JQ13 – Surgical procedures

Surgical procedures 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 surgical procedures conducted for a particular type of procedure group, over a typical calendar reference year.

Note that the surgical procedures group listed in this data does not cover all types of surgical procedures performed in the Republic of Ireland. This table includes only a short-list of surgical procedure groups which are mandatory for annual reporting under the aforementioned regulation.

Source:

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

Definitions:

Surgical procedures refer to the medical interventions involving an incision with instruments usually performed in an operating theatre and normally involving anaesthesia and/or respiratory assistance. Surgical procedures can be performed either as inpatient cases, day cases or, in certain instances, as outpatient cases.

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

Type of surgical procedure refers to the group of surgical procedures by intent/area of these procedures. The surgical procedure groups are defined as follows:

i. **Caesarean section** – refers to a surgical procedure to deliver a baby through incisions in the abdomen and uterus.
ii. **Cataract surgery** – refers to a surgical procedure to remove the lens of an eye and, in most cases, to replace it with an artificial lens.
iii. **Cholecystectomy** – refers to a surgical procedure to remove the gallbladder.
iv. **Coronary artery bypass graft** – refers to a surgical operation where atheromatous blockages in a patient's coronary arteries are bypassed with harvested venous or arterial conduits.
v. **Hip replacement** – refers to a surgical procedure to remove damaged sections of a hip joint and to replace them with a prosthesis.
vi. **Partial excision of mammary gland** – refers to a surgical removal of some of the breast tissue due to an area of disease such as a mass/lesion, cyst, tumour, or benign or malignant neoplasm.
vii. **Repair of inguinal hernia** – refers to a surgical correction of an inguinal hernia. An inguinal hernia is an opening, weakness, or bulge in the lining tissue of the abdominal wall in the groin area between the abdomen and the thigh.
viii. **Tonsillectomy** – refers to a surgical removal of the tonsils.
ix. **Total knee replacement** – refers to surgical procedure whereby the diseased knee joint is replaced with a prosthesis.
x. **Total mastectomy** – refers to a surgical removal of an entire breast.
xi. **Transluminal coronary angioplasty** – refers to a procedure that opens blocked coronary arteries to improve blood flow to the heart muscle.

Case type refers to the type of care under which the surgical procedure took place. The case types are defined as follows:

i. **Day cases** – refers to case where a patient receives planned medical and paramedical services delivered in a healthcare facility and who is formally admitted for diagnosis, treatment or other types of healthcare and is discharged on the same day.
ii. **Inpatient cases** – refers to a case where a patient receives treatment and/or care in a healthcare facility, who is formally admitted and who requires an overnight stay.

Unit refers to the unit of measure applied, which in this case refers to a numerical of surgical procedures performed in each respective group during a typical calendar reference year.

Value refers to the amount of surgical procedures performed within their respective group during respective calendar 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 and day cases undergoing a surgical procedure falling under one of the surgical procedures group. The figures cover surgical procedures occurring in both public and private acute hospitals (unless otherwise defined in the break in series section below).

Estimation:

Not applicable.

Breaks in series:

Figures for reference years prior to 2005 were classified using ICD-9-CM. Data from reference year 2005 onwards are coded using ICD-10-AM (the Australian Modification of ICD-10 incorporating the Australian Classification of Health Interventions). The change from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-AM has resulted in some minor changes in the classification of diagnoses and procedures, which makes comparison of figures for certain procedures difficult.

Figures for the “Caesarean section” surgical procedure group for the reference years prior to 2014 are based on the number of maternities with caesarean section delivery. In accordance with WHO reporting criteria births weighing less than 500 grams are excluded.

Data from the reference year 2020 onwards includes surgical procedures carried out in acute private hospitals in the Republic of Ireland.

Suppression:

Not applicable.

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Period of time	Calendar year from 2000-2021.