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## Urban Audit

### Young people in the Urban Audit cities – three indicators in comparison

In the European Urban Audit cities the proportion of young people in the population declined from 1990 to 2009. In 2009 the youth unemployment rate in the core cities was higher than in the larger urban zones, although there were fewer young people in relation to the core cities' employed population.

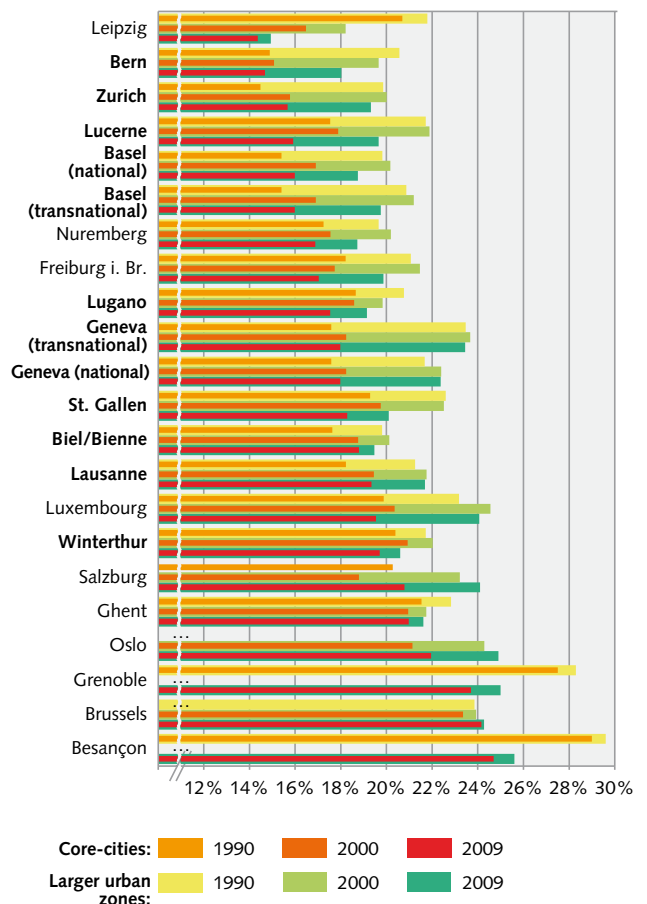
#### Fall in proportion of young people

In most of the cities chosen for the Urban Audit the number of young people increased between 1990 and 2009. However, overall the proportion of young people in the population, i.e. the proportion of 0–19 year-olds in the total population decreased between 1990 and 2009, both in the core cities (from 19.1% to 18.7%) and the larger urban zones (from 22.2% to 21.2%) (G1). Exceptions to this trend, i.e. a rise in the proportion of young people can be found in the Swiss core cities, especially in Zurich, Biel/Bienne and Lausanne, as well as in Brussels, in comparison with selected European cities. A particularly strong decline in the proportion of young people was registered for the same period in Grenoble (from 27.5% to 23.7%), Besançon (from 29.0%

#### Proportion of Youth

Evolution of the proportion of population under 20 years old in total population, 1990–2009

G 1



The Urban Audit enables the analysis of cities at the level of different spatial units (see box on page 4). This publication looks at:

- the core cities = the core of the agglomeration; this corresponds to the political administrative units of the city concerned
- the larger urban zone = core city plus peripheral communes which form a cohesive urban zone (FSO definition (2000) for Switzerland). For Geneva and Basel this perimeter is also seen to extend beyond national boundaries.

Sources: FSO, Communal and cantonal statistical offices, Eurostat Urban Audit © FSO

to 24.7%) and Leipzig (from 20.7% to 14.4%). This downward trend is not, however, continuous: Whereas the proportion of young people increased between 1990 and 2000 in several cities, it shrank overall between 2000 and 2009. The only Swiss cities to show a continuous decline in the proportion of young people between 1990 and 2009 were Lugano and at larger urban zone level in Bern. In the transnational larger urban zones Geneva has been stable, while in Basel it has decreased by approximately one percentage point between 1990 and 2009.

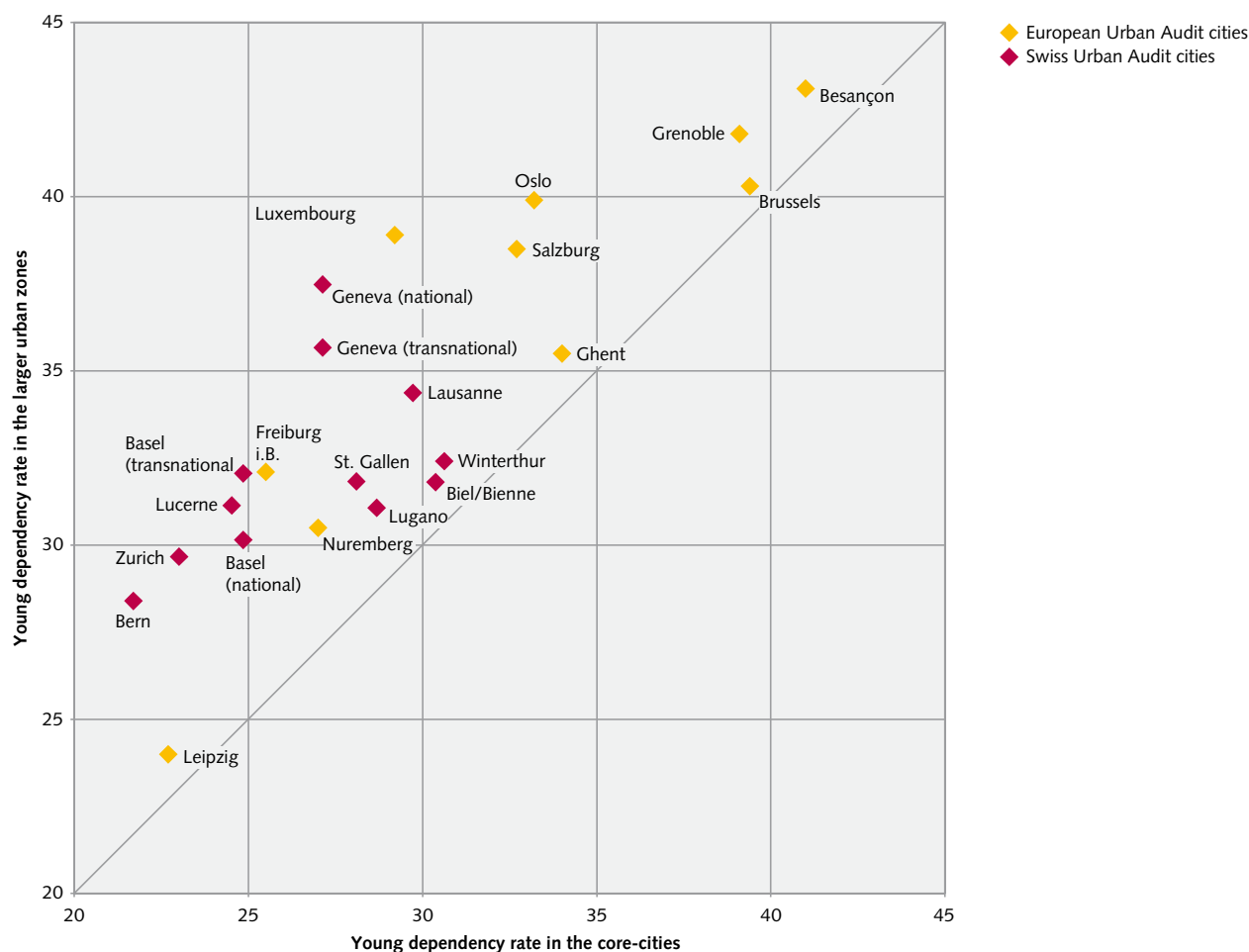
**The youth dependency ratio may be higher in the larger urban zones,...**

The youth dependency ratio is the number of 0–19 year-olds in relation to the number of 20–64 years-olds, i.e. the relation of the number of people not yet of an age at which it is usual to be economically active to the number of people of working age. In 2009, the youth dependency ratio was higher in larger urban zones of all the selected Urban Audit cities than in their core cities (G2). Zurich and Bern have the lowest youth dependency ratio of the Swiss cities, both in their core city and in their larger urban zone. In the larger urban zones, Geneva and Lausanne show the highest values, Winterthur and Biel/Bienne in the core cities.

**Young dependency rate, 2009**

Ratio of persons aged under 20 to the population of 20–64 year olds (number of persons for 100 persons 20–64)

G 2



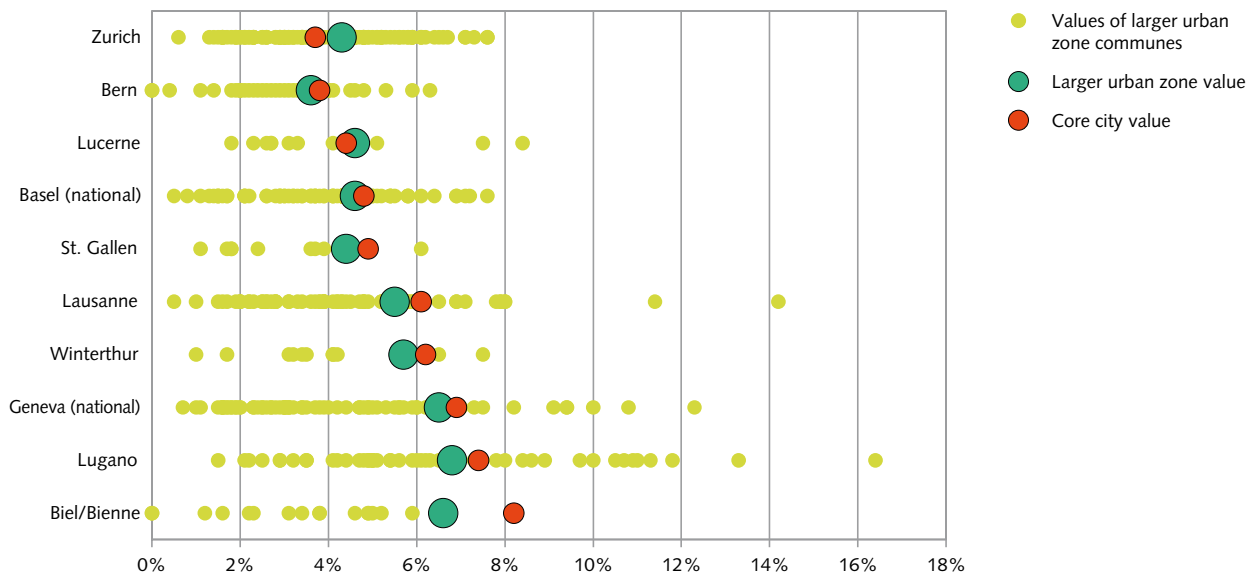
Sources: FSO, Communal and cantonal statistical offices, Eurostat Urban Audit

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## Youth unemployment in 2009, for the Swiss Urban Audit cities

Proportion of unemployed young people (15–24) in the labour force of the same age group in %

G 3



Sources: FSO, SECO

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The transnational larger urban zone of Geneva shows a high ratio. One should bear in mind here that many of the communes in this larger urban zone are in France: the French cities, e.g. Besancon and Grenoble tend to show high youth dependency ratios.

In comparison with the selected European cities, Brussels and the French cities have the highest youth dependency ratio in both core city and larger urban zone, while Leipzig has the lowest ratio.

### ...but there is greater youth unemployment in the core cities.

The average unemployment rate, i.e. the proportion of unemployed 15–24 year-olds among all economically active 15–24 year-olds, was 5.6% in the ten Swiss cities of the Urban Audit and 4.4% in the larger urban zones in 2009 (G3). Lugano, Geneva, Biel/Bienne and Lausanne show the highest values, Zurich and Bern the lowest.

The youth unemployment rate in the larger urban zone of Zurich is higher in particular in its peripheral communes, whereas nearly all of the remaining nine larger urban zones show higher values in their core cities. In particular the larger urban zones of Biel/Bienne, St. Gallen, Winterthur and Lucerne have lower rates in their peripheral communes than in their core cities. The greatest disparities between core and peripheral communes are found in Lugano, Geneva and Lausanne.

### The Urban Audit in brief

The data collection «Urban Audit» provides information and reference measurements on various aspects of the living conditions in European cities based on approximately 200 indicators covering three spatial levels: larger urban zones, core cities and neighbourhoods). Switzerland conducts the Urban Audit under the auspices of the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) and the Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE), together with its ten most populated cities Zurich, Geneva, Basel, Bern, Lausanne, Winterthur, Lucerne, St. Gallen, Lugano and Biel/Bienne. For the cities of Geneva and Basel, larger urban zone communes in the neighbouring countries are also included as the economic and social network extends beyond Swiss territory.

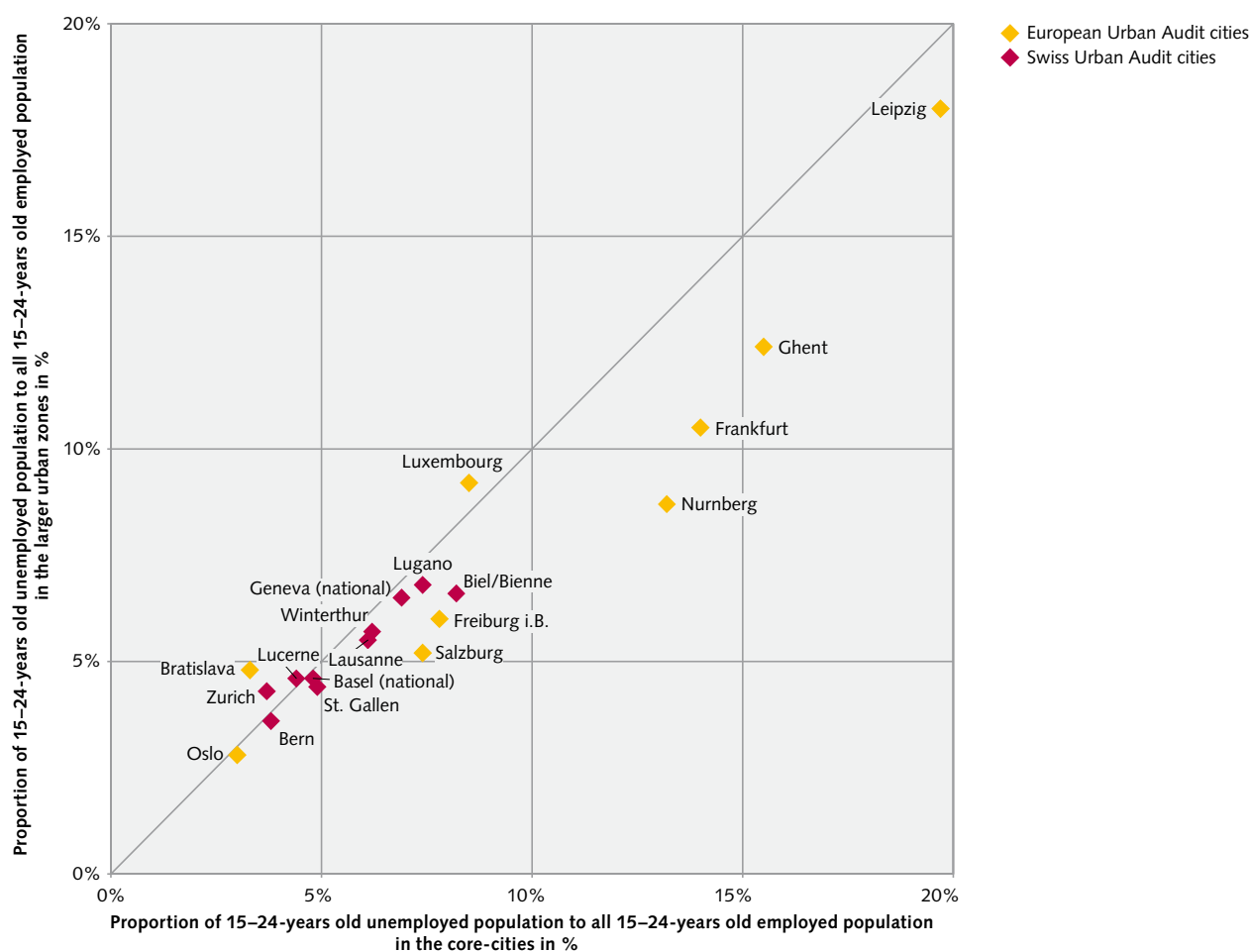
### European comparison – selection of cities

Two conditions applied to the selection of European cities for comparison with Switzerland: their importance to Switzerland and the availability of identical data for several cities. Cities that were included, but which had no data for the desired reporting period are not represented.

## Unemployment rate of Youth, 2009

Proportion of 15–24-years old unemployed population to all 15–24-years old employed population

G 4



Sources: FSO, SECO, Communal and cantonal statistical offices, Eurostat Urban Audit

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### Swiss towns with low youth unemployment in European comparison

The differences between the youth unemployment rate in core cities and that in larger urban zones are similar in the selected European communes to those found in the Swiss ones. In comparison with the European selection, Switzerland is in the bottom third (G4). Along with the European towns Oslo and Bratislava, Bern and Zurich show the lowest youth unemployment rate. In contrast, Brussels (with 31.3% in the core-city and 23.2% in the larger urban zone – not presented here) and Leipzig show the highest values, in particular in their core cities.

#### Data period

Data for the Swiss cities are from 2009 (Urban Audit reference year 2011). Data for the individual European cities is from 2007–2009 unless otherwise indicated.

#### Further information

on the Urban Audit in Switzerland: [www.urbanaudit.ch](http://www.urbanaudit.ch) and in Europe <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>

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