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How's Life in Your Region?

Measuring Regional and Local Well-being for Policy Making

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Japan

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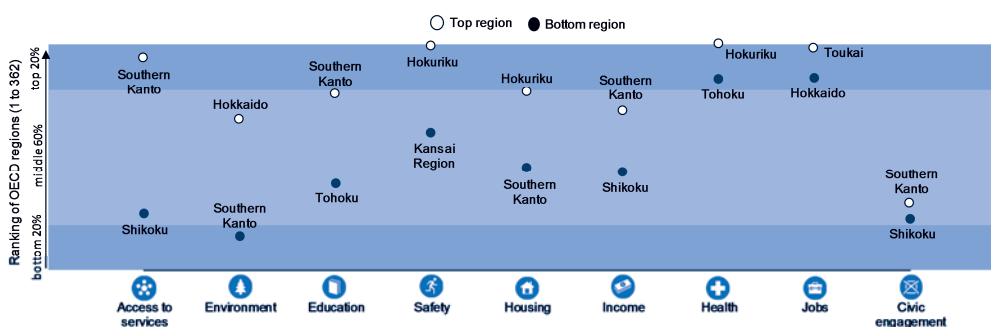
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Japan

All Japanese regions rank among the top 20% OECD regions in health and jobs. Southern Kanto is the top Japanese region in access to services, education, income and civic engagement, but the last one in environment and housing.

Japan has the sixth largest regional disparities in access to services and environment among OECD countries.

Relative performance of Japanese regions by well-being dimensions



Note: Relative ranking of the regions with the best and worst outcomes in the 9 well-being dimensions, with respect to all 362 OECD regions. The nine dimensions are ordered by decreasing regional disparities in the country. Each well-being dimension is measured by the indicators in the table below.

Even the low performing Japanese regions fare better than the OECD average in life expectancy, labour force with at least a secondary degree, employment, homicides, mortality rates and unemployment.

Voter turnout is comparatively low in Japan: The best performing regions are below the OECD average and closer to the values of Canada and Portugal.

How do the top and bottom regions in Japan fare on the well-being indicators?

	Japanese regions		Country average	OECD average
	Top 20%	Bottom 20%		
Access to services				
Households with broadband access (%), 2013	83.2	57.8	72.5	67.2
Environment				
Level of air pollution (PM _{2.5}) experienced by regional population (µg/m ³), 2012	10.1	17.5	14.2	12.3
Education				
Labour force with at least a secondary degree (%), 2013	85.7	74.9	81.2	74.6
Safety				
Homicide rate (per 100 000 people), 2012	0.6	1.1	0.8	4.2
Housing				
Rooms per person, 2012	2.3	1.8	1.9	1.8
Income				
Household disposable income per capita (in USD), 2011	19 031	15 088	17 038	18 907
Health				
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2012	83.1	82.4	82.8	79.5
Age adjusted mortality rate (per 1 000 people), 2012	6.0	6.6	6.2	8.1
Jobs				
Employment rate (%), 2013	82.1	75.2	78.5	66.7
Unemployment rate (%), 2013	3.5	4.9	4.3	8.0
Civic engagement				
Voters in last national election (%), 2013	60.5	58.1	59.3	67.7

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933129543>

Note: Data in the first two columns refer to average values in regions at the top and the bottom 20% of national ranking. The OECD average is computed for 34 countries except for housing (32 countries) and life expectancy at birth (33 countries).

Source: OECD Regional Well-Being Database, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/region-data-en>; www.oecdregionalwellbeing.org.