

Sweden

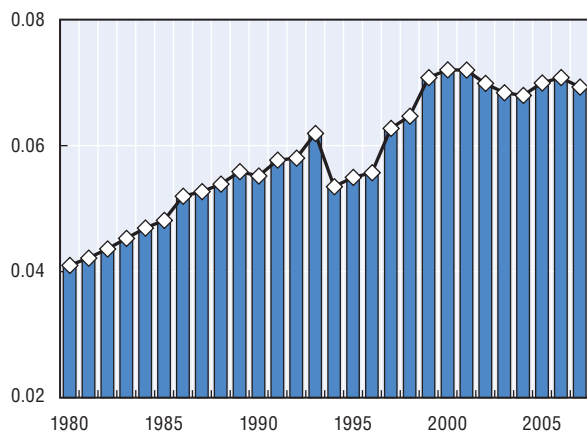
Population and territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9.1 million inhabitants, 410 313 km².
Administrative structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unitary country. ● Two-tiered sub-national system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ TL2: 8 <i>Riksomraden</i>. ❖ TL3: 21 <i>Län</i>, among which only one predominantly urban region (Stockholm, 21% of total population, +1.8 pp over the last 15 years), 2 intermediate regions (30%, +0.6 pp) and 18 predominantly rural regions (49%, -2.4 pp). ❖ 290 municipalities (<i>kommuner</i>).
Share of sub-national government in total spending/revenues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spending: 46.9% (2009). ● Revenues: 38.6% (2009).
Concentration and inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sweden's economy is the second most concentrated among OECD countries. Almost 60% (57%) of Sweden's GDP is produced in three out of 21 TL3 regions (Stockholm, Västra Götlands and Skåne). ● Inequality in GDP per capita among TL2 regions has been increasing steadily from 1980 to 2005. The increase in inequality has been significantly driven by Stockholm's buoyant growth rate in GDP per capita over the past ten years (3.6%), outperforming the national average (2.7%). Over a 27 years period, Stockholm's GDP per capita increased from 18% above the national standard to 36%. ● With the exception of Västraverige and Sydsverige, the remaining Swedish TL2 regions have also contributed to inequality by falling further behind the national average in GDP per capita over the period 1980 to 2007. ● Despite the increasing trend in inequality, it still remains fairly low relative to OECD standards. In 2007, Sweden displayed the lowest level of inequality in GDP per capita and in productivity (<i>i.e.</i> GDP per worker) among OECD TL3 regions. Östra Mellansverige and Småland med åarna, both TL2 regions with the lowest level of GDP per capita, trailed the national average by only 14% in 2007. ● Due to Stockholm's large size and vibrant economy it has contributed significantly (41.7%) to Sweden's overall GDP growth over the past decade, followed by Västsverige (19.6%), Sysverige (12.4%) and Östra Mellansverige (11.8%).
Key challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demographic change and how to maintain an equal level of local public services across the country. ● Urban-rural linkages and diversification of rural economy. ● Climate change issues.
Objectives of regional policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dynamic development in all areas of the country with greater local and regional competitiveness.
Legal/institutional framework of regional policy ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regional development programmes (RUPs). ● Regional growth programmes (RTPs).
Urban policy framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Programme for the Major Urban Areas 2006-09 (NUTEK/<i>Tillväxtverket</i>).
Rural policy framework ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Strategy for Rural Areas (2009).
Major regional policy tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VINN excellence centres (VINNVÅXT). ● NUTEK/<i>Tillväxtverket</i> regional cluster programme. ● Regional investment aid and transport grants. ● Fiscal equalisation system.
Policy co-ordination at central level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Co-ordination of the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications. ● National Forum.
Multi-level governance between national and sub-national levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Forum.
Policy co-ordination at regional level (cross-sectoral)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regional development programmes (RUPs). ● Regional growth programmes (RTPs). ● Co-ordination of Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (<i>Tillväxtverket</i>).
Policy co-ordination at regional level (geographic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishment of new regions through county associations. ● Municipal co-operation bodies.
Evaluation and monitoring	–
Future orientations of regional policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How to structure the central government regional administration (co-ordination of decentralisation and deconcentration). ● Creation of enlarged regions.

1. In all EU member countries, the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) required by Cohesion Policy is also part of the legal/institutional framework.

2. In all EU member countries, the National Strategic Plan (NSP) (and the regional Rural Development Plans [RDPs] in federalised and strongly regionalised countries) is a basic rural policy document required by EU Rural Development Programmes. Each member country has the choice of either submitting a single NSP for its entire territory or of breaking down its territory into regions and submitting a set of regional RDPs.

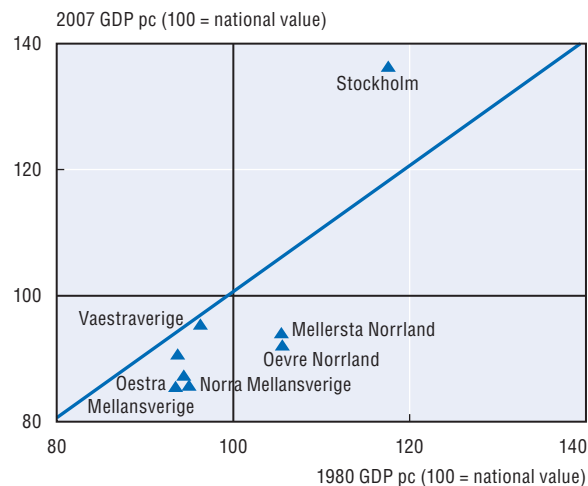
Gini index of inequality of GDP per capita across TL2 regions, 1990-2007

Sweden (TL2)

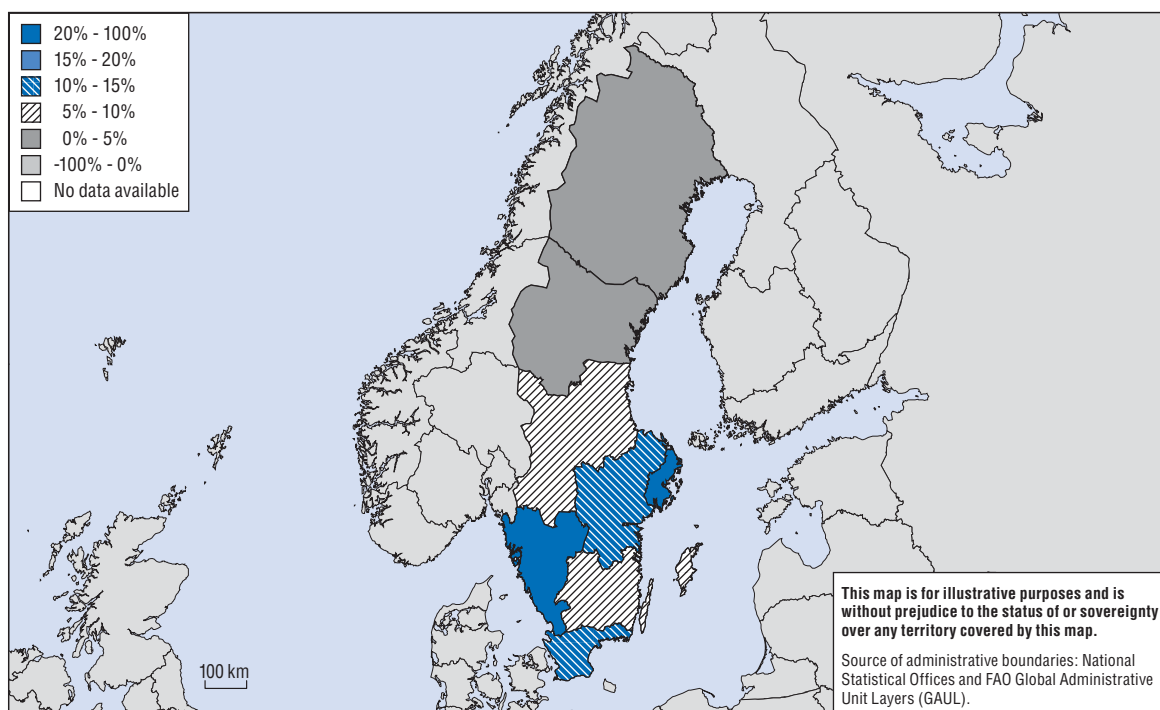


Regional performance in GDP per capita over time, 1990 and 2007

Sweden (TL2)



Regional contribution (%) to national GDP growth, 1995-2007



Source: Calculations based on Cambridge Econometrics and OECD Regional Database (2009).

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