

Registered Health Professional Statistics Year 2024

Main results

- The number of registered healthcare professionals in Spain exceeded one million for the first time in 2024.
- The number of registered doctors increased by 2.9% compared to the previous year, and the number of registered nurses increased by 2.1%.

More information

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

The number of registered healthcare professionals in Spain surpassed one million for the first time in 2024, reaching 1,008,764, a 2.6% increase over the previous year. By sex, 308,915 were men (up 1.8%) and 699,849 were women (up 2.9%).

Registered health care professionals. 2020-2024 series

Values and rates of change (%)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Variation rate (%) 2024/2023
Nurses	323,915	329,255	336,164	346,207	353,635	2.1
- With midwife title	9,499	9,744	9,880	10,243	10,487	2.4
Physicians	276,192	283,811	292,413	301,684	310,558	2.9
Pharmacists	76,821	78,128	79,288	80,293	81,064	1.0
Physiotherapists	59,791	62,691	66,178	68,838	71,638	4.1
Psychologist with healthcare speciality	34,827	37,611	38,427	40,417	43,628	7.9
Dentists	39,764	40,417	40,968	42,075	42,860	1.9
Veterinarians	34,443	35,561	36,337	36,989	37,836	2.3
Opticians-Optometrists	18,271	18,784	19,113	19,469	19,711	1.2
Speech therapists	10,483	10,900	11,462	12,017	12,196	1.5
Occupational therapists	5,870	6,782	7,560	8,423	9,287	10.3
Podiatrists²	8,234	9,049	9,698	10,247	9,258	-9.7
Dietitians nutritionists¹	5,698	8,075	..
Dental prosthetics	7,395	7,510	7,463	7,430	7,551	1.6
Biologists with healthcare speciality	536	625	651	653	682	4.4
Chemists with healthcare speciality	302	308	342	367	395	7.6
Physiques with healthcare speciality	302	307	319	345	390	13.0

¹ Not available at the time of publication: the data on Dietitians nutritionists for 2021, 2022 and 2023 for the entire national territory. ² In 2024, there was a break in the number of registered podiatrists due to a database purge by the General Council of Official Colleges of Podiatrists of Spain, adjusting it to the EPSC methodology.

The majority were *nurses* (35.1% of the total), followed by *doctors* (30.8%) and *pharmacists* (8.0%).

The number of registered *doctors* in Spain increased by 8,874 (2.9%) reaching a total of 310,558 in 2024.

The number of registered *nurses* increased by 7,428 (2.1%) to 353,635. Within this group, 10,487 people were registered as midwives (2.4% more than in 2023).

In the rest of the professions included in the statistics, the greatest increases were in *physicists with a health speciality* (13.0%), *occupational therapists* (10.3%) and *psychologists with a health speciality* (7.9%).

Nurses had the largest ratio per 1,000 inhabitants in 2024 (7.21). Next came *doctors* (6.33) and *pharmacists* (1.65).

In the case of *nurses* who specialise in *midwifery*, the ratio was 0.98 per 1,000 women of childbearing age.

Health care professionals by age and sex

According to the distribution by age group, the highest percentages of health professionals under 45 years of age were found in *occupational therapists* (86.6%), *dietitians and nutritionists* (83.2%) and *physiotherapists* (74.6%).

The lowest percentages in this age group were found in the groups of *dental technicians* (38.8%), *pharmacists* (39.4%) and *biologists* (39.6%).

Meanwhile, the largest percentages of registered practitioners over the age of 65 were for *doctors* (27.0%) and *pharmacists* (18.6%).

Registered healthcare professionals by age. 2024

Percentage (%)

	Total	Less than 45 years	From 45 to 64 years	From 65 years and more
Dental prosthetics	100.0	38.8	55.0	6.2
Pharmacists	100.0	39.4	42.1	18.6
Biologists with healthcare speciality	100.0	39.6	50.7	9.7
Physicians	100.0	39.7	33.3	27.0
Veterinarians	100.0	45.1	46.0	8.9
Opticians-Optometrists	100.0	49.6	45.3	5.1
Nurses	100.0	51.8	35.7	12.4
Psychologist with healthcare speciality	100.0	55.0	39.4	5.6
Dentists	100.0	55.8	32.5	11.7
Podiatrists	100.0	68.3	27.5	4.3
Speech therapists	100.0	70.4	26.5	3.2
Physiotherapists	100.0	74.6	23.8	1.7
Dietitians nutritionists	100.0	83.2	16.4	0.4
Occupational therapists	100.0	86.6	13.2	0.3

The healthcare profession is predominantly female. In 2024, there were more women than men in 14 of the 16 professions analysed.

The groups with the highest percentage of women were *speech therapists* (93.3% were women), *occupational therapists* (89.8%) and *nurses* (84.2%).

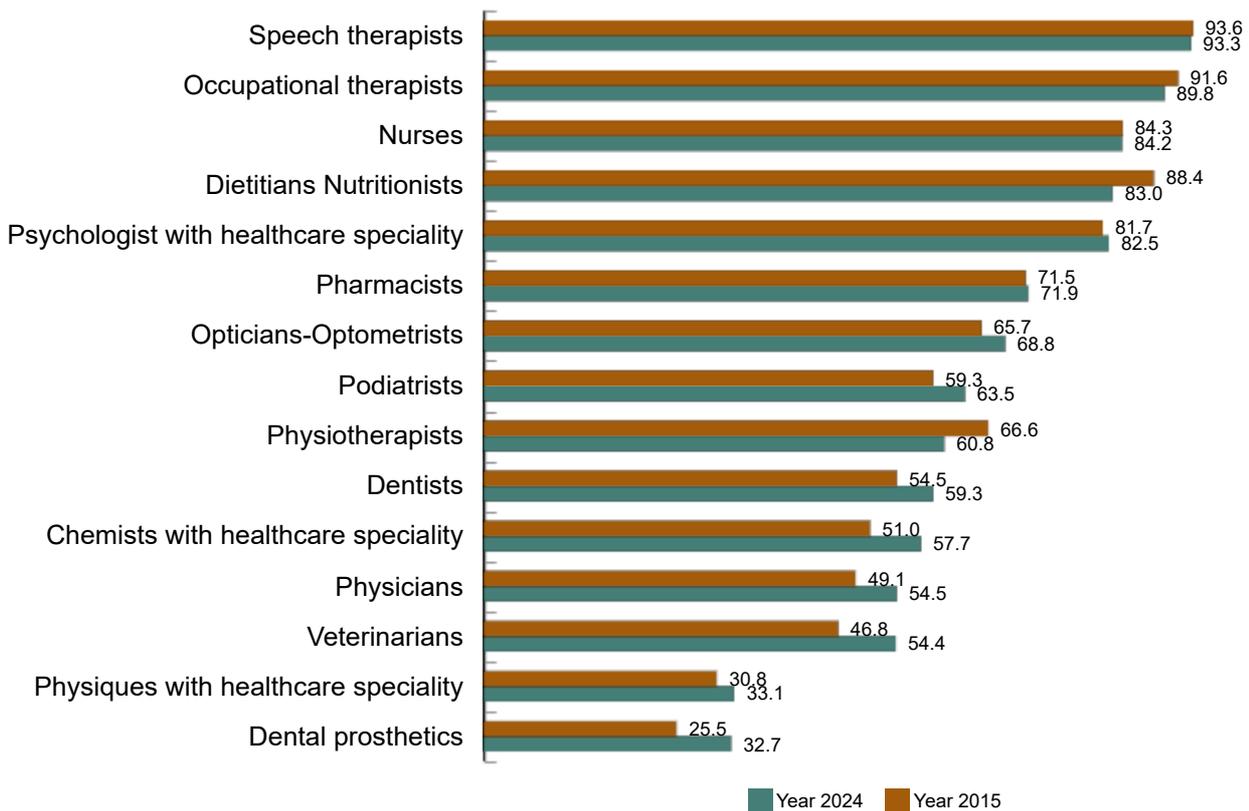
In contrast, *dental technicians* (32.7%), *health physicists* (33.1%) and *veterinarians* (54.4%) had the lowest femininity rates.

In the last 10 years, the groups in which the presence of women increased the most, in percentage terms, were *veterinarians* (7.6 points), *dental technicians* (7.2) and *chemists* (6.7). In two professions, *veterinary medicine* and *medicine*, the female ratio has reversed: a decade ago there was a majority of men (3.6% more doctors than doctors and 13.8% more veterinarians than veterinarians), while in 2024 women were in the majority (19.5% more doctors than doctors and 19.4% more veterinarians than veterinarians).

In contrast, the professions with the largest decreases in the proportion of women were *physiotherapists* (down 5.8 points), *dieticians and nutritionists* (down 5.4 points) and *occupational therapists* (down 1.8 points).

Registered women by type of healthcare profession. Comparison between 2015 and 2024

Percentages



Data by Autonomous Communities and Cities

The number of registered doctors increased in all autonomous communities and cities in 2024. The largest increases took place in the autonomous city of Melilla (4.9%), Canarias (3.9%) and Illes Balears (3.8%). And the smallest were in Comunidad Foral de Navarra (1.7%), Principado de Asturias and Castilla-La Mancha (both 2.0%).

The highest rates of *doctors* were in Aragón (7.46 for every 1,000 inhabitants), Principado de Asturias (7.43) and Comunidad de Madrid (7.33). And the lowest were in the autonomous cities of Melilla (3.72) and Ceuta

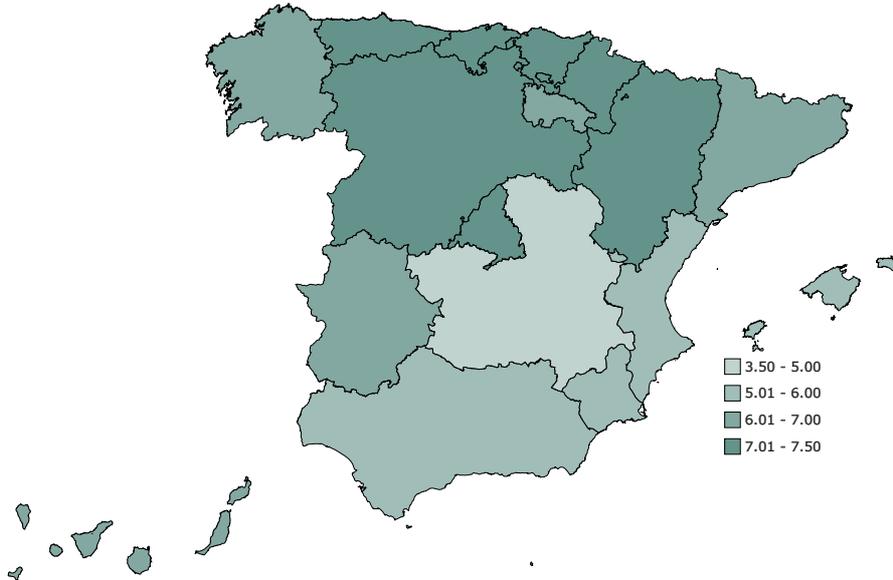
Current press release at: <https://www.ine.es/dyngs/Prensa/en/EPSC2024.htm>

(4.53) and in Castilla-La Mancha (4.94).

The highest ratios of registered *nurses* per 1,000 inhabitants were recorded in Cantabria (9.32), Comunidad Foral de Navarra (8.92) and País Vasco (8.76). The lowest were in Región de Murcia (4.99), Galicia (5.24) and Illes Balears (6.14).

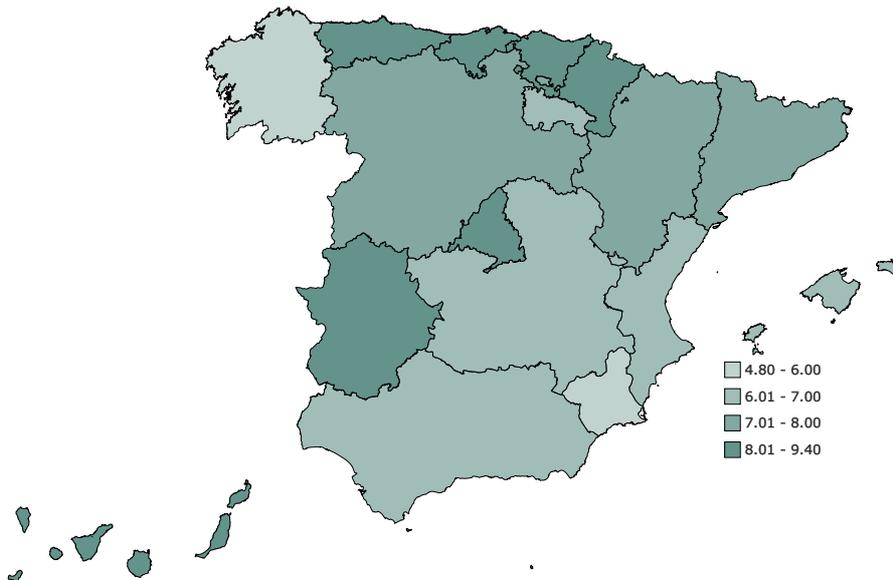
Registered doctors. 2024

Rates per 1,000 inhabitants



Registered nurses. 2024

Rates per 1,000 inhabitants



Current press release at: <https://www.ine.es/dyngs/Prensa/en/EPSC2024.htm>

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](#).

For further information see [INEbase](#)

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