

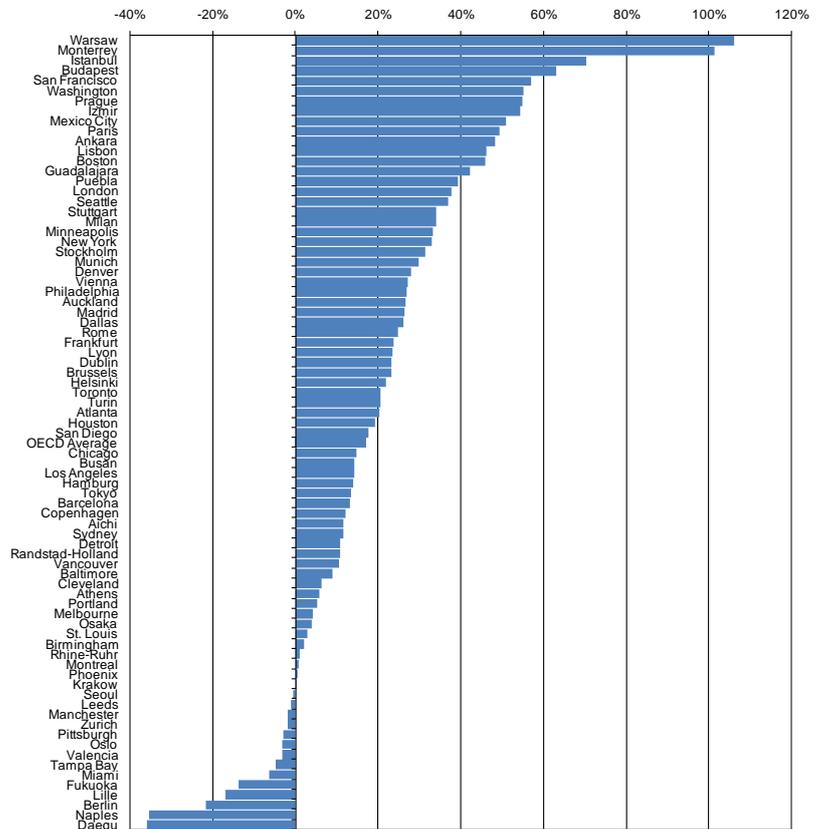


OECD Urban Development Programme

Key Facts

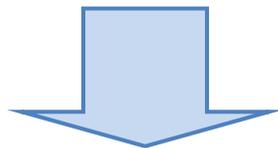
- **Cities are key engines of national economies.** Most of the largest OECD metro-regions have a higher GDP per capita than their national average, a higher labour productivity level, and faster growth rates.
- **Agglomeration economies.** The concentration of jobs and firms can be beneficial: pooled labour markets, backward and forward linkages among firms, and knowledge spill-overs can lead to higher productivity growth.
- **Success should not be taken for granted.** Diseconomies can emerge due to negative externalities including congestion, environmental degradation and social disorder (declining neighbourhoods, criminality).
- **Cities can falter.** A group of cities systematically performs below their national averages. Wealth creation does not always coincide with job creation and activity rate is low.

Most large cities feature a larger output per capita than their country's average

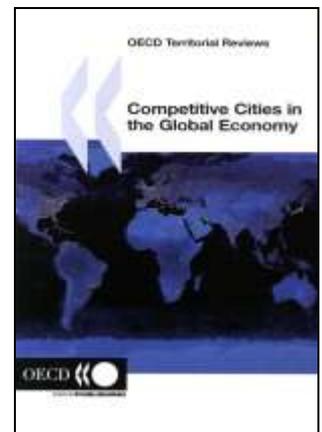


Differences in per capita GDP of metro-regions and their national level (2002) –Sample of 78 metro-regions with 1.5 million and more inhabitants

Why Urban Policy Matters

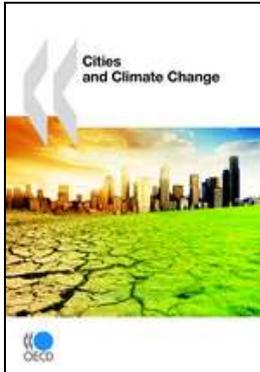


- **Exclusion, poverty and inequalities have become urban phenomena** in most OECD countries, leading to significant costs including high levels of crime (30% higher than the national level) and strong spatial polarisation.
- **Cities contribute to global warming.** Cities are responsible for about two-thirds of total world energy consumption and CO₂ emissions. To address negative externalities of urbanisation (congestion, social distress, pollution, etc.)
- To encourage the benefits of agglomeration by providing collective public goods (e.g. physical infrastructure and intangible assets).





Activities



Cities and Climate Change

- Better urban planning and policies can reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions
- City and metropolitan regional governments working in tandem with national governments can change the way we think about responding to climate change
- Policy tools and best practices from both OECD and some non-member countries

OECD Urban Roundtable for Mayors and Ministers

The only worldwide global platform involving both high-level national and local governments.



A unique metropolitan database including 90 metropolitan regions and over 1.5 million inhabitants focussing on territorial units that are closest to functional commuting labour market areas.

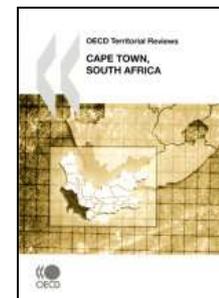
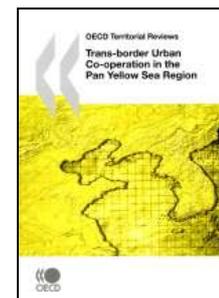
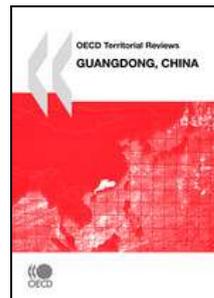
Recent OECD Metropolitan Reviews: Assessing competitiveness strategies of large cities

- Guangdong, China
- Venice, Italy
- Toronto, Canada
- Trans-border Urban Co-operation in the Pan Yellow Sea
- Copenhagen, Denmark
- Cape Town, South Africa
- Istanbul, Turkey
- Madrid, Spain
- Randstad Holland, Netherlands
- Newcastle in the North East, The United Kingdom

Forthcoming

Chicago, United States

Gauteng City-Region Johannesburg-Pretoria



New Activities

- A series of reviews on *national urban policies*
- Case studies on *promoting sustainable communities*
- Case studies on *trans-border functional linkages between cities*
- Case studies on *port cities*

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.



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