



The Neptune Declaration

Crew Change Indicator

Fourth Quarter 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 Neptune Indicator has been published monthly since May 2021, but as of July 2022, has converted into a quarterly indicator.

The indicator for the last quarter of 2022 shows that the number of seafarers onboard vessels beyond the expiry of their contract has decreased from 3.3% to 2.7% since October. The number of seafarers onboard vessels for over 11 months has also decreased slightly from 0.3% to 0.2%.

The Crew Change Indicator shows that the aggregate percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated has risen from 92.8% to 95.6% in the past quarter, which is an increase of 2.7 percentage points since October 2022.

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
January 2023*	2.7%	-0.6	0.2%	-0.1
October 2022*	3.3%	-0.9	0.3%	0
July 2022	4.2%	-0.1	0.3%	0
June 2022	4.3%	-0.2	0.3%	0
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
May 2021	5.8%	-	0.4%	-

The data reflects the situation on the 15th day of the preceding month.

*Quarterly data reflects the situation on the last 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 quarter.

- Ship managers describe the recent ease of restrictions in China as equally positive and concerning, and report monitoring the situation closely over the coming weeks and months
- A recent spike in Covid-19 cases raise concern, as it creates conditions for new variants to develop
- It remains somewhat unclear how aligned different local governments in China are with the new instructions from the central government. Crew changes must therefore still be carefully reviewed by local agents to ensure compliance
- Following the development in China, ship managers report that a negative RT-PCR test conducted 72 hours prior to departure is now required for all travelers from China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Thailand when entering India.
- Similarly, Japan requires all travelers coming out of China within the last 7 days to be tested on arrival. If tested positive, seafarers are quarantined for 7 days.

Section 2: Seafarer Vaccinations

The Neptune Declaration 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 Crew Change Indicator from the fourth quarter of 2022 shows that **95.6%** of seafarers from the sample have been vaccinated.¹ This corresponds to an increase of 2.7 percentage points since October.

	Percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated	
	Monthly percentage	Percentage point change from previous month
January 2023**	95.6%	+2.7
October 2022*	92.8%	+3.5
July 2022	89.3%	+3.1
June 2022	86.2%	+2.8
May 2022	83.6%	+6.4

¹ 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.

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.

*Quarterly data reflects the situation on the last day of the preceding month.

**The vaccination data for Q4 of 2022 includes data from 9 out of 10 ship managers.

Seafarer vaccination rates are at 95.6%, while in comparison the share of the population fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in the European Union is 75.5%², in Hong Kong 90.7%, in Japan 83.3%, in Singapore 90.8% and in the United States 69.1%.^{3 4}

Seafarer vaccination rates thus remain higher than the share of the population fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in many large shipping nations.⁵ 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.

Additionally, the contributing ship managers have highlighted the following difficulties in vaccinating seafarers:

- Vaccinations are widely accessible and seafarers are getting vaccinated.
- Some ship managers report that they are increasingly opting to replace unvaccinated crew members onboard with vaccinated seafarers through normal crew changes. This allows for seafarers to be vaccinated while onshore.
- Some companies are no longer recommending their seafarers to renew or boost “expired” vaccinations, seemingly because of lack of effectiveness in existing vaccines. Instead, they recommend using updated vaccines going forward, in case new and more dangerous variants emerge.

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](#).

2 [ECDC, COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker](#)

3 [New York Times, Tracking Coronavirus Vaccinations Around the World](#)

4 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.

5 Our World in Data, [Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19](#)