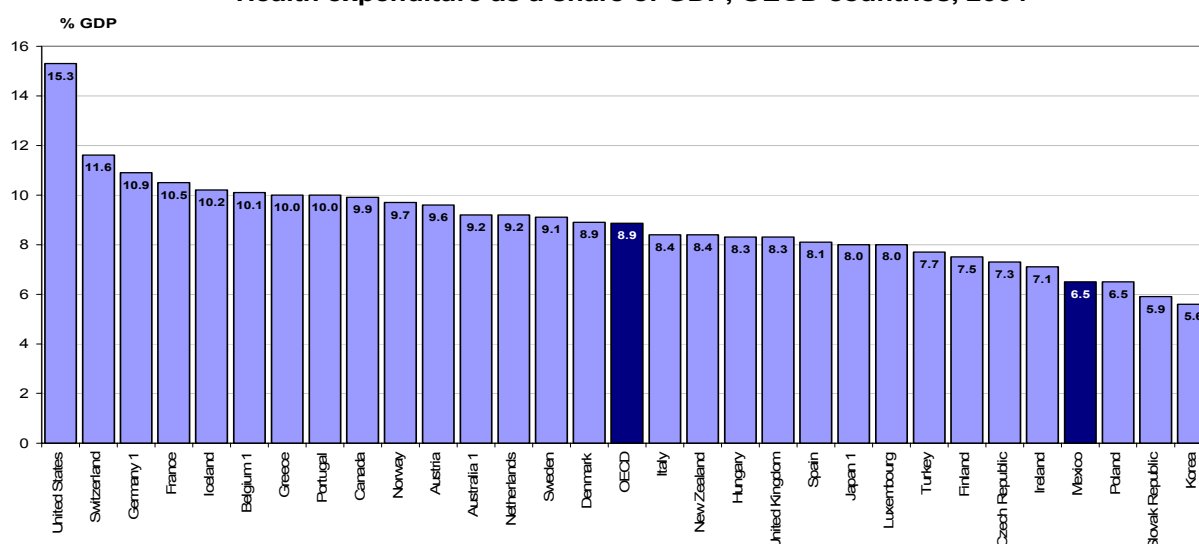


## OECD Health Data 2006 How Does Mexico Compare

Total health spending accounted for 6.5% of GDP in **Mexico** in 2004, more than two percentage points lower than the average of 8.9% in OECD countries. This places Mexico among the countries with the lowest share in the OECD, after Korea (5.6%), Slovakia (5.9%) and Poland (6.5%). Health spending as a share of GDP is highest in the United States (which spent 15.3% of its GDP on health in 2004) and in a number of European countries including Switzerland, Germany and France (which allocated 10.5% or more of their GDP on health).

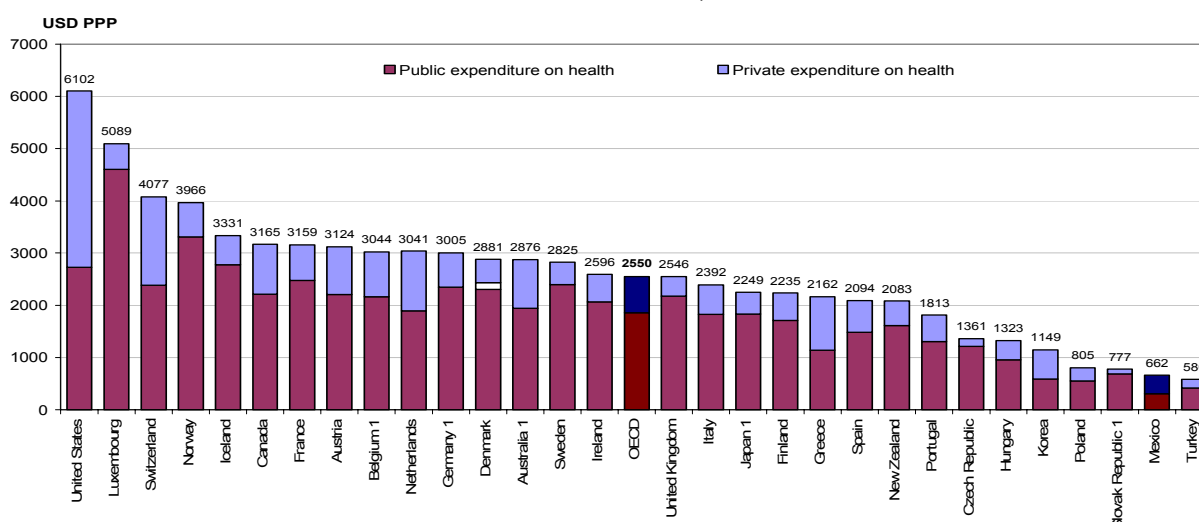
**Mexico** also ranks below the OECD average in terms of health spending per capita, with spending of 662 USD in 2004 (adjusted for purchasing power parity), compared with an OECD average of 2550 USD.

**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.

Between 1999 and 2004, health spending per capita in **Mexico** increased in real terms by 5.5% per year on average, a growth rate slightly higher than the OECD average of 5.2% per year.

The rise in pharmaceutical spending has been one of the factors behind the rise in total health spending in **Mexico** as well as in many other OECD countries. In 2004, spending on pharmaceuticals accounted for 20.9% of total health spending in **Mexico**, up from 18.6% in 1999.

The public sector is the main source of health funding in all OECD countries, except the United States and **Mexico**. With 46.4% of health spending paid from public sources in 2004, **Mexico** has the second lowest public share after the United States. While the public share of health spending rose from 40.4% in 1990, it remains well below the OECD average of 73% in 2004. In 2004, the share of public spending among OECD countries was relatively high (over 80%) in several Nordic countries (Denmark, Norway and Sweden), the United Kingdom and Japan.

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

Health-care supply is low in **Mexico** by OECD standards. In virtually all dimensions for which data are available, **Mexico** lies well below average.

While the number of doctors per capita increased by 50% in **Mexico** over the past decade or so, up from 1 practising doctor per 1 000 population in 1990 to 1.6 in 2004, the doctor-to-population ratio in **Mexico** was only half the OECD average of 3.0 in 2004.

There were 2.2 nurses per 1 000 population in **Mexico** in 2004, a much lower figure than the average of 8.3 in OECD countries. However, as in most other countries, the number of nurses per capita has increased in **Mexico**, up from 1.8 in 1990.

The number of acute care hospital beds in **Mexico** was 1.0 per 1 000 population in 2004, about a quarter the OECD average of 4.1 beds per 1 000 population.

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 **Mexico**, the number of MRIs remains the second lowest in the OECD, at 1.7 per million population in 2004, compared to the OECD average of 8.0 MRI units per million population. Similarly, the number of CT scanners in **Mexico** stood at 3.1 per million population in 2004, below the OECD average of 18.0.

### **Health status and risk factors**

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. Since 1960, **Mexico** experienced one of the largest increases in life expectancy in the OECD area, with gains of over 17 years. Nonetheless, at 75.2 years in 2004, life expectancy at birth in **Mexico** remains about three years lower than the OECD average (78.3 years).

Infant mortality rate in **Mexico** is the second highest among OECD countries, at 19.7 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2004 compared with the OECD average of 5.7. However, it has fallen greatly over the past decades, from 79.4 deaths per 1 000 live births in 1970.

