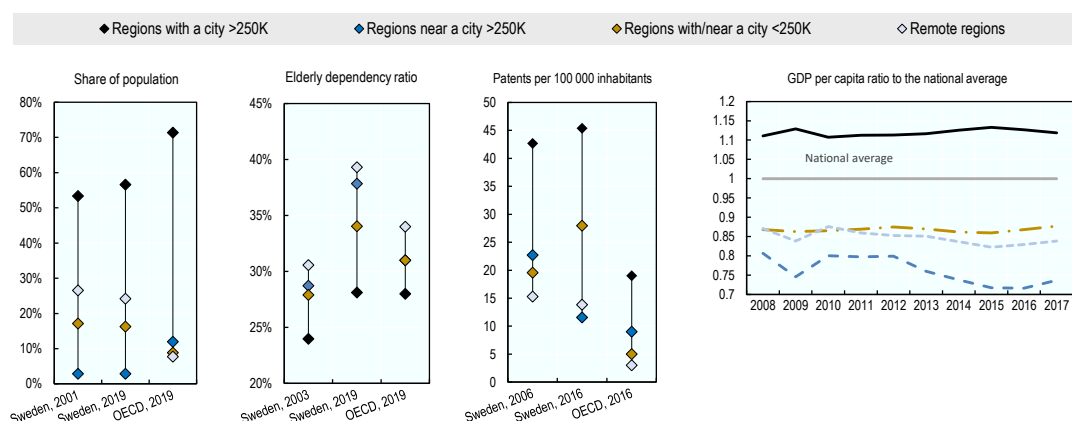


Sweden

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	1.5 (0.7)	1.4 (0.9)	95 (92)	14 (18)	2.1 (8)
Regions near a city >250K	1.1 (0.3)	0.7 (0.5)	80 (79)	26 (26)	2.3 (8.1)
Regions with/near a city <250K	0.9 (0.2)	0.9 (0.0)	80 (71)	25 (23)	2.2 (4.9)
Remote regions	0.5 (0.5)	0.4 (0.2)	81 (73)	19 (18)	2.2 (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^[1]) OECD Regional Statistics (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/region-data-e>.

Policy framework and Institutional setting of rural development

Rural Definition

- ❖ In Sweden, there are numerous definitions of "rural" for policy purposes. For instance, in the Swedish Rural Development Program, rural areas are villages with up to 3000 inhabitants, yet there are regional exceptions. The Swedish Agency for Growth Policy

Analysis has developed a territorial classification resulting in six different kinds of municipalities. The definition recognises mixed rural/urban areas, rural areas close to cities and remote rural areas.

National rural policy

- ❖ Sweden has a national rural policy defined by the Coherent Rural Policy Bill 2018. Its main goal is to have viable rural areas with equal opportunities for enterprise, work, housing and welfare that lead to long-term sustainable development throughout the country. The policy specifies objectives, policy areas and measures for rural development.

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

Table 1. Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the national level

Ministries/Committees (most important first)	Role
Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation	Coordinating governmental actions, "rural proofing", planning, funding, implementing, evaluation
Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth	Coordinating agency for rural development, funding, implementing, evaluation of measures, Managing authority for the regional structural funds
Board of Agriculture	Managing Authority for the rural development program, responsible for the agricultural sector

Table 2. Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the sub-national level

Institutions	Role
County Administrative Boards	Competent Agency RDP
County Councils	Regional and rural development (rural shall be included)

Key objectives in rural policy and delivery mechanisms

- ❖ Sweden's rural development policy allocates a high degree of importance to economic areas (Table 3). Table 4 shows the main priorities of rural policy.
- ❖ The main delivery mechanisms of the rural development policy in Sweden are dedicated grants programme and contracts and agreements with local communities.

Table 3. Relevance of sectors in rural development policy

Policy areas	Sweden	Average OECD
Economic	40%	40%
Social	30%	30%
Environment	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 4. Relevant objectives in rural development policy

Top objectives (Order does not imply ranking)	Programmes	Main financial mechanisms to support the strategy
Accessibility (via transport/ broadband)	EU- programme for rural development (RDP) and national schemes	Grants, subsidies
Quality of Life in rural areas	EU- programme for rural development (RDP) and national schemes	Grants, subsidies
Innovation support to “rural” sectors	EU- programme for rural development (RDP) and national schemes	Grants, subsidies
Support to private sector, jobs and investment	EU- programme for rural development (RDP) and national schemes	Grants, subsidies

Note: Objectives presented are the objectives with higher scores in the survey responses. Sweden rated these objectives as extremely important in its rural development policy.

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