

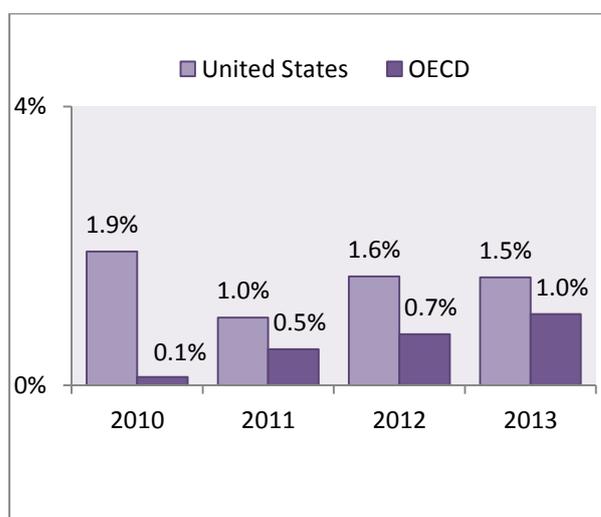
OECD Health Statistics 2015



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 United States increased 1.5% in real terms in 2013. This was above the OECD average growth rate but lower than pre-crisis levels in the United States.
- ▶ **Share of GDP:** The share of GDP allocated to health spending (excluding capital expenditure) in the United States was 16.4% in 2013, compared with an OECD average of 8.9%. This has remained unchanged since 2009 as health spending growth matched economic growth.
- ▶ **Per capita spending:** United States spent the equivalent of USD 8713 per person on health in 2013, compared with an OECD average of USD 3453. Public sources accounted for 48% of overall health spending, compared with an OECD average of 73%.

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



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

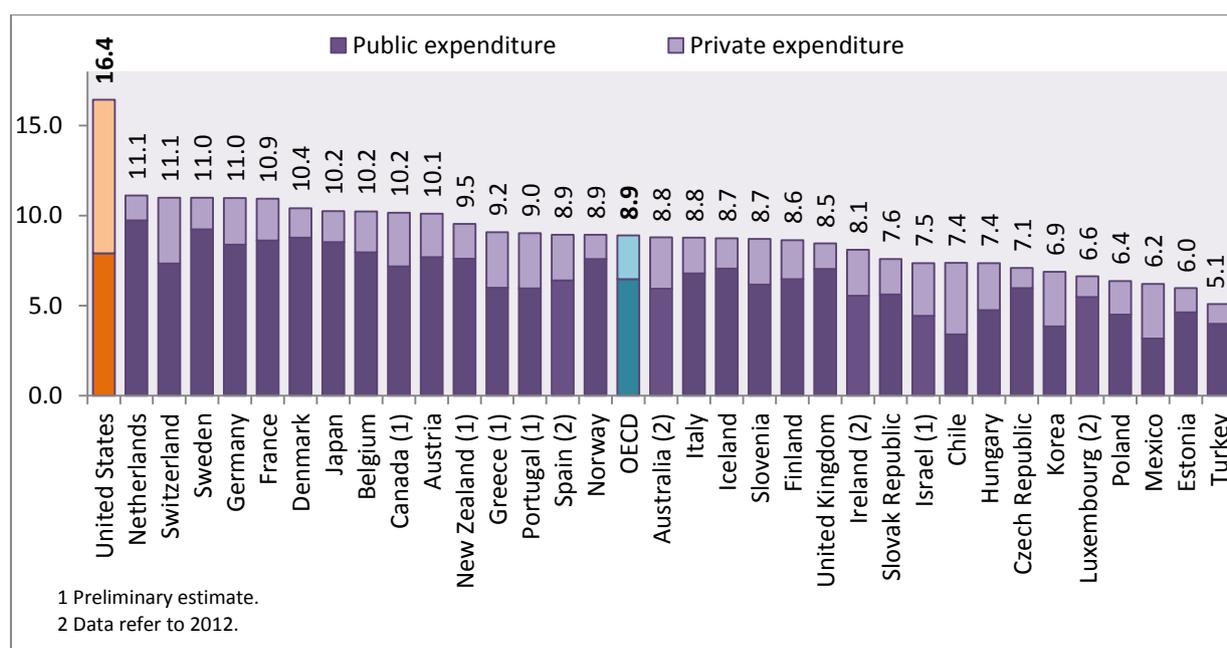
United States health spending grows in line with GDP

In 2013, per capita health spending in the United States increased by 1.5% in real terms - similar to growth in the preceding three years as overall health spending growth has matched economic growth in recent years. This is in contrast to the faster growth recorded in the 2000s when health expenditure grew on average by around 3.6% per year and outpaced economic growth by more than three times.

While overall spending has grown at a slower pace since 2009, expenditure on hospital and specialist care has increased at a faster rate (2.3% and 2.2% respectively). Spending on retail pharmaceuticals (-0.3%) and prevention programmes (-2.0%) has reduced in real terms on average over the same period.

The latest available forecasts from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services point to faster growth from 2014 and after as more Americans gain health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

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 the United States remains an outlier among OECD countries

Health spending in the United States (excluding investment expenditure in the health sector) was 16.4% of GDP in 2013 (Figure 2), well above the OECD average of 8.9% and the next highest spenders - the Netherlands (11.1%), Switzerland (11.1%) and Sweden (11.0%). The share of GDP spent on healthcare has remained unchanged since 2009 and health spending growth has matched economic growth.

The share of government spending in the United States as a share of total spending on health has increased from around 44% in 2000 to above 48% by 2013. Over this period there has been an increase in health coverage for the population - in 2006, Medicare Part D, a voluntary drug benefit programme for seniors and certain disabled persons was introduced.

Along with Chile, the United States is the only OECD reporting a share of public spending on total health spending below 50%. This compares with an OECD average of 73%.

Compared with other OECD countries, private health insurance plays an important role in providing primary health care coverage in the United States - accounting for 35% of all health spending in 2013. The remainder is covered by households' out-of-pocket spending (12%). As insurance coverage (public and private) has increased, the proportion of spending falling directly onto households declined. The overall share is comparable with other G7 countries such as France (7%), Germany (14%) and United Kingdom (10%).

In per capita terms (adjusted for different price levels using economy-wide purchasing power parities), the United States spent USD 8713 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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