

28 May 2020

Registered Health Professionals Statistics
Year 2019

The number of registered health care professionals increased by 2.9% in 2019

The rate of registered doctors stood at 5.66 per 1,000 inhabitants and the rate of nurses was 6.68

The number of registered health care professionals in Spain was 877,361 in 2019, 2.9% more than the previous year. By sex, 278,371 were men (a 2.3% increase) and 598,990 were women (a 3.2% increase).

The majority were *nurses* (36.03% of the total), followed by *doctors* (30.55%) and *pharmacists* (8.58%). In turn, less highly represented groups included *physicists*, *chemists* and *biologists* specialising in health care (with 0.03%, 0.03% and 0.06% of the total, respectively).

Registered health care professionals by profession. 2019

Values and percentage

	Registered Health Professionals	%
TOTAL	877,361	100.00
Nurses	316,094	36.03
Doctors	267,995	30.55
Pharmacists	75,260	8.58
Physiotherapists	57,147	6.51
Dentists	38,809	4.42
Veterinarians	33,752	3.85
Psychologists with healthcare speciality	33,209	3.79
Opticians-Optometrists	18,036	2.06
Speech therapists	10,156	1.16
Podiatrists	8,010	0.91
Dental prosthetics	7,530	0.86
Dieticians nutritionists	5,297	0.60
Occupational therapists	4,963	0.57
Biologists with healthcare speciality	530	0.06
Chemists with healthcare speciality	303	0.03
Physiques with healthcare speciality	270	0.03

The number of registered *doctors* in Spain increased by 7,407 people (2.8%) reaching a total of 267,995 in 2019.

On the other hand, registered *nurses* increased by 8,332 people (2.7%), standing at 316,094. Within this group, 9,536 people were registered as *midwives*¹ (3.2% more than in 2018).

The number of registered professionals for the rest of the health professions included in the statistics likewise increased. The greatest increases were for *occupational therapists* (21.8%), *dietitian nutritionists* (14.5%) and *physicists specialising in health care* (13.4%). On the other hand, the smallest increases were recorded for *dental technicians* (0.7%), *chemists specialising in health care* (1.3%), *pharmacists* and *veterinarians* (1.6% in both).

Registered health care professionals. 2015-2019 series

Values and rates of change (%)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Variation rate (%) 2018/2017
Nurses	283,611	291,297	299,824	307,762	316,094	2.7
- With midwife title	8,547	8,785	9,013	9,236	9,536	3.2
Doctors	242,840	247,958	253,796	260,588	267,995	2.8
Pharmacists	69,774	71,119	72,500	74,043	75,260	1.6
Physiotherapist	45,054	48,173	51,130	54,258	57,147	5.3
Dentists	34,641	35,716	36,689	37,787	38,809	2.7
Veterinarians	31,242	31,961	32,555	33,207	33,752	1.6
Psychologists with healthcare	26,879	25,094	25,857	32,516	33,209	2.1
Opticians-Optometrists	16,317	16,882	17,372	17,641	18,036	2.2
Speech therapists	8,147	8,681	8,971	9,707	10,156	4.6
Podiatrists	6,867	7,040	7,406	7,817	8,010	2.5
Dental prosthetics	6,672	7,164	7,248	7,477	7,530	0.7
Dieticians nutritionists	2884	3,361	4,086	4,625	5,297	14.5
Occupational therapists	2646	3,080	3,502	4,076	4,963	21.8
Biologists with healthcare speciality	654	488	530	8.6
Chemists with healthcare speciality	351	343	323	299	303	1.3
Physiques with healthcare speciality	133	166	189	238	270	13.4

Rates of registered health professionals

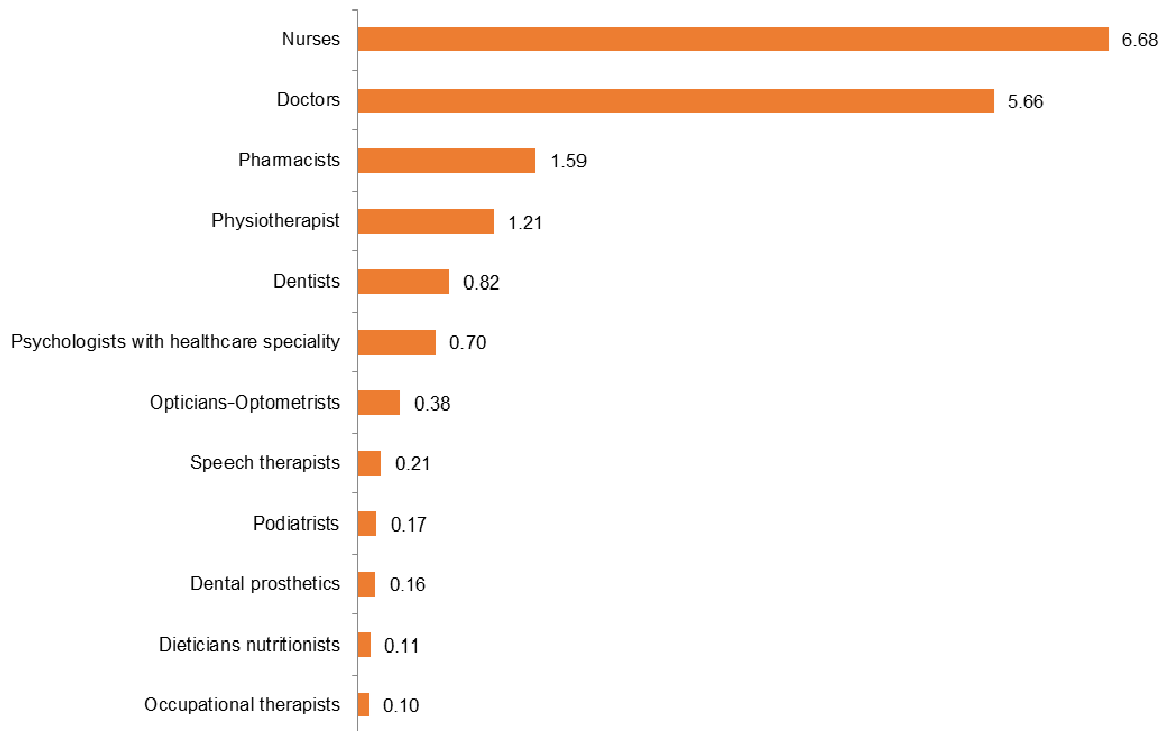
The number of registered health professionals per 1,000 inhabitants differs according to the group. In 2019, the number of *nurses* presented the highest rate (6.68 per 1,000 inhabitants), followed by *doctors* (5.66) and *pharmacists* (1.59).

In turn, the lowest rates were observed in the groups of *occupational therapists* (0.10), *dietitian nutritionists* (0.16) and *dental technicians* (0.16).

In the particular case of nurses specializing in *midwifery*, the rate was 0.91 per 1,000 women of childbearing age.

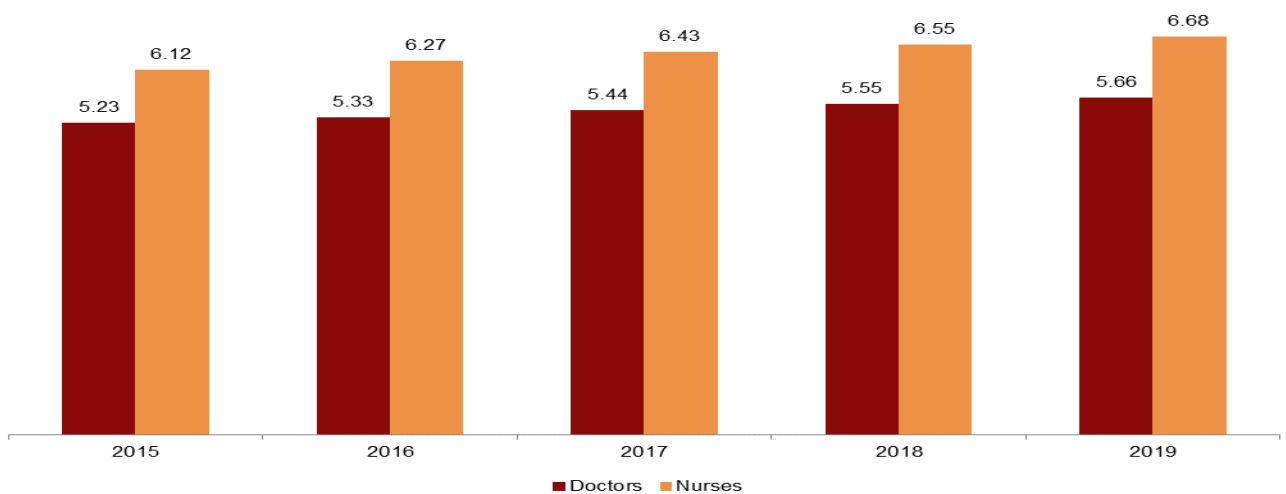
¹ The number of registered professionals in this specialism may be underestimated, given that registration is compulsory for the Diploma in Nursing, not for specialisms.

Registered health care professionals. 2019
Rates per 1,000 inhabitants



Rates per 1,000 inhabitants of *optician-optometrists, speech therapists, podiatrists and dental technicians* did not change compared to 2018. Rates increased among the rest of health professionals. *Nurses (0.13), doctors (0.11) and physical therapists (0.06)* showed the greatest increases.

Registered nurses and doctors 2015-2019 series
Rate per 1,000 inhabitants



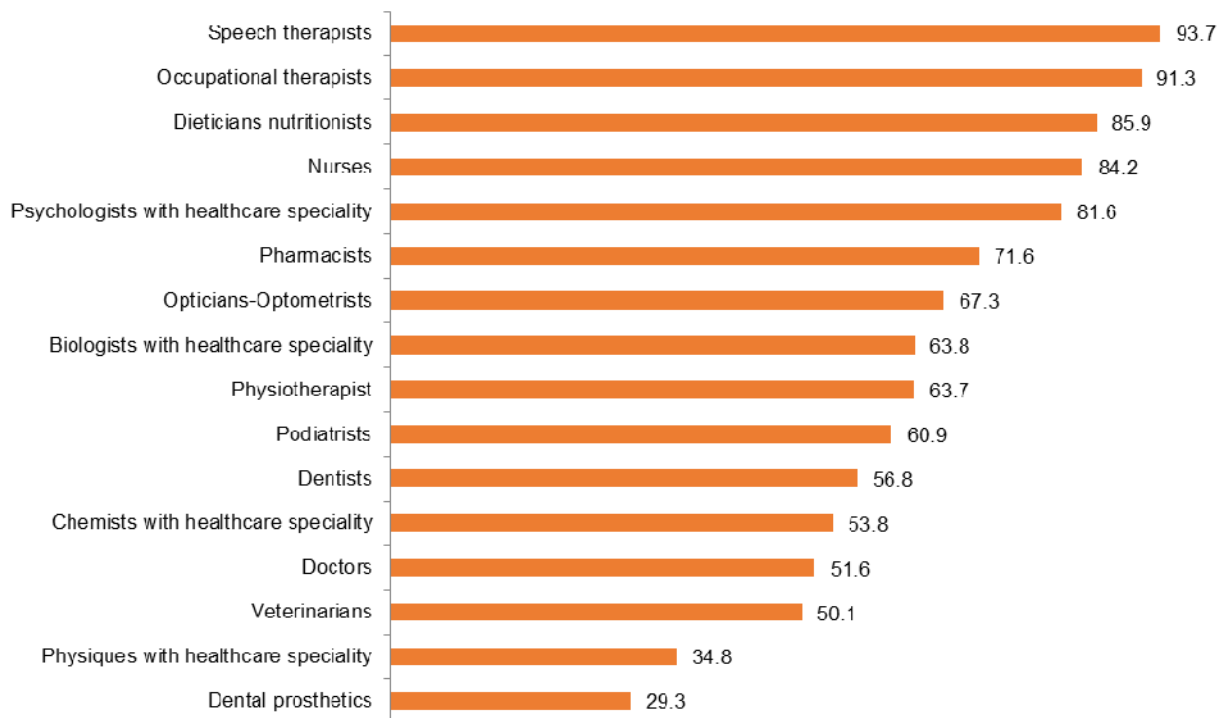
Registered health professionals by sex, age and employment status

The health profession has a predominantly female presence. In 14 out of 16 professions analysed there were more registered women than men 2019. The groups with the highest percentage of women were *speech therapists* (93.7% were women), *occupational therapists* (91.3%) and *dietitian nutritionists* (85.9%).

On the other hand, the professions with the lowest percentage of women in 2019 were *dental technicians* (29.3%), *physicists with a speciality in health* (34.8%) and *veterinarians* (50.1%).

Registered women by type of health care profession. 2019

Percentages



By age group, the highest percentages of health professionals under 45 years of age were found in *occupational therapists* (91.6%), *dietitian nutritionists* (88.9%) and *physiotherapists* (84.7%).

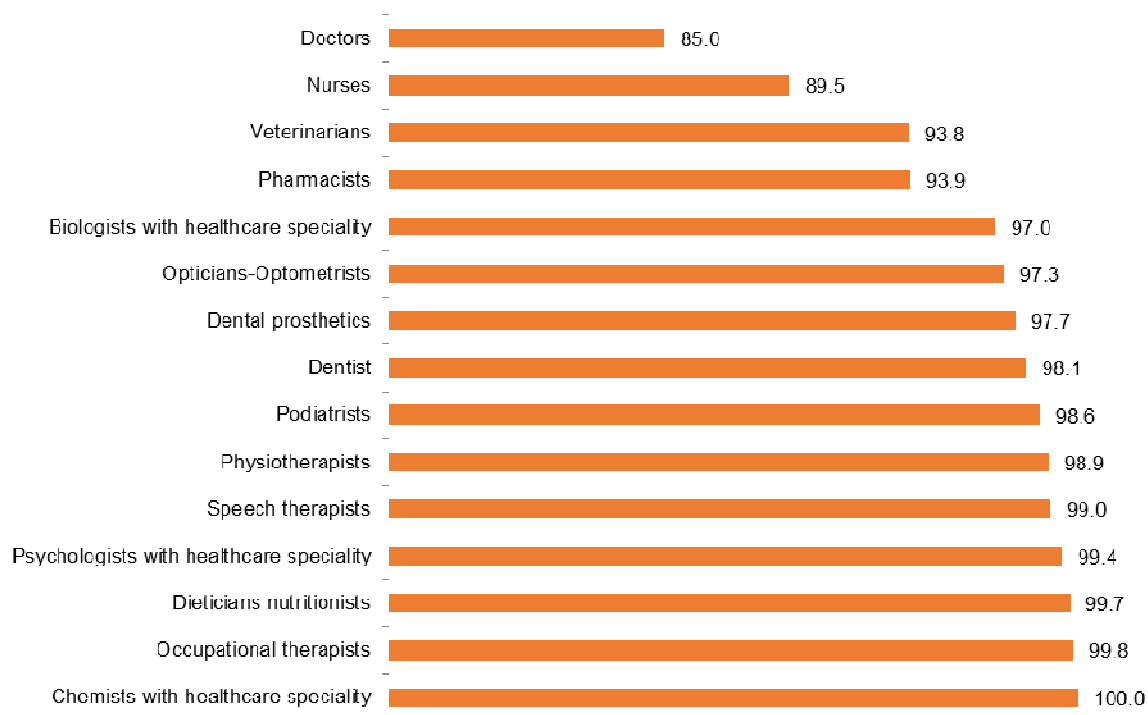
The lowest percentages in this age group were presented by the groups of *doctors* (37.4%), *dental technicians* (42.9%) and *biologists specialising in health care* (43.6%).

Health care professionals by age. 2019
Percentages

	Total	Less than 45 years	From 45 to 64 years	Greater or equal to 65 years
Doctors	100.0	37.4	43.8	18.8
Dental prosthetics	100.0	42.9	52.4	4.7
Biologists with healthcare speciality	100.0	43.6	53.2	3.2
Pharmacists	100.0	44.0	41.4	14.6
Veterinarians	100.0	47.6	45.3	7.1
Nurses	100.0	54.4	36.4	9.2
Psychologists with healthcare speciality	100.0	58.0	40.0	2.0
Opticians-Optometrists	100.0	58.1	37.6	4.3
Dentists	100.0	60.7	33.2	6.1
Speech therapists	100.0	70.2	27.5	2.3
Podiatrists	100.0	73.9	21.4	4.7
Physiotherapist	100.0	84.7	14.0	1.3
Dieticians nutritionists	100.0	88.9	10.7	0.4
Occupational therapists	100.0	91.6	8.1	0.3

According to employment status, the lowest percentages of non-retired registered professionals were in *doctors* (85.0%), *nurses* (89.5%) and *veterinarians* (93.8%). The highest were among *chemists specialising in health care* (100%), *occupational therapists* (99.8%) and *nutritionist dietitians* (99.7%).

Non-retired registered professionals by type of health profession. 2019
Percentages



Data by Autonomous Communities and Cities

The number of registered *doctors* increased in all the Autonomous Communities, and decreased only in the Autonomous City of Ceuta (-0.6%).

The greatest increases were registered in the Autonomous City of Melilla (9.1%), Canarias (3.9%), and Andalucía (3.8%). In turn, the lowest were recorded in Cantabria (0.7%), Galicia (1.2%) and Castilla y León (1.6%).

Doctors by Autonomous Communities and Cities 2015-2019 series

Values and rate of change (%)

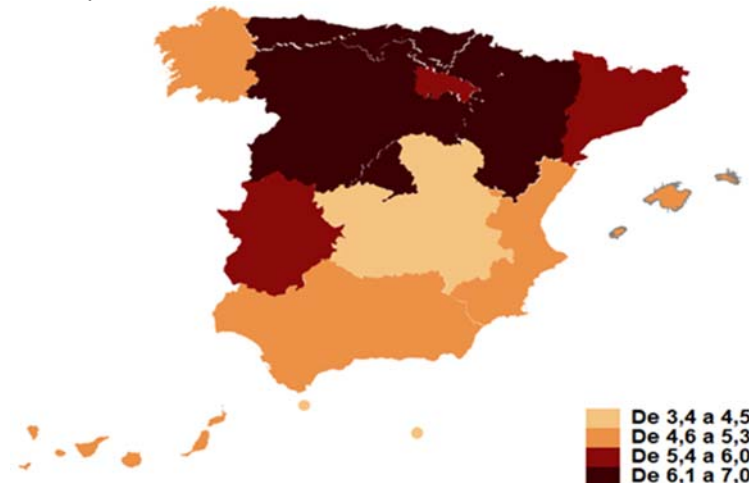
	Year 2015	Year 2016	Year 2017	Year 2018	Year 2019	Variation rate 2019/2018
TOTAL	242,840	247,958	253,796	260,588	267,995	2.8
Andalucía	37,295	38,024	39,079	40,222	41,759	3.8
Aragón	8,427	8,585	8,797	8,950	9,176	2.5
Asturias, Principado de	6,123	6,276	6,363	6,503	6,659	2.4
Balears, Illes	5,355	5,484	5,632	5,738	5,882	2.5
Canarias	9,855	10,145	10,504	10,895	11,323	3.9
Cantabria	3,422	3,507	3,551	3,675	3,702	0.7
Castilla y León	14,251	14,398	14,627	14,891	15,129	1.6
Castilla-La Mancha	8,379	8,526	8,685	8,903	9,144	2.7
Cataluña	39,437	40,392	41,407	42,647	43,998	3.2
Comunitat Valenciana	23,866	24,447	25,012	25,653	26,507	3.3
Extremadura	5,338	5,439	5,496	5,635	5,749	2.0
Galicia	13,294	13,559	13,792	14,121	14,297	1.2
Madrid, Comunidad de	41,860	42,697	43,772	44,940	45,988	2.3
Murcia, Región de	6,800	6,979	7,203	7,434	7,697	3.5
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	3,918	4,011	4,075	4,175	4,267	2.2
País Vasco	13,039	13,269	13,536	13,874	14,308	3.1
Rioja, La	1,573	1,610	1,648	1,702	1,755	3.1
Ceuta	324	320	328	334	332	-0.6
Melilla	284	290	289	296	323	9.1

The Communities with the highest rates of registered *doctors* were Aragón (6.89 per 1,000 inhabitants), Comunidad de Madrid (6.81) and Principado de Asturias (6.54).

In turn, the Autonomous Cities of Melilla (3.79) and Ceuta (3.94) and Castilla-La Mancha (4.47) showed the lowest rates.

Registered doctors 2019

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 in the Autonomous City of Ceuta (–5.8%) and in Castilla y León (–0.6%).

The greatest increases were recorded in Andalucía (5.8%), Canarias (5.0%) and Región de Murcia (4.5%). In turn, Galicia (1.0%), Comunidad de Madrid (1.3%) and País Vasco (1.4%) registered the lowest increases.

Nurses by Autonomous Communities and Cities 2015-2019 series

Values and rate of change (%)

	Year 2015	Year 2016	Year 2017	Year 2018	Year 2019	Variation rate 2019/2018
TOTAL	283,611	291,297	299,824	307,762	316,094	2.7
Andalucía	40,103	41,060	43,305	45,271	47,888	5.8
Aragón	8,323	8,519	8,784	8,910	9,074	1.8
Asturias, Principado de	6,905	7,131	7,281	7,350	7,485	1.8
Balears, Illes	5,745	6,012	6,152	6,366	6,618	4.0
Canarias	12,178	12,806	13,398	13,934	14,626	5.0
Cantabria	4,287	4,433	4,566	4,725	4,901	3.7
Castilla y León	16,844	17,189	17,423	17,752	17,651	-0.6
Castilla-La Mancha	11,299	11,503	11,705	11,826	12,112	2.4
Cataluña	50,401	51,919	53,508	54,759	56,262	2.7
Comunitat Valenciana	26,565	27,366	28,104	28,463	29,383	3.2
Extremadura	7,269	7,302	7,368	8,008	8,232	2.8
Galicia	14,023	14,211	14,295	14,514	14,656	1.0
Madrid, Comunidad de	49,365	50,955	51,347	52,722	53,382	1.3
Murcia, Región de	5,848	6,116	6,342	6,604	6,903	4.5
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	5,445	5,484	6,743	6,778	6,887	1.6
País Vasco	15,978	16,218	16,389	16,594	16,833	1.4
Rioja, La	1,988	2,007	2,017	2,012	2,047	1.7
Ceuta	491	517	534	585	551	-5.8
Melilla	554	549	563	589	603	2.4

The Communities with the highest rates of registered *nurses* were Comunidad Foral de Navarra (10.48 per 1,000 inhabitants), Cantabria (8.41) and Comunidad de Madrid (7.91).

For its part, the lowest rates were in the Región de Murcia (with 4.59 registered *nurses* per 1,000 inhabitants), Galicia (5.42) and Illes Balears (5.45).

Registered nurses 2019

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 (2.30), Comunidad de Madrid (1.96) and Galicia (1.92). In turn, the lowest rates were recorded in the Autonomous Cities of Melilla (1.04) and Ceuta (1.09), and in Illes Balears (1.14).

The highest rates of *physiotherapists* were found in Comunidad de Madrid (1.64 per 1,000 inhabitants), Principado de Asturias (1.45) and Cantabria (1.40). In turn, the lowest rates were recorded in the Autonomous Cities of Melilla (0.54) and Ceuta (0.55), and in Andalucía (0.90).

The highest rates of registered *dentists* were in Comunidad de Madrid (1.27), País Vasco and Principado de Asturias (0.87 in both). The lowest rates were in the Autonomous City of Ceuta (0.45), Castilla-La Mancha (0.49), and the Autonomous City of Melilla (0.53).

The highest rates of *psychologists* specialising in health care were 1.67 per 1,000 inhabitants in Comunidad de Madrid, 1.06 in the Autonomous City of Melilla and 0.91 in Región de Murcia and Principado de Asturias. For its part, the lowest rates were 0.23 in Castilla-La Mancha, 0.36 in the Autonomous City of Ceuta and 0.37 in Cataluña.

Región de Murcia presented the highest rate of registered *optician-optometrists* (0.52) followed by Comunidad de Madrid and Comunitat Valenciana (0.47 in both). The lowest rates were recorded in the Autonomous Cities of Melilla and Ceuta (0.20 and 0.23 respectively), and in Illes Balears and Canarias (0.25 in both).

The Communities with the highest rates of registered *speech therapists*² were Region de Murcia (0.43), Cataluña (0.38) and Cantabria (0.33). Conversely, Aragón (0.13), Illes Balears (0.16) and Comunidad de Madrid and País Vasco (0.17 for both) had the lowest rates.

Podiatrists recorded the highest rates in Extremadura (0.29), Comunidad de Madrid (0.23) and Comunitat Valenciana (0.21). This group recorded the lowest rates in the Autonomous Cities of Melilla (0.01) and Ceuta (0.04), and in Canarias (0.05).

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 (0.20). Meanwhile, those that presented the lowest rates were La Rioja and Castilla-La Mancha (0.09 in both) and Comunidad Foral de Navarra, Extremadura and Canarias (0.13 for all three).

As for *dietitian nutritionists*⁴, Comunidad Foral de Navarra registered the highest rate (0.40), followed by Cataluña (0.20) and Aragón (0.16). In contrast, the lowest rates were registered in the Autonomous City of Ceuta (0.02) and in Asturias and the Autonomous City of Melilla (0.04 in both).

Finally, the highest rates of registered *occupational therapists*⁵ were in Extremadura (0.59), Aragón (0.42) and Comunidad Foral de Navarra (0.31). The lowest were in Comunitat Valenciana (0.07), Comunidad de Madrid (0.08), and in País Vasco and Cataluña (0.09 in both).

² There is no data for Principado de Asturias, Canarias, 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.

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

⁴ There is no data for Canarias and Extremadura because there is no Official College of *nutritionist dietitians* in these Autonomous Communities.

⁵ There is no data for Andalucía, Canarias, Cantabria and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla because there is no Official College of *Occupational Therapists* in these Autonomous Communities.

Data Review and Updates

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

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

Collection method: online questionnaire (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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