ETH Zurich Department of Architecture
ARCHITECTURE OF TERRITORY
Chair of Architecture
and Territorial Planning
Professor Milica Topalović

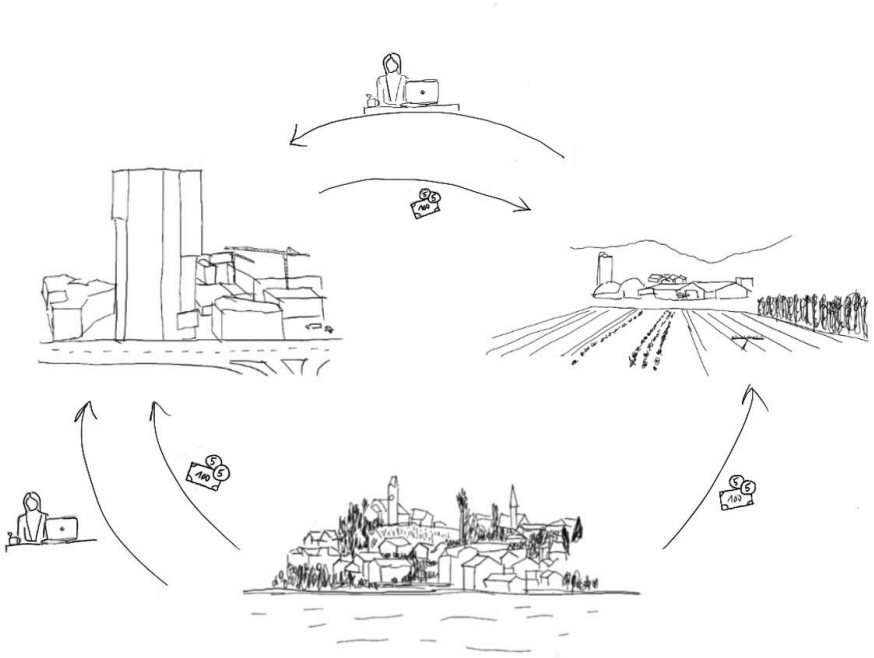
Village Life
Spring 2022

Atlas

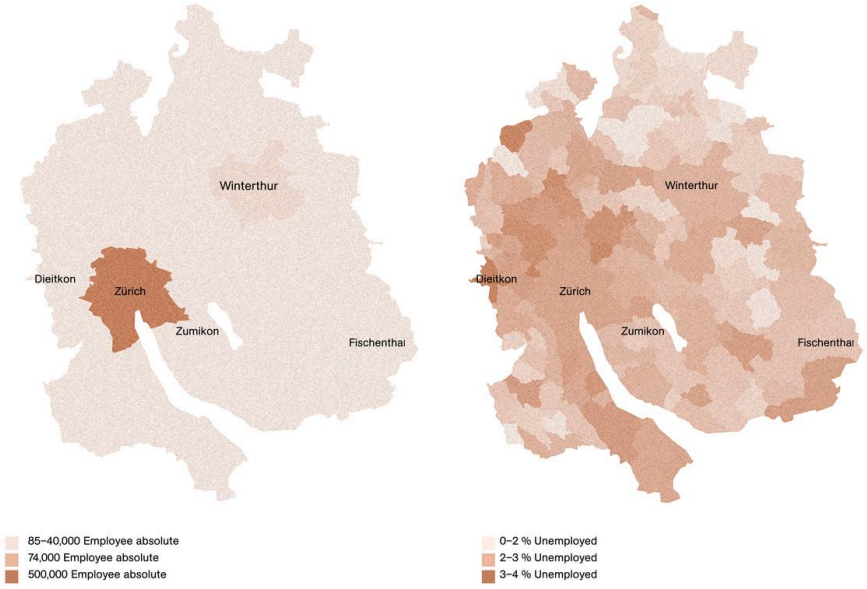
Labour and Economy

Viviane Hug and Tabea Meienhofer

The city of Zurich is the economic centre of the canton. By far the most jobs are offered there and numerous companies, especially the very large ones, are located in the city. Consequently, there are huge employment and income gaps between the municipalities. But what are the layers of this “urban-rural divide”? Who is dependent on whom? In the agglomeration, especially on the Gold Coast and the so-called “Pfnüselküste,” which would better be called the “Silver Coast”, lies the money of natural persons. Accordingly, these municipalities contribute the most to the financial equalisation, on which rural regions in particularly rely heavily on. Therefore, the agglomeration is not an in-between of city and countryside, but an important and necessary component of the multi-layered dependency relations of different areas. Both urban and rural regions are dependent on the agglomeration.



The City for Jobs



Employment concentration and Unemployment percentage. Source: Gemeindeporträt Kanton Zürich. [https://www.zh.ch/de/politik-staat/gemeinden/gemeindeportraet.html]



Fischenthal



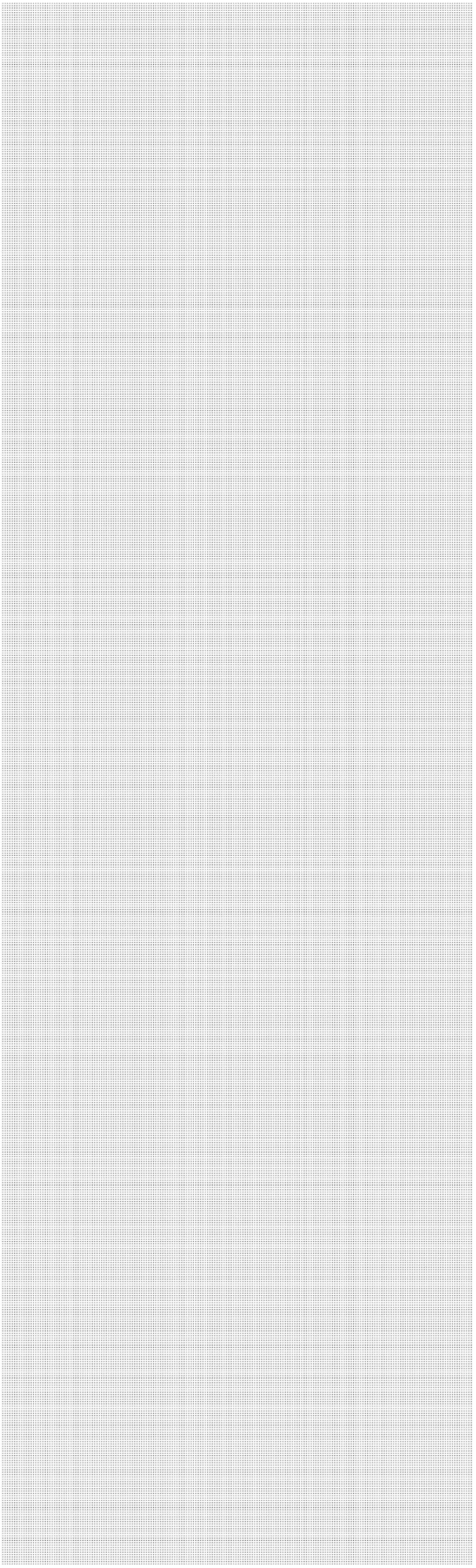
Zumikon



Spreitenbach

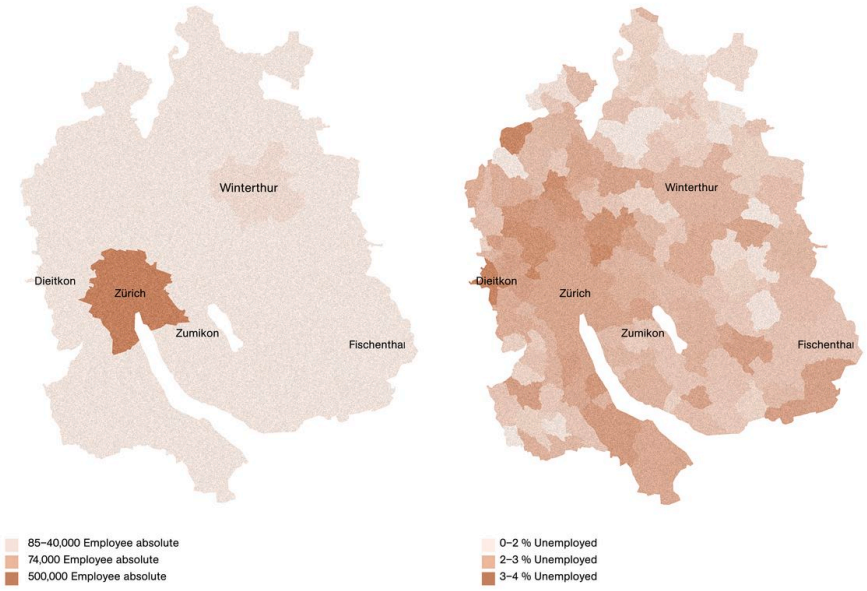


Zürich



Employment and Unemployment of selected municipalities. Source: Gemeindeporträt Kanton Zürich. [https://www.zh.ch/de/politik-staat/gemeinden/gemeindeportraet.html]

Selected municipalities highlight the concentration of workers in the canton of Zurich. A dot in the left column is an employed person and, on the right, the unemployed. For with almost 500,000 employees, the city is the lone leader, with Winterthur next with about 70,000 employees. Less clear patterns emerge in the percentage unemployment figures. There are relatively more unemployed in the agglomerations around Zurich, although the difference between the municipalities is not serious. An interesting comparison: Zurich has about the same number of unemployed as Spreitenbach (AG) has employees.



Employment concentration and Unemployment percentage. Source: Gemeindeporträt Kanton Zürich. [https://www.zh.ch/de/politik-staat/gemeinden/gemeindeportraet.html]



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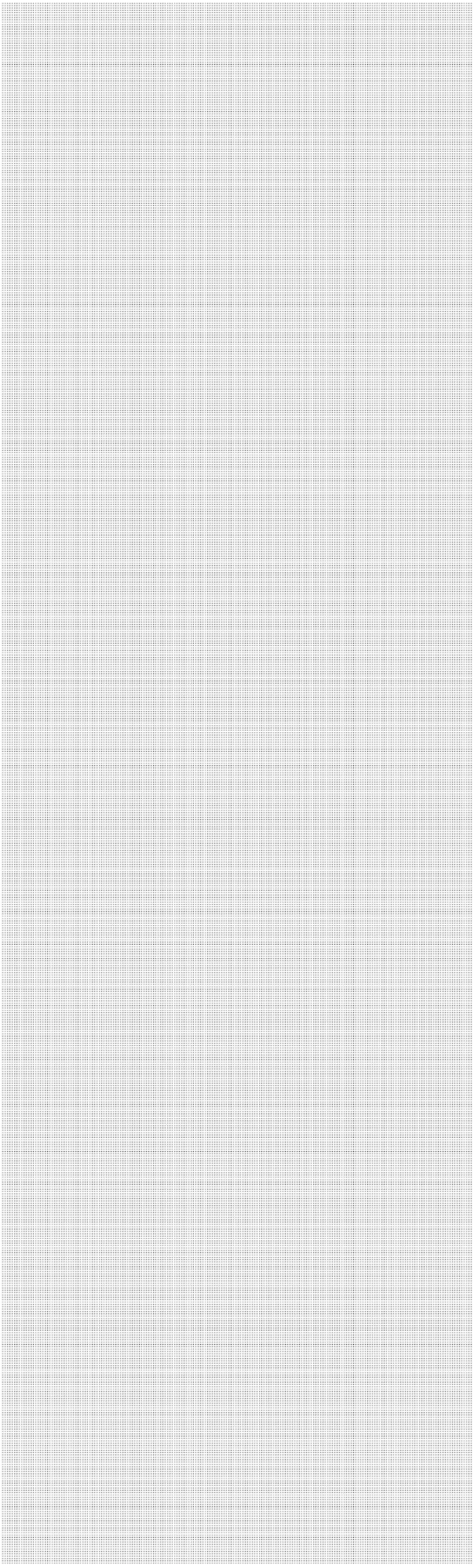
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Spreitenbach



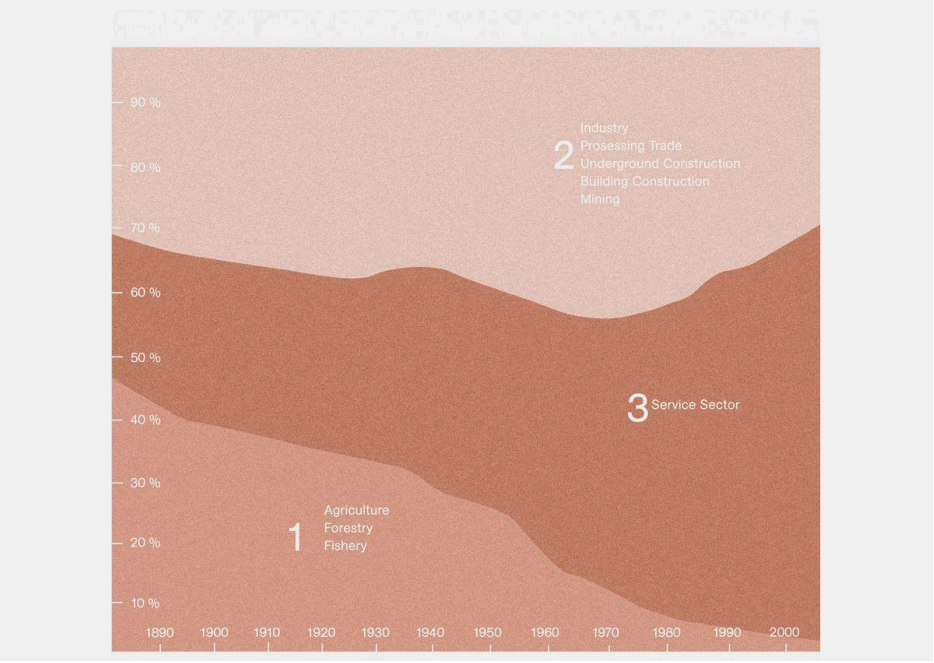
Zürich



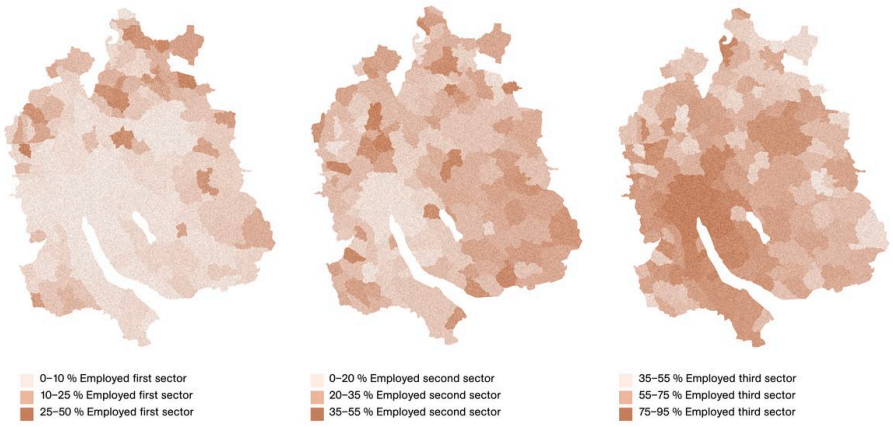
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Rising of the Third Sector

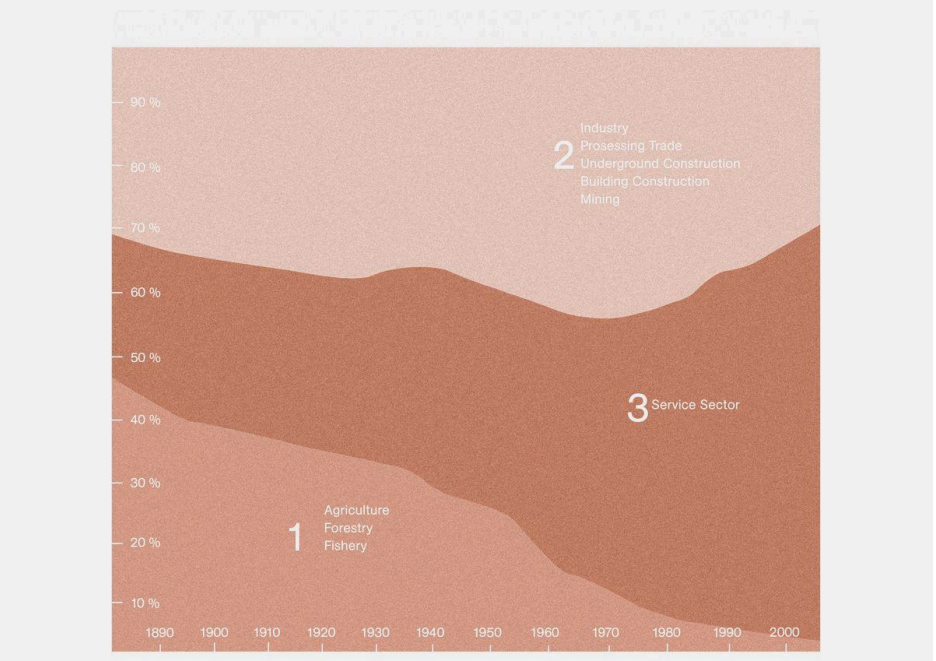


Development of economic activity. Source: Statistisches Bundesamt. [https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home.html]

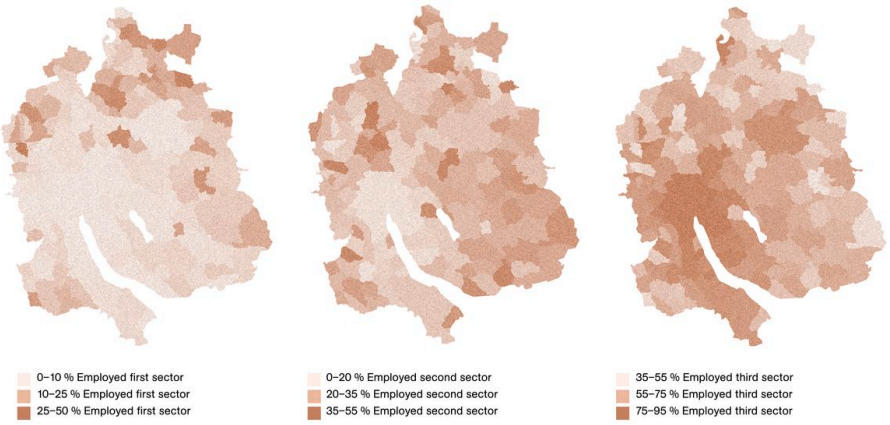


Share of the three economic sectors. Source: Gemeindeporträt Kanton Zürich. [https://www.zh.ch/de/politik-staat/gemeinden/gemeindeportraet.html]

The share of the primary sector (raw material extraction) has decreased sharply, to today's 5 %. The secondary sector (processing of raw materials) has undergone the smallest fluctuations during this period, with the share also increasing strongly during the industrialization and now decreasing again to the 20 %. The tertiary sector (services) has the highest share today, at 75 %, and has therefore increased greatly over the years. Some are currently already talking about a fourth sector, information.
The primary sector has a higher share of workers in rural areas than in urban areas and the tertiary sector vice versa and in metropolitan areas. The second sector is more evenly distributed, with a tendency towards secondary centres or sub-centres.



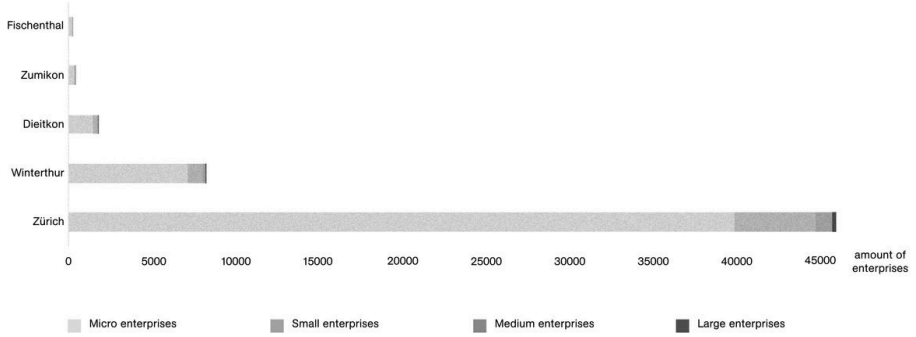
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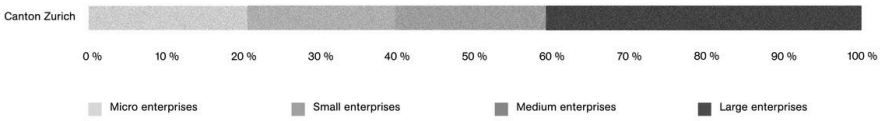
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Go Bigger Go City

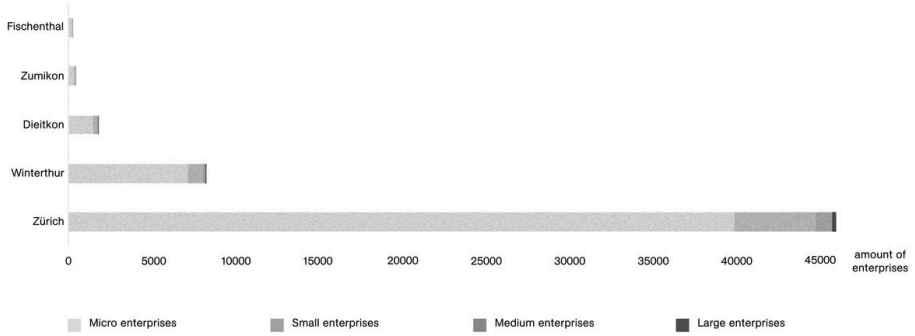


Amount of enterprises in selected municipalities. Source: Gemeindeporträt Kanton Zürich. [https://www.zh.ch/de/politik-staat/gemeinden/gemeindeportraet.html]

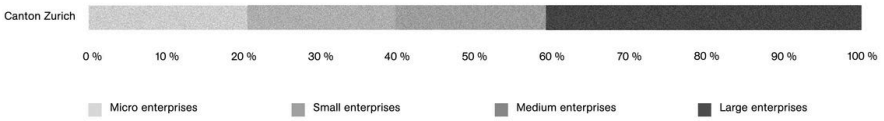


Employment share by size of enterprise. Source: Gemeindeporträt Kanton Zürich. [https://www.zh.ch/de/politik-staat/gemeinden/gemeindeportraet.html]

We can observe, the larger the company, the more likely they are to be located in the cities. Micro-enterprises are much more numerous than large enterprises, an observation that applies to most municipalities in the canton. The city of Zurich has by far the most; the further you get from Zurich, the fewer companies you find. Although there are proportionally more micro enterprises, 40 % of employees are still employed by large enterprises. Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises share the remaining 60 % of employees equally.



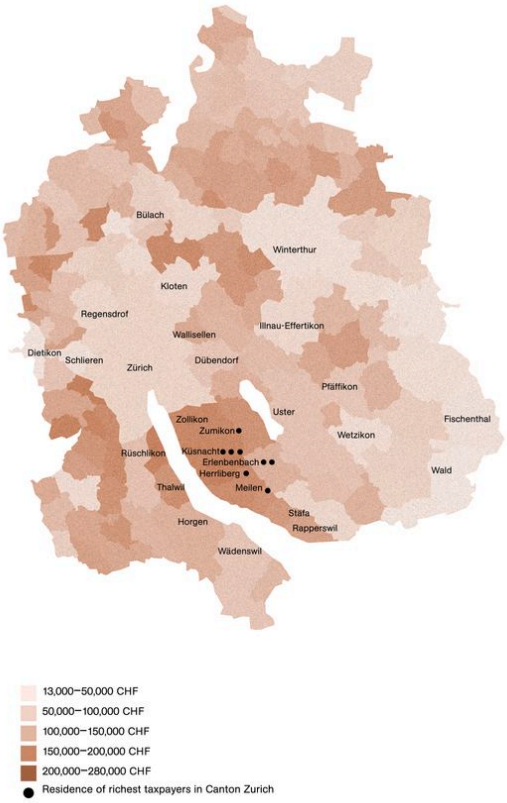
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The Richest of the Richest



Taxable assets of natural persons. Source: Gemeindeporträt Kanton Zürich.
[https://www.zh.ch/de/politik-staat/gemeinden/gemeindeportraet.html]



Christoph Blocher - 82 - ♂
19,500 Million CHF
Entrepreneur - Politician

Richest taxpayers in canton Zurich. Source:
Handelszeitung.
[https://www.handelszeitung.ch/bilanz/die-300-reichsten/2021/die-300-reichsten-2021]



Theo Müller - 82 - ♂
5,500 Million CHF
Creamer

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Walter Frey - 78 - ♂
3,750 Million CHF
Entrepreneur - President of
Administration of Emil Frey

Richest taxpayers in canton Zurich. Source: Handelszeitung. [https://www.handelszeitung.ch/bilanz/die-300-reichsten/2021/die-300-reichsten-2021]



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Urs Schwarzenbach - 74 - ♂
1,250 Million CHF
Financer - Majority Stockholder of
Dolder Grand - Owner of English Village

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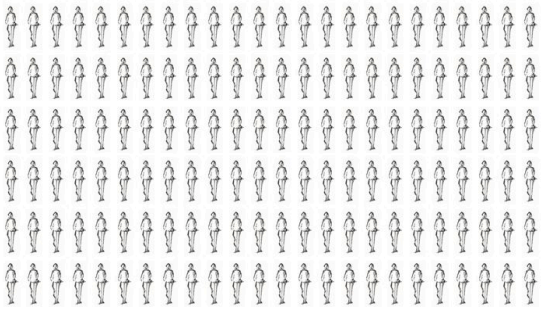


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550 Million CHF
Head of Armada Investment Group

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Ernst Tanner
ExCEO Lindt & Sprüngli
Income 7.7 Millionen CHF



Employees Lindt & Sprüngli
Machine Operator
Income 54000 CHF

Income of two different positions in the same company. Source: Handelszeitung. [https://www.handelszeitung.ch/management/lindt-spruengli-chef-tanner-77-millionen-lohn-1355746]

Where there is work, there is (often) money. The municipalities with the highest taxable assets are not the cities! They are those on the lake shore and in the nearer agglomeration. Also, the eight most wealthy taxpayers, all male and over fifty, live on the so-called “Gold Coast”.
Not only are there big differences in the labour supply, but also in the taxable income of individuals, the ratios are remarkable. Ernst Tanner, the ex-CEO of Lindt & Sprüngli, earned 7.7 million, which is as much as 162 Lind & Sprüngli machine operators earn today. Is that still rationale?



Taxable assets of natural persons. Source: Gemeindeporträt Kanton Zürich. [https://www.zh.ch/de/politik-staat/gemeinden/gemeindeportraet.html]



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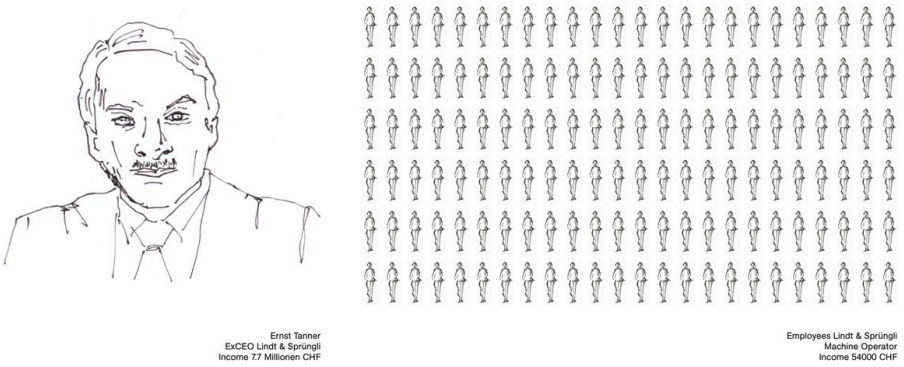
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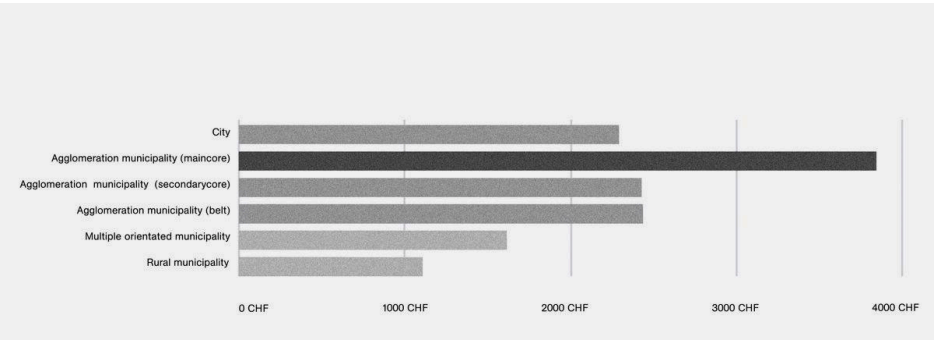
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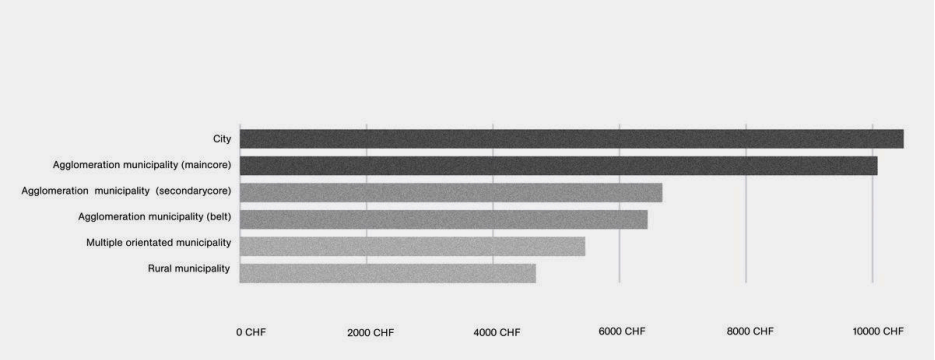
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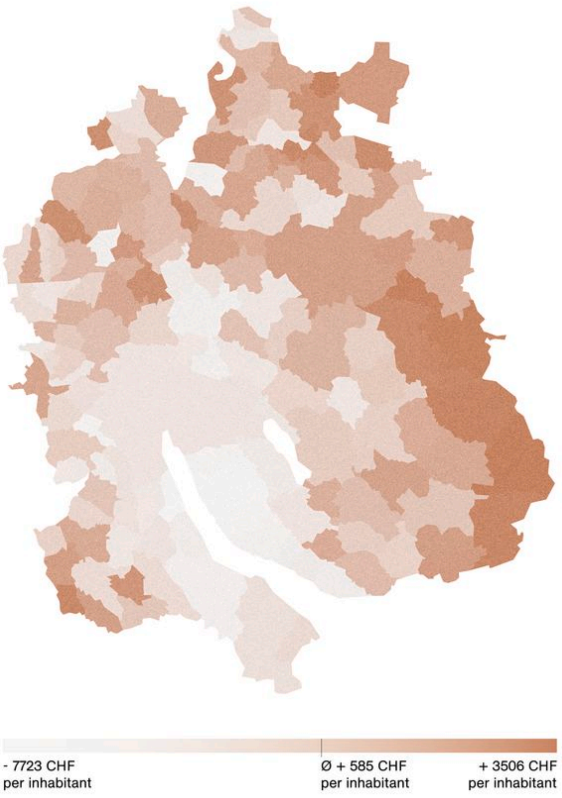
Who Pays Whom?



Direct federal tax by individual persons (per inhabitant in CHF). Source: NZZ. [https://www.nzz.ch/schweiz/svp-zahlen-zum-stand-land-konflikt-ld.1644315?reduced=true]

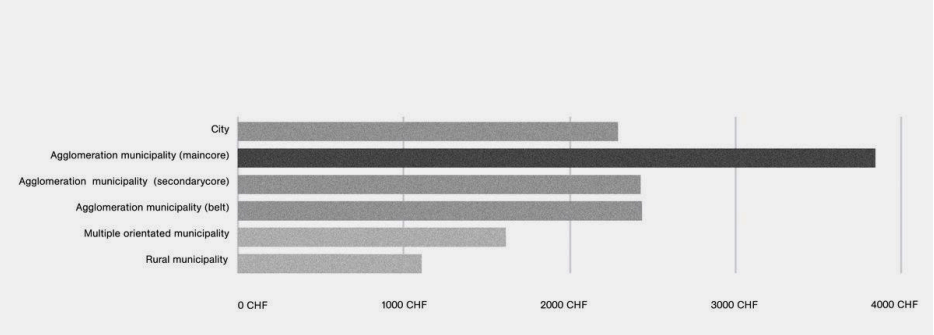


Direct federal tax by individual and legal persons (per inhabitant in CHF). Source: NZZ. [https://www.nzz.ch/schweiz/svp-zahlen-zum-stand-land-konflikt-ld.1644315?reduced=true]

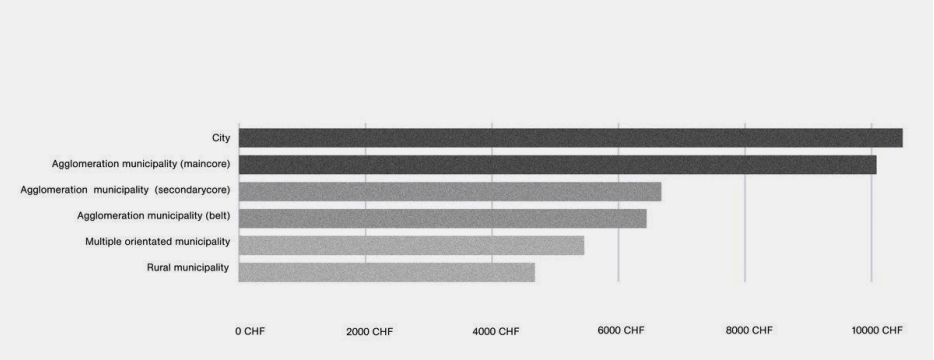


Fiscal equalisation. Source: Gemeindeporträt Kanton Zürich. [https://www.zh.ch/de/politik-staat/gemeinden/gemeindeportraet.html]

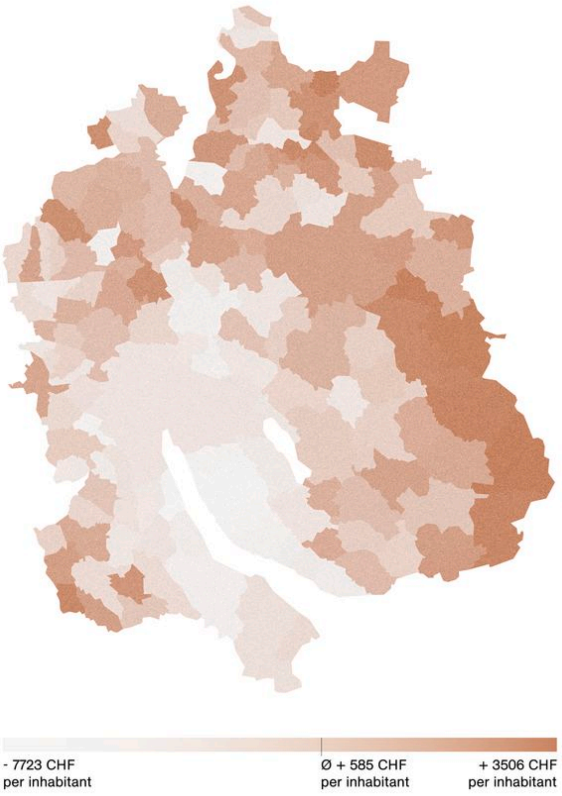
Individuals who live in the agglomeration core municipalities contribute the most for the direct federal tax. However, if one adds the income of companies (legal persons), the city of Zurich just overtakes.
The figure for the financial equalization of Zurich's municipalities shows the clear financial dependencies. Neither the city finances the country, nor vice versa, but the lakeshore and some other agglomeration municipalities do finance both. While many municipalities are not in need of much allowance, rural areas in particular rely heavily on fiscal equalisation.



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This work by Viviane Hug and Tabea Meienhofer was created as part of the design studio Village Life at ETH Zurich in Spring 2022. The PDF is intended for educational purposes only. Its commercial distribution is strictly forbidden.

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