

Glossary: Local administrative unit (LAU)

Statistics Explained

Short definition: **local administrative units (LAUs)** are used to divide up the territory of the EU for the purpose of providing statistics at a local level. They are low level administrative divisions of a country below that of a province, region or state. Not all countries classify their locally governed areas in the same way and LAUs may refer to a range of different administrative units, including municipalities, communes, parishes or wards.

Statistics for LAUs may be used to establish local typologies including the [degree of urbanisation](#) ([cities](#) ; [towns and suburbs](#) ; [rural areas](#)); [functional urban areas](#) (cities and their surrounding [commuting zones](#)); [coastal areas](#) (coastal and non-coastal areas).

Further information

- See [the introduction](#) of Eurostat's *Territorial typologies manual*
- [Local administrative units \(LAU\)](#)