



# The Neptune Declaration

## Crew Change Indicator

**JULY 2022**

### Overview

The Neptune Declaration Crew Change Indicator provides reliable data regarding crew change issues and is based on data from ship managers, who are collectively responsible for more than 100,000 seafarers across all the major segments

The July Indicator shows that the number of seafarers onboard vessels beyond the expiry of their contract has decreased slightly from 4.3 to 4.2% in the last month. The number of seafarers onboard for over 11 months has remained stable at 0.3%. These numbers remain at the same stable levels observed since December 2021.

The July Indicator shows that the aggregate percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated has risen from 86.2% in June to 89.3% in July. Seafarer vaccination rates are now higher or at the same level than the share of the population fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in many large shipping nations in Europe, North America and Asia, where this is close to or above 70%<sup>1</sup>. 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 |
| July 2022      | <b>4.2%</b>  | <b>-0.1</b>                                 | <b>0.3%</b>  | <b>0</b>                                    |
| June 2022      | <b>4.3%</b>  | <b>-0.2</b>                                 | <b>0.3%</b>  | <b>0</b>                                    |
| May 2022       | <b>4.5%</b>  | <b>+0.3</b>                                 | <b>0.3%</b>  | <b>-0.1</b>                                 |
| 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>                                 |

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

|           |             |             |             |             |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 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.

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.

- Ship managers note an overall stabilization of the situation, with an easing of restrictions, flight cancellations and lock downs.
- China has loosened quarantine requirements for Chinese seafarers but there still remain challenges due to restrictions in Asian countries.
- A global shortage of Russian and Ukrainian seafarers due to the war in Ukraine was reported.

## 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 July Indicator shows that **89.3%** of seafarers from the sample have been vaccinated.<sup>2</sup> This corresponds to an increase of 3.1 percentage points since June.

|               | Percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated |   |
|---------------|--|---|
|               | Monthly percentage   | Percentage point change from previous month |
| July 2022     | <b>89.3%</b>   | <b>+3.1</b>                                 |
| June 2022     | <b>86.2%</b>   | <b>+2.8</b>                                 |
| May 2022      | <b>83.6%</b>   | <b>+6.4</b>                                 |
| 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>                                 |

<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.

|                |              |             |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| 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.

Seafarer vaccination rates are at 89.3%, while 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 85%, in Japan 81.2%, in Singapore 91.6%, in the United Kingdom 74% and in the United States 66.9%.<sup>4 5</sup>

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

- Overall, the vaccine situation has improved well with seafarer vaccination rates reaching high numbers.
- Ship managers are actively pursuing efforts to vaccinate all unvaccinated crew members, either whilst in their countries of residence or whilst onshore in foreign ports.
- Some insecurities remain about the efficiency of vaccines, the threat of new variants and immunity duration 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.