JQ16 – Hospital beds by sector

Hospital beds 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 stock of beds by the hospitals' economic sector, as at end of the reference year.

Source:

Data is compiled from the Health Service Executive (https://www.hse.ie/eng/), the Department of Health (https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/department-of-health/), the Mental Health Commission (https://www.mhcirl.ie/) and the Health Research Board (https://www.hrb.ie/) administrative records.

Definitions:

Hospital beds refer to those beds which are regularly maintained and staffed and immediately available for the care of admitted patients. Both occupied and unoccupied beds are included in this concept. Excluded are recovery trolleys and beds for same day care (day case care and outpatient care), as well as provisional and temporary beds.

Year (or also referred to as data reference year) is taken as at end of year (i.e. 31st December).

Sector refers to the economic environment that the hospital operates, based on where the majority of its funding stems from. The sectors are defined as follows:

i. **Publicly owned hospitals** – refers to hospitals that are owned or controlled by a government unit or another public corporation.
ii. **Privately owned hospitals** – refers to hospitals that are legal entities set up for the purpose of producing goods and services and are capable of generating a profit to their owners.

Unit refers to the unit of measure applied, which in this case refers to a numerical count of beds in each respective sector as at end of the data reference year.

Value refers to the amount of number of beds falling within their respective categories as at the end of 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 beds (excluding recovery trolleys, beds for same day care), provisional beds and temporary beds) in public/private acute hospitals and psychiatric hospitals, for the use of; curative care, rehabilitative care, long-term care and any other relevant type of care beds not specified.

Estimation:

Not applicable.

Breaks in series:

Not applicable.

Suppression:

Not applicable.

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Period of time	As at end of year from 2020-2021.