

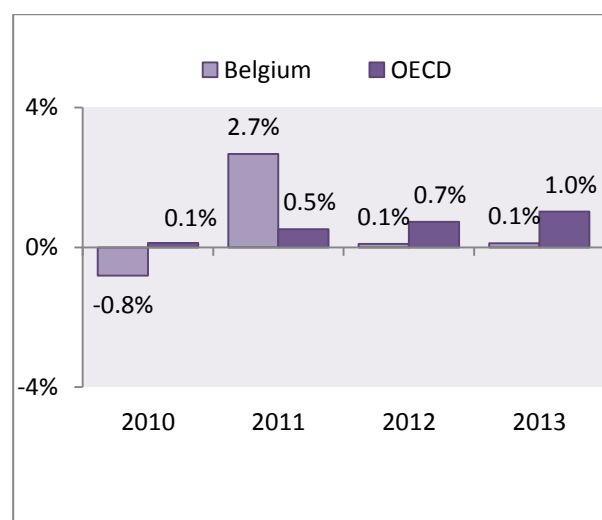
OECD Health Statistics 2015



OECD Health Statistics 2015 is the most comprehensive source of comparable statistics on health and health systems across the 34 OECD countries. Covering the period 1960 to 2014, this interactive database can be used for comparative analyses on health status, risk factors to health, health care resources and utilisation, as well as health expenditure and financing. OECD Health Statistics 2015 is available in OECD.Stat, the statistics portal for all OECD databases.

- ▶ **Growth:** Belgium per capita spending has remained unchanged in real terms in both 2012 and 2013, after above average growth in 2011 and a reduction in 2010.
- ▶ **Share of GDP:** The share of GDP allocated to health spending (excluding capital expenditure) in Belgium was 10.2% in 2013, compared with an OECD average of 8.9%. This was unchanged from 2012.
- ▶ **Per capita spending:** Belgium spent the equivalent of USD 4256 per person on health in 2013, compared with an OECD average of USD 3453. Public sources accounted for 78% of overall health spending, just above the OECD average.

Figure 1. Annual health spending growth*, 2010-2013



*Per capita spending in real terms
Source: OECD Health Statistics 2015

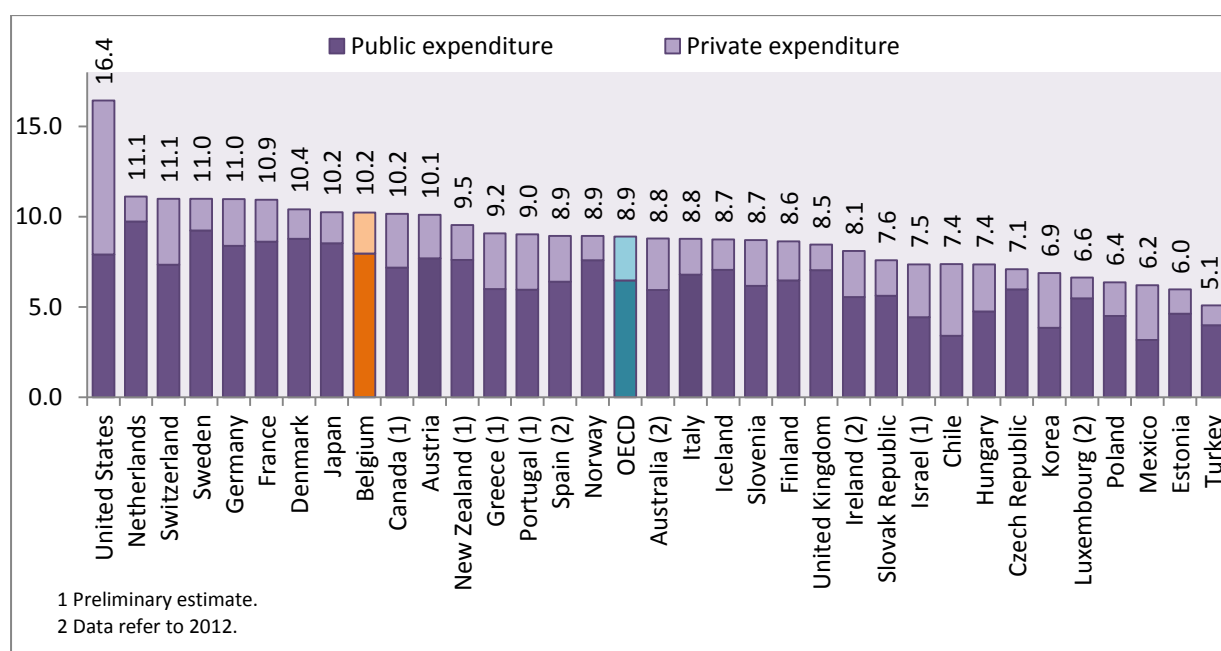
Health spending in Belgium is unchanged in 2012 and 2013

In 2013, per capita health spending in Belgium grew only marginally (+0.1%) in real terms - the second year in succession that real health spending has seen near-zero growth rates. The halt in health spending growth comes after a significant increase in health spending growth in 2011 (+2.7%). The public health budget was exempted from cuts prior to 2012, due to an existing growth cap which allowed annual increases to the health budget. The growth cap was however suspended in 2012 and the

health budget did not increase as a result. The growth cap was reinstated in 2013 and 2014, albeit with smaller increases in the health budget permitted, compared to the pre-2012 situation.

Additionally, in 2012, per capita private spending contracted, driven by a 5.0% reduction in out-of-pocket payments. While out-of-pocket spending was marginally higher in 2013 than in 2012 (+0.5%), health care spending financed through private health insurance dropped by 4.3% in 2013.

Figure 2. Health spending* as a share of GDP, 2013



* Excluding capital expenditure.
Source: OECD Health Statistics 2015

Health spending as a share of GDP in Belgium remains above the OECD average

Health spending in Belgium (excluding investment expenditure in the health sector) was 10.2% of GDP in 2013 (Figure 2), 1.3 percentage points above the OECD average of 8.9%. The health spending to GDP ratio has increased by roughly 1 percentage point since 2003, indicating that health spending grew faster than GDP over this ten-year period.

The share of the economy allocated to health spending is similar to Austria (10.1%), but below the levels of the Netherlands (11.1%), Germany (11.0%) and France (10.9%).

The share of government spending in total spending on health in Belgium has remained fairly constant over

recent years and stood at 78% in 2013. This is somewhat above the OECD average of 73%. Among OECD countries, only the United States and Chile report public spending on health below 50%.

Although out-of-pocket spending at 18% of health spending is just below the OECD average (19.5%) and comparable to Finland (19%) and Iceland (18%), it remains higher compared with other western European countries, such as Germany (14%) and France (7%).

In per capita terms (adjusted for different price levels using economy-wide purchasing power parities), Belgium spent USD 4256 per head in 2013. This compares with an OECD average of USD 3453.

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Further Reading

Focus on health spending:
www.oecd.org/health/health-systems/Focus-Health-Spending-2015.pdf

OECD Health Statistics 2015:
www.oecd.org/health/health-data.htm

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