JQ08 – Dentists

Dentists' data is compiled by the Department of Health as part of the Non-Monetary Health Care Statistics, administered jointly by Eurostat, OECD and WHO in fulfilment of the European regulation (EU) 2022/2294. These statistics are compiled and published on an annual basis and refer to the number of practising dentists and dentists licenced to practice in the Republic of Ireland, as at end of the referenced ending calendar year.

Source:

Data for dentists licenced to practice is sourced from the Dental Council of Ireland (http://www.dentalcouncil.ie/) administrative records. Data for practising dentists is compiled from the administrative records of the Irish Dental Council (http://www.dentalcouncil.ie/) and Ireland's 2016 Census from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) (https://www.cso.ie/en/census/).

Definitions:

Dentists licensed to practice are registered and eligible to practice as health care professionals in the field of dentistry, including those that:

i. Provide services for patients;
ii. Other dentists for whom their education in dentistry / stomatology is a prerequisite for the execution of the job;
iii. Other dentists for whom their education in dentistry / stomatology is NOT a prerequisite for the execution of the job;
iv. Dentists registered as health care professionals and licensed to practice but who are not economically active (e.g. unemployed or retired); and
v. Dentists working abroad.

Therefore, dentists licensed to practice include both practising and non-practising dentists.
Practising dentists are those that provide services for patients, and include the following:

i. Practising dentists who have completed studies in dentistry / stomatology at university level (granted by an adequate diploma) and who are licensed to practice;
ii. Interns (with an adequate diploma and providing services under supervision of other dentists or dental specialists during their postgraduate internship in a health care facility);
iii. Salaried and self-employed dentists delivering services irrespectively of the place of service provision;
iv. Foreign dentists licensed to practice and actively practising in the country;
v. Stomatologists;
vi. Dental surgeons; and
vii. Maxillofacial surgeons.

While exclude the following:

i. Students who have not yet graduated;
ii. Dentists working in administration, research and in other posts that exclude direct contact with the patients;
iii. Unemployed dentists and retired dentists; and
iv. Dentists working abroad.

Year (also referred to as data reference year) is taken as at the end of the calendar year of reference. (31st December).

Measure refers to the different categories of dentists.

Unit refers to the unit of measure applied, which in this case refers to a numerical headcount of relevant category of dentists.

Value refers to the count of practising dentists and dentists licensed to practice for the respective data reference year.

Flag indicates any particular caution or issues with the data worth of note for further data use. The following flags may be applied, along with their definition:

- **Flag M** indicates that the value is missing as it was not collected for that particular instance. This may be due to legal requirements, unavailability of data or data quality issues, among many reasons.
- **Flag B** indicates that the values from that data reference point onwards are not directly comparable with previous data points due to methodological issues which are explained in the coverage section below.
- **Flag E** indicates that the particular data point is based on an estimate and should be compares with other non-estimate data points with caution. Estimation methods applies are explained in the coverage section below.
- **Flag S** indicates that the particular data point has been supressed for confidentiality and/or quality purposes, such as; very small counts or very high variation. This should not be treated as a true zero. Whenever a value is a true zero, this has been indicated and not supressed.

Coverage:

Figures for dentists licensed to practice refer to all dentists registered with the Dental Council of Ireland, including dentists which are not in activity, employed; in private practice, in medical research, in public and private hospitals, foreign dentists registered in Ireland and Irish dentists living/working abroad.

Figures for practising dentists include those dentists licensed to practice who have been estimated to be categorised as practising.

Estimation:

Figures for practising dentists for data reference years 2021 onwards are based on the figures of dentists licensed to practice and proportioned based on the population counts identified as dentists in the latest available Irish Census.

Breaks in series:

Not applicable.

Suppression:

Not applicable.

Contact Person	Statistics and Analytics Unit
Contact Person Email	Statistics_and_Analytics_Unit@health.gov.ie
Period of time	Figures for practising dentists are taken as at end of calendar year from 2021-2022. Figures for dentists licensed to practice are taken as at end of calendar year from 1980-2022.