



Market Figures

There were 2,156,000 people insured with inpatient health insurance plans at the end of March 2017. This represents an increase in the number of insured people of 30,000 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 102,000 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

Based on CSO population estimates, the percentage of the population with inpatient health insurance plans stands at 45.8% at end December 2016 compared to the 2008 peak of 50.9%

Market News

Price Changes

Irish Life Health will carry out a price change on their plans on 12 June 2017. Prices will change from -3% to 22% on net adult premiums.

Vhi increased the premiums of 52 plans from 1.0% to 3.9% on adult net premiums from 1 May 2017.

Laya Healthcare carried out premium amendments on 128 plans from 1 April 2017. Premiums increased from 3.6% to 19.2% on adult net premiums over 124 plans.

New Plans

Vhi released 4 new plans on 22 February 2017, all with restricted public and private hospitals lists. They are Smart Plan 150 (€925 per adult), Smart Plan 250 (€820 per adult), Smart Plan 500 (€725 per adult) and Smart Plan Family (€995 per adult).

Industry News

Irish Life Health

Irish Life Health DAC was established in August 2016 following the completion of Irish Life Group's transactions to acquire Aviva Health Insurance Ireland Limited (and renamed it as Irish Life Health DAC) and take 100% ownership of GloHealth. Irish Life Group previously had a 49% shareholding of GloHealth.

GloHealth is no longer open for new and renewing business from 22nd February 2017, but it remains business as usual for existing customers until their renewal dates. All claims will be processed as normal. Customers who have given consent will be invited to renew their health cover with Irish Life Health.

Lifetime Community Rating Consultation Process 2017

The Health Insurance Authority recently carried out a consultation process on Lifetime Community Rating at the request of the Minister for Health, in order to review the legislation introduced in May 2015 which applies loadings to members taking out insurance for the first time, over the age of 34. The consultation process invited submissions from stakeholders and interested parties to give their views on how the regulations could be improved. The Authority has submitted its report to the Department of Health.

Premiums paid

The total health insurance premiums paid in 2016 gross of tax relief amounted to €2,528m, an increase of 2.7% from 2015. The average premium paid per insured person in 2016 was €1,177 compared to €1,173 in 2015 and €1,200 in 2014. These figures are based on gross premium levels with child premiums and young adult discounts have a lowering effect on the average figure.

Benefit Changes

Laya Healthcare removed cover for the Blackrock Clinic and the Mater Private on their Flex range of plans from 1 April 2017, with the exception of certain cardiac and orthopaedic procedures which will still be covered.

Special Offers

Laya's four Assure plans reduced in price from 1.4% to 6.4% on adult net premiums on 1 April 2017. Additionally, the second and subsequent children will be offered free cover on the following plans from 1 April 2017:

Flex 125 Explore

Flex 125 Plus

Flex 125 Choice

Flex 175 Explore

Advantage 125 Explore

Advantage 125 Plus

Advantage 125 Choice

Irish Life Health reduced the premiums of 10 schemes from 1 March 2017 by an average of 9% on net adult premiums. These are Health Plan 01, Health Plan 13, Health Plan 16.1, Be Fit 2, Be Fit 2.1, Select, Select with Day to Day, Select with Emergency Access pack, Select with Day 2 Day and Emergency packs and Select Starter.