

OECD Regions at a Glance 2013 – Korea Profile

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Did you know?

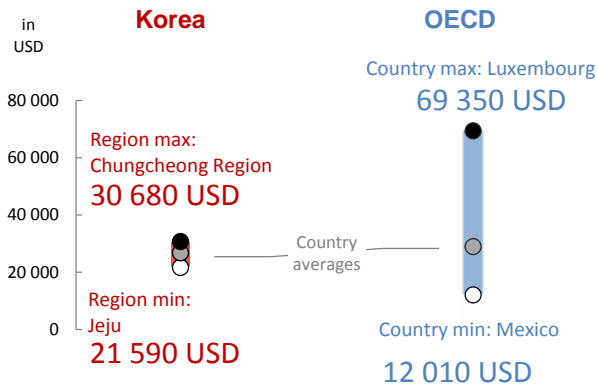
Among OECD countries, Korea had the 3rd lowest regional disparities in GDP per capita in 2012.

Sub-national governments carried out 59% of total public investment in Korea in 2011, compared to the OECD's 72% average.

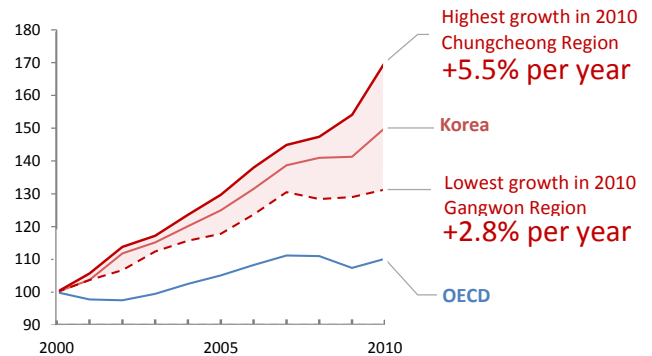
In Korea, 87% of the population lives in cities of different sizes, the highest value among OECD countries.

Regional dynamics

GDP per capita, 2010

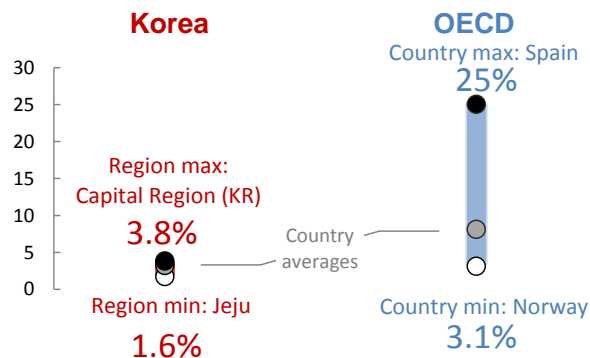


GDP growth (year 2000=100)



Korea had the 3rd lowest **regional disparities in GDP** per capita across OECD countries. In the past decade regional growth was as diverse as **+5.5%** annually in **Chungcheong** and **+2.8%** in **Gangwon**.

Unemployment rate, 2012

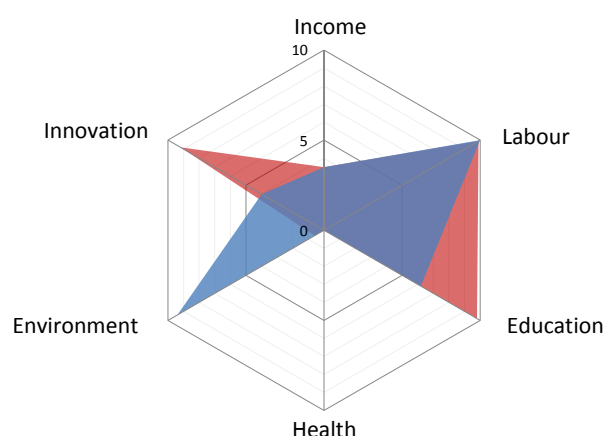


In 2012, Korea had the 7th lowest regional disparities in **unemployment rate** comparing with the other OECD countries. The highest unemployment rate was in **Capital Region (3.8%)** and the lowest in **Jeju (1.7%)**.

Regional dynamics

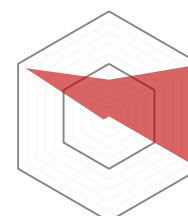


How do the richest and poorest regions fare on social and environmental dimensions?



Highest GDP per capita region:

Chungcheongnam-do Region



Lowest GDP per capita region:

Jeju



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.

Chungcheong Region fares better than the OECD median region for labour and education, but it ranks below for income and environment. Jeju, the Korean region with the lowest GDP per capita in the country, ranks below the median region in terms of income and innovation. It fares better than the median region for environment, labour and education.

Dimensions	Indicators	Chungcheongnam-do Region	Jeju	Korea	OECD average
Income	Household income per capita, 2010 (USD PPP per capita)	12 785	12 962	13 452	18 775
Labour	Unemployment rate, 2012 (%)	2.6	1.6	3.2	8.1
Education	Share of student enrolment in tertiary education, 2011 (%)	37.3	20.8	27.1	20.0
Health	Life expectancy, 2010 (years)	80.6	79.8
Environment	CO ₂ per capita, 2008 (tonnes per person)	25.3	2.5	10.3	10.7
Innovation	No. of patents per million people, 2010	234.8	35.2	172.6	108.8

Source: OECD Regional database. Household disposable income per capita data are based on USD constant PPP, constant prices (year 2005).

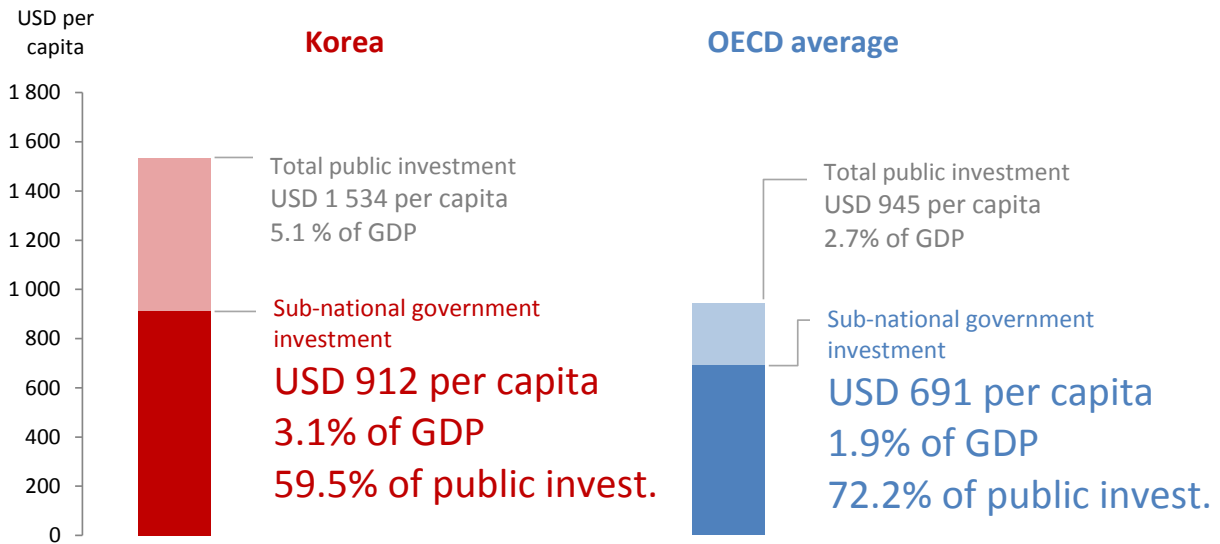
Note: OECD regions refer to the first administrative tier of sub-national government; Korea is composed by 7 Regions.

Sub-national government finance



Sub-national governments have a key role in public investment

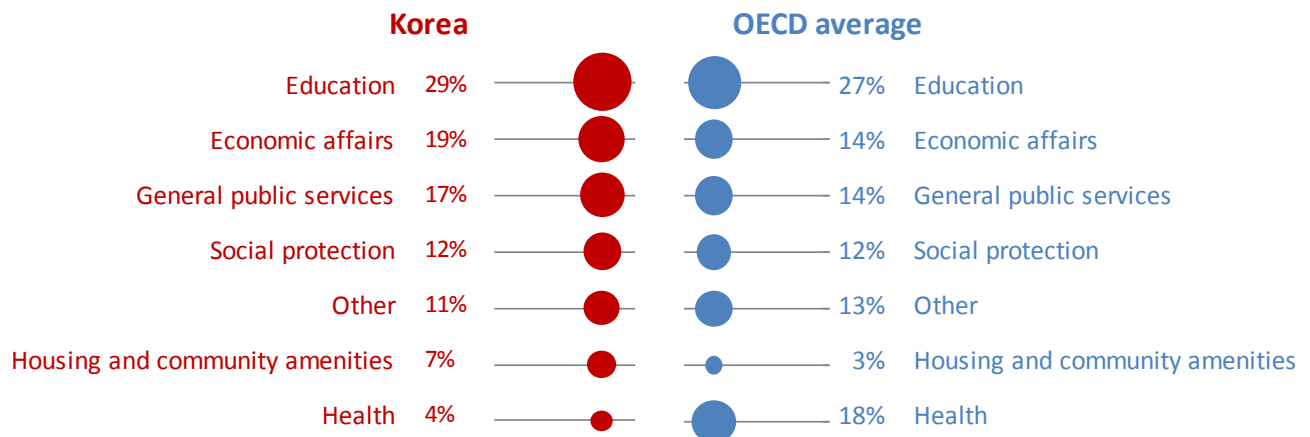
Sub-national government public investment per capita, 2011



In Korea 59% 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 Korea from **USD 995** per capita in 2007 to **USD 912** per capita in 2011.

Sub-national government expenditure by function, 2011

As a share of total SNG expenditure



Sub-national expenditure per capita: **USD 3 899** **USD 6 173**

Sub-national government expenditure accounts for **43%** of the **total public expenditure** and **13%** of **GDP** in Korea, compared to 40% and 17% respectively, in the OECD area. It corresponds to **USD 3 899 per capita** and USD 6 173 in the OECD area. Education and economic affairs are the two largest spending items for SNGs in Korea: together they represent **48%** of sub-national expenditure compared to 41% in the OECD area.

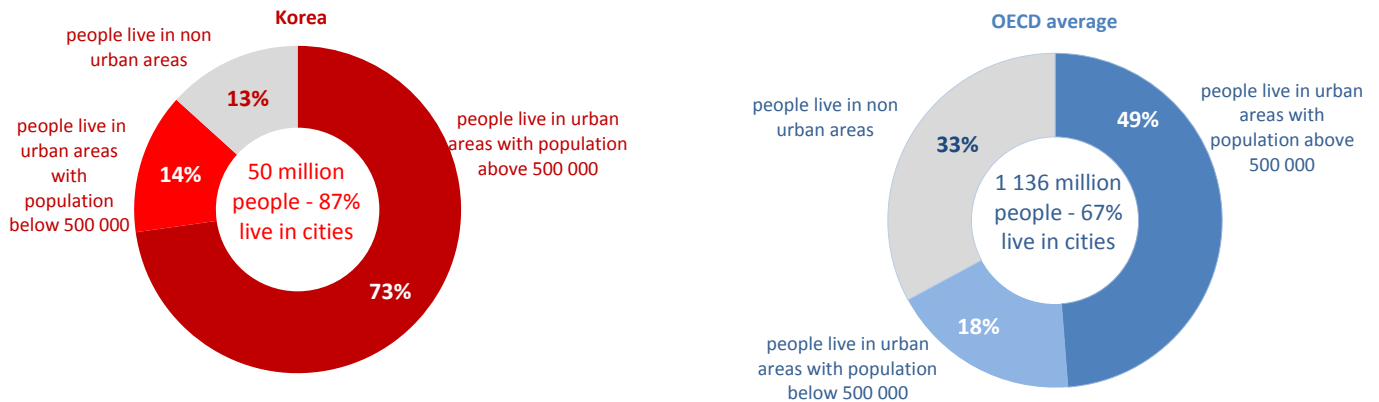
Source: OECD National Accounts database.

Metropolitan areas in the national economy



OECD population is increasingly concentrated in cities, 2012

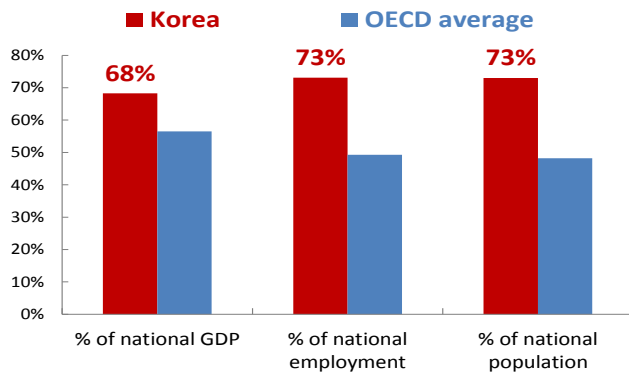
Percentage of population in cities of different sizes and in non-urban areas



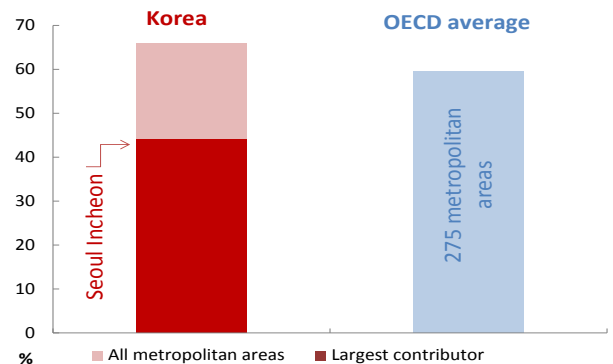
Source: OECD Metropolitan areas database. Number of urban areas internationally comparable according to OECD definition: 45 in Korea and 1 175 in the OECD.

In Korea, **87%** of the population lives in cities of different sizes, the highest value among OECD countries. The share of population in metropolitan areas (urban areas with more than 500 000 people) is **73%** compared to 49% in the OECD area.

Concentration in metropolitan areas, 2010



Metropolitan areas' contribution to national GDP growth, 2000-10



Source: OECD Metropolitan areas database. Number of metropolitan areas (urban areas with a population of over 500 000): 10 in Korea compared to 275 in the OECD.

Metropolitan areas in Korea concentrate **68%** of national **GDP** and **73%** of **employment**. In 2000-10 they accounted for over **68%** 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

