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
Illinois' Marine Economy in 2019

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The Details

Largest Employment Sector: Tourism and recreation employs 79% of the state’s marine economy

Largest GDP Sector: Tourism and recreation produces 71% of the total gross domestic product (GDP) derived from the state’s marine economy

High Earners: The average wage of marine economy employees in Illinois is $40,038, which is lower than the state average ($61,572). Offshore mineral resources has the highest average wage per employee at $98,141.

National Ranking: Illinois is ranked 13 out of 30 coastal states for marine employment, and 13 out of 30 coastal states for GDP

Top County: Employment Cook County, Illinois, is home to 85% of marine jobs in Illinois

Top County: GDP Cook County, Illinois, produces 85% of the marine economy’s gross domestic product in Illinois

### Illinois' Marine Economy

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#### A Decade of Change (2009-2019)

- **Businesses**
  - Illinois had an increase of 755 marine businesses, which was an increase of 29% over the past decade.

- **Employees**
  - Illinois had an increase of 355 marine jobs, an increase of 0% over the past decade.

- **Average Wages**
  - On average, an employee working in Illinois' marine economy made $40,038 in 2019, compared to an average wage of $31,400 in 2009. The marine economy average wage in Illinois had an increase of 28%.

- **Gross Domestic Product**
  - The value of Illinois' marine economy had an increase of 1% over the past decade. Changes in GDP can be driven by volatility of the price of resources.

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Office for Coastal Management