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**

**Delaware's Marine Economy in 2019**

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Businesses</strong></td>
<td>1,632</td>
<td><strong>Employees</strong></td>
<td>29,794</td>
<td><strong>Wages</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Details**

- **Largest Employment Sector:** Tourism and recreation employs 78% of the state’s marine economy
- **Largest GDP Sector:** Tourism and recreation produces 70% of the total gross domestic product (GDP) derived from the state’s marine economy
- **HighEarners:** The average wage of marine economy employees in Delaware is $26,410, which is lower than the state average ($58,479). Marine construction has the highest average wage per employee at $71,413.
- **National Ranking:** Delaware is ranked 27 out of 30 coastal states for marine employment, and 29 out of 30 coastal states for GDP
- **Top County: Employment** Sussex County, Delaware, is home to 41% of marine jobs in Delaware
- **Top County: GDP** Sussex County, Delaware, produces 45% of the marine economy’s gross domestic product in Delaware

Delaware's Marine Economy

LEGEND (1 CELL = 1%)
- Living Resources
- Marine Transportation
- Ship and Boat Building
- Marine Construction
- Offshore Mineral Resources
- Tourism and Recreation

A Decade of Change (2009-2019)

58% Businesses
Delaware had an increase of 602 marine businesses, which was an increase of 58% over the past decade.

65% Employees
Delaware had an increase of 11,749 marine jobs, an increase of 65% over the past decade.

31% Average Wages
On average, an employee working in Delaware's marine economy made $26,410 in 2019, compared to an average wage of $20,130 in 2009. The marine economy average wage in Delaware had an increase of 31%.

82% Gross Domestic Product
The value of Delaware's marine economy had an increase of 82% over the past decade. Changes in GDP can be driven by volatility of the price of resources.