

22. VOTER TURNOUT IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Voter turnout provides an indication of the degree of public trust in government and of citizens' involvement in the political process.

Figure 22.1 shows the variation in voter turnout across regions in OECD countries in the last national election. In Australia, where voting is mandatory, Tasmania records the highest OECD-area turnout rate (96%). Belgium, Austria, Italy and Turkey also record very high turnout rates in some regions. Among these countries, Belgium has the smallest regional variation (87%-93%).

There are large regional variations in the United States

The United States has the largest regional variation, with a difference of about 31 percentage points between the lowest and the highest rate, followed by Spain (24), Mexico (22), Finland and Italy (20). The regions with the lowest turnout rates are in Poland (34% in Opolskie) and Switzerland (43% in

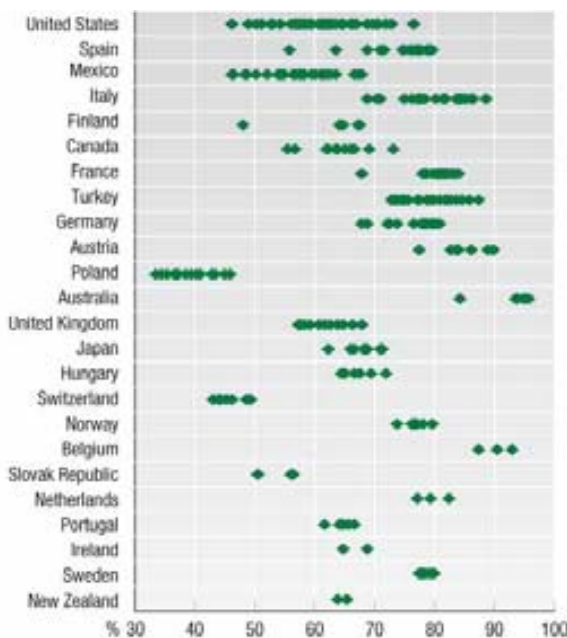
Ostschweiz). New Zealand, Sweden and Ireland show the lowest regional variation in turnout rates.

Turnout rates vary across regional types

The correlation between voter turnout rates and share of population by type of region (urban, intermediate and rural) reveals no clear trend across OECD countries (Figure 22.2). In urban regions the correlation is positive for 11 countries (Portugal, Finland, Poland, Hungary, Norway, Italy, Australia, Mexico, Germany, Turkey and Sweden), and it is negative for the others. In rural regions the correlation is positive in 12 countries (Australia, Turkey, Sweden, Canada, Japan, Spain, Slovak Republic, United States, France, Austria, United Kingdom and Ireland). In Australia, Sweden and Turkey the correlation of the voter turnout rate with the share of population in rural and urban regions is positive, but in Sweden the coefficient is higher for rural regions.

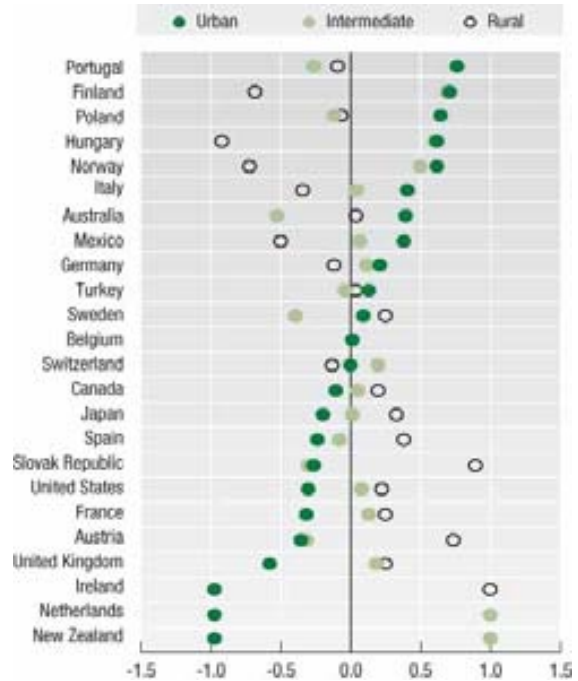
22.1. The United States shows the highest regional variation in voter turnout rate

Range of variation in voter turnout at the latest national elections (TL2)



22.2. Voter turnout rates vary by regional type across OECD countries

Spearman correlation between voter turnout rate and share of population by regional type, latest national elections (TL2)



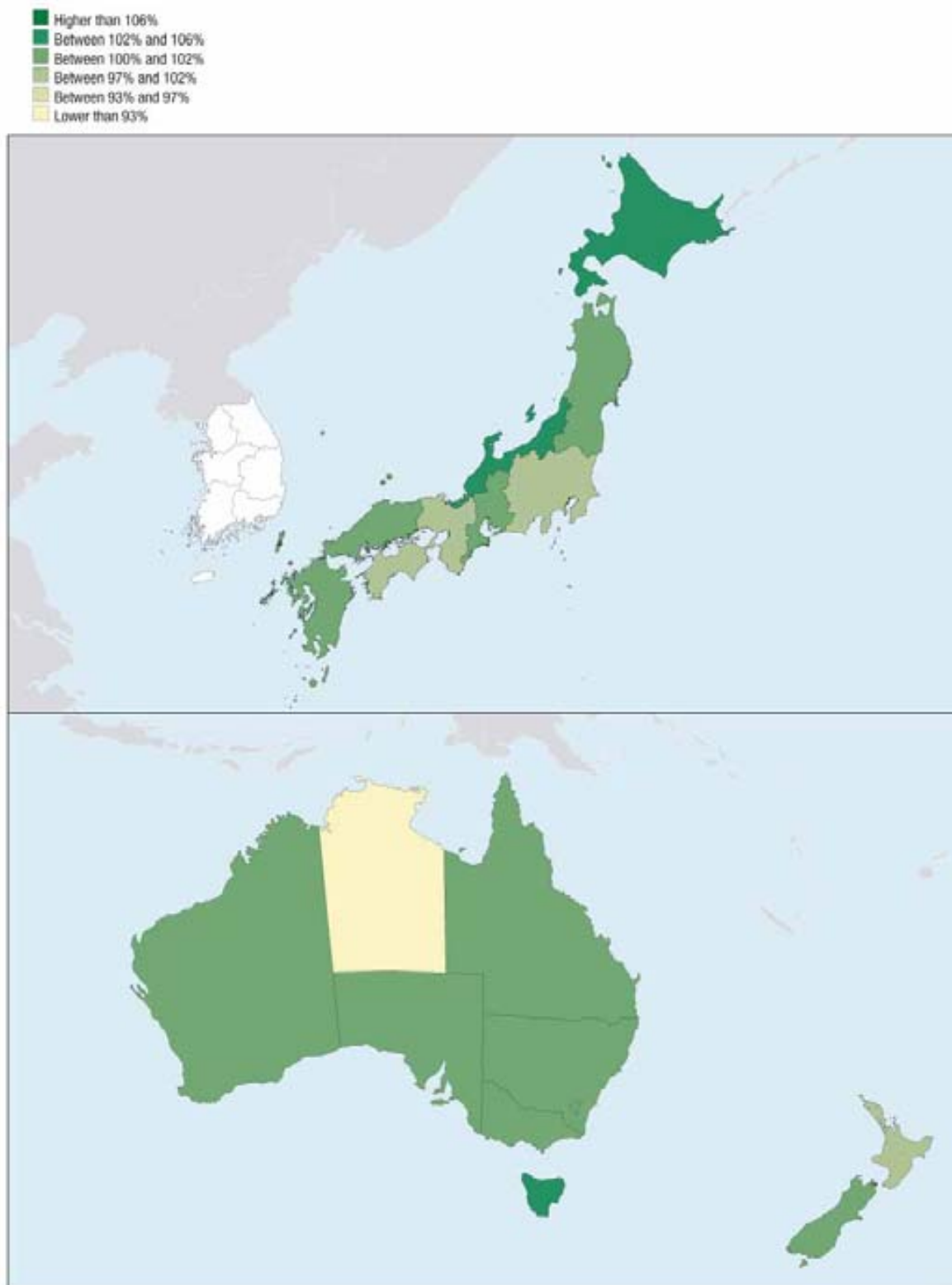
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Definition

Voter turnout is the ratio of the number of voters to the number of persons with voting rights at the last national election.

22.3. Regional voter turnout: Asia and Oceania

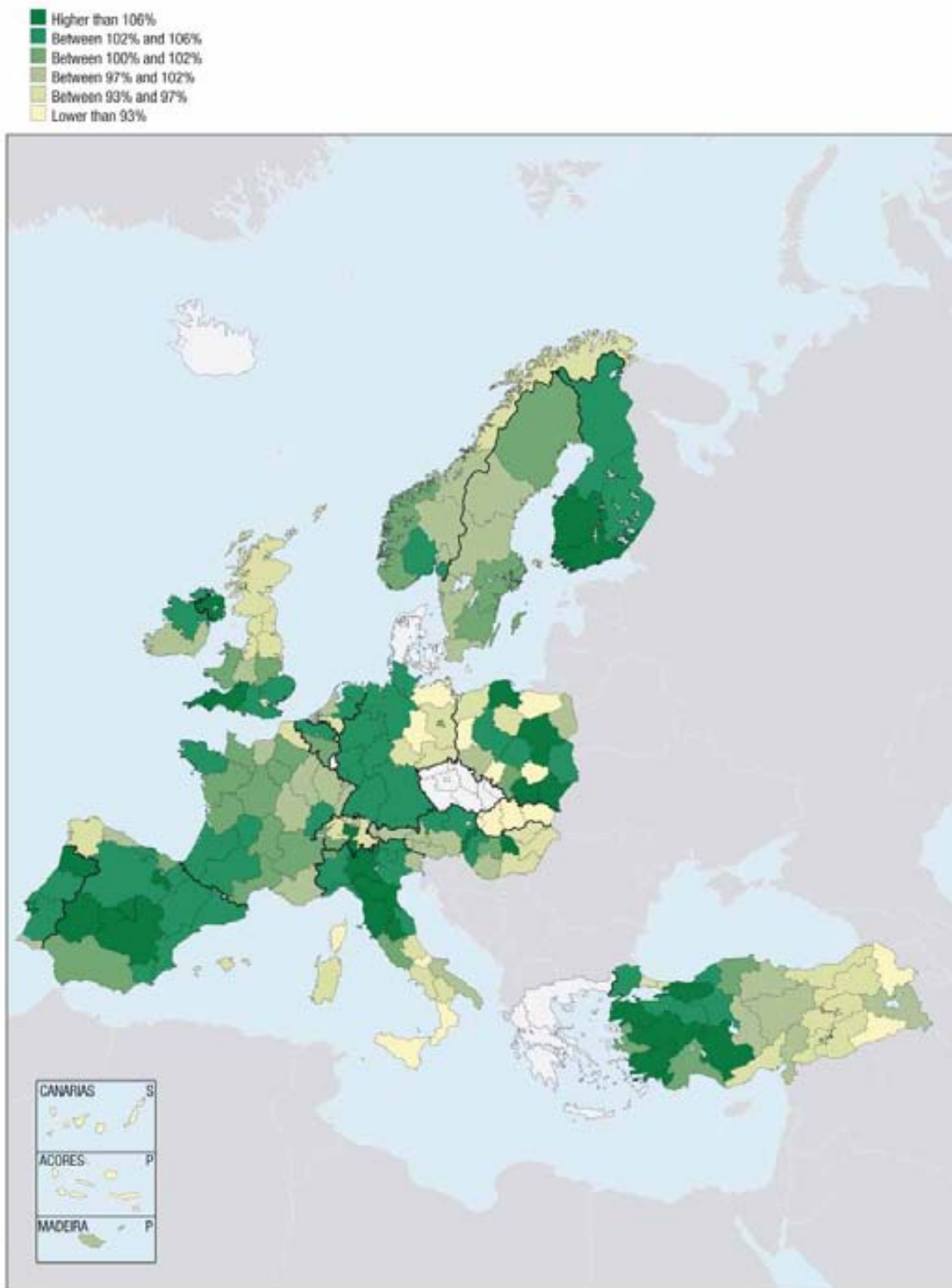
As a percentage of the country average in the last national/federal elections




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22.4. Regional voter turnout: Europe

As a percentage of the country average in the last national/federal election

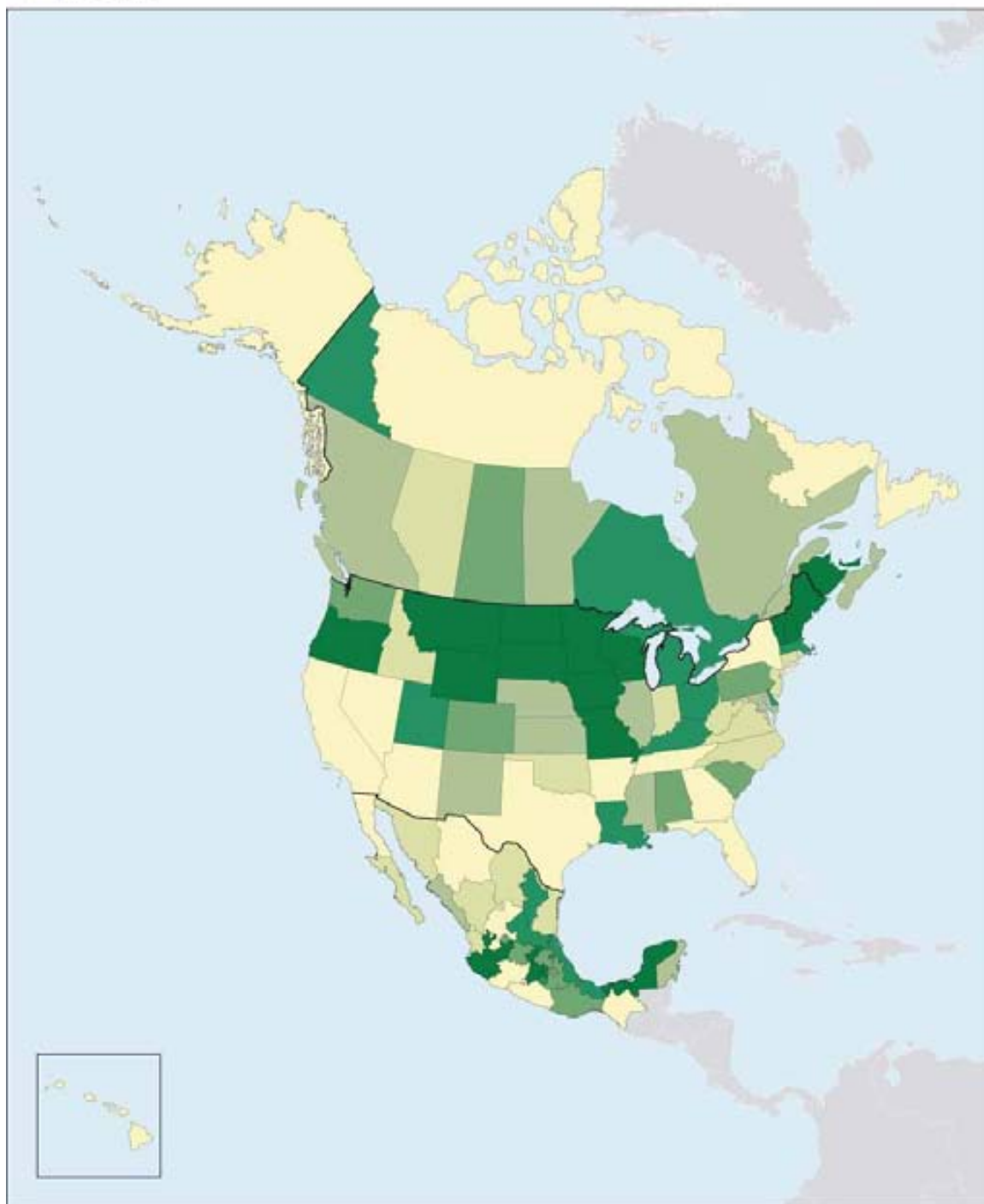



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22.5. Regional voter turnout: North America

As a percentage of the country average in the last national/federal elections

- Higher than 106%
- Between 102% and 106%
- Between 100% and 102%
- Between 97% and 102%
- Between 93% and 97%
- Lower than 93%



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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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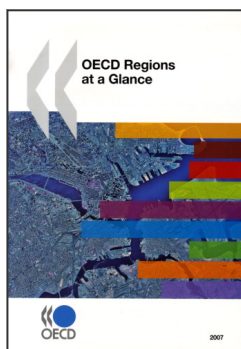
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