

# CAREERS

in the  
MERCHANT MARINE



## Credentialed Mariner Demographics as of December 31, 2007

by MR. R. JON FURUKAWA

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The U.S. Coast Guard has been responsible for administering U.S. merchant mariners since 1937. As of December 31, 2007, the USCG had custody of 2,138,460 mariner service records held throughout the country at Regional Examination Centers, federal record centers, and the National Maritime Center.

In the past, the U.S. Coast Guard National Maritime Center provided a breakdown of the U.S. merchant marine population and qualifications (i.e., 46 deck licenses, 26 engine licenses, eight certificates of registry and radio licenses, 28 document ratings). This is a complex program with innumerable alternative combinations of credentials.

The following tables are provided to show general demographics of U.S. merchant mariners with active (less than five years old) U.S. Coast Guard-issued credentials as of December 31, 2007.

Statistics courtesy of Mr. David Dill, Ms. Jenny Henry, and Mr. Joseph Bentz of the Operations Systems Center Merchant Mariner Licensing and Documentation Customer Support, and Ms. Christina Washburn, USCG National Maritime Center.

### U.S. Merchant Marine Summary Statistics

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL	With STCW
MMD only	72,179	16,262
License only	97,235	2,712
Both License and MMD	44,489	27,639
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>213,903</b>	<b>46,613</b>

### Residence

STATE	NUMBER OF MARINERS
AK Alaska	5,994
AL Alabama	3,939
AR Arkansas	948
AZ Arizona	860
CA California	17,208
CO Colorado	923
CT Connecticut	2,743
DC District of Columbia	106
DE Delaware	908
FL Florida	33,077
GA Georgia	2,555
HI Hawaii	4,977
IA Iowa	332
ID Idaho	472
IL Illinois	2,560
IN Indiana	1,173
KS Kansas	193
KY Kentucky	1,582
LA Louisiana	17,184
MA Massachusetts	8,032
MD Maryland	4,968
ME Maine	3,819
MI Michigan	5,599
MN Minnesota	1,127
MO Missouri	1,422
MS Mississippi	4,806
MT Montana	289
NC North Carolina	5,188
ND North Dakota	43
NE Nebraska	108
NH New Hampshire	1,275
NJ New Jersey	6,131
NM New Mexico	218
NV Nevada	1,080
NY New York	11,668
OH Ohio	3,449

### Residence (cont.)

OK Oklahoma	404
OR Oregon	3,214
PA Pennsylvania	3,139
RI Rhode Island	1,826
SC South Carolina	3,651
SD South Dakota	85
TN Tennessee	1,536
TX Texas	14,572
UT Utah	225
VA Virginia	7,744
VT Vermont	399
WA Washington	11,759
WI Wisconsin	1,811
WV West Virginia	676
WY Wyoming	122
AA APO/FPO	27
AB Alberta	1
AE APOP/FPO	38
AP APO/FPO	225
AS American Samoa	50
BC British Columbia	17
BT FPO	1
CZ Canal Zone	1
FM Fed St Micronesia	1
GU Guam	1,791
MH Marshall Islands	1
MP N Mariana Islands	221
NB New Brunswick	2
NS Nova Scotia	6
ON Ontario	8
PM Palau Island	3
PR Puerto Rico	1,366
QU Quebec	1
VI Virgin Islands	885
Incorrectly entered	1
Foreign	1,138
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>213,903</b>

### Age

AGE	NUMBER OF MARINERS
<19	1,639
20-29	36,023
30-39	38,285
40-49	51,607
50-59	53,869
60-69	27,003
>70	5,471
Unrecorded	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>213,903</b>

### Citizenship

CITIZENSHIP	NUMBER OF MARINERS
U.S.	207,817
Non-U.S.	6,086
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>213,903</b>

### Customer Service to Mariners

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
MMDs issued	29,865
Licenses issued	32,276
STCW endorsements issued	15,379
Mariners denied credentials	1,417
Certificates of discharge (sea service) entered	64,678
World War II DD Form 214 issued	1,059
Correspondence answered	1,900
Service records accessed	117,809
Certificates verified	1,440
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>265,823</b>





### Mariners Qualified to Sail on >1600 GRT, Oceangoing US Flag Vessels

As of Jan 2008

	Sailed in		Qualified	Sailed in last 2 yrs	% of total mariners Sailing	
	Qualified	last 2 yrs				
<b>Total Mariners</b>	<b>100,455</b>	<b>22,148</b>				
<b>Total Licensed</b>	<b>13,846</b>	<b>7,268</b>	<b>2,454</b>	<b>1,381</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>Master</b>
<b>Total Unlicensed</b>	<b>86,609</b>	<b>14,881</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>Chief Mate</b>
			<b>1,472</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>Second Mate</b>
			<b>2,338</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>Third Mate</b>
<b>Licensed Deck Able Seaman</b>	<b>6,887</b>	<b>3,426</b>	<b>6,887</b>	<b>3,426</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,865</b>	<b>9,149</b>				
<b>Licensed Engine QMED</b>	<b>6,959</b>	<b>3,841</b>	<b>2,521</b>	<b>1,515</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>Chief Engineer</b>
	<b>7,504</b>	<b>2,960</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>1st Assistant Engineer</b>
			<b>1,231</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>2nd Assistant Engineer</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,463</b>	<b>6,802</b>	<b>2,236</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>3rd Assistant Engineer</b>
<b>AB &amp; QMED</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>6,959</b>	<b>3,841</b>		
<b>Entry Level Mariners</b>	<b>67,037</b>	<b>6,198</b>				
<b>NOT Included</b>	<b>14,490</b>					



### Mariner Supply

(Mariners Qualified for oceangoing, unlimited horsepower/tonnage vessels)

Age  
As of January 2008

	Average		Average	Sailed in last 2 yrs			
	Qualified	Age				Age	
<b>Master</b>	<b>2,454</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>42.8</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>1,329</b>	<b>Master</b>
<b>Chief Mate</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>46.0</b>			<b>44.6</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>Chief Mate</b>
<b>Second Mate</b>	<b>1,472</b>	<b>39.3</b>			<b>37.9</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>Second Mate</b>
<b>Third Mate</b>	<b>2,338</b>	<b>33.6</b>			<b>33.1</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>Third Mate</b>
<b>ABs</b>	<b>12,068</b>	<b>46.6</b>		<b>47.4</b>	<b>4,295</b>	<b>ABs</b>	
<b>Chief Engineer</b>	<b>2,521</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>44.2</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>1,462</b>	<b>Chief Engineer</b>
<b>1st Assistant Engineer</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>45.9</b>			<b>45.5</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>1st Assistant Engineer</b>
<b>2nd Assistant Engineer</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>40.6</b>			<b>39.6</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>2nd Assistant Engineer</b>
<b>3rd Assistant Engineer</b>	<b>2,236</b>	<b>35.2</b>			<b>36.0</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>3rd Assistant Engineer</b>
<b>QMEDs</b>	<b>7,504</b>	<b>47.7</b>		<b>46.3</b>	<b>2,296</b>	<b>QMEDs</b>	
<b>Entry Level Mariners</b>	<b>67,037</b>	<b>39.1</b>		<b>40.3</b>	<b>6,198</b>	<b>Entry Level Mariners</b>	

Excluding CIVMAs



### Mariners Not Included

As of Jan 2008

<b>Total Mariners</b>	<b>14,490</b>
<b>Total Licensed</b>	<b>2,060</b>
<b>Total Unlicensed</b>	<b>12,430</b>
<b>Licensed Deck</b>	<b>1,014</b>
<b>Licensed Engine</b>	<b>1,046</b>
<b>AB (No STCW)</b>	<b>10,399</b>
<b>Unlicensed<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2,031</b>

  

License Only (No STCW)	
<b>282</b>	<b>Master</b>
<b>89</b>	<b>Chief Mate</b>
<b>162</b>	<b>Second Mate</b>
<b>481</b>	<b>Third Mate</b>
<b>329</b>	<b>Chief Engineer</b>
<b>121</b>	<b>1st Assistant Engineer</b>
<b>199</b>	<b>2nd Assistant Engineer</b>
<b>397</b>	<b>3rd Assistant Engineer</b>

1. 66% = Cadet/Student Observer

Tables courtesy of Ms. Anne Dougherty, director, MARAD Office of Workforce Development.

have a valid merchant mariner document and then categorizing based on their ability to sail in positions aboard the surge vessels.

Because the surge vessels require licensed officers with unlimited tonnage/horsepower qualifications, mariners with only a limited tonnage license are included in the AB or QMED categories, as this is the only billet they would be qualified for on these vessels.

**About the author:**

Mr. Furukawa is a captain, USNR, and a licensed mariner with 12 years combined active duty and merchant marine sea service. He holds a B.S. from the California Maritime Academy and an M.S. from the World Maritime University. He is currently a marine accident investigator at the National Transportation Safety Board.

