The regional gap in GDP per capita increased in the Slovak Republic over the last sixteen years. Faster growth in the country’s richest region, Bratislava, has widened the gap to East Slovakia, the poorest region. GDP per capita in Bratislava is now almost 3.5 times higher than in East Slovakia. In 2016, the Slovak Republic had the fourth highest regional economic disparities among 30 OECD countries with comparable data.

Bratislava is not only the country’s most productive region but also recorded the highest productivity growth (+3.7% annually) from 2000 to 2016. The highest productivity in 2016 and highest productivity growth (+3.7% average annual growth over 2000-16) were recorded in Bratislava. West Slovakia had the lowest productivity growth (+2.8% annually).

Youth unemployment is high in Slovakian regions compared to the OECD average, but it varies widely. In East Slovakia the youth unemployment rate (30%) was more than three times higher than in West Slovakia (9.8%) in 2017.

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); the Slovak Republic is composed of four 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).
Updated the 5th of March 2019

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 four regions of the Slovak Republic are in the top 20% OECD regions in education, but all four are in the bottom 20% in terms of environment and housing. In terms of jobs, large disparities are observed: Bratislava is in the top 20% of OECD regions whereas East Slovakia is among the bottom 20%.

The high performing Slovakian regions fare better than the OECD median region in five out of thirteen well-being indicators: employment and unemployment rates, broadband access, community, labour force with at least a secondary degree and homicide rate. In the low performing regions, voter turnout is around 15 percentage points below the OECD median.

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); the Slovak Republic is composed of four large regions. (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: eight in the Slovak Republic and 1 138 in the OECD.

In the Slovak Republic, **35% 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 **12%** compared to 55% in the OECD area.

The metropolitan area of Bratislava accounts for **28%** of national GDP. Between 2000 and 2016 it generated **32%** of the national GDP growth.

In terms of GDP per capita, **Bratislava** is among the top 5% OECD metropolitan areas, ranking 11th out of 327 metropolitan areas.

Bratislava is among the **25%** OECD metropolitan areas with the highest air pollution in terms of PM 2.5 levels.

Source: OECD Metropolitan Database. Number of metropolitan areas with a population of over 500 000: one in the Slovak Republic 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/functionalandurbanareasbycountry.htm](http://www.oecd.org/cfe/regional-policy/functionalandurbanareasbycountry.htm)

Updated the 5th of March 2019
Subnational government expenditure by function
As a share of total subnational government expenditure, 2016

**Slovak Republic**

- Education: 36%
- Other: 21%
- Economic affairs: 20%
- General public services: 13%
- Social protection: 7%
- Health: 3%

**OECD average**

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

Subnational expenditure per capita:
- **Slovak Republic**: USD 1,998
- **OECD average**: USD 6,817

Subnational government expenditure amounts to **USD 1,998 per capita** in the Slovak Republic compared to an OECD average of **USD 6,817**. In the Slovak Republic, this is equivalent to **15.8% of total public expenditure** and to **6.6% 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 the Slovak Republic: together they represent **57%** of subnational expenditure compared to **40%** in the OECD area.

In the Slovak Republic, **19.6% 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

**Slovak Republic**

- Total public investment: USD 1,053 per capita (3.5% of GDP)
- Subnational government investment: USD 206 per capita (19.6% 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)