

OECD Health Statistics 2025

Definitions, Sources and Methods

Dentists licensed to practice

Dentists licensed to practice include practising and other (non-practising) dentists, who are registered and entitled to practice as healthcare professionals in the field of dentistry. They include stomatologists, dental and maxillofacial surgeons.

Inclusion

- Dentists who provide services for patients
- Other dentists for whom their education in dentistry / stomatology is a prerequisite for the execution of the job
- Other dentists for whom their education in dentistry / stomatology is NOT a prerequisite for the execution of the job
- Dentists registered as healthcare professionals and licensed to practice but who are not economically active (e.g. unemployed or retired)
- Dentists working abroad

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

Sources and Methods

Australia

Source of data:

- 2013 onwards: **Department of Health (DoH)** NHWDS Allied Health Practitioners Data. Data request. Also available at <http://hwd.health.gov.au/>. Data are as at the end of the re-registration period for the profession in the reference year.
- 2012: **Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2014**. Dental workforce 2012. National health workforce series no. 7. Cat. No. HWL 53. Canberra: AIHW. Also available at www.aihw.gov.au.
- 2009 and 2011: **Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2013**. Dental workforce 2011. National health workforce series no. 4. Cat. no. HWL 50. Canberra: AIHW. Also available at www.aihw.gov.au.
- 2006: **Balasubramanian M, Teusner D** 2011. Dentists, specialists and allied practitioners in Australia: Dental Labour Force Collection, 2006. Dental statistics and research series no. 53. Cat. no. DEN 202. Canberra: AIHW. Also available at www.aihw.gov.au.
- 2005: **AIHW Dental Statistics and Research Unit** 2008. Dental labour force in Australia, 2005. AIHW Cat. No. DEN 172. Canberra: AIHW (and previous issues). Also available at www.aihw.gov.au.
- 2003: **Teusner DN, Chrisopoulos S & Brennan DS** 2007. Geographic distribution of the Australian dental labour force, 2003. Dental statistics and research series no. 37. Cat. no. DEN 168. Canberra: AIHW. Also available at www.aihw.gov.au.
- 2000: **Teusner DN & Spencer AJ** 2003. Dental labour force, Australia 2000. Dental statistics and research series no. 28. AIHW Cat No Den 116. Canberra: AIHW. Also available at www.aihw.gov.au.
- 1993-2006: Estimates are based on the number of registrations reported by each jurisdiction in Australia, combined to give a national estimate.

Coverage:

- From 2011, data regarding dentists licensed to practice include those dentists who are registered with the Dental Board of Australia (DBA), in conjunction with the AHPRA, to practice in the dental profession.

Break in time series:

- From 2011, data are based on estimates derived from the National Health Workforce Data Set (NHWDS). The data set contains information on the demographic and employment characteristics of dental practitioners (dentists, dental hygienists, dental prosthetists, dental therapists and oral health therapists) registered in Australia. Data are collected via registration forms and a survey instrument administered by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, in conjunction with the annual registration renewal process for dental practitioners. Data prior to 2011 were supplied based on data from the now superseded state and territory dental boards and councils. For more information see Appendix A of *Dental workforce 2011* at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129542638>. Comparison of 2011 and later data with data prior to 2011 should be made with caution.
- From 2013 the NHWDS is held by the Department of Health and the data has minor differences from the previous AIHW holdings due to the method of imputation for survey non-response and enhanced geocoding methods.

Austria

Data not available.

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. Cellule Planification des professionnels de santé - Cel planning Gezondheidsberoepen. Base de données fédérale des professionnels de soins de santé - Federale databank van de beoefenaars van de gezondheidszorgberoepen.

Further information: www.health.fgov.be.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage: Complete.

Deviation from the definition:

Estimation method:

Break in time series:

Canada

Source of data: **Health Workforce Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.**

Coverage:

- Dentist counts include inactive, retired and dentists on leave. Some of these professionals are not entitled to practice.
- Ontario counts are those registered with the provincial association where membership is not mandatory to practice. Therefore, not all Ontario dentists are included in the counts.
- Some dentists in the Territories are double-counted if they are also registered in other provinces or territories.
- Dentists in hospital are included.
- The following specialties are included: Anesthesiology, Dental public health, Endodontics, Oral and maxillofacial surgery, Oral pathology, Orthodontics, Paediatric dentistry, Periodontics, Prosthodontics, and Oral radiology. Stomatology is not included as it is not a recognised dental specialty in Canada.
- 1993 and 1994 data are not available.
- Figures are head count on December 31 of each year (except for 1995 figure which is on July 31 and 1996 and 1998 figures which are on September 30).
- 2018 Quebec dentist count was used an estimate of the 2019 count, as 2019 Quebec dentist data was not available.
- 2019 dentist counts for Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and Alberta were used as estimates of the 2020 counts for these provinces and territories as the 2020 data were not available.
- 2019 dentist counts for Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario and British Columbia were used as estimates for 2021 as these data were not available.

- 2019 dentist counts for Newfoundland and Labrador and Ontario were used as estimates for 2022 as these data were not available.
- 2021 dentist counts for Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Manitoba were used as estimates for 2022 as these data were not available.

Chile

Source of data: **Ministry of Health** using as original source the National Registry of Individual Health Providers from the **Health Superintendence** (www.superdesalud.cl), which was created by a law-ranking decree of November 2008, progressively installed since 2009, and is henceforth used. Its creation and maintenance are in charge of the Health Superintendence.

- The inscription in the Register has been progressive, and the changes in the figures that can be observed since 2010 are principally due to its progressive extension. The prevision was that this effect remains at least until the end of 2013.

Coverage: Nationwide.

- Data include both public and private sectors' employed dentists.

- Data from 2010 onwards include both General Dentists and Specialists.

- The difference between 2010 and 2013 figures is due both to the incorporation in the National Register of the new graduates from 2010 to 2013 and to the extensibility of the Registry. Since 2014, it could be considered that the extensibility of the Registry effect on the tendency is lower than in the previous period.

Colombia

Data is not available.

Costa Rica

Data not available.

Czechia

Data not available.

Denmark

Source of data: **The Danish Health Data Authority**, Registered Health Professionals, the Danish Register for Evaluation of Marginalisation, The Danish Civil Registration System.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage: 1980-2021

- The term of dentist covers all persons qualified as a dentist with or without authorization to practice independently in the country.

Deviation from the definition:

Estimation method:

Break in time series: 2022 change in the data collection

Estonia

Source of data: Registry of Health Care Professionals, **Health Care Board**.

Reference period: January of the following year.

Coverage: The number of licensed dentists covers overall potential, not persons by the last obtained specialty.

Finland

Source of data: **VALVIRA. National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health**. Register on Qualified Health Care Personnel.

Reference period: At the end of the calendar year.

Coverage: Individuals licensed to practice as dentists, who are presumed to live in Finland. These include everyone with known permanent residency in Finland and non-Finnish nationals for whom there is no information on residency. As any acquired licenses do not expire, even upon retirement, this data includes only individuals under the age of 65 to better reflect the actually available work force.

France

Data not available.

Germany

Source of data: **German Dental Association**, Membership statistics of the dental chambers 2023 and **German Medical Association**, Medical practitioner statistics 2023; special calculation by the Federal Statistical Office on base of data from the German Dental Association and the German Medical Association; <http://www.gbe-bund.de> or <http://www.bzaek.de> or <http://www.baek.de>.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage:

- The number of registered dentists licensed to practice includes all practising and non-practising dentists licensed to practice (head-count data).
- Included are practising dentists, dentists working outside health services, e.g. employed in industry or administrative bodies, dentists working abroad and unemployed and retired dentists.
- The number of registered dentists excludes students who have not yet graduated.
- The number of dentists includes those undergoing further training for specialisation and physicians with specialty “dental, oral and maxillofacial surgery”.

Greece

Source of data: **Hygiene Divisions and Sections** attached to prefectures, **Hellenic Dentists Association**, **Annual Doctors and Dentists survey**, <http://www.statistics.gr/el/statistics/-/publication/SHE09/->.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage: Unemployed dentists are included.

Deviation from the definition: Retired and working abroad dentists are not included.

Hungary

Source of data:

- From 2007 until 2014: **Office of Health Care Authorisation and Administrative Procedures** (EEKH in Hungarian) www.eekh.hu, Basic register.
- From 2015 to 2016, **Health Registration and Training Center** (ENKK in Hungarian) www.enkk.hu, Basic register.
- From 2017, **National Healthcare Service Center** (ÁEEK in Hungarian) www.enkk.hu, Basic register.
- From 2021, **National Directorate General for Hospitals** (OKFŐ in Hungarian) www.okfo.gov.hu, Basic register.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage:

- Head count data. Excludes non-practising dentists, retired professionals and professionals working abroad. Includes professionals who are foreigners.
- The Office of Health Authorisation and Administrative Procedures (EEKH) provided data according to the dominant specialisation practiced during medical work.

Deviation from the definition:

Estimation method:

Break in time series:

Note: The data source of dentists licensed to practice is the Basic (Diploma) Register, not the Operational Registry.

The basic register is a national register that includes all professionals having a healthcare qualification obtained in Hungary or obtained abroad and recognised in Hungary, regardless of whether they have a valid operational registration to pursue healthcare activities or not. There are two cases of the deletion from the register: if the professional dies or if the diploma turns out to be false.

Iceland

Source of data:

- 2016 and onwards: **The Directorate of Health**, Register of Licenced Health Care Professionals.
- Until 2015: **The Directorate of Health**, Register of dentists.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage: Includes all professional dentists with a license (all ages regardless of employment status, employment location (inside or outside of the country) or nationality).

Deviation from the definition:

Estimation method:

Break in time series: Break in series in 2016 is due to change in data source. The data source is the Register of Licenced Health Care Professionals instead of the Register of Dentists, which no longer exists.

Ireland

Source of data: **Dental Council of Ireland** (<http://www.dentalcouncil.ie/>).

Reference period: Figures refer to as at end of December.

Coverage:

- Figures refer to all persons registered with the Dental Council of Ireland. This may include dentists which are not in activity.
- The following are included; dentists employed in private practice, dentists employed in medical research, dentists employed in public and private hospitals, foreign dentists registered in Ireland and Irish dentists living/working abroad.

Israel

Source of data: The data are based on the Dentists License Registry maintained by the Medical Professions Division and the Health Information Division in the **Ministry of Health**, for which the demographic information is periodically updated from the Population Registry at the Ministry of Interior.

Reference period: End of the year.

Coverage: Data are for all licensed dentists. The data include only dentists with valid licenses at the end of each reference year.

- At the beginning of the 1990s, there was a large immigration wave from the former USSR countries to Israel which included a large number of dentists who received a license to work in Israel.

Note: The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

Italy

Source of data:

- Until 2020: **ENPAM** (National Insurance Institute of physicians and dentists) www.enpam.it.
- Since 2021: **ISTAT** Integrated Data System on Health Personnel.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage: All dentists licensed to practice.

Deviation from the definition: None.

Estimation method: None.

Break in time series: 2021: due to changes in data source.

Japan

Data not available.

Korea

Source of data: **Ministry of Health and Welfare**, Yearbook of Health and Welfare Statistics.

Latvia

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

Reference period: 31 December.

Coverage: Including maxillo-facial surgery, dental and oral surgery.

There has been an improvement in the quality of the Register of Medical Practitioners and Medical Support Staff data in 2018. The data before 2018, not comparable, are not shown.

Lithuania

Source of data:

- Up to 2003: State Health Care Accreditation Agency under the Ministry of Health.

- Since 2011: **Health Information Centre of Institute of Hygiene**. Data are calculated from the Compulsory Health Insurance Fund information system (subsystem METAS). Report "Health Statistics of Lithuania" available from <https://www.hi.lt/sveikatos-statistikos-leidiniai/#--lietuvos-sveikatos-statistika>. Available on Official Statistics Portal of Statistics Lithuania <http://osp.stat.gov.lt/en>.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage: Up to 2003 the number of dentists licensed to practice includes number of dentists with valid license the end of the year.

Deviation from the definition:

Estimation method:

Break in time series:

- 2011: Data source changed.

- 2019: Change of data calculation method: licence expiration date is not checked if licence is treated as valid.

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: 2014.

- Until 2014: Maxillofacial surgeons are included. Stomatologists are included. They are still considered dentists, but it should be noted that stomatologists from Luxembourg are not synonymous with dentist-doctors (they are fully specialised in stomatology).

- From 2014: Stomatologist, dental and maxillofacial surgeons are excluded.

Mexico

Data not available.

Netherlands

Source of data:

- From 1999 onwards: **Social Statistical Database of Statistics Netherlands, BIG Register** (official register of health care professionals).

- 1991-1998 figures are derived from the **Nederlandse Maatschappij voor Tandheelkunde** [Netherlands Dental Association].

- Up to 1990, the figures reflect the number of dentists registered in the register of the **Geneeskundige Hoofdinspectie van de Volksgezondheid** (Chief Medical Officer of Public Health).

Reference period: The last Friday before Christmas.

Coverage: Dentists registered in the BIG register and living in the Netherlands. 1991-1998: Figures include all dentists settled in the Netherlands and aged less than 65 years.

Deviation from the definition:

Estimation method:

Break in time series:

- From 2017 onwards: the license register required re-registration for dentists. The register required dentists to have been practising with a certain minimum amount working hours in the last 5 years in their professional field. The re-registration has led to a decrease in the numbers published so far.

- In 2015 the register has carried out a check on foreign medical professionals. The result has been an increase in the figure of dentists of around 400.

- Break in 1991 and 1999 due to changes in the source.

-2023 : Re-registration effect. Since 2017, dentists and pharmacists are obliged to re-register. The requirement is that they have been practising in the past 5 years.

New Zealand

Source of data: **NZ Dental Council Annual Reports.**

Reference period: 30-June-2005, and as at 31st March for 2006 to 2020. Data relate to 31st March of the year following the year indicated in the series, i.e. 2010 data refer to 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011, etc. From 2021 the numbers are as at 31 December of the indicated year.

Coverage:

- A practitioner may be registered in more than one scope of practice and more than one profession. In the Registration section of the report, dentists' totals include dental specialists.

- Excludes Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists and Dental Technicians, and Oral Health Therapists.

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: Figures provided cover all registered dentists

Deviation from the definition:

Estimation method:

Break in time series: 2015.

- 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

Source of data: **Ministry of Health.** Register of the Polish Chamber of Physicians. **Statistics Poland.**

- Until 2017: Polish Chamber of Physicians, Register of licensed dentists.

- 2019: **Statistics Poland.** Calculations based on administrative sources, i.e. register of licensed dentists (Polish Chamber of Physicians).

Reference period: 31st December.

Portugal

Source of data: Statistics Portugal, Health personnel statistics

<http://www.ine.pt/xurl/ind/0012839>

<http://www.ine.pt/xurl/ind/0012836>

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage:

- Data include all stomatologists, maxillo-facial surgeons (from 1998 onwards), dentists (from 1985 onwards) and odontologists (until 2010), whether practising, active but not practising, or inactive.
- Information reflects the number of stomatologists and maxillo-facial surgeons, registered at the Portuguese Medical Association, dentist physicians registered at the Portuguese Dental Association, and odontologists registered at the National Association of Portuguese Dentists.
- Dentists with a declared residence abroad are not included.

Deviation from the definition:

- Dentists working abroad are included only if their declared residence is in Portugal.

Estimation method:

Break in time series: 1985, 1998, 2011. Data include dentists since 1985 and maxillo-facial surgeons since 1998. Data exclude odontologists since 2011.

Slovak Republic

Data not available.

Slovenia

Data not available.

Spain

Source of data: **National Statistics Institute (INE)**, from the **Register of Stomatologists and Odontologists Council**.

https://www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736176781&menu=ultiDatos&idp=1254735573175.

Reference period: Data as of December 31.

Coverage:

- Data include all dentists "entitled to practice" registered in the Council of Stomatologists and Odontologists.

Deviation from the definition:

Estimation method:

Break in time series:

Sweden

Source of data: **National Board of Health and Welfare**, LOVA-register.

Reference period: 1st November.

Coverage:

- Non-retired personnel.
- Full coverage.

Deviation from the definition:

Estimation method:

Break in time series:

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

Source of data: Croatian Dental Chamber.
Reference period: Status on December 31st.

Cyprus

Data not available.

Romania

Source of data: **College of the Dental Practitioner** in Romania.

Reference period: data as of 31st December.

Coverage: The data cover public and private sector.

- Dentists who provide dental services temporary or occasionally in Romania are included.
- According to the national legislation (Law No. 95/2006 on the reform in health care) are included, also, dentists who are citizens of an EU Member State, EEA, or Swiss Confederation, by assimilation, dentists 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.

Deviation from the definition:

Estimation method:

Break in time series: Until 2021 dentists with college membership regardless of their status are included. Since 2021 data refers only to dentists licensed to practice.

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