

**Registered Health Professionals Statistics  
Year 2021**

**The number of registered doctors increased by 2.8%, and that of registered nurses by 1.8%**

**The rate of registered doctors stood at 5.99 per 1,000 inhabitants and the rate of nurses was 6.98**

The number of registered health care professionals in Spain was 923,207<sup>1</sup> in 2021, 2.8%<sup>2</sup> more than the previous year. By sex, 289,266 were men (a 2.0% increase) and 633,941 were women (a 3.2% increase).

The majority were *nurses* (35.83% of the total), followed by *doctors* (30.74%) and *pharmacists* (8.46%). On the other hand, the groups with the least representation were *physicists* and *chemists* with a health specialty (0.03% both) and *biologists* with a health specialty (0.07%).

**Registered health care professionals by profession. Year 2021**

Values and percentage

	Registered Health Professionals	%
TOTAL	923,207	100.00
Nurses	330,745	35.83
Doctors	283,811	30.74
Pharmacists	78,128	8.46
Physiotherapists	62,691	6.79
Dentists	40,417	4.38
Psychologists with healthcare speciality	37,611	4.07
Veterinarians	35,561	3.85
Opticians-Optometrists	18,784	2.03
Speech therapists	10,900	1.18
Podiatrists	9,049	0.98
Dental prosthetics	7,497	0.81
Occupational therapists	6,782	0.73
Biologists with healthcare speciality	625	0.07
Chemists with healthcare speciality	299	0.03
Physiques with healthcare speciality	307	0.03

<sup>1</sup> The total number of health professionals was calculated without taking into account Nutritionist Dieticians because the data for 2021 is not available at the time of publication for the entire national territory.

<sup>2</sup>The variation rate has been calculated by subtracting the data on Nutritionist Dieticians in 2020, since the data for 2021 is not available.

The number of registered *doctors* in Spain increased by 7,619 people (2.8%) reaching a total of 283,811 in 2021.

On the other hand, registered *nurses* increased by 5,727 people (1.8%), standing at 330,745. Within this group, 9,834 people were registered as *midwives*<sup>3</sup> (2.5% more than in 2020).

The number of registered professionals in the other health professions covered by the statistics also increased, except for the number of *chemists* with a speciality in health (-1.0%). The largest increases were registered in *biologists with a health specialty* (16.6%), *occupational therapists* (15.5%) and *chiropractors* (9.9%).

### Registered health care professionals. 2017-2021 Series

Values and rates of change (%)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Variation rate (%) 2021/2020
Nurses	299,824	307,762	316,094	325,018	<b>330,745</b>	1.8
- With midwife title	9,013	9,236	9,579	9,593	<b>9,834</b>	2.5
Doctors	253,796	260,588	267,991	276,192	<b>283,811</b>	2.8
Pharmacists	72,500	74,043	75,260	76,821	<b>78,128</b>	1.7
Physiotherapist	51,130	54,258	57,147	59,791	<b>62,691</b>	4.9
Dentists	36,689	37,787	38,809	39,764	<b>40,417</b>	1.6
Psychologists with healthcare	25,857	32,516	33,188	34,827	<b>37,611</b>	8.0
Veterinarians	32,555	33,207	33,752	34,443	<b>35,561</b>	3.2
Opticians-Optometrists	17,372	17,641	18,036	18,271	<b>18,784</b>	2.8
Speech therapists	8971	9,707	10,156	10,483	<b>10,900</b>	4.0
Podiatrists	7,406	7,817	8,010	8,234	<b>9,049</b>	9.9
Dental prosthetics	7,248	7,477	7,530	7,395	<b>7,497</b>	1.4
Occupational therapists	3502	4,076	4,963	5,870	<b>6,782</b>	15.5
Dieticians nutritionists (*)	4086	4,625	5,297	5,698	..	..
Biologists with healthcare speciality	654	462	503	536	<b>625</b>	16.6
Chemists with healthcare speciality	323	299	303	302	<b>299</b>	-1.0
Physiques with healthcare speciality	189	238	270	302	<b>307</b>	1.7

(\*) Not available at the time of publication: the data on Nutritionist Dieticians for 2021 for the entire national territory

### Rates of registered health professionals

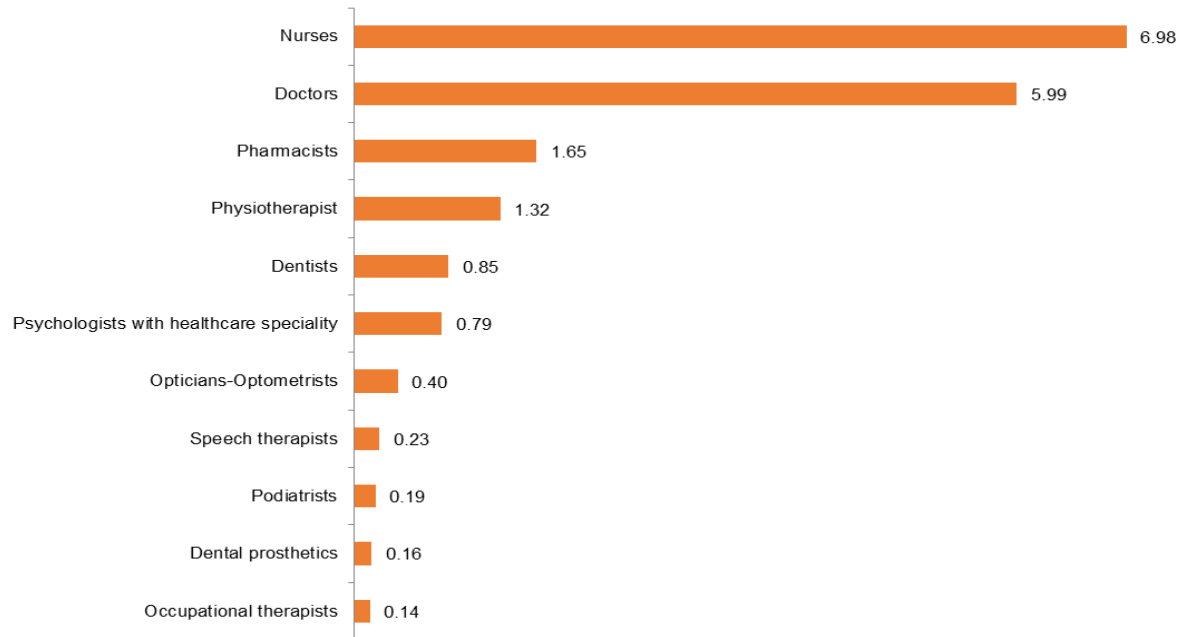
The number of registered health professionals per 1,000 inhabitants differs according to the group. In 2021, the number of *nurses* presented the highest rate (6.98 per 1,000 inhabitants), followed by *doctors* (5.99) and *pharmacists* (1.65).

In turn, the lowest rates were observed in the groups of *occupational therapists* (0.14) and *dental technicians* (0.16).

In the case of nurses specializing in *midwifery*, the rate was 0.95 per 1,000 women of childbearing age.

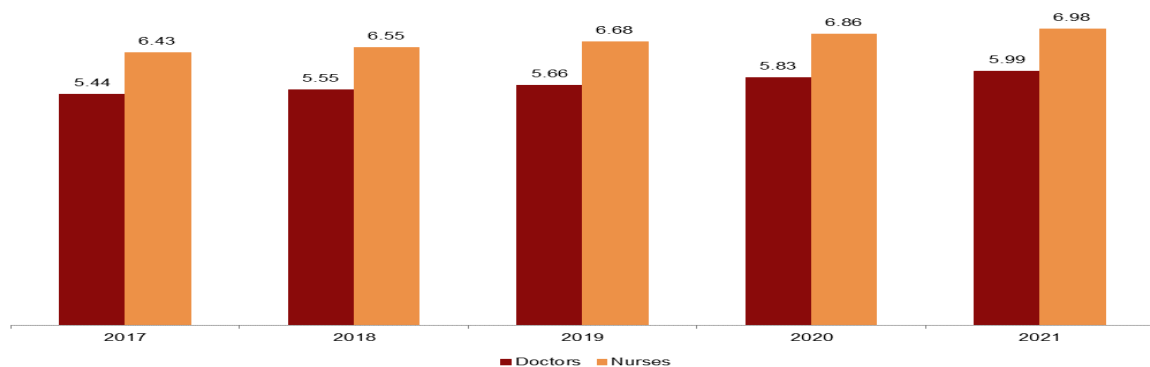
<sup>3</sup> The number of registered professionals in this specialism may be underestimated, given that registration is compulsory for the Diploma in Nursing, not for specialisms.

**Registered health care professionals. Year 2021**  
Rates per 1,000 inhabitants



The rates per 1,000 inhabitants increased in 2021 in all health professionals. The greatest increases occurred in those of *doctors* (0.16 points), *nurses* (0.12) and *physiotherapists* and *psychologists with a health specialty* (0.06 in both).

**Registered nurses and doctors 2017-2021 Series.**  
Rates per 1,000 inhabitants



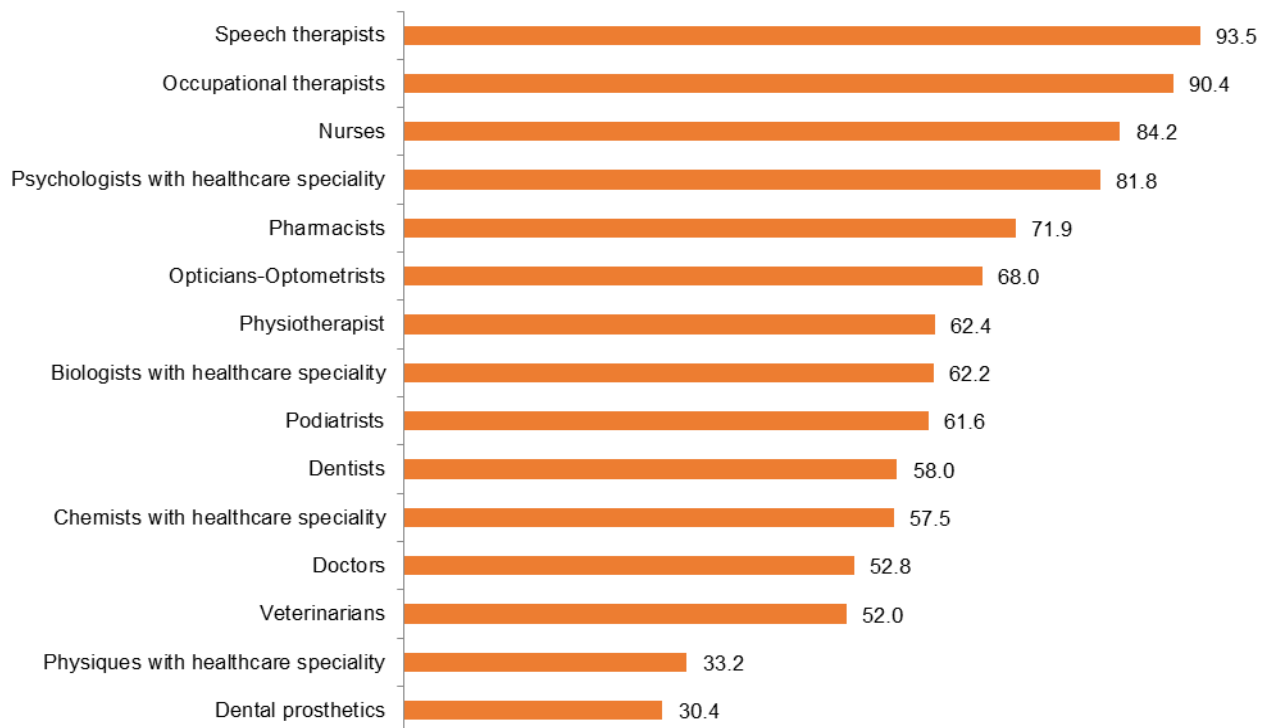
**Registered health professionals by sex, age and employment status**

The health profession is predominantly female. In 2021, there were more women than men in 13 of the 15 professions analysed. The groups with the highest percentage of women in 2017 were *speech therapists* (93.5% were women), *occupational therapists* (90.4%) and *nurses*(84.2%).

On the other hand, the professions with the lowest percentage of women in were *dental technicians* (30.4%), *physicists with a speciality in health* (33.2%) and *veterinarians* (52.0%).

**Registered women by type of health care profession. Year 2021**

Percentages



By age group, the highest percentages of health professionals under 45 years of age were found in *occupational therapists* (91.1%), *physiotherapists* (81.0%) and *podiatrists* (72.9%).

On the other hand, the lowest percentages in this age group occurred in the groups of *medical doctors* (38.4%), *biologists with a health specialty* (39.7%) and *dental technicians* (40.1%).

**Health care professionals by age. Year 2021**

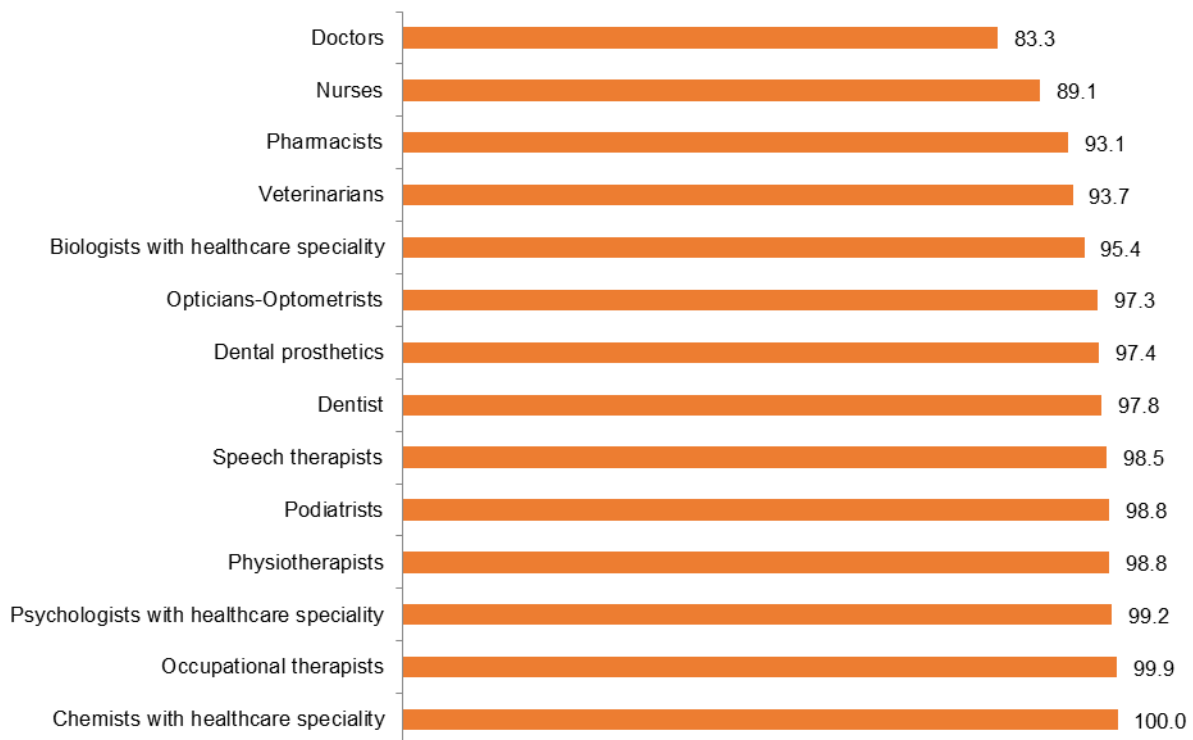
Percentages

	Total	Less than 45 years	From 45 to 64 years	Greater or equal to 65 years
Doctors	100.0	38.4	39.8	21.8
Biologists with healthcare s	100.0	39.7	53.8	6.5
Dental prosthetics	100.0	40.1	54.6	5.3
Pharmacists	100.0	42.0	41.9	16.1
Veterinarians	100.0	46.9	45.6	7.5
Nurses	100.0	54.4	35.3	10.3
Opticians-Optometrists	100.0	55.0	40.4	4.6
Psychologists with healthcare speciality	100.0	56.4	40.4	3.2
Dentists	100.0	59.0	33.0	8.0
Speech therapists	100.0	69.9	27.3	2.8
Podiatrists	100.0	72.9	22.1	5.0
Physiotherapist	100.0	81.0	17.5	1.5
Occupational therapists	100.0	91.1	8.8	0.1

According to employment situation, the lowest percentages of non-retired registered professionals were *medical doctors* (83.3%), *nurses* (89.1%) and *pharmacists* (93.1%). And the largest in *chemists with a health specialty* (100%), *occupational therapists* (99.9%) and *psychologists with a health specialty* (99.2%).

## Non-retired registered professionals by type of health profession. Year 2021

Percentages



## Data by Autonomous Communities and Cities

The number of registered *doctors* increased in all the autonomous communities in 2021, and only decreased in the autonomous city of Melilla (-0.6%).

The greatest increases occurred in Illes Balears (3.8%), Andalucía and Canarias (3.6% in both). And the minors in the autonomous city of Ceuta (0.6%), Castilla y León (1.2%) and Aragón (1.7%).

## Doctors by Autonomous Communities and Cities 2017-2021 Series

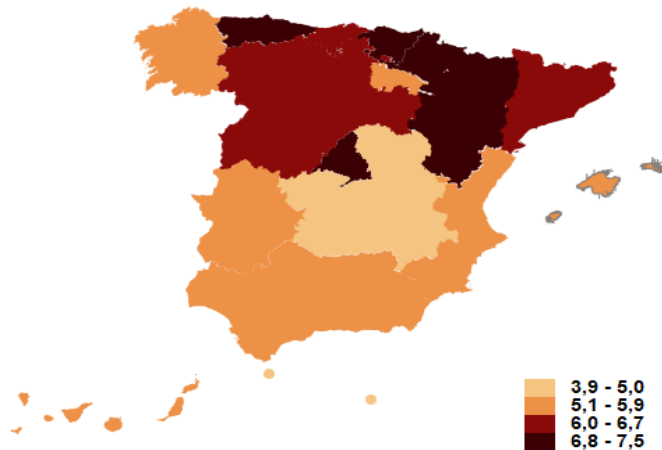
Values and rate of change (%)

	Year 2017	Year 2018	Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2021	Variation rate (%) 2021/2020
<b>TOTAL</b>	253,796	260,588	267,991	276,192	<b>283,811</b>	2.8
Andalucía	39,079	40,222	41,759	43,114	<b>44,653</b>	3.6
Aragón	8,797	8,950	9,176	9,373	<b>9,531</b>	1.7
Asturias, Principado de	6,363	6,503	6,659	6,842	<b>7,041</b>	2.9
Balears, Illes	5,632	5,738	5,882	6,097	<b>6,326</b>	3.8
Canarias	10,504	10,895	11,323	11,803	<b>12,230</b>	3.6
Cantabria	3,551	3,675	3,702	3,794	<b>3,879</b>	2.2
Castilla y León	14,627	14,891	15,129	15,500	<b>15,692</b>	1.2
Castilla-La Mancha	8,685	8,903	9,144	9,427	<b>9,666</b>	2.5
Cataluña	41,407	42,647	43,998	45,291	<b>46,690</b>	3.1
Comunitat Valenciana	25,012	25,653	26,507	27,479	<b>28,370</b>	3.2
Extremadura	5,496	5,635	5,749	5,905	<b>6,048</b>	2.4
Galicia	13,792	14,121	14,293	14,818	<b>15,148</b>	2.2
Madrid, Comunidad de	43,772	44,940	45,988	47,180	<b>48,205</b>	2.2
Murcia, Región de	7,203	7,434	7,697	8,004	<b>8,247</b>	3.0
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	4,075	4,175	4,267	4,375	<b>4,513</b>	3.2
País Vasco	13,536	13,874	14,308	14,723	<b>15,061</b>	2.3
Rioja, La	1,648	1,702	1,755	1,788	<b>1,832</b>	2.5
Ceuta	328	334	332	350	<b>352</b>	0.6
Melilla	289	296	323	329	<b>327</b>	-0.6

The highest rates of *registered doctors* were in Aragon (7.25 per 1,000 inhabitants), Comunidad de Madrid (7.13) and Principado de Asturias (7.00). And the lowest in the autonomous cities of Melilla (3.93) and Ceuta (4.26) and in Castilla-La Mancha (4.71).

### Registered doctors Year 2021

Rates per 1,000 inhabitants



The number of *nurses* increased in 14 of the 19 regions, and decreased in the rest. The greatest increases were recorded in Comunidad Foral de Navarra (7.5%), autonomous city of Ceuta (7.0%) and Canarias (4.5%). And the greatest decreases in Galicia (−2.3%), the autonomous city of Melilla (−1.2%) and La Rioja (−0.8%).

## Nurses by Autonomous Communities and Cities 2017-2021 Series.

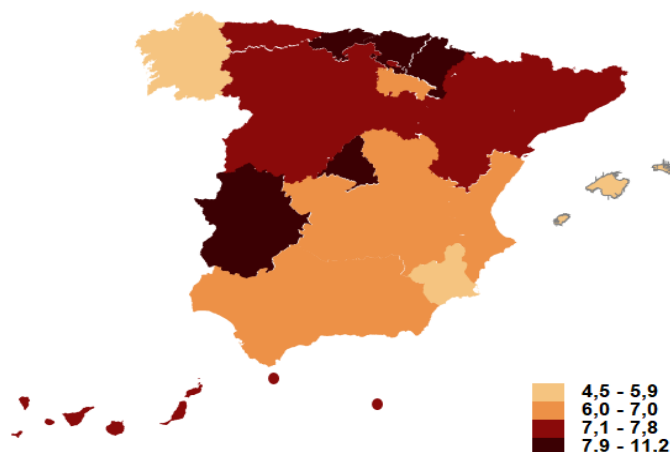
Values and rate of change (%)

	Year 2017	Year 2018	Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2021	Variation rate (%) 2021/2020
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>299,824</b>	<b>307,762</b>	<b>316,094</b>	<b>325,018</b>	<b>330,745</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Andalucía	43,305	45,271	47,888	49,952	<b>51,779</b>	3.7
Aragón	8,784	8,910	9,074	9,300	<b>9,421</b>	1.3
Asturias, Principado de	7,281	7,350	7,485	7,634	<b>7,750</b>	1.5
Balears, Illes	6,152	6,366	6,618	6,857	<b>7,008</b>	2.2
Canarias	13,398	13,934	14,626	15,513	<b>16,211</b>	4.5
Cantabria	4,566	4,725	4,901	4,952	<b>5,158</b>	4.2
Castilla y León	17,423	17,752	17,651	17,952	<b>17,932</b>	-0.1
Castilla-La Mancha	11,705	11,826	12,112	12,503	<b>12,705</b>	1.6
Cataluña	53,508	54,759	56,262	57,802	<b>59,269</b>	2.5
Comunitat Valenciana	28,104	28,463	29,383	30,746	<b>31,265</b>	1.7
Extremadura	7,368	8,008	8,232	8,437	<b>8,570</b>	1.6
Galicia	14,295	14,514	14,656	14,376	<b>14,039</b>	-2.3
Madrid, Comunidad de	51,347	52,722	53,382	54,582	<b>54,615</b>	0.1
Murcia, Región de	6,342	6,604	6,903	7,064	<b>7,044</b>	-0.3
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	6,743	6,778	6,887	6,830	<b>7,339</b>	7.5
País Vasco	16,389	16,594	16,833	17,247	<b>17,353</b>	0.6
Rioja, La	2,017	2,012	2,047	2,029	<b>2,012</b>	-0.8
Ceuta	534	585	551	586	<b>627</b>	7.0
Melilla	563	589	603	656	<b>648</b>	-1.2

The highest rates of registered *nurses* per 1,000 inhabitants were recorded in Comunidad Foral de Navarra (11.15), Cantabria (8.82) and Extremadura (8.13). The lowest were in Región de Murcia (4.63), Galicia (5.21) and Illes Balears (5.73).

## Registered nurses Year 2021

Rates per 1,000 inhabitants



As for the other professions, the highest ratios of registered *pharmacists* per 1,000 inhabitants were in Comunidad Foral de Navarra (2.35), Galicia (2.03) and Comunidad de Madrid (2.02). In turn, the lowest rates were recorded in the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta (1.09) and Melilla (1.12), and in Illes Balears (1.17).

The highest rates of *physiotherapists* were found in Comunidad de Madrid (1.76 per 1,000 inhabitants), Cantabria (1.50) and Principado de Asturias (1.54). The lowest figures were registered in the Autonomous Cities of Melilla (0.59 years) and Ceuta (0.77) and in Andalucía (1.03).

Comunidad de Madrid (1.33), Principado de Asturias (0.92) and País Vasco (0.91) had the highest rates of *licensed dentists*. Castilla-La Mancha (0.46) and the autonomous cities of Melilla (0.47) and Ceuta (0.50) presented the lowest.

The highest rates of *psychologists* specialising in health care were 1.79 per 1,000 inhabitants in Comunidad de Madrid, 1.20 in the Autonomous City of Melilla and 0.97 in Región de Murcia and La Rioja. For its part, the lowest rates were 0.25 in Castilla-La Mancha, 0.38 in the Autonomous City of Ceuta and 0.53 in Comunitat Valenciana.

Región de Murcia presented the highest rate of registered *optician-optometrists* (0.53) followed by Comunidad de Madrid and Comunitat Valenciana (0.49 in both). The lowest rates were registered in the autonomous cities of Melilla (0.23) and Ceuta (0.24) and in Illes Balears (0.26) and Canarias (0.26 in both).

The Communities with the highest rates of registered *speech therapists*<sup>4</sup> were Region de Murcia (0.46), Cataluña (0.38) and Cantabria (0.34). Canarias had the lowest rate (0.01) followed by Aragón (0.13) and Illes Balears (0.17).

*Podiatrists* recorded the highest rates in Extremadura (0.39), Comunidad Valenciana (0.25) and Andalucía (0.22). This group registered the lowest rates in the Canarias (0.06) and in the autonomous cities of Melilla (0.07) and Ceuta (0.08).

The Autonomous Communities with the highest rates of registered *dental technicians*<sup>5</sup> were Cantabria (0.27 per every 1,000 inhabitants), Comunitat Valenciana (0.25) and Aragón (0.21). Meanwhile, those that presented the lowest rates were La Rioja and Castilla-La Mancha (0.09 in both) and Extremadura and Canarias (0.12 for both).

Finally, the highest rates of registered *occupational therapists*<sup>6</sup> were in Extremadura (0.67), Aragón (0.47) and Comunidad Foral de Navarra (0.34). And the lowest in Andalucía (0.02) and the Canarias (0.04).

## Data Review and Update

The data published today is final and is not subject to further revision. All results are available on INEBase.

---

<sup>4</sup> There is no data for Principado de Asturias and Comunidad Foral de Navarra since there is no Official College for *speech therapists* in these Autonomous Communities. Data for Ceuta and Melilla are included in Andalucía.

<sup>5</sup> No data is collected from País Vasco as no Official College of *Dental Technicians* has been established there.

<sup>6</sup> There is no data for Cantabria, Cantabria and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla because there is no Official College of *Occupational Therapists* in these Autonomous Communities.



## Methodological note

The Registered Health Professionals Statistics is an annual structural statistic that investigates the number and characteristics of health professionals registered in their respective Professional Colleges or Councils. It has been compiled at the National Statistics Institute without interruption since 1952. This research provides information to various international organisations such as the OECD and the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat).

The information currently provided refers to the professions included in Law 44/2003 of 21 November on the Regulation of Health Professions, or which meet the requirements established therein. The groups are: *doctors, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, psychologists with a speciality in health, physicians with a speciality in health, nurses, physiotherapists, podiatrists, opticians-optometrists, dental technicians, chemists with a speciality in health, occupational therapists, speech therapists and biologists with a speciality in health.*

The questionnaires are completed through a web application (IRIA) by the General Councils and/or Professional Colleges.

**Type of operation:** annual continuous statistics.

**Population scope:** professionals in the health care field that are registered in any Spanish College

**Geographical scope:** the entire national territory.

**Reference period:** the data refer to 31 December

**Collection method:** online questionnaire (web application).

For more information the methodology can be accessed at:

<http://www.ine.es/metodologia/t15/t1530416.pdf>

The standardized methodological report is at:

<http://www.ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/es/RespuestaDatos.html?oe=30416>

INE statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for European Statistics, which is the basis for the institution's quality policy and strategy. For more information see the section [Quality at INE and the Code of Best Practices](#) on the INE website.

---

For further information see **INEbase:** [www.ine.es/en/](http://www.ine.es/en/) Twitter: [@es\\_ine](https://twitter.com/es_ine)

All press releases at: [www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa\\_en.htm](http://www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa_en.htm)

---

**Press Office:** Telephone numbers: (+34) 91 583 93 63 /94 08 – [gprensa@ine.es](mailto:gprensa@ine.es)

**Information Area:** Telephone number: (+34) 91 583 91 00 – [www.ine.es/infoine/?L=1](http://www.ine.es/infoine/?L=1)

---