

OECD Regions at a Glance 2013 – Japan Profile

<http://rag.oecd.org>

Did you know?

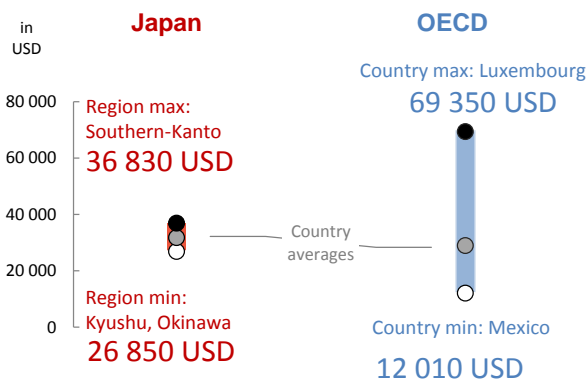
Japan has the 5th lowest regional disparities in GDP per capita among OECD countries.

Investments carried out by sub-national governments in Japan were 2.6% of GDP in 2011, the 3rd highest value in OECD countries.

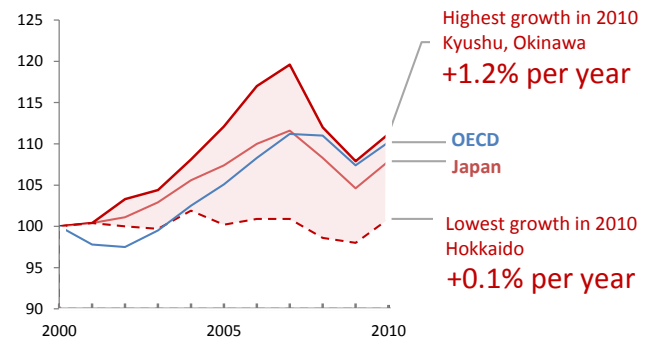
Metropolitan areas in Japan concentrate 70% of national GDP in 2012, the highest value among OECD countries.

Regional dynamics

GDP per capita, 2010

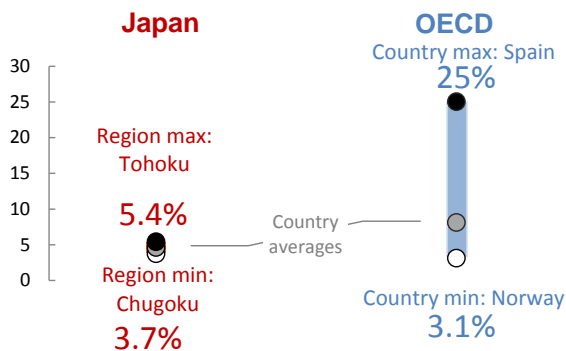


GDP growth (year 2000=100)

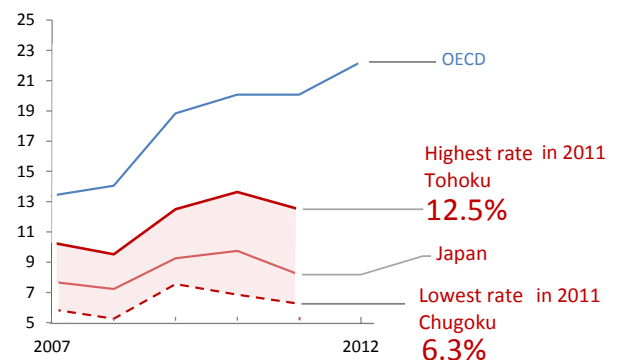


Japan had the 5th lowest regional disparities in **GDP per capita**. In the past decade, regional growth range from **+1.2%** annually in **Kyushu, Okinawa** and **+0.1%** in **Hokkaido**.

Unemployment rate, 2012



Youth unemployment rate, 15-24 years old, 2007-12

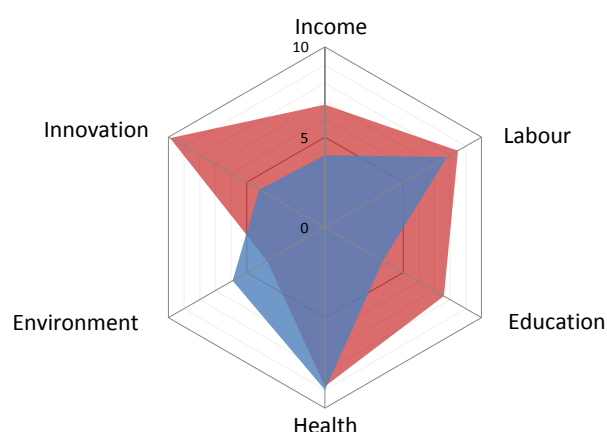


In recent years, Japan maintained a low **unemployment rate** and regional disparities in unemployment were the lowest among OECD countries. The highest **youth unemployment rate** in 2011 is found in **Tohoku (12.5%)**, representing twice the unemployment rate in **Chugoku**, but almost 40% less than the OECD average.

Regional dynamics

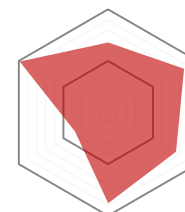


How do the richest and poorest regions fare on social and environmental dimensions?



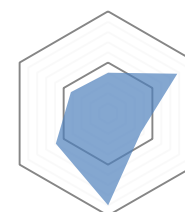
Highest GDP per capita region:

Southern-Kanto



Lowest GDP per capita region:

Kyushu, Okinawa



How to read the graph: For each dimension, regions have been assigned values from 0 to 10 based on their rank among all OECD regions and on the latest available data: 10 is the best performance and 0 is the lowest. The OECD median region is equal to 5. The more the radar graph is covered, the better the performance of the region among OECD regions.

Compared to the other OECD regions, Southern-Kanto ranks at the top of the distribution of all dimensions with the exception of environmental quality. Kyushu, Okinawa, ranks below the median region in terms of innovation, income, and education; while it ranks above for environmental quality, health and employment opportunities.

Dimensions	Indicators	Southern-Kanto	Kyushu, Okinawa	Japan	OECD average
Income	Household income per capita, 2010 (USD PPP per capita)	19 358	14 994	17 118	18 775
Labour	Unemployment rate, 2011 (%)	4.6	5.2	4.6	8.1
Education	Share of student enrolment in tertiary education, 2012 (%)	25.1	15.2	18.6	20.0
Health	Life expectancy, 2010 (years)	82.4	82.5	82.9	79.8
Environment	CO ₂ per capita, 2008 (tonnes per person)	10.0	6.5	8.4	10.7
Innovation	No. of patents per million people, 2010	430.5	35.8	225.1	108.8

Source: OECD Regional database. Household disposable income per capita data are based on USD constant PPP, constant prices (year 2005).

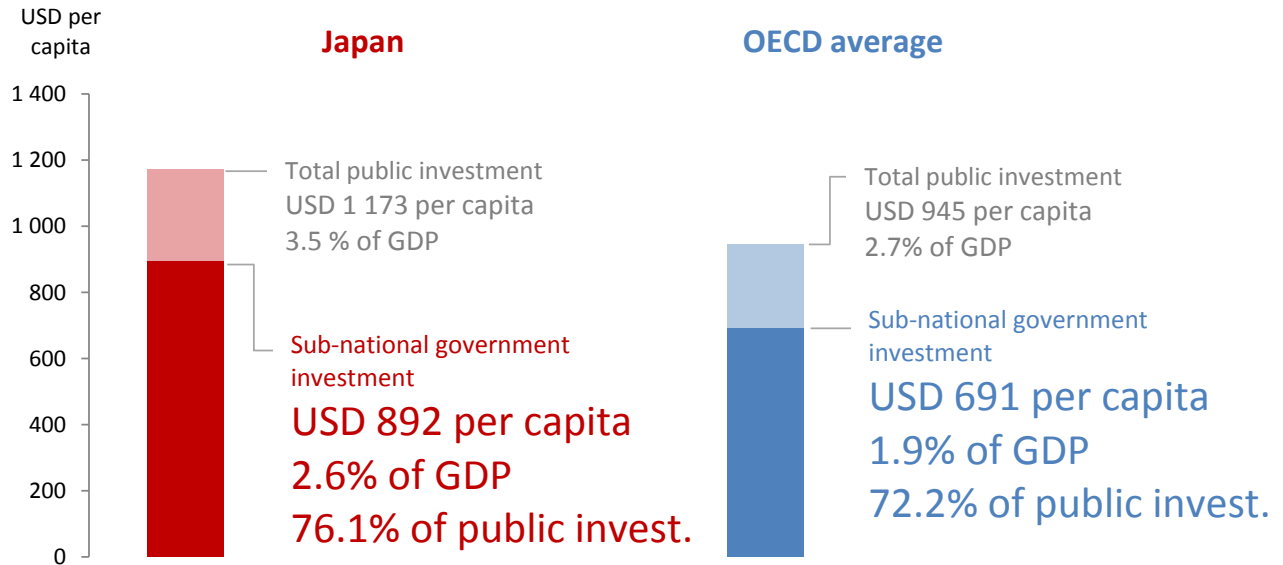
Note: regions refer to the first administrative tier of sub-national government, for Japan they are 10 regions (Groups of prefectures).

Sub-national government finance



Sub-national governments have a key role in public investment

Sub-national government public investment per capita, 2011



In Japan **76%** of the **total public investment** was carried out by sub-national governments (SNG) compared to 72% in the OECD area. SNG investment has increased in Japan from **USD 804** per capita in 2007 to **USD 892** per capita in 2011.

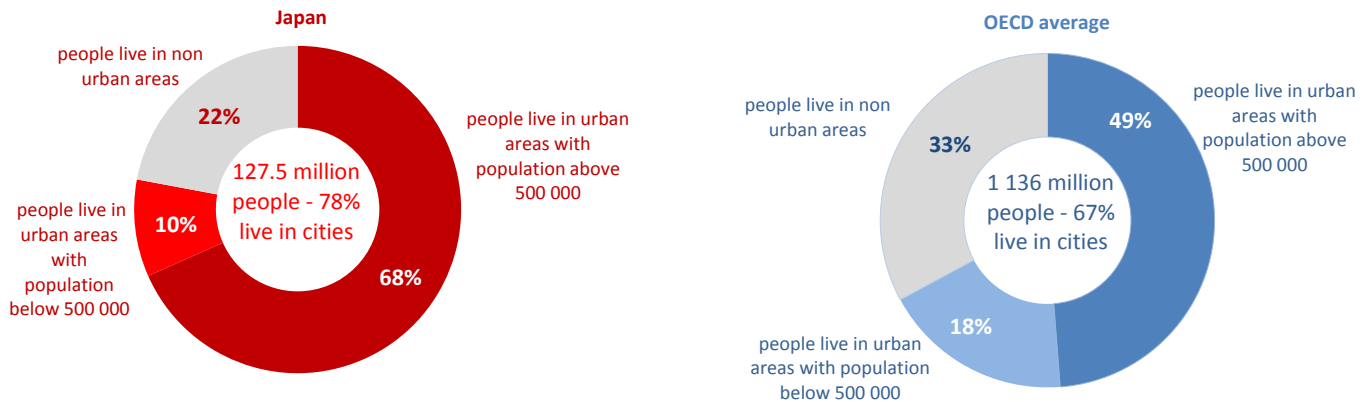
Source: OECD National Accounts database

Metropolitan areas in the national economy



OECD population is increasingly concentrated in cities, 2012

Percentage of population in cities of different sizes and in non-urban areas

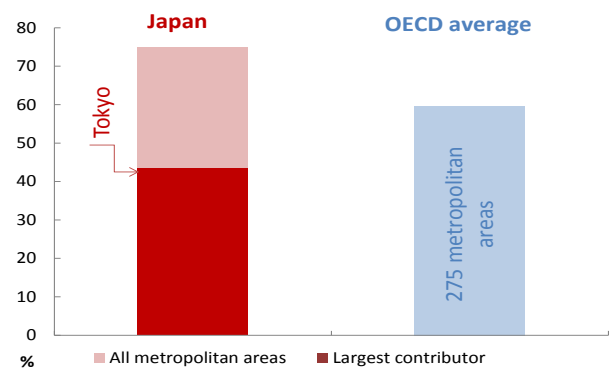
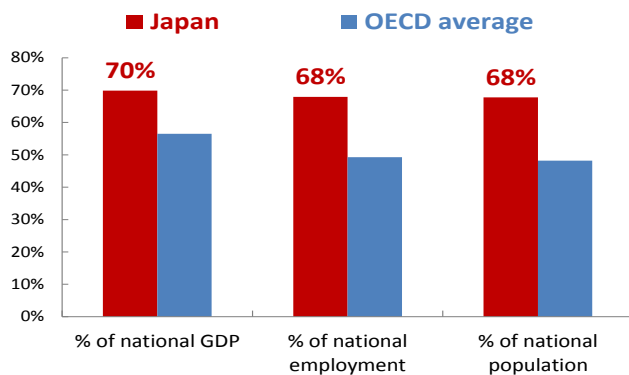


Source: OECD Metropolitan areas database. Number of urban areas internationally comparable according to OECD definition: 76 in Japan and 1 175 in the OECD.

In Japan, **78%** of the population lives in cities of different sizes: the share of population in metropolitan areas (urban areas with more than 500 000 people) is **68%** compared to 49% in the OECD area.

Concentration in metropolitan areas, 2010

Metropolitan areas' contribution to national GDP growth, 2000-10



Source: OECD Metropolitan areas database. Number of metropolitan areas (urban areas with a population of over 500 000): 36 in Japan compared to 275 in the OECD.

Metropolitan areas in Japan concentrate **70%** of national **GDP**, the highest share among OECD countries, and **68%** of **employment**. In 2000-10 they accounted for **75%** of **GDP growth**.

OECD Regions at a Glance 2013

This edition of OECD Regions 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.

New to this edition:

- The role of OECD metropolitan areas in countries' development
- Recent trends in public investment, revenues and the debt of subnational governments

Consult this publication on line: http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/reg_glance-2013-en

