

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

SPAIN

- 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

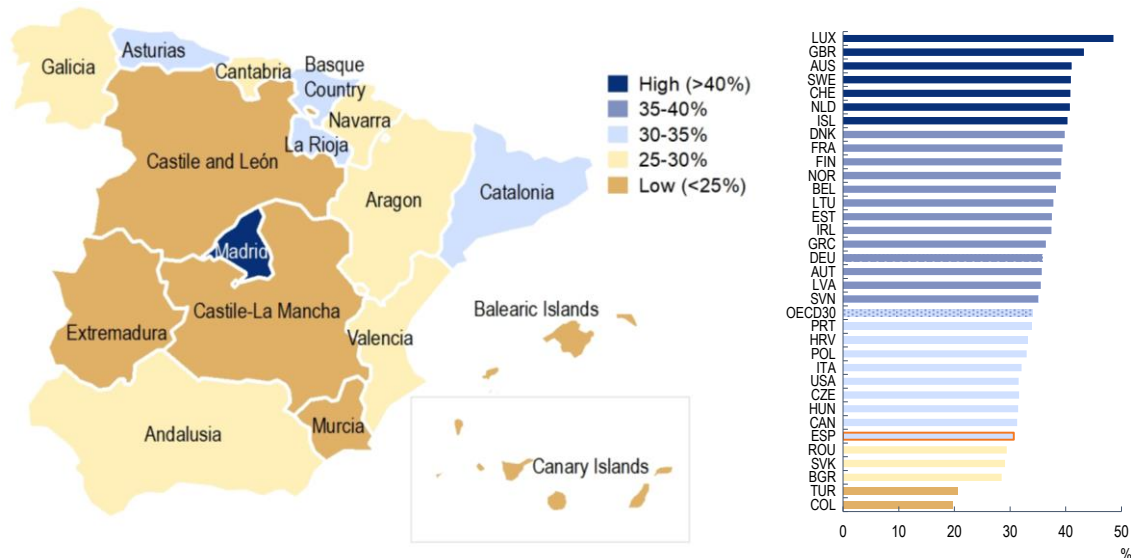
The data in this note reflect different subnational geographic levels in OECD countries:

- **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.

Madrid has the highest remote working potential among Spanish regions

A1. Share of jobs amenable to remote working, 2018

Large regions (TL2, map)



The shares of jobs amenable to remote working in the Spanish regions range from less than one quarter in the Balearic Islands and Extremadura to 41% in Madrid (Figure A1). Such differences depend on the task content of the occupations in the regions, which differ in the extent of being amenable to remote working. As in all other OECD countries, occupations available in cities tend to be more amenable to remote working than in other less densely populated areas.

While remote working requires a large part of the population to have access to fast and efficient internet connections not all regions in Spain benefit from similar levels of digital infrastructure. Madrid and Basque Country have the highest fiber optic availability across regions in Spain with more than 90% of buildings connected to the network, whereas Galicia is the least covered region, with 50% of the buildings connected to fiber in 2019 (Figure A2).

A2- Internet infrastructure

Share of buildings connected, 2019

○ Fiber ○ ADSL - 2Mbps

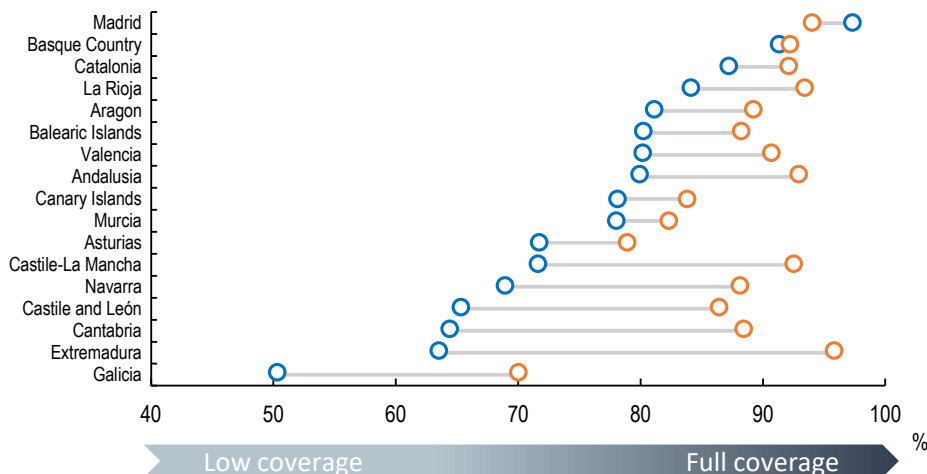
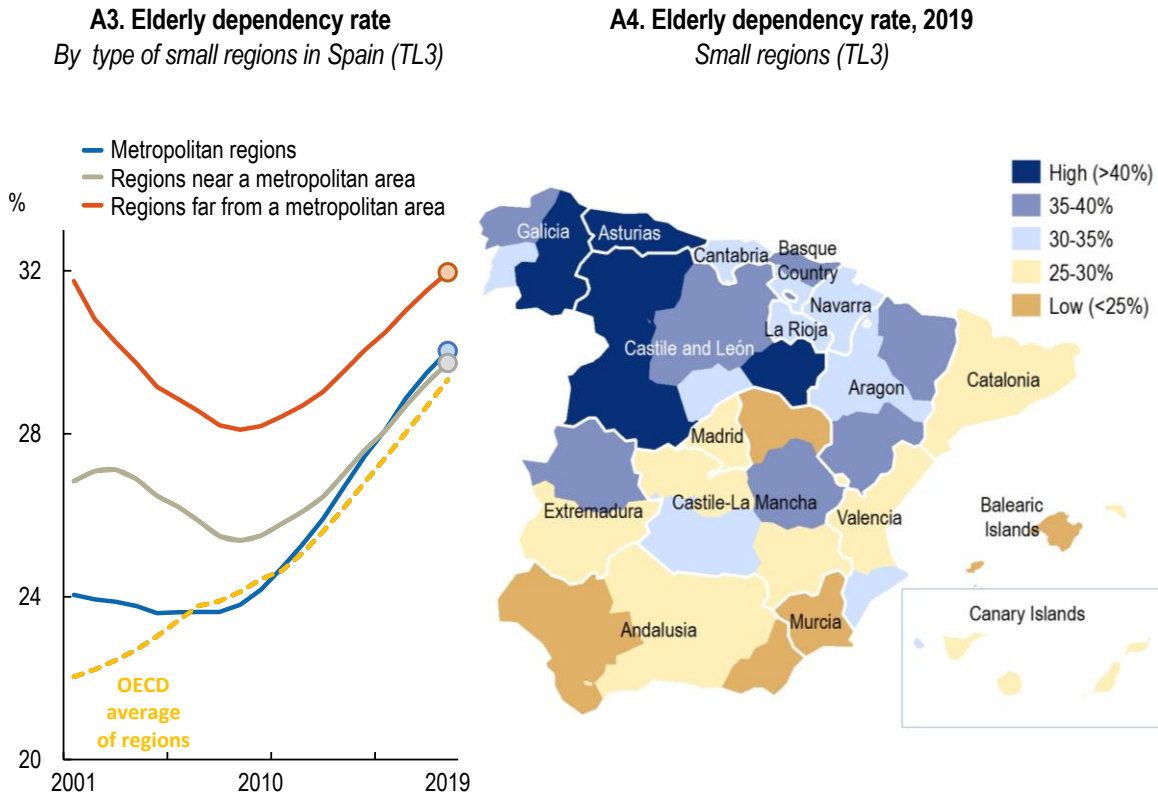


Figure [A1]: The lower percentage range (<25%) depicts the bottom quintile among 370 OECD and EU regions, the following ranges are based on increment of 5 percentage points. Further reading: OECD (2020), Capacity to remote working can affect lockdown costs differently across places <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/capacity-for-remote-working-can-affect-lockdown-costs-differently-across-places-0e85740e/>. Figure [A2]: figure excludes Ceuta and Melilla, which have respectively 91 and 100% of buildings connected to fiber.

Ageing challenges regions far from metropolitan areas more strongly, especially in the north west of Spain

After a period of stability or slight decrease, the elderly dependency rate has increased in all types of regions in Spain since 2010 and are now above the OECD average. Regions far from metropolitan areas have the highest elderly dependency rate (32%) among different types of regions (Figure A3). In 8 out of 59 provinces – all being regions far from metropolitan area, except Asturias, a metropolitan region –, there are two elderly for every five working-age persons in 2019 (Figure A4).



All Spanish regions have fewer hospital beds per capita than the OECD average

The number of hospital beds per capita has fallen in all Spanish regions between 2000 and 2018, except in Murcia and La Rioja (Figure A5). The decline was particularly significant in the Canary and Balearic Islands. Hospital beds per capita in Catalonia, the region with the highest relative availability of hospital beds in the country, still fall below the OECD average. Regional disparities in hospital beds are below OECD average. Andalusia, the region with the lowest availability in 2017, had 1.3 fewer hospital beds per 1000 inhabitants than Catalonia.

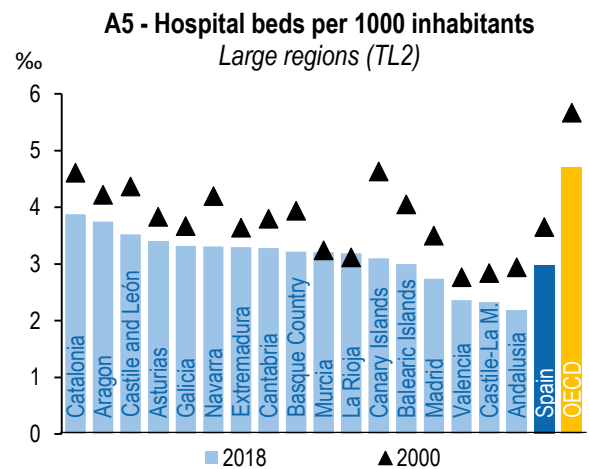


Figure notes. [A3]: OECD (2019), Classification of small (TL3) regions based on metropolitan population, low density and remoteness <https://doi.org/10.1787/b902cc00-en>. [A4]: Small regions contained in large regions. TL3 regions in Spain are composed by 59 provincias. [A5]: Ceuta and Melilla data are excluded from the figure.

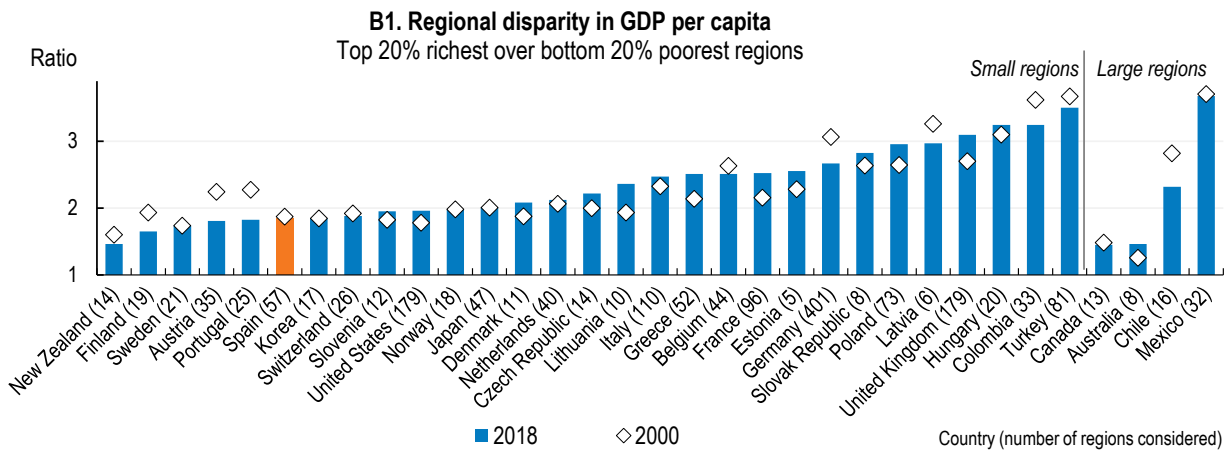
B. Regional economic disparities and trends in productivity

With growth in both less and more developed regions, regional economic disparities have remained stable in Spain since 2000.

Since 2000, differences between Spanish regions in GDP per capita have remained stable at relatively low levels compared to other OECD countries (Figure B1). Notwithstanding relatively low disparities, GDP per capita in the region of Madrid is more than twice as high as in Extremadura. Regional economic disparities remained stable due to sustained rates of economic growth in both the richest and poorest regions.

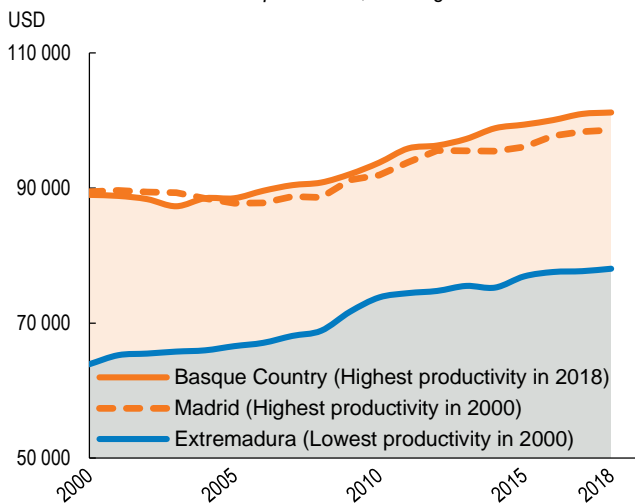
With a productivity growth of 1.1% per year between 2000 and 2018, Extremadura, the region with the lowest productivity at the beginning of the period, has reduced its gap with the Basque Country (+0.7% per year), the region with the highest level of productivity in 2018 (Figure B2).

Since the 2008 crisis, regions far from metropolitan areas have narrowed their productivity gap with metropolitan regions by 1.5 percentage points and now reach 97% of the productivity level observed in metropolitan regions (Figure B3).

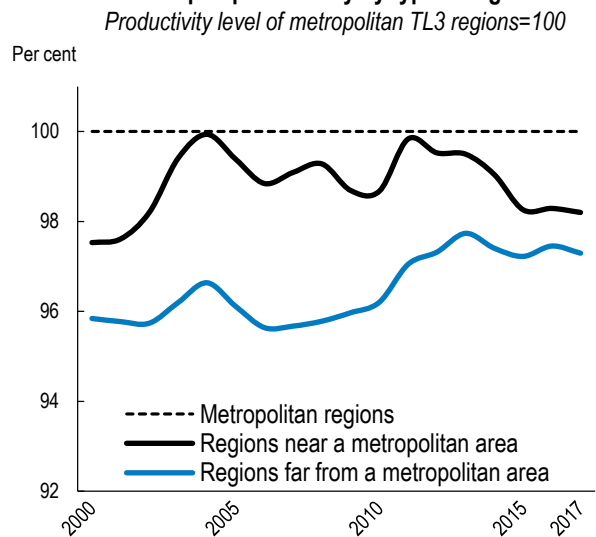


Note: A ratio with a value equal to 2 means that the GDP of the most developed regions accounting for 20% of the national population is twice as high as the GDP of the poorest regions accounting for 20% of the national population.

B2. Gap in regional productivity
GDP per worker, TL2 regions

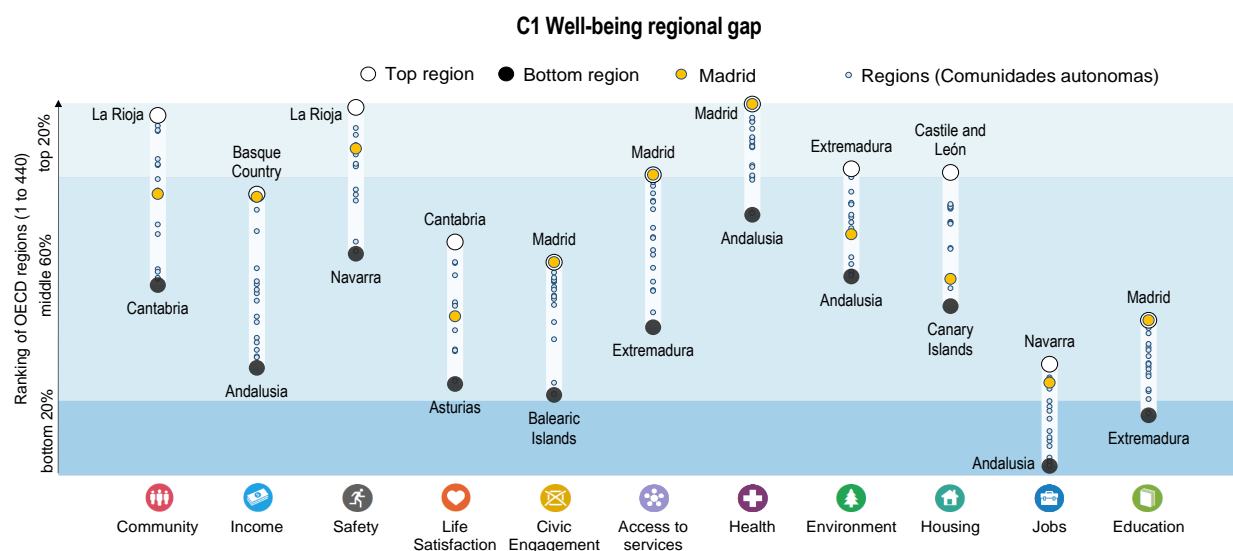


B3. Gap in productivity by type of region



C. Well-being in regions

In Spain, regional disparities in people's well-being are largest in the dimensions of community, income and safety



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.

Spain faces stark regional disparities in all well-being dimensions. However, the largest regional disparities are observed in the dimensions of community and income. Spain has the fourth largest regional disparities in household income among all OECD countries. While the Basque Country is among the top 25% of OECD regions in terms of household income, Andalusia ranks in the bottom 30%. The performance of Spanish regions differs significantly across well-being dimensions. While 15 out of 17 Spanish regions are among the top 20% of OECD regions in terms of health (with high life expectancy and low mortality rate), 11 out of 17 regions are among the bottom 20% in terms of jobs (with low employment and high unemployment rates) (Figure C1).

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

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

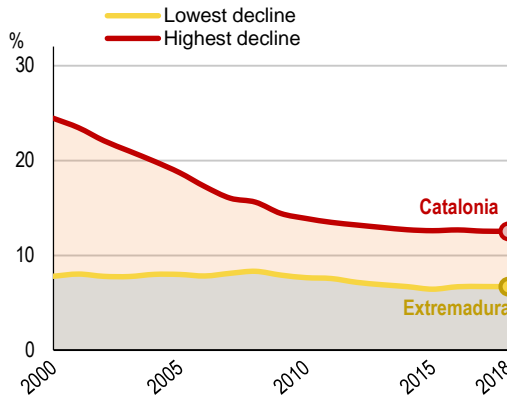
	Country Average	OECD Top 20% regions	Spanish regions	
			Top 20%	Bottom 20%
Community				
Perceived social network support (%), 2014-18	93.0	94.1	95.4	91.1
Income				
Disposable income per capita (in USD PPP), 2018	19 286	26 617	24 403	15 133
Safety				
Homicide Rate (per 100 000 people), 2016-18	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.9
Life Satisfaction				
Life satisfaction (scale from 0 to 10), 2014-18	6.4	7.3	6.6	6.2
Civic engagement				
Voters in last national election (%), 2019 or latest year	69.7	84.2	73.8	64.2
Access to services				
Households with broadband access (%), 2019	86.7	91.3	90.9	82.9
Health				
Life Expectancy at birth (years), 2018	83.2	82.6	85.1	82.1
Age adjusted mortality rate (per 1 000 people), 2018	6.6	6.6	5.8	7.3
Environment				
Level of air pollution in PM2.5 (µg/m ³), 2019	11.5	7.0	7.9	11.8
Housing				
Rooms per person, 2018	1.9	2.3	2.2	1.8
Jobs				
Employment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	63.3	76.0	68.9	54.8
Unemployment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	14.2	3.3	10.1	21.4
Education				
Population with at least upper secondary education, 25-64 year-olds (%), 2019	61.3	90.3	73.4	51.3

Note: OECD regions refer to the first administrative tier of subnational government (large regions, Territorial Level 2); Spain is composed by Spain is composed of 19 large regions. C1: Ceuta and Melilla are excluded from the figure. Visualisation: <https://www.oecdregionalwellbeing.org>.



The contribution of manufacturing to the economy has declined in all Spanish regions since 2000, both in terms of employment and gross value added

D1. Manufacturing employment share, regional gap



Between 2000 and 2018, all large regions in Spain experienced a decline in the share of manufacturing employment. With a reduction of 12 pp, this decline was greatest in Catalonia, the largest employer region in Spain (Figure D1).

The sharp decline in manufacturing employment coincided in all Spanish regions with a fall in the share of gross value added of manufacturing between 2000 and 2018. In the Basque Country and La Rioja, manufacturing jobs went from one in four in 2000 to one in six in 2018 (Figure D2).

D2. Manufacturing trends, 2000-18

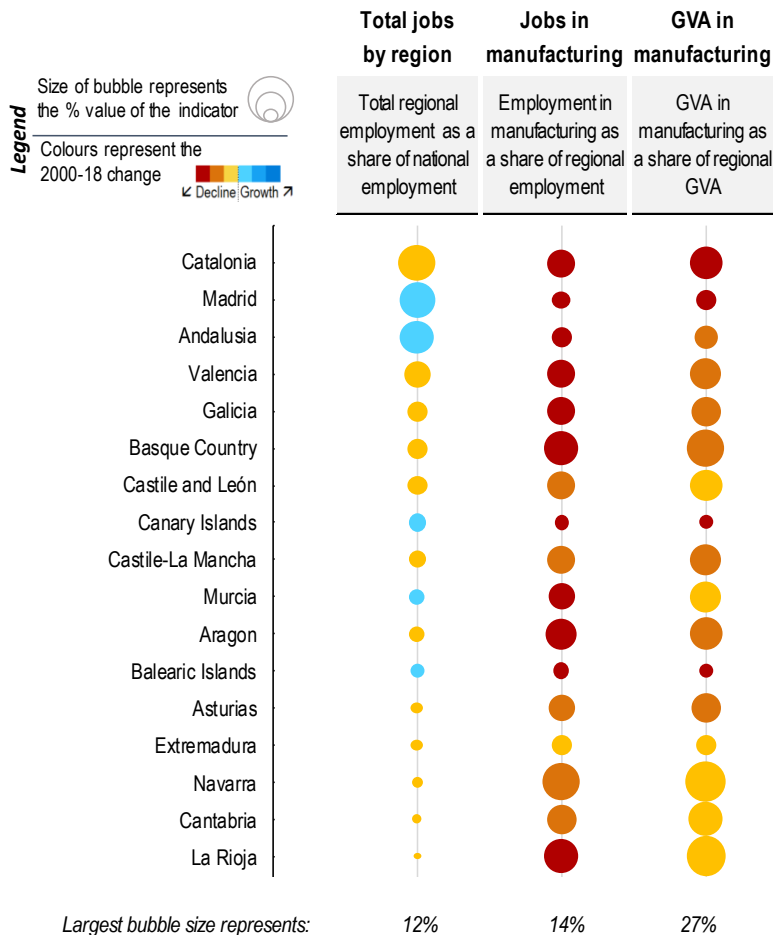


Figure D.1: Ceuta recorded a slight increase in manufacturing employment in 2000-18, but is not represented in the figure due to low employment share in manufacturing (close to 1%). Figure D.2: Regions are ordered by regional employment as a share of national employment. Colour of the bubbles represents 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

Four regions account for half of Spain's electricity production. While two regions are coal-free, others heavily rely on coal for electricity generation

Catalonia and Extremadura, which generate 23% of Spanish electricity, have fully abolished the use of coal for electricity production. What is more, in 2017, Extremadura produced 34% of its electricity using renewable sources. In contrast, Andalusia and Castile and León – which together account for 26% of electricity in Spain – are lagging behind in the transition to low-carbon electricity. Although, they have made some progress in adopting renewables, they produced 24 and 48% of their electricity in 2017 using coal, respectively (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 ₂ eq.)	
Andalusia	44 479	39%	24%	18 314	And.
Catalonia	38 381	8%	0%	5 457	Cat.
Castile and León	27 017	51%	48%	10 938	Cas.
Extremadura	24 760	34%	0%	527	Ext.
Castile-La Mancha	24 199	57%	0%	1 467	Cas.
Valencia	23 155	32%	0%	3 721	Val.
Aragon	19 011	44%	31%	7 272	Ara.
Galicia	17 496	62%	17%	4 426	Gal.
Asturias	15 514	14%	72%	10 281	Ast.
Murcia	8 652	22%	0%	3 587	Mur.
Canary Islands	6 704	1%	0%	4 347	Can.
Balearic Islands	6 574	5%	43%	4 382	Bal.
Basque Country	6 314	6%	0%	3 348	Bas.
Navarra	4 361	31%	0%	1 497	Nav.
La Rioja	2 602	26%	0%	949	La .
Cantabria	779	100%	0%	16	Can.
Madrid	142	100%	0%	3	Mad.

Carbon efficiency in electricity generation is very unequal across Spanish regions. While Extremadura and Catalonia release less than 150 tons of CO₂ per gigawatt hour of electricity produced, Asturias and Andalusia emit around 660 and 410 tons of CO₂ per gigawatt hour, respectively. In 2017, Andalusia released 22% of Spain's CO₂ emissions from electricity production, although it only generated 16% of the electricity (Figure E2).

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

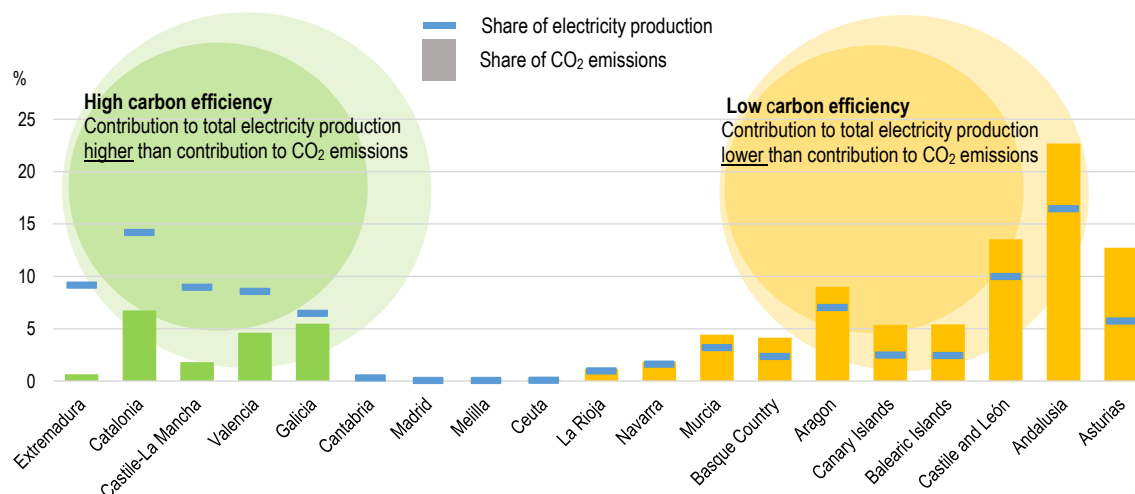


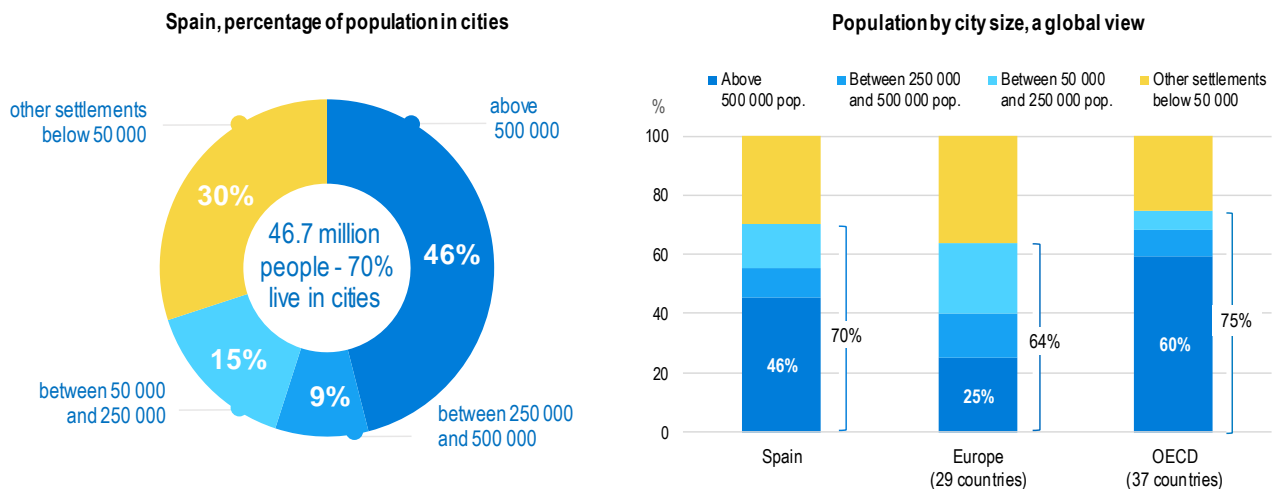
Figure notes: Regions are arranged in Figure E1 by total generation, and in Figure E2 according to gap between share of electricity generation and share of CO₂ emissions (most positive to most negative). These estimates refer to electricity production from the power plants connected to the national power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



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

In Spain, 70% of the population lives in cities of more than 50 000 inhabitants and their respective commuting zones (functional urban areas, FUAs). The share of population in FUAs with more than half million people is 46%, 14 percentage point less than the OECD average (Figure F1).

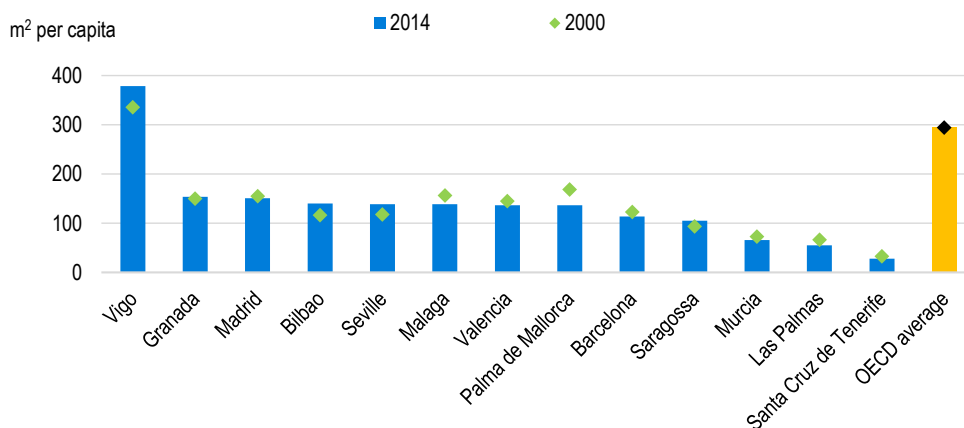
F1. Distribution of population in cities by city size
Functional urban areas, 2018



Vigo is the only metropolitan area with built-up area per capita above the OECD average

Built-up area per capita increased in the metropolitan areas of Vigo, Bilbao, Seville and Saragossa between 2000 and 2014 but fell or remained stable in the others. Vigo is the only Spanish metropolitan area with a level of built-up area per capita above the OECD average of metropolitan areas (Figure F2).

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



The Bilbao metropolitan area has been catching up to Madrid in terms of GDP per capita since 2000

With an average GDP per capita growth of 1.2% per year, Bilbao metropolitan area had the highest economic growth in Spain between 2000 and 2018, almost twice as high that of Madrid, the richest metropolitan area in Spain (Figure E3). In terms of GDP per capita levels, the metropolitan area of Madrid, Bilbao and Barcelona rank above the median of the 247 OECD metropolitan areas with more than half a million inhabitants.

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

