



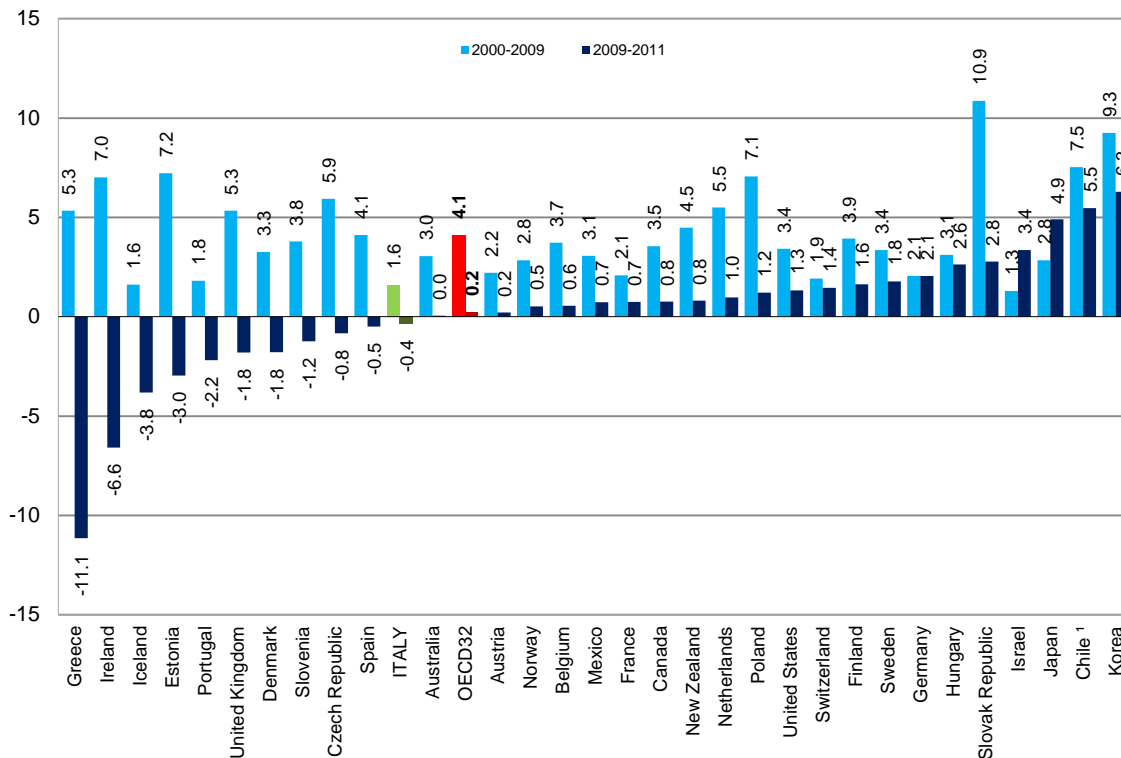
## Health spending falls in Italy, says OECD

Health spending per capita in real terms fell by 2% in Italy in 2011, and is estimated to have fallen by a further 0.4% in 2012. Spending per capita also fell in 10 other European countries between 2009 and 2011, following the recession and the need for fiscal consolidation, according to a new OECD report.

This makes it all the more important that Italy and other countries make their healthcare systems more productive, efficient and affordable, according to the report.

Italy has made a concerted effort to contain costs and improve financial accountability: the 2010-12 Health Pact placed greater emphasis on controlling public spending through its focus on reducing hospital beds, admissions and average length of stay, as well as improving procurement mechanisms.

**Annual average growth rate in per capita health expenditure, real terms, 2000 to 2011**



1. Current health expenditure.

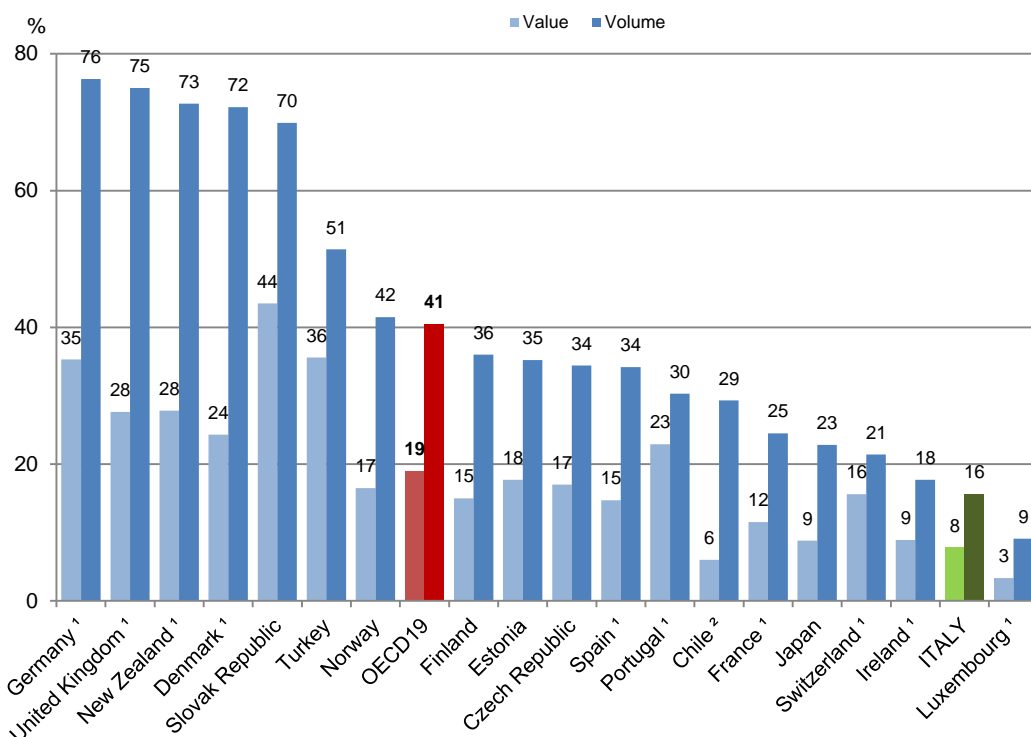
2. Data refers to 2010. 3. Data refers to 2008.

Source: OECD Health Statistics 2013, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/health-data-en>; WHO Global Health Expenditure Database.

### The share of generics in the Italian pharmaceutical market remains low

Italy has successfully managed to reduce its pharmaceutical bill over recent years through greater competitiveness and price reductions. However, the share of generics in the total volume of pharmaceuticals remains one of the lowest among OECD countries, accounting for less than a sixth of the market. This is well below some other European countries such as Germany, the United Kingdom and Denmark where generics represent around three-quarters of the market.

## Share of generics in the total pharmaceutical market, 2011 (or nearest year)



1. Reimbursed pharmaceutical market.

2. Community pharmacy market.

Source: OECD Health Statistics 2013, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/health-data-en>.

### High levels of obesity among Italian children

The rise in obesity levels across OECD countries is a major public health issue. **Health at a Glance 2013** shows that while obesity among adults in Italy remains relatively low, the situation among children is worrying and points towards increasing levels among adults in the future. More than one in three children in Italy are classified as overweight, second only to Greece among OECD countries. Efforts need to be made to improve nutrition habits of children in Italy and their physical activity, which is the lowest among all OECD countries.

More information on **Health at a Glance 2013** is available at [www.oecd.org/health/healthataglance](http://www.oecd.org/health/healthataglance).

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Journalists can download the report from the OECD's protected site or contact the OECD Media Division (tel. + 33 1 45 24 97 00).