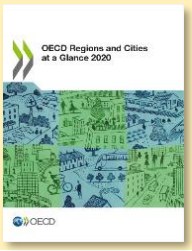


Regions and Cities at a Glance 2020 *provides a comprehensive assessment of how regions and cities across the OECD are progressing in a number of aspects connected to economic development, health, well-being and net zero-carbon transition. In the light of the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, 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

CANADA

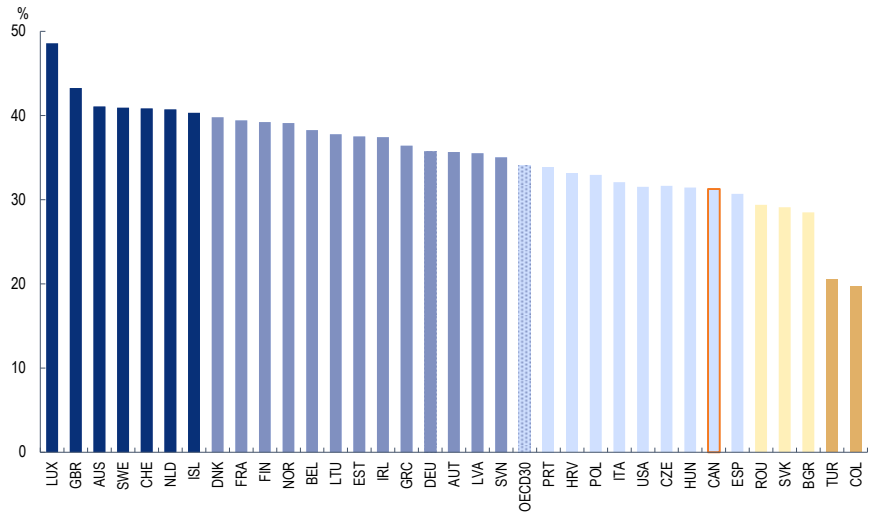
The data in this note reflect different subnational geographic levels in OECD countries:

- **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 potential for remote working is relatively low in all Canadian regions

Capacity for remote work can affect lockdown costs differently across places. The share of jobs in Canada amenable to remote working is lower than OECD average (Figure A1), it varies relatively little across Canadian regions, ranging from 32% British Columbia to 25% in Prince Edward Island (Figure A2). Such differences depend on the relative occupation mixes of regions and the degree to which occupations vary from each other in terms of the extent their task contents are amenable to remote working.

A1. Country averages in the share of jobs amenable to remote working, 2018



A2. Regional disparities in the share of jobs amenable to remote working, 2018

Large regions (TL2)

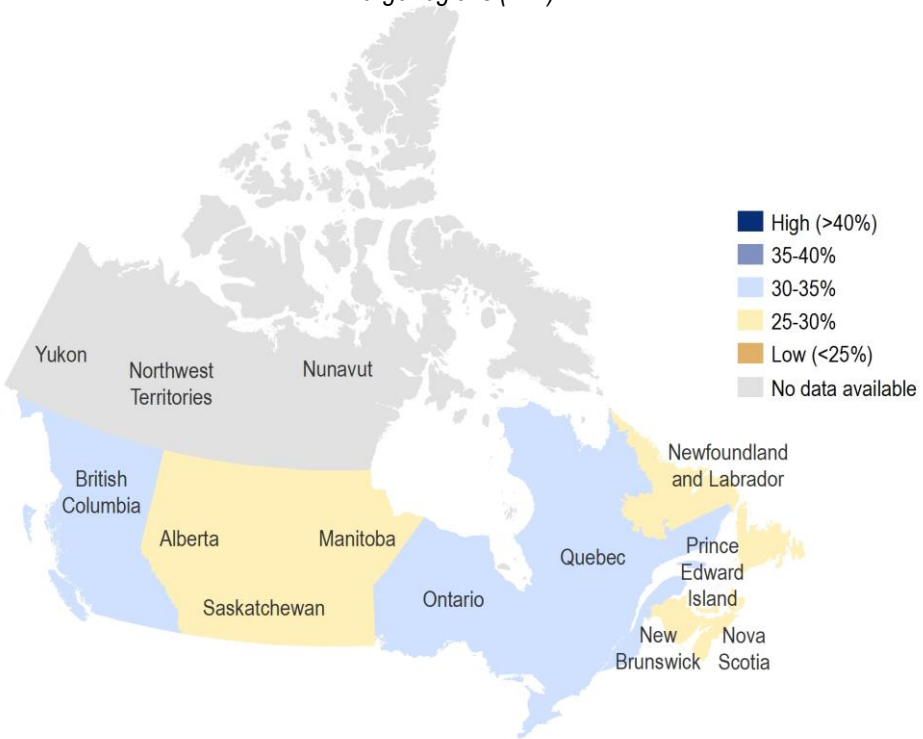
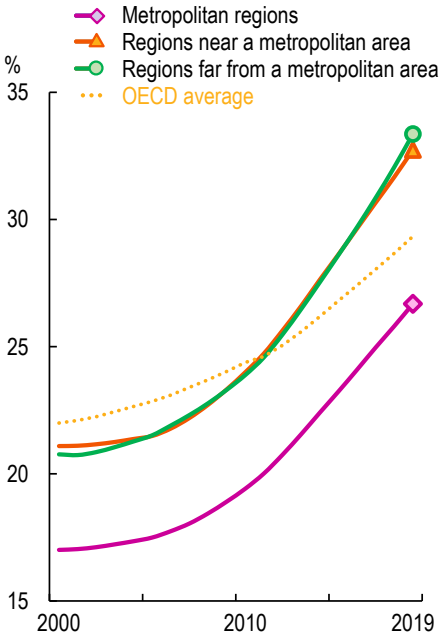


Figure note: The lower percentage range (<25%) depicts the bottom quintile among 370 OECD and EU regions, the following ranges are based on increment of 5 percentage points. Further reading: OECD (2020), Capacity to remote working can affect lockdown costs differently across places, http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/capacity-for-remote-working-can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

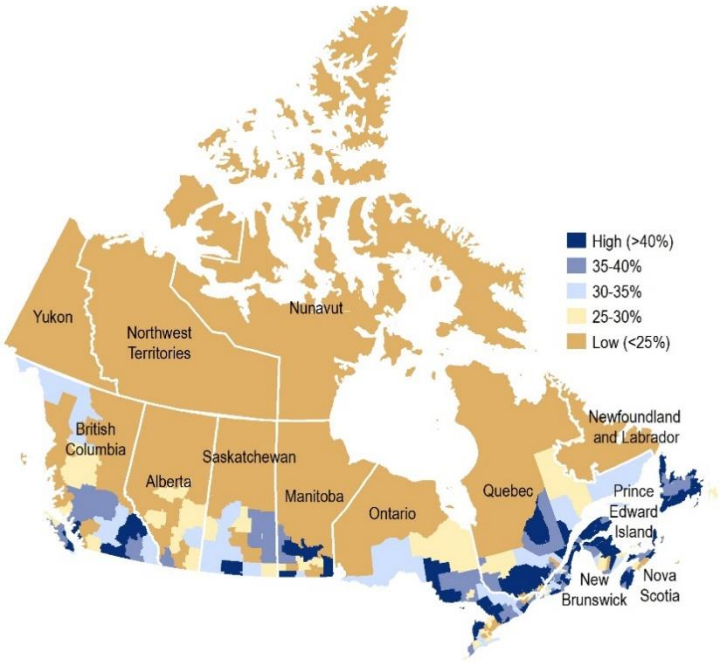
Ageing challenges non-metropolitan regions most

High ratios of elderly dependence can negatively impact the relative economic burden on the working age population. The elderly dependency rate, defined as the ratio between the elderly population (65 years and over) and the working age (15-64 years) population, has increased in all types of regions in Canada since 2000. Metropolitan regions show the lowest elderly dependency rate (27%) among the three different types of regions (Figure A3). In 2019, about one-quarter of small regions in Canada had an elderly dependency rate of 40% or higher. Remote northern regions present lower elderly dependency rates, but are sparsely populated in comparison to remote southern regions which have the highest elderly dependency rates (Figure A4).

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



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



Canadian regions have fewer hospital beds per capita than OECD average

In 2018, the number of hospital beds per capita in Canada is almost half the one in OECD. All regions in Canada have less hospital beds per capita than the OECD average. With the highest number of beds per thousand inhabitants, Newfoundland and Labrador's ratio is nearly double the Canadian (Figure A5).

A5 - Hospital beds per 1000 inhabitants, 2018
Large regions (TL2)

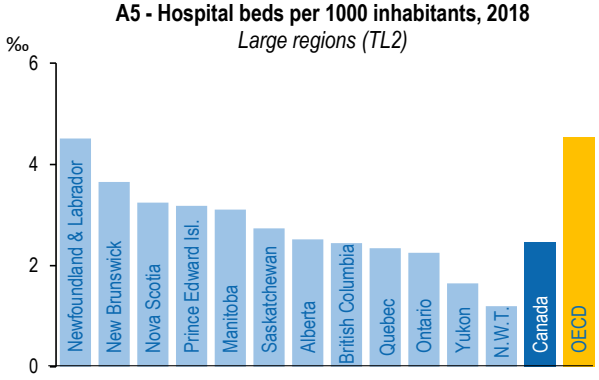
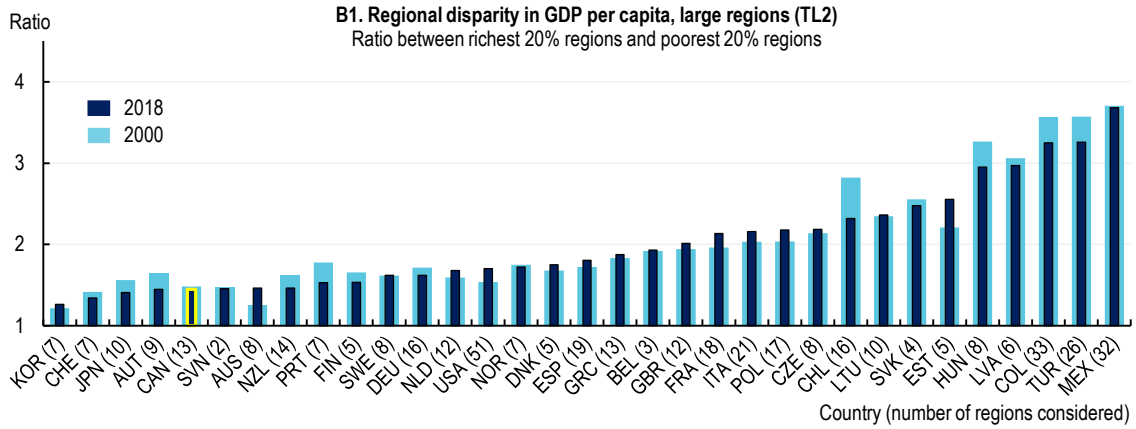


Figure notes. [A3]: OECD (2019), Classification of small (TL3) regions based on metropolitan population, low density and remoteness https://doi.org/10.1787/b902cc00-en. [A4]: Small regions contained in large regions. Small regions (TL3) in Canada are composed by 294 Census divisions.

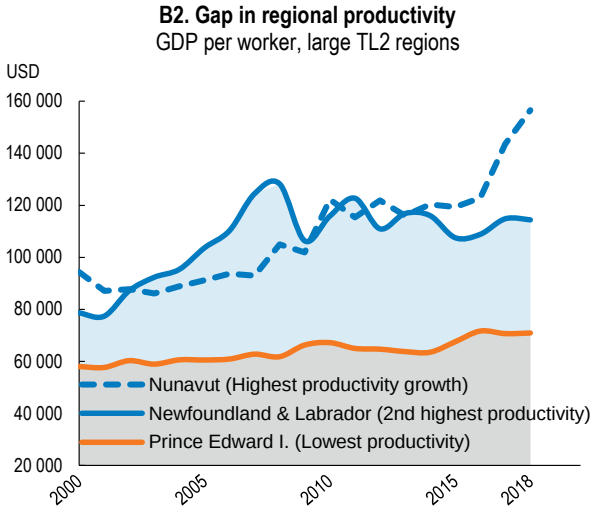
Regional economic disparities are relatively low and have remained stable in Canada since 2000

The regional gap in GDP per capita has remained stable in Canada over the eighteen years from 2000 to 2018. The region with the lowest GDP per capita over this period, Prince Edward Island, experienced more than twice faster growth than the region with the highest GDP per capita, Northwest Territories (resource rich region). The GDP per capita growth in Ontario − the largest populous Canadian region – is lower by four percentage points compared to the Northwest Territories. However, the latter region accounts for only 0.1% of national population. Overall, regional disparities are relatively low compared to OECD countries (Figure B1).

With a productivity growth of 2.1% per year over the period 2000-18, the region of Newfoundland and Labrador recorded the second highest growth among the provinces and territories of Canada, more than five times the productivity growth of Quebec, and almost twice the one in Prince Edward Island, the Canadian region with the lowest productivity (Figure B2).



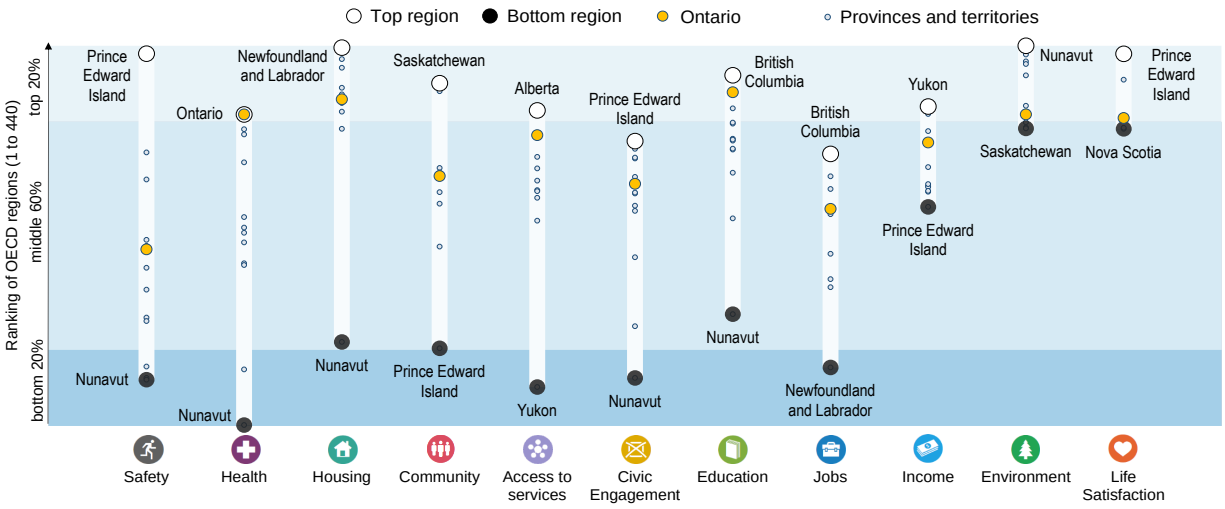
Note: A ratio with a value equal to 2 means that the GDP per capita of the richest regions accounting for 20% of the national population is twice as high as the GDP of the poorest regions accounting for 20% of the national population. TL2 regions except EST, LVA, LTU (TL3).



C. Well-being in regions

Regional rank disparities are found in 8 of the 11 well-being dimensions, with the highest rank disparities being in safety and health

C1 Well-being regional disparity, large regions (TL2)



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.

At least one Canadian large region ranks among the top 20% of the OECD regions in most dimensions of well-being (the exceptions are Civic Engagement and Jobs). Large regional disparities are found in ranking for Safety, Health, Housing, Access to services and Civic Engagement, mainly due to the low performance of the sparsely populated province of Nunavut and the territory of Yukon (Figure C1).

The high-performing Canadian regions fare better than the OECD top 20%-ranked regions in 8 of the 13 well-being indicators (Figure C2).

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

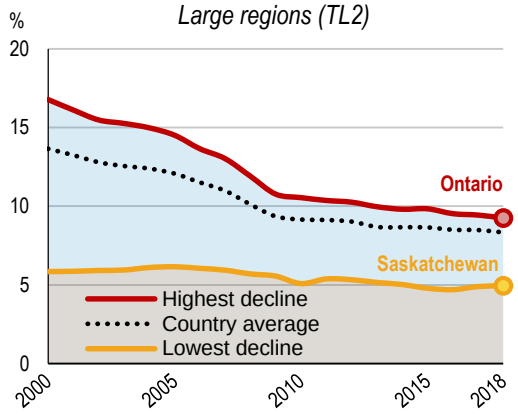
	OECD Top 20% regions	Canadian regions		
		Top 20%	Country average	Bottom 20%
Safety				
Homicide Rate (per 100 000 people), 2016-18	0.7	0.9	1.8	3.0
Health				
Life Expectancy at birth (years), 2018	82.6	82.6	82.0	80.6
Age adjusted mortality rate (per 1 000 people), 2018	6.6	6.7	6.9	7.7
Housing				
Rooms per person, 2018	2.3	2.6	2.4	2.4
Community				
Perceived social network support (%), 2014-18	94.1	95.0	92.5	91.3
Access to services				
Households with broadband access (%), 3-year average	91.3	91.7	82.5	83.5
Civic engagement				
Voters in last national election (%), 2019 or latest year	84.2	79.6	77.0	75.1
Education				
Population with at least upper secondary education, 25-64 year-olds (%), 2019	90.3	92.7	91.0	87.7
Jobs				
Employment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	76.0	76.3	74.4	72.3
Unemployment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	3.3	4.9	5.7	7.4
Income				
Disposable income per capita (in USD PPP), 2018	26 620	27 110	23 990	21 540
Environment				
Level of air pollution in PM 2.5 (µg/m³), 2019	7.0	6.2	7.3	7.6
Life Satisfaction				
Life satisfaction (scale from 0 to 10), 2014-18	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3

Note: OECD regions refer to the first administrative tier of subnational government (large regions, Territorial Level 2); Canada is composed of 13 large regions. Data not available for Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut for the following indicators: Perceived social network support, employment and unemployment rates, life satisfaction and Households with broadband access (only Yukon is available for the latter). Visualisation: https://www.oecdregionalwellbeing.org.

The employment share of manufacturing in Ontario has dropped by half since 2000

D1. Manufacturing employment share evolution

Large regions (TL2)



Between 2000 and 2018, all large regions in Canada experienced a decline in the share of employment in manufacturing. Ontario, the most populous region, experienced a 7.5 percentage point decline in manufacturing industries' share of employment. This drop was also the largest among Canadian regions (Figure D1).

The decline in the share of employment generated in manufacturing coincides with a reduction in manufacturing gross value-added (GVA) in all regions, except the three regions that comprise Canada's northern territories, where manufacturing accounts for less than 1% of the regional GVA (Figure D2).

D2. Manufacturing trends, 2000-18

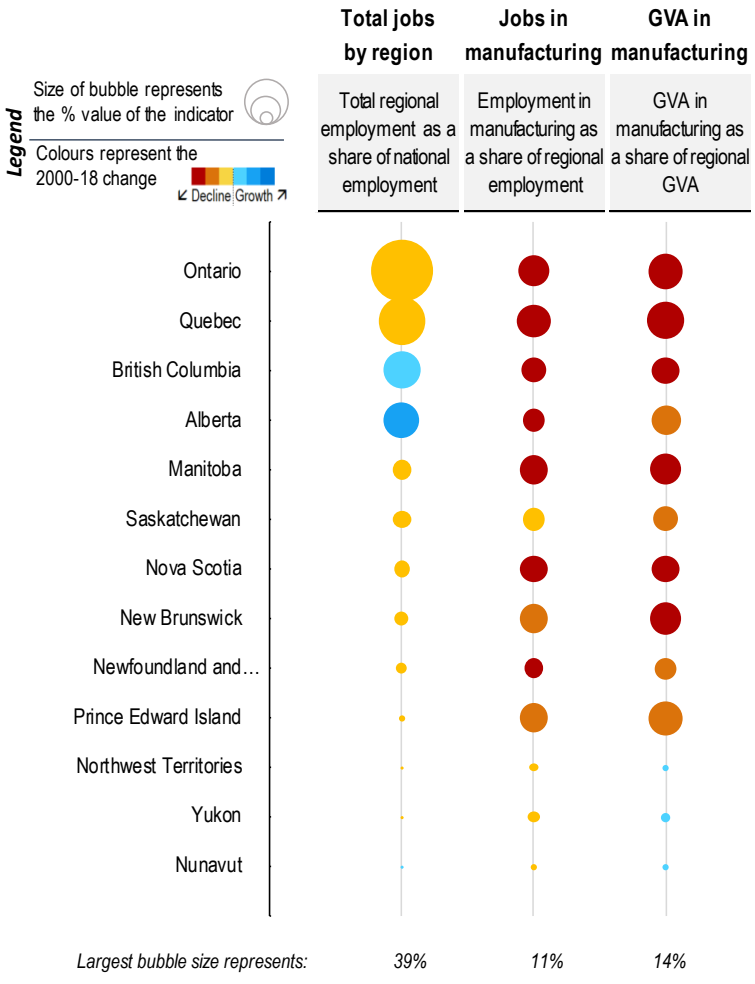


Figure note D.2: Regions are ordered by regional employment as a share of national employment. Colour of the bubbles represents the evolution of the share over the period 2000-18 in percentage points: red: below -2 pp; orange: between -2 pp and -1 pp; yellow: between -1 pp and 0; light blue: between 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

Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta generate 82% of Canada's electricity. While most regions are coal-free, Alberta generates 64% of its electricity using coal

According to 2017 OECD estimates, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, which generate 71% of Canadian electricity, have fully replaced the use of coal for electricity production. Furthermore, Quebec and British Columbia produce 95% or more of their electricity from renewable sources. In contrast, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia, which account for 16% of electricity generation in Canada, lag behind in the transition to clean electricity. These regions produce approximately half more of their electricity with coal (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.)
Quebec	211 247	99%	0%	6 483
Ontario	183 184	34%	0%	15 122
British Columbia	87 729	95%	0%	4 816
Alberta	63 807	15%	62%	39 955
Newfoundland and Labrador	35 303	97%	0%	1 479
Manitoba	28 339	93%	2%	1 822
Saskatchewan	19 036	25%	49%	10 188
New Brunswick	16 705	36%	17%	4 566
Nova Scotia	13 326	30%	58%	7 364
Prince Edward Island	879	61%	0%	233

Carbon efficiency in the production of electricity varies significantly across Canadian regions. Quebec emits 31 tons of CO_2 per gigawatt hour (GWh) of electricity produced, whereas Alberta releases 626 tons of CO_2 per GWh. Accordingly, Quebec generates 32% of Canada's electricity and produces only 7% of the total CO_2 emissions associated with this activity, while Alberta generates 10% of the electricity and emits 43% of the national electricity generation-linked CO_2 emissions (Figure E2).

E2. Contribution to total CO_2 emissions from electricity production, 2017

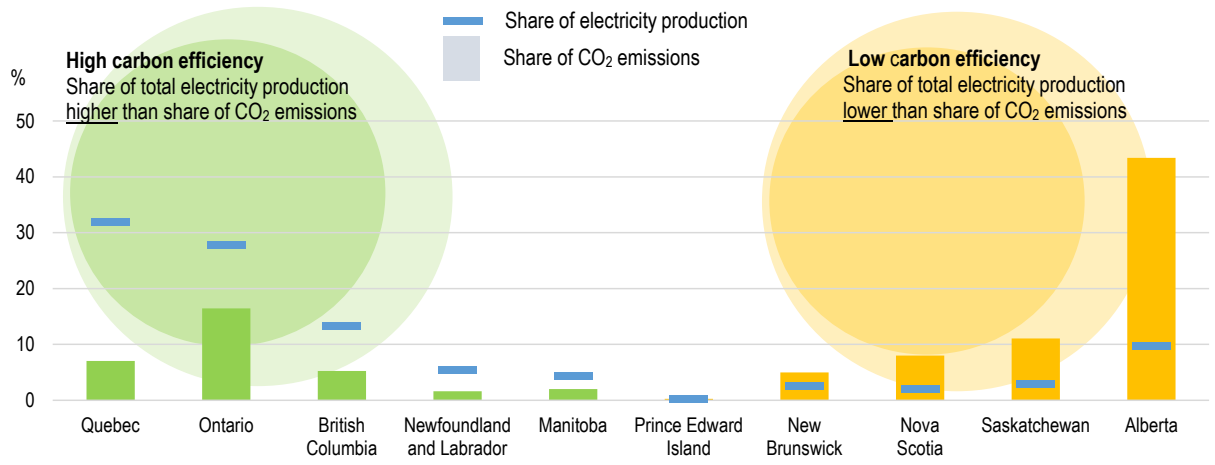
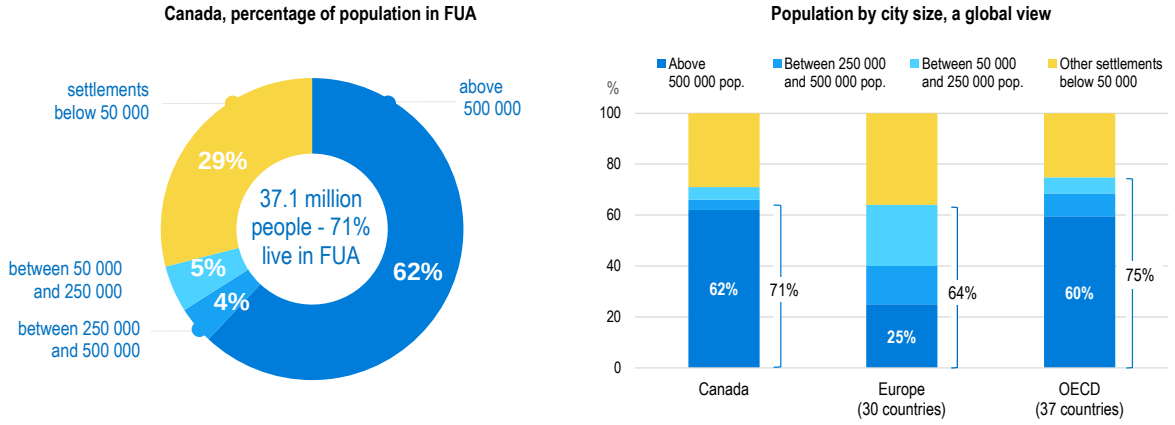


Figure notes: Regions are arranged in Figure E1 by total generation, and in Figure E2 according to gap between share of electricity generation and share of CO_2 emissions (most positive to most negative). These estimates refer to electricity production from the power plants connected to the national 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.

The percentage of Canada's population living in metropolitan areas with more than half a million residents is similar to the OECD average share

In Canada, 71% of the population lives in cities of more than 50 000 inhabitants and their respective commuting zones (functional urban areas, FUAs), which is slightly lower than the OECD average of 75%. The share of the population in FUAs with more than 500 000 people is 62%, comparable to the OECD average of 60% (Figure F1).

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



The built-up area has grown at a slower pace than the population in most metropolitan areas

Growth in metropolitan built-up area did not keep pace with population growth. This led to a decrease in the built-up area per capita in all FUAs above half a million residents in Canada since 2000, with the exception of Hamilton and London, where the growth of urbanised area was higher than the growth in population (Figure F2).

F2. Built-up area per capita
Functional urban areas with more than 500 000 residents

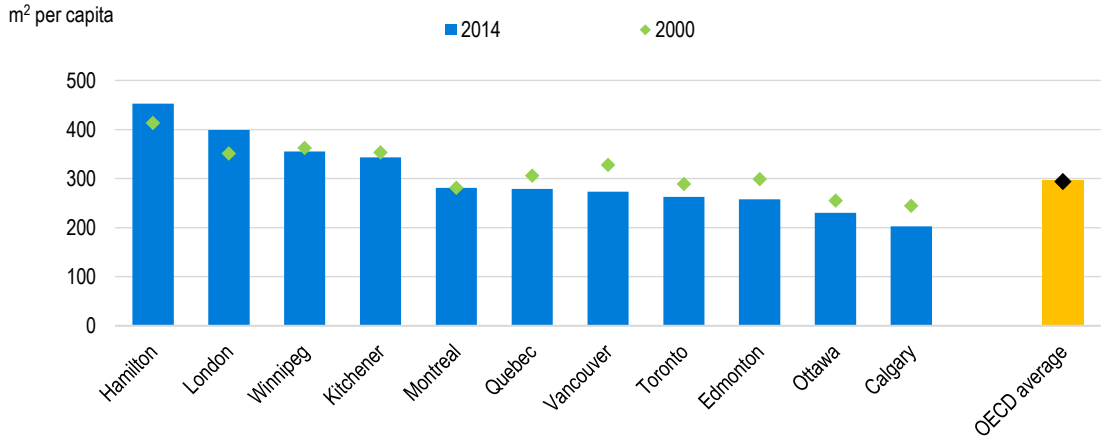


Figure notes: [F1]: Europe comprises EU27 countries plus Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. [F2]: Number of functional urban areas with a population of over 500 000: 11 in Canada compared to 349 in the OECD.

In terms of GDP per capita, Ottawa is among top 5% among OECD metropolitan areas of 500,000 or more residents, in bottom 5% in terms of metric's growth since 2000

Canada records large economic disparities across metropolitan areas, with GDP per capita being two and a half times higher in Ottawa than in London. While GDP per capita in Ottawa has fallen since 2000, Toronto's average yearly growth rate since 2000 is around 1.6%.

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