

The NMC register England

1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022



About us

Our vision is safe, effective and kind nursing and midwifery that improves everyone's health and wellbeing. As the independent regulator of more than 758,000 nursing and midwifery professionals, we have an important role to play in making this a reality.

Our core role is to **regulate**. First, we promote high educational and professional standards for nurses and midwives across the UK, and nursing associates in England. Second, we maintain the register of professionals eligible to practise. Third, we investigate concerns about nurses, midwives and nursing associates – something that affects less than one percent of professionals each year. We believe in giving professionals the chance to address concerns, but we'll always take action when needed.

To regulate well, we **support** our professions and the public. We create resources and guidance that are useful throughout people's careers, helping them to deliver our standards in practice and address new challenges. We also support people involved in our investigations, and we're increasing our visibility so people feel engaged and empowered to shape our work.

Regulating and supporting our professions allows us to **influence** health and social care. We share intelligence from our regulatory activities and work with our partners to support workforce planning and sector-wide decision making. We use our voice to speak up for a healthy and inclusive working environment for our professions.



About our register

We keep the register of all nurses and midwives eligible to practise in the UK, and nursing associates who can practise in England. We currently publish data from our register every six months. Our **previous report** was a mid-year update that we published in November 2021.

How to interpret our data

Our four nation data reports are based on the number of people on our register with an address in the relevant UK country. Some internationally trained professionals who have joined our register have not given us a UK address yet – these people won't be included in any of the four nation data sets, but they will be included in the main UK data set. This means there may be more registered professionals in each UK country than we are able to confirm in our four nation reports.

Not everyone on our permanent register will currently be working as a nurse, midwife or nursing associate, or in the field they're registered in.

People who joined our register in 2021–2022 joined through different processes, depending on whether they were from the UK, the EU/EEA or outside the EU/EEA. Now that the UK has left the EU/EEA, everyone starting an application to join our register from outside the UK follows the same international process¹.

The number of joiners, leavers and total people registered won't add up exactly. That's because the joiners' data only includes people joining the register for the first time. It doesn't include people who re-joined after a break from practising.

The number of joiners and leavers are cumulative totals from the whole year (1 April–31 March). We're working to improve our systems so we can provide a more complete picture of joiners and leavers in the future.

Our permanent register changes every day and can vary considerably from the start of the month to the end of the month. Therefore, our data only offers a snapshot in time. This report gives a snapshot of our register on 31 March 2022.

We continually review the quality and content of our data and information. When improved data or additional information becomes available, we retrospectively update our previously published information. This means that when comparing data in our latest reports against some of our previous publications, you may see small differences in some data.

In March 2020 we established a Covid-19 temporary register to support the UK's response to the coronavirus pandemic. Data from the Covid-19 temporary register is included in its own section at the end of this report.

¹ Under the terms of UK Government legislation, anyone who had submitted a viable application to the NMC before 31 December 2020, remains eligible to complete the application within two years.

Size of our permanent register in England on 31 March 2022

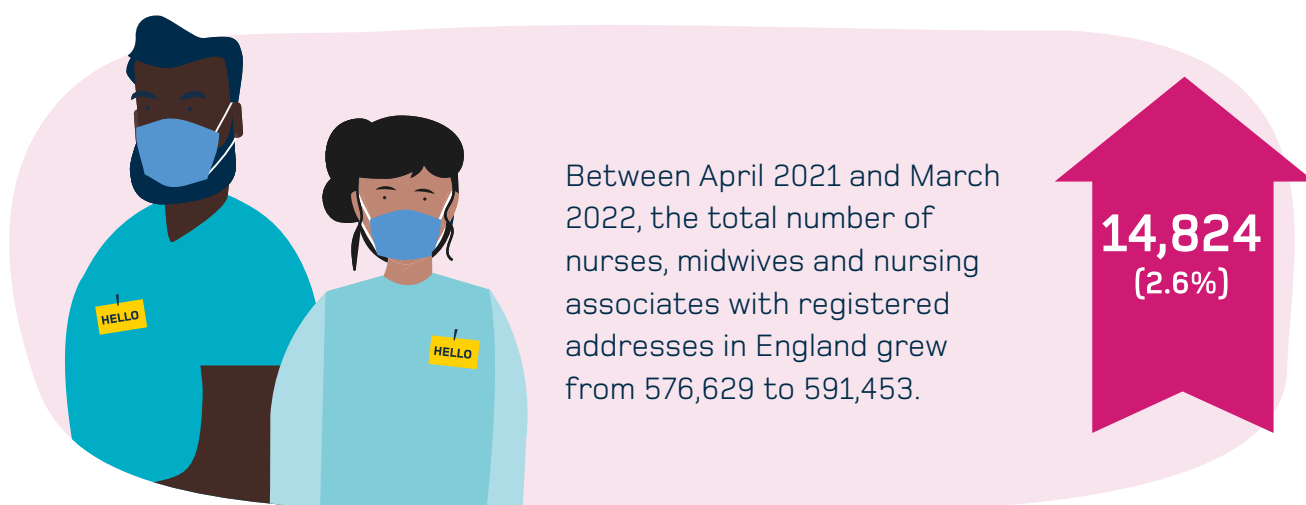


Table 1
Total number of people on the permanent register by registration type with an address in England

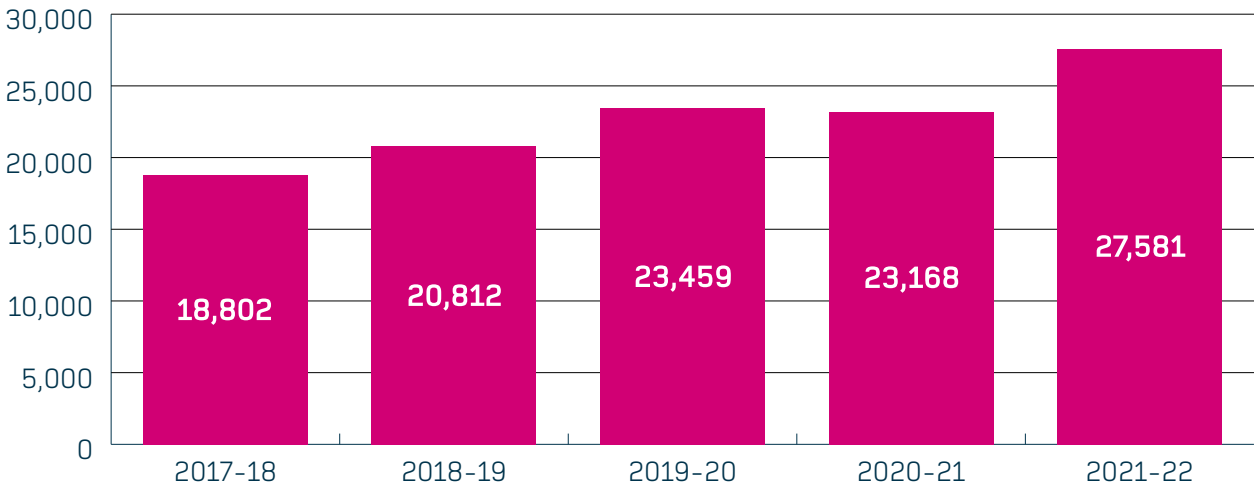
Registration type	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022
Nurse	510,178	515,134	525,073	534,486	546,010
Midwife	29,338	30,335	31,224	32,183	33,119
Dual registrant (nurse and midwife)	6,298	5,882	5,784	5,640	5,478
Nursing associate	n/a	485	1,673	4,320	6,846
Total	545,814	551,836	563,754	576,629	591,453

The nursing associate role was introduced in 2019, in England only. Nursing associates bridge the gap between health and care assistants, and registered nurses.

Joining the permanent register

The number of people joining our permanent register in England for the first time increased by 19 percent (4,413 people). In total 27,581 people joined in 2021–2022. This is a considerable increase in joiners compared to the 1.2 percent decrease in 2020–2021, or the 12.7 percent increase in 2019–2020.

Figure 1
People with an address in England joining the permanent register for the first time

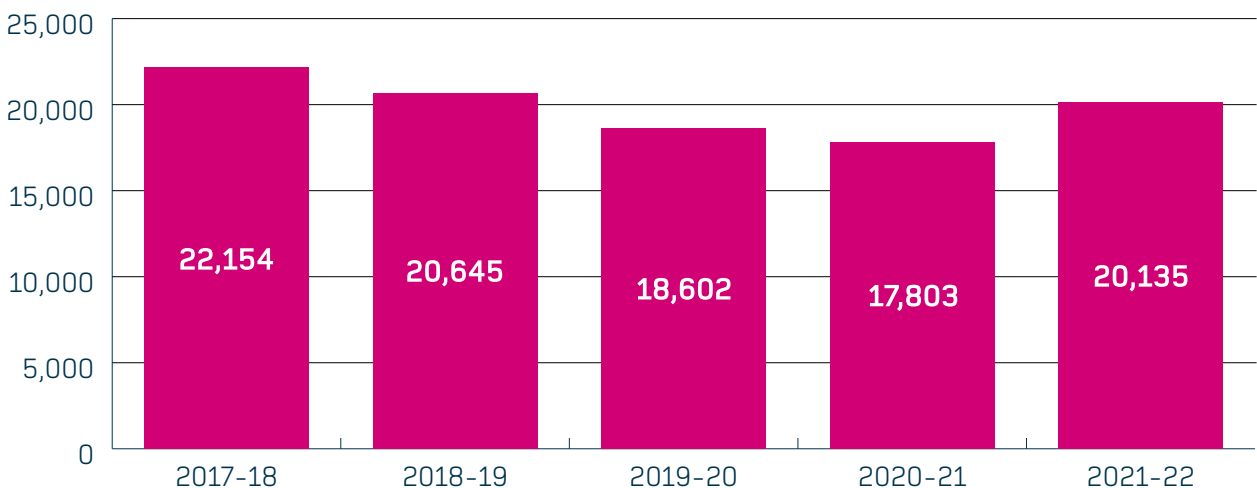


Joiners' data doesn't include those re-joining the register having previously left. Also, the overall number on the register is from one point in time, whereas the joiners' and leavers' data are the sum of activity over twelve months. Therefore, these figures won't add up exactly.

Leaving the permanent register

After a continuous decrease over the past years, the number of people leaving the permanent register in England has increased. In 2021–2022, 20,135 people in England left our permanent register. That's 2,332 (13.1 percent) more than the previous year.

Figure 2
People with an address in England leaving the permanent register



Professionals who trained in the EU/EEA

The number of people on the register in England who trained in the EU/EEA has fallen by 4.1 percent to 23,309. There were marginal reductions in the numbers in each of the top five EU/EEA countries of training, with the most significant dip seen in the number of professionals who trained in Spain, which fell by 14.8 percent. Romania remains the most common EU/EEA country of training.

Table 2
People on the permanent register in England by country of training in the EU/EEA (top five countries)

	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022
Romania	6,396	6,418	6,443	6,499	6,480
Portugal	3,994	3,961	3,921	3,830	3,663
Italy	3,384	3,355	3,323	3,185	2,940
Spain	4,417	3,917	3,397	3,009	2,565
Poland	2,398	2,358	2,296	2,253	2,218

Professionals who trained outside the EU/EEA

The number of people on the register in England who trained outside the EU/EEA has risen by 16.2 percent to 79,673. Professionals trained in Nigeria represent the biggest increase of 47 percent, to a total of 5,477. The Philippines remain the most common non-EU/EEA country of training with 32,078 registered professionals, which is a 12.5 percent increase from the previous year.

Table 3
People on the permanent register in England by country of training outside the EEA (top five countries)

	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022
Philippines	22,005	23,269	25,585	28,521	32,078
India	14,855	15,368	17,368	19,911	23,635
Nigeria	2,678	2,775	3,205	3,725	5,477
Zimbabwe	2,100	2,150	2,232	2,413	2,784
South Africa	2,710	2,672	2,643	2,586	2,522

Profile of the permanent register in England

Age

The number of people aged 31–40 on our permanent register in England saw the biggest increase of 8.4 percent. People in the 61–70 age group also increased significantly by 7.3 percent. Meanwhile those aged 51–55 decreased by 1.6 percent.

Table 4
Age profile of the permanent register in England

	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022				
Below 21	1	1	0%	1	0%	7	+600%	14	+100%
21–30	85,299	85,694	+0.5%	87,563	+2.2%	88,001	+0.5%	87,750	-0.3%
31–40	118,280	121,571	+2.8%	127,607	+5%	135,378	+6.1%	146,722	+8.4%
41–50	153,165	150,800	-1.5%	149,682	-0.7%	149,691	+0.01%	149,563	-0.1%
51–55	86,141	84,480	-1.9%	82,696	-2.1%	80,466	-2.7%	79,199	-1.6%
56–60	63,968	66,769	+4.4%	68,997	+3.3%	71,550	+3.7%	73,002	+2%
61–70	36,699	40,056	+9.1%	44,459	+11%	48,607	+9.3%	52,159	+7.3%
71 and above	2,261	2,465	+9%	2,749	+11.5%	2,929	+6.5%	3,044	+3.9%

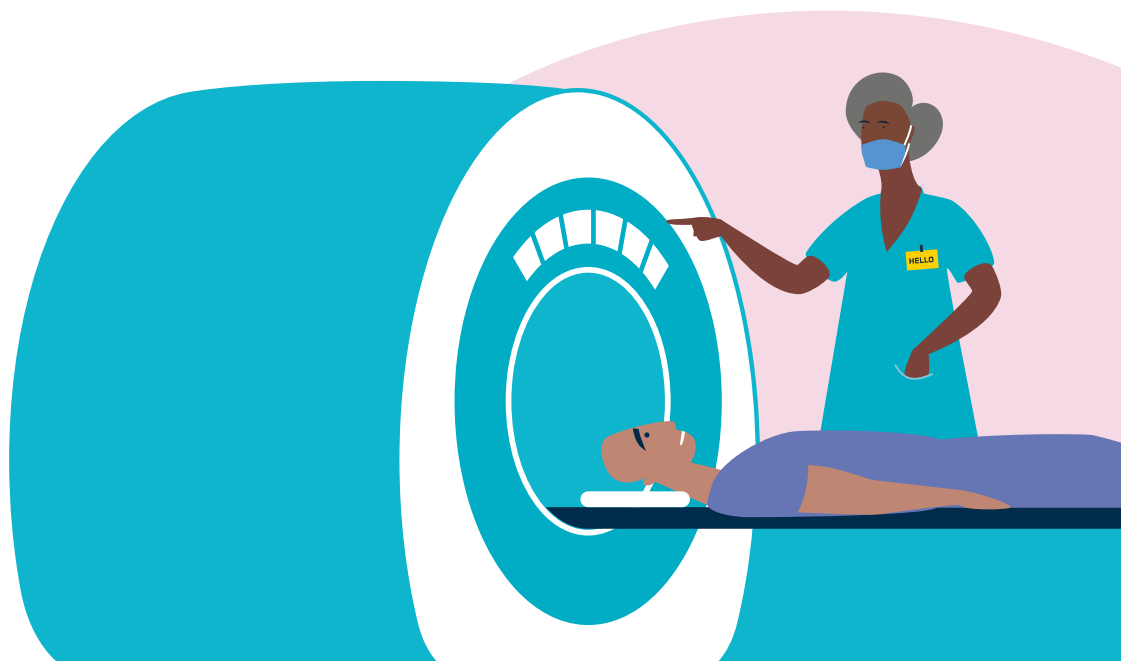
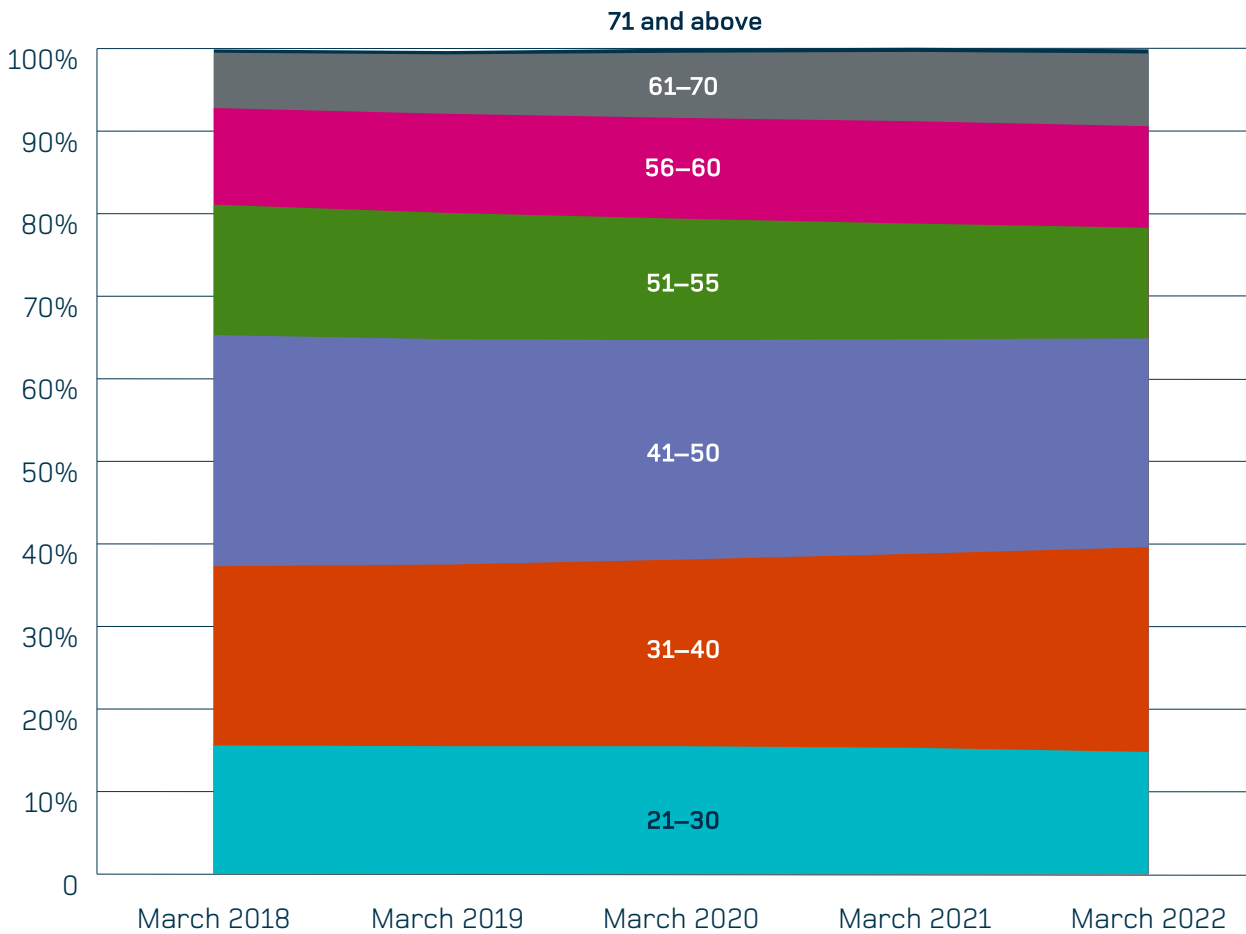


Figure 3
Age profile of the permanent register in England



Gender



88.9%

of people on our permanent register in England identify as female



11.1%

of people on our permanent register in England identify as male

Over the last five years there have been only fractional changes in this gender split, within a one percent swing. Of the 591,453 professionals on the permanent register in England, 4,777 said their gender does not match their sex at birth.

Ethnicity

Table 5

Ethnicity profile of the permanent register in England

	Nurses, midwives and nursing associates
Arab	353
Asian – Any other Asian background	6,508
Asian – Bangladeshi	1,400
Asian – Chinese	1,637
Asian – Filipina/Filipino	31,916
Asian – Indian	27,684
Asian – Pakistani	4,575
Black – African	57,379
Black – Any other black background	1,489
Black – Caribbean	10,834
Mixed – Any other mixed /multiple ethnic background	466
Mixed – White and Asian	2,112
Mixed – White and black African	1,424
Mixed – White and black Caribbean	3,661
Other – Any other ethnic group	6,885
Prefer not to say	15,015
Unknown	3,884
White – Any other white background	27,874
White – English/Welsh/Scottish/ Northern Irish/British	377,909
White – Gypsy or Irish Traveller	105
White – Irish	8,343
Total	591,453

Fields of nursing practice

There are currently four categories of registered nurse, and these are called the four fields of nursing practice. They cover adult, children, learning disabilities, and mental health nursing.

The number of adult nurses on the permanent register in England continues to grow, with an annual increase of 1.9 percent. The number of children's nurses also grew by 2.3 percent.

The number of mental health nurses saw a slight increase by 1.5 percent to a total of 72,490 professionals. There was a marginal decrease in the number of learning disability nurses.

This data doesn't tell us what role nurses are currently working in. Nurses can hold more than one qualification and don't always work in the fields they are registered in.

Table 6
Nurses registered in the four fields of practice in England

	Adult	Children	Learning disabilities	Mental health
March 2022	437,268	45,321	13,203	72,490
March 2021	428,964	44,291	13,381	71,385
March 2020	422,454	43,225	13,480	70,575
March 2019	415,775	42,167	13,473	69,542
March 2018	413,973	41,092	13,520	69,005



SCPHN and specialist practice qualifications

The specialist community public health nursing (SCPHN) title is for registered nurses and midwives working in public health roles. They will have completed SCPHN courses approved by us.

Specialist Practice Qualifications (SPQs) are optional recordable qualifications that meet our standards but do not lead to admission to a part of the register or any protected title and function.

Table 7

Total number of registered Specialist Community and Public Health Nurses with an address in England

	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022
Health visitors	18,481	18,018	17,737	17,668	17,412
School nurses	3,209	3,245	3,281	3,388	3,460
Occupational health nurses	2,555	2,530	2,495	2,442	2,401
SCPHNs without a field of practice	165	164	157	156	156
Family nurses	0	0	0	0	0
Total	24,410	23,957	23,670	23,654	23,429

Table 8**Total number of special/recordable qualifications issued to professionals on the permanent register with an address in England**

	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022
Nurse Independent / Supplementary Prescriber	33,101	36,071	39,499	41,649	45,300
Community Practitioner Nurse Prescriber	31,389	31,504	31,672	31,725	31,655
SP – District Nursing	11,895	11,805	11,667	11,594	11,516
Teacher	3,544	3,796	3,940	3,985	3,922
SP – Adult Nursing	1,653	1,611	1,568	1,526	1,473
Lecturer / Practice Educator	3,606	3,289	3,030	2,797	2,589
SP – General Practice Nursing	1,179	1,166	1,141	1,123	1,099
Nurse Independent Prescriber	982	923	863	820	774
SP – Community Mental Health Nursing	762	721	683	646	620
SP – Community Children’s Nursing	570	574	578	578	586
SP – Mental Health	342	329	316	306	297
SP – Community Learning Disabilities Nursing	308	291	277	268	256
SP – Children’s Nursing	267	258	253	247	237
SP – Learning Disability Nurse	43	42	42	41	42
Total	89,641	92,380	95,529	97,305	100,366

SP = Specialist practitioner

Covid-19 temporary register in England

In March 2020 we established a Covid-19 temporary register to support the UK's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

We initially invited nurses and midwives who had left our permanent register within the last three years to join our Covid-19 temporary register.

In April 2020 we invited two further groups: overseas applicants, including nurses and midwives, who had completed all parts of their NMC registration process except their OSCE (objective structured clinical examination); and nurses and midwives who had left the permanent register within the last four and five years.

In January 2021 we extended our invitation to a further group of overseas-trained nurses in the final stages of their application to join our permanent register. We then opened the Covid-19 temporary register up to those who left our permanent register more recently.

In July 2021 we closed the temporary register to new international joiners. But we reopened it to internationally trained nurses in December 2021, in light of increasing pressures that the pandemic was causing at the time.

We have now received confirmation from the UK Government that our temporary register will close on 30 September 2022. We are supporting eligible professionals to move across to the permanent register, if they want to keep practising after this date.

Table 9
Total people on the Covid-19 temporary register with an address in England

	31 March 2022
Nurse	10,940
Midwife	807
Nurse and midwife	157
Total	11,904

The number of people with an address in England make up 79.6 percent of the Covid-19 temporary register, which compares to 78 percent of the permanent register.

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