



# The Neptune Declaration

## Crew Change Indicator

APRIL 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 April Indicator shows that the number of seafarers onboard vessels beyond the expiry of their contract has decreased from 5.0% to 4.2% in the last month. The number of seafarers onboard for over 11 months has remained stable at 0.4%. After the observed increase in numbers in the past months due to the omicron variant and the Ukraine crisis, the latest number suggests a stabilization of the situation.

The April Indicator shows that the aggregate percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated has risen from 72.8% in March to 77.2% in April. 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%<sup>1</sup> so seafarer rates are now at this same level and these numbers have surpassed the rate in Greece, the United Kingdom, and the United States. 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.

### 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 2022	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>0</b>
March 2022	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>+0.8</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>0</b>
February 2022	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>+0.5</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>0</b>
January 2022	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
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>

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

June 2021	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>+1.4</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>0</b>
May 2021	<b>5.8%</b>	-	<b>0.4%</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.

- The impact of the situation in Ukraine is still being felt on crew changes, with ship managers citing sanctions and additional restrictions in ports. The war has also shifted crew-demand increasingly to Asia.
- The spike in infections in China has further complicated the already difficult crew change situation in the country, with continued challenges in repatriating and changing crews.
- There are positive developments in the Philippines, where the number of positive cases is decreasing and restrictions and quarantine rules for seafarers are being relaxed.

## 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 April Indicator shows that **77.2%** of seafarers from the sample have been vaccinated.<sup>2</sup> This corresponds to an increase of 5.7 percentage points since March.

	Percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated	
	Monthly percentage	Percentage point change from previous month
April 2022	<b>77.2%</b>	<b>+4.4</b>
March 2022	<b>72.8%</b>	<b>+6</b>
February 2022	<b>66.8%</b>	<b>+7</b>
January 2022	<b>59.8%</b>	<b>+10.3</b>
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.

<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.

The data shows that seafarer vaccinations are progressing well with vaccine programs being established in numerous countries to offer vaccines to international seafarers. Seafarer vaccination rates are at 77.2%, while in comparison the share of the population fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in the European Union is 72.4%,<sup>3</sup> in Hong Kong 77%, in Japan 80%, in Singapore 87%, in the United Kingdom 74% and in the United States 65%.<sup>4 5</sup>

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

- Ukrainian and Russian seafarers have been expressing vaccine hesitancy throughout the crisis. While these feelings are still strong, ship managers note some improvement in their vaccine uptake.
- There continue to be calls for booster shots, amidst uncertainty about the immunity duration and efficiency of 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](#).

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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.