

2023 Marine Economy Report

Great Lakes Region

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

Great Lakes Region's Marine Economy in 2020

15,821

Businesses

286,909

Employees

\$9.7 billion

Wages

\$17.8 billion

GDP

The Details

Largest Employment Sector: Tourism and recreation employs **65%** of the region's marine economy

Largest GDP Sector: Tourism and recreation produces **49%** of the total gross domestic product (GDP) derived from the region's marine economy

High Earners: The average wage of marine economy employees in the Great Lakes region is **\$33,669**, which is lower than the region average (**\$58,998**). Offshore mineral resources has the highest average wage per employee at **\$90,094**.

National Ranking: The Great Lakes region is ranked **5** out of **8** coastal regions for marine employment, and **6** out of **8** coastal regions for GDP

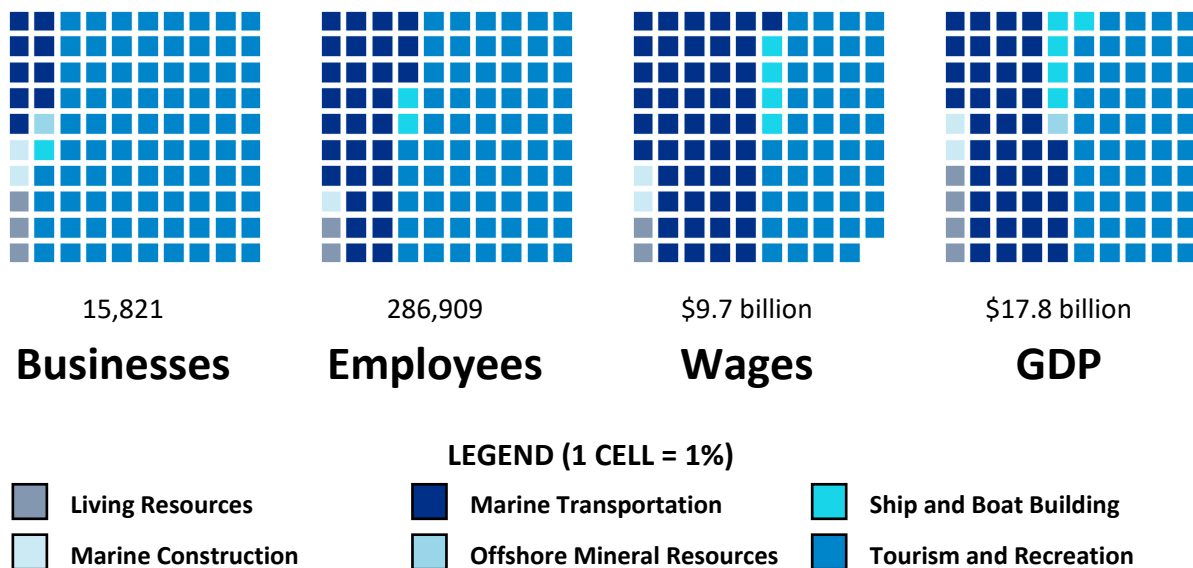
Top County: Employment Cook County, Illinois, is home to **18%** of marine jobs in the Great Lakes region

Top County: GDP Cook County, Illinois, produces **26%** of the marine economy's gross domestic product in the Great Lakes region

This report is based on 2020 Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW) data, produced by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management in 2023. The employment and gross domestic product statistics are derived from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data (accessed in September 2022) and the Bureau of Economic Analysis' gross domestic product by state data (released in July 2022). For more information, visit coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/enow.html.



Great Lakes Region's Marine Economy



A Decade of Change (2010-2020)

15%



Businesses

The Great Lakes region had an increase of 2,115 marine businesses, which was an increase of 15% over the past decade.

7%



Employees

The Great Lakes region had an increase of 19,469 marine jobs, an increase of 7% over the past decade.

32%



Average Wages

On average, an employee working in the Great Lakes region's marine economy made \$33,669 in 2020, compared to an average wage of \$25,436 in 2010. The marine economy average wage in the Great Lakes region had an increase of 32%.

7%



Gross Domestic Product

The value of the Great Lakes region's marine economy had an increase 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.