

## 3. GDP per capita

- GDP per capita for the OECD as a whole was USD 37 010 in 2012. Four countries recorded GDP per capita in excess of USD 50 000 in 2012 – Luxembourg, Norway, Switzerland, and the United States.
- In 2012, 19 countries had a GDP per capita below OECD total. GDP per capita for Turkey and Mexico was about half the level of the OECD total.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is a core indicator of economic performance and commonly used as a broad measure of average living standards or economic well-being; despite some recognised shortcomings.

For example average GDP per capita gives no indication of how GDP is distributed between citizens. Average GDP per capita may rise, for example, but more people may be worse off if income inequalities also increase.

Equally, in some countries (see “Comparability”), there may be a significant number of non-resident border or seasonal workers or inflows and outflows of property income and both phenomena imply that the value of production differs from the income of residents, thereby over or under-stating their living standards.

A full discussion of these issues can be found in the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Report (see “Further reading”).

### Definition

The definition for GDP is described in Section 1 and population estimates are described in the “Reader’s guide”.

A focus on per capita GDP is also useful in decomposing drivers of overall GDP growth. For example real GDP can grow without there being any improvement in real GDP per capita. Decomposing per capita growth into two parts, labour productivity growth (measured as GDP per hour worked) and labour utilisation growth (measured as hours worked per capita) is also helpful in this context.

### Comparability

The comparability of population and GDP estimates across countries is good (see Section 1). However, some care is needed in interpretation, for example Luxembourg and, to a lesser extent, Switzerland have a relatively large number of frontier workers. Such workers contribute to GDP but are excluded from the population figures, which is one of the reasons why cross-country comparisons of income per capita based on gross or net national income (GNI and NNI) are often preferred, see second chapter on Income. (See also “Reader’s guide”, relating to PPP based comparisons.)

In China, GDP refers to producers’ prices.

### Source

OECD (2013), *National Accounts of OECD Countries*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/2221433x>.

### Online database

OECD (2013), “Aggregate National Accounts: Gross domestic product”, *OECD National Accounts Statistics* (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/data-00001-en>.

### Further reading

Lequiller, F. and D. Blades (2007), *Understanding National Accounts*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264027657-en>.

OECD (2002), *Measuring the Non-Observed Economy: A Handbook*, International Labour Office/International Monetary Fund/International Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, OECD Publishing, Paris, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264175358-en>.

Report of the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress (Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Report), [www.stiglitz-sen-fitoussi.fr/en/index.htm](http://www.stiglitz-sen-fitoussi.fr/en/index.htm).

Information on data for Israel: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932315602>.

Table 3.1. Gross domestic product per capita, current prices and current PPPs

US dollars

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Australia	26 779	27 939	29 146	30 327	31 870	33 332	35 005	37 039	38 862	39 165	40 613	41 645	43 208	44 407 e
Austria	27 186	28 939	29 061	30 463	31 337	32 841	33 637	36 618	38 048	39 856	39 375	40 535	42 978	44 141
Belgium	25 364	27 697	28 560	30 054	30 311	31 176	32 204	34 284	35 619	37 035	36 927	38 273	40 093	40 838
Canada	27 138	28 509	29 364	29 911	31 278	32 826	35 106	36 926	38 324	38 985	37 692	38 917	40 220 e	41 150 e
Chile	8 995	9 544	9 969	10 280	10 762	11 705	12 690	15 273	16 504	16 171	15 925	18 295	20 216	21 486
Czech Republic	14 782	15 564	16 854	17 578	18 780	20 072	21 268	23 288	25 423	25 872	25 875	25 835	27 046	27 522
Denmark	26 926	28 860	29 469	30 756	30 448	32 275	33 196	36 080	37 672	39 841	38 635	40 927	41 843	42 787
Estonia	8 752	9 875	10 704	11 967	13 379	14 746	16 531	19 163	21 554	22 061	19 948	20 470	23 088	24 260
Finland	23 613	25 700	26 564	27 531	27 633	29 849	30 708	33 169	36 119	38 080	35 874	36 586	38 611	39 207
France	23 612	25 275	26 644	27 676	27 299	28 172	29 554	31 454	33 100	34 167	34 111	34 894	36 391	36 933
Germany	24 994	25 794	26 740	27 446	28 371	29 671	31 117	33 581	35 511	37 115	35 973	38 320	40 990	41 923
Greece	16 877 e	18 267 e	19 769 e	21 401 e	22 511 e	23 850 e	24 348	26 792	27 720	29 604	29 475	27 999	26 623	25 586
Hungary	11 059	11 896	13 410	14 669	15 353	16 180	16 975	18 314	18 907	20 430	20 441	21 135	22 413	22 635
Iceland	28 632	28 879	30 476	31 084	30 795	33 716	34 992	35 863	37 122	39 477	37 680	36 637	38 224	39 097
Ireland	25 965	28 904	30 658	33 117	34 703	36 648	38 761	42 300	44 932	42 133	40 230	41 131	42 943	43 803
Israel	21 312	23 354	23 282	23 441	22 161	23 457	23 210	23 849	25 460	25 463	25 755	26 869	28 468	29 349
Italy	24 345	25 784	27 310	26 942	27 288	27 516	28 280	30 426	32 013	33 372	32 519	32 887	33 870	34 143
Japan	24 600	25 919	26 564	27 251	27 962	29 384	30 446	31 797	33 320	33 500	31 875	33 760	34 262	35 622 e
Korea	15 601	17 212	18 171	19 656	20 187	21 617	22 783	24 288	26 084	26 689	26 338	28 210	29 035	30 011
Luxembourg	48 976	53 625	53 911	57 469	60 629	64 843	68 211	78 512	84 301	84 298	79 027	83 974	88 668	89 417
Mexico	9 259 e	10 051 e	10 145 e	10 396 e	10 886	11 526	12 461	13 775	14 487	15 267	14 869	15 726	17 125 e	17 952 e
Netherlands	26 933	29 444	30 821	31 943	31 724	33 182	35 111	38 122	40 681	42 929	41 382	41 587	43 150	43 348
New Zealand	20 321	21 262	22 217	22 962	23 607	24 725	25 387	27 252	28 772	29 075	30 010	30 246	31 487	32 847 e
Norway	29 800	36 173	37 131	37 052	38 286	42 460	47 640	53 893	55 799	61 332	55 317	57 742	61 897	66 135
Poland	9 996	10 581	10 962	11 563	11 993	13 004	13 786	15 090	16 736	18 025	18 972	20 208	21 753	22 783
Portugal	16 744	17 815	18 530	19 146	19 467	19 845	21 369	22 988	24 169	24 939	25 125	25 713	25 672	25 802
Slovak Republic	10 407	10 995	12 084	12 966	13 607	14 647	16 175	18 399	20 848	23 214	22 761	23 790	25 130	25 848
Slovenia	16 707	17 572	18 461	19 759	20 528	22 257	23 472	25 466	27 206	29 037	27 023	27 004	28 156	28 482
Spain	19 815	21 336	22 606	24 068	24 770	25 945	27 392	30 433	32 190	33 131	32 251	31 640	32 156	32 551
Sweden	25 976	27 985	28 261	29 278	30 439	32 479	32 701	35 734	38 427	39 613	37 605	39 567	41 761	42 874
Switzerland	30 626	32 436	33 103	34 354	34 265	35 577	36 648	40 572	44 303	47 552	46 970	48 733	51 582	53 641
Turkey	8 171	9 183	8 623	8 667	8 796	10 159	11 394	12 911	13 884	15 021	14 550	16 003	17 781	18 315 e
United Kingdom	24 501	26 389	27 875	29 048	30 101	32 032	33 318	35 580	36 249	36 588	35 103	34 524	35 091	35 671
United States	34 603	36 437	37 252	38 132	39 612	41 864	44 242	46 376	47 996	48 336	46 927	48 287	49 782	51 689
Euro area	23 183	24 610	25 804	26 608	27 045	28 045	29 314	31 704	33 473	34 805	34 041	34 872	36 325	36 847
OECD-Total	23 331 e	24 765 e	25 553 e	26 307 e	27 098 e	28 560 e	30 057	32 047	33 557	34 339	33 436	34 580	35 919 e	37 010 e
China	2 145	2 357	2 593	2 856	3 189	3 589	4 102	4 748	5 550	6 186	6 781	7 526	8 397	9 059
India	..	..	..	..	..	2 048	2 276	2 530	2 819	2 928	3 222	..	..	..
Indonesia	2 454 e	2 421	2 531	2 650	2 796	2 978	3 207	3 448	3 724	3 985	4 152	4 336	..	..
Russian Federation	5 908 e	6 818 e	7 360 e	8 029	9 255	10 232	11 822	14 917	16 649	20 164	19 367	20 475	22 502	..
South Africa	6 462	6 762	6 995	7 272	7 545	8 007	8 601	9 261	9 938	10 403	10 216	10 553	11 028	..


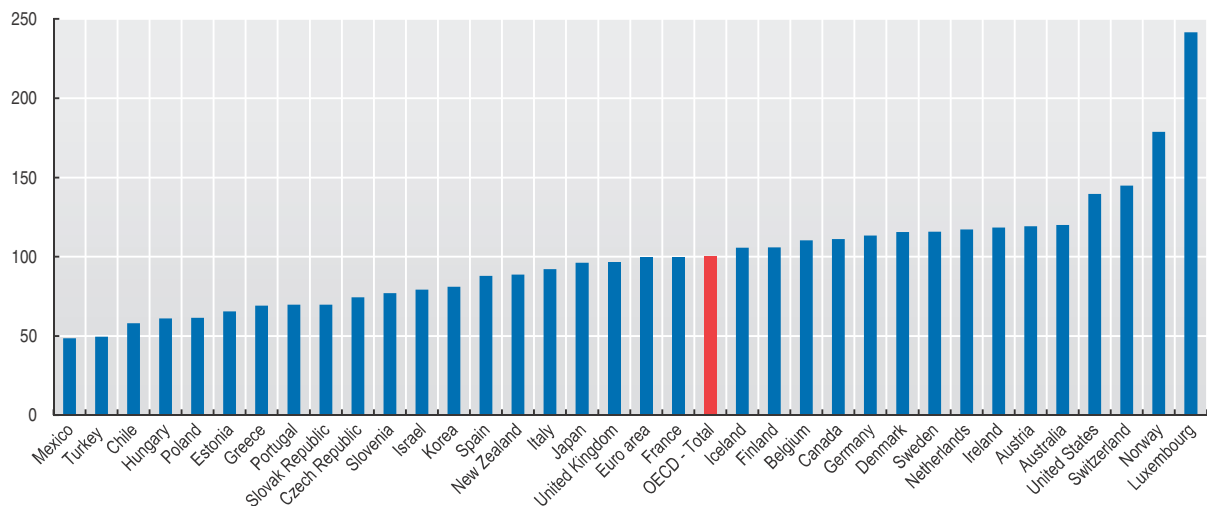

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Figure 3.1. Gross domestic product per capita, OECD = 100

Based on current PPPs, 2012



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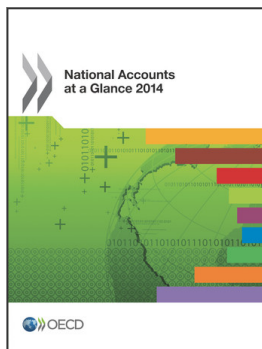
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## INCOME

4. National income
5. Real measures of income
6. Saving rate
7. Net lending/net borrowing



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