

*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](#).

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## OECD REGIONS AND CITIES AT A GLANCE - COUNTRY NOTE

### ITALY

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- 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:

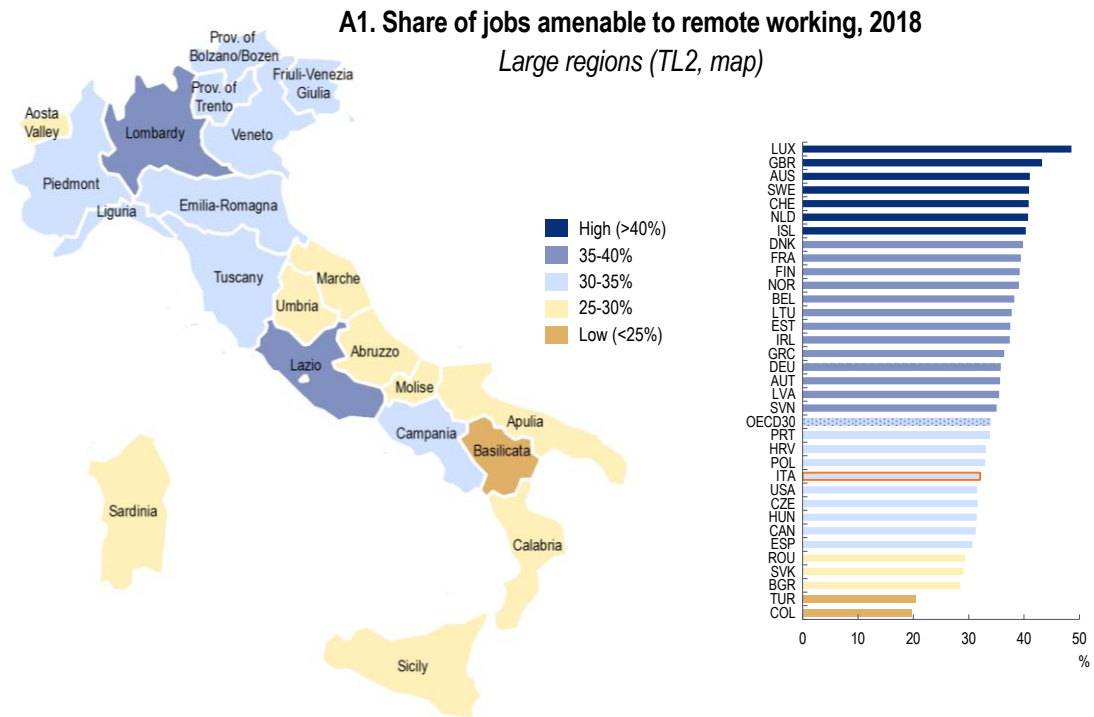
- **Regions** are classified on two territorial levels reflecting the administrative organisation of countries: large regions (TL2) and small regions (TL3). Small regions are classified according to their access to metropolitan areas (see <https://doi.org/10.1787/b902cc00-en>).
- **Functional urban areas**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

Lombardy and Lazio have the highest potential for remote working



The shares of jobs amenable to remote working in the Italian regions range from more than 35% in Lazio and Lombardy to less than 25% in Basilicata (Figure A1). Such a difference depends on the task content of 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, which are however not evenly available across Italian regions. Liguria, Apulia, Lazio and Campania have the highest fiber optic availability across large regions in Italy with more than 75% of the buildings connected to the network (Figure A2).

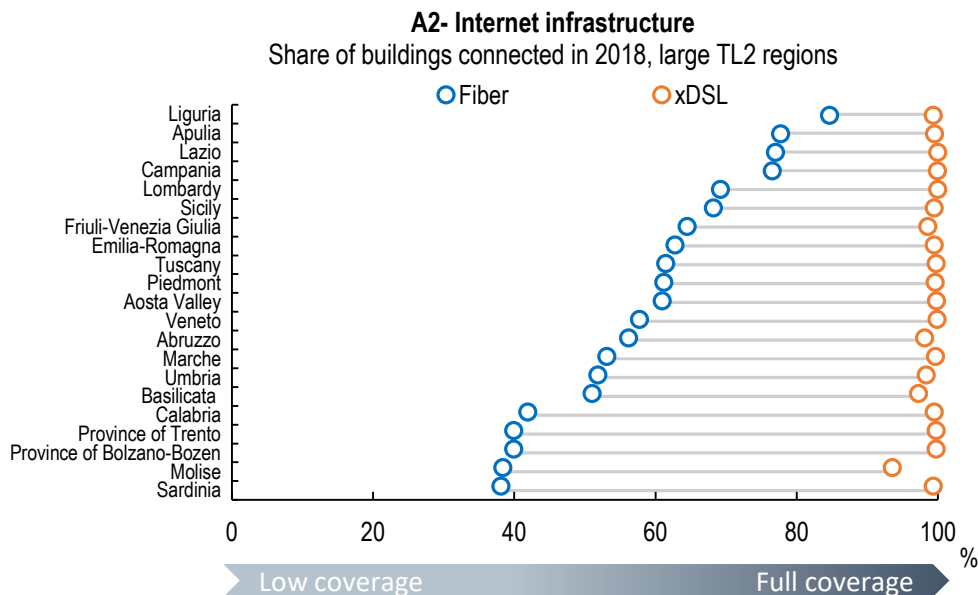
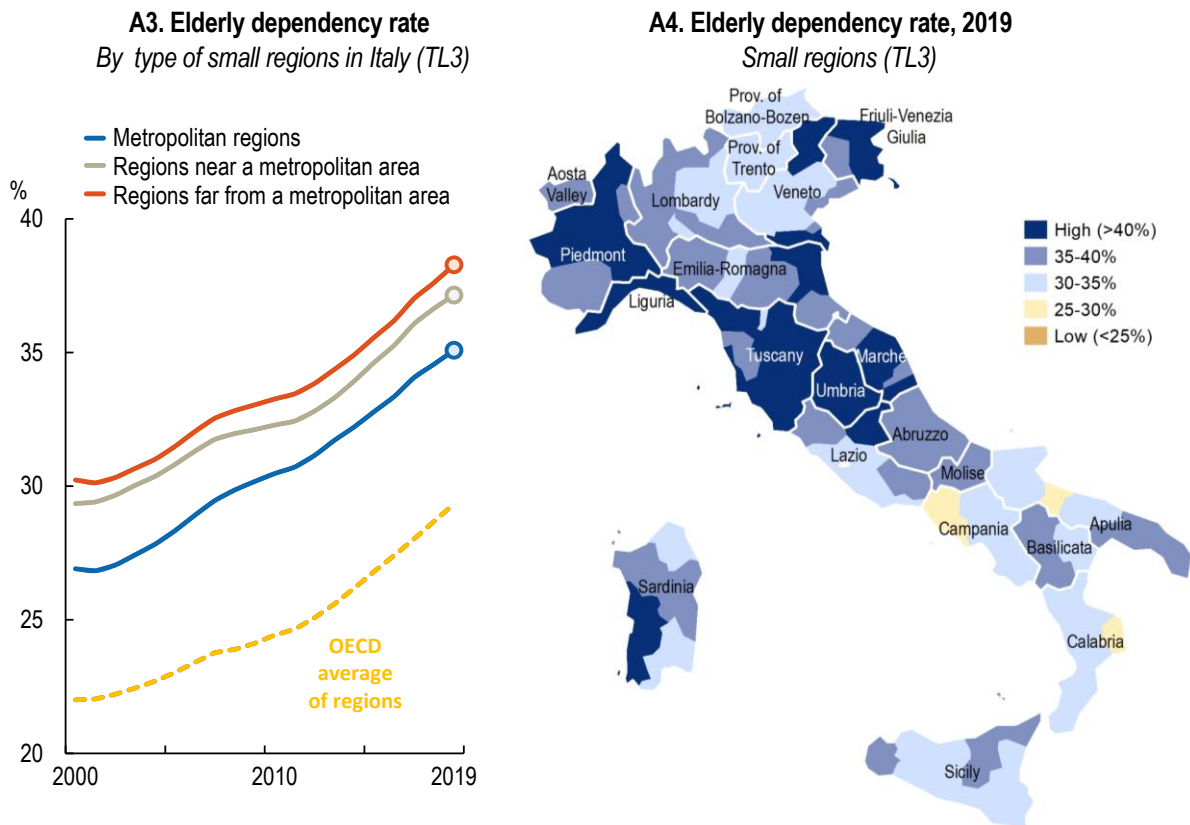


Figure [A1]: The lower percentage range (<25%) depicts the bottom quintile among 370 OECD and EU regions, the following ranges are based on increment of 5 percentage points. Further reading OECD (2020), Capacity to remote working can affect lockdown costs differently across places, <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/capacity-for-remote-working-can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

## Ageing challenges regions far from metropolitan areas more strongly, especially in Central Italy

The elderly dependency rate has increased in all types of regions in Italy since 2000. Regions far from metropolitan areas show the highest elderly dependency rate (38%) among different types of regions (Figure A3). In over 30% of provinces, there are three or more elders for every five persons in their working-age in 2019 (Figure A4).



## Hospital beds per capita have decreased since 2000 in practically all regions, and they are now below the OECD average

All regions in Italy have less hospital beds per capita than the OECD average, although this was not the case in 2000 (Figure A5). Regional disparities in hospital beds are relatively low. The difference in the availability of hospital beds between Emilia Romagna and Calabria, the regions with the highest and lowest availability, respectively, amounted to less than one bed for every 1000 inhabitants in 2018.

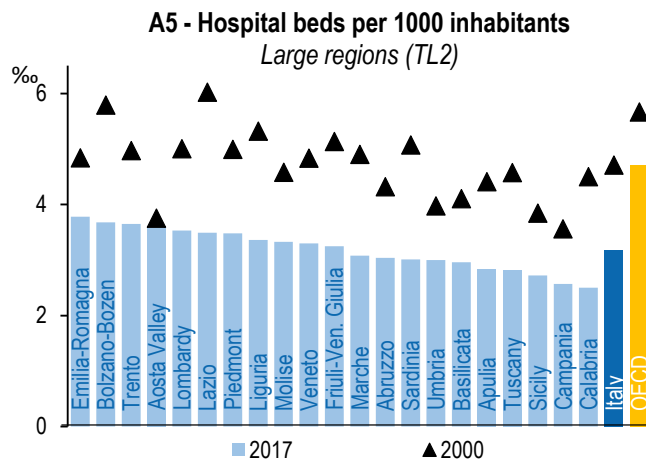


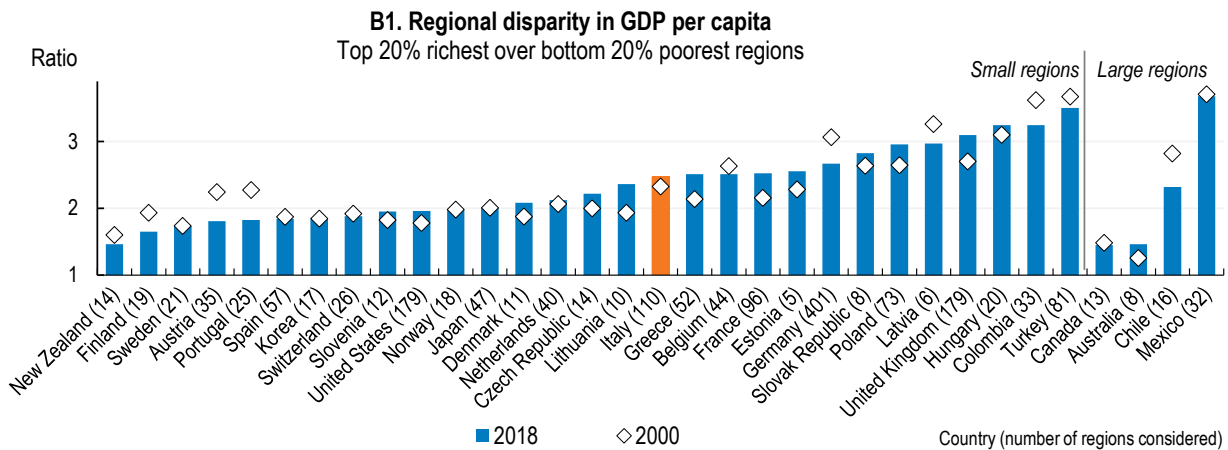
Figure notes. [A3]: OECD (2019), Classification of small (TL3) regions based on metropolitan population, low density and remoteness <https://doi.org/10.1787/b902cc00-en>. Two-year moving averages. [A4]: Small (TL3) regions contained in large regions. TL3 regions in Italy are composed by 110 Provinces.

### Regional economic gaps have slightly increased since 2000, partially due to lower growth of the least developed regions

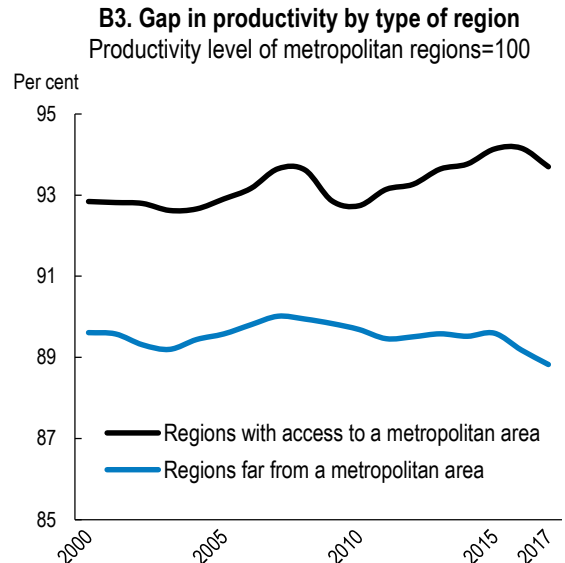
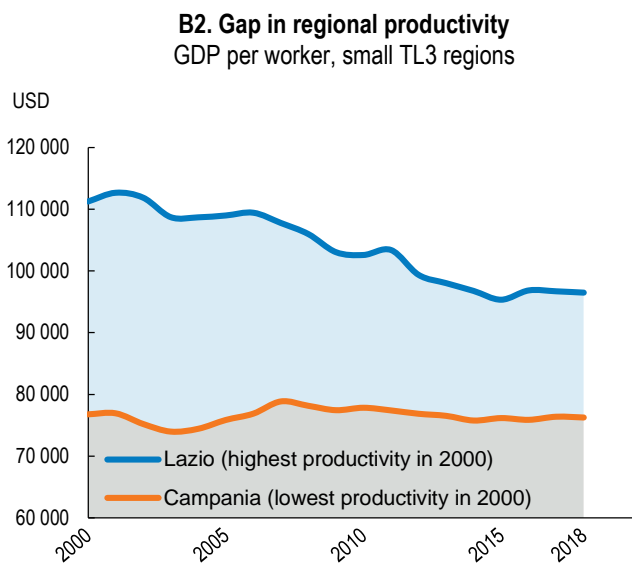
Differences between Italian regions in terms of GDP per capita have slightly increased over the last eighteen years. A decline of the poorest regions compared to the richest ones has driven such increase. Regional disparities among small regions (i.e. provinces) remain above the median of OECD countries, with the province of Bolzano-Bozen having almost three times the GDP per capita of Calabria (Figure B1).

With a productivity growth of 0.3% per year over the period 2000-18, Bolzano-Bozen is the region with the highest level of productivity in 2018, whereas Lazio, formerly a frontier region in terms of productivity in Italy, has followed a long-term decline. (Figure B2).

Since the economic crisis of 2008, regions far from metropolitan areas have increased their productivity gap with metropolitan regions, whereas regions close to a metropolitan area have slightly narrowed their productivity gap, although with a reverse trend in the most recent period (Figure B3).

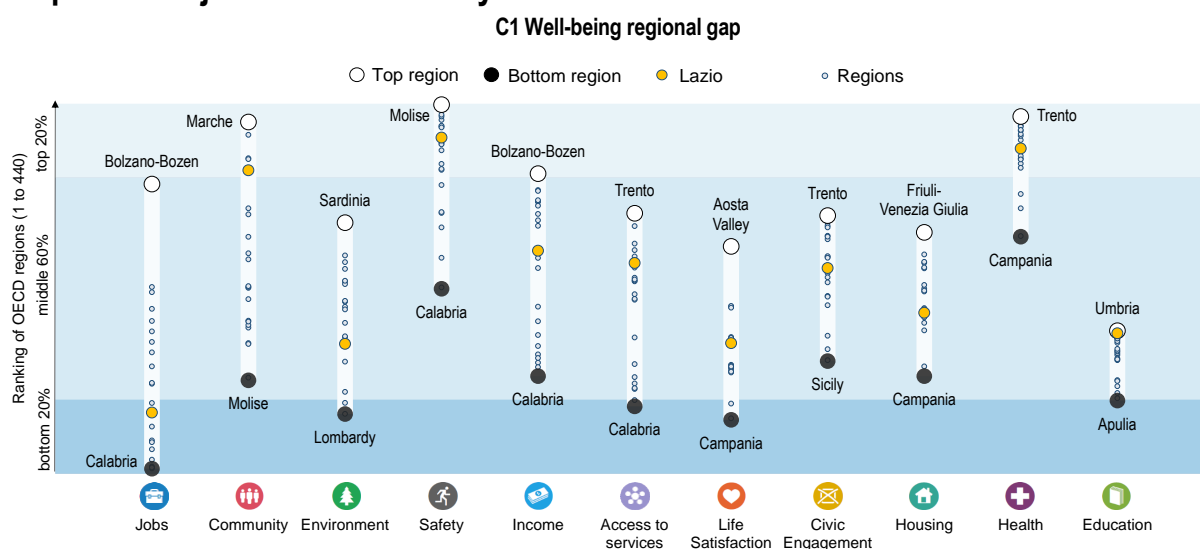


Note: A ratio with a value equal to 2 means that the GDP of the most developed regions accounting for 20% of the national population is twice as high as the GDP of the poorest regions accounting for 20% of the national population.



## C. Well-being in regions

### Italy faces stark regional disparities in most well-being dimensions, with the starkest disparities in jobs and community



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.

Well-being differences across Italian regions are stark in most dimensions, except education. Italy has the largest regional disparities among OECD countries in terms of unemployment rates and the second largest disparities in terms of household income. While Calabria ranks in the bottom 5% of OECD regions in terms of both employment and unemployment rates, Bolzano-Bozen ranks in the top 25%. With respect to other OECD regions, most Italian regions have improved their relative ranking in life expectancy since 2000 and are now in the top 20% of OECD regions, with the exception of Campania, Sicily, and the Aosta Valley (Figure C1).

The top performing Italian regions rank above the average of the top 20% of OECD regions in 4 out of 13 well-being indicators, particularly in terms of homicide rates and life expectancy (Figure C2).

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

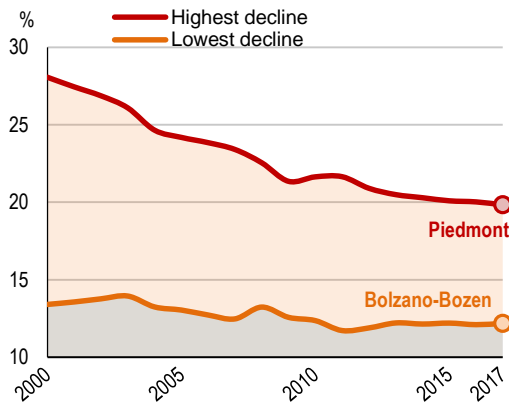
	Country Average	OECD Top 20% regions	Italian regions	
			Top 20%	Bottom 20%
<b>Jobs</b>				
Employment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	59.0	76.0	69.4	41.4
Unemployment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	10.2	3.3	5.6	20.7
<b>Community</b>				
Perceived social network support (%), 2014-18	91.0	94.1	94.3	88.9
<b>Environment</b>				
Level of air pollution in PM2.5 (µg/m³), 2019	19.2	7.0	11.2	21.8
<b>Safety</b>				
Homicide Rate (per 100 000 people), 2016-18	0.7	0.7	0.3	1.0
<b>Income</b>				
Disposable income per capita (in USD PPP), 2018	0	26 617	25 567	14 837
<b>Access to services</b>				
Households with broadband access (%), 2019	82.0	91.3	85.8	75.0
<b>Life Satisfaction</b>				
Life satisfaction (scale from 0 to 10), 2014-18	6.1	7.3	6.3	5.8
<b>Civic engagement</b>				
Voters in last national election (%), 2019 or latest year	72.9	84.2	78.4	64.8
<b>Housing</b>				
Rooms per person, 2018	0.0	2.3	1.9	1.5
<b>Health</b>				
Life Expectancy at birth (years), 2018	82.7	82.6	84.1	82.2
Age adjusted mortality rate (per 1 000 people), 2018	6.7	6.6	6.3	7.4
<b>Education</b>				
Population with at least upper secondary education, 25-64 year-olds (%), 2019	62.2	90.3	69.9	51.9

Note: OECD regions refer to the first administrative tier of subnational government (large regions, Territorial Level 2); Italy is composed of 21 large regions. Visualisation: <https://www.oecdregionalwellbeing.org>.



## Manufacturing employment has declined in all Italian regions since 2000

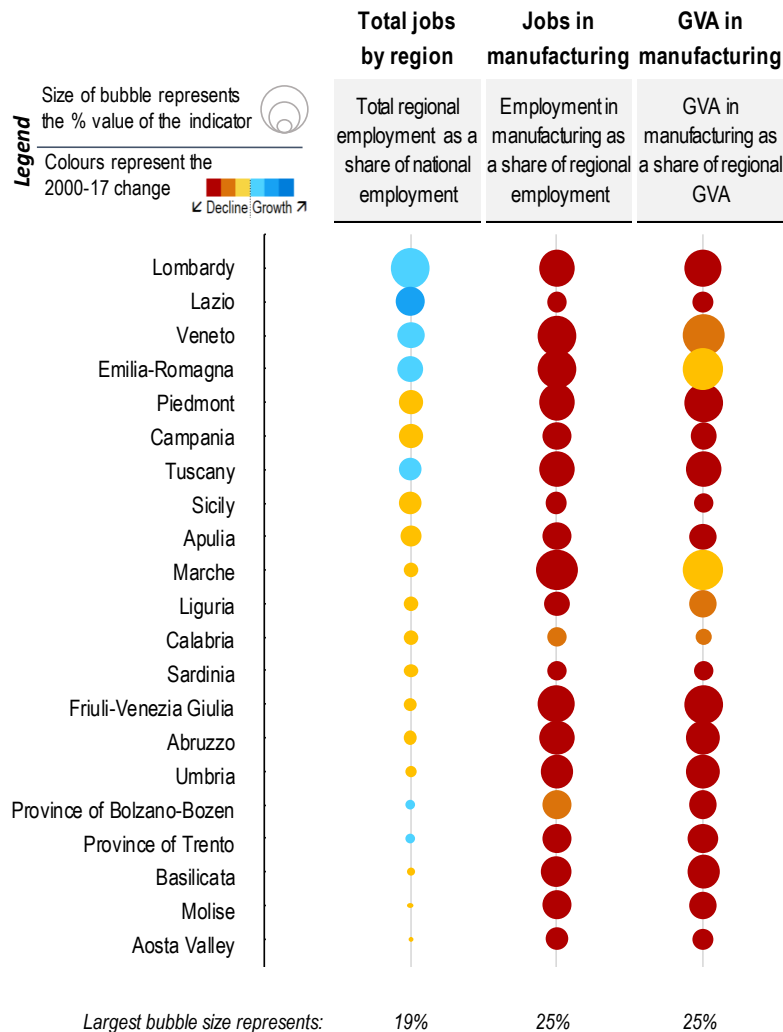
D1. Manufacturing employment share, regional gap



Between 2000 and 2017, all 21 Italian regions experienced a decline in the share of manufacturing employment. With a reduction of 8 percentage points in the share of employment in manufacturing (-2% per year), Piedmont recorded the largest decrease. However, manufacturing still represents 20% of total employment (Figure D1).

Paralleling employment trends, gross value added in manufacturing have declined in all Italian regions, with higher declines in regions where manufacturing has relatively lower weight in the regional economy (Lazio, Sicily, Sardinia, Aosta Valley, 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 2000-17 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

### Seven Italian regions still rely on coal for the production of electricity.

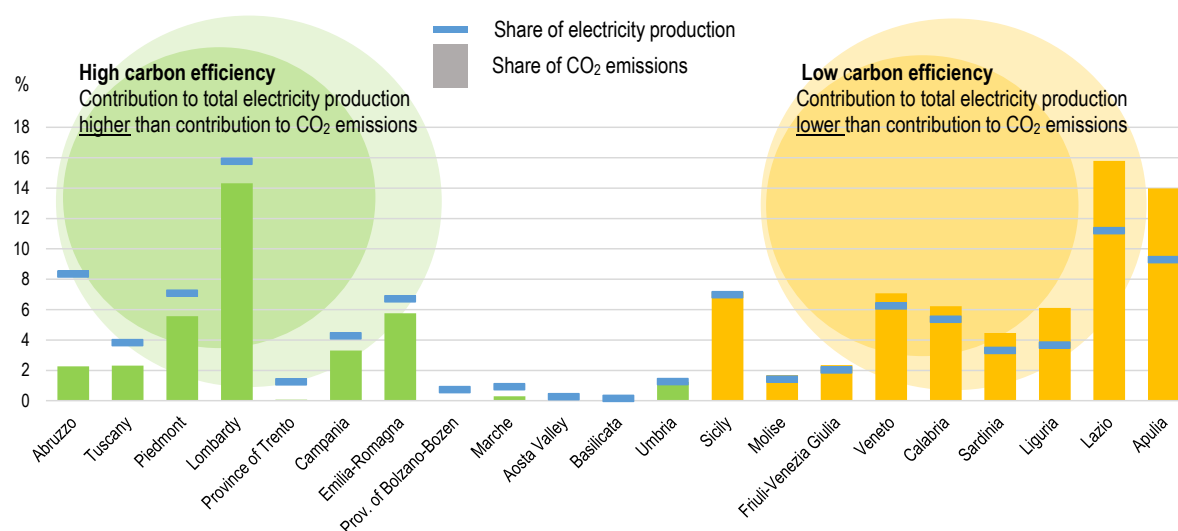
Lombardy, Abruzzo and Piedmont which generate 31% of Italian electricity, have abandoned the use of coal for electricity production. What is more, in 2017, Abruzzo and Lombardy produced 80% and 30% of their electricity using renewable sources, respectively. In contrast, Apulia and Lazio, which together account for 20% of electricity in Italy, were still producing, respectively, 50% and 25% of their electricity using coal (Figure E1).

**E1. Transition to renewable energy: electricity production, 2017**

	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 <sub>2</sub> eq.)	
Lombardy	43 073	30%	0%	15 397	Lom.
Lazio	30 582	4%	25%	16 977	Laz.
Apulia	25 390	14%	50%	15 025	Apu.
Abruzzo	22 770	80%	0%	2 434	Abr.
Piedmont	19 320	39%	0%	5 987	Pie.
Sicily	19 087	22%	0%	7 691	Sic.
Emilia-Romagna	18 338	34%	0%	6 197	Emi.
Veneto	17 036	34%	22%	7 599	Ven.
Calabria	14 667	11%	0%	6 689	Cal.
Campania	11 687	40%	0%	3 555	Cam.
Tuscany	10 448	63%	0%	2 482	Tus.
Liguria	9 986	0%	51%	6 564	Lig.
Sardinia	9 049	25%	43%	4 797	Sar.
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	5 547	25%	24%	2 522	Fri.
Molise	3 872	4%	0%	1 824	Mol.
Umbria	3 453	35%	17%	1 331	Umb.
Province of Trento	3 375	100%	0%	81	Pro.
Marche	2 534	80%	0%	311	Mar.
Province of Bolzano-Bozen	1 971	100%	0%	47	Pro.
Aosta Valley	729	100%	0%	17	Aos.
Basilicata	405	100%	0%	13	Bas.

Carbon efficiency in electricity generation is very unequal across Italian regions. While Abruzzo releases less than 107 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per gigawatt hour of electricity produced, Apulia emits more than 590 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per gigawatt hour. For this reason, in 2017, Apulia alone accounted for 14% of Italy's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from electricity production, while generating 9% of the country's electricity (Figure E2).

**E2. Contribution to total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from electricity production, 2017**



Note figures E1, E2: Only 93% of the total country's electricity production is covered. Electricity production from Biomass, Waste power plants is missing. 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<sub>2</sub> 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. See [here](#) for more details.

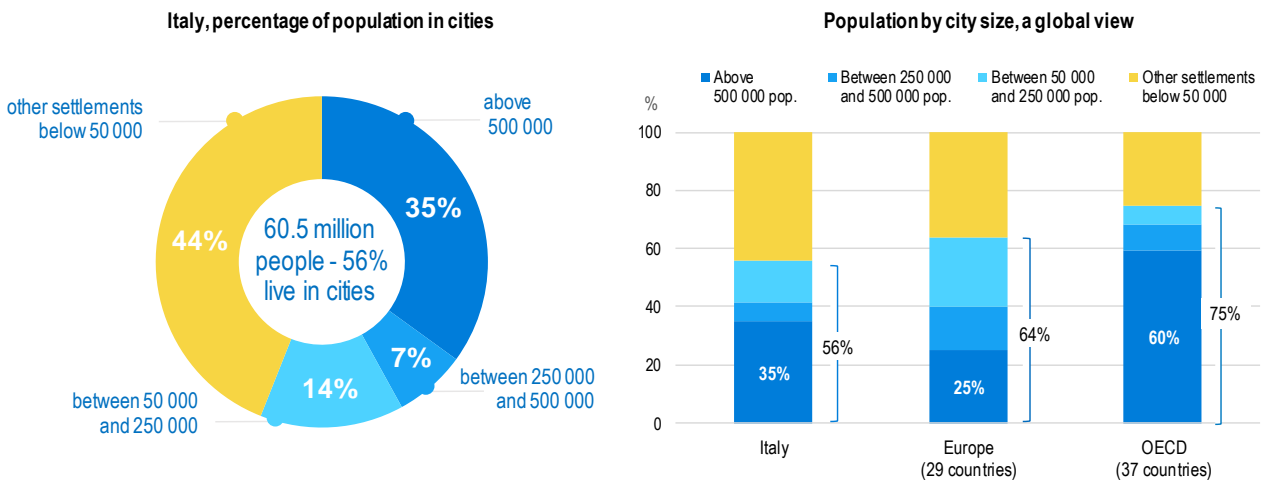




## Compared to the OECD average, Italy has a higher concentration of the population in small- and medium-sized cities

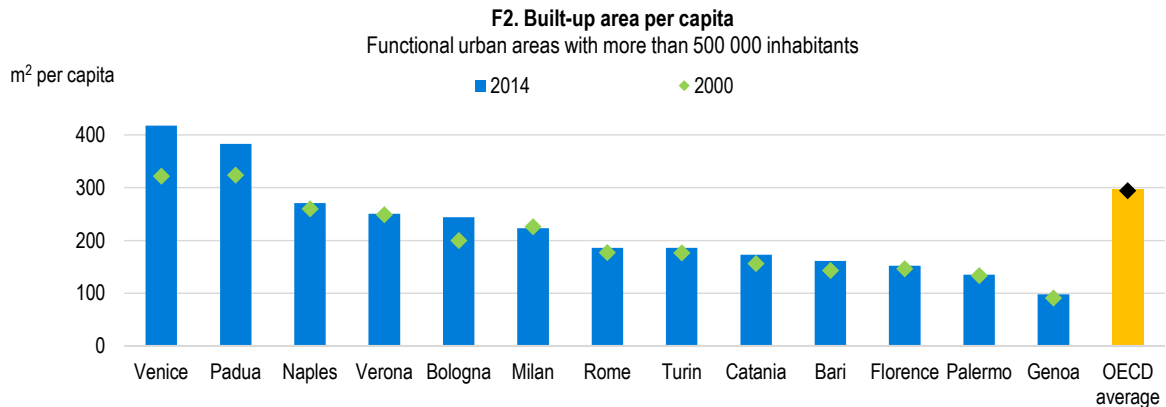
In Italy, 56% of the population lives in cities of more than 50 000 inhabitants and their respective commuting areas (functional urban areas, FUAs). Such a share is 19 percentage points lower than the OECD average. The share of population in metropolitan areas over half a million inhabitants is 35%, compared to 60% in the OECD area (Figure F1).

F1. Distribution of population in cities and their commuting zones by size  
Functional urban areas, 2018



## Built-up areas have increased faster than population in metropolitan areas in North-East Italy

Built-up area per capita has increased in functional urban areas in Italy since 2000, especially in Venice and Padua, which are also the only Italian metropolitan areas with built-up area per capita levels above the OECD average of metropolitan areas (Figure F2).



Source: OECD Metropolitan Database. Number of metropolitan areas with a population of over 500 000: 13 in Italy compared to 351 in the OECD.



## Milan is the richest metropolitan area in Italy and it has increased the gap in GDP per capita with other Italian metropolitan areas since 2000

Milan metropolitan area has the highest GDP per capita in Italy (Figure F3), and is also among the top 26% of OECD metropolitan areas – with more than 500 000 people.

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

