

Using Economic Data to Show the Importance of the Ocean and Great Lakes Economy

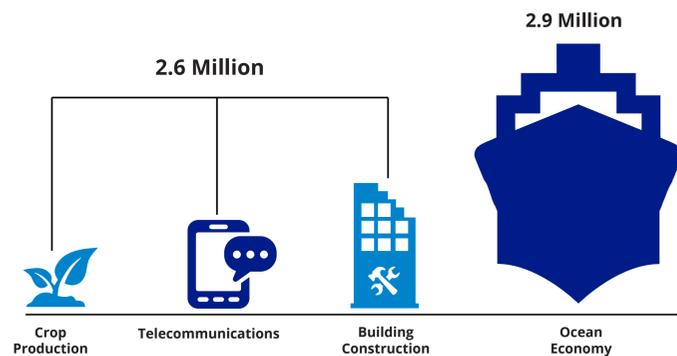


Businesses dependent on the nation's oceans and Great Lakes play an important role in the nation's economy. These businesses weathered the last recession better than the U.S. economy as a whole.



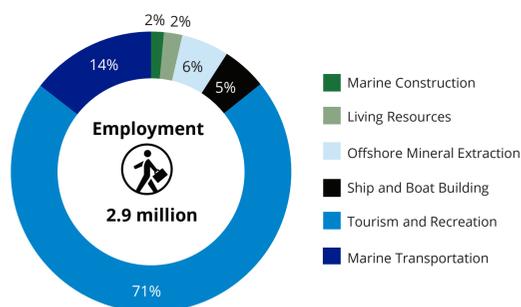
In 2012, the ocean economy employed more people than the crop production, telecommunications, and building construction sectors combined.

U.S. Total Employment Comparison



Employment and GDP

The ocean economy is defined by the six sectors shown below. Some sectors, such as tourism and recreation, support a great number of jobs. Capital-intensive industries, such as offshore mineral extraction, yield high levels of gross domestic product (and higher wages) with a relatively small workforce, as depicted in the graphic.



Accessing Local Economic Data

Coastal resources provide countless intangible benefits, from natural systems that clean the water we drink to beautiful vistas that nourish the soul. But many tangible benefits are also provided, benefits that can be described in economic terms. Having this information is helpful when decision makers are considering actions that may impact the ocean economy our communities and our nation have come to depend on.

NOAA's Digital Coast provides many products that make it easier to access and understand economic data. The data are provided for about 400 coastal counties, 30 coastal states, eight regions, and the nation.



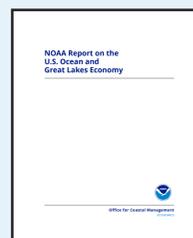
Data

Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW)



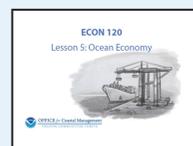
Tools

ENOW Explorer, Ocean Job Snapshots, Quick Report



Reports

National, Regional, and State

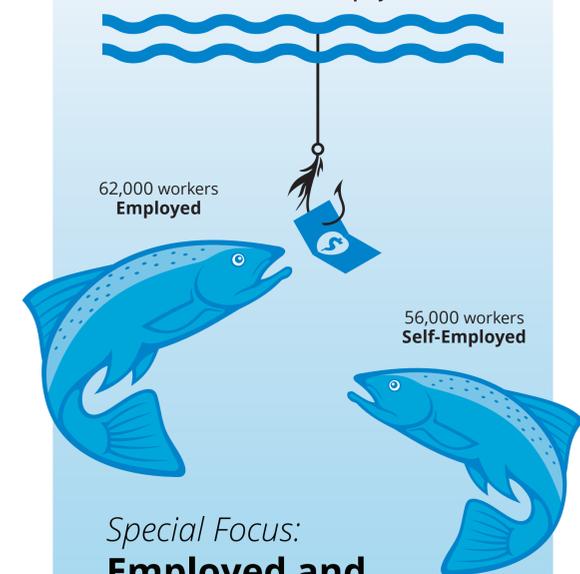


Educational Resources

Videos and Other Information

2012 Employed and Self-Employed

Nearly half of the living resources sector's workforce is self-employed.



Special Focus: Employed and Self-Employed

The living resources sector is where commercial fishing, aquaculture, and seafood processing jobs are found. This sector contains the highest percentage of self-employed workers. Roughly half the workers in this sector are self-employed, most of whom work in fish harvesting. During this reporting period, self-employed fishermen accounted for 56,000 jobs, bringing the total number of jobs in the living resources sector to almost 118,000.