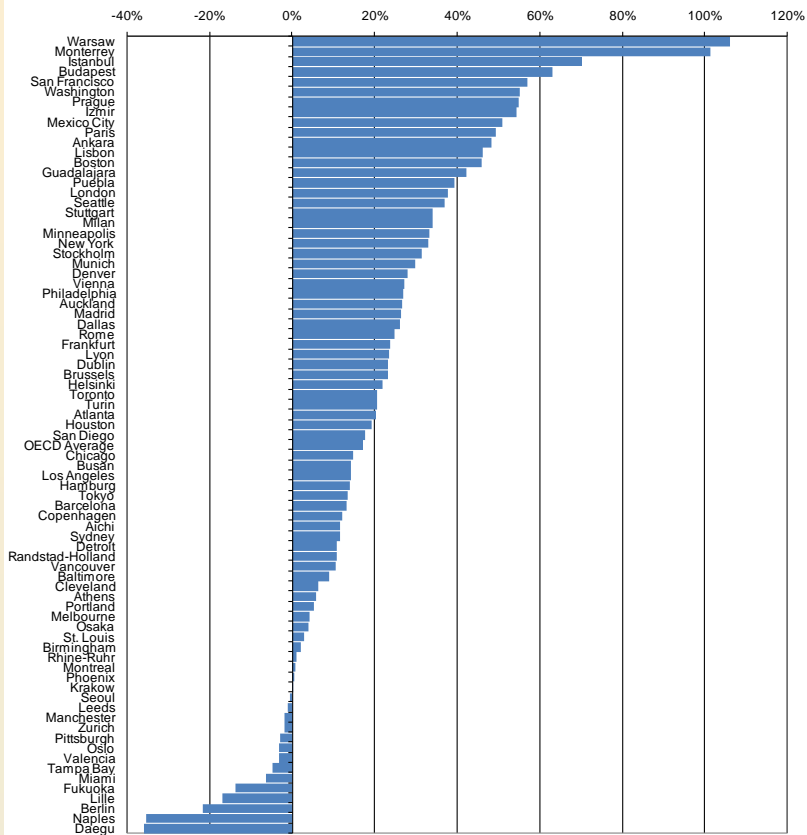


OECD Urban Development Programme

Key Facts

- **Cities are key engines of national economies.** Most of the largest OECD metro-regions have a higher GDP per capita than their national average, a higher labour productivity level, and faster growth rates.
- **Agglomeration economies.** The concentration of jobs and firms can be beneficial: pooled labour markets, backward and forward linkages among firms, and knowledge spill-overs can lead to higher productivity growth.
- **Success should not be taken for granted.** Diseconomies can emerge due to negative externalities including congestion, environmental degradation and social disorder (declining neighbourhoods, criminality).
- **Cities can falter.** A group of cities systematically performs below their national averages. Wealth creation does not produce enough job creation and activity rate is low.
- **Exclusion, poverty and inequalities have become urban phenomena** in most OECD countries, leading to significant costs including high levels of crime (30% higher than the national level) and strong spatial polarisation.
- **Cities contribute to global warming.** Cities are responsible for about two-thirds of total world energy consumption and CO₂ emissions.

Most large cities feature a larger output per capita than their country's average

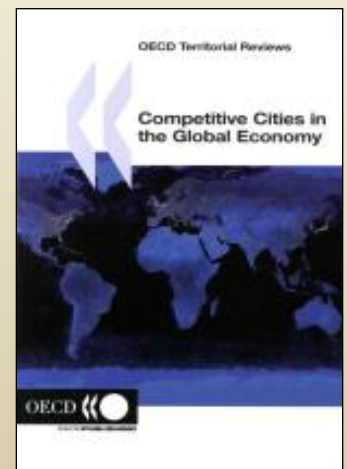


Differences in per capita GDP of metro-regions and their national level (2002) – Sample of 78 metro-regions with 1.5 million and more inhabitants

Why Urban Policy Matters?



- To address negative externalities of urbanisation (congestion, social distress, pollution, etc.)
- To encourage the benefits of agglomeration by providing collective public goods (e.g. physical infrastructure and intangible assets)



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Activities

Competitive Cities and Climate Change

- City strategies and potential from the green economy
- Innovative planning and financing tools
- Multi-level governance
- Climate-friendly public transportation
- R&D and energy efficiency policies



OECD Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers on Urban Strategy

The only worldwide global platform involving both high-level national and local governments.



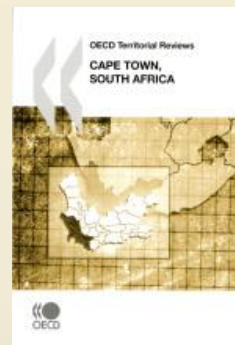
A unique metropolitan database

Including 78 metropolitan regions and over 1.5 million inhabitants focussing on territorial units that are closest to functional commuting labour market areas.

OECD Metropolitan Reviews: Assessing competitiveness strategies of large cities

Metropolitan Reviews available:

- Busan, Korea
- Öresund, Denmark/Sweden
- Melbourne, Australia
- Vienna-Bratislava, Austria/Slovak Republic
- Randstad Holland, Netherlands
- Helsinki, Finland
- Montreal, Canada
- Athens, Greece
- Stockholm, Sweden
- Milan, Italy
- Newcastle in the North East, UK
- Istanbul, Turkey



Forthcoming:
Chicago
Johannesburg
Toronto
Venice
Guangdong



New activities

- A series of reviews on *national urban policies*
- Case studies on *promoting sustainable communities*
- Case studies on *trans-border functional linkages between cities*
- Case studies on *port cities*