

Shipping Fleet Statistics

Statistical Release

September 2013



Department
for Transport

Shipping Fleet: 2012

This Statistical Release presents summary statistics on UK and world shipping fleets. It is updated annually.

The statistics include analyses by country of registration (including UK Crown Dependencies & Overseas Territories), UK ownership, management and parent ownership, and vessel type.

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At the end of 2012:

UK direct-owned fleet

- There were **675 UK direct owned** trading vessels, totalling 20.4 million gross tons, or 21.6 million deadweight tons.
- This represents a **slight decrease** on the year before in terms of vessel numbers (a net decrease of 55 vessel or 8 per cent). The decline in deadweight tonnage is smaller at 4 per cent, and gross tonnage remained stable.
- Of these UK direct owned vessels, 331 vessels were **also registered in the UK** (49 per cent). However these UK registered vessels only accounted for only 34 per cent of gross tonnage and 31 per cent of deadweight.

UK parent-owned fleet

- In 2012 there were **845 UK parent owned** trading vessels, totalling 25.2 million gross tons and 32.9 million deadweight.

UK managed fleet

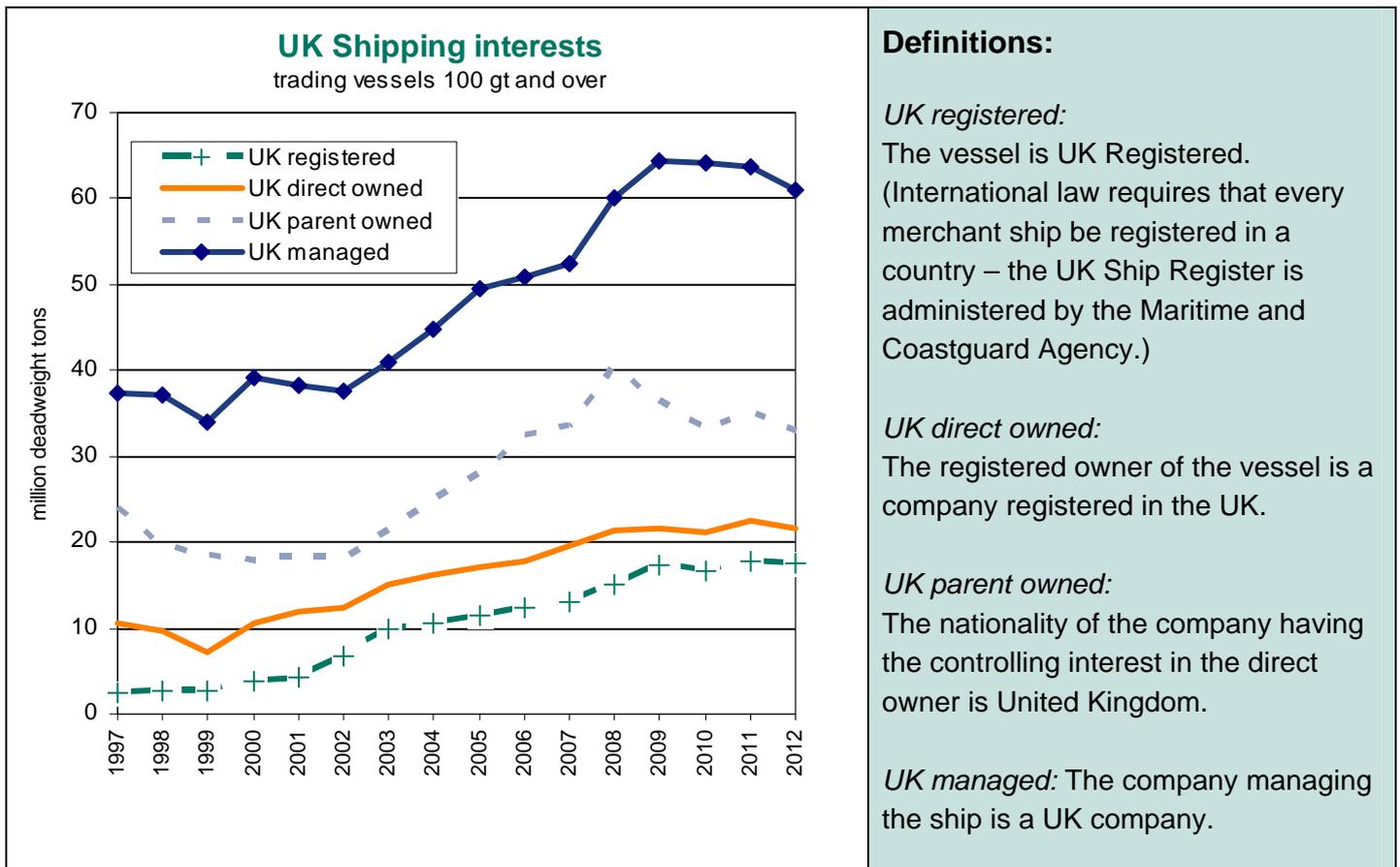
- In 2012 there were **1,151 UK managed** trading ships, totalling 47.7 million gross tons or 60.9 million deadweight tons.

World fleet

- The **world trading fleet** at the end of 2012 consisted of **over 55,000** vessels, totalling 1.03 billion gross tons, or 1.6 billion tons deadweight.

1. UK Shipping Interests

Shipping is a complex international business, and many different parties, often based in different countries, may have a commercial interest in a single vessel. There is therefore no single measure of the extent of a nation's interests in shipping that is suitable in all circumstances. The following chart illustrates four of many ways that the shipping interests of the UK might be presented, in each case in terms of the deadweight tonnage (a measure of cargo carrying capacity) of the vessels concerned.



By all four measures the 'UK fleet' has seen substantial growth since a low point in the late 1990s. In 2012, UK companies directly owned 21.6 million deadweight tonnage (dwt), while UK companies had a controlling interest (parent ownership) in 32.9 million dwt.

Since 1999, the deadweight tonnage of UK Registered shipping has grown more than six fold (from a relatively low base), while UK owned tonnage has trebled, and UK parent owned and UK managed tonnage have both increased by almost 80 per cent.

This growth has tended to level off since 2008 or 2009, with the recession, with all four measures showing a decline in dwt in 2012.

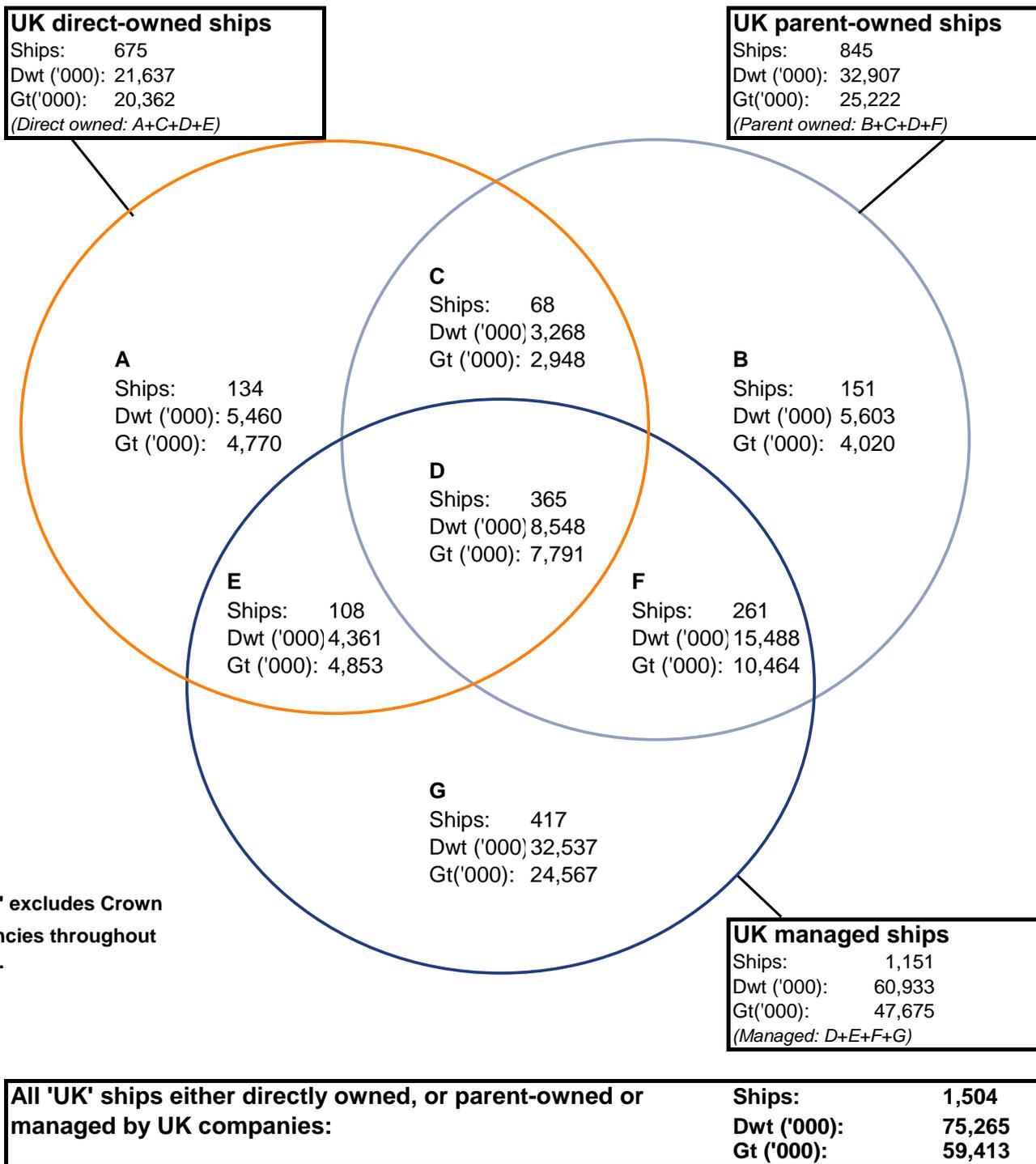
The UK share of the world trading fleet, in terms of flag, grew between 1999 and 2004 both in terms of gross and deadweight tonnage. The UK share has been stable since 2004, at approximately 3 per cent in terms of gross tonnage and 2.6 per cent in terms of dwt.

The schematic diagram below demonstrates the degree of overlap between the UK direct owned, parent owned and managed fleets.

- Less than 20% of the UK direct owned fleet does not have either a UK parent or a UK manager.
- Over half of UK managed tonnage does not have either a direct or a parent UK owner.

THE UK OWNED AND MANAGED TRADING FLEET

at 31 December 2012



Note: 'UK' excludes Crown Dependencies throughout this chart.

2. Strengths and weaknesses of the data

- These statistics are derived from data provided by a leading commercial supplier. They are believed to be of good quality, but since the commercial data set is not within DfT's control they are not considered National Statistics.
- The published tables include statistics for ships which are UK registered. For the sake of consistency within this data set, these are based on the same commercial information source as the rest of the data. This means the results may differ slightly from the definitive information on the UK Ship Register provided by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), who administer the UK register.

3. Glossary

For more detail of these and other definitions and concepts, please see the Technical Notes (link in following section).

- Vessels: These statistics refer to all vessels of 100 gross tonnes or over, unless otherwise stated
- Gross tons: a volume measure representing the size of a vessel. It is often used when measuring the sizes of different types of ship, where no more specialised measures suit all vessel types.
- Deadweight: a measure of the carrying capacity (in tonnes) of a vessel.

4. Background notes

- The web tables and charts give further detail of the key results presented in this statistical release. They are available here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/series/shipping-fleet-statistics>
- Further guidance on the methods used to compile these statistics can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/transport-statistics-notes-and-guidance-shipping-fleet>
- The next update in this series, for 2013 data, is due for publication in September 2014.