

# The NMC Register Northern Ireland mid-year update

1 April –  
30 September 2025



Our unique data give an account of the nursing and midwifery workforce in Northern Ireland – 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 Northern Ireland.

## The big picture

As of 30 September, there are now a record **29,797** nurses, midwives and nursing associates on the Register in Northern Ireland – that's **0.4%** (**131**) 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 is much slower compared to the same period last year when the Register grew by **1.7%** in six months (**488** professionals). This is mainly due to a reduction in the number of people in Northern Ireland joining the Register for the first time.

A total of **421** professionals in Northern Ireland joined the Register in the six months to 30 September – **40.3%** (**284**) fewer than in the same period last year. This includes **40.6%** (**284**) fewer nurses. The number of midwives joining the Register remained the same compared to the same period last year (five).

There was a particularly large dip in domestic joiners. **297** people joined in the six months to 30 September 2025. That's **-43.3%** compared to the **524** professionals who joined during the same period the year before.

**29,797**

professionals in Northern Ireland

An increase of

**131**

since April

+0.4%

**+0.6%** **Nurses**  
28,129

**-2.1%** **Midwives**  
1,323

**+1.5%** **Dual registrants**  
343

**+100%** **Nursing associates<sup>1</sup>**  
2

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

**-40.3%** **421** joined the Register

**+7.0%** **504** left the Register

<sup>1</sup> The nursing associate role was introduced in 2019. Nursing associates can only practise in this role in England.

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>2</sup>

## Ethnic diversity continues to grow

The profile of people in Northern Ireland on the Register continues to become more ethnically diverse over time.

The proportion of all Black, Asian and minority ethnic professionals in Northern Ireland increased to **15.1%** in the six months to 30 September 2025. That's **0.7 percentage points higher** than on 1 April (**14.4%**) and **1.2 percentage points more** compared to the same period last year (**13.9%**).

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.

<sup>2</sup> When looking at the whole year since September 2024, our data show an increase of 2.0% (29,797). This is 1.1% slower compared to the year before (September 2023 – September 2024).

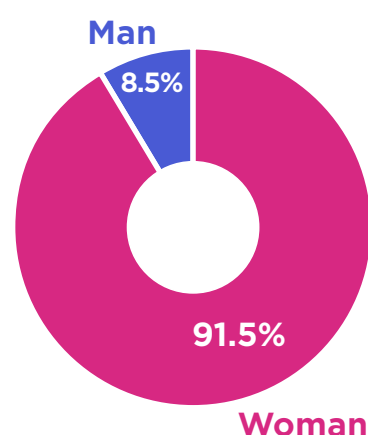


**15.1%**

of the Register are Black, Asian and minority ethnic professionals. In 2020, **8.3%** of the Register were Black, Asian and minority ethnic.



## Gender split of the Register



## As of September 2025

**43 years, 7 months**

was the average age of people on the Register



## Register as of September 2025

**83.2%**

UK educated

**16.8%**

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 Northern Ireland who aren't included in this data because they have yet to provide us with their UK address.

We know that at least **124** internationally educated professionals in Northern Ireland joined the Register. That's a **31.5%** decrease compared to the **181** international joiners during the same period last year. This broadly reflects the UK-wide picture of a sharp fall in international recruitment.

India is the largest single source of international recruitment in Northern Ireland. In the past six months at least **77** professionals in Northern Ireland joined from India – a drop of **21.4%** from 98 during the same period in 2024.

## Overall retention

The number of people in Northern Ireland leaving the Register has marginally increased, with **504** leaving in the last six months. As a proportion of the Register, we see that **1.7%** left over the past six months, a marginal increase from **1.6%** 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**  
77 ↓ -21.4%
- 2 Zimbabwe**  
11 ↑ +120.0%
- 3 Philippines**  
10 ↓ -63.0%

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



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



## 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 stylized, handwritten signature of Paul Rees in a light blue color.



As of  
September 2025

1.3%

**373**

professionals  
declared a  
disability

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

+0.7%



**Adult  
nurses**

23,041

+0.2%



**Children's  
nurses**

2,122

+0.9%



**Learning  
disabilities  
nurses**

833

-0.7%



**Mental  
health  
nurses**

3,218

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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Midwifery  
Council**

