South Carolina

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
South Carolina'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>3,732</td>
<td>87,051</td>
<td>$2.3 billion</td>
<td>$5.7 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Details

Largest Employment Sector: Tourism and recreation employs 88% of the state’s marine economy

Largest GDP Sector: Tourism and recreation produces 82% of the total gross domestic product (GDP) derived from the state’s marine economy

High Earners: The average wage of marine economy employees in South Carolina is $26,086, which is lower than the state average ($46,383). Marine construction has the highest average wage per employee at $69,519.

National Ranking: South Carolina is ranked 12 out of 30 coastal states for marine employment, and 14 out of 30 coastal states for GDP

Top County: Employment Charleston County, South Carolina, is home to 41% of marine jobs in South Carolina

Top County: GDP Charleston County, South Carolina, produces 43% of the marine economy’s gross domestic product in South Carolina

South Carolina's Marine Economy

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LEGEND (1 CELL = 1%)

- Living Resources
- Marine Transportation
- Ship and Boat Building
- Marine Construction
- Offshore Mineral Resources
- Tourism and Recreation

A Decade of Change (2009-2019)

28% Businesses
South Carolina had an increase of 819 marine businesses, which was an increase of 28% over the past decade.

40% Employees
South Carolina had an increase of 24,940 marine jobs, an increase of 40% over the past decade.

35% Average Wages
On average, an employee working in South Carolina’s marine economy made $26,086 in 2019, compared to an average wage of $19,382 in 2009. The marine economy average wage in South Carolina had an increase of 35%.

58% Gross Domestic Product
The value of South Carolina’s marine economy had an increase of 58% over the past decade. Changes in GDP can be driven by volatility of the price of resources.

Office for Coastal Management