

## RECREATION AND CULTURE

In general, percentages of GDP spent on recreation and culture are positively correlated with per capita income – the richer the country, the higher the percentage expenditure on culture and recreation – but there are some striking exceptions. Ireland with relatively high per capita income spends relatively little on recreation and culture while the Czech Republic, with relatively low per capita income, spends a rather high share.

### Definition

Household expenditure on recreation and culture includes purchases of audio-visual, photographic and computer equipment; CDs and DVDs; musical instruments; camper vans; caravans; sports equipment; toys; domestic pets and related products; gardening tools and plants; newspapers; tickets to sporting matches, cinemas and theatres; and spending on gambling (including lottery tickets) less any winnings. It excludes expenditures on restaurants, hotels, and travel and holiday homes but includes package holidays.

Government expenditures include administration of sporting, recreational and cultural affairs as well as the maintenance of zoos, botanical gardens, public beaches and parks; support for broadcasting services and, where present, support for religious, fraternal, civic, youth and other social organisations (including the operation and repair of facilities and payment to clergy and other officers.) Also included are grants to artists and arts companies. Capital outlays such as the construction of sports stadiums, public swimming pools, national theatres, opera houses and museums are included.

### Comparability

The data in these tables are all taken from the OECD's national accounts database and are compiled according to a common set of definitions. Nevertheless, for Australia and United States, final consumption expenditure of households includes final consumption expenditure of Non-Profit Institution Serving Households. For Japan Government expenditure refers to fiscal year whereas GDP refers to calendar year. For Australia and New Zealand data refer to fiscal year.

### Long-term trends

In most countries, household expenditures on recreation and culture have remained fairly stable at around 5% of GDP over the last decade. Notable exceptions were Greece, and the Slovak Republic where the percentages increased significantly, and Luxembourg, Turkey and Ireland, where they fell significantly to percentages well below the OECD average.

Data on government expenditures on recreation, culture and religion are available for fewer countries. In most of these countries, government expenditure amounts to between 0.5 and 2% of GDP. By the end of the period, government expenditures were much higher than average in Hungary, Luxembourg and (particularly) Iceland and below 0.5% of GDP in Japan, Greece and the United States. Percentages over the period covered, grew significantly in the case of Iceland but fell significantly in Sweden; albeit from a relatively high starting position.

The third table shows the combination of private and public expenditures on recreation and culture. Typically, for most countries the shares are in the 5 to 7% of GDP range but significantly higher in Iceland and lower in Ireland.

### Source

- OECD (2008), *National Accounts of OECD Countries*, OECD, Paris.

### Further information

#### Analytical publications

- OECD (2005), *Culture and Local Development*, OECD, Paris.



## Household expenditure on recreation and culture

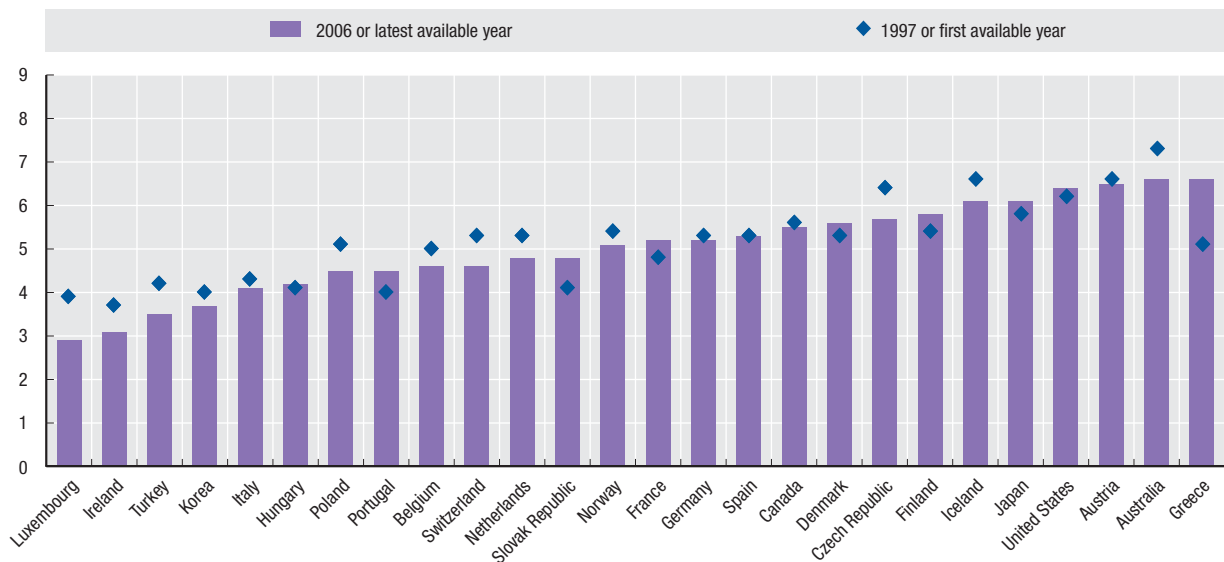
As a percentage of GDP

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Australia	6.9	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.6	..
Austria	6.6	6.4	6.6	6.6	6.7	7.0	7.0	7.1	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.5	..
Belgium	..	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.2	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.7
Canada	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.4
Czech Republic	..	5.5	5.8	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.0	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.6
Denmark	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.6
Finland	5.3	5.3	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.8	5.7
France	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1
Germany	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.1
Greece	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.1	5.8	5.8	5.4	5.5	5.6	6.6	6.3
Hungary	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.2	..
Iceland	7.1	7.2	7.1	6.6	6.7	6.9	7.1	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.5	6.4	6.1	..
Ireland	..	4.0	4.1	3.7	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1
Italy	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.0
Japan	..	..	5.6	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.0	6.1	..
Korea	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.4	3.6	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.0	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7
Luxembourg	..	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.2	2.9	2.8
Netherlands	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.8
Norway	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.8	5.8	5.2	5.3	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.1	..	..
Poland	..	4.8	5.3	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.6	4.9	4.8	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.5	..
Portugal	..	3.7	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.5	..
Slovak Republic	..	3.8	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.5	4.7	5.2	5.0	4.7	4.8	4.9	4.8	5.0
Spain	..	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.3	..
Switzerland	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.6	..
Turkey	..	..	..	..	4.2	3.7	3.8	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.2
United States	5.9	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.5

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/544584412123>

## Household expenditure on recreation and culture

As a percentage of GDP



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/538787062625>



**From:**  
**OECD Factbook 2009**  
Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics

**Access the complete publication at:**  
<https://doi.org/10.1787/factbook-2009-en>

**Please cite this chapter as:**

OECD (2009), "Recreation and culture", in *OECD Factbook 2009: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/factbook-2009-94-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to [rights@oecd.org](mailto:rights@oecd.org). Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at [info@copyright.com](mailto:info@copyright.com) or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at [contact@cfcopies.com](mailto:contact@cfcopies.com).