

Table of Contents

	Page																																										
About This Study	2																																										
Results for the questions below are reported in two sections:																																											
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Respondents Combined includes overall results for all respondents. Select Breakout of Results includes results by ownership status, DSO affiliation, practice size, geography, sex, age, & race/ethnicity. 																																											
	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">All Respondents Combined</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Select Breakouts of Results</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in: (Your particular dental practice, The dental care sector in general, The U.S. overall)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Please select the reason(s) for your confidence in the overall U.S. economic conditions. (Select all that apply.)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Please select the reason(s) for your skepticism in the overall U.S. economic conditions. (Select all that apply.)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[Owners dentists] Is your practice currently accepting new patients?</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[If accepting new patients] Currently, how many business days does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Which of the following best describes your general busyness level over the last 3 months?</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions? (Dental hygienists, Dental assistants, Dentists, Administrative staff)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months? (Dental hygienists, Dental assistants, Dentists, Administrative staff)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2025, have you done any of the following in your practice?</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Approximately what percentage of the patient base were in the insurance networks your practice dropped out of since the beginning of 2025?</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[Owner dentists] Looking ahead to 2026, how likely are you to do each of the following in your practice?</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Looking ahead to 2026, what are the top 3 challenges for your practice?</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of Responses by Wave/by Group</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">89</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		All Respondents Combined	Select Breakouts of Results	Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in: (Your particular dental practice, The dental care sector in general, The U.S. overall)	3	12	Please select the reason(s) for your confidence in the overall U.S. economic conditions. (Select all that apply.)	4	21	Please select the reason(s) for your skepticism in the overall U.S. economic conditions. (Select all that apply.)	5	31	[Owners dentists] Is your practice currently accepting new patients?	6	41	[If accepting new patients] Currently, how many business days does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?	6	41	Which of the following best describes your general busyness level over the last 3 months?	6	47	Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions? (Dental hygienists, Dental assistants, Dentists, Administrative staff)	7	50	How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months? (Dental hygienists, Dental assistants, Dentists, Administrative staff)	7	50	[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2025, have you done any of the following in your practice?	8	69	Approximately what percentage of the patient base were in the insurance networks your practice dropped out of since the beginning of 2025?	8	78	[Owner dentists] Looking ahead to 2026, how likely are you to do each of the following in your practice?	9	80	Looking ahead to 2026, what are the top 3 challenges for your practice?	11		Number of Responses by Wave/by Group		89
	All Respondents Combined	Select Breakouts of Results																																									
Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in: (Your particular dental practice, The dental care sector in general, The U.S. overall)	3	12																																									
Please select the reason(s) for your confidence in the overall U.S. economic conditions. (Select all that apply.)	4	21																																									
Please select the reason(s) for your skepticism in the overall U.S. economic conditions. (Select all that apply.)	5	31																																									
[Owners dentists] Is your practice currently accepting new patients?	6	41																																									
[If accepting new patients] Currently, how many business days does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?	6	41																																									
Which of the following best describes your general busyness level over the last 3 months?	6	47																																									
Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions? (Dental hygienists, Dental assistants, Dentists, Administrative staff)	7	50																																									
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months? (Dental hygienists, Dental assistants, Dentists, Administrative staff)	7	50																																									
[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2025, have you done any of the following in your practice?	8	69																																									
Approximately what percentage of the patient base were in the insurance networks your practice dropped out of since the beginning of 2025?	8	78																																									
[Owner dentists] Looking ahead to 2026, how likely are you to do each of the following in your practice?	9	80																																									
Looking ahead to 2026, what are the top 3 challenges for your practice?	11																																										
Number of Responses by Wave/by Group		89																																									

About This Study

The survey for the third quarter of 2025 was sent December 8, 2025 to 2,432 panel members; 839 responded, for an adjusted response rate (excluding undeliverable email addresses) of 34.7%. The number of dentists in private practice who responded in each wave, along with the number of respondents in each reporting category in the current wave, can be found at the end of this report.

This report includes the results from the latest wave for dentists working in private dental practices. Results are reported for all respondents and by ownership status, DSO affiliation, practice size, geographic location, sex, age group, and race/ethnicity. Unless noted otherwise, charts reflect the results from the latest wave of data collection.

Please note that we only include graphics representing at least 30 responses. Because of this, we were not able to include results for respondents in the following categories: under age 35, large group (10+ dentists) and Black. The number of respondents by demographics can be found at the end of this report.

This report was published in December 2025 by the American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute.

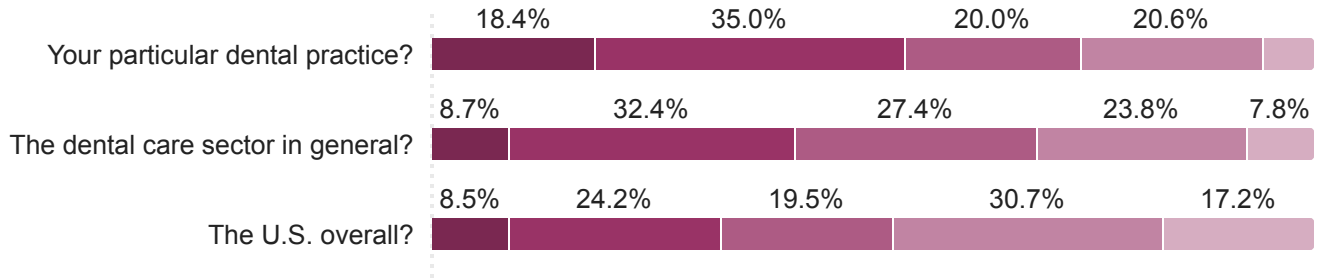
401 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 3300
Chicago, Illinois 60611
312.440.2928
hpi@ada.org

For more information on other publications, products, and services, please visit our website, [ADA.org/HPI](https://ada.org/HPI).

All Respondents

Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in:

786 Responses

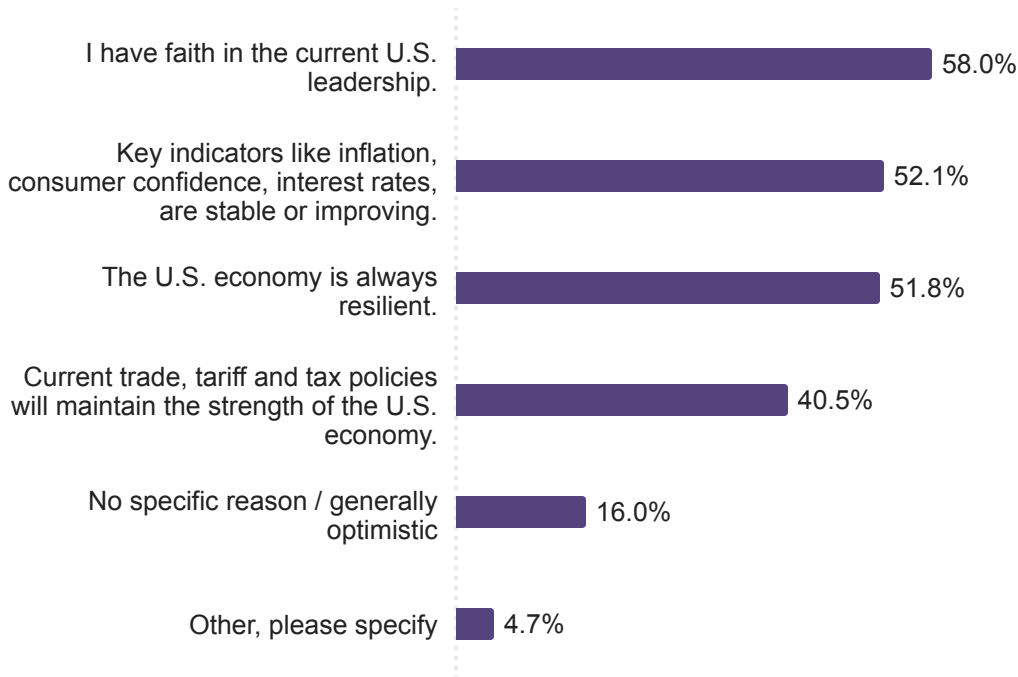


- Very confident
 Somewhat confident
 Neither confident nor skeptical
 Somewhat skeptical
 Very skeptical

Please select the reason(s) for your confidence in the overall U.S. economic conditions.

(Select all that apply.)

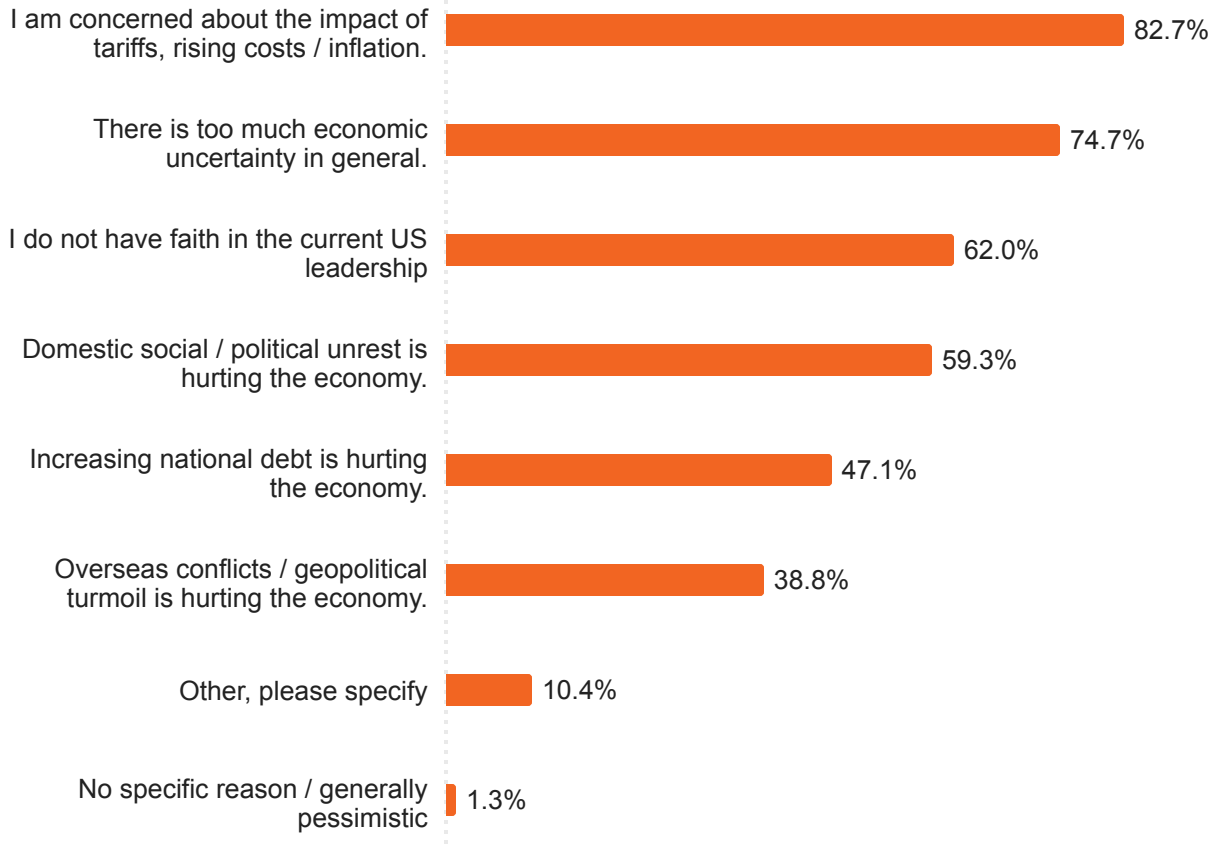
257 Responses



"Other, please specify" answers were few and varied.

**Please select the reason(s) for your skepticism in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.)**

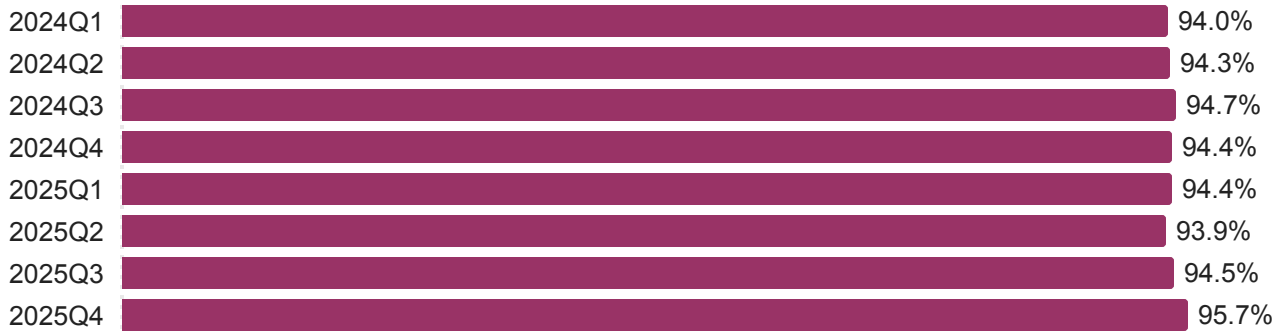
376 Responses



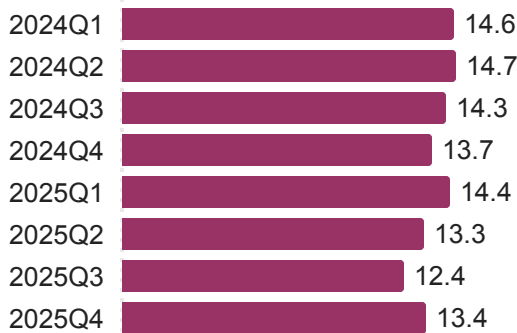
"Other, please specify" answers included influence of insurance companies and corporate practice models, unemployment and corresponding loss of health coverage, low insurance reimbursement, and lack of support for dentists.

[Owner dentists] Is your practice currently accepting new patients?

(Percentage selecting "yes")



[If accepting new patients] Currently, how many business days does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?



■ Average number of days

Which of the following best describes your general busyness level over the last 3 months?

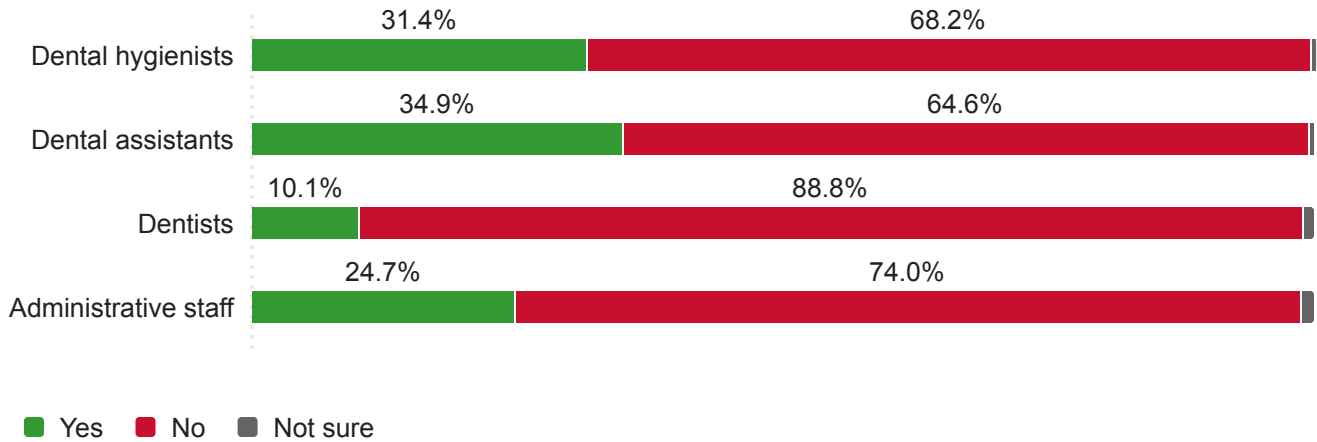
786 Responses



- Too busy to treat all people requesting appointments
- Provided care to all who requested appointments but was overworked
- Provided care to all who requested appointments but was not overworked
- Not busy enough, could have treated more patients

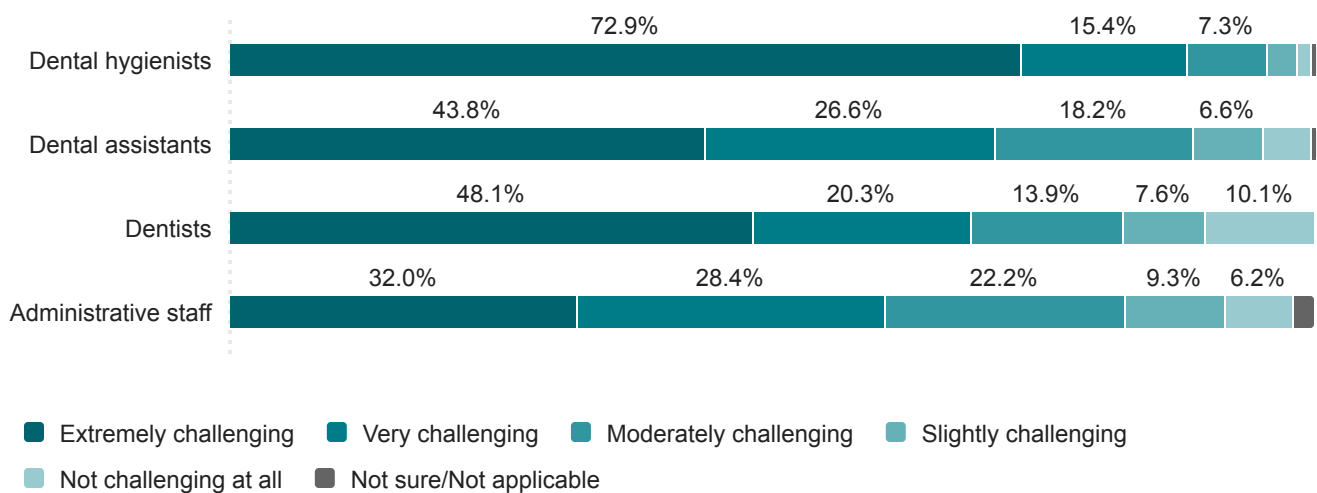
Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?

786 Responses



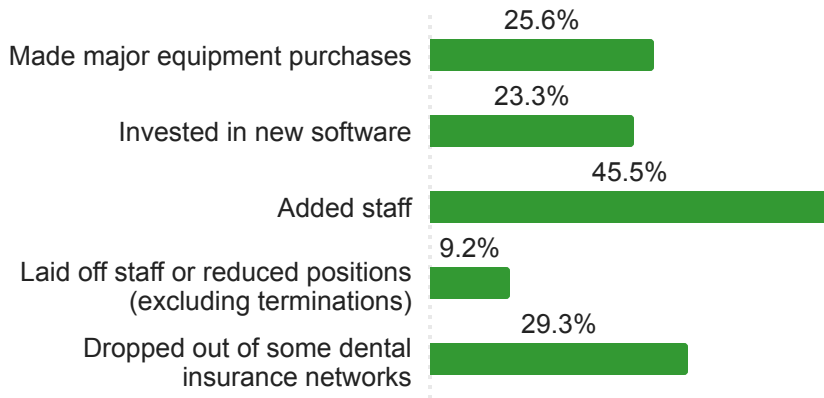
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?

460 Responses



[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2025, have you done any of the following in your practice?

704 Responses



■ Yes

Approximately what percentage of the patient base were in the insurance networks your practice dropped out of since the beginning of 2025?

164 Responses

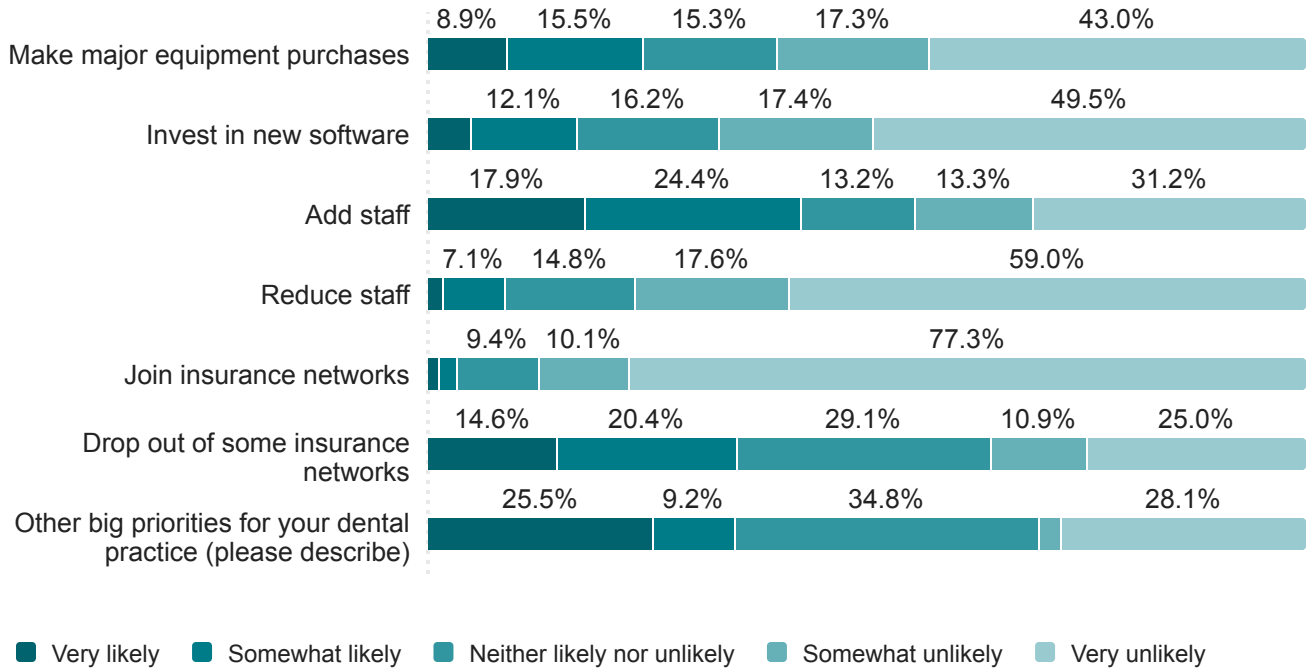


■ Mean % of patient base

[Owner dentists] Looking ahead to 2026...

How likely are you to do each of the following for your practice?

705 Responses



"Other, please specify" answers included making improvements to the practice physical space, selling or closing the practice, and retirement.

[Owner dentists] Looking ahead to 2026...

How likely are you to do each of the following for your practice? (continued)

354 Responses

Other big priorities for your dental practice:	Percentage of Responses
REFRESH / REMODEL / EXPAND THE PRACTICE	13.4%
SELL THE PRACTICE / CONSIDER CLOSING	13.0%
RETIRE / PREPARE FOR RETIREMENT	12.5%
REDUCE OVERHEAD / MANAGE INCREASING EXPENSES	6.9%
FOCUS ON MARKETING	6.0%
IMPROVE REVENUE / PROFITABILITY	5.6%
INCREASE EFFICIENCY / PRODUCTIVITY	4.6%
NEGOTIATE FEES / HIGHER REIMBURSEMENT WITH INSURANCE COMPANIES	4.6%
PROVIDE TRAINING, CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR STAFF	3.7%
INCREASE NUMBER OF PATIENTS / ACQUIRE NEW PATIENTS	3.7%
ADJUST PRACTICE/CLINIC HOURS	3.2%
IMPLEMENT / UTILIZE AI	1.9%
WEATHER THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN	2.8%
RAISE PRICES/FEES	2.3%
STAY OUT OF NEWTORK / FEE-FOR-SERVICE	1.4%
ADD MORE SERVICES (IMPLANT SERVICES, RESTORATIVE SERVICES)	1.9%
PROVIDE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR STAFF	1.9%
PAY BACK / RESTRUCTURE DEBT	1.4%
PREVENT BURNOUT	1.4%
MISCELLANEOUS	11.1%

Looking ahead to 2026...

What are the top 3 challenges for your practice?

751 Responses

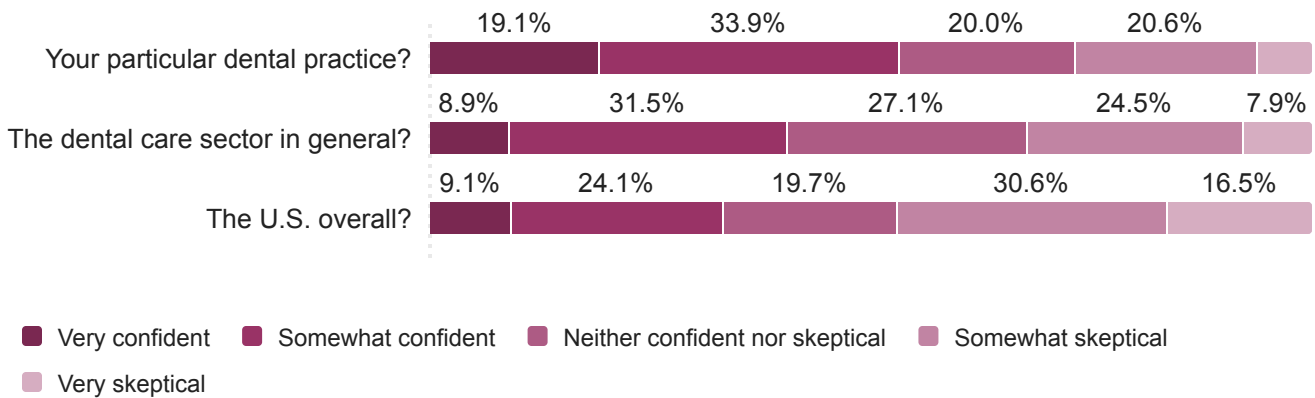
Top 3 Challenges	Percentage of Responses
LOW INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT / DENIALS / MEDICAID AND MEDICARE / OTHER INSURANCE ISSUES	55.3%
STAFFING / RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION / WORKFORCE SHORTAGE	54.2%
INCREASING EXPENSES / OVERHEAD COSTS (STAFF WAGES/BENEFITS, SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT COSTS, RENT/MORTGAGE, UTILITIES)	41.5%
MAINTAINING/INCREASING PATIENT VOLUME / KEEPING SCHEDULED FULL / REVENUE OR FUNDING TO OPERATE	31.8%
THE ECONOMY IN GENERAL / INFLATION	9.7%
PATIENTS REFUSING/DELAYING TREATMENT / NOT SEEKING PREVENTIVE CARE / NOT ABLE TO PAY FOR CARE	8.8%
KEEPING UP WITH PATIENT NEEDS/DEMANDS / TOO BUSY / NOT ENOUGH SPACE	5.7%
WORK-LIFE BALANCE FOR STAFF / HEALTH / MINIMIZE BURNOUT/STRESS	5.1%
NEW TECHNOLOGY / EQUIPMENT UPDATES	4.5%
FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT / REGULATIONS AND MANDATES	3.9%
COMPETITION WITH OTHER DENTAL PRACTICES / DSO	3.6%
CONSIDERING OR PLANNING RETIREMENT / PRACTICE TRANSITION / SELLING PRACTICE	3.1%
CHANGES IN PATIENTS' DENTAL PLANS / SERVICES COVERED	2.7%
INSURANCE COMPANY INFLUENCE ON PATIENTS' TREATMENT DECISIONS / BUSINESS / DENTAL MARKET	2.3%
COMMUNICATING WITH PATIENTS / MANAGING PATIENT EXPECTATIONS / DIFFICULT PATIENTS	1.3%
CURRENT ADMINISTRATION AND POLICIES (IMMIGRATION, LOAN REPAYMENT, MISINFORMATION)	0.8%
SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME ON ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS	0.8%
DROPPING SOME INSURANCE NETWORKS / GOING/REMAINING OUT-OF-NETWORK / FEE-FOR-SERVICE	0.7%
CONNECTING PATIENTS WITH SPECIALISTS / LIMITED ACCESS TO SPECIALISTS	0.4%
DIRECTION OF ADA	0.1%
MISCELLANEOUS	7.3%

Economic Confidence

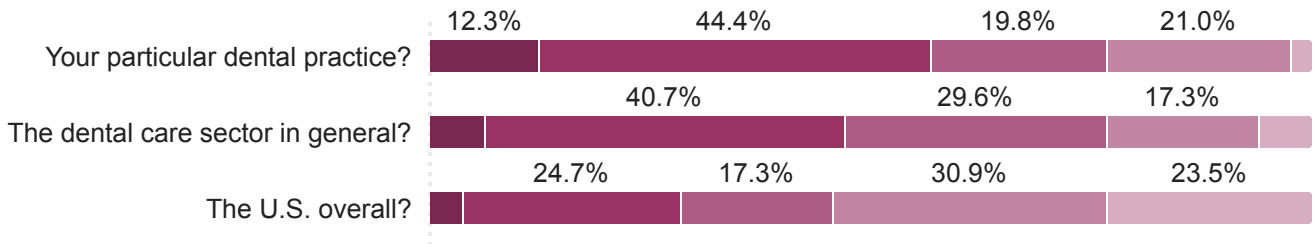
BY OWNERSHIP STATUS

Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in:

Owner



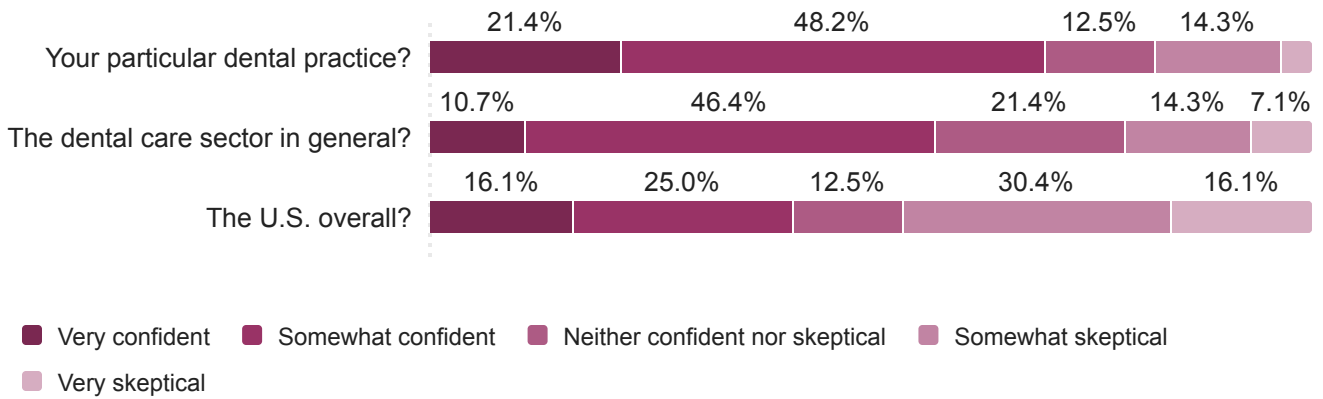
Non-owner



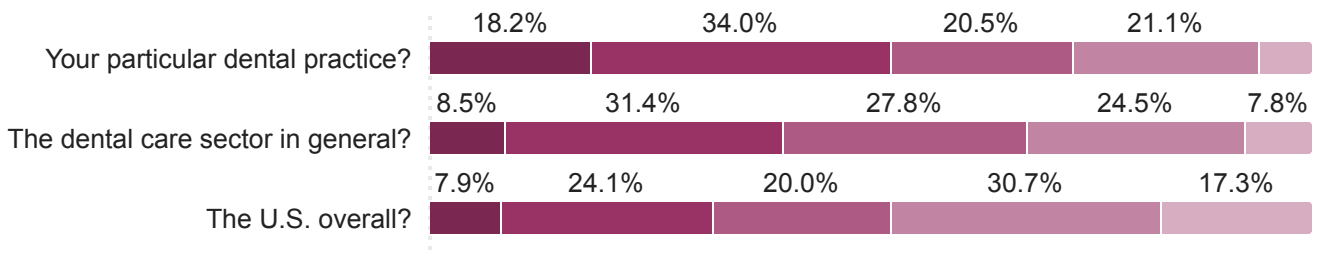
BY DSO AFFILIATION

Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in:

DSO



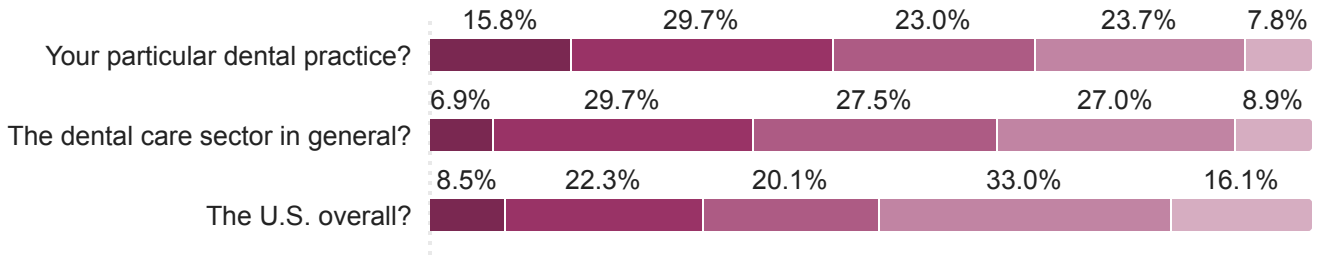
Non-DSO



BY PRACTICE SIZE

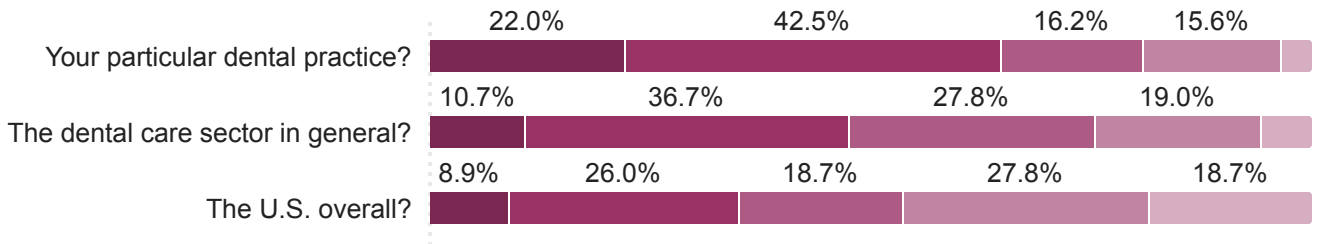
Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in:

Solo dentists



Very confident
 Somewhat confident
 Neither confident nor skeptical
 Somewhat skeptical
 Very skeptical

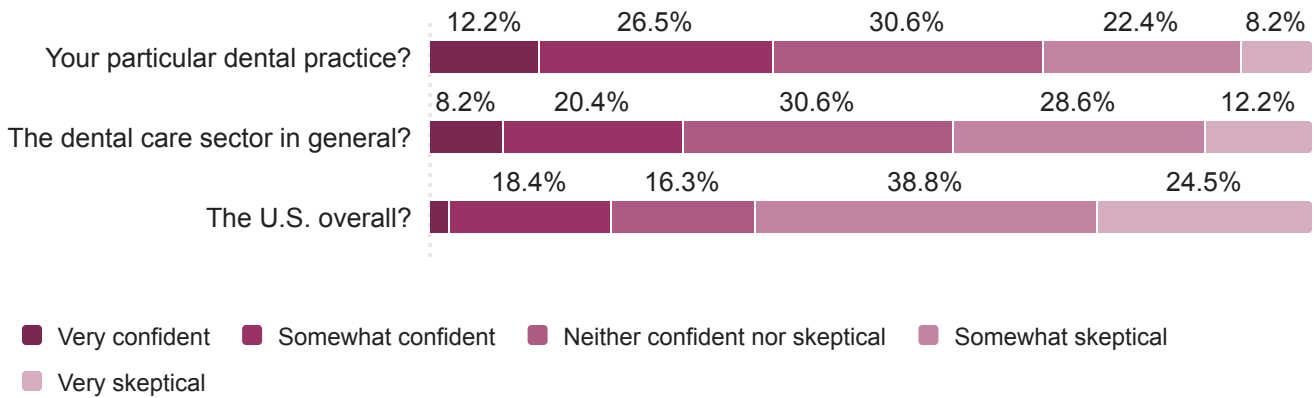
2 to 9 dentists



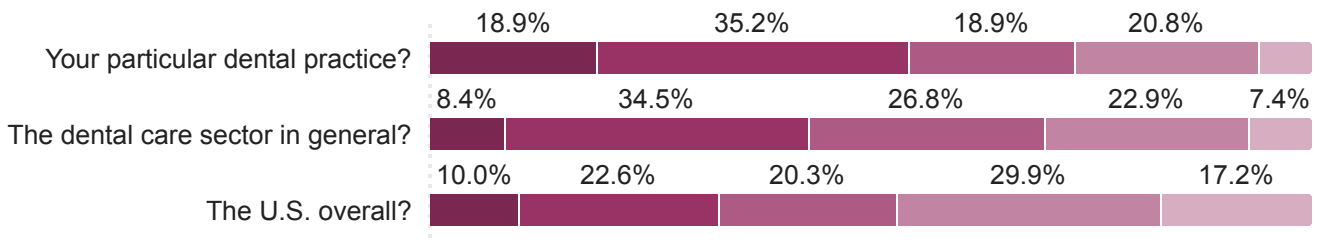
BY GEOGRAPHY

Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in:

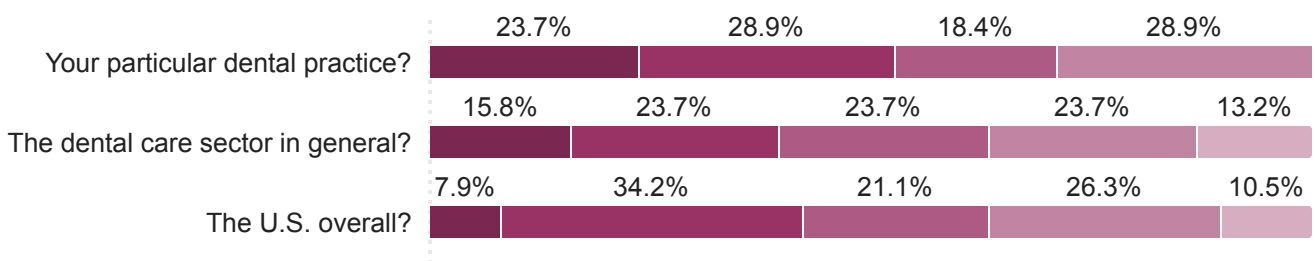
Top 20 cities



Other urban

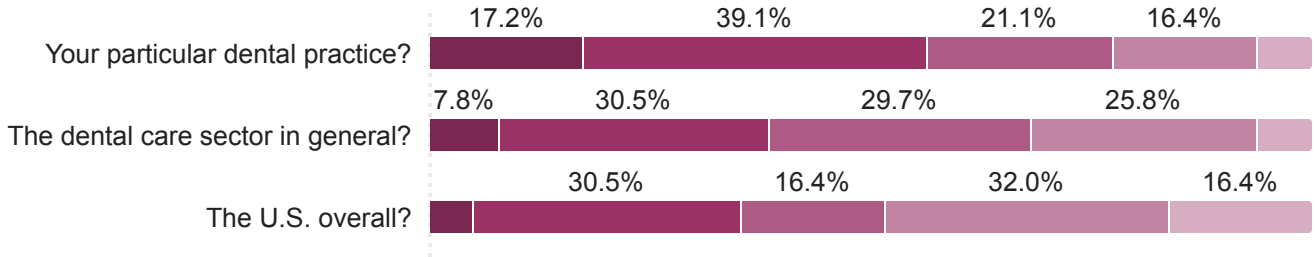


Suburban



**Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in:
(continued)**

Rural

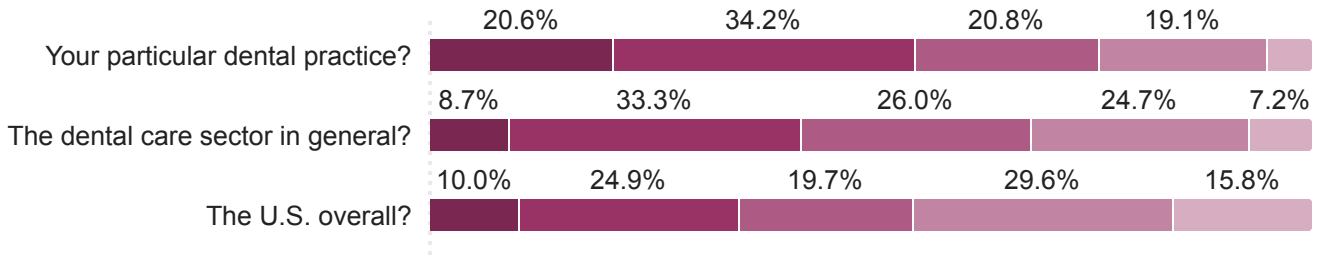


Very confident
 Somewhat confident
 Neither confident nor skeptical
 Somewhat skeptical
 Very skeptical

BY SEX

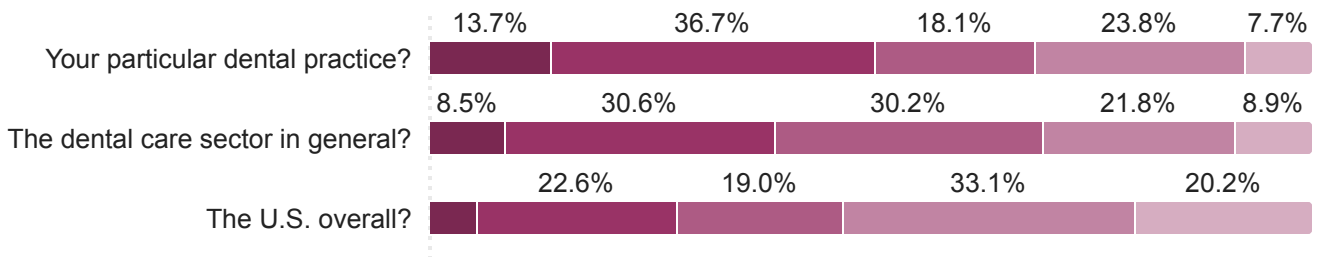
Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in:

Male



■ Very confident
 ■ Somewhat confident
 ■ Neither confident nor skeptical
 ■ Somewhat skeptical
 ■ Very skeptical

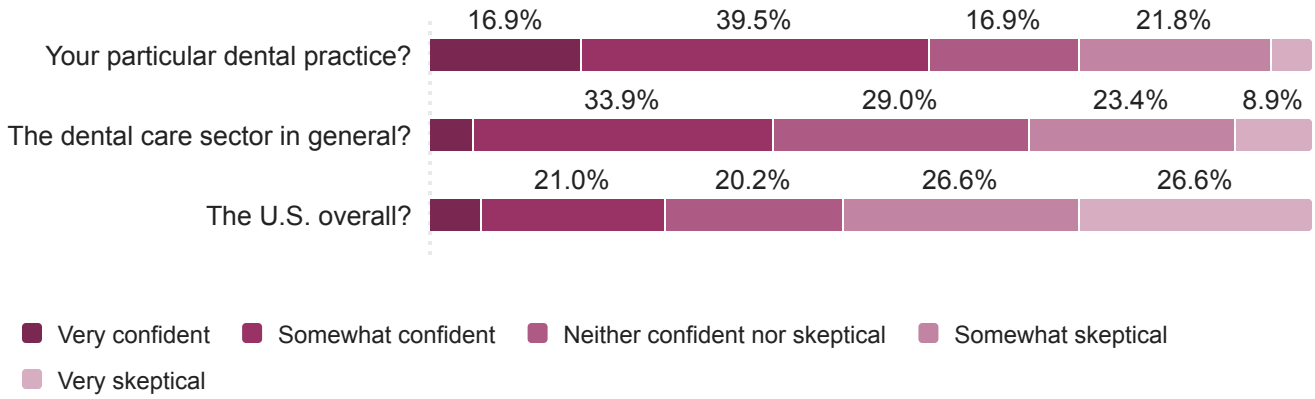
Female



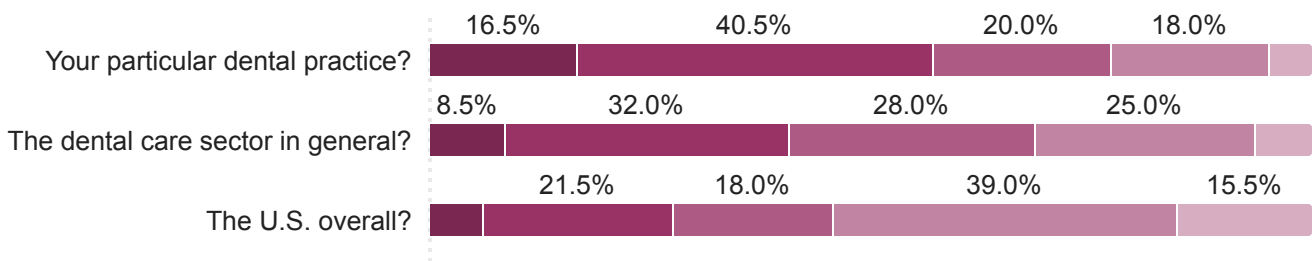
BY AGE GROUP

Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in:

35 to 44



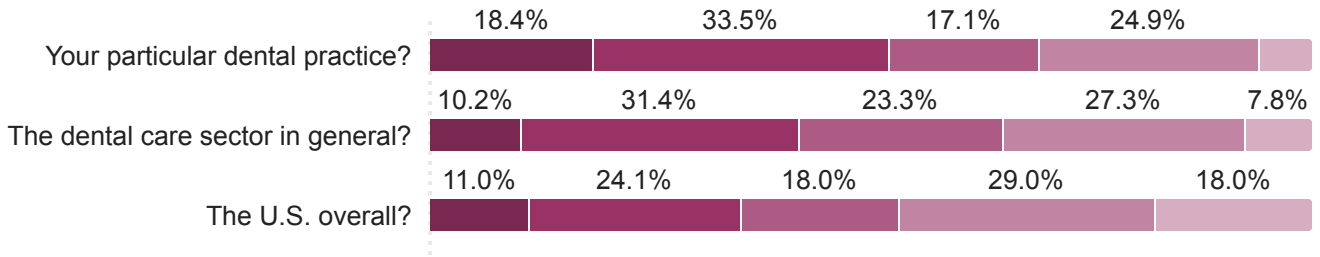
45 to 54



BY AGE GROUP (continued)

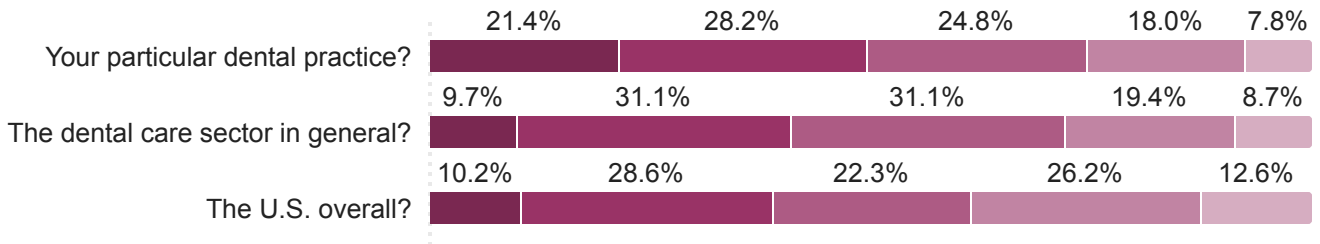
Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in:

55 to 64



■ Very confident
 ■ Somewhat confident
 ■ Neither confident nor skeptical
 ■ Somewhat skeptical
 ■ Very skeptical

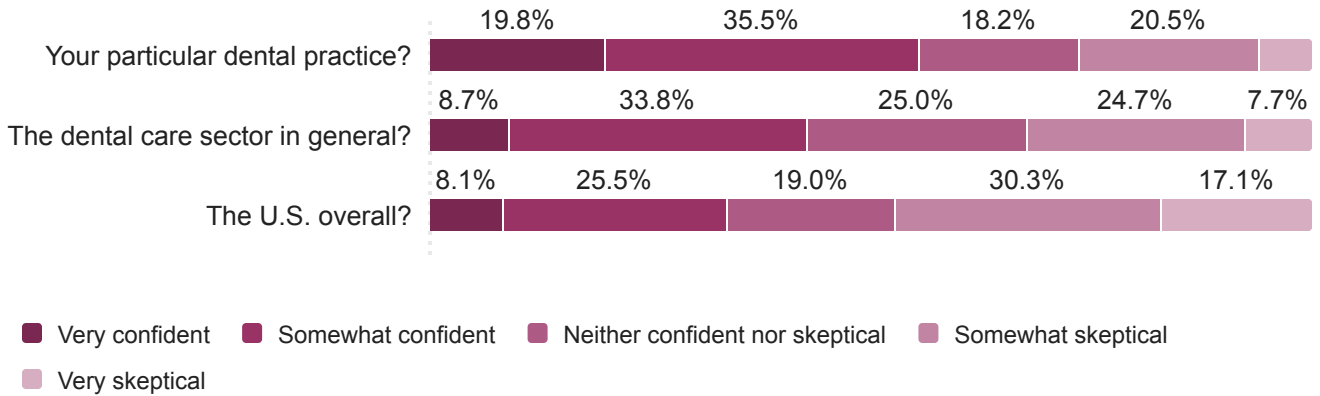
65 or older



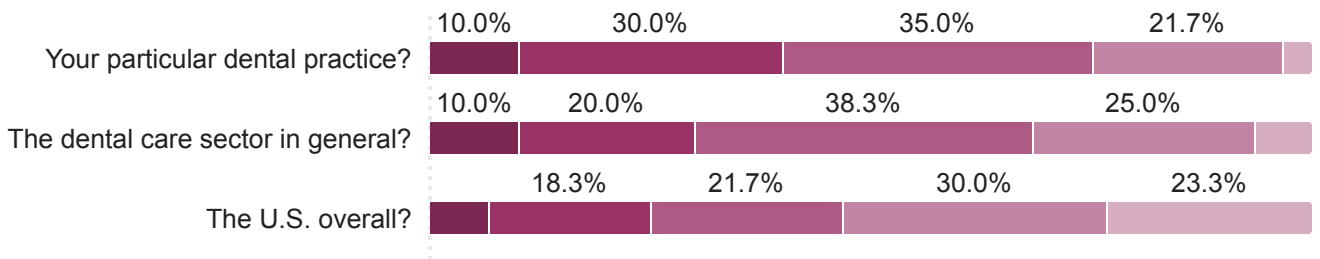
BY RACE/ETHNICITY

Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the economic conditions in:

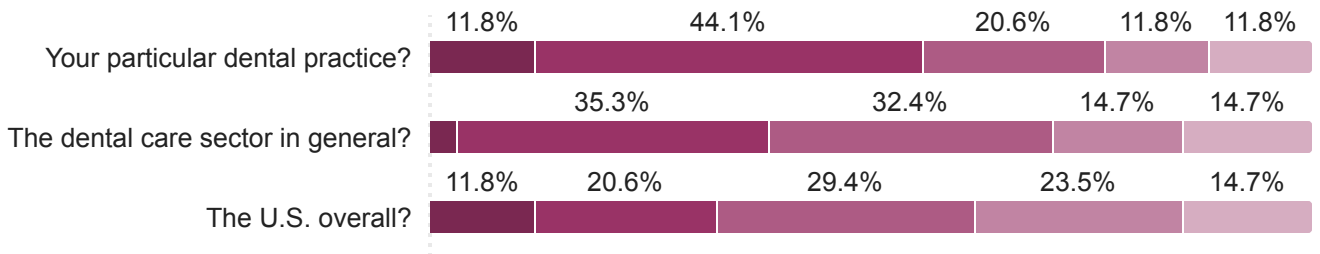
White



Asian



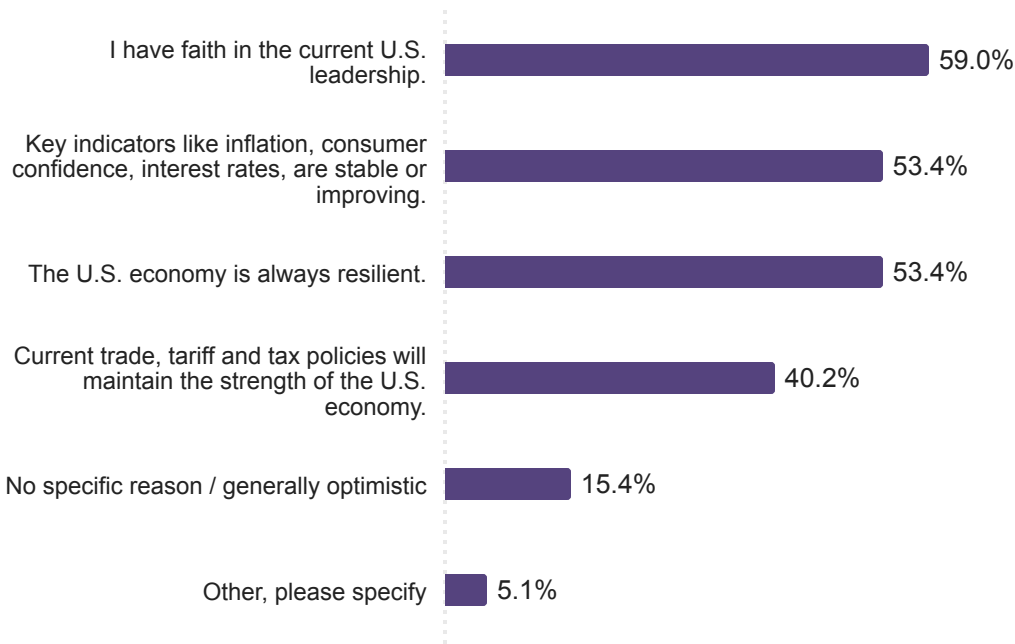
Hispanic



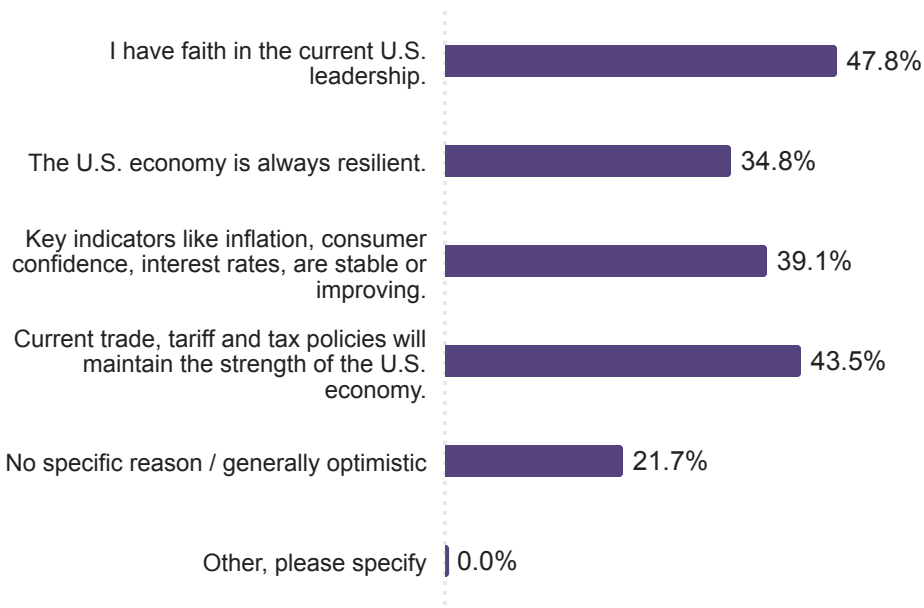
Please select the reason(s) for your confidence in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.)

BY OWNERSHIP STATUS

Owner



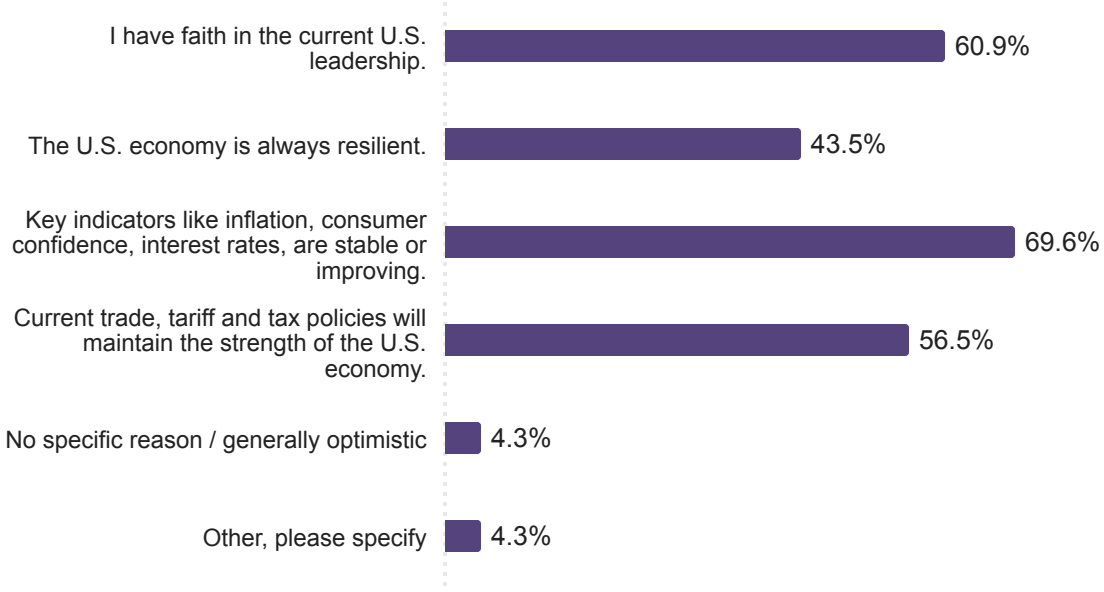
Non-owner



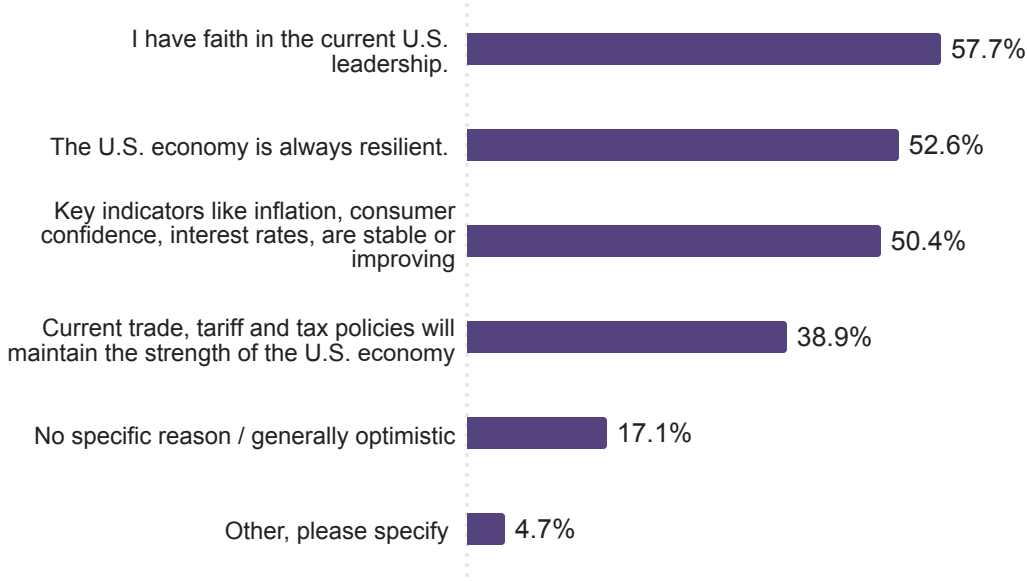
Please select the reason(s) for your confidence in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.) (continued)

BY DSO AFFILIATION

DSO



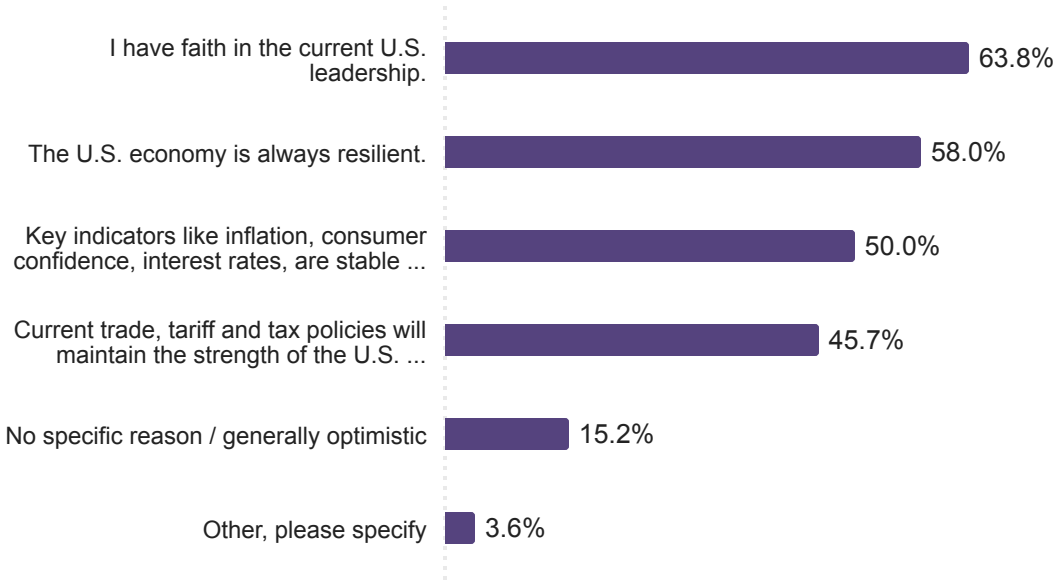
Non-DSO



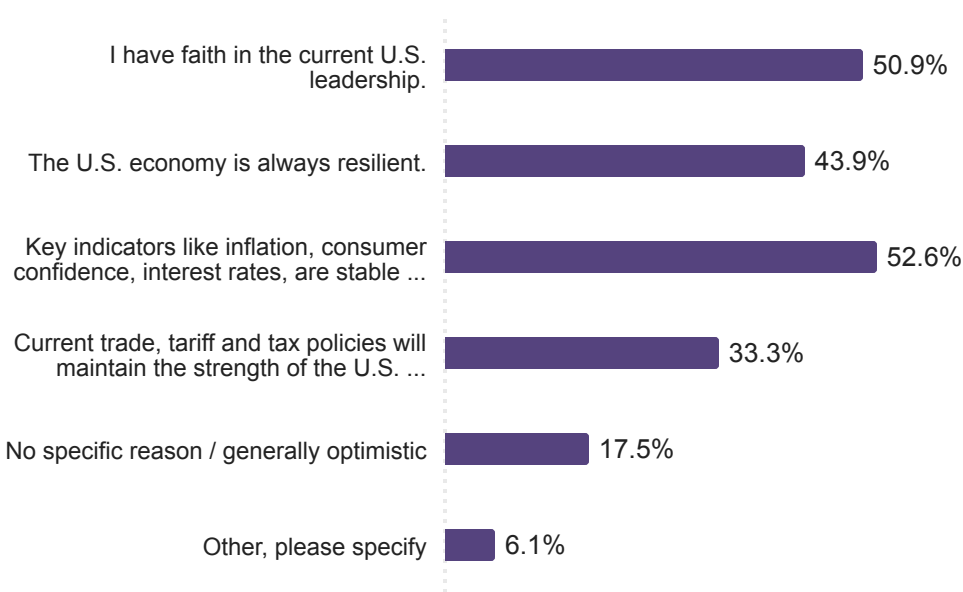
Please select the reason(s) for your confidence in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.) (continued)

BY PRACTICE SIZE

Solo dentists



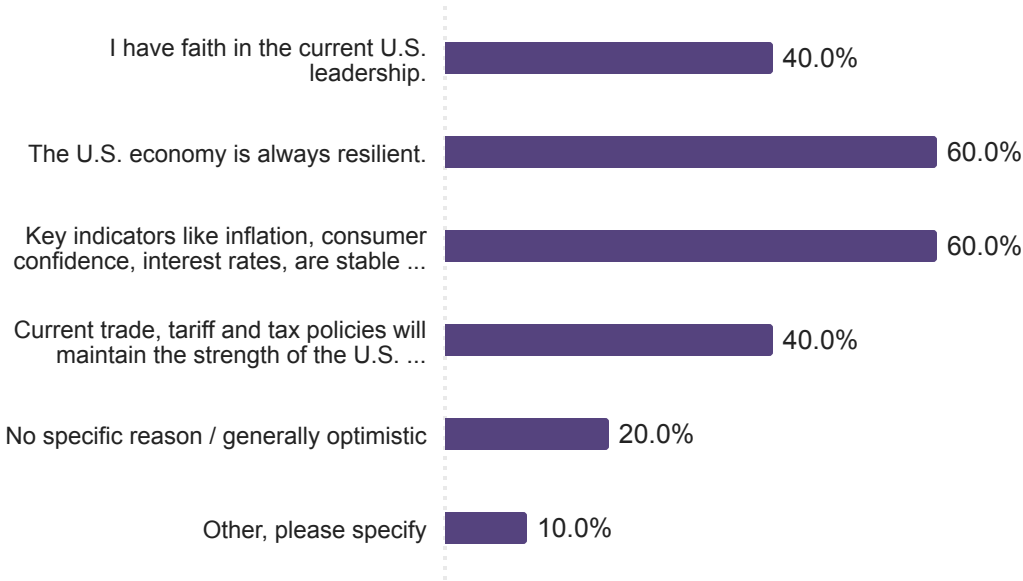
2 to 9 dentists



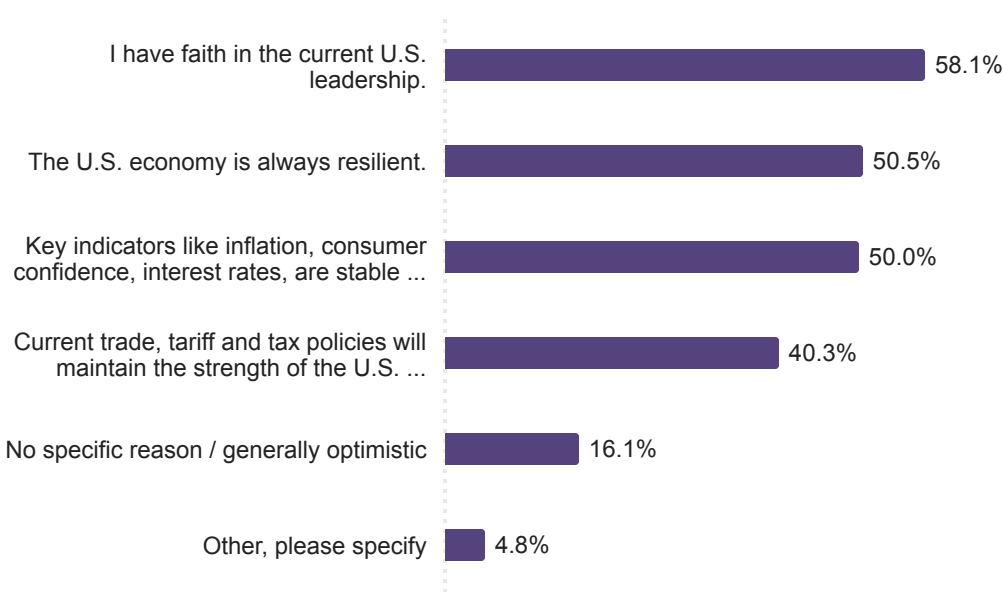
Please select the reason(s) for your confidence in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.) (continued)

BY GEOGRAPHY

Top 20 cities



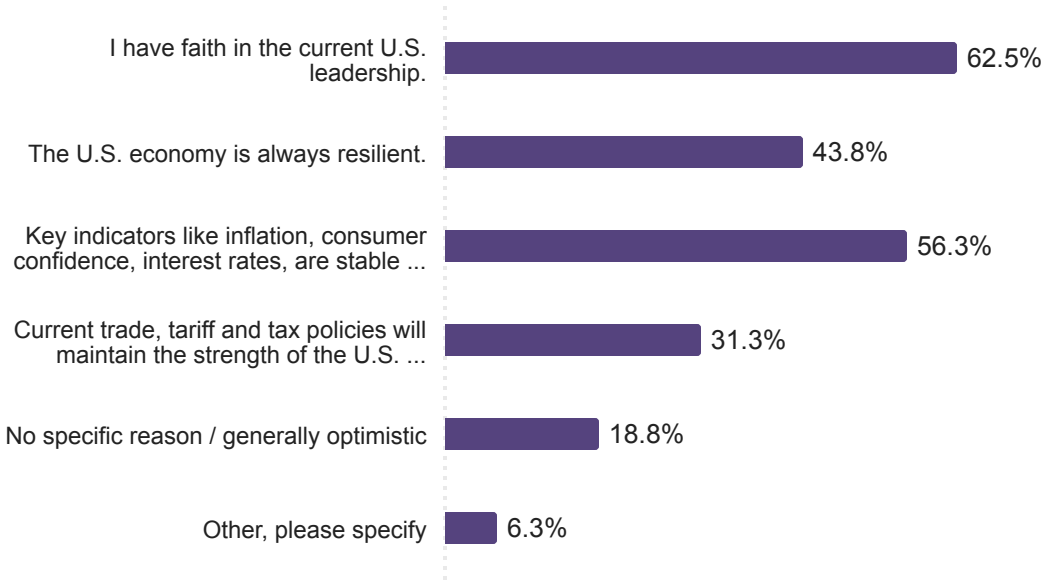
Other urban



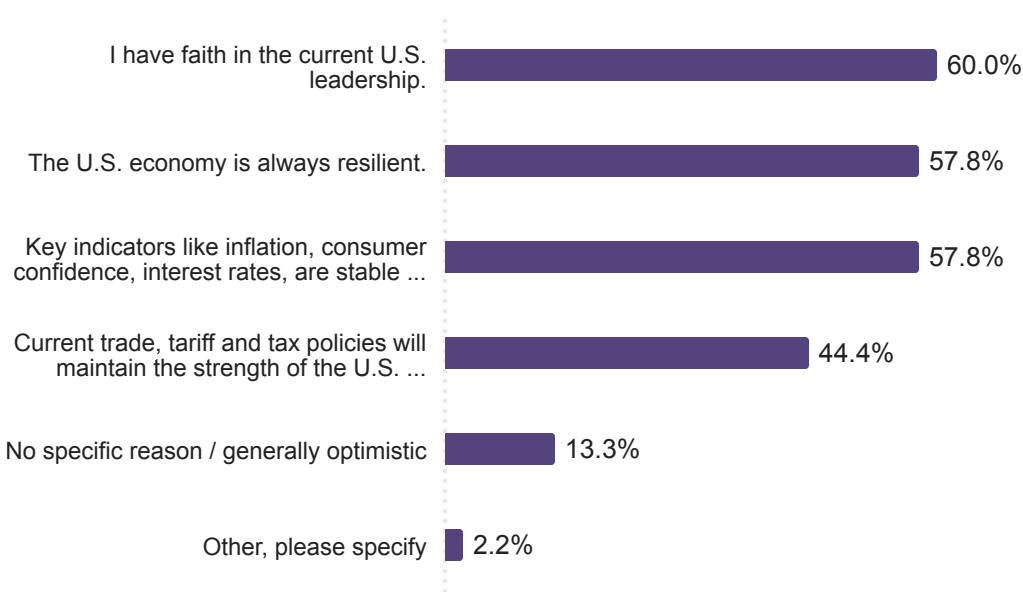
Please select the reason(s) for your confidence in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.) (continued)

BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

Suburban



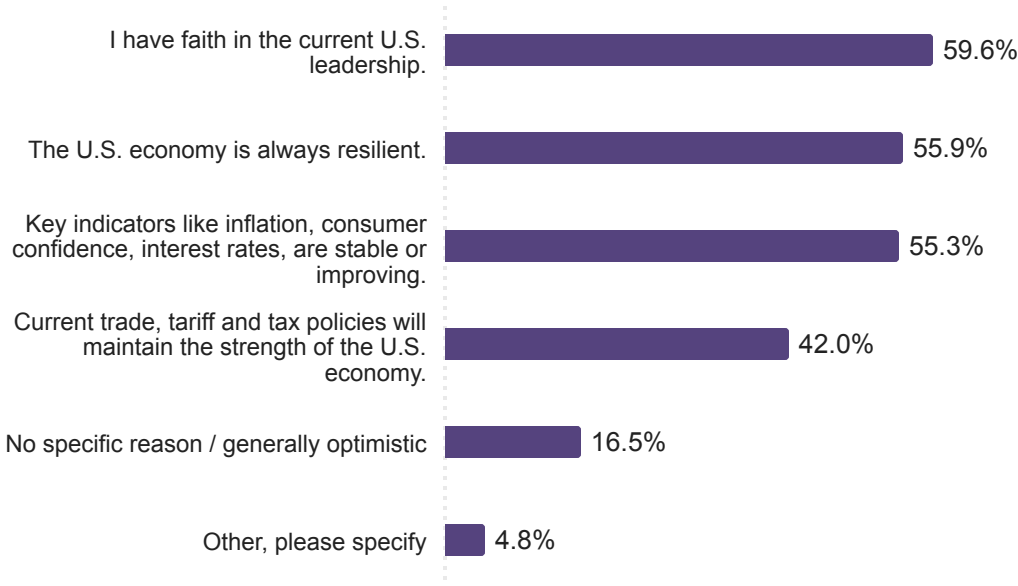
Rural



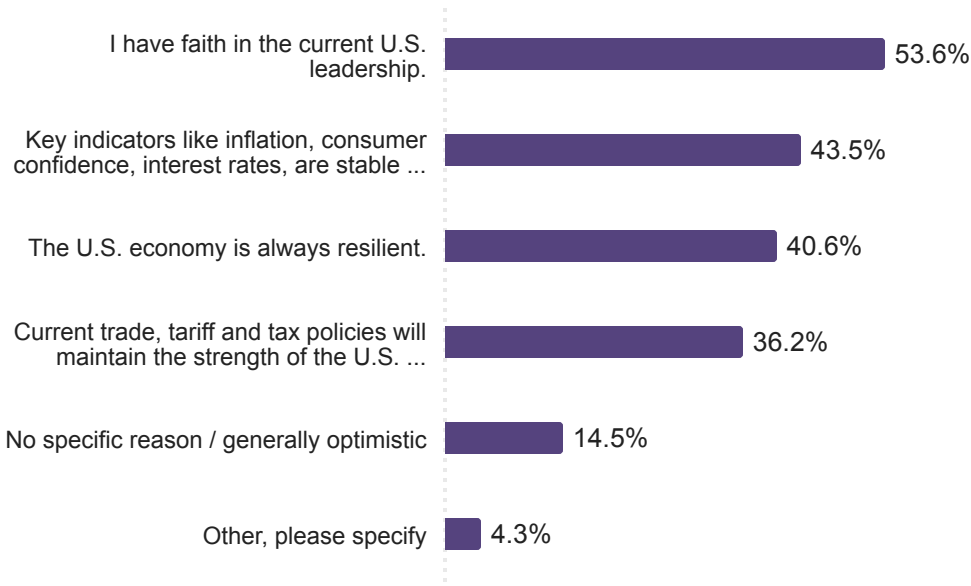
Please select the reason(s) for your confidence in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.) (continued)

BY SEX

Male



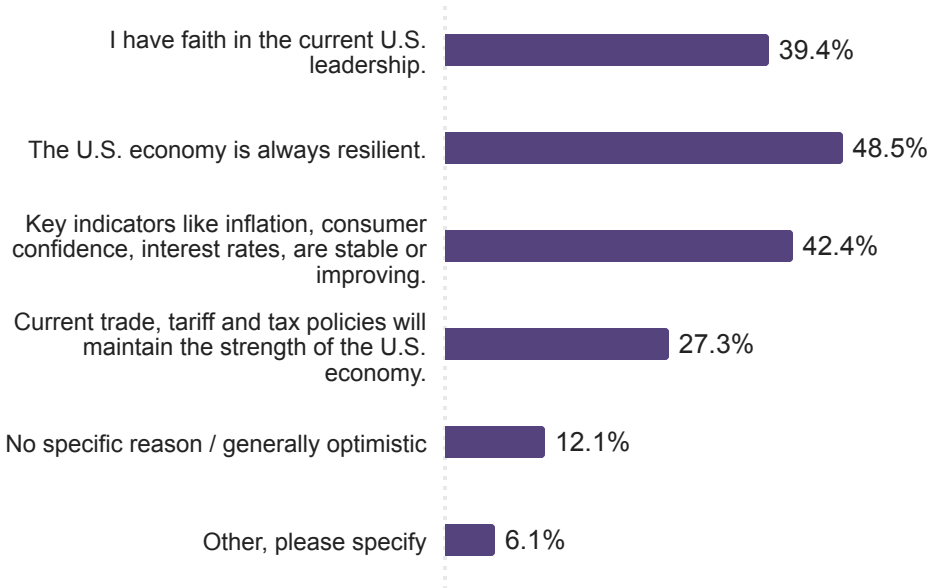
Female



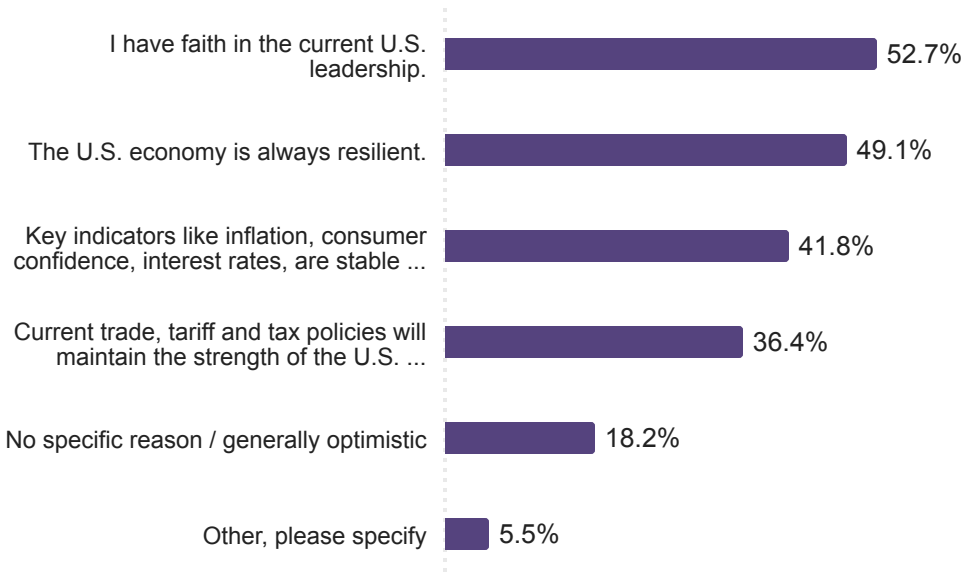
Please select the reason(s) for your confidence in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.) (continued)

BY AGE GROUP

35 to 44



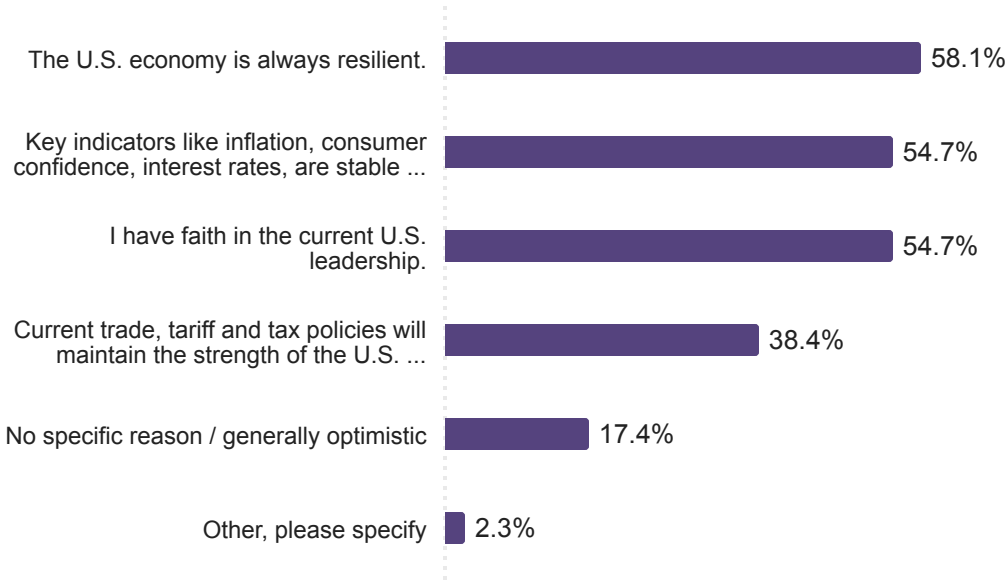
45 to 54



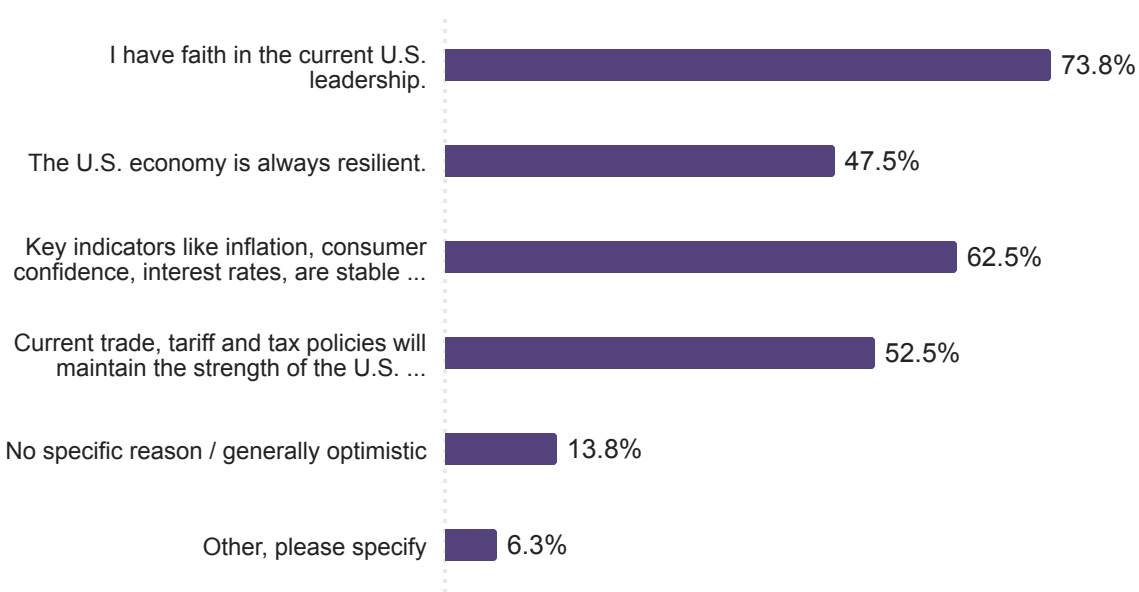
Please select the reason(s) for your confidence in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.) (continued)

BY AGE GROUP (continued)

55 to 64



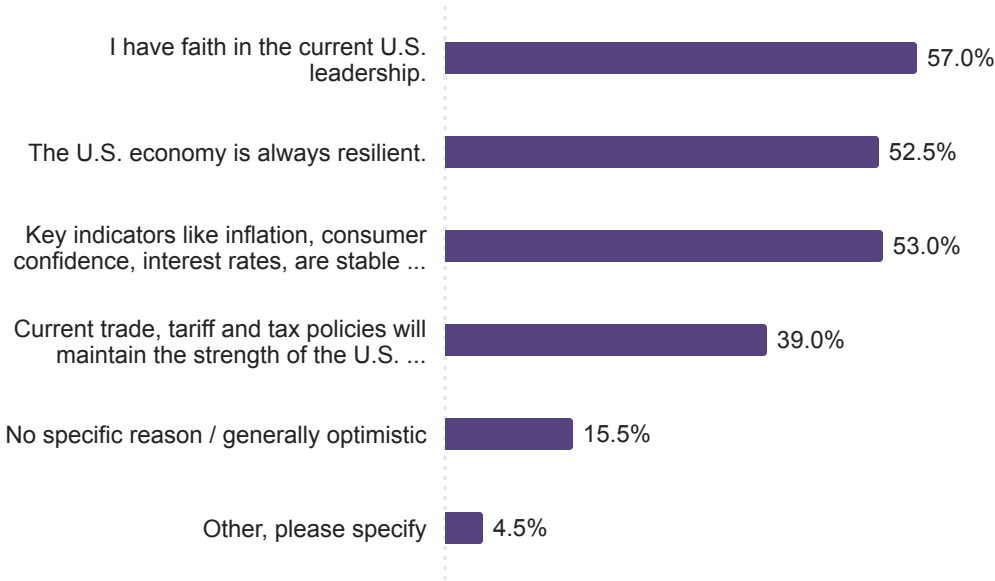
65 or older



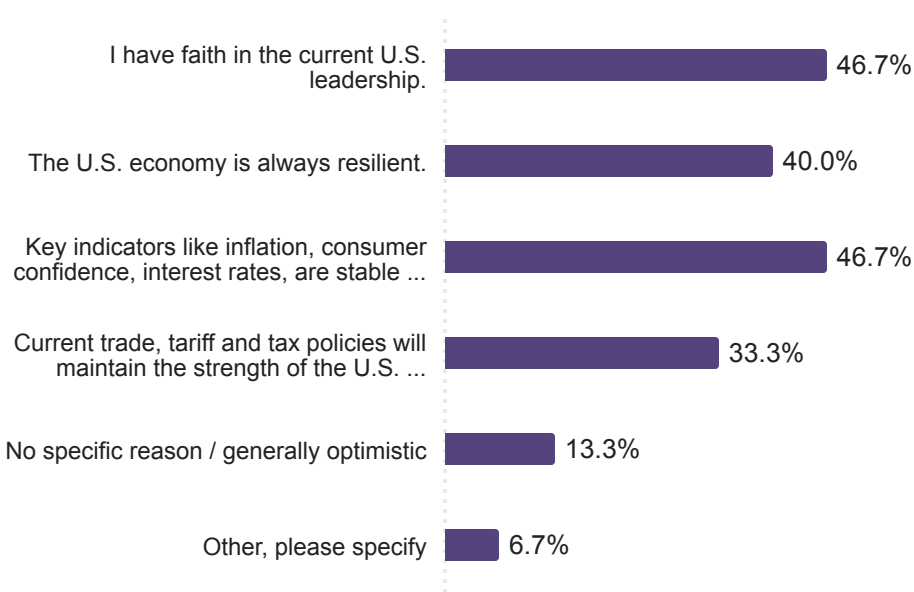
Please select the reason(s) for your confidence in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.) (continued)

BY RACE/ETHNICITY

White



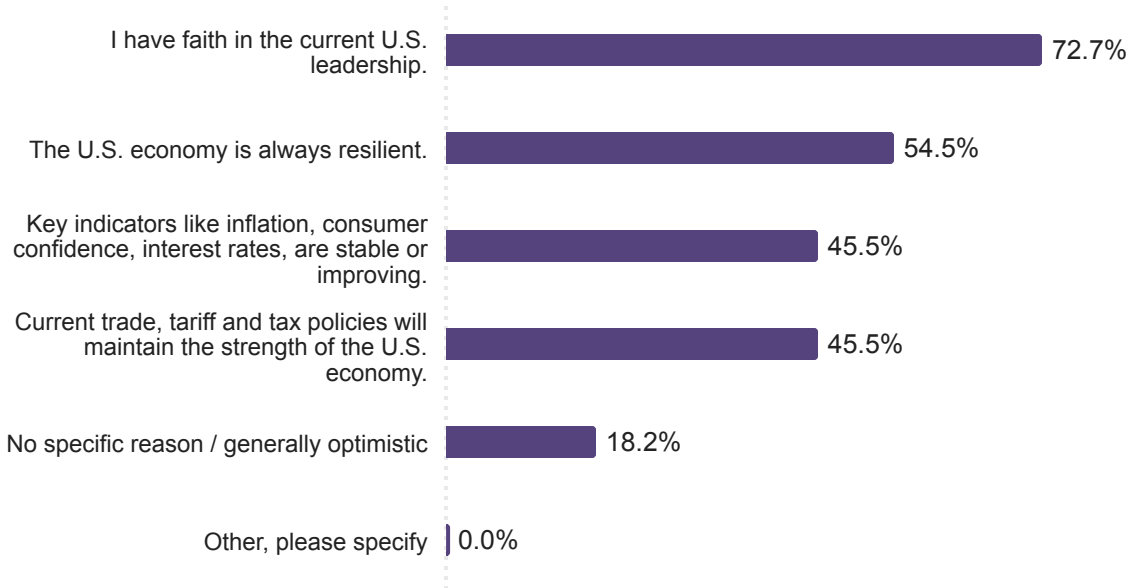
Asian



Please select the reason(s) for your confidence in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.) (continued)

BY RACE/ETHNICITY (continued)

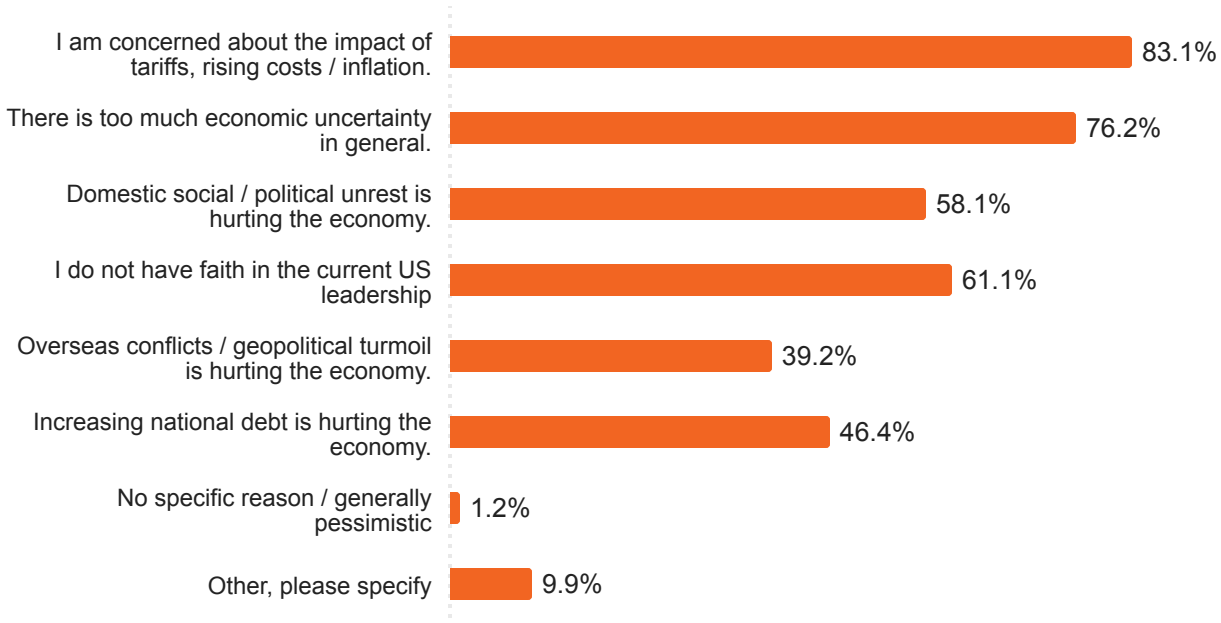
Hispanic



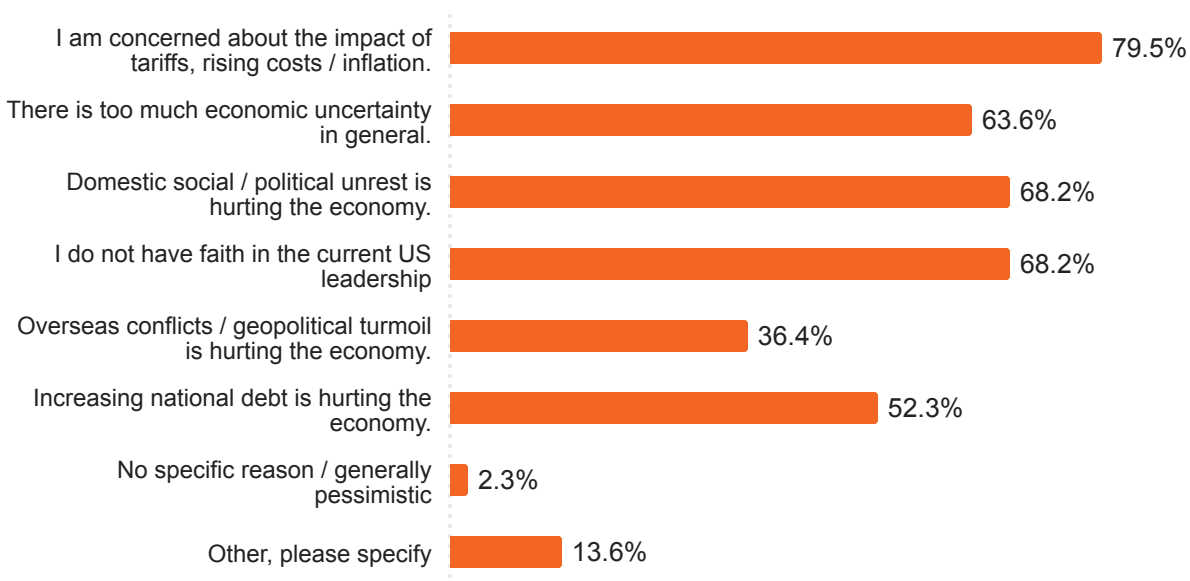
Please select the reason(s) for your skepticism in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.)

BY OWNERSHIP STATUS

Owner



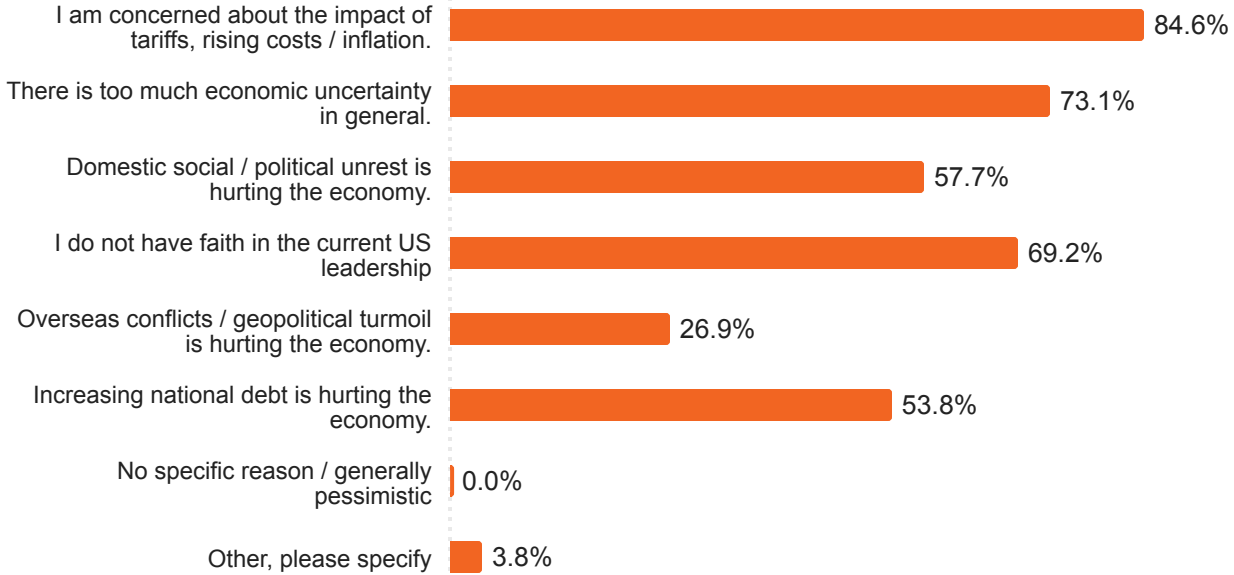
Non-owner



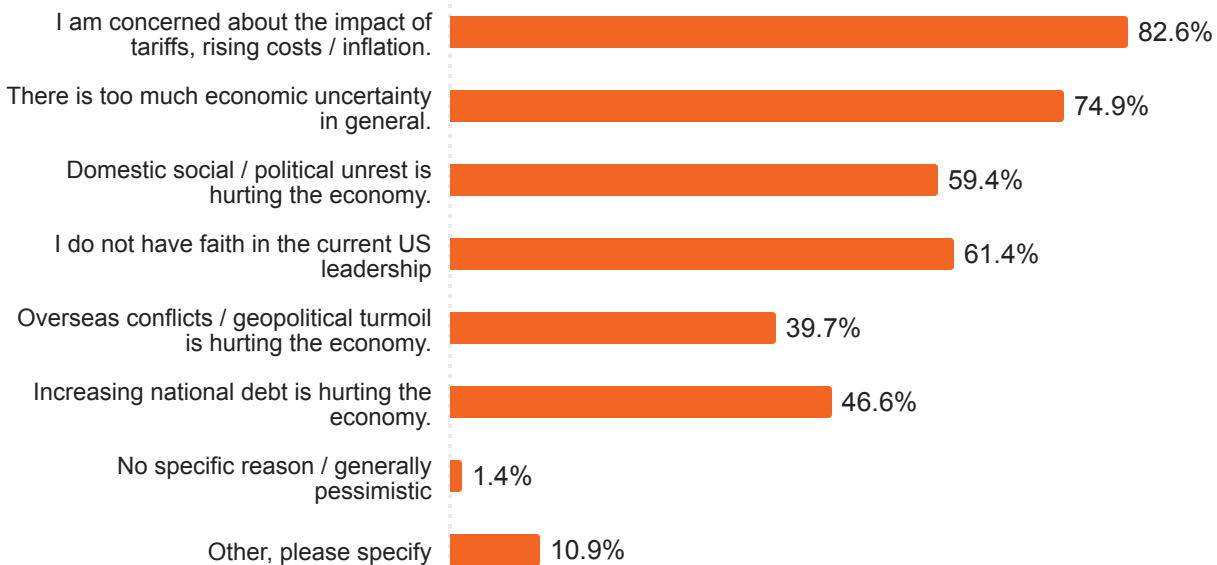
Please select the reason(s) for your skepticism in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.) (continued)

BY DSO AFFILIATION

DSO



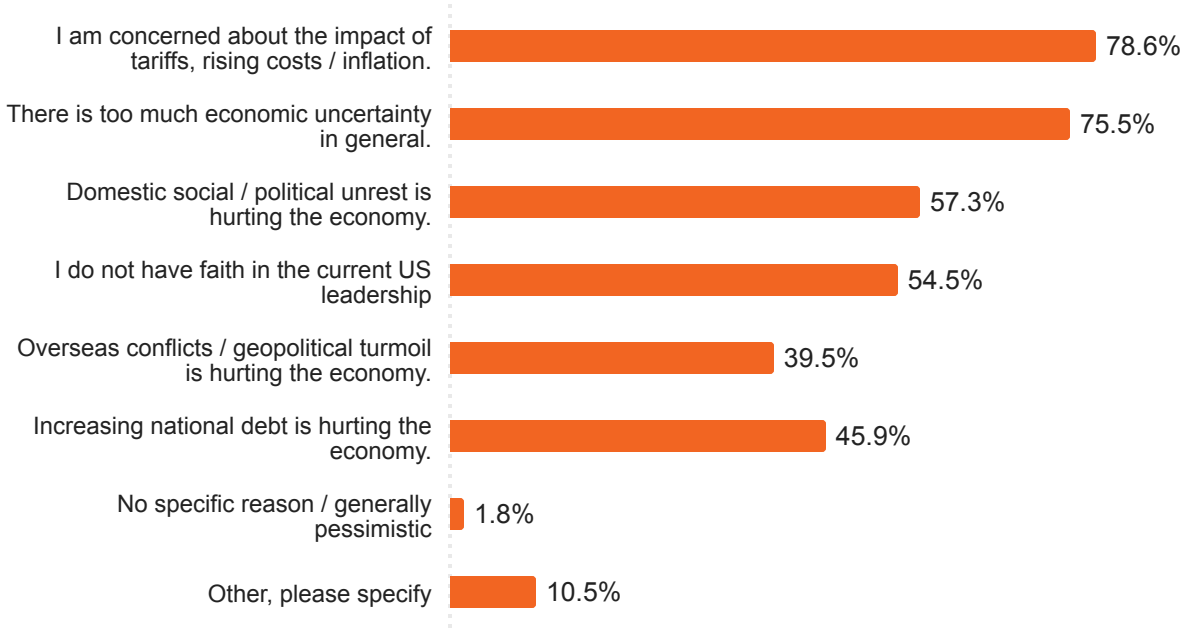
Non-DSO



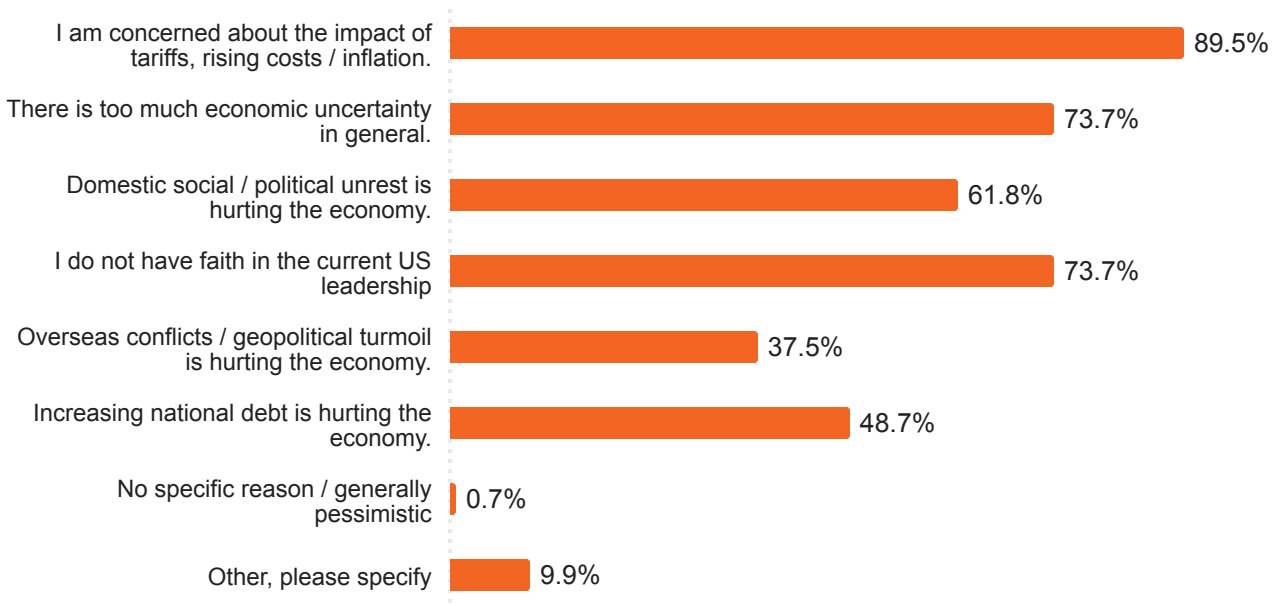
Please select the reason(s) for your skepticism in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.) (continued)

BY PRACTICE SIZE

Solo dentists



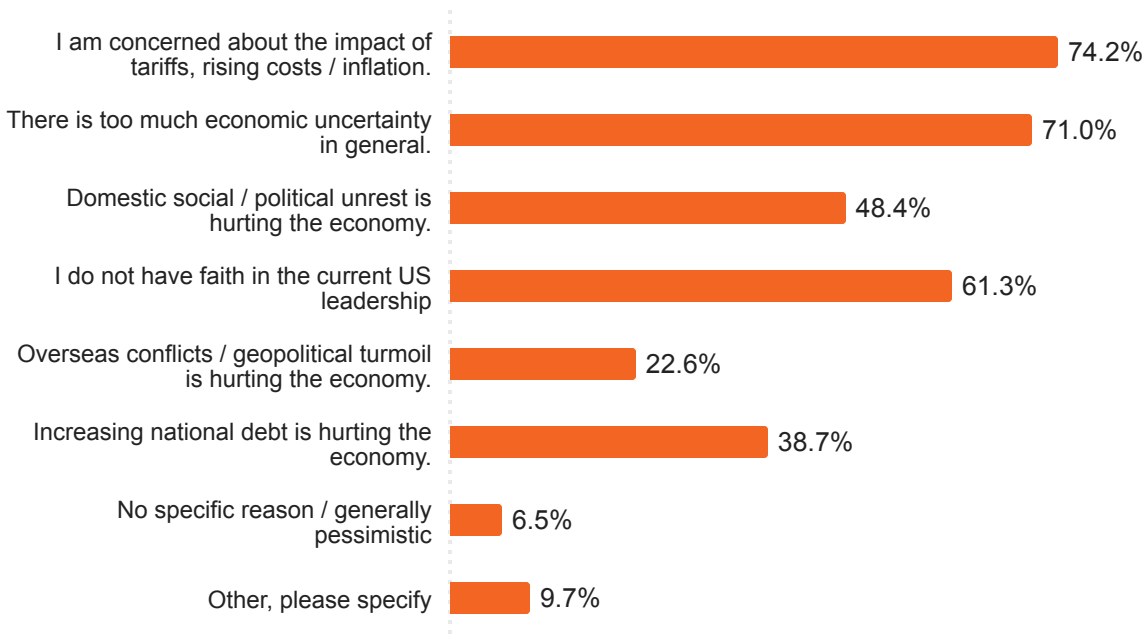
2 to 9 dentists



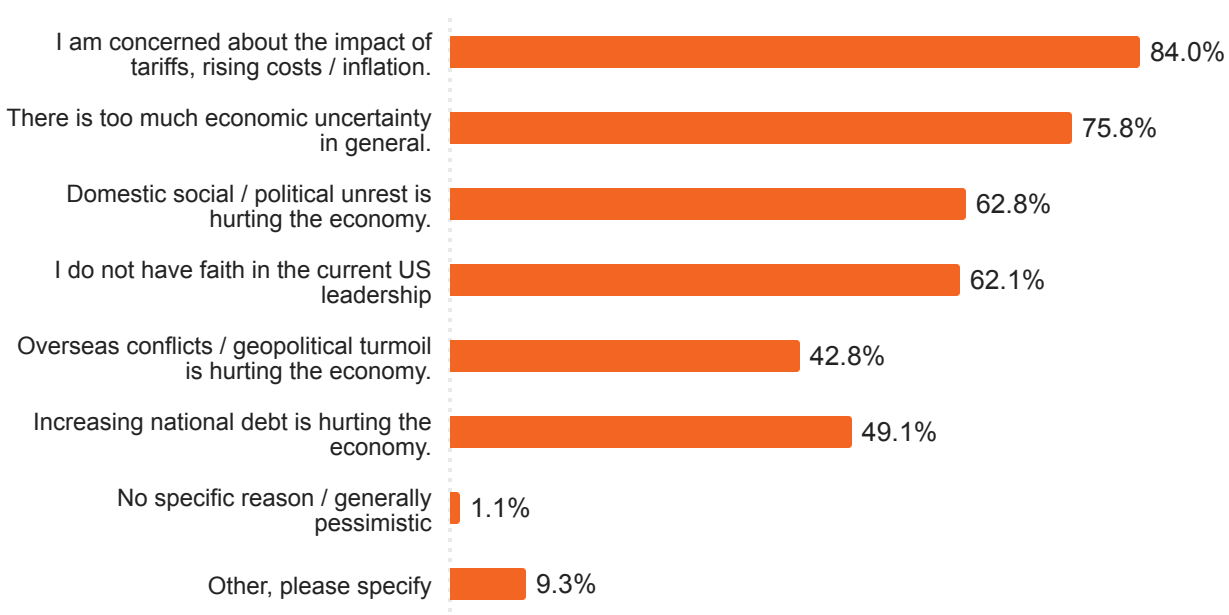
Please select the reason(s) for your skepticism in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.) (continued)

BY GEOGRAPHY

Top 20 cities



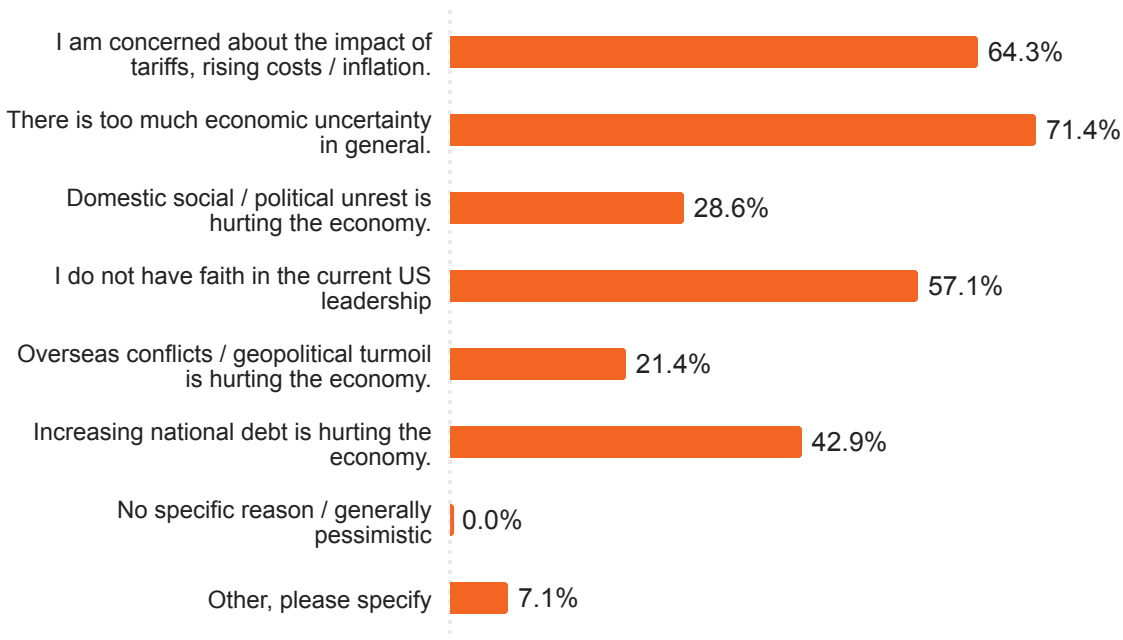
Other urban



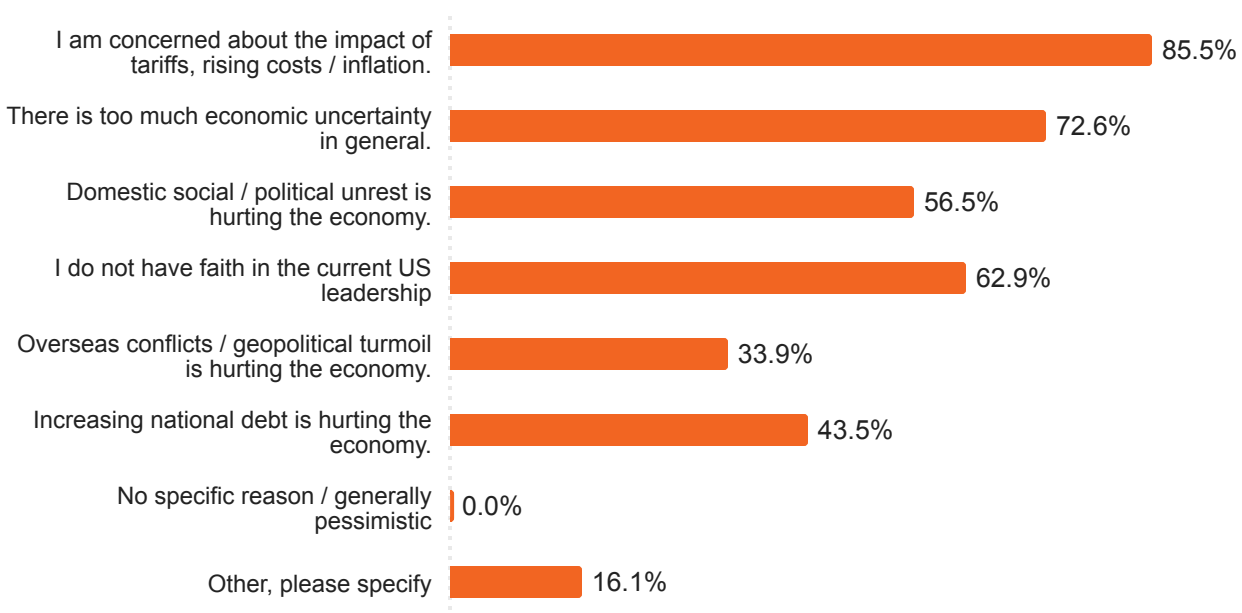
Please select the reason(s) for your skepticism in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.) (continued)

BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

Suburban



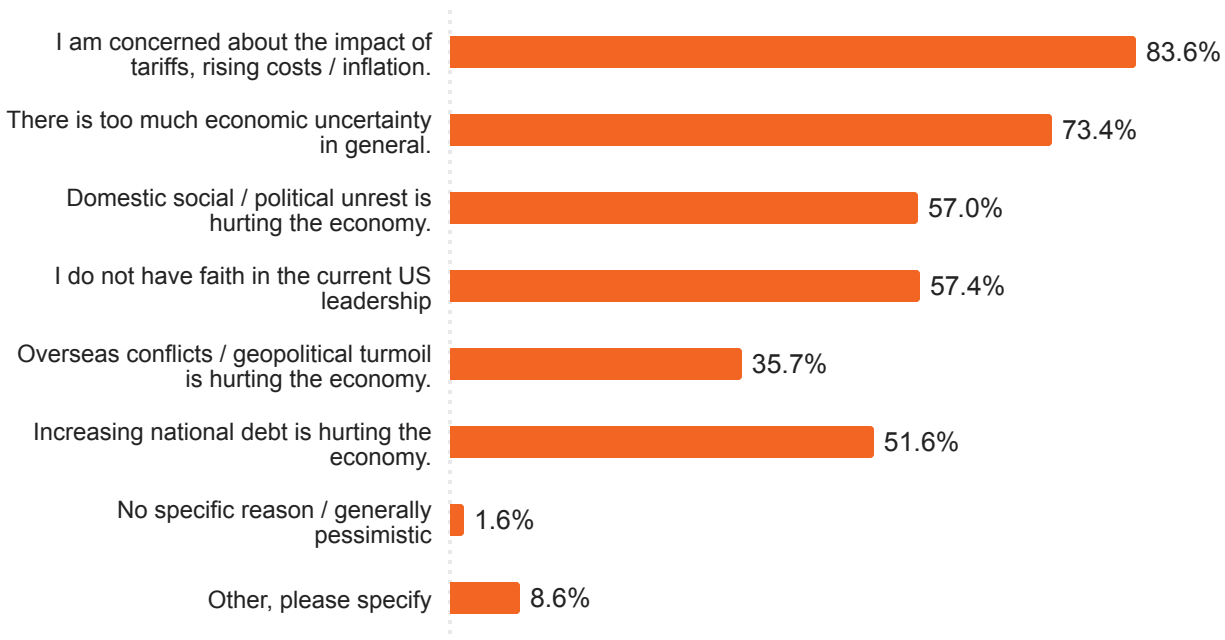
Rural



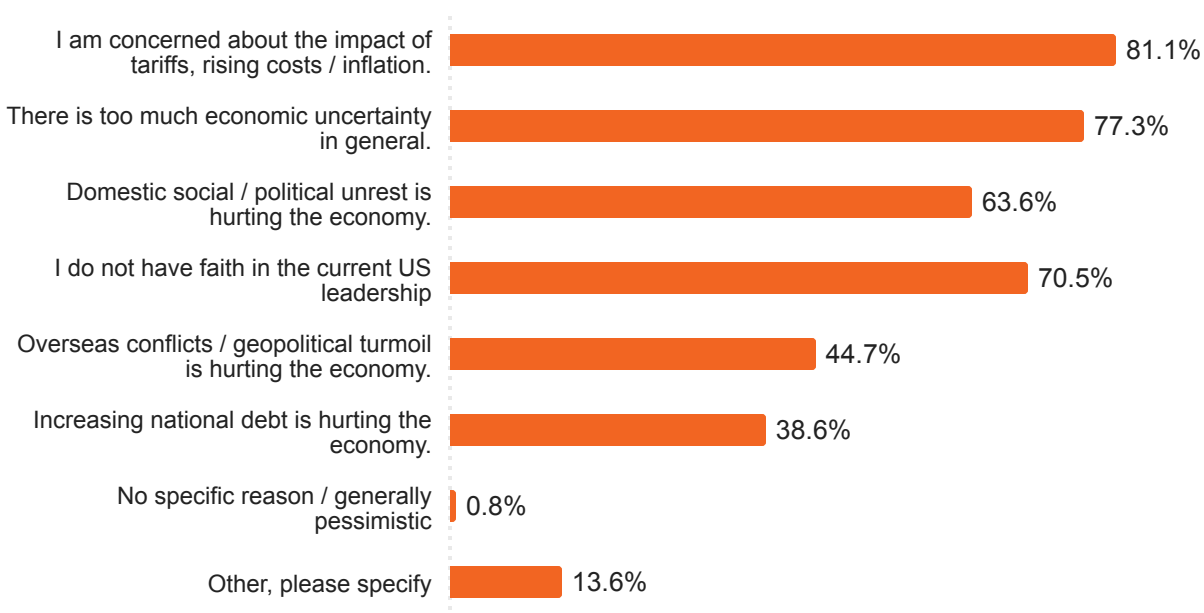
Please select the reason(s) for your skepticism in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.) (continued)

BY SEX

Male



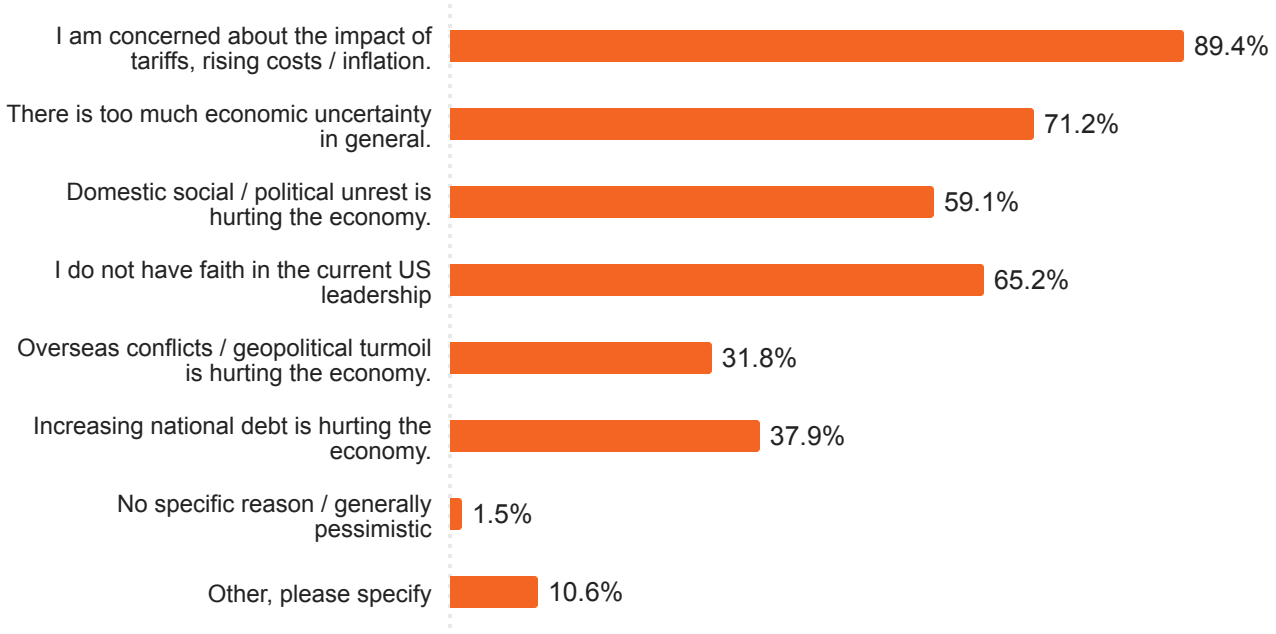
Female



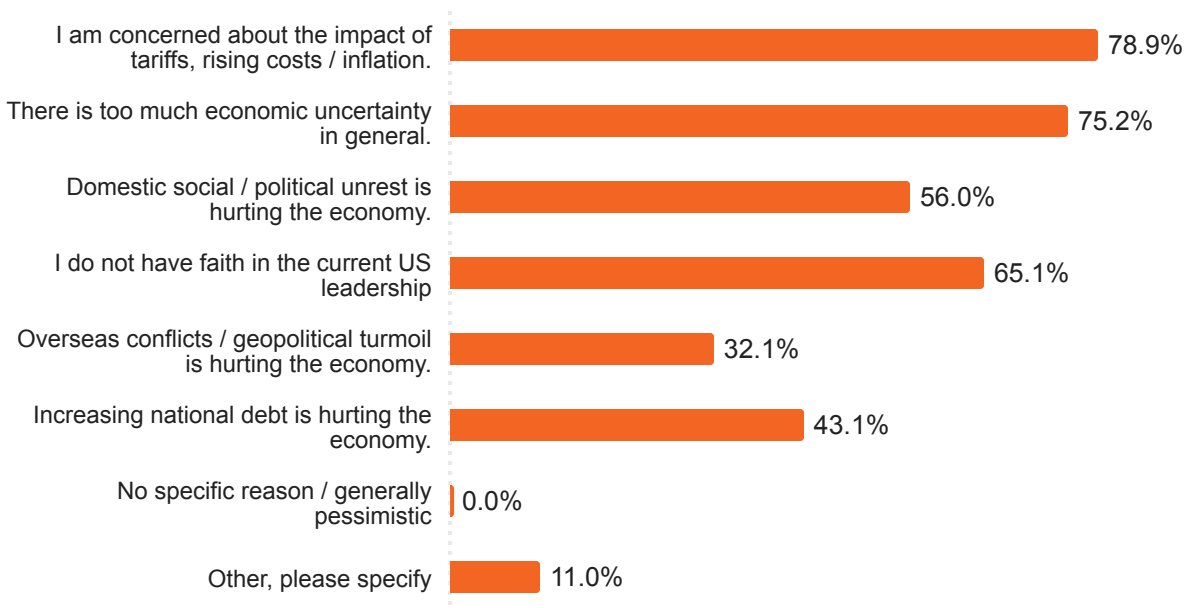
Please select the reason(s) for your skepticism in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.) (continued)

BY AGE GROUP

35 to 44



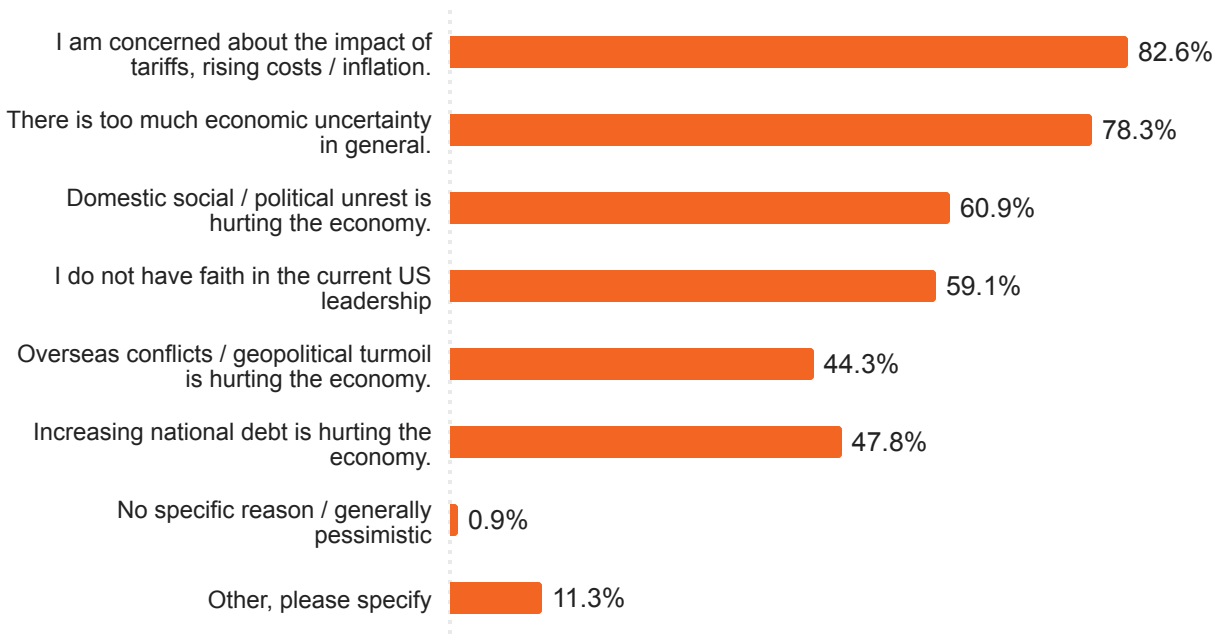
45 to 54



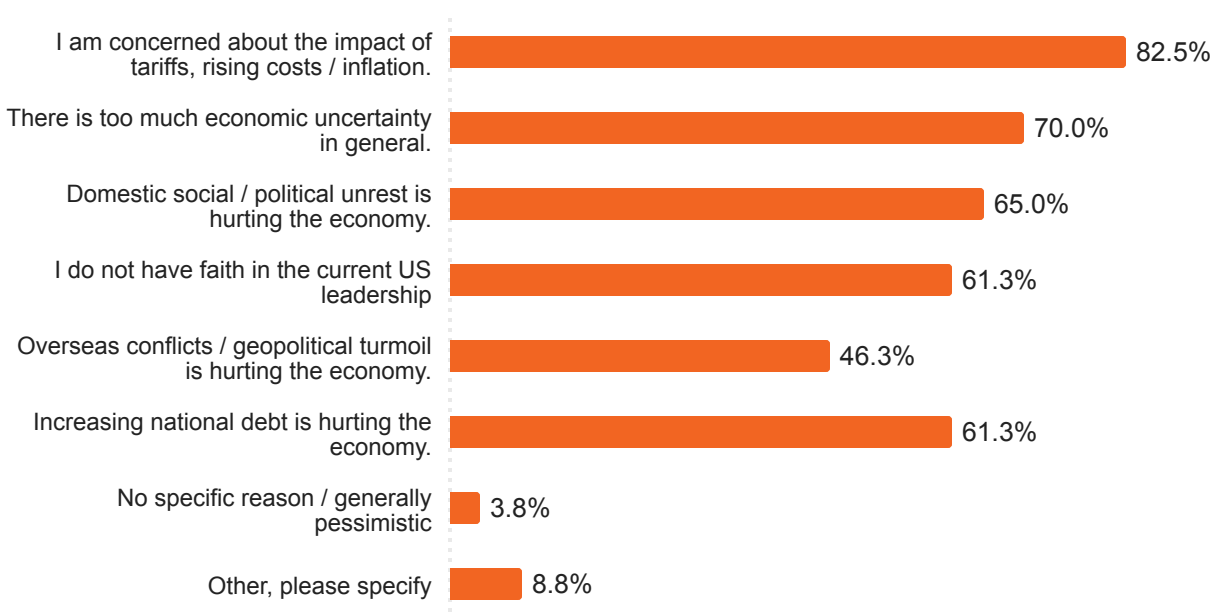
Please select the reason(s) for your skepticism in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.) (continued)

BY AGE GROUP (continued)

55 to 64



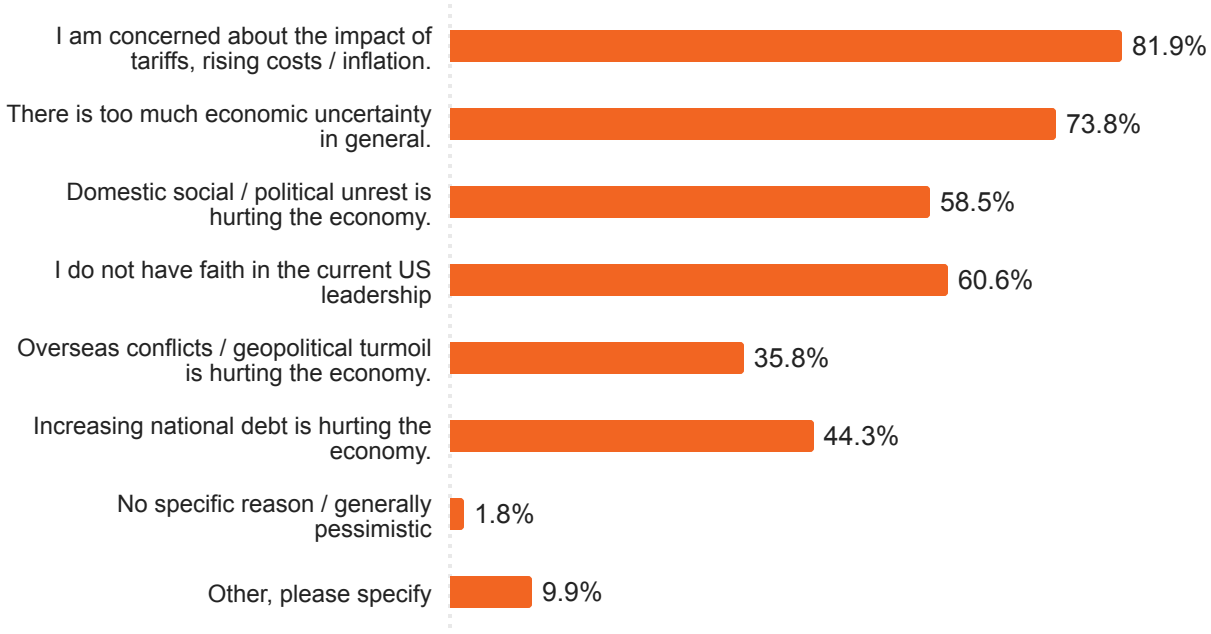
65 or older



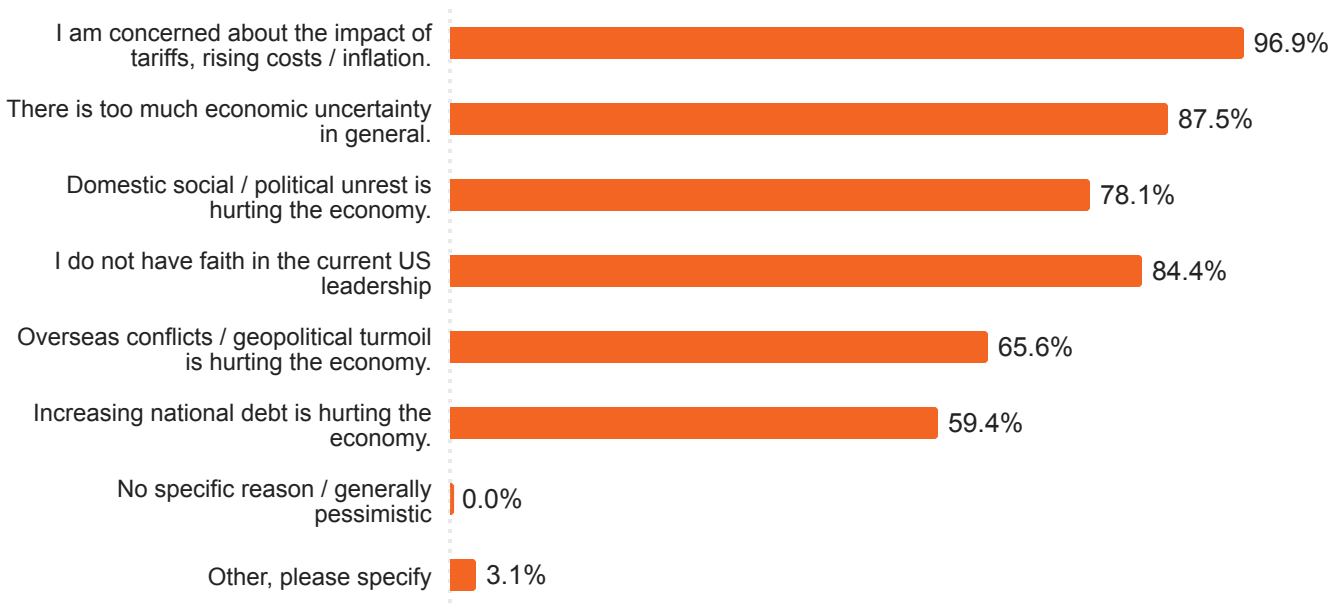
Please select the reason(s) for your skepticism in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.) (continued)

BY RACE/ETHNICITY

White



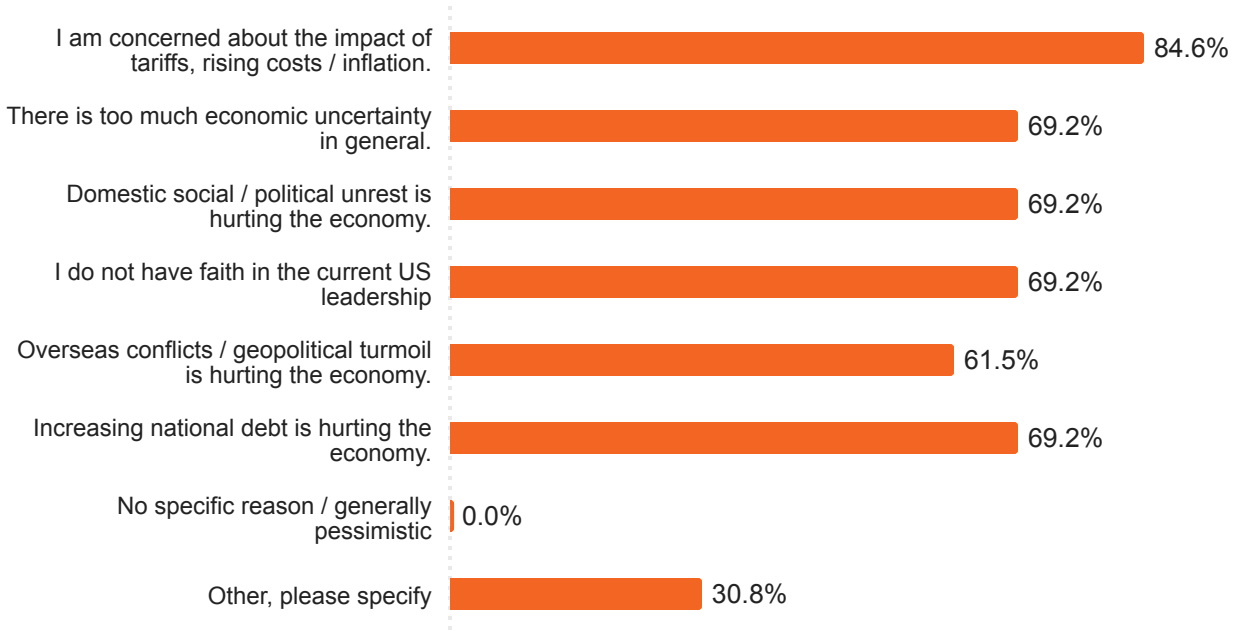
Asian



Please select the reason(s) for your skepticism in the overall U.S. economic conditions.
(Select all that apply.) (continued)

BY RACE/ETHNICITY (continued)

Hispanic



Patient Wait Times

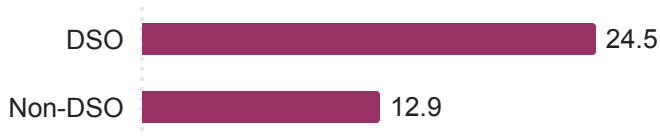
BY DSO AFFILIATION

[Owners dentists] Is your practice currently accepting new patients?

(Percentage selecting "yes")



Currently, how many business days does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?



■ Mean number of days

BY PRACTICE SIZE

**[Owners dentists] Is your practice currently accepting new patients?
(Percentage selecting "yes")**



Currently, how many business days does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

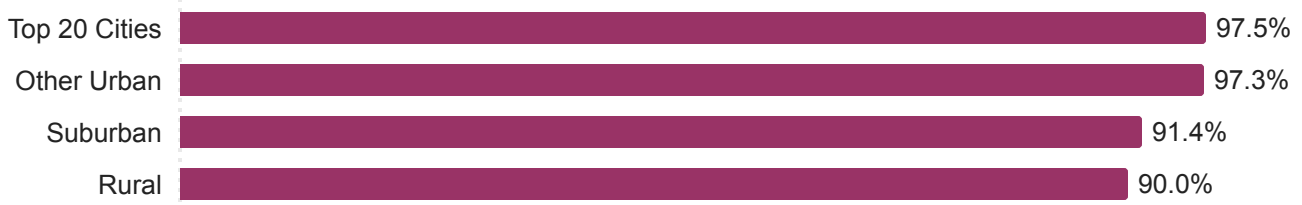


■ Mean number of days

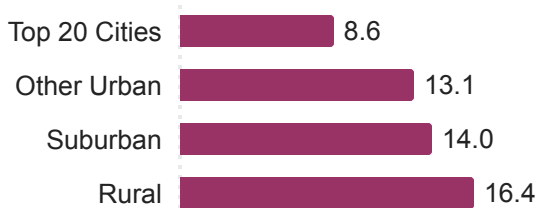
BY GEOGRAPHY

[Owners dentists] Is your practice currently accepting new patients?

(Percentage selecting "yes")



Currently, how many business days does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?



■ Average number of days

BY SEX

[Owners dentists] Is your practice currently accepting new patients?

(Percentage selecting "yes")



Currently, how many business days does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

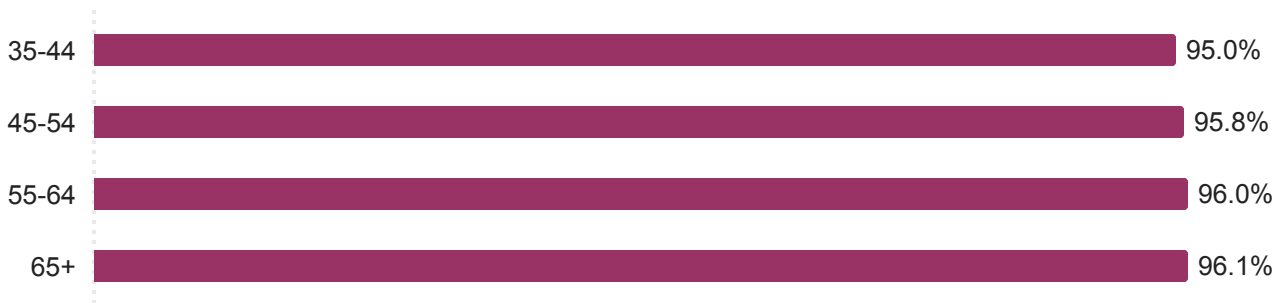


■ Mean number of days

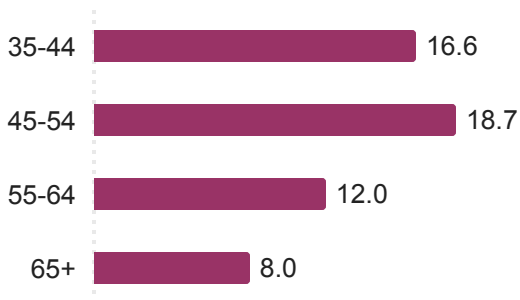
BY AGE GROUP

[Owners dentists] Is your practice currently accepting new patients?

(Percentage selecting "yes")



Currently, how many business days does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?



■ Average number of days

BY RACE / ETHNICITY

[Owners dentists] Is your practice currently accepting new patients?

(Percentage selecting "yes")



Currently, how many business days does the average new patient have to wait for an initial appointment (excluding emergencies)?

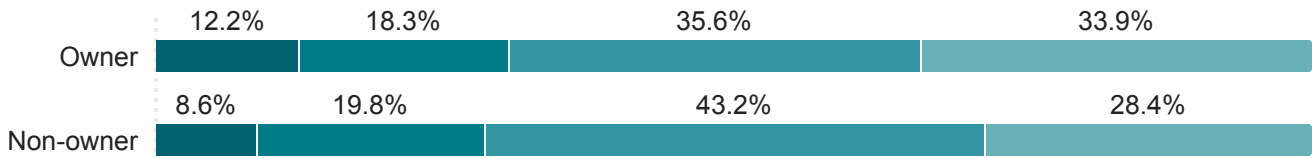


■ Average number of days

Business

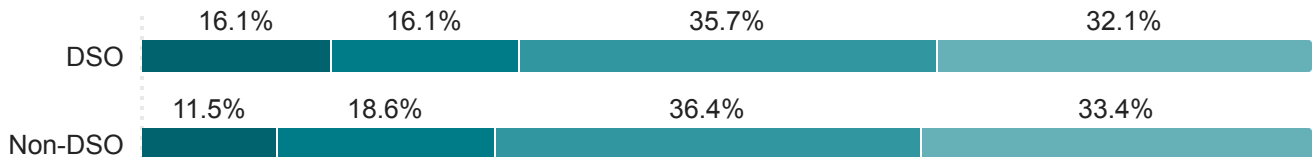
Which of the following best describes your general busyness level over the last 3 months?

BY OWNERSHIP STATUS

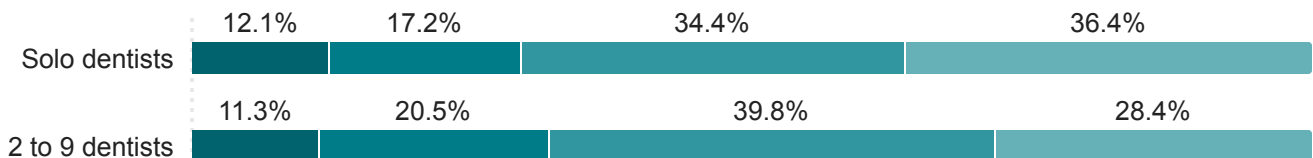


- Too busy to treat all people requesting appointments
- Provided care to all who requested appointments but was overworked
- Provided care to all who requested appointments but was not overworked
- Not busy enough, could have treated more patients

BY DSO AFFILIATION

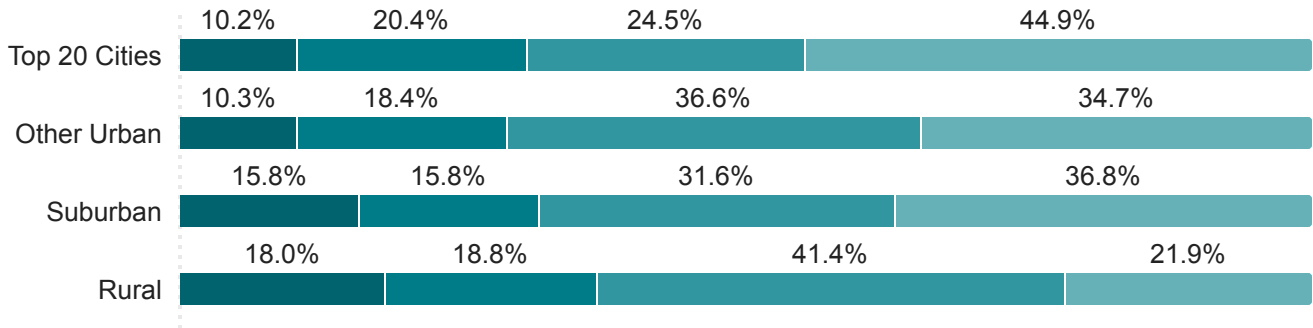


BY PRACTICE SIZE



Which of the following best describes your general busyness level over the last 3 months? (continued)

BY GEOGRAPHY

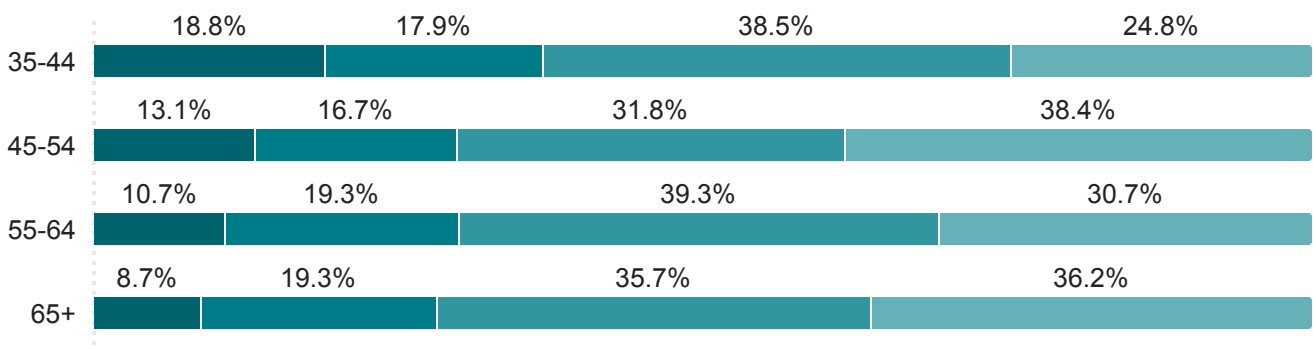


- Too busy to treat all people requesting appointments
- Provided care to all who requested appointments but was overworked
- Provided care to all who requested appointments but was not overworked
- Not busy enough, could have treated more patients

BY GENDER

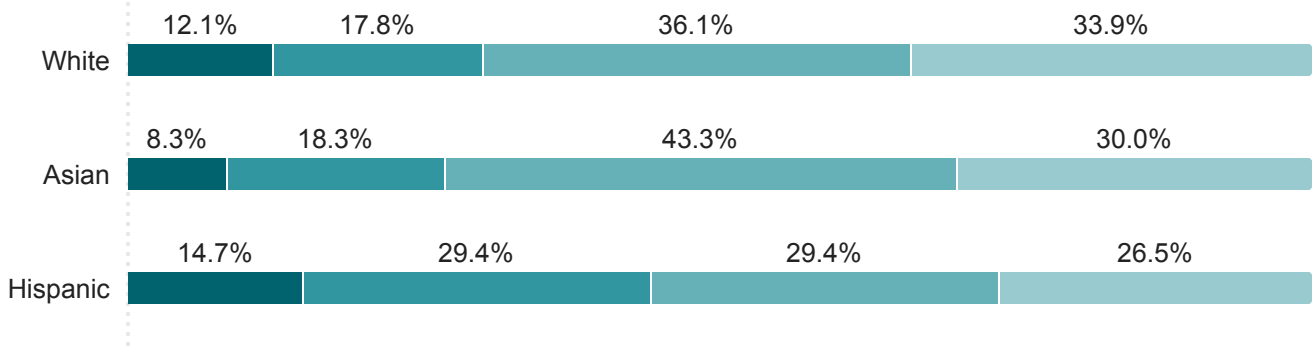


BY AGE GROUP



Which of the following best describes your general busyness level over the last 3 months? (continued)

BY RACE/ETHNICITY



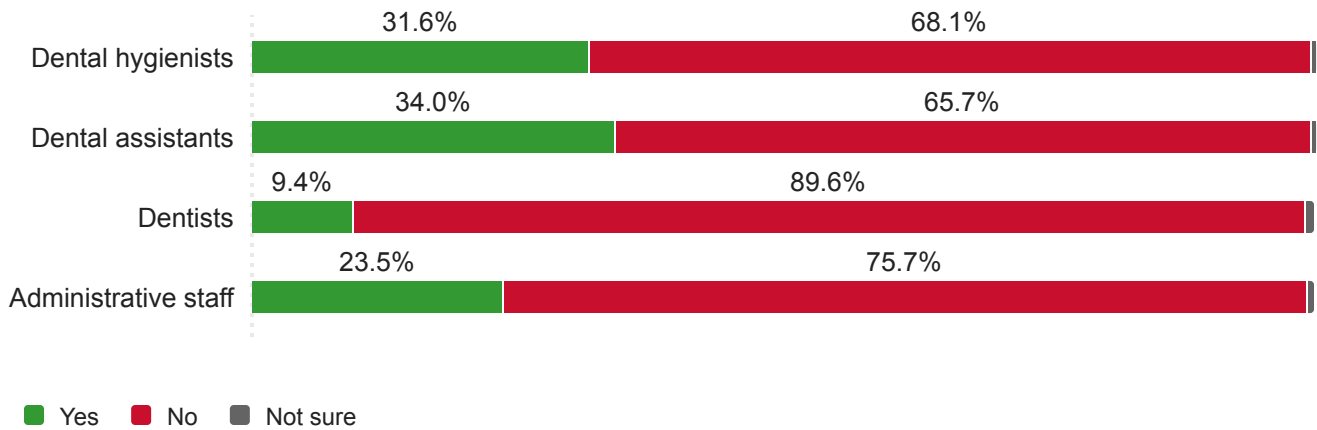
- Too busy to treat all people requesting appointments
- Provided care to all who requested appointments but was overworked
- Provided care to all who requested appointments but was not overworked
- Not busy enough, could have treated more patients

Staff Recruitment

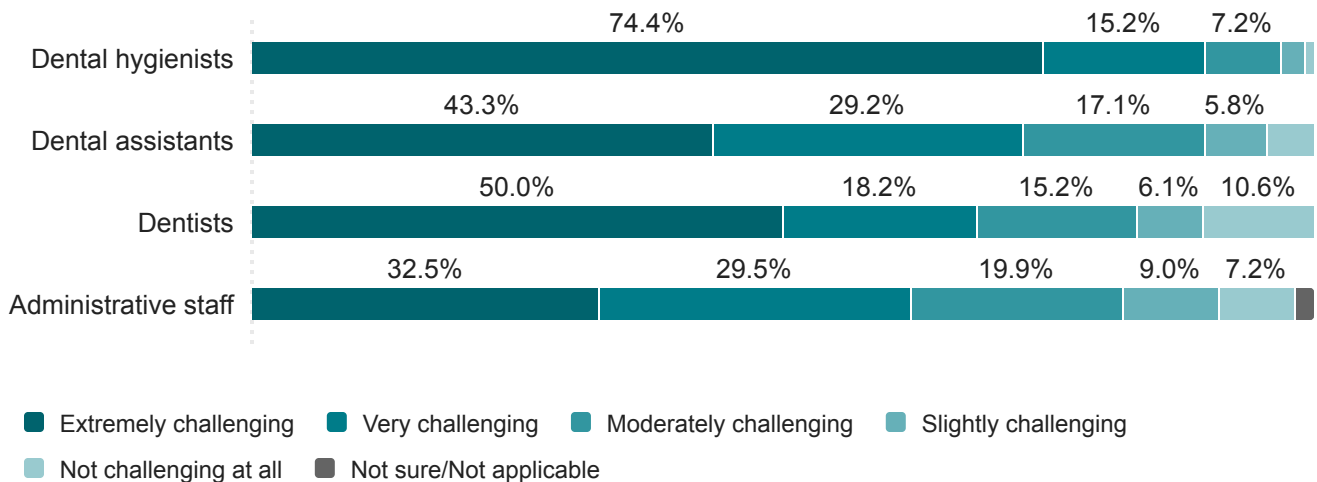
BY OWNERSHIP STATUS

Owner dentists

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?



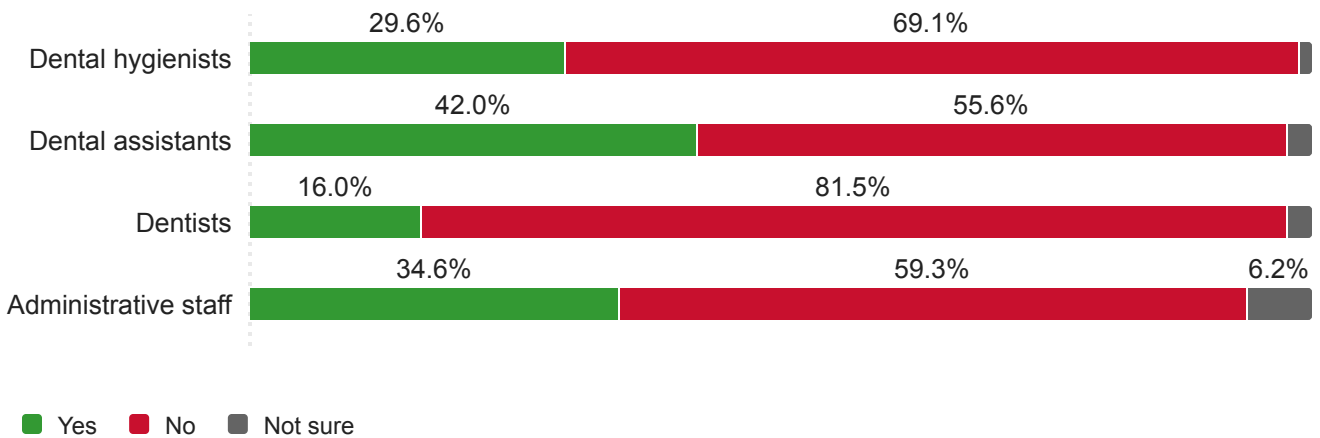
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



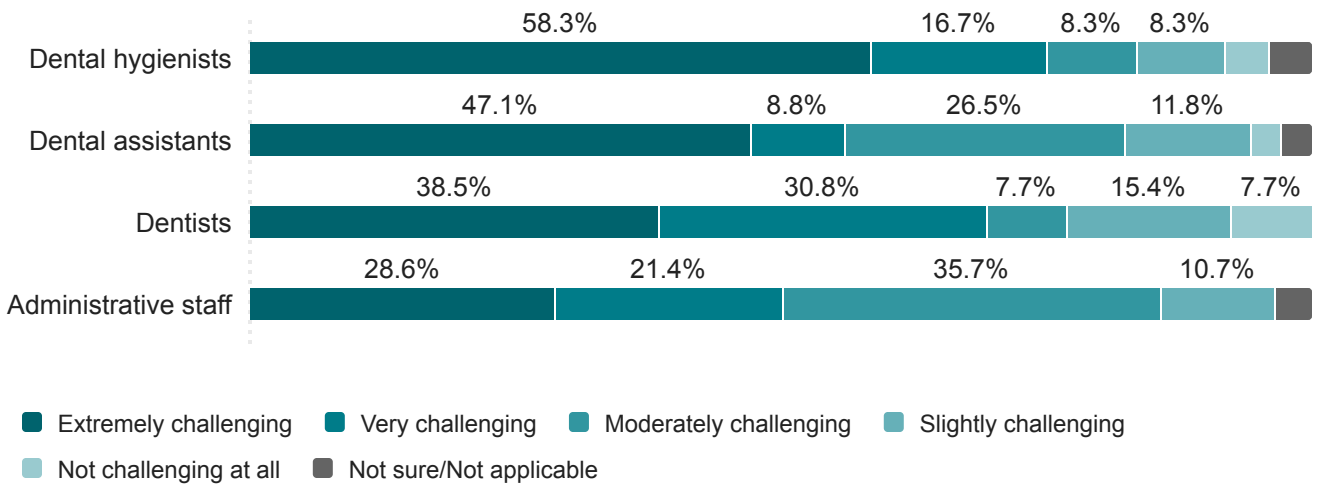
BY OWNERSHIP STATUS (continued)

Non-owner dentists

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?



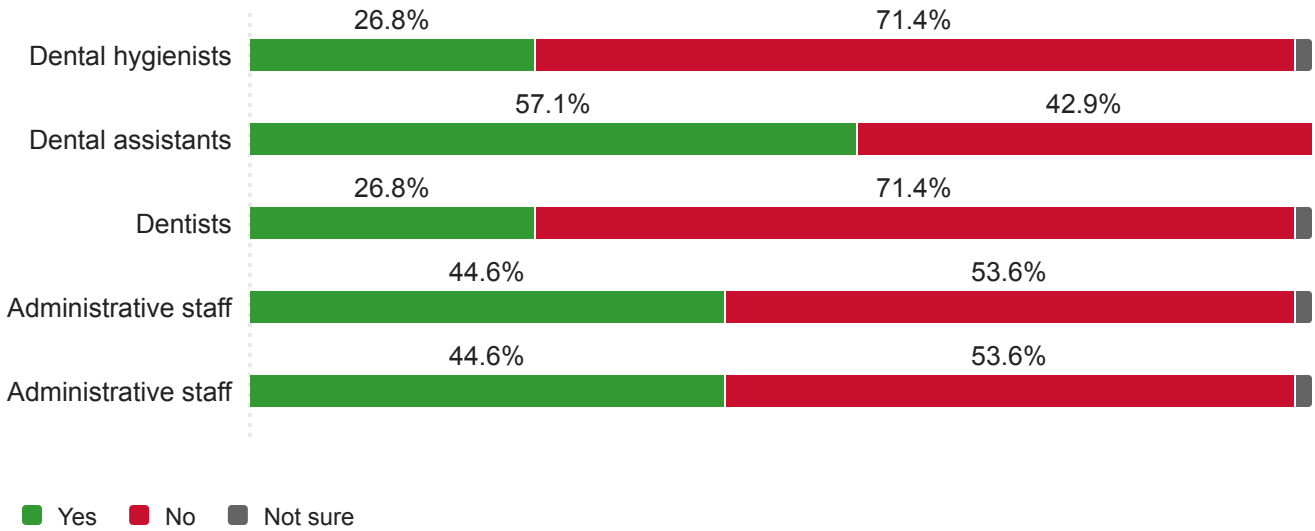
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



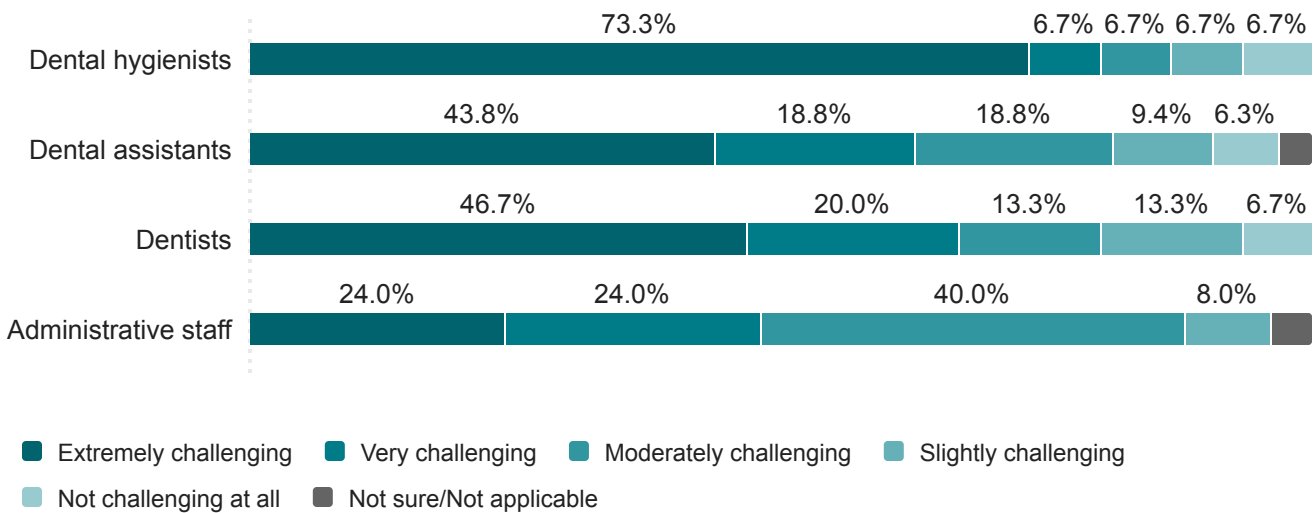
BY DSO AFFILIATION

DSO

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?



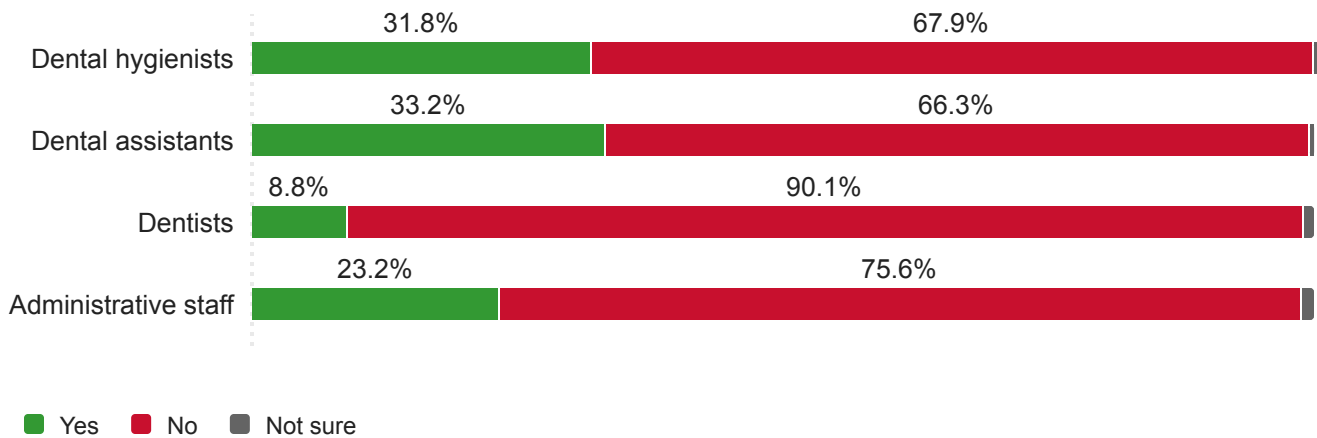
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



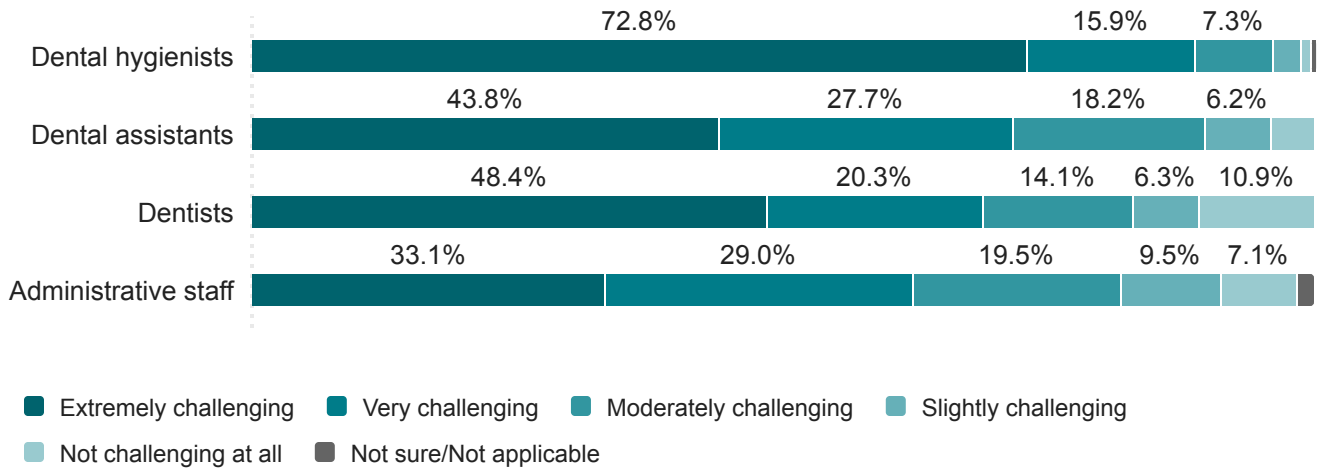
BY DSO AFFILIATION (continued)

Non-DSO

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?



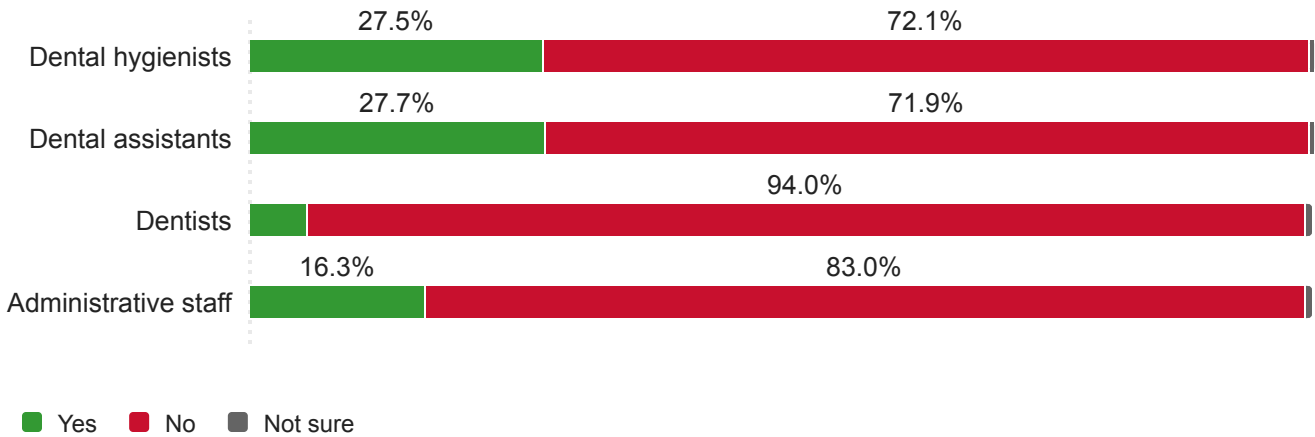
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



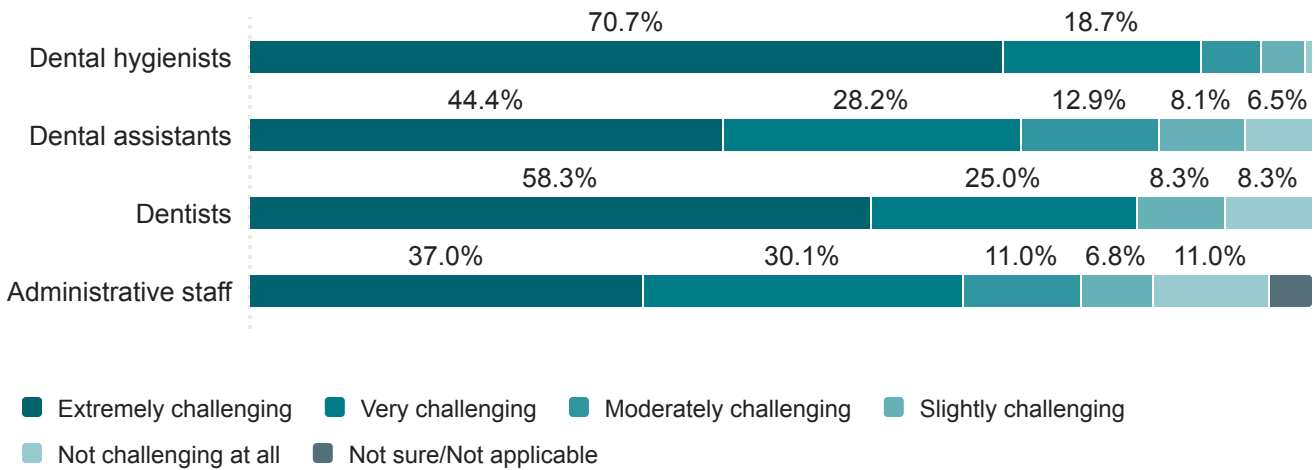
BY PRACTICE SIZE

Solo dentists

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?



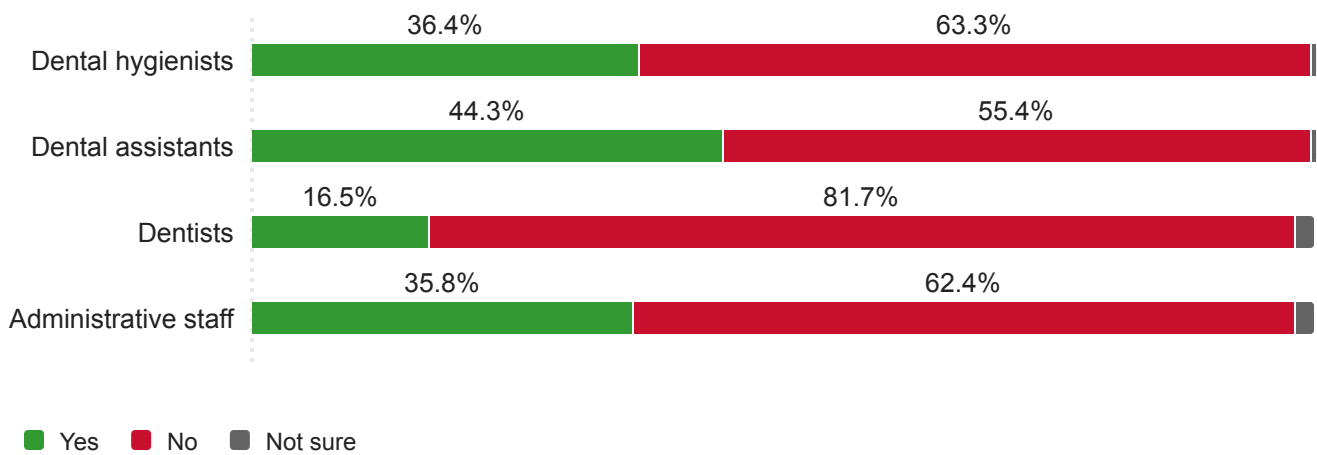
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



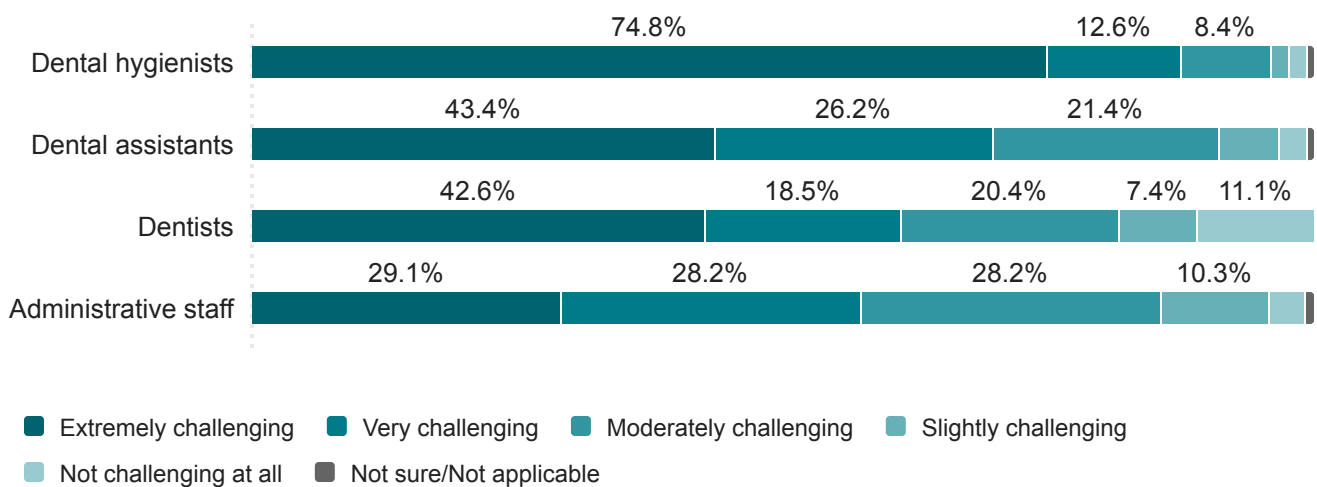
BY PRACTICE SIZE (continued)

2 to 9 dentists

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?



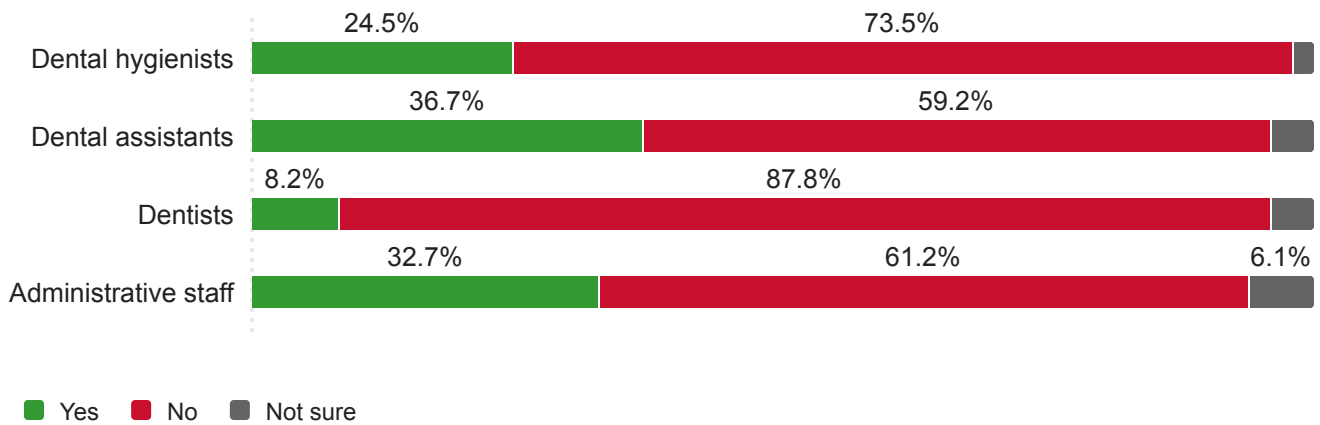
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



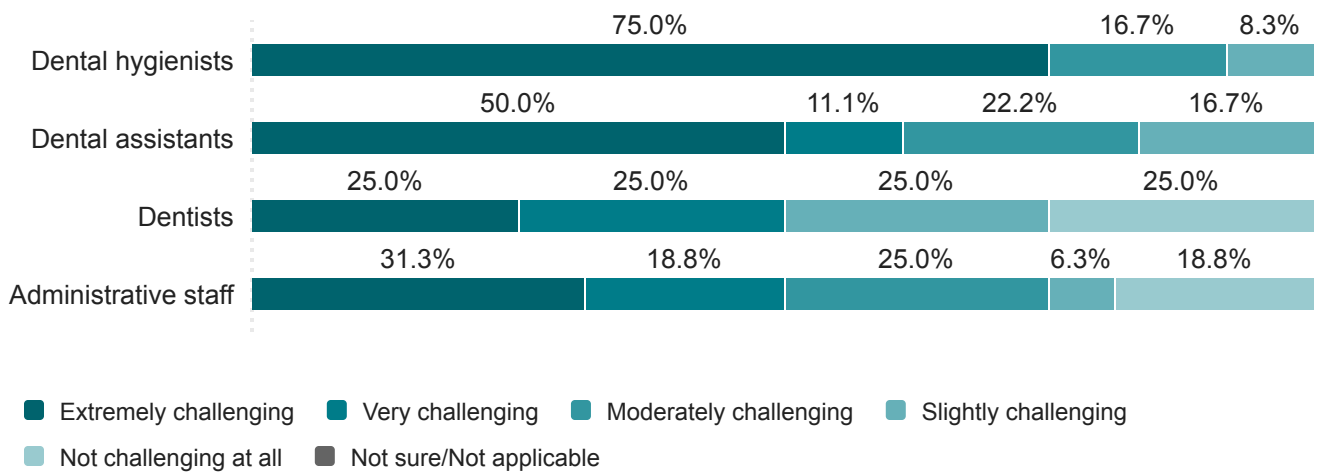
BY GEOGRAPHY

Top 20 Cities

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?



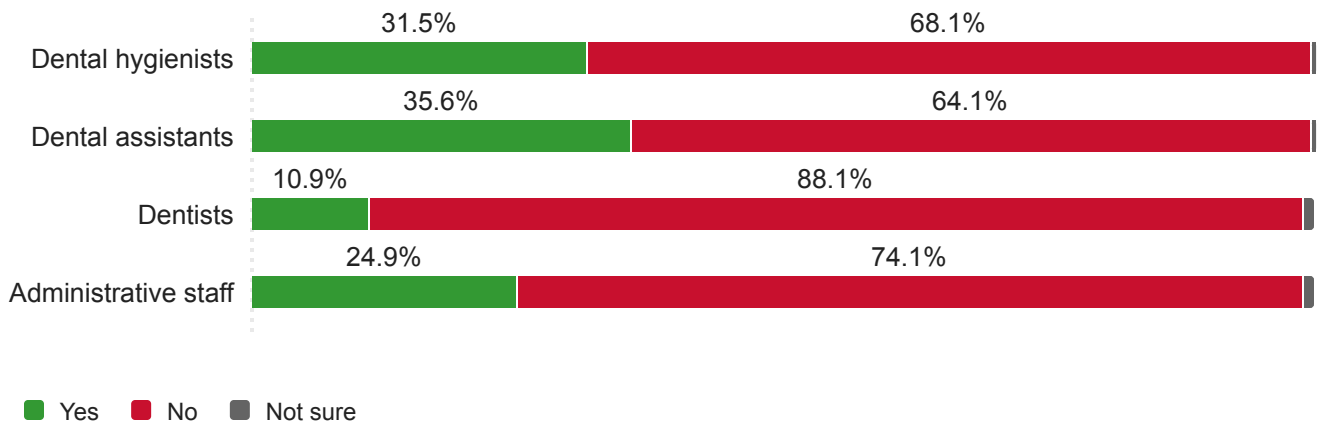
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



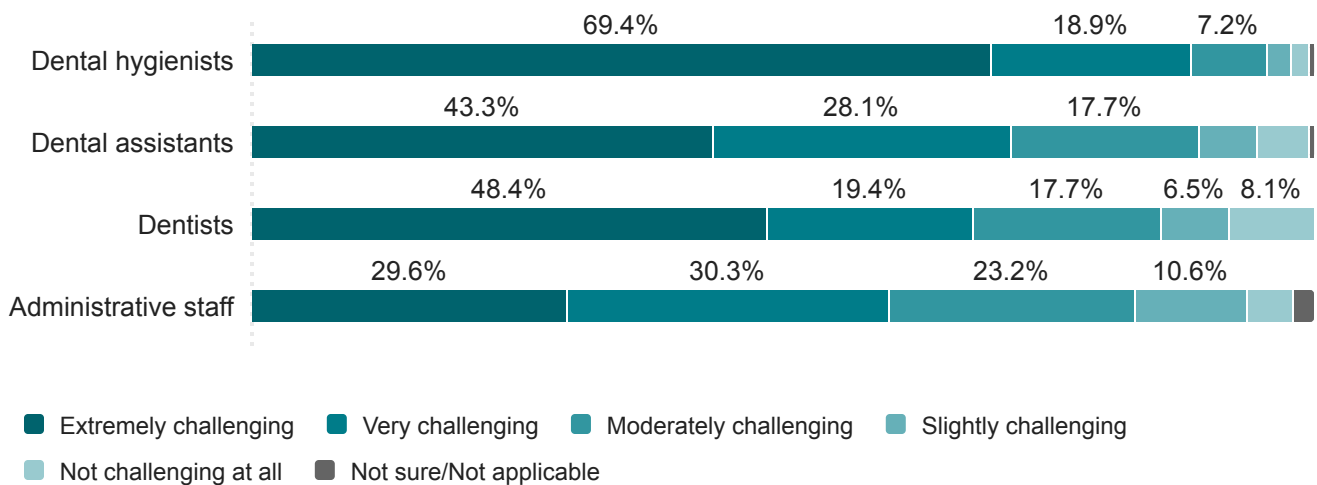
BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

Other Urban

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?



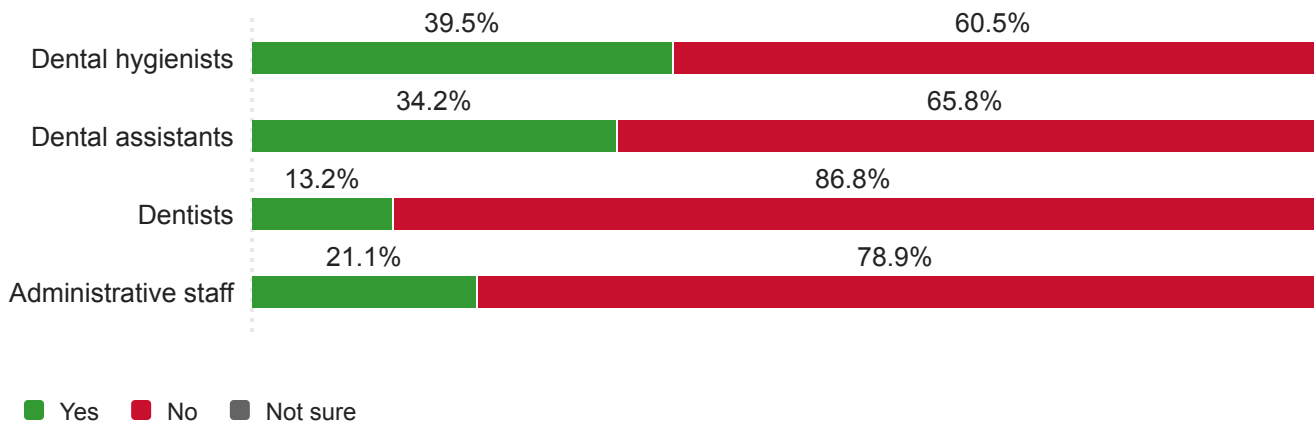
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



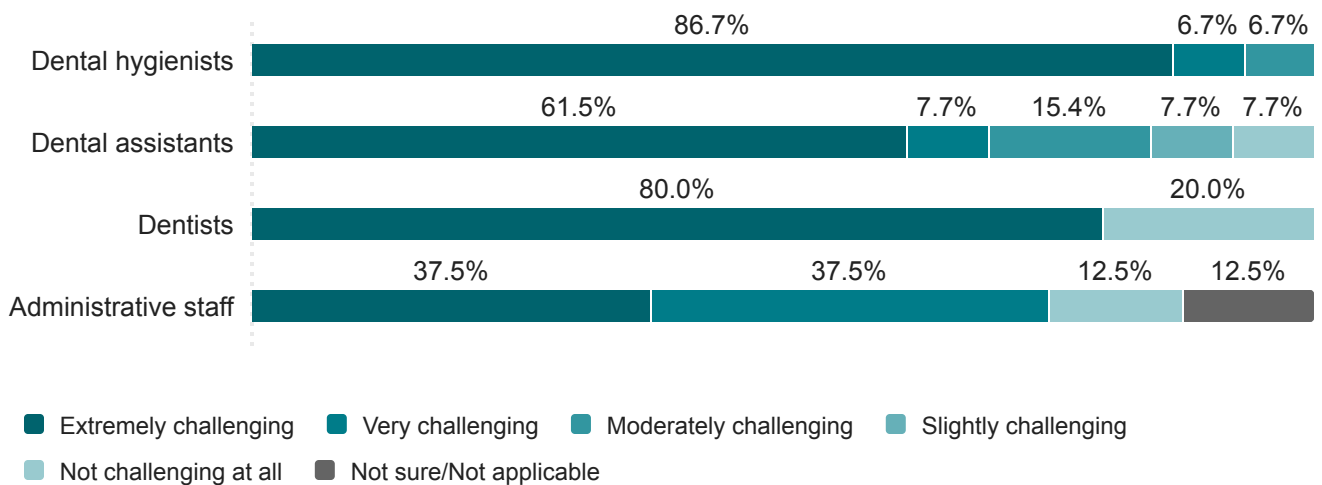
BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

Suburban

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?



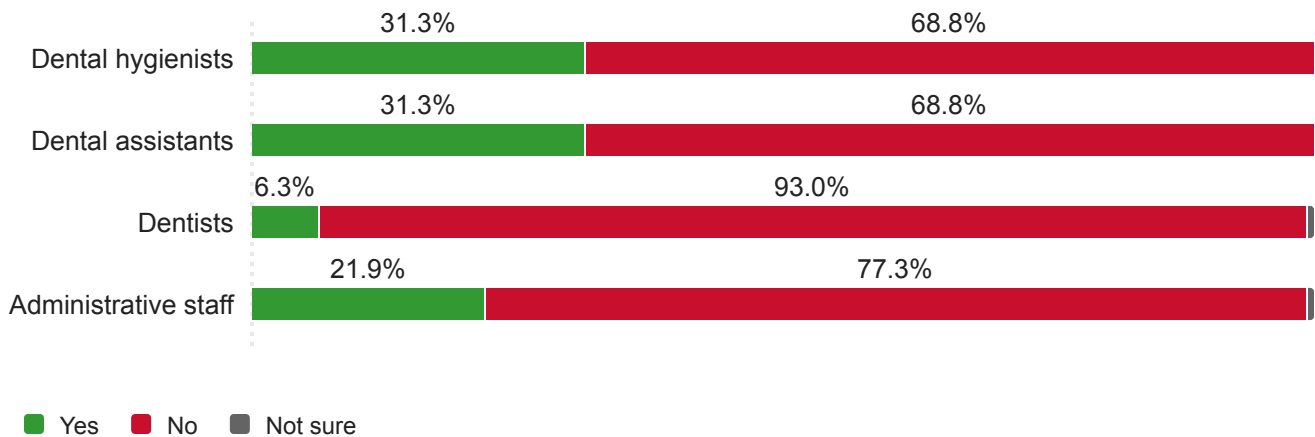
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



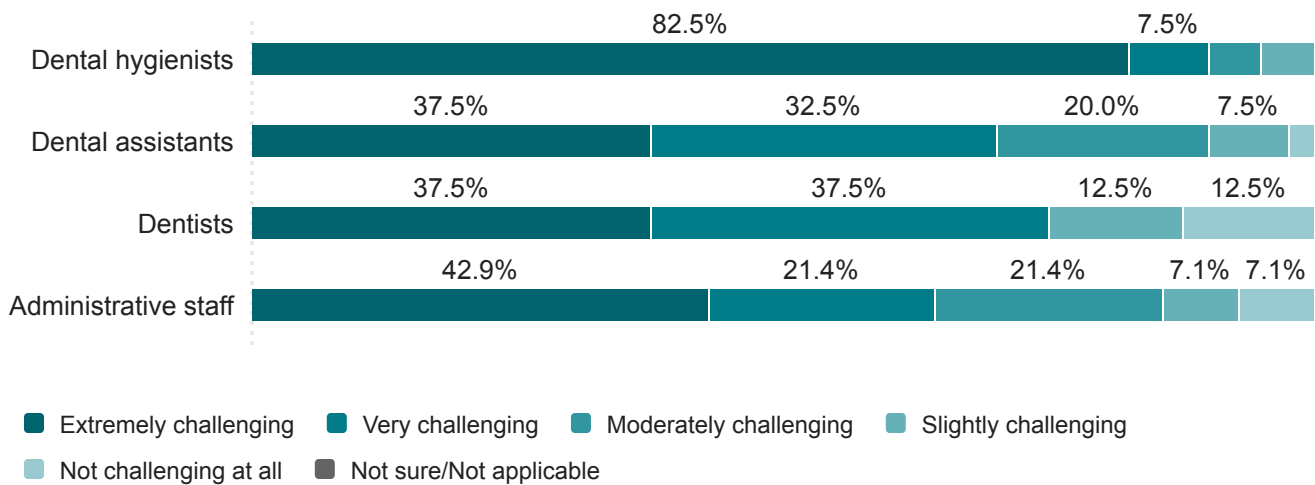
BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

Rural

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?



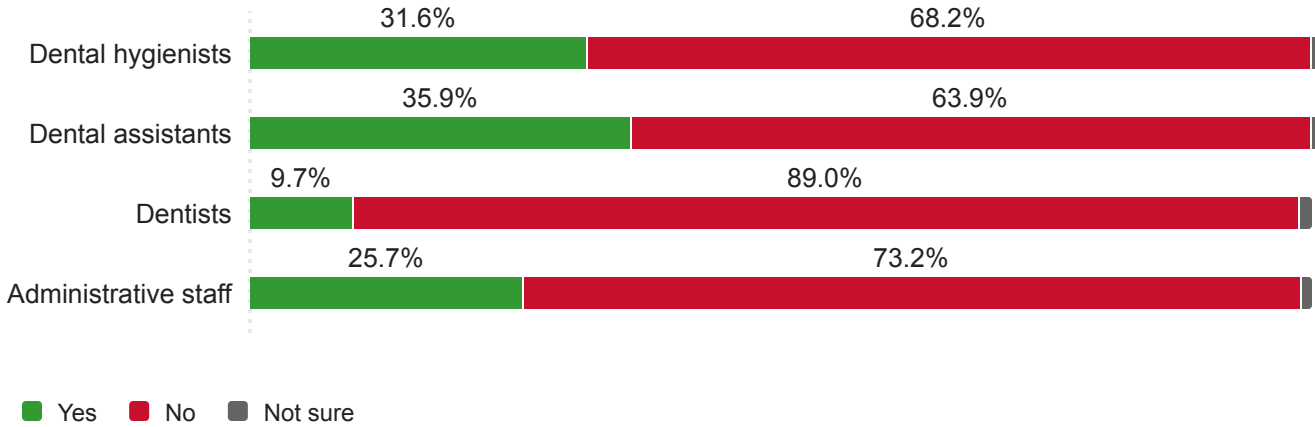
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



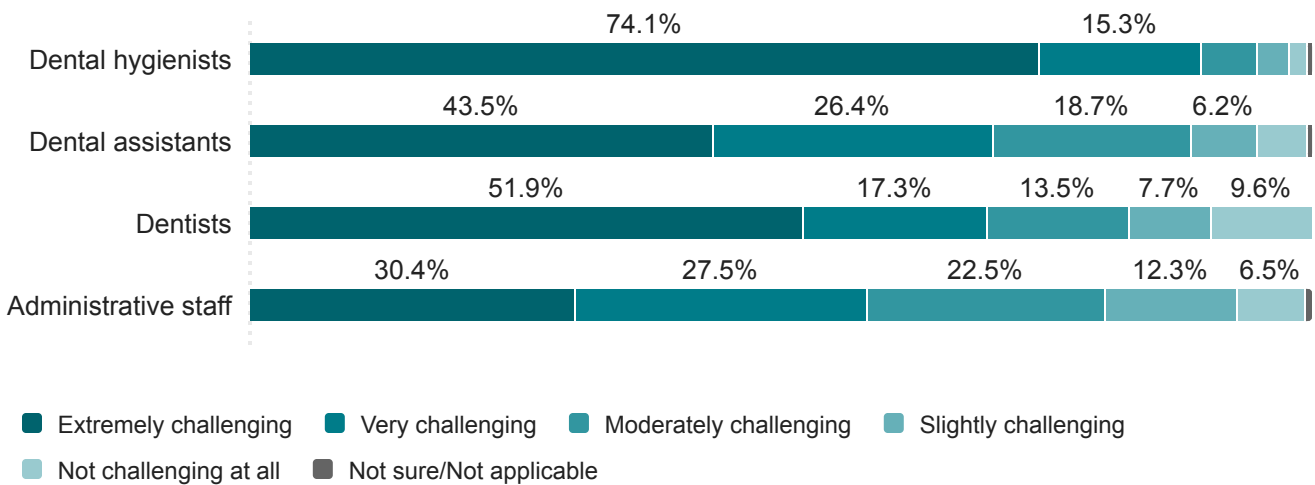
BY SEX

Male

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?



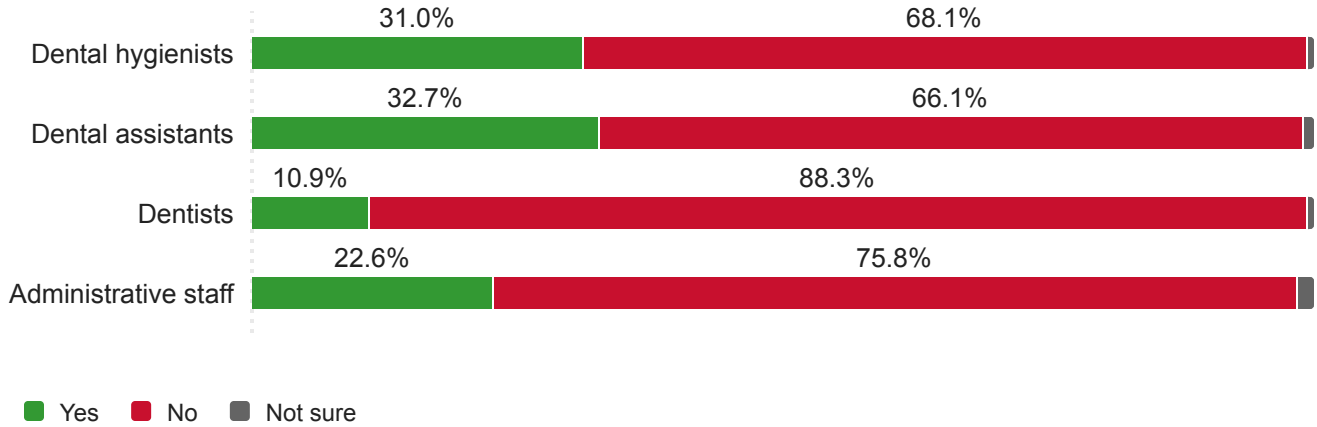
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



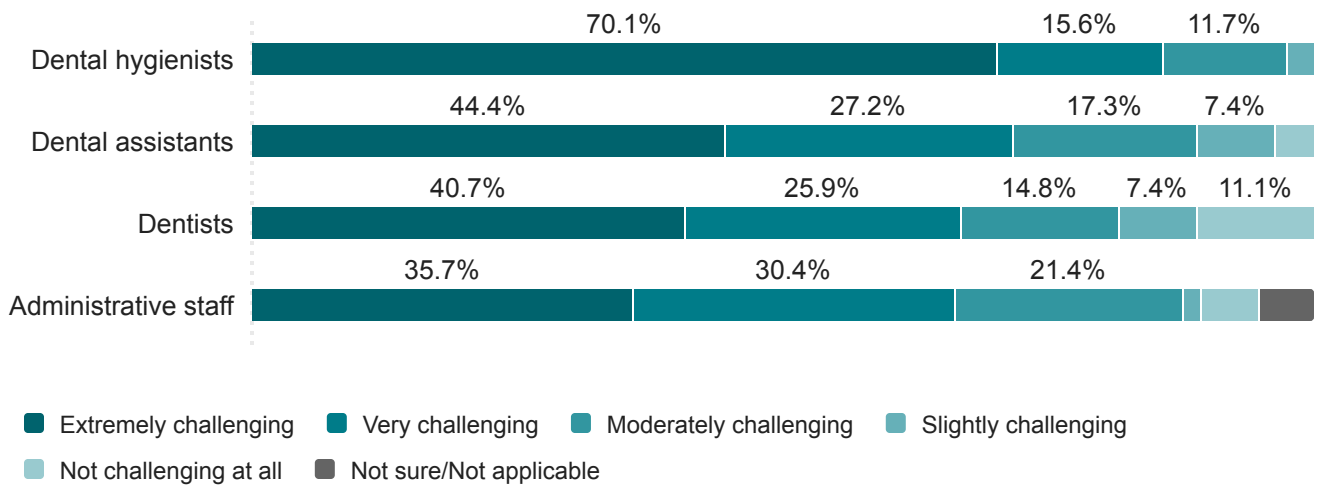
BY SEX (continued)

Female

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?



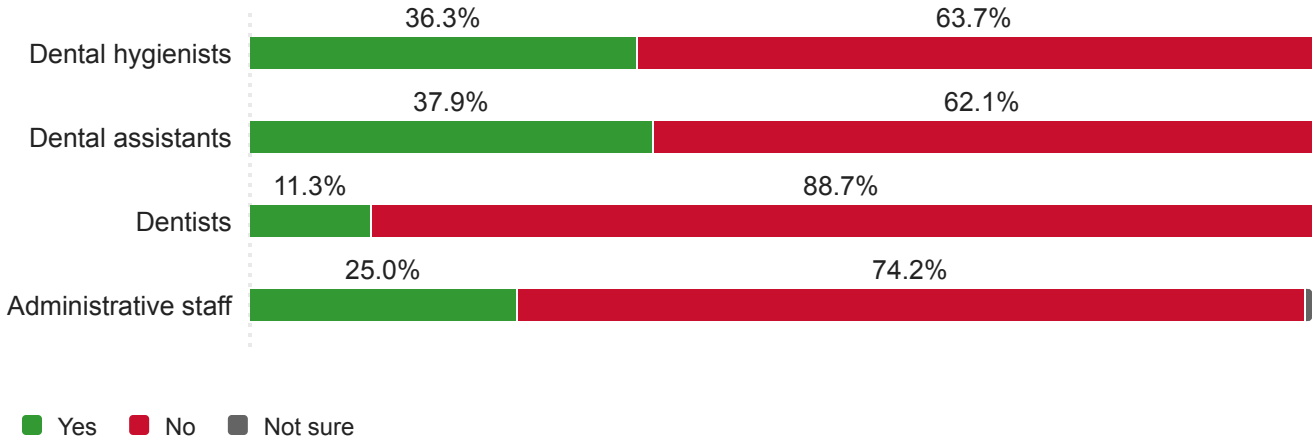
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



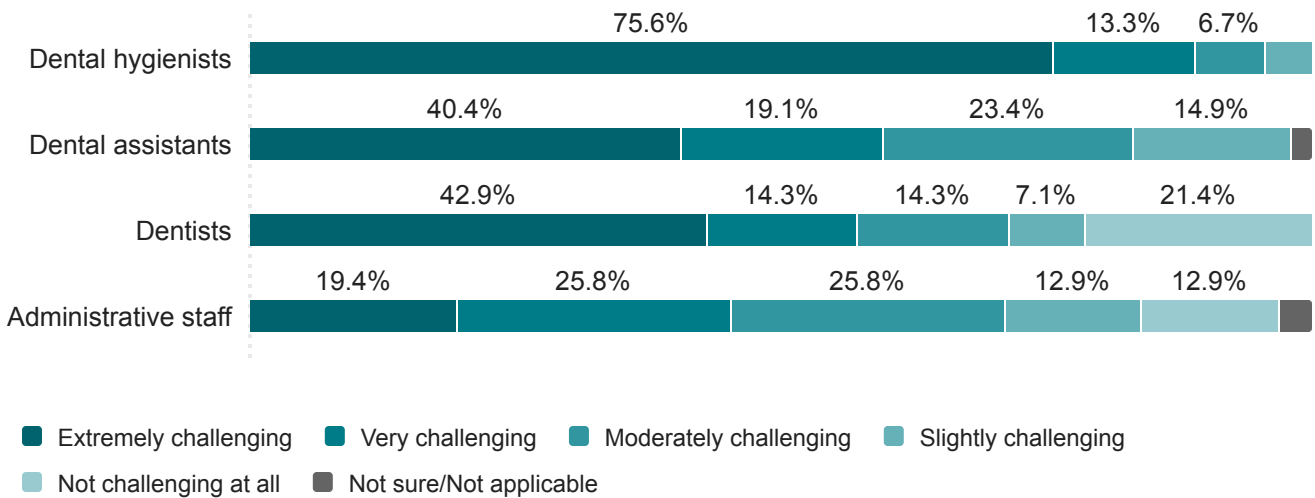
BY AGE GROUP

35 to 44

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?



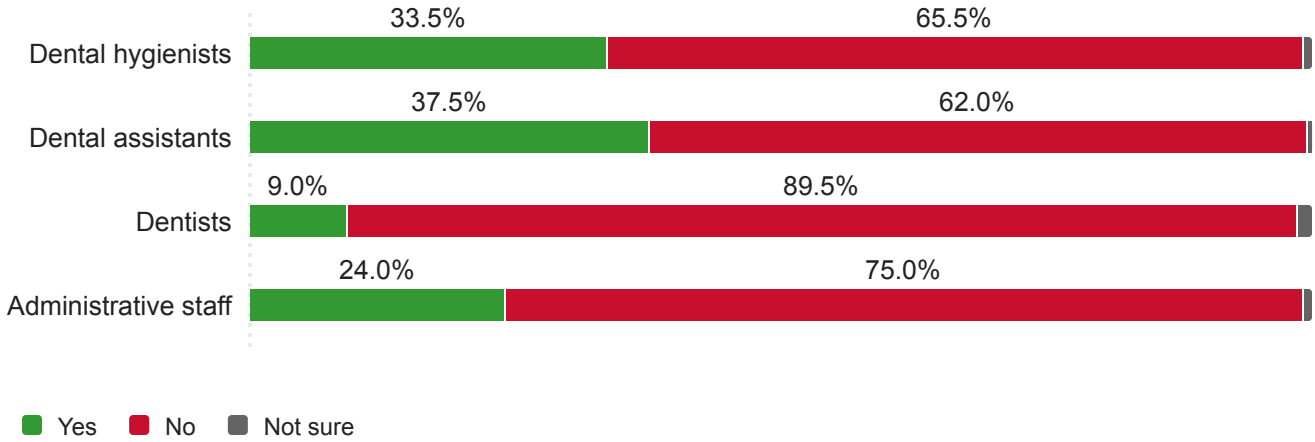
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



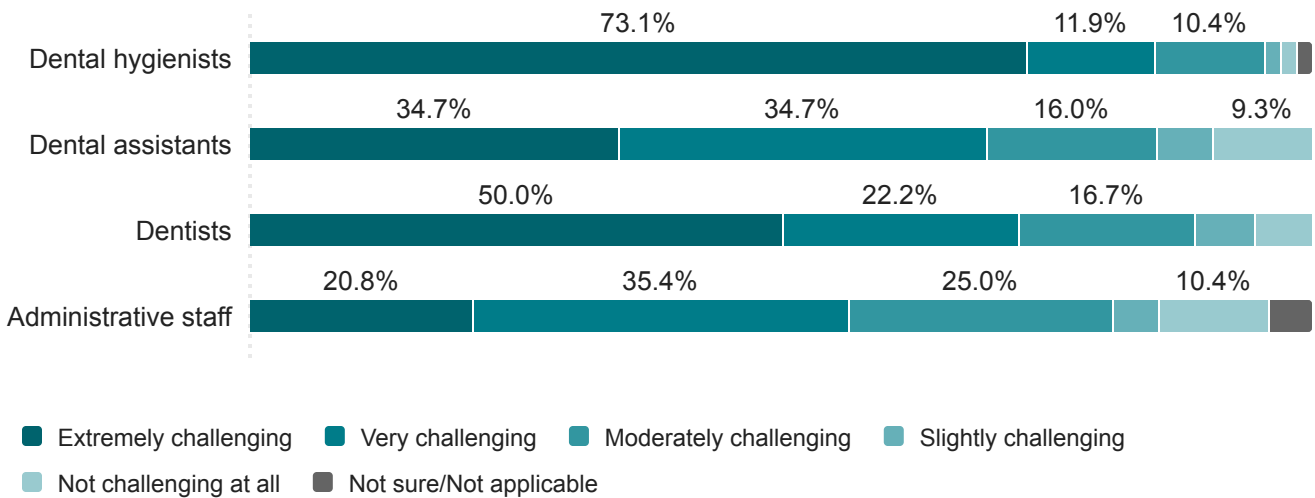
BY AGE GROUP (continued)

45 to 54

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?



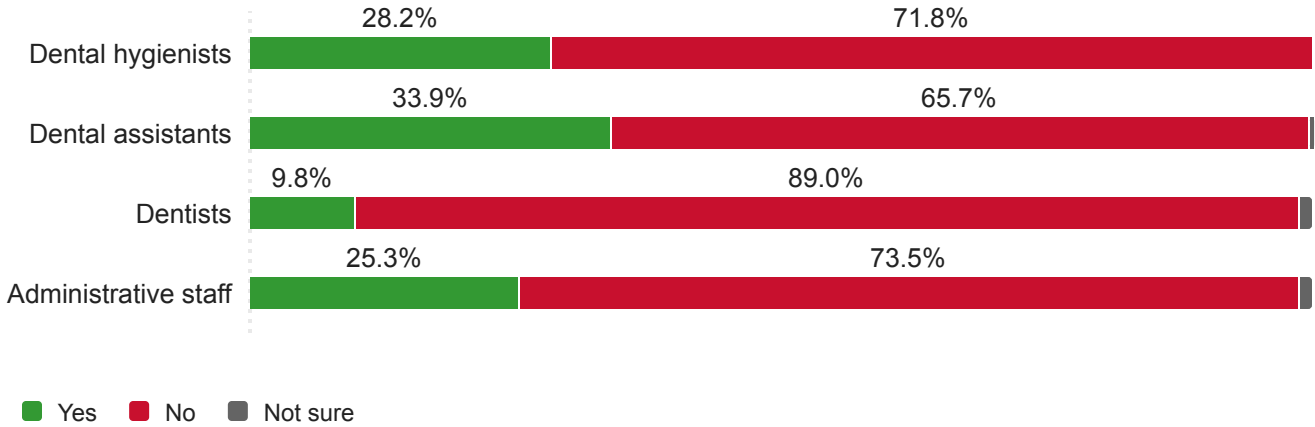
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



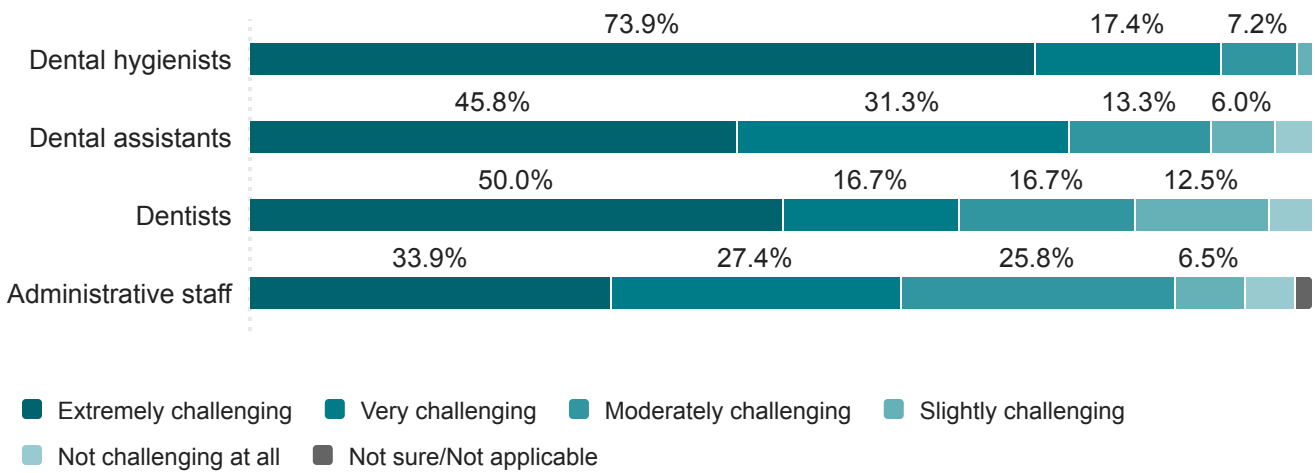
BY AGE GROUP (continued)

55 to 64

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?



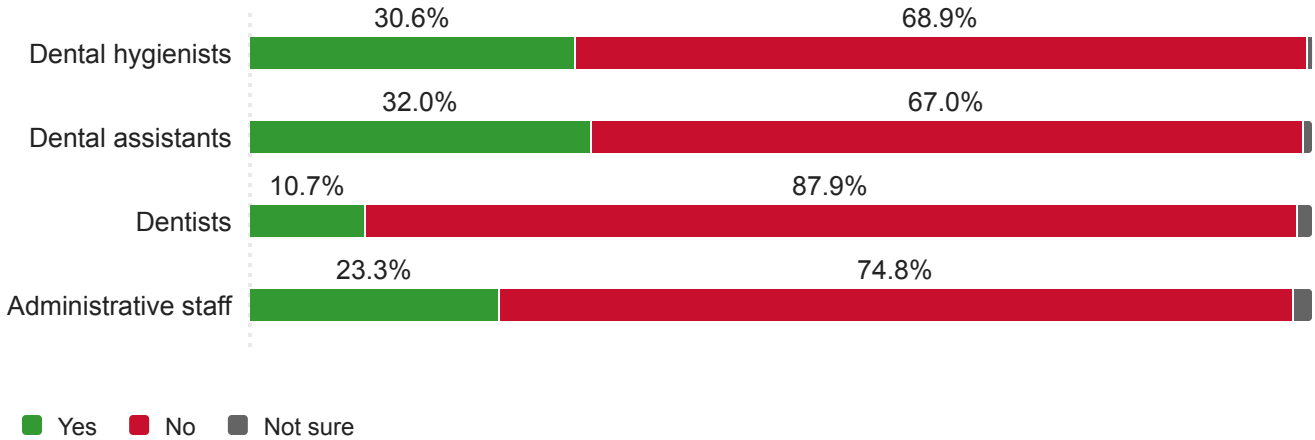
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



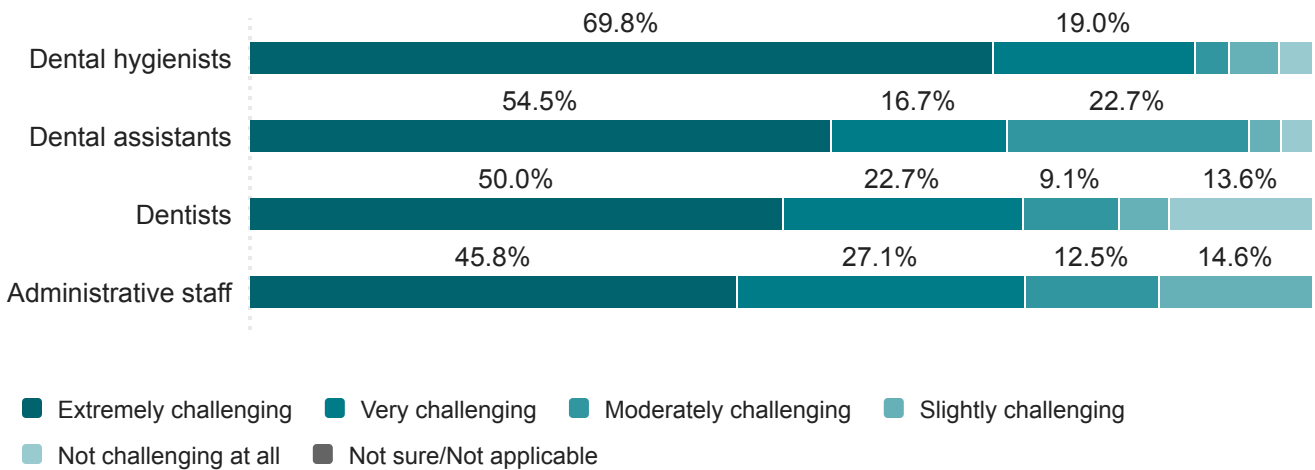
BY AGE GROUP (continued)

65 or older

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?



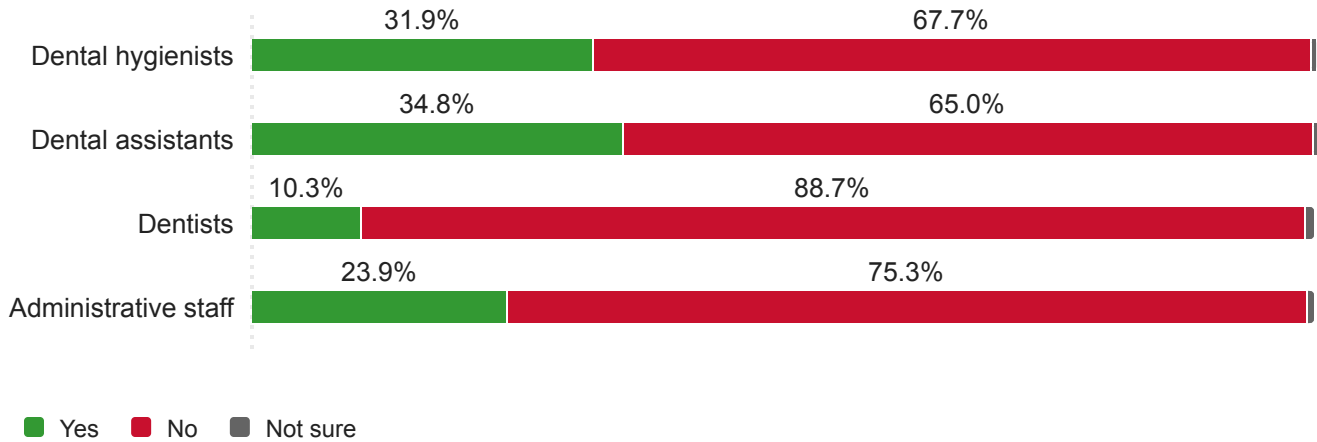
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



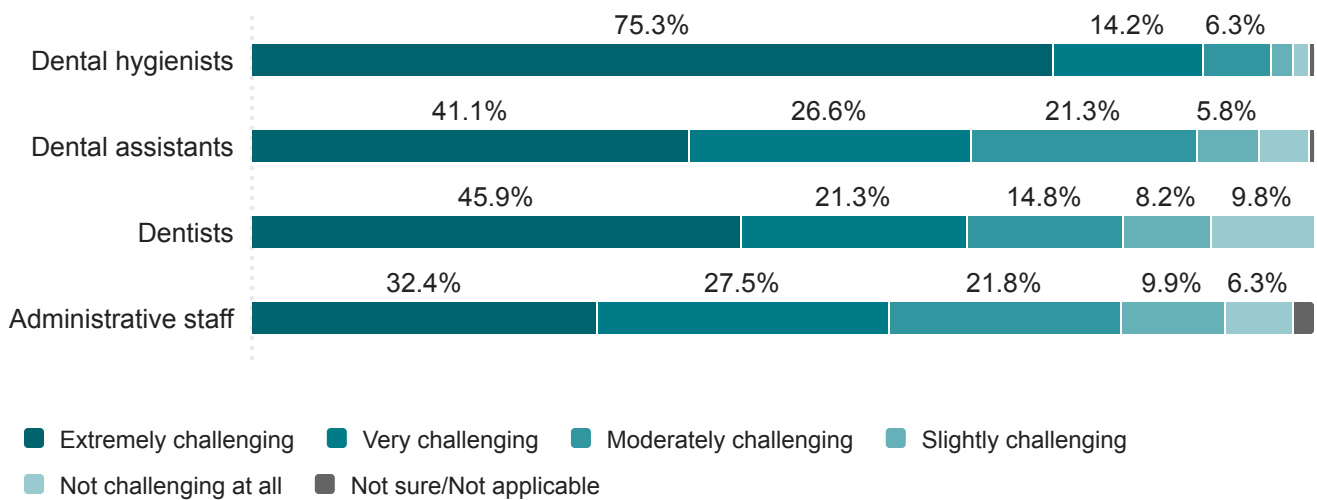
BY RACE/ETHNICITY

White

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?



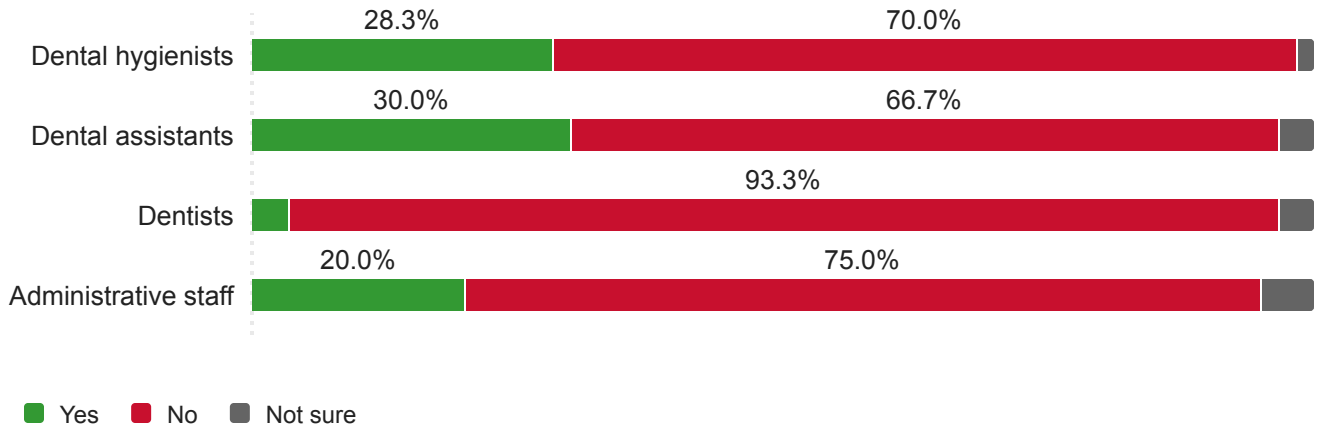
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



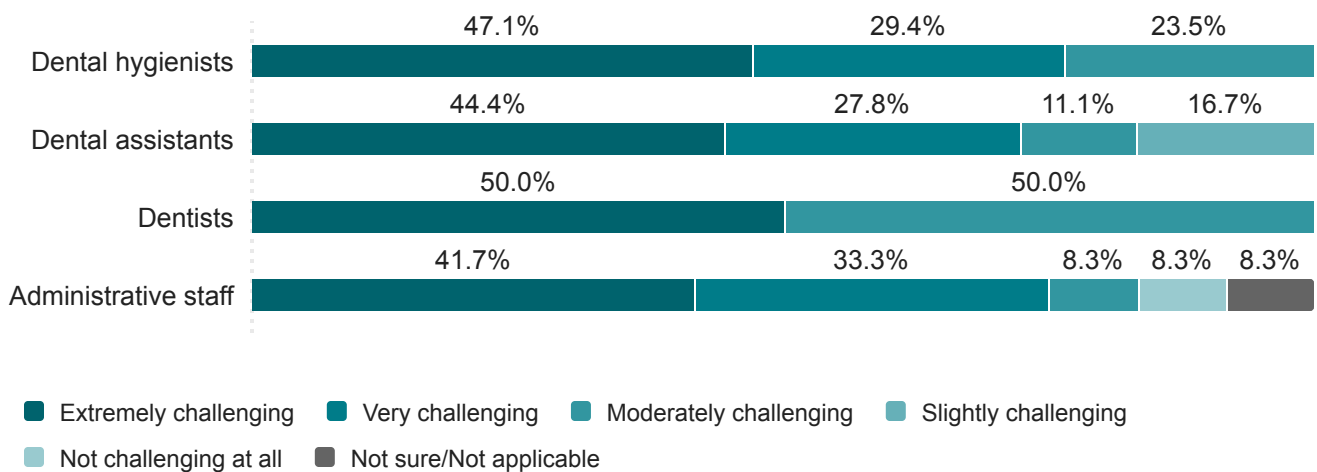
BY RACE/ETHNICITY (continued)

Asian

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?



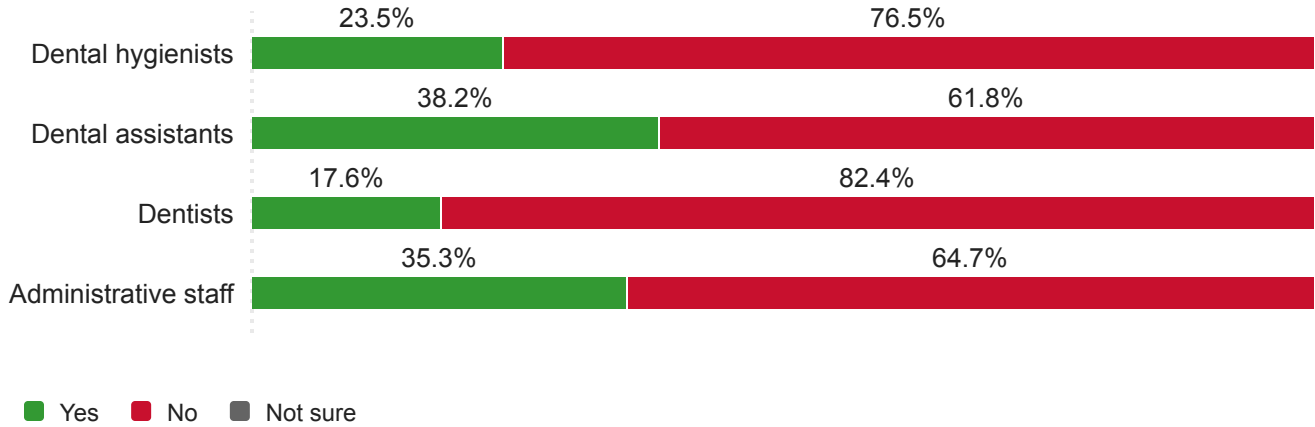
How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?



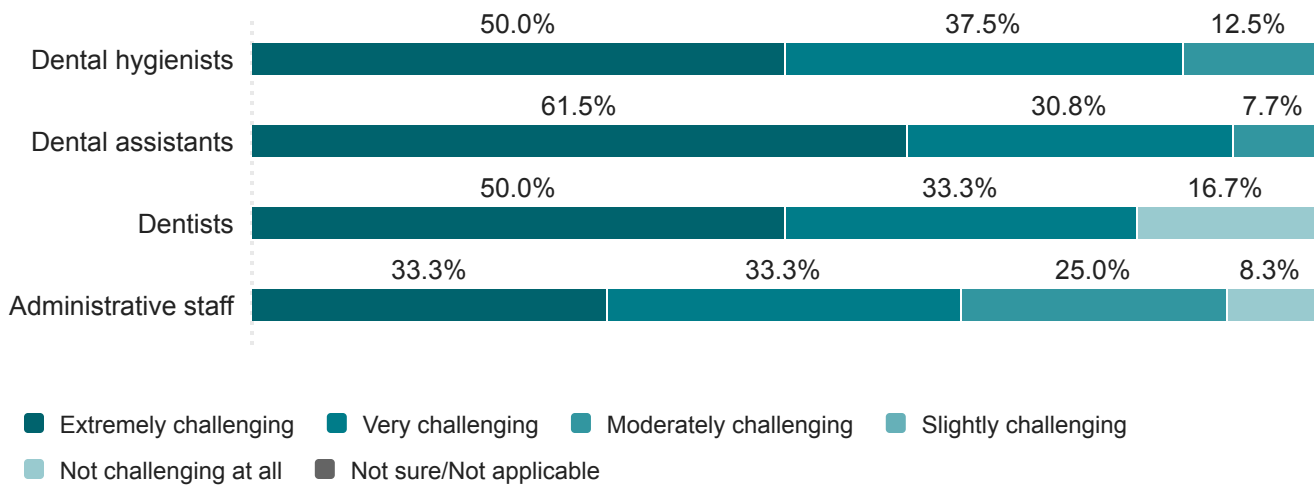
BY RACE/ETHNICITY (continued)

Hispanic

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited for any of the following positions?



How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below over the last 3 months?

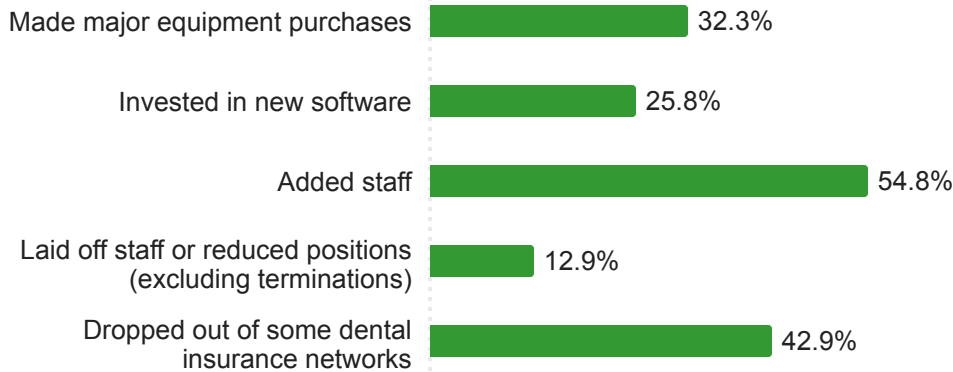


Recent Practice Decisions

[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2025, have you done any of the following in your practice?

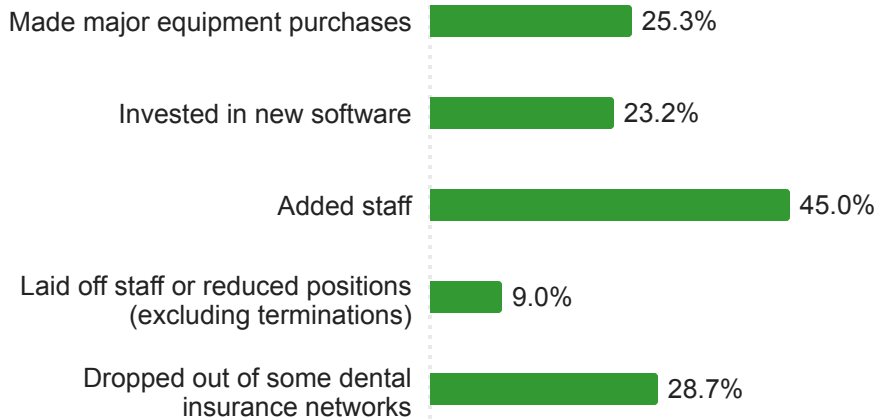
BY DSO AFFILIATION

DSO



■ Yes

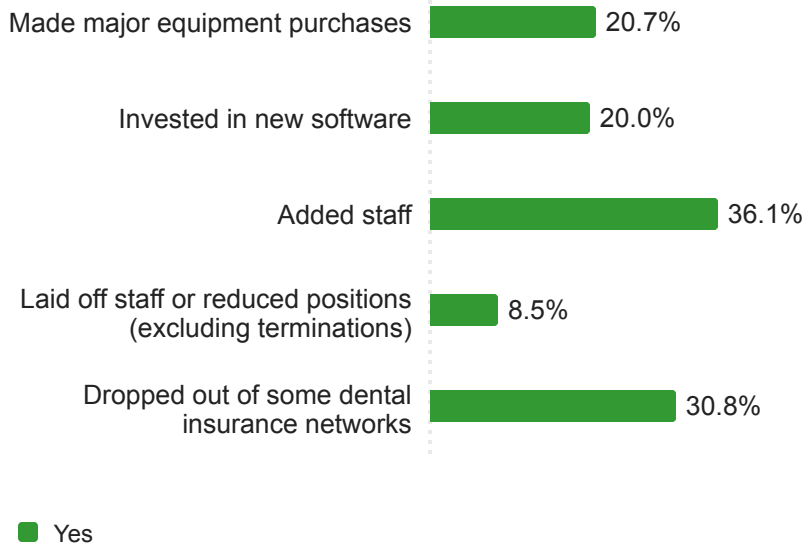
Non-DSO



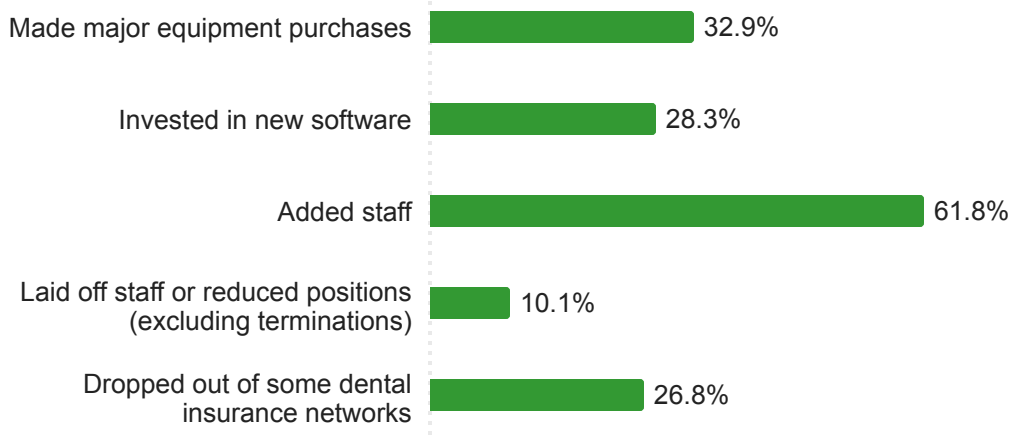
[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2025, have you done any of the following in your practice? (continued)

BY PRACTICE SIZE

Solo dentists



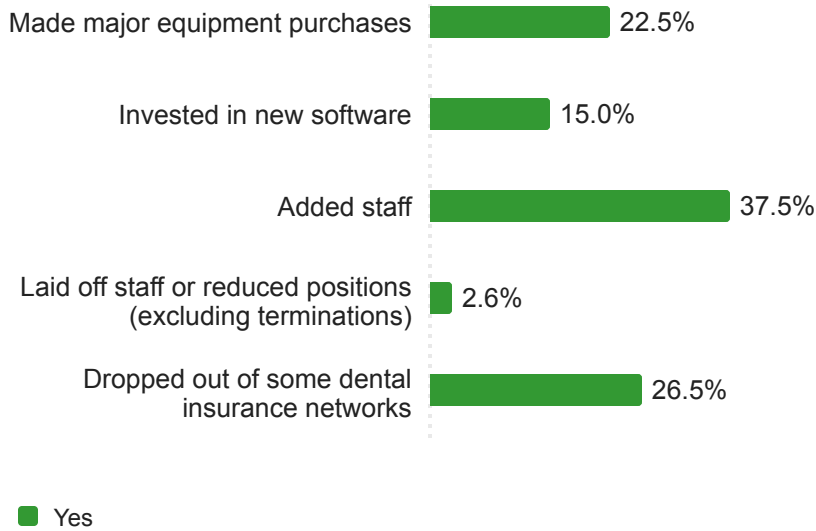
2 to 9 dentists



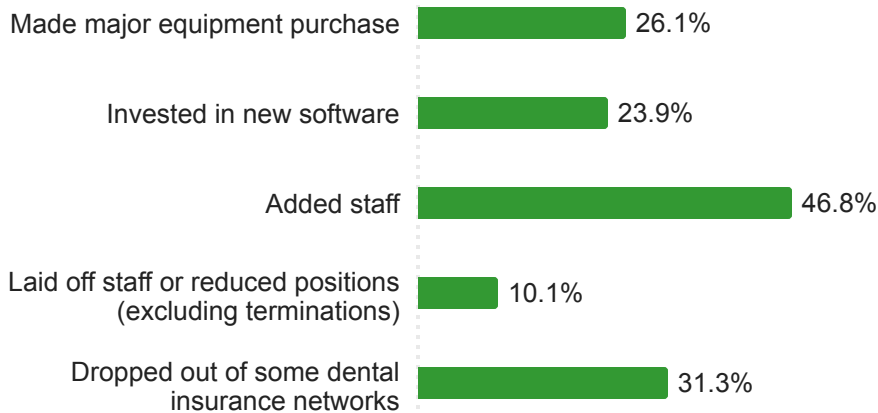
[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2025, have you done any of the following in your practice? (continued)

BY GEOGRAPHY

Top 20 cities

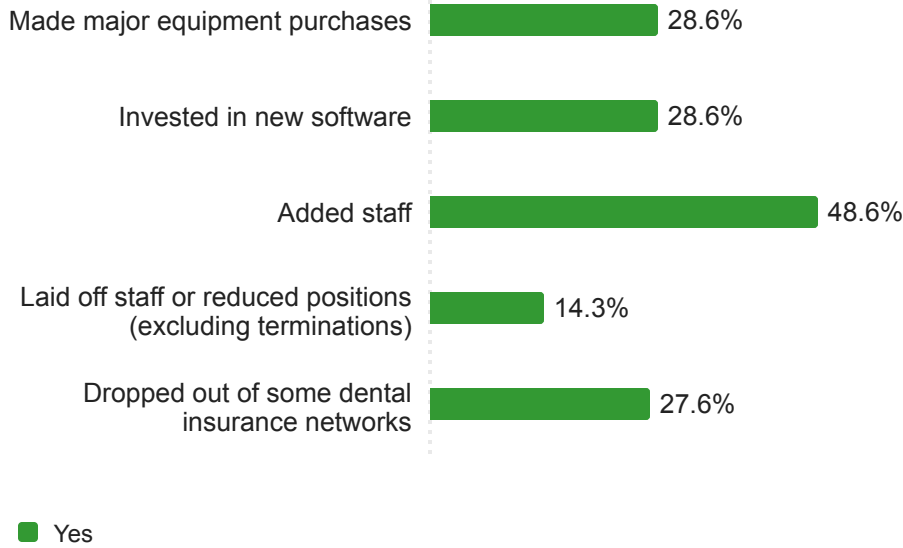


Other urban

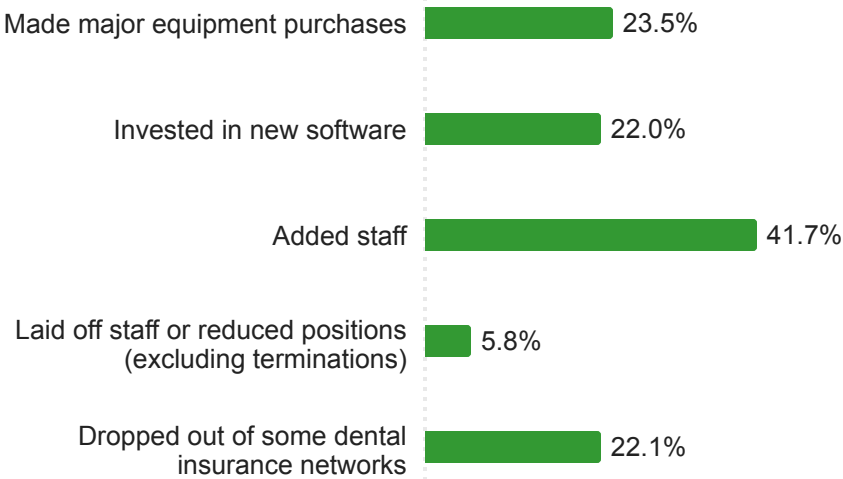


[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2025, have you done any of the following in your practice? (continued)

Suburban



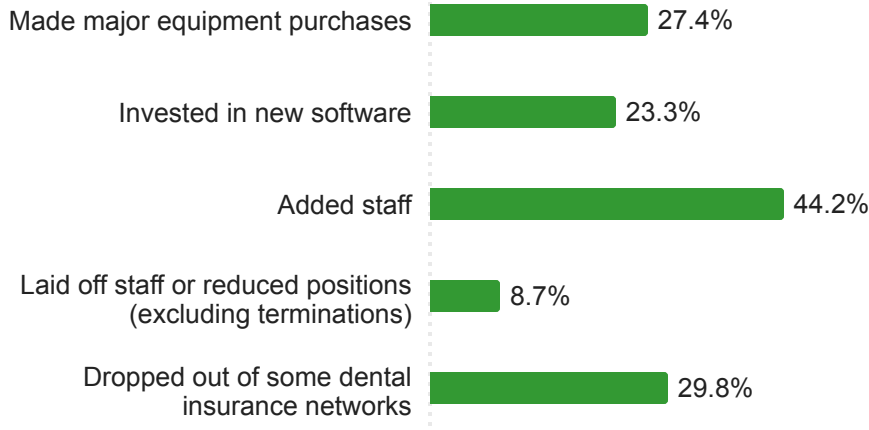
[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2025, have you done any of the following in your practice?



[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2025, have you done any of the following in your practice? (continued)

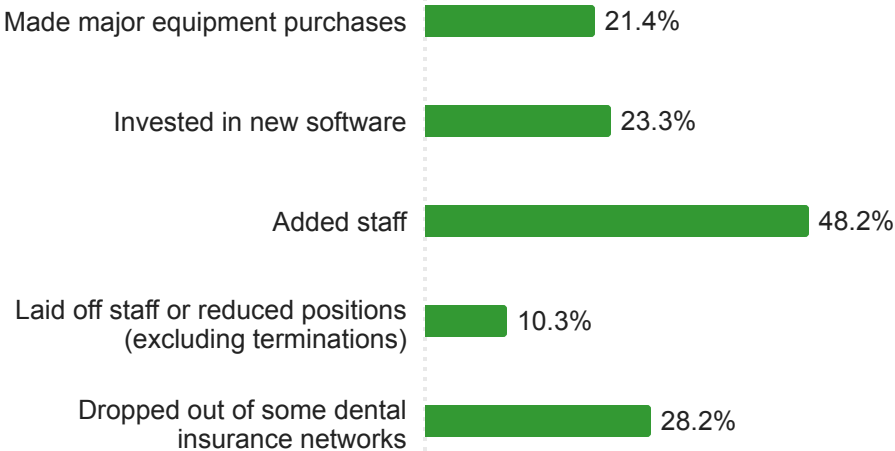
BY SEX

Male



■ Yes

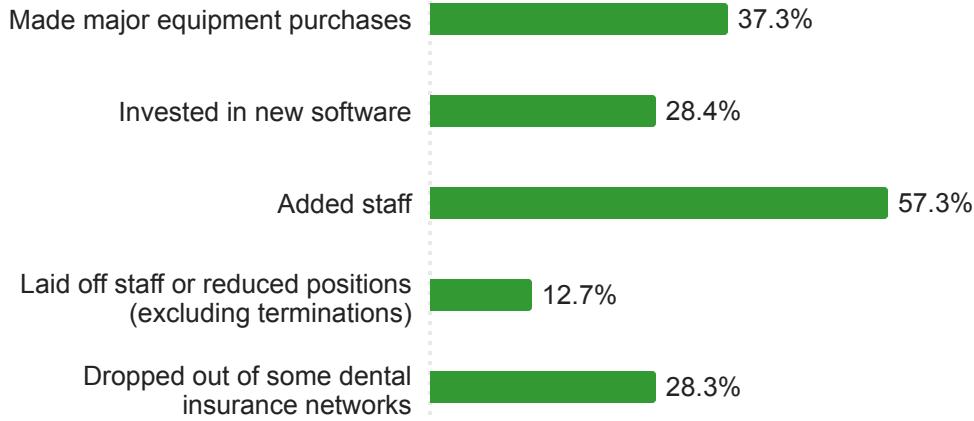
Female



[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2025, have you done any of the following in your practice? (continued)

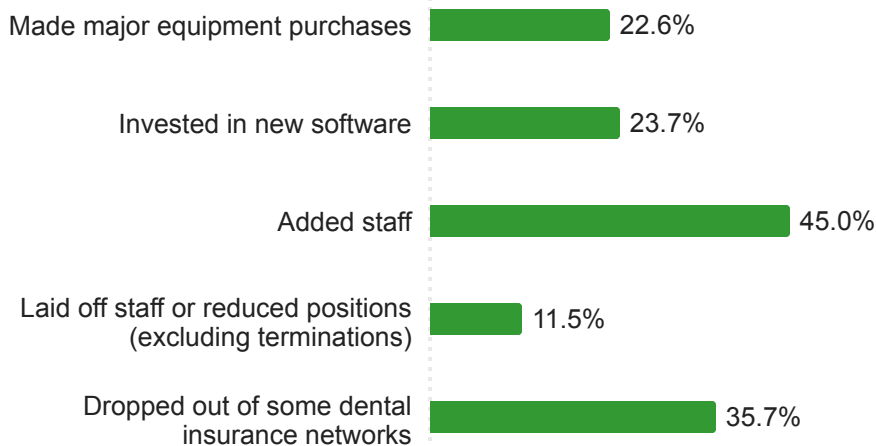
BY AGE

35 to 44



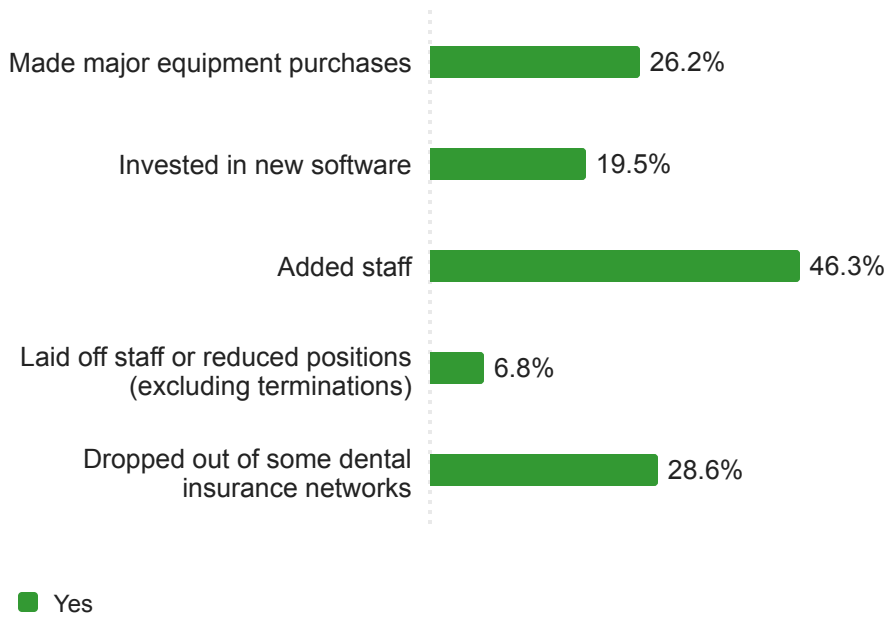
■ Yes

45 to 54

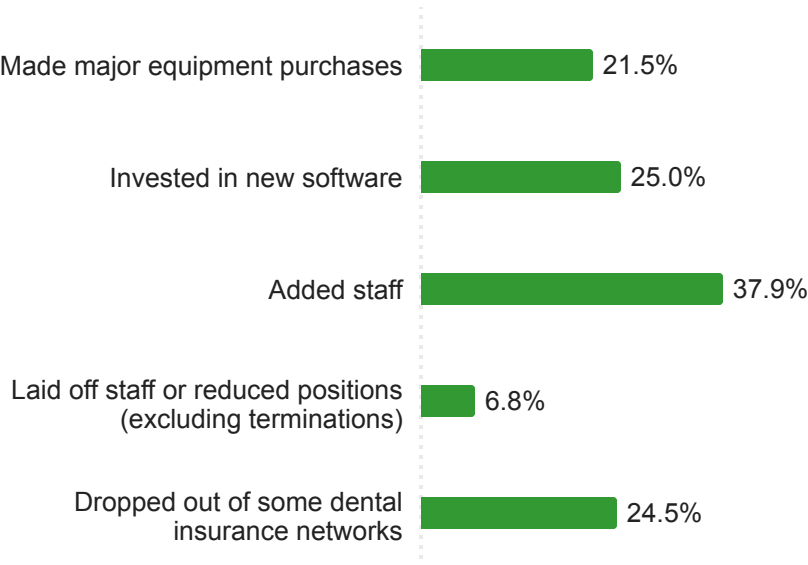


[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2025, have you done any of the following in your practice? (continued)

55 to 64



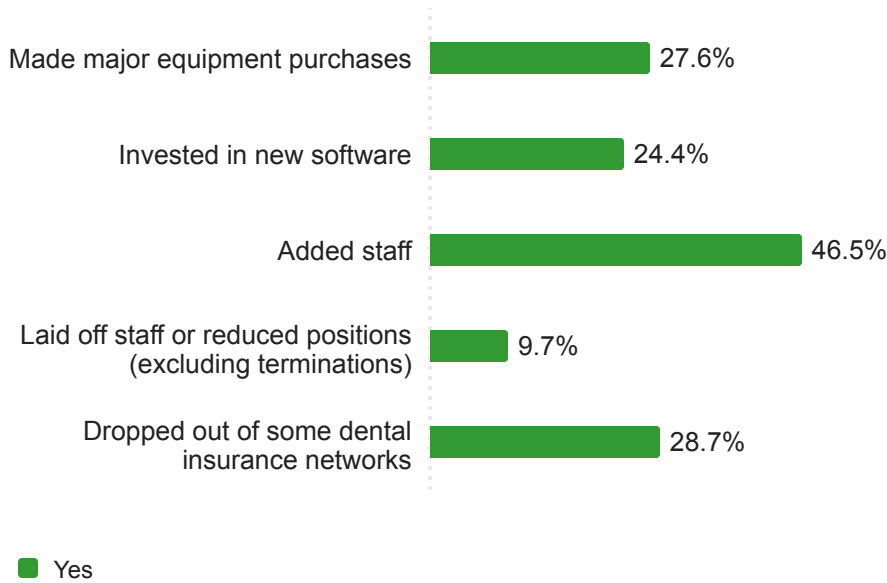
65 or older



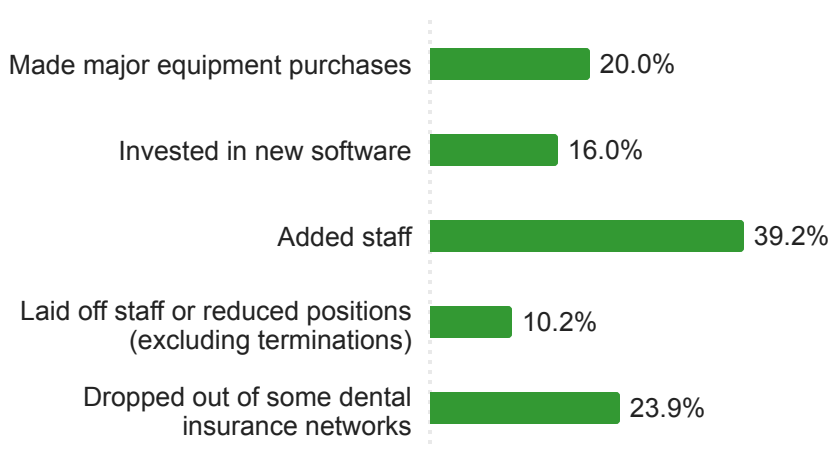
[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2025, have you done any of the following in your practice? (continued)

BY RACE/ETHNICITY

White

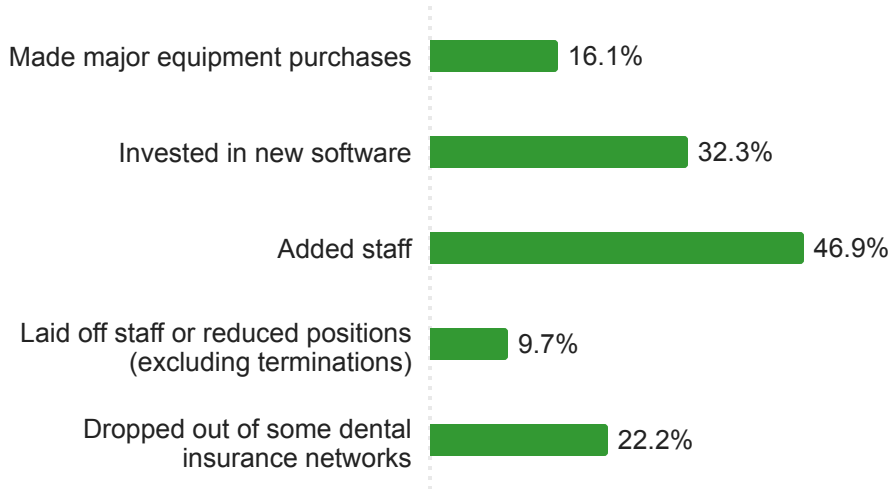


[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2025, have you done any of the following in your practice?



[Owner dentists] Since the beginning of 2025, have you done any of the following in your practice? (continued)

Hispanic



■ Yes

[If dropped out of dental networks] Approximately what percentage of the patient base were in the dental insurance networks your practice dropped out of since the beginning of 2025?

BY DSO AFFILIATION



■ Mean % of patient base

BY PRACTICE SIZE



■ Mean % of patient base

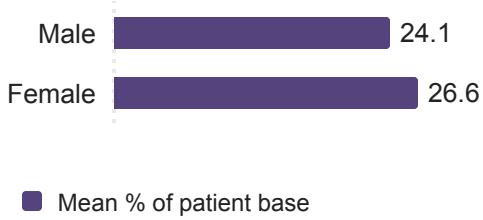
BY GEOGRAPHY



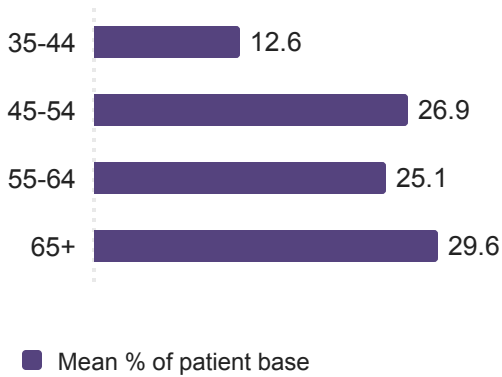
■ Mean % of patient base

[If dropped out of dental networks] Approximately what percentage of the patient base were in the dental insurance networks your practice dropped out of since the beginning of 2025? (continued)

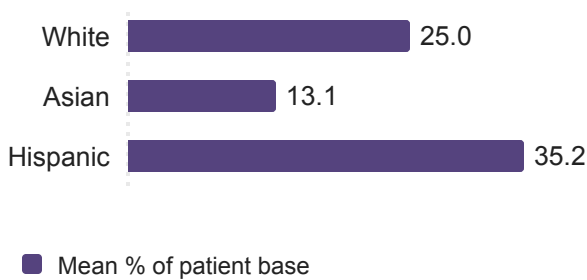
BY SEX



BY AGE GROUP



BY RACE/ETHNICITY

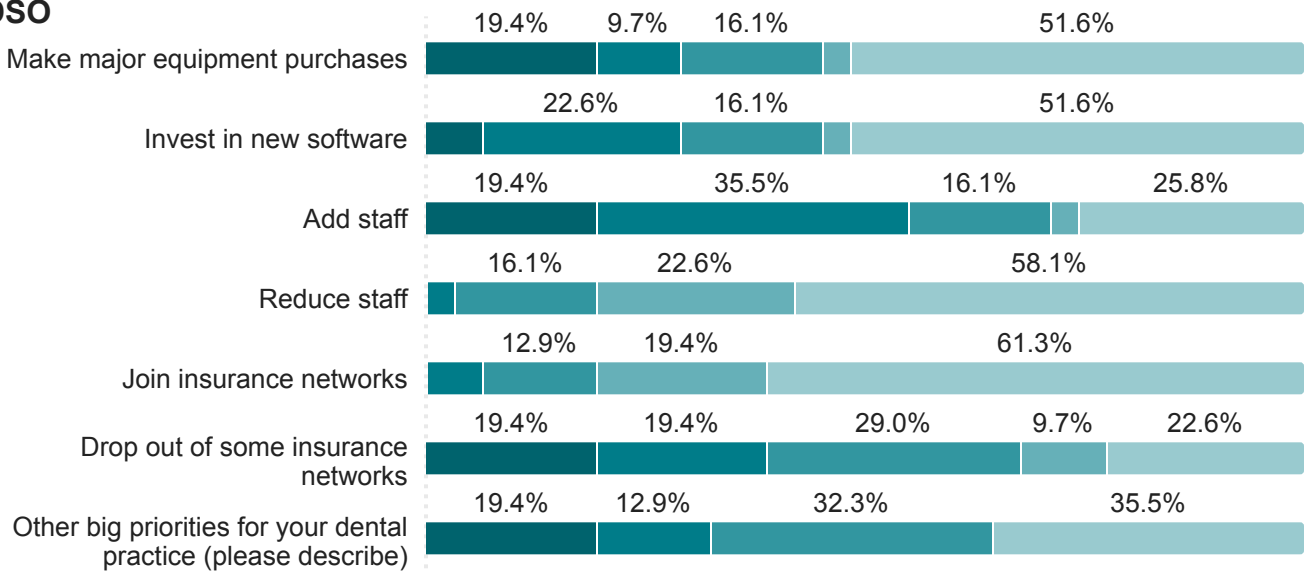


Future Practice Decisions

[Owner dentists] Looking ahead to 2026, how likely are you to do each of the following for your practice?

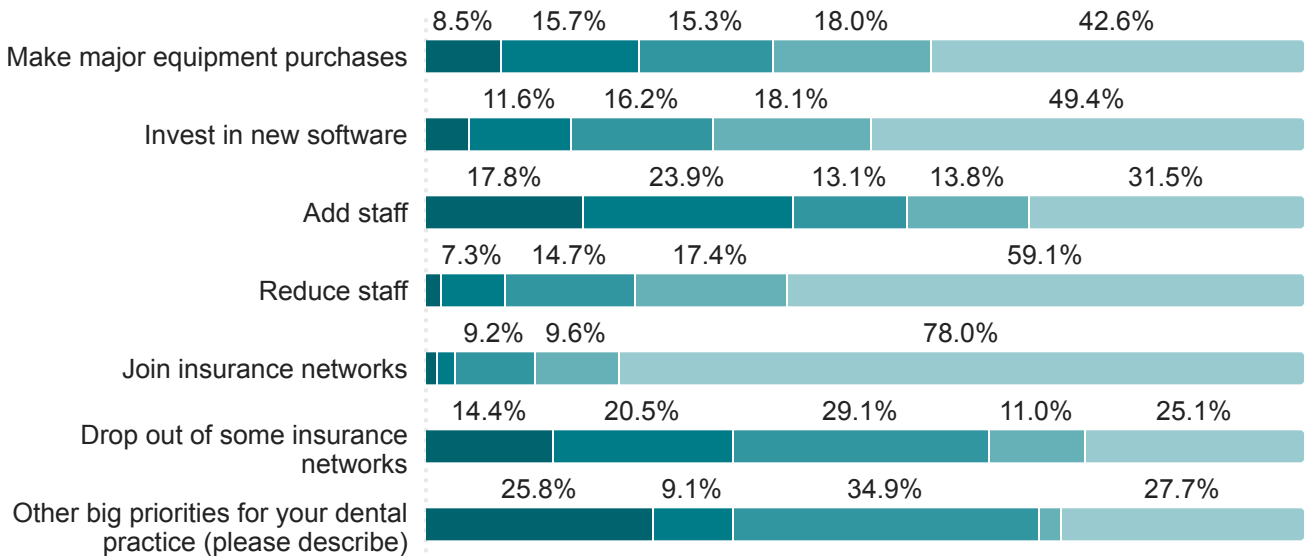
BY DSO AFFILIATION

DSO



Very likely Somewhat likely Neither likely nor unlikely Somewhat unlikely Very unlikely

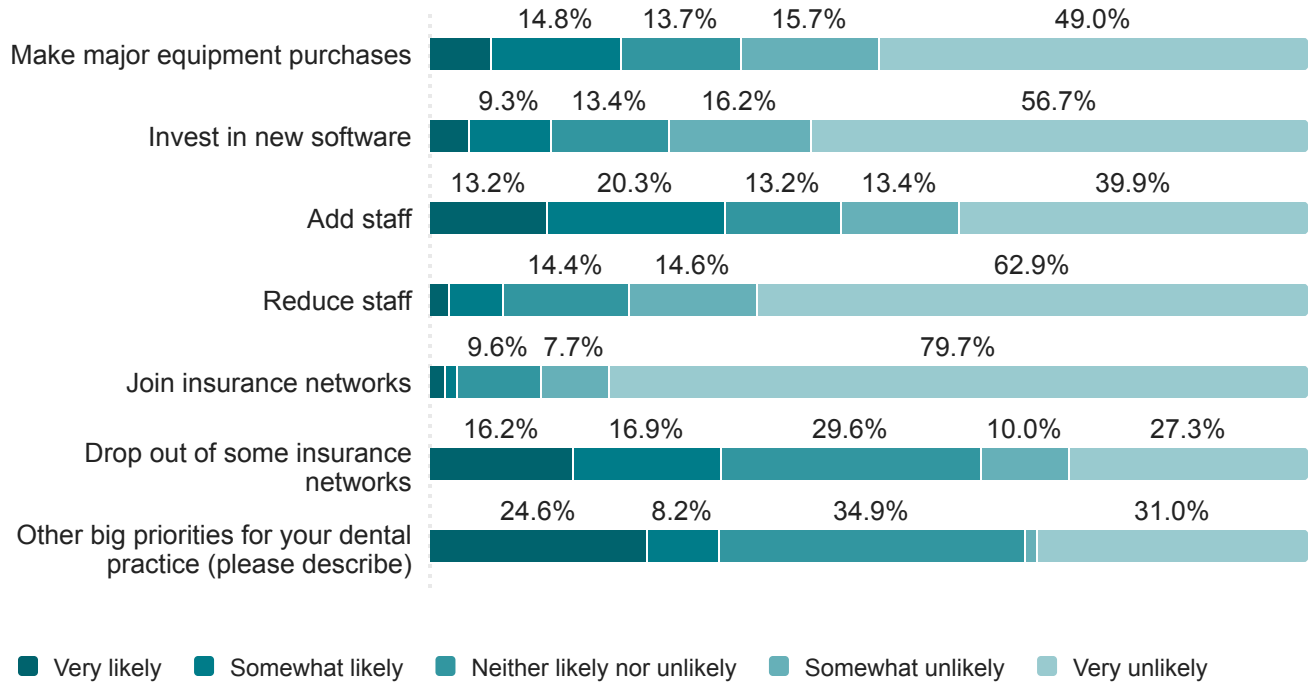
Non-DSO



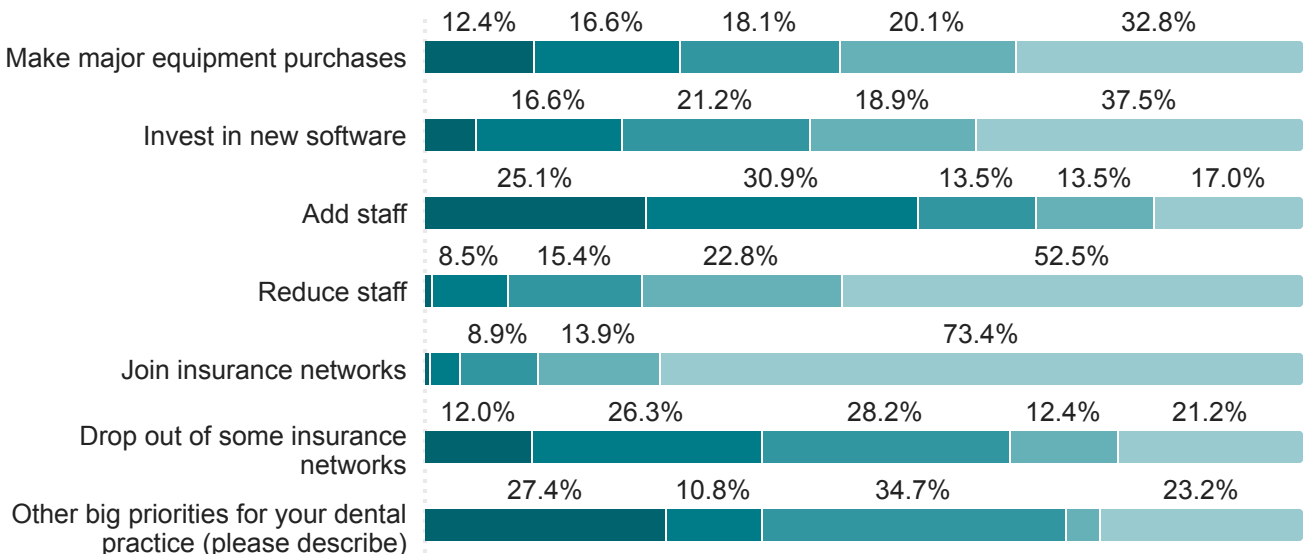
[Owner dentists] Looking ahead to 2026, how likely are you to do each of the following for your practice? (continued)

BY PRACTICE SIZE

Solo dentists



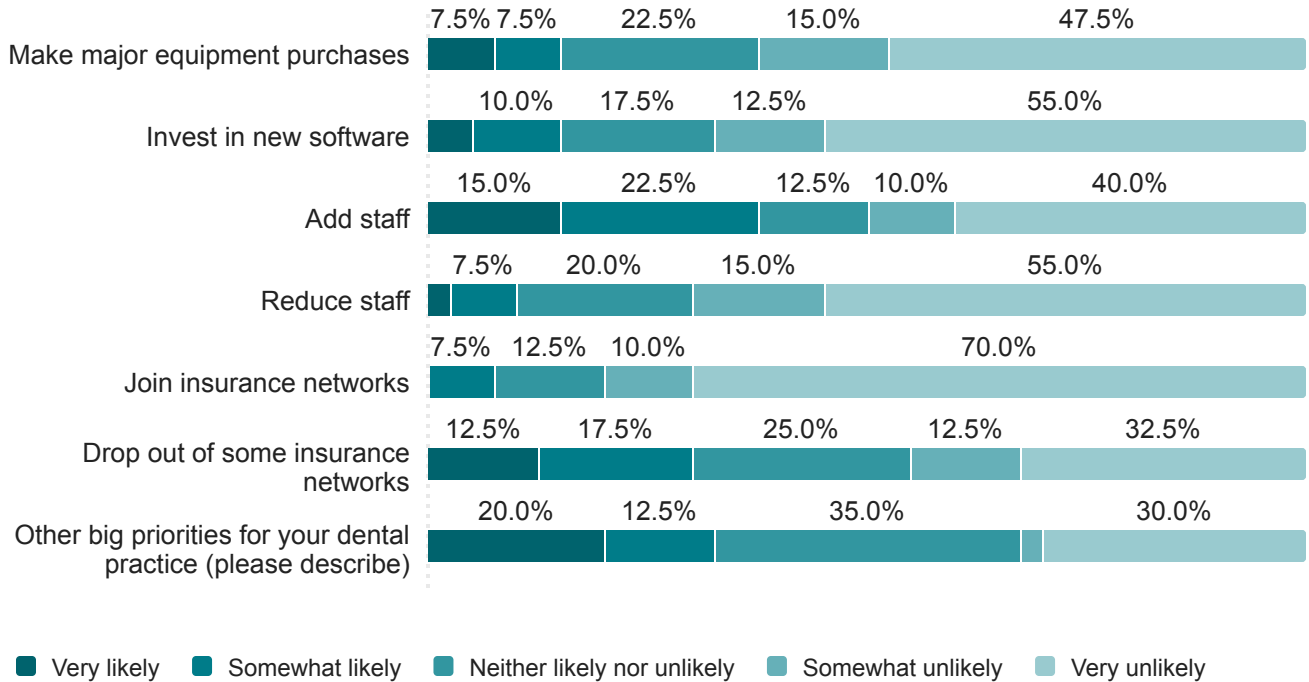
2 to 9 dentists



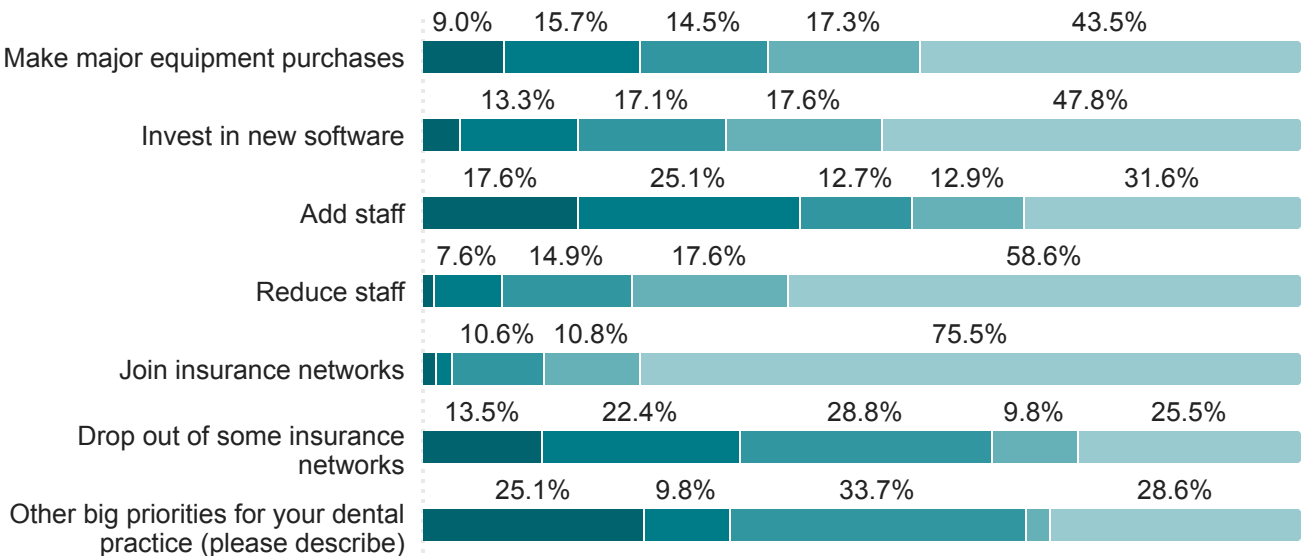
[Owner dentists] Looking head to 2026, how likely are you to do each of the following for your practice? (continued)

BY GEOGRAPHY

Top 20 cities



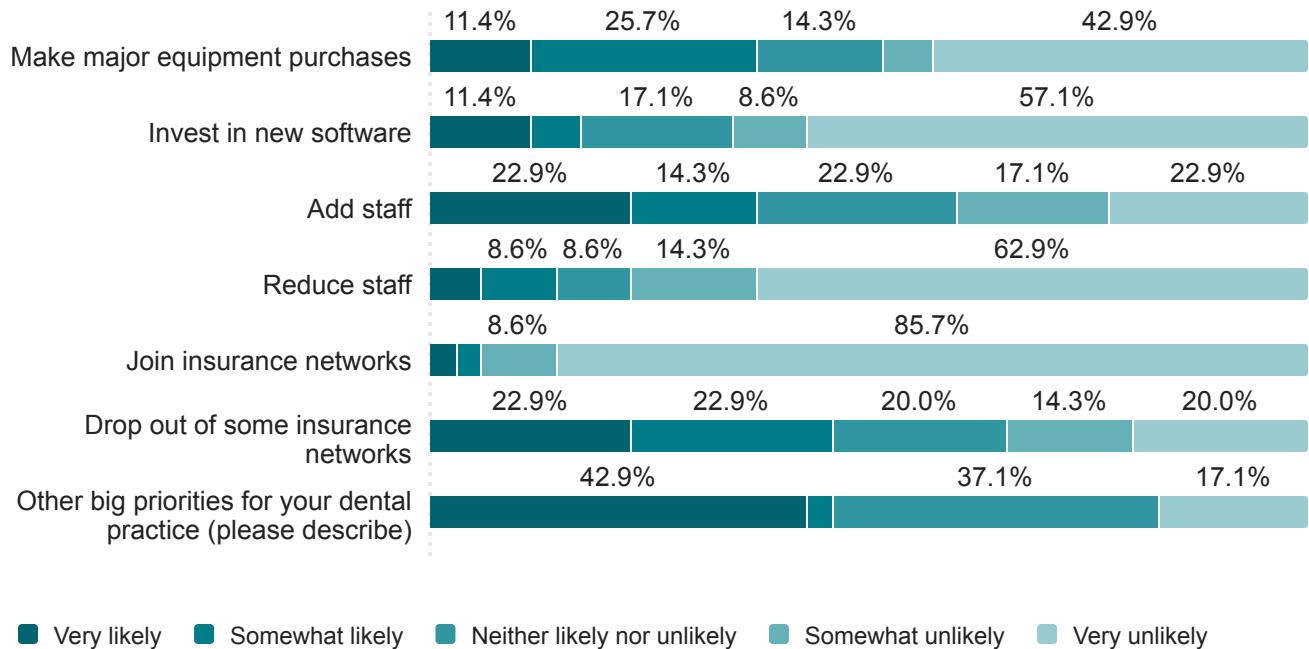
Other urban



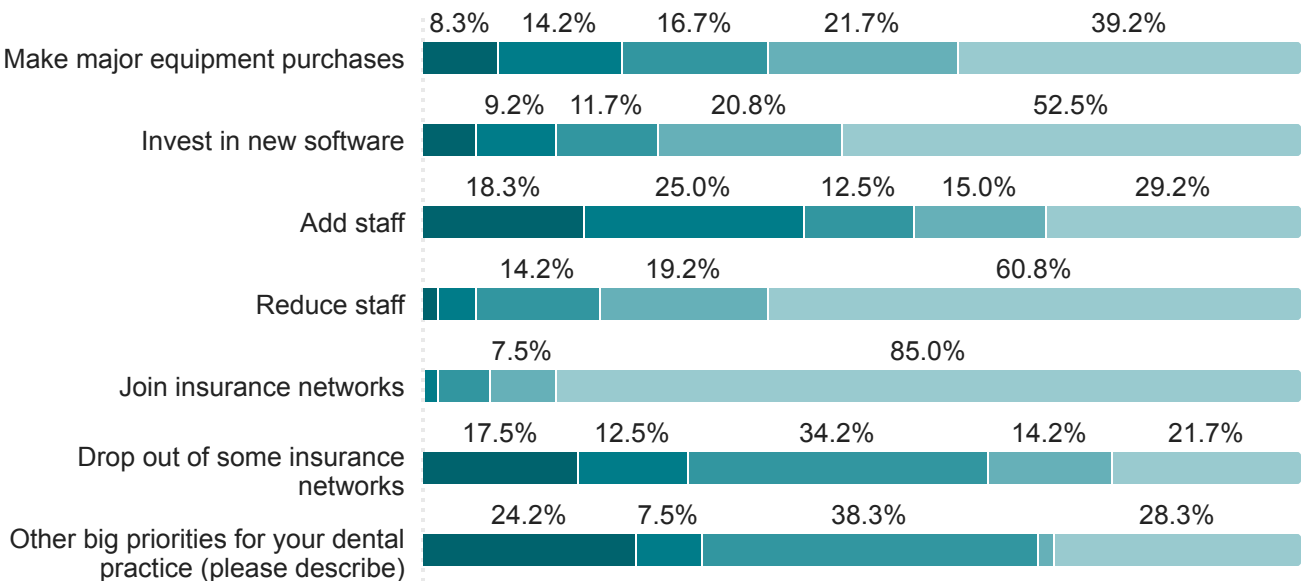
[Owner dentists] Looking head to 2026, how likely are you to do each of the following for your practice? (continued)

BY GEOGRAPHY (continued)

Suburban



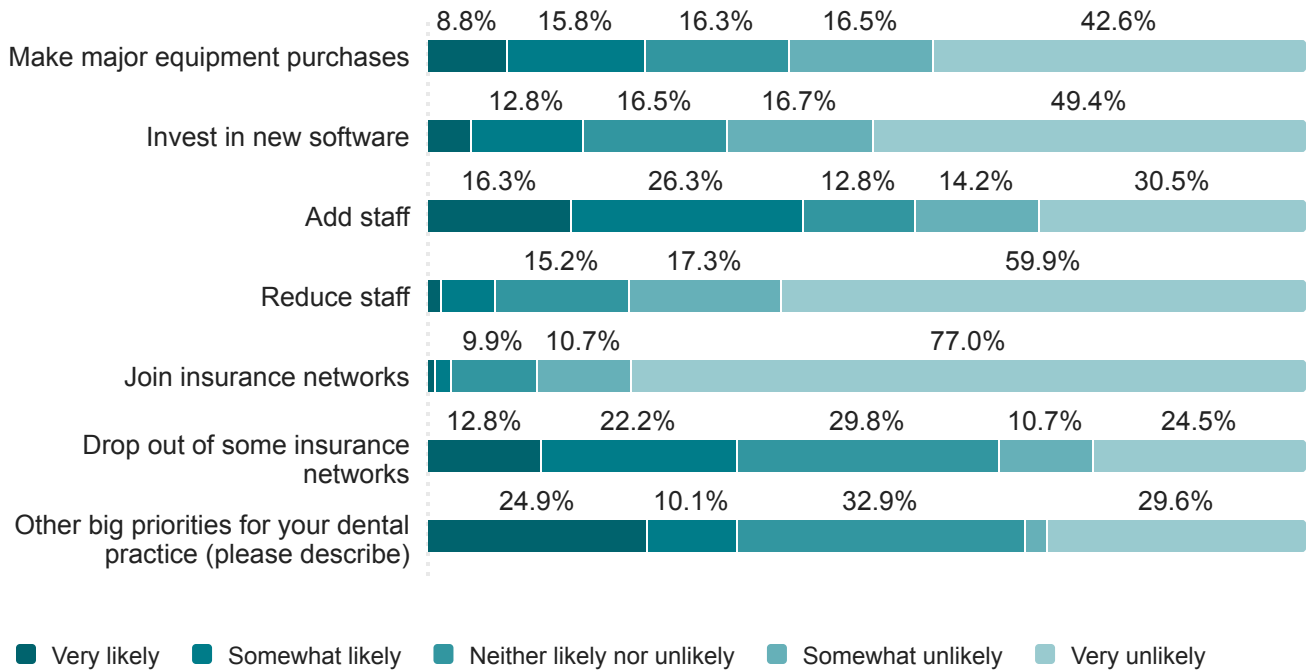
Rural



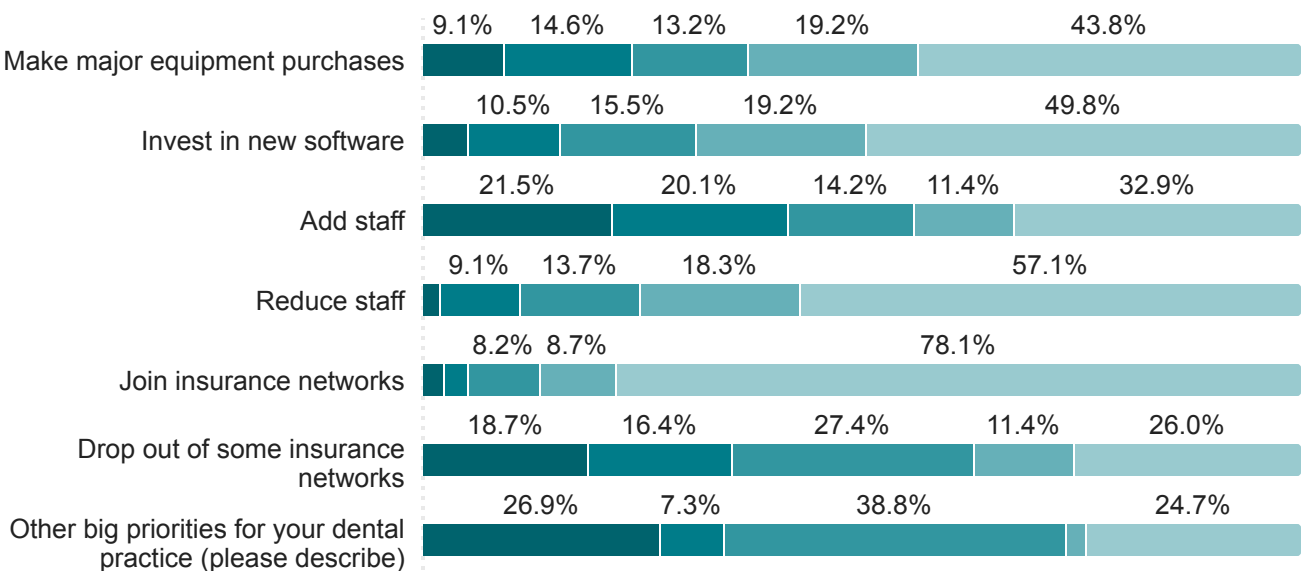
[Owner dentists] Looking head to 2026, how likely are you to do each of the following for your practice? (continued)

BY SEX

Male



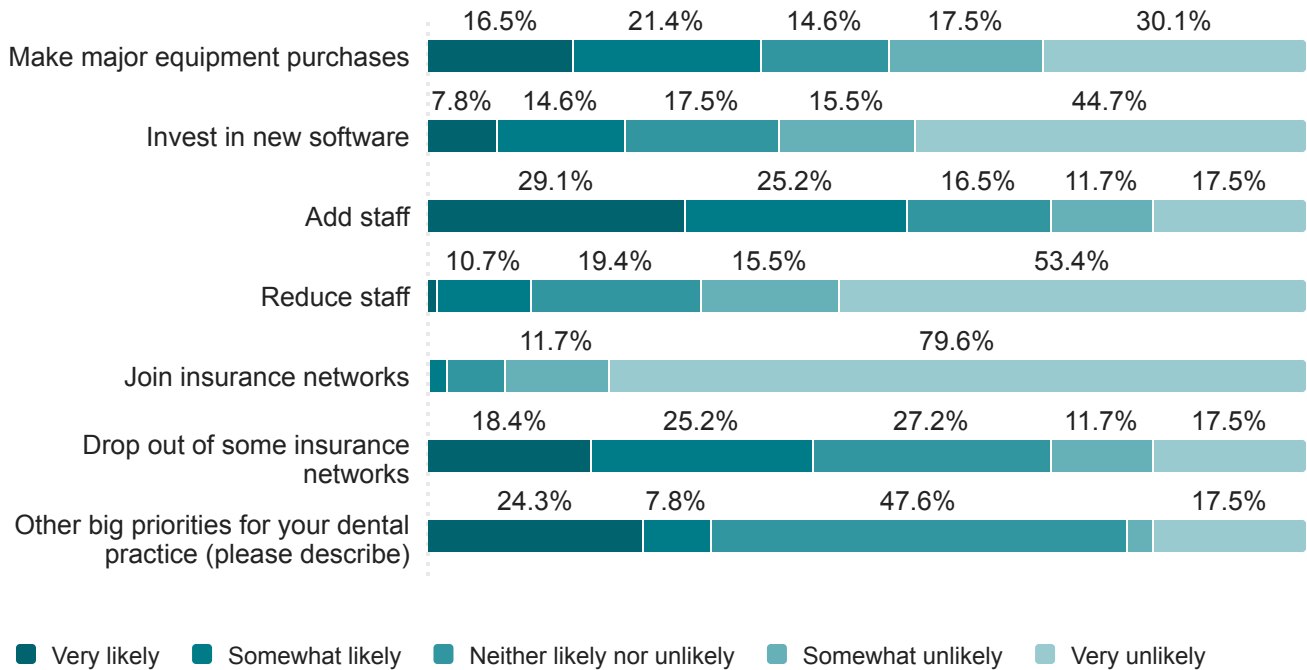
Female



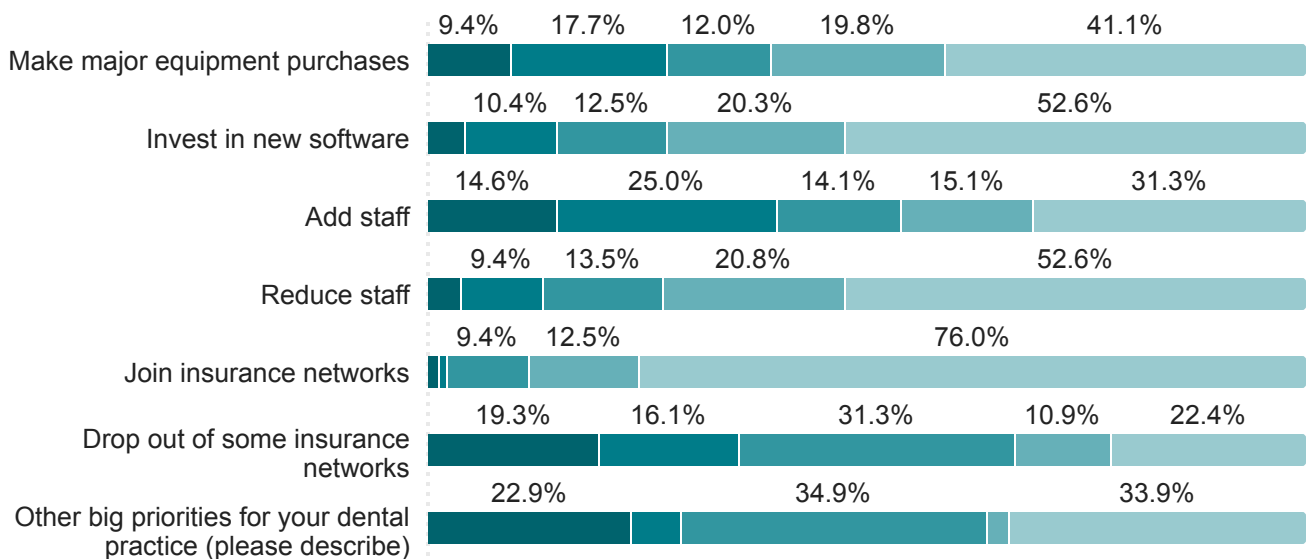
[Owner dentists] Looking head to 2026, how likely are you to do each of the following for your practice? (continued)

BY AGE GROUP

35 to 44



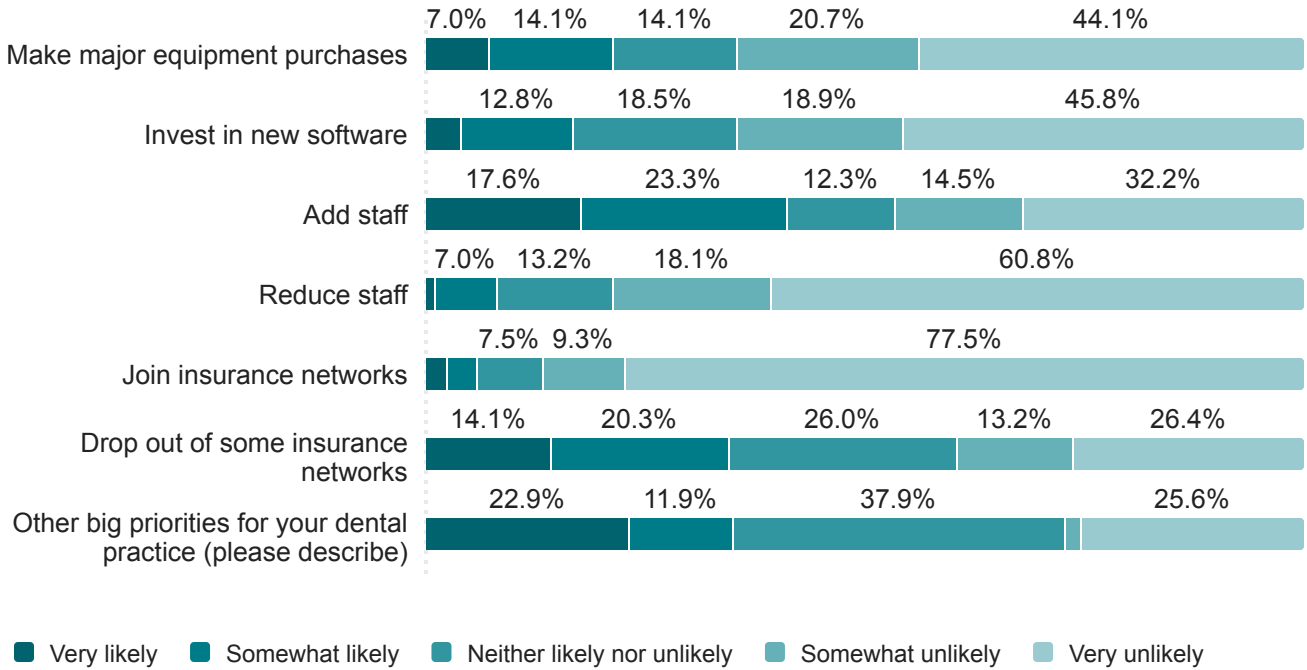
45 to 54



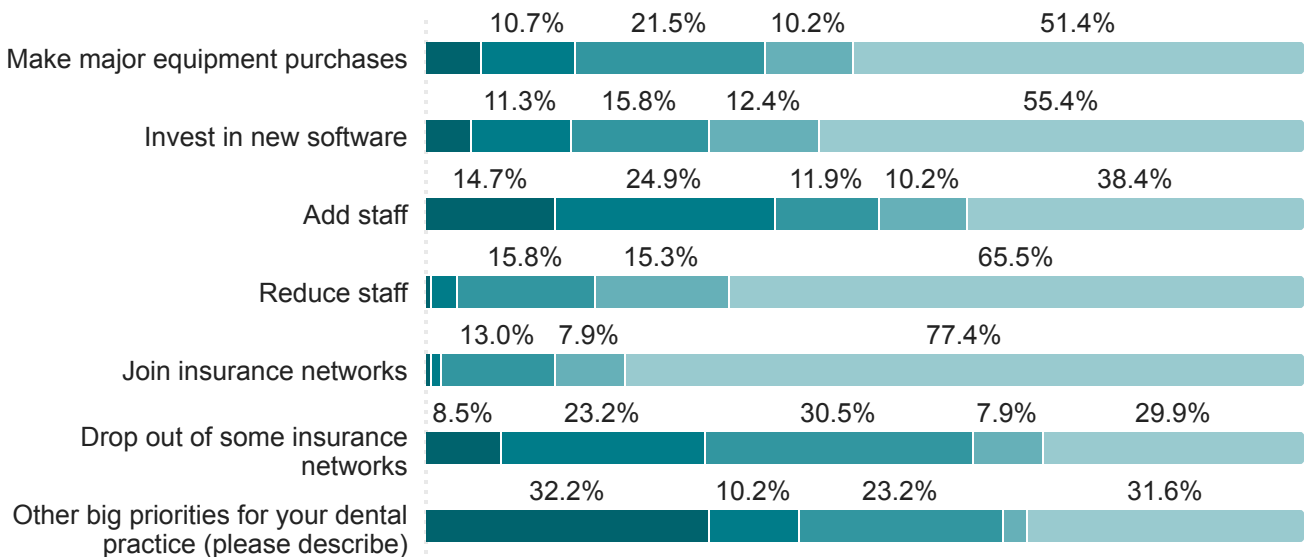
[Owner dentists] Looking head to 2026, how likely are you to do each of the following for your practice? (continued)

BY AGE GROUP (continued)

55 to 64



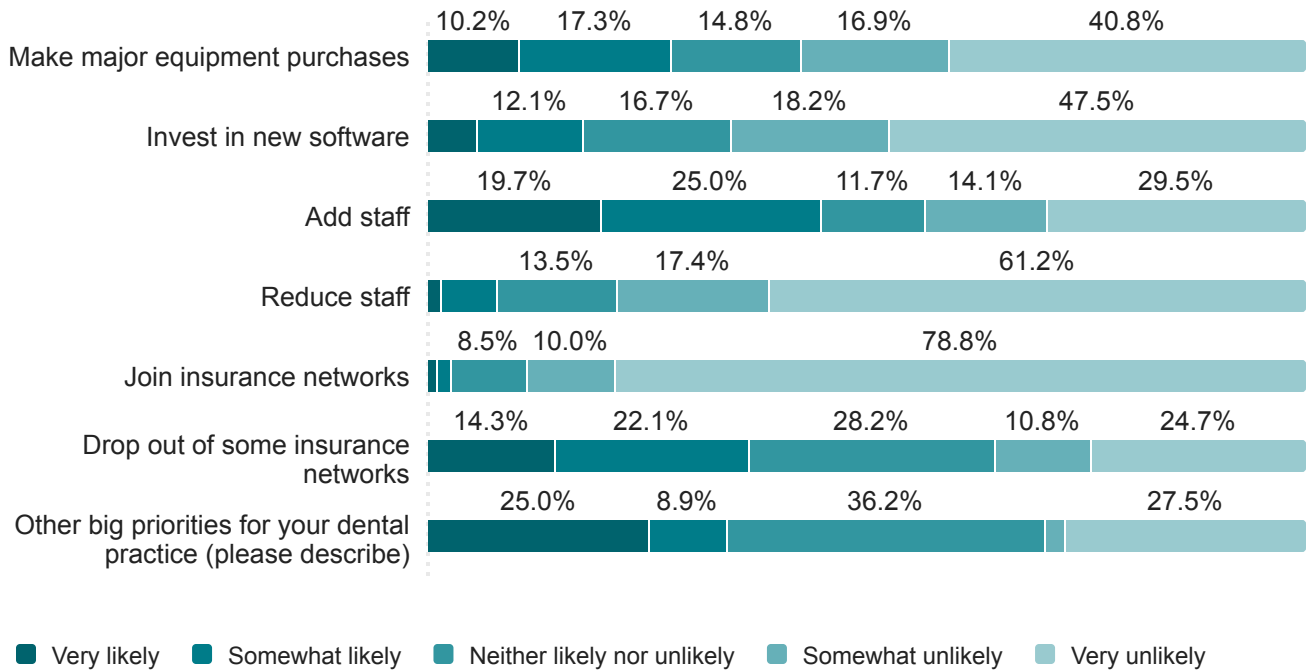
65 or older



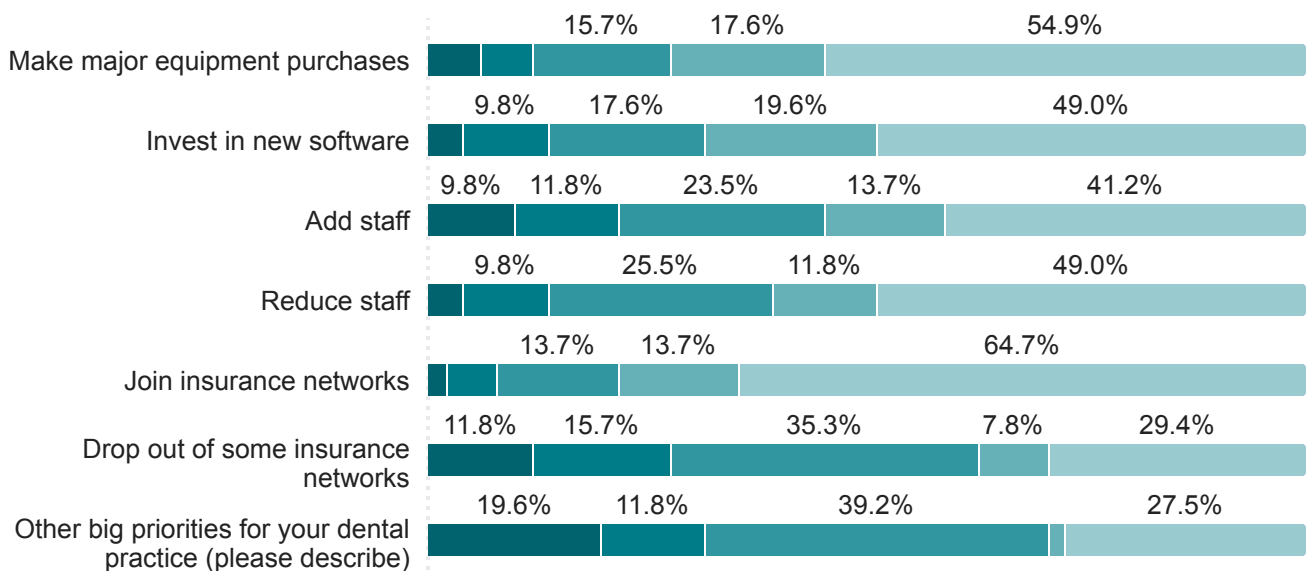
[Owner dentists] Looking head to 2026, how likely are you to do each of the following for your practice? (continued)

BY RACE/ETHNICITY

White



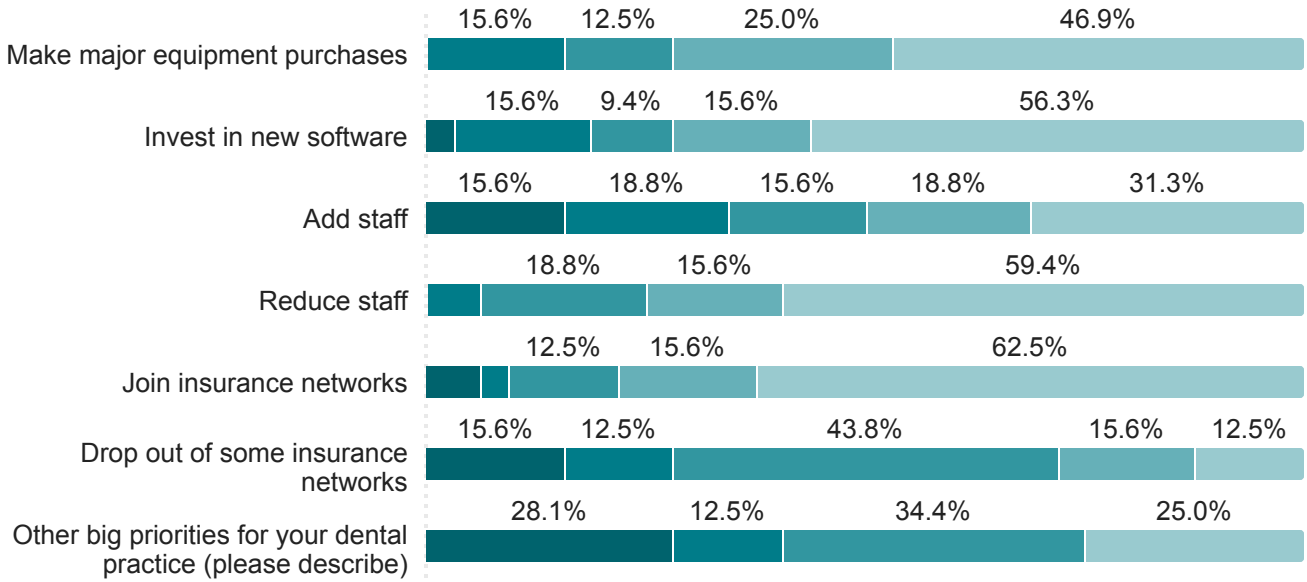
Asian



[Owner dentists] Looking head to 2026, how likely are you to do each of the following for your practice? (continued)

BY RACE/ETHNICITY (continued)

Hispanic



■ Very likely
 ■ Somewhat likely
 ■ Neither likely nor unlikely
 ■ Somewhat unlikely
 ■ Very unlikely

Number of Responses from Dentists in Private Practice by Wave

Wave	Responses
2024Q1	915
2024Q2	853
2024Q3	953
2024Q4	901
2025Q1	738
2025Q2	755
2025Q3	775
2025Q4	791

Number of Responses by Group - Week of December 8, 2025

Ownership Status	Choice Count
Owner dentist (i.e., sole owner, partner, or shareholder)	707
Employee dentist (nonowner)	51
Associate dentist (nonowner)	17
Independent contractor	14
Other, please specify	2

Number of Responses by Group - Week of December 8, 2025 (continued)

DSO Affiliation	Choice Count
DSO	56
Non-DSO	735

Practice Size	Choice Count
Solo dentists	449
2 to 9 dentists	331
Large group (10+ dentists)	11

Geography	Choice Count
Top 20 Cities	49
Other Urban	573
Suburban	40
Rural	129

Sex	Choice Count
Male	543
Female	248

Age Group	Choice Count
<35	9
35-44	117
45-54	199
55-64	245
65+	210

Number of Responses by Group - Week of December 8, 2025 (continued)

Race/Ethnicity	Choice Count
White	599
Asian	60
Hispanic	34
Black	13
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	2
American Indian / Alaska Native	4
Other	16
Unknown	62