



(c) crown copyright

*Circulated 27.7.42 (P.O.M.) F21*

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

**MOST SECRET**

Copy No. 25

W.P. (42) 316.

222

July 25, 1942

**TO BE KEPT UNDER LOCK AND KEY**

It is requested that special care may be taken to ensure the secrecy of this document

**WAR CABINET**

**STATISTICS RELATING TO THE SHIPPING SITUATION**

Offices of the War Cabinet,  
Great George Street, S.W. 1,  
July 25, 1942

## SUMMARY

### Construction for the United Nations and losses of merchant ships

1,600 gross tons and over

*MILLION*  
Thousand gross tons

TABLE A

	Non-tankers		Tankers	
	Completions <sup>(1)</sup>	Losses <sup>(2)</sup>	Completions <sup>(1)</sup>	Losses <sup>(2)</sup>
1942 1st Quarter ... ..	0.61	1.25	0.19	0.69
2nd Quarter ... ..	1.45	1.51	0.20	0.68
<i>Forecast—</i>				
3rd Quarter ... ..	1.93		0.31	
4th Quarter ... ..	2.02		0.34	
1943 1st Quarter ... ..	2.55		0.33	
2nd Quarter ... ..	3.44		0.51	
3rd Quarter ... ..	3.52		0.42	
4th Quarter ... ..	3.59		0.51	

(1) Completions in the United Kingdom, in the United States and in Canada.  
(2) British, Allied and Neutral.

Source: Admiralty, War Production Board, and Central Statistical Office

### Imports into the United Kingdom

(excluding imports from Eire)

TABLE B

Million tons

	Non-tanker imports	Tanker imports <sup>(1)</sup>
1941 1st Quarter ... ..	6.92	2.34
2nd Quarter ... ..	7.89	3.09
3rd Quarter ... ..	8.09	4.23
4th Quarter ... ..	7.58	3.95
1942 1st Quarter ... ..	5.79	2.89
2nd Quarter ... ..	6.40	2.20
<i>Forecast—</i>		
3rd Quarter ... ..	6.60	...

(1) Petroleum products, molasses, whale oil (unrefined) and industrial alcohol.

Source: Ministry of War Transport

## I—EMPLOYMENT OF SHIPPING

## Vessels, other than tankers, on the British Register or on time charter to the United Kingdom

1,600 gross tons and over

TABLE 1

Thousand tons

	January 1942		February 1942		March 1942		April 1942	
	G.T.	D.W.	G.T.	D.W.	G.T.	D.W.	G.T.	D.W.
Allocated to Fighting Services ... ..	4,656	4,532	4,791	4,733	4,828	4,761	4,520	4,144
Trading Abroad— Cross Trades <sup>(1)</sup> ... ..	1,318	2,015	1,537	2,382	1,734	2,700	1,958	3,199
Local Trading ... ..	1,244	1,657	1,111	1,477	1,080	1,446	1,163	1,429
Importing to United Kingdom from Eastern Theatres <sup>(2)</sup> ... ..	2,730	4,020	2,561	3,772	2,398	3,558	2,319	3,440
Coasting—United Kingdom ... ..	383	530	355	485	322	438	310	428
Importing to United Kingdom from Atlantic Areas <sup>(3)</sup> ( <sup>4</sup> ) ... ..	3,481	5,478	3,431	<del>5,406</del> 5,346	3,504	5,443	3,530	5,462
Vessels repairing, &c. ... ..	2,314	3,166	2,275	3,124	2,073	2,806	1,994	2,790
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>16,126</b>	<b>21,398</b>	<b>16,061</b>	<b>21,319</b>	<b>15,939</b>	<b>21,152</b>	<b>15,794</b>	<b>20,892</b>

(1) Including vessels operating between North and South America and Eastern theatres (which amounted to 1.1 million gross tons at the end of April) and vessels operating between the Middle East and India, Africa and Australasia (which amounted to 552,000 gross tons at the end of April).

(2) Trading between United Kingdom and Eastern Mediterranean, India, &c., Far East, Australia and New Zealand, South and East Africa.

(3) Trading between United Kingdom and Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Archangel, Spain, Portugal, Spanish Morocco, Azores and Canary Islands, West Africa, North and South America and the West Indies and Gulf.

(4) Including a small tonnage importing from the Pacific Coast of North America.

Source: Ministry of War Transport

## Tankers on the British Register and on time charter to the United Kingdom

1,600 gross tons and over

TABLE 2

Thousand tons

	Fleet attendance		Importing services of the U.K.		Repairing or damaged		Other <sup>(1)</sup>		TOTAL	
	G.T.	D.W.	G.T.	D.W.	G.T.	D.W.	G.T.	D.W.	G.T.	D.W.
1942 January ... ..	443	637	1,748	2,622	940	1,415	1,472	2,175	4,603	6,849
February ... ..	478	692	1,539	2,316	988	1,468	1,555	2,309	4,560	6,785
March ... ..	424	614	1,385	2,063	933	1,394	1,549	2,315	4,291	6,386
April ... ..	484	704	1,323	1,966	883	1,328	1,477	2,201	4,167	6,199
May ... ..	451	657	1,393	2,080	826	1,233	1,428	2,127	4,098	6,097
June ... ..	434	633	1,321	1,971	841	1,255	1,467	2,181	4,063	6,040

(1) Vessels trading between countries other than the United Kingdom and Eire, vessels engaged in the coasting trade of the United Kingdom and Eire, and storage ships.

Source: Ministry of War Transport

## I—EMPLOYMENT OF SHIPPING

## Vessels, other than tankers, on the British Register or on time charter to the United Kingdom

1,600 gross tons and over

TABLE 1

Thousand tons

	January 1942		February 1942		March 1942		April 1942	
	G.T.	D.W.	G.T.	D.W.	G.T.	D.W.	G.T.	D.W.
Allocated to Fighting Services ... ..	4,656	4,532	4,791	4,733	4,828	4,761	4,520	4,144
Trading Abroad—								
Cross Trades <sup>(1)</sup> ... ..	1,318	2,015	1,537	2,392	1,734	2,700	1,958	3,199
Local Trading ... ..	1,244	1,657	1,111	1,477	1,080	1,446	1,163	1,429
Importing to United Kingdom from Eastern Theatres <sup>(2)</sup> ... ..	2,730	4,020	2,561	3,772	2,398	3,558	2,319	3,440
Coasting—United Kingdom ... ..	383	530	355	485	322	438	310	428
Importing to United Kingdom from Atlantic Areas <sup>(3)(4)</sup> ... ..	3,481	5,478	3,431	5,344	3,504	5,443	3,530	5,462
Vessels repairing, &c. ... ..	2,314	3,166	2,275	3,124	2,073	2,806	1,994	2,790
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>16,126</b>	<b>21,398</b>	<b>16,061</b>	<b>21,319</b>	<b>15,939</b>	<b>21,152</b>	<b>15,794</b>	<b>20,892</b>

(1) Including vessels operating between North and South America and Eastern theatres (which amounted to 1.1 million gross tons at the end of April) and vessels operating between the Middle East and India, Africa and Australasia (which amounted to 552,000 gross tons at the end of April).

(2) Trading between United Kingdom and Eastern Mediterranean, India, &c., Far East, Australia and New Zealand, South and East Africa.

(3) Trading between United Kingdom and Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Archangel, Spain, Portugal, Spanish Morocco, Azores and Canary Islands, West Africa, North and South America and the West Indies and Gulf.

(4) Including a small tonnage importing from the Pacific Coast of North America.

Source: Ministry of War Transport

## Tankers on the British Register and on time charter to the United Kingdom

1,600 gross tons and over

TABLE 2

Thousand tons

	Fleet attendance		Importing services of the U.K.		Repairing or damaged		Other <sup>(1)</sup>		TOTAL	
	G.T.	D.W.	G.T.	D.W.	G.T.	D.W.	G.T.	D.W.	G.T.	D.W.
1942 January ... ..	443	637	1,748	2,622	940	1,415	1,472	2,175	4,603	6,849
February ... ..	478	692	1,539	2,316	988	1,468	1,555	2,309	4,560	6,785
March ... ..	424	614	1,335	2,063	933	1,394	1,549	2,315	4,291	6,386
April ... ..	484	704	1,323	1,966	883	1,328	1,477	2,201	4,167	6,199
May ... ..	451	657	1,393	2,080	826	1,233	1,428	2,127	4,098	6,097
June ... ..	434	633	1,321	1,971	841	1,255	1,467	2,181	4,063	6,040

(1) Vessels trading between countries other than the United Kingdom and Eire, vessels engaged in the coasting trade of the United Kingdom and Eire, and storage ships.

Source: Ministry of War Transport

**II—IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM**  
**Imports and loadings under Departmental programmes<sup>(1)</sup>**  
(excluding tanker imports and imports from Eire)

**TABLE 3**

Million tons

	Ministry of Food		Ministry of Supply and Board of Trade		TOTAL	
	Loadings	Imports	Loadings	Imports	Loadings	Imports
1941 Year <sup>(2)</sup> ... ..	15.32	14.65	15.64	15.82	30.96	30.48
1942 January ... ..	1.08	0.98	0.97	1.02	2.05	2.01
February ... ..	0.78	0.96	0.87	0.91	1.66	1.87
March ... ..	1.05	1.02	1.03	0.93	2.08	1.94
April ... ..	1.18	1.10	1.12	1.00	2.30	2.10
May ... ..	1.11	1.16	1.16	1.05	2.26	2.21
June ... ..	0.92	1.05	1.32	1.04	2.24	2.09
Total January to June <sup>(2)</sup> ...	6.11	6.26	6.47	5.93	12.58	12.19
<i>Forecast—</i>						
July ... ..	0.93	1.00	1.38	1.20	2.30	2.20
August ... ..	0.95	0.90	1.35	1.30	2.30	2.20
September ... ..	...	0.90	...	1.30	2.20-2.30	2.20
October ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	2.10-2.30

(1) The figures given for individual months represent the estimated weights of the commodities included in the Trade and Navigation Accounts for each month and are unadjusted for small revisions subsequently made in the cumulative totals given in the Accounts for later months.

Source: Ministry of War Transport

(2) Adjusted for revisions.

**Arrivals of Tanker-borne Petroleum Products**

**TABLE 4**

Thousand tons

	Admiralty <sup>(1)</sup>		Petroleum Board <sup>(2)</sup>		TOTAL	
	Imports	Weekly average	Imports	Weekly average	Imports	Weekly average
1941 Year ... ..	2,852.7	54.9	10,649.2	204.8	13,501.9	259.7
1942 January ... ..	206.9	51.7	671.3	167.8	878.2	219.5
February ... ..	251.7	62.9	756.3	189.1	1,008.0	252.0
March* ... ..	105.7	21.1	627.4	125.5	733.1	146.6
April ... ..	106.6	26.7	758.9	189.7	865.5	216.4
May ... ..	59.1	14.8	417.8	104.4	476.9	119.2
June* ... ..	111.8	22.4	722.5	144.5	834.3	166.9
Total January to June ... ..	841.8	32.4	3,954.2	152.1	4,796.0	184.5
<i>Forecast—</i>						
July ... ..	204.0	51.0	783.7	195.9	987.7	246.9
August* ... ..	321.0	64.2	927.5	185.5	1,248.5	249.7
September ... ..	249.0	62.2	679.5	169.9	928.5	232.1

(1) Including imports into Iceland and Murmansk.

(2) After deduction of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for ocean leakage.

(3) The above figures relate to arrivals and not to Trade and Navigation Account imports.

\* Average of five weeks

Source: Ministry of War Transport and Ministry of Fuel and Power (Petroleum Division).

## III—STOCKS

Stocks of food, animal feeding stuffs, raw materials and petroleum products  
in the United Kingdom

TABLE 5

Million tons

End of month	Food (excluding potatoes <sup>(1)</sup> )			Animal feeding stuffs	Raw materials			Petroleum products		
	Total	Wheat and flour (as flour)	Other foods		Total	Steel and steel-making materials	Other raw materials	Total	Admiralty oil fuel	Other petroleum products
1941—March ...	3.25	1.53	1.72	1.35	12.83	5.51	7.32	4.58	1.79	2.79
June ...	3.76	1.94	1.82	0.99	12.90	6.34	6.56	4.71	1.83	2.88
September ...	6.17	3.46	2.26	4.63	13.45	6.90	6.55	6.03	2.05	3.98
December ...	5.56	2.67	2.89	3.24	13.75	7.24	6.51	7.04	2.22	4.82
1942—January ...	6.13	2.30	2.83	2.69	13.39	7.12	6.27	7.05	2.24	4.81
February ...	4.95	2.18	2.77	1.97	13.05	6.98	6.07	7.14	2.29	4.85
March ...	4.67	1.88	2.79	1.50	12.69	6.92	5.77	6.66	2.14	4.52
April ...	4.62	1.87	2.75	1.22	12.43	6.94	5.49	6.62	2.04	4.58
May ...	4.58	1.98	2.60	1.07	12.36	6.99	5.37	6.17	1.87	4.30
June ...	4.54	2.04	2.50	1.01	12.35	7.07	5.28	5.89	1.74	4.15
Forecast—										
July ...	4.23	1.87	2.36	0.93	12.25	6.95	5.30	5.93	1.72	4.21
August ...	6.85	3.64	3.21	5.10	12.44	7.01	5.43	5.95	1.76	4.19
September <sup>(2)</sup> ...	6.54	3.39	3.15	4.87	12.53	7.06	5.47	5.84	1.79	4.05

<sup>(1)</sup> Bulk stocks and stocks on farms.<sup>(2)</sup> For petroleum products, the forecast for the end of September follows the lines adopted in reports to the Lord President's Committee. Later information points to a less favourable position.

Source: Ministry of Food, Ministry of Supply (Raw Materials Department), and Ministry of Fuel and Power

## IV—MERCHANT SHIPBUILDING

## Merchant ships completed

1,600 gross tons and over

TABLE 6

Thousand gross tons

	United Kingdom <sup>(1)</sup>			United States of America <sup>(1)(*)</sup>			Canada <sup>(2)</sup>	TOTAL			
	Total	Vessels other than tankers	Tankers	Total	Vessels other than tankers		Tankers	Vessels other than tankers	Total	Vessels other than tankers	Tankers
					Total	British interest					
<i>Actual Production</i>											
1942 January ...	87	61	26	130	61	20	69	7	224	129	95
February ...	64	48	16	193	152	27	41	7	264	207	57
March ...	113	113	—	194	155	27	39	7	314	275	39
1st Quarter ...	264	222	42	517	368	74	149	21	802	611	191
April ...	118	82	36	267	236	41	31	43	428	361	67
May ...	123	91	32	428	400	65	28	36	587	527	60
June ...	84	66	18	493	442	50	51	57	634	565	69
2nd Quarter ...	325	239	86	1,188	1,078	156	110	136	1,649	1,453	196
<i>Estimated Production</i>											
3rd Quarter ...	330	241	89	1,690	1,472	88	218	213	2,233	1,926	307
4th Quarter ...	297	220	77	1,920	1,655	61	265	143	2,360	2,018	342
1943 1st Quarter ...	299	258	41	2,353	2,060	—	293	232	2,884	2,550	334
2nd Quarter ...	327	261	66	3,407	2,964	—	443	214	3,948	3,439	509

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes merchant-type vessels building for the Services.<sup>(2)</sup> Tonnage figures for estimated production are converted from D.W.T.<sup>(\*)</sup> Estimated.

Source: Admiralty, War Production Board, and Central Statistical Office

## British, Allied and Neutral losses of merchant ships by enemy action and other causes<sup>(1)</sup>

(Occurrence basis)

TABLE 7

Thousand gross tons

	British and British controlled			American and American controlled			All other ships	TOTAL		
	All ships	Other than tankers	Tankers	All ships	Other than tankers	Tankers		All ships	Other than tankers	Tankers
1941 1st Quarter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,430	1,101	329
2nd Quarter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,662	1,430	232
3rd Quarter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	647	575	72
4th Quarter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	886	772	114
1942 January	367	249	118	116	85	31	42	525	376	149
February	412	263	139	202	117	85	48	662	414	248
March	463	294	169	227	124	103	152	842	546	296
1st Quarter	1,242	806	436	545	326	219	242	2,029	1,336	693
April	424	296	128	245	127	118	20	689	443	246
May	427	320	107	298	180	118	11	736	511	225
June	380	287	93	390	284	106	41	811	604	207
2nd Quarter	1,231	903	328	933	591	342	72	2,236	1,558	678

(1) Vessels of all tonnages lost by enemy action and vessels of 100 gross tons and over lost by marine risk, excluding merchant vessels commissioned for naval service and Fleet Auxiliaries.

Source: Admiralty

## British, Allied and Neutral losses of merchant ships by enemy action according to area<sup>(1)</sup>

(Occurrence basis)

TABLE 8

Thousand gross tons

	N.W. Approaches	Western Atlantic	North Sea (including Barents Sea)	Channel, Irish Sea, &c.	Free-town and South Atlantic	Mediterranean (including Suez Canal and Black Sea)	Indian Ocean (including Red Sea)	Elsewhere	TOTAL
1941 1st Quarter	521	69	72	330	179	29	37	—	1,237
2nd Quarter	523	8	130	223	316	334	25	—	1,559
3rd Quarter	125	19	48	247	25	35	5	26	530
4th Quarter	137	—	121	75	40	73	—	284	730
1942 January	108	143	23	7	—	7	29	80	397
February	104	291	11	—	—	19	26	141	592
March	25	419	44	3	57	20	28	183	779
1st Quarter	237	853	78	10	57	46	83	404	1,768
April	—	342	84	—	29	12	148	7	622
May	58	512	62	7	21	21	15	12	708
June	41	520	7	25	30	54	66	14	757
2nd Quarter	99	1,374	158	32	80	87	229	33	2,067

(1) Total losses by enemy action of merchant vessels of all tonnages, including tankers, but excluding merchant vessels commissioned for naval service and Royal Fleet Auxiliary tankers.

Source: Admiralty



## British, Allied and Neutral losses of merchant ships by enemy action and other causes<sup>(1)</sup>

(Occurrence basis)

TABLE 7

Thousand gross tons

	British and British controlled			American and American controlled			All other ships	TOTAL		
	All ships	Other than tankers	Tankers	All ships	Other than tankers	Tankers		All ships	Other than tankers	Tankers
1941 1st Quarter ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,430	1,101	329
2nd Quarter ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,662	1,430	232
3rd Quarter ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	647	575	72
4th Quarter ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	886	772	114
1942 January ...	367	249	118	116	85	31	42	525	376	149
February ...	412	263	139	202	117	85	48	662	414	248
March ...	463	294	169	227	124	103	152	842	546	296
1st Quarter ...	1,242	806	435	545	326	219	242	2,029	1,336	693
April ...	424	296	128	245	127	118	20	689	443	246
May ...	427	320	107	298	180	118	11	736	511	225
June ...	380	287	93	300	284	106	41	811	604	207
2nd Quarter ...	1,231	903	328	933	591	342	72	2,236	1,558	678

(1) Vessels of all tonnages lost by enemy action and vessels of 100 gross tons and over lost by marine risk, excluding merchant vessels commissioned for naval service and Fleet Auxiliaries.

Source: Admiralty

## British, Allied and Neutral losses of merchant ships by enemy action according to area<sup>(1)</sup>

(Occurrence basis)

TABLE 8

Thousand gross tons

	N.W. Approaches	Western Atlantic	North Sea (including Barents Sea)	Channel, Irish Sea, &c.	Free-town and South Atlantic	Mediterranean (including Suez Canal and Black Sea)	Indian Ocean (including Red Sea)	Elsewhere	TOTAL
1941 1st Quarter ...	521	69	72	330	179	29	37	—	1,237
2nd Quarter ...	523	8	130	223	316	334	25	—	1,559
3rd Quarter ...	125	19	48	247	25	35	5	26	530
4th Quarter ...	137	—	121	75	40	73	—	284	730
1942 January ...	108	143	23	7	—	7	29	80	397
February ...	104	291	11	—	—	19	26	141	592
March ...	25	419	44	3	57	20	28	183	779
1st Quarter ...	237	853	78	10	57	46	83	404	1,768
April ...	—	342	84	—	29	12	148	7	622
May ...	58	512	62	7	21	21	15	12	708
June ...	41	520	7	25	30	54	66	14	757
2nd Quarter ...	99	1,374	153	32	80	87	229	33	2,061

(1) Total losses by enemy action of merchant vessels of all tonnages, including tankers, but excluding merchant vessels commissioned for naval service and Royal Fleet Auxiliary tankers.

Source: Admiralty



