



Spatial divisions – Statistical cities

Description

This typology based on objective density and size criteria makes it possible to define for each Swiss municipality whether it is a city in the statistical sense. In addition to this statistical definition and for institutional or historical reasons, a municipality can describe itself as a city. The delimitation of cities by the Federal Statistical Office is not legally binding.

Methodology

Methodology used:

This 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 minimum number of inhabitants).

Variables used:

Population and Households Statistics (STATPOP), FSO

Structural Business Statistics (STATENT), FSO

Tourist accommodation statistics (HESTA), FSO

Basic data reference period:

2012 version: data reference period: 2011-2012

2020 version: data reference period: 2020

Publication frequency:

Updated approximately every 10 years (see revision policy)

Degree of regionalisation:

Municipalities

Revision policy

The FSO periodically updates and revises all the non-institutional spatial divisions.

Update:

Modifications are limited to regularly updating the perimeters of non-institutional spatial divisions to the changes taking place at institutional level (e.g. municipal mergers). For every change, the FSO reassesses the assignment of new municipalities to the various spatial divisions.

Reassessment:

A country's spatial structure changes over time. The FSO wishes to keep track of these developments by updating the spatial divisions roughly every 10 years, i.e. by using the same calculation method but with new data. In exceptional cases, the thresholds 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

Environment, Sustainable Development, Territory Section

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