



The Neptune Declaration

Crew Change Indicator

JUNE 2021

Overview

In May 2021, the first Neptune Declaration Crew Change Indicator was launched based on data from 10 ship managers. The aim is to publish the Indicator on a monthly basis, to provide reliable data regarding the crew-change crisis and the way it evolves.

The June Indicator shows that the number of seafarers onboard beyond the expiry of their contract has risen since the May indicator from 5.8% to 7.4%, which corresponds to a 24.1% relative increase, while the number of seafarers onboard for over 11 months has remained stable. These numbers are based on data from major ship managers who are collectively responsible for more than 90,000 seafarers across all the major segments.

The developments are not unexpected and are driven by the rise in Covid-19 cases in important seafaring nations, such as India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Philippines, and subsequently increased restrictions in major seafaring hubs. Input from the ship managers also indicates seafarers continue to have limited vaccine access, which would be a critical step forward to resolve the issue.

	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

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.

- Increasing infection rates in key crew source countries, especially India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Philippines, are challenging crew changes.
- Because of the high infection rates, a lot of seafarers are postponing their readiness to leave due to them, or their family member or their neighborhood having Covid cases.
- Stricter crew-change protocols in major crew-change hubs have delayed and complicated crew changes.
- Heightened travel restrictions are causing cancelled and delayed flights, making it difficult for seafarers to join crew-change hubs or get back home.
- Seafarers continue to have limited access to vaccines.

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](#).