

# Healthcare personnel statistics - dentists, pharmacists and physiotherapists

Statistics Explained

*Data extracted in July 2025.*

*Planned article update: September 2026.*

**Highlights** Among the EU countries, Greece, Cyprus, Portugal, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Romania all reported at least 110 dentists for every 100 000 inhabitants in 2023.

Among the EU countries, Malta had 155 practising pharmacists for every 100 000 inhabitants in 2023 (the highest ratio), while the Netherlands had 22 practising pharmacists for every 100 000 inhabitants (the lowest ratio).

Among the EU countries, Germany and Belgium had at least 2 practising physiotherapists for every 100 000 inhabitants in 2023.

In the EU in 2023, there were over 14 100 dentistry graduates and more than 20 300 pharmacy graduates.

This article presents an overview of [European Union \(EU\)](#) statistics on dentists, pharmacists and physiotherapists. It provides information on specialist healthcare personnel, as well as data relating to dentistry and pharmacy graduates.

This article is included in a set of statistical articles concerning healthcare activities in the EU which forms part of an online publication on [Health in the European Union – facts and figures](#) .

## Healthcare personnel

For [dentists](#) and [pharmacists](#) , Eurostat collects data for 3 concepts

- 'practising' – health care professionals providing services directly to patients
- 'professionally active' – 'practising' professionals plus health care professionals for whom their medical education is a prerequisite for the execution of their job
- 'licensed' – health care professionals who are registered and entitled to practice as health care professionals

In this article, preference is given to the concept of 'practising' health care professionals. For some EU countries, data are not available for this concept and therefore data are presented for 1 of the alternative concepts instead: footnotes indicate these exceptions in each table and figure.

Table 1 provides an overview for 2023 of the number of practising dentists and pharmacists, and physiotherapists. Based on the sum of available data (see Table 1 for more details of the coverage and on concepts used by different EU countries), there were more than 365 000 practising dentists and over 422 000 practising pharmacists in the EU countries, while there were an estimated 651 000 physiotherapists across the EU. As such, the combined number of practising dentists, pharmacists, and physiotherapists (around 1.4 million) was below the total number of practising [physicians](#) (1.9 million); more information on physicians can be found in the statistical article on [physicians](#) .

## Practising dentists, pharmacists and physiotherapists, 2023

	Dentists		Pharmacists		Physiotherapists	
	(number)	(per 100 000 inhabitants)	(number)	(per 100 000 inhabitants)	(number)	(per 100 000 inhabitants)
EU (*)	:	:	:	:	650,647	149.3
Belgium	8,479	72.0	15,040	127.7	26,903	228.4
Bulgaria	7,672	119.0	6,303	97.8	1,909	29.6
Czechia	8,131	74.8	8,253	76.0	9,109	83.9
Denmark (†)	4,595	77.3	3,470	58.8	11,281	189.7
Germany	71,378	85.7	56,219	67.5	200,000	240.1
Estonia	1,407	102.7	955	69.7	667	48.7
Ireland	2,466	46.4	5,744	108.1	5,927	111.6
Greece (‡)	13,916	133.7	11,482	110.3	10,651	102.3
Spain	31,033	64.2	59,667	123.4	65,633	135.7
France	46,545	68.1	62,643	91.6	104,229	152.4
Croatia	3,726	96.6	3,422	88.7	3,755	97.4
Italy	48,575	82.4	82,394	139.7	62,406	105.8
Cyprus	1,266	132.2	1,057	110.4	1,180	123.2
Latvia	1,352	72.0	1,607	85.6	1,020	54.3
Lithuania	3,325	115.8	2,700	94.0	2,345	81.7
Luxembourg	:	:	:	:	:	:
Hungary	7,322	76.3	8,392	87.5	6,700	69.9
Malta	282	51.0	854	154.5	687	124.3
Netherlands	10,136	56.7	3,900	21.8	33,544	187.6
Austria	5,655	61.9	6,953	76.1	16,790	183.9
Poland	36,877	100.5	28,635	78.1	68,775	187.5
Portugal (‡)	12,776	120.8	10,442	98.7	:	:
Romania	21,601	113.3	21,664	113.7	3,046	16.0
Slovenia	1,623	76.5	1,566	73.9	1,876	88.5
Slovakia (‡)	2,961	54.6	4,684	86.3	2,371	43.7
Finland	3,893	69.7	6,504	116.5	8,516	152.5
Sweden (‡)	8,167	77.9	8,406	80.2	13,934	132.9
Iceland (‡)	304	78.8	233	60.4	658	170.6
Liechtenstein	48	120.5	28	70.3	93	233.4
Norway	4,850	87.9	3,542	64.2	9,160	166.0
Switzerland (†)	:	:	6,157	70.2	:	:
Montenegro	37	6.0	174	28.1	163	26.3
Moldova (‡)	1,527	61.9	1,873	75.9	178	7.2
North Macedonia (‡)	1,711	87.6	1,109	56.8	451	23.1
Serbia (‡)	1,731	26.1	997	15.1	3,070	46.4
Türkiye (‡)	45,718	53.6	40,610	47.6	9,116	10.7

(\*) Excluding Luxembourg and Portugal; 2022.

(†) Pharmacists: 2022.

(‡) Dentists: licensed to practice. Pharmacists: professionally active.

(§) Dentists: licensed to practice.

(¶) Dentists and pharmacists: professionally active.

(\*) 2022. Pharmacists: includes also prescriptionists.

(†) 2022.

(‡) Dentists: definition differs.

(§) 2021. Dentists and pharmacists: professionally active.

(¶) Only includes personnel in institutions under the Ministry of Health. Excludes the private health sector.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: hlth\_rs\_prs2)

eurostat 

**Table 1: Practising dentists, pharmacists and physiotherapists, 2023 Source: Eurostat (hlth\_rs\_prs2)**

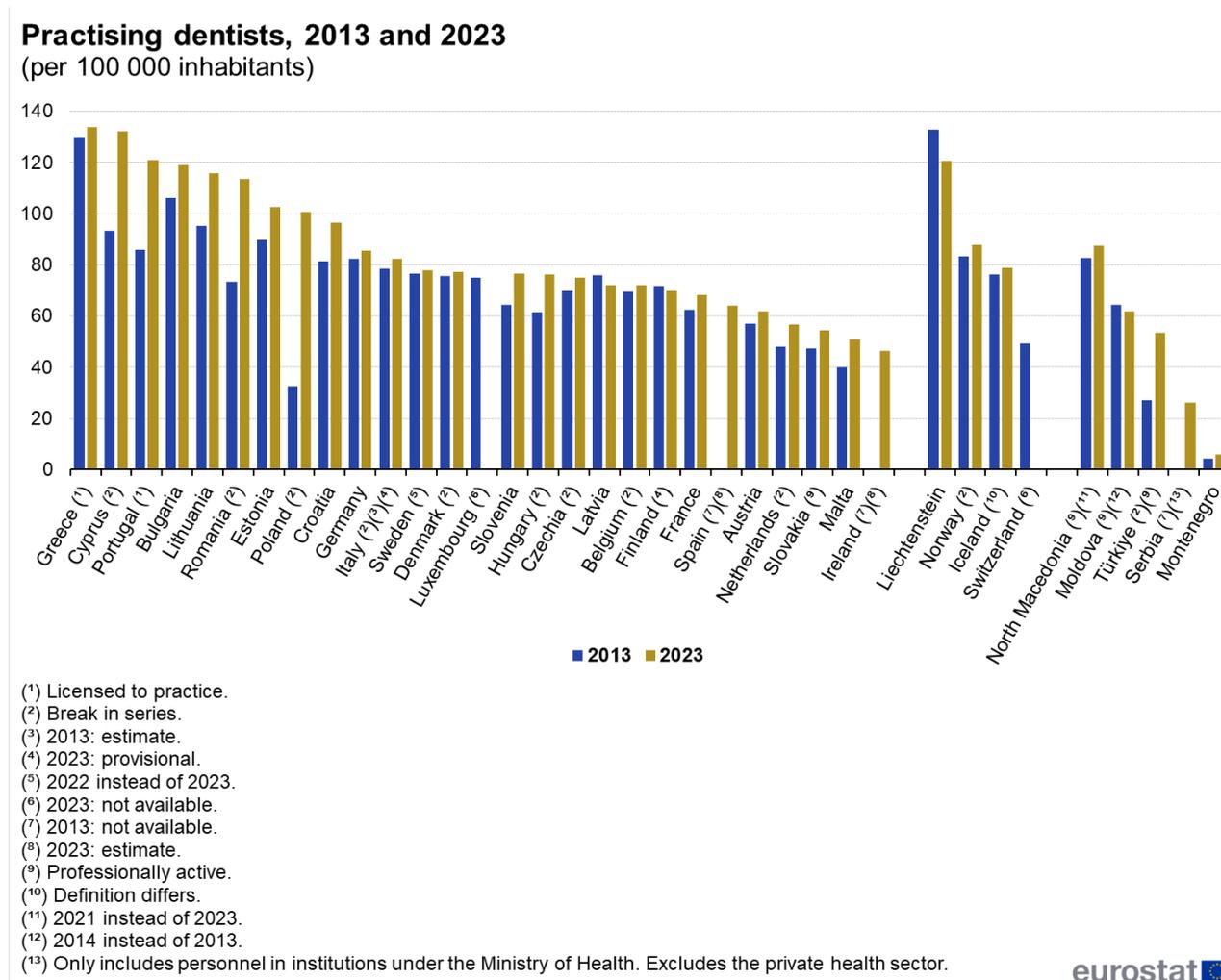
In 2023, Germany reported the highest number of dentists with 71 378 practising dentists; this was followed by Italy (48 575; provisional) and France (46 545). Poland and Spain were the only other countries to record more than 30 000 dentists. There were 5 EU countries that reported fewer than 2 000 practising dentists: Slovenia (1 623), Estonia (1 407), Latvia (1 352), Cyprus (1 266) and Malta (282).

For pharmacists, the highest number in 2023 was reported in Italy, with 82 394 (provisional). France (62 643), Spain (59 677; estimated) and Germany (56 219) followed. The lowest numbers of pharmacists were reported in Estonia and Malta, which both reported fewer than 1 000.

As for dentists, Germany reported the highest number of physiotherapists in 2023, with 200 000. France was the only other EU country to report more than 100 000 physiotherapists, with 104 229. In the majority of the remaining EU countries, the number of physiotherapists ranged from 68 775 in Poland to 1 020 in Latvia; Malta and Estonia were below this range.

**Cyprus had the highest number of practising dentists relative to population size in 2023, with 132.2 per 100 000 inhabitants**

In relation to population size, Greece and Portugal reported, respectively, 134 and 121 dentists licensed to practice per 100 000 inhabitants. The highest number of practising dentists relative to population size was recorded in Cyprus (132 per 100 000 inhabitants); Bulgaria (119 per 100 000 inhabitants), Lithuania (116 per 100 000 inhabitants) and Romania (113 per 100 000 inhabitants) were the other EU countries where there were at least 110 practising dentists per 100 000 inhabitants in 2023. Among the remaining EU countries, the number of practising dentists per 100 000 inhabitants was generally within the range of 50 to 100; only Ireland was below this range, with 46 practising dentists per 100 000 inhabitants – see Figure 1.



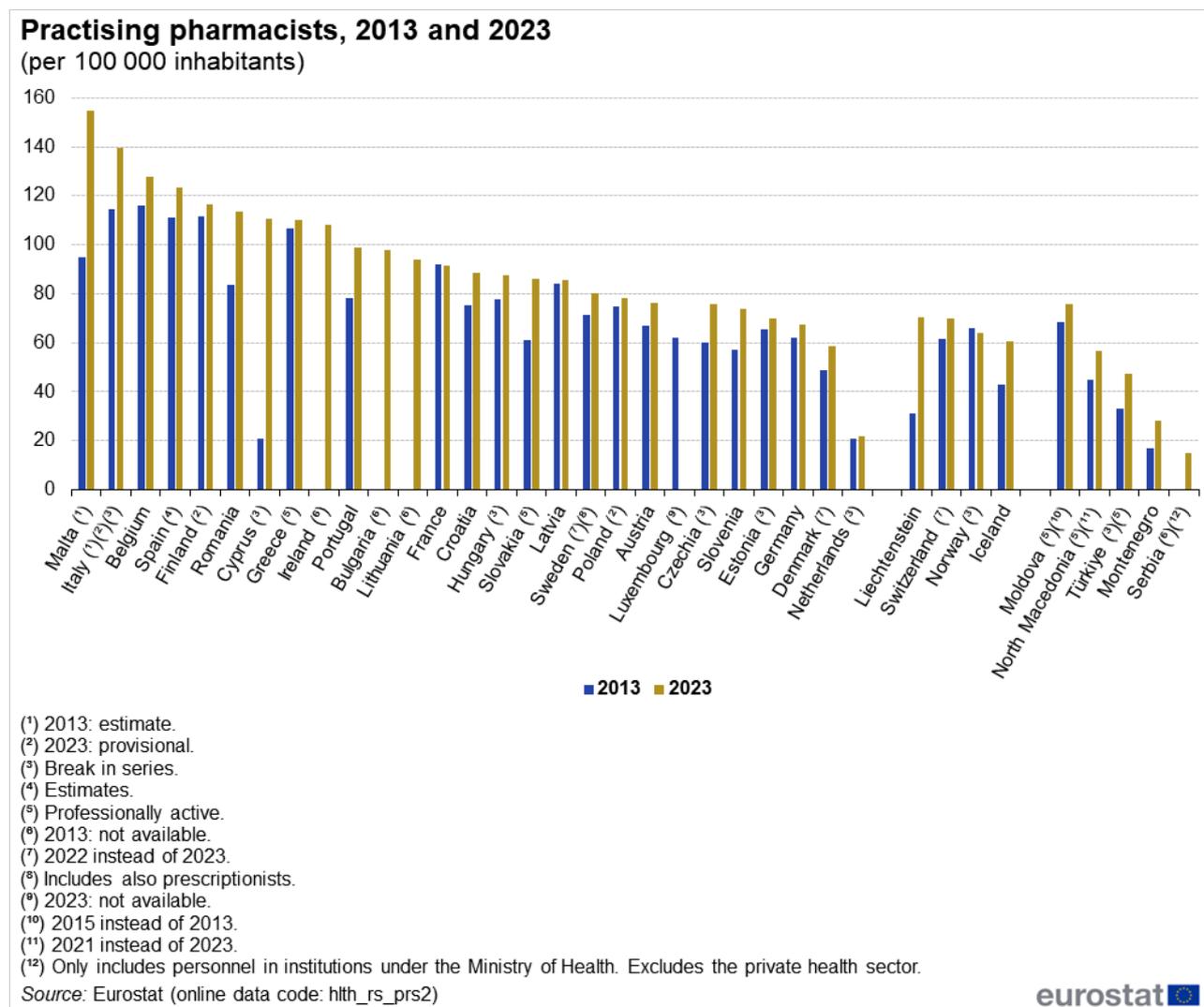
**Figure 1: Practising dentists, 2013 and 2023 Source: Eurostat (hlth\_rs\_prs2)**

Between 2013 and 2023 the number of practising dentists increased in 20 out of the 24 countries for which data are available. The biggest increases were recorded in Poland, Romania and Cyprus (note there is a break in series in all 3 countries). The number of practising dentists also increased by 35 dentists per 100 000 inhabitants in Portugal (Licensed to practice) and by 21 dentists per 100 000 inhabitants in Lithuania. Latvia and Finland (provisional data for 2023) recorded the biggest decreases, down 4 and 2 per 100 000 inhabitants, respectively.

**Malta had the highest number of pharmacists per 100 000 inhabitants in 2023**

Taking into account the size of each EU country in population terms, Malta recorded the highest number of practising pharmacists in 2023, at 155 per 100 000 inhabitants – see Figure 2 for information concerning differences in data coverage for individual EU countries. There were also relatively high ratios of pharmacists in

Italy (140 per 100 000 inhabitants), Belgium (128 per 100 000 inhabitants) and Spain (123 per 100 000 inhabitants). The majority of the other EU countries reported between 59 and 117 pharmacists per 100 000 inhabitants, although the Netherlands (22 per 100 000 inhabitants) reported a ratio that was considerably lower.



**Figure 2: Practising pharmacists, 2013 and 2023 Source: Eurostat (hlth\_rs\_prs2)**

Between 2013 and 2023, the number of practising pharmacists increased in all the countries for which data are available, with the exception of France, where there was a decrease of less than 1 practising pharmacist per 100 000 inhabitants. Excluding the countries that reported a break in series, the largest increase was recorded in Malta, where the number of practising pharmacists increased by 59 per 100 000 inhabitants; elsewhere this increase was between 1 and 30 pharmacist per 100 000 inhabitants.

### There were 149 physiotherapists per 100 000 inhabitants working in the EU in 2023

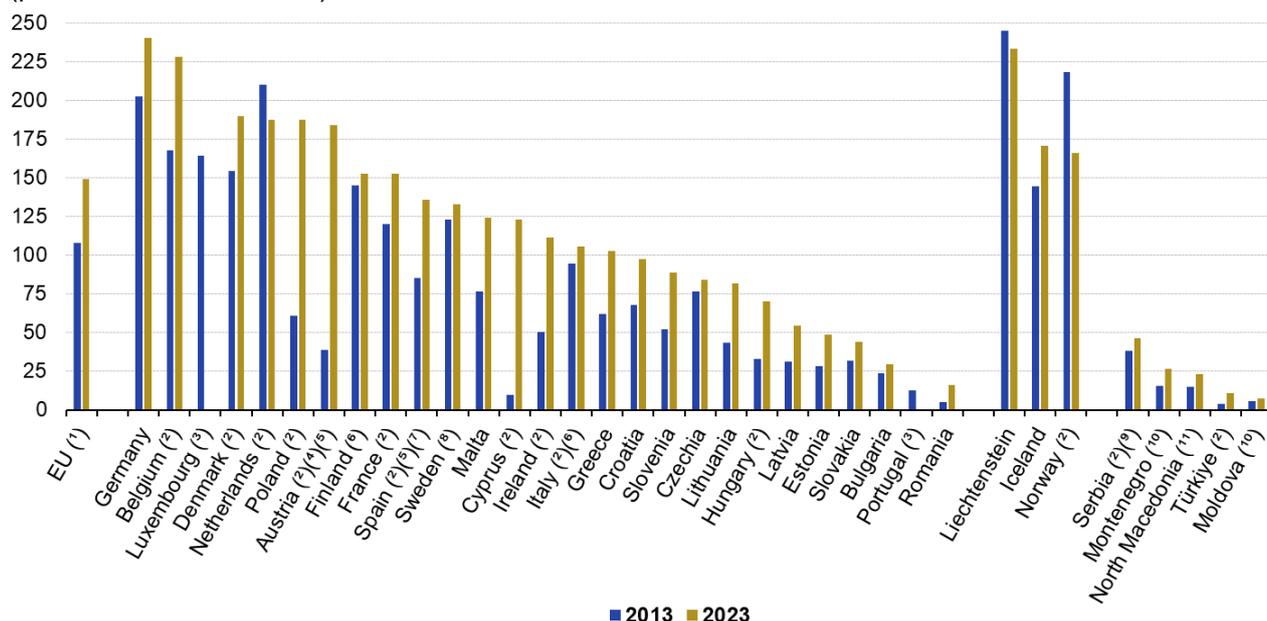
In 2023, there were an estimated 651 000 physiotherapists working in the EU; this was equivalent to an average of 149 physiotherapists per 100 000 inhabitants.

### Germany had the highest number of physiotherapists per 100 000 inhabitants in 2023

The relative distribution of physiotherapists across the individual EU countries was more diverse than for dentists or pharmacists, ranging from 240 per 100 000 inhabitants in Germany and 228 per 100 000 inhabitants in Belgium down to 16 per 100 000 inhabitants in Romania – see Figure 3.

## Physiotherapists, 2013 and 2023

(per 100 000 inhabitants)



- (1) 2022 instead of 2023; estimate, excluding Luxembourg and Portugal.
- (2) Break in series.
- (3) 2023: not available.
- (4) 2013: only includes personnel in hospitals.
- (5) 2023: estimate.
- (6) 2023: provisional.
- (7) 2013: data refer to licensed to practice.
- (8) 2022 instead of 2023.
- (9) Only includes personnel in institutions under the Ministry of Health. Excludes the private health sector.
- 2013: professionally active physiotherapists.
- (10) 2014 instead of 2013.
- (11) 2021 instead of 2023.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: hlth\_rs\_prs2)



**Figure 3: Practising physiotherapists, 2013 and 2023 Source: Eurostat (hlth\_rs\_prs2)**

Between 2013 and 2023, the Netherlands was the only country, for which data are available for both years, that recorded a decrease in the number of physiotherapists, down from 210 to 188 per 100 000 inhabitants. The increase in physiotherapists was more substantial, than for dentists and pharmacists, ranging from up by 6 physiotherapists per 100 000 inhabitants in Bulgaria to an increase of 145 per 100 000 inhabitants in Austria; note there is a break in series.

## Health graduates

Table 2 presents data on the number of dentists and pharmacists graduating in EU countries. In 2023, there were over 14 100 dentistry graduates and more than 20 300 pharmacy graduates across the EU.

Graduates – dentists and pharmacists, 2013, 2018 and 2023

	Head count of graduates (number)						Ratio (per 100 000 inhabitants)					
	Dentists			Pharmacists			Dentists			Pharmacists		
	2013	2018	2023	2013	2018	2023	2013	2018	2023	2013	2018	2023
EU (*)	:	:	14,186	:	:	20,335	:	:	3.2	:	:	4.5
Belgium	181	291	258	591	550	664	1.6	2.5	2.2	5.2	4.8	5.6
Bulgaria (²)	281	337	447	295	374	368	4.2	5.1	6.9	4.4	5.6	5.7
Czechia	331	314	294	317	337	405	3.1	3.0	2.7	3.0	3.2	3.7
Denmark (²)	120	127	134	149	238	194	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.6	4.1	3.3
Germany	2,244	2,210	2,505	1,947	2,281	2,507	2.7	2.7	3.0	2.4	2.8	3.0
Estonia	28	23	25	65	53	39	2.1	1.7	1.8	4.9	4.0	2.9
Ireland (²)	89	78	105	140	182	185	1.8	1.6	2.0	2.8	3.7	3.5
Greece (²)	202	296	233	332	330	430	1.9	2.8	2.2	3.1	3.1	4.1
Spain	1,609	1,535	1,830	2,606	2,515	2,624	3.4	3.3	3.8	5.6	5.4	5.4
France (⁴)	1,090	1,168	1,454	3,210	2,612	3,281	1.6	1.7	2.1	4.8	3.9	4.8
Croatia	141	160	169	142	130	117	3.6	4.0	4.4	3.6	3.3	3.0
Italy (⁵)	841	843	867	4,841	5,098	4,044	1.4	1.4	1.5	8.1	8.5	6.9
Cyprus	0	0	54	0	54	168	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	6.1	17.5
Latvia (²)	51	54	93	60	49	73	2.7	2.8	5.0	3.1	2.6	3.9
Lithuania	163	180	161	153	118	92	5.8	6.4	5.6	5.4	4.2	3.2
Luxembourg (⁶)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Hungary	302	390	333	320	356	371	3.1	4.0	3.5	3.3	3.7	3.9
Malta	8	7	9	28	14	22	1.6	1.4	1.6	5.7	2.8	4.0
Netherlands	180	220	281	210	220	271	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.5
Austria	108	209	254	209	274	327	1.2	2.4	2.8	2.4	3.1	3.6
Poland	979	1,058	1,066	1,295	1,039	1,039	2.6	2.8	2.9	3.4	2.7	2.8
Portugal	617	636	925	1,156	934	941	6.0	6.2	8.7	11.2	9.0	8.9
Romania	1,495	2,077	2,045	1,675	1,662	1,100	7.7	10.7	10.7	8.6	8.6	5.8
Slovenia	:	:	50	:	:	133	:	:	2.4	:	:	6.3
Slovakia	128	123	129	370	298	246	2.4	2.3	2.4	6.8	5.5	4.5
Finland	138	181	162	298	316	306	2.5	3.3	2.9	5.4	5.7	5.5
Sweden (⁷)	216	247	303	369	471	388	2.1	2.4	2.9	3.6	4.6	3.7
Iceland	6	7	5	14	22	15	1.7	2.0	1.3	3.9	6.2	3.9
Liechtenstein	0	0	0	16	12	9	0.0	0.0	0.0	41.7	31.3	22.6
Norway	129	120	137	120	139	121	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.2
Switzerland	102	122	131	205	223	247	1.2	1.4	1.5	2.4	2.6	2.8
Montenegro	:	14	12	:	35	27	:	2.3	1.9	:	5.6	4.4
Moldova	:	:	175	:	:	60	:	:	7.1	:	:	2.4
North Macedonia (⁸)	143	177	125	96	152	115	6.9	8.5	6.4	4.7	7.3	5.9
Serbia	386	443	460	871	729	640	5.5	6.4	7.0	12.5	10.5	9.7
Türkiye	1,313	2,980	5,670	1,118	1,723	3,162	1.6	3.6	6.7	1.4	2.1	3.7

(\*) Includes 2022 data for Greece.

(²) 2023: break in series.

(³) 2022 instead of 2023.

(⁴) Pharmacists: 2023, break in series.

(⁵) Dentists: 2018, break in series.

(⁶) Luxembourg does not offer full training in dentistry or pharmacy, therefore there are no graduates.

(⁷) Pharmacists: includes also prescriptionists.

(⁸) 2021 instead of 2023. 2012 instead of 2013.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: hlth\_rs\_grd2)

eurostat 

Table 2: Graduates – dentists and pharmacists, 2013, 2018 and 2023 Source: Eurostat (hlth\_rs\_grd2)

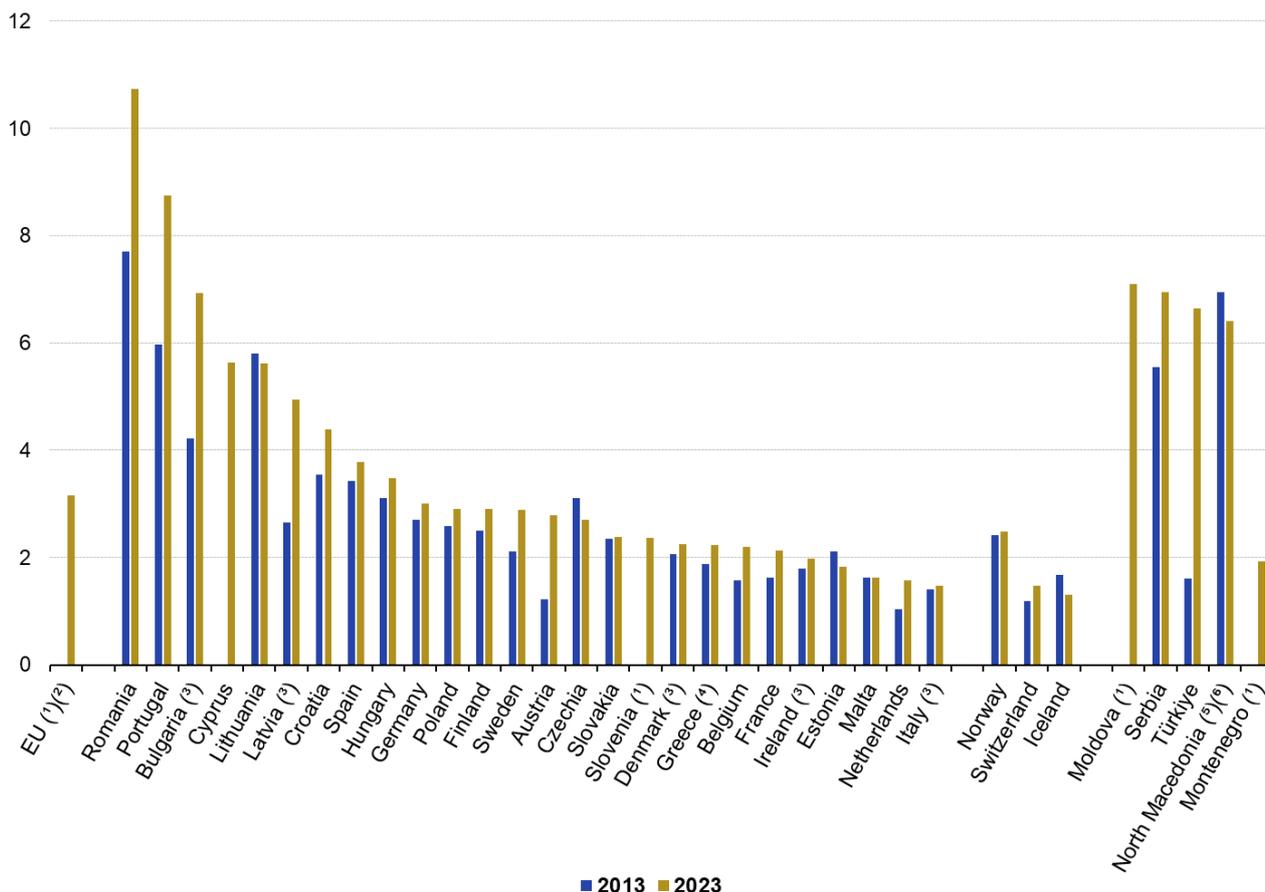
The EU's most populous country, Germany, had the highest number of dentistry graduates (2 505) in 2023, while there were 2 045 dentistry graduates in Romania, 1 830 in Spain, 1 454 in France and 1 066 in Poland; none of the other EU countries had more than 1 000 graduates and there were 6 countries where there were fewer than 100 dentistry graduates: Latvia (93), Cyprus (54), Slovenia (50), Estonia (25) and Malta (9). Note that Luxembourg doesn't offer full training in dentistry, therefore there were no graduates.

By contrast, the highest numbers of pharmacy graduates were recorded in Italy (4 044), France (3 281) and Spain (2 624). Germany was the only other country to record more than 2 000 pharmacy graduates (2 507). There were also at least 1 000 pharmacy graduates in Romania (1 100) and Poland (1 039). At the other end of the range,

there were fewer than 100 pharmacy graduates in Lithuania (92), Latvia (73), Estonia (39) and Malta (22). As for dentistry, Luxembourg doesn't offer full training in pharmacy, therefore there were no graduates.

Relative to the total number of inhabitants, Romania recorded the highest number of dentistry graduates in 2023 at 11 graduates per 100 000 inhabitants (see Figure 4 for more information on the data coverage for each EU country). Portugal (9 graduates per 100 000 inhabitants) and Bulgaria (7 graduates per 100 000 inhabitants) recorded the next highest ratios. The majority of the other EU countries for which data are available reported between 2 and 6 dentistry graduates per 100 000 inhabitants, although Malta, the Netherlands and Italy were below this range.

### Graduates – dentists, 2013 and 2023 (per 100 000 inhabitants)



Note: Luxembourg does not offer full training in dentistry, therefore there are no graduates. Liechtenstein, no graduates.

- (¹) 2013: not available.
- (²) 2023: estimate, includes 2022 data for Greece.
- (³) Break in series.
- (⁴) 2022 instead of 2023.
- (⁵) 2021 instead of 2023.
- (⁶) 2012 instead of 2013.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: hlth\_rs\_grd2)



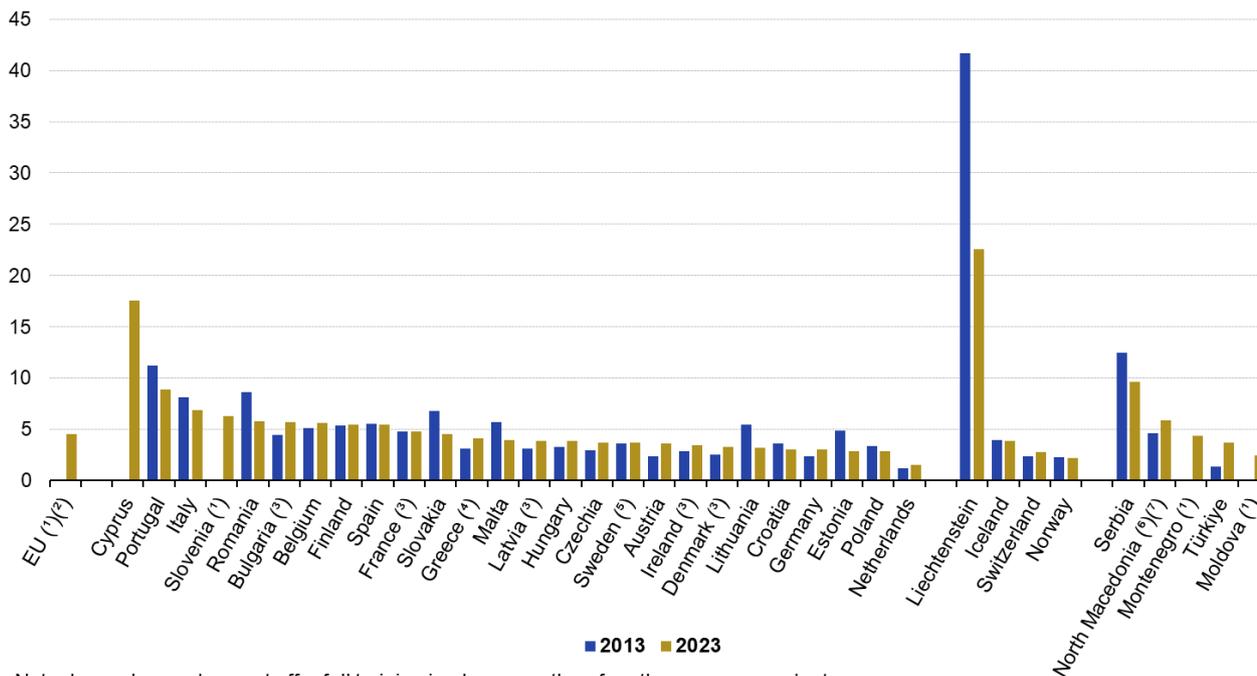
Figure 4: Graduates – dentists, 2013 and 2023 Source: Eurostat (hlth\_rs\_grd2)

Among the countries for which data are available for both years, the number of dentistry graduates increased or remained the same between 2013 and 2023 in all but 3 EU countries: it fell in Czechia by 0.4 dentistry graduates per 100 000 inhabitants, in Estonia by 0.3 dentistry graduates per 100 000 inhabitants and in Lithuania by 0.2 dentistry graduates per 100 000 inhabitants. Excluding Cyprus, where there were no dentistry graduates prior to 2022, the largest increase was seen in Romania, where it increased by 3 dentistry graduates per 100 000 inhabitants. Portugal, Bulgaria (break in series), Latvia (break in series) and Austria also reported increases of at least 1 graduate per 100 000 inhabitants. In the remaining countries, this increase was no more than 0.8 graduates

per 100 000 inhabitants.

Cyprus recorded, by far, the highest ratio of pharmacy graduates in relation to its total population, at 18 graduates per 100 000 inhabitants in 2023 (see Figure 5 for more information on the data coverage for each EU country). The next highest ratio was recorded in Portugal (9 graduates per 100 000 inhabitants). The majority of the other EU countries for which data are available reported between 3 and 7 pharmacy graduates per 100 000 inhabitants, with relatively few pharmacy graduates in the Netherlands (2 graduates per 100 000 inhabitants). Note that Luxembourg does not offer full training in pharmacy, therefore there were no graduates.

### Graduates – pharmacists, 2013 and 2023 (per 100 000 inhabitants)



Note: Luxembourg does not offer full training in pharmacy, therefore there are no graduates.

(1) 2013: not available.

(2) 2023: estimate, includes 2022 data for Greece.

(3) Break in series.

(4) 2022 instead of 2023.

(5) Includes also prescriptionists.

(6) 2021 instead of 2023.

(7) 2012 instead of 2013.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: hlth\_rs\_grd2)

**Figure 5: Graduates – pharmacists, 2013 and 2023 Source: Eurostat (hlth\_rs\_grd2)**

There were more varied changes observed between 2013 and 2023 for pharmacy graduates than for dentistry graduates. The number of pharmacy graduates per 100 000 inhabitants increased in 14 countries. Excluding Cyprus, where there were no pharmacy graduates prior to 2017, the largest increase was observed in Bulgaria, where the number of pharmacy graduates increased from 4 to 6 per 100 000 inhabitants. Austria and Greece were the only other countries to report an increase of at least 1 pharmacy graduate per 100 000 inhabitants.

A decrease was observed in 10 countries, with the largest decrease in Romania, down 3 graduates per 100 000 inhabitants. Portugal, Slovakia, Lithuania and Estonia also reported decreases of more than 2.0 graduates per 100 000 inhabitants.

### Source data for tables and graphs

- [Dentists, pharmacists and physiotherapists: tables and figures](#)

## Data sources

**Key concepts** Dentists diagnose, treat and prevent diseases, injuries and abnormalities of the teeth, mouth, jaws and associated tissues. They use a broad range of specialised diagnostic, surgical and other techniques to promote and restore oral health.

Pharmacists store, preserve, compound, dispense and sell medicinal products – irrespective of where they provide these services. They may also provide advice on the proper use and adverse effects of drugs and medicines following prescriptions issued by medical doctors and other health professionals.

Physiotherapists assess, plan and implement rehabilitative programmes that improve or restore human motor functions, maximise movement ability, relieve pain syndromes, and treat or prevent physical challenges associated with injuries, diseases and other impairments. They apply a broad range of physical therapies and techniques such as movement, ultrasound, heating, laser and other techniques.

Practising dentists and pharmacists provide services directly to patients. Dentists and pharmacists have completed university studies in their respective domains and all 3 professions need to be licensed to practice. Dentists and pharmacists who are working in administration, research or other posts that exclude direct contact with the patients and clients are excluded from the definition of those who are practising, whereas they are included in the definition for those who are professionally active (as long as their job requires an education in dentistry/pharmacy). The broader definition of dentists and pharmacists who are licensed to practice additionally includes those for whom their dentistry/pharmacy education isn't a prerequisite for the execution of the job, as well as those who are unemployed, retired, or working abroad.

Data on dental and pharmacy graduates cover the number of students who have obtained a recognised qualification in dentistry or pharmacy in a given year; a minimum of three years of training is required to practice to practice as a physiotherapist.

### Healthcare resources

Statistics on healthcare resources (such as personnel and medical equipment) are documented in a background article on the [methodology of healthcare non-expenditure statistics](#) . This provides information on the scope of the data, its legal basis, the methodology employed, as well as related concepts and definitions.

Two more statistical articles on health professionals are available, for [physicians](#) and for [nurses and caring professionals](#) .

For country specific notes on these data collections, please refer to the annexes at the end of the national metadata reports accessible from links at the beginning of the [European metadata report](#) .

Common definitions have been agreed between [Eurostat](#) , the [OECD](#) and the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) with respect to the employment of various health care professionals. There are 3 main concepts which are used to present these data. In this article preference is given to the concept of 'practising' dentists and pharmacists

- 'practising' – health care professionals providing services directly to patients
- 'professionally active' – 'practising' professionals plus health care professionals for whom their medical education is a prerequisite for the execution of their job
- 'licensed' – health care professionals who are registered and entitled to practice as health care professionals.

The [Healthcare non-expenditure statistics manual](#) provides an overview of the classifications, both for mandatory variables and variables provided on a voluntary basis.

### Symbols

In tables, a colon ':' is used to show where data aren't available. Data in italics are estimates or provisional.

## Context

According to [EU statistics on income and living conditions \(EU-SILC\)](#), an estimated 2.7% of the EU's population (aged 16 years and over) reported they had unmet needs for dental examination due to financial reasons in 2024; this figure was nearly 3 times as high as the corresponding share of the population reporting they had finance-related unmet needs for medical examination (1.0%). This difference may, at least in part, be due to national social security systems covering fewer people or a lower proportion of the total cost of dental care, resulting in some individuals having to pay a relatively large share of their dental expenses out of their own pockets (or through private health insurance).

'Dental tourism' is an area that has seen particularly rapid growth in several EU countries in recent years, for example, in Bulgaria, Spain or Hungary. Relatively low prices, increased patient mobility, lower prices for air travel, and greater consumer confidence and awareness have led some to consider the option of having dental treatment abroad. This pattern may be expected to develop in the coming years: [Directive 2011/24/EU](#) of the [European Parliament](#) and of the [Council](#) on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare was implemented in 2013 and provides patients with increased rights and promotes cooperation between health systems.

Some health professionals seek jobs in other EU countries. Aside from the expected benefits for the individuals concerned, their movement can impact labour markets. [Directive 2005/36/EC](#) on the recognition of professional qualifications provides a Europe-wide legal framework enabling EU countries to recognise each other's qualifications. A range of health professionals – including dentists, pharmacists and physiotherapists – enjoy automatic recognition. In other words, if someone is a certified practitioner in their home EU country then they are automatically entitled to practice anywhere else in the EU. The directive also provides a set of minimum requirements for each professional activity, including the need for a compulsory university degree in order to be a dental practitioner or a pharmacist, and a minimum study/training period of 4 years for dental practitioners, 5 years for pharmacists and 3 years for physiotherapists.

## Explore further

### Other articles

#### Online publications

- [Health in the European Union – facts and figures](#)
- [Disability statistics](#)

#### Healthcare human and physical resources

- [Physicians](#)
- [Nursing and caring professionals](#)
- [Beds](#)
- [Medical technology](#)

#### Methodology

- [Healthcare non-expenditure statistics](#)

#### General health statistics articles

- [Health statistics introduced](#)
- [Regional health statistics](#)

## Database

- [Health \(hlth\)](#)

Health care (hlth\_care)

Health care resources (hlth\_res)  
Health care staff (hlth\_staff)  
Health graduates (hlth\_rs\_grd2)  
Health personnel (hlth\_rs\_prs2)

## Thematic section

- [Health](#)

## Selected datasets

- [Health](#) (t\_hlth)

Health care (t\_hlth\_care)

## Methodology

### Manuals and guidelines

- [Healthcare non-expenditure statistics manual and guidelines for completing the Joint questionnaire on non-monetary healthcare statistics – 2025 edition](#)

### Metadata

- [Health care resources](#) (ESMS metadata file – hlth\_res)

## External links

### European Union, OECD and WHO

- [European Commission – Public health](#) , see
  - [European core health indicators \(ECHI\)](#)
  - [Health workforce](#)
- [OECD / European Commission report 'Health at a Glance: Europe'](#)
- [OECD – The future of health systems](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) , see
  - [WHO – Health workforce](#)
  - [WHO Global Health Observatory \(GHO\) – Global health workforce statistics database](#)

### Other external links

- [Council of European Dentists](#)
- [European Association of Hospital Pharmacists](#)
- [European Region of World Physiotherapy](#)
- [Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union \(PGEU\) – European community pharmacists](#)