Metropolitan areas in OECD countries


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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