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

Dec 2023 update

Further information

Further information is available at: www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/nicr

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SUMMARY

Recent trends in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer: Dec 2023

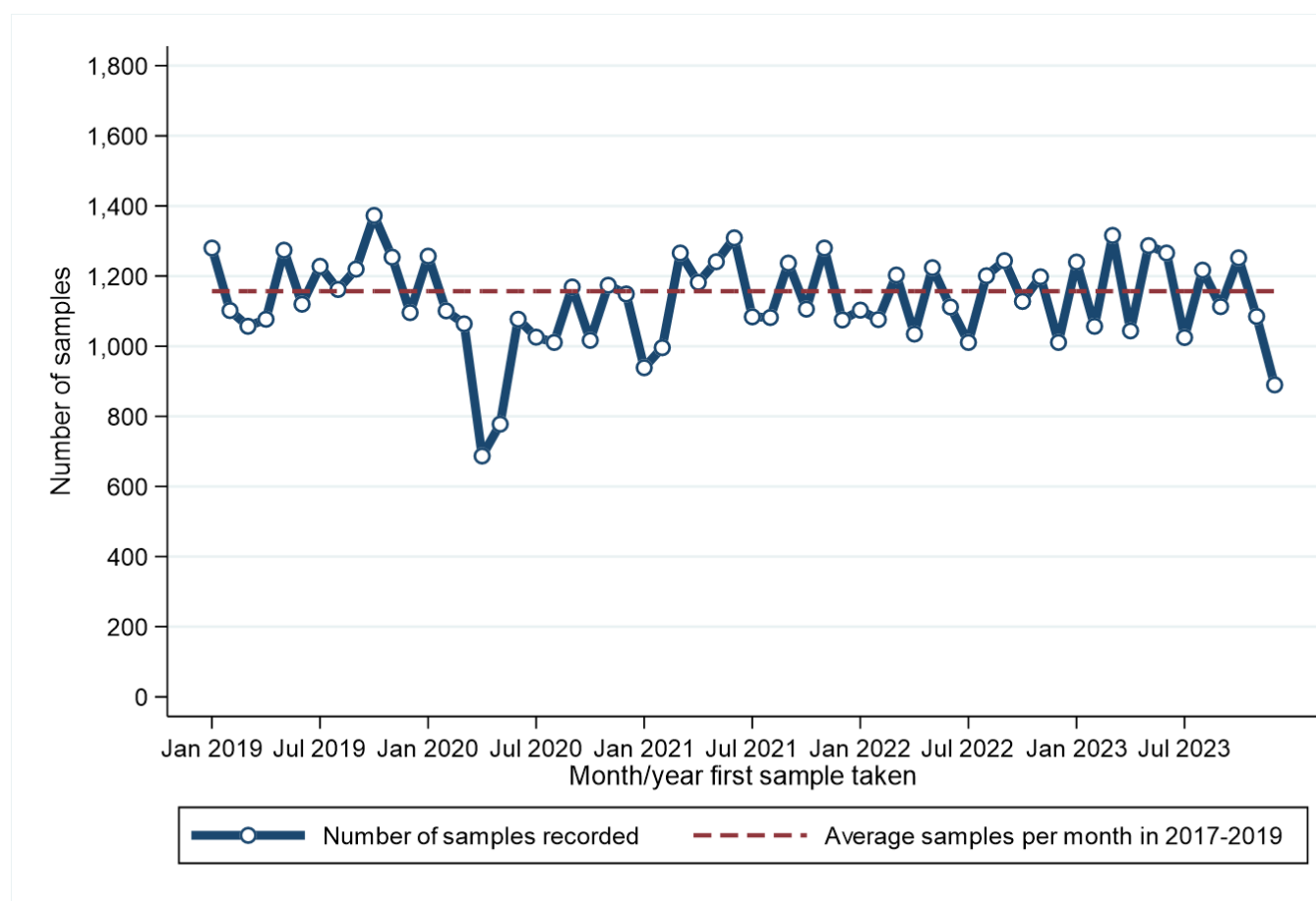
This summary provides an overview of recent trends in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, NMSC) taken from March 2020 to Dec 2023 in Northern Ireland.

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.

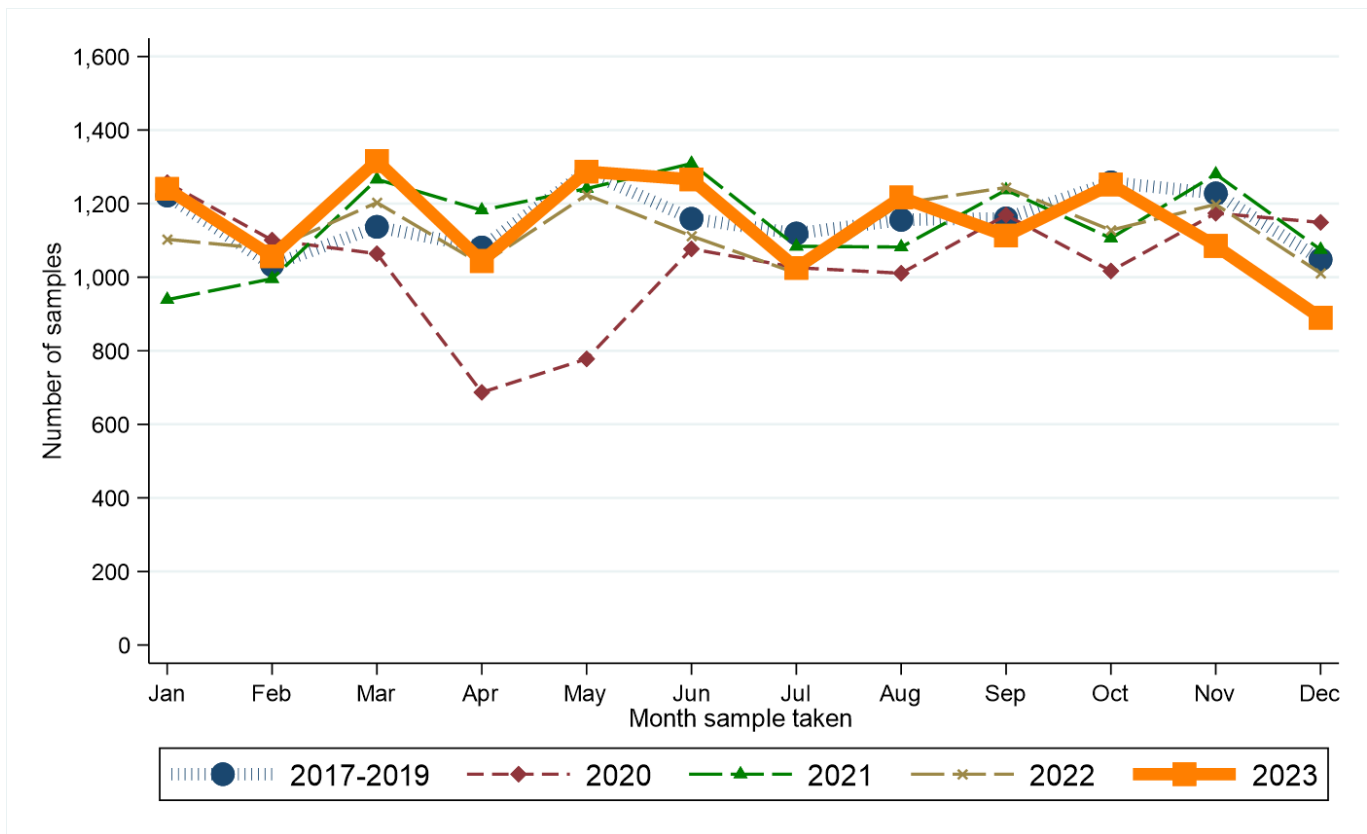
Data are sourced from the four NHS pathology laboratories in NI (Belfast, Altnagelvin, Antrim, Craigavon), which are usually provided to NICR on a monthly basis. **Altnagelvin laboratory is excluded from some analysis as a change in recording systems led to an undercount in the number of reported samples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

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 (Excludes Altnagelvin)

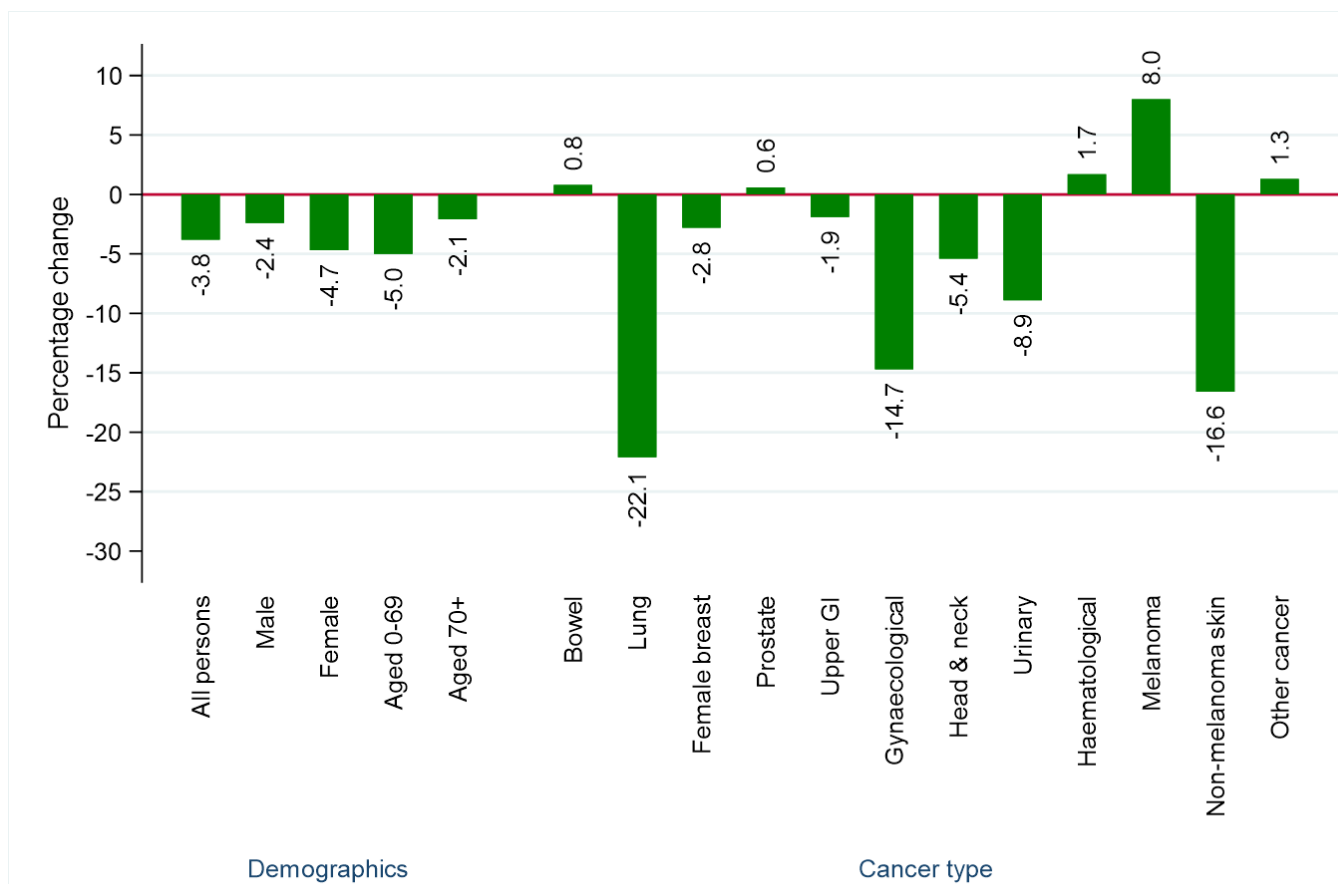
From March 2020 to Dec 2023 the number of pathological samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC) was 3.8% lower than the average number for the same time period in 2017-2019.



From March 2020 to Dec 2023 there was a 2.4% decrease in the number of samples among males and a 4.7% decrease among females compared to the same time period in 2017-2019. A decrease of 5.0% occurred in the number of samples among those aged 0-69 years, while there was a decrease of 2.1% in the number of samples among those aged 70 and older.

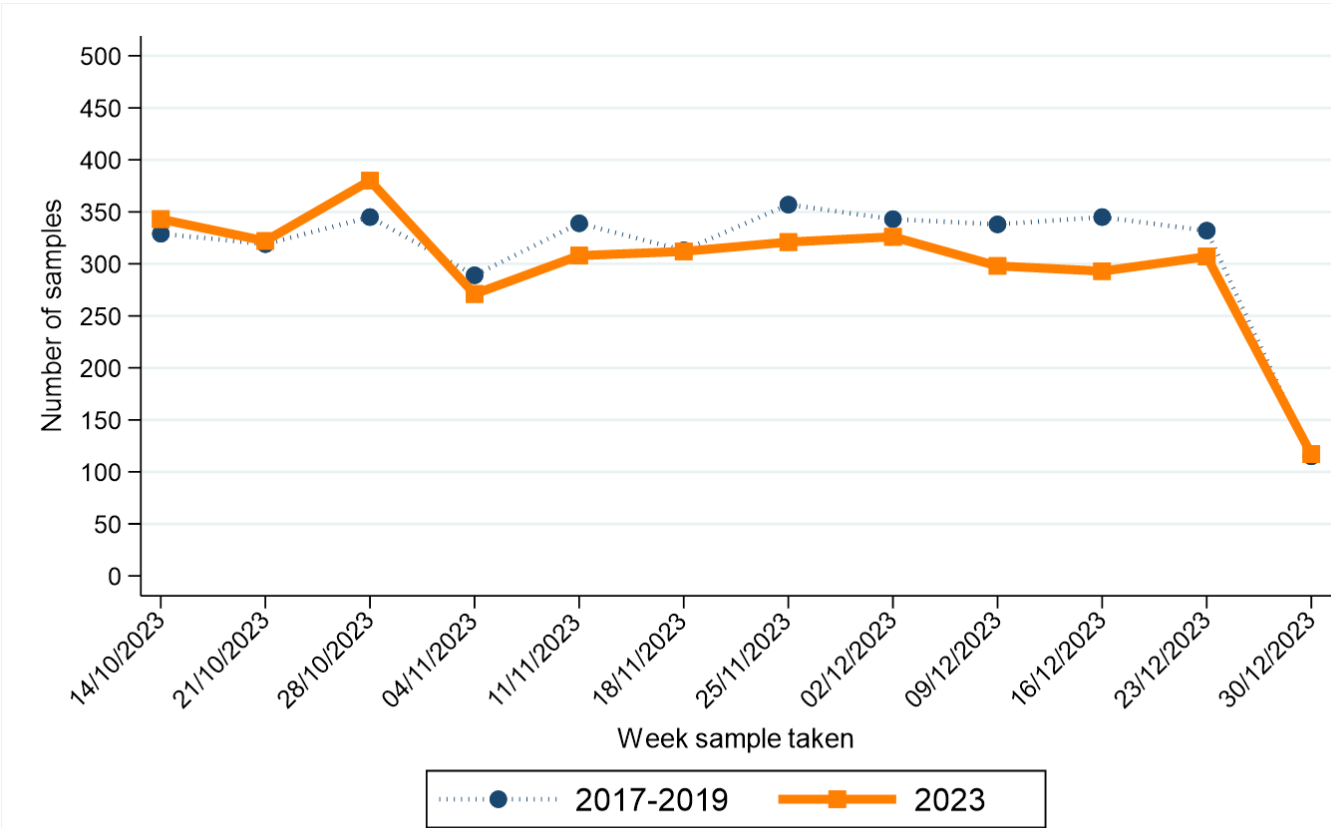


Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, from March 2020 to Dec 2023 the number of pathology samples indicating lung cancer decreased by 22.1%. Increases were recorded for bowel cancer, prostate cancer, haematological cancer and melanoma, while decreases of more than 10% were recorded for gynaecological cancer and non-melanoma skin cancer.

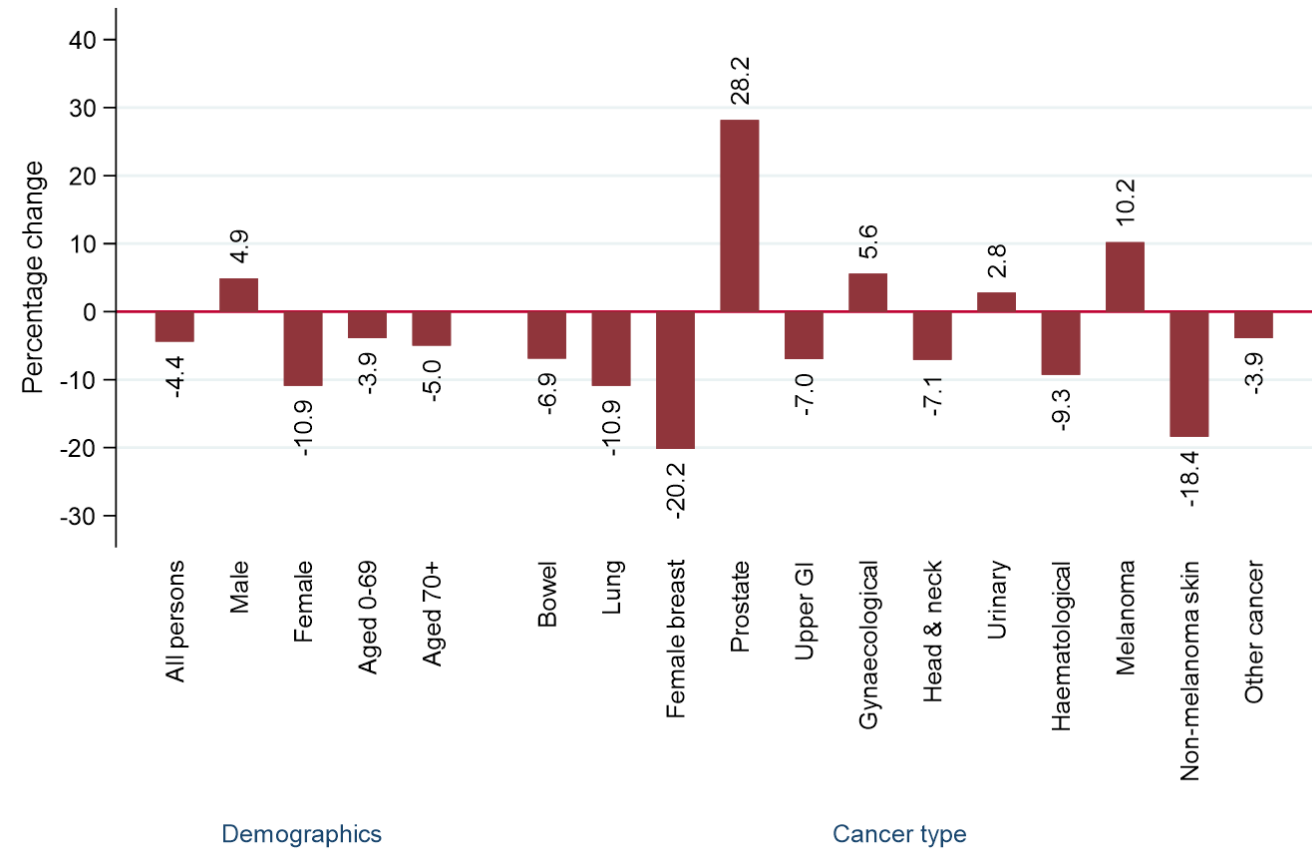


RECENT CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF SAMPLES *(Includes Altnagelvin)*

There was a 4.4% decrease in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to the average value in the equivalent weeks in 2017-2019.



Note: Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years



In the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 there was a 4.9% increase in the number of samples among males and a 10.9% decrease among females compared to the same time period in 2017-2019. A decrease of 3.9% occurred in the number of samples among those aged 0-69 years, while there was a decrease of 5.0% in the number of samples among those aged 70 and older.

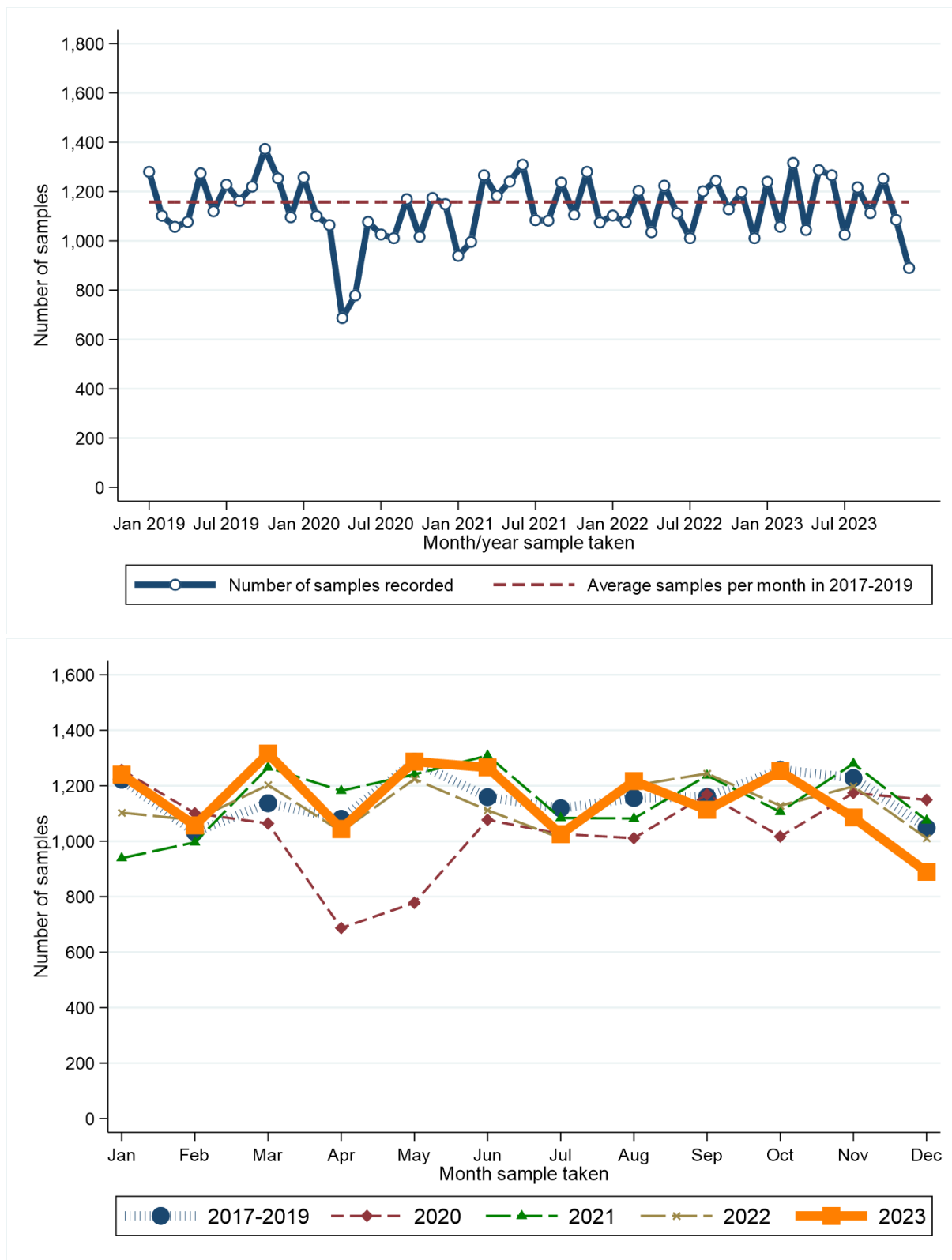
Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 the number of pathology samples indicating lung cancer decreased by 10.9%. Increases were recorded for prostate cancer, gynaecological cancer, urinary cancer and melanoma, while decreases of more than 10% were recorded for female breast cancer and non-melanoma skin cancer.

ALL PERSONS: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-3.8%



Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	1,222	1,257	939	1,103	1,240
Feb	1,033	1,101	996	1,076	1,057
Mar	1,137	1,064	1,266	1,203	1,316
Apr	1,081	687	1,182	1,035	1,044
May	1,287	778	1,241	1,224	1,287
Jun	1,159	1,077	1,309	1,112	1,266

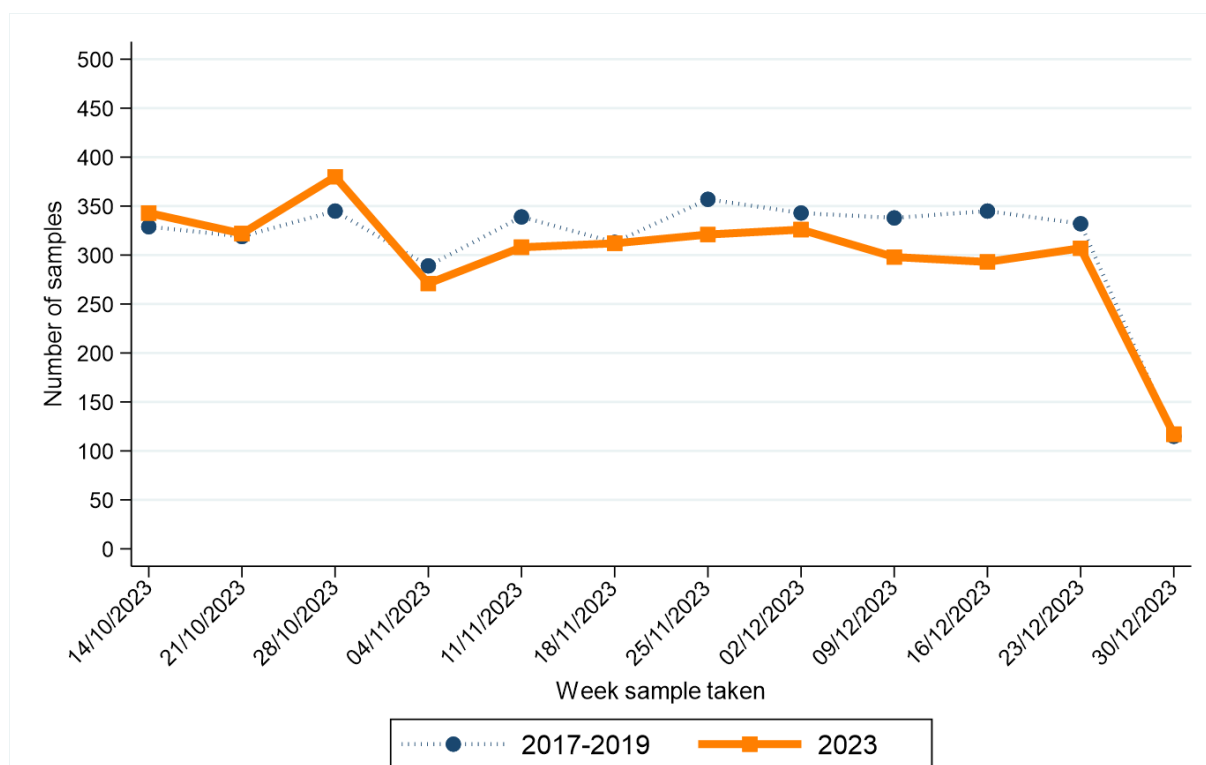
* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jul	1,119	1,026	1,084	1,011	1,025
Aug	1,156	1,011	1,082	1,201	1,217
Sep	1,160	1,169	1,237	1,244	1,113
Oct	1,258	1,017	1,106	1,128	1,252
Nov	1,228	1,174	1,280	1,198	1,085
Dec	1,048	1,149	1,075	1,011	890

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-4.4%



Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	329	343
21/10/2023	319	322
28/10/2023	345	380
04/11/2023	289	271
11/11/2023	339	308
18/11/2023	313	312

Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
25/11/2023	357	321
02/12/2023	343	326
09/12/2023	338	298
16/12/2023	345	293
23/12/2023	332	307
30/12/2023	115	117

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

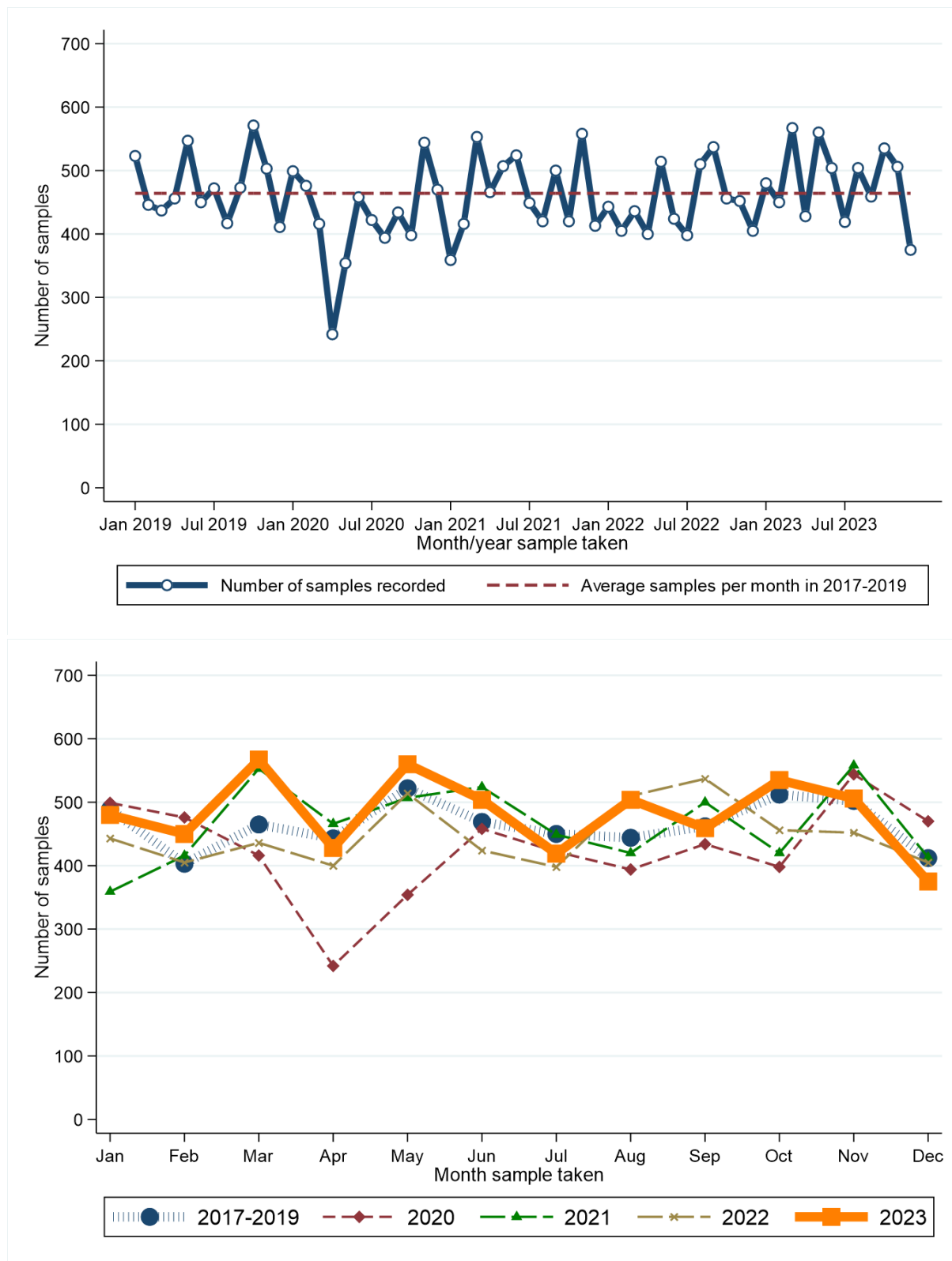
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

MALE: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-2.4%



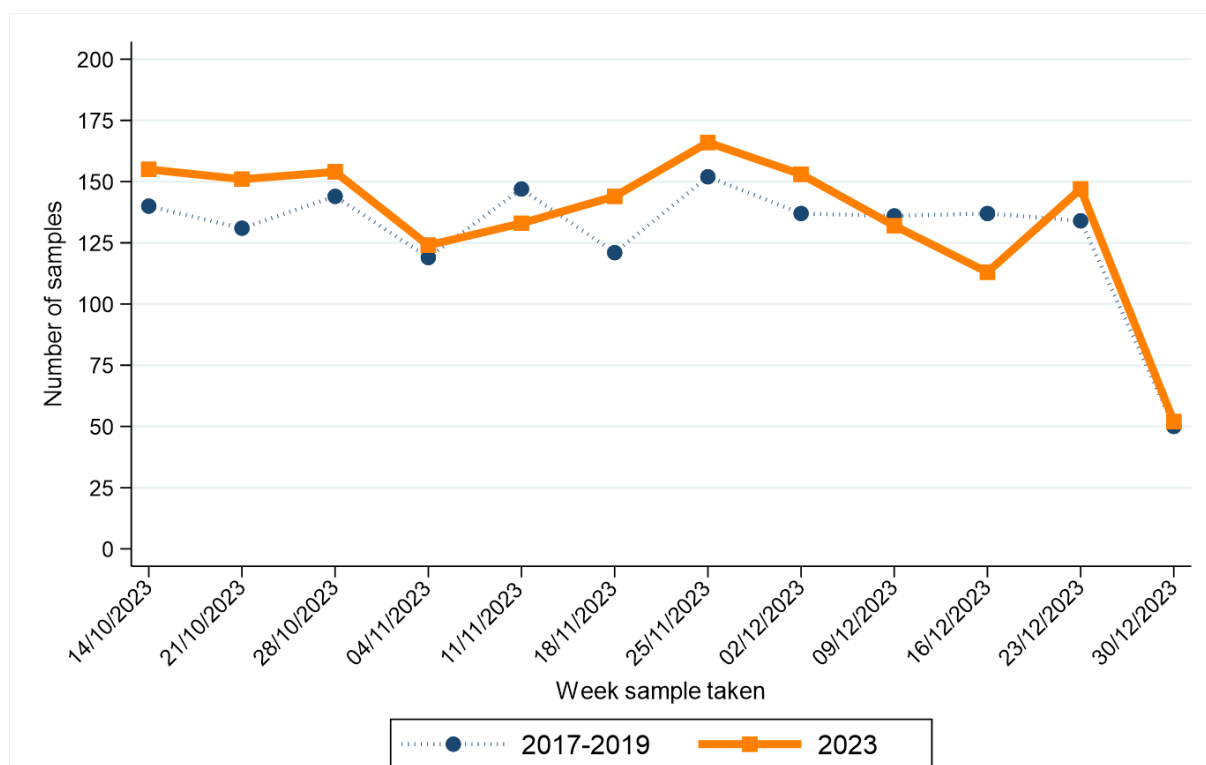
Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	489	499	359	443	480	Jul	450	422	449	398	419
Feb	403	476	416	405	450	Aug	444	394	420	510	504
Mar	465	416	553	436	567	Sep	462	434	500	537	459
Apr	443	242	466	400	428	Oct	512	398	420	456	535
May	522	354	507	514	560	Nov	502	544	558	452	506
Jun	469	458	524	424	504	Dec	412	470	413	405	375

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+4.9%



Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	140	155
21/10/2023	131	151
28/10/2023	144	154
04/11/2023	119	124
11/11/2023	147	133
18/11/2023	121	144

Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
25/11/2023	152	166
02/12/2023	137	153
09/12/2023	136	132
16/12/2023	137	113
23/12/2023	134	147
30/12/2023	50	52

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

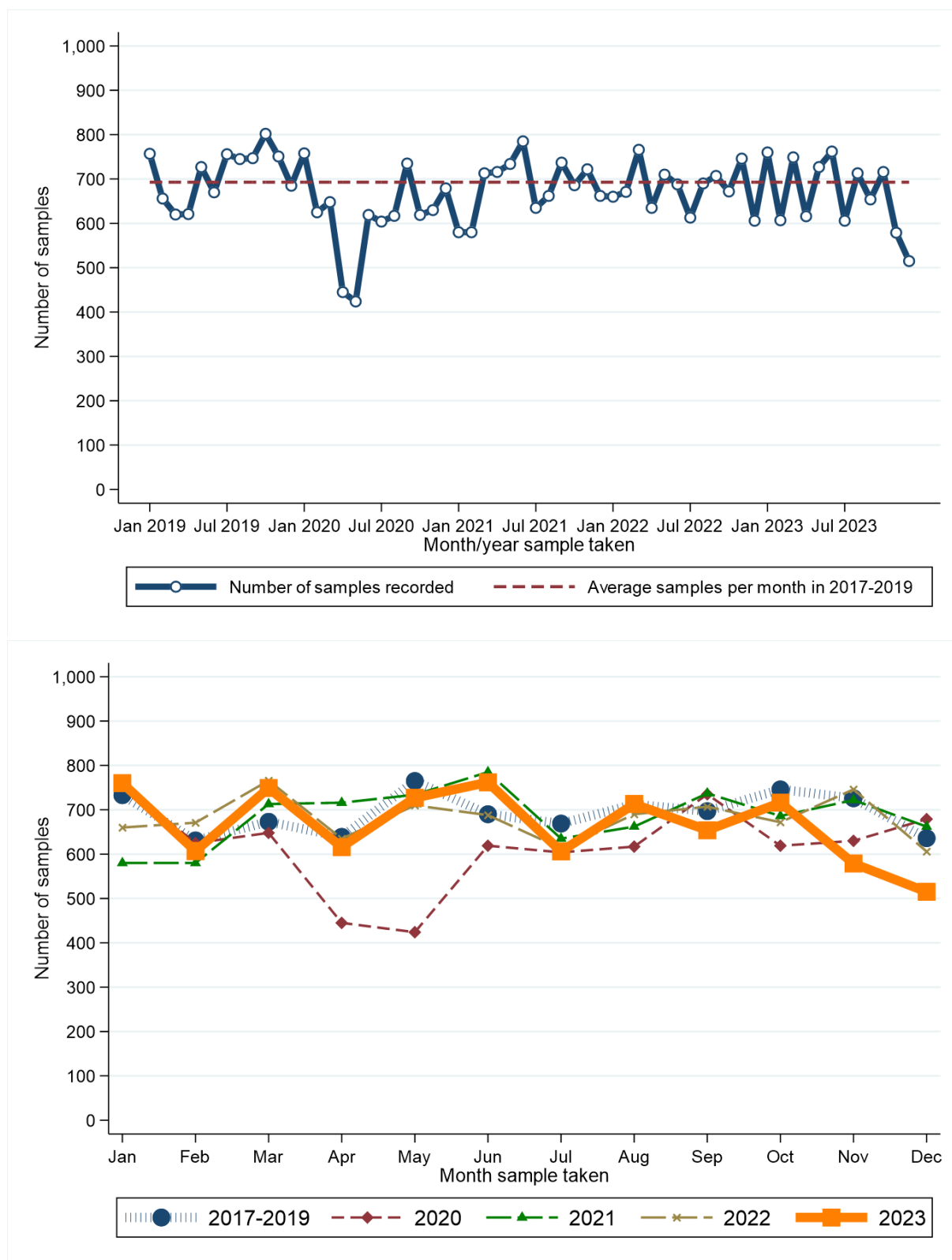
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

FEMALE: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-4.7%



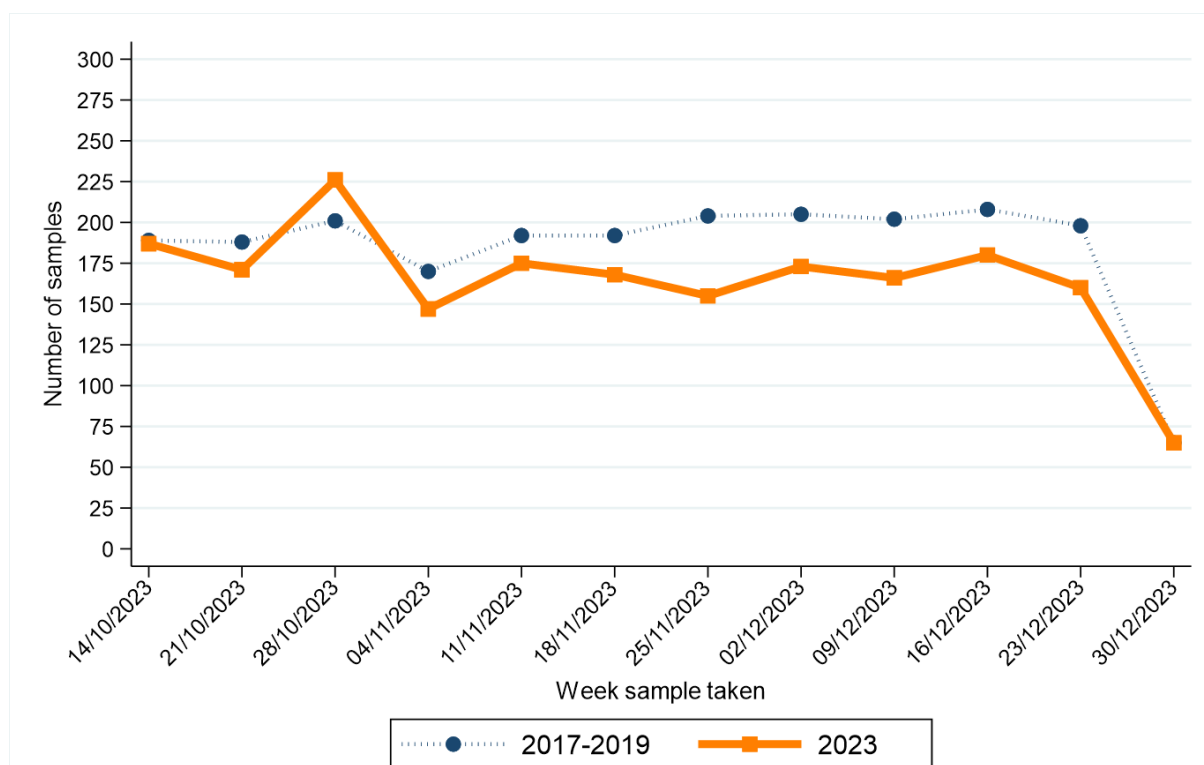
Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	733	758	580	660	760	Jul	669	604	635	613	606
Feb	631	625	580	671	607	Aug	712	617	662	690	713
Mar	673	648	713	766	749	Sep	697	735	737	707	654
Apr	639	445	716	635	616	Oct	746	619	686	672	716
May	765	424	734	710	727	Nov	726	630	722	746	579
Jun	690	619	785	688	762	Dec	636	679	662	606	515

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-10.9%



Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	189	187
21/10/2023	188	171
28/10/2023	201	226
04/11/2023	170	147
11/11/2023	192	175
18/11/2023	192	168

Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
25/11/2023	204	155
02/12/2023	205	173
09/12/2023	202	166
16/12/2023	208	180
23/12/2023	198	160
30/12/2023	65	65

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

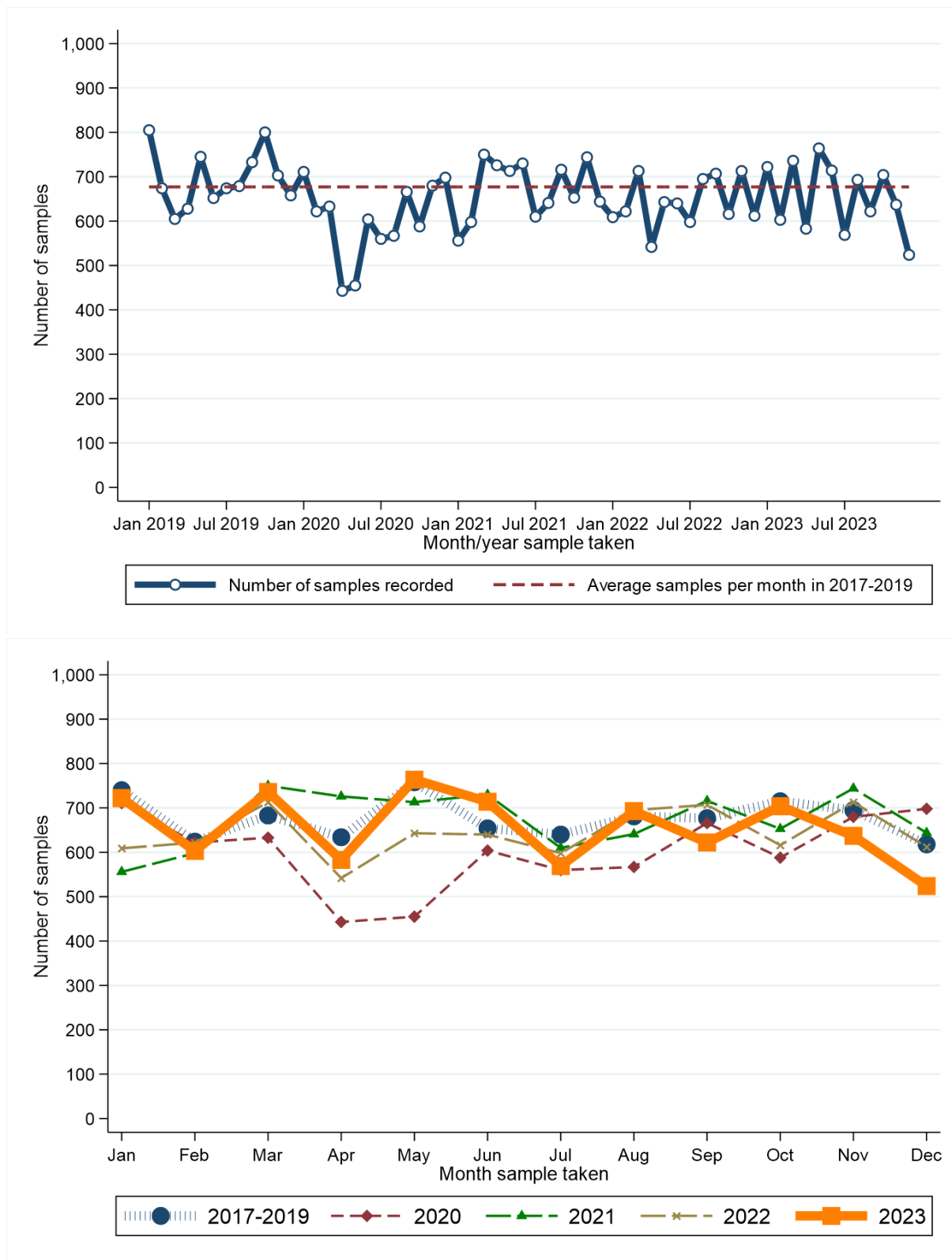
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

AGED 0-69: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-5.0%



Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	740	711	556	609	722
Feb	624	622	598	622	603
Mar	683	633	750	713	736
Apr	634	443	726	542	583
May	758	455	713	643	764
Jun	654	604	730	640	714

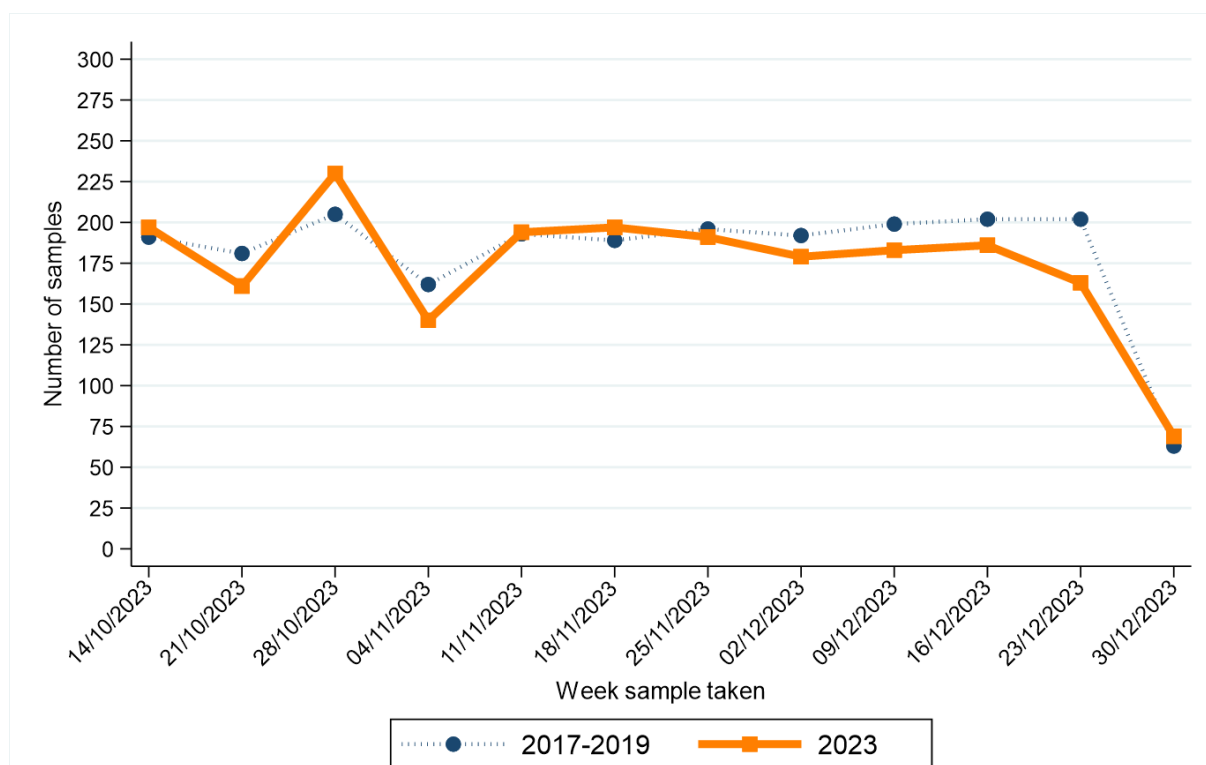
* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jul	640	560	610	598	569
Aug	681	567	641	695	693
Sep	677	666	716	707	622
Oct	715	588	653	616	704
Nov	695	680	744	713	637
Dec	618	698	644	612	524

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-3.9%



Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	191	197
21/10/2023	181	161
28/10/2023	205	230
04/11/2023	162	140
11/11/2023	193	194
18/11/2023	189	197

Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
25/11/2023	196	191
02/12/2023	192	179
09/12/2023	199	183
16/12/2023	202	186
23/12/2023	202	163
30/12/2023	63	69

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

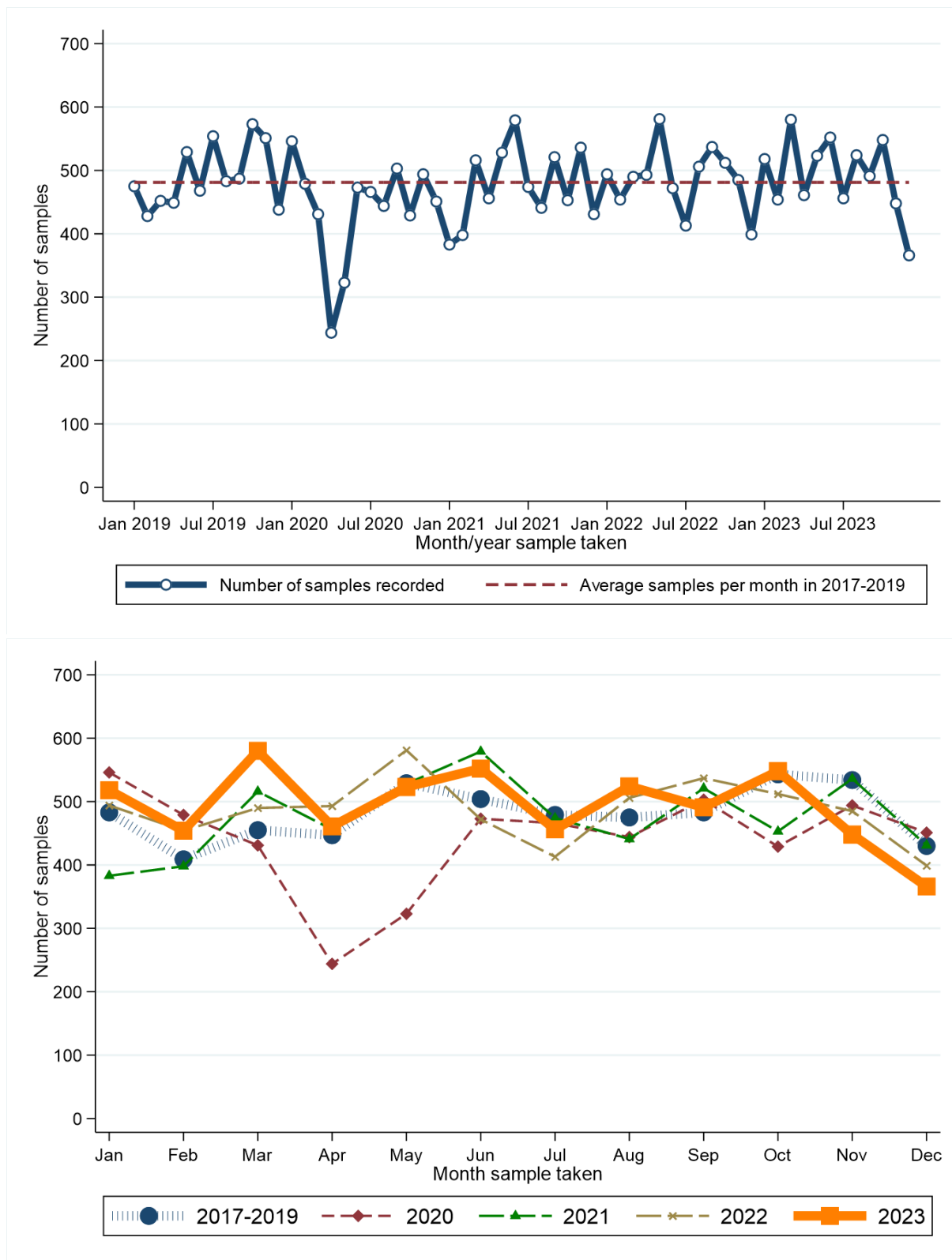
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

AGED 70+: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-2.1%



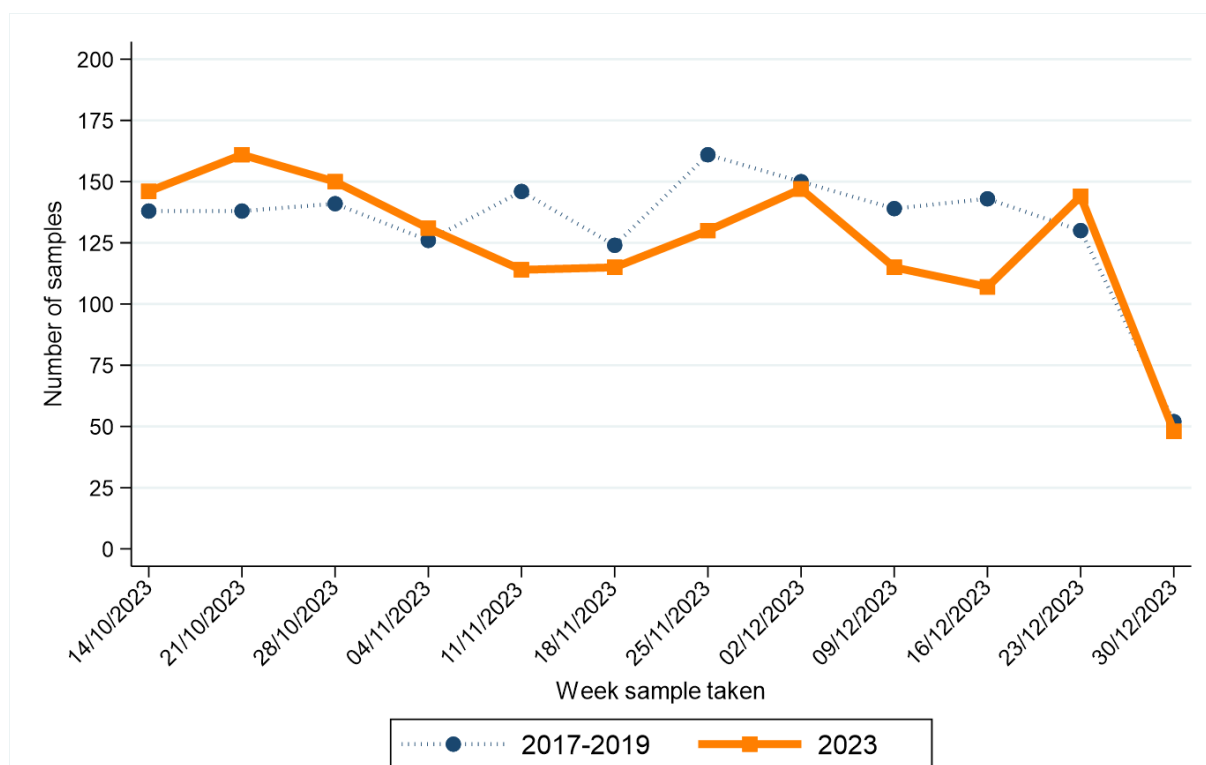
Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	483	546	383	494	518	Jul	479	466	474	413	456
Feb	409	479	398	454	454	Aug	475	444	441	506	524
Mar	455	431	516	490	580	Sep	483	503	521	537	491
Apr	447	244	456	493	461	Oct	543	429	453	512	548
May	529	323	528	581	523	Nov	534	494	536	485	448
Jun	504	473	579	472	552	Dec	430	451	431	399	366

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-5.0%



Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	138	146
21/10/2023	138	161
28/10/2023	141	150
04/11/2023	126	131
11/11/2023	146	114
18/11/2023	124	115

Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
25/11/2023	161	130
02/12/2023	150	147
09/12/2023	139	115
16/12/2023	143	107
23/12/2023	130	144
30/12/2023	52	48

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

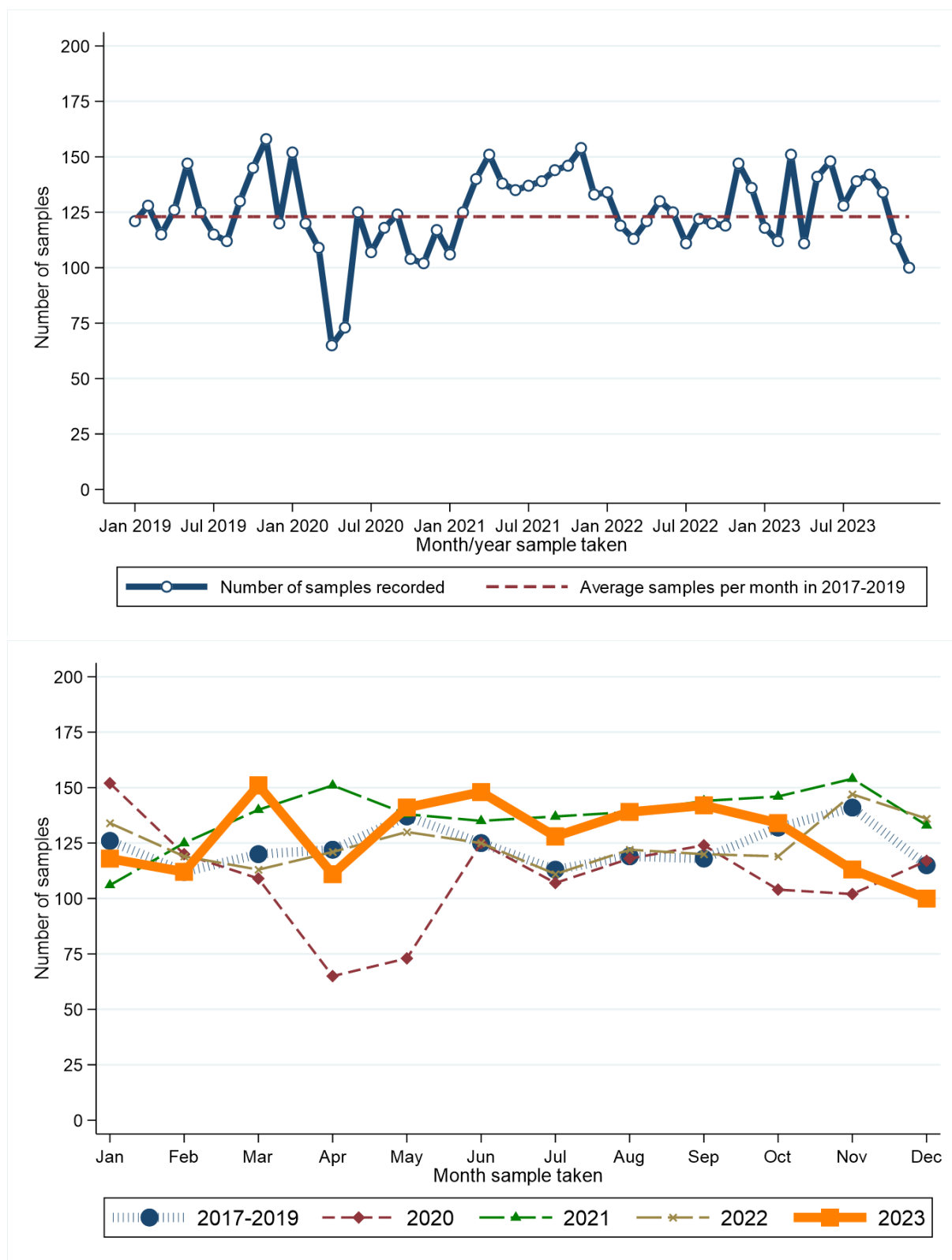
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

BOWEL CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+0.8%



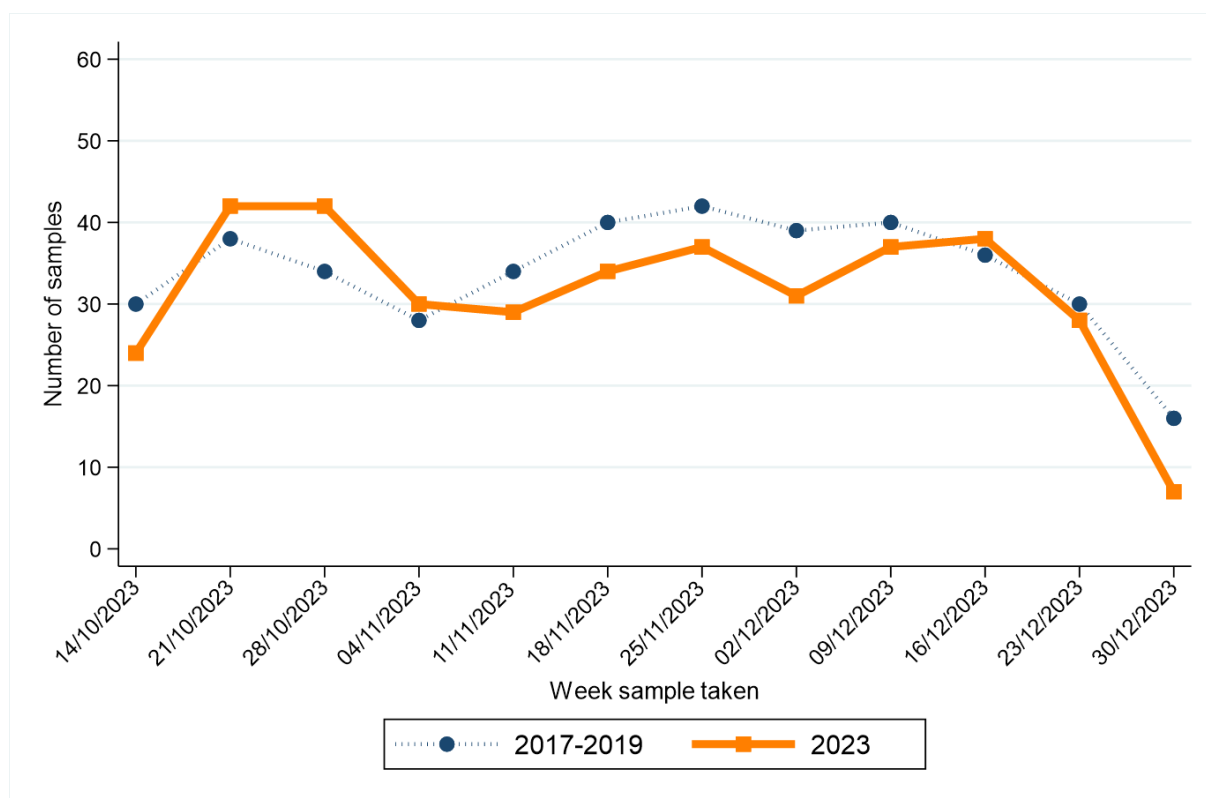
Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	126	152	106	134	118	Jul	113	107	137	111	128
Feb	112	120	125	119	112	Aug	119	118	139	122	139
Mar	120	109	140	113	151	Sep	118	124	144	120	142
Apr	122	65	151	121	111	Oct	132	104	146	119	134
May	137	73	138	130	141	Nov	141	102	154	147	113
Jun	125	125	135	125	148	Dec	115	117	133	136	100

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-6.9%



Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	30	24	25/11/2023	42	37
21/10/2023	38	42	02/12/2023	39	31
28/10/2023	34	42	09/12/2023	40	37
04/11/2023	28	30	16/12/2023	36	38
11/11/2023	34	29	23/12/2023	30	28
18/11/2023	40	34	30/12/2023	16	7

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

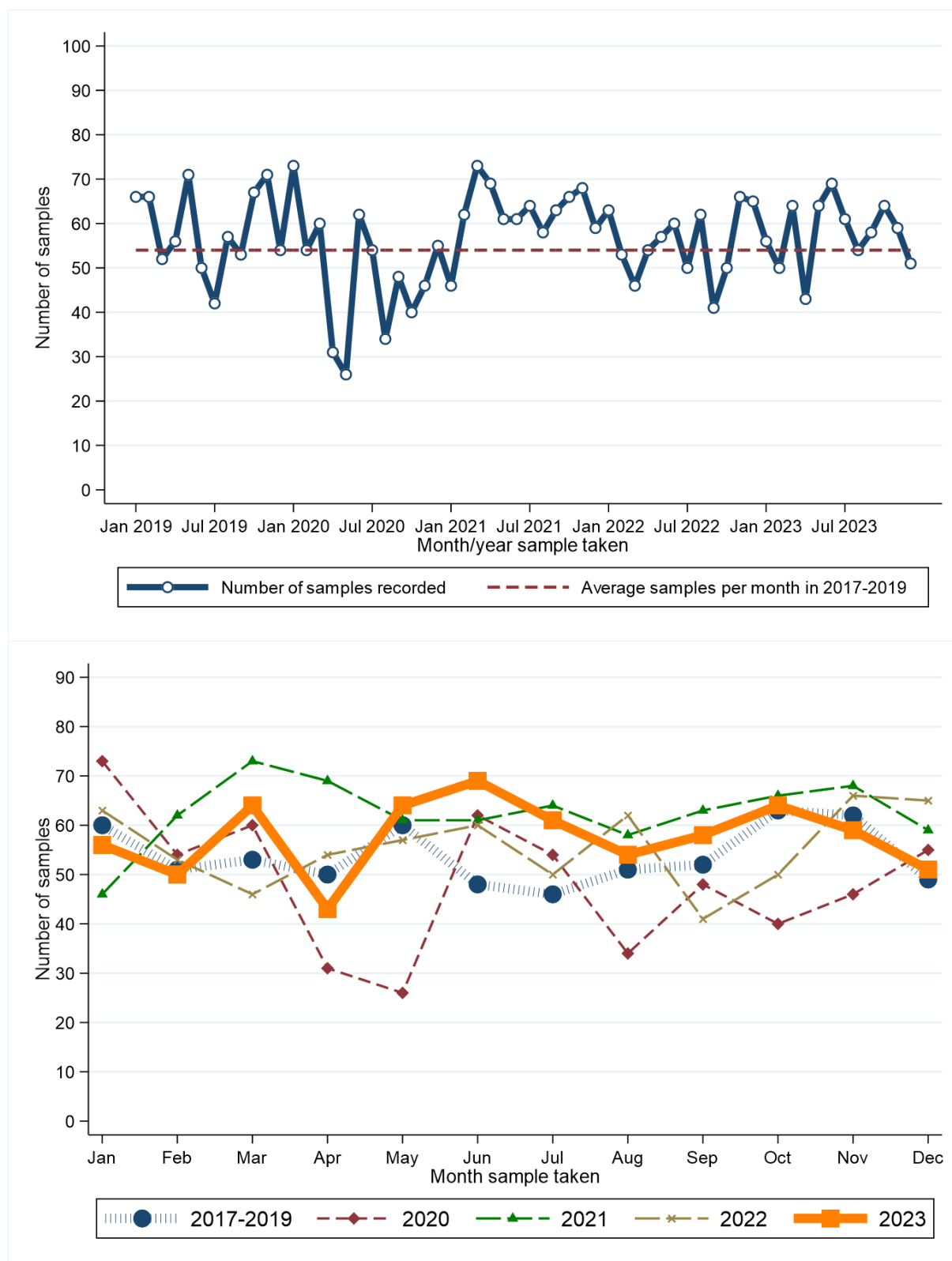
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

BOWEL CANCER (SCREENING AGE)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+3.9%



Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	60	73	46	63	56
Feb	51	54	62	53	50
Mar	53	60	73	46	64
Apr	50	31	69	54	43
May	60	26	61	57	64
Jun	48	62	61	60	69

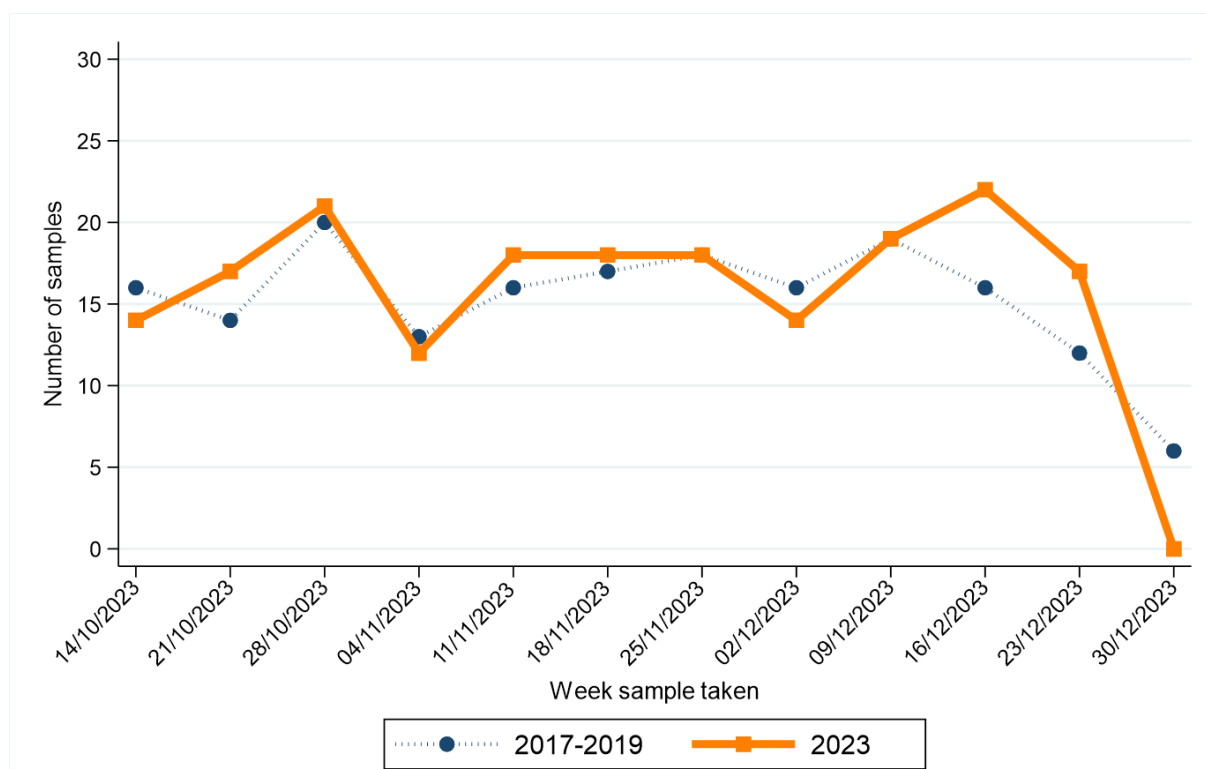
* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jul	46	54	64	50	61
Aug	51	34	58	62	54
Sep	52	48	63	41	58
Oct	63	40	66	50	64
Nov	62	46	68	66	59
Dec	49	55	59	65	51

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+3.8%



Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	16	14
21/10/2023	14	17
28/10/2023	20	21
04/11/2023	13	12
11/11/2023	16	18
18/11/2023	17	18

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

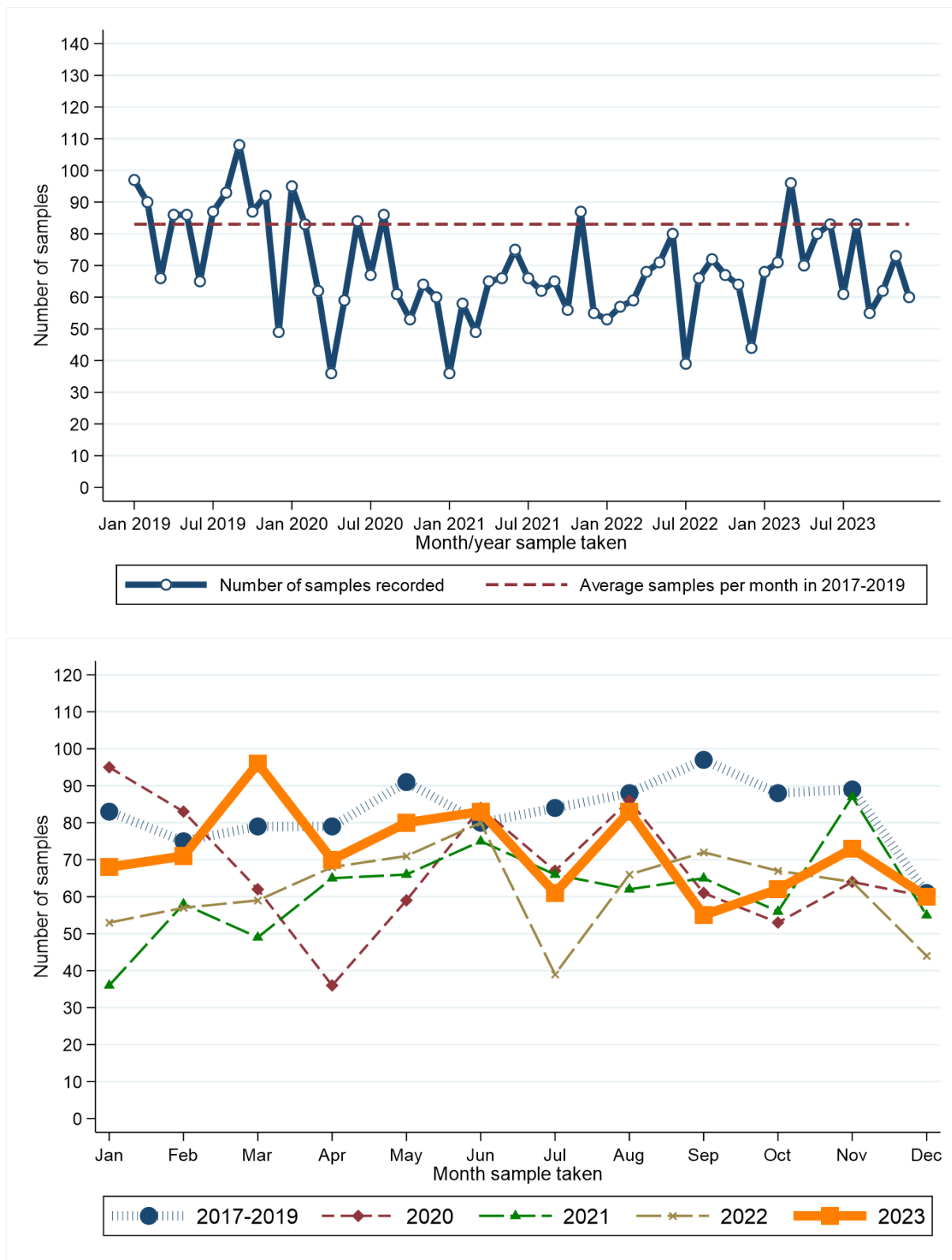
Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
25/11/2023	18	18
02/12/2023	16	14
09/12/2023	19	19
16/12/2023	16	22
23/12/2023	12	17
30/12/2023	6	0

LUNG CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-22.1%



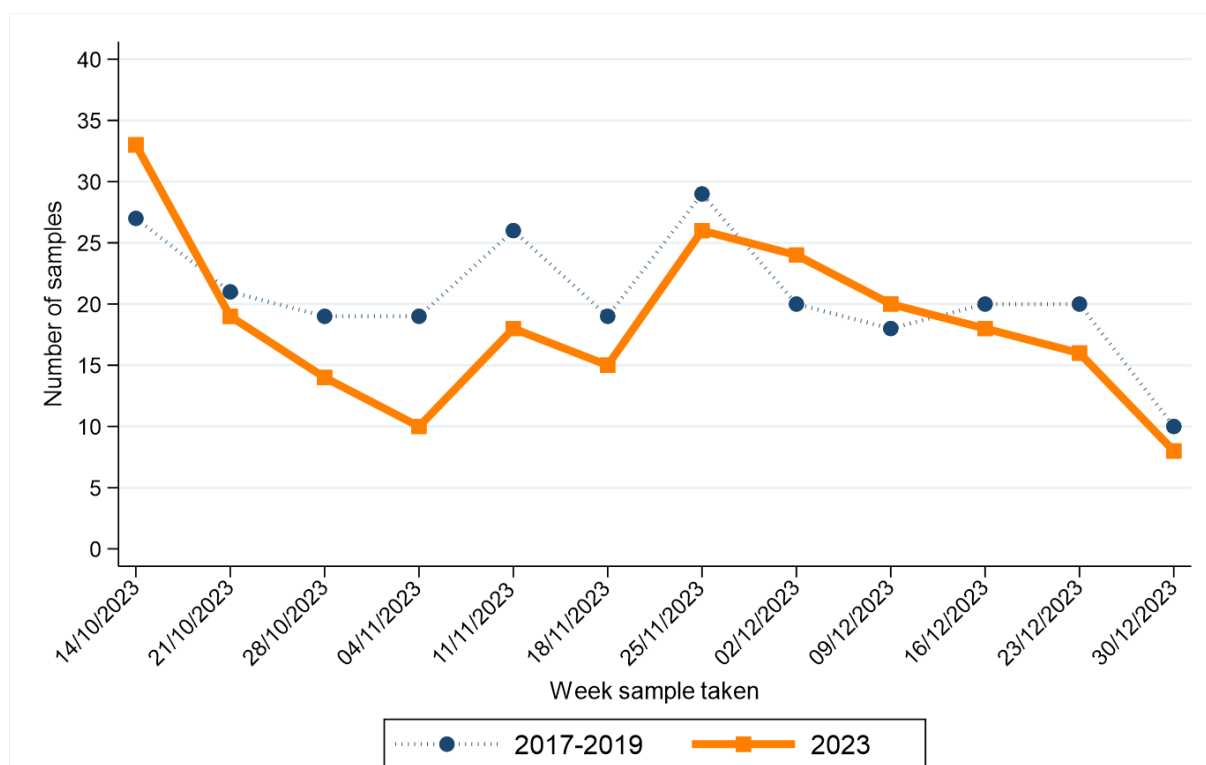
Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	83	95	36	53	68	Jul	84	67	66	39	61
Feb	75	83	58	57	71	Aug	88	86	62	66	83
Mar	79	62	49	59	96	Sep	97	61	65	72	55
Apr	79	36	65	68	70	Oct	88	53	56	67	62
May	91	59	66	71	80	Nov	89	64	87	64	73
Jun	80	84	75	80	83	Dec	61	60	55	44	60

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-10.9%



Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	27	33	25/11/2023	29	26
21/10/2023	21	19	02/12/2023	20	24
28/10/2023	19	14	09/12/2023	18	20
04/11/2023	19	10	16/12/2023	20	18
11/11/2023	26	18	23/12/2023	20	16
18/11/2023	19	15	30/12/2023	10	8

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

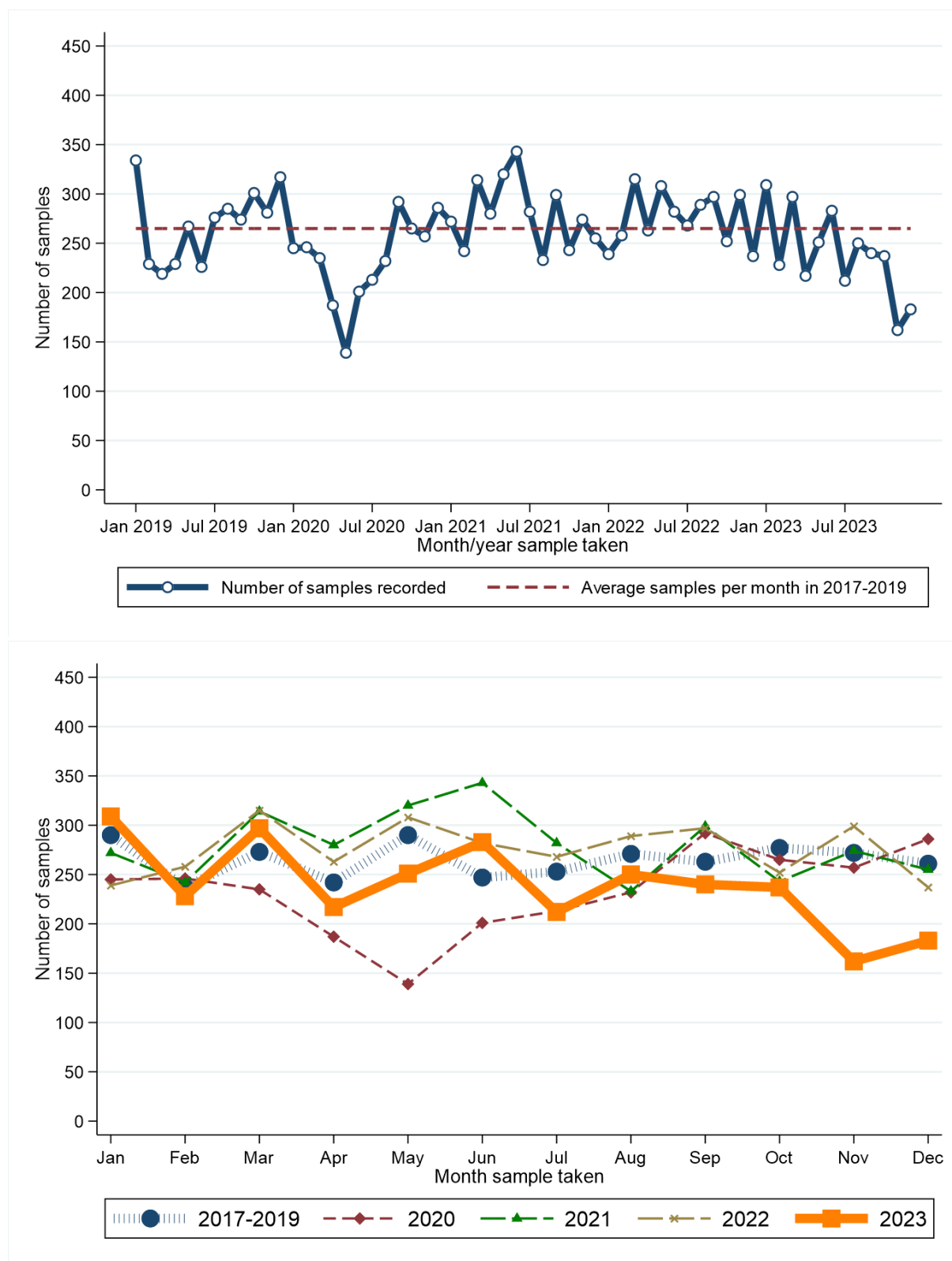
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

FEMALE BREAST CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-2.8%



Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	290	245	272	239	309
Feb	237	246	242	258	228
Mar	273	235	314	315	297
Apr	242	187	280	263	217
May	290	139	320	308	251
Jun	247	201	343	282	283

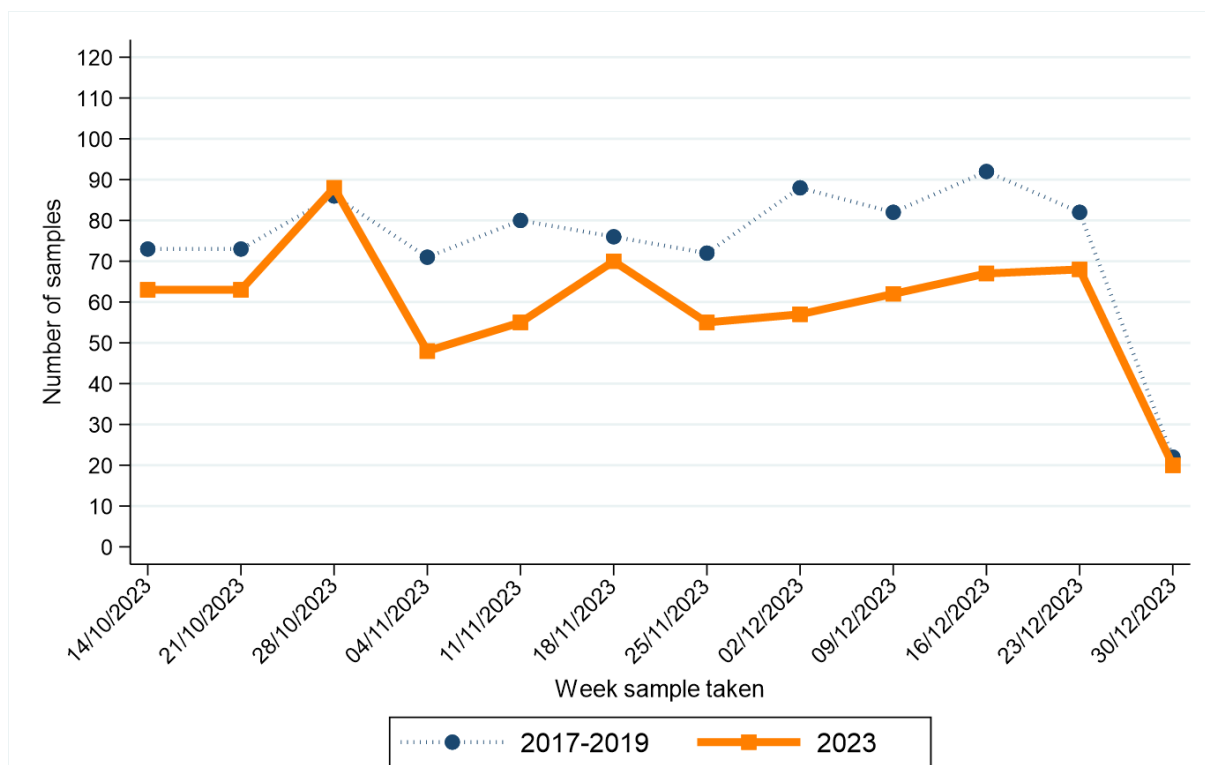
* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jul	253	213	282	268	212
Aug	271	232	233	289	250
Sep	263	292	299	297	240
Oct	277	265	243	252	237
Nov	272	257	274	299	162
Dec	261	286	255	237	183

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-20.2%



Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	73	63
21/10/2023	73	63
28/10/2023	86	88
04/11/2023	71	48
11/11/2023	80	55
18/11/2023	76	70

Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
25/11/2023	72	55
02/12/2023	88	57
09/12/2023	82	62
16/12/2023	92	67
23/12/2023	82	68
30/12/2023	22	20

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

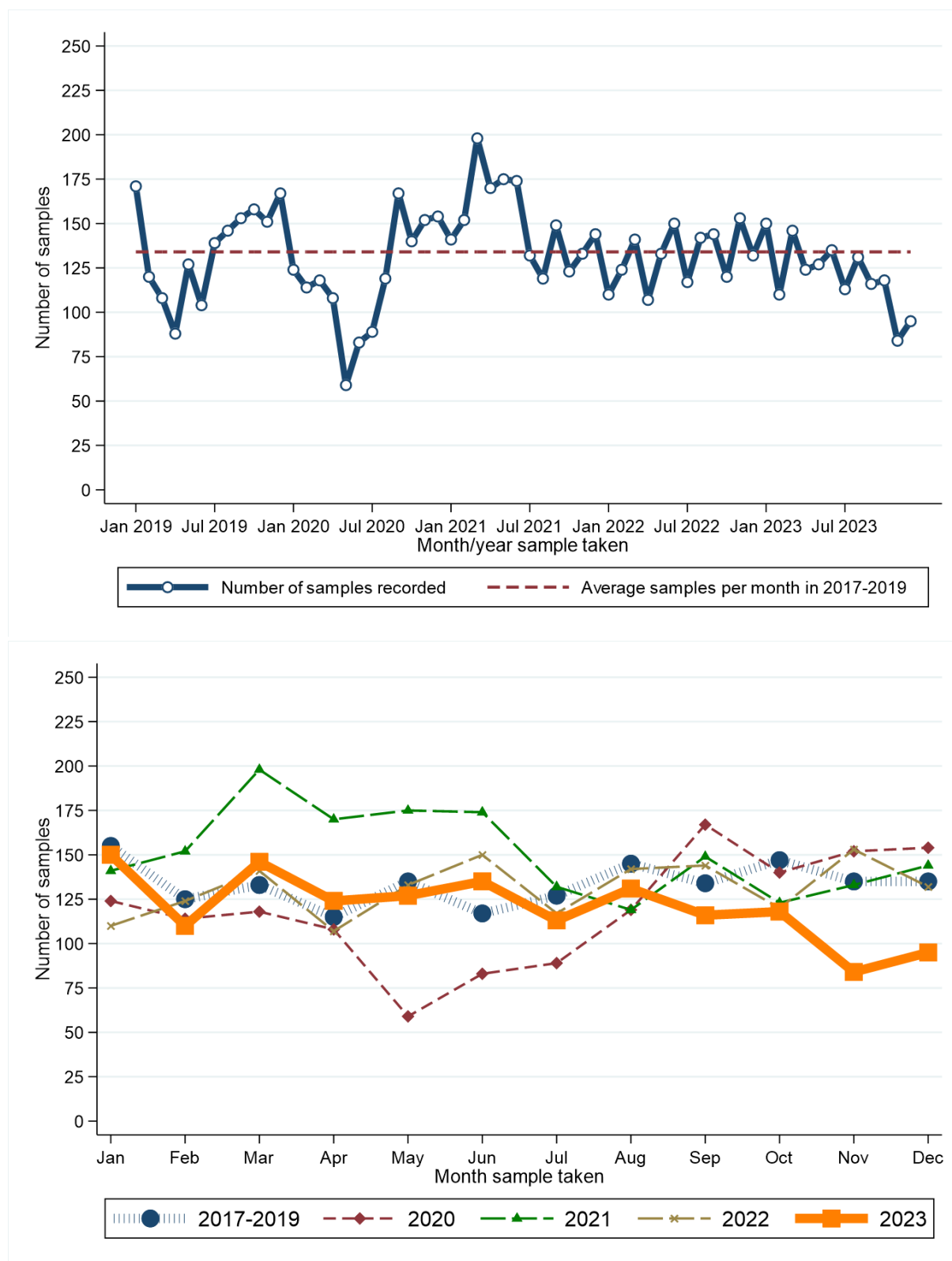
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

FEMALE BREAST CANCER (SCREENING AGE)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-1.8%



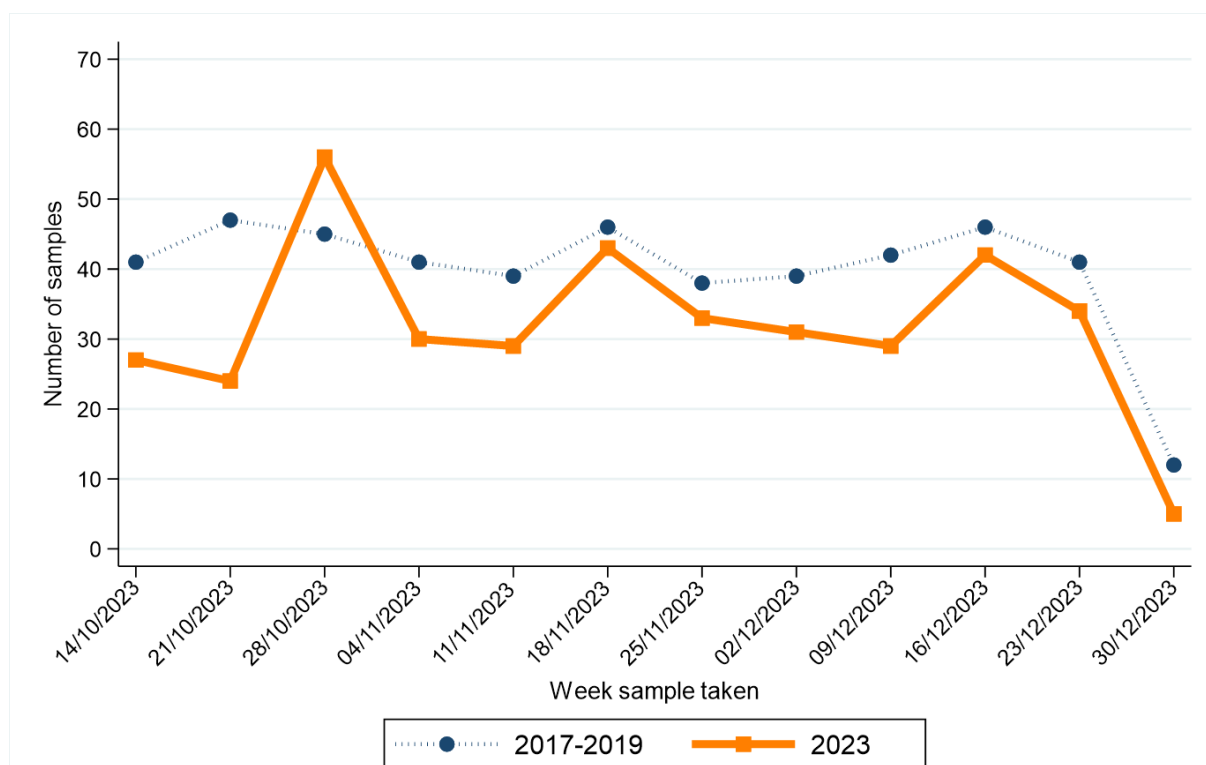
Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	155	124	141	110	150	Jul	127	89	132	117	113
Feb	125	114	152	124	110	Aug	145	119	119	142	131
Mar	133	118	198	141	146	Sep	134	167	149	144	116
Apr	115	108	170	107	124	Oct	147	140	123	120	118
May	135	59	175	133	127	Nov	135	152	133	153	84
Jun	117	83	174	150	135	Dec	135	154	144	132	95

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-19.7%



Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	41	27
21/10/2023	47	24
28/10/2023	45	56
04/11/2023	41	30
11/11/2023	39	29
18/11/2023	46	43

Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
25/11/2023	38	33
02/12/2023	39	31
09/12/2023	42	29
16/12/2023	46	42
23/12/2023	41	34
30/12/2023	12	5

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

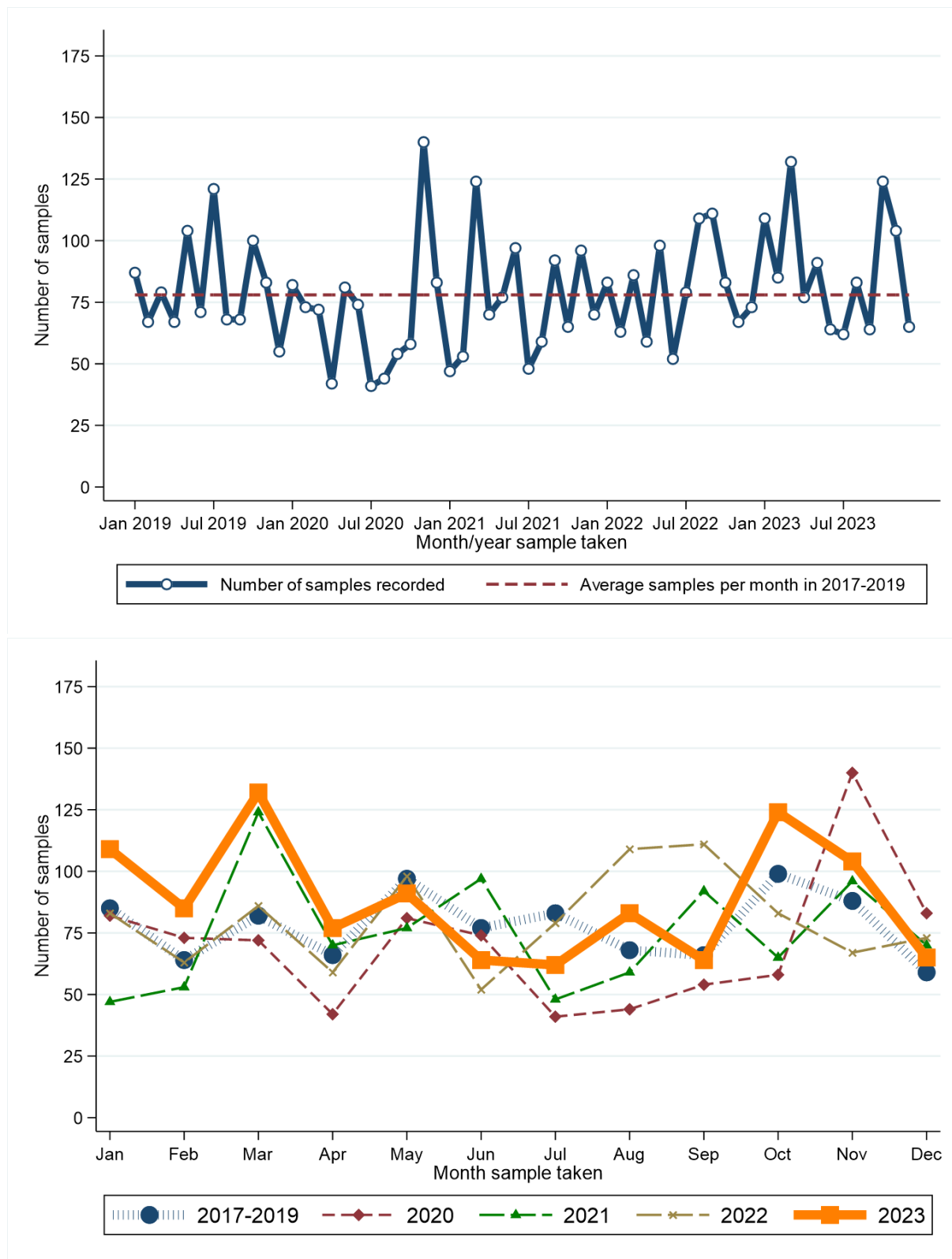
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

PROSTATE CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+0.6%



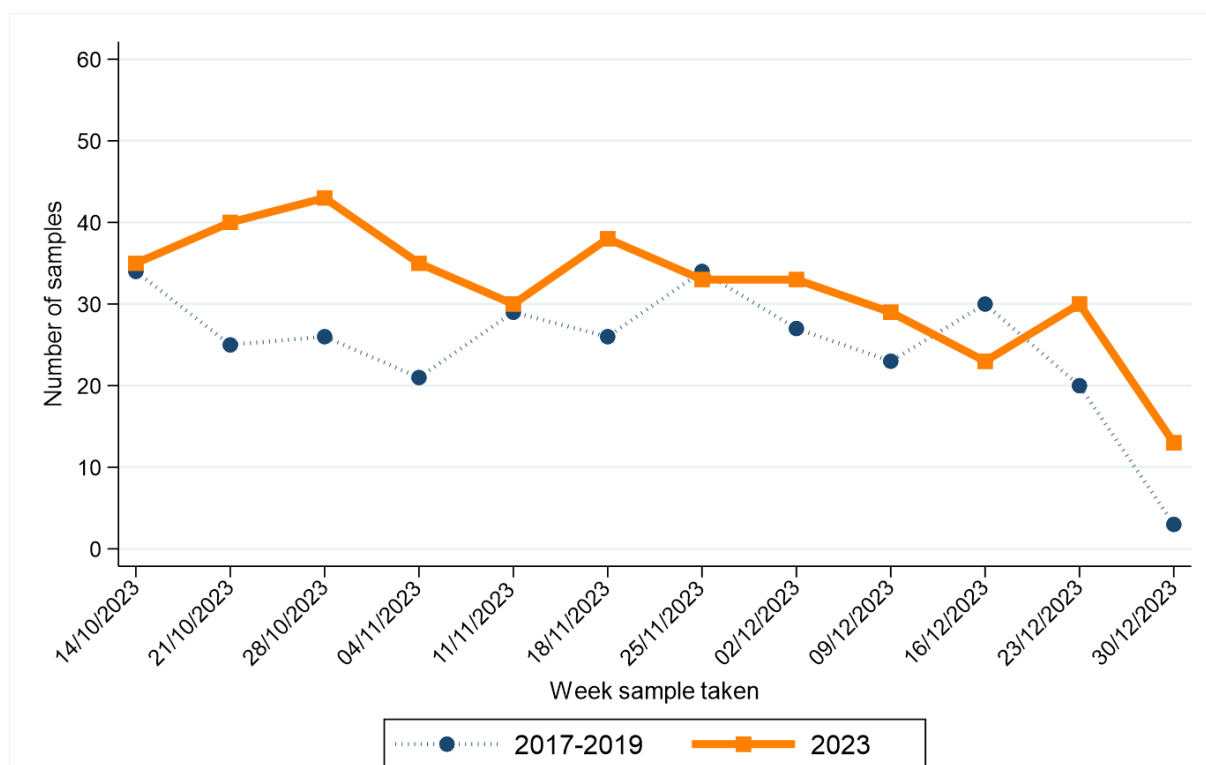
Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	85	82	47	83	109	Jul	83	41	48	79	62
Feb	64	73	53	63	85	Aug	68	44	59	109	83
Mar	82	72	124	86	132	Sep	66	54	92	111	64
Apr	66	42	70	59	77	Oct	99	58	65	83	124
May	97	81	77	98	91	Nov	88	140	96	67	104
Jun	77	74	97	52	64	Dec	59	83	70	73	65

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+28.2%



Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	34	35
21/10/2023	25	40
28/10/2023	26	43
04/11/2023	21	35
11/11/2023	29	30
18/11/2023	26	38

Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
25/11/2023	34	33
02/12/2023	27	33
09/12/2023	23	29
16/12/2023	30	23
23/12/2023	20	30
30/12/2023	3	13

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

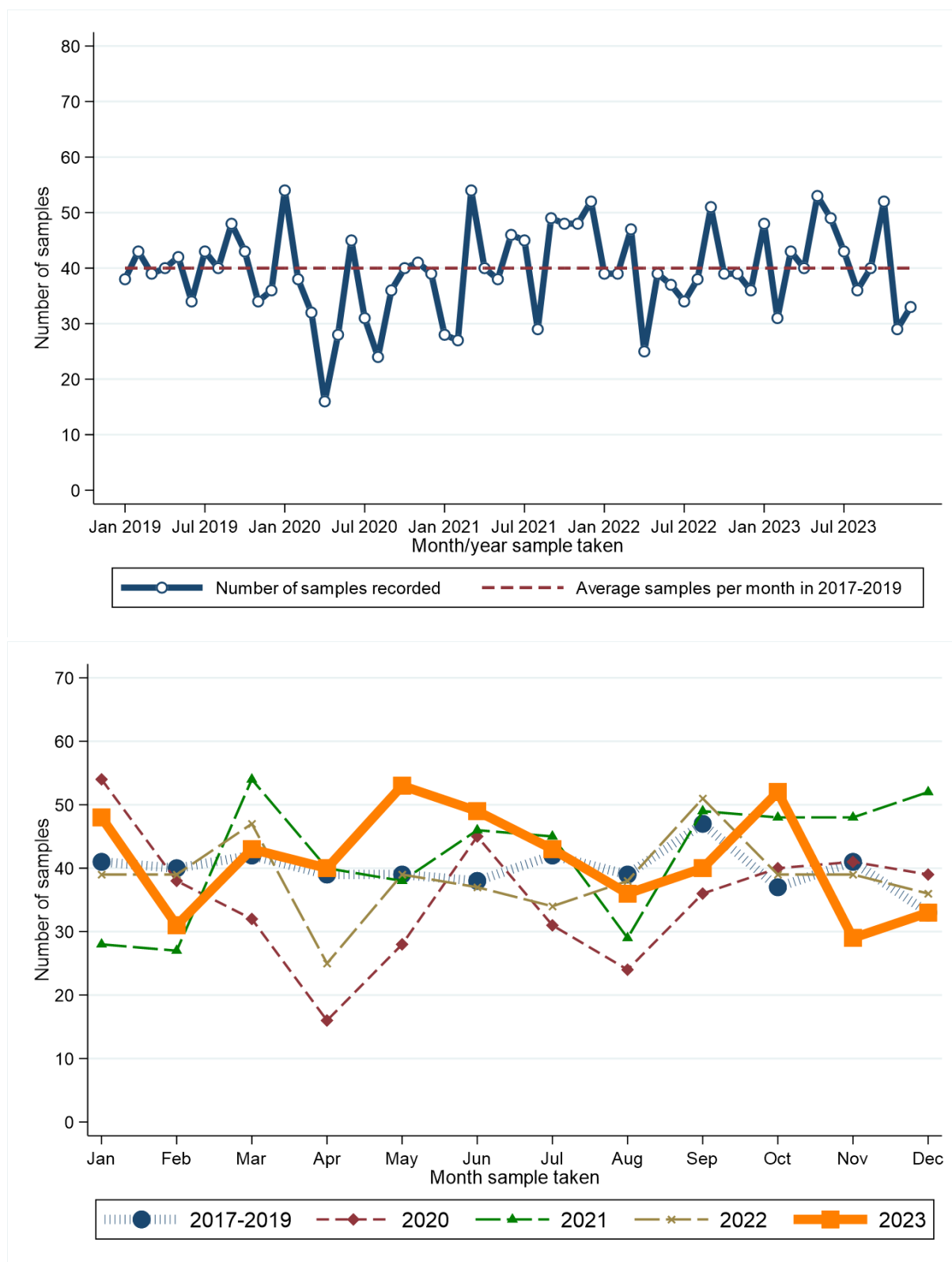
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-1.9%



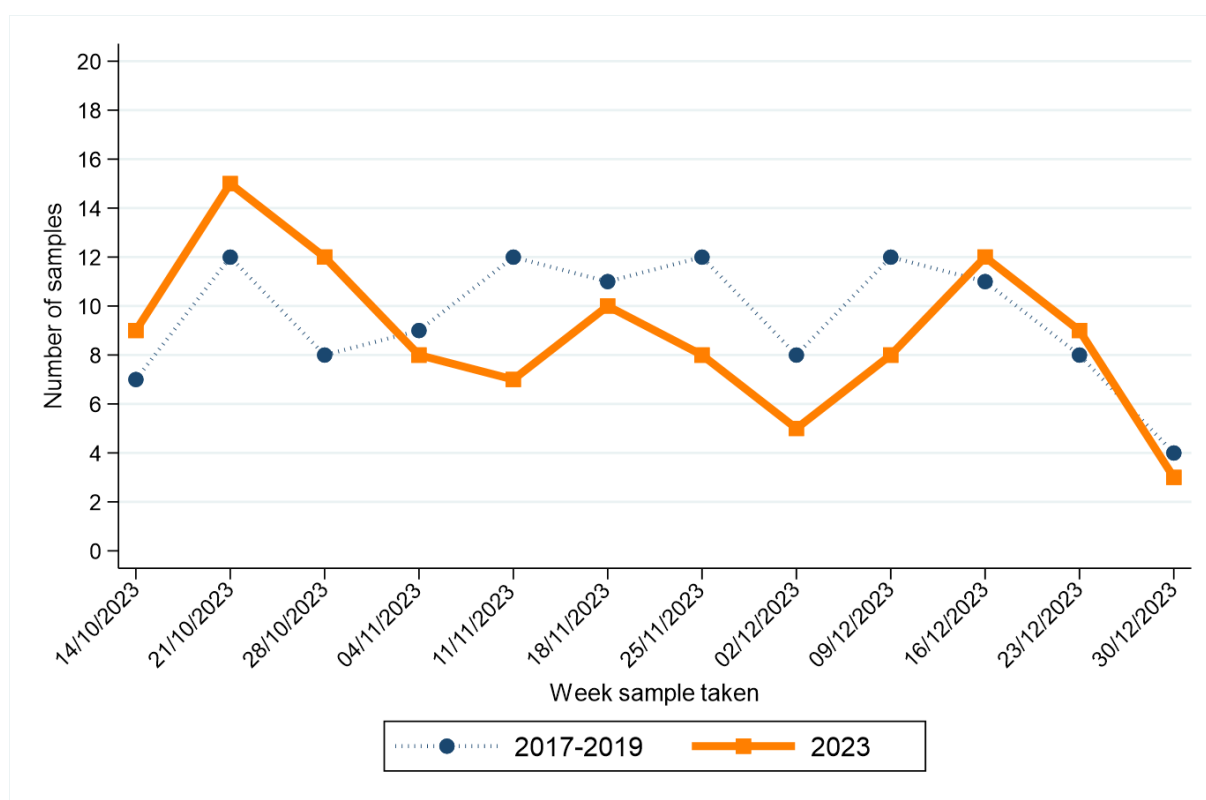
Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	41	54	28	39	48	Jul	42	31	45	34	43
Feb	40	38	27	39	31	Aug	39	24	29	38	36
Mar	42	32	54	47	43	Sep	47	36	49	51	40
Apr	39	16	40	25	40	Oct	37	40	48	39	52
May	39	28	38	39	53	Nov	41	41	48	39	29
Jun	38	45	46	37	49	Dec	33	39	52	36	33

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-7.0%



Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	7	9
21/10/2023	12	15
28/10/2023	8	12
04/11/2023	9	8
11/11/2023	12	7
18/11/2023	11	10

Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
25/11/2023	12	8
02/12/2023	8	5
09/12/2023	12	8
16/12/2023	11	12
23/12/2023	8	9
30/12/2023	4	3

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

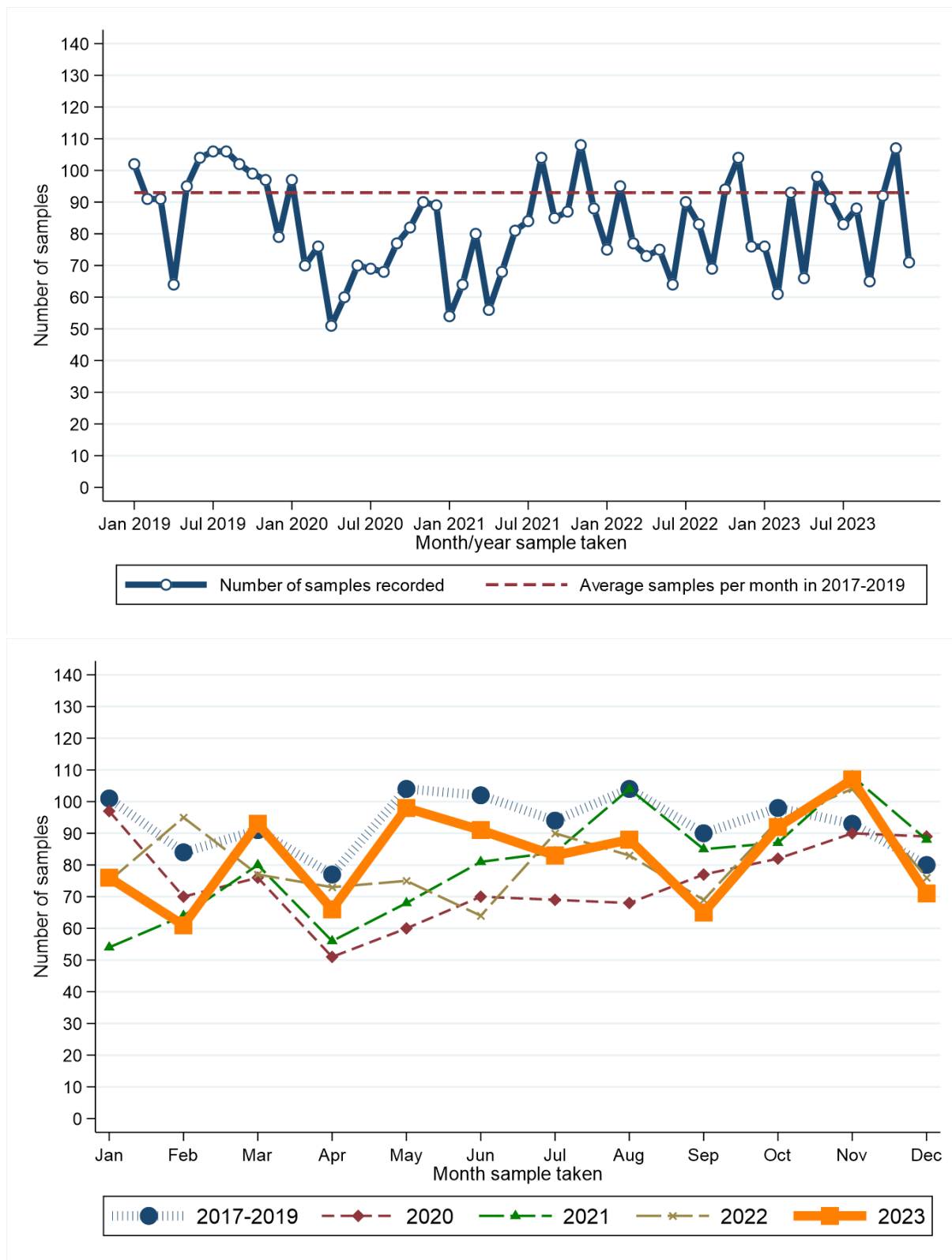
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

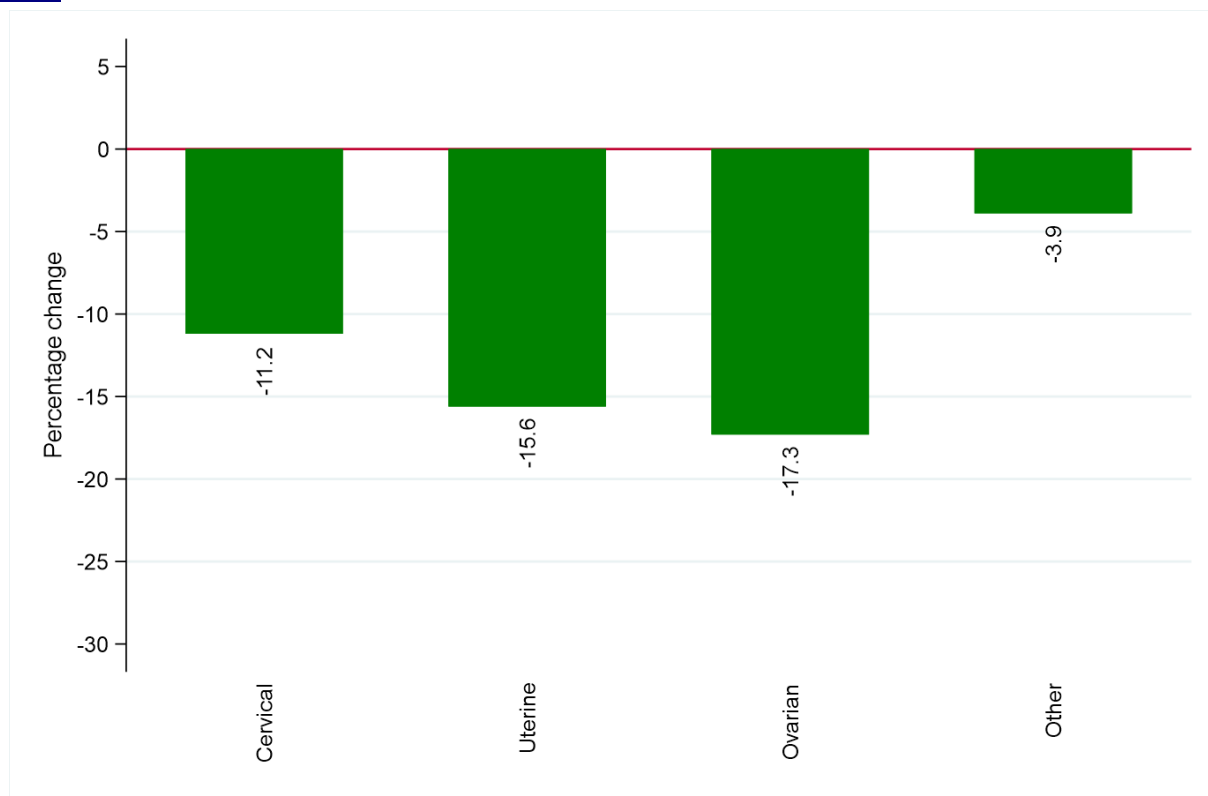
-14.7%



Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	101	97	54	75	76	Jul	94	69	84	90	83
Feb	84	70	64	95	61	Aug	104	68	104	83	88
Mar	91	76	80	77	93	Sep	90	77	85	69	65
Apr	77	51	56	73	66	Oct	98	82	87	94	92
May	104	60	68	75	98	Nov	93	90	108	104	107
Jun	102	70	81	64	91	Dec	80	89	88	76	71

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 BY DETAILED CANCER TYPE - Excluding Altnagelvin



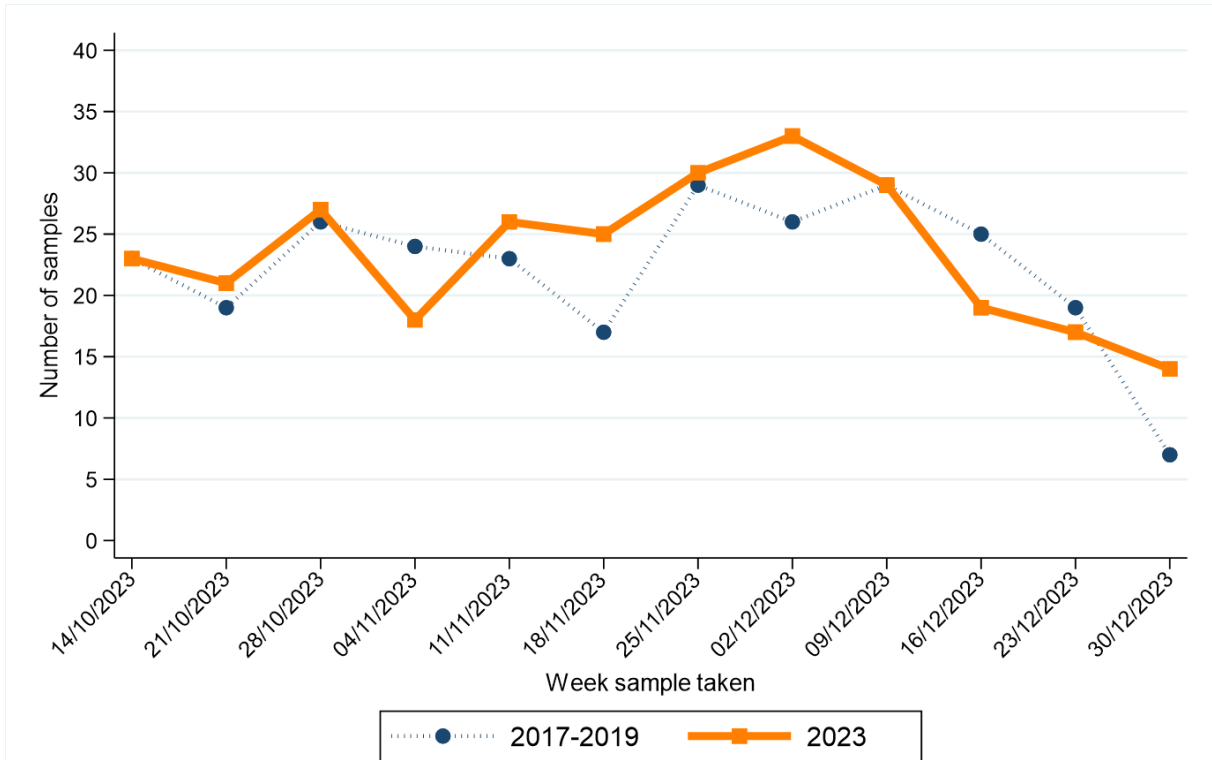
Cancer type	Number of samples (March 2020 to Dec 2023)	
	Expected number*	Recorded number
Cervical cancer	635	564
Uterine cancer	2,036	1,719
Ovarian cancer	1,218	1,007
Other gynaecological cancer	382	367

* Based upon average monthly number of samples from 2017-2019.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+5.6%



Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	23	23	25/11/2023	29	30
21/10/2023	19	21	02/12/2023	26	33
28/10/2023	26	27	09/12/2023	29	29
04/11/2023	24	18	16/12/2023	25	19
11/11/2023	23	26	23/12/2023	19	17
18/11/2023	17	25	30/12/2023	7	14

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

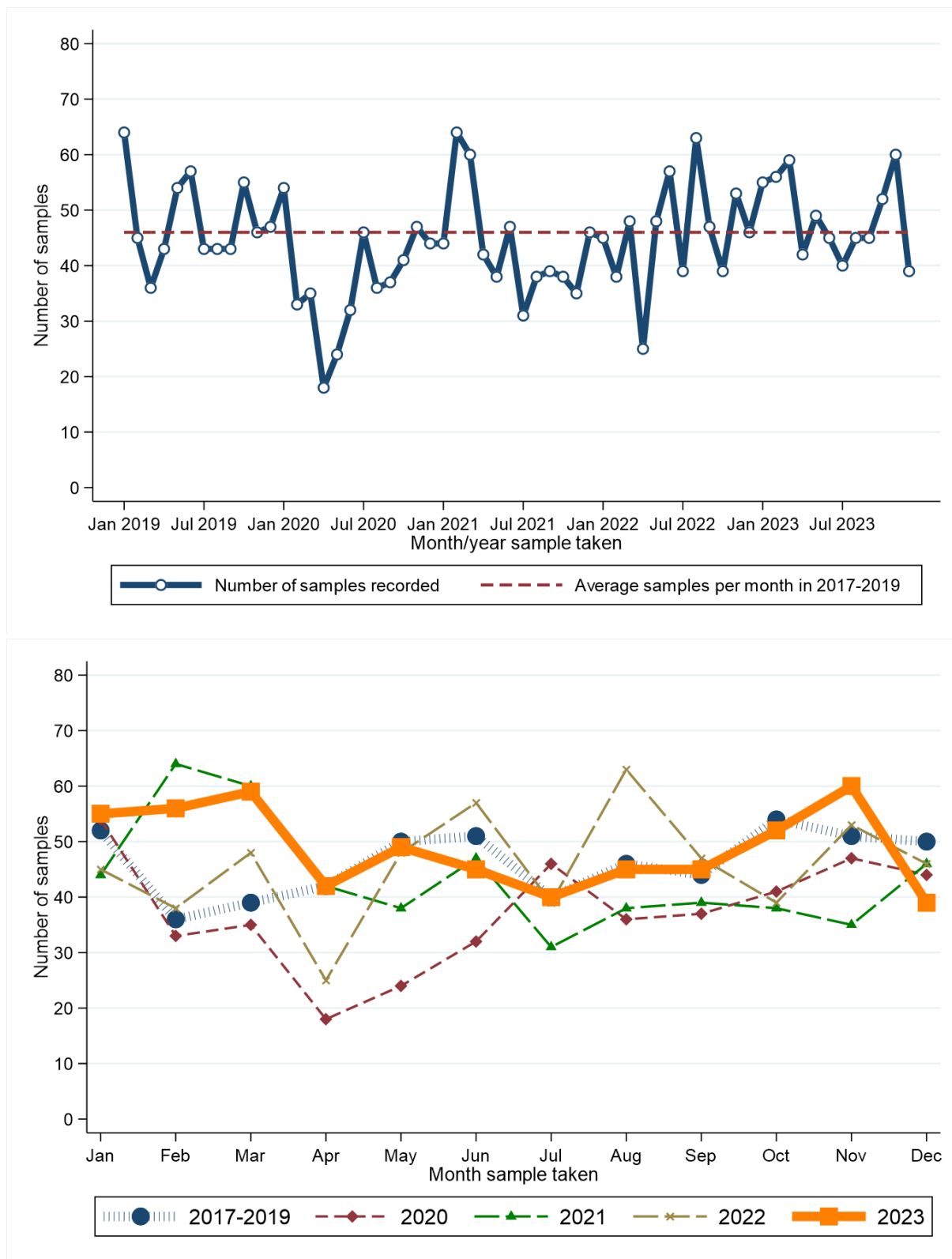
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

HEAD AND NECK CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-5.4%



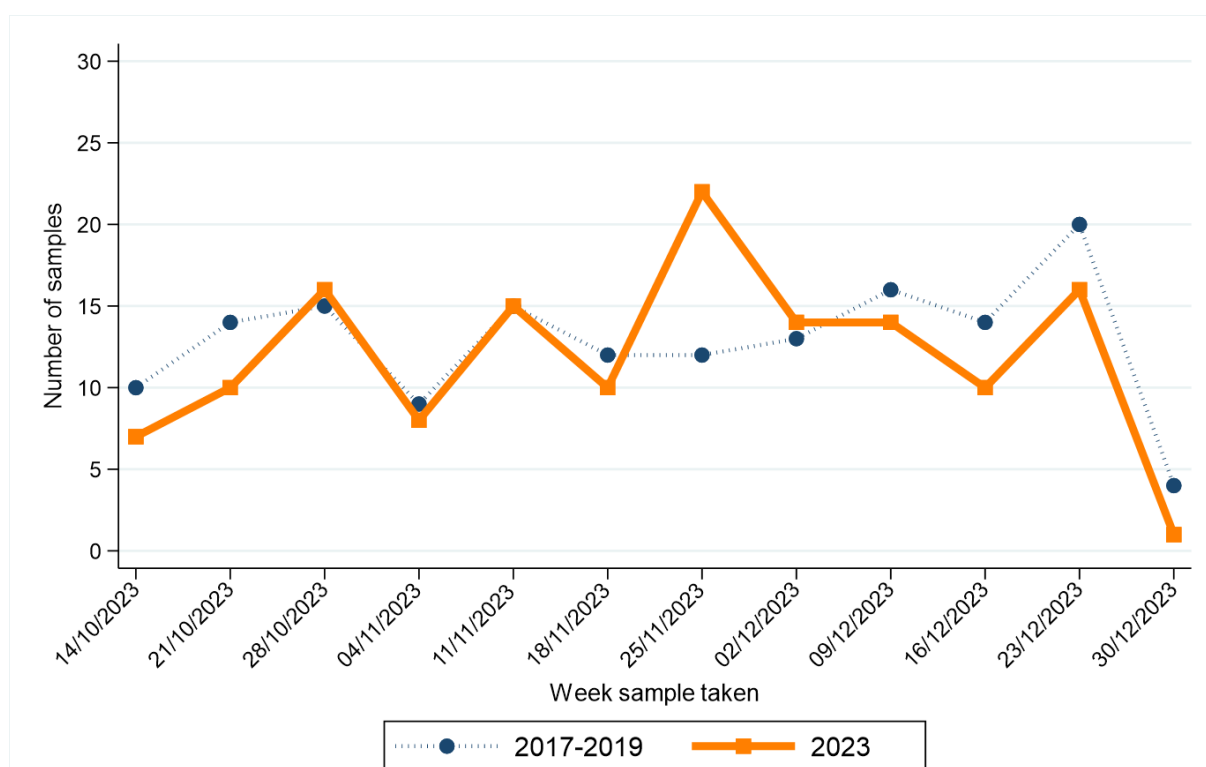
Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	52	54	44	45	55	Jul	40	46	31	39	40
Feb	36	33	64	38	56	Aug	46	36	38	63	45
Mar	39	35	60	48	59	Sep	44	37	39	47	45
Apr	42	18	42	25	42	Oct	54	41	38	39	52
May	50	24	38	48	49	Nov	51	47	35	53	60
Jun	51	32	47	57	45	Dec	50	44	46	46	39

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-7.1%



Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	10	7
21/10/2023	14	10
28/10/2023	15	16
04/11/2023	9	8
11/11/2023	15	15
18/11/2023	12	10

Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
25/11/2023	12	22
02/12/2023	13	14
09/12/2023	16	14
16/12/2023	14	10
23/12/2023	20	16
30/12/2023	4	1

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

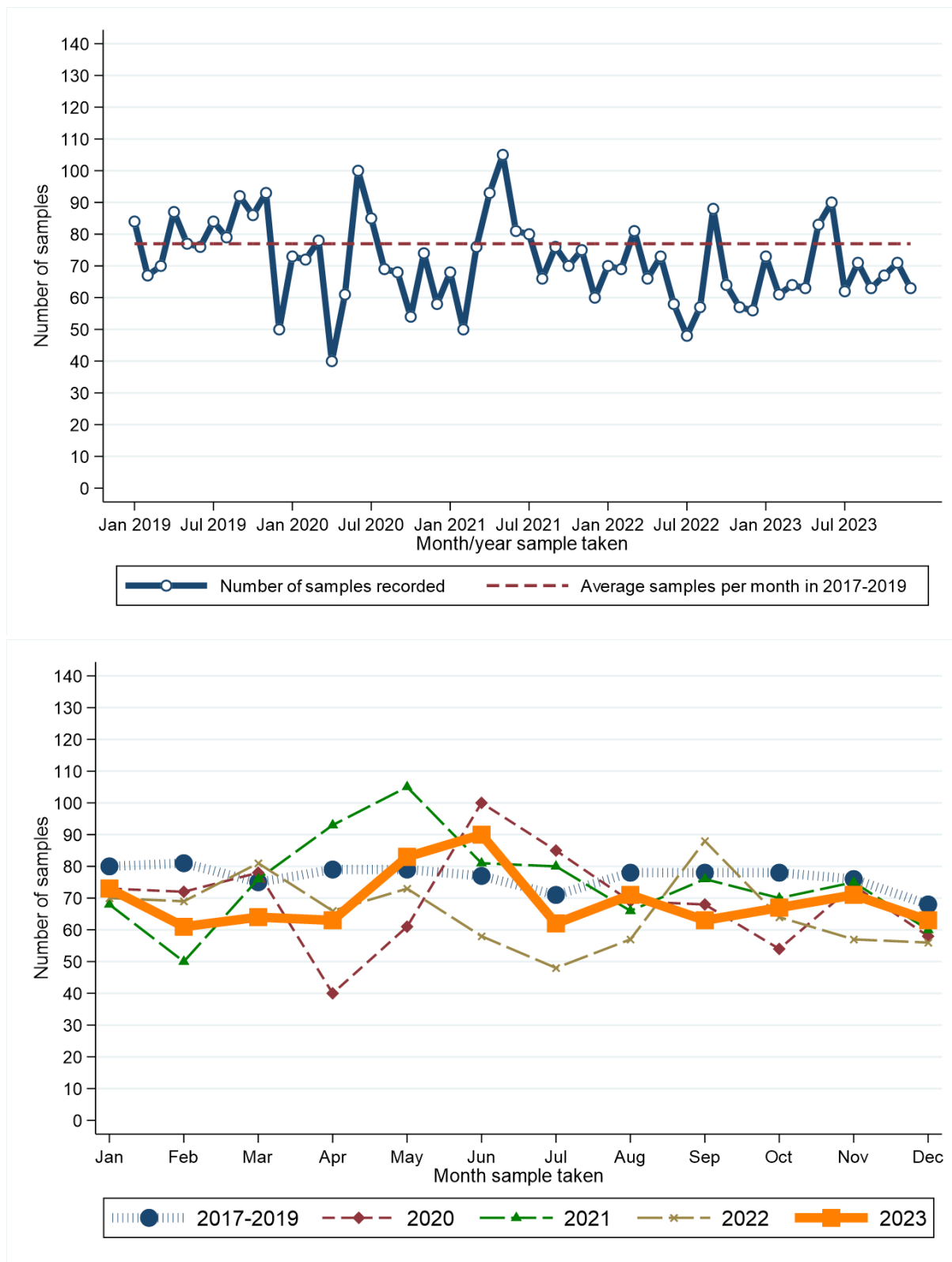
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

URINARY CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-8.9%



Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	80	73	68	70	73
Feb	81	72	50	69	61
Mar	75	78	76	81	64
Apr	79	40	93	66	63
May	79	61	105	73	83
Jun	77	100	81	58	90

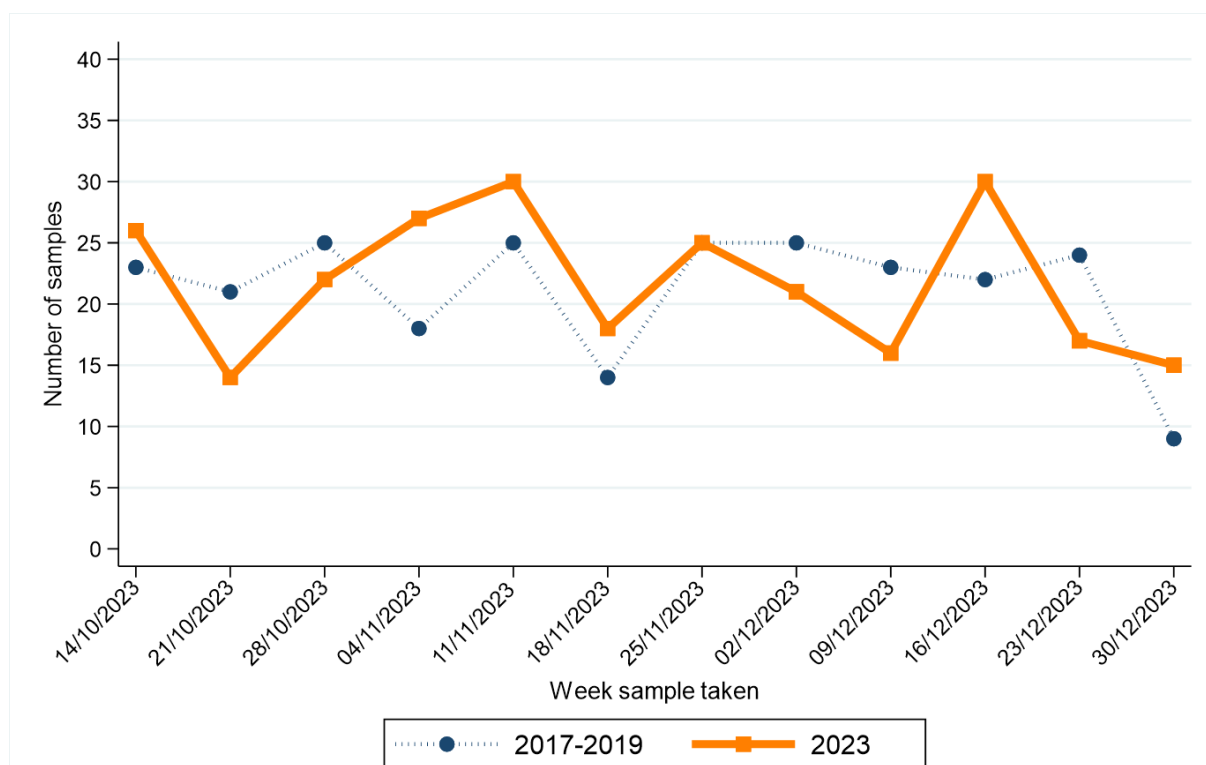
* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jul	71	85	80	48	62
Aug	78	69	66	57	71
Sep	78	68	76	88	63
Oct	78	54	70	64	67
Nov	76	74	75	57	71
Dec	68	58	60	56	63

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+2.8%



Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	23	26
21/10/2023	21	14
28/10/2023	25	22
04/11/2023	18	27
11/11/2023	25	30
18/11/2023	14	18

Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
25/11/2023	25	25
02/12/2023	25	21
09/12/2023	23	16
16/12/2023	22	30
23/12/2023	24	17
30/12/2023	9	15

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

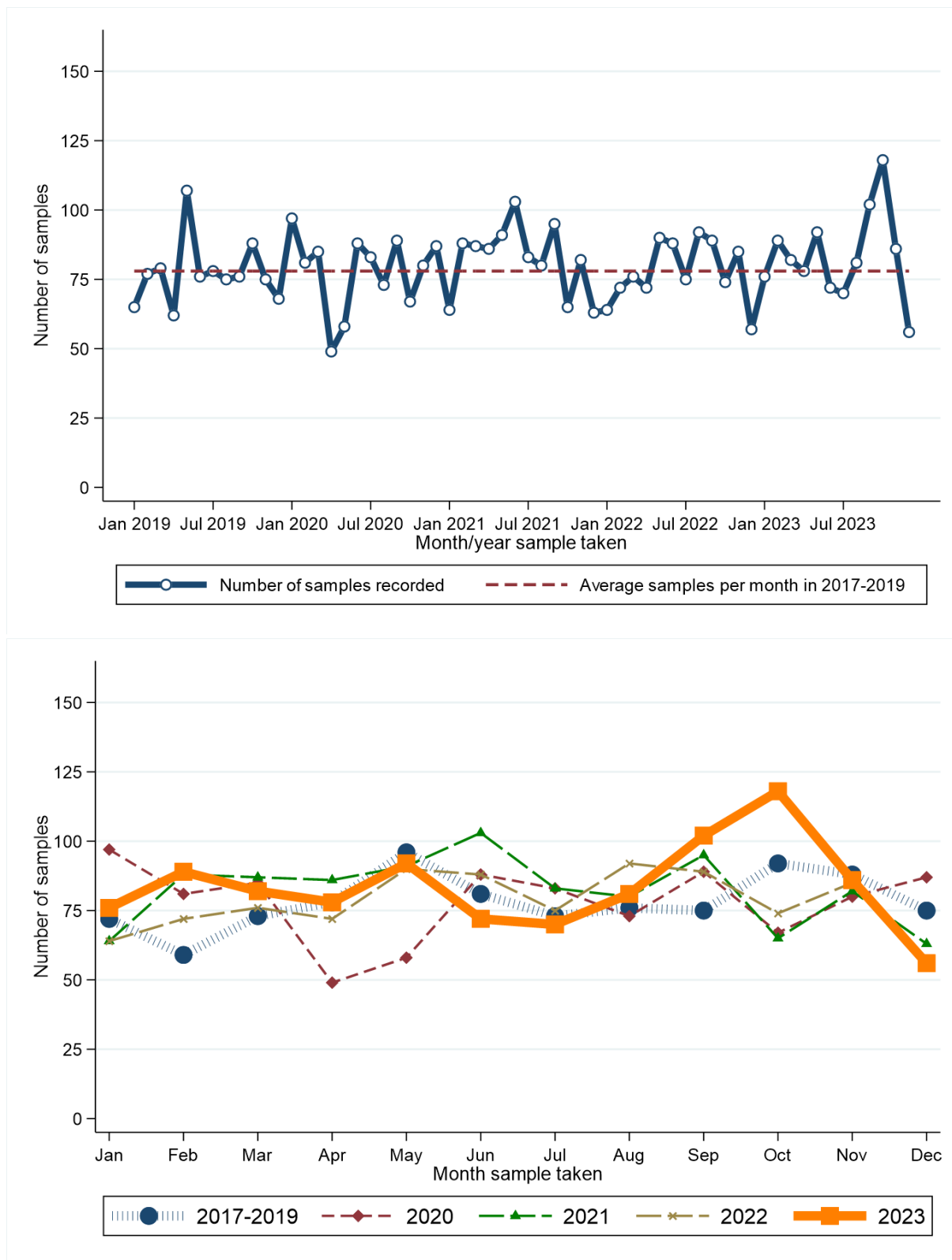
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

HAEMATOLOGICAL CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

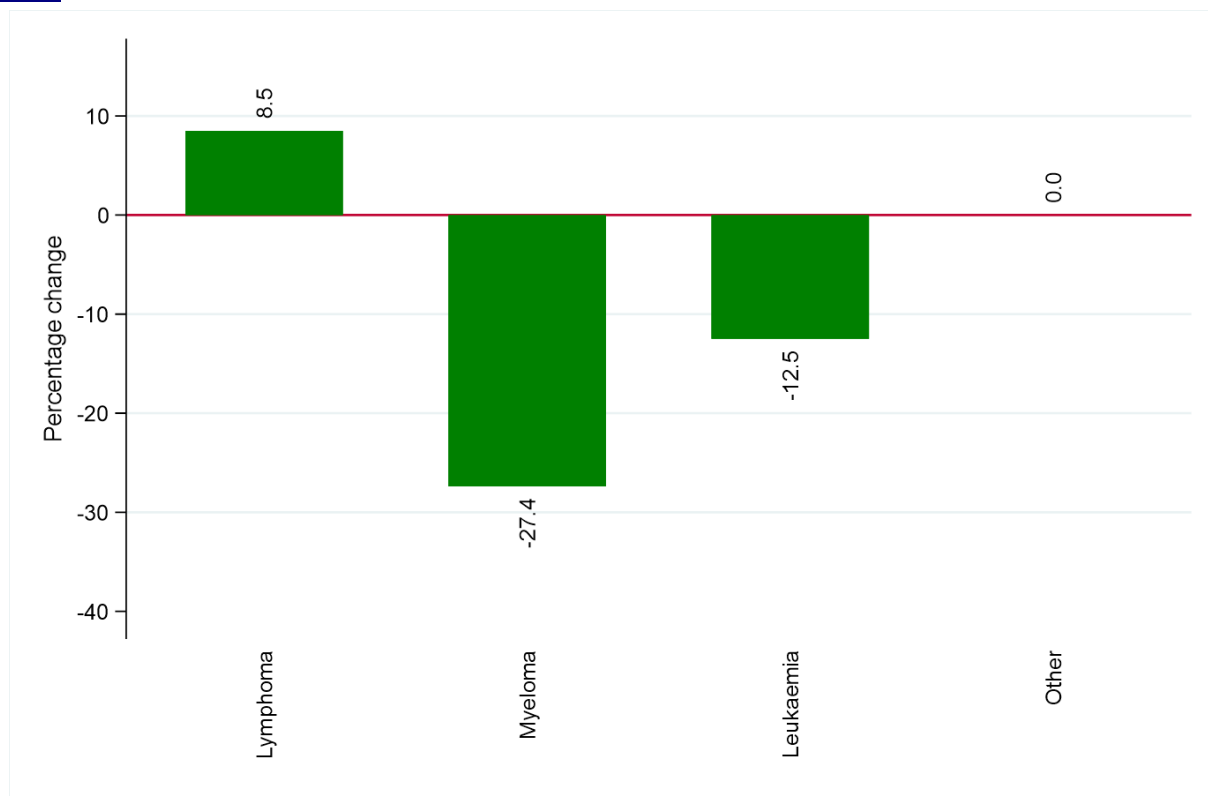
+1.7%



Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	72	97	64	64	76	Jul	73	83	83	75	70
Feb	59	81	88	72	89	Aug	76	73	80	92	81
Mar	73	85	87	76	82	Sep	75	89	95	89	102
Apr	78	49	86	72	78	Oct	92	67	65	74	118
May	96	58	91	90	92	Nov	88	80	82	85	86
Jun	81	88	103	88	72	Dec	75	87	63	57	56

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 BY DETAILED CANCER TYPE - Excluding Altnagelvin



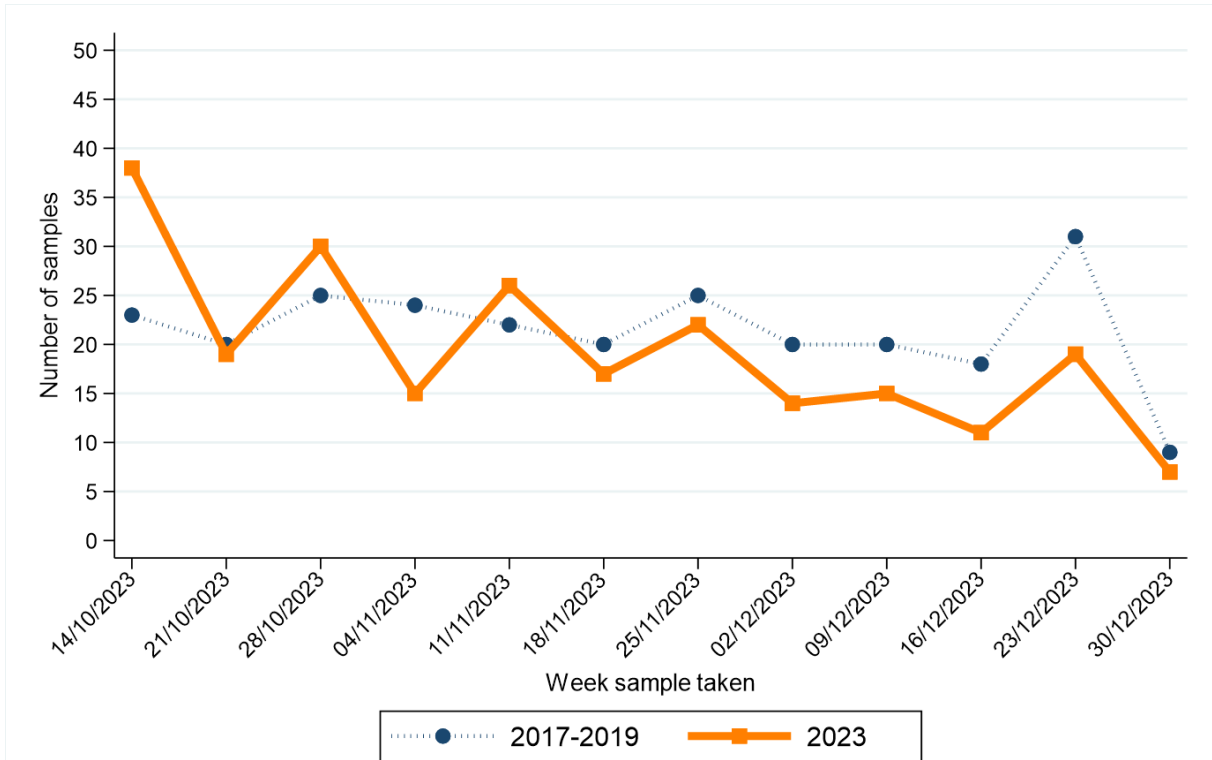
Cancer type	Number of samples (March 2020 to Dec 2023)	
	Expected number*	Recorded number
Lymphoma	2,800	3,038
Myeloma	475	345
Leukaemia	287	251
Other haematological cancer	48	48

* Based upon average monthly number of samples from 2017-2019.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-9.3%



Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	23	38	25/11/2023	25	22
21/10/2023	20	19	02/12/2023	20	14
28/10/2023	25	30	09/12/2023	20	15
04/11/2023	24	15	16/12/2023	18	11
11/11/2023	22	26	23/12/2023	31	19
18/11/2023	20	17	30/12/2023	9	7

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

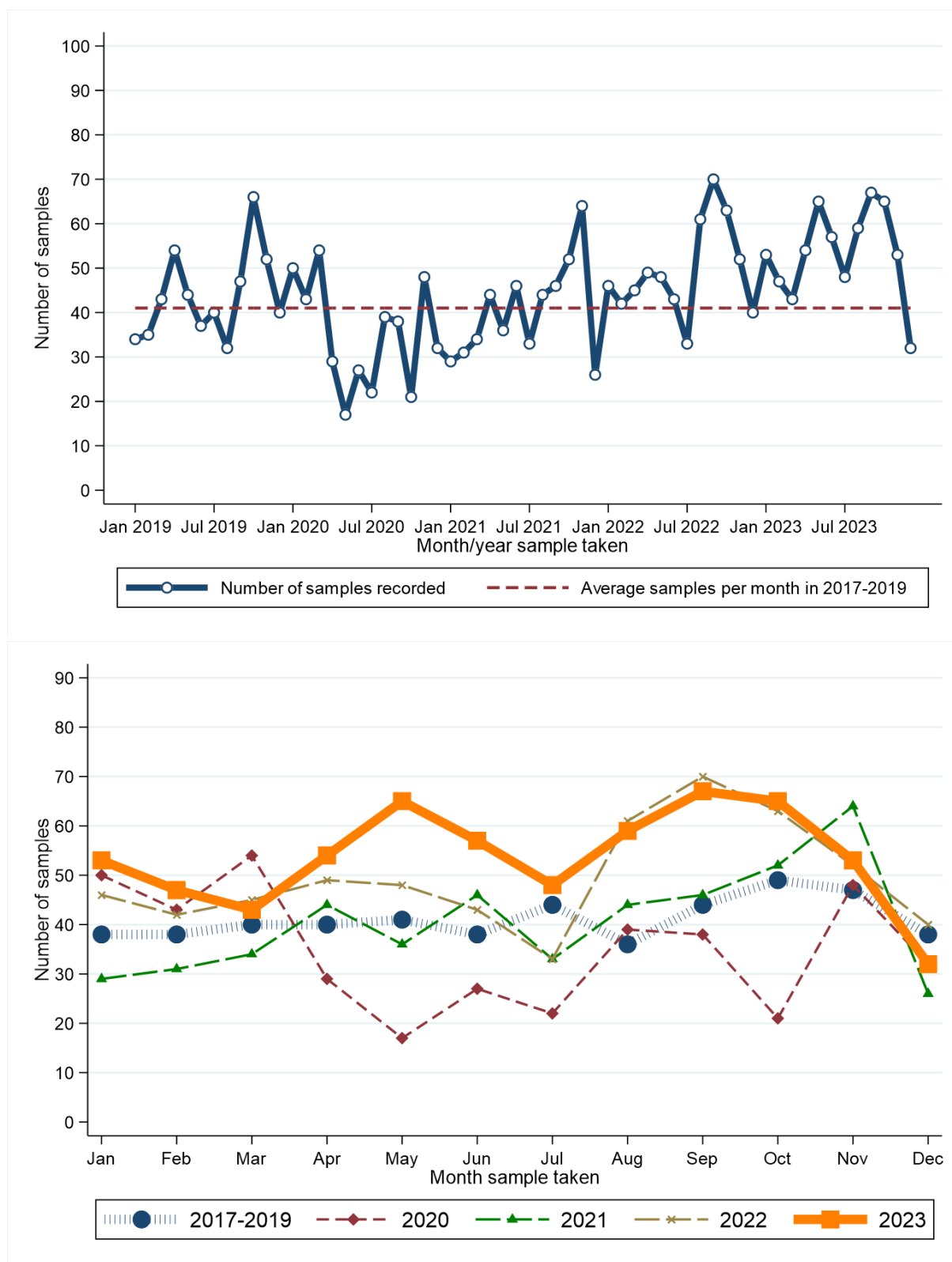
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

MELANOMA

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+8.0%



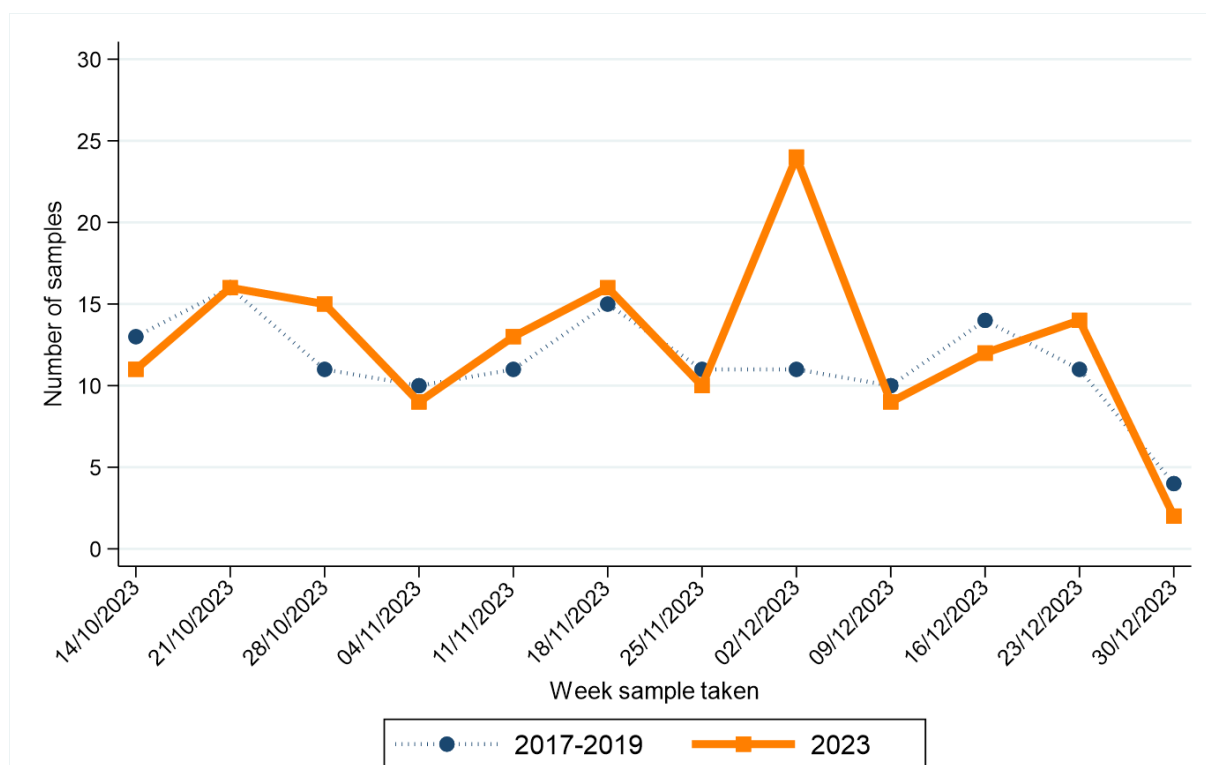
Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	38	50	29	46	53	Jul	44	22	33	33	48
Feb	38	43	31	42	47	Aug	36	39	44	61	59
Mar	40	54	34	45	43	Sep	44	38	46	70	67
Apr	40	29	44	49	54	Oct	49	21	52	63	65
May	41	17	36	48	65	Nov	47	48	64	52	53
Jun	38	27	46	43	57	Dec	38	32	26	40	32

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+10.2%



Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	13	11
21/10/2023	16	16
28/10/2023	11	15
04/11/2023	10	9
11/11/2023	11	13
18/11/2023	15	16

Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
25/11/2023	11	10
02/12/2023	11	24
09/12/2023	10	9
16/12/2023	14	12
23/12/2023	11	14
30/12/2023	4	2

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

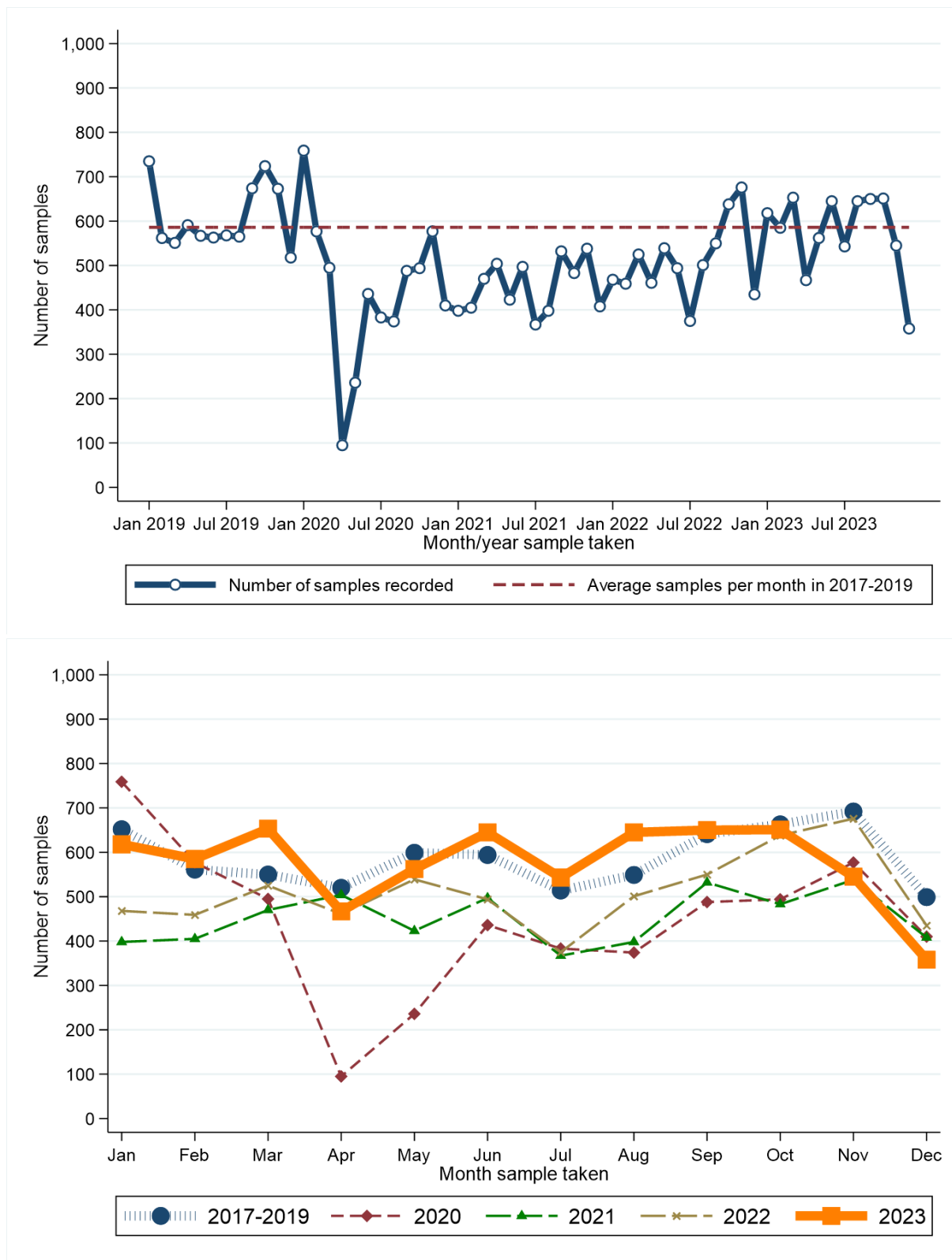
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

NON-MELANOMA SKIN CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-16.6%



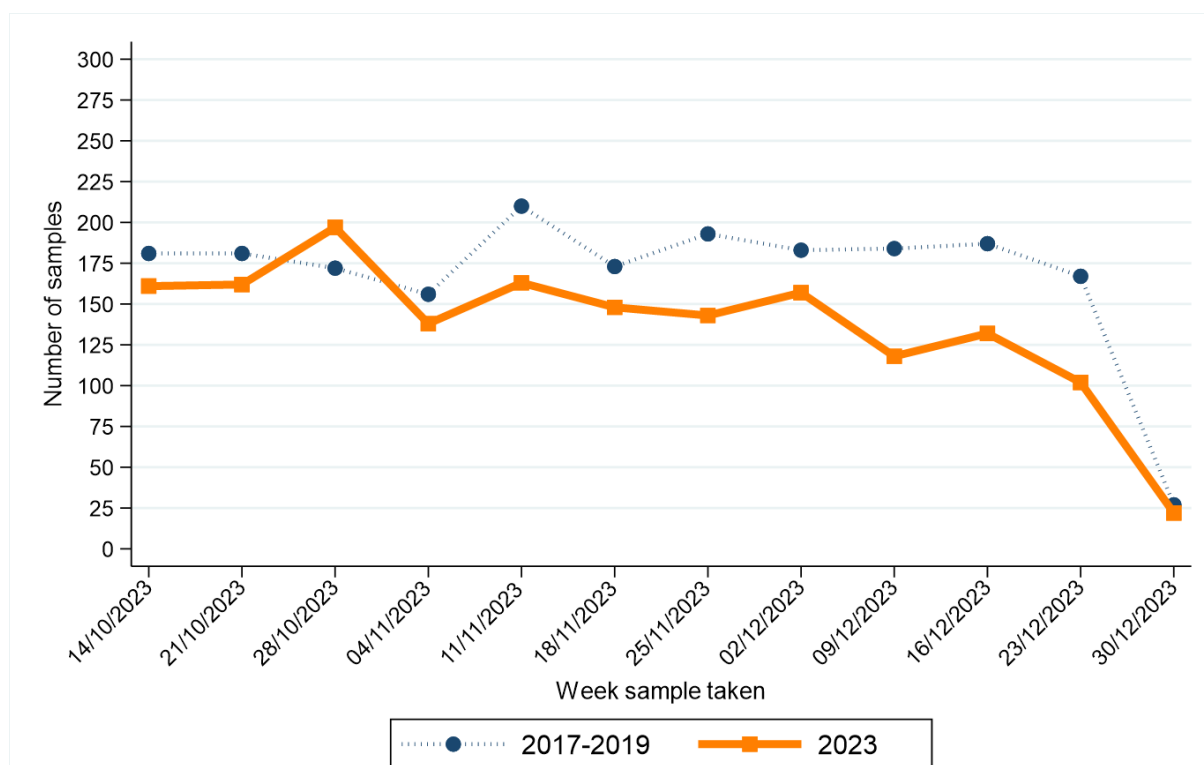
Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	652	759	398	468	618	Jul	514	383	367	375	543
Feb	561	577	405	459	585	Aug	549	374	398	501	645
Mar	550	495	470	525	653	Sep	641	488	532	550	650
Apr	520	95	504	461	467	Oct	663	494	483	638	651
May	599	236	423	539	562	Nov	692	577	538	676	545
Jun	594	436	497	494	645	Dec	499	410	408	435	358

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-18.4%



Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	181	161
21/10/2023	181	162
28/10/2023	172	197
04/11/2023	156	138
11/11/2023	210	163
18/11/2023	173	148

Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
25/11/2023	193	143
02/12/2023	183	157
09/12/2023	184	118
16/12/2023	187	132
23/12/2023	167	102
30/12/2023	27	22

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

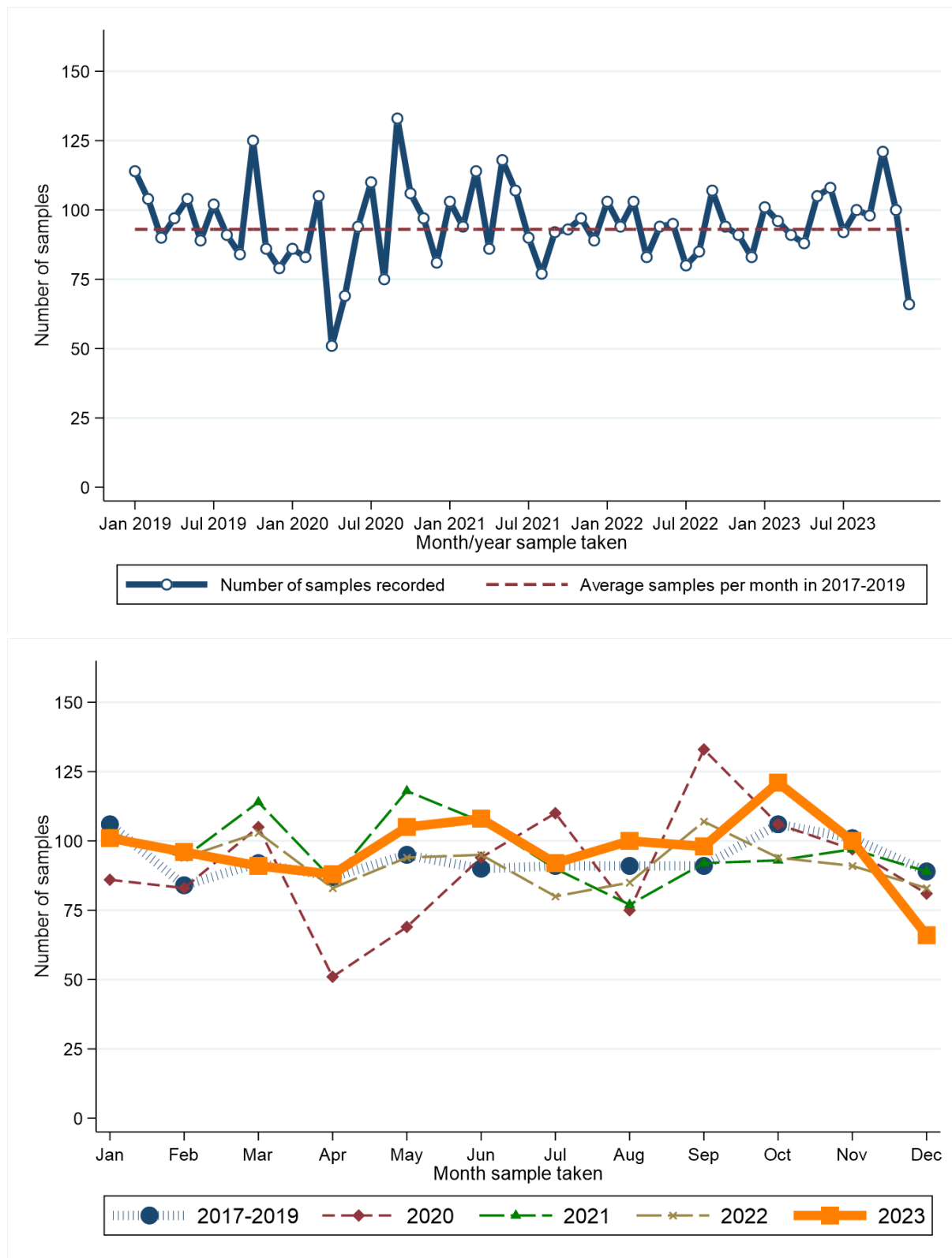
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

OTHER CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+1.3%



Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	106	86	103	103	101
Feb	84	83	94	94	96
Mar	92	105	114	103	91
Apr	87	51	86	83	88
May	95	69	118	94	105
Jun	90	94	107	95	108

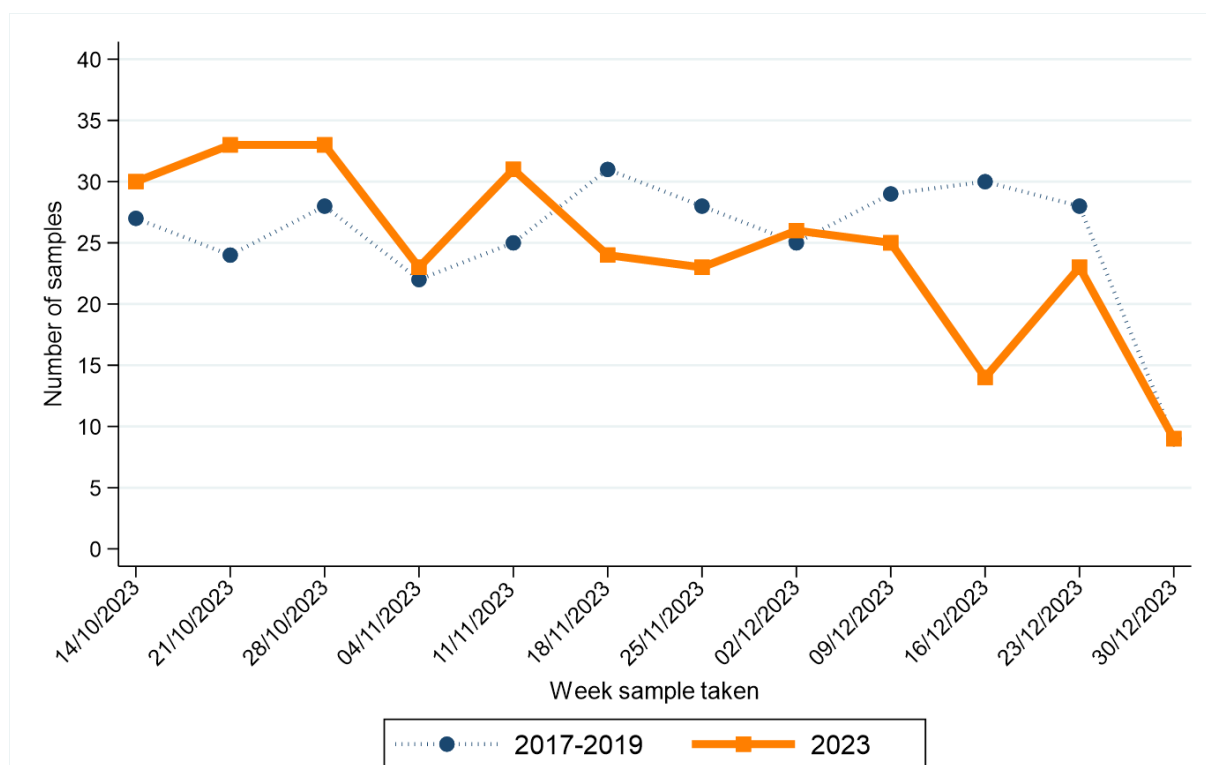
* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

Month sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jul	91	110	90	80	92
Aug	91	75	77	85	100
Sep	91	133	92	107	98
Oct	106	106	93	94	121
Nov	101	97	97	91	100
Dec	89	81	89	83	66

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-3.9%



Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	27	30
21/10/2023	24	33
28/10/2023	28	33
04/11/2023	22	23
11/11/2023	25	31
18/11/2023	31	24

Week sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
25/11/2023	28	23
02/12/2023	25	26
09/12/2023	29	25
16/12/2023	30	14
23/12/2023	28	23
30/12/2023	9	9

* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

1. NMSC: Non-melanoma skin cancer

2. Data is sourced from the four NHS pathology laboratories in Northern Ireland (Altnagelvin, 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 Dec 2023. Due to potential reporting delays, pathology data from the month following Dec 2023 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 2023. 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, pancreas, 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.