An analysis on the accessibility of services in Switzerland

Increasing mobility and new communication technologies do not only diminish distances in our globalised world. They alter fundamentally the needs and the way societies regard and shape their working and living environment. An analysis of the Federal Statistical Office studies one of the crucial locational factors for planners, decision makers and eventually the quality of life for many people - the accessibility of services for the population. Although Switzerland is in general equipped with an excellent service infrastructure, those services are not equally distributed and accessible in all parts of the country. While one naturally assumes disparities for services like cinemas and hospitals between the countryside and agglomerations, the study reveals large differences in many other daily service areas, e.g. the distribution of general practitioners, schools, supermarkets, petrol stations, banks or restaurants. Based on the latest census data and accompanied by many visual results, e.g. thematic maps, the study gives answers on a wide range of questions concerning important services: How far is it in average for residents to access a specific service? Which part of the population and country profits from above-average service offers? Where are the largest regional disparities? How and where has the accessibility changed over the past years?