

## NATIONAL INCOME PER CAPITA

While per capita gross domestic product is the indicator most commonly used to compare income levels, two other measures are preferred, at least in theory, by many analysts. These are per capita Gross National Income (GNI) and Net National Income (NNI). Whereas GDP refers to the income generated by production activities on the economic territory of the country, GNI measures the income generated by the residents of a country, whether earned on the domestic territory or abroad.

### Definition

GNI is defined as GDP plus receipts from abroad less payments to abroad of wages and salaries and of property income plus net taxes and subsidies receivable from abroad. NNI is equal to GNI net of depreciation.

Wages and salaries from abroad are those that are earned by residents who essentially live and consume inside the economic territory but work abroad (this happens in border areas on a regular basis) or for persons that live and work abroad for only short periods (seasonal workers) and whose centre of economic interest remains in their home country. Guest-workers and other migrant workers who live abroad for twelve months or more are considered to be resident in the country where they are working. Such persons may send part of their earnings to relatives at home, but these remittances are treated as transfers between resident and non-resident households and are recorded in national disposable income but not national income.

Property income from/to abroad includes interest and dividends. It also includes all or part of the retained

earnings of foreign enterprises owned fully or in part by residents (and *vice versa*). In this respect, it is important to note that retained earnings of foreign enterprises owned by residents do not actually return to the residents concerned. Nevertheless, the retained earnings are recorded as a receipt.

### Comparability

All countries compile data according to the 1993 SNA "System of National Accounts, 1993" with the exception of Australia where data are compiled according to the new 2008 SNA. It's important to note however that differences between the 2008 SNA and the 1993 SNA do not have a significant impact on the comparability of the indicators presented here and this implies that data are highly comparable across countries.

However, there are practical difficulties in the measurement both of international flows of wages and salaries and property income and of depreciation. It is for that reason that GDP per capita is the most widely used indicator of income or welfare, even though, GNI is theoretically superior.

### Sources

- OECD (2012), *National Accounts of OECD Countries*, OECD Publishing.

### Further information

#### Analytical publications

- OECD (2012), *OECD Economic Outlook*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2011), *Perspectives on Global Development*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2003), *The Sources of Economic Growth in OECD Countries*, OECD Publishing.

#### Statistical publications

- OECD (2011), *National Accounts at a Glance*, OECD Publishing.

#### Methodological publications

- OECD (2000), *System of National Accounts, 1993 – Glossary*, OECD Publishing.
- United Nations, OECD, International Monetary Fund and Eurostat (eds.) (2010), *System of National Accounts 2008*, United Nations, Geneva.

#### Online databases

- OECD National Accounts Statistics.
- OECD Economic Outlook: Statistics and Projections.

#### Websites

- OECD Economic Outlook – Sources and Methods, [www.oecd.org/eco/sources-and-methods](http://www.oecd.org/eco/sources-and-methods).

### Overview

Ranking countries according to GNI per capita, shows that on average GNI per capita is usually around 15-19% higher than NNI per capita. The country rankings are not greatly affected by the choice of income measure. The only countries that would be more than one place lower in the ranking if NNI per capita were used instead of GNI are Belgium, Hungary and Japan; the only countries that would be more than one place higher in the ranking if NNI per capita were used are Canada, Israel, Korea and the Russian Federation.

GNI per capita does not differ significantly from GDP per capita. Usually, the differences are (significantly) smaller than USD 2 000. There are, however, four exceptions. For Luxembourg, GNI per capita in 2010, although still highest in the OECD, is nearly USD 25 000 lower than GDP per capita. In Iceland and Ireland, GNI is USD 6 000-7 000 lower. On the other hand, GNI in Switzerland is higher than GDP per capita by approximately USD 3 000.

## Gross national income per capita

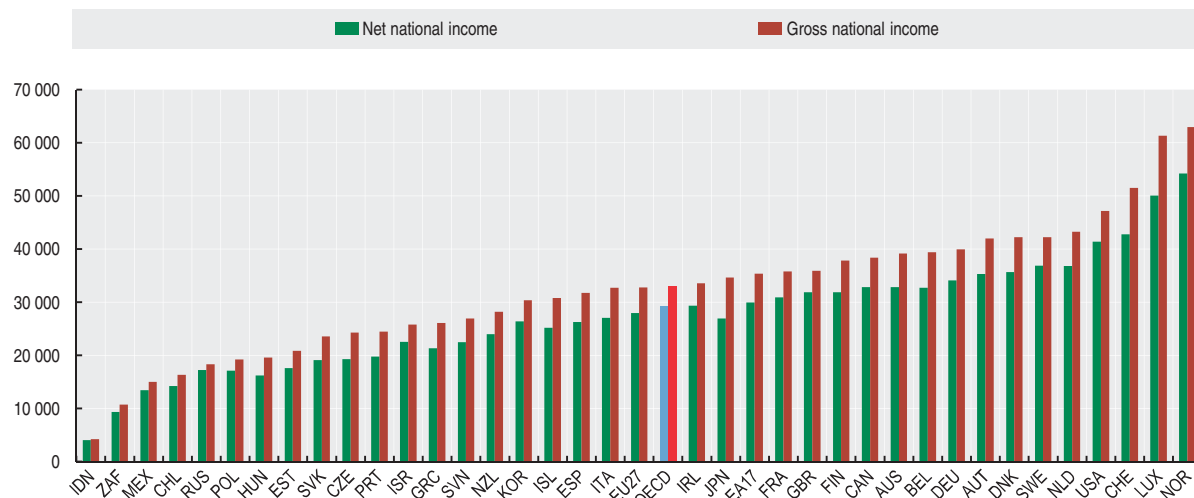
US dollars, current prices and PPPs

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Australia	26 053	27 197	28 299	29 470	30 973	32 074	33 527	35 169	37 098	37 531	38 429	39 136	..
Austria	26 705	28 421	28 408	30 086	31 016	32 611	33 310	36 193	37 614	39 692	38 651	39 972	41 988
Belgium	25 859	28 301	28 981	30 461	30 753	31 534	32 415	34 547	36 025	37 564	36 512	38 396	39 374
Canada	26 220	27 743	28 502	29 162	30 530	32 167	34 448	36 501	37 860	38 493	37 256	38 372	..
Chile	8 863	9 259	9 693	9 888	10 159	10 809	11 629	12 104	13 034	14 226	14 221	15 058	16 336
Czech Republic	14 543	15 281	16 362	16 926	18 115	19 129	20 372	22 072	23 640	24 659	23 901	23 557	24 285
Denmark	26 699	28 221	29 017	30 393	30 243	32 438	33 659	36 721	38 129	40 472	38 918	41 128	42 237
Estonia	8 632	9 542	10 255	11 475	12 678	14 044	15 902	18 145	20 151	20 970	19 224	19 376	20 825
Finland	23 307	25 478	26 494	27 577	27 407	30 088	30 849	33 454	36 183	38 244	36 224	36 847	37 846
France	23 994	25 608	26 972	27 862	27 554	28 554	30 017	31 988	33 722	34 769	34 298	34 910	35 796
Germany	24 694	25 496	26 405	27 077	28 114	29 939	31 469	34 235	36 171	37 590	36 816	38 124	39 944
Greece	17 025	18 320	19 894	21 485	22 392	23 721	23 994	26 219	26 928	28 604	28 668	27 668	26 077
Hungary	10 433	11 294	12 720	13 906	14 630	15 341	16 058	17 312	17 611	19 122	19 265	19 555	..
Iceland	28 071	28 051	29 482	31 033	30 294	32 362	33 731	33 740	35 338	31 011	29 504	29 365	30 759
Ireland	22 574	24 973	26 063	27 656	29 764	31 562	33 553	37 286	39 365	36 897	33 070	33 552	..
Israel	20 347	21 923	22 351	22 518	21 309	22 746	23 012	23 745	25 414	24 962	24 813	25 764	..
Italy	24 225	25 562	27 093	26 759	27 082	27 432	28 288	30 491	32 039	33 008	32 101	31 751	32 720
Japan	24 940	26 339	27 008	27 671	28 429	29 874	31 150	32 700	34 489	34 699	32 980	34 645	..
Korea	15 407	17 109	18 109	19 668	20 197	21 688	22 762	24 284	26 150	26 888	27 051	28 834	30 336
Luxembourg	44 091	46 759	47 898	47 736	47 079	56 788	58 720	59 764	68 022	67 210	55 760	61 346	..
Mexico	9 027	9 807	9 925	10 214	10 690	11 370	12 243	13 469	14 219	15 030	14 101	14 982	..
Netherlands	27 226	30 049	31 015	32 235	32 066	34 086	35 281	39 112	41 412	42 017	40 064	41 838	43 277
New Zealand	18 954	19 812	20 869	21 618	22 299	23 106	23 570	25 159	26 474	27 012	28 170	..	..
Norway	29 550	35 649	37 118	37 166	38 501	42 560	47 967	53 884	55 698	61 049	55 026	57 945	62 954
Poland	9 940	10 532	10 922	11 524	11 869	12 641	13 516	14 693	16 160	17 660	18 270	19 239	..
Portugal	16 579	17 429	18 035	18 840	19 268	19 642	21 052	22 274	23 433	24 048	23 922	24 616	24 431
Slovak Republic	10 348	10 922	12 066	12 918	12 924	14 065	15 717	17 816	20 224	22 728	22 227	22 945	23 564
Slovenia	16 761	17 565	18 477	19 649	20 358	22 011	23 273	25 142	26 639	28 248	26 601	26 544	26 950
Spain	19 638	21 135	22 214	23 705	24 468	25 611	27 003	29 896	31 481	32 243	31 431	31 437	31 736
Sweden	25 739	27 722	28 021	29 163	30 795	32 488	32 936	36 161	39 355	40 995	38 042	40 136	42 253
Switzerland	32 540	34 737	34 515	35 425	36 724	38 042	40 027	43 850	44 724	44 368	47 385	51 537	..
Turkey	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
United Kingdom	24 145	26 024	27 732	29 318	30 258	32 226	33 281	35 215	36 234	36 665	34 971	35 844	35 885
United States	33 652	35 658	36 410	37 002	38 307	40 583	43 063	45 575	46 675	47 209	45 331	47 195	..
Euro area	23 101	24 427	25 608	26 382	26 863	28 091	29 380	31 828	33 557	34 547	33 810	34 381	35 387
EU 27	20 510	21 817	22 938	23 855	24 449	25 753	26 933	29 164	30 801	31 943	31 124	31 772	32 752
OECD	23 023	24 497	25 253	25 953	26 715	28 234	29 762	31 828	33 217	34 012	32 905	..	..
Brazil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
China	..	..	..	..	..	3 608	4 121	4 773	5 589	6 210	..	..	..
India	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Indonesia	..	2 280	2 458	2 594	2 712	2 861	3 051	3 301	3 571	3 844	4 014	4 221	..
Russian Federation	5 661	6 622	7 234	7 857	8 951	10 007	11 531	14 482	16 335	19 673	18 278	..	..
South Africa	6 254	6 545	6 716	7 028	7 276	7 820	8 429	9 079	9 599	10 065	10 006	10 322	10 743

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932706888>

## Gross and net national income per capita

US dollars, current prices and PPPs, 2011 or latest available year

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932706907>



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