



The Neptune Declaration

Crew Change Indicator

JULY 2021

Overview

The Neptune Declaration Crew Change Indicator is published monthly to provide reliable data regarding the crew-change crisis and the way it evolves. It is based on data from 10 ship managers, who are collectively responsible for more than 90,000 seafarers across all the major segments.

The July Indicator shows that the number of seafarers onboard vessels beyond the expiry of their contract has continued rising from 7.2% to 8.8% in the last month and the number of seafarers onboard for over 11 months has risen from 0.4% to 1%. Since the launch of the Indicator in May, the number of seafarers onboard vessels beyond the expiry of their contract has risen from 5.8% to 8.8%, which corresponds to a 51.7% relative increase. Meanwhile, the number of seafarers onboard for over 11 months has increased from 0.4% to 1%, corresponding to a 150% relative increase.

The deterioration since last month is driven by the continued rise in Covid-19 cases and the spread of new variants in important seafaring nations. This has led to increased government restrictions in important crew change hubs, which has limited the opportunity to perform crew changes, especially in Asia. Seafarers continue to have limited vaccine access, which would be a critical step forward to resolve the issue although some nations, including the US and in parts of Europe, are starting to offer vaccinations to international seafarers.

	Percentage of seafarers onboard beyond the expiry of their contracts		Percentage of seafarers onboard for over 11 months	
	Monthly percentage	Percentage point change from previous month	Monthly percentage	Percentage point change from previous month
May 2021	5.8%	-	0.4%	-
June 2021	7.2%	+1.4	0.4%	0
July 2021	8.8%	+1.6	1.0%	+0.6

The data reflects the situation on the 15th day of the preceding month.

Significant developments that have impacted crew-changes in the past month

The contributing ship managers have, as part of the reporting, also highlighted the following key developments that have impacted crew-changes in the past month.

- Continual high infection rates and subsequent domestic lockdowns are still challenging crew changes and causing disruption to crew movements.
- A decrease of daily inbound flights to the Philippines as well as the travel ban announced by the Philippine Government for seafarers traveling from UAE, Oman, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan are causing a general disruption to crew movements.
- Travel restrictions continue to prevent seafarers from going back home and many flights have been cancelled.
- Leading maritime crew nations continue to have low vaccination rates and seafarers continue to have limited vaccine access.

The data is based on monthly reporting by the following ship managers: Anglo-Eastern Univan Group, Bernhardt-Schulte Ship Management, Columbia Shipmanagement, Fleet Management, OSM, Synergy Group, Thome, V. Group, Wallem and Wilhelmsen. The Global Maritime Forum is responsible for collecting and processing the data and publishing the indicator. More detail is available [here](#).