

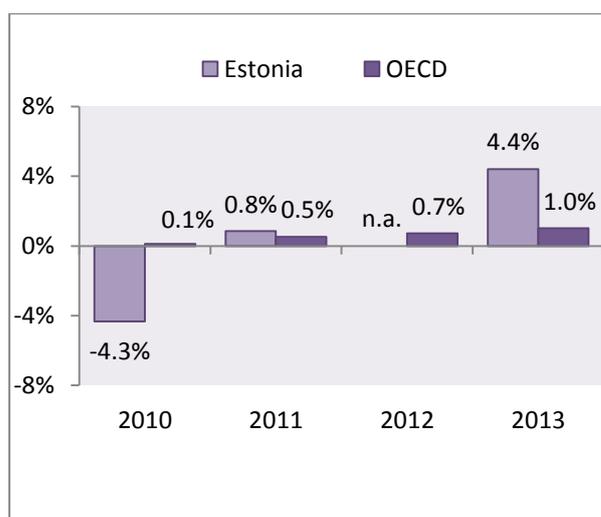
OECD Health Statistics 2015



OECD Health Statistics 2015 is the most comprehensive source of comparable statistics on health and health systems across the 34 OECD countries. Covering the period 1960 to 2014, this interactive database can be used for comparative analyses on health status, risk factors to health, health care resources and utilisation, as well as health expenditure and financing. OECD Health Statistics 2015 is available in OECD.Stat, the statistics portal for all OECD databases.

- ▶ **Growth:** Per capita health spending grew strongly in 2013 in Estonia after slow or negative growth in 2010 and 2011. This was driven by a 10% increase in private spending.
- ▶ **Share of GDP:** The share of GDP allocated to health spending (excluding capital expenditure) in Estonia was 6.0% in 2013, compared with an OECD average of 8.9%. This was up from 5.8% in 2012 and remains below the high of 6.6% in 2009 when GDP fell sharply.
- ▶ **Per capita spending:** Estonia spent the equivalent of USD 1542 per person on health in 2013, compared with an OECD average of USD 3453. Public sources accounted for 78% of overall health spending, above the OECD average of 73%.

Figure 1. Annual health spending growth*, 2010-2013



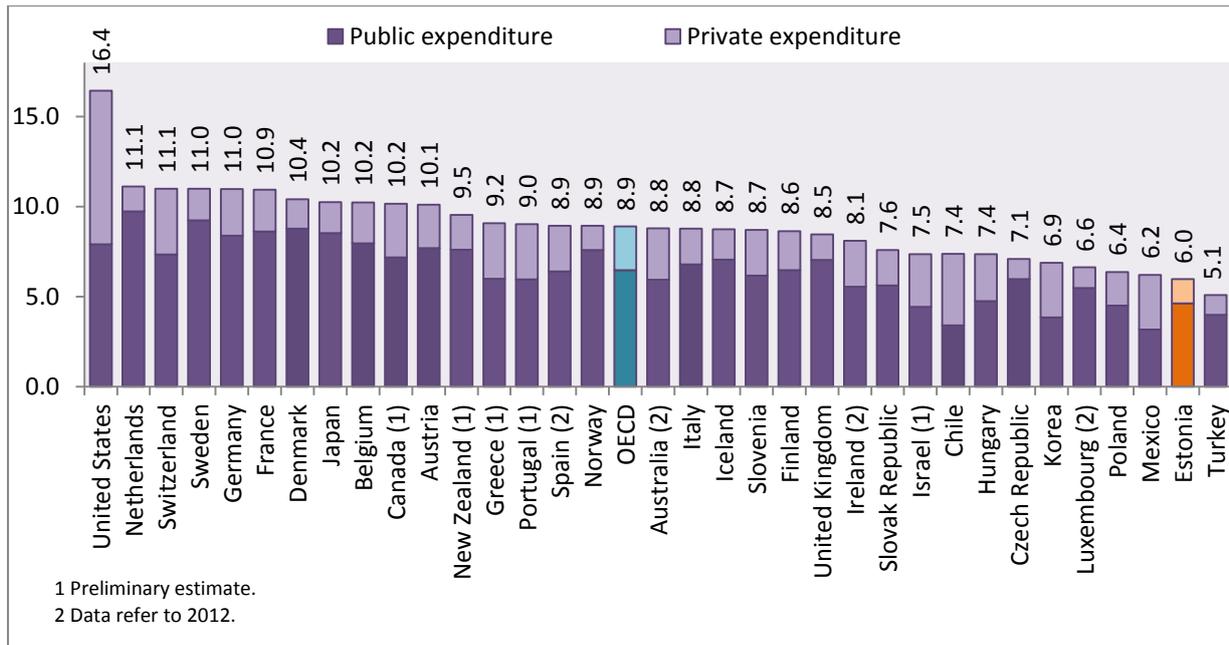
* Per capita spending in real terms
Source: OECD Health Statistics 2015

Health spending in Estonia grew strongly in 2013

In 2013, per capita health spending in Estonia increased by 4.4% in real terms - the highest growth rate since 2008 and following the rapid decrease in spending in 2009 and 2010. The rise in health spending in 2013 was due in part to the strong increase in private out-of-pocket expenditure which grew by 10%. As a result, per capita spending on health in Estonia rose above the level at the start of the economic crisis in 2008.

The pattern of health spending in Estonia during the economic crisis was characterised by a relatively short sharp shock. In the wake of a significant drop in economic activity - GDP dropped by almost 15% in real terms in 2009 - the Estonian government took a number of actions to cut the health budget, reduce payments to providers, amend the health care basket and promote generics. The reserves of the Estonian Health Insurance Fund also helped weather the storm.

Figure 2. Health spending* as a share of GDP, 2013



* Excluding capital expenditure.
Source: OECD Health Statistics 2015

Health spending as a share of GDP in Estonia remains well below the OECD average

Health spending in Estonia (excluding investment expenditure in the health sector) stood at 6.0% of GDP in 2013 (Figure 2), well below the OECD average of 8.9%. With health spending outpacing economic growth through much of the 2000s, the share of GDP spent of health has risen rapidly from 4.7% in 2002.

The share of the economy allocated to health spending is similar to that of Poland (6.4%), but still below the levels of the Czech Republic and Hungary (7.1% and 7.4% respectively).

The share of government spending in Estonia as a share of total spending on health is 78%. This is just above the OECD average of 73%, and above Hungary (65%) and Poland (71%).

The public share of health spending has remained relatively stable over the last ten years or so. With private health insurance playing a very minor part in health financing in Estonia, much of the private share is made up of households' out-of-pocket payments. Part of the response to the crisis was the introduction of a 15% co-insurance rate for inpatient nursing care and the increase in user charges for outpatient specialist visits and inpatient stays.

In per capita terms (adjusted for different price levels using economy-wide purchasing power parities), Estonia spent USD 1542 per head in 2013. This compares with an OECD average of USD 3453.

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Further Reading

Focus on health spending:
www.oecd.org/health/health-systems/Focus-Health-Spending-2015.pdf

OECD Health Statistics 2015:
www.oecd.org/health/health-data.htm

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