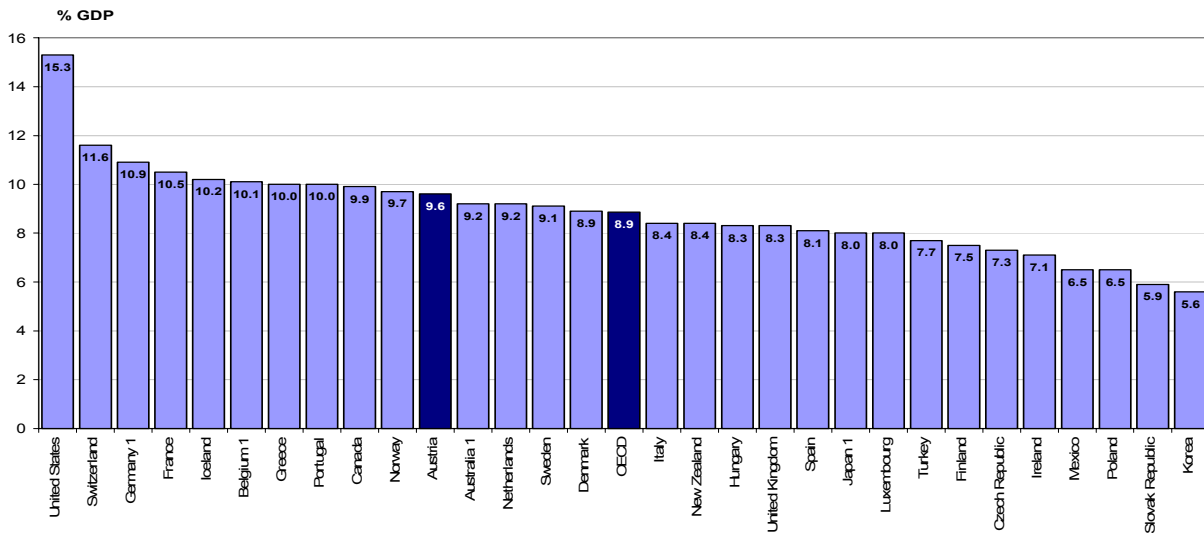


OECD Health Data 2006 How Does Austria Compare

Total health spending accounted for 9.6% of GDP in **Austria** in 2004, slightly higher than the OECD average of 8.9%. The United States is, by far, the country that spends the most on health as a share of its economy, with 15.3% of its GDP allocated to health in 2004. Switzerland, Germany and France followed, allocating 10.5% or more of their GDP on health.

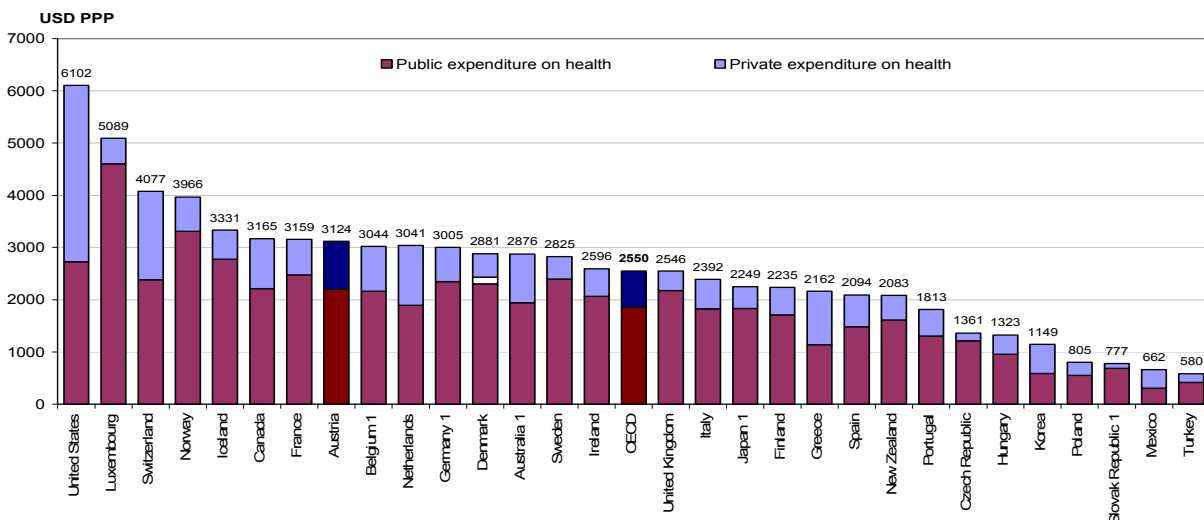
Austria also spends more on health per capita than the average in OECD countries, with spending of over 3100 USD in 2004 (adjusted for purchasing power parity). The largest spenders in terms of health expenditure per capita are the United States (which spent 6100 USD per capita), followed by Luxembourg (with spending of over 5000 USD per person), and Switzerland and Norway (with spending of about 4000 USD per person).

Health expenditure as a share of GDP, OECD countries, 2004



1. 2003. Source: OECD Health Data 2006, June 2006.

Health expenditure per capita, public and private expenditure, OECD countries, 2004



1. 2003. Source: OECD Health Data 2006, June 2006.

Data are expressed in US dollars adjusted for purchasing power parities (PPPs), which provide a means of comparing spending between countries on a common base. PPPs are the rates of currency conversion that equalise the cost of a given 'basket' of goods and services in different countries.

Health spending per capita in **Austria** increased, in real terms, by only 1.9% per year on average between 1999 and 2004. This was the smallest increase among all OECD countries during that period, reflecting general adherence to overall budget discipline. The average real growth rate in health spending in OECD countries was 5.2% per year between 1999 and 2004.

The public sector is the main source of health funding in all OECD countries, except the United States, Mexico and Korea. In **Austria**, 71% of health spending was funded by public sources in 2004, slightly less than the OECD average of 73%. In 2004, the share of public spending among OECD countries was the lowest in the United States (45%) and Mexico (46%), and relatively high (above 80%) in several Nordic countries (Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), the United Kingdom and Japan.

Resources in the health sector (human, physical, technological)

Austria employs significantly more resources in the health sector than other OECD countries. In 2004, **Austria** had 3.5 practising physicians per 1 000 population, compared with an average of 3.0 in OECD countries. The number of doctors per capita in **Austria** has doubled since 1980.

The number of acute care hospital beds in **Austria** stood at 6.5 per 1 000 population in 2003, above the OECD average of 4.1. As in most OECD countries, the number of hospital beds per capita in **Austria** has fallen over time, coinciding with a reduction of average length of stays in hospitals.

During the past decade, there has been rapid growth in the availability of diagnostic technologies such as computed tomography (CT) scanners and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) units in most OECD countries. In **Austria**, the number of MRIs increased over time from about 1 per million population in 1988 to about 15 in 2004. This is well above the current OECD average of 8 MRI units per million population. Only Japan and Iceland report more MRI units per capita. The number of CT scanners per capita is also relatively high in **Austria**, with 28.5 CT scanners per million population, compared with an OECD average of 18.0. Japan has, by far, the greatest number of CT and MRI scanners per capita.

Health status

Most OECD countries have enjoyed large gains in life expectancy over the past 40 years, thanks to improvements in living conditions, public health interventions and progress in medical care. In 2004, life expectancy at birth for the whole population in **Austria** stood at 79.3 years, one year higher than the OECD average of 78.3 years. Japan enjoyed the highest life expectancy among OECD countries (82.1 years), followed by Switzerland, Iceland, Sweden and Australia.

The infant mortality rate in **Austria**, as in other OECD countries, has fallen greatly over the past decades. It stood at 4.5 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2004, compared to the OECD average of 5.7. Infant mortality is the lowest in Japan and in Nordic countries (Iceland, Sweden, Finland and Norway).

More information on **OECD Health Data 2006** is available at www.oecd.org/health/healthdata. Note that **OECD Health Data 2006** is available in German in the CD-ROM and on the SourceOECD version.

For more information on OECD's work on Austria, please visit www.oecd.org/austria.

