Massachusetts

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
Massachusetts' Marine Economy in 2019

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<tr>
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The Details

Largest Employment Sector: Tourism and recreation employs 80% of the state’s marine economy

Largest GDP Sector: Tourism and recreation produces 60% of the total gross domestic product (GDP) derived from the state’s marine economy

High Earners: The average wage of marine economy employees in Massachusetts is $39,269, which is lower than the state average ($75,404). Marine construction has the highest average wage per employee at $94,590.

National Ranking: Massachusetts is ranked 11 out of 30 coastal states for marine employment, and 12 out of 30 coastal states for GDP

Top County: Employment Suffolk County, Massachusetts, is home to 24% of marine jobs in Massachusetts

Top County: GDP Suffolk County, Massachusetts, produces 24% of the marine economy’s gross domestic product in Massachusetts


Office for Coastal Management
Massachusetts' Marine Economy

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

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A Decade of Change (2009-2019)

- **16%**
  - **Businesses**: Massachusetts had an increase of 829 marine businesses, which was an increase of 16% over the past decade.

- **27%**
  - **Employees**: Massachusetts had an increase of 20,971 marine jobs, an increase of 27% over the past decade.

- **23%**
  - **Average Wages**: On average, an employee working in Massachusetts’ marine economy made $39,269 in 2019, compared to an average wage of $32,022 in 2009. The marine economy average wage in Massachusetts had an increase of 23%.

- **38%**
  - **Gross Domestic Product**: The value of Massachusetts' marine economy had an increase of 38% over the past decade. Changes in GDP can be driven by volatility of the price of resources.