



Market Figures

There were 2,133,000 people insured with inpatient health insurance plans at the end of June 2016. This represents an increase in the number of insured people of 7,000 over the past 3 months. The market peaked at almost 2.3 million at the end of 2008.

In addition to those insured with inpatient plans, there were 103,000 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
June 2015	2,119
Sept 2015	2,118
Dec 2015	2,122
Mar 2016	2,126
June 2016	2,133

Based on CSO population estimates, the percentage of the population with inpatient health insurance plans stands at 45.6% at end June 2016 compared to the 2008 peak of 50.9%.

Market News

GloHealth

GloHealth introduced upgrade waiting periods on product switches at renewal dates from 30 June 2016, for new conditions as well as for existing conditions. The waiting periods for new conditions are 26 weeks for customers under age 55, 1 year for ages 55-64 and 2 years for ages 65+. The waiting periods for existing conditions remain at 2 years for all ages.

GloHealth also added new benefits to the Personalised Packages on their Core, Net, Kick-Off, Nurture Zest and Bloom schemes on this date and removed 5 orthopaedic public hospitals from their Zest and Nurture schemes.

Laya Healthcare

Laya Healthcare increased premiums on their plans from 3%-22% on adult premiums on 1 July 2016, followed by the addition of GP video lines and Physielines to many of their plans.

Vhi

Vhi added a new Fertility Programme and Vision Care Package to a number of plans on 1 August 2016.

Laya Healthcare

Laya Healthcare will increase the premiums of 11 plans (CompanyCare Gold, CompanyCare Plus, Control 150 Create, Control 150 Secure, Control 150 Total, Empower Secure, Health Sense (excess), Simply Connect, SimplyHealth Choice, SimplyHealth Starter & Total Health Select) on 1 September.

Market News

Health Insurance Authority Annual Report 2015

The Health Insurance Authority published its 2015 Annual Report on 28 July and can be found at http://bit.ly/HIA_Annual_Report_2015. The Report provides information about the operation of the private health insurance market during 2015 and the work of the Authority in regulating the community-rated private health insurance market in Ireland.

Commenting on the Report, Health Insurance Authority CEO, Don Gallagher, said: "2015 was a notable year for the regulation of the private health insurance market in Ireland. Lifetime community premium loadings came into force on 1 May to encourage people to take out private health insurance at a younger age and thereby help improve the sustainability of the market and help control premium inflation.

Improvements in the wider economy helped the market for private health insurance. The number insured at the end of 2015 was 2.12 million, or 46% of the population. This was an increase of 97,000 over the previous year. This turnaround was due to a combination of factors including rising employment in the economy and the introduction of Lifetime Community Rating."

VHI had the largest overall share with 53% of the PHI market but 83% of the insured population over 80 years of age. Its market share of premiums was 61% and 67% of claims paid.

Mr. Gallagher said: "At the end of 2015 there were 360 private health insurance products being marketed, a marginal increase on 355 at the end of 2014. A number of these were low cost products introduced in the run in to the introduction of Lifetime Community Rating on 1 May 2015. Notwithstanding this, the number and range of products available means that consumers continue to need support to work out which products best meet their needs.

A core function of the Authority is to provide information to consumers about private health insurance and their rights within our community-rated market. During the year, the Authority had approximately 435,000 consumer contacts, most of which were through its website at www.hia.ie which provides the only comprehensive comparison tool of all health insurance plans in the market. It allows consumers select and compare products for benefits and pricing."

"Consumers should really be checking their current cover and pricing at least every two to three years to make sure they are receiving value from the market," he added.

Irish Life Health established following health insurer acquisition

Irish Life Health has been established following the completion of Irish Life Group's transactions to acquire Aviva Health and assume control of GloHealth. Aviva Health will assume the name of Irish Life Health on 26 August 2016. GloHealth will remain as such until further notice.

Retired Plans

GloHealth retired their Hospital Cash plan range on 30 June 2016. Customers will be offered an alternative on renewal.

Special Offers

Vhi are currently offering 50% child rates on all One Plan, Teachers Plan Select and Nurses Plan Select plans since 1 August 2016.

Aviva reduced child premiums on Family Focus and Hospital Focus, Health Plan 16.1, Be Fit 2 and Be Fit 2.1 on 1 July.

Laya Healthcare will decrease the child rates on Essential Connect Health on 1 September to €160 per child.

Members of the Authority

The terms of appointment for all five outgoing Authority Members finished on 31 January, 2016. Ms. S. Malin was reappointed to the Authority as Chairperson and now serves alongside newly appointed Members Mr. S. Coyle, Dr. F. Kiernan and Mr. J. A. McNamara from 1 February 2016 and Mr. I. Britchfield from 20 June 2016. The Authority wishes to acknowledge the work and dedication of the outgoing Members of the Authority, Mr. J. Joyce (Chairman), Mr D. Curtin, Prof. A. Staines and Mr P. Turpin and thanks them for their tenure of service.