Regional gap in GDP per capita, 2000-16

The gap in GDP per capita between the richest and poorest Greek regions has increased over the last sixteen years. In 2016, the level of GDP per capita in the capital region (Attica) was twice as high as in East Macedonia, the region with the lowest GDP per capita in the country. Greece ranks 9th in terms of highest regional GDP per capita disparities among 30 OECD countries with comparable data.

While the regions South Aegean and Attica had similar levels of productivity in 2000, the former experienced a fast decline in productivity (-1.3% per year) whereas the latter achieved modest growth (0.5% per year). Crete recorded the highest regional growth in productivity (+0.5% per year). Youth unemployment rate in Epirus reached 57.6% in 2017, almost twice the level in Southern Aegean and among the highest of all OECD regions.

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); Greece is composed of 13 large regions. (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 an 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).
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.

The largest regional disparities in well-being outcomes in Greece are found with respect to safety, education, health, civic engagement and community. South Aegean ranks in the top 10% of OECD regions in terms of safety, but in the bottom 10% in terms of environment. Epirus ranks among the top 20% of the OECD regions in health, but its unemployment rate is among the highest in the OECD, especially for youths. Jobs outcomes of all Greek regions are in the bottom 20% of OECD regions.

The top performing regions in Greece fare better than the OECD median region in four out of thirteen well-being indicators: homicide rate, labour force education, life expectancy and mortality rate, although regional disparities are the highest for these indicators.

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); Greece is composed of 13 large regions. (2) Household income per capita data are based on USD constant PPP, constant prices (year 2010). Updated the 5th of March 2019
Metropolitan areas in the national economy

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

In Greece, **57% 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 43% compared to 55% in the OECD area.

Metropolitan areas in Greece account for **53%** of national GDP compared to 63% in the OECD area. Between 2001 and 2015, the GDP was declining less in metropolitan areas compared to the rest of the country.

In terms of **GDP per capita**, Athens ranks in the bottom third among the 327 OECD metropolitan areas.

In terms of **PM 2.5 levels**, Athens and Thessaloniki are among the 25% most polluted metropolitan areas in OECD countries.

**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)

*Source: OECD Metropolitan Database. Number of cities: 14 in Greece and 1 138 in the OECD.*
Subnational government expenditure amounts to USD 945 per capita in Greece compared to an OECD average of USD 6,817. In Greece, this is equivalent to 7.1% of total public expenditure and to 3.5% of GDP. In comparison, across the OECD, subnational government expenditure accounts for 40.4% of total public expenditure and for 16.2% of GDP. The function ‘Other’ (which includes housing and community amenities, recreation, culture and religion; environment; public order and safety) and general public services are the two largest spending items for subnational governments in Greece: together they represent 59% of subnational expenditure compared to 29% in the OECD area.

In Greece, 18.5% of total public investment was carried out by subnational governments compared to an OECD average of 56.9%.

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

- Total public investment: USD 974 per capita (3.6% of GDP)
- Subnational government investment: USD 181 per capita (18.5% of public invest.)

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

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