

16. NATIONAL FACTORS AND REGIONAL PERFORMANCES

Regional performance is a result both of national factors – such as national policies and the business cycle – and regional factors – such as demographic trends and regional policies. If all regions in a country grow faster than the regions in other OECD countries, their faster growth can be ascribed to national factors. On the other hand, to the extent that a region exhibits faster growth than all other OECD regions, including those in the same country, that growth can be ascribed to the region's good performance (regional factors).

Regional factors have a significant impact

Over 1998-2003, about half of OECD regions – 149 regions out of 297 – increased their share in total OECD GDP. In more than two-thirds of these regions – 68%, or 101 regions – regional factors explain more than 10% of the increase in their share of total GDP. In most cases, therefore,

regions' good international performance seems to be driven by their own success rather than that of their country.

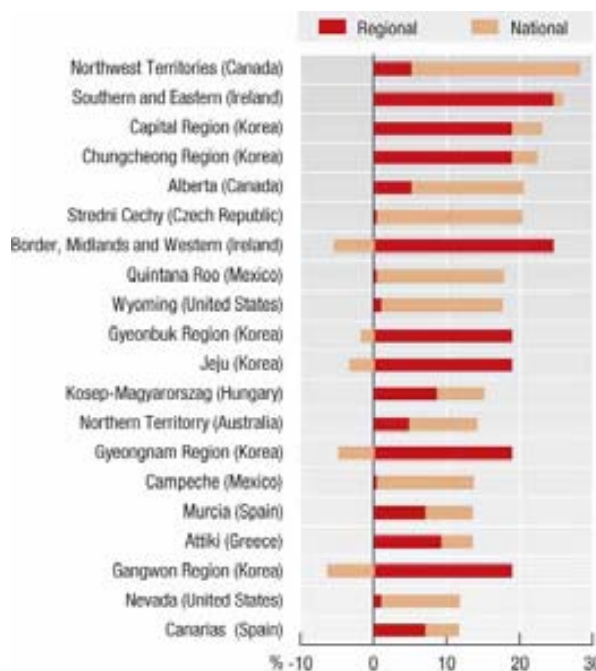
National factors dominate in Ireland and Korea

Among the 20 fastest-growing regions (Figure 15.1) the good performance of Irish regions seems to be largely due to good national performance; the same applies to four Korean regions: Gyeongbuk, Jeju, Gyeongnam and Gangwon (Figure 16.1).

In 76% of the 112 slow-growing regions, region-specific factors explained more than 10% of the reduction in their share of total OECD GDP. In particular, in none of the 20 slowest-growing regions (Figure 15.2) did national factors account for more than 90% of the decrease in their share of OECD GDP (Figure 16.2).

16.1. Factors explaining faster GDP growth in the top 20 OECD regions

Change in the regional GDP share of the OECD 1998-2003 (TL2) due to:



16.2. Factors explaining slower GDP growth in the bottom 20 OECD regions

Change in the regional GDP share of the OECD 1998-2003 (TL2) due to:

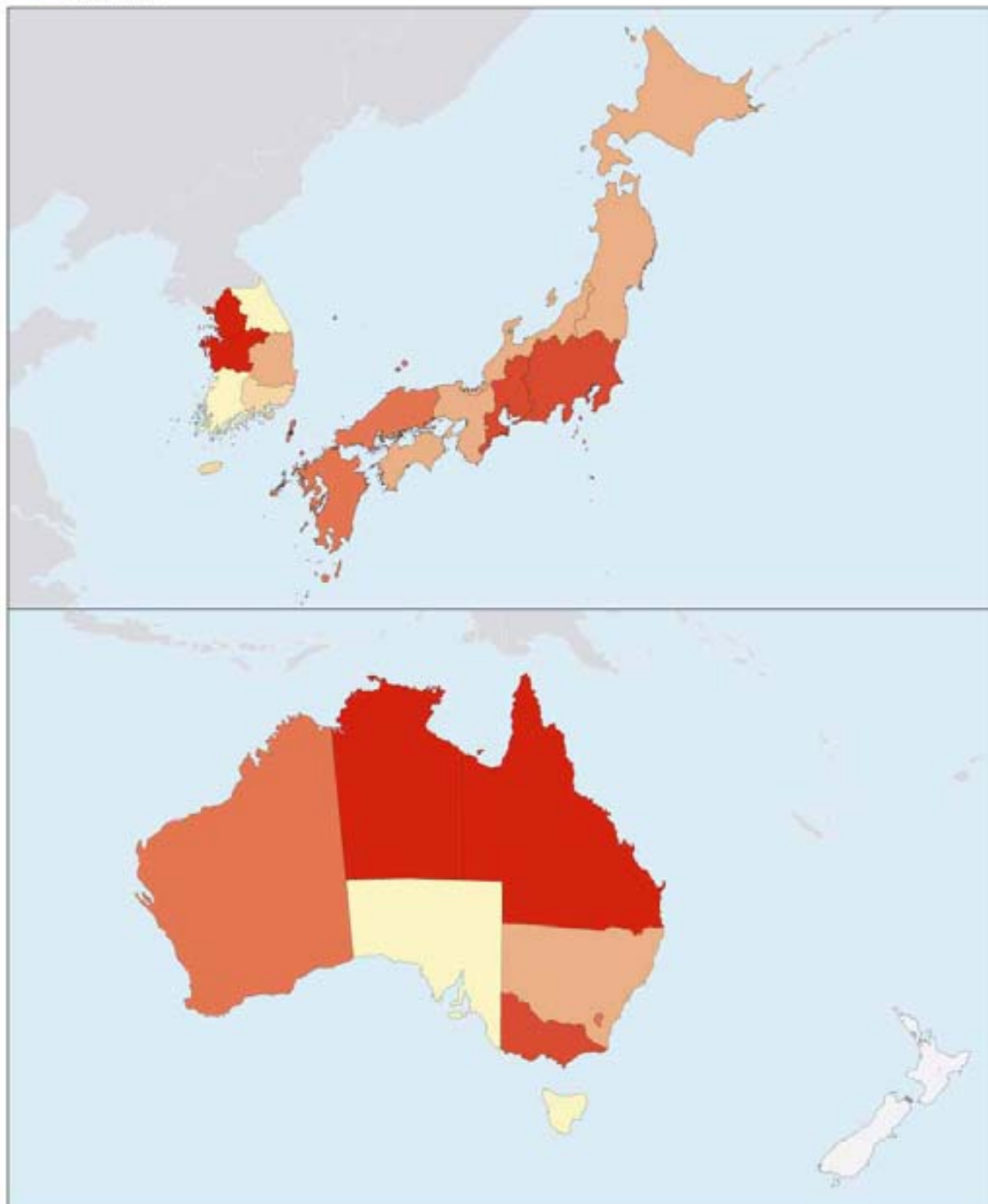


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16.3. Change in the regional GDP share of the OECD due to regional factors:
Asia and Oceania

1998-2003

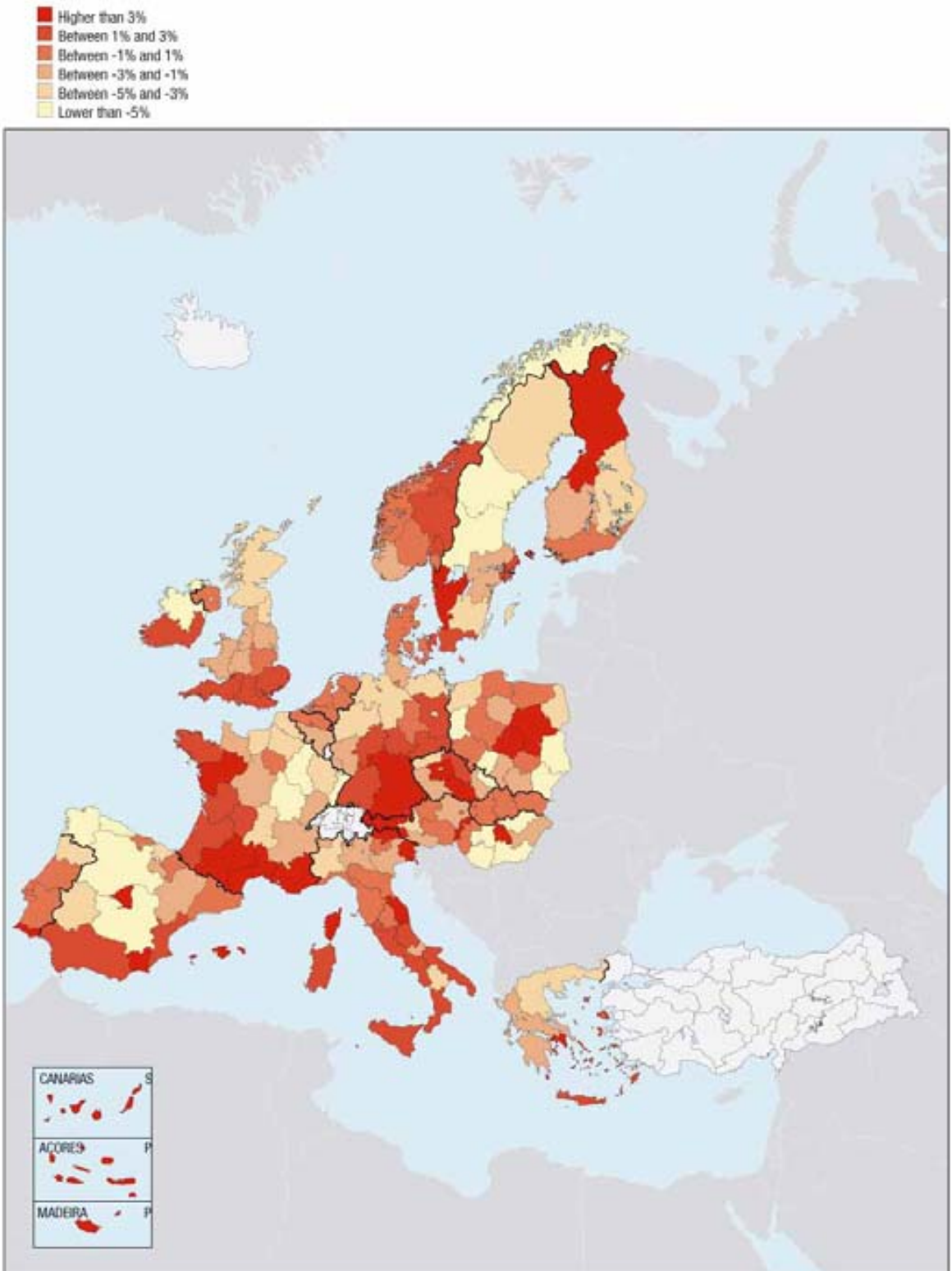
- Higher than 3%
- Between 1% and 3%
- Between -1% and 1%
- Between -3% and -1%
- Between -5% and -3%
- Lower than -5%



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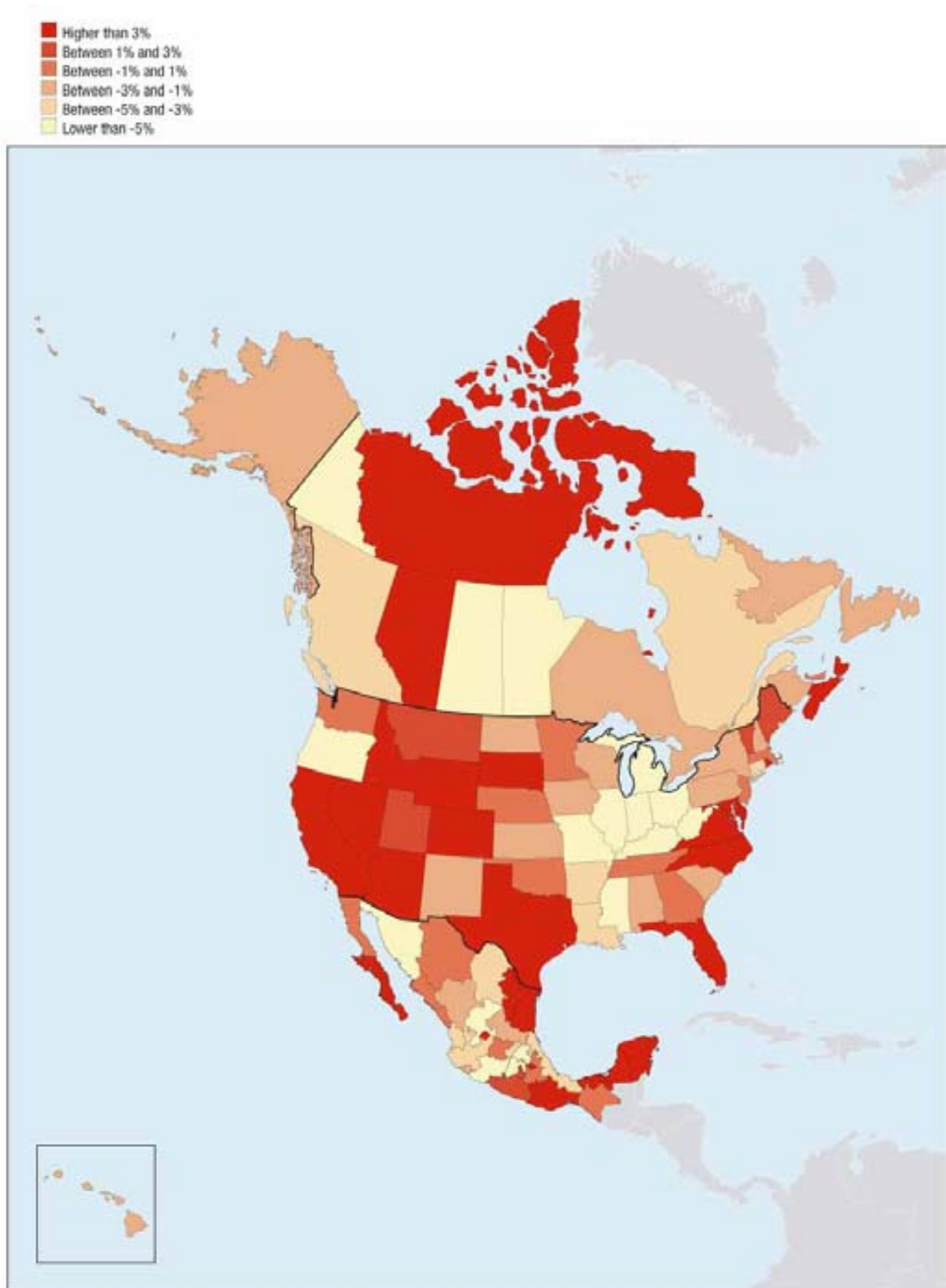
16.4. Change in the regional GDP share of the OECD due to regional factors: Europe

1998-2003



16.5. Change in the regional GDP share of the OECD due to regional factors:
North America

1998-2003



Symbols and Abbreviations

OECD (25) average	Unweighted average of 25 OECD countries.
OECD (25) total	Sum over all regions of 25 OECD countries.
OECD (25)	Range of variation over all regions of 25 OECD countries.
TL2	Territorial Level 2.
TL3	Territorial Level 3
NOG	Non Official Grid
*	Differences in the definition of data or regions. Please check the “Sources and Methodology” section.
PU	Predominantly Urban
IN	Intermediate
PR	Predominantly Rural
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
USD	United States Dollar





I. REGIONS AS ACTORS OF NATIONAL GROWTH

1. GEOGRAPHIC CONCENTRATION OF POPULATION
2. GEOGRAPHIC CONCENTRATION OF THE ELDERLY POPULATION
3. GEOGRAPHIC CONCENTRATION OF GDP
4. REGIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO GROWTH IN NATIONAL GDP
5. GEOGRAPHIC CONCENTRATION OF INDUSTRIES
6. REGIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT
7. GEOGRAPHIC CONCENTRATION OF PATENTS

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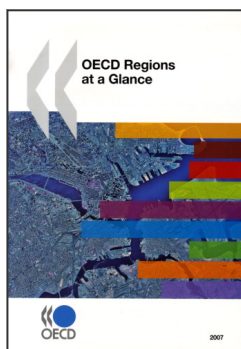
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