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

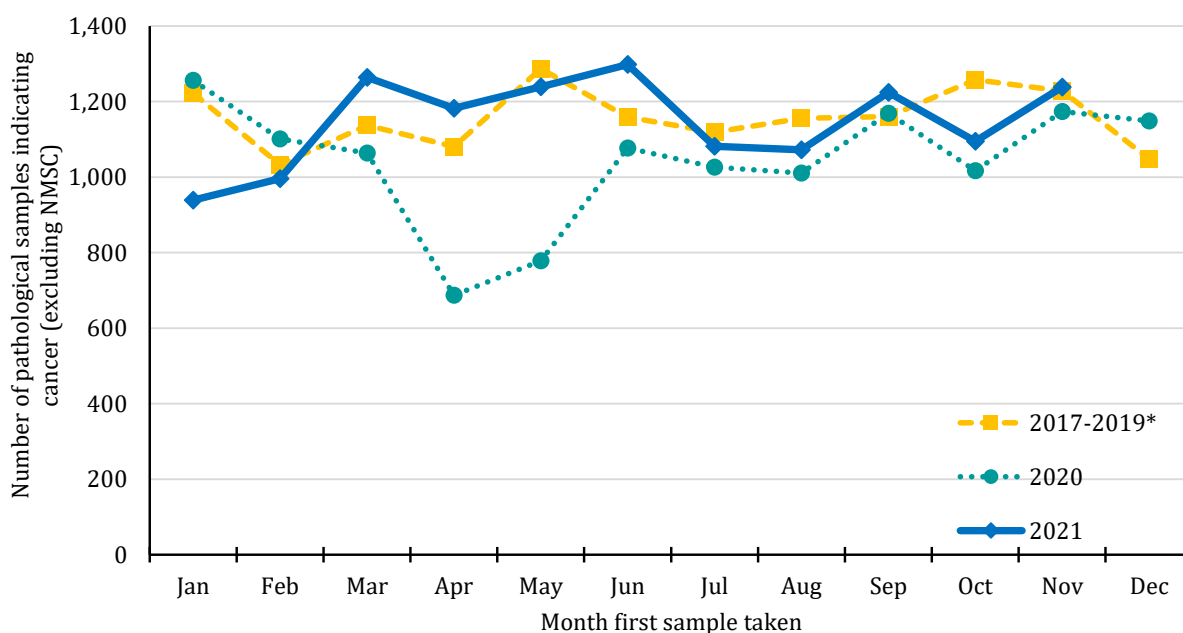## November 2021 Update

Contents

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

1) This summary provides an overview of recent trends in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, NMSC) taken from Jan-20 to Nov-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 throughout this report 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 Nov-21 the number of pathological samples indicating cancer was 5.9% 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	1,287	1,159	1,119	1,156	1,160	1,258	1,228	1,048
2020	1,256	1,101	1,064	687	778	1,077	1,026	1,011	1,169	1,017	1,174	1,149
2021	939	996	1,264	1,182	1,239	1,298	1,082	1,072	1,224	1,095	1,238	

Annual average

5) From Mar-20 to Nov-21 there was a 4.7% decrease in the number of samples among males and a 6.8% decrease among females compared to 2017-2019. A decrease of 6.4% occurred among those aged 0-69 years, while there was a decrease of 5.3% among those aged 70 and older.

6) Compared to the average in 2017-2019 the number of samples in 2021 was higher in March, April, June, September and November. Monthly variations may be a result of random factors (e.g. staff leave) which occur naturally and are unrelated to the Covid-19 pandemic.

7) Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, from Mar-20 to Nov-21 the number of pathology samples indicating lung cancer decreased by 22.8%, while those indicating prostate cancer decreased by 7.5%. Increases were recorded for haematological cancer, while decreases of more than 10% occurred for gynaecological cancer, head and neck cancer and non-melanoma skin cancer.

Percentage change by cancer type

Category	Percentage change
All persons	-5.9%
Males	-4.7%
Females	-6.8%
Ages 0-69	-6.4%
Ages 70+	-5.3%
Bowel	-0.8%
Lung	-22.8%
Female breast	-3.3%
Prostate	-7.5%
Gynaecolgical	-18.1%
Upper GI	-5.2%
Urinary	-5.7%
Head & Neck	-13.4%
Haematological	2.6%
Melanoma	-7.7%
Other cancers	-0.4%
NMSC	-24.3%
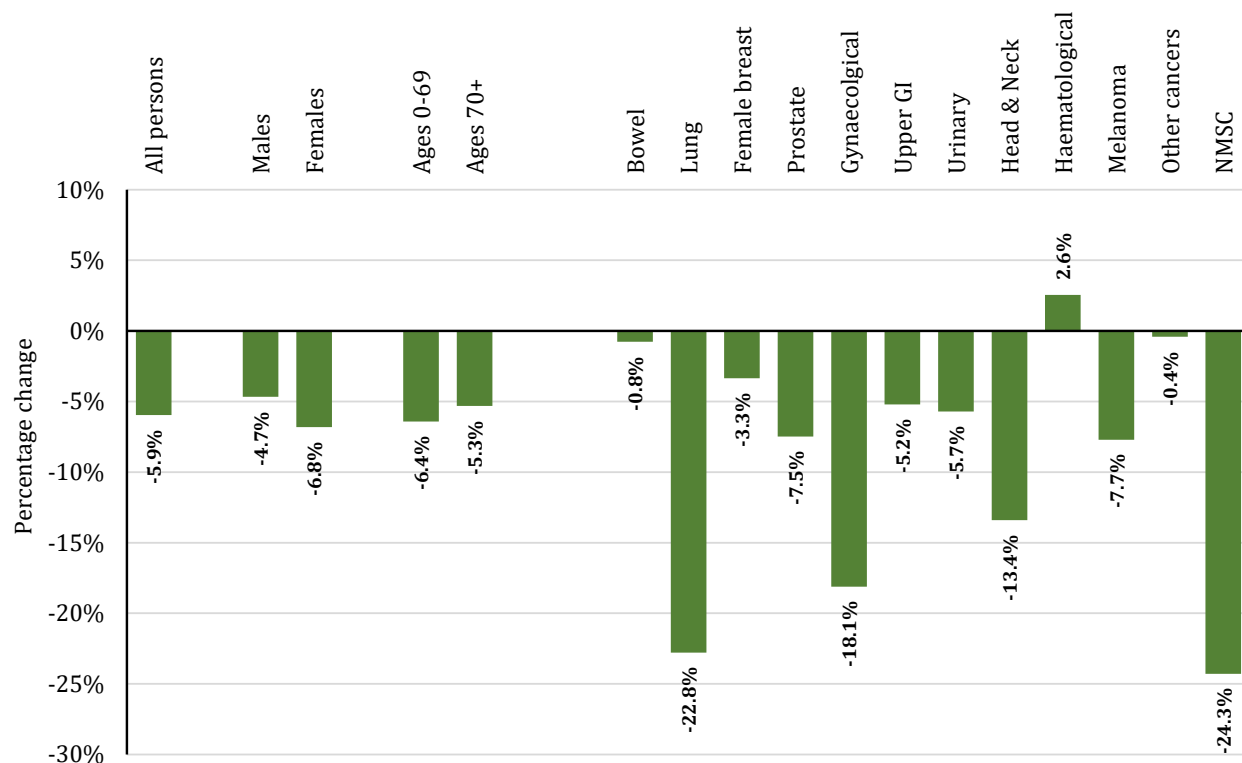
Trends in pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

8) There was an 2.6% decrease in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer in the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to the average value in the equivalent weeks in 2017-2019.

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21	25-Sep-21	02-Oct-21	09-Oct-21	16-Oct-21	23-Oct-21	30-Oct-21	06-Nov-21	13-Nov-21	20-Nov-21	27-Nov-21
2017-2019*	266	265	295	295	285	270	284	233	297	266	300	295
2020	272	222	264	291	242	221	245	221	293	274	280	269
2021	276	272	277	274	279	259	285	224	295	292	255	277

*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.

9) In the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 there was a 2.4% decrease in samples among males and a 2.5% decrease among females compared to the same time period in 2017-2019. A decrease of 0.5% occurred among those aged 0-69 years and a decrease of 5.1% occurred among those aged 70 and older.

10) Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, in the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 the number of pathology samples indicating lung cancer decreased by 24.5%. Increases were recorded for bowel cancer, upper GI cancer and melanoma, while decreases of more than 10% occurred for head and neck cancer, haematological cancer and non-melanoma skin cancer.
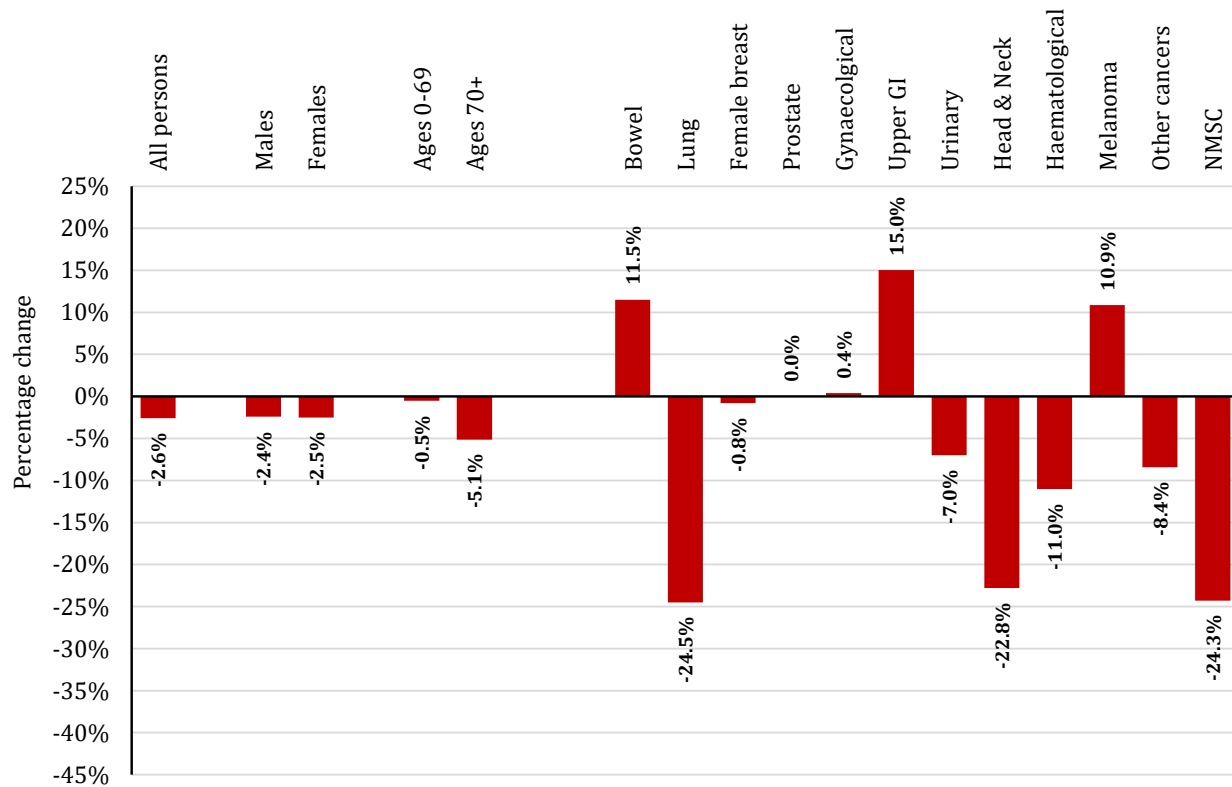
Pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): All persons

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

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-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*	1,222	1,033	1,137	1,081	1,287	1,159	1,119	1,156	1,160	1,258	1,228	1,048
2020	1,256	1,101	1,064	687	778	1,077	1,026	1,011	1,169	1,017	1,174	1,149
2021	939	996	1,264	1,182	1,239	1,298	1,082	1,072	1,224	1,095	1,238	

Annual average

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

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-2.6%

--- 2017-2019*
···• 2020
——◆ 2021

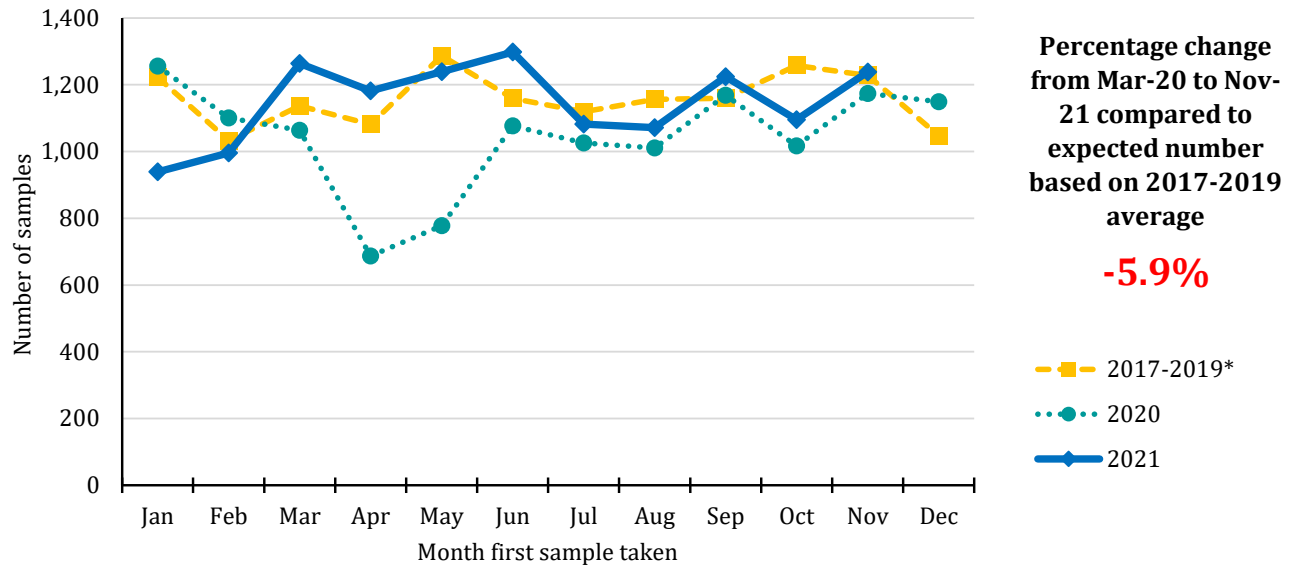| Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	266	265	295	295	285	270	284	233	297	266	300	295
2020	272	222	264	291	242	221	245	221	293	274	280	269
2021	276	272	277	274	279	259	285	224	295	292	255	277

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 Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-4.7%
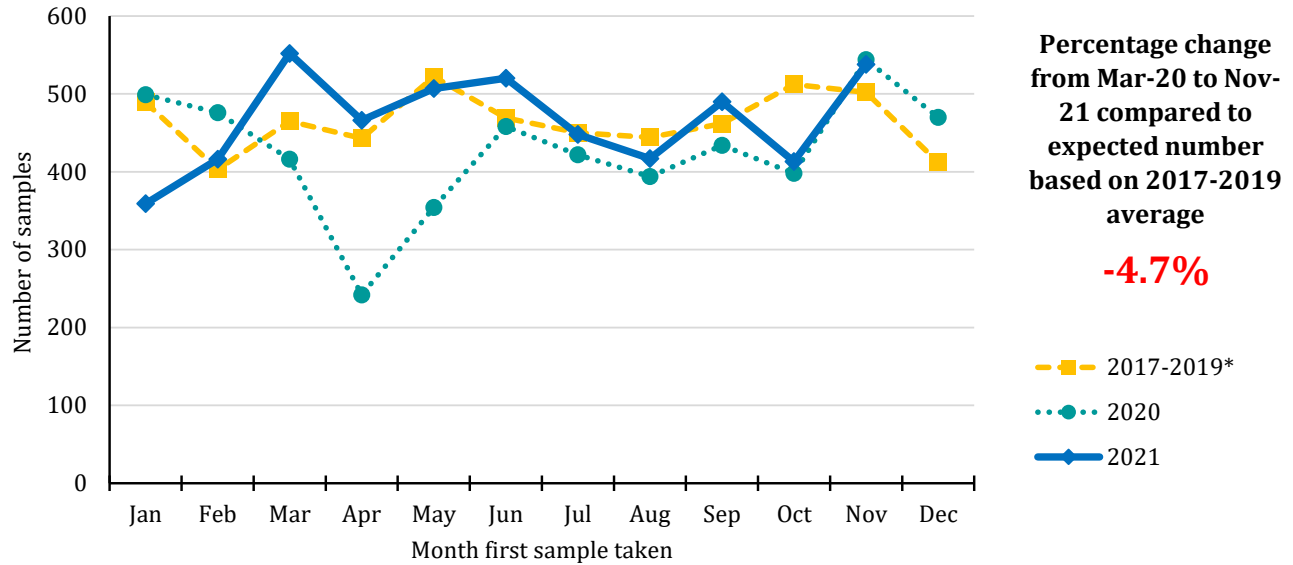
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	489	403	465	443	522	469	450	444	462	512	502	412
2020	499	476	416	242	354	458	422	394	434	398	544	470
2021	359	416	552	466	507	520	448	417	490	413	538	

Annual average

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

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-2.4%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	106	111	119	116	119	113	117	94	129	101	122	117
2020	94	90	103	103	87	93	101	79	128	114	137	129
2021	123	100	118	107	113	100	100	86	138	123	114	109

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 Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-6.8%

Legend:
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021
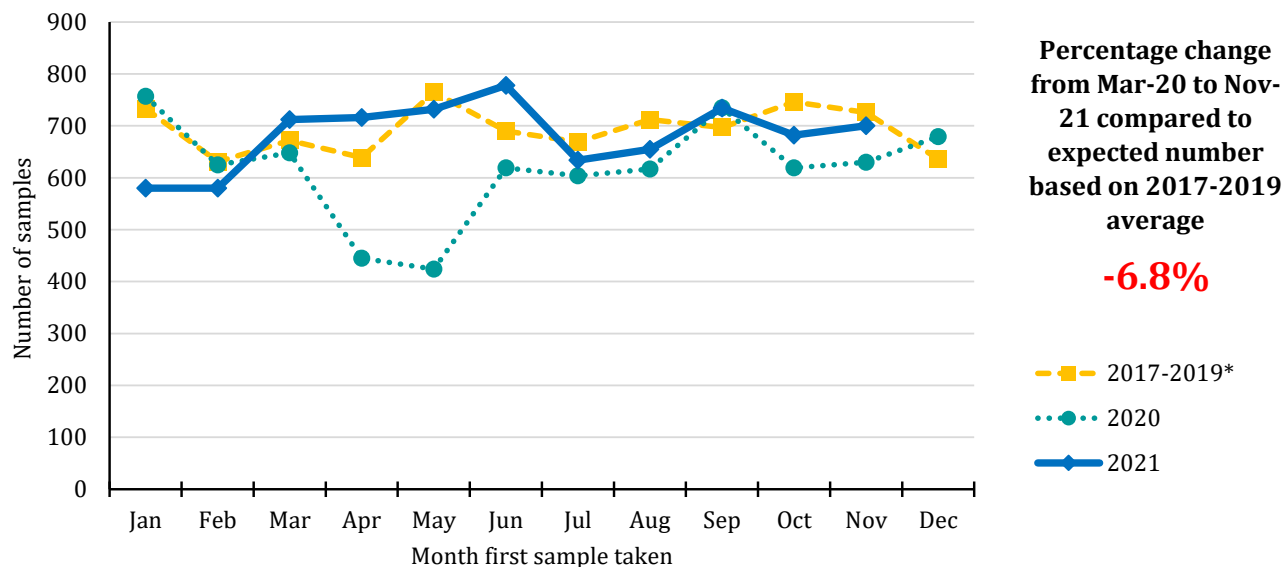
Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	733	631	672	639	765	690	669	712	697	746	726	636
2020	757	625	648	445	424	619	604	617	735	619	630	679
2021	580	580	712	716	732	778	634	655	734	682	700	

Annual average

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

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-2.5%

Legend:
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	160	153	176	178	165	157	167	139	168	165	177	179
2020	178	132	161	188	155	128	144	142	165	160	143	140
2021	153	172	159	167	166	159	185	138	157	169	141	168

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.

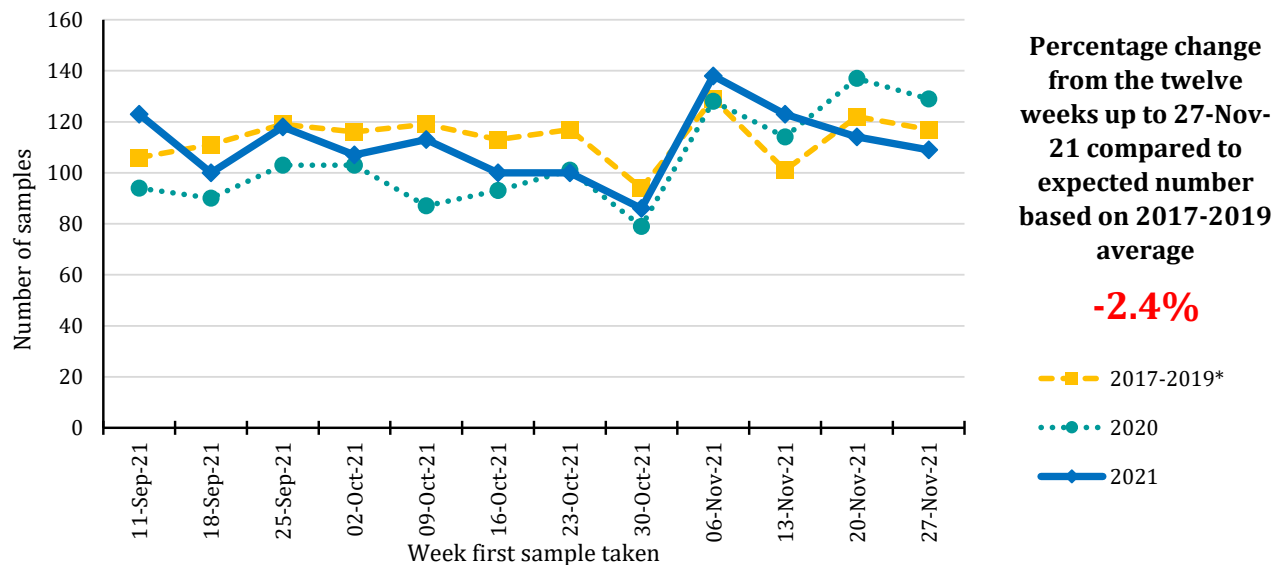**Pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): Ages 0 to 69**

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

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

-6.4%
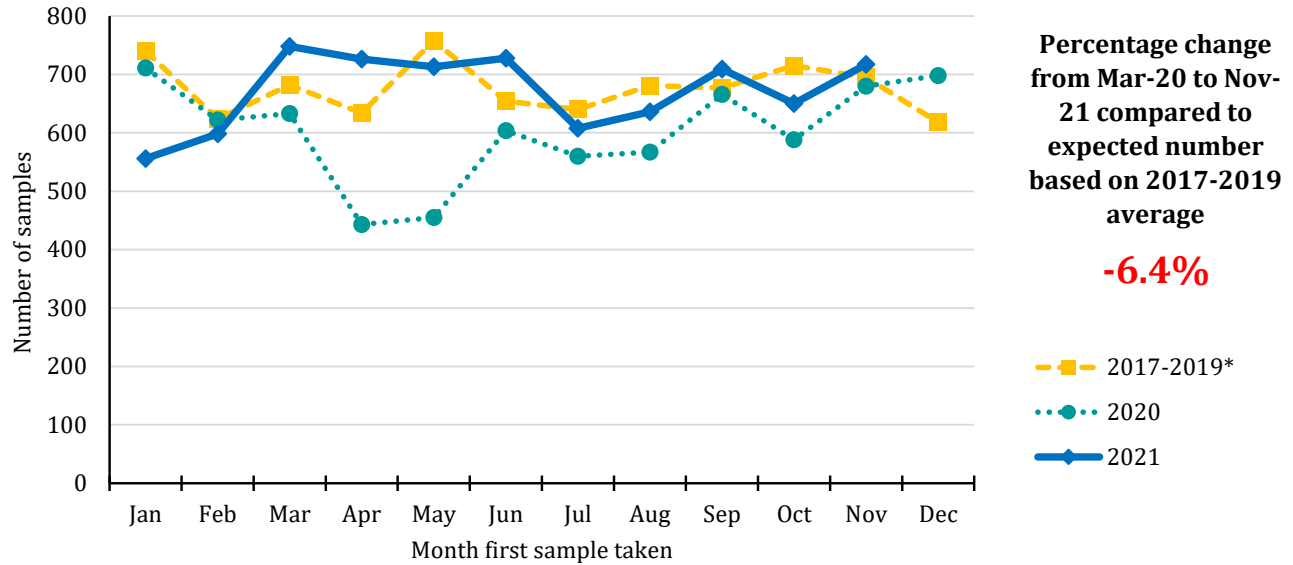
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	740	624	682	634	758	654	640	681	677	715	695	618
2020	711	622	633	443	455	604	560	567	666	588	680	698
2021	556	598	748	726	713	728	608	636	709	650	717	

Annual average

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

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-0.5%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	163	141	175	168	164	149	166	130	168	160	163	162
2020	152	127	135	181	137	122	125	147	162	155	162	171
2021	152	151	152	179	170	150	175	128	178	167	131	166

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.

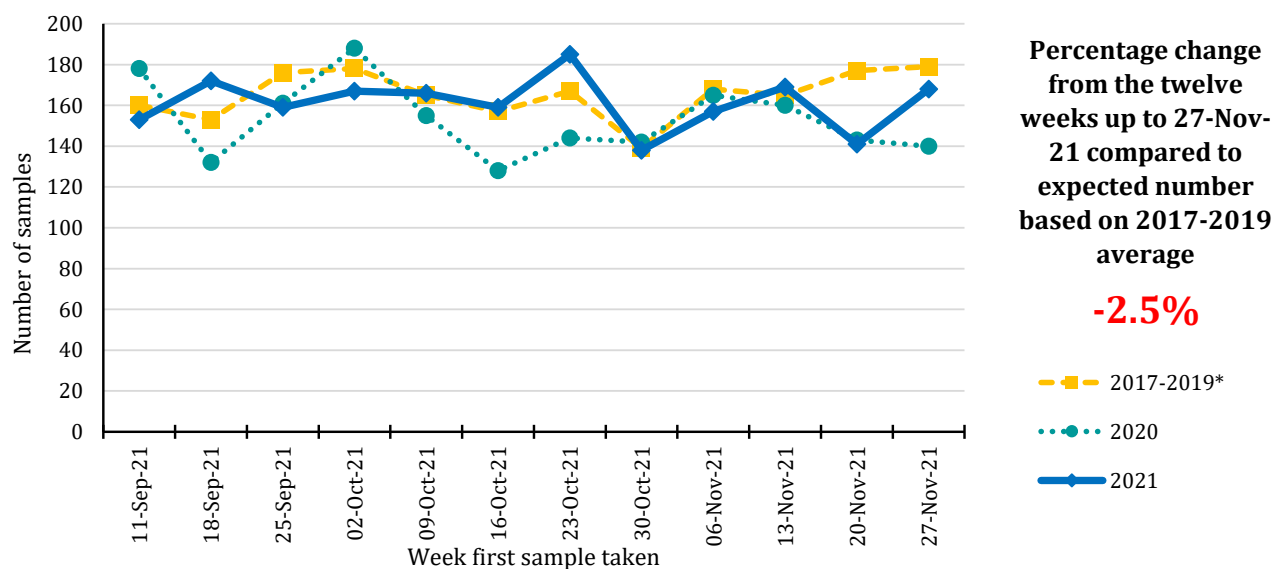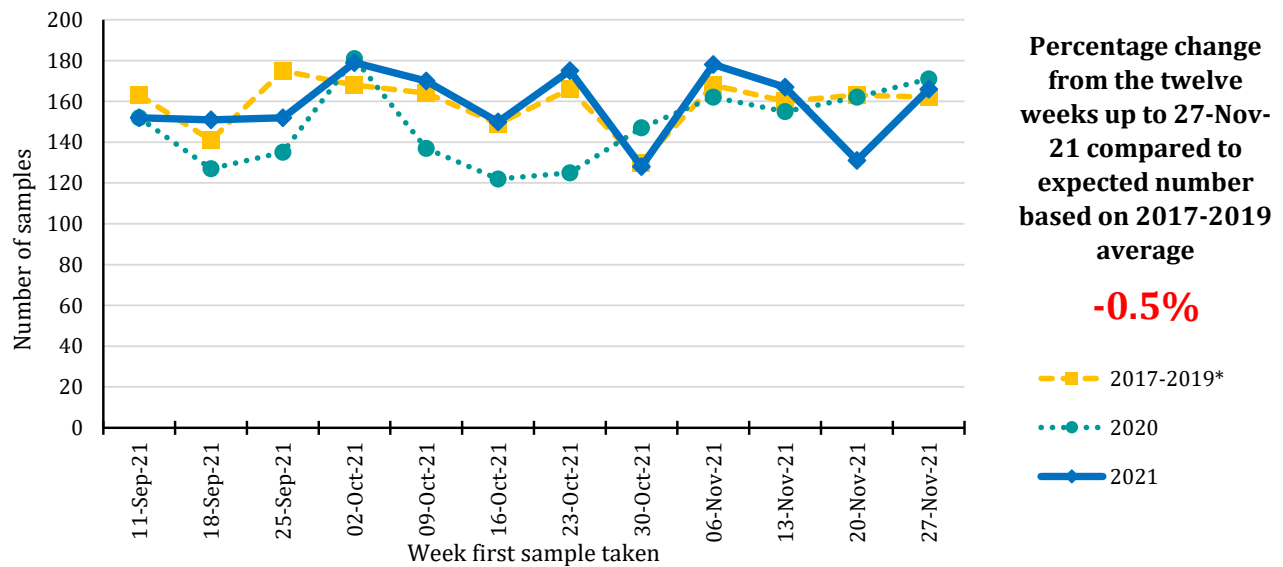## Pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): Ages 70 and over

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

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

-5.3%
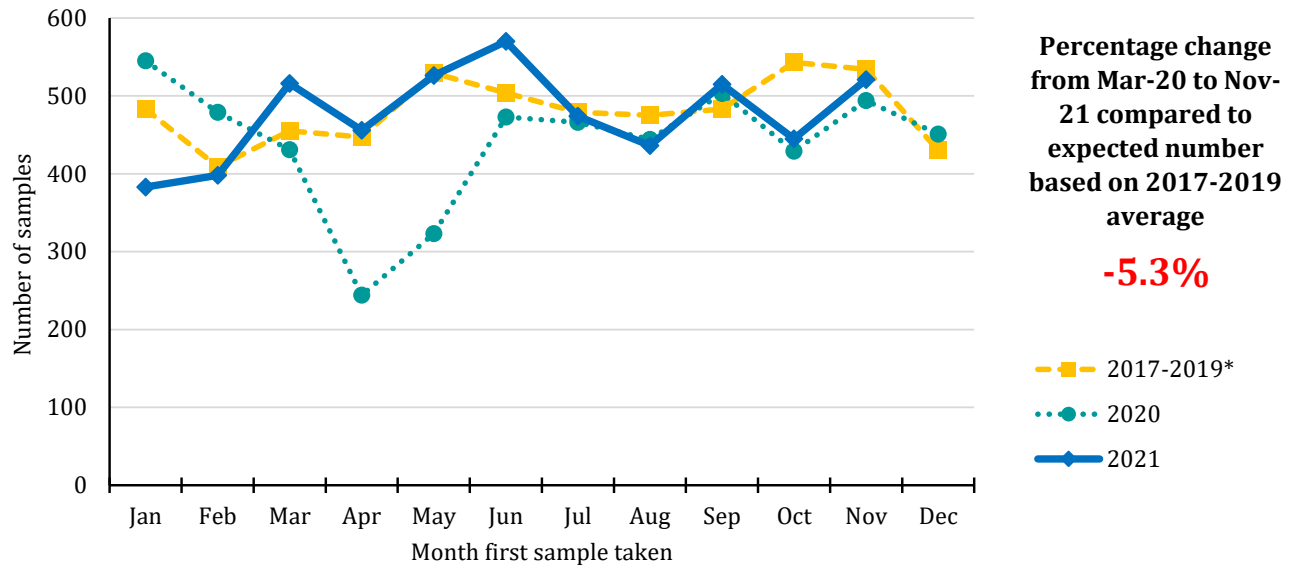
- --■-- 2017-2019*
- ····●···· 2020
- —◆— 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	483	409	455	447	529	504	479	475	483	543	534	430
2020	545	479	431	244	323	473	466	444	503	429	494	451
2021	383	398	516	456	526	570	474	436	515	445	521	

Annual average

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

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-5.1%

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

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	103	124	119	126	121	121	118	103	129	106	137	133
2020	120	95	129	110	105	99	120	74	131	119	118	98
2021	124	121	125	95	109	109	110	96	117	125	124	111

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.*
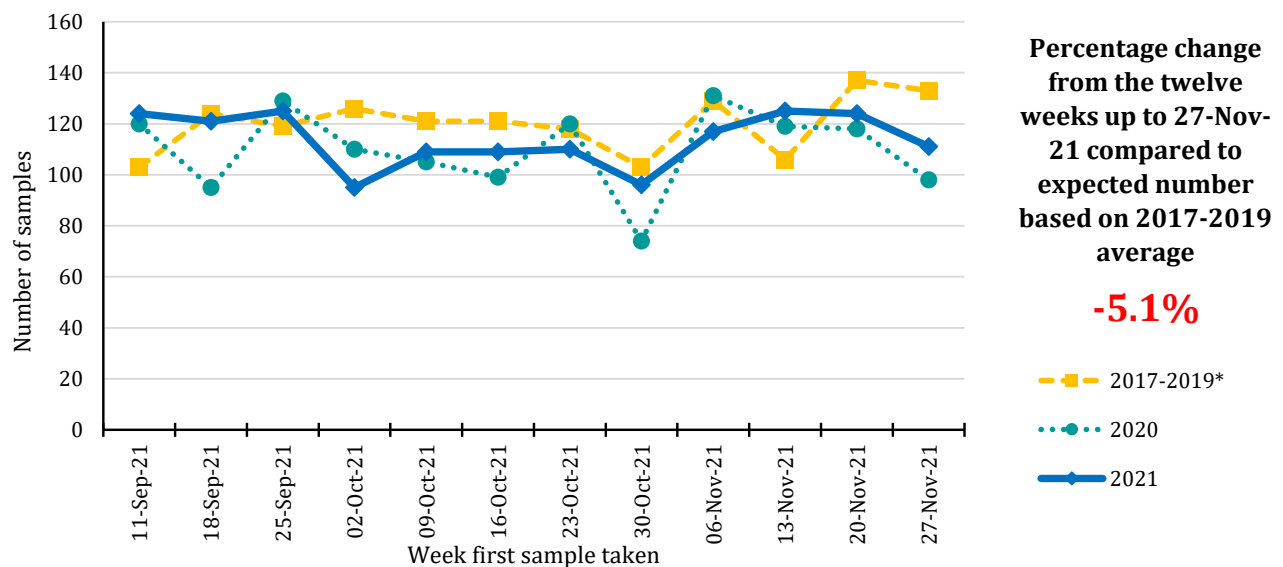
Pathology samples indicating bowel cancer: All persons

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

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

-0.8%
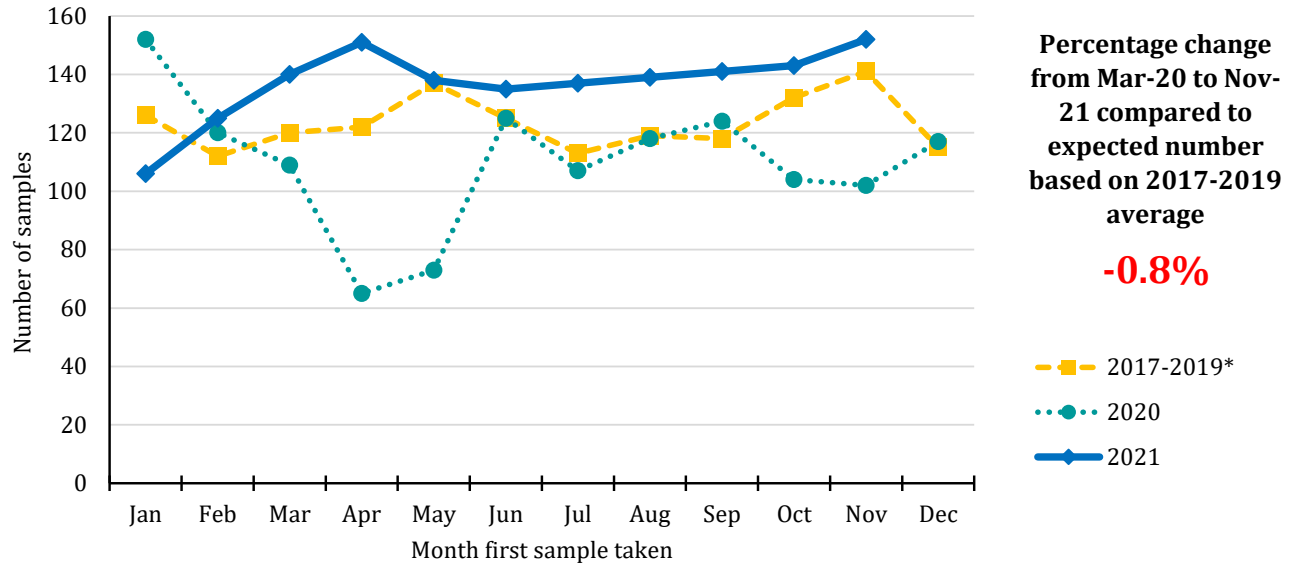
- - ■ - - 2017-2019*
- · · ● · · 2020
- —◆— 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	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	141	143	152	

Annual average

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

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

11.5%

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

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	26	27	28	32	25	32	29	23	31	33	37	34
2020	29	30	25	30	26	22	25	23	24	28	24	22
2021	33	28	27	37	31	31	31	42	34	40	26	38

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.*

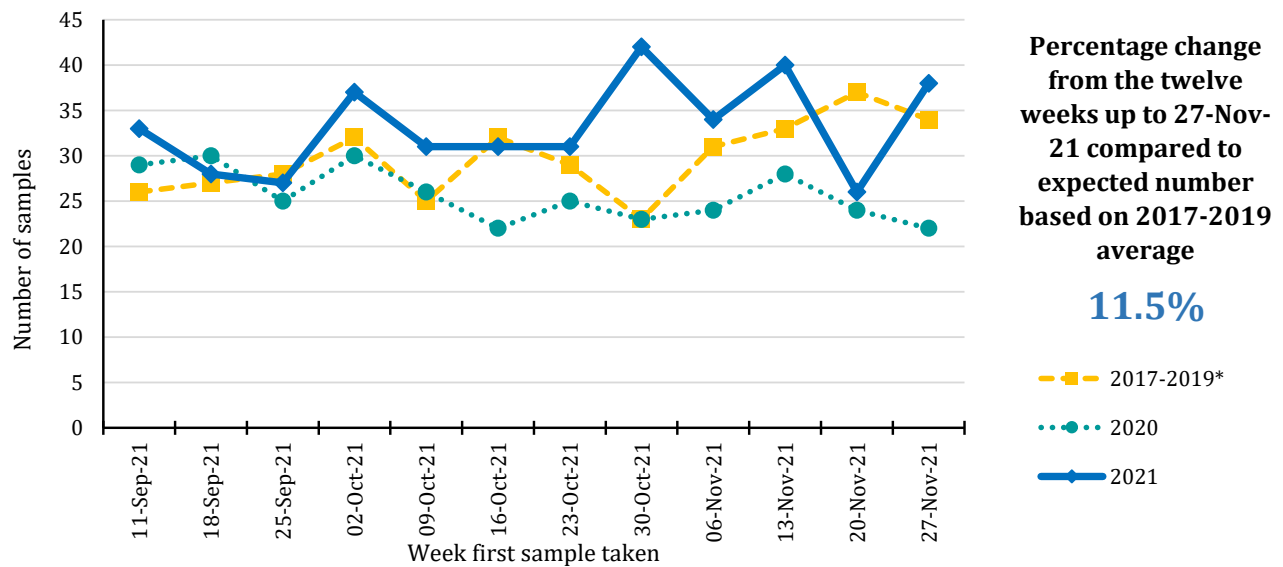## Pathology samples indicating bowel cancer: All persons, screening age (60-74)

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

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

2.3%
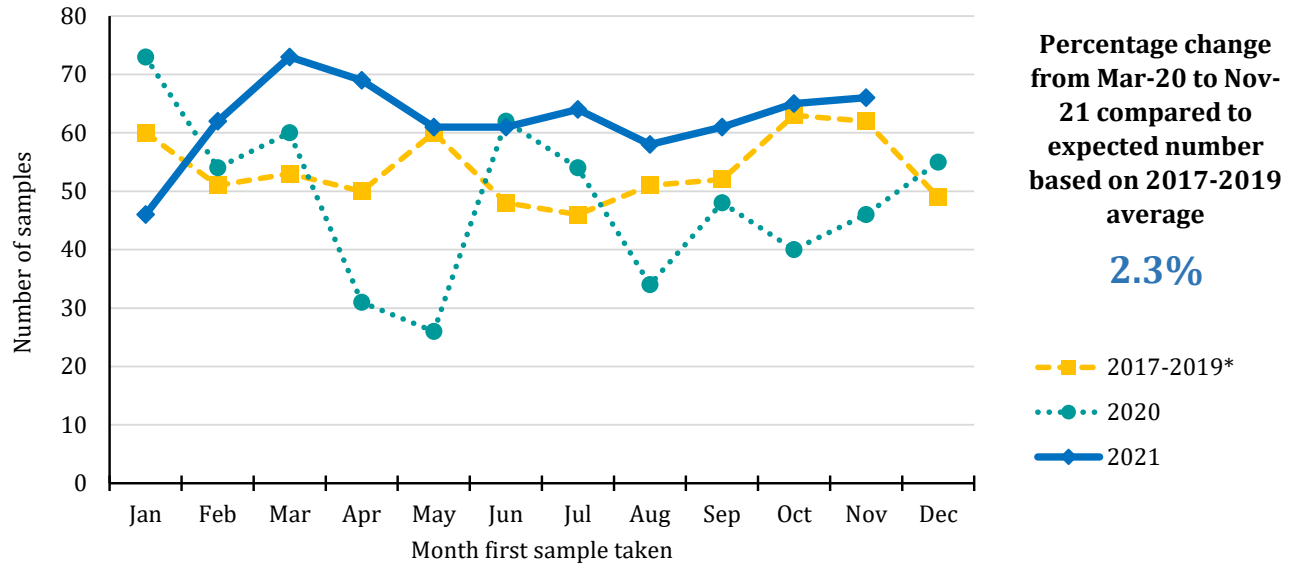
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	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	61	65	66	

Annual average

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

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

12.6%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	12	12	10	13	13	11	18	11	14	15	16	14
2020	14	12	9	15	8	10	11	6	10	15	11	7
2021	15	8	18	15	16	13	14	20	8	23	8	21

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.*

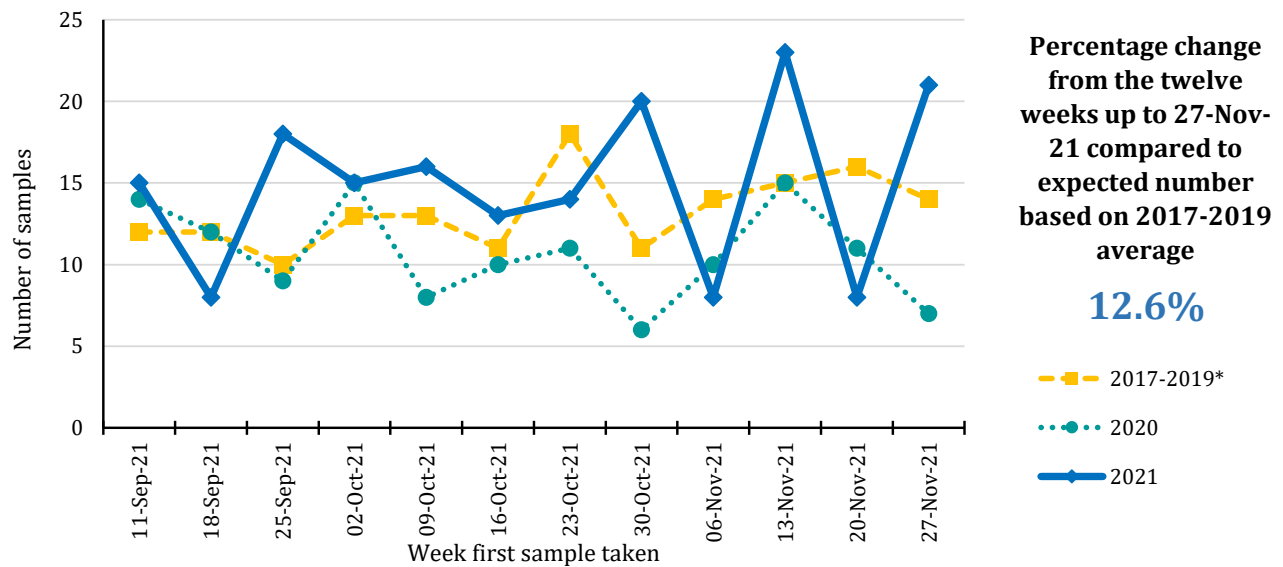## Pathology samples indicating lung cancer: All persons

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

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

-22.8%
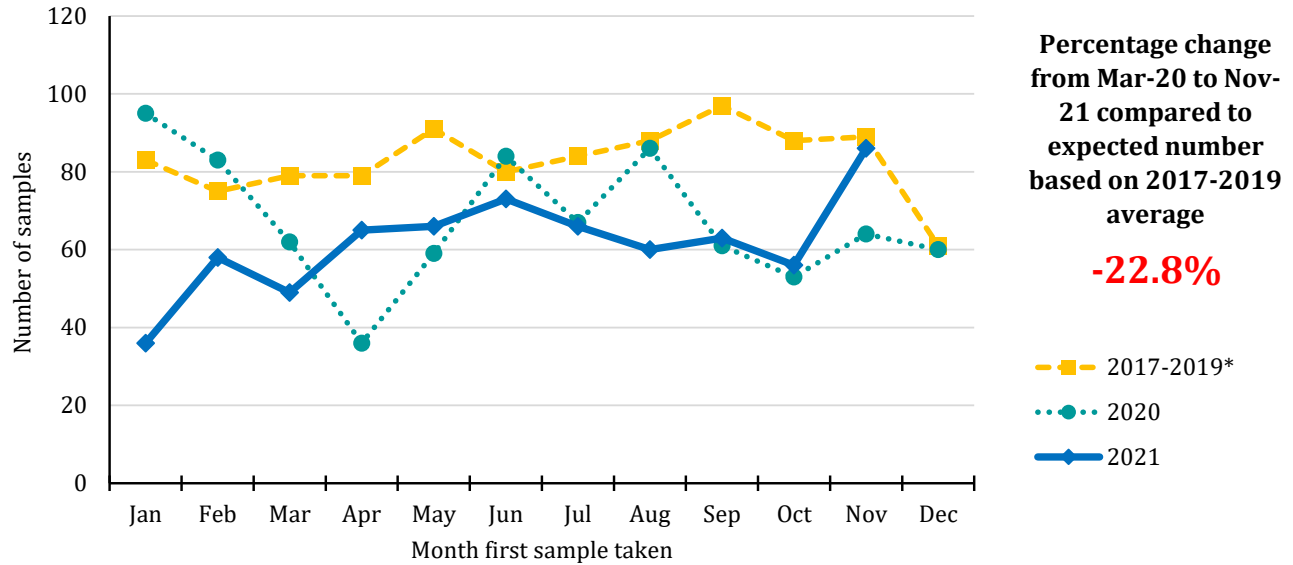
Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	83	75	79	79	91	80	84	88	97	88	89	61
2020	95	83	62	36	59	84	67	86	61	53	64	60
2021	36	58	49	65	66	73	66	60	63	56	86	

*Annual average

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

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-24.5%

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	21	25	28	23	23	17	15	19	22	17	25	18
2020	13	7	17	14	18	7	12	15	17	19	11	13
2021	11	15	19	13	23	11	15	7	28	15	17	17

*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.

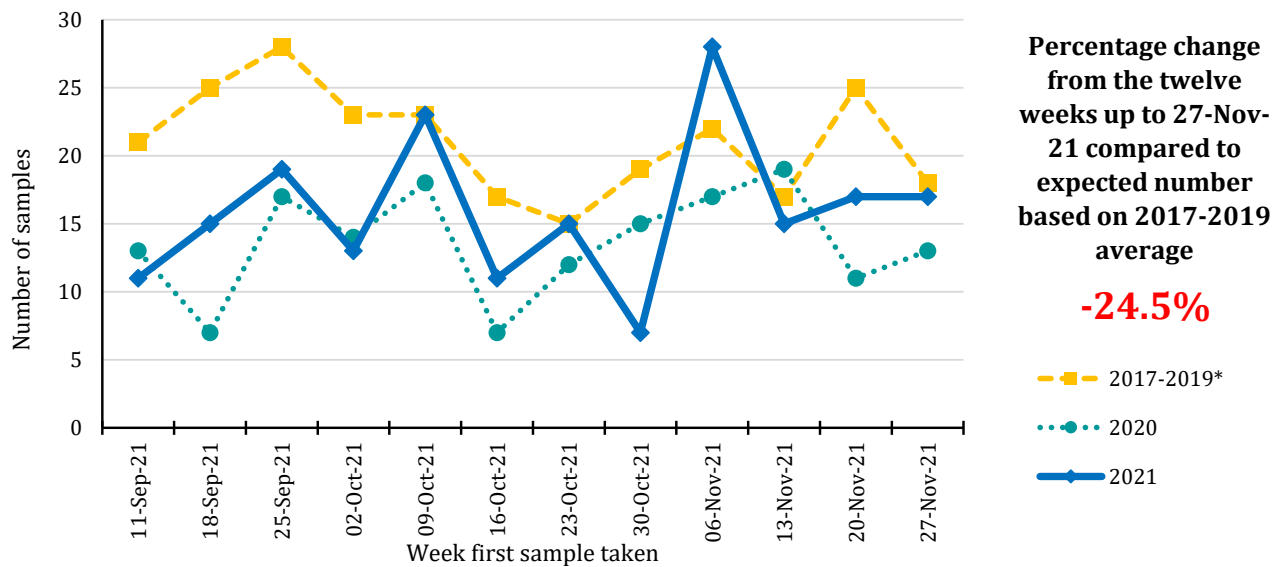## Pathology samples indicating breast cancer: Females

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

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

-3.3%
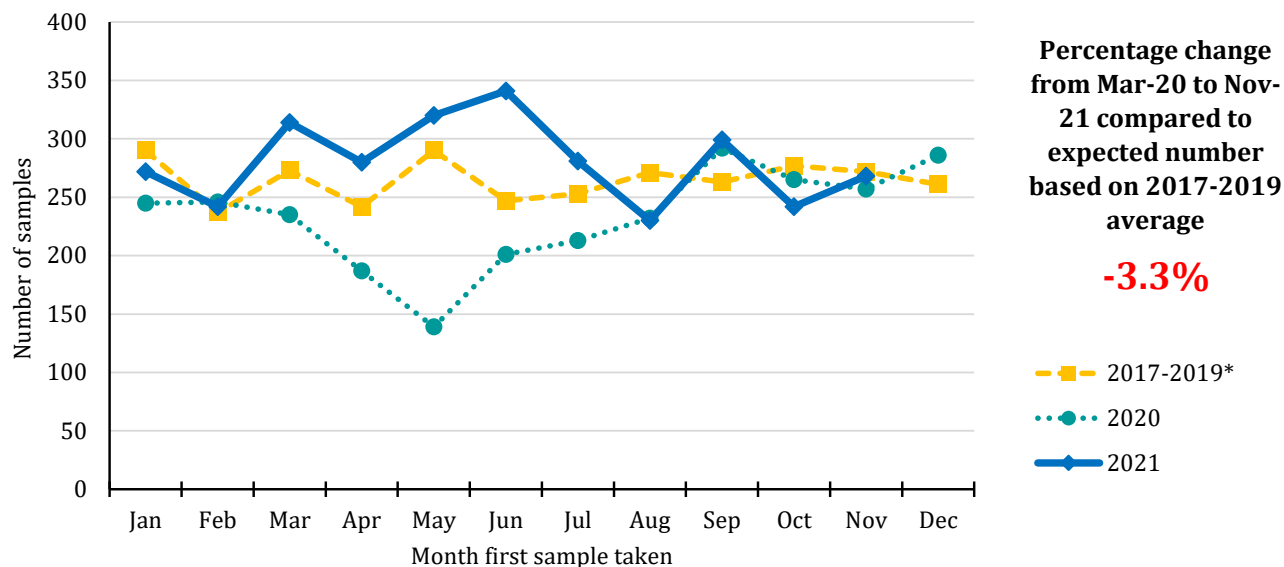
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	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	281	230	299	242	268	

Annual average

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

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-0.8%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	60	56	64	69	61	55	67	51	65	60	59	73
2020	65	51	66	80	56	60	65	63	67	67	61	56
2021	57	58	78	64	66	54	76	39	56	65	51	70

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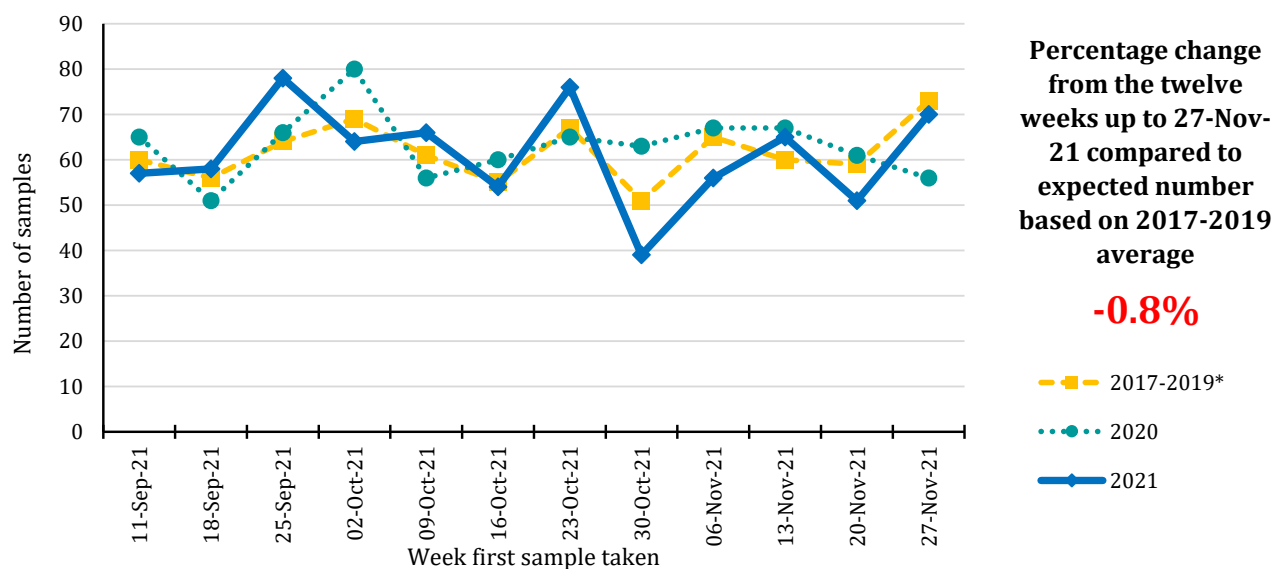
Pathology samples indicating breast cancer: Females, screening age (50-70)

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

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

0.6%
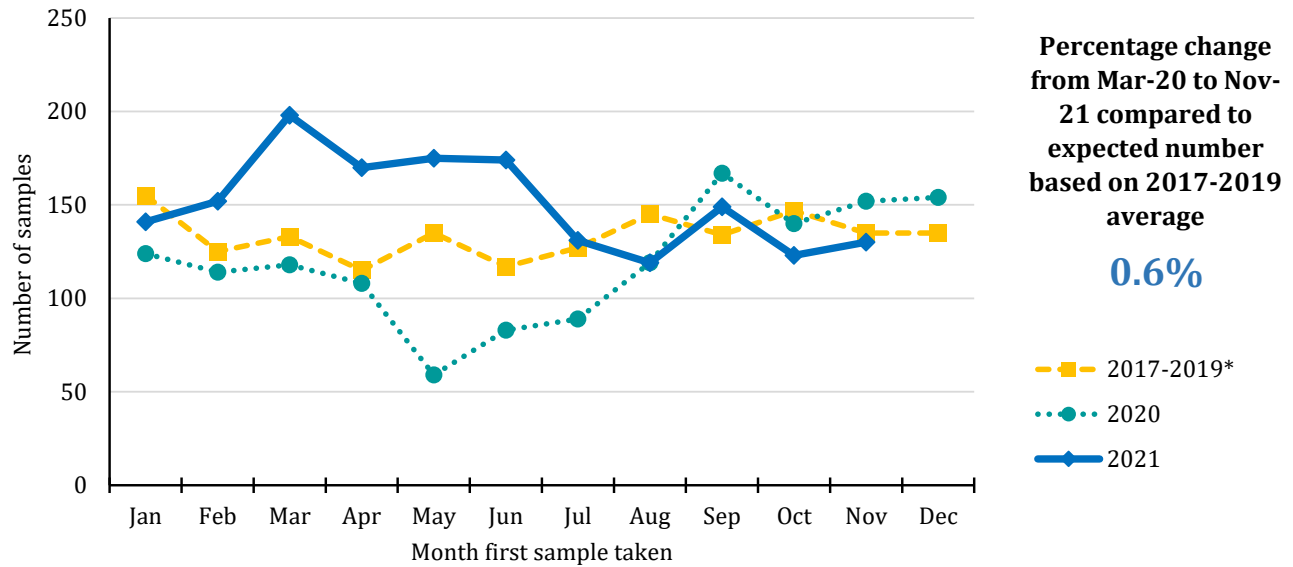
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	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	131	119	149	123	130	

Annual average

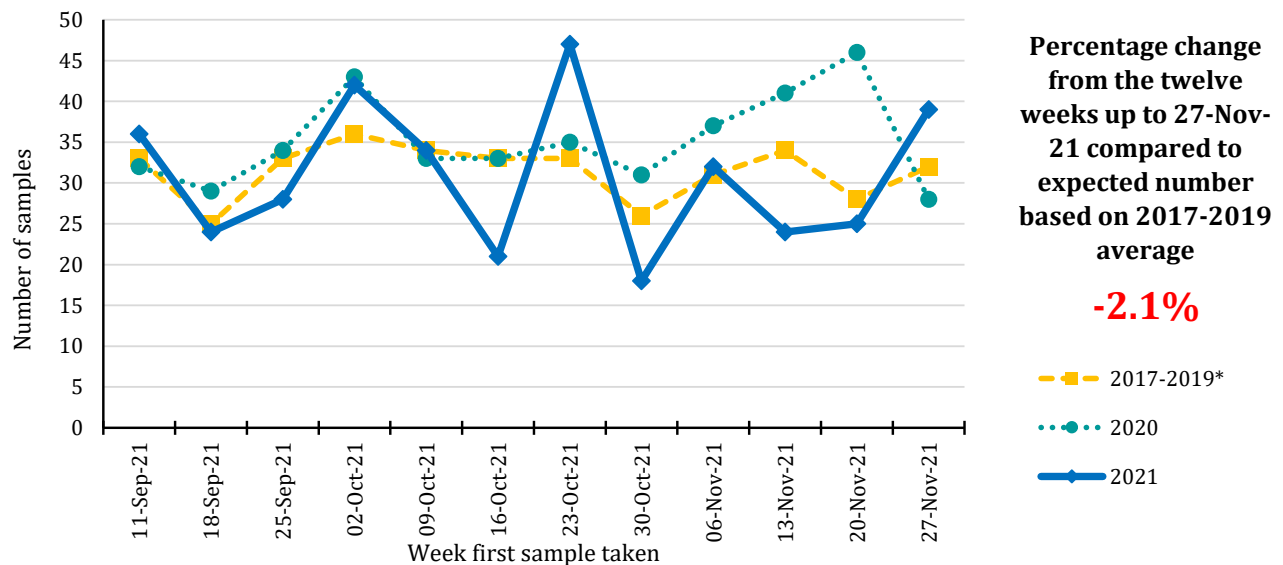### Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-2.1%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	33	25	33	36	34	33	33	26	31	34	28	32
2020	32	29	34	43	33	33	35	31	37	41	46	28
2021	36	24	28	42	34	21	47	18	32	24	25	39

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 Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-7.5%
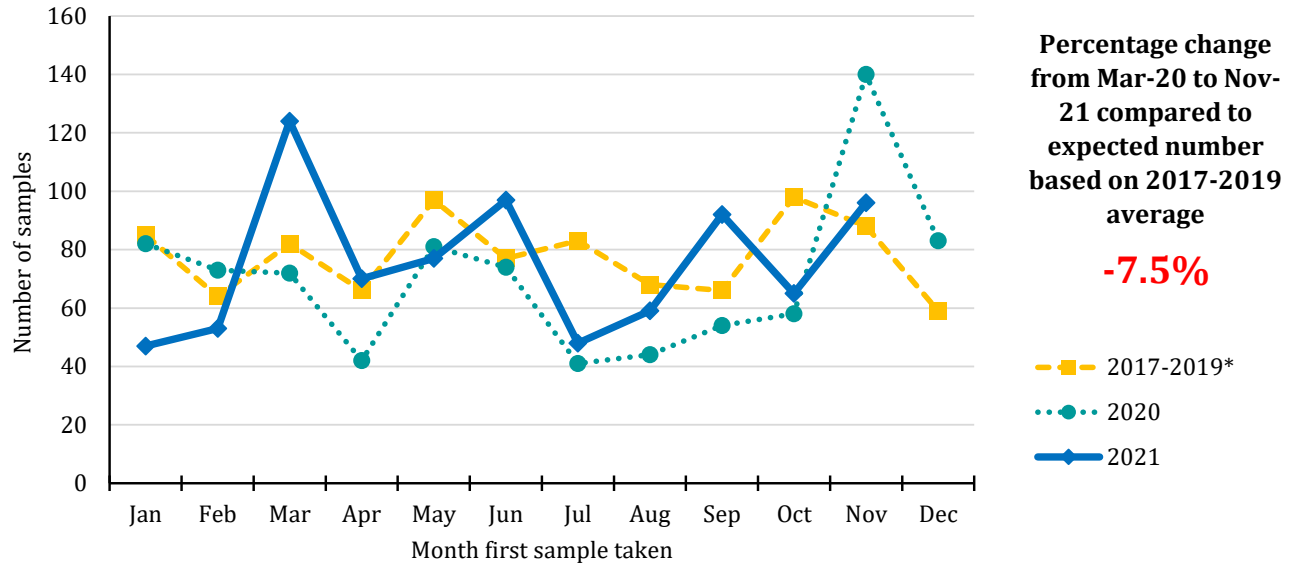
--- 2017-2019*
···● 2020
—◆— 2021

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	48	59	92	65	96	

*Annual average

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

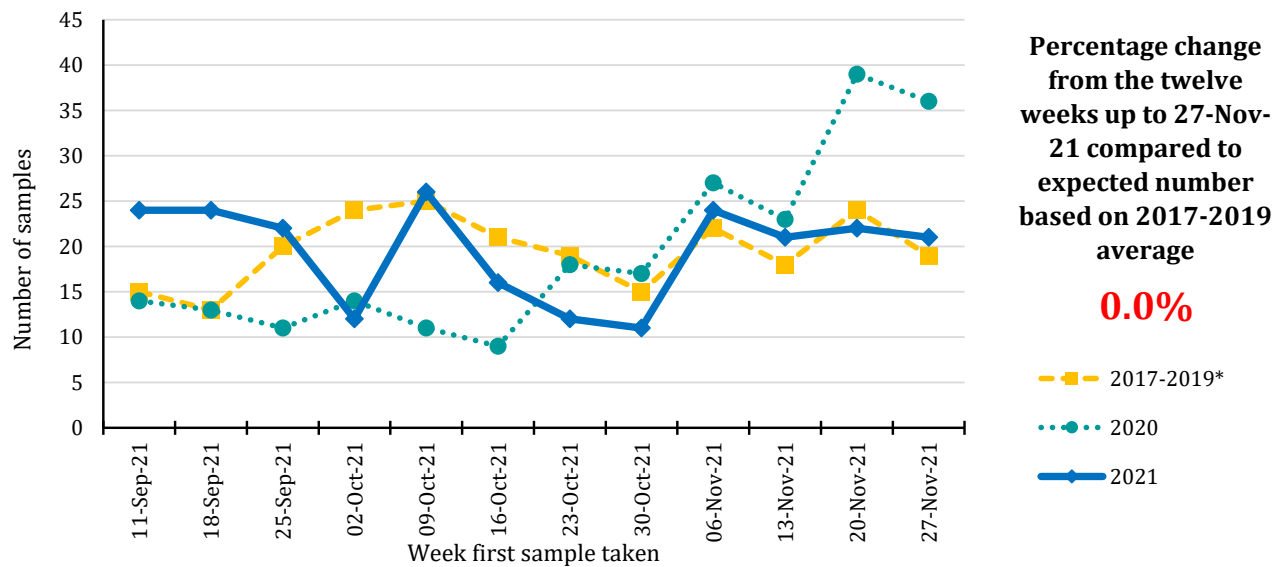**Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

0.0%

--- 2017-2019*
···● 2020
—◆— 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	15	13	20	24	25	21	19	15	22	18	24	19
2020	14	13	11	14	11	9	18	17	27	23	39	36
2021	24	24	22	12	26	16	12	11	24	21	22	21

*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 Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-18.1%
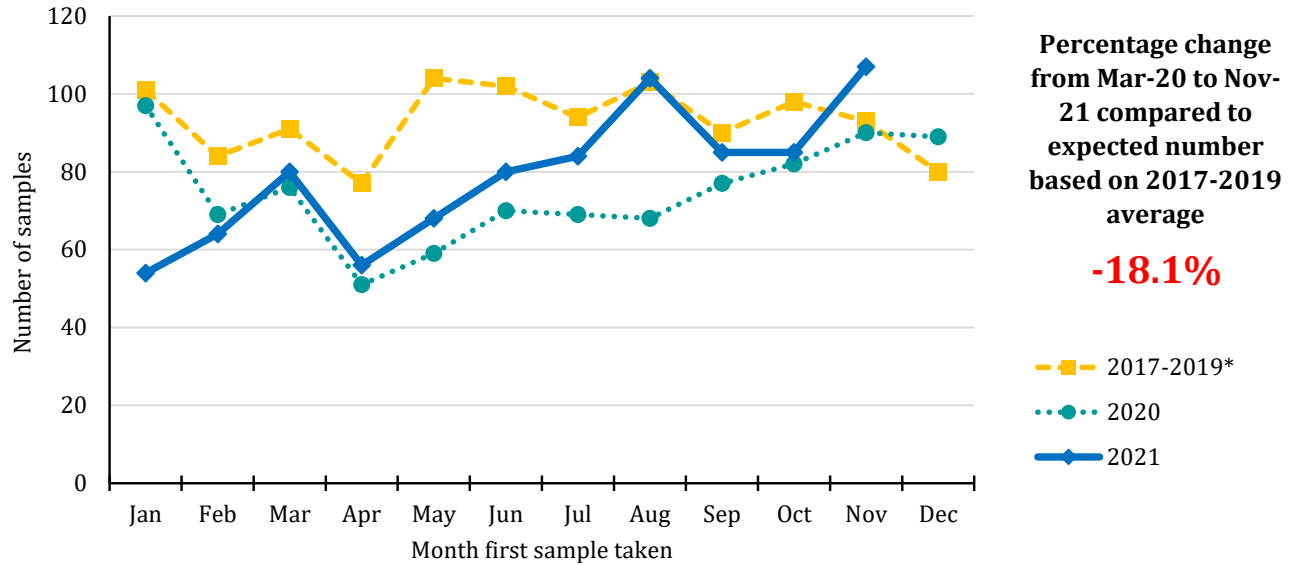
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	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	104	85	85	107	

Annual average

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

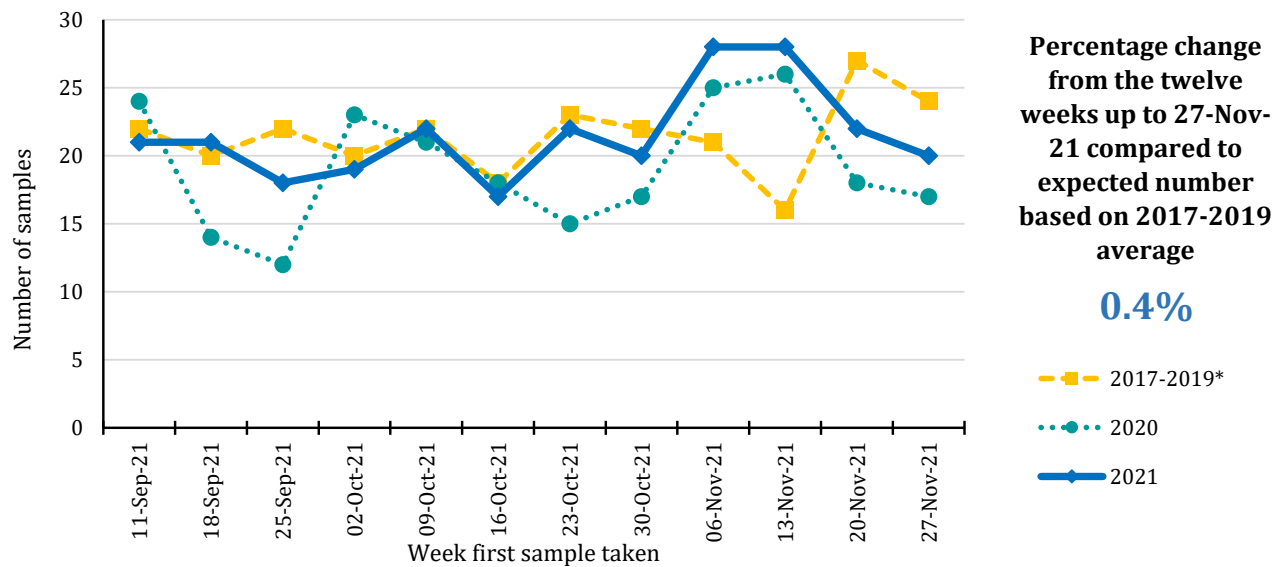**Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

0.4%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	22	20	22	20	22	18	23	22	21	16	27	24
2020	24	14	12	23	21	18	15	17	25	26	18	17
2021	21	21	18	19	22	17	22	20	28	28	22	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

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

-5.2%
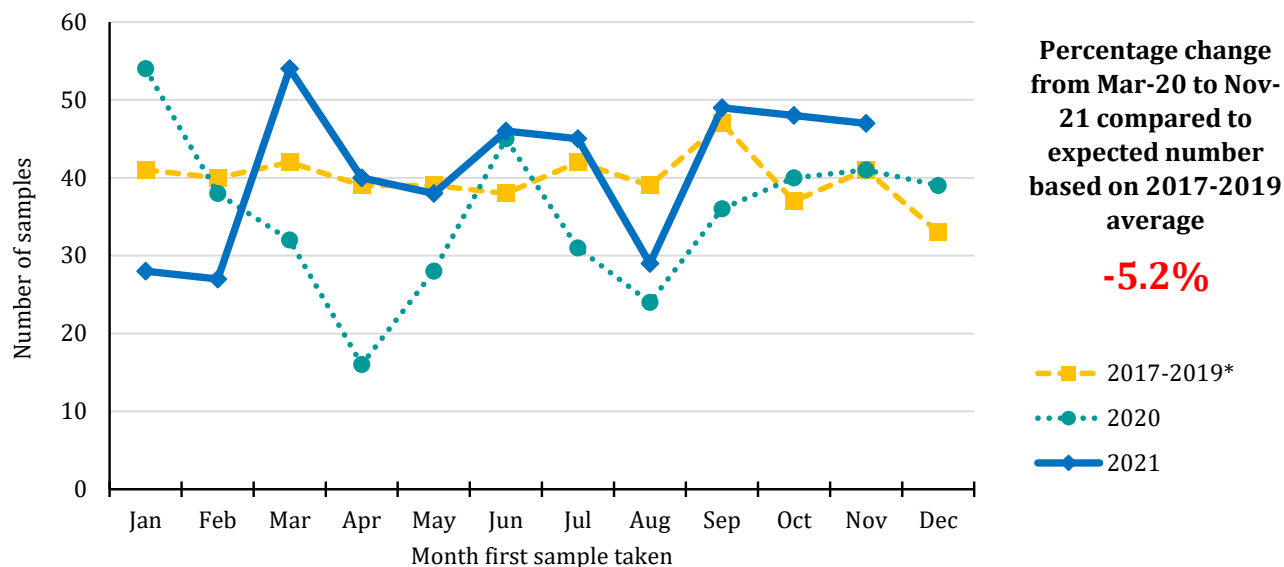
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	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	49	48	47	

Annual average

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

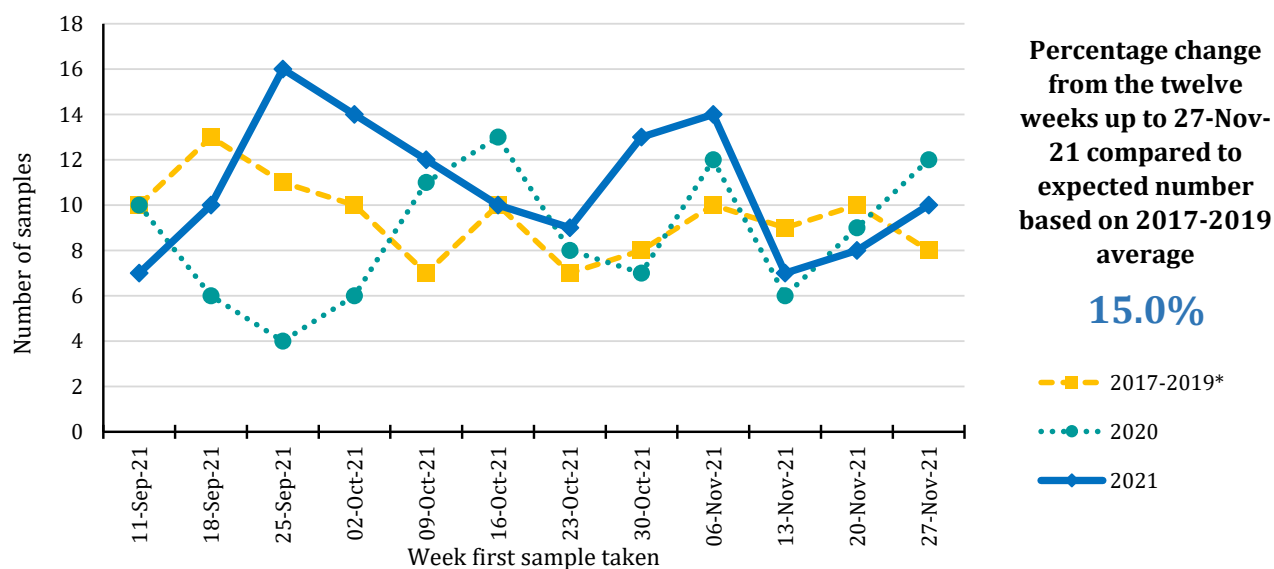**Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

15.0%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	10	13	11	10	7	10	7	8	10	9	10	8
2020	10	6	4	6	11	13	8	7	12	6	9	12
2021	7	10	16	14	12	10	9	13	14	7	8	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

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

-13.4%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	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	39	37	32	

*Annual average

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

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-22.8%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

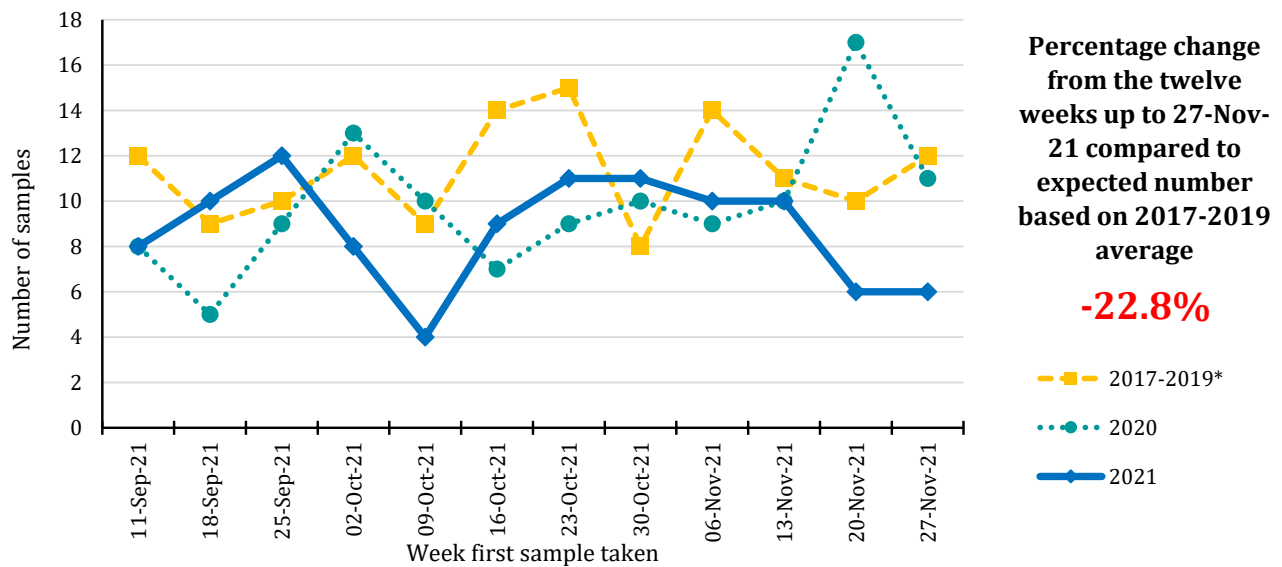| Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	12	9	10	12	9	14	15	8	14	11	10	12
2020	8	5	9	13	10	7	9	10	9	10	17	11
2021	8	10	12	8	4	9	11	11	10	10	6	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

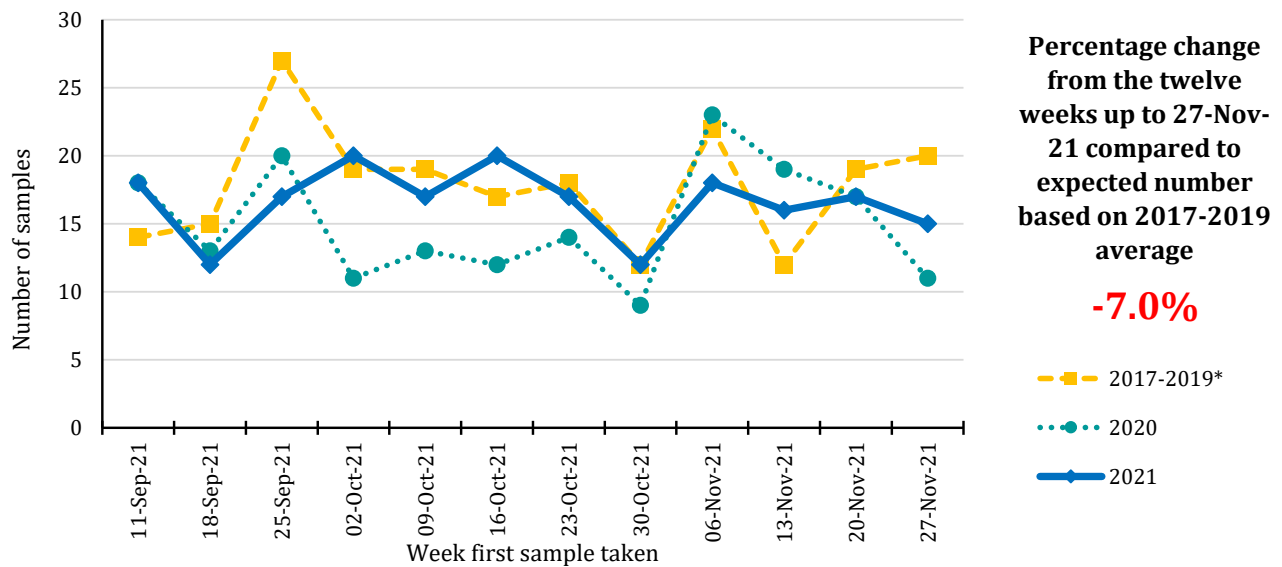### Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

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

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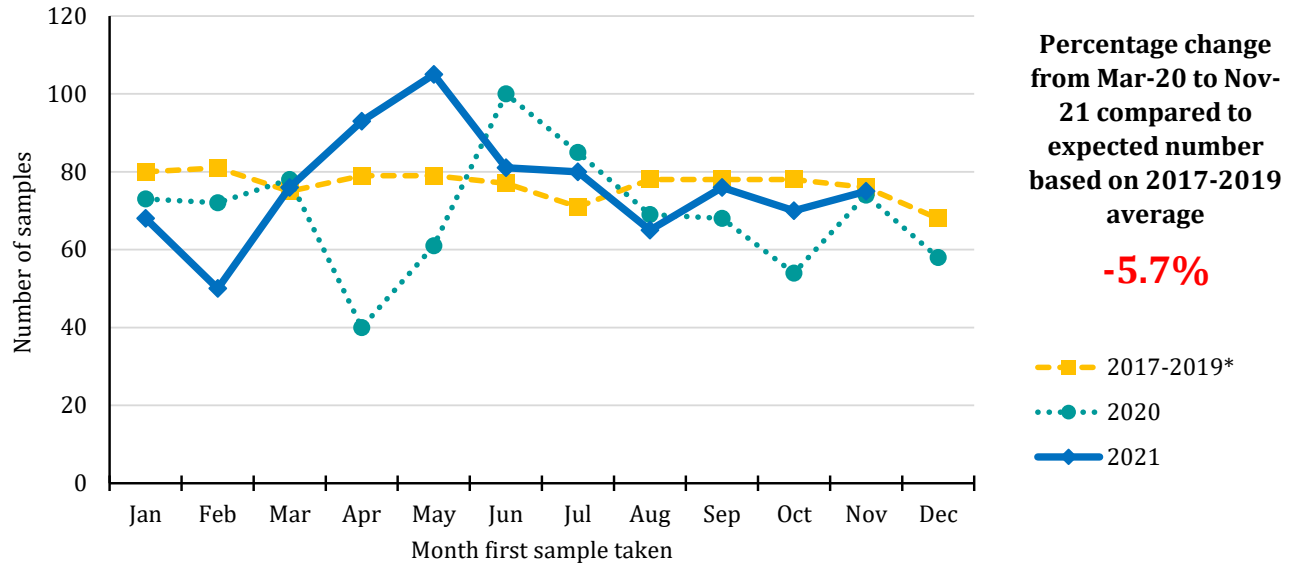
— ■ — 2017-2019*
···●··· 2020
—◆— 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	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	76	93	105	81	80	65	76	70	75	

Annual average

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

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-7.0%

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

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	14	15	27	19	19	17	18	12	22	12	19	20
2020	18	13	20	11	13	12	14	9	23	19	17	11
2021	18	12	17	20	17	20	17	12	18	16	17	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.*

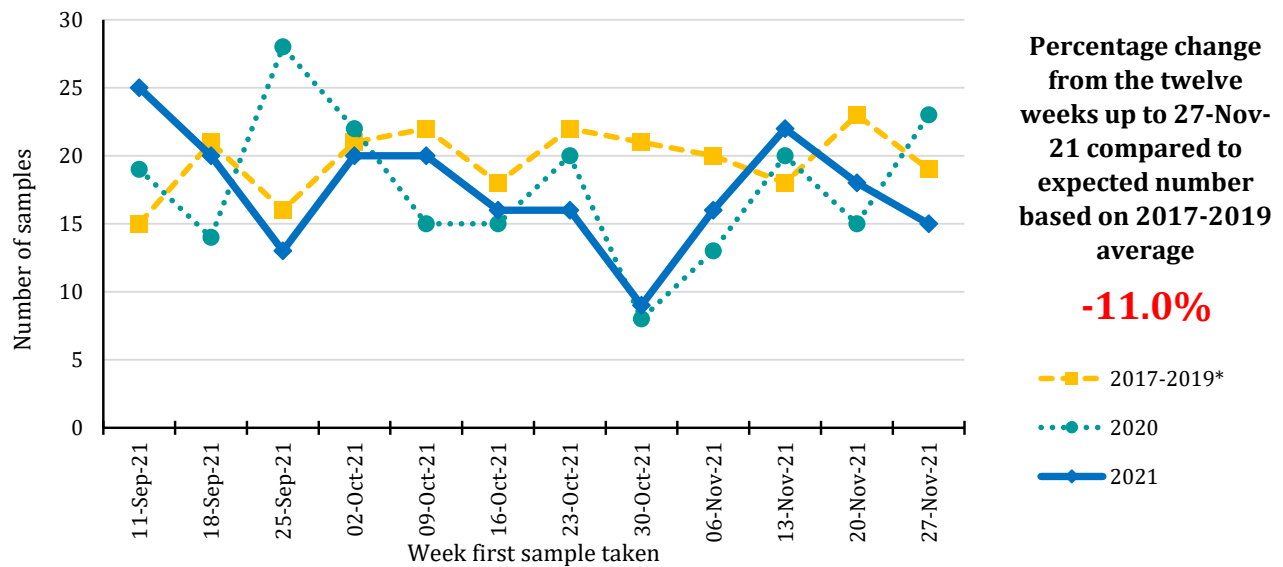## Pathology samples indicating haematological cancer: All persons

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

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

2.6%
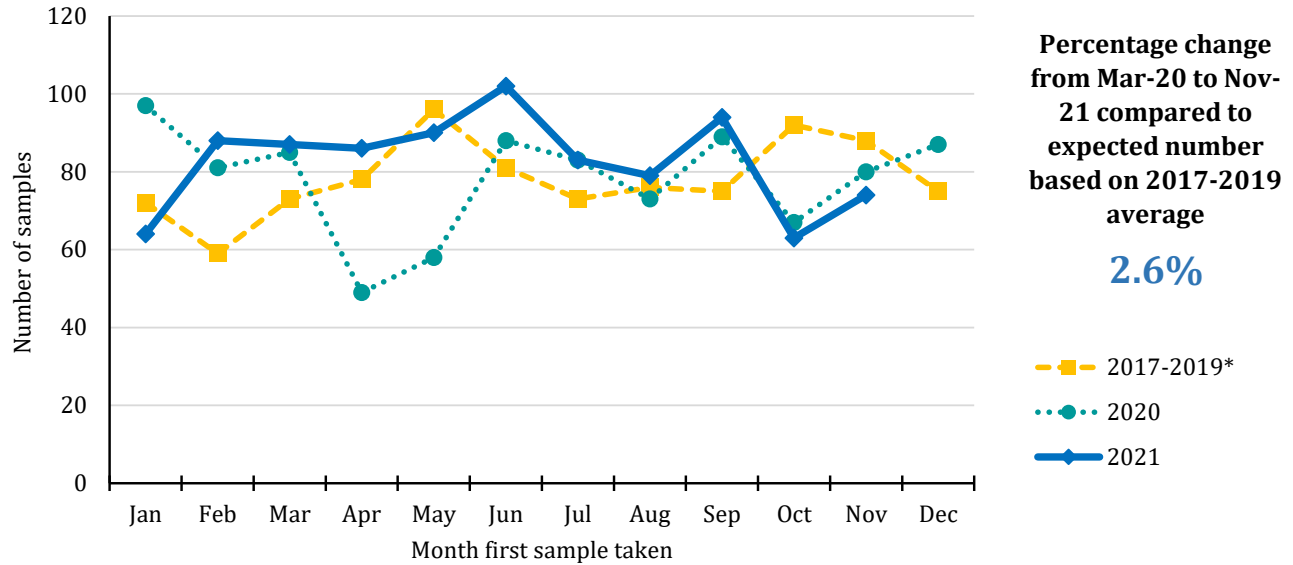
- ■ 2017-2019*
- ● 2020
- ◆ 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	72	59	73	78	96	81	73	76	75	92	88	75
2020	97	81	85	49	58	88	83	73	89	67	80	87
2021	64	88	87	86	90	102	83	79	94	63	74	

Annual average

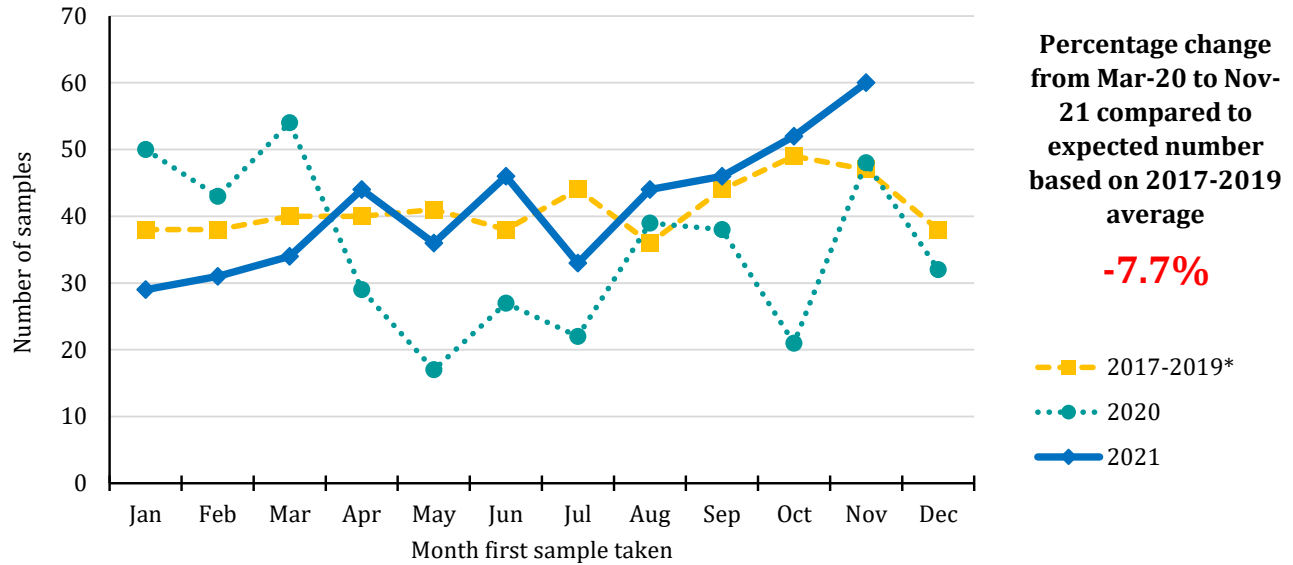**Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken**

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-11.0%

- ■ 2017-2019*
- ● 2020
- ◆ 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	15	21	16	21	22	18	22	21	20	18	23	19
2020	19	14	28	22	15	15	20	8	13	20	15	23
2021	25	20	13	20	20	16	16	9	16	22	18	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.

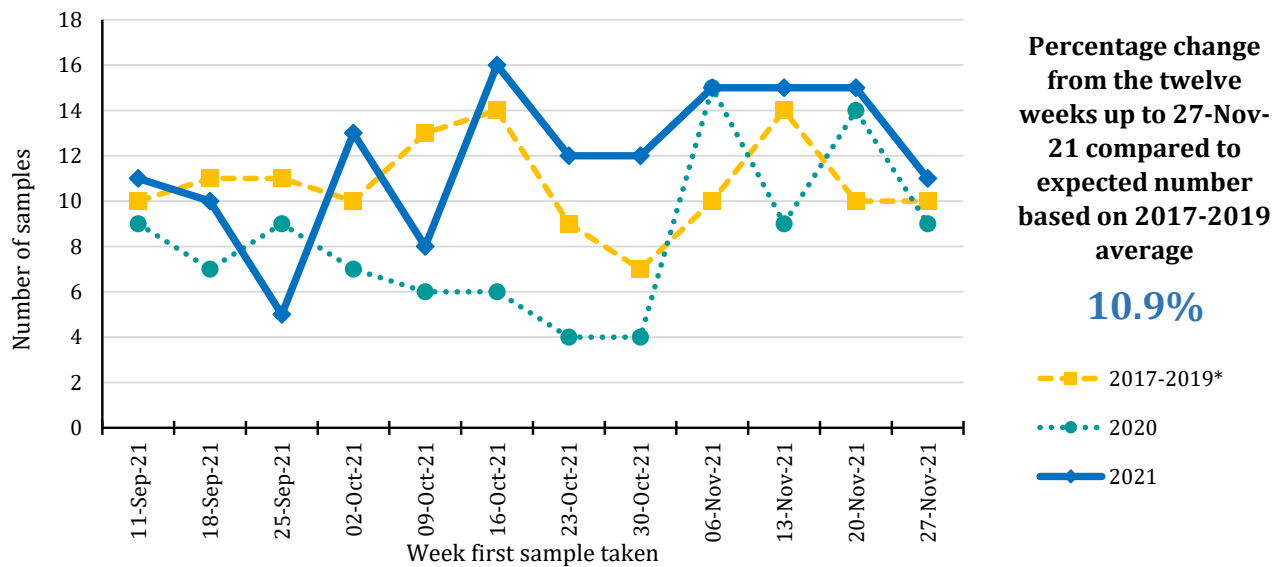## Pathology samples indicating malignant melanoma: All persons

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

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-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*	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	46	52	60	

Annual average

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

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

10.9%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	10	11	11	10	13	14	9	7	10	14	10	10
2020	9	7	9	7	6	6	4	4	15	9	14	9
2021	11	10	5	13	8	16	12	12	15	15	15	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.

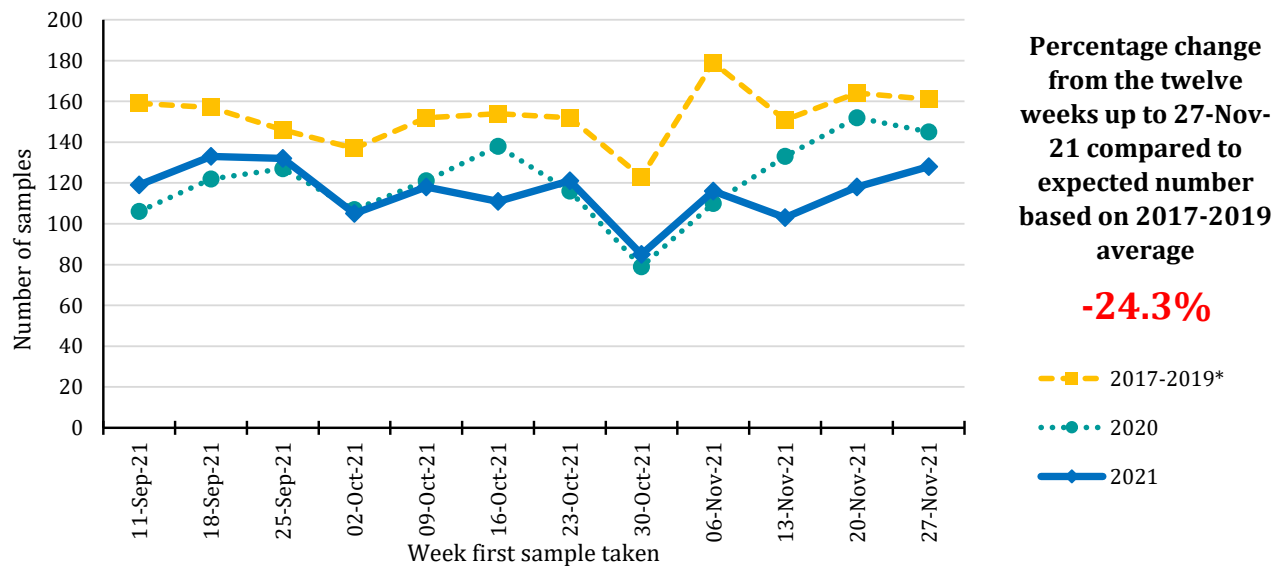## Pathology samples indicating non-melanoma skin cancer: All persons

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

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

-24.3%
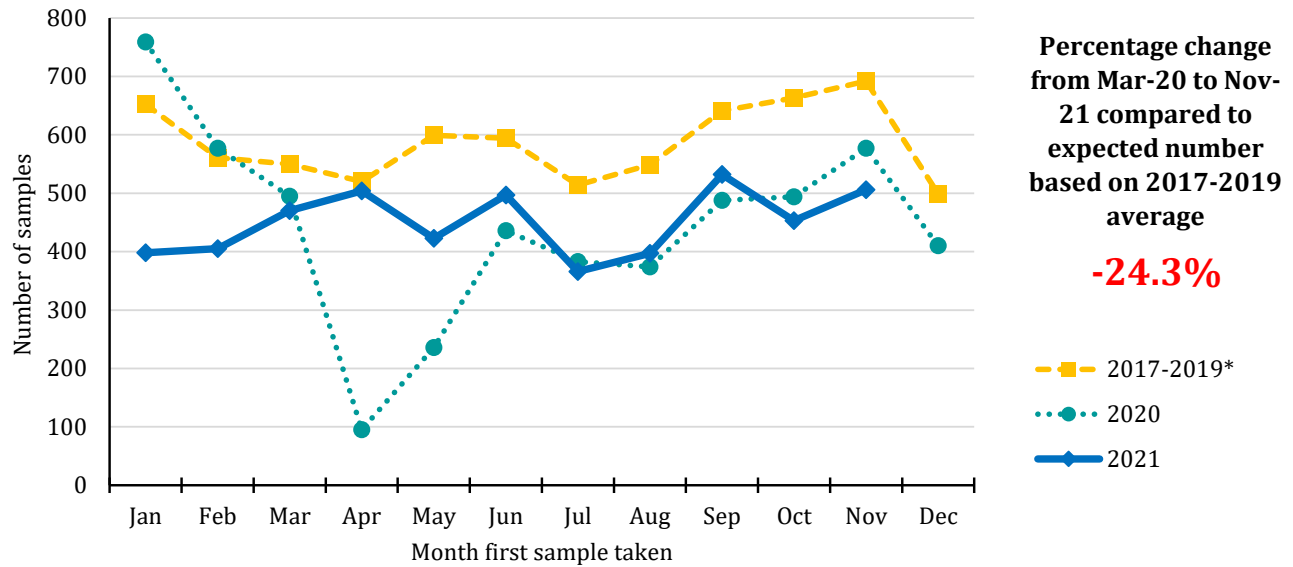
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	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	398	405	470	504	423	497	366	397	532	453	506	

*Annual average

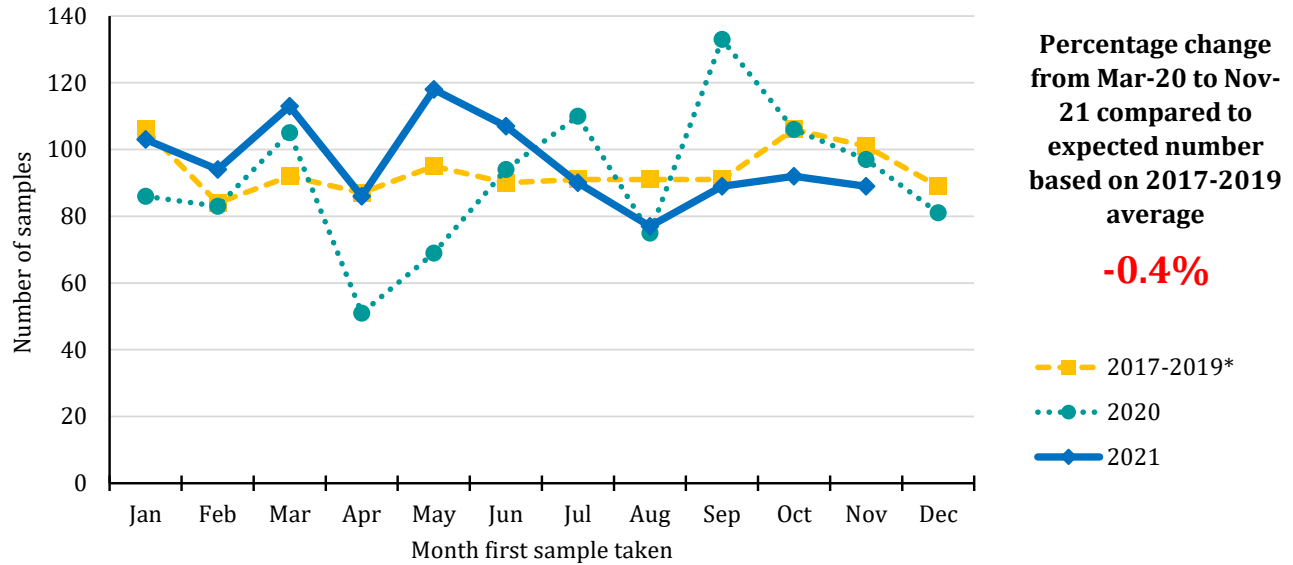**Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken**

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-24.3%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	159	157	146	137	152	154	152	123	179	151	164	161
2020	106	122	127	107	121	138	116	79	110	133	152	145
2021	119	133	132	105	118	111	121	85	116	103	118	128

*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.

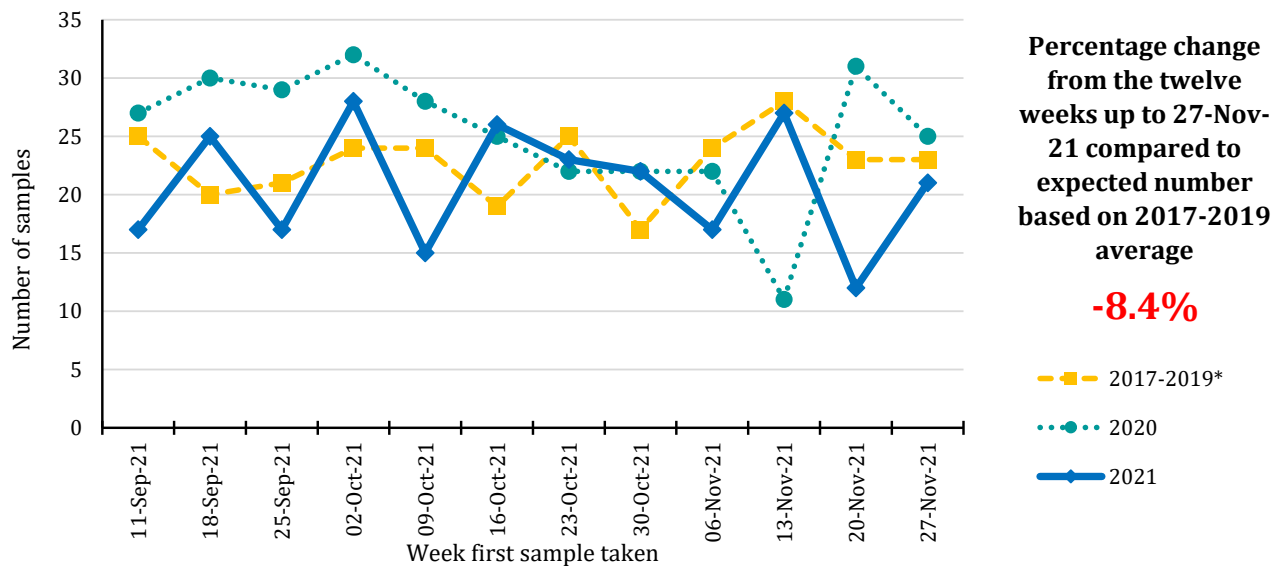## Pathology samples indicating other cancer: All persons

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

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

-0.4%

--- 2017-2019*
···● 2020
—♦— 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	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	89	92	89	

*Annual average

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

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-8.4%

--- 2017-2019*
···● 2020
—♦— 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	25	20	21	24	24	19	25	17	24	28	23	23
2020	27	30	29	32	28	25	22	22	22	11	31	25
2021	17	25	17	28	15	26	23	22	17	27	12	21

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