

# Labor Market Spotlight

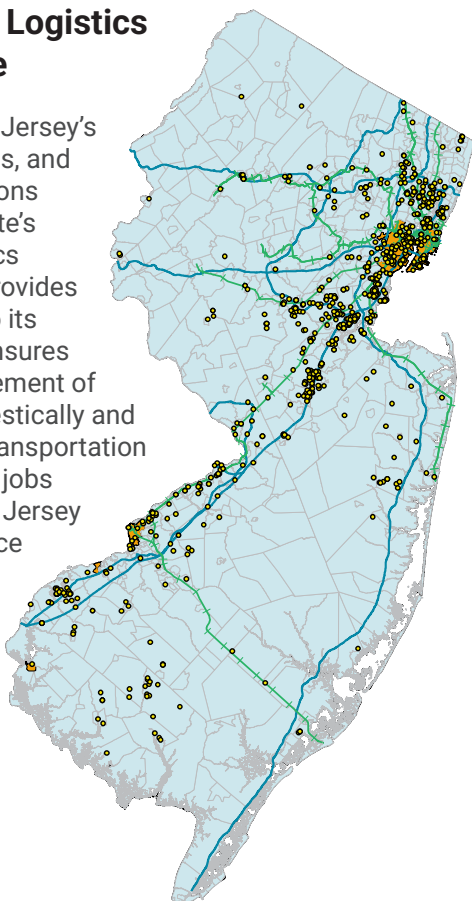
## New Jersey's Waterways Help Keep the Economy Flowing

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New Jersey's waterways are a cornerstone of the state's economy, fueling trade and job creation. The Port of New York–New Jersey—the largest international port on the East Coast—supports nearly 580,000 jobs across a 31-county region<sup>1</sup>, underscoring its broad economic impact. The South Jersey Port Corporation manages key facilities that handle essential commodities such as steel, cement, and cocoa beans. With direct access to a major cargo airport, the national freight rail system, five Foreign Trade Zones<sup>2</sup>, and 39,000 miles of public roadways, New Jersey's ports are uniquely positioned to support the efficient movement of goods. These assets not only enhance the state's competitiveness but also solidify its role as a critical hub in the global supply chain.

### New Jersey's Logistics Infrastructure

This map of New Jersey's highways, rail lines, and warehouse locations highlights the state's integrated logistics network, which provides critical support to its busy ports and ensures the efficient movement of goods both domestically and internationally. Transportation and warehousing jobs increased in New Jersey by 22 percent since 2018 highlighting the strength of its logistics network.



### A CLOSER LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

**8.7 MILLION**

Twenty-foot Equivalent Units<sup>3</sup> moved through the Port of NY–NJ (2024)

**31.1%**

US population within a day's drive of NJ

**22%**

Transportation and Warehousing employment: Up 22% since 2018

**5**

Foreign Trade Zones supporting NJ's transportation network

**3.2 MILLION**

Short Tons<sup>4</sup> handed by South Jersey Port Corporation (2022)

\* Water-related industries include fishing; boiler, tank and shipping container manufacturing; ship and boat building; water transportation industries and support activities; and marinas.



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**\$667.3**  
BILLION

Freight  
exported to  
other states  
(2024)

**\$66.7**  
MILLION

Total wages paid  
by New Jersey's  
marinas in 2024



**15.7%**

Percent of  
NJ covered  
by water

**375.4**  
THOUSAND

Number of riders  
who boarded  
ferries in NJ,  
2022<sup>5</sup>

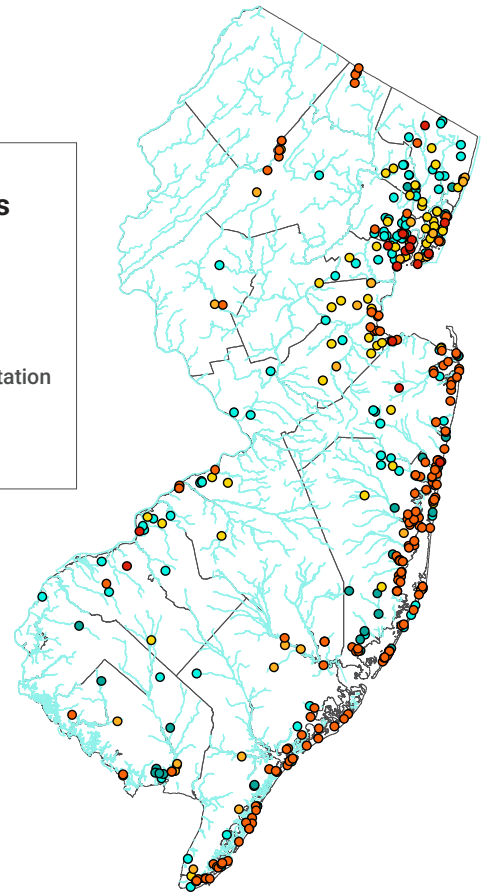


## Industry on the Water

New Jersey's waterways, which cover 15.7 percent of the state, are a vital economic engine, supporting both recreational and commercial activity. From fishing and sightseeing cruises to marinas filled with boaters, these waters drive a wide range of industries. Additionally, ferry services further enhance connectivity by offering commuters and leisure travelers a scenic and efficient alternative to road and rail travel.

### Business Establishments

- Ports
- Marinas
- Boat Repair
- Water Transportation
- Fisheries
- Fish Markets



<sup>1</sup> From 2025 Shipping Association of New York and New Jersey 2025 economic impact study: [https://sanynj.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025\\_SANYNJ\\_Economic\\_Impact\\_Study.pdf](https://sanynj.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025_SANYNJ_Economic_Impact_Study.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> A Foreign Trade Zone is a designated area where merchandise and components can be imported and stored, assembled and exported duty free. Customs taxes are only due on any goods that are distributed within the US.

<sup>3</sup> A TEU or Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit is a measurement used to determine cargo capacity of container ships and terminals. It is based on the size of a shipping container.

<sup>4</sup> Short tonnage is a unit of weight used in the U.S. to measure large quantities of materials like agriculture products, sand, and gravel. One short ton is equal to 2,000 pounds.

<sup>5</sup> US Department of Transportation Bureau of Transportation Statistics Passenger and Vehicle Boarding Counts by State

**Technical Note:** The data in this report is from the Occupational and Employment Wage Statistics (OEWS) survey May 2024 panel, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) 2024 annual averages, US Bureau of Transportation Statistics Freight Analysis Framework, Shipping Association of New York and New Jersey 2023 economic impact study, Port Authority of New York/New Jersey annual statistics, and South Jersey Port Corporation

The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's (NJDOLE) Office of Research and Information is the singular solution for labor market data needs, combining the power of data and marketing materials to deliver evidence-based research. Our team of local and industry specialists provide technical assistance and information that highlights key New Jersey economic status, such as employment, wages, occupation, workplace safety, and labor force.

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