Recent trends in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer in Northern Ireland

(excludes samples from Altnagelvin Laboratory)

December 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.

Contents

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

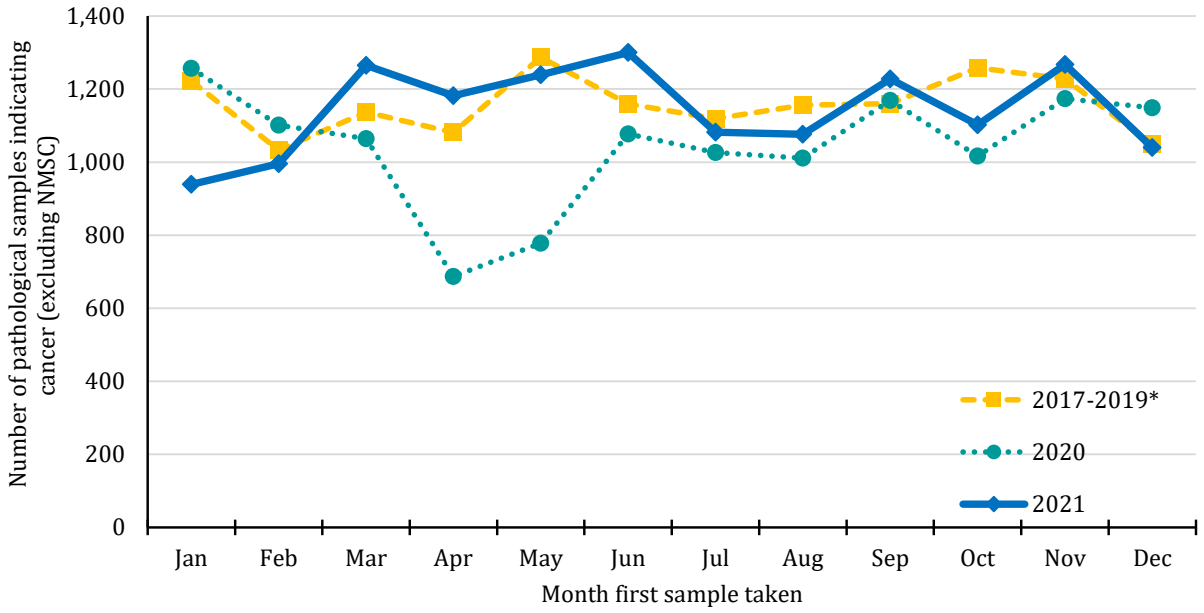
1) This summary provides an overview of recent trends in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, NMSC) whose first sample was taken from Jan-20 to Dec-21 in Northern Ireland.

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 Dec-21 the number of pathological samples indicating cancer was 5.6% lower than the average number for the same time period in 2017-2019.

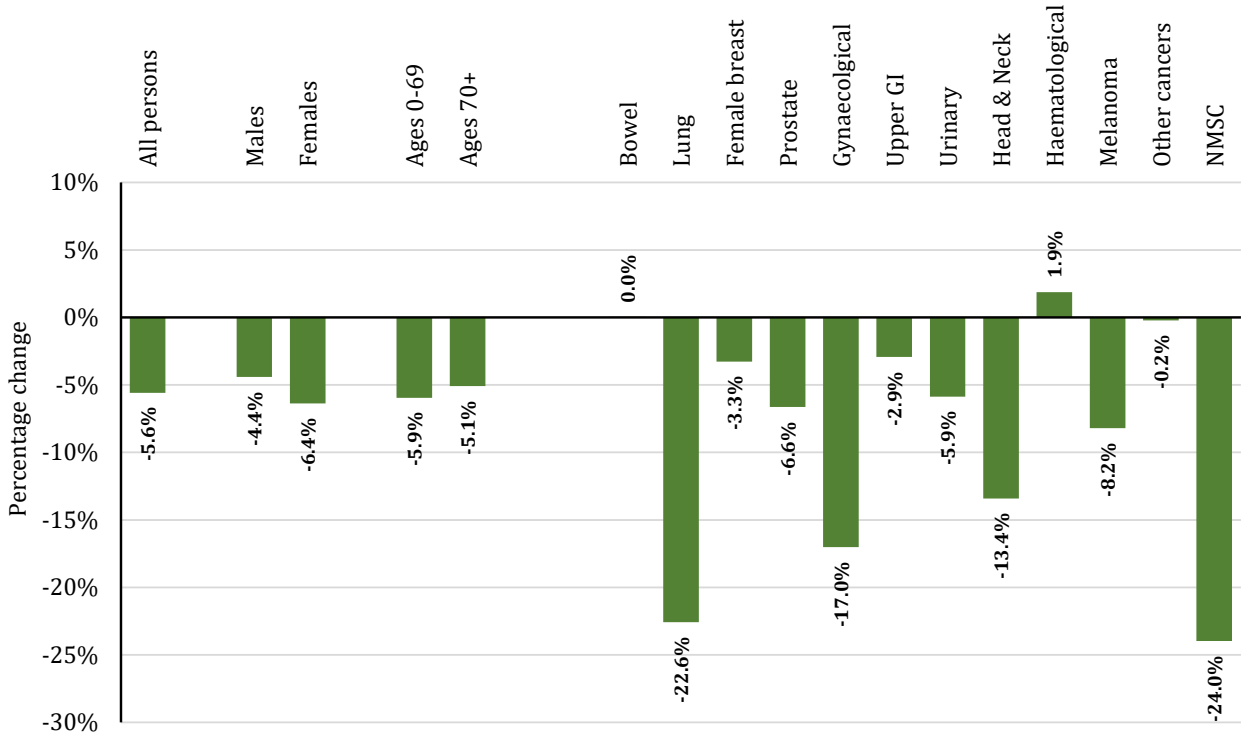


Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017-2019*	1,222	1,033	1,137	1,081	1,287	1,159	1,119	1,156	1,160	1,258	1,228	1,048
2020	1,257	1,101	1,064	687	778	1,077	1,026	1,011	1,169	1,017	1,174	1,149
2021	939	996	1,265	1,182	1,239	1,300	1,082	1,076	1,228	1,102	1,267	1,040

**Annual average*

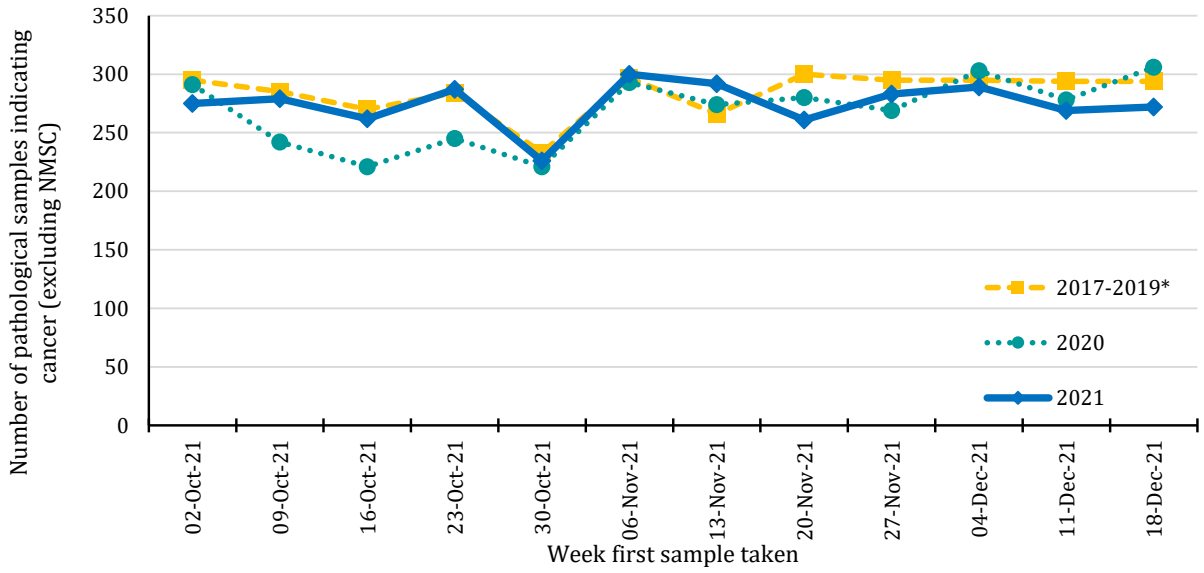
5) From Mar-20 to Dec-21 there was a 4.4% decrease in the number of samples among males and a 6.4% decrease among females compared to 2017-2019. A decrease of 5.9% occurred among those aged 0-69 years, while there was a decrease of 5.1% among those aged 70 and older.

6) Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, from Mar-20 to Dec-21 the number of pathology samples indicating lung cancer decreased by 22.6%, while those indicating prostate cancer decreased by 6.6%. 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.



Trends in pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

7) There was an 3.3% decrease in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer in the twelve weeks up to 18-Dec-21 compared to the average value in the equivalent weeks in 2017-2019.



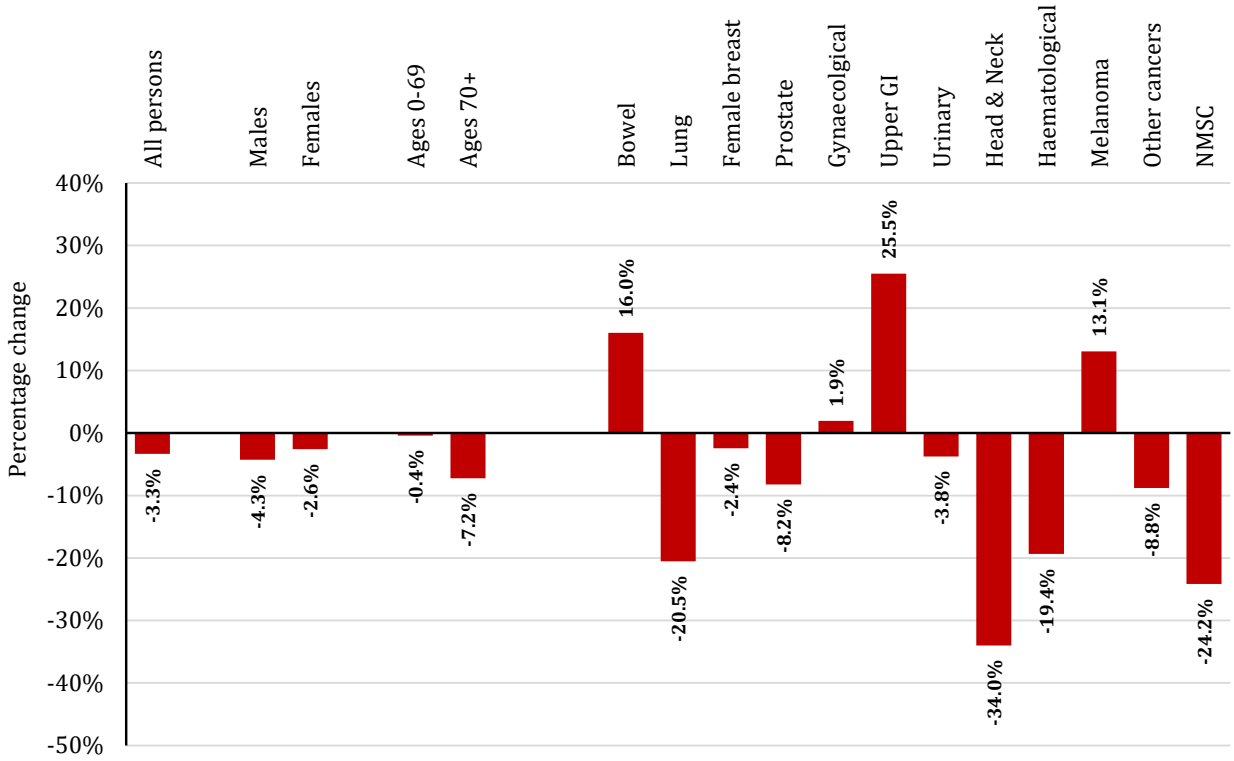
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	02-Oct-21	09-Oct-21	16-Oct-21	23-Oct-21	30-Oct-21	06-Nov-21	13-Nov-21	20-Nov-21	27-Nov-21	04-Dec-21	11-Dec-21	18-Dec-21
2017-2019*	295	285	270	284	233	297	266	300	295	295	294	294
2020	291	242	221	245	221	293	274	280	269	303	278	306
2021	275	279	262	287	226	300	292	261	283	289	269	272

**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.*

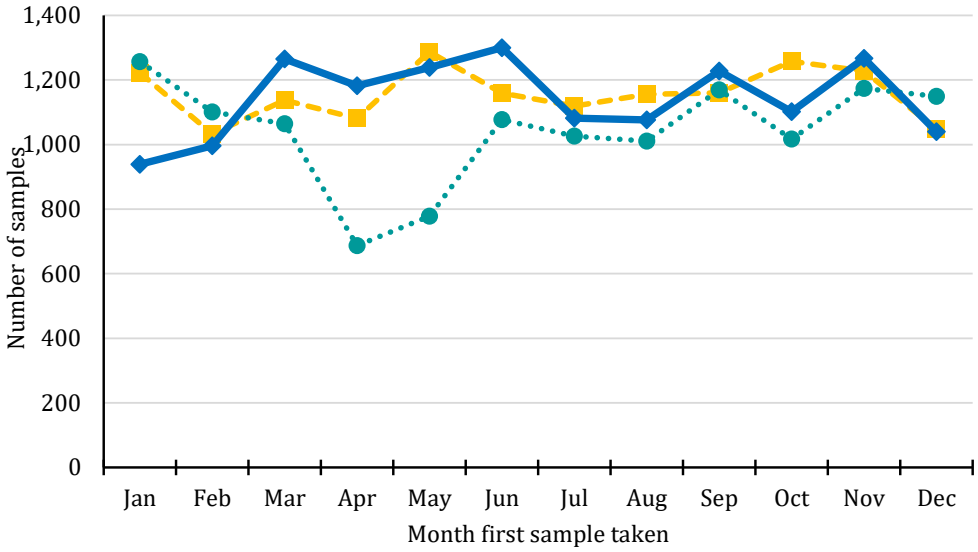
8) In the twelve weeks up to 18-Dec-21 there was a 4.3% decrease in samples among males and a 2.6% decrease among females compared to the same time period in 2017-2019. A decrease of 0.4% occurred among those aged 0-69 years and a decrease of 7.2% occurred among those aged 70 and older.

9) Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, in the twelve weeks up to 18-Dec-21 the number of pathology samples indicating lung cancer decreased by 20.5%, while those indicating prostate cancer decreased by 8.2%. Increases were recorded for bowel cancer, upper GI cancer, gynaecological 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 Dec-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

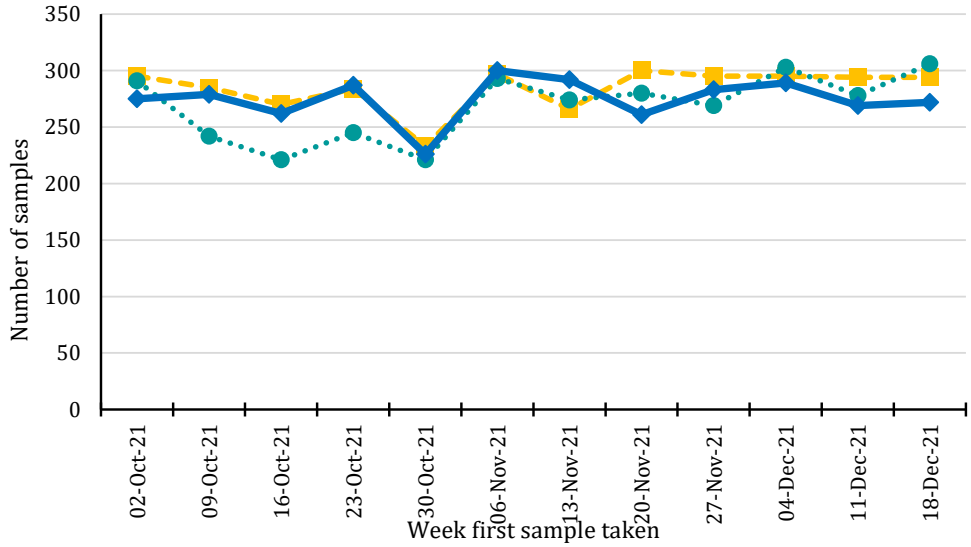
-5.6%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017-2019*	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	1,257	1,101	1,064	687	778	1,077	1,026	1,011	1,169	1,017	1,174	1,149
2021	939	996	1,265	1,182	1,239	1,300	1,082	1,076	1,228	1,102	1,267	1,040

**Annual average*

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



Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 18-Dec-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-3.3%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

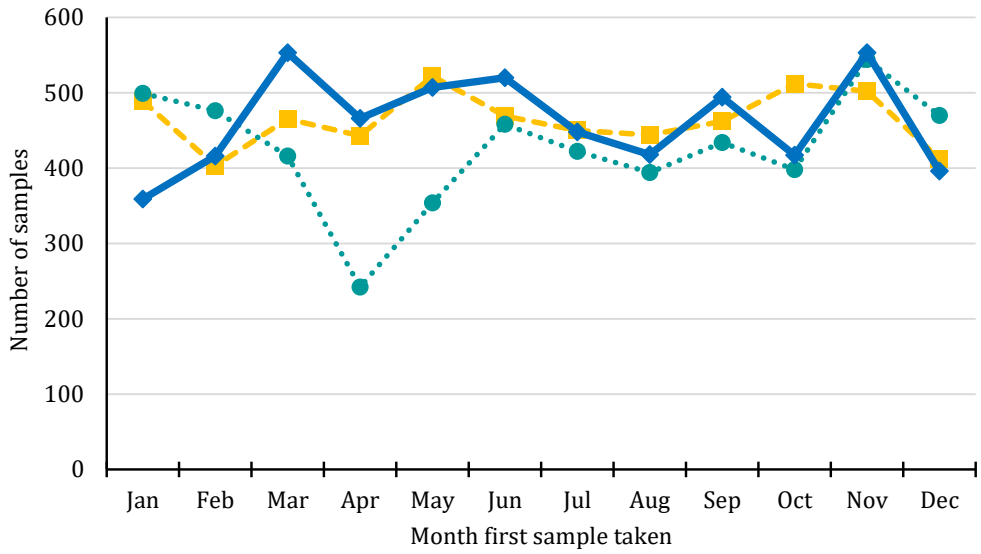
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	02-Oct-21	09-Oct-21	16-Oct-21	23-Oct-21	30-Oct-21	06-Nov-21	13-Nov-21	20-Nov-21	27-Nov-21	04-Dec-21	11-Dec-21	18-Dec-21
2017-2019*	295	285	270	284	233	297	266	300	295	295	294	294
2020	291	242	221	245	221	293	274	280	269	303	278	306
2021	275	279	262	287	226	300	292	261	283	289	269	272

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

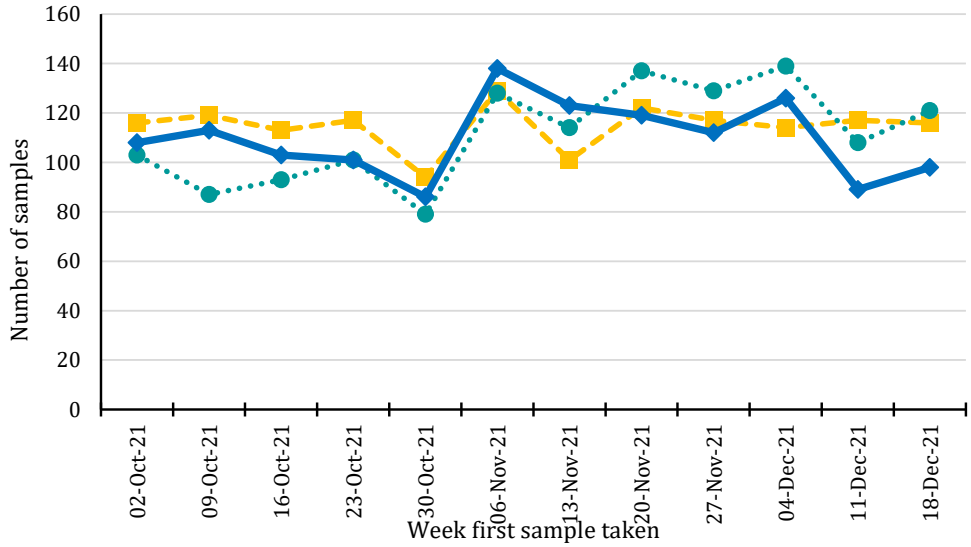
-4.4%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017-2019*	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	553	466	507	520	448	418	494	417	553	396

**Annual average*

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



Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 18-Dec-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-4.3%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

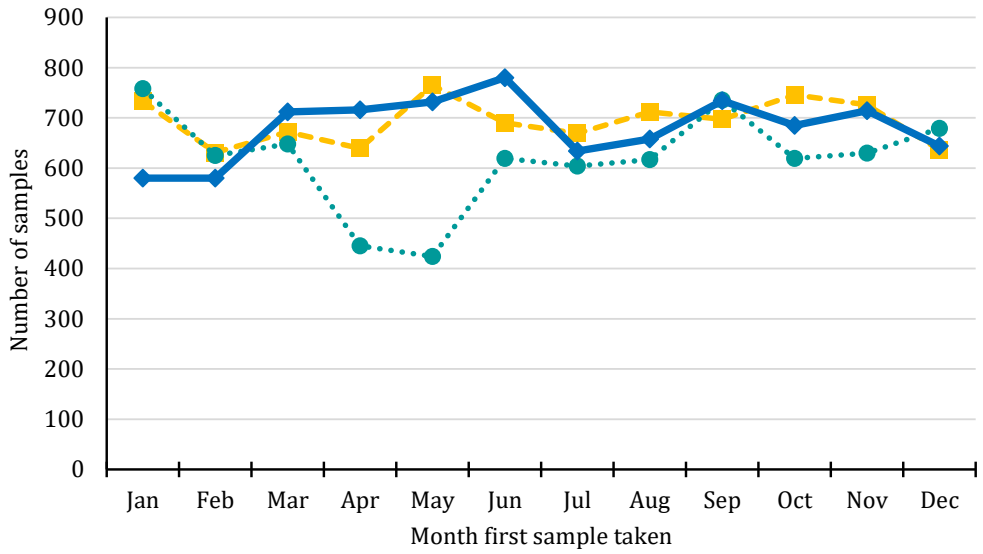
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	02-Oct-21	09-Oct-21	16-Oct-21	23-Oct-21	30-Oct-21	06-Nov-21	13-Nov-21	20-Nov-21	27-Nov-21	04-Dec-21	11-Dec-21	18-Dec-21
2017-2019*	116	119	113	117	94	129	101	122	117	114	117	116
2020	103	87	93	101	79	128	114	137	129	139	108	121
2021	108	113	103	101	86	138	123	119	112	126	89	98

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

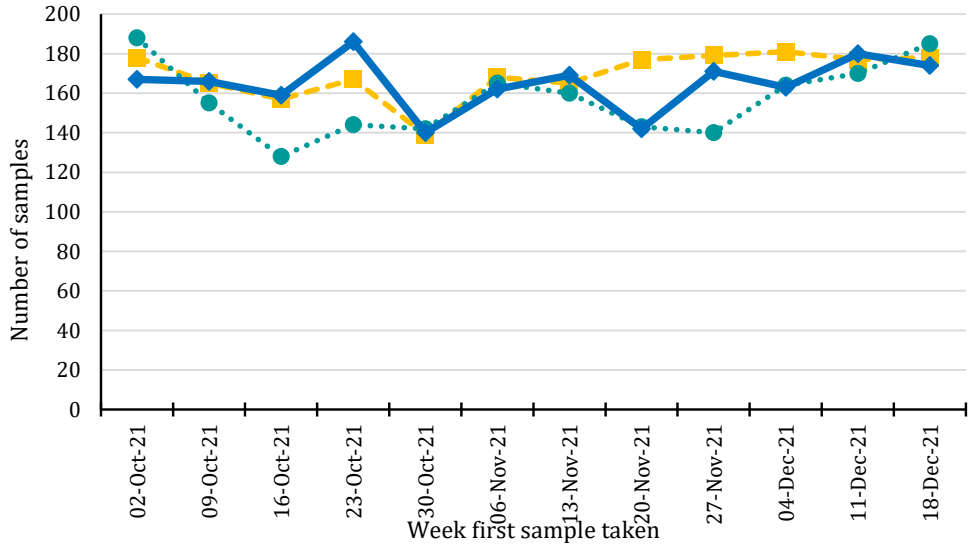
-6.4%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017-2019*	733	631	672	639	765	690	669	712	697	746	726	636
2020	758	625	648	445	424	619	604	617	735	619	630	679
2021	580	580	712	716	732	780	634	658	734	685	714	644

**Annual average*

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



Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 18-Dec-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-2.6%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

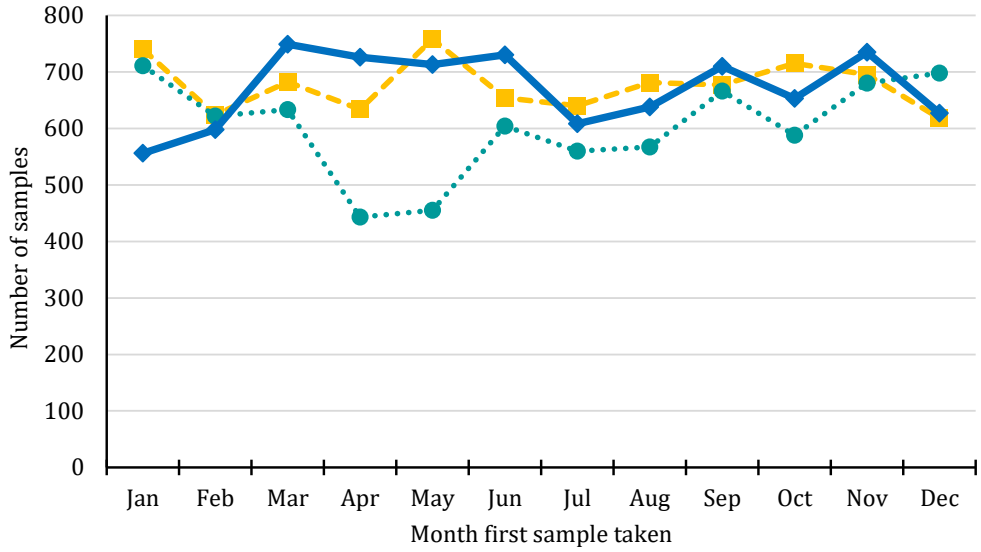
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	02-Oct-21	09-Oct-21	16-Oct-21	23-Oct-21	30-Oct-21	06-Nov-21	13-Nov-21	20-Nov-21	27-Nov-21	04-Dec-21	11-Dec-21	18-Dec-21
2017-2019*	178	165	157	167	139	168	165	177	179	181	177	178
2020	188	155	128	144	142	165	160	143	140	164	170	185
2021	167	166	159	186	140	162	169	142	171	163	180	174

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

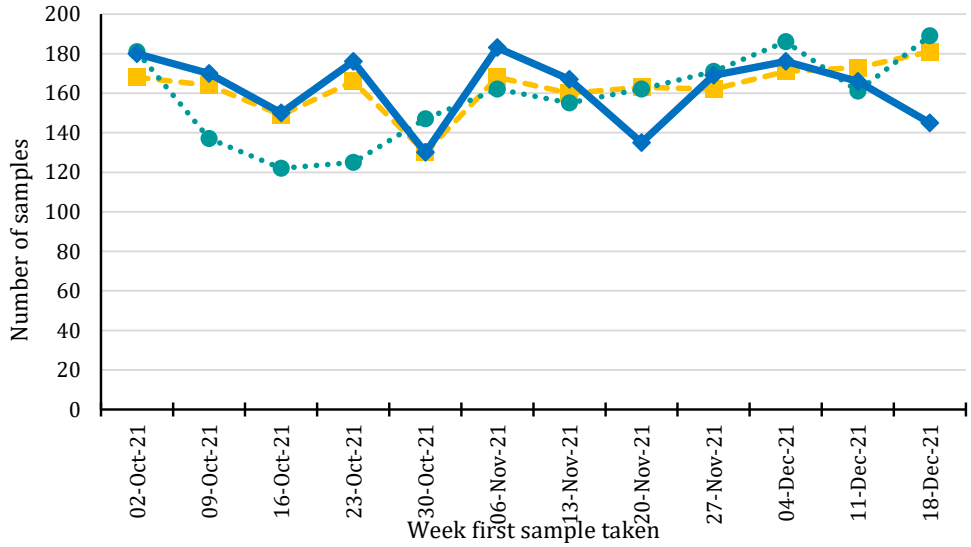
-5.9%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	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	749	726	713	730	608	638	710	653	735	627

**Annual average*

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



Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 18-Dec-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-0.4%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

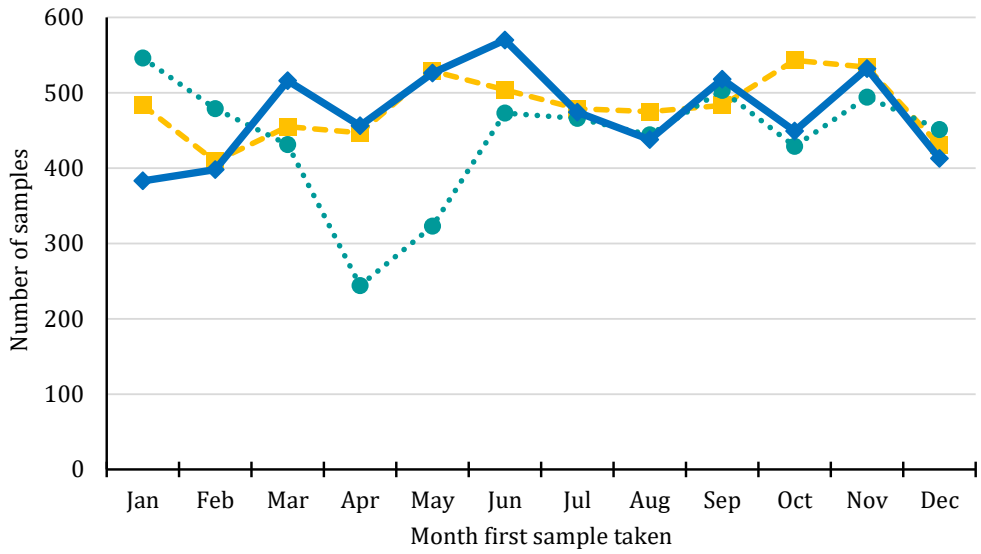
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	02-Oct-21	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**	**04-Dec-21**	**11-Dec-21**	**18-Dec-21**
2017-2019*	168	164	149	166	130	168	160	163	162	171	173	181
2020	181	137	122	125	147	162	155	162	171	186	161	189
2021	180	170	150	176	130	183	167	135	169	176	166	145

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

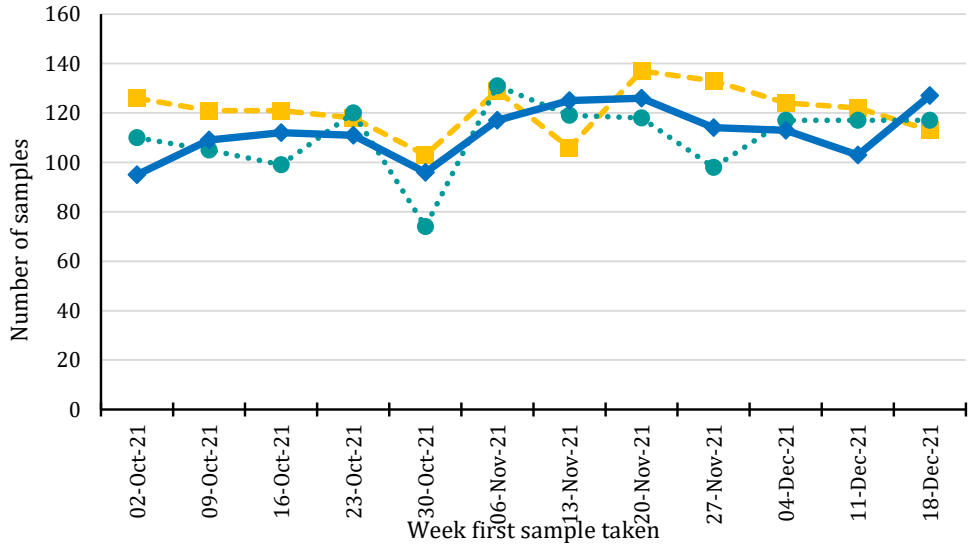
-5.1%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	483	409	455	447	529	504	479	475	483	543	534	430
2020	546	479	431	244	323	473	466	444	503	429	494	451
2021	383	398	516	456	526	570	474	438	518	449	532	413

**Annual average*

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



Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 18-Dec-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-7.2%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

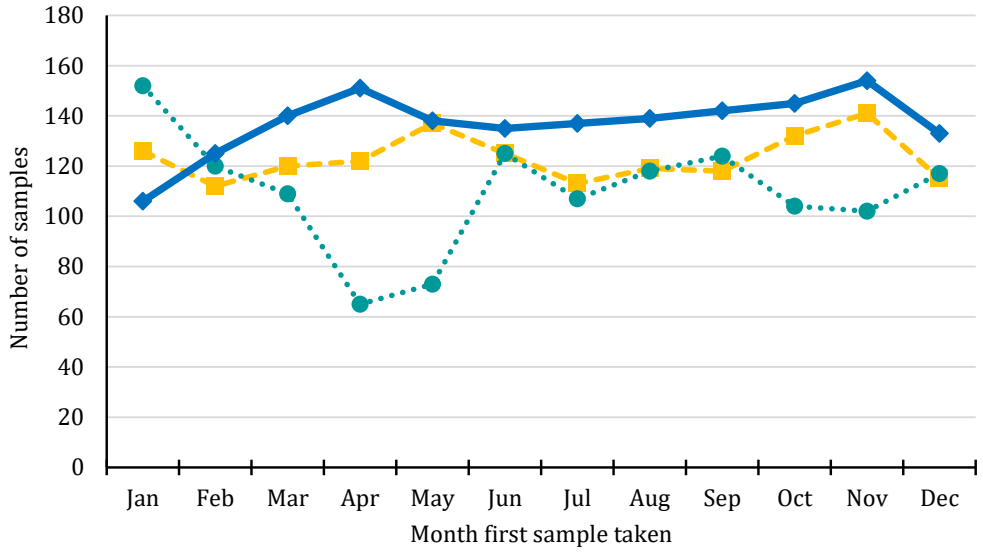
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	02-Oct-21	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**	**04-Dec-21**	**11-Dec-21**	**18-Dec-21**
2017-2019*	126	121	121	118	103	129	106	137	133	124	122	113
2020	110	105	99	120	74	131	119	118	98	117	117	117
2021	95	109	112	111	96	117	125	126	114	113	103	127

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

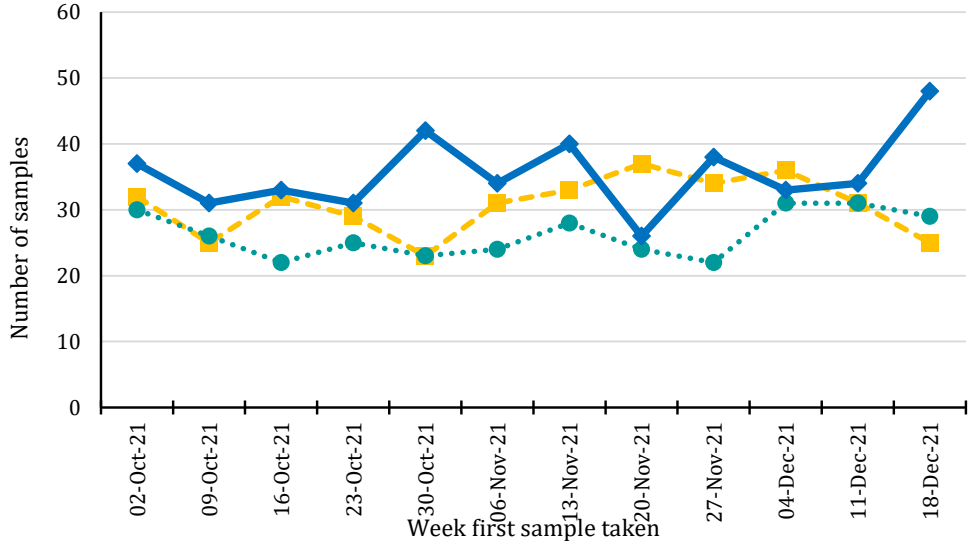
0.0%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017-2019*	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	142	145	154	133

**Annual average*

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



Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 18-Dec-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

16.0%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

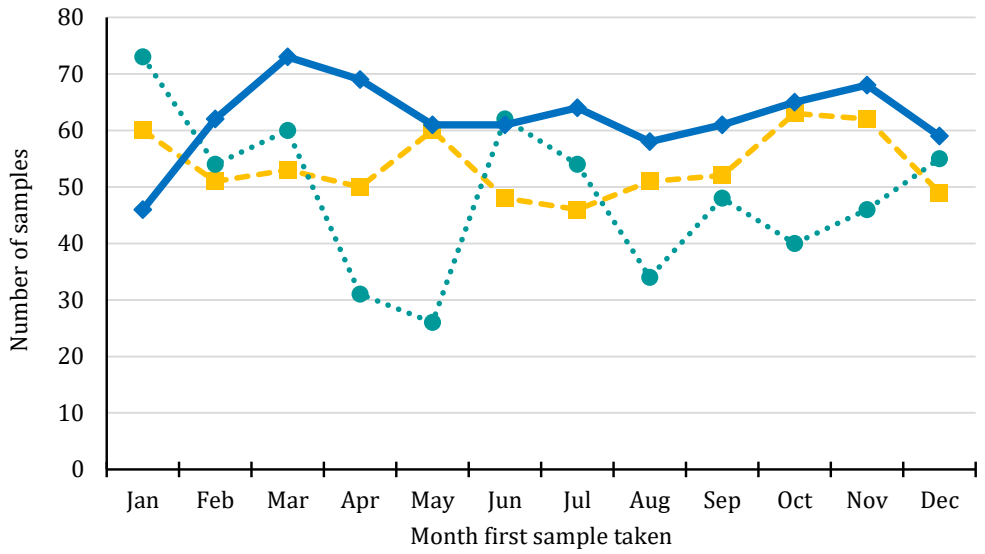
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	02-Oct-21	09-Oct-21	16-Oct-21	23-Oct-21	30-Oct-21	06-Nov-21	13-Nov-21	20-Nov-21	27-Nov-21	04-Dec-21	11-Dec-21	18-Dec-21
2017-2019*	32	25	32	29	23	31	33	37	34	36	31	25
2020	30	26	22	25	23	24	28	24	22	31	31	29
2021	37	31	33	31	42	34	40	26	38	33	34	48

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

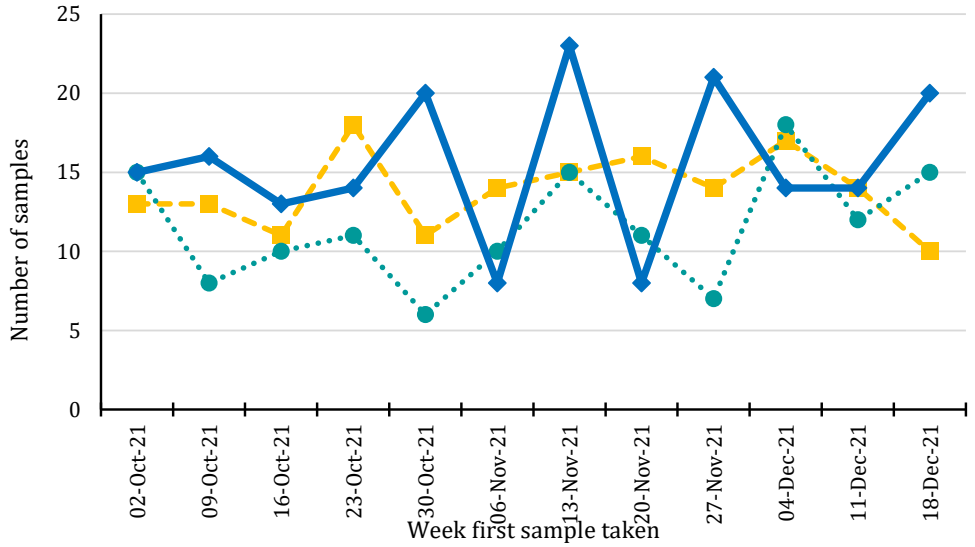
3.1%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017-2019*	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	68	59

**Annual average*

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



Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 18-Dec-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

12.0%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

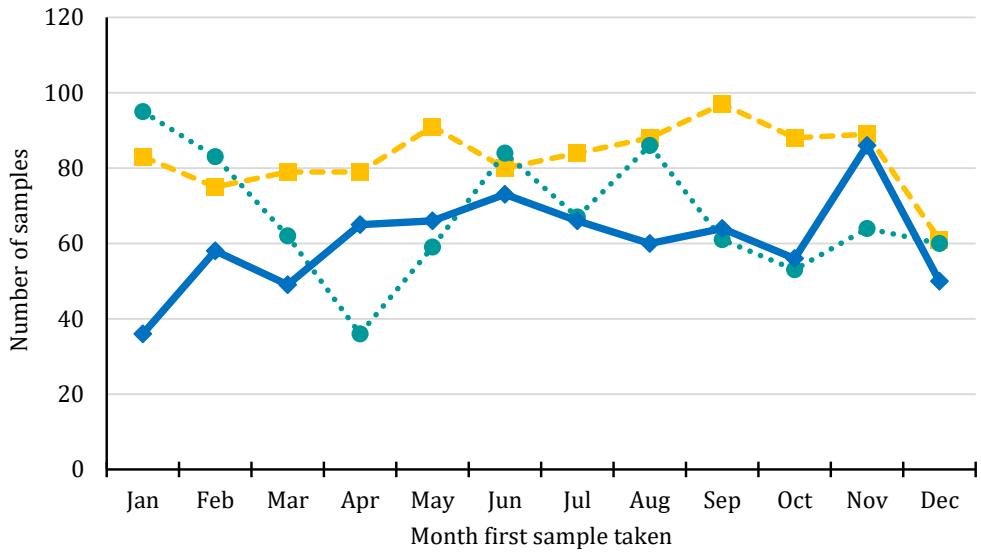
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	02-Oct-21	09-Oct-21	16-Oct-21	23-Oct-21	30-Oct-21	06-Nov-21	13-Nov-21	20-Nov-21	27-Nov-21	04-Dec-21	11-Dec-21	18-Dec-21
2017-2019*	13	13	11	18	11	14	15	16	14	17	14	10
2020	15	8	10	11	6	10	15	11	7	18	12	15
2021	15	16	13	14	20	8	23	8	21	14	14	20

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

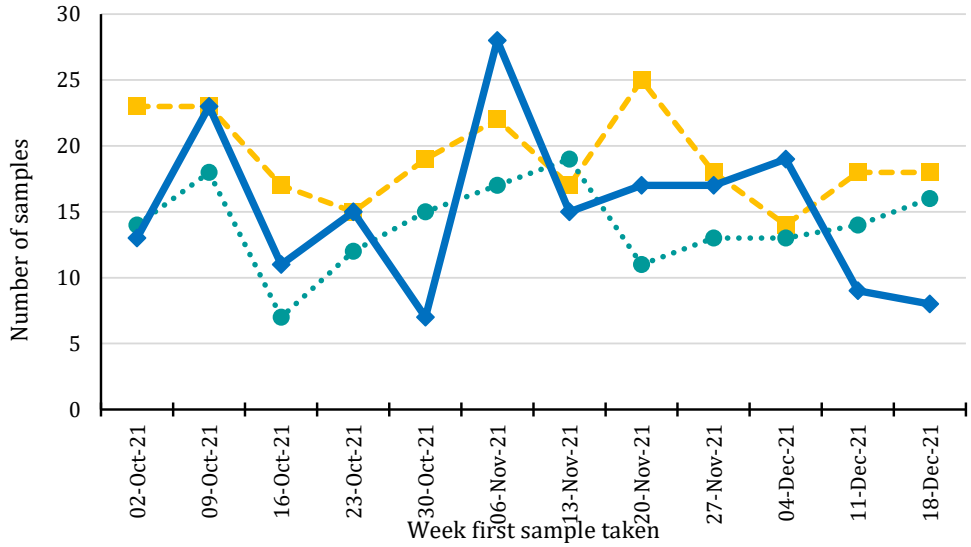
-22.6%

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	60	64	56	86	50

**Annual average*

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



Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 18-Dec-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-20.5%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	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	04-Dec-21	11-Dec-21	18-Dec-21
2017-2019*	23	23	17	15	19	22	17	25	18	14	18	18
2020	14	18	7	12	15	17	19	11	13	13	14	16
2021	13	23	11	15	7	28	15	17	17	19	9	8

**Annual average*

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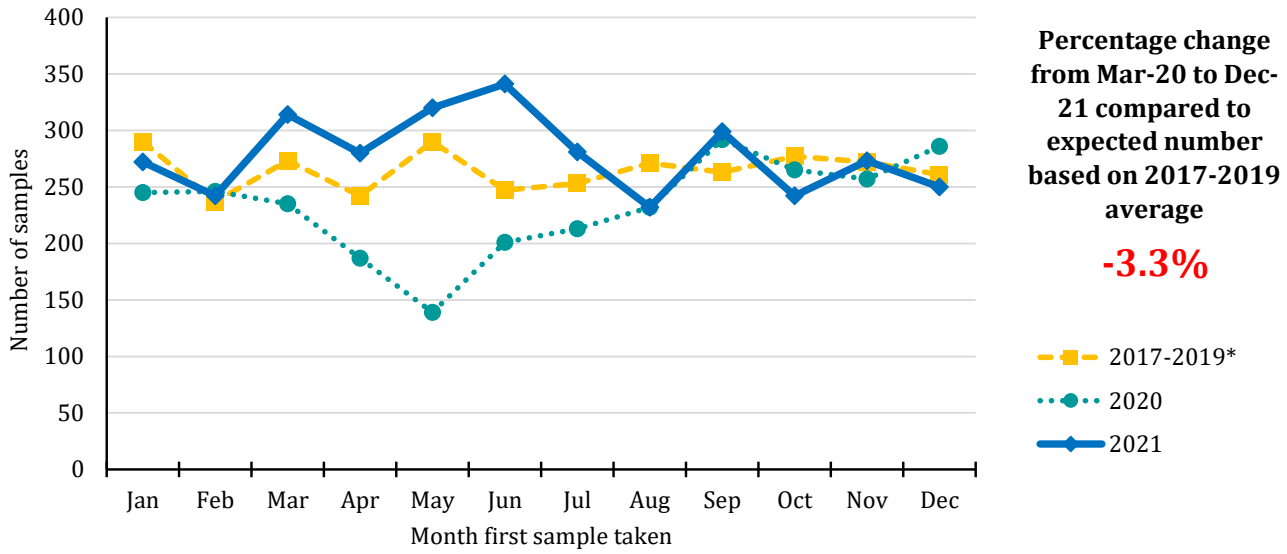
Pathology samples indicating breast cancer: Females

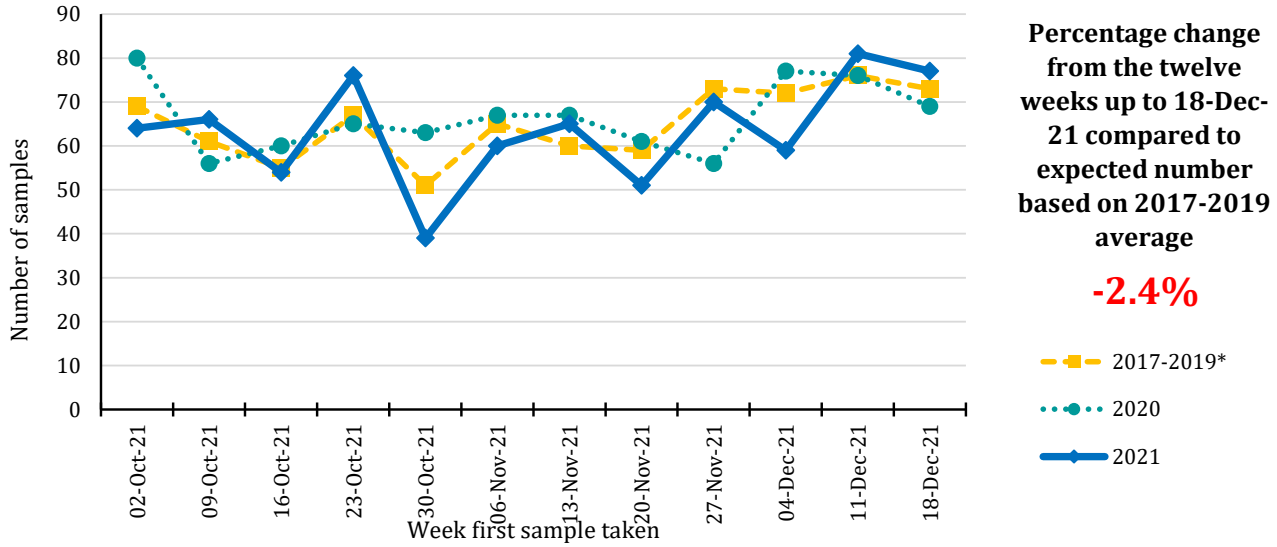
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	281	232	299	242	273	250

**Annual average*

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



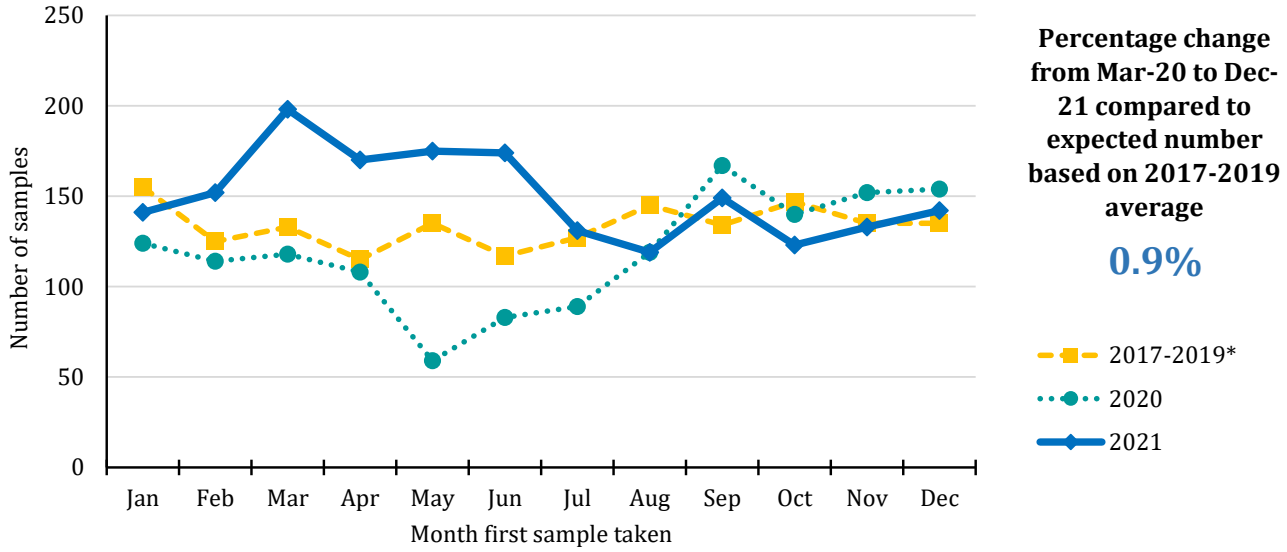
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	02-Oct-21	09-Oct-21	16-Oct-21	23-Oct-21	30-Oct-21	06-Nov-21	13-Nov-21	20-Nov-21	27-Nov-21	04-Dec-21	11-Dec-21	18-Dec-21
2017-2019*	69	61	55	67	51	65	60	59	73	72	76	73
2020	80	56	60	65	63	67	67	61	56	77	76	69
2021	64	66	54	76	39	60	65	51	70	59	81	77

**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)

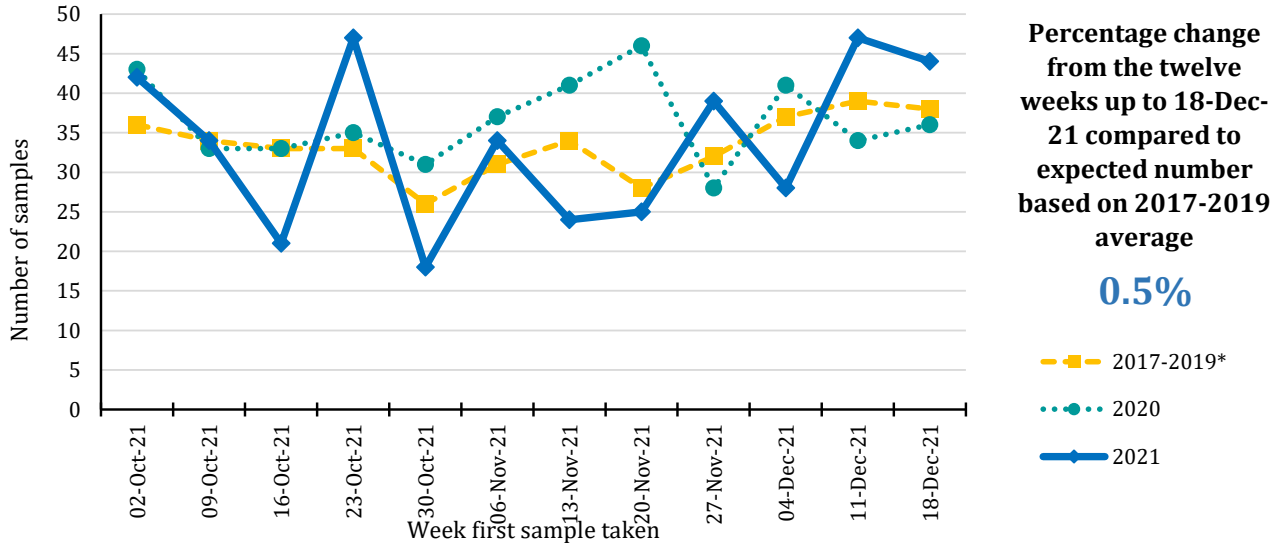
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	131	119	149	123	133	142

**Annual average*

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



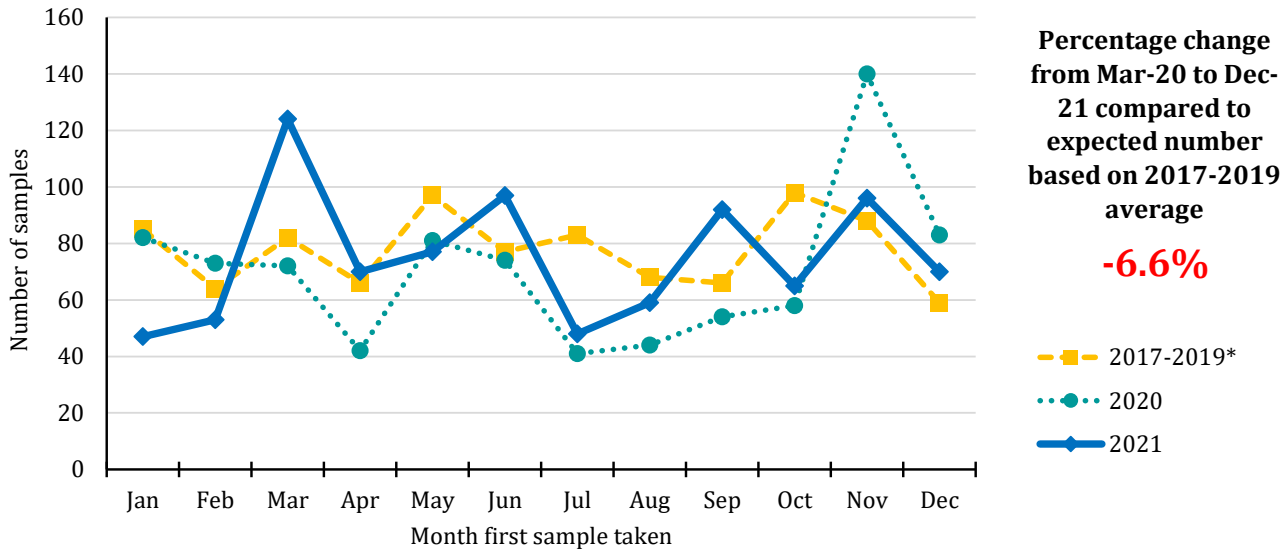
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	02-Oct-21	09-Oct-21	16-Oct-21	23-Oct-21	30-Oct-21	06-Nov-21	13-Nov-21	20-Nov-21	27-Nov-21	04-Dec-21	11-Dec-21	18-Dec-21
2017-2019*	36	34	33	33	26	31	34	28	32	37	39	38
2020	43	33	33	35	31	37	41	46	28	41	34	36
2021	42	34	21	47	18	34	24	25	39	28	47	44

**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

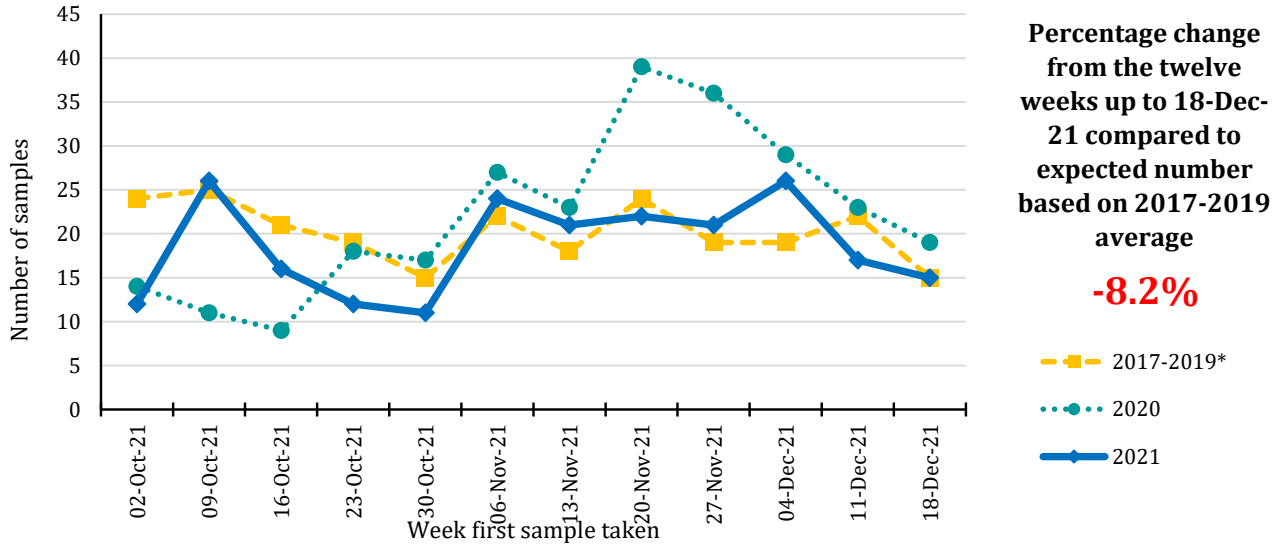
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	59	92	65	96	70

**Annual average*

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



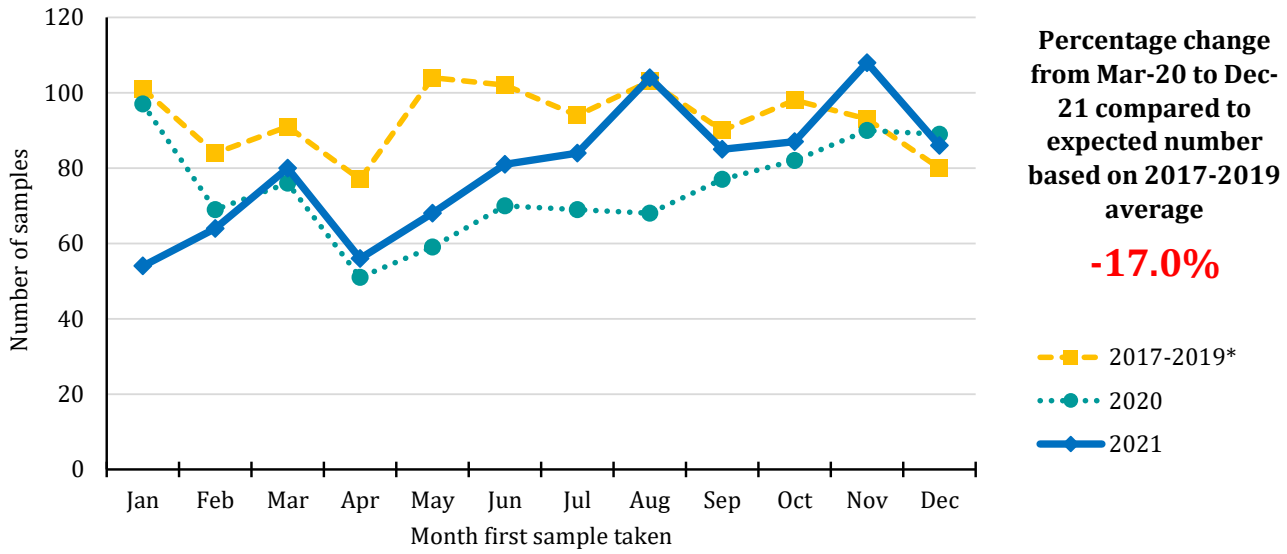
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	02-Oct-21	09-Oct-21	16-Oct-21	23-Oct-21	30-Oct-21	06-Nov-21	13-Nov-21	20-Nov-21	27-Nov-21	04-Dec-21	11-Dec-21	18-Dec-21
2017-2019*	24	25	21	19	15	22	18	24	19	19	22	15
2020	14	11	9	18	17	27	23	39	36	29	23	19
2021	12	26	16	12	11	24	21	22	21	26	17	15

**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 gynaecological cancer: Females

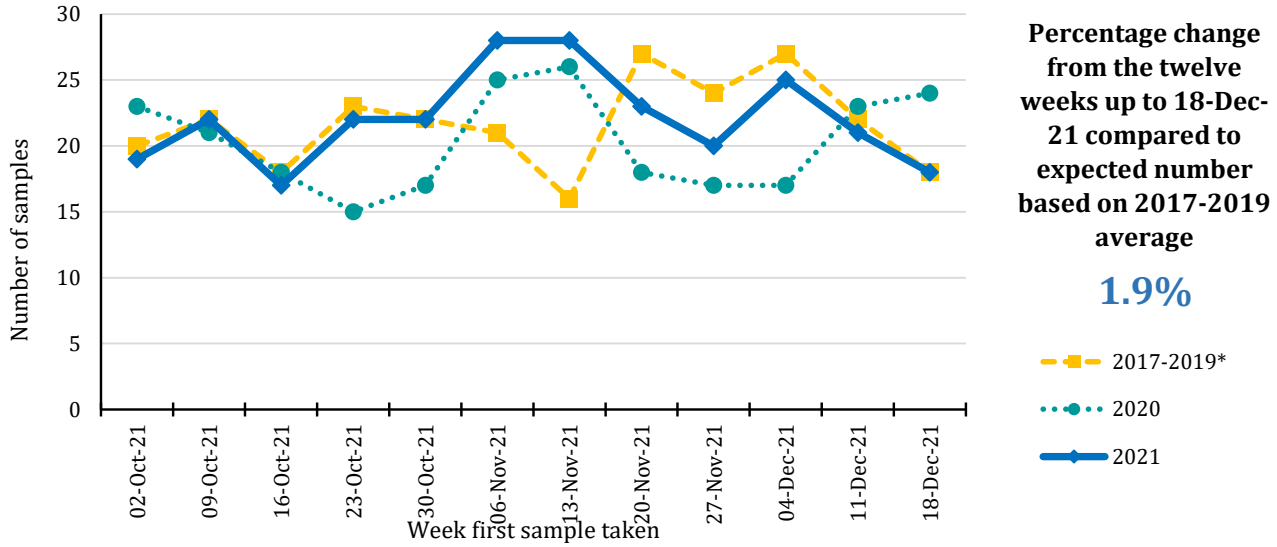
Trends in number of pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken



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	81	84	104	85	87	108	86

**Annual average*

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



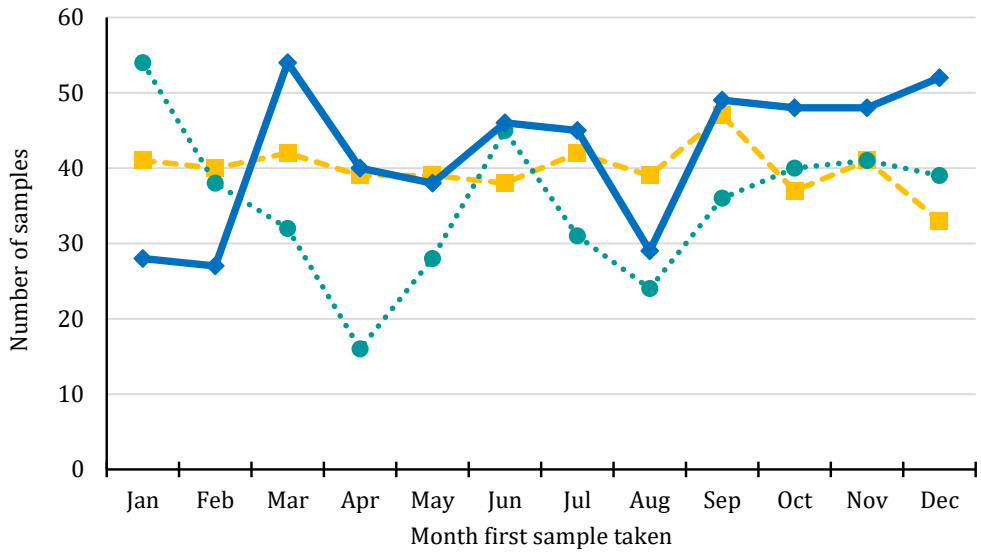
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	02-Oct-21	09-Oct-21	16-Oct-21	23-Oct-21	30-Oct-21	06-Nov-21	13-Nov-21	20-Nov-21	27-Nov-21	04-Dec-21	11-Dec-21	18-Dec-21
2017-2019*	20	22	18	23	22	21	16	27	24	27	22	18
2020	23	21	18	15	17	25	26	18	17	17	23	24
2021	19	22	17	22	22	28	28	23	20	25	21	18

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

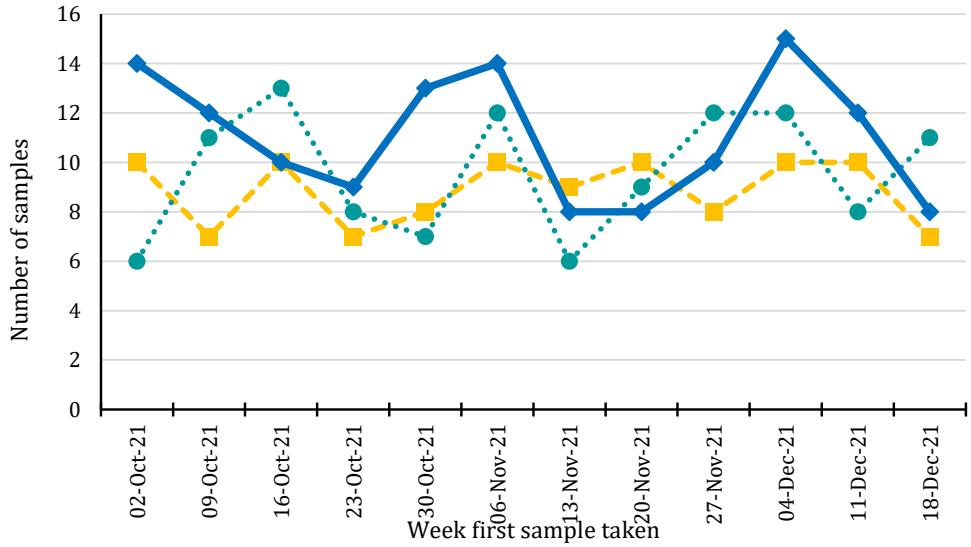
-2.9%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017-2019*	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	48	52

**Annual average*

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



Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 18-Dec-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

25.5%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

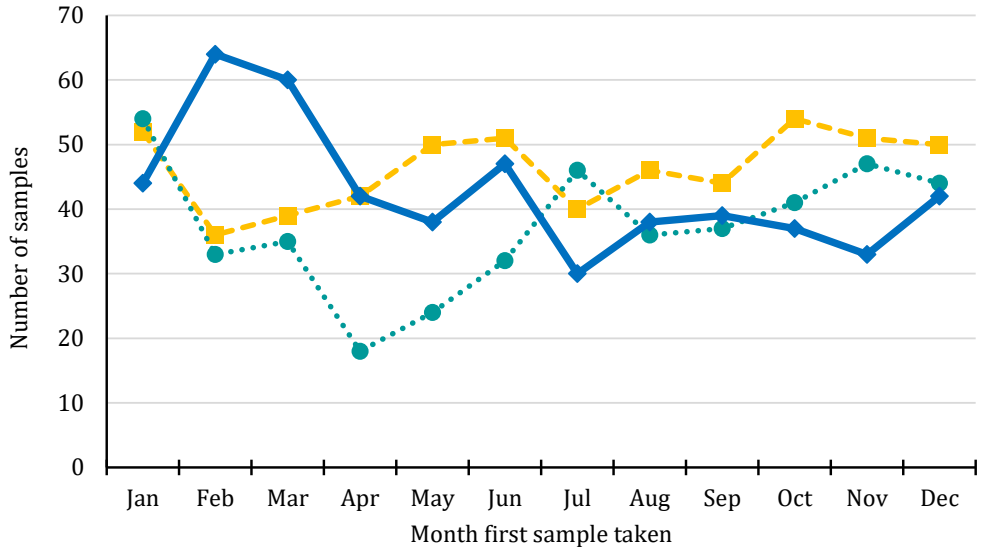
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	02-Oct-21	09-Oct-21	16-Oct-21	23-Oct-21	30-Oct-21	06-Nov-21	13-Nov-21	20-Nov-21	27-Nov-21	04-Dec-21	11-Dec-21	18-Dec-21
2017-2019*	10	7	10	7	8	10	9	10	8	10	10	7
2020	6	11	13	8	7	12	6	9	12	12	8	11
2021	14	12	10	9	13	14	8	8	10	15	12	8

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

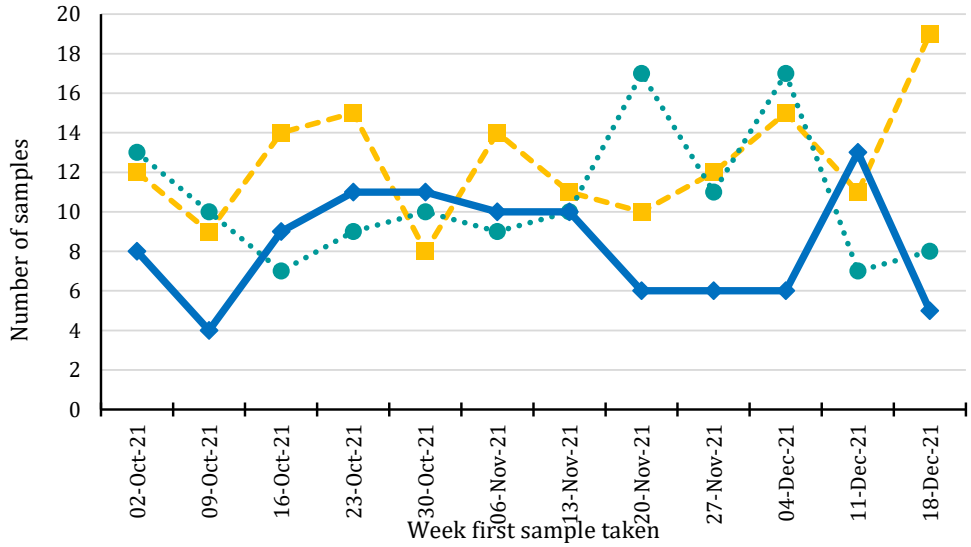
-13.4%

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	33	42

**Annual average*

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



Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 18-Dec-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-34.0%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

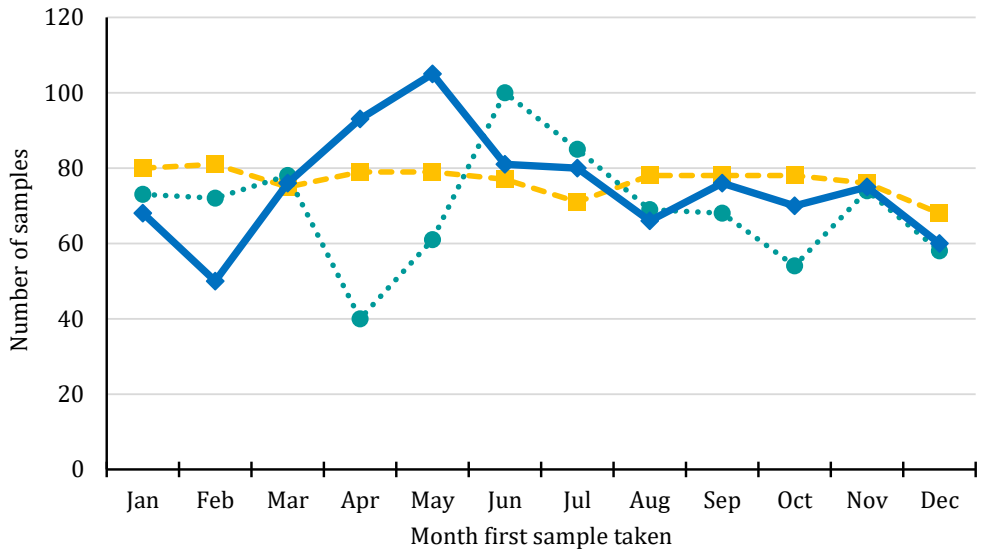
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	02-Oct-21	09-Oct-21	16-Oct-21	23-Oct-21	30-Oct-21	06-Nov-21	13-Nov-21	20-Nov-21	27-Nov-21	04-Dec-21	11-Dec-21	18-Dec-21
2017-2019*	12	9	14	15	8	14	11	10	12	15	11	19
2020	13	10	7	9	10	9	10	17	11	17	7	8
2021	8	4	9	11	11	10	10	6	6	6	13	5

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

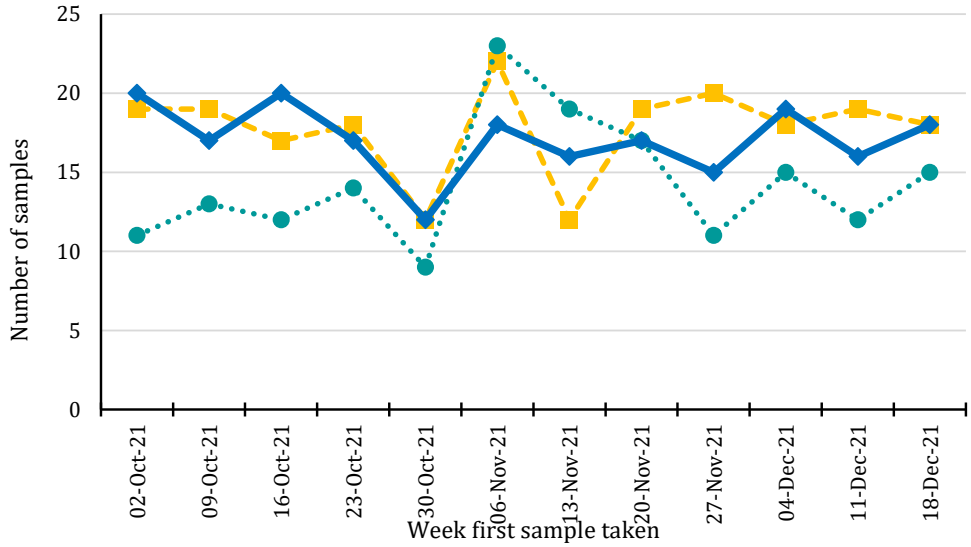
-5.9%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017-2019*	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	66	76	70	75	60

**Annual average*

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



Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 18-Dec-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-3.8%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

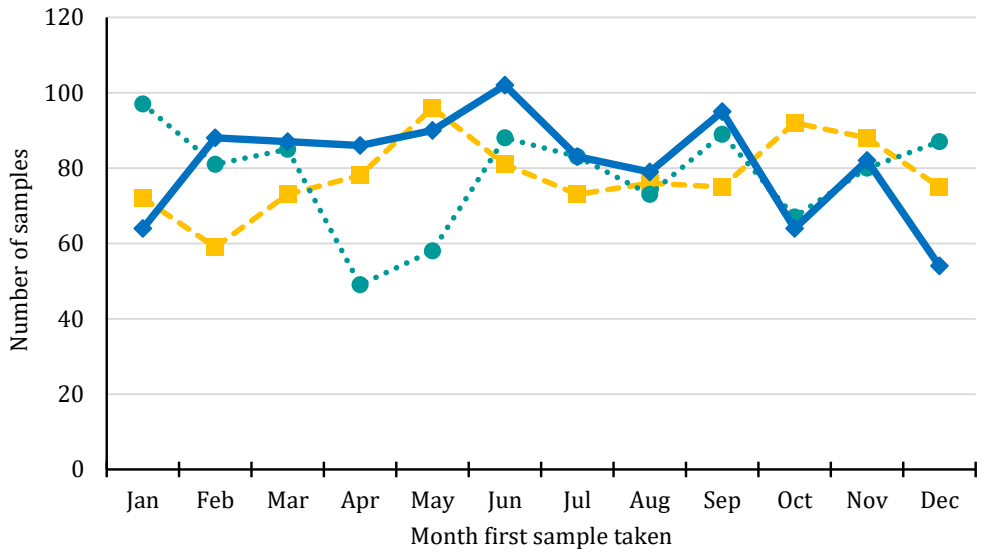
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	02-Oct-21	09-Oct-21	16-Oct-21	23-Oct-21	30-Oct-21	06-Nov-21	13-Nov-21	20-Nov-21	27-Nov-21	04-Dec-21	11-Dec-21	18-Dec-21
2017-2019*	19	19	17	18	12	22	12	19	20	18	19	18
2020	11	13	12	14	9	23	19	17	11	15	12	15
2021	20	17	20	17	12	18	16	17	15	19	16	18

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

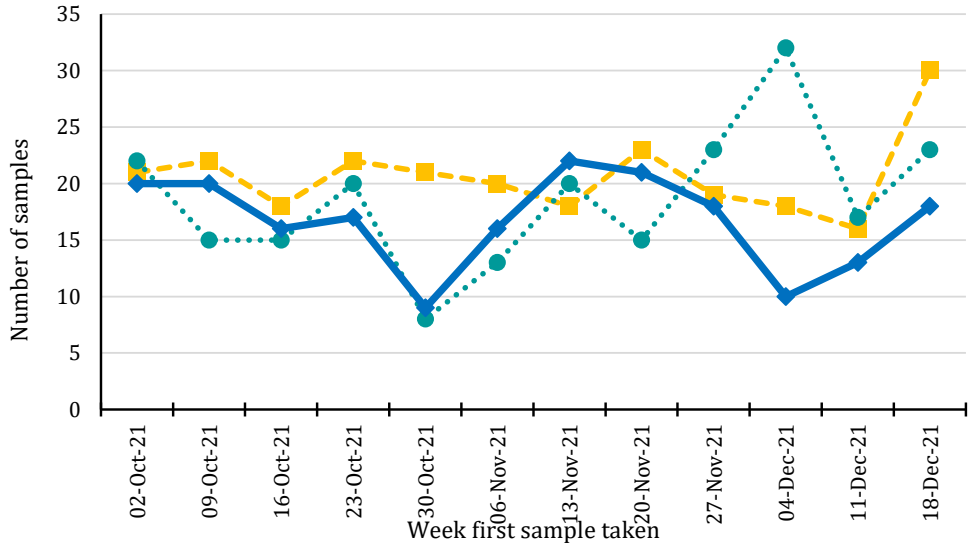
1.9%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017-2019*	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	95	64	82	54

**Annual average*

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



Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 18-Dec-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-19.4%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

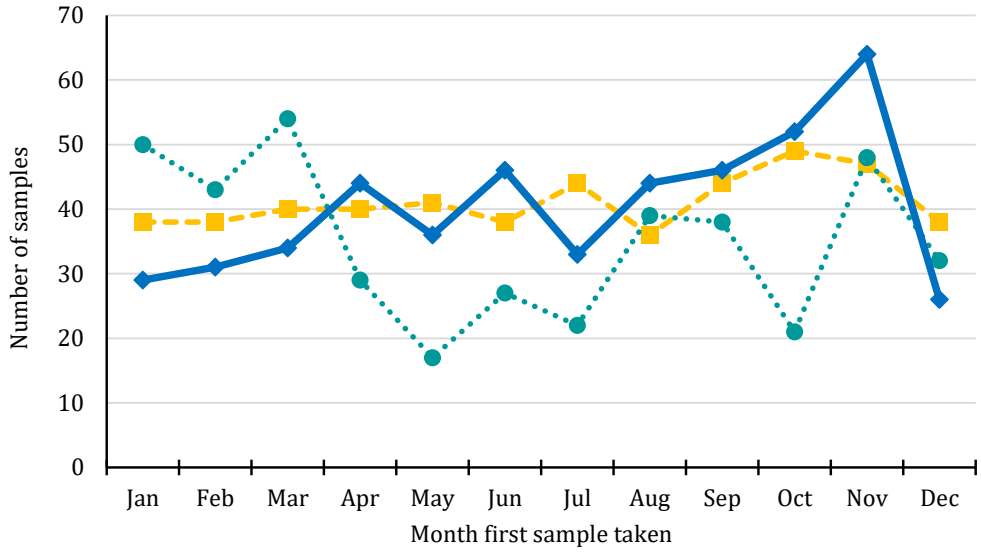
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	02-Oct-21	09-Oct-21	16-Oct-21	23-Oct-21	30-Oct-21	06-Nov-21	13-Nov-21	20-Nov-21	27-Nov-21	04-Dec-21	11-Dec-21	18-Dec-21
2017-2019*	21	22	18	22	21	20	18	23	19	18	16	30
2020	22	15	15	20	8	13	20	15	23	32	17	23
2021	20	20	16	17	9	16	22	21	18	10	13	18

**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



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

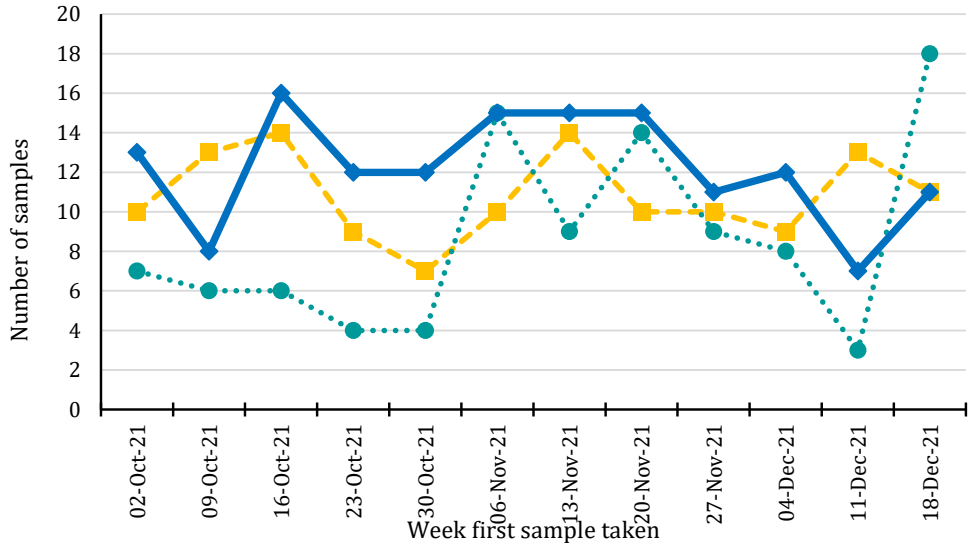
-8.2%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	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	64	26

**Annual average*

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



Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 18-Dec-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

13.1%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

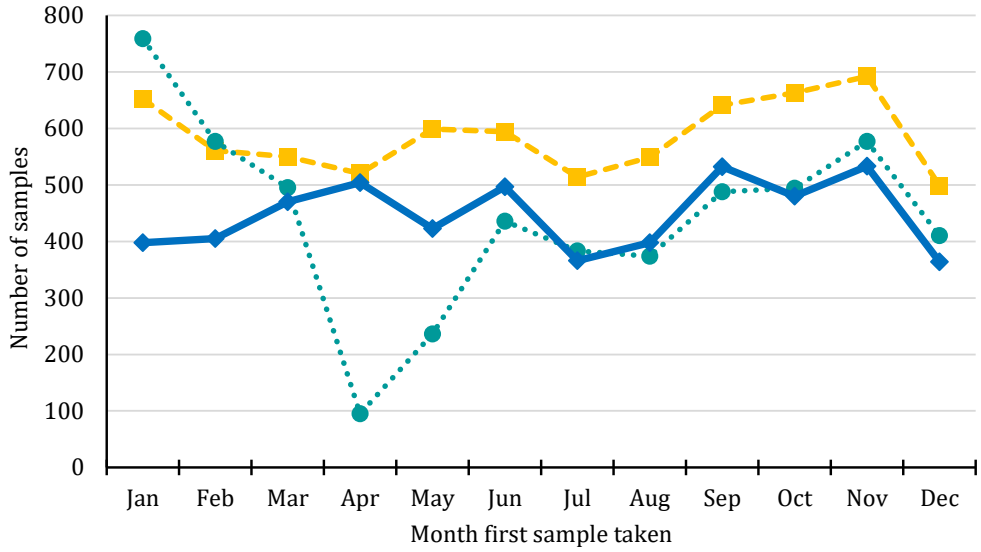
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	02-Oct-21	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**	**04-Dec-21**	**11-Dec-21**	**18-Dec-21**
2017-2019*	10	13	14	9	7	10	14	10	10	9	13	11
2020	7	6	6	4	4	15	9	14	9	8	3	18
2021	13	8	16	12	12	15	15	15	11	12	7	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 Dec-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

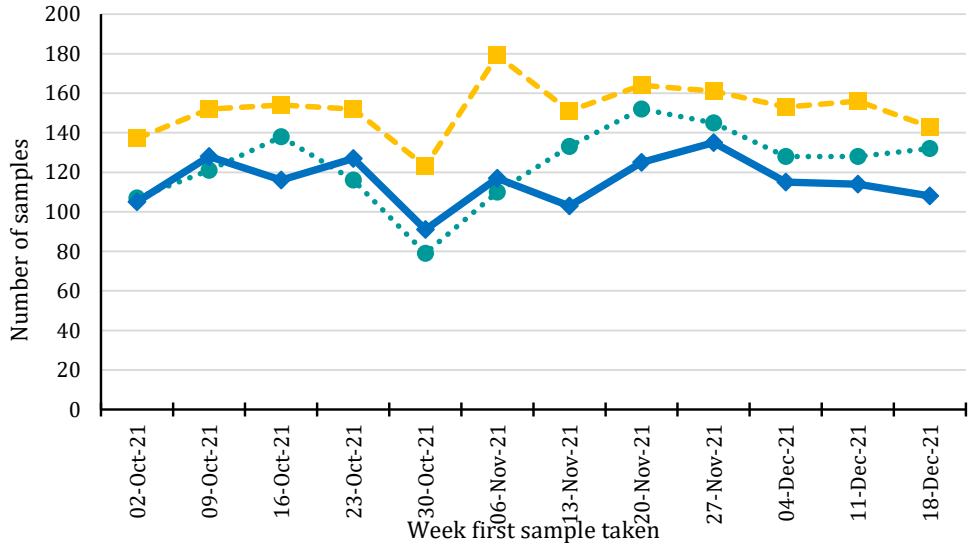
-24.0%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017-2019*	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	398	532	480	533	364

**Annual average*

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



Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 18-Dec-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-24.2%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

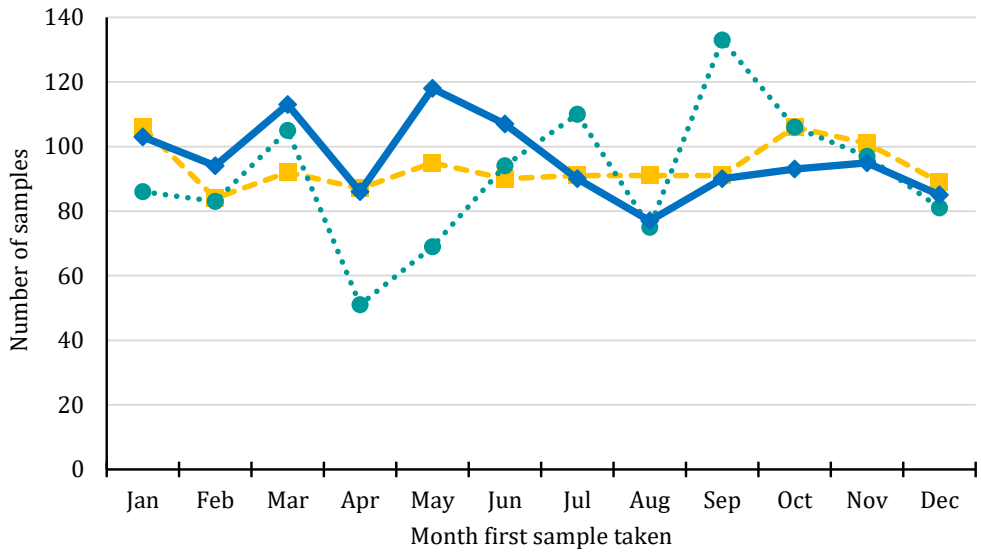
Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	02-Oct-21	09-Oct-21	16-Oct-21	23-Oct-21	30-Oct-21	06-Nov-21	13-Nov-21	20-Nov-21	27-Nov-21	04-Dec-21	11-Dec-21	18-Dec-21
2017-2019*	137	152	154	152	123	179	151	164	161	153	156	143
2020	107	121	138	116	79	110	133	152	145	128	128	132
2021	105	128	116	127	91	117	103	125	135	115	114	108

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

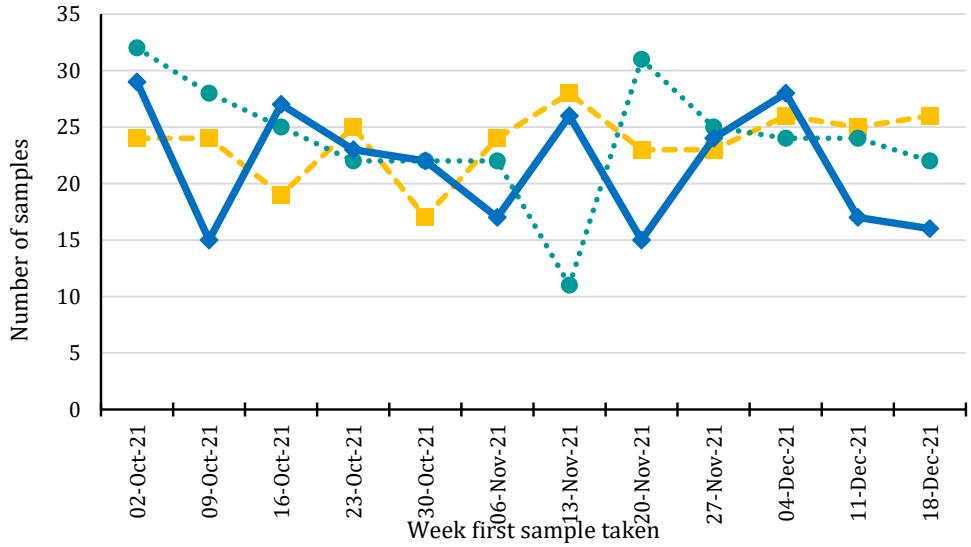
-0.2%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017-2019*	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	90	93	95	85

**Annual average*

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



Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 18-Dec-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-8.8%

2017-2019*
2020
2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	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	04-Dec-21	11-Dec-21	18-Dec-21
2017-2019*	24	24	19	25	17	24	28	23	23	26	25	26
2020	32	28	25	22	22	22	11	31	25	24	24	22
2021	29	15	27	23	22	17	26	15	24	28	17	16

**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

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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N. Ireland Cancer Registry

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

HSC Public Health Agency