



The Neptune Declaration

Crew Change Indicator

First Quarter 2023

Overview

The Neptune Declaration Crew Change Indicator provides reliable data regarding crew change issues and is based on data from 10 ship managers, who are collectively responsible for more than 100,000 seafarers across all the major segments. The Neptune Indicator has been published monthly since May 2021, but as of July 2022, has been converted into a quarterly indicator.

The indicator for the first quarter of 2023 shows that the number of seafarers from the sample who are onboard vessels beyond the expiry of their contract has decreased from 2.7% to 2.2% since January 2023. The number of seafarers onboard for over 11 months has remained unchanged at 0.2% since January 2023.

The Crew Change Indicator shows that the aggregate percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated has risen from 95.6% to 96.3% in the past quarter, which is an increase of 0.7 percentage points since January 2023.

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
April 2023*	2.2%	-0.5	0.2%	0
January 2023*	2.7%	-0.6	0.2%	-0.1
October 2022*	3.3%	-0.9	0.3%	0
July 2022	4.2%	-0.1	0.3%	0
June 2022	4.3%	-0.2	0.3%	0
May 2022	4.5%	+0.3	0.3%	-0.1
April 2022	4.2%	-0.8	0.4%	0
March 2022	5.0%	+0.8	0.4%	0
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.

*Quarterly data reflects the situation on the last 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 quarter.

- Domestic lock downs and flight cancellations have reduced.
- Crew change operations of foreign crew at Chinese ports are relatively back to normal.
- Brazil has resumed their immigration protocol for crew changes within Brazilian territories.
- Ship owners are now reviewing their COVID protocols. Some are not testing crew prior departure from their home country, or prior boarding a ship at the port of embarkation.
- Overall, there is a positive trend towards normalisation [or pre-COVID condition].
- Flights remain a significant cost across the globe.

Section 2: Seafarer Vaccinations

The Neptune Declaration Crew Change Indicator provides the aggregated percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated and provides an overview of seafarer vaccination trend, as well as the pace at which this increases periodically (monthly up to July 2022; quarterly from October 2022).

The Crew Change Indicator from the first quarter of 2023 shows that **96.3%** of seafarers from the sample have been vaccinated.¹ This corresponds to an increase of 0.7 percentage points since January.

	Percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated	
	Monthly percentage	Percentage point change from previous month
April 2023*	96.3%	+0.7
January 2023**	95.6%	+2.7
October 2022*	92.8%	+3.5
July 2022	89.3%	+3.1
June 2022	86.2%	+2.8
May 2022	83.6%	+6.4

¹ 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.

April 2022	77.2%	+4.4
March 2022	72.8%	+6
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.

*Quarterly data reflects the situation on the last day of the preceding month.

**The vaccination data for Q4 of 2022 includes data from 9 out of 10 ship managers.

Seafarer vaccination rates remain higher than the share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in many large shipping nations.² It must be noted however, that national percentages are based on the full population and include children, who in most countries are not offered vaccines so the numbers are not fully comparable.

Additionally, the contributing ship managers highlighted the following in relation to vaccinating seafarers:

- Opportunities for carrying out vaccinations during port calls have decreased drastically.
- Some ship managers are increasingly opting to replace unvaccinated crew members onboard with vaccinated seafarers through normal crew changes. This allows for seafarers to get vaccinated while onshore.
- Some companies are no longer asking their seafarers to renew or boost their vaccinations, seemingly because of lack of effectiveness in existing vaccines. Instead, they recommend using updated vaccines going forward, in case new and more dangerous variants emerge.

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](#).