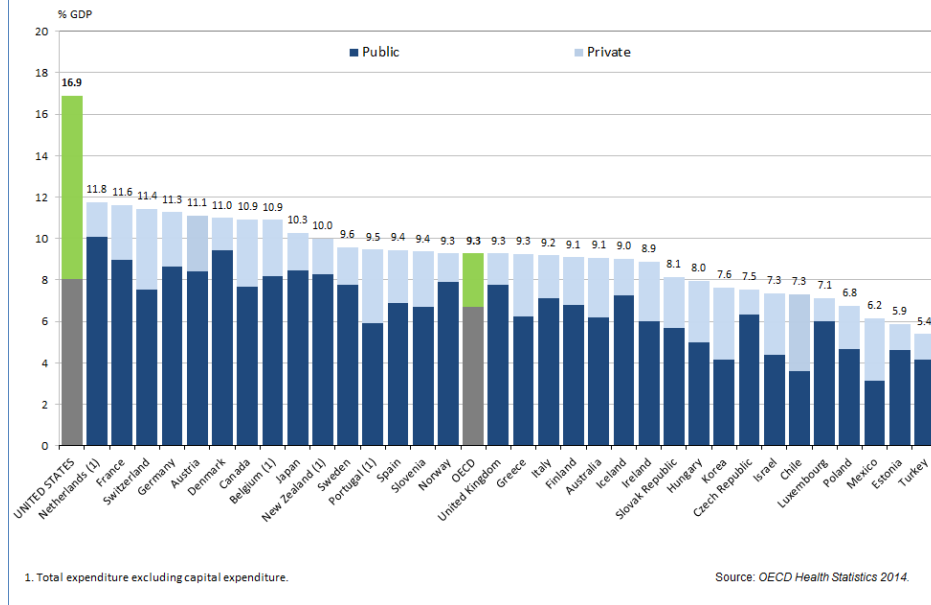


# OECD Health Statistics 2014

## How does the United States compare?

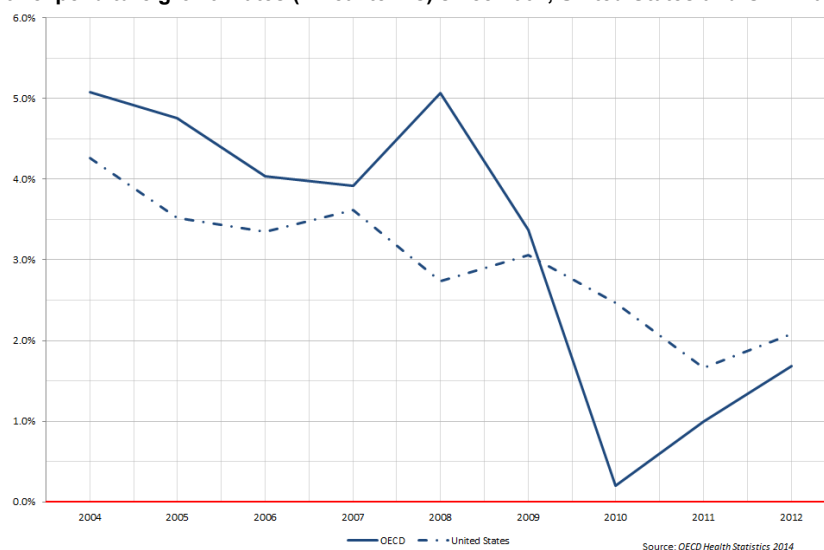
Health spending accounted for 16.9% of GDP in the **United States** in 2012 - the highest share among OECD countries and more than 7½ percentage points above the OECD average of 9.3%. In contrast to most OECD countries, health spending in the **United States** is split evenly between public and private sources. In 2012, 48% of health spending in the **United States** was publicly financed, well below the average of 72% in OECD countries.

Health expenditure, public and private, as a share of GDP, OECD countries, 2012 or latest year



Health spending in the **United States** has been on a significant slowing trend, primarily due to price effects in the pharmaceutical and hospital sectors. The slowdown predates the economic crisis, but decelerated further to around 2% in 2011 and 2012. This lower rate growth remains higher than the OECD average which includes some European countries that made significant reductions in health spending.<sup>1</sup>

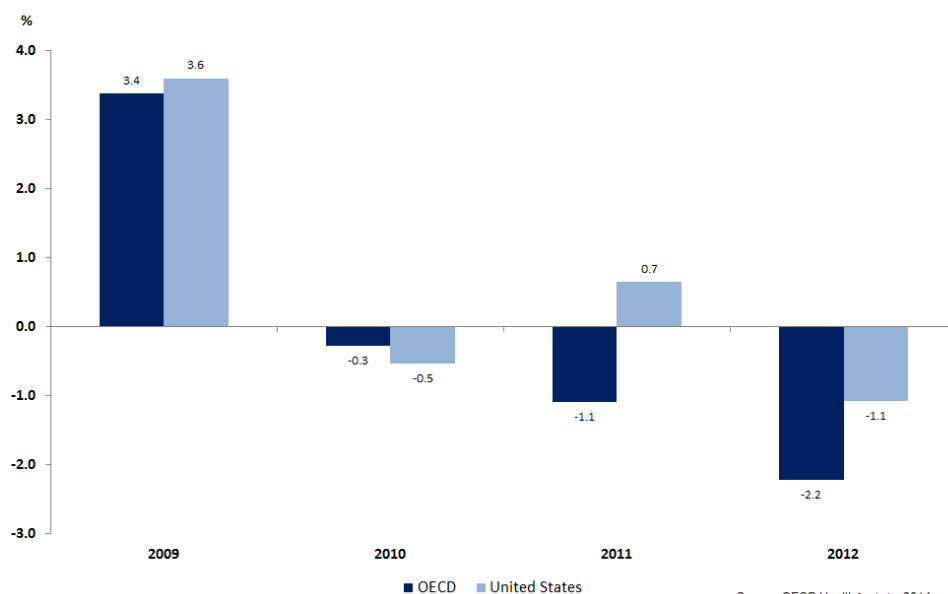
Health expenditure growth rates (in real terms) since 2004, United States and OECD average



<sup>1</sup> A more detailed analysis of recent health spending trends in the United States in comparison with a number of high-spending countries will be published in early July 2014 in The Lancet at [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(14\)60571-7/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(14)60571-7/abstract).

In line with many other OECD countries, pharmaceutical spending in the **United States** has been on a downward trend, after years of stronger growth. The reduction of 1.1% in 2012 was mainly due to price effects caused in part by the loss of patent protection for some blockbuster drugs, and the resulting increase in the share of cheaper generics in the market.

**Annual growth of pharmaceutical spending (in real terms) since 2009, United States and OECD average**



### Health status and risk factors

In 2011 (latest year available), life expectancy in the **United States** stood at 78.7 years, 1 ½ year less than the OECD average of 80.2 years. While life expectancy in the **United States** has increased by two years since 2000, this was less than the three year gain registered across OECD countries. This has widened the gap. The gap between the **United States** and leading countries has also widened. For example, the life expectancy for U.S. men in 2011 was more than 4 years shorter than in Switzerland (up from 3 years in 2000); for U.S. women, it was more than 5 years shorter than in Japan (fairly stable compared with 2000). The slower progress in life expectancy in the **United States** is due to gaps in health insurance coverage and proper primary care, poorer health-related behaviours and poor living conditions for a significant proportion of the U.S. population.

The **United States** has achieved remarkable progress in reducing the proportion of adults who smoke tobacco, with the rate of daily smokers coming down from 19% in 2000 to 14% in 2012. This is the lowest rate among OECD countries after Mexico, Sweden and Iceland.

At the same time, obesity rates among adults in the **United States** have increased greatly to reach 35.3% in 2012, up from 30.9% in 2000 (based on actual measures of height and weight). This is the highest rate among OECD countries. As is the case in several other countries, the obesity rate in the **United States** tends to be higher among disadvantaged socio-economic groups, especially in women. Mortality from diseases including cardiovascular diseases and many cancers increases progressively once people become obese.

## Key facts for the United States from OECD Health Statistics 2014

|  | United States |              | OECD average |       | Rank among OECD countries* |
|--|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------|----------------------------|
|  | 2012          | 2000         | 2012         | 2000  |                            |
| <b>Health status</b>   |               |              |              |       |                            |
| Life expectancy at birth (years)   | 78.7          | (2011) 76.7  | 80.2         | 77.1  | 27 out of 34               |
| Life expectancy at birth, men (years)  | 76.3          | (2011) 74.1  | 77.5         | 74.0  | 26 out of 34               |
| Life expectancy at birth, women (years)  | 81.1          | (2011) 79.3  | 82.8         | 80.2  | 29 out of 34               |
| Life expectancy at 65, men (years)   | 17.8          | (2011) 16.0  | 17.7         | 15.6  | 20 out of 34               |
| Life expectancy at 65, women (years)   | 20.4          | (2011) 19.0  | 20.9         | 19.1  | 25 out of 34               |
| Mortality from cardiovascular diseases (age-standardised rates per 100 000 pop.) | 261.2         | (2010) 395.4 | 296.4        | 428.5 | 17 out of 34               |
| Mortality from cancer (age-standardised rates per 100 000 pop.)                  | 198.7         | (2010) 236.7 | 213.1        | 242.5 | 25 out of 34               |
| <b>Risk factors to health (behavioural)</b>                                      |               |              |              |       |                            |
| Tobacco consumption among adults (% daily smokers)                               | 14.2          | 19.1         | 20.7         | 26.0  | 31 out of 34               |
| Alcohol consumption among adults (liters per capita)                             | 8.6           | (2011) 8.3   | 9.0          | 9.5   | 23 out of 34               |
| Obesity rates among adults, self-reported (%)                                    | 28.6          | 22.8         | 15.4         | 11.9  | 1 out of 29                |
| Obesity rates among adults, measured (%)   | 35.3          | 30.9         | 22.7         | 18.7  | 1 out of 16                |
| <b>Health expenditure</b>  |               |              |              |       |                            |
| Health expenditure as a % GDP  | 16.9          | 13.1         | 9.3          | 7.7   | 1 out of 34                |
| Health expenditure per capita (US\$ PPP)   | 8745          | 4791         | 3484         | 1888  | 1 out of 34                |
| Pharmaceutical expenditure per capita (US\$ PPP)                                 | 1010          | 540          | 498          | 300   | 1 out of 33                |
| Pharmaceutical expenditure (% health expenditure)                                | 12.0          | 11.8         | 15.9         | 17.9  | 26 out of 33               |
| Public expenditure on health (% health expenditure)                              | 47.6          | 43.0         | 72.3         | 71.4  | 34 out of 34               |
| Out-of-pocket payments for health care (% health expenditure)                    | 12.0          | 14.9         | 19.0         | 20.5  | 28 out of 34               |
| <b>Health care resources</b>   |               |              |              |       |                            |
| Number of doctors (per 1000 population)  | 2.5           | (2011) 2.3   | 3.2          | 2.7   | 28 out of 34               |
| Number of nurses (per 1000 population)   | 11.1          | 10.2         | 8.8          | 7.5   | 9 out of 34                |
| Hospital beds (per 1000 population)  | 3.1           | (2010) 3.5   | 4.8          | 5.6   | 25 out of 34               |

\*Note: Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

More information on *OECD Health Statistics 2014* is available at [www.oecd.org/health/healthdata](http://www.oecd.org/health/healthdata). For more information on OECD's work on the **United States**, please visit [www.oecd.org/unitedstates](http://www.oecd.org/unitedstates).