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 2020

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Businesses</td>
<td>5,831</td>
<td>Employees</td>
<td>78,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages</td>
<td>$3.7 billion</td>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>$7.4 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Details

Largest Employment Sector: Tourism and recreation employs 71% of the state’s marine economy

Largest GDP Sector: Tourism and recreation produces 46% 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 $46,729, which is lower than the state average ($83,738). Marine construction has the highest average wage per employee at $105,073.

National Ranking: Massachusetts is ranked 11 out of 30 coastal states for marine employment, and 10 out of 30 coastal states for GDP

Top County: Employment Suffolk County, Massachusetts, is home to 20% of marine jobs in Massachusetts

Top County: GDP Middlesex County, Massachusetts, produces 19% 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
- Offshore Mineral Resources
- Ship and Boat Building
- Tourism and Recreation

A Decade of Change (2010-2020)

12% Businesses
Massachusetts had an increase of 605 marine businesses, which was an increase of 12% over the past decade.

-1% Employees
Massachusetts had a decrease of 1,176 marine jobs, a decrease of 1% over the past decade.

44% Average Wages
On average, an employee working in Massachusetts' marine economy made $46,729 in 2020, compared to an average wage of $32,474 in 2010. The marine economy average wage in Massachusetts had an increase of 44%.

17% Gross Domestic Product
The value of Massachusetts' marine economy had an increase of 17% 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.