

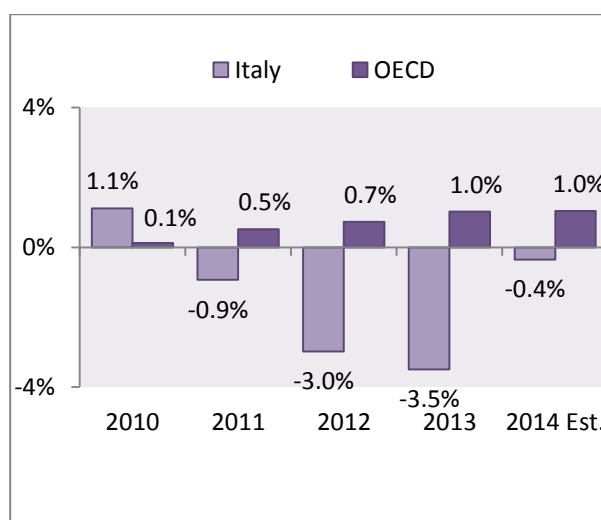
OECD Health Statistics 2015



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:** While average per capita health spending in OECD countries has increased slowly since 2010, spending in Italy has contracted between 2011 and 2014 in real terms.
- ▶ **Share of GDP:** The share of GDP allocated to health spending (excluding capital expenditure) in Italy was 8.8% in 2013, compared with an OECD average of 8.9%. This was unchanged from 2012 and remains below the high of 9.0% in 2010 as GDP also decreased.
- ▶ **Per capita spending:** Italy spent the equivalent of USD 3077 per person on health in 2013, compared with an OECD average of USD 3453. Public sources accounted for 77% of overall health spending, just above the OECD average.

Figure 1. Annual health spending growth*, 2010-2014



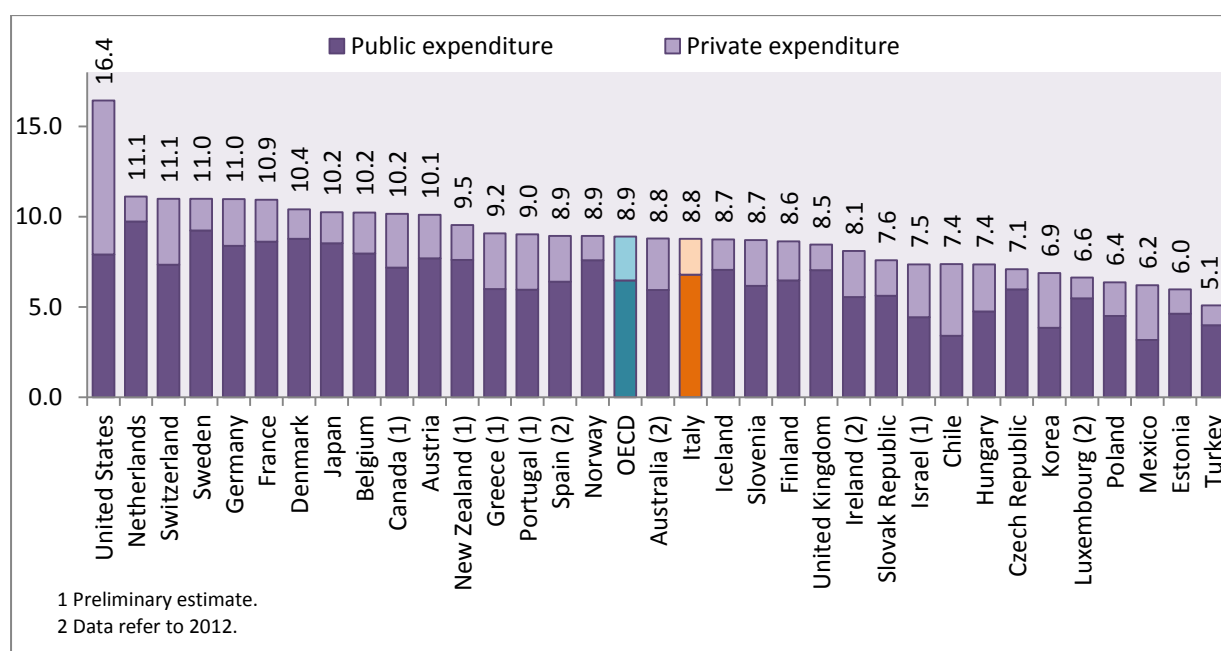
* Per capita spending in real terms
Source: OECD Health Statistics 2015

Health spending in Italy continues to contract

In 2013, per capita health spending in Italy dropped by 3.5% in real terms - the third year in succession that health expenditure has fallen in real terms. Preliminary estimates point to a further contraction of 1.4% in 2014. Both public and private health spending have shown continuous falls since 2011. As a result, per capita spending on health in Italy remains at a level below that prior to the economic crisis.

A number of cost-containment measures have been taken in the wake of the economic crisis to reduce public spending on health. Cuts in pharmaceutical spending, which were already targeted prior to the crisis, have contributed to the overall fall. The share of the generic market has increased, although it remains relatively low in Italy. In 2010: a 12.5% reduction in the retail price of generic drugs was brought in while the following year saw maximum reimbursement prices for generics established in line with prices in Germany, UK, France and Spain.

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 Italy remains just below the OECD average

Health spending in Italy (excluding investment expenditure in the health sector) was 8.8% of GDP in 2013 (Figure 2), slightly below the OECD average of 8.9%. This has increased by 1 percentage point since 2003, mainly because of slow growth in GDP over this ten-year period.

The share of the economy allocated to health spending is similar to Spain, Portugal and Greece, but well below the levels of France and Germany (10.9% and 11.0% respectively).

The share of government spending in Italy as a share of total spending on health has remained relatively constant over the last decade at around 77%. 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%.

Although out-of-pocket spending at 22% of health spending has not increased in recent years, it remains relatively high compared with other western European countries such as France (7%), Germany (14%) and United Kingdom (10%), although still well below some other southern European countries such as Greece (31%) and Portugal (28%).

In per capita terms (adjusted for different price levels using economy-wide purchasing power parities), Italy spent USD 3077 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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