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

(Excludes samples from Altnagelvin Laboratory)

January 2022 update

CONTENTS

SUMMARY

## Recent trends in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer: January 2022

This summary provides an overview of recent trends in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, NMSC) taken from January 2020 to January 2022 in Northern Ireland.

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.

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.**

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020

From March 2020 to January 2022 the number of pathological samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC) was 6.8% lower than the average number for the same time period in 2017-2019.
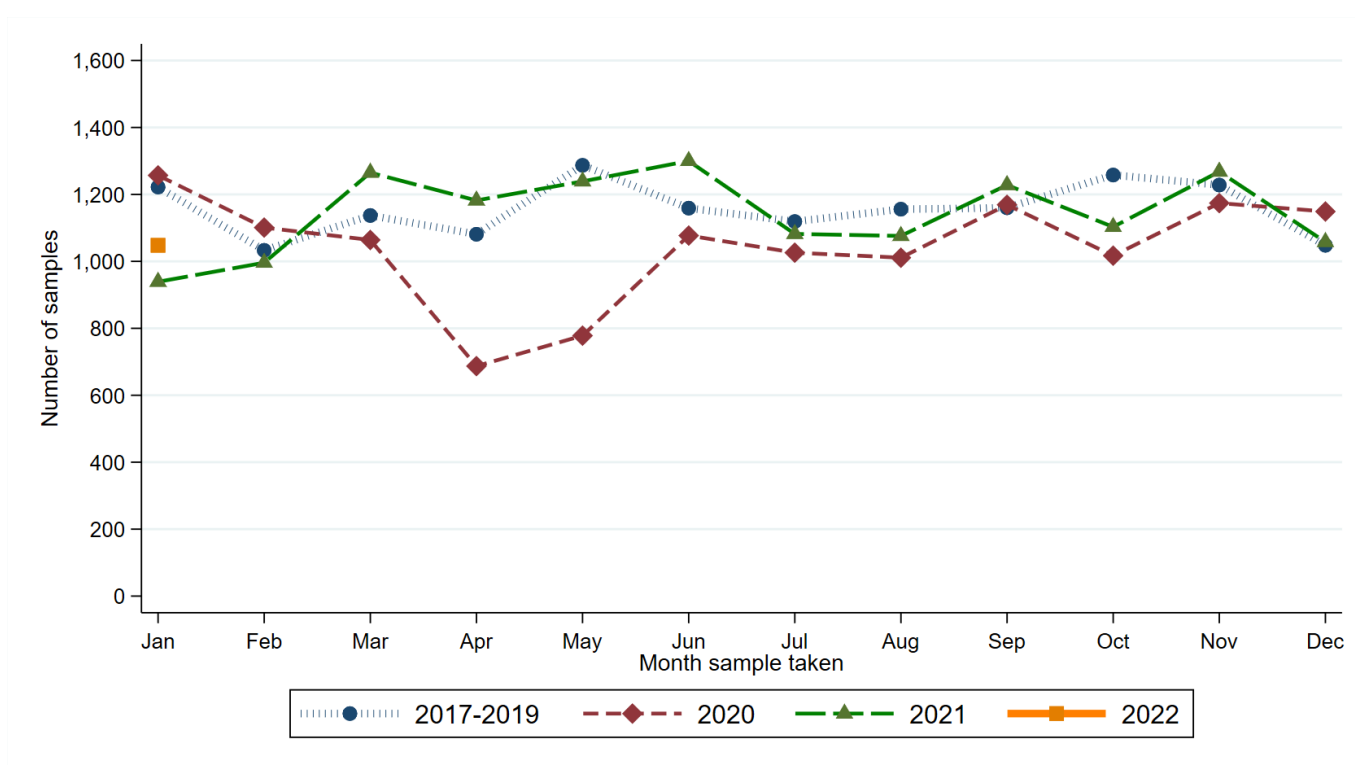
From March 2020 to January 2022 there was a 5.9% decrease in the number of samples among males and a 7.3% decrease among females compared to the same time period in 2017-2019. A decrease of 7.0% occurred in the number of samples among those aged 0-69 years, while there was a decrease of 6.5% in the number of samples among those aged 70 and older.

Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, from March 2020 to January 2022 the number of pathology samples indicating lung cancer decreased by 26.1%. No cancer types had an increase in the number of samples between the two periods, while decreases of more than 10% were recorded for gynaecological cancer, head and neck cancer, melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer.

RECENT CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF SAMPLES

There was a 5.5% decrease in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to the average value in the equivalent weeks in 2017-2019.

Note: Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years
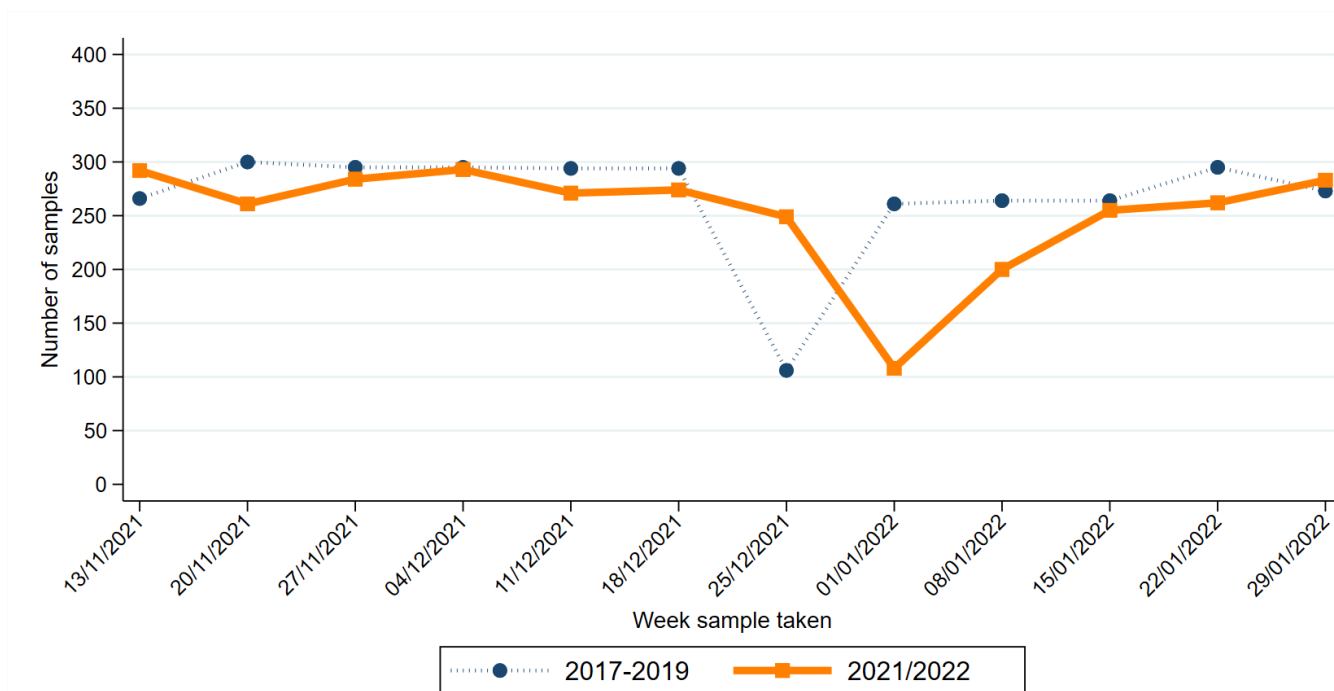
In the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 there was a 4.0% decrease in the number of samples among males and a 6.4% decrease among females compared to the same time period in 2017-2019. A decrease of 7.6% occurred in

the number of samples among those aged 0-69 years, while there was a decrease of 2.4% in the number of samples among those aged 70 and older.

Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, in the twelve weeks up to January 2022 the number of pathology samples indicating lung cancer decreased by 26.9%. Increases were recorded for bowel cancer, prostate cancer and upper gastrointestinal cancer, while decreases of more than 10% were recorded for head and neck cancer, urinary cancer, haematological cancer and non-melanoma skin cancer.
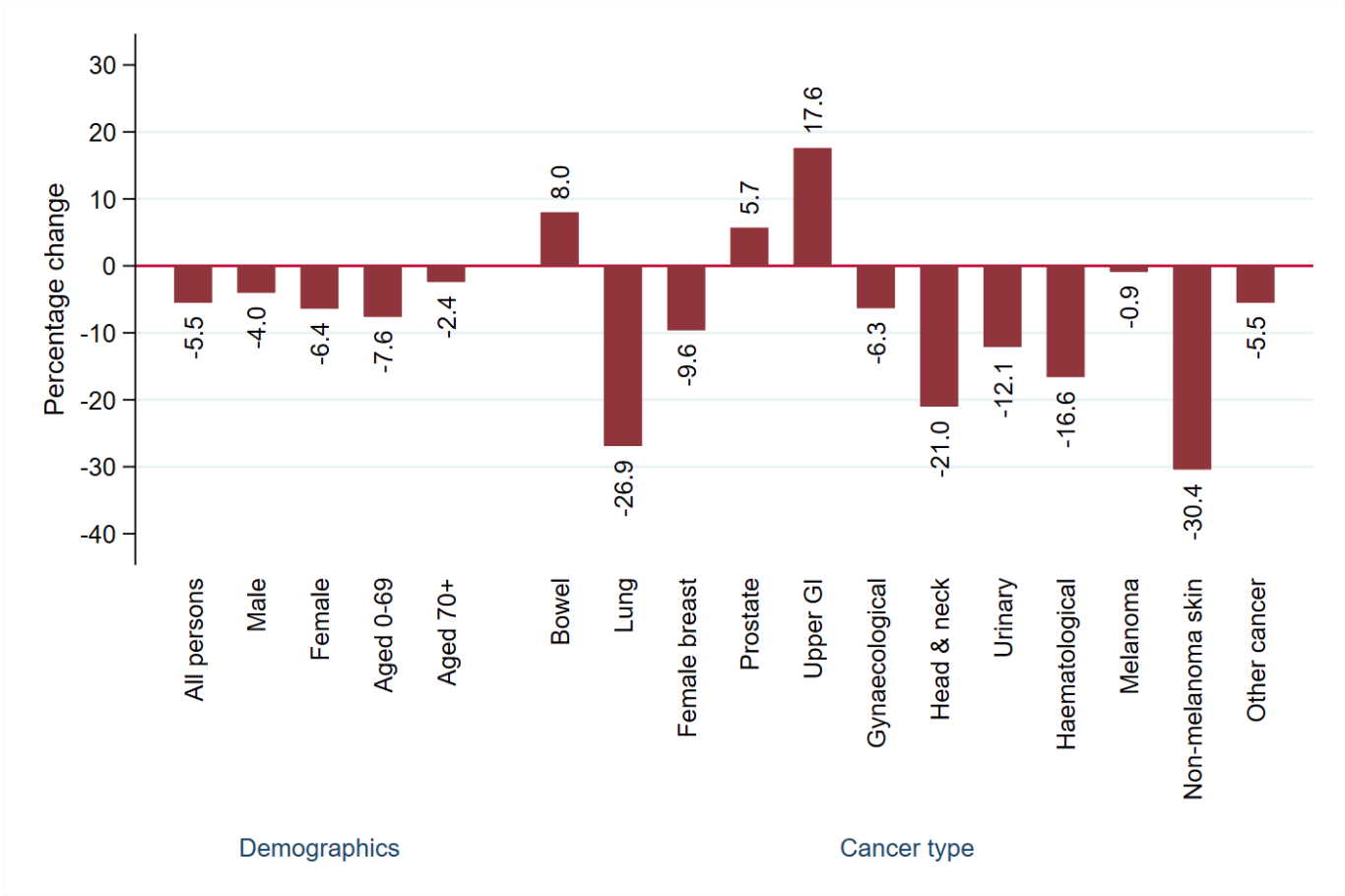
ALL PERSONS: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020

Percentage change from March 2020 to January 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-6.8%
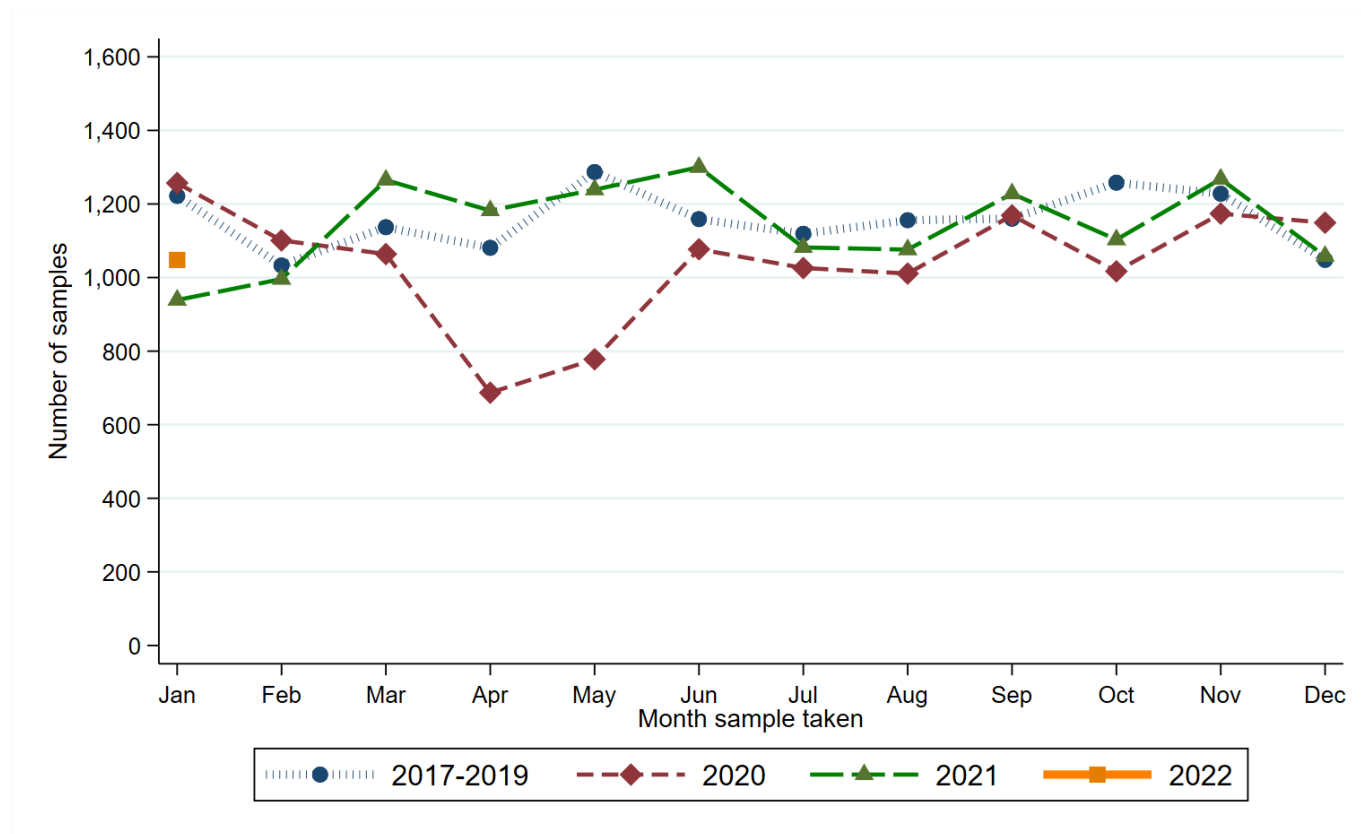
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	1,222	1,257	939	1,048
Feb	1,033	1,101	996	.
Mar	1,137	1,064	1,265	.
Apr	1,081	687	1,182	.
May	1,287	778	1,239	.
Jun	1,159	1,077	1,300	.
Jul	1,119	1,026	1,082	.
Aug	1,156	1,011	1,076	.
Sep	1,160	1,169	1,228	.
Oct	1,258	1,017	1,103	.
Nov	1,228	1,174	1,268	.
Dec	1,048	1,149	1,058	.

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-5.5%
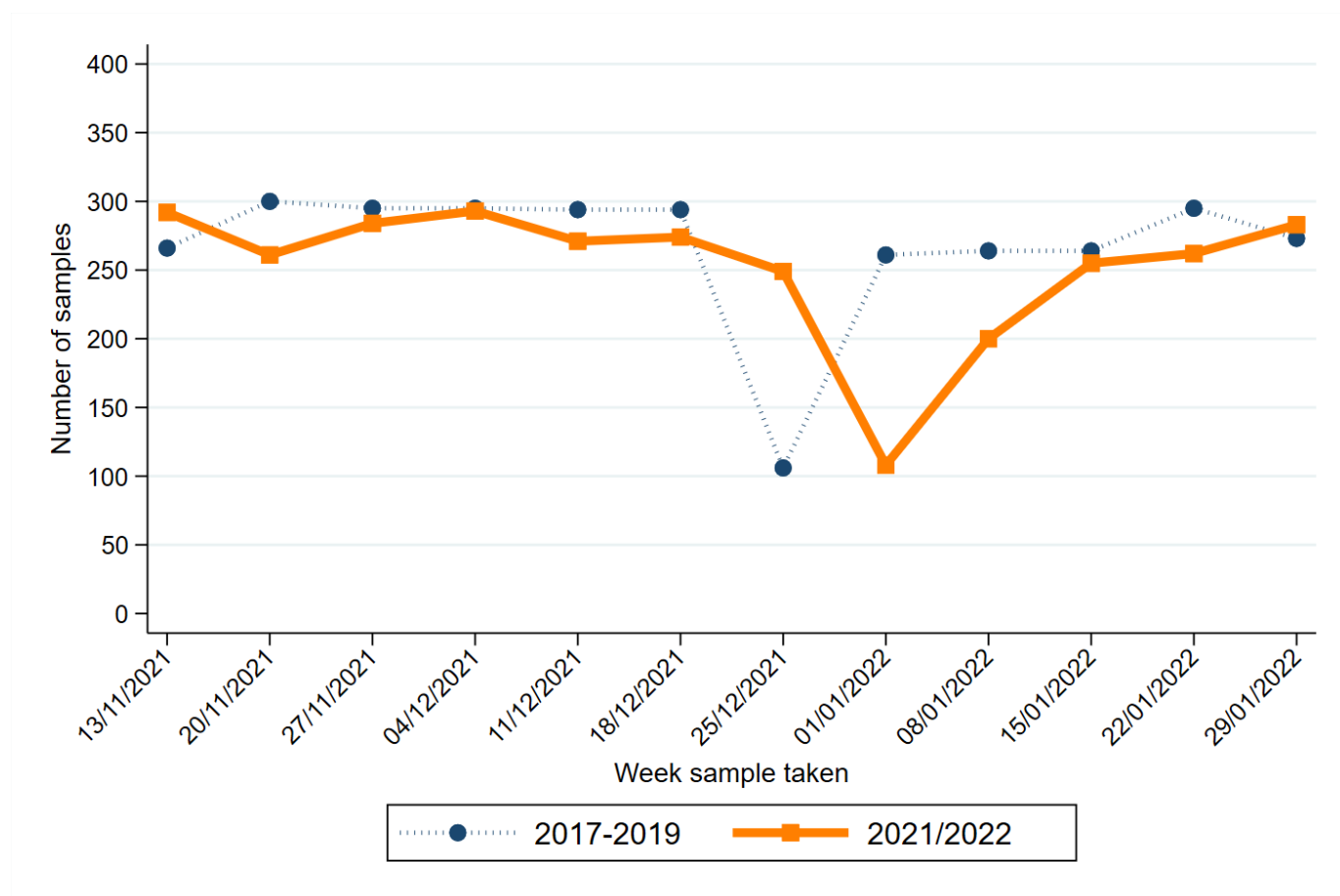
Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
13/11/2021	266	292
20/11/2021	300	261
27/11/2021	295	284
04/12/2021	295	293
11/12/2021	294	271
18/12/2021	294	274
25/12/2021	106	249
01/01/2022	261	108
08/01/2022	264	200
15/01/2022	264	255
22/01/2022	295	262
29/01/2022	273	283

Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

MALE: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020

### Percentage change from March 2020 to January 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-5.9%
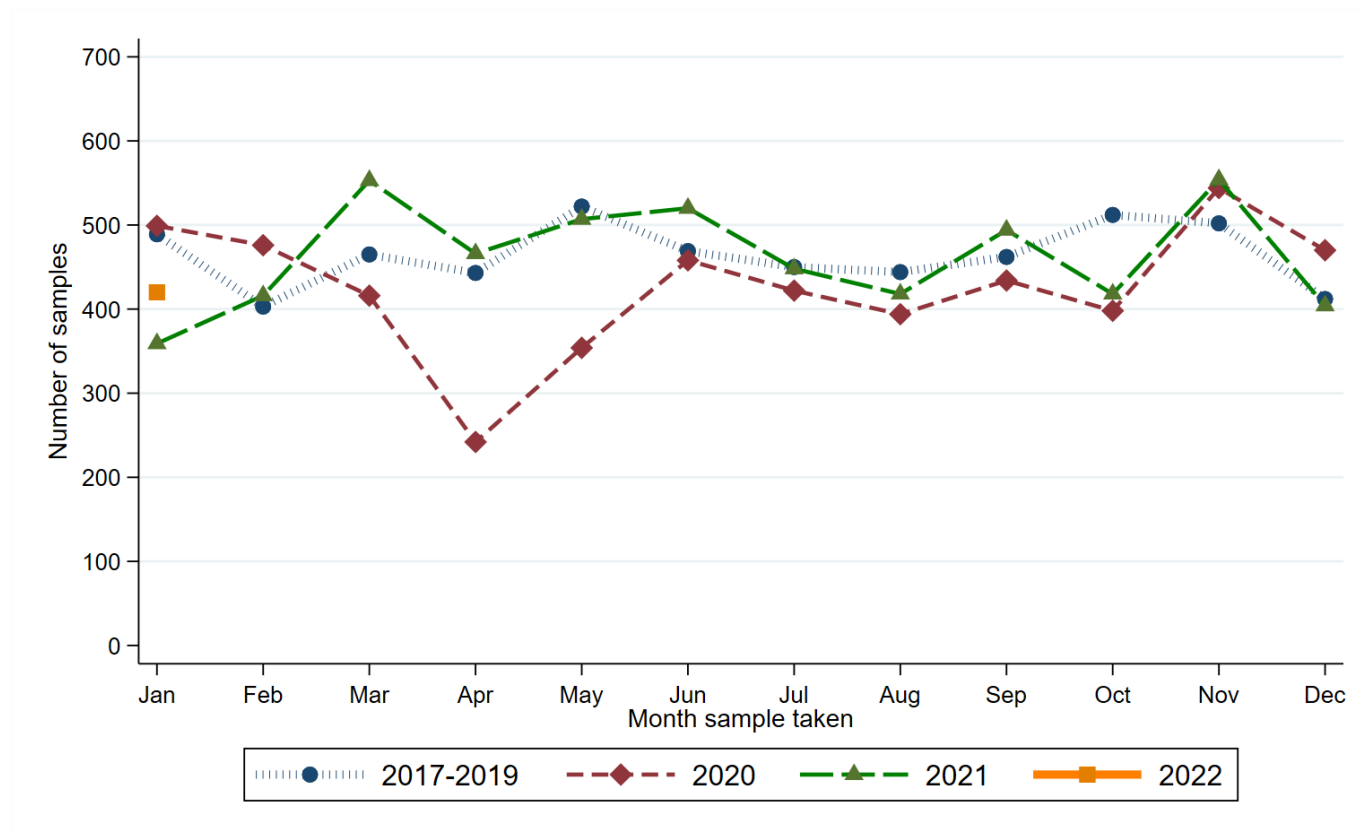
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	489	499	359	420
Feb	403	476	416	.
Mar	465	416	553	.
Apr	443	242	466	.
May	522	354	507	.
Jun	469	458	520	.
Jul	450	422	448	.
Aug	444	394	418	.
Sep	462	434	494	.
Oct	512	398	418	.
Nov	502	544	554	.
Dec	412	470	404	.

Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-4.0%

Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
13/11/2021	101	123
20/11/2021	122	119
27/11/2021	117	113
04/12/2021	114	126
11/12/2021	117	90
18/12/2021	116	99
25/12/2021	46	94
01/01/2022	93	58
08/01/2022	108	78
15/01/2022	108	97
22/01/2022	121	120
29/01/2022	109	104

*Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

FEMALE: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020

Percentage change from March 2020 to January 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-7.3%
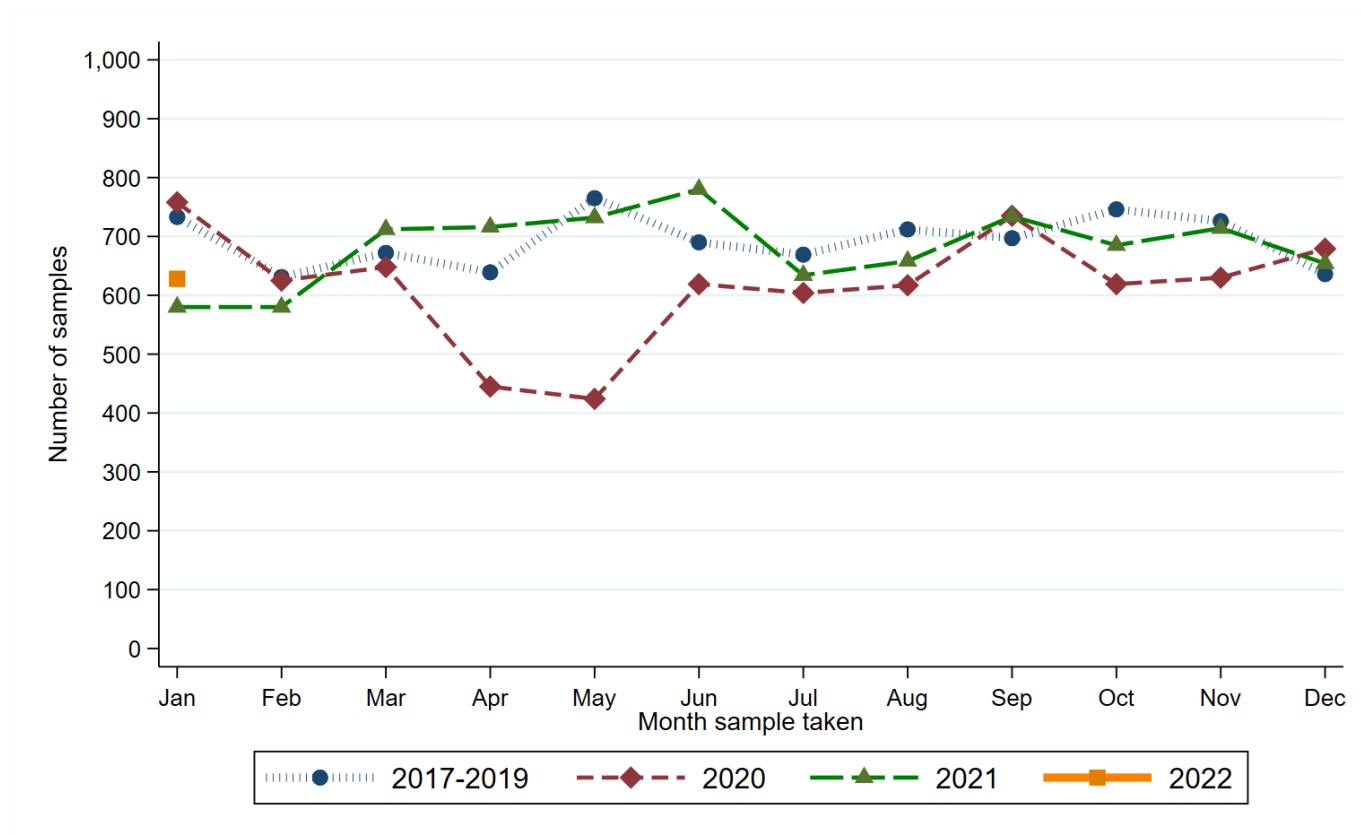
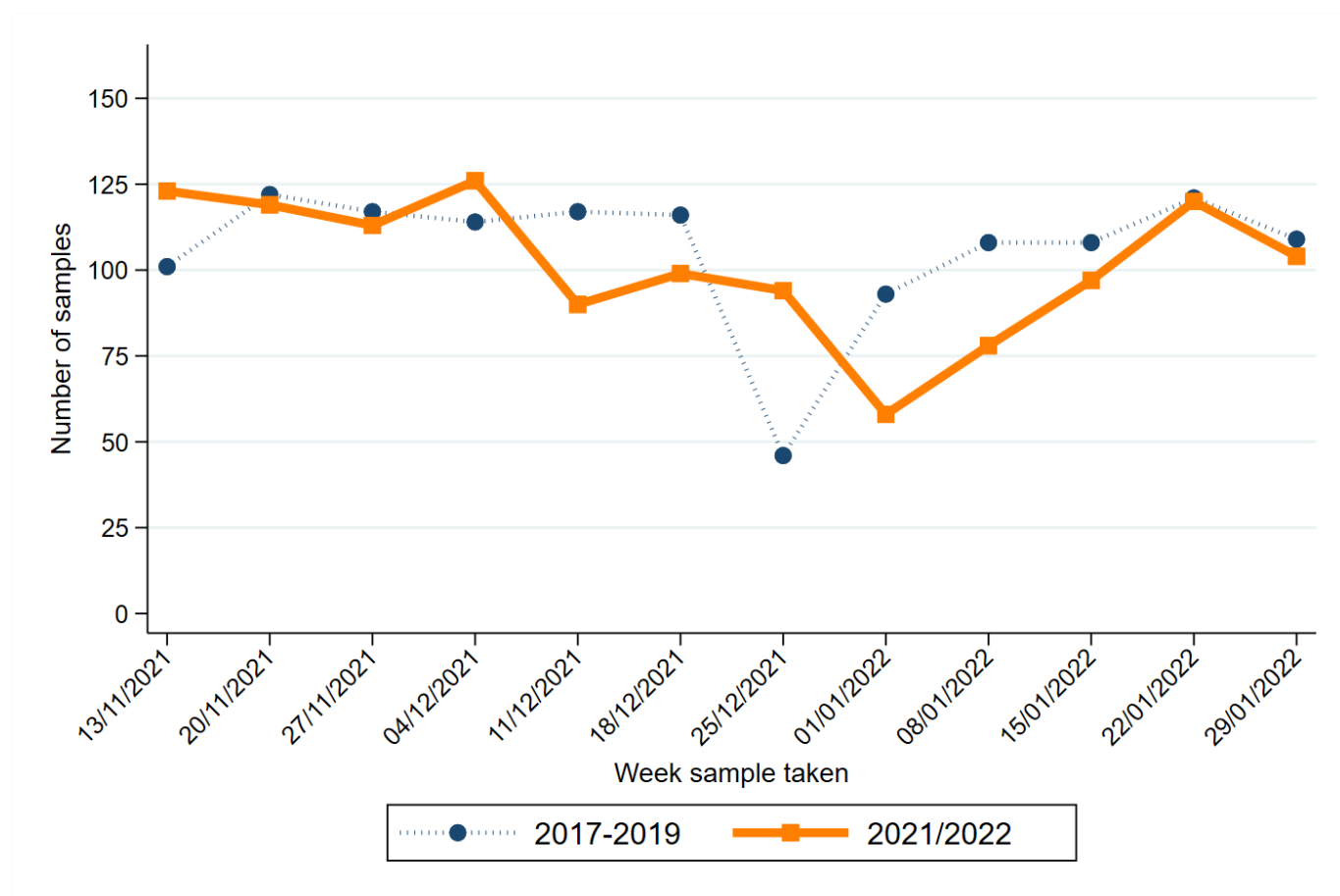| Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**
Jan	733	758	580	628
Feb	631	625	580	.
Mar	672	648	712	.
Apr	639	445	716	.
May	765	424	732	.
Jun	690	619	780	.
Jul	669	604	634	.
Aug	712	617	658	.
Sep	697	735	734	.
Oct	746	619	685	.
Nov	726	630	714	.
Dec	636	679	654	.

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-6.4%
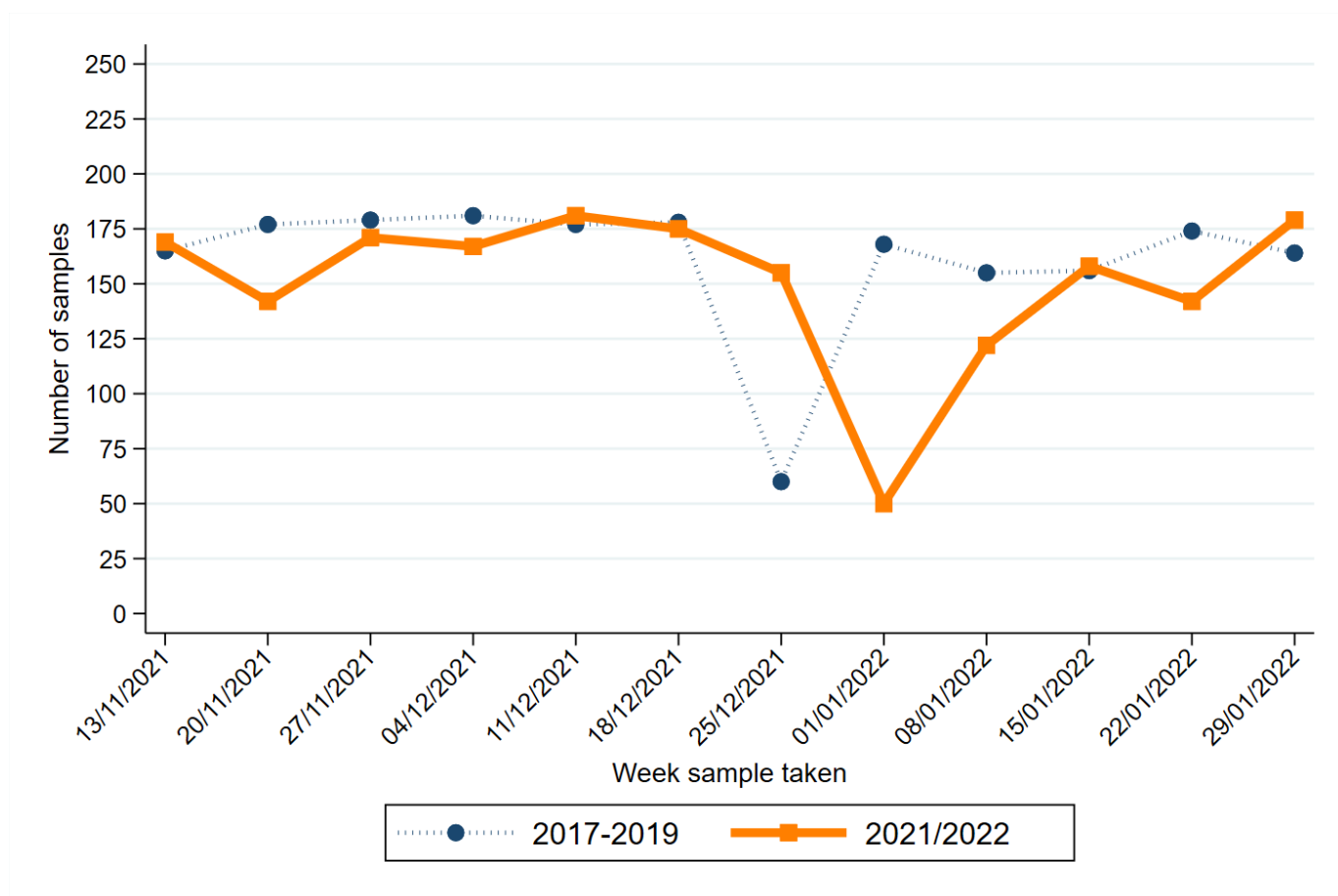
Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
13/11/2021	165	169
20/11/2021	177	142
27/11/2021	179	171
04/12/2021	181	167
11/12/2021	177	181
18/12/2021	178	175
25/12/2021	60	155
01/01/2022	168	50
08/01/2022	155	122
15/01/2022	156	158
22/01/2022	174	142
29/01/2022	164	179

** Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

AGED 0-69: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020

Percentage change from March 2020 to January 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-7.0%
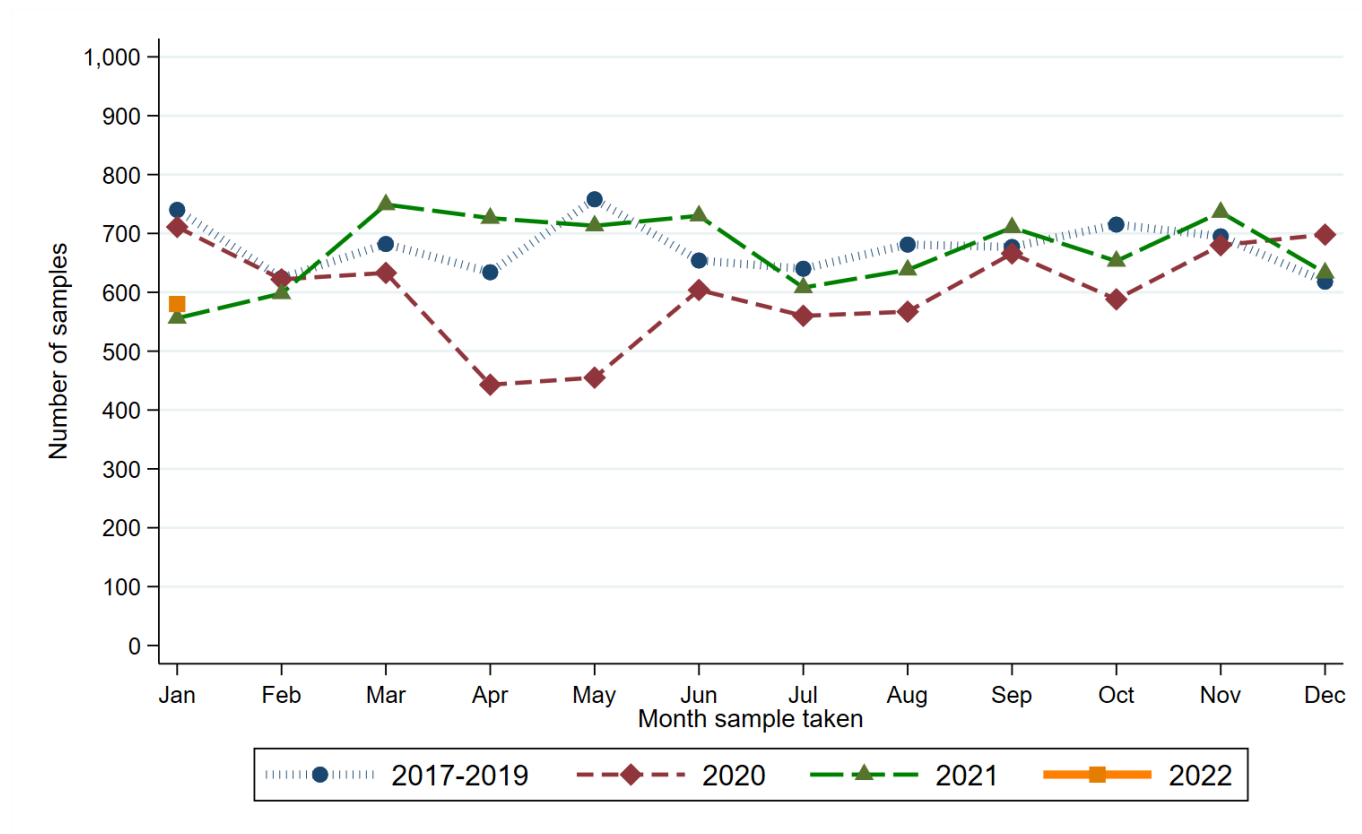
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	740	711	556	580
Feb	624	622	598	.
Mar	682	633	749	.
Apr	634	443	726	.
May	758	455	713	.
Jun	654	604	730	.
Jul	640	560	608	.
Aug	681	567	638	.
Sep	677	666	710	.
Oct	715	588	653	.
Nov	695	680	736	.
Dec	618	698	633	.

Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-7.6%
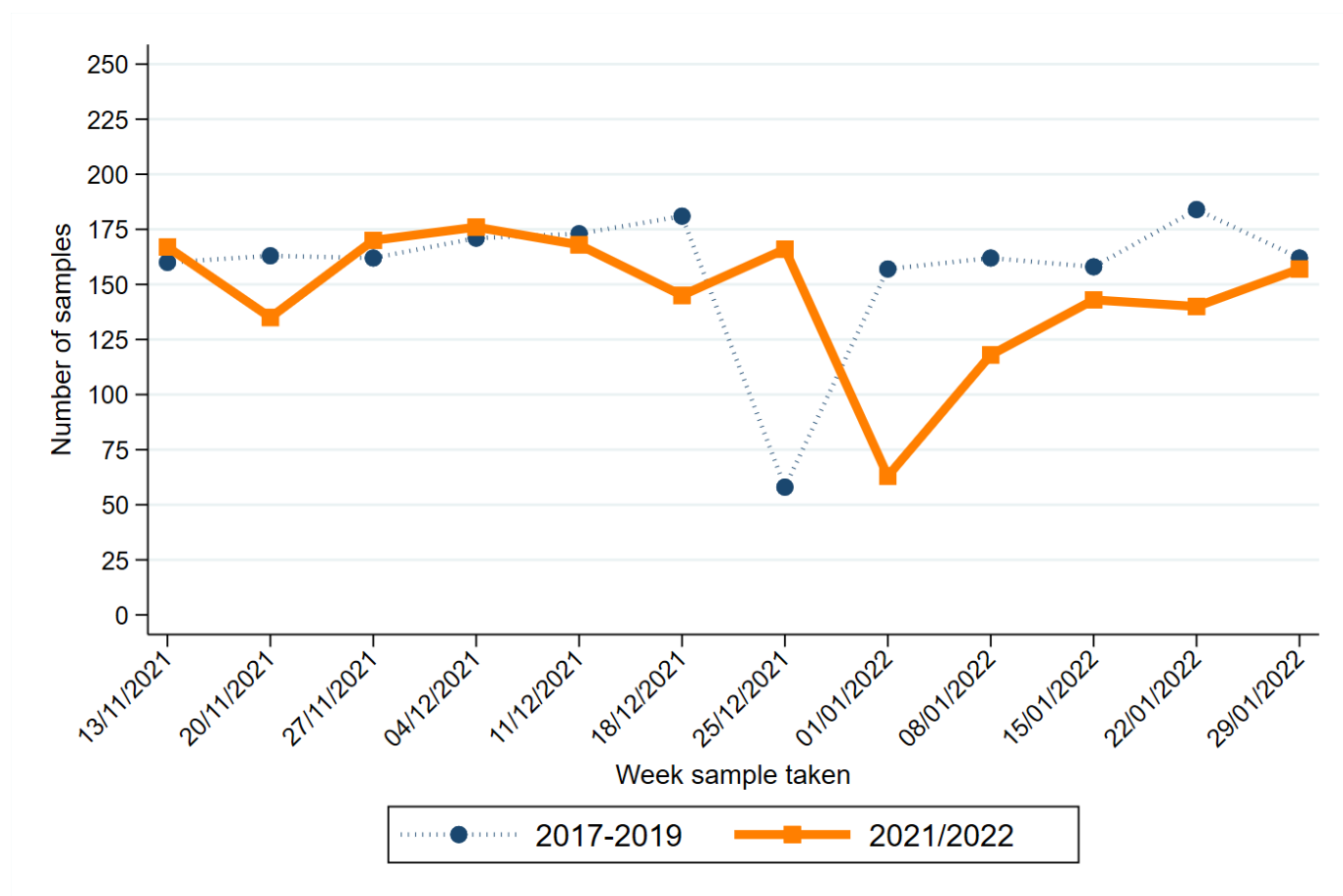
Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
13/11/2021	160	167
20/11/2021	163	135
27/11/2021	162	170
04/12/2021	171	176
11/12/2021	173	168
18/12/2021	181	145
25/12/2021	58	166
01/01/2022	157	63
08/01/2022	162	118
15/01/2022	158	143
22/01/2022	184	140
29/01/2022	162	157

*Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

AGED 70+: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020

### Percentage change from March 2020 to January 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-6.5%

Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	483	546	383	468
Feb	409	479	398	.
Mar	455	431	516	.
Apr	447	244	456	.
May	529	323	526	.
Jun	504	473	570	.
Jul	479	466	474	.
Aug	475	444	438	.
Sep	483	503	518	.
Oct	543	429	450	.
Nov	534	494	532	.
Dec	430	451	425	.

Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-2.4%
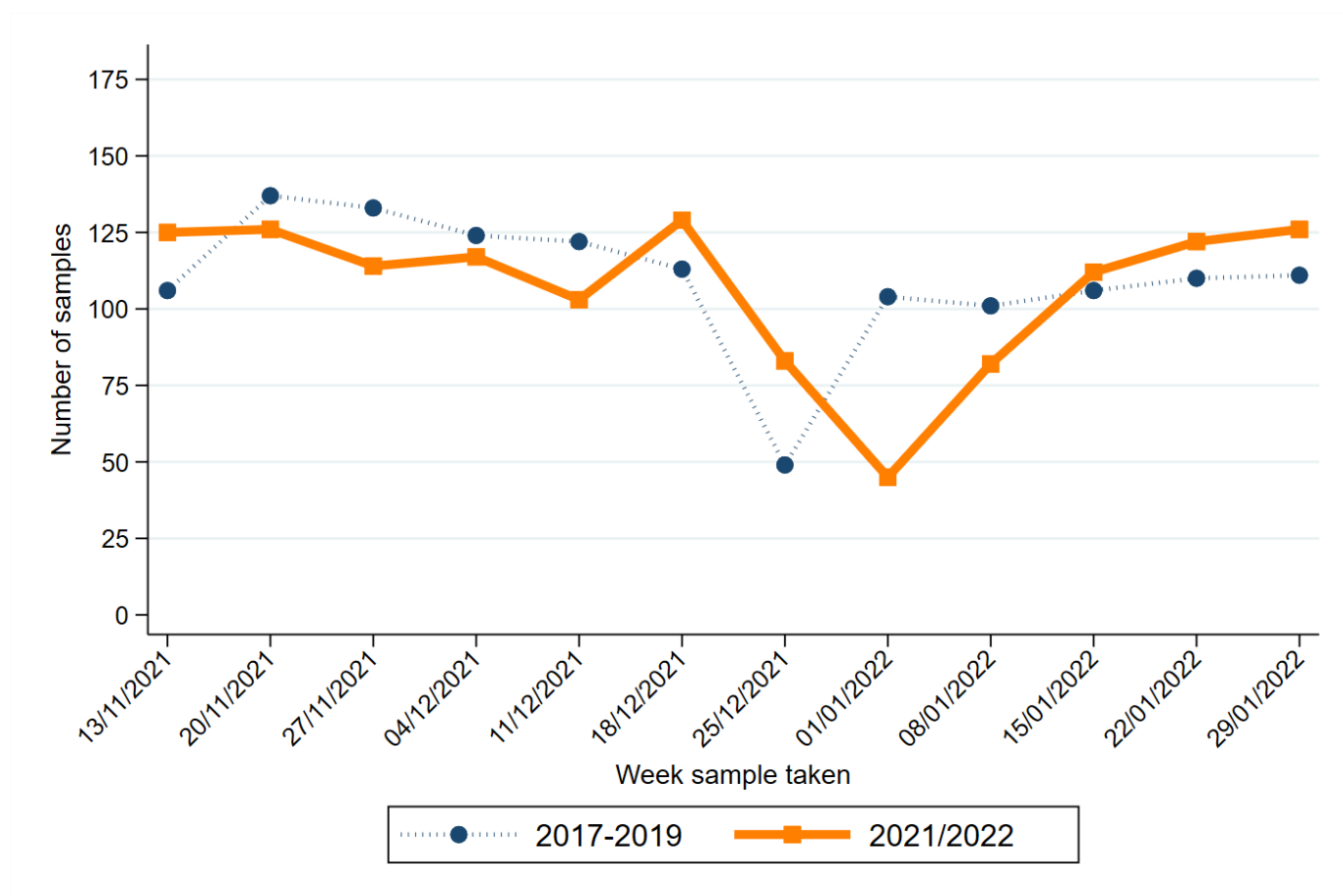
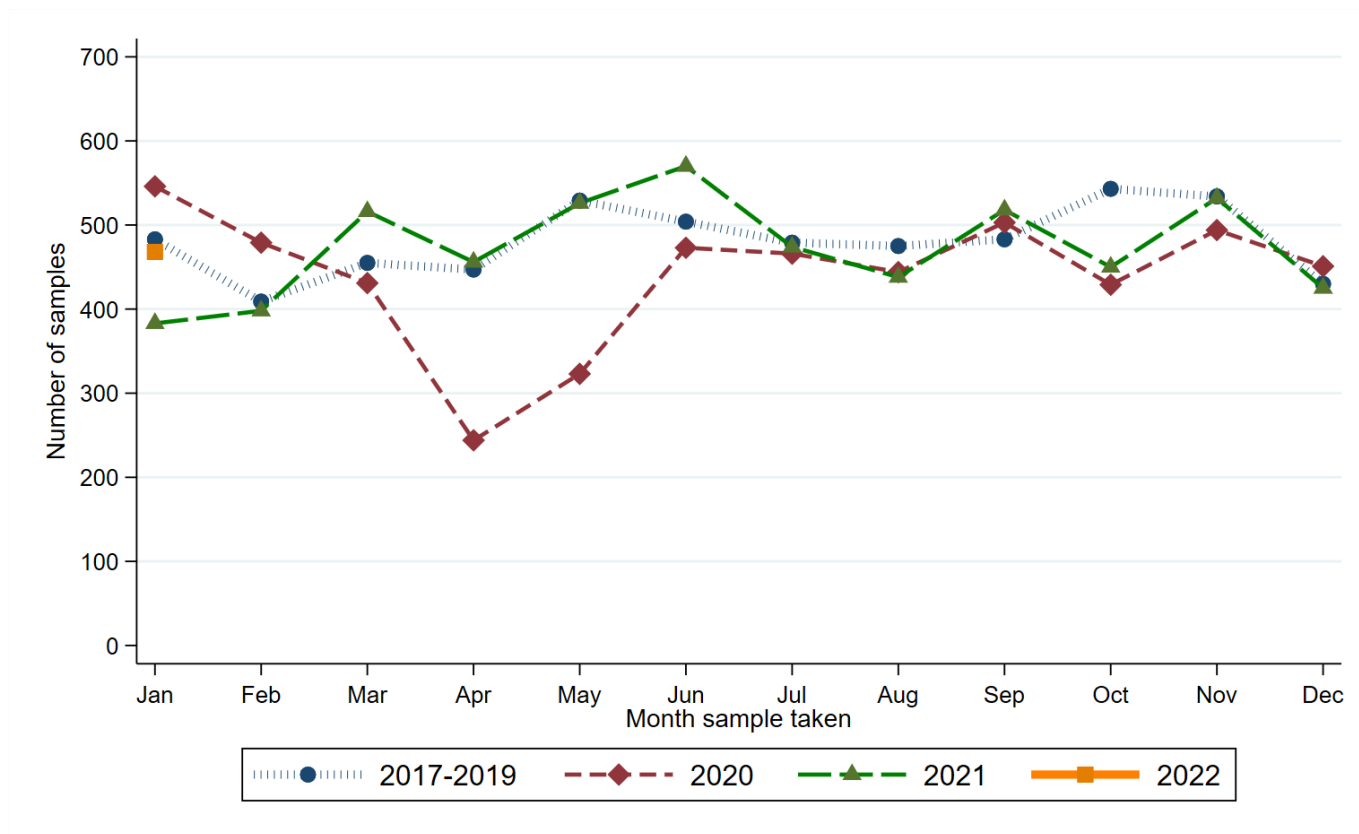| Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
13/11/2021	106	125
20/11/2021	137	126
27/11/2021	133	114
04/12/2021	124	117
11/12/2021	122	103
18/12/2021	113	129
25/12/2021	49	83
01/01/2022	104	45
08/01/2022	101	82
15/01/2022	106	112
22/01/2022	110	122
29/01/2022	111	126

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

BOWEL CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020

### Percentage change from March 2020 to January 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-1.0%
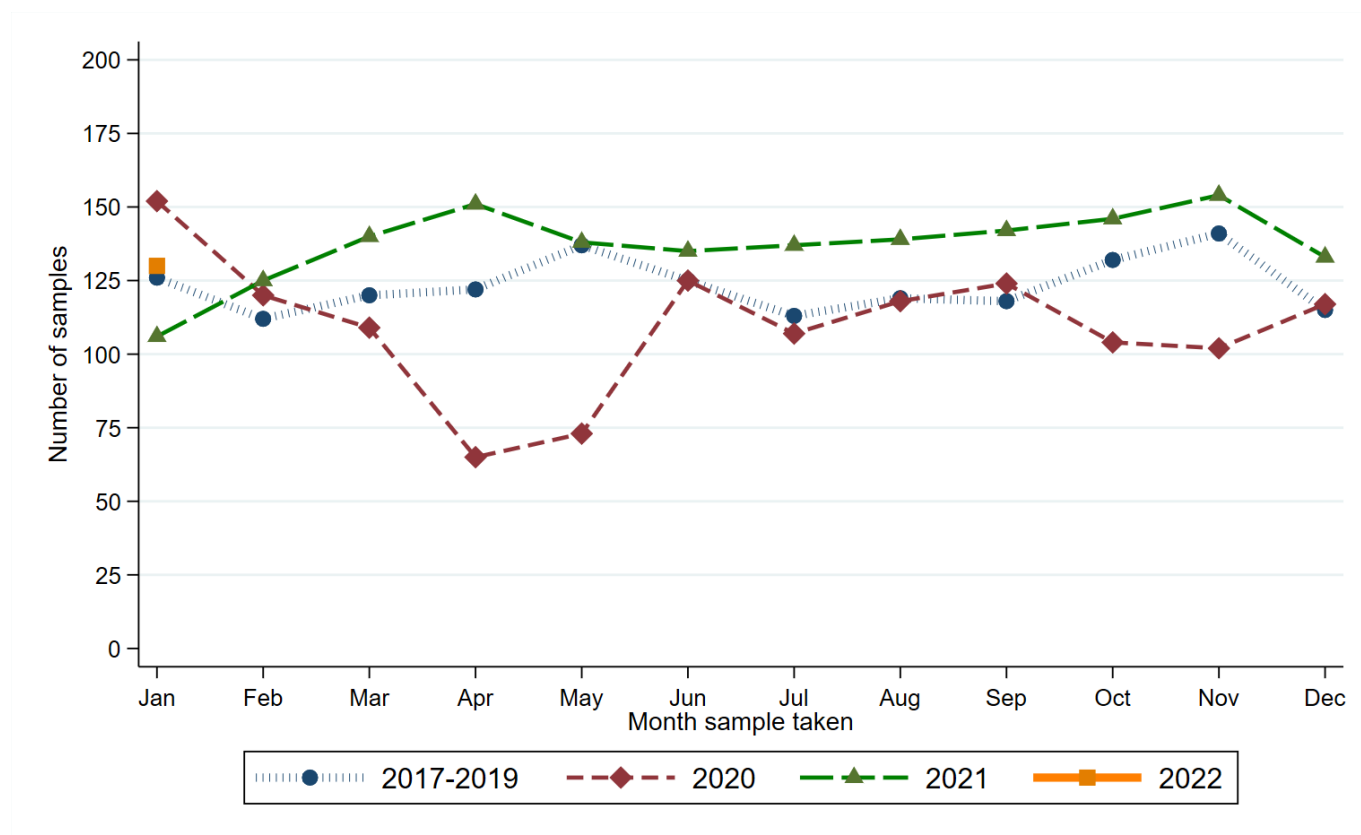
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	126	152	106	130
Feb	112	120	125	.
Mar	120	109	140	.
Apr	122	65	151	.
May	137	73	138	.
Jun	125	125	135	.
Jul	113	107	137	.
Aug	119	118	139	.
Sep	118	124	142	.
Oct	132	104	146	.
Nov	141	102	154	.
Dec	115	117	133	.

Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+8.0%

Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
13/11/2021	33	40
20/11/2021	37	26
27/11/2021	34	38
04/12/2021	36	33
11/12/2021	31	34
18/12/2021	25	48
25/12/2021	14	24
01/01/2022	28	13
08/01/2022	30	21
15/01/2022	28	35
22/01/2022	28	40
29/01/2022	27	27

*Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

BOWEL CANCER (SCREENING AGE)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020

Percentage change from March 2020 to January 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+2.3%
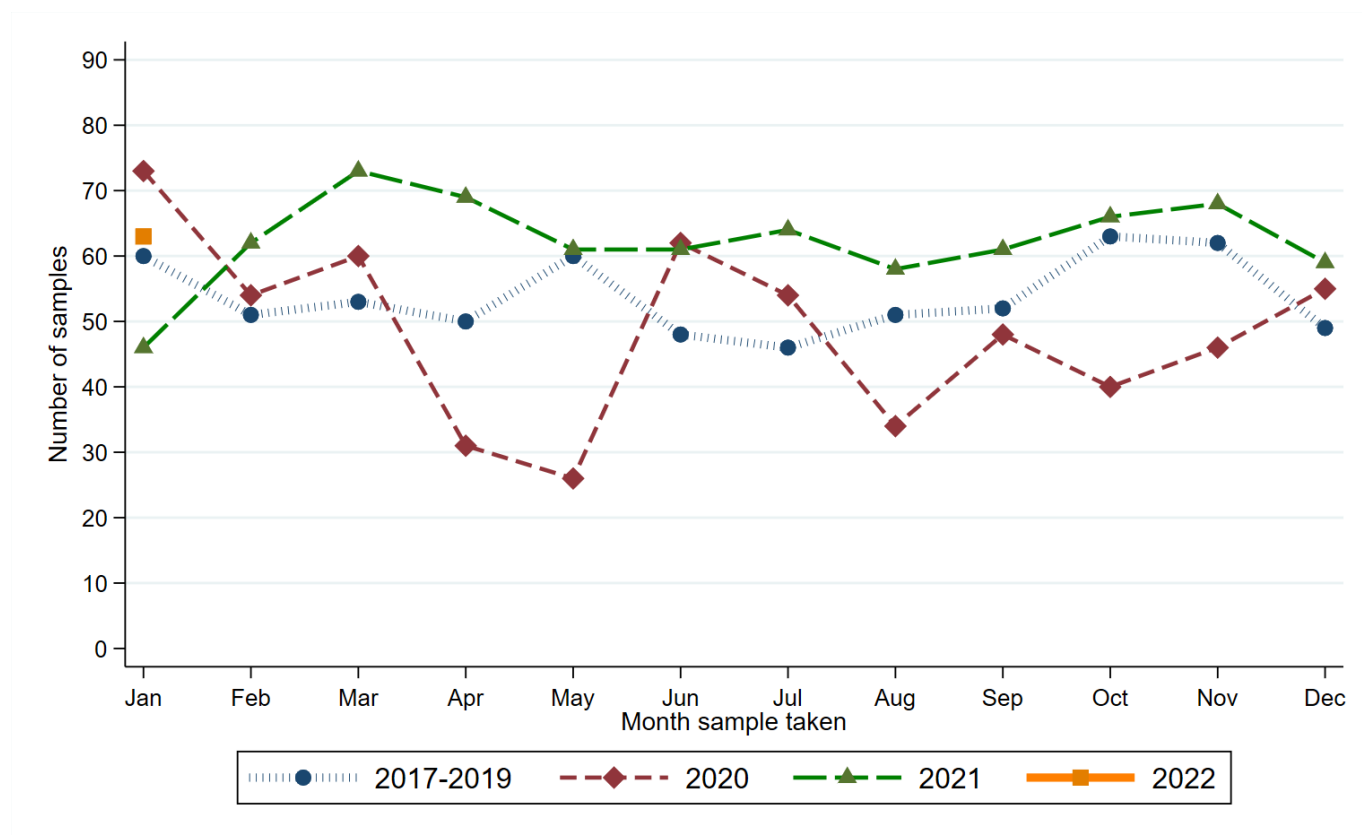
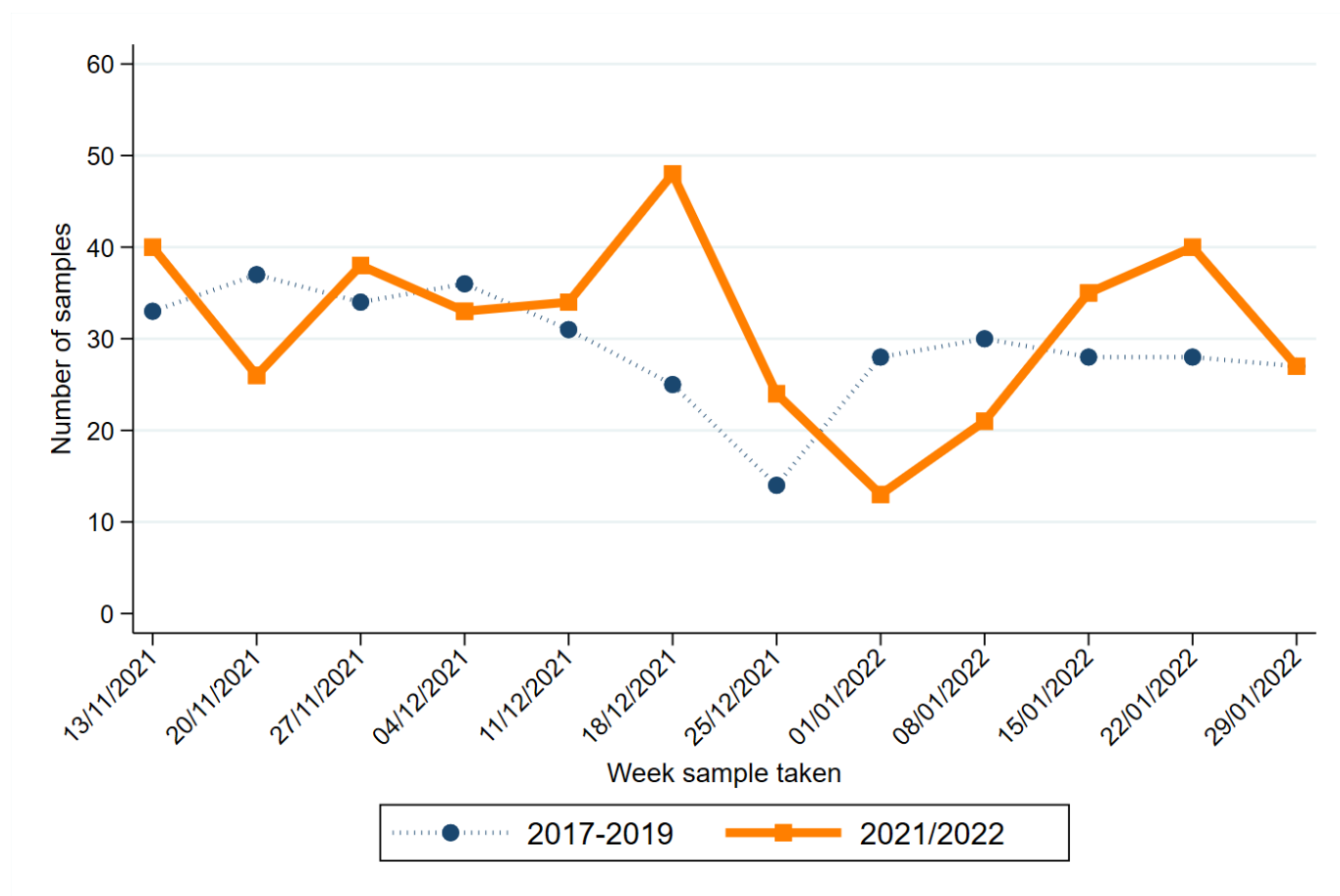| Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	60	73	46	63
Feb	51	54	62	.
Mar	53	60	73	.
Apr	50	31	69	.
May	60	26	61	.
Jun	48	62	61	.
Jul	46	54	64	.
Aug	51	34	58	.
Sep	52	48	61	.
Oct	63	40	66	.
Nov	62	46	68	.
Dec	49	55	59	.

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+16.8%
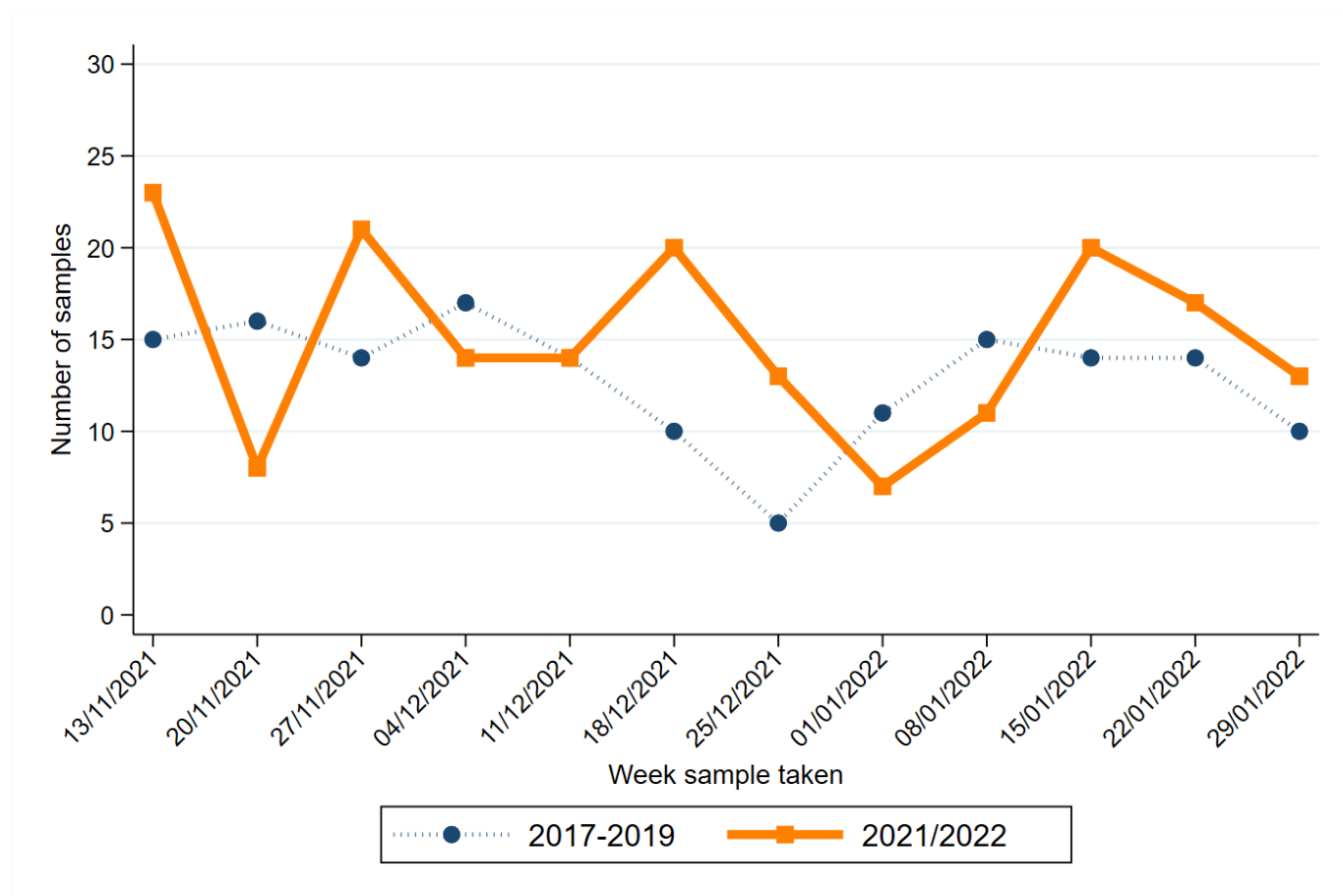
Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
13/11/2021	15	23
20/11/2021	16	8
27/11/2021	14	21
04/12/2021	17	14
11/12/2021	14	14
18/12/2021	10	20
25/12/2021	5	13
01/01/2022	11	7
08/01/2022	15	11
15/01/2022	14	20
22/01/2022	14	17
29/01/2022	10	13

*Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

LUNG CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020

**Percentage change from March 2020 to January 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

-26.1%
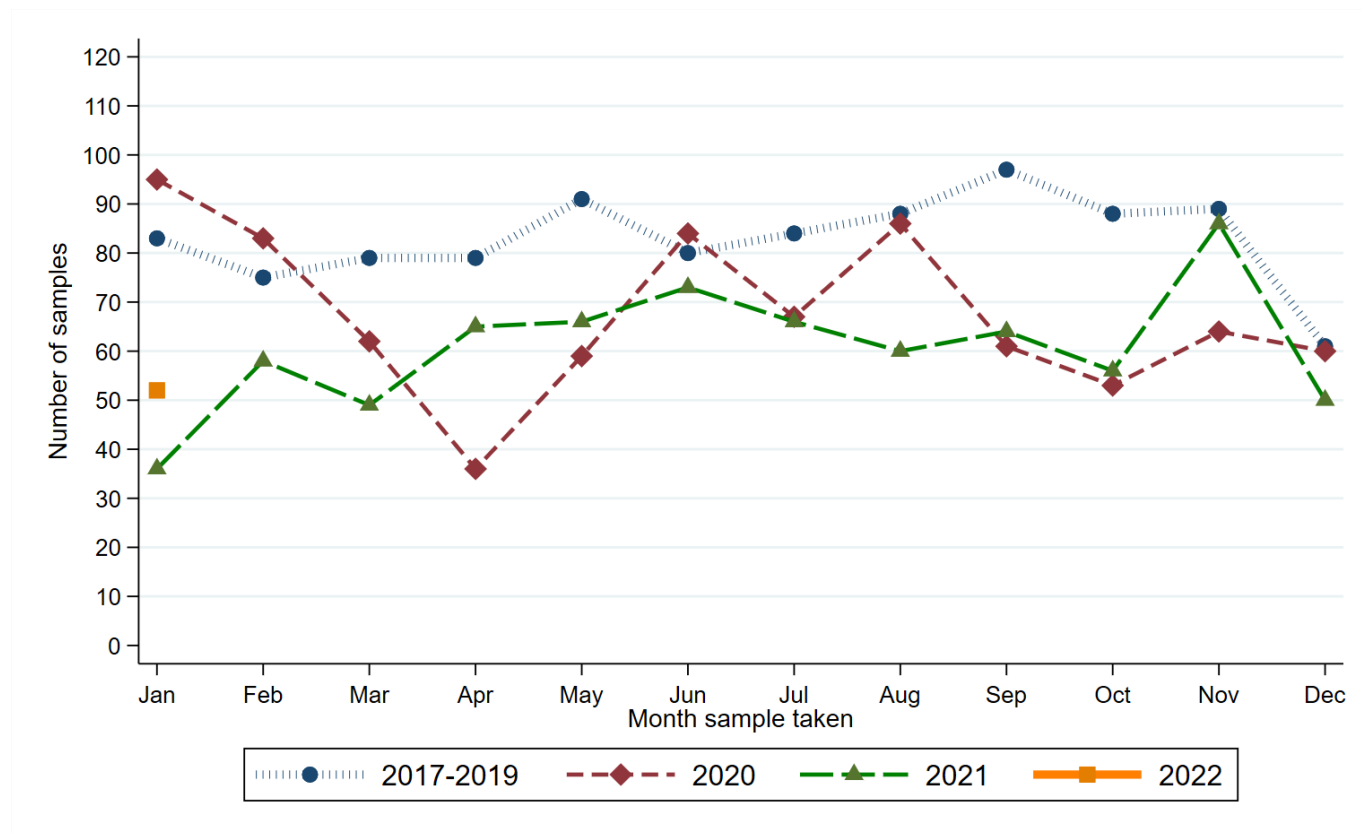
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	83	95	36	52
Feb	75	83	58	.
Mar	79	62	49	.
Apr	79	36	65	.
May	91	59	66	.
Jun	80	84	73	.
Jul	84	67	66	.
Aug	88	86	60	.
Sep	97	61	64	.
Oct	88	53	56	.
Nov	89	64	86	.
Dec	61	60	50	.

Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-26.9%
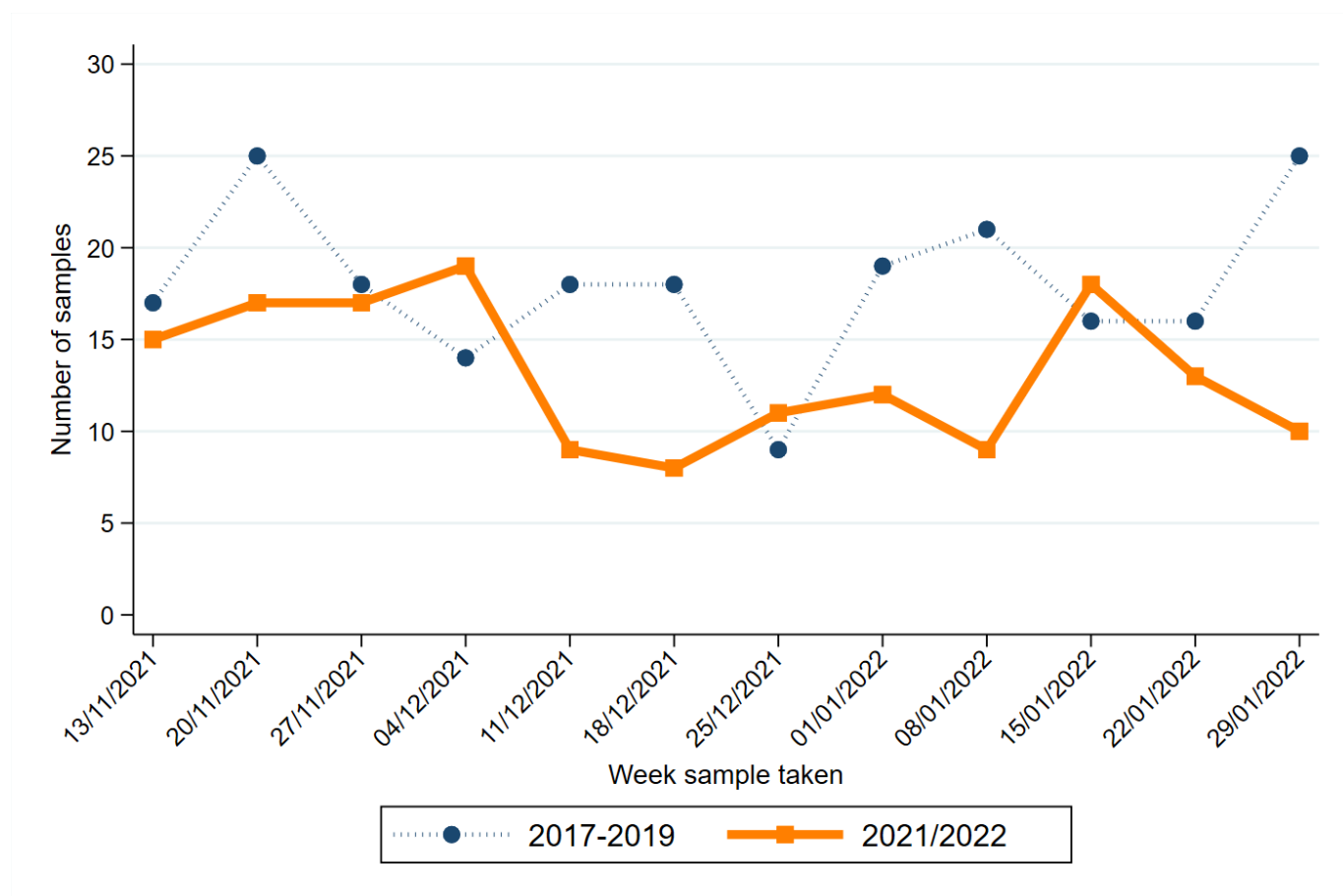
Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
13/11/2021	17	15
20/11/2021	25	17
27/11/2021	18	17
04/12/2021	14	19
11/12/2021	18	9
18/12/2021	18	8
25/12/2021	9	11
01/01/2022	19	12
08/01/2022	21	9
15/01/2022	16	18
22/01/2022	16	13
29/01/2022	25	10

Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

**Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

FEMALE BREAST CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020

Percentage change from March 2020 to January 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

### -3.7%
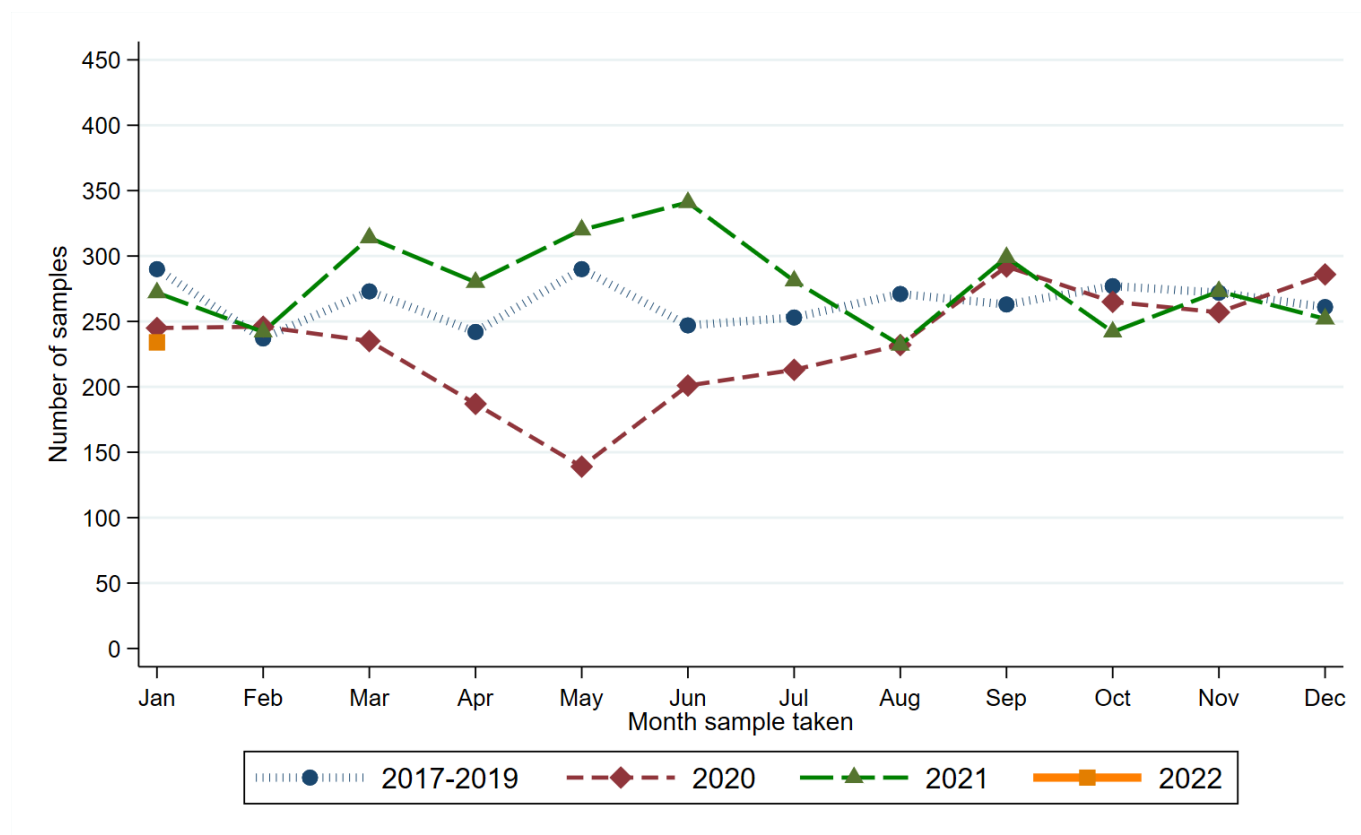
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	290	245	272	234
Feb	237	246	242	.
Mar	273	235	314	.
Apr	242	187	280	.
May	290	139	320	.
Jun	247	201	341	.
Jul	253	213	281	.
Aug	271	232	232	.
Sep	263	292	299	.
Oct	277	265	242	.
Nov	272	257	273	.
Dec	261	286	252	.

Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-9.6%
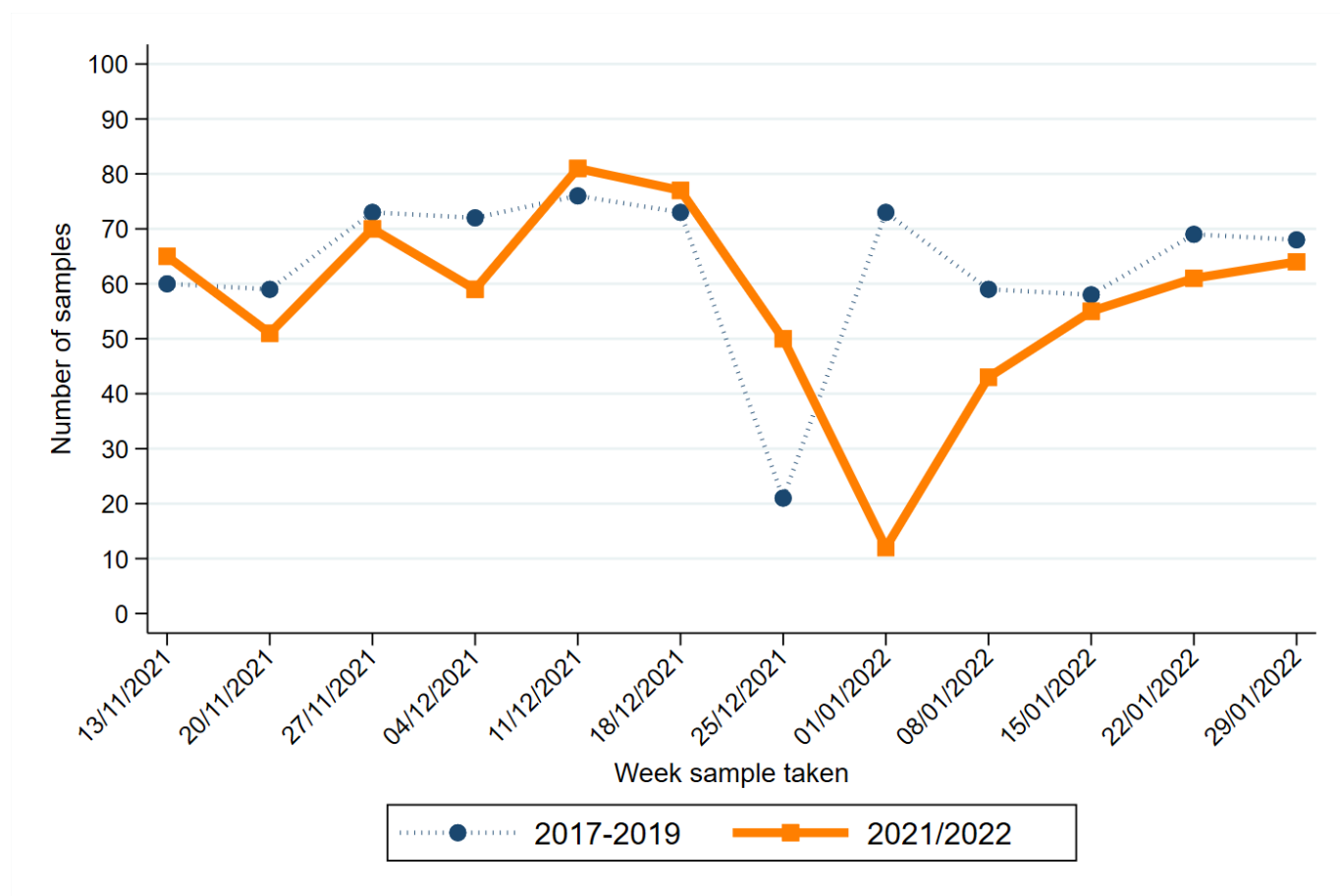
Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
13/11/2021	60	65
20/11/2021	59	51
27/11/2021	73	70
04/12/2021	72	59
11/12/2021	76	81
18/12/2021	73	77
25/12/2021	21	50
01/01/2022	73	12
08/01/2022	59	43
15/01/2022	58	55
22/01/2022	69	61
29/01/2022	68	64

*Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

FEMALE BREAST CANCER (SCREENING AGE)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020

### Percentage change from March 2020 to January 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+0.7%
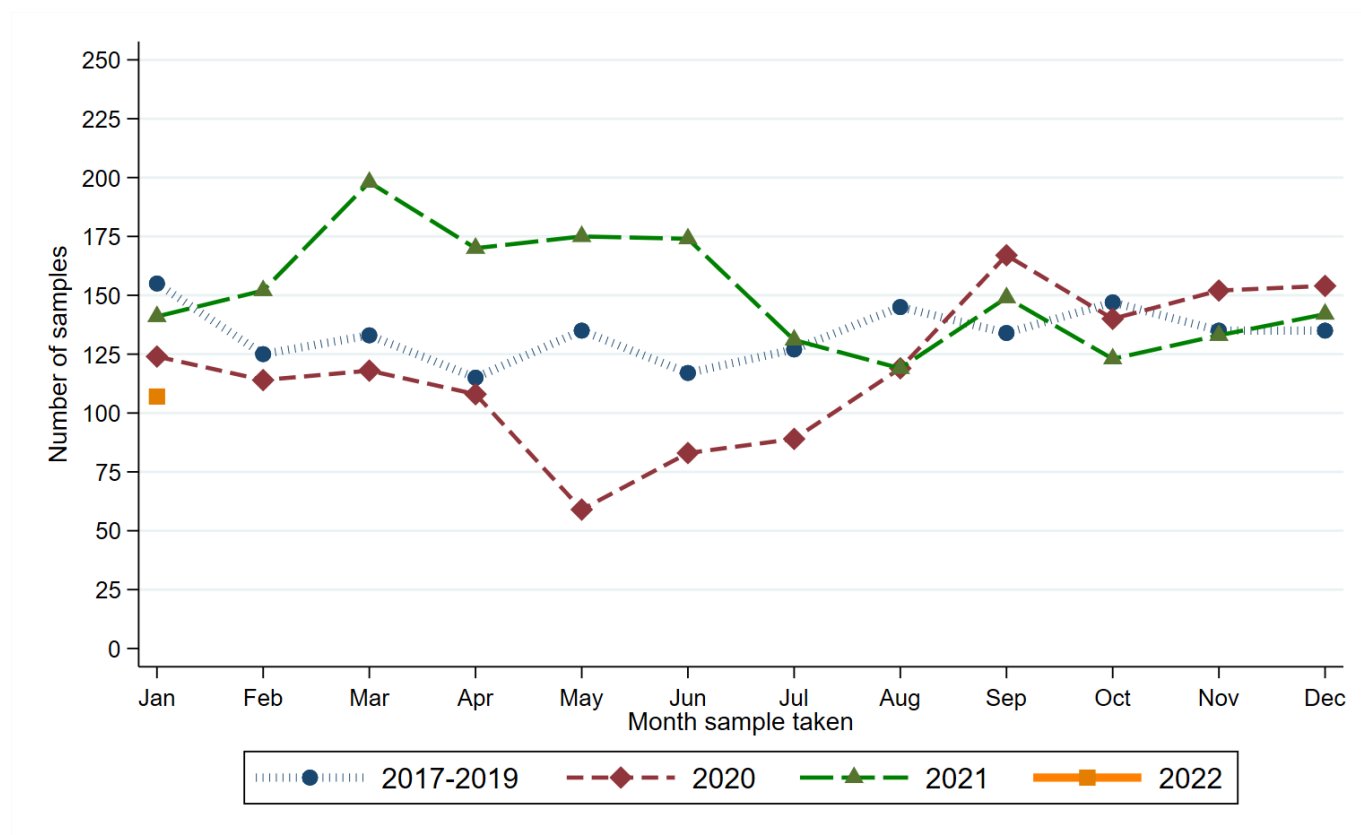
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	155	124	141	107
Feb	125	114	152	.
Mar	133	118	198	.
Apr	115	108	170	.
May	135	59	175	.
Jun	117	83	174	.
Jul	127	89	131	.
Aug	145	119	119	.
Sep	134	167	149	.
Oct	147	140	123	.
Nov	135	152	133	.
Dec	135	154	142	.

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-12.7%

Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
13/11/2021	34	24
20/11/2021	28	25
27/11/2021	32	39
04/12/2021	37	28
11/12/2021	39	47
18/12/2021	38	44
25/12/2021	11	29
01/01/2022	36	5
08/01/2022	34	19
15/01/2022	31	23
22/01/2022	38	30
29/01/2022	35	30

Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

PROSTATE CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020

Percentage change from March 2020 to January 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-7.5%

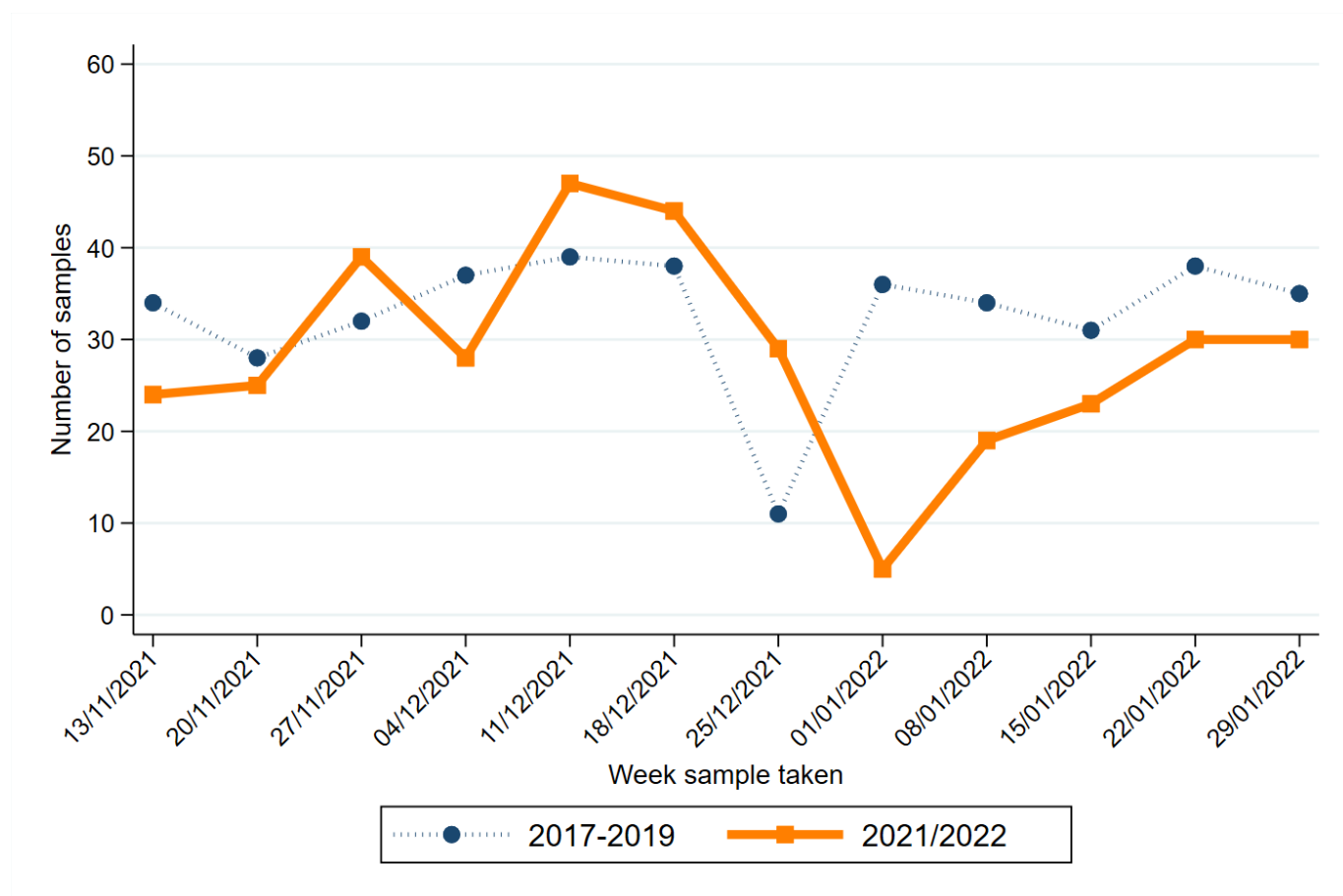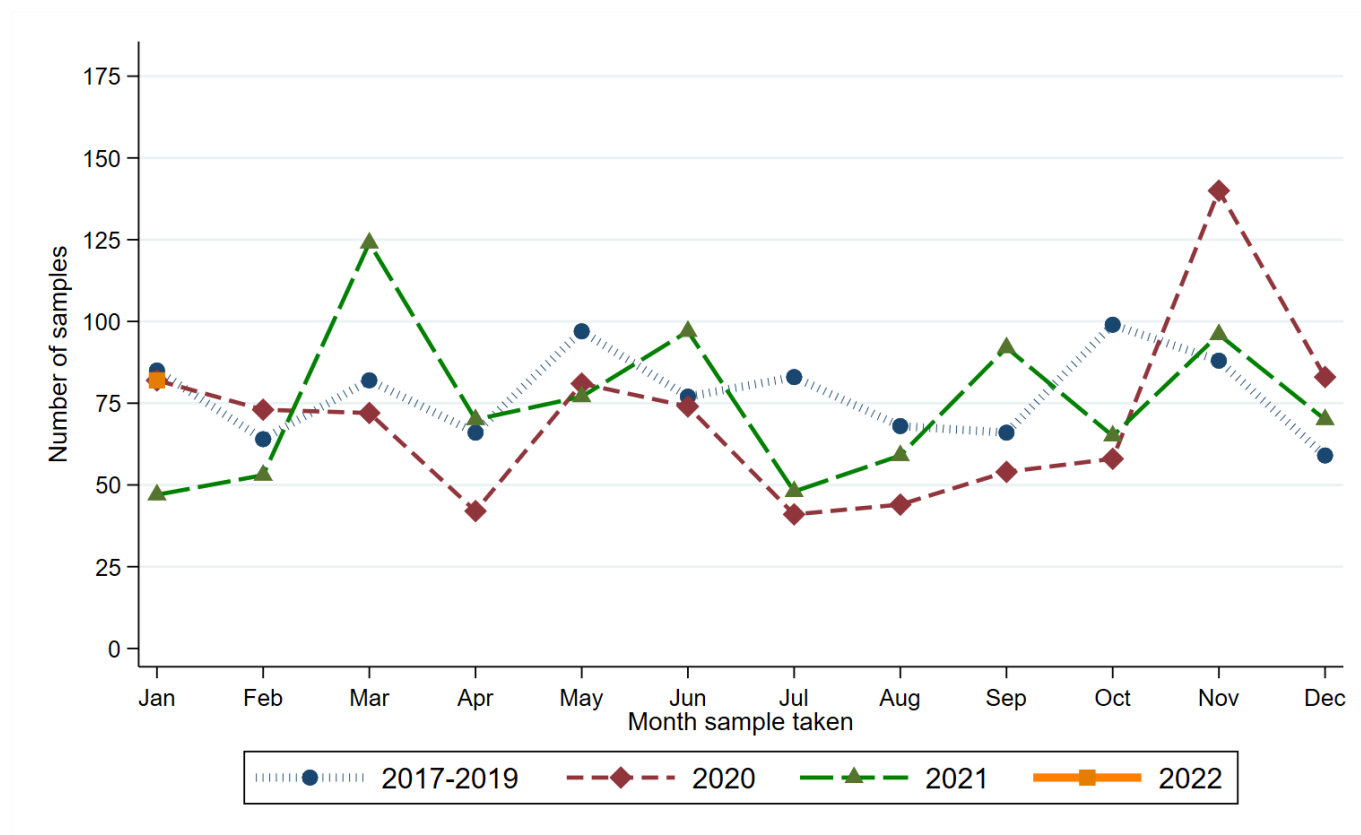| Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**
Jan	85	82	47	82
Feb	64	73	53	.
Mar	82	72	124	.
Apr	66	42	70	.
May	97	81	77	.
Jun	77	74	97	.
Jul	83	41	48	.
Aug	68	44	59	.
Sep	66	54	92	.
Oct	99	58	65	.
Nov	88	140	96	.
Dec	59	83	70	.

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+5.7%
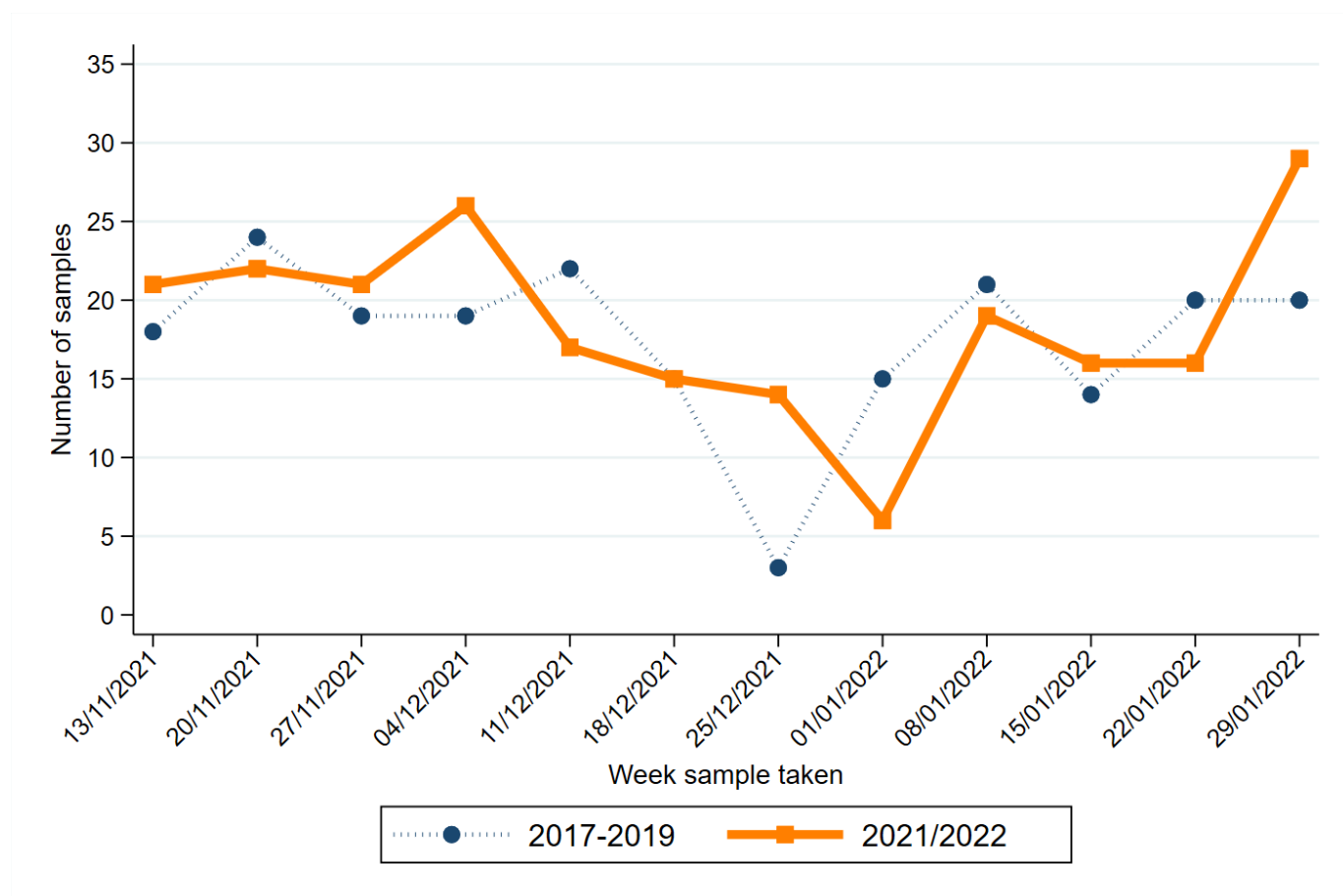
Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
13/11/2021	18	21
20/11/2021	24	22
27/11/2021	19	21
04/12/2021	19	26
11/12/2021	22	17
18/12/2021	15	15
25/12/2021	3	14
01/01/2022	15	6
08/01/2022	21	19
15/01/2022	14	16
22/01/2022	20	16
29/01/2022	20	29

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020

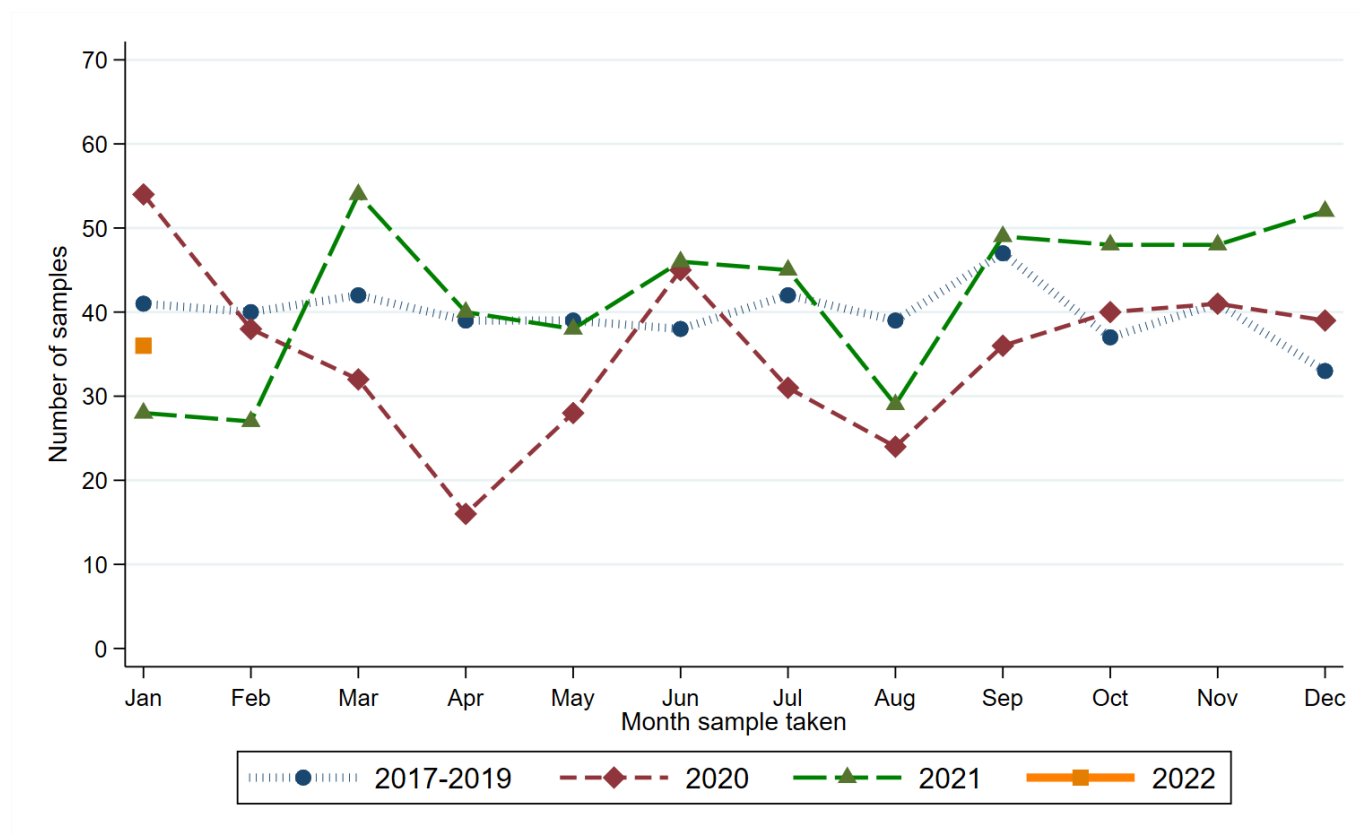### Percentage change from March 2020 to January 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-4.8%

Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	41	54	28	36
Feb	40	38	27	.
Mar	42	32	54	.
Apr	39	16	40	.
May	39	28	38	.
Jun	38	45	46	.
Jul	42	31	45	.
Aug	39	24	29	.
Sep	47	36	49	.
Oct	37	40	48	.
Nov	41	41	48	.
Dec	33	39	52	.

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+17.6%
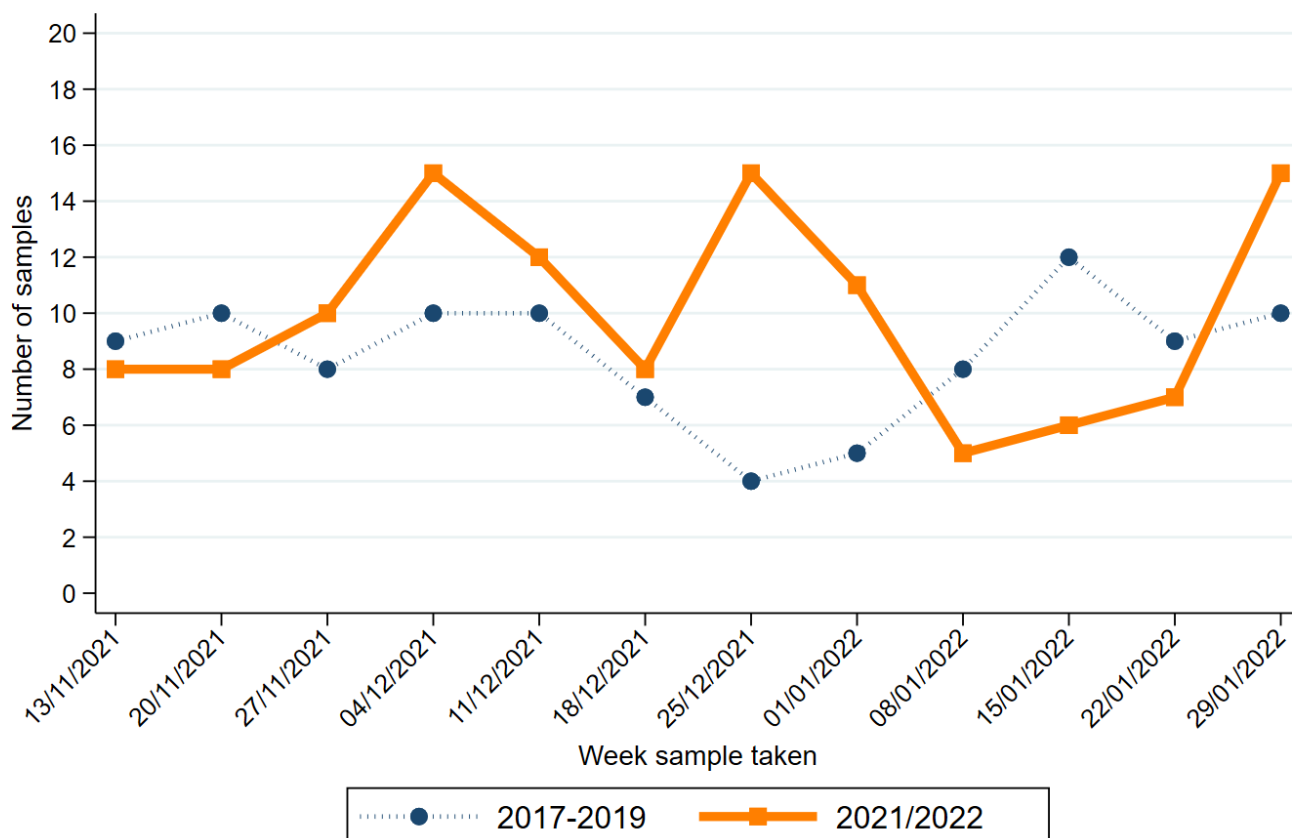
Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
13/11/2021	9	8
20/11/2021	10	8
27/11/2021	8	10
04/12/2021	10	15
11/12/2021	10	12
18/12/2021	7	8
25/12/2021	4	15
01/01/2022	5	11
08/01/2022	8	5
15/01/2022	12	6
22/01/2022	9	7
29/01/2022	10	15

Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020

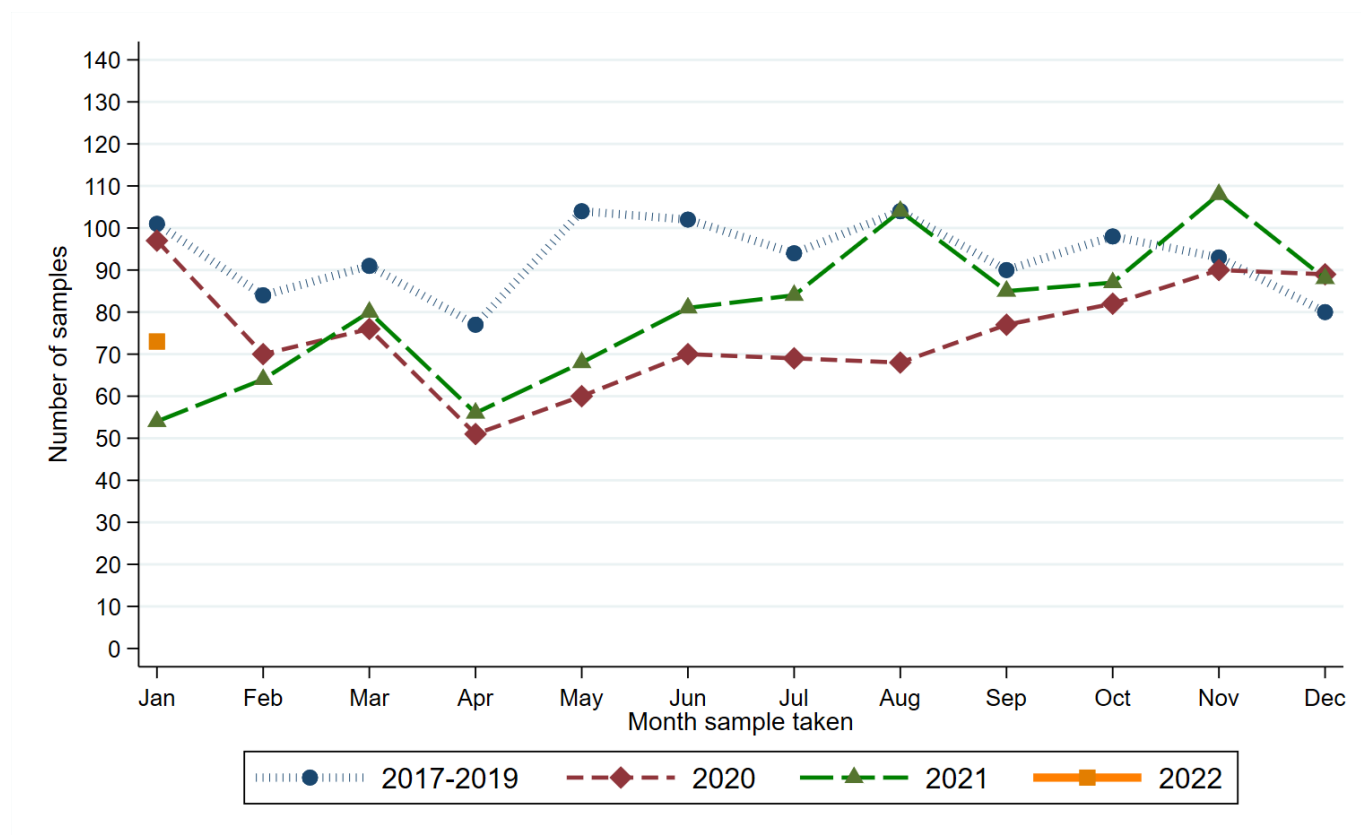**Percentage change from March 2020 to January 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

-18.0%

Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**
Jan	101	97	54	73
Feb	84	70	64	.
Mar	91	76	80	.
Apr	77	51	56	.
May	104	60	68	.
Jun	102	70	81	.
Jul	94	69	84	.
Aug	104	68	104	.
Sep	90	77	85	.
Oct	98	82	87	.
Nov	93	90	108	.
Dec	80	89	88	.

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-6.3%
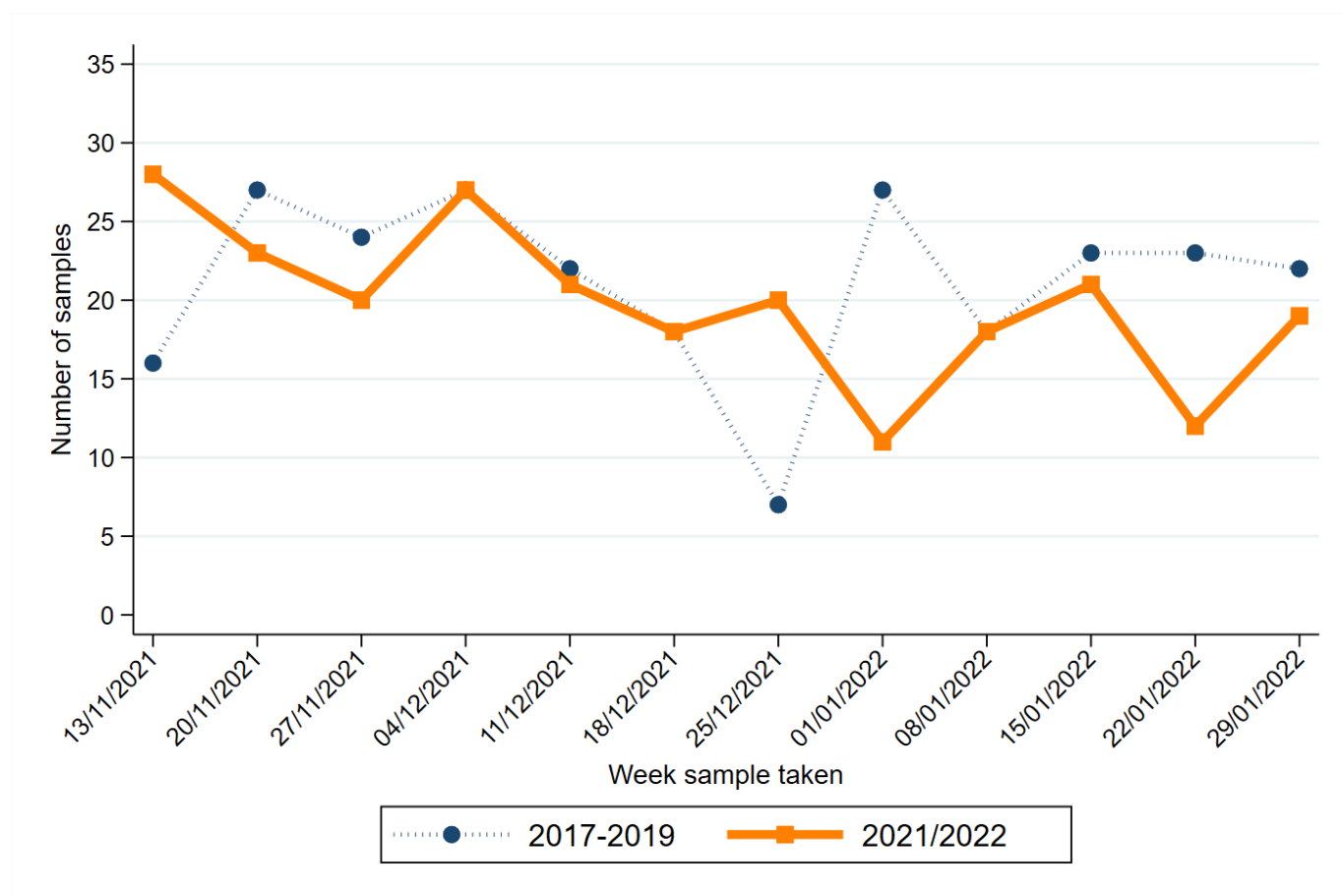
Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
13/11/2021	16	28
20/11/2021	27	23
27/11/2021	24	20
04/12/2021	27	27
11/12/2021	22	21
18/12/2021	18	18
25/12/2021	7	20
01/01/2022	27	11
08/01/2022	18	18
15/01/2022	23	21
22/01/2022	23	12
29/01/2022	22	19

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

HEAD AND NECK CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020

Percentage change from March 2020 to January 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average
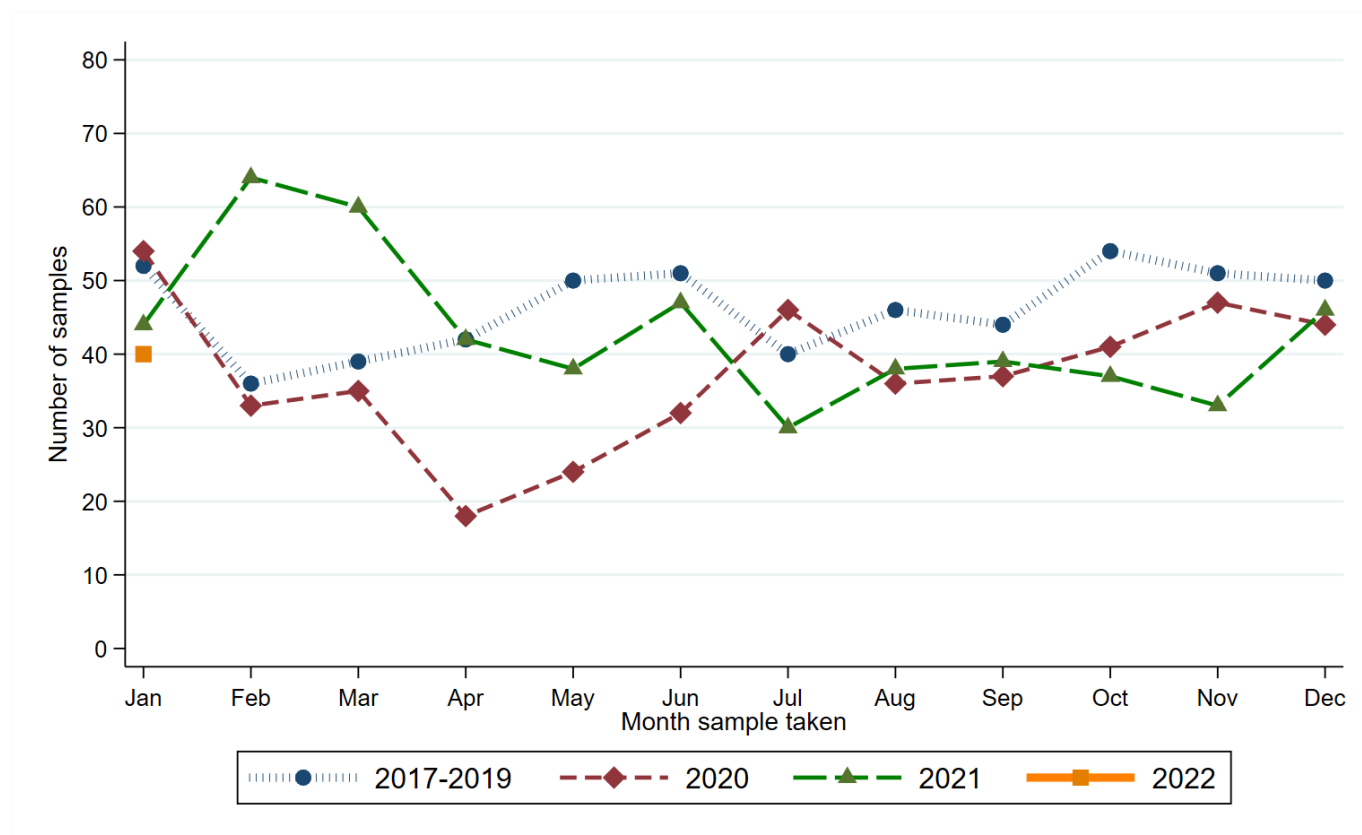
-14.5%

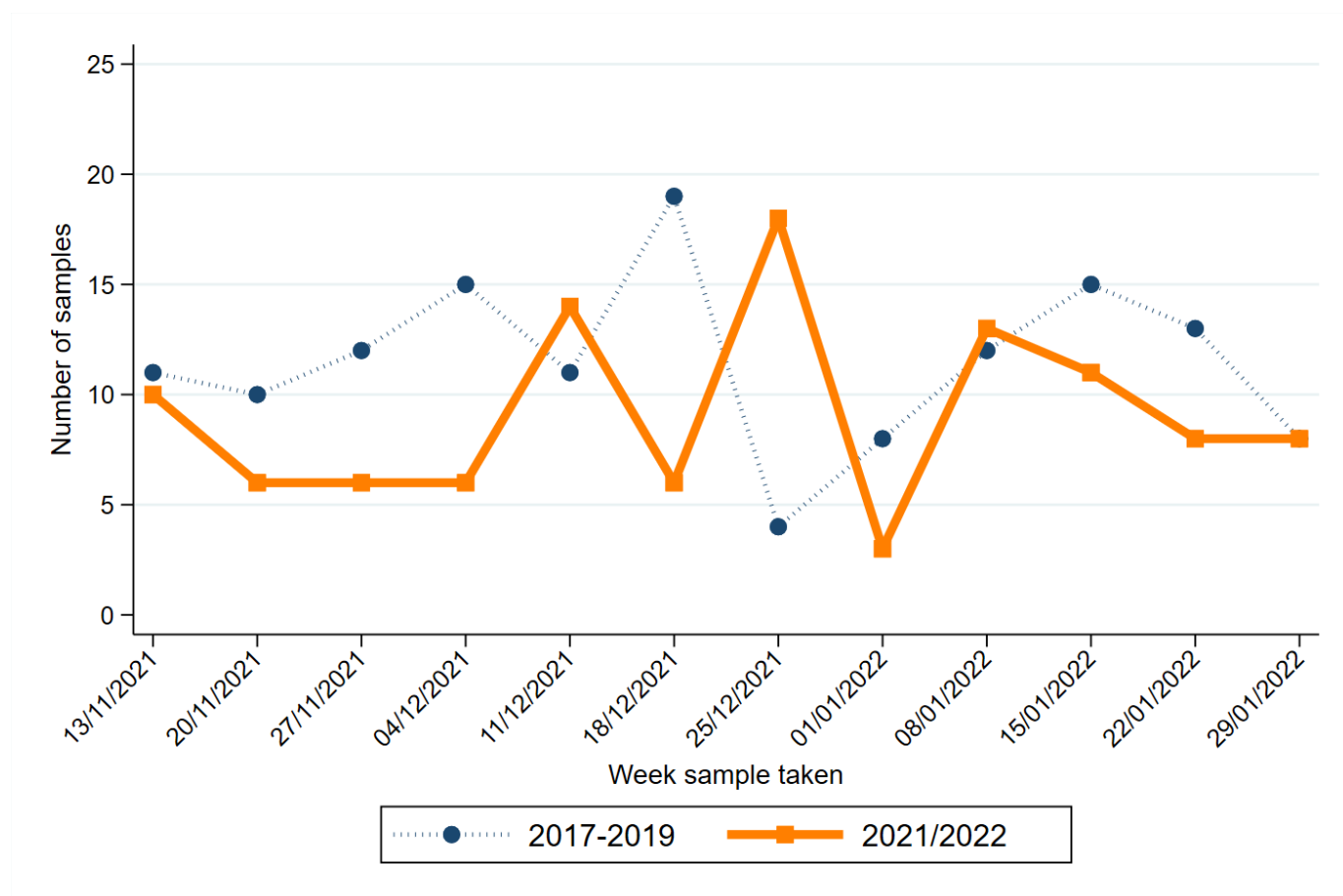| Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	52	54	44	40
Feb	36	33	64	.
Mar	39	35	60	.
Apr	42	18	42	.
May	50	24	38	.
Jun	51	32	47	.
Jul	40	46	30	.
Aug	46	36	38	.
Sep	44	37	39	.
Oct	54	41	37	.
Nov	51	47	33	.
Dec	50	44	46	.

Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-21.0%

Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
13/11/2021	11	10
20/11/2021	10	6
27/11/2021	12	6
04/12/2021	15	6
11/12/2021	11	14
18/12/2021	19	6
25/12/2021	4	18
01/01/2022	8	3
08/01/2022	12	13
15/01/2022	15	11
22/01/2022	13	8
29/01/2022	8	8

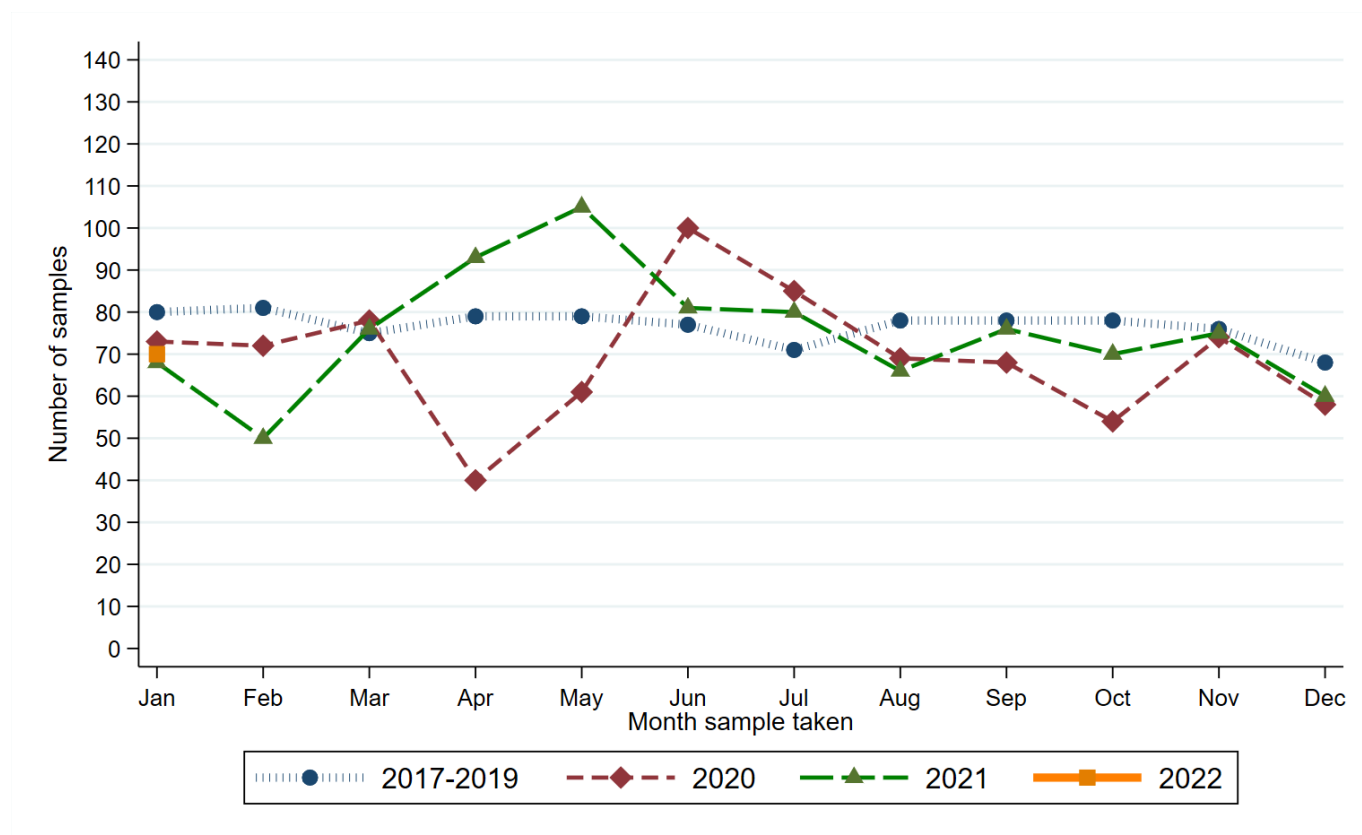*Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

URINARY CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020

Percentage change from March 2020 to January 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-5.8%

Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	80	73	68	70
Feb	81	72	50	.
Mar	75	78	76	.
Apr	79	40	93	.
May	79	61	105	.
Jun	77	100	81	.
Jul	71	85	80	.
Aug	78	69	66	.
Sep	78	68	76	.
Oct	78	54	70	.
Nov	76	74	75	.
Dec	68	58	60	.

Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-12.1%
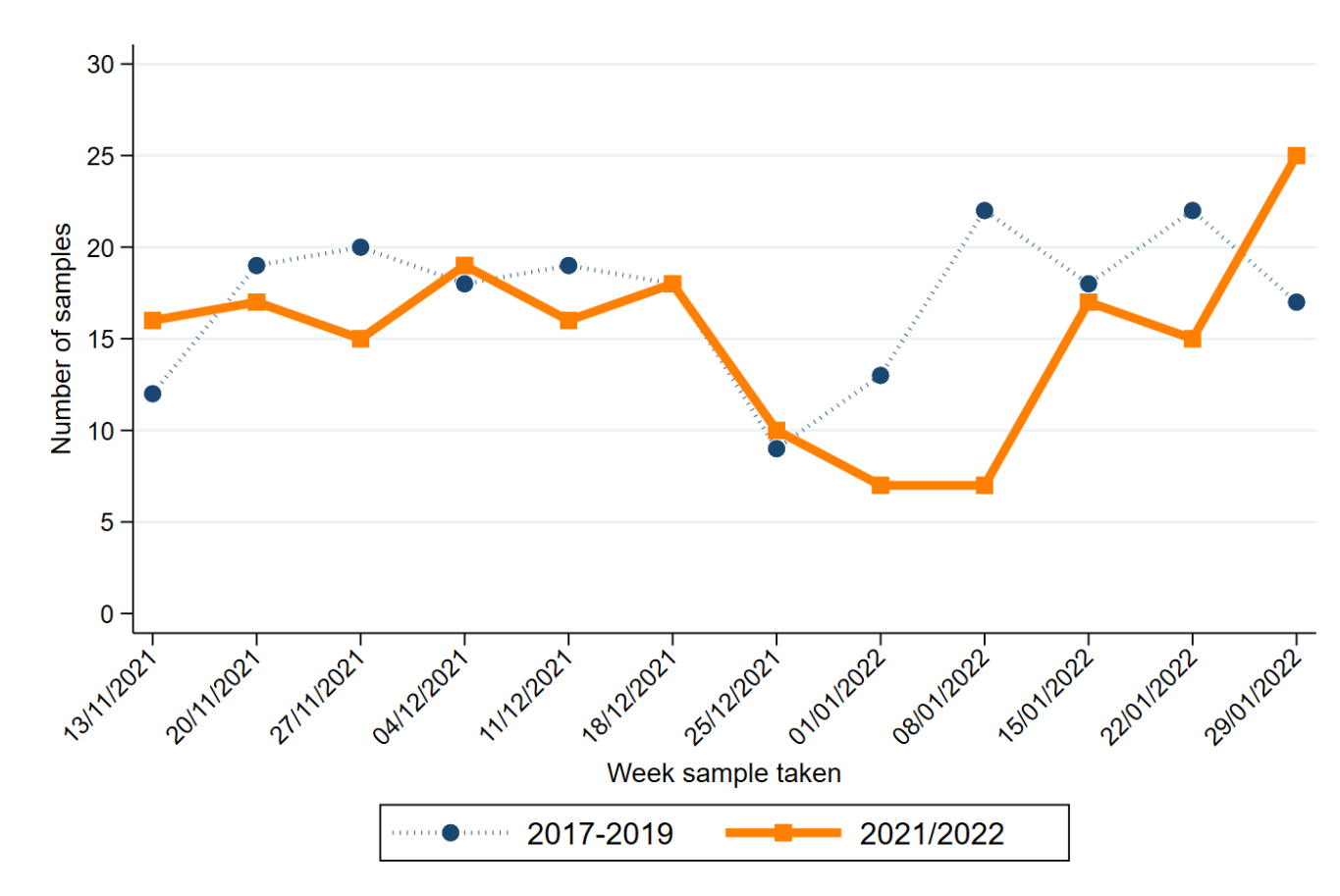
Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
13/11/2021	12	16
20/11/2021	19	17
27/11/2021	20	15
04/12/2021	18	19
11/12/2021	19	16
18/12/2021	18	18
25/12/2021	9	10
01/01/2022	13	7
08/01/2022	22	7
15/01/2022	18	17
22/01/2022	22	15
29/01/2022	17	25

Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

HAEMATOLOGICAL CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020

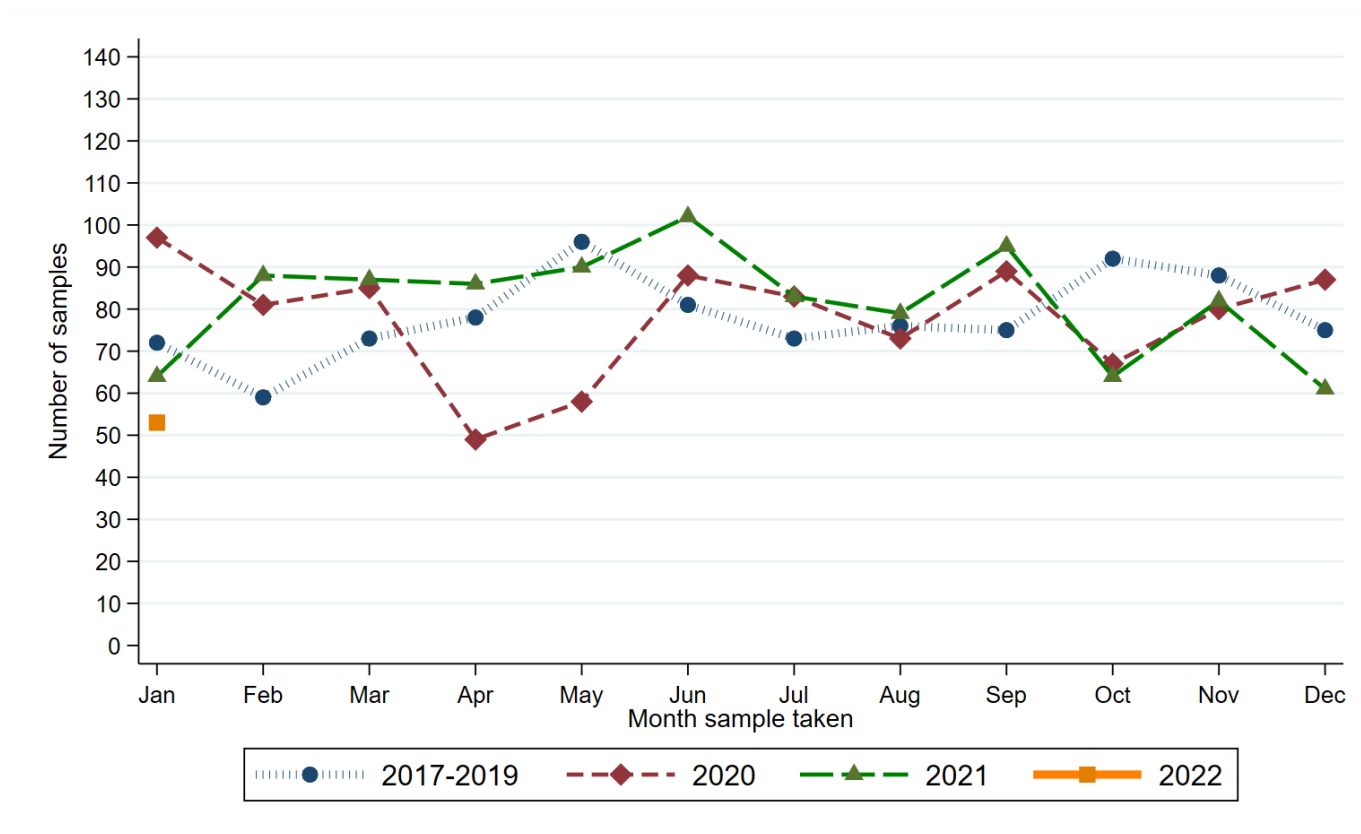### Percentage change from March 2020 to January 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-1.3%

Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	72	97	64	53
Feb	59	81	88	.
Mar	73	85	87	.
Apr	78	49	86	.
May	96	58	90	.
Jun	81	88	102	.
Jul	73	83	83	.
Aug	76	73	79	.
Sep	75	89	95	.
Oct	92	67	64	.
Nov	88	80	82	.
Dec	75	87	61	.

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-16.6%
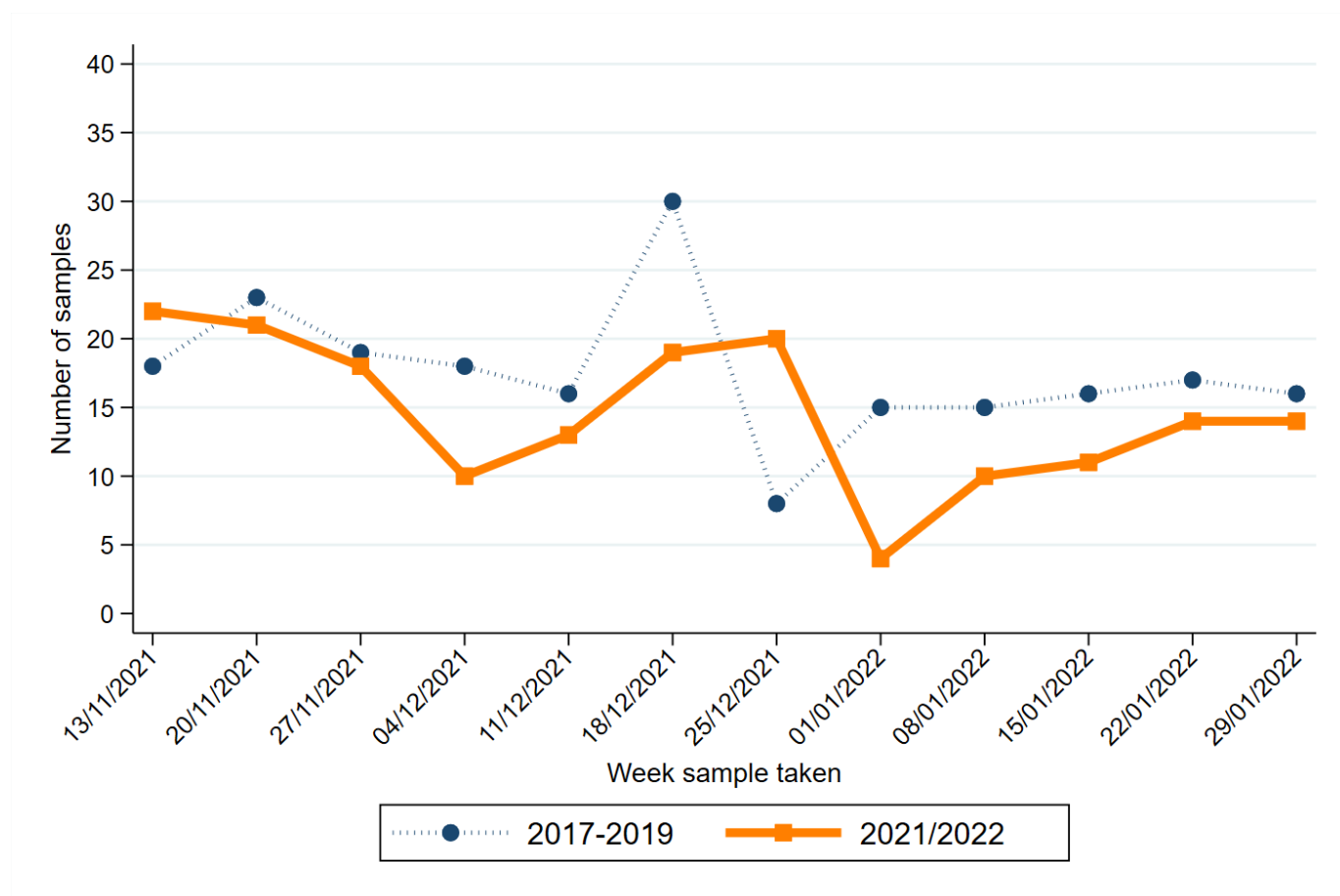
Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
13/11/2021	18	22
20/11/2021	23	21
27/11/2021	19	18
04/12/2021	18	10
11/12/2021	16	13
18/12/2021	30	19
25/12/2021	8	20
01/01/2022	15	4
08/01/2022	15	10
15/01/2022	16	11
22/01/2022	17	14
29/01/2022	16	14

Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

MELANOMA

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020

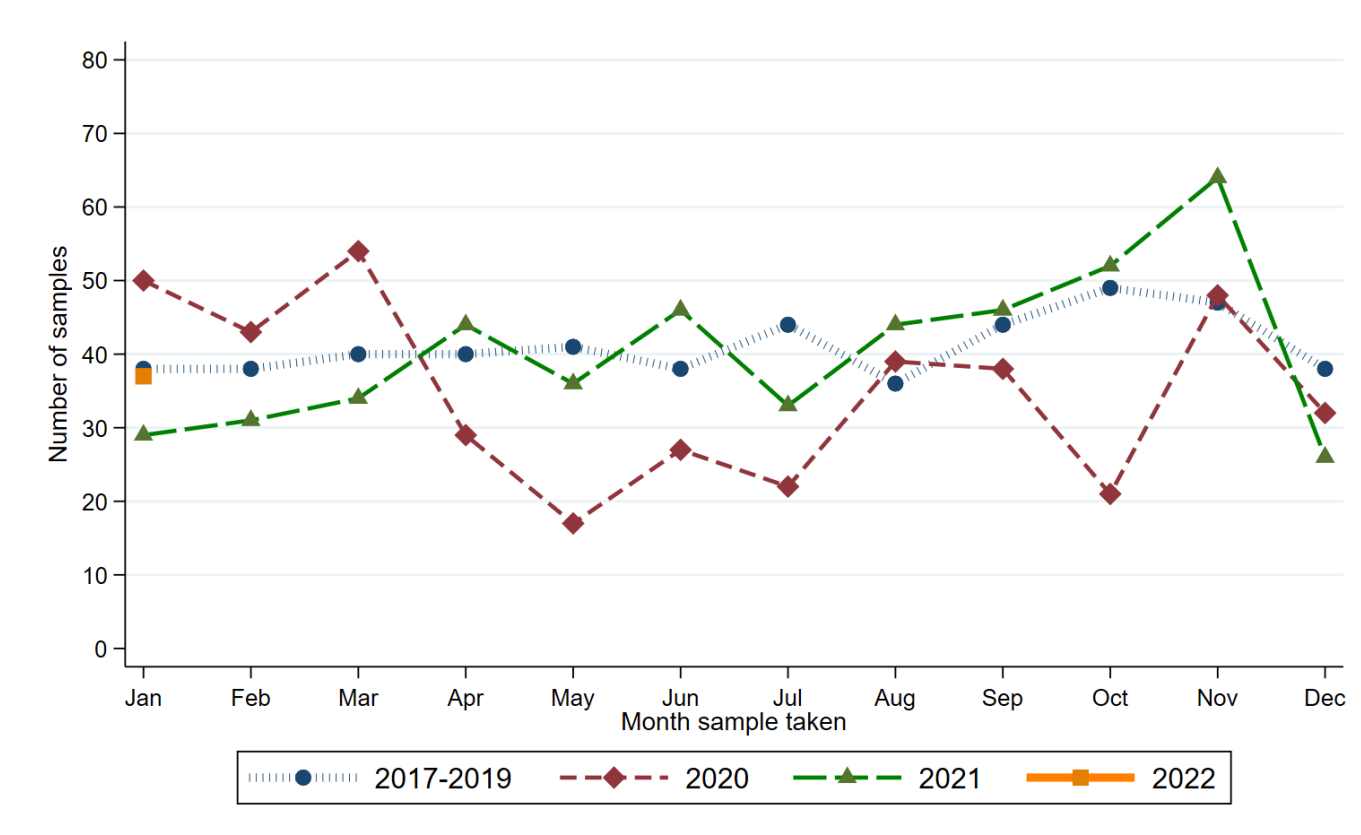**Percentage change from March 2020 to January 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

-10.4%

Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	38	50	29	37
Feb	38	43	31	.
Mar	40	54	34	.
Apr	40	29	44	.
May	41	17	36	.
Jun	38	27	46	.
Jul	44	22	33	.
Aug	36	39	44	.
Sep	44	38	46	.
Oct	49	21	52	.
Nov	47	48	64	.
Dec	38	32	26	.

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-0.9%
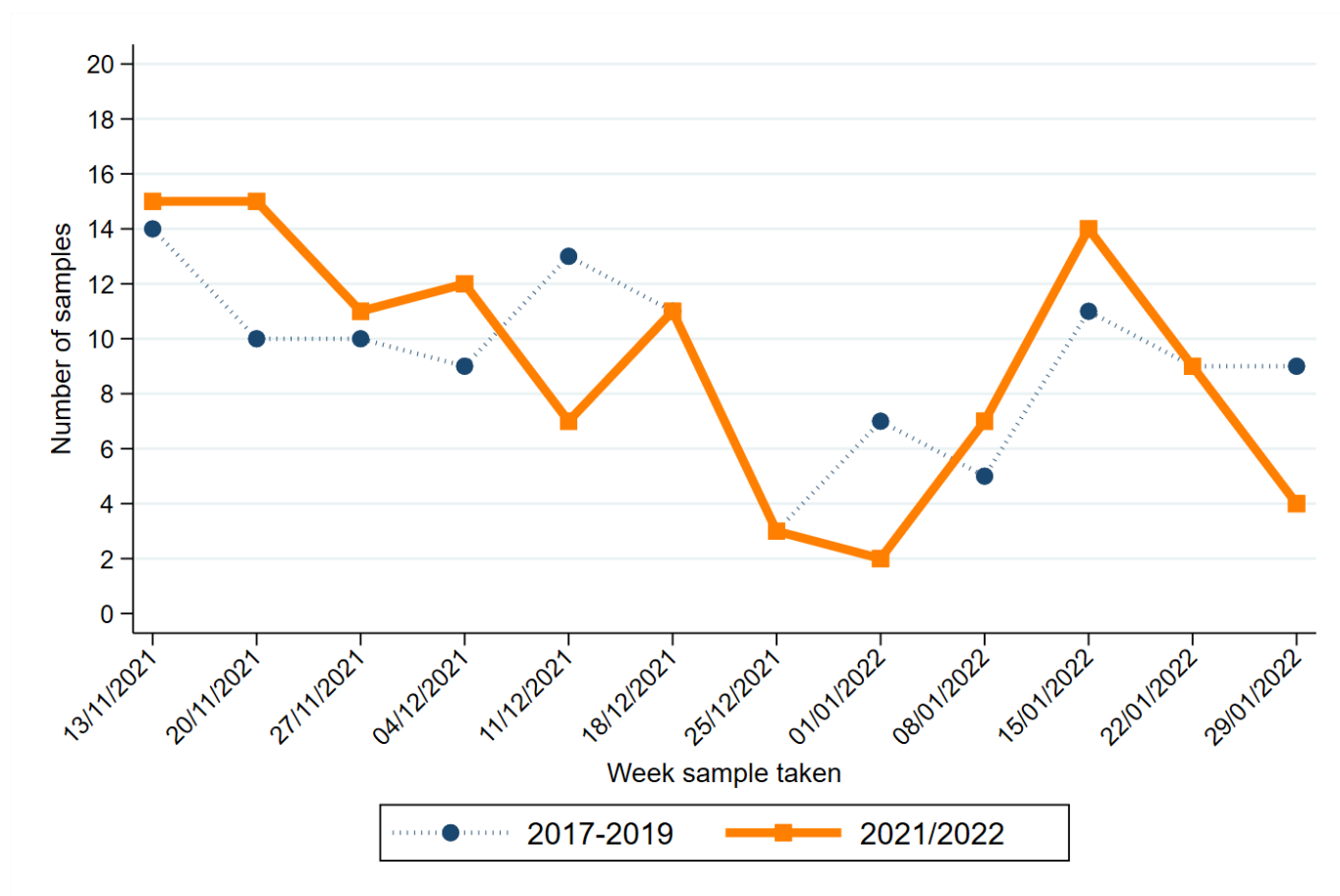
Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	**2021/2022**
13/11/2021	14	15
20/11/2021	10	15
27/11/2021	10	11
04/12/2021	9	12
11/12/2021	13	7
18/12/2021	11	11
25/12/2021	3	3
01/01/2022	7	2
08/01/2022	5	7
15/01/2022	11	14
22/01/2022	9	9
29/01/2022	9	4

Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.*

NON-MELANOMA SKIN CANCER

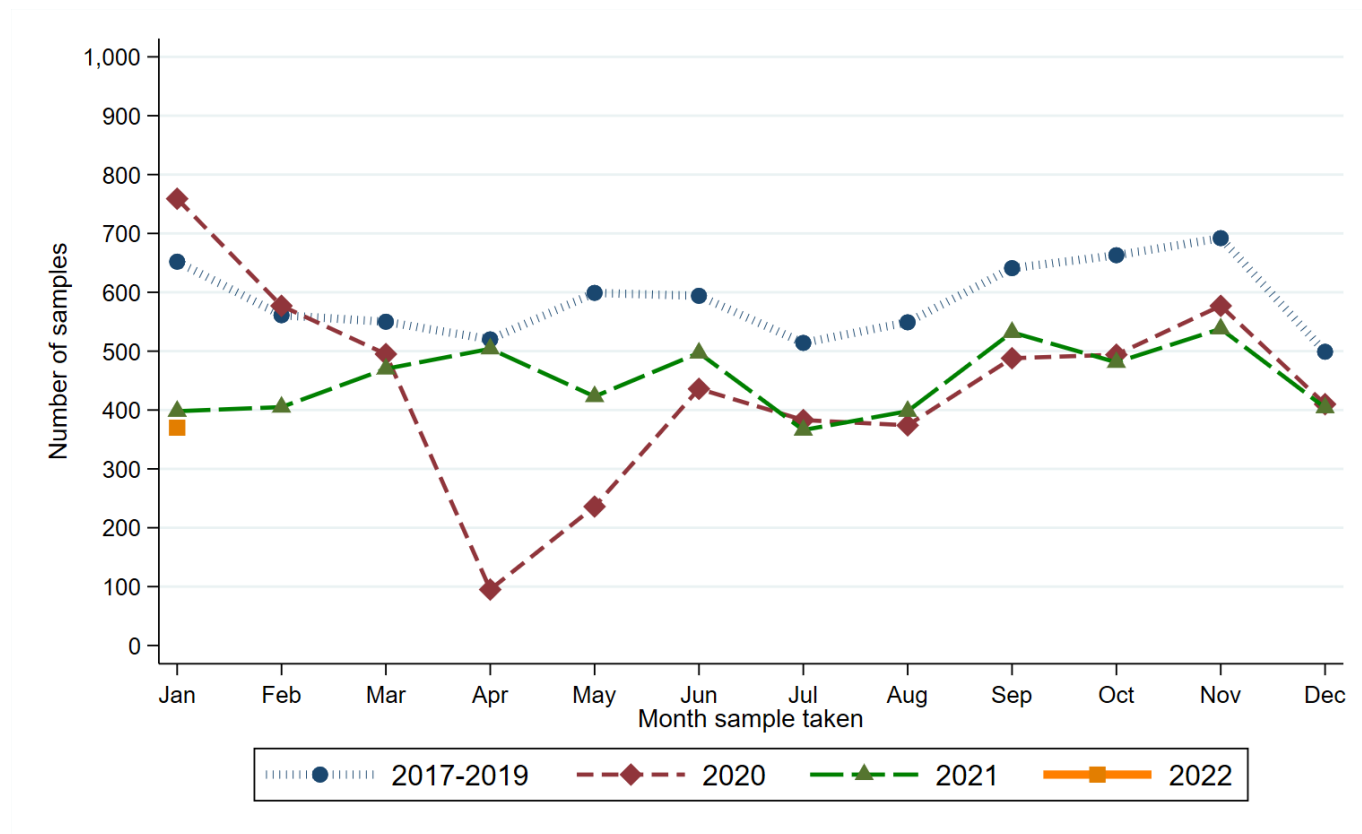**Percentage change from March 2020 to January 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

-27.6%

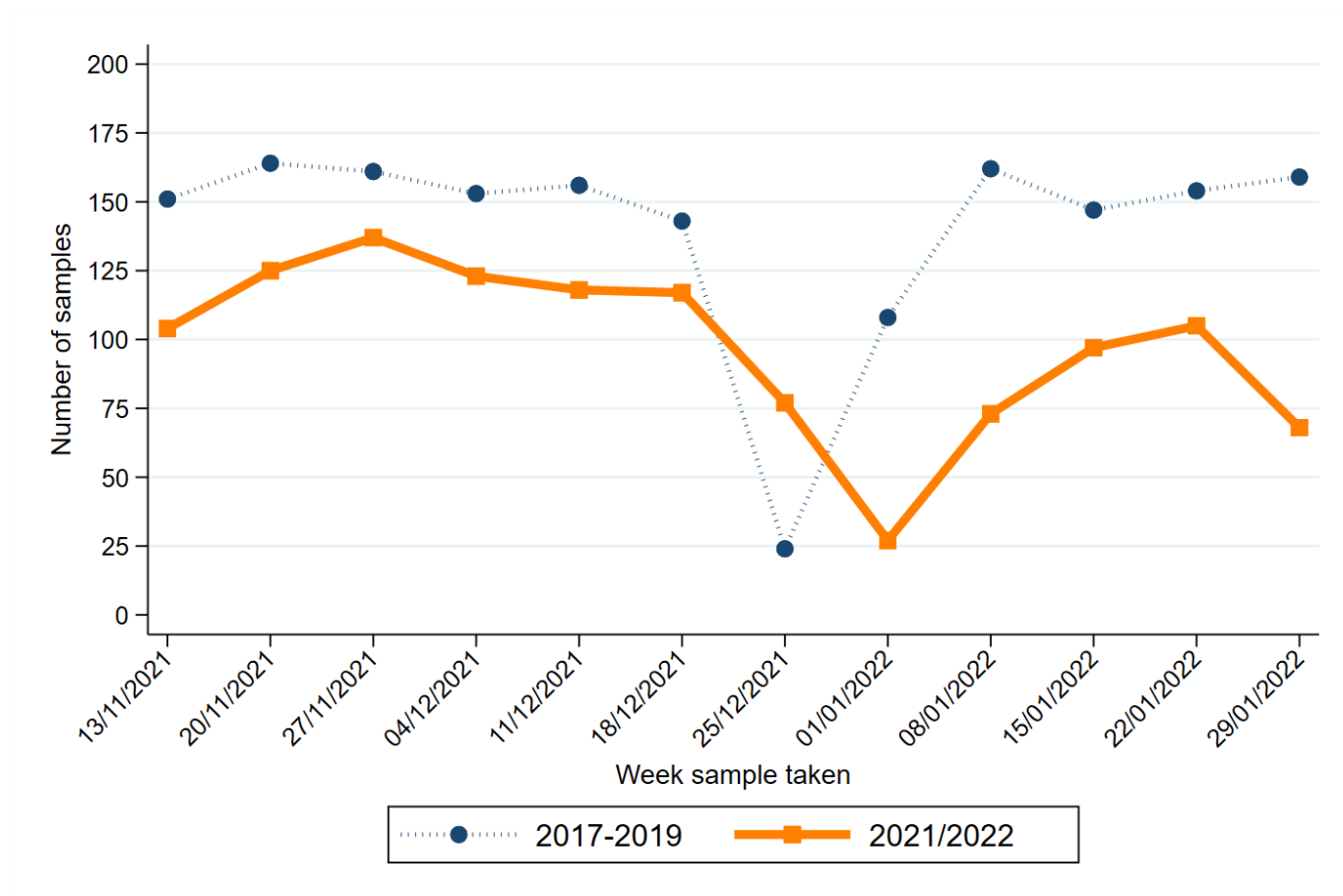| Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**
Jan	652	759	398	370
Feb	561	577	405	.
Mar	550	495	470	.
Apr	520	95	504	.
May	599	236	423	.
Jun	594	436	497	.
Jul	514	383	366	.
Aug	549	374	398	.
Sep	641	488	532	.
Oct	663	494	481	.
Nov	692	577	538	.
Dec	499	410	404	.

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-30.4%

Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
13/11/2021	151	104
20/11/2021	164	125
27/11/2021	161	137
04/12/2021	153	123
11/12/2021	156	118
18/12/2021	143	117
25/12/2021	24	77
01/01/2022	108	27
08/01/2022	162	73
15/01/2022	147	97
22/01/2022	154	105
29/01/2022	159	68

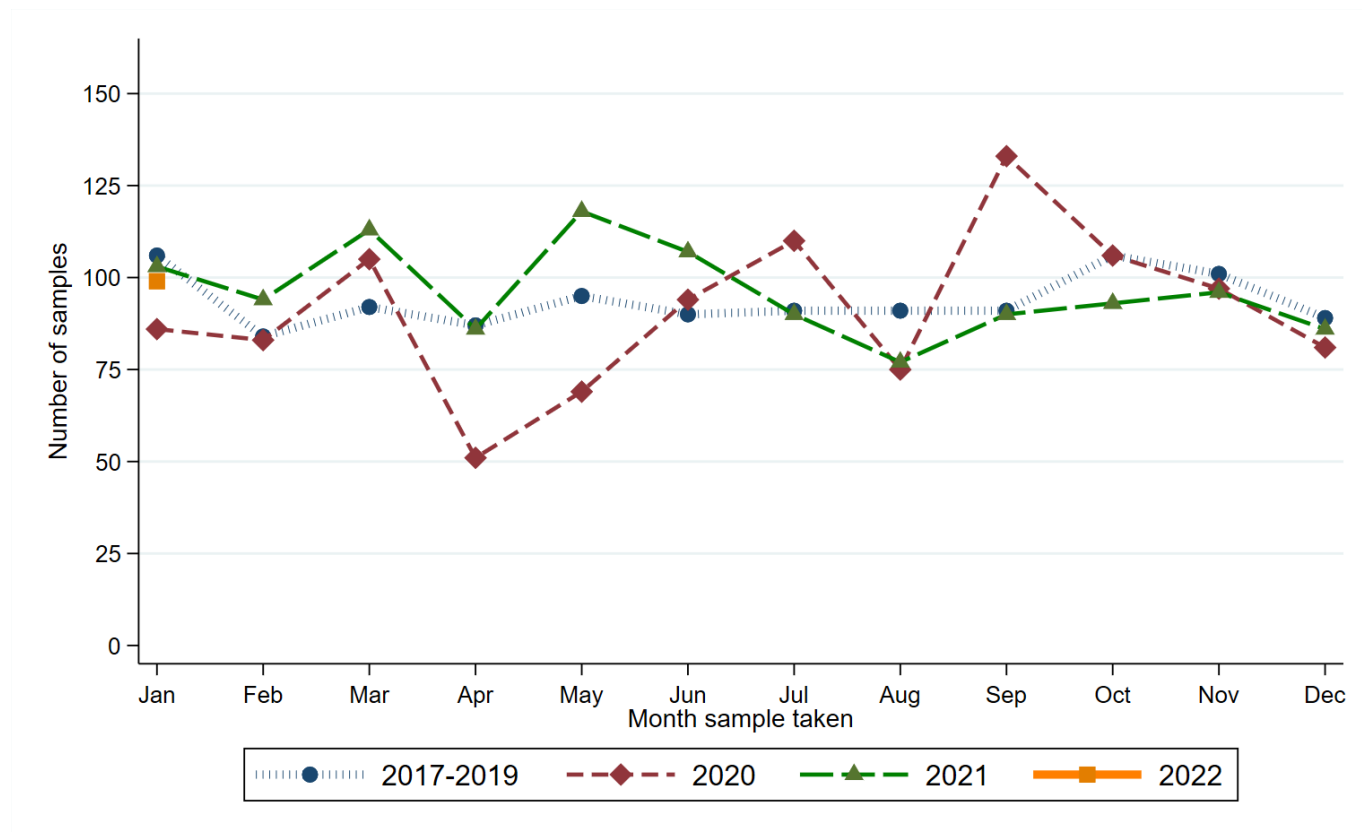*Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

OTHER CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020

**Percentage change from March 2020 to January 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

+0.5%

Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**
Jan	106	86	103	99
Feb	84	83	94	.
Mar	92	105	113	.
Apr	87	51	86	.
May	95	69	118	.
Jun	90	94	107	.
Jul	91	110	90	.
Aug	91	75	77	.
Sep	91	133	90	.
Oct	106	106	93	.
Nov	101	97	96	.
Dec	89	81	86	.

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 29/01/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-5.5%
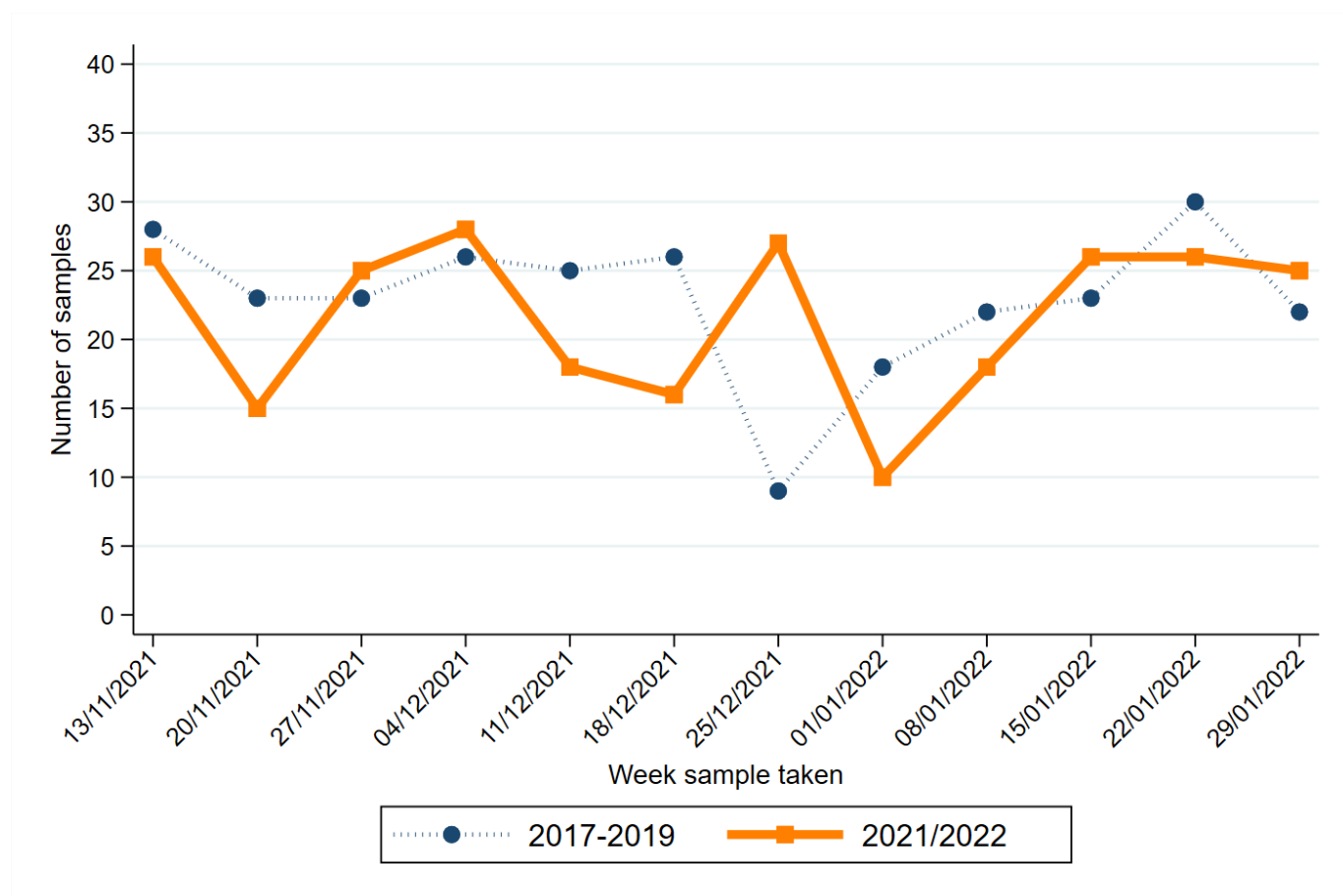
Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2021/2022
13/11/2021	28	26
20/11/2021	23	15
27/11/2021	23	25
04/12/2021	26	28
11/12/2021	25	18
18/12/2021	26	16
25/12/2021	9	27
01/01/2022	18	10
08/01/2022	22	18
15/01/2022	23	26
22/01/2022	30	26
29/01/2022	22	25

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

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 January 2022. Due to potential reporting delays, pathology data from the month following January 2022 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 2021-2022. 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.