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Royal College
of Nursing

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Published by the Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, London, W1G 0RN

Contents

1. Introduction and commentary



had left the register between June 2016 and May 2017 and were asked to indicate their top three

From 4,544 responses, around half cited

number of nurses between 2007 and 2017 of 24%. However, it is notable that there was a decrease of 4.8% between 2007 and 2010. There were estimated to be around 648,572 people

nurse in 2017 – a fall of 2.6% since 2016.

There are an estimated 327,451 people in

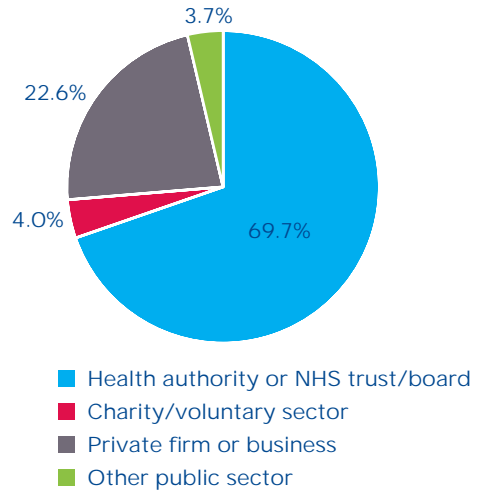
and assistants in the UK in 2017, representing a rise of 47% since 2007.

around 42,286 people in employment in this category in the UK in 2017, having risen by 5.4% since 2007.

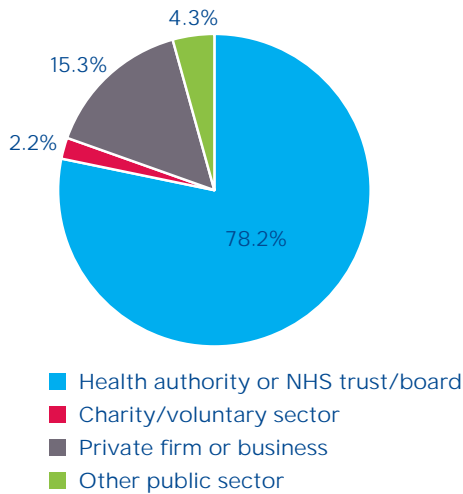
people in employment rose by 7.5% from just over 25 million to just under 27 million.

Figures 5 and 6 provide an analysis of LFS data

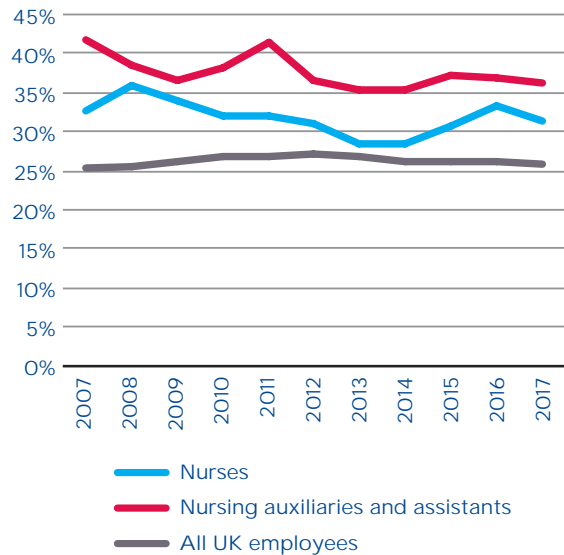
nurses (79.2%) and nursing auxiliaries/assistants (69.7%) work for health authorities or NHS trusts/boards. Around one in seven nurses and one in five nursing auxiliaries/assistants work in



Source: Analysis of Labour Force Survey January-March 2017



Source: Analysis of Labour Force Survey January-March 2017



Source: Analysis of the Labour Force Survey 2007-2017

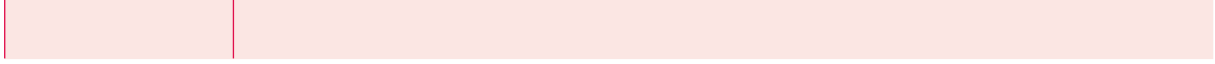
In 2007, a third (32%) of nurses reported working part time, dropping to 28% in 2013 and then moving back up to 31% in 2017.

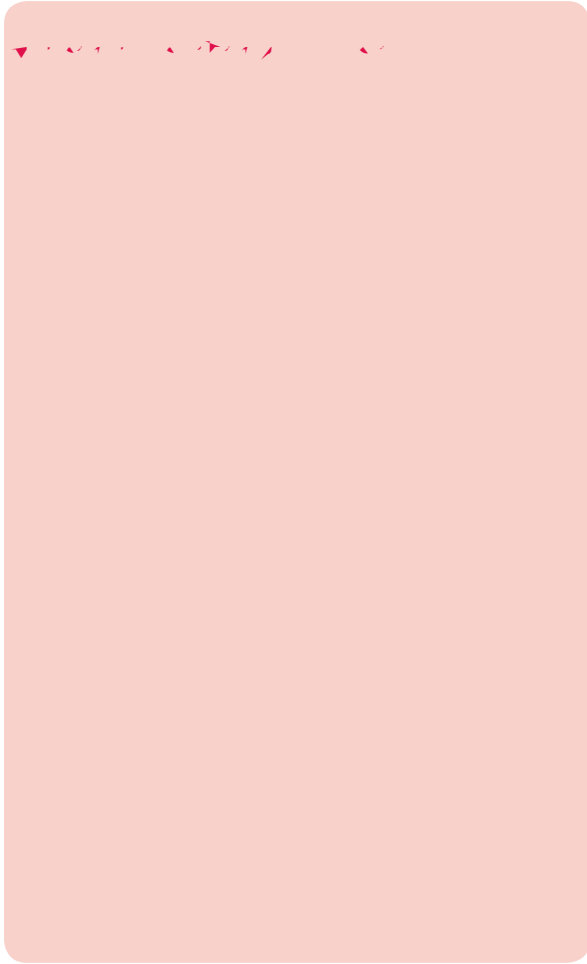
Among nursing auxiliaries and assistants, 42% reported working part time in 2007, declining to 35% in 2013 and edging up slightly to 36% in 2017.

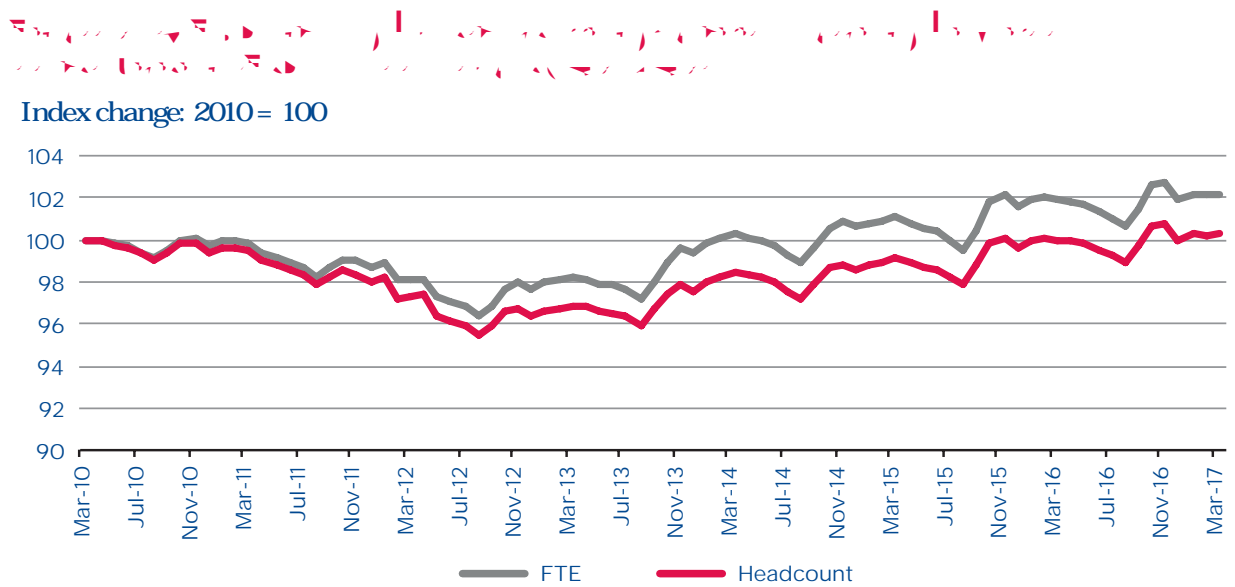
the workforce as a whole with a quarter of all in 2017, which is likely explained by the high



Source: Analysis of the Labour Force Survey 2007-2017





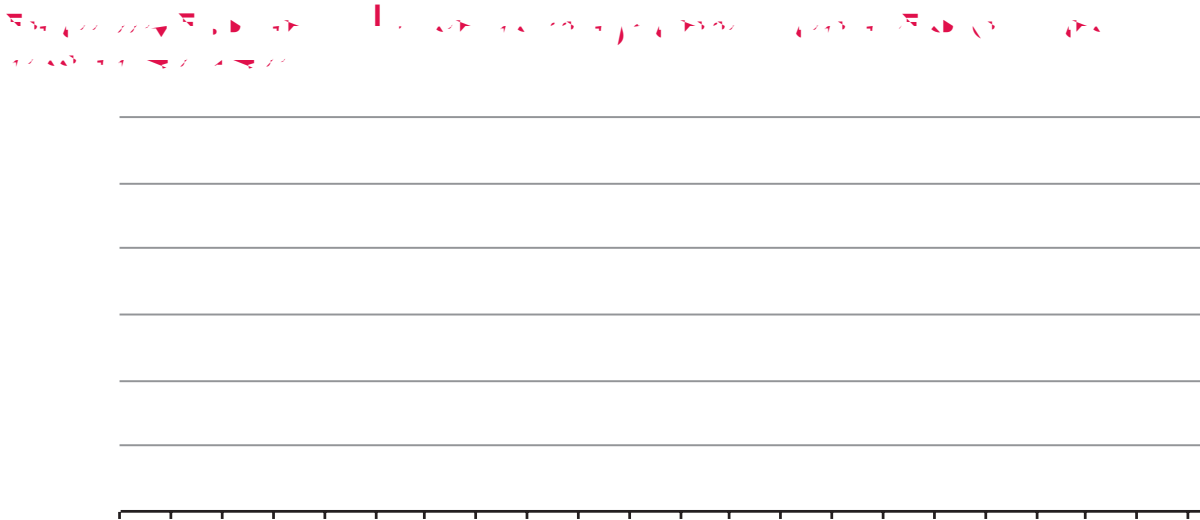


Source: NHS Digital

Figure 10 compares the monthly trend of headcount and full-time equivalent staffing figures between 2010 and 2017. Numbers of FTE

Figures 11 and 12 look at monthly data and nursing. By March 2017, the number of full-

time equivalent qualified nursing staff had reached 179,784 in adult settings and 35,442 in



Source: NHS Digital



Source: NHS Digital

15.6% drop in FTE staffing numbers since March 2017, but further analysis shows the different

by 45%. The Health Visitor Implementation Plan 2011-15 assisted a dramatic increase in the

Starting at around the same level in 2010, the number of health visitors has grown by 14%,

workforce has been falling since 2010 as the

[The chart area is mostly obscured by a large, faint, illegible watermark or bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

Mar-10
Jul-10
Nov-10
Mar-11
Jul-11
Nov-11
Mar-12

Source: NHS Digital

Table 1: District nursing, health visiting and school nursing staff, 2015/16 to 2020/21

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
District nursing	2,848	2,851	2,870	2,864	2,885	1.3
Health visiting	1,612	1,632	1,663	1,738	1,795	11.4
School nursing	283	283	276	287	282	-0.4

Source: Information Services Division, Scotland

Table 2: District nursing, health visiting and school nursing staff, 2015/16 to 2020/21

Table 6 shows the FTE nursing and midwifery workforce in Wales by work area between 2012 and 2016. While the two biggest areas of the

by 17% from 739 to 870 while the number of district nurses fell by 22% between 2010 and 2016. However it is notable that the number of district nurses rose from 522 to 685 between 2015 and 2016 (although this rise was not sufficient to return numbers to 2010 levels).

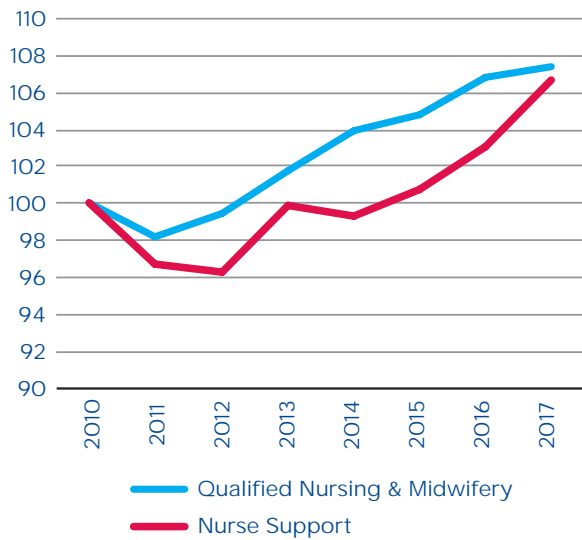
The qualified nursing and midwifery workforce (FTE) grew overall between 2010 and 2017 by 7.5%, from 13,899 to 14,937.

by just 6.7% from 4,000 in 2010 to 4,267 in 2017.

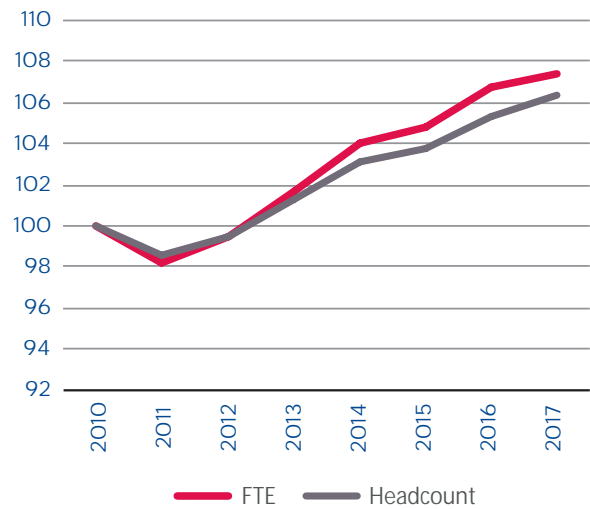
Figure 20 compares the growth in headcount compared to that of the full-time equivalent workforce among qualified nurses and midwives between 2010 and 2017. The FTE measure grew at a higher rate (7.5%) than headcount which grew by 6.3% over this period.



Index change: 2010=100



Index change: 2010=100



Source: Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland HSC Workforce Census

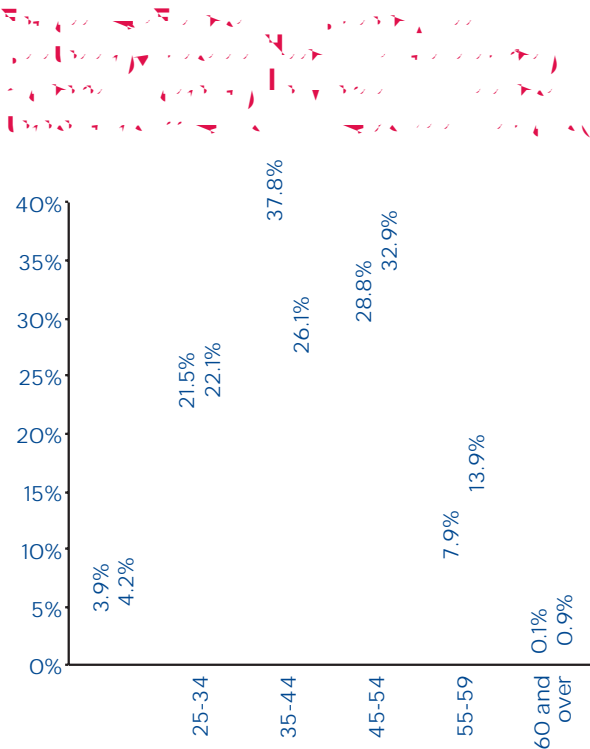
Source: Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland HSC Workforce Census



Source: NHS Digital

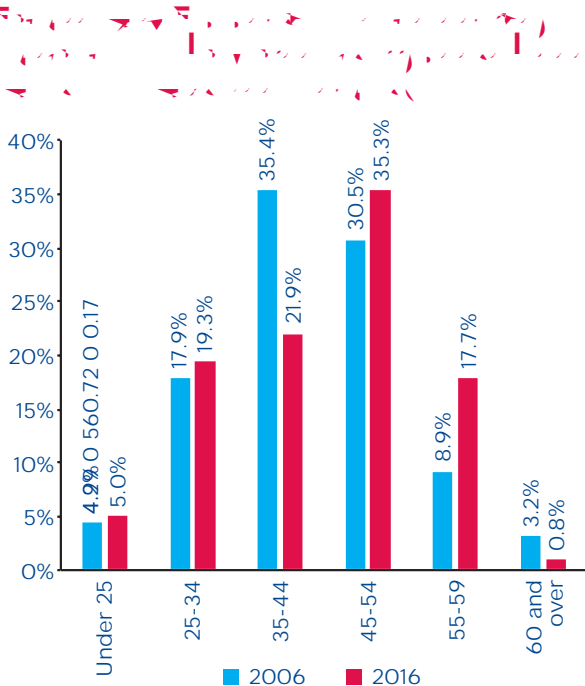
Figure 22 shows how the age profile among the qualified nursing workforce in England has changed between 2006 and 2016; over a third (38%) of the workforce was aged 45 or over in 2010, rising to 46% in 2016.

Figure 23 shows a similar change in age profile in the nursing workforce in Scotland as that in England. Two fifths (43%) of the nursing and midwifery workforce was aged over 45 in 2006, compared to over half (54%) in 2016.



Source: Department of Health, Northern Ireland HSC Workforce Census

Figure 24 shows the contrasting age profile of the qualified nursing workforce in Northern Ireland between 2006 and 2016. In 2006, 63% of qualified nursing staff were below the age of 45, compared with just over half (52%) in 2015.



Source: Information Services Division, Scotland

4.

Figure 28 shows that while RPI rose by 20.4% and CPI by 13.3% between 2011 and 2017, nominal

5. Nurse education

courses in higher education institutions (HEI). This data is widely used as an indication of the future supply of qualified nurses into the UK workforce.



Table 8 shows the number of nursing applicants between 2013 and 2017 and displays a marked decrease in numbers of applicants between 2016 and 2017. In total there was a 19% drop in numbers from students in the UK, EU and outside the EU. There has also been an overall drop of 15% since 2013 despite numbers rising in the intervening years.

This year's fall in numbers has been attributed to both Brexit and the replacement in England of the





19,670 people from England had a place on an undergraduate nursing programme starting from this autumn (as at 1 September). This represents a 6% drop compared with the same time last year, when 20,880 applicants had been placed. In addition, the number of people aged over 25 who were placed fell by 12%. This suggests that older people have been disproportionately put off from applying for university places by the removal of the student bursary in England. In comparison, number of

References and notes

1

2 *The NMC register 30 September 2017*

3 *register 2012/13 - 2016/17* *The NMC*

register 2012/13 - 2016/17 *The NMC*

