

Economic Outlook and Emerging Issues in Dentistry

Insights from Data from Q1 2024

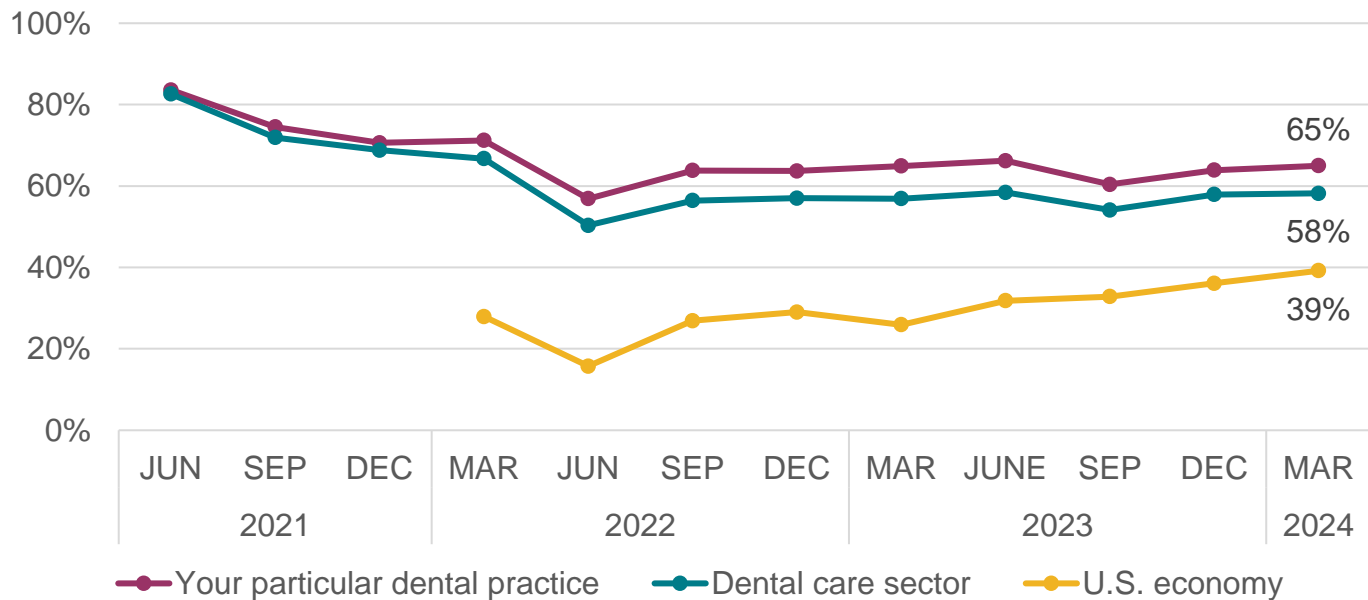
Emerging Issues Polling

- Measuring the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging issues in dentistry
- Over 3,000 dentists have opted to participate to date; 915 dentists in private practice participated in Q1 2024
- Data was collected March 26 – April 1, 2024
- New for Q1 2024: Quarterly cadence and slight changes in core questions
- Core measures: economic outlook, patient wait times, busyness levels, recruitment needs and challenges
- Complete reports with breakdowns available at [ADA.org/HPI](https://ada.org/HPI)

Confidence in the Economy

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

(Percentages indicating “very” or “somewhat” confident.)

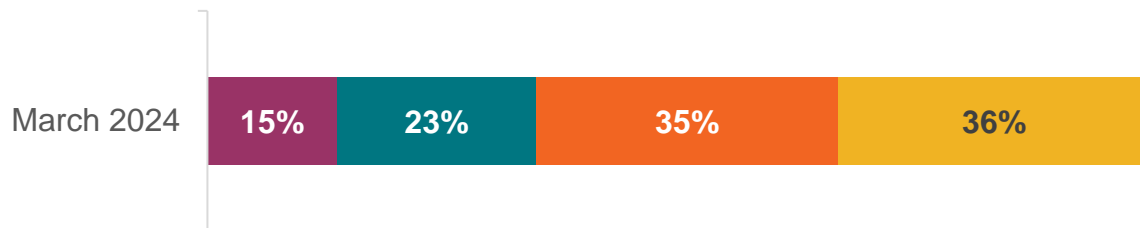


Dentists’ confidence in the U.S. economy has been trending upwards since early 2023. Meanwhile, confidence in their own dental practices and the dental care sector has been fairly steady.

*See Slide 9 for details about how the wording of this question changed starting Q1 2024.

Busyness

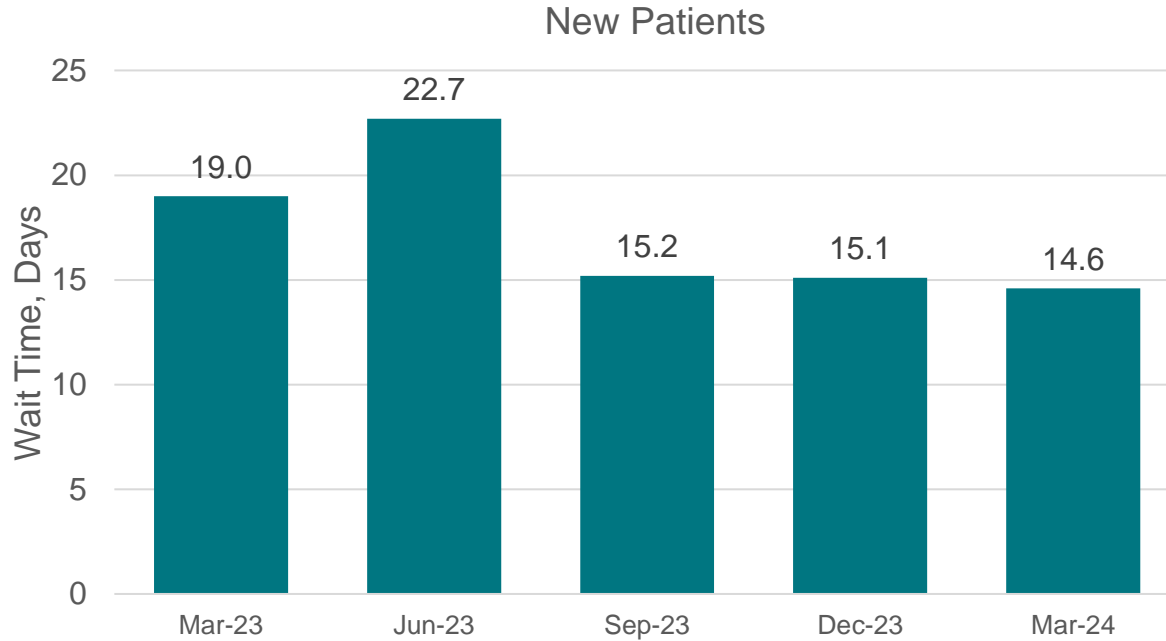
Which of the following best describe your general busyness level over the last 3 months?



- Too busy to treat all patients requesting care
- Treated all patients requesting care but overworked
- Treated all patients requesting care, not overworked
- Not busy enough, could have treated more patients

In Q1 2024, more than one-third of dentists report they are overworked and another one-third report they are not busy enough.

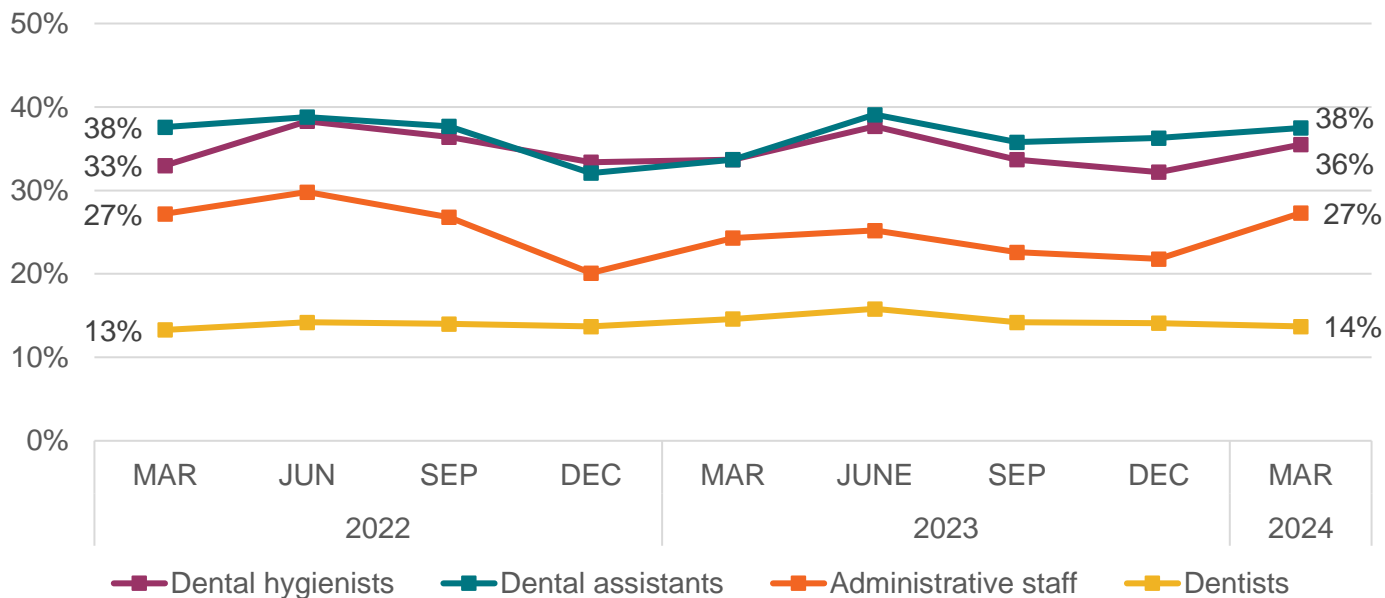
Average Wait Times



As of Q1 2024, wait times for new patients for an initial appointment is around two weeks, down from a high of three weeks in mid-2023.

Dental Team Recruitment

Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months, have you recruited any of the following positions?* (Percentages indicating “yes.”)

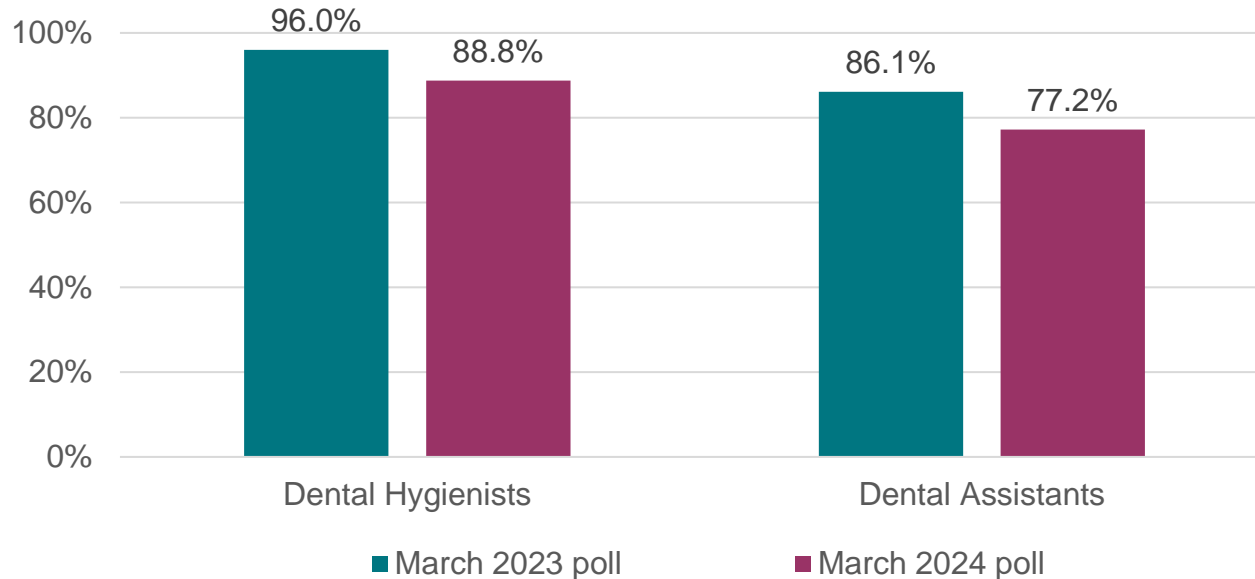


Recruitment needs remain around the same compared to two years ago; more than one-third of dentists are trying to hire DHs and DAs.

*See Slide 9 for details about how the wording of this question changed starting Q1 2024.

Challenges Recruiting

How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below? (Percentage indicating “Extremely Challenging” and “Very Challenging”) March 2023 vs. March 2024*



Dentists' perceived difficulty in recruiting dental hygienists and assistants is slightly less than it was one year ago.

*See Slide 9 for details about how the wording of this question changed starting Q1 2024.

Key Takeaways

- **Confidence:** Dentists' confidence the U.S. economy has been trending upwards for around a year while remaining steady in respect to their own dental practices and the dental sector.
- **Busyness:** More than one-third (36%) of dentists report they were too busy to treat all patients requesting care in the past three months or they have treated all patients but are overworked. By contrast, more than one-third (38%) of dentists report they were not busy enough and could have treated more patients. Thirty-five percent of dentists report a balanced level of busyness (i.e., treated all patients and *not* overworked).
- **Wait times:** In Q1 2024, the average wait time for new patients seeking an initial appointment is around two weeks (14.6 days). This is down from a peak of three weeks (22.7 days) in June 2023.
- **Recruitment Needs:** The number of dentists actively recruiting dental hygienists and dental assistants is around the same as it was two years ago. Dentists continue to say recruitment is extremely challenging, although to a lesser degree compared to one year ago.

Question Changes

Starting Q1 2024, the following questions from the 2022-23 panel have been **modified**:

- “*Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you in the recovery of...*” is now “*Looking ahead the next 6 months, how confident are you **in the economic conditions in....***”
- “*Have you recently or are you currently recruiting any of the following positions in your dental practice?*” is now “**Currently, or at any time during the last 3 months**, have you recruited any of the following positions?”
- “*How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below?*” is now “*How challenging has it been to recruit the position(s) below **over the last 3 months?***”

Thank you!

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