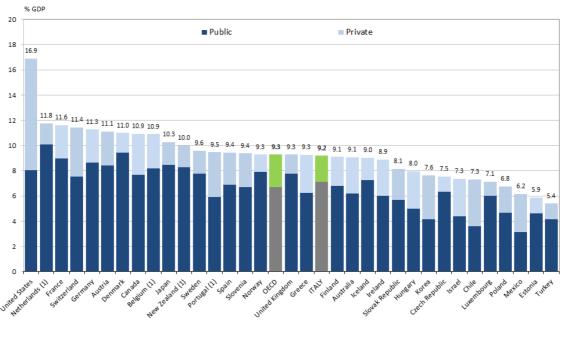


## OECD Health Statistics 2014 How does Italy compare?

Health spending accounted for 9.2% of GDP in **Italy** in 2012, very close to the average of 9.3% in OECD countries. Health spending as a share of GDP is much lower in **Italy** than in the United States (which spent 16.9% of its GDP on health in 2012) and in a number of European countries including the Netherlands, France, Switzerland and Germany. The public sector is the main source of health funding in nearly all OECD countries. In **Italy**, 77% of health spending was funded by public sources in 2012, slightly more than the average of 72% in OECD countries.

Health expenditure, public and private, as a share of GDP, OECD countries, 2012 or latest year

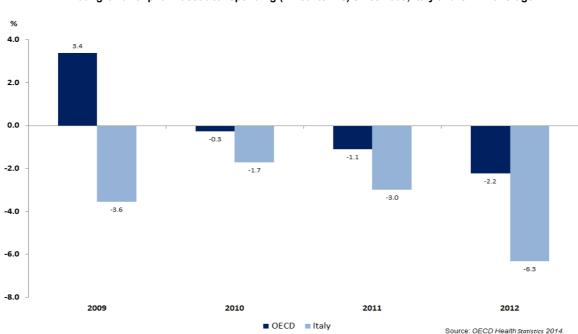


1. Total expenditure excluding capital expenditure

Source: OECD Health Statistics 2014.

As in many other European countries, health spending in **Italy** has fallen in recent years, as part of government efforts to reduce budgetary deficits following the economic crisis. Preliminary estimates suggest that these reductions in health spending have continued at a rate of -3% in real terms in 2013.

In many OECD countries including **Italy**, a reduction in pharmaceutical spending has contributed to the overall reduction in health spending. In **Italy**, pharmaceutical spending has fallen every year since 2009, with a reduction of over 6% in real terms in 2012. Between 2008 and 2012, expenditure for pharmaceuticals has gone down by 14% overall in real terms. Some of this reduction can be attributed to the implementation of tighter pharmaceutical budgets for regions in **Italy** as well as reductions in wholesale and pharmacy margins, and price cuts on generics based on a reference-pricing system. The share of the generic market in **Italy** has increased in recent years (from 6% in 2008 to 9% in 2012), but remains well below that in most other OECD countries.



## Annual growth of pharmaceutical spending (in real terms) since 2009, Italy and OECD average

## Health status and risk factors

In 2012, life expectancy at birth in **Italy** was 82.3 years, more than two years longer than the OECD average (80.2 years). Only Japan, Iceland, Switzerland and Spain registered a higher life expectancy than **Italy** in 2012.

Italy has achieved some progress in reducing tobacco consumption, with the percentage of daily smokers among adults coming down from 24.4% in 2000 to 22.1% in 2012. But other countries have made greater progress, which means that smoking rates in Italy are now slightly higher than the OECD average of 20.7%. Some of the Nordic countries (Sweden, Norway, Iceland), the United States and Australia, for instance, have reduced smoking rates among adults to less than 16%.

Obesity rates among adults have increased very modestly in **Italy** over the past decade, compared with other OECD countries. Rates went up from 8.6% in 2000 to 10.4% in 2012, based on self-reported height and weight. The growing prevalence of obesity in OECD countries foreshadows increases in the occurrence of health problems (such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases) and higher health care costs in the future.

## Key facts for Italy from OECD Health Statistics 2014

	Italy		OECD average		Rank among OECD
	2012	2000	2012	2000	countries*
Health status					
Life expectancy at birth (years)	82.3	79.9	80.2	77.1	5 out of 34
Life expectancy at birth, men (years)	79.8	76.9	77.5	74.0	7 out of 34
Life expectancy at birth, women (years)	84.8	82.8	82.8	80.2	5 out of 34
Life expectancy at 65, men (years)	18.5	16.7	17.7	15.6	10 out of 34
Life expectancy at 65, women (years)	22.1	20.7	20.9	19.1	5 out of 34
Mortality from cardiovascular diseases (age-standardised rates per 100 000 pop.)  Mortality from cancer	256.0	(2010) 373.6	296.4	428.5	18 out of 34
(age-standardised rates per 100 000 pop.)	216.4	(2010) 244.7	213.1	242.5	13 out of 34
Risk factors to health (behavioural)					
Tobacco consumption among adults (% daily smokers)	22.1	24.4	20.7	26.0	12 out of 34
Alcohol consumption among adults (liters per capita)	6.1	(2010) 9.3	9.0	9.5	31 out of 34
Obesity rates among adults, self-reported (%)	10.4	8.6	15.4	11.9	26 out of 29
Obesity rates among adults, measured (%)			22.7	18.7	
Health expenditure					
Health expenditure as a % GDP	9.2	7.9	9.3	7.7	19 out of 34
Health expenditure per capita (US\$ PPP)	3209	2030	3484	1888	19 out of 34
Pharmaceutical expenditure per capita (US\$ PPP)	514	441	498	300	15 out of 33
Pharmaceutical expenditure (% health expenditure)	16.9	22.7	15.9	17.9	14 out of 33
Public expenditure on health (% health expenditure)	77.3	74.2	72.3	71.4	13 out of 34
Out-of-pocket payments for health care (% health expenditure)	18.8	23.1	19.0	20.5	13 out of 34
Health care resources					
Number of doctors (per 1000 population)	3.9		3.2	2.7	8 out of 34
Number of nurses (per 1000 population)	6.4		8.8	7.5	22 out of 34
Hospital beds (per 1000 population)	3.4	4.7	4.8	5.6	20 out of 34

<sup>\*</sup>Note: Countries are ranked in descending order of values.

More information on *OECD Health Statistics 2014* is available at <a href="https://www.oecd.org/health/healthdata">www.oecd.org/health/healthdata</a>. For more information on OECD's work on <a href="https://www.oecd.org/italy">taly</a>.