

Key Findings

- The Health and Social Care Northern Ireland Workforce, at 30th September 2019, stood at 67,636 (58,960.7 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 15,286 WTE. This represented an increase of 263 WTE (or 1.8%) from the previous September.
- Between September 2015 and September 2019, there was a net increase of 1,331 WTE (18.1%) 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).
- The Medical & Dental workforce increased by 564 WTE (14.4%) between September 2015 and September 2019. The annual increase from September 2018 was 311 WTE (7.5%).

Table 1: HSC Workforce (WTE) September 2015 – September 2019

Staff Group	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	% Change 2015-19	% Change 2018-19
Generic	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%	0.0%
Administration & Clerical	10,979.7	10,907.4	10,981.1	11,075.6	11,445.6	4.2%	3.3%
Estates Services	695.4	688.0	681.9	-704.1	740.1	6.4%	4.7%
Support Services	-4,638.0	4,549.0	4,749.1	4,972.5	5,049.3	8.8%	1.5%
Qualified Nursing & Midwifery	14,724.9	14,920.1	14,898.9	15,023.5	15,286.4	3.8%	1.8%
Nurse Support Staff	4,044.3	4,202.1	4,303.4	4,406.0	4,407.6	9.0%	0.0%
Social Services (excluding Home Helps)	6,855.4	7,032.5	7,210.1	7,349.8	7,696.6	12.3%	4.7%
Professional & Technical	7,345.4	7,589.7	7,961.6	8,194.9	-8,673.3	18.1%	5.9%
Medical & Dental	3,904.8	3,992.2	4,058.7	4,158.1	4,468.8	14.4%	7.5%
Ambulance	1,070.0	1,080.9	1,103.5	1,142.2	1,189.4	11.2%	4.1%
Total	54,258.8	54,961.8	55,948.2	57,029.6	58,960.7	8.7%	3.4%

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Table 2: HSC Northern Ireland Workforce by Trust, September 2019 - 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	3,523	3,097.5	246	241.8	2,311	1,770.0	5,315	4,714.2	1,737	1,507.8	2,159	1,918.5	3,453	3,064.7	1,750	1,656.7	55	43.8	0	0.0	20,549	18,014.9
Northern HSC Trust	1,963	1,616.3	144	143.3	1,120	791.3	2,998	2,563.2	842	714.2	1,876	1,668.5	1,782	1,509.8	597	556.7	24	17.3	0	0.0	11,346	9,580.8
South Eastern HSC Trust	1,581	1,361.2	95	95.0	1,138	865.8	2,827	2,488.0	803	704.6	1,523	1,343.1	1,395	1,230.5	678	626.2	47	32.9	0	0.0	10,087	8,747.2
Southern HSC Trust	1,862	1,534.4	114	113.0	821	635.8	3,119	2,656.2	824	714.8	1,572	1,398.0	1,634	1,399.6	663	605.2	17	12.7	0	0.0	10,626	9,069.7
Western HSC Trust	1,778	1,561.4	141	141.0	1,137	864.9	3,060	2,775.0	822	731.9	1,432	1,317.2	1,486	1,322.6	583	561.6	30	24.5	0	0.0	10,469	9,300.1
NI Ambulance Service	92	88.1	-	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	0	0.0	1,219	1,189.4	1,315	1,281.5
Trusts Total	10,799	9,259.0	~740	~734.1	6,527	4,927.8	17,319	15,196.6	5,028	4,373.3	8,562	7,645.2	9,750	8,527.1	~4,271	~4,006.4	173	131.3	1,219	1,189.4	64,392	55,994.2
Business Services Organisation	1,352	1,281.7	-	-	118	116.2	44	41.6	0	0.0	-	-	40	40.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1,558	1,483.5
Health & Social Care Board	392	370.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	0	0.0	9	8.4	47	38.8	29	17.5	13	8.2	0	0.0	~490	~443.8
NI Blood Transfusion Service	52	43.9	0	0.0	8	5.3	15	11.2	40	34.3	0	0.0	59	56.3	-	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	~174	~151.1
NI Guardian Ad Litem Agency	20	17.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	43	40.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	63	57.8
NI Medical and Dental Training Agency	60	57.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	356	266.5	5	2.1	0	0.0	421	325.5
NI Practice & Education Council	10	9.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	7.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	17	16.6
NI Social Care Council	54	50.8	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	54	50.8
Patient Client Council	24	22.3	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	24	22.3
Public Health Agency	252	237.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	25	24.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	12	11.1	35	31.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	324	304.0
Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority	100	95.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	0	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	111	104.2
Regional Services Total	2,316	2,186.7	~0	~0.0	126	121.5	97	89.8	40	34.3	~52	~48.4	~158	~146.2	~420	~314.9	18	10.3	0	0.0	3,244	2,966.5
Northern Ireland Total	13,115	11,445.6	746	740.1	6,653	5,049.3	17,416	15,286.4	5,068	4,407.6	8,617	7,696.6	~9,908	~8,673.3	4,699	4,327.2	191	141.5	1,219	1,189.4	67,636	58,960.7

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.

Revised as at 23rd July 2021