

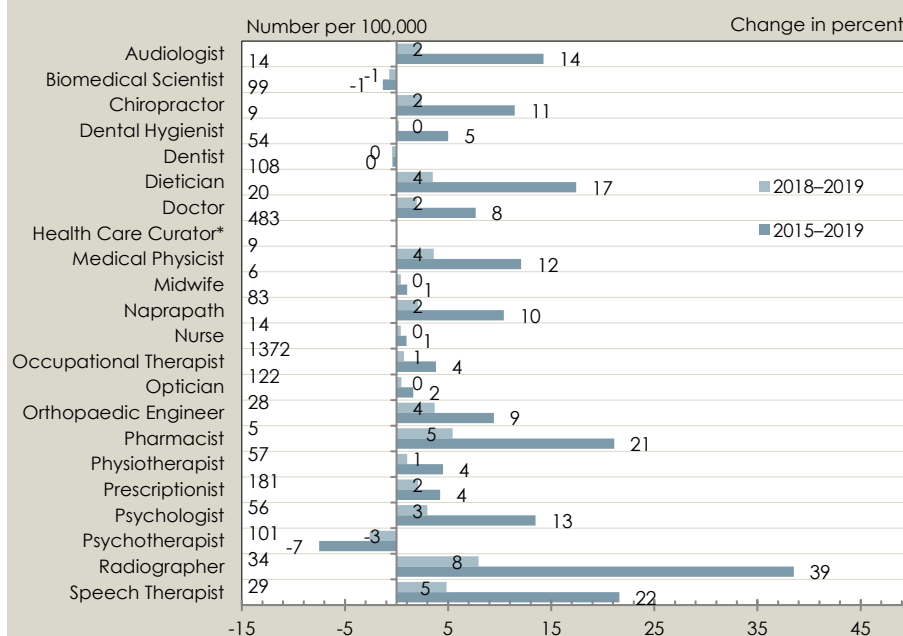
# Statistics on licensed health care personnel 2019 and Workforce status 2018

For most health care professions, the total number of granted licenses continued to increase 2019 and more women than men were licensed. For midwives, dental hygienists, prescriptionists, occupational therapists and dieticians, the proportion of licenses granted to women was 94 percent or more at the end of 2019. Regional differences in the per capita share among employed health care professions in 2018 are present.

## Licenses 2019

The number of granted licenses continues to increase for the majority of professions in the health care sector. Over the past five years, the number of licensed pharmacists increased by 21 percent. The number of licensed prescriptionists has increased by about four percent during the corresponding period.

**Figure 1. Number per 100,000 inhabitants and percentage change in total number of licenses granted, under the age of 65, 31 December**

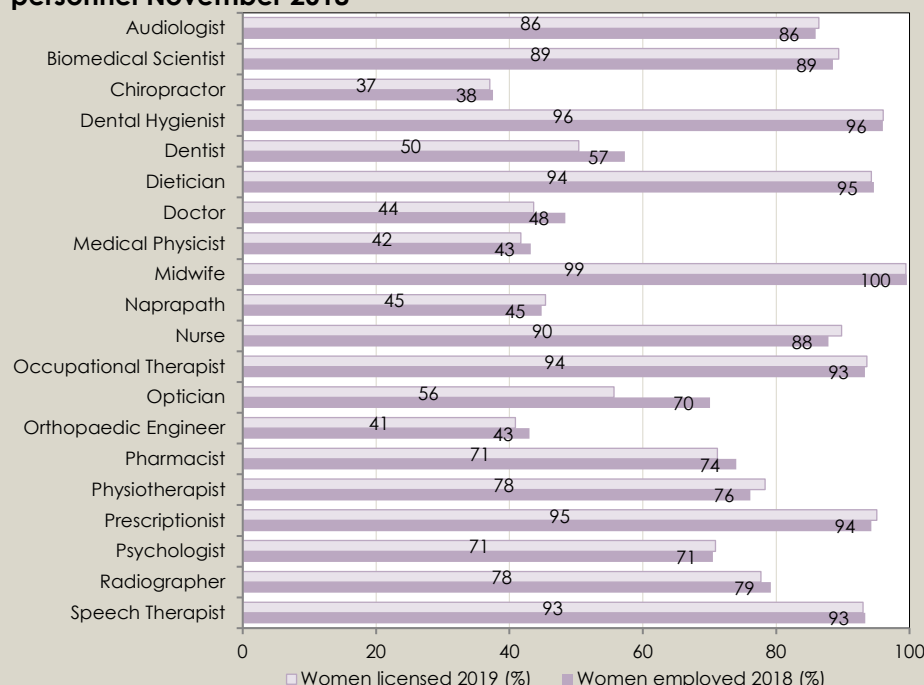


Source: Register of Licensed Health Personnel, National Board of Health and Welfare  
\*The health curator is a new license, granted from year 2019

The number of speech therapists has increased by about 22 percent since 2015, while the number of dieticians and audiologists increased by 17 and 14 respectively during the corresponding period. The number of psychotherapists has decreased by more than seven percent over the past five-year period. In the most recent comparative year, the decrease was almost three percent. Radiographer is a relatively new profession that still has few retirements, which explains the rapid growth rate for this group.

In terms of the most recent comparison year 2018, the number of pharmacists increased by just over five percent. The number of speech therapists also increased by almost five percent during the same period (Figure 1).

**Figure 2. Percentage women of total granted licenses per profession 31 December 2019 and percentage women of employed licensed personnel November 2018**



Source: Licensed Care and Welfare Personnel Workforce Status (LOVA) register and Register of Licensed Health Personnel, National Board of Health and Welfare

Not. From 2000, a radiographer is a legitimate profession. At present, the number of legitimate employed radiographers does not represent the total number of employed persons in the profession.

At the end of 2019, 90 percent of the total nurse licenses were granted to women. The proportion of licenses granted to women at the end of 2019 among doctors and dentists was 44 and 50 percent, respectively. The most female-dominated professions, measured by the total number of granted licenses, were midwives, dental hygienists, prescriptionist, occupational therapists and dietitians. For these professions 94 percent or more of all licenses were granted to women. The health care professions that had the lowest proportion of licenses granted to women in the end of 2019 were chiropractors, orthopaedic engineers and medical physicists (Figure 2).

# Employed health care personnel 2018

## Regional differences

The number of employed licensed persons within different professions varies between different counties. Table 1 shows the number of persons within a selection of professions, in relation to the population in the counties. The table illustrates the upward or downward trend with arrows next to the numbers (see table note for further description).

**Table 1. Regional distribution of licensed professionals in a selection of health care professions, November 1, 2018, per 100,000 inhabitants**

County	Dentist	Doctor	Midwife	Nurse	Pharmacist	Physiotherapist	Psychologist
Stockholm	88	440	83	930	55▲	136	114
Uppsala	85	529	88▲	1 193	54▲	140	123
Södermanland	74	329▲	65	951	28▲	122	53▼
Östergötland	66▼	439▲	59▼	1 100	18▲	130▲	70▲
Jönköping	79	348	80	1 137	25▲	117	51
Kronoberg	83▲	329	60▼	1 171	13▲	109▼	54
Kalmar	70	342▲	63	1 112	15▲	125	51
Gotland	76▼	441▲	81	1 160	14▲	137▲	71
Blekinge	83	369	73	1 339▲	27▲	105	50
Skåne	82	417▲	67▲	1 041	27▲	136	87
Halland	70	359	85	1 008	30▲	116	68
Västra Götaland	88	406▲	83	1 124	29▲	140▲	98▲
Värmland	67▼	319	67	1 149▲	18▲	118	52▲
Örebro	75▼	393	84	1 215	24	123	76▲
Västmanland	69▼	324▲	75▲	1 042	25▲	139	66▲
Dalarna	67	334	75▲	1 140	22	126▼	61
Gävleborg	64	336	61	1 152	14▲	123	50
Västernorrland	66	309	73▲	1 180	12▼	128▲	72▲
Jämtland	75	388▲	92▲	1 325	18▼	172	75▲
Västerbotten	86▼	517▲	77▲	1 417	10▼	178▲	104▲
Norrbottn	78▼	269	68▲	1 173	10▲	165	41▲
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>1 081</b>	<b>31▲</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>86▲</b>

Source: Licensed Care and Welfare Personnel Workforce Status (LOVA) register, National Board of Health and Welfare. Note: Changes between 2014 and 2018 are indicated in the table, ▲equals an increase of more than five percent, and ▼a decrease greater than five percent.

The regional differences between counties<sup>1</sup> were greatest for pharmacists and psychologists in that order, while the differences were smaller for midwives, physiotherapists, doctors, nurses and dentists. To some extent, the differences are probably explained by different organizational agreements between regions, which not have been taken into account in this comparison.

<sup>1</sup> The distribution among the county-specific observations has been compared on the basis of the so-called coefficient of variation, which can be described as a normalized standard deviation. See Table 11 in the Excel file for more detailed information.

## Gender distribution among employed personnel

The gender distribution shows great similarity in terms of the total number of granted health care licenses regarding a profession and those employed in the corresponding profession. For some professions, however, the proportion of women differs when it comes to the total number of granted licenses and the number of employed professionals. For opticians, the proportion of women is 14 percentage points more for the employed than for the granted licenses, and for dentists the corresponding difference is seven percentage points. A large proportion of the licensed men in these occupations have reached retirement age and left the labour market. At the same time, more women than men are now granted licenses as opticians and dentists, which means that the proportion of women in these professions increases (Figure 2).

For the largest profession, nurses, women accounted for 88 percent and men for 12 percent of the employed personnel in 2018.

Among doctors, the gender distribution was relatively even, with 48 percent women and 52 percent men among those employed. Dentists also had an even gender distribution in terms of employment, with 57 percent women and 43 percent men. Chiropractors, orthopaedic engineers and hospital physicists are professions where men accounted for around 60 percent of the employed personnel in 2018. All of the latter professions were minor and the number of employed persons in these professions are small in the health care sector (Figure 2).

### More information

You can find more tables, graphs and information in the following Excel file (in Swedish, but with English list of terms):

[www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/)

If you want to use our statistical database:

[www.socialstyrelsen.se/en/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistical-databases/](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/en/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistical-databases/)

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