Regional gap in GDP per capita, 2000-16

Highest region
Mazowieckie
39 813 USD

Poland
25 197 USD

Lowest region
Lubelskie
17 329 USD

Index of regional disparity in GDP per capita, 2016

Top 20% richest over bottom 20% poorest regions
Ratio
Country (number of regions considered)
Small regions (TL3)
Large regions (TL2) 2016 2000

GDP per worker in USD PPP

Mazovia: highest productivity in 2016 (+1.8% average annual growth over 2000-16)

Greater Poland: highest productivity growth (+4.5% annually)

Swietokrzyskie: lowest productivity growth (+1.2% annually)

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

Poland

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); Poland is composed of 16 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 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 sixteen Polish regions rank among the top 25% of the OECD regions in education, while they rank among the bottom 20% in housing. The largest regional disparities are found in safety, with Malopolskie ranking in the top 20% of the OECD regions and Lubuskie in the bottom 30%. Large disparities also exist in the well-being dimensions community, jobs and access to services.

Both in the high and low performing Polish regions, the share of labour force with at least a secondary degree is more than 11 percentage points higher than the OECD median. All Polish regions fare worse than the OECD average in employment rate, self-assessed life satisfaction, air pollution, life expectancy, mortality rate, voter turnout, disposable income per capita and number of rooms per person.

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); Poland is composed of 16 large regions. (2) Household income per capita data are based on USD constant PPP, constant prices (year 2010).
In Poland, 53% of the population lives in cities of more than 50 000 inhabitants. The share of population in cities with more than 50 000 people is 33% compared to 55% in the OECD area.

Polish metropolitan areas account for 46% of national GDP but only 39% of national employment. Between 2000 and 2016, the metropolitan areas generated 49% of the national GDP growth.

Warsaw metropolitan area is among the top 25% in the OECD in terms of GDP per capita, whereas the four metropolitan areas of Katowice, Bydgoszcz, Lublin and Rzeszow are in the bottom 20% of the 327 OECD metropolitan areas.

All Polish metropolitan areas, apart from Gdansk and Bydgoszcz, are found among the 20% most polluted OECD metropolitan areas in terms of PM 2.5 levels. Cracow is the most polluted metropolitan area in Poland.
Subnational government expenditure by function
As a share of total subnational government expenditure, 2016

**Poland**

- Education: 28%
- Other: 17%
- Health: 16%
- Economic affairs: 16%
- Social protection: 13%
- General public services: 11%

**OECD average**

- Education: 25%
- Other: 15%
- Health: 18%
- Economic affairs: 14%
- Social protection: 14%
- General public services: 14%

Subnational expenditure per capita: USD 3,487 USD 6,817

Subnational government expenditure amounts to USD 3,487 per capita in Poland compared to an OECD average of USD 6,817. In Poland, this is equivalent to 31.3% of total public expenditure and to 12.9% of GDP. In comparison, across the OECD, subnational government expenditure accounts for 40.4% of total public expenditure and for 16.2% of GDP. Education and the function ‘Other’ (housing and community amenities, recreation, culture and religion; environment; public order and safety) are the two largest spending items for subnational governments in Poland: together they represent 45% of subnational expenditure compared to 40% in the OECD area.

In Poland, 35.7% 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

- **Poland**
  - Total public investment: USD 872 per capita (3.2% of GDP)
  - Subnational government investment: USD 311 per capita (35.7% of public invest.)

- **OECD average**
  - Total public investment: USD 1,278 per capita (3.0% of GDP)
  - Subnational government investment: USD 727 per capita (56.9% of public invest.)

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](https://oe.cd/pub/2n9)