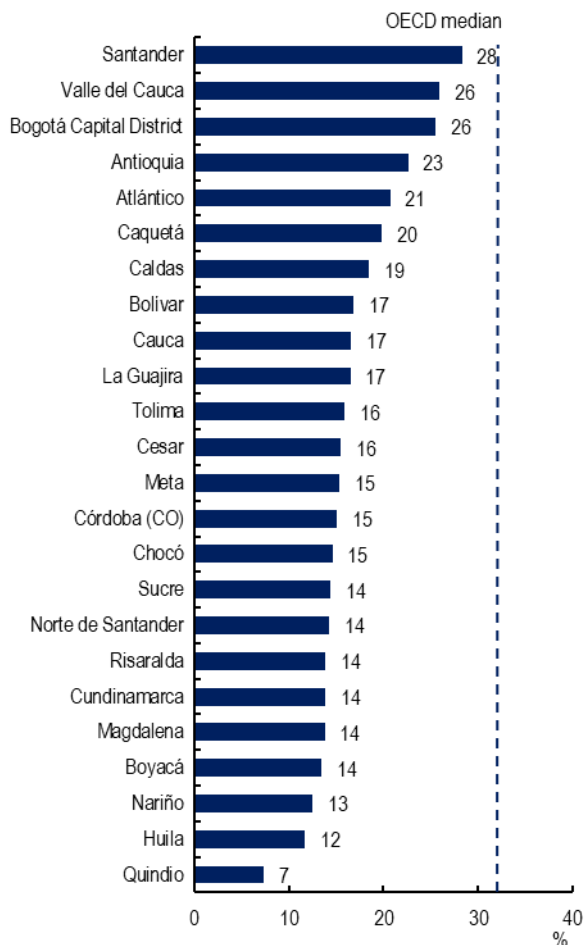# Colombia[1]

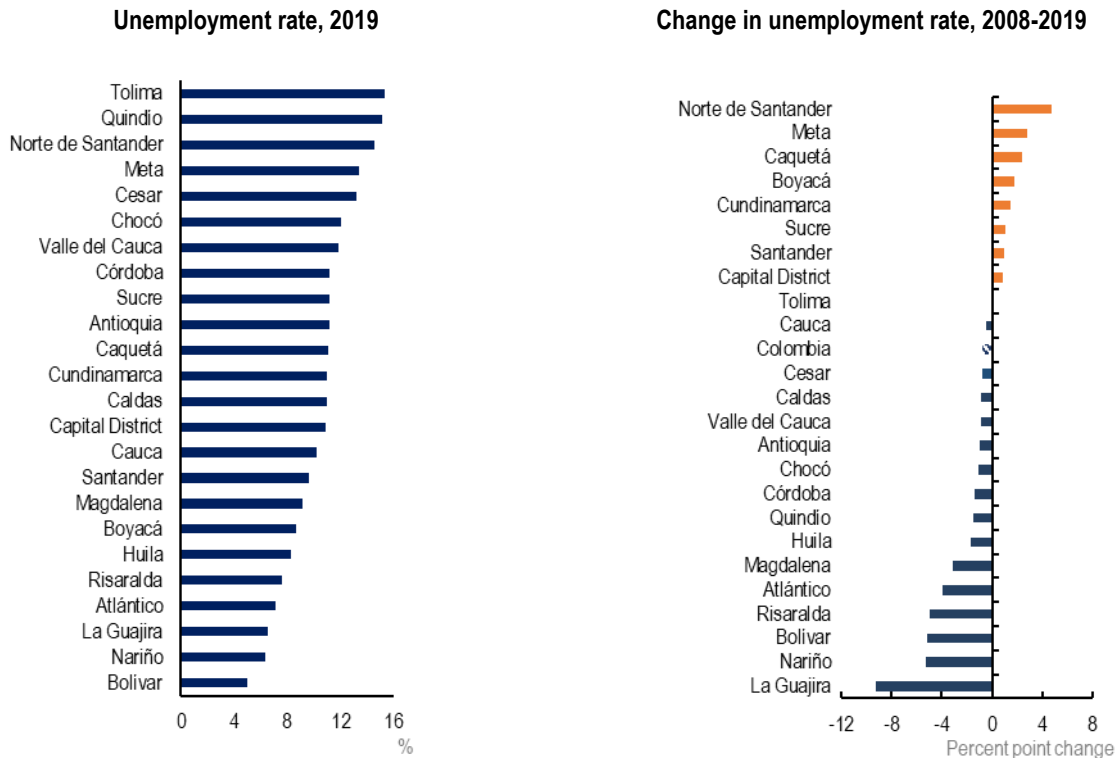| The share of jobs amenable to teleworking in Colombia is lower than the OECD on average. It varies from 7% in Quindio to 28% in Santander.	The majority of Colombia's departments had lower unemployment rates in 2019 compared to 2008.	In almost all departments, the number of people employed grew between 2008 and 2019. The Bogotá Capital District was responsible for 17% of net employment growth over this period.

The potential impacts of COVID-19 on local labour markets

Share of jobs amenable to teleworking

COVID-19 has put unprecedented pressure on local labour markets and economies. While containment measures have restricted economic activity in some sectors, the rapid expansion of teleworking has helped maintain other jobs. The share of jobs amenable to teleworking in all departments in Colombia is lower than the OECD median region, but widespread teleworking is more feasible in some departments than others. The share of jobs amenable to teleworking varies roughly 21 percentage points across departments, from 7% in Quindio to 28% in Santander.

Note: The share of jobs amenable to teleworking is based on the types of tasks performed in different occupations, and the share of those occupations in departmental labour markets. However, these figures do not account for gaps in access to IT infrastructure across departments, which could further restrict teleworking potential. The OECD median is the median of OECD regions with available data.
Source: OECD (2020), *OECD Regions and Cities at a Glance 2020*, https://doi.org/10.1787/959d5ba0-en.

Updated 01 December 2020

Pre-COVID-19 local labour market health

Unemployment rate, 2019

Department	
Tolima	
Quindío	
Norte de Santander	
Meta	
Cesar	
Chocó	
Valle del Cauca	
Córdoba	
Sucre	
Antioquia	
Caquetá	
Cundinamarca	
Caldas	
Capital District	
Cauca	
Santander	
Magdalena	
Boyacá	
Huila	
Risaralda	
Atlántico	
La Guajira	
Nariño	
Bolívar	

%

Change in unemployment rate, 2008-2019

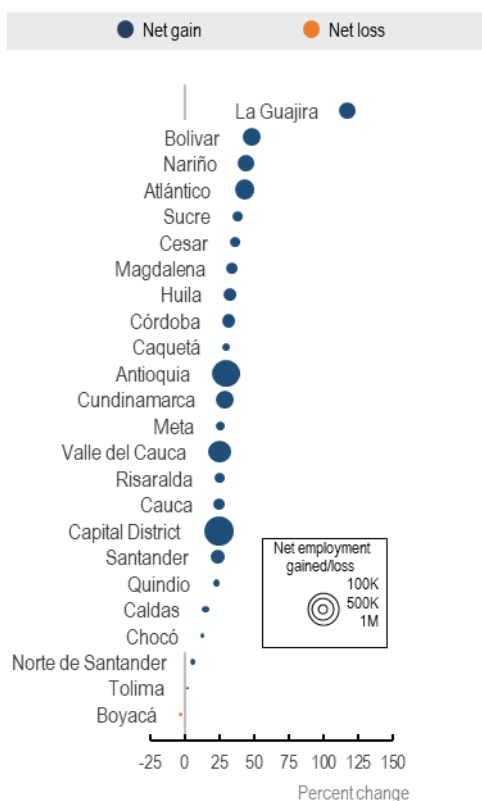| Department	
Norte de Santander	
Meta	
Caquetá	
Boyacá	
Cundinamarca	
Sucre	
Santander	
Capital District	
Tolima	
Cauca	
Colombia	
Cesar	
Caldas	
Valle del Cauca	
Antioquia	
Chocó	
Córdoba	
Quindío	
Huila	
Magdalena	
Atlántico	
Risaralda	
Bolívar	
Nariño	
La Guajira	

Percent point change

Note: The unemployment rate is computed as the share of unemployed people over the labour force, for the working age population. In Colombia, the working age population is defined as the population aged 12 or more in urban areas and aged 10 or more in rural areas.
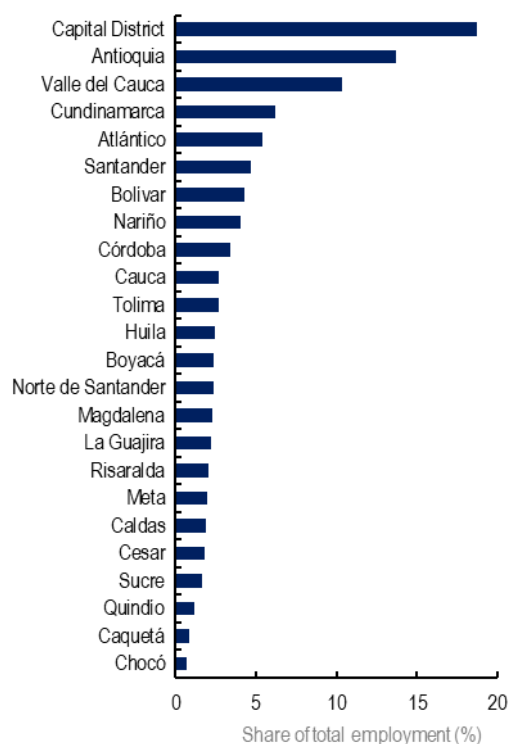Source: National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) - *Encuesta Continua de Hogares, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares*.

In 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment rates in Colombia were generally high, but varied over two-fold across departments. Rates varied from a low of 4.9% in Bolívar to a high of 15.3% in Tolima. Most departments had lower unemployment rates in 2019 than in 2008. Departmental gaps in unemployment increased slightly over this period.

Change in net employment, 2008-2019

Employment by department, 2019

Source: National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) - *Encuesta Continua de Hogares, Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares*.

In almost all departments, the number of people employed grew between 2008 and 2019. Bogotá Capital District was responsible for 17% of net employment growth over this period, and in 2019, accounted for almost 19% of total employment in Colombia.

Active labour market policies: institutional arrangements

Active labour market policies will be of growing importance as the COVID-19 response moves from emergency supports to facilitating labour market transitions. The institutional arrangements for these policies and the role of subnational governments varies significantly across countries.

	Centralised, including branch offices of national ministry / agency	In 2013, Colombia introduced a new system to coordinate an expanded public employment service network. Prior to this, responsibility for providing free, public employment services primarily rested with the Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (SENA), a national agency primarily responsible for vocational training. The expanded network of public and private providers include employment agencies belonging to the Family Compensation Funds, the Public Employment Agency of SENA, territorial entities, profit and non-profit agencies and job boards, which have a presence throughout the country.
	Decentralised to subnational governments	
	Fully outsourced or delivered through network of public, private, and/or non-profit providers	
X	**Combined system with shared competences, or different systems for different target groups**	

Source: OECD (forthcoming), "Local and regional variations in labour market and skills policies: A cross-country comparison", *OECD Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Papers;* Avila, Z. (2017), "Employment and Labour Market Policies Branch Good practices in using partnerships for the delivery of employment services in Colombia", *Employment Working Paper, No. 225,* ILO.

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[1] Data is presented at the departmental level for those with available data. For more information on the methodologies behind the calculations, see the Reader's Guide of the full report.

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