

Volume of Recreational boating vessels in the U.S. 2010, 2019, 2021, by state

How many boats are there in each state?

We gathered data from multiple sources including our own Boat-Alert history databases to give you a big picture of the **count of boats registered in the USA by state**. We hope you find this useful as it is provided in table format and charts for convenience. You should note that numbers have gone up significantly in the summer of 2021 due to many [new boat buyers entering the market that year](#).

2021 Recreational Boating Statistics

The data sources below can conflict and it depends on the year the data was collected. Having said that, the numbers are still close within a few thousand boats. In some cases, the inactive boats (historical) may be counted.

Top 20 states with most registered boats rankings

The *top state with the most boats* is probably Florida or California, However some charts show Minnesota as having more boats. This depends on how you count historical boats and when the data was collected. The table below lists the numbers to the best of our abilities but they can and will change by the end of the 2021 boating season. No matter how you slice it, the top ten boating states in the U.S. include Florida, California, New York and Michigan when **ranking by revenue, registered boats or marinas by state**.

Recreational Boat Registration Statistics Report

US State	Number of Boats Per state	Percent of all boats in the USA in this state
Minnesota	1,490,000	9.16%
Washington State	1,212,000	7.45%
Florida	1,200,000	7.38%
Michigan	1,000,000	6.15%
California	900,000	5.53%
Missouri	795,000	4.89%
South Carolina	780,000	4.79%
North Carolina	635,723	3.91%
Tennessee	600,000	3.69%
New York	570,000	3.50%
Wisconsin	570,000	3.50%
Texas	550,000	3.38%
Ohio	500,000	3.07%
Maine	480,000	2.95%
Louisiana	330,000	2.03%
Georgia	326,000	2.00%
Virginia	300,000	1.84%
Pennsylvania	300,000	1.84%
Illinois	270,000	1.66%
Alabama	250,000	1.54%
Indiana	220,000	1.35%
Oregon	216,000	1.33%
Iowa	211,000	1.30%
Oklahoma	200,000	1.23%
Kentucky	180,000	1.11%
Maryland	170,000	1.04%
Arkansas	170,000	1.04%
Utah	160,000	0.98%
Arizona	150,000	0.92%
New Jersey	150,000	0.92%
Massachusetts	130,000	0.80%
Mississippi	120,000	0.74%
New Hampshire	100,000	0.61%
Idaho	89,000	0.55%

US State	Number of Boats Per state	Percent of all boats in the USA in this state
Connecticut	85,000	0.52%
Kansas	80,000	0.49%
Nebraska	74,000	0.45%
Montana	72,000	0.44%
Hawaii	70,000	0.43%
Alaska	68,000	0.42%
West Virginia	60,000	0.37%
Colorado	56,000	0.34%
North Dakota	56,000	0.34%
Delaware	55,000	0.34%
South Dakota	53,000	0.33%
Rhode Island	40,000	0.25%
Wyoming	39,000	0.24%
Vermont	38,000	0.23%
Nevada	37,000	0.23%
New Mexico	32,000	0.20%
Puerto Rico	25,000	0.15%
U.S. Virgin Islands	3,000	0.02%
Washington DC	2,000	0.01%
Guam	900	0.01%
american samoa	75	0.00%
TOTAL	16,270,698	

Table showing number of boats by state in the USA as well as the percentage of total boat registration in the country

Top sales figures for boats in each state

There were 13.0 million recreational boats registered in the United States in 2002 according to the U.S. Coast Guard. Today, in 2021, it is closer to 16.0 million.

Recreational Boat Registration Statistics Report for 2020

Data from one source showing counts of boats per US State (source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1155988/us-recreational-boating-vessels/>)

Historical Data

Back in **2002**, the top 20 states and the total number of boats registered in each used to be:

1. California 1,051,606
2. Michigan 1,000,337
3. Florida 922,597
4. Minnesota 834,974
5. Wisconsin 650,280 (greatest increase from 2001 to 2002)
6. Texas 624,390
7. New York 529,732
8. Ohio 413,276
9. Illinois 398,431
10. South Carolina 383,971
11. Pennsylvania 357,729

12. North Carolina 353,625
13. Louisiana 327,272
14. Missouri 325,717
15. Georgia 325,135
16. Washington 266,717
17. Alabama 264,191
18. Tennessee 259,235
19. Virginia 243,590
20. Mississippi 199,037

According to **2009** NMMA annual sales data, the top 10 boating states in the U.S. were:

1. **Florida**
With a year round warm climate and thousands of miles of shoreline, it is not surprising that Florida continues to be ranked number one in the top ten boating states in the U.S. **2009** Boat Sales: \$1.2 billion.
2. **Texas**
Ranking 6th in the U.S. for registered recreational boats; boaters in the state of Texas enjoy more square miles of inland waterways than any other state in the U.S. 2009 Boat Sales: \$906 million.
3. **California**
Bordered by the Pacific Ocean, boaters in the state of California have access to the ocean, bays, lakes and rivers as well as a warm and mild year round climate. 2009 Boat Sales: \$417 million.
4. **North Carolina**
From coastal boating to inland rivers and lakes, boating is one of the state's most popular sports with over 300,000 registered boaters in North Carolina. 2009 Boat Sales: \$395 million.
5. **New York**
With more than 7,500 lakes, ponds and reservoirs and over 50,000 miles of rivers and streams, boating is a favorite pastime in the state of New York. 2009 Boat Sales: \$381 million.
6. **Louisiana**
Surrounding by the Gulf of Mexico, boating is a way of life in the state of Louisiana from fishing charters to pleasure cruisers. 2009 Boat Sales: \$370 million.
7. **Washington**
Despite the shorter boating season, boaters love Washington's hundreds of miles of protected saltwater and surrounding waterfront communities. 2009 Boat Sales: \$310 million.
8. **Delaware**
An unexpected entry on the top 10 list, Delaware is the second smallest state in the U.S. Although Delaware is bordered by the ocean and bay, many boats are likely purchased for use in Maryland waterways on the Chesapeake Bay. 2009 Boat Sales: \$330 million.
9. **Michigan**
The Great Lakes, inland lakes and rivers in Michigan gives much of the state easy access to fresh water boating despite a colder climate. 2009 Boat Sales: \$317 million.
10. **Minnesota**
With 11,842 lakes, 69,200 miles of rivers and streams and about 4,000 miles of water trails, boating is a focal point for outdoor activity for Minnesota. 2009 Boat Sales: \$308 million...

For details on the **2014** boating statistics visit [U.S. Boat Registrations Report \(nmma.org\)](http://www.nmma.org).

Number of Marinas by state:

Top ten boating states ranked by number of marinas by state:

1. New York
2. Florida
3. Michigan
4. Maryland
5. California
6. New Jersey
7. Washington
8. Massachusetts
9. Wisconsin
10. Ohio

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