

20 May 2024

## Registered Health Professional Statistics Year 2023

### Main results

- In 2023, the number of registered doctors increased by 3.2% and that of registered nurses by 2.9%.
- The ratio of registered doctors stood at 6.21 per 1,000 inhabitants and the ratio of nurses was 7.12 per 1,000.

### More information

- [Detailed results](#)
- [Registered Health Professionals Infographic](#)

In 2023, the number of registered health care professionals in Spain was 975,243, 3.0% more than the previous year. By sex, 302,009 were men (up 2.4%) and 673,234 were women (up 3.4%).

The majority were *nurses* (35.5% of the total), followed by *doctors* (30.9%) and *pharmacists* (8.2%).

#### Registered health care professionals. Records for 2019-2023

Values and rates of change (%)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Variation rate (%) 2023/2022
<b>Nurses</b>	314,862	323,915	329,255	336,203	345,969	2.9
- <i>With midwife title</i>	9,534	9,499	9,744	9,880	10,286	4.1
<b>Physicians</b>	267,991	276,192	283,811	292,413	301,684	3.2
<b>Pharmacists</b>	75,260	76,821	78,128	79,288	80,293	1.3
<b>Physiotherapists</b>	57,147	59,791	62,691	66,178	68,838	4.0
<b>Dentists</b>	38,809	39,764	40,417	40,968	42,075	2.7
<b>Psychologist with healthcare speciality</b>	33,188	34,827	37,611	38,427	40,417	5.2
<b>Veterinarians</b>	33,752	34,443	35,561	36,337	36,989	1.8
<b>Opticians-Optometrists</b>	18,036	18,271	18,784	19,113	19,469	1.9
<b>Speech therapists</b>	10,156	10,483	10,900	11,462	12,017	4.8
<b>Podiatrists</b>	8,010	8,234	9,049	9,698	10,247	5.7
<b>Occupational therapists</b>	4,963	5,870	6,782	7,560	8,450	11.8
<b>Dental prosthetics</b>	7,530	7,395	7,510	7,463	7,430	-0.4
<b>Biologists with healthcare speciality</b>	503	536	625	651	653	0.3
<b>Chemists with healthcare speciality</b>	303	302	308	342	367	7.3
<b>Physiques with healthcare speciality</b>	270	302	307	319	345	8.2

The number of registered *doctors* in Spain increased by 9,271 (3.2%) reaching a total of 301,684 in 2023

On the other hand, registered *nurses* increased by 9,766 people (2.9%), standing at 345,969. Within this group, 10,286 people were registered as midwives (4.1% more than in 2022).

The number of registered professionals in the other professions covered by the statistics also increased, except for the number of *dental prosthetists* (-0.4%). The largest increases occurred in *occupational therapists* (11.8%), *physicists with a health specialism* (8.2%) and *chemists with a health specialism* (7.3%).

*Nurses* had the largest ratio per 1,000 inhabitants in 2023 (7.12). Next came *doctors* (6.21) and *pharmacists* (1.65).

In the case of *nurses* who specialise in *midwifery*, the ratio was 0.97 per 1,000 women of childbearing age.

## Health care professionals by age and sex

By age group, the highest percentages of health professionals under 45 years of age were found among *occupational therapists* (87.9%), *physiotherapists* (76.8%) and *podiatrists* (69.4%).

The lowest percentages in this age group were those of *biologists* (38.7%), *dental prosthetists* (38.8%) and *doctors* (39.2%).

Meanwhile, the largest percentages of registered practitioners over the age of 65 were for *doctors* (25.3%) and *pharmacists* (17.8%).

### Registered healthcare professionals by age. 2023

Percentage (%)

	Total	Less than 45 years	From 45 to 64 years	From 65 years and more
<b>Biologists with healthcare speciality</b>	100.0	38.7	52.8	8.4
<b>Dental prosthetics</b>	100.0	38.8	55.2	5.9
<b>Physicians</b>	100.0	39.2	35.4	25.3
<b>Pharmacists</b>	100.0	40.1	42.1	17.8
<b>Veterinarians</b>	100.0	45.6	46.1	8.3
<b>Opticians-Optometrists</b>	100.0	51.2	43.7	5.1
<b>Nurses</b>	100.0	53.3	34.8	11.8
<b>Psychologist with healthcare speciality</b>	100.0	55.5	40.0	4.5
<b>Dentists</b>	100.0	56.9	32.7	10.4
<b>Speech therapists</b>	100.0	69.3	27.3	3.4
<b>Podiatrists</b>	100.0	69.4	24.5	6.1
<b>Physiotherapists</b>	100.0	76.8	21.6	1.6
<b>Occupational therapists</b>	100.0	87.9	11.8	0.3

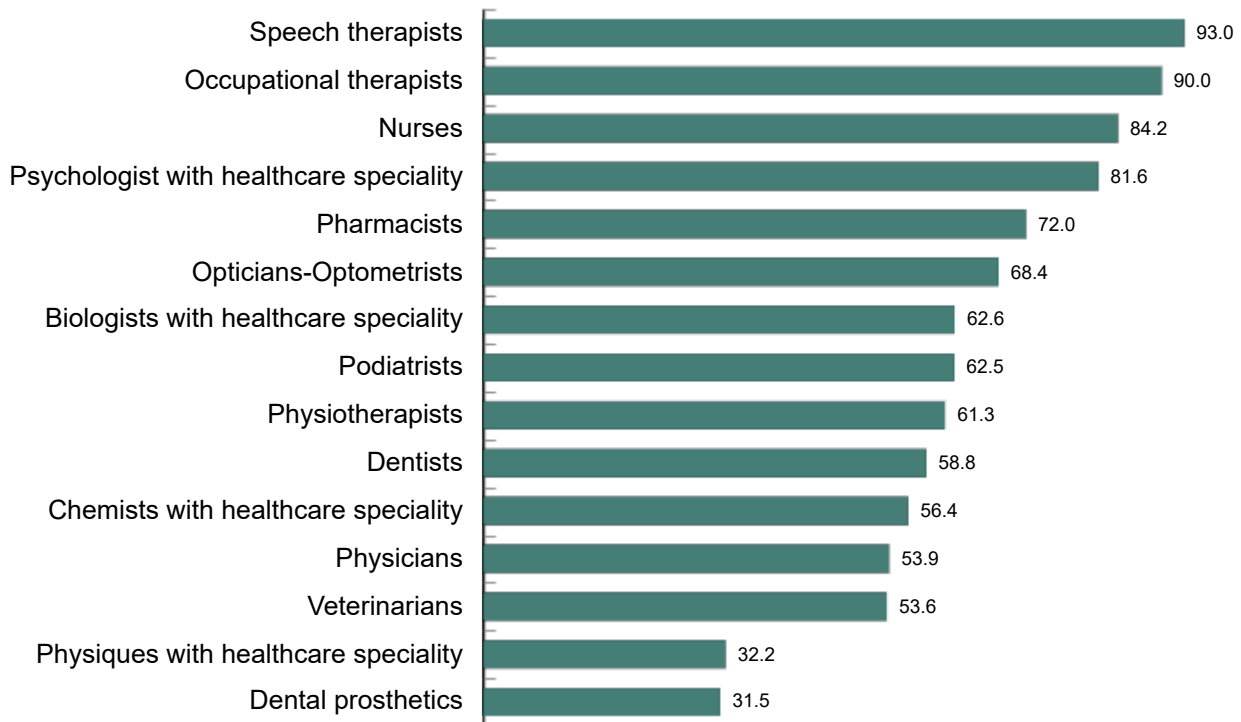
The healthcare profession is predominantly female. In 2023, there were more women than men in 13 of the 15 professions analysed.

The groups with the highest percentage of women were *speech therapists* (93.0% were women), *occupational therapists* (90.0%) and *nurses* (84.2%).

In contrast, the professions with the lowest percentage of women were *dental prosthetists* (31.5%), *physicists with a health specialism* (32.2%) and *veterinarians* (53.6%).

## Registered women by type of healthcare profession. 2023

Percentages



## Data by Autonomous Communities and Cities

The number of registered *doctors* increased in all the autonomous communities in 2023, and only decreased in the autonomous city of Melilla (-4.0%).

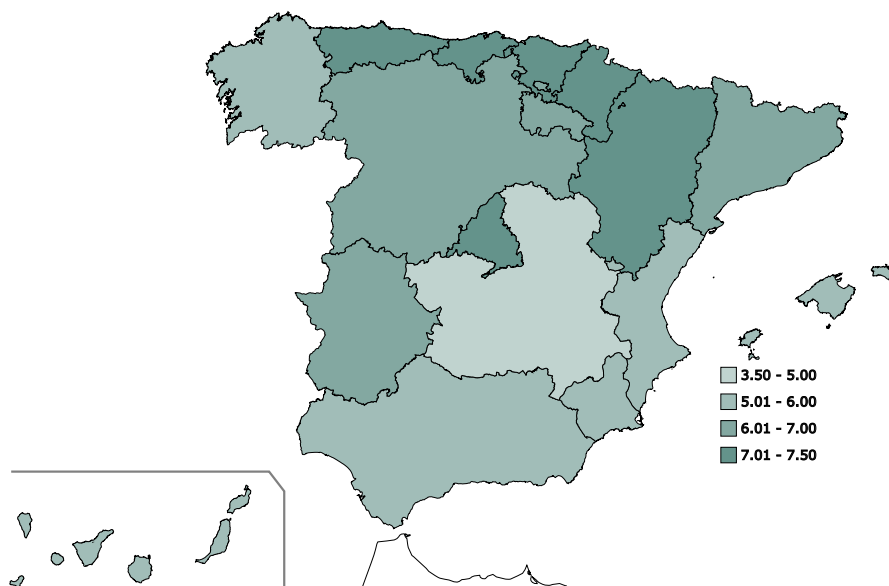
The largest decreases took place in Cantabria (5.4%), Canarias (3.9%) and Illes Balears (3.8%). The smallest decreases were in the autonomous city of Ceuta (0.8%), Aragón (1.9%) and Castilla-La Mancha (2.6%).

The highest rates of *doctors* were in the Principality of Asturias (7.32 per 1,000 inhabitants), Aragon (7.31) and Comunidad de Madrid (7.25). And the lowest were in the autonomous cities of Melilla (3.59) and Ceuta (4.41) and in Castilla-La Mancha (4.89).

The highest ratios of registered *nurses* per 1,000 inhabitants were recorded in Cantabria (9.05), Comunidad Foral de Navarra (8.87) and País Vasco (8.84). The lowest were in Región de Murcia (4.81), Galicia (5.21) and Illes Balears (5.97).

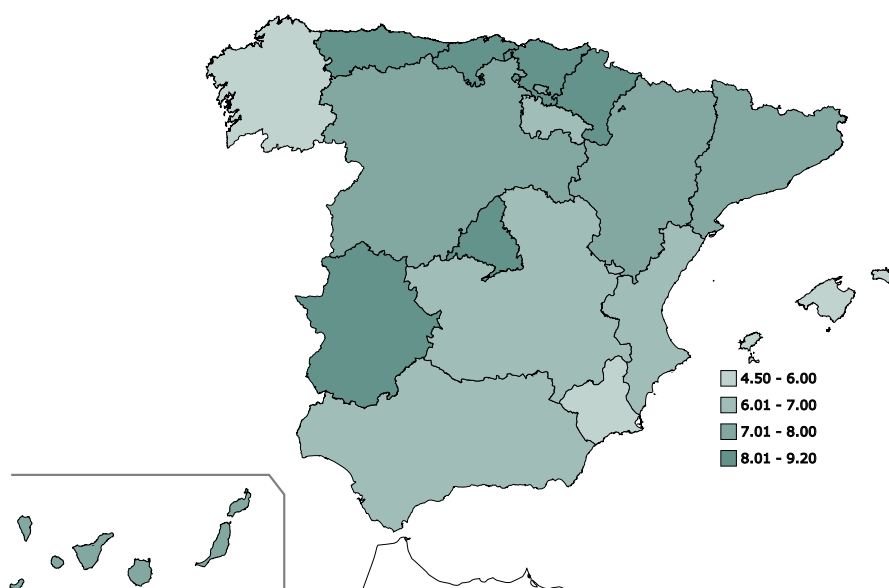
## Registered doctors. 2023

Rates per 1,000 inhabitants



## Registered nurses. 2023

Rates per 1,000 inhabitants



## Revisions and data updates

The data published today are final. All results are available on [INEbase](#)

## Methodological note

The Registered Health Professionals Statistics are annual structural statistics that investigate the number and characteristics of health professionals registered in their respective Professional Colleges or Councils. They have 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, which are: doctors, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, psychologists with a specialism in health, physicists with a specialism in health, nurses, physiotherapists, podiatrists, opticians-optometrists, dental prosthetists, chemists with a speciality in health, occupational therapists, speech therapists and biologists with a specialism in health.

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

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

**Population scope:** professionals in the healthcare field that are registered in any Spanish Professional Association.

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

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


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

More information on the [methodology](#) and the [standardised methodological report](#).

INE statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for European Statistics. More information in [Quality at INE](#) and [Code of Best Practices](#).

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For further information see [INEbase](#)

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

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