



The Neptune Declaration

Crew Change Indicator

JANUARY 2022

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 January Indicator shows that the number of seafarers onboard vessels beyond the expiry of their contract has decreased from 4.7% to 3.7% in the last month, the lowest number recorded by the NDCCI since May. The number of seafarers onboard for over 11 months has decreased from 0.7% to 0.4%. This newest data again shows a reduction that further supports the alleviation of the situation, as observed since September. As the data is based on the situation on 15th December 2021, the most recent effects of omicron are not reflected by the January numbers and observations.

The January Indicator shows that the aggregate percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated has risen from 49.5% in December to 59.8% in January. In comparison, the share of the population fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in several large shipping nations in Europe, North America and Asia is close to or above 70%.¹ Although the rates of seafarer vaccinations remain behind those of large shipping nations, the gap between vaccinated seafarers and seafaring nations is closing as some countries are seeing a stagnating rate whereas seafarer vaccination rates are continuing to increase significantly month by month.

Section 1: Overdue Crew Changes

	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
January 2022	3.7%	-1	0.4%	-0.3
December 2021	4.7%	-2.4	0.7%	-0.3
November 2021	7.1%	-0.8	1.0%	0
October 2021	7.9%	-1.0	1.0%	-0.2
September 2021	8.9%	-0.1	1.2%	-0.1
August 2021	9.0%	+0.2	1.3%	+0.3
July 2021	8.8%	+1.6	1.0%	+0.6
June 2021	7.2%	+1.4	0.4%	0
May 2021	5.8%	-	0.4%	-

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

¹ Source: Our World in Data, [Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 \(ourworldindata.org\)](https://ourworldindata.org/share-of-the-population-fully-vaccinated-against-covid-19)

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

- Omicron has caused many countries to review their Covid protocols and reimpose restrictions, resulting in renewed crew-change difficulties.
- There are continued reports of the reluctance of some Russian and Eastern Europeans to be vaccinated, challenging regional crew supply and crew-changes.
- Restrictions have been reimposed in many seafaring nations in Asia and Europe as infection rates are rising.

Section 2: Seafarer Vaccinations

The Indicator provides the aggregated percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated and provides an overview of seafarer vaccination trends, as well as the pace at which these increase month by month.

The January Indicator shows that **59.8%** of seafarers from the sample have been vaccinated.² This corresponds to an increase of 10.3 percentage points since November.

	Percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated	
	Monthly percentage	Percentage point change from previous month
January 2022	59.8%	+10.3
December 2021	49.5%	+8.5
November 2021	41%	+9.9
October 2021	31.1%	+9.2
September 2021	21.9%	+6.6
August 2021	15.3%	-

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

The data shows that seafarer vaccinations are progressing with vaccine programs being established in numerous countries to offer vaccines to international seafarers. Seafarer vaccination rates are at 59.8%, while in comparison the share of the population fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in the European Union is 68%,³ in Hong Kong 63%, in Japan 79%, in Singapore 83%, in the United Kingdom 71% and in the United States 62%.^{4 5}

Additionally, the contributing ship managers have highlighted the following areas where they are finding the most difficulties vaccinating seafarers:

- There remains resistance and hesitancy to take the vaccine among some seafarer nationalities.
- Meanwhile, there remain vaccine availability issues in some geographies and access to booster vaccines is reported as a challenge.

² The data has been collected from leading ship managers who have made great efforts in addressing the crisis. It is expected the percentage is likely to overestimate the actual proportion of vaccinated seafarers.

³ <https://vaccinetracker.ecdc.europa.eu/public/extensions/COVID-19/vaccine-tracker.html#uptake-tab>

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/world/covid-vaccinations-tracker.html>

⁵ The numbers are not fully comparable as seafarers are adults whereas the full population also includes children, who in most countries are not being offered vaccinations.

- The lack of a global vaccine standard, resulting in many countries not recognising some of the most frequently used WHO approved vaccines, along with differing standards as to the length of vaccine validity (vaccines administered more than 6 months ago are no longer valid in certain countries), all of which is complicating seafarer travel and crew-changes.

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](#).