

Country Note: How does health spending in AUSTRIA compare?

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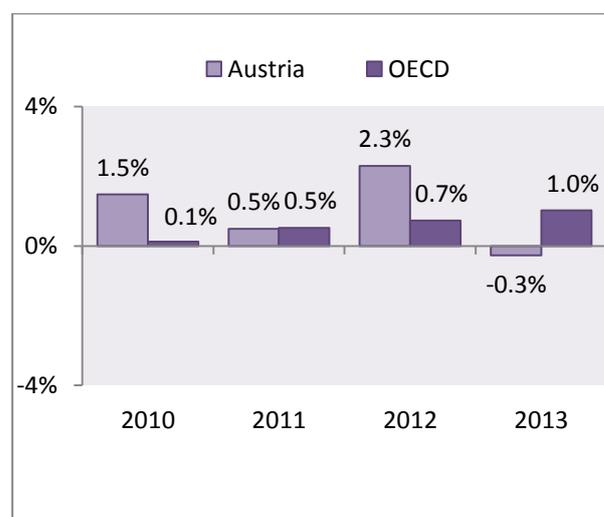
OECD Health Statistics 2015



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 health spending in the Austria dropped 0.3% in real terms in 2013. This was the first real decline in per capita health spending since 1981.
- ▶ **Share of GDP:** The share of GDP allocated to health spending (excluding capital expenditure) in Austria was 10.1% in 2013, compared to an OECD average of 8.9%. This was unchanged from 2012 and remains on the level of 2009 as health spending growth matched economic growth.
- ▶ **Per capita spending:** Austria spent the equivalent of USD 4553 per person on health in 2013, compared with an OECD average of USD 3453. Public sources accounted for 76% of overall health spending, just above the OECD average.

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



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

Health spending in Austria comes to a halt after many years of growth

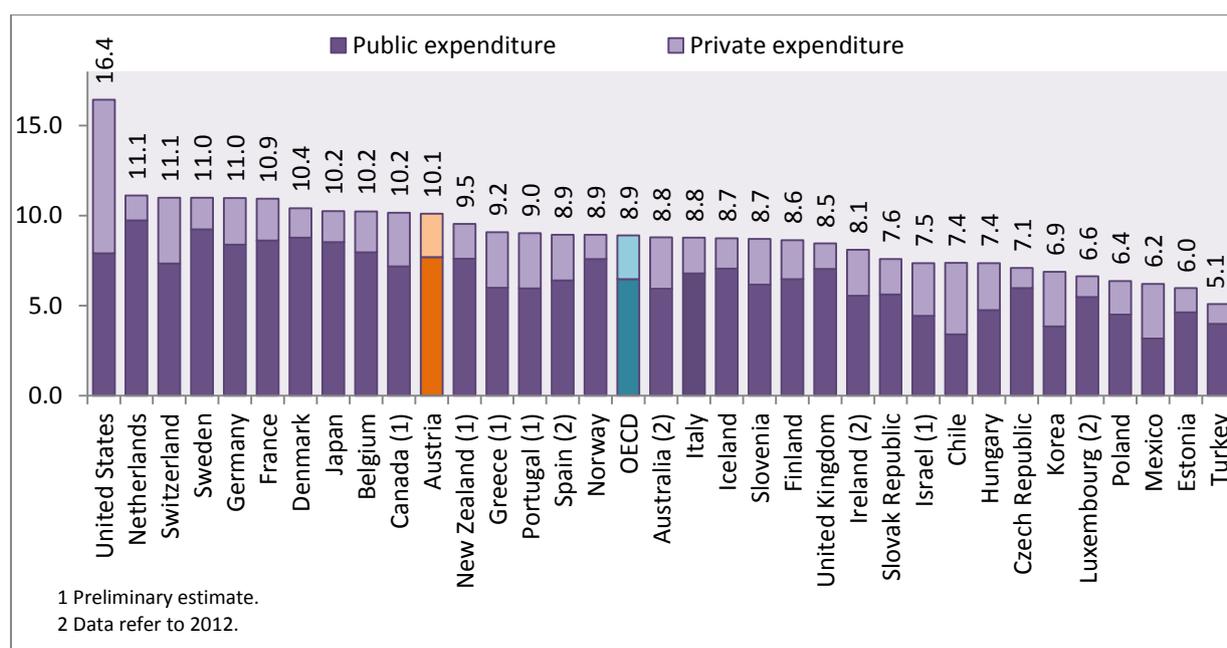
In 2013, per capita health spending in Austria dropped by 0.3% in real terms, the first decline in health spending since 1981. This follows a run of three years when health spending in Austria has grown above the overall OECD average.

Between 2000 and 2013, health spending per capita in Austria had been growing on average by around 2% per year; Austrian health spending had been little affected by

the global economic crisis compared with many other European countries. The decline in 2013 marked a change in the trend.

Long-term care is one category where spending has particularly slowed with annual growth reduced to 1% after yearly increases of nearly 5% in the past. Expenditure for pharmaceuticals has stagnated since 2009. Reduced growth can also be expected in the years to come as Austria has tied public health spending growth to predicted annual GDP increases until 2016.

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 Austria remains above the OECD average

Health spending in Austria (excluding investment expenditure in the health sector) was 10.1% of GDP in 2013 (Figure 2), above the OECD average of 8.9%. This has increased by about 1 percentage point since 2000, but remains roughly on the same level as 2009 as health spending growth has matched economy-wide growth since then.

The share of the economy allocated to health spending in Austria is above Italy (8.8%) but remains below the levels of other neighbouring countries such as Switzerland and Germany (11.1% and 11.0% respectively).

The share of government spending in Austria as a share of total spending on health has moderately increased over the last decade and stands at 76% in 2013. This

is slightly above the OECD average of 73%. Among OECD countries, only the United States and Chile report public spending on health below 50%.

Out-of-pocket spending in Austria has fallen slightly over the last decade and was 17% of health spending in 2013. This is below the OECD average (19%) and some neighbouring countries such as Italy (22%) and Switzerland (26%). Compared with other western European countries such as Germany (14%), the United Kingdom (10%) and France (7%) the share of out-of-pocket spending in Austria is relatively high.

In per capita terms (adjusted for different price levels using economy-wide purchasing power parities), Austria spent USD 4553 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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