

Registered Health Professionals Statistics
Year 2012

The number of registered *doctors* increases 1.1% in 2012, reaching 498 per 100,000 inhabitants

The number of registered *nurses* decreases by 1.0%

In the year 2012, the number of registered *doctors* increased by 2,493 (1.1% more), reaching the total of 228,917 in 2012.

In turn, the number of registered *qualified nurses* decreased by 2,740 (-1.0%), reaching 265,569. This was the first time that it was registered a decrease in the number of qualified nurses registered in the Official Association since 1977, when the comparable series started. The sharpest drop was registered among people aged under 35 years old (-5.1% as compared with 2011). Among *qualified nurses*, 7,930 were registered as *midwives* (2.8% more).

The number of registered professionals increased in all health professions, except for *Physicists with the degree in health*, where no variation was registered. As with the last three years, the greatest increases occurred among the *dentists* (7.5% more than in 2011), *chiropractors* (4.1%) and *physiotherapists* (3.1%). Those that grew the least were *veterinarians* (0.1%), *opticians-optometrists* (0.5%) and *pharmacists* (0.8%).

Performance of registered health professionals

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Qualified nurses	242,990	250,020	255,445	262,915	268,309	265,569
<i>With a Midwife qualification [2]</i>	7,057	7,217	7,354	7,580	7,713	7,930
Doctors	208,098	213,977	219,031	223,484	226,424	228,917
Pharmacists	61,758	62,507	63,377	64,203	64,977	65,471
Physiotherapists	28,720	31,229	33,288	35,630	37,480	38,630
Dentists	24,515	25,697	26,725	27,826	29,070	31,261
Veterinarians	27,594	28,188	28,403	28,949	29,060	29,096
Opticians-Optometrists					15,141	15,220
Psychologists [1] [3]						7,131
Dental Technicians [1]						6,185
Chiropractors	4,909	5,114	5,263	5,540	5,814	6,050
Physicists [3]					49	49

[1] It is included for the first time in the 2012 statistic the data on dental technicians and psychologists with a degree in health

[2] The number of registered health professionals working in this speciality may be underestimated, given that compulsory registration, in those Autonomous Communities in which it does not exist, is actually compulsory with regard to Registered Nursing, but not with regard to the speciality

[3] It only includes the number of physcists and psychologists with a health specialization

Health professional rates

In 2012, there were 497.6 *doctors* and 577.2 *qualified nurses* registered per 100,000 inhabitants. Nonetheless, considering labour status, the rate of non-retired registered professionals stood at 452.4 *doctors* and 513.3 *qualified nurses* per 100,000 inhabitants.

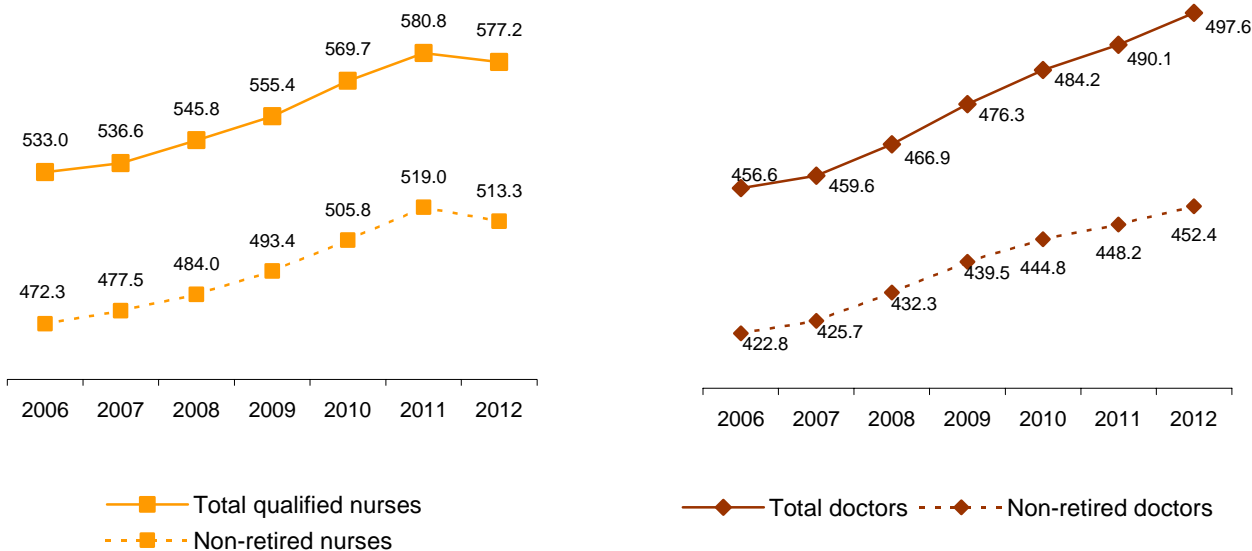
In the case of *midwives*, the rate reached 72.0 per 100,000 women of childbearing age (58.2 in the case of non-retired midwives).

In the remaining health professional specialities, the rates of registered health professionals per 100,000 inhabitants stood at 142.3 *pharmacists* (133.0 non-retired); 84.0 *physiotherapists* (83.2 non-retired); 67.9 *dentists* (66.6), 33.1 *opticians-optometrists* (32.3), 15.5 *psychologists* (15.4), 13.4 *dental technicians* (12.8) and 13.2 *chiropodists* (13.1).

The number of registered professionals per inhabitant increased in all groups, except for *qualified nurses*, which decreased by 3.6 per 100,000 inhabitants.

The rates that most increased were those of *doctors* (7.4 more doctors per 100,000 inhabitants) and of *dentists* (5.0 more). Those that increased the least corresponded to *opticians-optometrists* and *chiropodists* (0.3 and 0.6 more professionals, respectively).

Rates of registered doctors and qualified nurses per 100,000 inhabitants



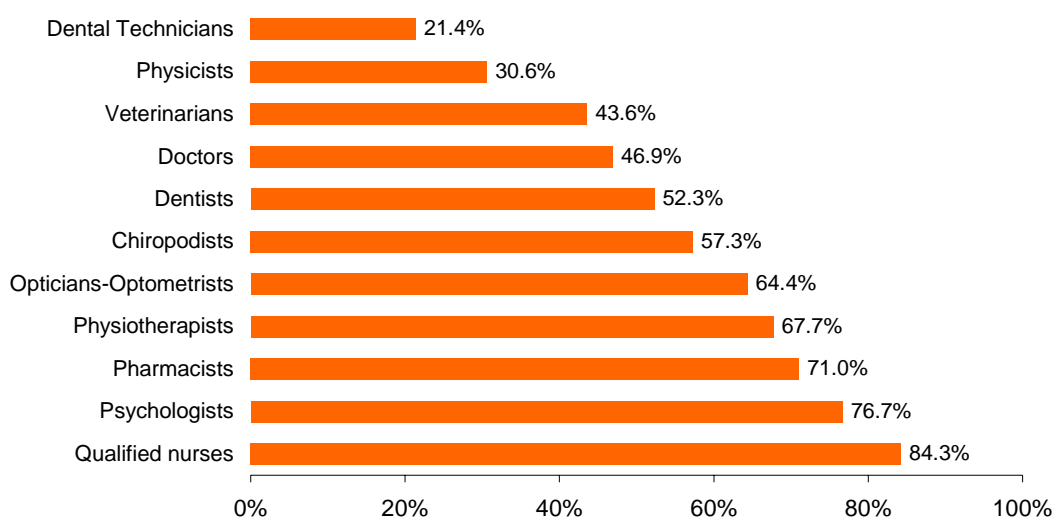
Registered health professionals, by sex and age

Women had a majority presence within the health professionals. In 7 out of 11 professions analysed in 2012 there were more registered women than men. In the four remaining professions (official association of *doctors*, *veterinarians*, *dental technicians* and *physicists with the degree in health*) the difference between the sexes continued to lessen.

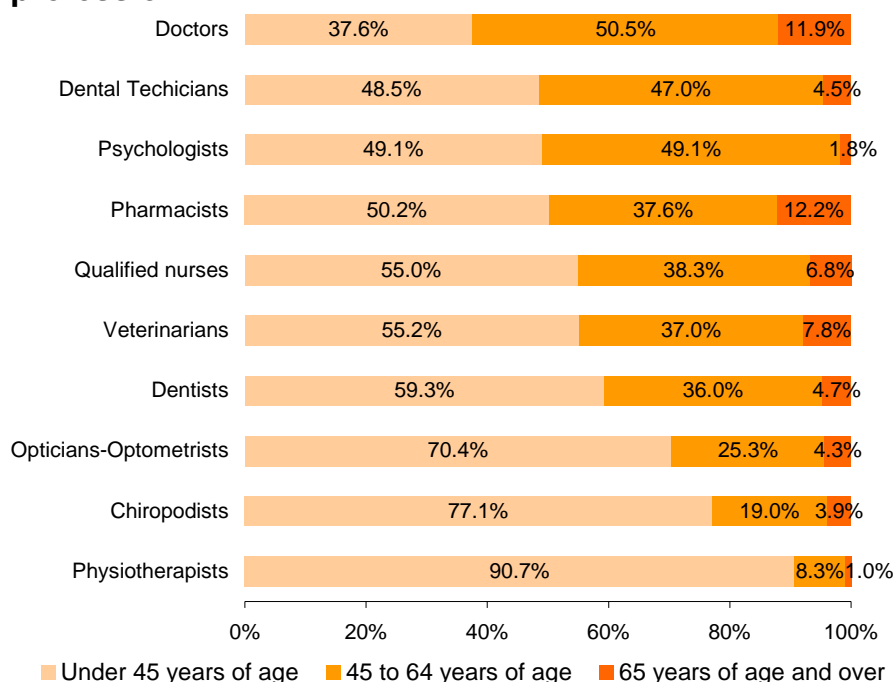
The associations with the highest percentage of women were those corresponding to *qualified nurses* (with 84.3%, which in the case of *midwives* rose to 94.3%), and to *psychologists with the degree in health* (76.7%). The ones with the lowest percentage of women were *dental technicians* (only two out of 10 registered technicians were women) and *physicists with the degree in health* (three out of 10).

This higher feminine index was clearer in the youngest groups of age. Among persons aged under 45 years old, there were at least two women per registered man in every health profession, except for *veterinarians* and *dental technicians*.

Percentage of women among the registered professionals by type of health profession



Distribution by age group of the registered professionals and by type of health profession



Data by Autonomous Community

On comparing the data on the Autonomous Communities, **we must bear in mind that registration is not compulsory in some of the Autonomous Communities.**

The Autonomous Communities with the highest rates of registered *doctors* in the year 2012 were Comunidad de Madrid (623.0 per 100,000 inhabitants) and Aragón (622.7). In turn, those with the lowest rates were Castilla-La Mancha (412.0) and Andalucía (392.9).

The greatest increase in the number of registered *doctors* per inhabitant, as compared with the year 2011, occurred in Principado de Asturias (45.2 more *doctors* per 100,000 inhabitants) and País Vasco (21.0 more).

On the other hand, Illes Balears, Andalucía, Castilla-La Mancha and Canarias were the only Autonomous Communities in which the number of registered *doctors* decreased (-4.7, -2.8.-2.7 and -0.1 *doctors* per 100,000 inhabitants, respectively).

Considering the rate of *non-retired registered doctors*, the map by Autonomous Community did not vary substantially. Comunidad de Madrid (573.7 *non-retired doctors* per 100,000 persons) and Aragón (560.5) had the highest ratios per inhabitant, and Andalucía (347.9) and Castilla-La Mancha (376.3) had the lowest.

Regarding *qualified nurses* registered, Comunidad Foral de Navarra presented the highest rate (975.4 per 100,000 persons), followed by País Vasco (728.7). The lowest rates were registered in Región de Murcia (376.3) and Andalucía (418.7).

In the case of *qualified nurses with a midwife qualification*, the Autonomous Communities with the highest rate of *qualified nurses* were Cantabria (118.5 per 100,000 women of childbearing age) and Castilla y León (111.8), and those with the lowest rate were Canarias (34.9) and Castilla-La Mancha (49.2).

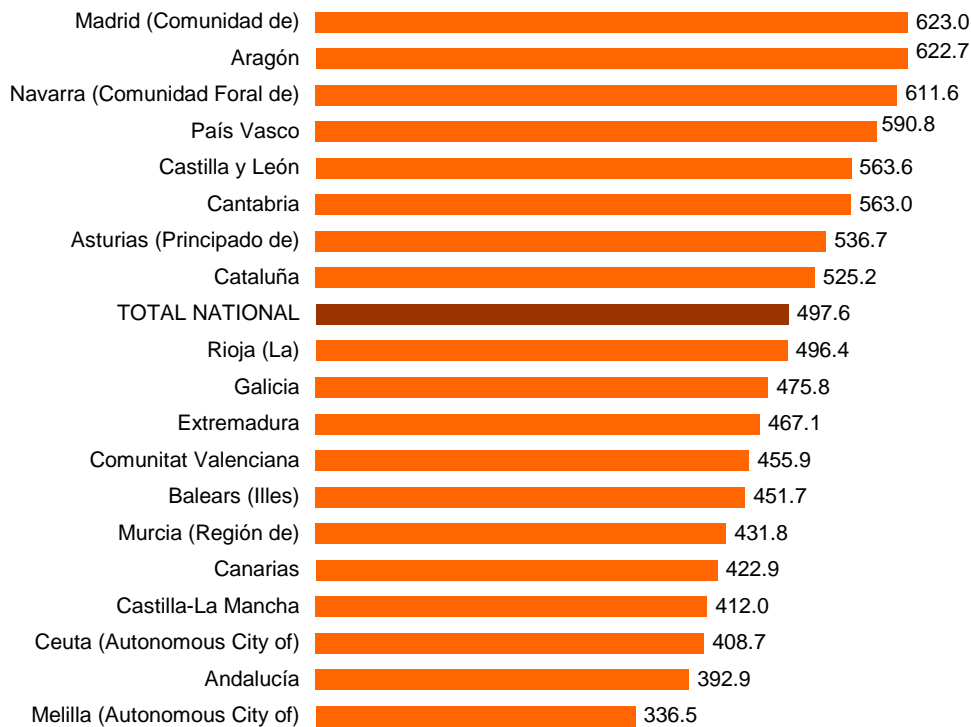
The Autonomous Communities with the highest ratios of registered *pharmacists* were Comunidad Foral de Navarra (222.8 per 100,000 inhabitants) and Comunidad de Madrid (172.3). In turn, those presenting the greatest rate of *dentists* were Comunidad de Madrid (109.8) and País Vasco (78.9).

Comunidad de Madrid (with 120.2 per 100,000 inhabitants) and Cataluña (113.6) recorded the highest rates of *physiotherapists*, whereas Extremadura and Comunidad de Madrid presented the highest rates of *chiropractists* (21.9 and 19.8, respectively).

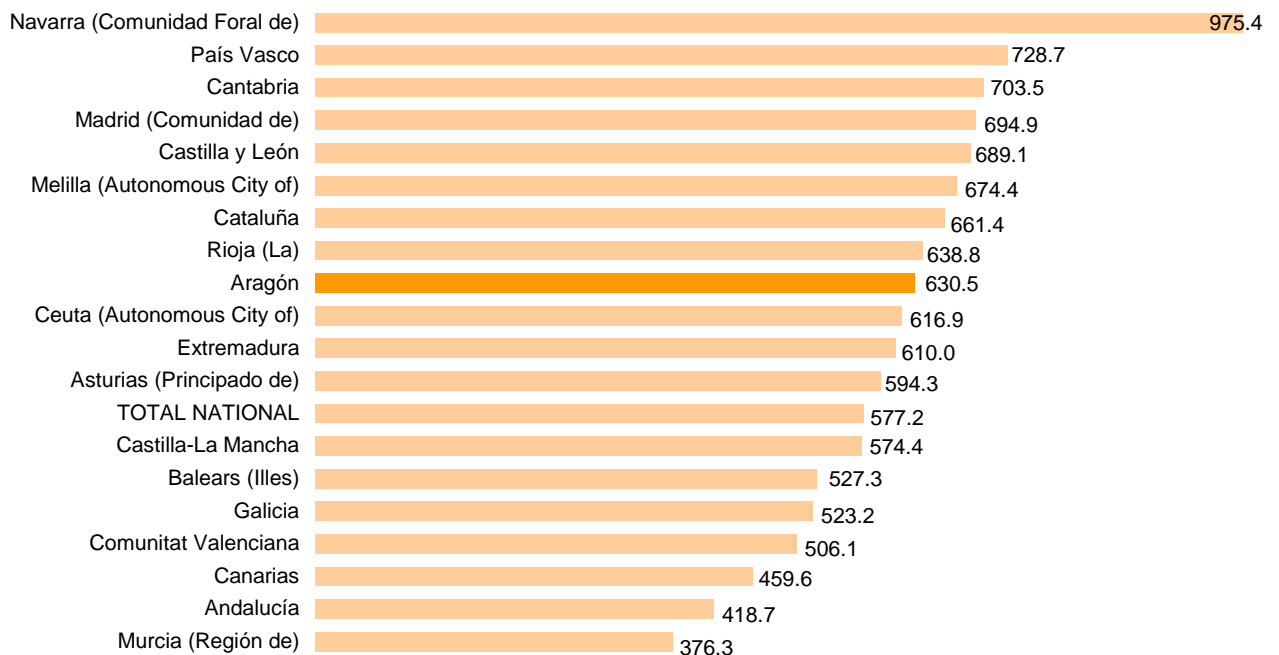
The Autonomous Communities with the highest rates of registered *opticians-optometrists* were Región de Murcia (42.8 per 100,000 inhabitants) and Comunidad de Madrid (41.6).

Cantabria (22.6 per 100,000 inhabitants) and Aragón (19.9) were the Autonomous Communities with the highest rates of *dental technicians*.

Rates of the registered doctors per 100,000 inhabitants



Rates of registered qualified nurses per 100,000 inhabitants



Methodological note

The Registered Health Professionals Statistics research the number and features of those health professionals registered in their respective Professional Associations or Councils. They have been compiled continuously by the National Statistics Institute since the year 1953. Beginning in the year 2003, the publication was amended as a result of the adaptation of the questionnaire to the requirements of different international organisations.

These are annual structural statistics. The data refers to 31 December, and includes results on national, Autonomous Community and provincial levels.

The information currently provided refers to *doctors, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, qualified nurses, physiotherapists, chiropodists, opticians-optometrists, physicists with the degree in health* and for the first time, the year 2012 also includes data on *psychologists with a health professional speciality and dental technicians*. To this end, the operation collects the province of association, sex, age and labour status (retired or non-retired).

The information referring to *doctors, qualified nurses, physiotherapists, dental technicians and dentists* is collected using the respective Professional Associations belonging to the Province or to the Autonomous Community, whereas in the case of *pharmacists, veterinarians, psychologists, physicists, chiropodists, opticians-optometrists* and for some provinces also *dental technicians*, it is collected using the General Councils of the respective Professional Associations.

The questionnaires are filled out using an online application (IRIA) by the General Councils and Professional Associations. There are two different models of questionnaire, depending on the target group:

1. For General Councils of Associations: *Pharmacists, Veterinarians, Psychologists, Physicists, Chiropodists, Opticians-Optometrists*, as well as of *Dental Technicians* for some of the provinces.
2. For Associations of *Doctors, Physiotherapists, Dental Technicians, Dentists and Qualified Nurses* belonging to the Province or to the Autonomous Community (this questionnaire also includes the modules on associates with a specialist nursing qualification).

Once the consistency of the information provided in the questionnaires is verified, the data is published on national, Autonomous Community and provincial levels. In the case of Qualified Nurses, the Obstetrics-Gynaecology (Midwife) specialisation is published.

This research provides information for numerous international bodies, such as the OECD and the Statistics Office of the EU (Eurostat).