

Registered Health Professionals Statistics Year 2011

The number of registered doctors increases 1.3% in 2011, and the number of registered nurses increases 2.1%

For every 100,000 inhabitants in Spain, there are 490 registered doctors and 581 registered nurses

In the year 2011, there were **226,424 doctors** and **268,309 registered nurses** recorded in Spain in their corresponding professional associations. These figures implied growth of 1.3% and 2.1%, respectively, as compared with the previous year.

Among the nurses, 7,713 persons were registered as *midwives*, representing a 1.8% increase with regard to 2010.

The number of registered professionals increased in all health professions. As with the last two years, the greatest increases occurred among the *physiotherapists* (5.2% more than in 2010), *chiropodists* (4.9%) and *odontologists and stomatologists* (4.5%).

Those that grew the least were the *veterinarians* (with a 0.4% increase with regard to the year 2010) and *pharmacists* (1.2%).

Evolution of registered health professionals

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Physicians	203,091	208,098	213,977	219,031	223,484	226,424
Odontologists and Stomatologists	23,300	24,515	25,697	26,725	27,826	29,070
Pharmacists	60,581	61,300	62,507	63,377	64,203	64,977
Veterinarians	26,502	27,594	28,188	28,403	28,949	29,060
Chiropodists	4,554	4,909	5,027	5,263	5,540	5,814
Physiotherapists	26,343	28,720	31,229	33,288	35,630	37,480
Opticians-Optometrists [1]						15,141
Physicists [1]						49
Registered Nurses	237,050	243,000	250,139	255,445	262,915	268,309
with a Midwife qualification [2]	6,868	7,057	7,216	7,354	7,580	7,713

[1] The data on opticians-optometrists and physicians with a health professional speciality is included for the first time in the statistics for the year 2011

[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

Health professional rates

In relative terms in 2011, there were 490.1 *doctors* and 580.8 *nurses* registered per 100,000 inhabitants. Nonetheless, considering labour status, the rate of non-retired registered professionals stood at 448.2 doctors and 519.0 nurses per 100,000 inhabitants.

In the case of *midwives*, the rate reached 68.8 per 100,000 women of childbearing age (55.7 in the case of non-retired women).

In the remaining health professional specialties, the rates of registered health professionals per 100,000 inhabitants stood at 140.7 *pharmacists*; 81.1 *physiotherapists*; 62.9 *odontologists and stomatologists*, 32.8 *opticians-optometrists* and 12.6 *chiropodists*.

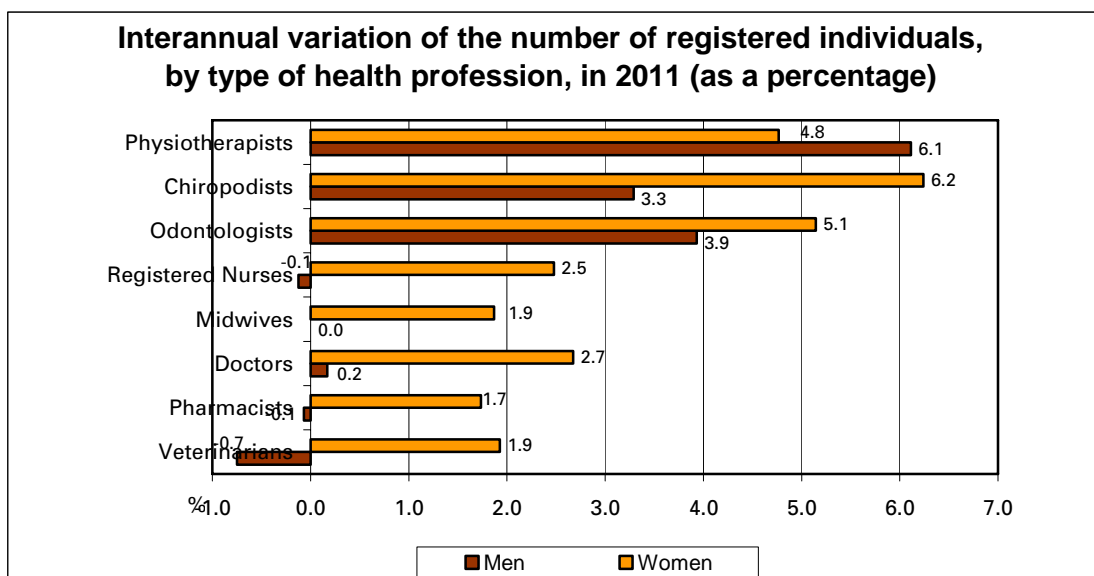
The number of registered professionals per inhabitant increased in all groups. The rates that most increased were those of *registered nurses* (11.1 more nurses per 100,000 inhabitants) and of *doctors* (5.9 more). Those that increased the least corresponded to *chiropodists* and *pharmacists* (0.6 and 1.5 more professionals, respectively).

Registered health professionals, by sex and age

Women had a majority presence within the health professionals. In 2011, there were more men than women only in the associations for *doctors, veterinarians, odontologists and physicists*, though the difference between the sexes continued to lessen in these groups.

The associations with the highest percentage of women were those corresponding to *registered nurses* (with 84.0%, which in the case of *midwives* rose to 93.9%), and to *pharmacists* (70.0%).

Worth noting was the case that, with the exception of the *veterinarians*, in all of the professions considered, the number of registered women under the age of 35 was double the number of men.



Data by Autonomous Community¹

The Autonomous Communities with the highest rates of registered *doctors* in the year 2011 were Aragón (with 617.3 per 100,000 inhabitants) and Comunidad de Madrid (607.2).

Conversely, Castilla-La Mancha (414.7) and Andalucía (395.7) presented the lowest rates of registered health professionals.

The greatest increase in the number of registered doctors per inhabitant, as compared with the year 2010, occurred in País Vasco (17.7 more doctors per 100,000 inhabitants) and Comunidad de Madrid (13.8 more). On the other hand, Principado de Asturias and Andalucía were the only Autonomous Communities in which the number of registered doctors decreased (-57.5 and -0.5 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 (561.2 non-retired doctors per 100,000 persons) and Aragón (558.8) had the highest ratios per inhabitant, and Andalucía (353.1) and Castilla-La Mancha (386.3) had the lowest.

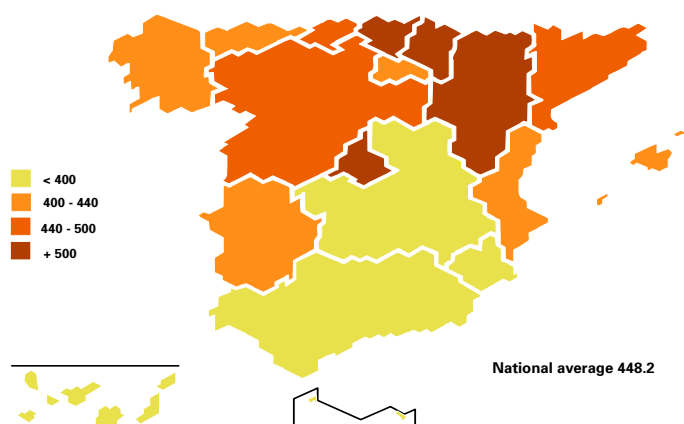
Regarding *registered nurses* registered, Comunidad Foral de Navarra presented the highest rate (987.0 per 100,000 persons), followed by País Vasco (716.7).

The Autonomous Communities with the highest ratios of registered *pharmacists* were Comunidad Foral de Navarra (217.9 per 100,000 inhabitants) and Galicia (170.6). In turn, those presenting the greatest proportion of *odontologists* and *stomatologists* were Comunidad de Madrid (97.6) and País Vasco (75.5).

Comunidad de Madrid (with 115.2 per 100,000 inhabitants) and Cataluña (110.0) recorded the highest rates of *physiotherapists*, whereas Extremadura and Comunidad de Madrid presented the highest rates of *chiropodists* (21.4 and 18.6, respectively).

The Autonomous Communities with the highest rates of registered *opticians-optometrists* were Región de Murcia (43.9 per 100,000 inhabitants) and Comunidad de Madrid (40.8).

Registered doctors who are not retired per 100,000 inhabitants



¹ On comparing the data on the Autonomous Communities, we must bear in mind that registration is not compulsory in some of the Autonomous Communities.

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, odontologists and stomatologists (dentists), veterinarians, registered nurses, physiotherapists, chiropodists, and for the first time in the year 2011, it also includes the data on opticians-optometrists and doctors with a health professional speciality. To this end, the operation collects the province of association, sex, age and labour status (retired or non-retired) of the health professionals). The General Council of Odontologists and Stomatologists only provides the total number of non-retired professionals as associates.

The information referring to doctors and registered nurses is collected using the respective Provincial Professional Associations, whereas in the case of pharmacists, odontologists and stomatologists, veterinarians, physicists, physiotherapists, chiropodists and opticians-optometrists, 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 three different models of questionnaire, depending on the target group:

1. For General Councils of Associations: Odontologists and Stomatologists, Pharmacists, Veterinarians, Physicists, Physiotherapists, Chiropodists, Opticians-Optometrists.
2. For Provincial Associations of Doctors.
3. For Provincial Associations of Registered Nurses (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 Registered 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).