

Switzerland



Note: This map is for illustrative purposes and is without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory covered by these maps.

The OECD, in cooperation with the EU, has developed a harmonised definition of functional urban areas (FUAs). Being composed of a city (or core) and its commuting zone, FUAs encompass the economic and functional extent of cities based on daily people's movements (OECD, 2012); (Dijkstra, Poelman, & Veneri, 2019). The definition of FUA aims at providing a functional/economic definition of cities and their area of influence, by maximising international comparability and overcoming the limitation of using purely administrative approaches. At the same time, the concept of FUA, unlike other approaches, ensures a minimum link to the government level of the city or metropolitan area.

FUAs are listed below by size, according to four classes:

- Small FUAs, with population between 50,000 and 100,000
- Medium-sized FUAs, with population between 100,000 and 250,000
- Metropolitan FUAs, with population between 250,000 and 1.5 million
- Large metropolitan FUAs, with population above 1.5 million

A city is a group of local administrative units (i.e. LAU for European countries, such as municipality, local authorities, etc.) where at least 50% of its population live in an urban centre. An urban centre is defined as a cluster of contiguous grid cells of one square kilometer with a density of at least 1,500 inhabitants per square kilometer and a population of at least 50,000 inhabitants overall.

The commuting zone is composed of the local administrative units for which at least 15% of their workforce commute to the city. Commuting zones of the functional areas are identified based on commuting data (travel from home-to-work). Commuting data are also used to define whether more than one city share the same commuting zone in a single polycentric functional urban area.

The list of functional urban areas takes into account the results of the consultation with the European National Statistical Institutes launched by Eurostat in June 2011 on the definition of cities and by the OECD with Delegates from the Working Party on Territorial Indicators. This list of functional urban areas may be reviewed on the basis of additional comments provided by countries. The OECD Metropolitan Database provides a set of economic, environmental, social and demographic modelled indicators on the 668 OECD metropolitan areas (functional urban areas with 250 000 or more inhabitants).

Additionally, interactive maps, histograms and summary profiles of each metropolitan area are available on the [OECD Regions and Cities Data Visualisation tool](#).

The population grid used to create the FUAs in Switzerland is the 2011 Geostat grid. The geographic building blocks are the LAU-2 units. Commuting data comes from the 2011 Census.

Table 1. List of functional urban areas

FUA name	FUA code	Size class	Population in 2015 (GHS)	Share of population living in the city (%)
Basel	CH003	Metropolitan area	510 000	28
Bern	CH004	Metropolitan area	402 000	30
Biel/Bienne	CH010	Medium-sized area	101 000	55
Geneva	CH002	Metropolitan area	571 000	35
Lausanne	CH005	Metropolitan area	403 000	31
Lucerne	CH008	Medium-sized area	214 000	32
Lugano	CH009	Medium-sized area	147 000	37
St. Gallen	CH007	Medium-sized area	163 000	45
Thun	CH011	Small area	37 000	100
Winterthur	CH006	Medium-sized area	141 000	76
Zug	CH012	Small area	23 000	100
Zurich	CH001	Metropolitan area	1 333 000	29

Note: This document includes information as of 2019.

References

Dijkstra, L., H. Poelman and P. Veneri (2019), "The EU-OECD definition of a functional urban area", OECD Regional Development Working Papers, No. 2019/11, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/d58cb34d-en>.

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<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264174108-en>.