

Regional contribution to population change

During the past 20 years, the population in OECD countries grew on average 0.6% per year, reaching 1.2 billion in 2012. According to the OECD classification of small regions (TL3), regional population ranges from about 450 inhabitants in Balance ACT (Australia) to more than 23 million in the region of New York-Newark-Bridgeport (United States).

Over the same time period, population growth in emerging economies (Brazil, China, India, the Russian Federation and South Africa) was 0.9% yearly. The largest TL2 region, the State of Uttar Pradesh in India, exceeded 204 million people in 2012.

In OECD countries, almost 60% of population growth is accounted for by just 10% of regions which represent one-third of the OECD population. The regional contribution to population growth is particularly concentrated in Canada, Japan, Finland and Korea. Among emerging economies, the concentration of population in a few regions is the highest in the Russian Federation (Figure 2.8).

The share of the population living in predominantly urban regions increased in 23 OECD countries and significantly in Ireland, Turkey, New Zealand, Canada and Finland (more than three percentage points) in the past 17 years. Among the countries which decreased the share of urban population, in Hungary and Estonia intermediate regions have increased their share of population in recent years, while in the United States, Chile and Poland rural regions have gained in population shares (Figure 2.9).

In many countries, predominantly rural remote regions displayed a net decrease of population, or smaller population growth, than any other type of region. This was not the case in Ireland and Switzerland where the annual popula-

tion growth in remote rural regions was higher than that in rural regions close to a city in the period 1995-2012 (Figure 2.10).

The share of population in predominantly urban regions exceeded 40% in Brazil and South Africa in 2010. Around 115 million people moved to predominantly urban regions in China in the period 2000-10 (Figure 2.11).

Source

OECD (2013), *OECD Regional Statistics* (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/region-data-en>.

See Annexes A and B for definition, data sources and country-related metadata.

Reference years and territorial level

1995-2012; TL3.

TL2 regions in Israel, Brazil, China, Colombia, India, the Russian Federation and South Africa.

Further information

OECD regional grids, www.oecd.org/gov/regional/statisticsindicators.

Interactive maps and graphs: <http://rag.oecd.org>.

Figure notes

2.8 to 2.10: Latest available year 2011 for Australia, China, and South Africa; 2010 for Mexico and Indonesia. First available year 1996 for Australia and Canada; 1998 for China; 2001 for India; 2002 for Slovak Republic. Denmark is not included for lack of time series.

2.8: Estonia and Hungary are not included because of average decrease in population between 1995 and 2012.

2.9: No predominantly urban regions in Iceland and Slovenia.

2.11: The OECD typology is here applied to Brazil, South Africa and China (elaborations of the Chinese Academy of Social Science, based on Census data 2010). For lack of data on population and area in small communities, the national definition is used for India that distinguishes only between rural and urban population (Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation of India).

Information on data for Israel: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932315602>.

Definition

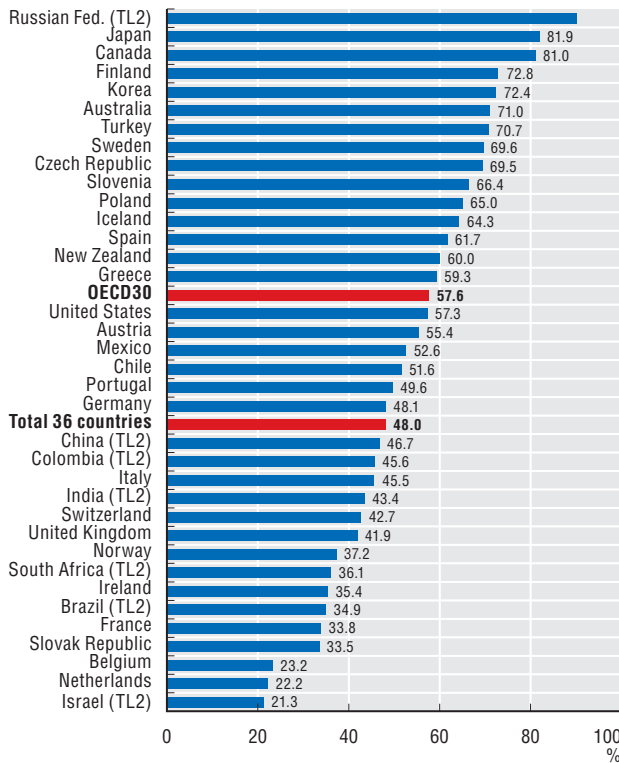
OECD has classified regions within each member country to facilitate comparability at the same territorial level. The classification is based on two territorial levels: the higher level (TL2) consists of 363 larger regions and the lower level (TL3) consists of 1 802 smaller regions. These 2 levels are used as a framework for implementing regional policies in most countries.

In Brazil, Colombia, China, India and the Russian Federation only TL2 large regions have been identified.

2. REGIONS AS DRIVERS OF NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS

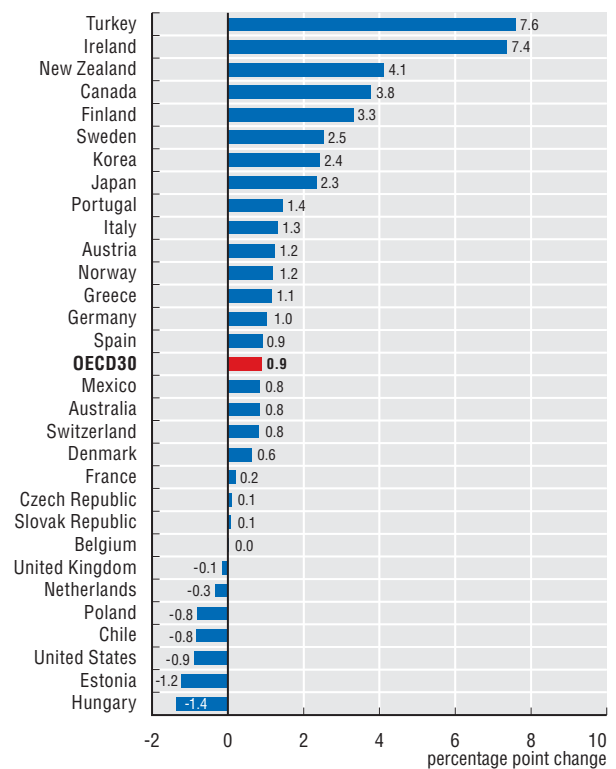
Regional contribution to population change

2.8. Per cent of the national population growth by top 10% TL3 regions ranked by regional increase, 1995-2012



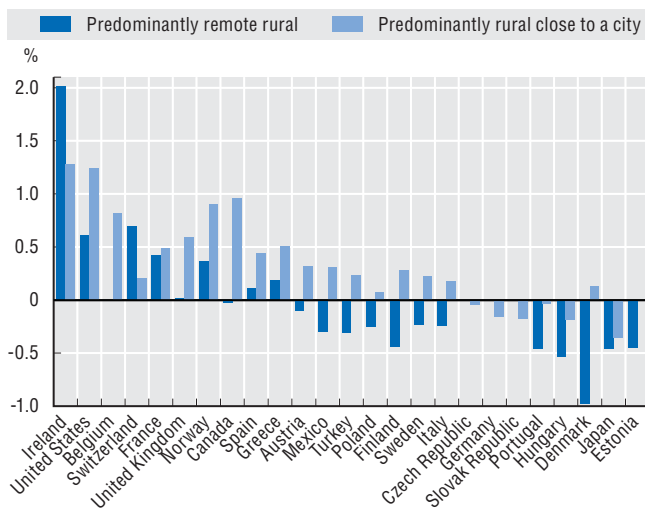
StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932913304>

2.9. Percentage point change of population living in predominantly urban regions, 1995-2012



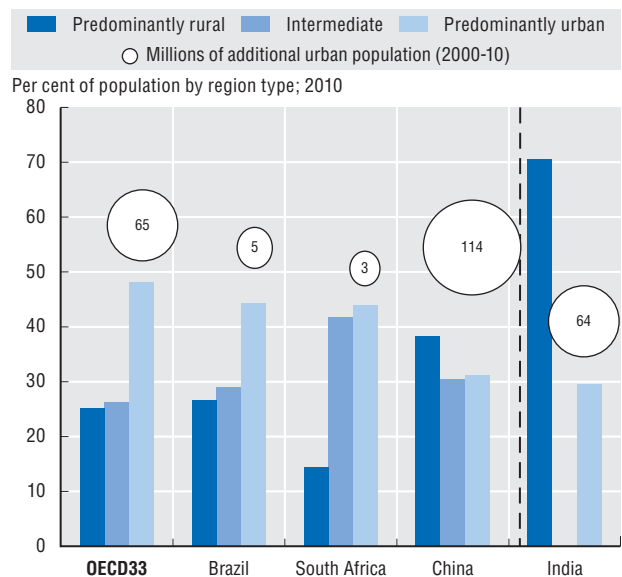
StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932913323>

2.10. Annual growth rate of population by type of region, 1995-2012

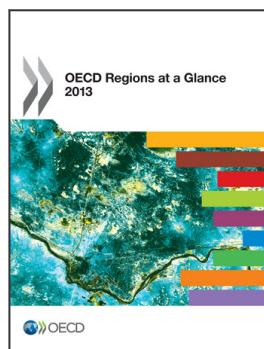


StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932913342>

2.11. Population by type of region, 2010 and new urban population, 2000-10: OECD and emerging economies



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932913361>



From:
OECD Regions at a Glance 2013

Access the complete publication at:
https://doi.org/10.1787/reg_glance-2013-en

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2013), “Regional contribution to population change”, in *OECD Regions at a Glance 2013*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1787/reg_glance-2013-15-en

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to rights@oecd.org. Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at info@copyright.com or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at contact@cfcopies.com.