



# The Neptune Declaration

## Crew Change Indicator

OCTOBER 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 October Indicator shows that the number of seafarers onboard vessels beyond the expiry of their contract has decreased from 8.9% to 7.9% in the last month and the number of seafarers onboard for over 11 months has similarly slightly decreased from 1.2% to 1.0%. After a significant deterioration of the situation since May, the Indicators since August further point to a stabilization and beginning alleviation of the situation.

As vaccinations are critical in solving the crew change crisis, the October Indicator shows that the aggregate percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated has risen from 21.9% in August to 31.1% in September. In comparison, the share of the population fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in several large shipping nations in Europe, North America and Asia is well over 50%.<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 vaccines are increasing faster monthly.

### 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
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.

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.

- Travel restrictions, domestic lockdowns, strict crew-change requirements and flight cancellations continue to prevent seafarers from going back home.
- Due to the lockdown, various government bodies and maritime training centers in the Philippines are not operational or are working remotely with reduced staff which slows down the training of Filipino Seafarers.

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

- Despite some improvements in infection rates in Asia, restrictions still negatively affect the manpower supply chain.

## Section 2: Seafarer Vaccinations

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

The October Indicator shows that **31.1%** of seafarers from the sample have been vaccinated.<sup>2</sup> This corresponds to an increase of 9.2 percentage points since September.

	Percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated	
	Monthly percentage	Percentage point change from previous month
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. Programs are being set up, especially in the US and some European countries, to offer vaccines to international seafarers. However, while seafarer vaccination rates are at around 31.1%, in comparison the share of the population fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in the European Union is 72.6%<sup>3</sup>, in Hong Kong it is 55%, in Japan it is 58%, in Singapore it is 79%, in the United Kingdom this is 67.1% and in the United States this is 55%.<sup>4</sup>

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

- Leading maritime crew nations continue to have low vaccination rates and seafarers continue to have limited vaccine access.
- Vaccination approvals continue to be a challenge for specific vaccines but also for vaccination of both doses in different locations.
- There are reports of shipowners and charterers insisting on only manning vessels with vaccinated crew, which puts pressure on unvaccinated seafarers particularly in areas where vaccines are not widely available.

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>