JQ05 - Nurses

Nurses' 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 practising nurses and nurses licenced to practice in the Republic of Ireland, as at end of the referenced ending calendar year.

Source:

Data for both practising nurses and nurses licensed to practice is compiled from Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) (https://www.nmbi.ie/Home) administrative records.

Definitions:

Nurses licensed to practice refer to those nurses who have completed a programme of nursing education and is qualified and authorised in his/her country to practice nursing. They include the following:

i. Professional nurses;
ii. Nurses who provide services directly to patients;
iii. Nurses for whom their nursing education is a prerequisite for the execution of the job;
iv. Nurses for whom their nursing education is not a prerequisite for the execution of the job;
v. Nurses licensed to practice but who due to various reasons are not economically active (e.g. unemployed or retired); and
vi. Nurses working abroad .

while excluding health care assistants and personal care workers (nursing aids), who do not have any recognised qualification/certification in nursing.

Practising nurses are nurses licensed to practice that provide services directly to patients and include the following:

i. Professional nurses;
ii. Associate professional nurses; and
iii. Foreign nurses licensed to practice and actively practising in the country.

while excluding:

i. Students who have not yet graduated;
ii. Nursing aids/assistants and personal care workers who do not have any recognised qualification/certification in nursing;
iii. Midwives (unless they work most of the time as nurses);
iv. Nurses working in administration, management, research and in other posts that exclude direct contact with patients;
v. Unemployed nurses and retired nurses no longer practising; and
vi. Nurses working abroad.

Note that for both categories of nurses, figures also include midwives, since it is not possible to distinguish between nurses and midwives due to all registered nurses also hold registered midwifery qualifications.

Year (also referred to as data reference year) is taken as at the end of the calendar year of reference. (31st December).

Measure refers to the different categories of nurses.

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

Value refers to the count of practising nurses and nurses licensed to practice 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:

Figures for **nurses licensed to practice** refer to the total number of active registered nurses on the NMBI's register. A nurse on the register has completed a programme of nursing education and is qualified and authorized to practice as a nurse in Ireland. This does not necessarily mean that each nurse is active in the field of nursing.

Figures for **practising nurses** refer to the total number of self-reported practising registered nurses on the NMBI's register.

Estimation: Not applicable.

Breaks in series: Not applicable.

Suppression: Not applicable.

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Period of time	Figures for practising nurses are taken as at end of calendar year from 2021-2022. Figures for nurses licensed to practice are taken as at end of calendar year from 1994-2022.