

11 June 2021

Registered Health Professionals Statistics
Year 2020

The number of registered doctors increased by 3.1%, and that of registered nurses by 2.8% in 2020

The rate of registered doctors stood at 5.83 per 1,000 inhabitants and the rate of nurses was 6.86

The number of registered health care professionals in Spain was 903,946 in 2020, 3.0% more than the previous year. By sex, 284,568 were men (a 2.3% increase) and 619,378 were women (a 3.4% increase).

The majority were *nurses* (35.96% of the total), followed by *doctors* (30.55%) and *pharmacists* (8.50%). On the other hand, the groups with the least representation were *physicists* and *chemists* with a health specialty (0.03% both) and *biologists* with a health specialty (0.06%).

Registered health care professionals by profession. Year 2020

Values and percentage

	Registered Health Professionals	%
TOTAL	903,946	100.00
Nurses	325,018	35.96
Doctors	276,191	30.55
Pharmacists	76,821	8.50
Physiotherapists	59,791	6.61
Dentists	39,764	4.40
Psychologists with healthcare speciality	34,827	3.85
Veterinarians	34,443	3.81
Opticians-Optometrists	18,271	2.02
Speech therapists	10,483	1.16
Podiatrists	8,234	0.91
Dental prosthetics	7,395	0.82
Occupational therapists	5,870	0.65
Dieticians nutritionists	5,698	0.63
Biologists with healthcare speciality	536	0.06
Chemists with healthcare speciality	302	0.03
Physiques with healthcare speciality	302	0.03

The number of registered *doctors* in Spain increased by 8,196 people (3.1%) reaching a total of 276,191 in 2020.

On the other hand, registered *nurses* increased by 8,924 people (2.8%), standing at 325,018. Within this group, 9,593 people were registered as *midwives*¹ (0.1% more than in 2019).

The number of registered professionals in the other health care professions covered by the statistics also increased, except for dental technicians (–1.8%) and chemists with a health specialty (–0.3%). The largest increases occurred in *occupational therapists* (18.3%), *physicists with a health specialty* (11.9%) and *dietitians and nutritionists* (7.6%).

Registered health care professionals. 2016-2020 Series

Values and rates of change (%)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Variation rate (%) 2020/2019
Nurses	291,297	299,824	307,762	316,094	325,018	2.8
- With midwife title	8,785	9,013	9,236	9,579	9,593	0.1
Doctors	247,958	253,796	260,588	267,995	276,191	3.1
Pharmacists	71,119	72,500	74,043	75,260	76,821	2.1
Physiotherapist	48,173	51,130	54,258	57,147	59,791	4.6
Dentists	35,716	36,689	37,787	38,809	39,764	2.5
Psychologists with healthcare	25,094	25,857	32,516	33,188	34,827	4.9
Veterinarians	31,961	32,555	33,207	33,752	34,443	2.0
Opticians-Optometrists	16,882	17,372	17,641	18,036	18,271	1.3
Speech therapists	8681	8,971	9,707	10,156	10,483	3.2
Podiatrists	7,040	7,406	7,817	8,010	8,234	2.8
Dental prosthetics	7,164	7,248	7,477	7,530	7,395	-1.8
Occupational therapists	3080	3,502	4,076	4,963	5,870	18.3
Dieticians nutritionists	3361	4,086	4,625	5,297	5,698	7.6
Biologists with healthcare speciality	..	654	462	503	536	6.6
Chemists with healthcare speciality	343	323	299	303	302	-0.3
Physiques with healthcare speciality	166	189	238	270	302	11.9

Rates of registered health professionals

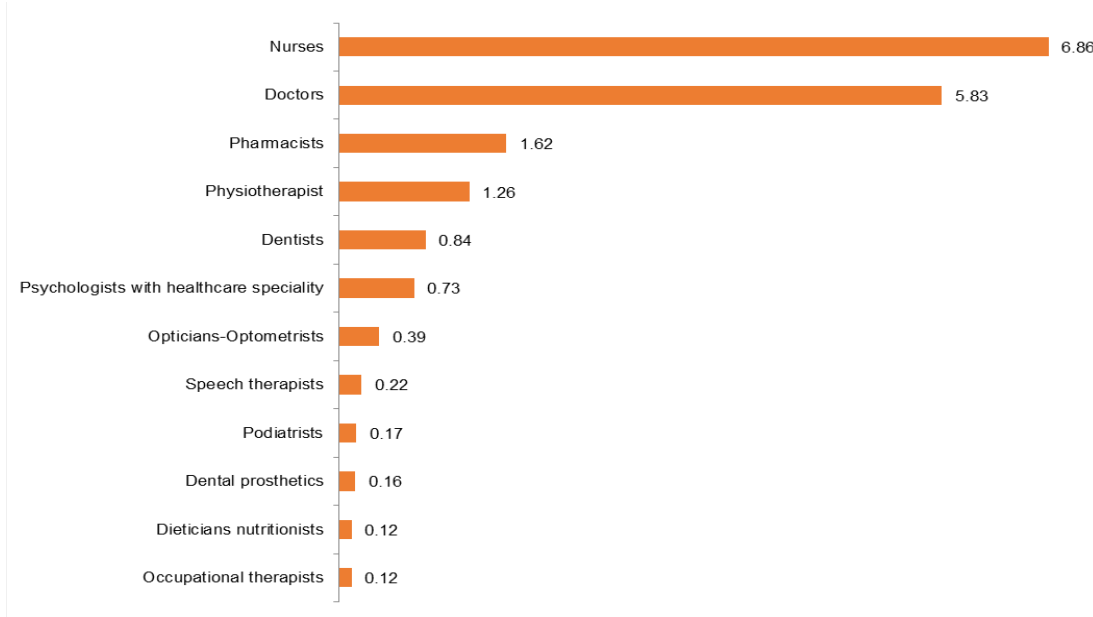
The number of registered health professionals per 1,000 inhabitants differs according to the group. In 2020, the number of *nurses* presented the highest rate (6.86 per 1,000 inhabitants), followed by *doctors* (5.83) and *pharmacists* (1.62).

In turn, the lowest rates were observed in the groups of *occupational therapists* (0) and *dietitian and nutritionists* (0.12 for both) and *dental technicians* (0.16).

In the particular case of nurses specializing in *midwifery*, the rate was 0.92 per 1,000 women of childbearing age.

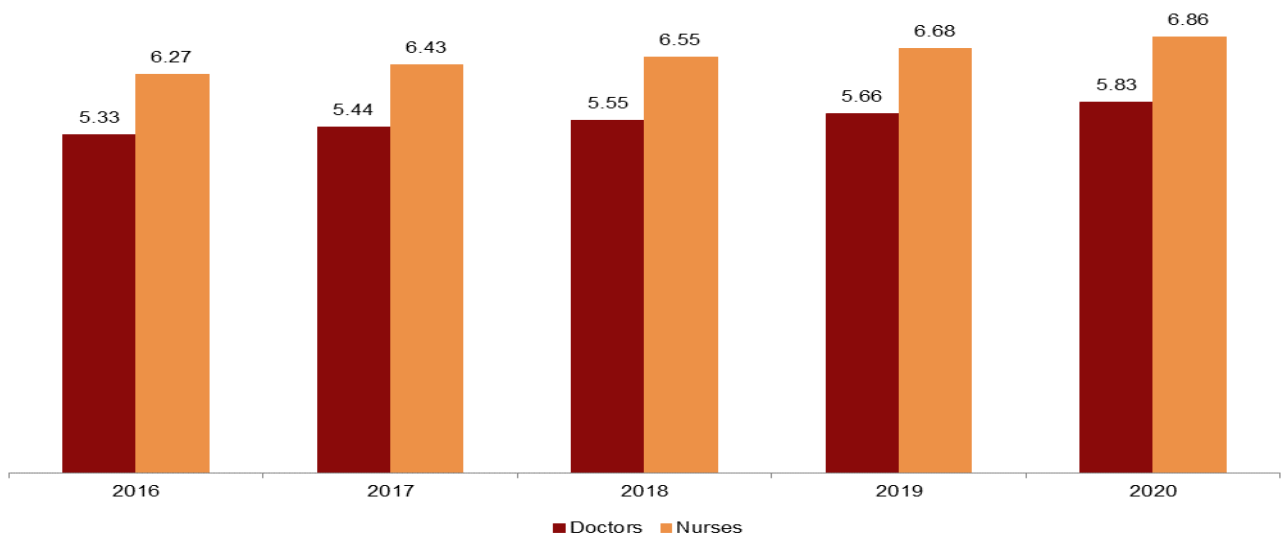
¹ The number of registered professionals in this specialism may be underestimated, given that registration is compulsory for the Diploma in Nursing, not for specialisms.

Registered health care professionals. Year 2020
Rates per 1,000 inhabitants



Rates per 1,000 inhabitants of *podiatrists* and *dental technicians* did not change compared to 2019. Rates increased among the rest of health professionals. *Nurses* (0.18), *doctors* (0.17) and *physical therapists* (0.05) showed the greatest increases.

Registered nurses and doctors 2016-2020 Series
Rates per 1,000 inhabitants



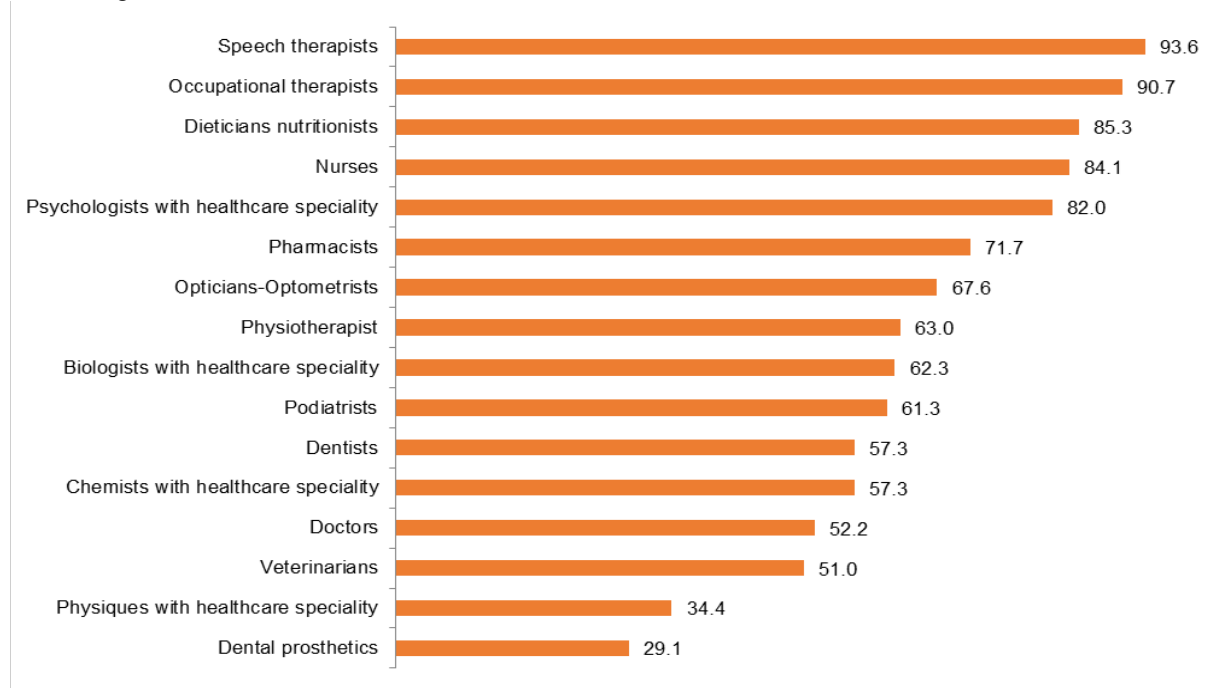
Registered health professionals by sex, age and employment status

The health profession is predominantly female. In 2020, there were more women than men in 14 of the 16 professions analysed. The groups with the highest percentage of women were *speech therapists* (93.6% were women), *occupational therapists* (90.7%) and *dietitian nutritionists* (85.3%).

On the other hand, the professions with the lowest percentage of women in 2020 were *dental technicians* (29.1%), *physicists with a speciality in health* (34.4%) and *veterinarians* (51.0%).

Registered women by type of health care profession. Year 2020

Percentages



By age group, the highest percentages of health professionals under 45 years of age were found in *occupational therapists* (91.3%), *dietitian nutritionists* (88.0%) and *physiotherapists* (82.9%).

On the other hand, the lowest percentages in this age group occurred in the groups of *medical doctors* (37.8%), *biologists with a health specialty* (40.5%) and *dental technicians* (41.2%).

Health care professionals by age. Year 2020

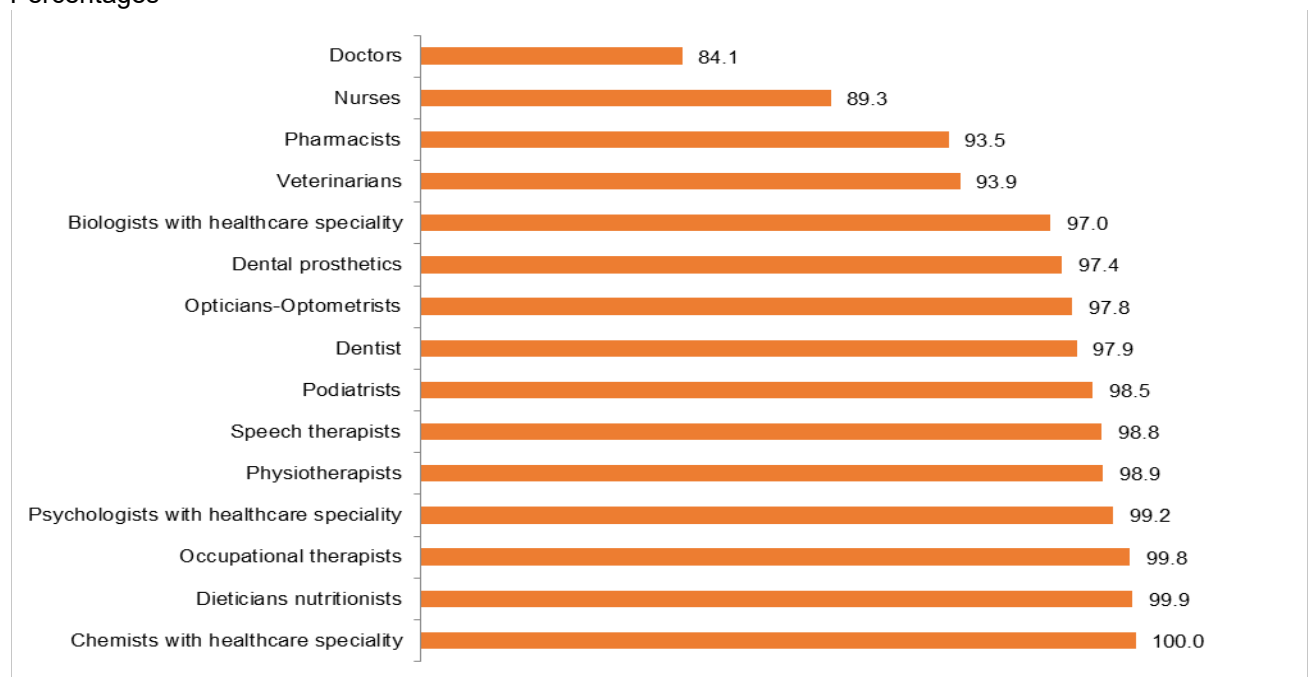
Percentages

	Total	Less than 45 years	From 45 to 64 years	Greater or equal to 65 years
Doctors	100.0	37.8	41.7	20.5
Biologists with healthcare speciality	100.0	40.5	55.0	4.5
Dental prosthetics	100.0	41.2	53.8	5.0
Pharmacists	100.0	43.2	41.6	15.2
Veterinarians	100.0	47.1	45.5	7.4
Nurses	100.0	54.5	35.5	10.0
Opticians-Optometrists	100.0	56.6	38.9	4.5
Psychologists with healthcare speciality	100.0	57.4	40.0	2.6
Dentists	100.0	59.9	33.1	7.0
Speech therapists	100.0	70.1	27.5	2.4
Podiatrists	100.0	74.4	21.4	4.2
Physiotherapist	100.0	82.9	15.7	1.4
Dieticians nutritionists	100.0	88.0	11.8	0.2
Occupational therapists	100.0	91.3	8.5	0.2

According to employment situation, the lowest percentages of non-retired registered professionals were *medical doctors* (84.1%), *nurses* (89.3%) and *pharmacists* (93.5%). The highest were among *chemists specialising in health care* (100%), *dietitian nutritionists* (99.9%) and *occupational therapists* (99.8%).

Non-retired registered professionals by type of health profession. Year 2020

Percentages



Data by Autonomous Communities and Cities

In 2020, the number of registered *doctors* increased in all Autonomous Communities.

The greatest increases were registered in the Autonomous City of Ceuta (5.4%), Canarias (4.2%), and Región de Murcia (4.0%). And the minors in the autonomous city of Melilla and La Rioja (1.9% in both) and Aragon (2.1%).

Doctors by Autonomous Communities and Cities 2016-2020 Series

Values and rate of change (%)

	Year 2016	Year 2017	Year 2018	Year 2019	Year 2020	Variation rate 2020/2019
TOTAL	247,958	253,796	260,588	267,995	276,191	3.1
Andalucía	38,024	39,079	40,222	41,759	43,114	3.2
Aragón	8,585	8,797	8,950	9,176	9,373	2.1
Asturias, Principado de	6,276	6,363	6,503	6,659	6,842	2.7
Balears, Illes	5,484	5,632	5,738	5,882	6,097	3.7
Canarias	10,145	10,504	10,895	11,323	11,803	4.2
Cantabria	3,507	3,551	3,675	3,702	3,794	2.5
Castilla y León	14,398	14,627	14,891	15,129	15,500	2.5
Castilla-La Mancha	8,526	8,685	8,903	9,144	9,427	3.1
Cataluña	40,392	41,407	42,647	43,998	45,291	2.9
Comunitat Valenciana	24,447	25,012	25,653	26,507	27,479	3.7
Extremadura	5,439	5,496	5,635	5,749	5,905	2.7
Galicia	13,559	13,792	14,121	14,297	14,817	3.6
Madrid, Comunidad de	42,697	43,772	44,940	45,988	47,180	2.6
Murcia, Región de	6,979	7,203	7,434	7,697	8,004	4.0
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	4,011	4,075	4,175	4,267	4,375	2.5
País Vasco	13,269	13,536	13,874	14,308	14,723	2.9
Rioja, La	1,610	1,648	1,702	1,755	1,788	1.9
Ceuta	320	328	334	332	350	5.4
Melilla	290	289	296	323	329	1.9

The highest rates of *registered doctors* were in Aragon (7.03 per 1,000 inhabitants), Comunidad de Madrid (6.99) and Principado de Asturias (6.75). And the lowest in the autonomous cities of Melilla (3.90) and Ceuta (4.16) and in Castilla-La Mancha (4.59).

Registered doctors Year 2020

Rates per 1,000 inhabitants



In the case of *nurses*, the number of registered members increased with respect to the previous year in all the autonomous communities, except in Galicia (-1.9%), La Rioja (-0.9) and Comunidad Foral de Navarra (-0.8 %).

The largest increases occurred in the autonomous cities of Melilla (8.8%) and Ceuta (0.8%), in the Canarias (6.1%).

Nurses by Autonomous Communities and Cities 2016-2020 Series

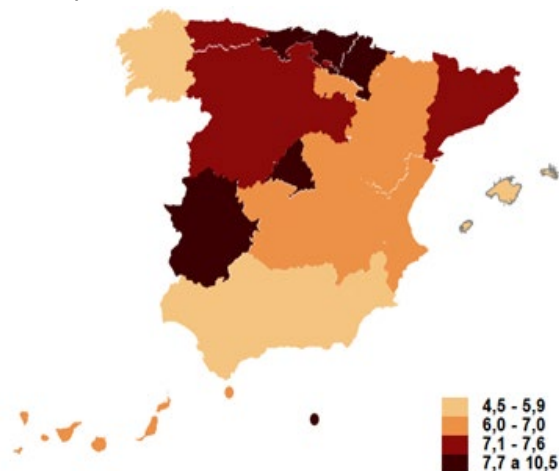
Values and rate of change (%)

	Year 2016	Year 2017	Year 2018	Year 2019	Year 2020	Variation rate 2020/2019
TOTAL	291,297	299,824	307,762	316,094	325,018	2.8
Andalucía	41,060	43,305	45,271	47,888	49,952	4.3
Aragón	8,519	8,784	8,910	9,074	9,300	2.5
Asturias, Principado de	7,131	7,281	7,350	7,485	7,634	2.0
Balears, Illes	6,012	6,152	6,366	6,618	6,857	3.6
Canarias	12,806	13,398	13,934	14,626	15,513	6.1
Cantabria	4,433	4,566	4,725	4,901	4,952	1.0
Castilla y León	17,189	17,423	17,752	17,651	17,952	1.7
Castilla-La Mancha	11,503	11,705	11,826	12,112	12,503	3.2
Cataluña	51,919	53,508	54,759	56,262	57,802	2.7
Comunitat Valenciana	27,366	28,104	28,463	29,383	30,746	4.6
Extremadura	7,302	7,368	8,008	8,232	8,437	2.5
Galicia	14,211	14,295	14,514	14,656	14,376	-1.9
Madrid, Comunidad de	50,955	51,347	52,722	53,382	54,582	2.2
Murcia, Región de	6,116	6,342	6,604	6,903	7,064	2.3
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	5,484	6,743	6,778	6,887	6,830	-0.8
País Vasco	16,218	16,389	16,594	16,833	17,247	2.5
Rioja, La	2,007	2,017	2,012	2,047	2,029	-0.9
Ceuta	517	534	585	551	586	6.4
Melilla	549	563	589	603	656	8.8

The Communities with the highest rates of registered *nurses* were Comunidad Foral de Navarra (10.37 per 1,000 inhabitants), Cantabria (8.47) and Comunidad de Madrid (8.09). The lowest rates were in Región de Murcia (4.67), Galicia (5.33) and Illes Balears (5.61).

Registered nurses Year 2020

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 (2.00) and Galicia (1.98). In turn, the lowest rates were recorded in the Autonomous Cities of Melilla and Ceuta (1.07 in both), and in Illes Balears (1.17).

The highest rates of *physiotherapists* were found in Comunidad de Madrid (1.70 per 1,000 inhabitants), Principado de Asturias (1.50) and Cantabria (1.49). The lowest figures were registered in the Autonomous Cities of Melilla (0.57 years) and Ceuta (0.65) and in Andalucía (0.95).

The highest rates of registered *dentists* were in Comunidad de Madrid (1.28), Principado de Asturias (0.90) and Comunidad de Madrid (0.89). The lowest rates were in the Autonomous City of Ceuta (0.45) and in Castilla-La Mancha (0.49) and the Autonomous City of Melilla (0.53).

The highest rates of *psychologists* specialising in health care were 1.74 per 1,000 inhabitants in Comunidad de Madrid, 1.09 in the Autonomous City of Melilla and 0.93 in Principado de Asturias. For their part, the lowest were 0.24 in Castilla-La Mancha, 0.35 in the autonomous city of Ceuta, and 0.43 in Cataluña.

Región de Murcia presented the highest rate of registered *optician-optometrists* (0.53) followed by Comunidad de Madrid (0.48) and Comunitat Valenciana (0.47). The lowest rates were recorded in the Autonomous Cities of Melilla and Ceuta (0.21 in both), and in Illes Balears (0.25).

The Communities with the highest rates of registered *speech therapists*² were Region de Murcia (0.44), Cataluña (0.38) and Cantabria (0.33). Aragon had the lowest rate (0.12) followed by Extremadura, the País Vasco and the Community of Madrid (0.18 in the three).

Podiatrists recorded the highest rates in Extremadura (0.29), Comunidad Valenciana (0.23) and Comunitat de Madrid (0.22). This group registered the lowest rates in the autonomous city of Melilla and Canarias (0.05 in both) and in the autonomous city of Ceuta (0.07).

The Autonomous Communities with the highest rates of registered *dental technicians*³ were Cantabria (0.27 per 1,000 inhabitants), Comunitat Valenciana (0.25) 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 (0.12 for all three).

As for *nutritionist dietitians*⁴, Comunidad Foral de Navarra (0.43) and Cataluña (0.21) had the highest rates, followed by Región de Murcia, Aragón and Comunitat Valenciana (0.16 in all three). In contrast, the lowest were registered in the Autonomous City of Ceuta (0.02) and in Asturias, Galicia, Castilla-La Mancha and the Autonomous City of Melilla (0.05 in all three).

Finally, the highest rates of registered *occupational therapists*⁵ were in Extremadura (0.63), Aragón (0.45) and Comunidad Foral de Navarra (0.33). The lowest rates were registered in Canarias (0.03), Comunitat Valenciana (0.08) and Cataluña (0.09).

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, 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 Update

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 the methodology can be accessed at:

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

The standardized methodological report is at:

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

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