



# The Neptune Declaration

## Crew Change Indicator

NOVEMBER 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 November Indicator shows that the number of seafarers onboard vessels beyond the expiry of their contract has decreased from 7.9% to 7.1% in the last month, and the number of seafarers onboard for over 11 months has remained at 1.0%. This newest data further supports the stabilization and alleviation of the situation as observed since September.

As vaccinations are critical in solving the crew change crisis, the November Indicator shows that the aggregate percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated has risen from 31% in October to 41% in November. In comparison, 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 60%<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
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>
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.

- Many countries and ports are placing stricter crew change requirements, which have resulted in increased challenges to crew changes, often resulting in cancellations of crew changes.

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

- New Covid-19 outbreaks are causing new domestic lock downs in certain countries which, combined with increasing numbers of flight cancellations and travel restrictions, continue to prevent seafarers from going home.
- Chinese seafarers are hit especially hard by stricter Chinese Government requirements to isolate themselves post sign off and prior their repatriation.

## 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 November Indicator shows that **41%** of seafarers from the sample have been vaccinated<sup>2</sup>. This corresponds to an increase of 9.9 percentage points since October.

	Percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated	
	Monthly percentage	Percentage point change from previous month
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>	<b>-</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 with vaccine programs being established in numerous countries to offer vaccines to international seafarers. Yet, seafarer vaccination rates are at 41%, while in comparison the share of the population fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in the European Union is 75%<sup>3</sup>, in Hong Kong 59%, in Japan 71%, in Singapore 82%, in the United Kingdom 68% and in the United States 58%.<sup>4</sup>

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

- Seafarers continue to have limited vaccine access in leading maritime crew nations such as the Philippines.
- Due to the lack of international standards on vaccine approvals, many seafarers are vaccinated multiple times with different vaccines, which raises potential medical concerns.

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>