
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
Sectoral Activities Programme

Joint Maritime Commission

Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers
(Geneva, 12–13 February 2009)

**Seafarers' Wages and Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships
Recommendation, 1996 (No. 187): The updating of the basic
wage of able seafarers**

Geneva, 2009



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE GENEVA

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1. Introduction

1. The Governing Body of the International Labour Office, at its 303rd Session (November 2008), decided to convene a meeting of the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission from 12 to 13 February 2009 to update the ILO minimum basic wage of able seafarers. This Subcommittee was established by the Governing Body at its 280th Session (March 2001) to meet every two years for the purpose of updating the basic pay or wages of able seafarers. According to Paragraph 10 of the Seafarers' Wages, Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships Recommendation, 1996 (No. 187), the basic pay or wages for a calendar month of service for an able (seaman) seafarer should be no less than the amount periodically set by the Joint Maritime Commission or another body authorized by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office (see Appendix II).
2. The current methodology for updating the basic pay or wages of able seafarers is based on that adopted by the Joint Maritime Commission at its 26th Session (October, 1991). This methodology recommends: (i) that the basic pay or wage be based on a list of 44 countries and areas that are representative of maritime nations (those with at least 2 million gross tons of shipping) and of countries and areas which are major suppliers of seafarers (those with at least 10,000 seafarers); (ii) that the formula utilize the average US dollar exchange rate for the three most recent months in order to minimize the short-term effect of drastic fluctuations in currency exchange rates; (iii) that the period of measurement of the change in consumer prices correspond to the full period of time between adjustments; and (iv) that the formula include a weighting of one for countries and areas with fewer than 10,000 seafarers and of two for those with 10,000 or more (see Appendix III for the full text of the resolution).
3. At its most recent meeting (Geneva, 24–25 February 2006) the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission adopted a resolution which contained a number of proposals with regard to the future updating of the wage figure, including: (i) revising the list of countries and areas considered as representative of major maritime nations or major suppliers of seafarers; (ii) maintaining the formula used to revise the minimum wage as it pertained to currency exchange rates, consumer prices and weighting; (iii) fixing the amount to be used as the base for recalculation purposes at US\$545; and (iv) updating the basic pay or wage of able seafarers every two years (see Appendix I for the full text of the resolution).
4. According to the current methodology for calculating the basic pay of able seafarers, the period of measurement of the change in consumer prices should be the full period of time between adjustments, i.e. from 1 March 2006 to 25 February 2009. At the time of writing this report, however, updated data on exchange rates and price indices for the majority of countries and areas were available only for the period from February 2006 to September 2008. Data for the missing months up to 1 October 2008 have been estimated for a few countries using the geometric means of the past three years. At its meeting in February 2009, the Office should, if requested, be able to provide the Subcommittee of the Joint Maritime Commission with updated information on price indices and exchange rates.

2. Representative list of countries and areas

5. At its 29th Session (January 2001), the Joint Maritime Commission decided to update the list of representative countries and areas to include all major maritime countries (i.e. those with more than 2 million tons of shipping) and major suppliers of seafarers (i.e. those with

more than 10,000 seafarers) and to exclude those that no longer fulfilled those requirements.

6. The most up to date information on the gross tonnage of the world's merchant fleet can be found in table 1A of Lloyd's Register *World Fleet Statistics 2007*. It shows that, in 2007, 42 countries had over 2 million tons of shipping (see Appendix IV) and accounted for 93.8 per cent of the world's total tonnage.
7. The most up to date information on major suppliers of seafarers is for 2005 and comes from Appendix C of the *BIMCO/ISF Manpower Update 2005* (Warwick, December 2005)¹ which gives comprehensive data on the worldwide demand for and supply of qualified seafarers from each country and area. The figures for 2005 are the same as for the previous update and show that 31 countries supplied at least 10,000 seafarers (see Appendix IV), together accounting for 81 per cent of the world's total supply of seafarers.
8. Since the 2006 resolution adopted by the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers, which identified 52 countries and areas, one new country, Cambodia, has emerged as a major maritime country. This brings the list of countries and areas used in this report to update the basic wages of able seafarers to 53, of which 19 were both major suppliers of workers and major maritime nations, 23 were only major maritime nations and 11 were only major suppliers of seafarers (see table 1).

3. Changes in consumer prices

9. Column 1 of table 1 shows the changes that took place in consumer price indices (CPI) between 1 March 2006 and 1 October 2008, the period used in this report for adjustment purposes, and is based on figures published in the *Bulletin of Labour Statistics* (ILO) and available in the ILO database LABORSTA. As CPI figures for Antigua and Barbuda, the Cayman Islands and Liberia were not available; they were estimated from the price movements in other countries in the region.²
10. Prices increased in all the countries and areas concerned over the period of adjustment. In 19 countries and areas the increase was less than 10 per cent, while in others inflation was over 10 per cent – in 16 cases over 20 per cent.

¹ This study, carried out for the Baltic and International Maritime Council and the International Shipping Federation by the Institute for Employment Research (University of Warwick, United Kingdom), contained the best information on the worldwide supply of seafarers available to the Office during the period when the report was prepared. The same source was used for previous reports.

² The price index figures for Antigua and Barbuda were based on data for Puerto Rico, the figures for Liberia on data for Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone, and the figures for the Cayman Islands for 2006 onwards on data for the Pacific Islands.

Table 1. Changes in the purchasing power of the US dollar in selected countries and areas from 1 March 2006 to 1 October 2008

Country or area	Consumer price index for September 2008 (base February 2006 =100)	Exchange rate (three-month average)		Purchasing power equivalent on 1 October 2008 of US\$545 on 1 March 2006
		Feb. 2006	Sep. 2008	
	1	2	3	4
Antigua and Barbuda*	127.1	2.70	2.70	692.50
Bahamas	107.4	1.00	1.00	585.50
Belgium	108.6	0.84	0.67	737.54
Bermuda	111.3	1.00	1.00	606.60
Brazil	111.7	2.23	1.70	796.64
Cambodia	121.3	4 089.33	4 108.67	658.23
Canada	107.5	1.15	1.05	641.13
Cayman Islands*	108.4	0.57	0.54	631.67
Chile	118.1	518.92	523.91	637.67
China, excluding Hong Kong	113.6	8.06	6.83	730.26
Croatia	111.5	6.16	4.82	777.35
Cyprus	111.4	0.82	0.67	740.20
Denmark	107.0	6.26	5.02	726.56
Egypt	140.0	5.73	5.29	826.58
France	106.3	0.84	0.67	721.79
Germany	106.4	0.84	0.67	722.70
Greece	111.3	0.84	0.67	755.49
Honduras	120.2	18.90	18.90	655.11
Hong Kong, China	108.2	7.76	7.79	586.80
India	121.1	44.52	44.41	661.71
Indonesia	118.8	9 485.00	9 118.97	673.19
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	154.0	9 111.33	9 515.00	803.80
Isle of Man	112.9	0.57	0.53	659.73
Italy	107.1	0.84	0.67	727.49
Japan	103.3	117.31	119.13	554.15
Korea, Republic of	110.1	982.37	1 092.67	539.66
Kuwait	112.5	0.29	0.27	671.80
Latvia	133.2	0.59	0.47	908.45
Liberia*	131.7	56.92	64.53	633.14
Malaysia	113.4	3.75	3.37	687.47
Malta	108.5	0.84	0.67	735.86
Marshall Islands	111.8	1.00	1.00	609.51
Myanmar	206.5	5.92	5.41	1 231.55
Netherlands	105.9	0.84	0.67	719.32
Norway	106.5	6.74	5.45	717.34
Pakistan	135.0	59.87	75.21	585.65

Country or area	Consumer price index for September 2008 (base February 2006 =100)	Exchange rate (three-month average)		Purchasing power equivalent on 1 October 2008 of US\$545 on 1 March 2006
		Feb. 2006	Sep. 2008	
	1	2	3	4
Panama	114.3	1.00	1.00	623.20
Philippines	116.9	52.50	45.58	733.82
Poland	108.3	3.20	2.23	847.02
Romania	116.1	3.01	2.35	808.17
Russian Federation	128.3	28.34	24.42	811.42
Singapore	109.5	1.64	1.41	695.94
Spain	109.8	0.84	0.67	745.72
Sri Lanka	162.9	102.30	107.78	842.65
St Vincent and the Grenadines	123.1	2.70	2.70	670.84
Sweden	107.4	7.85	6.44	713.74
Taiwan, China**	107.8	32.59	31.19	614.29
Thailand	110.3	39.78	33.88	706.00
Turkey	126.1	1.33	1.19	765.73
Ukraine	149.9	5.05	4.85	850.75
United Kingdom	112.2	0.57	0.54	653.77
United States	109.5	1.00	1.00	596.53
Viet Nam	123.7	15 916.00	17 567.63	610.68

* Estimated price index based on data from neighbouring countries. The increase for the Cayman Islands is calculated from March 2006 to September 2008, and for the Marshall Islands from February 2006 to August 2008. ** Figures supplied by Bank of China, Taiwan: Foreign Exchange Statistics <http://www.cbc.gov.tw/EngHome/Eeconomic/Statistics/Category/Foreign.asp>.

4. Changes in exchange rates

11. Columns 2 and 3 of table 1 present the exchange rates on 1 March 2006 and on 1 October 2008, in most cases using the average for the three months ending February 2006 and September 2008, respectively (drawn from the *International Financial Statistics*, International Monetary Fund, www.imfstatistics.org/imf/). The exchange rates for Taiwan, China, which does not appear in this publication, was drawn from the web site of the Central Bank of Taiwan. The data used are generally the end-of-month market or official exchange rates.
12. In 35 of the 53 countries and areas listed in table 1, the exchange rate improved against the US dollar over the period. In eight cases there was no change, as either the currency was the US dollar or it had a fixed exchange rate relative to the US dollar. In the remaining ten countries and areas the exchange rates declined against the US dollar between 1 March 2006 and 1 October 2008, with the drop exceeding 20 per cent in Pakistan.

5. Purchasing power of the US dollar on 1 October 2008 relative to that of 1 March 2006

13. The last column of table 1 shows the number of US dollars needed in the 53 countries and areas on 1 October 2008 to make the same purchases as US\$545 on 1 March 2006. In each case the figure is obtained by converting US\$545 to the local currency as at 1 March 2006 (using the average exchange rate for December 2005–February 2006), adjusting for inflation between 1 March 2006 and 1 October 2008 (using the relative change in the CPI between February 2006 and September 2008), and then reconvertting the figure obtained to October 2008 US dollars (using the average exchange rate for July–September 2008).
14. Taking Chile as an example:
- the local currency (peso) equivalent of US\$545 on 1 March 2006, i.e. $US\$545 \times 518.92$ (three-month average exchange rate for December 2005–February 2006) = 282,811.40 pesos;
 - after adjustment for inflation between 1 March 2006 and 1 October 2008 = $282,811.40 \text{ pesos} \times 118.1/100 = 334,000.26$ pesos;
 - reconverted to US dollars at the 1 October 2008 rate = $334,000.26/523.91$ (three-month average exchange rate for July–September 2008) = US\$637.51 (the small difference between this figure and that shown in table 1 is due to rounding).
15. In each country and area considered, the combined effect of changing exchange rates and prices on purchasing power on 1 October 2008, in relation to that of US\$545 on 1 March 2006, depends on the relative size of these two factors. In almost every case more dollars were needed on 1 October 2008 to maintain the purchasing power of 1 March 2006. In the 35 countries and areas where the exchange rate against the 1 March 2006 US dollar improved, the effect of price increases was accentuated, resulting in the largest increases in US dollars required on 1 October 2008. This was particularly notable in Myanmar, where prices rose by over 100 per cent.
16. In the eight countries where there was no change in the exchange rate, the increase in US dollars required on 1 October 2008 was smaller. Of the ten countries where the exchange rate deteriorated, the Republic of Korea alone experienced a lower increase in consumer prices, making it the only country needing fewer US dollars on 1 October to maintain its 1 March 2006 purchasing power. In the remaining countries and areas, the change in consumer prices was greater than that of the exchange rate, with the result that a larger number of US dollars were required.

6. Change in the purchasing power of US\$545 between 1 March 2006 and 1 October 2008 in selected countries and areas

17. Table 2 arranges the figures indicated in table 1, column 4, in descending order of purchasing power, using a weighting of one for countries and areas with less than 10,000 seafarers and a weighting of two for those with 10,000 or more seafarers, as required by the 1991 resolution. The median purchasing power corresponds to that of Sweden (US\$713.74), pointing to an overall increase of 32 per cent over the median of US\$543.49 reported in 2006.

Table 2. Number of US dollars needed in selected countries and areas on 1 October 2008 to buy the same as US\$545 on 1 March 2006, in descending order of purchasing power

Country or area	Number of US dollars on 1 October with the same purchasing power as US\$545 on 1 March 2006	Weighting	Cumulative weighting
Korea, Republic of	539.66	2	2
Japan	554.15	2	4
Bahamas	585.50	1	5
Pakistan	585.65	2	7
Hong Kong, China	586.80	1	8
United States	596.53	2	10
Bermuda	606.60	1	11
Marshall Islands	609.51	1	12
Viet Nam	610.68	2	14
Taiwan, China	614.29	1	15
Panama	623.20	1	16
Cayman Islands	631.67	1	17
Liberia	633.14	1	18
Chile	637.67	2	20
Canada	641.13	2	22
United Kingdom	653.77	2	24
Honduras	655.11	2	26
Cambodia	658.23	1	27
Isle of Man	659.73	1	28
India	661.71	2	30
St Vincent and the Grenadines	670.84	1	31
Kuwait	671.80	1	32
Indonesia	673.19	2	34
Malaysia	687.47	2	36
Antigua and Barbuda	692.50	1	37
Singapore	695.94	1	38
Thailand	706.00	1	39
Sweden	713.74	2	41
Norway	717.34	2	43
Netherlands	719.32	1	44
France	721.79	1	45
Germany	722.70	1	46
Denmark	726.56	1	47
Italy	727.49	2	49
China, excluding Hong Kong	730.26	2	51
Philippines	733.82	2	53
Malta	735.86	1	54
Belgium	737.54	1	55

Country or area	Number of US dollars on 1 October with the same purchasing power as US\$545 on 1 March 2006	Weighting	Cumulative weighting
Cyprus	740.20	1	56
Spain	745.72	2	58
Greece	755.49	2	60
Turkey	765.73	2	62
Croatia	777.35	2	64
Brazil	796.64	2	66
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	803.80	1	67
Romania	808.17	2	69
Russian Federation	811.42	2	71
Egypt	826.58	2	73
Sri Lanka	842.65	2	75
Poland	847.02	2	77
Ukraine	850.75	2	79
Latvia	908.45	2	81
Myanmar	1231.55	2	83
Median	713.74	-	41.5

18. On each occasion the Employer and Worker members of the Joint Maritime Commission have, after deliberation, agreed on a different figure from the median. Table 3 provides details of these differences since 1970.

Table 3. Revision of the minimum wage from 1970–2006

Year	Median derived from the formula, in US\$	Basic wage set by JMC, in US\$ (base 1970 = 100)	Change in JMC figure as percentage of the median
1970	84.91	100	17.7
1972	109.20	115	5.3
1976	178.82	187	4.6
1980	259.24	276	6.5
1984	232.75	276	18.6
1987	280.88	286	1.8
1991	352.00	356	1.1
1995	366.68	385	5.0
1996	408.23	435	6.6
2001	399.29	450 ¹	12.7
		465 ¹	16.5
2003	500.38	500	0
2006	543.49	515, 530 and 545 ²	0

¹ See paragraph 3 of the resolution adopted at the 29th Session of the JMC in January 2001. ² The minimum basic wage was updated to US\$515 as of 1 January 2007, US\$530 as of 1 January 2008 and US\$545 as of 31 December 2008; US\$545 would be used as the basis for updating the minimum wage.

Appendix I

Resolution concerning the ILO minimum basic wage for the able seafarer, adopted by the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission (February 2006)

The Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission,

Having met in Geneva from 24 to 25 February 2006,

Having considered the report prepared by the International Labour Office on the updating of the minimum basic wage for an able seafarer,

Having noted that the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers at its meeting on 5 to 8 July 2003 agreed the minimum basic wage figure of US\$500 as of 1 January 2005, and a subsequent meeting in July 2003 in London considered the Joint ISF/ITF interpretation of the ILO Minimum Wage,

Recalling the Seafarers' Wages, Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships Recommendation 1996 (No. 187), referred to below as the Recommendation, and Guideline B2.2 of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006:

1. Agrees that the economic situation of the maritime industry in major flag States and labour supply States provides an indication of the necessity for updating the minimum basic wage.
2. Recalls that the main aim of the minimum basic wage for the able seafarer is to provide an international safety net for the protection of, and to contribute to, decent work for seafarers.
3. Notes that the Recommendation states that the number of normal hours per week covered by the minimum basic wage should not exceed 48 hours per week.
4. Notes that the agreed sum achieved at previous meetings has not always matched the figure indicated by the formula, since the process took into account other factors.
5. Believes that a review of the formula should be conducted expeditiously, which should aim to be concluded before the next scheduled biennial meeting of the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers in order to confirm the most appropriate formula.
6. Notes that the current mechanism, including the formula, needs to be maintained until such time as an alternative is agreed.
7. Decides, regarding Paragraph 10 of the Recommendation, to update the current ILO minimum basic wage for a seafarer of US\$500 to US\$515 as of 1 January 2007, US\$530 as of 1 January 2008 and US\$545 as of 31 December 2008.
8. Agrees that the amount of US\$545 should be used as the basis for recalculation purposes.
9. Recalls the relevant provisions of Guidelines B2.2.3 and B2.2.4 of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.
10. Suggests that the next Office report continues to provide preliminary data on all factors measured in the calculation, but the Office shall not propose a revised amount until all updated data are made available to, and discussed by, the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers.
11. Invites the Governing Body to convene a meeting of the Subcommittee within two years' time and, where appropriate, to report back directly to the Governing Body.

Appendix II

Relevant provisions of the Seafarers' Wages, Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships Recommendation, 1996 (No. 187)

IV. *Minimum monthly basic pay or wage figure for able seamen*

10. The basic pay or wages for a calendar month of service for an able seaman should be no less than the amount periodically set by the Joint Maritime Commission or another body authorized by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office. Upon a decision of the Governing Body, the Director-General of the ILO shall notify any revised amount to the Members of the International Labour Organization. As of 1 January 1995, the amount set by the Joint Maritime Commission was 385 US dollars.

11. Nothing in this Part should be deemed to prejudice arrangements agreed between shipowners or their organizations and seafarers' organizations with regard to the regulation of standard minimum terms and conditions of employment, provided such terms and conditions are recognized by the competent authority.

Appendix III

Resolution concerning the ILO minimum wage for able seamen, adopted at the 26th Session of the Joint Maritime Commission (October 1991)

The Joint Maritime Commission of the International Labour Organization,
Having met in Geneva, in its Twenty-Sixth Session, from 17 to 25 October 1991,
Considering the report prepared by the International Labour Office on the Wages, Hours of Work and Manning (Sea) Recommendation, 1958 (No. 109),
Considering also that criticism has been expressed on several previous occasions by the seafarers and by the shipowners as to the formula which has been used to revise the minimum wage figure contained in Recommendation No. 109,
Noting also that currency fluctuations have again rendered use of the current formula an even more unreliable exercise,
Considers that the formula used to revise the minimum wage should be amended,
Requests therefore the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to take action on the following proposals agreed by the Shipowner and Seafarer members of the Joint Maritime Commission, with regard to a revised formula for dealing with the updating of the minimum wage for able seamen.

Revised formula

The mechanism and procedure for the periodic revision of the minimum basic wage for able seamen shall be revised:

- (a) to provide a more representative list of 44 countries and areas including nations which have at least 2 million gross tons of shipping or countries and areas which are major suppliers of seafarers. The new list of countries and areas:

Argentina	Netherlands	Japan	Sri Lanka
Australia	India	Korea, Rep. of	Portugal
Bahamas	France	Liberia	Romania
Bangladesh	Germany	Malaysia	Saudi Arabia
Belgium	Gibraltar	Malta	Singapore
Bermuda	Greece	Myanmar	Spain
Brazil	Hong Kong	Norway	Turkey
Canada	Indonesia	Pakistan	United Kingdom
China	Iran, Islamic Rep. of	Panama	United States
Cyprus	Israel	Philippines	USSR
Denmark	Italy	Poland	Yugoslavia

- (b) to minimize the short-term effect of drastic fluctuations in currency exchange rates. The formula is to utilize an averaging of the three latest months of US dollar equivalent exchange rates (e.g. for the 26th Session, March–May 1991 averaging);
- (c) the formula is to measure the changes in consumer prices for a four-year period up to the month of the most current data (e.g. for the 26th Session, where available, May 1987 shall be the base month and May 1991 shall be the period of measurement). In the future, the period of measurement shall equal the full period of time between adjustments;

-
- (d) the formula is to include a weighting on the basis of the total number of seafarers in different countries, on a scale equal to one for countries with less than 10,000 seafarers, and two for countries with 10,000 or more seafarers, the numbers to be determined by an ILO survey;
 - (e) the issue of productivity should be addressed when the Joint Maritime Commission or the bipartite wage committee meets and, if by common reasoning the two parties have found productivity increases have taken place since the last adjustment was made, a relevant percentage should be agreed upon and added to the new wage figure calculated according to the formula.

Periodic review

It is agreed that a small bipartite wage committee composed of six Shipowner representatives and six Seafarer representatives will be convened every alternate year between sessions of the Joint Maritime Commission for the purpose of updating the ILO minimum wage for able seamen in accordance with the prescribed formula, it being understood that such a committee should not be convened in the year before a Joint Maritime Commission session.

Updating of minimum wage figures

The current figures of US\$286 and £176 sterling as of October 1987 shall be updated to amounts equal to US\$335 and £196 sterling as of October 1991 and US\$356 and £208 sterling as of 25 October 1992. The base figure for recalculation purposes should be US\$356 as of 25 October 1991, using the formula prescribed above.

Appendix IV

Major maritime countries and areas (with more than 2 million gross tons of shipping in 2007) and major suppliers of seafarers (with more than 10,000 seafarers in 2005)

	Number of seafarers 2005	Gross tons of shipping 2007
Antigua and Barbuda		8 634 620
Bahamas		43 739 148
Belgium		4 091 292
Bermuda (UK)		9 169 928
Brazil	16 698	2 289 944
Cambodia		2 059 847
Canada	14 633	2 767 954
Cayman Islands (UK)		2 870 517
Chile	10 528	
China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan, China	122 208	24 918 518
Croatia	19 500	
Cyprus		18 954 288
Denmark and Denmark DIS		9 230 574
Egypt	21 969	
France and French Antarctic Territory		6 257 856
Germany		12 934 171
Greece	32 000	35 704 485
Honduras	19 580	
Hong Kong, China		35 816 230
India	78 849	9 168 046
Indonesia	41 750	5 669 830
Iran, Islamic Republic of		3 576 860
Isle of Man (UK)		8 450 267
Italy	20 950	12 971 666
Japan	19 824	12 787 968
Korea (Republic of)	13 236	13 101 996
Kuwait		2 426 799
Latvia	17 542	
Liberia		76 572 645
Malaysia	12 671	6 974 618
Malta		27 754 385

	Number of seafarers 2005	Gross tons of shipping 2007
Marshall Islands		35 964 159
Myanmar	29 000	
Netherlands		6 139 392
Norway	15 400	18 156 007
Pakistan	12 168	
Panama		168 165 548
Philippines	120 399	5 066 182
Poland	13 183	
Romania	13 183	
Russian Federation	55 680	7 587 283
Singapore		36 251 735
Spain	10 000	3 061 813
Sri Lanka	15 655	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		5 927 619
Sweden	13 819	4 044 910
Taiwan China		2 749 607
Thailand		2 846 939
Turkey	82 419	4 995 134
Ukraine	65 027	
United Kingdom	18 550	13 443 836
United States	20 560	11 411 335
Viet Nam	17 458	2 529 619
Total	964 439	727 235 570
World total	1 187 491	774 936 508
Percentage	81.2	93.8

Sources: BIMCO/ISF *Manpower update 2005: World-wide demand for and supply of seafarers* (Warwick, December 2005), Appendix C – Supply estimates by country; Lloyd's Register: *World Fleet Statistics 2007* (London, 2008), table 1A – Merchant fleets of the world – Gross tonnage by country of registration.