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 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Businesses</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Wages</th>
<th>GDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,691</td>
<td>26,910</td>
<td>$777 million</td>
<td>$1.4 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Details

**Largest Employment Sector:** Tourism and recreation employs 73% of the state’s marine economy

**Largest GDP Sector:** Tourism and recreation produces 67% of the total gross domestic product (GDP) derived from the state’s marine economy

**High Earners:** The average wage of marine economy employees in Delaware is $28,889, which is lower than the state average ($62,462). Marine construction has the highest average wage per employee at $66,185.

**National Ranking:** Delaware is ranked 27 out of 30 coastal states for marine employment, and 28 out of 30 coastal states for GDP

**Top County: Employment** New Castle County, Delaware, is home to 43% 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 (2010-2020)

71% **Businesses**
Delaware had an increase of 700 marine businesses, which was an increase of 71% over the past decade.

49% **Employees**
Delaware had an increase of 8,861 marine jobs, an increase of 49% over the past decade.

44% **Average Wages**
On average, an employee working in Delaware's marine economy made $28,889 in 2020, compared to an average wage of $20,069 in 2010. The marine economy average wage in Delaware had an increase of 44%.

74% **Gross Domestic Product**
The value of Delaware's marine economy had an increase of 74% 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.