

## OECD Regions at a Glance 2013 – United Kingdom Profile

<http://rag.oecd.org>

### Did you know?

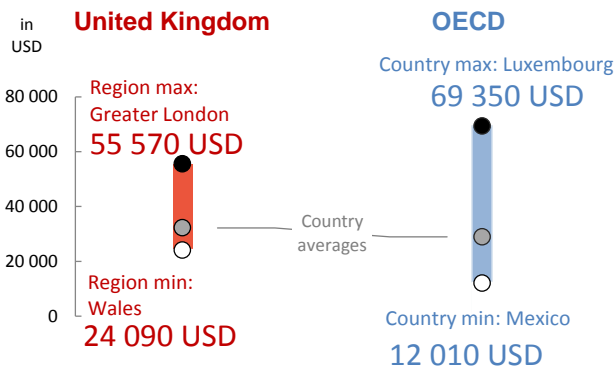
In the OECD, the United Kingdom has the 9<sup>th</sup> highest disparities across regions in GDP per capita.

Sub-national governments carry out 54% of total public investment in the United Kingdom, a lower share than OECD average (72%).

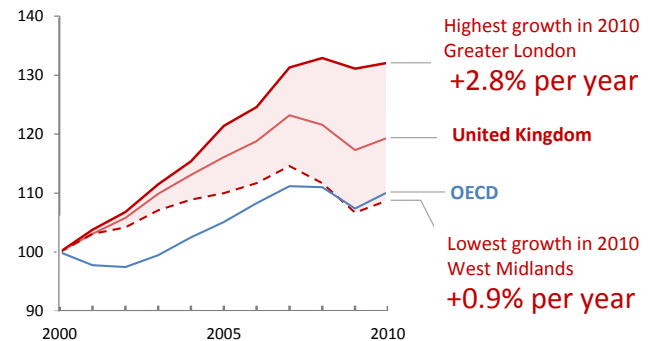
In the United Kingdom, 74% of population lived in cities of different sizes, the fifth highest share among OECD countries.

### Regional dynamics

#### GDP per capita, 2010

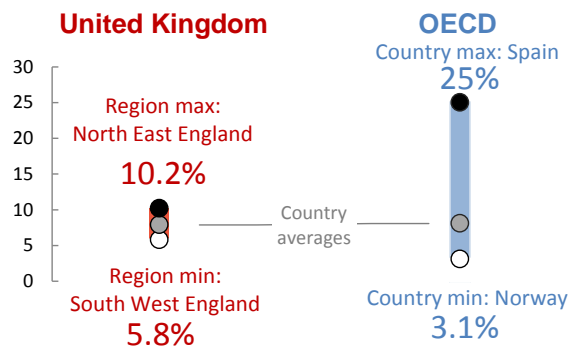


#### GDP growth (year 2000=100)

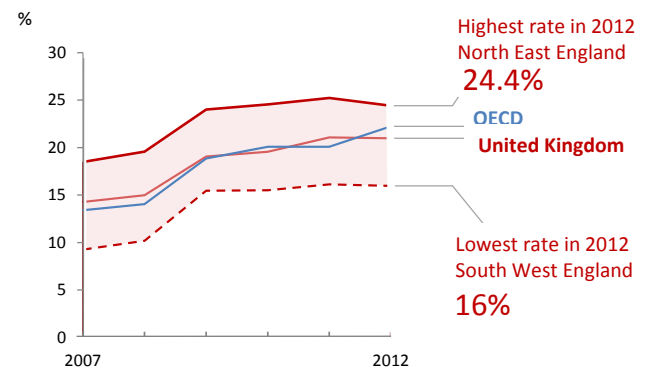


Among OECD countries, the United Kingdom ranks as 9<sup>th</sup> in terms of regional disparities in **GDP per capita**. In the past decade regional growth was as diverse as **+2.8%** annually in **Greater London** and **+0.9%** in **West Midlands**.

#### Unemployment rate, 2012



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

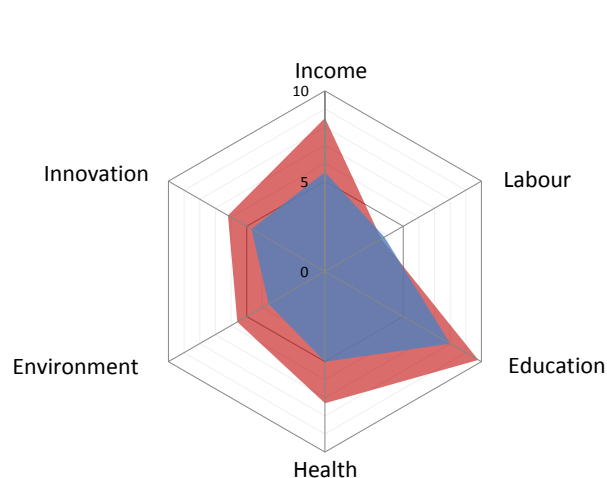


The United Kingdom has the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> largest differences between regions in **unemployment rates** and **youth unemployment rates**, respectively.

## Regional dynamics

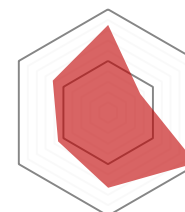


How do the richest and poorest regions fare on social and environmental dimensions?



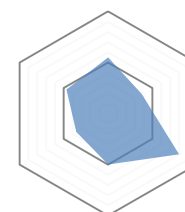
Highest GDP *per capita* region:

**Greater London**



Lowest GDP *per capita* region:

**Wales**



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.

The Greater London fares better than the OECD median region in all dimensions with the exception of labour. Wales, the British region with the lowest GDP per capita, fares better than the OECD median region in education and income.

Dimensions	Indicators	Greater London	Wales	United Kingdom	OECD average
Income	Household income per capita, 2010 (USD PPP per capita)	25 728	17 556	20 005	18 775
Labour	Unemployment rate, 2012 (%)	8.8	8.6	7.9	8.1
Education	Share of work force with tertiary education, 2012 (%)	54.1	34.0	38.1	28.4
Health	Life expectancy, 2010 (years)	81.6	80.1	80.7	79.8
Environment	CO <sub>2</sub> per capita, 2008 (tonnes per person)	6.7	10.2	8.7	10.7
Innovation	No. of patents per million people, 2010	74.6	44.7	84.1	108.8

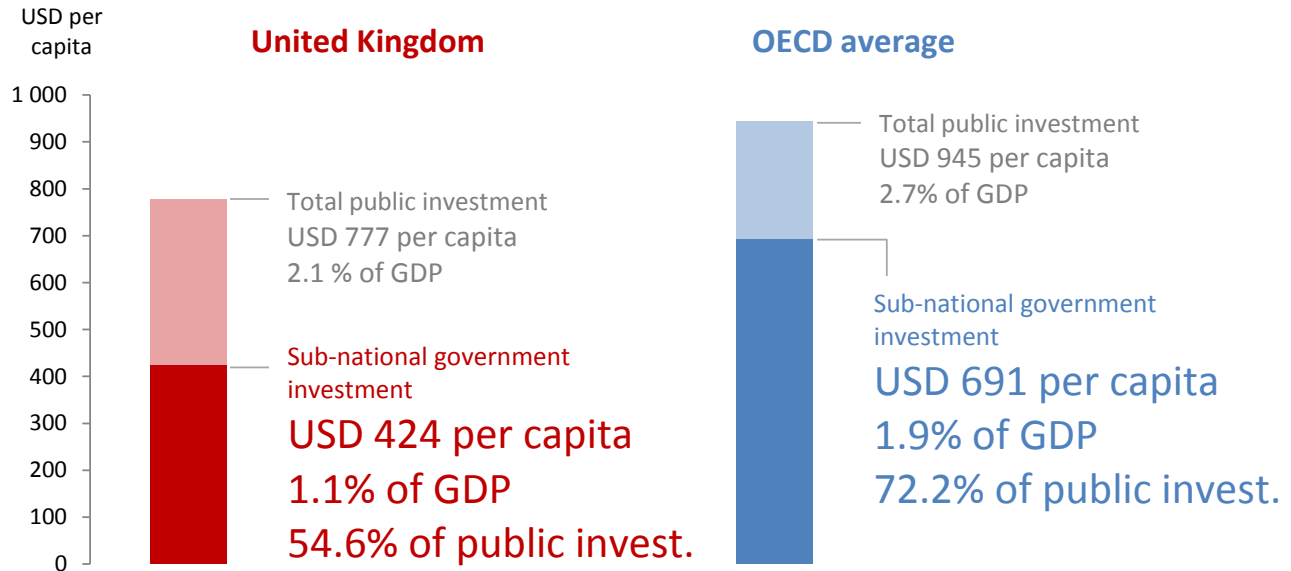
Source: OECD Regional database. Household disposable income per capita data are based on USD constant PPP, constant prices (year 2005).

Note: OECD regions refer to the first administrative tier of sub-national government; the United Kingdom is composed by 12 regions (Government office regions + counties).

# Sub-national government finance

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

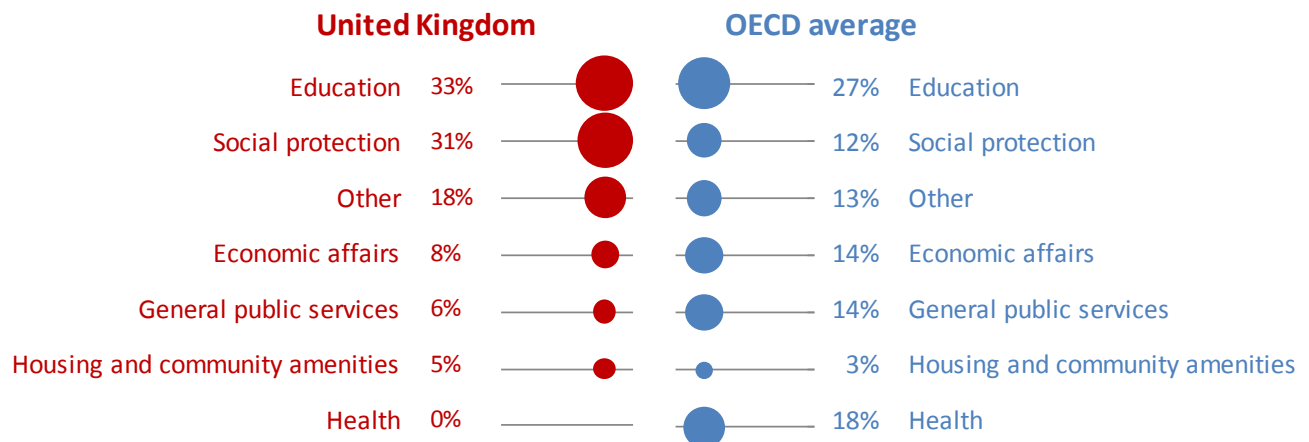
*Sub-national government public investment per capita, 2012*



In the United Kingdom **55%** 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 the United Kingdom from **USD 399 per capita** in 2007 to **USD 424 per capita** in 2012.

## Sub-national government expenditure by function, 2012

*As a share of total SNG expenditure*



**Sub-national expenditure per capita: USD 5 149 (UK) vs USD 6 173 (OECD)**

Sub-national government expenditure accounts for **28%** of the **total public expenditure** and **14%** of **GDP** in the United Kingdom, compared to 40% and 17% respectively, in the OECD area. It corresponds to **USD 5 149 per capita** and USD 6 173 in the OECD area. Education and social protection are the two largest spending items for SNGs in the United Kingdom: together they represent **64%** of sub-national expenditure compared to 39% in the OECD area.

# Metropolitan areas in the national economy



## OECD population is increasingly concentrated in cities, 2012

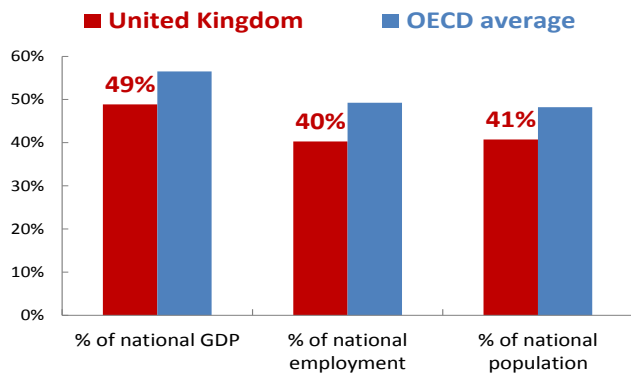
Percentage of population in cities of different sizes and in non-urban areas



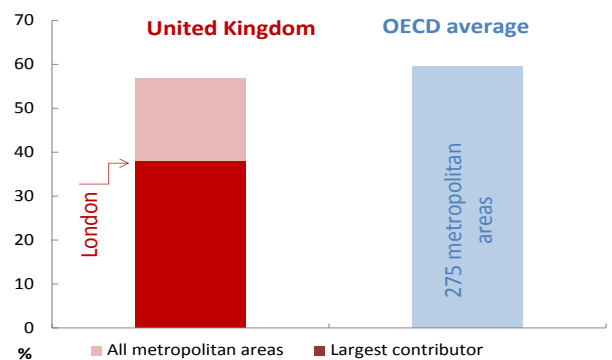
Source: OECD Metropolitan areas database. Number of urban areas: 101 in the United Kingdom and 1 175 in the OECD.

In the United Kingdom, **74%** 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 **41%** 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): 15 in the United Kingdom compared to 275 in the OECD.

Metropolitan areas in the United Kingdom concentrate **49%** of national **GDP** and **40%** of **employment**. In 2000-10 they accounted for **57%** 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)

