

## OECD Regional Excess Mortality Metadata

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<b>Dataset access</b>	OECD Short-term regional statistics <a href="http://dotstat.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=REGION_ST">http://dotstat.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=REGION_ST</a>
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<b>Last dataset update</b>	22-October-2021

### Objective

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit certain parts of countries harder than others. Beyond the count of fatalities directly reported as due to the COVID-19 infection, the increase in the number of total deaths in a region relative to previous years provides a useful indication of the overall health impact of the current pandemic. More specifically, the excess mortality during the pandemic – the increase in deaths as a percentage of deaths in previous years – avoids problems of misreporting caused by low levels of testing<sup>1</sup>.

### Definition

Monthly excess mortality is defined as the percentage difference in the number of deaths (all causes) occurring over one month during the crisis, as compared to the average number of deaths during the same month for the years between 2016 and 2019 (baseline). This indicator does not control for demographic and population growth between 2016 and 2021. Data for months with less than 10 average deaths in the region is excluded. The indicator is computed from January-2020 to the most recent available month.

The data are collected at sub-national, at the level of large (TL2) regions which represents the first administrative tier of subnational government and small (TL3) regions (see the OECD Territorial grid ([link to pdf](#)) for further information on the territorial levels of Member countries used in the OECD classification and presented in the OECD Regional database <http://stats.oecd.org>).

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<sup>1</sup> For further reading, see: Diaz Ramirez, M., P. Veneri and A. Lembcke (2021), "Where did it hit harder?: The geography of excess mortality during the COVID-19 pandemic", OECD Regional Development Papers, No. 21, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/ab4848a4-en>.

## Data sources

Country	Source
EU20 countries <sup>1</sup> plus Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom	Eurostat, table demo_r_mweek3
Australia	ABS
Canada	Statistics Canada
Chile <sup>2</sup>	Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation
Colombia	DANE. Customised data provided directly to the OECD
Germany <sup>3</sup>	DESTATIS
Iceland	Statistics Iceland
Israel	Central Bureau of Statistics
Japan	Official Statistics of Japan
Korea	KOSIS
Mexico	INEGI
New Zealand	Stats NZ Tatauranga Aotearoa
United Kingdom	ONS, National Records of Scotland, NISRA
United States	CDC

1. EU20 countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic and Sweden.

2. Chile: Death counts correspond to deaths reported to the National Registry office and have not been verified by the National Statistics Office.

3. Germany: Deaths correspond to a pure case number count of the death reports received from registry offices and have not gone through the usual statistical processing, <https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Gesellschaft-Umwelt/Bevoelkerung/Sterbefaelle-Lebenserwartung/Tabellen/sonderauswertung-sterbefaelle.html>.