

DATA DESCRIPTION



Total Economy of Coastal Areas

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Abstract

These market data provide a comprehensive set of measures of changes in economic activity throughout the coastal regions of the United States. In regard to the sources of data, establishments, employment, and wages are taken from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). This data series is also known as ES-202 data, which are based on the quarterly reports of nearly all employers in the United States. These reports are filed with each state's employment or labor department, and each state then transmits the data to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), where the national databases are maintained. The data for the coastal economies have been taken from the national databases at BLS (except in the case of Massachusetts). Gross state product (GSP) data are taken from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), which develops the estimates of GSP from a number of sources. In regard to "employment," data are reported by employers, not employees, and do not contain any information about age. There is no difference between "employed" and "employment." The source is known as the payroll survey, a survey filed by employers every three months showing the number of people employed at each establishment in each of the preceding three months.

Many of the goals of those involved in environmental management and policy include finding the balance in the coexistence of natural ecosystems and human society. Therefore, a complete picture of the geographic patterns of human activity and its relationship to the coastal environment is needed. BLS economic trends data derived from county-level data are provided for several selected jurisdictions in a format that facilitates comparisons across time and space.

Geographic Coverage

Coastal Shoreline Counties

A county is considered a “coastal shoreline county” if it is directly adjacent to the open ocean, major estuaries, or the Great Lakes. These counties are considered to be most directly affected by issues pertaining to the coast. For more information, visit coast.noaa.gov/htdata/SocioEconomic/NOAA_CoastalCountyDefinitions.pdf.

Coastal Watershed Counties

A county is considered a “coastal watershed county” if one of the following criteria is met: 1) at a minimum, 15 percent of the county’s total land area is located within a coastal watershed; or 2) a portion of, or an entire county, accounts for at least 15 percent of a coastal watershed. The 15-percent rule was selected as an appropriate level for capturing counties with a significant impact on coastal and ocean resources. For more information, visit coast.noaa.gov/htdata/SocioEconomic/NOAA_CoastalCountyDefinitions.pdf.

Coastal States

All states (30) that are directly adjacent to the open ocean or the Great Lakes, as well as Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Coastal Shoreline Portion of Coastal States

A state-by-state aggregation of all coastal shoreline counties (see definition above).

Coastal Watershed Portion of Coastal States

A state-by-state aggregation of all coastal watershed counties (see definition above).

Data Set Parameters

The economic trends-coastal economy database provides data by county and by state. The county-level coastal economy data are highly subject to data suppressions because many sectors and industries have too few establishments in small counties to be shown. Users should always use the reported totals, when available, rather than attempting to sum sectors or industries at the county level.

The county-level (BLS) data from 2005 and onward were obtained from the BLS’ public website (bls.gov/cew). The gross domestic product (GDP) and regional GDP data were obtained from the BEA’s public site at the state level.

Request for Acknowledgment

NOAA requests that all individuals who download data acknowledge the source of these data in any reports, papers, or presentations. If you publish these data, please include a statement similar to, “Some or all of the data described in this article were produced by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service.”

Keywords

socioeconomic, economic, population, coastal economics, BLS, establishments, employment, wages, GDP, GSP

Data Access

Data can be downloaded at coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/coastaleconomy.html.

A full data dictionary can be found at coast.noaa.gov/data/digitalcoast/pdf/qrt-coastal-economy-dictionary.pdf.