The GPhC register as of 31 July 2022 - trend data

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# Our register

We maintain a comprehensive, fully up-to-date pharmacy register of all pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy premises. We will make sure that no-one can be identified from any data that we publish or share with others.

## How to interpret our data

Our permanent register can change daily and at different times of the day. The data presented here is a snapshot of our register at 23:59:59 on the dates specified.

Please note that numbers by country are ***according to their registered home address***. This does not necessarily mean that registrants are working in those countries or that they are in employment. This only shows that they are on the register. Where tables or figures refer to ‘All’ countries, this includes registrants with a registered address in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Overseas. Where tables refer to ‘Other’ countries, these are all countries outside of Great Britain.

The numbers of pharmacists with a prescribing annotation does not reflect how many are currently employed or working with their prescribing annotation.

We continually review our data quality and content of our information to include the most accurate calculations. For improved data, we retrospectively update figures. This means when comparing this data with previously published data, you may see small changes.

## Overall register headlines

* On 31 July 2022, the total number of pharmacy professionals on the register fell by 7 to 86,243 from 86,250 at the end of June 2022. The split by profession type remains steady with 71% pharmacists (61,101) and 29% pharmacy technicians (25,142). Since the last month at the end of June 2022, the number of pharmacists has fallen by 20 from 61,121 and the number of pharmacy technicians has increased by 13 from 25,129.
* The number of pharmacists with a prescribing annotation has increased from 13,883 on 30 June 2022 to 14,140 in July 2022. This represents 23.1% of registered pharmacists, the highest numbers and proportion of the register to date.
* There are 13,853 registered pharmacies on 31 July 2022, an increase of four from 13,849 in the last month on 30 June 2022. The numbers of pharmacies have been falling over the last eight years with a low of 13,843 pharmacies in April 2022, but this is beginning to increase.

## Register trends for pharmacists

On 31 July 2022 the number of pharmacists on the register was 61,101. This is a decrease of 20 from 61,121 at the end of June 2022. Table 1 shows the trend in the snapshot of pharmacist numbers on our register over time by location of registered address up to the end of 31 July each year for a direct comparison due to monthly variations.

**Table 1: Snapshot of pharmacists on the register by location of registered address at the end of July for the last eight years**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Snapshot date | All | England | Scotland | Wales |
| 31 July 2022 | 61,101 | 51,433 | 5,290 | 2,671 |
| 31 July 2021 | 58,660 | 49,243 | 5,121 | 2,610 |
| 31 July 2020 | 57,596 | 48,274 | 4,989 | 2,588 |
| 31 July 2019 | 56,154 | 46,881 | 4,887 | 2,535 |
| 31 July 2018 | 55,209 | 45,798 | 4,820 | 2,512 |
| 31 July 2017 | 53,871 | 44,530 | 4,723 | 2,475 |
| 31 July 2016 | 52,073 | 42,873 | 4,604 | 2,398 |
| 31 July 2015 | 50,244 | 41,171 | 4,494 | 2,333 |

Compared to the same time last year, there is a 4% increase of pharmacists by 2,441 from 58,660 on 31 July 2021 to 61,101 on 31 July 2022. This percentage increase includes joiners to the register following the postponed registration assessments in 2020.

Of the 61,101 pharmacists, 1,707 (2.8%) have a registered address outside of Great Britain. These include recent joiners who have yet to register an address in Great Britain. Others have left Great Britain and are overseas but would like to retain their GPhC registration or have yet to leave the register.

In Figure 1, the top teal blue line represents the total number of all pharmacists on the register at the end of each month of July (including those with a registered address in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and overseas). The dark purple line are the figures for England, the green line is for Scotland and the pink line is for Wales.

**Figure 1: Snapshot of pharmacists on the register at the end of July each year by registered address location**

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## Annotations to the pharmacist register

On 31 July 2022, the number of registered pharmacists having a prescriber annotation[[1]](#footnote-1) is 14,140 out of 61,101, this is 23.1% of the register. These include 12,946 independent prescribers only, 934 pharmacists who hold both independent and supplementary prescribing annotations and 260 supplementary prescribers only.

The breakdown of prescriber annotation by country of registered address is summarised in Table 2 below for pharmacists on 31 July 2022. The category of ‘Other’ includes countries that are overseas, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands. We do not know how many pharmacists are currently employed or are practising with their prescribing annotation.

**Table 2: Number of pharmacists with prescribing annotation type by country of registered address on 31 July 2022**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Prescriber annotation type | England | Scotland | Wales | Other | All |
| Independent only |  10,667  |  1,498  |  724  | 57 |  12,946  |
| Independent and supplementary |  620  |  253  |  55  | 6 |  934  |
| Supplementary only |  159  |  84  |  11  | 6 |  260  |
| **Total** |  **11,446**  |  **1,835**  |  **790**  | **69** |  **14,140**  |

## Register trends for pharmacy technicians

Table 3 and Figure 2 below shows the trend in pharmacy technician numbers on our register on 31 July from 2015 to 2022. This shows the register has been increasing year on year. There is a 1.7% increase from 24,714 in July 2021 last year to 25,142 in July 2022 this year. The number of pharmacy technicians has also increased by 13 since the last month from 25,129 in June 2022.

**Table 3: Snapshot of pharmacy technicians on the register by country of registered address**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Snapshot date | All  | England | Scotland | Wales |
| 31 July 2022 | 25,142 | 20,919 | 2,350 | 1,705 |
| 31 July 2021 | 24,714 | 20,588 | 2,260 | 1,694 |
| 31 July 2020 | 23,751 | 19,760 | 2,195 | 1,641 |
| 31 July 2019 | 23,540 | 19,577 | 2,161 | 1,635 |
| 31 July 2018 | 23,413 | 19,523 | 2,089 | 1,642 |
| 31 July 2017 | 23,380 | 19,488 | 2,086 | 1,641 |
| 31 July 2016 | 23,190 | 19,305 | 2,084 | 1,630 |
| 31 July 2015 | 22,817 | 19,000 | 2,047 | 1,599 |

For Figure 2 below, the top teal blue line represents the total number of pharmacy technicians on the register. The dark purple line is England, the green line is Scotland, and the pink line is Wales. The overall proportion of pharmacy technicians in each country has remained steady as the numbers increased over the last eight years.

**Figure 2. Snapshot of pharmacy technicians at the end of July by year and registered address location**

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## Register trends for pharmacies

On 31 July 2022 there were 13,853 registered pharmacies. 11,826 are in England, 1,301 in Scotland and 726 in Wales. This is a decrease of 111 from the same time last year, a fall of 0.8%. Table 4 shows the trend at the end of July each year from 2015 to 2022 which shows an overall decrease each year. There has been increase since the last month with an additional four pharmacies from 13,849 in June 2022.

**Table 4: Snapshot of all pharmacies on the register and by country of registered address at the end of July for the last eight years**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Snapshot date | All  | England | Scotland | Wales |
| 31 July 2022 | 13,853 | 11,826 | 1,301 | 726 |
| 31 July 2021 | 13,964 | 11,928 | 1,302 | 734 |
| 31 July 2020 | 14,117 | 12,078 | 1,302 | 737 |
| 31 July 2019 | 14,297 | 12,262 | 1,293 | 742 |
| 31 July 2018 | 14,335 | 12,295 | 1,294 | 746 |
| 31 July 2017 | 14,393 | 12,364 | 1,284 | 745 |
| 31 July 2016 | 14,423 | 12,383 | 1,290 | 750 |
| 31 July 2015 | 14,455 | 12,411 | 1,296 | 748 |

For Figure 3 below, the top teal blue line represents the total number of pharmacies on the register. The dark purple line is England, the green line is Scotland, and the pink line is Wales. The overall proportion of pharmacies in each country has remained steady.

**Figure 3. Snapshot of pharmacies on the register at the end of July each year by registered address location**

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1. Annotations are additional qualifications or responsibilities held by a registrant. An independent prescriber can prescribe any medicine for any condition (excluding 3 Controlled Drugs for the treatment of addiction). A supplementary prescriber can prescribe any medicine for any condition within an agreed clinical management plan. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)