



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 across regions. 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

COLOMBIA

- 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:

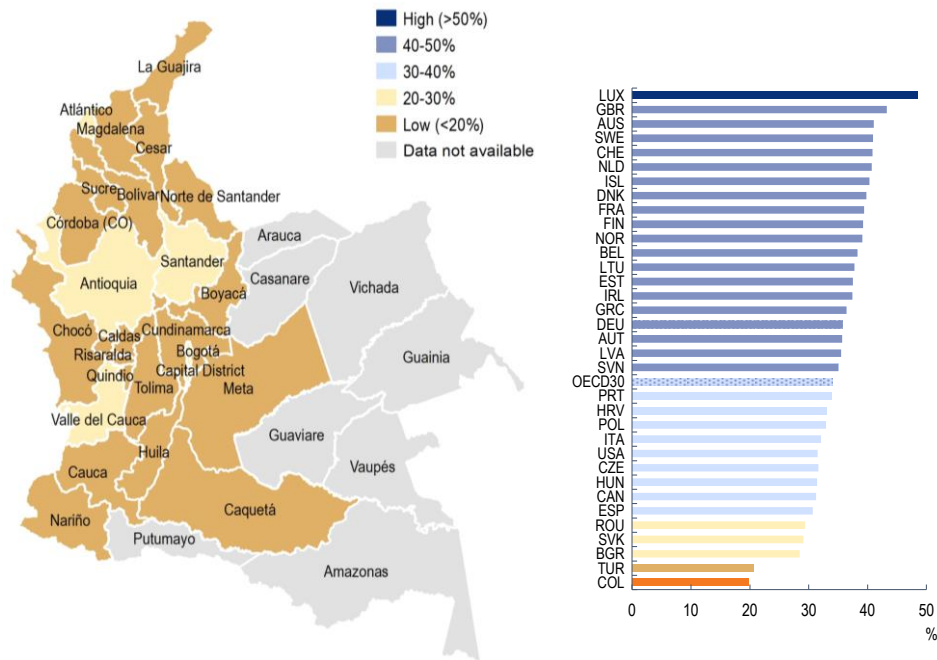
- **Regions** are classified on two territorial levels reflecting the administrative organisation of countries: large regions (TL2) and small regions (TL3). Small regions are classified according to their access to metropolitan areas (see <https://doi.org/10.1787/b902cc00-en>).
- **Functional urban areas** 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.

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A. Resilient regional societies

Only three regions in Colombia have more than 20% of their jobs amenable to 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 Colombian regions range from 28% in Santander to 7% in Quindio (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.

Seizing the opportunities of digitalisation and remote working requires also efficient and widespread digital infrastructure. Bogotá Capital District has the highest cable and fiber optic availability across large regions in Colombia in 2019, with 41% and 17% of the households having access to these types of connection, respectively (Figure A2).

A2- Share of households connected to internet
by type of connection, 2019

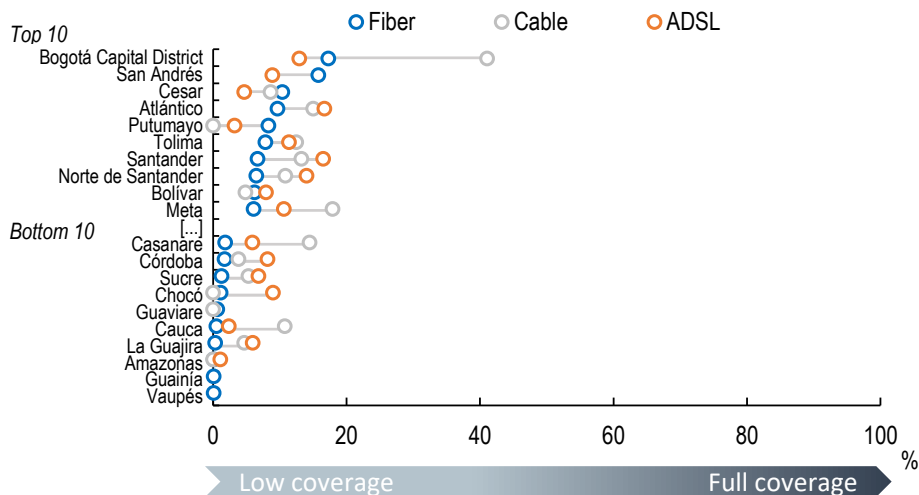
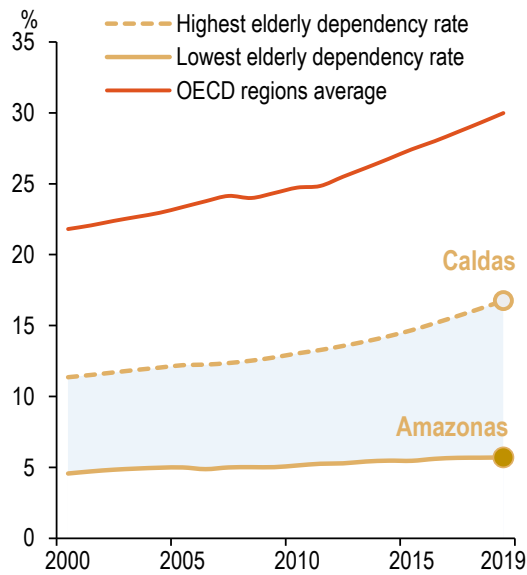


Figure [A1]: OECD (2020), Capacity to remote working can affect lockdown costs differently across places <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/capacity-for-remote-working-can-affect-lockdown-costs-differently-across-places-0e85740e/>.

Population ageing has been consistently below the OECD average in all Colombian states over the last two decades

The elderly dependency rate has been relatively stable in all types of regions in Colombia since 2000. The province of Caldas shows the highest elderly dependency rate (17%) among the other large regions of Colombia, although it remains almost half the OECD average (Figures A3 and A4).

A3. Elderly dependency rate, regional gap
Large regions, TL2



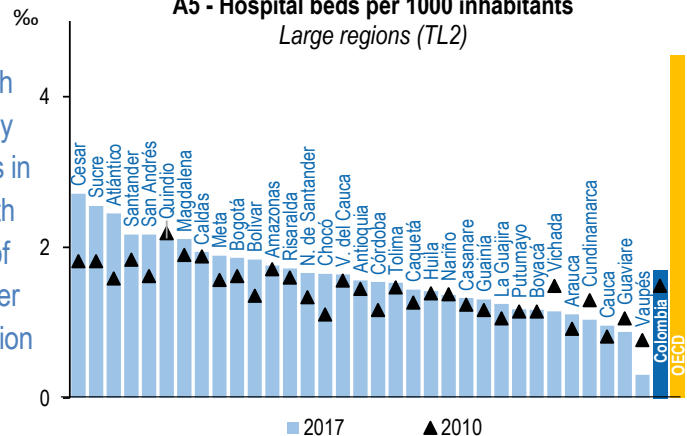
A4. Elderly dependency rate, 2019
Large regions, TL2



Hospital beds per capita increased in 80% of Colombian regions since 2010

In 27 over 33 regions, the availability of hospital beds per capita has increased since 2010, with higher increases in regions with already relatively higher availability (Figure A5). Regional disparities in hospital beds are above OECD average, with Vaupés, the region with the lowest number of hospital beds in 2017, having more than 2 fewer beds per 1 000 inhabitants than in Cesar, the region with largest number of hospital beds.

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



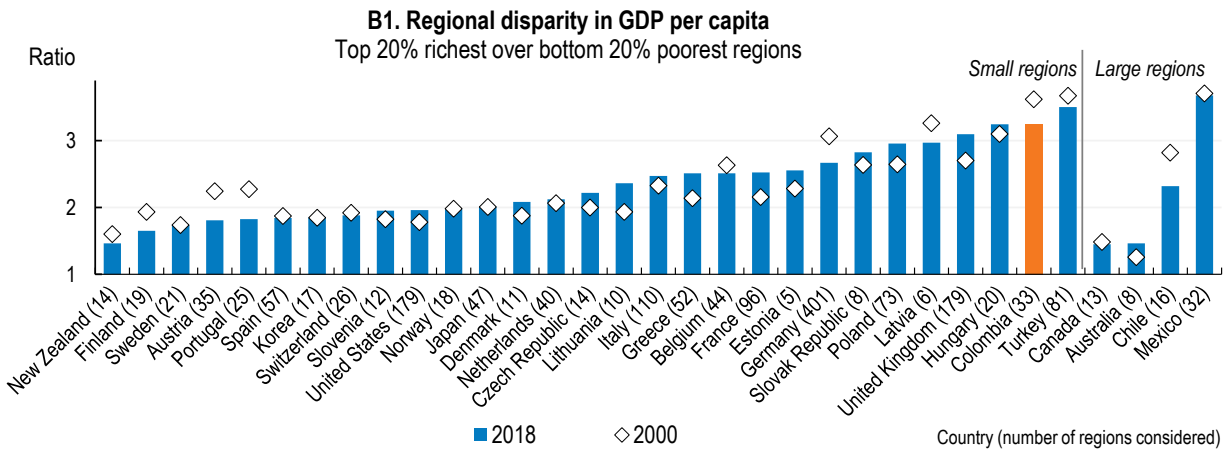


B. Regional economic disparities and trends in productivity

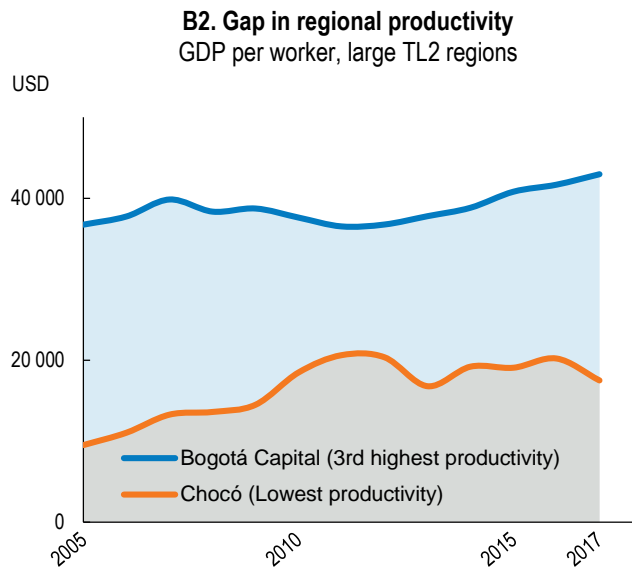
Regional economic disparities have narrowed since 2005, in part due to slower growth in wealthier regions.

Differences between Colombian regions in terms of GDP per capita have decreased since 2000. However, regional disparities among small regions remain among the highest of OECD countries (even when resource rich regions, Casanare and Meta, are excluded), with Bogotá Capital District having almost five times the GDP per capita of Vaupés (Figure B1).

With a productivity growth of 5.2% per year over the period 2005-17, Chocó, the region with the lowest level of productivity, is catching up to Bogotá Capital District, the frontier region in terms of productivity in Colombia (excluding Casanare and Meta) (Figure B2).

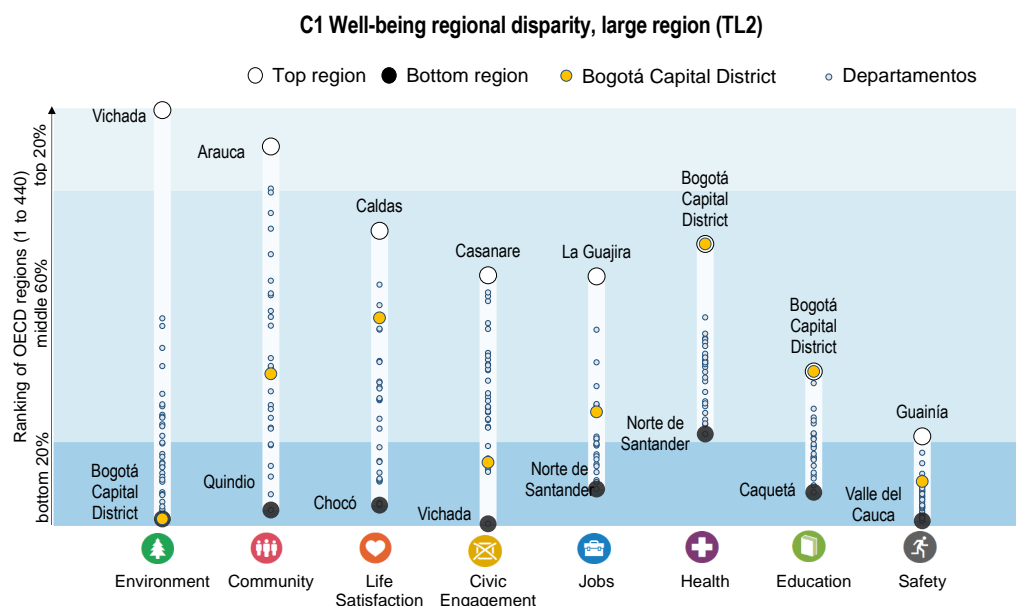


Note: A ratio with a value equal to 2 means that the GDP per capita of the richest regions accounting for 20% of the national population is twice as high as the GDP of the poorest regions accounting for 20% of the national population.



C. Well-being in regions

Well-being disparities across Colombian regions are starkest in terms of 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.

Colombia has at least one region in the top 20% of OECD regions in two out of the eight well-being dimensions with available data. However, regional differences are stark in almost all well-being dimensions and particularly in terms of air quality (environment) and sense of community. In terms of safety, all Colombian regions are part of the bottom OECD 25% regions.

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

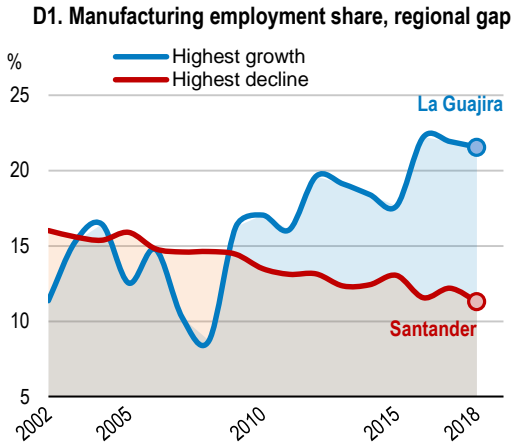
	Country Average	OECD Top 20% regions	Colombian regions	
			Top 20%	Bottom 20%
Environment				
Level of air pollution in PM 2.5 (µg/m³), 2019	22.5	7.0	14.2	29.7
Community				
Perceived social network support (%), 2014-18	88.6	94.1	92.9	83.1
Life Satisfaction				
Life satisfaction (scale from 0 to 10), 2014-18	6.2	7.3	6.7	5.5
Civic engagement				
Voters in last national election (%), 2019 or latest year	60.3	84.2	69.1	53.3
Jobs				
Employment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	64.4	76.0	71.8	51.5
Unemployment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	10.0	3.3	6.9	12.3
Health				
Life Expectancy at birth (years), 2018	75.6	82.6	78.5	72.9
Age adjusted mortality rate (per 1 000 people), 2018	6.1	6.6	5.2	6.9
Education				
Population with at least upper secondary education, 25-64 year-olds (%), 2019	54.5	90.3	69.2	42.6
Safety				
Homicide Rate (per 100 000 people), 2016-18	26.6	0.7	15.0	47.5

Note: OECD regions refer to the first administrative tier of subnational government (large regions, Territorial Level 2); Colombia is composed of 32 large regions. Grupo Amazonia regions are not included in the dimensions of Health, Community, Life Satisfaction, Jobs and Education. Visualisation: <https://www.oecdregionalwellbeing.org>



D. Industrial transition in regions

Manufacturing employment has grown in seven Colombian regions since 2002



Between 2002 and 2018, seven out of 24 regions in Colombia experienced an increase in the share of manufacturing employment. With an increase of 10.2 percentage points in the share of manufacturing employment, the La Guajira, recorded the largest increase (Figure D1).

Manufacturing gross value-added has declined since 2002 in practically all regions of Colombia (Figure D2).

D2. Manufacturing trends, 2002-18

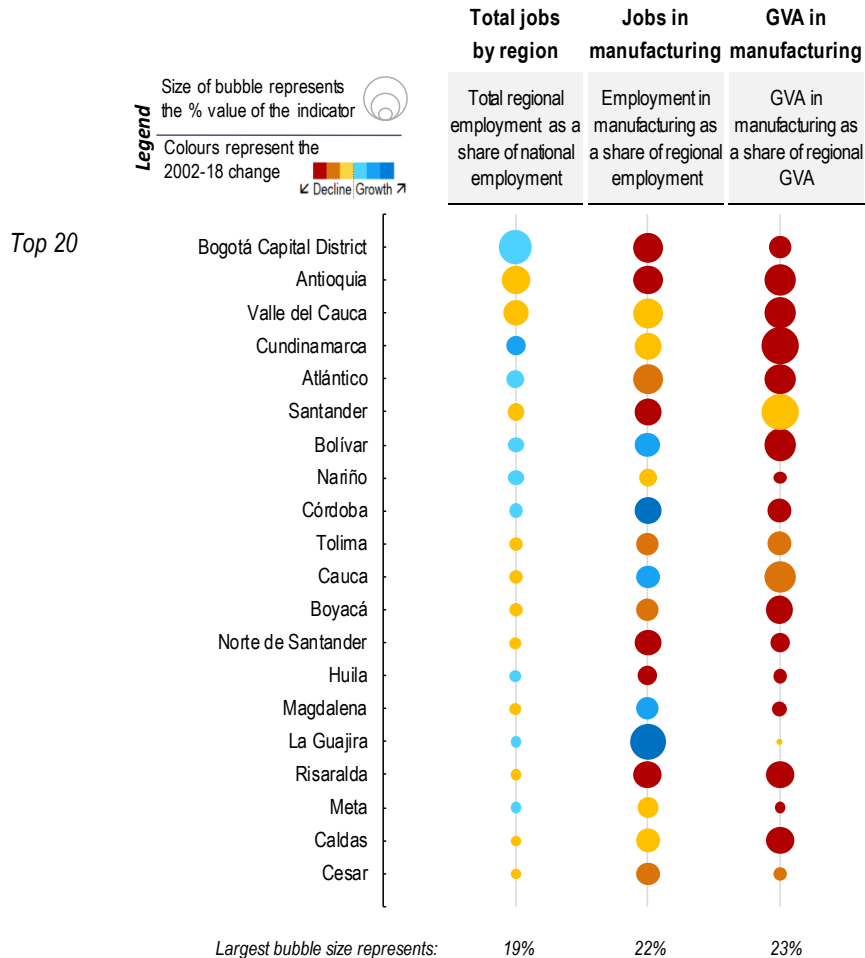


Figure [D.2]: Regions are ordered by regional employment as a share of national employment. Colour of the bubbles represents the evolution of the share over the period 2002-18 in percentage points: red: below -2 pp; orange: between -2 pp and -1 pp; yellow: between -1 pp and 0; light blue: between 0 and +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

Antioquia, Cundinamarca and Boyacá generate 67% of Colombian electricity. While they lead in the use of renewables, phasing out coal requires further efforts

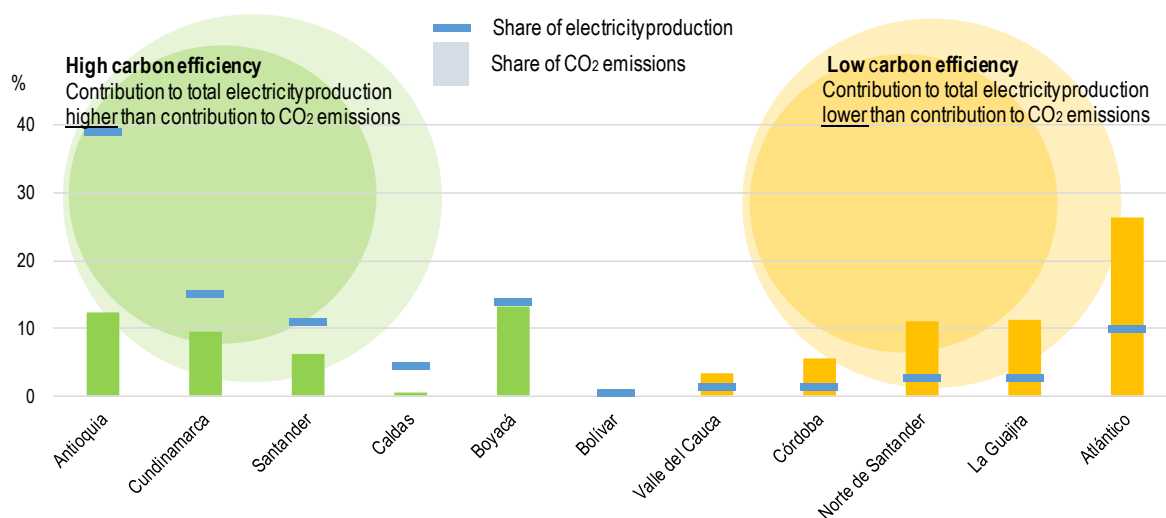
Antioquia, Cundinamarca and Boyacá generate two-thirds of Colombian electricity. While these three regions are advancing on the use of renewables for electricity production – they produce 80% or more of their electricity using clean sources, more efforts are needed to fully phase out coal-fired power. In 2017, Cundinamarca and Boyacá produced 12% and 19% of their electricity using coal, respectively (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.)	
Antioquia	26 273	93%	0%	1 529	Ant.
Cundinamarca	10 090	88%	12%	1 180	Cun.
Boyacá	9 199	81%	19%	1 632	Boy.
Santander	7 348	83%	0%	763	San.
Atlántico	6 659	0%	0%	3 263	Atl.
Caldas	2 941	100%	0%	71	Cal.
La Guajira	1 691	0%	100%	1 386	La .
Norte de Santander	1 655	0%	100%	1 357	Nor.
Valle del Cauca	860	0%	0%	421	Val.
Córdoba	840	0%	100%	689	Cór.
Bolívar	165	0%	0%	108	Bol.

CO₂ emissions per electricity produced vary widely across Colombian regions. The starkest difference in carbon efficiency among large electricity producers is between the regions of Antioquia and Atlántico. While Antioquia emits only 60 tons of CO₂ per gigawatt hour of electricity produced, Atlántico releases almost 500 tons of CO₂ per gigawatt hour. For this reason, in 2017, Atlántico was responsible for one-fourth of Colombia's CO₂ emissions from electricity generation.

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



Note: 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. Fossil fuels are divided into two subcategories: coal, which corresponds to the most carbon intensive energy source; and the other fossil fuels, including oil, petroleum coke and gas.

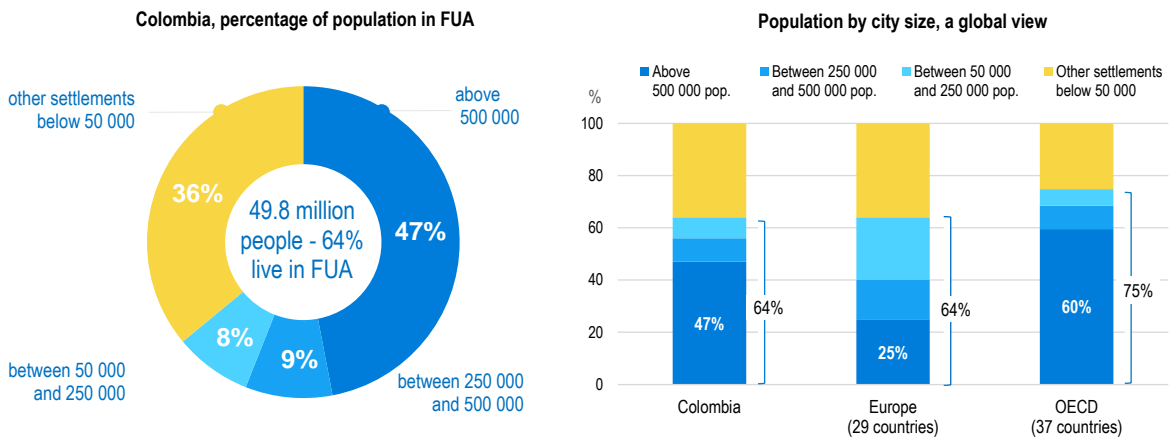


F. Metropolitan trends in growth and sustainability

Compared to OECD average, Colombia has a lower concentration of people in metropolitan areas above half a million inhabitants

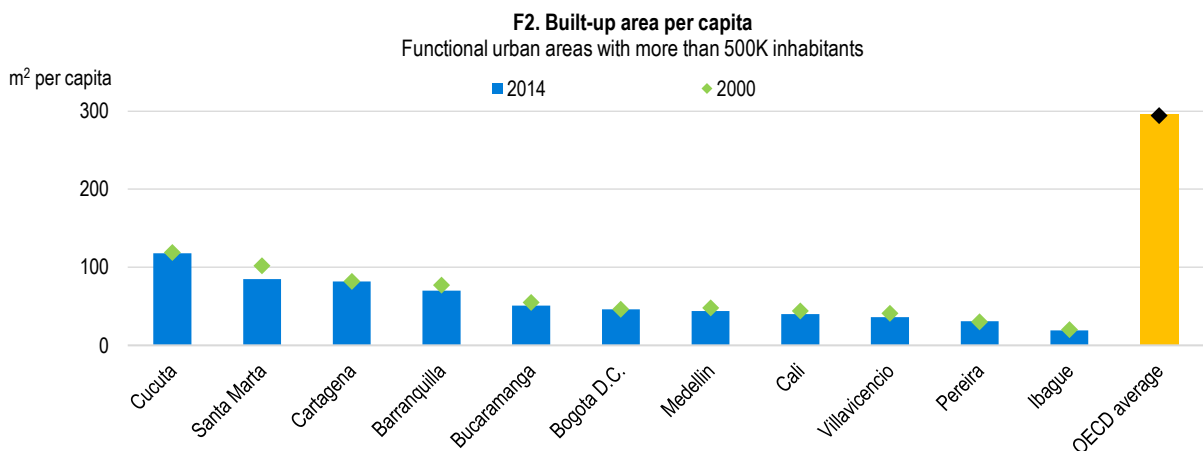
In Colombia, 64% of the population lives in cities of more than 50 000 inhabitants and their respective commuting areas (functional urban areas, FUAs). The share of population in FUAs of at least half a million inhabitants is 47%, a lower share compared to the OECD average of 60% (Figure F1).

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



Built-up area per capita in Colombian metropolitan areas are consistently lower than the OECD average.

Metropolitan areas in Colombia have less than one third lower built-up area per capita than the average of OECD metropolitan areas. Since 2000, built-up area per capita have declined or remained stable in metropolitan areas of Colombia. The decline was more pronounced in Santa Marta, where the difference between the growth of population and that of built-up area was highest (Figure F2).



Source: OECD Metropolitan Database. Number of metropolitan areas with a population of over 500 000: 11 in Colombia compared to 349 in the OECD.

Metropolitan areas in Colombia have lower GDP per capita levels compared to the OECD median of metropolitan areas, but they experienced faster economic growth since 2001.

GDP per capita in Colombian metropolitan areas have grown faster than in metropolitan areas of Chile or Mexico since 2001. Villavicencio is the third OECD metropolitan area of more than 500 000 inhabitants in terms of GDP per capita growth, with an average annual growth of more than 5%. There are stark differences in GDP per capita across Colombian metropolitan areas, with GDP per capita in Villavicencio being more than three times higher than in Santa Marta.

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

