JQ01 – Physicians by age and gender

Physicians data is compiled by the Department of Health as part of the Non-Monetary Health Care Statistics, administered jointly by Eurostat, OECD and WHO in fulfilment of the European regulation (EU) 2022/2294. These statistics are compiled and published on an annual basis and refer to the number of licensed-to-practice and/or practicing physicians according to their age and gender as at end of the referenced year.

Source:

Data is compiled from the annual registrations and declarations of physicians administered by Medical Council of Ireland (https://www.medicalcouncil.ie/). This registration process is a legal obligation to be fulfilled by each physician annually in order to obtain a license for medical practice.

Definitions:

Physicians licensed to practice refers to medical doctors who have graduated in medicine from medical faculties or similar institutions and are licensed with the Medical Council to practice, but not necessarily practicing during the reference year. This also includes physicians who can be conducting their practice outside of Ireland.

Practising physicians refer to medical doctors who have graduated in medicine from medical faculties or similar institutions, are licensed to practice with the Medical Council and have indicated to actively practice within the reference year. Practising physicians provide services for individual patients, families and communities. It also refers to interns and resident physicians who have graduated in medicine from medical faculties or similar institutions and who provide services under supervision of other medical doctors.

Year (or also referred to as data reference year) is taken as at end of year (i.e. 31st December).

Measure refers to the category of practicing or licensed-to-practice physicians referred to above.

Gender refers to the self-declared gender of the physician at the time of registering with the Medical Council for the referenced year. The categories are; Both sexes, Male and Female.

Age-group refers to the age category under which the age the physician at the time of registering with the Medical Council is classified for the referenced year. The categories are; All ages, Less than 35, 35-44 , 45-54, 55-64, 65-74 and 75 and over.

Unit refers to the unit of measure applied, which in this case refers to a numerical headcount of physicians.

Value refers to the amount of physicians falling within respective categories for the respective data reference year.

Flag indicates any particular caution or issues with the data worth of note for further data use. The following flags may be applied, along with their definition:

- **Flag M** indicates that the value is missing as it was not collected for that particular instance. This may be due to legal requirements, unavailability of data or data quality issues, among many reasons.
- **Flag B** indicates that the values from that data reference point onwards are not directly comparable with previous data points due to methodological issues which are explained in the coverage section below.

- **Flag E** indicates that the particular data point is based on an estimate and should be compares with other non-estimate data points with caution. Estimation methods applies are explained in the coverage section below.
- **Flag S** indicates that the particular data point has been supressed for confidentiality and/or quality purposes, such as; very small counts or very high variation. This should not be treated as a true zero. Whenever a value is a true zero, this has been indicated and not supressed.

Coverage:

Data up to reference year 2013 refers to all persons (including those working abroad) who have entered and maintained their name as fully registered doctors, regardless of the area in which they are engaged or whether or not they are practising medicine.

From 2014 onwards, data refers to doctors registered with the Medical Council of Ireland who, in the last 12 months, have declared themselves practicing and who have worked in Ireland either full or part-time. Prior to 2014, data refers to physicians licensed to practice, regardless of whether they have practiced at all during that year.

Data for age groups not available for 2009 and 2010.

Note that summations of age-groups for data reference years 2006-2012 do not tally up to the total number of physicians. This is due to the 'Oral and Maxillo-Facial' specialty which was excluded from the total at the time. However, it was not possible to exclude this specialty from the age group breakdown. This only accounts for a small number of physicians. Furthermore, for data reference year 2012, data were not available by age/gender for the 288 doctors registered in the Supervised Division. As a result, the total physicians licensed does not equate to the totals of age and gender.

Estimation:

Not applicable.

Breaks in series:

Data preceding the reference year 2006, refers only to those registered physicians having an address in the Republic of Ireland. From 2006 on, registered physicians with an overseas addresses are also included.

Data for 2005 is not available.

From data reference year 2014, data refers to physicians registered with the Medical Council of Ireland who, in the last 12 months, have declared themselves practicing and who have worked in Ireland either full or part-time.

A break in series from data reference year 2017 onwards occurred due to change in administrative sources.

Suppression:

Not applicable.

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Period of time	As at end of year from 1992-2021.