

# 2018

## 21

Sustainable  
development,  
regional and  
international  
disparities

Neuchâtel 2018

## Quality of life in the cities

Pocket Statistics 2018



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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA  
**Federal Statistical Office FSO**

<b>Published by:</b>	Federal Statistical Office (FSO)
<b>Information:</b>	Yannick Schneeberger, FSO, tel. +41 58 484 58 27
<b>Editor(s):</b>	Yannick Schneeberger, FSO; Barbara Jeanneret, FSO
<b>Contents:</b>	Yannick Schneeberger, FSO; Barbara Jeanneret, FSO
<b>Series:</b>	Swiss Statistics
<b>Topic:</b>	21 Sustainable development, regional and international disparities
<b>Original text:</b>	French
<b>Translation:</b>	FSO language services
<b>Layout:</b>	DIAM Section, Prepress/Print
<b>Graphics:</b>	DIAM Section, Prepress/Print
<b>Front page:</b>	DIAM Section, Prepress/Print
<b>Maps:</b>	DIAM Section, ThemaKart
<b>Printed:</b>	in Switzerland
<b>Copyright:</b>	FSO, Neuchâtel 2018 Reproduction with mention of source authorised (except for commercial purposes).
<b>Print format orders:</b>	Federal Statistical Office, CH-2010 Neuchâtel, tel. +41 58 463 60 60, fax +41 58 463 60 61, order@bfs.admin.ch
<b>Price:</b>	free of charge
<b>Downloads:</b>	www.statistics.admin.ch (free of charge)
<b>FSO number:</b>	1460-1800



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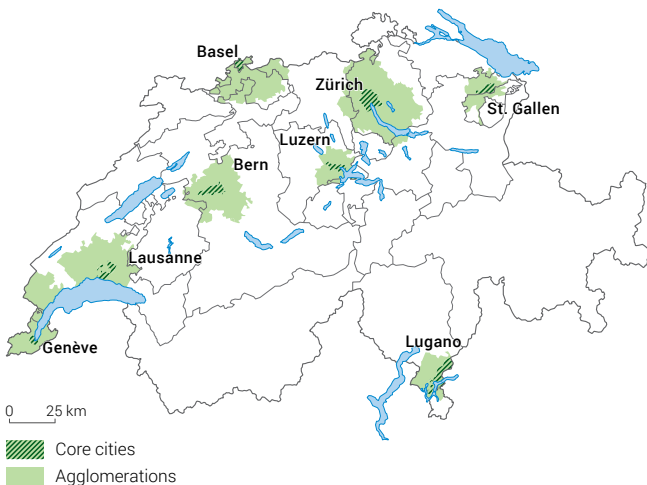
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The **pocket statistics** shows various aspects of the quality of life in Switzerland's eight City Statistics cities: Zurich, Geneva, Basel, Lausanne, Bern, Lucerne, St. Gallen and Lugano. The quality of life in the cities is presented with data from City Statistics (Urban Audit).

The indicators are generally shown for the core cities. Where possible, data from the agglomerations are added, and this is specified in the graphics concerned.

## The eight cities of City Statistics in Switzerland

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Source: FSO – Agglomeration definition 2012, City Statistics 2018

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## What is Quality of Life?

With a concept of the quality of life an attempt is made to measure the well-being of the population in its various dimensions. Well-being is determined by both material living conditions and the subjective perception of the quality of life. Among the dimensions of material living conditions are *Income & Jobs* and *Housing Conditions*. The immaterial dimensions of the quality of life include *Health, Education, Environmental Quality, Personal Security, Civic Engagement* and *Work-Life Balance*.

The quality of life dimensions are summarised in the “How’s Life?”<sup>1</sup> report, and describe the quality of life in the OECD countries. To take into account particular circumstances of Swiss cities, and to better depict the attractiveness of individual locations, the quality of life dimensions have been expanded to include *Infrastructure & Services, Mobility* and *Culture & Leisure*. Additionally, the topics *Economic Context* and *Demographic Context* portray the economic and demographic structure of the cities.

The dimensions vary depending on a city’s or region’s spatial structure. The regional aspect of the quality of life concept is also addressed in the OECD report “How’s Life in Your Region?”<sup>2</sup> Since 2017, Eurostat has published a selection of indicators in the “Regions and Cities Illustrated” web-based tool.

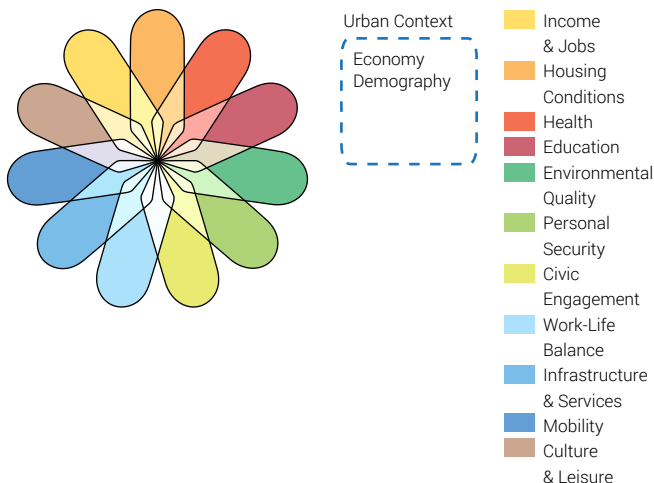
Quality of life is a multi-dimensional concept in which the dimensions are connected to one another. A good education, for example, can lead to a higher income and in this way positively influence housing conditions.

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<sup>1</sup> OECD (2011), *How’s Life?: Measuring Well-being*, OECD Publishing

<sup>2</sup> OECD (2014), *How’s Life in Your Region?: Measuring Regional and Local Well-being for Policy Making*, OECD Publishing, Paris

## Quality of life dimensions



Source: OECD (2014), *How's Life in Your Region?: Measuring Regional and Local Well-being for Policy Making*, OECD Publishing, Paris;  
Design adapted by the FSO

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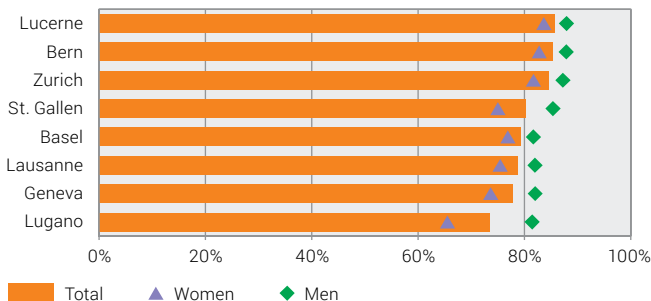
Everyone aspires to a good quality of life but the individual realisation varies greatly. The quality of life is also shaped by the structures and opportunities available in a particular city. In addition to traditional economic factors such as the taxation rate, the quality of life constitutes an important element in a city's attractiveness. For this reason, the quality of life plays an important part in urban development policy as it attracts people and businesses, thus generating capital for development.

## 1 Income & Jobs

Income and jobs allow people to cover their basic needs and provide opportunities to fulfil personal wishes. They allow people to accumulate wealth, helping them to be more resistant in times of economic crisis.

### Economic activity rate, 2017

Share of 15–64 year-olds in the permanent resident population who participate in the labour market



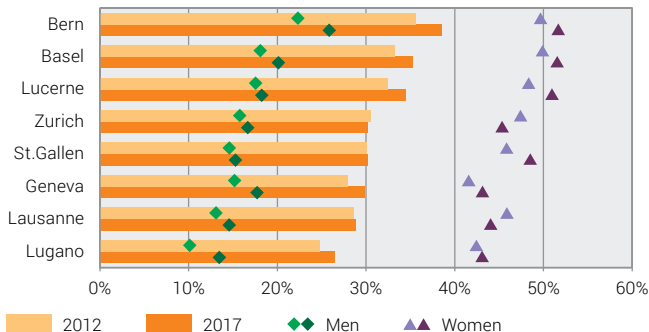
Source: FSO – RS

© FSO 2018

The net activity rate measures labour market participation. A regular income enables people to satisfy their basic and personal needs, i. e. the consumption of goods and services. Citizens' consumption and taxes also contribute to a city's prosperity.

## Part-time employment

Share of employed persons with a work-time percentage of < 90%



Source: FSO – RS

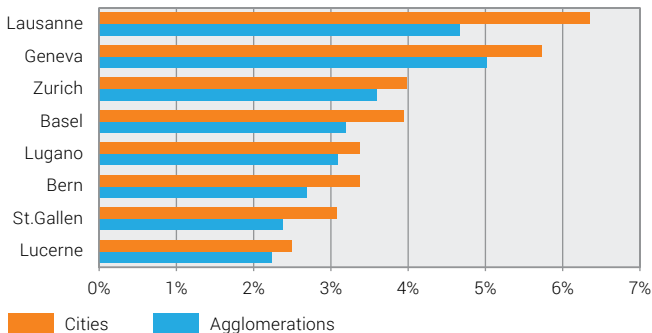
© FSO 2018

Part-time employment can have both positive and negative consequences. Additional time can be used for a better work-life balance and personal fulfilment and leisure. These are positive consequences. Negative consequences are a reduced income, fewer opportunities for promotion, limited possibilities for continuing education and training, as well as lower contributions to occupational pension funds. Part-time employment is also important for gender equality.



## Unemployment rate, 2017

Share of registered unemployed in total economically active population



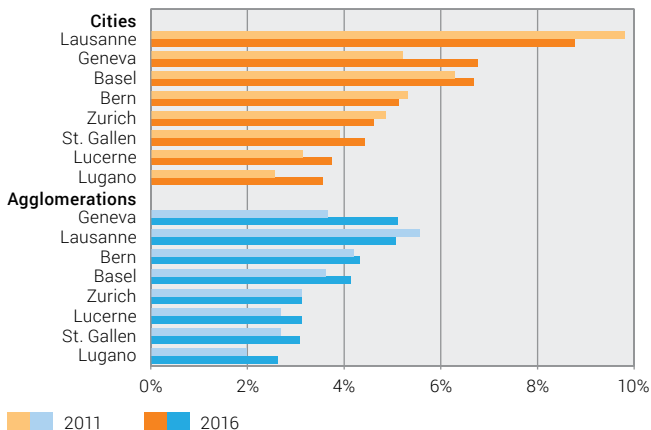
Sources: FSO – RS; SECO

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Unemployment places people at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Long-term unemployment may be experienced as a difficult life situation and can therefore also have an impact on health.

## Social assistance rate

Share of social assistance recipients among permanent resident population



Source: FSO – SHS

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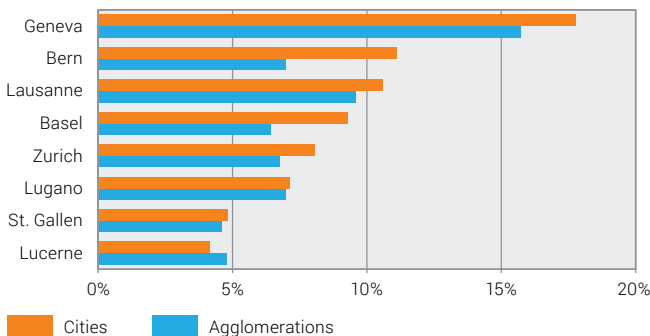
Social assistance ensures basic needs and encourages individual and economic independence. It aims to help social and professional integration as well as to support occupational rehabilitation. It can alleviate temporary situations of crisis and provide a social safety net.

## 2 Housing Conditions

Good housing conditions meet the basic needs of people for safety, feeling of protection, privacy and personal space. They can also allow people to start a family. Housing costs can take up a large part of a household's budget, limiting expenditure on other areas.

### Overcrowded dwellings, 2017

Share of occupied dwellings with more than 1 person per room



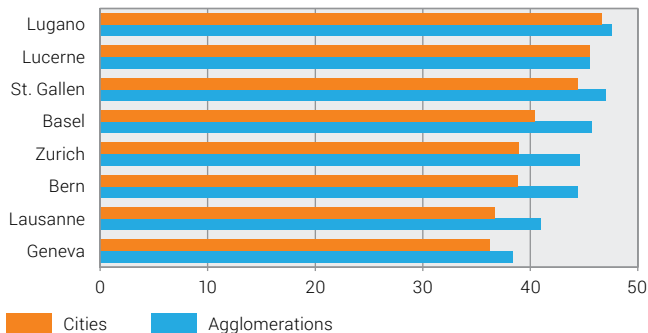
Source: FSO – BDS

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Too many tenants may have a negative impact on health or children's school performance.

## Area of living, 2017

Area of living accommodation in conventional dwellings, m<sup>2</sup>



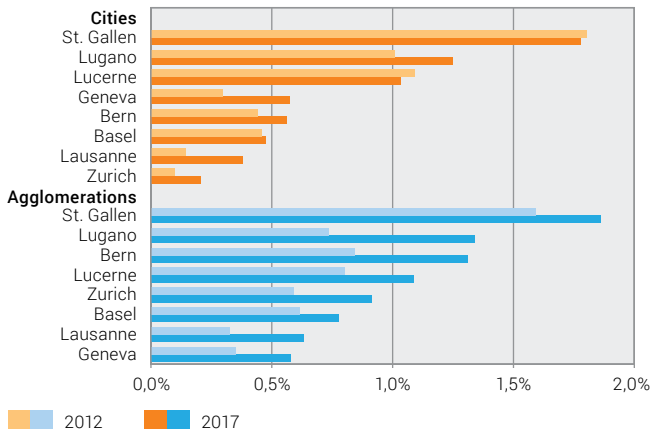
Source: FSO – BDS

© FSO 2018

Having sufficient space is essential to meet people's basic need for privacy and for making home a pleasant place to be. The amount of time spent in one's housing is indeed quite considerable. This indicator takes into consideration all residential housing.

## Dwelling vacancy rate

Share of empty dwellings in total number of dwellings



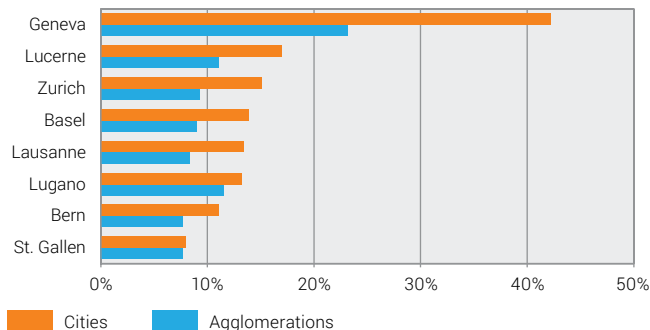
Sources: FSO – BDS, EDS

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A high dwelling rate makes the search for and the choice of accommodation easier and influences the price of housing on offer. Looking for suitable accommodation can take up a lot of time which would otherwise, for example, be spent with family or on leisure activities. An insufficient supply may impede a need to move, make it necessary to change neighbourhoods or to choose more expensive or less well-situated dwellings. This can sometimes lead to a longer daily commute or place a burden on the household budget.

## Traffic noise, 2015

Share of the population disturbed in the night by > 55 dB(A)<sup>1</sup> (decibels)



<sup>1</sup> European thresholds

Source: FOEN – SonBase

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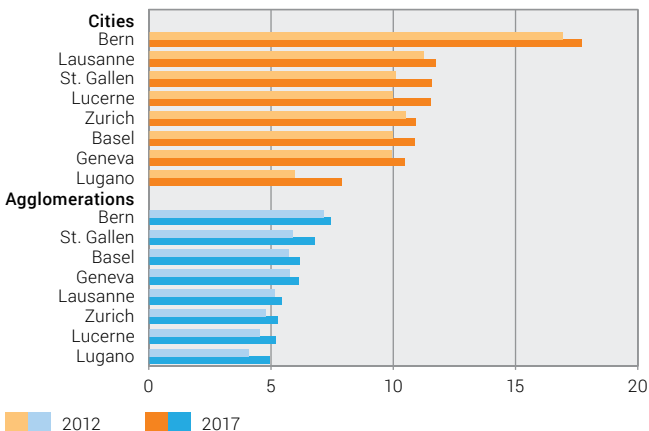
Traffic noise at night is harmful to one's sleep and can negatively affect health and satisfaction with housing conditions. In addition to noise from road traffic, trains and aeroplanes can also be a nuisance.

### 3 Health

Health is one of the most valuable aspects of a person's life. It enables active participation in social life and in the labour market. Health is also influenced by a good work-life balance as well as high environmental quality.

#### Practising doctors

per 1000 inhabitants



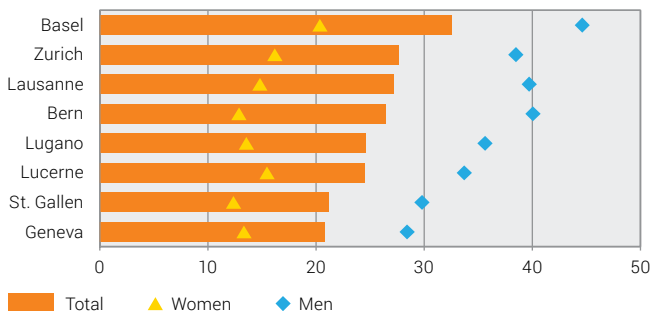
Source: FMH

© FSO 2018

Certain cities have a central hospital providing health care for the region.

## Mortality rate of under 65 year-olds

Crude mortality rate due to diseases of the circulatory or respiratory systems per 100 000 inhabitants, average from 2012 to 2015



Source: FSO – eCOD

© FSO 2018

Deaths under the age of 65 can have many causes, such as genetic factors, accidents, individual health behaviour or the quality of the local environment. The discrepancy between men and women can be linked by men's greater consumption of tobacco and alcohol as well as a higher occurrence of obesity in men.



## Suicide rate

Crude suicide rate per 100 000 inhabitants (excl. assisted suicide), average from 2012 to 2015



Source: FSO – eCOD

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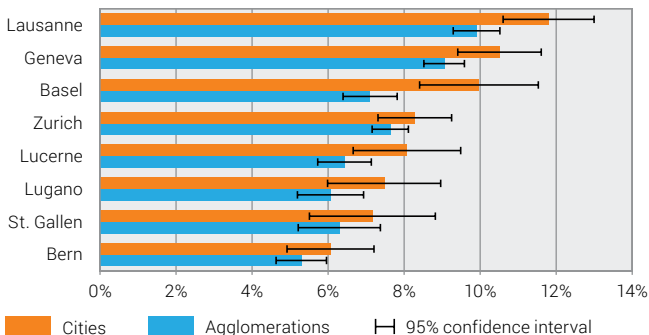
The suicide rate is an indicator of people's level of satisfaction, psychological well-being and their psycho-social situation. People at risk of suicide need a stable social environment as well as professional support

## 4 Education

Education opens opportunities for development and helps people to better cope with social and economic changes. Prospects on the labour market and the possibilities for professional fulfilment and advancement are to a large extent determined by education.

### Early school leavers

Young people aged 18–24 not attending school any longer and who at most finished the compulsory school, in % of the permanent resident population, 2012–2016 cumulated



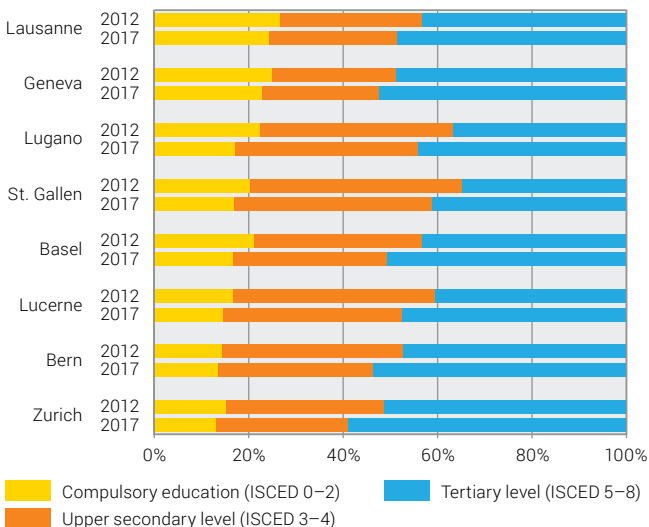
Source: FSO – RS

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Young people who leave education early or do not complete an apprenticeship are a group at risk as precarious employment and unemployment hinder their integration in society.

## Educational attainment of the population

Permanent resident population, between 25 and 64 years of age,  
by highest completed education or training



Source: FSO – RS

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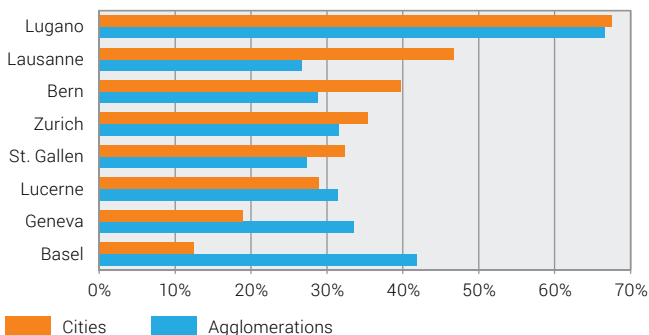
The educational attainment of the population shows the distribution of the qualifications obtained during education. Post-compulsory education reduces the perils of the labour market and increases the chances of having a well-paid job.

## 5 Environmental Quality

Many people appreciate pleasant and natural surroundings in their place of residence and for their leisure time. Both are influenced by the quality of the local environment. An environment that is contaminated with pollutants and noise affects the mental and physical health of the population.

### Wooded and recreational areas 2004/09

Share of total surface area



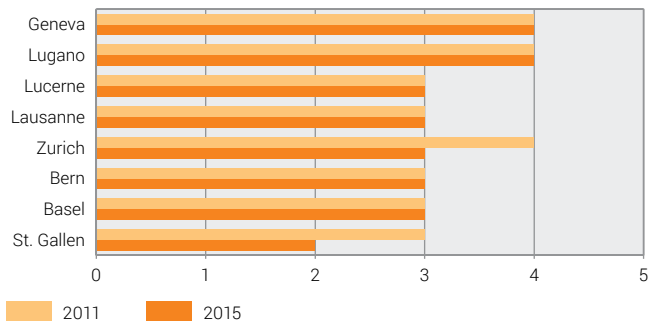
Source: FSO – AREA

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Green areas in cities offer people a place for retreat and recuperation in their immediate surroundings. The share of green areas may also be shaped by a city's history and its institutional boundaries.

## Long-term pollution index

Population weighted mixed index of air quality, based on concentrations of particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)



Source: FOEN

© FSO 2018

The long-term pollution index shows the average air pollution of towns and cities. Chronic pollution by air pollutants such as particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide and ozone has a direct impact on human health and the environment. This may result in respiratory diseases such as bronchitis as well as an increased risk of cancer.

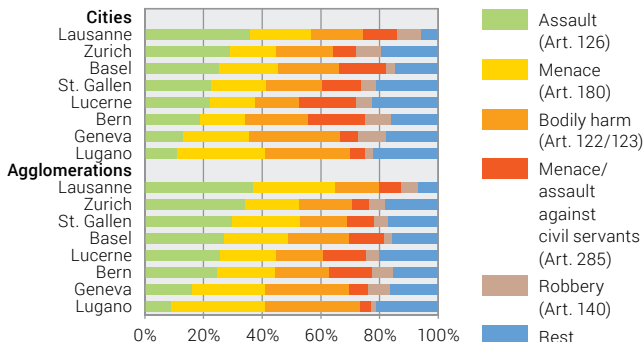
## 6 Personal Security

Personal security is primarily influenced by crime, the risk of traffic accidents and natural hazards. Crime may lead to a loss of possessions, physical suffering, stress and anxiety. It may also influence residents' feeling of security.

Cities are often a node of human activity which has to be considered when interpreting the indicators of this dimension.

### Violent crimes, 2017

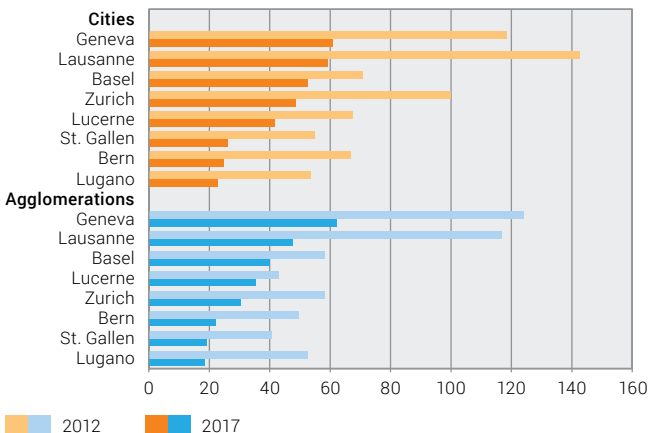
Share of violent crimes<sup>1</sup> in the main categories



<sup>1</sup> according to the Penal Code (incl. attempts).

## Burglaries in dwellings

Number of burglaries<sup>1</sup> with intrusions in dwellings per 1000 inhabitants



<sup>1</sup> including burglaries in cellars, outside storehouses and other annexes (incl. attempts).

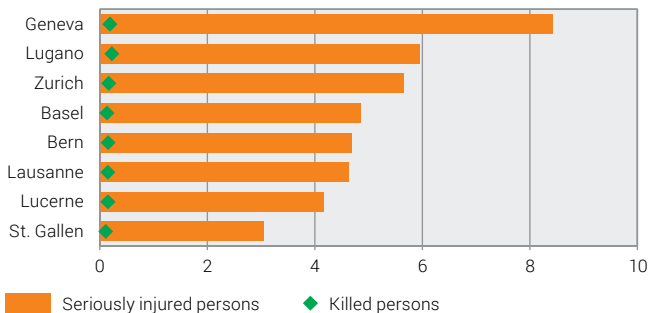
Source: FSO – PCS

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Burglaries do not only result in damage of property for victims but also often mean that people no longer feel secure in their own homes. This may limit their daily activities.

## Road accident victims

Number of persons seriously injured or killed per 10 000 inhabitants, average from 2013 to 2017



Source: FEDRO – SVU

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Traffic accidents can reduce the feeling of security on the roads. In addition to health consequences, they can also influence the choice of transportation means.

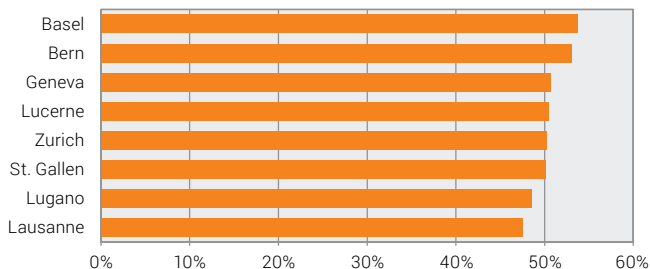


## 7 Civic Engagement

Civic engagement is essential for democracies. By participating in political and social life, citizens can voice their needs and contribute to political decisions. Involvement in political and social processes leads to better informed citizens and greater acceptance of political decisions. It also allows more effective policy implementation and strengthens citizens' confidence in government and political institutions.

### Participation rate at federal votations and elections to the parliament (average over 4 years)

Average from 2014 to 2017



Source: FSO – Statistics of votes and elections

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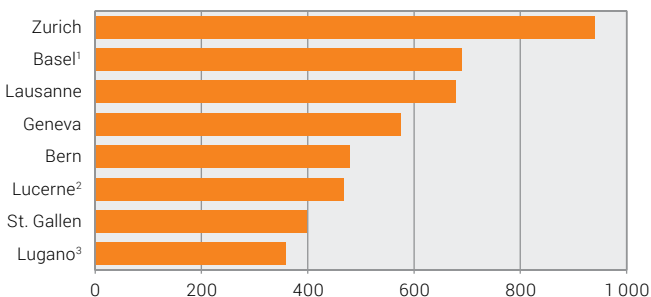
Residents aged 18 or over have several times a year the opportunity to decide on constitutional texts and bills at federal level.

## 8 Work-Life Balance

A good work-life balance influences well-being, contributes to productivity in the workplace and helps people to remain healthy and happy.

### Care of infants, 2018

Children cared for of pre-school age (0 – 3 year-olds),  
per 1000 children in this age group



<sup>1</sup> cantonal data

<sup>2</sup> data from 2016, revised

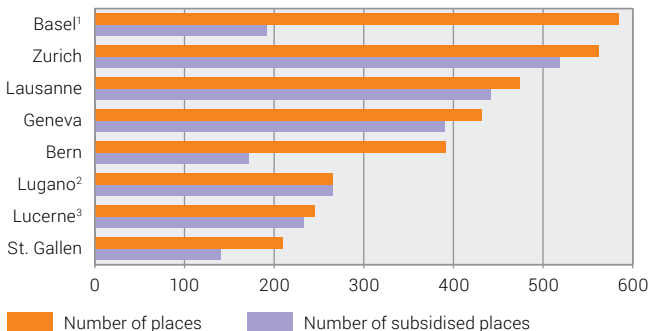
<sup>3</sup> data from 2016

Source: FSO – City Statistics

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## Availability of child care for infants, 2018

Total and subsidised places for children of pre-school age (0–3 year-olds), per 1000 children in this age group



<sup>1</sup> cantonal data

<sup>2</sup> data from 2016

<sup>3</sup> data from 2016, revised

Source: FSO – City Statistics

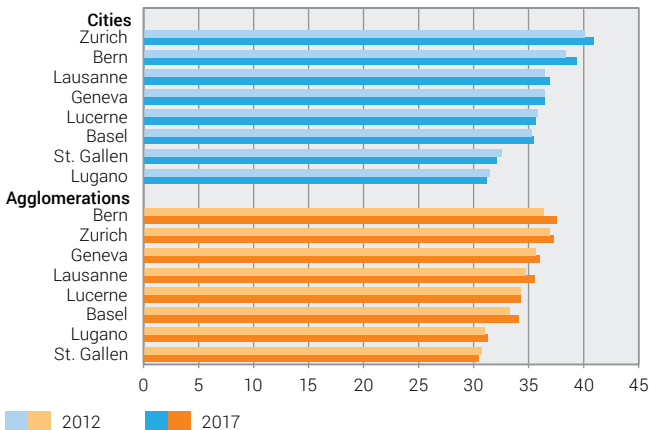
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External childcare enables families to reconcile family responsibilities with their work commitments.

However, the data do not show, how many of the children in day care come from the respective city. A high number of children in day care per resident could also be explained by childcare provided for children whose parents work in a certain city but who do not live there. This applies particularly to children in day care of enterprises.

## Length of commute

Average length of journey from home to work, in minutes



Source: FSO – RS

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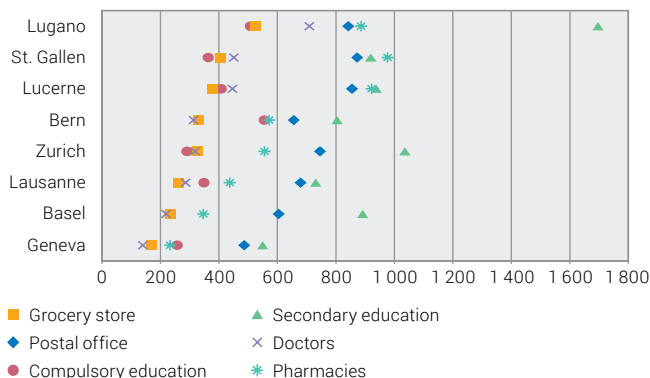
Commuting time is often considered as lost time. Particularly long commutes result in extra costs and can lead to stress.

## 9 Infrastructure & Services

*Infrastructure & Services* is a measure of life quality that is spatially defined and codetermines a location's attractiveness. Infrastructure and services can vary quite considerably from city to city, having an impact on the material aspects of quality of life. This includes, for example, residential and workplace infrastructure with an attractive environment, good accessibility, and also tax incentives.

### Accessibility of services for the population, 2015

Mean distance<sup>1</sup> to the closest service



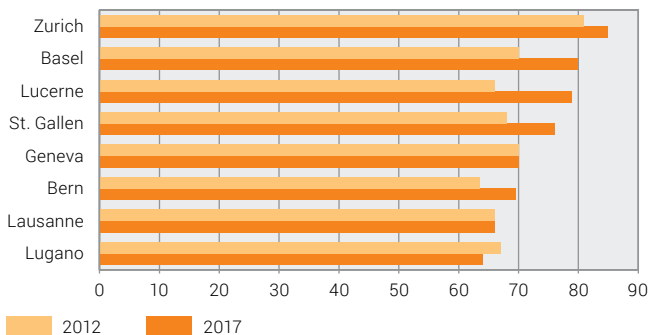
<sup>1</sup> distances calculated based on road network

## 10 Mobility

Mobility is often necessary for work and leisure activities. For many people a good transportation network is important to satisfy needs such as shopping, education and recreation.

### Price of a monthly public transport ticket

For journeys of 5 to 10 km in town centre, in CHF



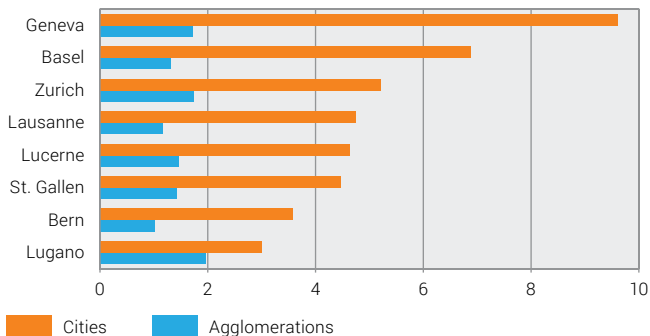
Source: City Statistics Partner

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The price of a monthly public transport ticket describes the costs an individual has to pay for using public transportation.

## Public transport stops, 2017

Number of stops per km<sup>2</sup>



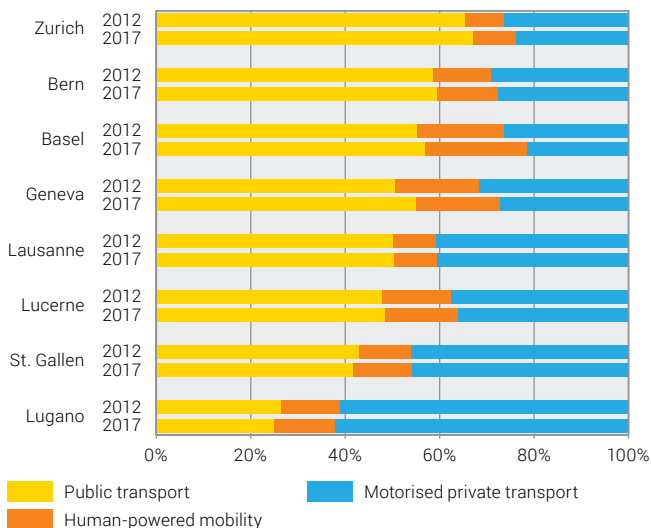
Sources: FSO – AREA; ARE – HAFAS

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The number of stops per square kilometre is an indicator for the density of a transportation network. A well-developed public transportation network, connecting residential and employment areas, increases freedom to choose means of transport and may minimise the impact of private motorised transport in the city.

# Choice of transportation mode

For commute



Source: FSO – RS

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A reduction of private motorised transportation helps to improve the quality of the environment and influences personal security in road traffic.

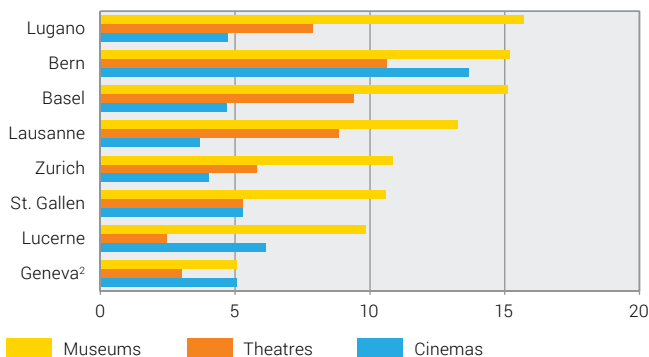


## 11 Culture & Leisure

Cultural offers enable the maintenance of social contacts, the development of networks and offers possibilities for recreational activities. Culture and leisure also includes clubs and sport facilities.

### Cultural offering, 2016

Number of museums, theatres and cinemas per 100 000 inhabitants<sup>1</sup>



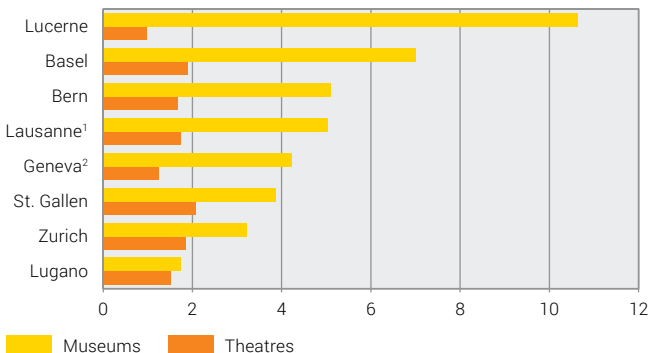
<sup>1</sup> The fact that cultural facilities often have several exhibitions/stages/screens is not taken into consideration.

<sup>2</sup> only main museums and theaters with regular subsidies

The offer of museums, theatres and cinemas indicate a city's possibilities for cultural leisure activities.

## Cultural demand, 2016

Number of visitors per inhabitant



<sup>1</sup> data on visitors for approx. only ¼ of museums counted

<sup>2</sup> only main museums and theaters with regular subsidies

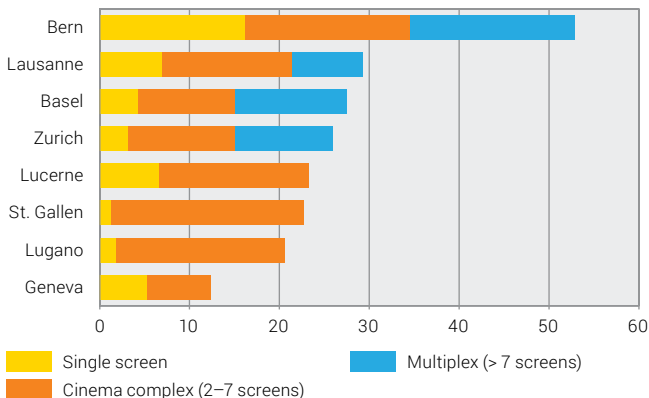
Source: City Statistics Partner

© FSO 2018

Museum exhibitions and theatre performances are often highlights in everyday life. These are usually located in cities and attract visitors from beyond their administrative boundaries.

## Cinema seats by type of cinema, 2017

Number of cinema seats per 1000 inhabitants by type of cinema



Source: FSO – SSCin

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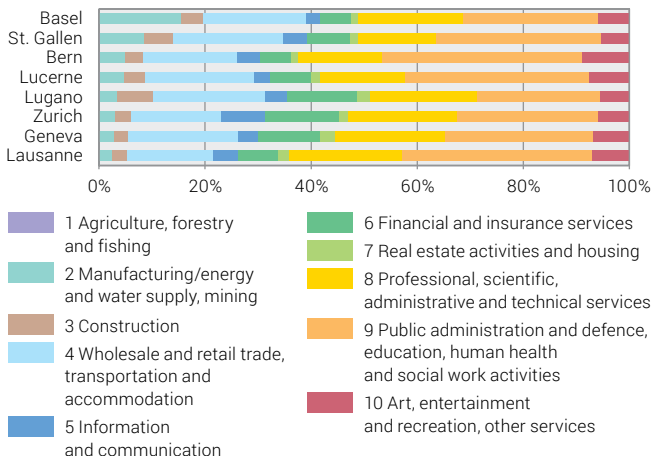
Different types of cinemas allow to make inferences on the selection of films available in a location. Since the 1990s, single screen cinemas have decreased at the expense of multiplex cinemas. Cinema complexes and especially multiplexes are often built together with restaurants and shops, allowing the easy combination of various leisure activities in one place.

## 12 Economic Context

The economic context can be shaped actively by the city and influences businesses to make investments or create jobs. It therefore influences a city's economic structure and its attractiveness as a location.

### Economic structure, 2017

Distribution of employees by economic categories (NOGA)



Source: FSO – STATENT

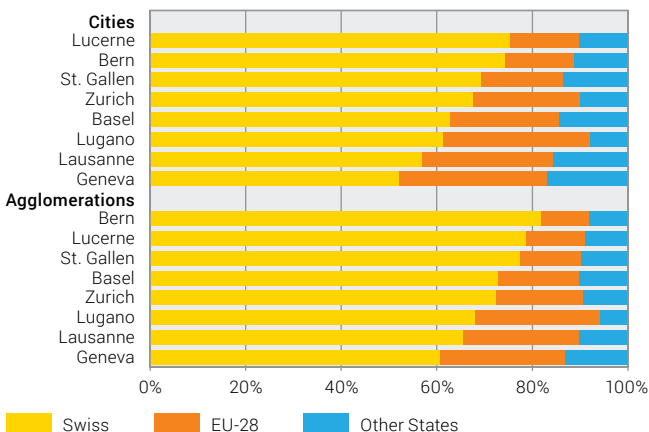
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## 13 Demographic Context

The demographic context provides an overview of a city's permanent resident population composition and its evolution.

### Nationalities, 2017

Permanent resident population by nationality



Source: FSO – STATPOP

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# Demographic context

T1.1

	Permanent resident population		Inhabitants per km <sup>2</sup>	Youth dependency ratio	Old-age dependency ratio
	2017	Change 2012 – 2017	2017	<20/20 – 64 year-olds, 2017	65+/20 – 64 year-olds, 2017

## Cities

Zurich	402 762	6,8%	4 580	25	23
Geneva	198 979	5,7%	12 491	27	24
Basel	171 017	4,0%	7 171	26	30
Lausanne	137 810	6,5%	3 330	30	23
Bern	133 115	5,9%	2 579	25	26
Lucerne	81 592	4,5%	2 804	24	30
St. Gallen	75 481	2,7%	1 917	28	27
Lugano <sup>1</sup>	63 932	5,1%	842	29	36

## Agglomerations

Zurich	1 354 140	6,9%	1 038	31	27
Geneva	585 400	6,6%	1 091	35	26
Basel	545 326	4,1%	784	30	34
Lausanne	415 596	7,8%	537	34	25
Bern	415 784	5,3%	531	30	32
Lucerne	228 321	4,7%	786	30	30
St. Gallen	166 421	2,8%	522	32	29
Lugano <sup>1</sup>	151 708	6,1%	499	31	35

<sup>1</sup> due to Lugano's merger with seven rural communes on 14.04.2013



## Additional information

In City Statistics, data from the Population and Households Statistics (STATPOP), the structural business statistics (STATENT), the Buildings and Dwellings statistic (BDS), and the structural survey (RS) from reference year  $t$  are surveyed as at 31.12. of year  $t-1x$  in order to comply with Eurostat directives.

For data from the Structural Survey (RS), it should be noted that this is a sample survey with varying confidence intervals. For the sake of readability, these are only given for the graphic on page 18 in which the data have high variation coefficients. The confidence intervals can be found on the FSO website, along with the data: [www.urbanaudit.ch](http://www.urbanaudit.ch). → Data

Data for 2011 and 2012 for the City of Lugano are calculated with the current municipality boundaries.

Switzerland conducts City Statistics (Urban Audit) under the auspices of the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) and the Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE), State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) together with its eight cities Zurich, Geneva, Basel, Lausanne, Bern, Lucerne, St. Gallen and Lugano.

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### Price

free of charge

### Downloads

[www.statistics.admin.ch](http://www.statistics.admin.ch) (free of charge)

### FSO number

1460-1800

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# Statistics counts for you.

[www.statistics-counts.ch](http://www.statistics-counts.ch)