

Regions and Cities at a Glance 2020 provides a comprehensive assessment of how regions and cities across the OECD are progressing in a number of aspects connected to economic development, health, well-being and net zero-carbon transition. In the light of the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the report analyses outcomes and drivers of social, economic and environmental resilience. Consult the full publication [here](#).

OECD REGIONS AND CITIES AT A GLANCE - COUNTRY NOTE

AUSTRIA

- A. Resilient regional societies
- B. Regional economic disparities and trends in productivity
- C. Well-being in regions
- D. Industrial transition in regions
- E. Transitioning to clean energy in regions
- F. Metropolitan trends in growth and sustainability

The data in this note reflect different subnational geographic levels in OECD countries:

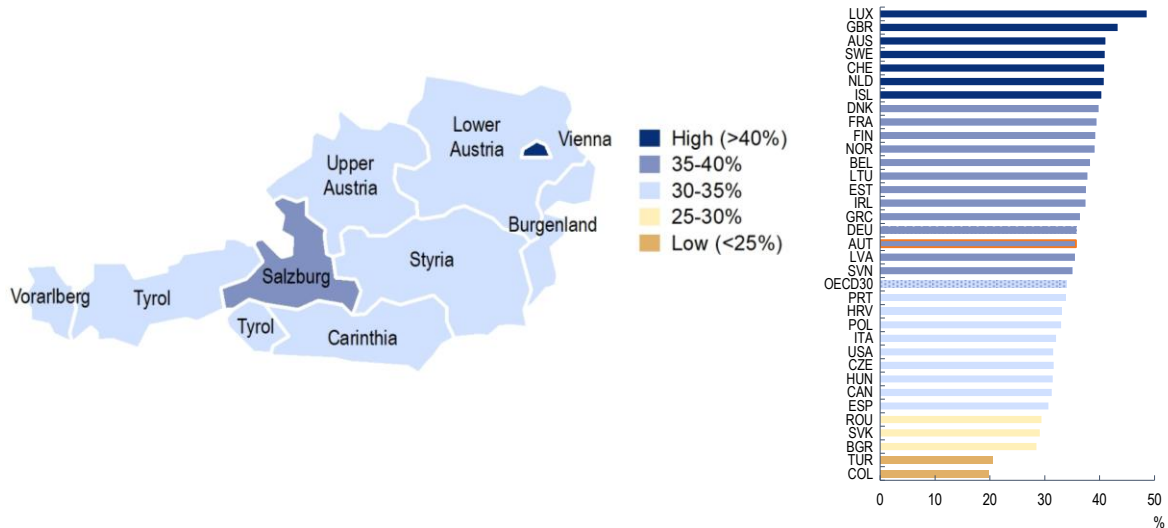
- **Regions** are classified on two territorial levels reflecting the administrative organisation of countries: large regions (TL2) and small regions (TL3). Small regions are classified according to their access to metropolitan areas (see <https://doi.org/10.1787/b902cc00-en>).
- **Functional urban areas** consists of cities – defined as densely populated local units with at least 50 000 inhabitants – and adjacent local units connected to the city (commuting zones) in terms of commuting flows (see <https://doi.org/10.1787/d58cb34d-en>). Metropolitan areas refer to functional urban areas above 250 000 inhabitants.

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Vienna has the highest potential for remote working

A1. Share of jobs amenable to remote working, 2018

Large regions (TL2, map)



The share of jobs amenable to remote working in Austrian regions ranges from 45% in Vienna to 30% in Burgenland (Figure A1), a significant difference, although below the OECD median. Such a difference depends on the task content of occupations in the regions, which can be amenable to remote working to different extents. The potential for remote working is estimated based on the place of work, therefore the interpretation of such indicator should consider that region of work and residence might not coincide.

People in Austria use regularly internet in all regions, although Burgenland shows lowest take-up of digital technology. In this region, the share of people using internet in the last three months is 10 percentage point lower than in Tyrol (Figure A2). This relatively low level of internet use reflects the small size of the region and the absence of large cities.

A2- Internet use

Share of people using internet in the last three months, 2019

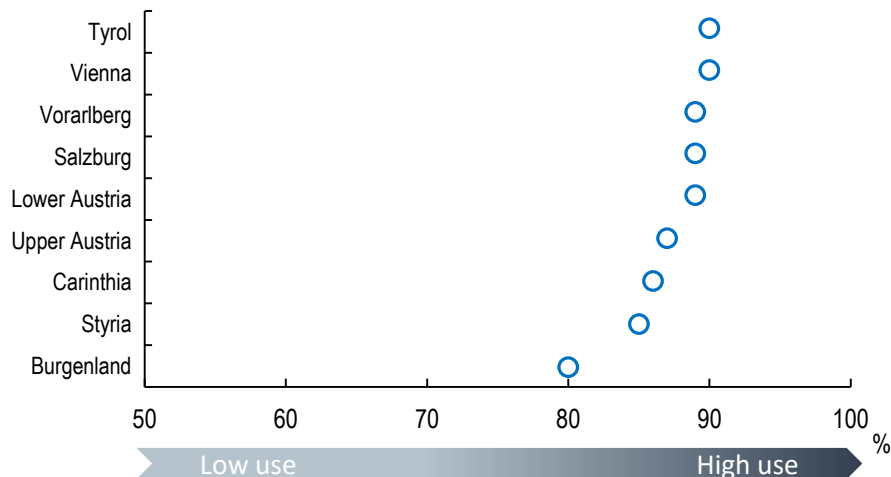
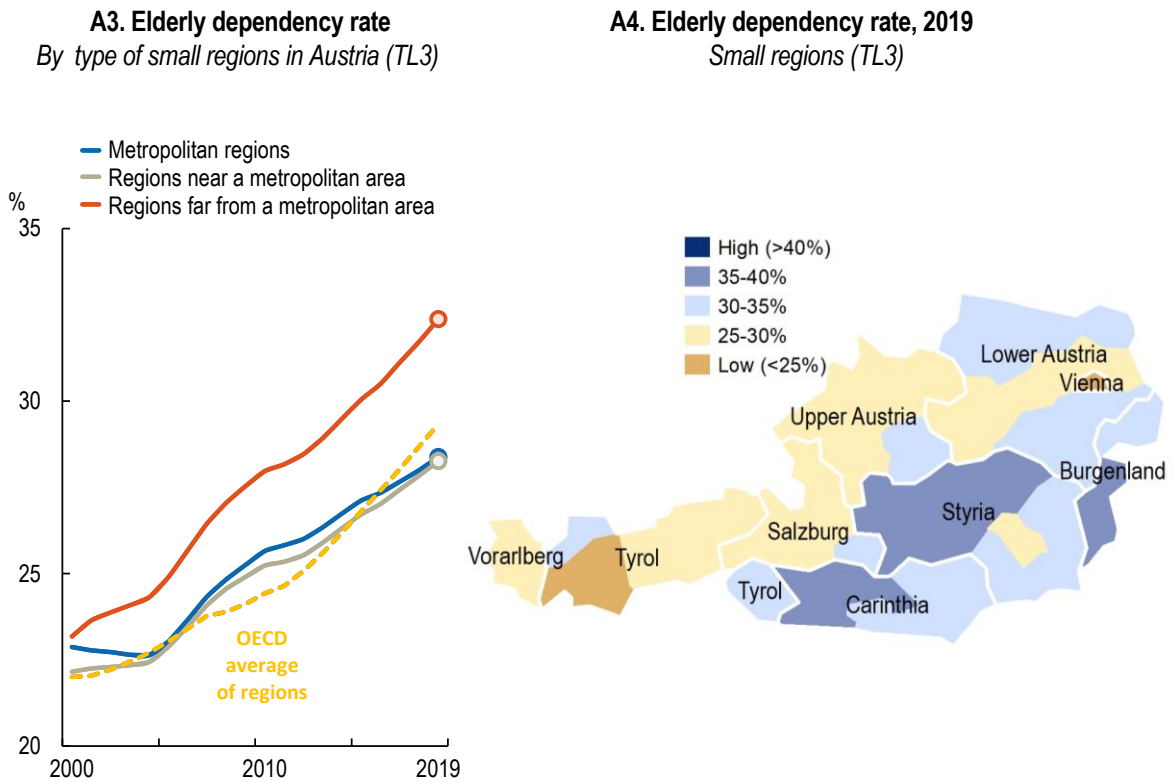


Figure [A1]: The lower percentage range (<25%) depicts the bottom quintile among 370 OECD and EU regions, the following ranges are based on increment of 5 percentage points. Further reading: OECD (2020), Capacity to remote working can affect lockdown costs differently across places, <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/capacity-for-remote-working-can-affect-lockdown-costs-differently-across-places-0e85740e/>

Ageing challenges regions far from metropolitan areas more strongly

The elderly dependency rate has been increasing in all types of regions in Austria since 2005. Regions far from metropolitan areas show the highest elderly dependency rate (32%) among different types of regions (Figure A3). In 25% of the small regions in Austria, there is one elderly for every three persons in their working-age in 2019 (Figure A4).



Austrian regions have more hospital beds per capita than OECD average

All regions in Austria have significantly more hospital beds per capita than the OECD average, although this ratio slightly decreased in most regions since 2000 (Figure A5). Regional disparities in hospital beds are below OECD average, with Vorarlberg having 3.5 less hospital beds per 1 000 inhabitants in 2018 than the level in Salzburg.

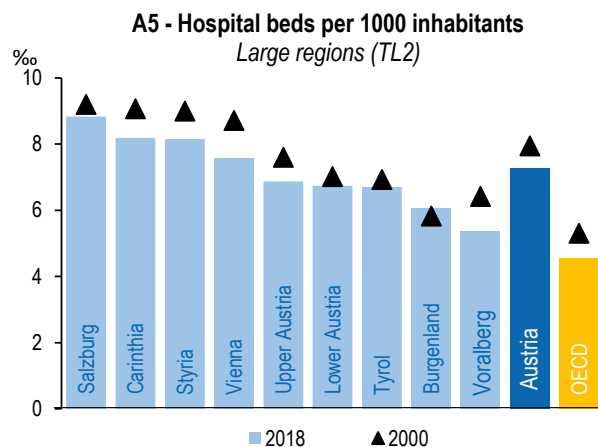


Figure notes. [A3]: OECD (2019), Classification of small (TL3) regions based on metropolitan population, low density and remoteness <https://doi.org/10.1787/b902cc00-en>. [A4]: Small (TL3) regions contained in large regions. TL3 regions in Austria are composed by 35 Gruppen von Politischen Bezirkense.

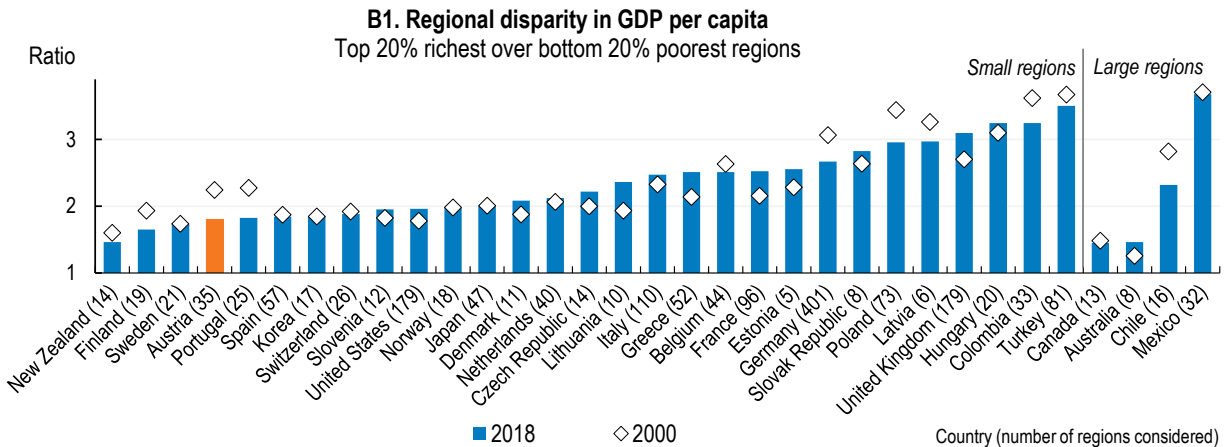
B. Regional economic disparities and trends in productivity

Only three OECD countries have lower disparities in GDP per capita across small regions than Austria

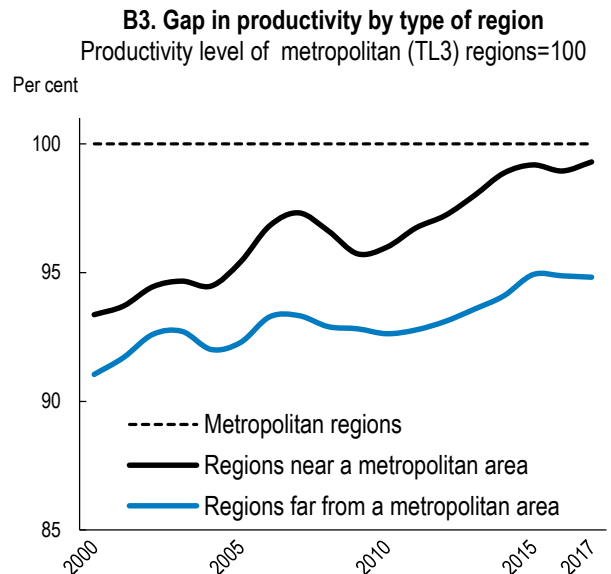
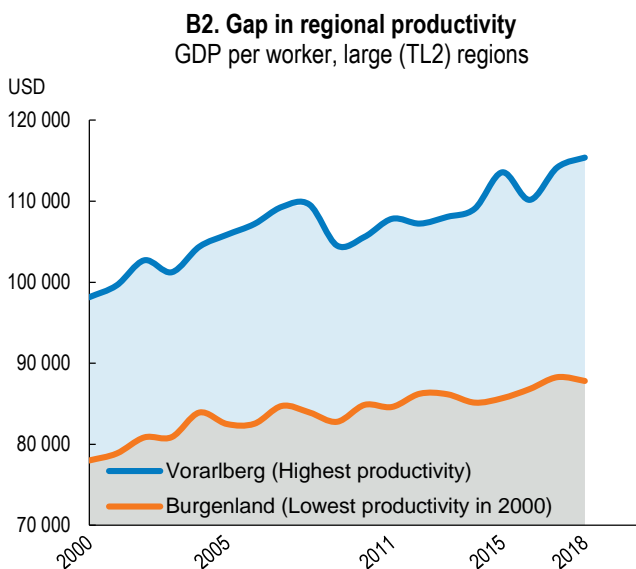
Austria is among OECD countries with the lowest regional disparities in GDP per capita (Figure B1) and the gap in GDP per capita between the richest and poorest region have decreased further since 2000. In Burgenland and Salzburg, the poorest and richest Austrian regions, respectively, GDP per capita increased by almost 30% over the period 2000-18, while it remained stable in Vienna. However, Vienna is still the region (together with Salzburg) with the highest GDP per capita level in Austria.

With a productivity growth of 0.9% per year over the period 2000-18, Burgenland, the region with the lowest level of productivity, has increased its productivity gap from Vorarlberg, the frontier region in terms of productivity in Austria (Figure B2). Vienna experienced the lowest growth of its productivity, reflecting also its high growth of employment between 2005 and 2018 (+20%).

Regions far from a metropolitan area of at least 250,000 inhabitants have slightly narrowed their gap to metropolitan regions since 2000, while regions near a metropolitan area are catching-up more rapidly (Figure B3).

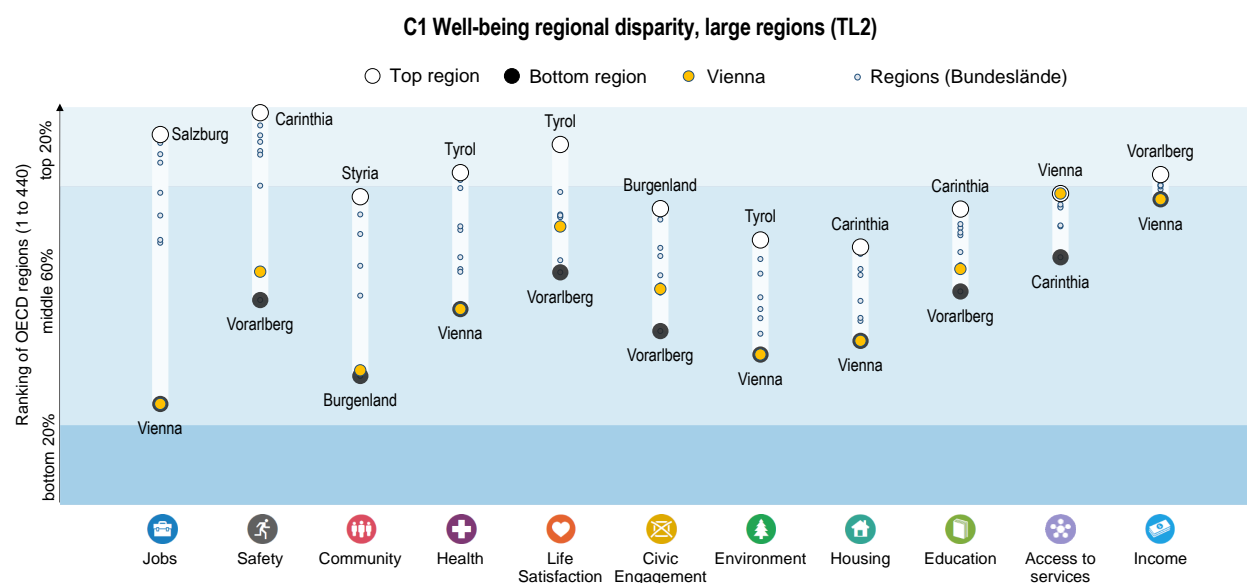


Note: A ratio with a value equal to 2 means that the GDP per capita of the richest regions accounting for 20% of the national population is twice as high as the GDP of the poorest regions accounting for 20% of the national population.



C. Well-being in regions

Austria presents large regional disparities in the well-being dimensions jobs, safety and community



Note: Relative ranking of the regions with the best and worst outcomes in the 11 well-being dimensions, with respect to all 440 OECD regions. The eleven dimensions are ordered by decreasing regional disparities in the country. Each well-being dimension is measured by the indicators in the table below.

While Austrian regions rank in the middle 60% of OECD regions in most well-being dimensions, all nine Austrian regions are among the top 25% of OECD regions in terms of household income. In contrast, the largest regional disparities in Austria are found in jobs outcomes (employment and unemployment rates). While Vienna is among the bottom 25% of OECD regions, Salzburg ranks among the top 10% (Figure C1).

The average of the top performing Austrian regions is higher than the average of the top OECD regions in 5 out of 13 well-being indicators, particularly in terms of unemployment and homicide rates (Figure C2).

C2. How do the top and bottom regions fare on the well-being indicators?

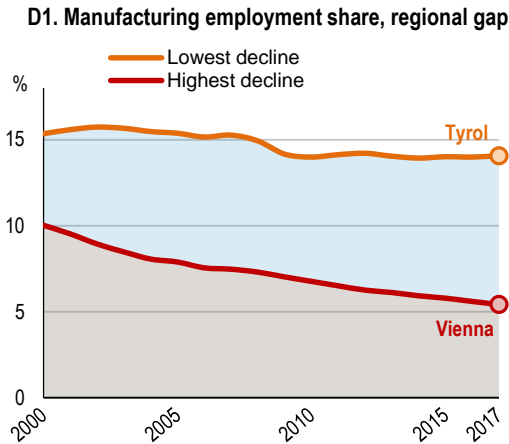
	Country Average	OECD Top 20% regions	Austrian regions	
			Top 20%	Bottom 20%
Jobs				
Employment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	73.6	76.0	77.1	67.1
Unemployment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	4.6	3.3	2.4	9.4
Safety				
Homicide Rate (per 100 000 people), 2016-18	0.6	0.7	0.3	1.2
Community				
Perceived social network support (%), 2014-18	91.1	94.1	93.7	87.7
Health				
Life Expectancy at birth (years), 2018	81.3	82.6	82.9	80.6
Age adjusted mortality rate (per 1 000 people), 2018	7.6	6.6	6.9	8.3
Life Satisfaction				
Life satisfaction (scale from 0 to 10), 2014-18	7.1	7.3	7.3	6.9
Civic engagement				
Voters in last national election (%), 2019 or latest year	75.6	84.2	80.7	70.9
Environment				
Level of air pollution in PM2.5 (µg/m³), 2019	16.7	7.0	9.8	14.3
Housing				
Rooms per person, 2018	1.7	2.3	1.9	1.6
Education				
Population with at least upper secondary education, 25-64 year-olds (%), 2019	85.6	90.3	87.9	82.6
Access to services				
Households with broadband access (%), 3-year average 2017-19	88.3	91.3	90.0	86.5
Income				
Disposable income per capita (in USD PPP), 2018	27 023	26 617	28 228	25 572

Note: OECD regions refer to the first administrative tier of subnational government (large regions, Territorial Level 2); Austria is composed of 9 large regions. Source: <https://www.oecdregionalwellbeing.org>



D. Industrial transition in regions

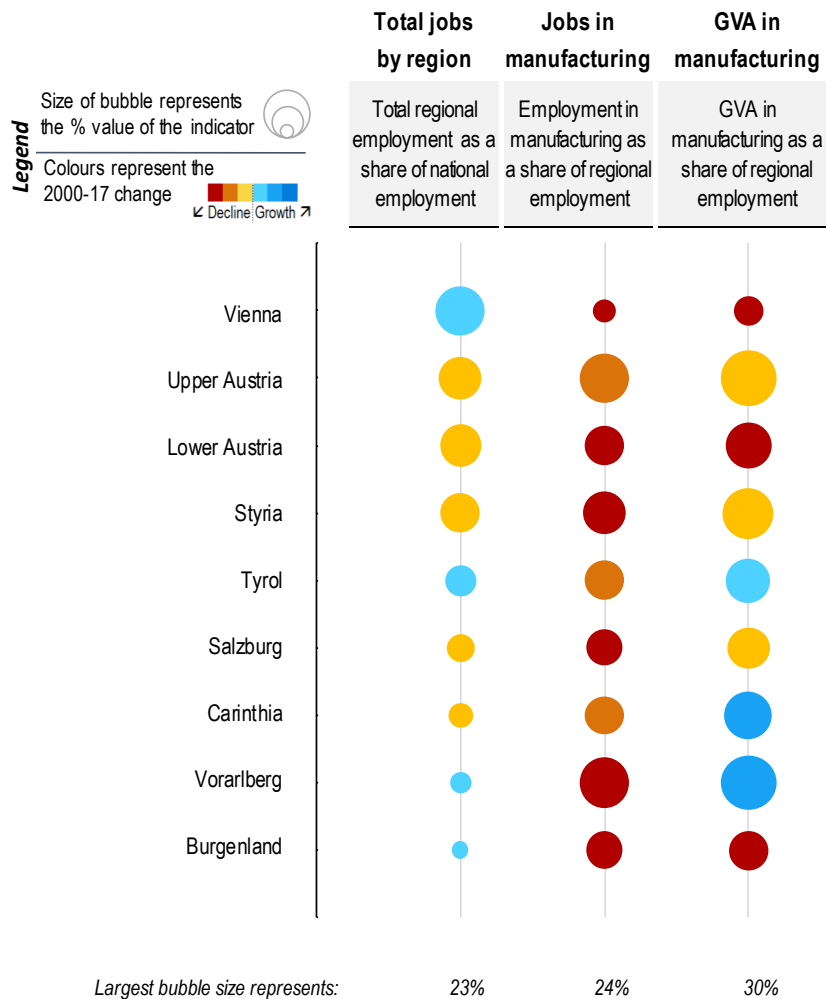
Manufacturing employment has declined in all regions in Austria since 2017



Between 2000 and 2017, all large regions in Austria experienced a decline in the share of manufacturing employment. With a reduction of 4.6 pp in the share of manufacturing employment, Vienna, the most populous region, recorded the largest decrease (Figure D1).

Decline in manufacturing employment combines with a reduction in manufacturing gross value-added in all regions except Tyrol, Carinthia and Vorarlberg (Figure D2).

D2. Manufacturing trends, 2000-17



Note figure D.2. : Regions are ordered by regional employment as a share of national employment. Colour of the bubbles represents the evolution of the share over the period 2000-17 in percentage points: red: below -2 pp; orange: between -2 pp and -1 pp; yellow: between -1 pp and 0; light blue: between 0 and +1 pp; medium blue: between +1 pp and +2 pp; dark blue: above +2 pp over the period.



E. Transitioning to clean energy in regions

Six out of eight Austrian regions, which account for more than 80% of Austrian electricity production, generate most of their electricity using renewable sources

Most Austrian regions have transitioned to clean electricity production. However, Vienna, Styria and Upper Austria are still on the way for a full transition, as in 2017 they generate 73%, 54% and 30% of their electricity using gas, respectively. Additionally, the use of renewables is very limited in Vienna and Styria. In 2017, these two regions generated less than half of their electricity using renewable sources (Figure E1).

E1. Transition to renewable energy, 2017

	Total electricity generation (in GWh per year)	Electricity generation from renewables (in GWh per year)	Electricity generation from gas (in GWh per year)	Greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generated (in Ktons of CO ₂ eq.)
Lower Austria	11 131	9 900	1 231	755
Tyrol	9 628	9 628	0	231
Upper Austria	8 897	6 245	2 652	1 449
Vorarlberg	8 030	8 030	0	193
Vienna	6 250	1 664	4 585	2 287
Carinthia	6 192	6 192	0	149
Salzburg	5 215	5 002	213	224
Styria	4 139	1 906	2 233	1 140

Austrian regions are highly carbon efficient in their electricity production (based on 83% of the total country's electricity production), with little CO₂ emissions per unit of electricity produced compared to the average of OECD regions (of 380 tons of CO₂ per gigawatt hour of electricity produced). In 2017, Vienna and Styria emitted respectively 365 and 275 tons of CO₂ per gigawatt hour of electricity generated, on average, while the rest of Austrian regions emitted less than 165 tons of CO₂ per gigawatt hour of electricity produced (E2).

E2. Contribution to total CO₂ emissions from electricity production, 2017

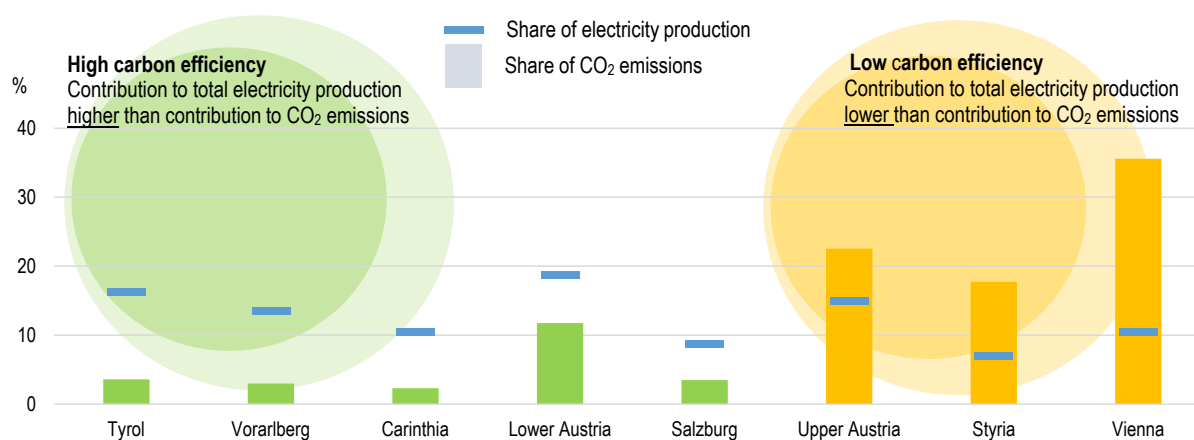


Figure notes: Only 83% of the total country's electricity production is covered. Electricity production from Biomass, Coal, Geothermal, Oil, Solar, Waste power plants is missing. Regions are arranged in Figure E1 by total generation, and in Figure E2 according to gap between share of electricity generation and share of CO₂ emissions (most positive to most negative). These estimates refer to electricity production from the power plants connected to the national power grid, as registered in the Power Plants Database. As a result, small electricity generation facilities disconnected from the national power grid might not be captured. See [here](#) for more details.

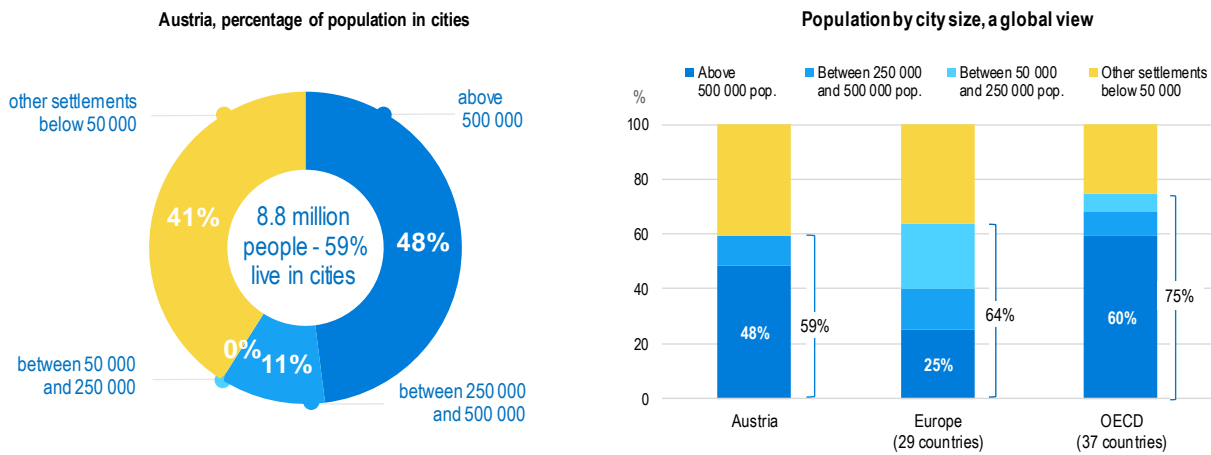


F. Metropolitan trends in growth and sustainability

With respect to other OECD countries, Austria has higher shares of population in small settlements below 50 000 inhabitants.

In Austria, 59% of the population lives in cities of more than 250 000 inhabitants and their respective commuting zones (functional urban areas, FUAs), a share significantly below the OECD average of 75%. The share of population in FUAs with more than 500 000 people is 48% (Figure F1).

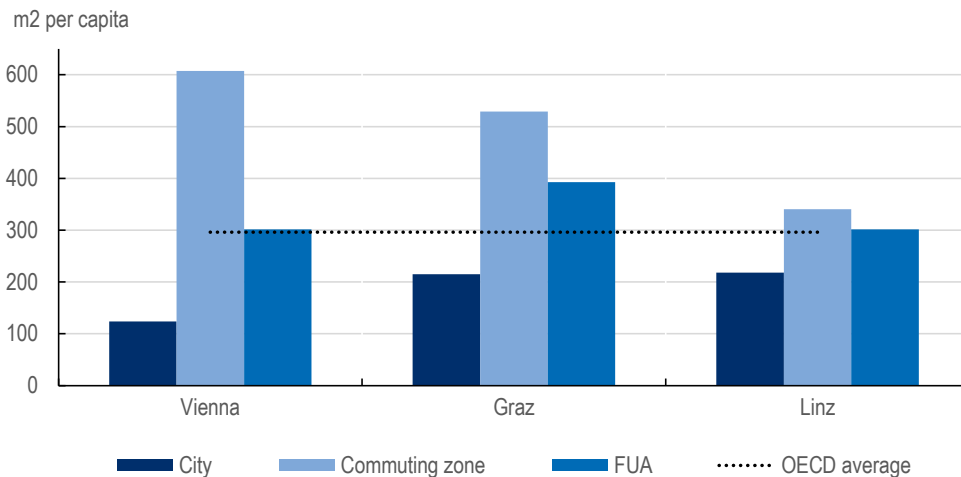
F1. Distribution of population in cities by city size
Functional urban areas, 2018



Built-up area per capita varies greatly inside Vienna metropolitan area

While built-up area per capita between Vienna and Linz have a comparable level in 2014 at the FUA level, the built-up area per capita in the city of Linz is almost twice as high as in Vienna (Figure F2). On the other hand, built-up area is higher in the commuting zone of Vienna.

F2. Built-up area per capita, 2014
Functional urban areas with more than 500 000 inhabitants



Source: OECD Metropolitan Database. Number of metropolitan areas with a population of over 500 000: 3 in Austria compared to 349 in the OECD.

Vienna recorded low GDP per capita growth compared to its neighbouring metropolitan areas due to the high growth of its population since 2000

Linz metropolitan area has the highest GDP per capita in Austria (Figure F3) and ranks among the top 20% of OECD metropolitan areas with more than 500 000 inhabitants. GDP per capita in the three Austrian metropolitan areas (Linz, Graz and Vienna) are close to that in Bologna and slightly lower than Milan (Italy). The low GDP per capita growth of Vienna reflects the high growth of its population since 2000.

F3. Trends in GDP per capita in metropolitan areas
Functional urban areas above 500 000 people in Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary Italy and Slovenia

