Non-Practising Class at a Glance: 2026

College of Nurses of Ontario
Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers de l'Ontario

The Non-Practising Class is for RNs and RPNs who wish to maintain their registration with CNO but do not intend to practice nursing in Ontario. Nurses who hold both RN and RPN registration (dual registrants) must hold Non-Practising Class registration for both certificates of registration.

Non-Practising Class Snapshot

17,162 Non-Practising Class renewals in 2026

2.6% increase in registrants to the Non-Practising Class from 2025

Three out of every four Non-Practising registrants are RNs

The age composition is shifting toward younger nurse registrants

30.6% of the Non-Practising Class are **employed outside Ontario**

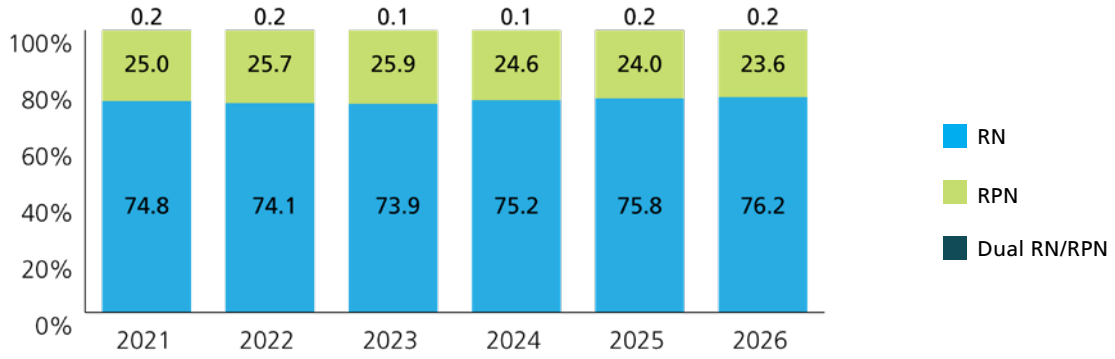
Increasing Renewals in the Non-Practising Class

Table 1. Overall Non-Practising Class renewals

Nurse Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
RN	10,775	11,014	11,493	12,388	12,681	13,071
RPN	3,607	3,828	4,026	4,057	4,018	4,052
Dual RN/RPN	27	28	23	21	26	39
Total	**14,409**	**14,870**	**15,542**	**16,466**	**16,725**	**17,162**
Year-over-year Change %	1.4%	3.2%	4.5%	5.9%	1.6%	2.6%

RNs Continue to Represent Most of the Non-Practising Class

Figure 1. Proportion of nurse type in the Non-Practising Class



Non-Practising Class: 2026 Highlights

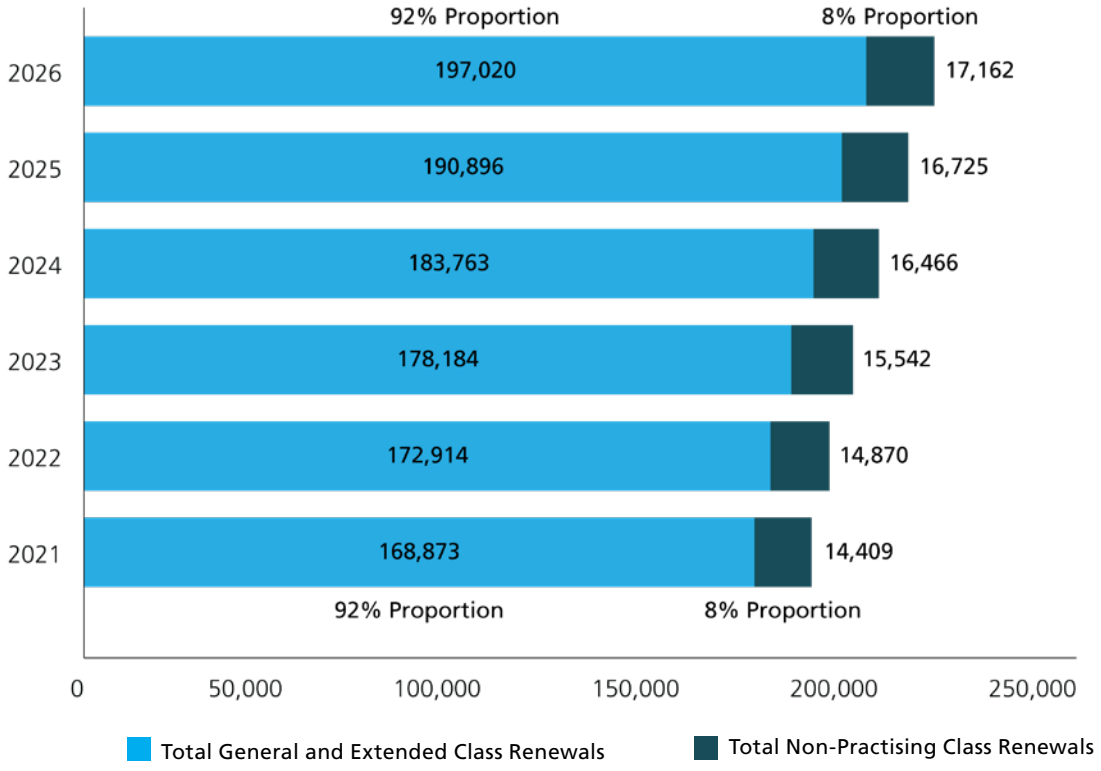
Summary

The Non-Practising Class represents an important option for current and former registrants to maintain their registration with CNO when they are not currently practicing nursing. In 2026, there were 17,162 nurses registered in the Non-Practising Class, representing a 2.6% increase from the year before. Each year, the Non-Practising Class also experiences consistent movement, with thousands of nurses entering and leaving the class. The composition of the Non-Practising Class is mostly RNs, with a shifting composition toward more younger registrants. These trends suggest the Non-Practising Class serves as a dynamic pathway for nurses transitioning into retirement or other jurisdictions, taking leave for family care or other periods away from active practice.

Renewals in the Non-Practising Class Have Remained a Stable Share of Total Renewals

Renewals in the Non-Practising and General and Extended Classes increased over time. Although renewals increased across all classes, the Non-Practising Class remains a stable share of all renewals, representing approximately 8% over the past six years. In 2026, there were 17,162 renewals in the Non-Practising Class, a 2.6% increase from 2025.

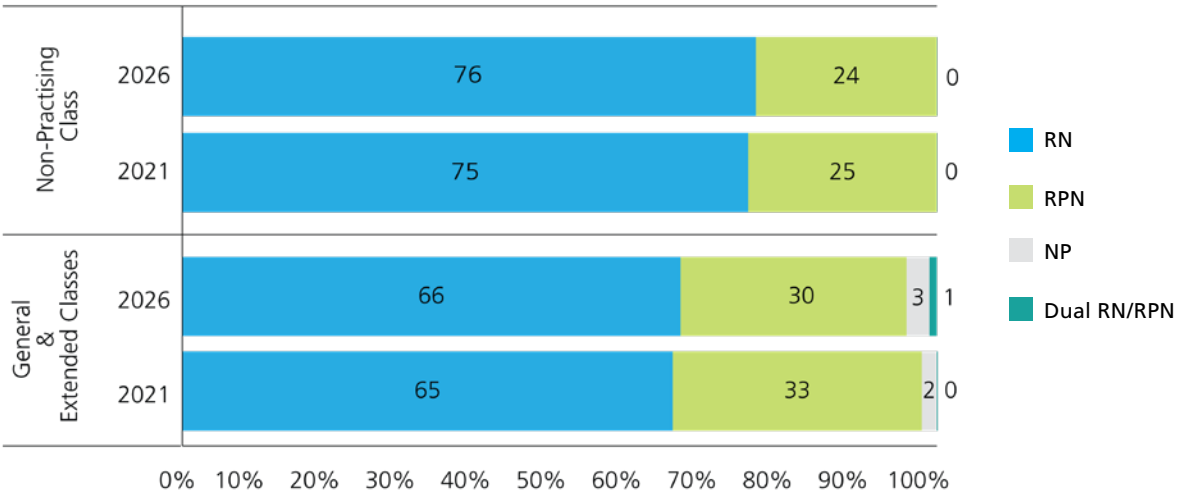
Figure 2. Overall renewals in the Non-Practising and General and Extended Classes



RNs Represent Most of the Non-Practising Class

The composition of the Non-Practising Class has remained stable over time and is predominantly made up of RNs. RNs account for 65.7% of overall renewals in the General Class, while RNs in the Non-Practising Class make up 76.2% of all Non-Practising Class renewals. There has been a 21.3% increase of RNs in the Non-Practising Class from 2021 to 2026 and a 12.3% increase in RPNs during the same time. This is alongside an 18.8% increase in RN renewals in the General Class and a 9.1% increase in RPN General Class renewals. The higher proportion of RNs in the Non-Practising Class may be partly explained by the fact that Nurse Practitioners (NPs), as a class of RNs, cannot hold registration in the Non-Practising Class.

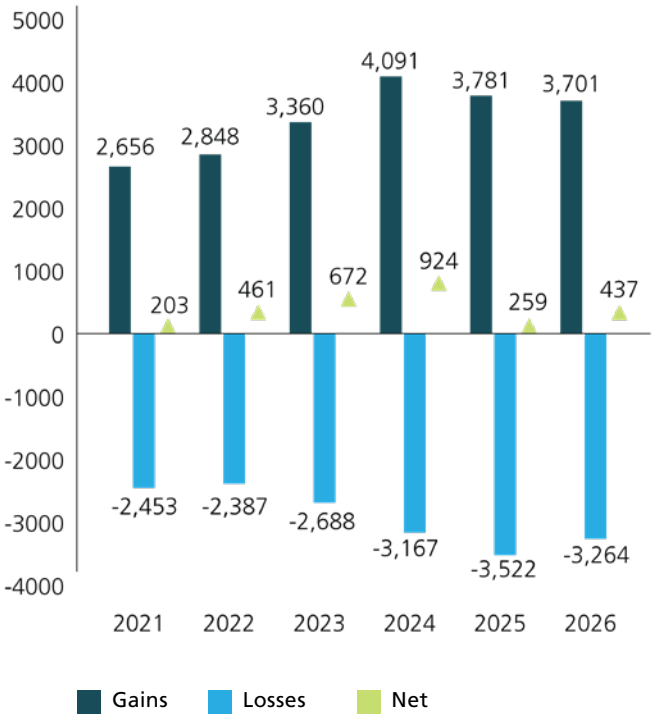
Figure 3. Proportion of overall renewals by nurse type



The Non-Practising Class Experiences Consistent Movement Each Year

Each year, thousands of nurses move into and out of the Non-Practising Class. Nurses entering the class (Gains) are registrants who did not renew in the Non-Practising Class the previous year, while nurses leaving the class (Losses) are registrants who did not renew in the current year. Some of these losses may reflect nurses transitioning back to the General or Extended Class, rather than ending CNO registration altogether. The Non-Practising Class experiences considerable movement each year. Unlike the General and Extended Classes, where gains have outpaced losses and contributed to continued growth, gains and losses in the Non-Practising Class remain relatively balanced, indicating more registrant turnover than sustained growth. This highlights that the Non-Practising Class functions as a dynamic transition pathway for nurses, supporting periods away from active nursing practice in Ontario while maintaining a CNO registration.

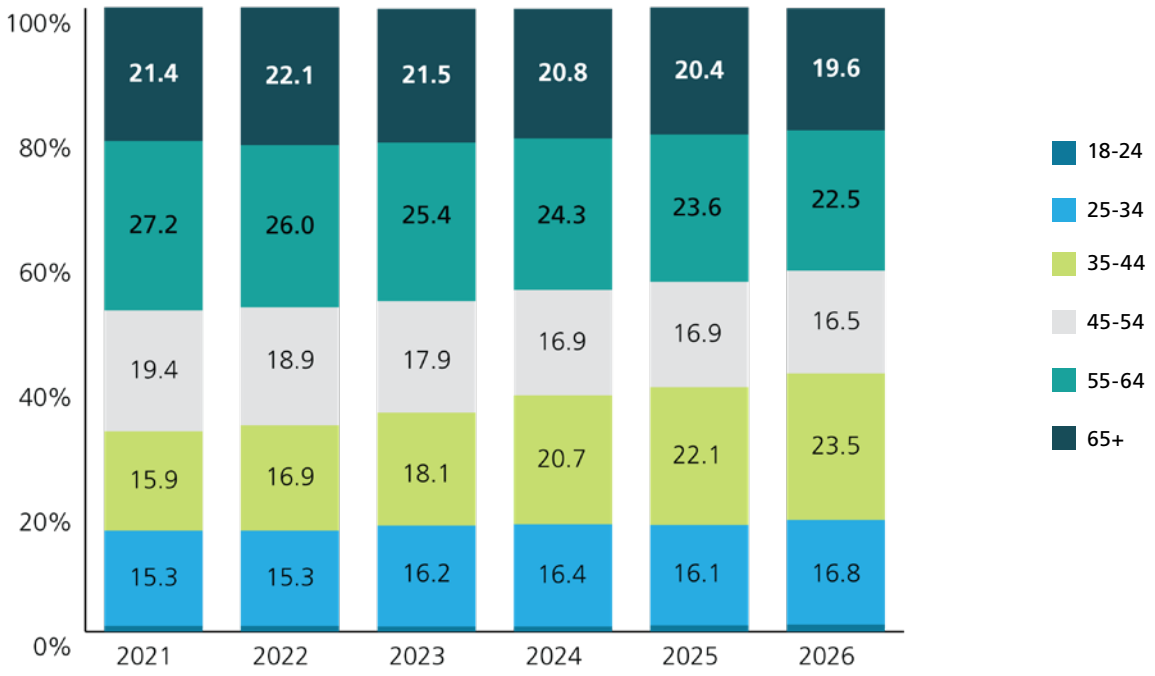
Figure 4. Gains and losses in the Non-Practising Class



The Non-Practising Class is Becoming Younger

The registrants in the Non-Practising Class are younger than before.When comparing Non-Practising Class registrants in 2021 with those in 2026, the largest increase occurred among nurses aged 35–44, while the proportion of aged 55+ declined. The composition of the Non-Practising Class is shifting toward working age nurses (35–44) rather than being driven by retirement-aged registrants. Findings from the Movement and Attrition Report show movement into the Non-Practising Class is distinct from permanent attrition. Many remain connected to nursing or later return to practice making this an important distinction for workforce planning.

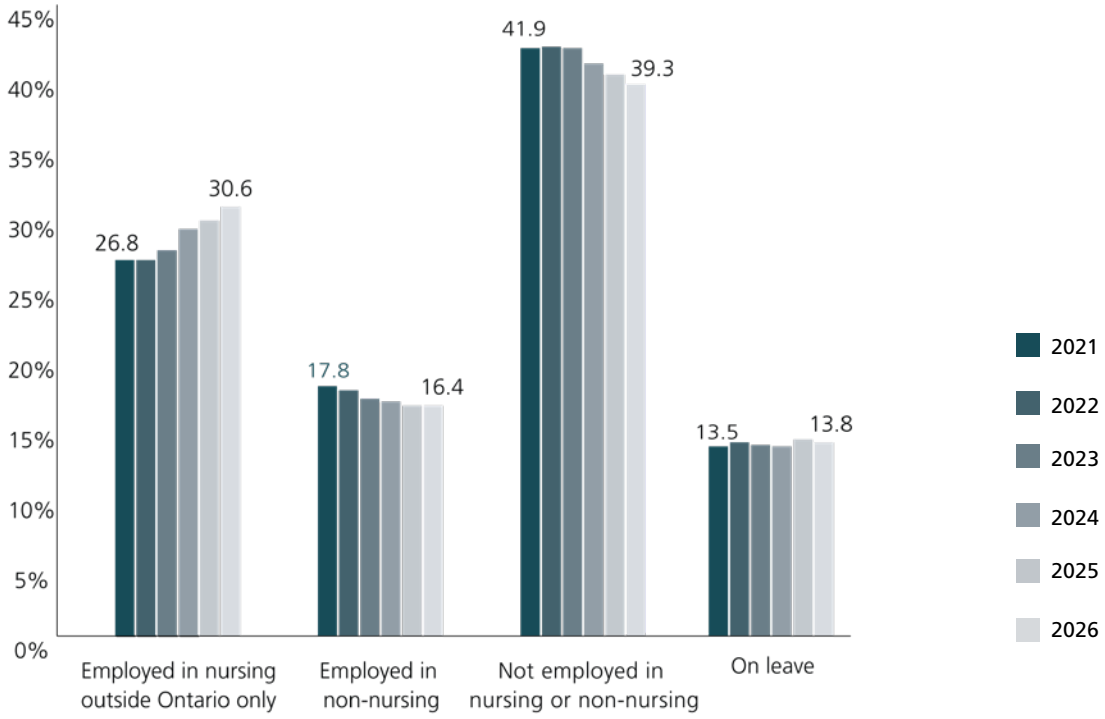
Figure 5. Age distribution of registrants in the Non-Practising Class



More Non-Practising Registrants Continue to Work Outside Ontario

While, by definition, Non-Practicing registrants cannot practice nursing in Ontario, they can practice nursing outside of Ontario if they are registered in another Canadian province or territory. The fastest growing category is those who are employed in nursing outside of Ontario (a 36% increase in 2026 compared with 2021). Meanwhile, other groups, such as those employed in non-nursing, not employed or those on leave, have remained fairly stable. This increasing share of Non-Practising registrants working as nurses outside of Ontario indicates that many remain active in the profession despite not holding a practicing registration in Ontario.

Figure 6. Employment status in the Non-Practising Class



The Non-Practising Class continues to represent an evolving component of CNO's registrant population. The composition is primarily RNs, with thousands of nurses moving in and out of the class each year. The changing age profile and employment patterns suggest many registrants remain connected to nursing through employment outside Ontario or career transitions, such as temporary leaves. Continued monitoring of movement into and out of the Non-Practising Class helps inform workforce planning.

Explore more nursing statistics:

Nursing Statistics Report 2026
Nursing Statistics Report 2026: Appendix A
Nursing Statistics Report 2026: Appendix B
Nursing Statistics Report 2026: Appendix C