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

**Rhode Island's Marine Economy in 2020**

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<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2,446</strong></td>
<td><strong>37,052</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1.3 billion</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2.5 billion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Businesses</td>
<td>Employees</td>
<td>Wages</td>
<td>GDP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### The Details

**Largest Employment Sector:** Tourism and recreation employs 77% of the state’s marine economy

**Largest GDP Sector:** Tourism and recreation produces 64% of the total gross domestic product (GDP) derived from the state’s marine economy

**High Earners:** The average wage of marine economy employees in Rhode Island is $35,658, which is lower than the state average ($60,508). Marine transportation has the highest average wage per employee at $79,408.

**National Ranking:** Rhode Island is ranked 22 out of 30 coastal states for marine employment, and 22 out of 30 coastal states for GDP

**Top County: Employment** Providence County, Rhode Island, is home to 34% of marine jobs in Rhode Island

**Top County: GDP** Washington County, Rhode Island, produces 30% of the marine economy’s gross domestic product in Rhode Island

Rhode Island's Marine Economy

**A Decade of Change (2010-2020)**

- **Businesses**: Rhode Island had an increase of 144 marine businesses, which was an increase of 6% over the past decade.
- **Employees**: Rhode Island had a decrease of 597 marine jobs, a decrease of 2% over the past decade.
- **Average Wages**: On average, an employee working in Rhode Island’s marine economy made $35,658 in 2020, compared to an average wage of $24,920 in 2010. The marine economy average wage in Rhode Island had an increase of 43%.
- **Gross Domestic Product**: The value of Rhode Island's marine economy had a decrease of 2% 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.