

4.0 Health Expenditure in the Provinces and Territories

Health expenditure per capita varies among provinces/territories because of different age distributions.^{xii} Population density and geography also affect health expenditure, particularly in the case of the territories. Other factors that affect health expenditure include population health needs, the manner in which health care is delivered (including the balance between institutional and ambulatory care) and differences in the remuneration of health care workers across the country. The manner in which health care is financed is also an important consideration, including the degree of public coverage and private insurance for services not included in the *Canada Health Act*.

Health expenditure per capita is highest in the territories because of, among other things, their large geographical areas and low population densities (Table 5). In 2013, total health expenditure per capita in Newfoundland and Labrador is expected to reach \$7,132, followed by Alberta (\$6,787). The lowest per person expenditures are forecast for Quebec (\$5,531), followed by British Columbia (\$5,775).

In 2013, total health expenditure as a percentage of provincial GDP is expected to range from 8.3% in Alberta to 16.6% in Prince Edward Island. For the territories, the health expenditure–to-territorial GDP ratio is forecast to be 20.9% for Nunavut, 12.6% for Yukon and 9.0% for the Northwest Territories.

The public sector is forecast to be responsible for 70.1% of Canadian health expenditure in 2013. The public sector's share is expected to be the highest in the territories and the lowest in Ontario (67.7%).

Provincial and territorial governments' health expenditure per capita is expected to average \$3,920 in 2013. The highest per capita spending among the provinces is projected to be in Newfoundland and Labrador (\$5,249) and Alberta (\$4,662), while the lowest is forecast to be in Quebec (\$3,651) and British Columbia (\$3,722).

Private-sector expenditure is expected to be \$1,787 per capita in 2013. Among the provinces, Nova Scotia (\$2,059) and New Brunswick (\$2,029) are forecast to have the highest spending, while Quebec (\$1,588) and Saskatchewan (\$1,592) are forecast to have the lowest.

xii. Provincial/territorial comparisons in this discussion are based on figures that are not adjusted for variations in age and sex. For age-sex standardized comparisons see the discussion in the next section.

Table 5: Health Expenditure Summary, by Province/Territory and Canada, 2013^f

	Total			Provincial/Territorial Government			Total Public Sector*				Private Sector			
	Expenditure	Exp. per Capita	Exp. as Percent of GDP	Expenditure	Exp. per Capita	Exp. per Capita Growth From 2012	Expenditure	Exp. per Capita	Exp. per Capita Growth From 2012	Exp. as Percent of Total	Expenditure	Exp. per Capita	Exp. per Capita Growth From 2012	Exp. as Percent of Total
	(\$ Billions)	(\$)	(%)	(\$ Billions)	(\$)	(%)	(\$ Billions)	(\$)	(%)	(%)	(\$ Billions)	(\$)	(%)	%
N.L.	3.6	7,132	10.6	2.7	5,249	-0.4	2.8	5,458	-0.4	76.5	0.9	1,673	4.9	23.5
P.E.I.	0.9	6,354	16.6	0.6	4,245	2.1	0.7	4,695	2.1	73.9	0.2	1,659	2.9	26.1
N.S.	6.2	6,514	16.1	3.9	4,124	-0.5	4.2	4,456	-0.6	68.4	2.0	2,059	6.8	31.6
N.B.	4.9	6,474	14.8	3.2	4,167	0.4	3.4	4,445	0.3	68.7	1.5	2,029	5.1	31.3
Que.	44.9	5,531	12.2	29.6	3,651	2.9	32.0	3,944	2.8	71.3	12.9	1,588	2.8	28.7
Ont.	79.7	5,835	11.5	50.9	3,723	0.7	54.0	3,952	0.5	67.7	25.7	1,883	0.3	32.3
Man.	8.5	6,633	14.1	5.6	4,381	2.3	6.3	4,888	1.7	73.7	2.2	1,745	4.0	26.3
Sask.	7.2	6,626	8.9	5.0	4,566	2.2	5.5	5,034	1.8	76.0	1.7	1,592	3.5	24.0
Alta.	26.8	6,787	8.3	18.4	4,662	2.5	19.6	4,951	2.1	72.9	7.3	1,836	1.0	27.1
B.C.	27.1	5,775	11.8	17.5	3,722	1.0	18.7	3,978	0.8	68.9	8.4	1,797	2.0	31.1
Y.T.	0.4	9,979	12.6	0.3	6,910	10.9	0.3	7,994	8.9	80.1	0.1	1,985	3.7	19.9
N.W.T.	0.5	10,686	9.0	0.3	7,105	0.2	0.4	8,838	-0.2	82.7	0.1	1,849	6.0	17.3
Nun.	0.4	13,152	20.9	0.4	10,499	1.1	0.4	12,204	0.9	92.8	0.0	947	9.9	7.2
Canada	211.2	5,988	11.2	138.3	3,920	1.5	148.2	4,200	1.3	70.1	63.1	1,787	1.7	29.9

Notes

f: forecast.

* Total public sector includes provincial/territorial, federal direct and municipal governments; workers' compensation boards; and the Quebec Drug Insurance Fund.

Source

National Health Expenditure Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

The figures in Table 6 present total health expenditures in 2013 by selected use of funds for each jurisdiction. For hospital spending, Newfoundland and Labrador and Alberta are forecast to spend more per capita than any other province, at \$2,597 and \$2,379, respectively. Quebec and Ontario are projected to have the lowest per capita spending on hospitals, at \$1,466 and \$1,676, respectively.

For the drug category, the highest per capita spending among the provinces is projected to be in New Brunswick (\$1,181) and Nova Scotia (\$1,080), while the lowest is forecast to be British Columbia (\$761) and Manitoba (\$879).

For physician spending, the highest per capita spending among the provinces is projected to be in Alberta (\$986) and Ontario (\$942), while the lowest is forecast to be in Prince Edward Island (\$765) and Quebec (\$788).

The shares of each spending category out of total health expenditure for each jurisdiction are also shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Total Health Expenditure per Capita and Share, Selected Use of Funds, by Province/Territory and Canada, 2013^f

	Hospitals		Drugs		Physicians		Other Professionals		Other Institutions	
	Exp. per Capita	Exp. as Percentage of Provincial Total	Exp. per Capita	Exp. as Percentage of Provincial Total	Exp. per Capita	Exp. as Percentage of Provincial Total	Exp. per Capita	Exp. as Percentage of Provincial Total	Exp. per Capita	Exp. as Percentage of Provincial Total
N.L.	2,597	36.4	1,020	14.3	927	13.0	480	6.7	891	12.5
P.E.I.	1,972	31.0	944	14.9	765	12.0	486	7.6	906	14.3
N.S.	2,011	30.9	1,080	16.6	818	12.6	653	10.0	874	13.4
N.B.	2,146	33.1	1,181	18.2	789	12.2	532	8.2	747	11.5
Que.	1,466	26.5	1,068	19.3	788	14.2	476	8.6	769	13.9
Ont.	1,676	28.7	1,010	17.3	942	16.1	568	9.7	601	10.3
Man.	1,942	29.3	879	13.2	899	13.6	624	9.4	808	12.2
Sask.	1,892	28.6	880	13.3	911	13.8	640	9.7	796	12.0
Alta.	2,379	35.1	933	13.7	986	14.5	773	11.4	519	7.7
B.C.	1,750	30.3	761	13.2	844	14.6	742	12.8	370	6.4
Y.T.	2,951	29.6	716	7.2	905	9.1	600	6.0	1,797	18.0
N.W.T.	4,238	39.7	719	6.7	1,186	11.1	651	6.1	837	7.8
Nun.	4,502	34.2	704	5.4	1,450	11.0	566	4.3	1,274	9.7
Canada	1,773	29.6	977	16.3	889	14.8	597	10.0	632	10.5

Note

f: forecast.

Source

National Health Expenditure Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

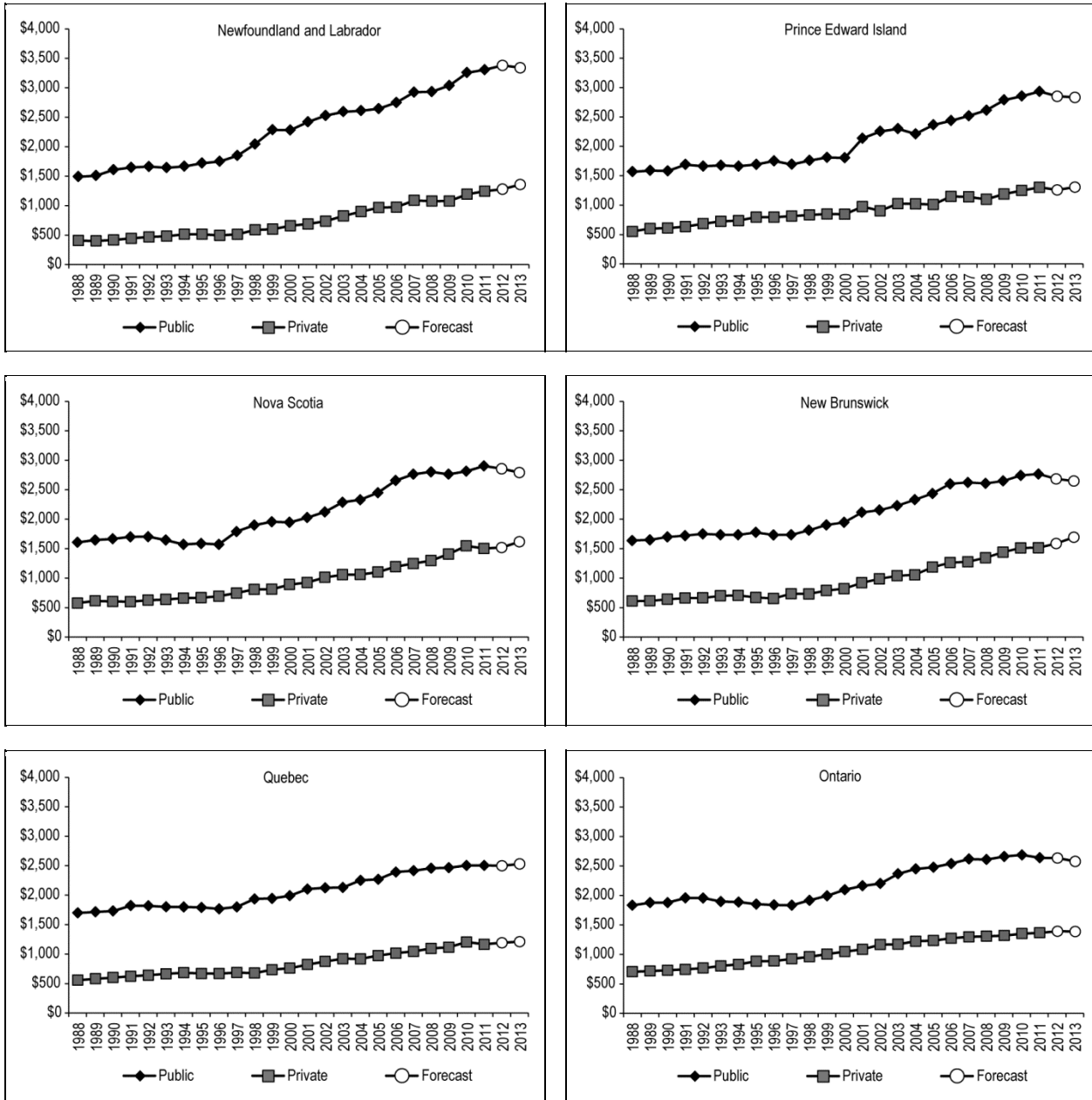
Trends in the Provinces and Territories

The figures in this section present health expenditure per capita at constant prices. This is to standardize for both population growth and inflation, which have varied by province/territory during the last two decades.^{xiii}

The 1990s witnessed policies of health system reform and public expenditure restraint in virtually all jurisdictions. Public-sector expenditure per capita declined across the board at some time during this period, although the timing and duration of expenditure reductions varied. Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta experienced sharp declines, while Ontario experienced declines in each of the four years from 1993 to 1996. Public investment in health care near the end of the 1990s contributed to significant increases in growth rates of public-sector health expenditure across Canada. Meanwhile, the private sector experienced parallel growth in all provinces.

xiii. The indices used to measure inflation are the implicit price index for government current expenditure in the public sector and the consumer price index—health component in the private sector from Statistics Canada. Both indices track prices separately in each province and territory. See Section 8.3: Collection and Non-Response for more details.

Figure 31: Public- and Private-Sector Health Expenditure per Capita, 1988 to 2013, by Province and Territory, Constant 1997 Dollars



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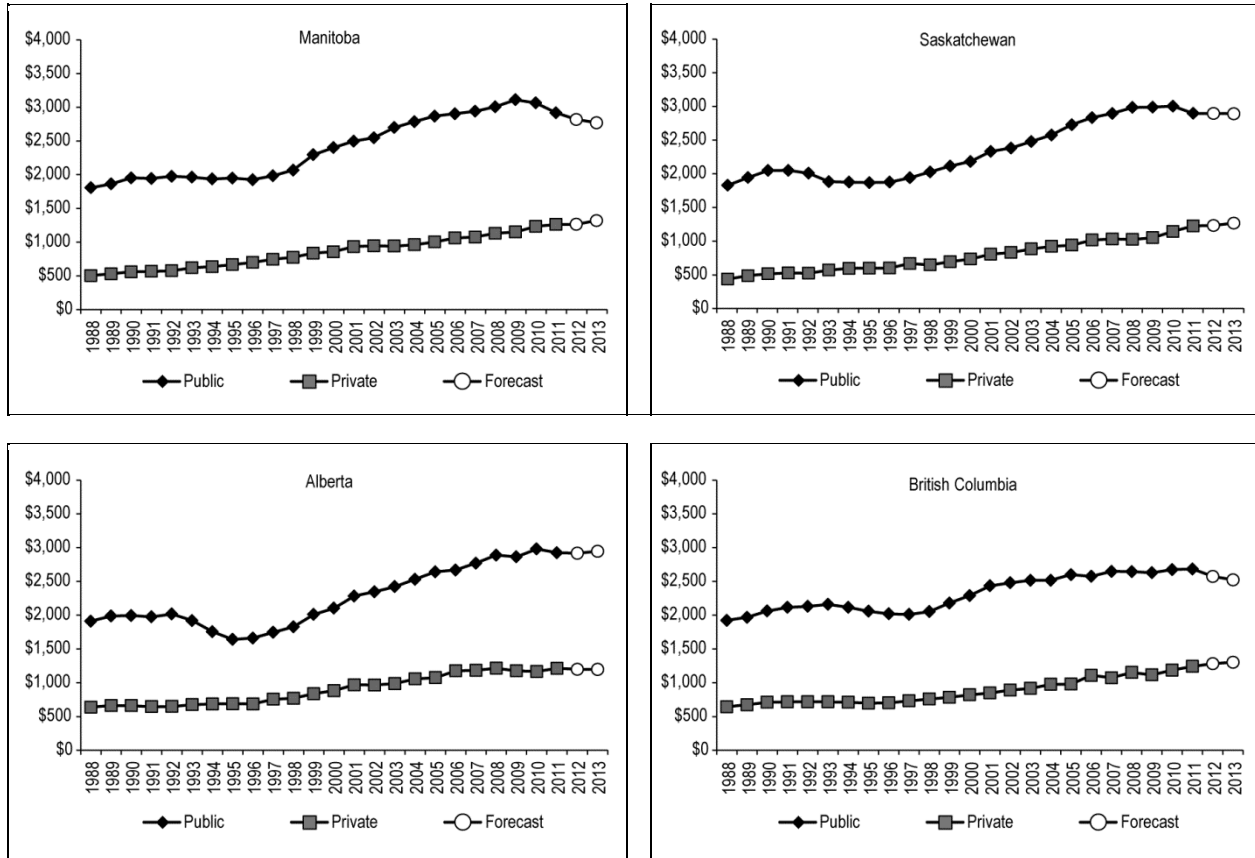
Note

See tables B.2.5 and B.3.5.

Sources

National Health Expenditure Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information; population and price indices, Statistics Canada.

Figure 31: Public- and Private-Sector Health Expenditure per Capita, 1988 to 2013, by Province and Territory, Constant 1997 Dollars (cont'd)



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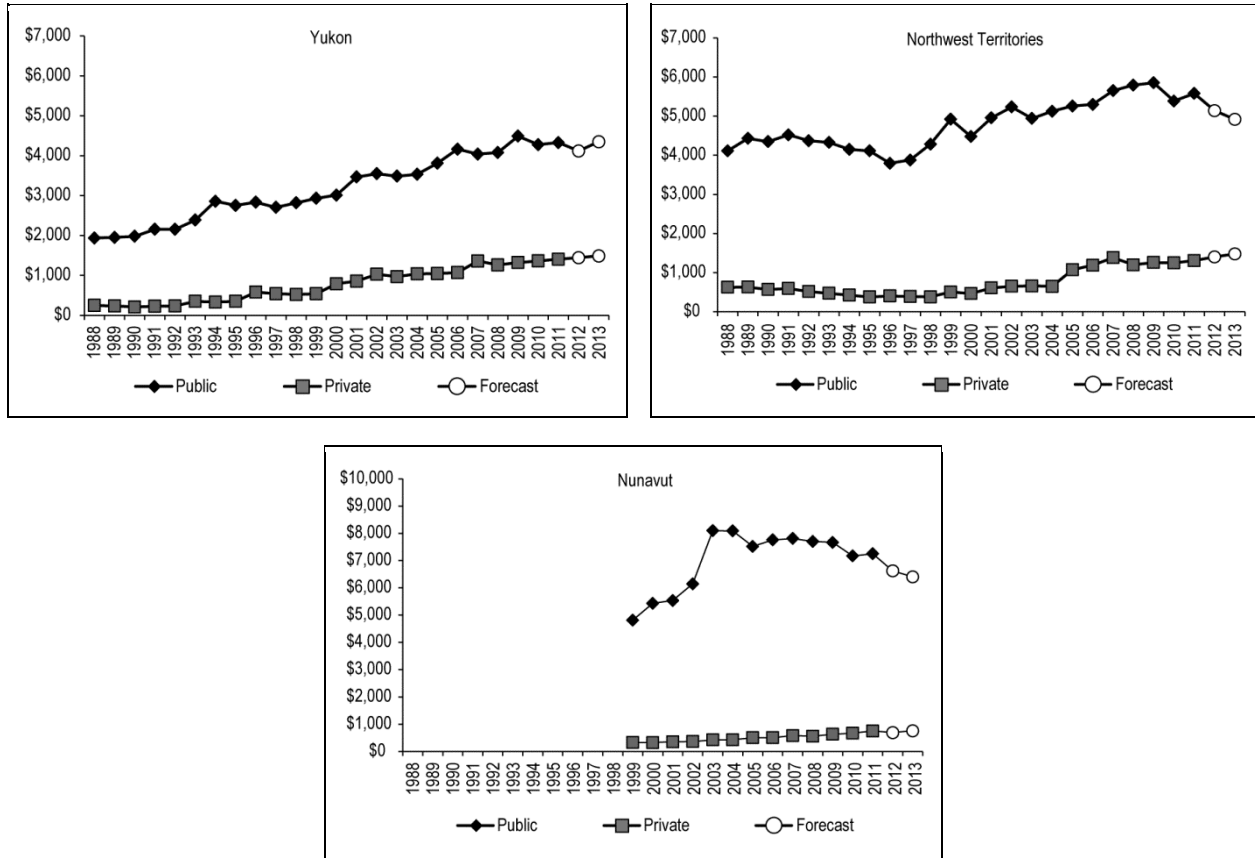
Note

See tables B.2.5 and B.3.5.

Sources

National Health Expenditure Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information; population and price indices, Statistics Canada.

Figure 31: Public- and Private-Sector Health Expenditure per Capita, 1988 to 2013, by Province and Territory, Constant 1997 Dollars (cont'd)



Note

See tables B.2.5 and B.3.5.

Sources

National Health Expenditure Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information; population and price indices, Statistics Canada.