

Did you know?

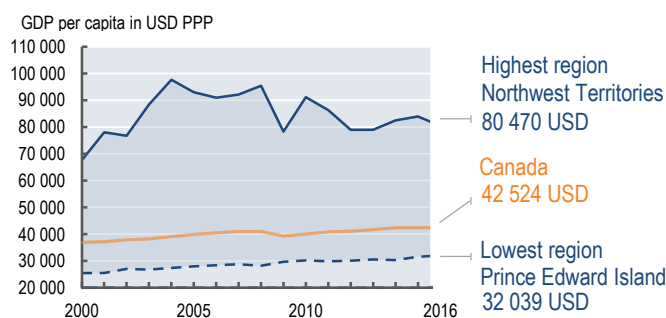
All Canadian regions are among the top third of OECD regions in educational attainment of the labour force.

The metropolitan areas of Canada account for more than 60% of national GDP as well as in terms of contribution to national GDP growth in 2000-16.

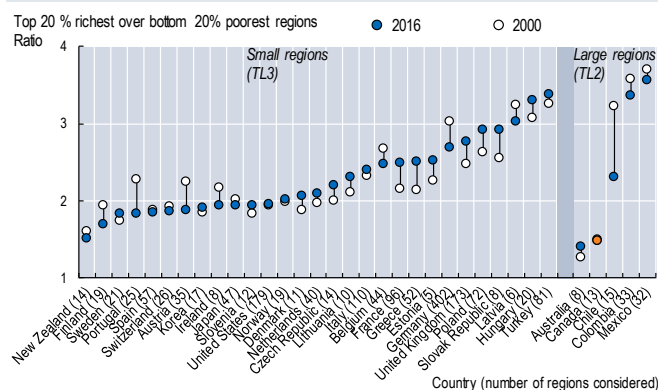
Subnational governments in Canada carried out 88% of total public investment in 2016, the second highest share in OECD countries.

Economic trends in regions

Regional gap in GDP per capita, 2000-16



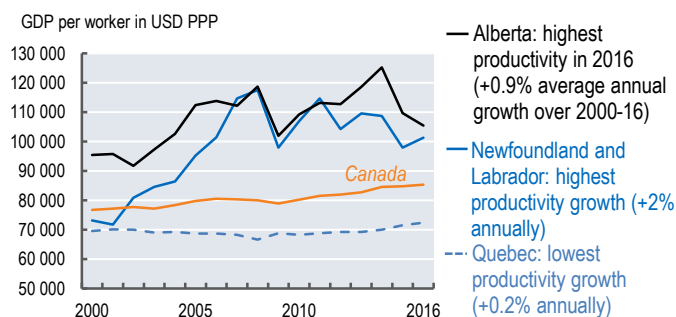
Index of regional disparity in GDP per capita, 2016



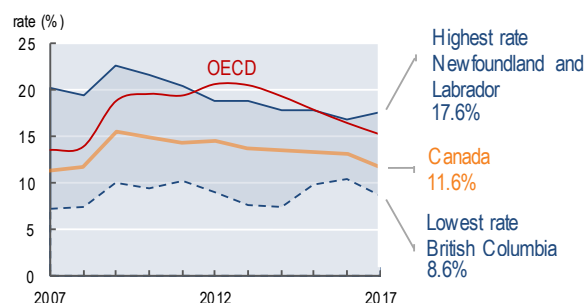
The regional gap in GDP per capita decreased slightly in Canada over the last sixteen years. The region with the lowest GDP per capita, Prince Edward Island, experienced 5 percentage points higher growth than the region with the highest GDP per capita, Northwest Territories, over the period 2000-16. However, the latter region accounts for only 0.1% of national population. Canada has relatively low regional disparities compared to OECD countries.

With productivity growth of 2% per year over the period 2000-16, the region of Newfoundland and Labrador showed the highest growth among the provinces and territories of Canada, almost ten times the productivity growth in Quebec. Despite this remarkable trend, the youth unemployment rate in Newfoundland and Labrador reached 17.6% in 2017, more than twice the level observed in British Columbia.

Most and least dynamic regions in productivity, 2000-16



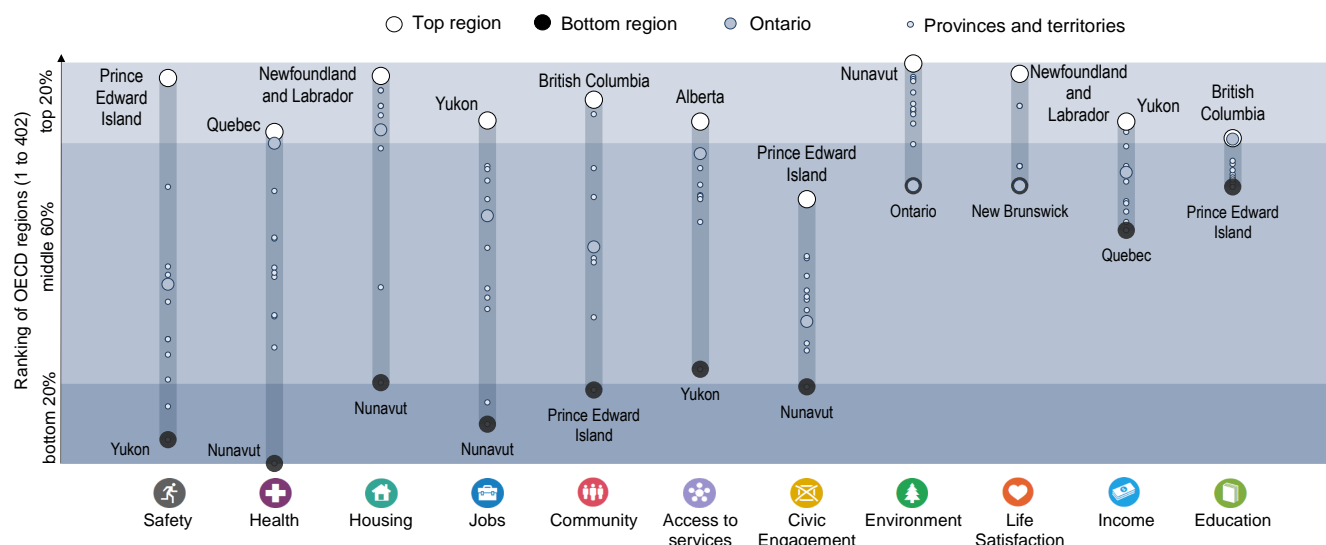
Youth unemployment rate, 15-24 years old, 2007-17



Source: OECD Regional Database.

Notes: (1) Figure on regional gap in GDP per capita: OECD regions refer to the administrative tier of subnational government (large regions, Territorial Level 2); Canada is composed of 13 provinces and territories. (2) Figure on index of regional disparity: top (bottom) 20% regions are defined as those with the highest (lowest) GDP per capita until the equivalent of 20% of national population is reached, this indicator provides a harmonised measure to rank OECD countries, using data for small regions (Territorial Level 3) when available. (3) Productivity is measured as GDP per employee at place of work in constant prices, constant Purchasing Power Parities (reference year 2010).

Differences in well-being across regions



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.

At least one Canadian region ranks among the top 20% of the OECD regions in all dimensions of well-being but well-being differs widely within the country. Large regional disparities, the widest among OECD countries, are found in safety, health, housing and jobs, also due to the low performance of the sparsely populated province of Nunavut and the territory of Yukon.

The high performing Canadian regions fare better than the OECD median region in all considered well-being indicators. Even in the region with the worst well-being outcomes, 89% of the labour force has at least a secondary degree and 82% of households have access to a broadband connection, seven and four percentage points above the OECD median region, respectively.

		Country Average	OECD median region	Canadian regions	
				Top 20%	Bottom 20%
	Safety				
	Homicide Rate (per 100 000 people), 2016	1.7	1.3	0.8	2.7
	Health				
	Life Expectancy at birth (years), 2016	81.9	80.4	82.5	80.5
	Age adjusted mortality rate (per 1 000 people), 2016	6.9	8.1	6.5	8.1
	Housing				
	Rooms per person, 2016	2.4	1.8	2.6	2.4
	Jobs				
	Employment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2017	72.6	67.7	74.6	70.7
	Unemployment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2017	6.3	5.5	5.3	8.5
	Community				
	Perceived social network support (%), 2013	93.9	91.4	95.8	85.1
	Access to services				
	Households with broadband access (%), 2017	85.3	78.0	91.9	81.7
	Civic engagement				
	Voters in last national election (%), 2017 or latest year	68.5	70.9	73.6	64.0
	Environment				
	Level of air pollution in PM2.5 (µg/m³), 2015	7.3	12.4	5.0	9.1
	Life Satisfaction				
	Life satisfaction (scale from 0 to 10), 2013	7.4	6.8	7.6	7.4
	Income				
	Disposable income per capita (in USD PPP), 2016	22 499	17 695	25 613	19 626
	Education				
	Labour force with at least upper secondary education (%), 2017	90.4	81.7	91.7	88.5

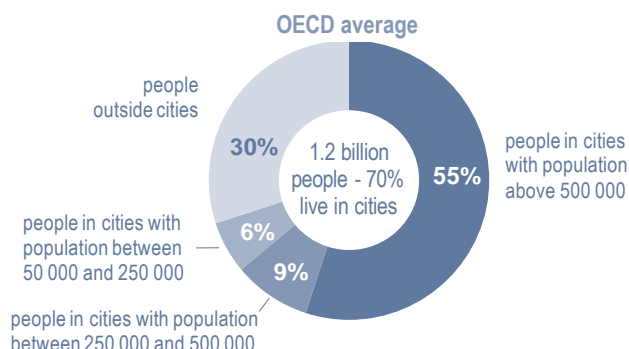
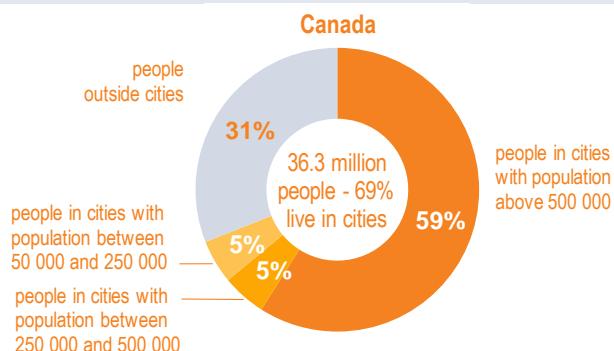
Source: OECD Regional Database. Visualisation: <https://www.oecdregionalwellbeing.org>.

Notes: (1) OECD regions refer to the first administrative tier of subnational government (large regions, Territorial Level 2); Canada is composed of 13 provinces and territories. (2) Household income per capita data are based on USD constant PPP, constant prices (year 2010).

Metropolitan areas in the national economy



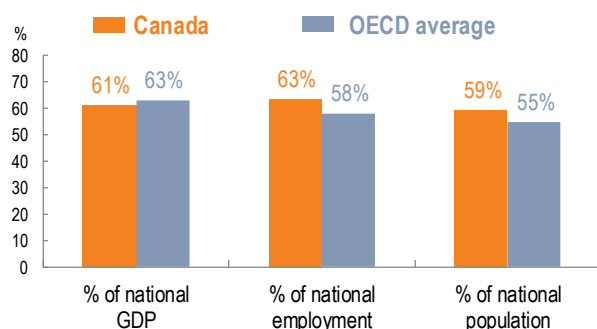
OECD population is concentrated in cities* Percentage of population in cities, 2016



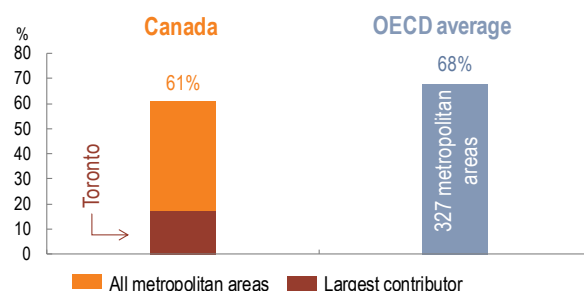
Source: OECD Metropolitan Database. Number of cities: 26 in Canada and 1 138 in the OECD.

In Canada, **69% of the population lives in cities** of more than 50 000 inhabitants. The share of population in metropolitan areas with more than 500 000 people is **59%** compared to 55% in the OECD area.

Importance of metropolitan areas Cities above 500 000 people, 2016



Contribution of metropolitan areas to GDP growth Cities above 500 000 people, 2000-16

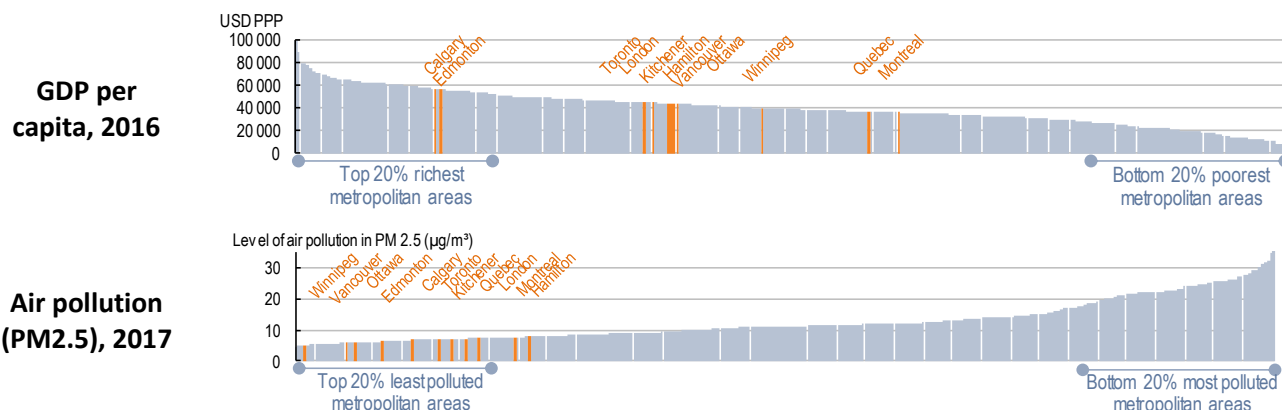


Metropolitan areas (cities above 500 000 inhabitants) in Canada account for **61%** of national **GDP** and **63%** of **employment**. Between 2000 and 2016 they generated **61%** of the national **GDP growth**.

Metropolitan areas in Canada show significant differences in **GDP per capita** levels, with **Calgary** and **Edmonton** ranking among the 20% richest among the 327 OECD metropolitan areas, whereas Quebec and Montreal are below the OECD median.

In terms of **air pollution** – as measured by people's exposure to PM 2.5 – nine out of the eleven metropolitan areas of Canada are among the 20% least polluted among OECD metropolitan areas.

OECD Metropolitan areas ranking Cities above 500 000 people



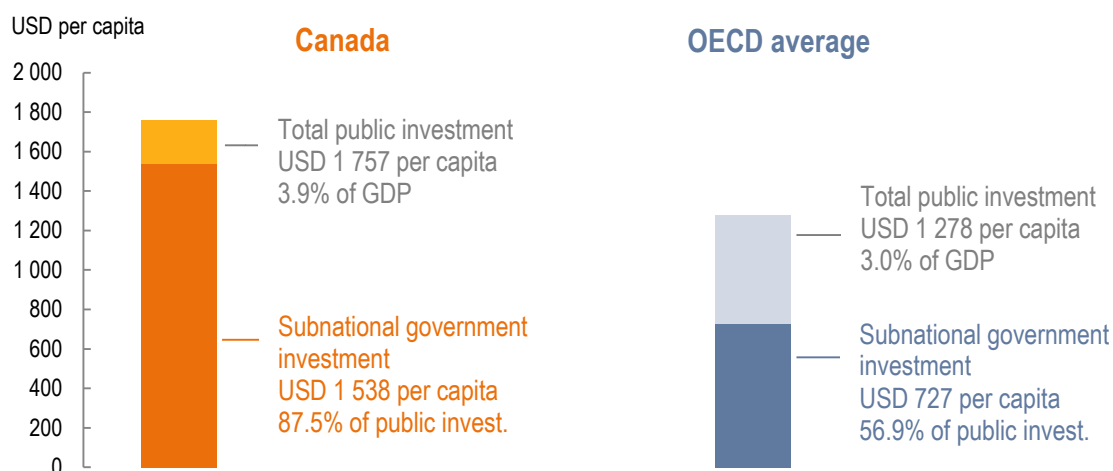
Source: OECD Metropolitan Database. Number of metropolitan areas with a population of over 500 000: 11 in Canada compared to 327 in the OECD.

* 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>.



Role of subnational governments in public investment

Subnational government public investment per capita, 2016



In Canada, **87.5%** of **total public investment** was carried out by subnational governments compared to an OECD average of 56.9%.

Source: OECD Subnational Government Structure and Finance Database.

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>

