

INTRODUCTION TO THE MARITIME INDUSTRY

5. Carriers and Shipowners

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The Maritime Transport Life Cycle and Main National Actors







INTRODUCTION TO THE MARITIME INDUSTRY



A. The Shipping Business

Carriers or Shippers?

- Shipper
 - Usually own the cargo (manufacturer, retailer, wholesaler).
 - Can opt to transport on its own account (industrial carrier).
 - Most ask a third party (3PL, freight forwarder to act on their behalf).

Carrier

- Transport cargo on behalf of shippers (shipping).
- Rarely, if ever, owns cargo.
- Chartering
 - Renting ships or cargo space (particularly for containerships) so that the shipper is able to use a carrier.



Function of Shipping

- Function of shipping
 - The conveyance of goods from where their utility is low to a place where it is higher.
 - Arbitrage of comparative advantages (low costs to higher costs).
- Cargo markets
 - Raw materials and energy conveyed in bulk cargo shipments or containers.
 - Components and parts for assembly at a manufacturing plant.
 - Equipment for on-site capital projects like a power plant or a wind farm.
 - Vehicles for transportation, construction, mining and farming.
 - Consumer goods shipped in containers.

Choice of Transport Mode

- Shippers are usually choosing the transport mode/sequence of modes
 - International shipping almost always involves a maritime transport leg.
 - Can become a complex logistics chain requiring careful organization.
- Factors
 - Reliability
 - Frequency
 - Cost
 - Transit time
 - Capital tied up in transport (inventory carrying cost)
 - Quality of service
 - Packaging
 - Import Duty
 - Insurance

International Seaborne Trade and Exports of Goods, 1955-2021





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Services Supporting The Shipping Business





Shipping Business

- Shipping Industry
 - International business with management and operations.
 - Shipping has become more competitive and more complex.
 - Over 90% of world trade in volume terms is conveyed by sea.
- Segments of the industry
 - Bulk shipping
 - Dry bulk and liquid bulk.
 - Tramp shipping
 - Liner shipping (containers)
 - Specialized shipping
 - Passenger shipping
 - Ferries and cruises.

Modal Shares of World Trade by Volume and Value, 2008



Volume of World Trade

Value of World Trade



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World's Most Traded Goods and Lead Exporter, 2016



Containerization as a Diffusion Cycle: World Container Traffic (1980-2023)



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Containerization Growth Factors



FACTOR	Volume Growth	Volume Decline
Derived	Economic and income growthOutsourcing and offshoringComplex supply chains	Economic recessionsTrade protectionismAutomation
Substitution	 Capture of bulk and break-bulk markets New niches (commodities and cold chain) 	Peak substitutionComposition of container fleet
Incidental	Trade imbalancesRepositioning of empty containers	Trade protectionismAutomation
Induced	 Transshipment (hubbing, relay and intersection) 	 Changes in shipping networks (more direct services) © PEMP

Container Imports by Sector, 2021 (in % of TEU)



Value of Containerized Trade, 2020

Read this content



Most Valuable Goods Carried in Containers

USD per TEU (SITC)





Rationale for Outsourcing





- Find lower cost labor.
- Reduce or control costs.
- Free up internal resources.
- Gain access to capabilities.
- Increase revenue potential.
- Increase process efficiencies.
- Focus on core activities.
- Compensate for a lack of specific capabilities or skills.

SECTORS

Services

- IT and telecommunications.
- Business processing (data entry).
- Finance and accounting.
- Facility management.
- Call centers (technical support).
- HR (payroll and benefits, recruitment and training).

Manufacturing

- Fabrication (parts).
- Assembly and customization.

Distribution

- Transportation and logistics.
- Packaging and warehousing.

Offshoring, Nearshoring and Farshoring





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INTRODUCTION TO THE MARITIME INDUSTRY



B. Carriers

Carriers: A Definition

- Carrier
 - A transport company moving goods on behalf of its customers.
- Organization consisting of two basic parts
 - The mobile assets: vessels.
 - The fixed assets: mainly office space.
- Coordinate the use of these assets
 - Purchasing or leasing ships.
 - Interact with shipowners.
 - Interact with charterers and freight forwarders.

Types of Carriers

- Cargo market carriers
 - Specialize in specific segments such as tankers, containers, and bulk.
 - Some carriers may have assets in several cargo segments (e.g. dry and tanker).
- Main carrier markets
 - Dry bulk carriers.
 - Liquid bulk carriers.
 - Natural gas carriers.
 - Breakbulk carriers.
 - Vehicle carriers (RORO).
 - Container shipping lines.

Types of Carriers

- Industrial carriers
 - Part (owned) of a large industrial organization.
 - Move cargo solely on their behalf, available capacity and avoid shipping cycles.
 - Have become less common.
 - Large mining and steel companies, heavy equipment producers, fruit conglomerates.
- Non-Vessel-Operating Common Carriers (NVOCC)
 - Freight forwarders that do not own or operate ships.
 - Mostly for container shipping.
 - Operations:
 - Lease and buy space in ships.
 - Sell this space to customers, hoping to provide arbitrage between supply and demand.
 - Can consolidate shipments into container loads or cargo loads.

"Banana Ship" Dole Honduras



World Seaborne Trade by Cargo Type, 1970-2021



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Types of Maritime Services

- Tramp Shipping
 - Analogy to tramps (vagabonds).
 - Began in the 1850s with the first steamships.
 - Routing that varies each voyage.
 - No fixed schedule.
 - Shifting cargoes; looking for cargo where it can be found.
 - Constant effort by shipowners to find cargoes; rely on a network of shipbrokers.
 - Usually geared ships not depending on shore cranes (to expand options).
 - Smaller multipurpose ships, usually Handy (20,000 to 25,000 DWT) to Handimax (30,000 to 50,000 DWT).
 - Can operate in ports with shallow drafts.

Tramp Ship at the Domino Sugar Factory, Baltimore



Types of Maritime Services

- Liner shipping
 - Originates from scheduled transoceanic steamship services in the 19th century.
 - Passenger vessels also transporting cargo.
 - Vessels are on a posted timetable (weekly call, every Tuesday, etc.).
 - Between two ports or several ports.
 - Mainly through container shipping.
 - Effective when there are stable market conditions.

Types of Maritime Services



TRAMP

- Does not operate on a regular schedule.
- Available to be chartered.
- Point to point services.
- Empty backhauls.
- Common for bulk freight shipping.



LINER

- Regular schedule.
- Sequential shipping services between two maritime ranges (seaboards).
- Balancing the number of port calls and the frequency of services.

© GTS

Global Hierarchy of Shipping Lanes



Largest Dry Bulk Carriers



Dry Bulk Carrier

- Oldendorff
 - Founded in 1921.
 - The largest bulk carrier in the world.
 - 380 million tons per year.
 - 15,000 port calls.
 - Reconciling point-to-point trades in a wide variable of bulk markets.

Cargo Carried by Oldendorff



Optimizing Sequence of Bulk Carrier Trades



Example of Parcelling (Tramp) Trades



Largest Oil Tanker Carriers



120

Major Oil Flows and Chokepoints



Largest RORO Carriers in Number of Ships



140

K-Line Transatlantic Loop Service



World's Largest Maritime Container Shipping Operators, March 2024



Containerized Cargo Flows along Major Trade Routes, 1995-2020 (in million TEUs)



Types of Inter-Range Maritime Routes



Three Major Inter-Range Routes Serviced by Maersk



Vertical Integration for Selected Major Container Shipping Lines



Order Book

- Future capacity addition
 - A ship can take up to three years to be delivered once ordered.
 - Shipping lines have order books that are an overview of their expectations.
 - High order books: anticipating growth in shipping demand.
 - Low order books: in a recession or market slump.

Number of Ships Ordered by Container Shipping Lines (as of 2024)



Some Freight Charges

- Terminal Handling Charges (THC)
 - Charged at the port of origin and destination.
 - Labor, equipment and temporary storage.
- Port Dues
 - Charged to use the port facility.
 - Often based on gross tonnage.
- Ocean freight (OCE)
 - Cost of transporting goods by ocean vessel from one port to another.
- Bunker Adjustment Factor (BAF)
 - Surcharge that compensates for fuel price fluctuation.

- Congestion surcharge (CON)
 - Compensates for congestion and delays at specific ports.
- Peak Season Surcharge (PSS)
 - Applied during high-volume trade periods.
- Low Sulphur Charge (LSC)
 - Surcharge for ships operating in emission-controlled areas.
- Suez Canal Surcharge (SUE)
- Panama Canal Surcharge (PCC)

Challenges to the Shipping Industry

- Environmental regulations (compliance costs)
- Security (theft and piracy)
- Geopolitics (conflicts, tariffs)
- Supply chain disruptions (infrastructure failure, labor disputes)
- Market demand (shift in demand and sourcing)
- Digitalization (digital transformation and automation)



INTRODUCTION TO THE MARITIME INDUSTRY



C. Shipowners

Shippers and Shipowners

- Context
 - A person, corporation or investment fund owning ships.
 - Equip ships with crew and stores.
 - Most carriers are shipowners.
 - Negotiate with shipbrokers and carriers to use assets profitably.
- Goals
 - Shipowners must meet the needs of the shippers.
 - Right ship at the right place at the right time.
- Decision process
 - Which type of ships to buy or sell.
 - Numbers.
 - Size.
 - Financing.

Number of Merchant Ships by Type, 2023



Tonnage by Country of Ownership, 2024



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Shippers and Shipowners

- International Chamber of Shipping
 - Trade association of shipowners and carriers.
 - 80% of the world's DWT.
 - Covers regulatory, legal and operational issues related to shipping.
 - Is consulted by the International Maritime Organization.
 - Diffusion of best practices in ship design and operations.



Classification Societies

- Purpose
 - NGO that maintains technical standards (ship construction and operation).
 - During construction, inspect all the parts to ensure compliance with international standards.
 - Issue a classification certificate.
 - Necessary to have seaworthiness and marine insurance.
 - During operation, inspect ships to ensure safety and seaworthiness.
- Main classification societies
 - DNV (Det Norske Veritas; 21% of ships).
 - NK (Nippon Kaiji Kyokai; 20% of ships).
 - ABS (American Bureau of Shipping; 18%).

Flags of Registry

- Regulation
 - Under maritime law, the owner is bound to the rules and regulations of the country of registration.
 - Less stringent regulations confer considerable savings in operating costs.
- Registry costs
 - Compensated according to the ship's tonnage.
 - Registry costs between 30 to 50% lower.
- Operating costs
 - Operating costs 12 to 27% lower than those of traditional registry fleets.
 - Lower manning expenses.

Largest Countries of Ship Registry, 2020



Deadweight Tonnage

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Share of Foreign-flagged Deadweight Tonnage, 1989-2021



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