The marine economy is defined as those businesses whose existence depends on the oceans or Great Lakes. The economic data found here helps leaders better understand trends and consider the needs of these businesses when making decisions about the future of the coast. Six sectors make up the marine economy: marine construction, offshore mineral extraction, tourism and recreation, living resources, ship and boat building, and marine transportation.

The Big Picture

California's Marine Economy in 2020

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Businesses</td>
<td>26,004</td>
<td>Employees</td>
<td>471,501</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages</td>
<td>$23.1 billion</td>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>$41.9 billion</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Details

**Largest Employment Sector:** Tourism and recreation employs 67% of the state’s marine economy

**Largest GDP Sector:** Tourism and recreation produces 44% of the total gross domestic product (GDP) derived from the state’s marine economy

**High Earners:** The average wage of marine economy employees in California is $48,978, which is lower than the state average ($79,480). Marine construction has the highest average wage per employee at $117,264.

**National Ranking:** California is ranked 2 out of 30 coastal states for marine employment, and 2 out of 30 coastal states for GDP

**Top County: Employment** Los Angeles County, California, is home to 21% of marine jobs in California

**Top County: GDP** Los Angeles County, California, produces 33% of the marine economy’s gross domestic product in California

California's Marine Economy

LEGEND (1 CELL = 1%)

- Living Resources
- Marine Transportation
- Ship and Boat Building
- Marine Construction
- Offshore Mineral Resources
- Tourism and Recreation

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A Decade of Change (2010-2020)

- **26%**
  - **Businesses**
    - California had an increase of 5,380 marine businesses, which was an increase of 26% over the past decade.

- **-1%**
  - **Employees**
    - California had a decrease of 2,688 marine jobs, a decrease of 1% over the past decade.

- **27%**
  - **Average Wages**
    - On average, an employee working in California's marine economy made $48,978 in 2020, compared to an average wage of $38,540 in 2010. The marine economy average wage in California had an increase of 27%.

- **-7%**
  - **Gross Domestic Product**
    - The value of California's marine economy had a decrease of 7% over the past decade. Changes in GDP can be driven by volatility of the price of resources.

The numbers on the first and second page may vary slightly, as some data is suppressed when presented at the sector level. Rounding may also contribute to some differences. On the regional level, differences in numbers may arise from the way that the total economy is calculated.

Office for Coastal Management