

Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/238702/us-total-medical-prescriptions-issued/>

Total number of medical prescriptions dispensed in the U.S. from 2009 to 2022 *(in millions)*

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Release date

May 2023

Region

United States

Survey time period

2009 to 2022

Supplementary notes

Includes prescriptions and insulins dispensed through chain and independent pharmacies, food store pharmacies, mail service pharmacies, and long-term care facilities. Excludes OTC. Excludes COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics. IQVIA routinely updates its national audits, which may result in changes to previously reported market size and growth rates. Prescriptions are unadjusted for length of prescriptions until 2015.

The statistic was assembled from several IQVIA (IMS Health/QuintilesIMS) reports.

** Change in data collection from 2016 on. From that year on, prescription counts are adjusted for prescription length and re-aggregated.

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Total drug prescriptions dispensed in the U.S. 2009-2022

Published by [Matej Mikulic](#), Sep 15, 2023

The number of prescriptions dispensed in the U.S. has increased between 2009 and 2022. In 2009 the number of prescriptions dispensed was near 3.95 billion, while in 2022 the number of prescriptions dispensed was around 6.7 billion. The increase in the number of prescriptions dispensed has a multifactorial origin that includes health care sources, health insurance, and prescription drug benefits. However, the increase in prescription drug usage comes with a price tag as the price of drugs in the U.S. is also on the rise.

Medication usage

The [total number of retail prescriptions filed annually](#) in the United States is expected to also rise significantly by the year 2025. Medication usage varies depending on the population, for example, some data shows [that prescription usage increases with age](#). Likewise, gender has an influence on prescription drug use. [Females have a higher rate of prescription drug usage](#).

Prescription drug costs

The U.S. has some of the highest per capita drug spending in the world. That is largely because the prices of drugs in the U.S. are based solely on what the market can bear, rather than what

the actual costs of production are. [Personal health care expenditures in the U.S.](#) have more than doubled since 2000. Estimates suggest that the cost of drugs will continue to increase. [Estimated U.S. prescribed drug expenditures](#) amounted to 378 billion U.S. dollars by the end of 2021.