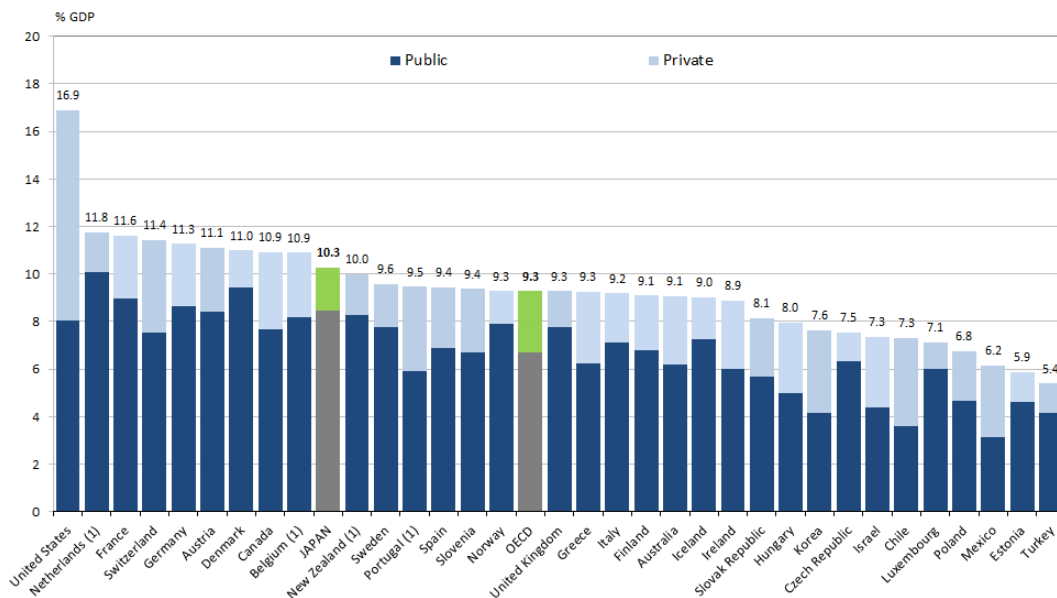


# OECD Health Statistics 2014

## How does Japan compare?

Total health spending accounted for 10.3% of GDP in **Japan** in 2012, one percentage point above the average of 9.3% in OECD countries. In contrast to many other OECD countries, health spending as a share of GDP has risen markedly in **Japan** in recent years, up from 8.6% in 2008. The public sector is the main source of health funding in nearly all OECD countries. In **Japan**, 82% of health spending was funded by public sources in 2012, well above the average of 72% in OECD countries.

Health expenditure, public and private, as a share of GDP, OECD countries, 2012 or latest year

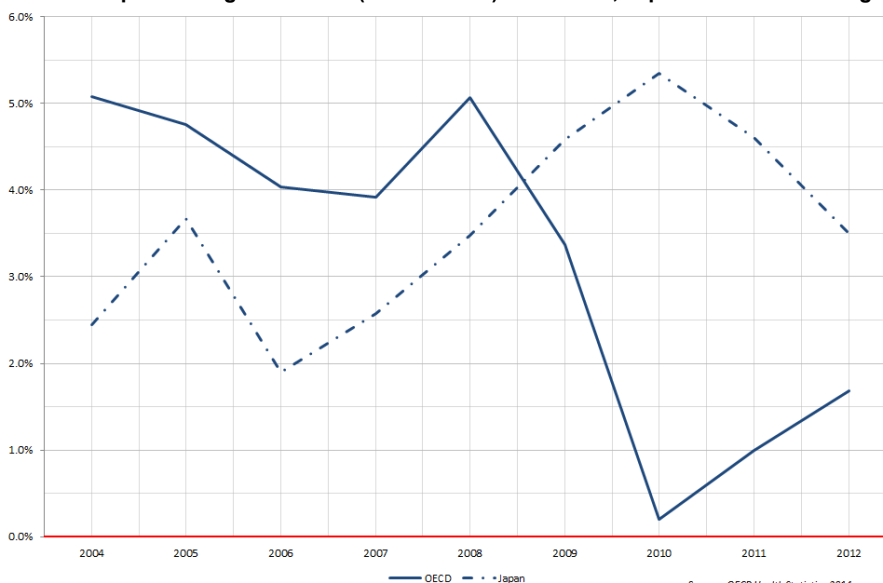


1. Total expenditure excluding capital expenditure.

Source: OECD Health Statistics 2014.

In contrast to the majority of OECD countries, health spending in **Japan** has been on a rising trend in recent years as a result of deliberate government policy to increase the level of resources allocated to health.

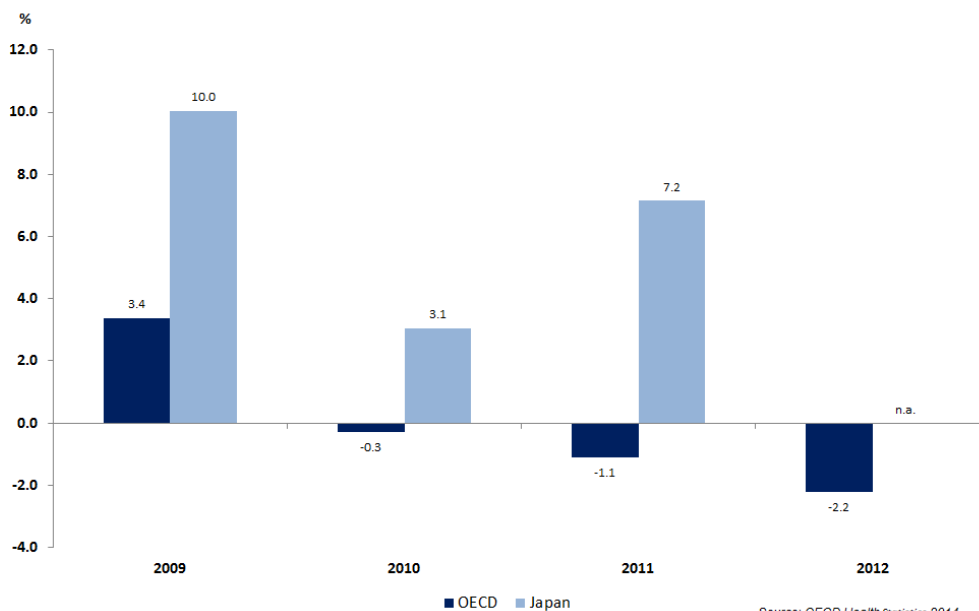
Health expenditure growth rates (in real terms) since 2004, Japan and OECD average



Source: OECD Health Statistics 2014

While reductions in pharmaceutical spending can help explain the slowdown in health spending growth in many OECD countries, the opposite is true for **Japan** which has seen continued high growth in pharmaceutical spending. Higher volumes spurred on by an aging population together with low market penetration of generic drugs in **Japan** as compared with other OECD countries are among the contributory factors. In 2013, generics accounted for only 11% of the pharmaceutical market in value terms, compared with an OECD average of 24%.

**Annual growth of pharmaceutical spending (in real terms) since 2009, Japan and OECD average**



### Health status and risk factors

In 2012, **Japan** enjoyed the highest life expectancy among OECD countries, at 83.2 years for the whole population. However, there continues to be a large gender gap in life expectancy in **Japan**, with women living 6.5 years longer than men. This gender gap is greater than that in most other OECD countries. While life expectancy for women in **Japan** is highest among all OECD countries, **Japan** only ranks third in life expectancy for men, after Switzerland and Iceland.

As in many other OECD countries, smoking rates in **Japan** have come down over time, from 27% of adults reporting that they smoke every day in 2000 to 20.7% in 2012. This rate is equal to the OECD average, but several other OECD countries have achieved greater progress in reducing tobacco consumption. In Sweden, the United States, Australia and Iceland, smoking rates among adults are now below 15%. There remains a large gender gap in smoking rates in Japan: 34% of Japanese men reported smoking daily in 2012, compared with 9% of women only.

## Key facts for Japan from OECD Health Statistics 2014

|  | Japan |              | OECD average |       | Rank among OECD countries* |
|--|-------|--------------|--------------|-------|----------------------------|
|  | 2012  | 2000         | 2012         | 2000  |                            |
| <b>Health status</b>   |       |              |              |       |                            |
| Life expectancy at birth (years)   | 83.2  | 81.2         | 80.2         | 77.1  | 1 out of 34                |
| Life expectancy at birth, men (years)  | 79.9  | 77.7         | 77.5         | 74.0  | 3 out of 34                |
| Life expectancy at birth, women (years)  | 86.4  | 84.6         | 82.8         | 80.2  | 1 out of 34                |
| Life expectancy at 65, men (years)   | 18.9  | 17.5         | 17.7         | 15.6  | 6 out of 34                |
| Life expectancy at 65, women (years)   | 23.8  | 22.4         | 20.9         | 19.1  | 1 out of 34                |
| Mortality from cardiovascular diseases (age-standardised rates per 100 000 pop.) | 170.7 | (2011) 222.8 | 296.4        | 428.5 | 33 out of 34               |
| Mortality from cancer (age-standardised rates per 100 000 pop.)                  | 189.3 | (2011) 214.6 | 213.1        | 242.5 | 28 out of 34               |
| <b>Risk factors to health (behavioural)</b>                                      |       |              |              |       |                            |
| Tobacco consumption among adults (% daily smokers)                               | 20.7  | 27.0         | 20.7         | 26.0  | 16 out of 34               |
| Alcohol consumption among adults (liters per capita)                             | 7.2   | 8.6          | 9.0          | 9.5   | 28 out of 34               |
| Obesity rates among adults, self-reported (%)                                    | ..    | ..           | 15.4         | 11.9  | ..                         |
| Obesity rates among adults, measured (%)   | 3.6   | 2.9          | 22.7         | 18.7  | 16 out of 16               |
| <b>Health expenditure</b>  |       |              |              |       |                            |
| Health expenditure as a % GDP  | 10.3  | 7.6          | 9.3          | 7.7   | 10 out of 34               |
| Health expenditure per capita (US\$ PPP)   | 3649  | 1971         | 3484         | 1888  | 15 out of 34               |
| Pharmaceutical expenditure per capita (US\$ PPP)                                 | 718   | (2011) 363   | 498          | 300   | 4 out of 33                |
| Pharmaceutical expenditure (% health expenditure)                                | 21.0  | (2011) 19.2  | 15.9         | 17.9  | 7 out of 33                |
| Public expenditure on health (% health expenditure)                              | 82.1  | 80.8         | 72.3         | 71.4  | 8 out of 34                |
| Out-of-pocket payments for health care (% health expenditure)                    | 14.0  | (2011) 15.4  | 19.0         | 20.5  | 25 out of 34               |
| <b>Health care resources</b>   |       |              |              |       |                            |
| Number of doctors (per 1000 population)  | 2.3   | 1.9          | 3.2          | 2.7   | 29 out of 34               |
| Number of nurses (per 1000 population)   | 10.5  | 8.4          | (2002) 8.8   | 7.5   | 11 out of 34               |
| Hospital beds (per 1000 population)  | 13.4  | 14.7         | 4.8          | 5.6   | 1 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 Japan, please visit [www.oecd.org/japan](http://www.oecd.org/japan).