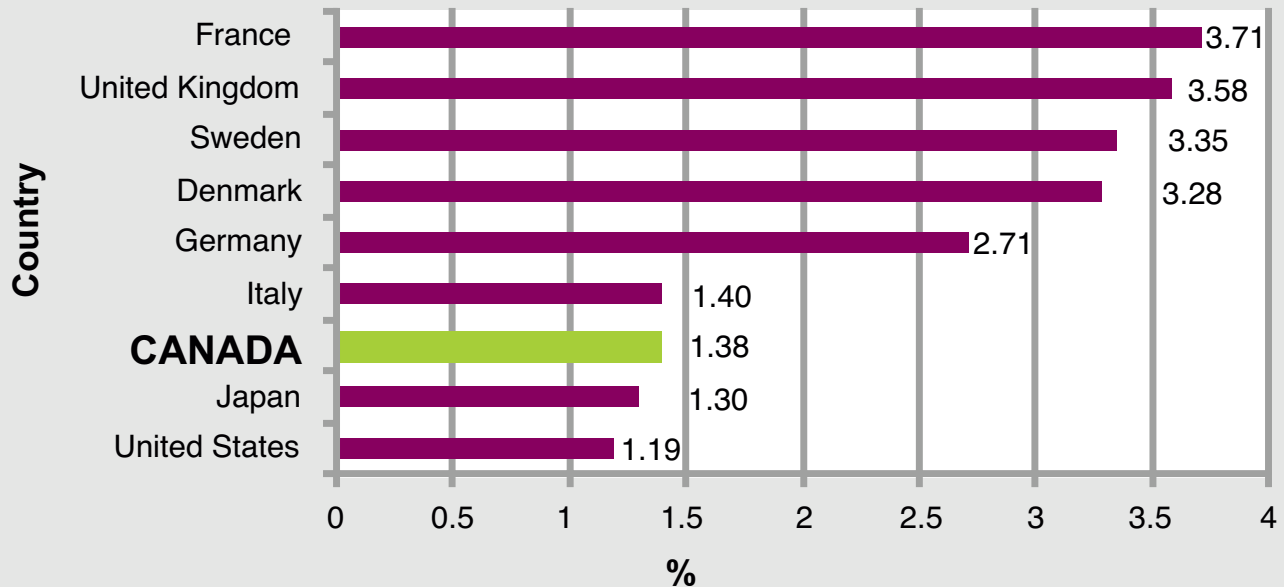




## 5.1.2 Economic Security

**Fig. 5.1.2 Public spending on family benefits in cash, services and tax measures, in per cent GDP, 2007**



OECD (2011). *OECD Family Database*. OECD Paris. Available at: <http://www.oecd.org/els/socialpoliciesanddata/37864391.pdf>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

Public spending on family benefits includes financial support that is exclusively for families and children. The OECD\* family database includes three types of public spending on family benefits.

- 1) **Child-related cash transfers to families with children.** For example, public income support payments during periods of parental leave.
- 2) **Public spending on services for families with children.** For example, direct financing and subsidizing of providers of child care and early education facilities.
- 3) **Financial support for families provided through the tax system.** For example, child tax allowances.

Public spending on family benefits is an indicator of a government's commitment to children. OECD countries spend on average 2.2% of their GDP on family benefits. In 2007, France, the United Kingdom, and Sweden spent the highest percentage of GDP, followed by Denmark. These countries spent between 3.2% and 3.7% of GDP on children and families, more than twice as much as Canada at 1.3%.

\* OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) is an organization that acts as a meeting ground for 30 countries that believe strongly in the free market system.

