



GODINA HRVATSKE STATISTIKE  
YEARS OF CROATIAN STATISTICS

INTERESTING POINTS

Zagreb, December, 6<sup>th</sup> 2015

# How Saint Nicholas sailed into Statistics

Although the St. Nicholas holiday is mostly associated with children and the gifts he leaves for them in the boots put on a window, legend has it that St. Nicholas once calmed a rough sea and thus became the patron saint of sailors. Therefore, we have selected maritime traffic as the theme even though the International Day of the Seafarers was already celebrated this year on 25 June.

According to [UNCTAD data](#), about 80% of world trade by volume and over 70% by value is transported by ships and loaded and unloaded in seaports, which shows the extremely important role of maritime traffic in world trade. It is very likely that the package that you ordered on eBay sailed on one of the ships built in China, South Korea or Japan – countries that, according to [UNCTADstat](#), were the leading ship manufacturers in 2014. The shipbuilding industry has, for the most part, moved to Southeast Asia due to lower costs where as much as 77% of the total number of ships are built.

Although Croatia, with just under 6% of the total world production, does not have an enviable position in the production of ships in comparison, maritime traffic in Croatia has a very important role in trade activities. Due to being located at the centre of the continental southern Europe and the geographical position of our seaports, we are an important transit area.

Within the Croatian system of seaports, only Rijeka and Ploče harbour master's offices are active in the transit market of port services and have a real chance of attracting foreign cargo from continental countries, which is the basis for their future development. The gravitational area of the Rijeka Seaport encompasses the whole territory of Croatia, Hungary, Austria, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, while the gravitational area of the Ploče Seaport encompasses a majority of the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also partly encompasses Podunavlje. Out of the eight harbour master's offices in Croatia (Pula, Rijeka, Senj, Zadar, Šibenik, Split, Ploče and Dubrovnik) the largest number of ship arrivals was recorded with the Split Harbour Master's Office, more than 50 000 of the total of 258 670 ships that arrived in the Republic of Croatia, which is an increase of 4.8% compared to 2013.

Passenger traffic in seaports in 2014 amounted to more than 24.7 million. The highest passenger traffic, slightly more than 8 million, was realised in the Split Harbour Master's Office, while the most traffic, 83.7%, in international traffic was realised with Italian ports.

The majority of the turnover in goods of Croatian sea ports was recorded in the Rijeka Harbour Master's Office, which generated about 50% of the total turnover of all Croatian seaports in the previous year with more than 9 million tonnes of loaded and unloaded goods. Traffic in goods in seaports in 2014 was 18.6 million tonnes. According to the type of goods, the most common was the traffic of coal and lignite, crude oil and natural gas with 23.3% and coke and refined petroleum products with 17%.

International traffic of goods amounted to 83.3% of the total traffic in 2014. Out of the total international trade in goods, 96.6% was transported by ships under foreign flags. The largest

share of international trade in goods in 2014 was realised with Italy, 23.4%, followed by Russia with 18.1% and the USA with 10.7% of the total international traffic. Compared to 2013, the traffic with the USA recorded an increase of 40.6%, with Italy of 16.5%, while the traffic with Russia decreased by 23%. Despite the fact that in 2014 Iraq only held tenth place on the list of countries ranked according to the highest traffic with Croatian seaports, it is interesting that the traffic increased by more than 300% compared to 2013.

Mare Nostrum is an association of Croatian shippers in international maritime navigation. It was founded in 1991 and today it has ten member companies – the largest Croatian shipping companies, which manage a total of 141 ships. The purpose of the association is to promote the interests of the shipping industry, advocating favorable and competitive business conditions and the promoting of secure, reliable and high-quality shipping. A total of 4 433<sup>1)</sup> employees in water transport are making sure that the entire maritime and coastal transport works as it is supposed to. These include more than 3 700 employees in passenger transport and around 700 employees in transport of goods. Although over the years, because of the development of air transport, the importance of maritime transport of passengers decreased, it is still considered suitable for short trips or cruises. And finally, the fact that almost everything can be transported by sea makes maritime transport indispensable in trade activity both today and throughout history.

1) The data are preliminary. Final data will be published in July 2016

Sources: International Maritime Organization, Ministry of Tourism, [enciklopedia.hr](http://enciklopedia.hr), [csamarenostrom.hr](http://csamarenostrom.hr)

# How St. Nicholas sailed into statistics

**140**  
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2014

**77%**

of ships built in Southeast Asia (China, South Korea, Japan)



2014

**<6%**

of total global production



2014

**258 670**

ships sailed into Croatia  
+4.8% compared to 2013

**54 311**

Harbour Master's Office in Split had the highest number of ship arrivals



2014

**24.7 Mln**

traffic of passengers in Croatian sea ports

**83.7%**

traffic with sea ports in Italy (of total international traffic)



2014

**18.6 Mln t**

traffic of goods in Croatian sea ports

**83.3%**

international traffic of goods (of the total traffic in 2014)

Italy **23.4%** +16.5%

Russia **18.1%** -23.0%

USA **10.7%** +40.6%

of international traffic in 2014  
- increase and decrease compared to 2013



2014

**>8.0 Mln**

passengers in the Harbour Master's office in Split, which had the highest traffic of passengers

2014

**9.2 Mln t**

tonnes of loaded and unloaded goods registered in the Harbour Master's office in Rijeka

**50%**

of the total traffic in all Croatian sea ports, the largest share in the traffic of goods in Croatian sea ports

