

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.

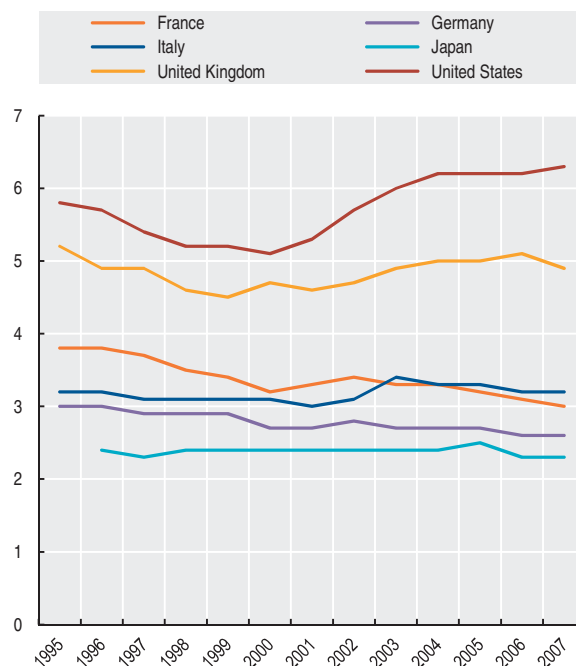
Comparability

National accounts data conform to the definitions of the 1993 *System of National Accounts* and are broadly comparable.

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.

Public expenditure on law, order and defence

As a percentage of GDP



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/821874301585>

Overview

In 2007 – the latest year for which most countries can supply data – public expenditure on law, order and defence, as a share of GDP, was highest in the United States and the United Kingdom and lowest in Luxembourg, Iceland and Ireland. In the majority of countries these shares have fallen since 1997 with particularly large falls in the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, Norway, Sweden and France.

Within the total, the shares of law and order, on one side, and defence, on the other, vary considerably among countries, with high shares for defence expenditures in the United States, Greece and Korea, and high shares for law and order in Iceland, Luxembourg, and Ireland. For most countries shown in the table, expenditures on law and order at the end of the period were larger than expenditures on defence. The ratio between the two has grown in most countries since the beginning of the period.

Sources

- OECD (2010), *National Accounts of OECD Countries*, OECD, Paris.

Further information

Analytical publications

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

Statistical publications

- OECD (2009), *National Accounts at a Glance 2009*, OECD, Paris.

Methodological publications

- UN, OECD, IMF, Eurostat (eds.) (1993), *System of National Accounts 1993*, United Nations, Geneva, Paragraph XVIII.9, <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/sna1993>.

Online databases

- OECD National Accounts Statistics.



Public expenditure on law, order and defence

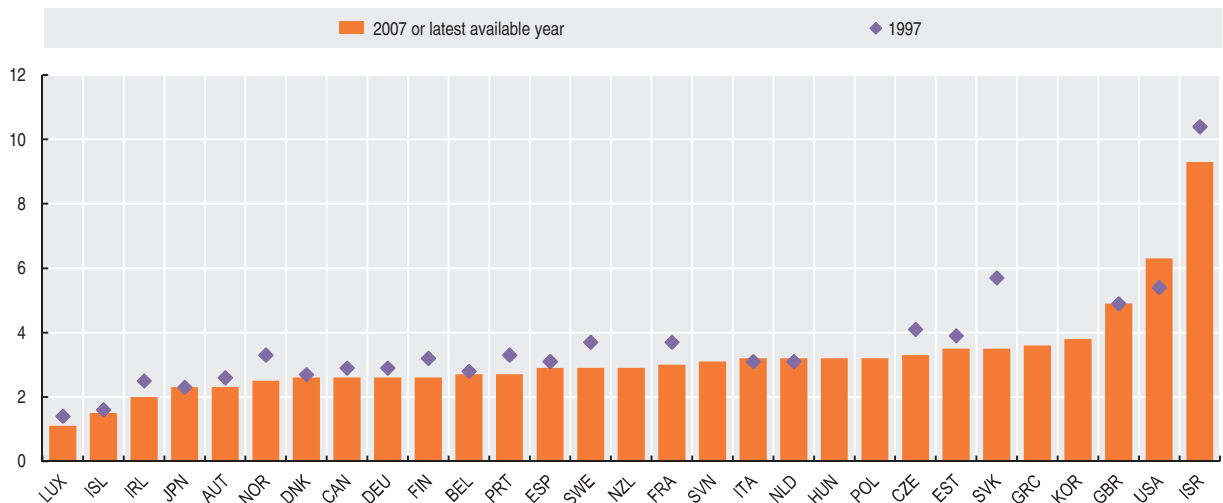
As a percentage of GDP

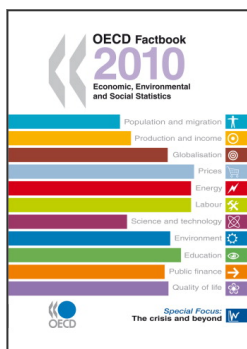
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Austria	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.5
Belgium	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	..
Canada	3.3	3.2	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	..	..
Czech Republic	4.5	4.1	4.1	3.7	4.0	4.1	3.8	3.7	4.2	3.5	3.9	3.4	3.3	..
Denmark	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6
Finland	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.6	..
France	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.0	..
Germany	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	..
Greece	..	..	..	..	..	4.7	4.5	4.7	4.2	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.6	..
Hungary	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.2	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.2	..
Iceland	..	..	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	..
Ireland	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0	..
Italy	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	..
Japan	..	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.3	..
Korea	..	..	..	..	..	4.0	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.8	..
Luxembourg	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.2
Netherlands	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
New Zealand	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.9	2.7	2.9	..	..	..
Norway	..	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.3	2.9	2.9	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.5	2.5	2.5	..
Poland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.2	..
Portugal	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.2	2.7	..
Slovak Republic	5.6	5.8	5.7	5.5	4.8	4.9	5.0	4.8	3.7	4.2	3.7	3.8	3.5	..
Spain	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	..
Sweden	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.1	2.9	..
United Kingdom	5.2	4.9	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.1	4.9	..
United States	5.8	5.7	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.7	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	..
Estonia	4.3	4.1	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.1	3.8	3.9	4.1	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5	..
Israel	10.4	10.6	10.4	10.2	10.2	9.8	10.2	11.3	10.7	9.8	9.6	9.7	9.3	..
Slovenia	..	..	..	..	..	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.1	..	..

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/826376433538>

Public expenditure on law, order and defence

As a percentage of GDP

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/821831416880>



From:
OECD Factbook 2010
Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics

Access the complete publication at:
<https://doi.org/10.1787/factbook-2010-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2010), "Law, order and defence expenditure", in *OECD Factbook 2010: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/factbook-2010-79-en>

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