Regional gap in GDP per capita, 2000-16

The gap in GDP per capita between the richest (Vilnius) and the poorest (Taurage) Lithuanian regions has been slightly increasing since 2011, with GDP per capita in Taurage county being equivalent to 39% GDP per capita in Vilnius in 2015. Lithuania remains close to the OECD median country in terms of regional economic disparities.

With a productivity growth of 2.5% per year between 2000 and 2015, Utena has fallen further behind Vilnius, with the latter region experiencing a productivity growth of 4.3% per year over the same period.

Unemployment rates are above the OECD average in all Lithuanian regions, except Vilnius and Kaunas with rates of 4.8% and 5.6% in 2017, respectively. Unemployment varies widely across Lithuanian regions. Utena is the region with the highest unemployment rate in Lithuania, ten percentage points higher than in Vilnius.

Economic trends in 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; Lithuania is composed of nine small 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 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).
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 regions of Lithuania are among the top 30% of OECD regions in terms of education (labour force with at least upper secondary education), although all regions are in the bottom 10% in terms of health (life expectancy and mortality rate). Large disparities are found in outcomes related to jobs (employment and unemployment rates) with Klaipeda in the top 30% of OECD regions and Alytus in the bottom 20%.

The high performing Lithuanian regions fare better than the OECD median region in employment rate as well as in labour force education.

Source: OECD Regional Database. Visualisation: https://www.oecdregionalwellbeing.org. Notes: (1) OECD regions refer to the first administrative tier of subnational government; Lithuania is composed of nine small regions. (2) Household income per capita data are based on USD constant PPP, constant prices (year 2010).

Updated the 5th of March 2019
In Lithuania, **51% 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 **23%** compared to 55% in the OECD area.

The Metropolitan area of Vilnius (city above 500,000 inhabitants) accounts for **35%** of national GDP and **26%** of employment. Between 2000 and 2016 it generated for **39%** of the national GDP growth.

In terms of GDP per capita, Vilnius is close to the median of the 327 OECD metropolitan areas. **Air pollution** in Vilnius is among the third of the metropolitan areas most polluted across the OECD.

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**OECD Metropolitan areas ranking**

**Cities above 500 000 people**

- **GDP per capita, 2016**
- **Air pollution (PM2.5), 2017**

Source: OECD Metropolitan Database. Number of metropolitan areas with a population of over 500,000: 1 in Lithuania 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](http://www.oecd.org/cfe/regional-policy/functionalurbanareasbycountry.htm).