



The Ocean and Coastal Economy: A Summary of Statistics

For more information, please contact PPI.SocialSci@noaa.gov, see page 3 for pocket version

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 Economy^{1,2}

The Coastal economy is comprised of 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. 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:

Use Coastal Economy statistics when discussing 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.

What You Need to Know (2011):

GDP	\$6.6 Trillion
Employment	51.7 Million
Wages	\$2.8 Trillion
Establishments	3,736,206

Bonus Fact: 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).

¹ For more information, see Spatial Trends in Coastal Socioeconomics (STICS): stics.noaa.gov

² For more information, see State of the Coast: stateofthecoast.noaa.gov

The Ocean Economy³

The ocean economy is comprised of six economic sectors that depend on the oceans and Great Lakes. (This is a subset of the Coastal Economy, shown to the right.) This annual time-series data is produced for 448 coastal counties, 30 coastal states, and the Nation using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Data are currently available for the years 2005 to 2010.

The Six Sectors in the Ocean Economy:

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

When to Use:

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

What You Need to Know (2010):

GDP	\$257.7 Billion
Employment	2.8 Million
Wages	\$101.8 Billion
Establishments	144,294

³ For more information see Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW): <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/enow/index.html>

The Coastal Population²

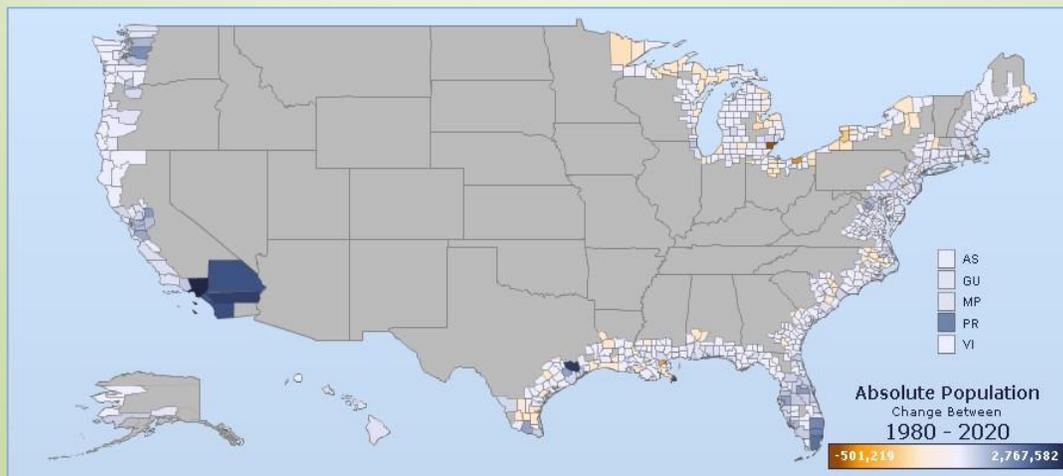
The coastal population consists of those living in Coastal Shoreline Counties, which are those counties that have a coastline bordering the open ocean, or contain FEMA identified coastal high hazard areas in the Special Flood Hazard Area. American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana 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/mi² Expected increase in U.S. coastal shoreline county population from 2010- 2020



Ocean Economy:

(Most recent data available: 2010)

GDP	\$257.7 Billion
Employment	2.8 Million Jobs
Wages	\$101.8 Billion
Establishments	144,294

Coastal Economy:

Coastal Shoreline Counties

(Most recent data available: 2011)

GDP	\$6.6 Trillion
Employment	51.7 Million
Wages	\$2.8 Trillion
Establishments	3,736,206