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**

**Minnesota's Marine Economy in 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Businesses</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Wages</th>
<th>GDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>495</td>
<td>13,330</td>
<td>$577 million</td>
<td>$1.6 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Details**

**Largest Employment Sector:** Tourism and recreation employs 56% of the state’s marine economy

**Largest GDP Sector:** Marine transportation 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 Minnesota is $43,310, which is lower than the state average ($59,630). Marine transportation has the highest average wage per employee at $89,077.

**National Ranking:** Minnesota is ranked 30 out of 30 coastal states for marine employment, and 28 out of 30 coastal states for GDP

**Top County: Employment** Saint Louis County, Minnesota, is home to 49% of marine jobs in Minnesota

**Top County: GDP** Saint Louis County, Minnesota, produces 31% of the marine economy’s gross domestic product in Minnesota

# Minnesota's Marine Economy

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## A Decade of Change (2009-2019)

- **8%**
  - **Businesses**: Minnesota had an increase of 37 marine businesses, which was an increase of 8% over the past decade.

- **10%**
  - **Employees**: Minnesota had an increase of 1,258 marine jobs, an increase of 10% over the past decade.

- **35%**
  - **Average Wages**: On average, an employee working in Minnesota's marine economy made $43,310 in 2019, compared to an average wage of $32,095 in 2009. The marine economy average wage in Minnesota had an increase of 35%.

- **53%**
  - **Gross Domestic Product**: The value of Minnesota's marine economy had an increase of 53% 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