

Nation's Shipyards Support \$42.4 Billion in Gross Domestic Product



A Sailor, assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), stands fire watch in the upper vehicle stowage area June 1, 2021. Bataan is in port at General Dynamics NASSCO shipyard for a maintenance availability. *U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Darren Newell*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD) announced June 14 the release of a new report finding that the Nation's private shipyards support \$42.4 billion in gross domestic product (GDP).

MARAD's new report – The Economic Importance of the U.S. Private Shipbuilding and Repairing Industry – measures the economic importance of the shipbuilding and repairing industry at the national and State levels for calendar year 2019.

"Shipyards create good jobs and support economic growth – not just in the areas surrounding our ports and waterways, but across the nation," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

In 2019, the nation's 154 private shipyards directly provided more than 107,000 jobs and contributed \$9.9 billion in labor income to the national economy. On a nationwide basis – including direct, indirect, and induced impacts – the industry supported 393,390 jobs, \$28.1 billion of labor income, and \$42.4 billion in GDP.

The Biden administration recognizes the economic importance of the maritime industry and has proposed \$17 billion in inland waterways, coastal ports, land ports of entry, and ferries as part of the American Jobs Plan. These investments would make

our infrastructure more resilient while improving efficiency and creating new capacity to enhance freight movement in the United States.

Since 2008, the U.S. Department of Transportation has provided nearly \$262.5 million in grant funding through its small shipyard grant program to nearly 300 shipyards in 32 states and territories to improve infrastructure at U.S. shipyards.

“The report issued by MARAD confirms that shipyards are vital economic engines in addition to being essential components of our industrial base,” said Acting Maritime Administrator Lucinda Lessley. “The skilled jobs created by shipyards are not only essential to supporting our military and our commerce, they are contributing to the economic success of communities all over the United States.”

The report states the U.S. shipbuilding industry has run a trade surplus in six out of the last 10 years, with a cumulative trade surplus of \$7.3 billion over this period. From 2015 to 2020, U.S. shipbuilders delivered 5,024 vessels of all types including tugs and towboats, passenger vessels, commercial and fishing vessels, and oceangoing and inland barges, reaching 608 vessels in 2020. More than 60 percent of vessels delivered during the last six years have been inland tank and dry cargo barges.

There are currently 154 private shipyards in the United States, spread across 29 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands, that are classified as active shipbuilders. In addition, there are more than 300 shipyards engaged in ship repairs or capable of building ships but not actively engaged in shipbuilding. Although the majority of shipyards are located in the coastal states, active shipyards are also located on major inland waterways such as the Great Lakes, the Mississippi River, and the Ohio River.

The final report, The Economic Importance of the U.S. Private Shipbuilding and Repairing Industry, can be found at: <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/sites/marad.dot.gov/files/2021-06/Economic%20Contributions%20of%20U.S.%20Shipbuilding%20and%20Repairing%20Industry.pdf>