

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 and expenditures per capita provide an indication of the importance of the public sector in the economy 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 global financial crisis had a strong impact on government revenues and expenditures in many OECD countries.

Definition

Data are derived from the *OECD Annual National Accounts*, which are based on the *System of National Accounts (SNA)*, a set of internationally agreed concepts, definitions, classifications and rules for national accounting. The general government sector consists of central, state and local governments and the social security funds controlled by these units. The underlying population estimates are based on the SNA 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 Canada, New Zealand and the Russian Federation refer to 2010 rather than 2011. The OECD average does not include Chile and Turkey. Data for Japan and Mexico for 2001 are estimated. Data for the Russian Federation refer to 2002 rather than 2001.

Overview

On average in the OECD area, governments collected about USD 15 000 PPP per capita in revenues in 2011, while spending around USD 16 000 PPP 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 PPP per capita, and reflecting the importance of cross-border workers and corporate taxes in Luxembourg and oil revenues in Norway. These two countries also spent the most per citizen (above USD 25 000 PPP) in terms of government expenditures.

The governments of Turkey and Mexico collected the least revenues per capita; below USD 7 000 PPP in 2011. Likewise, government expenditures in these countries were also much lower than average (below USD 7 000 PPP per capita). In general, central European countries also collect comparatively less revenues per capita, and also spend less than most OECD countries.

All countries experienced increases in government revenues and expenditures per capita between 2001 and 2011. In real terms, over the period 2001-11 Korea recorded an annual growth in government expenditures per capita of 6% followed by Estonia (5%). During this same period, these two countries also top real annual growth of revenues collected per person (about 5%).

Sources

- OECD (2013), *Government at a Glance*, OECD Publishing.

Further information

Analytical publications

- OECD (2013), *OECD Economic Outlook*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2011), *Making the Most of Public Investment in a Tight Fiscal Environment: Multi-level Governance Lessons from the Crisis*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2013), *Value for Money in Government*, OECD Publishing.

Statistical publications

- OECD (2013), *National Accounts at a Glance*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2013), *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/govataglance.htm.



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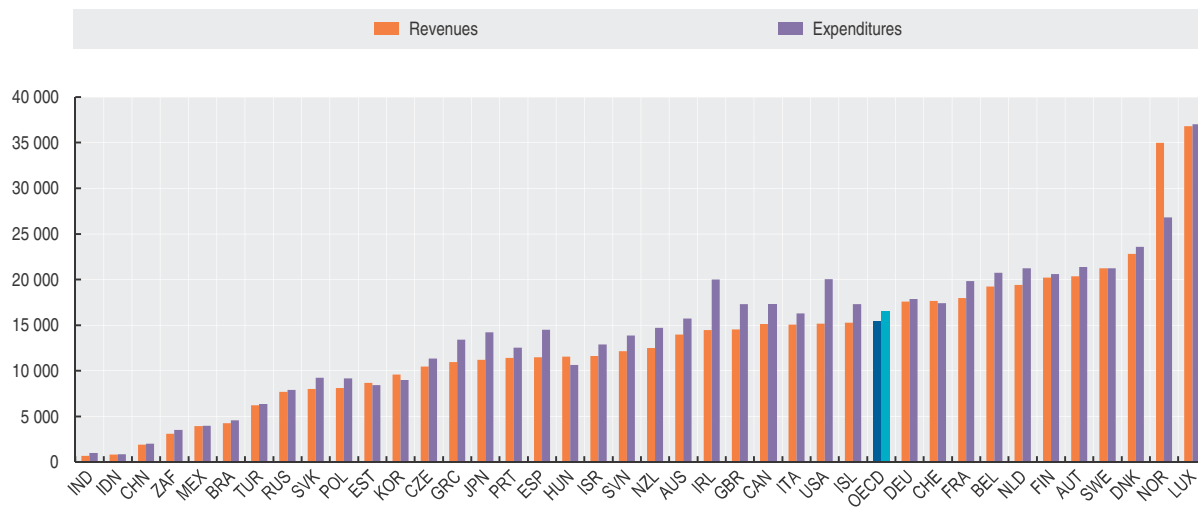
General government revenues and expenditures per capita

US dollars, current prices and PPPs

	General government revenues per capita				General government expenditures per capita			
	2001	2007	2009	2011	2001	2007	2009	2011
Australia	10 057	13 347	12 846	13 955	10 228	13 153	15 315	15 742
Austria	14 838	18 129	18 915	20 348	14 894	18 507	20 524	21 381
Belgium	14 115	17 163	17 595	19 240	14 015	17 197	19 658	20 748
Canada	12 508	15 632	14 922	15 053	12 315	15 092	16 769	17 223
Chile	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Czech Republic	6 451	10 257	9 971	10 477	7 392	10 442	11 454	11 330
Denmark	16 303	20 964	21 176	22 799	15 955	19 155	22 235	23 598
Estonia	3 715	7 845	8 468	8 680	3 722	7 330	8 854	8 422
Finland	14 086	19 060	18 981	20 205	12 726	17 130	19 946	20 588
France	13 312	16 516	16 629	17 965	13 753	17 427	19 185	19 843
Germany	11 899	15 546	16 087	17 580	12 721	15 465	17 183	17 879
Greece	8 158	11 302	11 196	10 950	9 043	13 177	15 754	13 424
Hungary	5 855	8 623	9 497	11 537	6 409	9 592	10 419	10 637
Iceland	12 761	17 710	15 309	15 270	12 970	15 703	19 023	17 314
Ireland	10 459	16 521	13 758	14 474	10 168	16 488	19 251	19 994
Israel	11 037	11 436	10 133	11 621	12 534	11 844	11 868	12 899
Italy	12 149	14 751	14 965	15 075	13 018	15 260	16 713	16 278
Japan	8 429	11 234	10 454	11 195	9 610	11 931	13 251	14 217
Korea	5 130	8 695	8 521	9 582	4 342	7 479	8 826	9 000
Luxembourg	23 829	33 699	34 738	36 809	20 540	30 593	35 375	37 013
Mexico	1 927	2 895	3 336	3 954	1 925	2 966	3 475	3 972
Netherlands	13 888	18 497	18 794	19 409	13 966	18 431	21 082	21 229
New Zealand	8 488	12 352	11 865	12 487	8 163	11 093	12 692	14 707
Norway	21 305	32 190	31 100	34 987	16 364	22 527	25 328	26 812
Poland	4 220	6 751	6 993	8 120	4 798	7 066	8 385	9 173
Portugal	7 099	9 953	9 856	11 406	7 990	10 730	12 388	12 522
Slovak Republic	4 582	6 759	7 562	8 023	5 368	7 138	9 371	9 243
Slovenia	7 997	11 542	11 585	12 145	8 726	11 555	13 261	13 882
Spain	8 609	13 252	11 221	11 469	8 732	12 633	14 795	14 503
Sweden	15 843	20 972	20 104	21 235	15 396	19 595	20 468	21 222
Switzerland	11 401	14 675	16 244	17 665	11 517	14 220	15 887	17 411
Turkey	..	4 610	5 276	6 230	..	4 822	6 214	6 366
United Kingdom	11 211	14 670	13 721	14 525	11 077	15 679	17 645	17 305
United States	12 355	15 776	14 020	15 171	12 549	17 052	19 382	20 034
EU 28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
OECD	10 751	14 647	14 393	15 419	10 716	14 177	16 118	16 548
Brazil	2 450	3 494	3 626	4 272	2 638	3 754	3 946	4 564
China	395	1 097	1 369	1 897	469	1 048	1 577	2 004
India	274	589	587	688	422	720	893	997
Indonesia	490	712	677	832	558	750	749	862
Russian Federation	3 341	6 804	7 178	7 706	3 395	5 874	7 942	7 917
South Africa	1 704	2 963	2 795	3 098	1 784	2 824	3 362	3 537

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General government revenues and expenditures per capita

US dollars, current prices and PPPs, 2011


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