



The NMC register

NMC Nursing &
Midwifery
Council

30 SEPTEMBER 2017

About our register



Our register is made up of the people who have met our standards to be able to practise as a nurse or midwife in the UK. Not everyone on our register will currently be working as a nurse or midwife.

The number of people registered with us fluctuates throughout the year, following a seasonal pattern. We see a larger number of people joining the register for the first time during September and October than in other months – this is because most nurses and midwives graduate from university in September in the UK.

Interpreting our data

In 2017 we introduced new processes that meant people who trained in the UK could join the register faster than before. People can now join the register within a day whereas in the past it could have taken several weeks.

This means that people who would have previously had to wait until October to join the register had their registration processed in September.

As a result the number of people joining the register in September this year is much higher than it has been in the previous years. This does not mean that more people are joining the register; we expect October 2017 to show a smaller number of people registering with us than in previous years.

Size of the register

In September 2017 there were 1678 fewer nurses and midwives on our register than in September 2016.

The total number of people on our register reached a peak in 2016.

More people are leaving the register than are joining it. 35,363 people left the register between October 2016 and September 2017 and 27,786 joined it (27 percent more people leaving than joining).

This decrease is driven in part by more people from the UK leaving the register than joining it. We also saw fewer people from the EEA joining the register and more people from the EEA leaving the register.

FIGURE 1: THE MAKE-UP OF THE REGISTER BY COUNTRY OF INITIAL REGISTRATION

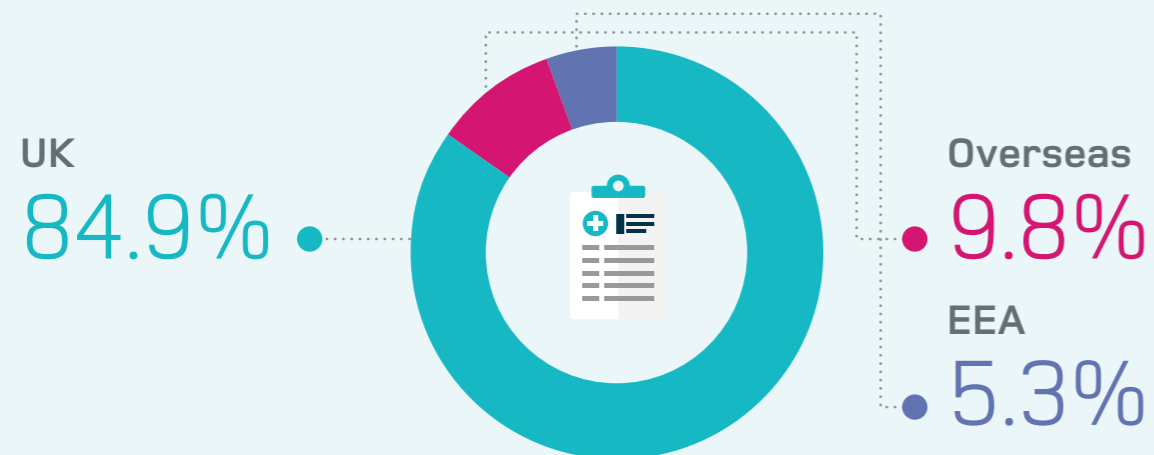


FIGURE 2: TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE REGISTER ON 30 SEPTEMBER

Month and year	Number of people on the register
September 2013	672,370
September 2014	680,009
September 2015	687,001
September 2016	691,416
September 2017	689,738 ¹

27%
more people are leaving the register than are joining

In September 2017 there were

1678 ↓

fewer nurses and midwives on our register than in September 2016

35,363

people left the register between October 2016 and September 2017

27,786

people joined the register for the first time

¹ This number is higher than the same point in previous years by about 4000 people. Changes to our systems mean that people who would previously have had to wait until October to join the register have had their registration processed in September 2017.

Nurses and midwives from the UK

The number of people leaving the register was higher last year than the number of people from the UK joining it.

The number of people from the UK joining the register is in line with previous years when you discount the additional September registrations. 24,204 people from the UK joined the register between October 2016 and September 2017, but this number is higher than the same point in previous years by about 4000 people.

29,019 from the UK left the register between October 2016 and September 2017, nine percent more than during the previous year.

FIGURE 3: NURSES AND MIDWIVES WHOSE INITIAL REGISTRATION WAS IN THE UK

Month and year	Number of people on the register
September 2013	586,590
September 2014	589,773
September 2015	589,472
September 2016	585,369
September 2017	585,796 ¹

24,204¹ →

people from the UK joined the register between October 2016 and September 2017

29,019 ↑

from the UK left the register between October 2016 and September 2017.

¹ This number is higher than the same point in previous years by about 4000 people. Changes to our systems mean that people who would previously have had to wait until October to join the register have had their registration processed in September 2017.



Nurses and midwives from the EEA

Nurses and midwives from the EEA make up around five percent of the register.

The number of people from the EEA on the register has decreased by 2733 between September 2016 and September 2017.

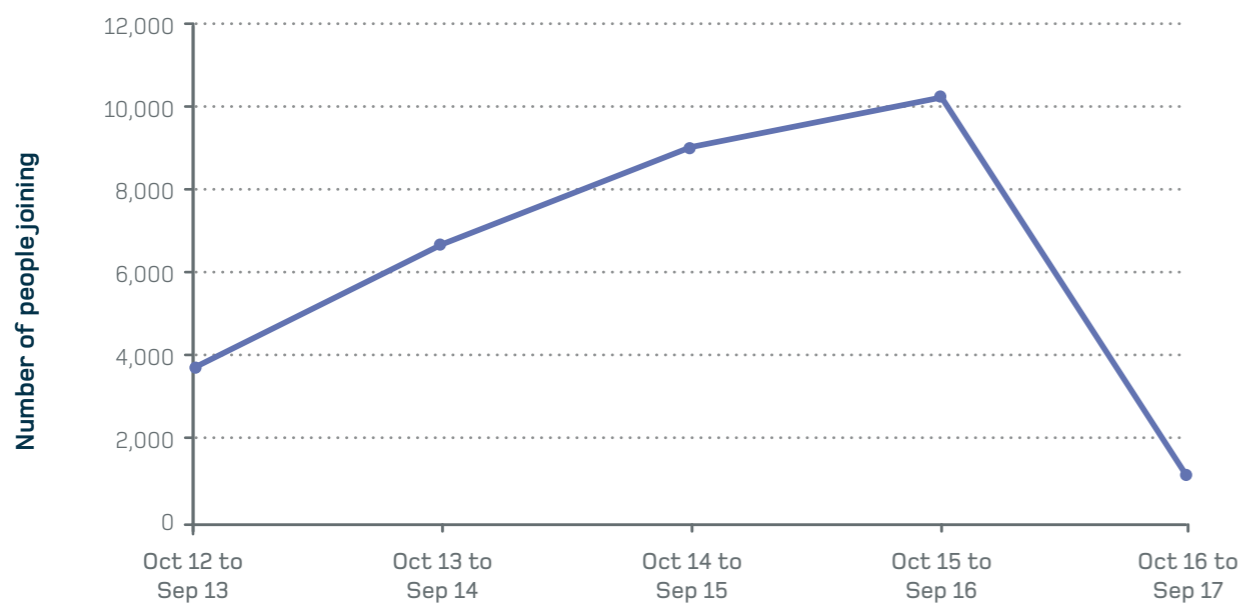
1107 people from the EEA joined the register this year, a decrease of 89 percent from the previous year, when 10,178 people from the EEA joined the register.

The number of people joining the register from the EEA decreased sharply in the last year, and the number of EEA nurses and midwives leaving the register increased by 67 percent from 2435 last year to 4067 this year.

FIGURE 4: NURSES AND MIDWIVES WHOSE INITIAL REGISTRATION WAS IN THE EEA

Month and year	Number of people on the register
September 2013	18,224
September 2014	23,673
September 2015	31,099
September 2016	38,992
September 2017	36,259

FIGURE 5: NURSES AND MIDWIVES FROM THE EEA JOINING THE REGISTER



1107 ↓ 89%

people from the EEA joined the register between October 2016 and September 2017

4067 ↑ 67%

EEA nurses and midwives left the register between October 2016 and September 2017

FIGURE 6: EEA COUNTRIES BY CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PEOPLE JOINING THE REGISTER

Training country	Average initial registrations per year – October 2012 to September 2016	Initial registrations October 2016 to September 2017	Change
Spain	1966	104	-95%
Portugal	1127	73	-94%
Poland	305	34	-89%
Romania	1604	216	-87%
Italy	1325	187	-86%
Ireland	381	204	-46%

The six countries in Figure 6 account for 90 percent of the people from the EEA joining the register between October 2012 and September 2016.

Nurses and midwives from outside the EEA

The overall number of people on the register who initially registered outside the EEA has remained steady for the last five years.

FIGURE 7: NURSES AND MIDWIVES WHOSE INITIAL REGISTRATION WAS OUTSIDE THE EEA

Month and year	Number of people on the register
September 2013	67,556
September 2014	66,563
September 2015	66,430
September 2016	67,055
September 2017	67,683

Nurses and midwives leaving the register

The change in the overall number of nurses and midwives registered with us is largely driven by an increase in the number of people leaving the register.

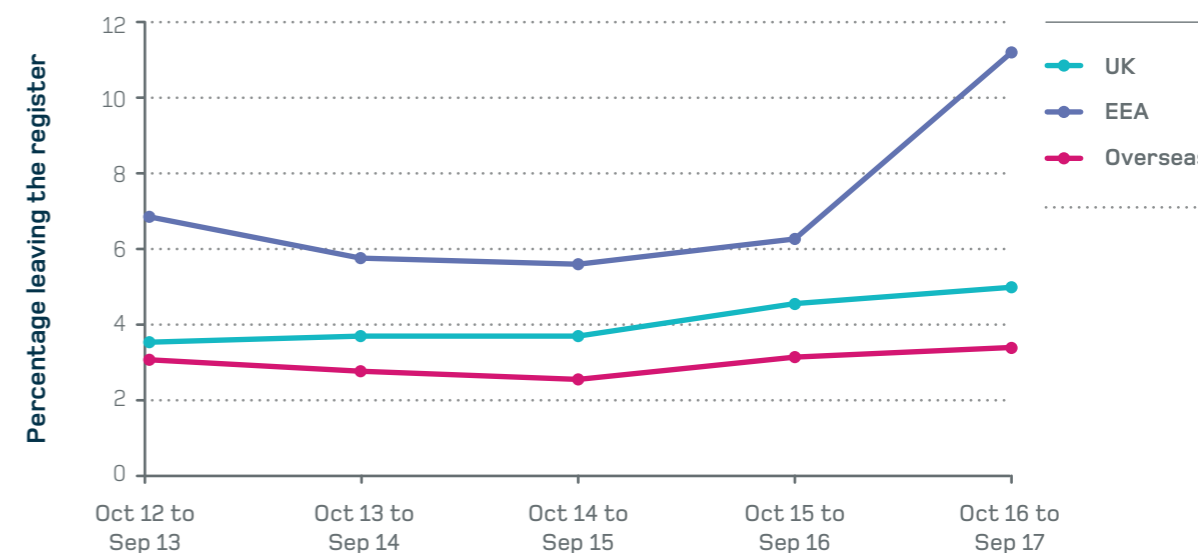
FIGURE 8: NUMBER OF PEOPLE LEAVING THE REGISTER BY COUNTRY OF INITIAL REGISTRATION

Country of initial Registration	October 2012 to September 2013	October 2013 to September 2014	October 2014 to September 2015	October 2015 to September 2016	October 2016 to September 2017
UK	20,878	21,336	22,094	26,653	29,019
EEA	1240	1354	1743	2435	4067
OS	2074	1814	1684	2090	2277
Total	24,192	24,504	25,521	31,178	35,363

Figure 9 shows the proportion of people leaving the register by country of initial registration (for example, in 2016-2017 5.4 percent of people whose country of initial

registration was the UK left the register). The proportion of people from the EEA leaving the register showed a steep increase from October 2016 to September 2017.

FIGURE 9: NURSES AND MIDWIVES LEAVING THE REGISTER AS A PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF THAT GROUP ON THE REGISTER



Age profile of the register

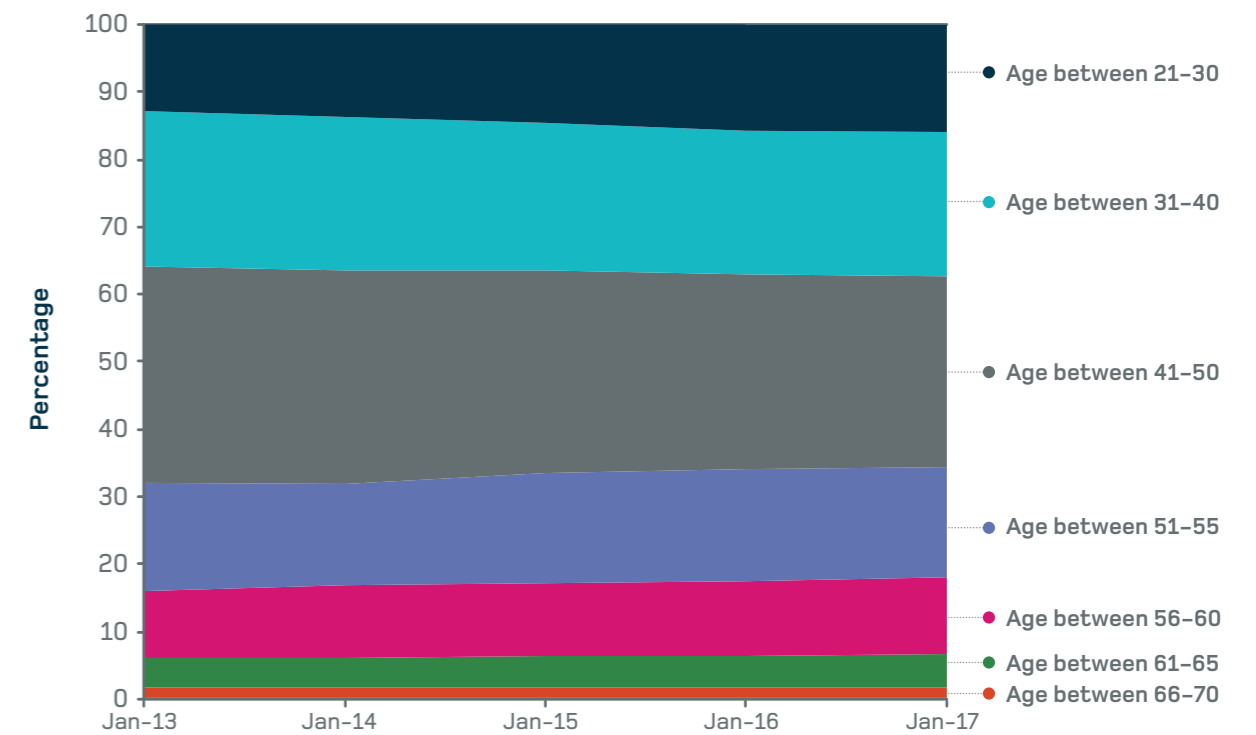
The two largest age groups on our register are 41–50 (194,268 people) and 51–60 (191,612 people).

The 51–60 age group increased by 999 people in the last year, but the 41–50 age group decreased by 5641. The age group 21–30 also increased last year by 1972 people.

FIGURE 10: AGE PROFILE OF THE REGISTER OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS

Age Group	September 2013	September 2014	September 2015	September 2016	September 2017
Under 21	24	18	33	40	75
Between 21–30	85,492	92,495	100,098	107,836	109,808
Between 31–40	155,017	151,729	149,461	148,835	148,255
Between 41–50	216,910	211,975	206,245	199,909	194,268
Between 51–55	107,379	110,460	112,145	112,981	111,745
Between 56–60	67,386	71,612	75,448	77,632	79,867
Between 61–65	29,100	30,046	31,439	32,531	34,476
Between 66–70	8848	9301	9562	9116	8764
Between 71–75	1830	1986	2137	2097	2047
Over 75	384	387	433	439	433

FIGURE 11: AGE PROFILE OF THE REGISTER



Endnotes

- i Throughout this report, joining the register refers to people who are registering with us for the first time. These numbers do not include people who are being re-admitted to the register or who are joining the register having completed return to practice courses.

