



# The Neptune Declaration

## Crew Change Indicator

DECEMBER 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 December Indicator shows that the number of seafarers onboard vessels beyond the expiry of their contract has decreased from 7.1% to 4.7% 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 1.0% to 0.7%. This newest data shows a significant reduction that further supports the alleviation of the situation as observed since September.

As vaccinations are critical in solving the crew change crisis, the December Indicator shows that the aggregate percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated has risen from 41% in November to 49.5% in December. 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 60%.<sup>1</sup> Although the rates of seafarer vaccinations remain behind those of large shipping nations, 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
December 2021	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
November 2021	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>0</b>
October 2021	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
September 2021	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
August 2021	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>+0.2</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>+0.3</b>
July 2021	<b>8.8%</b>	<b>+1.6</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>+0.6</b>
June 2021	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>+1.4</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>0</b>
May 2021	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>-</b>

The data reflects the situation on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the preceding month.

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.

- Crew-changes remain a challenge in certain areas and there continue to be flight cancellations, strict crew-change requirements and travel bans.

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

- It has also been noted that the situation has improved in many regions, as vaccination rates improve, COVID cases decrease and travel restrictions are eased.

## 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 December Indicator shows that **49.5%** of seafarers from the sample have been vaccinated.<sup>2</sup> This corresponds to an increase of 8.5 percentage points since November.

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

The data reflects the situation on the 15<sup>th</sup> 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. Yet, seafarer vaccination rates are at 49.5%, while in comparison the share of the population fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in the European Union is 66%,<sup>3</sup> in Hong Kong 59%, in Japan 78%, in Singapore 92%, in the United Kingdom 68% and in the United States 58%.<sup>4,5</sup>

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

- Despite a good increase in the number of vaccinated seafarers, vaccine hesitancy and supply challenges still affect seafarer vaccination rates.
- There are increasing issues with international vaccine recognition and approval, which has led to travel difficulties and seafarers taking repeated vaccinations.
- Access to booster vaccines is also a challenge that is likely to increase.

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](#).

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

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

<sup>5</sup> 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.