

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

SWITZERLAND

- 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

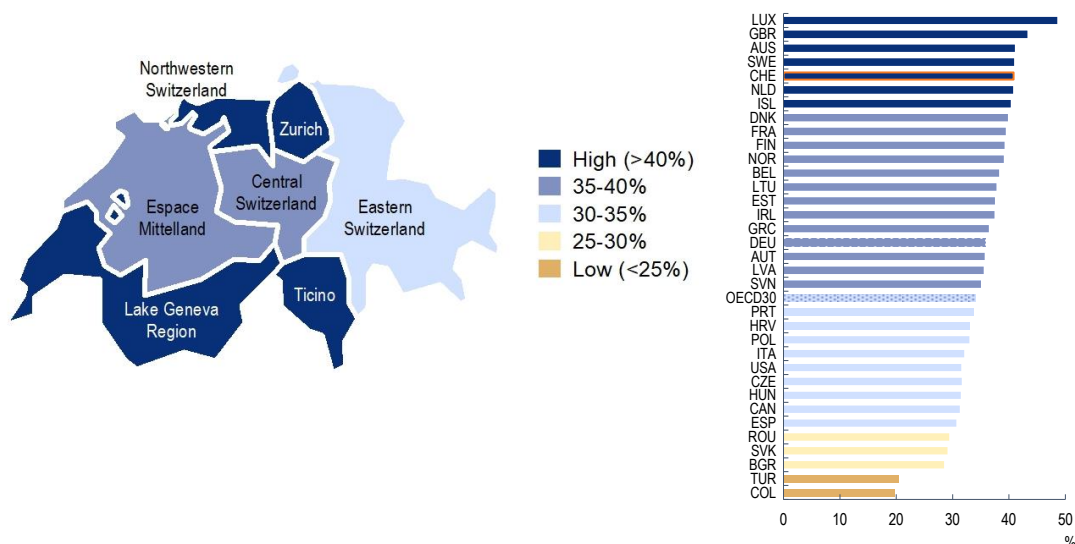
The data in this note reflect different subnational geographic levels in OECD countries:

- **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.

Occupations in the Zurich region offer the highest potential for remote working among all Swiss regions

A1. Share of jobs amenable to remote working, 2018

Large regions (TL2, map)

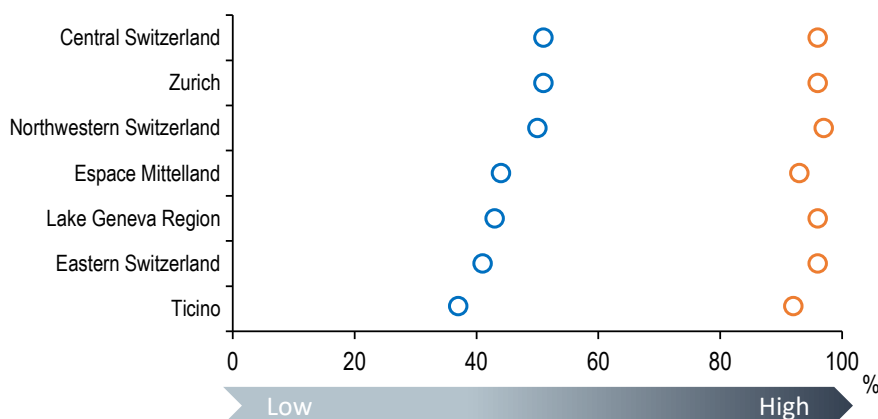


The share of occupations that can be performed remotely varies by almost 13 percentage points across Swiss regions, ranging from more than 48% in Zurich to 35% in Eastern Switzerland (Figure A1). Such differences depend on the task content of the occupations in the regions, which can be amenable to remote working to different extents. As in all other OECD countries, occupations available in cities tend to be more amenable to remote working than in other less densely populated areas.

In addition to the type of occupation, internet connection and minimum digital skills are crucial to seize the opportunities offered by digitalisation. Access to internet broadband is largely developed in all regions in Switzerland. However less than half of the population in all regions have advanced digital literacy skills (Figure A2).

A2- Internet skills and use, 2019

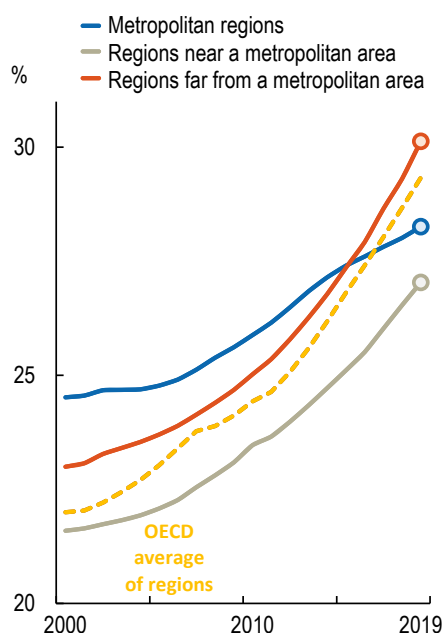
○ % people with advanced digital literacy ○ % households with broadband



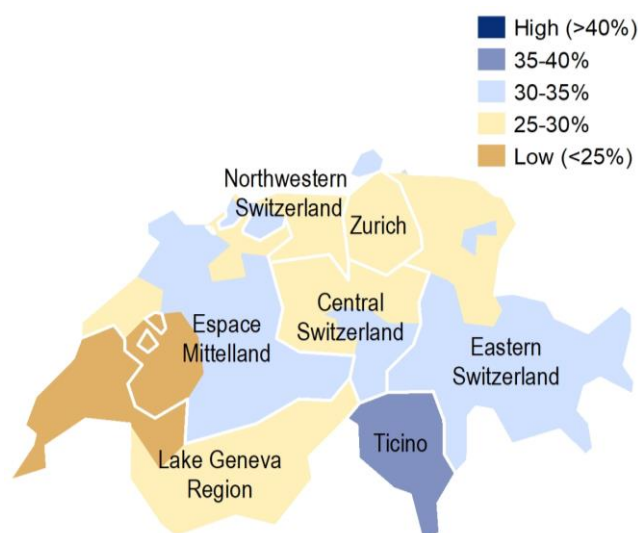
Ageing challenges regions far from metropolitan areas more strongly

The elderly dependency rate, defined as the ratio between the elderly population and the working age (15-64 years) population, has increased in all types of regions in Switzerland since 2000. Compared with other types of regions, those located far from metropolitan areas show the highest elderly dependency rate (30% in 2019) (Figure A3). With an elderly dependency rate above 35% in 2019, Ticino has the highest dependency rate in Switzerland (Figure A4).

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

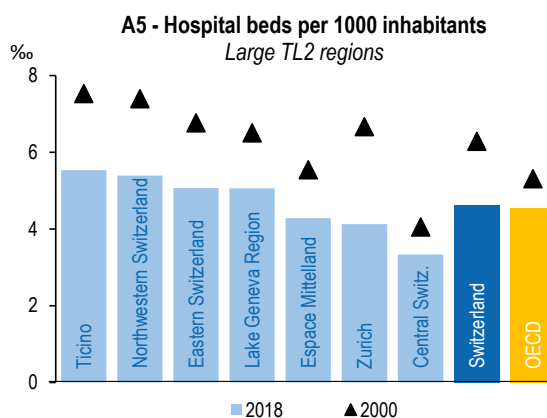


A4. Elderly dependency rate, 2019
Small regions (TL3)



Hospital beds per capita have decreased since 2000 in all regions, although they remain in line with the OECD average

The number of hospital beds per 1 000 inhabitants have declined in all Swiss regions between 2000 and 2018 (Figure A5). Such a decline was particularly high in Zurich. Ticino is the region with the highest number of hospital beds (5.5 beds per 1 000 inhabitants), over 2 beds more than Central Switzerland every 1 000 inhabitants.

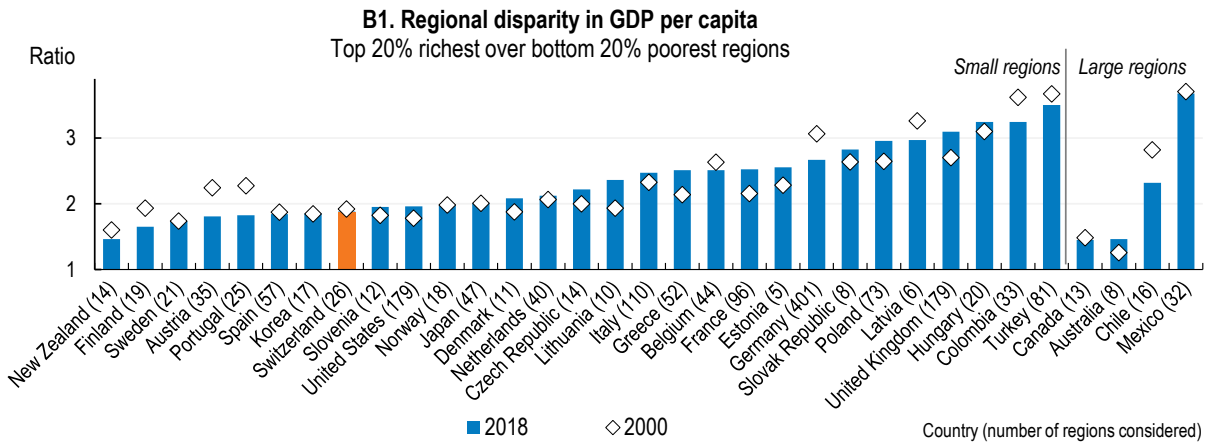


Regional economic gaps have slightly declined in Switzerland since 2008, a trend partially driven by moderate decline of GDP per capita in Zurich, the richest region

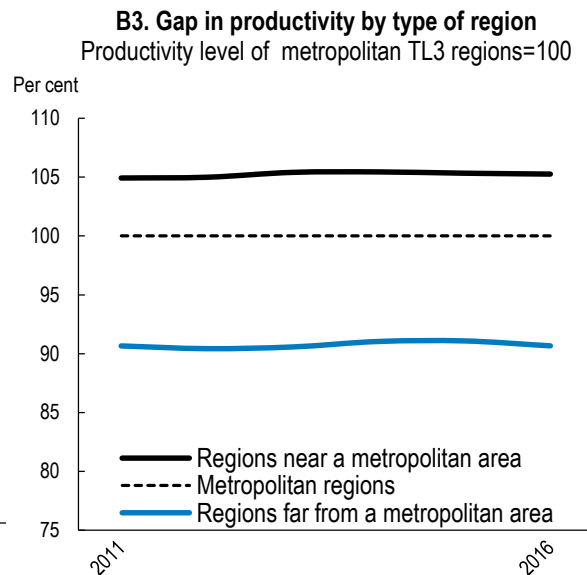
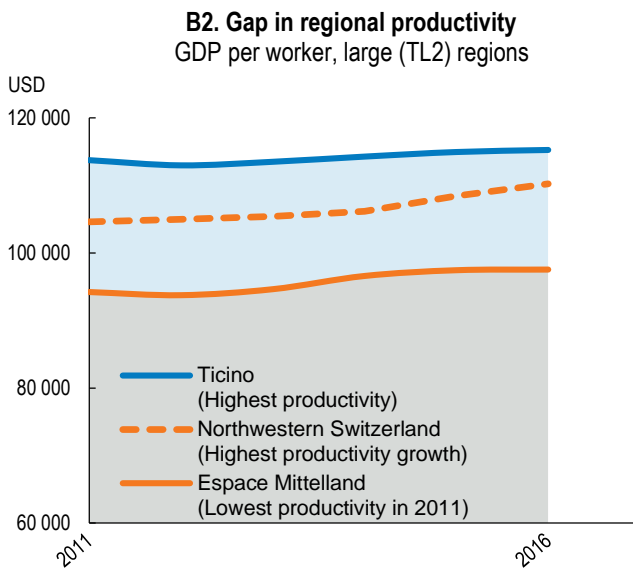
Regional disparities in terms of GDP per capita slightly narrowed in Switzerland over the 2008-17 period. Since 2008, GDP per capita in Zurich, the richest region in Switzerland, has declined by -0.3% per year, while Eastern Switzerland, the lowest region in terms of GDP per capita, has grown by 0.5% per year during the same period. Regional economic disparities in Switzerland remain low compared to OECD countries (Figure B1). In 2017, GDP per capita in Eastern Switzerland was 73% that in Zurich.

With a productivity growth of 0.7% per year over the period 2008-16, Espace Mittelland, the Swiss region with the lowest productivity in 2011, has been catching up to Ticino, the frontier region in terms of productivity in Switzerland (Figure B2). Northwestern Switzerland registered the highest productivity growth in the 2011-16 period in Switzerland (with +1.1% per year).

Regions near a metropolitan area have higher productivity than metropolitan regions in Switzerland (Figure B3).

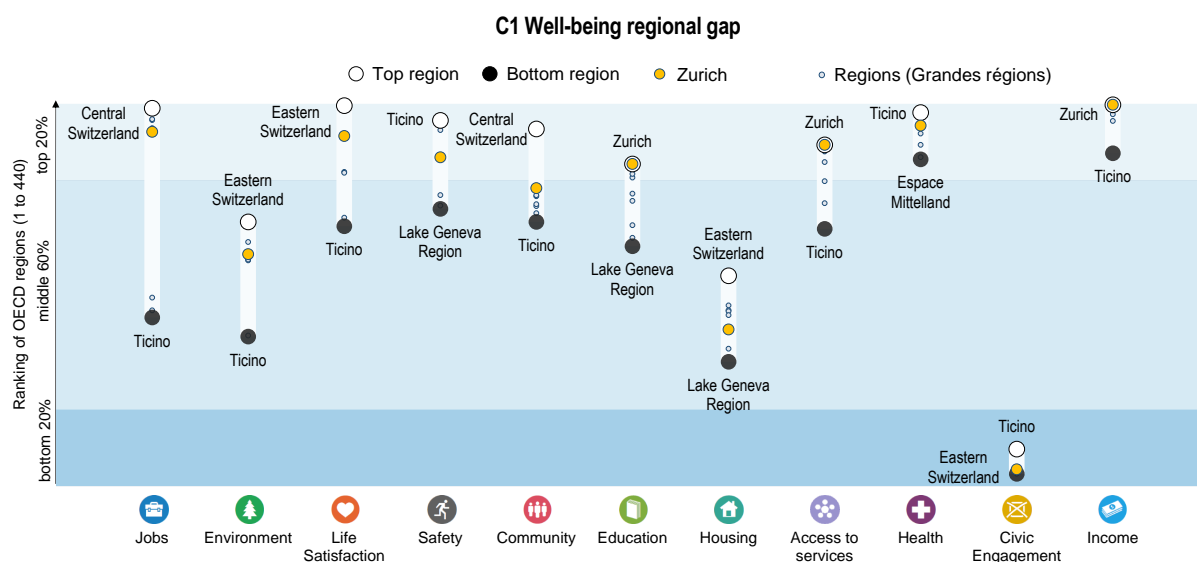


Note: A ratio with a value equal to 2 means that the GDP of the most developed regions accounting for 20% of the national population is twice as high as the GDP of the poorest regions accounting for 20% of the national population.



C. Well-being in regions

Well-being aspects tend to be high in Swiss regions compared to OECD standards, although regional differences can be stark in terms of jobs and environmental 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.

All seven Swiss regions rank among the top 20% of OECD regions in health and income, and among the bottom 20% for civic engagement (voter turnout). However, Swiss regions offer very different conditions to their citizens in several aspects of people’s well-being. The largest differences concern jobs (employment and unemployment rates), with Central Switzerland being among the top 5% and Ticino below the median of OECD regions. However, Ticino is the best performing Swiss and OECD regions in terms of safety (homicide rate), and health (life expectancy and mortality rate) (Figure C1).

The best performing region in Switzerland fare better than the top 20% of OECD regions in all well-being indicators, except in terms of air pollution, number of rooms per person and voter turnout (Figure C2).

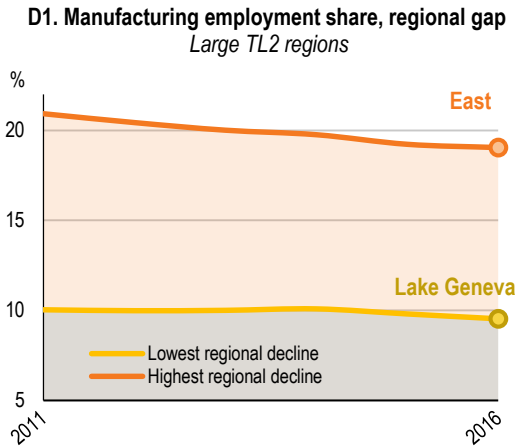
C2. How do the top and bottom regions fare on the well-being indicators?

	Country Average	OECD Top 20% regions	Swiss regions	
			Top 20%	Bottom 20%
Jobs				
Employment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	80.5	76.0	84.1	73.1
Unemployment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	4.6	3.3	3.2	7.7
Environment				
Level of air pollution in PM2.5 (µg/m³), 2019	13.9	7.0	8.9	11.3
Life Satisfaction				
Life satisfaction (scale from 0 to 10), 2014-18	7.5	7.3	7.8	7.2
Safety				
Homicide Rate (per 100 000 people), 2016-18	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.8
Community				
Perceived social network support (%), 2014-18	93.6	94.1	94.7	93.0
Education				
Population with at least upper secondary education, 25-64 year-olds (%), 2019	89.0	90.3	91.0	85.4
Housing				
Rooms per person, 2018	1.7	2.3	1.8	1.5
Access to services				
Households with broadband access (%), 2019	92.5	91.3	93.5	90.4
Health				
Life Expectancy at birth (years), 2018	83.7	82.6	84.4	83.3
Age adjusted mortality rate (per 1 000 people), 2018	6.4	6.6	6.1	6.7
Civic engagement				
Voters in last national election (%), 2019 or latest year	45.1	84.2	48.4	44.1
Income				
Disposable income per capita (in USD PPP), 2018	59 361	26 617	66 102	53 088

Note: OECD regions refer to the first administrative tier of subnational government (large regions, Territorial Level 2); Switzerland is composed of seven TL2 regions. Visualisation: <https://www.oecdregionalwellbeing.org>.



Manufacturing employment has declined in all Swiss regions since 2011, especially in Eastern Switzerland, the region with the largest share of manufacturing employment



All regions in Switzerland experienced a decline in the share of manufacturing employment between 2011 (first available year of regional data), and 2016. Eastern Switzerland, with an employment share of 19% in manufacturing in 2016, has recorded the largest decline in the share of manufacturing employment (almost 2 percentage points) since 2011 (Figure D1), although total employment in the region increased during the same period.

The share of manufacturing establishments declined in all Swiss regions. With a reduction of more than 0.7 percentage points over 2011-16, Espace Mittelland recorded the largest decrease in the share of manufacturing establishments (Figure D2).

D2. Manufacturing trends, 2011-16

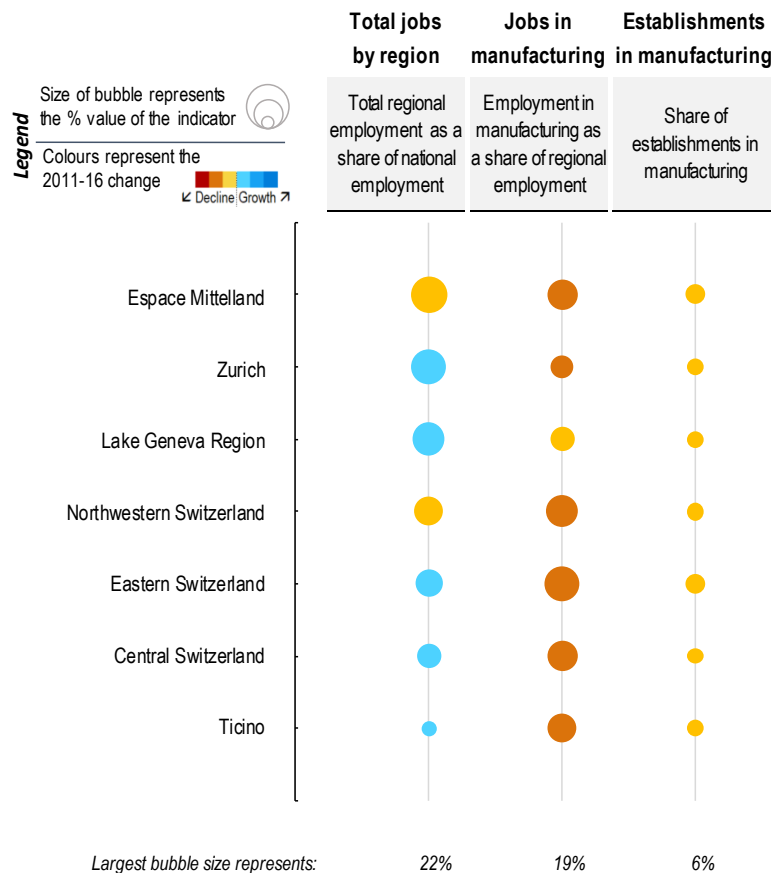


Figure [D.2]: Regions are ordered by regional employment as a share of national employment. Colour of the bubbles represents the evolution of the share over the period 2011-16 in percentage points: red: below -2 pp; orange: between -2 pp and -1 pp; yellow: between -1 pp and 0; light blue: between 0 and +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

Electricity generation relies completely on renewable sources in most Swiss regions, except in the Northwestern and Espace Mittelland regions, which together account for 40% of the electricity produced in the country.

All Swiss regions are coal-free in electricity production. In addition, in seven out of nine Swiss regions, electricity is generated only through renewable sources. However, Northwestern Switzerland and Espace Mittelland – two of the three largest electricity producers in the country, and highly dependent on nuclear power – generate only 11% and 28% of its electricity using renewables, respectively. In contrast, in Lake Geneva Region – the largest electricity producer in Switzerland – all electricity comes from renewable sources (Figure E1).

E1. Transition to renewable energy: electricity production, 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.)	
Lake Geneva Region	15 776	100%	0%	379	Lak.
Northwestern Switzerland	13 455	11%	0%	180	Nor.
Espace Mittelland	11 698	28%	0%	179	Esp.
Eastern Switzerland	8 866	100%	0%	213	Eas.
Ticino	5 164	100%	0%	124	Tic.
Central Switzerland	2 273	100%	0%	55	Gen.
Zurich	210	100%	0%	5	Zur.

Relative to the average of OECD regions, carbon efficiency in the production of electricity is very high across Swiss regions. While OECD regions emit, on average, around 340 tons of CO₂ per gigawatt hour of electricity produced, Northwestern Switzerland and Lake Geneva Region – the top and bottom regions in terms of carbon efficiency in the country – emit around 13 and 24 tons of CO₂ per gigawatt hour of electricity, respectively (E2).

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

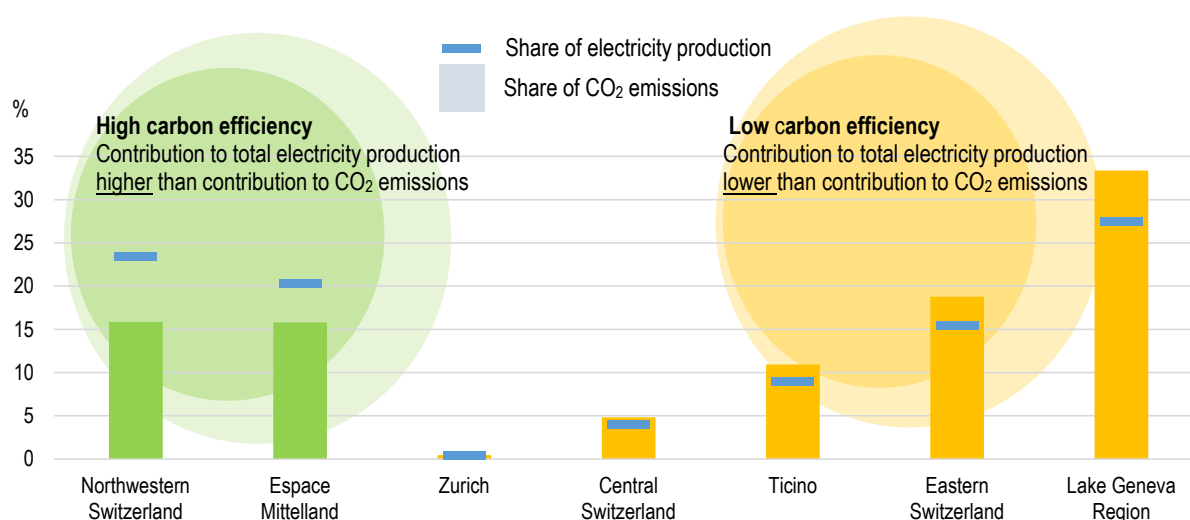
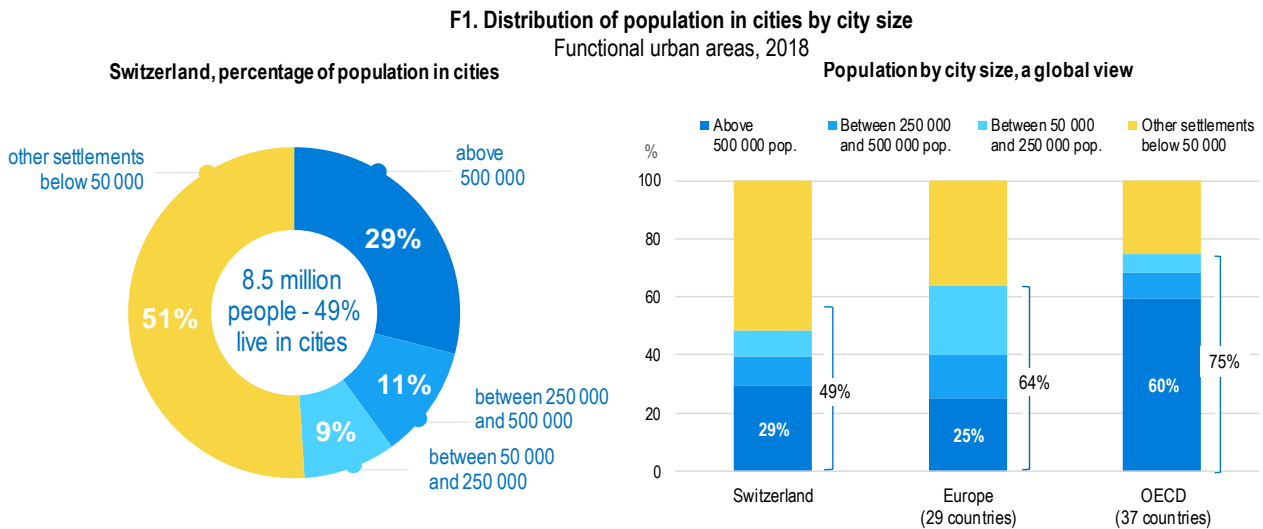


Figure notes: Regions are arranged in Figure E1 by total generation, and in Figure E2 according to gap between share of electricity generation and share of CO₂ emissions (most positive to most negative). Only 91% of the total country's electricity production is covered. These estimates refer to electricity 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.



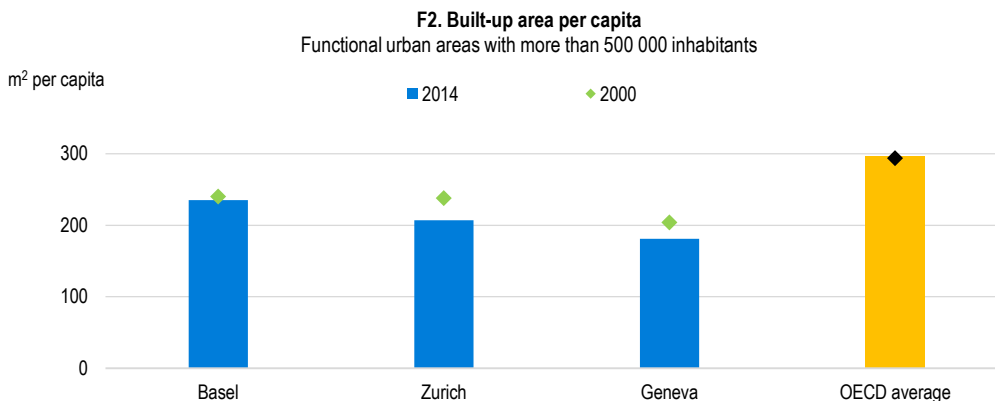
More than half of the Swiss population lives outside the cities, twice the OECD average of 25%

In Switzerland, 49% of the population living 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 inhabitants is 29%, 31 percentage point less than the OECD average (Figure F1).



Built-up areas have increased slower than population in Zurich and Geneva

Built-up area per capita declined slightly in the metropolitan areas of Zurich and Geneva over the period 2000-14, while it remained practically stable in Basel (Figure F2). Swiss metropolitan areas have slightly lower built-up area per capita levels than the average of OECD metropolitan areas, especially in the case of Geneva, where built-up area per capita levels are more than one third lower than the OECD average.



Source: OECD Metropolitan Database. Number of metropolitan areas with a population of over 500 000: 3 in Switzerland compared to 351 in the OECD.