

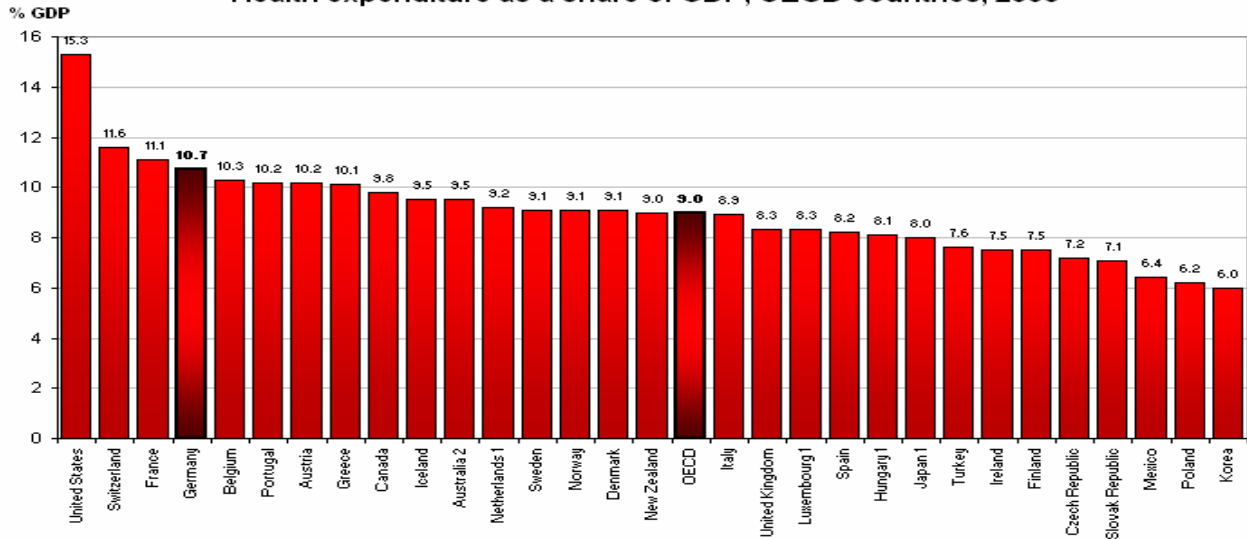


OECD Health Data 2007 How Does Germany Compare

Total health spending accounted for 10.7% of GDP in **Germany** in 2005, 1.7 percentage points higher than the average of 9.0% in OECD countries. Only the United States (15.3%), Switzerland (11.6%) and France (11.1%) allocated more of their GDP to health than **Germany** in 2005.

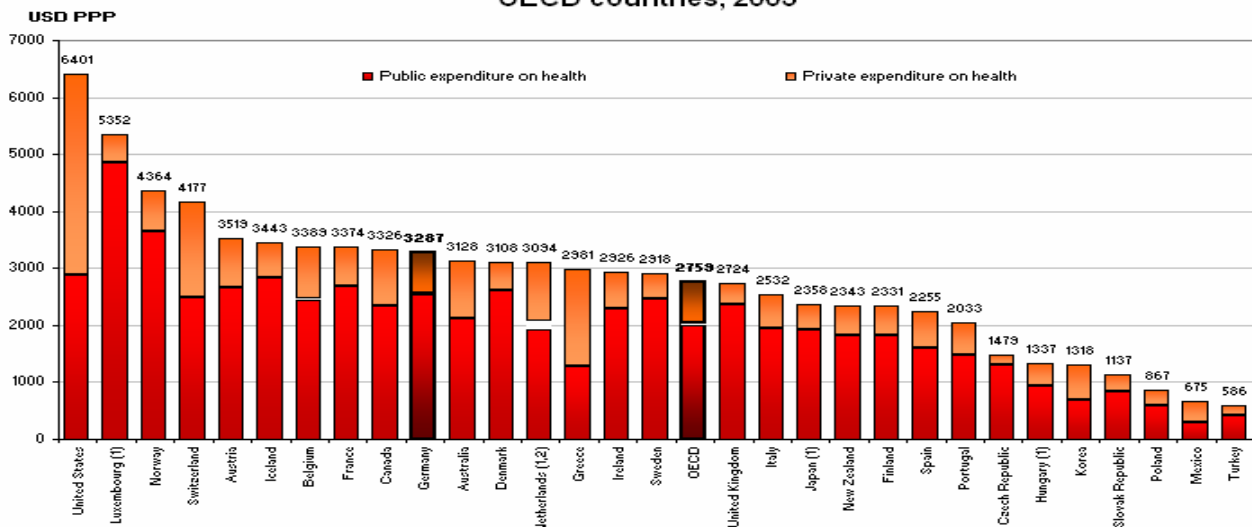
On the other hand, **Germany** ranks only 10th among OECD countries in health spending per capita, with spending of 3287 USD per person in 2005 (adjusted for purchasing power parity). The OECD average was 2759 USD per capita. The largest spenders in terms of health spending per capita are the United States (which spent 6401 USD per capita in 2005), followed by Luxembourg (5352 USD), and Switzerland and Norway (which spent over 4000 USD per person).

Health expenditure as a share of GDP, OECD countries, 2005



1. 2004. 2. 2004/5. Source: *OECD Health Data 2007*, July 2007.

Health expenditure per capita, public and private expenditure, OECD countries, 2005



1. 2004. 2. Public and private expenditures are current expenditures. Source: *OECD Health Data 2007*, July 2007. 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 **Germany** increased, in real terms, by 1.3% per year on average between 2000 and 2005. This was the smallest increase among all OECD countries during that period. The average growth rate in health spending across OECD countries was 4.3% per year between 2000 and 2005. The relatively slow growth in health spending in **Germany** is partly due to cost-containment measures that have been introduced in the context of health reforms. Containment of growth in health spending is expected to persist since further stabilization measures have been implemented through the Statutory Health Insurance Modernization Act of 2004.

Spending on pharmaceuticals in **Germany** in 2005 accounted for 15.2% of total health expenditure, below the OECD average of 17.2%. As in most OECD countries, the share of total health spending allocated to pharmaceuticals has increased in **Germany** over the past decade.

The public sector is the main source of health funding in all OECD countries, except the United States, Mexico and Greece. In **Germany**, 76.9% of health spending was funded by public sources in 2005, above the average of 72.5% in OECD countries. In 2005, the share of public spending among OECD countries was the lowest in Greece (42.8%) and the United States (45.1%), 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)

Germany employs more human and in many areas also more physical resources in the health sector than most other OECD countries. In 2005, **Germany** had 3.4 practising physicians per 1 000 population, compared with an OECD average of 3.0. **Germany** also has more practicing nurses per capita than the average across OECD countries, with 9.7 nurses per 1 000 population, compared to an OECD average of 8.6.

The number of acute care hospital beds in **Germany** stood at 6.4 per 1 000 population in 2005, well above the OECD average of 3.9. As in most OECD countries, the number of hospital beds per capita in **Germany** 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 **Germany**, the number of MRIs increased over time from about 1 per million population in 1992 to 7.1 in 2005. Despite this increase, **Germany** is still lagging behind the OECD average of 9.8 MRI units per million population. Similarly, the number of CT scanners in **Germany** was 15.4 per million population in 2005, below the OECD average of 20.6. Japan has, by far, the greatest number of MRIs and CT scanners per capita among OECD countries.

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 2005, life expectancy at birth for the whole population in **Germany** stood at 79.0 years, slightly above the OECD average of 78.6 years. Japan enjoyed the highest life expectancy among OECD countries (with 82.0 years), followed by Switzerland, Iceland, Australia and Spain (all with life expectancies of over 80.5 years).

The infant mortality rate in **Germany** as in other OECD countries has fallen greatly over the past decades. It stood at 3.9 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2005, below the OECD average of 5.4. Infant mortality is the lowest in Japan, Luxembourg and in Nordic countries (Iceland, Sweden, Finland and Norway).

The proportion of daily smokers among adults has shown a marked decline over the past twenty-five years in most OECD countries. Much of this decline can be attributed to policies aimed at reducing tobacco consumption through public awareness campaigns, advertising bans and increased taxation. Smoking rates among adults in **Germany** have decreased from 34.8% in 1980 to 24.3% in 2003, a rate that is equivalent to the current OECD average. Sweden, Canada, Portugal and the United States provide examples of countries that have achieved remarkable success in reducing tobacco consumption, with current smoking rates among adults in the range of 16% to 17%.

Obesity rates have increased in recent decades in all OECD countries, although there remain notable differences across countries. In 2005 (or the latest year available), the prevalence of obesity among adults varied from a low of 3% and 3.5% in Japan and Korea respectively to a high of 32.2% in the United States. The United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Greece and Mexico also have a high prevalence of obesity among adults, with rates of over 20%¹. The obesity rate in **Germany**, based on self-reported data, stood at 13.6% in 2005, up from 11.5% in 1999.

More information on *OECD Health Data 2007* is available at www.oecd.org/health/healthdata. Note that *OECD Health Data 2007* is available in German.

For more information on OECD's work on **Germany**, please visit www.oecd.org/germany.

¹ It should be noted however that the data for the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand are more accurate than those from other countries since they are based on *actual measures* of people's height and weight, while estimates for other countries are based on *self-reported* data, which generally underestimate the real prevalence of obesity.