The gap in GDP per capita between the richest and poorest region decreased in Austria over the last sixteen years. In Burgenland, GDP per capita increased by more than 20% over the period 2000-16, while it stagnated in Salzburg, the richest region. Among the countries with the lowest regional disparities in GDP per capita, Austria ranks in the top 25%.

Over the last sixteen years – and particularly in the wake of the global financial crisis –, productivity growth in Austrian regions was below the OECD average, with growth ranging from 1% per year over 2000-16 in Vorarlberg to 0.05% per year in the region of Vienna. The youth unemployment rate in Vienna reached 16.7% in 2017, more than twice the level of Upper Austria, but slightly above the 15% OECD average.
Relative ranking of the regions with the best and worst outcomes in the 11 well-being dimensions, with respect to all 402 OECD regions. The eleven dimensions are ordered by decreasing regional disparities in the country. Each well-being dimension is measured by the indicators in the table below.

All nine Austrian regions are among the top 25% of OECD regions in income. The largest regional disparities are found in terms of jobs outcomes (employment and unemployment rates): the region of Vienna is among the bottom 25% of OECD regions, while Salzburg ranks among the top 10%.

Apart from air pollution, the high-performing Austrian regions fare better than the OECD median region in all well-being dimensions. The low-performing Austrian regions fare better than the OECD median region in several well-being indicators, such as homicide rate, income per capita, broadband access, voter turnout and life satisfaction.

Notes: (1) OECD regions refer to the first administrative tier of subnational government (large regions, Territorial Level 2); Austria is composed of 9 large regions.
(2) Household income per capita data are based on USD constant PPP, constant prices (year 2010).

Updated the 5th of March 2019
In Austria, **56% of the population lives in cities** of more than 50 000 inhabitants. The share of population in cities with more than 500 000 people is **40%** compared to **55%** in the OECD area.

Metropolitan areas in Austria account for **43%** of national GDP and **40%** of employment. Between 2000 and 2015, they generated **37%** of the national GDP growth.

In terms of GDP per capita, **Vienna and Linz** rank in the highest third among the 327 OECD metropolitan areas. **Air pollution** in Austrian metropolitan areas is above the OECD average. The two Austrian metropolitan areas are among the third most polluted in the OECD.

**OECD Metropolitan database**

**Importance of metropolitan areas**

**Cities above 500 000 people, 2015**

- % of national GDP: Austria 43% vs OECD average 63%
- % of national employment: Austria 40% vs OECD average 58%
- % of national population: Austria 40% vs OECD average 55%

**Contribution of metropolitan areas to GDP growth**

**Cities above 500 000 people, 2000-15**

- % of GDP growth: Austria 37% vs OECD average 68%

**OECD Metropolitan areas ranking**

**Cities above 500 000 people**

- **GDP per capita, 2016**
  - Top 20% richest metropolitan areas
  - Bottom 20% poorest metropolitan areas

- **Air pollution (PM2.5), 2017**
  - Top 20% least polluted metropolitan areas
  - Bottom 20% most polluted metropolitan areas

*Note: Cities are defined here as functional urban areas, which are composed by high-density urban centres of at least 50 000 people and their areas of influence (commuting zone). For more information, see: [http://www.oecd.org/cfe/regional-policy/functionalurbanareasbycountry.htm](http://www.oecd.org/cfe/regional-policy/functionalurbanareasbycountry.htm).*
Subnational government expenditure by function
*As a share of total subnational government expenditure, 2016*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Austria (%)</th>
<th>OECD average (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social protection</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General public services</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic affairs</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subnational expenditure per capita: USD 9,174 vs. USD 6,817

**Subnational government expenditure** amounts to **USD 9,174 per capita** in Austria compared to an OECD average of USD 6,817. In Austria, this is equivalent to **36% of total public expenditure** and to **18% of GDP**. In comparison, across the OECD, subnational government expenditure accounts for **40% of total public expenditure** and for **16% of GDP**. Health and social protection are the two largest spending items for subnational governments in Austria: together they represent **48%** of subnational expenditure compared to **32%** in the OECD area.

In Austria, **41% of total public investment** was carried out by subnational governments (SNG) compared to an OECD average of **56.9%**.

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**Role of subnational governments in public investment**
*Subnational government public investment per capita, 2016*

**USD per capita**

**Austria**
- Total public investment: USD 1,512 per capita
- Subnational government investment: USD 620 per capita

**OECD average**
- Total public investment: USD 1,278 per capita
- Subnational government investment: USD 727 per capita

Source: OECD Subnational Government Structure and Finance Database.
*Note: The function 'Other' includes housing and community amenities, recreation, culture and religion; environment; public order and safety.*

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**OECD Regions and Cities at a Glance 2018**

The 2018 edition of OECD Regions and Cities 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.

Consult this publication on line: [https://oe.cd/pub/2n9](https://oe.cd/pub/2n9)