

PORT AND SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT



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WISCONSIN PORTS HELP KEEP STATE'S ECONOMY AFLOAT

New report highlights the value of Wisconsin ports

(Green Bay, WI) – Wisconsin port facilities generated more than \$1.6 billion in economic output, nearly \$462 million in personal income from wages and salaries and supported more than 9,500 jobs in 2008. The figures are included in a recently released Economic Impact Report of eight of Wisconsin's largest ports, including the [Port of Green Bay](#), prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Bureau of Planning and Economic Development.

The study breaks down the economic impact into four major business types:

2008 Economic Impact Breakdown	Total Economic Output	Total Personal Income
Private Businesses <i>Freight and passenger transportation</i>	\$501,100,960	\$139,591,170
Commercial Fishing <i>A specialized subsector of private, port-related businesses</i>	\$31,915,370	\$6,102,020
Ship and Boat Building <i>Businesses that repair and refurbish boats and ships</i>	\$1,069,731,900	\$308,164,320
Ports Administration <i>The management and administration of ports</i>	\$22,337,070	\$8,130,020
2008 TOTALS	\$1,625,085,300	\$461,987,530

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“Wisconsin is very fortunate to have commercial waterways that border three sides of the state,” stated Dean Haen, manager for the Port of Green Bay. “Not every state can say that or reap the benefits that waterborne transportation provides.”

Approximately 40 million tons of goods worth more than \$8 billion pass through Wisconsin's commercial ports each year. “The Port of Green Bay moves about 2 million tons of cargo like salt, cement, asphalt, coal and limestone annually,” Haen stated. “These materials are used or developed into products that we all benefit from.”

Although the economy has impacted port facilities throughout the state, Haen says port officials in Green Bay continue to look at initiatives to increase business. “Our strategic plan outlines new ideas and ways we can expand our reach beyond our existing markets to increase business in Northeast Wisconsin,” Haen stated. “The port recently added US Venture (formerly US Oil) as a new terminal operator and there is room for continued growth. We're optimistic about the future.”

The study also noted that while Wisconsin ports mainly transport cargo, ports also serve as hubs for many recreational activities and have become an important asset to the state's tourism industry. “The port of Green Bay maintains the navigation channel in the Fox River so ships can carry as much cargo as possible, but it's also an asset to recreational boaters and fishermen as well,” Haen stated. “The Port of Green Bay is a great example of how ports around the state are making not only an economic impact, but contributing to the state's quality of life as well.”

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