



# Business Census (untill 2008)

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## Description

The Business Census (BC) is a survey of all second and third sector businesses and enterprises throughout Switzerland. Its aim is to collect complete data from all economic production units on economic, social and regional aspects. The BC is used to update the Business and Enterprise Register (BER) and serves as a reference for various statistics. The BC was conducted until 2008 and then it was substituted by STATENT.

Available since: 1905. Harmonized data according to NOGA 2008 are available for the years 2001, 2005, 2008

Features registered:

- Location (address)
- Economic activity
- Number of persons employed by hours of work, gender and nationality.

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## Methodology

The BC is a complete survey. Data are collected by means of:

- printed questionnaires
- online questionnaires (eSurvey)
- profiling (separate interviews of large (government) administration units and enterprises).

Participation in the survey is compulsory.

Degree of regionalisation:  
Communes, hectares for geocoded data

Periodicity:  
Three times per decade (i.e. in years ending with 1, 5 and 8). For the last time in 2008.

Reference period:  
Last working day in September. The BC2008 is based on the reference day 30 September 2008.

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## Legal bases

Ordinance on the Conduct of Statistical Surveys by the Confederation of 30 June 1993 (RS 431.012.1).

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## Organization

Federal Statistical Office (FSO) with support from regional statistical offices.

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