



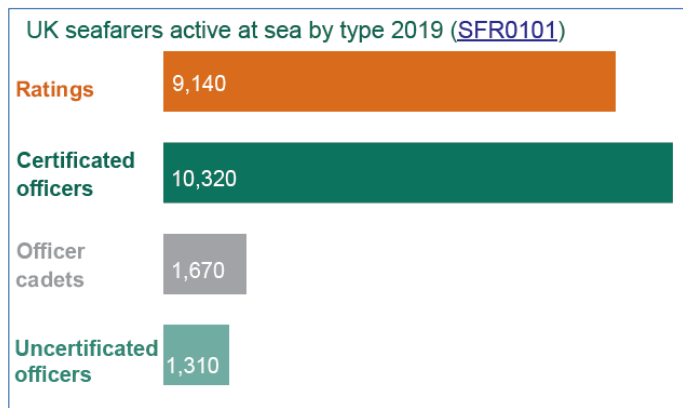
The Department for Transport’s annual statistical publication on seafarers in the UK shipping industry shows a picture which is broadly flat in terms of overall employment, though with a continuing fall in the number of cadets.

The main report (10pp) is [here](#), and the data tables are [here](#).

Overall picture

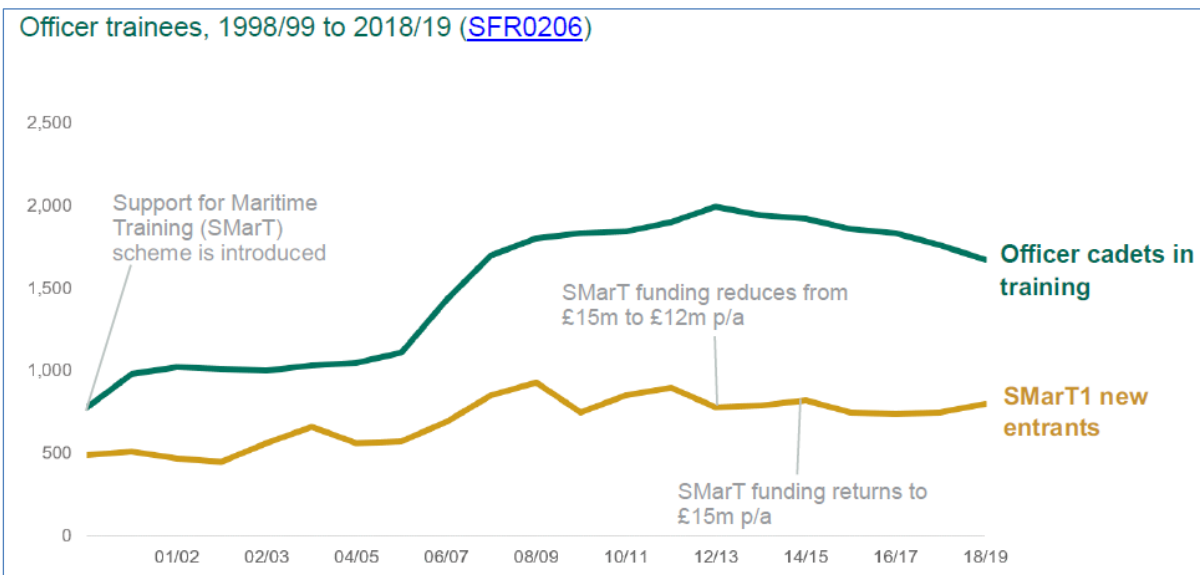
DfT estimates that **22,440** UK seafarers were active at sea in 2019, and comments that numbers have been broadly stable in recent years.

The 2018 data showed a notable rise in the number of ratings, which was reversed in the 2019 data. Both the rise and the fall were due to changes in the coverage of the data supplied by the UK Chamber of Shipping from its annual member survey.



Cadets (Officer Trainees)

The number of cadets in training fell again to **1,670** for 2018-19 (from 1,760 in 2017-18 and 1,830 in 2016-17). The number of new entrants via the SMarT1 scheme was, however, up at **800** (2017-18: 750; 2016-17: 740).

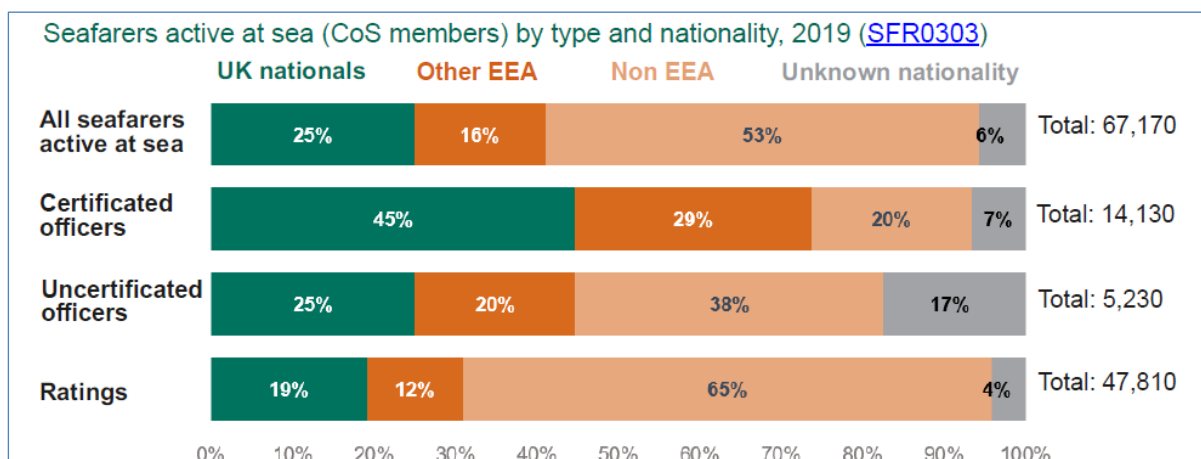


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UK Nationals

DfT estimates that UK nationals accounted for **25%** of the 67,170 seafarers active at sea employed by member companies of the UK Chamber of Shipping in 2019. A further 53% of Chamber members' active seafaring employees were from countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA), and 16% from within the EEA (with 6% of unknown nationality).

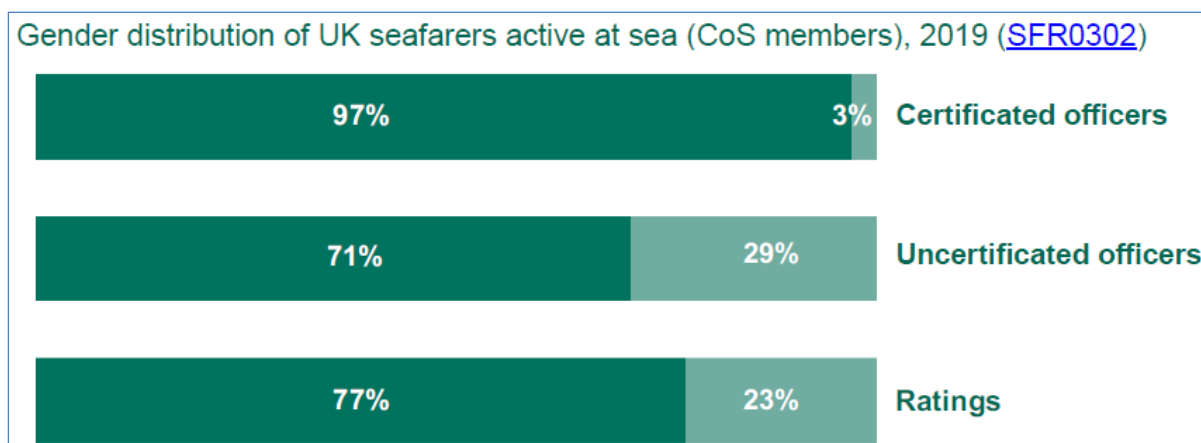


Gender

5 in every 6 active UK seafarers in 2019 were male (84%). For certificated officers the figure was 97%; for uncertificated officers (who primarily work in hospitality roles) the figure was 71%.

For ratings, men accounted for an estimated 98% in the deck department, and 99% in the engine room, with 53% in the hotel and catering department.

In the latest intake of cadets, however, the proportion of female recruits has doubled to 10%.



Assumptions and cautions

Though the data reported here is the best available, Department for Transport statisticians necessarily make a number of assumptions in presenting their figures; they spell them out carefully in their publication. They also advise caution in putting too much weight on annual fluctuations in the numbers.

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