

Press release: 12.831-129/22

Health expenditure increased by 12.6 % in 2021

Pandemic caused a significant rise in public current health expenditure

Vienna, 2022-06-14 – In 2021, current health expenditure in Austria amounted to €49.02 billion or 12.2 % of gross domestic product (GDP) according to a preliminary estimate by Statistics Austria. Nominal expenditure increased substantially by €5.5 billion or 12.6 % from 2020 to 2021.

“Public expenditures were much higher in the second Corona pandemic year of 2021 than they were in 2020, partly due to a significant increase in health expenditure, especially for COVID-19 testing and vaccination”, explains Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Substantial increase in public current health expenditure due to COVID-19 pandemic

The federal government, the federal states, the municipalities and the social health insurance institutions accounted for €38.54 billion of current health expenditure in 2021, which corresponds to an increase of 15.8 % compared to 2020. The main reasons for this rise were additional pandemic-related expenditure for the procurement and implementation of COVID-19 tests, the provision and administration of COVID-19 vaccines including logistics and distribution expenses, as well as expenses for protective equipment, contact tracing and further pandemic-related expenditure. In 2021, the public share of current health expenditure was 78.6 % (see table).

Current expenditure on health of private households, voluntary health insurances, non-profit institutions and enterprises amounted to €10.48 billion or a share of 21.4 % of current health expenditure. Private current health expenditure rose therefore by 2.3 % from 2020 to 2021 (see table).

It has to be noted that available data for 2021 comprises uncertainty to some degree, especially concerning private expenditure data.

For more information on health expenditure, please refer to our [website](#).

Current health expenditure in Austria according to the System of Health Accounts, 2005–2021, in million Euro

Public and private expenditure on health ¹	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Current expenditure on health	24 460	30 244	35 692	37 021	38 355	39 871	41 640	43 524	49 024
Public expenditure	18 094	22 576	26 433	27 381	28 390	29 772	31 265	33 275	38 544
Private expenditure	6 366	7 668	9 259	9 640	9 965	10 100	10 376	10 249	10 481
Public expenditure, % of current expenditure on health	74.0	74.6	74.1	74.0	74.0	74.7	75.1	76.5	78.6
Private expenditure, % of current expenditure on health	26.0	25.4	25.9	26.0	26.0	25.3	24.9	23.5	21.4
Current expenditure on health, % of GDP	9.6	10.2	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.3	10.5	11.5	12.2

Public and private expenditure on health ¹	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Gross domestic product (GDP)	254 075	295 897	344 269	357 608	369 362	385 424	397 519	379 321	402 711

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, National Accounts, company reports, own calculations/estimations. – According to SHA 2011 (OECD/Eurostat/WHO). – Rounding differences were not settled.

1) Health expenditure according to the System of Health Accounts includes expenditure on long-term nursing care.

For detailed results and further information, please refer to [website](#).

Information on methodology, definitions: Health expenditure is compiled according to the “System of Health Accounts (SHA)” on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection since 2005. This internationally comparable system of health accounts was developed by the OECD and published for the first time in 2000 in the form of the manual "A System of Health Accounts". A revision of the manual was carried out within the framework of a joint project by OECD, Eurostat and WHO (A System of Health Accounts, 2011 Edition).

Based on an EU-regulation (Commission regulation (EU) 2021/1901) it is mandatory for EU member states to provide current health expenditure data (meaning not including gross capital formation in health care provider industries) structured according to the three SHA-dimensions financing schemes (HF), health care providers (HP) and health care services and goods (HC). Statistics Austria publishes annual updates of health expenditure data and submits the results to OECD, Eurostat and WHO for their databases and publications. Current health expenditure according to the System of Health Accounts includes expenditure on long-term nursing care. Long-term care according to SHA is composed of medical or nursing care as well as providing help with activities of daily living (support with food intake, washing, dressing, etc.). In contrast, assistant services such as performing household and assisted living are outside the boundary of the current health care expenditure account.

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