New edition of the first Statistical Atlas of Switzerland (1897)

120 years of official statistics visualized in maps
Context of the new edition

• 125th edition of the Statistical Yearbook of Switzerland (since 1891)
• Visualizations have been a central part of the yearbook concept since the beginning
• 120th anniversary of the Graphical-statistical Atlas of Switzerland 1897
• Growing interest in early visualization products from the FSO (former: Statistical Bureau)
• Success of the “Graphical Statistical Atlas of Switzerland 1914–2014”, a retro-atlas concept
Yearbooks prior to the first atlas edition
Context of the 1897's publication

• 7th edition of the Yearbook (replaces traditional yearbook)
• 1 year after the National Exhibition in Geneva (1896)
• Success of the visualizations exposed during the exhibition
• 1850-1900: “Golden Age of data graphics” and many national statistical atlases published since 1870
• Georg Von Mayr's publication: “Gutachten über die Anwendung der graphischen und geographischen Methode in der Statistik” (1874)
Original edition 1897 - Overview

Languages: Bilingual German and French
Pages: 146
Format: 15.8 x 24 cm
Lithography: Kümerly
Printer: Stämpfli & Cie
Printing: Colour - chromolithographic process
Copies: approx. 2000

22 plates
- 6 maps / 16 graphs
- Statistical data from 1850-1896
Original edition 1897 - Structure

**Atlas 1897**

I. Political statistics
   - Elected politicians since the 1848's Federal Constitution
   - Votation

II. Land use and density

III. Population
   - Demography (age composition)
   - Professions

IV. Population movement / change
   - Mortality (disease / accidents / suicides)
   - Migration

V. Transport (railway)
   - Infrastructure
   - Financial aspects

VI. Postal service and telecommunications
   - Financial aspects
   - Infrastructure
   - Use

VII. Industry and commerce
   - Import
   - Export

VIII. Military statistics
   - Service exemption
   - Health

IX. Public finances

**Yearbook 1896**

I. Land use

II. Population

III. Population movement

IV. Agriculture

V. Livestock farming

VI. Forestry

VII. Fish farming

VIII. Salt mining

IX. Industry

X. Transport

XI. Commerce, insurance, business corporations, banks, prices

XII. Sanitation, sanitary police

XIII. Instruction and education

XIV. Finance

XV. Prisons

XVI. Military

XVII. Politics

**Atlas 1897**

Plates by theme
### Political statistics

- Federal Council
- National Council
- Council of States
- Federal Supreme Court
Maps

• Choropleth
• Proportional symbols
Original edition 1897 - Visualization

Graphs
- Proportional area chart
- Population pyramid
- Pie chart
- Bar chart (multi-set / stacked)
- Line graph
- Stacked area graph
New edition 2017 - Overview

Authors: Thomas Schulz, Gerhard Zbinden, Daniel Von Burg
Languages: Bilingual German and French
Pages: 64 pages
Format: 21 x 29.7 cm
Printer: Swisstopo
Copies: 2,000 / +1,000 (2nd edition)

52 Plates
• 21 maps / 31 graphs

Sources of additional maps / charts
• Yearbooks of 1891 / 1892 / 1893 / 1894 / 1898
New edition 1897 - Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1897</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Political statistics</td>
<td>I. Political statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elected politicians since the 1848’s Federal Constitution</td>
<td>Election (electoral participation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Votation</td>
<td>Votations (+2 maps)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Land use and density</td>
<td>II. Land use and density (+2 maps)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Population</td>
<td>III. Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demography (age composition)</td>
<td>Demography (age composition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professions</td>
<td>Professions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Population movement / change</td>
<td>IV. Population movement / change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality (disease / accidents / suicides)</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Migration</td>
<td>Migration (+2 maps)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Transport (railway)</td>
<td>V. Transport (railway / cars)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial aspects</td>
<td>Financial aspects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. Postal service and telecommunications</td>
<td>VI. Postal service and telecommunications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial aspects</td>
<td>Financial aspects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII. Industry and commerce</td>
<td>VII. Industry and commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Import</td>
<td>Import</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export</td>
<td>Export</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIII. Military statistics</td>
<td>VIII. Military statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service exemption</td>
<td>Service exemption</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX. Public finances</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plates by theme 1897 / 2017

Additional maps / charts of early yearbooks
New edition 1897 - Concept
New edition 1897 - Maps
New edition 2017 – Technical challenges

Original scan

Edited plate
New edition 2017 – Challenges: data comparability
New edition 2017 – Challenges: data comparability
New edition 2017 – Challenges: data comparability
New edition 2017 – Challenges: data comparability
Graphical Statistical Atlas of Switzerland 1914
The “big brother” – Graphical-Statistical Atlas of Switzerland 1914-2014
Conclusion

• **Printed books** are dead? Wait a minute … not the good ones! And certainly not atlases and other visual works!
• The reading of printed books still has an aesthetic / sensual dimension which creates an *emotional experience* during the consumption phase (in addition to the collection or give-away aspect).
• In the field of statistics, emotions are more easy to create using **visualizations** rather than tables or a plain database… in whatever medium possible!
• But, if producing a book or printed atlas, we need to deliver **high quality** by applying a:
  • Good concept
  • Good story
  • Great visualizations
• There is an audience for **historical statistics** and long time series.
Outlook

• The field of visualization seems to have an obvious **capital gain** for the statistical dissemination. We have pledged to continue to provide and extend our large visual offer.

• Modern editing tools makes it more **easy to create** visual assets with very high quality standards – be it static or interactive visualizations.

• These tools also allow us to produce at the same time interactive AND printed visualizations, thus providing from **one source multiple outputs for multiple uses**.

• Through the **success** of our new atlas and former products, other projects for visual publications will emerge in the near future and profit from the experiences.

• The FSO will continue to **promote** the rich legacy of its predecessors in this field.
Advertisement

Statistical Yearbook of Switzerland 2018

Digital Yearbook library

www.bfs.admin.ch

GSA 1914-2014

…will be reprinted

GSA 1897-2017

www.bfs.admin.ch
Interactive atlases

Interactive Statistical Atlas of Switzerland

Political Atlas of Switzerland

Interactive Statistical Atlas of Cities

www.atlas.bfs.admin.ch
Thank you for your attention!

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FSO Cartography Unit

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