

Did you know?

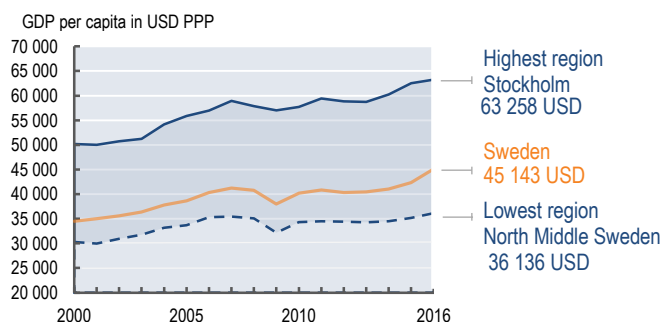
Stockholm, the most productive region in Sweden, is growing faster than others, but regional economic disparities remain low.

The three metropolitan areas with more than 500 000 people in Sweden generate 47% of national GDP, but accounted for 57% of national GDP growth in 2000-16.

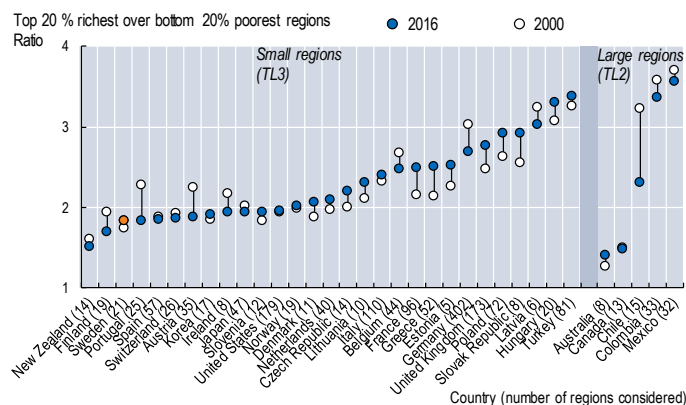
Subnational governments spent 54% of their budget on health and social protection, compared to OECD average of 32%.

Economic trends in regions

Regional gap in GDP per capita, 2000-16



Index of regional disparity in GDP per capita, 2016

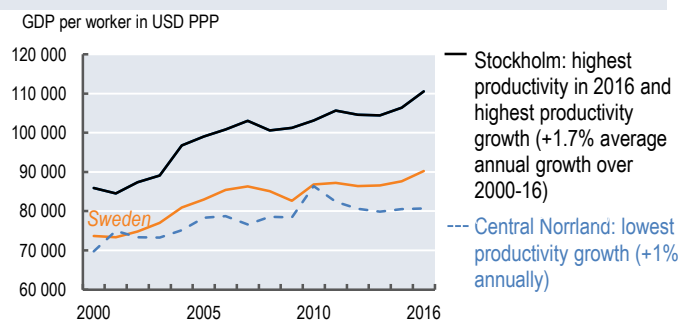


Regional disparities in terms of GDP per capita have slightly increased in Sweden over the last sixteen years, with North Middle Sweden having GDP per capita equivalent to 57% of the GDP per capita in Stockholm in 2016. However, **Sweden remains a country with low regional disparities**, as only two out of 30 OECD countries with comparable data report lower regional differences in GDP per capita.

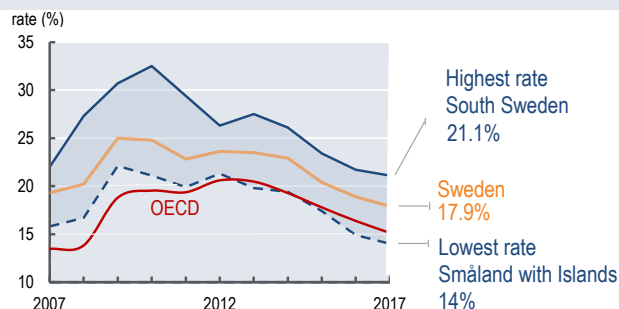
With a **productivity growth of 1.7%** per year over the period 2000-16, Stockholm had the highest productivity growth, as well as the highest level of productivity among Swedish regions. Central Norrland, where productivity growth was the lowest at 1% per year in 2000-16, has increased the productivity gap with Stockholm.

South Sweden has the highest youth unemployment rate (21.1% in 2017), seven percentage points higher than in Småland and above the OECD average.

Productivity trends, most and least dynamic regions, 2000-16



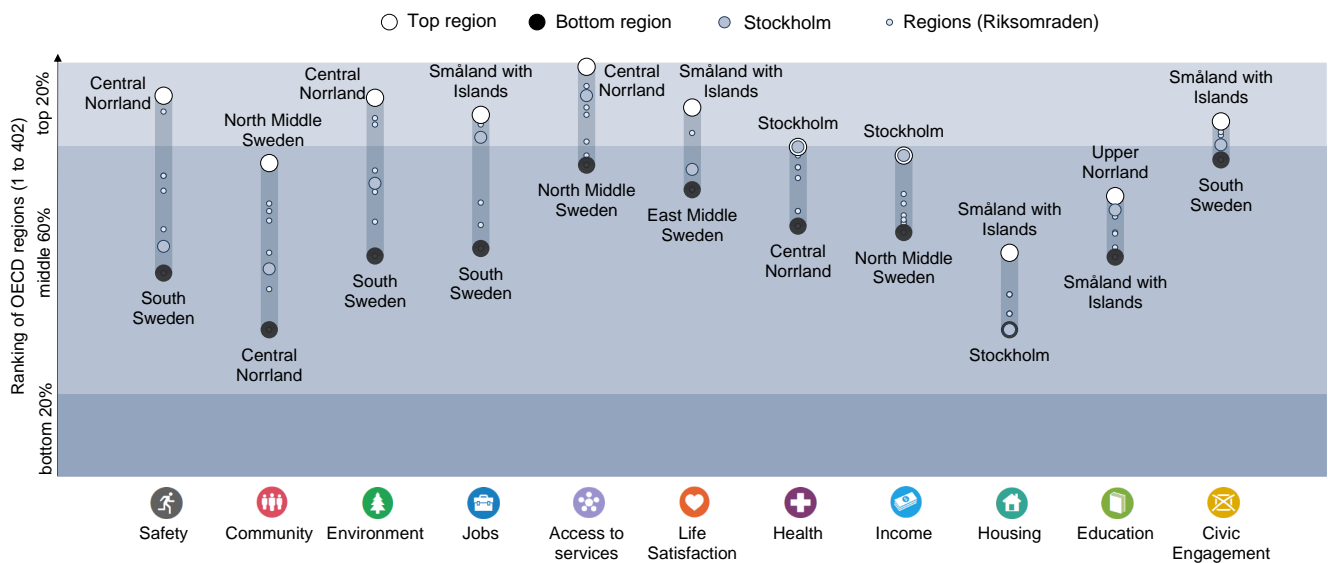
Youth unemployment rate, 15-24 years old, 2007-17



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); Sweden is composed of eight 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).

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.

Compared to other OECD countries, regional well-being is high and regional disparities are generally low in Sweden. The widest regional gaps are found in safety and community, although in the case of safety the low performing region is close to the OECD median region. All eight Swedish regions rank in the top 25% of the OECD regions in civic engagement.

High and low performing Swedish regions fare better than the OECD median region in all the 13 well-being indicators, with the exception of the perceived social network support, unemployment rate and rooms per person. About 97% of households in the high performing regions and 89% in the low performing ones have access to broadband connection.

	Country Average	OECD median region	Swedish regions	
			Top 20%	Bottom 20%
Safety				
Homicide Rate (per 100 000 people), 2016	0.9	1.3	0.5	1.2
Community				
Perceived social network support (%), 2013	92.4	91.4	93.7	90.9
Environment				
Level of air pollution in PM2.5 (µg/m³), 2015	6.5	12.4	6.3	11.3
Jobs				
Employment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2017	77.0	67.7	79.4	74.2
Unemployment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2017	7.0	5.5	6.0	8.5
Access to services				
Households with broadband access (%), 2017	93.0	78.0	97.0	88.7
Life Satisfaction				
Life satisfaction (scale from 0 to 10), 2013	7.4	6.8	7.5	7.3
Health				
Life Expectancy at birth (years), 2016	82.4	80.4	82.9	81.8
Age adjusted mortality rate (per 1 000 people), 2016	7.3	8.1	7.1	7.6
Income				
Disposable income per capita (in USD PPP), 2016	21 276	17 695	23 982	19 928
Housing				
Rooms per person, 2016	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.6
Education				
Labour force with at least upper secondary education (%), 2017	85.1	81.7	86.4	83.2
Civic engagement				
Voters in last national election (%), 2017 or latest year	85.9	70.9	86.6	84.4

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); Sweden is composed of eight large regions. (2) Household income per capita data are based on USD constant PPP, constant prices (year 2010).

Metropolitan areas in the national economy



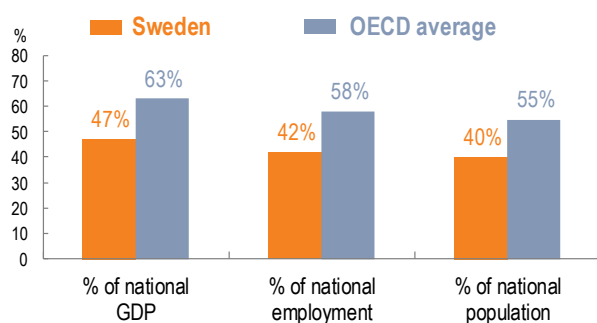
OECD population is concentrated in cities* Percentage of population in cities, 2016



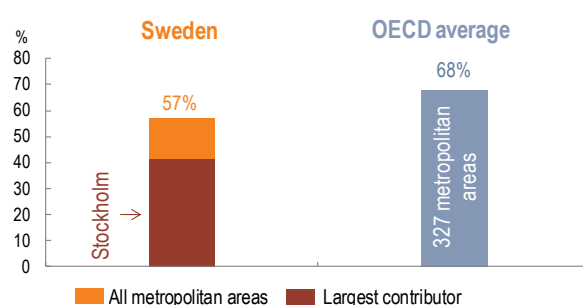
Source: OECD Metropolitan Database. Number of cities: 12 in Sweden and 1 138 in the OECD.

In Sweden, **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 **40%** 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

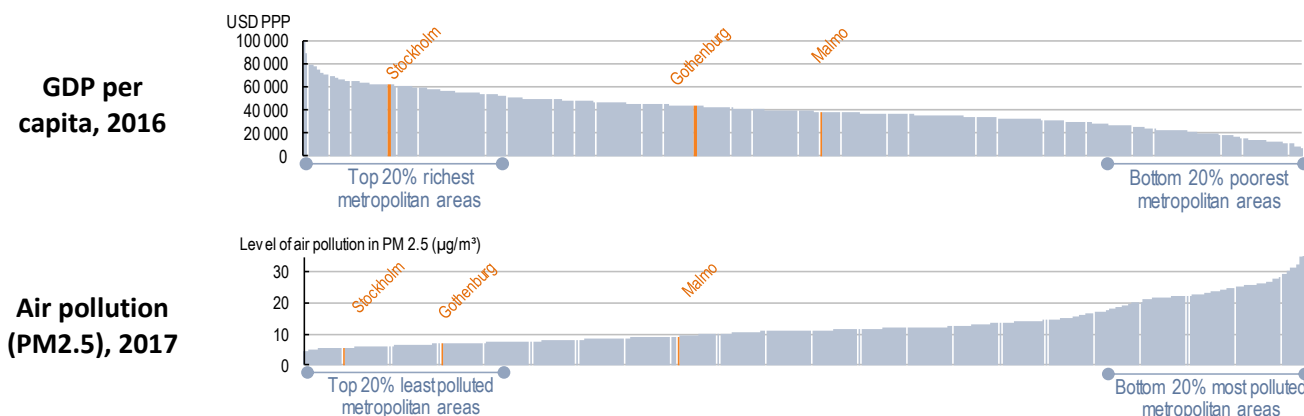


The metropolitan areas in Sweden account for **47%** of national **GDP** and **42%** of **employment**. Between 2000 and 2016, the three Swedish metropolitan areas generated **57%** of national **GDP growth**, with **Stockholm alone being responsible for 42%**.

In terms of **GDP per capita**, the metropolitan area of **Stockholm** is among the richest 10% of the 327 OECD metropolitan areas.

When considering **PM 2.5 levels**, the metropolitan areas of **Stockholm** and **Gothenburg** are in the **20% least polluted** OECD metropolitan areas.

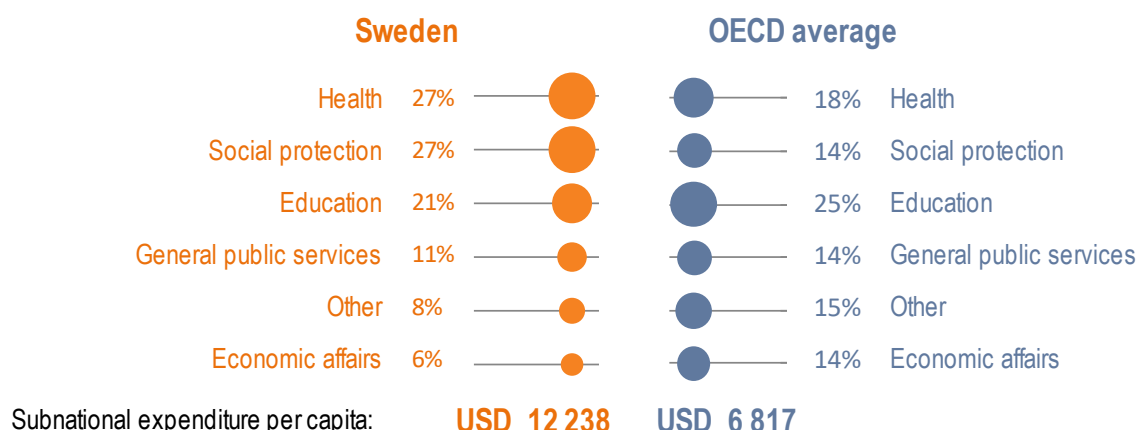
OECD Metropolitan areas ranking Cities above 500 000 people, 2016



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

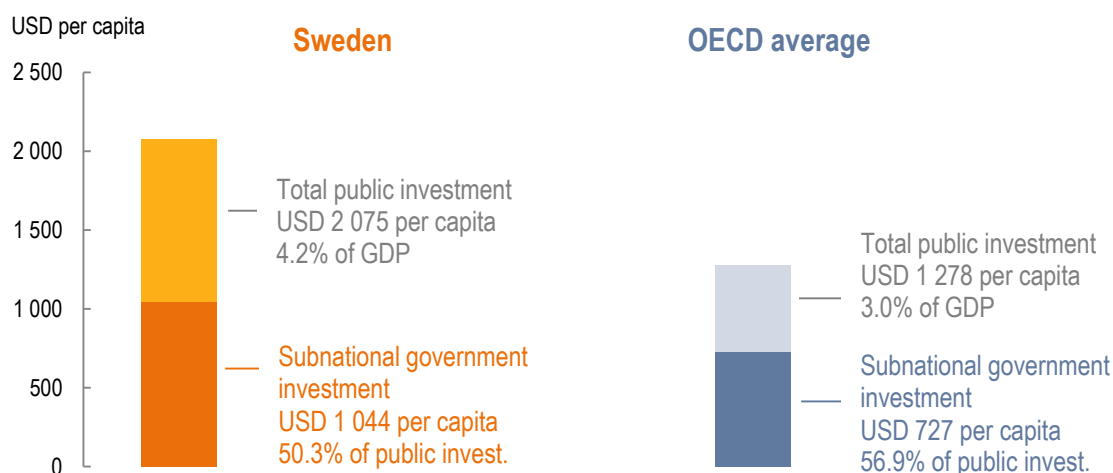
* Note: Cities are defined here as functional urban areas, which are composed by high-density urban centres of at least 50 000 people and their areas of influence (commuting zone). For more information, see: <http://www.oecd.org/cfe/regional-policy/functionalurbanareasbycountry.htm>.

Subnational government expenditure by function As a share of total subnational government expenditure, 2016



Subnational government expenditure amounts to **USD 12 238 per capita** in Sweden compared to an OECD average of USD 6 817. In Sweden, this is equivalent to **56% of total public expenditure** and to **25% of GDP**. In comparison, across the OECD, subnational government expenditure accounts for 40.4% of total public expenditure and for 16.2% of GDP. Health and social protection are the two largest spending items for subnational governments in Sweden. Together they represent **54%** of subnational expenditure compared to 32% in the OECD area.

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



In Sweden, **50.3% of total public investment** was carried out by subnational governments (SNG) compared to an OECD average of 56.9%.

Source: OECD Subnational Government Structure and Finance Database.

Note: The function 'Other' includes housing and community amenities, recreation, culture and religion; environment; public order and safety.

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>

