



## Products description

UNCTAD's *Review of Maritime Transport* has been published annually since 1968. Over 80 per cent of international trade in goods is carried by sea, and the percentage is even higher for most developing countries. This makes the *Review of Maritime Transport* an important source of information for a broad audience. Although the publication's main focus is maritime transport, it also contains information on developments in multimodal transport (road, rail and inland waterways). The *Review of Maritime Transport* provides an analysis of structural and cyclical changes affecting trade and transport, especially in developing economies, as well as an extensive collection of statistical information on:

- Cargo tonnage loaded in world ports;
- Developments in the world merchant fleet;
- Major events affecting the transport by sea of bulk and containerized trades;
- Indexes and average freight rates for major traffics and routes;
- Port developments;
- Legal and regulatory developments;
- Transport developments by geographical region.

The *Review of Maritime Transport 2010* covers developments in maritime and other modes of transport from January 2009 to the middle of 2010, and provides updates to existing statistical data.

### The contents of the *Review of Maritime Transport 2010* are:

1. Developments in international seaborne trade
2. Structure, ownership and registration of the world fleet
3. Productivity of the world fleet, and supply and demand in world shipping
4. Freight rates
5. Port and multimodal transport developments
6. Legal issues and regulatory developments
7. Review of regional developments in Asia and the Pacific

# THE REVIEW OF MARITIME TRANSPORT 2010

## INTERNATIONAL SEABORNE TRADE CONTRACTED IN 2009 FROM THE ALL-TIME HIGH ATTAINED IN 2008.

The tightening of credit brought about by the global financial crisis and the reduced demand for goods led to a deceleration of growth in international trade by sea. Although a global recovery is currently under way, it is uneven, it is slower than the recoveries that have followed previous recessions, and it is challenged by numerous uncertainties, including an oversupply of vessels, and depressed freight rates resulting from the fragile global economic conditions.

### Key developments reported in the *Review of Maritime Transport 2010*:

- World seaborne trade declined by 4.5 per cent to an estimated 7.94 billion tons;
- By 2010, the total world merchant fleet had expanded by 7 per cent to reach 1.27 billion deadweight tons;
- World container port throughput declined by an estimated 9.7 per cent in 2009, to 465.7 million TEUs.

The *Review of Maritime Transport* also details recent developments pertaining to maritime legislation, such as those at the International Maritime Organization regarding the scope and content of an international regime to control emissions of greenhouse gases from international shipping. It also reports on the 2010 Protocol on the 1996 Hazardous and Noxious Substances Convention, which aims to bring about wider adoption of the Convention.

Every year, the *Review of Maritime Transport* looks at transport developments in a particular region. The focus in the 2010 edition is on developments in Asia since 2007, when UNCTAD last reported on the region. GDP growth in the Asia-Pacific region decelerated to 4 per cent in 2009 – its lowest level in eight years. In tandem with the economic situation, growth in international merchandise trade in the region decelerated in 2008 and contracted in 2009. By 2010, economic indicators were showing a recovery in the region's economic growth and trade, with some economies already showing signs of a return to pre-crisis growth and export levels.



Four times per year, UNCTAD's Transport Newsletter brings you an update on recent and upcoming transport and trade facilitation events and publications.

Each issue features selected topical articles, and provides a forum for key players and other international organizations to share their views with our readership.

Recent issues of the Transport Newsletter have dealt with the following topics:

- Trends in liner shipping connectivity
- Transporting refrigerated cargo
- International transport and climate change
- Public–private partnerships in transportation and trade
- Trade facilitation negotiations at the World Trade Organization
- Regional initiatives in trade facilitation
- Port reforms
- Transit transport
- Special challenges for the least developed countries (LDCs)
- Maritime cargo container scanning
- UNCTAD's Port Training Programme
- National and regional collaborative mechanisms in trade facilitation

