

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

SWEDEN

- 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

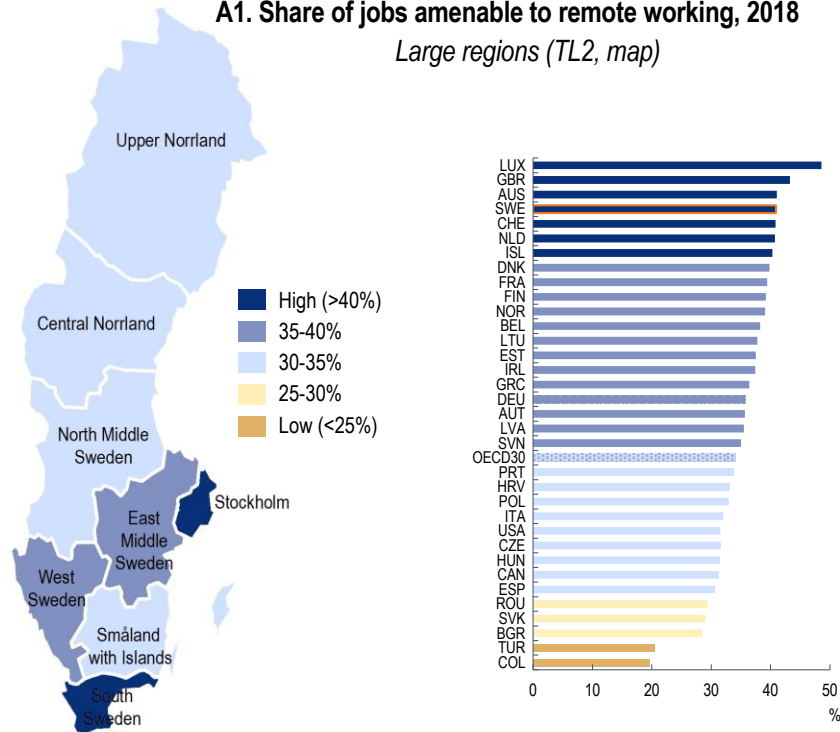
The data in this note reflect different subnational geographic levels in OECD countries:

- **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.

Stockholm has the highest potential for remote working

A1. Share of jobs amenable to remote working, 2018

Large regions (TL2, map)



The share of jobs amenable to remote working across Swedish regions range from close to 50% in Stockholm to 33% in North Middle Sweden (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. As for the other OECD countries, the occupations available in cities, especially in capitals, tend to be more amenable to remote working than in other areas of the country.

Fast internet connections are crucial to ensure people seize the opportunity of digitalisation, including remote working. In 2017, Stockholm had the highest fiber optic availability across large regions in Sweden with 85% of the buildings connected to the network (Figure A2).

A2- Internet infrastructure

Share of buildings connected, 2017

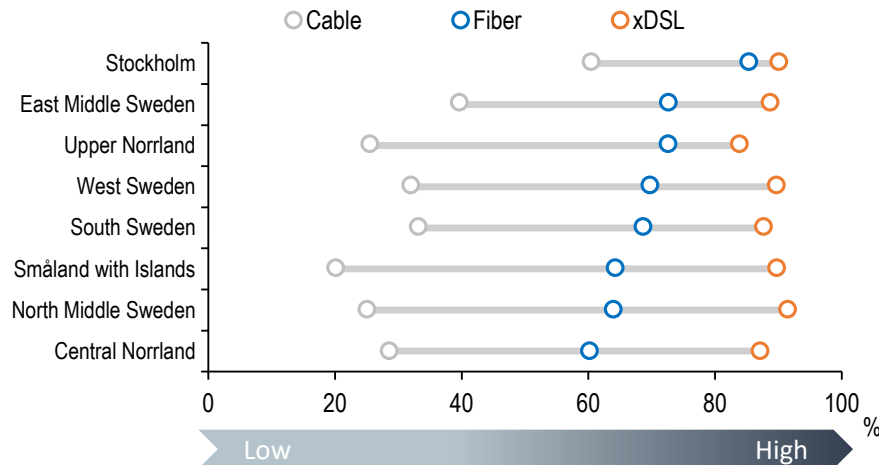
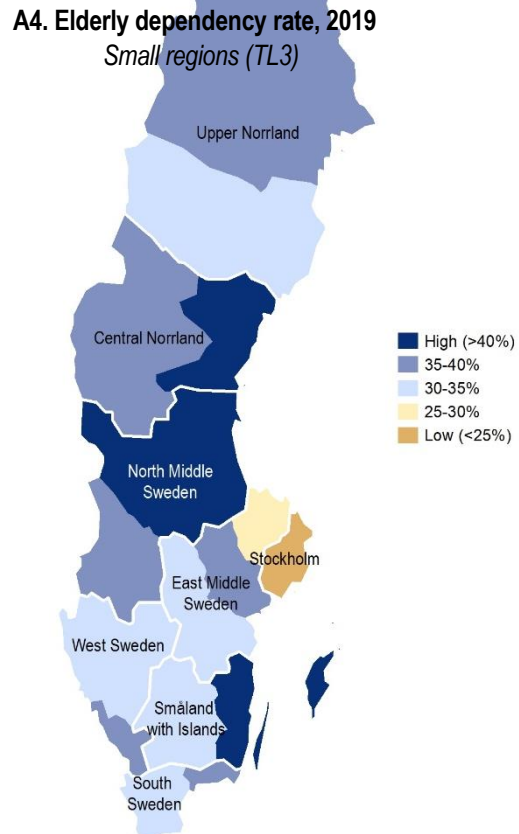
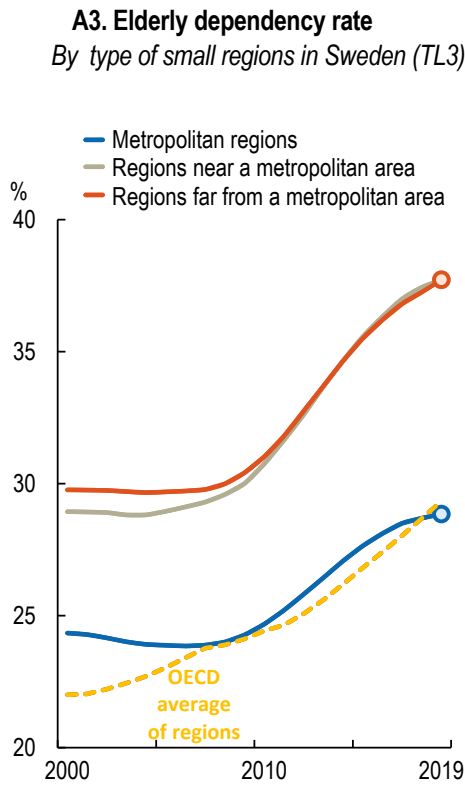


Figure [A1]: The lower percentage range (<25%) depicts the bottom quintile among 370 OECD and EU regions, the following ranges are based on increment of 5 percentage points. Further reading: OECD (2020), Capacity to remote working can affect lockdown costs differently across places, <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/capacity-for-remote-working-ca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

In 38% of the small regions in Sweden, there are two elderly for every three persons in their working-age in 2019

The elderly dependency rate has been increasing in all types of regions in Sweden since 2010. Metropolitan regions show the lowest elderly dependency rate (29%), which is in line with the OECD average (Figure A3). In 8 out of 21 small regions in Sweden, there are two elderly for every five persons in their working-age in 2019 (Figure A4).



Hospital beds per capita have declined in all Swedish regions since 2000 and now are significantly below the OECD average

All regions in Sweden have significantly less hospital beds per capita than the OECD average. The number of hospital beds per capita has declined in all regions since 2000 (Figure A5). The number of beds per capita is homogenous across Swedish regions, ranging from 2 to 2.4 beds per 1000 inhabitants in 2018.

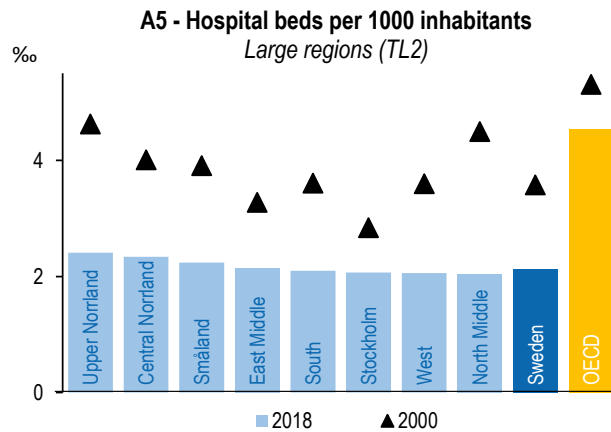


Figure notes. [A3]: OECD (2019), Classification of small (TL3) regions based on metropolitan population, low density and remoteness <https://doi.org/10.1787/b902cc00-en>. [A4]: Small (TL3) regions contained in large regions. TL3 regions in Sweden are composed by 21 Län.

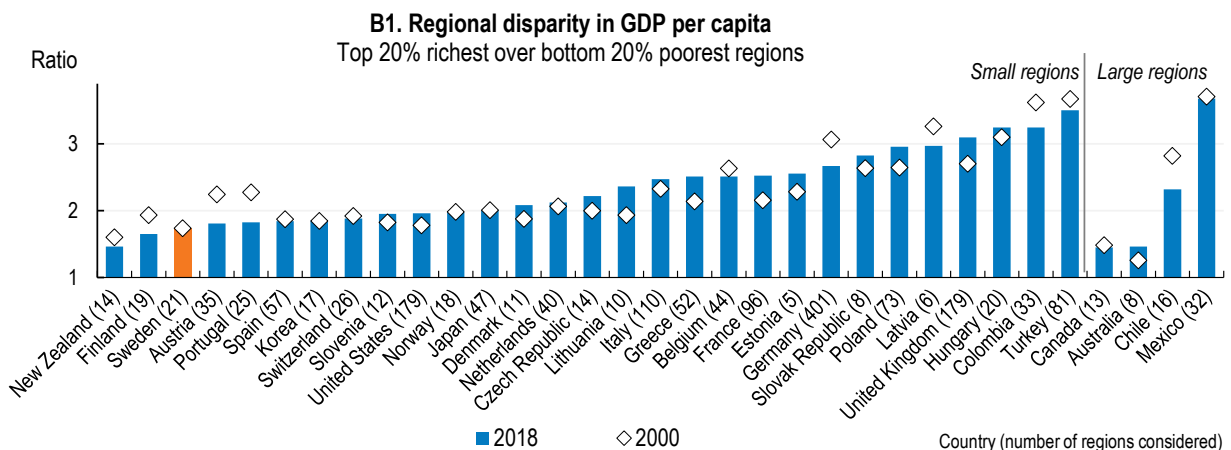
B. Regional economic disparities and trends in productivity

Regional economic disparities remain low in Sweden and most regions are keeping pace with Stockholm in terms of productivity growth.

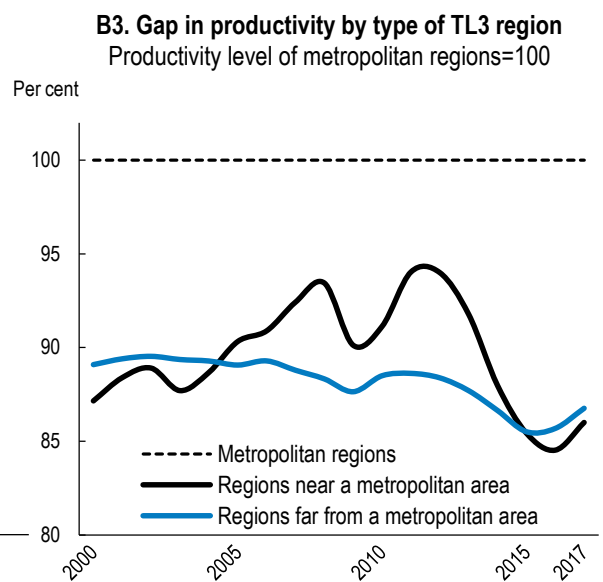
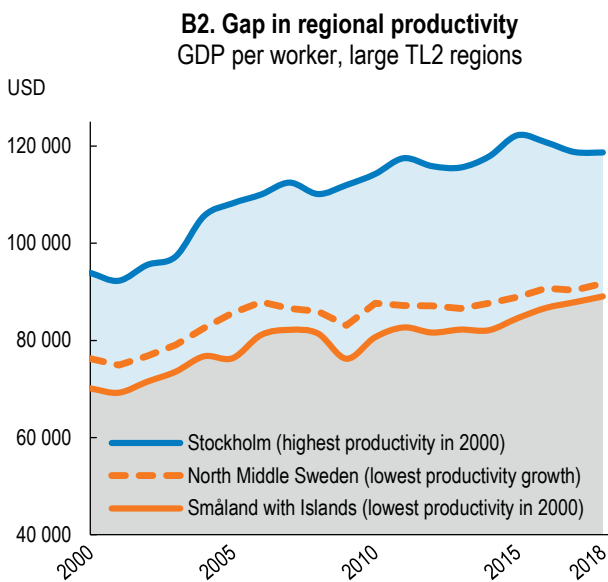
Regional disparities in terms of GDP per capita remained stable in Sweden over the last eighteen years, with GDP per capita in South Sweden being 63% of that in Stockholm in 2018, the region with the highest GDP per capita in the country. Only two out of 29 OECD countries with comparable data report lower regional differences in GDP per capita than Sweden, which remains a country with low regional economic disparities in comparative terms (Figure B1).

With a productivity growth of 1.3% per year over the period 2000-18, the Småland with Islands region is keeping pace with Stockholm, the frontier Swedish region in terms of productivity. On the other hand, North Middle Sweden, where productivity growth was the lowest at 1% per year in 2000-18, has increased the productivity gap with Stockholm (Figure B2).

Regions far from a metropolitan area of at least 250 000 inhabitants slightly increased their productivity gap with metropolitan regions since 2000 (Figure B3).

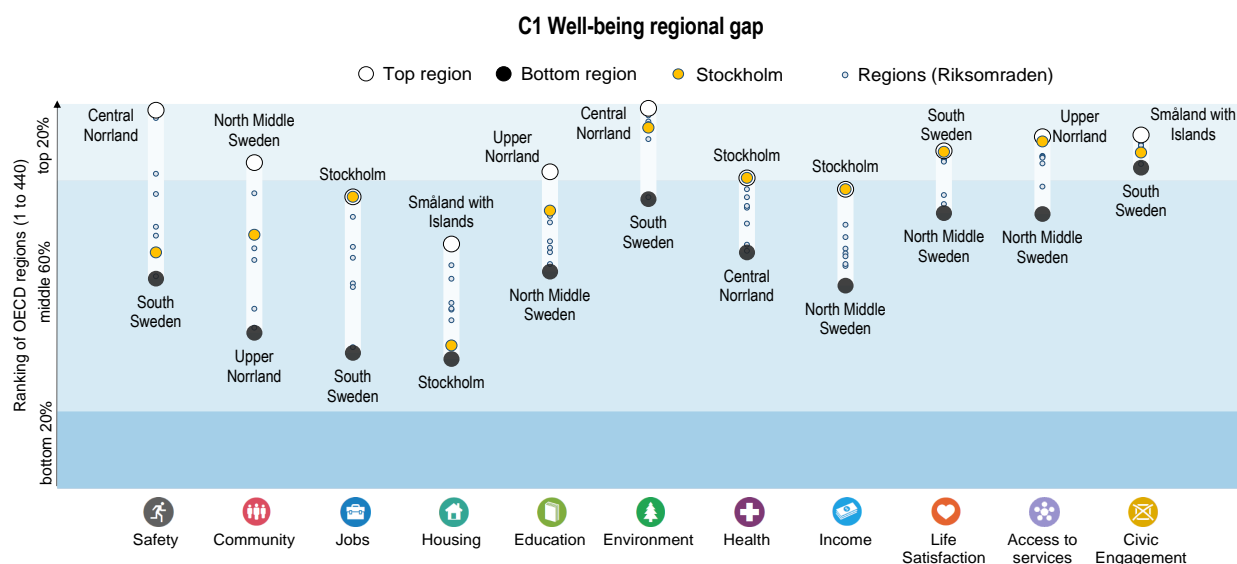


Note: A ratio with a value equal to 2 means that the GDP of the most developed regions accounting for 20% of the national population is twice as high as the GDP of the poorest regions accounting for 20% of the national population.



C. Well-being in regions

While well-being in Swedish regions is generally high in comparative terms, regional disparities are stark in sense of community, jobs, and housing, where some regions rank below the OECD median.



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 tends to be high in Swedish regions, which all rank in the top 20% of OECD regions in terms of civic engagement. However, stark regional disparities exist in some well-being aspects, such as safety, housing, sense of community, and jobs. For example, while Central Norrland is in the top 10% of OECD regions in terms of safety (homicide rate), South Sweden is in the middle 60% of OECD regions (Figure C1).

The top performing Swedish regions rank above the average of the top OECD regions in six out of 13 well-being indicators, particularly in terms of homicide rates and exposure to air pollution (Figure C2).

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

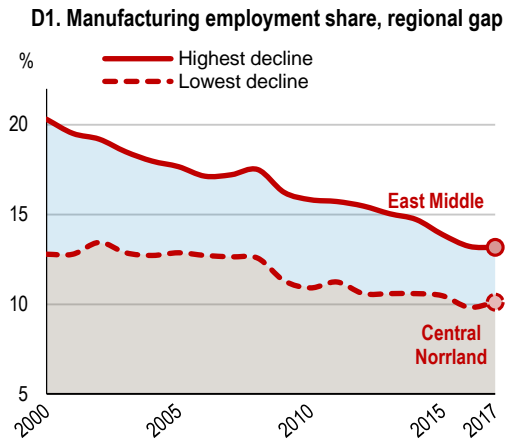
	Country Average	OECD Top 20% regions	Swedish regions	
			Top 20%	Bottom 20%
Safety				
Homicide Rate (per 100 000 people), 2016-18	0.8	0.7	0.4	1.2
Community				
Perceived social network support (%), 2014-18	91.8	94.1	93.8	89.7
Jobs				
Employment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	77.1	76.0	79.5	73.6
Unemployment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	7.1	3.3	6.3	8.9
Housing				
Rooms per person, 2018	1.7	2.3	1.7	1.7
Education				
Population with at least upper secondary education, 25-64 year-olds (%), 2019	86.1	90.3	88.6	83.6
Environment				
Level of air pollution in PM 2.5 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), 2019	6.5	7.0	4.7	7.4
Health				
Life Expectancy at birth (years), 2018	82.5	82.6	83.0	82.1
Age adjusted mortality rate (per 1 000 people), 2018	7.3	6.6	7.0	7.6
Income				
Disposable income per capita (in USD PPP), 2018	22 820	26 617	25 844	21 343
Life Satisfaction				
Life satisfaction (scale from 0 to 10), 2014-18	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.2
Access to services				
Households with broadband access (%), 2019	93.0	91.3	94.1	91.5
Civic engagement				
Voters in last national election (%), 2019 or latest year	85.8	84.2	87.9	86.4

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



D. Industrial transition in regions

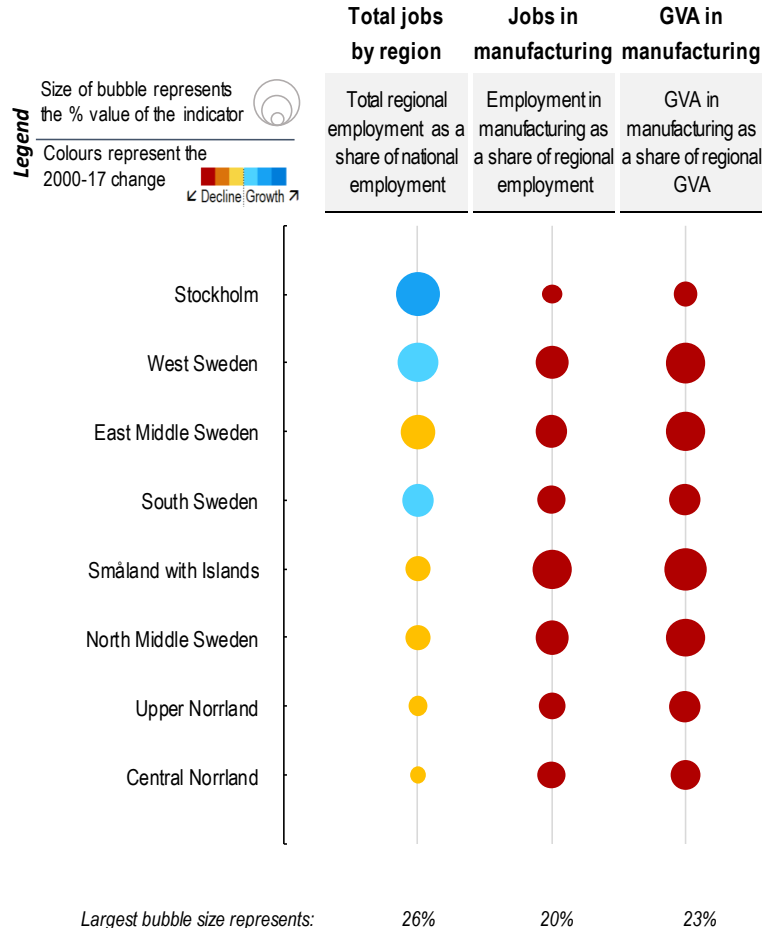
Manufacturing employment has declined in all Swedish regions since 2000, along with manufacturing gross value added



Between 2000 and 2017, all large regions in Sweden experienced a decline in the share of employment in manufacturing. Such a decline was largest in the East Middle Sweden region, where manufacturing employment fell by 7 percentage points (Figure D1).

The decline in manufacturing employment has coincided with a fall in manufacturing gross value-added in all Swedish regions between 2000 and 2017 (Figure D2). In 2017, the regions of Stockholm, West and South Sweden concentrated a higher share of national employment than in 2000.

D2. Manufacturing trends, 2000-17



Note figure D.2. : Regions are ordered by regional employment as a share of national employment. Colour code of the bubbles: red: below -2% per year; orange: between -2% and -1%; yellow: between -1% and 0%; light blue: between 0% and +1%; medium blue: between +1% and +2%; dark blue: above +2% per year.



E. Transitioning to clean energy in regions

The production of electricity using renewable sources was low in West and East Middle Sweden in 2017, two regions that together accounted for one-third of total electricity produced in Sweden

All Swedish regions have practically abandoned the use of coal to generate electricity. In 2017, only East Middle Sweden produced a low share of its electricity using coal – 4% of its total production. On the other hand, the use of renewable sources for electricity generation is unequal across Swedish regions – including for the largest electricity producers. In 2017, Upper Norrland, which alone accounts for 23% of the country's electricity, generated 100% of its electricity using renewables, whereas West and East Middle Sweden, which together contribute to 36% of Swedish electricity, produced less than 18% of their electricity using renewable sources (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.)	
Upper Norrland	37 072	100%	0%	851	Upp.
West Sweden	30 150	11%	0%	601	Wes.
East Middle Sweden	28 090	18%	4%	2 028	Eas.
Central Norrland	24 212	100%	0%	459	Cen.
Småland with Islands	18 177	4%	0%	219	Små.
South Sweden	9 011	99%	0%	209	Sou.
Stockholm	7 802	98%	0%	1 733	Sto.
North Middle Sweden	6 046	100%	0%	145	Nor.

Relative to the average of OECD regions, carbon efficiency in the production of electricity is very high across regions in Sweden. While OECD regions emit, on average, around 340 tons of CO₂ per gigawatt hour of electricity produced, Stockholm and Upper Norrland – the top and bottom regions in terms of carbon efficiency in the country – emit 220 and 70 tons of CO₂ per gigawatt hour of electricity generated, respectively (E2).

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

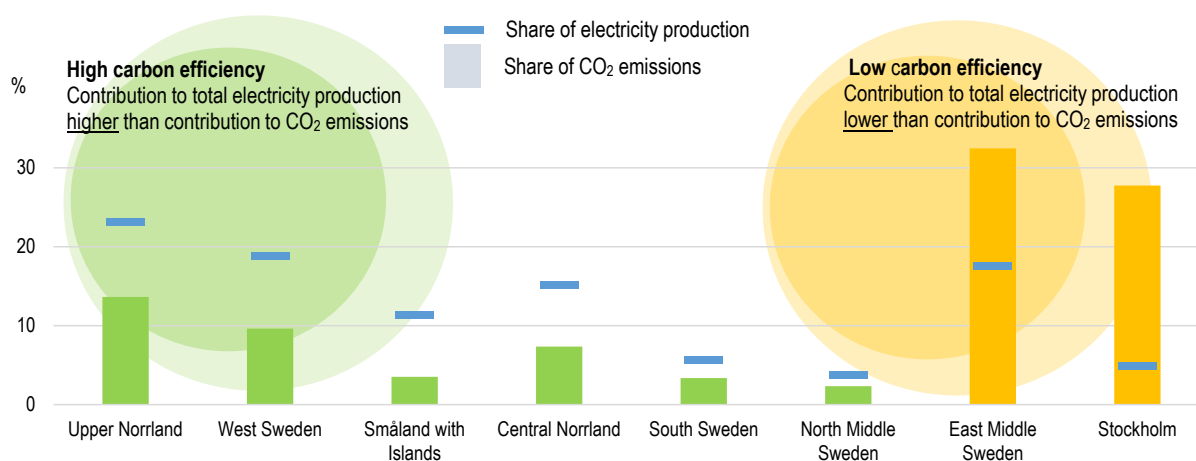


Figure notes: Regions are arranged in Figure E1 by total generation, and in Figure E2 according to gap between share of electricity generation and share of CO₂ emissions (most positive to most negative). These estimates refer to electricity production from the power plants connected to the national power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

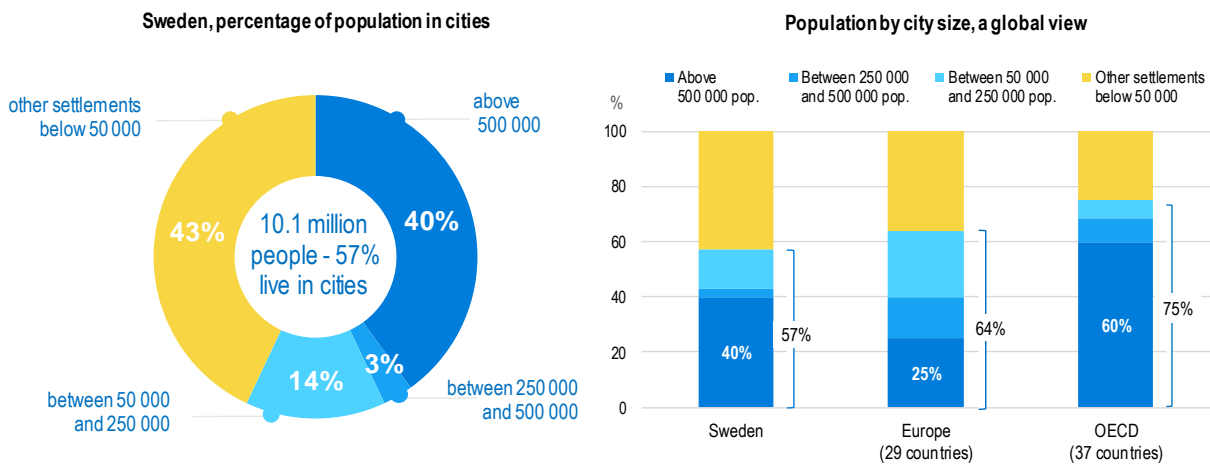


F. Metropolitan trends in growth and sustainability

In Sweden, 40% of the population lives in functional urban areas over 250 000 inhabitants, a share in line with the European average, but significantly lower than the OECD average

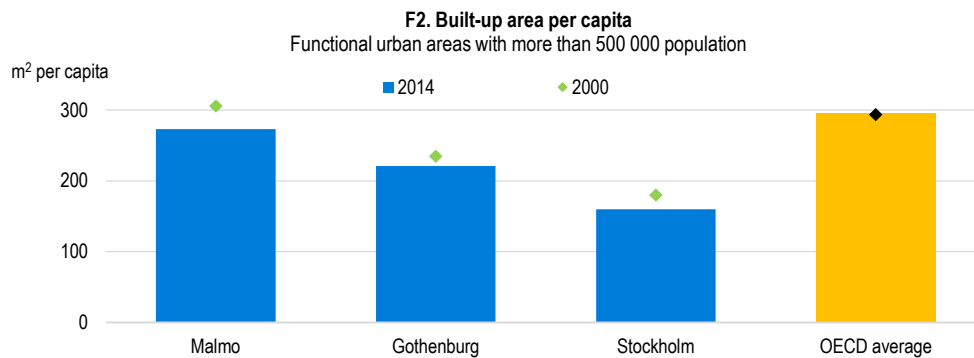
In Sweden, 57% of the population lives in cities of more than 50 000 inhabitants and their respective commuting areas (functional urban areas, FUAs). The share of population in FUAs with more than 500 000 people is 40%, lower than the OECD average of 60% (Figure F1).

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



Population have increased faster than built-up areas in Swedish metropolitan areas with more than 500 000 inhabitants

Built-up area per capita has declined in Swedish functional urban areas with more than 500 000 inhabitants since 2000, especially in Malmo and Stockholm where the difference between the growth of urbanised area and decline in population is the more pronounced than in Gothenburg (Figure F2). Built-up area per capita in Swedish functional urban areas is consistently lower than the OECD average.



Metropolitan areas in Sweden have grown at similar pace in terms of GDP per capita since 2001, but generally faster than other metropolitan areas in neighbouring countries

All metropolitan areas above half a million inhabitants have growth at rates between 1% and 1.5% since 2001. Gothenburg metropolitan area has the highest GDP per capita growth in Sweden (Figure F3), and ranks also among the top 25% of OECD metropolitan areas with more than 500 000 people in terms of GDP per capita growth.

