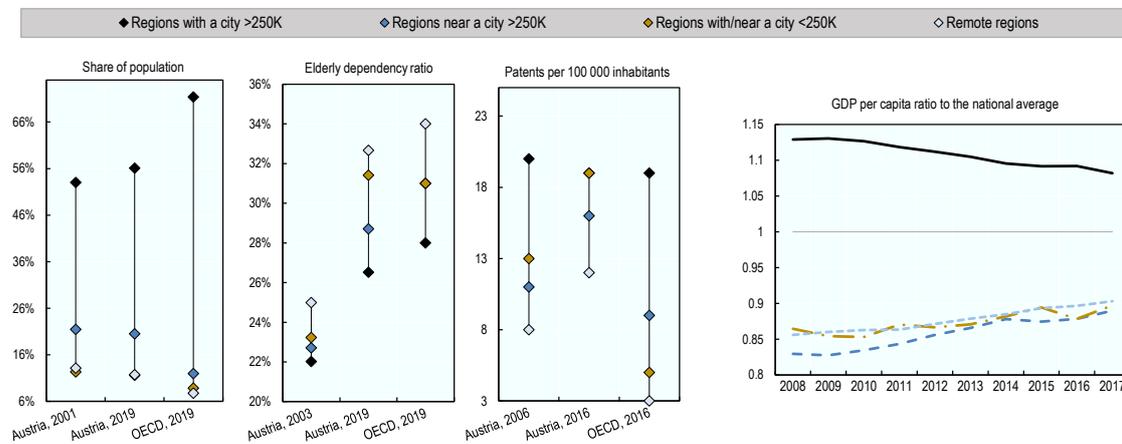


# Austria

## Statistical profile

Figure 1. Statistical profile



	Population growth 2008-2019 (%)	Growth in employment 2008-2017 (%)	GVA per worker (1 000 USD ppp)	GVA manufacturing share (%)	Hospital beds per 1 000 inhabitants
Regions with a city >250K	1 (0.7)	1.0 (0.9)	94 (92)	16 (18)	7.4 (8.0)
Regions near a city >250K	0.3 (0.4)	0.8 (0.5)	88 (79)	34 (26)	6.3 (6.3)
Regions with/near a city <250K	0.3 (0.4)	0.5 (0.0)	88 (71)	28 (23)	7.2 (7.2)
Remote regions	-0.1 (0.6)	0.5 (0.2)	86 (73)	25 (18)	8.3 (4.6)

Note: OECD average is presented in parenthesis. Data for hospital beds are from 2018 and data for GVA per worker, GVA by sector and unemployment rate are from 2017. GVA and GDP are measured in USD PPP (2015). The OECD average by order in the table has been made with 33, 25, 26, 25, 19 countries with available data. Employment growth measured as employment in the workplace.

Source: (OECD, 2020<sup>[1]</sup>) OECD Regional Statistics (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/region-data-e>.

## Policy framework and Institutional setting of rural development

### Rural Definition

- ❖ Austria's definition of rural areas is outlined by the Rural Development Program. The main criteria for the definition of rural areas is the threshold of population density. This includes, in particular, all municipalities with less than 30,000 inhabitants and all parts of municipalities with more than 30,000 inhabitants which show rural features. The definition

acknowledge two types of rural areas: mixed rural/urban areas, addressed as "Zwischenregion", and remote rural areas, as "periphere region".

### **National rural policy**

- ❖ Austria does not have an explicit national rural policy.

### **Lead ministry(ies) and other co-ordination bodies in charge**

Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the **national level**:

Ministries/Committees (most important first)	Role
Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism	Preparation of Rural Development Program (RDP), funding, implementation and evaluation of RDP; national supplementary action; research; coordination with regional level and with other federal authorities; information
Monitoring Committee of RDP	Control function (for RDP implementation)
Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK) since 1972; vertical and horizontal coordination; information exchange; strategy building	Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK) since 1972; vertical and horizontal coordination; information exchange; strategy building

Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the **sub-national level**:

Institutions	Role
Regional government offices of the Länder	Spatial planning, regional policy, nature protection and resource use, and implementation of rural policy instruments
Local institutions, at municipality and/or small-scale level	Implementation of specific measures

### **Key objectives in rural policy and delivery mechanisms**

- ❖ Austria's rural development policy allocates a high degree of importance to economic areas (Table 1). Table 2 shows the main priorities of the rural policy in Austria.
- ❖ The main delivery mechanisms to implement rural policies are dedicated grants programmes.

**Table 1. Relevance of sectors in rural development policy**

Policy areas	Weight on rural policy	Average OECD
Economic	50%	40%
Environment	20%	30%
Social	30%	30%

*Note:* Self-reported responses from country delegate to the question: "Please grade from 1 to 10 the importance rural development policies in your country assigns to economic, social and environmental areas".

*Source:* OECD (2018), "Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries".

**Table 2. Relevant objectives in rural development policy**

Top objectives	Programmes	Main financial mechanisms to support the strategy
Agriculture	CAP pillar 1 and pillar 2 (RDP)	Direct payments; AECM, LFA/ANC payments, diversification
Land occupation, resilience and landscape preservation	RDP LFA/ANC; some smaller landscape-oriented payments	RDP LFA/ANC; some smaller landscape-oriented payments
Service delivery	RDP	Public services support, LEADER
Accessibility- via transport/ broadband	RDP	Small roads investment; broadband initiative for rural areas
Quality of life/well-being of rural	RDP	LEADER
Innovation support to "rural" sectors	RDP	Advice and training support

*Note:* These objectives are the objectives with higher scores in the survey responses.

*Source:* OECD (2018), "Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries".