

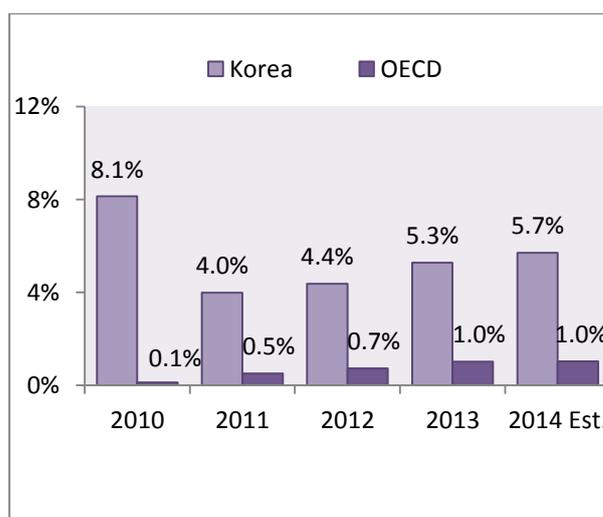
OECD Health Statistics 2015



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 spending in Korea has been growing continuously and has outpaced average per capita spending in OECD; however, growth has slowed since 2011.
- ▶ **Share of GDP:** The share of GDP allocated to health spending (excluding capital expenditure) in Korea was 6.9% in 2013, compared with an OECD average of 8.9%. This was another increase from 2012 and remains below the high of 9.0% in 2010 as GDP also decreased.
- ▶ **Per capita spending:** Korea spent the equivalent of USD 2275 per person on health in 2013, compared with an OECD average of USD 3453. Public sources accounted for 56% of overall health spending, well below the OECD average.

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



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

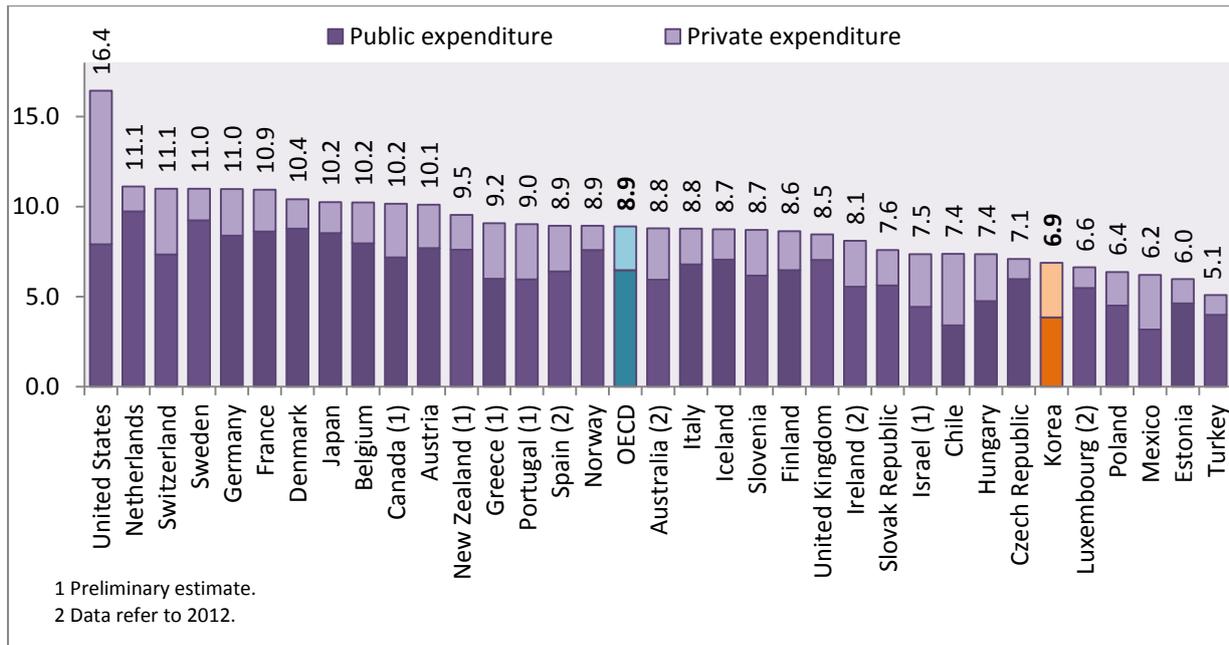
Health spending in Korea continues to grow strongly

In contrast to the majority of OECD countries, health spending in Korea has been growing continuously since the 1970's at a rate above the OECD average, even if the rate has slowed in the last couple of years (Figure 1).

The introduction and expansion of health and long-term care insurance in Korea in 2008 has been one of the contributory factors in the growth.

Pharmaceutical spending has historically undergone strong growth and been one of the main contributory factors in the overall increase in health spending in Korea. Government efforts to limit health spending growth led to a series of reductions in medicine prices in April 2012. However, after a real term reduction in per capita spending in pharmaceuticals in 2012, there was a return to growth in 2013 with a 3.5% increase.

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 Korea is climbing rapidly

Health spending (excluding investment expenditure in the health sector) accounted for 6.9% of GDP in Korea in 2013, still well below the average of 8.9% in OECD countries (Figure 2). However, in contrast to many other OECD countries, health spending as a share of GDP has risen rapidly in recent years - about a 2 percentage point increase since 2005 as health spending has outpaced strong economic growth.

The public sector is the main source of health funding in nearly all OECD countries. However, in Korea the private sector plays a much more important role and only 56% of health spending was funded by public sources in 2013, well below the average of 73% in OECD countries. The

public share reached a peak in 2010 at 58%. Since then there public expenditure growth has reduced while private spending has continued to grow at more than 6% each year.

Out-of-pocket spending is an important component of overall health expenditure in Korea. At 37% of health spending, the share is second only to Mexico (45%) among OECD countries and is twice the overall OECD average (19.5%).

In per capita terms (adjusted for different price levels using economy-wide purchasing power parities), Korea spent USD 2275 per head in 2013. This compares with an OECD average of USD 3453.

Contacts

David Morgan
+33 1 45 24 76 09
david.morgan@oecd.org

Marie-Clémence Canaud
+33 1 45 24 91 73
marie-clemence.canaud@oecd.org

SHA Contact
sha.contact@oecd.org

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

Follow us

@OECD_Social

<https://www.youtube.com/oecd>