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

**Louisiana's Marine Economy in 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Businesses</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Wages</th>
<th>GDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4,435</td>
<td>86,883</td>
<td>$4.8 billion</td>
<td>$8.7 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Details

- **Largest Employment Sector:** Tourism and recreation employs 45% of the state’s marine economy
- **Largest GDP Sector:** Offshore mineral resources produces 35% of the total gross domestic product (GDP) derived from the state’s marine economy
- **High Earners:** The average wage of marine economy employees in Louisiana is $55,709, which is higher than the state average ($51,964). Offshore mineral resources has the highest average wage per employee at $114,172.
- **National Ranking:** Louisiana is ranked 9 out of 30 coastal states for marine employment, and 9 out of 30 coastal states for GDP
- **Top County: Employment** Orleans Parish, Louisiana, is home to 24% of marine jobs in Louisiana
- **Top County: GDP** Orleans Parish, Louisiana, produces 24% of the marine economy’s gross domestic product in Louisiana

A Decade of Change (2010-2020)

- **Businesses**
  - Louisiana had an increase of 194 marine businesses, which was an increase of 5% over the past decade.

- **Employees**
  - Louisiana had a decrease of 17,188 marine jobs, a decrease of 17% over the past decade.

- **Average Wages**
  - On average, an employee working in Louisiana’s marine economy made $55,709 in 2020, compared to an average wage of $48,551 in 2010. The marine economy average wage in Louisiana had an increase of 15%.

- **Gross Domestic Product**
  - The value of Louisiana's marine economy had a decrease of 17% over the past decade. Changes in GDP can be driven by volatility of the price of resources.