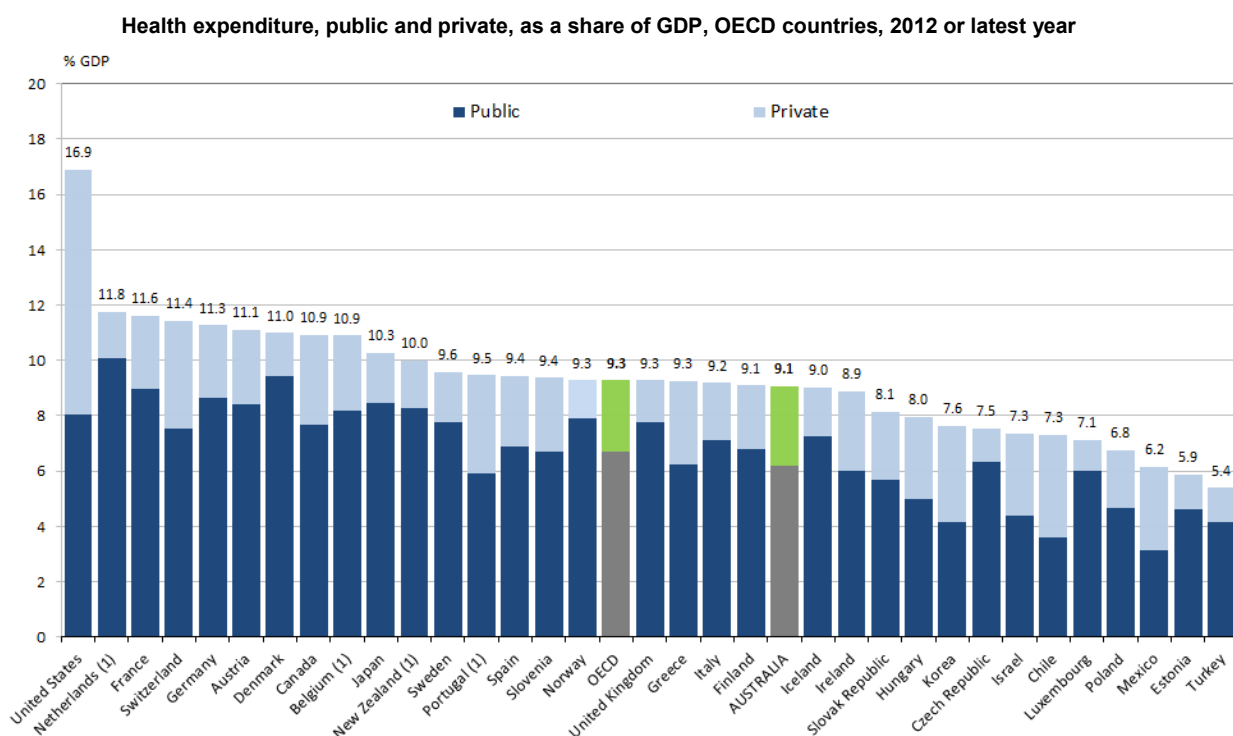


## OECD Health Statistics 2014

### How does Australia compare?

Total health spending accounted for 9.1% of GDP in **Australia** in 2011-2012, slightly lower than the average of 9.3% in OECD countries in 2012. Health spending as a share of GDP is much lower in **Australia** than in the United States (which spent 16.9% of its GDP on health in 2012) and in a number of European countries including the Netherlands, France, Switzerland and Germany (all allocating over 11%).

The public sector is the main source of health funding in nearly all OECD countries. In **Australia**, 68% of health spending was funded by public sources in 2011-2012, below the average of 72% in OECD countries.



1. Total expenditure excluding capital expenditure.

Source: OECD Health Statistics 2014.

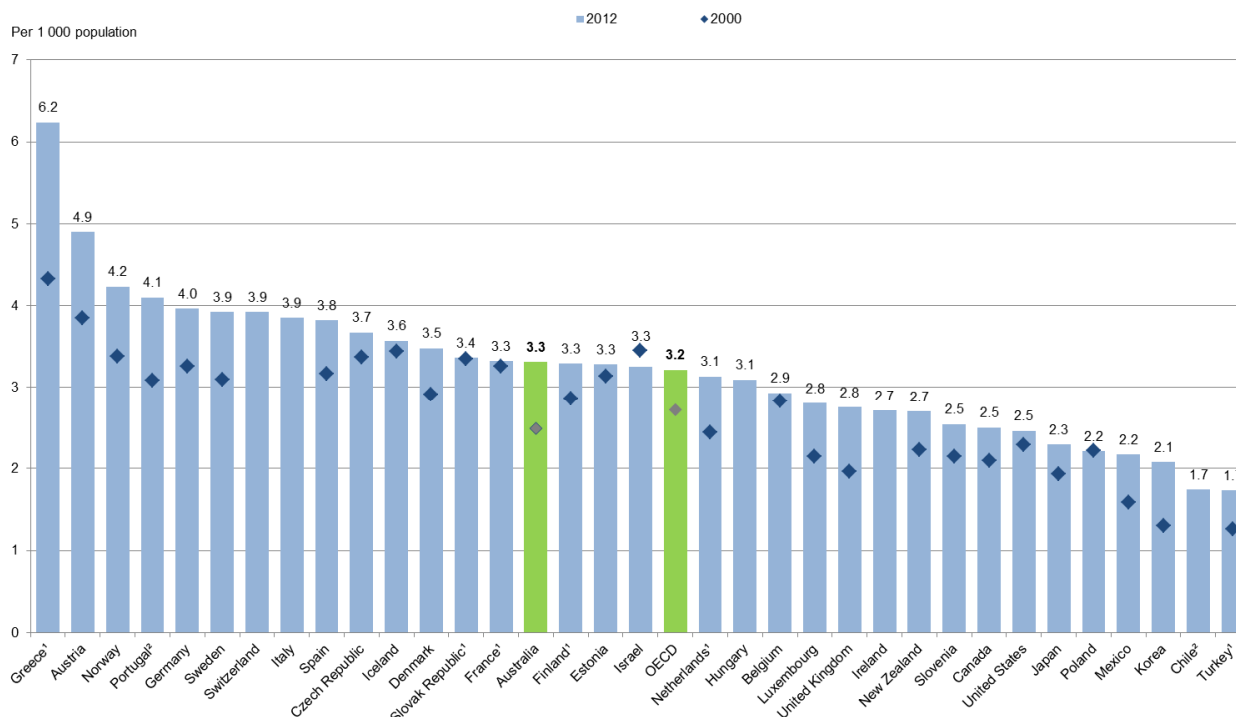
Unlike in many other OECD countries, health spending in **Australia** has hardly been affected by the economic crisis. In 2011-2012, health spending in **Australia** has gone up by over 5% in real terms compared to a 1% increase on average across OECD countries. This strong increase in **Australia** was triggered by substantial growth in spending on outpatient curative care, administration and public health services.

The growth rate in pharmaceutical spending in 2011-2012 in **Australia** was fairly modest, but this followed strong growth rates of over 6% per year in real terms in years prior to that. In most other OECD countries, expenditure for pharmaceuticals has been declining since 2010.

## Growing number of doctors in Australia

There has been a substantial increase in the medical workforce in **Australia** since 2000, coinciding with the rise in the number of medical graduates. In 2012, **Australia** had 3.3 practising physicians per 1000 population, up from 2.5 in 2000, and now slightly above the OECD average (3.2). While a greater number of doctors will improve access to health care, this is also putting pressure on current training capacity and will put pressure on future health care budgets as more graduates enter the medical workforce.

Doctors per 1 000 population, OECD countries, 2000 and 2012 (or latest years)



1. Data include not only doctors providing direct care to patients, but also those working in the health sector as managers, educators, researchers, etc. (adding another 5-10% of doctors).  
 2. Data refer to all doctors licensed to practice (resulting in a large over-estimation of the number of practising doctors in Portugal).

Source: OECD Health Statistics 2014.

## Health status and risk factors

In 2012, life expectancy at birth in **Australia** was 82.1 years, almost two years higher than the OECD average of 80.2 years. Life expectancy in **Australia** remains among the highest in OECD countries, following Japan, Iceland, Switzerland, Spain, Italy and France.

**Australia** has achieved remarkable progress in reducing tobacco consumption, cutting by more than half the percentage of adults who smoke (from 35.4% in 1983 to 15.1% in 2010). The smoking rate in **Australia** is now one of the lowest in 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. As of 1 December 2012, Australia became the first country in the world to require tobacco products to be sold in plain packaging.

Obesity rates have increased in recent decades in all OECD countries, although notable differences remain. In **Australia**, the adult obesity rate, based on measures of height and weight, was 28.3% in 2011. This is lower than in the United States (35.3% in 2012) and Mexico (32.4% in 2012), but much higher than the average for the 16 OECD countries with measured data (22.7%). The growing prevalence of obesity foreshadows increases in the occurrence of health problems (such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases), and higher health care costs in the future.

## Key facts for Australia from OECD Health Statistics 2014

	Australia		OECD average		Rank among OECD countries*
	2012	2000	2012	2000	
<b>Health status</b>					
Life expectancy at birth (years)	82.1	79.3	80.2	77.1	6 out of 34
Life expectancy at birth, men (years)	79.9	76.6	77.5	74.0	3 out of 34
Life expectancy at birth, women (years)	84.3	82.0	82.8	80.2	7 out of 34
Life expectancy at 65, men (years)	19.1	16.9	17.7	15.6	3 out of 34
Life expectancy at 65, women (years)	22.0	20.4	20.9	19.1	6 out of 34
Mortality from cardiovascular diseases (age-standardised rates per 100 000 pop.)	208.2	(2011) 326.4	296.4	428.5	28 out of 34
Mortality from cancer (age-standardised rates per 100 000 pop.)	202.5	(2011) 226.1	213.1	242.5	22 out of 34
<b>Risk factors to health (behavioural)</b>					
Tobacco consumption among adults (% daily smokers)	15.1	(2010) 19.8	(2001) 20.7	26.0	30 out of 34
Alcohol consumption among adults (liters per capita)	10.1	(2011) 10.2	9.0	9.5	13 out of 34
Obesity rates among adults, self-reported (%)	21.3	(2007) 16.3	(2001) 15.4	11.9	2 out of 29
Obesity rates among adults, measured (%)	28.3	(2011) ..	22.7	18.7	5 out of 16
<b>Health expenditure</b>					
Health expenditure as a % GDP	9.1	(2011) 8.1	9.3	7.7	21 out of 34
Health expenditure per capita (US\$ PPP)	3997	(2011) 2283	3484	1888	13 out of 34
Pharmaceutical expenditure per capita (US\$ PPP)	588	(2011) 338	498	300	9 out of 33
Pharmaceutical expenditure (% health expenditure)	15.6	(2011) 15.7	15.9	17.9	17 out of 33
Public expenditure on health (% health expenditure)	68.4	(2011) 66.8	72.3	71.4	24 out of 34
Out-of-pocket payments for health care (% health expenditure)	18.3	(2011) 19.8	19.0	20.5	15 out of 34
<b>Health care resources</b>					
Number of doctors (per 1000 population)	3.3	2.5	3.2	2.7	15 out of 34
Number of nurses (per 1000 population)	10.2	10.1	8.8	7.5	13 out of 34
Hospital beds (per 1000 population)	3.8	(2011) 4.0	4.8	5.6	19 out of 34

\*Note: Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

More information on *OECD Health Statistics 2014* is available at [www.oecd.org/health/healthdata](http://www.oecd.org/health/healthdata). For more information on OECD's work on **Australia**, please visit [www.oecd.org/australia](http://www.oecd.org/australia).