

OECD Health Statistics 2025

Definitions, Sources and Methods

Professionally active caring personnel (personal care workers)

Professionally active caring personnel include practising caring personnel and other caring personnel for whom their education is a prerequisite for the execution of the job.

Inclusion

- Caring personnel providing services directly to patients
- Caring personnel working in administration, management, research and in other posts that exclude direct contact with patients

Exclusion

- Unemployed caring personnel and retired caring personnel
- Caring personnel working abroad

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

Sources and Methods

Australia

Data not available.

Austria

Source of data: **Austrian National Public Health Institute (GÖG)**, Health Professions Registry.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage: Included are registered health care assistants in institutions (ISCO 5321) and registered home-based personal care workers (ISCO-08 5322) who practise their profession (not necessarily with patients).

Excluded are:

- Non-registered personal care workers
- Registered personal care workers, who are not yet employed after training
- As personal care workers registered jobseeker
- As personal care workers registered volunteer
- As personal care workers registered pensioner

Deviation from the definition:

Estimation method:

Break in time series:

Note: One year of study is required to qualify as a personal care worker.

Belgium

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. Base de données fédérale des professionnels de

soins de santé - Federale databank van de beoefenaars van de gezondheidszorgberoepen. Administrative database.

Further information: www.health.fgov.be.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage:

Deviation from the definition: Data refer to caring personnel licensed to practice (a new health care profession since 2007 licensed by the ministry of health).

Estimation method:

Break in time series: 2018. As of 2018, a new rule is applied for caring personnel: people with a title of nurse are removed from statistics on caring personnel. The number of caring personnel including those with a title of nurse would be 139 047 in 2018 (113 788 excluding those with a title of nurse).

Canada

Data not available.

Chile

Source of data: **Health Ministry**. The original source is The National Register of Individual Health Providers from the **Health Superintendence** (www.superdesalud.cl).

Coverage: Nationwide.

- Only data from 2014 could be reported for both public and private sectors' employed caring personnel, as the inscription in the National Register of this category of personnel and their massive registration begun in the middle of the year 2013.

Deviation from the definition: Data refer to caring personnel licensed to practice. Data on professionally active caring personnel are not available, except for publicly employed ones.

Break in time series: In 2018, there was some adjustment in the database from the Superintendence de Salud.

Colombia

Source of data:

- From 2012 onwards: Calculations by the Direction of Human Talent Development in Health, **Ministry of Health, and Social Protection**.

- 1990-2011: (Ruiz, 2008), Health Human Resources in Colombia - 2008. Balance, skills and foresight. Center of Studies for Development and Ministry of Social Protection (now the Ministry of Health and Social Protection) - 2009.

Coverage: National.

Estimation method:

- The estimation of stock considers the inputs (professionals graduates or with recognized diplomas in each period) and fewer withdrawals (adjustments for migration, retirement, and death).

- Estimation of the stock of practising caring personnel, including those who may not be exercising, without distinction of their field of exercise. Data include practising caring personnel who are unemployed or work in areas that do not have direct contact with patients (e.g. working in administration and research).

- The data presented are estimates.

- Corresponds to the "stock" of nursing assistants, whether they are working in clinics, hospitals, or providing home care to patients.

Costa Rica

Data not available.

Czechia

Data not available.

Denmark

Source of data: **The Danish Health Data Authority**, Labour Register for Health Personnel.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage: 1992-202

Deviation from the definition:

Estimation method:

Break in time series:

Estonia

Data not available.

Finland

Source of data: **THL Health Personnel Statistics; Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare**. The data are based on the Employment Register kept by Statistics Finland.

Reference period: At the end of the calendar year.

Coverage: Data include caring personnel – as defined by ISCO-08 5321 and 5322 descriptions – that work in Finland. ‘Hospital and institutional helpers’ (code 91123 – subcategory of ISCO-08 9112) have been included in the practising caring personnel group as Hospital and institutional helpers assist patients in daily tasks (hygiene, dressing, dining) and carry out similar work as personal care workers. Includes personnel between the ages of 18 and 75.

Deviation from the definition:

Estimation method:

Break in time series: In 2010, due to changes to how occupations are classified in the Employment Register.

France

Data not available.

Germany

Data not available.

Greece

Data not available.

Hungary

Data not available.

Iceland

Data not available.

Ireland

Data not available.

Israel

Data not available.

Italy

Source of data: **ISTAT, Labour Force Survey.** <http://www.istat.it/it/archivio/8263>.

Reference period: two-year moving averages (year t is the average of the years t, t-1, e.g. year 2016 is the average of 2015 and 2016 data). Since 2021 annual data.

Coverage: Sample survey. Practising caring personnel and other caring personnel working in economic sectors other than Human health activities (Nace 2: 86), Residential care activities (Nace 2: 87), Social work activities without accommodation (Nace 2: 88), Activities of households as employers of domestic personnel (Nace 2: 97).

Deviation from the definition: None.

Estimation method: Estimation from the sample survey. Data are affected by the statistical error due to the sample design.

Break in time series: Since 2021 the Labour Force Survey, in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2019/1700, incorporated the change in the definition of “employed”.

Japan

Data not available.

Korea

Data not available.

Latvia

Source of data: **Health Inspectorate of Latvia;** Register of Medical Practitioners and Medical Support Staff.

Reference period: 31 December.

Coverage: The data coverage is complete. The data cover entire country, both public and private sectors, and there are no limitations in data coverage.

Deviation from the definition:

Estimation method:

Break in time series:

Lithuania

Source of data: **Health Information Centre of Institute of Hygiene,** data of entire annual survey of health establishments. Report “Health Statistics of Lithuania” available from <https://www.hi.lt/sveikatos-statistikos-leidiniai/#--lietuvos-sveikatos-statistika>.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage:

- The number of caring professionals at the end of the year includes all active caring professionals (nurse assistants) 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.

- The number of caring professionals excludes those working in social institutions.

Deviation from the definition:

Estimation method:

Break in time series: Since 2020, only caring professionals with the at least 3 month of nursing courses are included.

Luxembourg

Source of data: **Ministère de la Santé.** Register of doctors and health professionals.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage:

Deviation from the definition:

Estimation method:

Break in time series:

Mexico

Data not available.

Netherlands

Data not available.

New Zealand

Data not available.

Norway

Source of data: **Statistics Norway**; Statistics on health-care personnel. Administrative registers. See http://www.ssb.no/hesospers_en/.

Reference period: 3rd week of November.

Coverage: The figures provided cover all professionally active caring personnel in all industries.

- 2009 and onwards: data include all personnel within HP1-HP4.

Deviation from the definition:

Estimation method:

Break in time series: 2009, 2015.

- Up to 2008, data include all personnel within HP1-HP3. From 2009, it also includes HP4.

- As from 2015, the register-based employment statistics will be based on a new data source for employees. Until the end of 2014, the main data source was The Central Register on Employers and Employees (EE register), produced by the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Organisation (NAV). In 2015, this reporting to NAV was coordinated with the reporting of earnings and personnel data to the Tax Administration and Statistics Norway. This common reporting system is called "a-ordningen" (the a-system).

Poland

Data not available.

Portugal

Data not available.

Slovak Republic

Source of data: **Records of Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic:** No. 11.01, 01-02 and 7-01 (since the year 2018).

Reference period:

Coverage:

- Data refer to formal carers at home in public sector and formal carers and health assistants (not nurses) at institutions and social service facilities until the year 2017. Since the year 2018 personal carers of non-public providers of social services are also included.

- The substantially higher number in 2016 was caused by the realisation of EU-funded projects in Slovakia to support the development of caring services that started in 2014.

Deviation from the definition: From reference year 2009 deviation from definition because of data on employees was collected as FTE. We added flag D to these reference years,

Estimation method: The figure for 2020 is an estimate because the figure from 2019 was used in its calculation for one missing data source.

Break in time series: 2018 (see above).

Note: Financial support from the national project Care Service Support was temporarily terminated/interrupted, which also caused a significant decrease in care service staff in 2017 and subsequently in 2018.

Break in 2022: From reference year 2022 data on employees is not collected as FTE but as Headcount, this is reason of higher number of employees.

Slovenia

Source of data: **National Institute of Public Health, Slovenia**; National Health Care Providers Database.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage: Professionally active caring personnel include practising professionals working in the health-care sector and professionals working at HP4, 6.1, 6.3-6.9 and HP7 providers.

Deviation from the definition:

Estimation method: E flag (Estimate) is added from the year 2016 onwards, due to underreporting in aggregated data.

Break in time series: 2012, due to improved reporting from the providers of social care, i.e. included are providers which also provide health care (e.g. homes for the elderly, residential facilities for the disabled persons), additionally to social care.

Spain

Source of data: **National Statistics Institute (INE)**, based on the **Labour Force Survey**.

https://www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736176918&menu=ultiDatos&idp=1254735976595.

Reference period: Annual average. Three-year moving averages (e.g., data reported in 1996 is an average of 1995-1997).

Coverage:

- A significant revision of the numbers of nurses in previous years has been made in 2010 due to a clarification of definitions. The Spanish Working Group for the adaptation of ISCO-08 to our own classifications (CNO-11) determined that Spanish health professionals fit as follows:

A) The category 'associate professional nurses' (ISCO-08 code 3221) does not exist in Spain, so these series have been completely corrected.

B) The nursing aides working in Spain correspond entirely to the group 5 of the ISCO classification (ISCO-08 codes 5321, 5322) based on the tasks and functions they perform.

Therefore, based on these criteria, the series for practising nurses, professionally active nurses, associate professional nurses and caring personnel have been updated for the period 1995-2008.

- The number of professionally active caring personnel was obtained by calculating the number of caring personnel 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 Rev.1.1 from 1995 to 2008. Thus, the 'Professionally active' data correspond to caring personnel regardless of NACE sector where they are working.

- 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.

- From 1995 to 2010, the data include professionally active caring personnel (5132, 5133 ISCO-88 codes) exclusively. The data by occupation are classified according to the National Occupations Classification (CNO-94 Spain, code 511), the Spanish equivalent of ISCO-88 codes 5132, 5133.

- From 2011 onwards the data are classified according to CNO-11 Spain, codes 561 and 571. The CNO-11 codes 561 and 571 are the Spanish equivalent of ISCO-08 codes 5321 and 5322.

- An update of the figures for the period 1995-2010 has been carried out in 2012: Implementing the new classification ISCO-08 led to findings that indicate that many home-based personal care workers were encoded improperly as ISCO-88 code 5139 from 1995 to 2010. After a thorough review, the data series were updated for the period 1995-2010 including those personal workers mistakenly encoded at that time. Since 2011, all personal care workers (both home-based and in institutions) are encoded within 5321 and 5322 ISCO-08 codes.

- 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.

- In **2021** 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 (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 October 2019.
2. The data referring to CNO-11 codes at 4-digit level are available.
3. The target population is extended to people aged 15 years and older.
4. Introduction of the CAWI (web interviews) for second and subsequent interviews.

Deviation from the definition:

Estimation method: In 2024, data series from 2020 onwards have been updated with Spanish population figures imported from Census 2021 and recalculated by using three-year moving averages in order to reduce the large year-to-year fluctuations in data derived from the LFS. 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.

Break in time series:

Sweden

Data not available.

Switzerland

Data not available.

Türkiye

Data not available.

United Kingdom

Data not available.

United States

Data not available.

NON-OECD ECONOMIES

Bulgaria

Data not available

Croatia

Data not available.

Cyprus

Data not available.

Romania

Source of data: **National Institute of Statistics,**

The activity of the sanitary and health care network – annual survey performed by NIS.

Reference period: data as of 31st December.

Coverage:

The data cover all sanitary personnel from public and private sector.

The "Caring personnel" include: stretcher bearers, bathing personnel, gypsum operative, mud-bath personnel, laundresses, ambulance drivers, cleaning personnel, disinfection and disinfestations agents and other medical personnel similar to the medical auxiliary staff. The medical auxiliary staff provides cleaning and hygiene services in the medical units, prepare materials necessary for the activity, the transport of patients, etc.

From total number of caring personnel, the cleaning personnel, disinfection, and disinfestations agents could not be excluded.

Deviation from the definition: Data include only caring personnel in institutions, not home-based personal care workers.

Estimation method:

Break in time series:

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<https://www.oecd.org/en/data/datasets/oecd-health-statistics.html>