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About this release

This release by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) provides a quarterly update, as at 31 December 2023. This includes the number of staff directly employed by NHSScotland and the number of vacant posts there were for nursing and midwifery staff, allied health professions, and medical and dental consultants. When describing the size of a particular staff group figures are presented either as headcount (actual number of staff) or whole time equivalent (WTE) which adjusts the headcount to take account of part time working.

Key Workforce Figures



160,567.7 | Number of Staff employed
by NHSScotland (186,347 HC)

+1.4%
Quarter
change

+3.0%
Annual
change

+14.1%
5 Years
change

+18.9%
10 Years
change

MEDICAL AND DENTAL

KEY FIGURES



6,006.2 | NUMBER OF CONSULTANTS
EXCLUDING DIRECTORS (WTE)

▲ 1.7% INCREASE OVER THE LAST YEAR.

38 years | MEDICAL AND
DENTAL MEDIAN AGE

436.4 | NUMBER OF
VACANCIES (WTE)

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

KEY FIGURES



66,883.6 | NUMBER OF STAFF
(WTE)

▲ 3.3% INCREASE OVER THE LAST YEAR.

43 years | NURSING AND
MIDWIFERY MEDIAN AGE

4,096.5 | NUMBER OF
VACANCIES (WTE)

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

KEY FIGURES



13,926.3 | NUMBER OF STAFF (WTE)

▲ 5.0% INCREASE OVER THE LAST YEAR.

41 years | ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS MEDIAN AGE

770.7 | NUMBER OF VACANCIES (WTE)

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

KEY FIGURES



30,054.1 | NUMBER OF STAFF (WTE)

▲ 2.9% INCREASE OVER THE LAST YEAR.

48 years | ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE MEDIAN AGE

Background

Information on staff directly employed is sourced from each NHS Board's human resources and payroll systems. These are dynamic, operational systems and data can change over time. Work is undertaken with NHS Boards to improve data quality and previously published information may change from one publication to the next to reflect these improvements.

More information is available on [Turas Data Intelligence](#).

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NHS Performs

A selection of information from this publication is included in NHS Performs.

NHS Performs is a website that brings together a range of information on how hospitals and NHS Boards within NHSScotland are performing.

NES and Official Statistics

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) is NHSScotland's education and training body. It is the authoritative source of information on the people who work for NHSScotland. NES became an accredited provider of Official Statistics in December 2019 and as such this release is produced in accordance with UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Statistics.