

Package ‘BFS’

July 21, 2025

Type Package

Title Get Data from the Swiss Federal Statistical Office

Version 0.6.0

Maintainer Felix Luginbuhl <felix.luginbuhl@protonmail.ch>

Description Search and download data from the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (BFS) APIs <<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/>>.

License GPL (>= 3)

Depends R (>= 3.4)

Imports pxweb, httr2, xml2, rvest, tibble, magrittr, janitor, purrr,
dplyr, curl, zip, fs, tools, lifecycle, rlang

Suggests testthat (>= 3.0.0), rstac, sf

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

URL <https://felixluginbuhl.com/BFS/>, <https://github.com/lgnbhl/BFS/>

BugReports <https://github.com/lgnbhl/BFS/issues>

Config/testthat/edition 3

LazyData true

NeedsCompilation no

Author Felix Luginbuhl [aut, cre, cph] (ORCID:
<<https://orcid.org/0009-0008-6625-2899>>),
Janosch Brenzel-Weiss [ctb],
Joao Martins [ctb],
Philipp Baumann [ctb] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3194-8975>>)

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2025-06-09 12:30:02 UTC

Contents

bfs_download_asset	2
bfs_download_geodata	3
bfs_get_asset_metadata	4
bfs_get_base_maps	5
bfs_get_catalog	6
bfs_get_catalog_data	6
bfs_get_catalog_geodata	8
bfs_get_catalog_tables	9
bfs_get_data	10
bfs_get_data_comments	11
bfs_get_metadata	12
register_bzn	12
register_dic	13
register_gde	14
register_gde_other	15
register_kt	15
register_kt_seeanteile	16
Index	17

bfs_download_asset	<i>Download a BFS asset file</i>
--------------------	----------------------------------

Description

This function uses the DAM API <https://dam-api.bfs.admin.ch/hub/swagger-ui/index.html> to download a BFS file by asset number or BFS number. The file is downloaded using ‘curl::curl_download()’ under the hood.

Usage

```
bfs_download_asset(
  number_asset = NULL,
  number_bfs = NULL,
  destfile,
  quiet = TRUE,
  mode = "wb",
  handle = curl::new_handle()
)
```

Arguments

number_asset	The asset number of a dataset
number_bfs	The BFS number of a dataset.
destfile	A character string with the name where the downloaded file is saved. Tilde-expansion is performed.

quiet	If TRUE, suppress status messages (if any), and the progress bar.
mode	A character string specifying the mode with which to write the file. Useful values are "w", "wb" (binary), "a" (append) and "ab".
handle	a curl handle object

Value

Returns the file path where the file has been downloaded. Returns NULL if no connection.

bfs_download_geodata *Download a geographic file from the Swiss geo-portal*

Description

Download assets from the STAC API on the geodata catalog of the Swiss Confederation (<https://data.geo.admin.ch/api/stac/v0.9/>).

Usage

```
bfs_download_geodata(  
  collection_id = collection_id,  
  output_dir = tempdir(),  
  overwrite = FALSE,  
  create_json = FALSE,  
  bbox = NULL,  
  asset_names = NULL,  
  datetime = NULL,  
  feature_id = NULL  
)
```

Arguments

collection_id	collection_id
output_dir	output_dir
overwrite	overwrite
create_json	create_json
bbox	bbox
asset_names	asset_names
datetime	datetime
feature_id	feature_id

Details

The use of the data and services is free but subject to the provisions on fair use (see <https://www.geo.admin.ch/terms-of-use>).

Value

Returns the file path where the file has been downloaded. Returns NULL if no connection.

`bfs_get_asset_metadata`*Get asset metadata in a given language*

Description

This function uses the DAM API <https://dam-api.bfs.admin.ch/hub/swagger-ui/index.html> to get the metadata of a BFS file by asset number or BFS number in a given language.

Usage

```
bfs_get_asset_metadata(  
  number_asset = NULL,  
  number_bfs = NULL,  
  language = c("de", "fr", "it", "en")  
)
```

Arguments

<code>number_asset</code>	The asset number of a dataset
<code>number_bfs</code>	The BFS number of a dataset.
<code>language</code>	character The language of a BFS catalog, i.e. "de", "fr", "it" or "en".

Value

`list` Returns a list containing asset metadata information. Returns NULL if no connection.

See Also

[`bfs_download_asset()`]

bfs_get_base_maps	<i>Get Switzerland base maps data</i>
-------------------	---------------------------------------

Description

This functions helps to get base maps data from the ThemaKart project as an sf object. The geom names and the general structure of the files can be found in the official BFS documentation, see <https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistics/regional-statistics/base-maps/cartographic-bases.html>. When using this data, please read the condition of use and copyright mentions.

Usage

```
bfs_get_base_maps(
  geom = NULL,
  category = "gf",
  type = "Poly",
  date = NULL,
  most_recent = TRUE,
  format = "shp",
  asset_number = "30566934",
  return_sf = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

geom	Geometry such as "suis", "kant", "bez", "polg", "voge", etc.
category	Category such as 'total_area' ("gf" for "Gesamtf-laech") or 'vegetation_area' ("vf" for "Vegetationsflaech").
type	The type of data, i.e. "Poly" or "Pnts".
date	Date (yyyymmdd) of reference / validity. If not specified, the 'most_recent' argument is used.
most_recent	Get the most recent by sorting the files in decreasing order, if FALSE then read the first file available.
format	Format of the file, by default SHP format.
asset_number	Asset number of the base maps zip file.
return_sf	if TRUE, read file path and return sf object. If FALSE, return file path

Details

If you want to get ThemaKart data from previous years, you can change the 'asset_number' for the related zip file. For example, for the map set of year 2020, the asset number is "11927607".

This function is caching the base map data using 'tools::R_user_dir(package = "BFS")'.

Value

sf object with geometries. Returns NULL if no connection.

bfs_get_catalog	<i>Get the BFS data or table catalog</i>
-----------------	--

Description

This function scraps a given RSS Feed of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office.

Usage

```
bfs_get_catalog(language = "de", type = "data")
```

Arguments

language	character The language of a BFS catalog.
type	character A BFS catalog

Value

A data frame. Returns NULL if no connection.

See Also

[bfs_get_data](#)

bfs_get_catalog_data	<i>Get the BFS data catalog</i>
----------------------	---------------------------------

Description

Get the list of the data available in the official DAM-API of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office asset catalog.

Usage

```
bfs_get_catalog_data(  
  language = "de",  
  title = NULL,  
  extended_search = NULL,  
  spatial_division = NULL,  
  prodima = NULL,  
  inquiry = NULL,  
  institution = NULL,  
  publishing_year_start = NULL,  
  publishing_year_end = NULL,  
  order_nr = NULL,
```

```

    limit = 1000,
    article_model = 900033,
    article_model_group = 900029,
    return_raw = FALSE
  )

```

Arguments

language	character	The language of a BFS catalog, i.e. "de", "fr", "it" or "en".
title	character	String to search in (sub/super)title
extended_search	character	String for an extended search in (sub/super)title, orderNr, summary, shortSummary, shortTextGNP
spatial_division		BFS datasets by spatial division, choose between "Switzerland", "Cantons", "Districts", "Communes", "Other spatial divisions" or "International"
prodima	numeric	Get only specific BFS themes using one or multiple prodima numbers
inquiry	character	BFS datasets for an inquiry
institution	character	BFS datasets for an institution
publishing_year_start	character	BFS datasets for a publishing year start
publishing_year_end	character	BFS datasets for a publishing year end
order_nr	character	Filter by BFS Number (FSO number)
limit	integer	limit of query results (1000 by default)
article_model	integer	articleModel parameter query
article_model_group	integer	articleModel parameter query
return_raw	boolean	Return raw data from json structure as a tibble data.frame

Value

A data frame. Returns NULL if no connection.

A tbl_df (a type of data frame; see tibble or dplyr packages). Returns NULL if no connection.

See Also

[bfs_get_data](#)

title A character column with the title of the BFS dataset

language A character column with the language of the BFS dataset

number_asset The BFS asset number

number_bfs The BFS number (FSO number), named orderNr in the API

publication_date The published date of the BFS dataset, named embargo in the API

language_available A list The list of all languages available for the BFS dataset

url_px A character column with the URL of the PX file

url_structure_json A character column with the URL of the json structure of the BFS dataset

damId DAM API unique ID

Examples

```
bfs_get_catalog_data(language = "en", title = "students", prodima = c(900212))
```

```
bfs_get_catalog_geodata
```

Get the geodata catalog of the Swiss Confederation

Description

Display geo-information catalog of the Swiss Confederation (<https://data.geo.admin.ch/>), including some geographic datasets provided by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office. Note that this geodata catalog is not hosted by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office.

Usage

```
bfs_get_catalog_geodata(include_metadata = TRUE)
```

Arguments

`include_metadata`
boolean TRUE to loop on each geodata to add metadata.

Details

For now only Stac API datasets are accessible.

Value

A `tbl_df` (a type of data frame; see `tibble` or `dplyr` packages). Returns NULL if no connection.

bfs_get_catalog_tables

Get the BFS tables catalog

Description

Get the list of the tables available in the official DAM-API of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office asset catalog.

Usage

```
bfs_get_catalog_tables(
  language = "de",
  title = NULL,
  extended_search = NULL,
  spatial_division = NULL,
  prodima = NULL,
  inquiry = NULL,
  institution = NULL,
  publishing_year_start = NULL,
  publishing_year_end = NULL,
  order_nr = NULL,
  limit = 1000,
  article_model = 900030,
  article_model_group = 900029,
  return_raw = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

language	character The language of a BFS catalog, i.e. "de", "fr", "it" or "en".
title	character String to search in (sub/super)title
extended_search	character String for an extended search in (sub/super)title, orderNr, summary, shortSummary, shortTextGNP
spatial_division	BFS datasets by spatial division, choose between "Switzerland", "Cantons", "Districts", "Communes", "Other spatial divisions" or "International"
prodima	numeric Get only specific BFS themes using one or multiple prodima numbers
inquiry	character BFS datasets for an inquiry
institution	character BFS datasets for an institution
publishing_year_start	character BFS datasets for a publishing year start
publishing_year_end	character BFS datasets for a publishing year end

order_nr character Filter by BFS Number (FSO number)
limit integer limit of query results (1000 by default)
article_model integer articleModel parameter query
article_model_group integer articleModel parameter query
return_raw boolean Return raw data from json structure as a tibble data.frame

Value

A data frame. Returns NULL if no connection.

A tbl_df (a type of data frame; see tibble or dplyr packages). Returns NULL if no connection.

See Also

[bfs_get_data](#)

title A character column with the title of the BFS dataset

language A character column with the language of the BFS dataset

publication_date The published date of the BFS dataset in the data catalog

number_asset The BFS asset number

Examples

```
bfs_get_catalog_data(language = "en", title = "students", prodima = c(900212))
```

bfs_get_data	<i>Get BFS data in a given language</i>
--------------	---

Description

Get a dataset using the PXWEB API v1. You should choose either the BFS number (FSO number) of the BFS official url of a given dataset. You can query particular variables using the ‘query’ argument.

Usage

```

bfs_get_data(
  number_bfs,
  language = "de",
  query = NULL,
  column_name_type = "text",
  variable_value_type = "text",
  clean_names = FALSE,
  delay = NULL
)

```

Arguments

number_bfs	The BFS number (FSO number) of a dataset.
language	Language of the dataset to be translated if exists, i.e. "de", "fr", "it" or "en".
query	A list with named values, a json query file or json query string using <code>pxweb::pxweb_query()</code> .
column_name_type	Column name type as "text" or as "code".
variable_value_type	Variable value type as "text" or as "code".
clean_names	Clean column names using <code>janitor::clean_names()</code> .
delay	Integer Number of seconds to wait before query using <code>Sys.sleep()</code> .

Value

A `tbl_df` (a type of data frame; see `tibble` or `dplyr` packages). Returns `NULL` if no connection.

See Also

[bfs_get_data_comments](#)

`bfs_get_data_comments` *Get the comments/footnotes of a BFS dataset in a given language*

Description

Get the comments/footnotes of a BFS dataset using PXWEB BFS API v1.

Usage

```
bfs_get_data_comments(
  number_bfs,
  language = "de",
  query = NULL,
  clean_names = FALSE,
  delay = NULL
)
```

Arguments

number_bfs	The BFS number of a dataset.
language	Language of the dataset to be translated if exists, i.e. "de", "fr", "it" or "en".
query	a list with named values, a json query file or json query string using <code>pxweb::pxweb_query()</code> .
clean_names	Clean column names using <code>janitor::clean_names()</code>
delay	Integer Number of seconds to wait before query using <code>Sys.sleep()</code> .

Value

A `tbl_df` (a type of data frame; see `tibble` or `dplyr` packages). Returns `NULL` if no connection.

See Also

[bfs_get_data](#)

bfs_get_metadata	<i>Get metadata of a BFS data in a given language</i>
------------------	---

Description

Get the metadata of a BFS dataset using the PXWEB API v1. You should choose either the `bfs` number of the bfs official url of a given dataset.

Usage

```
bfs_get_metadata(number_bfs, language = "de")
```

Arguments

<code>number_bfs</code>	The BFS number of a dataset.
<code>language</code>	Language of the dataset to be translated if exists.

Value

A `tbl_df` (a type of data frame; see `tibble` or `dplyr` packages). Returns `NULL` if no connection.

register_bzn	<i>Swiss official commune register BZN</i>
--------------	--

Description

The official commune register is structured according to cantons and districts or comparable administrative entities. Various federal, cantonal and communal governments and private businesses use this register when identifying and referring to communes.

Usage

```
register_bzn
```

Format

'register_bzn' A data frame with 143 rows and 3 columns:

GDEKT Kantonskuerzel

GDEBZNR Bezirksnummer

GDEBZNA Bezirksname

Details

The Federal Statistical Office assigns a number to each commune and creates, administers and publishes the Swiss official commune register.

Source

<<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/fr/home/bases-statistiques/repertoire-officiel-communes-suisse.html>>

register_dic

Swiss official commune register Dictionary

Description

The official commune register is structured according to cantons and districts or comparable administrative entities. Various federal, cantonal and communal governments and private businesses use this register when identifying and referring to communes.

Usage

register_dic

Format

'register_dic' A data frame with 27 rows and 5 columns:

language Language

abbreviation Abbreviation

title Title

spec Specifications

notes General notes

Details

The Federal Statistical Office assigns a number to each commune and creates, administers and publishes the Swiss official commune register.

Source

<<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/fr/home/bases-statistiques/repertoire-officiel-communes-suisse.html>>

register_gde	<i>Swiss official commune register GDE</i>
--------------	--

Description

The official commune register is structured according to cantons and districts or comparable administrative entities. Various federal, cantonal and communal governments and private businesses use this register when identifying and referring to communes.

Usage

```
register_gde
```

Format

```
## 'register_gde' A data frame with 2,136 rows and 8 columns:
```

GDEKT Kantonskuerzel

GDEBZNR Bezirksnummer

GDENR BFS-Gemeindenummer

GDENAME Amtlicher Gemeindename

GDENAMK Gemeindename, kurz

GDEBZNA Bezirksname

GDEKTNA Kantonsname

GDEMUTDAT Datum der letzten Anderung

Details

The Federal Statistical Office assigns a number to each commune and creates, administers and publishes the Swiss official commune register.

Source

```
<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/fr/home/bases-statistiques/repertoire-officiel-communes-suisse.html>
```

register_gde_other	Swiss official commune register GDE Other
--------------------	---

Description

The official commune register is structured according to cantons and districts or comparable administrative entities. Various federal, cantonal and communal governments and private businesses use this register when identifying and referring to communes.

Usage

register_gde_other

Format

'register_gde_other' A data frame with 3 rows and 4 columns:

GDENR BFS-Gemeindenummer

GDENAME Amtlicher Gemeindename

KTNR Kantonsnummer

GDEBZNR Bezirksnummer

Details

The Federal Statistical Office assigns a number to each commune and creates, administers and publishes the Swiss official commune register.

Source

<<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/fr/home/bases-statistiques/repertoire-officiel-communes-suisse.html>>

register_kt	Swiss official commune register KT
-------------	------------------------------------

Description

The official commune register is structured according to cantons and districts or comparable administrative entities. Various federal, cantonal and communal governments and private businesses use this register when identifying and referring to communes.

Usage

register_kt

Format

'register_kt' A data frame with 26 rows and 3 columns:

KTNR Kantonsnummer
GDEKT Kantonskuerzel
GDEKTNA Kantonsname

Details

The Federal Statistical Office assigns a number to each commune and creates, administers and publishes the Swiss official commune register.

Source

<<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/fr/home/bases-statistiques/repertoire-officiel-communes-suisse.html>>

register_kt_seeanteile

Swiss official commune register KT Seeanteile

Description

The official commune register is structured according to cantons and districts or comparable administrative entities. Various federal, cantonal and communal governments and private businesses use this register when identifying and referring to communes.

Usage

register_kt_seeanteile

Format

'register_kt_seeanteile' A data frame with 9 rows and 5 columns:

GDENR BFS-Gemeindenummer
GDENAME Amtlicher Gemeindename
KTNR Kantonsnummer

Details

The Federal Statistical Office assigns a number to each commune and creates, administers and publishes the Swiss official commune register.

Source

<<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/fr/home/bases-statistiques/repertoire-officiel-communes-suisse.html>>

Index

* datasets

- register_bzn, [12](#)
- register_dic, [13](#)
- register_gde, [14](#)
- register_gde_other, [15](#)
- register_kt, [15](#)
- register_kt_seeanteile, [16](#)

- bfs_download_asset, [2](#)
- bfs_download_geodata, [3](#)
- bfs_get_asset_metadata, [4](#)
- bfs_get_base_maps, [5](#)
- bfs_get_catalog, [6](#)
- bfs_get_catalog_data, [6](#)
- bfs_get_catalog_geodata, [8](#)
- bfs_get_catalog_tables, [9](#)
- bfs_get_data, [6](#), [7](#), [10](#), [10](#), [12](#)
- bfs_get_data_comments, [11](#), [11](#)
- bfs_get_metadata, [12](#)

- register_bzn, [12](#)
- register_dic, [13](#)
- register_gde, [14](#)
- register_gde_other, [15](#)
- register_kt, [15](#)
- register_kt_seeanteile, [16](#)