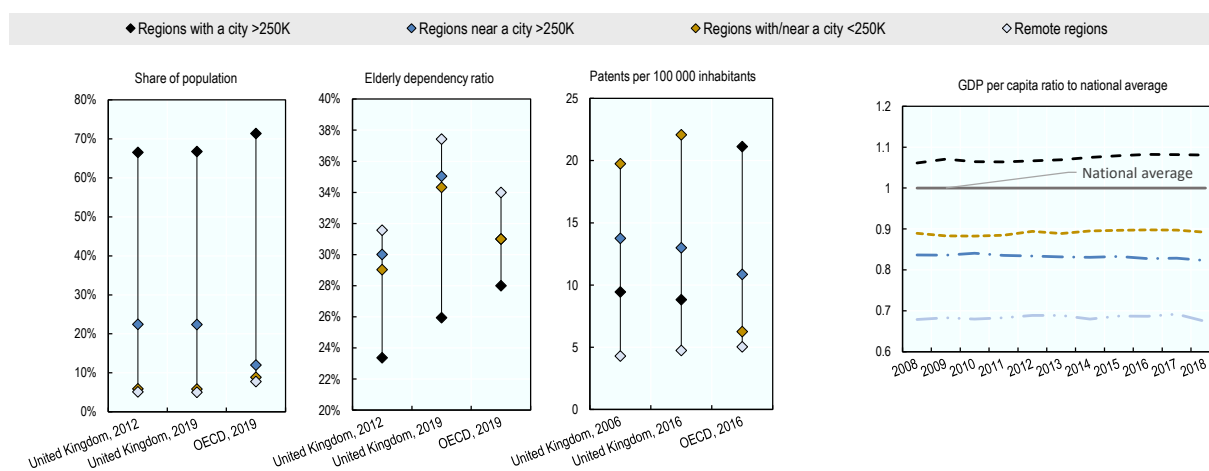


United Kingdom

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	0.9 (0.7)	0.9 (0.9)	84 (92)	9.6 (18)	NA
Regions near a city >250K	0.8 (0.3)	0.8 (0.5)	71 (79)	16 (26)	NA
Regions with/near a city <250K	0.6 (0.2)	0.9 (0.0)	72 (71)	19 (23)	NA
Remote regions	0.4 (0.5)	0.6 (0.2)	65 (73)	20 (18)	NA

Note: OECD average is presented in parenthesis. 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 United Kingdom, there is not a single definition of rural areas. In England the rural-urban classification, used to distinguish rural and urban areas, defines areas as rural if they fall outside of settlements with more than 10,000 resident population. In Northern Ireland, the default definition of rural is settlements of less than 5,000 population. Overall, the definitions acknowledge the existence of rural areas close to cities and remote rural areas.

National rural policy

- ❖ There is not one single explicit national rural policy for the United Kingdom. Instead, there exists different documents that outline rural development policy in the country. It includes the Rural Development Programme for England 2014-2020 or the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 in Northern Ireland.

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/Departments (most important first)	Role
Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) - rural policy in England.	Policy / funding (including as Managing Authority for the Rural Development Programme for England), implementation (including through agencies such as the Rural Payments Agency and Natural England) / legislation
Northern Ireland Executive - the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs	Funding, legislating, implementation, policy
Scotland – the Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate	Funding, legislating, implementation, policy
Rural Payments Agency	Paying agency, responsible for making payments for rural development schemes
Environment Agency	Regulating (e.g. major industry and waste), conservation and ecology and managing risks
Forestry Commission	Development and promotion of sustainable forest management
Wale - Welsh government	Funding and implementation of projects to improve agriculture, environment and rural life

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

Ministries/Departments (most important first)	Role
Deconcentrated national agencies and autonomous regional agencies	Implementation

Key objectives in rural policy and delivery mechanisms

- ❖ United Kingdom's rural development policy allocates a high relevance to economic and environmental areas (Table 3). Table 4 shows the main priorities of rural policy.
- ❖ The main delivery mechanisms of the rural development policy in United Kingdom are dedicated grants programmes and agreements with local communities including delivery agreements between local government and third sector organisations.

Table 3. Relevance of sectors in rural development policy

Policy areas	Weight on rural policy	Average OECD
Economic	50%	40%
Environment	30%	30%
Social	20%	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 (selected)	Main financial mechanisms to support the strategy
Environmental sustainability	Rural Development Programme, River Basin Management Plans (Scotland), Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN).	Grants and direct funding from different government levels.
Accessibility- via transport/ broadband	Rural Development Programme for England Growth Programme Rural Broadband Infrastructure funding, Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (Northern Ireland), Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband (DSSB) programme	Grants and subsidies to private sector suppliers
Quality of life/well-being of rural residents	Rural Development Programme (LEADER), Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme, Regeneration Strategy (Scotland)	Grants
Rural-urban linkages	Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme, Leader Programme.	Grants
Service delivery	Rural Development Programmes, Scotland’s Schools for the Future programme, Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland, Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme / Rural Development Programme / Rural White Paper Action Plan	Public loans, rural grants and payments

Note: Objectives presented are the objectives with higher scores in the survey responses among England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland.

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