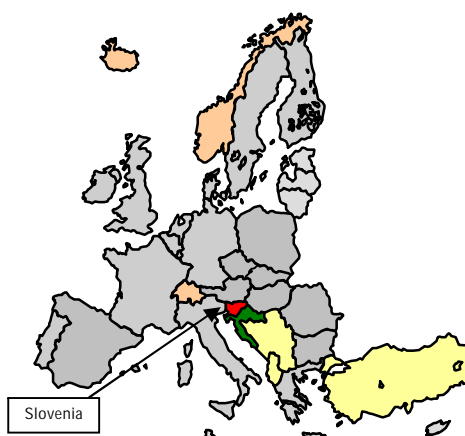


Slovenia



In the EU/EEA since	2004
Population (2008)	2,025,866
GDP PPP per capita (2007)	€23,079
Currency	Euros
Main languages	Slovene

Slovenia has a system of compulsory national social health insurance (HIIS). About half of dental care is provided in general practice and half municipal clinics, in the HIIS. There is some fully liberal private practice.

Number of dentists:	1,637
Population to (active) dentist ratio:	1,563
Membership of the Chamber::	100%

Specialists are widely used, but there were no clinical dental auxiliaries until 2005, when the first dental hygienists qualified.

Continuing education for dentists is mandatory, and is administered by the Slovenian Medical Chamber, to which all dentists must belong.

Date of last revision: 1st October 2008

Government and healthcare in Slovenia

The Republic of Slovenia lies at the heart of Europe, bordering the Alps and the Adriatic Sea. There are four neighbouring adjacent countries: Austria, Italy, Croatia and Hungary. The country has a land area of 20,273 sq km.

Slovenia was formerly part of the Republic of Yugoslavia (until June 1991), and proclaimed its independent constitution in December 1991. The constitutional system is a parliamentary democracy. The population comprises 88% Slovenes, 0.2% Italian, 0.4% Hungarian and 11.4% others.

The capital city is Ljubljana.

The official Language of Slovenia is Slovene. The majority of Slovenes are Roman Catholic.

The President of the Republic is elected directly by the people, and the Prime Minister by the National Assembly. The unicameral National Assembly or *Državni Zbor* has 90 seats - 40 are directly elected and 50 are selected on a proportional basis (the numbers of directly elected and proportionally elected seats varies with each election; members are elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms). There are some selected seats based on minorities, so that there is one seat each for Italian and Hungarian minorities.

Healthcare is a constitutional right for all citizens. In Slovenia most healthcare is provided through a national social insurance system. There are three levels in the healthcare system. The first level is the responsibility of the local government. For secondary and third levels (hospitals and clinics), these are the responsibility of the state government.

There are three organisations providing health insurance. The first one, the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia - *„Zavod za zdravstveno zavarovanje Slovenij“* (HIIS), is for compulsory health insurance. Every resident in Slovenia must be registered in this health insurance institute and the majority outlay for healthcare is paid from this insurance. The members are democratically elected, but the executive director must have the agreement of parliament. The main function of the HIIS is to conclude agreements with public oral health institutes and private dentists.

There are also two more health insurances, for non-compulsory health insurance. Their titles are the Mutual Health Insurance (*Vzajemna zdravstvena zavarovalnica*) and the Adriatic Insurance Company (*Adriatic zavarovalna družba*). In 2003 another insurance company started: Triglav insurance company (*Triglav zavarovalna družba*).

Public health care is budgeted for by Parliament after proposals by Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia.

	Year	Source
% GDP spent on health	8.2% 2007	HIIS
% of this spent by governm't	75.6% 2007	HIIS

Oral healthcare

Public compulsory health insurance

The majority of the oral health services are organised in the same way as the general healthcare system. The dental services are delivered through the system of public clinics, municipal health centres or by private dentists.

		Year	Source
% GDP spent on oral health	0.14%	2007	HIIS
% of OH expenditure private	35%	2007	SDA

Public compulsory health insurance provides dental cover for all patients of 0 to 18 years of age, all removable and fixed appliances, and for adults, surgical items, some basic prosthodontic treatments, periodontal and conservative treatment such as fillings and endodontics. Some cover for this treatment is borne by the non-compulsory health insurance. Some treatments – such as for cosmetic treatments, porcelain crown and bridge and implants have to be paid for in full by the patient. There is no annual limit of treatment range for an individual patient.

A full-time working dentist would normally have a list of 1,800 patients attending regularly. Oral re-examinations would normally be carried out for most adult patients every 9 months.

It is estimated by the Chamber (see later) that about 40% of the whole population access dentistry in a 2-year period.

In Slovenia about 7.6% of the public healthcare budget is spent on dentistry, although it is estimated that about 1.9 % is paid directly by patients for non-obligatory insurance, for dentistry, in addition.

Dentists do not undertake domiciliary care in Slovenia.

Epidemiological surveys are carried out by the National Institute for Healthcare.

Private care

In fully liberal practice, patients must pay the full cost of their dental care, at a price directly negotiated with the dentist. There is no regulation of the fees.

Private health insurance does not exist in Slovenia.

The Quality of Care

For dentists who have agreements with the HIIS, the quantity of work is monitored by the HIIS. They have an annual contract with a maximum that they can fulfil.

For private dentists, work is monitored by The Medical Chamber of Slovenia for minimal price and government market inspection (see below, Working in General Practice).

For all dentists, the quality of work is monitored by the Chamber. There are routine checks and also if someone has made a complaint (patient, other colleagues, insurance companies or the Ministry of Health), the Professional Medical Committee of the Chamber carries out the investigations (see Ethics).

Health data

		Year	Source
DMFT at age 12	1.70	2003	CECDO
DMFT zero at age 12	40%	2003	OECD
Edentulous at age 65	20%	2003	OECD

“DMFT zero at age 12” refers to the number of 12 years old children with a zero DMFT. “Edentulous at age 65” refers to the numbers of over 64s with no natural teeth.

Fluoridation

There is no water or other fluoridation in Slovenia but there is some natural fluoridation at an optimal level.

Some dentists provide topical fluoride treatments for children.

Education, Training and Registration

Undergraduate Training

To enter the dental school a student needs to be a secondary school graduate - including a school leaving examination, known as matura exam, with a good score. There is no entry examination and no vocational entry, such as from being a qualified dental auxiliary.

There is one dental school, which is state-funded. The school is known as *Medicinska fakulteta, Odsek za stomatologijo*, (Faculty of Medicine, Department of Oral Medicine) of the university.

Year of data:	2008
Number of schools	1
Student intake	70
Number of graduates	49
Percentage female	70%

Dental undergraduate training is for 6 years.

Quality control

The dental school is inspected for course curriculum quality by the registration authority.

Qualification and Vocational Training

Primary dental qualifications

- ✚ "Doctor dentalne medicine (*dr.dent.med.*)
- ✚ Diploma, s katero se podjeljuje strokovni naslov "doktor dentalne medicine/doktorica dentalne medicine"

Vocational Training (VT)

There is a 12-months' period of vocational training necessary following graduation. The Ministry of Education is responsible for the supervision of this. The trainees are paid a salary of €1,276 per month (gross income in 2008), from the Ministry.

This post-qualification training has a practical part (the participant has to fulfil a list of prophylactic, diagnostic and treatment items) and a theoretical part (compulsory attendance on recommended courses and lectures). There is a final examination, which must be passed to work as a dentist. A Slovenian graduate cannot work in Slovenia or abroad until the examination has been passed.

Registration

The Medical Chamber of Slovenia registers all physicians and dentists.

Diplomas from other EU countries have been recognised without the need for vocational training since May 2004.

Cost of registration (2008) € 70

Language Requirements

It is necessary to know the Slovenian language to be able to practise in Slovenia.

Further Postgraduate and Specialist Training

Continuing education

Continuing education is compulsory for all dentists. Every physician and dentist must undergo 75 points (about 10 courses) of continuing education in every 7 year period, provided by the Chamber. The responsibility for the supervision of this lies with the Chamber.

If the dentist does not fulfil this 75 points obligation, then he must undertake an examination. Failure to pass the examination leads to a loss of licence to practice. Courses taken overseas are estimated by the Medical Chamber and are allowable.

Specialist Training

Before entering into specialist training dentists must have completed their 1 year post-qualification training. The specialist training is undertaken in Stomatology clinics, private and public health institutes which are licensed to provide this.

- ✚ Oral Surgery
- ✚ Oral Maxillo-facial Surgery
- ✚ Orthodontics
- ✚ Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics
- ✚ Prosthetic Dentistry
- ✚ Preventive and Paediatric Dentistry
- ✚ Oral Medicine and Periodontology

There are limited numbers who may undertake training, all of which is for 3 years, except Oral Surgery, which is for 4 years and Oral Maxillo-facial Surgery for 6 years. A specialists' degree is received on completion of training.

The title given is:

- ✚ Specialist in orthodontics
Potrdilo o opravljenem specialitiscnem izpitu iz celjustne in zobne ortopedije,

- ✚ Specialist in Oral Surgery
Potrdilo o opravljenem specialitiscnem izpitu iz oralne kirurgije

The Medical Chamber of Slovenia is responsible for the registration of specialists.

Workforce

Dentists

Year of data:	2008
Total Registered	1,637
In active practice	1,296
Dentist to population ratio*	1,563
Percentage female	63%
Qualified overseas	63

The dental workforce is said by the Chamber to be decreasing as a high proportion of practising dentists are over 50 years of age.

Movement of dentists across borders

Most of the foreign dentists working in Slovenia are from the countries which previously formed Yugoslavia

Specialists

There are 6 classes of specialists in Slovenia. All specialists see patients on referral from a primary dentist, only.

- ✚ Orthodontics
- ✚ Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics
- ✚ Preventive and Paediatric Dentistry
- ✚ Oral Medicine and Periodontology
- ✚ Prosthetic Dentistry
- ✚ Oral Surgery

There is also Oral Maxillo-facial Surgery, which is a medical and dental specialty.

Year of data:	2008
Orthodontics	106
Endodontics	20
Paedodontics	50
Periodontics	33
Prosthodontics	47
Oral Radiologists	
Oral Surgery	28
OMFS	28
Dental Public Health	

Auxiliaries

There were no legal clinical dental auxiliaries in Slovenia until 2005, two years after the first special training school for dental hygienists started in 2003. There are Dental Technicians and additionally, dental assistants.

Year of data:	2008
Hygienists	15
Technicians	759
Denturists	0
Assistants	1,275
Therapists	0
Other	0

The figure for dental assistants is estimated. Normally, there is at least one assistant per dentist but there is no special register for them.

Dental Hygienists

The dental hygiene school is privately financed, and training is for 2 years. They receive the diploma of Dental Hygienist, which is not centrally registerable.

They are registered by individual dentist employers and they cannot work without this control. They can administer only topical anaesthesia. They are salaried.

Dental Technicians

Dental technicians are trained in dental technician secondary schools, for 4 years and then may go to colleges. To work, they must register with the Economy Chamber.

Dental technicians normally work in separate dental laboratories and invoice the dentist for the work done. A small number of technicians are employees of dental offices and they are paid by taking a percentage of the fees for the prosthetics work.

Dental Nurses (Assistants)

Dental nurses assist the dentist.

There are no special schools for dental assistants and it is not necessary to be a trained nurse to be a dental assistant. However, they are often first medical nurses after which they are trained by the dentists where they work. Indeed, the majority of dental assistants are nurses, but several are dental technicians and from other professions.

They are always salaried and have their own representative organisation, but membership is not obligatory.

Practice in Slovenia

Year of data:	2008
General (private) practice	772
Public dental service	514
University	21
Hospital	21
Armed Forces	0
General Practice as a proportion is	60%

Just over half of active dentists in Slovenia work in general practice, in which the practice is not owned by the state. Over 25% of these dentists are self-employed in fully private practice, and they employ a small number of salaried dentists. They may also be in partnership with other dentists.

The remaining GDPs are in salaried positions or are self-employed practice owners in contract with the HIIS.

Almost an equal number of dentists work in public municipal health centres, as salaried practitioners.

Working in General Practice

In Slovenia general practitioners may work in the HIIS and in fully liberal practice, or as has been stated above may be in fully liberal private practice only. There is only one system of payment, which is Item of Treatment Fees, for HIIS work, and direct patient payments for other (fully private) work.

For payment, the contracted dentist sends an invoice with the list of patients and the provided dental care, to the health insurance company, monthly (by e-mail). The payment by the insurance company is also monthly (by lump sum) and at the end of the year, a final payment.

There is no prior approval for treatment necessary - only the consent of the patient, established freely and directly together with the dentist.

Fee scales

Each year new prices are scheduled as a result of negotiations between the HIIS, delegates of the Chamber and the Ministry of Health. The prices of items fully covered by the insurance system are the same across the country. For dentists working within the system of the HIIS (contractual) these prices are obligatory.

For fully private dentists, the contract is between the dentist and the patient, who must pay the full cost of the dental care, directly negotiated with the dentist.

Minimum prices are regulated by The Medical Chamber.

Joining or establishing a practice

There are no stated regulations which specifically aim to control the location of dental practices. There are also no other factors which effectively restrict where dentists may

locate. Any type of building may be used if this fulfils the legislative claims to be a dental practice. But rules do exist which define, for example, the minimum size of rooms, the equipment for a dental practice, and the standards of hygiene.

Normally dentists practice on their own, without another dentist in the practice. Rarely, they practice as two dentists together. There are a few large practices, with joint owners. Anyone may own a dental practice, but non-dentists need a dentist present during working hours.

Working in Public Clinics

Dentists who work in the Public Service are salaried and work in public clinics. As stated above, nearly half of Slovenia's dentists work there. These municipal ambulatory dental departments offer common dental care for any citizen, also paid by HIIS care. All other conditions are the same - the difference is only of the ownership and that all the dentists are salaried.

They may treat patients outside the public dental service, for example after normal work in an afternoon, if they have the permission of the Director of the Clinic. This might be in the clinic or at a private practice.

The quality of dentistry in the public dental service is assured through the Medical Chamber.

Working in Hospitals

In Slovenia, all dentists who work in hospitals are employees of the hospitals, which are owned and run by the state government. All of them are dental specialists.

Working in Universities and Dental Faculties

The dentists who work in the dental school are normally full-time employees of the University. However, they are allowed a combination of part-time teaching employment and private practice (with permission of university).

The titles of university teachers are:

Asist.....dr.dent.med.

Asist.mag..... dr.dent.med.

Doc.dr. dr.dent.med.

Prof.dr. dr.dent.med.

Prof.dr. dr.dent.med., višji svetnik

Study for a PhD is also required for the positions of docent and professor; it also necessary to pass an "habilitation" - this involves the further degree and a record of original research, and a public lecture in front of the Scientific Council of University.

Working in the Armed Forces

No dentists serve in the Armed Forces.

Professional Matters

Professional associations

The Slovenian Medical Chamber is the national professional association. All the physicians and dental practitioners who intend to practice medicine or dentistry in Slovenia have to belong to the chamber, as these are the chambers that award the right to practice medicine or dentistry.

	Number	Year	Source
Slovenian Dental Association	1,637	2007	SDA

The Slovenian Medical Association is an independent, professional, democratic, public body of all physicians and dentists working in Slovenia. Its aims, objectives and activities are determined by statute. There is equal status for both physicians and dental practitioners.

The Assembly of the Chamber is where democratically elected representatives meet as delegates. The President of the Medical Chamber is directly elected by all physicians and dentists. One of the two Vice Presidents of the Chamber has to be a dentist. The term of office for officers is 4 years.

Dental practitioners are represented at all organisational levels of the Medical Chamber. The representation of dental practitioners is secured in the Executive board of the Medical Chamber of Slovenia. A Dental Committee is one of seven committees in the Chamber.

The tasks of the Slovenian Medical Chamber are:

- exercising care over conscientious practice, protecting the prestige of physicians and dentists
- preparing, performing, controlling and updating of decisions concerning the quality and conditions of medical practice, expressing its opinion on matters concerning public health and health policy of the state with its national and provincial local bodies, in cooperation with other associations and institutions in Slovenia and in foreign countries: Communication of the standpoints of the medical profession on matters of health policy and medicine
- setting the principles of professional ethics. Ethical Code: regulate ethical and professional obligations of physicians and dentists among themselves and vis-à-vis patients
- defending individual and collective interests of members, offering mutual aid and other forms of assistance to members
- expressing its opinion on matters concerning postgraduate education of physicians and dentists, taking part in its realisation
- Promotion of quality assurance

The Slovenian Medical Chamber performs the tasks by means of

- keeping the register of physicians and dentists
- cooperation in working out the general conditions of contracts between physicians/dentists and the National Health Insurance Fund
- delivery of opinions on draft legislation concerning the protection of health and practising as a physician or dentist
- making decisions with respect of inability to practice as a physician or a dentist
- professional and ethical supervision of members
- negotiating conditions of work and remuneration
- defending individual and collective interests of the members

Ethics and Regulation

Ethical Code

There is a written ethical code in Slovenia. Whilst the Medical Chamber has an ethical code, the CED Ethical Code has also been adopted – but as a subordinate to the main code.

Fitness to Practise/Disciplinary Matters

The Chamber has a Professional Medical Committee which investigates complaints against and the quality of care given by Slovenian dentists. There are also Medical courts, which are part of the Chamber. This executive body has the responsibility to censure dentists, or ultimately to remove their licence to work, for life.

There is a self-standing dental committee which looks at dental matters. The Professional Dental Committee is composed of three dental specialists of different specialities. They cannot award compensation to aggrieved patients.

Advertising

Advertising is permitted, under the framework of the ethical code, but this is very limited. It is restricted to information on name, title, telephone number, address, specialisation and consultation hours – and is only permitted when a dentist opens a new practice or changes location of an existing practice, but only three times in the first three months from the opening. The dentist cannot use TV/radio but can advertise in Yellow Pages.

Slovenian dentists may use websites, within the ethical considerations - although the ethical code does not include a specific section on the issue. The CED Code on Electronic Commerce has been incorporated into the code.

Data Protection

The EU Data Protection Directive has been incorporated into Slovenian law.

Indemnity Insurance

Indemnity insurance is taken out with commercial companies, at a cost of about €250 per year (2008) (it is possible to choose the level of cover). It is not compulsory by law, but is strongly recommended by The Medical Chamber.

This indemnity may cover the dentist for work overseas, depending upon the insurance policy.

Corporate Dentistry

Anyone may own or invest in a dental practice. The person undertaking the dentistry must be a dentist but there is no requirement for the investors to be dentists.

Tooth whitening

Tooth whitening in Slovenia is regulated as medicinal and application is limited to dentists.

Health and Safety at Work

Dentists, and those who work for them, must be inoculated against Hepatitis B. The employer usually pays for inoculation of the dental staff.

Ionising Radiation

There are specific regulations about radiation protection. Training in radiation protection is mandatory for the competent person in each practice – the dentist or the DSA. Dentists must undergo continuing training, within any general requirements for continuing education.

Hazardous Waste

The EU Hazardous Waste Directive is incorporated into law and actively enforced. There is compulsory contracting with special companies who transport and dispose of waste.

Amalgam separators are legally required in all practice units.

Regulations for Health and Safety

<i>For</i>	<i>Administered by</i>
Ionising radiation	Institute of Occupational Safety
Electrical installations	Institute of Occupational Safety
Waste disposal	Ministry of Health
Medical devices	Ministry of Health
Infection control	Ministry of Health

Financial Matters

Retirement pensions and Healthcare

The set age for retirement is 58 years, for males after at least 40 years of work, and for females after 38 years of work. Dentists may practice until they are 75 years of age.

The contribution rate for state pensions is €700 per year, and this gives a state pension of about €1,000 year on retirement. But for optional additional private pensions the level depends upon the contributions made.

Taxes

The top rate of tax is 41 % and is charged on net incomes above € 14,375 per year.

VAT

For dental materials, instruments and equipment, VAT is the same as for general goods, 20%.

Various Financial Comparators

Zurich = 100	Ljubljana 2003	Ljubljana 2008
Prices (excluding rent)	55.0	66.2
Prices (including rent)	59.1	61.6
Wage levels (net)	17.6	25.9
Domestic Purchasing Power	31.4	42.0

Source: UBS August 2003 & January 2008

Other Useful Information

<i>Competent and Legal Authority:</i>	<i>Dental Association:</i>
Name: Ministry of Education, Science & Sport Tel: +386 1 478 4600 Fax: +386 1 478 4719 E-mail: Website: http://www.mszs.si	The Medical Chamber of Slovenia Dalmatinova 10 1000 Ljubljana Slovenia Tel: +386 1 307 2100 Fax: +386 1 307 2107 E-mail: zdravniska.zbornica@zds-mcs.si Website: http://www.zdravniskazbornica.si/

Dental School:

<i>City:</i> Ljubljana The Dean Faculty of Medicine Department of Stomatology Hrvatski Trg 6 1000 Ljubljana SLOVENIA Tel: +386 1 543 7700 Fax: E-mail: stoma@mf.uni-lj.si Website: http://animus.mf.uni-lj.si/~stoma/ Number of students: 397
