



The Neptune Declaration

Crew Change Indicator

Third 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 Indicator has been published monthly since May 2021, but as of July 2022, has converted into a quarterly Indicator.

The Crew Change Indicator for the third quarter of 2022 shows that the number of seafarers onboard vessels beyond the expiry of their contract has decreased from 4.2% to 3.3% since the last Indicator was published in July. The number of seafarers onboard vessels for more than 11 months has remained stable at 0.3% since May 2022.

The Third Quarter Neptune Declaration Crew Change Indicator shows that the aggregated percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated has risen from 89.3% to 92.8% during the past quarter, which is an increase of 3.5 percentage points since July.

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
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 note that the situation remains largely the same since the last indicator in July, with fewer crew change restrictions, flight cancellations and lock downs.
- The situation in Ukraine still causes delays in crew changes.
- China remains the main challenge due to continued severe restrictions and lock downs. Non-Chinese seafarers are still prohibited from being relieved at Chinese ports.
- Japan also maintains a somewhat strict protocol requiring review and approval of crew movements upon arrival at first Japanese port, which causes delays especially when vessels performed crew changes within 14 days prior to arrival in Japan.
- Some countries, such as Brazil, still refuse to disembark non vaccinated crew.
- Overall, stronger recruitment efforts are reported to ensure the rotation of crew.

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 Neptune Indicator from the third quarter of 2022 shows that **92.8%** of seafarers from the sample have been vaccinated.¹ This corresponds to an increase of 3.5 percentage points since July.

	Percentage of seafarers from the sample who have been vaccinated	
	Monthly percentage	Percentage point change from previous month
October 2022*	92.8%	+3.5
July 2022	89.3%	+3.1
June 2022	86.2%	+2.8
May 2022	83.6%	+6.4
April 2022	77.2%	+4.4
March 2022	72.8%	+6

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.

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.

Seafarer vaccination rates are at 92.8%, while in comparison the share of the population fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in the European Union is 73.2%², in Hong Kong 89.4%, in Japan 82.5%, in Singapore 93.9%, in the United Kingdom 74% and in the United States 68.0%.^{3 4}

Seafarer vaccination rates thus remain higher than the share of the population fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in many large shipping nations in the European Union, North America and Asia, where the percentages are close to or above 70%.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:

- Overall, the vaccination rates are progressing, although ship managers also report concerns about immunity duration, risks of new variants, and rising numbers in coming months.
- Most seafarers remain positive towards vaccination, yet some ship managers also see a certain degree of vaccination fatigue emerging.
- Ship managers still actively pursue to vaccinate all crew members, but still report having unvaccinated seafarers awaiting vaccinations in home countries.

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 <https://vaccinetracker.ecdc.europa.eu/public/extensions/COVID-19/vaccine-tracker.html#uptake-tab>

3 <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/world/covid-vaccinations-tracker.html>

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