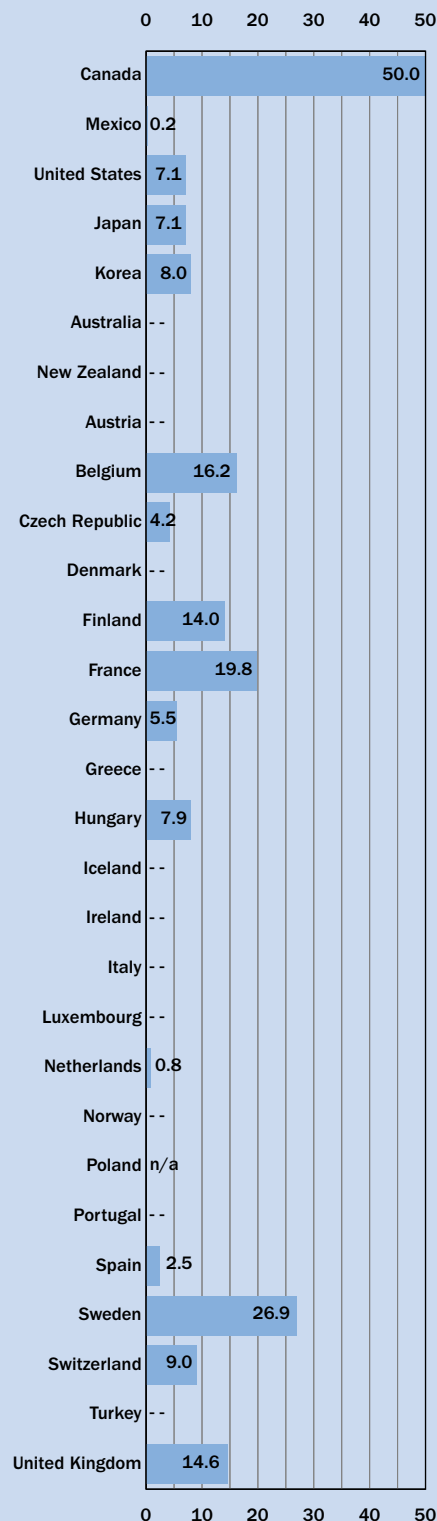


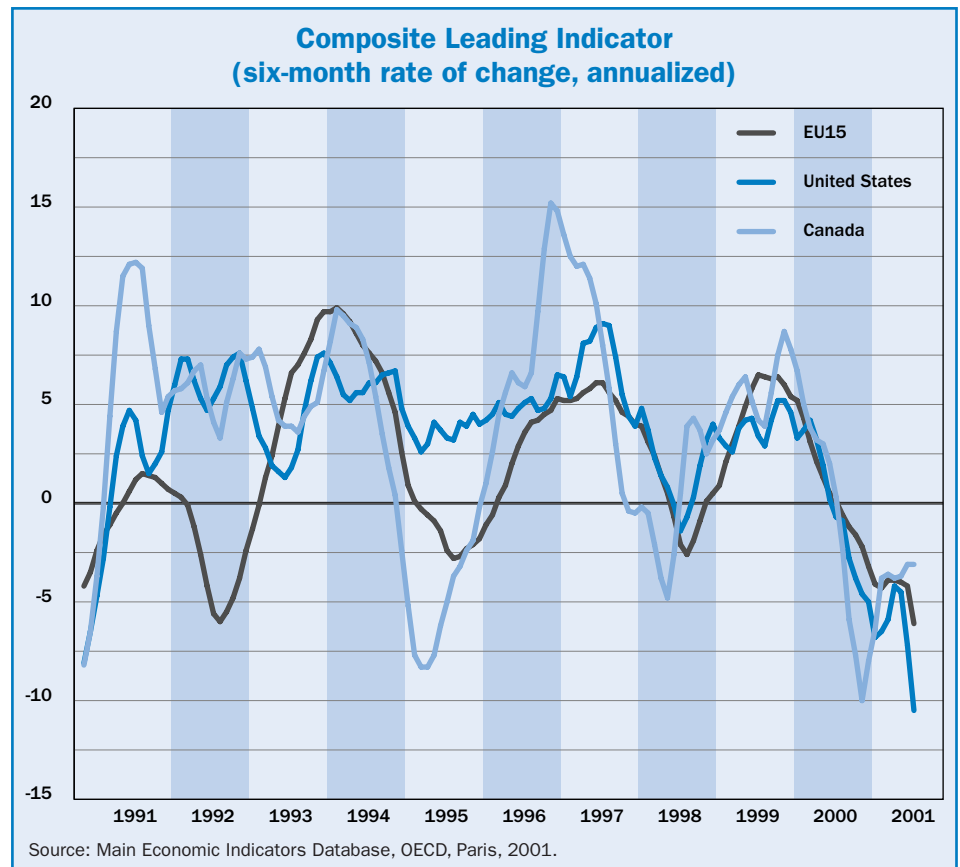
Nuclear waste per capita, 1998 (kg/1,000 inhabitants)



Source: OECD Environmental Indicators: Towards Sustainable Development 2001, OECD, Paris, 2001.

Leading Indicator Falls

The OECD Composite Leading Indicator summarizes information contained in a number of key short-term economic indicators known to be linked to GDP. The leading indicator is designed to provide early signals of turning points between expansions and slowdowns of economic activity. In September 2001, the leading indicator fell for all G7 countries. In particular, for the United States it fell 2.8 points to 111.4.

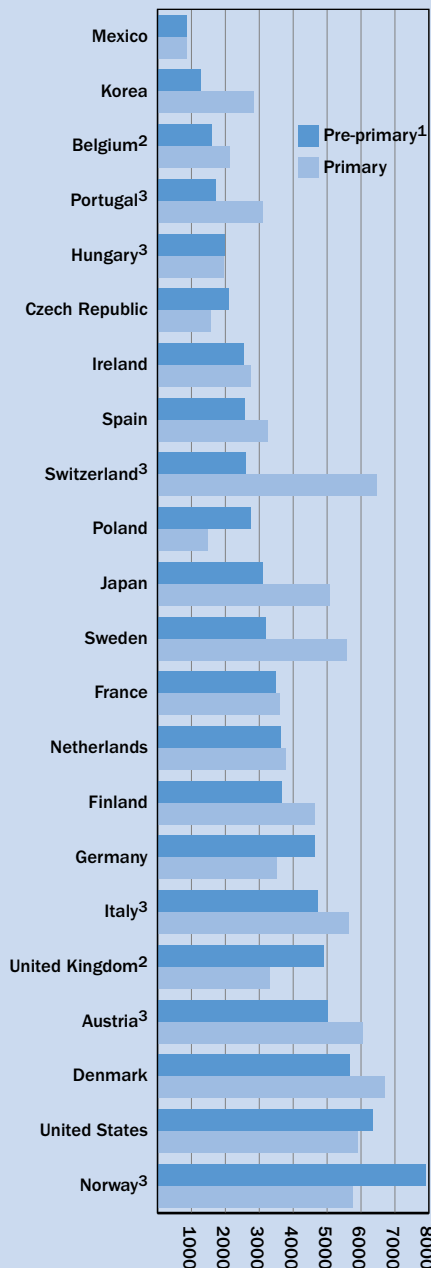


The State of the Environment

Interest in sustainable development and awareness of the international dimension of environmental problems has stimulated governments to track and chart environmental progress and its links with economic conditions and trends. This report is organized by issues such as: climate change, ozone layer depletion, air quality, biodiversity, water quality, forest resources and fish resources and includes key environmental indicators. One such indicator is waste generation. Industry has been generating increasing amounts of waste in recent decades. Hazardous waste, such as nuclear waste, is of particular concern since it entails serious environmental risks if badly managed.

OECD, Paris (2001) *OECD Environmental Indicators: Towards Sustainable Development 2001*, ISBN 9264-18718-9, \$27.00.

Expenditure per child on public and private institutions by level of education, 1998 (US\$ using PPP)



Notes: 1. The data refer to pre-primary education, which is limited to organized center-based programs designed to foster learning and emotional and social development in children from three to compulsory school age. Day care, play groups and home-based structured and developmental activities are not included in these data.
 2. Public and government-dependent private institutions.
 3. Public institutions.

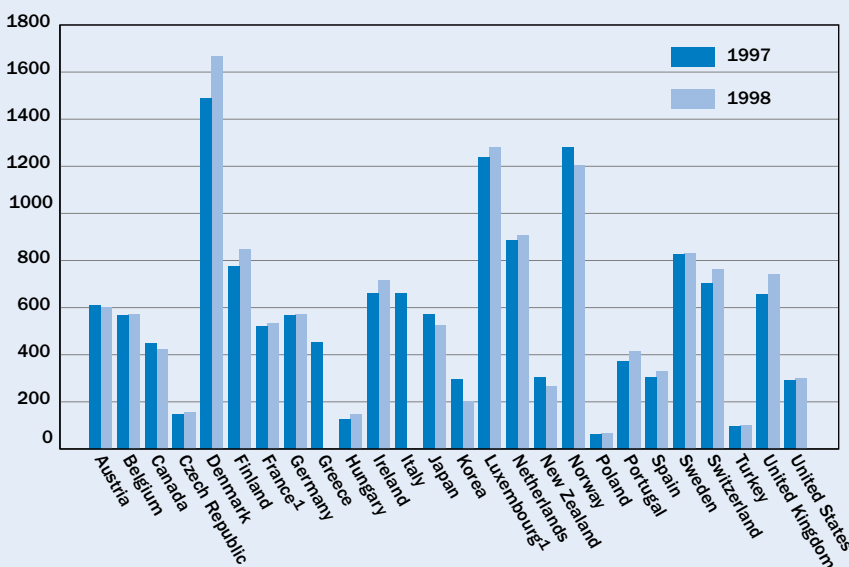
Source: *Starting Strong: Early Childhood Education and Care*, OECD, Paris, 2001.

Baby Steps

Improving the quality of, and access to, early childhood education and care has become a major policy priority in OECD Member countries. The early years are increasingly viewed as the first step in lifelong learning and a key component of a successful educational, social, and family policy agenda. Taking a broader approach than previous studies, this book provides a comparative analysis of major policy developments and issues in 12 OECD countries. One issue examined is investment in primary and pre-primary education. With the exception of the United States and a few others, most countries spend more per student on primary education than on pre-primary education.

OECD, Paris (2001) *Starting Strong: Early Childhood Education and Care*, ISBN 9264-18675-1, \$40.00.

Revenues from environmentally related taxes per capita (US\$)



Note: 1. Numbers for France and Luxembourg are low-end Secretariat estimates.
 Source: *Main Economic Indicators Database*, OECD, Paris, 2001.

Green Taxes

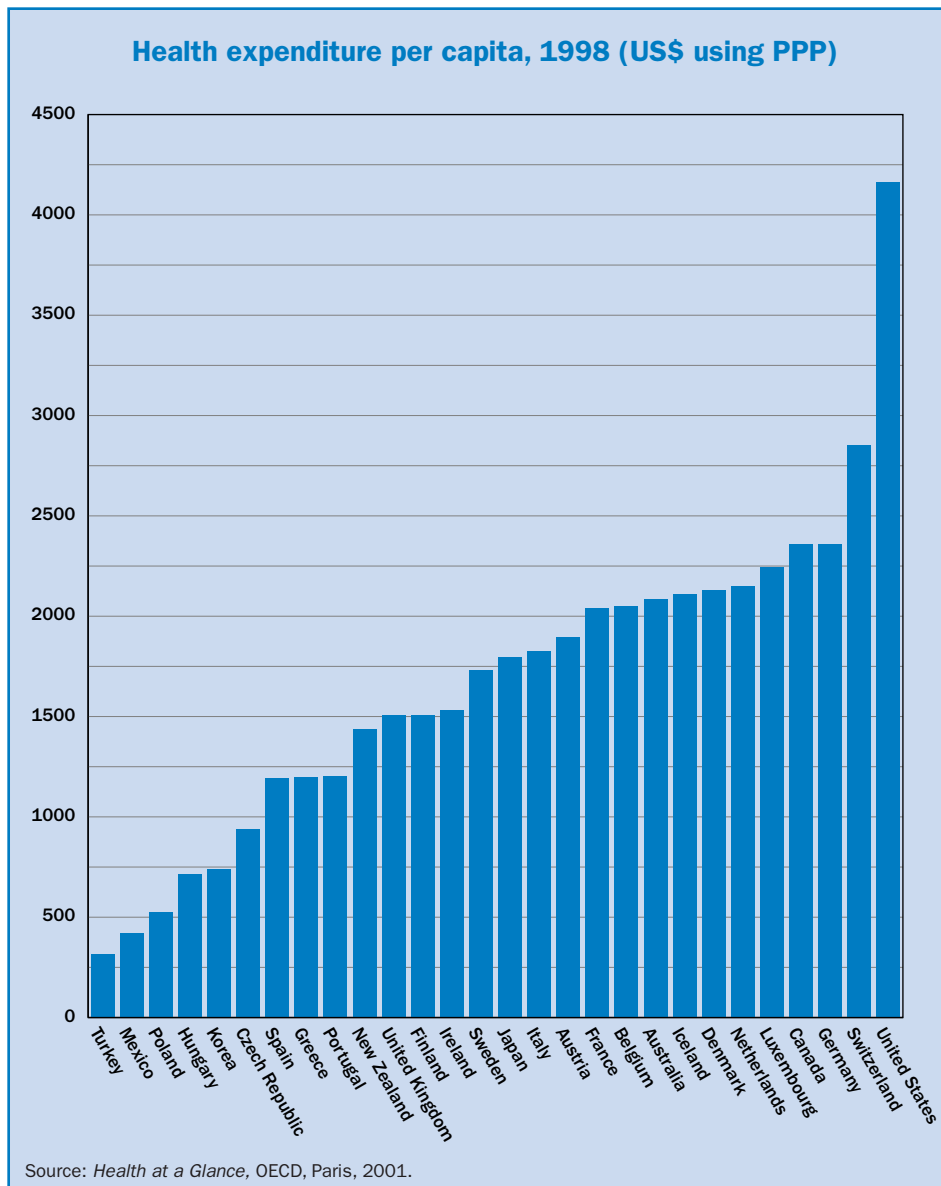
Environmental taxation has become more common among OECD Members in recent years as countries face a number of environmental challenges, including the protection of the ozone layer, local air quality, water supply and biodiversity losses. Over the last decade, OECD Members have introduced environmentally related taxes to a varying extent, and an increasing number of countries are implementing comprehensive green-tax reforms. A common policy includes taxes on the purchase or use of motor vehicle and fuels, including taxes on petrol and diesel. A number of OECD Member countries also apply taxes on electricity consumption, aviation fuel and the treatment of waste. The revenue from environmentally related taxes averages roughly 2% of GDP in Member countries.

OECD, Paris (2001) *Environmentally Related Taxes in OECD Countries: Issues and Strategies*, ISBN 92-64-18731-6, \$27.00.

Health at a Glance

Health at a Glance tells many stories concerning changes in health status and health systems across OECD countries. This report covers such topics as: life expectancy, health care resources, health systems activities, health care financing and health expenditure. At the same time, it provides striking evidence of the sheer size of the variations across countries in most indicators of health system resources, activities and expenditures. For example, infant mortality rates are one of the most widely used indicators in international comparisons to judge the effect of economic and social conditions on human health. They are an important indicator of the health of both pregnant women and newborns. Another key indicator is health expenditure, defined as the amount spent on health care goods and services plus capital investment in health care infrastructure. The rise in health expenditure has been a cause of concern in the United States for several decades.

OECD, Paris (2001) *Health at a Glance*, ISBN 9264-18713-8, \$19.00.



Infant mortality in OECD countries, 1999 (Deaths per 1,000 live births)

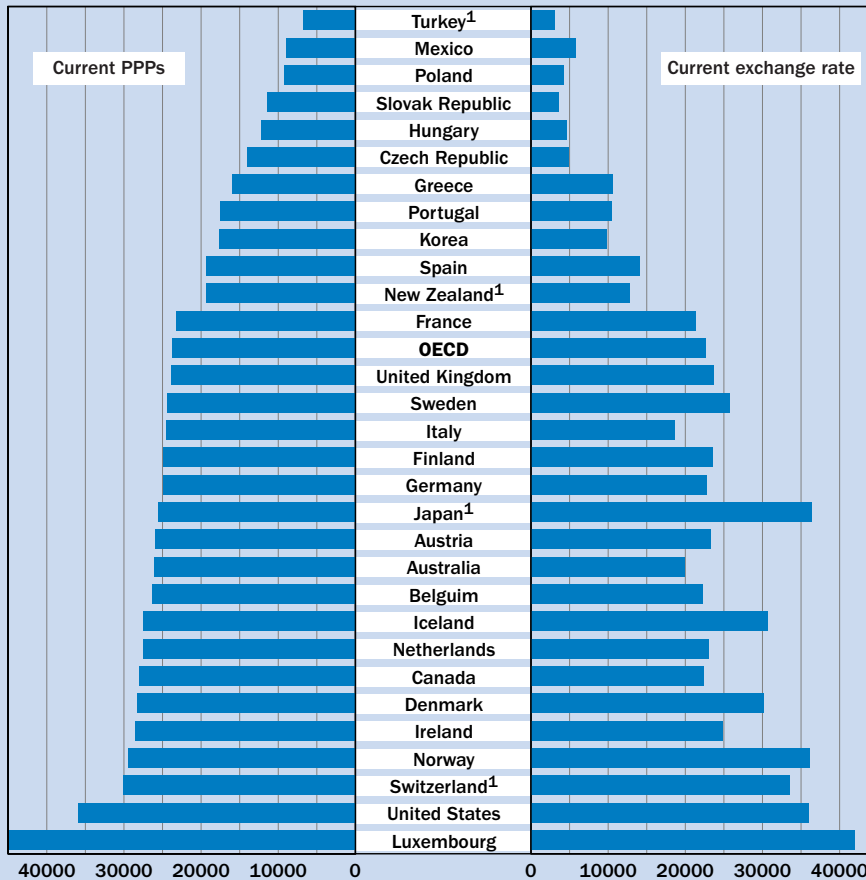
Iceland	2.4
Sweden	3.4
Japan	3.4
Finland	3.6
Norway	3.9
Denmark	4.2
France	4.3
Austria	4.4
Czech Republic	4.6
Germany	4.6
Switzerland	4.6
Luxembourg	4.7
Spain	4.9
Italy	5.1
Netherlands	5.2
Belgium	5.3
Canada ¹	5.5
Ireland	5.5
Portugal	5.5
Australia	5.7
United Kingdom	5.8
Greece	5.9
New Zealand ¹	6.8
United States ²	7.2
Korea ³	7.7
Slovak Republic	8.3
Hungary	8.5
Poland	8.9
Mexico	14.5
Turkey	37.5

Notes: 1. 1997; 2. 1998; 3. 1996.

Source: *Health at a Glance*, OECD, Paris, 2001.

GDP per capita, 1999 (US\$)

Comparisons of GDP are arguably the best when based on purchasing power parities (PPP), not market exchange rates. Purchasing power parities reflect the amount of a national currency that will buy the same basket of goods and services in a given country as the US dollar in the United States. When PPPs are taken into account, the differences between poorer countries as, for example, Hungary, Mexico, Poland and Turkey vis-à-vis the OECD average diminish.



Note: 1. Countries still using the System of National Accounts (SNA) 1968.
Source: *OECD in Figures*, OECD, Paris, 2001.



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