



# WEST VIRGINIA

## West Virginia's Maritime Industry Reflects West Virginia

**JOBS      ENERGY      SAFETY      COMMERCE**

Maritime is a critical part of West Virginia's legacy and its future. Today's maritime industry is a reflection of West Virginia values.

*Together we promote:*

- A robust workforce
- Energy independence
- Public safety

West Virginia's marine transportation industry provides thousands of good-paying jobs. These jobs cannot be outsourced – thanks to the Jones Act, which guarantees that the vessels are crewed, built, and owned by Americans. They offer a career ladder that provides a family-wage salary and superior benefits without college debt. The towing industry puts tens of millions of dollars into the pockets of hardworking West Virginians each year.

Millions of tons of coal, coke, and lignite are moved on West Virginia's rivers every year. For two centuries West Virginia coal has been shipped on its rivers, and today it remains the most economical, efficient, and environmentally friendly way to move this essential resource. West Virginia's rivers are a critical link in a supply chain that lights American homes, powers American industry, and builds American infrastructure.

West Virginia is home to the Port of Huntington Tri-State, the largest inland port in the U.S., which sees more than 80 million tons of cargo each year. The livelihoods of the crew aboard this tow and the workers at the port are all safeguarded by the Jones Act.



More than \$1 billion worth of coal is moved on West Virginia waters every year on American-owned, American-crewed, and American-built vessels. These vessels are the eyes and ears of the waterways – providing security to the nation.



### WHAT IS WEST VIRGINIA MOVING?

**52.5 MILLION TONS**  
TONS OF FREIGHT



**\$1.1 BILLION**  
WORTH OF ENERGY PRODUCTS



**29.2 MILLION TONS**  
OF COAL, LIGNITE, AND COKE



**7.8 MILLION TONS**  
SAND, GRAVEL, SHELLS, CLAY, SALT, & SLAG



**6.1 MILLION TONS**  
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS





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Over 50 million tons of freight are moved on West Virginia's rivers annually. Hardworking deckhands can be seen here combining barges into a single tow ready for transit along the Ohio River. The towing industry provides good-paying jobs for thousands of West Virginians.



Moving West Virginia's resources on the river saves lives as well as money. Each 15-barge tow moving on the Ohio River takes 1,050 trucks off West Virginia roads, leading to safer highways.



Towboat captains are licensed by the Coast Guard and have a minimum of 11,520 hours of training – more than a commercial airline pilot.



## WEST VIRGINIA ECONOMIC IMPACT

HOW DOES MARITIME SUPPORT WEST VIRGINIA JOBS?

MARITIME INDUSTRY

**3,300**  
TOTAL JOBS

**\$181.7 MILLION**  
LABOR INCOME

JOBS SUPPORTED BY THE TOWING INDUSTRY

**2,040**  
**\$127 MILLION**  
TOTAL LABOR INCOME

HOW DOES MARINE TRANSPORT BENEFIT WEST VIRGINIA'S ECONOMY?

INDUSTRIES DEPENDENT ON MARINE TRANSPORT

**\$35.8 BILLION**  
TOTAL OUTPUT

**\$15.2 BILLION**  
GROSS STATE PRODUCT

**\$1.3 BILLION**  
STATE AND LOCAL TAX REVENUE  
TOWING INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTION

**\$199 MILLION**  
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION TO WV GDP

**\$43 MILLION**  
TOTAL TAX CONTRIBUTION

## ABOUT AWO

The American Waterways Operators is the tugboat, towboat and barge industry's advocate, resource and united voice for safe, sustainable and efficient transportation on America's waterways, oceans and coasts. Industry vessels move more than 665 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](http://www.americanwaterways.com).

Information and data sources: AWO, Texas Transportation Institute, National Waterways Foundation, Huntington District Waterways Association



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