

LAW, ORDER AND DEFENCE EXPENDITURE

Two essential tasks of every government are to protect its citizens from external aggression and maintain law and public order within its frontiers.

Definition

Data on public expenditures on law, order and defence are taken from national accounts sources, compiled according to the Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG). These data cover all expenditures, whether current or capital, undertaken by general government.

Law and order covers expenditure for police forces, intelligence services, prisons and other correctional facilities, the judicial system, and ministries of internal affairs. Defence expenditures are those related to military and civil defence, military aid in the form of grants (in cash or in kind), loans (including equipment) and contributions to international peacekeeping forces, and research and development expenditures related to defence.

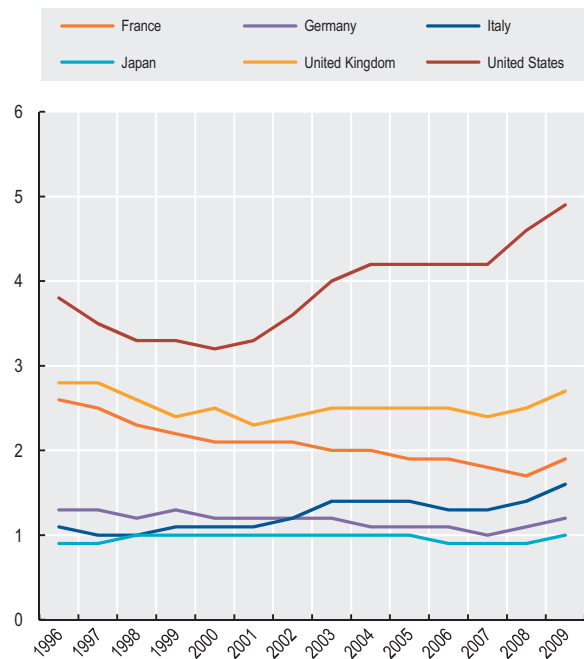
Comparability

National accounts data conform to the definitions of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) and are broadly comparable across countries.

In the case of Japan, expenditure data on law, order and defence refer to fiscal years whereas GDP refers to calendar year. Data for New Zealand refer to fiscal years. Data for Australia are based on the 2008 SNA.

Public expenditure on defence

As a percentage of GDP



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932507217>

Overview

In 2009 – the latest year for which most countries can supply data – public expenditure on defence, as a share of GDP, was highest in Israel, the United States, Greece and Korea and lowest in Iceland, Luxembourg, Ireland, Austria, Hungary and Switzerland who spent less than 1% of GDP on defence. For the majority of OECD countries these shares have been either falling or have remained steady since 2003 (the earliest data point presented in the table).

For public order and safety, in 2009 – the latest year for which most countries can supply data – the United Kingdom, the Slovak Republic, Estonia, the United States, Portugal, the Czech Republic and Spain recorded a ratio above 2% of GDP. At the other end of the spectrum, Luxembourg, and Norway, at 1% of GDP, spent the lowest amount.

Sources

- OECD (2011), *National Accounts of OECD Countries*, OECD Publishing.

Further information

Analytical publications

- OECD (2004), *The Security Economy*, OECD Publishing.

Statistical publications

- OECD (2011), *National Accounts at a Glance*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2011), *National Accounts of OECD Countries, General Government Accounts*, OECD Publishing.

Methodological publications

- United Nations, OECD, International Monetary Fund and Eurostat (eds.) (2010), *System of National Accounts 2008*, United Nations, Geneva.


Online databases

- OECD National Accounts Statistics.

Public expenditure on law, order and defence

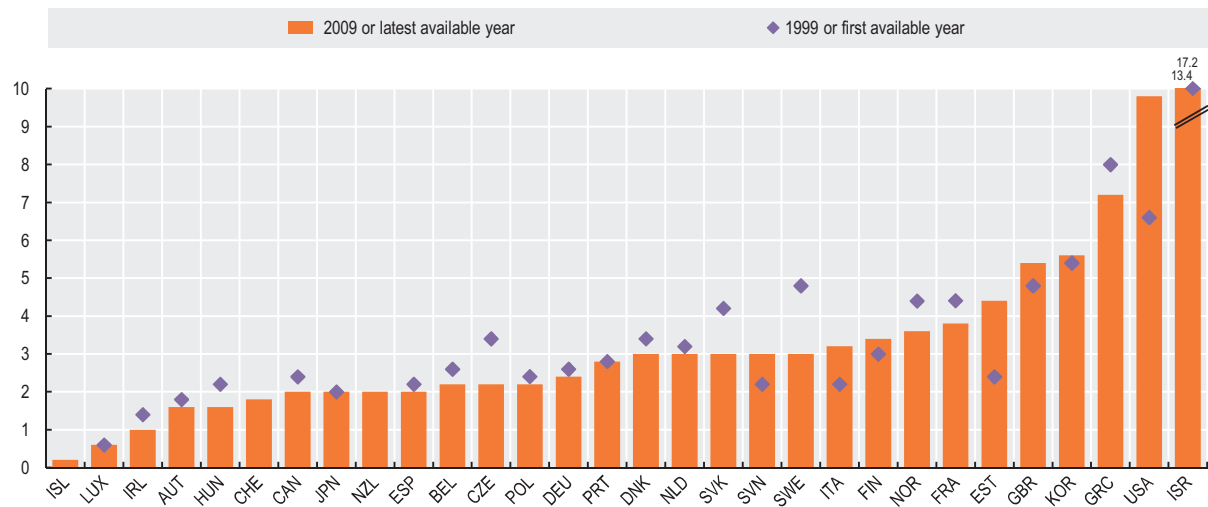

As a percentage of GDP

	Defence							Public order and safety						
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Austria	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.8	..	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.6	..
Belgium	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	..	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9	..
Canada	1.0	1.1	1.0	..	..	..	..	1.6	1.6	1.6	..	..	..	..
Czech Republic	1.4	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	..	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	..
Denmark	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.1
Estonia	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.7	2.2	..	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.7	2.4	..
Finland	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.7	..	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.5	..
France	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.9	..	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	..
Germany	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.2	..	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	..
Greece	3.2	2.9	2.6	2.7	3.1	3.6	..	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.9	..
Hungary	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	0.9	0.8	..	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.0	..
Iceland	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	..	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	..
Ireland	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	..	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.0	..
Israel	8.1	8.0	8.0	7.5	7.3	6.7	..	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	..
Italy	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.6	..	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0	..
Japan	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	..	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	..
Korea	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.8	..	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	..
Luxembourg	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0
Netherlands	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.5	..	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.0	..
New Zealand	1.1	1.0	..	..	..	..	..	1.6	1.9	..	..	..	..	..
Norway	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.8	..	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	..
Poland	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.1	..	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	..
Portugal	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.4	..	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.2	..
Slovak Republic	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.5	..	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.6	..
Slovenia	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	..	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7	..
Spain	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	..	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	..
Sweden	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.5	..	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	..
Switzerland	..	..	..	0.9	0.9	0.9	..	..	..	..	1.6	1.6	1.7	..
United Kingdom	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.7	..	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.8	..
United States	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.6	4.9	..	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3	..

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Public expenditure on law, order and defence

As a percentage of GDP

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