

Economic Impact of Wisconsin's Commercial Ports, Helping to Keep the State's Economy Afloat

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The Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Wisconsin Commercial Port's Association collaborated to produce an informational publication on the role and economic importance of ports and harbors in the state's economy. Wisconsin's location, bordered on three sides by commercially navigable waterways, perfectly situates it to benefit from water transportation. Wisconsin's ports serve as centers of shipbuilding, commercial fishing, ferrying services, and the efficient transport of bulk goods.

This publication focused on the direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts of the port terminal operators, vessel supply, shipbuilders and repair facilities, commercial fishing operations, and other marine-related businesses and provided estimated impacts in terms of employment, wages and salaries, and output. Through data collection, interviews with individual port managers and businesses and economic modeling, this publication illustrates the economic importance of Wisconsin's port facilities to guide future port infrastructure improvements and help potential shippers understand the unique capabilities and advantages of water transportation.

Data and modeling sources include; U. S. Army Corps of Engineers-Navigation Data Center, Global Insight's Transearch database, IMPLAN input-output economic model, and the U.S. Coast Guard. This publication will serve as a resource guide for the commercial ports and public and private fund advocacy for Wisconsin's port facilities' operations and expansion.