



Background Information

As an island located 600 hundred miles off the eastern coast of North America, Bermuda has had a varied maritime history ranging from whaling and shipbuilding to sailing, fishing and cruising.

In 1996, the exclusive economic zone around Bermuda was delineated. This gives Bermuda jurisdiction over an area of about 125,000 square nautical miles. This area was declared a marine mammal preserve in 2000. Between 1970 and 2000, Bermuda's protected marine area increased from 39 to 94 square nautical miles.

In support of this year's theme for Heritage Month, "Bermuda's Maritime Connection", the Department of Statistics compiled this fact sheet to highlight our diverse connection to the sea.

Leading Maritime Occupations

Between 1950 and 2000, fishermen and related workers were one of the leading maritime occupations. In 1980, the number of persons employed in this category peaked at 137 (see Table 1). By 1991, there was a record low of 77 fishermen.

➤ **Fishermen:** A variety of tasks are performed in the catching of fish in inland and coastal waters, such as preparation of tackle and bait and laying fishing lines and nets. In 2005, the median gross annual income for this job was \$53,999.

➤ **Maritime Pilots:** Pilots are responsible for controlling and directing vessels along with supervising the crew. There are three broad types of pilots: tug, ship and ferry/charter. In 2005, the median gross annual income for these occupations ranged from \$41,646 to \$73,713.

In the 2000 census, ferry/charter pilots comprised 77% of the pilot occupational category. At the time of the last census, half of ferry/charter pilots were between the ages of 45 and 64 years and Figure 1 shows these pilots by 10-year age groups.

Ferry Passengers More than Doubles

The Bermuda ferry service began in the late 1800s as a private company. Between 1960 and 2000, the total number of ferry passengers ranged from 276,000 in 1960 to 609,000 in 1990. Beginning in 1970, the ridership on the Hamilton-Paget-Warwick route declined steadily from 354,000 in 1970 to 164,000 in 1990 (see Figure 2). The reduction in passengers was primarily attributable to the closure of major hotels on Harbour Road. In contrast, the number of passengers on the Hamilton-Somerset route rose from 142,000 in 1970 to 331,000 by 2000.

Table 1 Selected maritime occupations

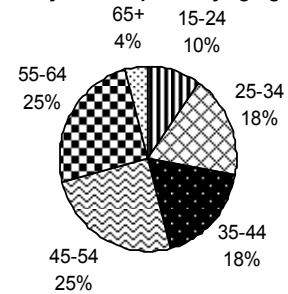
Specific maritime occupation	2000	1991	1980	1970	1960	1950
Total	263	228	241	228	234	397
Fishermen and related workers	85	77	137	100	124	132
Ship's deck mates, officers and pilots	98	81	59	65	54	49
Ship's deck ratings ¹	54	47	33	63	56	103
Ship's engineers	23	21	12	9
Ship's oilers/greasers	3	2	104

¹This category includes boatswains, seamen, boatmen and deck hands.

Source: Population Censuses

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Figure 1 Ferry/charter pilots by age group



Tourist Arrivals by Cruise Ship Climb

The steamship, fueled by coal, originated in the 1800s. By the twentieth century, coal was replaced by heavy fuel oil. The increase in fuel costs resulted in the demise of the steamship and the emergence of the cruise ship, which is operated by a turbine diesel engine.

Table 2 Tourist arrivals by sea and type of liner

Year	Steamship	Cruise ship
1960	11,992	34,900
1970	1,172	86,138
1980	605	117,916
1990	0	112,551
2000	0	209,726
2005	0	247,259

Source: Bermuda Digest of Statistics

Figure 2 Ferry passenger journeys

