The NHS workforce

The NHS is the largest employer in England, and the 5th largest employer in the world.¹

The NHS workforce in England ⁴

When the NHS was established in 1948 there were 144,000 staff across the UK. Now there are 1,045,559 in England alone.

NHS apprentices by age ⁶

There are over 350 different job roles in the NHS.

Expenditure

Around two thirds of NHS provider organisations’ total expenditure is on their workforce.¹

How has the workforce changed?

January 2010 – January 2017 ⁵

+13.34% Ambulance staff
+11.40% Midwives
+11.22% Doctors
+10.09% Scientific, therapeutic & technical staff
+1.76% Nurses & health visitors
-18.82% Senior managers
-19.42% Managers

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We are the voice of employers in the NHS. We can help you to support your workforce and put patients first.