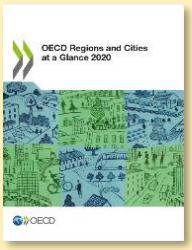


Regions and Cities at a Glance 2020 *provides a comprehensive assessment of how regions and cities across the OECD are progressing in a number of aspects connected to economic development, health, well-being and net zero-carbon transition. In the light of the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic,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

POLAND

A. Resilient regional societies

B. Regional economic disparities

C. Well-being in regions

D. Transitioning to clean energy in regions

E. Metropolitan trends in growth and sustainability

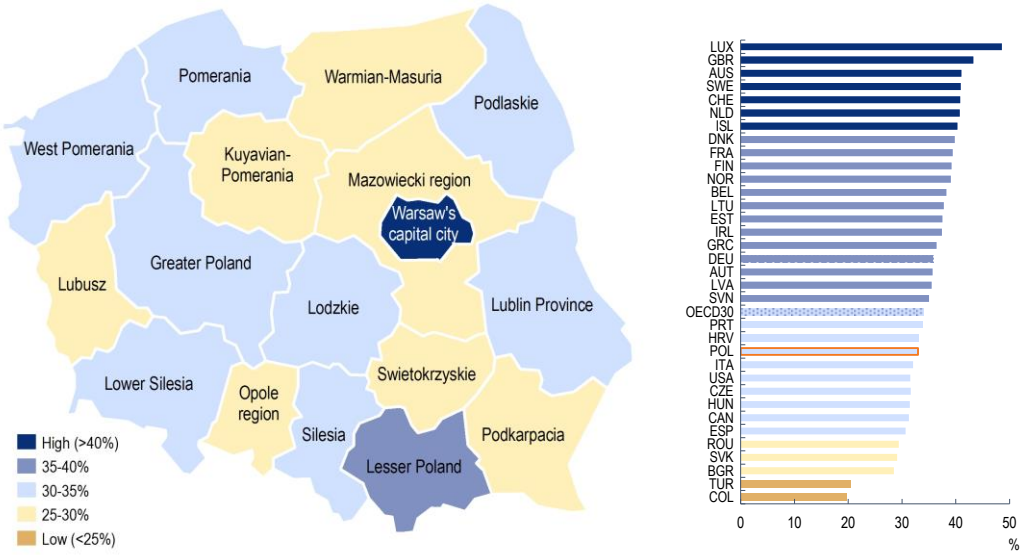
The data in this note reflect different subnational geographic levels in OECD countries:

- **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.

Warsaw's capital city 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 vary greatly across Polish regions, ranging from 48% in the capital city Warsaw to less than 30% in Mazowiecki region, its surrounding region (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. Overall, most Polish regions are below the OECD average in jobs that can be performed remotely.

People living in Swietokrzyskie and the capital city region Warsaw have the highest access to broadband internet across large regions in Poland with almost 90% of the households having broadband internet access (Figure A2).

A2- Internet access

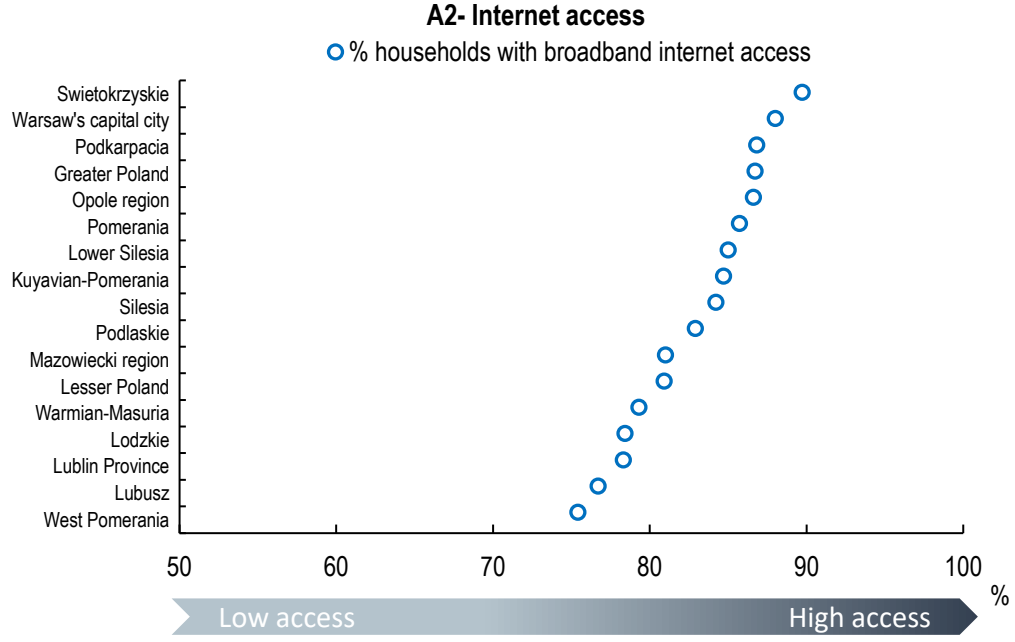
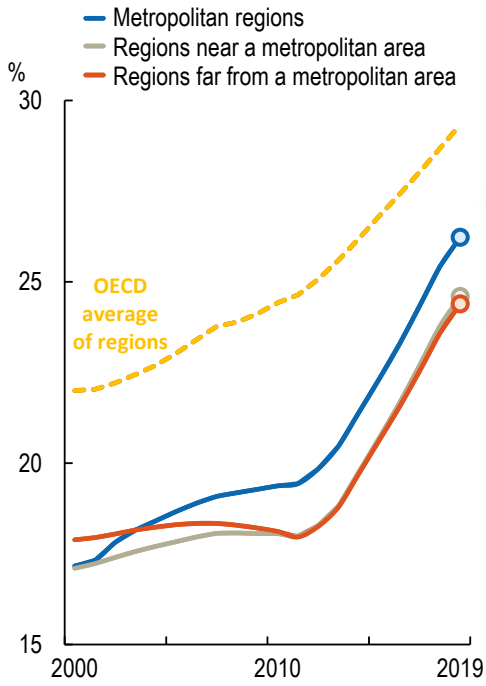


Figure [A1]: The lower percentage range (<25%) depicts the bottom quintile among 370 OECD and EU regions, the following ranges are based on increment of 5 percentage points. Further reading: OECD (2020), Capacity to remote working can affect lockdown costs differently across places, http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/capacity-for-remote-working-can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

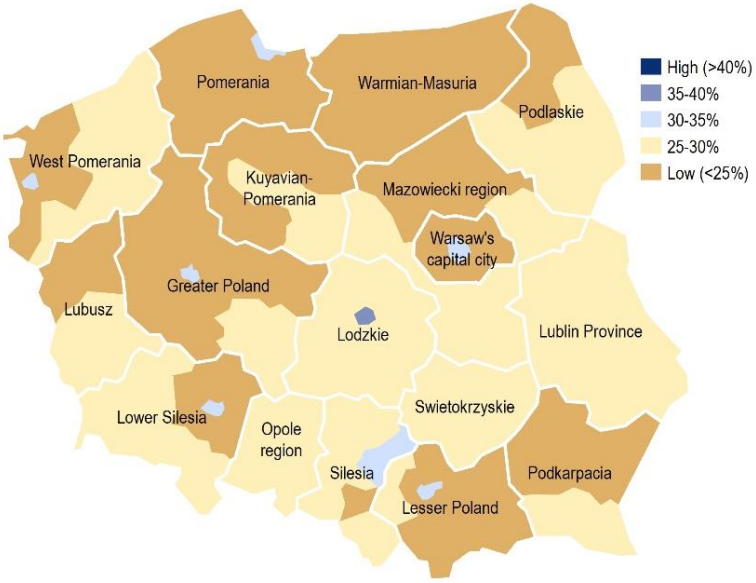
Ageing challenges Polish metropolitan regions more strongly

The elderly dependency rate has been increasing in all types of regions in Poland since 2012. Contrary to most OECD countries, metropolitan regions in Poland have higher elderly dependency rate (27%) than other types of regions (Figure A3). The City of Lódz region has the highest elderly dependency rate in a comparison of small regions, with 36 elderly for every 100 working-age individuals in 2019 (Figure A4).

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



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



Polish regions have more hospital beds per capita than the OECD average

All regions in Poland have more hospital beds per capita than the OECD average, and the availability of hospital beds per capita slightly increased in almost half regions since 2003 (Figure A5). Regional disparities in hospital beds are above the OECD average, with Greater Poland having the lowest number of hospital beds per 1 000 inhabitants in 2017, less than half the level in West Pomerania.

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

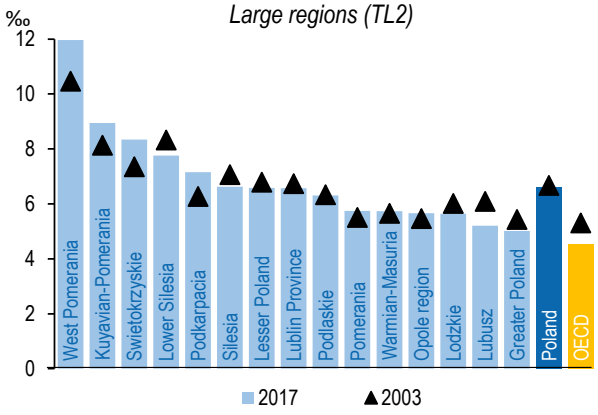


Figure notes. [A3]: OECD (2019), Classification of small (TL3) regions based on metropolitan population, low density and remoteness https://doi.org/10.1787/b902cc00-en. Two-year moving averages. [A4]: Small (TL3) regions contained in large regions. TL3 regions in Poland are composed by 73 Podregiony.

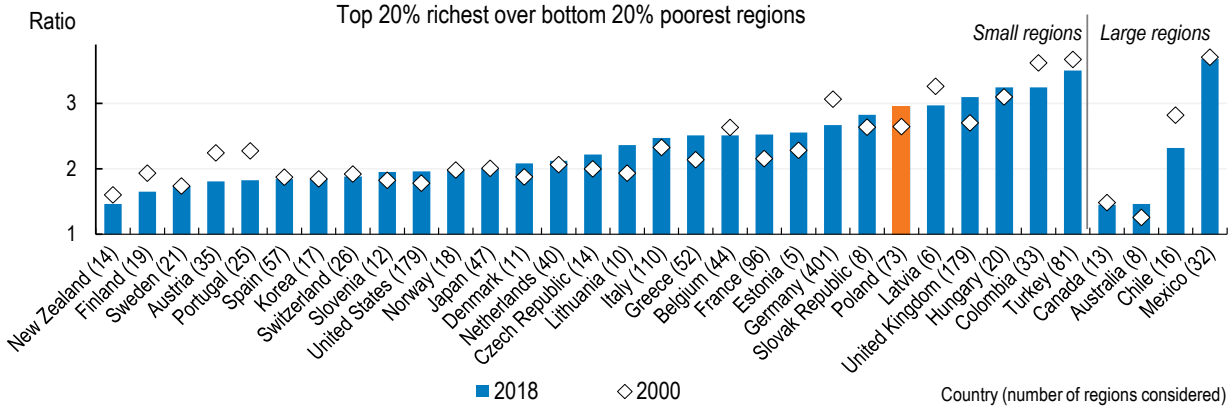
B. Regional economic disparities

Regional economic gaps have increased since 2000, due to higher growth of the most productive regions

Differences between Polish regions in terms of GDP per capita have increased over the last eighteen years. Lublin Province, the poorest region in the country, has a GDP per capita level equivalent to 30% of the GDP per capita in Warsaw region, the richest region, and this difference has grown by 7% since 2000. Poland has the sixth highest regional economic disparities among 29 OECD countries with comparable data (Figure B1).

B1. Regional disparity in GDP per capita

Top 20% richest over bottom 20% poorest regions

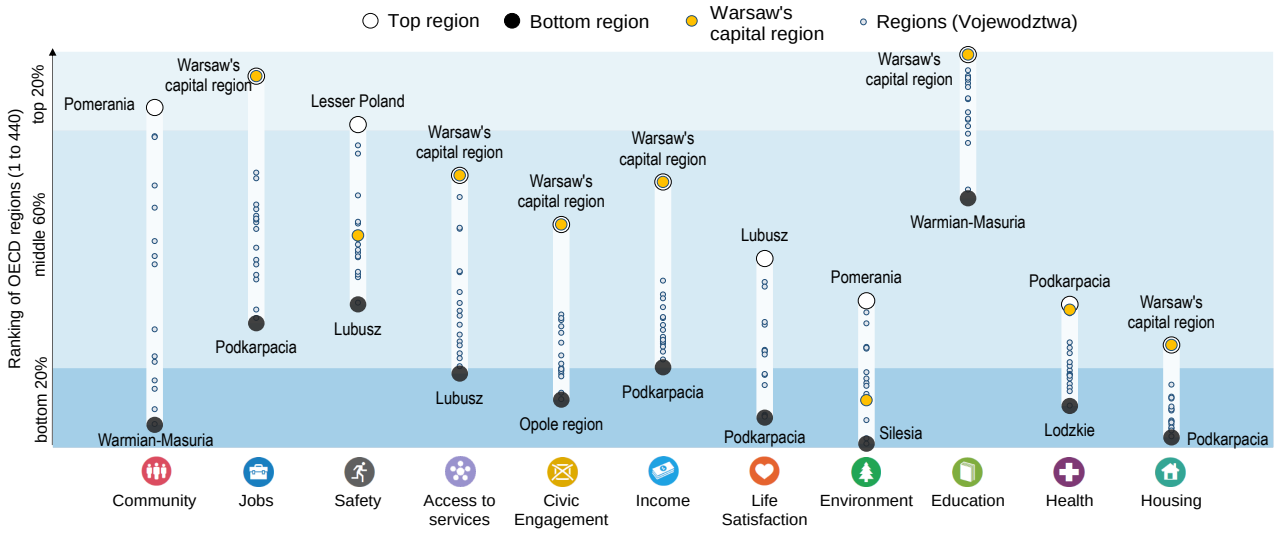


Note: A ratio with a value equal to 2 means that the GDP of the most developed regions accounting for 20% of the national population is twice as high as the GDP of the poorest regions accounting for 20% of the national population.

C. Well-being in regions

Poland faces large regional disparities in 10 out of 11 well-being dimensions, with the largest disparities in the dimensions of community and jobs

C1 Well-being regional gap



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.

While Polish regions are in the bottom 30% of OECD regions in the housing dimension, most Polish regions are among the top 20% of OECD regions in educational outcomes. In contrast, outcomes across regions are very unequal in the dimension of jobs. While Warsaw is in the top 10% of OECD regions in this dimension, Podkarpacia is in the bottom third of OECD regions (Figure C1).

The average of the top performing Polish regions is below the average of the top OECD regions in the majority of well-being indicators, with the exception of unemployment rates and educational attainment (Figure C2).

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

	Country Average	OECD Top 20% regions	Polish regions	
			Top 20%	Bottom 20%
Community				
Perceived social network support (%), 2014-18	86.7	94.1	92.5	86.0
Jobs				
Employment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	68.2	76.0	73.4	64.5
Unemployment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	3.3	3.3	2.2	5.0
Safety				
Homicide Rate (per 100 000 people), 2016-18	1.2	0.7	0.7	1.9
Access to services				
Households with broadband access (%), 2019	80.0	91.3	85.5	75.0
Civic engagement				
Voters in last national election (%), 2019 or latest year	50.9	84.2	67.9	56.2
Income				
Disposable income per capita (in USD PPP), 2018	15 897	26 617	19 531	13 526
Life Satisfaction				
Life satisfaction (scale from 0 to 10), 2014-18	6.0	7.3	6.0	5.7
Environment				
Level of air pollution in PM 2.5 (µg/m³), 2019	22.1	7.0	16.2	30.4
Education				
Population with at least upper secondary education, 25-64 year-olds (%), 2019	92.6	90.3	95.8	89.3
Health				
Life Expectancy at birth (years), 2018	77.9	82.6	79.2	76.7
Age adjusted mortality rate (per 1 000 people), 2018	9.7	6.6	8.8	10.3
Housing				
Rooms per person, 2018	0.9	2.3	1.1	1.1

Note: OECD regions refer to the first administrative tier of subnational government (large regions, Territorial Level 2); Poland is composed of 17 large regions. Visualisation: https://www.oecdregionalwellbeing.org.

D. Transitioning to clean energy in regions

Silesia, Mazowiecki region, and Lodzkie, which account for about half of Polish electricity, still highly rely on coal-fired power for electricity production

The largest producers of electricity in Poland highly rely on coal for electricity generation and have a very limited use of renewable sources. Among the largest producers of electricity in Poland, Silesia, Mazowiecki region and Lodzkie, generate 88% or more of their electricity using coal and less than 5% using renewables. In contrast, Swietokrzyskie – the fourth largest producer of electricity in the country – is making progress towards clean electricity generation. In 2017, Swietokrzyskie produced about half of its electricity using renewable sources – although reducing the use of coal still remains an important challenge (Figure D1).

D1. 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.)	
Silesia	28 913	3%	94%	22 797	Sil.
Mazowiecki region	27 175	4%	88%	21 080	Maz.
Lodzkie	26 309	3%	97%	20 953	Lod.
Swietokrzyskie	13 558	47%	53%	7 337	Swi.
West Pomerania	11 719	38%	62%	6 004	Wes.
Greater Poland	11 036	13%	87%	7 880	Gre.
Lower Silesia	8 779	8%	92%	6 621	Low.
Opole region	7 920	7%	82%	5 746	Opo.
Lesser Poland	6 678	2%	98%	5 358	Les.
Kuyavian-Pomerania	6 495	21%	31%	3 218	Kuy.
Pomerania	5 351	64%	35%	1 616	Pom.
Warsaw's capital city	4 405	1%	99%	3 588	War.
Podkarpacia	3 468	12%	49%	2 073	Pod.
Lubusz	3 140	24%	0%	1 186	Lub.
Lublin Province	2 132	16%	24%	1 051	Lub.
Podlaskie	1 541	45%	55%	708	Pod.
Warmian-Masuria	1 388	87%	13%	162	War.

Relative to the average of OECD regions, carbon efficiency in the production of electricity is very low across Polish regions. While OECD regions emit, on average, 380 tons of CO_2 per gigawatt hour of electricity produced, West Pomerania and Silesia – the top and bottom regions in terms of carbon efficiency in Poland – emit around 510 and 790 tons of CO_2 per gigawatt hour of electricity generated, respectively (D2).

D2. Contribution to total CO_2 emissions from electricity production, 2017

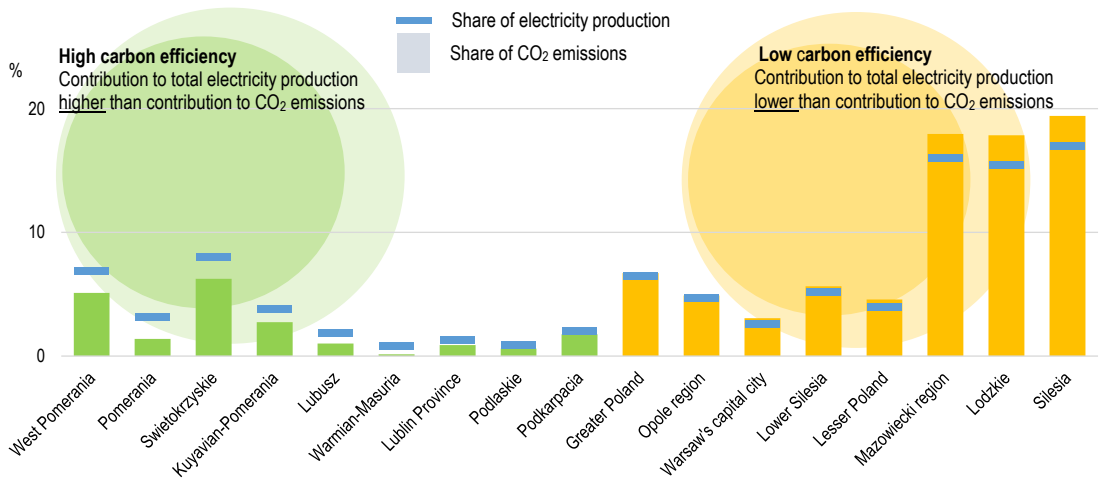


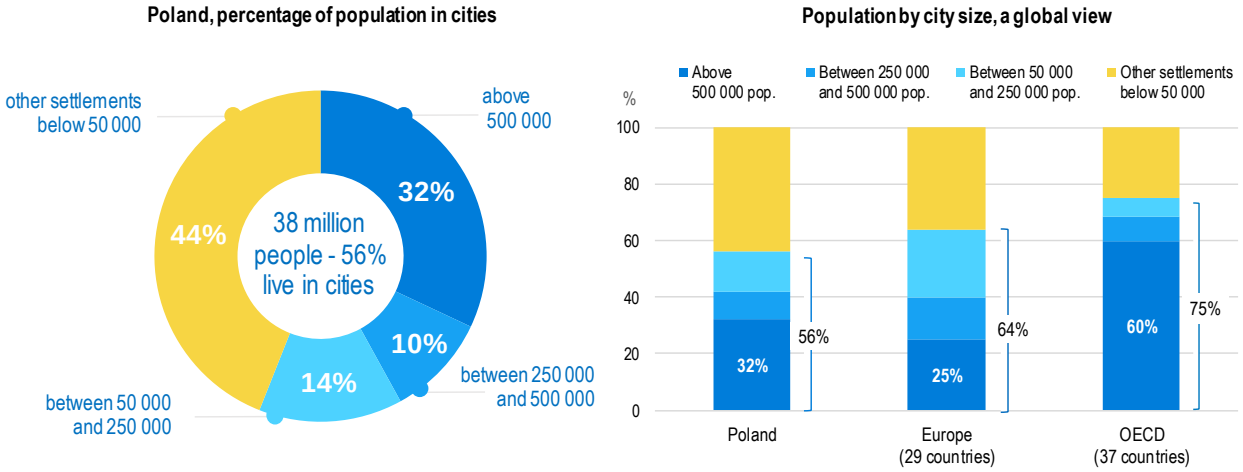
Figure notes: Regions are arranged in Figure D1 by total generation, and in Figure D2 according to gap between share of electricity generation and share of CO_2 emissions (most positive to most negative). These estimates refer to electricity production from the power plants connected to the national 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.

E. Metropolitan trends in growth and sustainability

Compared to the OECD average, Poland has a lower concentration of people in metropolitan areas above 500 thousand inhabitants

In Poland, 56% of the population lives in cities of more than 50 000 inhabitants and their respective commuting areas (functional urban areas, FUAs), which is significantly below the OECD average of 75%. The share of population in FUAs with more than 500 000 people is 32%, around half the OECD average of 60% (Figure E1).

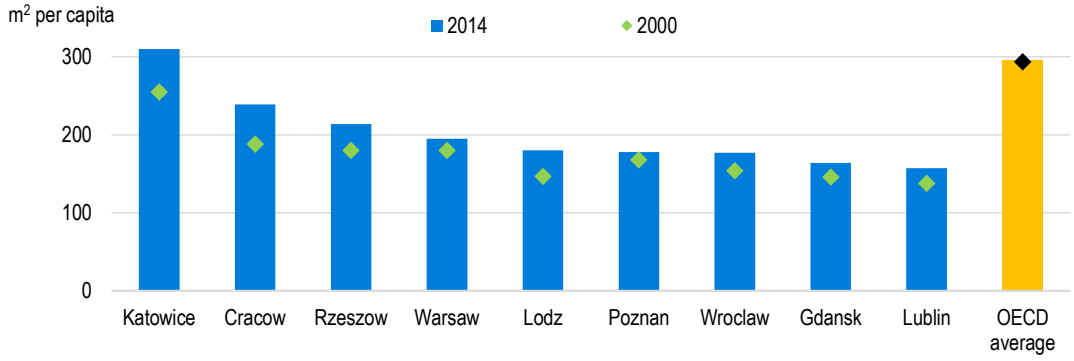
E1. Distribution of population in cities by city size
Functional urban areas, 2018



Built-up area has increased faster than population in all Polish metropolitan areas

Built-up area per capita rose in functional urban areas in Poland since 2000, especially in Katowice, Cracow and Rzeszow, where the difference between the growth of urbanised area and population growth (decline in the case of Katowice) is most pronounced (Figure E2).

E2. Built-up area per capita
Functional urban areas with more than 500 000 population



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

Among OECD metropolitan areas of more than 500 000 inhabitants, Warsaw has recorded the highest growth in GDP per capita since 2000. However, large disparities exist across metropolitan areas in Poland in terms of GDP per capita.

All the metropolitan areas of more than 500 000 inhabitants in Poland have recorded three times higher annual GDP per capita growth than the median of OECD metropolitan areas with more than 500 000 inhabitants. In Warsaw, the average annual growth reaches five times the OECD median value. Warsaw is also in the top 15% of OECD metropolitan areas with the highest GDP per capita, while most metropolitan areas in Poland are below the median value. GDP per capita is 30% higher in Warsaw than in Poznan – which is the second Polish metropolitan area, and two and a half times higher than in Rzeszow (Figure E3).

E3. Trends in GDP per capita in metropolitan areas
Functional urban areas above 500 000 people