



Areas with urban character 2012 (including agglomerations)

Description

Areas with urban character 2012 encompasses the agglomerations and two other urban spatial categories: multi-oriented municipalities and centres outside of agglomerations. The agglomerations are part of the territorial divisions. In order to measure urbanisation, the definition of the urban area has been defined by the FSO for over 100 years. It allows a spatial comparison to be made between urban spaces whose boundaries are unequal at institutional level. The classification of Switzerland's municipalities is based on uniform statistical criteria for the whole of the territory (chiefly population density, the number of jobs, the link of continuity of the developed area and the minimum number of inhabitants and commuter flows).

Most recent revisions: 1984, 2014

Current version: 2014

Reference period for current version's data: 2011–2012

Methodology

Two-level structure

Level 1: Three spatial categories (aggregated by morphological and functional aspects)

Level 2: Seven spatial categories (including 49 agglomerations and 28 centres outside agglomerations composed of aggregates of municipalities)

Revision policy

The FSO periodically updates and revises all non-institutional geographic levels.

Update

The perimeters of non-institutional divisions are regularly modified to take into account changes taking place at institutional level (e.g. municipal mergers). With each change, the FSO reassesses the assignment of the new municipalities to the various spatial divisions.

Reassessment:

A country's spatial structure changes over time. The FSO keeps track of these developments by updating the spatial divisions roughly every 10 years, i.e. by using the same calculation methods but with new data. Exceptionally, the threshold values may be adapted.

Methodological revision :

In order to ensure that data can be compared over time, revision of the calculation methods and definitions occurs less frequently (approximately every 20 to 30 years).

Legal basis

Federal Statistics Act of 9 October 1992 (FStatA)
Multi-annual programme for federal statistics

Organisation

Federal Statistical Office
Buildings and Dwellings Section, Spatial nomenclature service
Environment, Sustainable Development, Territory Section
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