



Market Figures

There were 2,174,000 people insured with inpatient health insurance plans at the end of December 2017. This represents an increase in the number of insured people of 22,000 over the past 12 months. The market peaked at almost 2.3 million at the end of 2008.

In addition to those insured with inpatient plans, there were 104,000 insured with products solely providing outpatient benefits or health insurance cash plans.

In-patient health insurance plans	Total Insured 000's
Dec 2008	2,297
Dec 2009	2,260
Dec 2010	2,228
Dec 2011	2,163
Dec 2012	2,099
Dec 2013	2,049
Dec 2014	2,025
Dec 2015	2,122
Mar 2016	2,126
June 2016	2,133
Sept 2016	2,140
Dec 2016	2,152
Mar 2017	2,156
June 2017	2,157
Sep 2017	2,166
Dec 2017	2,174

Based on CSO population estimates, the percentage of the population with inpatient health insurance plans stands at 45.1% at end December 2017 compared to 2008 peak of 50.9%.

Market News

Consumer Survey

The HIA commissioned a consumer survey for 2017, undertaken by Kantar Millward Brown, the results of which are published on our website titled "A review of Private Health Insurance in Ireland, 2017" at bit.ly/ConsumerSurvey2017.

Our independent consumer research showed that the number of individuals with health insurance has increased again in 2017. Consumer satisfaction with the level and clarity of information given by insurance companies has increased from 85% to 89%. Elements of private health insurance where policy holders are happiest concern the quality of information/advice received, customer service and the range of products offered. Satisfaction on all metrics has consistently trended upwards since 2013.

Switching levels have slowed down with numbers reducing to 22% from 24% with nearly two thirds of those who have switched having only done so once.

Vhi price changes 31.12.2017 - 02.01.2018

Vhi Healthcare began a half-price kids offer on all 'One Plans' and Teachers



Industry News

Report of the Health Insurance Authority to the Department of Health on Lifetime Community Rating 2017

The Health Insurance Authority carried out a public consultation process on Lifetime Community Rating in January 2017. The report was submitted to the Department of Health and can be found online at bit.ly/LCR_Report.

Vhi Healthcare price reductions and benefit changes 01.03.2018 & 02.03.2018

Vhi Healthcare will reduce the premiums of 54 plans on 1 March 2018. Reductions will range from -4 to -7%. Vhi Healthcare will also end its half price kids offer on the "One Plan" range on this date, a new half price kid's offer on "One Plan Family", "Nurses Plan Select", "Teachers Plan Select" and "Parents and Kids Excess Plan" will begin on this date.

Some or all of the following changes will be made to 78 plans on 1 or 2 March: Addition of genetic testing for hereditary cancer - This benefit provides cover for genetic testing for risk of developing hereditary cancer, such as breast, ovarian, endometrial and colorectal cancer.

Addition of Vhi Online Doctor – A new service being added to many plans (6 or 12 visits).

Addition of Strength and Conditioning Coach benefit – this benefit provides cash back in respect of visits to an accredited Strength and Conditioning Coach. CT Scan cover has been extended to cover non-oncology scans.

Irish Life Health price reductions 02.03.2018

Irish Life Health will reduce the premiums of 11 plans on 2 March 2018. Reductions will range from -1 to -11%. These changes apply to all new and renewing customers from this date.

Laya Healthcare price reduction 01.01.2018

Laya Healthcare applied a price change across 16 plans from 1 January 2018. 14 plans reduced in price ranging from -1 to -14% on net adult premiums. Laya Healthcare has offered a 'Free Kids Offer' across 2 plans since 1 January 2018. The 2nd and subsequent children on a policy on the Essential Connect Family and Essential Health 300 plans are free.

Plan Select and Nurses Plan Select plans on 31 December 2017.

9 plans increased in price ranging from 2 to 5% of the net adult premium on the 1st and 2nd January 2018.

Vhi Healthcare rate and benefit changes 01.02.2018

Vhi Healthcare increased the premiums of PMI 08 11 and PMI 26 12 on 1 February 2018.

PMI 08 11 increased from €1,183.51 to €1,211.18 per adult and from €292.81 to €298.66 per child 1-3. Young adult rates also increased.

PMI 26 12 increased from €1,298.17 to €1,337.12 per adult and decreased from €393.69 to €367.31 per child 1-3. Young adult rates also increased.

Vhi also made a number of benefit changes to both plans on this date:

PMI 08 11
Mental health therapy limit was increased
STI Screening was included
Maternity and Baby bundle was included
7 outpatient benefits had their euro limits changed to 50% cover
Practise nurse benefit included
Enhancement to cancer care

PMI 26 12
STI Screening included
Enhancement to cancer care
Maternity and Baby bundle included

These changes will apply to all new and renewing customers from this date.