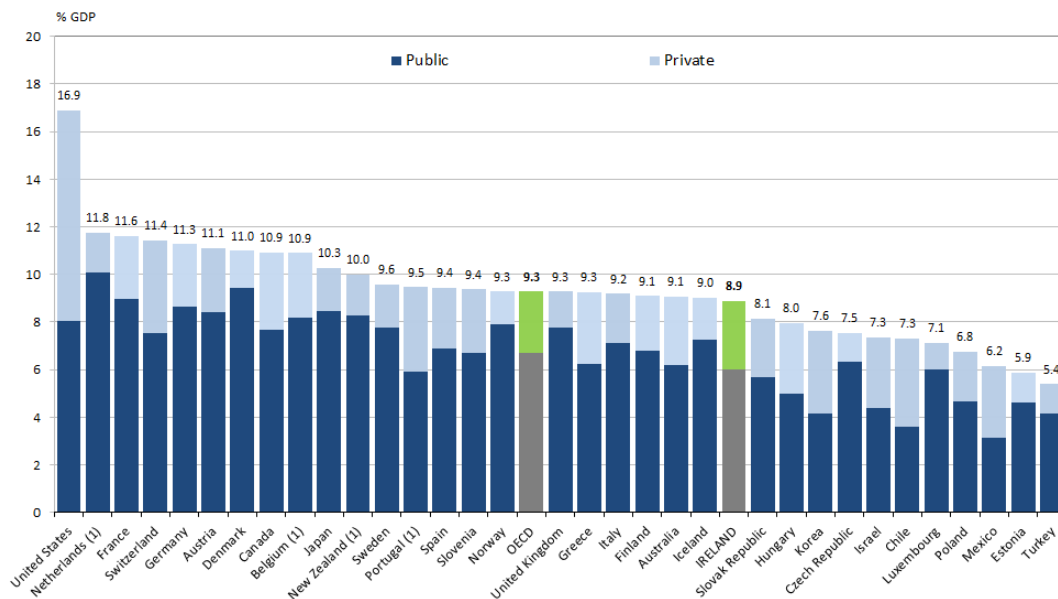


OECD Health Statistics 2014

How does Ireland compare?

Total health spending accounted for 8.9% of GDP in **Ireland** in 2012, slightly less than the OECD average of 9.3%. Health spending as a share of GDP is much lower in **Ireland** than in the United States (which spent 16.9% of its GDP on health) and in a number of European countries including the Netherlands, France, Switzerland and Germany (all allocating over 11%). The public sector is the main source of health funding in nearly all OECD countries. In **Ireland**, 68% of health spending was funded by public sources in 2012, slightly less than the average of 72% in OECD countries.

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

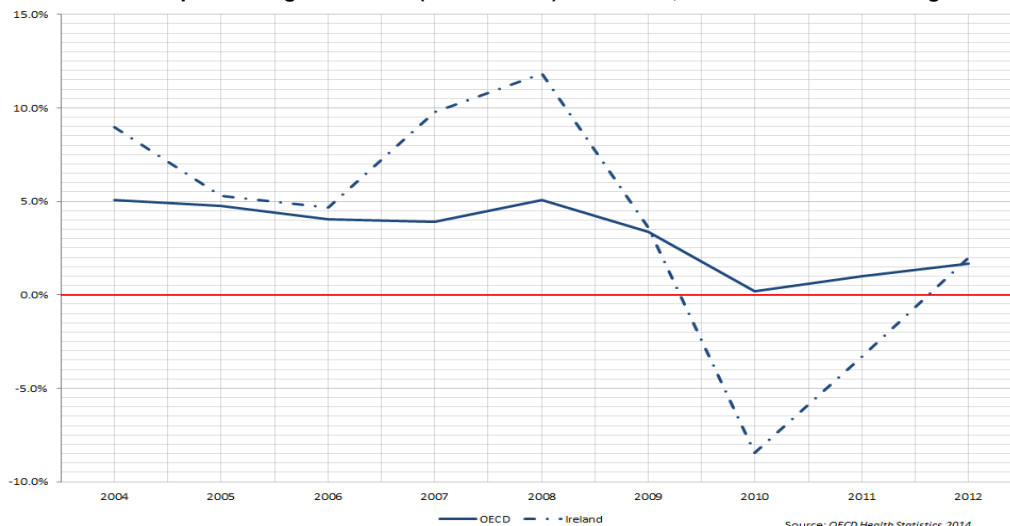


1. Total expenditure excluding capital expenditure.

Source: OECD Health Statistics 2014.

Following the economic crisis, health spending in **Ireland** was reduced sharply in 2010 and 2011 as part of government-wide efforts to reduce large budgetary deficits. Most of the reductions in public spending have been achieved through cuts in wages and fees paid to professionals and pharmaceutical companies, and through reductions in the number of health workers. In 2012, health spending has started to increase again in real terms, but at a very modest rate.

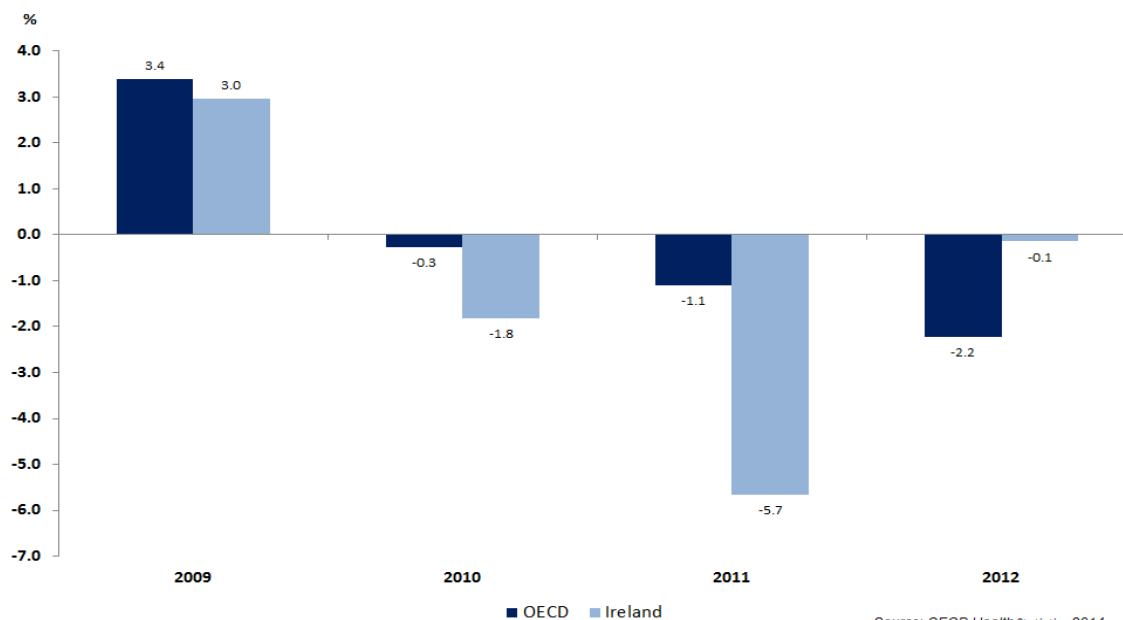
Health expenditure growth rates (in real terms) since 2004, Ireland and OECD average



Source: OECD Health Statistics 2014

As in many other OECD countries, expenditure for pharmaceuticals has been reduced in recent years. These reductions in pharmaceutical expenditure were achieved through a series of measures, including price cuts (negotiated with manufacturers), reductions in pharmacy fees and increases in co-payments for patients. Moreover, the market share of generics nearly doubled since 2008, to reach 13% by 2012, although this still remains below the generic share in most other OECD countries.

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



Health status and risk factors

In 2012, life expectancy in **Ireland** stood at 81.0 years, almost one year above the OECD average (80.2).

The proportion of daily smokers in **Ireland** has decreased over the past decade, from 33% in 1998 to 29% in 2007 (latest year available), but this remains well above the OECD average (20.7% in 2012).

Alcohol consumption in **Ireland** is among the highest in OECD countries, with a consumption of 11.6 litres of alcohol per adult in 2012. Although alcohol consumption in **Ireland** has declined over the past decade, it still remains well above the OECD average (9.0 litres).

Obesity rates have increased in recent decades in all OECD countries, although there are notable differences. In **Ireland**, the obesity rate among adults – based on actual measures of height and weight – was 23% in 2007 (latest year available). This is much lower than in the United States (35.3% in 2012), but is higher than in many other European countries. Obesity's growing prevalence foreshadows increases in the occurrence of health problems (such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases), and higher health care costs in the future.

Key facts for Ireland from OECD Health Statistics 2014

	Ireland		OECD average		Rank among OECD countries*
	2012	2000	2012	2000	
Health status					
Life expectancy at birth (years)	81.0	76.6	80.2	77.1	16 out of 34
Life expectancy at birth, men (years)	78.7	74.0	77.5	74.0	15 out of 34
Life expectancy at birth, women (years)	83.2	79.2	82.8	80.2	20 out of 34
Life expectancy at 65, men (years)	18.0	14.6	17.7	15.6	18 out of 34
Life expectancy at 65, women (years)	21.1	18.0	20.9	19.1	17 out of 34
Mortality from cardiovascular diseases (age-standardised rates per 100 000 pop.)	272.0	(2010) 475.2	296.4	428.5	15 out of 34
Mortality from cancer (age-standardised rates per 100 000 pop.)	227.3	(2010) 269.4	213.1	242.5	10 out of 34
Risk factors to health (behavioural)					
Tobacco consumption among adults (% daily smokers)	29.0	(2007) 33.0	(1998) 20.7	26.0	3 out of 34
Alcohol consumption among adults (liters per capita)	11.6	14.2	9.0	9.5	4 out of 34
Obesity rates among adults, self-reported (%)	15.0	(2007) 11.0	(1998) 15.4	11.9	17 out of 29
Obesity rates among adults, measured (%)	23.0	(2007) ..	22.7	18.7	9 out of 16
Health expenditure					
Health expenditure as a % GDP	8.9	6.2	9.3	7.7	23 out of 34
Health expenditure per capita (US\$ PPP)	3890	1787	3484	1888	14 out of 34
Pharmaceutical expenditure per capita (US\$ PPP)	666	248	498	300	6 out of 33
Pharmaceutical expenditure (% health expenditure)	17.8	15.1	15.9	17.9	12 out of 33
Public expenditure on health (% health expenditure)	67.6	74.1	72.3	71.4	25 out of 34
Out-of-pocket payments for health care (% health expenditure)	16.9	15.7	19.0	20.5	18 out of 34
Health care resources					
Number of doctors (per 1000 population)	2.7	..	3.2	2.7	24 out of 34
Number of nurses (per 1000 population)	12.6	12.3	(2004) 8.8	7.5	5 out of 34
Hospital beds (per 1000 population)	2.8	..	4.8	5.6	27 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. For more information on OECD's work on Ireland, please visit www.oecd.org/ireland.