

1. SPECIAL FOCUS ON METROPOLITAN AREAS

Impact of the crisis on unemployment in metropolitan areas

In many countries, the difficult labour market conditions resulting from the economic crisis have been persistent also in metropolitan areas. The unemployment rate in metropolitan areas rose more in the period 2008-2012 than it did in the previous 8 years in 26 of the 28 OECD countries (Figure 1.20). In Athens and Thessaloniki (the two metropolitan areas of Greece), the unemployment rate increased on average 5 percentage points annually between 2008 and 2012, reaching 25% of unemployed in 2012 (Figure 1.20).

In 2012 the unemployment rate in 45% of the OECD metropolitan areas was above that of the respective country. Differences in unemployment rates among metropolitan areas of the same country were the largest in Spain, Italy and France (Figure 1.21).

The metropolitan areas with the largest increase in the unemployment rate in each country in the period 2008-12 were Athens (Greece), Seville (Spain), Lisbon (Portugal) and Dublin (Ireland), where unemployment rates rose more than

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.

Unemployed persons are defined as those who are without work, who are available for work and have taken active steps to find work in the last four weeks.

Values of employed and unemployed in the metropolitan areas are estimated by adjusting the corresponding values of TL2 regions (see Annex C).

The unemployment rate is defined as the ratio between unemployed persons and labour force, where the latter is composed of unemployed and employed persons.

2 percentage points annually (Figure 1.22). The unemployment rate in these metropolitan areas was no less than 14% in 2012. On the other hand, metropolitan areas in Germany, Chile, Korea and Norway have managed to create or maintain employment during the economic crisis. For example, in Oslo (Norway) and Seoul (Korea), annual increases of the unemployment rate were below 0.1 percentage points on average during 2008-2012 (Figure 1.22).

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

2000-12; 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

1.20-1.22: Unemployment values in metropolitan areas are estimates based on unemployment data at TL2 level. (Annex C).

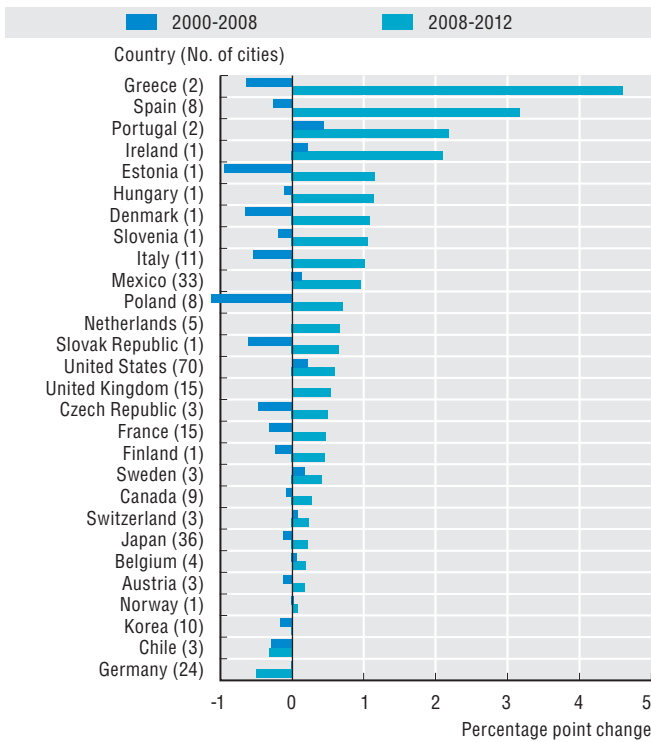
Available years: Switzerland 2001-12; Mexico 2000-12; Finland and Japan 2000-11.

1.22: Chile and Germany are not included in the graph since the unemployment rates of the metropolitan areas have decreased during the period 2008-12.

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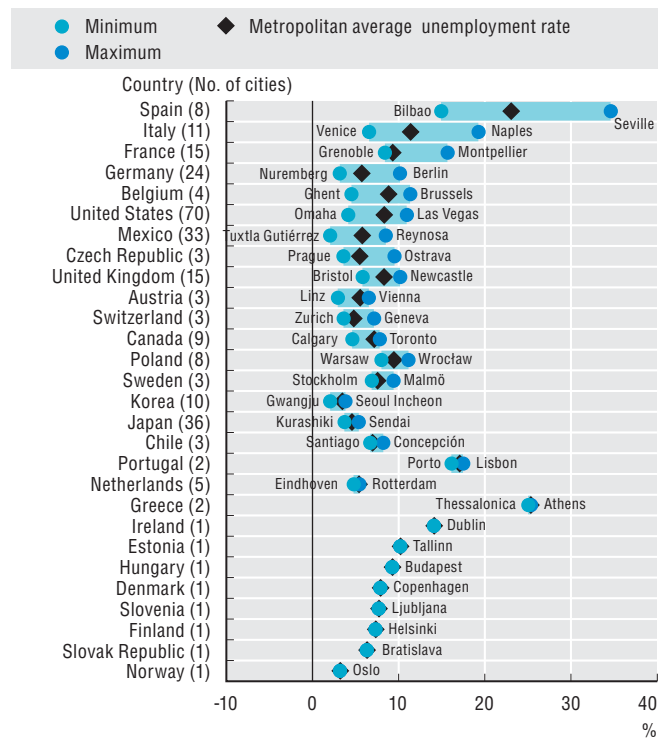
Impact of the crisis on unemployment in metropolitan areas

1.20. Annual average change in unemployment rate of metropolitan areas, by country



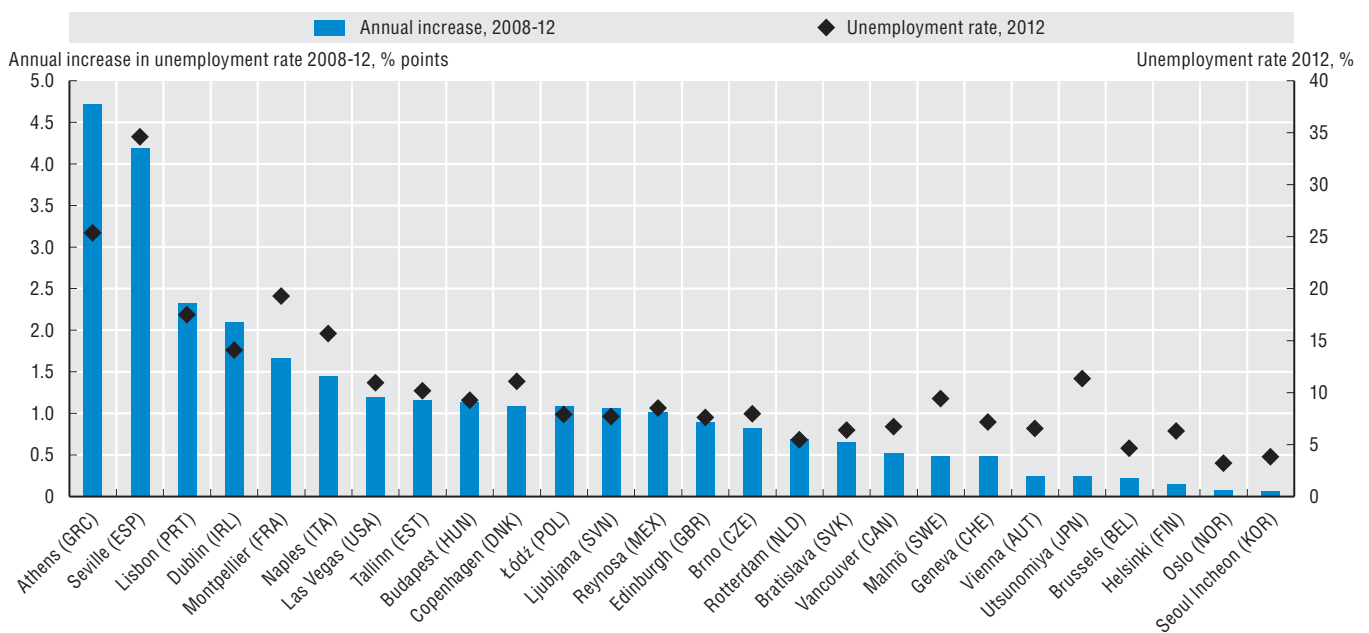
StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932912981>

1.21. Countries ranked by size of difference in metropolitan unemployment rate, 2012



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932913000>

1.22. Metropolitan area with largest increase in unemployment rate during 2008-12 (average yearly) and its unemployment rate in 2012, by country



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932913019>



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