

27 May 2019

Registered Health Professionals Statistics Year 2018

The number of registered health care professionals increased by 3.7% compared to the previous year

The rate of registered doctors stood at 5.55 per 1,000 inhabitants and the rate of nurses was 6.55

The number of registered health care professionals in Spain was 852,481 in 2018, 3.7% more than the previous year. By sex, 271,990 were men (a 2.7% increase) and 580,491 were women (a 4.2% increase).

The majority were *nurses* (36.10%), followed by *doctors* (30.57%) and *pharmacists* (8.69%). In turn, less highly represented groups included *physicists*, *chemists* and *biologists* specialising in health care (0.03%, 0.04% and 0.05% respectively).

Registered health care professionals by profession. 2018

Values and percentage

	Registered Health Profesionals	%
TOTAL	852,481	100.00
Nurses	307,762	36.10
Doctors	260,588	30.57
Pharmacists	74,043	8.69
Physiotherapists	54,258	6.36
Dentists	37,787	4.43
Veterinarians	33,207	3.90
Psychologists with healthcare speciality	32,516	3.81
Opticians-Optometrists	17,641	2.07
Speech therapists	9,707	1.14
Podiatrists	7,817	0.92
Dental prosthetics	7,477	0.88
Dieticians nutritionists	4,625	0.54
Occupational therapists	4,076	0.48
Biologists with healthcare speciality	440	0.05
Chemists with healthcare speciality	299	0.04
Physiques with healthcare speciality	238	0.03

The number of registered *doctors* in Spain increased by 6,792 people (2.7%) reaching a total of 260,588 in 2018.

On the other hand, registered *nurses* increased by 7,938 people (2.6%), standing at 307,762. Within this group, 9,236 people were registered as *midwives*¹ (2.5% more than in 2017).

The number of registered professionals in the other health care professions covered by the statistics also increased, except for the number of *chemists* specialising in health care (-7.4%) and *biologists* (-32.7%) The largest increases were registered in *physicists specialising in health care* (25.9%), *physicists* (25.8%) and *occupational therapists* (16.4%).

Registered health care professionals. 2014-2018 series

Values and rates of change (%)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Variation rate (%) 2018/2017
Nurses	274,040	283,611	291,297	299,824	307,762	2.6
- With midwife title	8,505	8,547	8,785	9,013	9,236	2.5
Doctors	238,240	242,840	247,958	253,796	260,588	2.7
Pharmacists	68,381	69,774	71,119	72,500	74,043	2.1
Physiotherapist	42,490	45,054	48,173	51,130	54,258	6.1
Dentists	33,286	34,641	35,716	36,689	37,787	3.0
Veterinarians	30,289	31,242	31,961	32,555	33,207	2.0
Psychologists with healthcare	28,707	26,879	25,094	25,857	32,516	25.8
Opticians-Optometrists	15,930	16,317	16,882	17,372	17,641	1.5
Speech therapists	7385	8,147	8,681	8,971	9,707	8.2
Podiatrists	6,423	6,867	7,040	7,406	7,817	5.5
Dental prosthetics	6,247	6,672	7,164	7,248	7,477	3.2
Dieticians nutritionists	2551	2,884	3,361	4,086	4,625	13.2
Occupational therapists	2338	2,646	3,080	3,502	4,076	16.4
Biologists with healthcare speciality	654	440	-32.7
Chemists with healthcare speciality	383	351	343	323	299	-7.4
Physiques with healthcare speciality	100	133	166	189	238	25.9

Rates of registered health professionals

The number of registered health professionals per 1,000 inhabitants differs according to the group. In 2018, the number of *nurses* presented the highest rate (6.55 per 1,000 inhabitants), followed by *doctors* (5.55) and *pharmacists* (1.58).

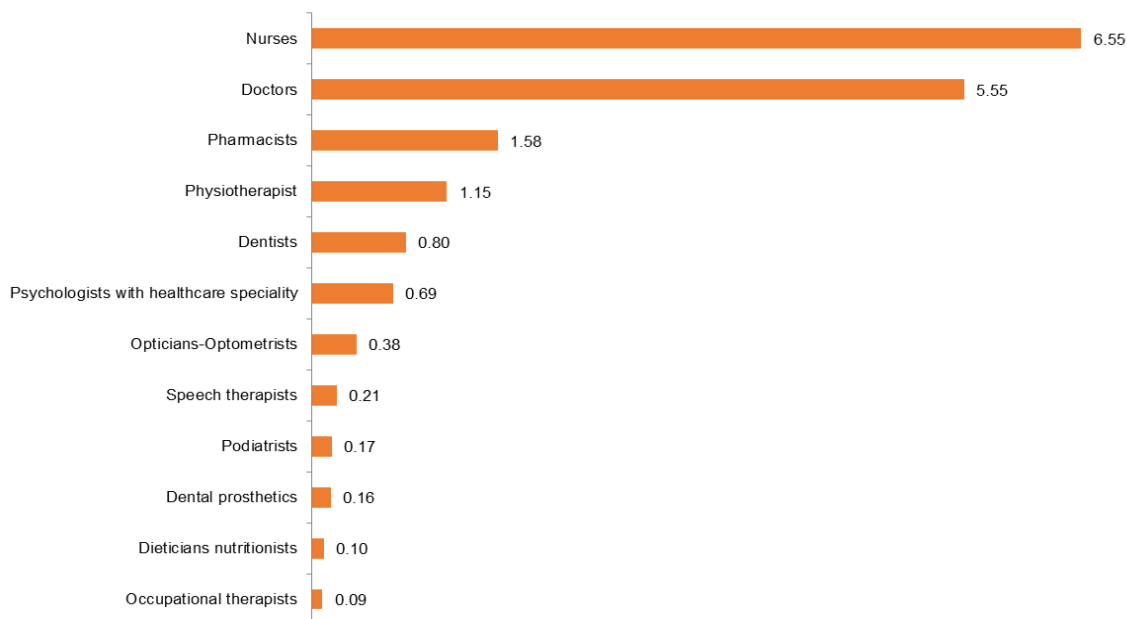
In turn, the lowest rates were observed in the groups of *occupational therapists* (0.09) and *dietitian nutritionists* (0.10).

In the particular case of nurses specializing in *midwifery*, the rate was 0.88 per 1,000 women of childbearing age.

¹ 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. 2018

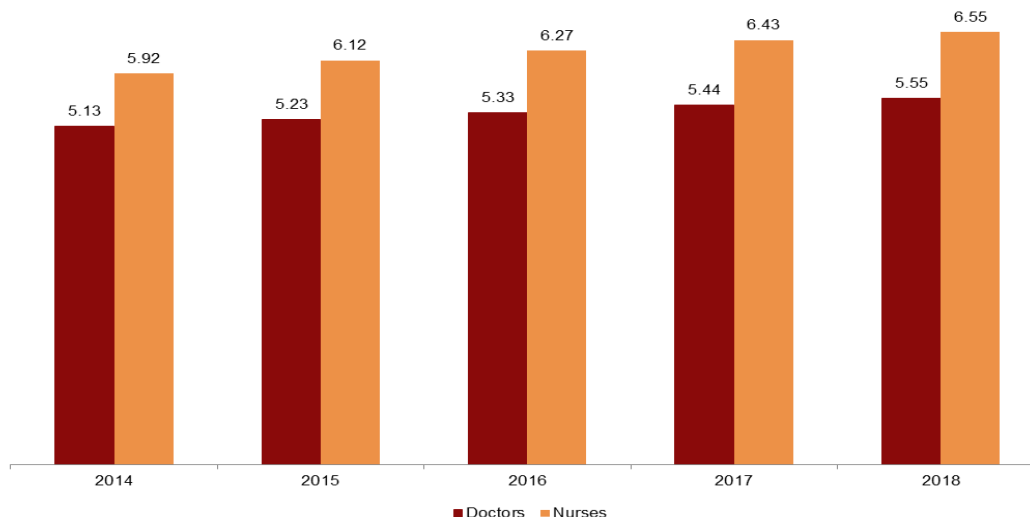
Rate per 1,000 inhabitants



The number of registered professionals per capita increased in all groups, except in the case of *dental technicians*, where the number did not vary. The rates that increased most were those of *psychologists* (0.14 per 1,000 inhabitants), *nurses* (0.12) and *doctors* (0.11).

Registered nurses and doctors 2014-2018 series

Rate per 1,000 inhabitants



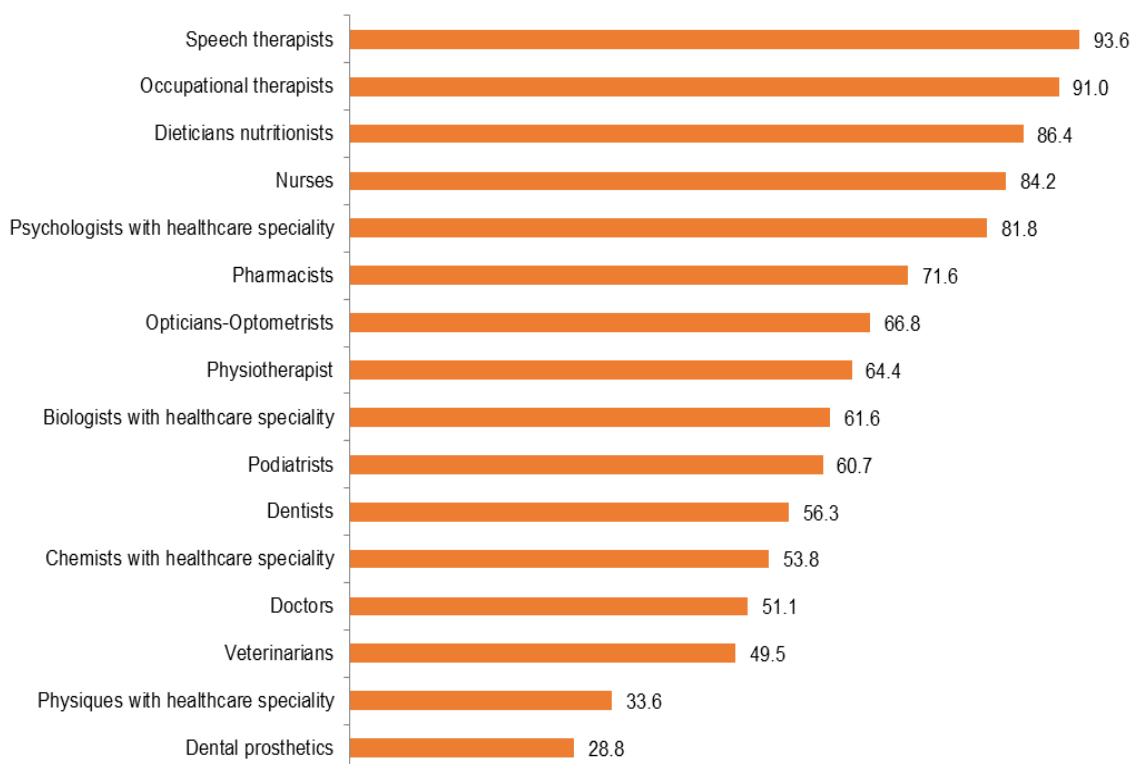
Registered health professionals by sex, age and employment status

The health profession has a predominantly female presence. In 13 out of 16 professions analysed there were more registered women than men. The groups with the highest percentage of women in 2018 were *speech therapists* (93.6% were women), *occupational therapists* (91.0%) and *dietitian nutritionists* (86.4%).

On the other hand, the professions with the lowest percentage of women in 2018 were *dental technicians* (28.8%), *physicists specialising in health care* (33.6%) and *veterinarians* (49.5%).

Registered women by type of health care profession. 2018

Percentages



By age group, the highest percentages of health professionals under 45 years of age were found in *occupational therapists* (92.2%), *dietitian nutritionists* (90.3%) and *physiotherapists* (86.1%).

The lowest percentages in this age group were presented by *doctors* (36.9%), *biologists specialising in health care* (42.5%) and *dental technicians* (43.6%).

Health care professionals by age. 2018

Percentages

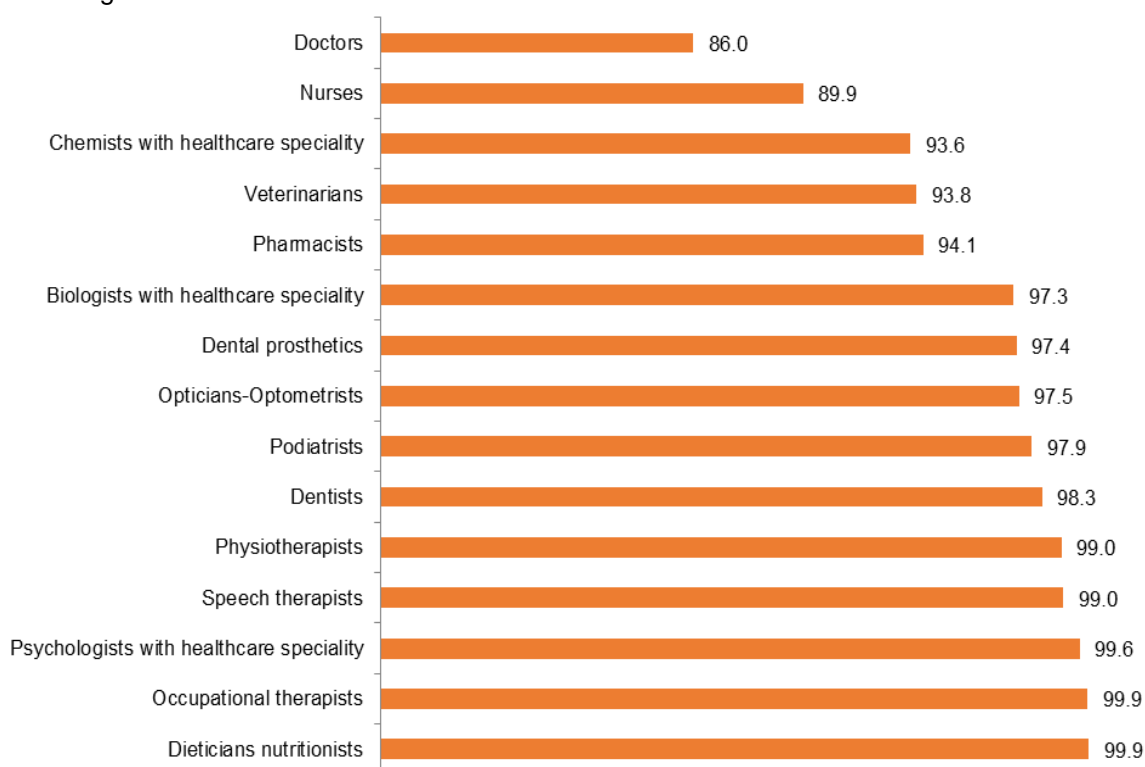
	Total	Less than 45 years	From 45 to 64 years	Greater or equal to 65 years
Doctors	100.0	36.9	45.7	17.4
Biologists with healthcare speciality	100.0	42.5	54.1	3.4
Dental prosthetics	100.0	43.6	51.4	5.0
Pharmacists	100.0	45.5	40.8	13.7
Veterinarians	100.0	48.6	44.7	6.7
Nurses	100.0	54.3	36.7	9.0
Psychologists with healthcare speciality	100.0	59.1	39.3	1.6
Opticians-Optometrists	100.0	59.4	36.4	4.2
Dentists	100.0	60.7	33.6	5.7
Speech therapists	100.0	70.6	27.3	2.1
Podiatrists	100.0	74.5	20.7	4.8
Physiotherapist	100.0	86.1	12.6	1.3
Dieticians nutritionists	100.0	90.3	9.6	0.1
Occupational therapists	100.0	92.2	7.6	0.2

According to employment status, the lowest percentages of non-retired registered professionals were in *doctors* (86.0%), *nurses* (89.9%) and *chemists specialising in health care* (93.6%).

On the other hand, the highest percentages of non-retired registered professionals were in *dietitian nutritionists* (100%), *occupational therapists* (99.9%) and *psychologists* (99.6%).

Non-retired registered professionals by type of health profession. 2018

Percentages



Data by Autonomous Communities and Cities

In 2018, the number of registered *doctors* increased in all Autonomous Communities.

The greatest increases were recorded in Canarias (3.7%), Cantabria (3.5%) and La Rioja (3.3%). By contrast, the smallest increases occurred in Aragón (1.7%), and in Castilla y León and the Autonomous City of Ceuta (1.8% in both).

Doctors by Autonomous Communities and Cities 2014-2018 series

Values and rate of change (%)

	Year 2014	Year 2015	Year 2016	Year 2017	Year 2018	Variation rate 2018/2017
TOTAL	238,240	242,840	247,958	253,796	260,588	2.7
Andalucía	36,141	37,295	38,024	39,079	40,222	2.9
Aragón	8,311	8,427	8,585	8,797	8,950	1.7
Asturias, Principado de	6,035	6,123	6,276	6,363	6,503	2.2
Baleares, Illes	5,225	5,355	5,484	5,632	5,738	1.9
Canarias	9,598	9,855	10,145	10,504	10,895	3.7
Cantabria	3,357	3,422	3,507	3,551	3,675	3.5
Castilla y León	14,101	14,251	14,398	14,627	14,891	1.8
Castilla-La Mancha	8,354	8,379	8,526	8,685	8,903	2.5
Cataluña	38,875	39,437	40,392	41,407	42,647	3.0
Comunitat Valenciana	23,460	23,866	24,447	25,012	25,653	2.6
Extremadura	5,219	5,338	5,439	5,496	5,635	2.5
Galicia	13,072	13,294	13,559	13,792	14,121	2.4
Madrid, Comunidad de	40,952	41,860	42,697	43,772	44,940	2.7
Murcia, Región de	6,624	6,800	6,979	7,203	7,434	3.2
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	3,881	3,918	4,011	4,075	4,175	2.5
País Vasco	12,884	13,039	13,269	13,536	13,874	2.5
Rioja, La	1,555	1,573	1,610	1,648	1,702	3.3
Ceuta	323	324	320	328	334	1.8
Melilla	273	284	290	289	296	2.4

The Communities with the highest rates of registered *doctors* were Comunidad de Madrid (6.77 per 1,000 inhabitants), Aragón (6.76) and Comunidad Foral de Navarra (6.41).

In turn, the Autonomous Cities of Melilla (3.47) and Ceuta (3.92) and Castilla-La Mancha (4.37) showed the lowest rates.

Registered doctors 2018

Rates per 1,000 inhabitants



In the case of *nurses*, the number of registered nurses increased compared to the previous year in all Autonomous Communities, except La Rioja (-0,2%).

The greatest increases were registered in the Autonomous City of Ceuta (9.6%), Extremadura (8.7%) and the Autonomous City of Melilla (4.6%). In turn, the smallest increases were registered in Comunidad Foral de Navarra (0.5%), Asturias (0.9%) and Castilla La-Mancha (1.0%).

Nurses by Autonomous Communities and Cities 2014-2018 series

Values and rate of change (%)

	Year 2014	Year 2015	Year 2016	Year 2017	Year 2018	Variation rate 2018/2017
TOTAL	274,040	283,611	291,297	299,824	307,762	2.6
Andalucía	38,407	40,103	41,060	43,305	45,271	4.5
Aragón	8,215	8,323	8,519	8,784	8,910	1.4
Asturias, Principado de	6,722	6,905	7,131	7,281	7,350	0.9
Balears, Illes	5,321	5,745	6,012	6,152	6,366	3.5
Canarias	11,363	12,178	12,806	13,398	13,934	4.0
Cantabria	4,167	4,287	4,433	4,566	4,725	3.5
Castilla y León	16,476	16,844	17,189	17,423	17,752	1.9
Castilla-La Mancha	11,242	11,299	11,503	11,705	11,826	1.0
Cataluña	49,042	50,401	51,919	53,508	54,759	2.3
Comunitat Valenciana	25,524	26,565	27,366	28,104	28,463	1.3
Extremadura	6,924	7,269	7,302	7,368	8,008	8.7
Galicia	13,954	14,023	14,211	14,295	14,514	1.5
Madrid, Comunidad de	47,099	49,365	50,955	51,347	52,722	2.7
Murcia, Región de	5,618	5,848	6,116	6,342	6,604	4.1
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	5,321	5,445	5,484	6,743	6,778	0.5
País Vasco	15,677	15,978	16,218	16,389	16,594	1.3
Rioja, La	1,978	1,988	2,007	2,017	2,012	-0.2
Ceuta	463	491	517	534	585	9.6
Melilla	527	554	549	563	589	4.6

The Communities with the highest rates of registered *nurses* were Comunidad Foral de Navarra (10.40 per 1,000 inhabitants), Cantabria (8.12) and Comunidad de Madrid (7.94).

For its part, the lowest rates were in the Región de Murcia (with 4.43 registered *nurses* per 1,000 inhabitants), Illes Balears (5.34) and Andalucía and Galicia (5.37 in both).

Registered nurses 2018

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 (2.29), Comunidad de Madrid (1.95) and Galicia (1.90). In turn, the lowest rates were recorded in the Autonomous Cities of Melilla (1.01) and Ceuta (1.07), and in Illes Balears (1.14).

The highest rates of *physiotherapists* were found in Comunidad de Madrid (1.59 per 1,000 inhabitants), Principado de Asturias (1.38) and Cataluña (1.35). And the lowest rates were found in the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla (0.52 in both) and in Andalucía (0.85).

The highest rates of registered *dentists* were in Comunidad de Madrid (1.26), País Vasco (0.86) and Principado de Asturias (0.85). The lowest rates were in the Autonomous City of Ceuta (0.46) and in Castilla-La Mancha and the Autonomous City of Melilla (0.49 in both).

The highest rates of *psychologists* specialising in health care were 1.64 per 1,000 inhabitants in Comunidad de Madrid, 1.02 in the Autonomous City of Melilla and 0.89 in Canarias, Región de Murcia and Principado de Asturias. For its part, the lowest rates were 0.23 in Castilla-La Mancha, 0.32 in the Autonomous City of Ceuta and 0.37 in Comunitat Valenciana.

Región de Murcia presented the highest rate of registered *optician-optometrists* (0.51) followed by Comunidad de Madrid and Comunitat Valenciana (0.46 in both). The lowest rates were recorded in the Autonomous Cities of Melilla and Ceuta (0.21 and 0.23 respectively), and in Illes Balears (0.25).

The Communities with the highest rates of registered *speech therapists*² were Region de Murcia (0.41), Cataluña (0.38) and Cantabria (0.29). Conversely, Aragón (0.12), Comunidad de Madrid (0.15) and Extremadura, Illes Balears and País Vasco (0.17 for all three) had the lowest rates.

Podiatrists recorded the highest rates in Extremadura (0.28), Comunidad de Madrid (0.23) and Comunitat Valenciana (0.21). This group recorded the lowest rates in Canarias and the Autonomous City of Ceuta (0.05 in both) and Illes Balears (0.07).

² The Autonomous Communities in which the Official College of Speech Therapists has been established and for which data are available are: Andalucía, Aragón, Illes Balears, Cantabria, Castilla y León, Castilla-La Mancha, Cataluña, Comunitat Valenciana, Extremadura, Galicia, Comunidad de Madrid, Región de Murcia, País Vasco and La Rioja. Data for Ceuta and Melilla are included in Andalucía.

The Autonomous Communities with the highest rates of registered *dental technicians*³ were Cantabria (0.26 per 1,000 inhabitants), Comunitat Valenciana (0.24) and Aragón (0.22). Meanwhile, those that presented the lowest rates were La Rioja and Castilla-La Mancha (0.09 in both) and Comunidad Foral de Navarra (0.12).

As for *dietitian nutritionists*⁴, Comunidad Foral de Navarra registered the highest rate (0.41), followed by Cataluña (0.18) and Aragón (0.15). In contrast, the lowest rates were registered in the Autonomous City of Ceuta (0.01) and in Asturias, Galicia, Castilla-La Mancha and the Autonomous City of Melilla (0.04 in all of these).

Finally, the highest rates of registered *occupational therapists*⁵ were in Extremadura (0.55), Aragón (0.39) and Comunidad Foral de Navarra (0.28). The lowest rates were registered in Madrid (0.02), Comunitat Valenciana (0.06) and Galicia (0.07).

Review and updating of data

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

³No data are collected from País Vasco as no Official College of *Dental Technicians* has been established there.

⁴There is no data because official colleges of dietitian nutritionists have not been established in Canarias, Extremadura and La Rioja.

⁵ The Communities in which the Official College of *Occupational Therapists* has been established and for which data are available are Aragón, Asturias, Illes Balears, Castilla y León, Castilla-La Mancha, Cataluña, Comunitat Valenciana, Extremadura, Galicia, Región de Murcia, Comunidad Foral de Navarra, País Vasco and La Rioja.

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 from which information has been obtained 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, dietitian-nutritionists, 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

Method of collection: questionnaire on the internet (web application)

For more information you can access the methodology at:

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

And the standardised methodological report at:

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

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Press office: Telephone numbers: (+34) 91 583 93 63 /94 08 – gprensa@ine.es

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