

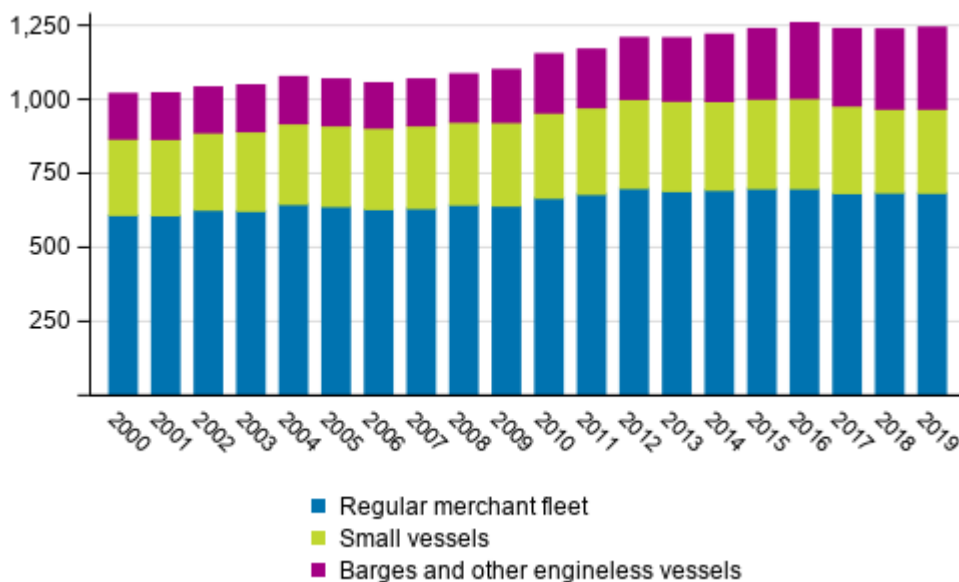
# Merchant Fleet

2019

## Gross tonnage of the regular Finnish merchant fleet increased in 2019

At the end of 2019, the size of the Finnish registered merchant fleet was 1,246 vessels. Of these, 687 vessels belonged to the regular merchant fleet and 284 to the small vessels fleet. The number of barges and other engineless vessels was 275. The gross tonnage of the entire registered merchant fleet was 1,873,137. The share of gross tonnage of the regular merchant fleet was 1,737,284, that of small vessels was 4,702 and that of engineless vessels 131,151.

### Finnish registered merchant fleet at the end of the year 2000–2019



The size of the registered fleet increased by six vessels. The regular merchant fleet decreased by one vessel, the number of small vessels increased by one and that of barges and other engineless vessels increased by six vessels. The gross tonnage of the entire registered merchant fleet grew by a total of one percent, that of the regular merchant fleet by 1.3 percent and that of small vessels by one percent. Despite the increases in the number of vessels, the gross tonnage of barges and other engineless vessels decreased by 2.4 percent compared to the end of 2018.

## Structure of the registered merchant fleet

In Finland, the entire registered merchant fleet comprises the regular merchant fleet, small vessels and barges and other engineless vessels. Vessels are registered based on their domicile either in the register maintained by the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency Traficom or the register of ships maintained by the State Department of Åland. The regular merchant fleet comprises vessels with a length of 15 metres or more that have an engine. Small vessels refers to ships with a length of under 15 meters, but at least 10 meters that have been voluntarily registered in the Finnish Transport Register or the register of ships. Barges and other engineless vessels refer to vessels that run without machine power regardless of size. These include barges and other engineless vessels such as dredgers.

According to the Act on Enhancing the Competitiveness of Ships engaged in Sea Transport (1277/2007), financial support can be granted from state funds to ships registered in the Register of Merchant Vessels. A passenger ship, cargo ship, tugboat or pusher tug that is intended to primarily be used in foreign traffic during the year of support and that is registered in the Finnish Transport Register or the register of ships can, upon request, be entered into the Register of Merchant Vessels.

## Regular merchant fleet

At the end of 2019 regular merchant fleet included 687 vessels. There were 197 passenger ships, 55 ro-ro passenger ships, 42 ro-ro cargo ships, 10 bulk carrier ships, 94 other dry cargo ships, 10 tankers, 177 special vessels and 102 vessels in the category other vessels. The biggest categories by gross tonnage were ro-ro passenger ships and ro-ro cargo ships. The gross tonnage of ro-ro passenger ships and ro-ro cargo ships was more than half of the tonnage of the entire regular merchant fleet.

The size of the regular merchant fleet has grown in 2019 measured by gross tonnage, although the number of vessels has decreased by one. The number of ro-ro passenger ships, other dry cargo ships and special vessels has increased by a total of eight vessels during 2019. The number of vessels belonging to the category passenger ships, ro-ro cargo ships, bulk carriers and other vessels has decreased by nine from one year ago. The number of tankers has remained unchanged. As a whole, the gross tonnage of the regular merchant fleet increased by 21,512 during 2019.

**Table 1. Regular merchant fleet at the end of the year 2017-2019**

Vessel type	Year					
	2017		2018		2019	
	Amount	Gross tonnage	Amount	Gross tonnage	Amount	Gross tonnage
<b>Merchant fleet total</b>	686	1,619,051	688	1,715,772	687	1,737,284
Passenger ships	206	25,378	200	23,198	197	23,088
Ro-ro passenger ships	49	534,252	54	582,121	55	604,149
Ro-ro cargo ships	45	525,799	44	532,039	42	509,021
Bulk carrier ships	10	88,057	11	108,012	10	106,356
Other dry cargo ships	89	183,341	93	207,846	94	230,558
Tankers	10	182,031	10	182,031	10	182,031
Special purpose ships	168	65,942	171	66,787	177	67,782
Other ships	109	14,251	105	13,738	102	14,299

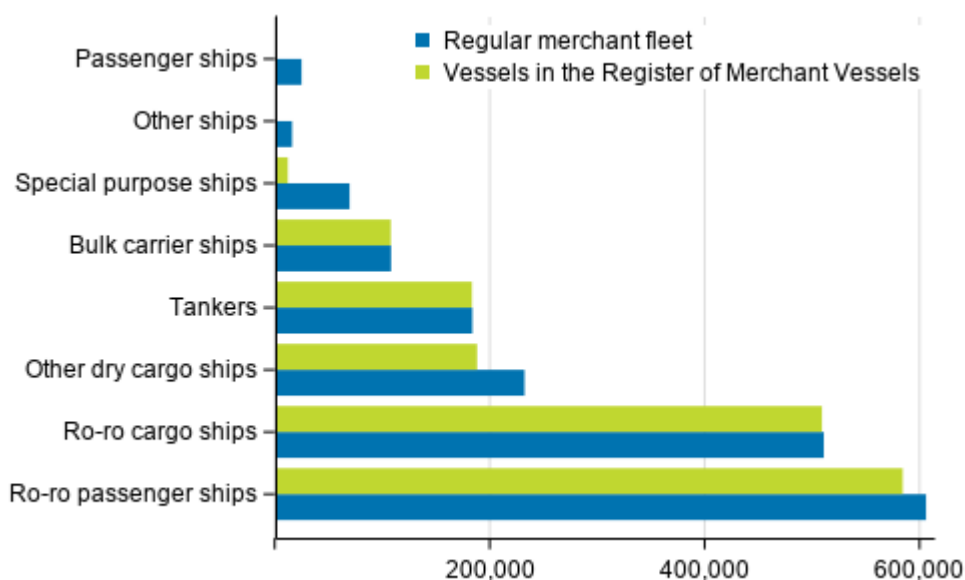
A majority of the regular merchant fleet's gross tonnage belongs to the IA Super or IA ice class. In practice, the total gross tonnage of ro-ro passenger and cargo ships, bulk carriers and tankers belongs to these ice classes. Ice classes II and III refer to vessels that do not meet the requirements of the ice class regulations. Ships with ice class II may be eligible for icebreaker assistance under mild ice conditions if they have sufficient deadweight. Ships with ice class III are never eligible for icebreaker assistance.

The average age of Finland’s regular merchant fleet is 50 years. When the age is proportioned to the gross tonnage, the average age is 19 years. So, large ships are, on average, newer than smaller ships. Relative to the gross tonnage, the newest vessels are bulk carriers. Their relative average age is only six years. The second newest are tankers and ro-ro cargo ships, about 15 years. Passenger ships are the oldest, their average age both proportioned and not proportioned to the gross tonnage is 60 years.

## Register of Merchant Vessels

At the end of 2019, the Register of Merchant Vessels contained 116 vessels. A majority of the vessels entered into the Register of Merchant Vessels were other dry cargo ships, ro-ro cargo ships and ro-ro passenger ships. There were 38 other dry-cargo ships, 29 ro-ro cargo ships and 15 ro-ro passenger ships. In terms of gross tonnage, the largest categories were ro-ro passenger ships, ro-ro cargo ships and other dry cargo ships. The gross tonnage of ro-ro passenger ships and ro-ro cargo ships was two-thirds of the entire tonnage of the Register of Merchant Vessels.

### Vessels in the regular merchant fleet and in the Register of Merchant Vessels by gross tonnage and vessel type 31.12.2019



## Small vessels and barges and other engineless vessels

At the end of 2019, there were a total of 284 small vessels. The gross tonnage of the vessels was 4,702. Most of the small vessels, 130 or almost half, were passenger ships. The number of small vessels increased by one during 2019 and, there were one more dry-cargo ship and one more ship belonging to the category other small vessels, and one less passenger ship at the end of the year.

At the end of 2019, there were a total of 275 barges and other engineless vessels. The gross tonnage of the barges and other engineless vessels was 131,151. The number of barges and other engineless vessels grew by six vessels, but the gross tonnage fell by 3,244 during the year.

**Table 2. Small vessels, barges and other engineless vessels at the end of the year 2017-2019**

Vessel type	Year					
	2017		2018		2019	
	Amount	Gross tonnage	Amount	Gross tonnage	Amount	Gross tonnage
<b>Small vessels total</b>	296	4,816	283	4,659	284	4,702
Fishing vessels	54	691	46	617	46	617
Tugboats	39	632	38	620	38	620
Small dry cargo vessels	11	165	11	165	12	186
Small passenger vessels	136	2,525	131	2,415	130	2,385
Other small vessels	56	803	57	842	58	894
<b>Barges and other engineless vessels</b>	259	136,720	269	134,395	275	131,151
Barges	228	131,775	238	129,450	245	126,176
Dredgers	31	4,945	31	4,945	30	4,975

## Vessel mortgages

For the entire merchant fleet, 444 vessel mortgages with a total value of EUR 2,786 million had been confirmed at the end of 2019. Vessels in the regular merchant fleet had 308 mortgages with a combined value of EUR 2,573 million. Measured in euros, ro-ro cargo ships and ro-ro passenger ships had the most mortgages among vessels in the regular merchant fleet. Small vessels had a total of EUR 12 million in vessel mortgages and barges and other engineless vessels had EUR 202 million.

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Source: Transport and Tourism, Statistics Finland