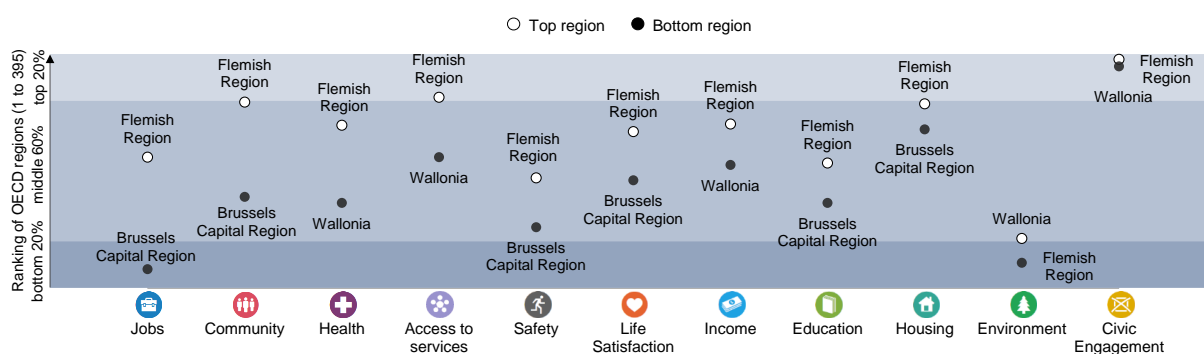


REGIONAL WELL-BEING IN OECD COUNTRIES: BELGIUM

The three Belgian regions rank among the top 20% of the OECD regions in civic engagement, due to the compulsory voting system, and close to the bottom 20% of the OECD regions in environment (air pollution). Belgium has the third largest regional disparities in jobs among OECD countries, with the capital region of Brussels ranking among the bottom 10% of the OECD regions. Wide disparities are also found in community, health, access to services and safety.

Relative performance of Belgian regions by well-being dimension














Note: Relative ranking of the regions with the best and worst outcomes in the 11 well-being dimensions, with respect to all 395 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.

Source: OECD Regional Well-Being Database: www.oecdregionalwellbeing.org

The high performing Belgian regions fare better than the OECD average for all 13 well-being indicators, with the exception of air pollution. The low performing regions fare better than the OECD average in eight indicators and worse than the OECD average in employment and unemployment rates, life expectancy, mortality rate and air pollution.

How do the top and bottom regions in Belgium fare on the well-being indicators?

	Belgian regions		Country average	OECD average
	Top 20%	Bottom 20%		
 Jobs				
Employment rate (%), 2014	66.7	55.0	61.4	66.3
Unemployment rate (%), 2014	5.1	15.2	9.0	8.6
 Community				
Perceived social support network (%), average 2006-14	94.5	90.2	92.5	88.9
 Health				
Life Expectancy at birth (years), 2013	81.6	79.1	80.7	79.7
Age-adjusted mortality rate (per 1 000 people), 2013	7.4	9.0	8.0	8.4
 Access to services				
Households with broadband access (%), 2014	85.0	77.0	81.0	69.8
 Safety				
Homicide Rate (per 100 000 people), 2013	1.5	2.4	1.8	3.4
 Life satisfaction				
Self-evaluation of life satisfaction (scale from 0 to 10), average 2006-14	7.2	6.8	7.1	6.7
 Income				
Disposable income per capita (in USD PPP), 2013	21 148	18 261	19 944	17 916
 Education				
Labour force with at least upper secondary education (%), 2014	82.6	76.3	80.5	74.3
 Housing				
Rooms per person, 2013	2.3	2.2	2.2	1.8
 Environment				
Level of air pollution in PM 2.5 (µg/m³), 2013	14.9	16.8	16.1	10.4
 Civic engagement				
Voters in last national election (%), 2015	90.8	87.6	89.4	68.1

Note: Data in the first two columns refer to average values of top and bottom regions of national ranking and until the equivalent of 20% of the national population is reached.

Source: OECD Regional Well-Being Database: www.oecdregionalwellbeing.org