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

#### Washington State's Marine Economy in 2019

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Businesses</td>
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<td>Employees</td>
<td>143,029</td>
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<tr>
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<td>GDP</td>
<td>$15.7 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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#### The Details

- **Largest Employment Sector:** Tourism and recreation employs 60% of the state’s marine economy
- **Largest GDP Sector:** Tourism and recreation produces 39% of the total gross domestic product (GDP) derived from the state’s marine economy
- **High Earners:** The average wage of marine economy employees in Washington State is $47,761, which is lower than the state average ($69,593). Marine construction has the highest average wage per employee at $101,592.
- **National Ranking:** Washington State is ranked 6 out of 30 coastal states for marine employment, and 5 out of 30 coastal states for GDP
- **Top County: Employment** King County, Washington, is home to 39% of marine jobs in Washington State
- **Top County: GDP** King County, Washington, produces 42% of the marine economy’s gross domestic product in Washington State

**Washington State's Marine Economy**

**LEGEND (1 CELL = 1%)**
- Living Resources
- Marine Transportation
- Ship and Boat Building
- Marine Construction
- Offshore Mineral Resources
- Tourism and Recreation

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A Decade of Change (2009-2019)

- **Businesses**
  - Washington State had an increase of 509 marine businesses, which was an increase of 8% over the past decade.

- **Employees**
  - Washington State had an increase of 28,742 marine jobs, an increase of 25% over the past decade.

- **Average Wages**
  - On average, an employee working in Washington State's marine economy made $47,761 in 2019, compared to an average wage of $37,205 in 2009. The marine economy average wage in Washington State had an increase of 28%.

- **Gross Domestic Product**
  - The value of Washington State's marine economy had an increase of 27% over the past decade. Changes in GDP can be driven by volatility of the price of resources.