

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

September 2021 Update

Acknowledgements: The Northern Ireland Cancer Registry (NICR) is funded by the Public Health Agency. NICR uses data provided by patients and collected by the health service as part of their care and support.



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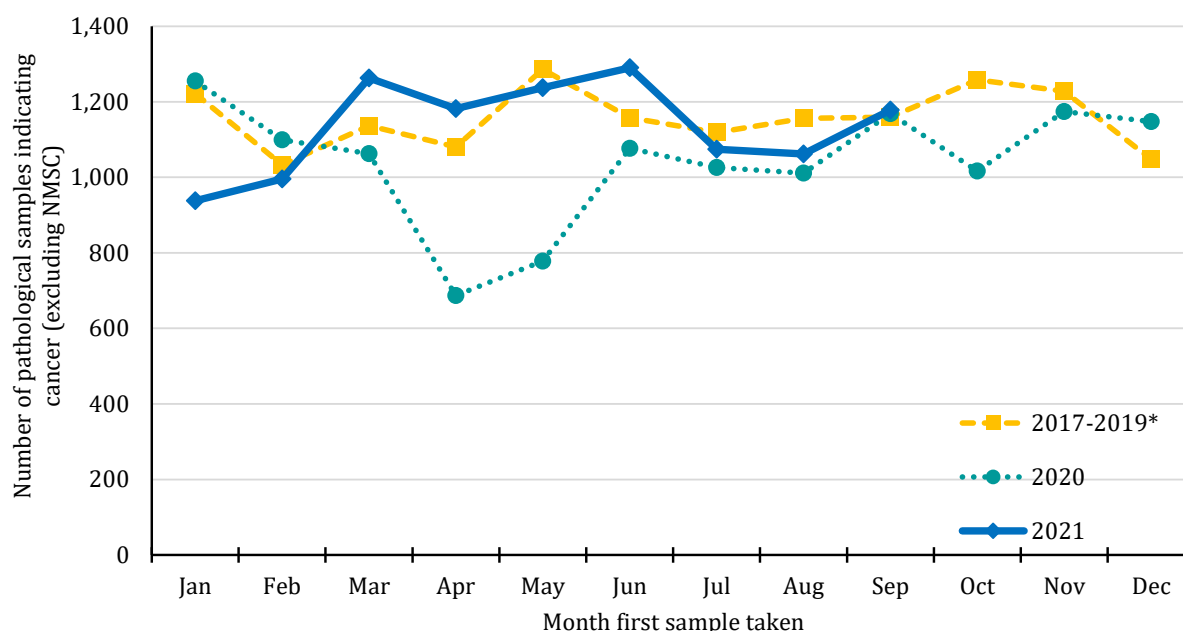
SUMMARY

Recent trends in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer: Sep-21

- 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 Sep-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

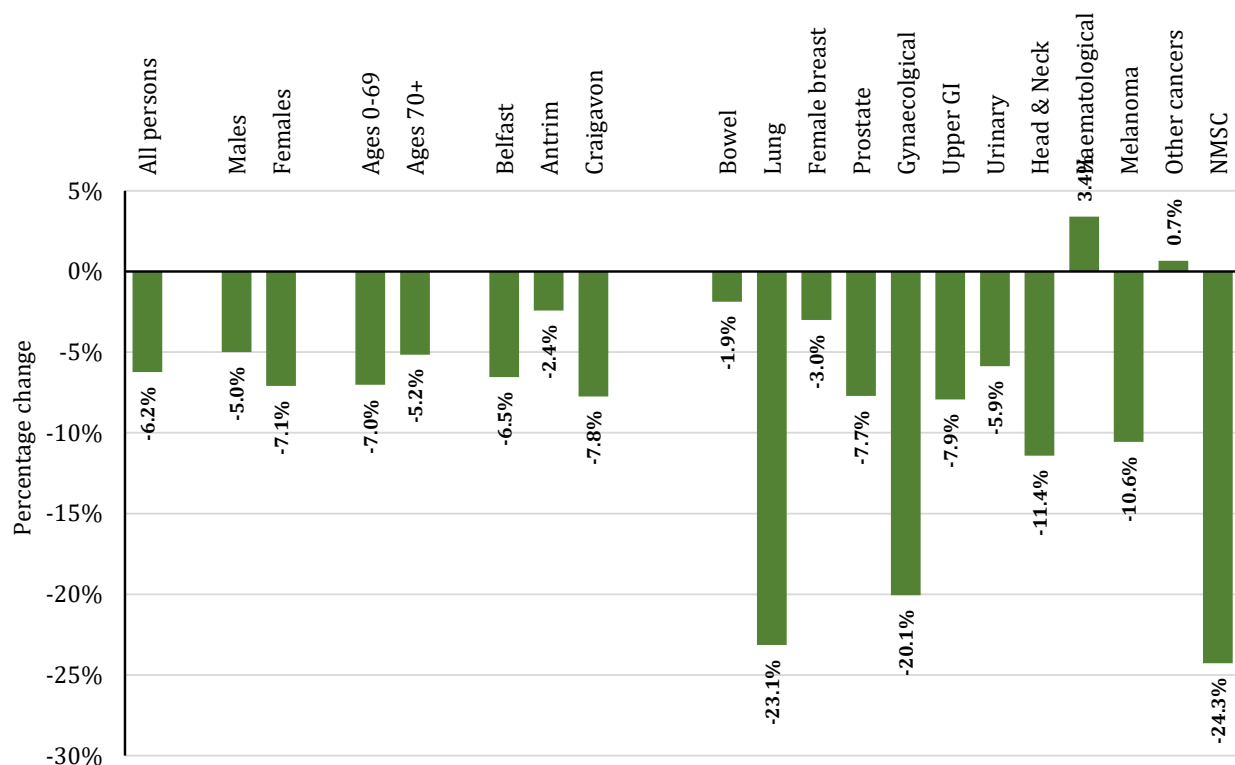
- 4) From Mar-20 to Sep-21 the number of pathological samples indicating cancer was 6.2% lower than the average number for the same time period in 2017-2019.



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	1,074	1,062	1,178			

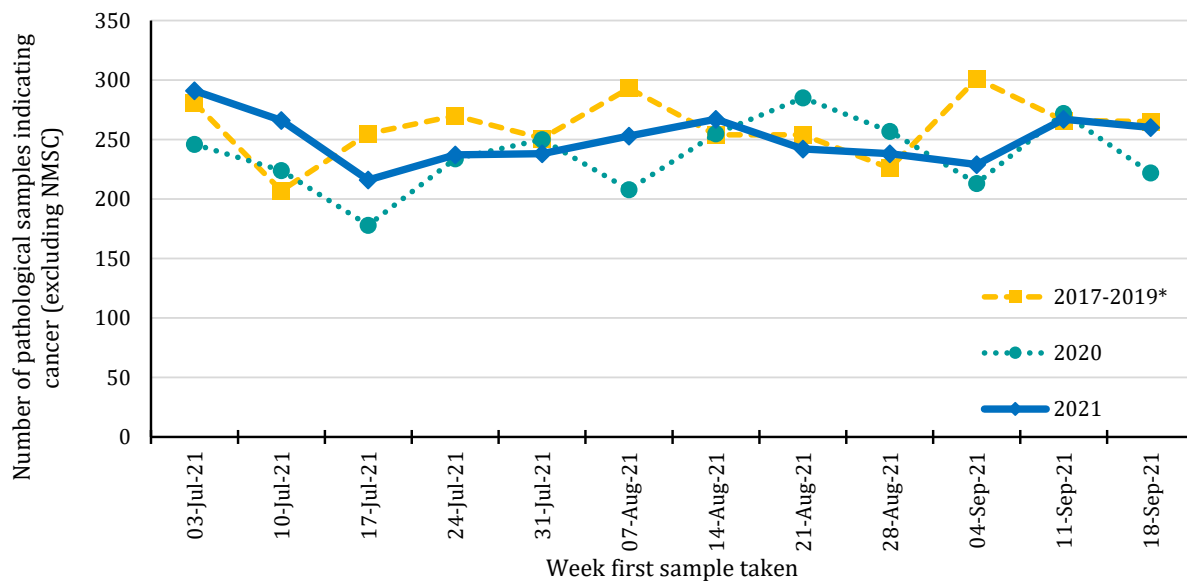
*Annual average

- 5) From Mar-20 to Sep-21 there was a 5.0% decrease in the number of samples among males and a 7.1% decrease among females compared to 2017-2019. A decrease of 7.0% occurred among those aged 0-69 years, while there was a decrease of 5.2% among those aged 70 and older. Decreases were greatest in Craigavon (7.8%) and Belfast (6.5%).
- 6) Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, from Mar-20 to Sep-21 the number of pathology samples indicating lung cancer decreased by 23.1%, while those indicating prostate cancer decreased by 7.7%. 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.



Trends in pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

- 7) There was an 3.8% decrease in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer in the twelve weeks up to 18-Sep-21 compared to the average value in the equivalent weeks in 2017-2019.

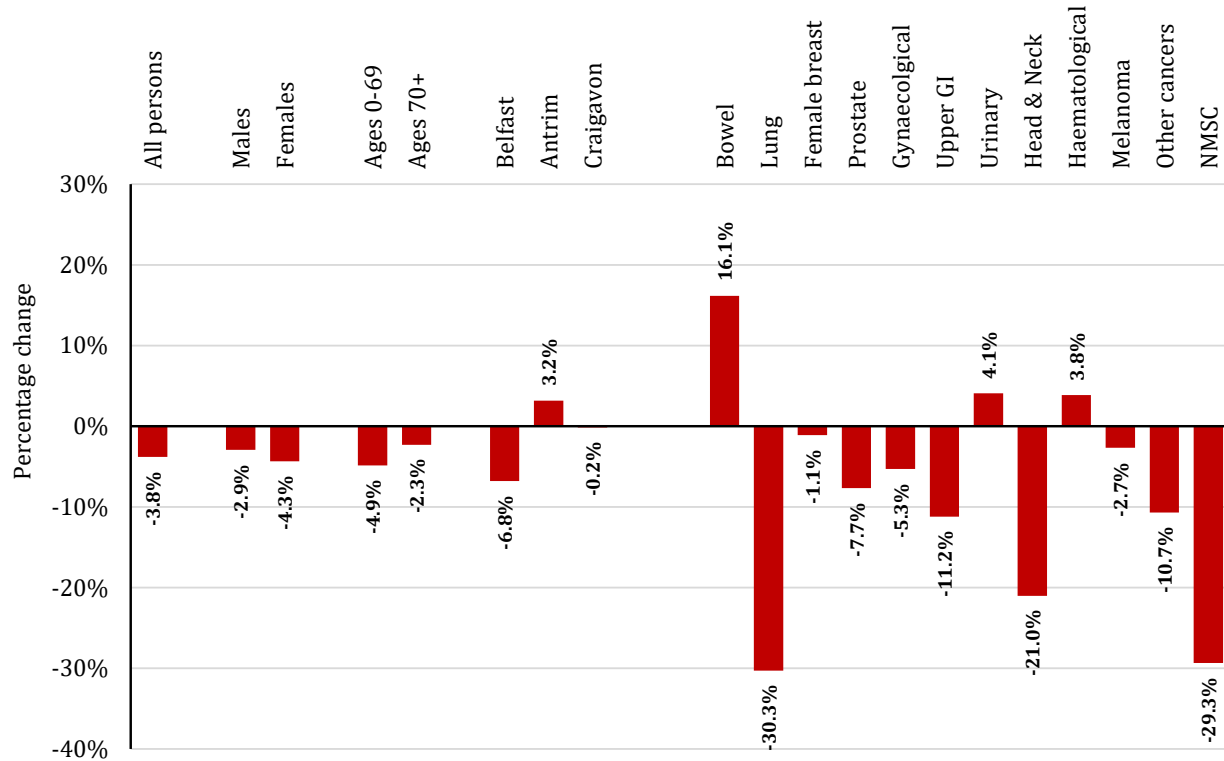


Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	03-Jul-21	10-Jul-21	17-Jul-21	24-Jul-21	31-Jul-21	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	04-Sep-21	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21
2017-2019*	281	207	255	270	251	293	254	254	226	301	266	265
2020	246	224	178	234	250	208	255	285	257	213	272	222
2021	291	266	216	237	238	253	267	242	238	229	267	260

*Annual average

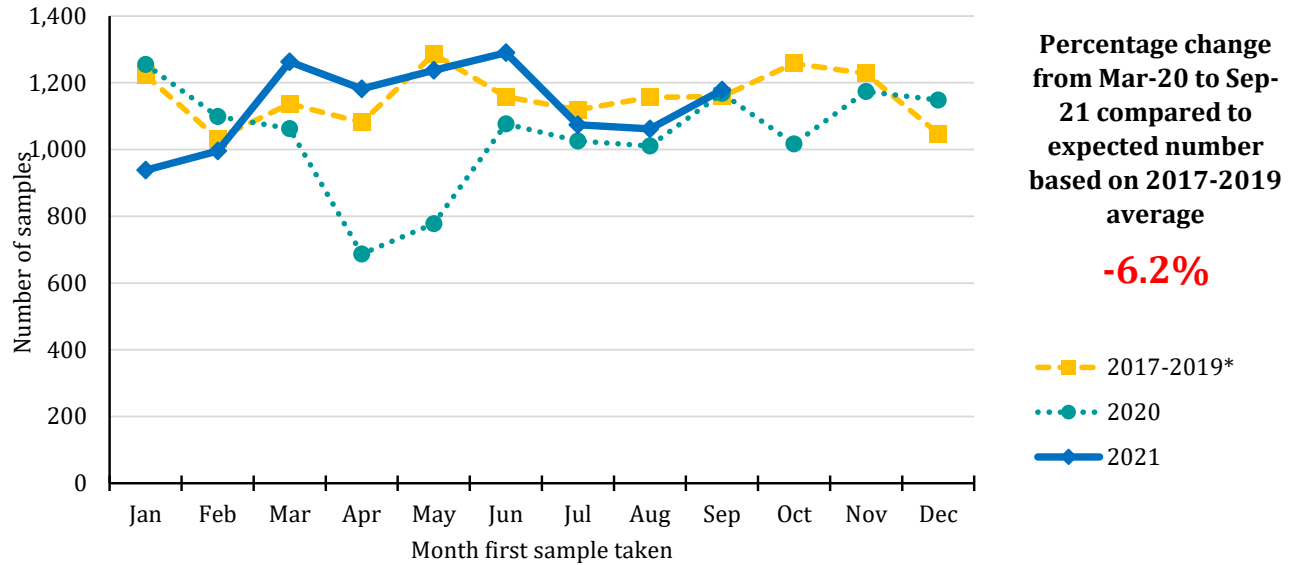
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

- 8) In the twelve weeks up to 18-Sep-21 there was a 2.9% decrease in samples among males and a 4.3% decrease among females compared to the same time period in 2017-2019. A decrease of 4.9% occurred among those aged 0-69 years and a decrease of 2.3% occurred among those aged 70 and older. Increases were recorded in Antrim (3.2%), with a 6.8% decrease recorded in Belfast.
- 9) Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, in the twelve weeks up to 18-Sep-21 the number of pathology samples indicating lung cancer decreased by 30.3%, while those indicating prostate cancer decreased by 7.7%. Increases were recorded for bowel cancer, urinary cancer and haematological cancer, while decreases of more than 10% occurred for upper GI cancer, head and neck cancer and non-melanoma skin cancer.



Pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): All persons

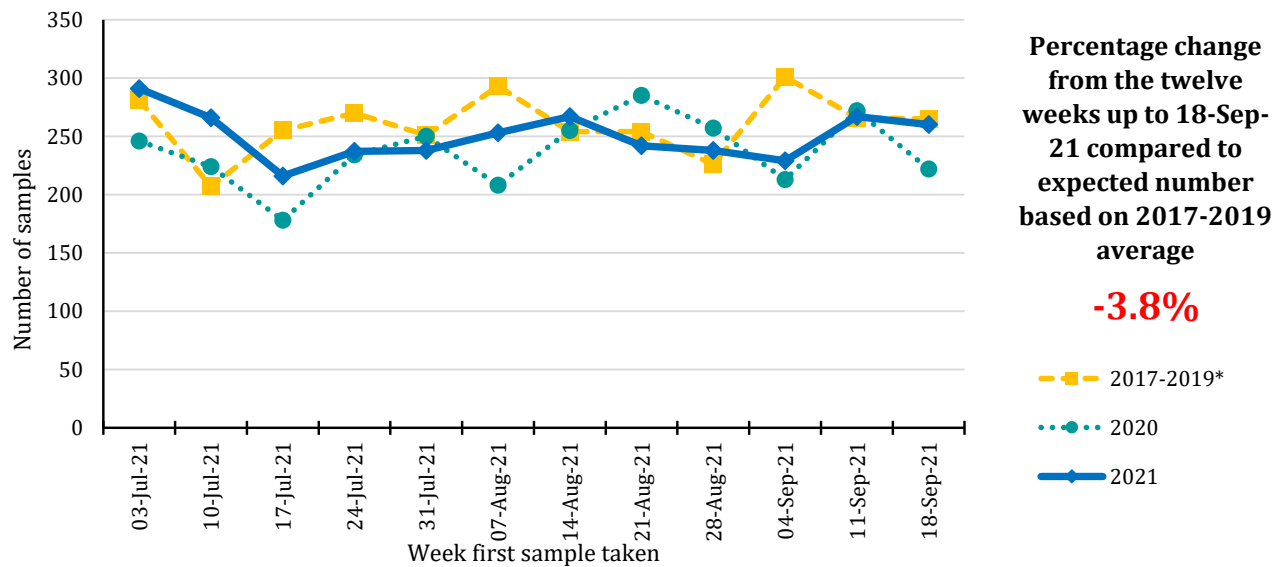
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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
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2021	938	996	1,263	1,182	1,237	1,290	1,074	1,062	1,178			

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



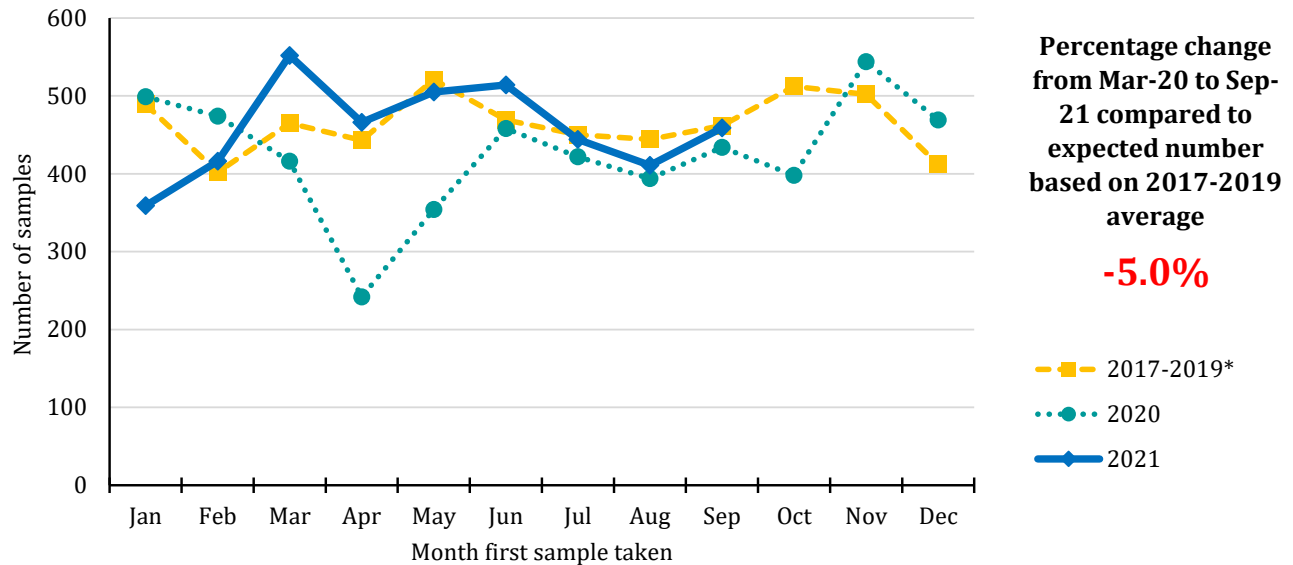
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
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2017-2019*	281	207	255	270	251	293	254	254	226	301	266	265
2020	246	224	178	234	250	208	255	285	257	213	272	222
2021	291	266	216	237	238	253	267	242	238	229	267	260

*Annual average

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Pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): Males

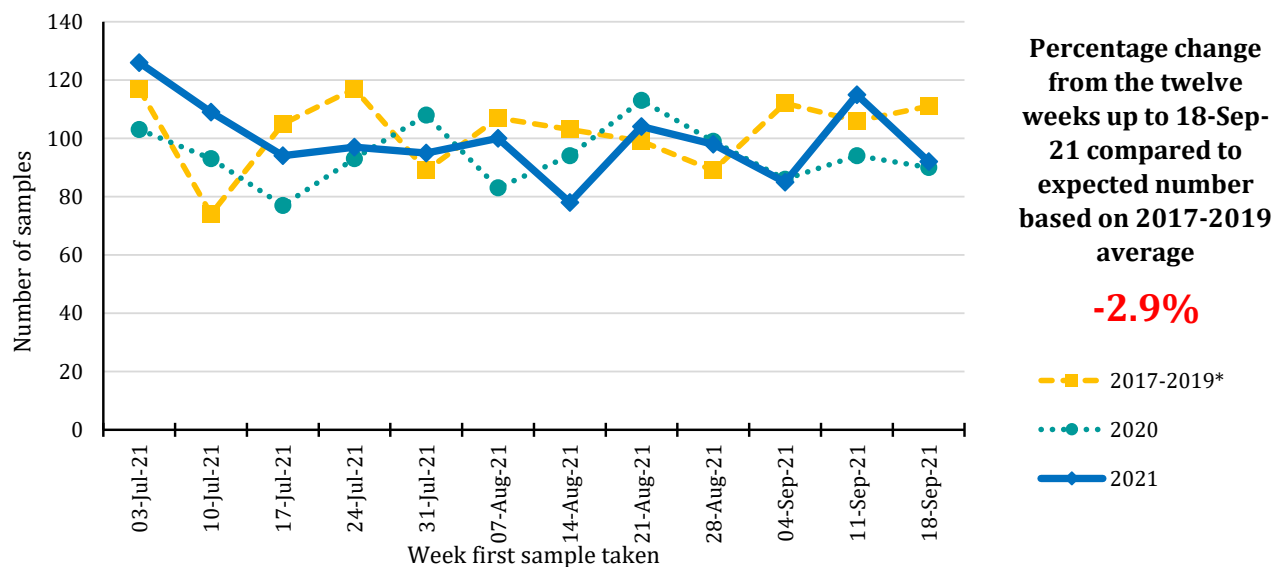
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	444	411	459			

*Annual average

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



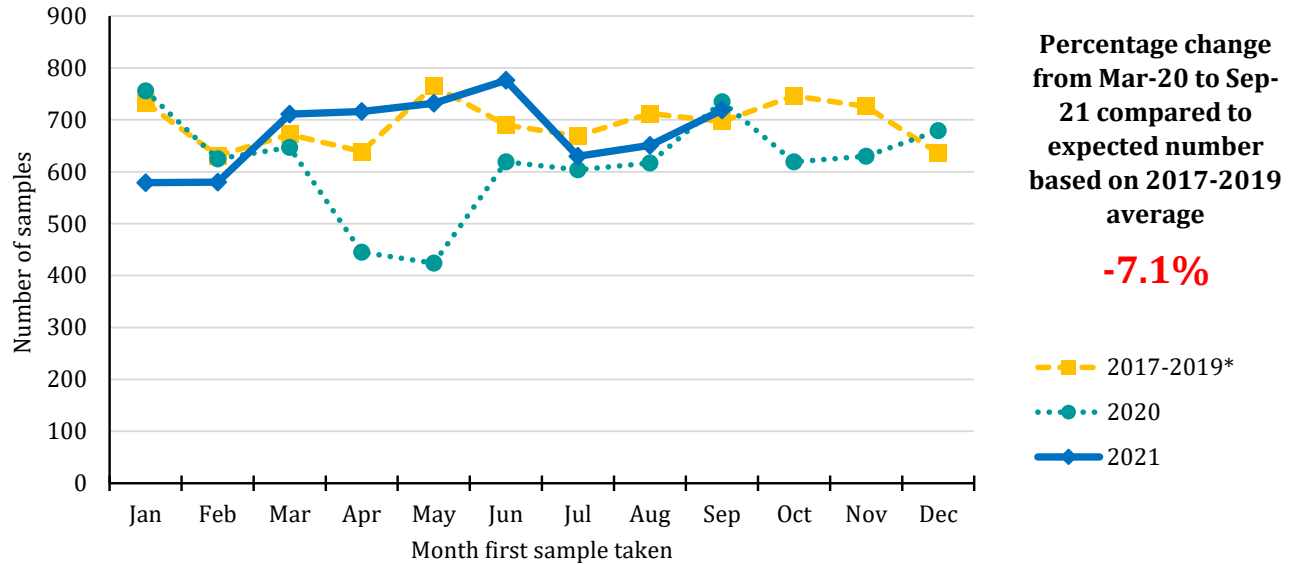
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2017-2019*	117	74	105	117	89	107	103	99	89	112	106	111
2020	103	93	77	93	108	83	94	113	99	86	94	90
2021	126	109	94	97	95	100	78	104	98	85	115	92

*Annual average

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Pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): Females

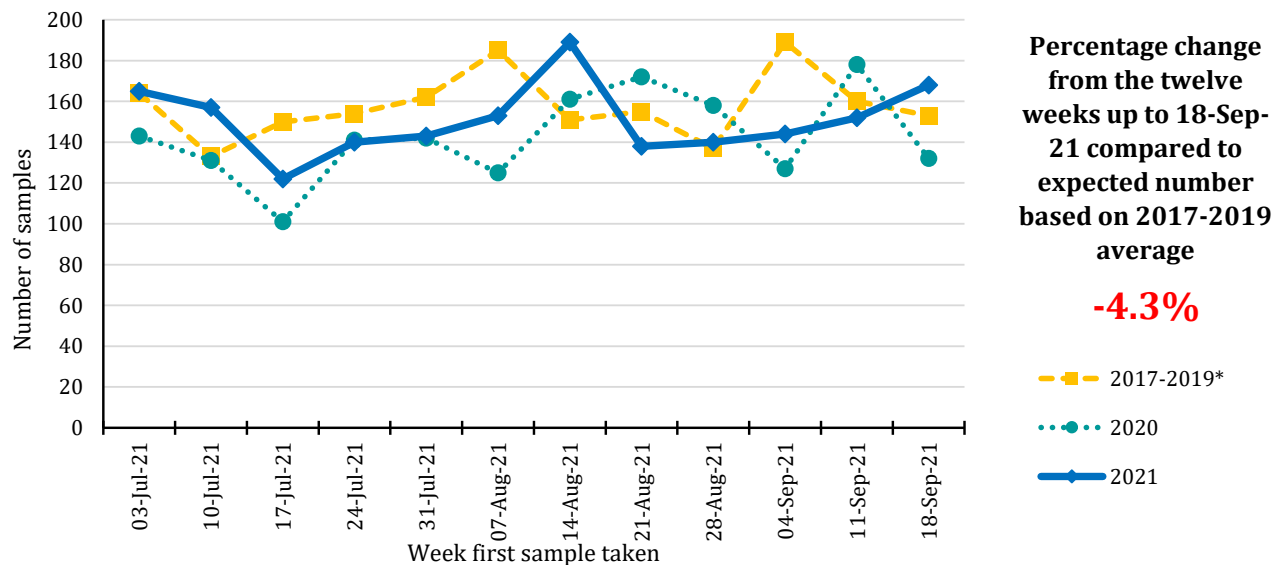
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	630	651	719			

*Annual average

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



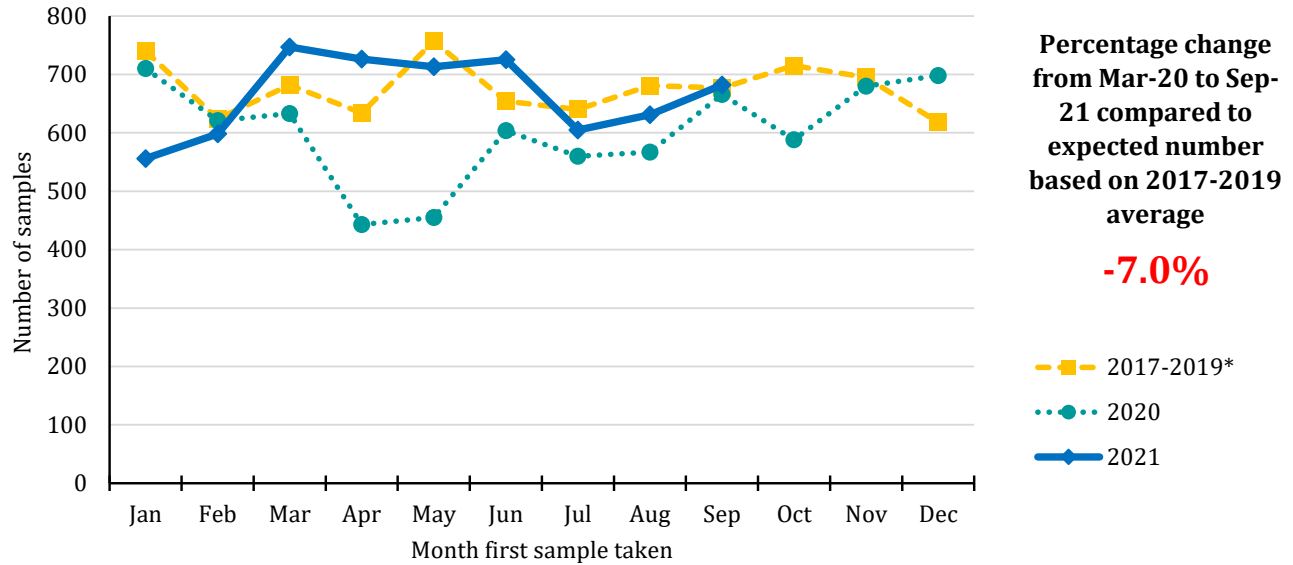
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**												
	03-Jul-21	10-Jul-21	17-Jul-21	24-Jul-21	31-Jul-21	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	04-Sep-21	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21	
2017-2019*	164	133	150	154	162	185	151	155	137	189	160	153	
2020	143	131	101	141	142	125	161	172	158	127	178	132	
2021	165	157	122	140	143	153	189	138	140	144	152	168	

*Annual average

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

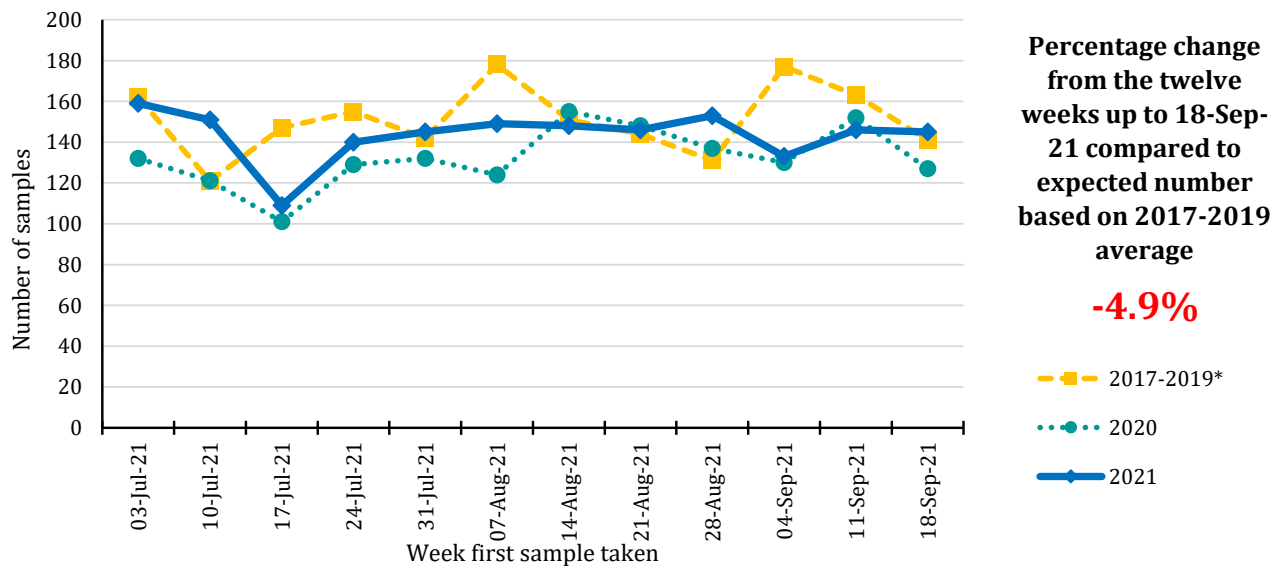
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	605	631	682			

*Annual average

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



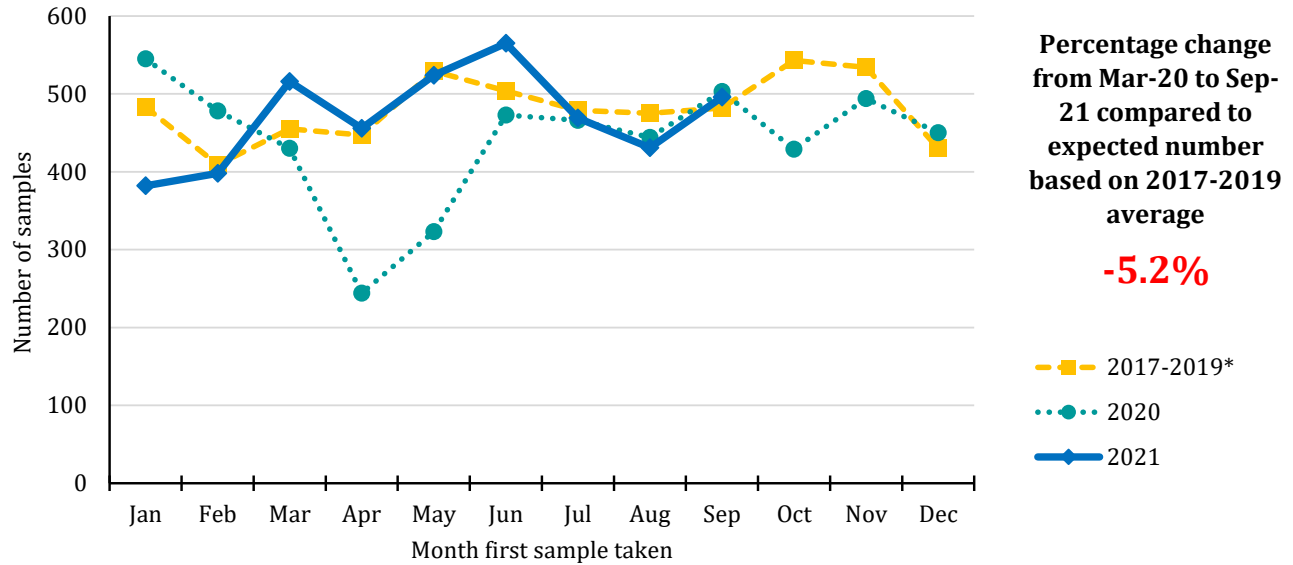
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	03-Jul-21	10-Jul-21	17-Jul-21	24-Jul-21	31-Jul-21	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	04-Sep-21	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21
2017-2019*	162	121	147	155	142	178	151	144	131	177	163	141
2020	132	121	101	129	132	124	155	148	137	130	152	127
2021	159	151	109	140	145	149	148	146	153	133	146	145

*Annual average

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Pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): Ages 70 and over

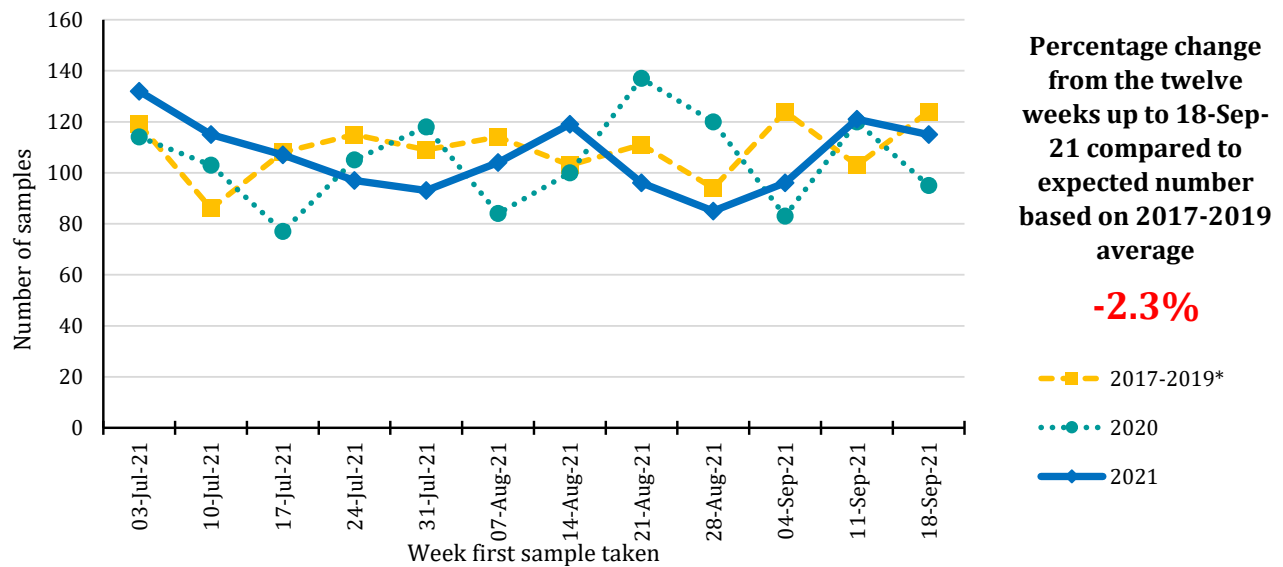
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	469	431	496			

*Annual average

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



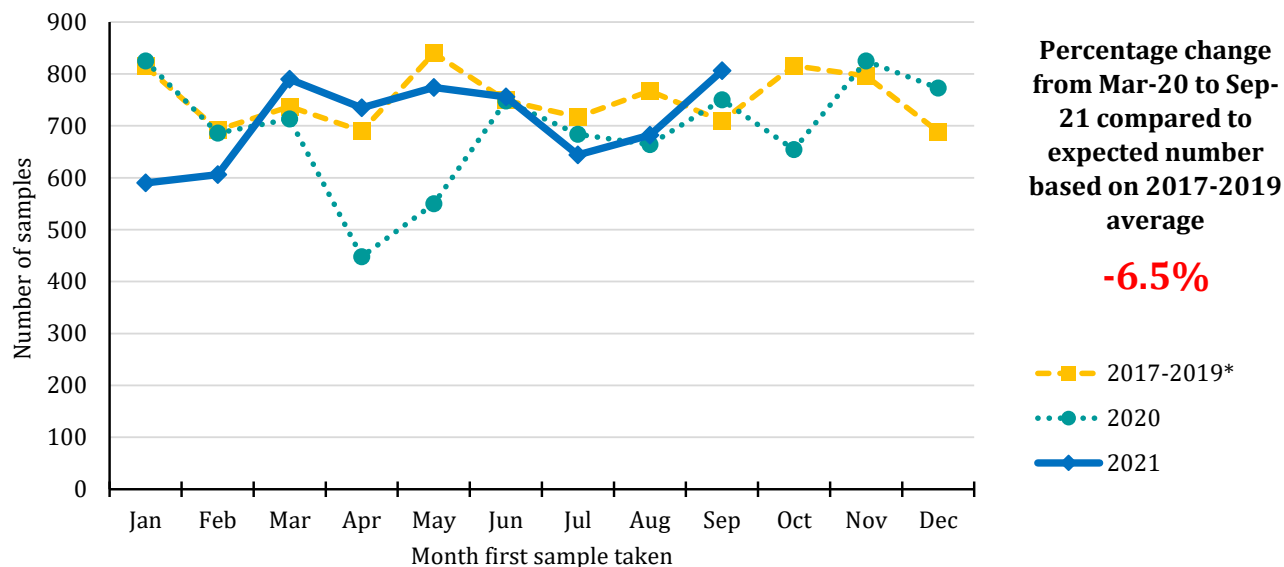
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	03-Jul-21	10-Jul-21	17-Jul-21	24-Jul-21	31-Jul-21	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	04-Sep-21	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21
2017-2019*	119	86	108	115	109	114	103	111	94	124	103	124
2020	114	103	77	105	118	84	100	137	120	83	120	95
2021	132	115	107	97	93	104	119	96	85	96	121	115

*Annual average

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Pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): Belfast laboratory

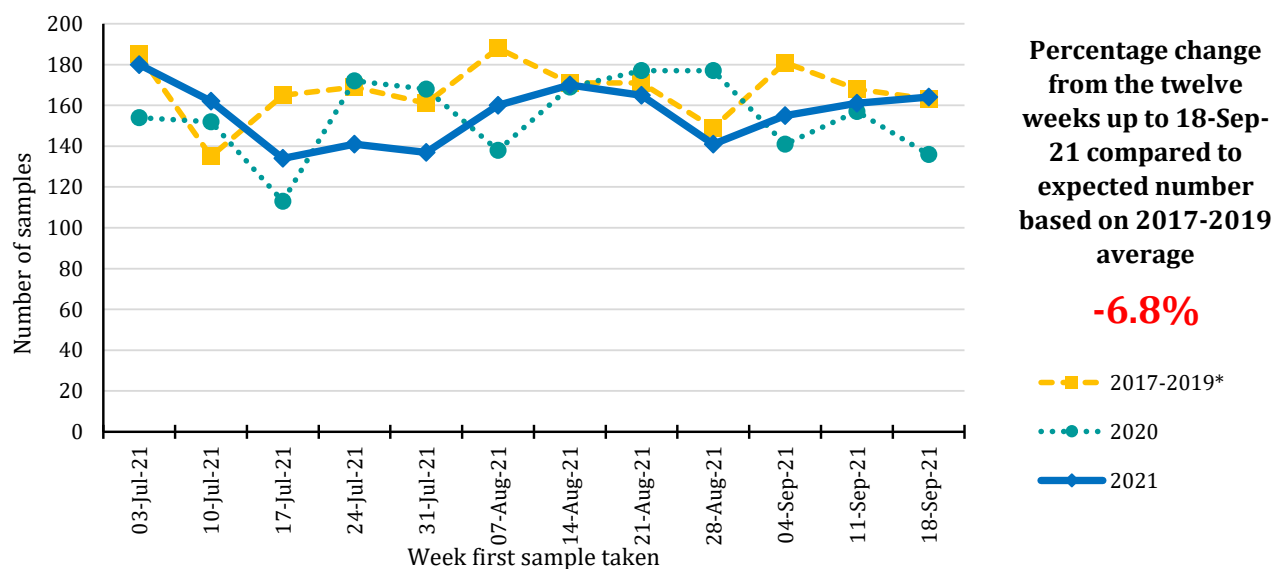
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	644	682	806			

*Annual average

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



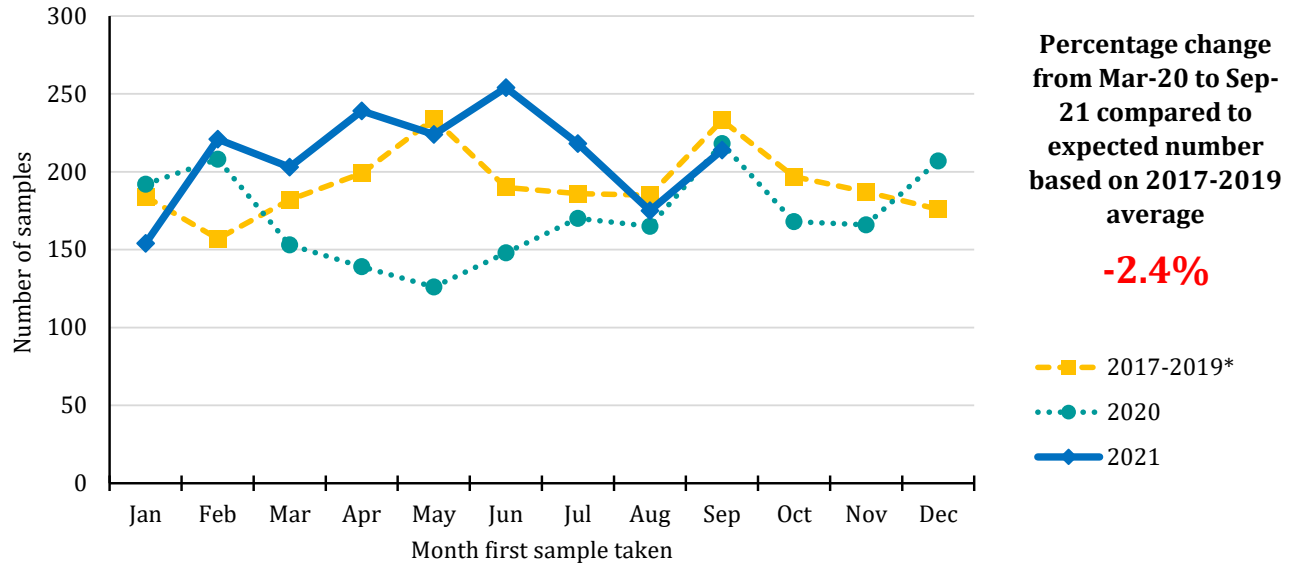
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	03-Jul-21	10-Jul-21	17-Jul-21	24-Jul-21	31-Jul-21	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	04-Sep-21	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21
2017-2019*	185	135	165	169	161	188	171	171	149	181	168	163
2020	154	152	113	172	168	138	169	177	177	141	157	136
2021	180	162	134	141	137	160	170	165	141	155	161	164

*Annual average

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Pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): Antrim laboratory

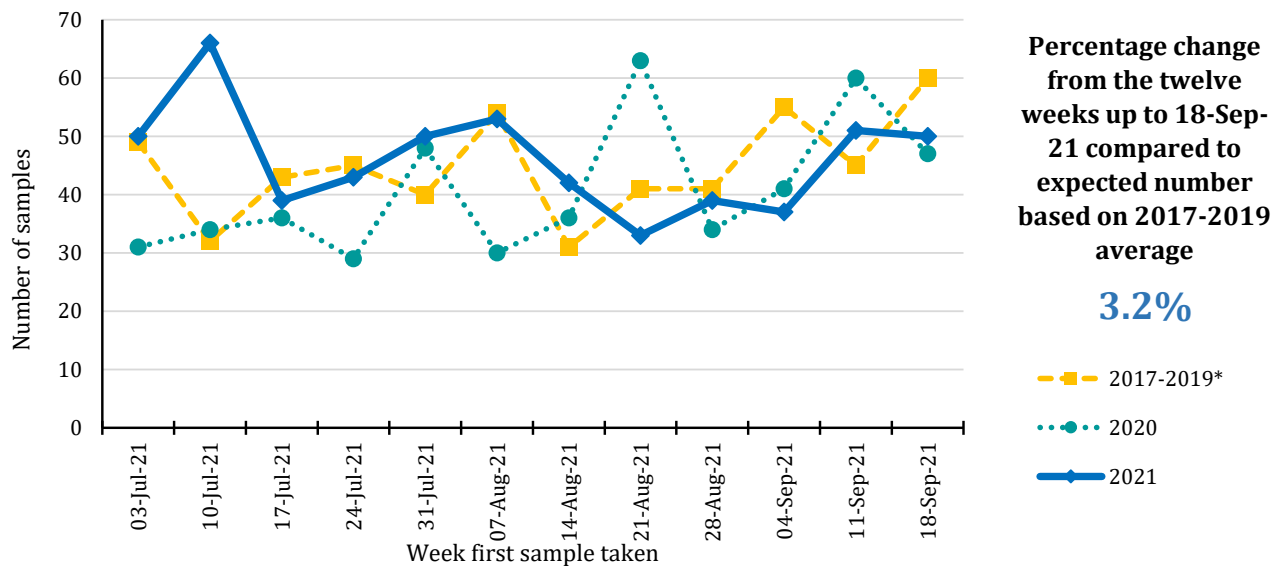
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	175	214			

*Annual average

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



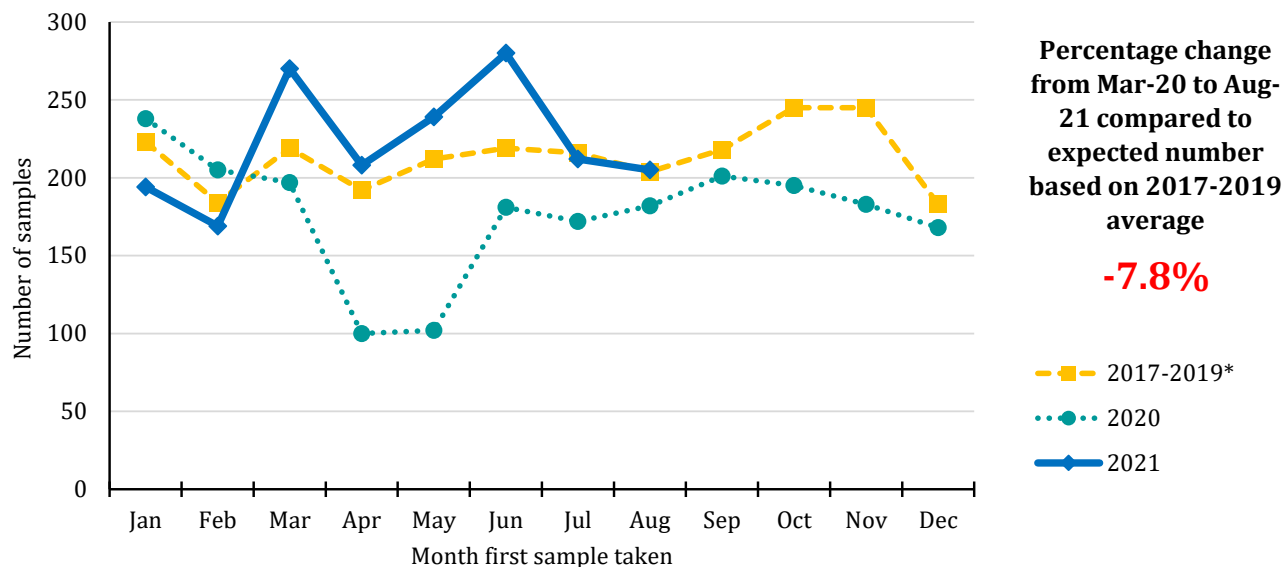
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	03-Jul-21	10-Jul-21	17-Jul-21	24-Jul-21	31-Jul-21	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	04-Sep-21	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21
2017-2019*	49	32	43	45	40	54	31	41	41	55	45	60
2020	31	34	36	29	48	30	36	63	34	41	60	47
2021	50	66	39	43	50	53	42	33	39	37	51	50

*Annual average

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Pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): Craigavon laboratory

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

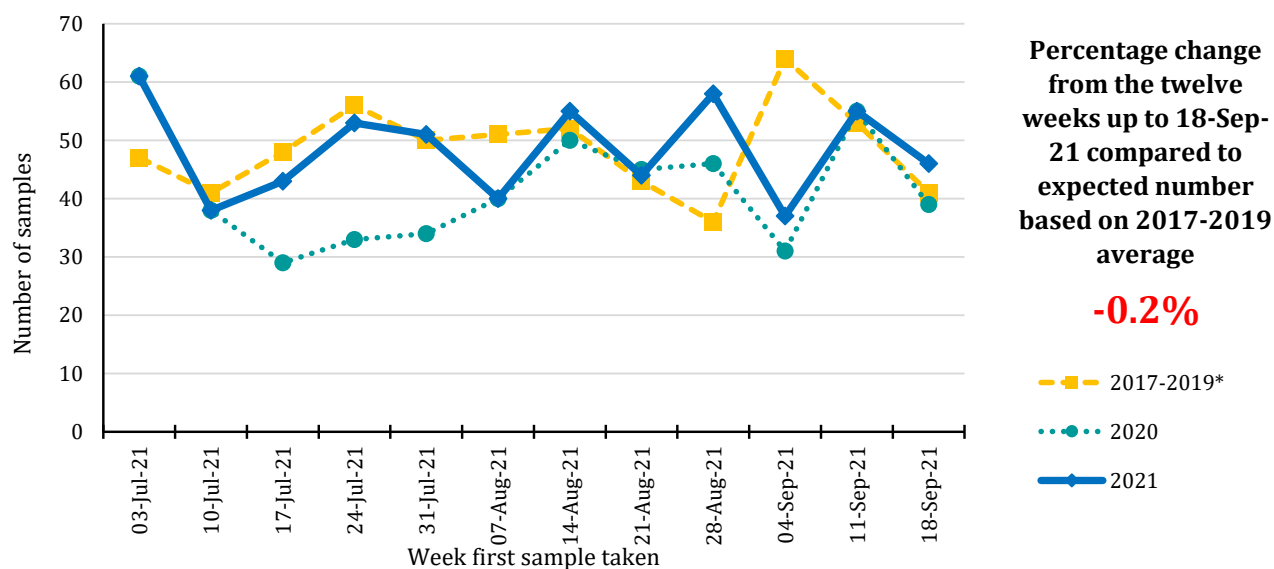


Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017-2019*	223	184	219	192	212	219	216	204	218	245	245	183
2020	238	205	197	100	102	181	172	182	201	195	183	168
2021	194	169	270	208	239	280	212	205				

*Annual average

Note: An undercount in the number of samples reported from Craigavon exists in the last week of September 2021. Figures for September 2021 have thus been excluded.

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



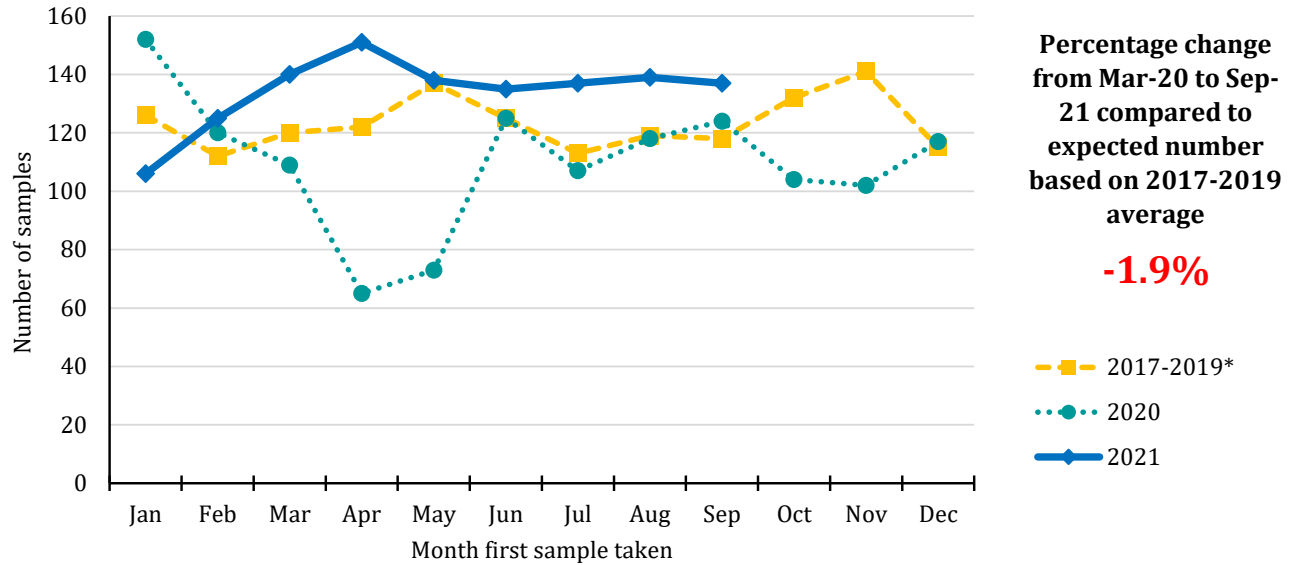
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
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2017-2019*	47	41	48	56	50	51	52	43	36	64	53	41
2020	61	38	29	33	34	40	50	45	46	31	55	39
2021	61	38	43	53	51	40	55	44	58	37	55	46

*Annual average

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Pathology samples indicating bowel cancer: All persons

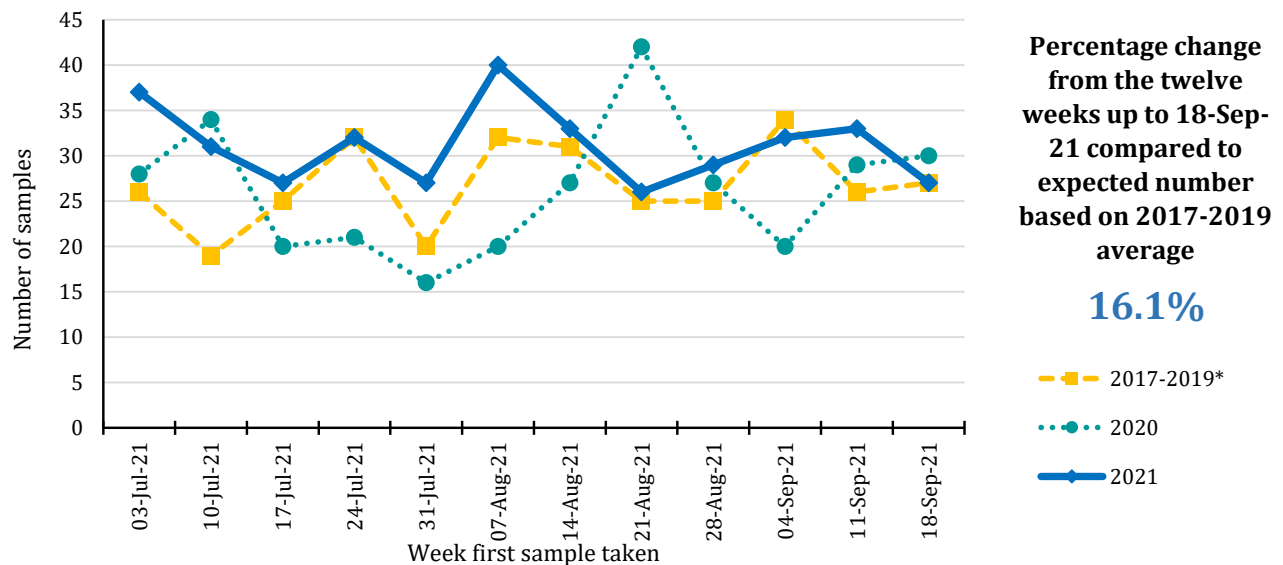
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	139	137			

*Annual average

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



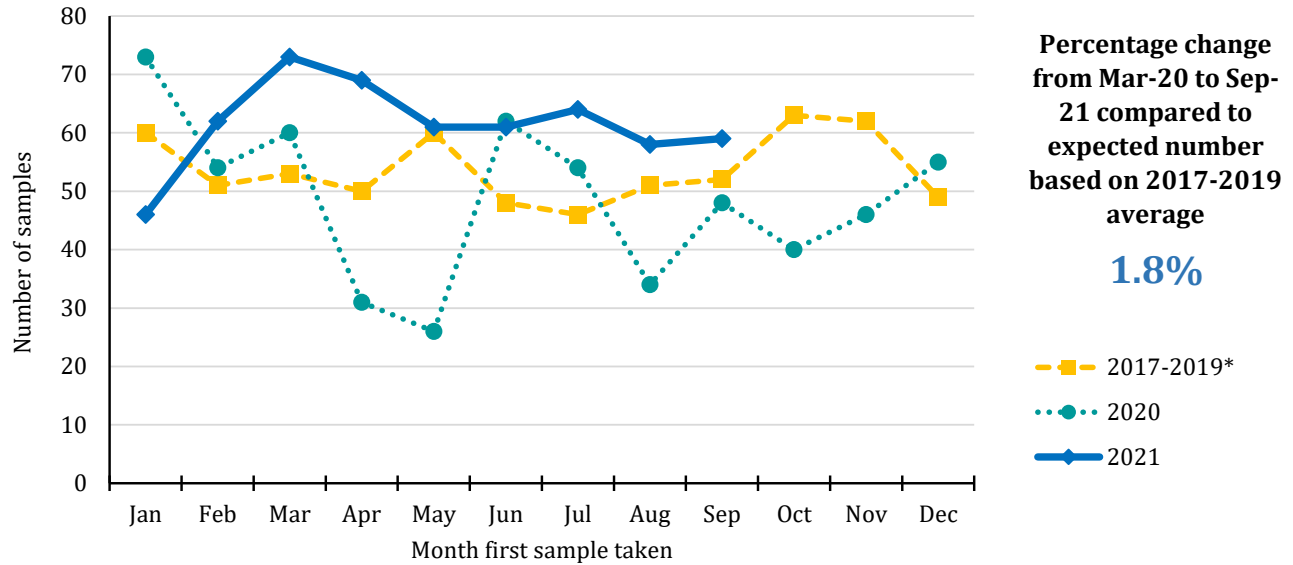
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	03-Jul-21	10-Jul-21	17-Jul-21	24-Jul-21	31-Jul-21	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	04-Sep-21	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21
2017-2019*	26	19	25	32	20	32	31	25	25	34	26	27
2020	28	34	20	21	16	20	27	42	27	20	29	30
2021	37	31	27	32	27	40	33	26	29	32	33	27

*Annual average

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

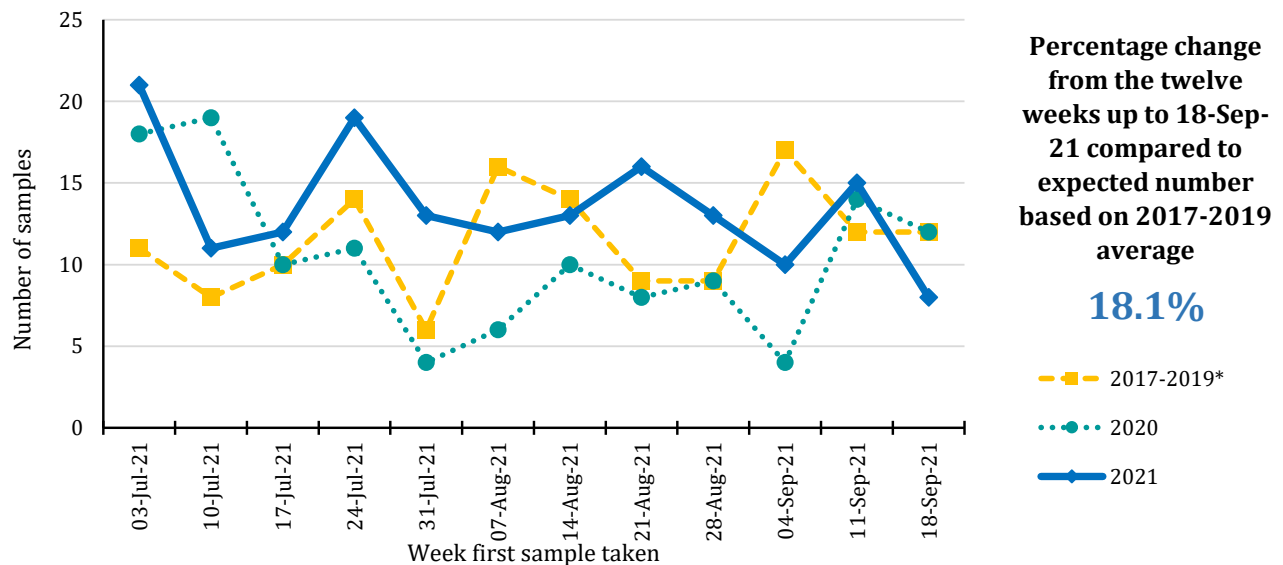
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	58	59			

*Annual average

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



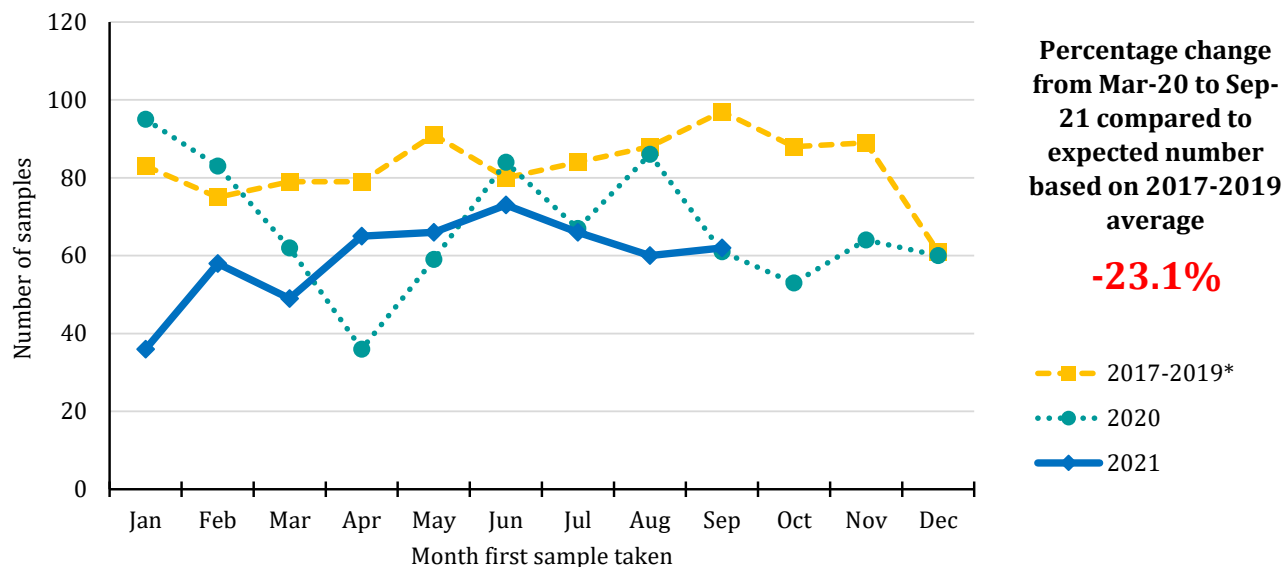
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2017-2019*	11	8	10	14	6	16	14	9	9	17	12	12
2020	18	19	10	11	4	6	10	8	9	4	14	12
2021	21	11	12	19	13	12	13	16	13	10	15	8

*Annual average

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Pathology samples indicating lung cancer: All persons

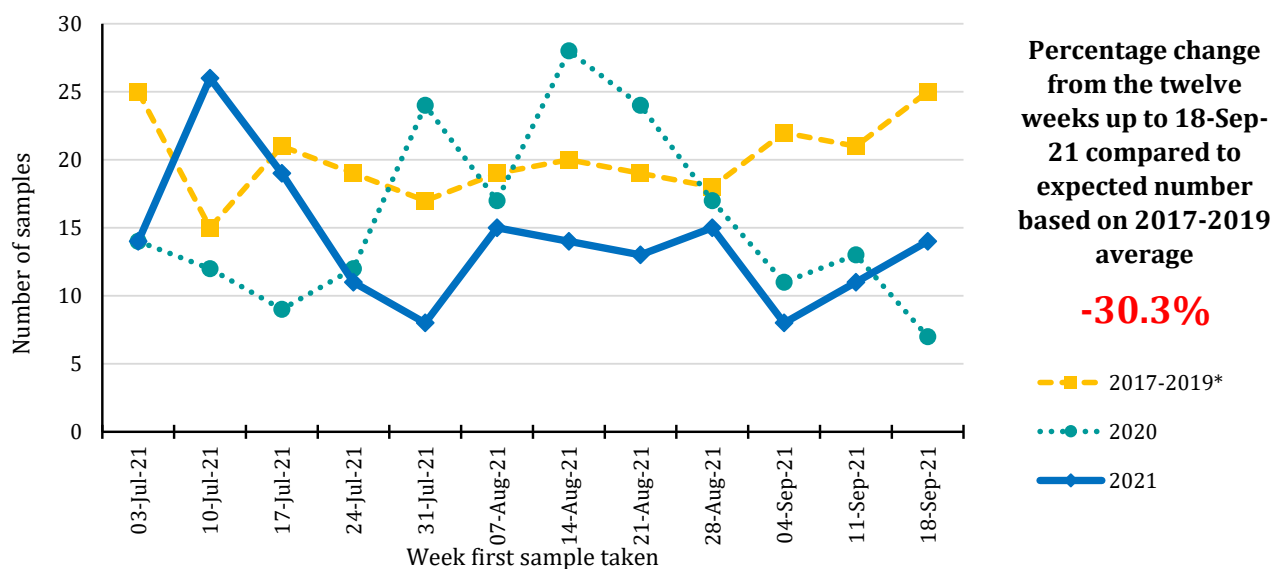
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	60	62			

*Annual average

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



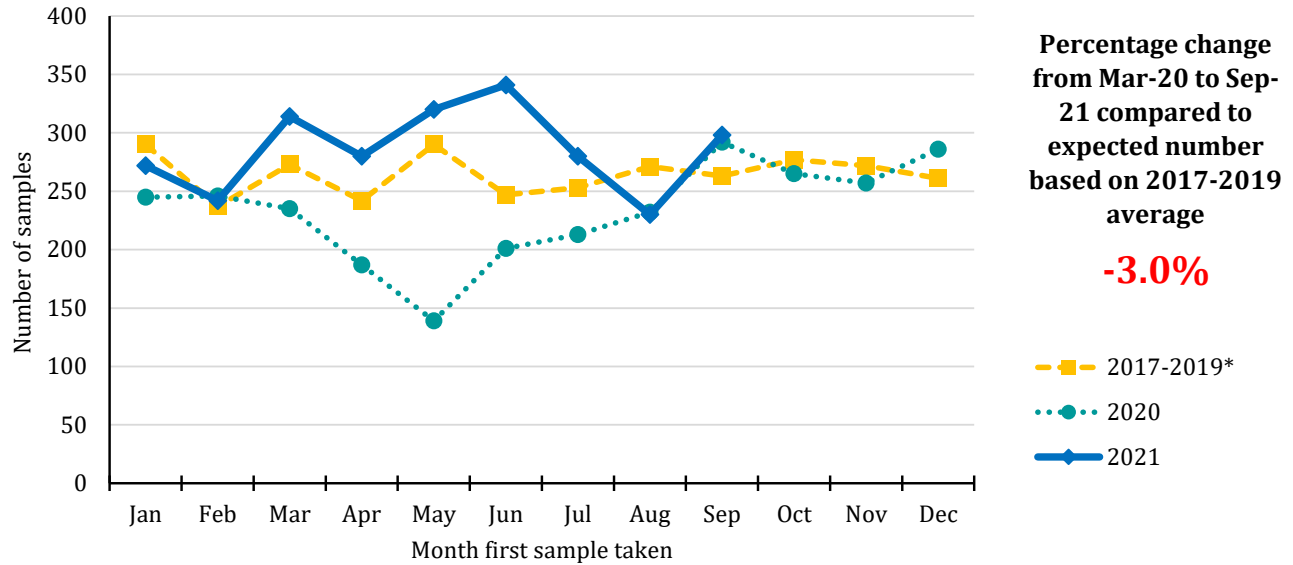
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2017-2019*	25	15	21	19	17	19	20	19	18	22	21	25
2020	14	12	9	12	24	17	28	24	17	11	13	7
2021	14	26	19	11	8	15	14	13	15	8	11	14

*Annual average

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Pathology samples indicating breast cancer: Females

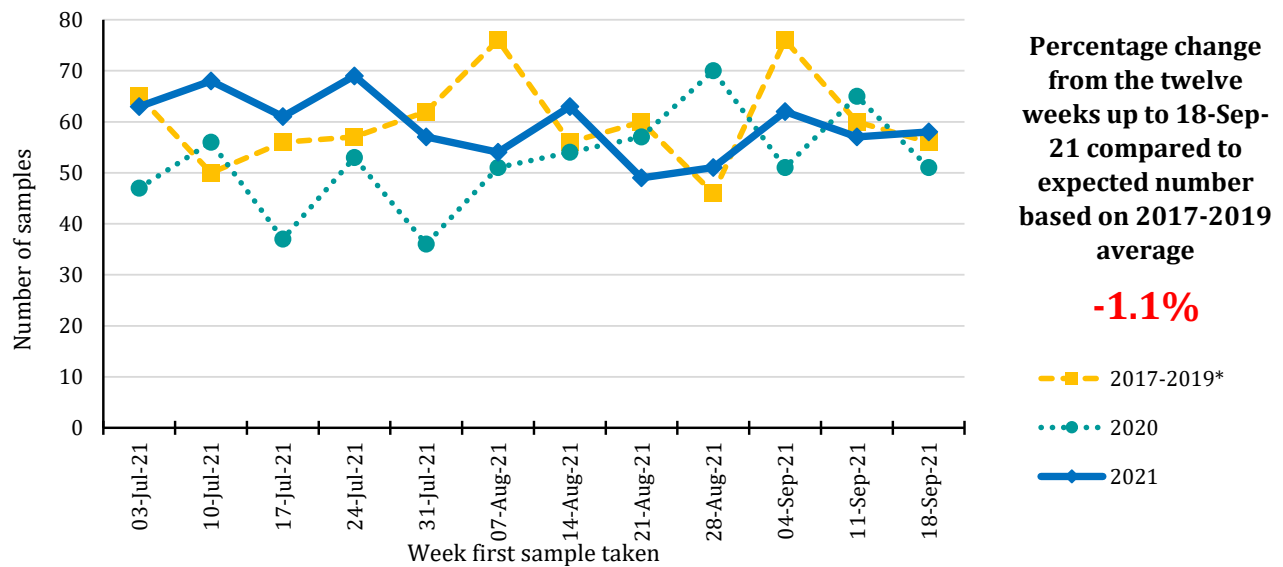
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	230	298			

*Annual average

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



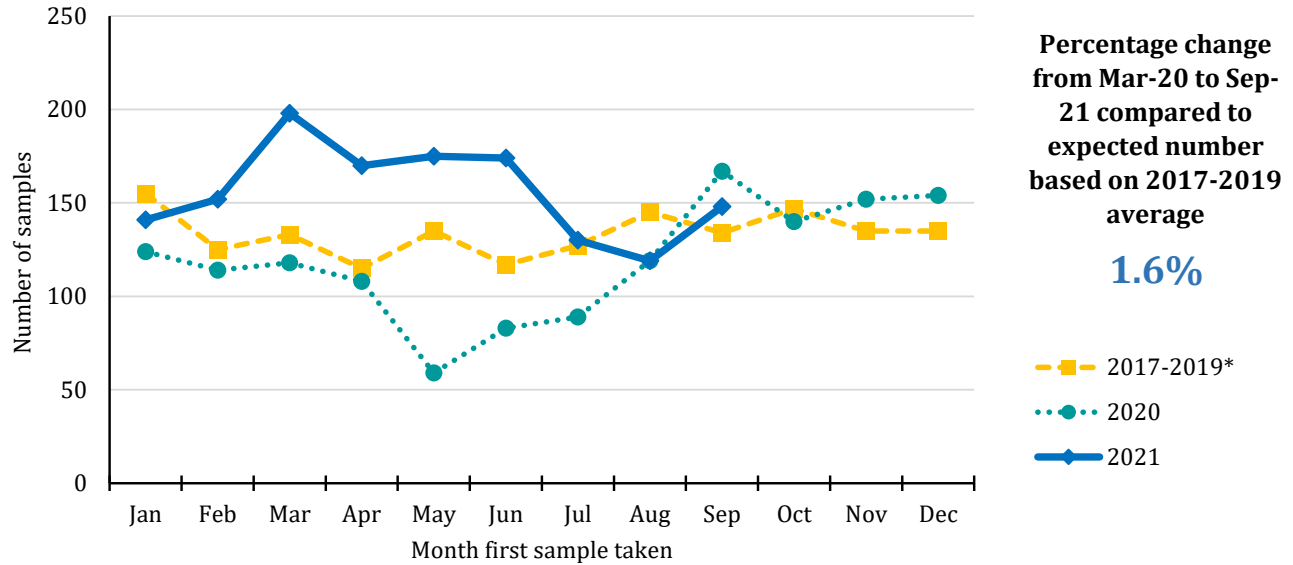
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	03-Jul-21	10-Jul-21	17-Jul-21	24-Jul-21	31-Jul-21	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	04-Sep-21	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21
2017-2019*	65	50	56	57	62	76	56	60	46	76	60	56
2020	47	56	37	53	36	51	54	57	70	51	65	51
2021	63	68	61	69	57	54	63	49	51	62	57	58

*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)

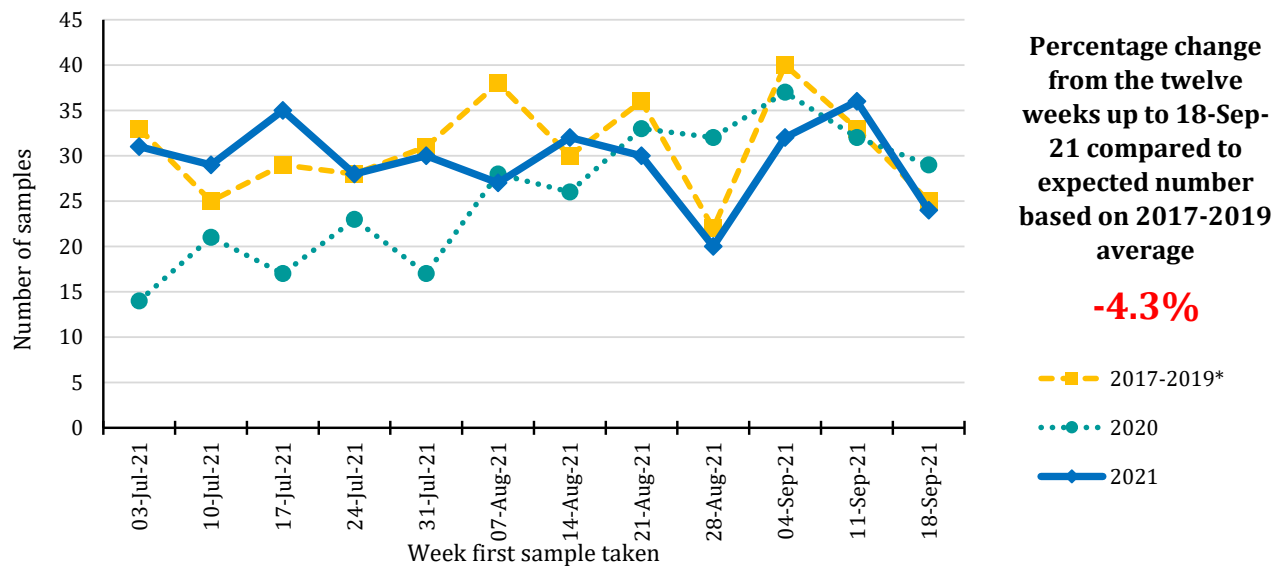
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	119	148			

*Annual average

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



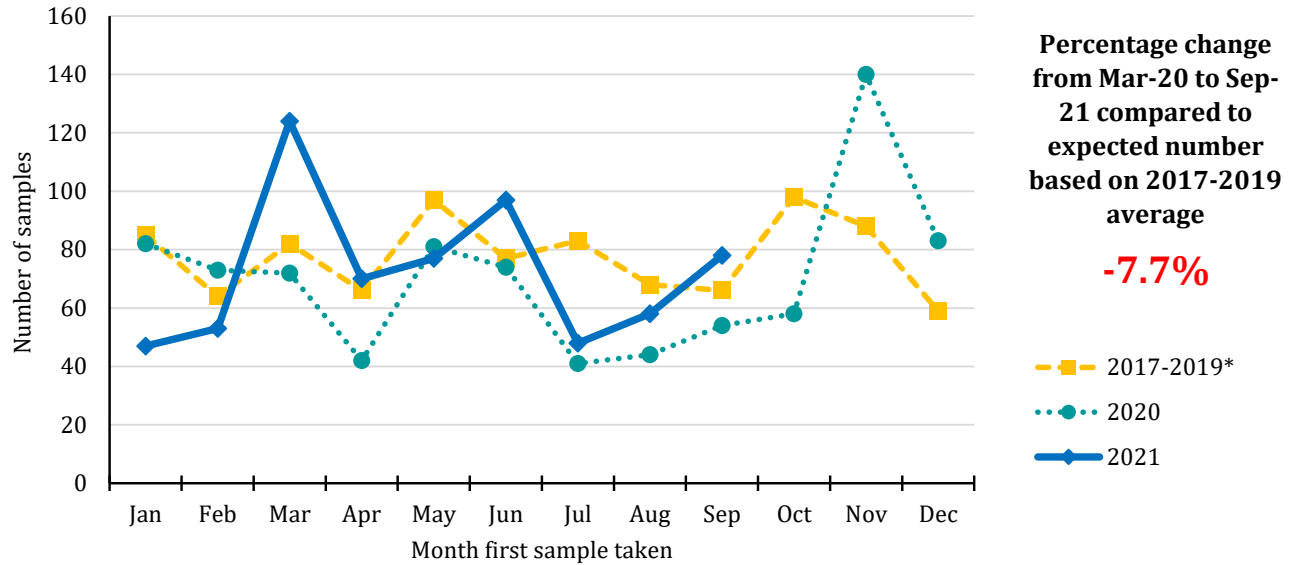
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	03-Jul-21	10-Jul-21	17-Jul-21	24-Jul-21	31-Jul-21	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	04-Sep-21	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21
2017-2019*	33	25	29	28	31	38	30	36	22	40	33	25
2020	14	21	17	23	17	28	26	33	32	37	32	29
2021	31	29	35	28	30	27	32	30	20	32	36	24

*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

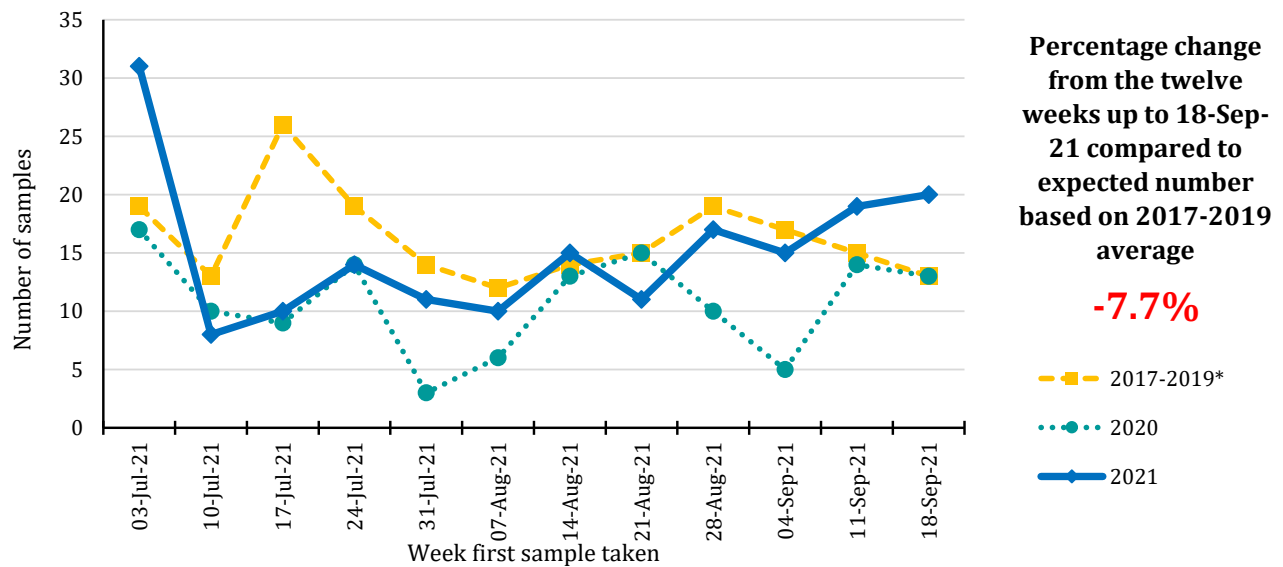
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	48	58	78	48	140	83

*Annual average

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



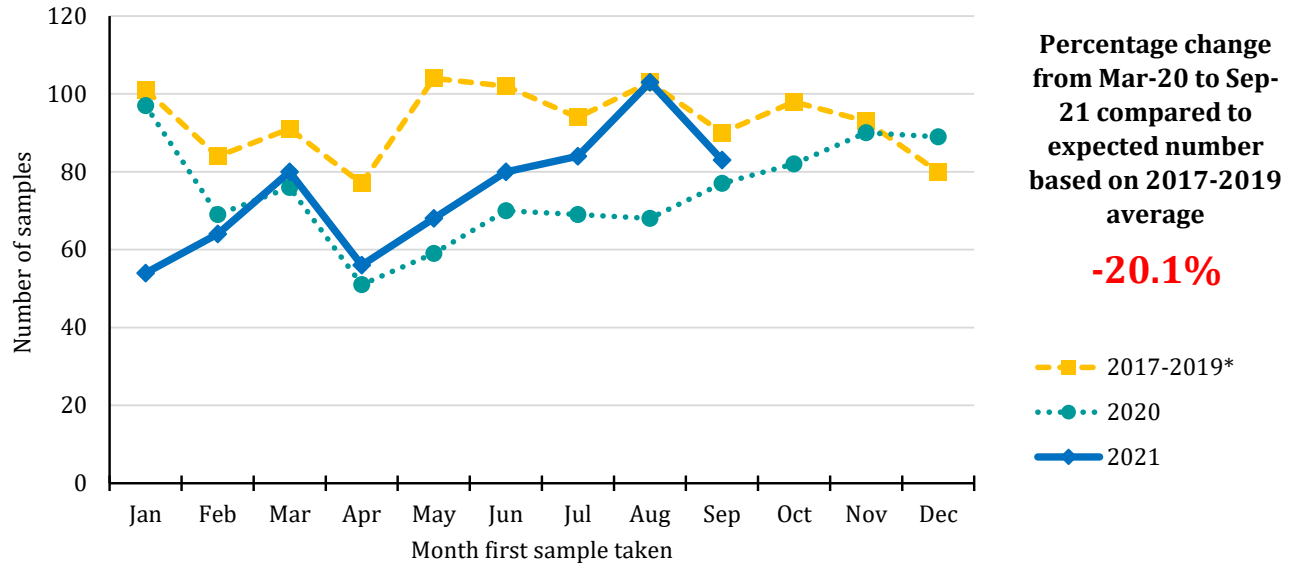
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	03-Jul-21	10-Jul-21	17-Jul-21	24-Jul-21	31-Jul-21	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	04-Sep-21	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21
2017-2019*	19	13	26	19	14	12	14	15	19	17	15	13
2020	17	10	9	14	3	6	13	15	10	5	14	13
2021	31	8	10	14	11	10	15	11	17	15	19	20

*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 gynaecological cancer: Females

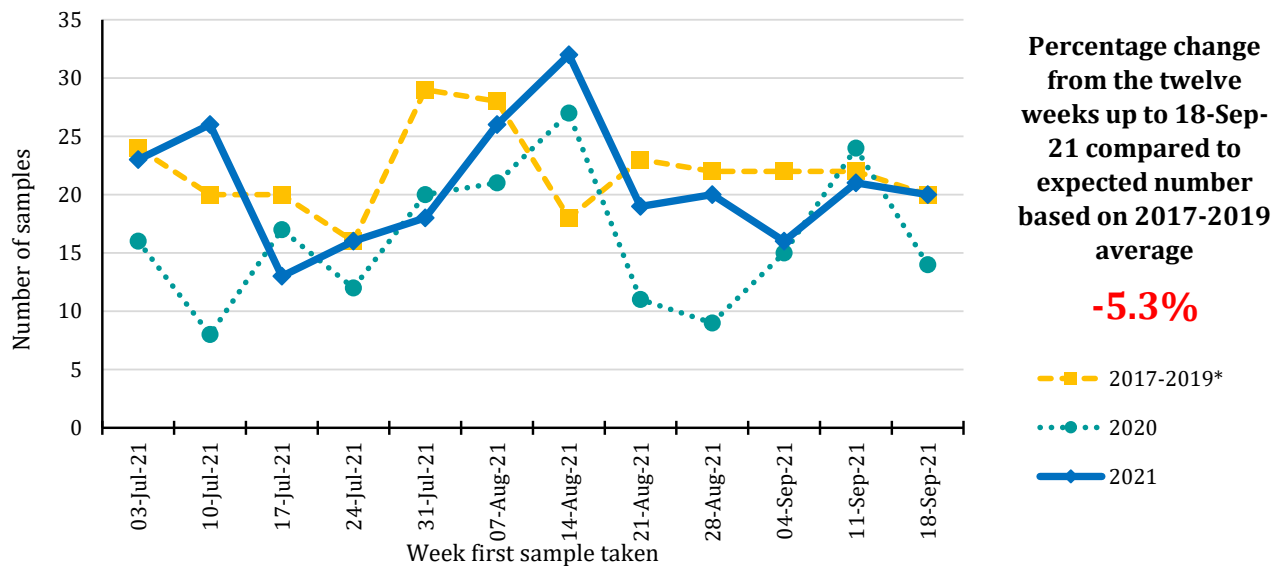
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	103	83			

*Annual average

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



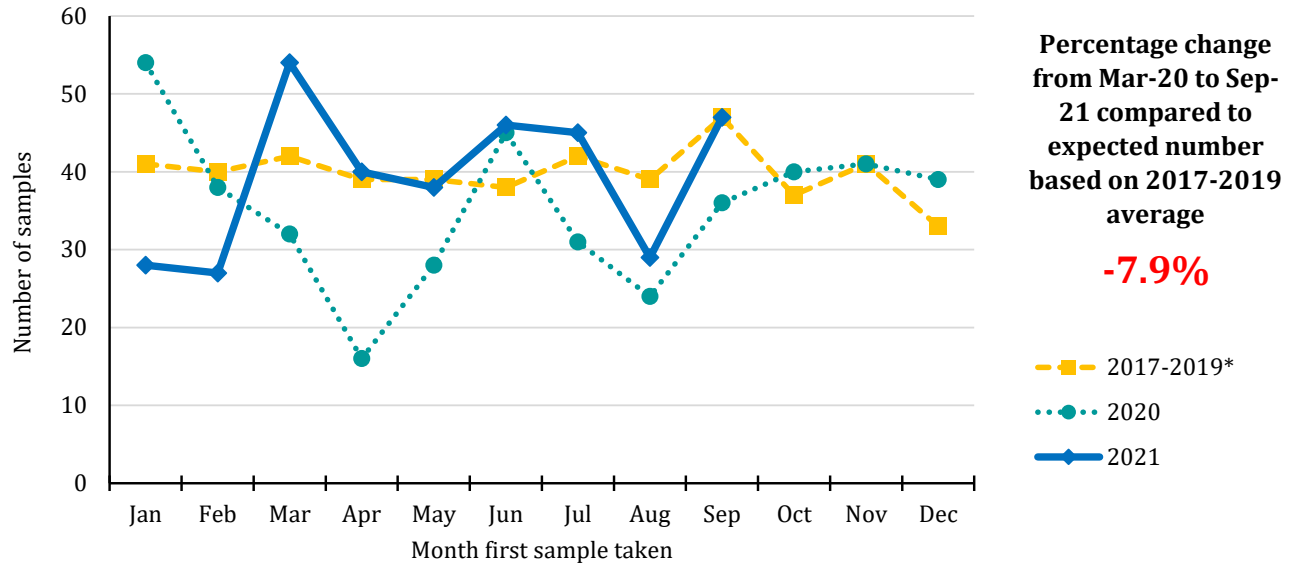
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	03-Jul-21	10-Jul-21	17-Jul-21	24-Jul-21	31-Jul-21	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	04-Sep-21	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21
2017-2019*	24	20	20	16	29	28	18	23	22	22	22	20
2020	16	8	17	12	20	21	27	11	9	15	24	14
2021	23	26	13	16	18	26	32	19	20	16	21	20

*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 upper gastrointestinal cancer: All persons

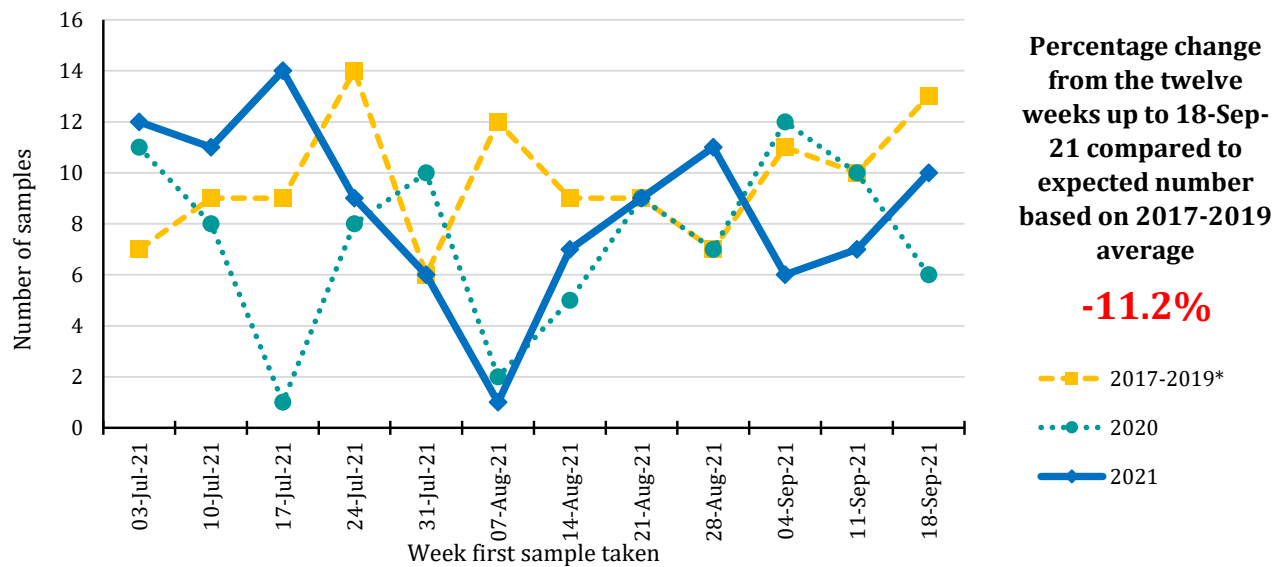
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	47			

*Annual average

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



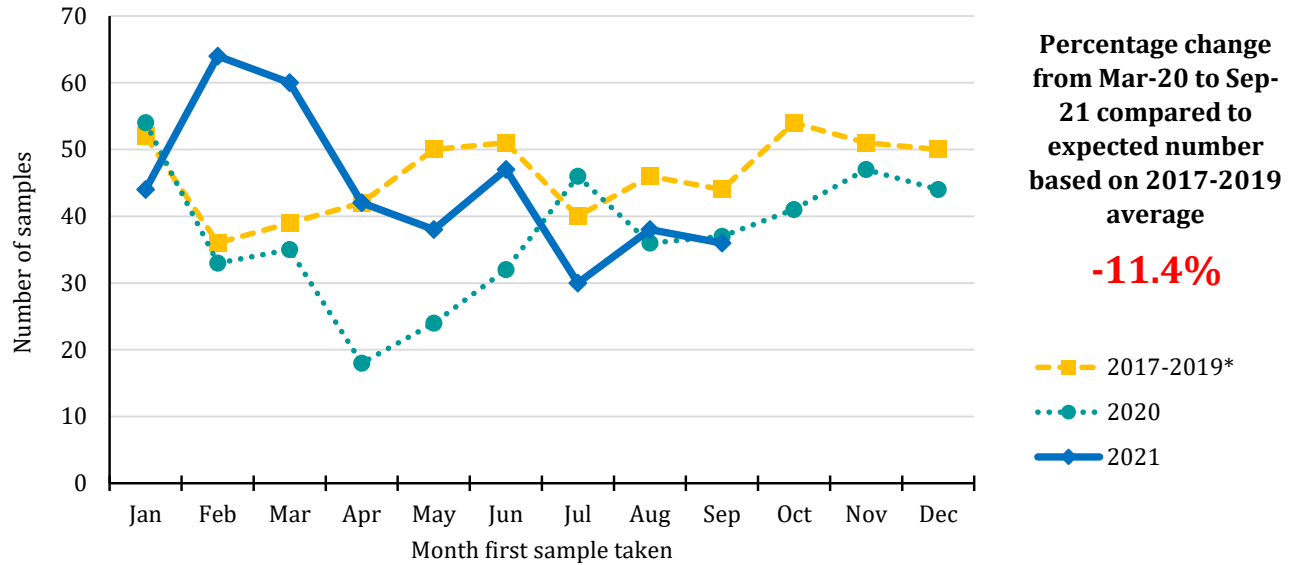
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	03-Jul-21	10-Jul-21	17-Jul-21	24-Jul-21	31-Jul-21	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	04-Sep-21	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21
2017-2019*	7	9	9	14	6	12	9	9	7	11	10	13
2020	11	8	1	8	10	2	5	9	7	12	10	6
2021	12	11	14	9	6	1	7	9	11	6	7	10

*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

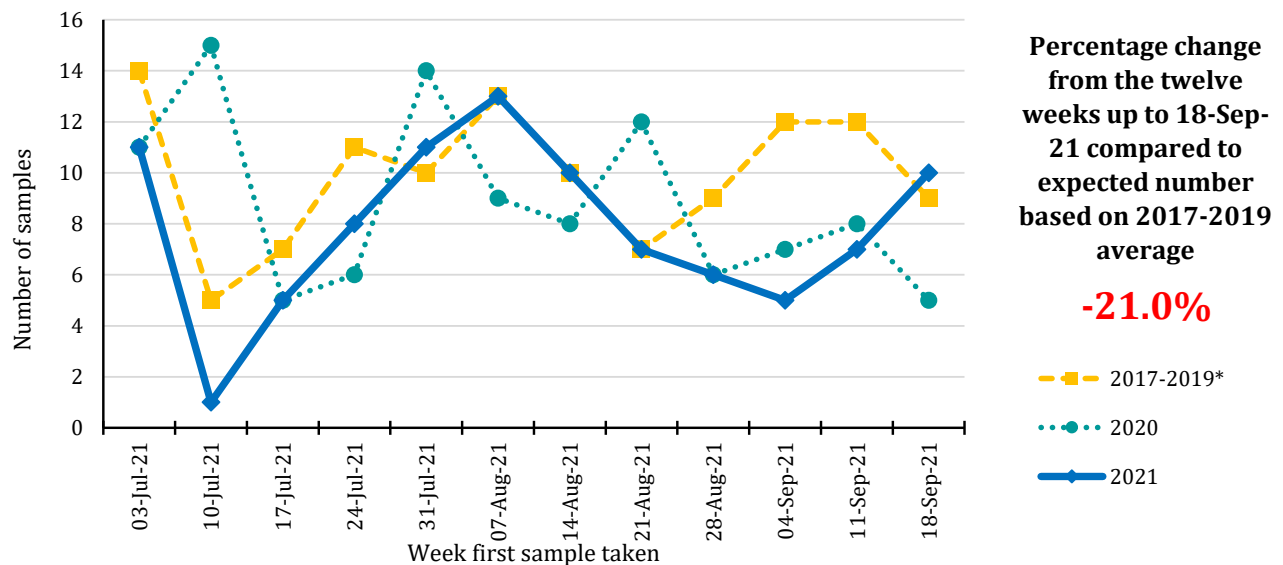
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	36			

*Annual average

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



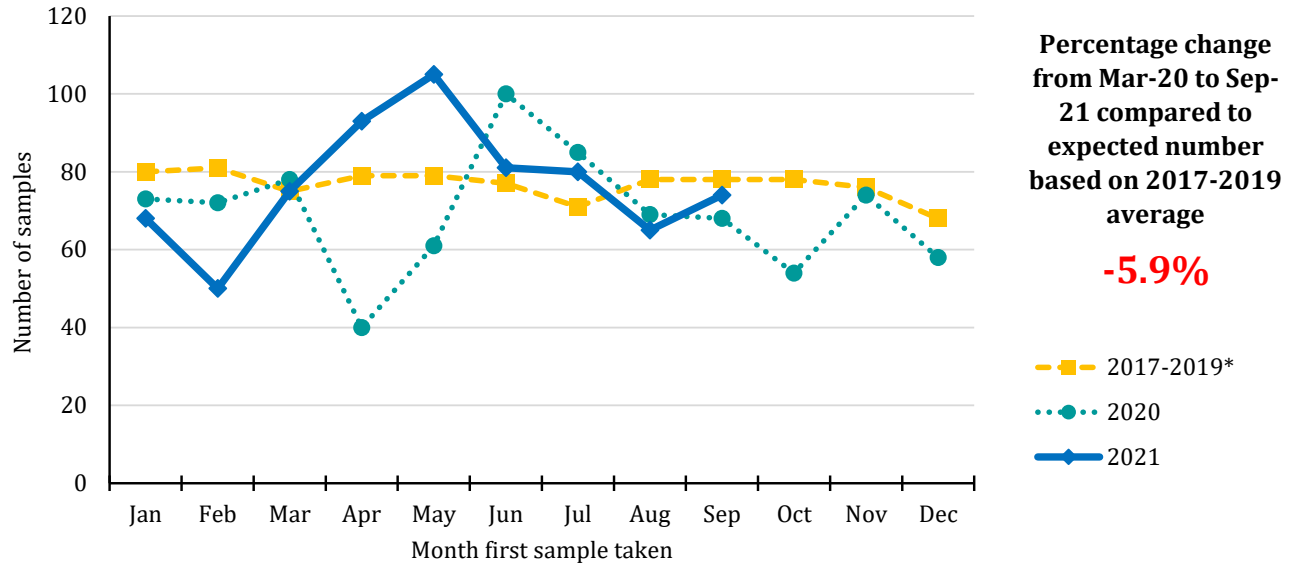
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	03-Jul-21	10-Jul-21	17-Jul-21	24-Jul-21	31-Jul-21	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	04-Sep-21	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21
2017-2019*	14	5	7	11	10	13	10	7	9	12	12	9
2020	11	15	5	6	14	9	8	12	6	7	8	5
2021	11	1	5	8	11	13	10	7	6	5	7	10

*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

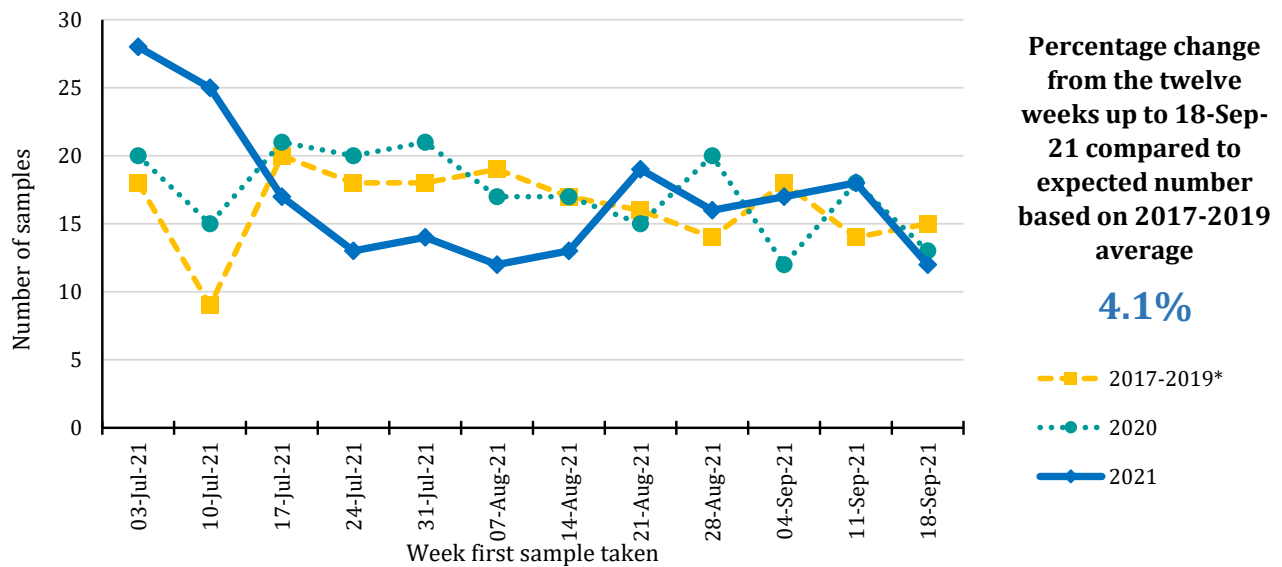
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	80	65	74			

*Annual average

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



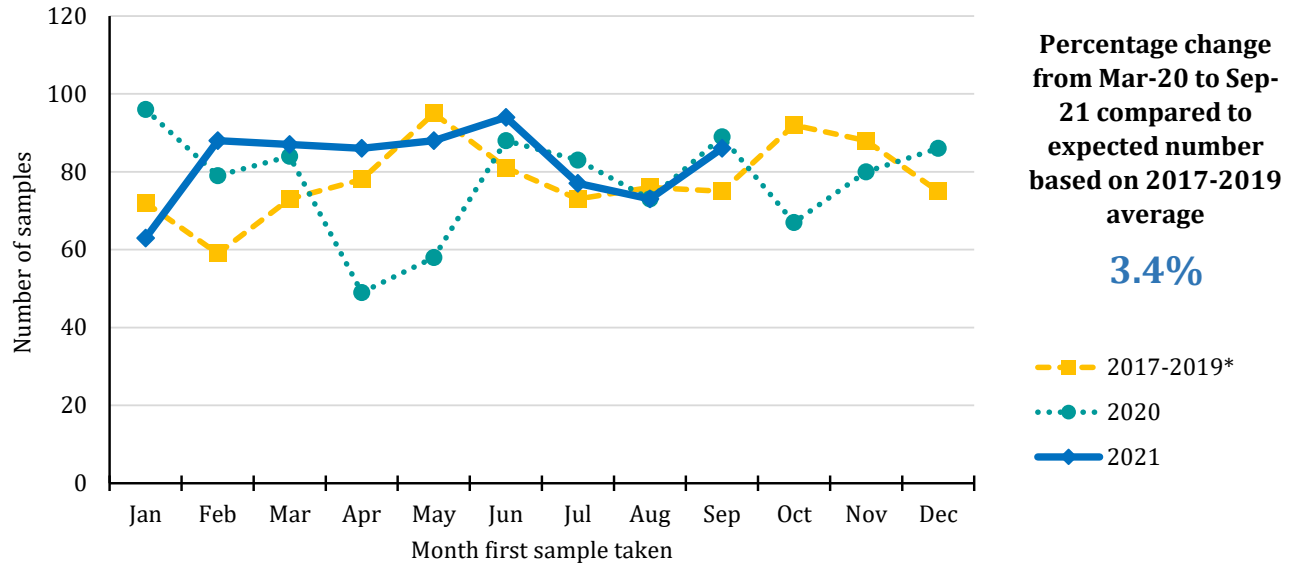
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	03-Jul-21	10-Jul-21	17-Jul-21	24-Jul-21	31-Jul-21	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	04-Sep-21	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21
2017-2019*	18	9	20	18	18	19	17	16	14	18	14	15
2020	20	15	21	20	21	17	17	15	20	12	18	13
2021	28	25	17	13	14	12	13	19	16	17	18	12

*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 haematological cancer: All persons

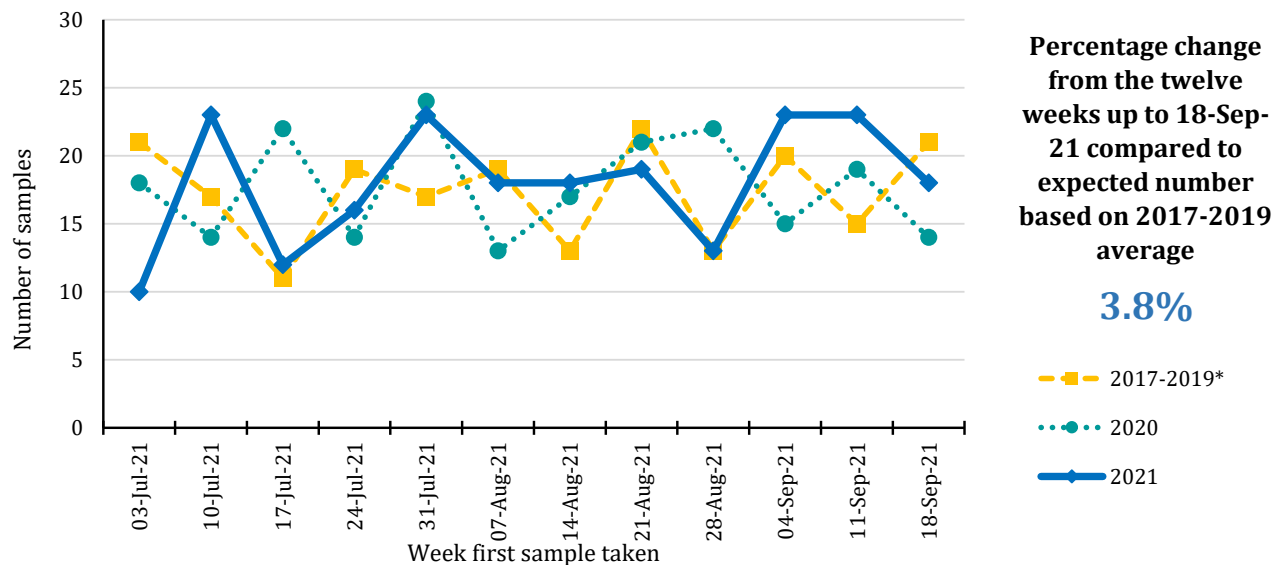
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	73	86			

*Annual average

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



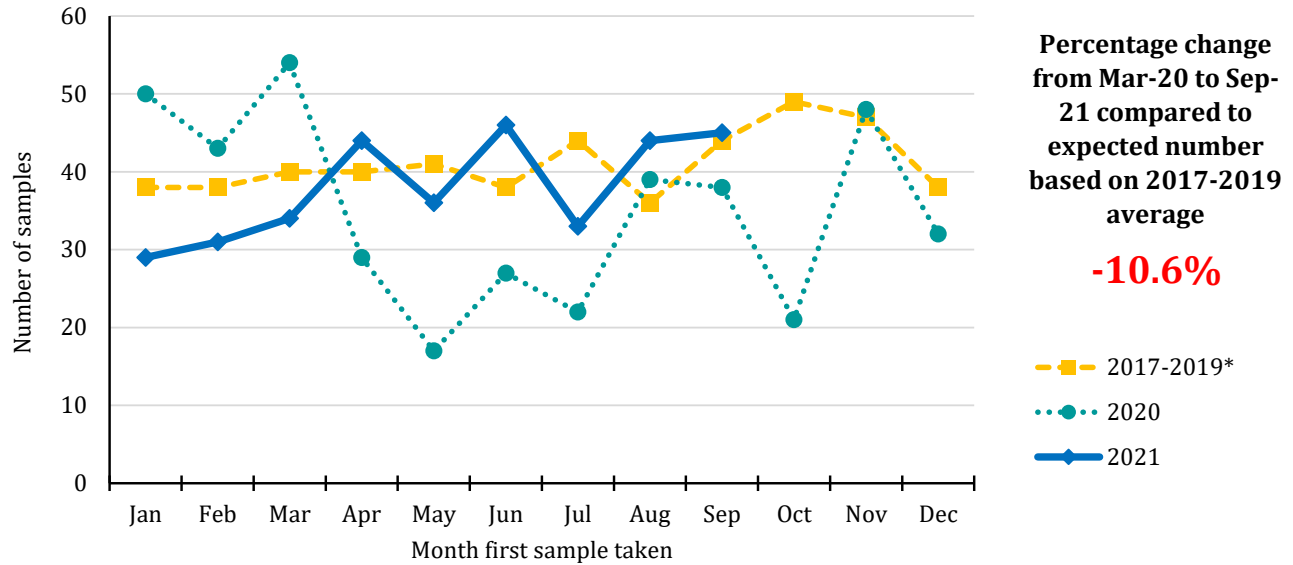
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	03-Jul-21	10-Jul-21	17-Jul-21	24-Jul-21	31-Jul-21	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	04-Sep-21	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21
2017-2019*	21	17	11	19	17	19	13	22	13	20	15	21
2020	18	14	22	14	24	13	17	21	22	15	19	14
2021	10	23	12	16	23	18	18	19	13	23	23	18

*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 malignant melanoma: All persons

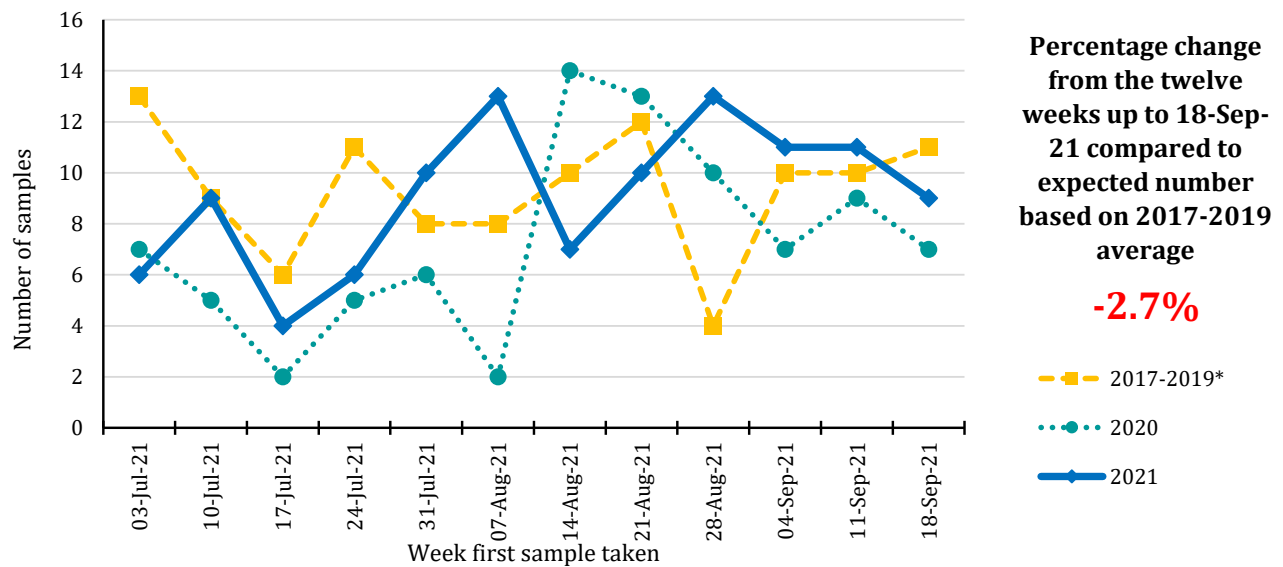
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	45			

*Annual average

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



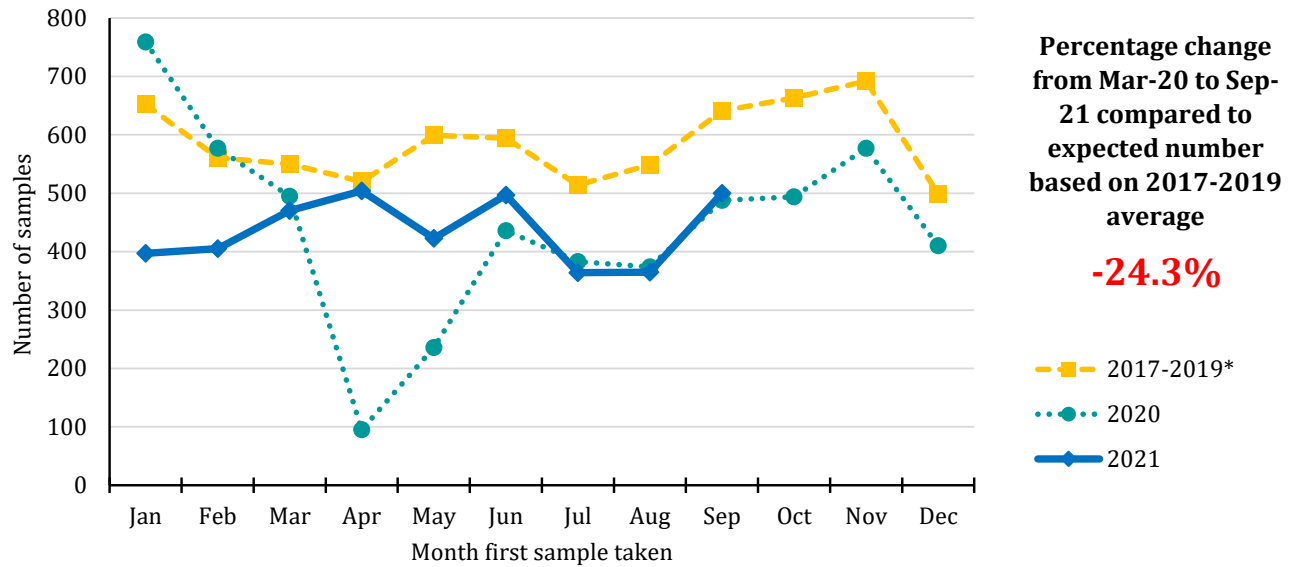
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	03-Jul-21	10-Jul-21	17-Jul-21	24-Jul-21	31-Jul-21	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	04-Sep-21	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21
2017-2019*	13	9	6	11	8	8	10	12	4	10	10	11
2020	7	5	2	5	6	2	14	13	10	7	9	7
2021	6	9	4	6	10	13	7	10	13	11	11	9

*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

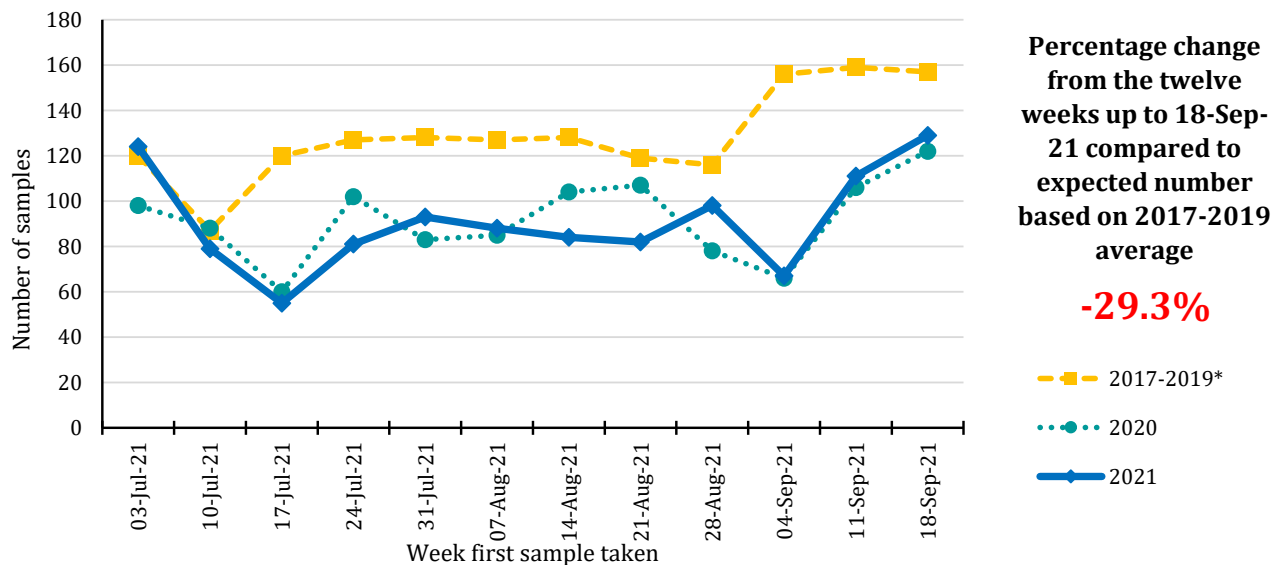
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	497	364	365	500			

*Annual average

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



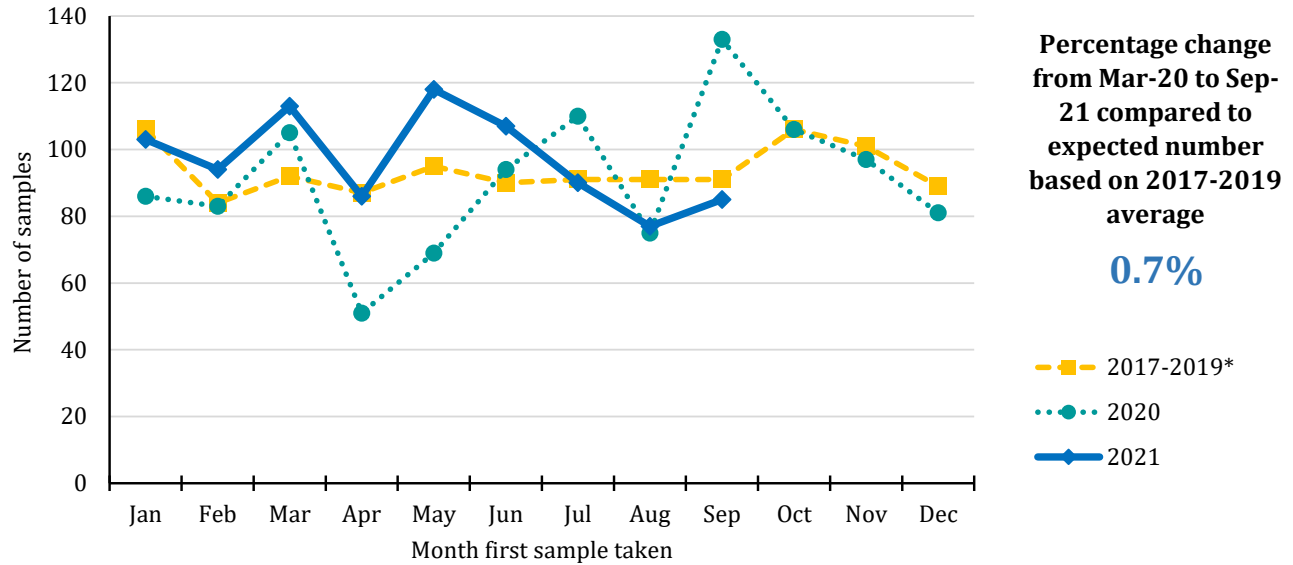
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	03-Jul-21	10-Jul-21	17-Jul-21	24-Jul-21	31-Jul-21	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	04-Sep-21	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21
2017-2019*	120	87	120	127	128	127	128	119	116	156	159	157
2020	98	88	60	102	83	85	104	107	78	66	106	122
2021	124	79	55	81	93	88	84	82	98	67	111	129

*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

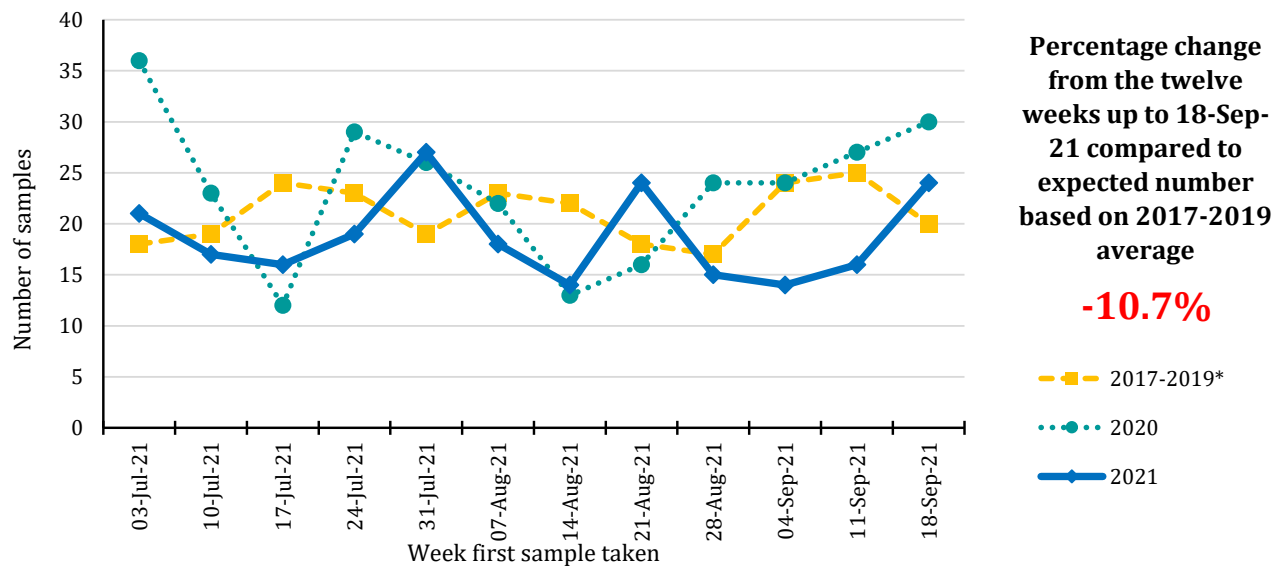
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	77	85			

*Annual average

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



Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	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	04-Sep-21	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21
2017-2019*	18	19	24	23	19	23	22	18	17	24	25	20
2020	36	23	12	29	26	22	13	16	24	24	27	30
2021	21	17	16	19	27	18	14	24	15	14	16	24

*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 Sep-21. Due to potential reporting delays, pathology data from the month following Sep-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

The Northern Ireland Cancer Registry (NICR) is funded by the Public Health Agency. NICR uses data provided by patients and collected by the health service as part of their care and support.

Further Information

Further data is available at: www.qub.ac.uk/nicr

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