measurement invariance for both groups (Table 4). This analysis is necessary for accurately comparing and interpreting group-specific differences in PLS-SEM results through MGA (Cheah et al., 2023; Henseler et al., 2016).

Table 4. Assessment results of invariance measurement testing using permutation

LVs	Configural Invariance	Compositional Invariance (Correlation=1)		PMI	Equal mean value		Equal variance		FMI
		C=1	CI		Dif.	CI	Dif.	CI	
PNI	Yes	0.999	[0.993, 1.000]	Yes	0.007	[-0.086, 0.090]	0.025	[-0.131, 0.131]	Yes
PPI	Yes	0.999	[0.998, 1.000]	Yes	0.174	[-0.090, 0.086]	0.036	[-0.163, 0.143]	No
IPTB	Yes	1.000	[0.998, 1.000]	Yes	0.219	[-0.084, 0.090]	0.021	[-0.180, 0.183]	No
ST	Yes	1.000	[0.999, 1.000]	Yes	0.192	[-0.086, 0.091]	0.029	[-0.145, 0.157]	No
STA	Yes	1.000	[1.000, 1.000]	Yes	0.050	[-0.090, 0.083]	-0.028	[-0.127, 0.125]	Yes
SWB	Yes	1.000	[0.996, 1.000]	Yes	-0.130	[-0.089, 0.083]	0.228	[-0.146, 0.134]	No

Note: C=Correlation; CI=Confidence Interval; Dif.=Differences; PMI=Partial Measurement Invariance; FMI=Full Measurement Invariance.

4.3.2. Assessment of structural model and multigroup analysis

The coefficients of determination (R^2) for the endogenous LVs were calculated to evaluate the predictive power of the structural model. The R^2 value for the ultimate LV, which represents intentions for pro-tourism behaviours (IPTB), was found to be 33.9%. This suggests that a moderate portion of the variation in IPTB can be explained by its predictors, which include perceptions of tourism impacts (PPI and PNI), satisfaction with tourism activity (STA), subjective well-being (SWB), and support for tourism (ST). Among these, residents' STA and ST were the strongest predictors, accounting for 27.6% and 24.6% of the variation in IPTB, respectively. These findings suggest that higher levels of STA and ST are associated with stronger IPTB. In contrast, SWB explained comparatively less variance in IPTB, indicating that residents' well-being has a relatively weak influence on their intentions for pro-tourism behaviours.

The assessment of the structural model and a comparison of path coefficients (β) between the two groups is detailed in Table 5. The significance of these path coefficients was determined by calculating p-values through bootstrapping procedures with 5,000 sub-samples.

Table 5. Results of hypotheses testing

Hypotheses	β -value With TED	β -value Without TED	β -value differences (With TED – Without TED)	Support With TED Without TED	p-value permutation test (H ₀ : a - i)
H1: PPI > STA	0.426**	0.469**	-0.043	Yes Yes	(a) 0.180
H2: PNI > STA	-0.230**	-0.266**	0.035	Yes Yes	(d) 0.264
H3: PPI > SWB	0.224**	0.180**	0.044	Yes Yes	(b) 0.221
H4: PNI > SWB	-0.197**	-0.091*	-0.105	Yes Yes	(e) 0.037
H5: PPI > ST	0.364**	0.455**	-0.092	Yes Yes	(c) 0.046
H6: PNI > ST	-0.252**	-0.234**	-0.018	Yes Yes	(f) 0.362
H7: STA > IPTB	-0.112**	-0.021	-0.091	No No	(g) 0.036
H8: SWB > IPTB	-0.012	0.082**	-0.095	No Yes	(h) 0.020
H9: ST > IPTB	0.650**	0.541**	0.109	Yes Yes	(i) 0.014

Note: β =Path Coefficient; TED=Tourism economic dependency; * $p<0.05$, ** $p<0.01$. Bold values indicate significant statistical differences.

Results indicate that eight of the nine hypotheses were supported for residents with and/or without tourism economic dependency. First, residents' perceptions of the positive impacts brought by tourism had a positive effect on their satisfaction with the sector ($\beta=0.426$, $p<0.01$; $\beta=0.469$, $p<0.01$) and their overall subjective well-being ($\beta=0.224$, $p<0.01$; $\beta=0.180$, $p<0.01$), regardless of whether there is an economic dependency on tourism or not. Thus, H1 and H3 were supported. Perceptions of the positive impacts of tourism were significantly associated with residents' support for it, particularly among those who were not economically dependent on the industry ($\beta=0.455$, $p<0.01$), thus supporting H5(c). Second, residents' perceptions of the negative impacts of tourism significantly reduced both their satisfaction with tourism activities ($\beta=-0.230$, $p<0.01$; $\beta=-0.266$, $p<0.01$) and their support for tourism development ($\beta=-0.252$, $p<0.01$; $\beta=-0.234$, $p<0.01$), regardless of their economic dependency on tourism. These findings supported H2 and H6. However, the negative impact of tourism on residents' subjective well-being was more pronounced for those economically dependent on tourism ($\beta=-0.197$, $p<0.01$), thus supporting H4(e).

Third, residents' satisfaction with tourism has a negative effect on intentions for pro-tourism behaviours among those economically dependent on tourism ($\beta=-0.112$, $p<0.01$). However, this effect was not observed in those without economic dependency ($\beta=-0.021$, $p>0.05$). Consequently, the direct effect

proposed in H7 was not supported overall, whereas the moderating effect proposed in H7(g) was supported, indicating significant differences between economically dependent and non-dependent residents.

Additionally, subjective well-being had a positive influence on pro-tourism behaviours in residents without economic dependency on tourism ($\beta = 0.082$, $p < 0.01$), supporting H8(h). Finally, residents' support for tourism positively impacted their intentions to engage in pro-tourism behaviours, especially among those economically dependent on tourism ($\beta = 0.650$, $p < 0.01$), thereby supporting H9(i).

5. Discussion

This study examined the relationships between residents' perceptions of tourism impacts, satisfaction with tourism, subjective well-being, support for tourism, and intentions to engage in pro-tourism behaviours, with a particular focus on the moderating role of tourism economic dependency. While the economic importance of tourism for host regions has long been recognised, recent research continues to emphasise its central role in regional development, employment creation, and community resilience, particularly in mature and highly seasonal destinations (Dwyer, 2022; Ramkissoon, 2023). By explicitly examining how economic dependency conditions residents' psychological and behavioural responses, this study contributes to a more nuanced understanding of resident engagement in tourism-dependent contexts.

Consistent with prior literature, the findings confirm that residents' positive perceptions of tourism significantly enhance both satisfaction with tourism and subjective well-being (Gursoy *et al.*, 2019; Kim *et al.*, 2013; Sirgy *et al.*, 2011). These relationships were observed regardless of residents' economic dependency, suggesting that tourism-related benefits such as improved infrastructure, cultural exchange, and economic vitality are broadly valued across the community. Importantly, satisfaction in this study refers specifically to residents' satisfaction with tourism development and management within their community, rather than satisfaction with tourism as a consumption experience. This distinction reflects residents' evaluations of how tourism operates in their everyday environment and its impact on local living conditions.

In contrast, negative perceptions of tourism, particularly those related to environmental degradation, overcrowding, and increased living costs, were associated with lower satisfaction and weaker support for tourism. Notably, the negative effects of perceived negative impacts were more pronounced among residents who are economically dependent on tourism. This challenges the assumption that economic reliance necessarily buffers residents against dissatisfaction (McGehee & Andereck, 2004; Nunkoo & So, 2016). One possible explanation is that economically dependent residents are more frequently exposed to tourism-related pressures and therefore experience negative impacts more intensely and persistently. Over time, these pressures may accumulate and outweigh perceived benefits, leading to stronger adverse reactions (Boley *et al.*, 2018; Garau-Vadell *et al.*, 2018).

Environmental concerns emerged as especially salient in this context. As in other destinations experiencing high visitor volumes, tourism in the Algarve places sustained pressure on natural resources, contributing to pollution, water scarcity, and habitat degradation. Overcrowding during peak periods further exacerbates these challenges, directly affecting residents' quality of life. These findings align with research emphasising that unmanaged tourism growth can undermine environmental sustainability and resident well-being, particularly in coastal and tourism-intensive regions (Andereck & Nyaupane, 2011; Gannon *et al.*, 2021; Pereira *et al.*, 2025).

The socio-cultural impacts of tourism also revealed ambivalence. While tourism can foster cultural exchange, community pride, and heritage preservation, it may simultaneously lead to cultural

commodification, disruption of public spaces, and tensions between residents and visitors. Such contradictory outcomes underscore the need for place-sensitive tourism governance that protects cultural integrity and social cohesion (Adongo *et al.*, 2019; Erul & Woosnam, 2022). These dynamics may vary across destinations. For example, if this study were conducted in Lisbon, a large metropolitan city with a more diversified economy and stronger institutional capacity, residents' responses might differ. Urban residents may be less economically dependent on tourism, but they are more sensitive to issues such as housing affordability, gentrification, and tourist overcrowding, highlighting the importance of destination context.

One of the most notable findings concerns the relationship between satisfaction with tourism and pro-tourism behavioural intentions. Contrary to studies reporting a straightforward positive association (Vodeb *et al.*, 2021), this study found that among economically dependent residents, higher satisfaction with tourism was associated with lower intentions to engage in pro-tourism behaviours. This counterintuitive result may reflect a form of tourism fatigue, whereby long-term economic dependence leads to emotional disengagement or psychological exhaustion, even when satisfaction with tourism remains relatively high (Boley *et al.*, 2018). In this context, satisfaction may signal acceptance or tolerance of tourism as an economic necessity rather than genuine enthusiasm. Residents' relationship with tourism thus becomes more transactional than transformative, with tourism perceived primarily as a source of income rather than as a driver of broader community development or collective well-being.

Subjective well-being was a significant predictor of pro-tourism behaviours, but only among residents who are not economically dependent on tourism. This supports research suggesting that higher levels of well-being foster prosocial and community-oriented behaviours (Diener, 2000; Gautam, 2023). Economically independent residents may evaluate tourism more holistically, appreciating its contribution to quality of life beyond immediate financial returns. In contrast, for economically dependent residents, well-being appeared to play a limited role, possibly because their engagement with tourism is shaped more by economic obligation than by broader life satisfaction.

Finally, support for tourism emerged as a strong predictor of pro-tourism behavioural intentions across both groups, with a particularly strong effect among economically dependent residents. This aligns with Social Exchange Theory, which posits that individuals are more likely to reciprocate when they perceive personal or collective benefits (Lança *et al.*, 2024; Woosnam *et al.*, 2023). However, this support may coexist with fatigue or disengagement when negative impacts intensify, reinforcing the need for policies that address both material benefits and lived experiences.

6. Conclusion

Overall, the findings demonstrate that residents' support for tourism is shaped by a complex interplay of economic dependency, perceived impacts, psychological well-being, and contextual factors. Tourism economic dependency does not uniformly increase support. Instead, it amplifies both positive and negative responses depending on how tourism impacts are perceived. This highlights the importance of recognising heterogeneity within host communities rather than assuming homogeneous resident reactions to tourism development.

The study contributes to tourism research by showing that economic dependency conditions not only residents' perceptions but also the pathways through which satisfaction, well-being, and support translate into behavioural intentions. These insights underscore the need for differentiated and context-sensitive tourism policies that acknowledge residents' varying degrees of dependency and lived experiences. Without addressing the full spectrum of tourism's economic, social, and environmental consequences, particularly in highly dependent regions, efforts to promote sustainable tourism

development risk fostering disengagement or latent resistance among residents, ultimately undermining long-term destination sustainability.

6.1. Theoretical and practical implications

This study advances theoretical understanding by integrating Social Exchange Theory (SET) and the Bottom-Up Spillover Theory (BST) to examine the complex interplay between residents' perceptions of tourism, subjective well-being, community support, and pro-tourism behaviours, moderated by tourism economic dependency. SET posits that support for tourism stems from perceived reciprocal benefits (Wassler *et al.*, 2019), whereas BST emphasises the broader psychological and social gains that emerge from positive life experiences, such as those related to tourism. By integrating tourism economic dependency into the dual-theoretical framework, the study demonstrates that economically dependent residents are more sensitive to both the benefits and costs of tourism, thereby explaining the divergent behavioural responses.

These findings extend existing scholarship by showing that tourism economic dependency shapes not only residents' perceptions of tourism but also how well-being and support translate into behavioural intentions. This challenges the assumption that financial benefits automatically lead to unconditional support for tourism (Boley *et al.*, 2018; McGehee & Andereck, 2004). Instead, the results reveal a more ambivalent relationship, in which stronger economic ties may heighten sensitivity to tourism's costs and, under increasing socio-environmental pressure, contribute to lower satisfaction or behavioural disengagement. In this way, the study addresses a key gap in the literature, which has often overlooked the heterogeneity of residents' economic roles when explaining tourism attitudes (Harrill, 2004; Nunkoo & So, 2016).

In addition, the findings highlight the importance of subjective well-being, particularly among residents who are not economically dependent on tourism, as a driver of pro-tourism behaviours. This supports prior research suggesting that higher life satisfaction fosters stronger civic and community engagement (Andereck & Nyaupane, 2011; Diener, 2000). Subjective well-being thus emerges not only as an individual outcome of tourism development but also as a mechanism that can support collective sustainability.

By uniting SET and BST within the context of economic dependency, this research offers a more holistic theoretical model to explain residents' behavioural intentions in tourism-dependent destinations. It invites further empirical exploration across diverse geographical and socio-economic contexts, broadening the applicability of SET and BST beyond individual-level analysis to community-wide dynamics.

From a practical perspective, the findings suggest several strategic priorities for tourism policymakers, planners, and industry stakeholders, particularly in highly dependent regions such as the Algarve. First, initiatives that enhance residents' positive perceptions of tourism are essential. Community engagement, transparent communication, and participatory decision-making can foster a sense of shared benefit. These efforts should not only highlight tourism's economic value, such as job creation and infrastructure investment, but also its potential contributions to cultural preservation, public services, and local pride, which are highly dependent on inclusive and context-sensitive planning and management practices.

Second, mitigating the negative impacts of tourism should be a central focus of sustainable destination management. Economic pressures (e.g., rising living costs), environmental degradation, and socio-cultural tensions must be addressed proactively. Measures such as regulating visitor flows, promoting eco-friendly infrastructure, and investing in community-led tourism initiatives can help strike a balance

between growth and resident well-being. In destinations characterised by strong seasonality, these measures are particularly important during peak periods, when overcrowding, pressure on infrastructure, and environmental stress are most intense. Implementing seasonal visitor management strategies, diversifying tourism products beyond peak seasons, and encouraging spatial dispersion of tourists can help reduce pressure on local communities while sustaining economic benefits year-round.

Understanding the varying degrees of economic dependency across communities also calls for differentiated policy responses. In economically dependent communities, efforts should prioritise income stability and the fair distribution of tourism's financial benefits to prevent inequality and resentment, particularly in seasonal labour markets where employment may be precarious or unevenly distributed across the year (Wang *et al.*, 2022). In contrast, in less dependent areas, greater emphasis can be placed on tourism's cultural and environmental contributions to community well-being, as well as on managing visitor demand to protect residents' quality of life (Gautam, 2023).

Finally, tourism planning must remain adaptive and responsive to seasonal fluctuations and external shocks. Regular monitoring of resident perceptions, quality-of-life indicators, and engagement levels across both high and low seasons can enable policymakers to respond effectively to emerging challenges, including economic volatility, shifting visitor trends, or global disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic (Erul *et al.*, 2023; Ramkissoon, 2023). In such contexts, governance approaches that are flexible, inclusive, and evidence-based are better positioned to support community resilience and maintain social acceptance of tourism. A proactive and participatory governance framework, grounded in continuous assessment and stakeholder engagement, is therefore crucial for ensuring that tourism development remains aligned with community needs and contributes to resilient, supportive host environments over the long term.

6.2. Limitations and directions for upcoming research

While this study offers valuable insights into the relationship between economic dependency and residents' tourism-related attitudes and behaviours, several limitations must be acknowledged, each of which presents promising avenues for future investigation.

Firstly, the research is geographically limited to the Algarve, a region characterised by its strong reliance on sun-and-beach tourism. As such, the findings may not be generalisable to destinations with different tourism profiles, where resident-tourism dynamics may operate differently. Future studies should test the proposed model across a broader range of destination types and geographical contexts to assess its applicability and robustness.

Secondly, the sample was somewhat skewed, with approximately 60% of respondents not directly employed in the tourism sector. While this reflects the broader population, a more balanced distribution between economically dependent and non-dependent residents could yield more nuanced insights. Future research might consider stratified sampling approaches to ensure proportional representation of different occupational groups, particularly in regions where informal or seasonal tourism employment is prevalent.

Thirdly, although this study incorporated key variables such as satisfaction, well-being, and support, it did not capture the full spectrum of social-psychological factors that influence residents' responses to tourism. Previous research has emphasised the importance of variables such as community attachment, empowerment, tourism literacy, and perceived involvement in decision-making (Gursoy *et al.*, 2019; Eslami *et al.*, 2019). Integrating these constructs into future models would enrich understanding of how residents interpret and respond to tourism development, particularly regarding their sense of agency and trust in local governance.

In addition, longitudinal designs could offer further insights into how resident perceptions and behaviours evolve over time, especially in the face of ongoing challenges such as environmental degradation, economic uncertainty, or global crises. A temporal perspective would help assess whether support for tourism is stable, cumulative, or subject to decline under sustained pressure.

Finally, future research might also explore cross-cultural comparisons, examining how cultural values, governance structures, or tourism policy environments mediate the role of tourism economic dependency. Such studies would contribute to a more globally informed understanding of resident-tourism relationships and their implications for sustainable development.

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