



Comhairle na
nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council

Doctors Joining the Register in 2024

Supplementary Workforce Report



Introduction

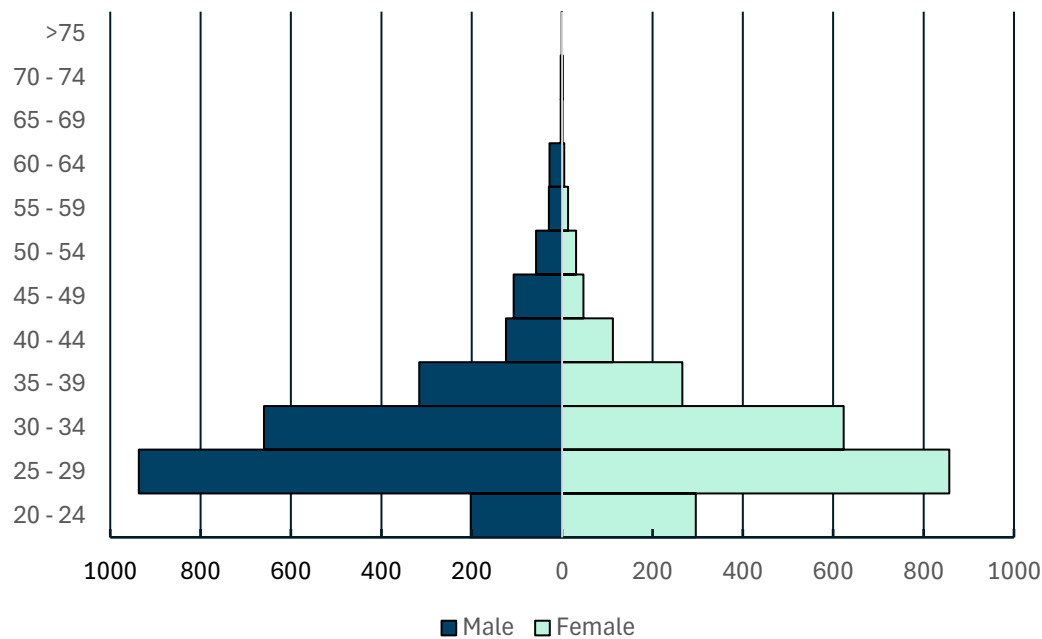
This supplementary workforce report provides a description of doctors who joined the Medical Council's Register in 2024. This includes doctors who registered for the first time as well as those who restored their registration after a period of not being on the Register. The analysis focuses on those who joined at any time during the calendar year of 2024 *and* remained on our Register at the end of the 2024 calendar year. These two cohorts comprise a total of 5,304 doctors.

Doctors Registered for the First Time

In 2024, 4,859 doctors registered with the Medical Council for the first time. By year-end 2024, 97.2% ($n = 4,721$) of these doctors were still on the Medical Council's Register. The content that follows focuses on these doctors who joined the Register for the first time *and* remained on the Register in 2024.

The gender breakdown was closely split, with slightly more males ($n = 2,468$, 52.3%) than females ($n = 2,253$, 47.7%). The mean age of first registered doctors was 31.7 years (SD = 7.4 years), and 75.7% ($n = 3,575$) were 34 years of age and younger. A more detailed breakdown of age and gender is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Population Pyramid of First Registered Doctors



In terms of qualifications, 19.0% ($n = 895$) of doctors obtained their basic medical qualification in Ireland (Table 1 offers more details).

Table 1. Basic Medical Qualification of First Registered Doctors

Qualification Category	n	%
Graduates of Irish medical schools	895	19.0
Graduated from a medical school in the EU or UK	838	17.8
International graduates from a medical school outside the EU, UK and Ireland	2,988	63.3
Total	4,721	100.0

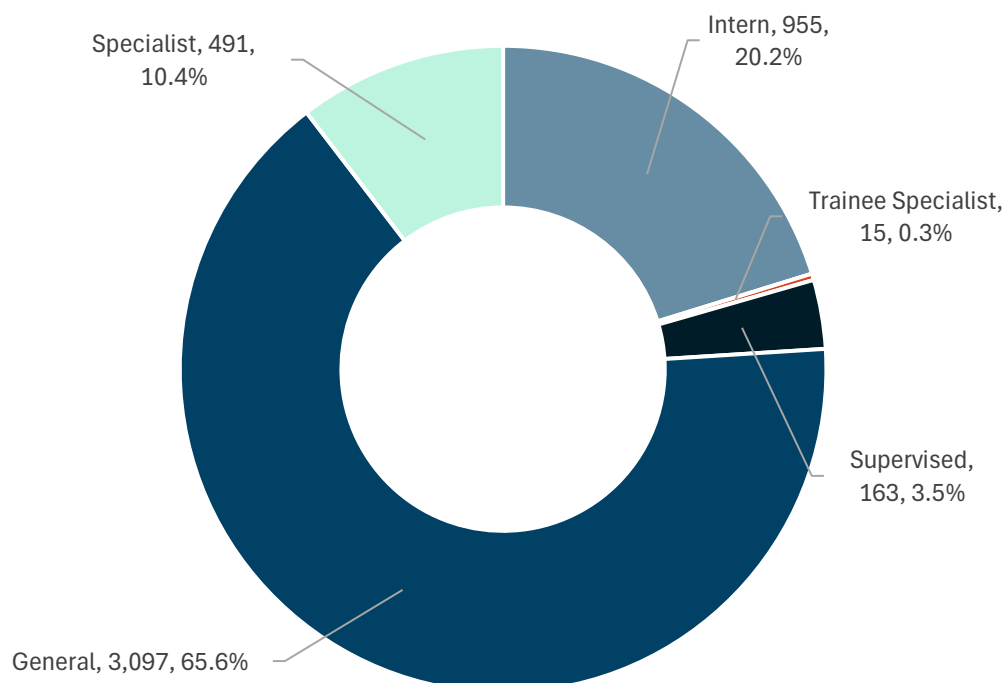
Of those doctors who received their basic medical qualification outside of Ireland, the EU and UK (international graduates, $n = 2,988$), 64.2% ($n = 1,918$) completed their medical degree in Pakistan, and a further 13.2% ($n = 393$) completed their medical degree in Sudan. Further details are outlined in Table 2.

Table 2. Top Five Countries where International Graduates Completed their Medical Degree

Degree Country	n	%
Pakistan	1,918	64.2
Sudan	393	13.2
South Africa	164	5.5
China	117	3.9
Malaysia	63	2.1

The majority of these first registered doctors ($n = 3,097$, 65.6%) were registered on the General Division at year-end, as seen in Figure 2.¹

Figure 2. Division of the Register of Doctors Registering for the First Time at Year-End



The majority of doctors joining with internship registration had obtained their medical degree in Ireland. All doctors completing their medical degree in Ireland need to complete an internship year before they are eligible for registration on any other division. All 895 doctors with an Irish qualification had internship registration at the end of the 2024 calendar year.

The majority of doctors joining the Specialist Division had qualified in the EU or UK whereas the majority of doctors joining the General Division had qualified outside of Ireland, the EU or the UK. Further detail can be observed in Table 3 below.

¹The Register is a living database, and this reflects the division that these doctors were on at the end of 2024. Some doctors may have moved divisions between the time they were approved on the Register and the date the data was extracted. All doctors on the Trainee Specialist Division initially joined with General Registration and were entered into the Trainee Specialist Division as they received a training post.

Table 3. Breakdown of Division by Qualification Category of First Registered Doctors

Division	n / %	Irish	EU or UK	International
Intern	n	895	60	0
	% within Intern Division	93.7	6.3	0.0
	% within Qualification Category	100.0	7.2	0.0
Trainee Specialist	n	0	12	3
	% within Trainee Specialist Division	0.0	80.0	20.0
	% within Qualification Category	0.0	1.4	0.1
Supervised	n	0	0	163
	% within Supervised Division	0.0	0.0	100.0
	% within Qualification Category	0.0	0.0	5.5
General	n	0	314	2,783
	% within General Division	0.0	10.1	89.9
	% within Qualification Category	0.0	37.5	93.1
Specialist	n	0	452	39
	% within Specialist Division	0.0	92.1	7.9
	% within Qualification Category	0.0	53.9	1.3
Total	n	895	838	2,988

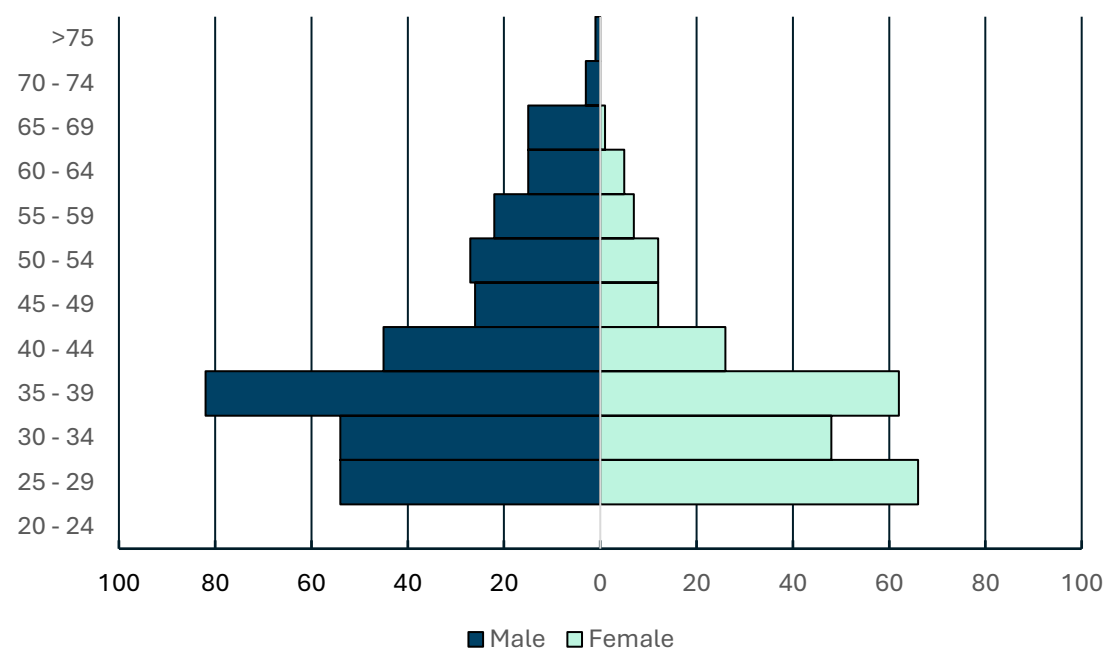
Note. To facilitate comparison of values, rows with counts are shaded with gradations. The darker the tone, the higher the value within the column.

Doctors Restored to the Register

In 2024, 589 doctors restored their place on the Register. These doctors were previously registered with the Medical Council, left for a period of time, and were now restoring their place on the Register. At year-end 2024, 99.0% ($n = 583$) of these doctors were still on the Medical Council’s Register. The content that follows focuses on these doctors who restored their place on the Register *and* remained on the Register in 2024.

Within this cohort, 59.0% ($n = 344$) were male, and 41.0% ($n = 239$) were female. The average age was 39.4 years (SD = 10.9 years) and 38.1% ($n = 222$) were 34 years of age or younger. More information on age and gender is shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Population Pyramid of Restored Doctors



Just over half of doctors restored to the Register ($n = 308$, 52.8%) had obtained their basic medical qualification in Ireland (Table 4).

Table 4. Basic Medical Qualification Category of Restored Doctors

Qualification Category	n	%
Graduates of Irish medical schools	308	52.8
Graduated from a medical school in the EU or UK	85	14.6
International graduates from a medical school outside the EU, UK and Ireland	190	32.6
Total	583	100.0

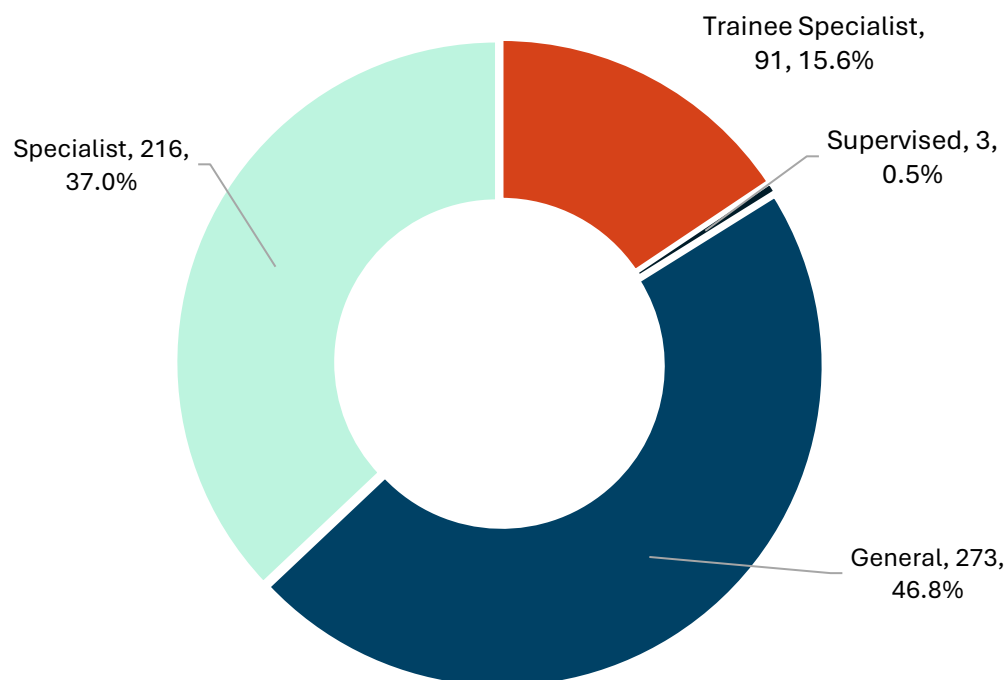
Of the doctors who received their basic medical qualification outside of Ireland, the EU or UK (international graduates, $n = 190$), just under half ($n = 92$, 48.4%) obtained their medical degree in Pakistan. Further details are included in Table 5.

Table 5. Top Five Countries where International Graduates Completed their Medical Degree

Degree Country	n	%
Pakistan	92	48.4
Sudan	46	24.2
South Africa	14	7.4
India	8	4.2
Egypt	6	3.2

In relation to the division of the Register at year-end, 46.8% ($n = 273$) of these doctors were registered on the General Division, while 37.0% ($n = 216$) were registered on the Specialist Division (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Division of the Register of Restored Doctors at Year-End



The majority of doctors restored to the Trainee Specialist and the Specialist Division had Irish qualifications, whereas the majority of doctors restored to the General Division had qualifications from outside of Ireland, the EU or UK. Further detail can be observed in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Breakdown of Division by Qualification Category of Restored Doctors

Division	n / %	Irish	EU or UK	International
Trainee Specialist	n	83	3	5
	% within Trainee Specialist Division	91.2	3.3	5.5
	% within Qualification Category	26.9	3.5	2.6
Supervised	n	0	0	3
	% within Supervised Division	0.0	0.0	100.0
	% within Qualification Category	0.0	0.0	1.6
General	n	93	36	144
	% within General Division	34.1	13.2	52.7
	% within Qualification Category	30.2	42.4	75.8
Specialist	n	132	46	38
	% within Specialist Division	61.1	21.3	17.6
	% within Qualification Category	42.9	54.1	20.0
Total	n	308	85	190

Note. To facilitate comparison of values, rows with counts are shaded with gradations. The darker the tone, the higher the value within the column.

Conclusion

In 2024, 5,304 doctors joined and remained on the Medical Council's Register. The majority of these doctors joined for the first time ($n = 4,721$, 89.0%), and the remainder restored their place ($n = 583$, 11.0%).

This total reflects doctors who are permitted to practise medicine in Ireland, not those who are clinically active. A proportion of these do go on to commence work in the Irish health system, however, a proportion do not. No details on planned clinical activity are captured at the point of Registration, this information is captured the following year in May/June if they retain their place on the Register. Furthermore, qualitative feedback provided by doctors choosing to voluntarily withdraw from the Register indicates that some doctors leave the Register without ever practising in Ireland.



Comhairle na
nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council

Medical Council

Kingram House
Kingram Place
Dublin 2
D02 XY88

research@mcirl.ie

www.medicalcouncil.ie