

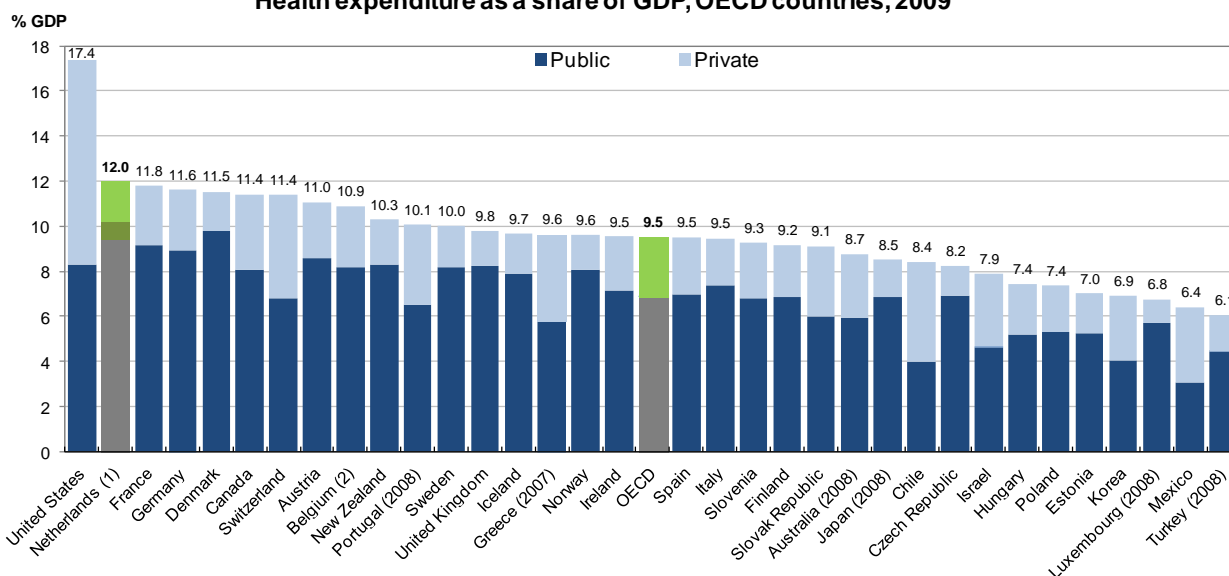
OECD Health Data 2011

How Does the Netherlands Compare

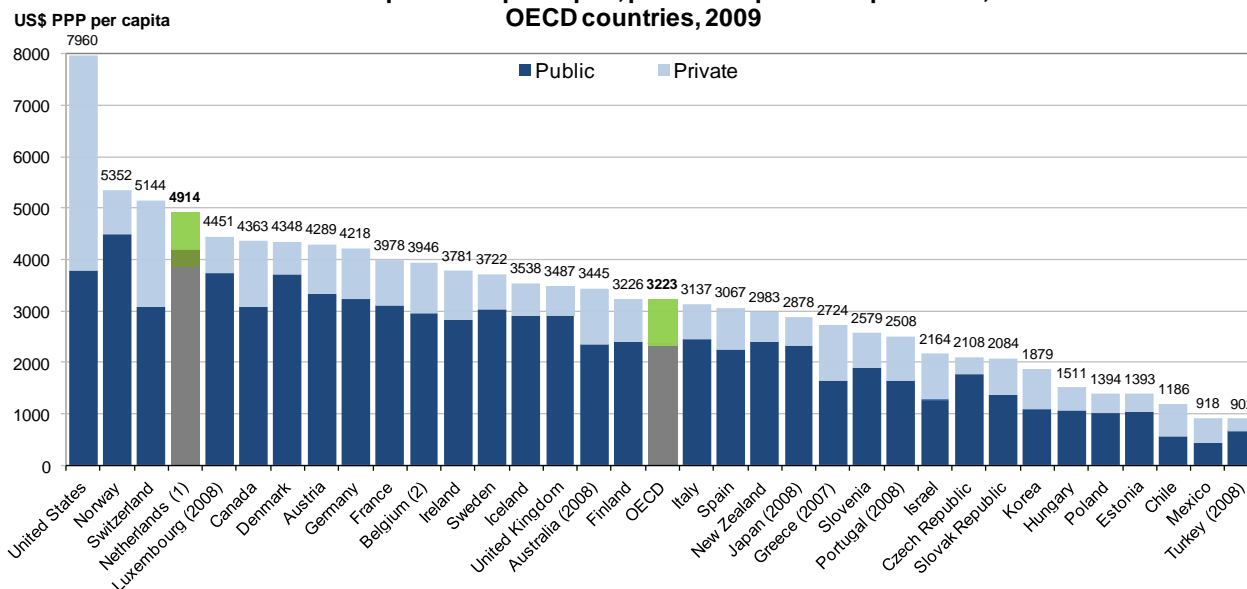
Total health spending accounted for 12.0% of GDP in the **Netherlands** in 2009, the second highest among OECD countries and well above the OECD average of 9.5%. The United States is, by far, the country that spends the most on health as a share of its economy (with 17.4% of its GDP allocated to health in 2009), followed by the **Netherlands**, France (11.8%) and Germany (11.6%).

The **Netherlands** also ranks above the OECD average in terms of health spending per capita, with spending of 4914 USD in 2009 (adjusted for purchasing power parity), compared with an OECD average of 3223 USD. Health spending per capita in the **Netherlands** was fourth highest among OECD countries, behind the United States (which spent 7960 USD per capita in 2009), Norway (with spending of 5352 USD), and Switzerland (with spending over 5144 USD).

Health expenditure as a share of GDP, OECD countries, 2009



Health expenditure per capita, public and private expenditure, OECD countries, 2009



1. In the Netherlands, it is not possible to distinguish clearly the public and private share for the part of health expenditures related to investments.
 2. Total expenditure excluding investments. Source: OECD Health Data 2011, June 2011.

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 public sector is the main source of health funding in all OECD countries, except Chile, the United States and Mexico. In the **Netherlands**, 84.7% of current health spending was funded by public sources in

2009, well above the average of 71.9% in OECD countries. In 2009, the share of public spending among OECD countries was the lowest in Chile (47.4%), the United States (47.7%) and Mexico (48.3%).

Resources in the health sector (human, physical)

The number of physicians per capita in the **Netherlands** was 2.9 per 1 000 population in 2008, below the OECD average of 3.1 in 2009.

There were 8.4 nurses per 1 000 population in the **Netherlands** in 2008, equal to the OECD average in 2009. Iceland and Switzerland have in excess of 15 nurses per 1 000 population.

The number of acute care hospital beds in the **Netherlands** was 3.1 per 1 000 population in 2009, less than the OECD average of 3.5 beds. As in most OECD countries, the number of hospital beds per capita in the **Netherlands** has fallen over time. This reduction 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.

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 2009, life expectancy at birth in the **Netherlands** stood at 80.6 years, higher than the OECD average of 79.5 years. Close to two-thirds of the 34 OECD countries registered life expectancies of 80 years or more in 2009.

The infant mortality rate in the **Netherlands**, as in other OECD countries, has fallen greatly over the past decades. It stood at 3.8 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2009, lower than the OECD average of 4.4. Infant mortality was the lowest in Iceland, Japan and Slovenia.

The proportion of daily smokers among adults has shown a marked decline over the past twenty-five years in most OECD countries. In the **Netherlands**, the rate of daily smokers among adults has fallen from 43.0% in 1980 to 28.0% in 2009. But compared to the current OECD average of 22.3%, and current smoking rates in countries like Mexico, Sweden, Iceland, the United States, Canada and Australia (all below 17%), the smoking rate among adults in the **Netherlands** is still relatively high.

At the same time, obesity rates have increased in recent decades in all OECD countries, although there are notable differences. In the **Netherlands**, the obesity rate among adults - based on self-reported height and weight - was 11.8% in 2009. This was much lower than for the United States (27.7%) and similar to France and Sweden (both 11.2%). The average for the 28 OECD countries with self-reported data was 15.1% in 2009. Obesity's growing prevalence foreshadows increases in the occurrence of health problems (such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases), and higher health care costs in the future.

More information on *OECD Health Data 2011* is available at www.oecd.org/health/healthdata.

For more information on OECD's work on the **Netherlands**, please visit www.oecd.org/netherlands.