



## NHS workforce statistics: England

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As at 30 September 2010, the NHS in England employed around 1,187,000 full time equivalent staff, including 133,000 doctors, 3352,000 nurses and 40,000 managers.

This note summarises recent trends in the NHS workforce in England. More detailed statistics can be found on the NHS Information Centre website: <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/>

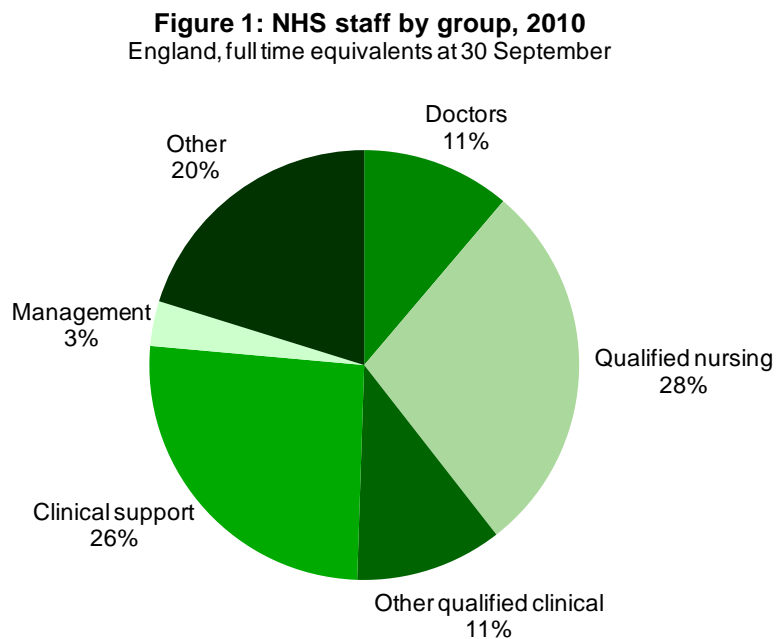
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## A. The current NHS workforce

The NHS is the largest employer in England.<sup>1</sup> As at 30 September 2010, the NHS in England employed around 1,187,000 full time equivalent staff, including 133,000 doctors, 3352,000 nurses and 40,000 managers.

Figure 1 below shows a breakdown of the 2010 full time equivalent total by broad staff group:



Qualified clinical staff account for 50% of the NHS workforce. The majority of non-clinical staff are support to clinical staff (26%). NHS management represents 3% of the workforce.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore\\_teachers\\_why.shtml](http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore_teachers_why.shtml)

## B. Changes in the NHS workforce 2009 to 2010

In full time equivalent terms the NHS workforce in England increased by 0.8% in the year to 30 September 2010.

Table 1 below details this change by broad staff group. The most pronounced increases were observed in the numbers of consultants, ambulance staff, and qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff. Management staff and GP practice nursing staff showed the largest decreases.

**Table 1: NHS Staff in England 2009 to 2010**

Full time equivalents at 30 September

	2009	2010	Change 2009-2010	
				%
Total qualified nursing staff	336,007	335,357	-650	-0.2%
Qualified nursing, midwifery and HV staff	306,887	309,139	+2,252	+0.7%
GP practice nurses	13,582	13,167	-414	-3.1%
All doctors	132,683	132,879	+196	+0.1%
GPs	36,085	35,243	-842	-2.3%
Consultants	34,654	35,781	+1,127	+3.3%
Qualified scientific, therapeutic & technical staff	128,331	131,311	+2,980	+2.3%
Qualified ambulance staff	17,214	17,686	+472	+2.7%
Support to clinical staff	301,235	307,317	+6,082	+2.0%
NHS infrastructure support	202,703	201,576	-1,127	-0.6%
Central functions	101,983	103,393	+1,410	+1.4%
Hotel, property and estates	58,211	58,090	-121	-0.2%
Manager & senior manager	42,509	40,094	-2,416	-5.7%
Total NHS staff	1,177,056	1,186,571	+9,515	+0.8%

Source: NHS Information Centre,

[http://www.ic.nhs.uk/cmsincludes/\\_process\\_document.asp?sPublicationID=1204130963819&sDocID=2512](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/cmsincludes/_process_document.asp?sPublicationID=1204130963819&sDocID=2512)

## C. Changes in the NHS workforce 2000 to 2010

In full time equivalent terms the NHS workforce in England grew by 32.9% between 30 September 2000 and 30 September 2010. Table 2 and Figure 2 overleaf detail this increase by broad staff group.

In full time equivalent terms in 2010 there were:

- 322,000 qualified nursing staff: 25.8 per cent more than in 1997.
- 121,000 hospital doctors: 42.6 per cent more than in 1997
- 35,000 NHS managers: 63.1 per cent more than in 1997.
- 275,000 clinical support staff: 27.6% more than in 1997.

**Table 2: NHS Staff in England 2000 to 2010**

Full time equivalents at 30 September

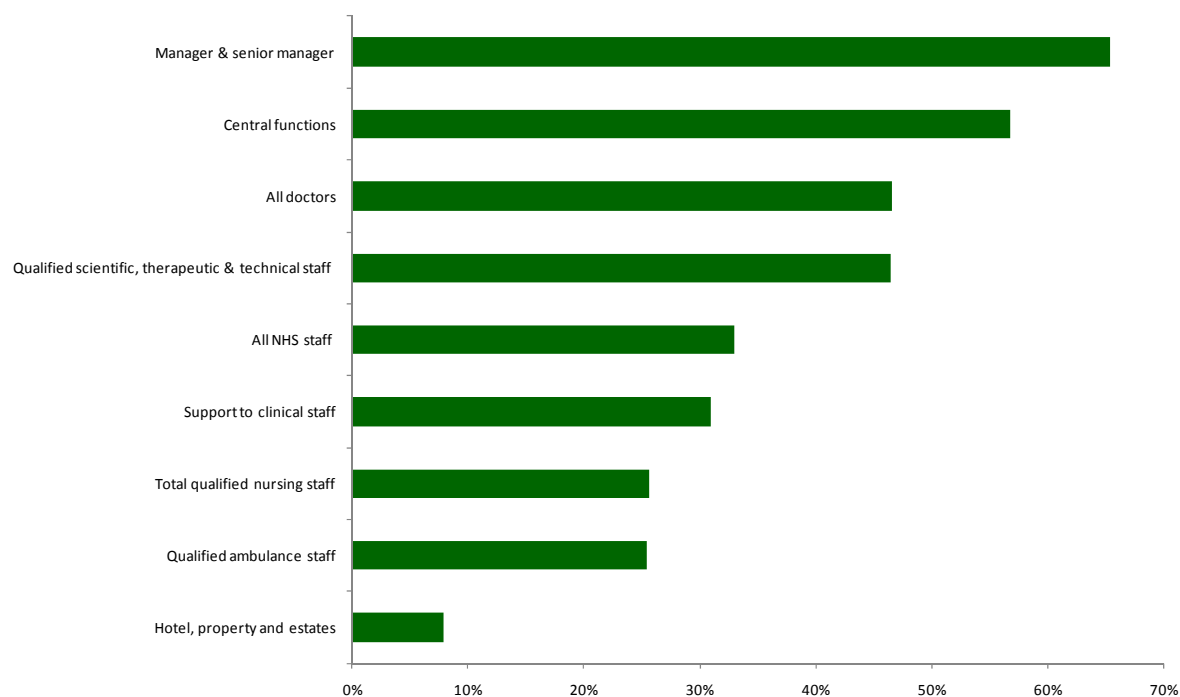
	2000	2010	Change 2000-2010	
				%
Total qualified nursing staff	266,987	335,357	+68,370	+25.6%
Qualified nursing, midwifery and HV staff	246,717	309,139	+62,422	+25.3%
GP practice nurses	10,711	13,167	+2,456	+22.9%
All doctors	90,638	132,879	+42,240	+46.6%
GPs	28,544	35,243	+6,699	+23.5%
Consultants	22,186	35,781	+13,595	+61.3%
Qualified scientific, therapeutic & technical staff	89,632	131,311	+41,679	+46.5%
Qualified ambulance staff	14,104	17,686	+3,582	+25.4%
Support to clinical staff	234,683	307,317	+72,634	+30.9%
NHS infrastructure support	144,048	201,576	+57,528	+39.9%
Central functions	65,965	103,393	+37,427	+56.7%
Hotel, property and estates	53,830	58,090	+4,260	+7.9%
Manager & senior manager	24,253	40,094	+15,841	+65.3%
Total NHS staff (incl. retainers)	892,620	1,186,571	+293,951	+32.9%

Source: NHS Information Centre,

[http://www.ic.nhs.uk/cmsincludes/\\_process\\_document.asp?sPublicationID=1204130963819&sDocID=2512](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/cmsincludes/_process_document.asp?sPublicationID=1204130963819&sDocID=2512)

**Figure 2: Changes in NHS staff numbers by group: 2000 to 2010**

England, full time equivalents at 30 September



## D. Reference table: NHS workforce, full time equivalents, England 2000 to 2010

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Change 2009- 2010	change 2009- 2010	Change 2000- 2010	Annual % change
<b>Total</b>	<b>892,620</b>	<b>931,048</b>	<b>978,376</b>	<b>1,027,284</b>	<b>1,071,462</b>	<b>1,104,008</b>	<b>1,095,427</b>	<b>1,089,436</b>	<b>1,125,131</b>	<b>1,177,056</b>	<b>1,186,571</b>	<b>9,515</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>293,951</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
<b>Total (excl bank)</b>	<b>873,978</b>	<b>910,942</b>	<b>956,090</b>	<b>1,000,016</b>	<b>1,043,378</b>	<b>1,078,007</b>	<b>1,073,751</b>	<b>1,066,616</b>	<b>1,100,875</b>	<b>1,151,269</b>	<b>1,163,751</b>	<b>12,482</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>289,773</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
<b>Total HCCHS medical and dental staff</b>	<b>62,094</b>	<b>64,055</b>	<b>68,260</b>	<b>72,260</b>	<b>78,462</b>	<b>82,568</b>	<b>85,975</b>	<b>87,533</b>	<b>91,586</b>	<b>96,598</b>	<b>97,636</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>35,542</b>	<b>4.6%</b>
<b>Total HCCHS non-medical staff (excl bank)</b>	<b>720,757</b>	<b>753,035</b>	<b>791,568</b>	<b>828,531</b>	<b>861,890</b>	<b>890,547</b>	<b>877,415</b>	<b>870,267</b>	<b>901,955</b>	<b>946,433</b>	<b>957,567</b>	<b>11,134</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>236,810</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
<b>Total HCCHS non-medical staff</b>	<b>739,399</b>	<b>773,141</b>	<b>813,854</b>	<b>855,799</b>	<b>889,973</b>	<b>916,548</b>	<b>899,091</b>	<b>893,087</b>	<b>926,210</b>	<b>972,220</b>	<b>980,387</b>	<b>8,167</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>240,988</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
<b>Total GPs</b>	<b>28,544</b>	<b>28,854</b>	<b>29,155</b>	<b>30,084</b>	<b>31,021</b>	<b>31,901</b>	<b>33,384</b>	<b>33,730</b>	<b>34,043</b>	<b>36,085</b>	<b>35,243</b>	<b>-842</b>	<b>-2.3%</b>	<b>6,699</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
<b>Total GP Practice staff</b>	<b>62,583</b>	<b>64,998</b>	<b>67,107</b>	<b>69,140</b>	<b>72,006</b>	<b>72,990</b>	<b>76,977</b>	<b>75,085</b>	<b>73,292</b>	<b>72,153</b>	<b>73,306</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>10,723</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>Professionally qualified clinical staff</b>	<b>461,362</b>	<b>477,584</b>	<b>502,075</b>	<b>525,503</b>	<b>550,095</b>	<b>566,638</b>	<b>571,637</b>	<b>577,087</b>	<b>593,949</b>	<b>614,235</b>	<b>617,232</b>	<b>2,997</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>155,871</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
<b>All doctors</b>	<b>90,638</b>	<b>92,910</b>	<b>97,415</b>	<b>102,344</b>	<b>109,483</b>	<b>114,470</b>	<b>119,359</b>	<b>121,264</b>	<b>125,629</b>	<b>132,683</b>	<b>132,879</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>42,240</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
Consultants (including Directors of public health)	22,186	23,064	24,756	26,341	28,141	29,613	30,619	31,430	32,679	34,654	35,781	1,127	3.3%	13,595	4.9%
Registrars	12,199	12,629	13,031	13,989	16,112	17,313	18,180	30,175	34,272	36,700	37,527	828	2.3%	25,328	11.9%
Other doctors in training and equivalents	19,006	19,376	20,901	22,413	24,542	25,981	27,242	15,875	14,026	14,517	13,869	-647	-4.5%	-5,136	-3.1%
Hospital practitioners and clinical assistants (non-dental specialties)	1,570	1,627	1,388	1,181	1,070	912	756	659	812	698	509	-189	-27.0%	-1,061	-10.6%
Other medical and dental staff	7,134	7,360	8,183	8,337	8,596	8,750	9,178	9,394	9,797	10,031	9,949	-81	-0.8%	2,816	3.4%
GPs total <sup>1,2</sup>	28,544	28,854	29,155	30,084	31,021	31,901	33,384	33,730	34,043	36,085	35,243	-842	-2.3%	6,699	2.1%
GP Providers	26,001	26,027	26,044	26,382	26,179	26,629	26,360	25,813	25,390	25,378	24,394	-984	-3.9%	-1,608	-0.6%
Other GPs	555	602	789	1,243	2,129	2,619	4,571	5,123	5,285	6,733	6,962	229	3.4%	6,407	28.8%
GP registrars <sup>5</sup>	1,597	1,811	1,907	2,153	2,454	2,435	2,190	2,409	3,055	3,659	3,718	59	1.6%	2,121	8.8%
GP retainers	390	415	416	307	259	219	263	385	313	315	169	-147	-46.5%	-221	-8.0%
<b>Total qualified nursing staff</b>	<b>266,987</b>	<b>277,334</b>	<b>291,285</b>	<b>304,892</b>	<b>315,440</b>	<b>321,537</b>	<b>322,062</b>	<b>322,182</b>	<b>329,372</b>	<b>336,007</b>	<b>335,357</b>	<b>-650</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>68,370</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
Qualified nursing, midwifery & health visiting staff	246,717	256,218	268,214	278,003	286,841	294,412	295,767	293,962	299,917	306,887	309,139	2,252	0.7%	62,422	2.3%
Bank nursing, midwifery & health visiting staff	9,559	9,954	11,073	13,921	15,037	13,332	11,679	13,666	15,493	15,538	13,051	-2,487	-16.0%	3,492	3.2%
GP practice nurses	10,711	11,163	11,998	12,967	13,563	13,793	14,616	14,554	13,962	13,582	13,167	-414	-3.1%	2,456	2.1%
<b>Total qualified scientific, therapeutic &amp; technical staff <sup>4</sup></b>	<b>89,632</b>	<b>93,085</b>	<b>98,397</b>	<b>102,912</b>	<b>108,585</b>	<b>113,214</b>	<b>114,492</b>	<b>117,107</b>	<b>122,059</b>	<b>128,331</b>	<b>131,311</b>	<b>2,980</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>41,679</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
Qualified Allied Health Professions	44,594	46,284	48,151	50,478	53,311	55,133	55,711	57,065	59,455	61,865	62,801	936	1.5%	18,207	3.5%
Other qualified scientific, therapeutic & technical staff	45,038	46,801	50,245	52,434	55,274	58,082	58,782	60,042	62,603	66,466	68,510	2,044	3.1%	23,472	4.3%
<b>Qualified ambulance staff <sup>4</sup></b>	<b>14,104</b>	<b>14,255</b>	<b>14,978</b>	<b>15,355</b>	<b>16,587</b>	<b>17,417</b>	<b>15,723</b>	<b>16,535</b>	<b>16,889</b>	<b>17,214</b>	<b>17,686</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>3,582</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<b>Support to clinical staff</b>	<b>234,683</b>	<b>249,198</b>	<b>262,671</b>	<b>277,178</b>	<b>284,394</b>	<b>291,663</b>	<b>283,198</b>	<b>274,608</b>	<b>284,367</b>	<b>301,235</b>	<b>307,317</b>	<b>6,082</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>72,634</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
Support to doctors & nursing staff	185,576	195,675	205,022	213,609	218,605	225,220	218,087	212,116	218,189	228,768	231,933	3,165	1.4%	46,357	2.3%
Bank support to doctors & nursing staff	9,083	10,152	11,213	13,347	13,047	12,669	9,996	9,154	8,763	10,249	9,769	-480	-4.7%	686	0.7%
Support to scientific, therapeutic & technical staff	32,594	34,982	37,920	41,481	44,089	44,708	43,906	43,113	45,533	49,129	52,175	3,046	6.2%	19,581	4.8%
Support to ambulance staff	7,429	8,388	8,515	8,743	8,653	9,066	11,209	10,225	11,882	13,088	13,440	352	2.7%	6,010	6.1%
<b>NHS infrastructure support</b>	<b>144,048</b>	<b>149,598</b>	<b>158,026</b>	<b>167,916</b>	<b>178,098</b>	<b>186,137</b>	<b>177,871</b>	<b>176,858</b>	<b>187,177</b>	<b>202,703</b>	<b>201,576</b>	<b>-1,127</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>	<b>57,528</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
Central functions	65,965	69,277	72,730	78,784	85,498	90,387	87,856	86,772	92,106	101,983	103,393	1,410	1.4%	37,427	4.6%
Hotel, property & estates	53,830	54,036	54,382	55,323	56,593	58,201	54,975	55,131	57,135	58,211	58,090	-121	-0.2%	4,260	0.8%
Manager & senior manager	24,253	26,285	30,914	33,810	36,007	37,549	35,041	34,955	37,937	42,509	40,094	-2,416	-5.7%	15,841	5.2%
<b>Other non-medical staff or those with unknown classification</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-1.2%</b>	<b>-349</b>	<b>-7.3%</b>
<b>Other GP practice staff</b>	<b>51,872</b>	<b>53,835</b>	<b>55,110</b>	<b>56,173</b>	<b>58,443</b>	<b>59,197</b>	<b>62,361</b>	<b>60,531</b>	<b>59,330</b>	<b>58,572</b>	<b>60,138</b>	<b>1,567</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>8,267</b>	<b>1.5%</b>

Notes:

1 GP full time equivalent (FTE) data for 2000-2005 has been estimated using the results from the 1992-93 GMP Workload Survey.

2 From 2006 onwards GP FTE has been collected and therefore may not be fully comparable with previous years; we are currently evaluating the accuracy of this data

3 Nursing and midwifery figures exclude students on training courses leading to a first qualification as a nurse or midwife.

4 In 2006 ambulance staff were collected under new, more detailed, occupation codes. As a result, qualified totals and support to ambulance staff totals are not directly comparable with previous years.

5 GP Registrar count from 2008 onwards represents an improvement in data collection processes and comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution

Source: NHS Information Centre.