2022 Marine Economy Report

West Coast Region

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

West Coast Region's Marine Economy in 2019

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The Details

Largest Employment Sector: Tourism and recreation employs 71% of the region’s marine economy

Largest GDP Sector: Tourism and recreation produces 50% of the total gross domestic product (GDP) derived from the region’s marine economy

High Earners: The average wage of marine economy employees in the West Coast region is $44,310, which is lower than the region average ($69,703). Marine construction has the highest average wage per employee at $107,165.

National Ranking: The West Coast region is ranked 2 out of 8 coastal regions for marine employment, and 2 out of 8 coastal regions for GDP

Top County: Employment San Diego County, California, is home to 15% of marine jobs in the West Coast region

Top County: GDP Los Angeles County, California, produces 21% of the marine economy’s gross domestic product in the West Coast region

West Coast Region'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)

**22% Businesses**
The West Coast region had an increase of 6,464 marine businesses, which was an increase of 22% over the past decade.

**26% Employees**
The West Coast region had an increase of 159,484 marine jobs, an increase of 26% over the past decade.

**20% Average Wages**
On average, an employee working in the West Coast region's marine economy made $44,310 in 2019, compared to an average wage of $36,903 in 2009. The marine economy average wage in the West Coast region had an increase of 20%.

**12% Gross Domestic Product**
The value of the West Coast region’s marine economy had an increase of 12% over the past decade. Changes in GDP can be driven by volatility of the price of resources.

Office for Coastal Management