The marine economy is a significant contributor to the U.S. economy, accounting for billions of dollars in gross domestic product each year, and employing millions of people.

Each coastal region has unique characteristics and economic contributions. Key findings from every region and state are available in NOAA’s 2020 Report on the U.S. Marine Economy: Regional and State Profiles (data from 2017). Find statistics for each of the marine economy’s six sectors—living resources, marine construction, marine transportation, offshore mineral extraction, ship and boat building, and tourism and recreation.

Below are just a few of the highlights.

- The Gulf of Mexico’s marine economy generated $30.5 billion in wages and $99.1 billion of gross domestic product, which puts this region at the top in terms of gross domestic product.

- New York was the largest single contributor to the Mid-Atlantic’s marine economy, accounting for almost half the employment (388,000 people) and gross domestic product ($29.2 billion).

- Alaska has the busiest waters for commercial fishing in the world, and is home to the nation’s largest contributor of jobs in the commercial fishing industry.

- North Carolina experienced a significant growth of 20.7 percent in the marine transportation sector, accounting for close to one-quarter of all new jobs added in the state’s marine economy.