

9.4 Healthcare* Occupations

Overall employment: Approximately 128,300 persons (77% female) were employed in the selected healthcare occupations, representing 5.7% of the national workforce

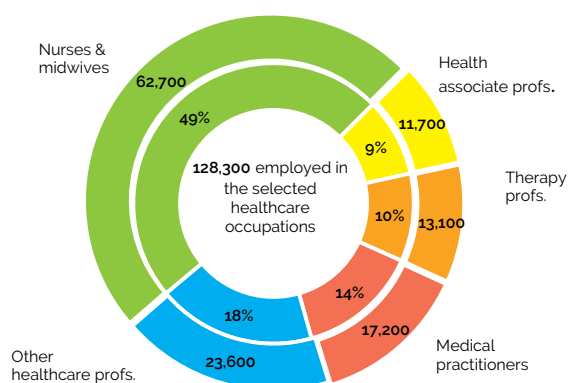
- **Sector:** 89% of overall employment was concentrated in the health sector
- **Employment growth (5-year):** Between 2013 and 2018, overall employment increased by 10,900 (1.8% on average annually compared to 3.1% nationally). The strongest rate of employment growth was observed for other therapy professionals (11.1%) during the period.
- **Age:** The 25-54 age group accounted for the majority of persons employed, at 78%. The share of employees aged 55 and over was in line with the national average of 17%.
- **Education:** Those who had attained third level qualifications (93%) was significantly above the national average share (48%), while 5% had attained a higher secondary/FET qualification
- **Full-time/part-time:** Over 80% of healthcare workers were in full-time employment
- **Nationality:** The share of non-Irish workers was slightly below the national average of 16%, while 86% of workers were Irish nationals

Overall outlook for these occupations:

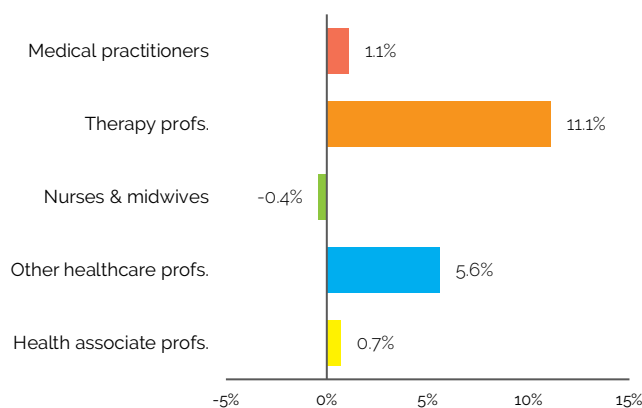
While shortages are arising for a number of health professional occupations, employment in healthcare depends on government funding; as such, there are a number of other areas for which shortages do not exist, despite significant demand for services. The demand for health services continues to grow, due to factors resulting from population growth.

* Carers are examined in Chapter 9.6 (Social & Care Occupations)

Numbers employed, 2018








Average growth rates (%) 2013-2018



Between 2013 and 2018, overall employment increased by 10,900 (1.8% on average annually compared to 3.1% nationally).

Source: SLMRU (SOLAS) analysis of CSO data

Occupation	Economic summary	Shortage	Occupation shortage details
Medical practitioners	Due to international demand for these skills, job opportunities will continue to arise. This occupation accounted for 14% of all new employment permits issued in 2018.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Specialist doctors — General practitioners
Therapy profs.	While demand has remained strong, there is no evidence of a shortage of therapists (including physiotherapists, occupational, speech and language).		
Nurses & midwives	The shortage of nurses continues, despite a decline in employment. Nurses accounted for 13% of all new employment permits in 2018, indicating that employers are experiencing difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified nurses.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Staff/registered — Clinical nurse managers — Advanced nurse practitioners
Other healthcare profs. (e.g. pharmacists, psychologists, dentists, radiographers, vets, & health services managers)	There is a shortage of radiographers, and while demand is strong for many healthcare professionals, with strong employment growth, there is no evidence of shortage at present.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Radiographers
Health associate profs.	While no shortages exist, demand is evident for dieticians and cardiac physiologists.		

*For detailed table see Appendix A