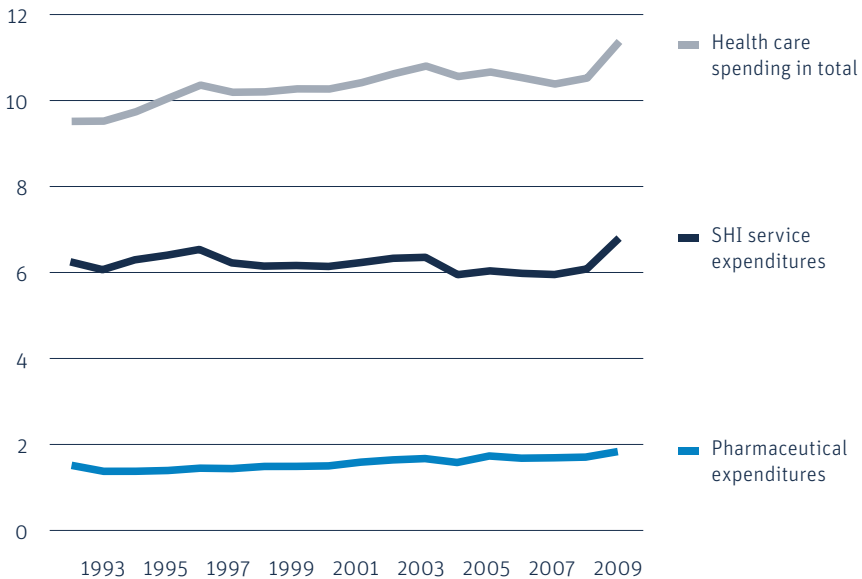


Health Care Expenditures and National Product

Share of gross domestic product in percent



2009: provisional estimate; for detailed data, see Appendix, page 58
Source: Federal Statistical Office, vfa

The global financial and economic crisis left its mark on the national economy in 2009. Although final figures are not yet available, a much higher share of gross domestic product will have been spent on health care than in previous years. The reason is not an explosion of costs, but rather a decline in gross domestic product, which fell by around 5 percent in 2009. In contrast, health care expenses for both statutory health insurers and private consumers increased moderately, as they have in previous years. Since these expenditures also stabilize domestic demand, they have contributed significantly to cushioning the impact of the crisis on the national economy.