



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

IRELAND

A. Resilient regional societies

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

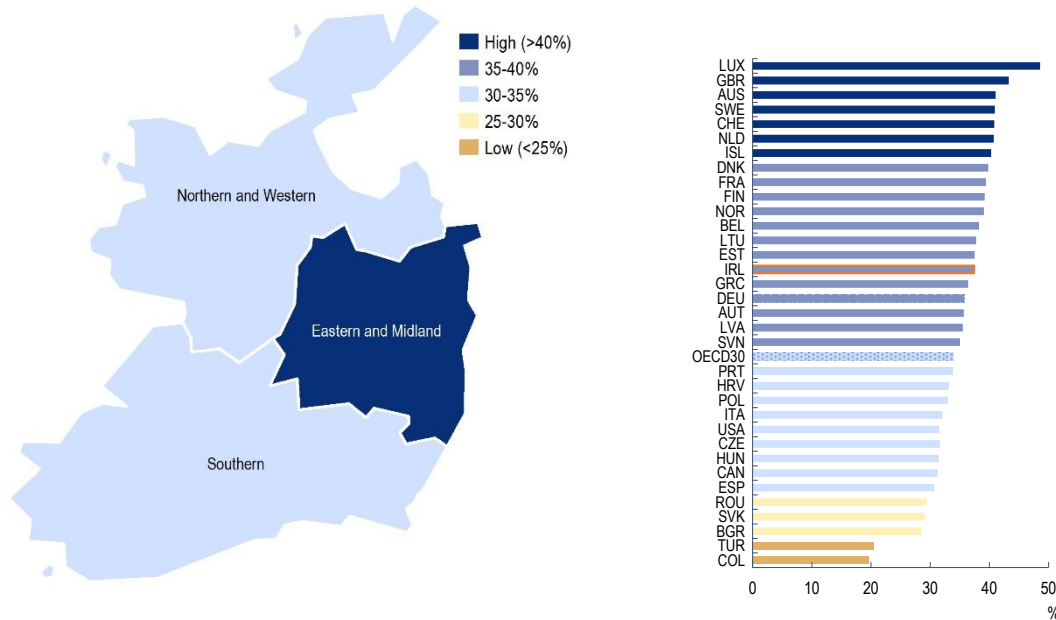
The data in this note reflect different subnational geographic levels in OECD countries:

- **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.

The Eastern and Midland region has the highest potential for remote working

A1. Share of jobs amenable to remote working, 2018

Large regions (TL2, map)



The shares of jobs amenable to remote working in the Irish regions, range from 41% in Eastern and Midland to 31% in Northern and Western (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.

Remote working requires a large part of the population to have access to fast and efficient internet connections. People in Eastern and Midland have the highest use of internet across large regions in Ireland with 92% of the people connected to the network in 2019 (Figure A2).

A2- Internet infrastructure

○ % individuals who used the internet in the last three months, 2019

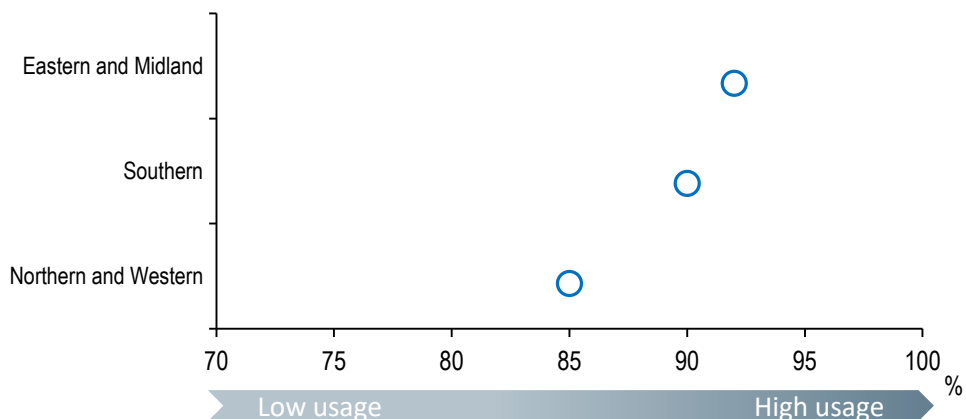
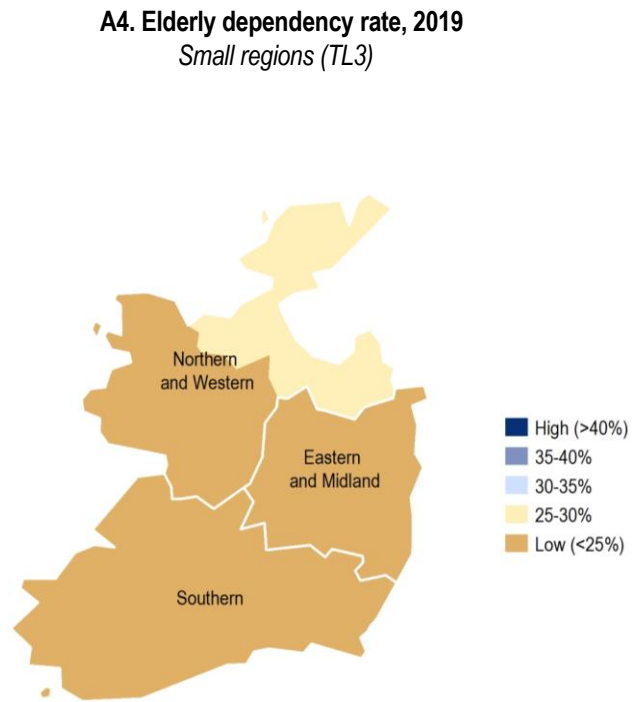
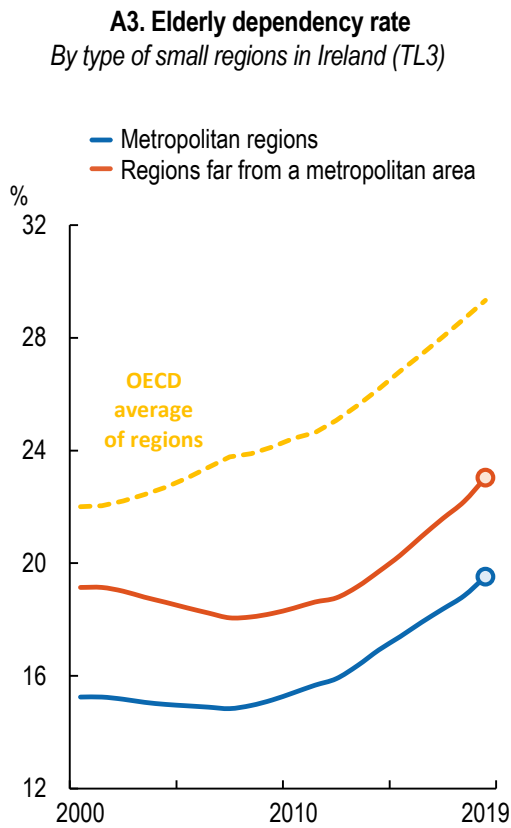


Figure [A1]: The lower percentage range (<25%) depicts the bottom quintile among 370 OECD and EU regions, the following ranges are based on increment of 5 percentage points. Further reading: OECD (2020), Capacity to remote working can affect lockdown costs differently across places, <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/capacity-for-remote-working-ca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

Population aging challenges Irish regions less strongly than in most OECD regions

The elderly dependency rate – the ratio between elderly people and working-age population – has been increasing in all types of regions in Ireland since 2007. Regions far from metropolitan areas show the highest elderly dependency rate (23%) compared to metropolitan regions (Figure A3). However, the elderly dependency rate is significantly lower in Ireland compared to the OECD average. In three small regions in Ireland, there is one or less elderly for every four persons in their working-age in 2019 (Figure A4).



Irish regions have less hospital beds per capita than OECD average

All regions in Ireland have less hospital beds per capita than the OECD average, although such ratio has increased slightly in Eastern and Midland, and Southern regions since 2000 (Figure A5). Regional disparities in hospital beds are below OECD average, with Eastern and Midlands having the highest availability of hospital beds per 1000 inhabitants in 2018.

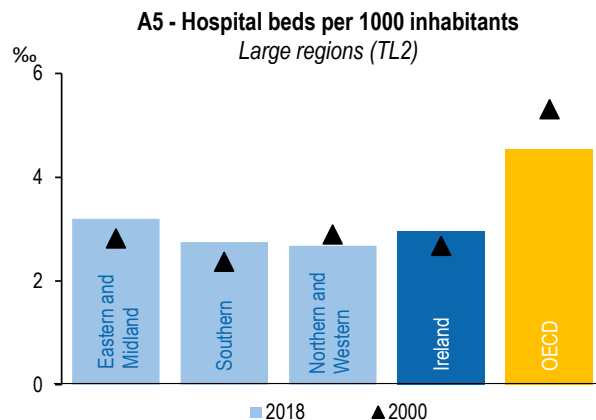
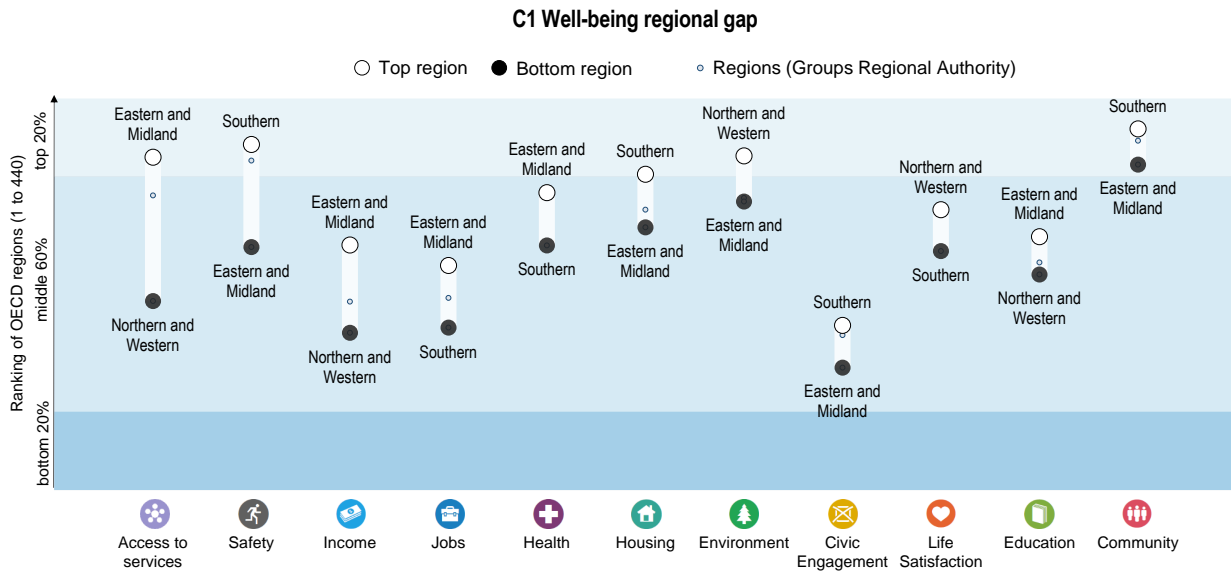


Figure notes. [A3]: OECD (2019), Classification of small (TL3) regions based on metropolitan population, low density and remoteness <https://doi.org/10.1787/b902cc00-en>. Two-year moving averages. [A4]: Small (TL3) regions contained in large regions. TL3 regions in Ireland are composed by 8 Regional Authority Regions.

C. Well-being in regions

Irish regions are among the top 20% of OECD regions in community well-being indicators



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.

The two Irish regions rank among the top 20% of the OECD regions in community (perceived social network support). The country shows large regional differences in access to services, with the Eastern and Midland region being in the top 20% of OECD regions and the Northern and Western ranking at the median of the 440 OECD regions.

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

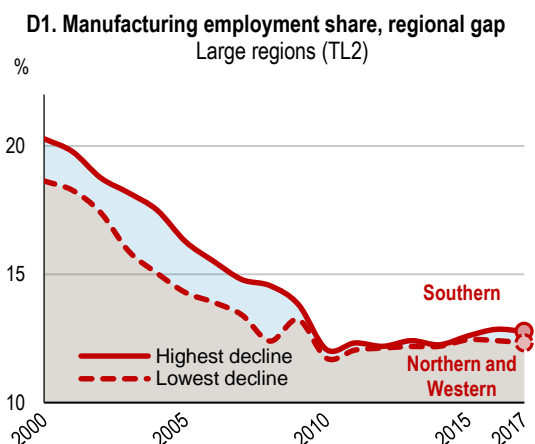
	Country Average	OECD Top 20% regions	Irish regions	
			Top 20%	Bottom 20%
Access to services				
Households with broadband access (%), 2019	88.7	91.3	92.5	83.2
Safety				
Homicide Rate (per 100 000 people), 2016-18	0.8	0.7	0.5	1.0
Income				
Disposable income per capita (in USD PPP), 2018	20 087	26 617	21 632	17 360
Jobs				
Employment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	69.5	76.0	71.3	67.4
Unemployment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	5.1	3.3	4.8	5.7
Health				
Life Expectancy at birth (years), 2018	82.2	82.6	82.6	81.8
Age adjusted mortality rate (per 1 000 people), 2018	7.4	6.6	7.2	7.7
Housing				
Rooms per person, 2018	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.0
Environment				
Level of air pollution in PM2.5 (µg/m³), 2019	7.9	7.0	6.9	8.1
Civic engagement				
Voters in last national election (%), 2019 or latest year	65.0	84.2	66.9	63.2
Life Satisfaction				
Life satisfaction (scale from 0 to 10), 2014-18	7.0	7.3	7.1	6.9
Education				
Population with at least upper secondary education, 25-64 year-olds (%), 2019	83.7	90.3	85.2	81.4
Community				
Perceived social network support (%), 2014-18	95.0	94.1	95.6	94.4

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



D. Industrial transition in regions

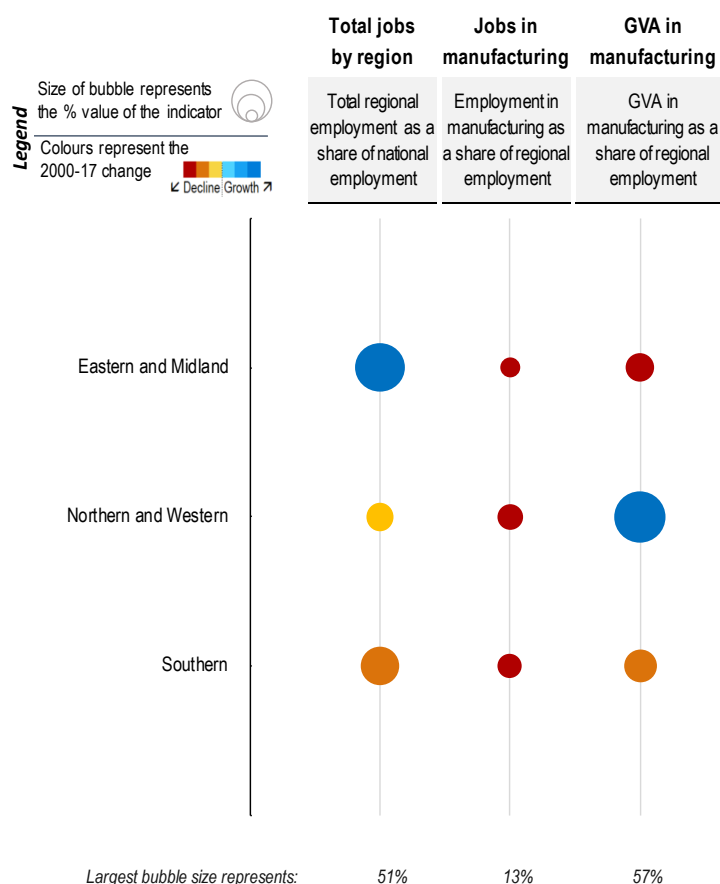
The share of manufacturing employment has declined in all Irish regions since 2015, while the share of manufacturing gross value added has increased in the Northern and Western region during the same period



Between 2000 and 2017, all three large regions in Ireland experienced a decline in the share in manufacturing employment. With a reduction of 7.5 percentage points in the share of employment in manufacturing, the Southern region recorded the largest decrease (Figure D1).

The decline in manufacturing employment since 2015 has coincided with a reduction in manufacturing gross value-added in Eastern and Midland, and Southern regions and with an increase of gross value added in Northern and Western regions during the same period (Figure D2).

D2. Manufacturing trends, 2000-17



Note 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 2000-18 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

While two out of three Irish regions are coal-free in electricity production, the Southern region – the largest producer of electricity in the country – still relies on coal

The Eastern Midland and Northern Western regions have abandoned the use of coal in electricity production. On the other hand, the Southern region – which accounts for 57% of the country’s electricity – still relies on coal-fired power for electricity production, with one third of the electricity produced from coal in 2017. In contrast, in the Northern and Western region 57% of the electricity produced came from renewable sources and no production relied on coal in 2017 (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.)	
Southern	17 509	26%	33%	8 332	Sou.
Eastern and Midland	9 168	23%	0%	3 604	Eas.
Northern and Western	3 875	57%	0%	841	Nor.

Carbon efficiency in the production of electricity is very unequal across Irish regions. While the Southern region emitted around 480 tons of CO₂ per gigawatt hour of electricity produced in 2017, the Northern and Western region released 220 tons of CO₂ per gigawatt hour. Relative to total national levels, the Southern region produced around 57% of electricity in the country, but it emitted more than 65% of total CO₂ emissions related to electricity generation (E2).

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

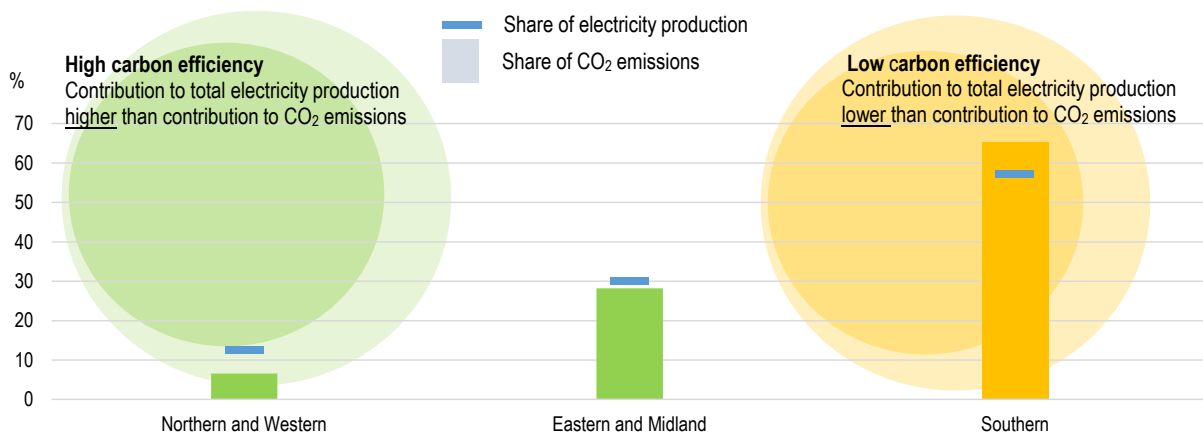


Figure notes: Regions are arranged in Figure E1 by total generation, and in Figure E2 according to gap between share of electricity generation and share of CO₂ emissions (most positive to most negative). These estimates refer to electricity production from the power plants connected to the national power 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.

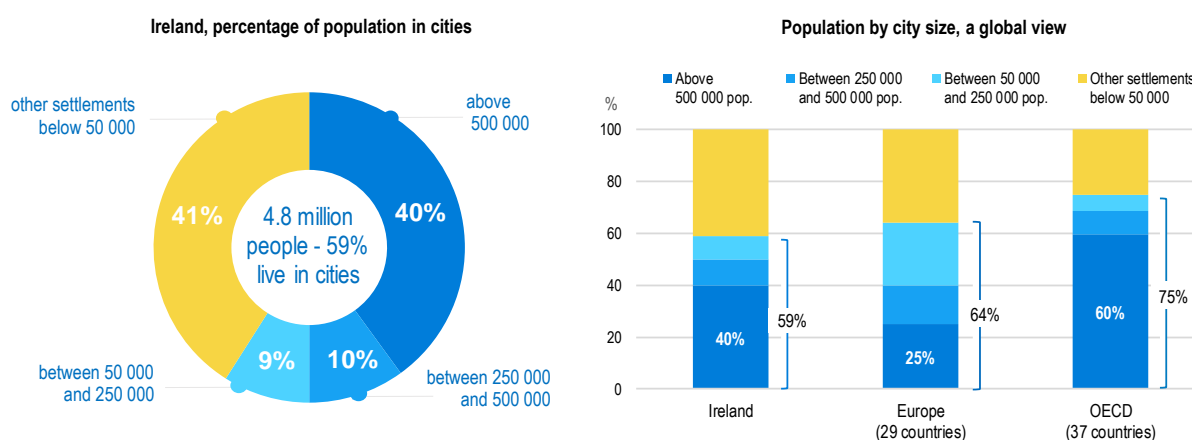


F. Metropolitan trends in growth and sustainability

Ireland has a higher concentration of people in metropolitan areas above half a million inhabitants compared to European average

In Ireland, 59% of the population lives in cities of more than 50 000 inhabitants and their respective commuting areas (functional urban areas, FUAs), a lower share compared to the OECD and European average. However, a larger share of the country population lives in FUAs of at least half a million inhabitants compared to the European average, as the metropolitan area of Dublin accounts for 40% of the Irish population. (Figure F1).

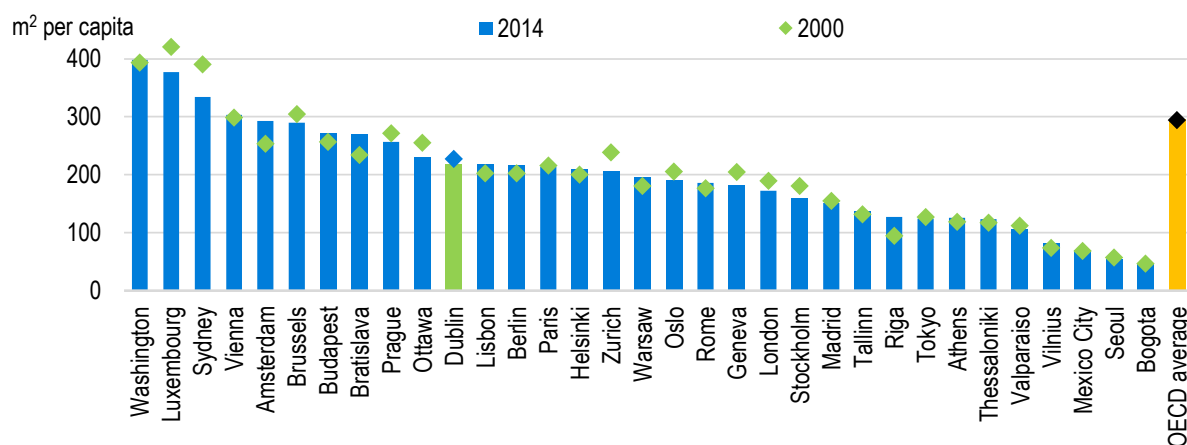
F1. Distribution of population in cities by city size
Functional urban areas, 2018



Built-up areas have increased slower than population in Dublin metropolitan area

The amount of built-up area per capita in the metropolitan area of Dublin is below the OECD average of metropolitan areas of at least half a million inhabitants, and close to levels observed in Ottawa (Canada) and Lisbon (Portugal). Built-up area per capita has slightly declined in Dublin metropolitan area since 2000, as population has grown faster than built-up area (Figure F2).

F2. Built-up area per capita
Capital functional urban areas with more than 500 000 inhabitants



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

Dublin ranks in the top 5% of OECD metropolitan areas in terms of GDP per capita.

GDP per capita in the metropolitan area of Dublin is in the top 5% of OECD metropolitan areas of at least half a million inhabitants. Moreover, Dublin has recorded faster GDP per capita growth since 2001 compared to most metropolitan areas in the United Kingdom, with 2.4% per year of growth in GDP per capita.

F3. Trends in GDP per capita in metropolitan areas
 Functional urban areas above 500 000 people, Ireland and United Kingdom

