

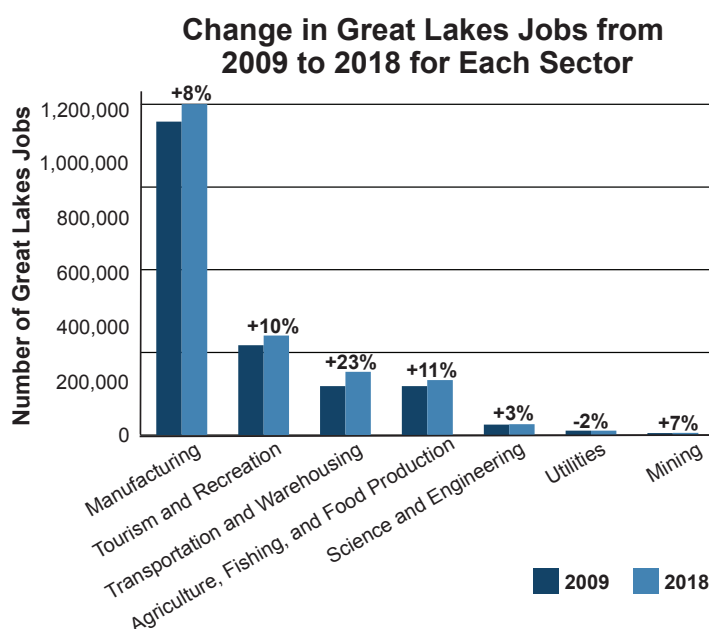


## THE GREAT LAKES GENERATE MORE THAN 1.3 MILLION JOBS, \$82 BILLION IN WAGES ANNUALLY

A recent Michigan Sea Grant report analyzed the status and trends for all employment sectors between 2009 and 2018 across the 83 coastal counties in the eight states along the Great Lakes border -- Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

The analysis found that sectors linked to the Great Lakes produce more than 1.3 million jobs that

generate \$82 billion in wages annually, according to an analysis of 2018 economic data. The coastal counties of the eight Great Lakes states produce 21 percent of the GDP in the region and 5.8 percent of total U.S. GDP.



*Great Lakes coastal county jobs by industry in 2009 and 2018. The percent change between the two time periods is listed above the bar graph.*

The report looks at the number of jobs connected to the Great Lakes by state and by sector.

Manufacturing was responsible for 59 percent of the Great Lakes-supported jobs in coastal counties, followed by tourism and recreation (17 percent); transportation and warehousing (11 percent); agriculture, fishing, and food production (10 percent); science and engineering (2 percent); utilities (0.7 percent); and mining (0.3 percent).

It also compared the percent changes to a similar analysis completed in 2009. This analysis, however, uses coastal county data instead of statewide totals for manufacturing, science and engineering, and mining in Michigan. The data show that transportation and warehousing saw the biggest jump, with a gain of more than 34,000 jobs, an increase of 23 percent. Agriculture, fishing, and food production added 15,000 jobs, an 11 percent jump. Tourism and recreation added 23,000 jobs, a 10 percent increase.

The report covers the rebound in jobs after the 2008 Recession by looking at the changes in employment between 2009 and 2018. It does not include changes in employment due to the COVID-19 pandemic starting in 2020.

## Growing sectors increase employment

The region's transportation system includes an extensive network of highways, railroads, and shipping ports. Warehouses in this multimodal system store goods and provide logistic services for the distribution of goods. There were 909 warehousing and storage establishments in the eight states' coastal counties in 2018. Warehousing and truck transportation make up 94 percent of jobs within this sector.

The tourism and recreation sector provides economic sustainability and growth to coastal communities. The three national parks and three national lakeshores located in coastal counties attracted approximately 6.5 million visitors in 2018. Over 1.8 million recreational anglers enjoyed fishing the Great Lakes, spending nearly \$2.2 billion on trips and equipment in 2016. Over 113 million visitors spent over \$22 billion in Michigan alone in 2014. The coastal counties in eight states had a total of over one billion visitors in 2014. These visitors create jobs as well. Ohio had 139.5 million visitors and 354,000 jobs, and Minnesota had 71.2 million visitors and 186,000 tourism jobs in 2014.

In addition, the region's wine industry has been growing, with new vineyards and winery establishments added each year. The coastal climate and growing conditions support both difficult-to-grow wine grapes and landscapes

that attract visitors to winery tours. Since the 1980s, the number of wineries in Michigan increased from 12 to 130, with the majority of new establishments occurring in the last decade. One study estimated that nearly 1.78 million people visited Wisconsin winery tasting rooms in 2015. These visitors directly spent an estimated \$152.6 million.

## Background on data

The calculations in the Michigan Sea Grant economic summary are based on the most recent annual estimates for county employment from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages and its Occupational Employment Statistics program. The analysis looked at the following sectors: manufacturing; tourism and recreation; transportation and warehousing; agriculture, fishing, and food production; science and engineering; utilities; and mining.



*The 83 highlighted coastal counties were used to collect employment data for seven sectors. Map Layout: Shannon Blair 8/5/2020. Data Sources: Great Lakes and Watershed Boundary: Great Lakes Commission States and Counties. Boundaries: US Census. Canada Boundary: ESRI online database*

Michigan Sea Grant helps to foster economic growth and protect Michigan's coastal, Great Lakes resources through education, research, and outreach. A collaborative effort of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University and its MSU Extension, Michigan Sea Grant is part of the NOAA-National Sea Grant network of 34 university-based programs.

Support for the research and production of the economic report, *The Dynamic Great Lakes Economy: employment trends from 2009-2018*, was provided through the Marshall Weinberg Internship program at the University of Michigan, School for Environment and Sustainability, the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program at the University of Michigan, and Michigan Sea Grant at the University of Michigan.