Documentation

NUTS regions 1 : 250 000

NUTS250

valid from the product as of 31.12.2023

Content

1 Overview of the dataset

Product:	NUTS250
Content:	For the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany, the dataset comprises the regions of the nomenclature of territorial units NUTS[1] for the purpose of European statistics.[2] The NUTS regions have a hierarchical structure and three levels and - with only a few exceptions - mirror the administrative units for Germany. ▪ NUTS 1 in Germany: Länder (Federal states) ▪ NUTS 2 in Germany: largely Regierungsbezirke (administrative districts) ▪ NUTS 3 in Germany: kreisfreie Städte and Landkreise (independent towns and districts) Besides the current Regierungsbezirke, also the former Regierungsbezirke of the Länder Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate and Saxony are given on the NUTS-2 level for Germany. In national language, this NUTS-2 classification is also called „Statistical Regions“. The areas are of the „MultiPolygon“ type (also „Multipart“). Each area can comprise several single areas, such as regular area with exclaves or inset areas, each of these MultiPolygones corresponding to a dataset in the attribute table. In addition, there are views in the geopackage format as special views of the data with integrated value tables for itemized value information and resolved attribute designations.
Area:	Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Federal Republic of Germany)
Spatial structure:	Complete data set without spatial breakdown
Spatial reference*:	▪ Geographic coordinates in decimal degrees, Ellipsoid GRS80, Datum ETRS89 ▪ Gauß-Krüger projection in the 3rd, 4th or 5th meridional strip Bessel Ellipsoid, Potsdam Datum, (central point Rauenberg) ▪ UTM projection in zone 32 or 33 Ellipsoid GRS80, Datum ETRS89

[1] Nomenclature des unités territoriales statistiques
[2] http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/de/web/nuts/principles-and-characteristics
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nuts/overview

Position accuracy:	The geometry is derived from the respective dataset Administrative Areas 1 : 250 000 (VG250). So, what concerns accuracy and resolution, the geometry is oriented towards the DLM250 analogous to the VG250.
Currentness:	1-year revision cycle with the status 31.12. of each year
Data formats*:	▪ SHAPE ▪ Geopackage
Data supply*:	▪ Dataset via Download or Disk ▪ Web Map Service (WMS) ▪ Web Feature Service (WFS)
Modification against last Dataset:	none
Historical data:	available from 2016
Data volume:	▪ SHAPE: 14.3 MB ▪ Geopackage: 15 MB
Data source:	Derivation from the respective dataset Administrative Areas 1 : 250 000 (VG250). Information from the statistical office of the European Union (EUROSTAT).
Note	The NUTS250 data are generated from the corresponding dataset (status of data) of the VG250 (Administrative Areas 1 : 250 000) and therefore match topologically the used VG250. The information in the documentation of the Administrative Areas 1 : 250 000 (VG250) applies correspondingly.

* Please note that not all forms of delivery can be provided with each georeferencing and data format. If you have any questions, feel free contact the Service Centre (DLZ).

2 General information

The NUTS code (Nomenclature des unités territoriales statistiques) represents the „European classification of territorial units for statistics“ of the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT) according to the Regulation (EC) No 1059 / 2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26th May 2003 in its latest version.

The NUTS regions have a hierarchical structure and three levels and - with only a few exceptions - mirror the administrative units for Germany. Deviations exist at the NUTS-2 level. In the current version of this regulation for Germany, there are additionally given besides the current Regierungsbezirke also the former Regierungsbezirke of the Länder Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate and Saxony.

The also hierarchically structured NUTS code is in total a 5-digit code, where the first two digits always designate the state (for Germany „DE“) and the first three digits in total code the NUTS 1 level, the first four digits in total code the NUTS 2 level and finally the 5-digit NUTS code codes the NUTS 3 level. Digits containing no data are designated with 0 (zero).

It has to be taken into account that possible national territorial reforms will only be included into the NUTS classification with the next revision of the regulation. This means especially that the congruence between the NUTS 3 classification and the administrative level of the kreisfreie towns (towns constituting a district in its own right) and districts in Germany are considered reliable only with the start of validity of a new version of the NUTS regulation (see also **point 2.2**).

Considering the above-mentioned exceptions, the following structure results:

1st – 2nd	digit	=	NUTS 0	identifier of the state (country) – for Germany: DE
3rd	digit	=	NUTS 1	in Germany: identifier of the Länder (federal states)
4th	digit	=	NUTS 2	in Germany: identifier of the Länder (federal states)
5th	digit	=	NUTS 3	in Germany: identifier of the Kreise (districts)

2.1 Geometrical bases

The NUTS250 data are generated from the corresponding dataset (status of data) of the VG250 (Administrative Areas 1 : 250 000) and therefore match topologically the used VG250.

2.2 Special notes

The NUTS structures are defined for a period of at least three years in accordance with the legal base[3]. Therefore, not all modifications of the German administrative structure can be considered in the NUTS structure in a timely fashion. Until now an intermediate modification has been renounced due to a considerable reorganization in accordance with Article 5 (4) of the Regulation.

The new version NUTS 2024 applies since 1st January 2024. For Germany, this corresponds to the NUTS 2021 version that has been in force since 1st January 2021 , with the following changes.

NUTS 2021	NUTS 2024	Name	Change
DEG04	**DEG0S**	Suhl, Kreisfreie Stadt	Former LAU Gehlberg (16070017, ex-DEG0F) and Schmiedefeld am Rennsteig (16070046, ex-DEG0F) integrated into Suhl (16054000, ex-DEG04)
DEG0F	**DEG0T**	Ilm-Kreis	
DEG0B	**DEG0Q**	Schmalkalden-Meiningen	Eisenach (16056000, ex-DEG0N) merged into ex-DEG0P and LAU Kaltennordheim (16066095) moved to ex-DEG0B
DEG0N		*Eisenach, Kreisfreie Stadt*	
DEG0P	**DEG0R**	Wartburgkreis	
DEG0H	**DEG0V**	Sonneberg	Former LAU Piesau (16073066, ex-DEG0I) and Lichte (16073049, ex-DEG0I) integrated into Neuhaus am Rennweg (16072013, ex-DEG0H)
DEG0I	**DEG0U**	Saalfeld-Rudolstadt	

2.3 Incommunalised water areas

NUTS regions the territory of which also covers the North or Baltic Sea or Lake Constance, are separated at the coastline. A distinction between both parts of the concerned NUTS regions is possible by applying the attribute GF (Geofactor). The subarea on the mentioned waters has the GF value 2. By contrast, the land subareas have the GF value 4.

For the exclusive representation without the territories on the North or Baltic Sea or Lake Constance, the filter GF = 4 has to be applied, thus preserving the coastal form.

The general rule is:
Each NUTS region has exactly one attribute set with the GF value 4.
Additionally, a NUTS region may have one attribute set with the GF value 2.

[3] Regulation (EC) No 1059 / 2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26th May 2003, as amended most recently by Commission Regulation (EU) 2016 / 2066 of 21st November 2016 (NUTS 2016) and by Commission Regulation (EU) 2019 / 1755 of 8th August 2019 (NUTS 2021).

3 Description of the dataset

3.1 Specification

The dataset is divided into the 3 NUTS levels for Germany:

- NUTS 1 NUTS250_N1
- NUTS 2 NUTS250_N2
- NUTS 3 NUTS250_N3

Each of these levels forms an object class containing the area geometry of the NUTS regions. All levels constitute in each case a nationwide dataset. The areas contained directly carry the attributive information.

3.2 Attributes

3.2.1 General Object Attributes

The general object attributes are based on the AFIS-ALKIS-ATKIS basic schema of the AdV (Working Committee of the Surveying Authorities of the Laender of the Federal Republic of Germany). The basic traits are defined in the main document of the GeoInfoDok (documentation for modeling the geoinformation of the official surveying system) of the AdV.

OBJID unique object identifier

BEGINN beginning of lifetime interval

Date at which this object was inserted or changed in the data set.

3.2.2 NUTS areas

GF Geofactor

Survey of values

2 = with structure waters
(additional entry for territorial parts in the North or Baltic Sea as well as in Lake Constance)
4 = with structure land
(each region always has exactly one entry)

This attribute was directly taken from the underlying dataset Administrative areas 1 : 250 000 (VG250). It designates with the value 2 the territorial parts that extend beyond the land area into the North or Baltic Sea or Lake Constance (incommunalised or incorporated territorial parts). The territorial parts outside the three mentioned waters have the value 4.

The general rule is:
Each administrative unit has exactly one attribute set with the GF value 4. Additionally, an administrative unit may have one attribute set with the GF value 2.

Note:
For the exclusive representation without the territories on the North or Baltic Sea or Lake Constance, the filter GF = 4 has to be applied, thus preserving the coastal form.

NUTS_LEVEL	Level of the NUTS region
	Survey of values
	1 = level NUTS 1 2 = level NUTS 2 3 = level NUTS 3
NUTS_CODE	Hierarchical key of the NUTS region
	3-digit *NUTS 1* *4-digit* *NUTS 2* *5-digit* *NUTS 3*
NUTS_NAME	Name of the NUTS region

4 Description of the data formats

4.1 SHAPE format

The SHAPE data format constitutes as a de facto industry standard a very widespread and suitable data exchange format for the exchange of geodata.

Each dataset consists of the following files in UTF-8 character coding (Unicode).

4.1.1 Overview of the SHAPE data

Level NUTS 1	NUTS250_N1.SHP
Level NUTS 2	NUTS250_N2.SHP
Level NUTS 3	NUTS250_N3.SHP

4.1.2 File structure of the SHAPE format

The shape files have the following file structure:

*.SHP	Geometry
*.SHX	Geometry index
*.PRJ	Projection
*.DBF	Attributes
*.CPG	Character set

4.2 Geopackage format

The Geopackage Data Format (GPKG) is an open source format from the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) for storing, managing and exchanging geospatial data. The Geopackage is based on an SQLite database.

The GPKG databases provided are based on the profile for the geopackage of the AdV (Working Committee of the Surveying Authorities of the Laender of the Federal Republic of Germany).

4.2.1 Geopackage data overview

The data correspond to those of the Shape format.

nuts250_n1	Level NUTS 1
nuts250_n2	Level NUTS 2
nuts250_n3	Level NUTS 3
werte_gf	table of values GF

4.2.2 Overview of the views in the geopackage

The views are a special view of the data with integrated value tables for itemized value information and resolved attribute labels.

v_nuts250_n1	view of Level NUTS 1
v_nuts250_n2	view of Level NUTS 2
v_nuts250_n3	view of Level NUTS 3
v_vgat_att_nuts	Overview of the NUTS regions

Other views serve as the basis for the aforementioned views.

5 Further Information

Further information concerning the product are available at gdz.bkg.bund.de. In case of any questions, you are welcome to contact our service centre at dlz@bkg.bund.de.

General information regarding the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy can be found on our homepage www.bkg.bund.de.