

## 2022 Marine Economy Report

# Gulf of Mexico 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

### Gulf of Mexico Region's Marine Economy in 2019

**25,048**

**Businesses**

**616,524**

**Employees**

**\$34.3 billion**

**Wages**

**\$115 billion**

**GDP**

## The Details

**Largest Employment Sector:** Tourism and recreation employs **59%** of the region's marine economy

**Largest GDP Sector:** Offshore mineral resources produces **70%** 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 Gulf of Mexico region is **\$55,624**, which is higher than the region average (**\$55,073**). Offshore mineral resources has the highest average wage per employee at **\$169,743**.

**National Ranking:** The Gulf of Mexico region is ranked **3** out of **8** coastal regions for marine employment, and **1** out of **8** coastal regions for GDP

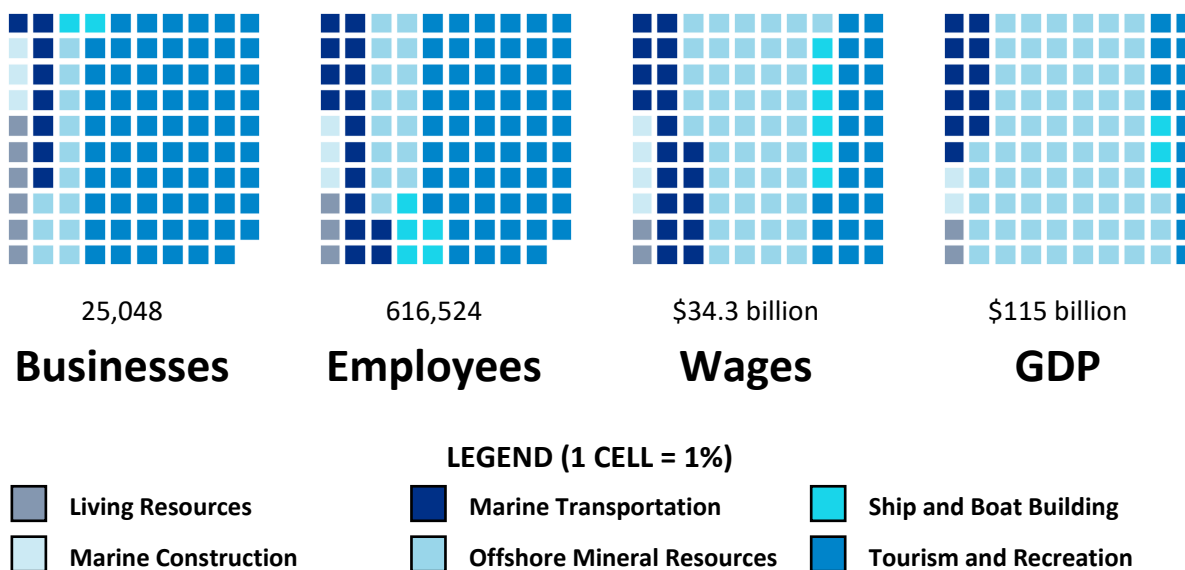
**Top County: Employment** Harris County, Texas, is home to **17%** of marine jobs in the Gulf of Mexico region

**Top County: GDP** Harris County, Texas, produces **63%** of the marine economy's gross domestic product in the Gulf of Mexico region

This report is based on 2019 Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW) data, produced by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management in 2022. 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 2021) and the Bureau of Economic Analysis' gross domestic product by state data (released in July 2021). For more information, visit [coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/enow.html](https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/enow.html).



# Gulf of Mexico Region's Marine Economy



## A Decade of Change (2009-2019)

