

2023 Marine Economy Report

Rhode Island

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

2,446	37,052	\$1.3 billion	\$2.5 billion
Businesses	Employees	Wages	GDP

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

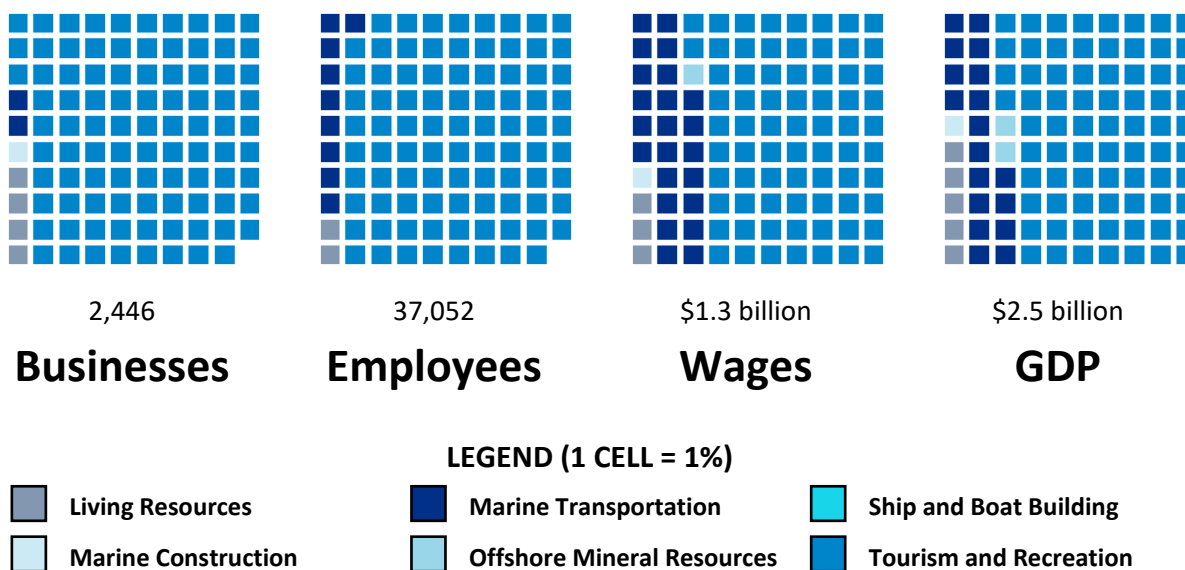
Top County: Employment Providence County, Rhode Island, is home to **34%** of marine jobs in Rhode Island

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

This report is based on 2020 Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW) data, produced by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management in 2023. The employment and gross domestic product statistics are derived from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data (accessed in September 2022) and the Bureau of Economic Analysis' gross domestic product by state data (released in July 2022). For more information, visit coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/enow.html.



Rhode Island's Marine Economy



A Decade of Change (2010-2020)

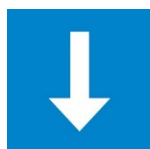
6%



Businesses

Rhode Island had an increase of 144 marine businesses, which was an increase of 6% over the past decade.

-2%



Employees

Rhode Island had a decrease of 597 marine jobs, a decrease of 2% over the past decade.

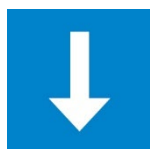
43%



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%.

-2%



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.