

Metropolitan areas in OECD countries

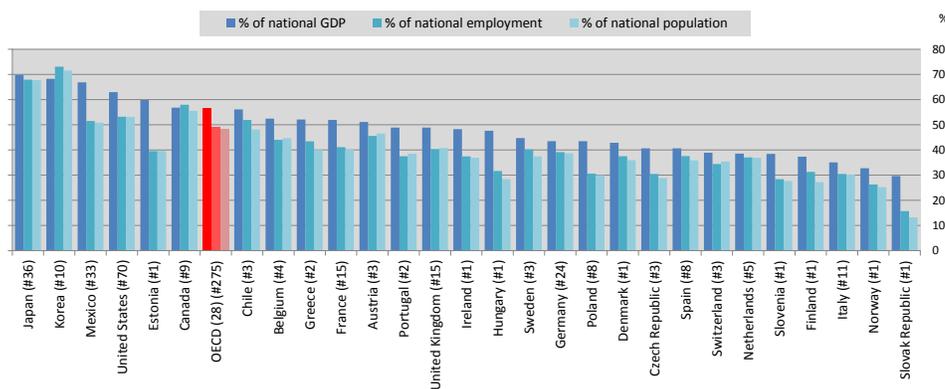
OECD Regions at a Glance 2013– The interactive edition

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Metropolitan areas concentrate a large share of the national GDP, employment and population: The 275 metropolitan areas in OECD countries accounted for 48% of OECD population, 56% of the total gross domestic product (GDP) and 49% of employment in 2010. The concentration of population and GDP ranges from around 70% in Japan and Korea to less than 30% in the Slovak Republic, Sweden and Poland.

Metropolitan areas in Greece, Japan, France and Hungary were responsible for more than 70% of the national GDP growth in 2000-2010.

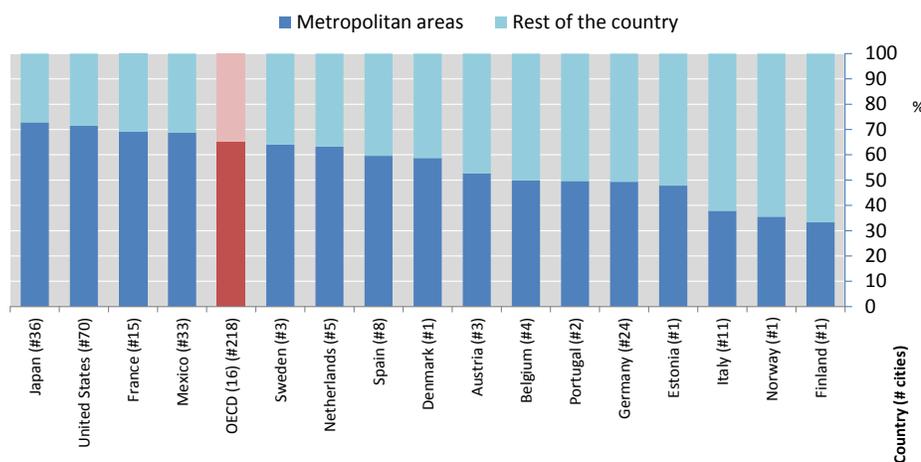
Concentration of Population, GDP and Employment in OECD metropolitan areas, 2010



Source: OECD Regions at a Glance 2013

The 218 metropolitan areas of 16 OECD countries produced 65% of all the patents granted in these countries. The most patent intensive city was Eindhoven (Netherlands) that produced 22.9 patents for every 10 000 residents; San Diego (United States), the second spot on the list of OECD metropolitan areas, produced 8.9 patents for every 10 000 residents.

Per cent of patent applications in metropolitan areas and the rest of the country, 2008



Source: OECD Regions at a Glance 2013

Links:

- [OECD Regions at a Glance 2013](#)
- [OECD Regional Statistics and Indicators](#)
- [Regions at a Glance interactive](#)

Definitions

The **metropolitan areas** are defined as the functional urban areas (FUA) with population above 500 000.

The **functional urban areas** are defined as densely populated municipalities (urban cores) and adjacent municipalities with high levels of commuting towards the densely populated urban cores (hinterland). Functional urban areas can extend across administrative boundaries, reflecting the economic geography of where people actually live and work.

GDP is the standard measure of the value of the production activity (goods and services) or resident producer units. Values of the GDP in the metropolitan areas are estimated by adjusting the GDP values of TL3 regions.

Employed persons are all persons who during the reference week worked at least one hour for pay or profit, or were temporarily absent from such work. Values of employed in the metropolitan areas are estimated by adjusting the corresponding values of TL2 regions.

A **patent** is an exclusive right granted for an invention, which is a product or a process with industrial applicability that provides, in general, a new way of doing something, or offers a new technical solution to a problem (“inventive step”). A patent provides protection for the invention to the owner of the patent. The protection is granted for a limited period, generally 20 years. Patent counts are based on the inventor’s region of residence and fractional counts.