

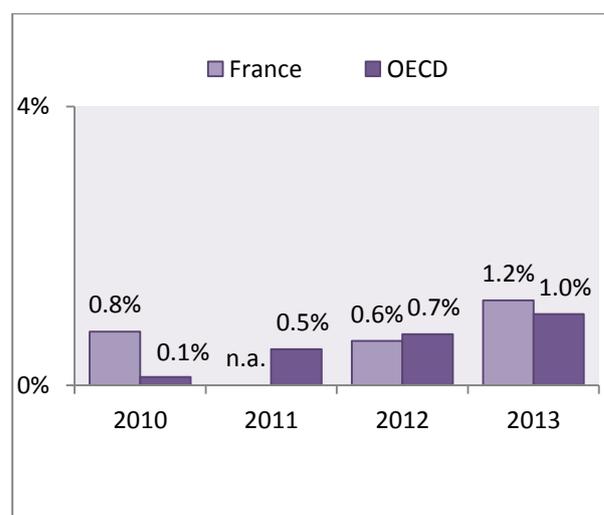
OECD Health Statistics 2015



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 in France has increased at a slow pace since 2011, mostly in line with the OECD average.
- ▶ **Share of GDP:** The share of GDP allocated to health spending (excluding capital expenditure) in France was 10.9% in 2013, compared with an OECD average of 8.9. This is slightly up from 2012, and about 1 percentage point above the level of 2003.
- ▶ **Per capita spending:** France spent the equivalent of USD 4124 per person on health in 2013, compared with an OECD average of USD 3453. Public sources accounted for 79% of overall health spending, above the OECD average (13%).

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



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

Health spending in France continues to show moderate growth

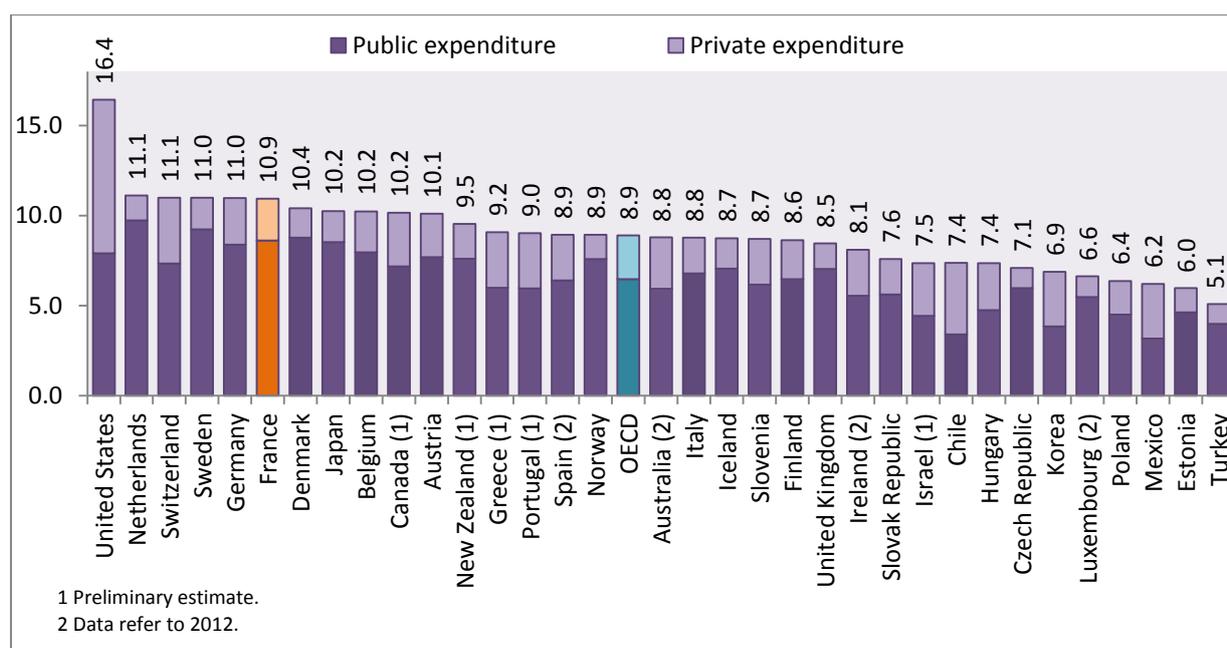
In 2013, per capita health spending in France increased by 1.2% in real terms, just above the average growth of OECD countries. Unlike many other European countries, health spending continued to grow in France throughout the economic crisis, but at a moderate rate.

Health spending growth has been contained mainly by tight control on all spending categories, and a reduction in pharmaceutical spending. Expenditure for medicines was cut by around 2% per year since 2011. The increased

use of generics and the end of patents of some high-selling drugs has contributed to the decline. Although representing a small part of health spending, expenditure for long-term care continued to grow strongly.

Whereas public spending has increased by more than 1% annually since 2011, direct out-of-pocket spending decreased. This is due to increased cost-sharing by private health insurance, a rise in the number of patients with chronic diseases exempt from co-payment and a reduced consumption of over-the-counter pharmaceuticals.

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 France remains well above the OECD average

Health spending in France (excluding investment expenditure in the health sector) was 10.9% of GDP in 2013 (Figure 2), well above the OECD average of 8.9%. This has increased by 1 percentage point since 2003, as health spending continued to rise during the years of the economic crisis as the economy contracted.

The share of the economy allocated to health spending is similar to Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and the Netherlands, and well below the United States (16.4%).

The share of government spending in France as a share of total spending on health has remained relatively constant over the last decade at around 79%, above the OECD average of 73%.

Private health insurance plays a more important role in France than in most other OECD countries.

Complementary insurance to public health coverage finances around 14% of total health spending.

On the other hand, the share of out-of-pocket spending in France is among the lowest across OECD countries. Patients bear only 7% of all health expenditure as compared to 19% on average in OECD countries. The share in France is similar to the one in the Netherlands (5%) and the United Kingdom (10%) but much lower than in neighbouring countries such as Germany (13%) and Switzerland (26%).

In per capita terms (adjusted for different price levels using economy-wide purchasing power parities), France spent USD 4124 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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