JQ12 – Hospital activities

Hospital activities' 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 inpatients' discharges activities, covering a calendar reference year.

Source:

Data is compiled from the Healthcare Pricing Office (www.hpo.ie), the Department of Health (https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/department-of-health/), and Health Research Board (https://www.hrb.ie/) administrative records.

Definitions:

Hospital activities refer to inpatient discharges, length of stays and occupancy rates in inpatient wards. Hospitals in this regard are defined as licensed establishments that are primarily engaged in providing medical, diagnostic and treatment services that include; physician, nursing and other health services to inpatients and the specialised accommodation services required by inpatients.

Year (or also referred to as data reference year) is considered to be a typical calendar year.

Type of care refers to the type of inpatient care received by the patient during their hospital stay. The types are defined as follows:

i. **Inpatient Care** – refers to the healthcare service where the patient is admitted and has a length of stay of at least one night, be it for treatment, surgical procedures or for observation. This category also includes **Curative (acute) care** which is further defined below.
ii. **Curative (acute) care**– refers to the healthcare services where the principal intent is to relieve symptoms or to reduce the severity of an illness or injury, or to protect against complication that could threaten life or normal function.

Type of measure refers to the metric being used to measure the activity. This is also further split into distinctive sectors. The metrics and sectors are defined as follows:

i. **Average length of stay** – refers to the average number of nights a discharged inpatient spent.
ii. **Bed days** – refers to the total number of nights spent by all discharged inpatients.
iii. **Discharges** – refers to the instances where patients who spent a minimum of one night as hospital inpatient were discharged from that episode of care.
iv. **Occupancy rate** – refers to the ratio or percentage of beds used for all inpatient discharges out of the total beds available at the time.
v. **Psychiatric care** – refers to healthcare concerning the mind (e.g. dealing with mental and behavioural disorders).
vi. **Somatic care** – refers to healthcare relating to the body, as distinguished from psychiatric care.

Unit refers to the unit of measure applied for each type of measure explained above, where:

i. Average length of stay – the **number of days** of inpatient care as an **average** of all discharged inpatient cases.

ii. Bed days – **total number of days** that hospital inpatient **beds were used** for the duration of all discharges.
iii. Discharges – **number of discharges occurring**. This number relates to episodes of care and does not relate to the number of patients (i.e. a person having 3 episodes of inpatient care would be counted as 3 distinct discharges).
iv. Occupancy rate – the **percentage of beds used** for the total discharges as a proportion for the total available beds.

Value refers to the amount of discharges, average length of stay, bed days or occupancy rate respectively falling within their 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 refers to all inpatient activity, excluding day cases, who were discharged from or died in a public/private acute hospital or a psychiatric hospital, within the Republic of Ireland for the referenced calendar year.

Estimation:

Not applicable.

Breaks in series:

Data prior to reference year 2020 includes only public acute and psychiatric hospitals having inpatient activities. From data reference 2020 onwards, figures include activity of private acute hospitals.

Suppression:

Not applicable.

Contact Person	Statistics and Analytics Unit
Contact Person Email	Statistics_and_Analytics_Unit@health.gov.ie
Period of time	Calendar year from 2015-2021