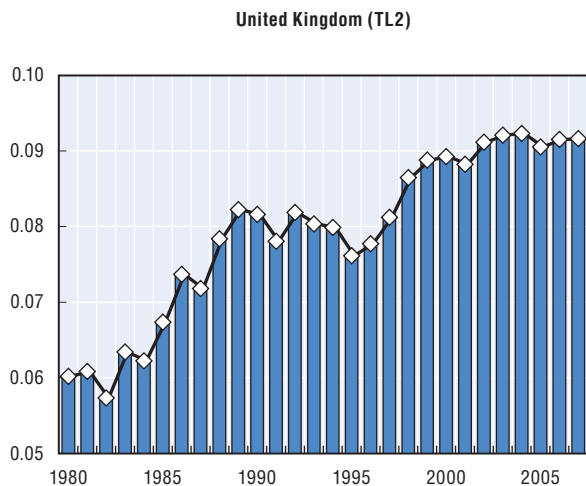


United Kingdom

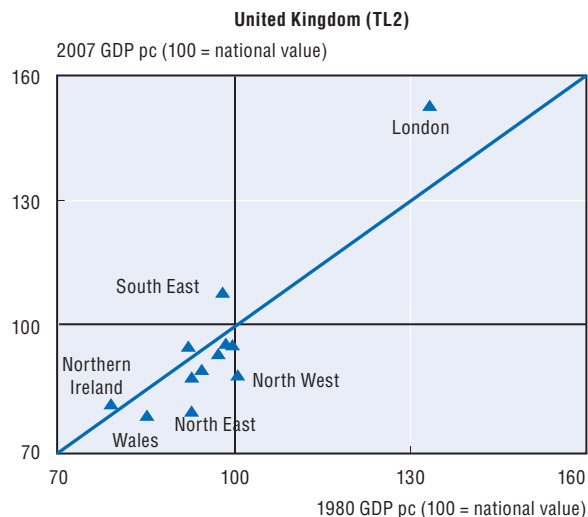
Population and territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 61 million inhabitants, 243 069 km².
Administrative structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unitary country, comprising 4 constituent countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. ● The territorial organisation of the UK differs widely among the constituent countries. England has the Greater London Authority at the regional level, 36 metropolitan authorities, 47 unitary authorities, 34 county councils and 238 district councils as well as parish councils at the local level. Scotland has 32 unitary authorities at the intermediate level. Wales has 22 unitary authorities at the intermediate level and community councils at the local level. Northern Ireland has 26 district councils at the local level. ● Sub-national system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ TL2: 12 <i>Government Office Regions + Countries</i>. ❖ TL3: 133 <i>Upper tier authorities or groups of lower tier authorities (unitary authorities or districts)</i>, among which 82 predominantly urban regions (40% of total population, -0.7 pp over the past 12 years), 40 intermediate regions (49%, +0.7 pp) and 11 predominantly rural regions (11%, constant).
Share of sub-national government in total spending/revenues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spending: 27.5% (2009). ● Revenues: 10.6% (2009).
Concentration and inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The United Kingdom displays the third highest concentration of economic activity (among TL3 regions) in the OECD according to the index of geographic concentration. The TL2 region of London alone produced almost one fifth of the United Kingdom's GDP. ● Inequality in GDP per capita among TL2 regions has been steadily increasing since the early 1980s. The increase has been driven by London's buoyant growth in GDP per capita (3.2%), outperforming the national average (2.6%) during the past decade. The gap in London's GDP per capita relative to the national average increased from being 33% above the national value in 1980 to 53% in 2007. Consequently, London's contribution to national GDP growth over the past decade was significant (25%). Following London, South East recorded the second highest growth rate (3.1%) in GDP per capita over the past decade and contributed almost one fifth (17.9%) of the national GDP growth. ● The further decline of lagging regions over the period 1980-2007 contributed to inequality; in particular, the low growth rate in GDP per capita displayed by the lagging regions Wales (1.9%), North East (2.2%) and North West (2.2%). ● Despite the lower growth rate of lagging regions, their combined contribution to national growth remains quite significant, almost 60% (57.4%) during the past decade.
Key challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On-going inter-regional and intra-regional disparities. ● Urban deprivation.
Objectives of regional policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target the key drivers of productivity in all regions. ● Enhance commitment to devolved/decentralised arrangements for policy delivery.
Urban policy framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No single legislation.
Rural policy framework ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rural White Paper (2000) and rural-proofing. ● Rural Strategy (2004), including Rural Pathfinders. ● Law of Natural Environment and Rural Communities (2006).
Major regional policy tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regional Selective Assistance (Scotland and Wales). ● Selective Finance for Investment (England). ● Funding for the RDA (England).
Policy co-ordination at central level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regional Economic Performance Public Service Agreement (REP PSA).
Multi-level governance between national and sub-national levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regional Economic Performance Public Service Agreement (REP PSA). ● Integrated regional strategies (England). ● Regional development agencies (RDAs) (England). ● Regional minister (England). ● Government Offices and the Regional Emphasis Document (England).
Policy co-ordination at regional level (cross-sectoral)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regional development agencies (England). ● Integrated regional strategies (England).
Policy co-ordination at regional level (geographic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regional development agencies (England). ● Integrated regional strategies (England). ● National Planning Framework of Scotland. ● Wales Spatial Plan. ● Local and multi-area agreements. ● Urban or city-region strategies. ● Economic Prosperity Board.
Evaluation and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spatial Economic Research Centre. ● Regional Observatories.
Future orientations of regional policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Balance between regional and city-region/sub-regional and local approaches. ● New Conservative-Liberal Democrat Coalition government has announced plans to dismantle regional planning structures and RDAs in England and replace them with local enterprise partnerships.

1. In all EU member countries, the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) required by Cohesion Policy is also part of the legal/institutional framework.
2. In all EU member countries, the National Strategic Plan (NSP) (and the regional Rural Development Plans [RDPs] in federalised and strongly regionalised countries) is a basic rural policy document required by EU Rural Development Programmes. Each member country has the choice of either submitting a single NSP for its entire territory or of breaking down its territory into regions and submitting a set of regional RDPs.

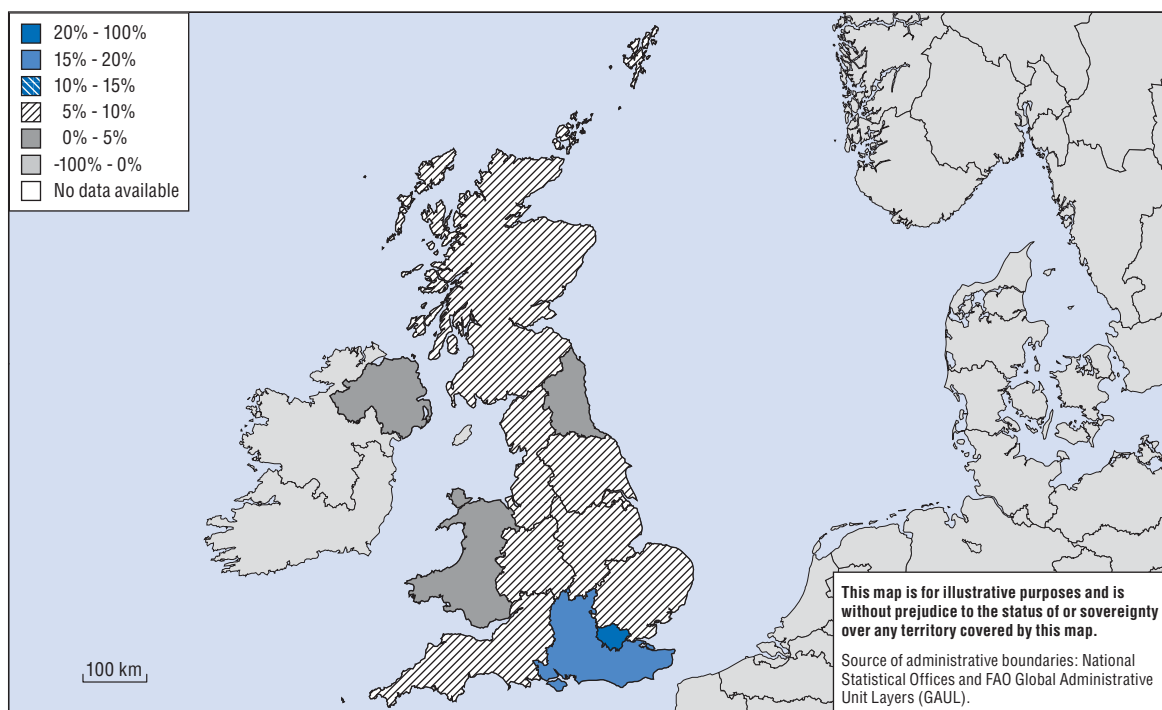
Gini index of inequality of GDP per capita across TL2 regions, 1980-2007



Regional performance in GDP per capita over time, 1980 and 2007



Regional contribution (%) to national GDP growth, 1995-2007



Source: Calculations based on Cambridge Econometrics and OECD Regional Database (2009).

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