

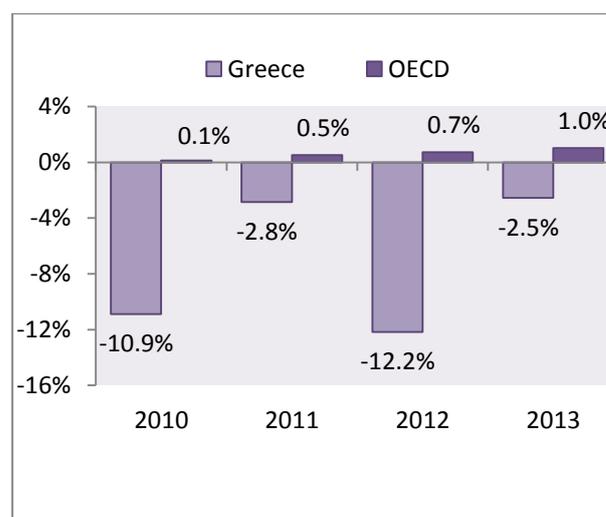
## OECD Health Statistics 2015



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 spending on health in Greece contracted for the fourth year in succession in 2013 leaving health spending 25% below the level in 2009 in real terms.
- ▶ **Share of GDP:** The share of GDP allocated to health spending (excluding capital expenditure) in Greece was 9.2% in 2013, compared with an OECD average of 8.9%. This was up marginally from 2012.
- ▶ **Per capita spending:** Greece spent the equivalent of USD 2366 per person on health in 2013, compared with an OECD average of USD 3453. Public sources accounted for 66% of overall health spending, below the OECD average of 73%.

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



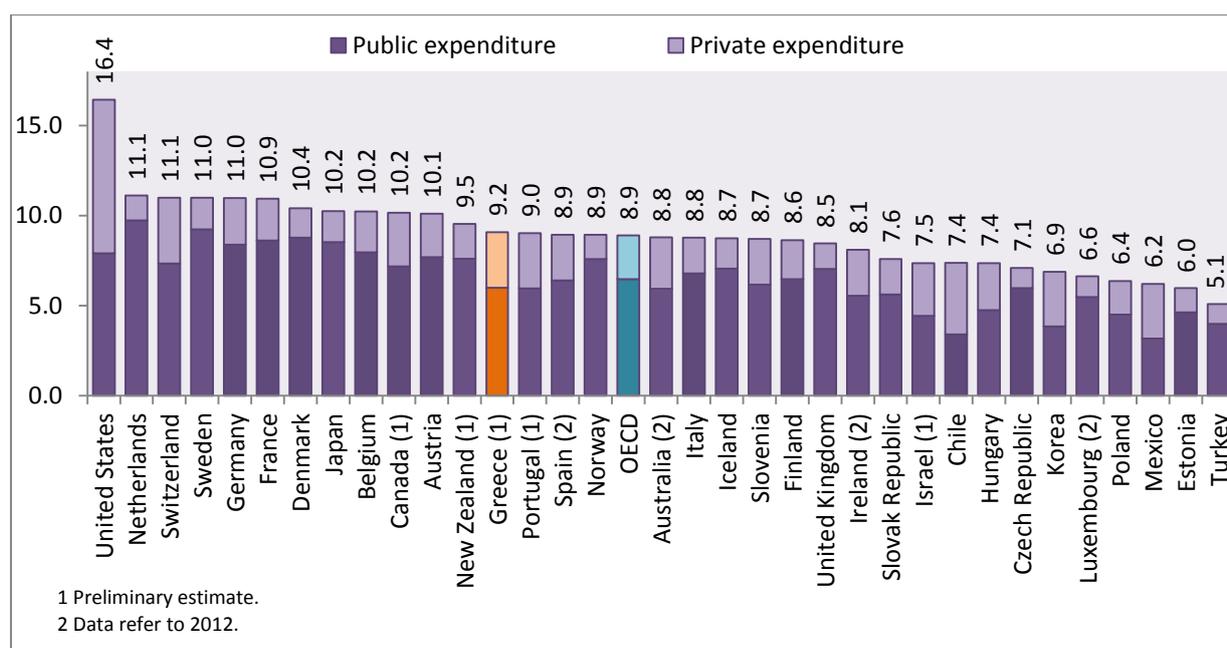
\* Per capita spending in real terms.  
Source: OECD Health Statistics 2015

### Health spending in Greece continues to contract

In 2013, per capita health spending in Greece dropped by a further 2.5% in real terms - the fourth year in succession that overall health expenditure has fallen. The drop was as a result of a 5.9% decrease in government spending on health, which was partly offset by an increase in private out-of-pocket spending. Overall, per capita spending on health in Greece in 2013 was more than 25% below the levels in 2009, in real terms.

In the context of the deep and ongoing economic recession starting in 2008, the Greek health system was one of the priority areas for reforms and cuts in public spending. Annual government spending on health has reduced by more than €5 billion in 2013 compared with 2009 - a reduction of almost a third in real terms. A whole series of changes to entitlement, benefits and user charges as well as structural reforms have left all sectors of the Greek health system affected. The government annual bill for pharmaceuticals alone was cut by €1.8 billion between 2009 and 2013, notably by cutting the prices paid and promoting the use of generics.

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 Greece remains above the OECD average

Health spending in Greece (excluding investment expenditure in the health sector) was 9.2% of GDP in 2013 (Figure 2), above the OECD average of 8.9%. During the 2000s health spending - both public and private - steadily outpaced economic growth leading to a rapidly growing share of GDP, such that by the time of the recession in 2008 the share of GDP on health spending stood at 9.8%. The share of the economy allocated to health spending now is similar to Portugal and Spain, but well below the levels of France and Germany (10.9% and 11.0% respectively).

The share of government spending in Greece as a share of total spending on health has reduced since the onset of the crisis - dropping from around 70% to 66% by 2013. This is below the OECD average of 73% but is similar to the public share in Portugal.

As the government share of spending has been reduced, the burden on private sources of financing - in particular households' has increased as a result of increased user charges for inpatient, outpatient and pharmaceutical services. Out-of-pocket spending in 2013 increased from 28% of overall health spending in 2009 to 31% in 2013. This is higher than other southern European countries such as Italy (22%) and Portugal (28%) and well above western European countries such as France (7%) and Germany (14%).

According to data from the EU-SILC survey, one out of six people from low-income groups in Greece reported some unmet medical care needs for financial or other reasons in 2013. This is amongst the highest proportion in EU countries.

In per capita terms (adjusted for different price levels using economy-wide purchasing power parities), Greece spent USD 2366 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](http://www.oecd.org/health/health-systems/Focus-Health-Spending-2015.pdf)

OECD Health Statistics 2015:  
[www.oecd.org/health/health-data.htm](http://www.oecd.org/health/health-data.htm)

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