



Regions and Cities at a Glance 2020 provides a comprehensive assessment of how regions and cities across the OECD are progressing in a number of aspects connected to economic development, health, well-being and net zero-carbon transition. In the light of the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the report analyses outcomes and drivers of social, economic and environmental resilience. Consult the full publication [here](#).

OECD REGIONS AND CITIES AT A GLANCE - COUNTRY NOTE

FINLAND

A. Resilient regional societies to global crisis

B. Regional economic disparities and trends in productivity

C. Well-being in regions

D. Industrial transition in regions

E. Transitioning to clean energy in regions

F. Metropolitan trends in growth and sustainability

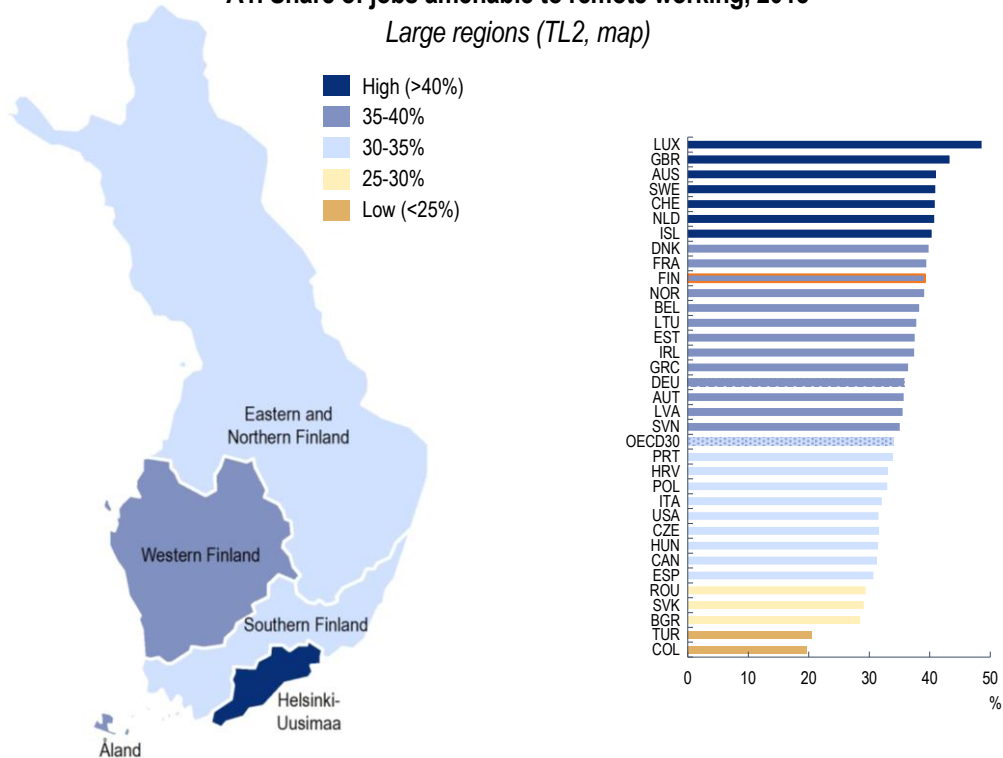
The data in this note reflect different subnational geographic levels in OECD countries:

- **Regions** are classified on two territorial levels reflecting the administrative organisation of countries: large regions (TL2) and small regions (TL3). Small regions are classified according to their access to metropolitan areas (see <https://doi.org/10.1787/b902cc00-en>).
- **Functional urban areas** consists of cities – defined as densely populated local units with at least 50 000 inhabitants – and adjacent local units connected to the city (commuting zones) in terms of commuting flows (see <https://doi.org/10.1787/d58cb34d-en>). Metropolitan areas refer to functional urban areas above 250 000 inhabitants.

Helsinki-Uusimaa has the highest potential for remote working

A1. Share of jobs amenable to remote working, 2018

Large regions (TL2, map)



The share of jobs amenable to remote working ranges from close to 49% in Helsinki-Uusimaa to 33% in Eastern and Northern Finland (Figure A1). Such differences depend on the task content of the occupations in the regions, which can be amenable to remote working to different extents. The occupations available in the capital regions tend to be more amenable to remote working than in other areas of the country.

Åland and Helsinki-Uusimaa had the highest fiber optic availability across large regions in Finland with 55% and 42% of the buildings connected to the network in 2017, respectively (Figure A2).

A2- Internet infrastructure

○ % of buildings connected to fiber, 2017

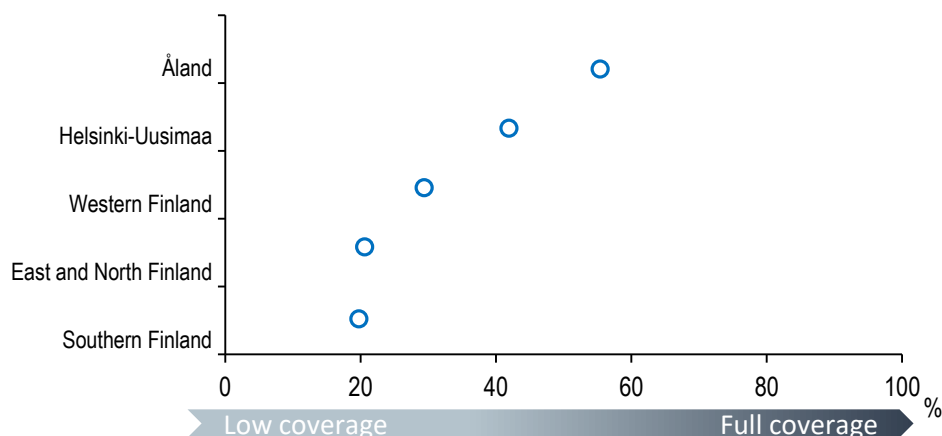
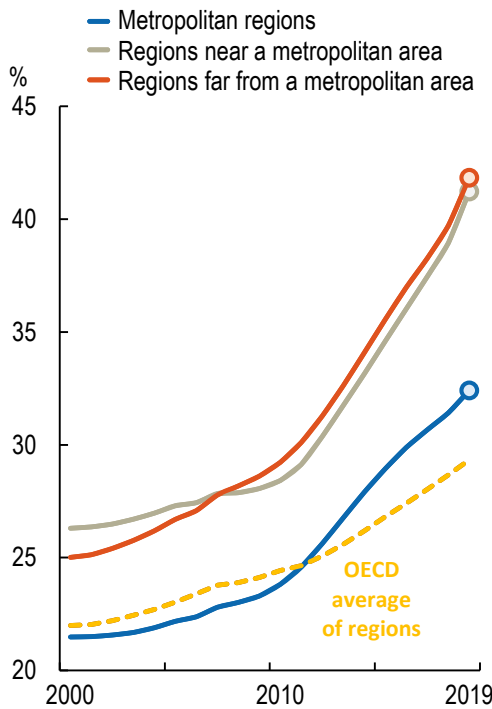


Figure [A1]: The lower percentage range (<25%) depicts the bottom quintile among 370 OECD and EU regions, the following ranges are based on increment of 5 percentage points. Further reading: OECD (2020), Capacity to remote working can affect lockdown costs differently across places, <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/capacity-for-remote-working-can-affect-lockdown-costs-differently-across-places-0e85740e/>

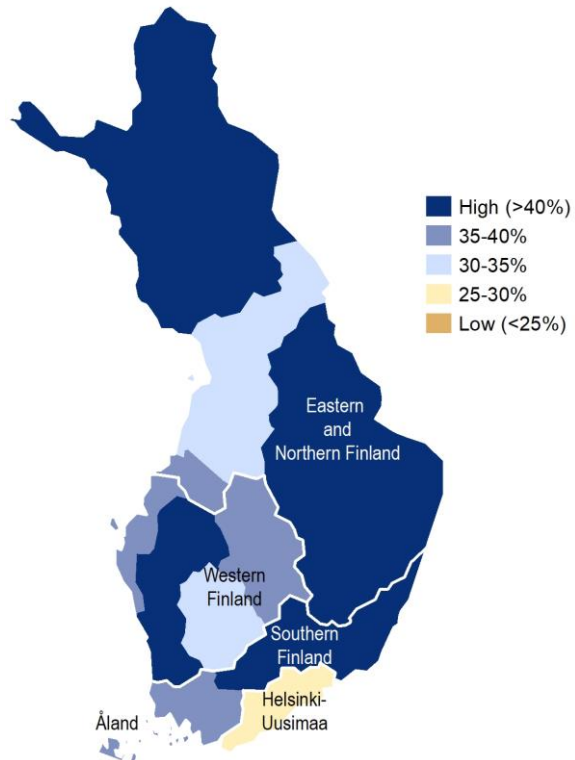
Ageing challenges regions far from metropolitan areas more strongly

The elderly dependency rate has been increasing in all types of regions in Finland since 2000 and at a faster pace than in the rest of the OECD area since 2010. Regions far from metropolitan areas show the highest elderly dependency rate (41%) (Figure A3). In 11 out of 19 small regions in Finland, there two elderly for every five persons in their working-age in 2019 (Figure A4).

A3. Elderly dependency rate
By type of small regions in Finland (TL3)



A4. Elderly dependency rate, 2019
Small regions (TL3)



Hospital beds per capita have decreased since 2000 and are below OECD average in all regions

The number of hospital beds per capita have significantly declined in all regions of Finland, going below OECD average in 2018. (Figure A5). Åland have the lowest number of hospital beds per capita in 2017, with 1.5 bed per 1000 inhabitants less than in Eastern and Northern Finland.

A5 - Hospital beds per 1000 inhabitants
Large regions (TL2)

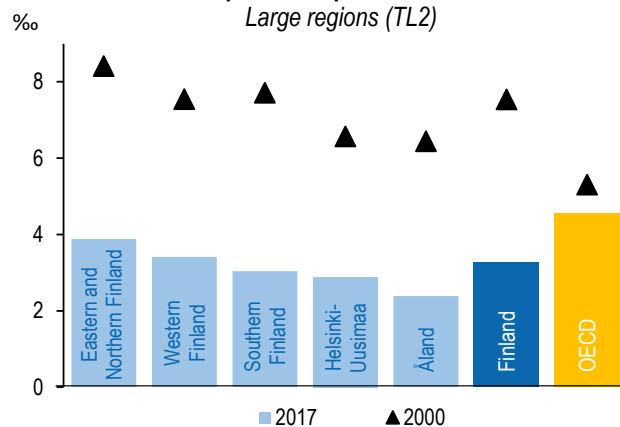


Figure notes. [A3]: OECD (2019), Classification of small (TL3) regions based on metropolitan population, low density and remoteness <https://doi.org/10.1787/b902cc00-en>. Two-year moving averages. [A4]: Small (TL3) regions contained in large regions. TL3 regions in Finland are composed by 19 Maakunnat.

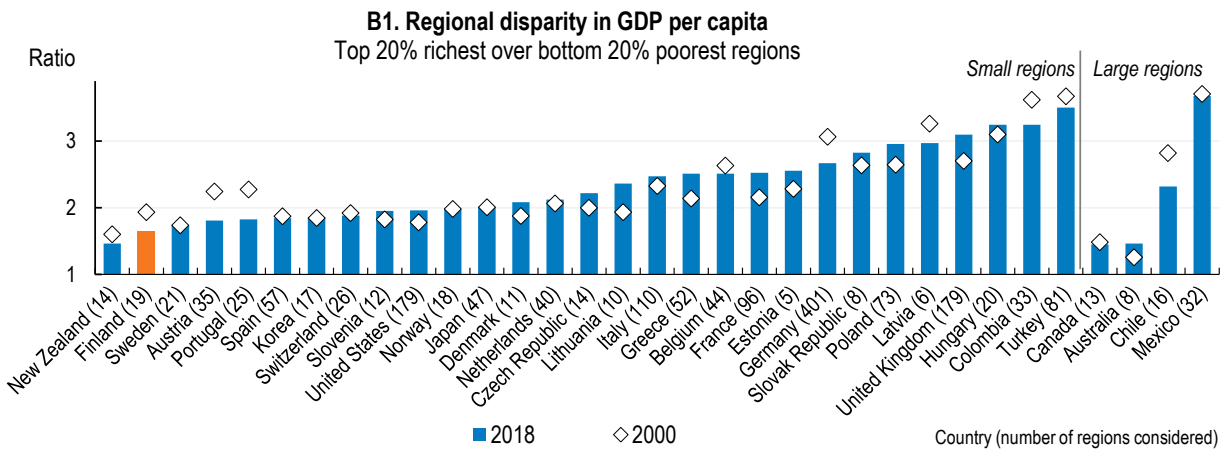
B. Regional economic disparities and trends in productivity

Finland has the second lowest regional economic disparities among OECD countries

The regional gap in GDP per capita in Finland decreased over the last eighteen years due to higher growth of poorest regions. Finland has the second smallest regional economic disparities among OECD countries with comparable data. In the region of Helsinki, GDP per capita was 54% higher than in the Eastern and Northern region in 2018 (Figure B1).

Productivity has grown at different rates in Finnish regions over the period 2000-19, with growth ranging from 0.5% per year in Southern Finland and Helsinki-Uusimaa (excluding Åland, 0.4%) to 0.9% per year in Eastern and Northern Finland (Figure B2).

After a period of relative stagnation of their productivity, regions far from a metropolitan area of at least 250 000 inhabitants have narrowed their gap to metropolitan regions since 2007, and are still exceeding the productivity level of regions with access to a metropolitan area in 2017 (Figure B3).



Note: A ratio with a value equal to 2 means that the GDP of the most developed regions accounting for 20% of the national population is twice as high as the GDP of the poorest regions accounting for 20% of the national population.

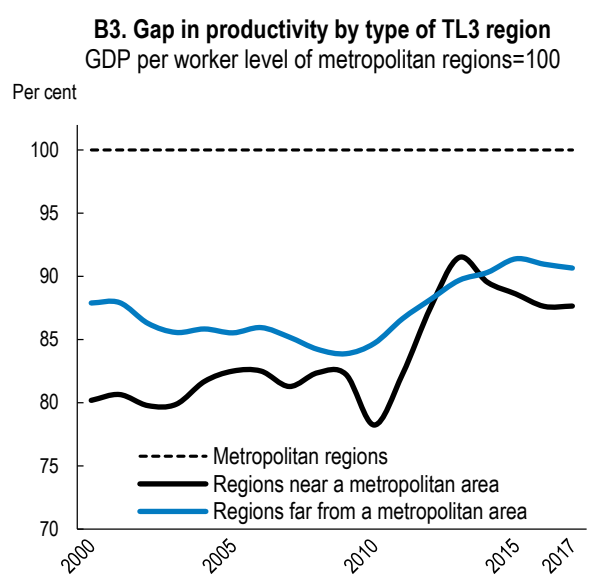
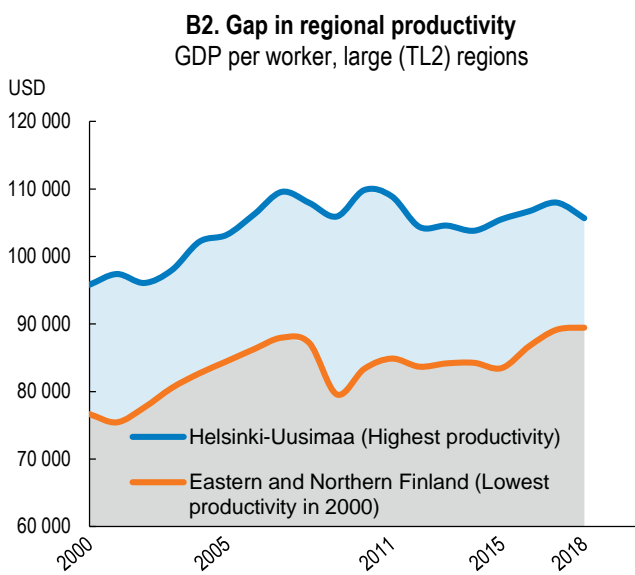
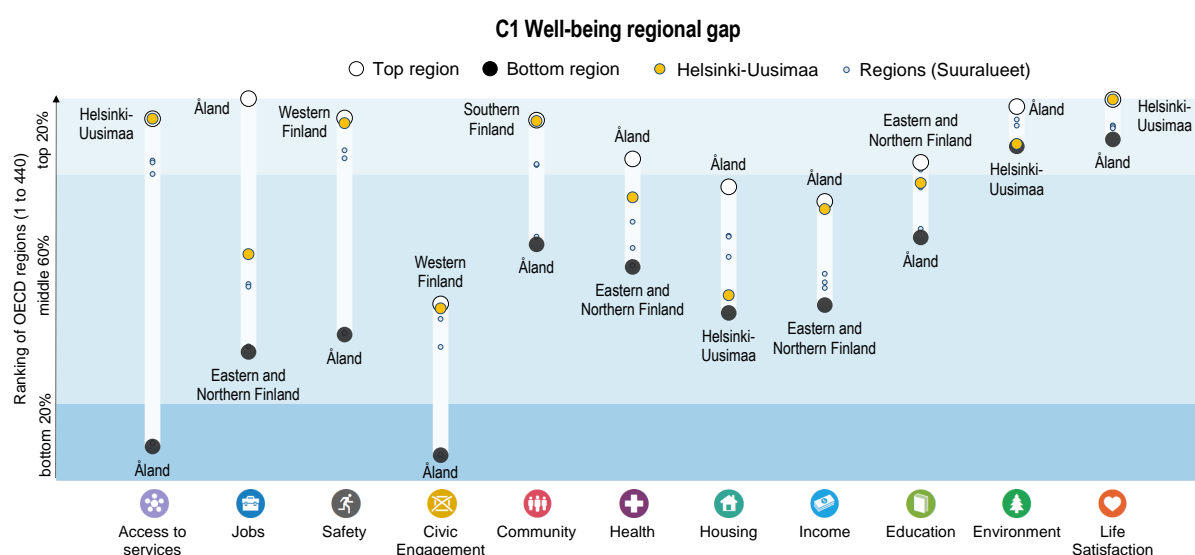


Figure note [B2]: figure excludes Åland which has the lowest productivity in Finland and represents less than 1% of the employment of the country.

C. Well-being in regions

All Finnish regions rank above the top 20% of OECD regions in terms of life satisfaction and air quality.



Note: Relative ranking of the regions with the best and worst outcomes in the 11 well-being dimensions, with respect to all 440 OECD regions. The eleven dimensions are ordered by decreasing regional disparities in the country. Each well-being dimension is measured by the indicators in the table below.

In eight out of the eleven well-being dimensions, at least one Finnish region ranks in the top 20% of the OECD regions. High life satisfaction and air quality put all Finnish regions above the top 20% of OECD regions in those two dimensions. Regional disparities are instead highest in terms of access to services (broadband) and jobs. For example, Åland ranks in the top 5% of the OECD regions in terms of jobs outcomes (employment and unemployment rates), while the Eastern and Northern regions rank in the bottom third of OECD regions. (Figure C1).

The top performing Finnish regions are among the OECD top 20% regions in six out of the 13 outcomes indicators (Figure C2).

C2. How do the top and bottom regions fare on the well-being indicators?

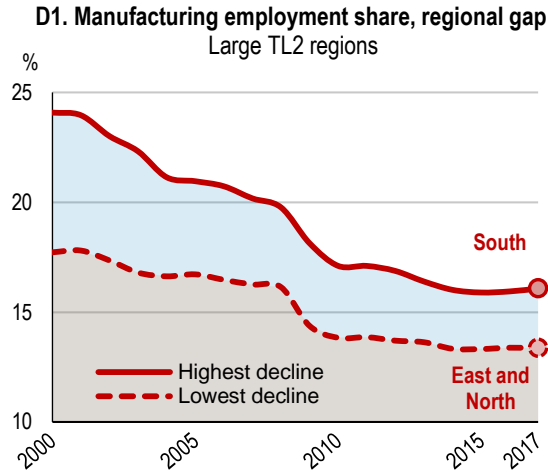
	Country Average	OECD Top 20% regions	Finish regions	
			Top 20%	Bottom 20%
Access to services				
Households with broadband access (%), 2019	93.0	91.3	95.6	90.7
Jobs				
Employment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	72.9	76.0	75.5	70.0
Unemployment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	6.9	3.3	6.5	8.1
Safety				
Homicide Rate (per 100 000 people), 2016-18	1.4	0.7	0.4	0.6
Civic engagement				
Voters in last national election (%), 2019 or latest year	66.8	84.2	68.3	64.0
Community				
Perceived social network support (%), 2014-18	95.2	94.1	96.1	94.2
Health				
Life Expectancy at birth (years), 2018	81.7	82.6	82.5	81.1
Age adjusted mortality rate (per 1 000 people), 2018	7.5	6.6	7.3	7.8
Housing				
Rooms per person, 2018	1.9	2.3	2.0	1.8
Income				
Disposable income per capita (in USD PPP), 2018	20 975	26 617	20 975	20 975
Education				
Population with at least upper secondary education, 25-64 year-olds (%), 2019	90.1	90.3	90.9	89.3
Environment				
Level of air pollution in PM2.5 (µg/m³), 2019	6.2	7.0	4.7	6.4
Life Satisfaction				
Life satisfaction (scale from 0 to 10), 2014-18	7.6	7.3	7.8	7.5

Note: OECD regions refer to the first administrative tier of subnational government (large regions, Territorial Level 2); Finland is composed of five large regions. Visualisation: <https://www.oecdregionalwellbeing.org>.



D. Industrial transition in regions

Manufacturing employment has consistently declined across Finnish regions since 2000



Between 2000 and 2017, all large regions in Finland experienced a decline in the share of manufacturing employment. With a reduction of 8 percentage points in the share of manufacturing employment, Southern Finland, the most populous region, recorded the largest decline (Figure D1).

While manufacturing employment has declined in all Finnish regions since 2000, manufacturing gross value added has declined in all regions except Åland (Figure D2).

D2. Manufacturing trends, 2000-17



Figure [D.2]: Regions are ordered by regional employment as a share of national employment. Colour of the bubbles represents the evolution of the share over the period 2000-17 in percentage points: red: below -2 pp; orange: between -2 pp and -1 pp; yellow: between -1 pp and 0; light blue: between 0 and +1 pp; medium blue: between +1 pp and +2 pp; dark blue: above +2 pp over the period.



E. Transitioning to clean energy in regions

Western Finland and the region of Helsinki still rely on coal for at least one fifth of the electricity produced in these regions

Western Finland and Eastern-Northern Finland contribute to 40% and 28% of the country's total electricity production, respectively. Nevertheless, Western Finland is still lagging behind in terms of clean electricity production. In 2017, Western Finland used 23% of renewables and 20% of coal for electricity production, while Eastern-Northern Finland used renewable sources for 99% of its electricity production (Figure E1).

E1. Transition to renewable energy, 2017

	Total electricity generation (in GWh per year)	Regional share of renewables in electricity generation (%)	Regional share of coal in electricity generation (%)	Greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generated (in Ktons of CO ₂ eq.)	
Western Finland	26 667	23%	20%	5 651	Wes.
Eastern and Northern Finland	18 696	99%	0%	1 744	Eas.
Helsinki-Uusimaa	13 936	1%	27%	4 149	Hel.
Southern Finland	6 747	91%	0%	1 025	Sou.

While the region of Eastern and Northern Finland, and the region of Helsinki-Uusimaa produce comparable levels of electricity – around 15 000 gigawatts hour – their levels of CO₂ emissions related to this activity are very unequal. In 2017, due to its high reliance on coal for electricity production, Helsinki-Uusimaa emitted around 4 000 tons of CO₂ – more than two times higher than in Eastern and Northern Finland (Figure E2).

E2. Contribution to total CO₂ emissions from electricity production, 2017

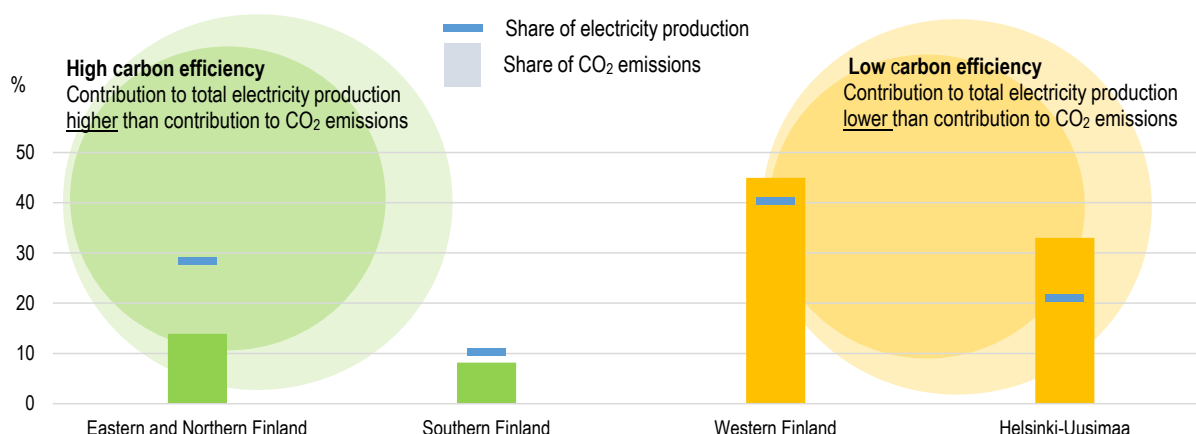


Figure notes: Regions are arranged in Figure E1 by total generation, and in Figure E2 according to gap between share of electricity generation and share of CO₂ emissions (most positive to most negative). These estimates refer to electricity production from the power plants connected to the national power grid, as registered in the Power Plants Database. As a result, small electricity generation facilities disconnected from the national power grid might not be captured. Renewable energy sources include hydropower, geothermal power, biomass, wind, solar, wave and tidal and waste. See [here](#) for more details.

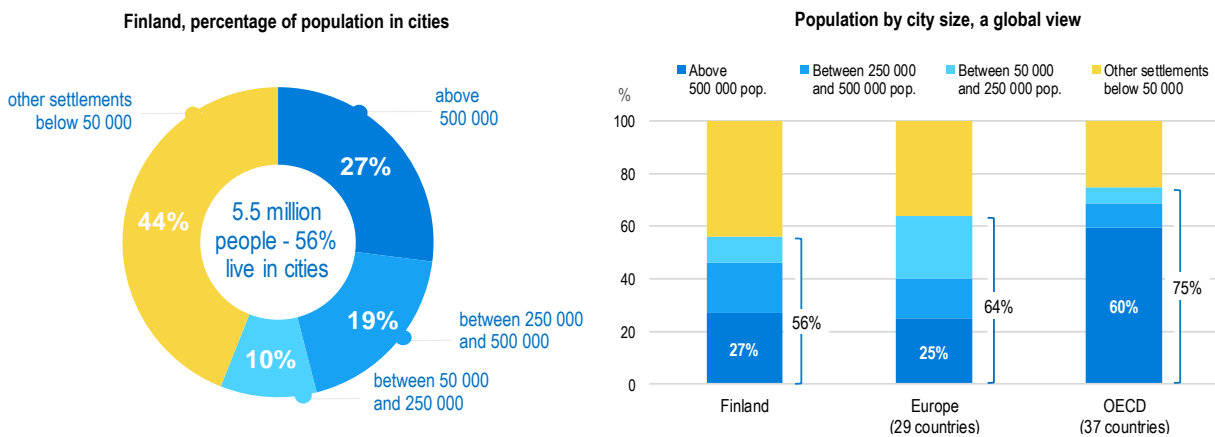


F. Metropolitan trends in growth and sustainability

Compared to OECD average, a higher share of population in Finland lives in intermediate cities below 500 thousands inhabitants or outside cities.

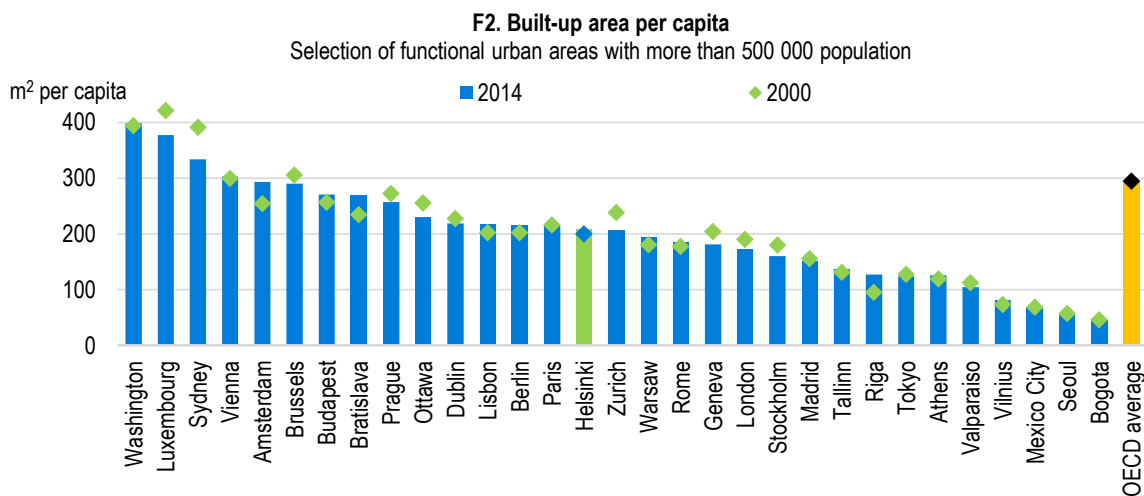
In Finland, 56% of the population lives in cities of more than 50 000 inhabitants and their respective commuting areas (functional urban areas, FUAs). The share of population in FUAs with more than 500 000 people is 27%, lower than the OECD average of 60% (Figure F1).

F1. Distribution of population in cities by city size
Functional urban areas, 2018



Built-up area remained stable in the metropolitan area of Helsinki since 2000

Built-up area per capita remained stable in the metropolitan area of Helsinki since 2000, with the growth in built-up area reflecting the growth of population. The metropolitan area of Helsinki has over 30% lower built-up area per capita than the OECD average of metropolitan areas, with levels very similar to Zurich, Switzerland (Figure F2).



Source: OECD Metropolitan Database. Number of metropolitan areas with a population of over 500 000: one in Finland compared to 349 in the OECD.

Helsinki metropolitan area ranks among the top 30% of OECD metropolitan areas in terms of GDP per capita, with levels slightly below Copenhagen, Denmark and Oslo, Norway

In terms of GDP per capita, Helsinki metropolitan area is among the top 30% of OECD metropolitan areas – with more than 500 000 people, and ranks below Copenhagen, Denmark and Oslo, Norway (Figure F3). Between 2001 and 2018, GDP per capita in the metropolitan area of Helsinki grew by 9.5% over the period, almost half the country average of 19.9%.

F3. Trends in GDP per capita in metropolitan areas
Functional urban areas above 500 000 people

