

# The NMC Register England mid-year update

1 April –  
30 September 2025



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

As of 30 September, there are now **666,652** nurses, midwives and nursing associates on the Register in England – that's **1.3% (8,770)** more than six months ago. This compares to **0.8%** growth of the Register as a whole across the four countries of the UK.

However, the rate of growth in England is slower than the same period last year, when the Register grew by **1.9% (11,952)**. This is mainly due to a reduction in the number of internationally educated professionals joining the Register for the first time in England.

A total of **15,673** professionals in England joined the Register in the six months to 30 September, **12.6% (2,250)** fewer than during the same period last year. This included **17.1% (2,604)** fewer nurses. However, the number of midwives who joined was **0.5% (7)** higher than in the same period last year. There were also more nursing associate joiners: **24.6% (347)**.

It is important to note that the data included in this report are captured on 30 September – in the middle of the peak period for new cohorts of graduates joining the Register.

The 12-month view provided by our annual registration report is a more reliable source for the numbers of new joiners than the mid-year report, because the bulk of the cohort may join the Register after the mid-year data is collected.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> When looking at the whole year since September 2024, our data show an increase of 3.1% (666,652). This is 0.6% slower compared to the year before (September 2023 – September 2024).

**666,652**

professionals  
in England

An increase of

**8,770**

since April

**+1.3%**



**Nurses**

**+1.2%**

609,041



**Midwives**

**+2.3%**

39,227



**Dual  
registrants**

**-0.6%**

5,064



**Nursing  
associates**

**+4.9%**

13,320

In the last six months,  
compared to the  
same period in 2024



**15,673**

joined the  
Register

**-12.6%**



**11,268**

left the  
Register

**+7.4%**

## Ethnic diversity continues to grow

The Register has become more ethnically diverse over time.

The proportion of Black, Asian and minority ethnic professionals in England increased to **34.7%** in the six months to September 2025. That's **0.9 percentage points higher** than on 1 April (**33.9%**) and **11.3 percentage points more** than five years ago (**23.4%**).

This makes it more important than ever that the whole health and care sector takes a zero-tolerance approach to racism and discrimination. At the NMC, we are committed to ensuring this through our Culture Transformation Plan – this has included signing UNISON'S Anti-Racism Charter and increasing the ethnic diversity among our Fitness to Practise panel members. We have also pledged to de-bias our regulatory processes, as well as de-bias Fitness to Practise referrals from employers and outcomes in nursing and midwifery education and training.

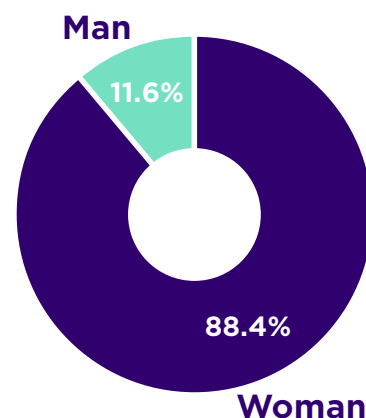


**34.7%**

of the Register are Black, Asian and minority ethnic professionals. In 2020, **23.4%** of the Register were Black, Asian and minority ethnic.



### Gender split of the Register



As of September 2025

**44 years, 6 months**

was the average age of people on the Register



Register as of September 2025

**77.0%**

UK educated

**23.0%**

Internationally educated



## International recruitment

Our data relating to internationally educated professionals in our four nation reports can never be definitive 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 know that at least **3,431** internationally educated professionals in England joined the Register. That's a **38.4%** decrease compared to the **5,566** international joiners during the same period last year. This broadly reflects the UK-wide picture of a sharp fall in international recruitment.

India remains the largest single source of international recruitment in England. In the past six months at least **1,303** professionals in England who joined the Register were from India – a drop of **39.2%** from **2,143** during the same period in 2024.

## Overall retention

The number of leavers in England has increased, with **11,268** professionals leaving the Register in the last six months. However, it's important to view leavers as a proportion of those on the Register. Through this lens, we see that **1.7%** of the Register in England left over the past six months – matching the **1.7%** who left during the same period last year.



New joiners from non-UK countries of education in the last six months, and change from the same period in 2024

**1 India**  
1,303 ↓ -39.2%

**2 Ghana**  
525 ↑ +2.5%

**3 Nigeria**  
368 ↓ -40.9%

In the last six months compared to the same period in 2024

**+8.5%** **1,768** people leaving the Register were internationally educated

Length of time since initial registration, change in the last six months

**+3.3%** **Five years or less**  
174,904

**+4.1%** **Five to 10 years**  
113,711

**-0.01%** **10 to 30 years**  
277,140

**-1.3%** **30 years or more**  
100,897

## Sharing insights to support the sector

We hope this overview, alongside our comprehensive data tables, will support workforce planning and education commissioning across the four countries of the UK – ensuring the most effective delivery of services that people and communities rely on for their health and wellbeing.

If you have questions about our data or ideas for how we might improve the usefulness of this report, please get in touch on [research@nmc-uk.org](mailto:research@nmc-uk.org).



**Paul Rees MBE**  
Chief Executive and Registrar

A handwritten signature of Paul Rees in black ink.

As of  
September 2025

**11,107**  
professionals  
declared a  
disability

1.7%

As of September  
2025, and change in  
the last six months

 **Adult  
nurses**  
481,506

+1%

 **Children's  
nurses**  
50,947

+2.1%

 **Learning  
disabilities  
nurses**  
12,934

-0.2%

 **Mental  
health  
nurses**  
82,198

+1.6%

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

The NMC's 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 860,000 nursing and midwifery professionals, we have a crucial role in making this a reality.

We do this by ensuring that every registered nurse, midwife or nursing associate has benefitted from **effective education**. We promote high education and professional standards for nurses and midwives across 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 nursing or midwifery professional'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.

As part of this we will focus on **strengthening our core regulatory work** and investing in enhanced effectiveness.

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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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**Nursing &  
Midwifery  
Council**