### Eurostat – Health care staff

**Physicians**

**Definitions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practising physicians</th>
<th>Practising physicians provide services for individual patients.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inclusion</strong></td>
<td>- Practising physicians who have completed studies in medicine at university level (granted by adequate diploma) and who are licensed to practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Interns and resident physicians (with adequate diploma and providing services under supervision of other medical doctors during their postgraduate internship or residency in a health care facility)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>- Salaried and self-employed physicians delivering services irrespectively of the place of service provision</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Foreign physicians licensed to practice and actively practising in the country</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- All physicians providing services for patients, including radiology, pathology, microbiology, haematology, hygiene.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exclusion</strong></td>
<td>- Students who have not yet graduated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Dentists, stomatologists, dental and maxillofacial surgeons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Physicians working in administration, research and in other posts that exclude direct contact with patients</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Unemployed physicians and retired physicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Physicians working abroad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** The number should be at the end of the calendar year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professionally active physicians</th>
<th>Professionally active physicians include practising physicians and other physicians for whom their medical education is a prerequisite for the execution of the job.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inclusion</strong></td>
<td>- Physicians who provide services for individual patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Physicians working in administration and management positions requiring a medical education</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>- Physicians conducting research into human disorders and illness and preventive and curative methods</td>
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<td>- Physicians participating in the development and implementation of health promotion and public health laws and regulations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Physicians preparing scientific papers and reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exclusion</strong></td>
<td>- Dentists, stomatologists, dental and maxillofacial surgeons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Physicians who hold a post / job under which medical education is not required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Unemployed physicians and retired physicians</td>
</tr>
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<td>- Physician working abroad</td>
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**Note:** The number should be at the end of the calendar year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physicians licensed to practice</th>
<th>Physicians licensed to practice include practising and other (non-practising) physicians who are registered and entitled to practice as health care professionals.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inclusion</strong></td>
<td>- Physicians who provide services for individual patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Physicians for whom their medical education is NOT a prerequisite for the execution of the job</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Physicians licensed to practice but who due to various reasons are not economically active (e.g. unemployed or retired)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Physicians working abroad</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Exclusion</strong></td>
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**Note:** The number should be at the end of the calendar year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physicians by age and gender</th>
<th>Age groups include less than 35, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75+, for total, female and male physicians.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The breakdown by age and gender should be provided for practising physicians. (If not possible, the data can be reported for professionally active physicians or physicians licensed to practise).</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** The number should be at the end of the calendar year.
Physicians at regional level
Practising physicians at regional (NUTS2) level according to the place (region) where the health care service is provided.

In the context of comparing health care services across Member States, Eurostat gives preference to the concept 'practising', as it best describes the availability of health care resources. The detailed definitions are available in CIRCABC.

Country specific notes

Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Montenegro, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Turkey

Belgium
Practising physicians:
Source of data:
- Before 1995: Ministry of Social Affairs, Public Health and Environment, "Données statistiques concernant le corps médical, les dentistes, les vétérinaires et les pharmaciens" (several issues).
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- Head count data.
- Excludes non-practising physicians, retired professionals and professionals working abroad.
Includes professionals who are foreigners.
- Excludes physicians in training.
- Stomatologists are included in the number of physicians.
Break in time series:
- Data from 1999: Number of physicians with a minimal volume of patient contacts.
- Data up to 1998: Number of physicians who carried out at least one reimbursed medical act during the year.
Professionally active physicians:
Data not available.
Physicians licensed to practice:
Source of data: SPF Santé publique, sécurité de la chaîne alimentaire et de l'environnement, DG2 Soins de Santé primaires et gestion de Crises - FOD Volksgezondheid, Veiligheid van de Voedselketen en Leefmilieu DG2 Basisgezondheidszorg en Crisisbeheer, Cellule Planification des professionnels de santé - Cel planning Gezondheidsberoepen.
- Since 2005: Base de données fédérale des professionnels de soins de santé – Federale databank van de beoefenaars van de gezondheidszorgberoepen. For further information, please see at: www.health.fgov.be.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage: Complete.
- Since 2005, stomatologists are excluded.
Break in time series: Change in source since 2005: Base de données fédérale des professionnels de soins de santé–Federale databank van de beoefenaars van de gezondheidszorgberoepen.

Physicians by age and gender:
Source of data: Institut National d'Assurance Maladie Invalidité, “Rapport Annuel”.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- Head count data.
- Excludes non-practising physicians, retired professionals and professionals working abroad.
  Includes professionals who are foreigners.
- Excludes physicians in training.
- Stomatologists are included in the number of physicians.
- Data represent the number of physicians with a minimal volume of patient contacts.
- There are sometimes small differences between the total number of practising physicians and the data by age group and gender. This is due to lacking information on age and gender for some physicians.

Break in time series: Before 2009, the age group “65-74” covers all physicians aged 65 years old and over (including physicians aged 75 and over).

Physicians at regional level:
Source of data: Institut National d'Assurance Maladie Invalidité, “Rapport Annuel”.
Reference period: 31st December
Notes updated: 2016

Bulgaria

Practising physicians
Source of data: National Statistical Institute, Exhaustive annual survey
Reference period: 31st December
Coverage: All physicians (head counts) who worked on a basic labour contract in outpatient and inpatient establishments, as well as those who practice in other health establishments - centres for emergency medical care, centres for transfusion haematology, homes for medical and social care for children, Hygiene-epidemiological inspections and others.

2004-2012 data for practicing physicians are revised. The revision was done in order to provide harmonised data and physicians with maxillo-facial surgery speciality are excluded from the total number of practicing physicians. In accordance with Bulgarian’s legal framework, before 2004 this category (maxillo-facial surgery) did not exist.

Professionally active physicians:
Source of data: Bulgarian Medical Association, Medical register.
Reference period: 31st December

Physicians licensed to practice:
Data not available.

Physicians by age and gender:
Source of data: National Statistical Institute, Exhaustive annual survey
Reference period: 31st December
Coverage: All practising physicians (head counts) who worked on a basic labour contract in outpatient and inpatient establishments, as well as those who practice in other health establishments - centres for emergency medical care, centres for transfusion haematology, homes for medical and social care for children, Hygiene-epidemiological inspections and others.
Deviation from the definition: The group 65-74 includes 65 and over. Currently is not possible to split the data. The reporting form data source on this information has to be changed. Data will be available for 2016 reference year.

Physicians at regional level
Source of data: National Statistical Institute, Exhaustive annual survey
Reference period: 31st December
Coverage: All physicians (head counts) as of 31.12. who worked on a basic labour contract in outpatient and inpatient establishments, as well as those who practice in other heath establishments - centres for emergency medical care, centres for transfusion haematology, homes for medical and social care for children, Hygiene-epidemiological inspections and others.

Data for physicians from health establishments attached to other ministries are not included in the distribution by statistical regions. That is why the national total is bigger than the sum of regions.

Notes updated: 2016

Czech Republic

Practising physicians:
Source of data: Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic; Registry of Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- Only employees on payroll are included.
- Until 1999, physicians working in other central organs not included. Since the year 2000 data covers physicians in all health services.
- Since 2003, excluded physicians working in Public Health Stations (administrative offices for public health protection and supervision).
- Until 2003, also included physicians working only in the sector of Education and not providing direct medical care to patients.
- Number of physicians working in the sector of Labour and Social Affairs only estimated for 2004.
- In 2014, data is not available. The Registry of Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists was legislatively terminated on 31. 12. 2013.


Professionally active physicians:
Data not available.

Physicians licensed to practice:
Data not available.

Physicians by age and gender:
Source of data: Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic; Registry of Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- Only employees on payroll are included.
- Until 1999, physicians working in other central organs not included. Since the year 2000 data covers physicians in all health services.
- Since 2003, excluded physicians working in Public Health Stations (administrative offices for public health protection and supervision).
- Until 2003, also included physicians working only in the sector of Education and not providing direct medical care to patients.
- Number of physicians working in the sector of Labour and Social Affairs only estimated for 2004.
- In 2014, data are not available. The Registry of Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists was legislatively terminated on 31. 12. 2013.
Physicians at regional level:
Coverage:
- Concept used: Practising physicians.
- Until 1999, physicians working in other central organs not included. Since the year 2000 data covers physicians in total health services.
- Since 2003, excluded physicians working in Public Health Stations (administrative offices for public health protection and supervision).
- Till 2003, included also physicians working only in the sector of Education and not providing direct medical care to patients.
- Only estimate of number of physicians working in the sector of Labour and Social Affairs for year 2004.
- In 2014, Data not available. Registry of Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists was legislatively terminated on 31. 12. 2013.
Notes updated: 2016

Denmark
Practising physicians:
Source of data: The Danish Health Authority, Labour Register for Health Personnel.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- Physicians who have a license to practice and whose status in the Central Personnel Register (CPR) is active, i.e. in the country (not dead or abroad); connected to HP1, HP2 or HP3 as either a) employed, b) employed, being on leave or c) employed, receiving sickness benefit.
- Dentists are not included.
Professionally active physicians:
Source of data: The Danish Health Authority, Labour Register for Health Personnel.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- Physicians who have a license to practice and whose status in the Central Personnel Register (CPR) is active (not dead or abroad), i.e. in the country; a) employed, b) employed, being on leave or c) employed, receiving sickness benefit.
- Dentists are not included.
Physicians licensed to practice:
Source of data: The Danish Health Authority, Labour Register for Health Personnel.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- Physicians who have a license to practice and whose status in the Central Personnel Register is active or, if abroad, below the age of 70.
- Figures comprise only physicians who are practising their profession, including physicians receiving postgraduate education and physicians employed in firms (very few) and public bodies.
- Physicians working as practitioners and physicians employed in research, the pharmaceutical industry, and private hospitals and clinics are also included.
- Dentists are not included.


Physicians by age and gender:
Source of data: The Danish Health Authority, Labour Register for Health Personnel.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- Physicians who have a license to practice and whose status in the Central Personnel Register (CPR) is active (not dead or abroad), i.e. in the country; a) employed, b) employed, being on leave or c) employed, receiving sickness benefit.
- Dentists are not included.


Physicians at regional level:
Source of data: The Danish Health Authority, Labour Register for Health Personnel
Reference period: 31st December

Notes updated: 2016

Germany
Practising physicians:
Source of data: German Medical Association, Medical practitioner statistics; http://www.gbe-bund.de/ or http://www.baek.de.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- Data contain the number of physicians that are actively practising medicine in public and private institutions and provide services directly to patients (head-count data).
- Included are general practitioners, specialists, interns and resident physicians and foreign physicians licensed to practice and actively practising medicine in the country.
- The data exclude dentists, stomatologists, qualified physicians working abroad, working in administration, research and industry positions, unemployed and retired physicians.
- Excluded are students who have not yet graduated.

Professionally active physicians:
Source of data: German Medical Association, Medical practitioner statistics; http://www.gbe-bund.de/ or http://www.baek.de.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- Data contain the number of practising physicians and physicians for whom their medical education is a prerequisite for the execution of the job e.g. physicians working in administration, research and industry positions (head-count data).
- The data exclude dentists, stomatologists, qualified physicians working abroad, unemployed and retired physicians.
- Excluded are students who have not yet graduated.

Physicians licensed to practice:
Source of data: German Medical Association, Medical practitioner statistics; http://www.gbe-bund.de/ or http://www.baek.de.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- The number of registered physicians includes all practising and non-practising physicians licensed to practice (head-count data).
- Included are practising physicians, physicians working outside health services, e.g. employed in industry, research institutes and in other posts that exclude direct contact with the patients, physicians working abroad and unemployed and retired physicians.
- The number of registered physicians excludes students who have not yet graduated, dentists and stomatologists.

**Physicians by age and gender:**
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- Data contain the number of physicians that are actively practising medicine in public and private institutions and provide services directly to patients (head-count data).
- Included are general practitioners, specialists, interns and resident physicians and foreign physicians licensed to practice and actively practising medicine in the country.
- Data exclude dentists, stomatologists, qualified physicians working abroad, working in administration, research and industry positions, unemployed and retired physicians.

Deviation from the definition:
- The delivered data refers to German demarcation of age, which is as follows: less than 35 years = less than 35 years, between 35 and 44 years = between 35 and 39 years, between 45 and 54 years = between 40 and 49 years, between 55 and 64 years = between 50 and 65 years, 65 years and over = 66 years and over.

**Physicians at regional level:**
Source of data: German Medical Association, Medical practitioner statistics; [http://www.gbe-bund.de](http://www.gbe-bund.de) or [http://www.baek.de](http://www.baek.de).
Reference period: 31st December
Coverage:
- Data contain the number of physicians that are actively practising medicine in public and private institutions and provide services directly to patients (head-count data).
- Included are general practitioners, specialists, interns and resident physicians and foreign physicians licensed to practice and actively practising medicine in the country.
- The data exclude dentists, stomatologists, qualified physicians working abroad, working in administration, research and industry positions, unemployed and retired physicians.
- Excluded are students who have not yet graduated.

*Notes updated: 2016*

**Estonia**

**Practising physicians:**
Source of data:

Reference period:
- Since 2013: November.
Coverage:
- Practising physicians who provide services directly to patients, all health care providers included.
- Since 1992, the number does not include medical staff working in research or other areas. The military area has been included since 2010.
- Since 1997, the number of physicians includes resident physicians and interns; before that time interns were not included.

- 1992: The types of institutions included have been changed over the period in question. Until 1991, the data correspond more to professionally active physicians (practising + working in health sector); from 1992 on they include practising only.
- Until 2004, the number of practising physicians was based on their last or main educational qualification (data not available by age group) and specialty.
- Since 2005, the head count distribution is made according to the main occupational activity (data not available by gender and age group).
- The data collection methodology was changed in 2013. Aggregated data collection was replaced with data collection on a personal basis. From 2013, the predominant (main) area of practice is based on an occupation with the highest workload.

Professionally active physicians:
Data not available.
Physicians licensed to practice:
Source of data: Registry of Health Care Professionals, Health Care Board.
Reference period: January of the following year.
Coverage:
- The number of licensed physicians presents overall potential, not persons by the last obtained specialty.

For years 2002-2004 deviation in coverage: partial data only. According to the new Health Services Organisation Act all physicians had to be re-registered by the beginning of 2005. The numbers for 2002-2004 reflect the registration status, not the actual number of persons entitled to practice.

Physicians by age and gender
Source of data:
- Annual reports, National Institute for Health Development, Department of Health Statistics (until 2006).
- Registry of Health Care Professionals, Health Board (licensed to practice since 2007).
Reference period:
- Until 2006: 31st of December.
- Since 2007: January of the following year.
Coverage:
- Until 2006, the number of practising physicians by gender was based on their last or main educational qualification. The number does not include medical staff working in research or other areas. The military area has been included since 2010.
- Since 2007, the number of physicians licensed to practice presents overall potential, not persons by the last obtained speciality.
- Data not available by age group for 1998-2006.

Break in time series: 2007
- Data up to 2006 refer to practising physicians; data from 2007 on refer to physicians licensed to practice.
Estimation method:
The total number of physicians for 1998-2001 has been corrected according to the total number of practicing physicians and therefore the numbers of male and female physicians
were estimated on the basis of previous gender percentage distribution. For the years 2002 and 2004-2006 the original data was partial or missing, therefore trend estimation is used for the numbers of male and female physicians.

Notes updated: 2016

Ireland

Practising physicians:
Source of data: Department of Health.
Reference Period: end of December.
Coverage:
- The data covers the following:
  - Family doctors (GPs) registered with the Irish College of General Practitioners - ICGP (plus an estimate of approximately 10% who are not registered with the ICGP). Also included are GPs in training.
  - Consultant (specialist) doctors who work exclusively privately.
  - A small number of non-consultant hospital doctors working privately. This is estimated from a Workforce Planning survey.
  - Consultants and non-consultant hospital doctors working in the public health service.
  - A small number of doctors working full-time in the Irish Prison Service.
  - Data should be considered an estimate as there may be practising doctors working elsewhere in the health service not covered in the data. Also there may be some overlap amongst GPs in training and non-consultant hospital doctors working in the public health service.

Professionally active physicians:
Source of data: Medical Council of Ireland.
Reference period: Figures refer to 31st December.
Coverage:
Up to 2013: In an attempt to estimate for professionally active physicians, figures refer to all persons with addresses in the Republic of Ireland (i.e. excludes physicians working abroad), aged under 70 years old, who have entered and maintained their name as fully registered doctors in the Register of Medical Practitioners, regardless of the area in which they are engaged or whether or not they are practising medicine. Registration is a pre-requisite for practice in Ireland.
Break in Series 2014: From 2014, data refer to doctors registered with the Medical Council of Ireland who, in the last 12 months, have declared themselves active and who have worked in Ireland either full or part-time.

Physicians licensed to practice:
Source of data: Medical Council of Ireland.
Reference period: Since 2006, figures refer to 31st December.
Coverage:
- Figures refer to all persons (including physicians working abroad) who have entered and maintained their name as fully registered doctors in the Register of Medical Practitioners, regardless of the area in which they are engaged or whether or not they are practising medicine. Physicians licensed refer to those registered by the Medical Council of Ireland. Registration is a pre-requisite for practice in Ireland.
Break in time series:
- Up to 2004 data refers to all persons with addresses in the Republic of Ireland (ie excludes physicians working abroad) who have entered and maintained their name as fully registered doctors in the Register of Medical Practitioners, regardless of the area in which they are engaged or whether or not they are practising medicine. From 2005 those with overseas addresses are also included.
- Break also occurs in 1992. Figures prior to 1992 only include persons aged under 65 years. Since 1992 figures include persons of all ages.

Physicians by age and gender:

Source of data: Medical Council of Ireland.

Reference period: Since 2006, figures refer to 31st December.

Coverage:
- From 2014: Data refer to doctors registered with the Medical Council of Ireland who, in the last 12 months, have declared themselves active and who have worked in Ireland either full or part-time.
- Up to 2013, figures refer to all persons (including those abroad from 2006 on) who have entered and maintained their name as fully registered doctors in the Register of Medical Practitioners, regardless of the area in which they are engaged or whether or not they are practising medicine. Physicians licensed refer to those registered by the Medical Council of Ireland. Registration is a pre-requisite for practice in Ireland. It is not possible to exclude physicians working in administration, research or other posts that exclude direct contact with patients. These physicians can still be registered as a medical practitioner and are therefore included.

Deviation from the definition:
- From 2014, data refer to professionally active physicians.
- Up to 2013, data refer to physicians licensed to practice.
- Up to and including 2012, age groups refer to 20–35 years old, 36–45 years old, 46–55 years old, 56–64 years old and 65 years old and over.
- Data for age groups not available for 2009 and 2010.

Break in time series:
- Break in time series in 2014: From 2014, data refer to doctors registered with the Medical Council of Ireland who, in the last 12 months, have declared themselves active and who have worked in Ireland either full or part-time, thus approximating the professionally active concept.
- In 2012, data were not available by age/gender for the 288 doctors registered in the Supervised Division. As a result, the total physicians licensed does not equate to the totals of age and gender.
- Break occurs in 2006 – up to and including 2004, data refer only to those registered with addresses in the Republic of Ireland. From 2006 on, those with overseas addresses are also included.

Note: The sum of the age groups does not add up to the total number of physicians as the Oral and Maxillo-Facial specialty is excluded from the total (as per ISCO). However, it was not possible to exclude this specialty from the age group breakdown. This only accounts for a small number of physicians.

Physicians at regional level:
Data not available at regional level.

Notes updated: 2016

Greece

Practising physicians
Data not available. It is not feasible to separate unemployed physicians from the available data. For this reason, only data for physicians licensed to practice are available.

Professionally active physicians
Data not available. It is not feasible to separate unemployed physicians from the available data. For this reason, only data for physicians licensed to practice are available.

Physicians licensed to practice
Reference period: 31st December.
Data are available for “licensed to practice” physicians (i.e. including doctors in administrative, academic or research functions who are not providing direct care to patients and unemployed physicians).
Deviation from the definition: Retired physicians and physicians working abroad are not included.

Physicians by age and gender
Reference period: 31st December.
The breakdown by age and gender is provided for physicians licensed to practice.
Unemployed physicians are included.
Deviation from the definition: Retired physicians and physicians working abroad are not included.

Physicians at regional level:
Source of data: Hygiene Divisions and Sections attached to prefectures, Athens Medical Association, Pireas Medical Association; Annual Doctors and Dentists survey.
http://www.statistics.gr/el/statistics/-/publication/SHE09/.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage: The coverage is complete at regional level.
Deviation from the definition: Data refers to licensed Physicians. Unemployed physicians are included. Data for Professionally Active or Practising Physicians are not available. Retired and working abroad Physicians are excluded.

Notes updated: 2016

Spain
Practising physicians:
Reference period: Annual average. Three-year moving averages (e.g. data reported in 1996 is an average of 1995-1997).
Coverage:
- Up to 2010, the data include "physicians and odontologists" from the National Occupations Classification (CNO-94 Spain, code 212) on 3 digit level. The information on 4 digit level is not available. The CNO-94 code 212 is the Spanish equivalence of ISCO-88 codes 2221 (medical doctors) and 2222 (dentists). It is not possible to separate "physicians and odontologists" on 3 digit level.
- From 2011 onwards the data are classified according to CNO-11 Spain, code 211. The CNO-11 code 211 is the Spanish equivalence of ISCO-08 code 221 (medical doctors). Dentists are not included in the ‘practising’ figures since 2011.
- The ‘Practising’ data correspond to physicians whose activity (NACE) is within the health sector. The number of practising physicians was obtained by calculating the number of physicians employed in the health sector according to NACE rev.2 (chapter Q) since 2009, and similarly with NACE Rev.1 and NACE Rev.1.1 before 2009.
- Medical interns/residents are included in the data on health employment if they worked at least one hour in return for remuneration during the week prior to the interview (Survey reference week).
- Data analysis over time should be carried out with caution. Data are obtained from a survey and fluctuations in the data can occur for a number of reasons, one of them being the sampling errors. These variations can lead to false assumptions about trends. We advise users of time series data to carefully explore the relevant issues before drawing any conclusions about the reasons for year-on-year changes.
- During the first quarter of 2005 various changes have been introduced into the Economically Active Population Survey:
  1. New variables have been included in accordance with Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Communities) requirements, set forth in Regulation 2257/2003.
  2. A centralised procedure has been implemented for the process of the telephone interviews.
  3. With the goal of further standardising the survey process, the questions of the questionnaire have been reformulated.

Deviation from the definition: Data include dentists until 2010.
Estimation method: In 2014, data series have been updated with Spanish population figures imported from Census 2011 and recalculated by using three-year moving averages in order to reduce the large year-to-year fluctuations in data derived from the LFS. The number reported in 1996 is an average of 1995-1997; the number for 2012 is an average of 2011-2013.

Professionally active physicians:
Reference period: Annual average. Three-year moving averages (e.g. data reported in 1996 is an average of 1995-1997).
Coverage:
- The data set for professionally active physicians, nurses and pharmacists has been updated with better estimates in 2010. In this way, all the series follow the methodological definition. Before the correction, some figures were in line with the definition of ‘economically active professionals’ whose values could include unemployed professionals.
- The number of professionally active physicians was obtained by calculating the number of physicians employed in the health sector as well as in remaining sectors of NACE rev.2 since 2009, and similarly with NACE Rev.1 and NACE Rev1.1 before 2009. Thus, the ‘Professionally active’ data correspond to physicians regardless of NACE sector where they are working.
- Medical interns/residents are included in the data on health employment if they worked at least one hour in return for remuneration during the week prior to the interview (Survey reference week).
- Up to 2010, the data include “physicians and odontologists” from the National Occupations Classification (CNO-94 Spain, code 212) on 3-digit level. The information on 4-digit level is not available. The CNO-94 code 212 is the Spanish equivalence of ISCO-88 codes 2221 (medical doctors) and 2222 (dentists). It is not possible to separate “physicians and odontologists” on 3-digit level.
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- During the first quarter of 2005 various changes have been introduced into the Economically Active Population Survey:
  1. New variables have been included in accordance with Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Communities) requirements, set forth in Regulation 2257/2003.
  2. A centralised procedure has been implemented for the process of the telephone interviews.
  3. With the goal of further standardising the survey process, the questions of the questionnaire have been reformulated.

Deviation from the definition: Data include dentists until 2010.

Estimation method: In 2014, data series have been updated with Spanish population figures imported from Census 2011 and recalculated by using three-year moving averages in order to reduce the large year-to-year fluctuations in data derived from the LFS. The number reported in 1996 is an average of 1995-1997; the number for 2012 is an average of 2011-2013.

Physicians licensed to practice:
Source of data: National Statistics Institute (INE) from Register of Physicians Council (several issues).
http://www.ine.es/jaxi/menu.do?type=pcaxis&path=/t15/p416&file=inebase&L=0
Reference period: Data as at 31st December.
Coverage:
- The annual information is taken from the Register of the Physicians Council. Stomatologists and Odontologists are not included.

Physicians by age group and gender:
http://www.ine.es/jaxi/menu.do?type=pcaxis&path=/t22/e308_mnu&file=inebase&N=&L=0
Reference period: Annual average. Three-year moving averages (e.g. data reported in 1996 is an average of 1995-1997).
Coverage:
- Up to 2010, the data include “physicians and odontologists” from the National Occupations Classification (CNO-94 Spain, code 212) on 3-digit level. The information on 4 digit level is not available. The CNO-94 code 212 is the Spanish equivalence of ISCO-88 codes 2221 (medical doctors) and 2222 (dentists). It is not possible to separate “physicians and odontologists” on 3-digit level.
- From 2011 onwards the data are classified according to CNO-11 Spain, code 211. The CNO-11 code 211 is the Spanish equivalence of ISCO-08 code 221 (medical doctors). Dentists are not included in the ‘practising’ figures since 2011.
- The ‘practising’ data correspond to physicians whose activity (NACE) is within the health sector. The number of practising physicians was obtained by calculating the number of physicians employed in the health sector according to NACE rev.2 (chapter Q) since 2009, and similarly with NACE Rev.1 and NACE Rev.1.1 before 2009.
- Medical interns/residents are included in the data on health employment if they worked at least one hour in return for remuneration during the week prior to the interview (Survey reference week).
- Data analysis over time should be carried out with caution. Data are obtained from a survey and fluctuations in the data can occur for a number of reasons, one of them being the sampling errors. These variations can lead to false assumptions about trends. We advise users of time series data to carefully explore the relevant issues before drawing any conclusions about the reasons for year-on-year changes.
During the first quarter of 2005 various changes have been introduced into the Economically Active Population Survey:
1. New variables have been included in accordance with Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Communities) requirements, set forth in Regulation 2257/2003.
2. A centralised procedure has been implemented for the process of the telephone interviews.
3. With the goal of further standardising the survey process, the questions of the questionnaire have been reformulated.

Deviation from the definition: Data include dentists until 2010.

Estimation method: In 2014, data series have been updated with Spanish population figures imported from Census 2011 and recalculated by using three-year moving averages in order to reduce the large year-to-year fluctuations in data derived from the LFS. The number reported in 1996 is an average of 1995-1997; the number for 2012 is an average of 2011-2013.

Physicians at regional level


Reference period: annual average. Three-year moving averages.

Coverage:
- From 1995 to 2010 the data include "physicians and odontologists" from the National Occupations Classification (CNO-94 Spain, code 212) on 3 digit level. The information on 4 digit level is not available. The CNO-94 is the Spanish equivalence of ISCO-88 codes 2221, 2222. It is not possible to separate "physicians and odontologists" on 3 digit level.
- From 2011 onwards the data are classified according to CNO-11 Spain, code 211. The CNO-11 code 211 is the Spanish equivalence of ISCO-08 code 221 (medical doctors).
- Dentists are not included in the ‘practising’ figures since 2011.
- The ‘Practising’ data correspond to physicians whose activity (NACE) is within the health sector. The number of practising physicians was obtained by calculating the number of physicians employed in the health sector according to NACE rev.2 (chapter Q) since 2009, and similarly with NACE Rev.1 and NACE Rev.1.1 from 1995 to 2008.
- Great care should be taken when comparing figures for different years. Data are obtained from a survey and fluctuations in the data can occur for a number of reasons, one of them being the sampling errors. These variations can lead to false assumptions about trends. We advise users of time series data to carefully explore the relevant issues before drawing any conclusions about the reasons for year-on-year changes.
- Medical interns/residents are included in the data on health employment if they worked at least one hour in return for remuneration during the week prior to the interview (Survey reference week).
- In 2014, data series have been updated with Spanish population figures imported from Census 2011 and recalculated by using three-year moving averages in order to reduce the large year-to-year fluctuations in data derived from the LFS.
- During the first quarter of 2005 various changes have been introduced into the Economically Active Population Survey:
1. New variables have been included in accordance with Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Communities) requirements, set forth in Regulation 2257/2003.
2. A centralised procedure has been implemented for the process of the telephone interviews.
3. With the goal of further standardising the survey process, the questions of the questionnaire have been reformulated.

Deviation from the definition: data include dentists from 1995 to 2010.

Estimation method: data cannot separate between Ceuta (ES63) and Melilla (ES64) due to strong sampling errors in the Economically Active Population Survey.
Notes updated: 2016

France

Practising physicians:
Source of data: Ministère du Travail, de l’Emploi et de la Santé - Direction de la Recherche, des Études, de l’Évaluation et des Statistiques (DREES), Sous-Direction de l'Observation de la Santé et de l'Assurance maladie, Bureau des Professions de santé.
- From 2011 (01/01/2012): RPPS (Répertoire partagé des professionnels de santé), ASIP-SANTE RPPS. 2011 is the first year available for data referring to the concept of “practising physicians”.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- Data refer only to practising physicians, either self-employed (“libéraux”) or salaried.
- Data refer to metropolitan France and D.O.M. (overseas departments).
- All public and private hospitals and clinics are covered.
- Stomatologists and dentists are not included in the number of physicians.
- Interns and residents are not included.
- Doctors who do not provide direct care to patients and for all their activities are excluded.
Deviation from the definition: Interns and residents are not included.

Professionally active physicians:
Source of data: Ministère du Travail, de l’Emploi et de la Santé - Direction de la Recherche, des Études, de l’Évaluation et des Statistiques (DREES), Sous-Direction de l'Observation de la Santé et de l'Assurance maladie, Bureau des Professions de santé.
- Until 2010 (01/01/2011): Répertoire ADELI, DREES.
- From 2011 (01/01/2012): RPPS (Répertoire partagé des professionnels de santé), ASIP-SANTE RPPS.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- Data refer to metropolitan France and D.O.M. (overseas departments).
- Data refer to active physicians, either self-employed (“libéraux”) or salaried. Self-employed physicians are physicians registered in the “ADELI Registry” and working full-time or part-time in private practice or private surgery, in a clinic or laboratory. Salaried physicians are physicians registered in the “ADELI Registry”, practising only full-time in hospital activities and in the field of health care, preventive medicine, control, teaching, research or administration.
- All public and private hospitals and clinics are covered.
- Stomatologists and dentists are not included in the number of physicians.
- Interns and residents are not included.
Deviation from the definition: Interns and residents are not included.

Break in time series:
- In 2009 (01/01/2010), there is a break in the series for physicians because of a change in the statistical methodology. Therefore the evolution between 2008 and 2009 must not be interpreted as a decrease in the number of professionals. (The change in methodology had an impact of about -1.3% on the number of doctors in metropolitan France in 2009).
- In 2011 (01/01/2012), there is a new break in the time series because of the change in the data source.

Physicians licensed to practice:
Data not available
Physicians by age and gender:
Source of data: Ministère du Travail, de l’Emploi et de la Santé - Direction de la Recherche, des Études, de l’Évaluation et des Statistiques (DREES), Sous-Direction de l'Observation de la Santé et de l’Assurance maladie, Bureau des Professions de santé.
- Until 2010 (01/01/2011): Répertoire ADELI (DREES).
- From 2011 (01/01/2012): RPPS (Répertoire partagé des professionnels de santé), ASIP-SANTE RPPS.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- Data refer to metropolitan France and D.O.M. (overseas departments).
- All public and private hospitals and clinics are covered.
- Stomatologists and dentists are not included in the number of physicians.
- Interns and residents are not included.
Deviation from the definition:
- The data refer to active physicians.
- Interns and residents are not included.
Break in time series:
- In 2009 (01/01/2010), there is a break in the series for physicians because of a change in the statistical methodology. Therefore the evolution between 2008 and 2009 must not be interpreted as a decrease in the number of professionals. (The change in methodology had an impact of about -1.3% on the number of doctors in metropolitan France in 2009).
- In 2011 (01/01/2012), there is a second break in the series because of the change in the data source (RPPS since 2011).
Physicians at regional level:
Source of data: Ministère du Travail, des Relations sociales, de la Famille, de la Solidarité et de la Ville, Ministère de la Santé et des Sports, Ministère du Budget, des Comptes publics et de la Fonction publique, Direction de la Recherche, des Etudes, de l'Evaluation et des Statistiques. DREES. (Source: Répertoire ADELI), Sous Direction de l'Observation de la Santé et de l'Assurance maladie, Bureau des Professions de santé
Reference period: 31st December
Deviation from the definition: data refer to the concept "professional active".
Notes updated: 2016

Croatia

Practising physicians:
Source of data: Croatian Institute of Public Health, Health Manpower Register
Coverage: Private medical practitioners have been included since 1993.
Deviation from the definition: maxillofacial surgeons are included up to 2008.
Break in time series: 2009.
Professionally active physicians:
Data not available
Physicians licensed to practice:
Data not available
Physicians by age and gender:
Source of data: Croatian Institute of Public Health, Health Manpower Register
Estimation method: The division between age groups '55-64 years' and '65 and over' is not possible up to 2008.
In 2010, we have new informatics application operating the data base of Health Manpower Register and the division by preferred age groups is possible.
Deviation from the definition: maxillofacial surgeons are included up to 2008.
Break in time series: 2009.
Physicians at regional level:
Source: Croatian Institute of Public Health, Health Manpower Register
Reference period: data on December 31
Coverage: public and private health sectors included, private physicians have been included since 1993.
Notes updated: 2016

Italy

Practising physicians:
a) For General practitioners and General paediatricians practising for the National Health System:
Reference period: 1st January.
Coverage: Total survey on all general practitioners and paediatricians practising for the National Health System. General practitioners provide the first level care to all citizens aged 14 years old and over (consultations, visits, prescription of medicines, and referrals for laboratory tests or specialist visits).
b) For Specialised physicians, Other generalist medical practitioners and General paediatricians not practicing for the National Health System:
Source of data: ISTAT provides data produced by IMS HEALTH ITALIA - One Key database.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage: Data refer to practising physicians.

Professionally active physicians:
Reference period: Annual average.
Coverage: Sample survey.
- Professionally active physicians are individuals who have indicated that they work as a physician and for whom their medical education is a prerequisite for the execution of the job. In this way physicians providing services directly to patients and physicians not providing services to patients (working in administration, research, and public health) are both included.
Estimation method: Estimation from the sample survey. Data are affected by the statistical error due to the sample design.

Physicians licensed to practice:
Source of data: ISTAT provides data produced by ENPAM (National Insurance Institute of physicians and dentists). www.enpam.it.
Reference period: 31st December.
Break in time series: Physicians licensed to practice included dentists until 2004. Since 2005, dentists have been excluded.

Physicians by age and gender:
Source of data:
- Since 2012: a) For General practitioners and General paediatricians practicing in the National Health System: Ministry of Health - General Directorate of digitalisation, health information system and statistics - Office of Statistics. b) For Specialised physicians, Other generalist medical practitioners and General paediatricians not practicing in the National Health System: Ministry of Health - General Directorate of digitalisation, health information system and statistics - Office of Statistics.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage: Data refer to practising physicians since 2012.
Deviation from the definition:
- Data refer to physicians licensed to practice from 1995 to 2011.
- The age group “65-74” includes all physicians aged 65 years old and over (including those aged 75 and over).
Break in time series:
- Up to 2011: Physicians licensed to practice.  Figures include dentists until 2004. Since 2005, dentists have been excluded.
- Since 2012, data refer to practising physicians.
Physicians at regional level:
Source of data:
1993-2003: ISTAT - ENPAM (National Insurance Institute of physicians and dentists)
Reference period:
1993-2003: 31st December
2004-2011: annual average
Since 2012: 31st December
Deviation from the definition:
1993-2003: data refer to licensed to practice
2004-2011: data refer to professionally active
Since 2012: data refer to practising
Notes updated: 2016

Cyprus

Practising physicians:
Source of data:
1. Statistical Service of Cyprus; Public Sector Administrative Sources and Pancyprian Medical Association for the Private Sector
2. Annual survey on “Health and Hospital Statistics”
3. For the years 1985, 1987, 1995 and 2000 figures were obtained from the Census of Doctors, Dentists and Clinics.
Reference period: 31st of December of the reference year
Coverage: the data covers the Government Controlled Area of the Republic of Cyprus, both Public and Private Sectors.
Deviation from the definition:
- As regards the Public Sector, the number of physicians employed by the Government and having direct contact with patients.
- As regards the Private Sector, based on information obtained from the Pancyprian Medical Association, it has been assumed that none of the physicians of the Private Sector deals exclusively with research or administration; all of them provide services directly to patients.
Estimation method: actual data except for year 2009, were the number has been estimated according to the annual increase on the number of physicians in previous years.
Break in time series: a break in series occurs in 2014 due to the fact that the maxillofacial surgeons have been excluded from the number of physicians in order to be included in the number of dentists, according to the revised definitions. For previous years, the maxillofacial surgeons were included in the physicians.

Professionally active physicians:
Source of data
1. Statistical Service of Cyprus; Public Sector Administrative Sources and Pancyprian Medical Association for the Private Sector
2. Annual survey on “Health and Hospital Statistics”
3. For the years 1985, 1987, 1995 and 2000 figures were obtained from the Census of Doctors, Dentists and Clinics.
Reference period: 31st of December of the reference year
Coverage: the data covers the Government Controlled Area of the Republic of Cyprus, both Public and Private Sectors.
Deviation from the definition:
- As regards the Public Sector, the number of practicing physicians, as well as the number of physicians employed by the Government in detachment to the Ministry of Health or the medical Services of the Ministry of Health or fully employed in administrative positions in the government hospitals.
- As regards the Private Sector, based on information obtained from the Pancyprian Medical Association, it has been assumed that the number of professionally active physicians equals to the number of practising physicians.

Estimation method: actual data except for year 2009, were the number has been estimated according to the annual increase on the number of physicians in previous years.
Break in time series: a break in series occurs in 2014 due to the fact that the maxillofacial surgeons have been excluded from the number of physicians in order to be included in the number of dentists, according to the revised definitions. For previous years, the maxillofacial surgeons were included in the physicians.

Physicians licensed to practice:
Source of data
1. Statistical Service of Cyprus; Public Sector Administrative Sources and Pancyprian Medical Association for the Private Sector
2. Annual survey on “Health and Hospital Statistics”
3. For the years 1985, 1987, 1995 and 2000 figures were obtained from the Census of Doctors, Dentists and Clinics.
Reference period: 31st of December of the reference year
Coverage: the data covers the Government Controlled Area of the Republic of Cyprus, both Public and Private Sectors.
Deviation from the definition:
- As regards the Public Sector, the number of practicing physicians, as well as the number of physicians employed by the Government in detachment to the Ministry of Health or the medical Services of the Ministry of Health or fully employed in administrative positions in the government hospitals.
- As regards the Private Sector, based on information obtained from the Pancyprian Medical Association, it has been assumed that the number of professionally active physicians equals to the number of practising physicians.

Estimation method: actual data except for year 2009, were the number has been estimated according to the annual increase on the number of physicians in previous years.

Break in time series: a break in series occurs in 2014 due to the fact that the maxillofacial surgeons have been excluded from the number of physicians in order to be included in the number of dentists, according to the revised definitions. For previous years, the maxillofacial surgeons were included in the physicians.

Physicians by age and gender:

For years 1995 and 2000:

Source of data
1. Statistical Service of Cyprus; Census of Doctors, Dentists and Clinics 1995 and 2000
3. The source for year 2014 will be described below.

Reference period: 31st of December of the reference year

Publication not available on the website

Coverage: the data covers the Government Controlled Area of the Republic of Cyprus, both Public and Private Sectors.

Deviation from the definition: Maxillofacial surgeons are included in the number of physicians for years 1995 and 2000; however their number is limited to 1 or 2 persons. For year 1995, the total of age-groups includes 303 physicians with unspecified age, whereas for year 2000 the total of age-groups includes 106 persons with unspecified age.

Estimation method: not applicable.

Break in time series: not applicable.

For year 2014:

Source of data
1. Pancyprian Medical Association for both the Public and Private Sector
2. Annual survey on “Health and Hospital Statistics”
3. The source for years 1995 and 2000 has been described above.

Reference period: 31st of December of the reference year
The data has not been published on the website.

Coverage: The data covers the Government Controlled Area of the Republic of Cyprus, both Public and Private Sectors.

Deviation from the definition: not applicable.

For year 2014, the total of age-groups includes 13 physicians with unspecified age (4 females and 9 males),

Estimation method: the total number of practicing physicians as reported from the Pancyprian Medical Association (PMA) on the 31st December 2014, has been distributed to the various age-groups, gender and speciality according to the percentage distribution calculated from the Register of the PMA obtained by CYSTAT on May 2015 (PMA could not provide CYSTAT with the relevant register with reference date 31st December 2014).

Notes updated: 2016

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**Latvia**

Practising physicians:

Source of data:
- Since 2005: Health Inspectorate of Latvia; Medical Persons' Register.
- 2004 and earlier: Health Statistics and Medical Technologies State Agency; Statistical Report No.17 "Report About Medical Staff".
Reference period: 31 December.

Professionally active physicians:
Source of data:
- Since 2005: Health Inspectorate of Latvia; Medical Persons' Register.
- 2004 and earlier: Health Statistics and Medical Technologies State Agency Statistical Report No.17 "Report About Medical Staff").
Reference period: 31 December.
Break in series: 2005: Change in data source.

Physicians licensed to practice:
Source of data:
- Since 2005: Health Inspectorate of Latvia; Medical Persons' Register.
- 2004 and earlier: Health Statistics and Medical Technologies State Agency; Statistical Report No.17 "Report About Medical Staff".
Reference period: 31 December.
Break in series: 2005: Change in data source.

Physicians by age and gender:
Source of data:
- Since 2005: Medical Persons' Register Health Inspectorate of Latvia.
2004 and earlier: Health Statistics and Medical Technologies State Agency; Statistical Report No.17 "Report About Medical Staff".
Deviation from definition: Data for years 2002-2004 refer to physicians licensed to practice, and not to practising physicians.
Reference period: 31 December.
Notes updated: 2016

Lithuania

Practising physicians:
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- The number of practising physicians at the end of the year includes all professionally active physicians working in health system, excluding physicians working in administration, health education and research, hygiene physicians, epidemiologists.
- Interns and resident physicians are included.

Professionally active physicians:
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- The number of professionally active physicians at the end of the year includes all active physicians working in health care, public health, health administration, health education and research institutions (public or private), including health care institutions under other ministries than the Ministry of Health. Interns and residents, i.e. physicians in postgraduate training, are also included.
- The number of physicians excludes physicians working in social institutions (nursing homes belonging to social sector, the number of these physicians is very small), physicians working outside the country; physicians on the retired list and not practising or unemployed; physicians working outside health services, e.g. employed in industry, etc.

Physicians licensed to practice:
Source of data:
- Up to 2006: State Health Care Accreditation Agency under the Ministry of Health, Register of licenses.
- Since 2011: Health Information Centre of Institute of Hygiene, data is calculated from Compulsory Health Insurance Fund information system (subsystem METAS).
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- The number of physicians licensed to practice includes all physicians having valid license at the end of the year.
- In 2001-2003 the number of physicians licensed to practice was lower than the number of professionally active physicians as the license was not needed for not practising physicians, e.g. working in health administration, public health (hygiene physicians and epidemiologists), education, research.
Break in time series:
- 2011: Data source changed.
Physicians by age and gender:
Source of data:
- 2001-2006: State Health Care Accreditation Agency under the Ministry of Health, Register of licenses.
- Since 2007: Health Information Centre of Institute of Hygiene, data of entire annual survey of health establishments.
Reference period: 31st December
Break in time series: Data for 2001-2006 refer to physicians licensed to practice, data since 2007 refer to professionally active physicians (estimation).
Estimation method: As part of health institutions have not presented data on physicians by age and sex (about 13% of physicians), simple estimation has been made using age and sex structure of the existing disaggregated data.
Deviation from the definition: Age group 65-74 includes age group 75 and over as well. There is no data on active physicians for the age group 75 and over. According to licensed physicians statistics about 3.2% of all physicians with valid licenses for practice is at the age 75 and over.
Notes updated: 2016

Luxembourg
Practising physicians:
Source of data: Direction de la Santé - Service des statistiques. Register of doctors and health professionals.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage / Deviation from definition:
- Stomatologists, dental and maxillofacial surgeons are included. Dentists are not included.
Until 1999:
- Includes physicians working in administration and research.
- Retired physicians are not included. However, the end of activity of self-employed physicians is often noted with some time lag.
From 2000:
- Head count data.
Inclusion: Includes professionals who are foreigners and interns specialising in general practice in Luxembourg.
Exclusion: Excludes non-practising physicians, retired professionals and professionals working abroad.
Physicians working in laboratories (such as microbiologists, pathologists and haematologists) are not included.
For interns: only those specialising in general practice in Luxembourg are included
Break in time series: 2000 and 2015
2015: adjustment to methodology and definition
Professionally active physicians:
Source of data: Direction de la Santé - Service des statistiques. Register of doctors and health professionals.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage / Deviation from definition:
- Head count data.
Exclusion: Excludes non-practising physicians and professionals working abroad. Retired physicians are excluded. However, the end of activity of self-employed physicians is often noted with some time lag.
Inclusion: Includes professionals who are foreigners. Includes stomatologists, dental and maxillofacial surgeons.
Break in time series: 2015: adjustment to methodology and definition
Physicians licensed to practice:
Source of data: Direction de la Santé - Service des statistiques. Register of doctors and health professionals.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- Includes stomatologists, dental and maxillofacial surgeons.
Physicians by age and gender:
Source of data: Direction de la Santé - Service des statistiques. Register of doctors and health professionals.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage: Practising physicians, female physicians and male physicians, by age groups and total.
Until 2014: Age group 65-74 years includes physicians aged 75+ as well
Since 2015, new breakdown in data collection: physicians aged 65-74 years and 75+ are identified
Notes updated: 2016

Hungary
Practising physicians
Source of data:
- Up to 1999: Ministry of Health.
- In 2000 and 2001: Data are estimates from the National Institute for Strategic Health Research (ESKI) based on the operational registration of the Hungarian Medical Association.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
Head count data. Excludes non-practising physicians, retired professionals and professionals working abroad. Includes professionals who are foreigners.
- Practising physicians (including residents) reported to the National Register of Physicians.
- From 1990: Includes specialists, GPs, family paediatricians, residents, and non-specialised physicians. The report is made according to the 1990 account of the Central Statistical Office "Number of active physicians by sex and specialisation".

- For the years up to 1979, dentists are included under physicians; from 1980, dentists are not included in the physician series.
- From 2000 to 2006, the registry of physicians was prepared by the Hungarian Medical Association (MOK).
- The 2000 data are estimates from National Institute for Strategic Health Research (ESKI).
- In 2005, the Hungarian Medical Association (MOK) performed data cleaning in the database to identify more precisely practising physicians, deleting 3,000 persons due to retirement or death, and about 1,300 persons due to employment abroad or leaving the profession.
- From 2007, the Office of Health Authorisation and Administrative Procedures (EEKH) – unlike in the previous years – provided data not on the basis of last acquired specialisation, but according to the dominant specialisation practiced during medical work.
- In 2008, the Office of Health Care Authorisation and Administrative Procedures significantly revised the data in the registry by calling for refinement, according to the 1997. CLIV. Act.

Professionally active physicians
Data not available.

Physicians licensed to practice
Source of data:
- Up to 1999: Ministry of Health.
- In 2000 and 2001: Data are estimates from the National Institute for Strategic Health Research (ESKI) based on the operational registration of the Hungarian Medical Association.

Reference period: 31st December.
- In 2005, the Hungarian Medical Association (MOK) performed data cleaning in the database to identify more precisely physicians licensed to practice.
- From 2007, the Office of Health Authorisation and Administrative Procedures (EEKH) – unlike in the previous years – provided data not on the basis of last acquired specialisation, but according to the dominant specialisation practiced during medical work.
- In 2008, the Office of Health Care Authorisation and Administrative Procedures significantly revised the data in the registry by calling for refinement, according to the 1997. CLIV. Act.

Physicians by age and gender
Source of data:
- Up to 1999: Ministry of Health.
- Between 2000 and 2001: Data are estimates from National Institute for Strategic Health Research (ESKI) based on the operational registration of the Hungarian Medical Association.

Reference period: 31st December.
Deviation from the definition: Data from 1995 to 2003 included the number of practicing dentists as well. It is not possible to filter out the dentists from the different age groups.

- In 2000, change of data source from the Ministry of Health to estimates based on values obtained through the Hungarian Medical Association in the years 2002-2006.
- In 2002: change of data source to the Hungarian Medical Association.
- In 2004: Since 2004, practicing dentists are excluded and only practicing physicians are reported.
- In 2005, the Hungarian Medical Association (MOK) performed data cleaning in the database to identify more precisely practising physicians, deleting 3,000 persons due to retirement or death and about 1,300 persons due to employment abroad or leaving the profession.
- From 2007, the Office of Health Authorization and Administrative Procedures (EEKH) – unlike in the previous years – provided data not on the basis of last acquired specialisation, but according to the dominant specialisation practiced during medical work.
- In 2008, the Office of Health Care Authorisation and Administrative Procedures significantly revised the data in the registry by calling for refinement, according to the 1997. CLIV. Act.

**Physicians at regional level:**
Source of data:
Up to 1999: Ministry of Health
Between 1999 and 2007: Operational registration of Hungarian Medical Chamber
From 2007: Office of Health Care Authorisation and Administrative Procedures
Reference period: 31st December
Coverage:
- In 2005 and in 2006 "physicians temporarily deleted" excluded
- Up till 2003 dentists included
The regional breakdown has been made according to the permanent address of the physicians, so the sum of the regions is not equal to the total number, which includes physicians with unknown address as well.

*Notes updated: 2016*

**Malta**

**Practising physicians**
Source of data: Data is compiled at the Directorate for Health Information and Research from data on the Medical Council Register.
Reference period: 31st December.
Break in Series: Data on physicians from 2011 onwards had been updated by the Medical Council and more accurate figures have been provided.

**Professionally active physicians**
Source of data: Registers of Medical council. Data is extracted from the Registers by the Directorate for Health Information & Research.
Reference period: 31st December.
Data not available till 2008. Figures are being quoted for the first time for year ending 2009.
Break in Series: Data on physicians from 2011 onwards had been updated by the Medical Council and more accurate figures have been provided.

**Physicians licensed to practice**
Source of data: Registers of the Medical Council.
Compilation for 2009 carried out at the Directorate for Health Information and Research from physicians “warranted” to practice Medicine and Surgery.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
Physicians licensed to practices; figure for 2004 includes 82 foreign physicians on "contract" work, for 2006 includes 1308 physicians with a Malta address, 203 physicians living abroad, and 53 physicians working on contract - Source: Medical Council - Malta.

Figure for 2007 represents the number of Physicians on the new "EU List" Register of the Medical Council, Malta. These Physicians had paid their "retention fee" to be included in the Register at end 2007.

Figures for 2009 refer to physicians who were “warranted” to practice Medicine and Surgery. The Registers of the Medical Council are being constantly revised and they will show only those physicians who have paid their retention fees to Medical Council. These physicians are being called “registered Physicians” by Medical Council. Thus the figure that will be issued by Medical Council for registered physicians on the Registers of the Medical Council at end 2009 will be lower than the figure of 1541 licensed to practice being submitted.

Break in series: 2007, 2009, 2011. Data on physicians from 2011 onwards had been updated by the Medical Council and more accurate figures have been provided.

Physicians by age and gender
Source of data: Registers of the Medical Council. Data extracted at the Directorate for Health Information and Research.
Reference period: 31st December.
Figures prior 2009 refer to physicians licensed to practice. Starting from 2009 figures are for practising physicians.

2009: age of 9 (7 males and 2 females) practising physicians was unknown.
2010: age of 4 (1 male and 3 females) practising physicians was unknown.
2011: age of 2 (1 male and 1 female) practising physicians was unknown.
Data on physicians from 2011 onwards had been updated by the Medical Council and more accurate figures within some age groups have been provided.
2012: age of 1 female practising physician was unknown
2013: age of 1 female practising physician was unknown

Notes updated: 2016

Netherlands
Practising physicians
Data not available. Data are available for “professionally active” physicians (also including doctors in administrative, academic or research functions who are not providing direct care to patients).
Professionally active physicians
Data based on BIG register (register of (para)medical professions) and SSB database (micro-integrated database of Statistics Netherlands with data from municipal register, tax register, social security, business register).
Data refer to physicians who:
- are licensed to practice; and
- live and work in the Netherlands; and
- for employees: are active in a health- or social care sector or a healthcare-related sector; or
- for self-employed specialists: are economically active (their license requires that they have been practising – not necessarily fulltime - in the past five years)
List of NACE codes used for health- or social care and healthcare related sectors: NACE v1: 851, 853, 2441, 2442, 331, 5146, 5231, 5232, 5248.2 (opticians), 6022 (part of transport for healthcare), 6602.3, 6602.4 (pension funds part for healthcare occupations), 6603 (part of health insurance funds and companies), 7310.3 (medical and pharmacological research and development), 745 (temporary work companies; very important for nurses, caring personnel
and physiotherapists), 7522 (Ministry of Defence, including military hospital), 7523.2 (part of medical personnel for prisons, including prison hospital), 753 (compulsory health care insurance, operations for exceptional medical expenses act), 8022, 8030, 9304, 9305 Nace v2: 86, 87, 88, 212, 266, 325, 4646, 4773, 4774, 4778.2, 4932, 6530.3, 6530.9, 6512, 7211.2 + 7219.3 (R&D for health, medical products or pharmaceutical processes), 782, 8412 will be included when NACE v2 is available in SSB; Regulation of the activities of providing health care, education, cultural services and other social services, excluding social security), 8422, 8423.2, 843, 8532, 854, 9313, 9609.

**Physicians licensed to practice**

Source of data: The BIG register (register installed by the Individual Health Care Professions Act), database as received by Statistics Netherlands.

Coverage:

- The figures refer to physicians ‘entitled to practice’: all authorised physicians entered in the register (of physicians) of the Chief Medical Officer of Public Health. The number of licensed physicians who are actively practising whether in private practice or as an employee in a health-care institution, is not known. The figures include an unknown number of physicians working in administration, research and industry. In December 2000, 6.6% of all registered physicians were over 69 years old.
- Head count. Includes non-practising physicians and retired professionals. Excludes professionals working abroad. Partly includes professionals who are foreigners – data do not include a number of physicians actually living abroad near the border in Belgium or Germany and working in the Netherlands.

**Physicians by age and gender**

Source of data: Data based on BIG register (register of (para)medical professions) and SSB database (micro-integrated database of Statistics Netherlands with data from municipal register, tax register, social security, business register).

Deviation from the definition: Data refer to professionally active physicians from 1999. The figures for previous years refer to physicians licensed to practice.

Break in time series: 1999.

**Physicians at regional level:**

Source of data: Data based on BIG register (register of (para)medical professions) and SSB database (micro-integrated database of Statistics Netherlands with data from municipal register, tax register, social security, business register).

Reference period: last Friday before Christmas.

Deviation from the definition: Data refer to professionally active physicians. Data refer to the place where the physicians live. Included are the physicians working in the Netherlands, but living abroad. Their number is the difference between the total and the sum of the workers by region.

*Notes updated: 2016*

**Austria**

**Practising physicians:**

Source of data: Österreichische Ärztekammer - Vollerhebung / Austrian Medical Chamber - total of members.

Reference period: December/January (reference day varies).

Coverage:

- includes physicians in activity who are member of the Austrian Medical Chamber;
- includes the whole medical field (private practices, hospitals, etc.);
- includes interns (“Turnusärzte”);
- excludes physicians without medical practice (in industry, administration, research...);
Professionally active physicians:
Data not available
Physicians licensed to practice:
Data not available
Physicians by age and gender:
Source of data: Österreichische Ärztekammer - Vollerhebung / Austrian Medical Chamber - total of members.
Reference period: December/January (reference day varies).
Coverage:
- includes physicians in activity who are member of the Austrian Medical Chamber;
- includes the whole medical field (private practices, hospitals, etc.);
- includes interns ("Turnusärzte");
- excludes physicians without medical practice (in industry, administration, research,...);
- excludes specific other categories such as dentists and stomatologists;
- excludes physicians working abroad and includes physicians who are citizens of a Member State.
Deviation from definition: the age group “65-74” includes all physicians aged 65 and over (including those aged 75 and over) until 2013.
Break in time series:
- From 2013 onwards, even physicians aged 65 years or more who run their private practice with only few patients and below a considerable income limit have to be registered at the Austrian Medical Chamber – before 2013 this was not necessary.
- From 2014 onwards, the breakdown between age groups “65-74” and “75 and over” is available.

Physicians at regional level
Source of data: Österreichische Ärztekammer - Vollerhebung / Austrian Medical Chamber - total of members
Reference period: December/January (reference day varies).
Coverage:
- concerns physicians in activity who are member of the Austrian Medical Chamber
- concerns the whole medical field (private practices, hospitals, etc.)
- excludes physicians without medical practice (in industry, administration, research...)
- excludes specific other categories such as dentists and stomatologists
- excludes physicians in training
- excludes physicians working abroad and includes physicians who are citizens of a Member State.

Notes updated: 2016

Poland
Practising physicians:
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage: Physicians are assigned to practising or professionally active physicians based on the primary workplace.
- Since 2003 data from the Ministry of National Defence and the Ministry of Interior are included.
- Since 2004 teaching and administration staff is excluded.
- Since 2005 physicians with the primary work place being private medical offices, stationary social assistance facilities and nursing homes are included.
- Physicians working in prisons are excluded.

Break in time series:

Professionally active physicians:
Source of data: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior and Administration, Ministry of National Defence and Central Statistical Office.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage: Physicians are categorised as practising or professionally active physicians based on the primary workplace.
- Practising physicians
- Physicians for whom the primary workplace is a university, units of state or local self-governments administration or the National Health Fund are included.
- Since 2010 physicians working in social security funds are included.

Break in time series: 2010.

Physicians licensed to practice:
Source of data: Polish Chamber of Physicians, Register of licensed physicians.
Reference period: 31st December.

Physicians by age and gender:
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage: Physicians are categorised as practising or professionally active physicians based on the primary workplace.
- Since 2003 data from the Ministry of National Defence and the Ministry of Interior are included.
- Since 2004 teaching and administration staff are excluded.
- Since 2005 physicians with the primary workplace being private medical offices, stationary social assistance facilities and nursing homes are included.
- Physicians working in prisons are excluded.

Break in time series:

Physicians at regional level:
Source of data: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior and Administration, Ministry of National Defence and Central Statistical Office.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage: Physicians are assigned to practising or professionally active physicians based on the primary workplace.
- Since 2003 data from the Ministry of National Defence and the Ministry of Interior and Administration is included.
- Since 2004 teaching and administration staff is excluded
- Since 2005 physicians working in private medical offices as a main workplace, stationary social assistance facilities and nurseries are included.

Exclusion:
- Physicians working in prisons.


Notes updated: 2016
Portugal

Practising physicians:
Data not available (data available only for all physicians licensed to practice).

Professionally active physicians:
Data not available (data available only for all physicians licensed to practice).

Physicians licensed to practice:
Source of data: Statistics Portugal and the Portuguese Medical Association. Series available at www.ine.pt [Médicos (N.º) por Local de residência; Anual].
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- Head count data.
- Includes all physicians registered in the Portuguese Medical Association at the time of data collection, practising or not practising medicine.
- Includes non-practising physicians, retired professionals, professionals working abroad (if their declared residence is in Portugal), nationals and foreigners practicing in Portugal.
- Includes qualified physicians practising in hospitals and official clinics.
- Includes physicians working in private ambulatory health establishments, including private cabinets.
- Includes all physicians registered in the Portuguese Medical Association on 31st December of the reference year (non-specialised physicians and specialised physicians).
- The specialties Stomatology and Maxillo-facial surgery are not included here.
- Physicians with a declared residence abroad are also not included.

Physicians by age and gender:
Source of data: Statistics Portugal and the Portuguese Medical Association.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- Head count data.
- Includes all physicians registered in the Portuguese Medical Association at the time of data collection, practising or not practising medicine.
- Data by age groups are not available.
Deviation from the definition: Data refer to physicians licensed to practice.

Physicians at regional level:
Source of data: Statistics Portugal and Portuguese Medical Association.
Series available at http://www.ine.pt [Médicos (N.º) por Local de residência; Anual].
Reference period: 31st December.
Deviation from the definition: data refer to physicians licensed to practice at regional (NUTS2) level according to the place (region) of declared residence.
Coverage:
- Head count data.
- Includes all physicians registered in the Portuguese Medical Association at the time of data collection, practising or not practising medicine; most of them are, however, practising medicine.
- Includes non-practising physicians, retired professionals, professionals working abroad and professionals who are foreigners.
- Includes qualified physicians practising in hospitals and or official clinics.
- Includes physicians working in private ambulatory health establishments, including private cabinets.
- Includes all physicians registered in the Portuguese Medical Association at 31 December of the reference year (non specialised physicians and specialised physicians, including stomatologists).
Exclusion:
Stomatologists
Maxilo-facial surgeons
- Physicians with declared residence abroad are not included.

Notes updated: 2016

**Romania**

**Practising physicians:**
Source of data: National Institute of Statistics, Activity of Sanitary Units – annual survey performed by NIS.
Reference period: data as of 31st December.
Coverage:
The data cover all sanitary physicians from public and private sector.
- Physicians (ISCO/COR 2221) are defined as the persons who have completed studies in medicine at the university level and who are licensed to practice. Physicians’ tasks include: medical or surgical treatment for diagnosed illness of patients, conducting medical examination, making diagnosis and giving treatment diagnosed illnesses, disorders or injuries, establish curative and preventive medical measurement, relished reports and participate to scientific communication in medical field.
- The physicians who work in education field as teachers and physicians from health insurance field are not included as practising physicians. It was impossible to exclude physicians who have administrative function in health units because separate registrations do not exist.
- Were excluded from physicians: students, unemployed physicians in health field, retirement physicians, and physicians working abroad, physicians working in sales field even if they work in medical sales (ex. medical drugs).
- Until 2007 physicians working in administration, research and in other posts that exclude direct contact with patients could not be totally excluded.

**Professionally active physicians:**
Source of data: National Institute of Statistics, Activity of Sanitary Units – annual survey performed by NIS.
Reference period: data as of 31st December.
Coverage:
- From 1970 to 1998, data refer only to the public sector.
- From 1999, the data cover all physicians from public and private sector.
- Physicians (ISCO/COR 2221) are defined as the persons who have completed studies in medicine at the university level and who are licensed to practice. Physicians’ tasks include: medical or surgical treatment for diagnosed illness of patients, conducting medical examination, making diagnosis and giving treatment diagnosed illnesses, disorders or injuries, establish curative and preventive medical measurement, relished reports and participate to scientific communication in medical field.
- The physicians who work in education field as teachers and physicians from health insurance field are not included. It was impossible to exclude physicians who have administrative function in health units because separate registrations do not exist.
- Were excluded from physicians: students, unemployed physicians in health field, retirement physicians, and physicians working abroad, physicians working in sales field even if they work in medical sales (ex. medical drugs).

Break in the series: 1999.

** Physicians licensed to practice:**
Source of data: College of Physicians from Romania.
Reference period: data as of 31st December.

Coverage:
According to national legislation (Law No. 95/2006 on the reform in health care), resident physicians haven’t a full right to practice in Romania. They are employed as physicians of assisted practice and are not included in the total number of physicians licensed to practice. According to the same law in the total number of physicians are included, also, physicians who are citizens of an EU Member State, EEA or Swiss Confederation, by assimilation, physicians who are family members of a citizen of an EU member state, EEA or Swiss Confederation and beneficiaries of the long-term resident status granted by an EU Member State, EEA or Swiss Confederation.
Foreign trained physicians who provide medical services temporary or occasionally in Romania are not included.

Physicians by age and gender:
Source of data: Ministry of Health for 2004, National Institute of Statistics since 2005, Activity of Sanitary Units – annual survey performed by NIS.
Reference period: data as of 31st December.
Coverage:
- Physicians (ISCO/COR 2221) are defined as the persons who have completed studies in medicine at the university level and who are licensed to practice. Physicians’ tasks include: medical or surgical treatment for diagnosed illness of patients, conducting medical examination, making diagnosis and giving treatment diagnosed illnesses, disorders or injuries, establish curative and preventive medical measurement, relished reports and participate to scientific communication in medical field.
- The physicians who work in education field as teachers and physicians from health insurance field are not included as practising physicians. It was impossible to exclude physicians who have administrative function in health units because does not exist separate registrations.
- Were excluded from physicians: students, unemployed physicians in health field, retirement physicians, and physicians working abroad, physicians working in sales field even if they work in medical sales (ex. medical drugs).
- The data cover all physicians from public and private sector.
Deviation from the definition: From 2004 till to 2009 data refers to professionally active physicians, since 2010 data refer to practising physicians.
Break in the series: 2010.

Physicians at regional level:
Source of data: National Institute of Statistics.
Reference period: data as of 31st December.
Coverage: The data for period between 1993 and 1998 refers to professionally active physicians and include data only from public sector.
Break in the series: 1999.
Until 2007 physicians working in administration, research and in other posts that exclude direct contact with patients could not be totally excluded.
Notes updated: 2016

Slovenia
Practising physicians:
Source of data: National Institute of Public Health, Slovenia; National Health Care Providers Database.
Reference period: 31st December.
Coverage:
- Practising physicians are those working in the health-care sector (primary, secondary and tertiary care), including public health institutes and health insurance funds.
- The National Health Care Providers Database is a registry with total (100%) coverage of health workers.

**Professionally active physicians:**
*Source of data: National Institute of Public Health, Slovenia; National Health Care Providers Database.*
*Reference period: 31st December.*
*Coverage:*
- Professionally active physicians include practising physicians working in the health-care sector and physicians working at HP4, 6.1, 6.3-6.9 and HP7 providers.
- The National Health Care Providers Database is a registry with total (100%) coverage of health workers.

**Physicians licensed to practice:**
*Data not available.*

**Physicians by age and gender:**
*Source of data: National Institute of Public Health, Slovenia; National Health Care Providers Database.*
*Reference period: 31st December.*
*Coverage:*
- Practising physicians are those working in the health-care sector (primary and secondary care) including public health institutes and the health insurance institute.
- The National Health Care Providers Database is a registry with total (100%) coverage of health workers.

**Physicians at regional level:**
*Source of data: National Institute of Public Health, Slovenia; National Health Care Providers Database.*
*Reference period: 31st December.*

**Notes updated: 2016**

**Slovakia**

**Practising physicians:**
*Source of data: National Health Information Center.*
- Data are provided from the Register of Health Professionals. Recent data available only for 2007. The New Register of Health Professionals was introduced for operation on 31st December. 2007. Update of the Register is not made every year, thus data for practising physicians for 2005, 2006 and 2008–2014 are not available (selection of the data is not possible).
*Reference period: 31st December.*

**Professionally active physicians:**
*Reference period: 31st December.*

**Break in time series:**
- In 2007, change of data source: Register of Health Professionals.
- In 2008, change of data source: Annual Report M (MZ SR) 1- 01 on structure and number of health professionals was used again.

**Physicians licensed to practice:**
*Data not available.*
Physicians by age and gender:
Reference period: 31st December.
Deviation from the definition: Data refer to professionally active physicians.
Break in time series:
- In 2007, change of data source: Register of Health Professionals.
- In 2008, change of data source: Annual Report M (MZ SR) 1- 01 on structure and number of health professionals was used again.
Note: Age group 65-74 years contains physicians aged 65 or more years, as is it is not possible to split physicians between the age groups 65-74 years and 75 and over years.
Physicians at regional level:
Source of data: National Health Information Center
Data are selected from two different sources:
Annual report on structure and amount of health professionals
Register of Health professionals, as of Dec. 31.
Reference period: 31st December
Difference in methodology: Physicians at regional level are divided from Total number of professionally active physicians.
Data for 2005, 2006 and 2008 are selected from Annual report on structure and amount of health professionals in 2008 and data for 2007 are selected from Register of Health professionals, as of Dec. 31. Update of Register is not made every year and therefore data for practising physicians for 2005, 2006 and 2007 are not available (selection of the data is not possible).
Notes updated: 2016

Finland
Practising physicians:
Source of data: Finnish Medical Association. The Register of the Finnish Medical Association which is updated by a yearly survey covering all physicians licensed to practice in Finland who are not retired.
Reference period: Mid-March.
Coverage: Physicians are classified according to their main employment. Professionally active physicians include physicians with teaching or research as their main employment. However, these physicians are excluded from practising physicians (even though they may have part-time position as a practising physician). From 2009 onwards, information on practising physicians has not been available, and all statistics refer to professionally active physicians. Includes physicians who are under 64 years old.
Professionally active physicians:
1) Until 2009
Source of data: Finnish Medical Association. The Register of the Finnish Medical Association which is updated by a yearly survey covering all physicians licensed to practice in Finland who are not retired.
Reference period: Mid-March.
Coverage: Physicians are classified according to their main employment. Concerns professionally active physicians. Includes physicians who are under 64 years old.
2) 2010
Reference period: End of year.
Coverage: Survey for 7000 physicians, response rate 54%. The data were weighted according to sex, age group and specialisation to represent all physicians under 70 years old who are licensed to practice and living in Finland. These data concern professionally active physicians under 65 years old.

3) 2011
Reference period: March 2012.
Coverage: The survey population consisted of physicians aged under 70 years old, resident in Finland and having a registered e-mail address in the Finnish Medical Association’s register. The survey was carried out electronically in March 2012. An e-mail invitation was sent to 18701 physicians. A total of 5660 physicians responded. The data were weighted according to sex, age group and specialisation to represent all physicians under 70 years old who are licensed to practice and living in Finland. These data concern professionally active physicians under 65 years old.

4) 2013
Reference period: March 2014.
Coverage: The survey population consisted of physicians aged under 70 years old, resident in Finland and having a registered e-mail address in the Finnish Medical Association’s register. The survey was carried out electronically in March 2014. A total of 4562 physicians responded. The data were weighted according to sex, age group and specialisation to represent all physicians under 70 years old who are licensed to practice and living in Finland in the beginning of 2014. This data concerns professionally active physicians under 65 years old. All physicians working in primary care are classified as GP’s regardless of their specialty. The remaining specialist physicians are classified according to their last specialty. The unspecialised physicians not working in primary care and the physicians currently specialising are classified as “Medical doctors not further defined”.
Deviation from the definition: Data refer to professionally active physicians.
Break in time series: 2010.

Physicians licensed to practice:
Source of data: VALVIRA, National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health. Register on Qualified Health Care Personnel, number of persons aged less than 64 years with qualification at 31 December.
Reference period: 31st December
Break in series 2006 due to statistical change.

Physicians by age and gender:

1) Until 2009
Source of data: Finnish Medical Association. Register of Finnish Medical Association which is updated by a yearly survey covering all physicians licensed to practice in Finland who are not retired.
Reference period: Mid-March.
Coverage: Data refer to professionally active. Includes physicians who are under 64 years old.

2) For year 2010
Reference period: End of year.
Coverage: Survey for 7000 physicians, response rate 54 %. The data were weighted according to sex, age group and specialisation to represent all physicians under 70 years old who are licensed to practice and living in Finland. These data concern professionally active physicians under 65 years old.
Deviation from the definition: Data refer to professionally active physicians.
3) 2011
Reference period: March 2012.
Coverage: The survey population consisted of physicians aged under 70 years old, resident in Finland and having a registered e-mail address in the Finnish Medical Association’s register. The survey was carried out electronically in March 2012. An e-mail invitation was sent to 18701 physicians. A total of 5660 physicians responded. The data were weighted according to sex, age group and specialisation to represent all physicians under 70 years old who are licensed to practice and living in Finland. These data concern professionally active physicians under 65 years old.
Deviation from the definition: Data refer to professionally active physicians.
4) 2012
Source of data: Finnish Medical Association. Data from a survey: "Finnish Medical Association Labour Market Survey 2013”.
Reference period: March 2013.
Coverage: The survey population consisted of physicians aged under 70 years old, resident in Finland and having a registered e-mail address in the Finnish Medical Association’s register. The survey was carried out electronically in March 2013. An e-mail invitation was sent to 19212 physicians. A total of 5076 physicians responded. The data were weighted according to sex, age group and specialisation to represent all physicians under 70 years old who are licensed to practice and living in Finland. These data concern professionally active physicians under 65 years old.
Deviation from the definition: Data refer to professionally active physicians.
5) 2013
Reference period: March 2014.
Coverage: The survey population consisted of physicians aged under 70 years old, resident in Finland and having a registered e-mail address in the Finnish Medical Association’s register. The survey was carried out electronically in March 2014. A total of 4562 physicians responded. The data were weighted according to sex, age group and specialisation to represent all physicians under 70 years old who are licensed to practice and living in Finland. These data concern professionally active physicians under 65 years old.
Deviation from the definition: Data refer to professionally active physicians.
6) 2014
Reference period: March 2015.
Coverage: Survey for 7000 physicians under 70-years old, response rate 44 %. The data were weighted according to sex, age group and specialisation to represent all physicians under 70
years old who are licensed to practice and living in Finland. These data concern professionally active physicians under 65 years old.  
Deviation from the definition: Data refer to professionally active physicians. 
Physicians at regional level:  
Source of data: Finnish Medical Association, Survey for all physicians.  
Reference period: Mid-March  
Coverage: Physicians classified according to their main employment. Therefore it is not possible to distinguish between definitions for practising and professionally active. The definition for professionally active physicians is used in all classifications. Finnish Medical Association has had a reform concerning the data collection after the year 2009. In the latest provided data the figures for physicians by regional level and by speciality have been estimated with differing definitions and methods than those for professionally active physicians. Furthermore, the original data is differing. There are some limitations related to the use of survey with a relatively small sample size. This is affecting to the possibility to provide very detailed data, for example.  
Break in time series: 2010. 
Notes updated: 2016 

**Sweden**

Practising physicians:  
Reference period: 1st November.  
Coverage:  
- Head count data. Excludes non-practising physicians, retired professionals and professionals working abroad. Includes professionals who are foreigners.  
- Physicians include all persons with a Swedish physician’s license and pre-licensed physicians employed within the health-care sector.  
- 100% coverage. 

Professionally active physicians:  
Reference period: 1st November.  
Coverage:  
- In addition to the NACE-codes used to identify practicing physicians the NACE-codes are used to identify professionals:  
  75.1 - Public authorities  
  80.3 - Higher education establishments  
- 100% coverage. 

Physicians licensed to practice:  
Reference period: 1st November.  
Coverage:  
- Non-retired personnel  
- 100 per cent coverage. 

Physicians by age and gender:  
Reference period: 1st November.
Coverage:
- Head count data. Excludes non-practising physicians, retired professionals and professionals working abroad. Includes professionals who are foreigners.
- Physicians include all persons with a Swedish physician’s license and pre-licensed physicians employed within the health-care sector.
- 100% coverage

Physicians at regional level:
Reference period: 1st November.
The discrepancy between the national total and the sum of the regions is the number of personnel deployed abroad in for example foreign military operations.

Notes updated: 2016

United Kingdom

Practising physicians:
Source of data:
- England: Health & Social Care Information Centre, General & Personal Medical Services Statistics and Medical & Dental Workforce Census; http://www.hscic.gov.uk/searchcatalogue?q=staff+numbers&area=&size=10&sort=Relevance
- Northern Ireland: Hospital staff from Human Resource Management System / Human Resource, Payroll, Travel & Subsistence system, DHSSPS, GP staff from Medlist, Business Services Organisation;
- Scotland: Information Services Division, Medical and Dental Census, GP Contractor Database, Scottish Workforce Information Standard System;

Reference period: Data as at 30th September.

Coverage:
- Data cover National Health Service staff only.
- Data exclude dental staff, optometrists/opticians, and locum staff.
- Northern Ireland: Data exclude bank staff, research fellows, clinical assistants and hospital/medical practitioners (who will likely already have been counted as General Practitioners on Medlist). Data from 2000 exclude staff on career breaks. The UK equivalent to interns and residents, i.e. foundation doctors and specialty registrars, are included in the data.

Deviation from the definition:
- Scotland: Data exclude Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners.

Estimation method:
- Raw numbers of Physicians up to 1989 for Great Britain have been increased pro-rata by the OECD Secretariat to provide appropriate numbers for the UK, enabling the correct computation of density and percentage of total health employment figures using the UK population and health employment data stored within the database.
- Wales: Wales’ 2015 figure is an estimate based on Wales’ 2014 figure.

dental staff in GB are excluded. They include hospital and community health medical staff and general medical practitioners. Before 1987, they included general medical practitioners and hospital medical staff only.
- Data prior to 2000 exclude a small number of Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners (400 to 800).
- In 2010, physicians time series have been re-submitted from 2000 to include a small number of Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners for England & Wales that had previously not been counted. This represents 400 to 800 additional physicians.
- England: break in 2015 – Figures for GPs and Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS) staff have been produced for 2015 using a different methodology. All figures are now based on headcount.

Professionally active physicians:
Data not available

Physicians licensed to practice:
Source of data: General Medical Council (GMC).
Coverage:
- Data from 1996 onwards at UK level.
- Prior to 1996, data are unreliable due to system migrations, so they have not been included.
- 1996 to 2008 data refer to registered doctors prior to licencing being introduced. These doctors were still entitled to practice though.
- 2009 data onwards refer to licenced doctors.
- "Physicians licensed to practice" reports all registered doctors from 1996 -2008, as of the 31st December in each year.
- Licencing was introduced in 2009, so the 2009-2014 numbers are limited to doctors that hold a licence, rather than the overall figure registered. Data are provided from 1996 onwards as data before that are unreliable due to system migrations.

Note: In 2016, all data were revised, taking into account some improvements in data registration. The most recently reported figure is going to be the most correct, which is why these data are frequently updated.

Physicians by age group and gender:
Source of data:
- England: Health & Social Care Information Centre, General & Personal Medical Services Statistics and Medical & Dental Workforce Census; [http://www.hscic.gov.uk/searchcatalogue?q=staff+numbers&area=&size=10&sort=Relevance](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/searchcatalogue?q=staff+numbers&area=&size=10&sort=Relevance)
- Northern Ireland: Hospital staff from the Human Resource Management System / Human Resource, Payroll, Travel & Subsistence system, DHSSPS, GP staff from Medlist, Business Services Organisation;
- Scotland: Information Services Division, Medical and Dental Census, GP Contractor Database, Scottish Workforce Information Standard System;

Reference period: Data as of 30th September.

Coverage:
- Does not include private sector.
- Data exclude dental staff, optometrists/opticians, and locum staff.
- Northern Ireland: Data exclude bank staff, research fellows, clinical assistants and hospital/medical practitioners (who will likely already have been counted as General Practitioners on Medlist). Data from 2000 exclude staff on career breaks. Female physicians aged 65 years old and over have not been included due to the small number of staff. Data excludes GPs and OMPs as age/gender breakdown is not known.
Deviation from the definition:
- Scotland: Data exclude Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners.
- England: Data are provided for Physicians aged ‘65-74’ and ‘75 and over’ as of 2015 only. The figures previously provided were for ‘65 and over’.
- The age/gender breakdown does not equate to the overall Physicians total due to inconsistencies in the recording of dates of birth on the different sources:
  a) England: There were a small number of physicians with unknown age/gender: three in 2005, two in 2006, 469 in 2007, 18 in 2009, 40 in 2010, 65 in 2011 and 2012. The age/gender breakdown also excludes a small number of Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners, which are included in total physicians. Following the change in GP collection method in 2015, a large number of GPs have an unknown gender and age so are only included in the ‘Total Physician’ category on this sheet.
  b) Northern Ireland: Age/gender data excludes General Practitioners, Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners and those physicians whose age is not known.
  c) Wales: The age/gender breakdown excludes a small number of Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners. There were a small number of physicians with unknown age/gender: two in 2010.

Estimation method:
- Wales: Wales’ 2015 figure is an estimate based on Wales’ 2014 figure.

Break in time series: 2015.
- England: break in 2015 – Figures for GPs and Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS) staff have been produced for 2015 using a different methodology. All figures are now based on headcount.

Physicians at regional level:
Data not available.

Notes updated: 2016

Iceland

Practising physicians:
Source of data:

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage:
- Head count data.
- Includes those physicians who are 70 years old or under, with permanent residence and registered domicile in Iceland (Icelanders or foreigners).
- Excludes retired professionals and professionals working abroad.
- Practising physicians - may refer more to professionally active physicians, as these data include non-practising physicians (but this group of non-practising physicians is very small).
- May include a very small number of non-practising physicians.

Break in time series: Break in series as of 2005 due to revision of methodology. The methodology was altered in 2009 in such a way that registered domicile is now taken into account when counting the number of physicians, not only permanent residence. Figures for previous years, back to 2005 were revised accordingly.

Professionally active physicians:
Source of data:
Reference period: 31st December. 
Coverage: 
- Head count data. 
- Includes those physicians who are 70 years old or under, with permanent residence and registered domicile in Iceland (Icelanders or foreigners). 
- Excludes retired professionals and professionals working abroad. 
- May include a very small number of non-practising physicians. 
Break in time series: Break in series as of 2005 due to revision of methodology. The methodology was altered in 2009 in such a way that registered domicile is now taken into account when counting the number of physicians, not only permanent residence. Figures for previous years, back to 2005 were revised accordingly. 
Physicians licensed to practice: 
Source of data: 
Reference period: 31st December. 
Coverage: 
- Included are all physicians in the Register of Physicians that have a license to practice, regardless of age, status of employment or residence. Included are also foreigners that have received a license in Iceland but do not have residence in Iceland. Some of these may have passed away. 
Physicians by age and gender: 
Source of data: 
Reference period: 31st December. 
Coverage: 
- Head count data. 
- Includes those physicians who are 70 years old or younger with permanent residence and registered domicile in Iceland (Icelanders or foreigners). 
- Excludes retired professionals and professionals working abroad. 
- May include a very small number of non-practising physicians. 
Deviation regarding age-group: Data for the age-group 65-74 refers to 65-70. 
Break in time series: Break in series in 2005 due to revision of methodology. The methodology was altered in 2009 in such a way that registered domicile is now taken into account when counting the number of physicians, not only permanent residence. Figures for previous years, back to 2005, were revised accordingly. 
Notes updated: 2016 

**Liechtenstein**

**Practising physicians:** 
Deviation from the definition: From 2000 to 2009, interns are not included.
Break in time series: From 2010 on the List includes 12 Interns with adequate diploma providing services under supervision of other medical doctors during their postgraduate internship or residency in the “Landesspital” in Vaduz. The years before these persons are not included in the data.

Professionally active physicians:
Source of data: Public Health Department (Amt für Gesundheit), List of Physicians licensed to practice ("Ärzteliste")
Coverage: The two physicians working in the Public Health Department are included. We have, however, no complete knowledge on physicians for whom their medical education is a prerequisite for the execution of the job (working in Management positions, e.g.).
Deviation from the definition: From 2000 to 2009, interns are not included.
Break in time series: From 2010 on the List includes 12 Interns with adequate diploma providing services under supervision of other medical doctors during their postgraduate internship or residency in the “Landesspital” in Vaduz.

Physicians licensed to practice:
Source of data: Public Health Department (Amt für Gesundheit), List of Physicians licensed to practice ("Ärzteliste")
Coverage: The two physicians working in the Public Health Department are included. We have, however, no complete knowledge on physicians for whom their medical education is a prerequisite for the execution of the job (working in Management positions, e.g.).
Deviation from the definition: From 2000 to 2009, interns are not included.
Break in time series: From 2010 on the List includes 12 Interns with adequate diploma providing services under supervision of other medical doctors during their postgraduate internship or residency in the “Landesspital” in Vaduz.
Besides practising Physicians data include only physicians who are due to various reasons not economically active ("ruhend gestellte Bewilligungen"); Data on retired or unemployed physicians or on such working in other jobs or abroad are not available.

Physicians by age and gender:
Source of data: Public Health Department (Amt für Gesundheit), List of Physicians licensed to practice ("Ärzteliste").
Deviation from the definition: From 2005 to 2009, interns are not included.
Break in time series: From 2010 on the List includes 12 Interns with adequate diploma providing services under supervision of other medical doctors during their postgraduate internship or residency in the “Landesspital” in Vaduz.

Notes updated: 2016

Norway
Practising physicians:
- From 2002: Administrative registers.
- Earlier years: The Norwegian Medical Association.
Reference period: 3rd week of November.
Coverage:
- 1994-2001 data cover practising physicians under 67 years old.
- 2002-2008 data include all personnel within HP1-HP3.
- 2009-2012: Because of national registration and quality, it is also chosen to include physicians in HP4.
- Retired professionals and professionals working abroad are excluded and foreign professionals are included. Specialists in dental surgery are excluded.

Break in time series:
- 2002 due to change in source.
- 2009: Because of national registration and quality, it is also chosen to include physicians in HP4.

Professionally active physicians:
Reference period: 3rd week of November.
Coverage: 2008-dd: Excludes non-practising physicians, retired professionals and professionals working abroad. The figures include professionals who are foreigners. All professionally active physicians in all industries; also, physicians for whom their medical education is NOT a prerequisite for the execution of the job.

Physicians licensed to practice:
Reference period: 3rd week of November.

Physicians by age and gender:
Reference period: 3rd week of November.

Physicians at regional level:
Source of data: Statistics Norway. Register-based statistics on employment of health care personnel.
Reference period: 3rd week of November
Estimation method: The regional figures do not add up because some physicians can't be placed according to region.
Coverage:
Because of national registration and quality, it is also chosen to include physicians in HP4 from 2009. Personnel are included based on education, not occupation, therefore physicians not providing services directly to patients are included.

Break in time series: 2009.
Note: For some institutions the variable Official Municipality Key is missing in the business register. Therefore it can be differences between the totals (national level) and the sum of regions.

Notes updated: 2016

**Switzerland**

Practising physicians:
Source of data: FSO Federal Statistical Office, Neuchâtel; Swiss Medical Association (FMH), Bern; Medical Statistics of Physicians; yearly census.

Professionally active physicians:
Source of data: FSO Federal Statistical Office, Neuchâtel; Swiss Medical Association (FMH), Bern; Medical Statistics of Physicians; yearly census.

Break in time series:
- 1989: No clear explanation was found in the documents of the FMH.
- 2000: the time series starting 2000 include also active physicians who are not members of the Swiss Medical Association.
- 2003: The time series starting 2003 include active physicians with EU citizenship residence in Switzerland whose diploma and postgraduate qualification has been officially recognised according to the bilateral agreements between Switzerland and the European Union.

Physicians licensed to practice:
Data not available.

Physicians by age and gender:
Source of data: FSO Federal Statistical Office, Neuchâtel; Swiss Medical Association (FMH), Bern; medical statistics of physicians; yearly census.
Deviation from the definition: Data refer to professionally active physicians until 2007.
Break in time series: 2008. Since 2008, the data refer to practising physicians.
Deviation from the definition: No data available for age group 75 and over.

Physicians at regional level:
Source of data: FSO Federal Statistical Office, Neuchâtel; Swiss Medical Association (FMH), Bern; Medical Statistics of Physicians, yearly census.
Break in time series: 1997
- Until 2007 the data refer to professionally active physicians
- Since 2008 the data refer to practising physicians; includes also “practician medical doctors”, to be understood as GP without FMH postgraduate qualification (specialisation)

Notes updated: 2016

Montenegro

Practising physicians
Source of data: The source for all data submitted is the Institute of Public Health. Some additional information can be found in Health Statistical Yearbooks available at http://www.ijzcg.me/
Reference period: December 31st.
Coverage: Only physicians from public sector.
Deviation from the definition: specialists (pathologist, social medicine, health statistics, and managers) and residents (social medicine, health statistics, and managers) are excluded.

Professionally active physicians:
Data not available.

Physicians licensed to practice:
Data not available.

Physicians by age and gender:
Source of data: The source for all data submitted is the Institute of Public Health. Some additional information can be found in Health Statistical Yearbooks available at http://www.ijzcg.me/
Reference period: December 31st.
Coverage: Only data from the public sector. Professionally active physicians are included. There are no data available for the age group of 65+.
Deviation from the definition: 55-64 includes all age groups after 65+.
Note: The data are provided for professional active physicians.

Notes updated: 2016

**former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

Practising physicians:  
Data not available

Professionally active physicians:  
Source of data: Institute for Public Health-Skopje. Report for health staff in health sector (3-00-60).  
Reference period: 31st December.  
Coverage: From 2006 data includes both, public and private sectors. Up until 2005, the data sets for private sector are incomplete, because private sector physicians were not sending reports regularly to the relevant organisations. Since 2006, more strict controls for regular reporting were put into practice by the Ministry of Health, which resulted in very accurate report sending and vastly improved evidence of health personnel. Also, the new software from 2006 comprises private sector physicians. Private sector is not included in year 2005 and earlier.  
Break in the series: 2006, stricter reinforcement of reporting with inclusion of private sector.

Physicians licensed to practice:  
Source of data: Doctors chamber of Macedonia, Registry of doctors  
www.lkm.org

Note: The number should be at the end of the calendar year.

Physicians by age and gender:  
Source of data: Institute for Public Health-Skopje. Report for health staff in health sector (3-00-60).  
Reference period: 31st December.  
Coverage: Up until 2005, the data sets for private sector are incomplete, because private sector physicians were not sending reports regularly to the relevant organisations. Since 2006, more strict controls for regular reporting were put into practice by the Ministry of Health, which resulted in very accurate report sending and vastly improved evidence of health personnel. Also, the new software from 2006 comprises private sector physicians.  
Break in the series: 2006.

Notes updated: 2016

**Albania**

Practising physicians:  
Source of data: Ministry of Health  
Deviation from the definition: Total number of physicians  
Professionally active physicians:  
Data not available.

Physicians licensed to practice:  
Data not available.

Physicians by age and gender:  
Data not available.

Notes updated: 2016

**Serbia**

Practising physicians:  
Data not available.

Professionally active physicians:  

Coverage: Data for Kosovo-Metohija province are not included in the coverage of data for the Republic of Serbia. Data from health institutions under other ministries (military services, prisons, social services) than the Ministry of Health are not included. Data from private health sector are not included.

Physicians licensed to practice:
Source of data: Serbian Medical Chamber. Data as of December 31. http://www.lks.org.rs/
Coverage: Data for Kosovo-Metohija province are not included in the coverage of data for the Republic of Serbia.

Physicians by age and gender:
Coverage: Data for Kosovo-Metohija province are not included in the coverage of data for the Republic of Serbia. Data from health institutions under other ministries (military services, prisons, social services) than the Ministry of Health are not included. Data from private health sector are not included.
Deviation from the definition: Data refer to professionally active physicians

Physicians at regional level:
Coverage: Data for Kosovo-Metohija province are not included in the coverage of data for the Republic of Serbia. Data from health institutions under other ministries (military services, prisons, social services) than the Ministry of Health are not included. Data from private health sector are not included.
Deviation from the definition: Data refer to professionally active physicians

Notes updated: 2016

Turkey

Practising physicians:
Data not available. Data are available for “professionally active” physicians (including also doctors in administrative, academic or research functions who are not providing direct care to patients).

Professionally active physicians:
Source of data:
- From 2000 onwards: General Directorate for Health Services, Ministry of Health.
Coverage:
- All sectors (Ministry of Health, University, Private and Other) are included.
- Others (Other public establishments and local administrations) have been included since 2006. MoND-affiliated facilities are not included until 2012.
- Practitioners who are retired or work abroad are not included. However, practitioners acting as managers are included.

Break in time series:
- MoND-affiliated facilities have been included since 2013.

Physicians licensed to practice:
Data not available

Physicians by age and gender:
Coverage: Medical residents, specialists and GPs acting as managers are included.
Deviation from the definition: data refer to professionally active physicians.
Estimation method: The number of female physicians across the country has been estimated based on the number of female professionally active physicians in the Ministry of Health hospitals.

Physicians at regional level:
Source of data:
- From 2000 onwards: General Directorate for Health Services, Ministry of Health
- Up to 1999: Ministry of Health; Health Statistics Yearbook.

Deviation from the definition: Data refer to professionally active physicians.
Coverage:
- From 2000 onwards: Number of total practitioners in the MoH, University, Private Sector.
- Others (Other public establishments and local administrations) are included since 2006.
- Practitioners, who are retired or work abroad, are not included. However, practitioners acting as managers are included.
- Up to 1999: Data includes physicians working in public or university administration.

Break in time series:
- Physicians in the MoND-affiliated facilities are included since 2012.

Notes updated: 2016