

# 2016



16

Culture, media,  
information  
society, sports

Neuchâtel 2019



## Switzerland's built heritage: initial findings

Statistics on built heritage 2016 and statistics  
on cultural behaviour



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA  
Federal Statistical Office FSO

**Published by:** Federal Statistical Office (FSO)

**Information:** Alain Herzig, FSO, tel. +41 58 467 25 65

**Contents:** Alain Herzig, FSO; Olivier Moeschler, FSO

**Series:** Swiss Statistics

**Topic:** 16 Culture, media, information society, sports

**Original text:** German

**Translation:** FSO language services

**Layout:** DIAM Section, Prepress/Print

**Graphics:** DIAM Section, Prepress/Print

**Printed:** In Switzerland

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**Print format orders:** Federal Statistical Office, CH-2010 Neuchâtel,  
tel. +41 58 463 60 60, [order@bfs.admin.ch](mailto:order@bfs.admin.ch)

**Price:** free of charge

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

**FSO number:** 1859-1600

Corrected publication, 18. 2. 2019: Table T 1, page 11



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## 1 Introduction

Our built heritage bears important testimony to different political, economic, social or architectural periods, leaving a unique imprint on our towns and our countryside. In Switzerland, as elsewhere, it plays a major part in our historical awareness and in how we identify with our surroundings. “Built heritage conservation and the protection of national heritage” constitute a major item in the statistics on public cultural funding. At CHF 265.7 million, public expenditure on this item accounted for 8.7% of all public funding of culture (Confederation, cantons and communes, 2016). At cantonal level it accounted for as much as 17.7% of expenditure on culture. It is worth noting that Switzerland is home to several UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Despite the importance of Switzerland’s built heritage, reliable data at a nationwide level have been lacking until now. For this reason, a decision was reached by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO), the Federal Office of Culture (FOC) and the Nationale Kulturdialog (NKD) – a committee comprising the key cultural figures from Switzerland’s towns, the Confederation, the cantons and communes – to introduce a set of statistics on our built heritage.

This publication is the first ever to present statistical findings on Switzerland’s built heritage, and is divided into three areas: historic monuments, archaeology and historic towns and settlements. For simplicity’s sake, the statistics are referred to conjointly as “statistics on built heritage”.

This publication, together with the FSO publications on libraries and museums, forms part of a series published on cultural heritage.

### **First national survey on built heritage**

Following a pilot study, in spring 2018 the relevant authorities in each of the 26 cantons answered questions on historic monuments, archaeology and the protection of built heritage. The questionnaire was designed in consultation with specialists in the various fields. The data from this first survey was unsatisfactory on some points, and variables for which the quality of information was insufficient will not be published. However, improvements are envisaged for the second survey, which should take place in 5 years’ time. Further details of the survey procedure can be found in the appendix on methodology.

## 2 Historic monuments

### How many historic monuments are there in Switzerland?

The core of this publication presents the individual monuments and sites that come under the auspices of built heritage conservation. These are henceforth referred to as “historic monuments”.

#### **What is a historic monument?**

According to the Federal Commission for Monument Preservation, cultural heritage in the strict refers to immovable objects that have valuable historical testimony. Cultural heritage can bear witness to all kinds of human activity, historical events and developments, artistic expression, social institutions and technical achievements.

“Individual monuments” refers to only those buildings and sites that come under “built heritage conservation” (no movable objects such as furniture or artefacts). Sites composed of several parts and groups of buildings are not recorded in the survey as one entire unit but are registered separately as individual monuments. A myriad of different structures can be considered as individual monuments, including residential, sacred, industrial or agricultural buildings, bridges, and statues, etc. Monuments that cannot be recorded as individual structures but are only considered under the preservation of built heritage, do not belong to the historical monument category (cf. chapter 4 on historic towns and settlements).

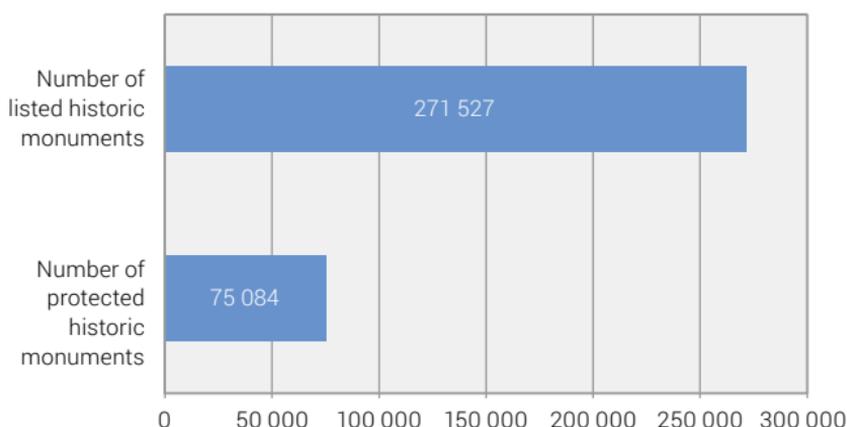
Switzerland has a large number of buildings and structures that thanks to their special characteristics are interesting from a cultural heritage point of view. The task of the cantonal and communal offices responsible for the conservation of their built heritage is to assess the inventory of structures in their territory using established criteria and where the conditions are met, to ensure that the most valuable structures are appropriately protected.

The cantons vary widely in terms of the systems and procedures they have adopted with regard to built heritage conservation. In principle, however, a distinction can be made in all cantons between structures that are recorded and described by the authorities as particularly valuable, often in the form of inventories (recorded individual monuments) and structures that are additionally subject to a measure binding the owners to protect them (protected individual monuments). The latter are the focus of this publication. In some cantons, various

## Listed and protected historic monuments, 2016

Switzerland

G1



Source: FSO – Statistics on built heritage

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responsibilities concerning built heritage are shared between the cantonal administration and the communes. The cantonal figures that appear in the Swiss statistics on built heritage represent each canton's entire territory (including the communes).

In 2016, some 272 000 individual monuments of particular importance for cultural heritage were listed throughout Switzerland. Thanks to their special characteristics – with regard to their political, economic, social or cultural importance – these structures stand out from the rest of Switzerland's building stock without necessarily coming under any formal protection. *Listed buildings* and structures are recorded in inventories or sometimes in internal or unpublished lists. They are categorised based on specific established criteria. This information generally provides the cantons with an important tool for built heritage preservation and is also frequently consulted for planning and construction projects.

*Protected individual monuments* form a subset of the listed monuments and are structures whose owners are obliged to preserve them. In 2016, there were around 75 000 such structures in Switzerland.

### Definitions: listed and protected individual monuments

**Listed** means that based on surveys (lists and inventories, etc.) authorities recognise the special interest of structures.

**Protected** means that monuments are protected by a general order (e.g. law or land-use plan), a protective order, a land register entry or a protection contract to which owners are legally bound.

## 4% of protected monuments are of national importance

Protected monuments can be further classified by various criteria including by their importance. A distinction can be made between national and regional or local importance. National importance is granted to structures based on the Federal Office for Civil Protection's inventory of cultural property (PCP inventory).

### **Definition and background: national monuments and the PCP inventory**

Monuments of **national importance** are individual structures protected at cantonal level and also registered on the A list in the PCP inventory. This category does not include monuments that are considered to be of national importance because of a grant decision or due to an assessment or evaluation from another federal agency. Some cantons have their own evaluation systems. Monuments that are only considered of national importance in cantonal systems, are also excluded from this category.

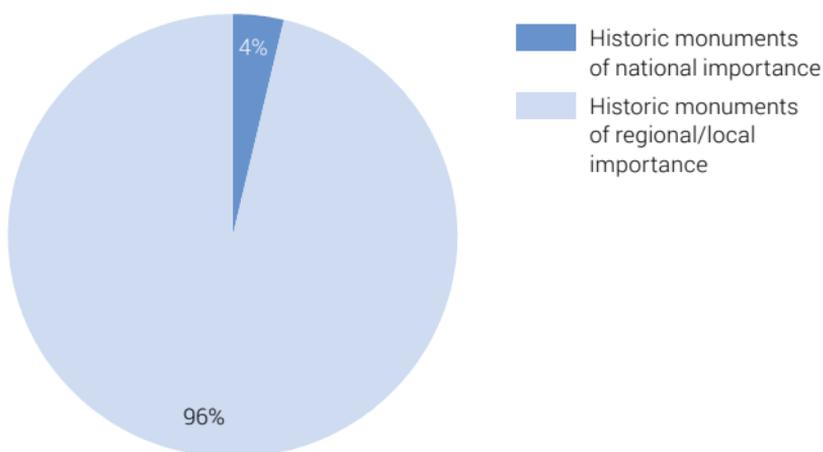
**PCP inventory:** The Swiss Inventory of Cultural Property of National and Regional Importance is managed by the Federal Office for Civil Protection (FOCS). It is revised on a regular basis and each new version is approved by the Federal Council. At the time of collecting data for the cultural heritage statistics, the version in force was the third edition, published in November 2009. The basis of the inventory is the Hague Convention of 14 May 1954 for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict (CC 0.520.3).

From a total of 75 084 protected monuments in Switzerland, 2752 are of national importance, equal to 4%. The vast remainder of 72 332 structures are of regional or local importance.

## Importance of protected historic monuments, 2016

Switzerland

G2



In addition to national and regional importance, some cantons also indicate local importance. This information can be found on the detailed Built heritage statistics page on the FSO portal.

Source: FSO – Statistics on built heritage

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### UNESCO World Heritage sites in Switzerland

A few Swiss historical monuments, archaeological sites and historic towns and settlements are not only of national importance but are also part of the UNESCO World Heritage. According to the International Convention of 23 November 1972 concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage which Switzerland was one of the first States to ratify, these sites are of “outstanding universal value”. Switzerland currently counts 9 world heritage sites: these are the Abbey of St. Gallen, the Old City of Bern, the Benedictine Convent of St John at Müstair, the Three Castles, Defensive Wall and Ramparts of the Market-Town of Bellinzona, the Vineyard Terraces of Lavaux, the Rhaetian Railway in the Albula / Berninan Landscapes, the Watchmaking Town Planning in La Chaud-de-Fonds and Le Locle, the Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps and the Architectural Work of Le Corbusier.

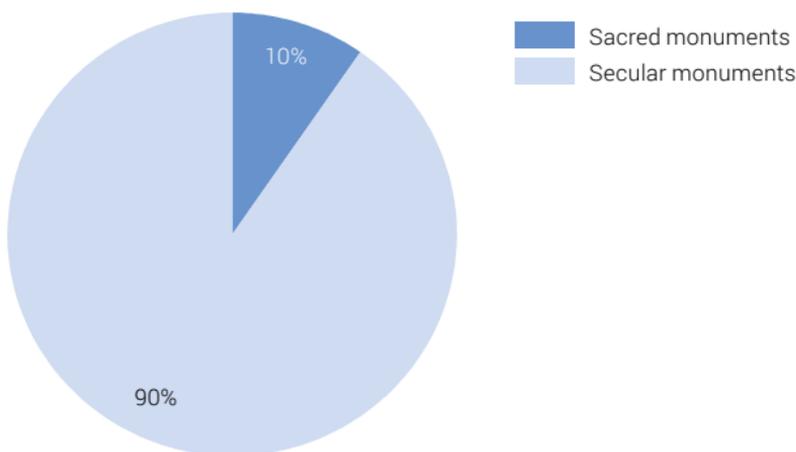
## One in ten protected monuments is a sacred structure

Protected monuments can also be divided into the sacred or secular. Sacred monuments, especially in the form of churches or cathedrals, are often on the “must-see” list of tourists and other visitors. Such structures frequently have a visual impact on many town centres and villages; they are often impressive due to their distinctive architectural style and old age. Apart from such imposing monuments, Switzerland has an abundance of other protected sacred structures such as chapels, burial sites and Stations of the Cross. Especially in rural areas, many small sacred sites are to be found off the beaten track.

### Sacred monuments, 2016

Switzerland

G3



Source: FSO – Statistics on built heritage

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In Switzerland a total of 7240 sacred monuments are protected. This means that almost one in ten protected monuments is a sacred structure.

### Definition: Sacred and secular monuments

**Sacred monuments** are or were used for sacred, ritual or cultish practices by religious communities. Sacred architecture includes constructions such as tombs, burial sites, churches, chapels, cult sites, mosques, synagogues and temples.

The originally intended use is decisive here. Ecclesiastical buildings with a purely secular function, such as rectories, are therefore considered to be secular buildings; a church that has been converted to a cultural centre with a café, however, is considered to be a sacred one.

The term “sacred monument” is used in opposition to “**secular monument**”, which refers to structures with a non-religious purpose, such as houses, office blocks, schools, industrial or agricultural structures and engineering structures (bridges and tunnels).

## Half of all protected monuments are located in five cantons

The fact that Switzerland is a federal state has a major impact on the nature of its cultural heritage landscape: there is little point in comparing by canton the number of listed individual monuments as these also reflect the regulations in each canton and how they are applied. It does, however, make sense to compare the number of *protected* monuments at cantonal level: owners throughout Switzerland are bound to preserve their properties and the preservation measures must be well documented. However, the conditions and processes for placing a structure under protection vary from canton to canton, and this in turn influences the number of protected objects per canton. Furthermore, the degree and nature of this protection may also differ at cantonal level.

Table T1 shows the cantonal distribution of the 75 084 protected monuments. Five cantons account for around half of all protected monuments (Valais, Fribourg, Geneva, Bern and Aargau).

Somewhere in the mid-range, cantons like Ticino or St. Gallen have roughly 5% of all protected monuments in Switzerland. The 12 cantons with the lowest percentages account together for less than 10% of all of Switzerland’s protected monuments.

## Protected monuments, 2016, by canton

T1

Canton	Number of protected historic monuments	Percentage of total protected historic monuments in CH
<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>75 084</b>	<b>100%</b>
Zurich <sup>1</sup>	4 701	6%
Bern	7 342	10%
Lucerne	960	1%
Uri	–	–
Schwyz	629	1%
Obwalden	483	1%
Nidwalden	209	0.3%
Glarus	488	1%
Zug	566	1%
Fribourg	8 132	11%
Solothurn	2 041	3%
Basel-Stadt <sup>2</sup>	544	1%
Basel-Landschaft	5 620	7%
Schaffhausen	1 180	2%
Appenzell A. Rh.	928	1%
Appenzell I. Rh.	153	0.2%
St. Gallen	3 983	5%
Graubünden	4 869	6%
Aargau <sup>1</sup>	6 200	8%
Thurgau	4 257	6%
Ticino	3 923	5%
Vaud	8 457	11%
Valais	636	1%
Neuchâtel	830	1%
Geneva	7 672	10%
Jura	281	0.4%

<sup>1</sup> extrapolation<sup>2</sup> excl. protected area monuments

–: no data

Source: FSO – Statistics on built heritage

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In addition to other influencing factors, the number of protected monuments also depends on the total number of existing buildings in a canton. For this reason it would be interesting to make a comparison between the protected monuments and each canton's building stock. Data comparable at national level were only available in provisional form when this publication was being written (ongoing project to extend the FSO's Buildings and Dwellings Register (BDR)). An additional factor that has not yet been resolved is the clear definition of which protected historic monuments are also buildings according to the BDR definition. Although they may well be protected monuments, bridges, fountains, city walls and wayside calvaries, for example, are not listed as buildings in the BDR. Due to this lack of clarity, cantonal protection rates are currently not calculated.

But for interested readers, and despite the above-mentioned lack of precision, protected monuments across Switzerland make up roughly 3.5% of the entire building stock.

## **Most monuments of national importance in Vaud**

The classification of protected monuments according to their importance – national, regional or local – can also be applied at cantonal level (cf. T 2).

Just five cantons account for around half of all protected monuments of national importance. Once again these include Vaud, Aargau, Bern and Fribourg as well as Ticino. With around a sixth of all protected monuments of national importance, the canton of Vaud has by far the most. By way of comparison, the percentage share in Appenzell Innerrhoden, the smallest canton, is less than one percent.

With regards to protected monuments of regional or local importance, a similar but weaker trend is seen as for monuments of national importance. The canton of Vaud holds first place here too, but with the canton of Fribourg hot on its heels. These two cantons, as well as Geneva and Bern, each have more than 7000 protected monuments of regional or local importance, together equalling 42% of the total for all cantons.

## Protected monuments, 2016, by importance and canton

T2

Canton	Number of protected monuments of national importance <sup>2</sup>	Number of protected monuments of regional or local importance <sup>3</sup>
<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>2 752</b>	<b>72 332</b>
Zurich <sup>1</sup>	99	4 602
Bern	239	7 103
Lucerne	151	809
Uri	–	–
Schwyz	61	568
Obwalden	26	457
Nidwalden	17	192
Glarus	21	467
Zug	33	533
Fribourg	204	7 928
Solothurn	50	1 991
Basel-Stadt	98	446
Basel-Landschaft	35	5 585
Schaffhausen	59	1 121
Appenzell A. Rh.	39	889
Appenzell I. Rh.	10	143
St. Gallen	77	3 906
Graubünden	193	4 676
Aargau <sup>1</sup>	240	5 960
Thurgau	138	4 119
Ticino	234	3 689
Vaud	475	7 982
Valais	83	553
Neuchâtel	69	761
Geneva	86	7 586
Jura	15	266

<sup>1</sup> extrapolation

<sup>2</sup> figures not directly comparable with CPC A-list (cf. Methodology sheet)

<sup>3</sup> In addition to national and regional importance, some cantons also indicate local importance. This information can be found on the detailed Built heritage statistics page on the FSO portal.

–: no data

Source: FSO – Statistics on built heritage

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## Wide variation in distribution of protected sacred monuments across the cantons

The cantons of Ticino and Aargau account for almost 40% of the protected sacred monuments in Switzerland. The historical significance of the Roman-Catholic Church in the canton of Ticino is undoubtedly an important factor here. Furthermore, Switzerland's southernmost canton also possesses a large number of smaller sacred monuments such as chapels, in addition to well-known sacred buildings such as the San Lorenzo cathedral in Lugano or the Santa Maria dei Miracoli church in Morbio Inferiore. In Aargau, the highly fragmented religious landscape, where many Christian communities had their own meeting houses, as well as the large number of administrative communes, help to explain the high numbers of sacred buildings.

Overall it can be seen that cantons whose past was shaped more by Catholicism, such as Fribourg, Lucerne or Solothurn, are also cantons with many sacred monuments. Cantons whose history was shaped more by the Reformed Church, such as Bern or Neuchâtel, have a correspondingly smaller number of sacred monuments.

The Catholic past of several cantons is reflected not only in the absolute number of sacred structures but also in their ratio to secular structures. The fact that churches are often the most uncontested of monuments should also be borne in mind. In the cantons of Valais, Ticino and Lucerne, some 40% and more of all protected monuments are sacred in origin. The cantons of Valais and Ticino are also divided into extremely small communes, with almost each one having its own sacred building.

In the more Reformed cantons such as Bern, Glarus or Geneva (especially the City of Geneva) and partly the canton of Thurgau, the percentage of sacred monuments among all protected monuments is between 2–5%. A similarly low ratio of sacred versus secular monuments can be seen very clearly in the canton of Vaud. With 504 sacred buildings, in absolute figures it is one of the cantons with the most monuments, despite the Reformation having played an important part in its history. But if the ratio of sacred monuments to the total number of protected monuments is considered, at 6% the figure for Vaud is low, as is the case for the other Reformed cantons. The low percentage share of sacred monuments in the canton of Basel-Landschaft is also striking: only 1% of protected monuments are sacred structures. Here too, the Reformed past of the canton has an explanatory role to play.

## Sacred monuments, 2016, by canton

T3

Canton	Number of sacred monuments	Number of secular monuments	Percentage of sacred monuments in total of protected monuments
<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>7 240</b>	<b>67 844</b>	<b>10%</b>
Zurich <sup>1</sup>	259	4 442	6%
Bern	124	7 218	2%
Lucerne	375	585	39%
Uri	–	–	–
Schwyz	141	488	22%
Obwalden	71	412	15%
Nidwalden	42	167	20%
Glarus	23	465	5%
Zug	97	469	17%
Fribourg	533	7 599	7%
Solothurn	458	1 583	22%
Basel-Stadt	34	510	6%
Basel-Landschaft	68	5 552	1%
Schaffhausen	36	1 144	3%
Appenzell A. Rh.	22	906	2%
Appenzell I. Rh.	42	111	27%
St. Gallen	268	3 715	7%
Graubünden	495	4 374	10%
Aargau <sup>2</sup>	1 300	4 900	21%
Thurgau	195	4 062	5%
Ticino	1 568	2 355	40%
Vaud	504	7 953	6%
Valais	299	337	47%
Neuchâtel	64	766	8%
Geneva	137	7 535	2%
Jura	85	196	30%

<sup>1</sup> FSO extrapolation of secular structures

<sup>2</sup> cantonal extrapolation of secular and sacred structures

–: no data

Source: FSO – Statistics on built heritage

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## 3 Archaeology

The distinction between archaeology and built heritage conservation can be quite fluid as both fields deal with built heritage. Protected buildings that are still actively used today should be easily recognisable by even the layperson as monuments designated as such under the conservation of built heritage. But what category does a fortress or castle ruins come under? Are these considered historic or archaeological monuments? Such a distinction is not always possible and neither is it meaningful. The sub-area of archaeology acts as a complementary element to the core area of built heritage conservation in the Swiss statistics on built heritage.

### Around 39 000 archaeological sites

In total, around 39 000 archaeological sites have been recorded across Switzerland. Today these places are not necessarily still visible or accessible but are sites on which a find has been discovered. Superimposed layers are considered as one site even if their origins are several centuries apart. For example, a prehistoric layer may be found under a layer from the Roman period that is itself located under a site from the Middle Ages; in the built heritage statistics this is a single site.

Many archaeological finds are made during construction work. Following a rescue excavation with documentation of finds and, where appropriate, the recovery of discovered objects, the site is destroyed in many cases (through the continuation of the building project).

#### **Definition: archaeological site**

A site is an area or a monument in which a finding is made. Overlying layers are counted as a single site.

## Archaeological sites in the cantons

The definition of a site (see box above) is quite loosely formulated. Based on the large number of sites and the fact that these sites often no longer physically exist today, the subsequent standardisation of the data according to detailed criteria (e.g. size and period) is not possible. Great care should therefore be taken when comparing the cantons. The figures are heavily influenced by the cantonal systems and can therefore only be compared nationally to a limited extent.

Despite the limitations described, the figures do, however, clearly show that archaeological finds in Switzerland are far from rare and are distributed across many different sites.

Cantons with larger surface areas tend to have more sites. It should not be deduced from this, however, that there are necessarily more individual finds here. In urban cantons, very many interesting finds can be discovered independently of one another within a small area, often on the same site. In urban areas, sites are also more difficult to delineate from one another. One particularity of the figures in table T4 is that sites of national importance pursuant to the Inventory of cultural property (PCP inventory) are included. While these are rather few in number, in terms of surface area they are, in some cases, generously defined. In urban cantons, this can lead to a large part of the area being considered as a single site. For example, the canton of Basel-Stadt "only" has two sites of national importance: the Celtic settlement on the old gas factory site and most of Basel's old town. Within these sites, however, a total of 1792 confirmed finds have been recorded. The number of individual finds, therefore, cannot be deduced from the number of sites. The number of sites does, however, offer an insight into the various locations at which something has already been found.

## Archaeological sites, 2016, by canton

T4

Canton	Number of sites recorded
<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>38 804</b>
Zurich <sup>1</sup>	5 770
Bern	4 350
Lucerne	619
Uri	70
Schwyz	812
Obwalden	98
Nidwalden	281
Glarus	–
Zug	424
Fribourg	2 832
Solothurn	2 226
Basel-Stadt	798
Basel-Landschaft	783
Schaffhausen	618
Appenzell A. Rh.	2
Appenzell I. Rh.	7
St. Gallen	3 461
Graubünden	3 215
Aargau	2 659
Thurgau	492
Ticino	2 550
Vaud	3 510
Valais	1 220
Neuchâtel	1 000
Geneva	557
Jura	450

<sup>1</sup> ZH: one site corresponds to one temporal/content layer because, contrary to the definition, the merging of superimposed layers retrospectively was no longer possible.

–: no data

## Protected archaeological zones make up 1% of Switzerland's surface area

Protected archaeological zones are a spatial planning tool. Within protected zones of this kind, experts assume that there are archaeological structures or monuments and therefore special provisions apply to interventions on this land. During the current development of geoinformation systems (GIS) in many cantons and at national level, data on archaeological areas are compiled or recorded in many places for the first time. Digitalisation of this area means that an increasing amount of area data is becoming available in the archaeological sector.

### **Definition: protected archaeological zone**

Protected archaeological zones are areas that are designated in legally binding, spatial planning instruments (land-use plan or protection ordinance etc.).

Across Switzerland, a total of 9815 protected archaeological zones were legally binding in 2016 with an area of almost 40 000 hectares, corresponding to 1% of Switzerland's surface area. Protected archaeological zones in the cantons of Glarus, Appenzell Ausserrhoden and Zurich are non-existent or not yet identifiable. While Zurich does have archaeological zones, these are not protected archaeological zones in the sense of the definition but are suspected or expected sites. No area information is available from the canton of St. Gallen.

## Protected archaeological zones, 2016, by canton T5

Canton	Number of protected archaeological zones	Total area of protected archaeological zones in hectares
<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>9 815</b>	<b>39 905</b>
Zurich	0	0
Bern	1 154	5 657
Luzern	619	2 665
Uri	7	7
Schwyz	5	8
Obwalden	19	135
Nidwalden	1	4
Glarus	0	0
Zug	74	1 600
Fribourg	27	126
Solothurn	481	1 395
Basel-Stadt	1	1
Basel-Landschaft	783	3 910
Schaffhausen	358	1 068
Appenzell A. Rh.	0	0
Appenzell I. Rh.	3	18
St. Gallen	543	–
Graubünden	118	272
Aargau	2 659	3 850
Thurgau	388	1 853
Ticino	316	4 300
Vaud	1 635	7 000
Valais	442	4 879
Neuchâtel	5	23
Geneva	8	112
Jura	169	1 021

Note: The areas in the cantons UR, SZ, ZG and AG are estimated. The existing archaeological zones in the canton of Zurich do not correspond to the definition in the survey. As the areas are rounded off, there is a rounding difference between the total and the sum of the tables.

–: no data

## Over 2000 archaeological interventions

The tasks assumed by the cantonal archaeological offices are very diverse. These include, for example, analyses and documentation of sites, rescue excavations, surveys, conservation, restoration and storage of finds, the preservation of sites and areas, academic evaluation and documentation of finds and the maintenance of collections and archives. Other responsibilities include communicating knowledge to the population and managing or supporting museums.

Such a wide remit with substantial variation between cantons cannot be represented in one national set of statistics. Information about the sites is therefore limited to archaeological interventions. There is a difference between expected and unexpected interventions.

### **Definition: expected and unexpected intervention**

Archaeological **interventions** are types of work carried out **on site**, such as excavations or reinforcement work.

An intervention is considered as **expected** if there are signs or any information indicating possible finds, the site is located in an area in which finds are expected or if, during a building project, the owners/constructors were informed of possible finds in advance.

A distinction should be made with **unexpected** interventions at sites for which there is no evidence of possible finds or which are considered accidental finds.

In the data year 2016, 2151 archaeological interventions were recorded in total. It should be noted that by its very nature this field is subject to strong annual fluctuations. The overview in table T6 should therefore be interpreted as a snapshot of the year 2016.

## Archaeological interventions in 2016, by canton T6

Canton	Number of expected archaeological interventions	Number of unexpected archaeological interventions
<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>2 000</b>	<b>151</b>
Zurich	85	6
Bern	243	–
Luzern	26	3
Uri	10	4
Schwyz	22	0
Obwalden	6	0
Nidwalden	4	0
Glarus	–	–
Zug	50	2
Fribourg	383	50
Solothurn	70	14
Basel-Stadt	33	7
Basel-Landschaft	76	12
Schaffhausen	38	0
Appenzell A. Rh.	0	0
Appenzell I. Rh.	1	0
St. Gallen	50	0
Graubünden	139	9
Aargau	133	10
Thurgau	33	10
Ticino <sup>1</sup>	200	20
Vaud	118	–
Valais	252	0
Neuchâtel	9	0
Geneva	11	2
Jura	8	2

<sup>1</sup> estimate

–: no data

Source: FSO – Statistics on built heritage

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Although surprises in archaeology are common, it can be seen that many finds are not completely unexpected. In the case of most finds in which archaeological interventions are undertaken, there are already certain clues that exist in advance.

For example, in many cantons there are archaeological zones in which finds are highly likely if, for example, a building project is started. However, completely unexpected finds are likely in the case of major projects, especially road construction. The construction of a new road, especially a new section of a motorway, represents a cross-section across entire landscapes. In the past, a number of previously unknown sites have been discovered in this way on several occasions.

As most of the construction activity often takes place in building zones that are well known archaeologically, completely unexpected finds and unexpected interventions tend to be an exception.

## 4 Historic towns and settlements

Unlike built heritage conservation that primarily focuses on the protection and maintenance of individual monuments, the conservation of historic towns and settlements considers the general view of a settlement.

The character of a place, whether a city or a smaller commune, is defined not only by a few individual buildings but also by the way the buildings relate to one another, by how the spaces between buildings are connected – squares and roads, gardens and parks – and by the relationship of the built-up area to its environment, both near and far. The conservation of historic towns and settlements ensures that future building development takes the existing architectural qualities into account, preserving the character of the place.

Individual built heritage sites vary enormously in dimension, ranging from a settlement of a few buildings to a major city.

### **Definition: historic towns and settlements**

Historic towns and settlements provide the overall appearance of a locality, a city or district. The conservation of historic towns and settlements deals with the preservation and maintenance of the building fabric, the structure and character of historical town centres and districts. Places and settlements should maintain their historical characteristics and their typical character even when renovated.

The conservation of historic towns and settlements is an integral part of the Swiss statistics on built heritage. Currently, however, the field is still taking shape. Some cantons have already defined the conservation of historic towns and settlements in their cantonal law. Others are intending to do so. Only 14 cantons were able to supply the FSO with area data on conservation zones – the main variable for this field of built heritage statistics. As land-use planning becomes digitalised, this information will be available for all areas. In view of the current situation, this publication provides information only on the number of historic towns and settlements, using existing data, so as to give as full a picture as possible.

## Listed and categorised historic towns and settlements

In Switzerland, the best known historic towns and settlements are those listed in the Federal inventory of Swiss Heritage Sites (ISOS). The historic towns and settlements of national importance, however, form only a subset of all historic sites. In the course of the first survey for the ISOS inventory in the 1980s, some 6000 sites were visited and assessed; depending on their qualities, around 4700 of them were categorised as being of national, regional or local importance. Developments in sites of national importance (ISOS inventory) are subject to stricter criteria than for other sites, not only where the Confederation is concerned but also for the cantons and communes. For all historic towns and settlements not listed in the ISOS, the cantons may act as they see fit. For this reason, the legal force of such sites varies greatly between cantons. Historic towns and settlements that remain uncategorised are not listed separately. To guarantee the comparability between cantons of sites of regional and of local importance, the categories used in the 1980s ISOS survey are used. Although some cantons have their own categories and classifications, they are not useful for cantonal comparisons.

### Background ISOS

On the basis of article 5 of the Federal Act of 1 July 1966 on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage, the Confederation keeps an inventory with historic towns and settlements of national importance. The Federal Council decides on the inclusion, modification or deletion of sites. The ISOS – the Federal Inventory of Swiss Heritage Sites – is the only national inventory of historic towns and settlements in the world.

Of the 5487 listed historic towns and settlements, 1274 (22%) are categorised as being of national importance, 1867 (32%) are of regional and 1556 (27%) of local importance. The just under 20% remaining did not meet the requirements for categorisation. Across Switzerland, a total of 4697 historic towns and settlements have been categorised.

## Categorised historic towns and settlements in the cantons

At cantonal level, it can be seen that over half of all historic towns and settlements are located in just five cantons: Bern, Vaud, Ticino, Graubünden and Zurich (see T 7). By far the highest number can be found in the canton of Bern with 676 such sites, representing more than a seventh of all sites of national, regional and local importance throughout Switzerland.

The figures published here on historic towns and settlements tell us nothing about conservation interventions undertaken in the cantons and are intended only to give the reader an idea of how sites with special qualities are distributed across the cantons. One should not, however, come to the conclusion that all of these sites are necessarily protected. For example, in the FSO survey, only 16 cantons indicated that they had no or hardly any backlog in relation to implementing the ISOS content, i.e. in terms of the sites of national importance. For sites of regional importance, which cantons can handle at their own discretion, the situation is likely to be even more inconsistent. A few cantons are very active in this field and have introduced a relevant legal basis, either at legislation level or in cantonal structural planning. Some cantons even keep their own historic towns and settlements inventories or registers using their own methods of categorisation, whereas others have undertaken nothing or very little in this respect.

Reliable measurements of the conservation of historic towns and settlements will only be possible once digital data are available. As part of current digitalisation projects in zone and land-use planning such as the development of geoinformation systems, in many places historic towns and settlements are being re-evaluated and revised. Furthermore, the current social and political discussion on high-density building should provide further impetus.

## Categorised historic towns and settlements, 2016, by canton

T7

Importance of historic towns and settlements				
Canton	National (ISOS inventory)	Regional	Local	Total categorised towns and settlements
<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>1 274</b>	<b>1 867</b>	<b>1 556</b>	<b>4 697</b>
Zurich	73	150	156	379
Bern	181	276	219	676
Lucerne	32	41	56	129
Uri	12	4	9	25
Schwyz	18	16	17	51
Obwalden	8	6	5	19
Nidwalden	7	7	7	21
Glarus	10	14	6	30
Zug	14	10	8	32
Fribourg	55	121	99	275
Solothurn	36	46	53	135
Basel-Stadt	3	0	1	4
Basel-Landschaft	33	43	25	101
Schaffhausen	17	17	9	43
Appenzell A. Rh.	9	10	11	30
Appenzell I. Rh.	2	3	3	8
St. Gallen	62	70	116	248
Graubünden	114	154	96	364
Aargau	61	135	101	297
Thurgau	66	126	101	293
Ticino	137	136	150	423
Vaud	141	246	113	500
Valais	101	126	129	356
Neuchâtel	29	29	18	76
Geneva	23	39	21	83
Jura	31	42	27	100

Note: One site of national importance was intercantonal and surveyed in both ZH and TG. Subsequently, the total shown is one unit less than the total of the tables. The table shows only the 4697 categorised historic towns and settlements. Across Switzerland, however, a total of 5847 historic towns and settlements are listed.

## 5 Cultural behaviour: who visits cultural heritage sites?

The statistics on cultural behaviour provide an insight into the population's cultural activities. On this basis, the rate of visits to certain cultural institutes among the population and the sociodemographic profile of visitors can be analysed in further detail.

In this context, what is relevant in the survey on cultural behaviour is the question concerning visits to cultural heritage sites and to historic or archaeological sites.

### **National survey on cultural behaviour**

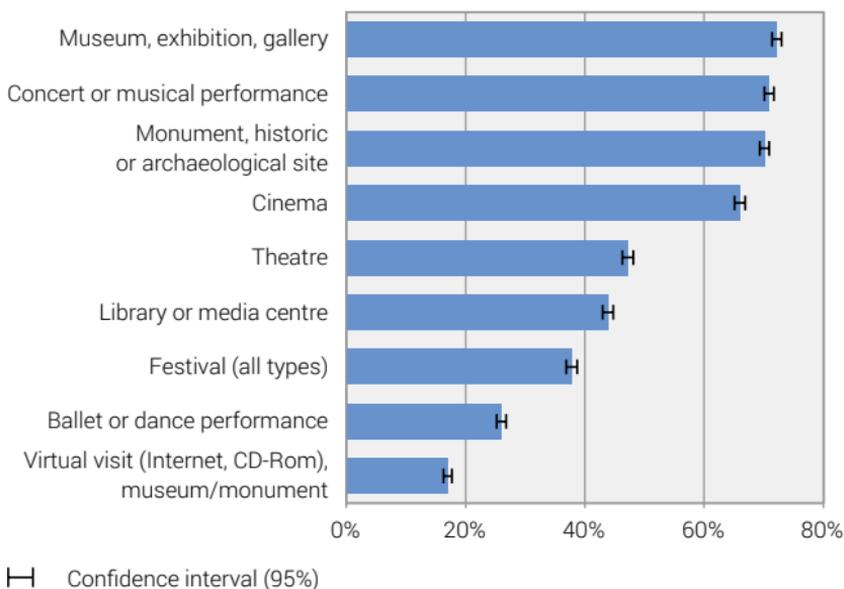
The cultural behaviour of the Swiss resident population is recorded in the scope of the survey on language, religion and culture that is carried out every 5 years. Persons aged 15 and over are asked, amongst other things, about visits to cultural institutions, their own cultural activities and leisure activities. After a first survey in 2008, the last survey was carried out in 2014 and the next survey on cultural behaviour will take place in 2019.

### **Monuments and sites take third place for cultural visits**

Museums and exhibitions of all kinds, concerts and other music events that were attended by just over 70% of the population at least once in the 12 months prior to the survey were followed by monuments and historic or archaeological sites. At 70%, the latter were closely behind, taking third position in the most visited cultural institutions, just ahead of the cinema that attracted two third of persons.

## Visits to monuments and to historic or archaeological sites compared with other cultural institutions, 2014

G4



Source: FSO – Statistics on cultural behaviour

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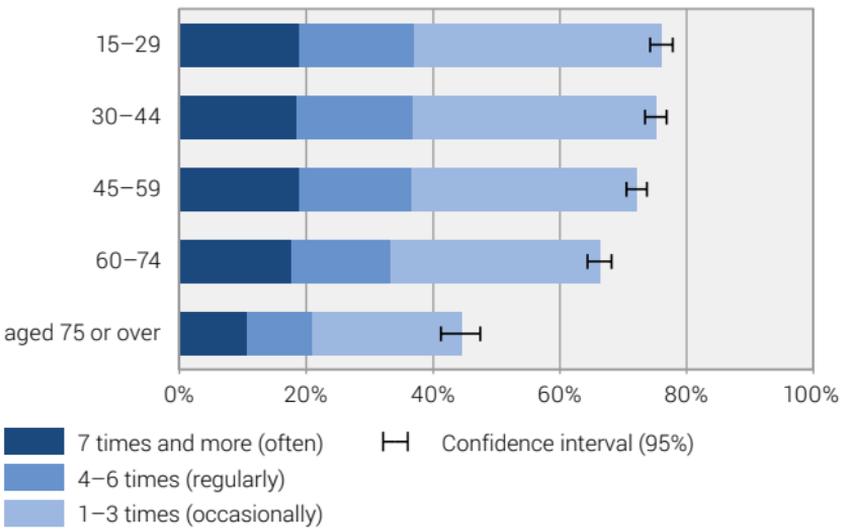
### A rather broad visitor profile

Visitors to monuments and historic or archaeological sites are not only large in number but also diverse. Both men and women are equally interested in such visits.

It is also notable that people aged from 15 to 59 visit monuments and sites without any significant statistical difference, as shown by graphic G5. It is only among older people that the visitor rate is slightly lower (60–74 years) or considerably lower (from 75 years). Cultural behaviour, especially when associated with an actual visit in person, tends to decrease the older the age of the interviewees: this is also the case for other institutions such as museums or – in particular – cinemas.

## Visits to monuments and sites, by age, 2014

G5



Source: FSO – Statistics on cultural behaviour

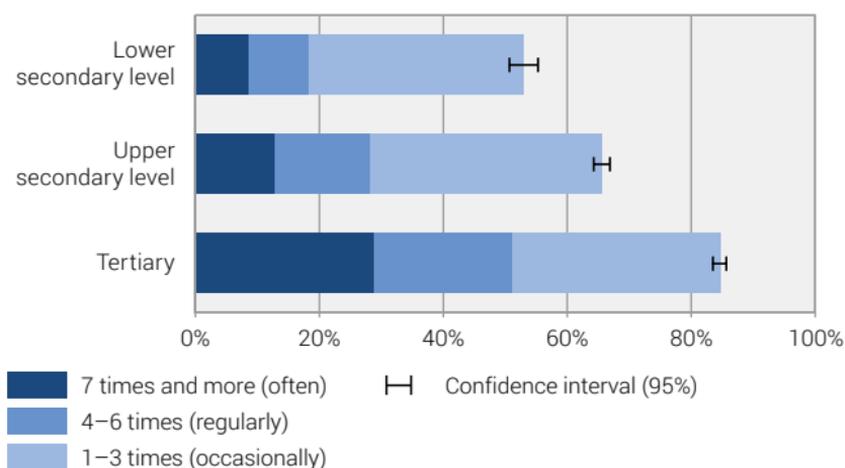
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The large number of monuments and historic and archaeological sites in Switzerland and the fact that entry to many of these is free of charge, together with their general popularity are factors that contribute to high visitor numbers. As for almost all cultural visits, the rate does, however, vary considerably with level of education.

In G6 it can be seen that just over half of people whose highest qualification was a lower secondary school diploma visited monuments and sites in the past year. Among persons with a tertiary diploma, however, the visitor rate was over 80%. When the share of persons that carried out this activity 7 times or more per year is considered, the intensity of visits was also proportionally greater.

## Visits to monuments and sites, by educational level, 2014

G6



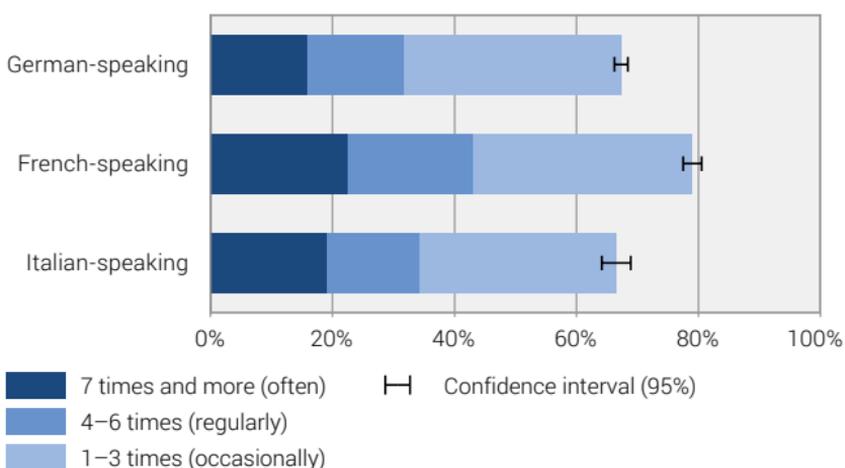
Source: FSO – Statistics on cultural behaviour

© FSO 2018

It can be noted that inhabitants of French-speaking Switzerland visit historical monuments and sites far more often (79%) than those from German-speaking Switzerland (67%) or from Italian-speaking Switzerland (66%), as shown in G7. Therefore, it can also be said that there are specific differences by language region in Switzerland.

## Visits to monuments and sites, by language region, 2014

G7



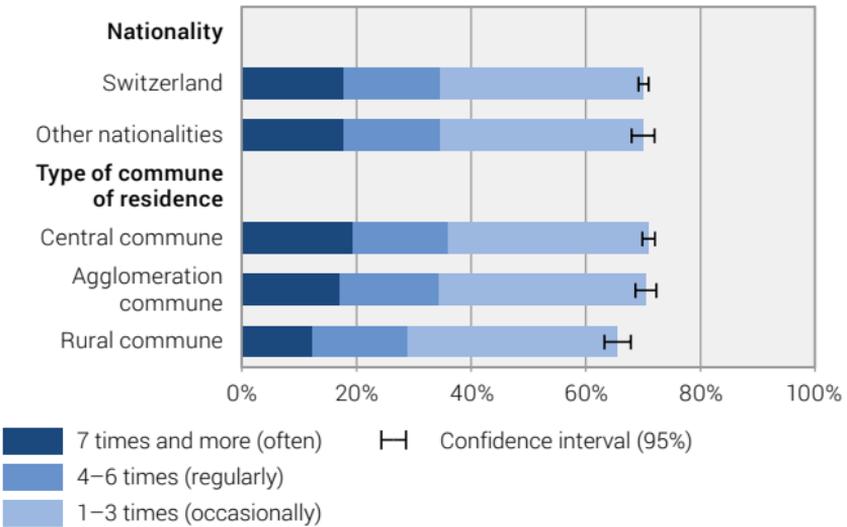
Source: FSO – Statistics on cultural behaviour

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Finally, it can be noted that monuments and sites equally attract both Swiss nationals and residents with foreign nationality and that visitor rates are very similar between residents of central and large urban zone communes and are only slightly lower by residents of rural communes (see G8).

## Visits to monuments and sites, by nationality, type of commune of residence, 2014

G8



Source: FSO – Statistics on cultural behaviour

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Monuments and historic or archaeological sites therefore play an important role in identity and integration in Switzerland in many ways.

## 6 Methodology

### Built heritage statistics

Conservation of Switzerland's built heritage is the task of the cantons and is therefore shaped by federalism: in principle, there are 26 different cantonal systems. These statistics provide an overarching and comparative analysis of the Swiss cultural heritage landscape. The challenge is to reconcile the different cantonal systems to ensure that comparisons are possible and that statements can be made at national level. The aim of this survey was to record all structures in Switzerland, including those that are only recorded or preserved at communal level. Attention is drawn in the text to the limitations of comparability. Further information can be found in the separate methodology sheet, which can be consulted on the FSO website.

The survey questionnaire was compiled in 2017 in close cooperation with the concerned offices and experts, tested as a pilot survey and revised in accordance with the findings obtained. The actual survey took place in spring 2018 for the data year 2016. This was an exhaustive survey of all competent cantonal offices. Any communal data were also organised and delivered by the cantons. The online survey was divided into three subsections: conservation of built heritage, archaeology and the conservation of historic towns and settlements. All published data were validated and adjusted by the FSO. Some of these data are estimates or extrapolations (see table footnotes). A detailed methodology description and data in tabular form can be downloaded from the FSO website.

### Statistics on cultural behaviour

Cultural behaviour was surveyed as part of the thematic survey on language, religion and culture. The latter is one of five thematic surveys from the new population census that is carried out every 5 years among the Swiss population aged 15 and over. Within the topic of "culture", people were asked about their activities over the last twelve months. The survey was carried out from March to December 2014 in three languages (GER, FR, IT) by telephone (CATI). The response rate to the CATI questionnaire was 46.6% (16 487 people).

## Statistical precision

For the Statistics on cultural behaviour, the statistical precision for all values was calculated and considered in the presentation of the results in the graphics (confidence intervals) and in the text.

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