Ultraflash | Orderbook Ratio the lowest for more than 30 years

Market uncertainty and demand disruptions following the coronavirus outbreak has caused a major drop in global newbuilding orders. The global number of newbuilding vessels on order measured in gross tonnage has fallen 41% since 2015, and the orderbook as a percentage of the existing global fleet ratio is 7.1%, the lowest since 1989.

- By October the orderbook ratio is 7.1 pct., the lowest level since 1989. Variations are seen across sectors, but the tanker, container and bulk ratios are all at multidecade lows.

- So far only 26.5 million dwt has been ordered this year, and thereby the full year total could be close to the level seen in 2016, where the contract level was at 30 million dwt.

- The same tendency is seen in the number of newbuilding orders by Danish shipping companies. The Danish orderbook declined by 45% from October 2019 to October 2020.

- A shipbuilding boom was seen in the 2000s, but record high ordering levels ended at the onset of the global financial crisis, with an orderbook ratio (orderbook / existing fleet) at more than 52% in 2009.

![Graph showing the global orderbook as % of the global fleet, dwt from 2005 to 2020.](source: Clarksons Research)

![Graph showing development in the Danish Orderbook from 2015 to 2020.](source: IHS Seaweb)

More data on “Shipbuilding, Recycling & Secondhand” are available at [Danish Shipping’s Knowledge Bank](#).

1 Clarksons Research & IHS Seaweb are the data source for all numbers and figures in this analysis.