Since the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion in the Gulf of Mexico on April 21, 2010, the emphasis has been on capping the oil well and protecting the shoreline. The immediate environmental impact is clearly visible. However, the direct and indirect economic impacts in the coastal areas of the five Gulf States are not yet fully known. Dun and Bradstreet, a world leader in business information and commercial insight, has prepared a preliminary analysis of the potential economic impact.

**Analysis Methodology**

D&B reviewed its database of over 167 million businesses to perform this preliminary assessment. We analyzed the number of businesses, employees, and sales volume in coastal areas in the five Gulf States and along key industry lines.

**Business & Socio-Economic Impacts**

The oil spill has the potential to impact **7.3M active businesses** throughout AL, LA, FL, MS, and TX, affecting **34.4M employees** and **$5.2 Trillion in sales volume**.

D&B found that **34% of the 7.3M businesses are located in the coastal counties** in AL, LA, MS, TX, and the Gulf Coast of Florida. Louisiana has the highest percentage (58%) of businesses in a coastal area.

Furthermore, of the 7.3M active businesses in the five Gulf States, **81% or 5.9M are small businesses with less than 10 employees**.

**Potential Jobs Impact by State**

Of the 34.4M employees in the five Gulf States, nearly **36% are tied to businesses located in coastal counties**. At a state level, **Louisiana has the highest proportion of its total employees in coastal counties**. The unemployment rates in some of the Gulf States are running above the national 9.9% average. Although people directly impacted by the oil spill may find immediate employment in clean-up efforts, the long term impacts to the unemployment rates in these states could be detrimental.

**Impact on Sales Volume by State**

D&B found **37% ($1.951 Trillion) of the Total Sales Volume across all industries in the Gulf States occurs in coastal counties**, with **8% ($148 Billion) tied to the coastal counties in Louisiana**.

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**Impacted Industries**

D&B analyzed 50 Industry Classifications (SIC Codes) related to Tourism, Fishing, Oil, Marine/Boating, and Transportation in the coastal counties of the five Gulf States.

Eating Places, Repair Services, Gift and Novelty Shops, Hotels and Motels, and Gasoline Service Stations lines of business have the highest representation in terms of the number of businesses and total employees. In these five lines of business alone, nearly 145,000 businesses and close to 1M employees may be impacted by the oil spill.

**Number of Businesses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>AL</th>
<th>FL</th>
<th>LA</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>TX</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crabs, Catching of</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finfish</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish Hatcheries &amp; preserves</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrimp, catching of</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>1034</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the world’s leading information provider for 169 years, D&B works with 95% of the Fortune 1000 companies. For over 30 years, D&B has worked with most Federal and state governments to help achieve their agency missions.

For a more in-depth impact analysis on the Gulf Oil spill, D&B can provide demographic analysis of affected entities (businesses & individuals), conduct geo-impact of the crisis (by State, Region, County, City, etc.), model knock-on effects, and support due diligence for businesses the Government may contract with for the cleanup effort.

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