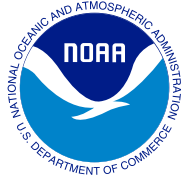


NOAA Report on the U.S. Ocean and Great Lakes Economy



Office for Coastal Management
ECONOMICS



NOAA's Office for Coastal Management

"Coastal management" is the term used by communities and organizations striving to keep the nation's coasts safe from storms, rich in natural resources, and economically strong. The national lead for these efforts is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office for Coastal Management, an organization devoted to partnerships, science, and good policy. This agency, housed within the National Ocean Service, oversees major initiatives that include the National Coastal Zone Management Program, Coral Reef Conservation Program, Digital Coast, and National Estuarine Research Reserve System.

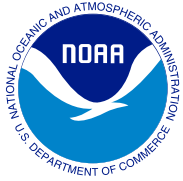
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Data Note: This report is based on 2012 Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW) data, produced by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management. The employment and gross domestic product statistics are derived from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data (accessed in September 2014) and the Bureau of Economic Analysis' GDP by State data (released in July 2014).

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Highlights

The U.S. ocean and Great Lakes economy, which focuses on six economic sectors that depend on the oceans and Great Lakes, is an important and resilient part of the national economy. In 2012, the ocean economy accounted for

- 147,000 business establishments
- 2.9 million employees
- \$113 billion in wages
- \$343 billion in gross domestic product

In 2012, the ocean economy's contribution to gross domestic product grew by 10.5 percent—more than four times as fast as the U.S. economy as a whole (which grew by 2.5 percent). During the same year, employment in the ocean economy increased 3.8 percent (adding 108,000 jobs). This was twice the national average employment growth of 1.8 percent.

In 2012, the ocean economy's contribution to gross domestic product grew by 10.5 percent—more than four times as fast as the U.S. economy as a whole.

Introduction

The oceans and Great Lakes support the lives, lifestyles, and livelihoods of all Americans. We fish from their waters, vacation on their edges, ship cargo on their surface, and extract oil, gas, sand, and gravel from their seafloors.

Most ocean and Great Lakes-dependent activities are important contributors to the nation's economy. Oil and gas production provide energy. Seafood production and processing meet the demands of restaurants and seafood markets. Tourism and recreation support millions of part-time and entry-level jobs. Marine construction, marine transportation, and ship building provide access to global markets.

The oceans and Great Lakes also provide a wide range of benefits that, although real and fitting for economic consideration, do not lend themselves to traditional measures of jobs, wages, and gross domestic product. Coastal and ocean ecosystems sequester carbon from the atmosphere, protect communities from the harmful effects of coastal storms, and provide myriad other benefits that support human life and well-being.

This report provides insights into the benefits derived from the oceans and Great Lakes that result in jobs and wages and that contribute directly to the nation's gross domestic product. This focus should not be understood to mean that the benefits whose footprints show up well in market data are the only important ones, nor even the largest or most important. Instead, data presented in this report should be taken for what they are—indicators of the impacts that oceans and Great Lakes resources and ecological systems have on the market economy of the United States, viewed through the lens of nationally consistent data produced by federal agencies.

Data presented in this report are from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW) data set. ENOW data are produced by NOAA in partnership with the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Bureau of

Labor Statistics, and the Bureau of the Census, and are derived from some of these agencies' most respected and commonly used data.

The consistency of ENOW's representation of the ocean economy with these data sets is one of its primary advantages. Another is the fact that it is produced in a manner that yields results that are comparable across time and from place to place. ENOW data are available for the years 2005 through 2012 for about 400 coastal counties, 30 coastal states, 8 regions, and the nation.

The ocean economy, as represented in the ENOW data, includes six economic sectors that depend in various ways on the oceans and Great Lakes:

- living resources
- marine construction
- marine transportation
- offshore mineral extraction
- ship and boat building
- tourism and recreation

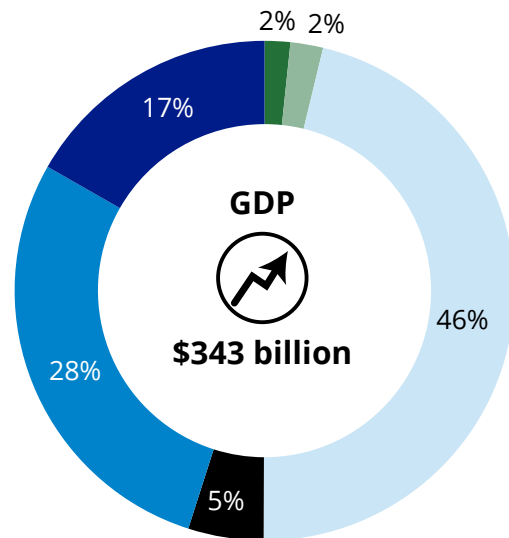
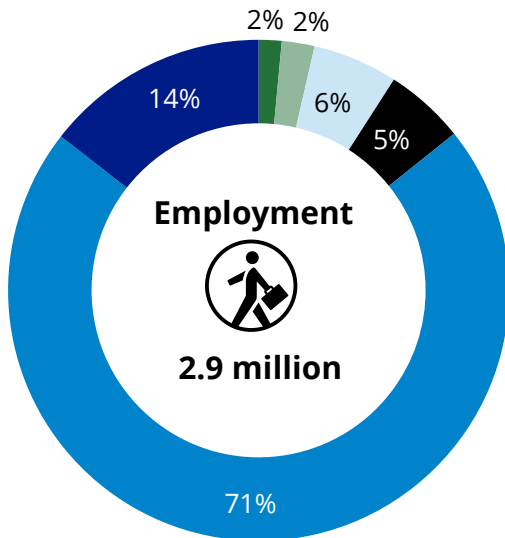
A review of this list underscores the complexity and importance of effective use, management, and governance of the oceans and Great Lakes. Some economic activities, like commercial fishing (part of the living resources sector), depend on the health of coastal and ocean ecosystems. Yet all of the sectors include activities that have the potential to harm these ecosystems, putting jobs, wages, and gross domestic product (as well as human life and well-being) at risk.

Maintaining the strength and sustainability of these ocean-based activities requires that we exercise good stewardship and care for the systems that support them. In 2012, the most recent year for which a complete set of input data are available, the gross domestic product of the ocean economy grew four times as fast as the national economy as a whole, with increases in all six sectors and with five of the six sectors growing faster than the national average.

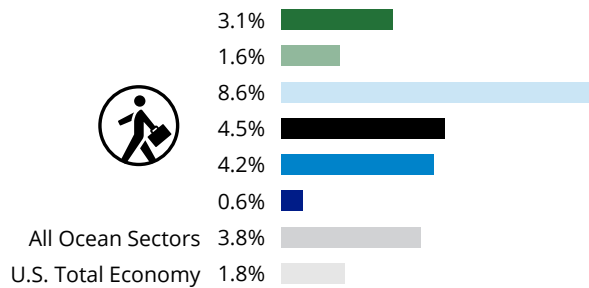
2012 U.S. Ocean and Great Lakes Economy

National Summary

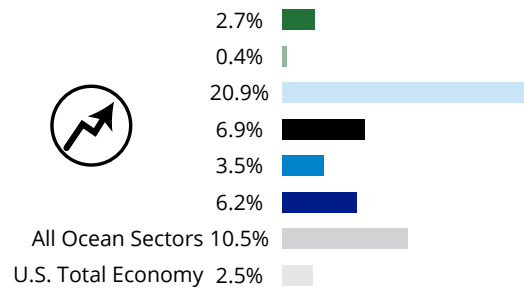
The ocean economy accounted for 2.2% of total employment and 2.1% of total GDP in the United States



Annual Growth in Employment



Annual Growth in GDP



Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW)

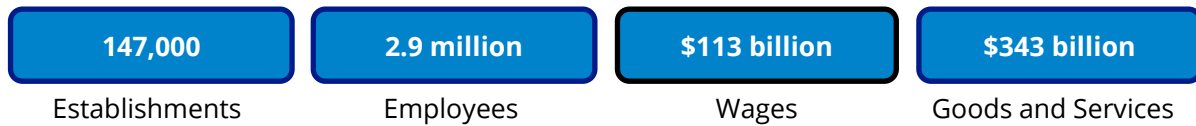
coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/enow

National Profile

The Importance of the Ocean Economy

In 2012, the ocean economy's 147,000 business establishments employed almost 3 million people, paid over \$113 billion in wages, and produced almost \$343 billion in goods and services. This accounted for about 2.2 percent of the nation's employment and 2.1 percent of its gross domestic product.

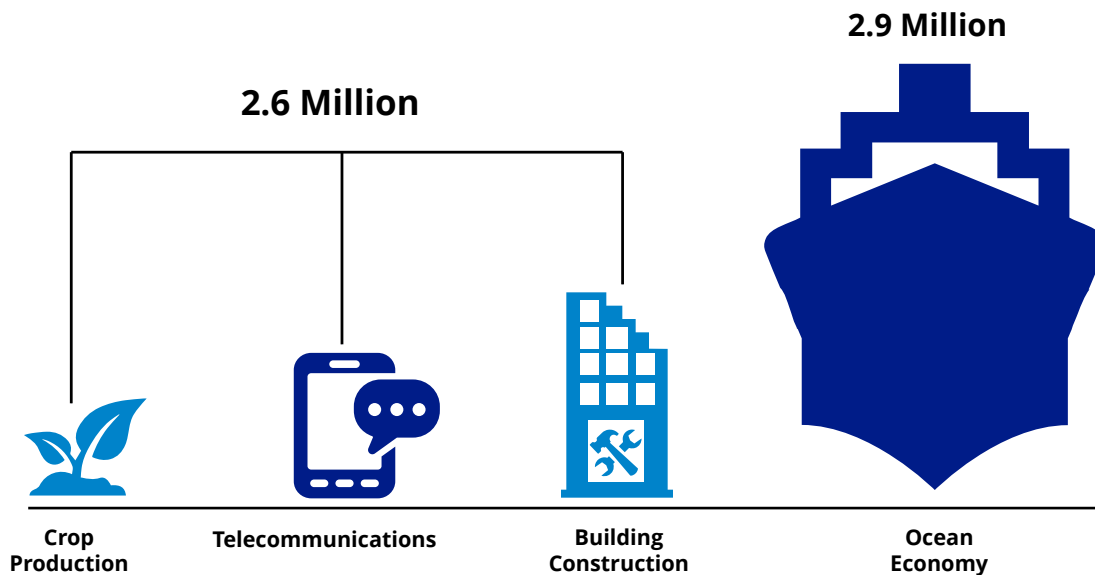
The U.S. ocean and Great Lakes economy accounted for



in the U.S. ocean and Great Lakes economy in 2012

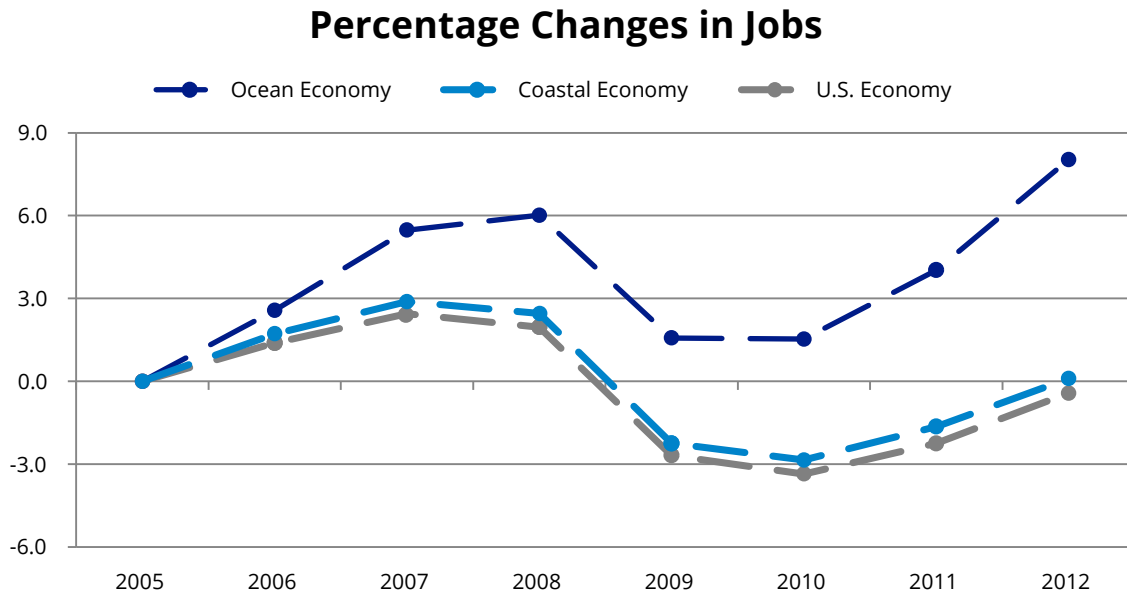
This seems small, but our nation's economy is diverse and includes many "small" but integral parts. Most people, for example, have some sense of the importance of better-known economic activities like crop production, telecommunications, and building construction. In 2012, the ocean economy employed more people than these three sectors combined.

U.S. Total Employment Comparison



The Resilience of the Ocean Economy

The ocean economy weathered the recession of 2007 to 2009 better than the U.S. economy as a whole.



In 2012, employment in the ocean economy was 2.4 percent higher than in 2007, while employment of the U.S. economy as a whole decreased about 2.7 percent during the same period. From 2011 to 2012, the ocean and Great Lakes economy gained about 108,000 employees, an increase of 3.8 percent—more than twice as much as the U.S. economy as a whole, which grew by 1.8 percent during the same period.

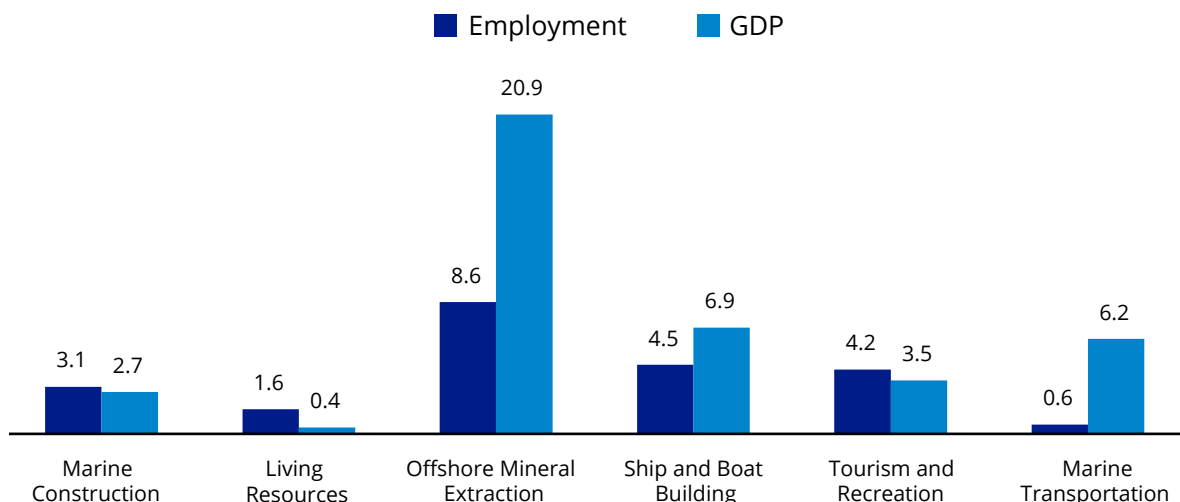
Trends in gross domestic product also show the resilience of the ocean economy. In 2012, inflation-adjusted gross domestic product in the ocean economy was 15.7 percent higher than in 2007, contrasted with a 2.8 percent increase in the U.S. economy as a whole over the same period. In just one year, from 2011 to 2012, the ocean economy's Inflation-adjusted gross domestic product grew by 10.5 percent—more than four times the rate of growth experienced in the nation as a whole (2.5 percent).

An important contributor to the ocean economy's strong performance in 2012 was the offshore mineral extraction sector, where employment increased by 8.6 percent and inflation-adjusted gross domestic product increased by 20.9 percent. This growth was concentrated in the Gulf of Mexico and was driven by rising oil production and extraordinarily high oil prices. Employment gains in the offshore mineral extraction sector were the highest of all ocean sectors measured in terms of the rate of increase, but in absolute terms the tourism and recreation sector was the most important, with about 84,000 jobs added nationwide in 2012.

In addition to the pronounced growth in these two sectors, gross domestic product in all six ocean sectors increased in 2012, with all but the living resources sector growing faster than the U.S. economy as a whole.

Similarly, employment in all six ocean sectors increased in 2012, with all but the living resources and marine transportation sectors growing faster than the U.S. total economy. The living resources sector grew slightly slower than the national average, yet represents a rebound for the second year in a row. Marine transportation grew the least in terms of employment, but the sector was in its first year of recovery after being severely affected by the economic downturn.

Annual Percentage Change by Sector, 2012

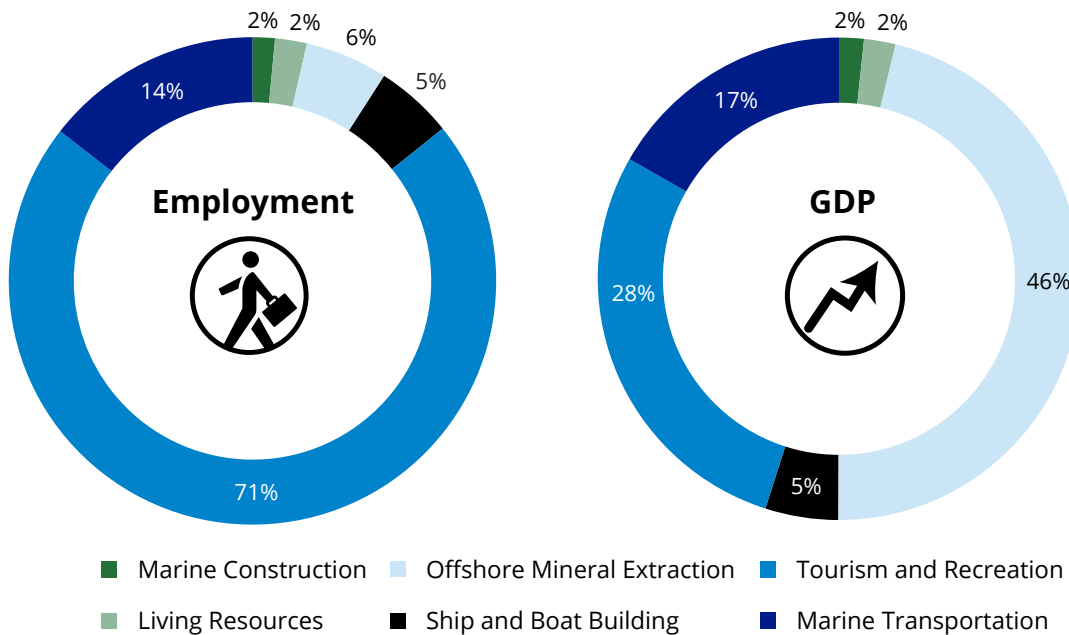


The Diverse Composition of the Ocean Economy

The six ocean-dependent sectors make very different contributions to the economy, as seen in the next figure, which compares measures of employment and gross domestic product. Some sectors, like tourism and recreation, include service-intensive activities that support great numbers of jobs. Therefore, employment in this sector accounts for a much larger share of the ocean economy (71.3 percent) than would be expected in light of its much smaller contribution to gross domestic product. On the other hand, capital-intensive industries, like offshore mineral extraction, yield high levels of gross domestic product with a relatively small workforce. In 2012, offshore mineral extraction was the largest sector of the ocean economy in terms of gross domestic product (46.3 percent); this sector's contribution to gross domestic product is further magnified by the high value of the oil and natural gas that are produced.

An important distinction should be made about the relationship of these economic activities to the ocean resources and ecological systems that support them. Some ocean sectors make non-consumptive use of the oceans. Marine transportation, ship and boat building, and marine construction are ocean-dependent because they require proximity to the ocean and involve activities that do not consume or "use up" ocean resources. Commercial fishing is an extractive activity. Fish are harvested from the ocean, but with proper management fish harvesting can be sustainable into the future. Offshore mineral extraction is different, being dependent on a very large but finite base of resources. Coastal tourism and recreation includes both consumptive uses of ocean resources (recreational fishing) and non-consumptive uses (beach-going).

Employment and GDP by Ocean Sector, 2012



The fact that all these activities take place in the same marine environment underscores the complexity and importance of effective use, management, and governance of the oceans and Great Lakes.

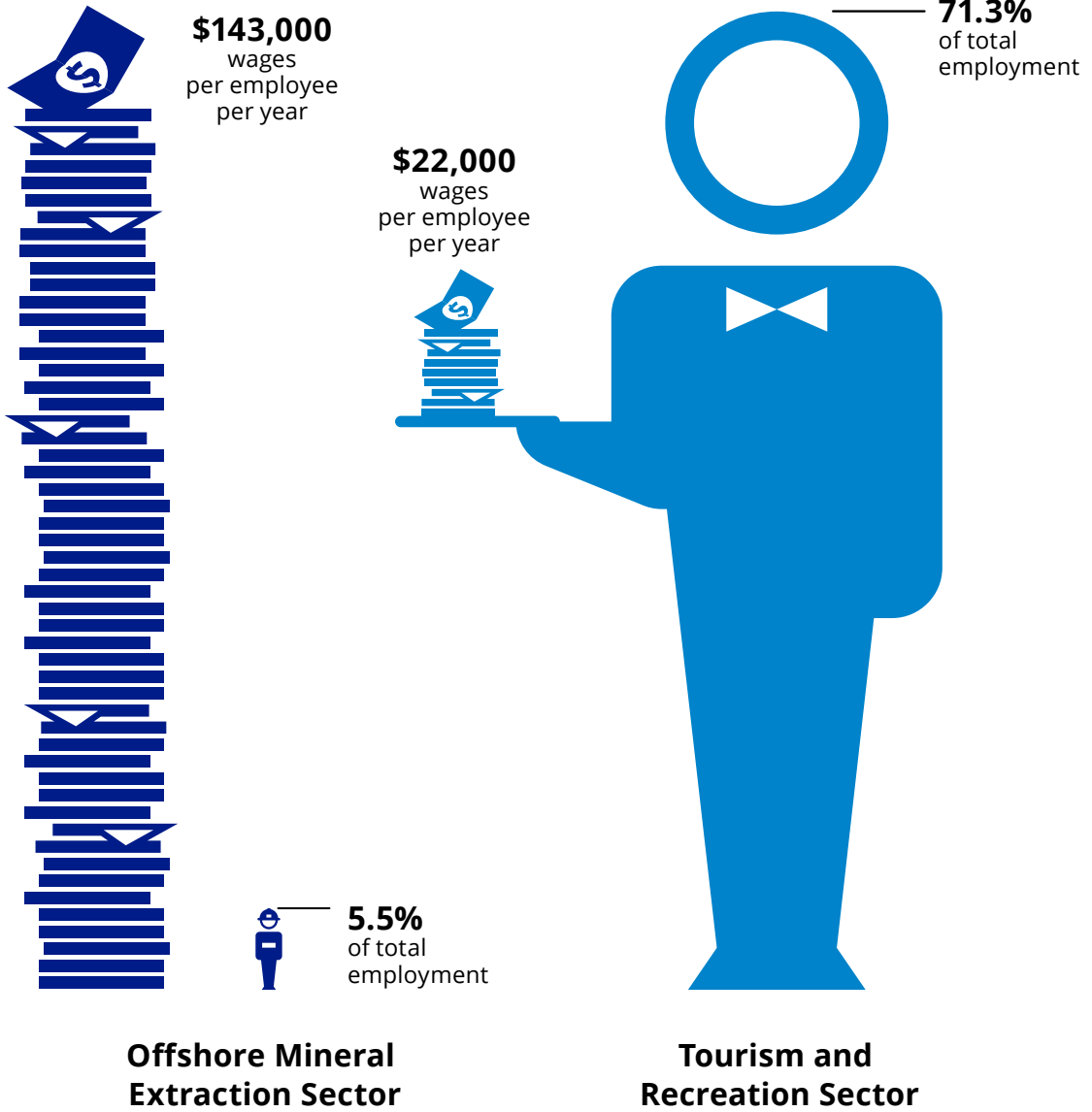
The Importance of Ocean-Dependent Jobs

Average wages across the ocean economy vary greatly. In 2012, offshore mineral extraction paid the highest wage per employee (\$143,000) in the ocean and Great Lakes economy. The occupations represented in this sector range from the workers on offshore oil platforms to the engineers, geologists, and mappers who support exploration activities. The tourism and recreation sector paid the lowest average wages (\$22,000) of all ocean economy sectors. This is partly due to the large share of part-time jobs, which are often held by students and others just entering the work force.¹

The living resources sector also paid an average wage (\$40,000) that was lower than the national average. Similar to tourism and recreation, this sector employs a significant number of seasonal and part-time workers, most of whom are not highly paid. The three remaining sectors—marine construction, marine transportation, and ship and boat building—all paid wages that are much higher than the 2012 national average of \$49,000.

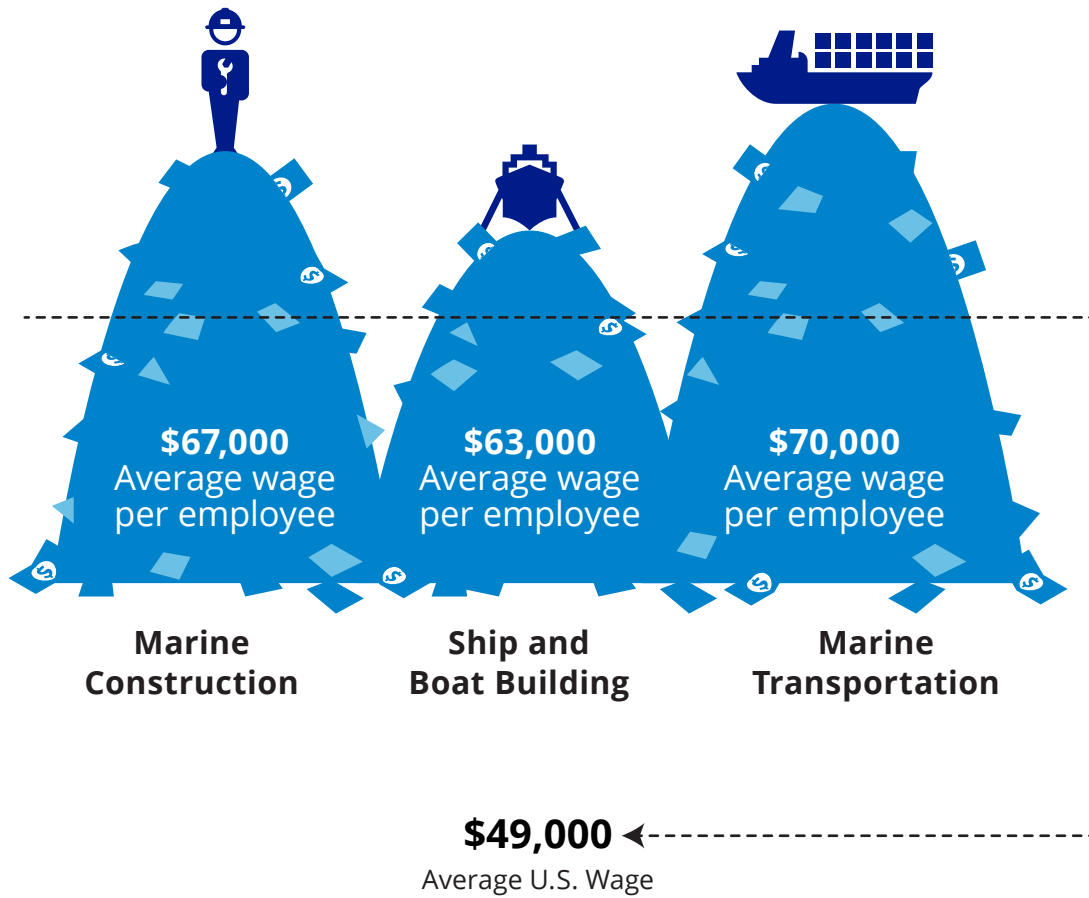
¹ U.S. Census Bureau. 2014. Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) Data. Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program. Accessed at <http://lehd.ces.census.gov/data/#qwi>.

2012 Employment versus Wages



2012 Wages per Employee Working on the Water

All three sectors paid an average wage per employee above the national average of \$49,000



Sector Profiles

Marine Construction

The marine construction sector accounts for the heavy construction activities associated with dredging of navigation channels, beach renourishment, and dock building. Although it would seem logical to include activities associated with the construction of oil and gas pipelines that directly support offshore oil and gas production, the underlying data are almost always suppressed because of the small number of businesses in any one area; for this reason, these activities are not included in ENOW's data on the ocean economy. The effect of this omission is most prominent in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska.

The Marine Construction Sector accounted for



in the U.S. ocean and Great Lakes economy in 2012

Marine construction accounted for 1.5 percent of the employment and 1.7 percent of the gross domestic product in the U.S. ocean and Great Lakes. While the sector represents a small percentage of the ocean economy, it is an integral component, paying one of the highest average wages per employee of \$67,000, much higher than the national average of \$49,000.

From 2011 to 2012, gross domestic product of this sector grew at a rate of 2.7 percent, slightly above the national gross domestic product growth rate of 2.5 percent, reversing a four-year downward trend.

At the state and local levels, trends of marine construction activities are by their nature far more erratic, spiking and rapidly declining as major harbor dredging or beach renourishment projects are initiated and completed. Another important attribute of this sector is the variation in activities from place to place and over time based on the nature of the project itself. Since the major private sector component of the activity (oil and gas pipeline construction) is not reflected in the data, trends are based largely on government spending decisions rather than general economic conditions.

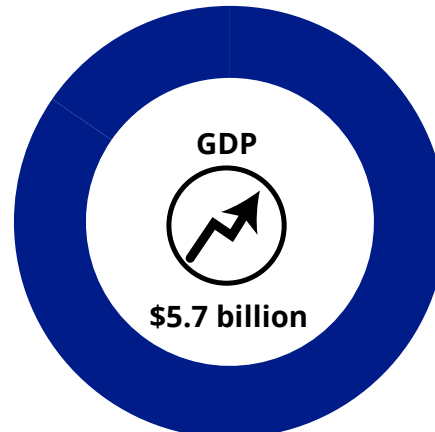
Marine construction activities occur in most regions of the U.S., but they are highly concentrated in Texas, Florida, and Louisiana, which in 2012 accounted for about 47.1 percent of the employment and 43.7 percent of the gross domestic product in this sector.

2012 U.S. Ocean and Great Lakes Economy

Marine Construction

SECTOR SUMMARY

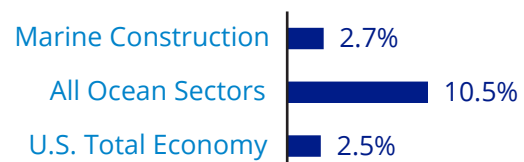
Marine construction accounted for 1.5% of total employment and 1.7% of total GDP in the ocean economy



Annual Growth in Employment



Annual Growth in GDP



Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW)

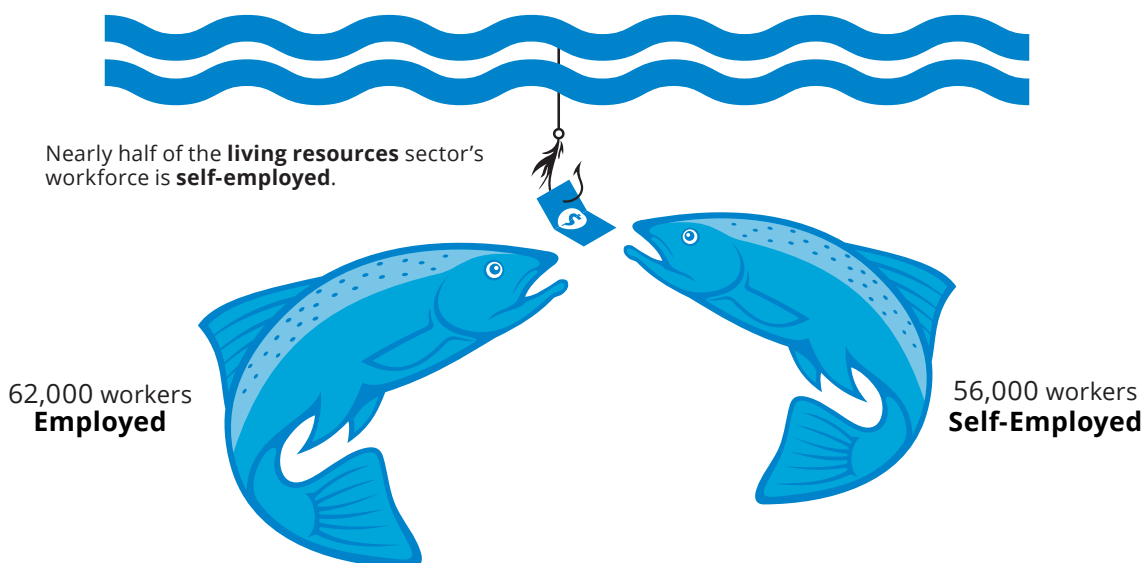
coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/enow

Living Resources

The living resources sector includes commercial fishing, aquaculture, and seafood processing and markets. An important attribute of this sector is its reliance on the health of coastal and ocean ecosystems—wetlands that serve as habitat and feeding grounds for marine fish, estuaries that are the primary habitat for oysters and other shellfish, and the marine ecosystems themselves. The health of these ecosystems can be affected by a wide range of other activities, including some ocean-dependent activities, which underscores the need for wise use, conservation, and management of ocean, coastal, and even upland resources.

Another important feature of this sector is its cultural significance. Even where it accounts for a relatively small percentage of total employment, commercial fishing can be an important component of a community's identity, affecting the nature of "families, friends, schools, churches, politics, and social networks."² Lobster, crab, oysters, and finfish are important to cultural identities from Maine to the Chesapeake Bay, Apalachicola Bay, and Grays Harbor. Even seafood processing and marketing can shape cultural identities; consider the examples of Cannery Row in Monterey, California, and the Pike Place Market in Seattle, Washington.

2012 Employed and Self-Employed



But perhaps the most distinctive attribute of this sector is the importance of self-employed workers in seafood harvesting. Even though fishing vessels require multiple crew members, they are frequently not employed by the owner but work for a share of catch. At a national level, roughly half the workers in this sector are self-employed, most of whom work in fish harvesting (as opposed to seafood processing and marketing).

For this reason, NOAA has developed a complementary data set, ENOW for Self-Employed

² Jacob, Steve, Michael Jepson, and Frank L. Farmer. 2005. "What You See Is Not Always What You Get: Aspect Dominance as a Confounding Factor in the Determination of Fishing Dependent Communities." *Human Organization*. Volume 64, Number 4. Pages 374 to 385.

Workers, which is derived from the Nonemployer Statistics produced by the Bureau of the Census. In 2012, self-employed fishermen accounted for 56,000 jobs, bringing the total number of jobs in the living resources sector to almost 118,000. These workers are highly productive, accounting for all the seafood produced in the U.S. Combining the self-employed workers with employed workers provides a more accurate and complete picture of the sector.

The remainder of this report, however, looks exclusively at the component of ENOW data that focuses on businesses with employees, since self-employed workers account for only 4 percent of the total jobs in the ocean economy, with half of those jobs in the living resources sector.

The living resources sector accounted for only 2.1 percent of the employment and gross domestic product of the U.S. ocean and Great Lakes economy, with the second lowest average wage of the ocean sectors. But it's important to remember that this relatively small sector accounts for all the seafood produced in the U.S. and, in this regard, is similar to the highly productive U.S. agriculture industry.

Seafood processing is the largest industry in the living resources sector, accounting for 60 percent of the sector's employment and 53.7 percent of the gross domestic product. This industry accounts for most of the employed workers in the sector, while fish harvesting accounts for most of the self-employed workers.

From 2011 to 2012, employment in the sector grew by 1.6 percent, but gross domestic product (adjusted for inflation) was nearly flat, with a 0.4 percent increase. This sector is the only sector that grew slower than the U.S. total economy in both employment and gross domestic product. This sector has been slow to recover from the recession, with the number of business establishments and employment well below pre-recession levels.

The Living Resources Sector accounted for

62,000

Employees

\$2.5 billion

Wages

\$7.2 billion

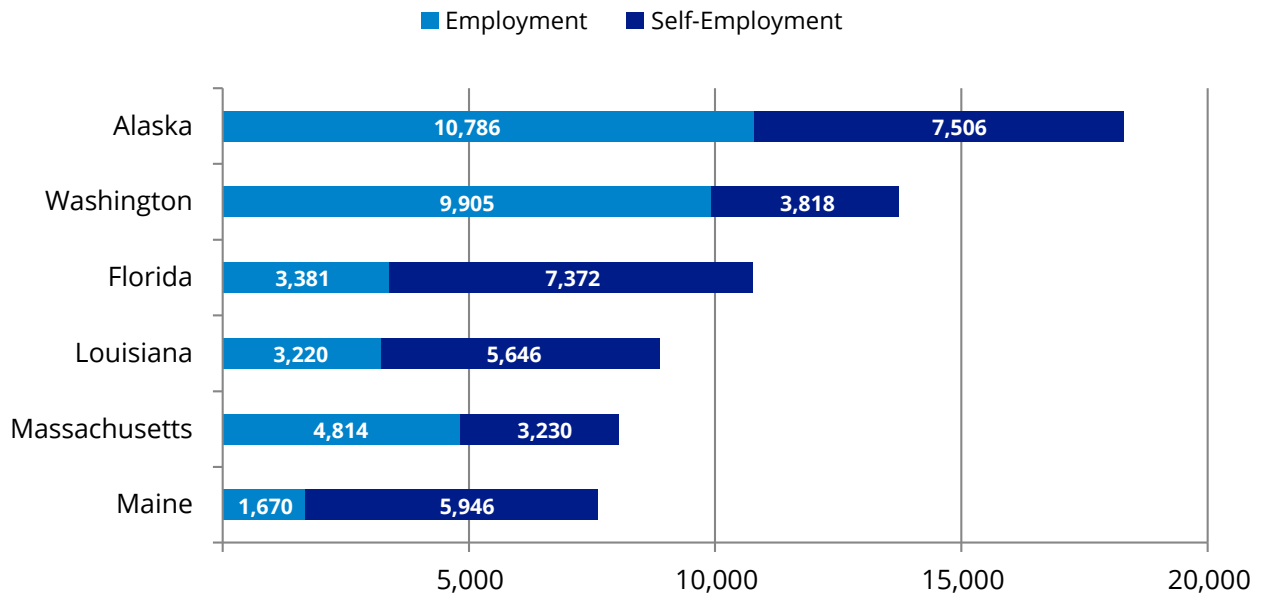
Goods and Services

in the U.S. ocean and Great Lakes economy in 2012

In 2012, more than \$3.2 billion in gross receipts were reported by the self-employed in the living resources sector, larger than the amount of wages paid to employment in the same year. While these figures are not directly comparable, the gross receipts of the self-employed show the economic importance of this component of the sector.

The chart below shows the combined number of employed and self-employed workers in the living resources sectors. Measured in these terms, the leading centers of the living resources sector are Alaska and Washington. Both states have high levels of employment relative to self-employed workers. Self-employed workers in Florida, Maine, and Louisiana outnumber employees by large margins, largely because of self-employed workers in fish, oyster, and lobster harvesting.

Leading States in the Living Resources Sector,

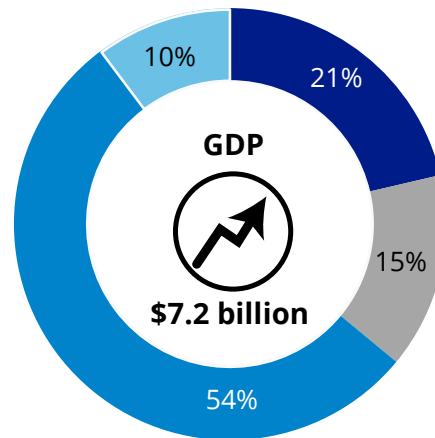
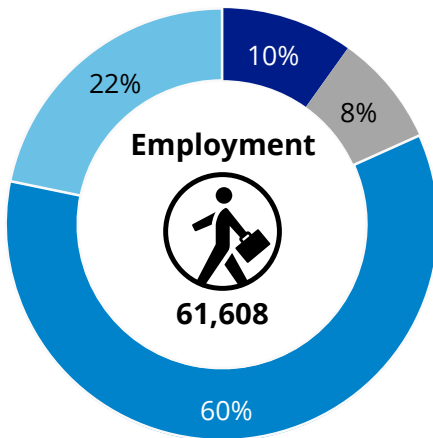


2012 U.S. Ocean and Great Lakes Economy

Living Resources

SECTOR SUMMARY

Living resources accounted for 2.1% of total employment and 2.1% of total GDP in the ocean economy



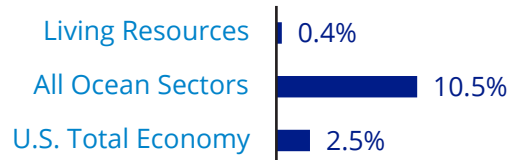
- Fishing
- Seafood Markets
- Seafood Processing
- Fish Hatcheries and Aquaculture



Annual Growth in Employment



Annual Growth in GDP



Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW)

coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/enow

Offshore Mineral Extraction

Offshore mineral extraction includes oil and gas exploration and production, as well as limestone, sand, and gravel mining in the coastal and marine environment. The largest component of this sector is oil and gas production, which is concentrated in the Gulf of Mexico region.

The Offshore Mineral Extraction Sector accounted for



in the U.S. ocean and Great Lakes economy in 2012

In 2012, offshore mineral extraction accounted for only 5.5 percent of the total employment in the ocean economy but contributed 46.3 percent of its gross domestic product. Average wages per employee of more than \$143,000 per year were more than twice the national average.

Offshore mineral extraction is capital-intensive, requiring substantial investments in research, engineering, infrastructure, and operational equipment such as oceangoing vessels, and demanding comparably high skill sets that command high wages. The fact that much of the work takes place in hazardous conditions tends to further increase wages. The oil and natural gas extracted are sold at relatively high prices, which help account for the large contribution this sector makes to the ocean economy's gross domestic product.

Oil and gas exploration and production is the dominant industry in this sector, accounting for 96.3 percent of the employment and 98.7 percent of the gross domestic product in 2012. Limestone, sand, and gravel production is generally performed in support of construction activities and is, thus, widely distributed among the U.S. coastal states. Generally speaking, states with large economies and long coastlines, like California, Florida, and Texas, have the greatest production of sand, gravel, and limestone.

From 2011 to 2012, gross domestic product in the offshore mineral extraction sector grew by 20.9 percent, well above the ocean economy average of 10.5 percent. This rapid growth is partly due to this sector's recovery from a significant downturn during and after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Another significant contributor to the growth that occurred in 2012 is an increase in production that was likely linked to a second year of extraordinarily high prices for crude oil. The fact that much of the 2012 growth was the sector's recovery from the Deepwater Horizon event, coupled with subsequent fluctuations in oil prices and production levels, makes such rapid growth unlikely in 2013 and beyond.

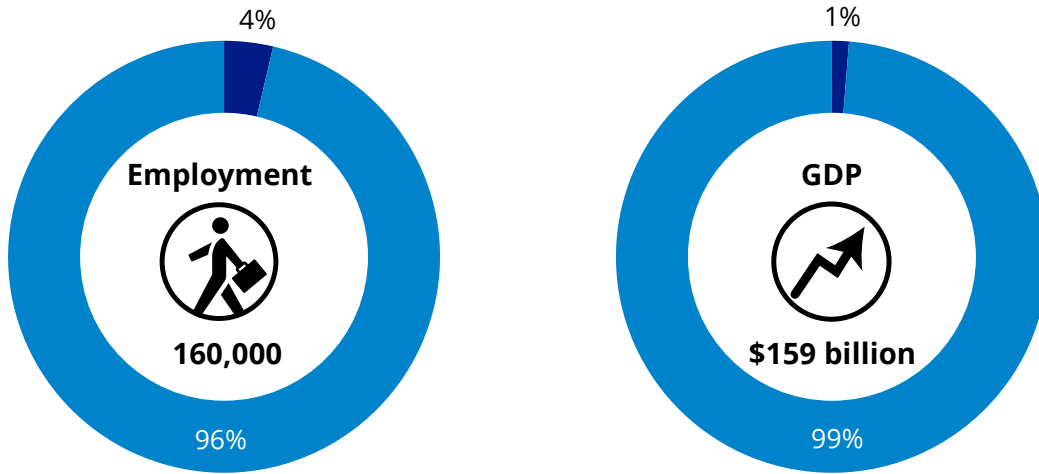
The national center of the oil and gas industry is Houston, Texas. Texas alone accounted for two-thirds of the employment in offshore mineral extraction sector and 71.5 percent of its 2012 gross domestic product.

2012 U.S. Ocean and Great Lakes Economy

Offshore Mineral Extraction

SECTOR SUMMARY

Offshore mineral extraction accounted for 5.5% of total employment and 46.3% of total GDP in the ocean economy

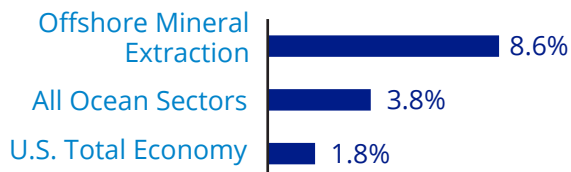


■ Limestone, Sand, and Gravel

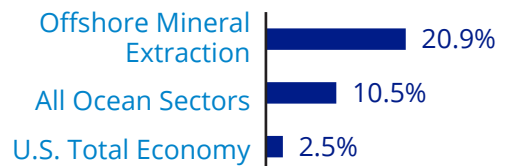
■ Oil and Gas Exploration and Production



Annual Growth in Employment



Annual Growth in GDP



Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW)

coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/enow

Ship and Boat Building

This sector includes the construction, maintenance, and repair of ships, recreational boats, commercial fishing vessels, ferries, and other marine vessels. An important attribute of this sector is the concentration of large shipyards in a few locations around the country. However, boat building and repair activity is spread more evenly around the country, with concentrations in areas engaged in commercial fishing and recreational boating.

In 2012, the ship and boat building sector accounted for 5.2 percent of the employment and 4.9 percent of the gross domestic product in the U.S. ocean and Great Lakes economy. Average wages per employee, of \$63,000, were significantly higher than the national average of \$49,000. The ship building, maintenance, and repair component of this sector accounted for more than 85 percent of the employment and gross domestic product.

The Ship and Boat Building Sector accounted for



in the U.S. ocean and Great Lakes economy in 2012

The ship and boat building sector grew at a rate of 6.9 percent in gross domestic product from 2011 to 2012. This is a significant rebound from its decline of 7.7 percent in 2011. This sector has been experiencing some ups and downs over the years with significant decline during the economic recession, particularly in the boat building industry.

Ship building, ship repairs, and to some extent boat building tend to be concentrated in a few areas around the country. Major shipyards, for example, are absent from most areas' ocean economies but, where they are present, they typically employ several thousand workers. But this sector also includes boat repair services—generally small businesses that are common in most areas that are frequented by recreational boats.

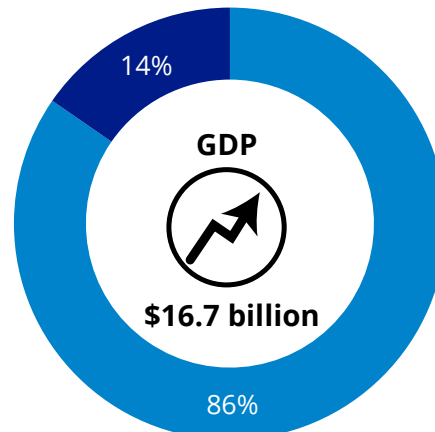
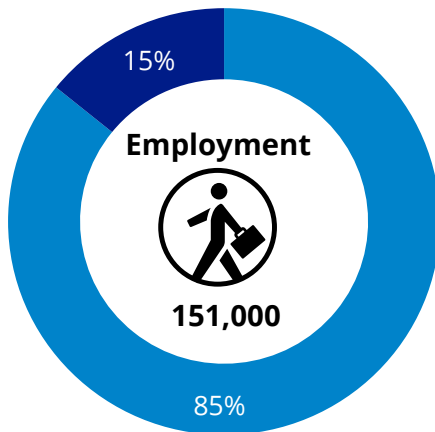
In 2012, Virginia contributed most to the jobs in this sector, accounting for 23.7 percent of the employment. Washington contributed the most to the values in this sector, accounting for 20.5 percent of the gross domestic product. Kitsap County, Washington, alone produced about 7.3 percent of the employment and 15.3 percent of the gross domestic product in the ship and boat building sector.

2012 U.S. Ocean and Great Lakes Economy

Ship and Boat Building

SECTOR SUMMARY

Ship and boat building accounted for 5.2% of total employment and 4.9% of total GDP in the ocean economy



■ Ship Building and Repair

■ Boat Building and Repair



Annual Growth in Employment



Annual Growth in GDP



Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW)

coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/enow

Tourism and Recreation

The tourism and recreation sector has more business establishments and employs more people than all the other five sectors combined but accounts for only 40 percent of the ocean economy's wages and less than a third of its gross domestic product. This sector includes a wide range of businesses that attract or support ocean-based tourism and recreation: eating and drinking places, hotels and lodging, scenic water tours, aquariums, parks, marinas, boat dealers, recreational vehicle parks and campsites, and associated sporting goods manufacturing.

An important attribute of this sector is the seasonal nature of much of the activity and the large number of part-time employees that it supports. This, in part, accounts for the relatively low wages for employees in this sector. It should be noted, however, that workers in this sector are relatively young, with a large number of students to whom seasonal employment is ideally suited.

Another important attribute of this sector is the fact that many of the coastal and ocean amenities that attract visitors are free, generating no direct employment, wages, or gross domestic product. However, these "nonmarket" features are usually key drivers for all of the market-based activity. It should also be noted that the market-based aspects of this sector can be greatly affected by ecosystem health, water quality, and the associated aesthetics.

Since many of the activities associated with this sector, like hotels and restaurants, are not always ocean-dependent, only businesses located in shore-adjacent zip codes are included in county, state, and national statistics.

The Tourism and Recreation Sector accounted for



in the U.S. ocean and Great Lakes economy in 2012

The majority of the jobs are in hotels and restaurants in nearshore areas where many of the tourist attractions are located, with these two industries alone accounting for 94 percent of the employment in this sector. The other industries are much smaller compared with hotels and restaurants—for example, aquariums, whale watching, and recreational fishing charters—but they are arguably the drivers for tourists' visits to the coast. Vacationers stay at hotels and eat in restaurants, but the real attraction is the ocean-related recreational activities and the nonmarket activities like surfing and beach visitation.

This sector recovered rapidly from the economic recession. From 2011 to 2012, tourism and recreation gained 84,000 jobs, accounting for three-fourths of the employment growth in the ocean economy. Gross domestic product in the tourism and recreation sector declined during the economic recession but recovered and grew at a rate of 3.5 percent in 2012.

From 2011 to 2012, all industries except boat dealers, sporting goods manufacturing, and zoos and aquariums experienced a growth in gross domestic product. The boat dealer industry has been declining since 2005. This is related to the declines in the boat building industry of the ship and boat building sector.

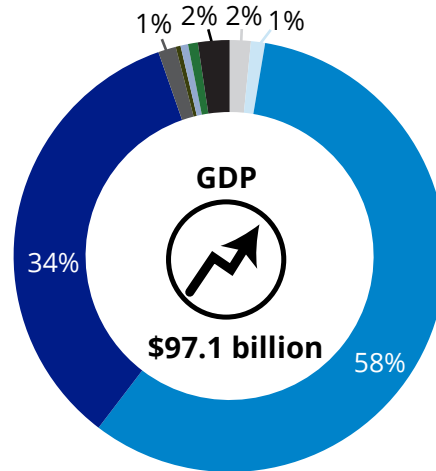
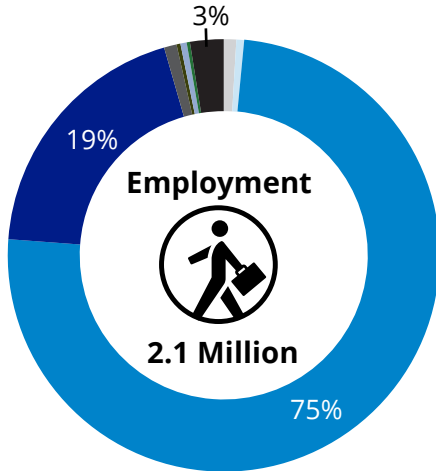
Although the tourism and recreation sector is important in most coastal areas, a significant concentration of the activity occurs in California and Florida. These two states accounted for more than one-third of this sector's total employment and gross domestic product in 2012.

2012 U.S. Ocean and Great Lakes Economy

Tourism and Recreation

SECTOR SUMMARY

Tourism and recreation accounted for 71.3% of total employment and 28.3% of total GDP in the ocean economy



- Zoos and Aquaria
- Boat Dealers
- Eating and Drinking Places
- Hotels and Lodging Places
- Marinas
- RV Parks and Campgrounds
- Scenic Water Tours
- Sporting Goods Manufacturing
- Amusement and Recreation Services



Annual Growth in Employment



Annual Growth in GDP



Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW)

coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/enow

Marine Transportation

This sector includes businesses engaged in the traffic of deep-sea freight, marine passenger services, pipeline transportation, marine transportation services, warehousing, and the manufacture of navigation equipment. It accounted for 14.5 percent of the employment and 16.7 percent of the gross domestic product in the U.S. ocean and Great Lakes. While the sector represents a smaller percentage of the ocean economy than tourism and recreation or offshore mineral extraction, it is an integral component of the ocean economy, paying one of the highest average wages per employee of \$70,000 in 2012.

The Marine Transportation Sector accounted for



Warehousing is the largest component of the marine transportation sector in terms of employment. To avoid overestimation, only warehousing activities located in shore-adjacent counties are included in the ENOW data.

Also, while these figures include economic activity associated with loading, unloading, and warehousing cargo and supporting their movement in and out of harbors, they do not include the value of the cargo itself. Including cargo values would not be an appropriate measure of the direct contribution of marine transportation to the national economy, but the \$1.8 trillion of cargo moving through our ports each year is indicative of the large indirect effects of our coastal ports.³ These effects are realized across the nation, accruing as benefits to the producers of agricultural and manufactured products that are sold in international markets and to the manufacturers and retailers whose businesses rely in part on imported goods.

In the marine transportation sector, about one-third of the employment and gross domestic product is supported by the West Coast region. The rest is approximately distributed across the nation, concentrated around its major seaports.

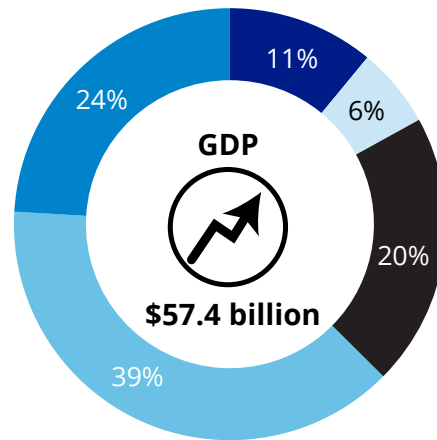
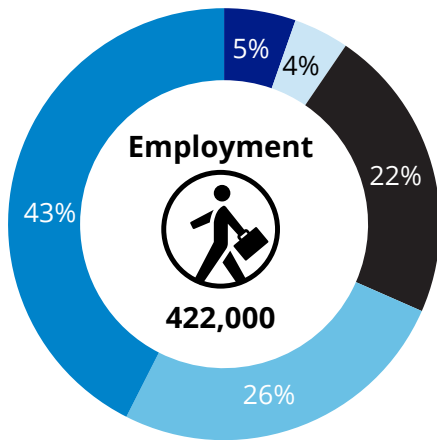
³ U.S. Census Bureau, "FT920: U.S. Merchandise Trade: Selected Highlights, December 2012."

2012 U.S. Ocean and Great Lakes Economy

Marine Transportation

SECTOR SUMMARY

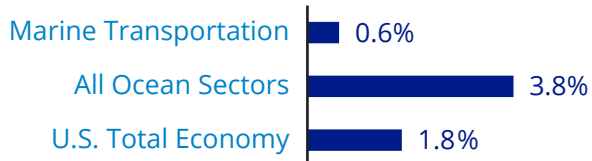
Marine transportation accounted for 14.5% of total employment and 16.7% of total GDP in the ocean economy



- Marine Freight
- Search and Navigation Equipment
- Marine Passenger Transportation
- Warehousing
- Marine Transportation Services



Annual Growth in Employment



Annual Growth in GDP



Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW)

coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/enow



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