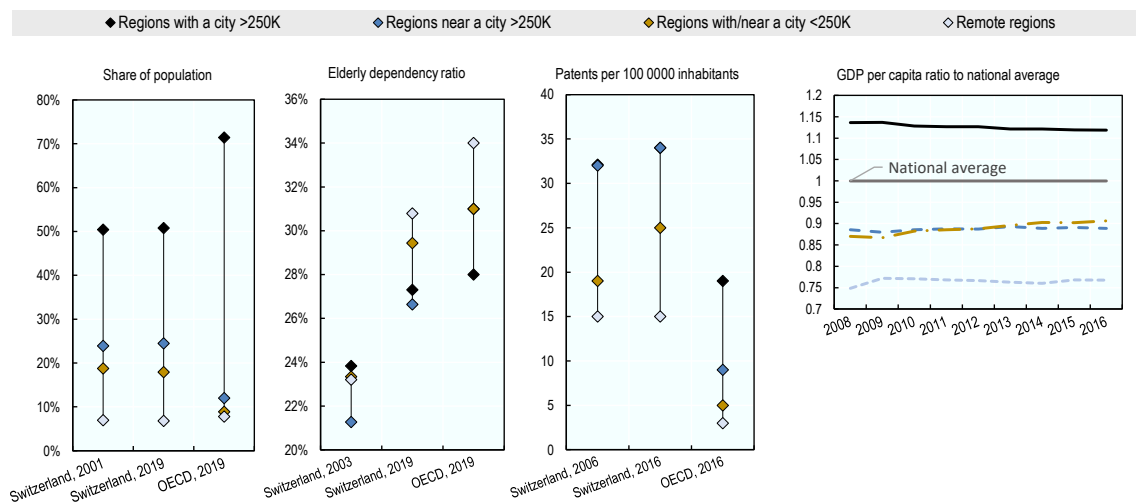


Switzerland

Statistical profile

Figure 1. Statistical profile



	Population growth 2008-2019 (%)	Growth in employment 2011-2016 (%)	GVA per worker (1 000 USD ppp)	GVA manufacturing share (%)	Hospital beds per 1 000 inhabitants
Regions with a city >250K	1.3 (0.7)	0.9 (0.4)	86 (74)	NA	5.0 (8)
Regions near a city >250K	1.4 (0.4)	1.0 (0.02)	92 (68)	NA	3.9 (8.1)
Regions with/near a city <250K	0.9 (0.4)	1.4 (-0.1)	82 (62)	NA	4.7 (4.9)
Remote regions	1.1 (0.6)	0.6 (-0.05)	81 (58)	NA	4.6 (4.6)

Note: OECD average is presented in parenthesis. Data for hospital beds are from 2018 and data for GVA per worker 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, 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

- ❖ Switzerland does not have one single definition for rural areas. For funding purposes, the definition of “agglomeration areas” is the most important. Agglomeration areas are eligible for specific funding aimed at financing transport infrastructures in urban areas. With agglomeration areas defined, rural often means “not urban” or “not agglomeration”. As a result, several typologies of rural areas exist, including mixed rural/urban areas, rural areas close to cities, and remote rural areas.

National rural policy

- ❖ Switzerland has a national rural policy defined by the National Policy for Rural and Mountain Areas (2015). The main policy document acts as "umbrella-policy" that may bundle sectoral efforts/programs/instruments for fostering rural and mountain development. The policy is renewed each 4 years.

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
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs	Funding, evaluation and development of funding schemes at national levels, implementation together with cantons
Federal Office for Spatial Development	Planning and (partially) evaluation at national levels, regulations regarding the use of soils. However, implementation of planning is a cantonal task.
Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG	Funding, evaluation and implementation (partially together with cantons) of sectoral programs with high impact on rural development
Network for Co-herent Spatial Development	Strategic overview, development of funding schemes and programs. Focus at national levels -- only federal administration (not political) view
Conference on Spatial Planning ("Raumordnungskonferenz")	Strategic spatial planning, coordination of planning processes and instruments at national levels --: only federal administration (not political) view

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

Institutions	Role
Cantons	Cantons are of high importance in a federal country like Switzerland. They are free to organise their rural and regional development agencies after their needs.

Key objectives in rural policy and delivery mechanisms

- ❖ Switzerland 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 Israel are dedicated grants programmes.

Table 3. Relevance of sectors in rural development policy

Policy areas	Weight on rural policy	Average OECD
Economic	60%	40%
Environment	30%	30%
Social	10%	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	Programmes	Main financial mechanisms to support the strategy
Agricultural production	Agricultural Policy 18-21	Direct payments and subsidies/loans for agricultural infrastructure development
Land occupation, resilience and landscape preservation	Cantons, strategic guidance by Federal Office for Environment; Agricultural policy (subsidiary)	Different cantonal approaches; particular direct payments in mountain areas to counter re-forestation, subsidies and loans for infrastructure development (agriculture and forestry)
Innovation support to “rural” sectors	New Regional Policy // Tourism Policy // Agrultural Policy	Subsidies/loans and project grants

Note: Objectives presented are the objectives with higher scores in the survey responses.

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