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ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI  
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ASOCIACIÓN EUROPEA DE MÉDICOS DE HOSPITALES  
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ASOCIATIA EUROPEANA A MEDICILOR DIN SPITALE

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- [Français Santé : les dépenses continuent de progresser plus rapidement que la croissance économique dans la plupart des pays de l'OCDE \(French\)](#)

### **Health: spending continues to outpace economic growth in most OECD countries**

30/06/2011 - Health spending continues to rise faster than economic growth in most OECD countries, maintaining a trend observed since the 1970s. Health spending reached 9.5% of GDP on average in 2009, the most recent year for which figures are available, up from 8.8% in 2008, according to [OECD Health Data 2011](#). But health spending as a share of GDP is likely to stabilise or fall slightly in 2011. This is due to improving economic growth and lower health spending as governments seek to rein in budget deficits.

While governments must do more to get better value for money from healthcare spending, they must also continue pursuing their long-term goals of having more equitable, responsive and efficient health systems, according to the OECD. The rise in the health spending share of GDP was particularly marked in countries hard hit by the global recession. In Ireland, the percentage of GDP devoted to health increased from 7.7% in 2007 to 9.5% in 2009. In the United Kingdom, it rose from 8.4% in 2007 to 9.8% in 2009.

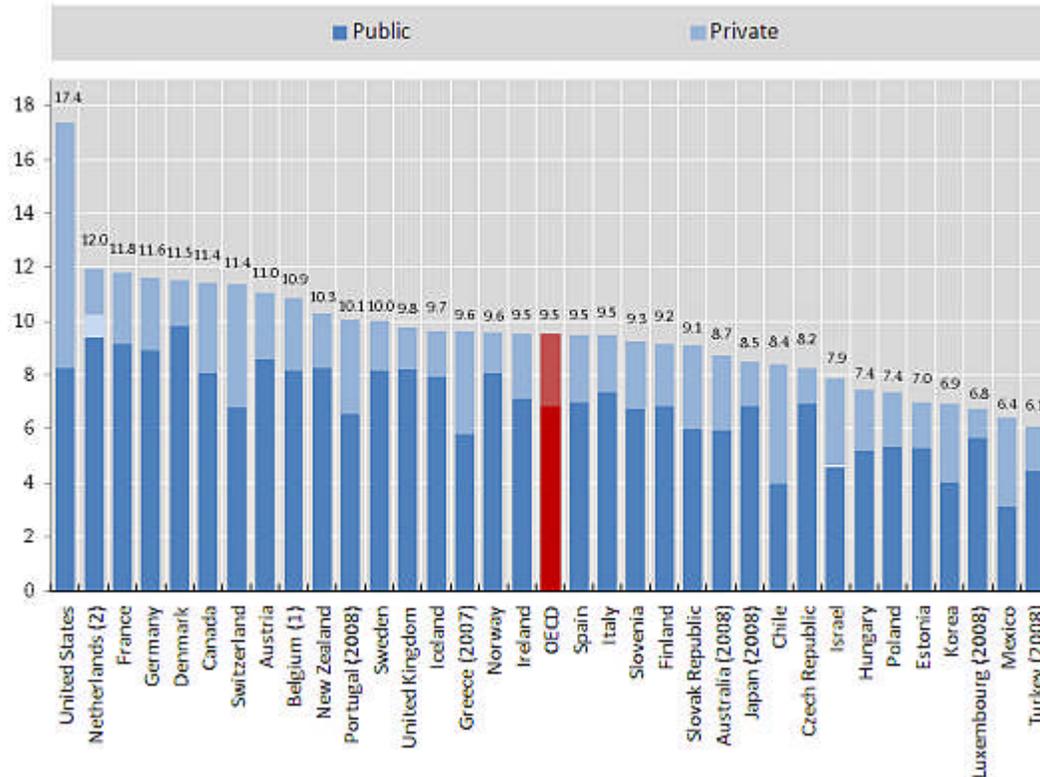
Health spending per capita increased on average across OECD countries by 3.8% in 2008 and 3.5% in 2009. Public spending on health grew even faster, at an average rate of 4.8% in 2008 and 4.1% in 2009. Private spending also continued to increase in most countries, but at a slower pace (1.9% in 2008 and 2.7% in 2009).

#### Variations in health expenditure across countries

In 2009, there were large variations in how much OECD countries spent on health and the health spending share of GDP. The United States continued to outspend all other OECD countries by a wide margin, with spending on health per capita of \$7960. This was two-and-a-half times more than the OECD average of \$3223.

As a share of GDP, the United States spent 17.4% on health in 2009, 5 percentage points more than in the next two countries, the Netherlands and France (which allocated 12.0% and 11.8% of their GDP on health). Norway and Switzerland were the next biggest spenders on health per capita, with spending of more than \$5000 per capita in 2009.

## Total health expenditure as a share of GDP, 2009



[Click here to download the underlying data in Excel](#)

These are some of the short- and long-term trends shown in **OECD Health Data 2011**, the most comprehensive source of comparable statistics on health and health systems across the 34 OECD countries. Covering the period 1960 to 2009, this interactive database can be used for comparative analyses on health status, risk factors to health, health care resources and utilisation, and health expenditure and financing.

OECD Health Data 2011 is available for the first time in OECD.Stat, the statistics portal for all OECD databases.

More information about the database is available at [www.oecd.org/health/healthdata](http://www.oecd.org/health/healthdata).

### OECD Health Data 2011

#### JUST RELEASED

Fully available in [OECD.Stat](#) for the first time

New: See a mini user's guide on [how to create tables in OECD.Stat](#)

*OECD Health Data 2011*, released on 30 June 2011, offers the most comprehensive source of comparable statistics on health and health systems across OECD countries. It is an essential tool for health researchers and policy advisors in governments, the private sector and the academic community, to carry out comparative analyses and draw lessons from international comparisons of diverse health care systems.

- [Frequently Requested Data](#) - A selection of **key indicators** from *OECD Health Data 2011*, June 2011, organised by main themes
- [Briefing notes for the 34 OECD Member countries](#)
- [List of indicators in OECD Health Data 2011](#)  
Access the full list of indicators available in the database, in **English, French, Japanese and Russian**



Online in OECD.Stat: [direct access to the full database](#)

**Also available:**

- [Base de données de l'OCDE sur la santé 2011 \(French\)](#)