



The Neptune Declaration

Crew Change Indicator

FEBRUARY 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 ship managers, who are collectively responsible for more than 90,000 seafarers across all the major segments.

The February Indicator shows that the number of seafarers onboard vessels beyond the expiry of their contract has slightly increased from 3.7% to 4.2% in the last month. The number of seafarers onboard for over 11 months has remained stable at 0.4%. This slight increase in numbers reflects the challenges brought on by the omicron variant and goes against the decreasing trend that has been observed since September.

The February Indicator shows that the aggregate percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated has risen from 59.8% in January to 66.8% in February. 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 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
February 2022	4.2%	+0.5	0.4%	0
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)

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.

- Key seafaring geographies, India, the Philippines, Europe are being hit by a large increase in infections. This has caused large numbers of crew being infected, leading to postponed crew changes and increased local restrictions further complicating crew changes.
- Due to stringent restrictions and flight cancellations, there continues to be difficulties in carrying out crew changes in China and repatriating seafarers.
- On the positive side, some Australian ports have eased restrictions to accept crew changes of vaccinated and tested seafarers, adding flexibility and facilitating crew changeovers in the region.

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 February Indicator shows that **66.8%** of seafarers from the sample have been vaccinated.² This corresponds to an increase of 7 percentage points since January.

	Percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated	
	Monthly percentage	Percentage point change from previous month
February 2022	66.8%	+7
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 66.8%, while in comparison the share of the population fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in the European Union is 70%,³ in Hong Kong 63%, in Japan 79%, in Singapore 87%, in the United Kingdom 71% and in the United States 63%.^{4 5}

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

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.

- Russia and Ukraine are particularly challenging regarding vaccines. Hesitancy remains high, and vaccine approval in Russia is posing additional issues, as local vaccines are not sufficient for travel to many countries, but international vaccines are not always approved in Russia.
- Some owners and charterers insist on manning vessels with only vaccinated crew, which puts pressure on unvaccinated seafarers, especially in geographies where vaccines are not widely available.
- There are increased calls for seafarer booster doses as travel requirements and vaccine certificate validity rules are rapidly changing.

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](#).