

## Key Findings

- The Health and Social Care Northern Ireland Workforce, at 31st December 2017, stood at 64,981 (56,546.1 whole-time equivalent [WTE]). This figure excludes staff on career breaks, bank staff and Home Helps, due to the variable nature of their contracted hours, members of staff with a WTE of less than 0.03, Chairs/Members of Boards and Out of Hours GPs.
- The largest single staff group was Qualified Nursing & Midwifery, with 15,083 WTE. This represented an increase of 6 WTE (or 0.04%) from the previous December.
- Between December 2013 and December 2017, there was a net increase of 883 WTE (12.3%) in the Professional & Technical staff group. This group includes the Allied Health Professions and support staff (e.g. physiotherapists, radiotherapists, dieticians and podiatrists) along with Scientific & Technical staff (e.g. laboratory staff).
- Excluding staff employed through the Northern Ireland Medical & Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA), e.g. trainee GPs, the Medical & Dental workforce increased by 288 WTE (7.6%) between December 2013 and December 2017. The annual increase from December 2016 was 95 WTE (2.4%).

**Table 1: HSC Workforce (WTE) December 2013 – December 2017 (excluding NIMDTA)**

Staff Group	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change 2013-17	% Change 2016-17
Generic	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-100.0%	0.0%
Administration & Clerical	10,961.0	11,025.7	11,013.5	10,923.9	10,995.2	0.3%	0.7%
Estates Services	700.1	703.0	688.9	680.6	687.9	-1.7%	1.1%
Support Services	4,836.8	4,655.1	4,604.1	4,578.6	4,787.2	-1.0%	4.6%
Qualified Nursing & Midwifery	14,294.6	14,545.5	14,840.0	~15,075.2	~15,078.1	5.5%	0.0%
Nurse Support Staff	3,998.0	3,992.9	4,047.0	4,149.9	4,328.6	8.3%	4.3%
Social Services (excluding Home Helps)	6,707.6	6,780.4	6,878.0	7,055.3	7,270.1	8.4%	3.0%
Professional & Technical	7,153.6	7,205.9	7,420.8	7,707.2	8,036.9	12.3%	4.3%
Medical & Dental	3,773.6	3,817.5	3,884.3	3,967.2	4,062.1	7.6%	2.4%
Ambulance	1,066.6	1,030.0	1,082.2	1,076.1	1,101.2	3.2%	2.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,495.7</b>	<b>53,755.9</b>	<b>54,458.8</b>	<b>55,216.0</b>	<b>56,352.3</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>

### Responsible Statistician:

Joanne O'Hagan

### Statistical Enquiries:

Office hours: 028 90522493

Email: [workforce.statistics@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:workforce.statistics@health-ni.gov.uk)

Web: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/>

### Media Enquiries:

028 90520567

Project Support & Analysis Branch  
Information and Analysis Directorate  
Department of Health  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont  
Belfast  
BT4 3SQ

For information on other Government statistics contact:  
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA),  
Colby House  
Stranmillis Court  
BELFAST  
BT9 5RR  
Tel: 028 9038 8400

Email: [info@nisra.gov.uk](mailto:info@nisra.gov.uk)

Web: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/>

**Table 2: HSC Northern Ireland Workforce by Trust, December 2017 - Headcount (HC) and WTE**

HSC Organisation	Administration & Clerical		Estates Services		Support Services		Qualified Nursing & Midwifery		Nursing & Midwifery Support Staff		Social Services (excl. Home Helps)		Professional & Technical		Medical		Dental		Ambulance		Northern Ireland Total	
	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE
Belfast HSC Trust	3,452	3,009.5	224	222.9	2,182	1,698.5	5,501	4,855.4	1,773	1,537.9	2,044	1,815.8	3,305	2,914.8	1,725	1,639.6	51	38.8	0	0.0	20,257	17,733.1
Northern HSC Trust	1,846	1,513.2	125	124.7	1,070	767.4	2,907	2,477.0	797	678.9	1,820	1,613.5	1,660	1,387.2	576	536.5	30	19.6	0	0.0	10,831	9,118.0
South Eastern HSC Trust	1,553	1,330.0	86	85.5	1,043	805.0	2,656	2,323.3	758	661.3	1,379	1,207.3	1,261	1,099.1	632	583.2	43	29.5	0	0.0	9,411	8,124.3
Southern HSC Trust	1,823	1,514.0	109	107.8	762	576.2	3,090	2,655.2	788	685.0	1,502	1,335.1	1,485	1,263.9	618	566.9	14	11.7	0	0.0	10,191	8,715.8
Western HSC Trust	1,720	1,510.6	143	143.0	1,091	822.4	2,950	2,682.4	820	727.5	1,367	1,249.7	1,383	1,230.0	548	530.1	49	41.0	0	0.0	10,071	8,936.7
NI Ambulance Service	87	82.8	-	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	0	0.0	1,129	1,101.2	1,220	1,188.0
<b>Trusts Total</b>	<b>10,481</b>	<b>8,960.2</b>	<b>~687</b>	<b>~683.9</b>	<b>6,148</b>	<b>4,669.5</b>	<b>17,104</b>	<b>14,993.3</b>	<b>4,936</b>	<b>4,290.6</b>	<b>8,112</b>	<b>7,221.3</b>	<b>9,094</b>	<b>7,895.1</b>	<b>~4,099</b>	<b>~3,856.3</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>140.6</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>1,101.2</b>	<b>61,981</b>	<b>53,815.9</b>
Business Services Organisation	1,258	1,189.1	-	-	117	111.2	46	43.8	0	0.0	-	-	37	36.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1,460	1,382.9
Health & Social Care Board	404	378.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	0	0.0	6	5.8	42	35.3	28	17.3	13	8.6	0	0.0	496	448.9
NI Blood Transfusion Service	55	43.5	0	0.0	9	6.5	14	11.1	44	38.0	0	0.0	59	55.5	4	4.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	185	158.5
NI Guardian Ad Litem Agency	20	18.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	44	41.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	64	59.2
NI Medical and Dental Training Agency	52	49.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	221	142.4	5	1.9	0	0.0	278	193.8
NI Practice & Education Council	10	9.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	5.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	15	14.6
NI Social Care Council	57	53.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	57	53.0
Patient Client Council	26	24.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	26	24.8
Public Health Agency	228	216.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	25	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	11	9.7	34	32.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	298	283.1
Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority	108	101.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	0	0.0	-	-	5	4.5	5	2.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	121	111.5
<b>Regional Services Total</b>	<b>2,218</b>	<b>2,084.5</b>	<b>~0</b>	<b>~0.0</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>117.7</b>	<b>~90</b>	<b>~84.8</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>~50</b>	<b>~46.8</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>141.9</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>198.0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>2,730.2</b>
<b>Northern Ireland Total</b>	<b>12,699</b>	<b>11,044.6</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>687.9</b>	<b>6,274</b>	<b>4,787.2</b>	<b>~17,194</b>	<b>~15,078.1</b>	<b>4,980</b>	<b>4,328.6</b>	<b>8,164</b>	<b>7,270.1</b>	<b>9,248</b>	<b>8,036.9</b>	<b>~4,391</b>	<b>~4,054.3</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>151.1</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>1,101.2</b>	<b>64,981</b>	<b>56,546.1</b>

Source: HSCNI Human Resources, Payroll, Travel & Subsistence. Figures exclude staff on career breaks, bank staff, Chairs / Members of Boards, Out-of-Hours GPs, and staff with a whole-time equivalent of less than or equal to 0.03.

The recorded whole-time equivalent for home helps does not adequately reflect the full contribution of these staff, due to the variable hours of contracts. Home Helps are therefore excluded from this analysis.

A dashed line (-) represents a cell count between 1 and 4 inclusive. This symbol is used in order to minimise the risk of personal disclosure, where it may be possible to identify an individual from the data provided. As a result of this protocol overall totals are correct although some row and column sub-totals may have been changed; the cells affected have been marked with a tilde (~). This will not affect the accuracy of overall staff totals but may mean that some individual columns or rows do not sum.