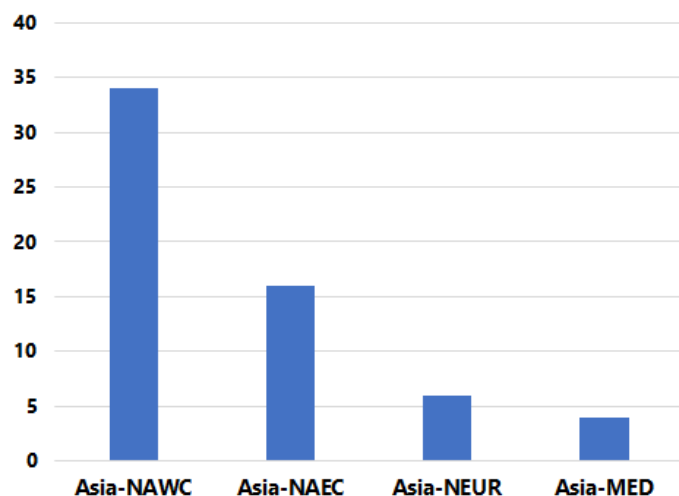


Rapid ramp-up in Transpacific blank sailings

In the third article of issue 589 of the *Sunday Spotlight*, and using our *Blank Sailings Tracker*, we looked at how the carriers were reacting (in terms of blanking sailings) to the collapse of demand, especially of the imports to North America and Europe.

Figure 1 shows a snapshot of the additional blank sailings that were announced (or unannounced ones that were captured by us) for the week 42-52 period in the past 2 weeks. In simpler terms, we looked at the blank sailings for week 42-52 as of week 42 and as of week 44 (the last week at the time of writing).

Fig. 1: Additional blank sailings announced in the past 2 weeks for weeks 42-52 of 2022



Basically what we see here is that the number of blank sailings have been ramped up drastically on the Transpacific, but not so much on Asia-Europe. There have been 34 additional blank sailings on Asia-North America West Coast, and 16 on Asia-North America East Coast. For the former, carriers have announced an extra 7-11 blank sailings in all but 5 weeks of the analysed period. However, for weeks 51 and 52, carriers have scheduled no blank

sailings on Asia-North America West Coast, which is a reflection of the carriers' indecision as to how to approach the potential pre-Chinese New Year rush. It appears more to be a wait-and-see approach, in terms of whether there will be a seasonal demand spike.

On Asia-Europe however, we don't see a similar trend, with Asia-North Europe only seeing an additional 6 blank sailings, and Asia-Mediterranean seeing an additional 4 blank sailings.

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