



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

Piraeus, 16 December 2022

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **HEALTH PROFESSIONALS SURVEY: Year 2021**

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces data on the number of Health Professionals for the year 2021. Health Professionals include at present Physicians, Dentists, Physiotherapists and Pharmacists. The data also refer to pharmacies in which the pharmacists are employed. The present Press Release is an effort of presenting all Health Professionals instead of the individual (for each profession) press releases published until last year.

In 2021, the total number of Health Professionals, registered all over Greece, amounted to 101,326 against 100,508 in 2020 recording an increase of 0.8%. Table 1 shows the analysis of the Health Professionals per category and the relative changes occurred from the year 2020 to 2021.

**Table 1. Number of Health Professionals, Country Total 2019-2021**

	2019	2020	2021	Change (%) 2021/2020
<b>Doctors</b>	66,058	66,187	66,504	0.5
<b>Dentists</b>	13,464	13,668	13,759	0.7
<b>Pharmacists</b>	11,389	11,415	11,414	0.0
<b>Physiotherapists</b>	8,869	9,238	9,649	4.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99,780</b>	<b>100,508</b>	<b>101,326</b>	<b>0.8</b>

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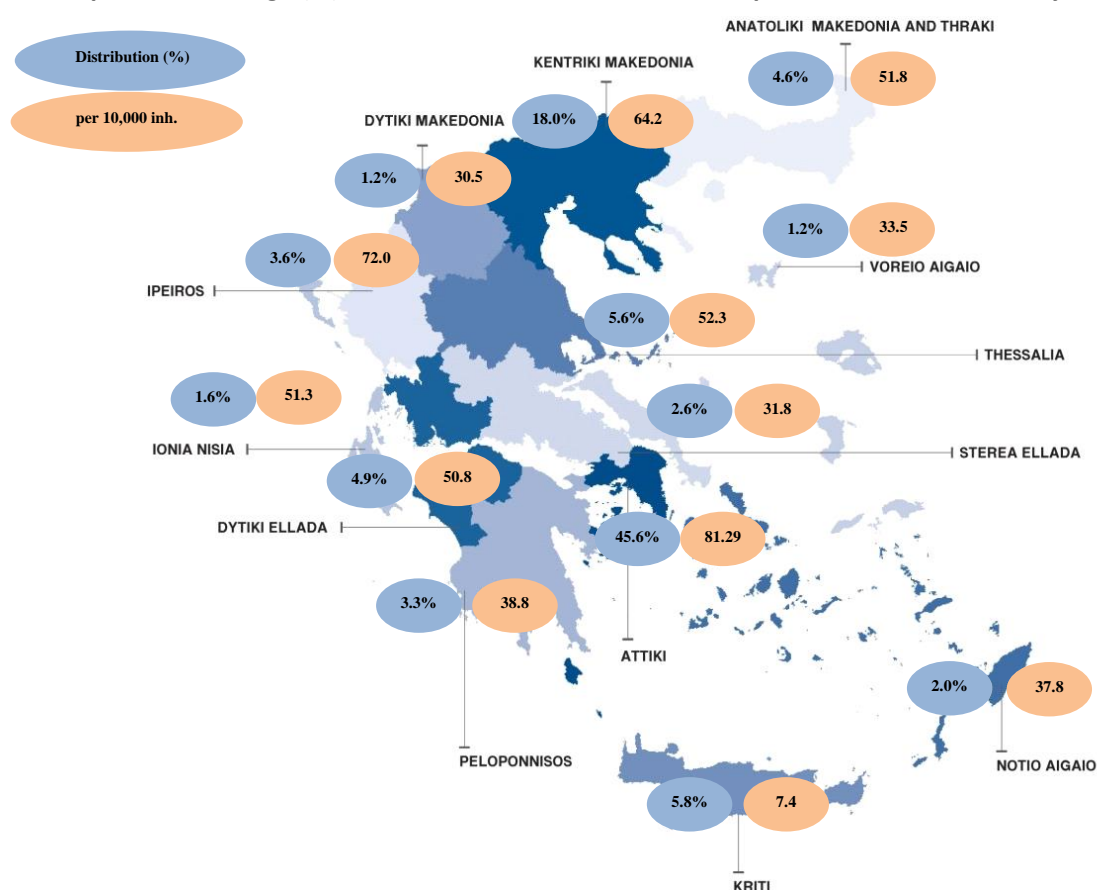
## A. PHYSICIANS

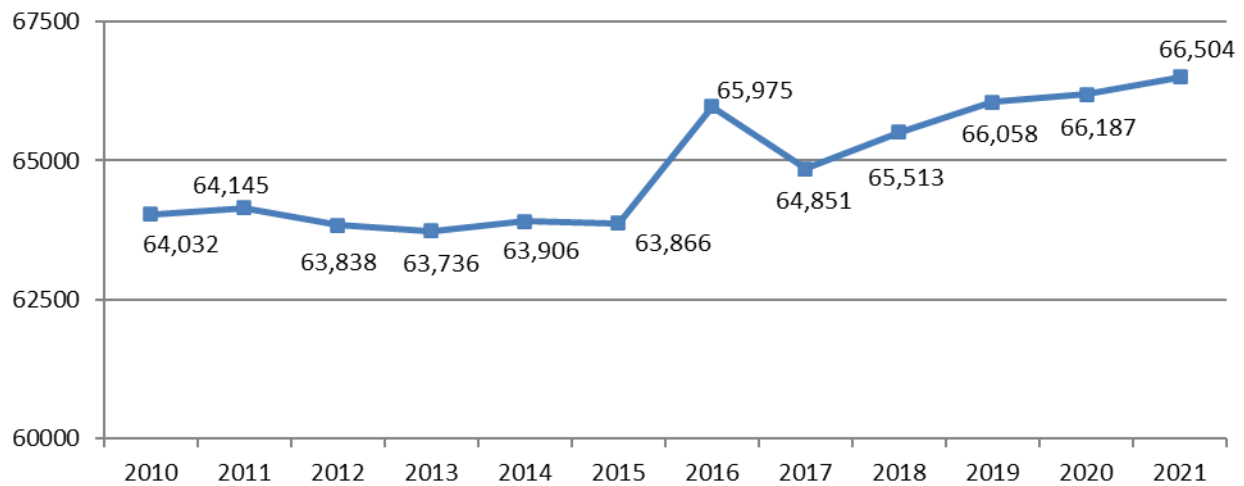
The registered physicians in year 2021 amounted to 66,504 in the country total presenting an increase of 0.5% in relation to 2020 (Table2). According to the data of the survey per region the biggest percentage increase of physicians was recorded in the regions of Voreio Aigaio (6,4%) and Kentriki Makedonia (3,6%). On the contrary, the biggest percentage decrease, was recorded in the regions of Peloponnisos (2.3%) and Attiki (1.2%) (Table 2, Graph1).

**Table 2. Number of Physicians per Region, 2019-2021**

Regions	2019	2020	2021	Change (%) 2021/2020	Percentage % Distribution 2021	Per 10,000 Residents
Anatoliki Makedonia,Thraki	3,061	3,075	3,084	0.3	4.6	51.8
Kentriki Makedonia	11,491	11,527	11,941	3.6	18.0	64.2
Dytiki Makedonia	914	788	798	1.3	1.2	30.5
Ipeiros	2,223	2,380	2,382	0.1	3.6	72.0
Thessalia	3,808	3,691	3,712	0.6	5.6	52.3
Ionia Nisia	1,069	1,044	1,038	-0.6	1.6	51.3
Dytiki Ellada	3,232	3,215	3,287	2.2	4.9	50.8
Stereia Ellada	1,736	1,720	1,761	2.4	2.6	31.8
Peloponnisos	2,211	2,259	2,207	-2.3	3.3	38.8
Attiki	30,430	30,717	30,334	-1.2	45.6	81.2
Voreio Aigaio	721	722	768	6.4	1.2	33.5
Notio Aigaio	1,280	1,273	1,316	3.4	2.0	37.8
Kriti	3,882	3,776	3,876	2.6	5.8	60.9
Total	<b>66,058</b>	<b>66,187</b>	<b>66,504</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>62.3</b>

**Graph 1. Percentage (%) distribution of doctors and index per 10,000 inhabitants by region, 2021**



**Graph 2. Total of Physicians, 2010-2021**

As regards the breakdown of data by gender, it is observed that in 2021 the recorded number of male physicians decreased by 89 persons (0.2%) compared to 2020, while the number of female physicians increased by 406 persons (1.4%) (Tables 3a and 3b).

**Table 3α. Male Physicians by NUTS I, 2019 - 2021**

	2019	2020	2021	Change (%) 2021/2020
Voreia Ellada	10,070	10,051	10,222	1.7
Kentriki Ellada	7,092	6,988	6,965	-0.3
Attiki	17,264	17,429	17,083	-2.0
Nisia Aigaiou, Kriti	3,340	3,300	3,409	3.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,766</b>	<b>37,768</b>	<b>37,679</b>	<b>-0.2</b>

**Table 3β. Female Physicians by NUTS I, 2019-2021**

	2019	2020	2021	Change (%) 2021/2020
Voreia Ellada	7,619	7,719	7,983	3.4
Kentriki Ellada	4,964	4,941	5,040	2.0
Attiki	13,166	13,288	13,251	-0.3
Nisia Aigaiou, Kriti	2,543	2,471	2,551	3.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,292</b>	<b>28,419</b>	<b>28,825</b>	<b>1.4</b>

As regards medical specialties, the main six, in terms of number of physicians for Greece total, were as follows: Pathologists, Paediatricians, Cardiologists, General Practitioners, Obstetricians-Gynaecologists (Table 4). In 2021 compared to 2020, an increase is recorded in the aforementioned number of physicians except a small decrease observed in the number of Microbiologists.

**Table 4. Number of physicians by six main specialties, 2019-2021**

Specialties	2019	2020	2021	Change (%) 2021/2020
<b>Pathologists</b>	4,604	4,573	4,611	0.8
<b>Paediatricians</b>	3,719	3,787	3,852	1.7
<b>Cardiologists</b>	3,508	3,576	3,641	1.8
<b>Microbiologists</b>	3,493	3,473	3,466	-0.2
<b>General medicine</b>	3,232	3,465	3,520	1.6
<b>Obstetricians - gynaecologists</b>	3,067	3,035	3,095	2.0
<b>Other specialty and Without specialty</b>	44,435	44,278	44,319	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,058</b>	<b>66,187</b>	<b>66,504</b>	<b>0.5</b>

In 2021 compared with 2020, no important change was recorded as regards the ratio of physicians per 10,000 inhabitants, in the six main groups of specialties, for Greece total (Table 5).

**Table 5. Number of physicians per 10,000 inhabitants by group of specialties<sup>1</sup>, 2019-2021**

	2019	2020	2021
General practitioners	4.0	4.1	4.2
Paediatricians	3.5	3.5	3.6
Obstetricians -Gynaecologists	2.9	2.8	2.9
Psychiatrists	2.1	2.1	2.1
Medical group of specialties	22.3	22.6	22.7
Surgical group of specialties	12.3	12.3	12.4

<sup>1</sup> The specialties included in these groups can be found in the "Explanatory Notes".

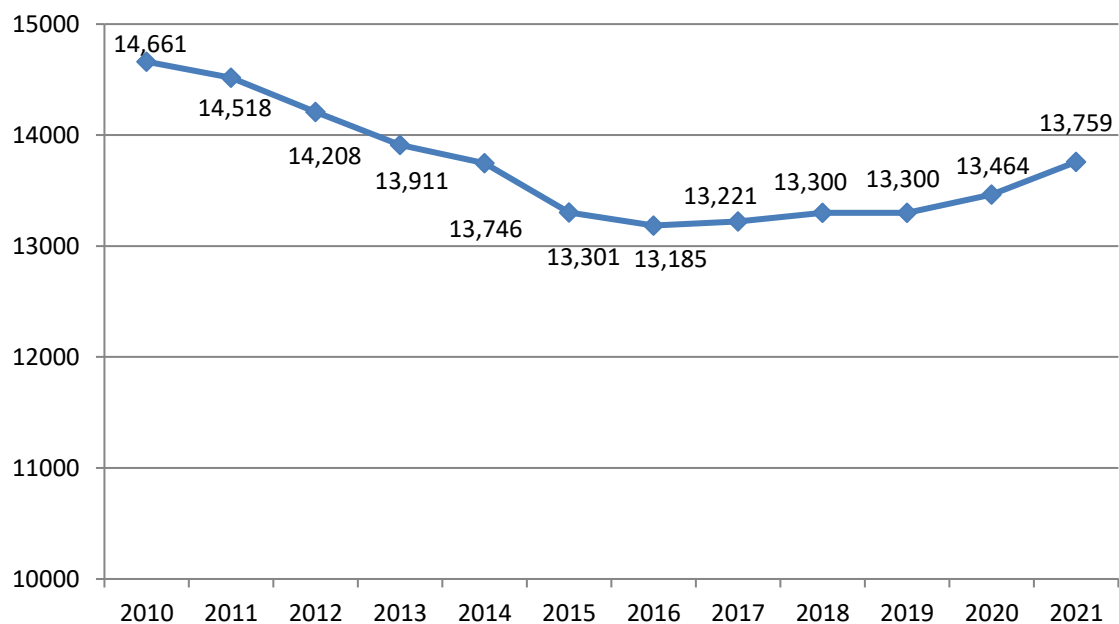
## B. DENTISTS

In the year 2021 the dentists registered were 13,759 in the country total, showing an increase of 0.7% compared to last year. The greatest percentage increase, for the year 2021 was noticed in the region of Notio Aigaio (4.6%), while the biggest percentage decrease, was noticed in the region of Sterea Ellada (4.9%) (Table 6, Graph 3-4).

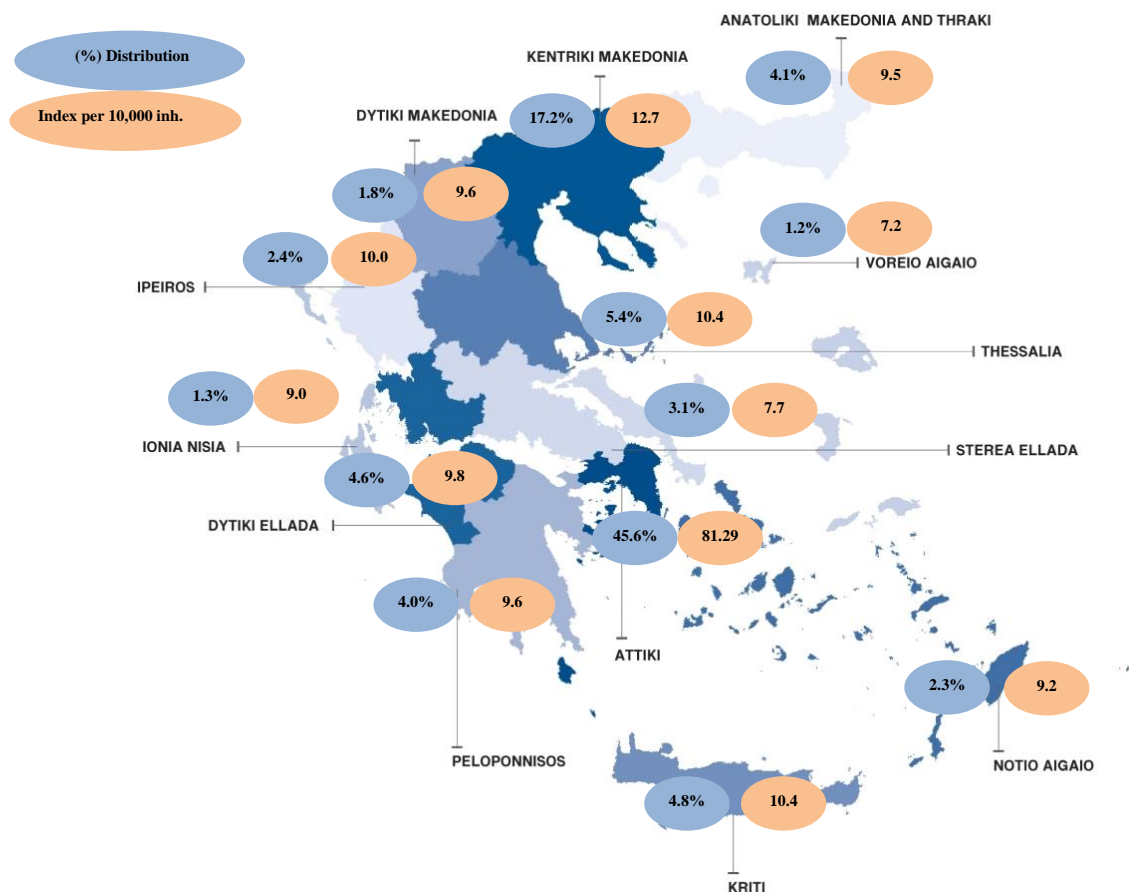
**Table 6. Number of Dentists per Region, 2019-2021**

	2019	2020	2021	Change (%) 2021/2020	Percentage % Distribution 2021	Per 10,000 Residents
Anatoliki Makedonia,Thraki	554	565	568	0.5	4.1	9.5
Kentriki Makedonia	2,307	2,374	2,369	-0.2	17.2	12.7
Dytiki Makedonia	263	258	252	-2.3	1.8	9.6
Ipeiros	331	320	331	3.4	2.4	10.0
Thessalia	751	749	740	-1.2	5.4	10.4
Ionia Nisia	174	180	183	1.7	1.3	9.0
Dytiki Ellada	627	631	632	0.2	4.6	9.8
Sterea Ellada	432	448	426	-4.9	3.1	7.7
Peloponnisos	545	553	546	-1.3	4.0	9.6
Attiki	6,377	6,453	6,562	1.7	47.7	17.6
Voreio Aigaio	160	166	165	-0.6	1.2	7.2
Notio Aigaio	299	307	321	4.6	2.3	9.2
Kriti	644	664	664	0.0	4.8	10.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,464</b>	<b>13,668</b>	<b>13,759</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12.9</b>

**Graph 3. Total of Dentists, 2010-2021**



**Graph 4. Percentage (%) distribution of dentists and index per 10,000 inhabitants by Region, 2021**



As regards the breakdown of data by gender, it is observed that in 2021 compared with 2020, the number of male dentists recorded a decrease of 0.6%, while the number of female dentists recorded an increase of 1.9% (Tables 7a and 7b).

**Table 7a. Male Dentists, by NUTS 1, 2019-2021**

	2019	2020	2021	Change (%) 2021/2020
Voreia Ellada	1,875	1,813	1,775	-2.1
Kentriki Ellada	1,344	1,364	1,260	-7.6
Attiki	3,054	3,087	3,260	5.6
Nisia Aigaiou, Kriti	620	640	571	-10.8
Total	<b>6,893</b>	<b>6,904</b>	<b>6,866</b>	<b>-0.6</b>

**Table 7b. Female Dentists, by NUTS 1, 2019-2021**

	2019	2020	2021	Change (%) 2021/2020
Voreia Ellada	1,580	1,704	1,745	2.4
Kentriki Ellada	1,185	1,197	1,267	5.8
Attiki	3,323	3,366	3,302	-1.9
Nisia Aigaiou, Kriti	483	497	579	16.5
Total	<b>6,571</b>	<b>6,764</b>	<b>6,893</b>	<b>1.9</b>

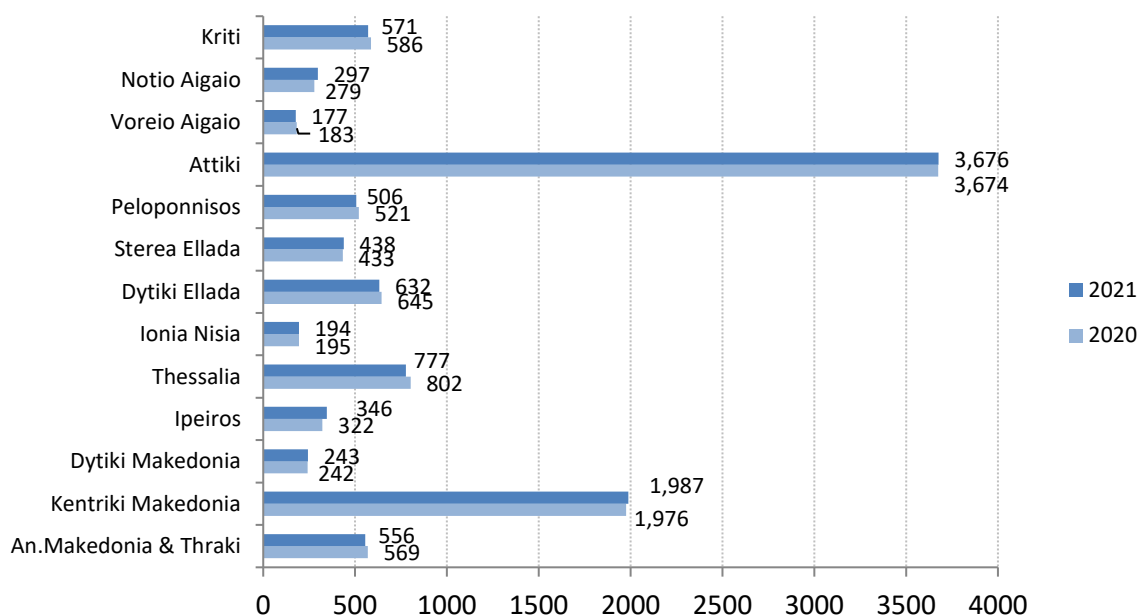
### C. PHARMACISTS, PHARMACIES AND PHARMACEUTICAL WHOLESALERS

In the year 2021 operated 10,400 pharmacies in country total, of which 3,676 (35.3%) in Attiki (Table 8). Specifically, the number of pharmacies presented a reduction of 0.3% (27 drugstores) in comparison with last year. The greatest percentage decrease was observed in Voreio Aigaio with 6 less pharmacies (3.3%) while the greatest increase was observed in the region of Ipeiros obtaining 22 new pharmacies (7.5%) (Table 8, Graph 5).

**Table 8. Number of Pharmacies per Region (NUTS II), 2019-2021**

Regions	2019	2020	2021	Change (%) 2021/2020	Percentage % Distribution 2021
Anatoliki Makedonia,Thraki	558	569	556	-2.3	5.3
Kentriki Makedonia	1,957	1,976	1,987	0.6	19.1
Dytiki Makedonia	239	242	243	0.4	2.3
Ipeiros	325	322	346	7.5	3.3
Thessalia	798	802	777	-3.1	7.5
Ionian Islands	191	195	194	-0.5	1.9
Dytiki Ellada	623	645	632	-2.0	6.1
Stereia Ellada	439	433	438	1.2	4.2
Peloponnisos	504	521	506	-2.9	4.9
Attiki	3,681	3,674	3,676	0.1	35.3
Voreio Aigaio	182	183	177	-3.3	1.7
Notio Aigaio	265	279	297	6.5	2.9
Kriti	566	586	571	-2.6	5.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,328</b>	<b>10,427</b>	<b>10,400</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Graph 5. Number of Pharmacies per Region, 2020 και 2021**



Based on the number of pharmacies per region, the ratio of pharmacies per 10,000 inhabitants was calculated, which for the year 2021 accounted to 9.7. More specifically, the Region with the biggest density of pharmacies in relation to its population was Thessalia (10.9), followed by Kentriki Makedonia (10.7), while the lowest density recorded in Voreio Aigaio (7.7) (Table 9).

**Table 9. Number of Pharmacies per 10,000 inhabitants, Per region (NUTS II), 2019-2021**

Regions	2019	2020	2021
Anatoliki Makedonia,Thraki	9.3	9.5	9.3
Kentriki Makedonia	10.4	10.5	10.7
Dytiki Makedonia	8.9	9.1	9.3
Ipeiros	9.7	9.6	10.5
Thessalia	11.1	11.2	10.9
Ionia Nisia	9.3	9.6	9.6
Dytiki Ellada	9.4	9.8	9.8
Stereia Ellada	7.9	7.8	7.9
Peloponnisos	8.7	9.1	8.9
Attiki	9.8	9.8	9.8
Voreio Aigaio	8.6	8.3	7.7
Notio Aigaio	7.8	8.1	8.5
Kriti	8.9	9.2	9.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>9.7</b>

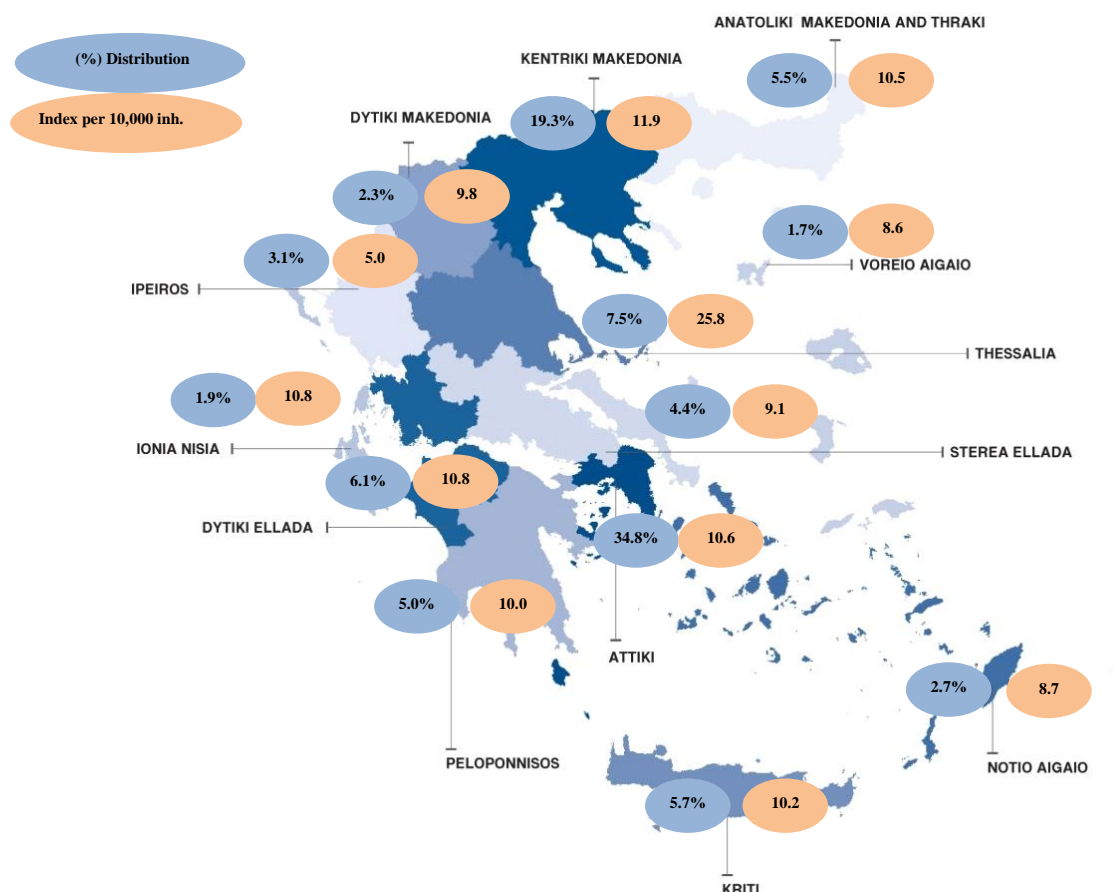
Regarding the number of pharmacists according to the Panhellenic Association of Pharmacists data, for the year 2021 11,414 pharmacists were employed in pharmacies all over Greece compared to 11,415 in 2020 (Table 10, Graph 6).

**Table 10. Number of Pharmacists per region (NUTS II), 2019 – 2021**

Regions	2019	2020	2021	Percentage % Distribution 2021	Change (%) 2021/2020	Per 10,000 Residents
<b>Anatoliki Makedonia,Thraki</b>	633	630	626	5.5	-0.6	10.5
<b>Kentriki Makedonia</b>	2,182	2,189	2,205	19.3	0.7	11.9
<b>Dytiki Makedonia</b>	263	260	258	2.3	-0.8	9.8
<b>Ipeiros</b>	345	357	355	3.1	-0.6	5.0
<b>Thessalia</b>	883	862	854	7.5	-0.9	25.8
<b>Ionia Nisia</b>	208	215	219	1.9	1.9	10.8
<b>Dytiki Ellada</b>	687	699	697	6.1	-0.3	10.8
<b>Stereia Ellada</b>	489	501	506	4.4	1.0	9.1
<b>Peloponnisos</b>	572	570	570	5.0	0.0	10.0
<b>Attiki</b>	3,978	3,969	3,974	34.8	0.1	10.6
<b>Voreio Aigaio</b>	200	201	198	1.7	-1.5	8.6
<b>Notio Aigaio</b>	303	314	304	2.7	-3.2	8.7
<b>Kriti</b>	646	648	648	5.7	0.0	10.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,389</b>	<b>11,415</b>	<b>11,414</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>10.7</b>



**Graph 6. Percentage (%) distribution of pharmacists and index per 10,000 inhabitants by region, 2021**



As far as the number of pharmaceutical wholesalers is concerned, they reached 145 in 2021 while in 2020 they were 136 recording an increase of 6.6%. There are no available data disaggregated by region.

#### **D. PHYSIOTHERAPISTS**

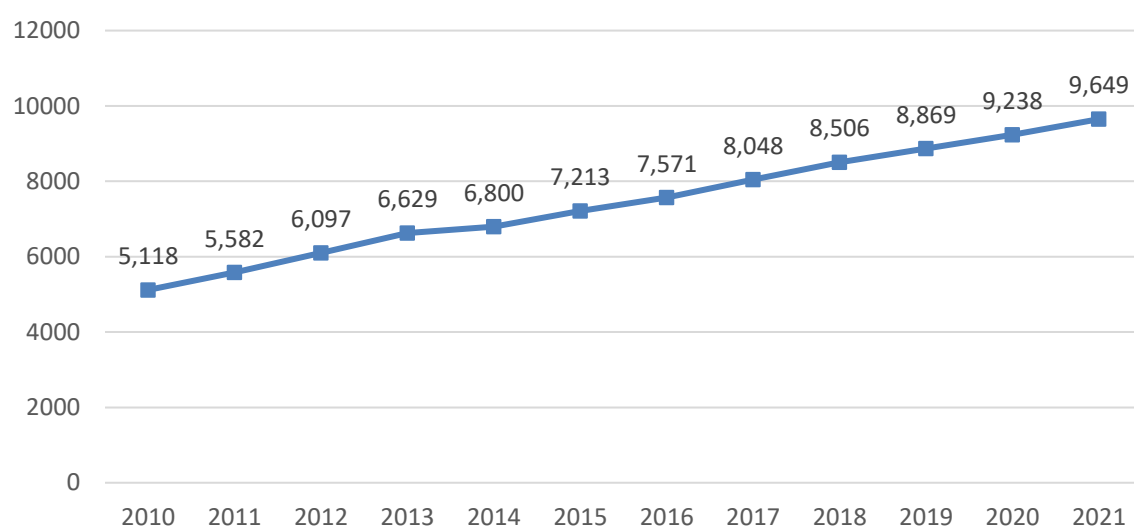
The physiotherapists, based on the data derived from the Pan-Hellenic Association of Physiotherapists of Greece concerning its registered members in 2021 amounted to 9,649 against 9,238 in 2020, presenting an increase of 4.4% (Table 11, Graph 7). The biggest increase, in absolute values, is observed in the region of Notio Aigaio from 161 to 176 and in the region of Voreio Aigaio from 140 to 149. It should be noted that the number of physiotherapists in Greece during the previous years and more specifically from 2019 till 2021 has constantly been increasing, i.e. from 8,869 physiotherapists in 2019 to 9,649 in 2021, which corresponds to a relative increase of 8.8%.

The indicator of physiotherapists per 10,000 residents in 2021 is 9.0 (Table 11). It presents the highest values in the regions of Attiki (11,6) and Kentriki Makedonia (9,3), while the lowest value appears in Notio Aigaio (5.1).

**Table 11. Physiotherapists per region, 2019-2021**

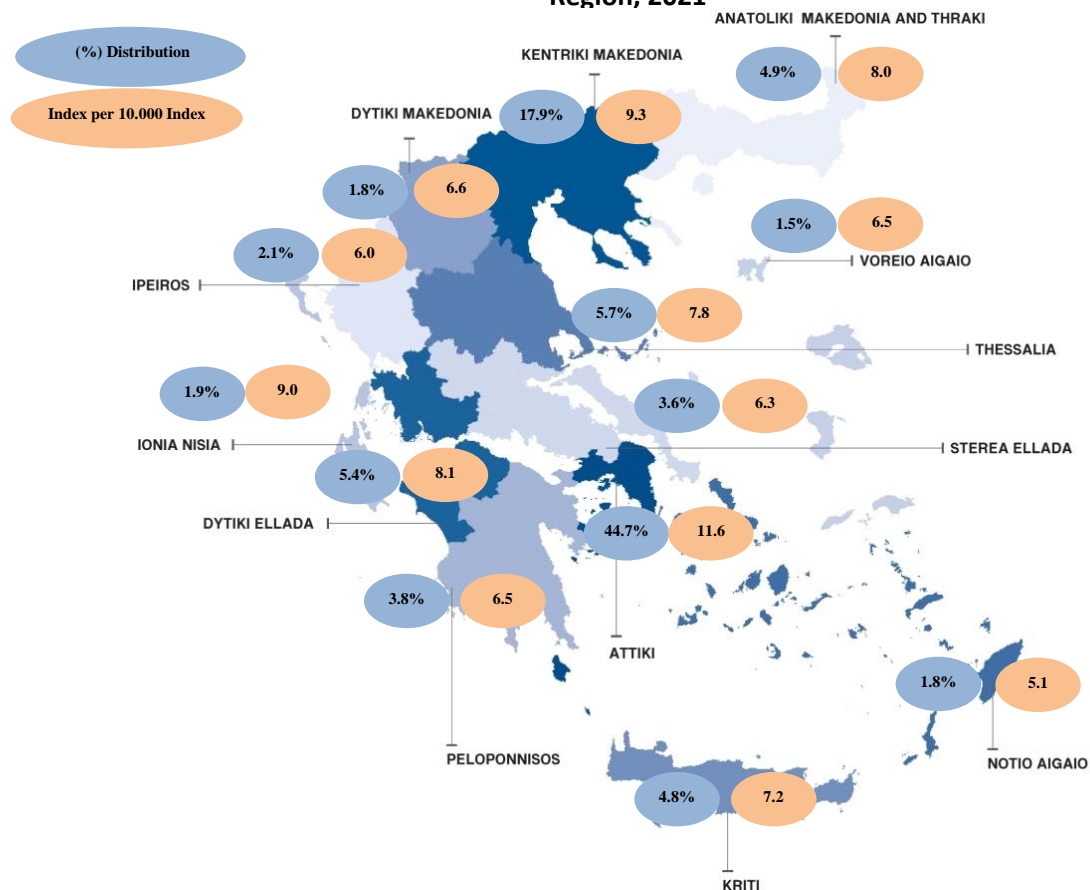
Regions	2019	2020	2021	Change (%) 2021/2020	Percentage % Distribution 2021	Per 10,000 Residents
Anatoliki Makedonia,Thraki	434	452	476	5.3	4.9	8.0
Kentriki Makedonia	1,593	1,643	1,725	5.0	17.9	9.3
Dytiki Makedonia	170	167	173	3.6	1.8	6.6
Ipeiros	501	523	553	5.7	5.7	7.8
Thessalia	191	193	198	2.6	2.1	6.0
Ionia Nisia	165	173	182	5.2	1.9	9.0
Dytiki Ellada	481	490	521	6.3	5.4	8.1
Stereia Ellada	325	336	349	3.9	3.6	6.3
Peloponnisos	350	367	370	0.8	3.8	6.5
Attiki	3,961	4,156	4,316	3.8	44.7	11.6
Voreio Aigaio	137	140	149	6.4	1.5	6.5
Notio Aigaio	148	161	176	9.3	1.8	5.1
Kriti	413	437	461	5.5	4.8	7.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,869</b>	<b>9,238</b>	<b>9,649</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9.0</b>

**Graph 7. Number of Physiotherapists, 2010-2021**



The majority of physiotherapists in Greece are located in the Region of Attiki (44.7%), almost half of the country's total number of physiotherapists, followed by the Regions of Kentriki Makedonia (17.9%), Thessalia (5.7%) and Dytiki Ellada (5.4%). The percentage distribution of physiotherapists in all other Regions is lower than 5.0%, with lowest in insular Greece (Voreio Aigaio, Notio Aigaio, Ionia Nisia) and Dytiki Makedonia (Table 11, Graph 8).

**Graph 8. Percentage (%) distribution of Physiotherapists and index per 10.000 inhabitants by Region, 2021**



As far as the gender of physiotherapists is concerned, it is observed that the women prevail and even with an increasing percentage since 2016 and hereafter (Table 12).

**Table 12. Physiotherapists by gender, 2016-2021**

YEAR	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL
	Number	%	Number	%	
2016	3,535	46.7	4,036	53.3	7,571
2017	3,724	46.3	4,324	53.7	8,048
2018	3,912	46.0	4,594	54.0	8,506
2019	4,073	45.9	4,796	54.1	8,869
2020	4,227	45.8	5,011	54.2	9,238
2021	4,433	45.9	5,216	54.1	9,649

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

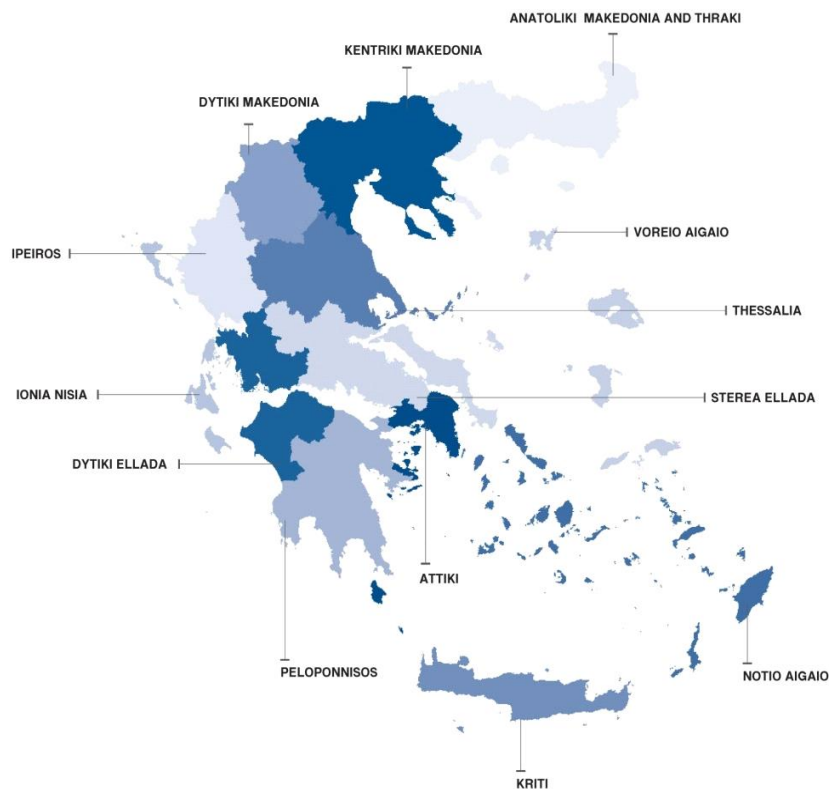
**Purpose of the survey** The Survey on Health Professionals records, on a yearly basis, the number of physicians and dentists, who are registered in the Physicians and Dentists Associations all over Greece, the registered members of the Panhellenic Association of Physiotherapists with license to act and the number of Pharmacists employed in Pharmacies as well as the number of pharmacies and pharmaceutical wholesalers. Moreover in this Survey are included the nurses who work in the public and private hospitals and clinics of the country as well as the ones who work in the primary care network (Health Care Centers, Regional Medical Offices etc).

In the present Press Bulletin, data on Nurses are not included as the data available from the administrative sources for the total of Nurses are not reliable. The users can refer to the yearly press release on Hospitals Survey (public and private) to get reliable data on the nurses practicing in the Secondary Health Sector.

<https://www.statistics.gr/el/statistics/-/publication/SHE06/->

**Reference Period Coverage** The survey results refer to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the reference year. The survey covers Greece total. The data are collected at the level of the Regional Unit (NUTS 3) for physicians, dentists, pharmacists and pharmacies, as well as psysiopherapists and are published at the level of the Region (NUTS 2).

### Maps of 13 NUTS 2 Regions of Greece



**Methodology** The survey is a census survey conducted at the level of the Regional Unit and the data derive from the local Associations of Physicians and Dentists of Greece,

the Panhellenic Association of Physiotherapists, the Panhellenic Association of Pharmacists and the Panhellenic Association of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers. As regards physicians, the surveyed variables are the number of physicians by gender, regional unit, age group, and specialty. For the Dentists also the same variables are collected.

In table 4, the specialty groups and the specialties included in the groups are in accordance with the ones presented in the JOINT QUESTIONNAIRE of Eurostat / OECD / WHO and have as follows:

“General medical practitioners” (general practitioners, social medicine practitioners, and rural medical doctors), “General paediatricians” (paediatricians), “Obstetricians-gynaecologists” and “Psychiatrists” (psychiatrists, neurologist-psychiatrists and paedopsychiatrists).

The “Medical group of specialists” encompasses Cardiologists, Endocrinologists, Gastroenterologists, Respiratory medicine practitioners, Oncologists, Immunologists, Neurologists, Oto-rhino-laryngologists, Radiologists, Microbiology-bacteriologists, Haematologists, Dermatologists, Pathologists, Occupational medicine practitioners and forensic doctors.

The “Surgical group of specialists” includes surgeons, neurosurgeons, vascular surgeons, plastic surgery, anesthesiologists, urologists, ophthalmologists, orthopedics surgery, nephrologists, children surgery, physical medicine and rehabilitation doctors.

**Legal Frame** The survey is conducted in line with the Statistical Law 3832/2010, as amended and in force. Furthermore, from 2010 onwards, the survey is conducted through the joint Eurostat/OECD/WHO questionnaire, under the name: “Eurostat Joint Questionnaire on non-monetary Health Care Statistics”.

**References** More information on the survey on physicians and dentists can be found on the website of ELSTAT at:

Survey of Doctors and Dentists: [Statistics>Population and Social Conditions>Health Care>Physicians and dentists.](#)

Survey of Physiotherapists: <http://www.statistics.gr/el/statistics/-/publication/SHE21/->

Survey of Pharmacists in Pharmacies and Pharmaceutical Wholesalers: <http://www.statistics.gr/el/statistics/-/publication/SHE18/->