**JQ07 – Caring personnel**

Caring personnel 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 caring personnel workers in the Republic of Ireland, as at end of the referenced ending calendar year.

*Source:*

Data is compiled from Health Service Staff Census (https://www.hiqa.ie/areas-we-work/health-information/data-collections/health-service-personnel-census-hspc).

*Definitions*:

**Practising caring personnel (personal care workers)** include healthcare workers that provide direct personal care and assistance with activities of daily living to patients and residents in a variety of health care settings such as hospitals, clinics, and residential nursing care facilities. They generally work in implementation of established care plans and practices, and under the direct supervision of medical, nursing or other health professionals or associate professionals**.** These includes the following:

i. Nursing aide (clinic or hospital or home-based);
ii. Patient care assistant;
iii. Psychiatric aide;
iv. Home care aide;
v. Personal care provider;
vi. Foreign health care assistants practising in the country; and
vii. Foreign personal care workers practising in the country.

While excluding:

i. Nurses; and
i. Social workers.

**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 category of practising caring personnel.

**Unit** refers to the unit of measure applied, which in this case refers to a numerical headcount of practising caring personnel.

**Value** refers to the count of practising caring personnel 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:*

The figures refer only to practising personnel employed within the public health service and does not include:

- Agency workers;
- Section 39 agencies;
- Private hospitals; and
- Nursing homes or care providers.

The following public grades are included:

- Attendant (Multi-Task);
- Attendant (Multi-Task) Intern;
- Attendant/Aide, Care Assistant (Disability Services) Intern;
- Hairdresser/Barber;
- Health Care Assistants;
- Health Care Assistants Intern;
- Home Help, Nurses' Aide;
- Nursing Auxiliary/Orderly;
- S.E.N. (General); and
- S.E.N. (Psychiatric).

*Estimation:*

Not applicable.

*Breaks in series:*

A break in series for data reference years 2012 onwards occurred due the inclusion of the following grades, which were previously excluded:

- Attendant (Multi-Task) Intern;
- Assistant (Disability Services) Intern; and
- Health Care Assistants Intern.

*Suppression:*

Not applicable.

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|---|---|
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| **Period of time** | As at end of calendar year from 1990-2022. |