

Key Findings

- The Health and Social Care Northern Ireland Workforce, at 30th September 2021, stood at 72,564 (63,666.1 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 16,450 WTE. This represented an increase of 616 WTE (or 3.9%) from the previous September.
- Between September 2017 and September 2021, there was a net increase of 1,512 WTE (19.0%) 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 ~869 WTE (21.5%) between September 2017 and September 2021. The annual increase from September 2020 was ~230 WTE (5.0%).

Table 1: HSC Workforce (WTE) September 2017 – September 2021

Staff Group	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change 2017-21	% Change 2020-21
Generic	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%	0.0%
Administration & Clerical	10,981.1	11,075.6	11,445.6	11,887.5	12,548.8	14.3%	5.6%
Estates Services	681.9	~704.1	740.1	~765.0	~789.7	16.3%	3.2%
Support Services	4,749.1	4,972.5	5,049.3	5,196.6	5,223.7	10.0%	0.5%
Qualified Nursing & Midwifery	14,898.9	15,023.5	15,286.4	15,834.3	16,450.2	10.4%	3.9%
Nurse Support Staff	4,303.4	4,406.0	4,407.6	4,691.6	4,650.8	8.1%	-0.9%
Social Services (excluding Home Helps)	7,210.1	7,349.8	7,696.6	~8,042.0	~8,272.3	14.8%	2.8%
Professional & Technical	7,961.6	8,194.9	~8,673.3	~9,166.2	9,473.2	19.0%	3.3%
Medical & Dental	4,058.7	4,158.1	4,468.8	4,698.4	~4,927.9	21.5%	5.0%
Ambulance	1,103.5	1,142.2	1,189.4	1,261.9	1,320.6	19.7%	4.7%
Total	55,948.2	57,029.6	58,960.7	61,553.0	63,666.1	13.8%	3.4%

Responsible Statistician:
Joanne O'Hagan

Statistical Enquiries:
Office hours: 028 90522493

Email: [Workforce Statistics](mailto:Workforce.Statistics@hsc.ni.gov.uk)
Web: [Department of Health](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk)

Media Enquiries:
028 90520575

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: [NISRA](mailto:enquiries@nisra.gov.uk)
Web: [NISRA](http://www.nisra.gov.uk)

Table 2: HSC Northern Ireland Workforce by Trust, September 2021 - 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	3,699	3,275.7	265	259.2	2,460	1,851.9	5,561	5,018.1	1,808	1,581.5	2,245	2,024.8	3,811	3,378.9	1,488	1,393.2	56	46.1	0	0.0	21,393	18,829.4
Northern HSC Trust	2,006	1,670.2	153	152.3	1,114	788.0	3,104	2,708.2	838	713.9	1,912	1,715.1	1,887	1,601.6	488	447.2	20	15.0	0	0.0	11,522	9,811.7
South Eastern HSC Trust	1,636	1,425.5	96	96.0	1,146	869.2	3,200	2,871.9	825	718.7	1,687	1,489.3	1,490	1,319.6	564	514.7	40	28.9	0	0.0	10,684	9,333.8
Southern HSC Trust	2,148	1,780.4	133	131.2	882	676.2	3,313	2,814.6	920	788.1	1,779	1,587.8	1,823	1,559.2	595	539.2	18	14.5	0	0.0	11,611	9,891.3
Western HSC Trust	1,933	1,715.1	145	145.0	1,203	921.4	3,237	2,952.7	904	814.8	1,510	1,408.3	1,616	1,445.9	484	459.8	26	23.1	0	0.0	11,058	9,886.1
NI Ambulance Service	144	140.7	-	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	0	0.0	1,347	1,320.6	1,495	1,465.4
Trusts Total	11,566	10,007.6	-792	-783.7	6,805	5,106.7	18,415	16,365.5	5,295	4,617.0	9,133	8,225.4	10,627	9,305.3	-3,619	-3,354.1	160	127.6	1,347	1,320.6	67,763	59,217.7
Business Services Organisation	1,465	1,403.1	6	6.0	115	112.1	43	40.3	0	0.0	-	-	60	60.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	-1,689	-1,621.5
Health & Social Care Board	422	403.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	0	0.0	7	6.8	44	34.9	26	14.6	12	7.6	0	0.0	-511	-467.4
NI Blood Transfusion Service	55	46.1	0	0.0	6	4.8	16	12.6	38	33.8	0	0.0	58	56.5	5	5.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	178	158.8
NI Guardian Ad Litem Agency	21	18.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	43	40.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	64	58.5
NI Medical and Dental Training Agency	77	74.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1,490	1,375.7	6	2.8	0	0.0	1,573	1,452.8
NI Practice & Education Council	8	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	-8	-8.0
NI Social Care Council	54	52.0	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	54	52.0
Patient Client Council	23	21.2	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	23	21.2
Public Health Agency	496	414.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	24	23.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	13	12.0	45	40.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	578	490.6
Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority	104	100.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	0	0.0	-	-	5	4.5	-	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	115	110.6
Regional Services Total	2,725	2,541.2	6	6.0	121	116.9	92	84.7	38	33.8	-50	-46.9	180	167.9	-1,566	-1,435.8	18	10.4	0	0.0	4,801	4,448.4
Northern Ireland Total	14,291	12,548.8	-798	-789.7	6,926	5,223.7	18,507	16,450.2	5,333	4,650.8	-9,183	-8,272.3	10,807	9,473.2	-5,185	-4,789.9	178	138.0	1,347	1,320.6	72,564	63,666.1

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. Figures include students employed to assist medical and nursing staff during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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.