

Comparing debt payments with health spending, Jubilee Debt Campaign, April 2020

Table 1. Countries spending more on external government debt payments in 2019 than on public healthcare

	Government spending on health as % of government revenue (2019)	Government external debt service as % of government revenue (2019)	Percentage points more spent on external debt service than health, as % of government revenue
Angola	6.4	42.6	36.2
Sri Lanka	13.0	47.6	34.6
Gambia	4.1	38.0	33.9
Congo, R	6.2	37.3	31.1
Ghana	10.8	39.1	28.3
Zambia	8.8	32.6	23.8
Lao PDR	4.9	27.9	23.0
Lebanon	19.5	41.2	21.7
Pakistan	6.0	26.5	20.5
Cameroon	3.9	23.8	19.9
El Salvador	21.0	38.0	17.0
Gabon	11.0	27.7	16.7
Montenegro	13.6	27.1	13.5
Egypt	6.6	19.9	13.3
Mauritania	5.9	18.6	12.7
Kenya	9.2	21.6	12.4
Argentina	16.7	28.7	12.0
Tunisia	14.0	25.8	11.8
Jamaica	12.5	23.9	11.4
Dominica	8.2	19.6	11.4
Bangladesh	4.3	14.6	10.3
Belize	13.4	22.9	9.5
Sudan	8.9	17.7	8.8
Jordan	12.8	21.3	8.5
Cote d'Ivoire	5.6	13.8	8.2
Ethiopia	8.7	16.8	8.1
Mozambique	8.9	16.4	7.5
Armenia	6.9	14.3	7.4
Grenada	8.4	15.8	7.4
Ecuador	12.3	19.4	7.1
Tonga	7.8	14.9	7.1
Congo, DR	4.4	11.3	6.9
Senegal	9.4	16.0	6.6
Niger	5.9	12.4	6.5
Chad	5.5	11.7	6.2

Djibouti	6.9	13.1	6.2
Belarus	10.3	16.2	5.9
Mongolia	7.0	12.7	5.7
Central African Republic	3.2	8.3	5.1
Ukraine	7.3	12.2	4.9
Comoros	6.2	10.9	4.7
Azerbaijan	3.4	7.5	4.0
Indonesia	9.7	13.7	4.0
Cabo Verde	9.3	13.2	3.9
Vanuatu	5.6	8.6	3.0
Sierra Leone	10.4	13.2	2.8
Eritrea	2.6	5.3	2.6
St Vincent and the Grenadines	9.6	11.8	2.2
Uganda	6.0	7.7	1.7
Tajikistan	7.2	8.7	1.5
Benin	5.5	6.8	1.3
Liberia	4.9	6.1	1.2
Bhutan	11.6	12.8	1.2
Haiti	5.6	6.7	1.1
Kyrgyz Republic	7.8	8.7	0.9
Papua New Guinea	8.5	9.4	0.9
Myanmar	6.0	6.6	0.6
Albania	10.2	10.8	0.6
Rwanda	9.9	10.5	0.6
Togo	5.8	6.3	0.5
Mali	5.5	5.9	0.4
Morocco	10.4	10.6	0.1
Micronesia	4.0	4.1	0.1
Cambodia	5.6	5.7	0.1

Table 2. Countries spending less on external government debt payments in 2019 than on public healthcare

	Government spending on health as % of government revenue (2019)	Government external debt service as % of government revenue (2019)	Percentage points more spent on external debt service than health, as % of government revenue
Samoa	12.4	12.3	-0.1
Afghanistan	1.9	1.7	-0.2
Tanzania	12.0	11.7	-0.3
Guinea	4.3	3.6	-0.7
Honduras	14.4	13.4	-1.0
Guyana	7.8	6.4	-1.4
Nepal	4.5	2.7	-1.8

Philippines	6.8	5.0	-1.8
Nigeria	6.2	4.3	-1.9
Russia	8.6	6.7	-1.9
India	4.7	2.7	-2.1
North Macedonia	13.5	11.0	-2.4
Mexico	12.5	9.9	-2.6
Turkey	11.2	8.3	-2.8
Dominican Republic	19.7	16.8	-2.9
Sao Tome and Principe	10.7	7.7	-3.0
Tuvalu	9.2	6.0	-3.2
St Lucia	9.4	6.1	-3.3
Burundi	13.2	9.5	-3.7
Kiribati	5.8	2.0	-3.8
Kazakhstan	9.9	5.8	-4.1
Vietnam	11.5	7.3	-4.2
Burkina Faso	11.1	6.9	-4.2
Mauritius	11.2	7.0	-4.2
Fiji	8.4	3.9	-4.5
Colombia	14.0	9.5	-4.5
Algeria	4.9	0.3	-4.7
Georgia	10.9	5.5	-5.4
Malawi	11.7	6.1	-5.6
Lesotho	12.3	6.4	-5.9
Serbia	13.0	6.8	-6.2
Solomon Islands	8.3	1.8	-6.5
Uzbekistan	11.5	4.7	-6.8
Romania	13.1	6.2	-6.9
Marshall Islands	17.5	10.6	-6.9
Timor-Leste	7.7	0.7	-7.0
Botswana	10.7	3.3	-7.4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	15.6	7.7	-7.9
Moldova	14.3	5.9	-8.4
Turkmenistan	9.4	0.9	-8.4
South Africa	15.0	6.3	-8.6
Brazil	12.7	3.8	-8.9
China	10.0	0.9	-9.2
Bolivia	15.7	6.3	-9.4
Madagascar	17.5	7.1	-10.4
Guinea-Bissau	13.8	2.5	-11.3
Bulgaria	11.5	0.0	-11.5
Thailand	13.5	1.2	-12.4
Peru	16.5	3.4	-13.1
Guatemala	21.1	7.3	-13.8
Maldives	29.6	15.8	-13.8

Nicaragua	22.0	6.7	-15.3
Eswatini	21.1	5.5	-15.6
Paraguay	23.3	7.7	-15.6
Zimbabwe	29.6	11.6	-18.0
Costa Rica	39.7	14.6	-25.1
Iran	34.0	0.2	-33.8

Methodology

Data on government spending on healthcare as a % of GDP was taken as the most recent year available from the World Bank World Development Indicators database. This was turned into spending as a proportion of government revenue using data from the IMF World Economic Outlook on GDP and government revenue.

Government external debt service as a proportion of government revenue is from a recent IMF and World Bank Debt Sustainability Analysis. Where these are not available it is calculated from the World Bank International Debt Statistics database, the IMF World Economic Outlook and the IMF's website.