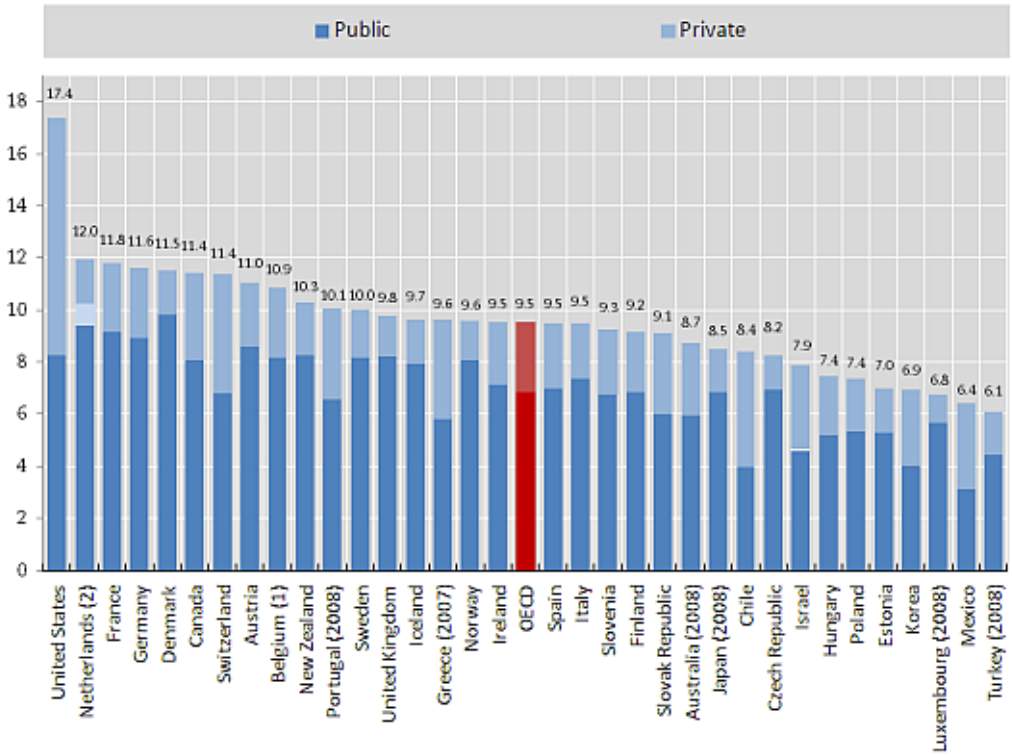
another diamond ring with the insurance payment but rather to use the money for a romantic trip to Paris.

C. Health care

Americans spend far more—at least 5 percentage points of GDP more—on health care than do citizens of most other developed nations, with approximately 53% spent in the private sector and 47% in the public sector (primarily Medicare and Medicaid). The chart below shows spending as a percentage of GDP in 2009 or the nearest year for which data is available. [48] The United States is at the far left in the chart.



Though we spend significantly more, we do not necessarily get more bang for our buck, with data showing that our "actual quality of health is no better than in countries that spend a fraction of what we spend on healthcare. A major reason for that is that we simply spend more for the same procedures and drugs and have far higher administrative overhead than countries with single-payer systems."[49] For example, a recent study revealed that the average price of a hip replacement is $40,364 in the U.S. and $7,731 in Spain; the average price of an M.R.I. scan is $1,121 in the U.S. and $319 in the Netherlands; the average price of a Lipitor supply is $124 in the U.S. and $6 in

[48] *OECD Health Data 2011*, http://www.oecd.org/health/healthdata, at www.oecd.org/newsroom/healthspendingcontinuestooutpaceeconomicgrowthinmostoecdcountries.htm. Reprinted with permission.

[49] Bruce Bartlett, *U.S. Taxes and Government Benefits in an International Context*, 127 TAX NOTES 1429, 1430 (2012).