



The Neptune Declaration

Crew Change Indicator

MAY 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 May Indicator shows that the number of seafarers onboard vessels beyond the expiry of their contract has slightly increased from 4.2% to 4.5% in the last month. The number of seafarers onboard for over 11 months has gone down to 0.3%. These latest number suggest a further stabilization of the situation.

The May Indicator shows that the aggregate percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated has risen from 72.8% in April to 83.6% in May. 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 so seafarer rates are now at this same level and these numbers have surpassed the rate in Denmark, 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
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

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

May 2021	5.8%	-	0.4%	-
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The data reflects the situation on the 15th 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 continues to be felt on crew changes, with ship managers citing logistical challenges, especially for unvaccinated seafarers.
- Ship managers report that restrictions persist in some Asian countries, with isolation requirements for instance.
- It was noted that there has been a relaxation of rules in other Asian crew change hubs, such as Singapore, which has eased crew changes especially for vaccinated seafarers.
- Managers have also reported an improvement in flight availability.

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 May Indicator shows that **83.6%** of seafarers from the sample have been vaccinated.² This corresponds to an increase of 6.4 percentage points since April.

	Percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated	
	Monthly percentage	Percentage point change from previous month
May 2022	83.6%	+6.4
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.

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.

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 83.6%, while in comparison the share of the population fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in the European Union is 73%,³ in Hong Kong 80%, in Japan 80%, in Singapore 91%, in the United Kingdom 74% and in the United States 66%.^{4 5}

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

- Some insecurities remain over the duration of protection provided by vaccines, the fear of new variants and the effectiveness of vaccines against the different forms of Covid-19.
- Seafarers who have joined vessels while unvaccinated are being increasingly offered vaccines – either onboard or once they offboard.
- Overall, ship managers report an easing of the situation and good improvement in number of vaccinated seafarers.

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](#).

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.