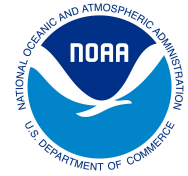


FREQUENT QUESTIONS



Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW) Data

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Contents

ENOW Data Basics	2
What is Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW)?	2
What does ENOW measure?	2
What are the definitions of “market” and “nonmarket” data?	2
What economic activities are dependent on the oceans and Great Lakes?	2
What industry aggregates compose the six sectors in the Ocean Economy?	3
Geographic Coverage Details	3
What is the geographic “scope” of the ENOW sectors?	3
Data Details	3
How frequently are ENOW data updated?	3
Why are some values “-9999” or “suppressed”?	4
If ENOW shows values of zero for my county, does that mean that no activity of that type takes place in my county?	4
What is ENOW’s relationship to the NOEP data?	4
Does the Living Resources sector include recreational fisheries?	4
Is the cargo brought in on ships included in the marine transportation sector?	4
Why are data for some Alaska counties reported as zeros?	4
Why do the back dates for GDP and Real GDP statistics change every year?	4
Data Relevance	5
Why is it important to know the size of the ocean and Great Lakes economy?	5
Why is it important to understand the sectors involved in the ENOW–defined ocean economy?	5
Data Source	5
What is the data source, and how were the data collected?	5
What is contained in the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)?	5
What are GDP data, and where can I get more information on GDP?	6
What is the difference between the “ocean” and “total” economy?	6
What is the North American Industry Classification System (NAIS)?	6
What industries are included in the sectors, and what are their NAICS codes?	7

ENOW Data Basics

What is Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW)?

Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW) describes six economic sectors that depend on the oceans and Great Lakes. ENOW's annual time-series data are produced by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management for about 475 coastal counties, 30 coastal states, 10 regions, 5 territories, and the nation from 2005 onward using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

What does ENOW measure?

ENOW provides data for four economic indicators:

- business establishments (ENOW counts individual places of business; a single firm may have multiple places of business)
- employment (the number of people employed by business establishments, including part-time and seasonal workers; this figure does not include the number of self-employed workers)
- annual wages (wages paid to employees)
- contribution to Gross Domestic Product, or GDP (the value of goods and services that are produced; in ENOW, this is based on the state estimates of GDP that are produced by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, called Gross State Product, or GSP)

What are the definitions of “market” and “nonmarket” data?

The goal of economics is to get the most value as we make choices about how to use the limited resources that are at our disposal. Many things that are valuable to people are routinely bought and sold. In this case, we have good records of the monetary amounts actually paid for goods and services, the amount of money paid to workers, etc. Values for these goods and services are called **market values**. However, many things that are valuable to people are not bought or sold. The value of things like clean air and water, a beautiful view of a healthy coastal wetland, and a day of recreation at a public beach is just as real and sometimes worth much more than market values. However, because there are no market transactions associated with their enjoyment, estimating **nonmarket values** can be difficult and expensive. Despite this, basing decisions on only the easily measurable values can lead to decisions that make individuals and society worse off. ENOW data contain only market data; they do not contain nonmarket economic activity.

What economic activities are dependent on the oceans and Great Lakes?

The oceans and Great Lakes provide direct or indirect inputs to a wide range of economic activity. ENOW estimates are based in part on the definition of the industries themselves (for example, Deep Sea Freight Transportation) and in part on the geographic location of individual business establishments (for example, a hotel in a coastal town). Economic activity for a business establishment is included in ENOW when the establishment is either

- associated with an industry whose definition explicitly ties the activity to the ocean, or
- located in an industry which is partially related to the ocean and located in a shore-adjacent zip code.

What industry aggregates compose the six sectors of the Ocean Economy?

The ocean economy comprises the following six sectors:

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

See the methods section for a list of the specific industries included in each of these sectors (“What industries are included in the sectors, and what are their NAICS codes?”).

Geographic Coverage Details

What is the geographic “scope” of the ENOW sectors?

ENOW provides data for about 475 counties, 30 coastal states, 10 regions, 5 territories, and the nation. The basic geographic footprint for ENOW’s county-level data is a suite of “Coastal Shoreline Counties” determined by using the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s definition, which states that a coastal county must

- have a coastline bordering the open ocean or the Great Lakes or
- contain coastal high hazard areas (V-zones).

ENOW makes two adjustments to the list of Coastal Shoreline Counties:

- removal of shore-adjacent counties with no relevant economic activity (11 counties and the District of Columbia) and
- the addition of counties that are not shore-adjacent but do have significant levels of ocean- and Great Lakes–dependent economic activity (17 counties).

For a full list of counties included in ENOW, see:

coast.noaa.gov/data/digitalcoast/pdf/enow-counties-list.pdf.

For some industrial classes, only those establishments located in shore-adjacent zip codes are included in the sector totals. Since hotels and restaurants, for example, may or may not be dependent on the ocean or Great Lakes, only those establishments that are nearest to the coast are included in the ocean economy. Other industries, like “deep sea freight,” are defined in terms that make it possible to include the entire industry in the ocean economy. The scope for these industries is “all.” See the methods section for more information on the geographic scope of each industrial class included in the ENOW data (“What industries are included in the sectors, and what are their NAICS codes?”).

Data Details

How frequently are ENOW data updated?

ENOW data are updated annually.

Why are some values “-9999” or “suppressed”?

Some values cannot be published without violating the confidentiality of one or more businesses. By law, these non-zero values must be suppressed in published data, although they are reflected in higher-level totals. Suppressed values are represented as “-9999” in ENOW’s tabular data and are labeled as “suppressed” in graphic representations.

If ENOW shows values of zero for my county, does that mean no activity of that type takes place in my county?

Not necessarily. ENOW data are based on employment statistics and therefore do not include the activity of the self-employed. When ENOW reports zeros for a county, this indicates that either (a) no economic activity of that type occurs in the county or (b) all economic activity of that type is associated with the self-employed. Undisclosed data are labeled as such; they do not appear in the ENOW data with a value of zero.

What is ENOW’s relationship to the National Ocean Economics Program (NOEP) data?

ENOW data are generated using methods that build on an extensive body of research dating to the late 1970s. The current composition of the six ocean- and Great Lakes–dependent sectors is largely the result of NOAA–funded work conducted by the National Ocean Economics Program (oceanomics.org). ENOW has, however, revised the definitions of two of the six ocean sectors. One revision excludes natural gas liquid extraction from the offshore mineral resources data. The other excludes warehousing in non-shore counties.

Does the Living Resources sector include recreational fisheries?

No, recreational fisheries are included in the tourism and recreation sector.

Is the cargo brought in on ships included in the Marine Transportation sector?

No, the marine transportation sector includes the value of housing the cargo, moving cargo from ships to port facilities, and external transport but not the value of the cargo itself.

Why are data for some Alaska census areas reported as zeros?

Alaska does not have counties, but the U.S. Census Bureau reports county-level data for Alaska’s organized boroughs (analogous to other states’ counties) and for several census areas. Census areas cover large parts of Alaska that lie outside of any borough government.

Since 2005, the first year in the ENOW dataset, three new Alaskan boroughs have been formed. Over the same period, the Census Bureau renamed and substantially redrew the boundaries of five Alaskan census areas. The ENOW dataset includes obsolete census areas for historical context, with no data provided for years that a given census area did not exist. More information about the changes can be found at census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/technical-documentation/boundary-change-notes.html.

Why do the back dates for GDP and Real GDP statistics change every year?

With the annual release of ENOW data, gross domestic product (GDP) for the ocean economy is updated for the entire time series to reflect the Bureau of Economic Analysis's (BEA) revision of GDP for the U.S. economy. The BEA revises the GDP data every year and benchmarks the statistical account every five years to better trace the evolving nature of the U.S. economy.

Data Relevance

Why is it important to know the size of the ocean and Great Lakes economy?

The ocean and Great Lakes economy is large, employing more people than the telecommunications, electric power generation, and crop production sectors combined.¹ However, the size and relative importance of the ocean and Great Lakes economy varies greatly across the country. ENOW data make it possible to study the degree to which local, state, regional, and national economies depend on the resources of the oceans and Great Lakes. The dataset helps to show what's at stake in decisions about the management, protection, and use of these resources.

Why is it important to understand the sectors involved in the ENOW-defined ocean economy?

While all ENOW sectors depend on the ocean and Great Lakes in some way, these dependencies vary greatly. For example, ecological health contributes to the value of some economic activities, like fishing and tourism, but not others, like oil production or marine transportation. Some activities can negatively impact the ecological health that other activities depend on. Understanding the type of economic activities that depend on the oceans and Great Lakes can help to guide planning, management, and policy decisions.

Data Source

What is the data source, and how were the data collected?

ENOW totals for business establishments, employment, and wages are based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics's Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data (also known as ES-202 data). ENOW totals for gross domestic product (GDP) are based on the Bureau of Economic Analysis's GDP-by-state statistics. QCEW and GDP data are provided for industrial groups.

What is contained in the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)?

The QCEW program produces a comprehensive tabulation of employment and wage information for workers covered by state unemployment insurance laws and federal workers covered by the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees program, which includes more than 95 percent of U.S. jobs. Publicly available files include data on the number of establishments,

¹ The ocean and Great Lakes economy employed 3.1 million people in 2014. The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), from which the ENOW data are derived, showed 2.7 million persons employed in the telecommunications, residential building construction, and crop production sectors combined (NAICS 2361, 517, 111) during the same year.

monthly employment, and quarterly wages by industry, county, and ownership sector for the entire United States. These data are aggregated to annual levels, higher industry levels (industry groups, sectors, and supersectors), and higher geographic levels (national, state, and Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)). Read more about the QCEW program at bls.gov/cew/.

What are GDP data, and where can I get more information on GDP?

Gross domestic product (GDP) is one of the most comprehensive and closely watched economic statistics. It measures the size and composition of the U.S. economy based on the market value of all final goods and services produced during a year by resources that are located in the United States. Annual estimates of GDP for states and the nation are produced by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis. Since 1997, industrial sectors used in the GDP have been defined by the North American Industry Classification System; data are published in both real (adjusted for inflation) and current (not adjusted) dollars. For more information, see bea.gov/regional.

What is the difference between the "ocean" and "total" economy?

The ocean economy is that subset of the total economy that depends on the oceans and Great Lakes. The QCEW and GDP data from which ENOW data are derived are classified by type of industry using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Each ENOW sector represents a composite of multiple NAICS industry classes that depend on the oceans and Great Lakes.

What is the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard system used by business and government to classify business establishments according to type of economic activity. It is standardized across Canada, Mexico, and the United States. First adopted in 1997, NAICS replaced the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) and was designed to provide a high degree of comparability with business statistics produced by Canada and Mexico. Information on the current (2022) version of NAICS is available from the Census Bureau at census.gov/naics/.

What industries are included in the sectors, and what are their NAICS codes?

ENOW Sector	ENOW Industry	NAICS	2022 NAICS Description
Living Resources	Fish Hatcheries and Aquaculture	112511	Finfish Farming and Fish Hatcheries
		112512	Shellfish Farming
		112519	Other Aquaculture
	Fishing	114111	Finfish Fishing
		114112	Shellfish Fishing
		114119	Other Marine Fishing
	Seafood Processing	311710	Seafood Product Preparation and Packaging
	Seafood Markets	445250	Fish and Seafood Retailers
		424460 ²	Fish and Seafood Merchant Wholesalers ³
Marine Construction	Marine-Related Construction	237990	Other Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction
Marine Transportation	Marine Freight	483111	Deep Sea Freight Transportation
		483113	Coastal and Great Lakes Freight Transportation
	Marine Passenger Transportation	483112	Deep Sea Passenger Transportation
		483114	Coastal and Great Lakes Passenger Transportation
	Marine Transportation Services	488310	Port and Harbor Operations
		488320	Marine Cargo Handling
		488330	Navigational Services to Shipping
		488390	Other Support Activities for Water Transportation
	Search and Navigation Equipment	334511	Search, Detection, Navigation, Guidance, Aeronautical and Nautical System and Instrument Manufacturing
	Warehousing ⁴	493110	General Warehousing and Storage
		493120	Refrigerated Warehousing and Storage
		493130	Farm Product Warehousing and Storage
Offshore Mineral Resources	Limestone, Sand and Gravel	212321	Construction Sand and Gravel Mining
		212322	Industrial Sand Mining
	Oil and Gas Exploration and Production	211120	Crude Petroleum Extraction
		211130	Natural Gas Extraction
		213111	Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

² The 4-digit NAICS codes are supplemented for counties where the 6-digit data are not available.³ The Fish and Seafood Merchant Wholesalers (424460) industry category is only present for data years 2016 and beyond.⁴ The 4-digit NAICS codes are supplemented for counties where the 6-digit data are not available.

Frequent Questions: ENOW Data

ENOW Sector	ENOW Industry	NAICS	2022 NAICS Description
		213112	Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations
		541360	Geophysical Exploration and Mapping Services
Ship and Boat Building	Boat Building and Repair	336612	Boat Building and Repair
	Ship Building and Repair	336611	Ship Building and Repair
Tourism and Recreation	Boat Dealers	441222	Boat Dealers
	Eating and Drinking Places	722511	Full-Service Restaurants
		722513	Limited-Service Eating Places
		722514	Cafeterias, Grill Buffets, and Buffets
		722515	Snack and Nonalcoholic Beverage Bars
	Hotels and Lodging	721110	Hotels (except Casino Hotels) and Motels
		721191	Bed and Breakfast Inns
	Marinas	713930	Marinas
	Recreational Vehicle Parks and Campsites	721211	RV (Recreational Vehicle) Parks and Campgrounds
	Scenic Water Tours	487210	Scenic and Sightseeing Transportation, Water
	Sporting Goods	339920	Sporting and Athletic Goods Manufacturing
	Amusement and Recreation Services	487990	Scenic and Sightseeing Transportation, Other
		611620	Sports and Recreation Instruction
		532284	Recreational Goods Rental
		713990	Amusement and Recreation Services Not Elsewhere Classified
	Zoos and Aquaria	712130	Zoos and Botanical Gardens
		712190	Nature Parks and Other Similar Institutions