

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

REVIEW  
OF MARITIME  
TRANSPORT

2022

Navigating  
stormy waters



# SEMINAR ON THE FUTURES OF MARITIME SUPPLY CHAINS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

ITD SEMINAR  
28 FEBRUARY 2023, BANGKOK, THAILAND



- **Demand: Trade**
- **Supply: Services & Infrastructure**
- **Markets: Rates and Costs**



# REVIEW OF MARITIME TRANSPORT 2022

Navigating stormy waters



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# Maritime transport at a turning point

- A break in historical shipping and trade patterns?
  - Cyclical or structural shift?
  - New geography of trade?
  - Supply chain reconfiguration?
  - New maritime transport and logistics business models?
  - Shift in fleet/supply profile and capacity?
- 
- ✓ COVID-19 Pandemic
  - ✓ Global supply chain logjam 2021-2022, unprecedented port congestion & shipping rates
  - ✓ War in Ukraine and heightened geopolitical risks
  - ✓ The imperatives of energy transition and climate change mitigation and adaptation
  - ✓ Requirements brought about digitalization and e-commerce growth
  - ✓ De-risking supply chains (resilience): globalization/regionalization; decoupling, near-shoring, friend-shoring, reshoring, risk management, preparedness.

# Demand

International maritime trade

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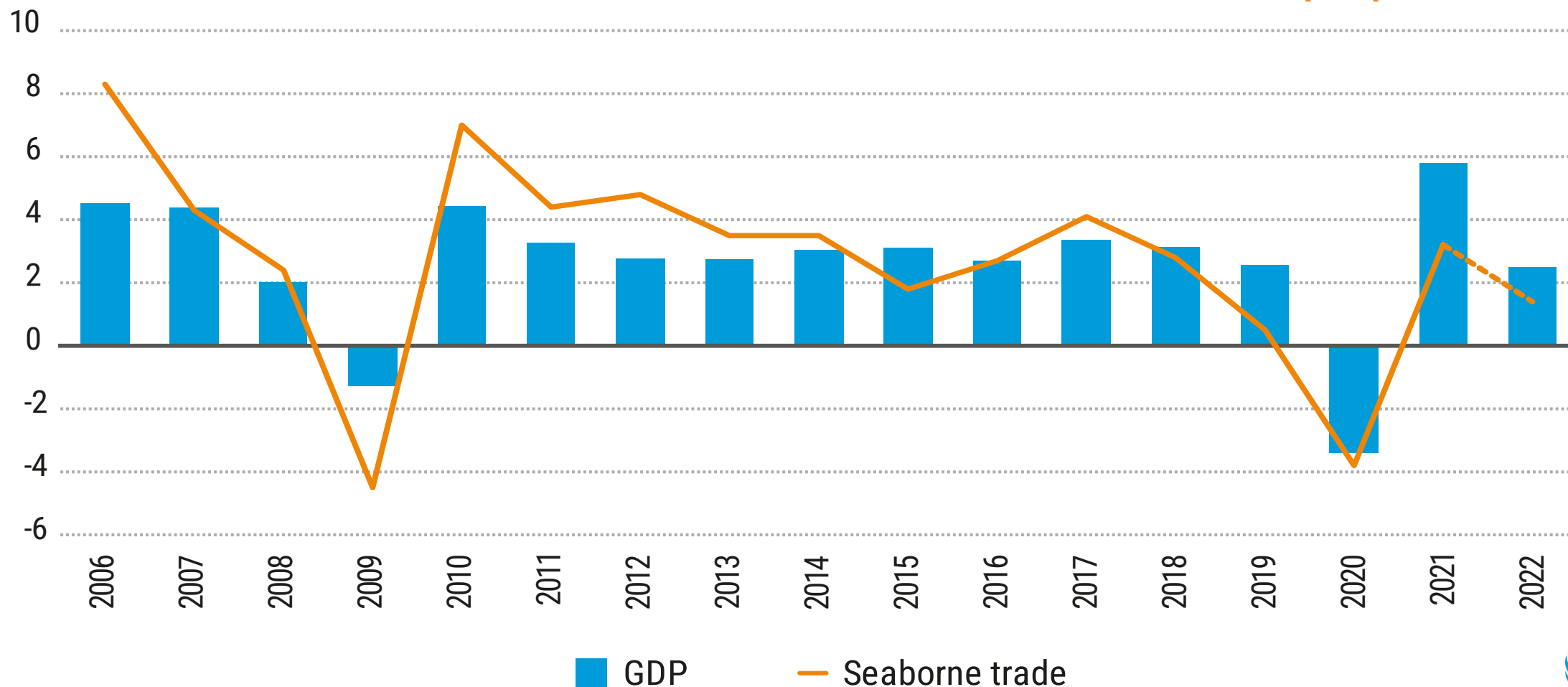


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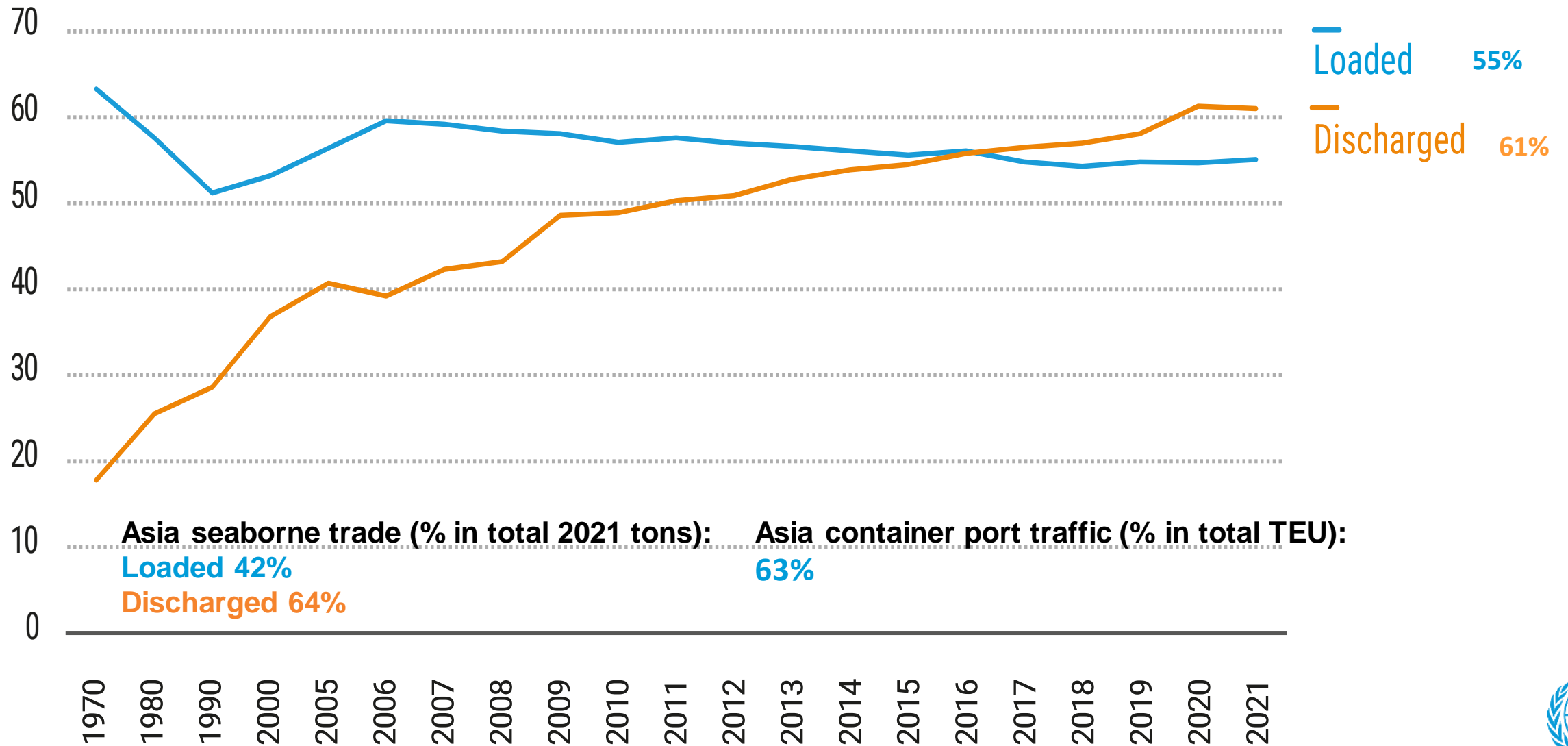
# International maritime trade and global output, selected years (percentage annual change):

+ 3.2% in 2021; 11 billion tons

- GDP-Trade correlation
- Volumes bounced back
- Below pre-pandemic level



# Participation of developing countries in international maritime trade, selected years (percentage share in total tonnage)



**Asia seaborne trade (% in total 2021 tons):**

**Loaded 42%**  
**Discharged 64%**

**Asia container port traffic (% in total TEU):**

**63%**

# Supply

Maritime transport services

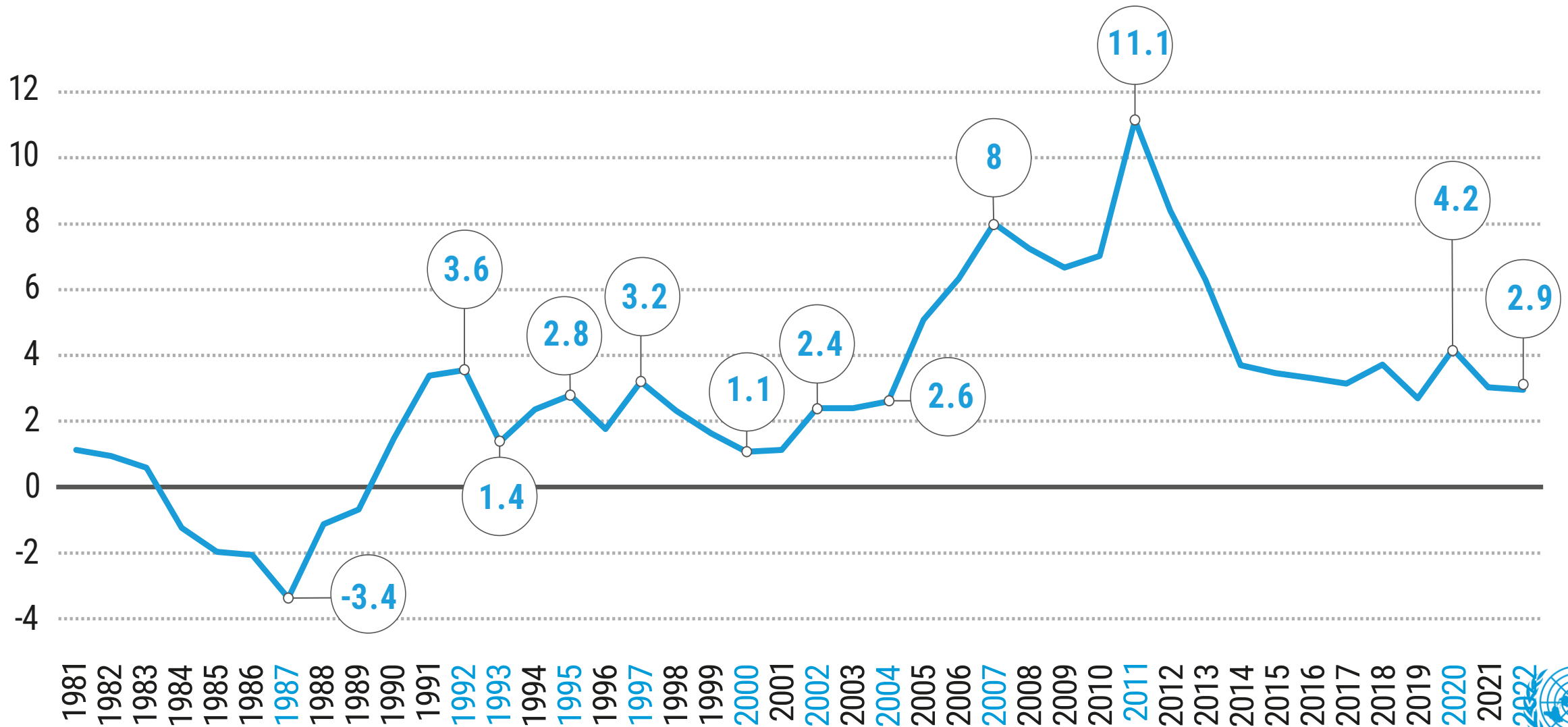
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## Annual growth of the world fleet, 1981–2022 (percentage of dead-weight tonnage)







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# The world's shipping fleet is ageing

Average age of merchant fleet, 2011–2022



*Source:* UNCTAD calculations, based on data from Clarksons Research.

*Note:* Propelled seagoing vessels of 100 gross tons and above, as of 1 January 2022.



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# Markets

Freight rates and transport costs

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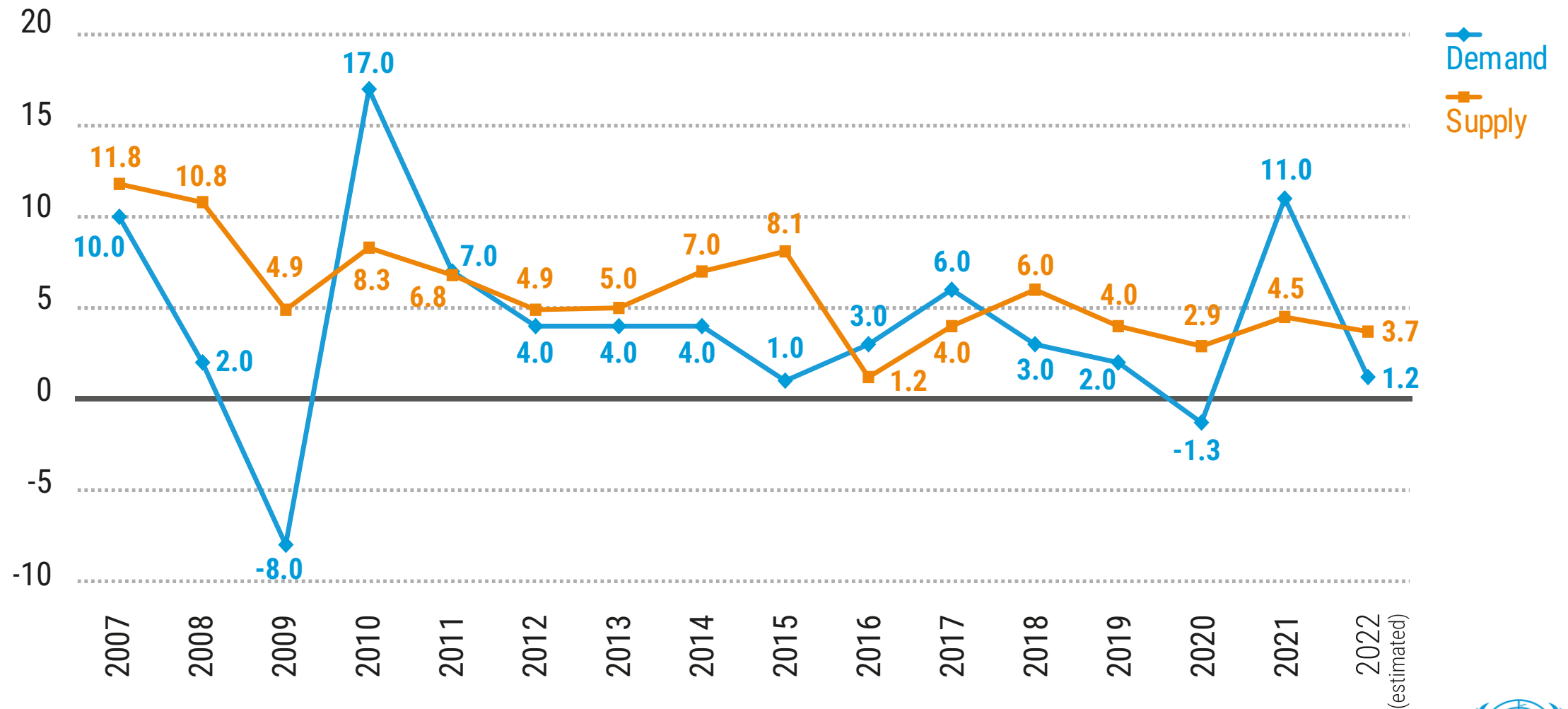
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# Supply chain crunch 2021-2022

Pandemic, supply-demand imbalance, Suez Canal incident, war in Ukraine, zero-covid policy in China, strikes

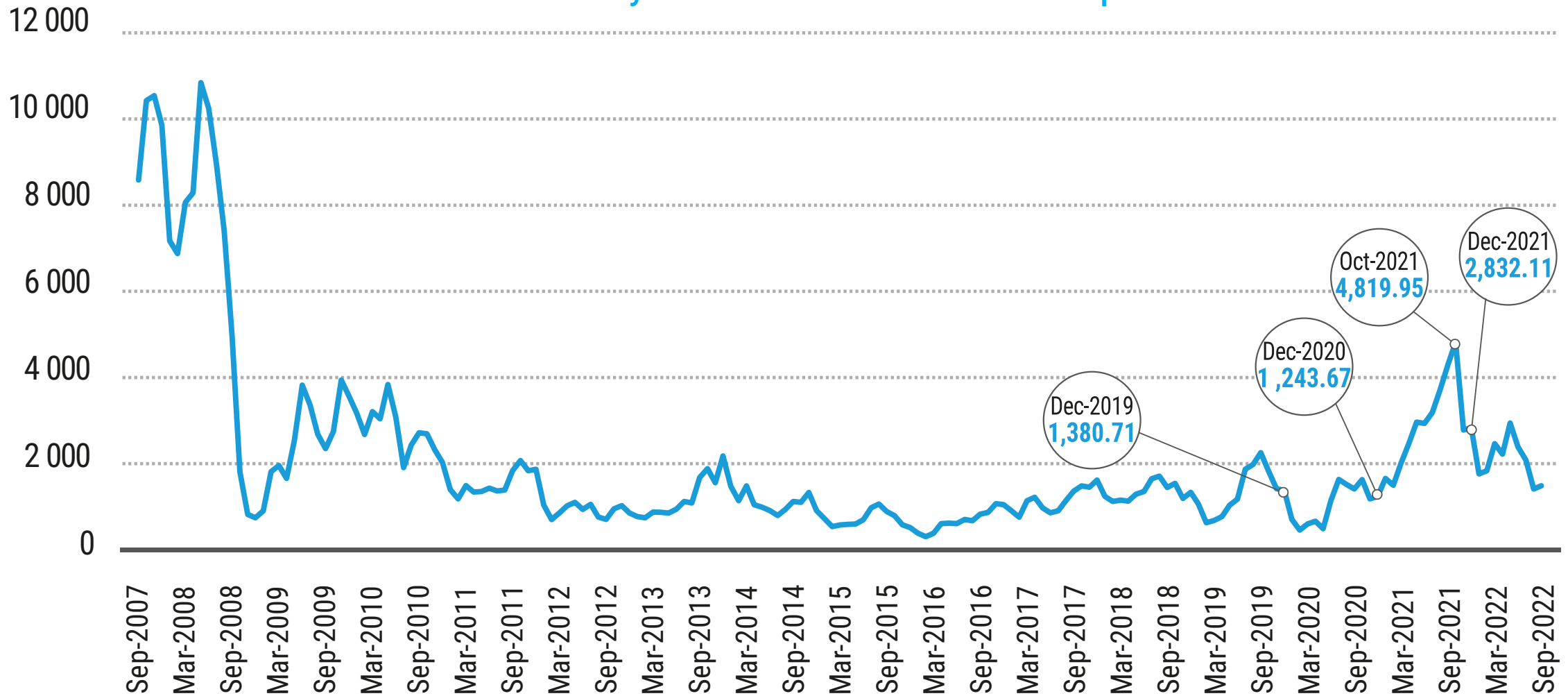
- Higher shipping costs, lower connectivity, delays, port congestion, labour shortages, equipment shortages, inflation, broken supply chains  Key features of the logjam
- By mid-2021, **rates reached 4X** their pre-pandemic levels
- **Unprecedented port congestion** with container ships spending **20% more time** in ports compared to pre-Covid era
- In July 2022, container ship capacity held up in ports reached **37%** (up from 32% in 2016-2019)
- Carriers seeking more profitability changed their shipping patterns, **stopping calls at certain ports**
- Fall in schedule reliability resulted in losses to shippers **totaling \$5-10 billion**

## Growth of demand and supply in container shipping, 2007–2022 (percentage change)

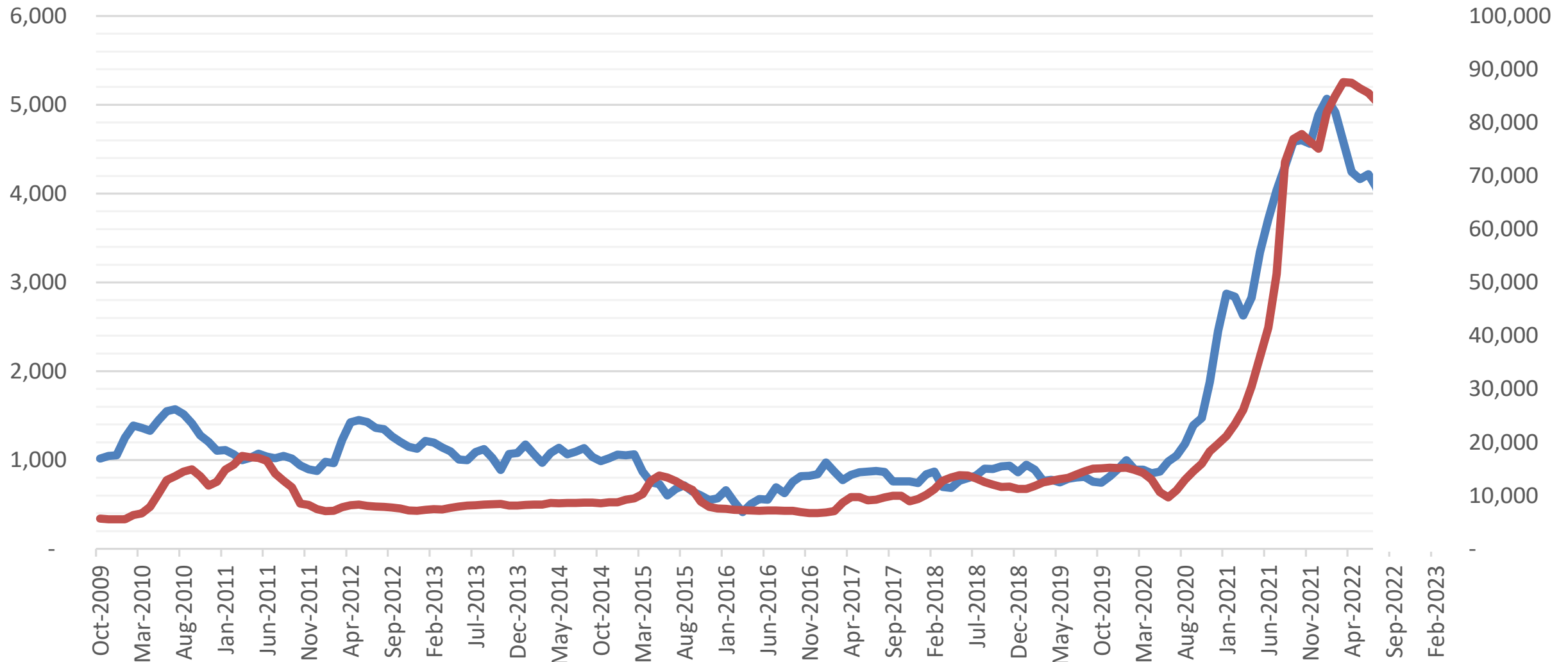


# Baltic Exchange dry index, September 2017–September 2022

27 February: BDI reached was below 900 points



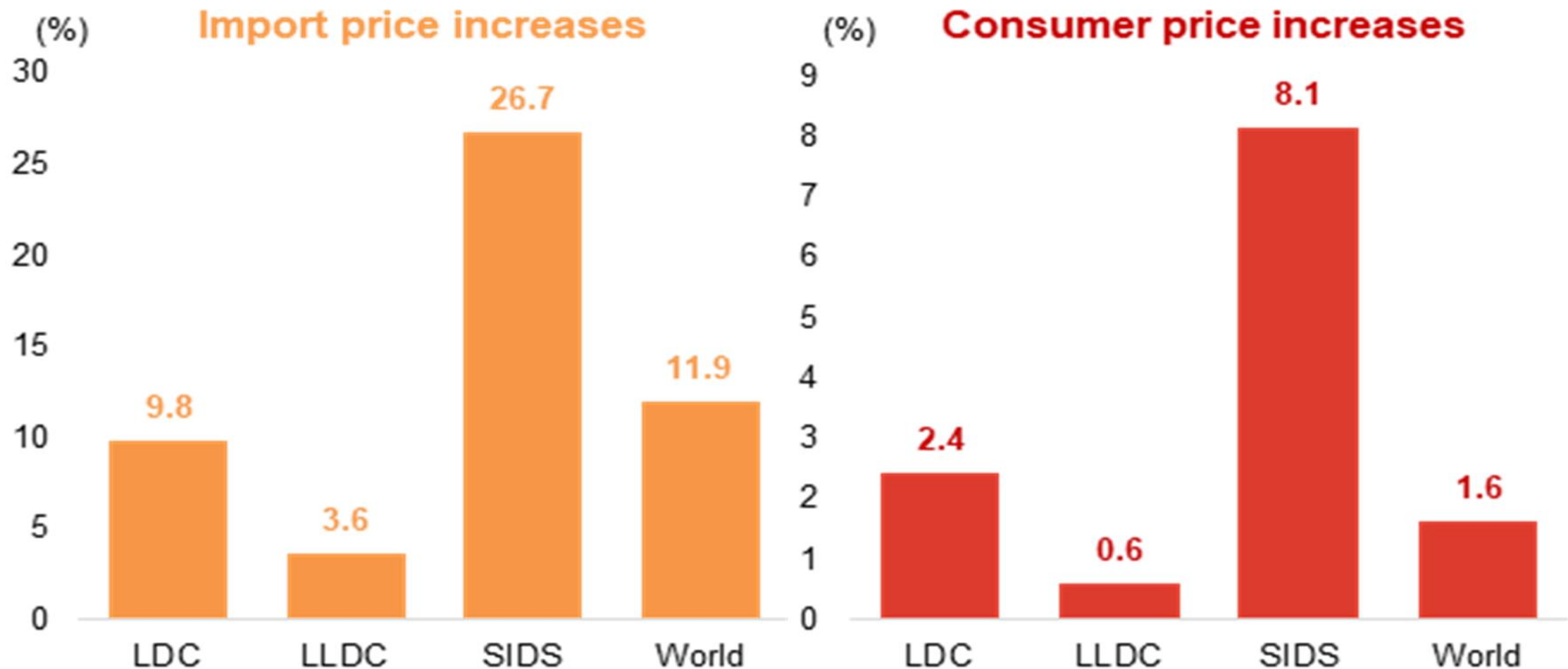
**— SCFI Comprehensive Container Freight Rate Index**  
**— Clarksons Average Containership Earnings**



## Important implications for consumer prices and inflation according to UNCTAD analysis

- High container freight rates of 2021–2022 will be passed on to consumers and lead to an additional increase in global consumer prices **of 1.6%. SIDS** hardest hit
- **Higher grain prices and dry bulk freight rates** in early 2022 contribute to a **1.2 per cent increase in consumer food prices**
- Strong nexus between shipping costs and headline inflation. **Effect more persistent**

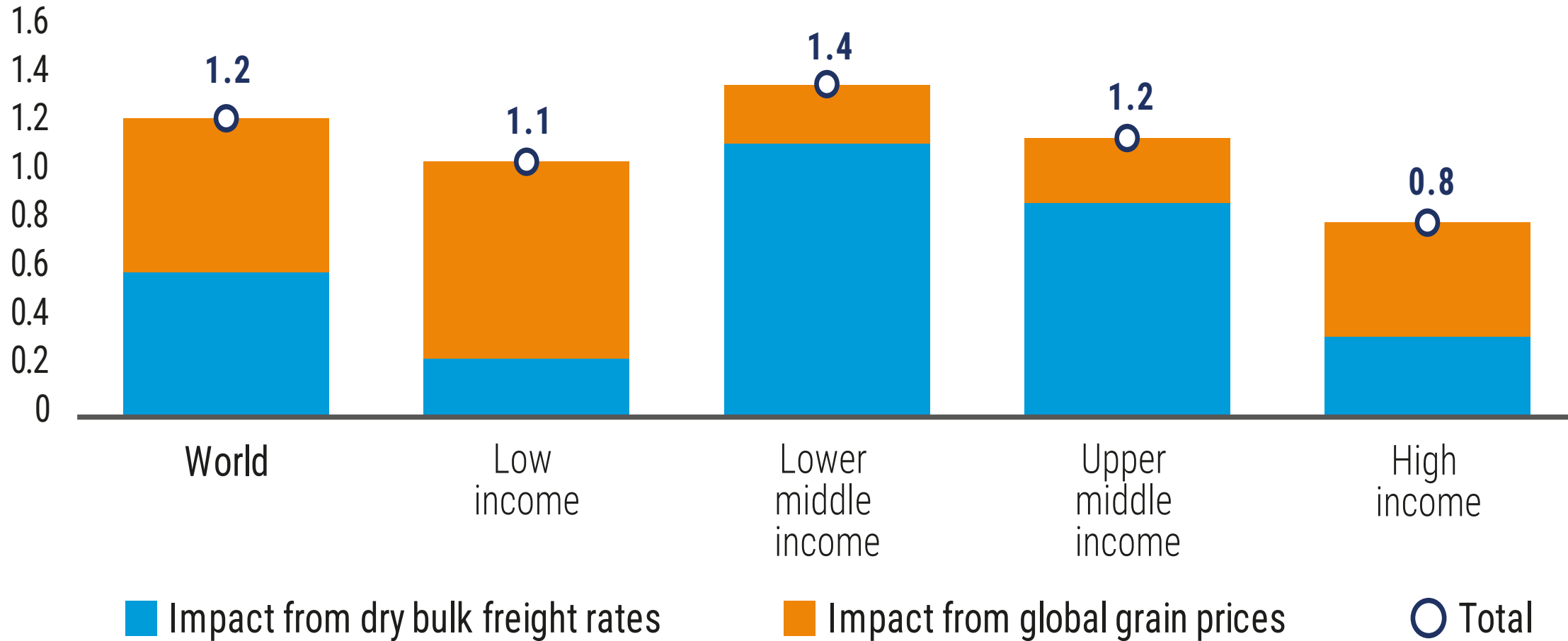
## Simulated impact of the container freight rate surge on import and consumer price levels



*Source: UNCTAD (2022), Sustainable and resilient transport and trade facilitation in times of pandemic and beyond: key challenges and opportunities.*

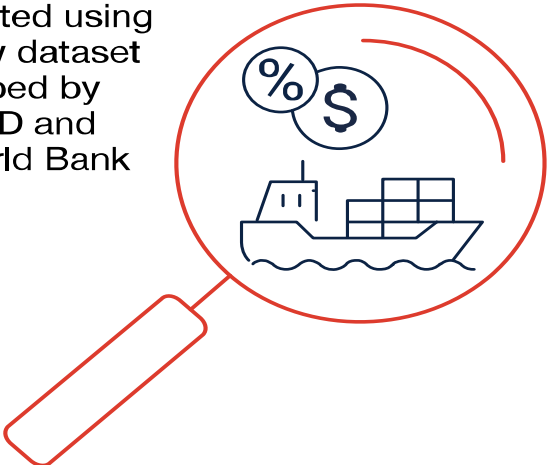


# Impact of higher dry bulk freight rates and global grain prices on consumer food prices, selected country groups (percentage)



# Simulated impact: improving maritime transport costs

Simulation is conducted using the new dataset developed by UNCTAD and the World Bank



**Simulation assumption:**

Improving structural determinants



Port infrastructure



Trade facilitating environment



Shipping connectivity

**Simulation results:**

Reduction in maritime import transport costs



**-4.1%**



**-3.7%**



**-4.4%**

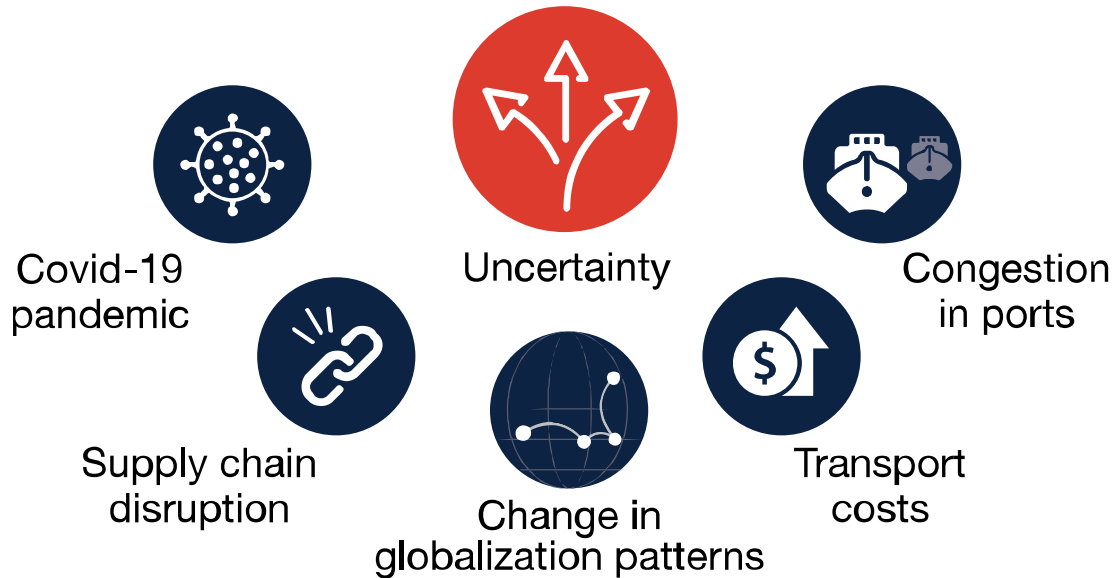


# Outlook

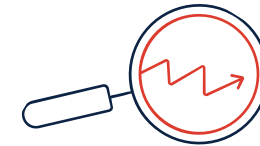


# UNCTAD projections

**1.4% projected growth for 2022. Risks and uncertainty remain**



**Slow down over 2023-2027 (2.1%): Below the average of the past three decades (3.3%)**

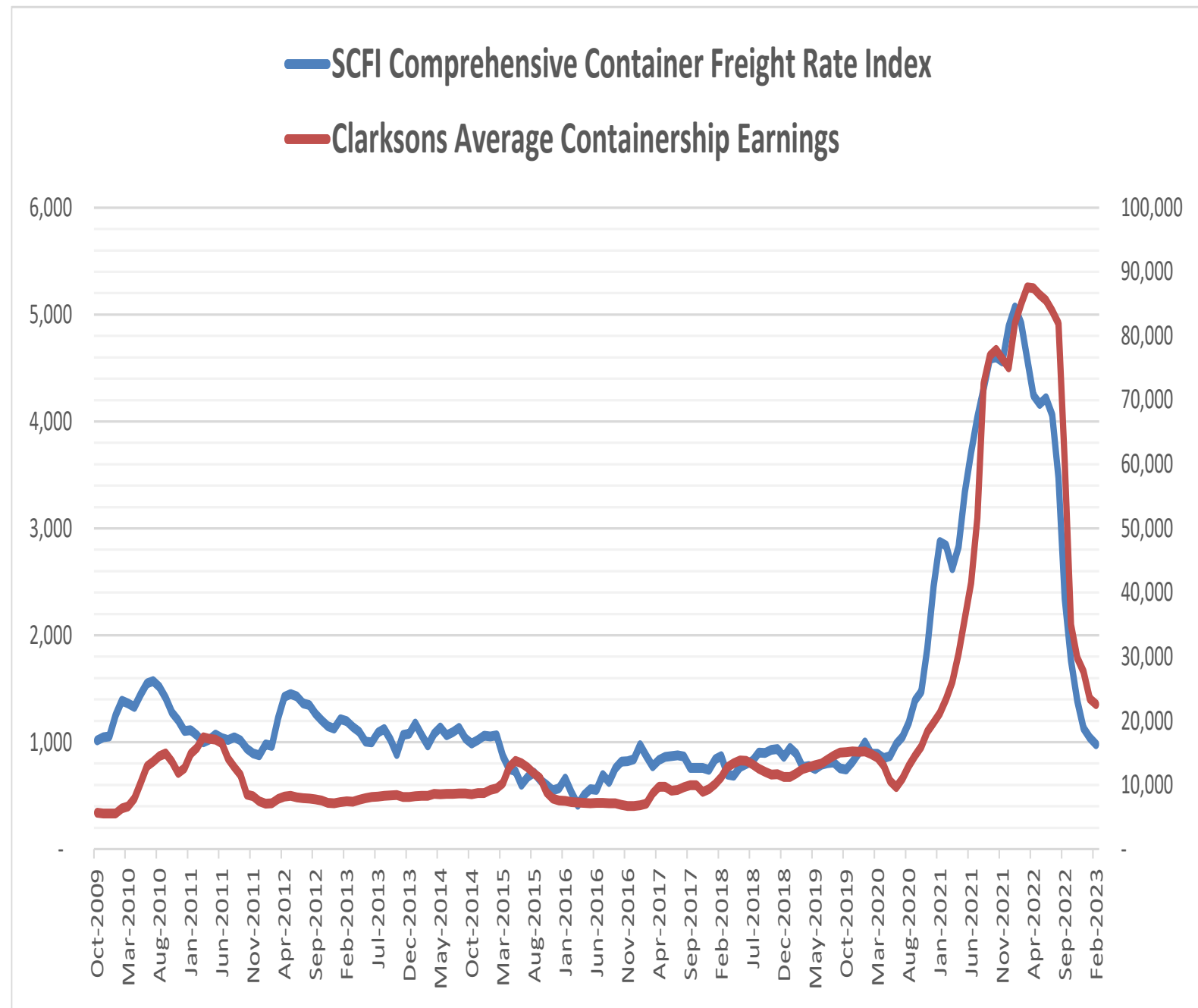


- GDP growth
- Spending on Goods vs. Services
- Stimulus effect fading away
- Inflation & cost-of-living crisis
- Easing of pandemic restrictions
- Trends in China's economy
- War in Ukraine
- Labour strikes

# Freight rates

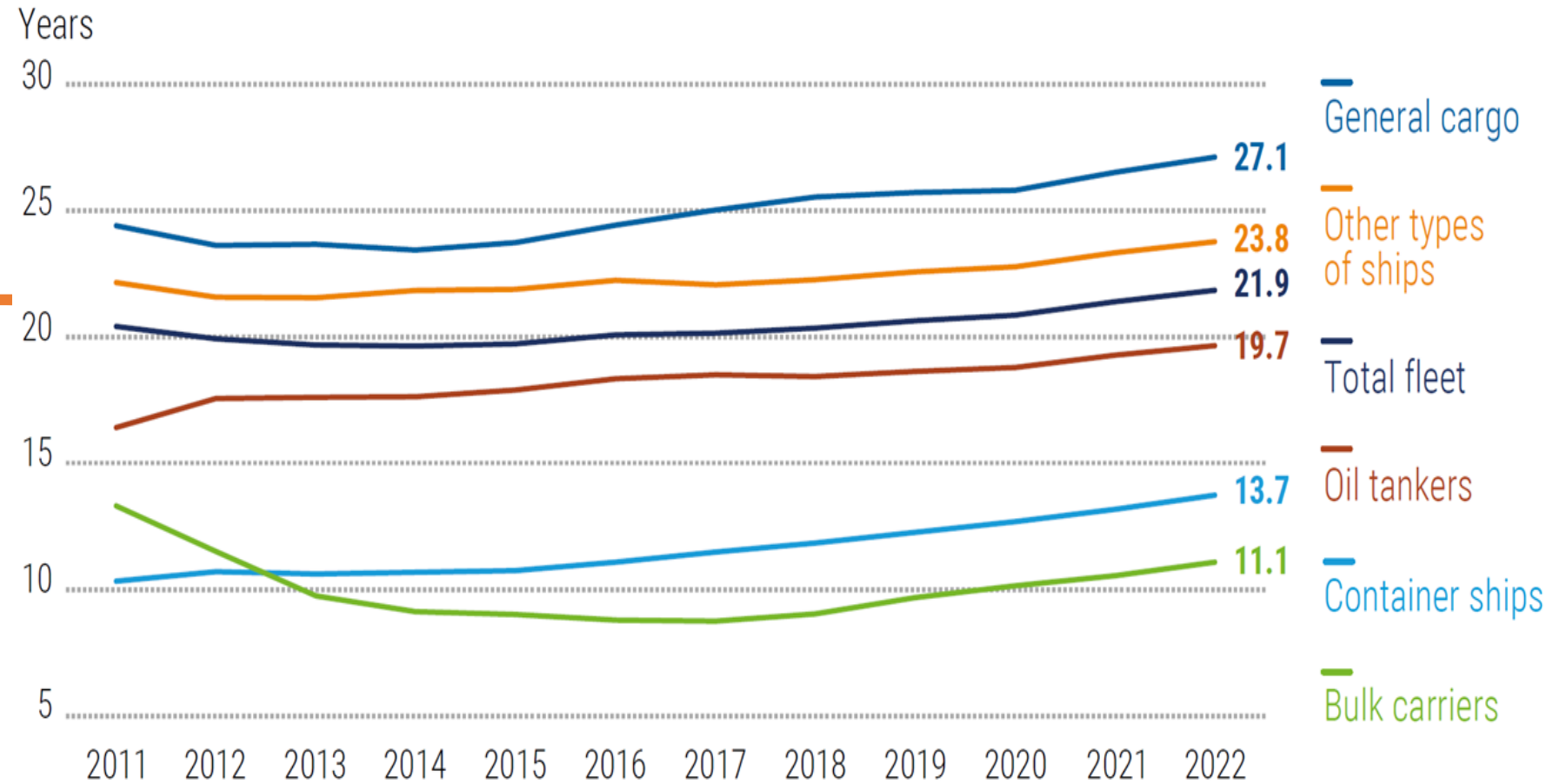
- Down and normalizing. In late 2022, still elevated compared to the pre-pandemic level.
- Normalization in February but risks remain including in connection with more disruption e.g.,
  - Strikes
  - war in Ukraine
  - Weather events/climate impact
  - Regulatory changes and related impact on the supply of ship carrying capacity (ship scrapping, retrofitting, sailingspeed)

Tanker rates are another story



# Ageing Fleet

Figure 2.2 Average age of merchant fleet, 2011–2022



Source: UNCTAD calculations, based on data from Clarksons Research.

Note: Propelled seagoing vessels of 100 gross tons and above, as of 1 January 2022.

- ▶ Future of globalization: regionalization, fragmentation, decoupling
- ▶ E-commerce and e-logistics
- ▶ Digitalization
- ▶ Decarbonization, climate change adaptation
- ▶ Resilience building

# Looking ahead:

- ① Legacies of disruption: some ***short lived*** but others have ***longer-term effects***
- ② Maritime transport and trade will continue to be reshaped by ***evolving trends***
- ③ ***Transport costs, energy transition, climate change*** mitigation and adaptation, ***digitalization***, and ***geopolitical forces*** are key drivers
- ④ ***Resilience and self-sufficiency***: shortening of supply chains and diversification of suppliers (reshoring, near-shoring); change in the geography of trade, and associated change in fleet and port requirements



## Looking ahead:

- ⑤ Changes in ***production*** AND **consumption patterns** i.e. e-commerce and tangibles versus intangibles
- ⑥ Need to better understand and control ***shipping costs*** in light of the new insights regarding their ***impact on headline inflation***
- ⑦ A ***clear regulatory framework*** is required to promote ***investment in low-carbon shipping*** and ensure sufficient supply capacity

**Vulnerable/structurally weak/small economies require special attention**

# UNCTAD recommends, among other actions:



Supporting economic **growth**



Enabling **trade**, monitoring rates & controlling **costs**



Tackling infrastructure and services **constraints**



Transitioning to **clean energy** and a **low carbon** future




Promoting **preparedness** and **resilience** building

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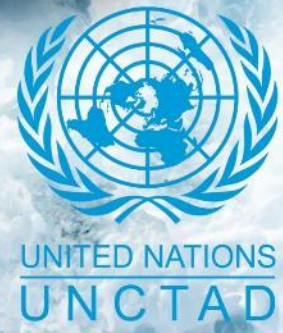
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## MARITIME PROFILE THAILAND

### GENERAL INFORMATION FOR 2021



**Population**  
71.601 Millions



**GDP**  
504 491 Millions current US\$



**Merchandise trade<sup>1</sup>**  
538 888 Millions current US\$



**Land area<sup>2</sup>**  
(o) 510 890 Km<sup>2</sup>



**GDP growth**  
0.95 %

Basic data



**Transport services trade<sup>3</sup>**  
90 003 Millions current US\$

### MARITIME KEY FIGURES FOR 2021



**Coast/area ratio<sup>2</sup>**  
13.8 m/km<sup>2</sup>



**Ship building<sup>4</sup>**  
0.000 GT



**Ship recycling<sup>4</sup>**  
0.000 GT



**Fleet - National flag<sup>5</sup>**  
6 059 Thousands DWT



**Fleet - National flag<sup>5</sup>**  
846 ships



**Fleet - Ownership<sup>6</sup>**  
5 049 Thousands DWT



**Container port throughput<sup>7</sup>**  
10 213 905 TEU

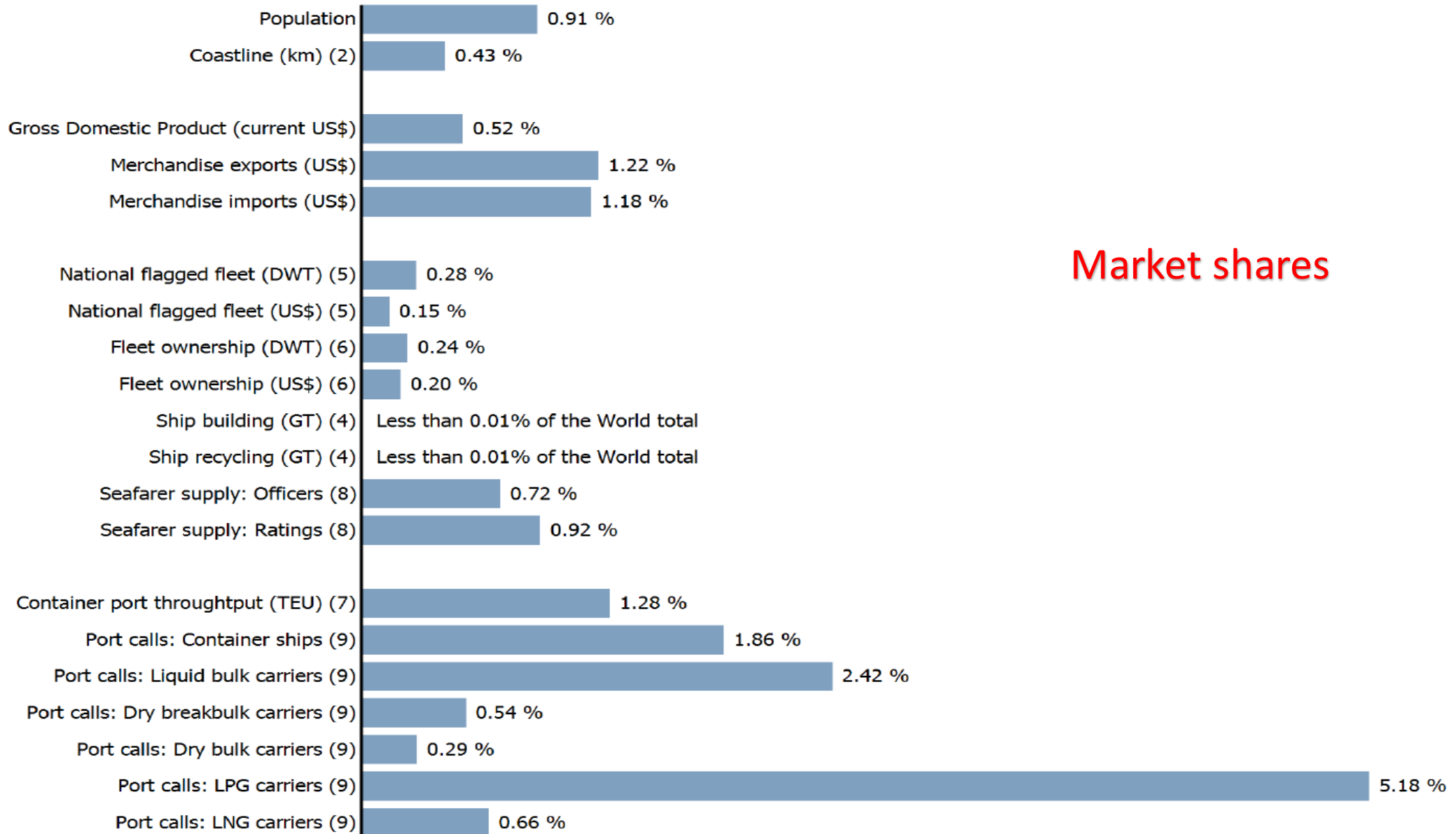


**Number of seafarers<sup>8</sup>**  
(I) 15 682



**Number of port calls<sup>9</sup>**  
29 505

## WORLD SHARES FOR 2021



Market shares

# THAILAND

## INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE



### Total merchandise trade

(millions of US\$)

|                           | 2005    | 2010    | 2015    | 2021    |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Merchandise exports       | 110 936 | 193 306 | 214 310 | 272 006 |
| Merchandise imports       | 118 178 | 182 921 | 202 653 | 266 882 |
| Merchandise trade balance | -7 241  | 10 385  | 11 657  | 5 124   |

**+17.4 %**

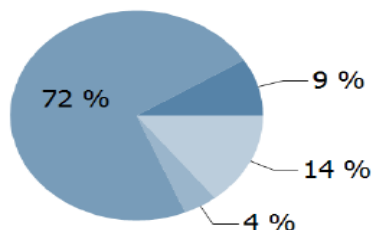
Merchandise exports growth rate in 2021

### Export structure by product group in 2021

(as % of total exports)

- All food items
- Agricultural raw materials
- Manufactured goods
- Other

### Merchandise trade



### Top 5 partners in 2021

(exports, millions of US\$)

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| United States of America | 42 039 |
| China                    | 37 438 |
| Japan                    | 25 157 |
| Viet Nam                 | 12 618 |
| Malaysia                 | 12 141 |

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TRANSPORT SERVICES



### Services exports by main category<sup>10</sup>

(as % of total services)

|                | 2005 | 2010 | 2015 | 2021 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|
| Transport      | 23.2 | 17.2 | 9.9  | 17.6 |
| Travel         | 48.1 | 58.5 | 71.0 | 19.6 |
| Other services | 28.7 | 24.2 | 19.1 | 62.7 |

### Transport services

**+29.6 %**

Transport services exports growth rate in 2021

### Total trade in transport services<sup>10</sup>

(millions of US\$)

|                                  | 2005   | 2010    | 2015   | 2021    |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| Transport services exports       | 4 626  | 5 914   | 5 743  | 4 322   |
| Transport services imports       | 14 439 | 18 858  | 15 662 | 38 445  |
| Transport services trade balance | -9 813 | -12 944 | -9 919 | -34 123 |

## NATIONAL FLEET



### Carrying capacity by type of ship<sup>5</sup>

(Thousands DWT)

### National fleet

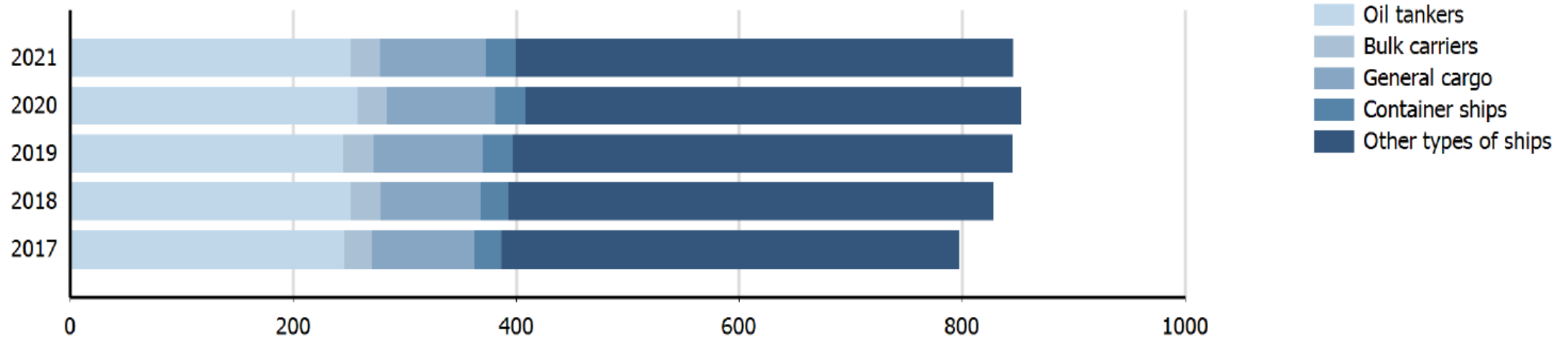
|                      | 2005    | 2010    | 2015    | 2021    |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total fleet          | 4 382.0 | 3 746.8 | 5 366.3 | 6 058.9 |
| Oil tankers          | 619.0   | 1 037.8 | 2 823.1 | 3 461.0 |
| Bulk carriers        | 1 562.0 | 882.6   | 1 333.4 | 1 119.8 |
| General cargo        | 1 805.0 | 1 300.2 | 436.3   | 352.7   |
| Container ships      | 274.0   | 313.7   | 268.2   | 336.8   |
| Other types of ships | 122.0   | 212.4   | 505.4   | 788.7   |

**-9.6 %**

Fleet growth rate in 2021

### Fleet by type of ship<sup>5</sup>

(Number of ships)



# THAILAND

## LINER SHIPPING CONNECTIVITY

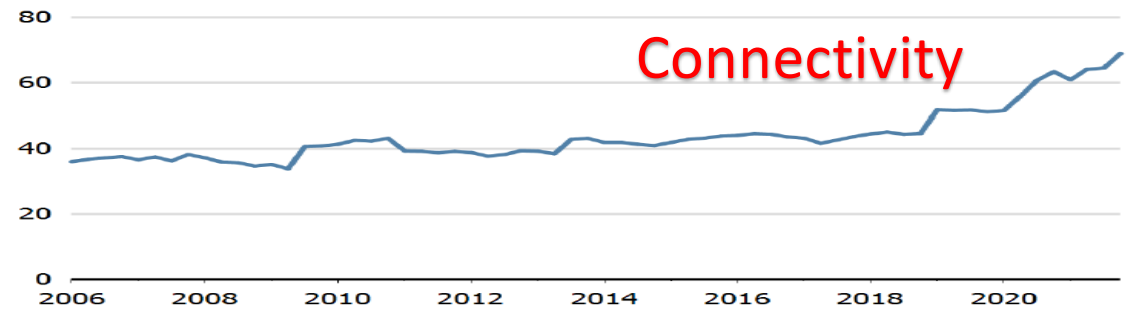
### Bilateral connectivity index - Top 10 partners in Q1 2021<sup>11</sup>

Can only take values between 0 (minimum) and 1 (maximum)



### Liner shipping connectivity index<sup>11</sup>

Maximum 2006=100 for China



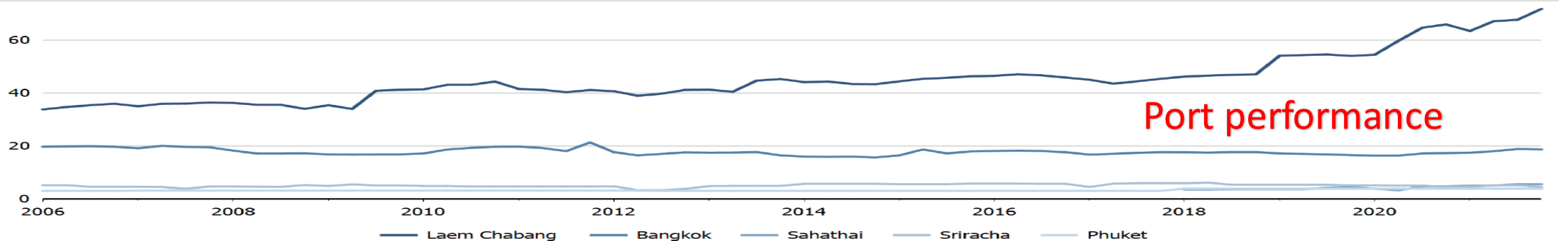
## PORT CALLS AND PERFORMANCE

### Port calls, time spent in ports, vessel age and size in 2021<sup>9</sup>

|                                  | Number of arrivals | Median time in port (days) | Avg age of vessels | Avg size (GT) of vessels | Avg cargo carrying capacity (DWT) per vessel | Avg container carrying capacity (TEU) per container ship | Maximum size (GT) of vessels |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|
| All ships                        | 29 505             | 0.72                       | 17                 | 11 989                   | 11 599                                       | 2 059  | 214 286                      |
| Liquid bulk carriers             | 12 551             | 0.65                       | 17                 | 6 745                    | 11 478                                       | ..   | 167 578                      |
| Liquefied petroleum gas carriers | 3 027              | 0.48                       | 31                 | 2 370                    | 2 480  | ..   | 50 676                       |
| Liquefied natural gas carriers   | 89                 | 1.15                       | 12                 | 116 037                  | 92 643                                       | ..   | 163 922                      |
| Dry bulk carriers                | 818                | 3.36                       | 12                 | 24 106                   | 41 209                                       | ..   | 107 720                      |
| Dry breakbulk carriers           | 2 351              | 2.22                       | 16                 | 7 845                    | 10 347                                       | ..   | 54 567                       |
| Roll-on/ roll-off ships          | 844                | ..                         | 16                 | 36 694                   | 12 350                                       | ..   | 76 420                       |
| Container ships                  | 8 321              | 0.75                       | 12                 | 21 703                   | ..   | 2 059  | 214 286                      |
| Passenger ships                  | 1 504              | ..                         | 30                 | 1 240                    | ..   | ..   | 7 003                        |

### Port liner shipping connectivity index - Top 5 ports in 2021<sup>11</sup>

Maximum 2006=100 for China, Hong Kong SAR





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