



WORKING IN THE MARITIME AND SHIPPING SECTOR IN NORWAY

(Updated May 2017)



About the industry

There are four shipping segments:

1. **Deep sea shipping** – tankers, dry bulk, LNG, chemical, containers, cargo and car carriers in intercontinental trade
2. **Short sea shipping** – the same segments as for deep sea, conducting regional freight trade in Europe, and including passenger ships trafficking European routes
3. **Offshore service** – platform supply vessels, anchor handling vessels, construction vessels, seismic and other offshore-related specialized vessels, and subsea support vessels
4. **Offshore contractors** – mobile rigs, drill ships, lodging, and floating production, storage and offloading units (FPSO)

The shipping companies' activities are strongly influenced by global economic fluctuations. The Norwegian shipping companies have in recent years experienced a sharp reduction in long-term contracts owing to the international climate of financial recession. A large number of vessels are laid up and many operate in the spot market working short-term contracts. The downturn is largely related to significantly weakened offshore market, brought on by low oil prices and drop in activity. The largest staff reductions in 2016 were within the offshore contractor and offshore service companies while deep sea and short sea companies had a slight increase in employees. In 2017 the total employment numbers are expected to remain unchanged. Offshore service is anticipating the biggest further reduction in employment. The challenging market will continue through 2017.

Demand for workers

The challenging situation in the recent years made several employees redundant. There are occasional job opportunities for qualified staff that can mostly be filled with workers who lost their jobs in other shipping segments. All in all, according to companies' expectations for 2017 there will be no change in overall employment.

The job opportunities that arise are normally for qualified and/or certified personnel in the following roles:

- Deck workers (able seamen, ordinary seamen)
- Deck officers
- Motormen and operators

- Ship electricians
- Ship mechanics
- Ship engineers
- Fitters and riggers
- Stewards and cooks

Language, education and qualifications requirements

Command of a Scandinavian language (Norwegian, Swedish or Danish) is not only desirable, but often a requirement. For work on Norwegian ferries and fast boats it is an absolute requirement for reasons of safety. In the international maritime sector, a good command of English is essential.

Norwegian language courses: there are various providers of language courses in Norway, and online courses. You can find most of them at [Skills Norway](#), the National Agency for Lifelong Learning.

In general, the shipping industry seeks skilled personnel, from workers with current professional certificates to college educated technicians and engineers. The employers themselves must meet standards for safety training and quality control in compliance with FTCW conventions, so you will need documentation of your skills and training when applying for maritime jobs.

This overview is not exhaustive, and other, more specific requirements (or limitations) may arise. Please consult the Norwegian Maritime Directorate (details below) web site for more on norms and regulatory frameworks.

There are 16 [NAV Maritime Control offices](#) along the coast of Norway that are responsible for mustering, recruiting and issuing discharge books for seamen in both domestic and international trade. These offices also verify that labour contracts adhere to Norwegian law, and that crew members have valid health certificates, passports for international service and the necessary security clearances and training for work at sea.

How to find work?

All the job vacancies published by The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV) are on the European job mobility portal [EURES](#).

You may also contact the national contact point, NAV Service Centre EURES, to enquire about job vacancies:

- phone: (+47) 55 55 33 39 - Monday- Friday, 08:00 to 15.30 (CET)
- e-mail: eures@nav.no
- [chat](#): every Friday, 10:00 to 13.00 (CET)

Most job vacancies in Norway are written in Norwegian. There are though job vacancies written in English, you can find them [here](#).

Note that it is common in Norway to send open job applications, directly to companies of interest. Most companies have a website and you can find companies in the industry here:

You can look up Norwegian shipping companies in the [Yellow Pages](#) by searching for: "Ship-owning companies".

More tips for your job search on [work in Norway](#).

Wages

Wages in shipping vary widely depending on roster, ship owner's margins, seniority, routing etc. According to Statistics Norway (SSB) a ships deck crew worker may earn on average NOK 479 000, a deck officer and pilot NOK 719 000 and a ship engineer NOK 732 000 per year gross. There are different collective agreements concerning pay and working conditions depending on which trade union you belong to.

Trade Unions

In Norway, the trade unions play an important role in working life. Over 50% of the employees in Norway are members of a trade union. You may wish to contact a trade union to get more information about working in this industry.

- www.sjooff.no *Norwegian Marine Officers' Association*
- www.dnmf.no *Norwegian Union of Marine Engineers*
- www.rederi.no *Norwegian Ship-owners' Association*
- www.sjomannsforbundet.no *Norwegian Seamen's Union*

Related information

- www.sjofartsdir.no Norwegian Maritime Authority - here you will also find information about The Norwegian International Ship Register NIS/NOR
- www.ship-info.com Shipping Publications

Taxes, working conditions and relocation

Visit [Work in Norway, the official guide](#) to get step by step information about registering, paying taxes and working conditions.