



The Ocean and Coastal Economy



Measures of the Ocean and Coastal Economy:

1. **GDP (Gross Domestic Product):** Value of goods and services that are produced
2. **Employment:** # people employed by business establishments, including part-time/seasonal; does not include self-employed workers
3. **Annual Wages:** Wages paid to employees
4. **Business Establishments:** Individual places of business; single firm may have multiple

The Coastal Economy¹

What You Need to Know (2013)

GDP	\$7.6 Trillion
Employment	53.6 Million
Wages	\$3.0 Trillion
Establishments	3.8 Million

The Coastal economy includes all economic activity that takes place in the geographic area defined as “Coastal Shoreline Counties”.

Coastal Shoreline Counties

The Coastal Shoreline Counties are counties that have a coastline bordering the open ocean, or contain FEMA identified coastal high hazard areas in the Special Flood Hazard Area. Statistics for American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico are not included in the reported values.

When to Use

Use Coastal Economy statistics when discussing the effects of the economy and population that benefits directly or indirectly from activity in the coastal zone. The coastal economy identifies what is at risk from changing environmental conditions in our oceans and along our coasts.

Bonus Fact³

In 2013, if the US Coastal Shoreline Counties were considered as an individual country, they would rank #3 in global GDP, behind only the U.S. and China.

The Ocean Economy¹

What You Need to Know (2013)

GDP	\$359 Billion
Employment	3.0 Million
Wages	\$117.2 Billion
Establishments	149,000

The ocean economy includes six economic sectors that depend on the oceans and Great Lakes. (This is a subset of the Coastal Economy, shown to the left.) This annual time-series data is produced for about 400 coastal counties, 30 coastal states, 8 regions and the Nation using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Bureau of the Census. Data are currently available for the years 2005 to 2013.

The Six Sectors in the Ocean Economy

- Living Resources
- Ship and Boat Building
- Offshore Mineral Resources
- Marine Transportation
- Marine Construction
- Tourism and Recreation

When to Use

Use Ocean Economy statistics to describe the economic value of activities directly related to the use of and access to ocean resources. The Ocean Economy identifies areas where NOAA’s actions can more directly mitigate risks that may impact the US economy.

Bonus Fact

In 2013, the U.S. Ocean Economy employed more people than the Telecommunications, Crop Production, and Building Construction sectors combined.

The Coastal Population²

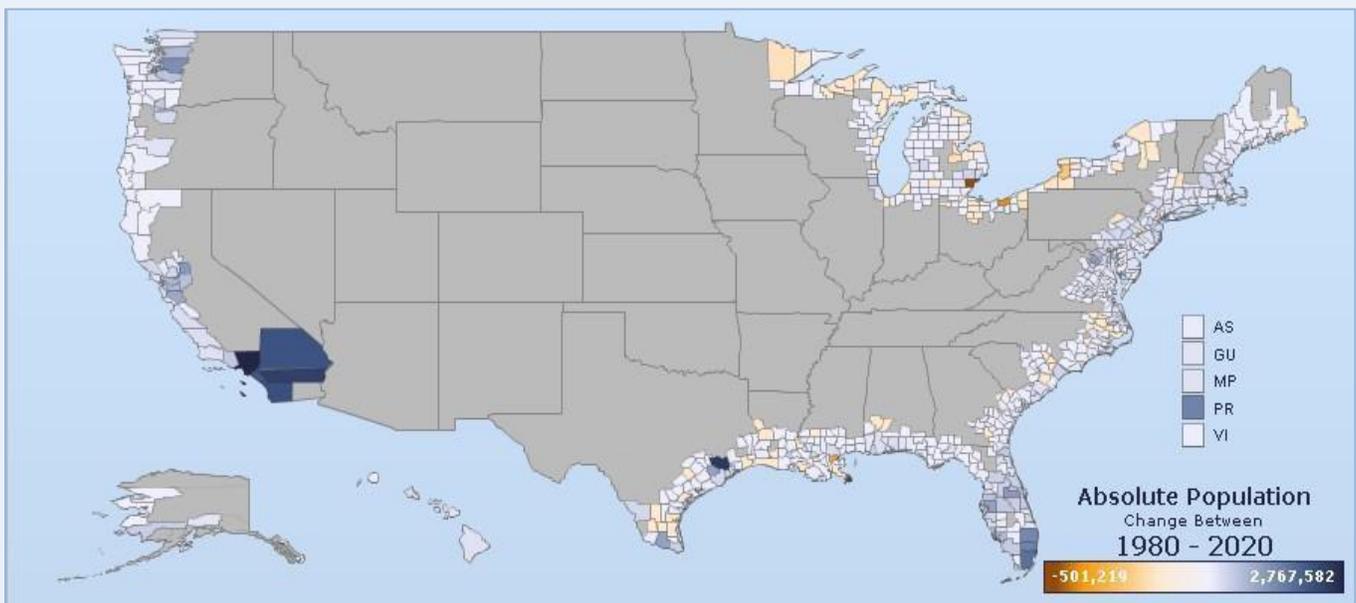
The coastal population consists of those living in Coastal Shoreline Counties, which are those counties that have a coastline bordering the open ocean, or contain FEMA identified coastal high hazard areas in the Special Flood Hazard Area. In 2011, 122 million persons lived in Coastal Shoreline Counties (about 39 percent of the U.S. total population). American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico are included in this suite.

When to Use

This geography is helpful in describing the population that is impacted by the coast.

What You Need to Know:

39%	Percent of the nation's total population that lived in coastal shoreline counties in 2010 (less than 10% of the total land area excluding Alaska)
34.8 million	Increase in U.S. coastal shoreline county population from 1970 to 2010 (or a 39% increase)
37 persons/mi ²	Expected increase in U.S. coastal shoreline county population from 2010- 2020



Sources

1. NOAA Report on the U.S. Ocean and Great Lakes Economy.
<https://coast.noaa.gov/data/digitalcoast/pdf/econ-report.pdf>
2. State of the Coast, National Coastal Population Report, 1970-2010.
<https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/population-report.html>
3. The World Bank. <http://www.data.worldbank.org>





The Ocean Economy

Most Recent Data 2013

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The Coastal Economy

Most Recent Data 2013

Coastal Shoreline Counties

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