

MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

TERRITORIAL ORGANISATION

MUNICIPAL LEVEL	INTERMEDIATE LEVEL	REGIONAL OR STATE LEVEL	TOTAL NUMBER OF SNGs
1 741 1 718 Municipalities (Shi) and 23 Special Wards within Tokyo Average Municipal Size: 72 715 Inhabitants	-	47 Prefectures (Tohokuken)	1 788

SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Japan has two tiers of local government with no hierarchical link. There is no clear-cut separation between the responsibilities of prefectures and municipalities. The prefectures have considerably stronger administrative powers than the municipalities. Prefectures are responsible for a range of functions in the fields of economic development, public infrastructure, public housing, education, social assistance policies, public health, agriculture, environment and employment. The municipalities also have extensive responsibilities for urban planning, local roads, local harbours, public housing, education, water, waste and fire-fighting.

SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Figure 1. The role of subnational governments in public finance in Japan, 2014

Japan is decentralised country, and subnational expenditure is higher than the OECD average for most large categories of spending (total expenditure, investments, staff expenditure), except public procurement. In contrast, the share of SNG debt in total public debt is smaller than average (Figure 1).

More: OECD/UCLG (2016), *Subnational Governments around the World: Structure and Finance*, [Country Profile: Japan](#)

SUBNATIONAL PUBLIC INVESTMENT

Public investment is a share responsibility across levels of government. Subnational governments (states, provinces, regions and municipalities) undertook 59 % of total public investment across the OECD countries and in particular 54% across the OECD unitary countries in terms of volume in 2014. Variations across countries are important, as the subnational share of public investment ranges from 12 % in Chile to 97% in Canada, and 78% in Japan (Figure 2).

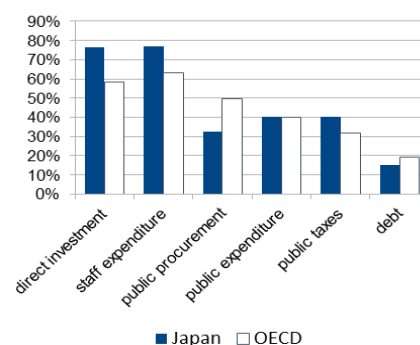
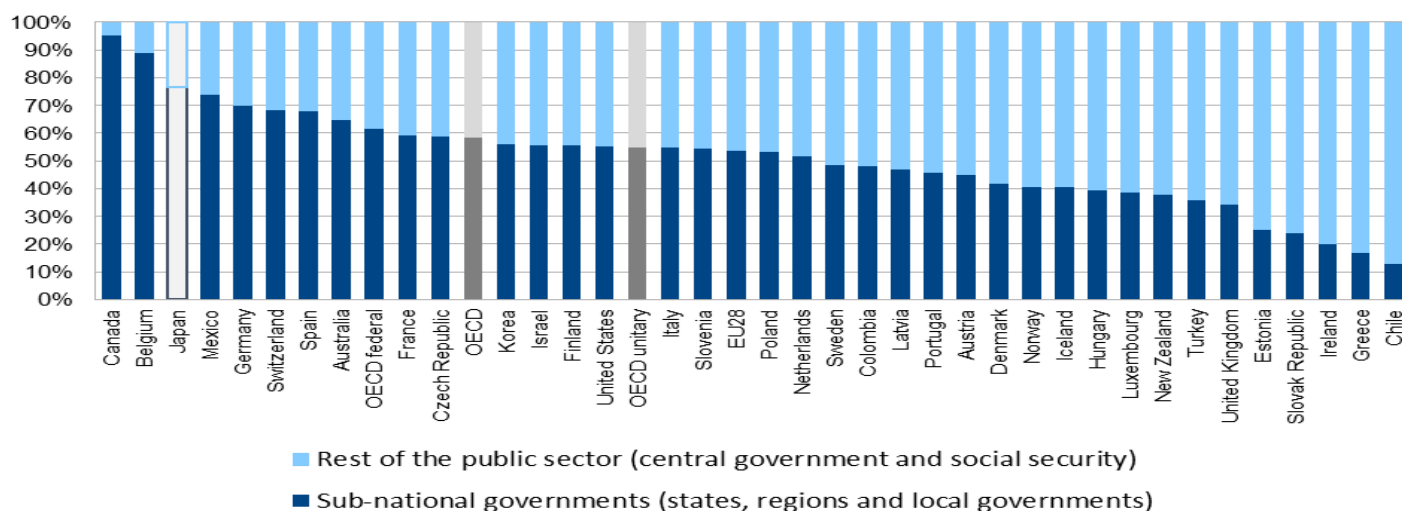


Figure 2. Subnational public direct investment in OECD countries, 2014 (as a share of public direct investment)

Source: OECD National Accounts.



Note: 2013 figures for Mexico, 2012 figures for Chile, 2014 figures for Turkey. Source: OECD National Accounts.

More: *Toolkit* provides detailed information on multi-level governance of public investment, [Country Profile: Japan](#)

More information:

OECD/UCLG (2016a), *Subnational Governments around the World: Structure and Finance*, Country Profile: Japan.
 OECD (2016b), *Subnational governments in OECD countries: Key data*, 2016 edition (brochure).
 OECD (2016c), *Regions at a Glance 2016*, OECD Publishing, Paris.
 OECD (2016d), *Territorial Reviews: Japan*, OECD Publishing, Paris.
 OECD (2015a), *Implementation Toolkit, Effective Public Investment Across Levels of Government*, Country Profile: Japan.
 OECD (2015b), OECD National Accounts Statistics (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/na-data-en>.
 OECD (2014), *Recommendation of the Council on Effective Public Investment across Levels of Government*, OECD Publishing, Paris.