

## OECD Regions at a Glance 2013 - Switzerland Profile

<http://rag.oecd.org>

### Did you know?

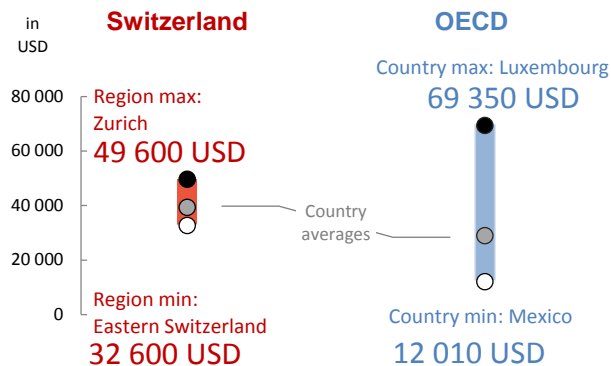
In 2012, Switzerland had the 13<sup>th</sup> lowest regional disparities in the unemployment rates.

Sub-national governments in Switzerland spent 19% of their budget on social protection, compared to the OECD's 12% average in 2011.

The three metropolitan areas in Switzerland concentrate over one-third of the national population in 2012.

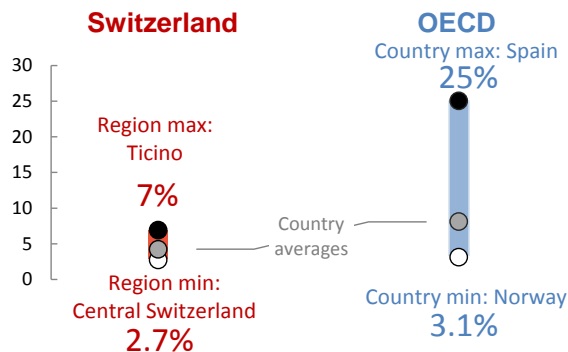
### Regional dynamics

#### GDP per capita, 2010

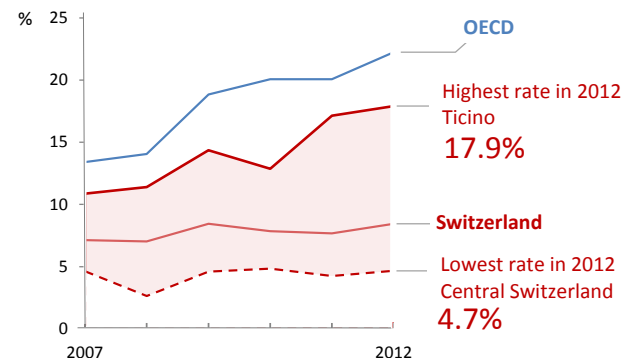


Switzerland had the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest regional disparities in **GDP per capita**. The Swiss national average of GDP per capita is more than 30% higher than the OECD average.

#### Unemployment rate, 2012



#### Youth unemployment rate, 15-24 years old, 2007-12

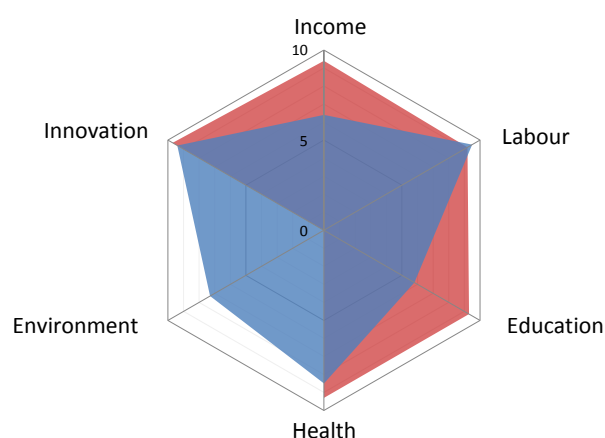


The **unemployment rate** in Swiss regions is as diverse as 6.9% in Ticino and 2.7% in Central Switzerland, and the **youth unemployment rate** reached almost 18% in the Ticino.

## Regional dynamics



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



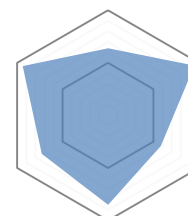
Highest GDP per capita region:

**Zurich**



Lowest GDP per capita region:

**Eastern Switzerland**



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.

Compared to the other OECD regions, Zurich ranks at the top of every dimension for which data is available. Eastern Switzerland, the region with the lowest GDP per capita in the country, fares better than the OECD median region in all dimensions.

Dimensions	Indicators	Zurich	Eastern Switzerland	Switzerland	OECD average
Income	GDP per capita, 2010 (USD PPP per capita)	49 600	32 600	39 270	31 910
Labour	Unemployment rate, 2012 (%)	3.6	3.3	4.2	8.1
Education	Share of work force with tertiary education, 2010 (%)	41.3	27.9	34.3	28.4
Health	Life expectancy, 2010 (years)	82.7	82.3	82.6	79.8
Environment	CO <sub>2</sub> per capita, 2008 (tonnes per person)	-	5.3	6.2	10.7
Innovation	No. of patents per million people, 2010	339.6	262.7	290.7	108.8

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

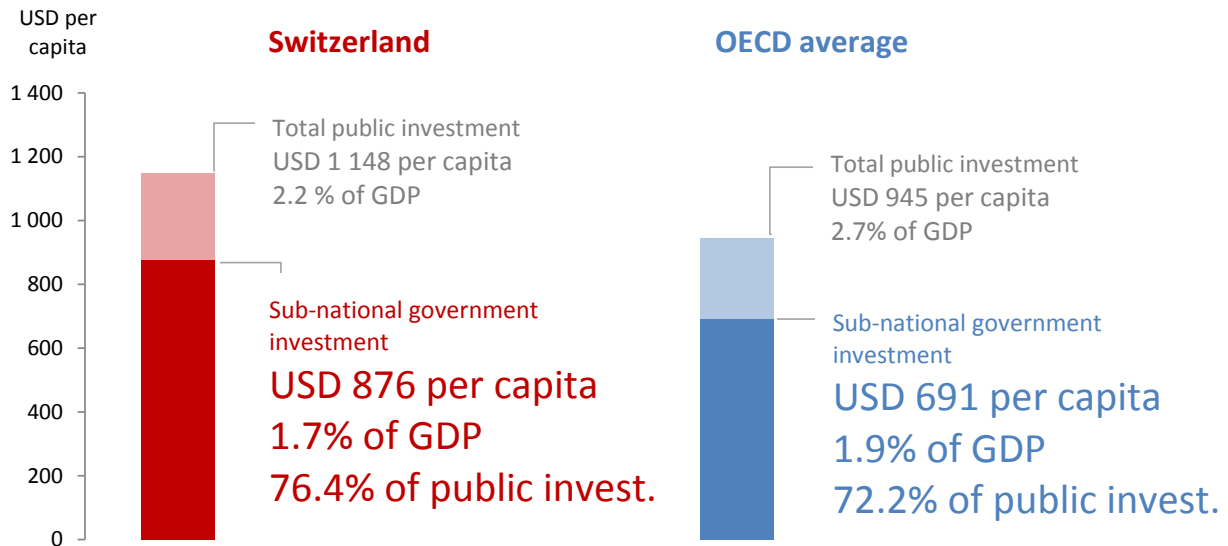
Note: OECD regions refer to the first administrative tier of sub-national government; Switzerland is composed by 7 regions (Grandes régions).

# Sub-national government finance



## Sub-national governments have a key role in public investment

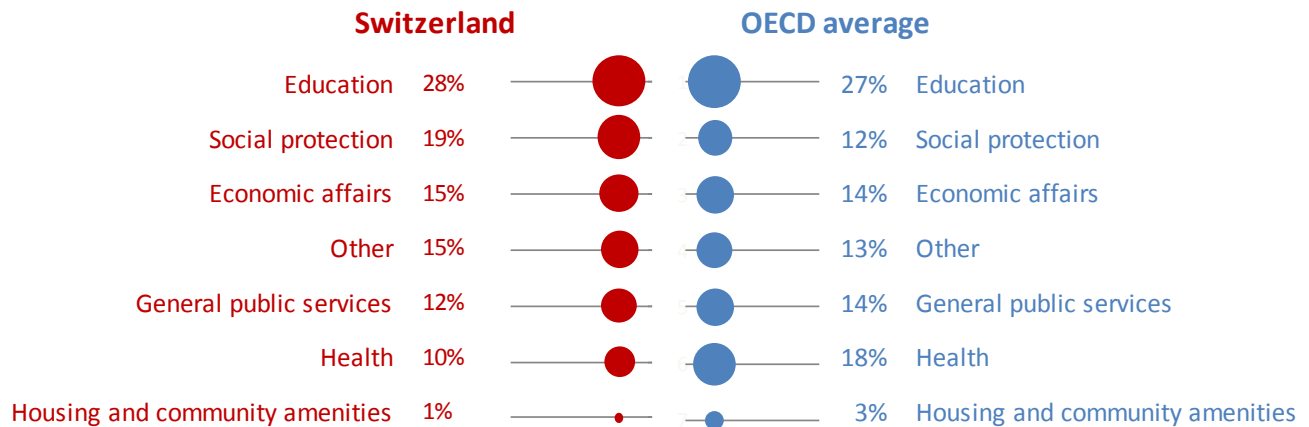
*Sub-national government public investment per capita, 2011*



In Switzerland more than **76%** of the **total public investment** was carried out by sub-national governments (SNG) compared to 72% in the OECD area. SNG investment has increased in Switzerland from **USD 839 per capita** in 2007 to **USD 876 per capita** in 2011.

## Sub-national government expenditure by function, 2011

*As a share of total SNG expenditure*



**Sub-national expenditure per capita: USD 10 676 (Switzerland) USD 6 173 (OECD average)**

Sub-national government expenditure accounts for **62%** of the **total public expenditure** and **21%** of **GDP** in Switzerland, compared to 40% and 17% respectively, in the OECD area. It corresponds to **USD 10 676 per capita** and USD 6 173 in the OECD area. Education and social protection are the two largest spending items for SNGs in Switzerland: together they represent **47%** of sub-national expenditure compared to 39% in the OECD area.

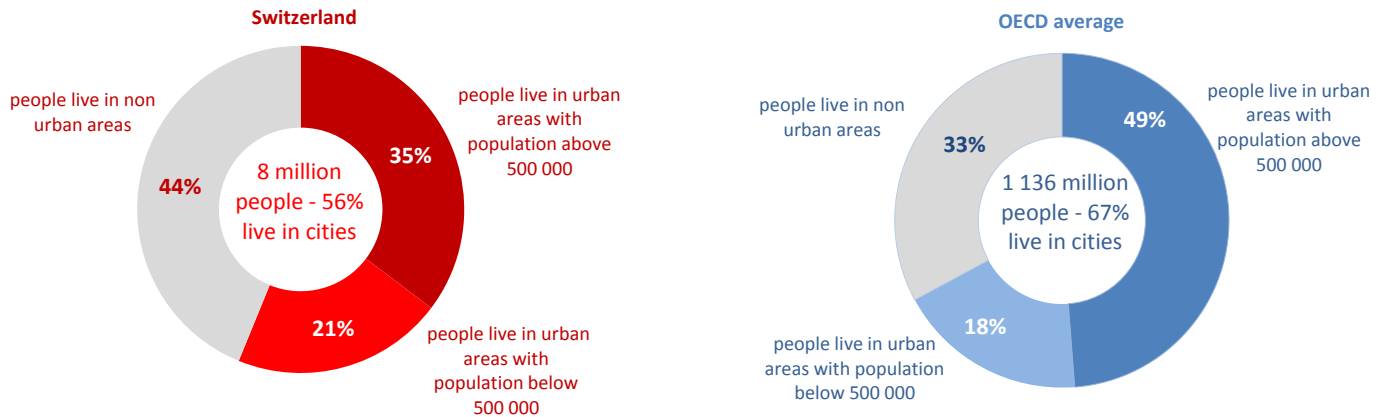
Source: OECD National Accounts database.

## Metropolitan areas in the national economy



### OECD population is increasingly concentrated in cities, 2012

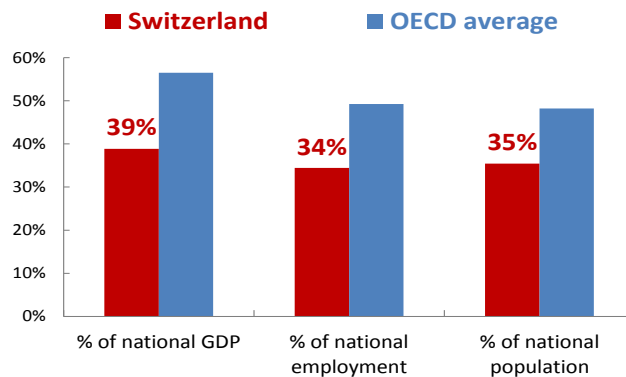
Percentage of population in cities of different sizes and in non-urban areas



Source: OECD Metropolitan areas database. Number of urban areas: 10 in Switzerland and 1 175 in the OECD.

In Switzerland, **56%** 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 **35%** compared to **49%** in the OECD area.

### Concentration in metropolitan areas, 2010



Source: OECD Metropolitan areas database. Number of metropolitan areas (urban areas with a population of over 500 000): 3 in Switzerland compared to 275 in the OECD.

Metropolitan areas in Switzerland concentrate **39%** of national **GDP** and **34%** of **employment**, significantly lower shares with respect to the OECD average.

### 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)

