Recent trends in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer in Northern Ireland
(excludes samples from Altnagelvin Laboratory)

August 2021 Update

Contents

<table>
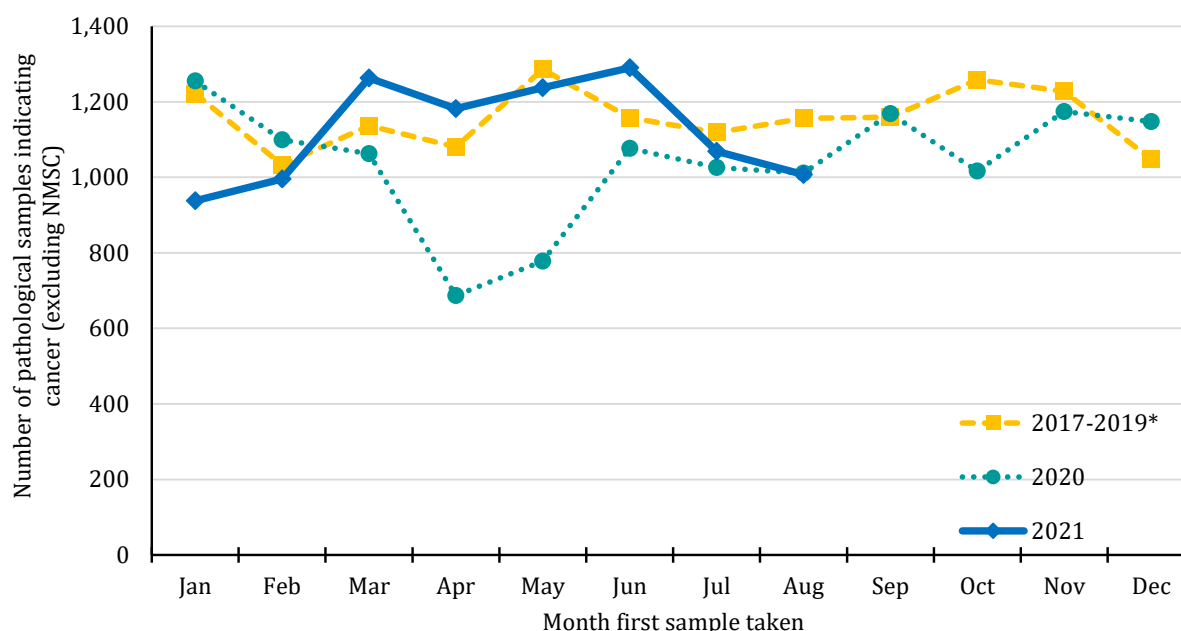<tr><td>SUMMARY</td><td>Recent trends in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer: Aug-21</td></tr>
</table>

1) This summary provides an overview of recent trends in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, NMSC) whose first sample was taken from Jan-20 to Aug-21 in Northern Ireland.

2) These trends are contrasted with the annual average number of pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC) during 2017-2019 in order to provide an indication of the potential impact of the Covid-19 restrictions on diagnostic cancer services.

3) Data are sourced from three of the four NHS pathology laboratories in NI (Belfast, Antrim, Craigavon), which are usually provided to NICR on a monthly basis. **Altnagelvin laboratory is excluded as a change in recording systems led to an undercount in the number of reported samples in Jan-Apr 2021.**

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

4) From Mar-20 to Aug-21 the number of pathological samples indicating cancer was 6.9% lower than the average number for the same time period in 2017-2019.

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	1,222	1,033	1,137	1,081	1,286	1,158	1,119	1,156	1,159	1,258	1,228	1,048
2020	1,255	1,099	1,063	687	778	1,077	1,026	1,011	1,169	1,017	1,174	1,148
2021	938	996	1,263	1,182	1,237	1,290	1,069	1,007				

Annual average

5) From Mar-20 to Aug-21 there was a 5.7% decrease in the number of samples among males and a 7.7% decrease among females compared to 2017-2019. A decrease of 7.7% occurred among those aged 0-69 years, while there was a decrease of 5.9% among those aged 70 and older. Decreases were greatest in Craigavon (8.1%) and Belfast (7.8%).

6) Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, from Mar-20 to Aug-21 the number of pathology samples indicating lung cancer decreased by 22.6%, while those indicating prostate cancer decreased by 10.2%. Increases were recorded for haematological cancer, while decreases of more than 10% occurred for gynaecological cancer, head and neck cancer, melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer.

The chart shows percentage change by category:
- All persons: -6.9%
- Males: -5.7%
- Females: -7.7%
- Ages 0-69: -7.7%
- Ages 70+: -5.9%
- Belfast: -7.8%
- Antrim: -2.1%
- Craigavon: -8.1%
- Bowel: -3.1%
- Lung: -22.6%
- Female breast: -3.9%
- Prostate: -10.2%
- Gynaecolgical: -20.8%
- Upper GI: -8.4%
- Urinary: -6.3%
- Head & Neck: -11.1%
- Haematological: 2.6%
- Melanoma: -11.3%
- Other cancers: 0.8%
- NMSC: -24.6%
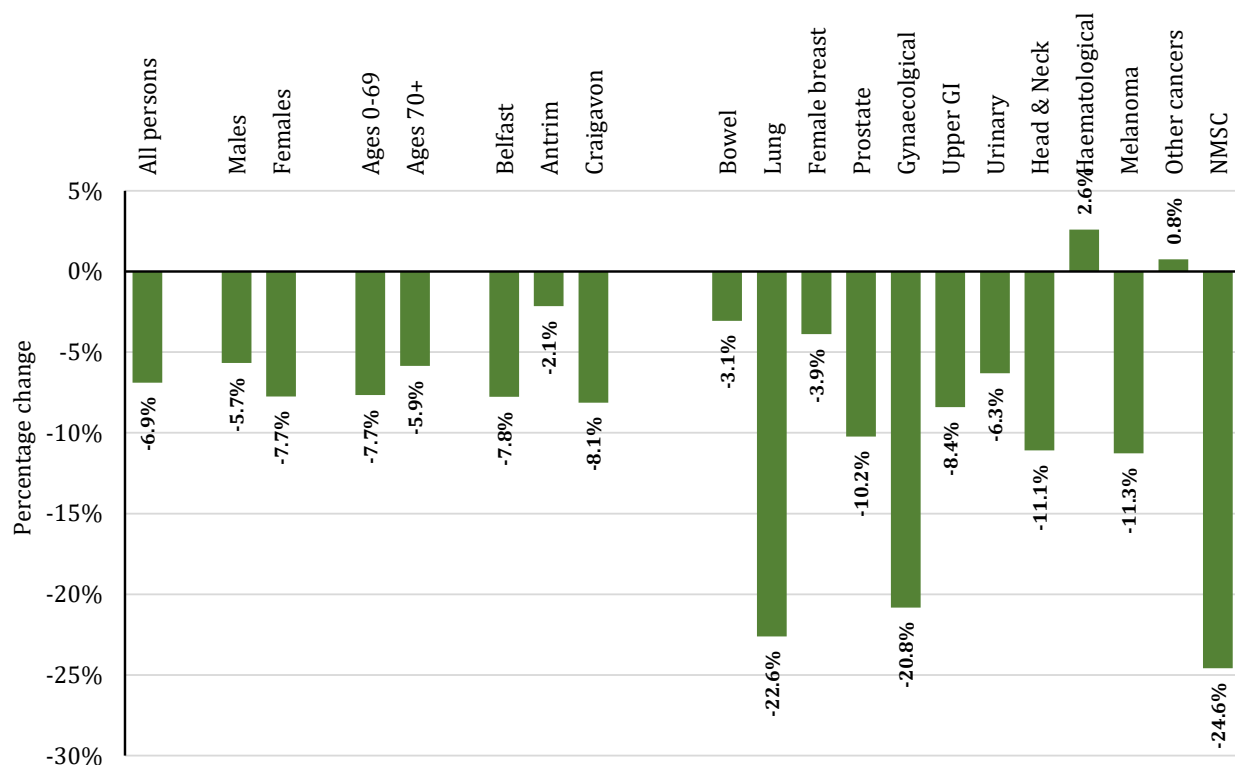
Trends in pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

7) There was an 0.8% decrease in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer in the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to the average value in the equivalent weeks in 2017-2019.

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	19-Jun-21	26-Jun-21	03-Jul-21	10-Jul-21	17-Jul-21	24-Jul-21	31-Jul-21	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21
2017-2019*	262	299	257	281	207	255	270	251	293	254	254	226
2020	255	228	249	246	224	178	234	250	208	255	285	257
2021	278	272	332	291	265	216	237	234	252	259	229	218

*Annual average

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

8) In the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 there was a 1.5% decrease in samples among males and a 0.4% decrease among females compared to the same time period in 2017-2019. A decrease of 1.2% occurred among those aged 0-69 years, with a small decrease of 0.2% among those aged 70 and older. Increases were recorded in Antrim (16.6%) and Craigavon (6.9%) with a 7.5% decrease recorded in Belfast.

9) Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, in the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 the number of pathology samples indicating lung cancer decreased by 22.2%, while those indicating prostate cancer decreased by 24.8%. Increases were recorded for bowel cancer, female breast cancer, upper GI cancer, haematological cancer and melanoma, while decreases of more than 10% occurred for gynecological cancer, head and neck cancer and non-melanoma skin cancer.
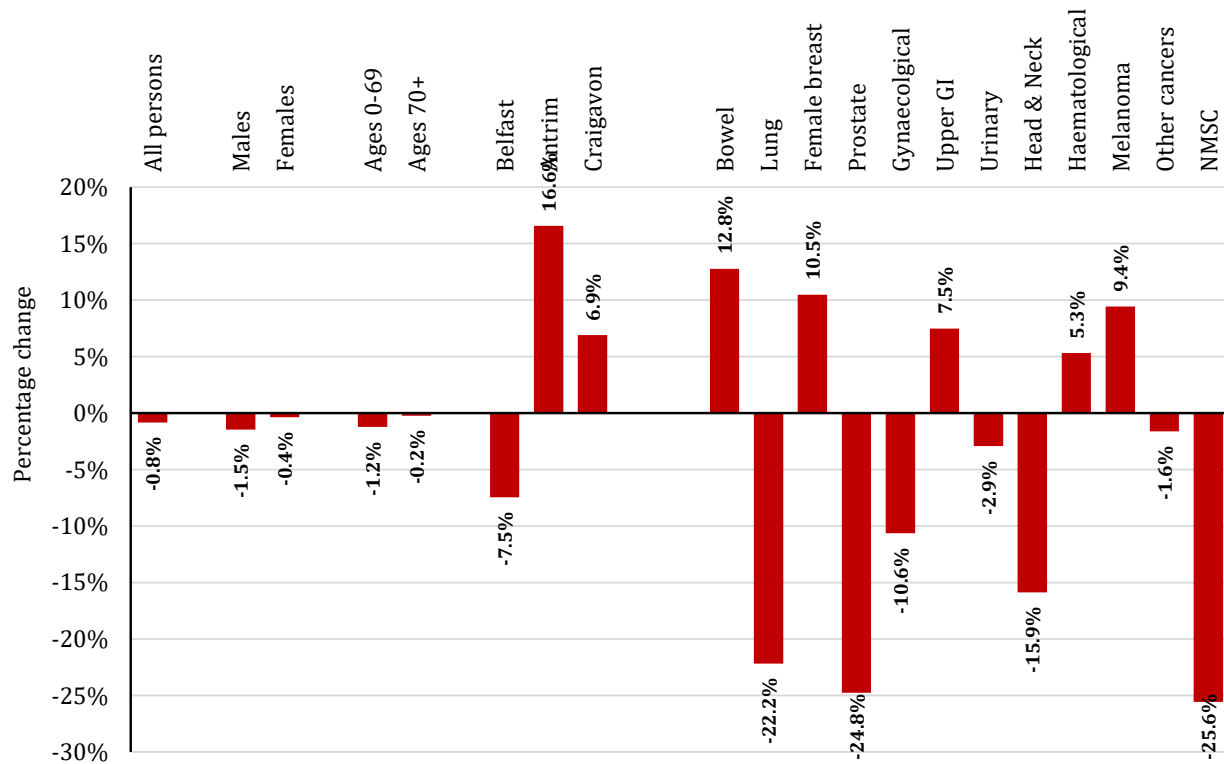
Pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): All persons

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-6.9%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017-2019*	1,222	1,033	1,137	1,081	1,286	1,158	1,119	1,156	1,159	1,258	1,228	1,048
2020	1,255	1,099	1,063	687	778	1,077	1,026	1,011	1,169	1,017	1,174	1,148
2021	938	996	1,263	1,182	1,237	1,290	1,069	1,007				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-0.8%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

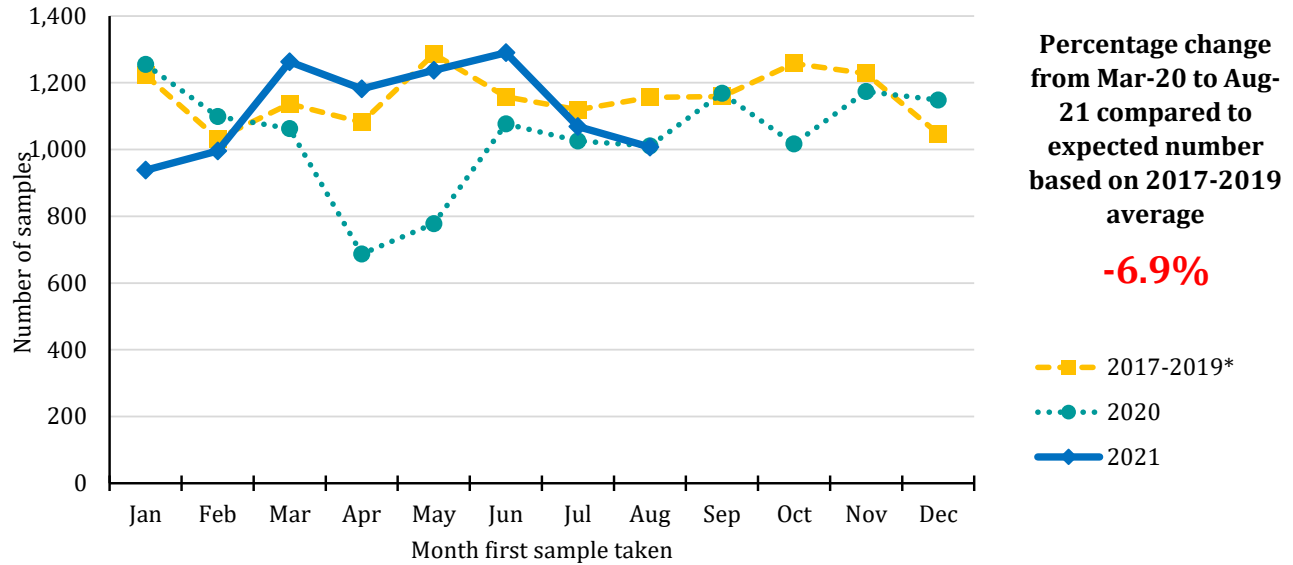| Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	19-Jun-21	26-Jun-21	03-Jul-21	10-Jul-21	17-Jul-21	24-Jul-21	31-Jul-21	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21
2017-2019*	262	299	257	281	207	255	270	251	293	254	254	226
2020	255	228	249	246	224	178	234	250	208	255	285	257
2021	278	272	332	291	265	216	237	234	252	259	229	218

Annual average

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

Pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): Males

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-5.7%
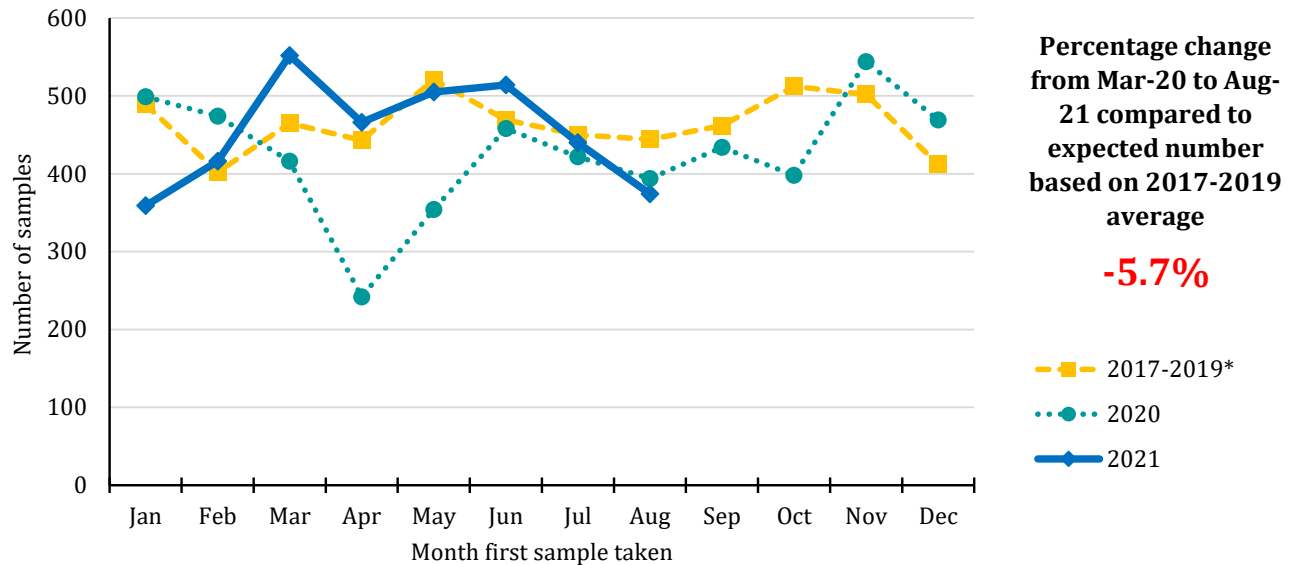
- - ■ - - 2017-2019*
- · · ● · · 2020
- —◆— 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	489	402	465	443	521	469	450	444	462	512	502	412
2020	499	474	416	242	354	458	422	394	434	398	544	469
2021	359	416	552	466	505	514	440	374				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-1.5%

- - ■ - - 2017-2019*
- · · ● · · 2020
- —◆— 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	112	120	104	117	74	105	117	89	107	103	99	89
2020	116	102	90	103	93	77	93	108	83	94	113	99
2021	92	125	131	126	108	94	97	92	99	73	94	87

Annual average

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

Pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): Females

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-7.7%
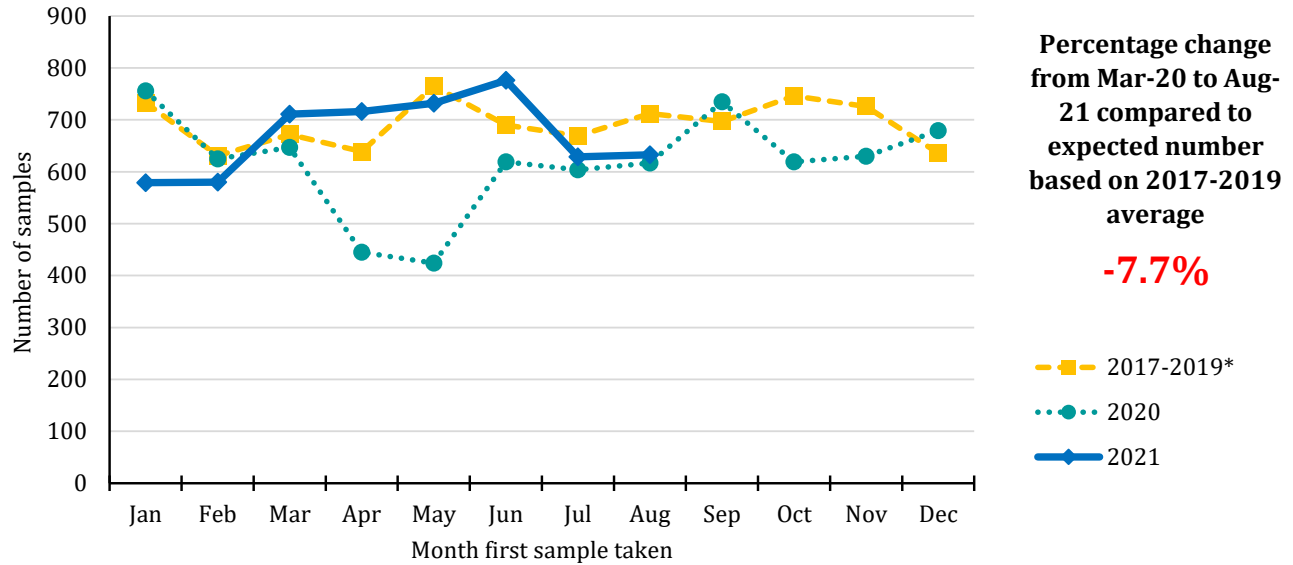
2017-2019*
2020
2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	733	631	672	639	765	690	669	712	697	746	726	636
2020	756	625	647	445	424	619	604	617	735	619	630	679
2021	579	580	711	716	732	776	629	633				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-0.4%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	150	179	152	164	133	150	154	162	185	151	155	137
2020	139	126	159	143	131	101	141	142	125	161	172	158
2021	186	147	201	165	157	122	140	142	153	186	135	131

Annual average

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

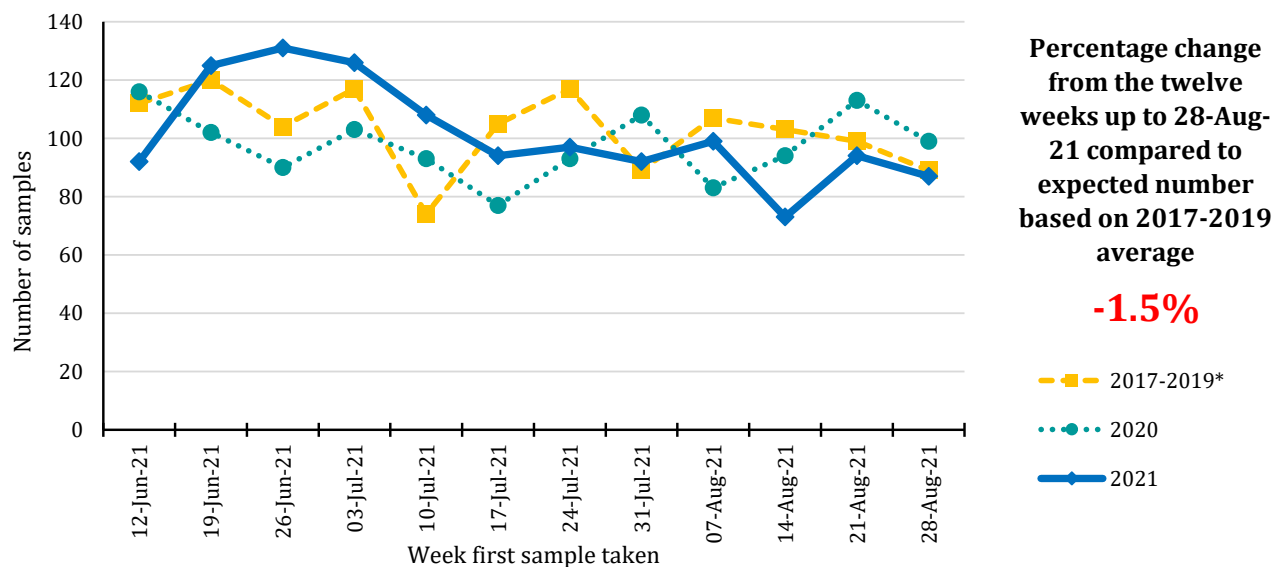## Pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): Ages 0 to 69

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-7.7%

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	740	624	682	634	757	654	640	681	677	715	695	618
2020	710	621	633	443	455	604	560	567	666	588	680	698
2021	556	598	747	726	713	725	604	600				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-1.2%

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	149	166	145	162	121	147	155	142	178	151	144	131
2020	155	114	152	132	121	101	129	132	124	155	148	137
2021	149	149	197	159	151	109	140	144	148	144	139	140

Annual average

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

Pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): Ages 70 and over
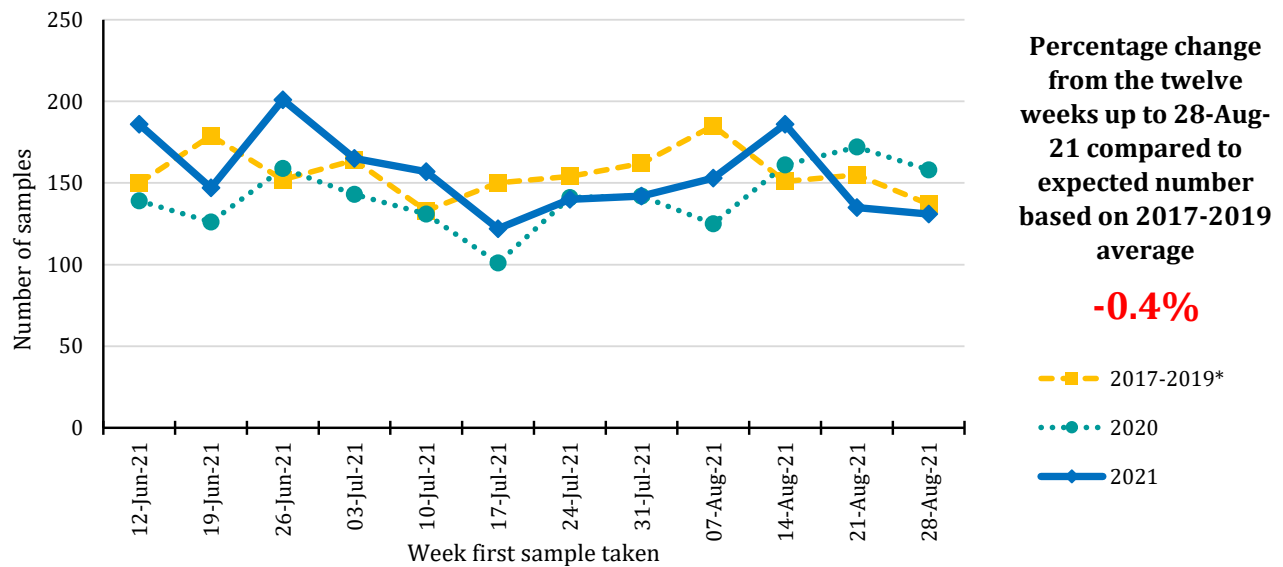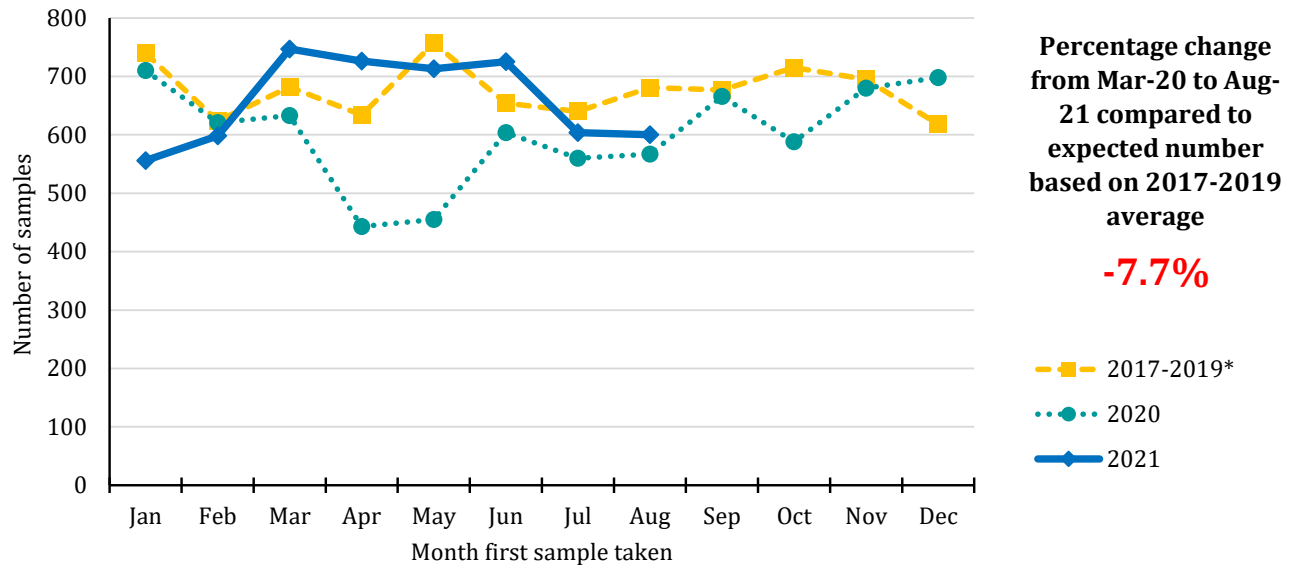
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-5.9%
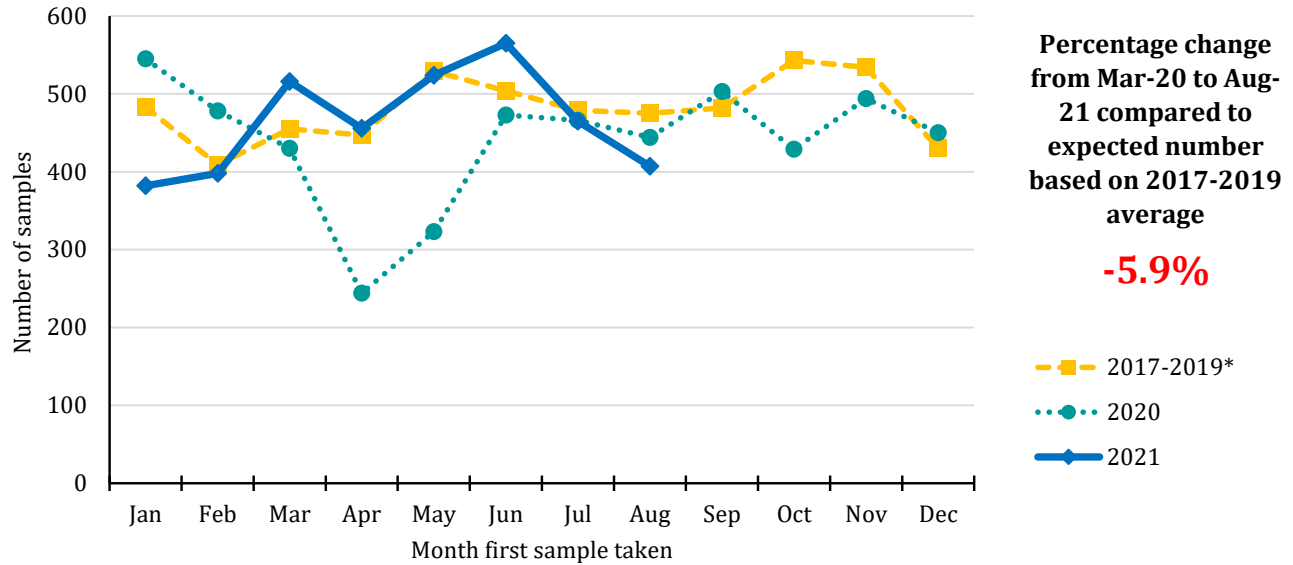
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	483	409	455	447	529	504	479	475	482	543	534	430
2020	545	478	430	244	323	473	466	444	503	429	494	450
2021	382	398	516	456	524	565	465	407				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-0.2%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	113	133	112	119	86	108	115	109	114	103	111	94
2020	100	114	97	114	103	77	105	118	84	100	137	120
2021	129	123	135	132	114	107	97	90	104	115	90	78

Annual average

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*
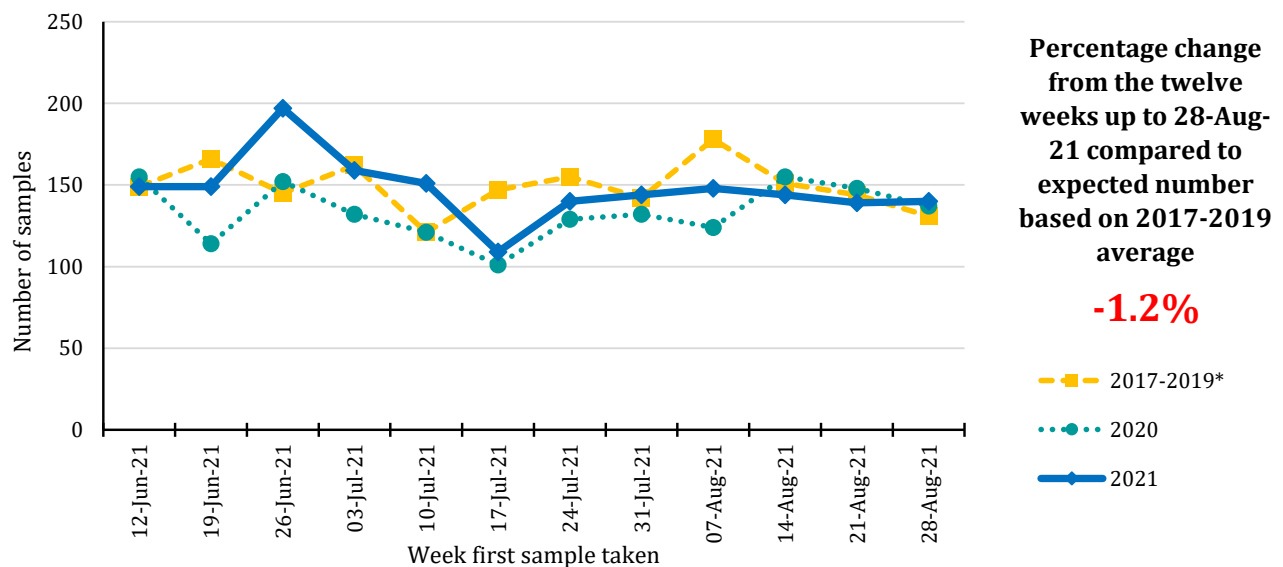
Pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): Belfast laboratory

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-7.8%
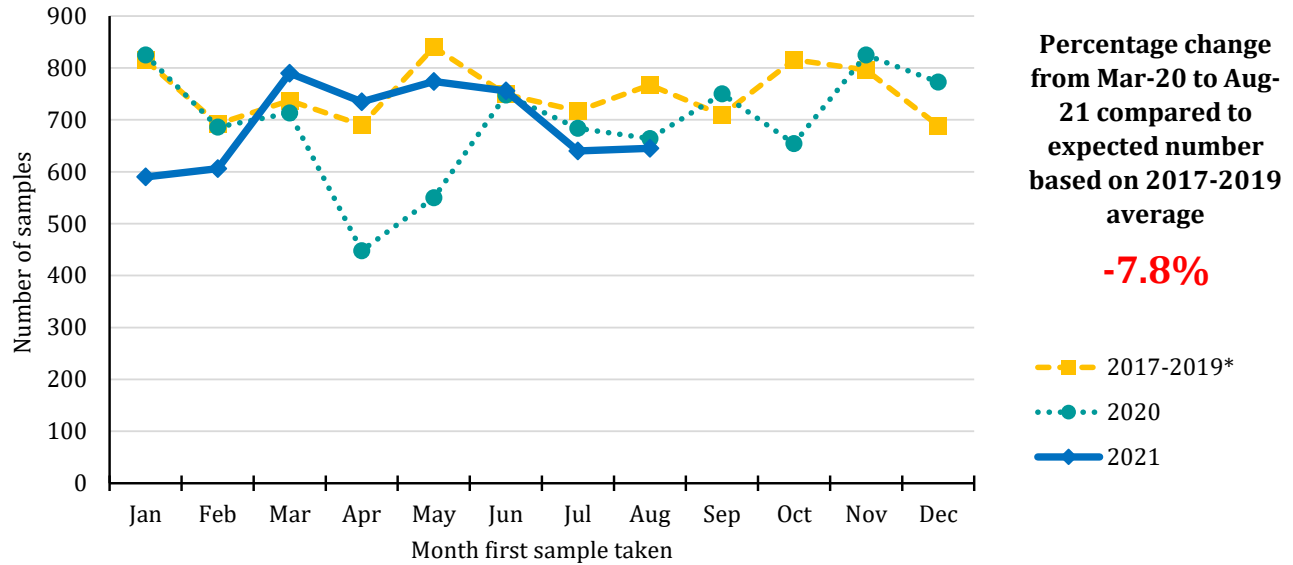
— ■ — 2017-2019*
···●··· 2020
—◆— 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	815	692	737	690	840	749	717	767	709	816	796	689
2020	825	686	713	448	550	748	684	664	750	654	825	773
2021	590	606	790	735	774	756	640	645				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-7.5%

— ■ — 2017-2019*
···●··· 2020
—◆— 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	165	201	163	185	135	165	169	161	188	171	171	149
2020	181	146	165	154	152	113	172	168	138	169	177	177
2021	166	167	183	180	161	134	141	134	159	162	153	132

Annual average

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

Pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): Antrim laboratory
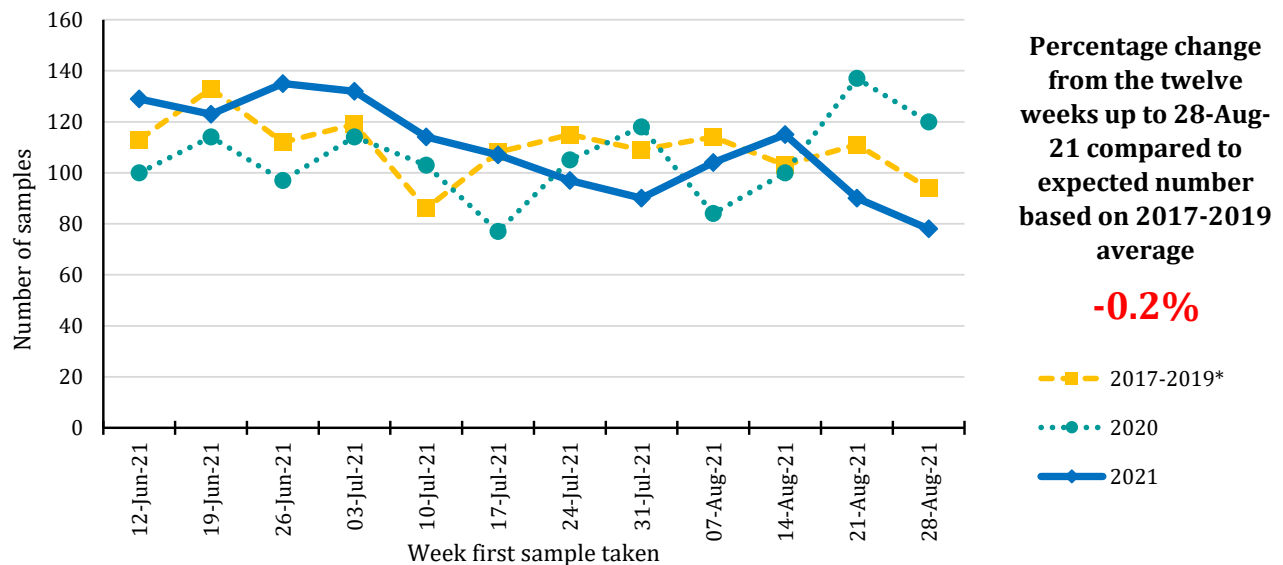
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-2.1%
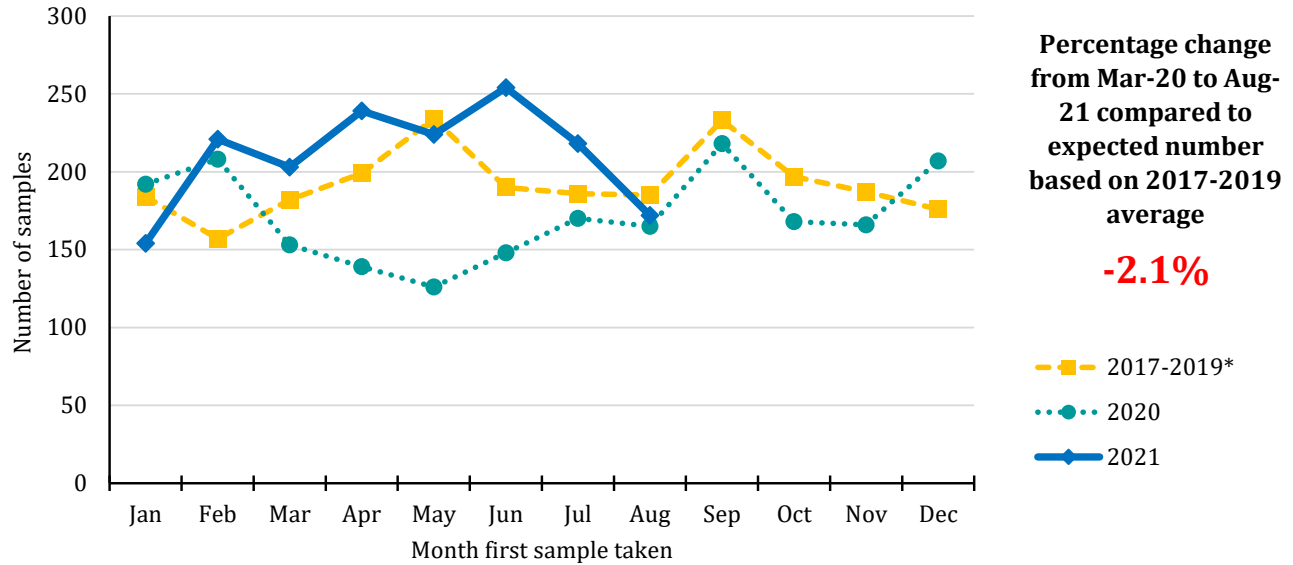
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	184	157	182	199	234	190	186	185	233	197	187	176
2020	192	208	153	139	126	148	170	165	218	168	166	207
2021	154	221	203	239	224	254	218	172				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

16.6%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	51	41	39	49	32	43	45	40	54	31	41	41
2020	33	39	38	31	34	36	29	48	30	36	63	34
2021	54	54	70	50	66	39	43	50	53	42	33	37

Annual average

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

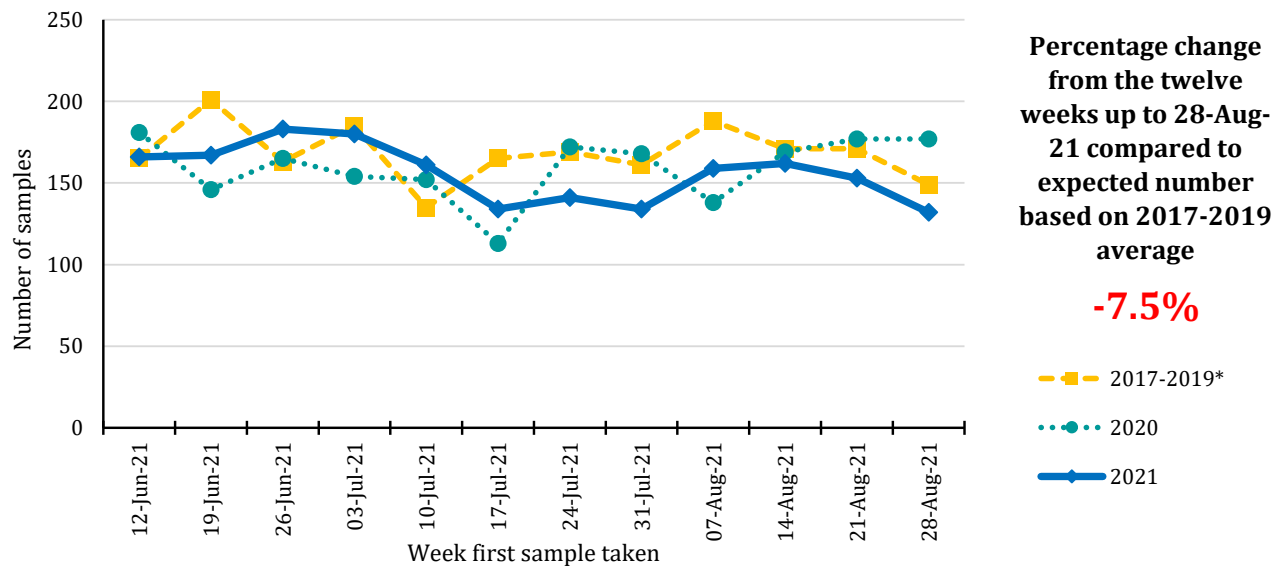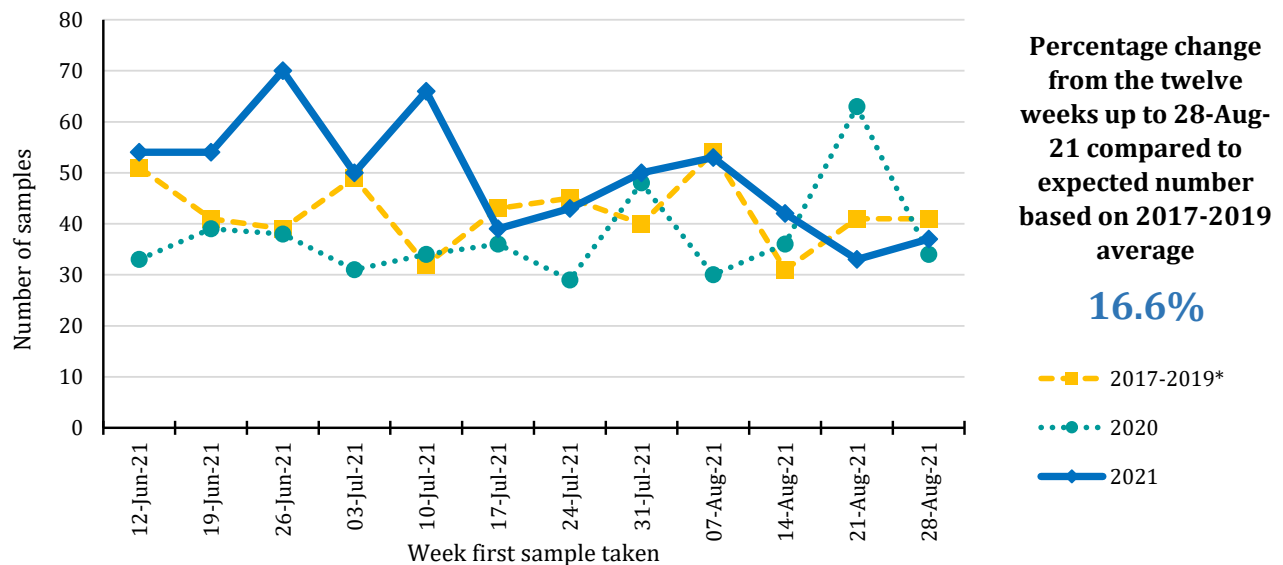## Pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): Craigavon laboratory

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-8.1%
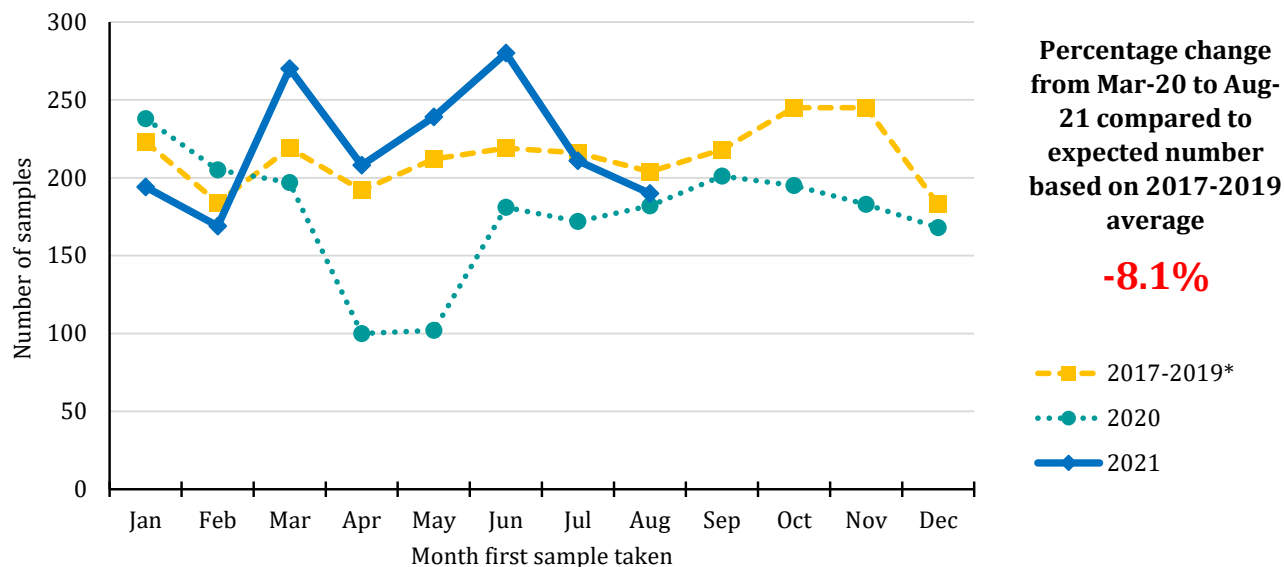
---- ■ ---- 2017-2019*
······ ● ······ 2020
———— ◆ ———— 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	223	184	219	192	212	219	216	204	218	245	245	183
2020	238	205	197	100	102	181	172	182	201	195	183	168
2021	194	169	270	208	239	280	211	190				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

6.9%

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······ ● ······ 2020
———— ◆ ———— 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	45	57	54	47	41	48	56	50	51	52	43	36
2020	41	43	46	61	38	29	33	34	40	50	45	46
2021	58	51	79	61	38	43	53	50	40	55	43	49

Annual average

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*
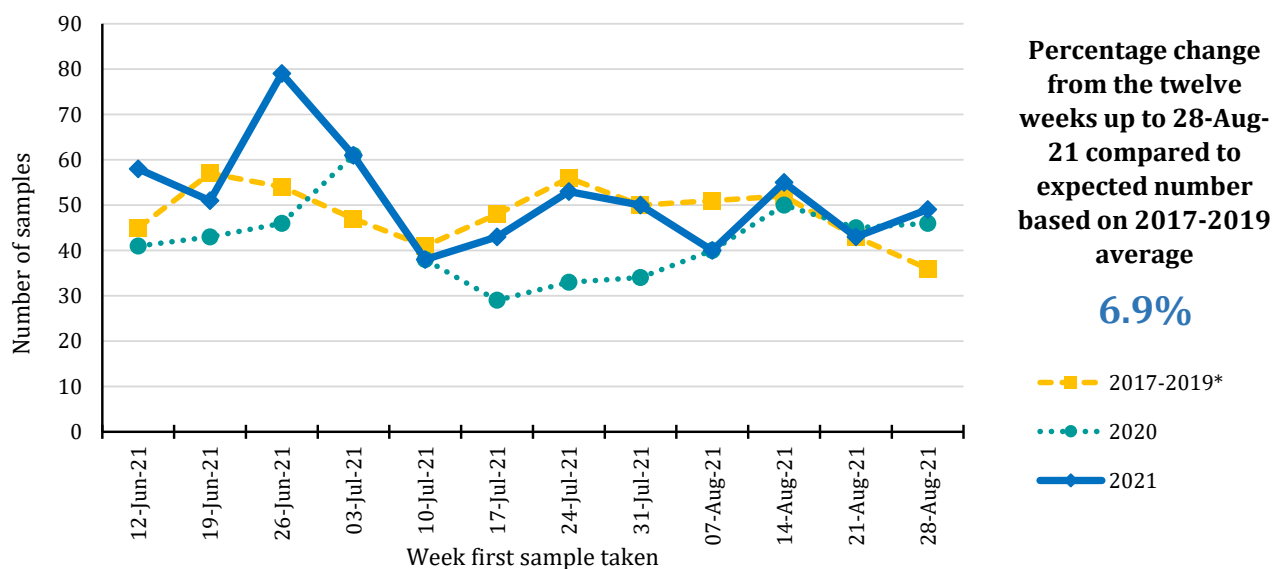
Pathology samples indicating bowel cancer: All persons

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-3.1%

Legend:
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021
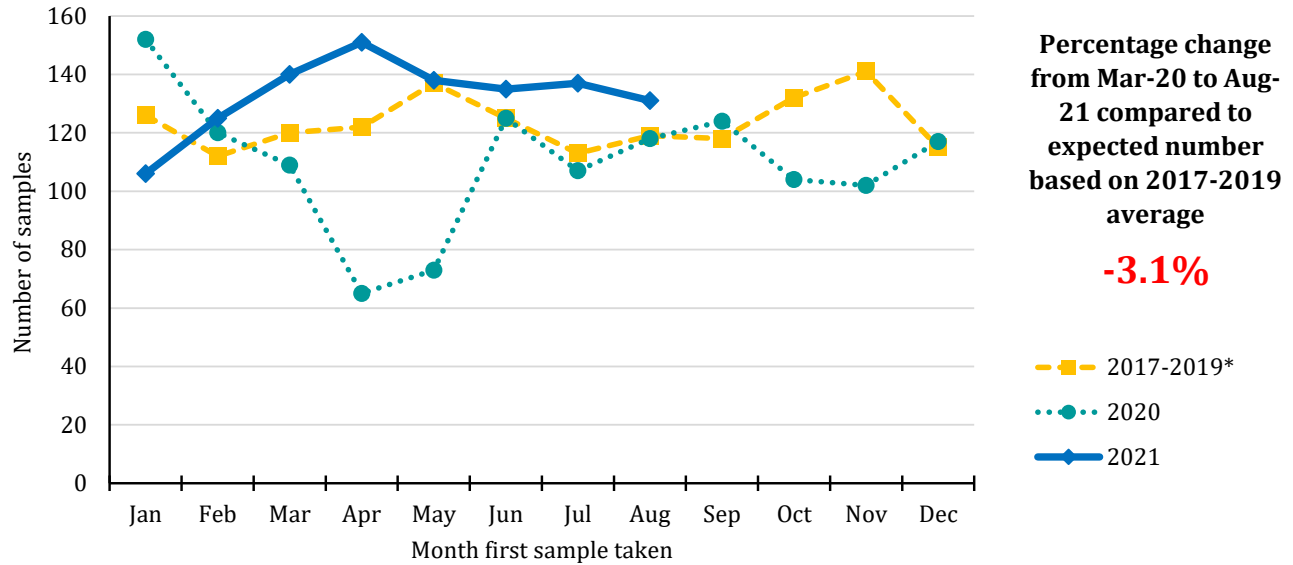
Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	126	112	120	122	137	125	113	119	118	132	141	115
2020	152	120	109	65	73	125	107	118	124	104	102	117
2021	106	125	140	151	138	135	137	131				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

12.8%

Legend:
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	28	32	34	26	19	25	32	20	32	31	25	25
2020	31	27	21	28	34	20	21	16	20	27	42	27
2021	31	31	31	37	31	27	32	27	40	33	26	25

Annual average

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

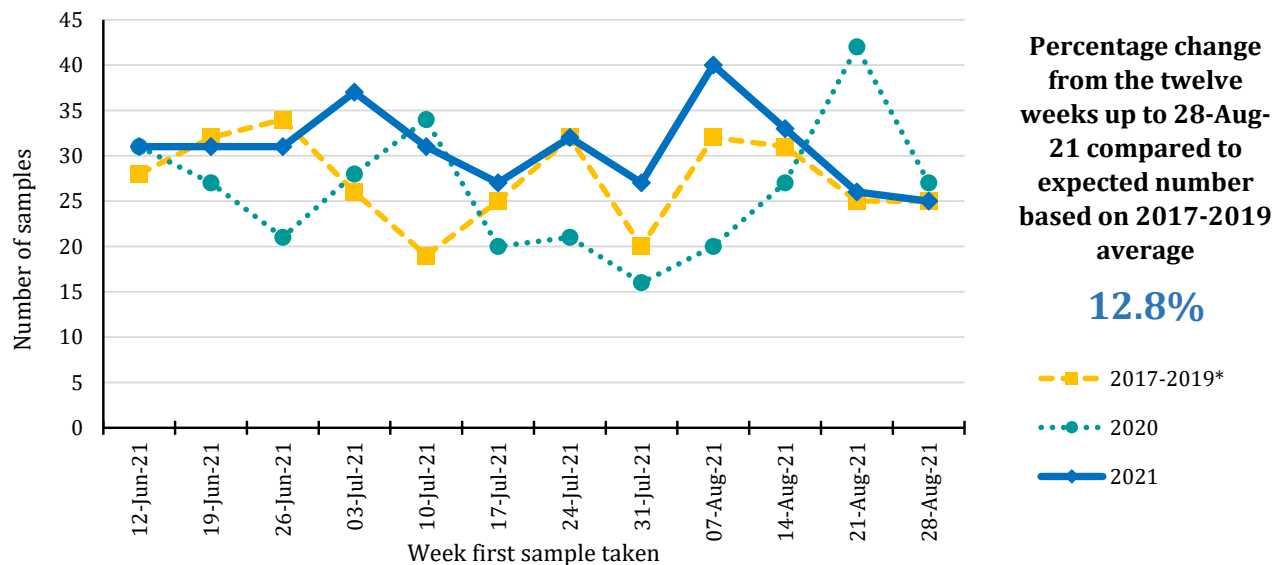# Pathology samples indicating bowel cancer: All persons, screening age (60-74)

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

1.0%
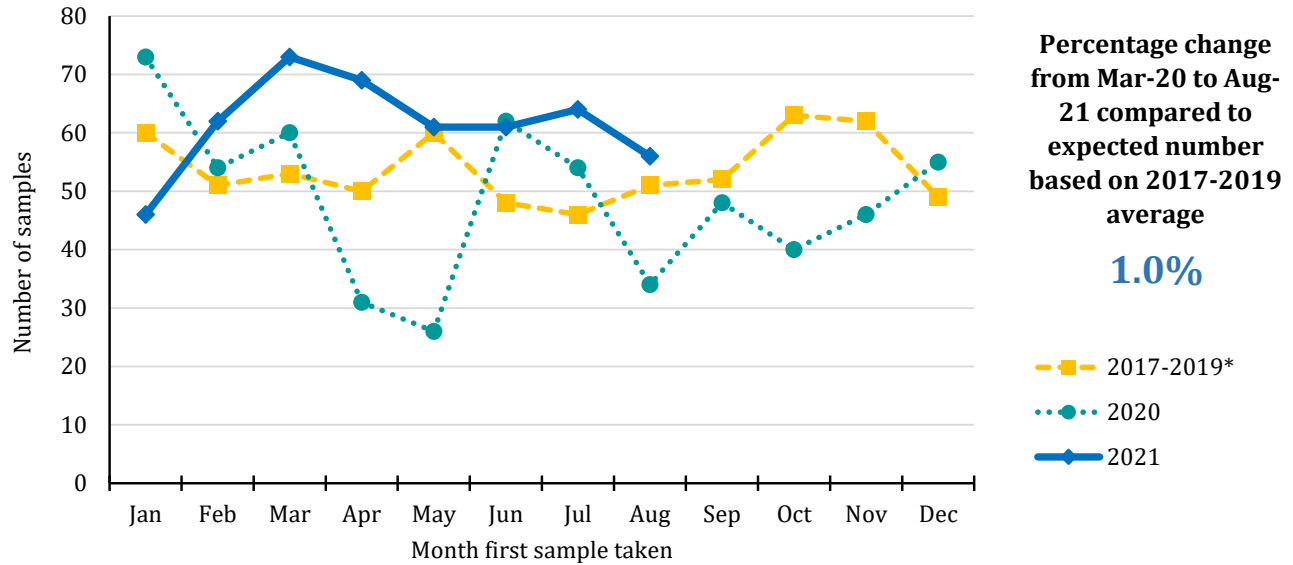
- ■ 2017-2019*
- ● 2020
- ◆ 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	60	51	53	50	60	48	46	51	52	63	62	49
2020	73	54	60	31	26	62	54	34	48	40	46	55
2021	46	62	73	69	61	61	64	56				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

28.8%

- ■ 2017-2019*
- ● 2020
- ◆ 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	11	11	13	11	8	10	14	6	16	14	9	9
2020	16	13	9	18	19	10	11	4	6	10	8	9
2021	12	15	14	21	11	12	19	13	12	13	16	12

Annual average

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

Pathology samples indicating lung cancer: All persons

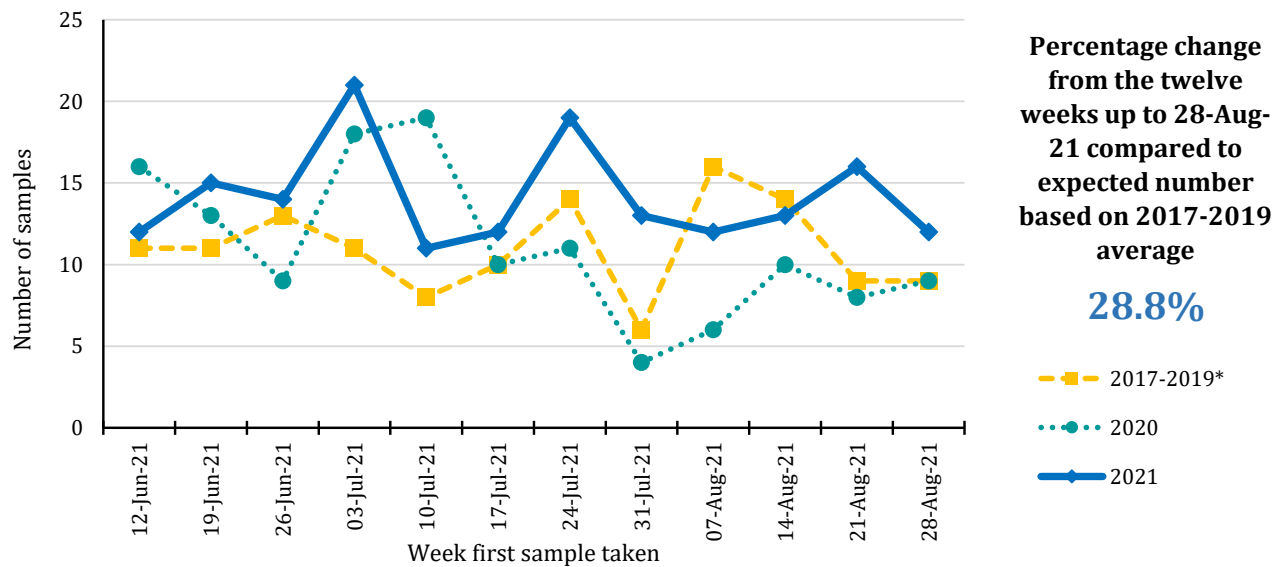## Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-22.6%
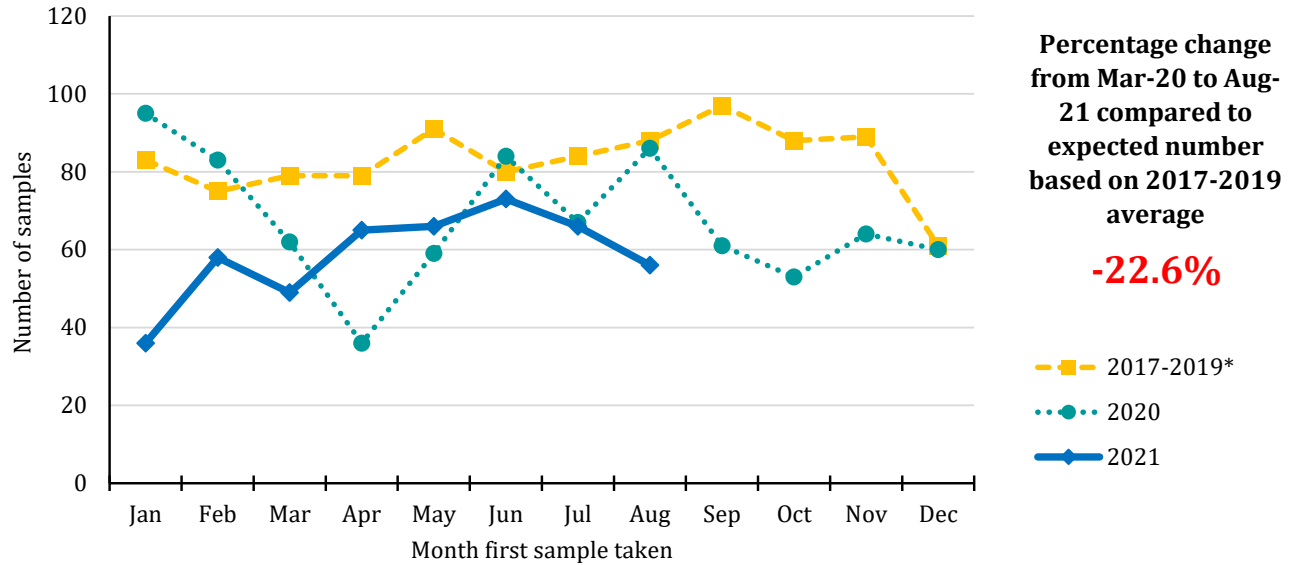
— ■ — 2017-2019*
······●······ 2020
——◆—— 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	83	75	79	79	91	80	84	88	97	88	89	61
2020	95	83	62	36	59	84	67	86	61	53	64	60
2021	36	58	49	65	66	73	66	56				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

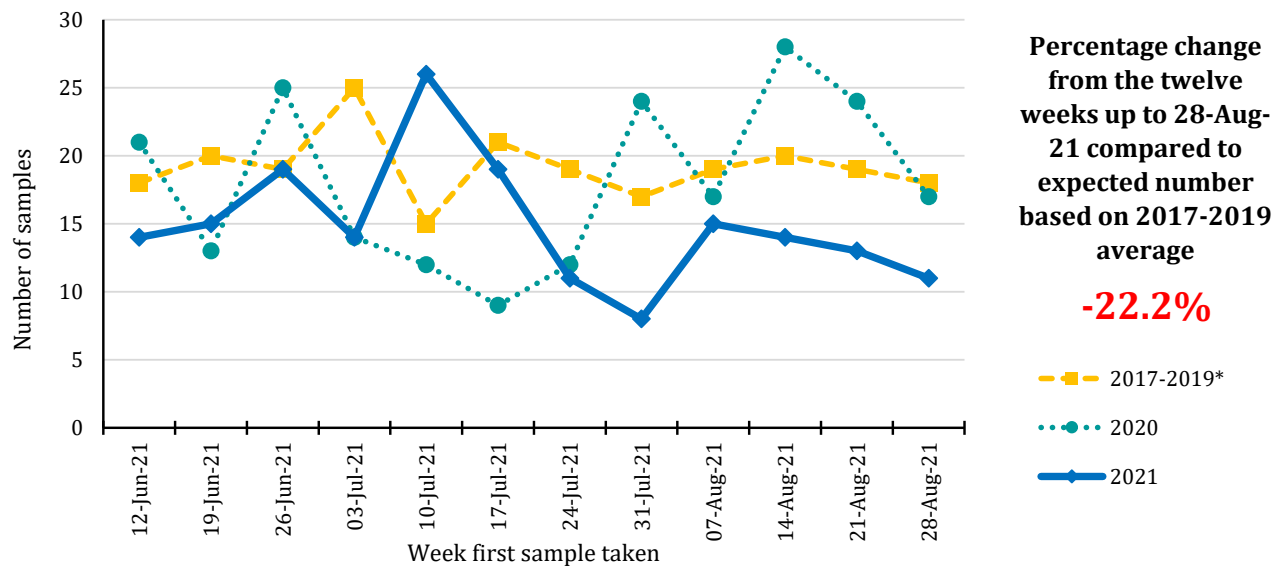
Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-22.2%

— ■ — 2017-2019*
······●······ 2020
——◆—— 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	18	20	19	25	15	21	19	17	19	20	19	18
2020	21	13	25	14	12	9	12	24	17	28	24	17
2021	14	15	19	14	26	19	11	8	15	14	13	11

Annual average

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

Pathology samples indicating breast cancer: Females

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-3.9%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	290	237	273	242	290	247	253	271	263	277	272	261
2020	245	246	235	187	139	201	213	232	292	265	257	286
2021	272	242	314	280	320	341	280	227				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

10.5%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

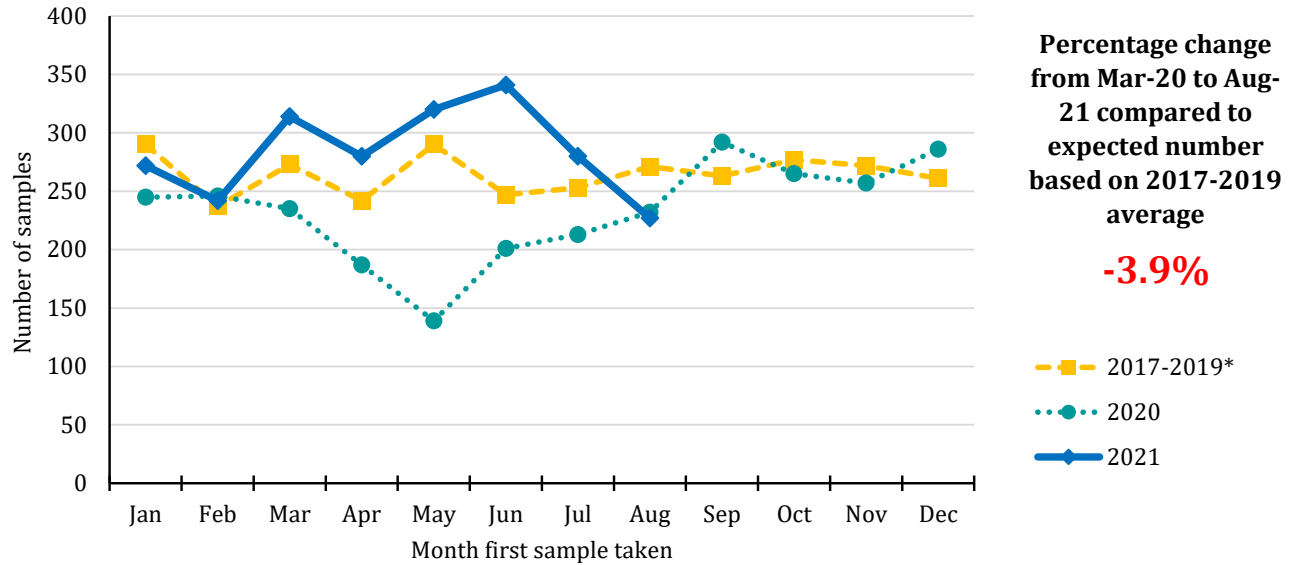| Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	57	60	52	65	50	56	57	62	76	56	60	46
2020	45	36	56	47	56	37	53	36	51	54	57	70
2021	85	59	94	63	68	61	69	57	54	63	48	49

Annual average

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

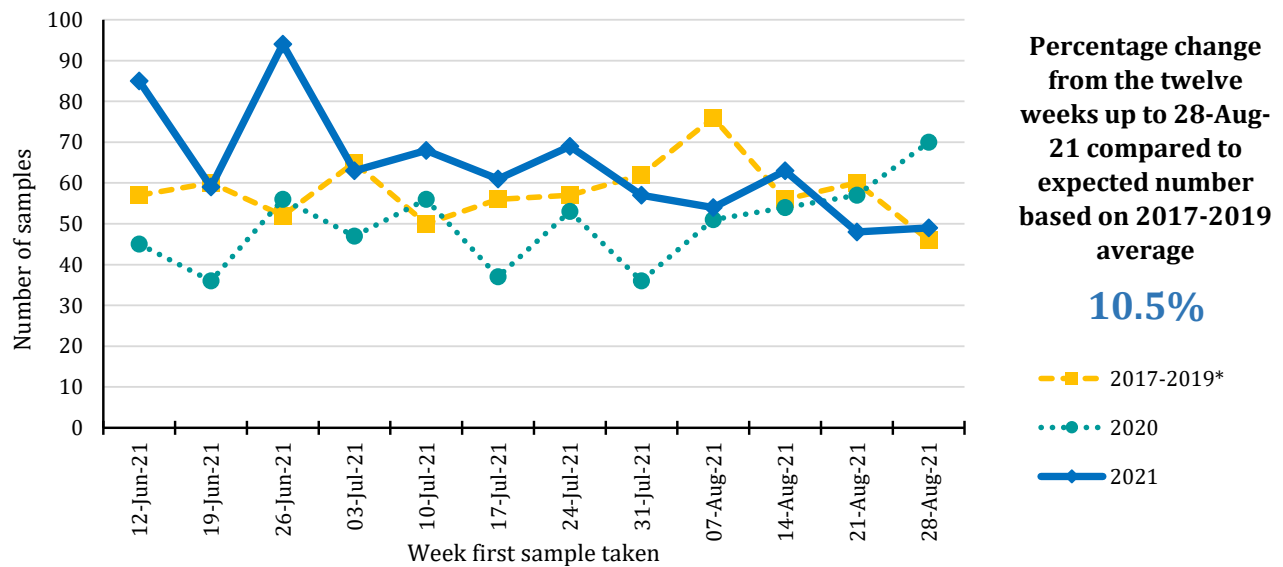## Pathology samples indicating breast cancer: Females, screening age (50-70)

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

1.1%
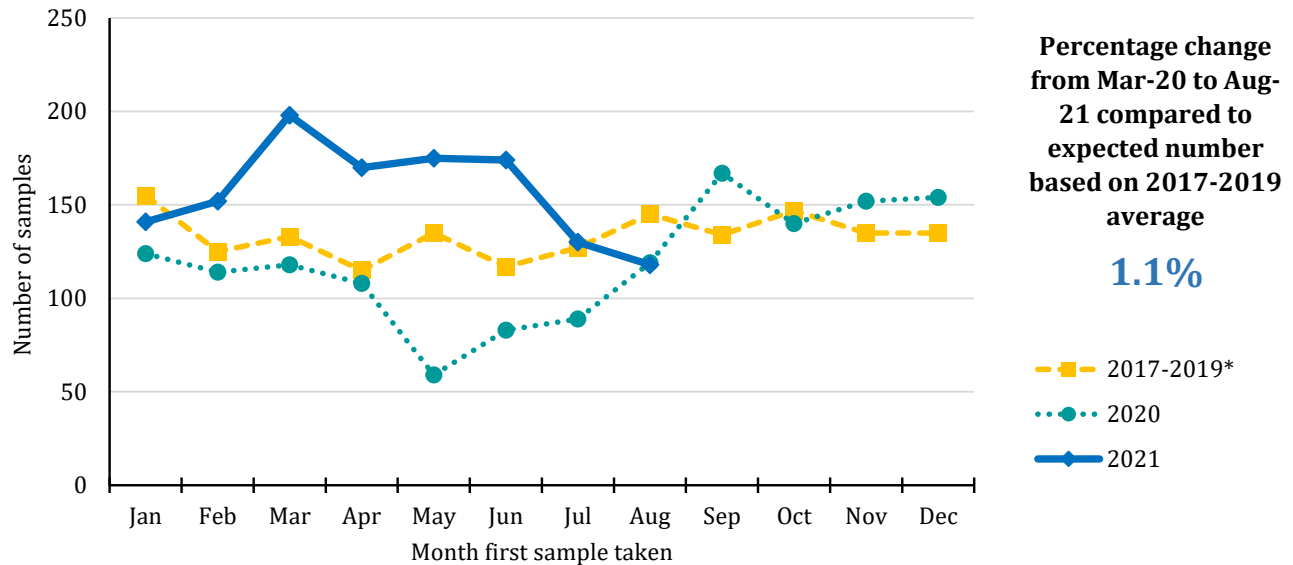
- – ■ – 2017-2019*
- ·· ● ·· 2020
- — ◆ — 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	155	125	133	115	135	117	127	145	134	147	135	135
2020	124	114	118	108	59	83	89	119	167	140	152	154
2021	141	152	198	170	175	174	130	118				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

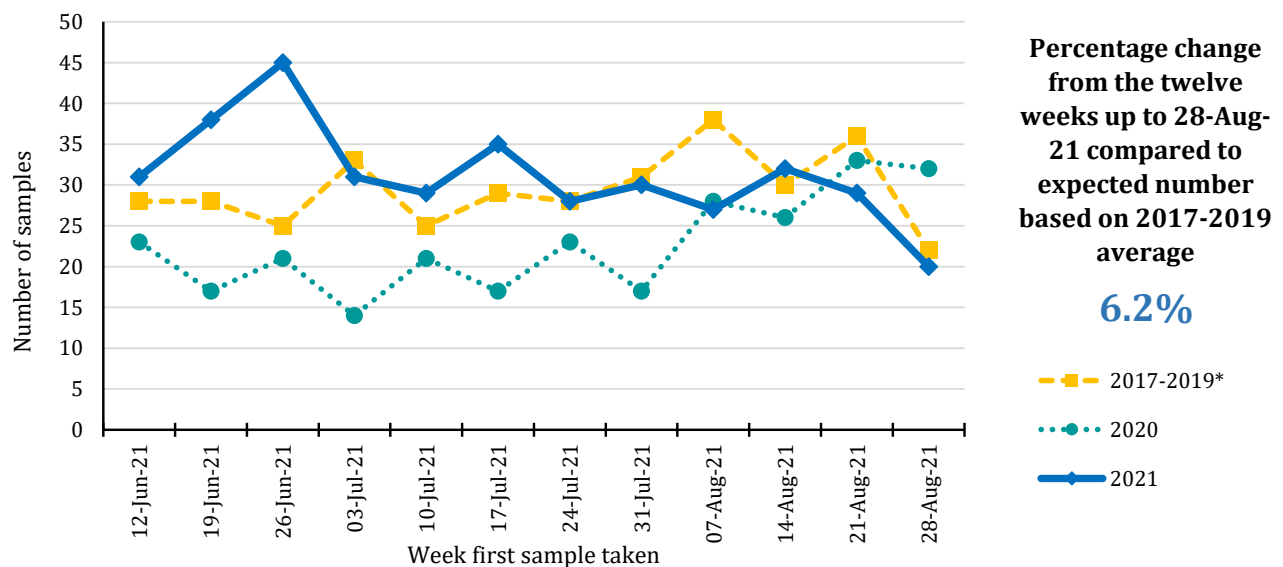**Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

6.2%

- – ■ – 2017-2019*
- ·· ● ·· 2020
- — ◆ — 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	28	28	25	33	25	29	28	31	38	30	36	22
2020	23	17	21	14	21	17	23	17	28	26	33	32
2021	31	38	45	31	29	35	28	30	27	32	29	20

Annual average

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

Pathology samples indicating prostate cancer: Males

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-10.2%
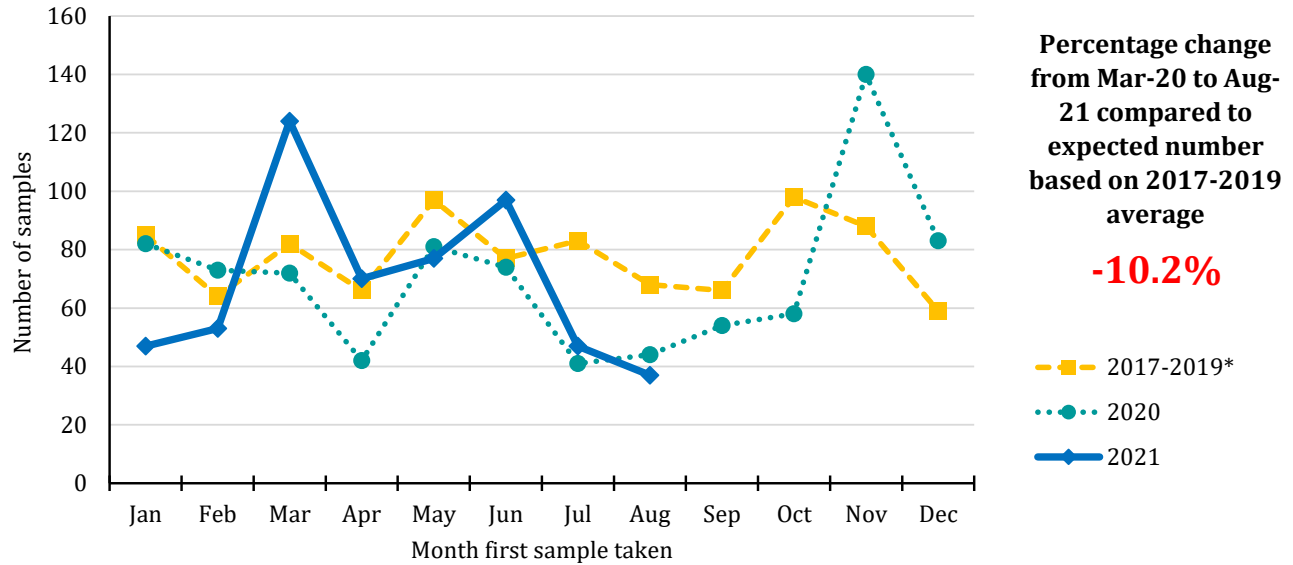
- --■-- 2017-2019*
- ······●······ 2020
- —◆— 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	85	64	82	66	97	77	83	68	66	98	88	59
2020	82	73	72	42	81	74	41	44	54	58	140	83
2021	47	53	124	70	77	97	47	37				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

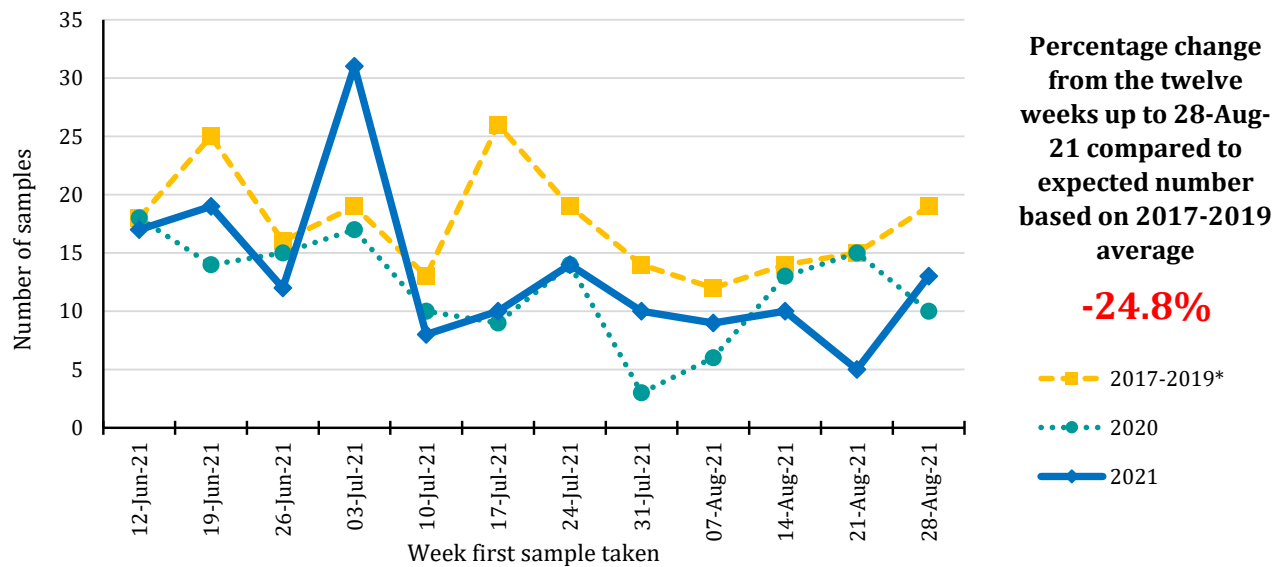**Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

-24.8%

- --■-- 2017-2019*
- ······●······ 2020
- —◆— 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	18	25	16	19	13	26	19	14	12	14	15	19
2020	18	14	15	17	10	9	14	3	6	13	15	10
2021	17	19	12	31	8	10	14	10	9	10	5	13

Annual average

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

Pathology samples indicating gynaecological cancer: Females

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-20.8%

Legend:
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021
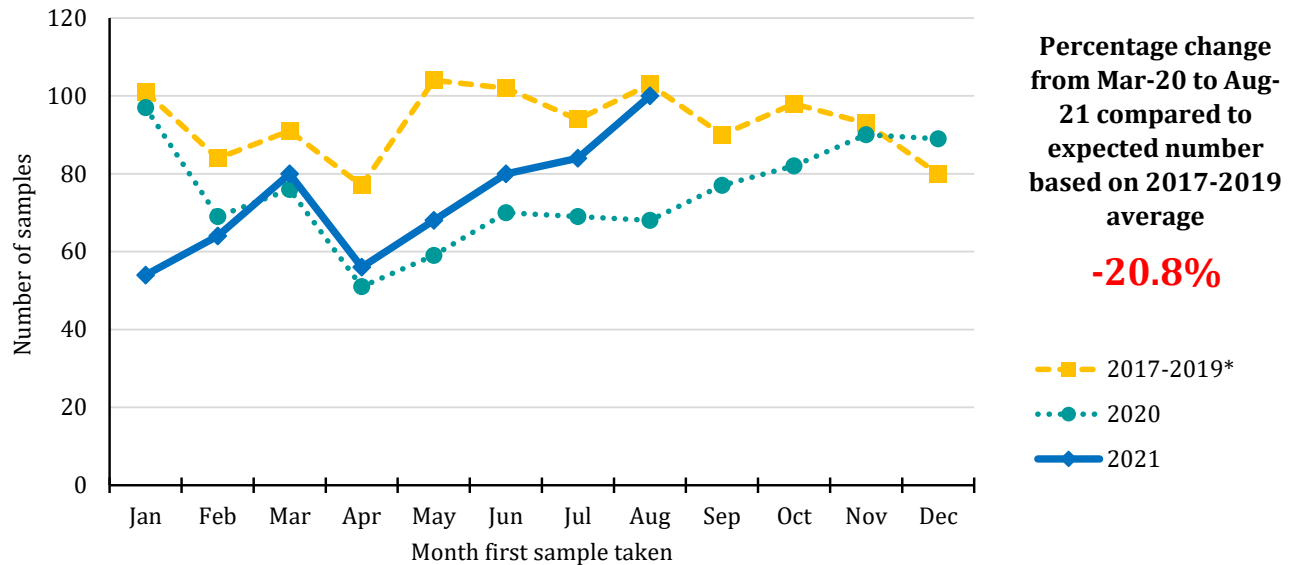
Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	101	84	91	77	104	102	94	103	90	98	93	80
2020	97	69	76	51	59	70	69	68	77	82	90	89
2021	54	64	80	56	68	80	84	100				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

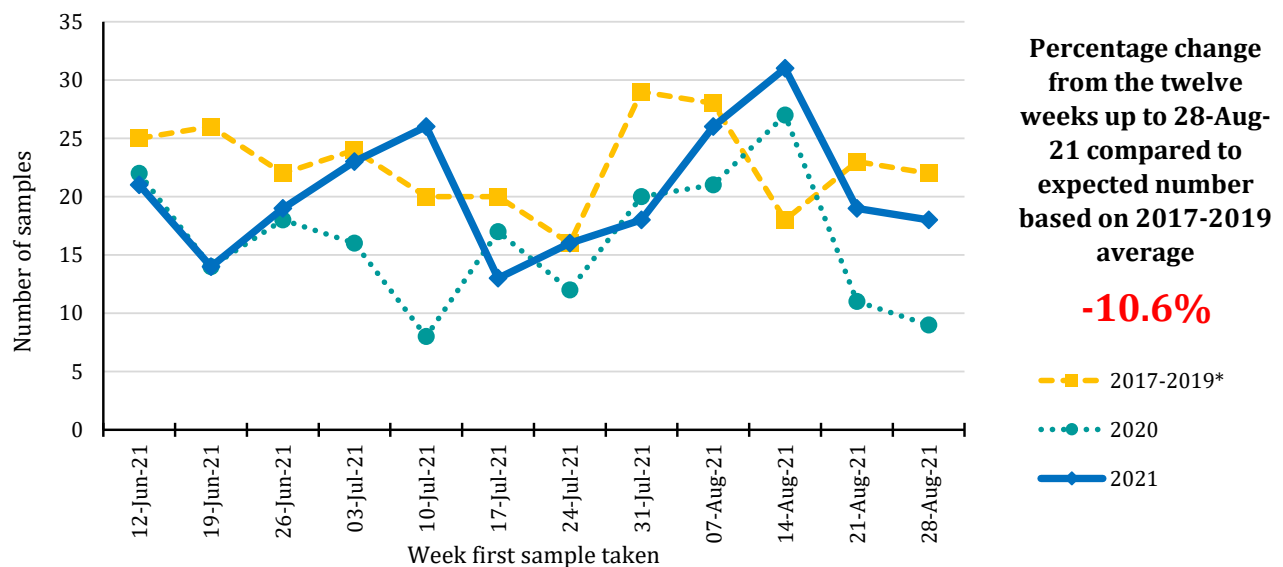**Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

-10.6%

Legend:
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	25	26	22	24	20	20	16	29	28	18	23	22
2020	22	14	18	16	8	17	12	20	21	27	11	9
2021	21	14	19	23	26	13	16	18	26	31	19	18

Annual average

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

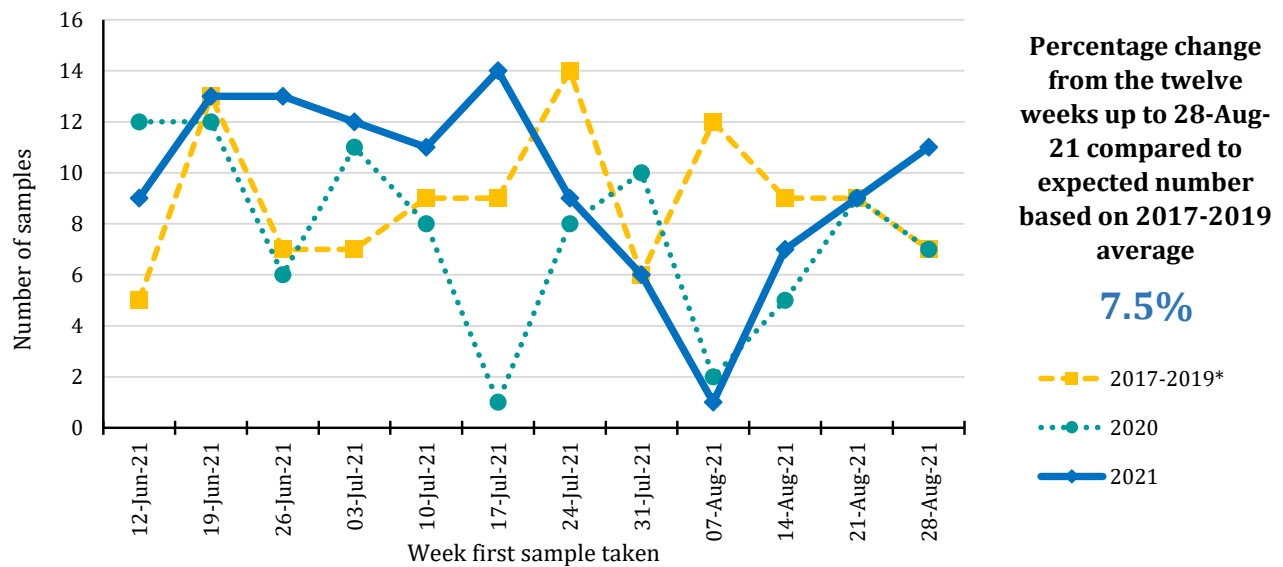## Pathology samples indicating upper gastrointestinal cancer: All persons

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-8.4%
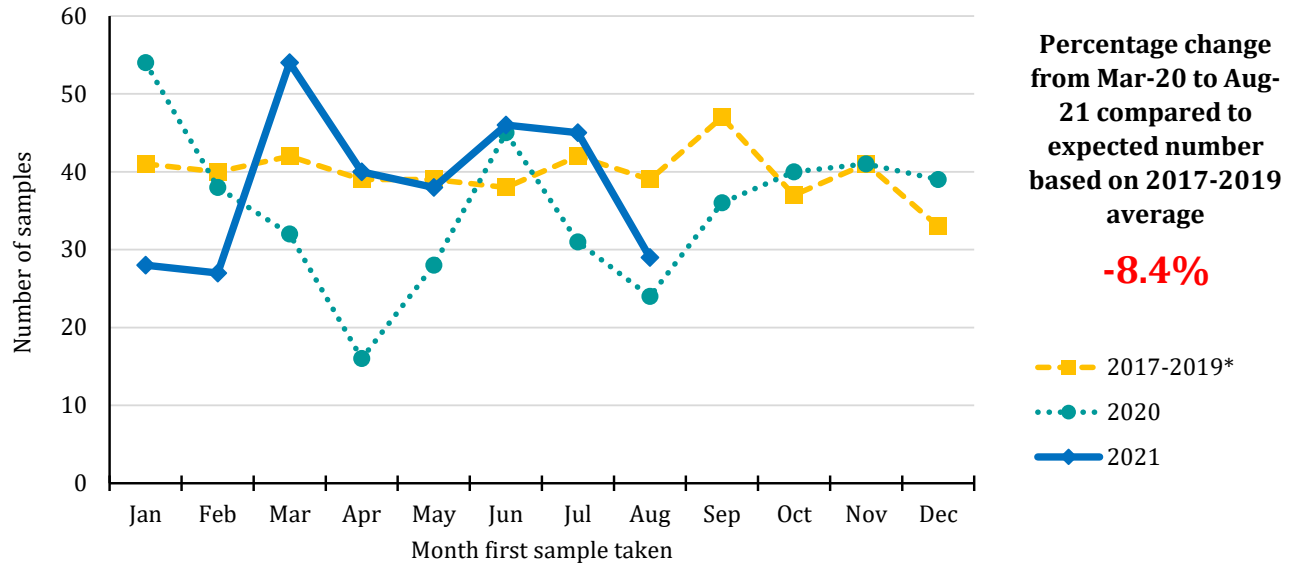
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	41	40	42	39	39	38	42	39	47	37	41	33
2020	54	38	32	16	28	45	31	24	36	40	41	39
2021	28	27	54	40	38	46	45	29				

*Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

7.5%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	5	13	7	7	9	9	14	6	12	9	9	7
2020	12	12	6	11	8	1	8	10	2	5	9	7
2021	9	13	13	12	11	14	9	6	1	7	9	11

*Annual average

* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

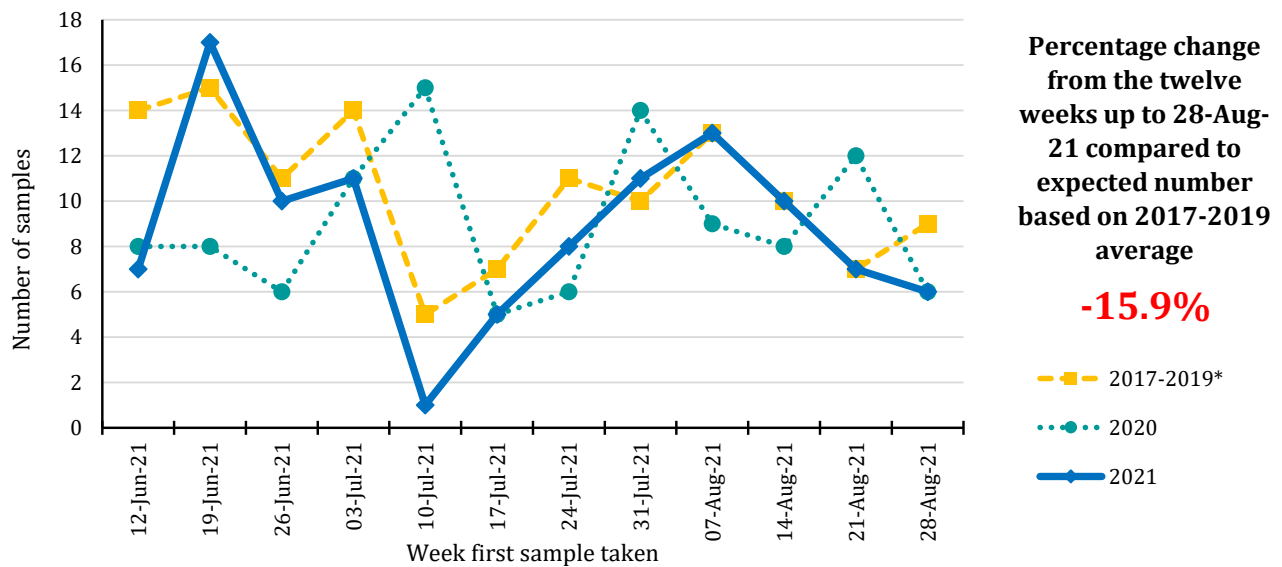## Pathology samples indicating head & neck cancer: All persons

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-11.1%
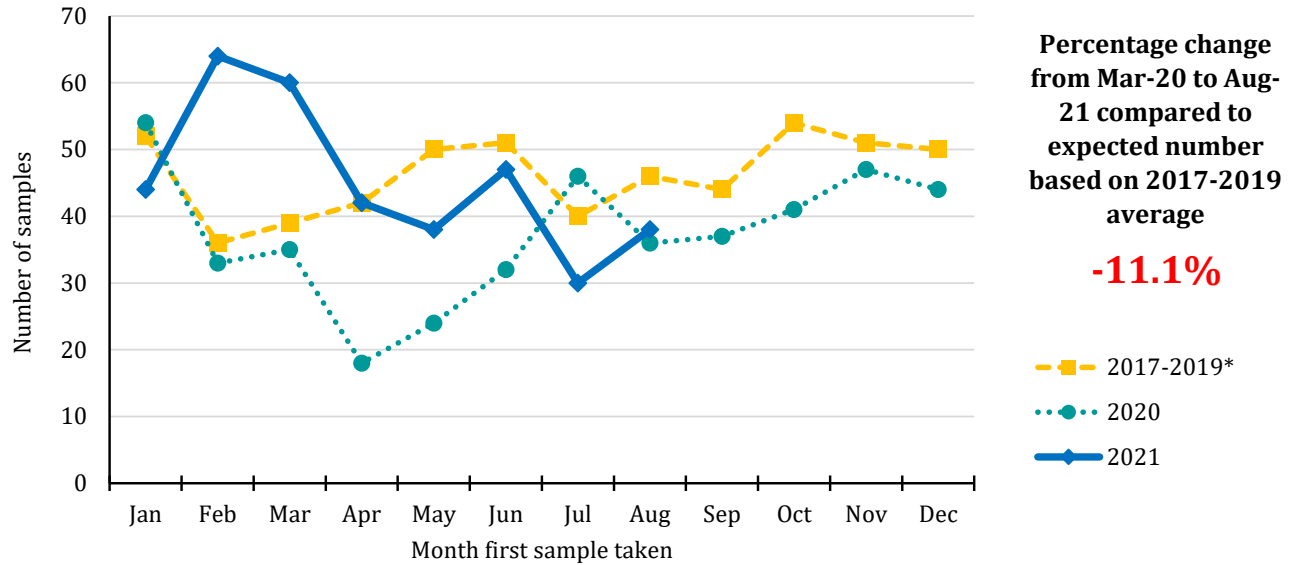
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	52	36	39	42	50	51	40	46	44	54	51	50
2020	54	33	35	18	24	32	46	36	37	41	47	44
2021	44	64	60	42	38	47	30	38				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken
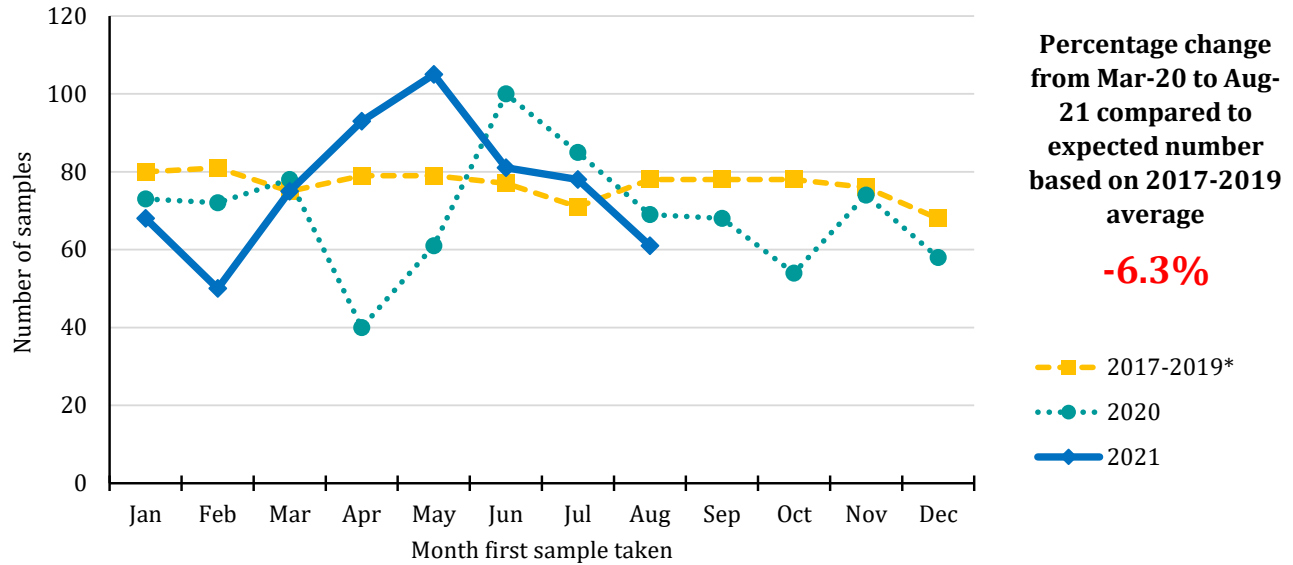

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-15.9%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	14	15	11	14	5	7	11	10	13	10	7	9
2020	8	8	6	11	15	5	6	14	9	8	12	6
2021	7	17	10	11	1	5	8	11	13	10	7	6

Annual average

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

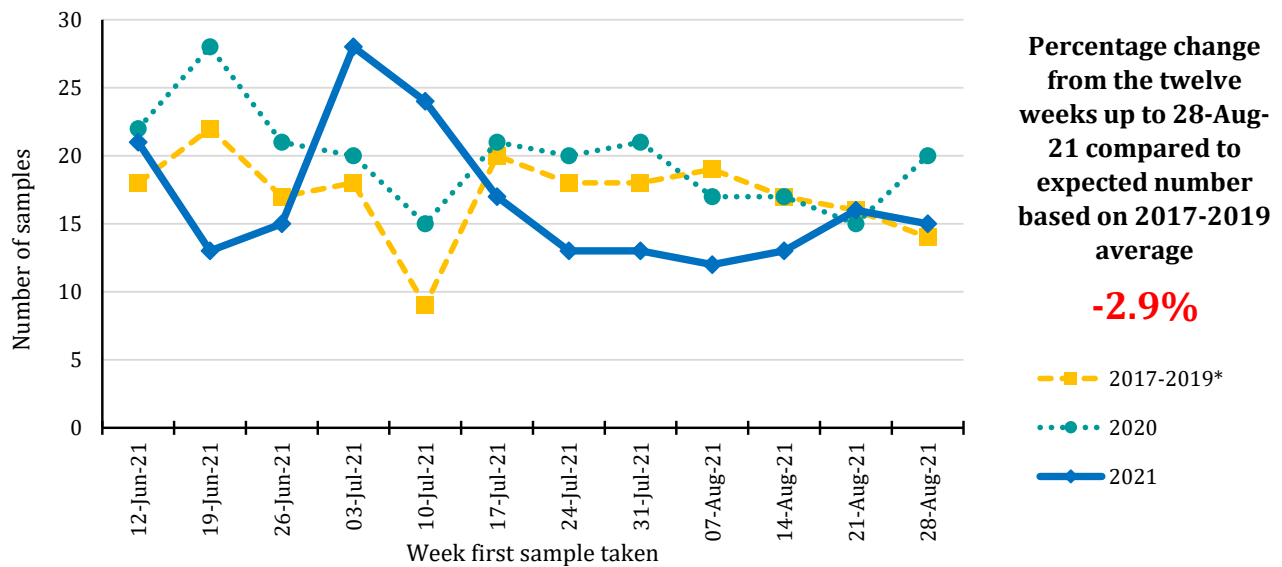## Pathology samples indicating urinary cancer: All persons

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-6.3%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	80	81	75	79	79	77	71	78	78	78	76	68
2020	73	72	78	40	61	100	85	69	68	54	74	58
2021	68	50	75	93	105	81	78	61				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-2.9%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	18	22	17	18	9	20	18	18	19	17	16	14
2020	22	28	21	20	15	21	20	21	17	17	15	20
2021	21	13	15	28	24	17	13	13	12	13	16	15

Annual average

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

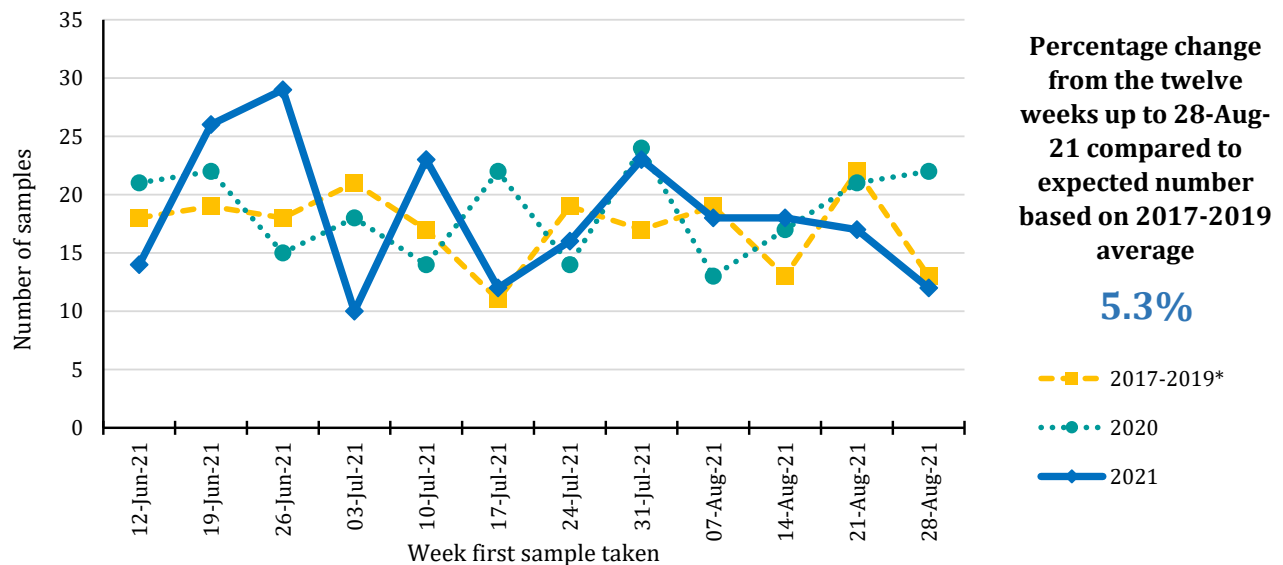## Pathology samples indicating haematological cancer: All persons

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

2.6%
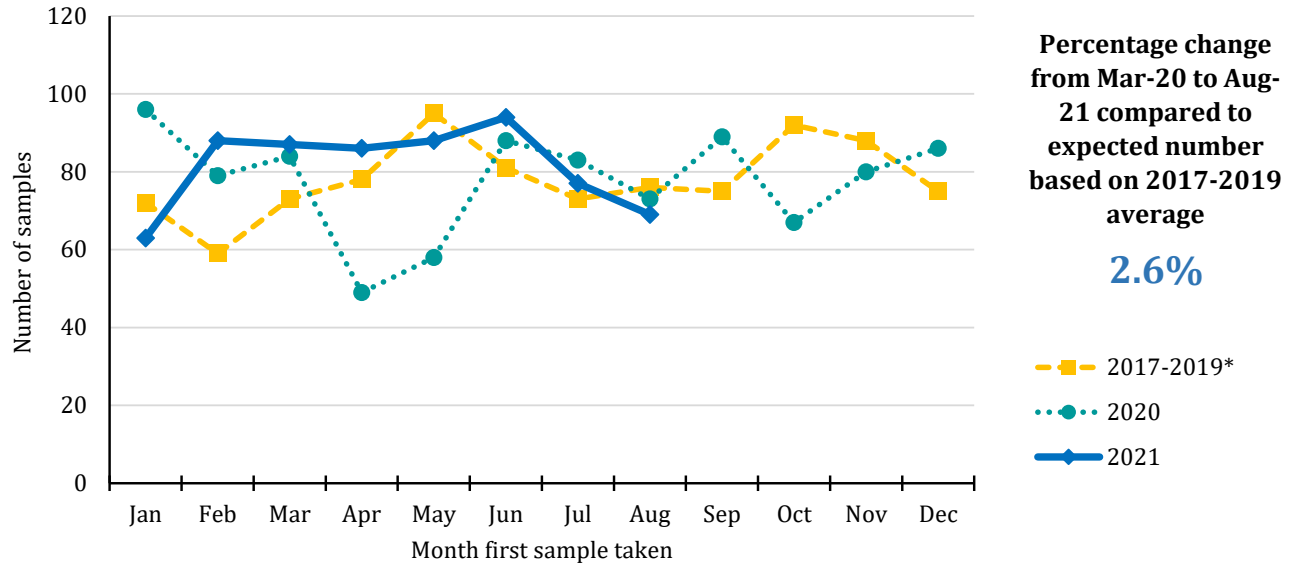
--- 2017-2019*
···• 2020
——◆ 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	72	59	73	78	95	81	73	76	75	92	88	75
2020	96	79	84	49	58	88	83	73	89	67	80	86
2021	63	88	87	86	88	94	77	69				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

5.3%

--- 2017-2019*
···• 2020
——◆ 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	18	19	18	21	17	11	19	17	19	13	22	13
2020	21	22	15	18	14	22	14	24	13	17	21	22
2021	14	26	29	10	23	12	16	23	18	18	17	12

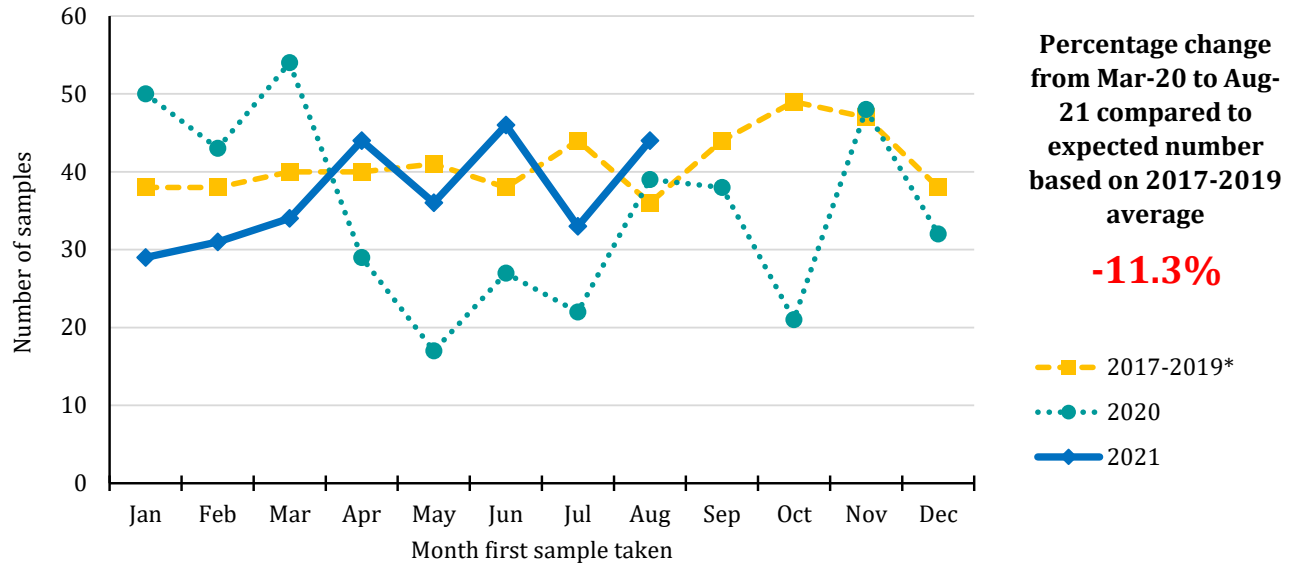*Annual average*

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

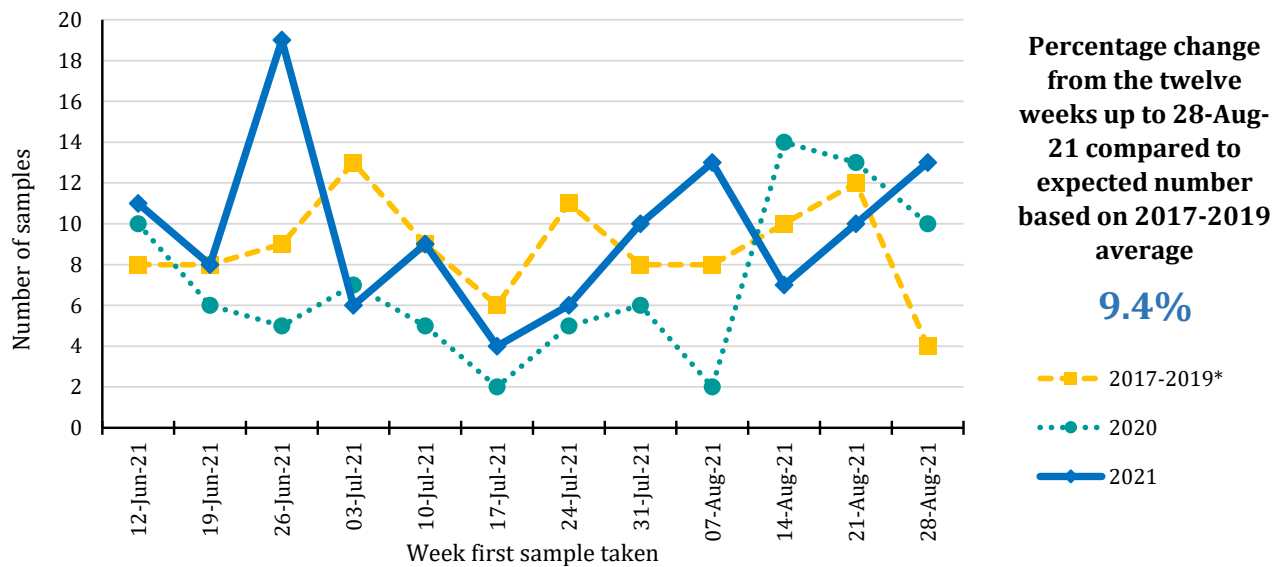## Pathology samples indicating malignant melanoma: All persons

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-11.3%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	38	38	40	40	41	38	44	36	44	49	47	38
2020	50	43	54	29	17	27	22	39	38	21	48	32
2021	29	31	34	44	36	46	33	44				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

9.4%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	8	8	9	13	9	6	11	8	8	10	12	4
2020	10	6	5	7	5	2	5	6	2	14	13	10
2021	11	8	19	6	9	4	6	10	13	7	10	13

Annual average

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

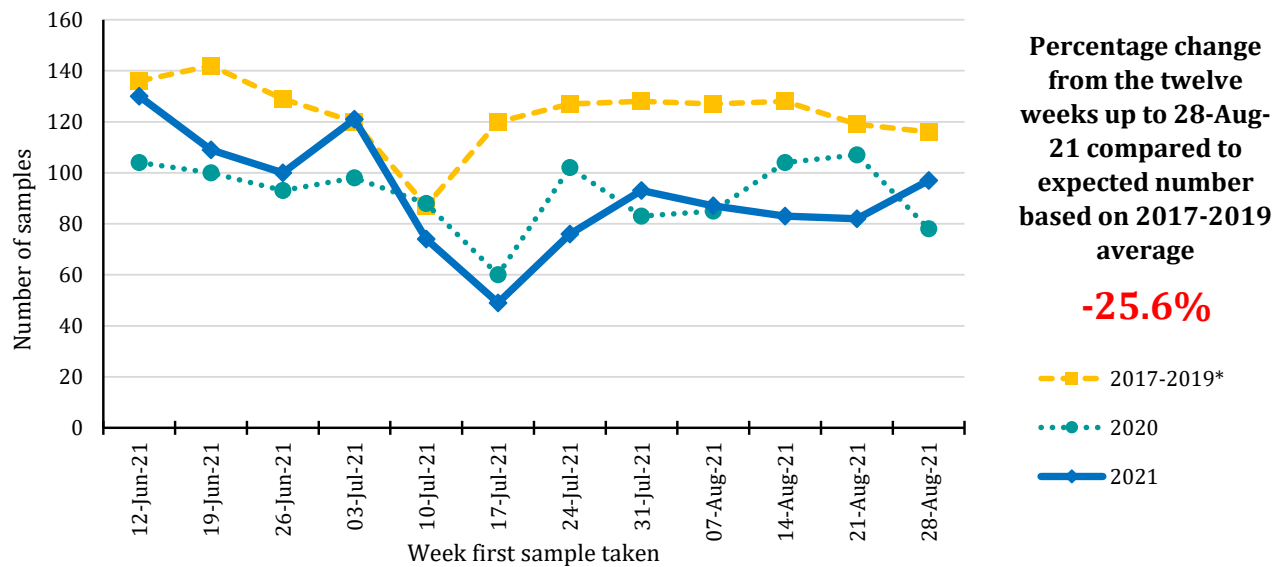## Pathology samples indicating non-melanoma skin cancer: All persons

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-24.6%
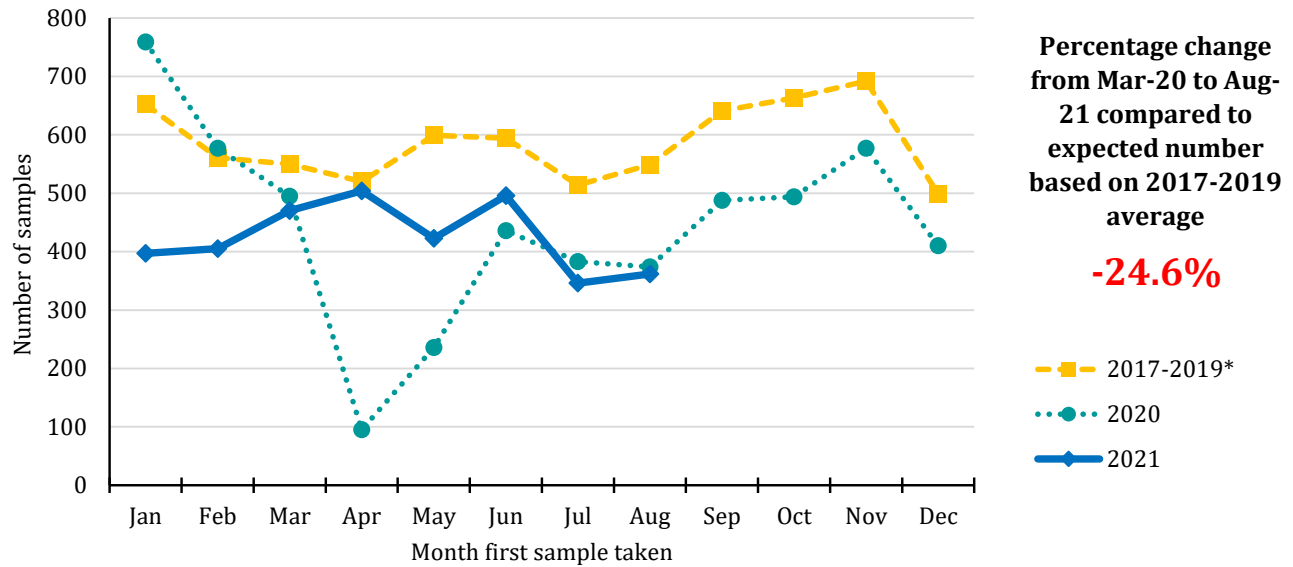
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	652	561	550	520	599	594	514	549	641	663	692	499
2020	759	577	495	95	236	436	383	374	488	494	577	410
2021	397	405	470	504	423	496	346	362				

Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken
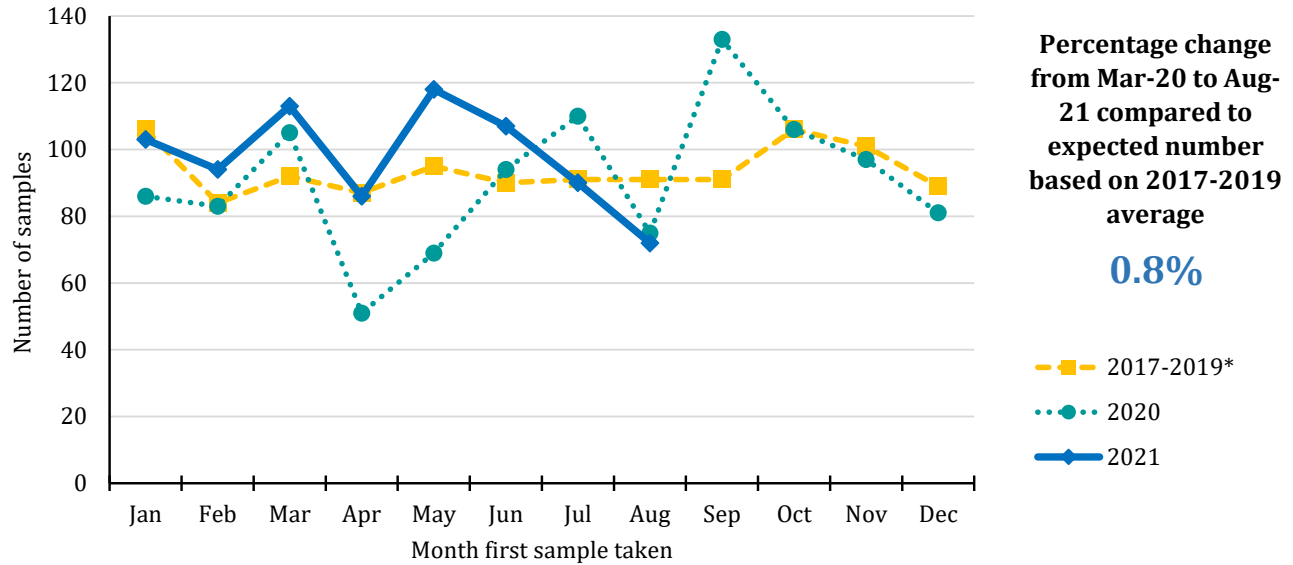

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-25.6%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	136	142	129	120	87	120	127	128	127	128	119	116
2020	104	100	93	98	88	60	102	83	85	104	107	78
2021	130	109	100	121	74	49	76	93	87	83	82	97

Annual average

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

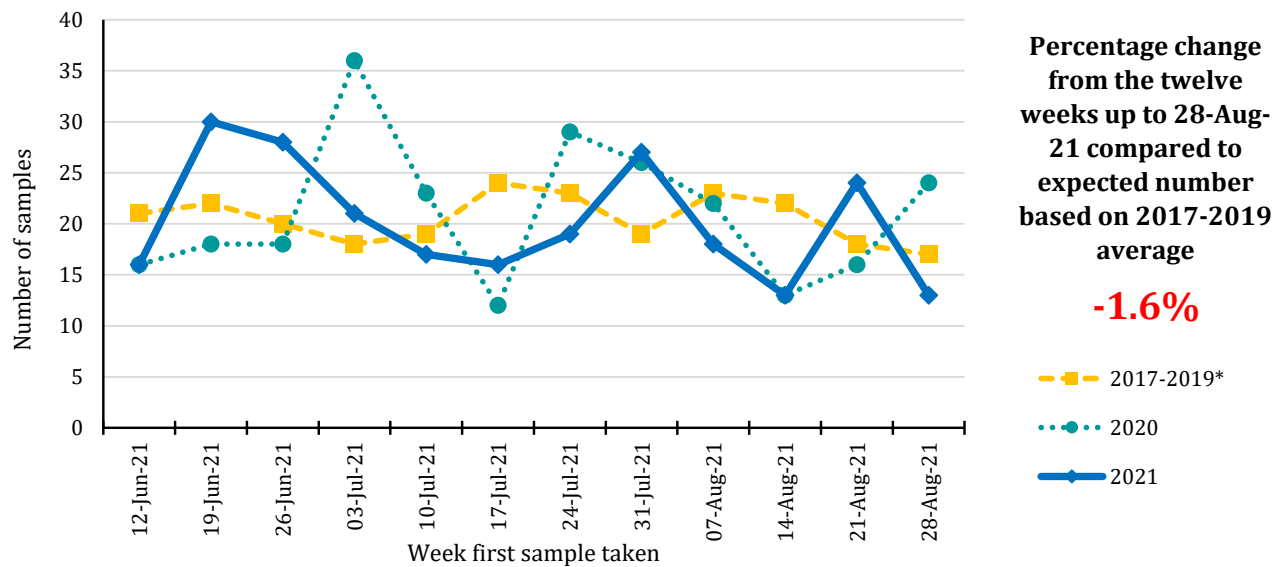## Pathology samples indicating other cancer: All persons

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

0.8%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	106	84	92	87	95	90	91	91	91	106	101	89
2020	86	83	105	51	69	94	110	75	133	106	97	81
2021	103	94	113	86	118	107	90	72				

*Annual average

Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 28-Aug-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-1.6%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	12-Jun-21	**19-Jun-21**	**26-Jun-21**	**03-Jul-21**	**10-Jul-21**	**17-Jul-21**	**24-Jul-21**	**31-Jul-21**	**07-Aug-21**	**14-Aug-21**	**21-Aug-21**	**28-Aug-21**
2017-2019*	21	22	20	18	19	24	23	19	23	22	18	17
2020	16	18	18	36	23	12	29	26	22	13	16	24
2021	16	30	28	21	17	16	19	27	18	13	24	13

*Annual average

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

Notes:

1. NMSC: Non-melanoma skin cancer

2. Data is sourced from three of the four NHS pathology laboratories in Northern Ireland (Antrim, Belfast, Craigavon), which is provided to the NI Cancer Registry on a monthly basis. It does not include information on pathology samples processed by private laboratories.

3. Figures represent the number of pathology samples that indicated a malignant tumour and had this result coded and recorded by the end of Aug-21. Due to potential reporting delays, pathology data from the month following Aug-21 are used in compiling the presented results.

4. Assignment of week number is based upon a Sunday to Saturday week. The week ending label used in graphs and tables is based upon the date of the end of the week (a Saturday) in 2020/2021. This is compared with the equivalent Sunday-Saturday week in 2017-2019, although the actual date ending this week in 2017-2019 will differ.

5. Cancer types are defined as follows:

> **Bowel cancer:** Includes colon, rectum and rectosigmoid junction (ICD10 codes: C18-C20)
> **Lung cancer:** Includes lung and trachea (ICD10 codes: C33-C34)
> **Breast cancer:** Includes female breast only (ICD10 codes: C50)
> **Prostate cancer:** (ICD10 codes: C61)
> **Gynaecological cancer:** Includes uterus, ovary, cervix, vulva, vagina, placenta and other female genital (ICD10 codes: C51-C58)
> **Upper GI cancer:** Includes oesophagus and stomach (ICD10 codes: C15, C16).
> **Head and neck cancer:** Includes lip, tongue, mouth, parotid & salivary glands, tonsil, oropharynx, nasopharynx, pyriform sinus, hypopharynx, nasal cavity, middle ear, sinuses and larynx (ICD10 codes: C00-C14, C30-C32)
> **Urinary cancer:** Includes kidney, renal pelvis, ureter, bladder and other urinary (ICD10 codes: C64-C68).
> **Haematological cancer:** Includes lymphoma (all types), leukaemia (all types), myeloma, malignant immunoproliferative disease and other lymphoid and haematopoietic (ICD10 codes: C81-C96)
> **Melanoma:** (ICD10 code: C43)
> **Non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC):** (ICD10 code: C44)
> **Other cancer:** Includes cancers of small intestine, anus, liver, gallbladder, thymus, bone, mesothelioma, soft tissue, penis, testis, eye, brain, endocrine system and thyroid (ICD10 codes: C16, C21-C26, C37-C41, C45-C49, C60, C62, C63, C69-C75). Excludes cancer of unknown primary."

Acknowledgements

Further Information

Further data is available at: **www.qub.ac.uk/nicr**
Phone: +44 (0)28 9097 6028
e-mail: nicr@qub.ac.uk