2023 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 2020

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<th>25,113</th>
<th>543,794</th>
<th>$31.6 billion</th>
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The Details

Largest Employment Sector: Tourism and recreation employs 56% of the region’s marine economy

Largest GDP Sector: Offshore mineral resources produces 58% 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 $58,109, which is lower than the region average ($58,275). Offshore mineral resources has the highest average wage per employee at $179,880.

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 18% of marine jobs in the Gulf of Mexico region

Top County: GDP Harris County, Texas, produces 55% of the marine economy’s gross domestic product in the Gulf of Mexico region

Gulf of Mexico Region's Marine Economy

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

A Decade of Change (2010-2020)

1% Businesses
The Gulf of Mexico region had an increase of 220 marine businesses, which was an increase of 1% over the past decade.

1% Employees
The Gulf of Mexico region had an increase of 6,819 marine jobs, an increase of 1% over the past decade.

9% Average Wages
On average, an employee working in the Gulf of Mexico region's marine economy made $58,109 in 2020, compared to an average wage of $53,275 in 2010. The marine economy average wage in the Gulf of Mexico region had an increase of 9%.

67% Gross Domestic Product
The value of the Gulf of Mexico region's marine economy had an increase of 67% 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