In the OECD, Greece has the 6th lowest disparities across regions in GDP per capita. Investment carried out by sub-national governments was 0.6% of GDP, the lowest value among OECD countries. The metropolitan area of Athens alone contributed to 80% of the national GDP growth in 2000-10, the highest share among OECD countries.

Greece had the 6th lowest regional disparities in GDP per capita in OECD countries in 2010. In the past decade regional growth was as diverse as +3.7% annually in Athens and no growth (0%) in Central Greece.

In recent years, the unemployment rate has soared in Greek regions such as Athens (25%) and the youth unemployment rate reached 58% in Northern Greece in 2012.

Source: OECD Regional database. GDP per capita and GDP growth are based on USD constant PPP, constant prices (year 2005).
Regional dynamics

How do the richest and poorest regions fare on social and environmental dimensions?

Highest GDP per capita region:

**Athens**

Lowest GDP per capita region:

**Northern Greece**

How to read the graph: For each dimension, regions have been assigned values from 0 to 10 based on their rank among all OECD regions and on the latest available data: 10 is the best performance and 0 is the lowest. The OECD median region is equal to 5. The more the radar graph is covered, the better the performance of the region among OECD regions.

Athens fares better than the OECD median region for environment, health and education. Northern Greece, the region with the lowest GDP per capita in the country, ranks as the median region in education and health.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Athens</th>
<th>Northern Greece</th>
<th>Greece</th>
<th>OECD average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Household income per capita, 2010 (USD PPP per capita)</td>
<td>16 656</td>
<td>13 592</td>
<td>14 646</td>
<td>18 775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>Unemployment rate, 2012 (%)</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour</td>
<td>Share of work force with tertiary education, 2012 (%)</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>28.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Life expectancy, 2010 (years)</td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>80.1</td>
<td>80.6</td>
<td>79.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>CO₂ per capita, 2008 (tonnes per person)</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>10.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>No. of patents per million people, 2010</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>108.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD Regional database. Household disposable income per capita data are based on USD constant PPP, constant prices (year 2005). Note: OECD regions refer to the first administrative tier of sub-national government; Greece is composed by 4 regions (Groups of development regions).
Sub-national government finance

Sub-national governments have a key role in public investment
Sub-national government public investment per capita, 2012

In Greece 31% of the total public investment was carried out by sub-national governments (SNG) compared to 72% in the OECD area. SNG investment has decreased in Greece from USD 199 per capita in 2007 to USD 146 per capita in 2012.

Sub-national government expenditure by function, 2012
As a share of total SNG expenditure

Sub-national expenditure per capita:
USD 790 USD 6 173

Sub-national government expenditure accounts for 6% of the total public expenditure and 3% of GDP in Greece, compared to 40% and 17% respectively, in the OECD area. It corresponds to USD 790 per person and USD 6 173 in the OECD area. General public services are the largest spending item for SNGs in Greece: it represents 40% of sub-national expenditure compared to 14% in the OECD area.

Source: OECD National Accounts database.
In Greece, 49% of the population lives in cities of different sizes. The share of population in metropolitan areas (urban areas with more than 500,000 people) is 40% compared to 49% in the OECD area.

Metropolitan areas in Greece concentrate 52% of national GDP and 43% of employment. In 2000-10 they accounted for over 80% of GDP growth.

**OECD Regions at a Glance 2013**

This edition of OECD Regions at a Glance shows how regions and cities contribute to national growth and the well-being of societies. It updates its regular set of region-by-region indicators, examining a wide range of policies and trends and identifying those regions that are outperforming or lagging behind in their country.

New to this edition:
- The role of OECD metropolitan areas in countries’ development
- Recent trends in public investment, revenues and the debt of subnational governments

Consult this publication on line: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/reg_glance-2013-en](http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/reg_glance-2013-en)