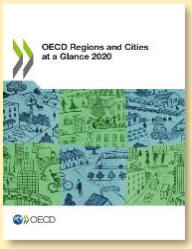


***Regions and Cities at a Glance 2020*** *provides a comprehensive assessment of how regions and cities across the OECD are progressing in a number of aspects connected to economic development, health, well-being and net zero-carbon transition. In the light of the health crisis caused by the COVID-19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

# UNITED STATES



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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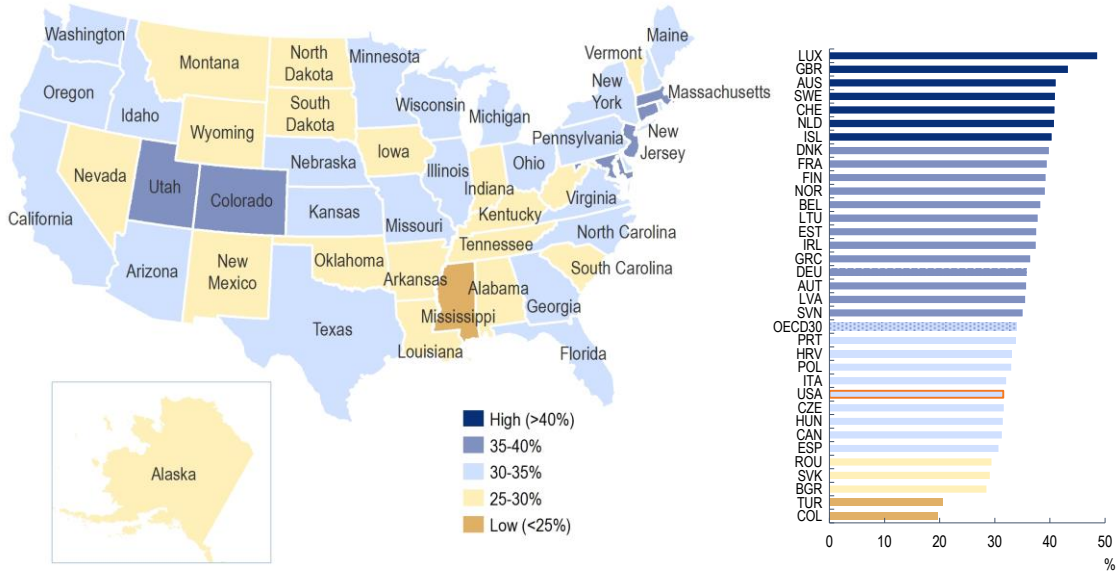
## A. Resilient regional societies

# The District of Columbia 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 the United States, ranging from 47% in District of Columbia to 25% in Mississippi (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 for most OECD countries, the occupations available in the capital region tend to be more amenable to remote working than in other regions.

The population of Rhode Island and the District of Columbia have the highest fiber optic availability across the United States with 84% of the population connected to the fiber network (Figure A2).

**A2- Internet infrastructure**

Share of population connected, 2020

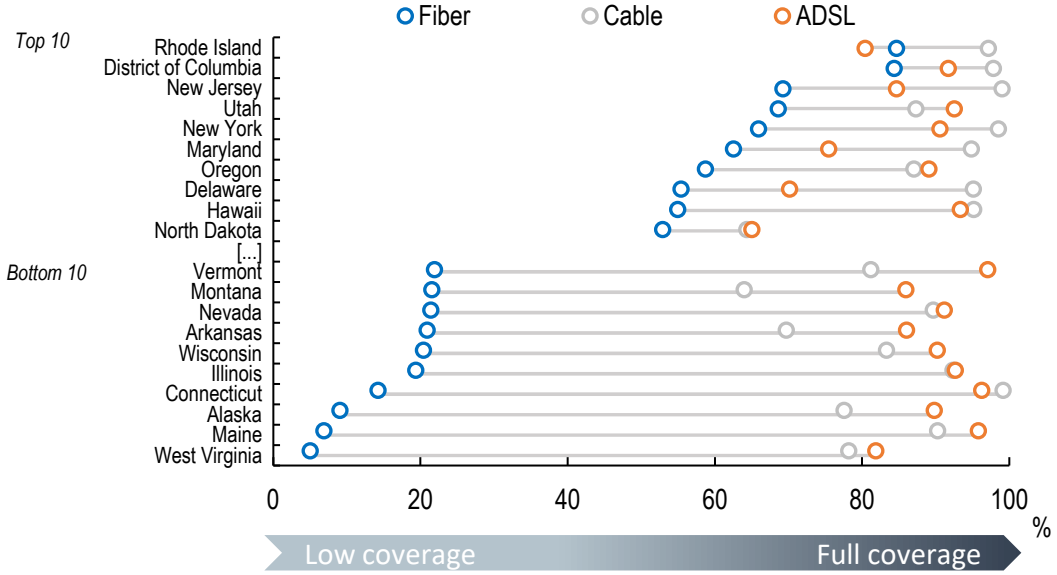
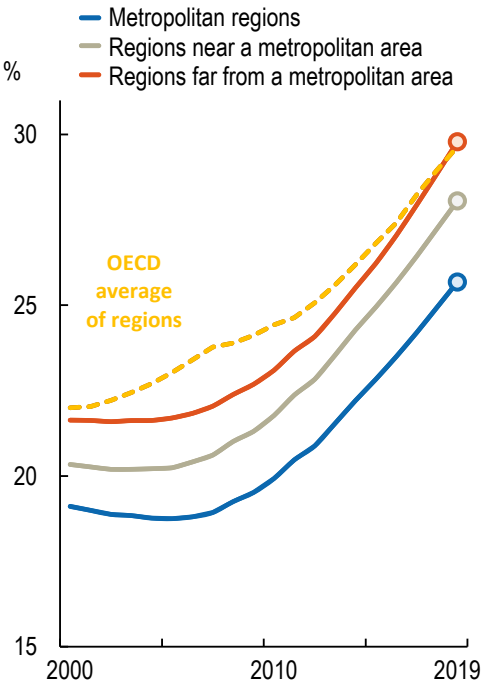



Figure [A1]: The lower percentage range (<25%) depicts the bottom quintile among 370 OECD and EU regions, the following ranges are based on increment of 5 percentage points. Further reading: OECD (2020), Capacity to remote working can affect lockdown costs differently across places, http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/capacity-for-remote-working-can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

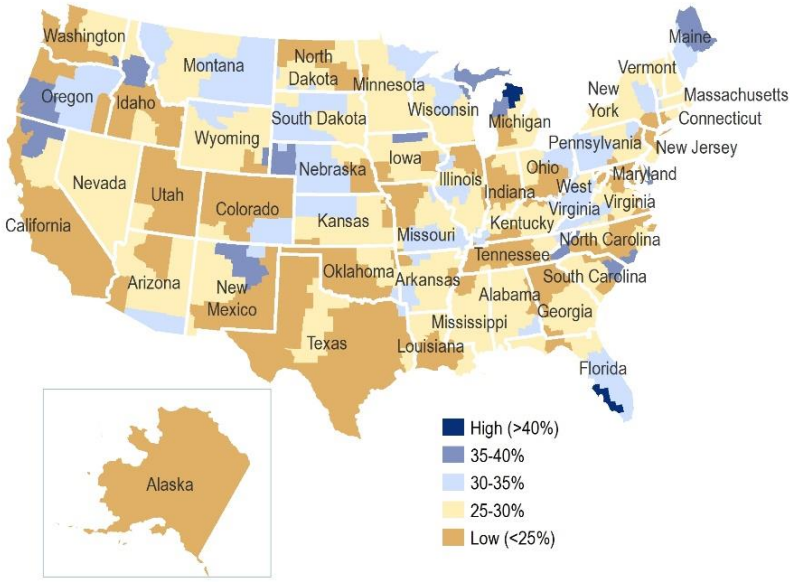
## Ageing challenges regions far from metropolitan areas more strongly

The elderly dependency rate has been increasing in all types of regions in the United States since 2005. Regions far from metropolitan areas show the highest elderly dependency rate (30%) among different types of regions (Figure A3). In Sarasota-Bradenton-Venice (Florida), there were more than one elderly for every two working-age residents in 2019 (Figure A4).

**A3. Elderly dependency rate**
*By type of small regions in United States (TL3)*




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




## South Dakota is the only US state with more hospital beds per capita than the OECD average

All regions in the United States have fewer hospital beds per capita than the OECD average, except South Dakota, and all states have reduced the number of beds per capita since 2000, except Nevada. Regional disparities in hospital beds are above the OECD average, with Oregon having the lowest number of hospital beds per 1 000 inhabitants in 2018, three times less than South Dakota (Figure A5).

**A5 - Hospital beds per 1000 inhabitants**
*Large TL2 regions*

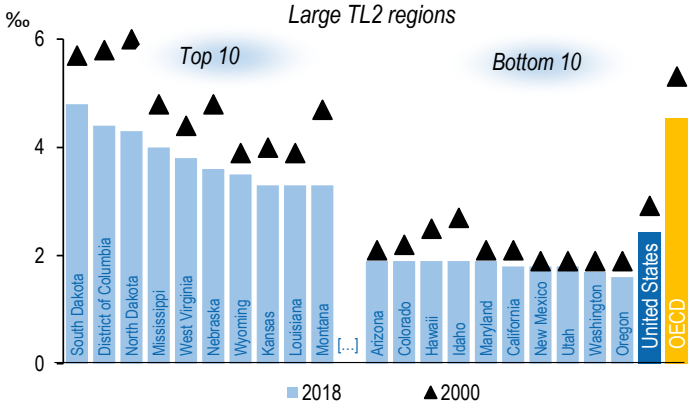



Figure notes. [A3]: OECD (2019), Classification of small TL3 regions based on metropolitan population, low density and remoteness https://doi.org/10.1787/b902cc00-en. [A4]: Small TL3 regions contained in large regions. TL3 regions in United States are composed by 179 Economic areas.

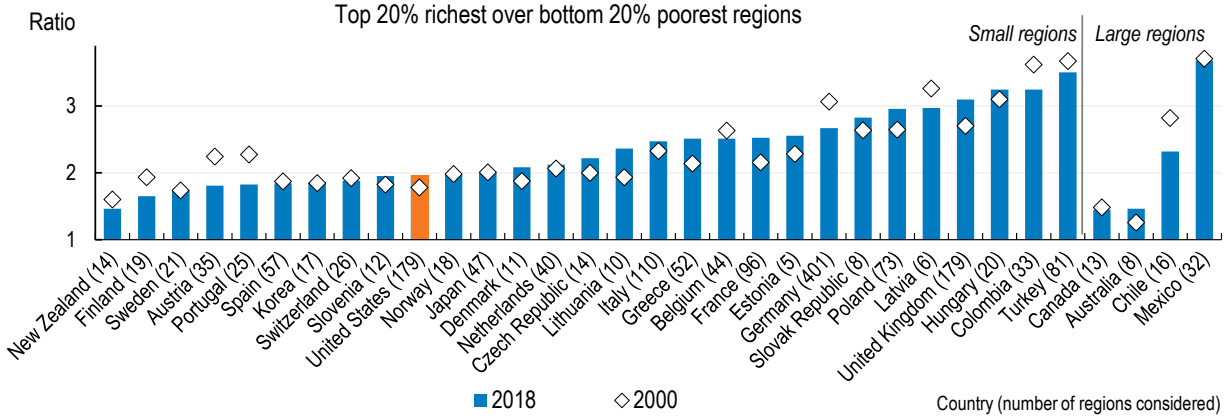
## Regional economic gaps have increased since 2000, partially due to higher growth of the most productive regions

Regional disparities in terms of GDP per capita have increased in the United States over the last eighteen years. With the exception of the federal capital, the District of Columbia, GDP per capita levels are relatively similar across US states in comparison with OECD countries, as measured by the ratio of top 20% over bottom 20% of regions (Figure B1).

With productivity growth of 2.9% per year over the period 2000-16, North Dakota had the highest productivity growth rate among US states in terms of GDP per worker. Montana, with the lowest productivity in 2000, is keeping pace but not converging with respect to the District of Columbia, the frontier region in terms of productivity in the United States. (Figure B2).

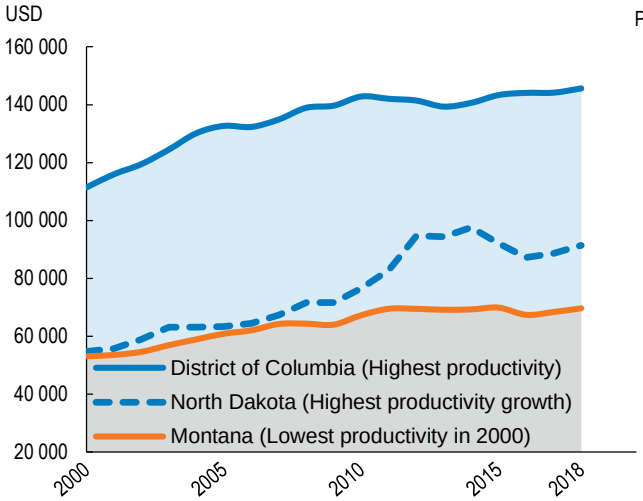
Regions far from a metropolitan area of at least 250 000 inhabitants have narrowed their gap to metropolitan regions since 2002, and even exceeded the productivity level of regions near a metropolitan area between 2010 and 2015 (Figure B3).

**B1. Regional disparity in GDP per capita**
Top 20% richest over bottom 20% poorest regions

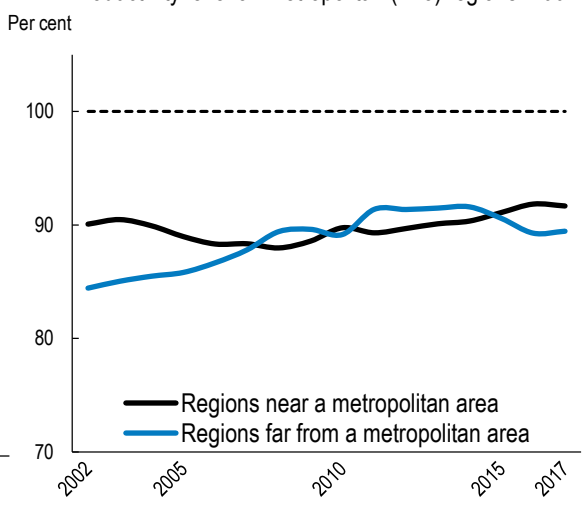



Note: A ratio with a value equal to 2 means that the GDP of the most developed regions accounting for 20% of the national population is twice as high as the GDP of the poorest regions accounting for 20% of the national population.

**B2. Gap in regional productivity**
GDP per worker, large (TL2) regions



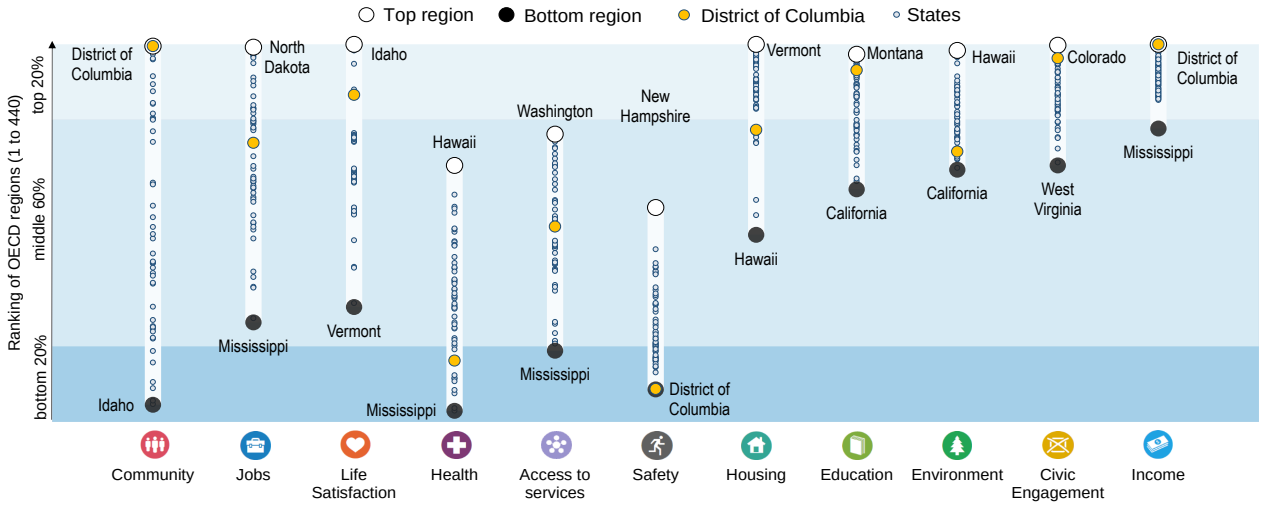

**B3. Gap in productivity by type of region**
Productivity level of metropolitan (TL3) regions=100



## C. Well-being in regions

# The United States faces large regional disparities in 7 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 US states perform in the top 25% of OECD regions in the income dimension, most states are in the bottom 50% of OECD regions in the areas of health and safety. In contrast, outcomes across US states are very unequal in the areas of community and jobs. While North Dakota is in the top 5% of OECD regions in terms of jobs, Mississippi is in the bottom 30% of OECD regions (Figure C1).

The average of the top performing US regions is above the average of the top OECD regions in 8 out of 13 well-being indicators, especially in terms of disposable income and housing (rooms per person) (Figure C2).

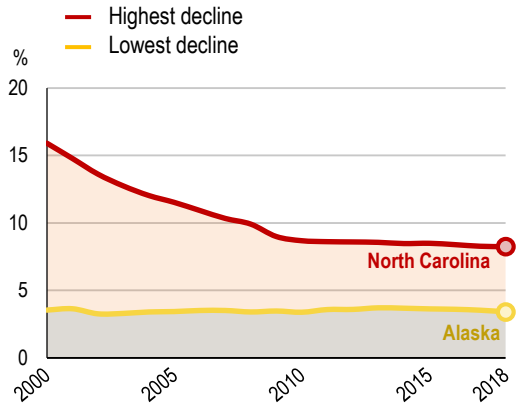
**C2. How do the top and bottom regions fare on the well-being indicators?**

| | Country Average | OECD Top 20% regions | United States regions | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Top 20% | Bottom 20% |
| **Community** | | | | |
| Perceived social network support (%), 2014-18 | 90.4 | 94.1 | 96.3 | 83.8 |
| **Jobs** | | | | |
| Employment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019 | 71.4 | 76.0 | 77.8 | 67.8 |
| Unemployment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019 | 3.7 | 3.3 | 2.8 | 4.5 |
| **Life Satisfaction** | | | | |
| Life satisfaction (scale from 0 to 10), 2014-18 | 7.0 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 6.7 |
| **Health** | | | | |
| Life Expectancy at birth (years), 2018 | 78.8 | 82.6 | 80.8 | 76.6 |
| Age adjusted mortality rate (per 1 000 people), 2018 | 9.8 | 6.6 | 7.4 | 10.1 |
| **Access to services** | | | | |
| Households with broadband access (%), 3-year average 2017-19 | 83.3 | 91.3 | 87.4 | 78.7 |
| **Safety** | | | | |
| Homicide Rate (per 100 000 people), 2016-18 | 5.2 | 0.7 | 2.6 | 8.1 |
| **Housing** | | | | |
| Rooms per person, 2018 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 2.0 |
| **Education** | | | | |
| Population with at least upper secondary education, 25-64 year-olds (%), 2019 | 89.5 | 90.3 | 92.9 | 85.0 |
| **Environment** | | | | |
| Level of air pollution in PM 2.5 (µg/m³), 2019 | 10.3 | 7.0 | 6.1 | 9.1 |
| **Civic engagement** | | | | |
| Voters in last national election (%), 2019 or latest year | 87.3 | 84.2 | 90.7 | 82.6 |
| **Income** | | | | |
| Disposable income per capita (in USD PPP), 2018 | 45 962 | 26 617 | 55 291 | 38 185 |

Note: OECD regions refer to the first administrative tier of subnational government (large regions, Territorial Level 2); the United States is composed of 51 large regions. Visualisation: https://www.oecdregionalwellbeing.org.

## The manufacturing industry has lost employment in all US regions

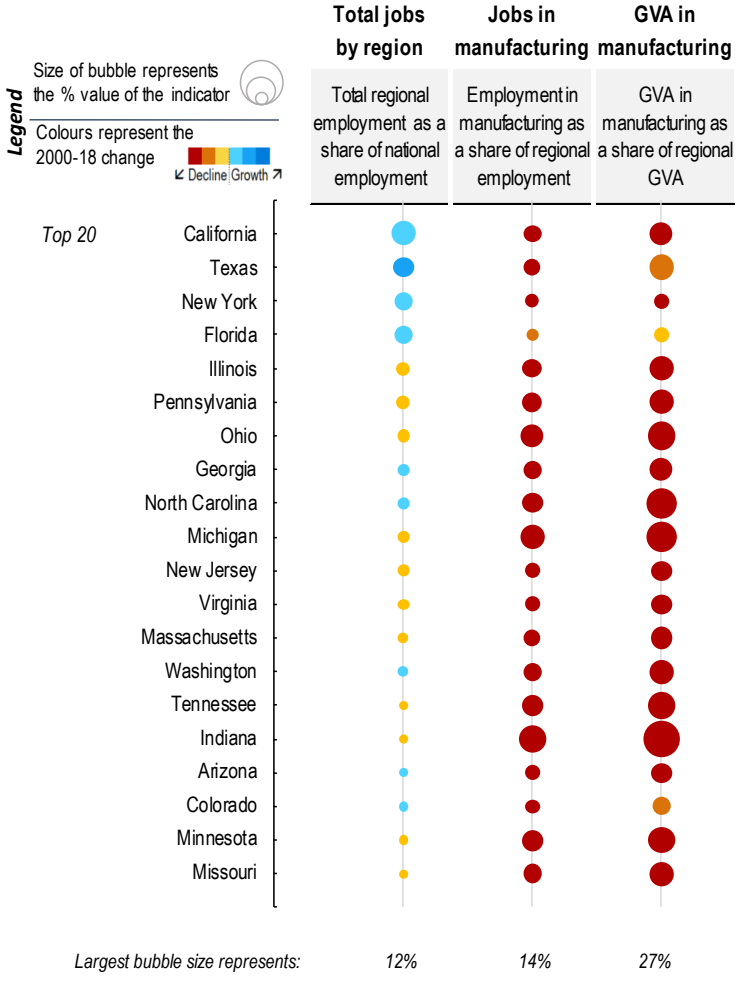
D1. Manufacturing employment share, regional gap




Between 2000 and 2018, all states in the United States experienced a decline in the share of employment in manufacturing. With a reduction of 7.7 pp in the share of employment in manufacturing (almost half of the initial share), North Carolina, recorded the largest decrease (Figure D1).

Decline in employment in manufacturing coincides with a reduction in manufacturing gross value-added in all US States, with the exception of six states, among which Louisiana, with a gain of 5.6 percentage points, recorded the largest increase in the GVA share in manufacturing between 2000 and 2018 (Figure D2).

D2. Manufacturing trends, 2000-18




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 2000-18 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

# Texas, Illinois, Florida and Pennsylvania, which generate 25% of electricity in the United States, highly rely on coal for electricity production and use few renewables

Among the top five producers of electricity in the United States – which together contribute to 30% of the country's electricity – Texas, Florida, Illinois and Pennsylvania generate between 25 to 32% of their electricity using coal but use renewables only to a limited extent. In 2017, only 17% or less of their electricity came from renewable sources. In contrast, California – the second largest producer of electricity in the country – is making progress towards clean electricity generation. In 2017, California produced 45% of its electricity using renewable sources and none using coal (Figure E1).

**E1. Transition to renewable energy, 2017**

| | Electricity generation (in GWh per year) (Top 20) | Regional share of renewables in electricity generation (%) | Regional share of coal in electricity generation (%) | Greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generated (in Ktons of CO2 eq.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Texas | 433 424 | 17% | 28% | 198 714 |
| California | 237 219 | 45% | 0.1% | 58 669 |
| Illinois | 230 139 | 6% | 32% | 84 121 |
| Florida | 217 264 | 4% | 25% | 103 265 |
| Pennsylvania | 204 098 | 7% | 29% | 73 882 |
| Georgia | 149 942 | 15% | 31% | 64 988 |
| North Carolina | 145 235 | 13% | 35% | 59 490 |
| New York | 141 167 | 19% | 6% | 38 493 |
| Ohio | 130 447 | 3% | 57% | 78 717 |
| Michigan | 128 739 | 12% | 36% | 54 972 |
| Alabama | 125 190 | 14% | 17% | 41 475 |
| Washington | 123 521 | 78% | 6% | 13 451 |
| Arizona | 123 505 | 15% | 25% | 45 984 |
| South Carolina | 115 230 | 14% | 23% | 31 970 |
| Indiana | 113 566 | 7% | 75% | 79 799 |
| Tennessee | 109 882 | 14% | 38% | 42 015 |
| Virginia | 98 377 | 17% | 19% | 33 531 |
| Louisiana | 97 829 | 7% | 19% | 46 070 |
| Missouri | 93 854 | 7% | 65% | 58 371 |
| Kentucky | 90 678 | 5% | 69% | 63 161 |

Carbon efficiency in the production of electricity is very unequal across the United States. While Indiana emits 700 tons of $CO_2$ per gigawatt hour of electricity produced, California releases less than 250 tons of $CO_2$ per gigawatt hour. Although California produces 5.6% of electricity in the country, it emits 3.3% of total $CO_2$ emissions related to electricity generation (E2).

**E2. Contribution to total $CO_2$ emissions from electricity production, 2017**

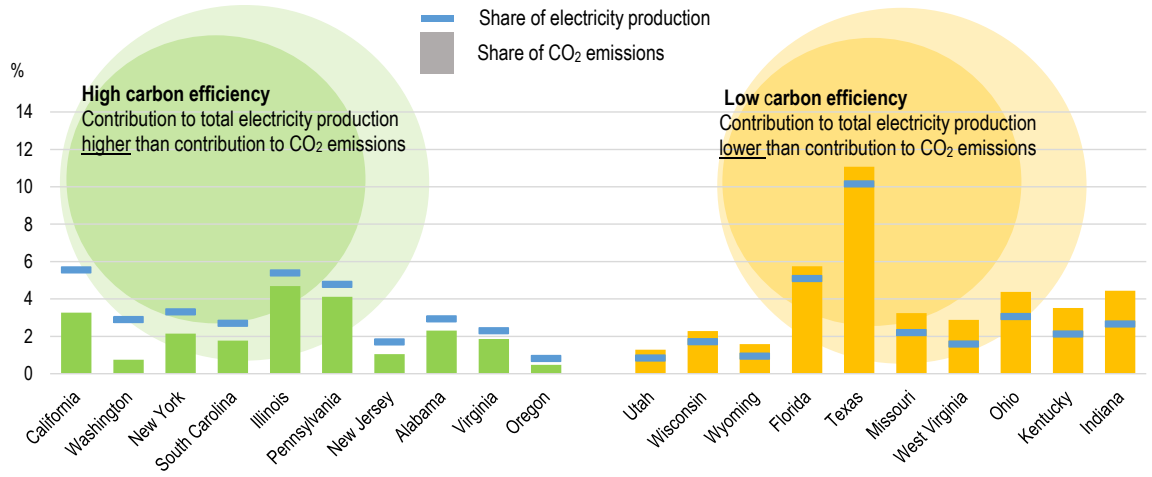
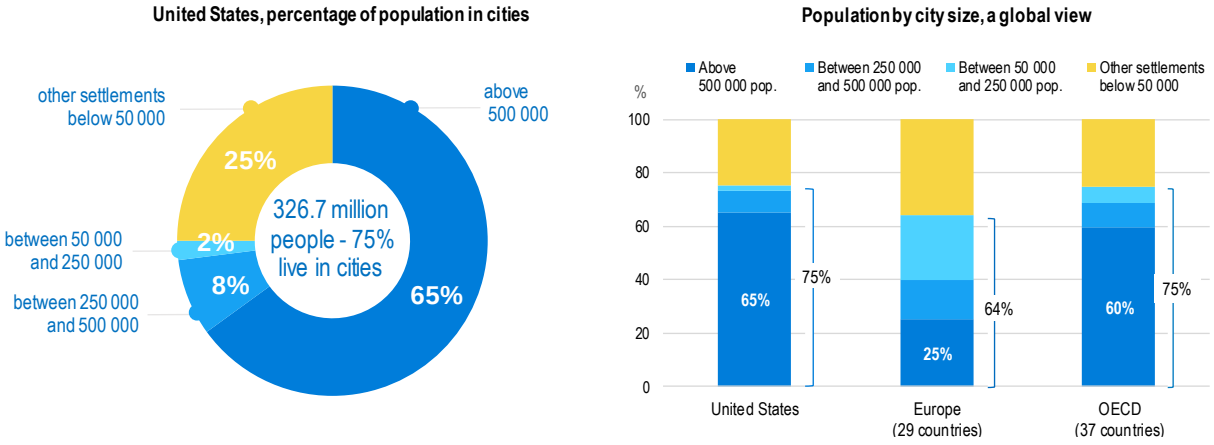



Figure notes: Regions are arranged in Figure E1 by total generation, and in Figure E2 according to gap between share of electricity generation and share of $CO_2$ emissions (most positive to most negative). These estimates refer to electricity production from the power plants connected to the national 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.

## The concentration of people in functional urban areas in the United States is similar to the OECD average

In the United States, 75% of the population lives in cities of more than 50 000 inhabitants and their respective commuting areas (functional urban areas, FUAs), which corresponds to the OECD average, but in the US more people live in large FUAs. The share of population in FUAs with more than 500 000 people is 65%, higher than the OECD average of 60% (Figure F1).

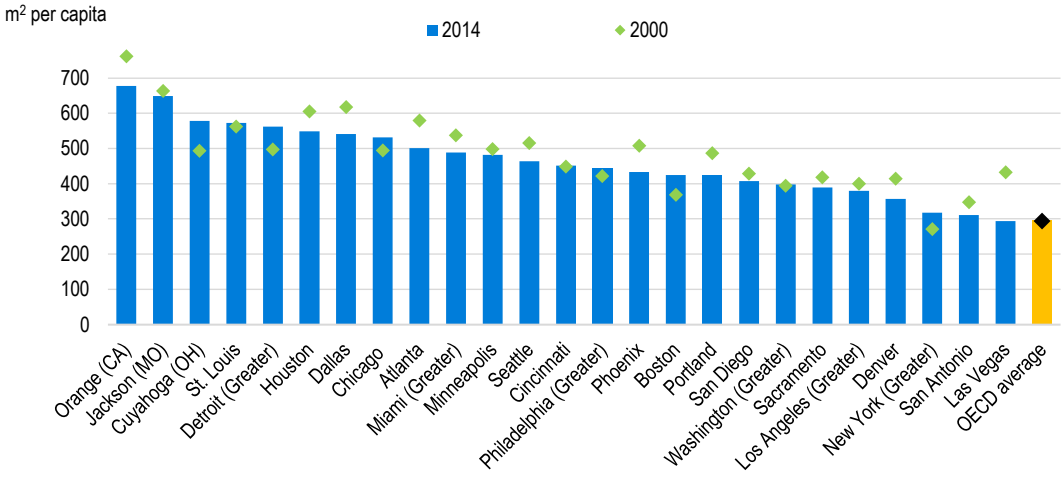
**F1. Distribution of population in cities by city size**
Functional urban areas, 2018




## Built-up area has increased faster than population in 40% of US metropolitan areas

Built-up area per capita has increased in 40% of functional urban areas with more than 500 000 inhabitants in the United States since 2000, especially in New York, Boston and Detroit where the difference between the growth of urbanised area and growth in population (decline in the case of Detroit) is most pronounced. In contrast, in some places such as Las Vegas for example, the population grew more than the built-up area (Figure F2).

**F2. Built-up area per capita**
Selection of US metropolitan areas with more than 500 000 inhabitants




Source: OECD Metropolitan Database. OECD average of functional urban areas of more than 500K inhabitants. Selection of the 20 most populous US functional urban areas. Number of metropolitan areas with a population of over 500 000: 93 in the United States compared to 349 in the OECD.

## San Francisco records not only the fastest GDP per capita growth among metropolitan areas in the United States but also has the highest GDP per capita within the OECD

While San Francisco is the OECD metropolitan area with the highest GDP per capita, Hidalgo (TX)'s GDP per capita is below the OECD median value and five times below that of San Francisco. GDP per capita has also increased at very different rates, with an average yearly decrease of 1% in Lehigh (PA), while San Francisco records an average annual growth rate of 2.5%, contributing to an increase in economic disparities across US metropolitan areas.

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