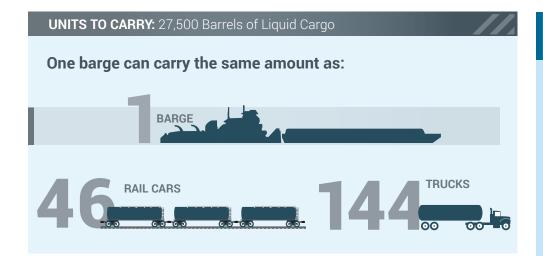


# The Tugboat, Towboat and Barge Industry in Texas

#### **Critical to the Texas Economy**

Waterways and ports support 207,970 Texas jobs and directly contribute \$34 billion to the state's economy, including \$16.7 billion in business revenue, \$14.1 billion in personal income and \$3.3 billion in local purchases.

- Marine freight transportation companies and shipyards in Texas directly employ 8,400 Americans. These are family-wage jobs with great potential for professional growth and advancement.
- Over 49,000 barge transits occur in and out of the Port of Houston each year. Texas waterways handle almost 500 million tons of freight shipments annually-126 million of it domestic. Texas ranks second nationwide for both domestic and international freight.
- The 406-mile-long Texas stretch of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway handles up to **77 million tons of freight annually**.
- Tugboats in Texas guide critical commerce into port, servicing over 16,000 ocean-going vessels in Texas ports each year.



The state's **agricultural sector is the second largest in the nation**, and water transportation facilitates the export of these Texas products to worldwide markets.

## Essential to National Security

- Three Texas ports, Beaumont, Port Arthur and Corpus Christi, are a crucial part of the nation's Military Strategic Port network.
- American-crewed tugboats and towboats in Texas are the eyes and ears on the state's waterways and stand ready to provide critical assistance in the event of a national security threat or natural disaster.





#### What's Moving on Texas Waterways

- Petroleum, petroleum products and chemicals comprise 92 percent of waterborne commerce in Texas, with 115 million tons moving on Texas waterways annually.
- 80 percent of all U.S. chemical and petrochemical products are produced in Texas and Louisiana. Water transportation is essential to safely and efficiently moving these critical commodities that fuel our homes, cars and manufacturers.
- Texas waterways also carry the building blocks of our economy, including stone, cement and steel. They transport essential items like machinery, automobiles and retail products.

### Safety and Environmental Leaders

- In Texas, a typical three-barge unit tow keeps approximately 450 tank trucks off the highway.
- AWO members operating in Texas take safety and environmental stewardship seriously. The Responsible Carrier Program, AWO's code of safety and environmental stewardship, is a mandatory condition of membership. The RCP was cited in a U.S. Coast Guard report to Congress as a major factor in the dramatic reduction of oil spills since the 1990s.
- Barge transportation has the best safety record in the transportation industry, with a fatality rate 18 times lower than rail and 132 times lower than highway transportation.

#### American Jobs, American Investment

U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge operators comprise the largest segment of the domestic maritime industry. This 40,000 vessel fleet moves over one billion tons of cargo between U.S. ports each year with American-built, American-owned and American-crewed vessels. Domestic maritime activity in turn supports almost 500,000 U.S. jobs, with an annual economic impact of nearly \$100 billion, according to a recent study published by the Transportation Institute. The domestic maritime industry also accounts for approximately \$29 billion in wages and \$10 billion in tax revenues. The Jones Act serves as the statutory foundation for this substantial economic activity as well as the multi-billion dollar investments by American companies to meet the nation's transportation needs.



**ABOUT AWO** The American Waterways Operators is the national advocate for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry, which serves the nation as the safest, most environmentally friendly and economical mode of freight transportation. Industry vessels move more than 800 million tons of America's commerce each year on the U.S. inland and intracoastal waterways, the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf Coasts and the Great Lakes. For more information about the importance of waterway transportation, please contact AWO at (703) 841-9300 or visit AWO's website at www.americanwaterways.com.



# Ton-miles Traveled per Gallon of Fuel

