

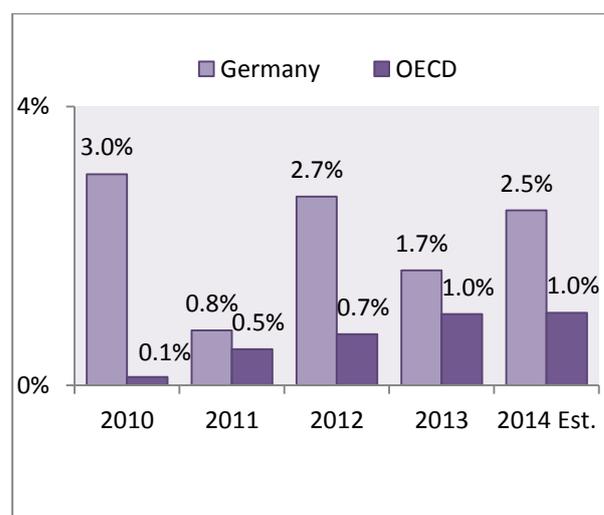
OECD Health Statistics 2015



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:** Average per capita health spending growth in Germany continued to outpace the OECD average between 2010 and 2013 in real terms. Preliminary figures for 2014 point to a continuation of this trend.
- ▶ **Share of GDP:** The share of GDP allocated to health spending (excluding capital expenditure) in Germany was 11.0% in 2013, compared with an OECD average of 8.9%. Health spending as a share of GDP was up from 10.8% in 2012.
- ▶ **Per capita spending:** Germany spent the equivalent of USD 4819 per person on health in 2013, compared with an OECD average of USD 3453. Public sources accounted for 76.3% of overall health spending, 3.7 percentage points above the OECD average.

Figure 1. Annual health spending growth*, 2010-2014



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

Health spending in Germany growing faster than the OECD average

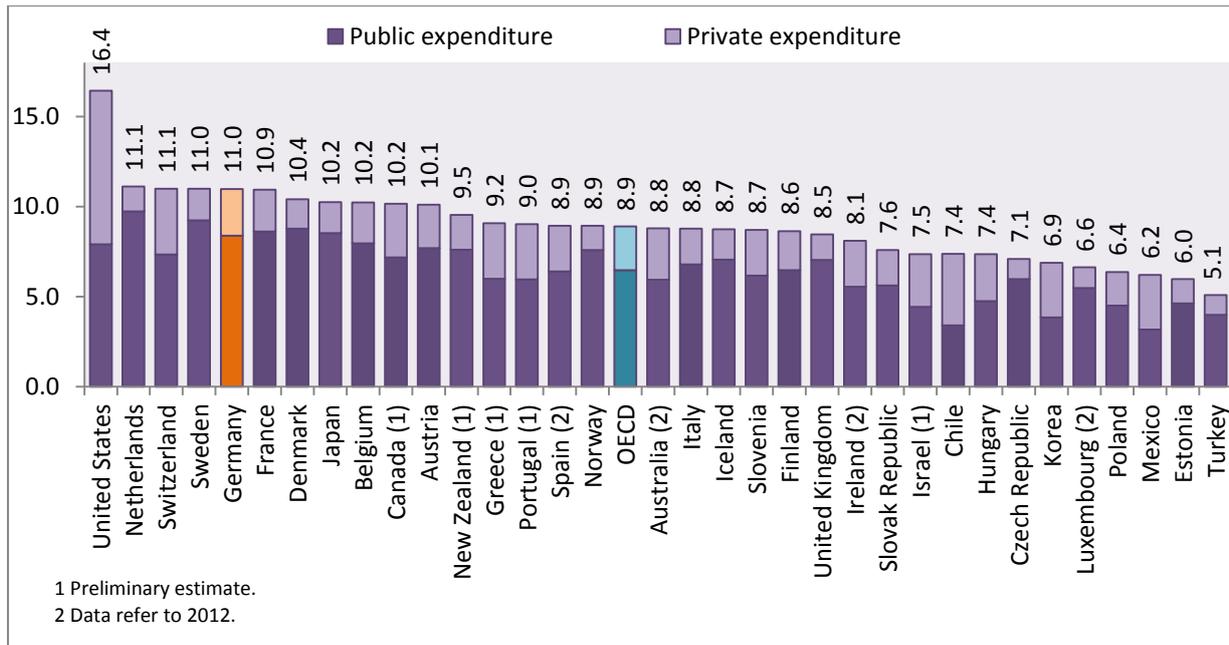
In 2013, per capita health spending in Germany increased by 1.7% in real terms - the fifth successive year that health expenditure has grown faster than the OECD average. Preliminary estimates point to a further increase of 2.5% in 2014.

As Germany has been less affected by the economic crisis than other European countries, public spending per capita has recorded consistent positive growth rates

since 2005. Between 2009 and 2013 growth averaged around 2% per year. There was a slowdown of public spending growth in 2011 to 0.5% as a result of cost-containment measures introduced to limit pharmaceutical expenditure.

While private spending also saw steady growth up to 2012, there was a decrease in 2013. This is due to a 3.1% reduction in private household out-of-pocket spending, caused by the cancellation of quarterly co-payments for outpatient visits to doctors and dentists which became effective in 2013.

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 Germany remains well above the OECD average

Health spending in Germany (excluding investment expenditure in the health sector) was 11.0% of GDP in 2013 (Figure 2), well above the OECD average of 8.9%. The health spending to GDP ratio stood at 10.3% in 2003. The increase indicates that health spending grew slightly faster than GDP over this ten-year period.

The share of the economy allocated to health spending is similar to the Netherlands (11.1%), Switzerland (11.1%), Sweden (11.0%) and France (10.9%), but still well below the levels of the United States (16.4%).

The share of government spending in total spending on health in Germany has remained relatively constant over the last decade at around 76%. This is slightly above the OECD average of 73%. Among OECD countries, only the

United States and Chile report public spending on health below 50%.

In 2013, German households financed 13% of health spending directly, 6 percentage points less than the OECD average (19%). Although the out-of-pocket share of health spending remains relatively low among OECD countries, it was still higher than in other western European countries such as France (7%) and the United Kingdom (10%). The share has remained fairly stable in recent years, but decreased slightly in 2013, reflecting the policy change regarding co-payments.

In per capita terms (adjusted for different price levels using economy-wide purchasing power parities), Germany spent USD 4819 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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