

The NMC Register England

1 April 2025 –
31 March 2026



Our unique data give an account of the nursing and midwifery workforce in England – how many people are joining and leaving the professions, where they were educated, their demographic characteristics and more. The data are based on people who have given us an address in England.

The big picture

There are a record **678,572** professionals on the NMC Register with an address in England. That's **20,690** more than in March 2025.

The number of professionals with an address in England continued to grow, but at a slower rate than the previous year. Growth slowed from **3.7%** in March 2025 to **3.1%** in March 2026. This was a smaller reduction than the UK overall, where growth slowed from **3.3%** to **1.7%** over the same period.

A total of **30,724** professionals living in England joined the Register for the first time between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026. That is a decrease of **4,919 (-13.8%)** from the **35,643** new joiners reported in March 2025.

The highest rate of increase was amongst nursing associates (**11.1%**).

Meanwhile, **22,687** professionals living in England left the Register. That is an **increase of 1,378 (6.5%)** compared to the previous year (**21,309** in 2024-25).

¹ The nursing associate role was introduced in 2019. Nursing associates can currently only practise in this role in England.

678,572

professionals
in England

An increase of

20,690

+3.1%

As of March 2026,
compared with
March 2025



Nurses

+2.9%

619,329



Midwives

+4.6%

40,105



**Dual
registrants**

-1.3%

5,033



**Nursing
associates¹**

+11.1%

14,105

Between 1 April 2025
and 31 March 2026,
compared to the
same period 2024-25



**Joined the
Register**

-13.8%

30,724



**Left the
Register**

+6.5%

22,687

The increasing diversity of the Register

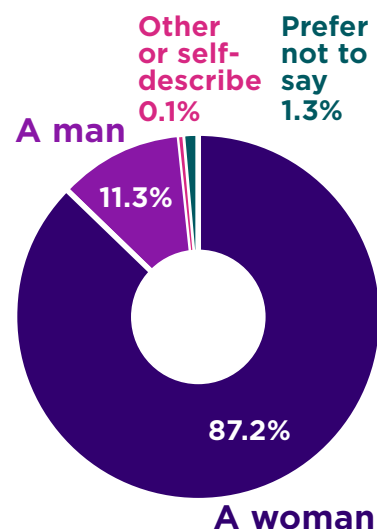
Professionals from Black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds now make up **36% (244,462)** of the total Register in England. That's **2.1 percentage points higher** than last year (**33.9%**).

While the nursing and midwifery professions are increasingly diverse, nurses, midwives and nursing associates are experiencing unacceptable racism and discrimination while delivering care. **Spotlight**, the NMC's 2025 annual insight report, reported that **40%** of the professionals who responded to our annual survey said they had experienced discrimination in the previous year, most often on grounds of ethnicity or age. This is devastating for those individuals and it affects care experience and quality.

It's incumbent upon everyone working in health and care to confront racism and discrimination.

We published **principles to support anti-racism in midwifery and nursing education and practice** because our professions have a right to learn and work in environments that support equity and fairness. They are intended to drive real change ahead of our consultation on revisions to the Code which will include proposals to strengthen the expectation that registrants recognise, challenge and disrupt racism.

Gender split of professionals living in England (% of the Register)



As of March 2026

7,970 people have declared a disability²



² There has been a decrease in the number of professionals in England declaring a disability. This is likely to reflect changes in how disability data is captured, rather than a reduction in disability across the workforce.

International joiners

Our data relating to internationally educated professionals in our four nation reports can never be definitive. This is because professionals may not yet have a registered UK address at the point of registration. This means there may be international professionals working in England who aren't included in this data because they have yet to provide us with their UK address.

We encourage all international joiners to our Register to update their details through [MyNMC](#) at the earliest opportunity.

As of March 2026, **162,050** professionals on the Register in England were educated outside the UK. This is an increase of **13,577 (9.1%)** compared with the previous year.

Our latest data show that at least **6,264** professionals living in England who were educated internationally joined the Register between April 2025 and March 2026. This is a decrease of **37.4%** compared with the number who joined in the previous 12 months (**10,007**).

Last year the top three countries of training for internationally educated new joiners were the Philippines, India and Ghana. This year, the Philippines has moved out of the top three with Ghana and Nigeria the second and third-highest countries of training.

This means that two of the biggest sources of international joiners – Nigeria and Ghana – are 'red list' countries. Active recruitment from these countries is prohibited by the Department of Health and Social Care's [code of practice](#) which upholds ethical standards on recruitment and supports global health equity. Nurses, midwives and nursing associates are nevertheless free to make their own decisions about where to practise. We appreciate the contribution of all internationally educated registrants.

Fields of practice

Children's nursing and mental health nursing both grew by **3.6%**, faster than the overall growth in England. Adult nursing grew by **2.6%**, while learning disabilities nursing – which had seen a very small increase in March 2025 – fell slightly by **0.7%** in March 2026. This broadly mirrors the UK-wide picture.

Countries from which we receive the highest numbers of new internationally educated joiners (% change since 2024-25)

- 1 India**
2,350 ↓ -40.2%
- 2 Ghana**
984 ↓ -13.3%
- 3 Nigeria**
681 ↓ -36.4%

Fields of practice, change in the last 12 months

- Adult nurses**
488,764
↑ +2.6%
- Children's nurses**
51,702
↑ +3.6%
- Mental health nurses**
83,822
↑ +3.6%
- Learning disabilities nurses**
12,878
↓ -0.7%
- Specialist community public health nurses**
22,300
↓ -1.5%

Why are people leaving the Register in England?

Since 2017 we've run an annual survey of professionals who left our Register.

Responses to [this year's survey](#) show similar findings to last year. Retirement remains the top reason for those leaving in England, followed by physical or mental health. In England, most leavers were unlikely to recommend their profession. This is consistent with the UK-wide picture.

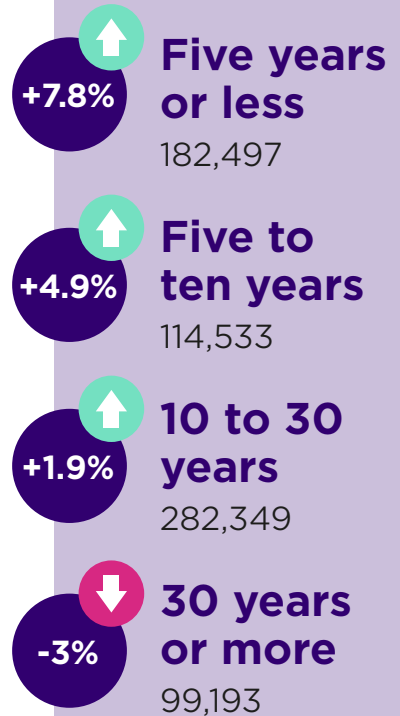
Sharing our insights to support the sector

We hope that this overview of our Register in England, alongside our comprehensive [data tables](#) and leavers' survey summary can be used by partners and the wider sector in their workforce planning. If you have questions about our insight or ideas for how we might improve the usefulness of this report, please get in touch via research@nmc-uk.org.



Emma Westcott
Executive Director
Strategy and Insight

Length of time since initial registration, change in the last 12 months³



³ Length of time since first registration does not necessarily mean unbroken or continuous registration. Many registrants leave the register for a variety of reasons, for one or more periods during their careers

We shouldn't forget that behind our data are dedicated professionals who provide safe and effective care to people every day. We're grateful for everything they do for the people and communities they serve.



Who we are and what we do

Our vision is for safe and effective nursing and midwifery practice across the four countries of the UK – regulated and supported by the NMC – a fit for the future organisation, with fairness and equity at the heart of everything we do.

Our role is to **protect the public and maintain confidence** in the nursing and midwifery professions. As the largest independent regulator in Europe of more than **867,000** nursing and midwifery professionals, we have a crucial role in making this a reality.

We do this by **setting and promoting high education and professional standards** for all future and registered nurses and midwives in the UK and nursing associates in England.

We also ensure every nurse, midwife and nursing associate on our Register meets **clear standards of conduct** and practice which protects the public and the reputation of our professions.

We have a duty to **investigate concerns** and to take steps to **protect the public** in the relatively rare instances where we need to limit or restrict a nurse, midwife or nursing associate's right to practise.

We are building a new NMC with integrity, fairness, respect, equity and effectiveness at its core.

We are determined to **improve and modernise our culture and ways of working**. This will ensure that the public and professionals feel confident in our work.

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 The Nursing and Midwifery Council

The nursing and midwifery regulator for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
Registered charity in England and Wales (1091434) and in Scotland (SC038362).

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