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Above-average increase in Austria's healthcare expenditure in 2023

Increase of 4.9 % despite decline in pandemic-related expenditure

Vienna, 2025-01-30 – In 2023, total current health expenditure in Austria amounted to €52.8 billion or 11.2% of gross domestic product (GDP), according to Statistics Austria. Compared to 2022, nominal expenditure increased by 4.9% or €2.5 billion, respectively. The public sector accounted for €40.5 billion of current health expenditure, a share of 76.7%.

“Austria spent around 53 billion euro on healthcare in 2023. This is 2.5 billion more than in 2022, although the share of total public and private healthcare expenditure in economic output remained constant at 11.2%, as in 2022. This puts Austria among the top countries internationally. Although pandemic-related expenditure fell significantly again in 2023, higher expenses for personnel, energy and operating costs, higher service fees and more expensive home care services caused expenditure to rise sharply”, says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Sharp increase in several health care sectors, only spending on preventive care decreasing

The central government, the state governments, the local governments and the social health insurance funds accounted for €40.5 billion of current health expenditure in 2023. This corresponds to a rise of 4.2% compared to 2022 and is therefore below the average nominal growth of 4.6% between 2004 and 2022, although almost every category of public spending increased above average in 2023. Only expenditure on preventive care dropped by 45.4% due to reduced pandemic related expenditure by €1.8 billion. This is primarily caused by a decline of €1.4 billion for expenditure on COVID-19 testing. The increases in expenditure for inpatient services in State Health Funds hospitals, in rehabilitative care centres and in residential long-term care facilities (+€1.5 billion in total or +9.2%), but also growth in outpatient services provided by general medical practitioners, medical specialists and in dental practices (+€1.1 billion or +10.8%) and home-based nursing care (+9.1%) can mostly be explained with increased spending on staff expenses, service fees, energy costs and operating costs.

Current expenditure on health by private households, voluntary health insurances, non-profit institutions and enterprises amounted to €12.3 billion or a share of 23.3% of current health expenditure. Private current expenditure therefore rose by 7.4% from 2022 to 2023 (see table 1), which is a stronger increase as the average growth rate between 2004 and 2022 (3.4%). Sharp rises were observed in inpatient services, outpatient services and home-based nursing care.

Austria among the top of the OECD ranking

In a comparison of the 38 OECD countries, Austria ranked sixth with a share of 11.2% of GDP in 2023. By far the highest current expenditure on health in this ranking was reported in the USA with a GDP share of 16.7%, followed by Switzerland (12.0%) and Germany (11.8%). The OECD average of current health expenditure was 9.2% of GDP, that of the 22 EU Member States in the OECD was 8.9% of GDP.

Around €16.0 billion of public expenditure spent on State Health Funds hospitals

In 2022, public current expenditure for State Health Funds hospitals including outpatient departments amounted to €16.0 billion. The largest share of expenditure was borne by social health insurance schemes

adding up to 42.2% (€6.8 billion), followed by state governments with a share of 35.3% (€5.7 billion), central government with a share of 12.1% (€1.9 billion) and local governments with a share of 10.4% (€1.7 billion). The largest amount of public current expenditure was spent on State Health Funds hospitals in Vienna (€4.5 billion), the lowest in Burgenland (€338 million). This mainly reflects the different number of inhabitants in the federal provinces and the number of patients, respectively (see table 2).

Revision of health care expenditure data from 1995

Together with the main results for the year 2023, the time series from 1995 onwards was revised. In 2024, an exhaustive revision of national accounts data was conducted in countries across Europe. Revisions of national accounts time series usually take place every five years and are coordinated between EU countries. The most recent revision for the years from 1995 to 2022 was published in September 2024. As national accounts data serves as an important data source for health care expenditure data in Austria, especially for private expenditure data and gross capital formation, health expenditure data according to System of Health Accounts has also been revised. For more detailed results, please refer to our [website](#).

Table 1: Current health expenditure in Austria according to the System of Health Accounts, 1995–2023, in million euro

Public and private expenditure on health ¹	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2021	2022	2023
Current expenditure on health	16 160	19 944	24 523	30 335	35 977	43 405	49 500	50 290	52 779
Public expenditure	12 033	14 855	18 118	22 589	26 482	33 164	38 484	38 824	40 461
Private expenditure	4 127	5 089	6 405	7 746	9 495	10 241	11 016	11 465	12 318
Public expenditure, % of current expenditure on health	74.5	74.5	73.9	74.5	73.6	76.4	77.7	77.2	76.7
Private expenditure, % of current expenditure on health	25.5	25.5	26.1	25.5	26.4	23.6	22.3	22.8	23.3
Current expenditure on health, % of GDP	9.2	9.4	9.7	10.3	10.5	11.4	12.2	11.2	11.2
Gross domestic product (GDP)	175 917	212 407	252 355	294 051	342 084	380 318	406 232	448 007	473 227
Current expenditure on long term care	2 300	2 676	3 191	4 429	5 312	6 325	6 406	6 764	7 351
Public expenditure on long term care	1 896	2 155	2 547	3 460	3 976	4 839	4 872	5 042	5 579
Private expenditure on long term care	404	521	644	969	1 336	1 485	1 533	1 722	1 772

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.

Table 2: Public current expenditure on health for State Health Funds hospitals, 2023, in million euro

State	Central Government	State Government	Local Government	Social health insurance	General Government, total	% change to prev. year, General Government total
Burgenland	42	117	13	166	338	7.0%
Carinthia	117	271	129	478	995	10.0%
Lower Austria	336	781	471	954	2 542	10.1%
Upper Austria	274	780	553	1 166	2 773	11.1%
Salzburg	123	395	90	424	1 033	13.1%
Styria	306	706	31	973	2 015	10.9%
Tyrol	153	306	202	534	1 194	5.9%
Vorarlberg	64	174	114	269	622	15.2%
Vienna	525	2 126	65	1 788	4 504	6.2%
Austria	1 939	5 656	1 668	6 753	16 016	9.2%

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, own calculations/estimations, company reports. – Rounding differences were not settled.

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.

State Health Funds hospitals are acute care hospitals of public and private ownership, which are (partially) financed by the nine State Health Funds. These hospitals are responsible for 84.7% (2023) of all hospital stays of patients and thus represent the most important category of hospitals in Austria.

Statistics Austria is the central organisation for official data and statistics on society, the economy, the state and the environment. As a national statistical institute, it is committed to the statutory principles of independence, impartiality and objectivity. Statistics Austria is headed by Tobias Thomas, Director General Statistics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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