JQ09 – Pharmacists

Pharmacists' 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 pharmacists and pharmacists licenced to practice in the Republic of Ireland, as at end of the referenced ending calendar year.

Source:

Data for pharmacists licenced to practice is sourced from Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (https://www.thepsi.ie/gns/home.aspx) administrative records. Data for practising pharmacists is compiled from administrative records of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (https://www.thepsi.ie/gns/home.aspx) and Ireland's 2016 Census from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) (https://www.cso.ie/en/census/).

Definitions:

Pharmacists are professionals who prepare, dispense or sell medicaments and drugs for patients and provide advice. **Pharmacists licensed to practice** include the following:

i. Pharmacists who provide services for patients;
ii. Pharmacists for whom their pharmacy education is a prerequisite for the execution of the job;
iii. Pharmacists for whom their pharmacy education is NOT a prerequisite for the 2 execution of the job;
iv. Pharmacists licensed to practice but who are not economically active (e.g. unemployed or retired); and
v. Pharmacists working abroad.

Therefore, pharmacists licensed to practice include both practising and other (non-practising) pharmacists who are registered and eligible to practice. On the other hand, **Practising pharmacists** include the following:

i. Practising pharmacists who have completed studies in pharmacy at university level (granted by adequate diploma) and who are licensed to practice;
ii. Salaried and self-employed pharmacists delivering services irrespectively of the place of service provision;
iii. Pharmacists working in hospitals; and
iv. Foreign pharmacists licensed to practice pharmacy and actively practising in the country,

While exclude the following:

i. Students who have not yet graduated;
ii. Pharmacists working in administration, research and in other posts that exclude direct contact with the patients;
iii. Pharmacists working in the pharmaceutical industry;
iv. Unemployed pharmacists and retired pharmacists; and
v. Pharmacists working abroad**.**

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 pharmacists, which is split into; practising pharmacists and pharmacists licensed to practice.

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

Value refers to the amount of practising pharmacists and pharmacists 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 refer to all persons on the register of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. These may include some pharmacists not in activity. The following are included;

- Pharmacists employed in community pharmacies;
- Pharmacists employed in the pharmaceutical industry;
- Pharmacists employed in medical research;
- Pharmacists employed in firms or public bodies in exercise of their profession;
- Pharmacists employed in public and private hospitals;
- Foreign pharmacists registered in Ireland; and
- Irish pharmacists living/working abroad.

The same coverage above also applies to pharmacists licensed to practice.

Estimation:

Figures for practising pharmacists for data reference years 2021 onwards are based on the figures of pharmacists licensed to practice and proportioned based on the population counts identified as pharmacists in the latest available Irish Census.

Breaks in series:

A break in series occurred in 2021 due to a change in source and the inclusion of an estimation method.

Suppression:

Not applicable.

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Period of time	Figures for practising pharmacists are taken as at end of calendar year from 2019-2022, excluding 2020. Figures for pharmacists licensed to practice are taken as at end of calendar year from 1980-2022.