

8 International comparison

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) publishes a range of demographic, health and economic statistics, including the numbers of health professionals for the major registered occupations. Unfortunately, not all OECD countries use the same definition for practising community pharmacists. A footnote has been used to indicate where the definitions are known to differ from the standard OECD definition. These differences make comparisons with the OECD 'average' not meaningful.

In examining Australia against countries for which the data appear to be comparable, Australia's 59.4 community pharmacists per 100,000 population in 1995 was similar to the 61.5 per 100,000 population in Canada (for 1991), 65.3 in New Zealand, 59.1 in the United Kingdom (for 1993) and 61.9 in the United States (for 1994).

Table 34: Practising community pharmacists: OECD countries, 1995

Country	Practising pharmacists ^(a)	Population ('000)	Per cent of population aged 65+	Pharmacists per 100,000 population
Australia	10,722	18,051	11.7	59.4
Austria	4,071	8,045	14.7	50.6
Belgium (1994) ^(b)	13,657	10,116	15.8 (1995)	135.0
Canada (1991)	17,296	28,118	11.2	61.5
Czech Republic ^(c)	3,602	10,263	12.6	35.1
Denmark	934	5,223	15.4 (1994)	17.9
Finland ^(d)	7,204	5,107	14.1	141.1
France (1994)	56,350	57,900	14.7	97.3
Germany	44,696	81,594	15.2	54.8
Greece (1994) ^(e)	8,147	10,426	15.9 (1995)	78.1
Hungary	3,422	10,106	14.0	33.9
Iceland (1994)	261	267	11.0	97.8
Ireland ^(f)	1,151	3,546	11.5	32.5
Italy (1992)	54,693	56,757	16.1 (1995)	96.4
Japan (1994)	106,419	124,960	14.0	85.2
Luxembourg (1992) ^(b)	336	391	14.0 (1995)	85.9
Netherlands (1994) ^(g)	2,484	15,382	13.1	16.1
New Zealand	2,325	3,561	11.4	65.3
Norway (1989)	1,909	4,227	16.3	45.2
Portugal	12,575	9,815	14.8	128.1
Spain (1993) ^(b)	39,608	39,083	14.2	101.3
Sweden	5,945	8,788	17.3	67.6
Switzerland (1990)	3,342	6,712	15.0	49.8
Turkey	18,500	60,838	5.1	30.4
United Kingdom (1993)	34,418	58,191	15.8 (1995)	59.1
United States (1994)	167,678	270,700	12.3	61.9
Total	621,745	907,982	..	68.5

(a) The OECD definition of practising pharmacists is the number of pharmacists self-employed or employed by others including foreign pharmacists licensed to practise. It excludes full-time salaried pharmacists working in hospitals and in pharmaceutical manufacturing corporations as well as pharmacists working abroad.

(b) Refers to pharmacists entitled to practise.

(c) Refers to full-time equivalents.

(d) Refers to pharmacists entitled to practise aged up to 62 years.

(e) Refers to the number of pharmacies.

(f) Refers to pharmacists entitled to practise, including those working in industry, administration and research.

(g) Refers to all registered established pharmacists, physicians with pharmacies, assistant pharmacists and pharmaceutical assistants.

Source: 1997 OECD Health Data File.