

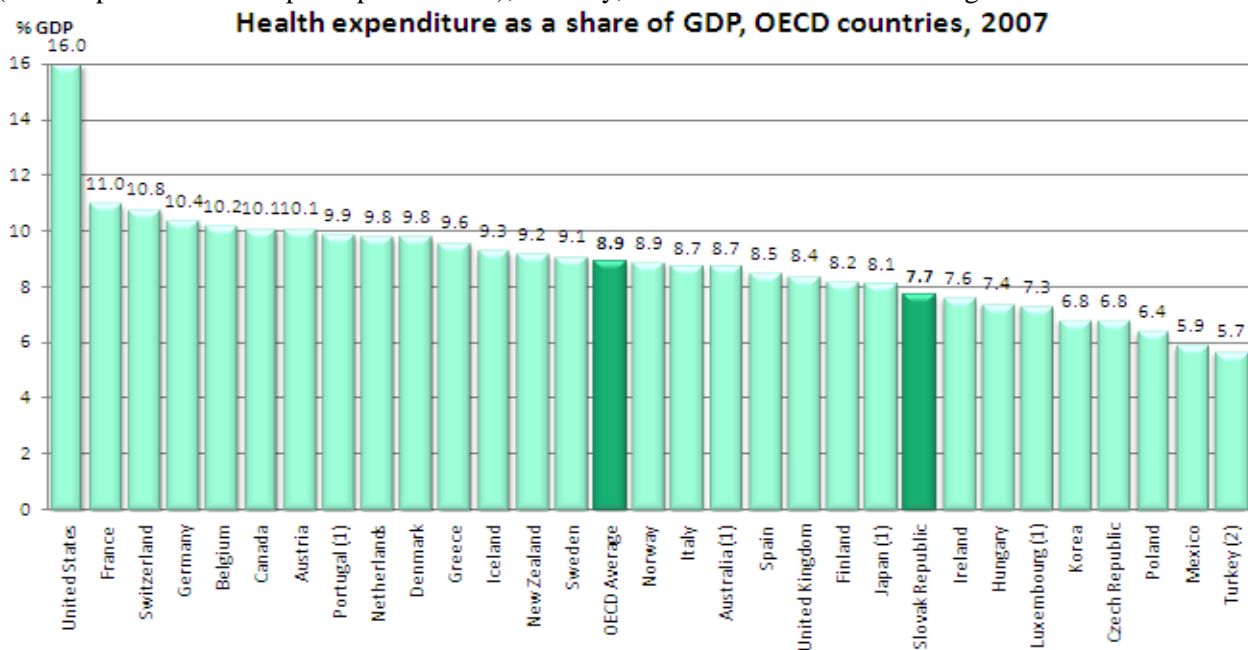


OECD Health Data 2009

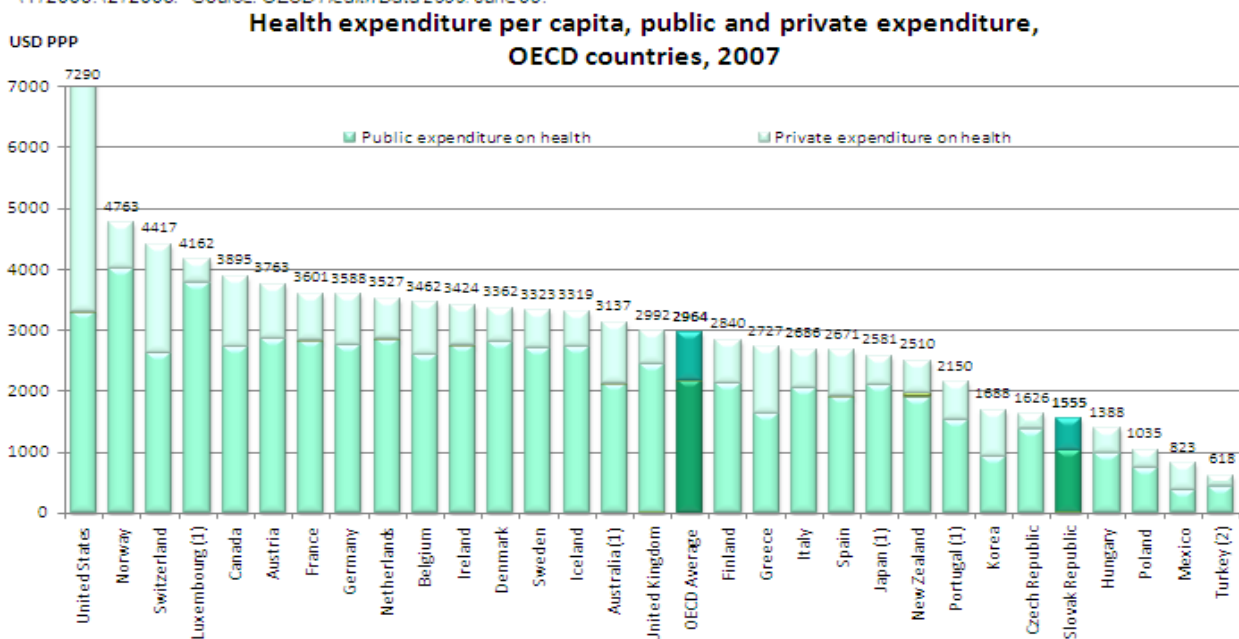
How Does the Slovak Republic Compare

Total health spending accounted for 7.7% of GDP in the **Slovak Republic** in 2007, lower than the average of 8.9% in OECD countries. The United States is, by far, the country that spends the most on health as a share of its economy (with 16.0% of its GDP allocated to health in 2007), followed by France (11.0%), Switzerland (10.8%) and Germany (10.4%).

The **Slovak Republic** also ranks well below the OECD average in terms of total health spending per capita, with spending of 1555 USD in 2007 (adjusted for purchasing power parity), compared with an OECD average of 2964 USD. Countries with high health spending per capita include the United States (which spent 7290 USD per capita in 2007), Norway, Switzerland and Luxembourg.



(1) 2006, (2) 2005. Source: OECD Health Data 2009, June 09.



(1) 2006, (2) 2005. Data for Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands are current expenditures (excluding investment). Source: OECD Health Data 2009, June 09. 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.

The strong rise in pharmaceutical spending has been one of the factors behind the rise in total health spending in the **Slovak Republic** as well as in many other OECD countries. In 2007, spending on pharmaceuticals accounted for 27.9% of total health spending in the **Slovak Republic**, the second highest proportion among OECD countries, and well above the OECD average of 17.1%.

The public sector is the main source of health funding in all OECD countries, except Mexico and the United States. In the **Slovak Republic**, 67% of health spending was funded by public sources in 2007, above the OECD average of 73%.

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

In 2004, the **Slovak Republic** had 3.1 practising physicians per 1 000 population, which is also the average for all 30 OECD countries. There were 6.3 nurses per 1 000 population in 2004, below the average in OECD countries of 9.6.

The number of acute care hospital beds in the **Slovak Republic** was 4.9 per 1 000 population in 2007, above the OECD average of 3.8 beds per 1 000 population. Only Japan, Korea, Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic had more acute hospital beds per capita. As in most OECD countries, the number of hospital beds per capita in the **Slovak Republic** has fallen over time. This decline has coincided with a reduction of average length of stays in hospitals and an increase in the number of surgical procedures performed on a same-day (or ambulatory) basis.

During the past decade or so, 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 the **Slovak Republic**, the number of CT and MRI scanners was 13.7 and 5.7 per million population respectively in 2007, below the OECD averages of 20.2 and 11.

Health status and risk factors

Most OECD countries have enjoyed large gains in life expectancy over the past decades, thanks to improvements in living conditions, public health interventions and progress in medical care. In 2007, life expectancy at birth in the **Slovak Republic** stood at 74.3 years, below the OECD average of 79 years.

The infant mortality rate in the **Slovak Republic**, as in other OECD countries, has fallen greatly over the past decades. However, it stood at 6.1 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2007, above the OECD average of 4.9, and exceeded only by Turkey, Mexico and the United States. Infant mortality is lowest in Japan, Luxembourg and in Nordic countries (Iceland, Sweden, Norway and Finland).

The proportion of daily smokers among adults has shown a marked decline over the past two decades in most OECD countries. The daily smoking rate among adults in the **Slovak Republic** was 25.0% of the adult population in 2006—slightly above the OECD average of 23.3. Compared to current smoking rates in countries like Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United States and Sweden (14-18%), the smoking rate among adults in the **Slovak Republic** is still relatively high.

At the same time, obesity rates have increased in recent decades in all OECD countries, although there remain notable differences across countries. In the **Slovak Republic**, the obesity rate among adults, based on actual measures, was 16.7% in 2007. It is slightly higher than the OECD average of 15.1%, but much lower than the corresponding rate for United States (34.3% in 2006) and the United Kingdom (24.0% in 2007)¹.

¹ The data for the Slovak Republic, the United States and the United Kingdom are more accurate than those from most other countries since they are based on *actual measures* of people's height and weight, while estimates for most other countries are based on *self-reported* data, which generally under-estimate the real prevalence of obesity.

More information on *OECD Health Data 2009* is available at www.oecd.org/health/healthdata.

For more information on OECD's work on the **Slovak Republic**, please visit www.oecd.org/slovakia.