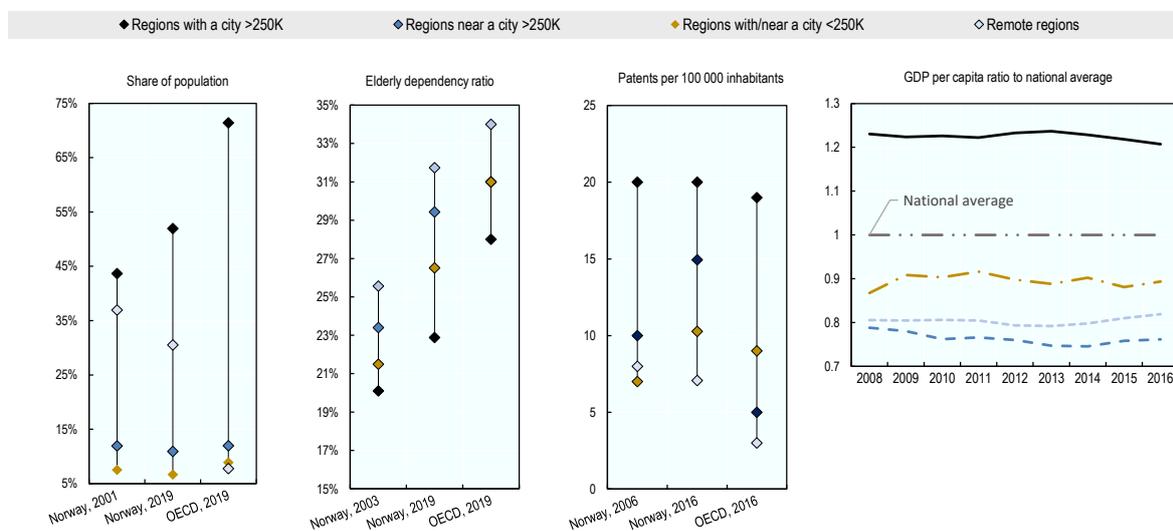


# Norway

## 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	1.7 (0.7)	0.9 (0.9)	96 (92)	6.8 (18)	3.5 (8)
Regions near a city >250K	1.2 (0.3)	0.4 (0.5)	79 (79)	16 (26)	3.2 (8.1)
Regions with/near a city <250K	1.1 (0.2)	1.2 (0.0)	80 (71)	11 (23)	4.3 (4.9)
Remote regions	0.6 (0.5)	0.6 (0.2)	80 (73)	13 (18)	3.5 (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<sup>[1]</sup>) OECD Regional Statistics (database). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/region-data-e>.

## Policy framework and Institutional setting of rural development

### Rural Definition

- ❖ Norway has a broad definition of rurality for policy making purposes. Rural policy (in Norway known as distriktspolitikk (litt. 'district policy') aims to compensate for differences arising from low population density, large distances and small local markets, in addition to other

factors affecting growth and development that are distinct from those in the more central areas. The rural definition acknowledges remote rural areas, but not mixed rural/urban areas or rural areas close to cities.

### **National rural policy**

- ❖ Norway has a national rural policy defined by the White paper: Meld. St. 18 (2016–2017). It contains a number elements including regionally differentiated social security contributions, business support in rural areas (districts) and the Action Zone for Finnmark County and Nord-Troms Region (Northernmost part of Norway) as well as the programme for developing local rural shops (the MERKUR- programme. Rural policy in Norway known as distriktpolitikk (litt. 'district policy') aims to compensate for differences arising from low population density, large distances and small local markets, in addition to other factors affecting growth and development that are distinct from those in the more central areas.

### **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 Local Government and Modernisation	Coordination, planning, funding, implementation, evaluation

**At the sub-national level**, deconcentrated national agency and autonomous regional agency are both in charge of rural development policies.

### **Key objectives in rural policy and delivery mechanisms**

- ❖ Norway's rural development policy allocates a high degree of importance to economic areas (Table 2). Table 3 shows the main priorities of rural policy.
- ❖ The main delivery mechanisms of the rural development policy in Norway are dedicated grants programme.

**Table 2. Relevance of sectors in rural development policy**

Policy areas	Norway	Average OECD
Economic	60%	40%
Social	30%	30%
Environment	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 3. Relevant objectives in rural development policy**

Top objectives (Order does not imply ranking)	Programmes	Main financial mechanisms to support the strategy
Service delivery	Public services should be of comparable value to the users irrespectively of which municipality they belong to.	General Purpose Grant Scheme and regional differentiated grants to municipalities. Programme for developing local rural shops – The MERKUR-programme.
Support to private sector, jobs and investment	Na	Regionally differentiated social security contributions
Ageing and outmigration	Indirectly through support for a broad set of objects	Regionally differentiated social security contributions
Innovation support to “rural” sectors	Several programs for innovation and business development and start-ups	Business support in rural areas (districts)
Agricultural production	Several contributions to stimulate farming in remote and marginal areas.	Regionally differentiated support for milk and meat production

*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”.