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 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Businesses</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Wages</th>
<th>GDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,416</td>
<td>64,248</td>
<td>$2.7 billion</td>
<td>$5.6 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Details**

- **Largest Employment Sector:** Tourism and recreation employs 68% of the state’s marine economy.
- **Largest GDP Sector:** Tourism and recreation produces 58% 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 $41,339, which is lower than the state average ($66,279). Offshore mineral resources has the highest average wage per employee at $109,461.
- **National Ranking:** Illinois is ranked 14 out of 30 coastal states for marine employment, and 12 out of 30 coastal states for GDP.
- **Top County: Employment** Cook County, Illinois, is home to 82% of marine jobs in Illinois.
- **Top County: GDP** Cook County, Illinois, produces 82% of the marine economy’s gross domestic product in Illinois.


**Office for Coastal Management**
### Illinois' Marine Economy

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**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)

- **Businesses**: Illinois had an increase of 786 marine businesses, which was an increase of 30% over the past decade.
- **Employees**: Illinois had a decrease of 19,149 marine jobs, a decrease of 23% over the past decade.
- **Average Wages**: On average, an employee working in Illinois' marine economy made $41,339 in 2020, compared to an average wage of $32,163 in 2010. The marine economy average wage in Illinois had an increase of 29%.
- **Gross Domestic Product**: The value of Illinois' marine economy had a decrease of 22% 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.