

2022 Marine Economy Report

Washington State

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

6,834	143,029	\$6.8 billion	\$15.7 billion
Businesses	Employees	Wages	GDP

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

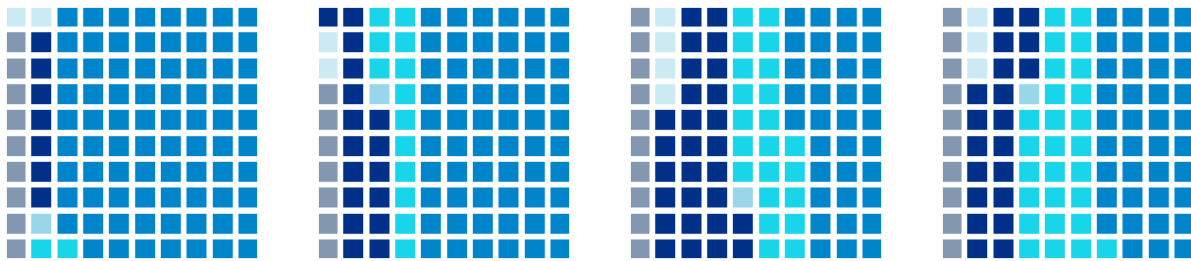
Top County: Employment King County, Washington, is home to **39%** of marine jobs in Washington State

Top County: GDP King County, Washington, produces **42%** of the marine economy's gross domestic product in Washington State

This report is based on 2019 Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW) data, produced by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management in 2022. 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 2021) and the Bureau of Economic Analysis' gross domestic product by state data (released in July 2021). For more information, visit coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/enow.html.



Washington State's Marine Economy



6,834

Businesses

143,029

Employees

\$6.8 billion

Wages

\$15.7 billion

GDP



A Decade of Change (2009-2019)

8%



Businesses

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

25%



Employees

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

28%



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%.

27%



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.