

Registered Practical Nurses (RPN) at a Glance: 2025

RPN Supply Snapshot



58,713 Registered Practical Nurse renewals in 2025



RPN renewals are slowing, with just **0.7%** growth in 2025



RPN registrants make up **30.8% of the total nursing supply in 2025**



New RPN registrants are declining - going from 6,309 in 2022 to 5,073 in 2024



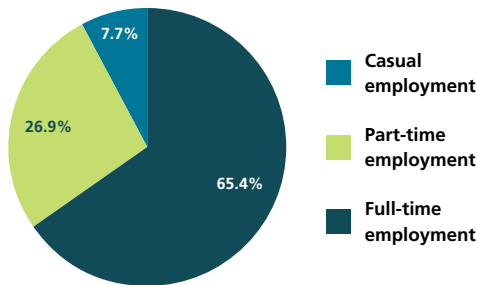
The decline in new RPN registrants is driven by fewer internationally educated RPNs

Supply and Growth

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Overall RPN Renewals	46,155	47,993	49,943	52,803	54,141	55,056	56,846	58,469	58,276	58,713
Year-over-year Change %	-	4.0%	4.1%	5.7%	2.5%	1.7%	3.3%	2.9%	-0.3%	0.7%

Employment Profile

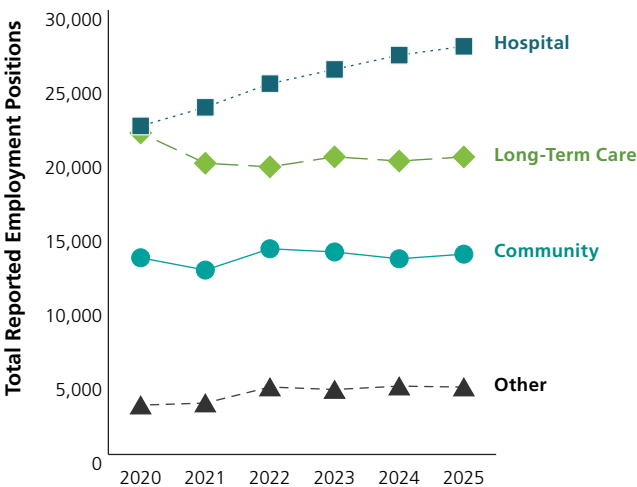
Overall Working Status¹ of RPNs in 2025



Overall working status considers all of a nurse's jobs for a given registration and categorizes them as full-time, part-time or casual.

¹ For a detailed definition of overall working status, please see the [Nursing Statistics Report Appendix A](#).

Reported RPN Employment Positions by Sector in Ontario



Registered Practical Nurses Snapshot: 2025 Highlights

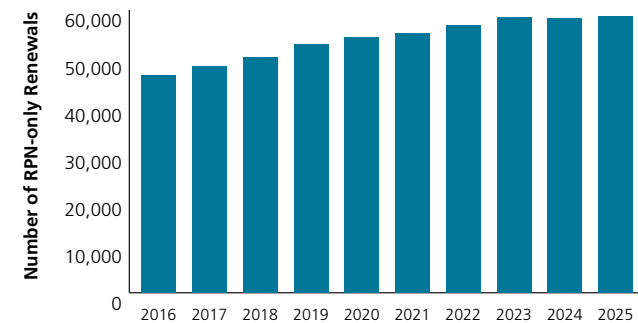
RPN Snapshot Summary

Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) growth is stabilizing, signaling a potential plateau in the RPN nursing supply. In 2025, RPN-only registrations grew by just 0.7% year-over-year, marking a plateau after prior years of expansion. As RN-only and dual-registration nurse types continue to expand faster, RPN-only registrations now represent 30.8% of the total nursing supply, down from 32.8% in 2023. While the RPN supply remains a critical part of Ontario’s workforce, the share is gradually contracting, and roles are being pulled toward the hospital sector. More details can be found in the highlights below and in the [Nursing Statistics Report 2025](#).

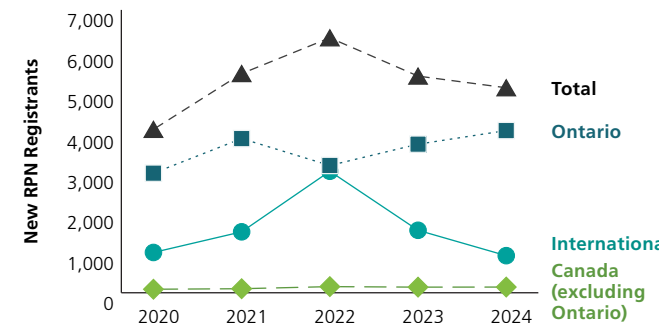
Slowing Growth Trajectory for RPN-only Renewals, New RPN Registrants Declining

The RPN supply growth is stabilizing, with a decline in new RPN registrants. The decline in new RPN registrants is driven by fewer internationally educated RPNs. Since 2022, there has been a decline in new internationally educated RPN registrants going from 3,007 registrants in 2022 to 918 in 2024, representing a decrease of 69.5%.

Overall RPN Renewals by Year



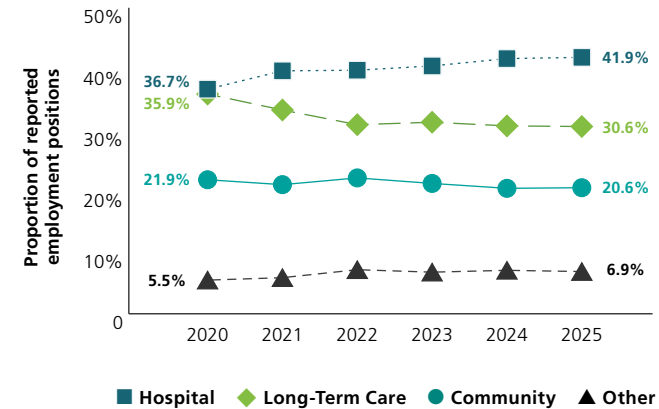
New RPN Registrants by Location of Education



Employment Sector Shifts Toward Hospital

Employment trends for RPNs are also shifting. RPN positions in the hospital sector rose from 36.7% in 2020 to 41.9% in 2025, reflecting the growing integration of RPNs into hospital teams and acute care environments. During the same period, overall long-term care (LTC) employment positions declined from 35.9% to 30.6%. With growth in the RPN nursing supply slowing, differences in employment patterns across sectors will be important to monitor as the distribution of employment positions continues to evolve.

Reported RPN Employment Positions by Sector



Registered Practical Nurses Snapshot: 2025 Highlights

Employment Patterns Differ by Location of Education for RPNs Renewing for the First-Time

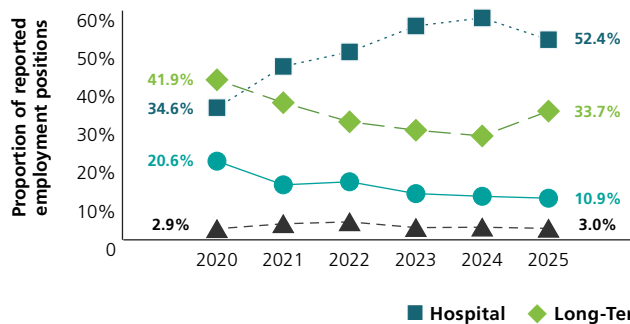
While RPN roles are shifting toward acute care, the growth is primarily led by Ontario-educated nurses. Data from first-time RPN renewals show a divergence in reported employment positions across sectors by location of education.

Among Ontario-educated RPNs, employment has shifted toward hospitals. Looking at first-time renewal statistics for RPNs, in 2020, 34.6% of Ontario-educated practical nurses reported working in hospital settings compared to 41.9% in LTC. In 2025, this pattern has reversed with 52.4% reporting hospital roles compared to 33.7% reporting roles in LTC.

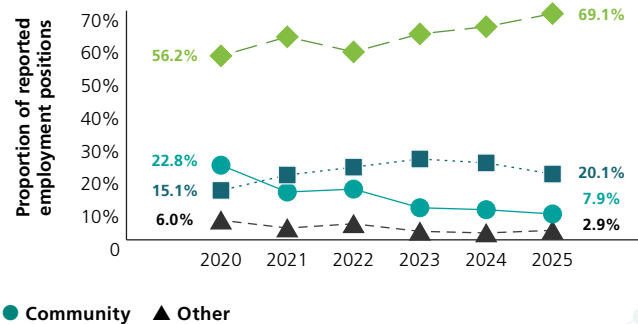
In contrast, first-time renewal statistics reveal that internationally educated RPNs continue to enter LTC employment at high rates. In 2025, 69.1% of IEN first-time renewals reported working in LTC, while hospitals accounted for 20.1% of reported positions. Although hospital employment reported by new IENs has increased since 2020, LTC remains the primary pathway for initial employment.

RPN Employment Positions Reported at First-Time Renewal by Sector

Ontario-Educated RPNs



Internationally Educated RPNs



Renewal and employment data reveal RPN-only growth has leveled and the share of RPNs working in acute care settings continues to increase. Long-term care roles have seen proportionate declines during the same period. First-time renewal data further highlight differing pathways of initial employment for Ontario-educated nurses and IENs by sector. These shifts reflect measurable adjustments in the nursing supply and workforce distribution over time that need to be monitored.

Explore more nursing statistics:

[Nursing Statistics Report 2025](#)

[Nursing Statistics Report 2025: Appendix A](#)

[Nursing Statistics Report 2025: Appendix B](#)

[Nursing Statistics Report 2025: Appendix C](#)

[Nursing Data Dashboard](#)