

1. SPECIAL FOCUS ON METROPOLITAN AREAS

Economic competitiveness of metropolitan areas

The 275 OECD metropolitan areas (with populations of at least 500 000) contributed on average to over half of the total OECD growth over the period 2000-10.

The aggregate GDP growth of metropolitan areas in the period 2000-10, appeared for a large part due to a small number of large metropolitan areas. Indeed, nine metropolitan areas (3.5% of the total) contributed to one-third of the GDP metropolitan growth in the OECD area, while the accumulated contribution of the remaining metropolitan areas was around two-thirds. Seoul-Incheon, New York, Tokyo and London recorded the highest contribution to the GDP growth in the OECD area (Figure 1.11).

The role of metropolitan areas for the national GDP growth can be quite different across OECD countries. Metropolitan areas in Greece, Japan, France and Hungary accounted for more than 70% of the national growth in the period 2000-10. In contrast, in the Netherlands and the Slovak Republic, metropolitan areas accounted for less than 40% of the national growth (Figure 1.12).

Definition

The metropolitan areas are defined as the functional urban areas (FUA) with population above 500 000.

The functional urban areas are defined as densely populated municipalities (urban cores) and adjacent municipalities with high levels of commuting towards the densely populated urban cores (hinterland). Functional urban areas can extend across administrative boundaries, reflecting the economic geography of where people actually live and work.

GDP is the standard measure of the value of the production activity (goods and services) or resident producer units. Values of the GDP in the metropolitan areas are estimated by adjusting the GDP values of TL2 regions (see Annex C).

To make comparisons over time and across countries, GDP is expressed at constant prices (year 2005) and converted into USD purchasing power parities (PPPs) to express each country's GDP in a common currency. GDP per capita is the ratio between GDP and population in a metropolitan area.

The national capital metropolitan areas in Greece, Chile and Portugal were responsible alone for more than 80% of the GDP growth of metropolitan areas. On the other hand, a larger number of metropolitan areas contributed significantly to the national growth in the United States, Canada, Mexico and Germany (Figure 1.12).

While the overall economic performance of metropolitan areas was strong in the period 2000-10, some areas are growing fast while others are stagnant or shrinking (Figures 1.14 and 1.15).

Metropolitan areas tend to be wealthier than the rest of the economy. The GDP per capita gap between the metropolitan areas and the rest of the economy in the OECD area was around 40% in 2010. Such a GDP gap is higher in Europe and Americas than in Asia (Figure 1.13).

Source

OECD (2013), "Metropolitan areas", *OECD Regional Statistics* (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/data-00531-en>.

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

See Annex C for details on definitions and data estimations.

Reference years and territorial level

2000-10; metropolitan areas.

The functional urban areas have not been identified in Australia, Iceland, Israel, New Zealand and Turkey. The FUA of Luxembourg does not appear in the figures since it has a population below 500 000 inhabitants.

Further information

OECD (2012), *Redefining "Urban": A New Way to Measure Metropolitan Areas*, OECD Publishing, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264174108-en>.

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

Figure notes

1.11-1.13: GDP values in metropolitan areas are estimates based on GDP data at TL3 level.

1.12: Share of average national growth accounted by metropolitan areas.

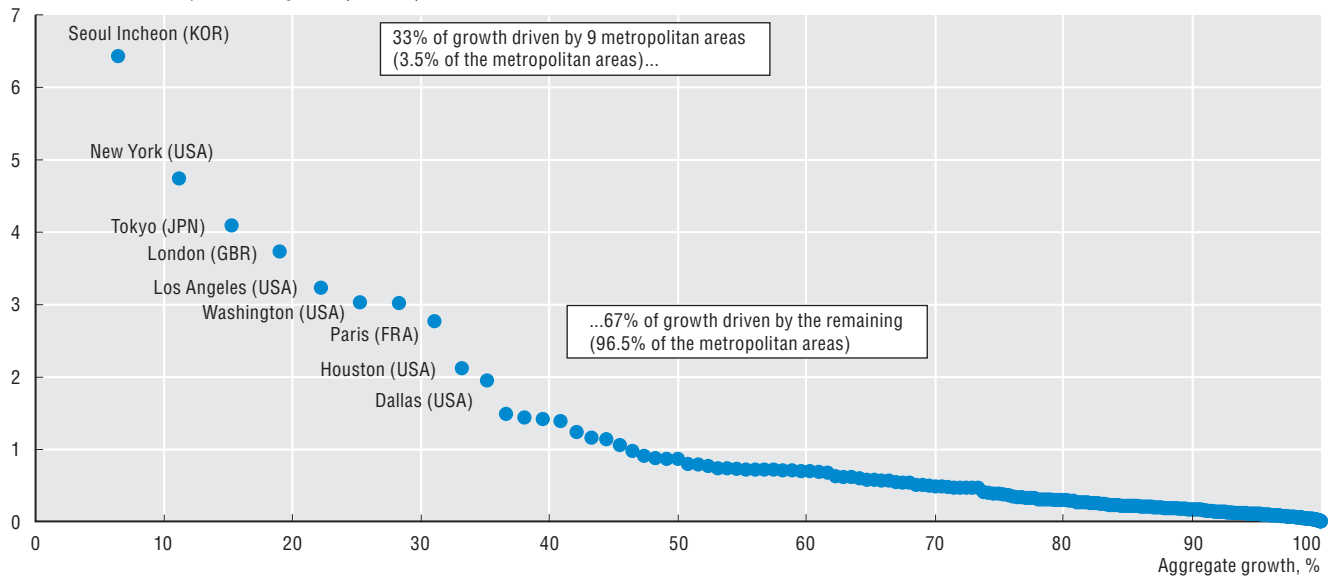
1.11-1.12: Norway and Switzerland are excluded for lack of data on comparable years.

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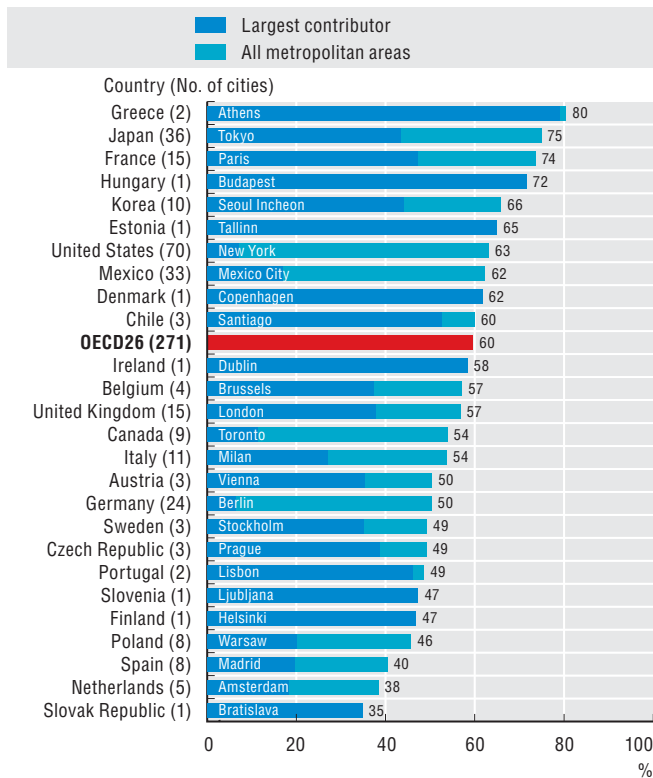
1.11. Contribution of metropolitan areas to OECD aggregate growth, 2000-10

Contribution to OECD metropolitan area growth (2000-10), %



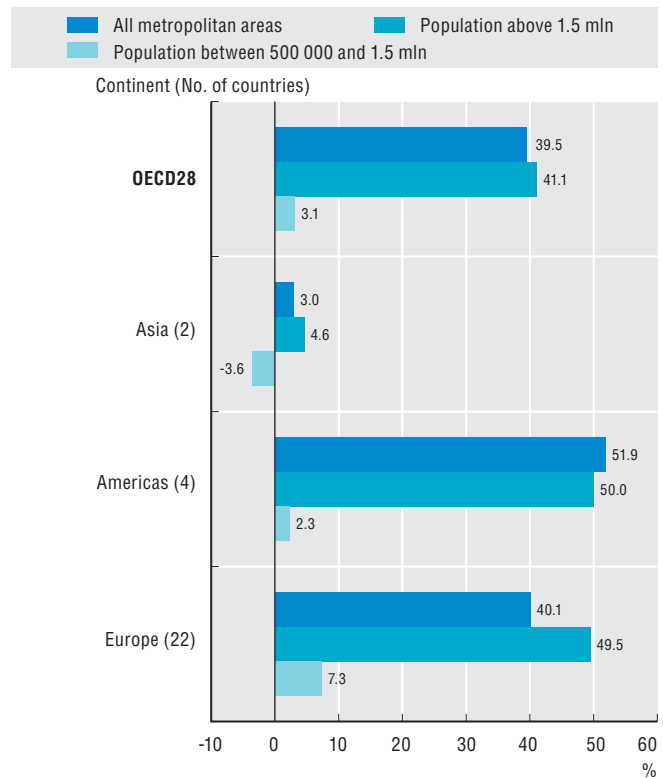
StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932912848>

1.12. Per cent of national GDP growth contributed by the metropolitan areas 2000-10



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932912867>

1.13. GDP per capita gap between metropolitan areas and the rest of the economy, 2010



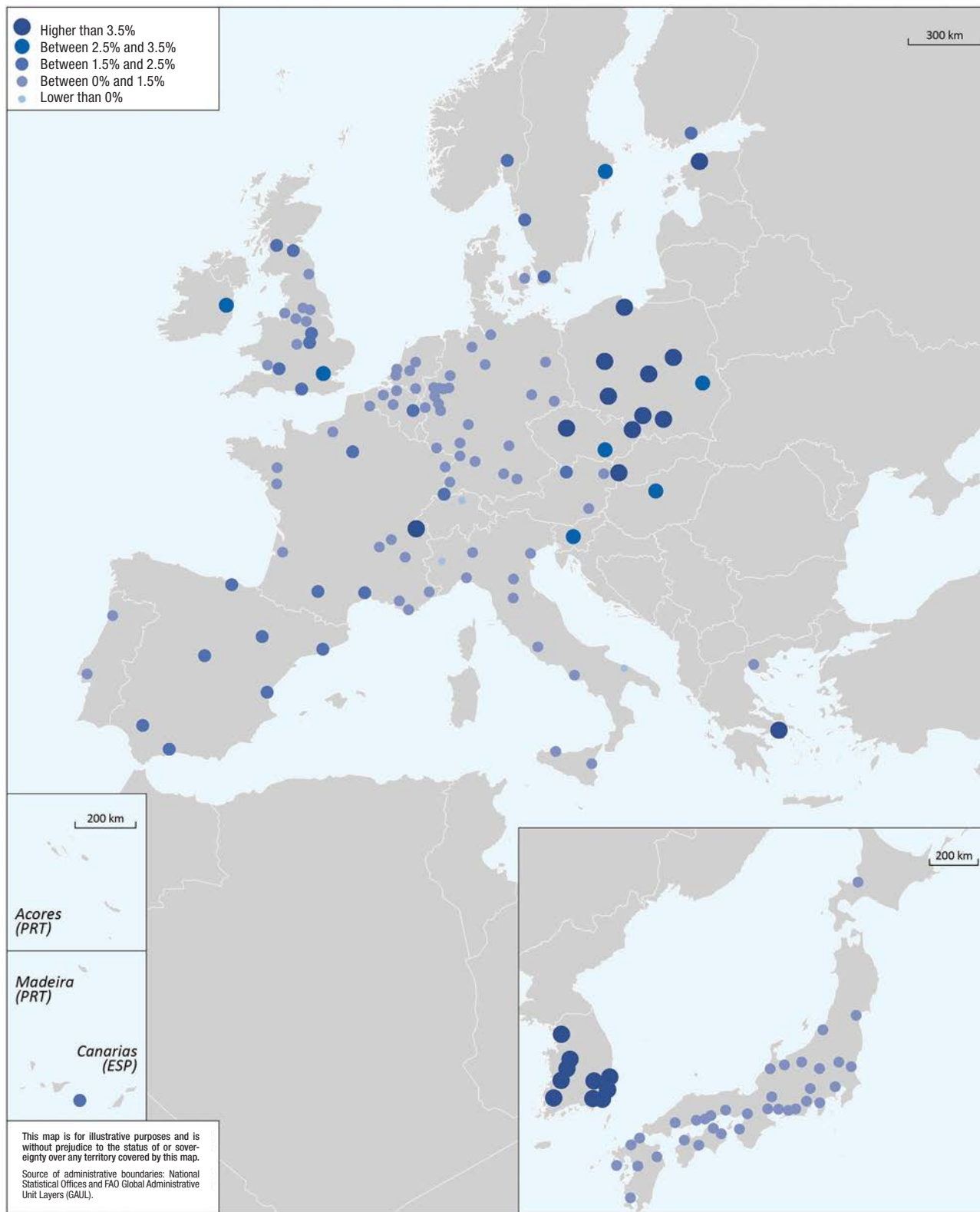
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1.14. Metropolitan GDP growth: Asia, Europe and Oceania, 2000-10

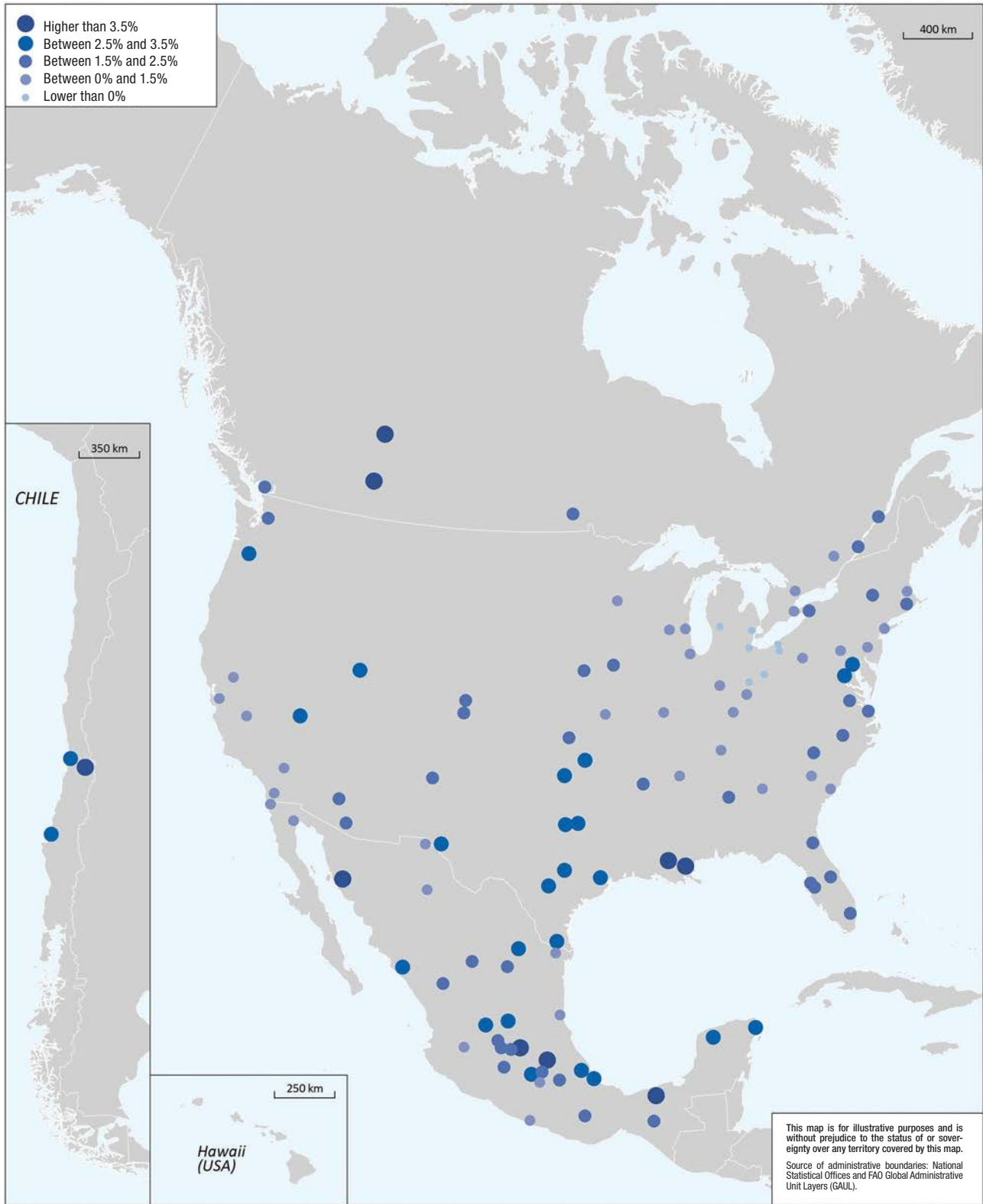
Average annual growth rate (constant 2005 USD PPP), metropolitan areas



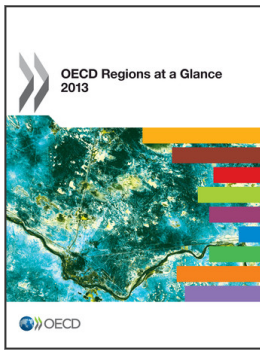
StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932915261>

1.15. Metropolitan GDP growth: Americas, 2000-10

Average annual growth rate (constant 2000 USD PPP), metropolitan areas



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932915280>



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