



Regional Analysis and Statistics

Key Facts

- **National economic performance often hides wide regional differences.** While differences in economic growth between countries have declined in recent years, those within countries have not. For a large part these disparities can be attributed to differences in labour productivity and labour market participation.
- **Local factors matter in attaining sustained growth.** Around 40% of OECD output and job creation are generated by only 10% of regions.
- **Regional differences are affected by both the spatial allocation of resources and the interconnectivity of regions.** Policy-making could be further enhanced by place based evidence and decisions.
- **OECD regional indicators identify those regions that outperform and those that lag behind.** Regional growth is mainly driven by the availability of skilled human capital, infrastructure and innovative capacity, but more importantly, an integrated approach is needed since these drivers of growth reinforce each other.
- **Connectivity among regions** through knowledge sharing and scientific collaborations is a key driver of competitiveness, and is increasingly important due to the emergence of new regional hubs.
- **Regional development is multi-dimensional.** The OECD regional indicators range from population characteristics to economic output, from industrial specialization to labour market performance, from innovation activities to education levels, from health status to environmental conditions.

Areas of OECD work

Themes addressed in prior and future work include:

- Selecting and interpreting sets of regional indicators, revealing the diversity of regional development.
- Economic and social performance of remote rural areas.
- Internationally comparable definition of urban areas of different economic size and analysis of trends in urban growth and density.
- Functional links between rural and urban areas
- Including regional statistics from emerging economies in the OECD regional database.
- Analysing accessibility and service areas to identify and reduce spatial inequalities.
- Regional and urban indicators of environmental performance.
- Regional labour mobility and determinants of migration.
- Measuring innovation processes at local level and the associations between knowledge generation and diffusion.
- Better understanding of the information used by countries and regions to define their strategies and to prioritize investments and service delivery.
- Analysing how regions are affected and recover from large economic shocks or natural disasters.

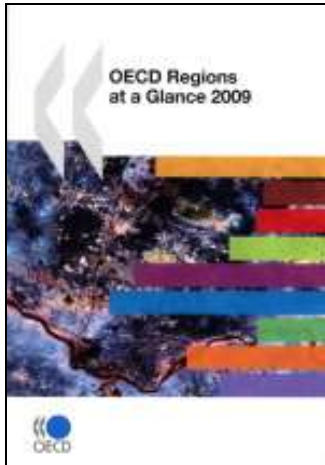
What the OECD Provides



- The **OECD Regional Database** provides a unique set of comparable statistics and indicators on about 2000 regions in the OECD countries and other economies. It currently encompasses yearly time-series for around 40 indicators of demography, economic accounts, labour market, social and innovation themes. Available on <http://dotstat.oecd.org/wbos/index.aspx>
- The **OECD Metrodatabase** provides statistics on 90 large metropolitan regions in the OECD countries and shows how these regions have changed over the past decade. Available on OECD.Stat <http://dotstat.oecd.org/wbos/index.aspx>
- The **OECD eXplorer** is an interactive graphical web-tool to analyse regional statistics through maps and other visual presentations and to explore trends over time. <http://stats.oecd.org/OECDregionalstatistics/>
- A unique Forum to analyse regional competitiveness: the **Working Party on Territorial Indicators (WPTI)**, with international experts from all OECD countries, carries out statistical work on the measurement of regional economies.



Recent publications



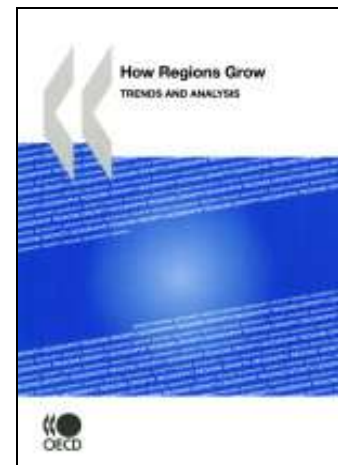
Regions at a Glance 2009

A one-stop guide for understanding regional competitiveness and performance, relying on comparative statistical information at the sub-national level, graphs and maps. This third edition provides the latest comparable data and trends across regions in OECD countries, including a special focus on the spatial dimension for innovation.

Regions at a Glance 2011 (forthcoming June 2011).

How Regions Grow: Trends and Analysis

This report illustrates which factors and in what combinations are associated with regional growth.



Facts with OECD eXplorer

Interactive graphs and maps to understand regional responses for global challenges

About the OECD

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is a unique forum where the governments of 34 market democracies work together to address the economic, social and governance challenges of globalisation as well as to exploit its opportunities. The Organisation provides a setting where governments can compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and co-ordinate domestic and international policies.