

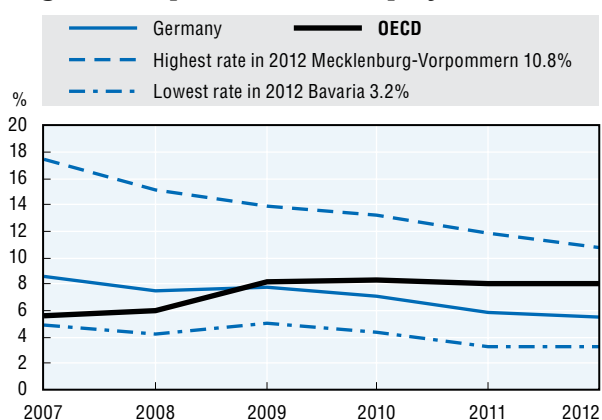
Germany

Recent policy developments

- The Joint Task for the Improvement of Regional Economic Structure (GRW) between the federal government and the regions is expected to increase in importance due to the reduction of investment subsidies in 2013.
- For the new funding period 2014-20, Germany will receive EUR 19.3 billion from EU Structural Funds (EFRD, ESF and ETC) under the revised legislative framework for EU Cohesion Policy. The EU Structural Funds remain the most important source for structural measures in Germany and its regions.
- Municipal mergers are a responsibility of the regions. The *Land* of Saxony-Anhalt reduced the number of its municipalities from 814 to 220 in 2010 and 2011.

Government structure	Municipal-level governments	Intermediate-level governments	Regional or state-level governments
Federation	11 327	295	16
Regional development policy			
Lead ministry(ies) or committees	Federal Ministry for Economy and Technology (BMWi)		
Regional development framework	Most tasks are delegated to the regions (<i>Länder</i>). The Joint Task for the Improvement of Regional Economic Structure (GRW) and its multi-annual Co-ordination Framework as well as EU Structural Funds are the basis for regional development at the national level.		
Urban development policy			
Lead ministry(ies) or committees	Federal Ministry for Transport, Building and Urban Development (BMVBS), Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR)		
Urban policy framework or strategy	The 2007 National Urban Development Policy (<i>Nationale Stadtentwicklungspolitik</i> , NSP) serves mainly as a platform for bringing relevant actors together on city issues and urban trends with different specific topics, as well as an exchange of experiences.		
Rural development policy			
Lead ministry(ies) or committees	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL); Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection (BMJV)		
Rural policy framework or strategy	Rural development programmes (RDP) are established at the regional level (<i>Länder</i>). Fourteen regional programmes support the National Strategy Plan for rural development.		

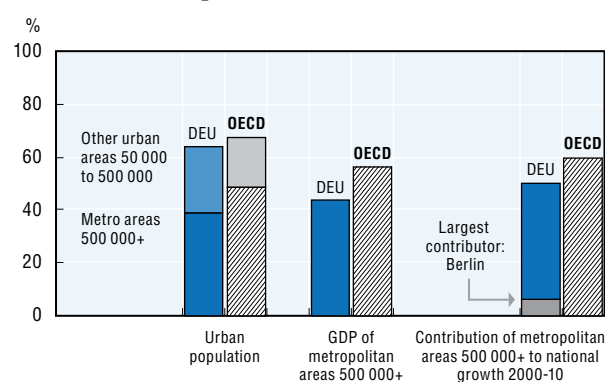
Regional disparities in unemployment trends



In recent years, the unemployment rate has declined, with the highest rate in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (10.8%), and for youth unemployment, a high in Berlin that declined to 14.9% in 2012.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933107807>

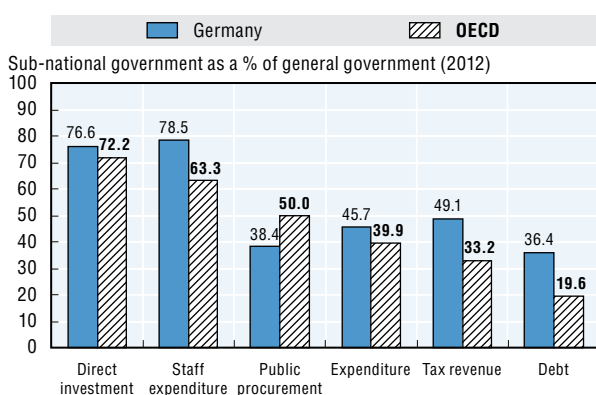
The importance of urban areas



In Germany, 64% of the population lives in cities of different sizes. The share of population in metropolitan areas (urban areas with more than 500 000 inhabitants) is 39%, compared to 49% in the OECD area.

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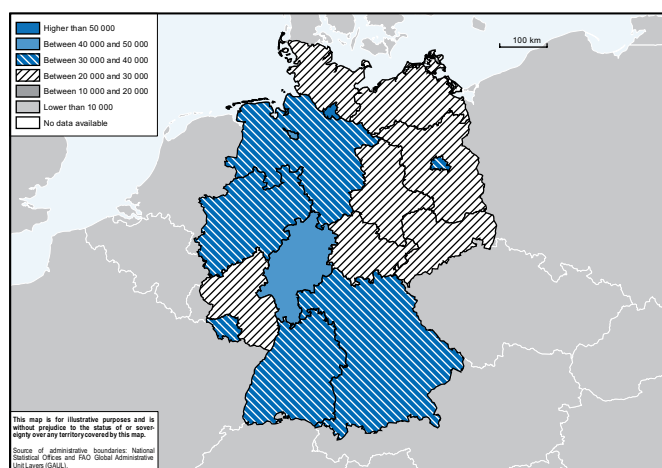
The role of sub-national governments in public finance



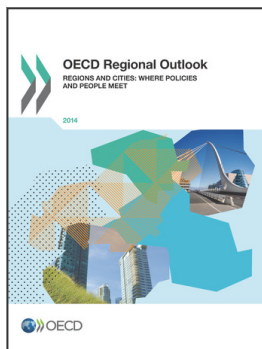
Social protection and general public services are the two largest spending items for SNGs in Germany: together they represent 47% of sub-national expenditure, compared to 26% in the OECD area.

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Regional differences in GDP per capita levels



Germany had the 7th largest regional disparities in GDP per capita in OECD countries in 2010. In the previous decade, regional growth varied from +1.6% annually in Hamburg to +0.1% in Schleswig-Holstein.



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