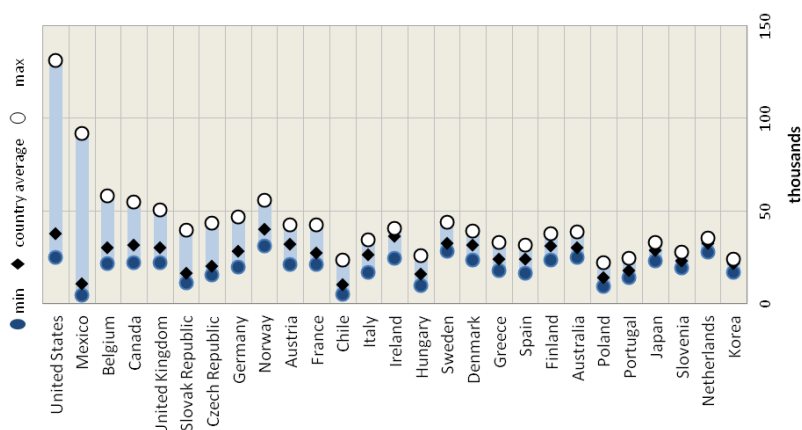


Chapter 1. Regional disparities in GDP and employment

International comparisons of economies and societies are generally undertaken at the country level. GDP per capita in Norway and the United States is twice as large as in Chile, Mexico and Poland, for example. Employment rates in the United Kingdom has been 15 percentage points higher than in many Eastern European countries, Italy and France for the whole decade prior the economic recession (1997-2007). The differences between countries, however, are often not as great as the disparities among them.

People in the District of Columbia, Delaware, and Connecticut have a higher GDP per head than most OECD countries, while Mississippi is closer to that of Greece or Slovenia. While GDP per person in London is much larger than in the United States, in Wales it is lower than in Greece.

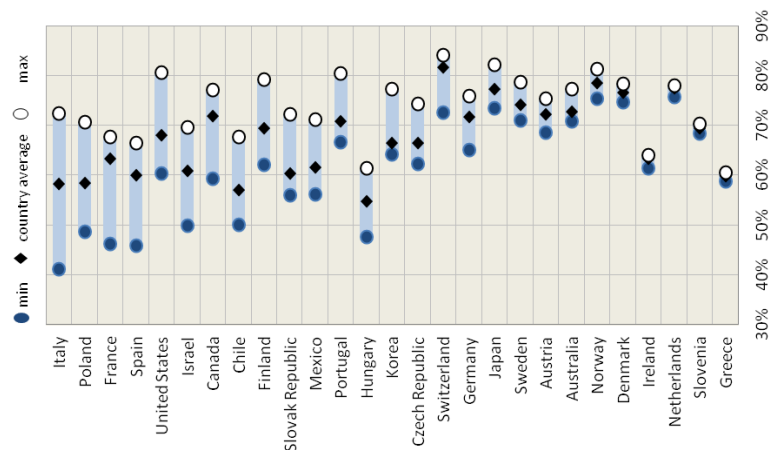
GDP per capita in TL2 OECD regions; 2007



Source: OECD Regional Database

Employment differences can be equally large. In Italy, the difference in the employment rate of the regions Emilia-Romagna and Campania is more than 30 percentage points, the same as between the United States and Turkey. Even in Japan where regional differences are low compared to many OECD countries, the difference in the employment rate between the area of Hokuriku and Kinki is more than 10 percentage points.

Employment rate in TL2 OECD regions; 2009



Source: OECD Regional Database

Links:

- [OECD Regions at a Glance 2011](#)
- [OECD Regional Statistics and Indicators](#)
- [OECD eXplorer](#)

Definition

GDP is the standard measure of the value of the production activity (goods and services) of resident producer units. Regional GDP is measured according to the definition of the System of National Accounts (SNA). To make comparisons over time and across countries, it is expressed at constant prices (year 2000), using the OECD deflator and then it is converted into USD purchasing power parities (PPPs) to express each country's GDP in a common currency.

Employed persons are all persons who during the reference week worked at least one hour for pay or profit, or were temporarily absent from such work. Family workers are included.

The **employment rate** is defined as the ratio between total employment (place of residence) and population in the class age 15-64