

## DID YOU KNOW? THE MASSIVE FLEET KEEPING OUR WORLD CONNECTED

**The maritime industry is a colossal force that often goes unnoticed in our daily lives. One of the most astonishing aspects of this industry is the sheer size of its fleet. Here's an in-depth look into what this truly means and why it's so significant.**

### The size of the fleet



The global merchant fleet comprises over 50,000 vessels, including container ships, tankers, bulk carriers, and more. These ships are responsible for transporting around 90% of the world's goods. From the smartphone in your hand to the coffee you drink, chances are they travelled across the oceans to reach you.

### Comparing to road transport

To put this into perspective, think of the global merchant fleet as the world's largest delivery service. Imagine every ship as a gigantic truck, each capable of carrying thousands of tons of cargo. Now, multiply that by 50,000.

If you were to line up all these ships end-to-end, they would stretch for thousands of kilometres, illustrating the massive scale of this industry.



### The lifeblood of global trade

Just as our highways and railways are crucial for domestic logistics, the maritime fleet is essential for international trade. Without these ships, the global supply chain would grind to a halt.

Every year, these vessels transport billions of tons of goods, including raw materials like oil, coal, and iron ore, as well as finished products like electronics, clothing, and cars.



### The impact on everyday life

Consider the everyday items that populate your home or office. The chances are high that the majority of these products or their components were shipped by sea.

This includes not just consumer goods but also essential items like medical supplies and foodstuffs. The maritime fleet plays a pivotal role in ensuring that shelves remain stocked and that industries continue to function smoothly.

### Technology is key!



Modern ships are technological marvels. Container ships, for instance, can carry over 20,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units), making them floating cities of cargo.

These vessels are equipped with advanced navigation and communication systems, ensuring they can traverse the world's oceans safely and efficiently. Tankers can transport millions of barrels of oil, and bulk carriers can move vast quantities of grains and minerals.

### Environmental & economic significance

The maritime industry is also at the forefront of efforts to reduce its environmental footprint.

New technologies and stricter regulations are being implemented to cut emissions and increase fuel efficiency.

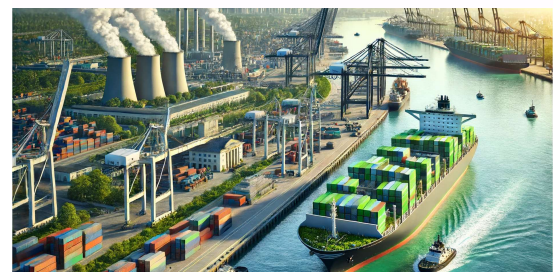
Economically, the industry supports millions of jobs worldwide, from seafarers and port workers to shipbuilders and maritime logistics professionals.

### Strategic importance

In times of crisis, the strategic importance of the maritime fleet becomes even more apparent.

For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, shipping routes were vital for the delivery of medical supplies and essential goods.

The fleet's ability to adapt and maintain global supply chains underlines its critical role in international stability and security.



In conclusion, the size and scale of the global merchant fleet are truly staggering and essential for our way of life.

These ships are the unsung heroes of the modern world, ensuring that goods flow smoothly across the globe.

Next time you enjoy an imported product, take a moment to appreciate the incredible journey it undertook, thanks to the vast and efficient maritime fleet.