

GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PER CAPITA

Governments spend money to provide goods and services and redistribute income. To finance these activities governments raise money in the form of revenues (e.g. taxation) and/or borrowing. The amount of revenues collected or the expenditures spent per capita are two ways of comparing the size of government across countries. Variations across countries however can also reflect different approaches to the delivery of public services (e.g. such as the use of tax breaks rather than direct expenditures). Additionally, both revenues and expenditures are heavily influenced by economic fluctuations. The recent global and financial crisis had a strong negative impact on government revenues in many OECD countries.

Definition

The general government sector consists of central, state and local governments and the social security funds controlled by these units. Data are based on the 1993 *System of National Accounts* or on the 1995 *European System of Accounts* so that all countries are using a common set of definitions. The underlying population estimates are based on the *System of National Accounts* notion of residency. They

include persons who are resident in a country for one year or more, regardless of their citizenship, and also include foreign diplomatic personnel, and defence personnel; together with their families and students studying and patients seeking treatment abroad, even if they stay abroad for more than one year. The “one year” rule means that usual residents who live abroad for less than one year are included in the population, while foreign visitors (for example, vacationers) who are in the country for less than one year are excluded.

Comparability

Differences in the amounts of government revenues and expenditures per capita in some countries can be related to the fact that individuals may feature as employees of one country (contributing to the GDP of that country via production), but residents of another (with their wages and salaries reflected in the Gross National Income of their resident country). Data for Australia, Chile, Korea, New Zealand and the Russian Federation refer to 2009 rather than 2010. The OECD average does not include Chile, Japan and Turkey in the time series data. Data for Mexico and the Russian Federation refer to 2003 and 2002 respectively rather than 2001. Data for Turkey are for 2006 rather than 2005.

Overview

On average in the OECD area, governments collected about USD 14 000 per capita in revenues in 2010, while spending nearly USD 16 000 per capita in the same year.

Luxembourg and Norway collected the most government revenues per capita in the OECD, topping more than USD 30 000 per capita, and reflecting the importance of cross-border workers and corporate taxes in Luxembourg and oil revenues in Norway. These two countries, and Ireland, also spent the most per citizen (above USD 25 000) in terms of government expenditures.

The governments of Turkey, Mexico and Chile collected the least revenues per capita; below USD 6 000 in 2010. Likewise, government expenditures in these countries were also much lower than average (close to or below USD 6 000 per capita). In general, central European countries also collect comparatively less revenues per capita, and also spend less than most OECD countries. All countries except one (Israel) experienced increases in government revenues and expenditures per capita between 2001 and 2010. In real terms, over the period 2001-10 Ireland recorded an annual growth in government expenditures per capita of 9% followed by Estonia and Korea (both over 5%). During this same period, the latter two countries top also on real annual growth of revenues collected per person (about 5%).

Sources

- OECD (2012), *Government at a Glance*, OECD Publishing.

Further information

Analytical publications

- OECD (2011), *Making the Most of Public Investment in a Tight Fiscal Environment: Multi-level Governance Lessons from the Crisis*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2011), *Value for Money in Government*, OECD Publishing.

Statistical publications

- OECD (2012), *National Accounts at a Glance*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2012), *National Accounts of OECD Countries*, OECD Publishing.

Online databases

- “General Government Accounts: Main aggregates”, OECD National Accounts Statistics.
- “National Accounts at a Glance”, OECD National Accounts Statistics.

Websites

- Government at a Glance (supplementary material), www.oecd.org/gov/indicators/govataglance.



GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PER CAPITA

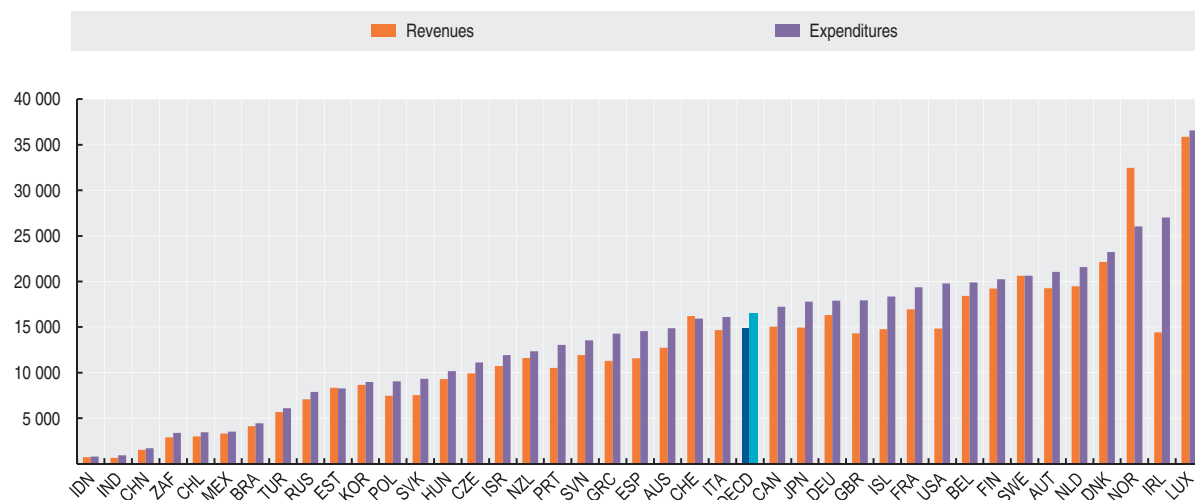
General government revenues and expenditures per capita

US dollars, current prices and PPPs

	General government revenues per capita				General government expenditures per capita			
	2001	2005	2007	2010	2001	2005	2007	2010
Australia	10 174	12 389	13 600	12 725	10 212	11 839	13 016	14 865
Austria	14 832	16 207	18 126	19 264	14 888	16 813	18 504	21 056
Belgium	14 110	15 861	17 172	18 413	14 010	16 705	17 206	19 885
Canada	12 508	14 340	15 632	15 051	12 315	13 797	15 092	17 221
Chile	..	..	3 711	3 003	..	..	3 231	3 479
Czech Republic	6 449	8 457	10 262	9 926	7 390	9 147	10 448	11 135
Denmark	16 297	19 190	20 976	22 140	15 949	17 524	19 165	23 226
Estonia	3 714	5 822	7 849	8 333	3 721	5 554	7 333	8 280
Finland	14 081	16 287	19 070	19 224	12 734	15 473	17 155	20 263
France	13 308	14 956	16 525	16 936	13 748	15 832	17 437	19 364
Germany	11 895	13 560	15 554	16 309	12 716	14 597	15 473	17 910
Greece	8 139	9 487	11 308	11 287	9 024	10 859	13 186	14 271
Hungary	5 853	7 159	8 627	9 283	6 407	8 505	9 598	10 163
Iceland	12 757	16 496	17 720	14 777	12 966	14 783	15 712	18 362
Ireland	10 454	13 778	16 656	14 412	10 163	13 130	16 628	27 020
Israel	11 095	10 364	11 455	10 723	12 563	11 486	11 775	11 933
Italy	12 144	12 280	14 759	14 682	13 014	13 551	15 269	16 110
Japan	..	12 646	14 350	14 951	..	14 111	15 047	17 775
Korea	5 130	6 828	8 721	8 678	4 342	6 058	7 501	8 988
Luxembourg	23 853	28 391	33 780	35 850	20 560	28 388	30 667	36 586
Mexico	2 087	2 425	2 893	3 323	2 080	2 377	2 963	3 545
Netherlands	13 883	15 628	18 507	19 483	13 961	15 727	18 441	21 591
New Zealand	8 496	10 696	12 360	11 622	8 170	9 528	11 107	12 364
Norway	21 297	27 077	32 208	32 445	16 358	19 913	22 539	26 043
Poland	4 219	5 427	6 755	7 470	4 796	5 989	7 070	9 032
Portugal	7 097	8 563	9 959	10 532	7 987	9 950	10 736	13 035
Slovak Republic	4 580	5 688	6 763	7 527	5 366	6 143	7 142	9 312
Slovenia	7 994	10 282	11 549	11 914	8 723	10 633	11 561	13 532
Spain	8 605	10 875	13 259	11 569	8 728	10 528	12 639	14 548
Sweden	15 837	18 247	20 984	20 616	15 390	17 611	19 606	20 637
Switzerland	11 122	12 261	14 537	16 207	11 164	12 512	13 817	15 931
Turkey	..	4 350	4 582	5 681	..	4 253	4 793	6 088
United Kingdom	11 207	13 313	14 703	14 323	11 073	14 432	15 675	17 934
United States	12 350	14 045	15 759	14 827	12 545	15 405	17 033	19 780
EU 27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
OECD	10 825	12 786	14 775	14 835	10 744	12 735	14 242	16 578
Brazil	2 493	3 077	3 526	4 145	2 685	3 381	3 792	4 463
China	395	706	1 098	1 524	469	763	1 048	1 697
India	273	418	594	643	439	565	708	957
Indonesia	490	617	712	741	558	597	750	794
Russian Federation	3 333	4 751	6 832	7 090	3 387	4 039	5 898	7 897
South Africa	1 704	2 323	2 940	2 894	1 784	2 323	2 790	3 405

 StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932709890>
General government revenues and expenditures per capita

US dollars, current prices and PPPs, 2010


 StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932709900>



From:
OECD Factbook 2013
Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics

Access the complete publication at:
<https://doi.org/10.1787/factbook-2013-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2013), "General government expenditures and revenues per capita", in *OECD Factbook 2013: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/factbook-2013-84-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to rights@oecd.org. Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at info@copyright.com or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at contact@cfcopies.com.